

TRI-CONTINENTAL CORP

Form N-30B-2

December 09, 2008

Tri-Continental Corporation

THIRD QUARTER REPORT 2008

November 6, 2008

To the Stockholders:

The third quarter stockholder report for Tri-Continental Corporation, covering the nine months ended September 30, 2008, follows this letter. The report contains the Corporation's investment results and portfolio of investments.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2008, Tri-Continental posted a total return of -25.7%, based on net asset value, and -23.1%, based on market price. During the same period, its benchmark, the S&P 500 Index, returned -19.3%, while its peers, as measured by the Lipper Closed-End Core Funds Average and the Lipper Large-Cap Core Funds Average, returned -19.1% and -19.7%, respectively.

The third quarter 2008 distribution of \$0.513 per Common share was paid to Stockholders on September 18, 2008. Total distributions in 2008 thus far aggregate \$1.686 per Common share. The fourth quarter 2008 distribution of \$0.428 per Common share will be paid on December 10, 2008 to all Common Stockholders of record November 28, 2008. Each quarterly distribution represents 2.75% of Tri-Continental's net asset value on the final day of the preceding quarter.

A Special Meeting of Stockholders was held on October 7, 2008, at which stockholders voted in favor of approving the new investment management services agreement between Tri-Continental and RiverSource Investments. Stockholders also voted 10 directors to Tri-Continental's Board. Details of the proxy vote can be found on page 10 of this report.

On November 7, 2008, the acquisition of Tri-Continental's investment manager, J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated, by RiverSource Investments, LLC, a subsidiary of Ameriprise Financial, Inc. (NYSE: AMP), will be completed. As a result of the acquisition and the new investment management services agreement, Tri-Continental will be managed by the RiverSource Disciplined Equity and Asset Allocation Team.

On November 12, 2008, Tri-Continental will announce an offer to repurchase up to approximately 35% of its issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock in exchange for a pro rata portion of the Corporation's portfolio securities (subject to certain exceptions) and cash (or cash equivalents) at a price equal to 99.25% of the net asset value per share of Common Stock as of the close of the regular trading session of the New York Stock Exchange on the trading day immediately after the day the repurchase offer expires.

The offer will commence on November 12, 2008 and will expire at 5:00 p.m., Eastern time, on December 11, 2008 (unless extended). The offer is being made upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Offer to Repurchase, which will be mailed on or about November 14, 2008 to holders of Tri-Continental Common Stock on November 10, 2008.

In conjunction with the acquisition of Tri-Continental's investment manager, Stephen Lewis will become Chairman of Tri-Continental and Patrick Bannigan will become President.

We thank you for your continued support of Tri-Continental and for the opportunity to have served as members of Tri-Continental's Board.

Respectfully,

William C. Morris
Chairman

Brian T. Zino
President

Tri-Continental Corporation

Investment Results Per Common Share

TOTAL RETURNS

For Periods Ended September 30, 2008

| | Three Months* | Nine Months* | One Year | Average Annual | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | | | Three Years | Five Years | Ten Years |
| Market Price | (8.96)% | (23.10)% | (31.56)% | (0.25)% | 4.44% | 1.61% |
| Net Asset Value | (14.07) | (25.72) | (32.70) | (3.88) | 2.46 | 0.22 |
| Lipper Closed-End Core Funds Average** | (10.38) | (19.09) | (21.17) | (0.56) | 5.08 | 3.66 |
| Lipper Large-Cap Core Funds Average** | (9.39) | (19.70) | (21.94) | (0.54) | 4.28 | 2.67 |
| S&P 500 Index** | (8.37) | (19.28) | (21.97) | 0.22 | 5.16 | 3.06 |

PRICE PER SHARE

| | September 30, 2008 | June 30, 2008 | March 31, 2008 | December 31, 2007 |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Market Price | \$14.61 | \$16.54 | \$17.42 | \$20.90 |
| Net Asset Value | 15.55 | 18.65 | 19.62 | 23.03 |

DIVIDEND, CAPITAL GAIN AND YIELD INFORMATION

For Periods Ended September 30, 2008

| Distributions | Capital Gain (Loss) | | | | SEC 30-Day Yield ^Ø |
|---------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Paid [□] | Realized | Unrealized Gain [□] | Unrealized Loss [□] | |
| \$1.69 | | \$(1.58) | \$0.35 | \$(6.81) | 2.75% |

Performance data quoted in this report represents past performance and does not guarantee or indicate future investment results. The rates of return will vary and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate. Shares, if sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Total returns of the Corporation as of the most recent month end will be made available at www.seligman.com¹ by the seventh business day following that month end.

J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated, the investment manager of the Corporation prior to November 7, 2008, made certain payments to the Corporation in 2004. Absent such payments, the net asset value returns that include this period would have been lower. Returns reflect changes in market price or net asset value, as applicable, and assume reinvestment of distributions. Performance data quoted does not reflect the deduction of taxes that investors may pay on distributions or the sale of shares. Distributions are expected to consist of net investment income and either one or both of net realized capital gains and return of capital. A return of capital distribution does not necessarily reflect the Corporation's investment performance and should not be confused

with []yield[] or []income.[] An investment in Tri-Continental is not a deposit in a bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

See footnotes on page 3.

