ARES CAPITAL CORP
Form N-2
June 03, 2011

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 3, 2011

Registration No. 333-

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM N-2

REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

o PRE-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO.
o POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO.

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

245 Park Avenue, 44th Floor
New York, New York 10167
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code: **(212) 750-7300**

Joshua M. Bloomstein
Ares Capital Corporation
245 Park Avenue, 44th Floor
New York, New York 10167
(212) 750-7300
(Name and Address of Agent for Service)

Copies of information to:

Monica J. Shilling
Proskauer Rose LLP
2049 Century Park East, 32nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90067-3206
(310) 557-2900

Approximate Date of Proposed Public Offering: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If any securities being registered on this form will be offered on a delayed or continuous basis in reliance on Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered in connection with a dividend reinvestment plan, check the following box. ý

It is proposed that this filing will become effective (check appropriate box):

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when declared effective pursuant to section 8(c).

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Title of Securities Being Registered	Amount Being Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, $0.001 par value per share(2)(3)				
Preferred Stock, $0.001 par value per share(2)				
Subscription Rights(2)				
Warrants(4)				
Debt Securities(5)				
Total			$2,000,000,000(6)	$232,200

(1) Estimated pursuant to Rule 457(o) solely for the purpose of determining the registration fee. The proposed maximum offering price per security will be determined from time to time, by the Registrant in connection with the sale by the Registrant of the securities registered under this registration statement.

(2) Subject to Note 6 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, or subscription rights to purchase shares of common stock as may be sold, from time to time separately or as units in combination with other securities registered hereunder.

(3) Includes such indeterminate number of shares of common stock as may, from time to time, be issued upon conversion or exchange of other securities registered hereunder, to the extent any such securities are, by their terms, convertible or exchangeable for common stock.

(4) Subject to Note 6 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate number of warrants as may be sold, from time to time separately or as units in combination with other securities registered hereunder, representing rights to purchase common stock, preferred stock or debt securities.

(5) Subject to Note 6 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate principal amount of debt securities as may be sold, from time to time separately or as units in combination with other securities registered hereunder. If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price shall be in such greater principal amount as shall result in an aggregate price to investors not to exceed $2,000,000,000.

(6) In no event will the aggregate offering price of all securities issued from time to time pursuant to this registration statement exceed $2,000,000,000.

THE REGISTRANT HEREBY AMENDS THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATE OR DATES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL THE REGISTRANT SHALL FILE A FURTHER AMENDMENT WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL THEREAFTER BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(a) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED, OR UNTIL THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE COMMISSION, ACTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 8(a), MAY DETERMINE.

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The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, dated June 3, 2011

PROSPECTUS

$2,000,000,000

Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Debt Securities
Subscription Rights
Warrants

Ares Capital Corporation is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company incorporated in Maryland. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. To a lesser extent, we also make equity investments.

We are externally managed by Ares Capital Management LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management LLC, a global alternative asset manager and a Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") registered investment adviser with approximately $40 billion of total committed capital under management as of March 31, 2011. Ares Operations LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management LLC, provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "ARCC." On June , 2011 the last reported sales price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Select Market was $ per share. The net asset value per share of our common stock at March 31, 2011 (the last date prior to the date of this prospectus on which we determined net asset value) was $15.45.

Investing in our securities involves risks that are described in the "Risk Factors" section beginning on page 27 of this prospectus, including the risk of leverage.

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to $2,000,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights to purchase shares of our common stock or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, separately or as units comprised of any combination of the foregoing, which we refer to, collectively, as the "securities." The preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights and warrants offered hereby may be convertible or exchangeable into shares of our common stock. The securities may be offered at prices and on terms to be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. In the event we offer common stock, the offering price per share of our common stock less any underwriting commissions or discounts will generally not be less than the net asset value per share of our common stock at the time we make the offering. However, we may issue shares of our common stock pursuant to this prospectus at a price per share that is less than our net asset value per share (a) in connection with a rights offering to our existing stockholders, (b) with the prior approval of the majority of our common stockholders or (c) under such circumstances as the SEC may permit. This prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement concisely provide important information about us that you should know before investing in our securities. Please read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement before you invest and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. This information is available free of charge by calling us collect at (310) 201-4200 or on our website at *www.arescapitalcorp.com*. The SEC also maintains a website at *www.sec.gov* that contains such information.

Neither the SEC nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The date of this prospectus is , 2011.

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You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, as applicable. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the SEC, using the "shelf" registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to $2,000,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights to purchase shares of our common stock or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, separately or as units comprised of any combination of the foregoing, on terms to be determined at the time of the offering. The securities may be offered at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Please carefully read this prospectus and the prospectus supplement together with any exhibits and the additional information described under the headings "Available Information" and "Risk Factors" before you make an investment decision.

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights some of the information contained elsewhere in this prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider. You should read carefully the more detailed information set forth under "Risk Factors" and the other information included in this prospectus. Except where the context suggests otherwise, the terms "we," "us," "our," "the Company" and "Ares Capital" refer to Ares Capital Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries; "Ares Capital Management" and the "investment adviser" refer to Ares Capital Management LLC; "Ares Operations" and the "administrator" refer to Ares Operations LLC; and "Ares" refers to Ares Management LLC ("Ares Management") and its affiliated companies (other than portfolio companies of its affiliated funds).

As described in more detail below, we consummated the acquisition (the "Allied Acquisition") of Allied Capital Corporation ("Allied Capital") on April 1, 2010. Other than as set forth in the pro forma financial information or otherwise specifically set forth herein, financial information presented herein for and as of periods ending on or prior to March 31, 2010 does not include any information in respect of Allied Capital. In addition, other than as set forth in the pro forma financial information or otherwise specifically set forth herein, financial information for the three months ended March 31, 2011 and the year ended December 31, 2010, including, without limitation, with respect to the Company's consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity and cash flows, only includes results attributable to Allied Capital for the period beginning on April 1, 2010.

THE COMPANY

Overview

Ares Capital, a Maryland corporation, is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company, or a "BDC," under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or the "Investment Company Act." We were founded on April 16, 2004, were initially funded on June 23, 2004 and completed our initial public offering on October 8, 2004. We are one of the largest BDCs with approximately $13 billion of total committed capital under management as of March 31, 2011, including available debt capacity (subject to leverage and borrowing base restrictions), funds directly or indirectly managed or co-managed by us or one of our wholly owned subsidiaries and funds managed or sub-managed by our wholly owned portfolio company, Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P. ("IHAM").

We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management, a global alternative asset manager and a SEC registered investment adviser with approximately $40 billion of total committed capital under management as of March 31, 2011. Our administrator, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management, provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in U.S. middle-market companies, where we believe the supply of primary capital is limited and the investment opportunities are most attractive. However, we may from time to time invest in larger companies. In this prospectus, we generally use the term "middle-market" to refer to companies with annual EBITDA between $10 million and $250 million. As used herein, EBITDA represents net income before net interest expense, income tax expense, depreciation and amortization.

On April 1, 2010, we consummated the Allied Acquisition in an all stock merger whereby each existing share of common stock of Allied Capital was exchanged for 0.325 shares of our common stock. The Allied Acquisition was valued at approximately $908 million as of April 1, 2010. In connection therewith, we issued approximately 58.5 million shares of our common stock to Allied Capital's then-existing stockholders, thereby resulting in our then-existing stockholders owning approximately

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69% of the combined company and the then-existing Allied Capital stockholders owning approximately 31% of the combined company.

We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. First and second lien senior loans generally are senior debt instruments that rank ahead of subordinated debt of a given portfolio company. These loans also have the benefit of security interests on the assets of the portfolio company, which may rank ahead of or be junior to other security interests. Mezzanine debt is subordinated to senior loans and is generally unsecured. Our investments have generally ranged between $20 million and $200 million each, although the investment size may be more or less than this range. Our investment sizes are expected to grow with our capital availability.

To a lesser extent, we also make preferred and/or common equity investments, which have generally been non-control equity investments of less than $20 million (usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment). However, we may increase the size or change the nature of these investments. Also, as a result of the Allied Acquisition, Allied Capital's equity investments, which included equity investments larger than those we have historically made and controlled portfolio company equity investments, became part of our portfolio. We intend to actively seek opportunities over time to dispose of certain of the assets that were acquired in the Allied Acquisition, particularly non-yielding equity investments, as well as lower or non-yielding debt investments and investments that may not be core to our investment strategy, and generally rotate them into higher-yielding first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt investments. However, there can be no assurance that this strategy will be successful. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Portfolio and Investment Activity" for further information on the rotation of investments acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition.

The proportion of these types of investments will change over time given our views on, among other things, the economic and credit environment we are operating in. In connection with our investing activities, we may make commitments with respect to indebtedness or securities of a potential portfolio company substantially in excess of our final investment. In such situations, while we may initially agree to fund up to a certain dollar amount of an investment, we may subsequently syndicate a portion of such amount to third parties, such that we are left with a smaller investment than what was reflected in our original commitment. In addition to originating investments, we may also acquire investments in the secondary market.

The first and second lien senior loans in which we invest generally have stated terms of three to 10 years and the mezzanine debt investments in which we invest generally have stated terms of up to 10 years, but the expected average life of such first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt is generally between three and seven years. However, we may invest in loans and securities with any maturity or duration. The instruments in which we invest typically are not initially rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such instruments were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by Moody's Investors Service, lower than "BBB-" by Fitch Ratings or lower than "BBB-" by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services). We may invest without limit in debt or other securities of any rating, as well as debt or other securities that have not been rated by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

We believe that our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, is able to leverage the current investment platform, resources and existing relationships with financial sponsors, financial institutions, hedge funds and other investment firms of Ares to provide us with attractive investments. In addition to deal flow, the Ares investment platform assists our investment adviser in analyzing, structuring and monitoring investments. Ares has been in existence for more than 13 years and its senior principals have an average of over 21 years experience investing in senior loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and private equity securities. The Company has access to the Ares staff of approximately 170 investment professionals and approximately 145 administrative professionals who provide assistance in accounting, finance, legal, compliance, operations, information technology and investor relations.

Since our initial public offering on October 8, 2004 through March 31, 2011, our realized gains have exceeded our realized losses by $113.2 million (excluding the one-time gain on the Allied Acquisition and gains/losses from the extinguishment of debt and other assets). For this same time period, our portfolio exits have resulted in an aggregate cash flow realized internal rate of return to us of approximately 15% (based on original cash invested of $3.5 billion and total proceeds from such exits of $4.2 billion). Approximately 79% of the exits resulted in an aggregate cash flow internal rate of return to us of 10% or greater. Internal rate of return is the discount rate that makes the net present value of all cash flows related to a particular investment equal to zero. Internal rate of return is gross of expenses related to investments as these expenses are not allocable to specific investments. Investments are considered to be exited when the original investment objective has been achieved through the receipt of cash and/or non-cash consideration upon the repayment of our debt investment or sale of an investment or through the determination that no further consideration was collectible and, thus, a loss may have been realized. These internal rate of return results are historical results relating to our past performance and are not necessarily indicative of future results, the achievement of which cannot be assured.

While our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of eligible portfolio companies, we also may invest up to 30% of our portfolio in opportunistic investments in non-qualifying assets, as permitted by the Investment Company Act. See "Regulation." Specifically, as part of this 30% basket, we may invest in debt of middle-market companies located outside of the United States, in investment funds that are operating pursuant to certain exceptions to the Investment Company Act, in advisers to similar investment funds and in debt and equity of public companies that are not considered "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in the Investment Company Act) because their market capitalization of publicly traded equity securities exceeds the levels provided for in the Investment Company Act. We expect that these public companies generally will have debt that may be non-investment grade. From time to time, we may also invest in high yield bonds, which, depending on the issuer, may or may not be included in this 30% basket.

We and General Electric Capital Corporation and certain of its affiliates (collectively, "GE") also co-invest through an unconsolidated senior debt fund, the Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC, which operates using the name "Senior Secured Loan Program" (the "SSLP"). The SSLP was initially formed in December 2007 to invest in "stretch senior" and "unitranche" loans (loans that combine both senior and subordinated debt, generally in a first lien position) of middle-market companies and currently has approximately $5.1 billion of available capital, approximately $2.9 billion in aggregate principal amount of which was funded as of March 31, 2011. At March 31, 2011, our total available capital provided to the SSLP was approximately $1 billion, of which approximately $300 million was unfunded. The SSLP is capitalized as transactions are completed and all portfolio decisions and generally all other decisions in respect of the SSLP must be approved by GE and the Company.

We also manage an unconsolidated fund, AGILE Fund I, LLC (the "AGILE Fund"), which had approximately $67.9 million of total committed capital under management as of March 31, 2011.

In addition, our portfolio company, IHAM, manages ten unconsolidated credit funds, which are described in more detail under "Business Investments Managed Funds Portfolio" below, and sub-manages four other unconsolidated credit funds (such 14 funds managed or sub-managed by IHAM are collectively referred to as the "IHAM Funds"). We have also made direct investments in securities of certain of these vehicles. As of March 31, 2011, IHAM had total committed capital under management of approximately $3.4 billion, which includes approximately $0.4 billion invested by Ares Capital in IHAM or securities issued by funds managed or sub-managed by IHAM.

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About Ares

Founded in 1997, Ares is a global alternative asset manager and SEC registered investment adviser with approximately $40 billion of total committed capital under management and over 380 employees as of March 31, 2011.

Ares specializes in originating and managing assets in both the leveraged finance and private equity markets. Ares' leveraged finance activities include the origination, acquisition and management of senior loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and special situation investments. Ares' private equity activities focus on providing flexible, junior capital to middle-market companies. Ares has the ability to invest across a capital structure, from senior floating rate debt to common equity. This flexibility, combined with Ares' "buy and hold" philosophy, enables Ares to structure an investment to meet the specific needs of a company rather than the less flexible demands of the public markets.

Ares is comprised of the following groups:

Global Private Debt Group. The Ares Global Private Debt Group manages the assets of Ares Capital, the IHAM Funds, Ares Credit Strategies Fund II, L.P., Ares Credit Strategies Fund III, L.P. and Ares' private debt middle-market financing business in Europe, Ares Capital Europe ("ACE"), which together had approximately $15 billion of total committed capital under management as of March 31, 2011, including capital which may be committed for investment both directly and through certain financial services portfolio companies of the Company. The Ares Global Private Debt Group focuses primarily on non-syndicated first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases may include an equity component. The Ares Global Private Debt Group also makes equity investments in private middle-market companies, usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment.

Capital Markets Group. The Ares Capital Markets Group had approximately $19 billion of total committed capital under management as of March 31, 2011 through a variety of funds and investment vehicles, focusing primarily on syndicated senior secured loans, high yield bonds, distressed debt, other liquid fixed income investments and other publicly traded debt securities.

Private Equity Group. The Ares Private Equity Group had approximately $6 billion of total committed capital under management as of March 31, 2011, primarily through Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund L.P., Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund II, L.P. and Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund III, L.P. (collectively referred to as "ACOF"). ACOF generally makes private equity investments in amounts substantially larger than the private equity investments anticipated to be made by Ares Capital. In particular, the Ares Private Equity Group generally focuses on control-oriented equity investments in under-capitalized companies or companies with capital structure issues.

Ares' senior principals have been working together as a group for many years and have an average of over 21 years of experience in leveraged finance, private equity, distressed debt, investment banking and capital markets. They are backed by a large team of highly disciplined professionals. Ares' rigorous investment approach is based upon an intensive, independent financial analysis, with a focus on preservation of capital, diversification and active portfolio management. These fundamentals underlie Ares' investment strategy and have resulted in large pension funds, banks, insurance companies, endowments and certain high net worth individuals investing in Ares' funds.

Ares Capital Management

Ares Capital Management, our investment adviser, is served by an origination, investment and portfolio management team of approximately 55 U.S.-based investment professionals led by the senior partners of the Ares Global Private Debt Group: Michael Arougheti, Eric Beckman, Kipp deVeer, Mitchell Goldstein, Michael Smith and Gordon Watters. Ares Capital Management leverages off of Ares' investment platform and benefits from the significant capital markets, trading and research expertise of Ares' investment professionals. Ares has approximately 170 investment professionals covering current investments in more than 1,100 companies across over 30 industries. Ares Capital Management's investment committee has nine members, including the senior partners of the Ares Global Private Debt Group and senior partners in the Ares Capital Markets Group and the Ares Private Equity Group.

Recent Developments

On April 27, 2011, we redeemed the $161.2 million in outstanding aggregate principal amount of our unsecured 6.00% Notes due 2012 (the "2012 Notes") for a total redemption price (including a redemption premium) of $169.3 million, which resulted in a loss on the extinguishment of debt of $10.5 million, in accordance with the terms of the indenture governing the 2012 Notes.

As of April 29, 2011 we had made new investment commitments of $171 million, of which $142 million was funded, since March 31, 2011. Of these new commitments, 95% were in first lien senior secured debt, 3% were in equity securities, and 2% were in second lien senior secured debt. Of the $171 million of new investment commitments, 95% were floating rate with a weighted average spread at amortized cost of 8.6% and 2% were fixed rate with a weighted average yield at amortized cost of 13.9%.

As of April 29, 2011, we had exited $34 million of investments since March 31, 2011. Of these investments, 70% were in second lien senior secured debt, 17% were in equity and other investments, 11% were in first lien senior secured debt, and 2% were in senior subordinated debt. Of the $34 million of investments, 80% were in floating rate investments with a weighted average spread at amortized cost of 9.3%. Of the remaining investments, 2% were fixed rate investments with a weighted average yield at amortized cost of 12.1%, 16% were non-interest bearing and 2% were in investments on non-accrual status. Also, of the $34 million of investments exited since March 31, 2011, $25 million were investments acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition. Additionally, we recognized net realized gains of approximately $2 million on the investments exited that were acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition.

In addition, as of April 29, 2011, we had an investment backlog and pipeline of $520 million and $360 million, respectively. We may syndicate a portion of these investments and commitments to third parties. The consummation of any of the investments in this backlog and pipeline depends upon, among other things: satisfactory completion of our due diligence investigation of the prospective portfolio company, our acceptance of the terms and structure of such investment and the execution and delivery of satisfactory transaction documentation. We cannot assure you that we will make any of these investments or that we will syndicate any portion of such investments and commitments.

On April 28, 2011, we filed a definitive proxy statement on Schedule 14A (the "Definitive Proxy") in connection with our 2011 annual stockholders meeting expected to take place on June 6, 2011. In addition to seeking stockholder approval for customary annual meeting matters, we are asking our stockholders to approve, subject to certain determinations required to be made by our board of directors, our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock, at a price below the then current net asset value per share during a period beginning on the date of our 2011 annual stockholders meeting and expiring on the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of our 2011 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2012 annual stockholders meeting. In addition, we are asking stockholders to approve certain amendments to our amended and restated investment advisory and management agreement with Ares Capital Management, referred to herein as our "investment advisory and management agreement." See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business We are asking our stockholders to approve certain amendments to our investment advisory and management agreement at our 2011 annual stockholders meeting expected to take place on June 6, 2011. If our stockholders approve one or both of the amendments, our investment adviser may be eligible to receive an increased incentive fee or an incentive fee earlier than it otherwise would have" and "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement Duration, Termination and Amendment."

MARKET OPPORTUNITY

We believe that current market conditions present attractive opportunities for us to invest in middle-market companies. Specifically:

- We believe that many senior lenders have, in recent years, de-emphasized their service and product offerings to middle-market businesses in favor of lending to large corporate clients and managing capital markets transactions. In addition, commercial and investment banks are limited in their ability to underwrite and syndicate bank loans and high yield securities for middle-market issuers as they seek to build capital and reduce leverage, resulting in opportunities for alternative funding sources and therefore higher new-issue market opportunities.

- We believe that there is a lack of market participants that are willing to not only underwrite but also hold loans. As a result, we believe our ability to minimize syndication risk for a company seeking financing by being able to hold our loans without syndicating them is a competitive advantage.

- We believe there is a large pool of uninvested private equity capital for middle-market businesses. We expect private equity firms will seek to leverage their investments by combining equity capital with senior secured loans and mezzanine debt from other sources, such as the Company.

- A high volume of senior secured and high yield debt was originated in the calendar years 2004 through 2007 and will come due in the near term and, accordingly, we believe that new financing opportunities will increase as many companies seek to refinance this indebtedness.

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES

We believe that we have the following competitive advantages over other capital providers to middle-market companies:

The Ares Platform

As of March 31, 2011, Ares managed approximately $40 billion of total committed capital under management in the related asset classes of non-syndicated first and second lien senior loans, syndicated loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and private equity. We believe Ares' current investment platform provides a competitive advantage in terms of access to origination and marketing activities and diligence for Ares Capital. Specifically, the Ares platform provides the Company an advantage through its deal flow generation and investment evaluation process. Ares' asset management platform also provides additional market information, company knowledge and industry insight that benefit the investment and due diligence process. Ares' professionals maintain extensive financial sponsor and intermediary relationships, which provide valuable insight and access to transactions and information.

Seasoned Management Team

Ares' senior professionals have an average of more than 21 years of experience in leveraged finance, including substantial experience in investing in leveraged loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt, distressed debt and private equity securities. The investment professionals in the Ares Global Private Debt Group and members of our investment adviser's investment committee also have significant experience originating and investing across market cycles. As a result of Ares' extensive investment experience and the history of its seasoned management team, Ares has developed a strong reputation across U.S. and European capital markets. We believe that Ares' long history in the leveraged loan market and the extensive experience of its principals originating and investing across market cycles provides Ares Capital with a competitive advantage in identifying, originating, investing in and managing a portfolio of investments in middle-market companies.

