

Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc.

Form 10-Q

November 12, 2010

[Table of Contents](#)

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

Quarterly Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2010

Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 001-34452

Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Maryland
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

27-0467113
(IRS Employer
Identification Number)

Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc.

c/o Apollo Global Management, LLC

9 West 57th Street, 43rd Floor,

New York, New York 10019

(Address of Registrant's principal executive offices)

(212) 515 3200

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller Reporting Company

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

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

As of November 9, 2010, there were 17,551,905 shares, par value \$0.01, of the registrant's common stock issued and outstanding.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

	Page
Part I Financial Information	
ITEM 1. <u>Financial Statements</u>	3
ITEM 2. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	19
ITEM 3. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	28
ITEM 4. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	29
Part II Other Information	
ITEM 1. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	30
ITEM 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	30
ITEM 2. <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	30
ITEM 3. <u>Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u>	30
ITEM 4. <u>Removed and Reserved</u>	30
ITEM 5. <u>Other Information</u>	30
ITEM 6. <u>Exhibits</u>	31

Table of Contents**Part I Financial Information****ITEM 1. Financial Statements****Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets (Unaudited)****(in thousands except share and per share data)**

	September 30, 2010	December 31, 2009
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 58,778	\$ 129,969
Contractual deposits	15	90
Securities available-for-sale, at estimated fair value	376,138	153,614
Securities at estimated fair value	174,426	
Commercial mortgage loans	109,813	
Mezzanine loans	58,994	50,000
Interest receivable	4,294	1,210
Deferred financing costs, net	3,005	254
Other assets	34	
Total Assets	\$ 785,497	\$ 335,137
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		
Liabilities:		
TALF borrowings	\$ 305,335	\$ 128,106
Borrowings under repurchase agreements	125,639	
Investments purchased, not yet settled	30,346	
Derivative instruments	690	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	3,482	349
Payable to related party	761	1,385
Dividends payable	7,140	
Deferred underwriting fee (\$8,000 of which is payable to the Manager)	10,000	10,000
Total Liabilities	483,393	139,840
Commitments and Contingencies (see Note 12)		
Stockholders' Equity:		
Common stock, \$0.01 par value, 450,000,000 shares authorized, 17,551,905 and 10,762,500 shares issued and outstanding in 2010 and 2009, respectively	176	107
Additional paid-in-capital	294,045	198,436
Accumulated deficit		(2,172)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	7,883	(1,074)
Total Stockholders' Equity	302,104	195,297
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	\$ 785,497	\$ 335,137

Edgar Filing: Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. - Form 10-Q

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations (Unaudited)**

(in thousands except share and per share data)

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2010	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010	For the Period from September 29, 2009 (Commencement of Operations) Through September 30, 2009
Net interest income:			
Interest income from securities	\$ 4,356	\$ 11,643	\$
Interest income from commercial mortgage loans	2,123	4,723	
Interest income from mezzanine loans	1,952	5,386	
Interest expense	(2,930)	(7,293)	
Net interest income	5,501	14,459	
Operating expenses:			
General and administrative expenses (includes \$339 and \$1,098 of non-cash stock based compensation in 2010)	1,360	4,157	75
Management fees to related party	761	2,220	17
Total operating expenses	2,121	6,377	92
Interest income from cash balances	1	9	1
Realized loss on sale of security		(33)	
Unrealized loss on securities	(286)	(286)	
Unrealized loss on derivative instruments	(690)	(690)	
Realized loss on derivative instruments	(49)	(49)	
Net income	\$ 2,356	\$ 7,033	\$ (91)
Basic net income per share of common stock	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.64	\$ (0.01)
Diluted net income per share of common stock	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.64	\$ (0.01)
Basic weighted average common shares outstanding	11,330,573	10,919,333	10,757,500
Diluted weighted average common shares outstanding	11,448,125	10,996,678	10,757,500
Dividend declared per share of common stock	\$ 0.40	\$ 1.10	\$

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Condensed Consolidated Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity (Unaudited)**

(in thousands except share data)

