



The Travelers Companies (TRV)

Updated January 22nd, 2021 by Josh Arnold

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$147	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	5.7%	Market Cap:	\$37 B
Fair Value Price:	\$129	5 Year Growth Estimate:	6.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	03/09/21
% Fair Value:	114%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	-2.6%	Dividend Payment Date:	03/31/21
Dividend Yield:	2.3%	5 Year Price Target	\$173	Years Of Dividend Growth:	15
Dividend Risk Score:	B	Retirement Suitability Score:	B	Last Dividend Increase:	3.7%

Overview & Current Events

The Travelers Companies was founded in 1864 in Hartford, CT by two local businessmen. The company began with life and accident insurance but has expanded into other types of coverage in the 150+ years since then. Today, it generates \$31 billion in annual revenue and has a \$37 billion market capitalization. The company offers a wide and deep variety of protection products for auto, home and business customers. It is also a member of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, making it the only property casualty insurance provider in the prestigious index.

Travelers reported fourth quarter and full year earnings on January 21st, 2021 with results coming in ahead of expectations on both the top and bottom lines. The quarter saw record core earnings-per-share on higher underlying underwriting margins, higher net favorable prior reserve development, higher net investment income, and lower catastrophe losses, the latter of which has plagued Travelers in recent quarters.

Net written premiums rose 3% year-over-year to \$7.3 billion, while total revenue was \$8.4 billion, up from just over \$8 billion in the year-ago period. The company's underlying combined ratio of 88.7% was a sizable improvement over the 92.1% from a year ago, due in no small part to lower catastrophe losses.

Net realized investment gains came to \$50 million on a pretax basis, up from just \$12 million in the same period a year ago. Adjusted book value per share came to \$99.54 at the end of 2020, up 7% from the end of 2019.

Core earnings-per-share came to \$4.91 in Q4, well ahead of consensus and up from \$3.32 in the same period last year. Our initial estimate for 2021 is \$10.75 per share.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2026
EPS	\$3.25	\$6.21	\$9.46	\$10.56	\$10.87	\$10.13	\$7.27	\$8.94	\$9.60	\$10.48	\$10.75	\$14.39
DPS	\$1.64	\$1.79	\$1.96	\$2.15	\$2.38	\$2.68	\$2.83	\$3.03	\$3.23	\$3.37	\$3.40	\$4.77
Shares¹	393	377	354	322	296	280	271	264	259	255	250	230

After strong growth coming out of the Great Recession, Travelers has failed to regain its 2015 high of \$10.87 in earnings-per-share. Despite a strong 2020, that streak remained intact, although we see 2021 as having a good chance at getting quite close to \$10.87. In total, we are expecting 6% earnings-per-share growth annually in the coming years but note that insurer earnings are notoriously volatile.

Travelers could achieve this growth primarily from higher underwritten premiums and the buyback program, although margins should play a part as well, as long as there aren't any large catastrophes. We see low single-digit gains from higher revenue as well as a similar tailwind from the company's buyback, which has reduced the float by about a third in just the past decade alone. Recent reductions have been smaller in size given the higher share price, but Travelers is committed to reducing its share count over time. Lower operating expenses should also provide a bit of a boost to earnings, but the Travelers story is really about higher premiums, lower catastrophe losses, and a lower share count.

¹ Share count in millions

Disclosure: This analyst has no position in the security discussed in this research report, and no plans to initiate one in the next 72 hours.



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The dividend has been raised in the mid-single-digit range annually and we expect that will continue for the foreseeable future. Travelers is not a pure income stock any longer given the higher share price, but its 2.3% yield is still decent by its own historical standards.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Now	2026
Avg. P/E	17.4	10.3	8.8	8.8	9.7	11.2	17.2	14.7	14.5	11.3	13.7	12.0
Avg. Yld.	2.9%	2.8%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.9%	2.3%	2.8%

Travelers' price-to-earnings multiple stands at 13.7 times this year's earnings estimate. We therefore see the stock as somewhat overvalued given that our estimate of fair value is 12 times earnings. That implies a modest negative impact to annual returns due to the valuation.

With the yield having come down due to a higher share price, and the lack of a recent dividend increase, we see the yield rising to 2.8% over time as the dividend is eventually raised, and as the valuation moderates.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2026
Payout	48%	28%	21%	20%	22%	25%	38%	34%	34%	32%	32%	33%