Experience and Focus on Middle-Market Companies

Ares has historically focused on investments in middle-market companies and we benefit from this experience. In sourcing and analyzing deals, our investment adviser benefits from Ares' extensive network of relationships focused on middle-market companies, including management teams, members of the investment banking community, private equity groups and other investment firms with whom Ares has had long-term relationships. We believe this network enables us to identify well-positioned prospective portfolio company investments. The Ares Global Private Debt Group works closely with Ares' other investment professionals, who together currently oversee a portfolio of investments in over 1,100 companies across over 30 industries, and provide access to an extensive network of relationships and insights into industry trends and the state of the capital markets.

Disciplined Investment Philosophy

In making its investment decisions, our investment adviser has adopted Ares' long-standing, consistent, credit-based investment approach that was developed over 21 years ago by its founders. Specifically, our investment adviser's investment philosophy, portfolio construction and portfolio management involve an assessment of the overall macroeconomic environment and financial markets and company-specific research and analysis. Its investment approach emphasizes capital preservation, low volatility and minimization of downside risk. In addition to engaging in extensive due diligence from the perspective of a long-term investor, our investment adviser's approach seeks to reduce risk in investments by focusing on:

- businesses with strong franchises and sustainable competitive advantages;
- industries with positive long-term dynamics that have performed through the credit cycle;
- businesses and industries with cash flows that are dependable and predictable, including those that have strategic M&A value;
- management teams with demonstrated track records and appropriate economic incentives;
- rates of return commensurate with the perceived risks;
- securities or investments that are structured with favorable terms and covenants; and
- businesses backed by experienced private equity sponsors.

Extensive Industry Focus

We seek to concentrate our investing activities in industries with a history of predictable and dependable cash flows and in which the Ares investment professionals have had extensive investment experience. Ares investment professionals have developed long-term relationships with management teams and management consultants in over 30 industries, and have accumulated substantial information and identified potential trends within these industries. In turn, we benefit from these relationships, information and identification of potential trends in making investments.

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Flexible Transaction Structuring and Scale

We believe that being one of the largest BDCs with approximately $13 billion of total committed capital under management as of March 31, 2011, including available debt capacity (subject to leverage and borrowing base restrictions), funds directly or indirectly managed or co-managed by us or one of our wholly owned subsidiaries and funds managed or sub-managed by certain financial services portfolio companies makes us a more desirable capital provider, especially in competitive markets. We are flexible in structuring investments, including the types of investments and the terms associated with such investments. Ares has extensive experience investing in a wide variety of structures for companies with a diverse set of terms and conditions. We believe this approach and experience enables our investment adviser to identify attractive investment opportunities throughout economic cycles and across a company's capital structure so we can make investments consistent with our stated investment objective and preserve principal while seeking appropriate risk adjusted returns. In addition, we have the ability to provide "one stop" financing with the ability to invest capital across the balance sheet and syndicate and hold larger investments than many of our competitors. We believe that the ability to underwrite, syndicate and hold larger investments benefits our stockholders by (a) potentially increasing net income and earnings through syndication, (b) increasing originated deal flow flexibility, (c) broadening market relationships and deal flow, (d) allowing us to optimize our portfolio composition and (e) allowing us to provide capital to middle-market companies, which we believe currently have limited access to capital from traditional lending sources. In addition, we believe that the ability to provide capital at every level of the balance sheet provides a strong value proposition to middle-market borrowers and our senior debt capabilities provide superior deal origination and relative value analysis capabilities compared to traditional "mezzanine only" lenders.

Broad Origination Strategy

We focus on self-originating most of our investments by pursuing a broad array of investment opportunities in middle-market companies across multiple channels. We also leverage off of the extensive relationships of the broader Ares platform, including relationships with the companies in the funds managed by IHAM, to identify investment opportunities. We believe that this allows for asset selectivity and that there is a significant relationship between proprietary deal origination and credit performance. We believe that our focus on generating proprietary deal flow and lead investing also gives us greater control over capital structure, deal terms, pricing and documentation and enables us to actively manage our portfolio investments. Moreover, by leading the investment process, we are often able to secure controlling positions in credit tranches, thereby providing additional control in investment outcomes. We also have originated substantial proprietary deal flow from middle-market intermediaries, which often allows us to act as the sole or principal source of institutional capital to the borrower.

OPERATING AND REGULATORY STRUCTURE

Our investment activities are managed by Ares Capital Management, which is wholly owned by Ares, and supervised by our board of directors, a majority of whom are independent of Ares and its affiliates. Ares Capital Management is registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or the "Advisers Act." Under our investment advisory and management agreement, we have agreed to pay Ares Capital Management an annual base management fee based on our total assets, as defined under the Investment Company Act (other than cash and cash equivalents, but including assets purchased with borrowed funds), and an incentive fee based on our performance. See "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement."

As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. While we are permitted to finance investments using debt, our ability to use debt is limited in certain significant respects. See "Business Operating and Regulatory Structure" and "Regulation." We have elected to be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or a "RIC," under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the "Code." See "Certain Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations."

MARKET CONDITIONS

Due to volatility in global markets, the availability of capital and access to capital markets has been limited over the last several years. As the global liquidity situation and market conditions evolve, we will continue to monitor and adjust our approach to funding accordingly. However, given the unprecedented nature of the recent volatility in the global markets and the uncertainty around the strength of the U.S. economic recovery, there can be no assurance that these activities will be successful. While levels of market disruption and volatility have improved, there can be no assurance that adverse market conditions will not repeat themselves. If they do, we could face materially higher financing costs. Consequently, our operating strategy could be materially and adversely affected. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business Capital markets have recently been in a period of disruption and instability. These market conditions materially and adversely affected debt and equity capital markets in the United States, which had, and may in the future have, a negative impact on our business and operations."

In connection with prior depressed market conditions of the general economy, the stocks of BDCs as an industry have in the past traded at near historic lows as a result of concerns over liquidity, credit quality, leverage restrictions and distribution requirements. In some cases, certain BDCs became "forced sellers" of assets, defaulted on their indebtedness, decreased their distributions to stockholders or announced share repurchase programs. We cannot assure you that the market pressures we face will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITIES

We believe the recent dislocation and illiquidity in the credit markets has increased the likelihood of further consolidation in our industry. To that end, we and our portfolio company IHAM are evaluating (and expect to continue to evaluate in the future) a number of potential strategic acquisition opportunities, including acquisitions of:

- asset portfolios;
- contracts to manage CLO vehicles and other investment vehicles;
- other private and public finance companies or asset managers; and
- selected secondary market assets.

We and our portfolio company IHAM have been and from time to time engage in discussions with counterparties in respect of various potential strategic acquisition and investment transactions, including potential acquisitions of other finance companies. Some of these transactions could be material to our business and, if consummated, could be difficult to integrate, result in increased leverage or dilution and/or subject us to unexpected liabilities. However, none of these discussions has progressed to the point where the consummation of any such transaction could be deemed to be probable or reasonably certain as of the date of this prospectus. Consummation of any such transaction will be subject to completion of due diligence, finalization of key business and financial terms (including price) and negotiation of final definitive documentation as well as a number of other factors and conditions including, without limitation, the approval of our board of directors (after having determined that such transaction is in the best interest of our stockholders), any required third party consents and, in certain cases, the approval of our stockholders. We cannot predict how quickly the terms of any such transaction could be finalized, if at all. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that definitive documentation for any such transaction would be executed or even if executed, that any such

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transaction will be consummated. In connection with evaluating potential strategic acquisition and investment transactions, we have, and may in the future, incur significant expenses for the evaluation and due diligence investigation of these potential transactions.

LIQUIDITY

As of March 31, 2011, our total consolidated indebtedness was $1.5 billion aggregate principal amount, approximately $1.4 billion aggregate principal amount of which was unsecured indebtedness of Ares Capital and approximately $0.1 billion of which was secured indebtedness of our wholly owned subsidiaries.

As of March 31, 2011, of the $1.5 billion aggregate principal amount of total outstanding indebtedness: (i) no amounts were outstanding under our $810.0 million revolving credit facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility") or the $400.0 million revolving funding facility of our wholly owned subsidiary, Ares Capital CP Funding LLC ("Ares Capital CP") (the "Revolving Funding Facility" and, together with the Revolving Credit Facility, the "Facilities"), (ii) $138.6 million aggregate principal amount of our CLO Notes (as defined below) were outstanding under our debt securitization (the "Debt Securitization"), (iii) $161.2 million aggregate principal amount of our 2012 Notes were outstanding; (iv) $200.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 7.75% senior notes that mature on October 15, 2040 (the "2040 Notes") were outstanding, (v) $230.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 6.875% senior notes due on April 15, 2047 (the "2047 Notes" and, together with the 2012 Notes and the 2040 Notes, the "Unsecured Notes") were outstanding, (vi) $575.0 million aggregate principal amount of our convertible senior unsecured notes that mature on February 1, 2016 (the "February 2016 Convertible Notes") were outstanding and (vii) $230.0 million aggregate principal amount of our convertible senior unsecured notes that mature on June 1, 2016 (the "June 2016 Convertible Notes" and, together with the February 2016 Convertible Notes, the "Convertible Notes") were outstanding.

On April 27, 2011, we redeemed the $161.2 million in outstanding aggregate principal amount of 2012 Notes for a total redemption price (including a redemption premium) of approximately $169.3 million, which resulted in a loss on the extinguishment of debt of $10.5 million, in accordance with the terms of the indenture governing the 2012 Notes. See " Recent Developments" and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Recent Developments" for information on the redemption of the 2012 Notes. We intend to continue borrowing under the Facilities in the future and we may increase the size of the Facilities or otherwise issue additional debt securities or other evidences of indebtedness in the future.

For more information on the Company's debt, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Financial Condition, Liquidity and Capital Resources."

RISK FACTORS

Investing in Ares Capital involves risks. The following is a summary of certain risks that you should carefully consider before investing in our securities. In addition, see "Risk Factors" beginning on page 27 for a more detailed discussion of the factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our securities.

Risks Relating to Our Business

- Capital markets have recently been in a period of disruption and instability. These market conditions materially and adversely affected debt and equity capital markets in the United States, which had, and may in the future have, a negative impact on our business and operations.

- A failure on our part to maintain our status as a BDC would significantly reduce our operating flexibility.

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We are dependent upon certain key personnel of Ares for our future success and upon their access to other Ares investment professionals.

Our financial condition and results of operations depend on our ability to manage future growth effectively.

We may be unable to realize the benefits anticipated by the Allied Acquisition or it may take longer than anticipated to achieve such benefits.

Our ability to grow depends on our ability to raise capital.

Regulations governing our operation as a BDC affect our ability to, and the way in which we, raise additional capital.

We borrow money, which magnifies the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and may increase the risk of investing with us.

In addition to regulatory requirements that restrict our ability to raise capital, the Facilities, the CLO Notes, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes contain various covenants that, if not complied with, could accelerate repayment under the Facilities, the CLO Notes, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes, thereby materially and adversely affecting our liquidity, financial condition and results of operations.

Our credit ratings may change and as a result the cost and flexibility under our debt instruments may change.

We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities.

We may be subject to certain corporate-level taxes regardless of whether we continue to qualify as a RIC.

We may have difficulty paying our required distributions under applicable tax rules if we recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income.

We may in the future determine to fund a portion of our investments with preferred stock, which would magnify the potential for gain or loss and the risks of investing in us in the same way as our borrowings.

We are exposed to risks associated with changes in interest rates.

Many of our portfolio investments are not publicly traded and, as a result, the fair value of these investments may not be readily determinable.

The lack of liquidity in our investments may adversely affect our business.

We may experience fluctuations in our quarterly results.

There are significant potential conflicts of interest that could impact our investment returns.

Changes in laws or regulations governing our operations or the operations of our portfolio companies, changes in the interpretation thereof or newly enacted laws or regulations, such as the Dodd-Frank Act, and any failure by us or our portfolio companies to comply with these laws or regulations, could require changes to certain business practices of us or our portfolio companies, negatively impact the operations, cash flows or financial condition of us or our portfolio companies, impose additional costs on us or our portfolio companies or otherwise adversely affect our business or the business of our portfolio companies.

Our investment adviser's liability is limited under the investment advisory and management agreement, and we are required to indemnify our investment adviser against certain

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liabilities, which may lead our investment adviser to act in a riskier manner on our behalf than it would when acting for its own account.

We may be obligated to pay our investment adviser incentive compensation even if we incur a loss.

We are asking our stockholders to approve certain amendments to our investment advisory and management agreement at our 2011 annual stockholders meeting expected to take place on June 6, 2011. If our stockholders approve one or both of the amendments, our investment adviser may be eligible to receive an increased incentive fee or an incentive fee earlier than it otherwise would have.

We may not replicate Ares' historical success and our ability to enter into transactions with Ares and our other affiliates is restricted.

Risks Relating to Our Investments

Declines in market prices and liquidity in the corporate debt markets can result in significant net unrealized depreciation of our portfolio, which in turn would reduce our net asset value.

Economic recessions or downturns could impair our portfolio companies and harm our operating results.

Investments in privately held middle-market companies involve significant risks.

Our debt investments may be risky and we could lose all or part of our investment.

Investments in equity securities, many of which are illiquid with no readily available market, involve a substantial degree of risk.

There may be circumstances where our debt investments could be subordinated to claims of other creditors or we could be subject to lender liability claims.

Our portfolio companies may incur debt or issue equity securities that rank equally with, or senior to, our investments in such companies.

When we are a debt or minority equity investor in a portfolio company, we are often not in a position to exert influence on the entity, and other equity holders and management of the company may make decisions that could decrease the value of our portfolio holdings.

Our portfolio companies may be highly leveraged.

Our investment adviser's incentive fee may induce it to make certain investments, including speculative investments.

Our investments in foreign companies may involve significant risks in addition to the risks inherent in U.S. investments. We may also expose ourselves to risks if we engage in hedging transactions.

We may initially invest a portion of the net proceeds of offerings pursuant to this prospectus primarily in high-quality short-term investments, which will generate lower rates of return than those expected from the interest generated on first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt.

The Allied Acquisition may have triggered certain "change of control" provisions and other restrictions in certain of our and Allied Capital's contracts and the failure to obtain any required consents or waivers could adversely impact us.

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Risks Relating to Offerings Pursuant to this Prospectus

Our shares of common stock have traded at a discount from net asset value and may do so again in the future, which could limit our ability to raise additional equity capital.

There is a risk that investors in our common stock may not receive dividends or that our dividends may not grow over time and that investors in our debt securities may not receive all of the interest income to which they are entitled.

Provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law and of our charter and bylaws could deter takeover attempts and have an adverse impact on the price of our common stock.

Investing in our common stock may involve an above average degree of risk.

The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly.

The net asset value per share of our common stock may be diluted if we sell shares of our common stock in one or more offerings at prices below the then current net asset value per share of our common stock or securities to subscribe for or convertible into shares of our common stock.

Your interest in us may be diluted if you do not fully exercise your subscription rights in any rights offering. In addition, if the subscription price is less than our net asset value per share, then you will experience an immediate dilution of the aggregate net asset value of your shares.

Investors in offerings of our common stock will likely incur immediate dilution upon the closing of such offering.

Our stockholders will experience dilution in their ownership percentage if they opt out of our dividend reinvestment plan.

Our stockholders may experience dilution upon the conversion of the Convertible Notes.

Our stockholders may receive shares of our common stock as dividends, which could result in adverse tax consequences to them.

Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market may have an adverse effect on the market price of our common stock.

The trading market or market value of our publicly issued debt securities may fluctuate.

Terms relating to redemption may materially adversely affect your return on any debt securities that we may issue.

Our credit ratings may not reflect all risks of an investment in our debt securities.

OUR CORPORATE INFORMATION

Our administrative offices are located at 2000 Avenue of the Stars, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90067, telephone number (310) 201-4200, and our executive offices are located at 245 Park Avenue, 44th Floor, New York, New York 10167, telephone number (212) 750-7300.

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OFFERINGS

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to $2,000,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, subscription rights to purchase shares of our common stock or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, or units comprised of any combination of the foregoing, on terms to be determined at the time of the offering. We will offer our securities at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more supplements to this prospectus. The offering price per share of our common stock, less any underwriting commissions or discounts, generally will not be less than the net asset value per share of our common stock at the time of an offering. However, we may issue shares of our common stock pursuant to this prospectus at a price per share that is less than our net asset value per share (a) in connection with a rights offering to our existing stockholders, (b) with the prior approval of the majority of our common stockholders or (c) under such other circumstances as the SEC may permit. Any such issuance of shares of our common stock below net asset value may be dilutive to the net asset value of our common stock. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Offerings Pursuant to this Prospectus."

At our 2010 annual stockholders meeting, subject to certain determinations required to be made by our board of directors, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock, at a price below the then current net asset value per share during a period beginning on June 7, 2010 and expiring on the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of the 2010 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2011 annual stockholders meeting. On April 28, 2011, we filed the Definitive Proxy in connection with the 2011 annual stockholders meeting. The Definitive Proxy sets forth certain proposals to be voted upon at the 2011 annual stockholders meeting (currently expected to take place on June 6, 2011), including a proposal that, if approved by stockholders, would have the effect of extending this approval to the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of the 2011 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2012 annual stockholders meeting.

We may offer our securities directly to one or more purchasers, including existing stockholders in a rights offering, through agents that we designate from time to time or to or through underwriters or dealers. The prospectus supplement relating to each offering will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our securities, and will set forth any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between us and our agents or underwriters or among our underwriters or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. See "Plan of Distribution." We may not sell any of our securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of our securities.

Set forth below is additional information regarding offerings of our securities:

Use of proceeds	Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of our securities for general corporate purposes, which includes, among other things, (a) investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective and strategies and market conditions and (b) repaying indebtedness. Each supplement to this prospectus relating to an offering will more fully identify the use of the proceeds from such offering. See "Use of Proceeds."
Distributions	We intend to distribute quarterly dividends to our stockholders out of assets legally available for distribution. Our quarterly dividends, if any, will be determined by our board of directors. For more information, see "Price Range of Common Stock and Distributions."
Taxation	We have elected to be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a RIC. As a RIC, we generally will not pay corporate-level U.S. federal income taxes on any income and gain that we distribute to

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	our stockholders as dividends on a timely basis. Among other things, in order to maintain our RIC status, we must meet specified income source and asset diversification requirements and distribute annually generally an amount equal to at least 90% of our investment company taxable income, out of assets legally available for distribution. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business We may be subject to certain corporate-level taxes regardless of whether we continue to qualify as a RIC" and "Price Range of Common Stock and Distributions."
Dividend reinvestment plan	We have a dividend reinvestment plan for our stockholders. This is an "opt out" dividend reinvestment plan. As a result, if we declare a cash dividend, then stockholders' dividends will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, unless they specifically "opt out" of the dividend reinvestment plan so as to receive cash. Stockholders whose cash dividends are reinvested in additional shares of our common stock will be subject to the same U.S. federal, state and local tax consequences as stockholders who elect to receive their dividends in cash. See "Dividend Reinvestment Plan."
The NASDAQ Global Select Market symbol	"ARCC"
Anti-takeover provisions	Our board of directors is divided into three classes of directors serving staggered three-year terms. This structure is intended to provide us with a greater likelihood of continuity of management, which may be necessary for us to realize the full value of our investments. A staggered board of directors also may serve to deter hostile takeovers or proxy contests, as may certain other measures adopted by us. See "Description of Our Capital Stock."
Leverage	We borrow funds to make additional investments. We use this practice, which is known as "leverage," to attempt to increase returns to our common stockholders, but it involves significant risks. See "Risk Factors," "Senior Securities" and "Regulation Indebtedness and Senior Securities." With certain limited exceptions, we are only allowed to borrow amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the Investment Company Act, equals at least 200% after such borrowing. The amount of leverage that we employ at any particular time will depend on our investment adviser's and our board of directors' assessments of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.
Management arrangements	Ares Capital Management serves as our investment adviser. Ares Operations serves as our administrator. For a description of Ares Capital Management, Ares Operations, Ares and our contractual arrangements with these companies, see "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement," and " Administration Agreement."
Available information	We are required to file periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. This information is available free of charge by calling us collect at (310) 201-4200 or on our website at *www.arescapitalcorp.com.* The SEC also maintains a website at *www.sec.gov* that contains this information.

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FEES AND EXPENSES

The following table is intended to assist you in understanding the costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear, directly or indirectly, based on the assumptions set forth below. We caution you that some of the percentages indicated in the table below are estimates and may vary. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this prospectus contains a reference to fees or expenses paid or to be paid by "you," "us," "the Company" or "Ares Capital," or that "we" will pay fees or expenses, stockholders will directly or indirectly bear such fees or expenses as investors in Ares Capital.