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Tri-Continental Corporation

Investment Results Per Common Share (continued)

* Returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized.

** The Lipper Closed-End Core Funds Average and the Lipper Large-Cap Core Funds Average (the "Lipper Averages") and the Standard & Poor's 500 Index (the "S&P 500 Index") are unmanaged benchmarks that assume reinvestment of all distributions. The Lipper Averages exclude the effect of expenses. The S&P 500 Index also excludes the effect of expenses. The Lipper Closed-End Core Funds Average measures the performance of closed-end funds that typically have an average price-to-earnings ratio, price-to-book ratio, and three-year sales-per-share growth value, compared to the Lipper Large-Cap Core Funds Average includes open-end funds that, by portfolio practice, invest at least 75% of their equity assets (on a three-year weighted basis) greater than 300% of the dollar-weighted median market capitalization of the middle 1,000 securities in the S&P 500 Index. The Lipper Large-Cap Core Funds Average is provided for comparative purposes so that the Corporation's performance can be compared to open-end funds with similar portfolio holdings as the Corporation. Lipper classifies the Corporation, based on its portfolio holdings, as a large-cap fund. The S&P 500 Index measures the performance of 500 of the largest US companies based on market capitalizations. Investors cannot invest directly in any of the funds.

□ Preferred Stockholders were paid dividends totaling \$1.875 per share.

□ Represents the per share amount of gross unrealized gain or loss of portfolio securities as of September 30, 2008.

∅ Current yield, representing the annualized yield for the 30-day period ended September 30, 2008, has been computed in accordance with the Corporation's prospectus.

1 The website reference is an inactive textual reference and information contained in or otherwise accessible through the website of the Corporation's prospectus or statement of additional information.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Ten Largest Equity Holdings

September 30, 2008

| | Cost (000s) | Value (000s) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Exxon Mobil Corporation | \$ 51,398 | \$ 61,740 |
| Bank of America Corporation | 57,676 | 44,941 |
| Microsoft Corporation | 43,837 | 39,497 |
| JPMorgan Chase & Co. | 35,606 | 37,710 |
| Chevron Corporation | 30,890 | 33,627 |
| General Electric Company | 41,424 | 29,787 |
| AT&T Inc. | 40,787 | 28,786 |
| Procter & Gamble Company (The) | 26,180 | 26,350 |
| Philip Morris International Inc. | 23,942 | 26,281 |
| Macrovision Solutions Corporation | 35,614 | 25,962 |
| | \$ 387,354 | \$ 354,681 |

There can be no assurance that the securities presented have remained or will remain in the Corporation's portfolio. Information regarding the Corporation's portfolio holdings should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell any security or as an indication that any security is suitable for a particular investor.

□ Excludes options purchased.

Largest Portfolio Changes

July 1 to September 30, 2008

Largest Purchases

Procter & Gamble Company (The)*
 Consumer Discretionary Select Sector SPDR Fund*
 Abercrombie & Fitch Co. (Class A)*
 Financial Select Sector SPDR Fund*
 Bank of America Corporation
 Comcast Corporation (Class A)*
 Kohl's Corporation*
 Analog Devices, Inc.*
 Research in Motion Limited
 CVS Caremark Corporation

Largest Sales

UST Inc.**
 Barr Pharmaceuticals Inc.**
 Target Corporation
 ImClone Systems Incorporated**
 Quest Diagnostics Incorporated**
 Applied Biosystems, Inc.**
 Quanta Services, Inc.**
 Home Depot, Inc. (The)**
 NVIDIA Corporation**
 Hewlett-Packard Company

Largest portfolio changes from the previous period to the current period are based on cost of purchases and proceeds from sales of securities, listed in descending order.

* Position added during the period.

** Position eliminated during the period.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Portfolio of Investments⁽¹⁾ (unaudited)

