

Current Liab. 3863 ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '01-'03 Past 10 Yrs. to '07-'09 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Revenues "Cash Flow" 11.0% 12.5% 10.5% 14.0% 7.0% 8.0% Earnings Dividends 13.0% 9.5% 14.0% 11.0% 9.0% 8.0% **Book Value** 13.5% 10.0% 6.5%

3664

1406

543 1914

Other

Other

Current Assets

Accts Payable

Debt Due

| Cal- endar | QUAR Mar.31 | TERLY REV Jun.30 | /ENUES (\$ Sep.30 | | Full Year |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------|--------------|
| 2001 | 2594 | 2505 | 2371 | 2473 | 9943 |
| 2002 | 2635 | | | 2622 | 10422 |
| 2003 | | 2865 | | 3034 | 11588 |
| 2004 | | 3036 | | 3250 | 12450 |
| 2005 | 3300 | 3125 | 3150 | 3325 | 12900 |
| Cal- | EARNINGS PER SHARE B | | | | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2001 | .64 | .51 | .29 | .49 | 1.93 |
| 2002 | .74 | .60 | .55 | .57 | 2.46 |
| 2003 | .81 | .66 | .67 | .70 | 2.82 |
| 2004 | .94 | .73 | .70 | .70 | 3.07 |
| 2005 | .95 | .74 | .72 | .74 | 3.15 |
| Cal- | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C = | | | | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2000 | .225 | .225 | .25 | .25 | .95 |
| 2001 | .25 | .25 | .265 | .265 | 1.03 |
| 2002 | .265 | .265 | .28 | .28 | 1.09 |
| 2003 | .28 | .28 | .31 | .31 | 1.18 |
| 2004 | .31 | .31 | .34 | | |

largest insurance broker. Other subsidiaries include The Putnam Group (investment services) and Mercer Group (Human Resources and Management Consulting). 2003 revenue sources: insurance services, 59%; consulting, 22%; investment management, 19%. Ac-

Marsh & McLennan has completed its purchase of Kroll. The \$1.9 billion price tag was funded with \$1.1 billion in longterm debt and the remainder with com-mercial paper. Based on strong growth at the acquired company, management at Marsh is figuring that the company can deliver \$800 million to \$850 million in revenue next year. The risk services area is hot right now, and Marsh is paying up to augment its already fairly strong position in this fast-growing field.

The flagship insurance unit is poised for slower growth. In general, prices for insurance products are starting to soften, suggesting further possible declines in the months ahead. Terms and conditions for reinsurance contracts are becoming more lenient, too. This signals that organic growth will be hard to come by. Since Marsh is such a strong player in this field, pricing is likely to have an outsized effect on margins. For now, we are not assuming a worse-case scenario, expecting the company to be able to book slightly better revenue figures in 2005.

Debt is accumulating on the back of acquisitions and other uses for cash

Directors own about 2.2% of stock; Marsh & McLennan Empl., 5.2% (3/04 Proxy). Chairman and CEO: Jeffrey Greenberg. Address: 1166 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. Telephone: 212-345-5000. Internet: www.marshmac.com

flow. Share repurchases cost the company \$500 million so far this year and the dividend, so far, about \$325 million, which is about half of our anticipated \$1.6 billion in free cash flow. By the end of the year, we figure long-term debt will be about \$4 billion but short-term debt will be minimal. Even so, about half of the company's debt is floating-rate, which could cause interest expense to go up if rates rise. Current debt levels are higher than they have been and will likely limit the company's flexibility for at least a year or two.

While the outlook to 2007-2009 is promising, the excessive price tag for Kroll raises some caution flags. We would have preferred that the company focus its prodigious cash flow on raising the dividend and buying back stock. For the \$2 billion spent on Kroll, the company expects to have an aftertax contribution of just under \$11 million in 2005 and an estimated \$22 million in 2006. Further expenditures along these lines may well result in a lower valuation as investors price in lower-return expectations. The stock is an average choice for the coming months. John Koller August 27, 2004

(A) Gross commissions, fees, & other income. (B) Avg. shares outstanding thru 1996, then diluted. Excludes nonrecurring gain (losses): '92, (28¢); '94, (7¢); '97, (77¢), '99 (86¢); '01,

48¢. Next egs. report due late Oct. 2003 earnings do not sum due to change in shares outstanding. (C) Dividends historically paid mid Feb., May, Aug., Nov. ■Dividend reinvestment (E) In millions, adjusted for stock splits.

plan available. **(D)** Includes intangibles. At 12/31/03: \$5.8 billion or \$11.00/sh.

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

80

95