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DEUTSCHE BANK AG\  
Form SC 13G  
February 12, 2009

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Ventas, Inc.

-----  
NAME OF ISSUER:

Common Stock (Par Value \$ 0.01)

-----  
TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES

92276F100

-----  
CUSIP NUMBER

December 31, 2008

-----  
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this  
Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)

Rule 13d-1(c)

Rule 13d-1(d)

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS  
S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS

Deutsche Bank AG\*

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP  
(A)   
(B)

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

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Federal Republic of Germany

|  |    |                          |
|--|----|--------------------------|
| NUMBER OF SHARES                                 | 5. | SOLE VOTING POWER        |
|  |    | 5,496,498                |
| BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH | 6. | SHARED VOTING POWER      |
|  |    | 0                        |
|  | 7. | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER   |
|  |    | 9,047,625                |
|  | 8. | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
|  |    | 0                        |

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

9,047,625

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW 9 EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

[ ]

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

6.31%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

FI

\* In accordance with Securities Exchange Act Release No. 39538 (January 12, 1998), this amended filing reflects the securities beneficially owned by the Private Clients and Asset Management business group ("PCAM") of Deutsche Bank AG and its subsidiaries and affiliates (collectively, "DBAG"). This filing does not reflect securities, if any, beneficially owned by any other business group of DBAG. Consistent with Rule 13d-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), this filing shall not be construed as an admission that PCAM is, for purposes of Section 13(d) under the Act, the beneficial owner of any securities covered by the filing.

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS

S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS

Deutsche Investment Management Americas

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(A) [ ]

(B) [ ]

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

|  |    |                          |
|--|----|--------------------------|
| NUMBER OF SHARES                                 | 5. | SOLE VOTING POWER        |
|  |    | 1,346,017                |
| BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH | 6. | SHARED VOTING POWER      |
|  |    | 0                        |
|  | 7. | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER   |
|  |    | 1,346,017                |
|  | 8. | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
|  |    |                          |

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0

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,346,017

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW 9 EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

[ ]

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

0.94%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

IA, CO

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS

S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS

Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(A) [ ]

(B) [ ]

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

|              |    |                          |
|--------------|----|--------------------------|
| NUMBER OF    | 5. | SOLE VOTING POWER        |
| SHARES       |    | 44,875                   |
| BENEFICIALLY | 6. | SHARED VOTING POWER      |
| OWNED BY     |    | 0                        |
| EACH         | 7. | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER   |
| REPORTING    |    | 44,875                   |
| PERSON WITH  | 8. | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
|              |    | 0                        |

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

44,875

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW 9 EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

[ ]

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

0.03%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

BK, CO

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1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS  
S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS

RREEF America, L.L.C.

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP  
(A)   
(B)

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

|              |    |                          |
|--------------|----|--------------------------|
| NUMBER OF    | 5. | SOLE VOTING POWER        |
| SHARES       |    | 3,651,808                |
| BENEFICIALLY | 6. | SHARED VOTING POWER      |
| OWNED BY     |    | 0                        |
| EACH         | 7. | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER   |
| REPORTING    |    | 7,089,387                |
| PERSON WITH  | 8. | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
|              |    | 0                        |

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

7,089,387

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW 9 EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

4.95%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

IA, CO

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS  
S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS

DWS Investments S.A., Luxembourg

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP  
(A)   
(B)

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Federal Republic of Germany

|           |    |                   |
|-----------|----|-------------------|
| NUMBER OF | 5. | SOLE VOTING POWER |
|-----------|----|-------------------|

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|  |    |                          |
|--|----|--------------------------|
| SHARES   |    | 25,124                   |
| BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH | 6. | SHARED VOTING POWER      |
|  |    | 0                        |
|  | 7. | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER   |
|  |    | 25,124                   |
|  | 8. | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
|  |    | 0                        |

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

25,124

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW 9 EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

[ ]

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

0.02%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

IA, CO

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS

S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS

Deutsche Asset Management Australia Ltd

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(A) [ ]

(B) [ ]

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Federal Republic of Australia

|  |    |                          |
|--|----|--------------------------|
| NUMBER OF SHARES                                 | 5. | SOLE VOTING POWER        |
|  |    | 428,674                  |
| BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH | 6. | SHARED VOTING POWER      |
|  |    | 0                        |
|  | 7. | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER   |
|  |    | 542,222                  |
|  | 8. | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
|  |    | 0                        |

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

542,222

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW 9 EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

[ ]

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

0.38%

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12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