	Common Stock		Additional Paid In Capital	Accumulated Deficit	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Comprehensive Income	Total
	Shares	Par					
Balance at December 31, 2009	10,762,500	\$ 107	\$ 198,436	\$ (2,172)	\$ (1,074)		\$ 195,297
Retirement of restricted stock in exchange for RSUs	(118,959)	(1)					(1)
Vesting of restricted stock pursuant to Equity Incentive Plan			1,098				1,098
Issuance of restricted stock	8,364	1					1
Issuance of common stock	6,900,000	69	110,331				110,400
Underwriting and offering costs			(6,076)				(6,076)
Net income				7,033		\$ 7,033	7,033
Change in net unrealized income on securities available-for-sale					8,957	8,957	8,957
Comprehensive income						\$ 15,990	
Dividends on common stock			(9,744)	(4,861)			(14,605)
Balance at September 30, 2010	17,551,905	\$ 176	\$ 294,045	\$	\$ 7,883		\$ 302,104

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows (Unaudited)**

(in thousands)

	For the nine months ended September 30, 2010	For the period from September 29, 2009 (commencement of operations) through September 30, 2009
Cash flows provided by operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 7,033	\$ (91)
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Premium amortization	2,814	
Amortization of deferred financing costs	803	
Restricted stock amortization expense	1,098	
Unrealized loss on securities available-for-sale	286	
Unrealized loss on derivative instruments	690	
Realized loss on sale of security	33	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Increase in accrued interest receivable, less purchased interest	(2,743)	(1)
Increase in other assets	(34)	
Increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,308	75
Increase in payable to related party	13	17
Net cash provided by operating activities	11,301	
Cash flows used in investing activities:		
Purchase of securities available-for-sale	(229,499)	
Proceeds from sale of securities available-for-sale	12,188	
Purchase of securities at estimated fair value	(144,964)	
Funding of commercial mortgage loans	(109,622)	
Funding of mezzanine loans	(8,938)	
Principal payments received on securities available-for-sale	714	
Principal payments received on commercial mortgage loans	187	
Principal payments received on mezzanine loans	6	
Repayment of contractual deposits	75	
Net cash used in investing activities	(479,853)	
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from issuance of common stock	110,400	200,000
Proceeds from private placement of common stock (concurrent with initial public offering)		10,000
Payment of offering costs	(5,888)	
Proceeds from TALF borrowings	178,469	
Repayments of TALF borrowings	(1,240)	
Proceeds from repurchase agreement borrowings	266,046	
Repayments of repurchase agreement borrowings	(140,407)	
Deferred financing costs	(2,554)	
Dividends on common stock	(7,465)	

Edgar Filing: Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Net cash provided by financing activities	397,361	210,000
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(71,191)	210,000
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	129,969	1
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 58,778	\$ 210,001
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Interest paid	\$ 6,075	\$
Supplemental disclosure of non-cash financing activities:		
Deferred underwriting fee	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Offering costs payable	\$ 825	\$ 2,000
Dividend declared, not yet paid	\$ 7,140	\$
Deferred financing costs, not yet paid	\$ 1,000	\$

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)

(in thousands except share and per share data)

Note 1 Organization

Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. (together with its consolidated subsidiaries, is referred to throughout this report as the Company, ARI, we, us and our) is a real estate investment trust (REIT) that originates, acquires, invests in and manages performing commercial first mortgage loans, commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS), mezzanine financings and other commercial real estate-related debt investments in the U.S. These asset classes are referred to as the Company s target assets.

Note 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements are unaudited and include the accounts of the Company and those of its consolidated subsidiaries. All significant inter-company amounts have been eliminated. In management s opinion, all adjustments (which include only normal recurring adjustments) necessary to present fairly the financial position, results of operations and changes in cash flows have been made. Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) have been condensed or omitted. Management has made estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the condensed consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

These condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the instructions to Form 10-Q and should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). The results of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 are not necessarily indicative of the Company s operating results for the full year.

The Company currently operates in one business segment.

Fair Value Election

Securities at estimated fair value Securities at estimated fair value consist of AAA-rated CMBS which are pledged under Company s master repurchase agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. (the Wells Facility). In accordance with GAAP, the Company elected the fair value option for these securities, which permits the Company to measure these securities at fair value with the change in estimated fair value included as a component of earnings. Management believes that the election of the fair value option for this portion of the Company s CMBS portfolio improves financial reporting by aligning the change in the estimated fair value of the securities and the related interest rate hedges without having to apply complex hedge accounting provisions.

