

Ellington Financial LLC
Form 10-Q
November 09, 2011
[Table of Contents](#)

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 10-Q

x **QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2011

OR

.. **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from to

Commission file number 001-34569

Ellington Financial LLC

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Edgar Filing: Ellington Financial LLC - Form 10-Q

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of

26-0489289
(I.R.S. Employer

Incorporation or Organization)

Identification No.)

53 Forest Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut 06870

(Address of Principal Executive Office) (Zip Code)

(203) 698-1200

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large Accelerated Filer Non-Accelerated Filer
Accelerated Filer Smaller Reporting Company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

| Class | Outstanding at November 9, 2011 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Common Shares Representing Limited Liability Company Interests, no par value | 16,491,131 |

Table of Contents

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC

FORM 10-Q

| | |
|--|----|
| <u>PART I. Financial Information</u> | 2 |
| <u>Item 1. Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited)</u> | 2 |
| <u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | 43 |
| <u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u> | 67 |
| <u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u> | 69 |
| <u>PART II. OTHER INFORMATION</u> | 69 |
| <u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u> | 69 |
| <u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u> | 70 |
| <u>Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> | 71 |

Table of Contents**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited)
ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY****(UNAUDITED)**

| | September 30, 2011 | December 31, 2010 |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <i>Expressed in U.S. Dollars</i> | |
| <i>(In thousands except share amounts)</i> | | |
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 41,611 | \$ 35,791 |
| Investments, financial derivatives and repurchase agreements: | | |
| Investments at value (Cost \$1,310,625 and \$1,232,484) | 1,302,351 | 1,246,067 |
| Financial derivatives' assets (Cost \$119,307 and \$208,958) | 111,405 | 201,335 |
| Repurchase agreements (Cost \$18,035 and \$25,684) | 18,035 | 25,684 |
| Total investments, financial derivatives and repurchase agreements | 1,431,791 | 1,473,086 |
| Deposits with dealers held as collateral | 36,669 | 20,394 |
| Receivable for securities sold | 890,429 | 799,142 |
| Interest and principal receivable | 7,598 | 5,909 |
| Other assets | 234 | |
| Total Assets | \$ 2,408,332 | \$ 2,334,322 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Investments and financial derivatives: | | |
| Investments sold short at value (Proceeds \$562,607 and \$775,782) | \$ 562,670 | \$ 775,145 |
| Financial derivatives' liabilities (Net Proceeds \$13,825 and \$17,718) | 34,988 | 21,030 |
| Total investments and financial derivatives | 597,658 | 796,175 |
| Reverse repurchase agreements | 884,216 | 777,760 |
| Due to brokers on margin accounts | 92,064 | 166,409 |
| Payable for securities purchased | 453,464 | 184,013 |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | 1,888 | 2,485 |
| Accrued base management fee | 1,418 | 1,525 |
| Accrued incentive fees | | 1,422 |
| Interest and dividends payable | 950 | 861 |
| Total Liabilities | 2,031,658 | 1,930,650 |
| SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | 376,674 | 403,672 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | \$ 2,408,332 | \$ 2,334,322 |

ANALYSIS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY:

Common shares, no par value, 100,000,000 shares authorized;

Edgar Filing: Ellington Financial LLC - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| (16,489,881 and 16,498,342 shares issued and outstanding) | \$ 367,804 | \$ 394,918 |
| Additional paid-in capital LTIP units | 8,870 | 8,754 |
| Total Shareholders' Equity | \$ 376,674 | \$ 403,672 |
| PER SHARE INFORMATION: | | |
| Common shares, no par value | \$ 22.84 | \$ 24.47 |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

(UNAUDITED)

| Current Principal/ Notional Amount (In thousands) | Description | Rate | Maturity | Value Expressed in U.S. Dollars |
|--|---|-------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Long Investments (345.75%) (a) (b) (n) | | | | |
| Mortgage-Backed Securities (344.59%) | | | | |
| Agency Securities (235.44%) | | | | |
| Fixed Rate Agency Securities (221.40%) | | | | |
| Principal and Interest - Fixed Rate Agency Securities (205.94%) | | | | |
| \$ 85,751 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.50% | 10/41 | \$ 91,244 |
| 71,809 | Government National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 4/40 | 79,271 |
| 35,326 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 4/41 | 38,257 |
| 33,422 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 5/41 | 36,102 |
| 25,985 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 11/40 | 27,278 |
| 23,409 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.00% | 1/41 | 24,614 |
| 22,580 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 1/41 | 23,803 |
| 20,527 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 8/41 | 22,172 |
| 19,704 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 6/41 | 21,302 |
| 19,484 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 5.00% | 7/41 | 21,026 |
| 19,904 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.00% | 1/41 | 20,929 |
| 17,826 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 3/41 | 19,349 |
| 16,363 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 5.00% | 4/41 | 17,658 |
| 15,762 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 2/41 | 17,198 |
| 15,039 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.50% | 9/40 | 15,988 |
| 14,587 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 12/40 | 15,313 |
| 13,298 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 4/41 | 14,376 |
| 13,185 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 5.00% | 7/41 | 14,344 |
| 12,160 | Government National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.50% | 8/39 | 13,502 |
| 12,018 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.00% | 2/41 | 12,637 |
| 11,790 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.00% | 10/41 | 12,390 |
| 11,247 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.00% | 11/40 | 11,833 |
| 10,538 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 1/41 | 11,069 |
| 10,060 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.50% | 8/41 | 10,683 |
| 10,135 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 2/41 | 10,646 |
| 9,955 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 3/41 | 10,605 |
| 9,230 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.50% | 2/41 | 9,819 |
| 8,881 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.50% | 10/39 | 9,708 |
| 9,160 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.00% | 1/41 | 9,649 |
| 9,066 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.00% | 9/41 | 9,528 |
| 8,635 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 3/41 | 9,081 |
| 8,137 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.00% | 10/41 | 8,556 |
| 7,950 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.50% | 8/41 | 8,446 |
| 7,530 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 7/41 | 8,136 |
| 7,223 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 6/41 | 7,809 |

Edgar Filing: Ellington Financial LLC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|-------|---|---------------|-------------|--------|
| 7,153 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 8/41 | 7,742 |
| 6,890 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 5/41 | 7,442 |
| 6,355 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 6.00% | 4/39 | 6,991 |
| 6,372 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 4/41 | 6,776 |
| 5,830 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.00% | 7/41 | 6,159 |
| 5,622 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 11/40 | 6,073 |
| 5,576 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 5/41 | 5,850 |
| 4,819 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 6/40 | 5,219 |
| 4,856 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 4/41 | 5,176 |
| 4,178 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 1/41 | 4,386 |
| 3,412 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 4/41 | 3,687 |
| 2,935 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.50% | 8/41 | 3,135 |
| 9,468 | Other Federal National Mortgage Association Pools | 4.00% - 6.00% | 9/39 - 9/41 | 10,166 |
| 1,200 | Other Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 6.00% | 5/40 | 1,320 |
| 1,151 | Other Government National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.50% | 3/41 | 1,275 |

775,718

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 (CONTINUED)

(UNAUDITED)

| Current Principal/ Notional Amount <i>(In thousands)</i> | Description | Rate | Maturity | Value <i>Expressed in U.S. Dollars</i> |
|--|--|---------------|--------------|---|
| Interest Only - Fixed Rate Agency Securities (1.39%) | | | | |
| \$ 22,398 | Other Federal National Mortgage Association | 5.00% - 5.50% | 8/36 - 10/40 | \$ 2,594 |
| 14,667 | Other Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation | 5.00% - 5.50% | 6/33 - 1/39 | 1,977 |
| 10,369 | Other Government National Mortgage Association | 5.50% | 3/36 | 669 |
| | | | | 5,240 |
| TBA - Fixed Rate Agency Securities (14.07%) (c) | | | | |
| 49,000 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool (30 Year) | 4.50% | 10/11 | 51,986 |
| 1,000 | Other Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool (30 Year) | 3.50% | 10/11 | 1,027 |
| | | | | 53,013 |
| Total Fixed Rate Agency Securities (Cost \$820,069) | | | | 833,971 |
| Floating Rate Agency Securities (14.04%) | | | | |
| Principal and Interest - Floating Rate Agency Securities (13.98%) | | | | |
| 10,528 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.12% | 5/38 | 11,100 |
| 10,018 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.70% | 1/38 | 10,615 |
| 7,492 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.28% | 2/38 | 7,875 |
| 7,387 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.24% | 12/35 | 7,785 |
| 4,017 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.55% | 7/37 | 4,319 |
| 3,503 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.68% | 4/36 | 3,718 |
| 3,390 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 2.71% | 7/34 | 3,556 |
| 2,018 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.47% | 9/37 | 2,144 |
| 1,445 | Other Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.01% | 10/33 | 1,529 |
| | | | | 52,641 |
| Interest Only - Floating Rate Agency Securities (0.06%) | | | | |
| 1,544 | Other Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.50% | 8/36 | 221 |
| | | | | 221 |

Edgar Filing: Ellington Financial LLC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|---|---------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Total Floating Rate Agency Securities (Cost \$52,347) | | | | 52,862 |
| Total Agency Securities (Cost \$872,416) | | | | 886,833 |
| Private Label Securities (109.15%) | | | | |
| Principal and Interest - Private Label Securities (108.90%) | | | | |
| 696,241 | Various | 0.29% - 9.35% | 5/19 - 7/49 | 410,216 |
| Total Principal and Interest - Private Label Securities (Cost \$432,247) | | | | 410,216 |
| Interest Only - Private Label Securities (0.25%) | | | | |
| 74,219 | Various | 0.50% - 0.65% | 9/47 | 927 |
| Total Interest Only - Private Label Securities (Cost \$635) | | | | 927 |
| Residual Certificates - Private Label Securities (0.00%) | | | | |
| 206,757 | Various | | 6/37 | |
| Total Residual Certificates - Private Label Securities (Cost \$560) | | | | |
| Total Private Label Securities (Cost \$433,442) | | | | 411,143 |
| Total Mortgage-Backed Securities (Cost \$1,305,858) | | | | 1,297,976 |
| Commercial Mortgage Loans (1.16%) (o) | | | | |
| 5,000 | Various | 5.75% | 11/12 | 4,375 |
| Total Commercial Mortgage Loans (Cost \$4,767) | | | | 4,375 |
| Total Long Investments (Cost \$1,310,625) | | | | \$ 1,302,351 |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents**ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC****CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS**

AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 (CONTINUED)

(UNAUDITED)

| Current Principal/ Notional Amount <i>(In thousands)</i> | Description | Rate | Maturity | Value <i>Expressed in U.S. Dollars</i> |
|--|--|---------------|-------------|---|
| Repurchase Agreements (4.79%) (d) | | | | |
| \$ 15,712 | Nomura Securities International Inc. Collateralized by Par Value \$15,000 U.S. Treasury Note, Coupon 1.75%, Maturity Date 5/16 | 0.03% | 10/11 | \$ 15,712 |
| 2,323 | Nomura Securities International Inc. Collateralized by Par Value \$2,000 U.S. Treasury Note, Coupon 3.63%, Maturity Date 2/21 | 0.03% | 10/11 | 2,323 |
| Total Repurchase Agreements (Cost \$18,035) | | | | \$ 18,035 |
| Investments Sold Short (-149.38%) | | | | |
| TBA - Fixed Rate Agency Securities Sold Short (-144.62%) (c) (e) | | | | |
| \$ (127,500) | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool (30 Year) | 5.00% | 10/11 | \$ (137,122) |
| (96,000) | Government National Mortgage Association Pool (30 Year) | 5.00% | 10/11 | (105,435) |
| (93,700) | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool (30 Year) | 4.50% | 10/11 | (99,146) |
| (78,400) | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool (30 Year) | 4.00% | 10/11 | (82,192) |
| (40,000) | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool (30 Year) | 4.50% | 11/11 | (42,225) |
| (31,500) | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool (30 Year) | 5.00% | 10/11 | (33,776) |
| (15,600) | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool (30 Year) | 4.00% | 10/11 | (16,328) |
| (13,500) | Government National Mortgage Association Pool (30 Year) | 5.50% | 10/11 | (14,927) |
| (8,500) | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool (30 Year) | 5.50% | 10/11 | (9,225) |
| (2,500) | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool (30 Year) | 6.00% | 10/11 | (2,742) |
| (1,000) | Other Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool (30 Year) | 6.00% | 10/11 | (1,096) |
| (500) | Other Government National Mortgage Association Pool (30 Year) | 4.50% | 10/11 | (543) |
| Total TBA - Fixed Rate Agency Securities Sold Short (Proceeds -\$545,465) | | | | (544,757) |
| U.S. Treasury Securities Sold Short (-4.76%) | | | | |
| (17,000) | U.S. Treasury Note | 1.75% - 3.63% | 5/16 - 2/21 | (17,913) |
| Total U.S. Treasury Securities Sold Short (Proceeds -\$17,142) | | | | (17,913) |
| Total Investments Sold Short (Proceeds -\$562,607) | | | | \$ (562,670) |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC
CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS
AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 (CONTINUED)
(UNAUDITED)

| | Primary Risk Exposure | Notional | Range of Expiration Dates | Value Expressed in U.S. Dollars |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>(In thousands)</i> | | | | |
| Financial Derivatives - Assets (29.58%) | | | | |
| Swaps (29.58%) (f) | | | | |
| Long Swaps: | | | | |
| Interest Rate Swaps (g) | Interest Rates | \$ 600 | 9/21 | \$ 3 |
| Short Swaps: | | | | |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Securities (h) | Credit | (74,453) | 9/34 - 12/36 | 59,906 |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Indices: (i) | Credit | | | |
| ABX.HE AAA 2006-2 Index | | (68,967) | 5/46 | 39,110 |
| Other | | (29,857) | 8/37 - 2/51 | 11,431 |
| Total Return Swaps (j) | Equity Market | (14,613) | 9/12 - 9/13 | 827 |
| Credit Default Swaps on Corporate Bond Indices (k) | Credit | (19,700) | 6/15 | 109 |
| Interest Rate Swaps (l) | Interest Rates | (970) | 9/21 | 19 |
| Total Swaps (Cost \$119,307) | | | | 111,405 |
| Total Financial Derivatives - Assets (Cost \$119,307) | | | | \$ 111,405 |
| Financial Derivatives - Liabilities (-9.29%) | | | | |
| Swaps (-9.29%) | | | | |
| Long Swaps: | | | | |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Indices (Proceeds - \$13,825) (m) | Credit | \$ 26,907 | 8/37 - 2/51 | \$ (15,467) |
| Interest Rate Swaps (g) | Interest Rates | 10,000 | 9/16 | (72) |
| Short Swaps: | | | | |
| Interest Rate Swaps (l) | Interest Rates | (309,800) | 4/14 - 7/21 | (19,449) |
| Total Swaps (Proceeds -\$13,825) | | | | \$ (34,988) |
| Total Financial Derivatives - Liabilities (Net Proceeds -\$13,825) | | | | \$ (34,988) |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC
CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS
AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 (CONCLUDED)
(UNAUDITED)

- (a) See Note 2 and Note 9 in Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.
- (b) At September 30, 2011, the Company's long investments guaranteed by the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and the Government National Mortgage Association represented 126.76%, 83.53%, and 25.15% of shareholders' equity, respectively.
- (c) To Be Announced (TBA) securities settle on a forward basis. At settlement the purchaser generally receives agency pass-through mortgage certificates with original maturity dates typically between 15 and 30 years.
- (d) In general, securities received pursuant to repurchase agreements were delivered to counterparties in short sale transactions.
- (e) At September 30, 2011, the Company's short investments guaranteed by the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and the Government National Mortgage Association represented 61.40%, 51.12%, and 32.10% of shareholders' equity, respectively.
- (f) The following table shows the Company's swap assets by dealer as a percentage of shareholders' equity:

| Dealer/Parent Company | Percent of Shareholders Equity |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Affiliates of Morgan Stanley | 10.87% |
| Affiliates of Credit Suisse | 5.41% |
| Affiliates of Deutsche Bank | 5.08% |

- (g) For long interest rate swap contracts, a floating rate is being paid and a fixed rate is being received.
- (h) For short credit default swaps on asset backed securities, the Company purchased protection.
- (i) For short credit default swaps on asset backed indices, the Company purchased protection.
- (j) Notional amount represents number of underlying shares or par value times the closing price of the underlying security.
- (k) For short credit default swaps on corporate bond indices, the Company purchased protection.
- (l) For short interest rate swap contracts, a fixed rate is being paid and a floating rate is being received.
- (m) For long credit default swaps on asset backed indices, the Company sold protection.
- (n) The table below shows the Company's long investment ratings from Moody's, Standard and Poor's, or Fitch, as well as the Company's long investments that were unrated but affiliated with Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, or Ginnie Mae. Ratings tend to be a lagging credit indicator; as a result, the credit quality of the Company's long investment holdings may be lower than the credit quality implied based on the ratings listed below. In situations where an investment has a split rating, the lowest provided rating is used. The ratings descriptions include ratings qualified with a +, -, 1, 2, or 3.

| Rating Description | Percentage of Shareholders Equity |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Unrated but Agency-Guaranteed | 235.44% |
| Aaa/AAA/AAA | 1.48% |
| Aa/AA/AA | 2.02% |
| A/A/A | 5.81% |
| Baa/BBB/BBB | 3.70% |
| Ba/BB/BB or below | 96.14% |

Unrated

1.16%

(o) Maturity date may be extended through November 4, 2015.

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents**ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC****CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS**

AT DECEMBER 31, 2010

(UNAUDITED)

| Current Principal/ Notional Amount <i>(In thousands)</i> | Description | Rate | Maturity | Value <i>Expressed in U.S. Dollars</i> |
|--|---|-------|----------|---|
| Long Investments (308.68%) (a) (b) (n) | | | | |
| Mortgage-Backed Securities (308.68%) | | | | |
| Agency Securities (224.28%) | | | | |
| Fixed Rate Agency Securities (204.19%) | | | | |
| Principal and Interest - Fixed Rate Agency Securities (190.72%) | | | | |
| \$ 93,296 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 12/40 | \$ 92,662 |
| 75,287 | Government National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 4/40 | 80,769 |
| 41,442 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 8/40 | 43,660 |
| 31,029 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 12/40 | 30,806 |
| 29,867 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.50% | 9/40 | 30,665 |
| 27,829 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 11/40 | 28,596 |
| 25,016 | Government National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 5/40 | 26,108 |
| 24,331 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 5.00% | 8/40 | 25,551 |
| 20,674 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 11/40 | 21,783 |
| 20,370 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 3.50% | 11/40 | 19,453 |
| 17,518 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 5.00% | 9/40 | 18,396 |
| 17,827 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.50% | 11/40 | 18,298 |
| 16,318 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 10/40 | 17,234 |
| 16,073 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 12/40 | 16,526 |
| 15,061 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 12/40 | 14,958 |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC
CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS
AT DECEMBER 31, 2010 (CONTINUED)
(UNAUDITED)

| Current Principal/ Notional Amount | Description | Rate | Maturity | Value Expressed in U.S. Dollars |
|---|---|-------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>(In thousands)</i> | | | | |
| Principal and Interest - Fixed Rate Agency Securities (190.72%) (continued) | | | | |
| \$14,674 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.00% | 11/40 | \$ 14,602 |
| 14,053 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.00% | 12/40 | 14,008 |
| 14,086 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 3.50% | 1/41 | 13,451 |
| 11,888 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 9/40 | 12,209 |
| 11,074 | Government National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 6/40 | 11,859 |
| 11,018 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 7/25 | 11,574 |
| 9,887 | Government National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 7/40 | 10,523 |
| 9,534 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.50% | 10/39 | 10,238 |
| 9,622 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 8/25 | 10,110 |
| 9,697 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.50% | 11/40 | 9,953 |
| 9,185 | Government National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 4/40 | 9,837 |
| 8,436 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.50% | 10/40 | 8,648 |
| 7,945 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 6.00% | 4/39 | 8,633 |
| 8,224 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 5.00% | 8/40 | 8,637 |
| 7,307 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 7/40 | 7,690 |
| 7,189 | Government National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 8/40 | 7,699 |
| 7,203 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 11/40 | 7,166 |
| 6,727 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 8/40 | 7,087 |
| 6,194 | Government National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 7/40 | 6,593 |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC
CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

AT DECEMBER 31, 2010 (CONTINUED)

(UNAUDITED)

| Current Principal/ Notional Amount | Description | Rate | Maturity | Value Expressed in U.S. Dollars |
|---|---|-------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>(In thousands)</i> | | | | |
| Principal and Interest - Fixed Rate Agency Securities (190.72%) (continued) | | | | |
| \$5,820 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 6.00% | 12/38 | \$ 6,327 |
| 6,262 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 12/40 | 6,219 |
| 6,096 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.00% | 11/40 | 6,064 |
| 6,097 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 12/40 | 6,066 |
| 5,703 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 8/25 | 5,989 |
| 5,433 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 11/40 | 5,723 |
| 5,093 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 8/25 | 5,348 |
| 5,082 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 12/40 | 5,222 |
| 4,812 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 11/40 | 4,945 |
| 4,377 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.50% | 11/39 | 4,689 |
| 4,637 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 1/41 | 4,605 |
| 4,394 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 12/40 | 4,372 |
| 4,003 | Government National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.00% | 7/40 | 4,261 |
| 3,612 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 12/40 | 3,712 |
| 3,218 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 5.00% | 9/40 | 3,383 |
| 3,356 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 12/40 | 3,338 |
| 2,932 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 4.50% | 9/25 | 3,074 |
| 2,779 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 8/40 | 2,765 |
| 2,157 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool | 4.00% | 12/40 | 2,146 |
| 5,210 | Other Federal National Mortgage Association Pools | 6.00% | 9/39 - 2/40 | 5,665 |
| | | | | 769,895 |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents**ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC****CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS**

AT DECEMBER 31, 2010 (CONTINUED)

(UNAUDITED)

| Current Principal/ Notional Amount <i>(In thousands)</i> | Description | Rate | Maturity | Value <i>Expressed in U.S. Dollars</i> |
|---|--|-------|----------|---|
| TBA - Fixed Rate Agency Securities (13.47%) (c) | | | | |
| \$25,000 | Government National Mortgage Association (30 Year) | 4.00% | 1/11 | \$ 25,152 |
| 25,000 | Federal National Mortgage Association (30 Year) | 4.00% | 2/11 | 24,797 |
| 4,650 | Federal National Mortgage Association (30 Year) | 3.50% | 1/11 | 4,441 |
| | | | | 54,390 |
| Total Fixed Rate Agency Securities (Cost \$828,147) | | | | 824,285 |
| Floating Rate Agency Securities (20.09%) | | | | |
| Principal and Interest - Floating Rate Agency Securities (20.09%) | | | | |
| 15,367 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.84% | 12/36 | 16,266 |
| 12,274 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.68% | 1/38 | 13,025 |
| 11,854 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.10% | 5/38 | 12,476 |
| 10,984 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.22% | 12/35 | 11,568 |
| 8,928 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.76% | 10/36 | 9,392 |
| 8,641 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.22% | 2/38 | 9,127 |
| 4,123 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.69% | 4/36 | 4,380 |
| 3,012 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 5.50% | 9/37 | 3,173 |
| 1,608 | Federal National Mortgage Association Pool | 6.06% | 1/38 | 1,686 |
| Total Principal and Interest - Floating Rate Agency Securities (Cost \$80,167) | | | | 81,093 |
| Total Floating Rate Agency Securities (Cost \$80,167) | | | | 81,093 |
| Total Agency Securities (Cost \$908,314) | | | | 905,378 |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

AT DECEMBER 31, 2010 (CONTINUED)

(UNAUDITED)

| Current Principal/ Notional Amount <i>(In thousands)</i> | Description | Rate | Maturity | Value <i>Expressed in U.S. Dollars</i> |
|---|--|----------------|-------------|---|
| Private Label Securities (84.40%) | | | | |
| Principal and Interest - Private Label Securities (82.97%) | | | | |
| \$ 482,838 | Various | 0.32% - 53.41% | 6/18 - 2/51 | \$ 334,909 |
| Total Principal and Interest - Private Label Securities (Cost \$321,068) | | | | 334,909 |
| Interest Only - Private Label Securities (1.43%) | | | | |
| 127,239 | Various | 0.50% - 5.24% | 4/35 - 9/47 | 5,780 |
| Total Interest Only - Private Label Securities (Cost \$2,491) | | | | 5,780 |
| Residual Certificates - Private Label Securities (0.00%) | | | | |
| 225,640 | Various | | 6/37 | |
| Total Residual Certificates - Private Label Securities (Cost \$611) | | | | |
| Total Private Label Securities (Cost \$324,170) | | | | 340,689 |
| Total Mortgage-Backed Securities (Cost \$1,232,484) | | | | 1,246,067 |
| Total Long Investments (Cost \$1,232,484) | | | | \$ 1,246,067 |
| Repurchase Agreements (6.36%) (d) | | | | |
| \$ 25,684 | Credit Suisse First Boston Collateralized by Par Value \$27,000 U.S. Treasury Note, Coupon 2.63%, Maturity Date 11/20 | 0.00% | 1/11 | \$ 25,684 |
| Total Repurchase Agreements (Cost \$25,684) | | | | \$ 25,684 |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC
CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

AT DECEMBER 31, 2010 (CONTINUED)

