

subsidiaries are Liberty National Life, Globe Life & Accident, United American Insurance, American Income Life, United Investors Life. Sells through both captive and independent agencies. Sold/spun off Waddell & Reed (distributed United Investors insurance and

ees, 6,700 stockholders. Off./dir. own 6.5% of common; AXA, 9.2%; Dodge & Cox, 9.1% (3/04 proxy). Chrmn., Pres. & CEO: C. B. Hudson. Inc.: DE. Addr.: 2001 Third Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35233. Tel.: 205-325-4200. Internet: www.torchmarkcorp.com.

**ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '01-'03 of change (per sh) to '07-'09 10.0% 7.5% 8.5% Premium Inc 8.0% 6.0% 10.5% Invest Income 8.5% Earnings 7.0% 10.5% -9.0% 11.5% 14.0% 12.5% Dividends Book Value QUARTERLY INCOME (\$ mill.)

12360.7

5888.3 242.7

13460.9

6204.2 248.9

9364.8 10220.8

13839.9

6306.8 251.7

3881.0

10439.5

Total Assets

Policy Claims Other

Reserves

Total Liab

endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2001	668.2	684.7	678.1	678.5	2709.5
2002	699.9	700.2	698.9	700.8	2799.8
2003	726.4	728.7	730.5	748.4	2934.0
2004	762.2	770	775	802.5	3110
2005	820	825	830	850	3325
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2001	.79	.80	.83	.69	3.11
2002	.85	.87	.89	.90	3.51
2003	.93	.95	.98	1.00	3.86
2004	1.03	1.06	1.09	1.12	4.30
2005	1.14	1.17	1.20	1.24	4.75
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2000	.09	.09	.09	.09	.36
2001	.09	.09	.09	.09	.36
2002	.09	.09	.09	.09	.36
2003	.09	.09	.09	.11	.38
2004	.11	.11			

Torchmark's premium income growth slowed a bit in the first quarter, but should pick up for the remainder of the year. A slight hiccup in the growth rate, due to fewer sales reps at the American Income unit, was the main reason for lower-than-expected premium income. This stemmed mainly from Torchmark's decision to raise the bonus requirements for its agents at this subsidiary, which reduced the number of sales reps. The company subsequently lowered the bonus requirement, which should boost the number of agents and, in turn, top-line growth over the near term. Meanwhile, the Direct Response business is performing well, and should produce double-digit revenue comparisons through 2005.

We have raised our outlook for 2004's **underwriting margins.** As the economy continues to strengthen, pricing pressures in the industry as a whole are easing somewhat. Torchmark, which has always focused on writing strict policies, is in the process of severing ties with agents it deems are writing poor-quality business. Hence, we expect benefits and reserve expenses to improve accordingly.

Investment income is poised to grow at a solid clip over the coming years. Torchmark should keep expanding its invested asset base nicely. More important, expect further interest-rate hikes (similar to the .25% rise in June) through the end of next year. Hence, Torchmark should garner a higher return on its sizable position of fixed-income assets.

The company has enough cash for buybacks and dividend increases. These help TMK maintain its relatively high return on equity, which is the likely reason that its stock trades at a premium to its peers on a price/book value basis.

These shares are an average selection for the year ahead. Torchmark's quality business, and the improving conditions in its industry, may well be attractive to conservative investors. But owing to the issue's price increase this past year, and a fairly low dividend yield, the stock's totalreturn potential out to 2007-2009 is below that of many of its peers. The equities of many of its rivals also have high Safety and Price Stability ranks. Thus, investors may want to look elsewhere at this time. James M. Herth July 23, 2004

(A) Primary earnings through '96; diluted operating earnings thereafter. Excl. realized cap. gains/(losses): '04, 2¢; '03, (13¢); '02, (33¢); '00, (3¢); '99, (51¢); '97, (17¢); '96, 3¢; '95,

(3¢); '93, (3¢); '91, 2¢; '90, 2¢. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '01, (28¢); '98, (20¢); '96, (7¢); '95, (91¢); '93, (3¢). Next egs. report late Oct. (C) In millions, adjusted for stock splits. (B) Dividends historically paid in early Febru- (D) Reflects SFAS 115 from 1993.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 90 Price Growth Persistence 70 **Earnings Predictability** 100