Securities Available-for-Sale

Securities available-for-sale consist of AAA-rated CMBS which are pledged as collateral for the Company s borrowings outstanding under the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF) program. The Company has designated investments in mortgage-backed securities as available-for-sale because the Company may dispose of them prior to maturity and does not hold them principally for the purpose of selling them in the near term. Securities available-for-sale are carried at estimated fair value with the net unrealized gains or losses reported as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) in stockholders equity. Unrealized losses on securities that reflect a decline in value that are judged by management to be other than temporary, if any, are charged to earnings. At disposition, the realized net gain or loss will be included in income on a specific identification basis.

Table of Contents

Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)

(in thousands except share and per share data)

The Company evaluates securities for other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) at least quarterly. Securities are considered to be other-than-temporarily impaired when the estimated fair value of a security is less than amortized cost and (1) the Company intends to sell the security, (2) it is more likely than not that it will be required to sell the security before recovery, or (3) the Company does not expect to recover the entire amortized cost basis of the security. The evaluation of a security's estimated cash flows includes the following, as applicable: (i) review of the credit of the issuer or the borrower, (ii) review of the credit rating of the security, (iii) review of the key terms of the security, (iv) review of the performance of the loan or underlying loans, including debt service coverage and loan-to-value ratios, (v) analysis of the value of the collateral for the loan or underlying loans, (vi) analysis of the effect of local, industry, and broader economic factors, and (vii) analysis of historical and anticipated trends in defaults and loss severities for similar securities. If an OTTI has occurred for securities where the Company does not intend to sell and will not be forced to sell prior to maturity, the carrying value of the security will be reduced to fair value, with the credit component of the unrealized losses being charged against earnings as a loss on the consolidated statement of operations. The component of the loss related to factors other than credit will be recognized in other comprehensive income (OCI).

Loan impairment

For loans classified as held-for-investment, the Company evaluates the loans for possible impairment on a quarterly basis. Impairment occurs when it is deemed probable that the Company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the loan. Impairment is then measured based on the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective rate or the fair value of the collateral, if the loan is collateral dependent. Upon measurement of impairment, the Company records an allowance to reduce the carrying value of the loan with a corresponding charge to net income. Significant judgments are required in determining impairment, including making assumptions regarding the value of the loan, the value of the underlying collateral and other provisions such as guarantees. At September 30, 2009 and September 30, 2010, the Company's impairment analysis was done on a specific identification basis and no allowance for loan loss was recorded.

Income taxes

The Company has elected to be taxed as a REIT under Sections 856-860 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Under those sections, a REIT which distributes at least 90% of its REIT taxable income as a dividend to its shareholders each year and which meets certain other conditions will not be taxed on that portion of its taxable income which is distributed to its shareholders.

The Company has elected to treat certain consolidated subsidiaries, and may in the future elect to treat newly formed subsidiaries, as taxable REIT subsidiaries pursuant to an amendment to the Internal Revenue Code that became effective January 1, 2001. Taxable REIT subsidiaries may participate in non-real estate related activities and/or perform non-customary services for tenants and are subject to Federal and State income tax at regular corporate tax rates.

Recent accounting pronouncements

In January 2010, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the FASB) issued guidance on improving disclosures about fair value measurements. The guidance requires additional disclosure on transfers in and out of Levels I and II fair value measurements in the fair value hierarchy and the reasons for such transfers. In addition, for fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level III), the reconciliation of beginning and ending balances must be presented on a gross basis, with separate disclosure of gross purchases, sales, issuances, settlements and transfers in and transfers out of Level III. The new guidance also requires enhanced disclosures on the fair value hierarchy to disaggregate disclosures by each class of assets and liabilities. In addition, an entity is required to provide further disclosures on valuation techniques and inputs used to measure fair value for fair value measurements that fall in either Level II or Level III. Except for the Level III reconciliation disclosures, this guidance became effective for the Company beginning January 1, 2010. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on the financial statements of the Company. The Level III reconciliation disclosures are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2010. The adoption of this guidance is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's financial

statements.

Table of Contents**Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)****(in thousands except share and per share data)**

In June 2009, the FASB issued new guidance applicable to disclosures about fair value measurements which modifies the existing quantitative guidance used in determining the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity (VIE) by requiring entities to qualitatively assess whether an enterprise is a primary beneficiary, based on whether the entity has (i) power over the significant activities of the VIE and (ii) an obligation to absorb losses or the right to receive benefits that could be potentially significant to the VIE. The adoption of this guidance on January 1, 2010 did not have any impact on the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements.