Stockholder transaction expenses (as a percentage of offering price):	
Sales load paid by us	(1)
Offering expenses borne by us	(2)
Dividend reinvestment plan expenses	None (3)
Total stockholder transaction expenses paid by us	(4)
Estimated annual expenses (as a percentage of consolidated net assets attributable to common stock)(5):	
Management fees	2.22%(6)
Incentive fees payable under investment advisory and management agreement (20% of pre-incentive fee net investment income and 20% of realized capital gains, subject to certain limitations)	2.05%(7)
Interest payments on borrowed funds	3.91%(8)
Other expenses	0.92%(9)
Acquired fund fees and expenses	0.01%(10)
Total annual expenses (estimated)	9.11%(11)

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(1) In the event that the securities to which this prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement will disclose the applicable sales load (underwriting discount or commission). Purchases of shares of our common stock on the secondary market are not subject to sales charges but may be subject to brokerage commissions or other charges. The table does not include any sales load that stockholders may have paid in connection with their purchase of shares of our common stock.

(2) The related prospectus supplement will disclose the estimated amount of offering expenses, the offering price and the offering expenses borne by us as a percentage of the offering price.

(3) The expenses of the dividend reinvestment plan are included in "Other expenses."

(4) The related prospectus supplement will disclose the offering price and the total stockholder transaction expenses as a percentage of the offering price.

(5) "Consolidated net assets attributable to common stock" equals our average net assets for the three months ended March 31, 2011.

(6) Our management fee is currently 1.5% of our total assets other than cash and cash equivalents (which includes assets purchased with borrowed amounts). For the purposes of this table, we have assumed that we maintain no cash or cash equivalents. The 2.22% reflected on the table is calculated on our average net assets (rather than our total assets). See "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement."

(7)

This item represents our investment adviser's incentive fees based on annualizing actual amounts earned on our pre-incentive fee net investment income for the three months ended March 31, 2011 and assumes that the incentive fees earned at the end of the 2011 calendar year will be

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based on the actual cumulative realized capital gains computed net of cumulative realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation as of March 31, 2011. For purposes of this table, we have assumed that this fee will remain constant although it is based on Ares Capital's performance and will not be paid unless Ares Capital achieves certain goals. We expect to invest or otherwise utilize all of the net proceeds from securities registered under the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part pursuant to a particular prospectus supplement within three months of the date of the offering pursuant to such prospectus supplement and may have capital gains and interest income that could result in the payment of an incentive fee to our investment adviser in the first year after completion of offerings pursuant to this prospectus. Since our initial public offering through March 31, 2011, the average quarterly incentive fee payable to our investment adviser has been approximately 0.60% of our weighted average net assets (2.39% on an annualized basis). For more detailed information about incentive fees previously incurred by us, please see Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2010 and the three months ended March 31, 2011.

The incentive fee consists of two parts:

The first, payable quarterly in arrears, equals 20% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income (including interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash), subject to a 2.00% quarterly (8.0% annualized) hurdle rate and a "catch-up" provision measured as of the end of each calendar quarter. Under this provision, in any calendar quarter, our investment adviser receives no incentive fee until our net investment income equals the hurdle rate of 2.00% but then receives, as a "catch-up," 100% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income with respect to that portion of such pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, that exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.50%. The effect of this provision is that, if pre-incentive fee net investment income exceeds 2.50% in any calendar quarter, our investment adviser will receive 20% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income as if a hurdle rate did not apply.

The second part, payable annually in arrears, equals 20% of our realized capital gains on a cumulative basis from inception through the end of the year, if any, computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation on a cumulative basis, less the aggregate amount of any previously paid capital gain incentive fees.

We will defer cash payment of any incentive fee otherwise earned by our investment adviser if, during the most recent four full calendar quarter period ending on or prior to the date such payment is to be made, the sum of (a) our aggregate distributions to our stockholders and (b) our change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any incentive fees payable during the period) is less than 8.0% of our net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) at the beginning of such period.

These calculations will be adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases.

"Incentive fees payable under investment advisory and management agreement" does not include an accrual (in accordance with GAAP) for a capital gains incentive fee of $15.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011 because no capital gains incentive fee was payable under the investment advisory and management agreement. GAAP requires that the capital gains incentive fee accrual consider the cumulative aggregate unrealized capital appreciation in the calculation, as a capital gains incentive fee would be payable if such unrealized capital appreciation were realized, even though such unrealized capital appreciation is not permitted to be considered in calculating the fee actually payable under the Investment Company Act or the investment advisory and management agreement. The GAAP accrual is calculated using the aggregate cumulative realized capital gains and losses and aggregate cumulative unrealized capital depreciation included in the calculation of the Capital Gains Fee (as defined below) plus the aggregate cumulative unrealized capital appreciation. If such amount is positive at the end of a period, then GAAP

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requires us to record a capital gains incentive fee equal to 20% of such amount, less the aggregate amount of actual Capital Gains Fees paid in all prior years. If such amount is negative, then there is no accrual for such year. There can be no assurance that such unrealized capital appreciation will be realized in the future or that the amount accrued for will ultimately be paid.

See "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement."

On March 16, 2011, our board of directors approved two amendments to our current investment advisory and management agreement and directed that such amendments be submitted to our stockholders for approval at our 2011 annual stockholders meeting, currently scheduled for June 6, 2011, that could have the effect of increasing or decreasing the incentive fee payable by us. See "Risk Factors We are asking our stockholders to approve certain amendments to our investment advisory and management agreement at our 2011 annual stockholders meeting expected to take place on June 6, 2011. If our stockholders approve one or both of the amendments, our investment adviser may be eligible to receive an increased incentive fee or an incentive fee earlier than it otherwise would have."

(8)

"Interest payments on borrowed funds" represents an estimate of our annualized interest expenses based on actual interest and credit facility expenses incurred for the three months ended March 31, 2011. During the three months ended March 31, 2011, our average borrowings were $1,543.4 million and cash paid for interest expense was $24.1 million. We had outstanding borrowings of $1,534.8 million (with a carrying value of $1,428.0 million) at March 31, 2011. This item is based on our assumption that our borrowings and interest costs after an offering will remain similar to those prior to such offering. The prospectus supplement related to the offering of any debt securities pursuant to this prospectus will calculate this item based on the effects of our borrowings and interest costs after the issuance of such debt securities. The amount of leverage that we employ at any particular time will depend on, among other things, our board of directors' and our investment adviser's assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business We borrow money, which magnifies the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and may increase the risk of investing with us."

(9)

Includes our overhead expenses, including payments under our administration agreement (as defined below), based on our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Ares Operations in performing its obligations under the administration agreement. Such expenses are estimates based on annualized "Other expenses" for the three months ended March 31, 2011. The holders of shares of our common stock (and not the holders of our debt securities or preferred stock, if any) indirectly bear the cost associated with our annual expenses. See "Management Administration Agreement."

(10)

The Company's stockholders indirectly bear the expenses of underlying investment companies in which the Company invests. This amount includes the fees and expenses of investment companies in which the Company is invested as of March 31, 2011. Certain of these investment companies are subject to management fees, which generally range from 1% to 2.5% of total net assets, or incentive fees, which generally range between 15% to 25% of net profits. When applicable, fees and expenses are based on historic fees and expenses for the investment companies. For those investment companies with little or no operating history, fees and expenses are based on expected fees and expenses stated in the investment companies' offering memorandum, private placement memorandum or other similar communication without giving effect to any performance. Future fees and expenses for these investment companies may be substantially higher or lower because certain fees and expenses are based on the performance of the investment companies, which may fluctuate over time. The amount of the Company's average net assets used in calculating this

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percentage was based on average monthly net assets of $3.1 billion for the three months ended March 31, 2011.

(11) "Total annual expenses" as a percentage of consolidated net assets attributable to common stock are higher than the total annual expenses percentage would be for a company that is not leveraged. We borrow money to leverage and increase our total assets. The SEC requires that the "Total annual expenses" percentage be calculated as a percentage of net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any incentive fees payable during the period), rather than the total assets, including assets that have been funded with borrowed monies.

Example

The following example demonstrates the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in our common stock. In calculating the following expense amounts, we have assumed that we would have no additional leverage, that none of our assets are cash or cash equivalents, and that our annual operating expenses would remain at the levels set forth in the table above. Transaction expenses are not included in the following example. In the event that shares to which this prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement will restate this example to reflect the applicable sales load.

	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
You would pay the following expenses on a $1,000 common stock investment, assuming a 5% annual return(1)	$ 72	$ 212	$ 346	$ 655

(1) The above illustration assumes that we will not realize any capital gains computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation. The expenses you would pay, based on a $1,000 investment and assuming a 5% annual return resulting entirely from net realized capital gains (and therefore subject to the capital gain incentive fee), and otherwise making the same assumptions in the example above, would be: 1 year, $82; 3 years, $241; 5 years, $390; and 10 years, $731. However, cash payment of the capital incentive fee would be deferred if, during the most recent four full calendar quarter period ending on or prior to the date the payment set forth in the example is to be made, the sum of (a) our aggregate distributions to our stockholders and (b) our change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any incentive fees payable during the period) was less than 8.0% of our net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) at the beginning of such period (as adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases).

The foregoing table is to assist you in understanding the various costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear directly or indirectly. While the example assumes, as required by the SEC, a 5% annual return, our performance will vary and may result in a return greater or less than 5%. The incentive fee under the investment advisory and management agreement, which, assuming a 5% annual return, would either not be payable or have an insignificant impact on the expense amounts shown above, is not included in the example. If we achieve sufficient returns on our investments, including through the realization of capital gains, to trigger an incentive fee of a material amount, our expenses, and returns to our investors, would be higher. In addition, while the example assumes reinvestment of all dividends and distributions at net asset value, if our board of directors authorizes and we declare a cash dividend, participants in our dividend reinvestment plan who have not otherwise elected to receive cash will receive a number of shares of our common stock, determined by dividing the total dollar amount of the dividend payable to a participant by the market price per share of our common stock at the close of trading on the valuation date for the dividend. See "Dividend Reinvestment Plan" for additional information regarding our dividend reinvestment plan.

This example and the expenses in the table above should not be considered a representation of our future expenses as actual expenses (including the cost of debt, if any, and other expenses) that we may incur in the future and such actual expenses may be greater or less than those shown.

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SELECTED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF ARES CAPITAL

The following selected financial and other data as of and for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006 are derived from our consolidated financial statements, which have been audited by KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm whose report thereon is included elsewhere in this prospectus. The selected financial and other data for the three months ended March 31, 2011 and other quarterly financial information are derived from our unaudited financial statements, but in the opinion of management, reflects all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) that are necessary to present fairly the results of such interim periods. Interim results as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2011 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2011. The data should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Senior Securities," which are included elsewhere in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement.

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA
As of and For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2011 and
As of and For the Years Ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006
(dollar amounts in millions, except per share data)

	As of and For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2011	As of and the Year Ended December 31, 2010	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2009	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2008	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2007	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2006
Total Investment Income	$ 135.7	$ 483.4	$ 245.3	$ 240.4	$ 188.9	$ 120.0
Total Expenses	85.8	262.2	111.3	113.2	94.8	58.4
Net Investment Income Before Income Taxes	49.9	221.2	134.0	127.2	94.1	61.6
Income Tax Expense (Benefit), Including Excise Tax	2.0	5.4	0.6	0.2	(0.8)	4.9
Net Investment Income	47.9	215.8	133.4	127.0	94.9	56.7
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments, Foreign Currencies, Extinguishment of Debt and Other Assets	75.9	280.1	69.3	(266.5)	(4.1)	13.0
Gain on the Allied Acquisition		195.9				
Net Increase (Decrease) in Stockholders' Equity Resulting from Operations	$ 123.8	$ 691.8	$ 202.7	$ (139.5)	$ 90.8	$ 69.7
Per Share Data:						
Net Increase (Decrease) in Stockholder's Equity Resulting from Operations:						
Basic(1)	$ 0.61	$ 3.91	$ 1.99	$ (1.56)	$ 1.34	$ 1.58
Diluted(1)	$ 0.61	$ 3.91	$ 1.99	$ (1.56)	$ 1.34	$ 1.58
Cash Dividend Declared	$ 0.35	$ 1.40	$ 1.47	$ 1.68	$ 1.66	$ 1.64
Net Asset Value	$ 15.45	$ 14.92	$ 11.44	$ 11.27	$ 15.47	$ 15.17
Total Assets	$ 4,707.0	$ 4,562.5	$ 2,313.5	$ 2,091.3	$ 1,829.4	$ 1,348.0
Total Debt (Carrying Value)	$ 1,428.0	$ 1,378.5	$ 969.5	$ 908.8	$ 681.5	$ 482.0
Total Debt (Principal Value)	$ 1,534.8	$ 1,435.1	$ 969.5	$ 908.8	$ 681.5	$ 482.0
Total Stockholders' Equity	$ 3,163.0	$ 3,050.5	$ 1,257.9	$ 1,094.9	$ 1,124.6	$ 789.4
Other Data:						
Number of Portfolio Companies at Period End(2)	154	170	95	91	78	60
Principal Amount of Investments Purchased	$ 468.3	$ 1,583.9	$ 575.0	$ 925.9	$ 1,251.3	$ 1,087.5
Principal Amount of Investments Acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition	$	$ 1,833.8	$	$	$	$
Principal Amount of Investments Sold and Repayments	$ 560.5	$ 1,555.1	$ 515.2	$ 485.3	$ 718.7	$ 430.0
Total Return Based on Market Value(3)	5.0%	43.6%	119.9%	(45.3)%	(14.8)%	29.1%
Total Return Based on Net Asset Value(4)	4.1%	31.6%	17.8%	(11.2)%	9.0%	10.7%
Weighted Average Yield of Debt and Income Producing Securities at Fair Value(5):	12.6%	12.9%	12.7%	12.8%	11.7%	12.0%
Weighted Average Yield of Debt and Income Producing Securities at Amortized Cost(5):	12.8%	13.2%	12.1%	11.7%	11.6%	11.6%

(1) In accordance with Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 260-10 (previously Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 128, Earnings Per Share), the weighted average shares of common stock outstanding used in computing basic and diluted earnings per common share have been adjusted retroactively by a factor of 1.02% to recognize the bonus element associated with rights to acquire shares of common stock that we issued to stockholders of record as of March 24, 2008 in connection with a rights offering.

(2) Includes commitments to portfolio companies for which funding had yet to occur.

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(3) Total return based on market value for the three months ended March 31, 2011 equals the increase of the ending market value at March 31, 2011 of $16.95 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2010 of $16.48 per share plus the declared dividends of $0.35 per share for the three months ended March 31, 2011. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2010 equals the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2010 of $16.48 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2009 of $12.45 per share plus the declared dividends of $1.40 per share for the year ended December 31, 2010. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2009 equals the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2009 of $12.45 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2008 of $6.33 per share plus the declared dividends of $1.47 per share for the year ended December 31, 2009. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2008 equals the decrease of the ending market value at December 31, 2008 of $6.33 per share from the ending market value at December 31, 2007 of $14.63 per share plus the declared dividends of $1.68 per share for the year ended December 31, 2008. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2007 equals the decrease of the ending market value at December 31, 2007 of $14.63 per share from the ending market value at December 31, 2006 of $19.11 per share plus the declared dividends of $1.66 per share for the year ended December 31, 2007. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2006 equals the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2006 of $19.11 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2005 of $16.07 per share plus the declared dividends of $1.64 per share for the year ended December 31, 2006. Total return based on market value is not annualized.

(4) Total return based on net asset value for the three months ended March 31, 2011 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of $0.35 per share for the three months ended March 31, 2011, divided by the beginning asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2010 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of $1.40 per share for the year ended December 31, 2010, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2009 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of $1.47 per share for the year ended December 31, 2009, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2008 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of $1.68 per share for the year ended December 31, 2008, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2007 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of $1.66 per share for the year ended December 31, 2007, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2006 equals the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of $1.64 per share for the year ended December 31, 2006, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value is not annualized.

(5) Weighted average yield on debt and income producing securities at fair value is computed as (a) the annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing debt included in such securities, divided by (b) total debt and income producing securities at fair value included in such securities. Weighted average yield on debt and income producing securities at amortized cost is computed as (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing debt included in such securities, divided by (b) total income producing securities and debt at amortized cost included in such securities.

SELECTED QUARTERLY DATA (Unaudited)
(dollar amounts in thousands, except per share data)

	2011
	Q1
Total investment income	$ 135,691
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses) and incentive compensation	$ 95,494
Incentive compensation	$ 47,671
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains	$ 47,823
Net realized and unrealized gains	$ 75,943
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	$ 123,766
Basic and diluted earnings per common share	$ 0.61
Net asset value per share as of the end of the quarter	$ 15.45

	2010			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income	$ 157,170	$ 138,126	$ 121,590	$ 66,510
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses) and incentive compensation	$ 99,323	$ 89,025	$ 64,514	$ 39,849
Incentive compensation	$ 35,973	$ 17,805	$ 14,973	$ 8,144
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	$ 63,350	$ 71,220	$ 49,541	$ 31,705
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	$ 93,538	$ 57,157	$ 280,613(1)	$ 44,710
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	$ 156,888	$ 128,377	$ 330,154	$ 76,415
Basic and diluted earnings per common share	$ 0.79	$ 0.67	$ 1.73	$ 0.61
Net asset value per share as of the end of the quarter	$ 14.92	$ 14.43	$ 14.11	$ 11.78

(1) Includes gain on the Allied Acquisition of $195,876.

	2009			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income	$ 69,264	$ 60,881	$ 59,111	$ 56,016
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses) and incentive compensation	$ 47,920	$ 41,133	$ 39,935	$ 37,750
Incentive compensation	$ 9,568	$ 8,227	$ 7,987	$ 7,550
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	$ 38,352	$ 32,906	$ 31,948	$ 30,200
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	$ 31,278	$ 30,370	$ 2,805	$ 4,834
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	$ 69,630	$ 63,276	$ 34,753	$ 35,034
Basic and diluted earnings per common share	$ 0.64	$ 0.62	$ 0.36	$ 0.36
Net asset value per share as of the end of the quarter	$ 11.44	$ 11.16	$ 11.21	$ 11.20

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	2008			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income	$ 62,723	$ 62,067	$ 63,464	$ 52,207
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses) and incentive compensation	$ 40,173	$ 41,025	$ 45,076	$ 32,466
Incentive compensation	$ 8,035	$ 8,205	$ 9,015	$ 6,493
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	$ 32,138	$ 32,820	$ 36,061	$ 25,973
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	$ (142,638)	$ (74,213)	$ (32,789)	$ (16,807)
Net (decrease) increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	$ (110,500)	$ (41,393)	$ 3,272	$ 9,166
Basic and diluted (loss) earnings per common share	$ (1.14)	$ (0.43)	$ 0.04	$ 0.12
Net asset value per share as of the end of the quarter	$ 11.27	$ 12.83	$ 13.67	$ 15.17

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UNAUDITED SELECTED PRO FORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The following table sets forth the unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statement of operations for Ares Capital and Allied Capital as a consolidated entity. The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated operating data for the year ended December 31, 2010 is presented as if the Allied Acquisition had been completed on January 1, 2010. In the opinion of management, all adjustments necessary to reflect the effect of this transaction have been made. The Allied Acquisition was accounted for under the acquisition method of accounting as provided by ASC 805-10 (previously SFAS No. 141(R)), *Business Combinations* ("ASC 805-10").

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statement of operations should be read together with the respective historical audited and unaudited consolidated financial statements of Allied Capital and Ares Capital, and the notes thereto, included elsewhere in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement. The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statement of operations is presented for comparative purposes only and does not necessarily indicate the future operating results of Ares Capital following the completion of the Allied Acquisition. The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statement of operations does not include adjustments to reflect any cost savings or other operational efficiencies that may be realized as a result of the Allied Acquisition or any future merger related restructuring or integration expenses.

The following should be read in connection with the section entitled "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations" and other information included in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement.

See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Allied Acquisition" for a description of the terms of the Allied Acquisition and "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business We may be unable to realize the benefits anticipated by the Allied Acquisition or it may take longer than anticipated to achieve such benefits" for a description of certain risks associated with the Allied Acquisition.

(dollar amounts in thousands, except per share data and as otherwise indicated)

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2010
Total Investment Income	$ 537,488
Total Expenses	291,912
Net Investment Income Before Income Taxes	245,576
Income Tax Expense	6,594
Net Investment Income	238,982
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains on Investments, Foreign Currencies, Acquisitions Extinguishment of Debt and Sale of Other Assets	246,879
Net Increase in Stockholders' Equity Resulting from Operations	$ 485,861

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UNAUDITED PRO FORMA PER SHARE DATA

The following selected unaudited combined pro forma per share information for the year ended December 31, 2010 reflects the Allied Acquisition and related transactions as if they had occurred on January 1, 2010.

Such unaudited pro forma combined per share information is based on the historical financial statements of Ares Capital and Allied Capital and on publicly available information and certain assumptions and adjustments as discussed in the section entitled "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations." This unaudited pro forma combined per share information is provided for illustrative purposes only and is not necessarily indicative of what the operating results of Ares Capital or Allied Capital would have been had the Allied Acquisition and related transactions been completed at the beginning of the period indicated, nor are they necessarily indicative of any future operating results.

The following should be read in connection with the section entitled "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations" and other information included in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement.

See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Allied Acquisition" for a description of the terms of the Allied Acquisition and "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business We may be unable to realize the benefits anticipated by the Allied Acquisition or it may take longer than anticipated to achieve such benefits" for a description of certain risks associated with the Allied Acquisition.