September 30, 2008

| | Shares | Value |
|--|-----------|--------------|
| COMMON STOCKS 93.2% | | |
| AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE 2.9% | | |
| Boeing Company (The) | 137,900 | \$ 7,908,565 |
| Honeywell International Inc. | 382,700 | 15,901,185 |
| Raytheon Company | 262,300 | 14,035,673 |
| United Technologies Corporation | 176,600 | 10,606,596 |
| | | 48,452,019 |
| AIR FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS 1.2% | | |
| United Parcel Service Inc. (Class B) | 310,900 | 19,552,501 |
| AIRLINES 1.5% | | |
| Delta Air Lines, Inc.* | 1,103,229 | 8,219,056 |
| Northwest Airlines Corporation | 1,329,600 | 12,006,288 |
| UAL Corporation | 468,300 | 4,116,357 |
| | | 24,341,701 |
| BIOTECHNOLOGY 2.1% | | |
| Amgen Inc.* | 193,600 | 11,474,672 |
| Cephalon, Inc.* | 299,600 | 23,216,004 |
| | | 34,690,676 |
| CAPITAL MARKETS 2.9% | | |
| Bank of New York Mellon Corporation | 325,500 | 10,604,790 |
| Fortress Investments Group LLC (Class A) | 1,172,129 | 12,307,354 |
| Janus Capital Group Inc. | 378,600 | 9,192,408 |
| Morgan Stanley | 377,300 | 8,677,900 |
| State Street Corporation | 132,800 | 7,553,664 |
| | | 48,336,116 |
| COMMERCIAL BANKS 1.4% | | |
| Wachovia Corporation | 617,063 | 2,159,721 |
| Wells Fargo & Company | 564,100 | 21,170,673 |
| | | 23,330,394 |
| COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT 4.6% | | |
| Cisco Systems, Inc.* | 762,980 | 17,212,829 |
| Comverse Technology, Inc.* | 2,508,614 | 24,007,436 |
| Nokia Corp. (ADR) | 260,400 | 4,856,460 |

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| | | | |
|--|-----------|--------|------------|
| QUALCOMM Inc. | 499,600 | | 21,467,812 |
| Research in Motion Limited | 129,700 | | 8,858,510 |
| | | | 76,403,047 |
| | | Shares | Value |
| COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS 2.0% | | | |
| Apple Inc.* | 111,000 | \$ | 12,616,260 |
| Hewlett-Packard Company | 429,700 | | 19,869,328 |
| | | | 32,485,588 |
| CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING 0.4% | | | |
| Foster Wheeler Ltd.* | 165,400 | | 5,972,594 |
| CONSUMER FINANCE 0.9% | | | |
| American Express Company | 409,600 | | 14,512,128 |
| CONTAINERS AND PACKAGING 1.3% | | | |
| Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation* | 4,670,904 | | 21,953,249 |
| DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICES 5.9% | | | |
| Bank of America Corporation | 1,284,040 | | 44,941,400 |
| CIT Group Inc. | 1,284,200 | | 8,938,032 |
| Citigroup Inc. | 274,800 | | 5,636,148 |
| JPMorgan Chase & Co. | 807,500 | | 37,710,250 |
| | | | 97,225,830 |
| DIVERSIFIED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES 3.5% | | | |
| AT&T Inc. | 1,031,000 | | 28,785,520 |
| Frontier Communications Corporation | 1,011,300 | | 11,629,950 |
| Qwest Communications International Inc. | 3,746,500 | | 12,101,195 |
| tw telecom inc.* | 467,300 | | 4,855,247 |
| | | | 57,371,912 |
| ELECTRIC UTILITIES 0.8% | | | |
| Exelon Corporation | 208,700 | | 13,068,794 |
| ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT 1.0% | | | |
| ABB Limited (ADR)* | 348,200 | | 6,755,080 |
| Energy Conversion Devices, Inc.* | 76,700 | | 4,467,775 |
| First Solar, Inc.* | 19,500 | | 3,683,745 |
| JA Solar Holdings Co., Ltd. (ADR)* | 160,000 | | 1,692,800 |
| | | | 16,599,400 |

See footnotes on page 8.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Portfolio of Investments⁽¹⁾ (unaudited)

September 30, 2008

| | Shares | Value |
|--|------------|--------------|
| ENERGY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES 3.1% | | |
| Baker Hughes Incorporated | 108,400 | \$ 6,562,536 |
| Exterran Holdings, Inc.* | 148,600 | 4,749,256 |
| Halliburton Company | 264,500 | 8,567,155 |
| Noble Corporation | 189,700 | 8,327,830 |
| Schlumberger Limited | 159,100 | 12,424,119 |
| Transocean Inc.* | 94,400 | 10,368,896 |
| | | 50,999,792 |
| FOOD AND STAPLES RETAILING 1.6% | | |
| CVS Caremark Corporation | 399,000 | 13,430,340 |
| Rite Aid Corporation* | 15,227,951 | 12,791,479 |
| | | 26,221,819 |
| HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES 1.8% | | |
| Baxter International Inc. | 141,000 | 9,253,830 |
| Hologic, Inc.* | 528,500 | 10,215,905 |
| Zimmer Holdings, Inc.* | 161,800 | 10,445,808 |
| | | 29,915,543 |
| HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND SERVICES 1.5% | | |
| Express Scripts, Inc.* | 127,800 | 9,434,196 |
| Health Net, Inc.* | 406,475 | 9,592,810 |
| UnitedHealth Group Incorporated | 222,680 | 5,653,845 |
| | | 24,680,851 |
| HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS 1.6% | | |
| Procter & Gamble Company (The) | 378,100 | 26,349,789 |
| INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS AND ENERGY TRADERS 0.5% | | |
| AES Corporation (The)* | 669,600 | 7,827,624 |
| INDEX DERIVATIVES 2.3% | | |
| Consumer Discretionary Select Sector SPDR Fund | 752,100 | 20,983,590 |
| Financial Select Sector SPDR Fund | 844,400 | 16,795,116 |