Note 3 Fair Value Disclosure

GAAP establishes a hierarchy of valuation techniques based on observable inputs utilized in measuring financial instruments at fair values. Market based or observable inputs are the preferred source of values, followed by valuation models using management assumptions in the absence of market inputs. The three levels of the hierarchy are described below:

Level I Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level II Prices are determined using other significant observable inputs. Observable inputs are inputs that other market participants would use in pricing a security. These may include quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk and others.

Level III Prices are determined using significant unobservable inputs. In situations where quoted prices or observable inputs are unavailable (for example, when there is little or no market activity for an investment at the end of the period), unobservable inputs may be used.

As markets and products develop and the pricing for certain products becomes more transparent, the Company will continue to review its valuation methodologies. Furthermore, while the Company anticipates that its valuation methods will be appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies, or assumptions, to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different estimate of fair value at the reporting date. The Company will use inputs that are current as of the measurement date, which may include periods of market dislocation, during which price transparency may be reduced.

The fair value of the CMBS portfolio is determined by reference to market prices provided by certain dealers who make a market in these financial instruments. Broker quotes are only indicative of fair value and may not necessarily represent what the Company would receive in an actual trade for the applicable instrument. Management performs additional analysis on prices received based on broker quotes to validate the prices and adjustments are made as deemed necessary by management to capture current market information.

The following table summarizes the valuation of the Company's financial instruments by the above pricing observability levels as of September 30, 2010:

	Fair Value as of September 30, 2010			Total
	Level I	Level II	Level III	
Securities available-for-sale	\$	\$ 376,138	\$	\$ 376,138
Securities at estimated fair value		174,426		174,426
Derivative instruments		(690)		(690)
Total	\$	\$ 549,874	\$	\$ 549,874

Table of Contents**Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)**

(in thousands except share and per share data)

The following table summarizes the valuation of the Company's financial instruments by the above pricing observability levels as of December 31, 2009:

	Fair Value as of December 31, 2009			
	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
Securities available-for-sale	\$	\$ 153,614	\$	\$ 153,614

Note 4 Debt Securities**Securities Available-for-Sale**

During the nine months ended September 30, 2010, the Company purchased AAA-rated legacy CMBS with a face amount of \$223,014 and a cost of \$229,169 as collateral for potential borrowings under the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (the TALF) program administered by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY). Securities with a face amount of \$210,908 were financed through the TALF. One AAA-rated legacy CMBS with a face amount of \$12,106 and an amortized cost of \$12,221 was not accepted for the TALF financing and was sold during February 2010, resulting in a realized loss of \$33.

Fair Value Option Securities

During the nine months ended September 30, 2010, the Company purchased AAA-rated legacy CMBS with a face amount of \$168,385 and a cost of \$174,859 as collateral for borrowings under the Wells Facility. The Wells Facility provides the Company with up to \$250,000 of financing to acquire AAA-rated CMBS. See Note 7 Borrowings for further discussion of the Wells Facility. The Company elected the Fair Value Option for all of the CMBS financed under the Wells Facility.

At September 30, 2010, the Company had AAA-rated CMBS with an aggregate face value of \$529,624, which are designated as available-for-sale. Securities available-for-sale with an aggregate face amount of \$361,239 were pledged to secure its TALF borrowings and securities available-for-sale with an aggregate face amount of \$168,385 were pledged to secure its Wells Facility borrowings.

The amortized cost and estimated fair value of the Company's debt securities at September 30, 2010 are summarized as follows:

Security Description	Face Amount	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gain	Gross Unrealized Loss	Estimated Fair Value
AAA-rated CMBS (Available-for-Sale)	\$ 361,239	\$ 368,254	\$ 7,884	\$	\$ 376,138
AAA-rated CMBS (Fair Value Option)	168,385	174,712	18	(304)	174,426
Total	\$ 529,624	\$ 542,966	\$ 7,902	\$ (304)	\$ 550,564

The amortized cost and estimated fair value of the Company's debt securities at December 31, 2009 are summarized as follows:

Security Description

Edgar Filing: Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. - Form 10-Q

	Face Amount	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gain	Gross Unrealized Loss	Estimated Fair Value
AAA-rated CMBS (Available-for-Sale)	\$ 151,045	\$ 154,688	\$ 53	\$ (1,127)	\$ 153,614

Table of Contents**Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)****(in thousands except share and per share data)**

The overall statistics for the Company's CMBS investments calculated on a weighted average basis assuming no early prepayments or defaults as of September 30, 2010 are as follows:

Credit Ratings *	AAA
Coupon	5.6%
Yield	4.2%
Weighted Average Life	1.7 years

* Ratings per Fitch, Moody's or S&P

The vintage, property type, and location of the collateral securing the Company's CMBS investments calculated on a weighted average basis as of September 30, 2010 are as follows:

Vintage	Percentage
2006	14%
2007	86
Total	100%

Property Type	Percentage
Retail	36.6%
Office	26.7
Hotel	13.2
Multifamily	10.9
Other *	12.6
Total	100%

* No other individual category comprises more than 10% of the total.

Location	Percentage
South Atlantic	23.7%
Pacific	21.1
Middle Atlantic	21.0
Other *	34.2
Total	100%

* No other individual category comprises more than 10% of the total.

Note 5 Commercial Mortgage Loans

The Company's commercial mortgage loan portfolio is comprised of the following at September 30, 2010:

Description	Date of Investment	Maturity Date	Original Face Amount	Current Face Amount	Coupon	Amortization Schedule	Property Size	Appraised Loan-to-Value
Hotel - NY, NY	Jan-10	Feb-15	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000	8.25%	30 year	151 rooms	55%
Office Condo (Headquarters) - NY, NY	Feb-10	Feb-15	28,000	27,911	8.00	30 year	73,419 sq. ft.	54%
Hotel - Silver Spring, MD	Mar-10	Apr-15	26,000	25,902	9.00	25 year	263 rooms	58%
Hotel - NY, NY	Aug-10	Aug-12	24,000	24,000	8.00	Interest only	155 rooms	40%
Total			\$ 110,000	\$ 109,813	8.31%			

Table of Contents**Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)**

(in thousands except share and per share data)

Note 6 Mezzanine Loans

The Company's mezzanine loan portfolio is comprised of the following at September 30, 2010:

Description	Date of Investment	Maturity Date	Original Face Amount	Current Face Amount	Coupon	Amortization Schedule	Appraised Loan-to-Value
Senior Mezz - Retail - Various	Dec-09	Dec-19	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	12.24%	Interest only	69%
Junior Mezz - Retail - Various	Dec-09	Dec-19	20,000	20,000	14.00	Interest only	74%
Office - Troy, MI	May-10	Jun-20	9,000	8,994	13.00	25 year	70%
Total			\$ 59,000	\$ 58,994	12.95%		

Note 7 Borrowings

At September 30, 2010, the Company's borrowings had the following weighted average maturities and interest rates:

	Debt Balance	Weighted Average Remaining Maturity	Weighted Average Rate	
TALF borrowings	\$ 305,335	2.5 years	2.8%	Fixed
Wells Facility borrowings	125,639	2.8 years*	1.5%	**
JPMorgan Facility borrowings				L+300
Total borrowings	\$ 430,974	2.6 years	2.4%	

* Assumes extension options on Wells Facility are exercised. See below for further discussion.

** The fully hedged interest rate for borrowings outstanding under the Wells Facility is 2.7% at September 30, 2010. See Note 8 Derivative Instruments for further discussion of the Company interest rate hedging agreements.

At September 30, 2010, the Company's borrowings had the following remaining maturities:

	Less than 1 year	1 to 3 years	3 to 5 years	More than 5 years	Total
TALF borrowings	\$	\$ 284,377	\$ 20,958	\$	\$ 305,335
Wells Facility borrowings		125,639*			125,639
JPMorgan Facility borrowings					

Edgar Filing: Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Total	\$	\$ 410,016	\$ 20,958	\$	\$ 430,974
-------	----	------------	-----------	----	------------

* Assumes extension options on Wells Facility are exercised. See below for further discussion.