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2010			
	Ares Capital	**Allied Capital**	**Pro forma Combined Ares Capital**	**Per Equivalent Allied Capital Share(2)**
Net Increase (Decrease) in Stockholders' Equity Resulting from Operations:				
Basic	$ 3.91	$ (0.20)	$ 2.54	$ 0.83
Diluted	$ 3.91	$ (0.20)	$ 2.54	$ 0.83
Cash Dividends Declared(1)	$ 1.40	$ 0.20	$ 1.40	$ 0.46

(1) The cash dividends declared per share represent the actual dividends declared per share for the period presented. The pro forma combined dividends declared is the dividends per share as declared by Ares Capital.

(2) The Allied Capital equivalent pro forma per share amount is calculated by multiplying the pro forma combined share amounts by the common stock exchange ratio of 0.325.

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RISK FACTORS

Before you invest in our securities, you should be aware of various risks, including those described below. You should carefully consider these risk factors, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, including our consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto, before you decide whether to make an investment in our securities. The risks set out below are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and/or operating results. If any of the following events occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In such case, the net asset value of our common stock and the trading price of our securities could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

RISKS RELATING TO OUR BUSINESS

Capital markets have recently been in a period of disruption and instability. These market conditions materially and adversely affected debt and equity capital markets in the United States, which had, and may in the future have, a negative impact on our business and operations.

Beginning in 2007, the U.S. capital markets entered into a period of disruption as evidenced by a lack of liquidity in the debt capital markets, significant write-offs in the financial services sector, the re-pricing of credit risk in the broadly syndicated credit market and the failure of major financial institutions. Despite actions of the U.S. federal government, these events contributed to worsening general economic conditions that materially and adversely impacted the broader financial and credit markets and reduced the availability of debt and equity capital for the market as a whole and financial services firms in particular. While market conditions have improved, the strength of the U.S. economic recovery is uncertain and there can be no assurance that adverse market conditions will not repeat themselves or worsen in the future. If these adverse market conditions return, we and other companies in the financial services sector may have to access, if available, alternative markets for debt and equity capital in order to grow. Equity capital may be difficult to raise because, subject to some limited exceptions, as a BDC, we are generally not able to issue additional shares of our common stock at a price less than net asset value without first obtaining approval for such issuance from our stockholders and our independent directors. At our 2010 annual stockholders meeting, subject to certain determinations required to be made by our board of directors, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock, at a price below the then current net asset value per share during a period beginning on June 7, 2010 and expiring on the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of our 2010 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2011 annual stockholders meeting. On April 28, 2011, we filed the Definitive Proxy in connection with our 2011 annual stockholders meeting. The Definitive Proxy sets forth certain proposals to be voted upon at our 2011 annual stockholders meeting (currently expected to take place on June 6, 2011), including a proposal that, if approved by stockholders, would have the effect of extending this approval to the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of our 2011 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2012 annual stockholders meeting. In addition, our ability to incur indebtedness (including by issuing preferred stock) is limited by applicable regulations such that our asset coverage, as defined in the Investment Company Act, must equal at least 200% immediately after each time we incur indebtedness. The debt capital that will be available to us in the future, if at all, may be at a higher cost and on less favorable terms and conditions than what we currently experience. Any inability to raise capital could have a negative effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Moreover, the re-appearance of market conditions similar to those experienced from 2007 through 2009 could make it difficult to extend the maturity of or refinance our existing indebtedness and any failure to do so could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Given the recent extreme volatility and dislocation in the capital markets, many BDCs have faced, and may in the future face, a challenging environment in which to raise or access capital. At times during the recent significant changes in the capital markets, our ability to raise capital was affected and consequently the pace of our investment activity had slowed. In addition, significant changes in the capital markets, including the recent extreme volatility and disruption, has had, and may in the future have, a negative effect on the valuations of our investments and on the potential for liquidity events involving our investments. While most of our investments are not publicly traded, applicable accounting standards require us to assume as part of our valuation process that our investments are sold in a principal market to market participants (even if we plan on holding an investment through its maturity). As a result, volatility in the capital markets can adversely affect our investment valuations. Further, the illiquidity of our investments may make it difficult for us to sell such investments to access capital if required. As a result, we could realize significantly less than the value at which we have recorded our investments if we were required to sell them for liquidity purposes. An inability to raise or access capital could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

A failure on our part to maintain our status as a BDC would significantly reduce our operating flexibility.

If we fail to maintain our status as a BDC, we might be regulated as a closed-end investment company under the Investment Company Act, which would subject us to additional regulatory restrictions and significantly decrease our operating flexibility. In addition, any such failure could cause an event of default under our outstanding indebtedness, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

We are dependent upon certain key personnel of Ares for our future success and upon their access to other Ares investment professionals.

We depend on the diligence, skill and network of business contacts of certain key personnel of the Ares Global Private Debt Group. We also depend, to a significant extent, on access to the investment professionals of other groups within Ares and the information and deal flow generated by Ares' investment professionals in the course of their investment and portfolio management activities. Our future success depends on the continued service of the key personnel of the Ares Global Private Debt Group. The departure of any of these individuals, or of a significant number of the investment professionals or partners of Ares, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. In addition, we cannot assure you that Ares Capital Management will remain our investment adviser or that we will continue to have access to Ares' investment professionals or its information and deal flow.

Our financial condition and results of operations depend on our ability to manage future growth effectively.

Our ability to achieve our investment objective depends on our ability to acquire suitable investments and monitor and administer those investments, which depends, in turn, on our investment adviser's ability to identify, invest in and monitor companies that meet our investment criteria.

Accomplishing this result on a cost-effective basis is largely a function of the structuring of our investment process and the ability of our investment adviser to provide competent, attentive and efficient services to us. Our executive officers and the members of our investment adviser's investment committee have substantial responsibilities in connection with their roles at Ares and with the other Ares funds, as well as responsibilities under the investment advisory and management agreement. They may also be called upon to provide significant managerial assistance to certain of our portfolio companies. These demands on their time, which will increase as the number of investments grow, may

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distract them or slow the rate of investment. In order to grow, Ares will need to hire, train, supervise, manage and retain new employees. However, we cannot assure you that we will be able to do so effectively. Any failure to manage our future growth effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, as we grow, we may open up new offices in new geographic regions that may increase our direct operating expenses without corresponding revenue growth.

We may be unable to realize the benefits anticipated by the Allied Acquisition or it may take longer than anticipated to achieve such benefits.

On April 1, 2010, we consummated the Allied Acquisition. The realization of certain benefits anticipated as a result of the Allied Acquisition will depend in part on the continued integration of Allied Capital's investment portfolio and business with our investment portfolio and business. The dedication of management resources to the legacy Allied Capital portfolio may detract attention from our day-to-day business, including new origination activity, and there can be no assurance that there will not be material adverse consequences to our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Further, as a result of the Allied Acquisition, Allied Capital's equity investments, including equity investments larger than those we have traditionally made and controlled portfolio company equity investments, became part of our portfolio. We intend to actively seek opportunities over time to dispose of certain of the assets that were acquired in the Allied Acquisition, particularly non-yielding equity investments, as well as lower or non-yielding debt investments and investments that may not be core to our investment strategy, and generally rotate them into higher-yielding first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt investments. However, there can be no assurance that this strategy will be successful. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Portfolio and Investment Activity" for further information on the rotation and repositioning of investments acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition.

Our ability to grow depends on our ability to raise capital.

We will need to periodically access the capital markets to raise cash to fund new investments. We have elected to be treated as a RIC and operate in a manner so as to qualify for the U.S. federal income tax treatment applicable to RICs. Among other things, in order to maintain our RIC status, we must distribute to our stockholders on a timely basis generally an amount equal to at least 90% of our investment company taxable income (as defined by the Code), and, as a result, such distributions will not be available to fund investment originations. We must continue to borrow from financial institutions and issue additional securities to fund our growth. Unfavorable economic or capital market conditions may increase our funding costs, limit our access to the capital markets or could result in a decision by lenders not to extend credit to us. An inability to successfully access the capital markets could limit our ability to grow our business and fully execute our business strategy and could decrease our earnings, if any.

In addition, with certain limited exceptions, we are only allowed to borrow amounts or issue debt securities or preferred stock, which we refer to collectively as "senior securities," such that our asset coverage, as defined in the Investment Company Act, equals at least 200% immediately after such borrowing, which, in certain circumstances, may restrict our ability to borrow or issue debt securities or preferred stock. The amount of leverage that we employ will depend on our investment adviser's and our board of directors' assessments of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing or issuance of senior securities. We cannot assure you that we will be able to maintain our current Facilities, obtain other lines of credit or issue senior securities at all or on terms acceptable to us.

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Regulations governing our operation as a BDC affect our ability to, and the way in which we, raise additional capital.

We may issue senior securities or borrow money from banks or other financial institutions, up to the maximum amount permitted by the Investment Company Act. Under the provisions of the Investment Company Act, we are permitted, as a BDC, to incur indebtedness or issue senior securities only in amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the Investment Company Act, equals at least 200% after each such incurrence or issuance. If the value of our assets declines, we may be unable to satisfy this test, which may prohibit us from paying dividends and could prevent us from maintaining our status as a RIC or may prohibit us from repurchasing shares of our common stock. In addition, our inability to satisfy this test could cause an event of default under our existing indebtedness. If we cannot satisfy this test, we may be required to sell a portion of our investments at a time when such sales may be disadvantageous and, depending on the nature of our leverage, repay a portion of our indebtedness. Accordingly, any failure to satisfy this test could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. As of March 31, 2011, our asset coverage for senior securities was 321%.

We are not generally able to issue and sell our common stock at a price below net asset value per share. We may, however, sell our common stock, or warrants, options or rights to acquire our common stock, at a price below the current net asset value per share of our common stock if our board of directors determines that such sale is in our best interests and the best interests of our stockholders, and our stockholders approve such sale. Any such sale would be dilutive to the net asset value per share of our common stock. In any such case, the price at which our securities are to be issued and sold may not be less than a price which, in the determination of our board of directors, closely approximates the market value of such securities (less any commission or discount). If our common stock trades at a discount to net asset value, this restriction could adversely affect our ability to raise capital.

At our 2010 annual stockholders meeting, subject to certain determinations required to be made by our board of directors, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock, at a price below the then current net asset value per share during a period beginning on June 7, 2010 and expiring on the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of our 2010 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2011 annual stockholders meeting. On April 28, 2011, we filed the Definitive Proxy in connection with our 2011 annual stockholders meeting. The Definitive Proxy sets forth certain proposals to be voted upon at our 2011 annual stockholders meeting (currently expected to take place on June 6, 2011), including a proposal that, if approved by stockholders, would have the effect of extending this approval to the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of our 2011 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2012 annual stockholders meeting.

To generate cash for funding new investments, we have also securitized, and may in the future seek to securitize, our loans. To securitize loans, we may create a separate, wholly owned subsidiary and contribute or sell a pool of loans to such subsidiary (or one of its subsidiaries). Such subsidiary may then sell equity, issue debt or sell interests in the pool of loans, on a limited-recourse basis, the payments on which are generally limited to the pool of loans and the proceeds therefrom. We may also retain a portion of the equity interests in the securitized pool of loans. Any retained equity would be exposed to losses on the related pool of loans before any of the related debt securities. An inability to successfully securitize our loan portfolio could limit our ability to grow our business and fully execute our business strategy. The securitization market is subject to changing market conditions (including the recent, unprecedented dislocation of the securitization and finance markets generally) and we may not be able to access this market when we would otherwise deem appropriate. Moreover, the successful securitization of our loan portfolio might expose us to losses as the residual loans in which we do not sell interests may be those that are riskier and more apt to generate losses. The Investment Company Act may also impose restrictions on the structure of any securitization.

We borrow money, which magnifies the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and may increase the risk of investing with us.

Borrowings, also known as leverage, magnify the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and, therefore, increase the risks associated with investing in our securities. We currently borrow under our Facilities and have issued or assumed other senior securities, and in the future may borrow from, or issue additional senior securities to, banks, insurance companies, funds, institutional investors and other lenders and investors. Lenders and holders of such senior securities have fixed dollar claims on our consolidated assets that are superior to the claims of our common stockholders or any preferred stockholders. If the value of our consolidated assets increases, then leveraging would cause the net asset value per share of our common stock to increase more sharply than it would have had we not incurred leverage.

Conversely, if the value of our consolidated assets decreases, leveraging would cause net asset value to decline more sharply than it otherwise would have had we not incurred leverage. Similarly, any increase in our consolidated income in excess of consolidated interest payable on the borrowed funds would cause our net income to increase more than it would had we not incurred leverage, while any decrease in our consolidated income would cause net income to decline more sharply than it would have had we not incurred leverage. Such a decline could negatively affect our ability to make common stock dividend payments. There can be no assurance that a leveraging strategy will be successful.

As of March 31, 2011, we had no amounts outstanding under our Facilities, $138.6 million in aggregate principal amount outstanding of our CLO Notes (excluding the Retained Notes (as defined below)), $591.2 million in aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Unsecured Notes and $805.0 million in aggregate principal amount outstanding of our Convertible Notes. In order for us to cover our annual interest payments on indebtedness, we must achieve annual returns on our March 31, 2011 total assets of at least 1.8%. The weighted average stated interest rate charged on our borrowings as of March 31, 2011 was 5.7%. We intend to continue borrowing under the Facilities in the future and we may increase the size of the Facilities or issue additional debt securities or other evidences of indebtedness (although there can be no assurance that we will be successful in doing so). Our ability to service our debt depends largely on our financial performance and is subject to prevailing economic conditions and competitive pressures. The amount of leverage that we employ at any particular time will depend on our investment adviser's and our board of directors' assessments of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.

Our Facilities, the CLO Notes, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes impose financial and operating covenants that restrict our business activities, including limitations that could hinder our ability to finance additional loans and investments or to make the distributions required to maintain our status as a RIC. A failure to renew our Facilities or to add new or replacement debt facilities or issue additional debt securities or other evidences of indebtedness could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

The following table illustrates the effect on return to a holder of our common stock of the leverage created by our use of borrowing at the weighted average stated interest rate of 5.7% as of March 31, 2011, together with (a) our total value of net assets as of March 31, 2011;

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(b) $1,534.8 million of principal indebtedness outstanding as of March 31, 2011 and (c) hypothetical annual returns on our portfolio of minus 15% to plus 15%.

Assumed Return on Portfolio (Net of Expenses)(1)	-15%	-10%	-5%	0%	5%	10%	15%
Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders(2)	-25.07%	-17.62%	-10.18%	-2.74%	4.70%	12.14%	19.58%

(1) The assumed portfolio return is required by regulation of the SEC and is not a prediction of, and does not represent, our projected or actual performance. Actual returns may be greater or less than those appearing in the table. Pursuant to SEC regulation, this table is calculated as of March 31, 2011. As a result, it has not been updated to take into account our redemption of the 2012 Notes or any changes in assets since March 31, 2011.

(2) In order to compute the "Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders," the "Assumed Return on Portfolio" is multiplied by the total value of our assets at March 31, 2011 to obtain an assumed return to us. From this amount, the interest expense (calculated by multiplying the weighted average stated interest rate of 5.7% by the $1,534.8 million of principal debt) is subtracted to determine the return available to stockholders. The return available to stockholders is then divided by the total value of our net assets as of March 31, 2011 to determine the "Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders."

In addition to regulatory requirements that restrict our ability to raise capital, the Facilities, the CLO Notes, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes contain various covenants that, if not complied with, could accelerate repayment under the Facilities, the CLO Notes, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes, thereby materially and adversely affecting our liquidity, financial condition and results of operations.

The agreements governing the Facilities, the CLO Notes, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes require us to comply with certain financial and operational covenants. These covenants include:

- restrictions on the level of indebtedness that we are permitted to incur in relation to the value of our assets;
- restrictions on our ability to incur liens; and
- maintenance of a minimum level of stockholders' equity.

As of the date of this prospectus, we are in compliance in all material respects with the covenants of the Facilities, the CLO Notes, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes. However, our continued compliance with these covenants depends on many factors, some of which are beyond our control. For example, depending on the condition of the public debt and equity markets and pricing levels, net unrealized depreciation in our portfolio may increase in the future. Any such increase could result in our inability to comply with our obligation to restrict the level of indebtedness that we are able to incur in relation to the value of our assets or to maintain a minimum level of stockholders' equity.

Accordingly, although we believe we will continue to be in compliance, there are no assurances that we will continue to comply with the covenants in the Facilities, the Debt Securitization, the Unsecured Notes and the Convertible Notes. Failure to comply with these covenants could result in a default under the Facilities, the Debt Securitization, the Unsecured Notes or the Convertible Notes that, if we were unable to obtain a waiver from the lenders or holders of such indebtedness, as applicable, could accelerate repayment under such indebtedness and thereby have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our credit ratings may change and as a result the cost and flexibility under our debt instruments may change.

As of March 31, 2011, we had a long-term counterparty credit rating from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services of "BBB," a long-term issuer default rating from Fitch Ratings of "BBB" and a long-term issuer rating from Moody's Investors Service of "Ba1." Interest expense on our Revolving Credit Facility and the Revolving Funding Facility is based on a pricing grid that fluctuates depending on our credit ratings. There can be no assurance that our ratings will be maintained. If our ratings are downgraded, our cost of borrowing will increase.

In addition, if the ratings of our CLO Notes are downgraded, our ability to engage in certain transactions in respect of the investments held in the Debt Securitization, among other things, may under certain circumstances be restricted and certain principal proceeds may under certain circumstances be required to be used to further reduce the outstanding principal balance of the CLO Notes. There can be no assurance that the CLO Notes ratings will be maintained.

In addition, ratings agencies are required to make substantial changes to their ratings policies and practices as a result of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"), which President Obama signed into law on July 21, 2010. There can be no assurance that such changes will not affect our ratings.

We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities.

A number of entities compete with us to make the types of investments that we make in middle-market companies. We compete with other BDCs, public and private funds, commercial and investment banks, commercial financing companies, insurance companies, high yield investors, hedge funds, and, to the extent they provide an alternative form of financing, private equity funds. Many of our competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do. Some competitors may have a lower cost of funds and access to funding sources that are not available to us. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of investments and establish more relationships than us. Furthermore, many of our competitors are not subject to the regulatory restrictions that the Investment Company Act imposes on us as a BDC and that the Code imposes on us as a RIC. We cannot assure you that the competitive pressures we face will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Also, as a result of this competition, we may not be able to pursue attractive investment opportunities from time to time.

We do not seek to compete primarily based on the interest rates we offer and we believe that some of our competitors may make loans with interest rates that are comparable to or lower than the rates we offer. Rather, we compete with our competitors based on our existing investment platform, seasoned investment professionals, experience and focus on middle-market companies, disciplined investment philosophy, extensive industry focus and flexible transaction structuring. For a more detailed discussion of these competitive advantages, see "Business Competitive Advantages."

We may lose investment opportunities if we do not match our competitors' pricing, terms and structure. For instance, during the first quarter of 2011, we saw pressure on deal structure and pricing, including increased leverage and lower pricing, and expect to continue to see this at least through the second and third quarters of 2011. If we match our competitors' pricing, terms and structure, we may experience decreased net interest income and increased risk of credit loss. As a result of operating in such a competitive environment, we may make investments that are on less favorable terms than what we may have originally anticipated, which may impact our return on these investments.

We may be subject to certain corporate-level taxes regardless of whether we continue to qualify as a RIC.

We have elected to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code and operate in a manner so as to qualify for the U.S. federal income tax treatment applicable to RICs. As a RIC, we generally will not pay corporate-level U.S. federal income taxes on our income and gain that we distribute to our stockholders as dividends on a timely basis. To qualify as a RIC, we must meet certain income source, asset diversification and annual distribution requirements (and will pay corporate-level U.S. federal income tax on any undistributed income). We may also be subject to certain U.S. federal excise taxes, as well as state, local and foreign taxes.

We will satisfy the Annual Distribution Requirement (as defined below) for a RIC if we distribute to our stockholders on a timely basis generally an amount equal to at least 90% of our investment company taxable income (as defined by the Code) for each year. Because we use debt financing, we are subject to certain asset coverage ratio requirements under the Investment Company Act and financial covenants under our indebtedness that could, under certain circumstances, restrict us from making distributions necessary to qualify as a RIC. If we are unable to obtain cash from other sources, we may fail to qualify as a RIC and, thus, may be subject to corporate-level income tax. Because we must make distributions to our stockholders as described above, such amounts, to the extent a stockholder is not participating in our dividend reinvestment plan, will not be available to fund investment originations. We will be subject to corporate-level U.S. federal income tax on any undistributed income and/or gain.

To qualify as a RIC, we must also meet certain annual income source requirements at the end of each taxable year and asset diversification requirements at the end of each calendar quarter. Failure to meet these tests may result in our having to (a) dispose of certain investments quickly or (b) raise additional capital to prevent the loss of RIC status. Because most of our investments are in private companies and are generally illiquid, any such dispositions may be at disadvantageous prices and may result in losses. Also, the rules applicable to our qualification as a RIC are complex with many areas of uncertainty. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that we have qualified or will continue to qualify as a RIC. If we fail to qualify as a RIC for any reason and become subject to regular "C" corporation income tax, the resulting corporate taxes could substantially reduce our net assets, the amount of income available for distribution and the amount of our distributions. Such a failure would have a material adverse effect on us and our stockholders. The recently enacted "Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010," which is effective for 2011 and later tax years, provides some relief from RIC disqualification due to failures of the income source and asset diversification requirements, although there may be additional taxes due in such cases. We cannot assure you that we would qualify for any such relief should we fail the income source or asset diversification requirements.

