

14279 38692 42815 16705 16900 1973 34531 3919 38114 58933

50463 53209 Current Liab. Past Est'd '16-'18 ANNUAL RATES Past 10 Yrs. to '22-'24 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Revenues "Cash Flow" 13.5% 12.5% 14.0% 14.5% 9.0% 12.0% Earnings Dividends 15.0% 28.5% 14.0% 13.0% 12.5% Book Value 11 5% 10.0% 11.0%

12026

37084

15180

2857 32426

12980

Other

Other

**Current Assets** 

Accts Payable

Debt Due

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE		\$ mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30		Dec.31	Year
2016	44527	46485	46293	47535	184840
2017	48723	50053	50322	52061	201159
2018	55188	56086	56556	58417	226247
2019	60308	<b>60620</b>	<b>60870</b>	<b>62602</b>	<b>244400</b>
2020	<b>65325</b>	<b>65650</b>	<b>65900</b>	<b>67650</b>	<b>264525</b>
Cal-	E/	ARNINGS I	PER SHAR	E <sup>A</sup>	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	1.81	1.96	2.17	2.11	8.05
2017	2.37	2.46	2.66	2.58	10.07
2018	3.04	3.14	3.41	3.28	12.87
2019	3.73	<b>3.45</b>	<b>3.77</b>	<b>3.75</b>	<b>14.70</b>
2020	<b>4.20</b>	<b>3.95</b>	<b>4.25</b>	<b>4.20</b>	<b>16.60</b>
Cal-	QUAF	RTERLY DI	VIDENDS	PAID <sup>B</sup>	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015 2016 2017 2018 2019	.375 .50 .625 .75 .90	.50 .625 .75 .90	.50 .625 .75 .90	.50 .625 .75 .90	1.88 2.38 2.88 3.45

company. It offers products/services to individuals through four segments: UnitedHealthcare (network-based health care benefits), OptumHealth, OptumInsight, and OptumRx (information and technology based health services, consulting, and PBM). Acquired Oxford 7/04; PacifiCare Health 12/05; Sierra Health Svcs. 2/08; Unison

UnitedHealth Group has caught the brunt of the negativity surrounding the Medicare for all bandwagon. UNH shares have been one of the stronger Dow Jones performers in recent years, but the stock is down over 10% of late, as Democratic candidates throwing their hat in the 2020 election race have plans for universal healthcare. Led by Senator Bernie Sanders, momentum here is growing, but the path to this goal is not yet fully defined. Regardless, Wall Street sees the effects such policies could have on industry regulations and corporate profits of healthcare providers, hospitals, and managed care entities, and is cycling out of the medical services space. Clearly, this type of wholesale disruption to the system would be far from ideal for UNH, but we think the drop in the share price is overdone given that much of this chatter is in the early stages and the election is still more than a year off. Too, efforts to get the ball rolling on these types of Medicare for all plans have fizzled out in the past.

Earnings growth should equate to roughly 15% for 2019. With the background noise turned up, UnitedHealth

about 260,000 employees. Vanguard owns 7.4% of common; BlackRock, 7.3%; FMR LLC, 6.8%; offs. & dirs., 0.8% (4/19 Proxy). CEO: David Wichmann; CFO: John F. Rex. Inc.: Minnesota. Address: 9900 Bren Road East, Minnetonka, MN 55343, Telephone: 952-936-1300. Web: www.unitedhealthgroup.com

continues to perform admirably. Firstquarter results trumped expectations and we have lifted our full-year earnings outlook by a nickel, to \$14.70. The healthcare legacy business has been posting solid growth metrics in recent quarters, and the Optum branches remain the envy of the rest of the sector. In fact, its pharmacy benefits arm is so desired by others in this space that some give it credit as the driv-ing force behind the industry's consolidation trend (CVS/Aetna) that should in time change the way healthcare is brought to consumers in the United States.

While we think performance will remain strong, this equity is apt to trade on political headlines in the weeks heading up to a mid-July earnings report. Meetings in Washington are being held on the Medicare matter and the news that comes from these, as well as the press releases/statements from potential candidates, should move the needle on UNH shares one way or the other.

That said, these shares are a timely selection at this juncture. Longer-term accounts should take a pass here, for now. Erik M. Manning June 7, 2019

(A) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring gains/(losses): '07, (8¢); '08, (55¢); '16, 80¢; '17, 65¢; '18, 68¢. May not sum due to rounding or change in share count. Next earnings

report due mid-July.
(B) Quarterly dividend initiated 6/10. Dividends historically paid in late March, June, September, and December.

**(C)** Includes intangibles. In '18, \$68.2 billion, \$71.07/share.

(D) In millions, adjusted for stock split.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 85 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 90

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