

Receivables 9568 12026 10964 16759 12980 37084 38692 43541 **Current Assets** 16705 18570 Accts Payable 15180 Debt Due 2857 32426 1973 34531 6387 37684 50463 53209 Current Liab. 62641

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '16-'18 Past 10 Yrs. to '22-'24 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Revenues "Cash Flow" 13.5% 12.5% 14.0% 14.5% 8.5% 13.0% Earnings Dividends 15.0% 28.5% 14.0% 14.0% 12.5% Book Value 11 5% 10.0% 11.0%

Other

Other

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30			Full Year
2016	44527	46485	46293	47535	184840
2017	48723	50053	50322	52061	201159
2018	55188	56086	56556	58417	226247
2019	60308	60595	60351	61396	242650
2020	64850	65130	64890	65940	260810
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHAREA				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	3.60	3.88	3.74	14.95
2020	4.15	4.00	4.25	4.10	16.50
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.375	.50	.50	.50	1.88
2016	.50	.625	.625	.625	2.38
2017	.625	.75	.75	.75	2.88
2018	.75	.90	.90	.90	3.45
2019	.90	1.08	1.08		<u> </u>

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's stock bounced back by roughly 25% in the past three months. Recall, through the first seven-plus months of the year medical insurance stocks were beaten down due to fears tied to the news coming from the Democratic campaign trail. High-profile like **Bernie** presidential candidates Sanders and Elizabeth Warren were single-payer system for trumpeting a healthcare and the Medicare For All headlines shook the investment community. UNH was at the eye of this storm, and the stock fell from its all-time high just shy of \$288 to just above \$208. More recently, other political issues have been pushed to the forefront and when healthcare is mentioned, the topic is skated around like at the most recent Democratic debate in late November. All the while, UnitedHealth has been posting impressive quarterly reports and we had been stating that we thought the selloff was dramatically over done. Wall Street has now gotten on board with our train of thought.

Earnings for 2019 are likely to come in around the \$15.00-a-share mark. The legacy health insurance business con-

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

tinues to show steady gains, while the various Optum branches carry the growth torch. UNH's units are so successful that areas like pharmacy benefits have sparked a consolidation spree via other companies attempting to mimic its business structure. Elsewhere, international advancements are blossoming, with UNH's operations outside the 50 states starting to mature and contribute more to the revenue and earnings picture.

Until the next earnings cycle, this equity will likely move on political headline news that affects healthcare. Full-year 2019 results are not due out until the middle of January. Until then, investors will probably look to play this stock based on tidbits tied to the election. For example, UNH's quotation got a boost when in November, Mrs. Warren intimated that if she is elected, her administration would not look to implement Medicare For All legislation until year three of her term.

This blue chip is timely. We are no longer advising this selection for the 3- to 5-year pull, however. Erik M. Manning December 6, 2019

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

report due mid-January.
(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 100 **Earnings Predictability** 90