TALF Borrowings. During the nine months ended September 30, 2010, the Company secured \$178,469 of additional financing through the TALF. The proceeds of the nine TALF loans were used to finance, in separately negotiated transactions, nine AAA-rated CMBS, with an aggregate face value of \$210,908. The TALF loans are not cross-collateralized and are non-recourse, with interest payable monthly, and the principal due after either three or five years.

Repurchase Agreements. In January 2010, the Company entered into a \$100,000 master repurchase agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. (the JPMorgan Facility). The Company may borrow up to \$100,000 under the JPMorgan Facility in order to finance the origination and acquisition of commercial first mortgage loans and CMBS. Amounts borrowed under the JPMorgan Facility will bear interest at a spread of 3.00% over one-month

Table of Contents**Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)****(in thousands except share and per share data)**

LIBOR with no floor. The JPMorgan Facility has a term of one year, with two one-year extensions available at the Company's option. Additionally, beginning on the 91st day following the closing date and depending on the utilization rate of the facility, a portion of the undrawn amount may be subject to non-use fees. The JPMorgan Facility contains customary terms and conditions for repurchase facilities of this type, including, but not limited to: (1) negative covenants intended to restrict the Company from failing to qualify as a REIT and (2) financial covenants to be met by the Company when the repurchase facility is being utilized, including a minimum consolidated tangible net worth covenant (\$125,000), a maximum total debt to consolidated tangible net worth covenant (3:1), a minimum liquidity covenant (the greater of 10% of total consolidated recourse indebtedness and \$12,500) and a minimum net income covenant (\$1 during any four consecutive fiscal quarters).

During August 2010, the Company through an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary entered into the Wells Facility with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. (Wells Fargo) pursuant to which the Company may borrow up to \$250,000 in order to finance the acquisition of AAA-rated CMBS. The Wells repurchase facility has a term of one year, with two one-year extensions available at our option, subject to certain restrictions. Advances under the Wells Facility accrue interest at a per annum pricing rate equal to the sum of (i) 30 day LIBOR and (ii) a pricing margin of 1.25%. The purchase price of the CMBS is determined on a per asset basis by applying an advance rate schedule agreed upon by the Company and Wells Fargo. The Wells Facility contains customary terms and conditions for repurchase facilities of this type, including, but not limited to: (1) negative covenants intended to restrict the Company from failing to qualify as a REIT and (2) financial covenants to be met by the Company, including a minimum net asset value covenant (which shall not be less than an amount equal to (i) \$100,000, (ii) 75% of the greatest net asset value during the prior calendar quarter, and (iii) 65% of the greatest net asset value during the prior calendar year), a maximum total debt to consolidated tangible net worth covenant (8:1), a minimum liquidity covenant (\$2,500), and a minimum EBITDA to interest expense covenant (1.5:1). The Company has agreed to provide a limited guarantee of up to 15%, or a maximum of \$37,500, of the obligations of its indirect wholly-owned subsidiary under the Wells Facility. At September 30, 2010, there was \$125,639 of borrowings outstanding under the Wells Facility.

Note 8 Derivative instruments

The Company uses interest rate swaps and caps to manage exposure to variable cash flows on portions of its borrowings under repurchase agreements. The Company's repurchase agreements bear interest at a LIBOR-based variable rate and increases in LIBOR could negatively impact earnings. Interest rate swap and cap agreements allow the Company to receive a variable rate cash flow based on LIBOR and pay a fixed rate cash flow, mitigating the impact of this exposure.

During the third quarter of 2010, the Company entered into interest rate swaps with an aggregate notional balance of \$125,639 in an effort to hedge floating-rate interest payments due under the Wells Facility. The Company also entered into forward-starting caps to hedge potential extensions of the collateral securing the Wells Facility borrowings. The Company's derivative instruments consist of the following at September 30, 2010.

	Estimated Fair Value
Interest rate swaps	\$ (1,322)
Interest rate caps	632
Total derivative instruments	\$ (690)

The following table summarizes the amounts recognized on the condensed consolidated statements of operations related to the Company's derivatives for the nine months ended September 30, 2010.

Edgar Filing: Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. - Form 10-Q

	Location of Gain/(Loss) Recognized in Income *	Amount of gain/(loss) recognized in income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010
Interest rate swaps	Other gain/(loss)	\$ (1,371)
Interest rate caps	Other gain/(loss)	632
Total		\$ (739)

* The change in estimated fair value related to the Company's derivative instruments is recorded in unrealized loss on derivative instruments on the condensed consolidated statements of operations. Interest expense related to the Company's derivative instruments is recorded in realized loss on derivative instruments on the condensed consolidated statements of operations.