| | Shares | Value |
|---|-----------|--------------|
| | | 37,778,706 |
| INDUSTRIAL | | |
| CONGLOMERATES 2.2% | | |
| 3M Company | 109,600 | \$ 7,486,776 |
| General Electric Company | 1,168,100 | 29,786,550 |
| | | 37,273,326 |
| INSURANCE 2.5% | | |
| American International Group, Inc. | 472,200 | 1,572,426 |
| Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. | 219,700 | 9,005,503 |
| MetLife, Inc. | 314,600 | 17,617,600 |
| Prudential Financial, Inc. | 176,434 | 12,703,248 |
| | | 40,898,777 |
| INTERNET SOFTWARE AND SERVICES 3.5% | | |
| Google Inc. (Class A)* | 52,800 | 21,147,456 |
| SAVVIS, Inc.* | 1,194,170 | 16,049,645 |
| Yahoo!, Inc.* | 1,217,512 | 21,062,958 |
| | | 58,260,059 |
| MACHINERY 0.3% | | |
| Deere & Company | 86,700 | 4,291,650 |
| MEDIA 0.7% | | |
| Comcast Corporation (Class A) | 581,200 | 11,408,956 |
| METALS AND MINING 2.2% | | |
| Alcoa Inc. | 529,613 | 11,958,662 |
| Barrick Gold Corporation | 222,400 | 8,170,976 |
| Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc. | 193,600 | 11,006,160 |
| Nucor Corporation | 124,900 | 4,933,550 |
| | | 36,069,348 |
| MULTI-UTILITIES 1.0% | | |
| Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated | 530,600 | 17,398,374 |
| MULTILINE RETAIL 1.3% | | |
| Kohl's Corporation* | 238,400 | 10,985,472 |
| Target Corporation | 233,800 | 11,467,890 |
| | | 22,453,362 |

See footnotes on page 8.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Portfolio of Investments⁽¹⁾ (unaudited)

September 30, 2008

| | Shares | Value |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| OIL, GAS AND | | |
| CONSUMABLE FUELS 10.7% | | |
| Chesapeake Energy Corporation | 395,500 | \$ 14,182,630 |
| Chevron Corporation | 407,700 | 33,627,096 |
| ConocoPhillips Company | 337,100 | 24,692,575 |
| El Paso Corporation | 1,103,800 | 14,084,488 |
| Exxon Mobil Corporation | 795,000 | 61,739,700 |
| Occidental Petroleum Corporation | 142,400 | 10,032,080 |
| Valero Energy Corporation | 280,000 | 8,484,000 |
| XTO Energy, Inc. | 225,625 | 10,496,075 |
| | | 177,338,644 |
| PHARMACEUTICALS 9.5% | | |
| Abbott Laboratories | 372,500 | 21,448,550 |
| Bristol-Myers Squibb Company | 677,900 | 14,134,215 |
| Forest Laboratories, Inc.* | 449,500 | 12,711,860 |
| Merck & Co. Inc. | 292,200 | 9,221,832 |
| Mylan, Inc.* | 1,629,700 | 18,611,174 |
| Pfizer Inc. | 1,334,638 | 24,610,725 |
| Schering-Plough Corporation | 1,245,500 | 23,004,385 |
| Sepracor Inc.* | 562,000 | 10,290,220 |
| Wyeth | 640,434 | 23,657,632 |
| | | 157,690,593 |
| SEMICONDUCTORS AND | | |
| SEMICONDUCTOR | | |
| EQUIPMENT 3.2% | | |
| Analog Devices, Inc. | 241,900 | 6,374,065 |
| Intel Corporation | 971,800 | 18,201,814 |
| Marvell Technology Group Ltd.* | 2,520,181 | 23,437,683 |
| MEMC Electronic Materials, Inc.* | 170,700 | 4,823,982 |
| | | 52,837,544 |
| SOFTWARE 7.0% | | |
| Activision Blizzard, Inc.* | 1,532,800 | 23,651,104 |
| BMC Software Inc.* | 280,200 | 8,022,126 |
| Macrovision Solutions Corporation* | 1,688,027 | 25,961,855 |
| Microsoft Corporation | 1,479,856 | 39,497,357 |
| Oracle Corporation* | 900,100 | 18,281,031 |
| | | 115,413,473 |
| | Shares or Shares | |