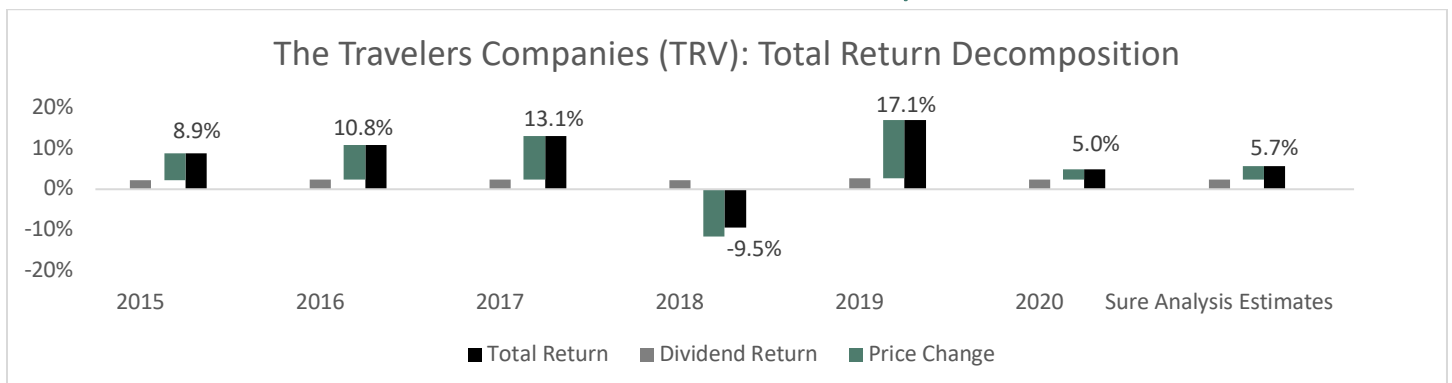
Travelers continues to be conservatively financed and does not have significant debt coming due in the next two years, so its balance sheet is in good shape and interest coverage remains robust. We believe the payout ratio should remain around one-third of earnings given that we are forecasting earnings and the dividend to grow at roughly congruent rates. The dividend is, therefore, very safe and we see many more years of increases on the horizon. Importantly, this continues to allow Travelers to buy back hundreds of millions of dollars of its own shares annually.

Travelers' main competitive advantages is in its immense scale and recognizable brand. Its size allows it to underwrite policies that others would not be able to, and its brand is well-known from its long history. Travelers is more susceptible to catastrophes than recessions, as we saw in 2017 and again in 2018. This makes Travelers a defensive play should the economy weaken materially, but we reiterate that insurance companies are susceptible to significant and unforeseen shocks, as Travelers has demonstrated in recent years.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Travelers looks like a safe financial services provider with a decent growth outlook. We see total annual return potential of 5.7% in the coming years, consisting of the 2.3% current yield, 6% earnings-per-share growth and a headwind from the valuation. We're reiterating Travelers at a hold rating as the stock is still somewhat overvalued in our view.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Revenue	25,446	25,740	26,191	27,174	26,815	27,625	28,902	30,282	31,581	31,981
SG&A Exp.	3,556	3,610	3,757	3,964	4,094	4,154	4,170	4,297	4,365	4,509
D&A Exp.	802	827	867	864	818	826	813	803	763	789
Net Profit	1,426	2,473	3,673	3,692	3,439	3,014	2,056	2,523	2,622	2,697
Net Margin	5.6%	9.6%	14.0%	13.6%	12.8%	10.9%	7.1%	8.3%	8.3%	8.4%
Free Cash Flow	2,169	3,230	3,816	3,693	3,434	4,469	4,148	4,380	5,205	6,519
Income Tax	(74)	693	1,272	1,397	1,301	1,039	674	438	516	540

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Assets (\$B)	104.6	104.9	103.8	103.1	100.2	100.2	103.5	104.2	110.1	116.8
Cash & Equivalents	214	330	294	374	380	307	344	373	494	721
Acc. Receivable	22,071	21,390	20,166	19,920	19,721	19,618	20,228	20,661	20,763	20,421
Goodwill & Int.	3,798	3,746	3,985	3,915	3,852	3,848	4,293	4,282	4,291	4,293
Total Liabilities	80,098	79,533	79,016	78,242	76,586	77,024	79,752	81,339	84,179	87,563
Accounts Payable	5,575	5,152	4,626	4,698	4,670	4,882	5,049	5,074	4,982	4,617
Long-Term Debt	6,605	6,350	6,346	6,349	6,344	6,437	6,571	6,564	6,558	6,550
Total Equity	24,477	25,405	24,796	24,836	23,598	23,221	23,731	22,894	25,943	29,201
D/E Ratio	0.27	0.25	0.26	0.26	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.29	0.25	0.22

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Return on Assets	1.4%	2.4%	3.5%	3.6%	3.4%	3.0%	2.0%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%
Return on Equity	5.7%	9.9%	14.6%	14.9%	14.2%	12.9%	8.8%	10.8%	10.7%	9.8%
ROIC	4.5%	7.9%	11.7%	11.8%	11.3%	10.1%	6.9%	8.4%	8.5%	7.9%
Shares Out.	393	377	354	322	296	280	271	264	259	255
Revenue/Share	60.51	66.03	69.97	79.34	85.43	94.93	103.74	112.24	120.40	125.61
FCF/Share	5.16	8.29	10.20	10.78	10.94	15.36	14.89	16.23	19.84	25.60

Note: All figures in millions of U.S. Dollars unless per share or indicated otherwise.

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