

2004 acquisition of Travelers, the company is now a leading underwriter of homeowners insurance and automobile insurance through independent agents. Has approximately 30,400 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

**2020 will be solid.** Though there are

Past **ANNUAL RATES** Past Est'd '16-'18 5 Yrs. 9.5% 3.0% 7.0% of change (per sh) Premium Inc 10 Yrs. to '22-'24 11 0% 4.5% 6.5% 9.0% 5.0% 4.0% Invest Income Earnings Dividends Book Value 10.0% 9.5% 2.5% 5.0% 7.0% 7.5%

12915

49650

17187

79752

**Unearned Prems** 

**Total Liabilities** 

Reserves

13555

50668 171116

81339

14912

51612

18110

84634

Cal- endar	Mar.31	EMIUMS E Jun.30			Full Year
2016	5981	6067	6209	6277	24534
2017	6183	6351	6523	6626	25683
2018	6537	6695	6882	6945	27059
2019	6855	6988	7179	7228	28250
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	2.83	2.02	1.43	3.22	9.50
2020	2.40	2.60	2.70	3.05	10.75
Cal-	Cal- QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C■				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Full 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	.77	.82	.82		3.00
		.02	.02		l

Travelers reported somewhat unexciting results during the September quarter. Specifically, earnings from operations, which excludes capital gains and losses from the investment portfolio, clocked in at \$1.43 a share, which marked a significant decrease from the yearearlier tally and our \$2.45 expectation. The main reason for the relative underperformance was the combined ratio, which clocked in at 101.5%. Not only was this a five percentage point deterioration from the previous-year tally, it also means that the insurer operated at an underwriting loss for the period. However, dissecting things a bit further, the primary reason for the increase in the combined ratio was a challenging tort environment. (A tort is a wrongful act or infringement of a right, other than a contract, which leads to civil liability.) We view this as a "nonrecurring event" though it is included as part of Travelers' operations. The underlying combined ratio, which excludes events deemed to be outside of the normal course of business, was 94.1%, which was only a 1.1% increase over the previous year's tally. We believe the fourth quarter and

signs that the broader P/C insurance market may be in for a slowdown following several years of solid results, we believe Travelers will register a bottom-line advance, at least over the next year. A string of interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve will eventually result in reduced bond reinvestment rates. However, strong cash flow should enable Travelers to post advances in net investment income over the next couple of years.

The company's size, healthy balance sheet, and strong management give it a leg up on the competition, from our perspective. A healthy economy underpins our long-term projections.

Though only neutrally ranked for Timeliness, these shares have room to run over the 3 to 5 years ahead. An above-average dividend helps to sweeten the pot. Conservative accounts should note that these shares carry our Highest Safety score. Investors seeking an insurance holding to round out their otherwise diversified portfolio would do well to consider this Dow component. Alan G. House December 6, 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 Jan. (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** 65