(UNAUDITED)

| Current Principal/ Notional Amount <i>(In thousands)</i> | Description | Rate | Maturity | Value <i>Expressed in U.S. Dollars</i> |
|---|--|-------|----------|---|
| Investments Sold Short (-192.02%) | | | | |
| TBA - Fixed Rate Agency Securities Sold Short (-185.71%) (c) (e) | | | | |
| \$(136,500) | Federal National Mortgage Association (30 Year) | 4.50% | 1/11 | \$ (140,094) |
| (113,000) | Government National Mortgage Association (30 Year) | 5.00% | 1/11 | (120,168) |
| (114,500) | Federal National Mortgage Association (30 Year) | 4.00% | 1/11 | (113,901) |
| (62,000) | Federal National Mortgage Association (30 Year) | 5.00% | 1/11 | (65,172) |
| (63,000) | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (30 Year) | 4.00% | 1/11 | (62,547) |
| (40,000) | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (30 Year) | 4.00% | 2/11 | (39,594) |
| (35,000) | Federal National Mortgage Association (15 Year) | 4.50% | 1/11 | (36,698) |
| (33,000) | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (30 Year) | 5.00% | 1/11 | (34,614) |
| (30,000) | Government National Mortgage Association (30 Year) | 5.00% | 2/11 | (31,842) |
| (27,500) | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (30 Year) | 4.50% | 1/11 | (28,175) |
| (24,500) | Government National Mortgage Association (30 Year) | 4.50% | 1/11 | (25,432) |
| (25,000) | Government National Mortgage Association (30 Year) | 4.00% | 1/11 | (25,172) |
| (16,000) | Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (30 Year) | 5.50% | 1/11 | (17,053) |
| (7,500) | Federal National Mortgage Association (30 Year) | 6.00% | 1/11 | (8,153) |
| (1,000) | Federal National Mortgage Association (30 Year) | 5.50% | 2/11 | (1,068) |
| Total TBA - Fixed Rate Agency Securities Sold Short (Proceeds - \$750,520) | | | | (749,683) |
| U.S. Treasury Securities Sold Short (-6.31%) | | | | |
| (27,000) | U.S. Treasury Note | 2.63% | 11/20 | (25,462) |
| Total U.S. Treasury Securities Sold Short (Proceeds - \$25,262) | | | | (25,462) |
| Total Investments Sold Short (Proceeds -\$775,782) | | | | \$ (775,145) |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

AT DECEMBER 31, 2010 (CONTINUED)

(UNAUDITED)

| | Primary Risk Exposure | Notional | Range of Expiration Dates | Value Expressed in U.S. Dollars |
|--|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>(In thousands)</i> | | | | |
| Financial Derivatives - Assets (49.88%) | | | | |
| Swaps (49.88%) (f) | | | | |
| Long Swaps: | | | | |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Indices (Cost \$4,033) (g) | Credit | \$ 74,128 | 6/36 - 7/36 | \$ 3,567 |
| Interest Rate Swaps (h) | Interest Rates | 5,000 | 12/20 | 47 |
| Short Swaps: | | | | |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Securities (i) | Credit | (127,089) | 6/34 - 12/36 | 102,850 |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Indices: (j) | Credit | | | |
| ABX.HE AAA 2007-1 Index | | (108,595) | 8/37 | 60,649 |
| Other | | (92,449) | 8/37 - 2/51 | 32,474 |
| Interest Rate Swaps (k) | Interest Rates | (60,000) | 12/15 - 12/20 | 1,748 |
| Total Swaps (Cost \$208,958) | | | | 201,335 |
| Total Financial Derivatives - Assets (Cost \$208,958) | | | | \$ 201,335 |
| Financial Derivatives - Liabilities (-5.21%) | | | | |
| Swaps (-4.99%) | | | | |
| Long Swaps: | | | | |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Indices (Proceeds - \$17,559) (g) | Credit | \$ 37,589 | 8/37 - 12/49 | \$ (17,942) |
| Interest Rate Swaps (h) | Interest Rates | 10,000 | 11/15 - 11/20 | (215) |
| Short Swaps: | | | | |
| Interest Rate Swaps (k) | Interest Rates | (83,750) | 10/14 - 12/15 | (1,461) |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Indices (j) | Credit | (4,435) | 7/36 | (336) |
| Credit Default Swaps on Corporate Bond Indices (l) | Credit | (19,700) | 6/15 | (186) |
| Total Swaps (Net Proceeds - \$17,718) | | | | (20,140) |
| Futures (-0.22%) | | | | |
| Short Futures: | | | | |
| Eurodollar contracts (m) | Interest Rates | (400,000) | 3/11 - 9/12 | (890) |
| Total Futures | | | | (890) |
| Total Financial Derivatives - Liabilities (Net Proceeds - \$17,718) | | | | \$ (21,030) |

Edgar Filing: Ellington Financial LLC - Form 10-Q

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC
CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS
AT DECEMBER 31, 2010 (CONCLUDED)
(UNAUDITED)

- (a) See Note 2 and Note 9 in Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.
- (b) At December 31, 2010, the Company's long investments guaranteed by the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and the Government National Mortgage Association represented 102.88%, 76.12%, and 45.28% of shareholders' equity, respectively.
- (c) To Be Announced (TBA) securities settle on a forward basis. At settlement the purchaser generally receives agency pass-through mortgage certificates with original maturity dates typically between 15 and 30 years.
- (d) In general, securities received pursuant to repurchase agreements were delivered to counterparties in short sale transactions.
- (e) At December 31, 2010, the Company's short investments guaranteed by the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and the Government National Mortgage Association represented 90.44%, 45.08%, and 50.19% of shareholders' equity, respectively.
- (f) The following table shows the Company's swap assets by dealer as a percentage of shareholders' equity:

| Dealer/Parent Company | Percent of Shareholders Equity |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Affiliates of Morgan Stanley | 19.22% |
| Affiliates of Credit Suisse | 9.07% |

- (g) For long credit default swaps on asset backed indices, the Company sold protection.
- (h) For long interest rate swap contracts, a floating rate is being paid and a fixed rate is being received.
- (i) For short credit default swaps on asset backed securities, the Company purchased protection.
- (j) For short credit default swaps on asset backed indices, the Company purchased protection.
- (k) For short interest rate swap contracts, a fixed rate is being paid and a floating rate is being received.
- (l) For short credit default swaps on corporate bond indices, the Company purchased protection.
- (m) Represents \$1,000,000 notional amount per contract.
- (n) The table below shows the Company's long investment ratings from Moody's, Standard and Poor's, or Fitch, as well as the Company's long investments that were unrated but affiliated with Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, or Ginnie Mae. Ratings tend to be a lagging credit indicator; as a result, the credit quality of the Company's long investment holdings may be lower than the credit quality implied based on the ratings listed below. In situations where an investment has a split rating, the lowest provided rating is used. The ratings descriptions include ratings qualified with a +, -, 1, 2, or 3.

| Rating Description | Percentage of Shareholders Equity |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Unrated but Agency-Guaranteed | 224.28% |
| Aaa/AAA/AAA | 6.81% |
| Aa/AA/AA | 13.91% |
| A/A/A | 4.46% |
| Baa/BBB/BBB | 6.00% |
| Ba/BB/BB or below | 53.22% |
| Unrated | 0.00% |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents**ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS****(UNAUDITED)**

| | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <i>(In thousands except per share amounts)</i> | | | | |
| INVESTMENT INCOME | | | | |
| Interest income | \$ 15,597 | \$ 10,859 | \$ 48,098 | \$ 33,574 |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Base management fee | 1,418 | 1,173 | 4,347 | 3,385 |
| Incentive fee | | 2,524 | 612 | 3,007 |
| Share-based LTIP expense | 41 | 460 | 116 | 1,960 |
| Interest expense | 1,627 | 921 | 4,773 | 2,601 |
| Professional fees | 457 | 543 | 1,369 | 1,445 |
| Compensation expense | 428 | 210 | 1,079 | 710 |
| Insurance expense | 176 | 285 | 533 | 845 |
| Agency and administration fees | 225 | 185 | 715 | 531 |
| Custody and other fees | 191 | 167 | 707 | 426 |
| Directors fees and expenses | 57 | 69 | 198 | 202 |
| Total expenses | 4,620 | 6,537 | 14,449 | 15,112 |
| NET INVESTMENT INCOME (LOSS) | 10,977 | 4,322 | 33,649 | 18,462 |
| NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS AND FINANCIAL DERIVATIVES | | | | |
| Net realized gain (loss) on: | | | | |
| Investments | 1,570 | (2,697) | (1,215) | 9,618 |
| Swaps | 6,779 | (3,868) | 17,971 | 3,352 |
| Futures | (375) | (581) | (1,094) | (1,607) |
| Purchased options | | | | (581) |
| | 7,974 | (7,146) | 15,662 | 10,782 |
| Change in net unrealized gain (loss) on: | | | | |
| Investments | (9,003) | 23,769 | (22,555) | 16,716 |
| Swaps | (11,477) | (4,348) | (19,020) | (17,229) |
| Futures | 369 | (579) | 890 | (1,928) |
| Purchased options | | | | 542 |
| | (20,111) | 18,842 | (40,685) | (1,899) |
| NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS AND FINANCIAL DERIVATIVES | (12,137) | 11,696 | (25,023) | 8,883 |

| | | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS | \$ (1,160) | \$ 16,018 | \$ 8,626 | \$ 27,345 |
| NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS PER SHARE: | | | | |
| Basic and Diluted | \$ (0.07) | \$ 1.30 | \$ 0.51 | \$ 2.21 |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents**ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY****(UNAUDITED)**

| <i>(In thousands)</i> | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| | <i>Expressed in U.S. Dollars</i> | | | |
| CHANGE IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS | | | | |
| Net investment income (loss) | \$ 10,977 | \$ 4,322 | \$ 33,649 | \$ 18,462 |
| Net realized gain (loss) on investments and financial derivatives | 7,974 | (7,146) | 15,662 | 10,782 |
| Change in net unrealized gain (loss) on investments and financial derivatives | (20,111) | 18,842 | (40,685) | (1,899) |
| Net increase (decrease) in shareholders' equity resulting from operations | (1,160) | 16,018 | 8,626 | 27,345 |
| CHANGE IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY RESULTING FROM SHAREHOLDER TRANSACTIONS | | | | |
| Shares issued in connection with incentive fee payment | | | 203 | 275 |
| Dividends paid | (6,752) | (1,855) | (35,634) | (20,401) |
| Shares repurchased | (309) | | (309) | |
| Share-based LTIP awards | 41 | 460 | 116 | 1,960 |
| Net increase (decrease) in shareholders' equity from shareholder transactions | (7,020) | (1,395) | (35,624) | (18,166) |
| Net increase (decrease) in shareholders' equity | (8,180) | 14,623 | (26,998) | 9,179 |
| SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY, BEGINNING OF PERIOD | 384,854 | 294,350 | 403,672 | 299,794 |
| SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY, END OF PERIOD | \$ 376,674 | \$ 308,973 | \$ 376,674 | \$ 308,973 |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents**ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS****(UNAUDITED)**

| | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 |
|---|--|--|
| | <i>Expressed in U.S. Dollars</i> | |
| <i>(In thousands)</i> | | |
| INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS: | | |
| NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS | \$ 8,626 | \$ 27,345 |
| Cash flows provided by (used in) operating activities: | | |
| Reconciliation of the net increase (decrease) in shareholders' equity resulting from operations to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities: | | |
| Change in net unrealized (gain) loss on investments and financial derivatives | 40,685 | 1,899 |
| Net realized (gain) loss on investments and financial derivatives | (15,662) | (10,782) |
| Amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts (net) | (7,857) | (5,749) |
| Purchase of investments | (2,695,989) | (2,298,599) |
| Proceeds from disposition of investments | 2,582,023 | 1,808,694 |
| Proceeds from principal payments of investments | 75,595 | 88,707 |
| Proceeds from investments sold short | 980,116 | 894,958 |
| Repurchase of investments sold short | (1,226,418) | (529,748) |
| Payments made to open financial derivatives | (119,933) | (219,776) |
| Proceeds received to close financial derivatives | 224,232 | 177,148 |
| Proceeds received to open financial derivatives | 25,878 | 73,352 |
| Payments made to close financial derivatives | (27,540) | (52,642) |
| Shares issued in connection with incentive fee payment | 203 | 275 |
| Share-based LTIP expense | 116 | 1,960 |
| (Increase) decrease in assets: | | |
| (Increase) decrease in repurchase agreements | 7,649 | |
| (Increase) decrease in receivable for securities sold | (91,287) | (512,709) |
| (Increase) decrease in deposits with dealers held as collateral | (16,275) | 4,988 |
| (Increase) decrease in interest and principal receivable | (1,689) | 4,055 |
| (Increase) decrease in other assets | (157) | (249) |
| Increase (decrease) in liabilities: | | |
| Increase (decrease) in due to brokers - margin accounts | (74,345) | (678) |
| Increase (decrease) in payable for securities purchased | 269,450 | 666,149 |
| Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued expenses | (204) | 1,036 |
| Increase (decrease) in incentive fee payable | (1,422) | 250 |
| Increase (decrease) in interest and dividends payable | 88 | (276) |
| Increase (decrease) in base management fee payable | (107) | 35 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | (64,224) | 119,643 |
| Cash flows provided by (used in) financing activities: | | |
| Shares repurchased | (309) | |
| Offering costs paid | (469) | (1,138) |
| Dividends paid | (35,634) | (20,401) |
| Reverse repurchase agreements, net of repayments | 106,456 | (83,255) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | 70,044 | (104,794) |

Edgar Filing: Ellington Financial LLC - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | 5,820 | 14,849 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD | 35,791 | 102,863 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD | \$ 41,611 | \$ 117,712 |
| Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information: | | |
| Interest paid | \$ 4,714 | \$ 2,796 |
| Shares issued in connection with incentive fee payment (non-cash) | \$ 203 | \$ 275 |
| Share-based LTIP awards (non-cash) | \$ 116 | \$ 1,960 |
| Aggregate TBA trade activity (buys + sells) (non-cash) | \$ 16,291,487 | \$ 10,645,380 |

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

September 30, 2011

(UNAUDITED)

1. Organization and Investment Objective

Ellington Financial LLC was formed as a Delaware limited liability company on July 9, 2007 and commenced operations on August 17, 2007 upon the completion of its initial private capitalization. EF Securities LLC, a wholly owned consolidated subsidiary of Ellington Financial LLC, was formed as a Delaware limited liability company on October 12, 2007 and commenced operations on November 30, 2007. EF Mortgage LLC, a wholly owned consolidated subsidiary of Ellington Financial LLC, was formed as a Delaware limited liability company on June 3, 2008 and commenced operations on July 8, 2008. EF CMO LLC, a wholly owned consolidated subsidiary of EF Mortgage LLC, was formed as a Delaware limited liability company on June 3, 2008 and commenced operations on July 8, 2008. Ellington Financial LLC, EF Securities LLC, EF Mortgage LLC and EF CMO LLC are hereafter collectively referred to as the Company. All inter-company accounts are eliminated in consolidation.

On October 14, 2010, the Company closed its initial public offering of its common shares representing limited liability company interests, or common shares, pursuant to which it sold 4,500,000 common shares to the public at a public offering price of \$22.50. The Company raised approximately \$101.3 million in gross proceeds, resulting in net proceeds of approximately \$94.7 million after deducting underwriting discounts and other offering costs. The Company's common shares trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol EFC.

The Company is a specialty finance company that acquires and manages mortgage-related assets, including residential mortgage-backed securities, or RMBS, backed by prime jumbo, Alt-A and subprime residential mortgage loans, RMBS for which the principal and interest payments are guaranteed by a U.S. government agency or a U.S. government-sponsored entity, mortgage-related derivatives, commercial mortgage-backed securities, or CMBS, commercial mortgage loans and other commercial real estate debt, as well as corporate debt and equity securities and derivatives. The Company may also opportunistically acquire and manage other types of mortgage-related and financial asset classes, such as residential whole mortgage loans, asset-backed securities, or ABS, backed by consumer and commercial assets and non-mortgage-related derivatives.

Ellington Financial Management, LLC (EFM or the Manager) is a registered investment advisor that serves as the Manager to the Company pursuant to the terms of the Third Amended and Restated Management Agreement effective August 2, 2011 (the Management Agreement). EFM is an affiliate of Ellington Management Group, L.L.C., an investment management firm and also a registered investment advisor. In accordance with the terms of the Management Agreement, the Manager implements the investment strategy and manages the business and operations on a day-to-day basis for the Company and performs certain services for the Company, subject to oversight by the Board of Directors.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

(A) *Basis of Presentation:* The Company's unaudited interim consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America for investment companies, ASC 946, *Financial Services Investment Companies* (ASC 946), for interim financial information. ASC 946 requires, among other things, that investments be reported at fair value in the financial statements. The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries. All inter-company balances and transactions have been eliminated. The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Interim results are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the entire fiscal year.

Table of Contents

(B) Valuation: The Company applies ASC 820-10, *Fair Value Measurement and Disclosures* (ASC 820-10), to its holdings of financial instruments. ASC 820-10 establishes a three-level valuation hierarchy for disclosure of fair value measurements. The valuation hierarchy is based upon the transparency of inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability as of the measurement date. The three levels are defined as follows:

Level 1 inputs to the valuation methodology are observable and reflect quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets,

Level 2 inputs to the valuation methodology other than quoted prices included in Level 1 are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, and

Level 3 inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

A financial instrument's categorization within the valuation hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in these securities.

(C) Securities Transactions and Investment Income: Securities transactions are generally recorded on trade date. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are calculated based on identified cost. Interest income, which includes accretion of discounts and amortization of premiums on mortgage-backed securities, including investments in mortgage loans, or MBS, and U.S. Treasury holdings, is recognized over the life of the investment using the effective interest method. For purposes of determining the effective interest rate, management estimates the future expected cash flows of its investment holdings based on assumptions including, but not limited to, prepayment and default rate assumptions. These assumptions are reevaluated not less than quarterly and require the use of a significant amount of judgment. Principal write-offs are generally treated as realized losses.

(D) Cash and Cash Equivalents: On the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows the Company has revised prior period classifications to conform to current period presentation. Cash and cash equivalents include amounts held in an interest bearing overnight account and money market funds. As of September 30, 2011, all cash was held in an interest bearing account at the Bank of New York Mellon Corporation. As of December 31, 2010, 70% and 30% of cash and cash equivalents were held in the JP Morgan Prime Money Market Premier Fund and an interest bearing account at the Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, respectively.

(E) Financial Derivatives: The Company enters into various types of financial derivatives. The two major types utilized are swaps and futures.

Swaps: The Company may enter into various types of swaps, including interest rate swaps, credit default swaps, and total return swaps. The primary risk associated with the Company's interest rate swap activity is interest rate risk. The primary risk associated with the Company's total return swap activity has been equity market risk. The primary risk associated with the Company's credit default swaps is credit risk.

The Company is subject to interest rate risk exposure in the normal course of pursuing its investment objectives. To help mitigate interest rate risk, the Company enters into interest rate swaps. Interest rate swaps are contractual agreements whereby one party pays a floating rate of interest on a notional principal amount and receives a fixed rate on the same notional principal, or vice versa, for a fixed period of time. Interest rate swaps change in value with movements in interest rates.

The Company enters into credit default swaps. A credit default swap is a contract under which one party agrees to compensate another party for the financial loss associated with the occurrence of a credit event in relation to a reference amount or notional amount of a credit obligation (usually a bond or loan). The definition of a credit event often varies from contract to contract. A credit event may occur (i) when the underlying reference asset(s) fails to make scheduled principal or interest payments to its holders, (ii) with respect to credit default swaps referencing mortgage/asset backed securities and indices, when the underlying reference obligation is downgraded below a certain rating level or (iii) with respect to credit default swaps referencing corporate entities and indices, upon the bankruptcy of the underlying reference obligor. The Company typically writes (sells) protection to take a long position or purchases (buys) protection to take a short position with respect to underlying reference assets or to hedge exposure to other investment holdings.

The Company enters into total return swaps in order to take a long or short position with respect to an underlying referenced asset. The Company is subject to market price volatility of the underlying referenced asset. A total return swap involves commitments to pay interest in

Edgar Filing: Ellington Financial LLC - Form 10-Q

exchange for a market-linked return based on a notional amount. To the extent that the total return of the security, group of securities or index underlying the transaction exceeds or falls short of the offsetting interest obligation, the Company will receive a payment from or make a payment to the counterparty.

Table of Contents

Swaps change in value with movements in interest rates or total return of the referenced securities. During the term of swap contracts, changes in value are recognized as unrealized gains or losses. When the contracts are terminated, the Company will realize a gain or loss equal to the difference between the proceeds from (or cost of) the closing transaction and the Company's basis in the contract, if any. Periodic payments or receipts required by swap agreements are recorded as unrealized gains or losses when accrued and realized gains or losses when received or paid. Upfront payments paid/received by the Company to open swap contracts are recorded as an asset and/or liability on the Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity and are recorded as a realized gain or loss on the termination date. The Company may be required to deliver or receive cash or securities as collateral upon entering into swap transactions.

The Company's swap contracts are generally governed by ISDA trading agreements, which are separately negotiated agreements with dealer counterparties. Changes in the relative value of the swap transactions may require the Company or the counterparty to post or receive additional collateral. Typically, a collateral payment or receipt is triggered based on the net change in the value of all contracts governed by a particular ISDA trading agreement. Collateral received from counterparties is included in Due to brokers on margin accounts on the Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity. Collateral paid to counterparties is included in Deposits with dealers held as collateral on the Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity. Entering into swap contracts involves market risk in excess of amounts recorded on the Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity.

Futures Contracts: A futures contract is an agreement between two parties to buy and sell a financial instrument for a set price on a future date. The Company enters into Eurodollar futures contracts to hedge its interest rate risk. Initial margin deposits are made upon entering into futures contracts and can be either cash or securities. During the period the futures contract is open, changes in the value of the contract are recognized as unrealized gains or losses by marking to market on a daily basis to reflect the market value of the contract at the end of each day's trading. Variation margin payments are made or received periodically, depending upon whether unrealized gains or losses are incurred. When the contract is closed, the Company records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the proceeds of the closing transaction and the Company's basis in the contract.

Derivative instruments disclosed on the Consolidated Condensed Schedule of Investments include: credit default swaps on asset backed securities, credit default swaps on asset backed indices, credit default swaps on corporate bond indices, interest rate swaps, total return swaps, and Eurodollar futures contracts.

Swap assets are included in Financial derivatives' assets on the Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity. Swap liabilities are included in Financial derivatives' liabilities on the Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity. In addition, swap contracts are summarized by type on the Consolidated Condensed Schedule of Investments. Unrealized depreciation on futures contracts is included in Financial derivatives' liabilities on the Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity. For total return swaps, interest rate swaps, and credit default swaps, notional amounts reflected on the Consolidated Condensed Schedule of Investments represent approximately 1000%, 117%, and 69%, respectively, of average monthly notional amounts of each such category outstanding during the nine month period ended September 30, 2011. For interest rate swaps, credit default swaps, and futures, notional amounts reflected on the Consolidated Condensed Schedule of Investments represent approximately 318%, 133%, and 38%, respectively, of average monthly notional amounts of each such category outstanding during the year ended December 31, 2010. The Company uses average monthly notional amounts outstanding to indicate the volume of activity with respect to these instruments.

(F) Short Sales: When the Company sells securities short, it typically satisfies its security delivery settlement obligation by obtaining the security sold from the same or a different counterparty via repurchase agreement. The Company generally is required to deliver cash or securities as collateral to the repurchase agreement counterparty. A gain, limited to the price at which the Company sold the security short, or a loss, unlimited as to dollar amount, will be recognized upon the termination of a short sale if the market price is less than or greater than the proceeds originally received.

Table of Contents

(G) Reverse Repurchase Agreements and Repurchase Agreements: The Company enters into reverse repurchase agreements with third-party broker-dealers whereby it sells securities under agreements to be repurchased at an agreed-upon price and date. Interest on the value of repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements issued and outstanding is based upon competitive market rates at the time of issuance. The Company accounts for reverse repurchase agreements as collateralized borrowings. When the Company enters into a reverse repurchase agreement, the lender establishes and maintains an account containing cash and securities having a value not less than the repurchase price, including accrued interest, of the reverse repurchase agreement. The Company enters into repurchase agreement transactions with third-party broker-dealers whereby it purchases securities under agreements to resell at an agreed-upon price and date. In general, securities received pursuant to repurchase agreements are delivered to counterparties of short sale transactions. Assets held pursuant to repurchase agreements are reflected as assets on the Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity. Repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements that are conducted with the same counterparty may be reported on a net basis if they meet the requirements of ASC 210-20, *Balance Sheet Offsetting*. There are no repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements netted in the consolidated financial statements.

Reverse repurchase agreements are carried at their contractual amounts, which the Company believes is the best estimate of fair value. At September 30, 2011, the Company's open reverse repurchase agreements had remaining terms that ranged from 5 to 234 days and had interest rates ranging from 0.23% to 2.40%. At September 30, 2011, approximately 70% of open reverse repurchase agreements were with four counterparties. At December 31, 2010, the Company's open reverse repurchase agreements had remaining terms that ranged from 13 to 178 days and had interest rates ranging from 0.27% to 2.60%. At December 31, 2010, approximately 77% of open reverse repurchase agreements were with four counterparties.

The Company follows the provisions of ASC 860-20, *Sales of Financial Assets*, which requires an initial transfer of a financial asset and a repurchase financing that was entered into contemporaneously or in contemplation of the initial transfer to be evaluated as a linked transaction unless certain criteria are met, including that the transferred asset must be readily obtainable in the marketplace. As of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, the Company did not have any material seller financing. No transactions are accounted for as linked transactions at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010.

(H) Purchased Options: The Company has entered into options primarily to help mitigate overall market risk. When the Company purchases an option, an amount equal to the premium paid is recorded as an asset and is subsequently marked-to-market. Premiums paid for purchasing options that expire unexercised are recognized on the expiration date as realized losses. If an option is exercised, the premium paid is subtracted from the proceeds of the sale or added to the cost of the purchase to determine whether the Company has realized a gain or loss on the related investment transaction. When the Company enters into a closing transaction, the Company will realize a gain or loss depending upon whether the amount from the closing transaction is greater or less than the premiums paid. The Company had no purchased options outstanding as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010.

