

Bonds 15527.3 17391.0 3324.8 12876.7 Other Total Assets 18852.1 30267.7 29907.5 2755.0 3079.9 573.3 559.5 10030.5 20369.3 3151.3 511.3 **Unearned Prems** Reserves 19946.5 Total Liab'ties $1\overline{3358.8}$ $2\overline{4008.7}$ 23609.1

ANNUAL RATES Est'd '01-'03 Past Past 5 Yrs. 12.5% 7.0% 9.5% of change (per sh) Premium Inc 10 Yrs. 11.5% to '07-'09 10.0% 3.0% 7.5% Invest Income 8.5% 11.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 6.0% 8.5% 8.5% 13.0%

Cal-	QUARTERLY INCOME (\$ mill.) E				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2001	266.8	284.2	287.8	290.1	1128.9
2002	287.8	290.0	313.2	314.0	1205.0
2003	406.3	408.4	368.4	367.4	1550.5
2004	360.9	365.9	393.2	400	1520
2005	380	400	400	410	1590
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2001	.90	.95	1.01	1.02	3.88
2002	.98	1.02	1.11	.84	3.95
2003	1.54	1.51	1.31	1.25	5.61
2004	1.42	1.48	1.30	1.35	5.55
2005	1.40	1.45	1.45	1.50	5.80
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2000	.137	.137	.137	.137	.55
2001	.137	.15	.15	.15	.59
2002	.15	.17	.17	.17	.66
2003	.17	.20	.20	.20	.77
2004	.20	.24	.24		

guarantees for municipal bonds, asset-backed and mortgagebacked securities, selected corporate debt, and high-quality debt of financial institutions. MBIA provides these services both in the new issue and secondary markets, domestically and internationally. MBIA also provides investment management products and consult-

MBIA is seeing solid growth in earned **premiums.** While new business is coming in a tad slower than last year (down about 11%), a reduction in ceded premiums (picked up by reinsurance companies) and the large growth in recent years' operations have kept net earned premiums on an upward trend. Admittedly, the lackluster new business results are a concern, but management is optimistic that the remainder of this year will see a big improvement here. Also, we note that there was a pickup in refunding premiums as low interest rates spurred refinancings. But, all told, we think that MBIA is in a fine position to accelerate its gross written premiums soon.

Our earnings presentation is somewhat complex. Results include the refundings brought on by refinancings (a volatile component) as well as realized capital gains and losses. Additionally, changes in the company's derivative portfolio flow through the income statement. And, although it is not cash earned, the company uses its derivative positions to hedge its risks. The value of these securities changes as spreads and interest

Acq. 1838 Investment Advisors (7/98). Officers & directors own 3.7% of common stock; Wellington Management Co., 13.0%; (4/04 Proxy). Has about 600 employees, 505 stockholders. Chrmn. and CEO: Joseph W. Brown, Jr. Address: 113 King St., Armonk, N.Y. 10504. Tel.: (914) 273-4545. Internet: www.mbia.com.

rates change. In fact, movements in these variables, as happened in 2002's fourth quarter, can cause a big swing in GAAP earnings. In the second quarter, earnings from operations, ex all of the above, tallied \$1.19.

There are a few favorable aspects to MBIA's business. Receiving money up front for a potential payout down the road can be very lucrative. Šo it has been with MBIA, as the company has been careful with its underwriting, focusing, in part, on insuring municipal obligations, which often are backed by the taxing power of the municipality. Further, the long payout period for defaults is attractive from an investment standpoint.

Share buybacks are likely to continue. Management figures that the company is overcapitalized by about \$500 million, and plans on using some of the funds for share repurchases. Indeed, MBIA has already bought back some two million shares this year. We applaud the use of capital. Further efficient use of funds will only serve to enhance MBIA's long-term returns.

These shares are unexciting. John Koller

August 27, 2004

(A) Net Earned Premiums. (B) Dil. egs. Prim. egs. through 1996. Inc. net real. gns through '98, excludes til '03. From '03 incl. options expense, NRG/L, and refunded prems. Excl. non-

recur. gns. (losses): '98, (\$0.33); '99, (\$1.13). Next egs. report due in Oct. **(C)** Dividends historically paid mid Jan., April, July, and Oct. **(D)** In mill., adj. for splits. (E) Total revs., incl.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A 75 Price Growth Persistence 95 **Earnings Predictability** 95