

2004 acquisition of Travelers, the company is now a leading underwriter of homeowners insurance and automobile insurance through independent agents. Has approximately 30,800 employees.

Alan D. Schnitzer. Chairman: John H. Dasburg. Incorporated: Minnesota. Address: 485 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10017. Telephone: 917-778-6000. Internet: www.travelers.com.

Past **ANNUAL RATES** Past Est'd '15-'17 of change (per sh) Premium Inc 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '21-'23 10.0% 2.5% 12.5% 11 0% 5.0% 5.0% 6.0% 6.0% 5.5% Invest Income Earnings Dividends Book Value 10.0% 3.5% 7.0% 10.0% 8.5% 6.0%

12329 47949 16746

77024

**Unearned Prems** 

**Total Liabilities** 

Reserves

12915

17187

79752

13755

49961

17184

80900

Cal-	NET PREMIUMS EARNED (\$ mill.) A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	5888	5931	6032	6023	23874
2016	5981	6067	6209	6277	24534
2017	6183	6351	6523	6626	25683
2018	6537	6695	6800	7003	27035
2019	6875	7000	7125	7240	28240
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	2.52	2.52	2.93	2.90	10.87
2016	2.33	2.20	2.40	3.20	10.13
2017	2.16	1.92	.91	2.28	7.27
2018	2.46	1.81	2.30	3.28	9.85
2019	2.73	2.88	2.70	3.04	11.35
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C=				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.50	.55	.55	.55	2.15
2015	.55	.61	.61	.61	2.38
2016	.67	.67	.67	.67	2.68
2017	.67	.72	.72	.72	2.83
2018	.72	.77			
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Travelers reported relatively subpar results during the June quarter. Looking at it with more granularity, operating share net, which excludes capital gains and losses from investments, dialed in at \$1.81, which was below 2017's \$1.92 and markedly lower than our \$2.75 expectation. The bottom line was constrained by a 1.4% elevation in the combined ratio to 98.1%. Though this implies underwriting profitability, the figure was sharply below Čatastrophes, estimate. net of reinsurance, added 7.3% to the combined ratio, compared to just 6.4% in the previous year's comparable period. Net favorable loss reserve (a plus for the income statement) was also less than the previous year, decreasing the combined ratio by just 2.8%, or 40 basis points less than 2017. Other line items were roughly as we

expected, which gives us increased optimism for the remainder of this year and 2019. Net premiums earned have been relatively strong in recent quarters, thanks to pricing gains across many product lines. This should not come as much of a surprise, given that industrywide catastrophes have been relatively

high recently, which many times gives insurers the upper hand during policy renewal season. Net investment income has been on an upward trend too, which we believe will continue over the next couple of years, should the Federal Reserve continue to boost borrowing rates to counter inflation. Insurers, it should be noted, keep the bulk of their investment portfolios in bonds.

The industry behemoth's size should

give it a leg up on the competition longer term. Its balance sheet has ample reserves, which is a nice cushion.

These shares have ample room to run out to 2021-2023. The stock is also a relative safe haven, as reflected by its Highest (1) Safety rank and top score for Stock Price Stability. A good dividend yield, moderately above the Value Line median, should help sweeten the pot and provides a measure of downside protection. Conservative, long-term investors seeking an insurance holding for their portfolios would do well to consider these shares. However, they are unfavorably ranked for yearahead relative price performance. Alan G. House September 7, 2018

(A) P/C only. (B) Dil. egs. Excl. cap gains and late; '15, 3¢; '16, 15¢; '17, 6¢. Excl. losses | June, Sept., Dec. Excl. spec. div'ds of 21¢/sh. losses after '02. Excl. nonrec. (charges)/gains | from disc. ops.: '02, 12¢; '03, 7¢; '04, 62¢. | paid 3/04 and 4/04. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. | in '02, (18¢); '06, 3¢; '07, 14¢; '08, (42¢); '09, | Excl. extra. losses: '02, 3¢; '03, 9¢. Next egs. | (D) Intang. '17: \$4,293 mill., \$15.41/sh. (E) In 16; '10, 31¢; '11, 11¢; '12, 9¢; '13, 28¢; '14, | rpt. late Oct. (C) Div'ds. paid in late March, | mill. (F) St. Paul only until '04.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 55