(I) When-Issued/Delayed Delivery Securities: The Company may purchase or sell securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis. Securities purchased or sold on a when-issued basis are traded for delivery beyond the normal settlement date at a stated price or yield, and no income accrues to the purchaser prior to settlement. Purchasing or selling securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis involves the risk that the market price or yield at the time of settlement may be lower or higher than the agreed-upon price or yield, in which case a realized loss may be incurred.

The Company transacts in the forward settling To Be Announced MBS (TBA) market. The Company typically does not take delivery of TBAs, but rather settles with its trading counterparties on a net basis. The market value of the securities that the Company is required to purchase pursuant to a TBA transaction may decline below the agreed-upon purchase price. Conversely, the market value of the securities that the Company is required to sell pursuant to a TBA transaction may increase above the agreed upon sale price. As part of its TBA activities, the Company may roll its TBA positions, whereby the Company may sell (buy) securities for delivery (receipt) in an earlier month and simultaneously contract to repurchase (sell) similar, but not identical, securities at an agreed-upon price on a fixed date in a later month (with the later-month price typically lower than the earlier-month price). The Company accounts for its TBA transactions (including those related to TBA rolls) as purchases and sales. As of September 30, 2011, total assets included \$53.0 million of TBAs as well as \$545.5 million of receivable for securities sold relating to unsettled TBA sales. As of December 31, 2010, total assets included \$54.4 million of TBAs as well as \$753.0 million of receivable for securities sold relating to unsettled TBA sales.

Table of Contents

As of September 30, 2011, total liabilities included \$544.8 million of TBAs sold short as well as \$53.3 million of payable for securities purchased relating to unsettled TBA purchases. As of December 31, 2010, total liabilities included \$749.7 million of TBAs sold short as well as \$54.7 million of payable for securities purchased relating to unsettled TBA purchases. On a net basis, as of September 30, 2011, the Company held a net short position in TBAs of \$491.8 million while at December 31, 2010, the Company held a net short position in TBAs of \$695.3 million.

(J) Offering Costs/Placement Fees: Offering costs and placement fees are charged against shareholders' equity. Costs associated with the Company's public offering of common shares, which closed on October 14, 2010, were offset against the proceeds of the offering and charged against shareholders' equity as of December 31, 2010.

(K) LTIP Units: Long term incentive plan units (LTIP units) have been issued to the Company's dedicated officers, independent directors as well as the Manager. Costs associated with LTIP units issued to dedicated officers and independent directors are amortized over the vesting period in accordance with ASC 718-10, *Compensation - Stock Compensation*. Costs associated with LTIP units issued to the Manager are amortized over the vesting period in accordance with ASC 505-50, *Equity-Based Payments to Non-Employees*. The vesting period for units issued to officers and independent directors under the Ellington Incentive Plan for Individuals (the Individual LTIP) is typically one year. The vesting period for units issued to the Manager under the Ellington Incentive Plan for Entities (the Manager LTIP) occurred over a three year period that ended in August 2010. The cost of the Manager LTIP units fluctuated with the price per share until the vesting date, whereas the cost of the Individual LTIP units is based on the price per share at the initial grant date.

(L) Dividends: Dividends payable are recorded in the consolidated financial statements on the ex-dividend date.

(M) Shares Repurchased: Common shares that are repurchased by the Company subsequent to issuance decrease total number of shares outstanding and issued.

(N) Earnings Per Share (EPS): Basic EPS is computed using the two class method by dividing net increase (decrease) in shareholders' equity resulting from operations after adjusting for the impact of long term incentive plan units deemed to be participating securities, by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding calculated excluding long term incentive units. Because the Company's long term incentive plan units are deemed to be participating securities and the Company has no other equity securities outstanding, basic and diluted EPS are the same. See Note 8 for EPS computations.

(O) Income Taxes: The Company intends to be treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In general, partnerships are not subject to entity-level tax on their income, but the income of a partnership is taxable to its owners on a flow-through basis.

The Company follows the provisions of ASC 740-10, *Income Taxes* (ASC 740-10), which requires management to determine whether a tax position of the Company is more likely than not to be sustained upon examination by the applicable taxing authority, including resolution of any related appeals, based on the technical merits of the position. The tax benefit to be recognized is measured as the largest amount of benefit that is greater than fifty percent likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement which could result in the Company recording a tax liability that would reduce shareholders' equity. The Company did not have any additions to its unrecognized tax benefits resulting from tax positions related either to the current period or to 2010, 2009, 2008 or 2007 (its open tax years), and no reductions resulting from tax positions of prior years or due to settlements, and thus had no unrecognized tax benefits since inception. The Company does not expect any change in unrecognized tax benefits within the next fiscal year.

The Company may take positions with respect to certain tax issues which depend on legal interpretation of facts or applicable tax regulations. Should the relevant tax regulators successfully challenge any such positions, the Company might be found to have a tax liability that has not been recorded in the accompanying consolidated financial statements. Also, management's conclusions regarding ASC 740-10 may be subject to review and adjustment at a later date based on factors including, but not limited to, further implementation guidance from the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), and ongoing analyses of tax laws, regulations and interpretations thereof.

(P) Subsequent Events: The Company applies the provisions of ASC 855-10, *Subsequent Events*, in the preparation of its consolidated financial statements. This standard establishes general standards of accounting for and disclosure of events that occur after the balance sheet date but before financial statements are issued.

Table of Contents

(Q) Recent Accounting Pronouncements: On May 12, 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-04, *Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (U.S. GAAP) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)* (ASU 2011-04). This ASU represents the completion of the joint project on fair value of the FASB and International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The objective of the project was to bring together as closely as possible the fair value measurement and disclosure guidance issued by the two boards. Many of the changes in the U.S. final standard represent clarifications to existing guidance. The standard also includes new required quantitative disclosures about unobservable inputs for all Level 3 fair value measurements, as well as qualitative disclosures about the sensitivity inherent in recurring Level 3 fair value measurements. ASU 2011-04 is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. The Company is evaluating the impact of the adoption of ASU 2011-04.

On April 29, 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-03, *Transfers and Servicing (Topic 860), Reconsideration of Effective Control for Repurchase Agreements* (ASU 2011-03). This modifies the criteria for determining when repurchase agreements and other similar transactions would be accounted for as financings (secured borrowings/ lending agreements) as opposed to sales (purchases) with commitments to repurchase (resell). ASU 2011-03 is effective prospectively for new transfers and existing transactions that are modified in the first interim or annual period beginning on or after December 15, 2011. The Company does not expect the adoption of ASU 2011-03 to have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In January 2010, the FASB issued ASU No. 2010-6 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures (Topic 820), Improving Disclosures about Fair Value Measurements* (ASU 2010-6). This amends Subtopic 820-10 to require new disclosures for transfers in and out of Levels 1 and 2 and reporting gross activity in Level 3 fair value measurements, and clarifies the level of detail of existing disclosures. The new disclosures and clarifications are effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2009, with the exception of reporting certain gross activity in Level 3 fair value measurements which is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2010, and for interim periods within those fiscal years. Adoption of ASU 2010-6 did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

3. Valuation

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for the Company's financial instruments.

Level 1 valuation methodologies include the observation of quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets, often received from widely recognized data providers.

Level 2 valuation methodologies include the observation of (i) quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, (ii) inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability (for example, interest rates and yield curves) in active markets and (iii) quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active.

Level 3 valuation methodologies include (i) the use of proprietary models that require the use of a significant amount of judgment and the application of various assumptions including, but not limited to, prepayment and default rate assumptions, and (ii) the solicitation of valuations from third parties (typically, broker-dealers). Third-party valuation providers often utilize proprietary models that are highly subjective and also require the use of a significant amount of judgment and the application of various assumptions including, but not limited to, prepayment and default rate assumptions. The Manager utilizes such information to assign a good faith valuation (the estimated price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction at the valuation date) to such financial instruments. The Manager has been able to obtain third-party valuations on the vast majority of the Company's financial instruments and expects to continue to solicit third-party valuations on substantially all of the Company's financial instruments in the future to the extent practical.

The Manager uses its judgment based on its own models, the assessments of its portfolio managers, and third-party valuations it obtains, to determine and assign fair values to the Company's Level 3 financial instruments. Because of the inherent uncertainty of valuation, estimated values may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market for the financial instruments existed, and the differences could be material to the consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

The table below reflects the value (in thousands) of the Company's Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 financial instruments at September 30, 2011:

| Description | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
|--|---------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Assets: | | | | |
| Investments at value- | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury and Agency residential mortgage-backed securities | \$ | \$ 881,372 | \$ 5,461 | \$ 886,833 |
| Private label residential mortgage-backed securities | | | 396,264 | 396,264 |
| Private label commercial mortgage-backed securities | | | 14,879 | 14,879 |
| Commercial Mortgage Loans | | | 4,375 | 4,375 |
| Total investments at value | | 881,372 | 420,979 | 1,302,351 |
| Financial derivatives-assets- | | | | |
| Credit default swaps on corporate indices | | 109 | | 109 |
| Credit default swaps on asset backed securities | | | 59,906 | 59,906 |
| Credit default swaps on asset backed indices | | 50,541 | | 50,541 |
| Total return swaps | | 827 | | 827 |
| Interest rate swaps | | 22 | | 22 |
| Total financial derivatives-assets | | 51,499 | 59,906 | 111,405 |
| Repurchase agreements | | 18,035 | | 18,035 |
| Total investments, financial derivatives-assets and repurchase agreements | \$ | \$ 950,906 | \$ 480,885 | \$ 1,431,791 |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Investments sold short- | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury and Agency residential mortgage-backed securities | \$ | \$ (562,670) | \$ | \$ (562,670) |
| Financial derivatives-liabilities- | | | | |
| Credit default swaps on asset backed indices | | (15,467) | | (15,467) |
| Interest rate swaps | | (19,521) | | (19,521) |
| Total financial derivatives-liabilities | | (34,988) | | (34,988) |
| Total investments sold short and financial derivatives-liabilities | \$ | \$ (597,658) | \$ | \$ (597,658) |

Investments under the U.S. Treasury and Agency residential mortgage-backed securities Level 3 category are investments in Agency interest only RMBS securities. There were no transfers of financial instruments between Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 during the nine month period ended September 30, 2011.

Table of Contents

The table below reflects the value (in thousands) of the Company's Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 financial instruments at December 31, 2010:

| Description | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
|--|----------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Assets: | | | | |
| Investments at value- | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury and Agency residential mortgage-backed securities | \$ | \$ 905,378 | \$ | \$ 905,378 |
| Private label residential mortgage-backed securities | | | 338,839 | 338,839 |
| Private label commercial mortgage-backed securities | | | 1,850 | 1,850 |
| Total investments at value | | 905,378 | 340,689 | 1,246,067 |
| Financial derivatives-assets- | | | | |
| Credit default swaps on asset backed securities | | | 102,850 | 102,850 |
| Credit default swaps on asset backed indices | | 96,690 | | 96,690 |
| Interest rate swaps | | 1,795 | | 1,795 |
| Total financial derivatives-assets | | 98,485 | 102,850 | 201,335 |
| Repurchase agreements | | 25,684 | | 25,684 |
| Total investments, financial derivatives-assets and repurchase agreements | \$ | \$ 1,029,547 | \$ 443,539 | \$ 1,473,086 |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Investments sold short- | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury and Agency residential mortgage-backed securities | \$ | \$ (775,145) | \$ | \$ (775,145) |
| Financial derivatives-liabilities- | | | | |
| Credit default swaps on corporate indices | | (186) | | (186) |
| Credit default swaps on asset backed indices | | (18,278) | | (18,278) |
| Interest rate swaps | | (1,676) | | (1,676) |
| Unrealized depreciation on futures contracts | (890) | | | (890) |
| Total financial derivatives-liabilities | (890) | (20,140) | | (21,030) |
| Total investments sold short and financial derivatives-liabilities | \$ (890) | \$ (795,285) | \$ | \$ (796,175) |

There were no transfers of financial instruments between Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 during the year ended December 31, 2010.

At December 31, 2010, the Company held money market investments that are included in cash and cash equivalents on the Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity and are considered Level 1 financial instruments.

Table of Contents

The tables below include a roll-forward of the Company's financial instruments for the three month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively (including the change in fair value), for financial instruments classified by the Company within Level 3 of the valuation hierarchy.

Level 3 Fair Value Measurement Using Significant Unobservable Inputs:**Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011**

| <i>(In thousands)</i> | Beginning Balance as of June 30, 2011 | Accreted Discounts / Amortized Premiums | Realized Gain/(Loss) | Change in Net Unrealized Gain/(Loss) | Purchases | Sales | Transfers In and/or Out of Level 3 | Ending Balance as of September 30, 2011 |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| Assets: | | | | | | | | |
| Investments at value- | | | | | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury and Agency residential mortgage-backed securities | \$ 5,227 | \$ (423) | \$ | \$ (2,169) | \$ 2,826 | \$ | \$ | \$ 5,461 |
| Private label residential mortgage-backed securities | 357,894 | 4,389 | 3,107 | (12,994) | 106,262 | (62,394) | | 396,264 |
| Private label commercial mortgage-backed securities | 10,942 | 147 | (38) | (1,707) | 6,918 | (1,383) | | 14,879 |
| Commercial Mortgage Loans | 4,650 | 31 | | (306) | | | | 4,375 |
| Total investments at value | 378,713 | 4,144 | 3,069 | (17,176) | 116,006 | (63,777) | | 420,979 |
| Financial derivatives- assets | | | | | | | | |
| Credit default swaps on asset backed securities | 69,829 | | 3,088 | (248) | 122 | (12,885) | | 59,906 |
| Total financial derivatives- assets | 69,829 | | 3,088 | (248) | 122 | (12,885) | | 59,906 |
| Total investments and financial derivatives-assets | \$ 448,542 | \$ 4,144 | \$ 6,157 | \$ (17,424) | \$ 116,128 | \$ (76,662) | \$ | \$ 480,885 |

All amounts of net realized and change in net unrealized gain (loss) in the table above are reflected in the accompanying Consolidated Statement of Operations. The table above incorporates changes in net unrealized gain (loss) for both Level 3 financial instruments held by the Company at September 30, 2011, as well as Level 3 financial instruments disposed of by the Company during the three month period ended September 30, 2011. For Level 3 financial instruments held by the Company at September 30, 2011, change in net unrealized gain (loss) of \$(15.9) million and \$2.3 million, for the three month period ended September 30, 2011 relate to investments and financial derivative-assets, respectively.

Table of Contents**Level 3 Fair Value Measurement Using Significant Unobservable Inputs:****Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2010**

| <i>(In thousands)</i> | Beginning Balance as of June 30, 2010 | Accreted Discounts / Amortized Premiums | Realized Gain/(Loss) | Change in Net Unrealized Gain/(Loss) | Purchases | Sales | Transfers In and/or Out of Level 3 | Ending Balance as of September 30, 2010 |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|--|-----------|-------------|---|---|
| Assets: | | | | | | | | |
| Investments at value- | | | | | | | | |
| Private label residential mortgage-backed securities | \$ 245,519 | \$ 2,783 | \$ 2,511 | \$ 22,016 | \$ 33,859 | \$ (36,800) | \$ | \$ 269,888 |
| Total investments at value | 245,519 | 2,783 | 2,511 | 22,016 | 33,859 | (36,800) | | 269,888 |
| Financial derivatives- assets | | | | | | | | |
| Credit default swaps on asset backed securities | 113,425 | | (2,683) | (1,647) | 422 | (6,943) | | 102,574 |
| Total financial derivatives- assets | 113,425 | | (2,683) | (1,647) | 422 | (6,943) | | 102,574 |
| Total investments and financial derivatives-assets | \$ 358,944 | \$ 2,783 | \$ (172) | \$ 20,369 | \$ 34,281 | \$ (43,743) | \$ | \$ 372,462 |

In January 2010, the FASB issued ASU No. 2010-6 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* (Topic 820), *Improving Disclosures about Fair Value Measurements*, which became effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2010. As a result certain classifications in the above table have been conformed to the current period presentation.

All amounts of net realized and change in net unrealized gain (loss) in the table above are reflected in the accompanying Consolidated Statement of Operations. The table above incorporates changes in net unrealized gain (loss) for both Level 3 financial instruments held by the Company at September 30, 2010, as well as Level 3 financial instruments disposed of by the Company during the three month-period ended September 30, 2010. For Level 3 financial instruments held by the Company at September 30, 2010, change in net unrealized gain (loss) of \$18.9 million and \$(1.6) million for the three month period ended September 30, 2010 relate to investments and financial derivative-assets, respectively.

Table of Contents**Level 3 Fair Value Measurement Using Significant Unobservable Inputs:****Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011**

| <i>(In thousands)</i> | Beginning Balance as of December 31, 2010 | Accreted Discounts / Amortized Premiums | Realized Gain/(Loss) | Change in Net Unrealized Gain/(Loss) | Purchases | Sales | Transfers In and/or Out of Level 3 | Ending Balance as of September 30, 2011 |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| Assets: | | | | | | | | |
| Investments at value- | | | | | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury and Agency residential mortgage-backed securities | \$ | \$ (843) | \$ 97 | \$ (2,320) | \$ 9,682 | \$ (1,155) | \$ | \$ 5,461 |
| Private label residential mortgage-backed securities | 338,839 | 11,710 | 17,664 | (35,632) | 292,521 | (228,838) | | 396,264 |
| Private label commercial mortgage-backed securities | 1,850 | 378 | 859 | (3,185) | 23,669 | (8,692) | | 14,879 |
| Commercial Mortgage Loans | | 92 | | (392) | 4,675 | | | 4,375 |
| Total investments at value | 340,689 | 11,337 | 18,620 | (41,529) | 330,547 | (238,685) | | 420,979 |
| Financial derivatives- assets | | | | | | | | |
| Credit default swaps on asset backed securities | 102,851 | | 8,396 | (4,987) | 525 | (46,879) | | 59,906 |
| Total financial derivatives- assets | 102,851 | | 8,396 | (4,987) | 525 | (46,879) | | 59,906 |
| Total investments and financial derivatives-assets | \$ 443,540 | \$ 11,337 | \$ 27,016 | \$ (46,516) | \$ 331,072 | \$ (285,564) | \$ | \$ 480,885 |

All amounts of net realized and change in net unrealized gain (loss) in the table above are reflected in the accompanying Consolidated Statement of Operations. The table above incorporates changes in net unrealized gain (loss) for both Level 3 financial instruments held by the Company at September 30, 2011, as well as Level 3 financial instruments disposed of by the Company during the nine month period ended September 30, 2011. For Level 3 financial instruments held by the Company at September 30, 2011, change in net unrealized gain (loss) of \$(32.2) million and \$(12.6) million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 relate to investments and financial derivative-assets, respectively.

Table of Contents**Level 3 Fair Value Measurement Using Significant Unobservable Inputs:****Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010**

| <i>(In thousands)</i> | Beginning Balance as of December 31, 2009 | Accreted Discounts / Amortized Premiums | Realized Gain/(Loss) | Change in Net Unrealized Gain/(Loss) | Purchases | Sales | Transfers In and/or Out of Level 3 | Ending Balance as of September 30, 2010 |
|--|---|--|-------------------------|--|------------|--------------|--|---|
| Assets: | | | | | | | | |
| Investments at value- | | | | | | | | |
| Private label residential mortgage-backed securities | \$ 210,364 | \$ 8,722 | \$ 14,411 | \$ 26,360 | \$ 192,085 | \$ (182,054) | \$ | \$ 269,888 |
| Total investments at value | 210,364 | 8,722 | 14,411 | 26,360 | 192,085 | (182,054) | | 269,888 |
| Financial derivatives- assets | | | | | | | | |
| Credit default swaps on corporate bonds | 8,476 | | (2,281) | (2,650) | 1,713 | (5,258) | | |
| Credit default swaps on asset backed securities | 95,199 | | 8,787 | (16,802) | 38,535 | (23,145) | | 102,574 |
| Other swaps | 257 | | 335 | (257) | | (335) | | |
| Total financial derivatives- assets | 103,932 | | 6,841 | (19,709) | 40,248 | (28,738) | | 102,574 |
| Total investments and financial derivatives-assets | \$ 314,296 | \$ 8,722 | \$ 21,252 | \$ 6,651 | \$ 232,333 | \$ (210,792) | \$ | \$ 372,462 |
| Liabilities: | | | | | | | | |
| Financial derivatives- liabilities | | | | | | | | |
| Credit default swaps on asset backed securities | \$ (10,548) | \$ | \$ (1,658) | \$ 3,881 | \$ 8,340 | \$ (15) | \$ | \$ |
| Total financial derivatives- liabilities | \$ (10,548) | \$ | \$ (1,658) | \$ 3,881 | \$ 8,340 | \$ (15) | \$ | \$ |
| Total investments sold short and financial derivatives- liabilities | \$ (10,548) | \$ | \$ (1,658) | \$ 3,881 | \$ 8,340 | \$ (15) | \$ | \$ |

In January 2010, the FASB issued ASU No. 2010-6 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* (Topic 820), *Improving Disclosures about Fair Value Measurements*, which became effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2010. As a result certain classifications in the above table have been conformed to the current period presentation.

All amounts of net realized and change in net unrealized gain (loss) in the table above are reflected in the accompanying Consolidated Statement of Operations. The table above incorporates changes in net unrealized gain (loss) for both Level 3 financial instruments held by the Company at September 30, 2010, as well as Level 3 financial instruments disposed of by the Company during the nine month-period ended September 30, 2010. For Level 3 financial instruments held by the Company at September 30, 2010, change in net unrealized gain (loss) of \$22.1 million and \$(18.1) million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010 relate to investments and financial derivative-assets, respectively.

Table of Contents**4. Financial Derivatives**

Gains and losses on the Company's derivative contracts for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 are summarized in the tables below (*in thousands*):

September 30, 2011:

| Derivative Type | Primary Risk Exposure | Net Realized Gain/(Loss) for the Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Change in Net Unrealized Gain/(Loss) for the Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Net Realized Gain/(Loss) for the Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Change in Net Unrealized Gain/(Loss) for the Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 |
|---|-----------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Financial derivatives - assets | | | | | |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Securities | Credit | \$ 3,088 | \$ (248) | \$ 8,396 | \$ (4,987) |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Indices | Credit | 6,539 | 3,746 | 5,313 | 5,719 |
| Credit Default Swaps on Corporate Bond Indices | Credit | (150) | 109 | (150) | 109 |
| Total Return Swaps | Equity Market | (29) | 826 | (29) | 826 |
| Interest Rate Swaps | Interest Rates | 456 | (938) | (195) | (1,773) |
| | | 9,904 | 3,495 | 13,335 | (106) |
| Financial derivatives - liabilities | | | | | |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Indices | Credit | 24 | (1,038) | 8,886 | (1,256) |
| Credit Default Swaps on Corporate Bond Indices | Credit | 100 | 220 | | 186 |
| Interest Rate Swaps | Interest Rates | (3,249) | (14,154) | (4,250) | (17,844) |
| | | (3,125) | (14,972) | 4,636 | (18,914) |
| Futures contracts | | | | | |
| Short Eurodollar contracts | Interest Rates | (375) | 369 | (1,094) | 890 |
| Total | | \$ 6,404 | \$ (11,108) | \$ 16,877 | \$ (18,130) |

Table of Contents

Gains and losses on the Company's derivative contracts for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2010 are summarized in the tables below (*in thousands*):

September 30, 2010:

| Derivative Type | Primary Risk Exposure | Net Realized Gain/(Loss) for the Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | Change in Net Unrealized Gain/(Loss) for the Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | Net Realized Gain/(Loss) for the Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | Change in Net Unrealized Gain/(Loss) for the Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 |
|---|-----------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Financial derivatives - assets | | | | | |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Securities | Credit | \$ (2,683) | \$ (1,647) | \$ 8,787 | \$ (16,802) |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Indices | Credit | (892) | (723) | (5,184) | 934 |
| Credit Default Swaps on Corporate Bond Indices | Credit | (50) | (166) | (48) | (168) |
| Credit Default Swaps on Corporate Bonds | Credit | | | (2,281) | (2,650) |
| Other Swaps | Credit | | | 335 | (257) |
| Interest Rate Swaps | Interest Rates | 125 | | | (109) |
| | | (3,500) | (2,536) | 1,609 | (19,052) |
| Financial derivatives - liabilities | | | | | |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Securities | Credit | | | (1,658) | 3,881 |
| Credit Default Swaps on Asset Backed Indices | Credit | (243) | 38 | 6,281 | (228) |
| Credit Default Swaps on Corporate Bond Indices | Credit | | | (1,003) | 1,146 |
| Total Return Swaps | Equity Market | | | (854) | 88 |
| Interest Rate Swaps | Interest Rates | (125) | (1,850) | (1,023) | (3,064) |
| | | (368) | (1,812) | 1,743 | 1,823 |
| Futures contracts | | | | | |
| Short Eurodollar contracts | Interest Rates | (581) | (579) | (1,607) | (1,928) |
| Total | | \$ (4,449) | \$ (4,927) | \$ 1,745 | \$ (19,157) |

Table of Contents

As of September 30, 2011, the Company is party to credit derivatives contracts in the form of credit default swaps on mortgage/asset backed securities and indices, or ABSCDS. As a seller of credit protection via ABSCDS, the Company receives periodic payments from protection buyers, and is obligated to make payments to the protection buyer upon the occurrence of a credit event with respect to underlying reference assets. Written credit derivatives held by the Company at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively, are summarized below (*in thousands*):

| Single Name and Index Credit Default Swaps | Amount at September 30, 2011 | Amount at December 31, 2010 |
|---|---|--|
| (Asset Backed Securities) | | |
| Fair Value of Written Credit Derivatives, Net | \$ (15,467) | \$ (14,375) |
| Fair Value of Purchased Credit Derivatives Offsetting Written Credit Derivatives with Third Parties ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 5,806 | \$ 18,286 |
| Notional Amount of Written Credit Derivatives ⁽²⁾ | \$ (26,907) | \$ (111,717) |
| Notional Amount of Purchased Credit Derivatives Offsetting Written Credit Derivatives with Third Parties ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 13,107 | \$ 43,721 |

(1) Offsetting transactions with third parties include purchased credit derivatives which have the same reference obligation.