We may have difficulty paying our required distributions under applicable tax rules if we recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income.

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, we include in income certain amounts that we have not yet received in cash, such as original issue discount, which may arise if we receive warrants in connection with the making of a loan or possibly in other circumstances, or payment-in-kind ("PIK") interest, which represents contractual interest added to the loan balance and due at the end of the loan term. Such original issue discount or increases in loan balances are included in income before we receive any corresponding cash payments. We also may be required to include in income certain other amounts that we will not receive in cash, including, for example, amounts attributable to hedging and foreign currency transactions or cancellation of indebtedness income resulting from a restructuring of an investment in debt securities.

Since, in certain cases, we may recognize income before or without receiving cash in respect of such income, we may have difficulty meeting the U.S. federal income tax requirement to distribute generally an amount equal to at least 90% of our investment company taxable income (as defined by the Code) to maintain our status as a RIC. Accordingly, we may have to sell some of our investments at times we would not consider advantageous, raise additional debt or equity capital or reduce new investment originations to meet these distribution requirements. If we are not able to obtain cash from other sources, we may fail to qualify as a RIC and thus be subject to additional corporate-level taxes. Such a failure would have a material adverse effect on us and on our stockholders. See "Certain Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation as a RIC."

We may in the future determine to fund a portion of our investments with preferred stock, which would magnify the potential for gain or loss and the risks of investing in us in the same way as our borrowings.

Because preferred stock is another form of leverage and the dividends on any preferred stock we issue must be cumulative, preferred stock has the same risks to our common stockholders as borrowings. Payment of such dividends and repayment of the liquidation preference of such preferred stock must take preference over any dividends or other payments to our common stockholders, and preferred stockholders are not subject to any of our expenses or losses and are not entitled to participate in any income or appreciation in excess of their stated preference.

We are exposed to risks associated with changes in interest rates.

General interest rate fluctuations may have a substantial negative impact on our investments and investment opportunities and, accordingly, may have a material adverse effect on our investment objective and rate of return on invested capital. Because we borrow money and may issue debt securities or preferred stock to make investments, our net investment income is dependent upon the difference between the rate at which we borrow funds or pay interest or dividends on such debt securities or preferred stock and the rate at which we invest these funds. As a result, there can be no assurance that a significant change in market interest rates will not have a material adverse effect on our net investment income.

Trading prices for debt that pays a fixed rate of return tend to fall as interest rates rise. Trading prices tend to fluctuate more for fixed-rate securities that have longer maturities. In the past, we have entered into certain hedging transactions, such as interest rate swap agreements, to mitigate our exposure to adverse fluctuations in interest rates, and we may do so again in the future. In addition, we may increase our floating rate investments to position the portfolio for rate increases. However, we cannot assure you that such transactions will be successful in mitigating our exposure to interest rate risk. Hedging transactions may also limit our ability to participate in the benefits of lower interest rates with respect to our portfolio investments.

Although we have no policy governing the maturities of our investments, under current market conditions we expect that we will invest in a portfolio of debt generally having maturities of up to 10 years. This means that we are subject to greater risk (other things being equal) than a fund invested solely in shorter-term securities. A decline in the prices of the debt we own could adversely affect the trading price of our shares. Also, an increase in interest rates available to investors could make an investment in our common stock less attractive if we are not able to increase our dividend rate, which could reduce the value of our common stock.

Many of our portfolio investments are not publicly traded and, as a result, the fair value of these investments may not be readily determinable.

A large percentage of our portfolio investments are not publicly traded. The fair value of investments that are not publicly traded may not be readily determinable. We value these investments quarterly at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors based on the input of our management and audit committee and independent valuation firms that have been engaged at the direction of our board of directors to assist in the valuation of each portfolio investment without a readily available market quotation at least once during a trailing 12-month period. The valuation process is conducted at the end of each fiscal quarter, with approximately 50% (based on value) of our valuations of portfolio companies without readily available market quotations subject to review by an independent valuation firm each quarter. However, we may use additional independent valuation firms to review the value of our investments more frequently, including in connection with the occurrence of significant events or changes in value affecting a particular investment. The types of factors that may be considered in valuing our investments include the enterprise value of the portfolio company (an estimate of the total fair value of the portfolio company's debt and equity), the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, comparison to publicly traded companies, discounted cash flow and other relevant factors. Because such valuations, and particularly valuations of private investments and private companies, are inherently uncertain, may fluctuate over short periods of time and may be based on estimates, our determinations of fair value may differ materially from the values that would have been used if a ready market for these investments existed and may differ materially from the values that we may ultimately realize. Our net asset value per share could be adversely affected if our determinations regarding the fair value of these investments are materially higher than the values that we realize upon disposition of such investments.

The lack of liquidity in our investments may adversely affect our business.

As we generally make investments in private companies, substantially all of these investments are subject to legal and other restrictions on resale or are otherwise less liquid than publicly traded securities. The illiquidity of our investments may make it difficult for us to sell such investments if the need arises. In addition, if we are required to liquidate all or a portion of our portfolio quickly, we could realize significantly less than the value at which we have recorded our investments. In addition, we may face other restrictions on our ability to liquidate an investment in a portfolio company to the extent that we or an affiliated manager of Ares has material non-public information regarding such portfolio company.

We may experience fluctuations in our quarterly results.

We could experience fluctuations in our quarterly operating results due to a number of factors, including the interest rates payable on the debt investments we make, the default rates on such investments, the level of our expenses, variations in and the timing of the recognition of realized and unrealized gains or losses, the degree to which we encounter competition in our markets and general economic conditions. As a result of these factors, results for any period should not be relied upon as being indicative of performance in future periods.

There are significant potential conflicts of interest that could impact our investment returns.

Certain of our executive officers and directors, and members of the investment committee of our investment adviser, serve or may serve as officers, directors or principals of other entities and affiliates of our investment adviser and investment funds managed by our affiliates. Accordingly, they may have obligations to investors in those entities, the fulfillment of which might not be in our or our stockholders' best interests or that may require them to devote time to services for other entities, which

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could interfere with the time available to provide services to us. Certain members of our investment adviser's investment committee have significant responsibilities for other Ares funds. For example, Messrs. Ressler and Rosenthal are required to devote a substantial majority of their business time to the affairs of ACOF. Similarly, although the professional staff of our investment adviser will devote as much time to the management of the Company as appropriate to enable our investment adviser to perform its duties in accordance with the investment advisory and management agreement, the investment professionals of our investment adviser may have conflicts in allocating their time and services among the Company, on the one hand, and investment vehicles managed by Ares or one or more of its affiliates, on the other hand. These activities could be viewed as creating a conflict of interest insofar as the time and effort of the professional staff of our investment adviser and its officers and employees will not be devoted exclusively to the business of the Company but will instead be allocated between the business of the Company and the management of these other investment vehicles. However, Ares believes that the efforts of such individuals are synergistic with and beneficial to the affairs of Ares Capital, ACOF and these other investment vehicles managed by Ares or its affiliates.

In addition, certain Ares funds may have investment objectives that compete or overlap with, and may from time to time invest in asset classes similar to those targeted by, Ares Capital. Consequently, we, on the one hand, and these other entities, may from time to time pursue the same or similar capital and investment opportunities. Our investment adviser endeavors to allocate investment opportunities in a fair and equitable manner, and in any event consistent with any fiduciary duties owed to Ares Capital. Nevertheless, it is possible that we may not be given the opportunity to participate in certain investments made by investment funds managed by investment managers affiliated with Ares. In addition, there may be conflicts in the allocation of investment opportunities among us and the funds managed by us or one or more of our controlled affiliates, or among the funds they manage. We may or may not participate in investments made by funds managed by us or one or more of our controlled affiliates.

We have from time to time sold assets to certain funds managed by IHAM and, as part of our investment strategy, we may offer to sell additional assets to funds managed by us and/or one or more of our controlled affiliates (including IHAM) or we may purchase assets from funds managed by us and/or one or more of our controlled affiliates. In addition, funds managed by us or one or more of our controlled affiliates (including IHAM) may offer assets to or may purchase assets from one another. While assets may be sold or purchased at prices that are consistent with those that could be obtained from third parties in the marketplace, and although these types of transactions generally require approval of one or more independent parties, there may be an inherent conflict of interest in such transactions between us and funds managed by us or one of our controlled affiliates.

We pay management and incentive fees to our investment adviser, and reimburse our investment adviser for certain expenses it incurs. In addition, investors in our common stock will invest on a gross basis and receive distributions on a net basis after expenses, resulting in, among other things, a lower rate of return than one might achieve if distributions were made on a gross basis.

Our investment adviser's management fee is based on a percentage of our total assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed funds) and, consequently, our investment adviser may have conflicts of interest in connection with decisions that could affect our total assets, such as decisions as to whether to incur indebtedness or to make future investments.

The part of the incentive fee payable by us that relates to our pre-incentive fee net investment income is computed and paid on income that may include interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash. If a portfolio company defaults on a loan that is structured to provide accrued interest, it is possible that accrued interest previously used in the calculation of the incentive fee will become uncollectible.

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Our investment advisory and management agreement renews for successive annual periods if approved by our board of directors or by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of our outstanding voting securities, including, in either case, approval by a majority of our independent directors (as defined below). However, both we and our investment adviser have the right to terminate the agreement without penalty upon 60 days' written notice to the other party. Moreover, conflicts of interest may arise if our investment adviser seeks to change the terms of our investment advisory and management agreement, including, for example, the terms for compensation. See " We are asking our stockholders to approve certain amendments to our investment advisory and management agreement at our 2011 annual stockholders meeting expected to take place on June 6, 2011. If our stockholders approve one or both of the amendments, our investment adviser may be eligible to receive an increased incentive fee or an incentive fee earlier than it otherwise would have." and "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement." While any material change to the investment advisory and management agreement must be submitted to stockholders for approval under the Investment Company Act, we may from time to time decide it is appropriate to seek stockholder approval to change the terms of the agreement.

We are party to an administration agreement (as defined below), with our administrator, Ares Operations, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares, pursuant to which our administrator furnishes us with administrative services and we pay our administrator at cost our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses (including travel expenses) incurred by our administrator in performing its obligations under our administration agreement, including our allocable portion of the cost of certain of our officers (including our chief compliance officer, chief financial officer, general counsel, secretary and treasurer) and their respective staffs, but not investment professionals.

Our portfolio company, IHAM, is party to an administration agreement, referred to herein as the "IHAM administration agreement," with Ares Operations. Pursuant to the IHAM administration agreement, our administrator provides IHAM with administrative services and IHAM reimburses our administrator for all of the actual costs associated with such services, including its allocable portion of our administrator's overhead and the cost of our administrator's officers and respective staff in performing its obligations under the IHAM administration agreement. Prior to entering into the IHAM administration agreement, IHAM was party to a services agreement with our investment adviser, pursuant to which our investment adviser provided similar services.

We recently entered into a new office lease that will expire in February 2026 pursuant to which we are leasing office facilities from a third party and start to pay rent in May 2011. We also entered into separate subleases with Ares Management and IHAM, pursuant to which Ares Management and IHAM will sublease approximately 15% and 20%, respectively, of the new office space, for a fixed rent equal to 15% and 20%, respectively, of the basic annual rent payable by us under the new office lease, plus certain additional costs and expenses.

As a result of the arrangements described above, there may be times when the management team of Ares (including those members of management focused primarily on managing Ares Capital) has interests that differ from those of our stockholders, giving rise to a conflict.

Our stockholders may have conflicting investment, tax and other objectives with respect to their investments in us. The conflicting interests of individual stockholders may relate to or arise from, among other things, the nature of our investments, the structure or the acquisition of our investments, and the timing of dispositions of our investments. As a consequence, conflicts of interest may arise in connection with decisions made by our investment adviser, including with respect to the nature or structuring of our investments, that may be more beneficial for one stockholder than for another stockholder, especially with respect to stockholders' individual tax situations. In selecting and structuring investments appropriate for us, our investment adviser will consider the investment and tax

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objectives of the Company and our stockholders, as a whole, not the investment, tax or other objectives of any stockholder individually.

Changes in laws or regulations governing our operations or the operations of our portfolio companies, changes in the interpretation thereof or newly enacted laws or regulations, such as the Dodd-Frank Act, and any failure by us or our portfolio companies to comply with these laws or regulations, could require changes to certain business practices of us or our portfolio companies, negatively impact the operations, cash flows or financial condition of us or our portfolio companies, impose additional costs on us or our portfolio companies or otherwise adversely affect our business or the business of our portfolio companies.

We and our portfolio companies are subject to regulation by laws and regulations at the local, state, federal and, in some cases, foreign levels. These laws and regulations, as well as their interpretation, may be changed from time to time, and new laws and regulations may be enacted. Accordingly, any change in these laws or regulations, changes in their interpretation, or newly enacted laws or regulations and any failure by us or our portfolio companies to comply with these laws or regulations, could require changes to certain business practices of us or our portfolio companies, negatively impact the operations, cash flows or financial condition of us or our portfolio companies, impose additional costs on us or our portfolio companies or otherwise adversely affect our business or the business of our portfolio companies.

On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Dodd-Frank Act. Many of the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act have extended implementation periods and delayed effective dates and will require extensive rulemaking by regulatory authorities. In particular, Title IV of the Dodd-Frank Act, the Private Fund Investment Advisers Registration Act of 2010 (the "Advisers Registration Act"), becomes effective one year after the date of enactment and eliminates the "private adviser exemption" from SEC registration currently contained in Section 203(b)(3) of the Advisers Act. This provision exempted from registration investment advisers who do not hold themselves out to the public as investment advisers and have fewer than 15 clients. As a result, many investment advisers to private funds (with some exceptions) will be required to register with the SEC and will become subject to substantial regulatory reporting and recordkeeping requirements regarding the private funds they advise. Consequently, the Advisers Registration Act will likely require our wholly owned portfolio company, IHAM, to register as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act. This would require IHAM to comply with the regulatory restrictions and obligations imposed on registered investment advisers generally. In addition, as a BDC, we are currently restricted in our ability to invest in a registered investment adviser.

We are seeking relief from the SEC to enable us to continue to invest in IHAM following any registration by IHAM as a registered investment adviser; however, there can be no assurance that such relief will be granted. If we are not able to obtain such relief, we may not be able to make future investments in IHAM, which could harm IHAM's business and the performance of our investment in IHAM.

While the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act on us and our portfolio companies may not be known for an extended period of time, the Dodd-Frank Act, including future rules implementing its provisions and the interpretation of those rules, along with other legislative and regulatory proposals directed at the financial services industry or affecting taxation that are proposed or pending in the U.S. Congress, may negatively impact the operations, cash flows or financial condition of us or our portfolio companies, impose additional costs on us or our portfolio companies, intensify the regulatory supervision of us or our portfolio companies or otherwise adversely affect our business or the business of our portfolio companies.

Our investment adviser's liability is limited under the investment advisory and management agreement, and we are required to indemnify our investment adviser against certain liabilities, which may lead our investment adviser to act in a riskier manner on our behalf than it would when acting for its own account.

Our investment adviser has not assumed any responsibility to us other than to render the services described in the investment advisory and management agreement, and it will not be responsible for any action of our board of directors in declining to follow our investment adviser's advice or recommendations. Pursuant to the investment advisory and management agreement, our investment adviser and its members and their respective officers, managers, partners, agents, employees, controlling persons and members and any other person or entity affiliated with it will not be liable to us for their acts under the investment advisory and management agreement, absent willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard in the performance of their duties. We have agreed to indemnify, defend and protect our investment adviser and its members and their respective officers, managers, partners, agents, employees, controlling persons and members and any other person or entity affiliated with it with respect to all damages, liabilities, costs and expenses resulting from acts of our investment adviser not arising out of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard in the performance of their duties under the investment advisory and management agreement. These protections may lead our investment adviser to act in a riskier manner when acting on our behalf than it would when acting for its own account. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Investments Our investment adviser's incentive fee may induce it to make certain investments, including speculative investments."

We may be obligated to pay our investment adviser incentive compensation even if we incur a loss.

Our investment adviser is entitled to incentive compensation for each fiscal quarter in an amount equal to a percentage of the excess of our pre-incentive fee net investment income for that quarter (before deducting incentive compensation and certain other items) above a threshold return for that quarter. Our pre-incentive fee net investment income for incentive compensation purposes excludes realized and unrealized capital losses or depreciation that we may incur in the fiscal quarter, even if such capital losses or depreciation result in a net loss on our statement of operations for that quarter. Thus, we may be required to pay our investment adviser incentive compensation for a fiscal quarter even if there is a decline in the value of our portfolio or we incur a net loss for that quarter.

Under the investment advisory and management agreement, we will defer cash payment of any incentive fee otherwise earned by our investment adviser if, during the most recent four full calendar quarter periods ending on or prior to the date such payment is to be made, the sum of (a) our aggregate distributions to our stockholders and (b) our change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any incentive fees payable during the period) is less than 8.0% of our net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) at the beginning of such period. These calculations will be adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases. Any deferred incentive fees will be carried over for payment in subsequent calculation periods to the extent such payment can then be made under the investment advisory and management agreement.

If a portfolio company defaults on a loan that is structured to provide accrued interest, it is possible that accrued interest previously used in the calculation of the incentive fee will become uncollectible. Our investment adviser is not under any obligation to reimburse us for any part of the incentive fee it received that was based on accrued income that we never receive as a result of a default on the obligation that resulted in the accrual of such income.

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We are asking our stockholders to approve certain amendments to our investment advisory and management agreement at our 2011 annual stockholders meeting expected to take place on June 6, 2011. If our stockholders approve one or both of the amendments, our investment adviser may be eligible to receive an increased incentive fee or an incentive fee earlier than it otherwise would have.

On March 16, 2011, our board of directors, including a majority of the independent directors, approved two amendments to our current investment advisory and management agreement and directed that such amendments be submitted to our stockholders for approval at our 2011 annual stockholders meeting, currently scheduled for June 6, 2011. The amendments are not contingent on each other and either one or both could be approved.

If approved, the first amendment (the "Hurdle Amendment"), would (i) lower the quarterly income hurdle rate used in calculating the income portion of our incentive fee from 2.0% (or 8.0% annually) to 1.75% (or 7.0% annually) and adjust the related quarterly catch-up hurdle rate from 2.5% to 2.1875% (or from 10.0% to 8.75% annually) and (ii) lower the general hurdle for deferral of payment of incentive fees generally from 8.0% over the prior four full calendar quarters to 7.0% over the prior four full calendar quarters. Because we exceeded a 2.50% (or annualized 10.0%) hurdle rate for each quarter in the year ended December 31, 2010, assuming the Hurdle Amendment was in effect for the year ended December 31, 2010, no additional incentive fees would have been payable by us to our investment adviser. However, if the Hurdle Amendment is approved, our investment adviser may be eligible to receive an incentive fee for pre-incentive fee net investment income earlier (and potentially in higher amounts in the event we do not exceed the catch-up hurdle rate) than it would receive if the Hurdle Amendment is not approved.

If approved, the second amendment (the "Capital Gains Amendment") would provide that the capital gains portion of our incentive fee will be calculated using an actual purchase price paid by the Company as the "cost" of such asset even when GAAP requires the Company to record cost at fair value, whether such purchase price is higher or lower than the fair value of such asset at the time of acquisition. If the Capital Gains Amendment is approved, the likelihood that our investment adviser will earn the capital gains portion of our incentive fee will be increased. Even though the revised formulation would apply to the capital gains portion of our incentive fee calculated on a cumulative basis (i.e., from the Company's inception) after any Capital Gains Amendment is approved, the approval of the Capital Gains Amendment increases the likelihood that our investment adviser will earn the capital gains portion of our incentive fee as a result of the Allied Acquisition. Such increased likelihood results from the requirement under GAAP that we record the investments acquired in the Allied Acquisition in our financial statements at an initial cost basis equal to their fair value instead of the purchase price we paid. Because such investments' initial cost basis under GAAP was higher than the purchase price we paid, our realized capital gains and unrealized capital appreciation was lower and our realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation was higher than if we had recorded such investments at the purchase price we paid for such investments. The maximum additional capital gains portion of our incentive fee potentially payable by us to our investment adviser as a result of the Allied Acquisition if the Capital Gains Amendment is approved is approximately $26 million. As of April 29, 2011, $53.5 million of the approximately $130.0 million non-cash gain recorded at the time of acquisition has been realized through exits or repayments of investments in excess of the purchase price paid by us. An approval of the Capital Gains Amendment also means the amount of realized capital gains determined under the formula are likely to increase (due to calculating the Capital Gains Fee using the purchase price paid by us for the investments acquired in the Allied Acquisition instead of their fair value at the acquisition date) and the amount of unrealized capital depreciation and realized capital losses determined under the formula is likely to decrease, which would make it easier for our investment adviser to earn capital gains portion of our incentive fees.

In addition, for the quarter in which our stockholders approve the Capital Gains Amendment, if any, we will be required to accrue an additional amount of incentive fees payable up to a maximum of approximately $26 million, even though no such fees may be payable to our investment adviser at the time of such accrual. Such accrual would result in a decrease in our net asset value. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Operating Expenses," "Investment Advisory and Management Agreement Incentive Fee" and Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2010 and the three months ended March 31, 2011 for more information about the GAAP requirement that we accrue incentive fees in our financial statements even though no such fees are payable to our investment adviser under the investment advisory and management agreement.

