

# FAIRFAX News Release

Stock Symbol: *FFH*

TORONTO, August 04, 1999

## FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 1999

	\$000s			
	<u>Second Quarter</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>	
	<u>Latest</u>	<u>Year Ago</u>	<u>Latest</u>	<u>Year Ago</u>
Total revenue	1,569,902	648,323	2,593,082	1,285,430
Net earnings	40,888	58,054	118,947	110,888
Net earnings per share	\$2.82	\$4.79	\$9.19	\$9.54

Net earnings for the quarter decreased 30% to \$40.9 million from \$58.1 million last year. Net earnings per share for the quarter decreased to \$2.82 per share this year from \$4.79 per share last year based on higher weighted average shares outstanding.

The lower earnings in the second quarter were mainly due to higher underwriting losses caused by recent acquisitions and greater pricing competition.

The acquisition of TIG was completed on April 13, 1999 and TIG's earnings have been included in Fairfax's financial results since that date.

There were 12.9 million weighted average shares outstanding for the first six months of 1999 compared to 11.6 million in 1998.

Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited is a financial services holding company which, through its subsidiaries, is engaged in property, casualty and life insurance and reinsurance, investment management and insurance claims management.

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