

surance and asset management services. Following the April 1, 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.

Street Corporation, 7.1% (4/18 Proxy). Chief Executive Officer: 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 '22-'24 10.0% 2.5% 12.5% 11 0% 5.0% 6.0% 5.5% 5.0% 6.0% Invest Income Earnings Dividends Book Value 10.0% 10.0% 3.5% 6.5% 8.5% 6.0%

12329 47949 16746

77024

Unearned Prems

Total Liabilities

Reserves

12915

17187

79752

13555

50668

81339

	Cal- endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	:ARNED (\$ Sep.30		Full Year
	2016	5981	6067	6209	6277	24534
	2017	6183	6351	6523	6626	25683
	2018	6537	6695	6882	6945	27059
	2019	7100	7170	7250	7300	28820
	2020	7350	7475	7550	7625	30000
	Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE B				Full
	endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
	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	2.54	2.13	8.94
	2019	2.60	2.85	2.60	3.00	11.05
	2020	2.80	3.00	2.85	3.15	11.80
Cal- QUARTERLY DIVIDE				IDENDS P	ENDS PAID C=	
	endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
	2015	.55	.61	.61	.61	2.38
	2016	.67	.67	.67	.67	2.68
	2017	.67	.72	.72	.72	2.83
	2018	.72	.77	.77	.77	3.03
	2019					
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Travelers came up short of our bottom-line expectation for the December quarter, though we feel this requires a bit more color. Looking at it with more granularity, the company earned \$2.13 a share on an operating basis (excludes capital gains and losses from investments), which pales in comparison to our estimate of \$3.34 and the previous-year tally of \$2.28. We attribute the bulk of the earnings miss to an above-average level of catastrophes during the period (most notably, Hurricane Michael and the California wildfires). Catastrophe losses registered \$610 million during the December period, which represented a more than 22% advance over the previous year's tally. Consequently, the combined ratio ratcheted up to 97.5% (from 95.5% in the December, 2017 period). Despite the decline, the underwriting margin remained in positive territory. That said, other fundamentals were strong during the quarter, namely net premiums earned and net investment income.

We look for a solid profit advance this year, while our newly introduced 2020 estimate calls for earnings per share

of \$11.80. Despite its somewhat subpar showing during the December quarter, we remain quite positive regarding Travelers' near-term outlook. In fact, the elevated level of catastrophes during the fourth period could actually lend a helping hand to pricing over the next couple of years. Catastrophes can be a bit of a doubleedged sword for insurers. On one hand, such occurrences cut into profits as claims roll in. However, they generally give insurers the upper hand during policy renewal season, particularly in segments and geographic regions directly affected by the event. What's more, net investment income should receive a shot in the arm from increasingly higher bond reinvestment rates.

From our perspective, the insurance giant's immense size and strong finances give it a leg up on the competition over the 3- to 5-year pull. Our projections are based on a decent economic backdrop over that time frame.

These shares offer solid risk-adjusted total return potential over the pull to 2022-2024.

Alan G. House

March 8, 2019

(A) P/C only. (B) Dil. egs. Excl. cap gains and losses after '02. Excl. nonrec. (charges)/gains in '06, 3¢; '07, 14¢; '08, (42¢); '09, 1¢; '10, 31¢; '11, 11¢; '12, 9¢; '13, 28¢; '14, 14¢; '15, 3¢;

March, June, Sept., Dec. Excl. spec. div'ds of

'16, 15¢; '17, 6¢. Excl. losses from disc. ops.: 21¢/sh. paid 3/04 and 4/04. ■ Div'd reinv. plan '03, 7¢; '04, 62¢. Excl. extra. losses: '03, 9¢. Next egs. rpt. late April. (C) Div'ds. paid in late (E) In mill. (F) St. Paul only until '04.

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