(2) The notional amount is the maximum amount that a seller of ABSCDS would be obligated to pay, and a buyer of credit protection would receive upon occurrence of a credit event. Movements in the value of credit default swap transactions may require the Company or the counterparty to post or receive collateral. Amounts due or owed under an ABSCDS contract may be offset against amounts due or owed on other ABSCDS contracts with the same ISDA counterparty.

Unless terminated by mutual agreement by both the buyer and seller, ABSCDS contracts typically terminate at the earlier of the (i) date the buyer of protection delivers the reference asset to the seller in exchange for payment of the notional balance following the occurrence of a credit event or (ii) date the reference asset is paid off in full, retired, or otherwise ceases to exist. Implied credit spreads may be used to determine the market value of swap contracts and are reflective of the cost of buying/selling protection. Higher spreads would indicate a greater likelihood that a seller will be obligated to perform (i.e., make payment) under the swap contract. In situations where the credit quality of an underlying reference asset has deteriorated, credit spreads combined with a percentage of notional amounts paid up front (points up front) are frequently used as an indication of ABSCDS risk. ABSCDS credit protection sellers entering the market would expect to be paid a percentage of the current notional balance up front (points up front) approximately equal to the fair value of the contract in order to write protection on the reference assets underlying the Company's ABSCDS contracts. Stated spreads at September 30, 2011 on ABSCDS contracts where the Company wrote protection range between 9 and 350 basis points on contracts that were outstanding at this date. Stated spreads at December 31, 2010 on ABSCDS contracts where the Company wrote protection range between 9 and 442 basis points on contracts that were outstanding at this date. However, participants entering the market at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010 would likely transact on similar contracts with material points upfront given these spreads. Total net up-front payments received relating to ABSCDS contracts outstanding at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010 were \$13.8 million and \$13.5 million, respectively.

5. Base Management Fee and Incentive Fee

The Company has engaged the Manager to manage the assets, operations and affairs of the Company and pays various management fees associated with that arrangement. Effective August 2, 2011, the Board of Directors approved a Third Amended and Restated Management Agreement between the Company and the Manager. The Base Management Fees and Incentive Fees payable under the agreement are detailed below.

Base Management Fees

The Manager receives an annual base management fee in an amount equal to 1.50% per annum of the Company's shareholders' equity as of the end of each fiscal quarter (before deductions for base management fees and incentive fees payable with respect to such fiscal quarter). The base management fee is payable quarterly in arrears.

Summary information For the three month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, the total base management fees incurred by the Company were \$1.4 million and \$1.2 million, respectively. For the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, the total base management fees incurred by the Company were \$4.3 million and \$3.4 million, respectively.

Table of Contents

Incentive Fees

The Manager is entitled to receive a quarterly incentive fee equal to the positive excess of (i) the product of (A) 25% and (B) the excess of (1) Adjusted Net Income (described below) for the Incentive Calculation Period (which means such fiscal quarter and the immediately preceding three fiscal quarters) over (2) the sum of the Hurdle Amounts (described below) for the Incentive Calculation Period, over (ii) the sum of the incentive fees already paid or payable for each fiscal quarter in the Incentive Calculation Period preceding such fiscal quarter.

For purposes of calculating the incentive fee, Adjusted Net Income for the Incentive Calculation Period means the net increase in shareholders equity from operations, after all base management fees but before any incentive fees for such period, and excluding non-cash equity compensation expenses for such period as reduced by any Loss Carryforward (as described below) as of the end of the fiscal quarter preceding the Incentive Calculation Period.

For purposes of calculating the incentive fee, the Loss Carryforward as of the end of any fiscal quarter is calculated by determining the excess, if any, of (1) the Loss Carryforward as of the end of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter over (2) the net increase in shareholders equity from operations (expressed as a positive number) or net decrease in shareholders equity from operations (expressed as a negative number) for such fiscal quarter. As of September 30, 2011, the total Loss Carryforward was \$2.4 million.

For purposes of calculating the incentive fee, the Hurdle Amount means, with respect to any fiscal quarter, the product of (i) one-fourth of the greater of (A) 9% and (B) 3% plus the ten-year U.S. Treasury rate for such fiscal quarter, (ii) the sum of (A) the weighted average gross proceeds per share of all our common share issuances up to the end of such fiscal quarter, with each issuance weighted by both the number of shares issued in such issuance and the number of days that such issued shares were outstanding during such fiscal quarter, using a first-in first-out basis of accounting (i.e., attributing any share repurchases to the earliest issuances first) and (B) the result obtained by dividing (I) retained earnings attributable to common shares at the beginning of such fiscal quarter by (II) the average number of common shares outstanding for each day during such fiscal quarter, and (iii) the average number of common shares and LTIP units outstanding for each day during such fiscal quarter. For purposes of determining the Hurdle Amount, issuances of common shares (a) as equity incentive awards, (b) to the Manager as part of its base management fee or incentive fee and (c) to the Manager or any of its affiliates in privately negotiated transactions, are excluded from the calculation. The payment of the incentive fee will be in a combination of common shares and cash, provided that at least 10% of any quarterly payment will be made in common shares.

Summary information No incentive fee was incurred for the three month period ended September 30, 2011. Total incentive fee incurred for the three month period ended September 30, 2010 was \$2.5 million. Total incentive fee incurred for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, were \$0.6 million and \$3.0 million, respectively.

6. Long-Term Incentive Plan Units

In connection with its initial offering in 2007, the Company established the Manager Long-Term Incentive Plan (the Manager LTIP) and the Individual Long-Term Incentive Plan (the Individual LTIP). Pursuant to the terms of the Manager LTIP, the Company issued 375,000 long-term incentive plan units to its Manager. Pursuant to the terms of the Individual LTIP, each year since inception the Company has issued annual awards to its independent directors and, beginning in 2010, issued awards to certain of its officers.

As of August 17, 2010, LTIP units awarded to the Manager were fully vested and fully expensed. LTIP units held pursuant to the Manager LTIP are generally exercisable by the holder at any time after vesting. Each LTIP unit is convertible into one common share. During the three month period ended September 30, 2010, expense recognized related to the Manager LTIP was approximately \$0.4 million and during the nine month period ended September 30, 2010, expense recognized related to the Manager LTIP was approximately \$1.9 million. There is no cash flow effect from the issuance of the Manager LTIP units. Since inception, the aggregate expense associated with the Manager LTIP was \$8.6 million.

Individual LTIP units in the amount of 3,750 units were granted to the Company's independent directors on each of August 17, 2007, December 31, 2008, October 1, 2009, October 1, 2010 and September 15, 2011. Excluding the October 1, 2010 and September 15, 2011 awards, these grants have fully vested. The vesting period for awards issued to directors under the Individual LTIP has generally been one year from the date of grant. In addition, on December 15, 2010, the Company issued a total of 2,500

Table of Contents

LTIP units to certain of its dedicated officers. The vesting period for this grant is also one year from the date of grant. LTIP units held pursuant to the Individual LTIP are generally exercisable by the holder at any time after vesting. Each LTIP unit is convertible into one common share. Costs associated with the Individual LTIP are measured as of the grant date and expensed ratably over the vesting period. The total expenses associated with the Individual LTIP units awarded to the independent directors for the three month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, were \$0.03 million and \$0.02 million, respectively. The total expenses associated with the Individual LTIP units awarded to the independent directors for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, were \$0.08 million and \$0.07 million, respectively. The total expense associated with the Individual LTIP units awarded to the Company's dedicated officers for the three month period ended September 30, 2011 was approximately \$0.01 million and the total expense associated with the Individual LTIP units awarded to the Company's dedicated officers for the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 was approximately \$0.04 million. Unrecognized expense related to unvested Individual LTIP units awarded to independent directors was \$0.06 million at September 30, 2011 and \$0.07 million at December 31, 2010. Unrecognized expense related to unvested Individual LTIP units awarded to certain of the Company's dedicated officers was \$0.01 millions at September 30, 2011 and \$0.05 million at December 31, 2010. Since inception, 7,500 common shares were issued in connection with the conversion of Individual LTIP units awarded to independent directors at the direction of the three award holders and \$0.2 million was transferred from the share-based LTIP awards to common shares in shareholders' equity.

If all of the LTIP units that have previously been issued were to be fully vested and exchanged for common shares as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, the Company's issued and outstanding common shares would increase to 16,878,631 and 16,883,342 shares, respectively, resulting in shareholders' equity per share of \$22.32 and \$23.91 at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively.

Detailed below is a roll-forward of the Company's LTIP units outstanding for the three month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Three Month Periods Ended September 30, 2011 and September 30, 2010:

| | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | | | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | | |
|---|--|-----------------------|---------|--|-----------------------|---------|
| | Manager | Director/ Employee | Total | Manager | Director/ Employee | Total |
| LTIP Units Outstanding (6/30/2011, 6/30/2010, respectively) | 375,000 | 10,000 | 385,000 | 375,000 | 5,000 | 380,000 |
| Granted | | 3,750 | 3,750 | | | |
| Exercised | | | | | | |
| LTIP Units Outstanding (9/30/2011, 9/30/2010, respectively) | 375,000 | 13,750 | 388,750 | 375,000 | 5,000 | 380,000 |
| LTIP Units Vested and Outstanding (9/30/2011, 9/30/2010, respectively) | 375,000 | 3,750 | 378,750 | 375,000 | 1,250 | 376,250 |

Table of Contents

Detailed below is a roll-forward of the Company's LTIP units outstanding for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Nine Month Periods Ended September 30, 2011 and September 30, 2010:

| | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | | | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|---------|---|-----------------------|---------|
| | Manager | Director/ Employee | Total | Manager | Director/ Employee | Total |
| LTIP Units Outstanding (12/31/2010, 12/31/2009, respectively) | 375,000 | 10,000 | 385,000 | 375,000 | 7,500 | 382,500 |
| Granted | | 3,750 | 3,750 | | | |
| Exercised | | | | | (2,500) | (2,500) |
| LTIP Units Outstanding (9/30/2011, 9/30/2010, respectively) | 375,000 | 13,750 | 388,750 | 375,000 | 5,000 | 380,000 |
| LTIP Units Vested and Outstanding (9/30/2011, 9/30/2010, respectively) | 375,000 | 3,750 | 378,750 | 375,000 | 1,250 | 376,250 |

7. Common Share Capitalization

On August 17, 2007, in connection with the initial offering of common shares of the Company, 12,500,000 shares were issued with no par value. In addition, 50 shares were issued to the Manager for the initial formation of the Company. On October 14, 2010, in connection with the closing of the initial public offering of common shares of the Company, 4,500,000 common shares were issued at a price of \$22.50 per share.

The following tables set forth the dividend distributions authorized by the Board of Directors relating to the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, payable to shareholders and LTIP holders (*in thousands except per share amounts*):

Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011:

| | Dividend Per Share | Dividend Amount | Record Date | Payment Date |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| First Quarter | \$ 0.40 | \$ 6,757 | June 1, 2011 | June 15, 2011 |
| Second Quarter | \$ 0.40 | \$ 6,752 | September 1, 2011 | September 15, 2011 |
| Third Quarter | \$ 0.40 | \$ 6,751* | December 1, 2011 | December 15, 2011 |

* *Estimated*

Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010:

| | Dividend Per Share | Dividend Amount | Record Date | Payment Date |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| First Quarter | \$ 0.25 | \$ 3,091 | May 18, 2010 | June 15, 2010 |
| Second Quarter | \$ 0.15 | \$ 1,855 | September 1, 2010 | September 15, 2010 |
| Third Quarter | \$ 0.80 | \$ 13,505 | December 1, 2010 | December 15, 2010 |

Dividends are declared and paid on a quarterly basis in arrears.

Table of Contents

Detailed below is a roll-forward of the Company's common shares outstanding for the three month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010:

Three Month Periods Ended September 30, 2011 and September 30, 2010:

| | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 |
|---|--|--|
| Common Shares Outstanding (6/30/2011, 6/30/2010, respectively) | 16,507,381 | 11,985,670 |
| Share Activity: | | |
| Shares repurchased | (17,500) | |
| Common Shares Outstanding (9/30/2011, 9/30/2010, respectively) | 16,489,881 | 11,985,670 |

Detailed below is a roll-forward of the Company's common shares outstanding for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010:

Nine Month Periods Ended September 30, 2011 and September 30, 2010:

| | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 |
|---|---|---|
| Common Shares Outstanding (12/31/2010, 12/31/2009, respectively) | 16,498,342 | 11,972,113 |
| Share Activity: | | |
| Shares repurchased | (17,500) | |
| Shares issued in connection with incentive fee payment | 9,039 | 11,057 |
| Director LTIP units exercised | | 2,500 |
| Common Shares Outstanding (9/30/2011, 9/30/2010, respectively) | 16,489,881 | 11,985,670 |

As of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, related parties of the Company owned approximately 20.6% of common shares and LTIP units outstanding.

On August 4, 2011, the Company's Board of Directors approved the adoption of a \$10 million share repurchase program. The program, which is open-ended in duration, allows the Company to make repurchases from time to time on the open market or in negotiated transactions. Repurchases are at the Company's discretion, subject to applicable law, share availability, price and the Company's financial performance, among other considerations. As of September 30, 2011, the Company repurchased 17,500 shares at an aggregate cost of \$0.3 million, or at an average per share price \$17.62.

Table of Contents**8. Earnings Per Share**

The components of the computation of basic and diluted EPS were as follows:

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| | 2011 | 2010 | 2011 | 2010 |
| <i>(In thousands except share amounts)</i> | | | | |
| Net increase in shareholders equity resulting from operations | \$ (1,160) | \$ 16,018 | \$ 8,626 | \$ 27,345 |
| Net increase (decrease) in shareholders equity resulting from operations available to common share and LTIP holders: | (1,160) | 16,018 | 8,626 | 27,345 |
| Net increase (decrease) in shareholders equity resulting from operations - common shares | (1,134) | 15,526 | 8,429 | 26,504 |
| Net increase (decrease) in shareholders equity resulting from operations - LTIPs | (26) | 492 | 197 | 841 |
| Dividends Paid: | | | | |
| Common Shares | (6,598) | (1,798) | (34,822) | (19,774) |
| LTIPs | (154) | (57) | (812) | (627) |
| Total dividends paid to common share and LTIP holders | (6,752) | (1,855) | (35,634) | (20,401) |
| Undistributed earnings: | | | | |
| Common Shares | (7,732) | 13,728 | (26,393) | 6,730 |
| LTIPs | (180) | 435 | (615) | 214 |
| Total undistributed earnings attributable to common share and LTIP holders | \$ (7,912) | \$ 14,163 | \$ (27,008) | \$ 6,944 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding (basic and diluted): | | | | |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding | 16,501,829 | 11,985,670 | 16,503,229 | 11,982,798 |
| Weighted average participating LTIPs | 385,652 | 380,000 | 385,220 | 380,375 |
| Basic earnings per common share: | | | | |
| Distributed | \$ 0.40 | \$ 0.15 | \$ 2.11 | \$ 1.65 |
| Undistributed | (0.47) | 1.15 | (1.60) | 0.56 |
| | \$ (0.07) | \$ 1.30 | \$ 0.51 | \$ 2.21 |
| Diluted earnings per common share: | | | | |
| Distributed | \$ 0.40 | \$ 0.15 | \$ 2.11 | \$ 1.65 |
| Undistributed | (0.47) | 1.15 | (1.60) | 0.56 |
| | \$ (0.07) | \$ 1.30 | \$ 0.51 | \$ 2.21 |

The Company pays quarterly dividends in arrears. Dividends paid in the table above relate to the respective period's prior period earnings.

9. Risks

The Company may be exposed to various types of risks, including market price risk, interest rate risk, and credit risk. Market price risk is the risk of decline in value of the investments held by the Company for a number of reasons, including changes in prevailing market and interest rates, increases in defaults, increases in voluntary prepayments for investments subject to prepayment risk, and widening credit spreads. Interest rate risk is the risk associated with the effects of the fluctuations in the prevailing level of market interest rates. Credit risk includes the risk of principal loss as well as the risk that a counterparty will be unable to pay amounts in full when due. Since 2007, the U.S. residential mortgage market has experienced severe dislocations and liquidity disruptions. Over the same period mortgage loans have experienced increased rates of delinquency, foreclosure and loss, although the rate of increase has slowed. While more recently the mortgage market has improved and stabilized relative to the 2007-2009 period, home prices remain depressed and relative illiquidity in private label mortgage related assets persists.

Edgar Filing: Ellington Financial LLC - Form 10-Q

The Company invests in credit sensitive MBS and ABS. MBS are affected by interest rates and prepayment rates, each of which are influenced by a variety of economic, geographic, social and other factors. Maturities on MBS represent stated maturity dates. Actual maturity dates may differ based on prepayment rates. The Company may invest in, or sell short, various interest rate derivative instruments and futures contracts primarily for the purpose of hedging its mortgage-backed securities portfolio against changes in value caused by changes in prevailing market interest rates. Should interest rates move unexpectedly, the Company may not achieve the anticipated benefits of the hedging instruments and may realize a loss. Further, the use of such derivative instruments involves the risk of imperfect correlation in movements in the price of the instruments, interest rates and the underlying hedged assets.

Table of Contents

The Company transacts in various financial instruments including swaps, futures contracts and options. With these financial instruments, the Company is exposed to market risk in excess of the amounts recorded on the Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders Equity.

Under current market conditions, many of the Company's portfolio securities may be considered illiquid. This may result in certain securities being disposed of at a price different from the recorded value since the market price of such securities generally is more volatile than that of more liquid securities. This may result in the Company incurring greater losses on the sale of some portfolio securities than under more stable market conditions. Such losses can adversely impact the Company's shareholders' equity. In addition, if the Company is required to liquidate all or a portion of its portfolio quickly, it may realize significantly less than the value at which it previously recorded its investments. There can be no assurance that the Company could purchase or sell a portfolio investment at the price used to calculate the Company's shareholders' equity. A decline in market value of the Company's assets may have particular material adverse consequences in instances where the Company has borrowed money based upon the market value of those assets. A decrease in market value of those assets may require the Company to post additional collateral or otherwise sell assets at a time when it may not be in the best interest of the Company to do so.

Because the Company borrows under reverse repurchase agreements based on the estimated fair value of the pledged instruments, the Company's ongoing ability to borrow under its reverse repurchase facilities may be limited and its lenders may initiate margin calls in the event of adverse changes in the market. A decrease in market value of those assets may require the Company to post additional collateral or otherwise sell assets at a time when it may not be in the best interest of the Company to do so.

The Company is party to a tri-party collateral arrangement under one of its ISDA trading agreements whereby a third party holds collateral posted by the Company. Pursuant to the terms of the arrangement the third party must follow certain pre-defined actions prior to the release of the collateral to the counterparty or to the Company. Deposits with dealers held as collateral on the Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity includes, at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, collateral posted by the Company and held by a third party custodian in the amount of \$8.0 million and \$9.0 million, respectively.

As of September 30, 2011, investments with an aggregate value of approximately \$1.0 billion were held with dealers as collateral for various reverse repurchase agreements. The investments held as collateral include securities in the amount of \$58.9 million that were sold prior to period end but for which such sale had not settled as of September 30, 2011.

The following table details the percentage of such collateral held by counterparties who hold greater than 15% of collateral for various reverse repurchase agreements as of September 30, 2011. In addition to the below, unencumbered investments, on a settlement date basis, of approximately \$172.9 million were held in custody at the Bank of New York Mellon Corporation.

| Dealer | % of Total Collateral on Reverse Repurchase Agreements |
|---------------------|---|
| Deutsche Bank | 19% |
| Morgan Stanley | 17% |
| Bank of America | 16% |
| Credit Suisse Group | 15% |

The following table details the percentage of collateral amounts held by dealers who hold greater than 15% of the Company's Deposits with dealers held as collateral account as of September 30, 2011:

| Dealer | % of Total Deposits with Dealers Held as Collateral |
|-----------------|--|
| Bank of America | 37% |
| Citigroup | 27% |
| JP Morgan Chase | 16% |

Table of Contents

The following table details the percentage of collateral amounts held by dealers who hold greater than 15% of the Company's Due to brokers on margin accounts as of September 30, 2011:

| Dealer | % of Total Due to Brokers on Margin Accounts |
|---------------------|---|
| Morgan Stanley | 43% |
| Credit Suisse Group | 28% |

The following table details the percentage of amounts held by dealers who hold greater than 15% of the Company's Receivable for securities sold as of September 30, 2011:

| Dealer | % of Total Receivable for Securities Sold |
|------------------------|--|
| Royal Bank of Scotland | 25% |
| CS First Boston | 18% |

The following table details the percentage of amounts held by dealers who hold greater than 15% of the Company's Payable for securities purchased as of September 30, 2011:

| Dealer | % of Total Payable for Securities Purchased |
|-----------------|--|
| CS First Boston | 55% |

The Company is party to various derivative contracts generally governed by ISDA trading agreements with dealer counterparties. The Company's ISDA trading agreements, which are separately negotiated agreements with each dealer counterparty, typically contain provisions allowing, absent other considerations, a counterparty to exercise rights, to the extent not otherwise waived, against the Company in the event the Company's shareholders' equity declines over time by a predetermined percentage or falls below a predetermined floor. Such rights often include the ability to terminate (i.e., close out) open contracts at prices which may favor the counterparty, which could have a material adverse effect on the Company.

The Company's purchases and sales of TBA securities are typically governed by Master Securities Forward Transaction Agreements with dealer counterparties. These agreements are separately negotiated with each dealer counterparty and include provisions for margin maintenance, mark-to-market, and other items.

10. Contingencies and Commitments

The Company provides current directors and officers with a limited indemnification against liabilities arising in connection with the performance of their duties to the Company.

In the normal course of business the Company may also enter into contracts that contain a variety of representations, warranties and general indemnifications. The Company's maximum exposure under these arrangements, including future claims that may be made against the Company that have not yet occurred, is unknown. However, based upon experience, the Company expects the risk of loss associated with such contracts to be remote.

Table of Contents**11. Financial Highlights****Results of Operations for a Share Outstanding Throughout the Periods Ended September 30, 2011 and 2010:**

| | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| Beginning Shareholders Equity Per Share (6/30/11, 6/30/10, 12/31/10 and 12/31/09, respectively) | \$ 23.31 | \$ 24.56 | \$ 24.47 | \$ 25.04 |
| Net Investment Income | 0.67 | 0.36 | 2.04 | 1.54 |
| Net Realized/Unrealized Gains (Losses) | (0.74) | 0.97 | (1.52) | 0.74 |
| Results of Operations (1) | (0.07) | 1.33 | 0.52 | 2.28 |
| Dividends Paid (2) | (0.41) | (0.15) | (2.16) | (1.70) |
| Share-Based LTIP Awards/Share Repurchases | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.16 |
| Ending Shareholders Equity Per Share (9/30/11, 9/30/10, 9/30/11 and 9/30/10, respectively) (3) | \$ 22.84 | \$ 25.78 | \$ 22.84 | \$ 25.78 |
| Shares Outstanding, end of period | 16,489,881 | 11,985,670 | 16,489,881 | 11,985,670 |

(1) Calculated based on average common shares outstanding and can differ from the calculation for EPS (See Note 8).

(2) Dividends paid include dividends paid on common shares and LTIP units. For the three month periods ending September 30, 2011 and 2010, dividends totaling \$0.40 and \$0.15, respectively, per common share and LTIP unit outstanding were declared and paid. For the nine month periods ending September 30, 2011 and 2010, three dividends totaling \$2.11 and \$1.65, respectively, per common share and LTIP unit outstanding were declared and paid. Dividends paid of \$0.41 and \$0.15 per share for the three month periods ending September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively, and dividends paid of \$2.16 and \$1.70 per share for the nine month periods ending September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively, above reflect the impact of dividing the total dividend payment, inclusive of LTIP units, by average common shares outstanding, exclusive of LTIP units.

(3) If all LTIP units previously issued were vested and exchanged for common shares as of September 30, 2011 and 2010, shareholders' equity per share would be \$22.32 and \$24.99, respectively.

Total Return:

The Company calculates its total return two ways, one based on its reported net asset value and the other based on its publicly-traded share price. This latter return is considered a market based return, and is only computed for periods following the completion of the Company's October 2010 initial public offering, since the Company's shares were not publicly traded before such time. The following table illustrates the Company's total return for the periods presented based on net asset value:

Net Asset Based Total Return for a Shareholder: ⁽¹⁾

| | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 ⁽²⁾ | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 ⁽²⁾ | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Total Return before Incentive Fee | (0.31)% | 6.44% | 2.11% | 11.02% |
| Incentive Fee | 0.00% | (0.86)% | (0.17)% | (1.07)% |
| Total Return after Incentive Fee | (0.31)% | 5.58% | 1.94% | 9.95% |

Edgar Filing: Ellington Financial LLC - Form 10-Q

- (1) Total return is calculated for all shareholders' equity accounts taken as a whole for each period. Total Return is calculated assuming reinvestment of all distributions at shareholders' equity per share during the period.
- (2) Total return includes the accretive effect of the share repurchases. Had this not been included, total return after incentive fee for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 would have been (0.33)% and 1.92%, respectively.