| | Subject to Call/Put | Value |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| SPECIALTY RETAIL 1.5% | | |
| Abercrombie & Fitch Co. (Class A) | 449,000 | \$ 17,713,050 |
| OfficeMax Inc. | 845,992 | 7,520,869 |
| | | 25,233,919 |
| TOBACCO 2.4% | | |
| Altria Group, Inc. | 684,880 | 13,588,019 |
| Philip Morris International Inc. | 546,380 | 26,280,877 |
| | | 39,868,896 |
| WIRELESS | | |
| TELECOMMUNICATION | | |
| SERVICES 0.4% | | |
| NII Holdings Inc.* | 165,800 | 6,287,136 |
| TOTAL COMMON STOCKS | | 1,540,794,130 |
| OPTIONS PURCHASED* 0.7% | | |
| BIOTECHNOLOGY 0.1% | | |
| Amgen Inc., Call expiring January 2009 at \$60 | 394,300 | 1,892,640 |
| COMMUNICATIONS | | |
| EQUIPMENT 0.0% | | |
| JDS Uniphase Corporation, Call expiring January 2009 at \$15 | 994,900 | 99,490 |
| DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL | | |
| SERVICES 0.0% | | |
| CIT Group Inc., Call expiring January 2009 at \$35 | 303,600 | 15,180 |
| Citigroup Inc., Call expiring January 2009 at \$30 | 565,200 | 271,296 |
| | | 286,476 |
| FOOD AND STAPLES | | |
| RETAILING 0.0% | | |
| Rite Aid Corporation, Call expiring January 2009 at \$5 | 3,495,200 | 174,760 |
| INDEX DERIVATIVES 0.5% | | |
| United States Oil Fund, Put expiring October 2008 at \$100 | 215,900 | 4,231,640 |
| United States Oil Fund, Put expiring October 2008 at \$90 | 333,300 | 3,266,340 |
| | | 7,497,980 |

See footnotes on page 8.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Portfolio of Investments⁽¹⁾ (unaudited)

September 30, 2008

| | Shares Subject to Call or Partnership Interest | | Value |
|--|---|----|------------|
| INTERNET SOFTWARE AND SERVICES 0.1% | | | |
| Yahoo! Inc., Call expiring January 2009 at \$30 | 556,300 | \$ | 66,756 |
| Yahoo! Inc., Call expiring January 2009 at \$25 | 1,233,500 | | 703,095 |
| | | | 769,851 |
| PHARMACEUTICALS 0.0% | | | |
| Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Call expiring January 2009 at \$25 | 738,800 | | 162,536 |
| Wyeth, Call expiring October 2008 at \$45 | 280,900 | | 22,472 |
| | | | 185,008 |
| SEMICONDUCTORS AND SEMICONDUCTOR EQUIPMENT 0.0% | | | |
| Marvell Technology Group, Ltd., Call expiring January 2009 at \$20 | 908,200 | | 90,820 |
| Marvell Technology Group, Ltd., Call expiring January 2009 at \$15 | 352,900 | | 52,935 |
| | | | 143,755 |
| TOTAL OPTIONS PURCHASED | | | 11,049,960 |
| LIMITED PARTNERSHIP 0.1% | | | |
| WCAS Capital Partners II, L.P.□ | \$4,292,803 | | 2,192,377 |
| | Principal Amount | | Value |
| SHORT-TERM HOLDINGS 4.6% | | | |
| EQUITY-LINKED NOTES□□ 2.6% | | | |
| Credit Suisse | | | |

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| | | |
|---|--------------|-------------------------|
| 39.54%, 11/21/08 (a) | \$15,603,000 | \$ 12,586,784 |
| Deutsche Bank | | |
| 37.5%, 11/20/08 (b) | 15,603,000 | 10,522,975 |
| Goldman Sachs Group | | |
| 34.6%, 10/2/08 (c) | 14,844,000 | 9,146,873 |
| Lehman Brothers: | | |
| 53.51%, 9/14/08 (d) ** | 14,844,000 | 1,231,978 |
| 39.5%, 10/2/08 (e) ** | 14,844,000 | 737,881 |
| Morgan Stanley | | |
| 37.05%, 10/17/08 (f) | 14,844,000 | 8,227,732 |
| TOTAL EQUITY-LINKED NOTES | | 42,454,223 |
| TIME DEPOSIT 2.0% | | |
| Citibank, Nassau, 1.5%, 10/1/08 | 33,749,000 | 33,749,000 |
| TOTAL SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS | | 76,203,223 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS 98.6% | | 1,630,239,690 |
| OTHER ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES 1.4% | | 23,034,537 |
| NET INVESTMENT ASSETS 100.0% | | \$ 1,653,274,227 |

- (1) The composition of the Corporation's portfolio of investments is as of September 30, 2008 and may change based on the investment techniques of the Corporation's new portfolio managers who assumed portfolio management responsibility for the Corporation on November 7, 2008.

At September 30, 2008, the cost of investments for federal income tax purposes was \$2,315,261,439. The tax basis gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of portfolio securities were \$36,426,888 and \$721,448,637, respectively. Net unrealized depreciation was \$685,021,749.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Portfolio of Investments (unaudited)

September 30, 2008

* Non-income producing security.

** Security in default and non-income producing.

□ At September 30, 2008, Tri-Continental Corporation owned one limited partnership investment that was purchased through a private offering and cannot be sold without prior registration under the Securities Act of 1933 or pursuant to an exemption therefrom. The investment is valued at fair value as determined in accordance with procedures approved by the Board of Directors of the Corporation. The acquisition dates of investment in the limited partnership, along with the cost and value at September 30, 2008, was as follows:

| Investment | Acquisition Dates | Cost | Value |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| WCAS Capital Partners II, L.P. | 12/11/90 to 3/24/98 | \$4,292,803 | \$2,192,377 |

□ The security may be offered and sold only to a □ qualified institutional buyer □ under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933.