Table of Contents

Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)

(in thousands except share and per share data)

Note 9 Related Party Transactions

Management Agreement

In connection with the Company's initial public offering (IPO) in September 2009, the Company entered into a management agreement (the Management Agreement) with ACREFI Management, LLC (the Manager), which describes the services to be provided by the Manager and its compensation for those services. The Manager is responsible for managing the Company's day-to-day operations, subject to the direction and oversight of the Company's board of directors.

Pursuant to the terms of the Management Agreement, the Manager is paid a base management fee equal to 1.5% per annum of the Company's stockholders' equity (as defined in the Management Agreement), calculated and payable (in cash) quarterly in arrears.

The initial term of the Management Agreement expires on September 29, 2012 (the third anniversary of the closing of the IPO), and it is automatically renewed for one-year terms on each anniversary thereafter. Following the initial term, the Management Agreement may be terminated upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the Company's independent directors, based upon (1) unsatisfactory performance by the Manager that is materially detrimental to the Company or (2) a determination that the management fee payable to the Manager is not fair, subject to the Manager's right to prevent such a termination based on unfair fees by accepting a mutually acceptable reduction of management fees agreed to by at least two-thirds of the Company's independent directors. The Manager must be provided with written notice of any such termination at least 180 days prior to the expiration of the then existing term and will be paid a termination fee equal to three times the sum of the average annual base management fee during the 24-month period immediately preceding the date of termination, calculated as of the end of the most recently completed fiscal quarter prior to the date of termination.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, the Company incurred approximately \$761 and \$2,220 in base management fees. For the period from September 29, 2009 (commencement of operations) through September 30, 2009, the Company incurred approximately \$16 in base management fee. In addition to the base management fee, the Company is also responsible for reimbursing the Manager for certain expenses paid by the Manager on behalf of the Company or for certain services provided by the Manager to the Company. Reimbursements for certain expenses paid by the Manager on behalf of the Company totaled \$176 and \$2,330 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively. Expenses incurred by the Manager and reimbursed by the Company are reflected in the respective condensed consolidated statement of operations expense category or the consolidated balance sheet based on the nature of the item. At September 30, 2010, included in payable to related party on the condensed consolidated balance sheet is approximately \$761 for base management fees incurred but not yet paid. In addition, the Company has recorded a contingent liability in the amount of \$8,000 for underwriting fees paid by the Manager on behalf of the Company (see Note 12 Commitments and Contingencies).

Note 10 Share-Based Payments

On September 23, 2009, the Company's board of directors approved the Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc., 2009 Equity Incentive Plan (the LTIP). The LTIP provides for grants of restricted common stock, restricted stock units and other equity-based awards up to an aggregate of 7.5% of the issued and outstanding shares of the Company's common stock (on a fully diluted basis). The LTIP is administered by the compensation committee of the Company's board of directors (the Compensation Committee) and all grants under the LTIP must be approved by the Compensation Committee.

Table of Contents**Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)****(in thousands except share and per share data)**

On April 1, 2010, as part of their annual compensation, each of the Company's independent directors was granted 2,091 shares of restricted stock under the Company's LTIP. The shares will vest ratably over twelve quarters with the initial vesting date scheduled for July 1, 2010 and the final vesting date scheduled for April 1, 2013.

During 2010, the Company entered into restricted stock unit (RSU) award agreements with certain personnel of the Manager. Pursuant to these agreements, shares of restricted common stock issued in connection with the LTIP were retired in exchange for grants of restricted stock units. The RSUs will vest on a quarterly schedule in the same manner as the retired shares of restricted common stock. In addition, the award agreements grant recipients the right to receive, with respect to each RSU, within the first 30 days of the succeeding fiscal year, cash in an amount equal to the cash dividend distributions paid during the fiscal year in the ordinary course of business on a share of the Company's common stock. Following the expiration of the final vesting period, the Company will deliver shares of non-restricted common stock to the personnel.