Table of Contents

Supplemental Information Net Asset Based Total Return for a Shareholder assuming conversion of all LTIP units⁽¹⁾

| | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 |
|---|--|---|
| Total Return before Incentive Fee | (2.60)% | (0.24)% |
| Incentive Fee | 0.00% | (0.16)% |
| Total Return after Incentive Fee | (2.60)% | (0.40)% |

(1) Total return is calculated assuming all LTIP units had been converted into common shares at September 30, 2011. Total return represents all shareholders equity accounts outstanding for the entire period. LTIP units outstanding at September 30, 2011 totaled 388,750 and represent 2.30% of total shares and LTIP units outstanding as of that date.

Market Based Total Return for a Shareholder:

For the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011, the Company's market based total return was (16.54)% and (14.99)%, respectively, and assumes the reinvestment of dividends.

Net Investment Income Ratio to Average Shareholders' Equity: ⁽¹⁾

| | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Net Investment Income (2) | 11.46% | 8.20% | 11.59% | 8.56% |

(1) Average shareholders' equity is calculated using month end values.

(2) Includes all items of income and expenses on an annualized basis except for incentive fee expense which is included on a non-annualized basis.

Expense Ratios to Average Shareholders' Equity: ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

| | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| Operating expenses before incentive fee and interest expense | (3.12)% | (4.07)% | (3.10)% | (4.23)% |
| Incentive fee | 0.00% | (0.84)% | (0.16)% | (1.00)% |
| Interest expense | (1.70)% | (1.22)% | (1.64)% | (1.16)% |
| Total Expenses | (4.82)% | (6.13)% | (4.90)% | (6.39)% |

- (1) Average shareholders' equity is calculated using month end values.
- (2) Ratios are annualized except for the incentive fee which is not annualized.

12. Subsequent Events

On November 1, 2011, the Company's Board of Directors approved a dividend in the amount of \$0.40 per share payable on December 15, 2011 to shareholders of record as of December 1, 2011.

Table of Contents

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

In this quarterly report on Form 10-Q, except where the context suggests otherwise, EFC, we, us and our refer to Ellington Financial LLC and its subsidiaries, our Manager refers to Ellington Financial Management LLC, our external manager, and Ellington refers to Ellington Management Group, L.L.C. and its affiliated investment advisory firms.

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

When used in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q, in future filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or in press releases or other written or oral communications, statements which are not historical in nature, including those containing words such as believe, expect, anticipate, estimate, plan, continue, intend, should, would, could, goal, objective, will, may or similar expressions, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and, as such, may involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions.

Forward-looking statements are based on our beliefs, assumptions and expectations of our future performance, taking into account all information currently available to us. These beliefs, assumptions and expectations are subject to risks and uncertainties and can change as a result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to us. If a change occurs, our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations may vary materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. The following factors are examples of those that could cause actual results to vary from our forward-looking statements: changes in interest rates and the market value of our securities; the impact of the downgrade of the long-term credit ratings of the U.S., Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Ginnie Mae; market volatility; changes in the prepayment rates on the mortgage loans underlying our agency securities; increased rates of default and/or decreased recovery rates on our assets; our ability to borrow to finance our assets; changes in government regulations affecting our business; our ability to maintain our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the Investment Company Act); and risks associated with investing in real estate assets, including changes in business conditions and the general economy. These and other risks, uncertainties and factors, including the risk factors described under Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010 as filed with the SEC, could cause our actual results to differ materially from those projected in any forward-looking statements we make. All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made. New risks and uncertainties arise over time and it is not possible to predict those events or how they may affect us. Except as required by law, we are not obligated to, and do not intend to, update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Executive Summary

We are a specialty finance company that acquires and manages mortgage-related assets, including residential mortgage-backed securities, or RMBS, backed by prime jumbo, Alt-A and subprime residential mortgage loans, RMBS for which the principal and interest payments are guaranteed by a U.S. government agency or a U.S. government-sponsored entity, mortgage-related derivatives, commercial mortgage-backed securities, or CMBS, commercial mortgage loans and other commercial real estate debt, as well as corporate debt and equity securities and derivatives. We also may opportunistically acquire and manage other types of mortgage-related and financial asset classes, such as residential whole mortgage loans, asset-backed securities, or ABS, backed by consumer and commercial assets and non-mortgage-related derivatives. We are externally managed and advised by our Manager, an affiliate of Ellington. Ellington is also a registered investment advisor with a 16-year history of investing in a broad spectrum of mortgage-backed securities, or MBS and related derivatives.

We completed our initial capitalization in August 2007, pursuant to which we sold 12,500,000 common shares for aggregate net proceeds of approximately \$239.7 million.

On October 14, 2010, we closed our initial public offering of common shares pursuant to which we sold 4,500,000 common shares to the public at a public offering price of \$22.50 per share. We raised approximately \$101.3 million in gross proceeds, resulting in net proceeds to us of approximately \$94.7 million, after deducting underwriting discounts and other offering costs.

Table of Contents

Our primary objective is to generate attractive, risk-adjusted total returns for our shareholders. We seek to attain this objective by utilizing an opportunistic strategy to make investments, without restriction as to ratings, structure or position in the capital structure, that we believe compensate us appropriately for the risks associated with them rather than targeting a specific yield. Our evaluation of the potential risk-adjusted return of any potential investment typically involves weighing the potential returns of such investment under a variety of economic scenarios against the perceived likelihood of the various scenarios. Potential investments subject to greater risk (such as those with lower credit ratings and/or those with a lower position in the capital structure) will generally require a higher potential return to be attractive in comparison to investment alternatives with lower potential return and a lower degree of risk. However, at any particular point in time, depending on how we perceive the market's pricing of risk both generally and across sectors, we may favor higher-risk assets or we may favor lower-risk assets, or a combination of the two in the interests of portfolio diversification or other considerations.

As of September 30, 2011, we believe that our non-Agency RMBS strategies represented the primary drivers of our risk and return, and we expect that they will continue to do so over the near term. We additionally expect CMBS and commercial mortgage loans to represent a growing component of our strategy. We continue to maintain a highly leveraged portfolio of Agency RMBS to take advantage of opportunities in that market sector and to maintain our exclusion from regulation as an investment company under the Investment Company Act. As discussed below in Liquidity and Valuation, financing for non-Agency RMBS has become more readily available, but currently we employ only low levels of leverage with respect to the non-Agency RMBS in our portfolio. We currently finance our purchases of Agency RMBS and non-Agency RMBS using reverse repurchase agreements, or reverse repos, which we account for as collateralized borrowings. Unless we acquire very substantial amounts of whole mortgage loans or there are changes to the rules and regulations affecting our exclusion from regulation as an investment company under the Investment Company Act, we expect that we will continue to maintain some core amount of Agency RMBS to maintain our exclusion from regulation as an investment company under the Investment Company Act.

Our strategy is intended to take advantage of opportunities in the current credit environment. We intend to adjust our strategy to changing market conditions by shifting our asset allocations across various asset classes as credit and liquidity trends evolve over time. We believe that this strategy, combined with Ellington's experience, will help us generate more consistent returns on our capital throughout changing market cycles.

As of September 30, 2011, our outstanding borrowings under reverse repurchase agreements were \$884.2 million and our debt-to-equity ratio was 2.35 to 1. Our debt-to-equity ratio does not account for liabilities other than debt financings. Of our total borrowings outstanding, approximately 75.9% or \$671.4 million relates to our Agency holdings with the remaining related to our non-Agency holdings.

We opportunistically hedge our credit risk and interest rate risk; however, at any point in time we may choose not to hedge all or a portion of these risks, and we will generally not hedge those risks that we believe are appropriate for us to take at such time, or that we believe would be impractical or prohibitively expensive to hedge.

We believe that we have been organized and have operated so that we have qualified, and will continue to qualify, to be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a partnership and not as an association or a publicly traded partnership taxable as a corporation.

Trends and Recent Market Developments

Market Disruption in RMBS

We commenced operations in August 2007 in the midst of challenging market conditions which affected both (i) the credit performance and valuations of assets we targeted at that time (especially non-Agency RMBS) and (ii) the cost and availability of financing for those assets (primarily, reverse repos and securitizations). After reviewing the market conditions that existed at that time, we decided to deploy a relatively modest amount of our capital in late 2007 and also began to adapt the strategy for the portfolio in light of market conditions.

In early 2008, as credit availability diminished and valuations of non-Agency RMBS came under significant pressure, we began slowly purchasing primarily senior tranches of non-Agency RMBS while simultaneously aggressively hedging the credit risk in these securities through a combination of single name credit default swaps referencing primarily mezzanine tranches of non-Agency

Table of Contents

RMBS, positions with respect to certain vintages and tranches of the ABX indices and selected other hedges. The market for non-Agency RMBS was impacted by several significant events during the first quarter of 2008, including the forced liquidation of several multi-billion dollar RMBS portfolios by heavily leveraged investors and the failure of Bear Stearns & Co. in March 2008. These market events also severely restricted the financing available for non-Agency RMBS, as many lenders curtailed their lending against these types of securities.

Poor credit performance of non-Agency RMBS and limited availability of financing for such assets continued throughout 2008 and into 2009, influenced by many market events including the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers in September 2008. Meanwhile, home price declines and increases in loss severities upon default continued through the second quarter of 2009. Since the second quarter of 2009, market conditions have generally improved as witnessed by the increased availability of financing for non-Agency assets and the improved underlying credit performance across several sectors of the residential mortgage-backed securities markets.

Recent Developments

Government Sponsored Enterprise (GSE) Update

During 2008, there were increased market concerns about Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's ability to withstand future credit losses associated with securities held in their investment portfolios, and on which they provide guarantees, without the direct support of the Federal Government. In September 2008 Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were placed into the conservatorship of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, or FHFA, their federal regulator, pursuant to its powers under The Federal Housing Finance Regulatory Reform Act of 2008, a part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. As the conservator of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the FHFA controls and directs their operations and may (i) take over their assets and operate them with all the powers of their shareholders, directors, and officers and conduct all their business; (ii) collect all obligations and money due to them; (iii) perform all of their functions which are consistent with the conservator's appointment; (iv) preserve and conserve their assets and property and (v) contract for assistance in fulfilling any function, activity, action or duty of the conservator. In addition to the FHFA becoming the conservator of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, (i) the U.S. Treasury and FHFA entered into preferred stock purchase agreements with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac pursuant to which the U.S. Treasury ensures that each of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac maintains a positive net worth; (ii) the U.S. Treasury established a secured lending credit facility for Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Banks to serve as a liquidity backstop; and (iii) the U.S. Treasury initiated a program to purchase RMBS issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

In December 2009, the U.S. Treasury ended the secured lending credit facility and the RMBS purchase program, but contemporaneously lifted the cap on assistance to be provided to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac pursuant to the preferred stock purchase program, thereby effectively providing nearly unlimited support for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac through 2012.

In August 2010, the Obama administration hosted a major conference on the future of housing finance, which included a discussion regarding the future of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, with the intended goal of developing a comprehensive housing finance reform proposal for delivery to Congress by January 2011. Additionally, during the conference, the Obama administration stated that it was committed to ensuring these entities have adequate resources to meet their financial commitments. On February 11, 2011 the U.S. Treasury released a White Paper entitled *Reforming America's Housing Finance Market*. This is the first step in what is likely to be a major change in the future role of the GSEs in the housing finance market. Major tenets of the plan include: (1) private markets, subject to strong oversight and standards for consumer and investor protection, will become the primary source of mortgage credit and bear the burden for losses, and (2) banks and other financial institutions will be required to hold more capital to withstand future recessions or significant declines in home prices, and will be required to adhere to more conservative underwriting standards that require homeowners to hold more equity in their homes. While the exact fate and role of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac remain uncertain, each has been mandated to reduce its MBS portfolios by at least 10% per annum. Each began divesting its security holdings in 2009 and together they have liquidated over \$286 billion from the beginning of 2010 through the first quarter of 2011, adding a meaningful amount of supply to the market.

While lawmakers agree that additional reform is needed, they are divided on just how to proceed. Several bills have been introduced by members of Congress with the intention of moving the reform effort forward. Proposals under the legislation introduced range from raising guarantee fees the GSEs will charge for mortgage-backed securities they insure, to formalizing the reduction in size of the GSEs' portfolios, to reducing the compensation of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's senior executives to bring their compensation

Table of Contents

in line with the wages of federal banking regulators, among others. Proposals have also included combining Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac or creating a new similar entity, which would leave the government (or GSEs) with a role in housing finance as significant as its pre-crisis role. With speculation abounding over what forms the recommendations may ultimately take, mortgage finance analysts are predicting resolution will take place over a very long timeline. Few expect Congress to enact any legislation on U.S. housing reform until at least 2013. We continue to monitor the evolving status of these discussions and proposals, but the ultimate impact of any resulting legislation or policies is uncertain and may create opportunities for us or have adverse consequences for us and our industry.

On October 24, 2011, the FHFA, along with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, announced several changes to be made to the Home Affordable Refinance Program, or HARP. Among those changes are (1) the reduction or elimination in certain cases, of many risk-based fees charged to borrowers when refinancing, (2) the expansion of the previous 125% loan-to-value ceiling to allow all underwater borrowers (those borrowers who owe more on their mortgages than the value of their homes) to participate in the program, regardless of the size of their loan versus the value of their home and (3) the removal of certain representation and warranties made on behalf of lenders for loans owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, among other changes. These refinancing opportunities will only be available to borrowers with loans that are owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac and, aside from the expansion of HARP as described above, are subject to the restrictions originally put in place for the program. Although it is not yet possible to gauge the ultimate success of HARP and the expansion announcement, the FHFA's actions present the opportunity for many borrowers, who previously could not, to take advantage of the ability to refinance their mortgages into lower interest rates. This could negatively impact our Agency holdings, which are generally purchased at premiums; however, it is unknown at this time what the ultimate impact will be.

Regulatory Reform

On July 21, 2010, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, or the Dodd-Frank Act, was passed by Congress. This legislation aims to restore responsibility and accountability to the financial system through new supervisory and advisory bodies, including the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The Dodd-Frank Act tasks many agencies with issuing a variety of new regulations, including rules related to mortgage origination and servicing, securitization and derivatives. It remains unclear how this legislation may impact the borrowing environment, investing environment for Agency RMBS and interest rate swaps and other derivatives as regulators are still working to determine how the Dodd-Frank Act will be implemented. Progress has been slow on many aspects of the legislation and it may be some time before these regulations cause significant changes in the securities and derivatives markets.

The derivatives market, and the credit derivatives market in particular, has been a significant focus for legislators and market regulators in considering additional regulations. Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act, entitled the Wall Street Transparency and Accountability Act of 2010, or Title VII, provides for new federal regulations of the swaps market and sweeping changes to its structure. Proposed changes contemplated in Title VII include mandatory central clearing, exchange trading margin requirements and real-time reporting of certain swap transactions. In addition, certain market participants may incur registration, disclosure and reporting requirements as swap dealers, major swap participant, commodity trading advisors or commodity pool operators. While there was an effective date for certain of Title VII's provisions beginning on July 16, 2011, which has since passed, the provisions of Title VII that will have the most fundamental impact on the swaps market have not been finalized. We are not able at this time to predict the impact any final regulations might have on our business. Proposed regulations could have positive, adverse or mixed consequences for our business. For example, the proposed measure that would require that certain derivatives be traded on regulated exchanges or through clearinghouses could benefit us by substantially reducing our derivatives counterparty-related risks, but conversely, could also reduce some of the market inefficiencies that we believe create opportunities for us. Such changes might also impact the amount of collateral that we are required to post against our derivatives positions, which could affect our liquidity and the amount of capital that we have available for our non-derivative investment activities. Further, as the swap markets move towards greater standardization, it is unclear what costs firms might incur in entering into swaps to hedge specific risks that may not be sufficiently addressed in standardized swaps. Such changes may lead us to re-evaluate our derivatives strategy in particular and our investment strategy overall. No assurance can be given that any final regulations will not impact our business in a material and adverse way.

Table of Contents

On August 31, 2011, the SEC issued a Concept Release announcing that the Commission is reviewing interpretive issues and seeking public comment on interpretations related to Section 3(c)(5)(C) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 and its use by companies engaged in the business of acquiring mortgages and mortgage-related instruments (mortgage-related pools). The SEC notes in the release that in light of the evaluation of mortgage-related pools and the development of new and complex mortgage-related instruments, the SEC is reviewing certain interpretive issues under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and whether mortgage-related pools potentially are making judgments about their status under the Investment Company Act of 1940 without sufficient SEC guidance. The SEC has asked for comments in order to help it better understand mortgage-related pools and their use of the 3(c)(5)(C) exemption. The SEC has noted that it can pursue a range of actions in light of the feedback including engaging in rulemaking (such as a safe harbor or definitional rule), issuing an interpretive release, providing exemptive relief or by taking no action. While stock prices of companies in our industry that rely on the 3(c)(5)(C) exemption, including our own, dropped in response to the issuance of the Concept Release, we believe that it is too early to make a determination as to how the SEC's actions might affect our company or our industry. The comment period for the release ends on November 7, 2011 but the ultimate resolution of these issues will take some time. No assurance can be given that any final actions will not have an adverse effect on our operations. To the extent that the SEC provides more specific guidance regarding these matters, we may need to adjust our strategy. Likewise, any further guidance could provide us additional flexibility, or it could provide clarity regarding some of the interpretive issues that our industry has had to address.

Foreclosures

During the third quarter of 2010, several large banks suspended foreclosures and foreclosure sales in a number of states, and some public officials have called for nationwide foreclosure moratoria. Most banks have since resumed foreclosure proceedings. However, the attorneys general from all 50 states have launched a joint investigation into foreclosure practices and mortgage servicers' involvement in those practices. The suspensions and investigations relate to two concerns. The first concern relates to the allegedly pervasive signing, by mortgage servicers and their agents, of foreclosure-related affidavits without actually having properly validated the information in the affidavits (robo-signing). The second concern relates to the standard of proof required for a mortgage servicer to demonstrate that it has proper standing to foreclose on behalf of a mortgage note holder. Delinquent borrowers have begun filing lawsuits requesting, and certain judges have begun requiring, mortgage servicers to produce the actual mortgage notes to prove their right to foreclose. Because many mortgages have been transferred and assigned multiple times through the origination, warehouse and securitization processes, and by means of varying assignment procedures, mortgage servicers are frequently having difficulty furnishing complete documentation. This leads to stalled or suspended foreclosure proceedings, and ultimately additional foreclosure-related costs. Foreclosure-related suspensions and investigations also slow the pace of liquidations, and thereby likely increase loan loss severities in the longer term as a result of property deterioration, amplified legal and other costs, and other factors. Servicers have maintained that most of these problems are process-oriented and can be largely fixed in the near term; however, certain factors delaying foreclosure, such as borrower lawsuits and judicial scrutiny, are outside of servicers' control and have slowed and will likely continue to slow foreclosure processing in both judicial and non-judicial states. One of the biggest risks overhanging the RMBS market has been uncertainty around the timing and ability of servicers to remove delinquent borrowers from their homes and ultimately liquidate properties to pass cash through to securitization trusts. This risk is very difficult to quantify and uncertainty has often been magnified by court cases with conflicting outcomes.

A settlement draft related to the ongoing investigation was released in mid-March 2011. In April 2011, fourteen of the largest mortgage servicers involved in the investigations entered into consent decrees with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Department of Justice, the Federal Reserve, the Office of Thrift Supervision and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or FDIC. The consent decrees implement some of the improvements proposed in the draft settlement agreement including ending dual-tracking, which occurs when servicers continue to pursue foreclosure during the loan modification process, and establishing a single point of contact for borrowers during the foreclosure process. The servicers also agreed to review loans that went into foreclosure in 2009 and 2010, improve their foreclosure, loan modification and refinancing procedures, hire additional staff, upgrade information management systems and provide better oversight over third party service providers such as attorneys and vendors. In May 2011, five of the servicers offered to settle the state and federal investigations for \$5 billion. The settlement was not accepted. Unofficial reports have suggested that the states are seeking settlement payments in the range of \$20 to \$25 billion, and that a proposed settlement may also include commitments by the implicated banks to provide refinancing assistance to certain underwater borrowers on loans that they own; however a settlement agreement has not been reached and negotiations continue.

Table of Contents

During the first quarter of 2011, a particular bank foreclosure case relating to improper documentation was widely publicized. The State Supreme Court of Massachusetts upheld a lower court decision invalidating two foreclosures by U.S. Bancorp and Wells Fargo in Massachusetts. The lower court had ruled that since the lender failed to bring the assignment of the mortgage up to date until after the foreclosure sale, the foreclosures were invalid, and the Massachusetts Supreme Court agreed. While the Massachusetts Supreme Court did confirm that the purchaser of a mortgage note has an equitable right to obtain an assignment of the mortgage, at the same time it ruled that in contrast to the law in most jurisdictions the transfer of the mortgage note does not automatically transfer the mortgage itself. This ruling, along with any other similar rulings that may be issued in other jurisdictions, will create additional obstacles in the foreclosure process and thereby at the very least lengthen what is generally already an extremely protracted foreclosure process. Of additional note, the Massachusetts court did not address general questions of good title for bona fide third-party purchasers of improperly foreclosed properties. Future rulings in this area could have significant effects on the real estate and financial markets in general and on RMBS in particular.

Monetary Policy

Starting with the announcement of the Public-Private Investment Program, or PPIP, sponsored by the federal government, towards the end of the first quarter of 2009, and along with the general improvements in most global financial markets since that time, liquidity and prices have improved in the RMBS markets, presumably reflecting, among other things, market participants pricing better economic scenarios into, and demanding lower target returns on, their investments.

In November of 2010, the Federal Reserve announced that it would buy \$600 billion in long-term U.S. Treasury bonds, in an attempt to help maintain low long-term interest rates (Quantitative Easing 2 or QE2). The program ended on June 30, 2011.

On September 21, 2011, the Federal Reserve announced plans to implement another form of monetary stimulus. The plan involves selling \$400 billion of short-term U.S. Treasury securities and purchasing about the same amount of longer-term U.S. Treasuries, in an effort to keep long-term interest rates relatively low. The Federal Reserve aims to begin these purchases and sales in October 2011, and to conclude in June of 2012. The Federal Reserve also announced that, contrary to earlier intentions to slowly let their Agency MBS portfolio pay down over time, they will be re-investing proceeds in additional Agency MBS.

U.S. Long-Term Credit Rating Downgrade

On August 5, 2011, Standard and Poor's (S&P), one of three major credit rating agencies, downgraded the long-term sovereign credit rating of the U.S. one notch from AAA to AA+. In its announcement, S&P also noted that its outlook on the U.S. credit rating was negative. However, S&P affirmed the short-term credit rating of the U.S. of A-1+, its highest rating in that category. S&P took these actions in light of its conclusion that the fiscal consolidation plan that Congress and the Administration recently agreed to falls short of what ... would be necessary to stabilize the government's medium-term debt dynamics. On August 8, 2011, S&P also downgraded the long-term credit ratings of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Ginnie Mae, from AAA to AA+, given their direct reliance on the U.S. government. Thus far, the impact of the downgrade has been minimal. Other market factors, such as the European debt crisis and concerns about a double-dip recession in the U.S. economy, have caused investors to continue to seek the relative safety of U.S. government debt.

Labor Market

On November 4, 2011, the U.S. Department of Labor reported that, as of October 2011, the U.S. unemployment rate was 9.0%. While it is difficult to quantify the relationship between the unemployment rate and the housing and mortgage markets, we believe that continued unemployment at such levels could contribute to further increases in mortgage delinquencies and decreases in home prices.

Credit Quality

The deterioration of the U.S. housing market as well as the economic downturn that began in 2007 have caused U.S. residential mortgage delinquency rates to remain at high levels for various types of mortgage loans, including subprime mortgage loans and option ARMs. Loss severities upon default increased steadily from 2007 through the first half of 2009 as a result of, among other things, additional servicing costs, delays in loan foreclosure, continuing home price declines and lack of incentive for mortgage servicers to minimize costs. The second half of 2009 and the first half of 2010 exhibited some stabilization or improvement of these and other fundamental measures of credit quality. However these gains were not sustainable, and by the second half of 2010 the increasing supply of actual and shadow housing inventory put renewed downward pressure on home pricing, (shadow inventory refers to homes that are either awaiting foreclosure, are highly expected to be foreclosed on, or have already been foreclosed on, but have not yet been put on the market for sale). However, more recent data trends suggest that improvements perhaps sustainable this time are again on the horizon. For example, delinquency-to-foreclosure roll rates (i.e., the rates at which mortgages are

Table of Contents

progressing from delinquency status to foreclosure status), and foreclosure-to-REO (real estate owned) roll rates, have accelerated somewhat recently, showing to some degree that homes that have been stalled in the foreclosure process are starting to move towards liquidation. There has also been a notable improvement in the rate of current borrowers becoming delinquent since mid-2011.

For the month of September 2011, delinquency rates on subprime mortgage loans and option ARMs averaged 38.4% and 43.2%, respectively, compared to 38.8% and 43.3% for the month of July 2011. In July 2011, the composite S&P/Case-Shiller 20-city index, a broad measure of U.S. home prices increased 0.91% from the prior month and was 4.11% lower than in July 2010.

Liquidity and Valuations

Since 2007, as a result of the overall conditions in the credit markets, including reductions in value of various types of RMBS and other factors, available leverage on RMBS assets has decreased significantly, which contributed to the significant rise in market yields on these types of assets, and continues to negatively affect the liquidity of RMBS. Since 2009, as the credit markets have improved, overall liquidity and pricing of these assets has improved as well, but by historical standards liquidity and available leverage are still relatively low.

Starting in the latter part of 2009, many investment banks have resumed making term financing available for non-Agency RMBS. The return of financing availability and the stabilization of borrowing costs have somewhat improved liquidity in the market for these securities. However, since European banks have historically been a significant financing source for many investment banks that provide RMBS financing, there has recently been heightened concern regarding the impact that the European sovereign debt crisis may have on the United States banking system and investment banks willingness and ability to finance RMBS. Nevertheless, we have not yet seen any material impact on our ability to finance both non-Agency and Agency RMBS.