These notes are exchangeable at maturity, based on the terms of the respective notes, for shares of common stock of a company or cash at a maturity value which is generally determined as follows:

The principal amount of the notes plus or minus the lowest return of the companies □ respective stock prices determined at maturity from the date of purchase of the notes:

- Energizer Holdings, Inc., Longs Drug Stores Corporation and Sepracor Inc.
- CIGNA Corporation, Hologic, Inc. and Qwest Communications International Inc.
- Adobe Systems Incorporated, UnitedHealth Group Incorporated and Wyeth
- Delta Air Lines, Inc., Intel Corporation and Mylan Inc.
- Health Net, Inc., Kohl's Corporation and Prudential Financial, Inc.
- Comcast Corporation, Merck & Co., Inc. and Nokia Corporation ADR

ADR □ American Depositary Receipts.

Security Valuation □ Securities traded on an exchange are valued at the last sales price on the primary exchange or market on which they are traded. Securities not listed on an exchange or security market, or securities for which there is no last sales price, are valued at the mean of the most recent bid and asked prices or are valued by J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated (□ Seligman □), the Corporation □s investment manager prior to November 7, 2008, based on quotations provided by primary market makers in such securities. Securities for which market quotations are not readily available (or are otherwise no longer valid or reliable) are valued at fair value determined in accordance with procedures approved by the Board of Directors. This can occur in the event of, among other things, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, market disruptions, intra-day trading halts, and extreme market volatility. The determination of fair value involves subjective judgments. As a result, using fair value to price a security may result in a price materially different from the prices used by other investment companies to determine net asset value or the price that may be realized upon the actual sale of the security. Short-term holdings maturing in 60 days or less are valued at current market quotations or amortized cost if Seligman believes it approximates fair value. Short-term holdings that mature in more than 60 days are valued at current market quotations until the 60th day prior to maturity and are then valued as described above for securities maturing in 60 days or less.

Fair Value Measurements □ On January 1, 2008, the Corporation adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 157 (□ SFAS 157 □), □ Fair

Value Measurements. □ SFAS 157 establishes a three-tier hierarchy to classify the assumptions, referred to as inputs, used in valuation techniques (see Security Valuation above) to measure fair value of the Corporation □s investments. These inputs are summarized in three broad levels: Level 1 □ quoted prices in active markets for identical investments; Level 2 □ other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices in inactive markets or for similar investments); and Level 3 □ significant unobservable inputs (including the Corporation □s own assumptions in determining fair value). The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities may not be an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities.

The following is a summary of the value of the Corporation □s investments as of September 30, 2008 based on the level of inputs used:

| Valuation Inputs | Value |
|---|------------------|
| Level 1 □ Quoted Prices | \$ 1,551,844,090 |
| Level 2 □ Other Significant Observable Inputs | 76,203,223 |
| Level 3 □ Significant Unobservable Inputs | 2,192,377 |

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Total \$ 1,630,239,690

As required by SFAS 157, the following is a reconciliation of investments for which significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) were used to determine the fair value of investments classified as Level 3 at either the beginning or end of the period:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Balance as of December 31, 2007 | \$ 1,784,956 |
| Net change in unrealized depreciation | 407,421 |
| Balance as of September 30, 2008 | \$ 2,192,377 |
| Net change in unrealized depreciation from investments still held as of September 30, 2008 | \$ 407,421 |

Risk To the extent that the Corporation invests a substantial percentage of its assets in an industry, the Corporation's performance may be negatively affected if that industry falls out of favor. Stocks of large-capitalization companies have at times experienced periods of volatility and negative performance. During such periods, the value of such stocks may decline and the Corporation's performance may be negatively affected.

Subsequent Events On November 7, 2008, RiverSource Investments, LLC (RiverSource Investments), a wholly owned subsidiary of Ameriprise Financial, Inc., announced the closing of its acquisition (the Acquisition) of Seligman. With the Acquisition completed and stockholders of the Corporation having previously approved (at a Special Meeting held on October 7, 2008) a new investment management services agreement between the Corporation and RiverSource Investments, RiverSource Investments is the new investment manager of the Corporation effective November 7, 2008.

On November 12, 2008, the Corporation announced an offer to repurchase up to approximately 35% of its issued and outstanding shares of common stock (Common Stock) in exchange for a pro rata portion of the Corporation's portfolio securities (subject to certain exceptions) and cash (or cash equivalents) at a price equal to 99.25% of the net asset value per share of Common Stock as of the close of the regular trading session of the New York Stock Exchange on the trading day immediately after the day the repurchase offer expires.