IA, CO

- Item 1(a). Name of Issuer:  
Ventas Inc. (the "Issuer")
- Item 1(b). Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:  
111 South Wacker Drive Suite 4800  
Chicago, IL 60606
- Item 2(a). Name of Person Filing:  
This statement is filed on behalf of Deutsche Bank AG  
("Reporting Person").
- Item 2(b). Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence:  
Theodor-Heuss-Allee 70  
60468 Frankfurt am Main  
Federal Republic of Germany
- Item 2(c). Citizenship:  
The citizenship of the Reporting Person is set forth on the  
cover page.
- Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities:  
The title of the securities is common stock, \$0.01 par value  
("Common Stock").
- Item 2(e). CUSIP Number:  
The CUSIP number of the Common Stock is set forth on the cover  
page.
- Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to Rules 13d-1(b), or  
13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:
- (a)  Broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the  
Act;
  - (b)  Bank as defined in section 3(a)(6) of the Act;  
Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas
  - (c)  Insurance Company as defined in section 3(a)(19)  
of the Act;
  - (d)  Investment Company registered under section 8  
of the Investment Company Act of 1940;
  - (e)  An investment adviser in accordance with Rule  
13d- 1(b)(1)(ii)(E);

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Deutsche Investment Management Americas

RREEF America, L.L.C

DWS Investments S.A., Luxembourg

Deutsche Asset Management Australia Ltd

- (f) [ ] An employee benefit plan, or endowment fund in accordance with Rule 13d-1 (b) (1) (ii) (F);
- (g) [ ] Parent holding company or control person in accordance with Rule 13d-1 (b) (1) (ii) (G);
- (h) [ ] A savings association as defined in section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act;
- (i) [ ] A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c) (14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940;
- (j) [X] A non-U.S. institution in accordance with Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1 (b) (1) (ii) (J).
- (k) [ ] Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1 (b) (1) (ii) (J).

Item 4.

Ownership.

- (a) Amount beneficially owned:

The Reporting Person owns the amount of the Common Stock as set forth on the cover page.

- (b) Percent of class:

The Reporting Person owns the percentage of the Common Stock as set forth on the cover page.

- (c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

- (i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote:

The Reporting Person has the sole power to vote or direct the vote of the Common Stock as set forth on the cover page.

- (ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote:

The Reporting Person has the shared power to vote or direct the vote of the Common Stock as set forth on the cover page.

- (iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:

The Reporting Person has the sole power to dispose or direct the disposition of the Common Stock as set forth on the cover page.

- (iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:

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The Reporting Person has the shared power to dispose or direct the disposition of the Common Stock as set forth on the cover page.

- Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.  
Not applicable.
- Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.  
Not applicable.
- Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company.

| Subsidiary                              | Item 3 Classification |
|---|-----------------------|
| Deutsche Investment Management Americas | Investment Advisor    |
| Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas    | Bank                  |
| RREEF America, L.L.C.                   | Investment Advisor    |
| Deutsche Asset Management Australia Ltd | Investment Advisor    |
| DWS Investments S.A., Luxembourg        | Investment Advsiors   |

- Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.  
Not applicable.
- Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.  
Not applicable.
- Item 10. Certification.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the foreign regulatory scheme applicable to a bank organized under the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany is substantially comparable to the regulatory scheme applicable to the functionally equivalent U.S. institution. I also undertake to furnish to the Commission staff, upon request, information that would otherwise be disclosed in a Schedule 13D.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: February 12, 2009



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Deutsche Bank AG

By: /s/ Jeffrey A. Ruiz  
Name: Jeffrey A. Ruiz  
Title: Director

By: /s/ Pasquale Antolino  
Name: Pasquale Antolino  
Title: Assistant Vice President

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: February 12, 2009

Deutsche Investment Management Americas

By: /s/ Jeffrey A. Ruiz  
Name: Jeffrey A. Ruiz  
Title: Director

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: February 12, 2009

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Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas

By: /s/ Jeffrey A. Ruiz  
Name: Jeffrey A. Ruiz  
Title: Director

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: February 12, 2009

RREEF America L.L.C.

By: /s/ Peter Pages  
Name: Peter Pages  
Title: Director

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: February 12, 2009

DWS Investments S.A., Luxembourg

By: /s/ Christian Dargatz

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Name: Christian Dargatz

Title: Director

By: /s/ Jack Sturmhoefel

Name: Jack Sturmhoefel

Title: Assistant Vice President

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: February 12, 2009

Deutsche Asset Management Australia Ltd

By: /s/ Anne Gardiner

Name: Anne Gardiner

Title: Director, Compliance

By: /s/ Michael Thomas

Name: Michael Thomas

Title: Vice President, Compliance