Since the onset of the financial crisis, the deterioration in credit quality of non-Agency RMBS, in conjunction with the reduced liquidity in the overall RMBS market, has led to greater price volatility in non-Agency RMBS, making it more difficult to accurately value these assets. However, conditions are much better today than in early 2009, as improved liquidity and increased demand for securities is evident in firmer asset pricing across most RMBS sectors.

Sales of MBS held by the U.S. Treasury, the Federal Reserve and Other Sellers

In March 2011, in view of the general improvement in the U.S. economy, the U.S. Treasury Department announced plans to begin selling its \$142 billion portfolio of mortgage-backed securities purchased during the financial crisis. The U.S. Treasury's investments are primarily 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage securities guaranteed by either Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac that were purchased in late 2008 and 2009. The U.S. Treasury is aiming to sell off about \$10 billion each month, with additional reductions in its portfolio coming from principal paydowns (which have been averaging \$3 - \$5 billion per month). We do not expect that these sales will have a material impact on our business. The Federal Reserve also holds a large portfolio of Agency guaranteed mortgage-backed securities. It is unknown when the Federal Reserve will begin selling its holdings of Agency RMBS.

The Federal Reserve also holds a portfolio of non-Agency mortgage-backed securities that it acquired from American International Group (AIG) as part of the government bailout of AIG in 2008. The mortgage-backed securities are part of an entity called Maiden Lane II, capitalized by the Federal Reserve with approximately \$20 billion and one of several such entities created during the crisis to hold such assets. The Federal Reserve has been selling these assets in pre-announced auctions over time as market conditions warrant. To date, sales generating proceeds to the Federal Reserve of approximately \$4.7 billion have been completed.

Table of Contents

Reportedly, these sales represented an average dollar price of \$47, indicating the related face value sold was approximately \$10 billion. Initially, the Federal Reserve held weekly (or occasionally more frequent) auctions to sell securities, but given the adverse impact on the overall non-Agency RMBS markets that occurred following the sales by the Federal Reserve as well as other larger sellers in the market, the Federal Reserve reduced the frequency of the auctions to monthly. On June 30, 2011, the Federal Reserve hosted a conference call in which it announced that it had no immediate plans to continue selling the securities that are part of the Maiden Lane II portfolio. Because the Federal Reserve is not a forced seller and can sell these securities as it sees fit, it remains to be seen how and when the Federal Reserve will liquidate these remaining mortgage holdings from its portfolio.

In light of the European sovereign debt crisis and the fears that it will lead to the collapse of certain European banks, the non-Agency MBS market may see additional supply from distressed European banks. In the second quarter, Dexia, a Franco-Belgian bank, announced and completed its plans to liquidate its approximately \$8.8 billion portfolio of subprime and Alt-A RMBS. The sale of this portfolio and other European non-Agency RMBS portfolios could put further pressure on subprime RMBS prices.

These and other sales of non-Agency RMBS have had a significant impact on the overall non-Agency RMBS markets in the second and third quarters of 2011 and price declines have continued into the fourth quarter as well. Since the end of the first quarter, prices have now declined by 10% to 30% in many non-Agency RMBS sectors. For companies that hold such securities on a leveraged, unhedged basis, this could lead to significant book value declines and financial weakness, and potentially more selling. On the other hand, the price declines may also offer an attractive buying opportunity for investors with buying power seeking higher yields within this asset class.

Non-Agency MBS Market: Other Developments

In April 2010, a \$238 million non-Agency RMBS securitization was completed, marking the first such securitization (other than re-securitizations) since August 2008. The securitization was backed by high quality prime jumbo mortgage loans that had been originated by CitiMortgage Inc. in 2009 and 2010. While the completion of this transaction represents a milestone for the potential return to health of the non-Agency residential securitization market, the prospects for the securitization market are still extremely uncertain, as the respective roles and requirements of sponsors, investors, underwriters, regulators, policy-makers, and rating agencies all continue to be re-evaluated. A second non-Agency securitization was completed on February 18, 2011 in the amount of \$290 million and a third was completed on September 23, 2011 in the amount of \$375 million. Like the April 2010 securitization, both of the more recent securitizations are backed by prime jumbo mortgage loans and mark another good sign for the potential return of the non-Agency mortgage securitization market. We are optimistic about the eventual return of the securitization market and believe that its return will create additional investment opportunities for us.

On June 29, 2011, Bank of America announced an agreement to pay \$8.5 billion to settle claims on certain mortgage-backed securities sponsored by Countrywide Financial, which Bank of America had purchased in 2008. The settlement agreement follows an ongoing dispute between the bank and a group of 22 investors, including the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, who have demanded compensation for faulty loan underwriting and improper loan servicing. The agreement is subject to investor and court approval and the details of the settlement are still subject to change. The \$8.5 billion would cover 530 trusts with a current balance of \$177 billion, representing approximately 5% of the current balance outstanding. The allocation of the settlement amount would be determined by an algorithm and would be managed by Bank of New York Mellon Corp. Bank of America also agreed to improve its mortgage servicing practices and to cure certain mortgage loan documentation problems. On July 5, 2011, a group of private investors challenged the proposed settlement in a filing with the New York State Supreme Court. Other investors, including the FHFA and the FDIC, also subsequently objected in advance of the late August filing deadline. On October 19, 2011, a federal judge ordered that in light of the federal interests involved, the case should be transferred from state court to federal court. It is unclear whether, if challenged, a federal appellate court will uphold this ruling. Given the uncertainty of the amount and structure of any final settlement, the objections made thus far and the uncertainty as to which court will oversee the settlement, it is unknown at this time what the ultimate details of the settlement will be and what the impact on our portfolio will be.

Table of Contents

Agency MBS Market: Other Developments

Banks and other financial institutions have shown continued demand for Agency RMBS, with the result that valuations in the most liquid Agency RMBS sectors remain strong. Since the second half of 2010, the largest banks have steadily increased their holdings of Agency RMBS holdings. These same banks had generally reduced their RMBS holdings in the first half of 2010 in anticipation of the implementation of Basel III bank capital rules; however as the timelines for implementation of Basel III bank capital rules have been extended, and as Federal Reserve policy (through QE2 and otherwise) has seemingly favored continued holding of Agency RMBS, the trend has reversed.

Critical Accounting Policies

Our unaudited interim consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for investment companies. In June 2007, the AICPA issued Amendments to ASC 946-10 (ASC 946), *Clarification of the Scope of the Audit and Accounting Guide Investment Companies and Accounting by Parent Companies and Equity Method Investors for Investments in Investment Companies*. ASC 946 was effective for fiscal years beginning on or after December 15, 2007 with earlier application encouraged. After we adopted ASC 946, the FASB issued guidance which effectively delayed indefinitely the effective date of ASC 946. However, this additional guidance explicitly permitted entities that early adopted ASC 946 before December 31, 2007 to continue to apply the provisions of ASC 946. We have elected to continue to apply the provisions of ASC 946. ASC 946 provides guidance for determining whether an entity is within the scope of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide for Investment Companies, or the Guide. The Guide provides guidance for determining whether the specialized industry accounting principles of the Guide should be retained in the financial statements of a parent company, of an investment company or of an equity method investor in an investment company. Effective August 17, 2007, we adopted ASC 946 and follow its provisions which, among other things, requires that investments be reported at fair value in the financial statements. Although we conduct our operations so that we are not required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act, for financial reporting purposes, we have elected to continue to apply the provisions of ASC 946.

Certain of our critical accounting policies require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Interim results are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the entire fiscal year. We believe that all of the decisions and assessments upon which our consolidated financial statements are based were reasonable at the time made based upon information available to us at that time. We rely on our Manager and Ellington's experience and analysis of historical and current market data in order to arrive at what we believe to be reasonable estimates. See Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements for a complete discussion of our significant accounting policies. We have identified our most critical accounting policies to be the following:

Valuation: We adopted a three-level valuation hierarchy for disclosure of fair value measurements on January 1, 2008. The valuation hierarchy is based upon the transparency of inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability as of the measurement date. Financial instruments include securities, derivatives and repurchase agreements. A financial instrument's categorization within the valuation hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in these securities.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for our financial instruments:

Level 1 valuation methodologies include the observation of quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets, often received from widely recognized data providers.

Level 2 valuation methodologies include the observation of (i) quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, (ii) inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability (for example, interest rates and yield curves) in active markets and (iii) quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active.

Level 3 valuation methodologies include (i) the use of proprietary models that require the use of a significant amount of judgment and the application of various assumptions including, but not limited to, prepayment assumptions and default rate assumptions, and (ii) the solicitation of valuations from third-parties (typically, broker-dealers). Third-party valuation providers often utilize

Table of Contents

proprietary models that are highly subjective and also require the use of a significant amount of judgment and the application of various assumptions including, but not limited to, prepayment assumptions and default rate assumptions. Our Manager utilizes such information to assign a good faith valuation (the estimated price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction at the valuation date) to such financial instruments. Our Manager has been able to obtain third-party valuations on the vast majority of our assets and expects to continue to solicit third-party valuations on substantially all of our assets in the future to the extent practical. Our Manager uses its judgment, based on its own models, the assessments of its portfolio managers, and third-party valuations it obtains, to determine and assign fair values to our Level 3 assets. We believe that third-party valuations play an important role in ensuring that our Manager's valuation determinations are fair and reasonable. Our Manager's valuation process is subject to the oversight of the Manager's investment and risk management committee as well as the oversight of the independent members of our Board of Directors. Because of the inherent uncertainty of valuation, these estimated values may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market for the financial instruments existed, and the differences could be material to the consolidated financial statements.

See the notes to our consolidated financial statements for more information on valuation.

Securities Transactions and Investment Income: Securities transactions are recorded on trade date and commercial mortgage loan transactions are generally recorded on settlement date. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are calculated based on identified cost. Interest income, which includes accretion of discounts and amortization of premiums on mortgage-backed securities, including investments in mortgage loans, or MBS, and U.S. Treasury holdings, is recognized over the life of the investment using the effective interest method. For purposes of determining the effective interest rate, management estimates the future expected cash flows of its investment holdings based on assumptions including, but not limited to, prepayment and default rate assumptions. These assumptions are reevaluated not less than quarterly and require the use of a significant amount of judgment. Principal write-offs are generally treated as realized losses.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Refer to the notes to our consolidated financial statements for a description of relevant recent accounting pronouncements.

Table of Contents

Financial Condition

The following table summarizes our investment portfolio (in thousands) as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010. For more detailed information about the investments in our portfolio, please refer to the Consolidated Condensed Schedules of Investments as of these dates contained in our consolidated financial statements.

| | September 30, 2011 | | | | | December 31, 2010 | | | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Current Principal | Fair Value | Average Price ⁽¹⁾ | Cost | Average Cost ⁽¹⁾ | Current Principal | Fair Value | Average Price ⁽¹⁾ | Cost | Average Cost ⁽¹⁾ |
| Non-Agency RMBS ⁽²⁾ | \$ 672,103 | \$ 395,337 | \$ 58.82 | \$ 414,195 | \$ 61.63 | \$ 477,838 | \$ 333,059 | \$ 69.70 | \$ 319,231 | \$ 66.81 |
| Non-Agency CMBS and Commercial Mortgage Loans | 29,138 | 19,254 | 66.08 | 22,819 | 78.31 | 5,000 | 1,850 | 37.00 | 1,837 | 36.74 |
| Total Non-Agency MBS and Commercial Mortgage Loans | 701,241 | 414,591 | 59.12 | 437,014 | 62.32 | 482,838 | 334,909 | 69.36 | 321,068 | 66.50 |
| Agency RMBS: ⁽³⁾ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Floating | 49,798 | 52,641 | 105.71 | 52,076 | 104.58 | 76,791 | 81,093 | 105.60 | 80,167 | 104.40 |
| Fixed | 723,493 | 775,718 | 107.22 | 759,524 | 104.98 | 746,954 | 769,895 | 103.07 | 773,976 | 103.62 |
| Total Agency RMBS | 773,291 | 828,359 | 107.12 | 811,600 | 104.95 | 823,745 | 850,988 | 103.31 | 854,143 | 103.69 |
| Total Non-Agency and Agency MBS and Commercial Mortgage Loans | \$ 1,474,532 | \$ 1,242,950 | \$ 84.29 | \$ 1,248,614 | \$ 84.68 | \$ 1,306,583 | \$ 1,185,897 | \$ 90.76 | \$ 1,175,211 | \$ 89.95 |
| Agency Interest Only RMBS | n/a | \$ 5,461 | n/a | \$ 7,780 | n/a | n/a | \$ n/a | n/a | \$ n/a | n/a |
| Non-Agency Interest Only and Residual RMBS | n/a | \$ 927 | n/a | \$ 1,195 | n/a | n/a | \$ 5,780 | n/a | \$ 3,102 | n/a |
| TBAs: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Long | \$ 50,000 | \$ 53,013 | \$ 106.03 | \$ 53,036 | \$ 106.07 | \$ 54,650 | \$ 54,390 | \$ 99.52 | \$ 54,171 | \$ 99.12 |
| Short | (508,700) | (544,757) | 107.09 | (545,465) | 107.23 | (728,500) | (749,683) | 102.91 | (750,520) | 103.02 |
| Net TBAs | \$ (458,700) | \$ (491,744) | \$ 107.20 | \$ (492,429) | \$ 107.35 | \$ (673,850) | \$ (695,293) | \$ 103.18 | \$ (696,349) | \$ 103.34 |
| Other: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Repurchase Agreements | \$ 18,035 | \$ 18,035 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 18,035 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 25,684 | \$ 25,684 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 25,684 | \$ 100.00 |
| Short Treasury Securities | \$ (17,000) | \$ (17,913) | \$ 105.37 | \$ (17,142) | \$ 100.84 | \$ (27,000) | \$ (25,462) | \$ 94.31 | \$ (25,262) | \$ 93.56 |
| Total Net Investments | | \$ 757,716 | | \$ 766,053 | | | \$ 496,606 | | \$ 482,386 | |

(1) Represents the dollar amount per \$100 of current principal of the price or cost for the security.

(2) Excludes Interest Only and Residual Securities.

(3) Excludes Interest Only Securities and TBAs.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes our financial derivatives portfolio (in thousands) as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010. For more detailed information about the investments in our portfolio, please refer to Consolidated Condensed Schedules of Investments as of these dates contained in our consolidated financial statements.

| | September 30, 2011 | | December 31, 2010 | |
|---|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | Notional Value | Fair Value | Notional Value | Fair Value |
| Long Mortgage Related Derivatives: ⁽¹⁾ | | | | |
| CDS on RMBS and CMBS Indices | \$ 26,907 | \$ (15,467) | \$ 111,717 | \$ (14,375) |
| Total Long Mortgage Related Derivatives | 26,907 | (15,467) | 111,717 | (14,375) |
| Short Mortgage Related Derivatives: ⁽²⁾ | | | | |
| CDS on RMBS and CMBS Indices | (98,824) | 50,541 | (205,479) | 92,787 |
| CDS on Individual RMBS and CMBS | (74,453) | 59,906 | (127,089) | 102,850 |
| Total Short Mortgage Related Derivatives | (173,277) | 110,447 | (332,568) | 195,637 |
| Net Mortgage Related Derivatives | \$ (146,370) | \$ 94,980 | \$ (220,851) | \$ 181,262 |
| Short CDS on Corporate Bond Indices | \$ (19,700) | \$ 109 | \$ (19,700) | \$ (186) |
| Short Total Return Swaps on Corporate Equities ⁽³⁾ | \$ (14,613) | \$ 827 | \$ | \$ |
| Interest Rate Derivatives: | | | | |
| Long Interest Rate Swaps ⁽⁴⁾ | \$ 10,600 | \$ (69) | \$ 15,000 | \$ (168) |
| Short Interest Rate Swaps ⁽⁵⁾ | (310,770) | (19,430) | (143,750) | 287 |
| Short Eurodollar Futures ⁽⁶⁾ | | | (400,000) | (890) |
| Total Net Interest Rate Derivatives | \$ (300,170) | \$ (19,499) | \$ (528,750) | \$ (771) |
| Total Net Derivatives | \$ (480,853) | \$ 76,417 | \$ (769,301) | \$ 180,305 |

(1) Long mortgage-related derivatives represent transactions where the Company sold credit protection to a counterparty.

(2) Short mortgage-related derivatives represent transactions where the Company purchased credit protection from a counterparty.

(3) Notional amount represents number of underlying shares or par value times the closing price of the underlying security.

(4) For long interest rate swaps, a floating rate is being paid and a fixed rate is being received.

(5) For short interest rate swaps, a fixed rate is being paid and a floating rate is being received.

(6) Represents \$1,000,000 notional amount per contract.

As of September 30, 2011, our portfolio of non-Agency MBS, including CMBS, increased to \$411.1 million from \$340.7 million at December 31, 2010, and our Agency holdings, excluding TBAs, decreased to \$833.8 million at September 30, 2011 from \$851.0 million at December 31, 2010. Our non-Agency RMBS portfolio is primarily comprised of sub-prime, prime, and highly seasoned manufactured housing holdings. We began investing in CMBS in the fourth quarter of 2010 and expect to continue to take advantage of the opportunities we believe are present in this sector of the MBS market. The increase in our non-Agency MBS holdings this year reflect our more favorable view of the investment opportunities in this sector as overall prices have steadily declined and projected yields have correspondingly increased. We increased our leverage ratio to 2.35 to 1 as of September 30, 2011 from 1.93 to 1 as of December 31, 2010, given the availability of favorable financing and terms as well as the availability of investment opportunities. We typically finance our purchases of Agency RMBS, excluding TBAs, but beginning in the fourth quarter of 2010 we have allocated a portion of our cash holdings to the outright purchase of Agency RMBS. As of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, we held \$77.9 million and \$113.5 million, respectively, in Agency pools, on a settlement date basis, that were not subject to reverse repurchase agreements. Our Agency RMBS portfolio continues to be comprised primarily of thirty

Edgar Filing: Ellington Financial LLC - Form 10-Q

year fixed whole pool pass-through certificates.

As of September 30, 2011, the construction of our derivatives portfolio remains centered around hedging interest rate risk and credit risk in our MBS investment portfolios. Our financial derivatives consist of interest rate derivatives, which we use to hedge our interest rate risk, and of credit derivatives and total return swaps, both of which we use primarily to hedge credit risk, but also in some cases as a means to assume credit risk. Currently, our long synthetic credit position (e.g., credit default swaps where we have sold protection) references a CMBX index; this position is part of a pairs trade where we are simultaneously synthetically short a different CMBX index based on our view of their relative values. Our short synthetic credit positions (e.g., credit default swaps where we have purchased protection) consist primarily of ABSCDS referencing the ABX (subprime) indices associated with RMBS issued in 2006 and 2007 together with single name ABSCDS referencing RMBS issued in 2004 and 2005. Additionally, in the third quarter of 2011, as the ABX indices continued to decline, we began shifting some of our credit hedges away from ABX indices and ABSCDS and more toward corporate related total return swaps and credit default swap indices.

Table of Contents

We actively invest in the TBA market. TBAs are forward-settling Agency RMBS where the mortgage pass-through certificates to be delivered are To-Be Announced. Because we generally use TBAs to hedge risks associated with our long Agency RMBS (and to a lesser extent to hedge our long non-Agency RMBS), we generally carry a net short TBA position. At September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, our Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity include TBA-related assets (TBAs and receivables for TBAs sold short) and TBA-related liabilities (TBAs sold short and payables for TBAs purchased). Open TBA purchases and sales involving the same counterparty, the same underlying deliverable Agency pass-throughs, and the same settlement date are reflected in our consolidated financial statements on a net basis.

As of September 30, 2011, total assets included \$53.0 million of TBAs as well as \$545.5 million of receivable for securities sold relating to unsettled TBA sales. As of December 31, 2010, total assets included \$54.4 million of TBAs as well as \$753.0 million of receivable for securities sold relating to unsettled TBA sales.

As of September 30, 2011, total liabilities included \$544.8 million of TBAs sold short as well as \$53.3 million of payable for securities purchased relating to unsettled TBA purchases. As of December 31, 2010, total liabilities included \$749.7 million of TBAs sold short as well as \$54.7 million of payable for securities purchased relating to unsettled TBA purchases.

Our net short TBAs (both long and short positions) decreased to \$491.8 million as of September 30, 2011 from \$695.3 million as of December 31, 2010. The aggregate value of our other Agency RMBS as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, was \$833.8 million and \$851.0 million, respectively. As a result, as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, on a net basis, our net Agency RMBS positions (including TBAs) were long positions of \$342.0 million and \$155.7 million, respectively. The increase in our net Agency RMBS positions is mainly due to the decrease in the proportion of our interest rate hedges consisting of short TBA positions, as opposed to interest rate swaps. As market conditions change, we continuously re-evaluate our overall net Agency RMBS position and our associated hedges.

We generally do not settle our purchases and sales of TBAs. If, for example, we wish to maintain a short position in a particular TBA as a hedge, we may roll the short TBA transaction. In a hypothetical roll transaction, we might have previously entered into a contract to sell a specified amount of 30-year FNMA 4.5% TBA pass-throughs to a particular counterparty for a specified settlement date. As this settlement date approaches, because we generally do not intend to settle the sale transaction, but we wish to maintain the short position, we enter into a roll transaction whereby we purchase the same amount of 30-year FNMA 4.5% TBA pass-throughs (but not necessarily from the same counterparty) for the same specified settlement date, and we sell the same amount of 30-year FNMA 4.5% TBA pass-throughs (potentially to yet another counterparty) for a later settlement date. In this way, we have essentially flattened out our 30-year FNMA 4.5% TBA pass-through position for the earlier settlement date (i.e., offset the original sale with a corresponding purchase), and established a new short position for the later settlement date, hence maintaining our short position. By rolling our transaction, we maintain our desired short position in 30 year FNMA 4.5% securities without settling the original sale transaction.

In the case where the counterparty from whom we purchase (or to whom we sell) for the earlier settlement date is the same as the counterparty to whom we sell (or from whom we purchase) for the later settlement date, and when these purchases/sales are transacted simultaneously, this pair of simultaneous purchases or sales is often referred to as a TBA roll transaction.

In some instances, to avoid taking or making delivery of TBA securities, we will pair off an open purchase or sale transaction with an offsetting sale or purchase with the same counterparty. Alternatively, we will assign open transactions from counterparties from whom we have purchased to other counterparties to whom we have sold. In either case, no securities are actually delivered, but instead the net difference in trade proceeds of the offsetting transactions is calculated, and a money wire representing such difference is sent to the appropriate party.

For the nine month period ended September 30, 2011, as disclosed on our consolidated statement of cash flows, the aggregate TBA activity, or volume of closed transactions based on the sum of the absolute value of buy and sell transactions, was \$16.3 billion as compared to \$10.6 billion for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010. Our TBA activity has principally consisted of: (a) sales (respectively purchases) of TBAs as hedges in connection with purchases (respectively sales) of certain other RMBS assets (especially fixed rate Agency whole pools); (b) TBA roll transactions (as described above) effected to maintain existing TBA short positions; and (c) TBA sector rotation transactions whereby a short TBA position in one TBA security is replaced with a short position in a different TBA security. Since the Company has actively turned over its portfolio of fixed rate Agency whole pools,

Table of Contents

the volume of TBA hedging transactions has also been correspondingly high. Moreover, the Company's fixed rate Agency whole pool portfolio is typically larger in gross size than the Company's equity capital base, and so the Company tends to hold large short TBA positions relative to its equity capital base at any time. Finally, the entire amount of short TBA positions held at each monthly TBA settlement date is typically rolled to the following month, and since the amount of short TBA positions tends to be large relative to the Company's equity capital base, TBA roll transaction volume over multi-month periods can represent a multiple of the Company's equity capital base.

We have entered into reverse repos to finance some of our assets. As of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, indebtedness outstanding on our reverse repos was approximately \$884.2 million and \$777.8 million, respectively. Approximately 75.9% or \$671.4 million of our outstanding indebtedness under reverse repos is secured by Agency RMBS with the remaining secured by non-Agency RMBS as of September 30, 2011. Our reverse repos bear interest at rates that have historically moved in close relationship to LIBOR. We account for our reverse repos as collateralized borrowings. See the discussion in Liquidity and Capital Resources below for further information on our reverse repos.

In connection with our derivative and TBA transactions, in certain circumstances we may require that counterparties post collateral with us. When we exit a derivative or TBA transaction for which a counterparty has posted collateral, we may be required to return some or all of the related collateral to the respective counterparty. As of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, our derivative and TBA counterparties posted an aggregate value of approximately \$91.4 million and \$166.4 million, respectively as of each date, of collateral with us. This collateral posted with us is included in Due to brokers on margin accounts on our Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Shareholders' Equity.

Shareholders' Equity

As of September 30, 2011, our shareholders' equity decreased by approximately \$27.0 million to \$376.7 million from \$403.7 million as of December 31, 2010. This decrease principally consisted of a decrease for dividends paid of approximately \$35.6 million offset by a net increase in shareholders' equity resulting from operations for the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 of approximately \$8.6 million.