We may not replicate Ares' historical success and our ability to enter into transactions with Ares and our other affiliates is restricted.

We cannot assure you that Ares Capital will replicate Ares' historical success, and we caution you that our investment returns could be substantially lower than the returns achieved by other Ares managed funds.

Further, we and certain of our controlled affiliates are prohibited under the Investment Company Act from knowingly participating in certain transactions with our upstream affiliates, or our investment adviser and its affiliates, without the prior approval of our independent directors and, in some cases, the SEC. Any person that owns, directly or indirectly, 5% or more of our outstanding voting securities is our upstream affiliate for purposes of the Investment Company Act and we are generally prohibited from buying or selling any security (other than our securities) from or to such affiliate, absent the prior approval of our independent directors. The Investment Company Act also prohibits "joint" transactions with an upstream affiliate, or our investment adviser or its affiliates, which could include investments in the same portfolio company (whether at the same or different times), without prior approval of our independent directors. In addition, we and certain of our controlled affiliates are prohibited from buying or selling any security from or to, or entering into joint transactions with, our investment adviser and its affiliates, or any person who owns more than 25% of our voting securities or is otherwise deemed to control, be controlled by, or be under common control with us, absent the prior approval of the SEC through an exemptive order (other than in certain limited situations pursuant to current regulatory guidance). The analysis of whether a particular transaction constitutes a joint transaction requires a review of the relevant facts and circumstances then existing.

We have applied for an exemptive order from the SEC that would permit us and certain of our controlled affiliates to co-invest with funds managed by Ares. Any such order, if issued, will be subject to certain terms and conditions and there can be no assurance that such order will be granted by the SEC. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that we or our controlled affiliates will be permitted to co-invest with funds managed by Ares, other than in the limited circumstances currently permitted by regulatory guidance or in the absence of a joint transaction.

RISKS RELATING TO OUR INVESTMENTS

Declines in market prices and liquidity in the corporate debt markets can result in significant net unrealized depreciation of our portfolio, which in turn would reduce our net asset value.

As a BDC, we are required to carry our investments at market value or, if no market value is ascertainable, at fair value as determined in good faith by or under the direction of our board of directors. We may take into account the following types of factors, if relevant, in determining the fair value of our investments: the enterprise value of a portfolio company (an estimate of the total fair value of the portfolio company's debt and equity), the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings and discounted cash flow, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, a comparison of the portfolio company's securities to

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similar publicly traded securities, changes in the interest rate environment and the credit markets generally that may affect the price at which similar investments may be made in the future and other relevant factors. When an external event such as a purchase transaction, public offering or subsequent equity sale occurs, we use the pricing indicated by the external event to corroborate our valuation. While most of our investments are not publicly traded, applicable accounting standards require us to assume as part of our valuation process that our investments are sold in a principal market to market participants (even if we plan on holding an investment through its maturity). As a result, volatility in the capital markets can also adversely affect our investment valuations. Decreases in the market values or fair values of our investments are recorded as unrealized depreciation. The effect of all of these factors on our portfolio can reduce our net asset value by increasing net unrealized depreciation in our portfolio. Depending on market conditions, we could incur substantial realized losses and may suffer unrealized losses, which could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Economic recessions or downturns could impair our portfolio companies and harm our operating results.

Many of our portfolio companies may be susceptible to economic downturns or recessions (including the recent economic downturn that began in 2007) and may be unable to repay our loans during these periods. Therefore, during these periods our non-performing assets may increase and the value of our portfolio may decrease if we are required to write down the values of our investments. Adverse economic conditions may also decrease the value of collateral securing some of our loans and the value of our equity investments. Economic slowdowns or recessions could lead to financial losses in our portfolio and a decrease in revenues, net income and assets. Unfavorable economic conditions also could increase our funding costs, limit our access to the capital markets or result in a decision by lenders not to extend credit to us. These events could prevent us from increasing investments and harm our operating results. We experienced to some extent such effects during the recent economic downturn and may experience such effects again in any future downturn or recession.

A portfolio company's failure to satisfy financial or operating covenants imposed by us or other lenders could lead to defaults and, potentially, acceleration of the time when the loans are due and foreclosure on its assets representing collateral for its obligations, which could trigger cross defaults under other agreements and jeopardize our portfolio company's ability to meet its obligations under the debt that we hold and the value of any equity securities we own. We may incur expenses to the extent necessary to seek recovery upon default or to negotiate new terms with a defaulting portfolio company.

Investments in privately held middle-market companies involve significant risks.

We primarily invest in privately held U.S. middle-market companies. Investments in privately held middle-market companies involve a number of significant risks, including the following:

- these companies may have limited financial resources and may be unable to meet their obligations, which may be accompanied by a deterioration in the value of any collateral and a reduction in the likelihood of us realizing any guarantees we may have obtained in connection with our investment;

- they typically have shorter operating histories, narrower product lines and smaller market shares than larger businesses, which tend to render them more vulnerable to competitors' actions and market conditions, as well as general economic downturns;

- they typically depend on the management talents and efforts of a small group of persons; therefore, the death, disability, resignation or termination of one or more of these persons could have a material adverse impact on our portfolio company and, in turn, on us;

- there is generally little public information about these companies. These companies and their financial information are not subject to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") and other regulations that govern public companies, and we may be unable to uncover all material information about these companies, which may prevent us from making a fully informed investment decision and cause us to lose money on our investments;

- they generally have less predictable operating results and may require substantial additional capital to support their operations, finance expansion or maintain their competitive position;

- our executive officers, directors and our investment adviser may, in the ordinary course of business, be named as defendants in litigation arising from our investments in the portfolio companies; and

- they may have difficulty accessing the capital markets to meet future capital needs.

Our debt investments may be risky and we could lose all or part of our investment.

The debt that we invest in is typically not initially rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such investments were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by Moody's Investors Service, lower than "BBB-" by Fitch Ratings or lower than "BBB-" by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services). Indebtedness of below investment grade quality is regarded as having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Therefore, our investments may result in an above average amount of risk and volatility or loss of principal. We also invest in assets other than first and second lien and mezzanine debt investments, including high-yield securities, U.S. government securities, credit derivatives and other structured securities and certain direct equity investments. These investments entail additional risks that could adversely affect our investment returns.

In addition, to the extent interest payments associated with such debt are deferred, such debt will be subject to greater fluctuations in value based on changes in interest rates. Also, such debt could subject us to phantom income, and since we generally do not receive any cash prior to maturity of the debt, the investment is of greater risk.

Investments in equity securities, many of which are illiquid with no readily available market, involve a substantial degree of risk.

We may purchase common and other equity securities. Although common stock has historically generated higher average total returns than fixed income securities over the long-term, common stock also has experienced significantly more volatility in those returns and in recent years has significantly under performed relative to fixed income securities. The equity securities we acquire may fail to appreciate and may decline in value or become worthless and our ability to recover our investment will depend on our portfolio company's success. Investments in equity securities involve a number of significant risks, including:

- any equity investment we make in a portfolio company could be subject to further dilution as a result of the issuance of additional equity interests and to serious risks as a junior security that will be subordinate to all indebtedness (including trade creditors) or senior securities in the event that the issuer is unable to meet its obligations or becomes subject to a bankruptcy process;

- to the extent that the portfolio company requires additional capital and is unable to obtain it, we may not recover our investment; and

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- in some cases, equity securities in which we invest will not pay current dividends, and our ability to realize a return on our investment, as well as to recover our investment, will be dependent on the success of the portfolio company. Even if the portfolio company is successful, our ability to realize the value of our investment may be dependent on the occurrence of a liquidity event, such as a public offering or the sale of the portfolio company. It is likely to take a significant amount of time before a liquidity event occurs or we can otherwise sell our investment. In addition, the equity securities we receive or invest in may be subject to restrictions on resale during periods in which it could be advantageous to sell them.

There are special risks associated with investing in preferred securities, including:

- preferred securities may include provisions that permit the issuer, at its discretion, to defer distributions for a stated period without any adverse consequences to the issuer. If we own a preferred security that is deferring its distributions, we may be required to report income for tax purposes before we receive such distributions;

- preferred securities are subordinated to debt in terms of priority to income and liquidation payments, and therefore will be subject to greater credit risk than debt;

- preferred securities may be substantially less liquid than many other securities, such as common stock or U.S. government securities; and

- generally, preferred security holders have no voting rights with respect to the issuing company, subject to limited exceptions.

Additionally, when we invest in first and second lien senior loans or mezzanine debt, we may acquire warrants or other equity securities as well. Our goal is ultimately to dispose of such equity interests and realize gains upon our disposition of such interests. However, the equity interests we receive may not appreciate in value and, in fact, may decline in value. Accordingly, we may not be able to realize gains from our equity interests and any gains that we do realize on the disposition of any equity interests may not be sufficient to offset any other losses we experience.

We may invest, to the extent permitted by law, in the equity securities of investment funds that are operating pursuant to certain exceptions to the Investment Company Act and in advisers to similar investment funds and, to the extent we so invest, will bear our ratable share of any such company's expenses, including management and performance fees. We will also remain obligated to pay management and incentive fees to Ares Capital Management with respect to the assets invested in the securities and instruments of such companies. With respect to each of these investments, each of our common stockholders will bear his or her share of the management and incentive fee of Ares Capital Management as well as indirectly bearing the management and performance fees and other expenses of any such investment funds or advisers.

As a result of the Allied Acquisition, Allied Capital's equity investments, including equity investments larger than those we have traditionally made and controlled portfolio company equity investments, became part of our portfolio. We intend to actively seek opportunities over time to dispose of certain of these investments and generally rotate them into higher-yielding first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt or other investments. However, there can be no assurance that this strategy will be successful.

There may be circumstances where our debt investments could be subordinated to claims of other creditors or we could be subject to lender liability claims.

If one of our portfolio companies were to go bankrupt, even though we may have structured our interest as senior debt, depending on the facts and circumstances, a bankruptcy court might recharacterize our debt holding as an equity investment and subordinate all or a portion of our claim to that of other creditors. In addition, lenders can be subject to lender liability claims for actions taken by them where they become too involved in the borrower's business or exercise control over the borrower. For example, we could become subject to a lender's liability claim, if, among other things, we actually render significant managerial assistance.

Our portfolio companies may incur debt or issue equity securities that rank equally with, or senior to, our investments in such companies.

Our portfolio companies may have, or may be permitted to incur, other debt, or issue other equity securities, that rank equally with, or senior to, our investments. By their terms, such instruments may provide that the holders are entitled to receive payment of dividends, interest or principal on or before the dates on which we are entitled to receive payments in respect of our investments. These debt instruments would usually prohibit the portfolio companies from paying interest on or repaying our investments in the event and during the continuance of a default under such debt. Also, in the event of insolvency, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or bankruptcy of a portfolio company, holders of securities ranking senior to our investment in that portfolio company typically are entitled to receive payment in full before we receive any distribution in respect of our investment. After repaying such holders, the portfolio company may not have any remaining assets to use for repaying its obligation to us. In the case of securities ranking equally with our investments, we would have to share on an equal basis any distributions with other security holders in the event of an insolvency, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or bankruptcy of the relevant portfolio company.

The rights we may have with respect to the collateral securing any junior priority loans we make to our portfolio companies may also be limited pursuant to the terms of one or more intercreditor agreements that we enter into with the holders of senior debt. Under such an intercreditor agreement, at any time that senior obligations are outstanding, we may forfeit certain rights with respect to the collateral to the holders of the senior obligations. These rights may include the right to commence enforcement proceedings against the collateral, the right to control the conduct of such enforcement proceedings, the right to approve amendments to collateral documents, the right to release liens on the collateral and the right to waive past defaults under collateral documents. We may not have the ability to control or direct such actions, even if as a result our rights as junior lenders are adversely affected.

When we are a debt or minority equity investor in a portfolio company, we are often not in a position to exert influence on the entity, and other equity holders and management of the company may make decisions that could decrease the value of our portfolio holdings.

When we make debt or minority equity investments, we are subject to the risk that a portfolio company may make business decisions with which we disagree and the other equity holders and management of such company may take risks or otherwise act in ways that do not serve our interests. As a result, a portfolio company may make decisions that could decrease the value of our investment.

Our portfolio companies may be highly leveraged.

Some of our portfolio companies may be highly leveraged, which may have adverse consequences to these companies and to us as an investor. These companies may be subject to restrictive financial and operating covenants and the leverage may impair these companies' ability to finance their future operations and capital needs. As a result, these companies' flexibility to respond to changing business and economic conditions and to take advantage of business opportunities may be limited. Further, a leveraged company's income and net assets will tend to increase or decrease at a greater rate than if borrowed money were not used.

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Our investment adviser's incentive fee may induce it to make certain investments, including speculative investments.

The incentive fee payable by us to Ares Capital Management may create an incentive for Ares Capital Management to make investments on our behalf that are risky or more speculative than would be the case in the absence of such compensation arrangement. The way in which the incentive fee payable to our investment adviser is determined, which is calculated as a percentage of the return on invested capital, may encourage our investment adviser to use leverage to increase the return on our investments. Under certain circumstances, the use of leverage may increase the likelihood of default, which would disfavor the holders of our common stock and the holders of securities convertible into our common stock. In addition, our investment adviser will receive the incentive fee based, in part, upon net capital gains realized on our investments. Unlike the portion of the incentive fee based on income, there is no hurdle rate applicable to the portion of the incentive fee based on net capital gains. As a result, our investment adviser may have a tendency to invest more in investments that are likely to result in capital gains as compared to income producing securities. Such a practice could result in our investing in more speculative securities than would otherwise be the case, which could result in higher investment losses, particularly during economic downturns.

The part of the incentive fee payable by us that relates to our pre-incentive fee net investment income will be computed and paid on income that may include interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash. If a portfolio company defaults on a loan that is structured to provide accrued interest, it is possible that accrued interest previously used in the calculation of the incentive fee will become uncollectible. Our investment adviser is not under any obligation to reimburse us for any part of the incentive fee it received that was based on such accrued interest that we never actually receive.

Because of the structure of the incentive fee, it is possible that we may have to pay an incentive fee in a quarter where we incur a loss. For example, if we receive pre-incentive fee net investment income in excess of the hurdle rate for a quarter, we will pay the applicable incentive fee even if we have incurred a loss in that quarter due to realized and/or unrealized capital losses. In addition, if market interest rates rise, we may be able to invest our funds in debt instruments that provide for a higher return, which would increase our pre-incentive fee net investment income and make it easier for our investment adviser to surpass the fixed hurdle rate and receive an incentive fee based on such net investment income.

Our investments in foreign companies may involve significant risks in addition to the risks inherent in U.S. investments. We may also expose ourselves to risks if we engage in hedging transactions.

Our investment strategy contemplates potential investments in foreign companies. Investing in foreign companies may expose us to additional risks not typically associated with investing in U.S. companies. These risks include changes in exchange control regulations, political and social instability, expropriation, imposition of foreign taxes (potentially at confiscatory levels), less liquid markets, less available information than is generally the case in the United States, higher transaction costs, less government supervision of exchanges, brokers and issuers, less developed bankruptcy laws, difficulty in enforcing contractual obligations, lack of uniform accounting and auditing standards and greater price volatility.

Although most of our investments will be U.S. dollar denominated, our investments that are denominated in a foreign currency will be subject to the risk that the value of a particular currency will change in relation to one or more other currencies. Among the factors that may affect currency values are trade balances, the level of short-term interest rates, differences in relative values of similar assets in different currencies, long-term opportunities for investment and capital appreciation and political developments. We may employ hedging techniques to minimize these risks, but we cannot assure you that such strategies will be effective or without risk to us.

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We have and may in the future enter into hedging transactions, which may expose us to risks associated with such transactions. We may utilize instruments such as forward contracts, currency options and interest rate swaps, caps, collars and floors to seek to hedge against fluctuations in the relative values of our portfolio positions from changes in currency exchange rates and market interest rates. Use of these hedging instruments may include counter-party credit risk.

Hedging against a decline in the values of our portfolio positions does not eliminate the possibility of fluctuations in the values of such positions or prevent losses if the values of such positions decline. However, such hedging can establish other positions designed to gain from those same developments, thereby offsetting the decline in the value of such portfolio positions. Such hedging transactions may also limit the opportunity for gain if the values of the underlying portfolio positions should increase. Moreover, it may not be possible to hedge against an exchange rate or interest rate fluctuation that is so generally anticipated that we are not able to enter into a hedging transaction at an acceptable price.

The success of our hedging transactions will depend on our ability to correctly predict movements in currencies and interest rates. Therefore, while we may enter into such transactions to seek to reduce currency exchange rate and interest rate risks, unanticipated changes in currency exchange rates or interest rates may result in poorer overall investment performance than if we had not engaged in any such hedging transactions. In addition, the degree of correlation between price movements of the instruments used in a hedging strategy and price movements in the portfolio positions being hedged may vary. Moreover, for a variety of reasons, we may not seek to (or be able to) establish a perfect correlation between such hedging instruments and the portfolio holdings being hedged. Any such imperfect correlation may prevent us from achieving the intended hedge and expose us to risk of loss. In addition, it may not be possible to hedge fully or perfectly against currency fluctuations affecting the value of securities denominated in non-U.S. currencies because the value of those securities is likely to fluctuate as a result of factors not related to currency fluctuations. See also "Risk Factors Risk Relating to Our Business We are exposed to risks associated with changes in interest rates."

We may initially invest a portion of the net proceeds of offerings pursuant to this prospectus primarily in high-quality short-term investments, which will generate lower rates of return than those expected from the interest generated on first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt.

We may initially invest a portion of the net proceeds of offerings primarily in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and other high-quality short-term investments. These securities may earn yields substantially lower than the income that we anticipate receiving once we are fully invested in accordance with our investment objective. As a result, we may not be able to achieve our investment objective and/or pay any dividends during this period or, if we are able to do so, such dividends may be substantially lower than the dividends that we expect to pay when our portfolio is fully invested. If we do not realize yields in excess of our expenses, we may incur operating losses and the market price of our shares may decline.

The Allied Acquisition may have triggered certain "change of control" provisions and other restrictions in certain of our and Allied Capital's contracts and the failure to obtain any required consents or waivers could adversely impact us.

Certain agreements of Allied Capital and Ares Capital or their controlled affiliates may have required a consent, amendment or waiver of one or more counterparties in connection with the Allied Acquisition. Our failure to have obtained any such consent, amendment or waiver may permit such counterparties to terminate, or otherwise increase their rights or our obligations under, any such agreement because the Allied Acquisition may have violated an anti-assignment, change of control or other provision. As a result, we may have to seek to replace that agreement with a new agreement or seek a waiver or amendment to such agreement. We cannot assure you that we will be able to replace, amend or obtain a waiver under any such agreement on comparable terms or at all.

RISKS RELATING TO OFFERINGS PURSUANT TO THIS PROSPECTUS

Our shares of common stock have traded at a discount from net asset value and may do so again in the future, which could limit our ability to raise additional equity capital.

Shares of closed-end investment companies frequently trade at a market price that is less than the net asset value that is attributable to those shares. This characteristic of closed-end investment companies is separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value per share may decline. It is not possible to predict whether any shares of our common stock will trade at, above, or below net asset value. In the recent past, including during much of 2009, the stocks of BDCs as an industry, including at times shares of our common stock, traded below net asset value and at near historic lows as a result of concerns over liquidity, leverage restrictions and distribution requirements. When our common stock is trading below its net asset value per share, we will generally not be able to issue additional shares of our common stock at its market price without first obtaining approval for such issuance from our stockholders and our independent directors. At our 2010 annual stockholders meeting, subject to certain determinations required to be made by our board of directors, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock, at a price below the then current net asset value per share during a period beginning on June 7, 2010 and expiring on the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of our 2010 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2011 annual stockholders meeting. On April 28, 2011, we filed the Definitive Proxy in connection with our 2011 annual stockholders meeting. The Definitive Proxy sets forth certain proposals to be voted upon at our 2011 annual stockholders meeting (currently expected to take place on June 6, 2011), including a proposal that, if approved by stockholders, would have the effect of extending this approval to the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of our 2011 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2012 annual stockholders meeting.

There is a risk that investors in our common stock may not receive dividends or that our dividends may not grow over time and that investors in our debt securities may not receive all of the interest income to which they are entitled.

We intend to make distributions on a quarterly basis to our stockholders out of assets legally available for distribution. We cannot assure you that we will achieve investment results that will allow us to make a specified level of cash distributions or year-to-year increases in cash distributions. If we declare a dividend and if more stockholders opt to receive cash distributions rather than participate in our dividend reinvestment plan, we may be forced to sell some of our investments in order to make cash dividend payments.

In addition, due to the asset coverage test applicable to us as a BDC, we may be limited in our ability to make distributions. Further, if we invest a greater amount of assets in equity securities that do not pay current dividends, it could reduce the amount available for distribution. See "Price Range of Common Stock and Distributions."

The above-referenced restrictions on distributions may also inhibit our ability to make required interest payments to holders of our debt, which may cause a default under the terms of our debt agreements. Such a default could materially increase our cost of raising capital, as well as cause us to incur penalties under the terms of our debt agreements.

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Provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law and of our charter and bylaws could deter takeover attempts and have an adverse impact on the price of our common stock.