The offer commenced on November 12, 2008 and will expire at 5:00 p.m., Eastern time, on December 11, 2008 (unless extended). The offer is being made upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Offer to Repurchase, which was mailed on November 14, 2008 to holders of Common Stock of the Corporation on November 10, 2008.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Proxy Results

Tri-Continental Corporation Stockholders voted on the following proposals at the Special Meeting of Stockholders on October 7, 2008, in Baltimore, MD. Stockholders voted in favor of the proposals. The description of each proposal and number of shares voted are as follows:

To consider and vote upon the proposed Investment Management Services Agreement between the Corporation and RiverSource Investments, LLC:

| For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| 59,037,017 | 4,053,578 | 1,318,919 |

To elect 10 Directors to the Board:

to hold office until the 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders:

| | For | Withheld |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| Kathleen Blatz | 59,585,172 | 4,824,347 |
| Alison Taunton-Rigby | 59,565,701 | 4,843,818 |
| Pamela G. Carlton | 59,582,437 | 4,827,083 |
| William F. Truscott | 59,608,426 | 4,801,094 |

to hold office until the 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders:

| | For | Withheld |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| Arne H. Carlson | 59,531,396 | 4,878,123 |
| Anne P. Jones | 59,506,844 | 4,902,676 |

to hold office until the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders:

| | For | Withheld |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Patricia M. Flynn | 59,612,890 | 4,796,630 |
| Jeffrey Laikind | 59,542,795 | 4,866,725 |
| Stephen R. Lewis, Jr. | 59,583,415 | 4,826,106 |
| Catherine James Paglia | 59,581,357 | 4,828,163 |

Tri-Continental Corporation

Stockholder Services

Tri-Continental provides a number of services to make maintaining an investment in its Common Stock more convenient. Please consult Tri-Continental's prospectus for the terms and conditions of these services.

Distribution Policy. Holders of Tri-Continental Common Stock will receive quarterly distributions equal to a minimum of 2.75% of the net asset value of Tri-Continental's Common Stock on the last business day of the preceding calendar quarter (approximately 11% annually). The payment options for receiving distributions are:

- 100% of distribution to be invested in additional shares of Tri-Continental
- 75% of distribution to be invested in additional shares, 25% of distribution to be paid in cash
- 50% of distribution to be invested in additional shares, 50% of distribution to be paid in cash
- 100% of distribution to be paid in cash

You can change your payment election at any time by contacting your financial advisor or Stockholder Services at 800-TRI-1092.

Automatic Dividend Investment and Cash Purchase Plan. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the prospectus, Stockholders may automatically purchase additional shares with distribution payments. There is no charge for this service. Stockholders may also, subject to the terms and conditions of the prospectus, purchase additional shares directly from the Corporation. There is a service fee of a maximum of \$2.00 for each cash purchase transaction.

Automatic Cash Withdrawal Plan. Stockholders who hold Common Stock with a market value of \$5,000 or more may elect to receive a fixed amount from their investment at regular intervals by selling their shares to the Corporation. This Plan will be suspended during the Corporation's repurchase offer, as described in the Offer to Repurchase filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 12, 2008. This Plan may also be suspended during a second potential repurchase offer.

Traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Stockholders who have earned income and are under age 70½ may contribute up to \$5,000 per year to a Traditional IRA for 2008. A working or non-working spouse may also contribute up to \$5,000 to a separate Traditional IRA for 2008. Additionally, individuals who reach age 50 prior to the end of a taxable year may make "catch-up contributions" to a Traditional IRA of up to \$1,000. Contributions to a Traditional IRA may be deductible or non-deductible. If you are single and *not* covered by an employer's retirement plan, your contribution will always be deductible. For individuals who are covered by a plan, contributions will be fully deductible if your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) in 2008 is less than \$53,000. For spouses who are both covered by a plan, contributions will be fully deductible if your MAGI is less than \$85,000. If one spouse does not work or is not covered by a retirement plan, that spouse's contribution will be fully deductible provided your household MAGI does not exceed \$159,000. If your contribution is not deductible, you may still take advantage of the tax-deferred accumulation of earnings in your Traditional IRA.

Rollover IRA. You may be eligible to roll over a distribution of assets received from another IRA, a qualified employee benefit plan, or tax-deferred annuity into a Rollover IRA with Tri-Continental. To avoid a tax penalty, the transfer to a Rollover IRA must occur within 60 days of receipt of the qualifying distribution. If you do not make a direct transfer of a distribution from a qualified employee benefit plan or a tax-deferred annuity to a Rollover IRA, the payor of the distribution must withhold 20% of the distribution.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Stockholder Services (continued)