As of December 31, 2010, our shareholders' equity increased by approximately \$103.9 million from December 31, 2009. This increase consisted of net proceeds from the issuance of shares of approximately \$94.7 million in our October 2010 initial public offering, net increase in shareholders' equity resulting from operations for the year ended December 31, 2010 of approximately \$40.6 million, a decrease for dividends paid of approximately \$33.9 million, an increase for common shares issued in connection with incentive fee payments of approximately \$0.5 million and an increase for share-based LTIP awards of approximately \$2.0 million.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations for the Three Month Periods Ended September 30, 2011 and 2010**

The table below presents the net increase (decrease) in shareholders' equity resulting from operations for the three month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010.

| <i>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</i> | Three Month Period Ended September 30, | |
|---|---|------------------|
| | 2011 | 2010 |
| Investment income Interest income | \$ 15,597 | \$ 10,859 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Base management fee | 1,418 | 1,173 |
| Incentive fee | | 2,524 |
| Interest expense | 1,627 | 921 |
| Other operating expenses | 1,575 | 1,919 |
| Total expenses | 4,620 | 6,537 |
| Net investment income | 10,977 | 4,322 |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments | (7,433) | 21,072 |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on financial derivatives | (4,704) | (9,376) |
| Net increase (decrease) in shareholders' equity resulting from operations | \$ (1,160) | \$ 16,018 |
| Net increase (decrease) in shareholders' equity resulting from operations per share | \$ (0.07) | \$ 1.30 |

Summary of Net Increase (Decrease) in Shareholders' Equity from Operations

Our net increase (decrease) in shareholders' equity from operations (net income or net loss) for the three month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 was a net loss of \$(1.2) million and net income of \$16.0 million, respectively. The decrease in our operating results period over period was primarily driven by net realized and unrealized losses in our non-agency RMBS holdings and realized and unrealized losses on our interest rate hedges, as interest rates dropped significantly during the three month period ended September 30, 2011. For the three month period ended September 30, 2011, these losses were partially offset by net realized gains in our credit derivatives which we use to hedge credit risk and an increase in net investment income period over period, driven by a larger portfolio of investment holdings. Total return based on changes in net asset value or book value for our common shares after incentive fee was (0.31)% for the three month period ended September 30, 2011 as compared to 5.58% for the three month period ended September 30, 2010. Total return on our common shares is calculated based on changes in net asset value per share or book value per share and assumes reinvestment of dividends.

Net Investment Income

Net investment income was \$11.0 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2011 as compared to \$4.3 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2010. Net investment income consists of interest income less total expenses. The period-over-period increase in net investment income was primarily due to higher interest income, as a result of a larger portfolio of investment holdings.

Interest Income

Interest income was \$15.6 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2011 as compared to \$10.9 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2010. Interest income includes coupon payments received and accrued on our holdings, the net accretion and amortization of purchased discounts and premiums on those holdings and interest on our cash balances, including those balances held by our counterparties as collateral. The period-over-period increase in interest income was due to our larger portfolio of RMBS holdings, resulting from net capital raised in our October 2010 initial public offering as well as our relative increased use of leverage since the end of 2010.

Base Management Fees

Edgar Filing: Ellington Financial LLC - Form 10-Q

Base management fees increased to \$1.4 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2011 from \$1.2 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2010. The increase in base management fees was due to our higher net asset value (shareholders' equity) during the current quarter which serves as the basis for fee determination. Our higher net asset value is largely due to the completion of our October 2010 initial public offering, in which the Company raised net proceeds of approximately \$94.7 million.

Table of Contents**Interest Expense**

Interest expense includes interest on funds borrowed under reverse repos and interest on our counterparties' cash collateral held by us. We had average borrowed funds of \$842.8 million and \$446.6 million for the three month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Our total interest expense, inclusive of interest expense on our counterparties' cash collateral held by us, was \$1.6 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2011 as compared to \$0.9 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2010. Our total weighted average borrowing costs under our reverse repos was 0.71% for the three month period ended September 30, 2011 as compared to 0.77% for the three month period ended September 30, 2010. For the three month period ended September 30, 2011, 75.7% of our average borrowings were related to our Agency holdings and 24.3% were related to our non-Agency holdings. For the comparable three month period ended September 30, 2010, 72.9% of our average borrowings were related to our Agency holdings while 27.1% were related to our non-Agency holdings.

The tables below show our average borrowed funds, interest expense, average cost of funds, average one-month LIBOR and average six-month LIBOR under our reverse repos for the three month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010.

Agency Securities

| <i>(In thousands)</i> | Average Borrowed Funds | Interest Expense | Average Cost of Funds | Average One-Month LIBOR | Average Six-Month LIBOR |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| For the Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | \$ 638,310 | \$ 475 | 0.30% | 0.21% | 0.47% |
| For the Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | \$ 325,405 | \$ 267 | 0.33% | 0.29% | 0.59% |

Non-Agency Securities

| <i>(In thousands)</i> | Average Borrowed Funds | Interest Expense | Average Cost of Funds | Average One-Month LIBOR | Average Six-Month LIBOR |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| For the Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | \$ 204,537 | \$ 1,021 | 2.00% | 0.21% | 0.47% |
| For the Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | \$ 121,152 | \$ 598 | 1.97% | 0.29% | 0.59% |

Agency and Non-Agency Securities

| <i>(In thousands)</i> | Average Borrowed Funds | Interest Expense | Average Cost of Funds | Average One-Month LIBOR | Average Six-Month LIBOR |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| For the Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | \$ 842,847 | \$ 1,496 | 0.71% | 0.21% | 0.47% |
| For the Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | \$ 446,557 | \$ 865 | 0.77% | 0.29% | 0.59% |

Incentive Fees

In addition to the base management fee, our Manager is also entitled to a quarterly incentive fee if, and in proportion to the extent that, our performance (as measured by adjusted net income, as defined in the management agreement) over the relevant calculation period exceeds a defined return hurdle for the period. No incentive fees were incurred for the three month period ended September 30, 2011 as compared to \$2.5 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2010. The return hurdle for each calculation period was based on a 9% annual rate.

Other Operating Expenses

Other operating expenses consist of professional fees, compensation expense related to our dedicated officers, share-based LTIP expenses, insurance expense, and various other operating expenses necessary to run our business. Other operating expenses exclude interest expense. Other operating expenses for the three month period ended September 30, 2011 were \$1.6 million as compared to \$1.9 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2010. The decline in other operating expenses was primarily due to a reduction in expenses related to the 2007 issuance of LTIPs to our Manager. These LTIPs became fully vested in August 2010, and as a result, from that point forward, have no further

expense associated with them.

Table of Contents**Net Realized and Unrealized Gains and Losses on Investments**

During the three month period ended September 30, 2011, we had net realized and unrealized losses on investments of \$7.4 million as compared to gains of \$21.1 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2010. Net realized and unrealized losses on investments of \$7.4 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2011 resulted principally from unrealized losses on our non-Agency MBS holdings of \$14.7 million, and realized losses on our TBAs and U.S. Treasuries of \$11.8 million, partially offset by net realized gains on our non-Agency holdings of \$3.1 million and net realized and unrealized gains on our Agency RMBS of \$17.9 million. During the three month period ended September 30, 2011, valuations in the non-Agency RMBS market continued the downward trend that had begun in the second quarter of 2011 following the Federal Reserve's decision to begin selling assets from its Maiden Lane II portfolio, and the subsequent difficulty of the market to absorb the supply from the ensuing sales (see "Trends and Recent Market Developments" above). Concern for the creditworthiness of several European countries also, we believe, had the impact of dampening valuations in many risk asset sectors, including non-Agency RMBS, over the current three month period. Selling of non-Agency assets has continued in the current period and overall uncertainty with respect to the U.S. economy and housing market have combined to prolong the downward trend in values. Conversely, as market participants increased their appetites for U.S. government-backed and GSE debt over the current three month period, valuations in the Agency RMBS sector remained strong, but the drop in interest rates negatively affected the value of our short TBA and U.S. Treasury holdings. Throughout 2010 and the three month period ended September 30, 2011, our TBAs were held on a net short basis. Net realized and unrealized gains on investments of \$21.1 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2010 resulted principally from net unrealized gains on our non-Agency RMBS.

Net Realized and Unrealized Gains and Losses on Financial Derivatives

For the three month period ended September 30, 2011, we had net realized and unrealized losses on our financial derivatives of \$4.7 million as compared to net realized and unrealized losses of \$9.4 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2010. Our financial derivatives consist of interest rate derivatives, which we use primarily to hedge our interest rate risk, and of credit derivatives and total return swaps, both of which we use primarily to hedge credit risk, but also in some cases as a means to assume credit risk. We also use certain non-derivative instruments, such as TBAs and U.S. Treasuries, to hedge interest rate risk. During the three month period ending September 30, 2011, we recognized net realized and unrealized gains on our credit hedges and net realized and unrealized losses on our interest rate hedges. Our credit hedges are primarily in the form of credit default swaps where we have purchased credit protection on non-Agency MBS, although from time to time our credit hedges also include total return swaps. Our credit hedges generated net realized and unrealized gains of \$13.2 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2011, offsetting some of the losses recorded on our non-Agency MBS holdings. Our interest rate hedges are primarily in the form of short positions in interest rate swaps, which we use to protect against potential increases in interest rates. The benchmark five-year swap rate decreased to 1.26% at September 30, 2011 from 2.03% at June 30, 2011, and as a result, our interest rate derivatives generated net losses in the amount of \$17.9 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2011. For the three month period ended September 30, 2010, our interest rate derivatives generated a net loss of \$3.0 million and resulted principally from a decrease in interest rates during that period. The five year swap rate decreased to 1.52% at September 30, 2010 from 2.05% at June 30, 2010. For the three month period ended September 30, 2010, we had net realized and unrealized losses on our credit derivatives of \$6.4 million. Net realized and unrealized losses on our credit derivatives for the three month period ended September 30, 2010 resulted principally from our short synthetic positions in single name ABS CDS as well CDS on ABS indices.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations for the Nine Month Periods Ended September 30, 2011 and 2010**

The table below presents the net increase (decrease) in shareholders' equity resulting from operations for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010.

| <i>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</i> | Nine Month Period Ended September 30, | |
|---|--|---------------|
| | 2011 | 2010 |
| Investment income | \$ 48,098 | \$ 33,574 |
| Interest income | | |
| Expenses: | | |
| Base management fee | 4,347 | 3,385 |
| Incentive fee | 612 | 3,007 |
| Interest expense | 4,773 | 2,601 |
| Other operating expenses | 4,717 | 6,119 |
| Total expenses | 14,449 | 15,112 |
| Net investment income | 33,649 | 18,462 |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments | (23,770) | 26,295 |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on financial derivatives | (1,253) | (17,412) |
| Net increase (decrease) in shareholders' equity resulting from operations | \$ 8,626 | \$ 27,345 |
| Net increase (decrease) in shareholders' equity resulting from operations per share | \$ 0.51 | \$ 2.21 |

Summary of Net Increase (Decrease) in Shareholders' Equity from Operations

Our net increase in shareholders' equity from operations (net income) for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 was \$8.6 million and \$27.3 million, respectively. The decrease in net income period over period was primarily driven by an increase in net realized and unrealized losses on investments and financial derivatives, partially offset by higher net investment income, due to a larger portfolio of investment holdings. Total return based on changes in net asset value or book value for our common shares after incentive fee was 1.94% for the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 as compared to 9.95% for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010. Total return on our common shares is calculated based on changes in net asset value per share or book value per share and assumes reinvestment of dividends.

Net Investment Income

Net investment income was \$33.6 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 as compared to \$18.5 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010. Net investment income consists of interest income less total expenses. The period-over-period increase in net investment income was primarily due to higher interest income, as a result of a larger portfolio of investment holdings which was partially offset by higher total expenses.

Interest Income

Interest income was \$48.1 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 as compared to \$33.6 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010. Interest income includes coupon payments received and accrued on our holdings, the net accretion and amortization of purchased discounts and premiums on those holdings and interest on our cash balances, including those balances held by our counterparties as collateral. The period-over-period increase in interest income was due to our larger portfolio of RMBS holdings, resulting from net capital raised in our October 2010 initial public offering as well as our relative increased use of leverage since the end of 2010.

Base Management Fees

Base management fees increased to \$4.3 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 from \$3.4 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010. The increase in base management fees was due to our higher net asset value during the current period which serves as the basis for fee determination. Our higher net asset value is largely due to the completion of our October 2010 initial public offering.

in which the Company raised net proceeds of approximately \$94.7 million.

Table of Contents**Interest Expense**

Interest expense includes interest on funds borrowed under reverse repos and interest on our counterparties' cash collateral held by us. We had average borrowed funds of \$864.8 million and \$469.4 million for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Our total interest expense, inclusive of interest expense on our counterparties' cash collateral held by us, was \$4.8 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 as compared to \$2.6 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010. Our total weighted average borrowing cost under our reverse repos was 0.66% for the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 as compared to 0.69% for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010. For the nine month period ended September 30, 2011, 78.4% of our average borrowings were related to our Agency holdings and 21.6% were related to our non-Agency holdings. For the comparable nine month period ended September 30, 2010, 74.9% of our average borrowings were related to our Agency holdings while 25.1% were related to our non-Agency holdings.

The tables below show our average borrowed funds, interest expense, average cost of funds, average one-month LIBOR and average six-month LIBOR under our reverse repos for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010.

Agency Securities

| <i>(In thousands)</i> | Average Borrowed Funds | Interest Expense | Average Cost of Funds | Average One-Month LIBOR | Average Six-Month LIBOR |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| For the Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | \$ 678,113 | \$ 1,531 | 0.30% | 0.22% | 0.45% |
| For the Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | \$ 351,641 | \$ 839 | 0.32% | 0.28% | 0.54% |

Non-Agency Securities

| <i>(In thousands)</i> | Average Borrowed Funds | Interest Expense | Average Cost of Funds | Average One-Month LIBOR | Average Six-Month LIBOR |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| For the Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | \$ 186,672 | \$ 2,773 | 1.98% | 0.22% | 0.45% |
| For the Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | \$ 117,769 | \$ 1,608 | 1.82% | 0.28% | 0.54% |

Agency and Non-Agency Securities

| <i>(In thousands)</i> | Average Borrowed Funds | Interest Expense | Average Cost of Funds | Average One-Month LIBOR | Average Six-Month LIBOR |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| For the Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | \$ 864,785 | \$ 4,304 | 0.66% | 0.22% | 0.45% |
| For the Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | \$ 469,410 | \$ 2,447 | 0.69% | 0.28% | 0.54% |

Incentive Fees

In addition to the base management fee, our Manager is also entitled to a quarterly incentive fee if, and in proportion to the extent that, our performance (as measured by adjusted net income, as defined in the management agreement) over the relevant calculation period exceeds a defined return hurdle for the period. Total incentive fees incurred for the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 were \$0.6 million as compared to \$3.0 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010. The return hurdle (after taking into account any relevant loss carryforward) was exceeded in the three month periods ended March 31, 2011, March 31, 2010 and September 30, 2010, and as a result, we incurred incentive fee expense during such periods, and thereby in the nine-month periods ending September 30, 2011 and 2010 that include those three-month periods. The return hurdle for each calculation period was based on a 9% annual rate.

Other Operating Expenses

Other operating expenses consist of professional fees, compensation expense related to our dedicated officers, share-based LTIP expenses, insurance expense, and various other operating expenses necessary to run our business. Other operating expenses exclude interest expense. Other

Edgar Filing: Ellington Financial LLC - Form 10-Q

operating expenses for the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 was \$4.7 million as compared to \$6.1 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010. The decline in other operating expenses was primarily due to a reduction in expenses related to the 2007 issuance of LTIPs to our Manager, partially offset by increases in our other operating expenses that are related to being a company with publicly traded shares as well as those related to the growth in our net capital and assets held. LTIPs issued to our Manager became fully vested in August 2010, and as a result, from that point forward, have no further expense associated with them.

Table of Contents**Net Realized and Unrealized Gains and Losses on Investments**

During the nine month period ended September 30, 2011, we had net realized and unrealized losses on investments of \$23.8 million as compared to gains of \$26.3 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010. Net realized and unrealized losses on investments of \$23.8 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 resulted principally from realized and unrealized losses of \$20.3 million on our non-Agency MBS holdings as well as net realized and unrealized losses on TBAs and U.S. Treasuries of \$32.5 million. These losses were partially offset by net realized and unrealized gains of \$29.4 million on our Agency RMBS. Throughout 2010 and the nine month period ended September 30, 2011, our TBAs and U.S. Treasuries were held on a net short basis. During the nine month period ended September 30, 2011, valuations in the non-Agency RMBS market were negatively impacted by the Federal Reserve's decision to begin selling assets from its Maiden Lane II portfolio, and from the difficulty of the market to absorb the supply from the ensuing sales (see Trends and Recent Market Developments above). Concern for the creditworthiness of several European countries, also, we believe, had the impact of dampening valuations in many risk asset sectors, including non-Agency RMBS, over the nine month period. These events, as well as the overall uncertainty with respect to the U.S. economy and housing market have combined to prolong the downward trend in values. Conversely, as market participants increased their appetites for U.S. government-backed and GSE debt over the nine month period, valuations in the Agency RMBS sector strengthened, but the resulting drop in interest rates over the nine month period negatively affected the value of our short TBA and U.S. Treasury holdings. Net realized and unrealized gains on investments of \$26.3 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010 resulted principally from net unrealized gains on our non-Agency RMBS as well as Agency RMBS partially offset by realized and unrealized losses on TBAs. Net gains on our Agency and non-Agency RMBS were \$50.9 million while losses on our TBAs were \$24.9 million.

Net Realized and Unrealized Gains and Losses on Financial Derivatives

For the nine month period ended September 30, 2011, we had net realized and unrealized losses on our financial derivatives of \$1.3 million as compared to net realized and unrealized losses of \$17.4 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010. Our financial derivatives consist of interest rate hedges, which we use primarily to hedge our interest rate risk, and of credit derivatives and total return swaps, both of which we use primarily to hedge credit risk, but also in some cases as a means to assume credit risk. We also use certain non-derivative instruments, such as TBAs and U.S. Treasuries, to hedge interest rate risk. The benchmark five-year swap rate decreased to 1.26% at September 30, 2011 from 2.17% at December 31, 2010, and our interest rate derivatives generated a net loss in the amount of \$24.3 million. During the nine month period we shifted away in part from TBAs to interest rate swaps for interest rate hedging purposes. For the nine month period ended September 30, 2010, our interest rate hedges (excluding TBAs and U.S. Treasuries) generated a net loss of \$7.7 million and resulted principally from a decrease in rates during that period. The five year swap rate decreased to 1.52% at September 30, 2010 from 2.98% at December 31, 2009.

Our credit hedges are primarily in the form of credit default swaps where we have purchased credit protection on non-Agency MBS, although from time to time they have also included total return swaps. For the nine month period ended September 30, 2011, our credit derivatives generated net realized and unrealized gains of \$23.0 million, offsetting some of the losses recorded on our non-Agency MBS holdings. These credit derivative gains were primarily related to our long and short synthetic credit positions in the PrimeX, ABX, and CMBX indices. For the nine month period ended September 30, 2010, we had net realized and unrealized losses on our credit derivatives of \$9.7 million. Net realized and unrealized losses on our credit derivatives for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010 resulted principally from our short credit default swaps on corporate bonds, single name ABS CDS, CDS on ABS indices, and from total return swap terminations during the period.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Liquidity refers to our ability to meet our cash needs, including repaying our borrowings, funding and maintaining RMBS and other assets, making distributions and other general business needs. Our short-term (one year or less) and long-term liquidity requirements include acquisition costs for assets we acquire, payment of our base management fee and incentive fee, compliance with margin requirements under our repo, reverse repo, TBA and derivative contracts, repayment of reverse repo borrowings to the extent

Table of Contents

we are unable or unwilling to extend our reverse repos, and payment of our general operating expenses. Our capital resources primarily include cash on hand, cash flow from our investments (including monthly principal and interest payments received on our RMBS and proceeds from the sale of securities), borrowings under reverse repos and proceeds from equity offerings. We expect that these sources of funds will be sufficient to meet our short-term and long-term liquidity needs.

The following summarizes our borrowings under reverse repos (*in thousands*):

| | Reverse Repurchase Agreements | |
|--|---|--|
| | Average Borrowed Funds During the Period | Borrowed Funds Outstanding at End of the Period |
| Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2011 | \$ 864,785 | \$ 884,216 |
| Nine Month Period Ended September 30, 2010 | \$ 469,410 | \$ 476,723 |

The following summarizes our borrowings under reverse repos by remaining maturity (*in thousands*):

| | As of September 30, 2011 | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|--|
| Remaining Days to Maturity | Outstanding Borrowings | % | |
| 30 Days or Less | \$ 429,258 | 48.5% | |
| 31-60 Days | 240,305 | 27.2% | |
| 61-90 Days | 98,679 | 11.2% | |
| 91-120 Days | 93,697 | 10.6% | |
| 121-150 Days | - | 0.0% | |
| 151-180 Days | 17,934 | 2.0% | |
| 181-360 Days | 4,343 | 0.5% | |
| | \$ 884,216 | 100.0% | |

Included in the above table, using the original maturity dates, are any reverse repurchase agreements that we may expect to terminate early in the case of an unsettled sale transaction at September 30, 2011. Not included are any repurchase agreements that we may have entered into prior to September 30, 2011 for which we will not take delivery of the borrowed funds until after September 30, 2011.

We expect to continue to borrow funds in the form of reverse repos as well as other types of financing. The terms of these borrowings under our master repurchase agreements generally conform to the terms in the standard master repurchase agreement as published by SIFMA as to repayment and margin requirements. In addition, each lender typically requires that we include supplemental terms and conditions to the standard master repurchase agreement. Typical supplemental terms and conditions include the addition of or changes to provisions relating to margin calls, net asset value requirements, cross default provisions, and requirements that all controversies related to the repurchase agreement be litigated in a particular jurisdiction. These provisions may differ for each of our lenders. We also have entered into an evergreen repurchase agreement with one lender that provides for an original term of 180 days, and which is automatically extended every day for an additional day (so as to maintain a remaining term of 180 days) unless notified otherwise by the lender. The agreement is not based on the SIFMA form but its terms and conditions are similar to the terms and conditions of our other repurchase agreements including with respect to representations and warranties, events of default and remedies.

As of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, we had \$884.2 million and \$777.8 million, respectively of borrowings outstanding under our reverse repos. As of September 30, 2011, the remaining terms on our reverse repos ranged from 5 to 234 days, with an average remaining term of 44 days. As of December 31, 2010, the remaining terms on our reverse repos ranged from 13 to 178 days, with an average remaining term of 52 days. The decline in the weighted average remaining term was related to the financing of our Agency whole-pools. During the current three month period, we decided to finance a greater amount of our whole pools for one month terms. The reason for this decision was principally twofold. First, at period end, rates for repo beyond one month increased and second, we had significant trading activity near period end, which required us to have more immediate flexibility in the structure of

Table of Contents

our whole pool financing. Our borrowings were with a total of nine counterparties as of September 30, 2011 and were with a total of seven counterparties as of December 31, 2010. At September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, we did not have an amount at risk under our reverse repos with a single counterparty greater than 10% of our shareholders' equity. Amount at risk represents the aggregate excess, if any, for each counterparty of the fair value of collateral held by such counterparty over the amounts outstanding under reverse repos. As of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, our reverse repos had a weighted average borrowing rate of 0.71% and 0.65%, respectively. As of September 30, 2011, our reverse repos had interest rates ranging from 0.23% to 2.40%. As of December 31, 2010, our reverse repos had interest rates ranging from 0.27% to 2.60%. RMBS pledged as collateral under the reverse repos had an aggregate estimated fair value of \$1.0 billion and \$886.4 million as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively. The interest rates of our reverse repos have historically moved in close relationship to short-term LIBOR rates, and in some cases are explicitly indexed to short-term LIBOR rates and reset accordingly. It is expected that amounts due upon maturity of our reverse repos will be funded primarily through the roll over/re-initiation of reverse repos and, if we are unable or unwilling to roll over/re-initiate our reverse repos, through free cash and proceeds from the sale of securities.

Although we finance most of our holdings of Agency RMBS, as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, we held unencumbered Agency pools, on a settlement date basis, in the amount of \$77.9 million and \$113.5 million, respectively.

We held cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$41.6 million and \$35.8 million as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively.

We may declare dividends based on, among other things, our earnings, our financial condition, our working capital needs and new opportunities. The declaration of dividends to our shareholders and the amount of such dividends are at the discretion of our Board of Directors. During the nine month period ended September 30, 2011, we paid total dividends in the amount of \$35.6 million related to net income attributable to the year ended December 31, 2010 and the three month periods ended March 31, 2011 and June 30, 2011. In November 2011, our Board of Directors approved a dividend related to the third quarter of 2011 in the amount of \$0.40 per share, or approximately \$6.8 million. This dividend is payable on December 15, 2011 to shareholders of record as of December 1, 2011. During the nine month period ended September 30, 2010, we paid total dividends in the amount of \$20.4 million related to net income attributable to the year ended December 31, 2009 and the three month periods ended March 31, 2010 and June 30, 2010.

In August 2011, our Board of Directors approved the adoption of a \$10.0 million share repurchase program. The program, which is open-ended in duration, allows the Company to repurchase common shares from time to time on the open market or in negotiated transactions. Repurchases are at the Company's discretion, subject to applicable law, share availability, price and the Company's financial performance, among other considerations.

For the nine month period ended September 30, 2011, our operating activities used net cash in the amount of \$64.2 million. Additionally, our reverse repo activity used to finance many of our investments (including repayments, in conjunction with the sales of investments, of amounts borrowed under our reverse repo agreements) provided net cash of \$106.5 million. Thus our operating activities, when combined with our reverse repo financing, provided net cash of \$42.3 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2011. Of this \$42.3 million, we used \$35.6 million to pay dividends and \$0.8 million for other non-operating activity-related uses, with the remaining \$5.8 million serving to increase our cash holdings from \$35.8 million as of December 31, 2010 to \$41.6 million as of September 30, 2011. For the nine month period ended September 30, 2010, our operating activities provided net cash of \$119.6 million, but our reverse repo activity used to finance many of our investments (including repayments, in conjunction with the sales of investments, of amounts borrowed under our reverse repo agreements) used net cash of \$83.3 million. Thus our operating activities, when combined with our reverse repo financing activities, provided net cash of \$36.3 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2010. Of this \$36.3 million, we used \$20.4 million to pay dividends and \$1.1 million for other non-operating activity-related uses, with the remaining \$14.8 million serving to increase our cash holdings from \$102.9 million as of December 31, 2009 to \$117.7 million as of September 30, 2010.