The Maryland General Corporation Law, our charter and our bylaws contain provisions that may discourage, delay or make more difficult a change in control of Ares Capital or the removal of our directors. We are subject to the Maryland Business Combination Act, subject to any applicable requirements of the Investment Company Act. Our board of directors has adopted a resolution exempting from the Business Combination Act any business combination between us and any other person, subject to prior approval of such business combination by our board, including approval by a majority of our disinterested directors. If the resolution exempting business combinations is repealed or our board does not approve a business combination, the Business Combination Act may discourage third parties from trying to acquire control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating such an offer. Our bylaws exempt from the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act (the "Control Share Acquisition Act") acquisitions of our stock by any person. If we amend our bylaws to repeal the exemption from the Control Share Acquisition Act, the Control Share Acquisition Act also may make it more difficult for a third party to obtain control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating such an offer.

We have also adopted measures that may make it difficult for a third party to obtain control of us, including provisions of our charter classifying our board of directors in three classes serving staggered three-year terms, and provisions of our charter authorizing our board of directors to classify or reclassify shares of our stock in one or more classes or series, to cause the issuance of additional shares of our stock, and to amend our charter, without stockholder approval, to increase or decrease the number of shares of stock that we have authority to issue. These provisions, as well as other provisions of our charter and bylaws, may discourage, delay, defer, make more difficult or prevent a transaction or a change in control that might otherwise be in the best interests of our stockholders.

Investing in our common stock may involve an above average degree of risk.

The investments we make in accordance with our investment objective may result in a higher amount of risk than alternative investment options and volatility or loss of principal. Our investments in portfolio companies may be highly speculative and aggressive and, therefore, an investment in our securities may not be suitable for someone with lower risk tolerance.

The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly.

The capital and credit markets have recently experienced a period of extreme volatility and disruption that began in 2007. The market price and liquidity of the market for shares of our common stock may be significantly affected by numerous factors, some of which are beyond our control and may not be directly related to our operating performance. These factors include:

- significant volatility in the market price and trading volume of securities of publicly traded RICs, BDCs or other companies in our sector, which are not necessarily related to the operating performance of these companies;
- price and volume fluctuations in the overall stock market from time to time;
- changes in law, regulatory policies or tax guidelines, or interpretations thereof, particularly with respect to RICs or BDCs;
- loss of our RIC status;
- changes in our earnings or variations in our operating results;
- changes in the value of our portfolio of investments;

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- any shortfall in revenue or net income or any increase in losses from levels expected by investors or securities analysts;
- departure of Ares Capital Management's key personnel;
- operating performance of companies comparable to us;
- short-selling pressure with respect to shares of our common stock or BDCs generally;
- future sales of our securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for our common stock or the conversion of such securities, including the Convertible Notes;
- uncertainty surrounding the strength of the U.S. economic recovery;
- concerns regarding European sovereign debt;
- general economic trends (including inflationary concerns) and other external factors (including the U.S. budget deficit); and
- loss of a major funding source.

In the past, following periods of volatility in the market price of a company's securities, securities class action litigation has often been brought against that company. If our stock price fluctuates significantly, we may be the target of securities litigation in the future. Securities litigation could result in substantial costs and divert management's attention and resources from our business.

The net asset value per share of our common stock may be diluted if we sell shares of our common stock in one or more offerings at prices below the then current net asset value per share of our common stock or securities to subscribe for or convertible into shares of our common stock.

At our 2010 annual stockholders meeting, subject to certain determinations required to be made by our board of directors, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock, at a price below the then current net asset value per share during a period beginning on June 7, 2010 and expiring on the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of the 2010 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2011 annual stockholders meeting. On April 28, 2011, we filed the Definitive Proxy in connection with our 2011 annual stockholders meeting. The Definitive Proxy sets forth certain proposals to be voted upon at our 2011 annual stockholders meeting (currently expected to take place on June 6, 2011), including a proposal that, if approved by stockholders, would have the effect of extending this approval to the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of our 2011 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2012 annual stockholders meeting.

In addition, at our 2009 annual stockholders meeting, our stockholders approved a proposal authorizing us to sell or otherwise issue warrants or securities to subscribe for or convertible into shares of our common stock subject to certain limitations (including, without limitation, that the number of shares issuable does not exceed 25% of our then outstanding common stock and that the exercise or conversion price thereof is not, at the date of issuance, less than the greater of the market value per share and the net asset value per share of our common stock). The authorization granted to sell or issue warrants or securities to subscribe for or convertible into shares of our common stock has no expiration.

Any decision to sell shares of our common stock below its then current net asset value per share or securities to subscribe for or convertible into shares of our common stock would be subject to the determination by our board of directors that such issuance is in our and our stockholders' best interests.

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If we were to sell shares of our common stock below its then current net asset value per share, such sales would result in an immediate dilution to the net asset value per share of our common stock. This dilution would occur as a result of the sale of shares at a price below the then current net asset value per share of our common stock and a proportionately greater decrease in the stockholders' interest in our earnings and assets and their voting interest in us than the increase in our assets resulting from such issuance. Because the number of shares of common stock that could be so issued and the timing of any issuance is not currently known, the actual dilutive effect cannot be predicted.

In addition, if we issue warrants or securities to subscribe for or convertible into shares of our common stock, subject to certain limitations, the exercise or conversion price per share could be less than net asset value per share at the time of exercise or conversion (including through the operation of anti-dilution protections). Because we would incur expenses in connection with any issuance of such securities, such issuance could result in a dilution of the net asset value per share at the time of exercise or conversion. This dilution would include reduction in net asset value per share as a result of the proportionately greater decrease in the stockholders' interest in our earnings and assets and their voting interest than the increase in our assets resulting from such issuance.

Further, if current stockholders of the Company do not purchase any shares to maintain their percentage interest, regardless of whether such offering is above or below the then current net asset value per share, their voting power will be diluted. For additional information and hypothetical examples of these risks, see "Sales of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value" and the prospectus supplement pursuant to which such sale is made.

Your interest in us may be diluted if you do not fully exercise your subscription rights in any rights offering. In addition, if the subscription price is less than our net asset value per share, then you will experience an immediate dilution of the aggregate net asset value of your shares.

In the event we issue subscription rights, stockholders who do not fully exercise their subscription rights should expect that they will, at the completion of a rights offering pursuant to this prospectus, own a smaller proportional interest in us than would otherwise be the case if they fully exercised their rights. We cannot state precisely the amount of any such dilution in share ownership because we do not know at this time what proportion of the shares will be purchased as a result of such rights offering.

In addition, if the subscription price is less than the net asset value per share of our common stock, then our stockholders would experience an immediate dilution of the aggregate net asset value of their shares as a result of the offering. The amount of any decrease in net asset value is not predictable because it is not known at this time what the subscription price and net asset value per share will be on the expiration date of a rights offering or what proportion of the shares will be purchased as a result of such rights offering. Such dilution could be substantial. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Offerings Pursuant to this Prospectus The net asset value per share of our common stock may be diluted if we sell shares of our common stock in one or more offerings at prices below the then current net asset value per share of our common stock or securities to subscribe for or convertible into shares of our common stock" and "Sales of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value."

Investors in offerings of our common stock will likely incur immediate dilution upon the closing of such offering.

We generally expect the public offering price of any offering of shares of our common stock to be higher than the book value per share of our outstanding common stock (unless we offer shares pursuant to a rights offering or after obtaining prior approval for such issuance from our stockholders and our independent directors). Accordingly, investors purchasing shares of common stock in offerings

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pursuant to this prospectus may pay a price per share that exceeds the tangible book value per share after such offering.

Our stockholders will experience dilution in their ownership percentage if they opt out of our dividend reinvestment plan.

All dividends declared in cash payable to stockholders that are participants in our dividend reinvestment plan are automatically reinvested in shares of our common stock. As a result, our stockholders that opt out of our dividend reinvestment plan will experience dilution in their ownership percentage of our common stock over time.

Our stockholders may experience dilution upon the conversion of the Convertible Notes.

The February 2016 Convertible Notes are convertible into shares of our common stock beginning August 15, 2015 or, under certain circumstances, earlier and the June 2016 Convertible Notes are convertible into shares of our common stock beginning on December 15, 2015, or, under certain circumstances, earlier. Upon conversion of the Convertible Notes, we have the choice to pay or deliver, as the case may be, at our election, cash, shares of our common stock or a combination of cash and shares of our common stock. The current conversion price of the February 2016 Convertible Notes is approximately $19.13 per share of common stock and the current conversion price of the June 2016 Convertible Notes is approximately $19.04, in each case subject to adjustment in certain circumstances. If we elect to deliver shares of common stock upon a conversion at the time our tangible book value per share exceeds the conversion price in effect at such time, our stockholders may incur dilution. In addition, our stockholders will experience dilution in their ownership percentage of common stock upon our issuance of common stock in connection with the conversion of the Convertible Notes and any dividends paid on our common stock will also be paid on shares issued in connection with such conversion after such issuance.

Our stockholders may receive shares of our common stock as dividends, which could result in adverse tax consequences to them.

In order to satisfy the Annual Distribution Requirement applicable to RICs, we have the ability to declare a large portion of a dividend in shares of our common stock instead of in cash. As long as a portion of such dividend is paid in cash (which portion can be as low as 10% for our taxable years ending on or before December 31, 2011) and certain requirements are met, the entire distribution would be treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, a stockholder would be taxed on 100% of the fair market value of the dividend on the date a stockholder received it in the same manner as a cash dividend, even though most of the dividend was paid in shares of our common stock.

Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market may have an adverse effect on the market price of our common stock.

Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock, or the availability of such common stock for sale (including as a result of the conversion of our Convertible Notes into common stock), could adversely affect the prevailing market prices for our common stock. If this occurs and continues, it could impair our ability to raise additional capital through the sale of securities should we desire to do so.

The trading market or market value of our publicly issued debt securities may fluctuate.

Our publicly issued debt securities may or may not have an established trading market. We cannot assure you that a trading market for our publicly issued debt securities will ever develop or be maintained if developed. In addition to our creditworthiness, many factors may materially adversely affect the trading market for, and market value of, our publicly issued debt securities. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- the time remaining to the maturity of these debt securities;
- the outstanding principal amount of debt securities with terms identical to these debt securities;
- the ratings assigned by national statistical ratings agencies;
- the general economic environment;
- the supply of debt securities trading in the secondary market, if any;
- the redemption or repayment features, if any, of these debt securities;
- the level, direction and volatility of market interest rates generally; and
- market rates of interest higher or lower than rates borne by the debt securities.

You should also be aware that there may be a limited number of buyers when you decide to sell your debt securities. This too may materially adversely affect the market value of the debt securities or the trading market for the debt securities.

Terms relating to redemption may materially adversely affect your return on any debt securities that we may issue.

If your debt securities are redeemable at our option, we may choose to redeem your debt securities at times when prevailing interest rates are lower than the interest rate paid on your debt securities. In addition, if your debt securities are subject to mandatory redemption, we may be required to redeem your debt securities also at times when prevailing interest rates are lower than the interest rate paid on your debt securities. In this circumstance, you may not be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in a comparable security at an effective interest rate as high as your debt securities being redeemed.

Our credit ratings may not reflect all risks of an investment in our debt securities.

Our credit ratings are an assessment by third parties of our ability to pay our obligations. Consequently, real or anticipated changes in our credit ratings will generally affect the market value of our debt securities. Our credit ratings, however, may not reflect the potential impact of risks related to market conditions generally or other factors discussed above on the market value of or trading market for the publicly issued debt securities.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements in this prospectus constitute forward-looking statements, which relate to future events or our future performance or financial condition. The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus involve a number of risks and uncertainties, including statements concerning:

- our, or our portfolio companies', future business, operations, operating results or prospects;
- the return or impact of current and future investments;
- the impact of a protracted decline in the liquidity of credit markets on our business;
- the impact of fluctuations in interest rates on our business;
- the impact of changes in laws or regulations (including interpretation thereof) governing our operations or the operations of our portfolio companies;
- the valuation of our investments in portfolio companies, particularly those having no liquid trading market;
- our ability to successfully integrate our business with the business of Allied Capital, including rotating out of certain investments acquired in connection therewith;
- our ability to recover unrealized losses;
- market conditions and our ability to access alternative debt markets and additional debt and equity capital;
- our contractual arrangements and relationships with third parties;
- Middle East turmoil and the potential for rising energy prices and its impact on the industries in which we invest;
- the general economy (including inflation and the U.S. budget deficit) and its impact on the industries in which we invest;
- the uncertainty surrounding the strength of the U.S. economic recovery;
- European sovereign debt issues;

- the financial condition of and ability of our current and prospective portfolio companies to achieve their objectives;
- our expected financings and investments;
- our ability to successfully integrate any acquisitions;
- the adequacy of our cash resources and working capital;
- the timing, form and amount of any dividend distributions;
- the timing of cash flows, if any, from the operations of our portfolio companies; and
- the ability of our investment adviser to locate suitable investments for us and to monitor and administer our investments.

We use words such as "anticipates," "believes," "expects," "intends," "will," "should," "may" and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements include these words. Our actual results and condition could differ materially from those implied or expressed in the forward-looking statements for any reason, including the factors set forth in "Risk Factors" and elsewhere in this prospectus.

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The forward-looking statements included in this prospectus have been based on information available to us on the date of this prospectus, and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Although we undertake no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, you are advised to consult any additional disclosures that we may make directly to you or through reports that we have filed or in the future may file with the SEC, including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K.

The forward-looking statements in this prospectus are excluded from the safe harbor protection provided by Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") and Section 21E of the Exchange Act.

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UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Ares Capital Corporation and Subsidiaries
Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations
For the Year Ended December 31, 2010
Unaudited
(in thousands, except per share data)

	Actual Ares Capital	Actual Allied Capital	Pro Forma Adjustments	Ares Capital Pro Forma Combined
Performance Data:				
Interest and dividend income	$ 407,997	$ 49,461	$ (A)*	$ 457,458
Fees and other income	75,399	4,631		80,030
Total investment income	483,396	54,092		537,488
Interest and credit facility fees	79,347	23,605	(B)	102,952
Base management fees	51,998		7,876 (C)	59,874
Incentive management fees	76,895		(D)	76,895
Other expenses	53,948	31,357	(33,114)(E)	52,191
Total expenses	262,188	54,962	(25,238)	291,912
Net investment income before taxes	221,208	(870)	25,238	245,576
Income taxes	5,392	1,202		6,594
Net investment income after taxes	215,816	(2,072)		238,982
Net realized gains (losses)	45,478	(71,532)		(26,054)
Net unrealized gains (losses)	230,743	40,277		271,020
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	276,221	(31,255)		244,966
Gain on the Allied Acquisition	195,876		(195,876)	
Gain on extinguishment of debt		4,964		4,964
Loss on extinguishment of debt	(1,961)	(6,972)		(8,933)
Gain on sale of other assets	5,882			5,882
Net increase (decrease) in stockholders' equity	$ 691,834	$ (35,335)	$ (170,638)	$ 485,861
Weighted average shares outstanding	176,732	179,938	(165,355)(F)	191,315
Earnings (loss) per share	$ 3.91	$ (0.20)	$ (1.17)	$ 2.54

* Please see Note 2 of the accompanying notes to pro forma condensed consolidated statement of operations on page 59.

See accompanying notes to pro forma condensed consolidated statement of operations.

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Ares Capital Corporation and Subsidiaries
Notes to Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations
Unaudited
(In thousands, unless otherwise stated)

1. BASIS OF PRO FORMA PRESENTATION

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statement of operations related to the merger is included for the year ended December 31, 2010. On October 26, 2009, we entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Allied Capital in the Allied Acquisition. On April 1, 2010, we completed the Allied Acquisition by acquiring the outstanding shares of Allied Capital in exchange for shares of our common stock in a transaction valued at approximately $908 million as of the closing date. Concurrently with the completion of the Allied Acquisition, we assumed and then repaid in full the $137 million of remaining amounts outstanding on Allied Capital's $250 million senior secured term loan. We also assumed all of Allied Capital's other outstanding debt obligations, including approximately $745 million in aggregate principal amount of the 2011 Notes, the 2012 Notes and the 2040 Notes (collectively, the "Allied Unsecured Notes").

Under the terms of the transaction, each Allied Capital stockholder received 0.325 shares of our common stock for each share of Allied Capital common stock then owned by such stockholder. In connection with the Allied Acquisition, approximately 58.5 million shares of our common stock (including the effect of outstanding in-the money Allied Capital stock options) were issued to Allied Capital's then-existing stockholders, thereby resulting in our then-existing stockholders owning approximately 69% of the combined company and the then-existing Allied Capital stockholders owning approximately 31% of the combined company.

The Allied Acquisition was accounted for in accordance with the acquisition method of accounting as detailed in ASC 805-10. The acquisition method of accounting requires an acquirer to recognize the assets acquired, the liabilities assumed and any noncontrolling interest in the acquired entity based on their fair values as of the date of acquisition. As described in more detail in ASC 805-10, if the total acquisition date fair value of the identifiable net assets acquired exceeds the fair value of the consideration transferred, the excess will be recognized as a gain. Upon completion of our determination of the fair value of Allied Capital's identifiable net assets as of April 1, 2010, the fair value of such net assets exceeded the fair value of the consideration transferred, thereby, resulting in the recognition of a gain. The valuation of the investments acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition was done in accordance with Ares Capital's valuation policy (see Notes 2 and 8 to the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2010).

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Following is the allocation of the purchase price to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed as a result of the Allied Acquisition:

Common stock issued	$	872,727
Payments to holders of "in-the-money" Allied Capital stock options		35,011(1)
Total purchase price	$	907,738
Assets acquired:		
Investments	$	1,833,766
Cash and cash equivalents		133,548
Other assets		80,078
Total assets acquired		2,047,392
Debt and other liabilities assumed		(943,778)
Net assets acquired		1,103,614
Gain on acquisition of Allied Capital		(195,876)
	$	907,738

(1) Represents cash payment for holders of any "in-the-money" Allied Capital stock options that elected to receive cash.

Ares Capital has elected to be treated as a RIC under subchapter M of the Code and operates in a manner so as to qualify for the tax treatment applicable to RICs. In order to qualify as a RIC, among other things, Ares Capital is required to timely distribute to its stockholders generally at least 90% of its investment company taxable income, as defined by the Code, for each year. The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated financial information reflects that Ares Capital has made and intends to continue to make the requisite distributions to its stockholders, which will generally relieve Ares Capital from U.S. federal income taxes.

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statement of operations presented in this document is for illustrative purposes only and does not necessarily indicate the results of operations that would have resulted had the merger and subsequent combination been completed at the beginning of the applicable period presented, nor the impact of expense efficiencies, asset dispositions, share repurchases and other factors. The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statement of operations is not indicative of the results of operations in future periods of the combined company.

2. PRO FORMA ADJUSTMENTS

The pro forma purchase accounting allocation included in the unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statement of operations is as follows:

A. The purchase price of certain investments in debt securities acquired from Allied Capital was determined by Ares Capital to be less than the expected recovery value of such investments. In accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"), subsequent to April 1, 2010, Ares Capital will record the accretion to the expected recovery value in interest income over the remaining term of the investment. Other than what was included in the actual results for Ares Capital for the year ended December 31, 2010, interest income has not been adjusted to reflect the accretion to the expected recovery value for the periods presented. The accretion for the first 12 months subsequent to April 1, 2010 is estimated to be approximately $12 million. However, there can be no assurance that such accretion will be more or less than such estimate.

B. The fair value of the outstanding debt assumed from Allied Capital was determined by Ares Capital to be below the face amount of such debt. In accordance with GAAP, subsequent to

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April 1, 2010, Ares Capital will record accretion to the face amount in interest expense over the remaining term of the debt. Other than what was included in the actual results for Ares Capital for the year ended December 31, 2010, interest expense has not been adjusted to reflect the accretion to the face value for the periods presented. The accretion for the first 12 months subsequent to April 1, 2010 is estimated to be approximately $11 million. However, there can be no assurance that such accretion will be more or less than such estimate.

C.

Base management fees were computed based on 1.5% of average total assets other than cash and cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed funds per Ares Capital's investment advisory and management agreement with Ares Capital Management.

D.

Incentive management fees were recomputed based on the formula in Ares Capital's investment advisory and management agreement with Ares Capital Management.

E.

Adjustments to other expenses were made to reflect compensation costs for Allied Capital's employees that would have been covered by the base management fees paid to Ares Capital Management and therefore not incurred by Ares Capital. Additionally, all stock option costs were excluded as such costs would not exist at Ares Capital as there is no stock option plan maintained by Ares Capital. Payments of stock option costs to employees would have been similarly incurred by Ares Capital in the form of incentive management fees paid to Ares Capital Management. Lastly, any actual costs incurred related to the merger and subsequent combination, primarily various transaction costs, were also excluded.

F.

Weighted average shares for the year ended December 31, 2010 have been adjusted to reflect the following:

(in thousands)	**For the Year Ended December 31, 2010**
Ares Capital weighted average shares outstanding	176,732
Estimated additional weighted average shares outstanding as a result of the Allied Acquisition	14,583
Ares Capital adjusted weighted average shares outstanding	191,315

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USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of our securities for general corporate purposes, which includes investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective and strategies and market conditions. We also expect to use the net proceeds of an offering to repay or repurchase outstanding indebtedness, which may include indebtedness under (a) the Revolving Credit Facility (principal amount outstanding as of , 2011), (b) the Revolving Funding Facility (principal amount outstanding as of , 2011), (c) the CLO Notes under the Debt Securitization ($ aggregate principal amount outstanding as of , 2011), (d) the 2040 Notes ($ aggregate principal amount outstanding as of , 2011), (e) the 2047 Notes ($ aggregate principal amount outstanding as of , 2011); (f) the February 2016 Convertible Notes ($ aggregate principal amount outstanding as of , 2011) and (g) the June 2016 Convertible Notes ($ aggregate principal amount outstanding as of , 2011).