Roth IRA. You (and a working or non-working spouse) may (each) make an after-tax contribution of up to \$5,000 per year to a Roth IRA provided you have earned income and meet the eligibility requirements. Your MAGI must be less than \$101,000 for individuals or \$159,000 for married couples to be eligible to make a full contribution to a Roth IRA. You are eligible to make a partial Roth IRA contribution if your MAGI is below \$116,000 for individuals or \$169,000 for married couples. Total combined contributions to a Roth IRA and a Traditional IRA cannot exceed \$5,000 in any year. Additionally, individuals who reach age 50 prior to the end of a taxable year may make "catch-up contributions" to either a Roth IRA or Traditional IRA of up to \$1,000. Earnings grow tax-free and will be distributed to you tax-free and penalty-free provided that you hold your account for at least five years **and** you take the distribution either after age 59½, for disability, upon death, or to make a first-time home purchase (up to \$10,000). Unlike a Traditional IRA, you may contribute to a Roth IRA even if you are over age 70½ (if you have earned income), and you are not required to take minimum distributions at age 70½. You may convert an existing Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA to take advantage of tax-free distributions. You must pay taxes on any earnings and deductible contributions in your Traditional IRA when converting it to a Roth IRA. Talk to your financial advisor for more details on converting your Traditional IRA.

Retirement Planning - Qualified Plans Unincorporated businesses and the self-employed may take advantage of the same benefits in their retirement plans that are available to corporations. Contribution levels can go as high as 100% of earned income (reduced by plan contributions), to a maximum of \$46,000 per participant. For retirement plan purposes, no more than \$230,000 may be taken into account as earned income under the plan in 2008. Social Security integration and employee vesting schedules are also available as options in the Tri-Continental prototype retirement plans. Although you already may be participating in an employer's retirement plan, you may be eligible to establish another plan based upon income from other sources, such as director's fees.

Retirement Plan Services provides information about our prototype retirement plans. The toll-free telephone number is (800) 445-1777 in the US and (212) 682-7600 outside the US.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Board of Directors

Kathleen Blatz^(1,2,6,7)

Attorney

Retired Chief Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court

Arne H. Carlson^(1,2,3,5,6)

Retired Chairman, RiverSource Funds

Former Governor of Minnesota

Pamela G. Carlton^(4,6,7)

President, Springboard □ Partners in Cross Cultural Leadership

Patricia M. Flynn^(1,3,6)

Trustee Professor of Economics and Management, Bentley College

Anne P. Jones^(1,2,6,7)

Attorney

Consultant

Jeffrey Laikind, CFA^(4,6,7)

Retired Managing Director, Shikiar Asset Management

Director, American Progressive Insurance

Stephen R. Lewis, Jr.^(1,2,3,4,6)

President Emeritus and Professor of Economics, Carleton College

Director, Valmont Industries, Inc.

John F. Maher^(4,6,7)

Retired President and Chief Executive Officer,

and former Director, Great Western Financial

Corporation and its principal subsidiary,

Great Western Bank

Executive Officers

Patrick T. Bannigan

President

Michelle M. Keeley

Vice President

Amy K. Johnson

Vice President

Catherine James Paglia(2,3,4,5,6)

Director, Enterprise Asset Management, Inc.

Leroy C. Richie(3,4,6)

Counsel, Lewis & Munday, P.C. (law firm)

Director, Vibration Control Technologies, LLC and

OGE Energy Corp.

Lead Outside Director, Digital Ally Inc. and Infinity, Inc.

Director and Chairman, Highland Park Michigan

Economic Development Corp

Chairman, Detroit Public Schools Foundation

Allison Taunton-Rigby(3,4,5,6)

Chief Executive Officer and Director, RiboNovix, Inc.

Director, Idera Pharmaceutical, Inc. and Healthways, Inc.

William F. Truscott(6)

President US Asset Management and Chief Investment

Advisor, Ameriprise Financial, Inc.

President, Chairman of the Board, and Chief Investment

Officer, RiverSource Investments, LLC

Director, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ameriprise

Certificate Company

Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and President,

RiverSource Distributors, Inc.

Member:

(1) Board Governance Committee

(2) Compliance Committee

(3) Contracts Committee

(4) Distribution Committee

(5) Executive Committee

(6) Investment Review Committee

(7) Joint Audit Committee

Scott R. Plummer

Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary

Lawrence P. Vogel

Treasurer

Eleanor T.M. Hoagland

Chief Compliance Officer and Money Laundering Prevention

Officer and Identity Theft Prevention Officer

Tri-Continental Corporation

Additional Fund Information

Manager

Until November 6, 2008

J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated
100 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

From November 7, 2008

RiverSource Investments, LLC
200 Ameriprise Financial Center
Minneapolis, MN 55474

Stockholder Service Agent

Seligman Data Corp.
100 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Mail Inquiries to:

P.O. Box 9759
Providence, RI 02940-9759

Important Telephone Numbers

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| (800) TRI-1092 | Stockholder Services |
| (800) 445-1777 | Retirement Plan Services |
| (212) 682-7600 | Outside the United States |
| (800) 622-4597 | 24-Hour Automated Telephone Access Service |

This report is intended only for the information of Stockholders who have received the current prospectus covering shares of Common Stock of Tri-Continental Corporation, which contains information about investment objectives, risks, management fees and other costs. The prospectus should be read carefully before investing and may be obtained by calling Stockholder Services at 800-TRI-1092.

END OF THIRD QUARTER REPORT