Based on our current portfolio, amount of free cash on hand, debt-to-equity ratio and current and anticipated availability of credit, we believe that our capital resources will be sufficient to enable us to meet anticipated short-term and long-term liquidity requirements. However, the unexpected inability to finance our Agency RMBS portfolio would create a serious short-term strain on our liquidity and would require us to liquidate much of that portfolio, which in turn would require us to restructure our portfolio to maintain our

Table of Contents

exclusion from regulation as an investment company under the Investment Company Act. Steep declines in the values of our RMBS assets financed using reverse repos, or in the values of our derivative contracts, would result in margin calls that would significantly reduce our free cash position. Furthermore, a substantial increase in prepayment rates on our assets financed by reverse repos could cause a temporary liquidity shortfall, because we are generally required to post margin on such assets in proportion to the amount of the announced principal paydowns before the actual receipt of the cash from such principal paydowns. If our cash resources are at any time insufficient to satisfy our liquidity requirements, we may have to sell assets or issue debt or additional equity securities.

We are not required by our investment guidelines to maintain any specific debt-to-equity ratio, and we believe that the appropriate leverage for the particular assets we hold depends on the credit quality and risk of those assets, as well as the general availability and terms of stable and reliable financing for those assets.

Contractual Obligations and Commitments

We are a party to a management agreement with our Manager. Pursuant to that agreement, our Manager is entitled to receive a base management fee, an incentive fee, reimbursement of certain expenses and, in certain circumstances, a termination fee. Such fees and expenses do not have fixed and determinable payments. For a description of the management agreement provisions, see Note 5 to our consolidated financial statements.

We enter into reverse repos with third-party broker-dealers whereby we sell securities to such broker-dealers at agreed-upon purchase prices at the initiation of the reverse repos and agree to repurchase such securities at predetermined repurchase prices and termination dates, thus providing the broker-dealers with an implied interest rate on the funds initially transferred to us by the broker-dealers. When we enter into a reverse repo, the lender establishes and maintains an account containing cash and securities having a value not less than the repurchase price, including accrued interest, of the reverse repo. We enter into repos with third-party broker-dealers whereby we purchase securities under agreements to resell at an agreed-upon price and date. In general, we most often enter into repo transactions in order to effectively borrow securities that we can then deliver to counterparties to whom we have made short sales of the same securities. The implied interest rates on the repos and reverse repos we enter into are based upon market rates at the time of initiation. Repos and reverse repos that are conducted with the same counterparty may be reported on a net basis if they meet the requirements of ASC 210-20, *Balance Sheet, Offsetting*. See *Liquidity and Capital Resources* for a summary of our borrowings on reverse repos.

As of September 30, 2011, we had an aggregate amount at risk under our reverse repos with nine counterparties of approximately \$143.1 million and as of December 31, 2010, we had an aggregate amount at risk under our reverse repos with seven counterparties of approximately \$114.1 million. Amounts at risk represent the aggregate excess, if any, for each counterparty of the fair value of collateral held by such counterparty over the amounts outstanding under reverse repos. If the amounts outstanding under repos and reverse repos with a particular counterparty are greater than the collateral held by the counterparty, there is no amount at risk for the particular counterparty. Amount at risk as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010 do not include approximately \$2.3 million and \$2.4 million, respectively, of net accrued interest, defined as accrued interest on securities held as collateral less interest payable on cash borrowed.

Our swap and futures contracts are governed by trading agreements, which are separately negotiated agreements with dealer counterparties. Changes in the relative value of the swap and futures transactions may require us or the counterparty to post or receive collateral. Typically, a collateral payment or receipt is triggered based on the net change in the value of all contracts governed by a particular trading agreement. Entering into swap and futures contracts involves market risk in excess of amounts recorded on our balance sheet.

As of September 30, 2011, we had an aggregate amount at risk under our derivative contracts with seven counterparties of approximately \$11.6 million. As of December 31, 2010, we had an aggregate amount at risk under our derivatives contracts with eight counterparties of approximately \$18.7 million. Amounts at risk under our derivatives contracts represent the aggregate excess, if any, for each counterparty of the fair value of our derivative contracts including unsettled trade receivables and payables plus our collateral held directly by the counterparty less the counterparty's collateral held by us. If a particular counterparty's collateral held by us is greater than the aggregate fair value of the financial derivatives including unsettled trade receivables and payables plus our collateral held directly by the counterparty, there is no amount at risk for the particular counterparty.

Table of Contents

We are party to a tri-party collateral arrangement under one of our ISDA trading agreements whereby a third party holds collateral posted by us. Pursuant to the terms of the arrangement, the third party must follow certain pre-defined actions prior to the release of the collateral to the counterparty or to us. Deposits with dealers held as collateral on the Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity includes, at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010 collateral posted by the Company and held by a third party custodian in the amount of approximately \$8.0 million and \$9.0 million, respectively.

We purchase and sell certain non-derivative securities, including TBAs, on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis. Since delivery for these securities extends beyond the typical settlement dates for most non-derivative investments, these transactions are more prone to market fluctuations between the trade date and the ultimate settlement date, and thereby are more vulnerable, especially in the absence of margining arrangements with respect to these transactions, to increasing amounts at risk with the applicable counterparties.

As of September 30, 2011, in connection with our TBAs, we had an aggregate amount at risk with nine counterparties of approximately \$4.4 million. As of December 31, 2010, in connection with our TBAs, we had an aggregate amount at risk with four counterparties of approximately \$6.9 million. Amounts at risk in connection with our TBAs represent the aggregate excess, if any, for each counterparty of the net fair value of our TBAs plus our collateral held directly by the counterparty less the counterparty's collateral held by us. If a particular counterparty's collateral held by us is greater than the aggregate fair value of the TBAs plus our collateral held directly by the counterparty, there is no amount at risk for the particular counterparty.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, we did not have any relationships with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships, such as entities often referred to as structured finance or special purpose entities, which would have been established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes. Further, we have not guaranteed any obligations of unconsolidated entities nor do we have any commitment or intent to provide funding to any such entities. As such, we are not materially exposed to any market, credit, liquidity or financing risk that could arise if we had engaged in such relationships.

Inflation

Virtually all of our assets and liabilities are interest rate sensitive in nature. As a result, interest rates and other factors influence our performance far more so than does inflation. Changes in interest rates do not necessarily correlate with inflation rates or changes in inflation rates. Our activities and balance sheet are measured with reference to historical cost and/or fair market value without considering inflation.

Table of Contents**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk**

The primary components of our market risk at September 30, 2011 are related to credit risk, prepayment risk and interest rate risk. We seek to actively manage these and other risks and to acquire and hold assets that we believe justify bearing those risks, and to maintain capital levels consistent with those risks.

Credit Risk

We are subject to credit risk in connection with our assets, especially our non-Agency MBS. Credit losses on real estate loans can occur for many reasons, including, but not limited to, poor origination practices, fraud, faulty appraisals, documentation errors, poor underwriting, legal errors, poor servicing practices, weak economic conditions, decline in the value of homes, businesses or commercial properties, special hazards, earthquakes and other natural events, over-leveraging of the borrower on the property, reduction in market rents and occupancies and poor property management services, changes in legal protections for lenders, reduction in personal income, job loss and personal events such as divorce or health problems. Property values are subject to volatility and may be affected adversely by a number of factors, including, but not limited to, national, regional and local economic conditions (which may be adversely affected by industry slowdowns and other factors), local real estate conditions (such as an oversupply of housing), changes or continued weakness in specific industry segments, construction quality, age and design, demographic factors and retroactive changes to building or similar codes. For mortgage-related instruments, the two primary components of credit risk are default risk and severity risk. Market conditions since August 2007 have demonstrated substantial increases in both of these risks, but the second half of 2009 and all of 2010 experienced some perceived stabilization in default risk and severity risk and this led to an increase in values of certain non-Agency RMBS. Valuation trends in 2011, driven largely by credit risk and macroeconomic factors have been somewhat more volatile, especially in the last six months. Over the course of this year, large sellers (including the Federal Reserve) of non-Agency RMBS have also increased the available supply of these securities, causing downward price pressure. However, default rates have continued to decrease in 2011, hitting recent lows in April, and have since remained relatively flat. Should negative performance trends resume (including because the Home Affordable Modification Programs, or HAMP, is not successful in curtailing the number of foreclosures, foreclosure suspensions result in higher costs, or for any other reason), some or all of the increase in value of these non-Agency RMBS may be reversed. On the other hand, to the extent that mortgage servicers increase their use of modifications involving principal forgiveness, which we believe are the modifications that have the greatest likelihood of success for delinquent mortgages, we believe that positive performance trends could continue.

Default Risk

Default risk is the risk that borrowers will fail to make principal and interest payments on their mortgage loans. We may attempt to mitigate our default risk by, among other things, opportunistically entering into credit default swaps on individual RMBS or MBS indices, whereby we would receive payments upon the occurrence of a credit event on the underlying reference asset or assets. We also rely on third-party mortgage servicers to mitigate our default risk, but such third-party mortgage servicers may have little or no economic incentive to mitigate loan default rates. Default risk in the MBS market, as measured by the amount of mortgage loans that are sixty days or greater delinquent, has stabilized as compared to 2009, but still remains at elevated levels.

Severity Risk

Severity risk is the risk of loss upon a borrower default on a mortgage loan underlying our RMBS. Severity risk includes the risk of loss of value of the property underlying the mortgage loan as well as the risk of loss associated with taking over the property, including foreclosure costs. We rely on third-party mortgage servicers to mitigate our severity risk, but such third-party mortgage servicers may have little or no economic incentive to mitigate loan loss severities. Such mitigation efforts may include loan modification programs and prompt foreclosure and property liquidation following a default. Loss severities increased consistently throughout the first half of 2009 due to, among other things, increased servicing costs, delays in loan foreclosure, continuing home price declines and lack of incentive for mortgage servicers to minimize costs. Loss severities stabilized in the second half of 2009 and throughout 2010. With the foreclosure documentation problems that emerged in 2010, and with servicers continuing in many cases to

Table of Contents

have incentives (both reputational and economic) not to foreclose, the pace of property liquidations has decreased and foreclosure timelines have increased, leading to higher costs and thus, harsher severities for securities investors. There has been some improvement recently in these timelines as homes caught in the foreclosure process have started to move closer to REO or liquidation. Any stabilization may prove more permanent to the extent that mortgage servicers increase their use of modifications involving principal forgiveness. In order to stem heightened foreclosure activity, the government has taken steps to encourage principal forgiveness on defaulted mortgage loans. These steps may ultimately alleviate risk of foreclosure, but their success relies on effective implementation by mortgage loan servicers.

Prepayment Risk

Prepayment risk is the risk of change, whether an increase or a decrease, in the rate at which principal is returned in respect of mortgage loans underlying RMBS, including both through voluntary prepayments and through liquidations due to defaults and foreclosures. This rate of prepayment is affected by a variety of factors, including the prevailing level of interest rates as well as economic, demographic, tax, social, legal and other factors. Changes in prepayment rates will have varying effects on the different types of securities in our portfolio. We attempt to take these effects into account in making asset management decisions with respect to our assets. Additionally, increases in prepayment rates may cause us to experience losses on our interest only securities and inverse interest only securities, as those securities are extremely sensitive to prepayment rates. Prepayment risk was at elevated levels throughout the second half of 2008 and the first half of 2009. In the current low interest rate environment, one might typically expect an increase in prepayment levels/speeds; however, as mortgage originators have tightened their lending standards and have also made the refinancing process far more cumbersome, the current level of increase in prepayments is not what one would typically expect. Prepayment rates, besides being subject to interest rates and borrower behavior, are also substantially affected by government policy and regulation. Legislation directed at high loan-to-value borrowers increased prepayments over several classes of mortgage loans in the second half of 2009; however, these prepayments subsequently leveled off and we believe heightened prepayment levels are unlikely to resume as many borrowers who are eligible to refinance have already done so.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors, including governmental monetary and tax policies, domestic and international economic and political considerations and other factors beyond our control. We are subject to interest rate risk in connection with certain of our assets and liabilities. For some securities in our portfolio, the coupon yields on, and therefore also the values of, such securities are highly sensitive to interest rate movements, such as inverse floating rate RMBS, which benefit from falling interest rates, or certain deep discount floating rate RMBS, which benefit from rising interest rates. We selectively hedge our interest rate risk by entering into interest rate swaps, TBAs, Eurodollar futures, and other instruments. In general, such hedging instruments are used to offset the large majority of the interest rate risk we estimate to arise from our Agency RMBS positions. Hedging instruments may also be used to offset a portion of the interest rate risk arising from certain non-Agency MBS positions.

The following sensitivity analysis table shows the estimated impact on the value of our portfolio segregated by certain identified categories as of September 30, 2011, assuming a static portfolio and immediate shifts in interest rates from current levels as indicated below.

| <i>(In thousands)</i> | Estimated Change in Value for a Decrease in Interest Rates by | | Estimated Change in Value for an Increase in Interest Rates by | |
|---|---|------------------|--|------------------|
| | 50 Basis Points | 100 Basis Points | 50 Basis Points | 100 Basis Points |
| Category of Instruments | | | | |
| Agency RMBS | \$ 5,354 | \$ 9,417 | \$ (6,643) | \$ (14,578) |
| Non-Agency RMBS, CMBS, and Commercial Mortgage Loans | 3,777 | 7,737 | (3,593) | (7,002) |
| U.S. Treasury Securities, Interest Rate Swaps and Futures | (8,856) | (18,019) | 8,547 | 16,787 |
| Mortgage-Related Derivatives | (984) | (2,140) | 811 | 1,450 |
| Repurchase Agreements and Reverse Repurchase Agreements | (352) | (478) | 452 | 905 |
| Total | \$ (1,061) | \$ (3,483) | \$ (426) | \$ (2,438) |

Table of Contents

The preceding analysis does not show sensitivity to changes in interest rates for our derivatives on corporate securities (whether debt or equity-related), or other categories of instruments for which we believe that the effect of a change in interest rates is not material to the value of the overall portfolio and/or cannot be accurately estimated.

Our analysis of interest rate risk is derived from Ellington's proprietary models as well as third party information and analytics. Many assumptions have been made in connection with the calculations set forth in the table above and, as such, there can be no assurance that assumed events will occur or that other events will not occur that would affect the outcomes. For example, for each hypothetical immediate shift in interest rates, assumptions have been made as to the response of mortgage prepayment rates, the shape of the yield curve, and market volatilities of interest rates; each of the foregoing factors can significantly and adversely affect the fair value of our interest rate-sensitive instruments.

The above analysis utilizes assumptions and estimates based on management's judgment and experience, and relies on financial models, which are inherently imperfect; in fact, different models can produce different results for the same securities. While the table above reflects the estimated impacts of immediate interest rate increases and decreases on specific categories of instruments in our portfolio, we actively trade many of the instruments in our portfolio, and therefore our current or future portfolios may have risks that differ significantly from those of our September 30, 2011 portfolio estimated above. Moreover, the impact of changing interest rates on fair value can change significantly when interest rates change by a greater amount than the hypothetical shifts assumed above. Furthermore, our portfolio is subject to many risks other than interest rate risks, and these additional risks may or may not be correlated with changes in interest rates. For all of the foregoing reasons and others, the table above is for illustrative purposes only and actual changes in interest rates would likely cause changes in the actual fair value of our portfolio that would differ from those presented above, and such differences might be significant and adverse. See Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures. An evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) as of September 30, 2011. Based upon that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of September 30, 2011.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

Neither we nor our Manager is currently subject to any legal proceedings that we or our Manager considers to be material. Nevertheless, we, our Manager and Ellington operate in highly regulated markets that currently are under intense regulatory scrutiny, and Ellington and its affiliates have received, and we expect in the future that they may receive, inquiries and requests for documents and information from various federal, state and foreign regulators. These have included the inquiries and requests that are described in the risk factors included in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010 under the caption "We or Ellington or its affiliates may be subject to regulatory inquiries or proceedings." Ellington has advised us that, at the present time, it is not aware that any material legal proceeding against Ellington and its affiliates is contemplated in connection with

Table of Contents

any of these inquiries or requests. However, we believe that the continued scrutiny of CDO market participants (including large CDO collateral managers such as Ellington) increases the risk of additional inquiries and requests from regulatory or enforcement agencies. Ellington and we cannot provide any assurance that these inquiries and requests will not result in further investigation of or the initiation of a proceeding against Ellington or its affiliates or that, if any such investigation or proceeding were to arise, it would not materially adversely affect our company.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

In addition to the other information set forth in this report, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties discussed under Risk Factors in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010. The information presented below updates, and should be read in conjunction with, the risk factors and information disclosed in that Form 10-K. If any of these risks and uncertainties, or any of the risks and uncertainties identified in our Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements contained in this report, or any risks and uncertainties that are presently unforeseen materialize, it could materially and adversely affect our results of operations, financial condition and liquidity. See also Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements, included in Part I, Item 2 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Maintenance of our exclusion from registration under the Investment Company Act imposes significant limitations on our operations.

We have conducted and intend to continue to conduct our operations through various wholly-owned or majority-owned subsidiaries in a manner such that neither we nor those subsidiaries are subject to regulation under the Investment Company Act. The securities issued by our subsidiaries that are excluded from the definition of investment company under Section 3(c)(1) or Section 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act, together with other investment securities we may own, cannot exceed a combined value of 40% of the value of all our assets (excluding U.S. Government securities and cash) on an unconsolidated basis. This requirement limits the types of businesses in which we may engage and the assets we may hold. Our wholly-owned subsidiary, EF Mortgage LLC, relies on the exclusion provided by Section 3(c)(5)(C) under the Investment Company Act. Section 3(c)(5)(C) of the Investment Company Act is designed for entities primarily engaged in the business of purchasing or otherwise acquiring mortgages and other liens on and interests in real estate. This exclusion generally requires that at least 55% of the entity's assets consist of qualifying real estate assets and at least 80% of the entity's assets consist of qualifying real estate assets or real estate-related assets. These requirements limit the assets we can own and the timing of sales and purchases of our assets.

Although we have monitored and intend to continue to monitor the assets of EF Mortgage LLC regularly, there can be no assurance that EF Mortgage LLC will be able to maintain this exclusion from the definition of investment company. To classify the assets held by EF Mortgage LLC as qualifying real estate assets or real estate-related assets, we rely on no-action letters and other guidance published by the SEC staff regarding those kinds of assets, as well as upon our analyses (in consultation with outside counsel) of guidance published with respect to other types of assets. On August 31, 2011, the SEC published a concept release entitled Companies Engaged in the Business of Acquiring Mortgages and Mortgage Related Instruments (Investment Company Act Rel. No. 29778). This release notes that the SEC is examining the 3(c)(5)(C) exemption relied upon by companies similar to us that invest in mortgage loans and mortgage-backed securities. There can be no assurance that the laws and regulations governing the Investment Company Act status of companies similar to ours, or the guidance from the Division of Investment Management of the SEC regarding the treatment of assets as qualifying real estate assets or real estate-related assets, will not change in a manner that adversely affects our operations as a result of this review. To the extent that the SEC staff provides more specific guidance regarding any of the matters bearing upon our exemption from the need to register under the Investment Company Act, we may be required to adjust our strategy accordingly. Any additional guidance from the SEC staff could further inhibit our ability to pursue the strategies that we have chosen. If the SEC acts to narrow the availability of, or if we otherwise fail to qualify for, an exclusion, we could among other things, be required either (a) to change the manner in which we conduct our operations to avoid being required to register as an investment company, or (b) to register as an investment company, either of which could limit our ability to make certain investments or require us to sell assets in a manner, at a price or at a time that we otherwise would not have chosen, and have a material adverse effect on our operations, the sustainability of our business model, the market price of our common shares and our ability to make distributions.

Table of Contents

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities

On February 11, 2010, we issued 2,500 common shares in exchange for LTIP units held by one of our directors. This issuance was exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act based on the exemption provided by Section 4(2) of the Securities Act.

On February 17, 2010, we issued 9,082 common shares to our Manager as part of its incentive fee pursuant to our management agreement with our Manager. The issuance was exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act based on the exemption provided by Section 4(2) of the Securities Act.

On May 10, 2010, we issued 1,975 common shares to our Manager as part of its incentive fee pursuant to our management agreement with our Manager. The issuance was exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act based on the exemption provided by Section 4(2) of the Securities Act.

On October 1, 2010, we granted 1,250 LTIP units to Thomas Robards, 1,250 LTIP units to Ronald I. Simon, Ph.D., and 1,250 LTIP units to Edward Resendez as compensation for serving as directors. These grants were made pursuant to our 2007 Individual Incentive Plan and such grants were exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act based on the exemption provided in Rule 701 promulgated under the Securities Act.

On November 15, 2010, we issued 11,422 common shares to our Manager as part of its incentive fee pursuant to our management agreement with our Manager. This issuance was exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act provided by Section 4(2) of the Securities Act.

On December 15, 2010, pursuant to our 2007 Individual Incentive Plan, we granted 2,000 LTIP units to Lisa Mumford, our dedicated Chief Financial Officer, and 500 LTIP units to another employee of our Manager. The LTIP units are subject to forfeiture restrictions that will lapse one year from the date of grant. Such grants were exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act based on the exemption provided in Rule 701 promulgated under the Securities Act.

On December 31, 2010, we issued 1,250 common shares in exchange for LTIP units held by one of our directors. This issuance was exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act based on the exemption provided by Section 4(2) of the Securities Act.

On February 17, 2011, we issued 6,400 common shares to our Manager as part of its incentive fee pursuant to our management agreement with our Manager. This issuance was exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act based on the exemption provided by Section 4(2) of the Securities Act.

On May 3, 2011, we issued 2,639 common shares to our Manager as part of its incentive fee pursuant to our management agreement with our Manager. This issuance was exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act based on the exemption provided by Section 4(2) of the Securities Act.

On September 15, 2011, we granted 1,250 LTIP units to Thomas Robards, 1,250 LTIP units to Ronald I. Simon, Ph.D., and 1,250 LTIP units to Edward Resendez as compensation for serving as directors. These grants were made pursuant to our 2007 Individual Incentive Plan and such grants were exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act based on the exemption provided in Rule 701 promulgated under the Securities Act.

Purchases of Equity Securities

| | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| July 1, 2011 - July 31, 2011 | | | | |
| August 1, 2011 - August 31, 2011 | 12,900 | \$ 17.76 | 12,900 | \$ 9.8 million |

Edgar Filing: Ellington Financial LLC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|--|--------|----------|--------|----------------|
| September 1, 2011 - September 30, 2011 | 4,600 | \$ 17.22 | 4,600 | \$ 9.7 million |
| Total | 17,500 | \$ 17.62 | 17,500 | \$ 9.7 million |

Table of Contents

On August 8, 2011, the Company announced that its Board of Directors had approved the adoption of a \$10.0 million share repurchase program. The program, which is open-ended in duration, allows the Company to make repurchases from time to time on the open market or in negotiated transactions. Repurchases are at the Company's discretion, subject to applicable law, share availability, price, and the Company's financial performance, among other considerations.

Item 5. Other Information.

Item 6. Exhibits

| Exhibit | Description |
|----------------|--|
| 3.1 | Second Amended and Restated Operating Agreement of Ellington Financial LLC (incorporated by reference to the registration statement on Form S-11 (No. 333-160562), filed on July 14, 2009, as amended). |
| 3.2 | First Amendment to Second Amended and Restated Operating Agreement of Ellington Financial LLC (incorporated by reference to the quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2011). |
| 4.1 | Form of Common Share Certificate of Ellington Financial LLC (incorporated by reference to the registration statement on Form S-11 (No. 333-160562), filed on July 14, 2009, as amended). |
| 31.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 31.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 32.1* | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 32.2* | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 101 | Submitted electronically herewith. Attached as Exhibit 101 to this report are the following documents formatted in XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity (Unaudited) at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, (ii) Consolidated Statement of Changes in Shareholders' Equity (Unaudited) for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, (iii) Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows (Unaudited) for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, (iii) Notes to Consolidated Financial statements (Unaudited). Users of this data are advised pursuant to Rule 406T of Regulation S-T that this interactive data file is deemed not filed or part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of sections 11 or 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, is deemed not filed for purposes of section 18 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, and otherwise is not subject to liability under these sections. |

* Furnished herewith. These certifications are not deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC.

Date: November 9, 2011

By: /s/ Laurence Penn
Laurence Penn
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: November 9, 2011

By: /s/ Lisa Mumford
Lisa Mumford
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit | Description |
|----------------|--|
| 3.1 | Second Amended and Restated Operating Agreement of Ellington Financial LLC (incorporated by reference to the registration statement on Form S-11 (No. 333-160562), filed on July 14, 2009, as amended). |
| 3.2 | First Amendment to Second Amended and Restated Operating Agreement of Ellington Financial LLC (incorporated by reference to the quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2011). |
| 4.1 | Form of Common Share Certificate of Ellington Financial LLC (incorporated by reference to the registration statement on Form S-11 (No. 333-160562), filed on July 14, 2009, as amended). |
| 31.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 31.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 32.1* | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 32.2* | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 101 | Submitted electronically herewith. Attached as Exhibit 101 to this report are the following documents formatted in XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Consolidated Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity (Unaudited) at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, (ii) Consolidated Statement of Changes in Shareholders' Equity (Unaudited) for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, (iii) Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows (Unaudited) for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, (iii) Notes to Consolidated Financial statements (Unaudited). Users of this data are advised pursuant to Rule 406T of Regulation S-T that this interactive data file is deemed not filed or part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of sections 11 or 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, is deemed not filed for purposes of section 18 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, and otherwise is not subject to liability under these sections. |

* Furnished herewith. These certifications are not deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.