The interest charged on the indebtedness incurred under the Revolving Credit Facility is based on LIBOR (one, two, three or six month) plus an applicable spread of between 2.50% and 4.00%. As of , 2011, the one, two, three and six month LIBOR were %, %, % and %, respectively, and the applicable LIBOR spread was %. The Revolving Credit Facility matures on January 22, 2013. Subject to certain exceptions, the interest charged on the Revolving Funding Facility is based on LIBOR plus an applicable spread of between 2.25% and 3.75% or on a "base rate" (which is the higher of a prime rate, or the federal funds rate plus 0.50%) plus an applicable spread of between 1.25% to 2.75%, in each case based on a pricing grid depending upon the credit rating of the Company. The effective LIBOR spread under the Revolving Funding Facility on , 2011 was %. The Revolving Funding Facility is scheduled to expire on January 18, 2016 (subject to two one-year extension options exercisable upon mutual consent). As of , 2011, the blended pricing of the CLO Notes, excluding fees, was approximately three-month LIBOR plus %. The CLO Notes mature on December 20, 2019 and the reinvestment period for this vehicle expires on June 17, 2011. The interest charged on the Unsecured Notes and Convertible Notes is as follows: (a) 7.75% in the case of the 2040 Notes, (b) 6.875% in the case of the 2047 Notes, (c) 5.75% in the case of the February 2016 Convertible Notes and (d) 5.125% in the case of the June 2016 Convertible Notes. The 2040 Notes, 2047 Notes, February 2016 Convertible Notes and June 2016 Convertible Notes mature on October 14, 2040, April 15, 2047, February 1, 2016 and June 1, 2016, respectively. The supplement to this prospectus relating to an offering may more fully identify the use of the proceeds from such offering.

We anticipate that substantially all of the net proceeds of an offering of securities pursuant to this prospectus and its related prospectus supplement will be used for the above purposes within three months of any such offering, depending on the availability of appropriate investment opportunities consistent with our investment objective and strategies and market conditions, but no longer than within six months of any such offerings.

Our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of eligible portfolio companies. In addition to such investments, we may invest up to 30% of our portfolio in opportunistic investments of non-eligible portfolio companies. As part of this 30%, we may invest in debt of middle-market companies located outside of the United States. Pending such investments, we will invest a portion of the net proceeds primarily in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and other high-quality short-term investments. These securities may earn yields substantially lower than the income that we anticipate receiving once we are fully invested in accordance with our investment objective. As a result, we may not be able to achieve our investment objective and/or pay any dividends during this period or, if we are able to do so, such dividends may be substantially lower than the dividends that we expect to pay when our portfolio is fully invested. If we do not realize yields in excess of our expenses, we may incur operating losses and the market price of our common stock and debt securities may decline. See "Regulation Temporary Investments" for additional information about temporary investments we may make while waiting to make longer-term investments in pursuit of our investment objective.

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PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DISTRIBUTIONS

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "ARCC." Our common stock has historically traded at prices both above and below our net asset value per share. It is not possible to predict whether our common stock will trade at, above or below net asset value. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Offerings Pursuant to this Prospectus Our shares of common stock have traded at a discount from net asset value and may do so again in the future, which could limit our ability to raise additional equity capital."

The following table sets forth, for each fiscal quarter for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2009, 2010 and 2011, the net asset value per share of our common stock, the range of high and low closing sales prices of our common stock, the closing sales price as a percentage of net asset value and the dividends or distributions declared by us. On June , 2011, the last reported closing sales price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Select Market was $ per share, which represented a premium of approximately % to the net asset value per share reported by us as of March 31, 2011.

	Net Asset Value(1)	Price Range		High Sales Price to Net Asset Value(2)	Low Sales Price to Net Asset Value(2)	Cash Dividend Per Share(3)
		High	Low			
Year ended December 31, 2009						
First Quarter	$ 11.20	$ 7.39	$ 3.21	66.0%	28.7%	$ 0.42
Second Quarter	$ 11.21	$ 8.31	$ 4.53	74.1%	40.4%	$ 0.35
Third Quarter	$ 11.16	$ 11.02	$ 7.04	98.7%	63.1%	$ 0.35
Fourth Quarter	$ 11.44	$ 12.71	$ 10.21	111.1%	89.2%	$ 0.35
Year ended December 31, 2010						
First Quarter	$ 11.78	$ 14.82	$ 11.75	125.8%	99.7%	$ 0.35
Second Quarter	$ 14.11	$ 16.40	$ 12.53	116.2%	88.8%	$ 0.35
Third Quarter	$ 14.43	$ 15.89	$ 12.44	110.1%	86.2%	$ 0.35
Fourth Quarter	$ 14.92	$ 17.26	$ 15.64	115.7%	104.8%	$ 0.35
Year ending December 31, 2011						
First Quarter	$ 15.45	$ 17.83	$ 16.08	115.4%	104.1%	$ 0.35
Second Quarter (through June , 2011)	*	$	$	*	*	$ 0.35

(1) Net asset value per share is determined as of the last day in the relevant quarter and therefore may not reflect the net asset value per share on the date of the high and low closing sales prices. The net asset values shown are based on outstanding shares at the end of the relevant quarter.

(2) Calculated as the respective high or low closing sales price divided by net asset value.

(3) Represents the dividend or distribution declared in the relevant quarter.

* Net asset value has not yet been calculated for this period.

We currently intend to distribute quarterly dividends or distributions to our stockholders. Our quarterly dividends or distributions, if any, will be determined by our board of directors.

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The following table summarizes our dividends or distributions declared to date:

Date Declared	Record Date	Payment Date	Amount
December 16, 2004	December 27, 2004	January 26, 2005	$ 0.30
Total declared for 2004			$ 0.30
February 23, 2005	March 7, 2005	April 15, 2005	$ 0.30
June 20, 2005	June 30, 2005	July 15, 2005	$ 0.32
September 6, 2005	September 16, 2005	September 30, 2005	$ 0.34
December 12, 2005	December 22, 2005	January 16, 2006	$ 0.34
Total declared for 2005			$ 1.30
February 28, 2006	March 24, 2006	April 14, 2006	$ 0.36
May 8, 2006	June 15, 2006	June 30, 2006	$ 0.38
August 9, 2006	September 15, 2006	September 29, 2006	$ 0.40
November 8, 2006	December 15, 2006	December 29, 2006	$ 0.40
November 8, 2006	December 15, 2006	December 29, 2006	$ 0.10
Total declared for 2006			$ 1.64
March 8, 2007	March 19, 2007	March 30, 2007	$ 0.41
May 10, 2007	June 15, 2007	June 29, 2007	$ 0.41
August 9, 2007	September 14, 2007	September 28, 2007	$ 0.42
November 8, 2007	December 14, 2007	December 31, 2007	$ 0.42
Total declared for 2007			$ 1.66
February 28, 2008	March 17, 2008	March 31, 2008	$ 0.42
May 8, 2008	June 16, 2008	June 30, 2008	$ 0.42
August 7, 2008	September 15, 2008	September 30, 2008	$ 0.42
November 6, 2008	December 15, 2008	January 2, 2009	$ 0.42
Total declared for 2008			$ 1.68
March 2, 2009	March 16, 2009	March 31, 2009	$ 0.42
May 7, 2009	June 15, 2009	June 30, 2009	$ 0.35
August 6, 2009	September 15, 2009	September 30, 2009	$ 0.35
November 5, 2009	December 15, 2009	December 31, 2009	$ 0.35
Total declared for 2009			$ 1.47
February 25, 2010	March 15, 2010	March 31, 2010	$ 0.35
May 10, 2010	June 15, 2010	June 30, 2010	$ 0.35
August 5, 2010	September 15, 2010	September 30, 2010	$ 0.35
November 4, 2010	December 15, 2010	December 31, 2010	$ 0.35
Total declared for 2010			$ 1.40
March 1, 2011	March 15, 2011	March 31, 2011	$ 0.35
May 3, 2011	June 15, 2011	June 30, 2011	$ 0.35
Total declared for 2011			$ 0.70

To maintain our RIC status, we must timely distribute an amount equal to at least 90% of our investment company taxable income (as defined by the Code, which generally includes net ordinary income and net short term capital gains) to our stockholders. In addition, the Company generally will be required to pay an excise tax equal to 4% of the amount by which 98% of the Company's (i) ordinary income recognized during a calendar year and (ii) capital gain net income (as defined by the Code) recognized for the one year period ending on October 31st of a calendar year exceeds the distributions for the year. For 2011 and beyond, 98.2% of capital gain net income must be distributed

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to avoid the excise tax. The taxable income on which excise tax is paid is generally distributed to stockholders in the next tax year. Depending on the level of taxable income earned in a tax year, we may choose to carry forward taxable income for distribution in the following year, and pay any applicable excise tax. For the three months ended March 31, 2011 we recorded a net excise tax expense of $0.7 million. For the year ended December 31, 2010 we recorded a net excise tax expense of $2.2 million. We cannot assure you that we will achieve results that will permit the payment of any cash distributions.

We maintain an "opt out" dividend reinvestment plan for our common stockholders. As a result, if we declare a cash dividend, then stockholders' cash dividends will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, unless they specifically opt out of the dividend reinvestment plan so as to receive cash dividends. See "Dividend Reinvestment Plan."

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

For the three months ended March 31, 2011 and the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006, the ratios of earnings to fixed charges of the Company, computed as set forth below, were as follows:

	For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2011	For the Year Ended December 31, 2010	For the Year Ended December 31, 2009	For the Year Ended December 31, 2008	For the Year Ended December 31, 2007	For the Year Ended December 31, 2006
Earnings to Fixed Charges(1)	5.2	9.8(2)	9.4(3)	(2.8)	3.4	5.0

For purposes of computing the ratios of earnings to fixed charges, earnings represent net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations plus (or minus) income tax expense (benefit) including excise tax expense plus fixed charges. Fixed charges include interest and credit facility fees expense and amortization of debt issuance costs.

(1) Earnings include net realized and unrealized gains or losses. Net realized and unrealized gains or losses can vary substantially from period to period.

Excluding the net unrealized gains or losses, the earnings to fixed charges ratio would be 4.4 for the three months ended March 31, 2011, 6.9 for the year ended December 31, 2010, 5.7 for the year ended December 31, 2009, 4.7 for the year ended December 31, 2008, 3.7 for the year ended December 31, 2007 and 5.8 for the year ended December 31, 2006.

Excluding the net realized and unrealized gains or losses, the earnings to fixed charges ratio would be 2.7 for the three months ended March 31, 2011, 3.8 for the year ended December 31, 2010, 6.5 for the year ended December 31, 2009, 4.5 for the year ended December 31, 2008, 3.6 for the year ended December 31, 2007 and 4.3 for the year ended December 31, 2006.

(2) Earnings for year ended December 31, 2010, include a one-time gain on the Allied Acquisition of $195.9 million, a net realized loss on the extinguishment of debt of $2.0 million and net realized gain on sale of other assets of $5.9 million.

(3) Earnings for the year ended December 31, 2009, include a net realized gain on the extinguishment of debt of $26.5 million.

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The information contained in this section should be read in conjunction with the "Selected Condensed Consolidated Financial Data of Ares Capital," the "Unaudited Selected Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations," the "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations" and our and Allied Capital's financial statements and notes thereto appearing elsewhere in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement.

OVERVIEW

We are a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company incorporated in Maryland. We have elected to be regulated as a BDC under the Investment Company Act. We were founded on April 16, 2004, were initially funded on June 23, 2004 and on October 8, 2004 completed our initial public offering.

Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component like warrants.

To a lesser extent, we also make preferred and/or common equity investments, which have generally been non-control equity investments, of less than $20 million (usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment). However, we may increase the size or change the nature of these investments. Also, as a result of the Allied Acquisition, Allied Capital's equity investments, which included equity investments larger than those we have historically made and controlled portfolio company equity investments, became part of our portfolio. We intend to actively seek opportunities over time to dispose of certain of the assets that were acquired in the Allied Acquisition, particularly non-yielding equity investments, as well as lower or non-yielding debt investments and investments that may not be core to our investment strategy, and generally rotate them into higher-yielding first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt investments. However, there can be no assurance that this strategy will be successful.

We are externally managed by Ares Capital Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management, a global alternative asset manager and an SEC-registered investment adviser, pursuant to an investment advisory and management agreement. Ares Operations, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management, provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. For instance, we generally have to invest at least 70% of our total assets in "qualifying assets," including securities and indebtedness of private U.S. companies and certain public U.S. companies, cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and high-quality debt investments that mature in one year or less.

The Company has elected to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code and operates in a manner so as to qualify for the tax treatment applicable to RICs. To qualify as a RIC, we must, among other things, meet certain source-of-income and asset diversification requirements and timely distribute to our stockholders generally at least 90% of our investment company taxable income, as defined by the Code, for each year. Pursuant to this election, we generally will not have to pay corporate level taxes on any income that we distribute to our stockholders provided that we satisfy those requirements.

Allied Acquisition

On April 1, 2010, we consummated the Allied Acquisition in an all stock merger whereby each existing share of common stock of Allied Capital was exchanged for 0.325 shares of our common stock. The Allied Acquisition was valued at approximately $908 million as of April 1, 2010. In connection therewith, we issued approximately 58.5 million shares of our common stock to Allied Capital's then-existing stockholders, resulting in our then-existing stockholders owning approximately 69% of the combined company and the then-existing Allied Capital stockholders owning approximately 31% of the combined company.

Information presented herein as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2011 and the year ended December 31, 2010 includes the results of operations and financial condition of the combined company following the consummation of the Allied Acquisition on April 1, 2010 unless otherwise indicated in the footnotes. Information presented herein as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 relate solely to Ares Capital, as it existed before the Allied Acquisition.

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PORTFOLIO AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

The Company's investment activity for the three months ended March 31, 2011 and 2010 and the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 is presented below (information presented herein is at amortized cost unless otherwise indicated).

	For the three months ended		Year Ended December 31,		
(dollar amounts in millions)	March 31, 2011	March 31, 2010	2010	2009	2008
New investment commitments(1):					
New portfolio companies(2)	$ 151.5	$ 168.4	$ 774.3	$ 317.6	$ 600.5
Existing portfolio companies(3)	350.8	130.4	933.8	162.2	305.0
Total new investment commitments(4)	502.3	298.8	1,708.1	479.8	905.5
Less:					
Investment commitments exited(5)	567.4	308.6	1,644.5	604.4	430.3
Net investment commitments	$ (65.1)	$ (9.8)	$ 63.6	$ (124.6)	$ 475.2
Principal amount of investments funded excluding investments acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition:					
Senior term debt	$ 316.7	$ 19.8	$ 715.3	$ 289.5	$ 529.2
Senior subordinated debt		170.4	308.7	59.4	336.3
Subordinated Notes of SSLP(6)	123.3	11.6	391.6	165.0	
Equity and other	28.3	102.9	168.3	61.1	60.4
Total	$ 468.3	$ 304.7	$ 1,583.9	$ 575.0	$ 925.9
Principal amount of investments sold or repaid excluding investments acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition:					
Senior term debt	$ 156.7	$ 228.4	$ 779.7	$ 283.4	$ 448.8
Senior subordinated debt	78.5	73.0	234.0	202.4	29.0
Subordinated Notes of SSLP(6)		8.6	15.4		
Equity and other	31.0	3.0	18.3	29.4	7.4
Total	$ 266.2	$ 313.0	$ 1,047.4	$ 515.2	$ 485.2
Principal amount of investments acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition:					
Senior term debt	$	$	$ 661.1	$	$
Senior subordinated debt			746.6		
Collateralized loan obligation			114.3		
Commercial real estate			41.0		
Equity and other			270.8		
Total	$	$	$ 1,833.8	$	$
Principal amount of investments acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition sold or repaid:					
Senior term debt	$ 43.6	$	$ 207.7	$	$
Senior subordinated debt	115.7		227.9		
Collateralized loan obligation	114.4		6.5		
Equity and other	20.6		66.4		
Total	$ 294.3	$	$ 508.5	$	$
Number of new investment commitments(4)(7)	16	16	63	33	39
Average new investment commitment amount(4)	$ 31.4	$ 18.7	$ 27.1	$ 14.5	$ 23.2
Weighted average term for new investment commitments (in months)(4)	58	67	61	74	66
Percentage of new investment commitments at floating rates(4)	87%	39%	70.8%	65.2%	27.0%
Percentage of new investment commitments at fixed rates(4)	8%	44%	23.0%	22.2%	65.5%
Weighted average yield of debt and income producing securities(4)(8):					
Funded during the period at fair value	12.0%	13.6%	13.1%	13.4%	12.6%

Funded during the period at amortized cost	12.0%	13.9%	13.2%	13.7%	12.6%
Exited or repaid during the period at fair value(9)	10.9%	12.6%	12.9%	13.4%	9.5%
Exited or repaid during the period at amortized cost	11.4%	12.4%	12.9%	12.2%	9.8%
Weighted average yield of debt and income producing securities acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition(8):					
Funded during the period at fair value	12.0%	13.6%	14.0%	%	%
Funded during the period at amortized cost	12.0%	13.9%	14.0%	%	%
Exited or repaid during the period at fair value(9)	16.9%	%	11.9%	%	%
Exited or repaid during the period at amortized cost	20.3%	%	13.2%	%	%

(1) New investment commitments include new agreements to fund revolving credit facilities or delayed draw loans.

(2) Does not include investment commitments made by the SSLP.

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(3) Includes investment commitments to the SSLP of $123 million and $12 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively, as well as $392 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(4) Excludes investment commitments acquired as a part of the Allied Acquisition on April 1, 2010.

(5) Investment commitments exited for the three months ended March 31, 2011 and the year ended December 31, 2010 include $294 million and $528 million, respectively, of investment commitments in connection with the Allied Acquisition.

(6) See Note 4 to our consolidated financial statements for the three months ended March 31, 2011 for more detail on the SSLP.

(7) Number of new investment commitments represents each commitment to a particular portfolio company.

(8) When we refer to the "weighted average yield at fair value" in this report, we compute it with respect to particular securities by taking the (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing debt included in such securities, and dividing it by (b) total debt and income producing securities at fair value included in such securities. When we refer to the "weighted average yield at amortized cost" in this report, we compute it with respect to particular securities by taking the (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing debt included in such securities, and dividing it by (b) total debt and income producing securities at amortized cost included in such securities.

(9) Represents fair value as of the most recent quarter end.

As of March 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, investments consisted of the following:

	As of			
	March 31, 2011		December 31, 2010	
(in millions)	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Senior term debt	$ 1,835.5	$ 1,831.0	$ 1,722.1	$ 1,695.5
Senior subordinated debt	876.4	822.8	1,055.5	1,014.5
Subordinated notes of SSLP	660.7	681.2	537.5	561.7
Collateralized loan obligations	107.4	108.0	219.3	261.2
Equity securities	697.7	787.9	716.6	751.2
Commercial real estate	37.1	32.1	41.0	33.9
Total	$ 4,214.8	$ 4,263.0	$ 4,292.0	$ 4,318.0

The weighted average yields at fair value and amortized cost of the following portions of our portfolio as of March 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010 were as follows:

	As of			
	March 31, 2011		December 31, 2010	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Debt and income producing securities	12.8%	12.6%	13.2%	12.9%
Debt and income producing securities for investments acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition	13.7%	13.2%	15.2%	14.0%
Total portfolio	10.1%	10.0%	10.6%	10.5%
Senior term debt	11.0%	11.0%	10.6%	10.8%
First lien senior term debt	10.3%	10.3%	10.3%	10.2%
Second lien senior term debt	12.1%	12.3%	11.3%	12.1%

Senior subordinated debt	11.8%	12.6%	13.1%	13.6%
Subordinated notes of SSLP	16.5%	16.0%	16.5%	15.8%
Collateralized loan obligations	8.9%	8.8%	18.7%	15.7%
Income producing equity securities (excluding collateralized loan obligations)	8.7%	7.9%	7.7%	7.7%

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Below is certain information regarding changes in the investments acquired in the Allied Acquisition since April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011:

	Investments at Fair Value as of						
	April 1, 2010			March 31, 2011			Net Change in Fair Value
(dollar amounts in millions)	**$**	**% of Total Investments**	**Weighted Average Yield**	**$**	**% of Total Investments**	**Weighted Average Yield**	**$**
Investments with yields less than 10%							
Debt with yields less than 10%	$ 128.3	7.0%	6.5%	$ 106.3	8.9%	7.9%	$ (22.0)
Debt on non-accrual status	335.6	18.3%	%	63.8	5.4%	%	(271.8)
Equity securities	270.8	14.8%	%	267.7	22.5%	0.1%	(3.1)
Commercial real estate and other	34.5	1.9%	3.3%	11.1	0.9%	%	(23.4)
Total	$ 769.2	42.0%	1.2%	$ 448.9	37.7%	2.0%	$ (320.3)
Investments with yields equal to or greater than 10%							
Debt with yields equal to or greater than 10%	$ 950.2	51.8%	14.3%	$ 740.6	62.3%	13.6%	$ (209.6)
Collateralized loan obligations	114.4	6.2%	18.9%		%	%	(114.4)