The Company recognized stock-based compensation expense of \$339 and \$1,089 during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, related to restricted stock and RSU vesting. The following table summarizes the grants, exchanges and forfeitures of RSUs during 2010:

Type	Date	Shares Retired	RSUs Granted/ (Forfeited)	Estimate Fair Value of RSUs on Grant Date	Initial Vesting	Final Vesting
Exchange	March 2010	(102,084)	102,084	\$ 1,796	July 1, 2010	September 29, 2012
Grant	July 2010		5,000	80	October 1, 2010	July 1, 2013
Exchange	July 2010	(16,875)	16,875	269	October 1, 2010	September 29, 2012
Forfeiture*	August 2010		(5,000)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total		(118,959)	118,959			

* Represents RSUs forfeited by a former employee of the Manager in connection with such employee's resignation from the Manager. Below is a summary of restricted stock and RSU vesting dates as of September 30, 2010.

Vesting Date	Shares Vesting	RSU Vesting	Total Awards
January 2010	21,871		21,871
April 2010	21,877		21,877
July 2010	12,364	10,209	22,573
October 2010	10,485	12,499	22,984
January 2011	10,489	11,875	22,364
April 2011	10,493	11,876	22,369
July 2011	10,485	11,874	22,359
October 2011	10,489	11,875	22,364
January 2012	10,489	11,876	22,365

Edgar Filing: Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. - Form 10-Q

April 2012	10,489	11,874	22,363
July 2012	10,489	11,875	22,364
October 2012	10,489	11,876	22,365
January 2013	696	417	1,113
April 2013	700	417	1,117
July 2013		416	416
	151,905	118,959	270,864

Table of Contents**Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)**

(in thousands except share and per share data)

Note 11 Stockholders Equity

On September 22, 2010, the Company completed a follow-on public offering of 6,900,000 shares of its common stock at a price of \$16.00 per share, which included 900,000 shares of common stock sold pursuant to the underwriters' full exercise of their over-allotment option. Net proceeds (after deducting underwriting fees and expenses) were approximately \$104,324.

Dividends. To date, the Company's board of directors has declared the following dividends:

Declaration Date	Record Date	Payment Date	Amount
March 17, 2010	March 31, 2010	April 12, 2010	\$ 0.35
May 12, 2010	June 30, 2010	July 12, 2010	\$ 0.35
August 11, 2010	September 30, 2010	October 12, 2010	\$ 0.40

Note 12 Commitments and Contingencies

Deferred Underwriting Fee. At the closing of the IPO, the Company's underwriters did not receive any payment directly from the Company for the underwriting fee equal to 5% of the gross proceeds raised in the IPO, or \$10,000 in total. The Manager paid the underwriters \$8,000 on the Company's behalf at closing (4% of the gross proceeds raised in the IPO) and the underwriters agreed to defer the receipt of \$2,000 (1% of the gross proceeds raised in the IPO). The Company has agreed to pay \$8,000 to its Manager and pay \$2,000 to the underwriters if during any period of four consecutive calendar quarters during the 16 full calendar quarters after the consummation of the IPO (as described below) the Company's Core Earnings (as defined below) for any such four-quarter period exceeds an 8% performance Hurdle Rate (as described below).

Core Earnings is a non-GAAP measure and is defined as GAAP net income (loss) as adjusted, excluding: (i) non-cash equity compensation expense; (ii) depreciation and amortization (to the extent the Company forecloses on any properties underlying the Company's target assets); (iii) any unrealized gains, losses or other non-cash items, regardless of whether such items are included in other comprehensive income or loss, or in net income; and (iv) one-time events pursuant to changes in GAAP and certain other non-cash charges after discussions between the Manager and the Company's independent directors and after approval by a majority of the Company's independent directors.

Pursuant to the agreement with the Manager and the underwriters, the aforementioned Hurdle Rate test is considered met if during a period of four consecutive quarters the Company's Core Earnings exceeds the product of (x) the public offering price per share of the Company's common stock (\$20 per share) multiplied by the number of shares of common stock sold in the IPO and the concurrent private placement (a total of 10,500,000 shares) and (y) 8%. In addition, if the Management Agreement is terminated and the Company is required to pay its Manager the termination fee described in Note 8, the Company would also be required to refund its Manager for its payment of the initial underwriting discount irrespective of whether the Company has met the Hurdle Rate described above.

The deferred underwriting fee is considered a contingent liability where payment is probable and the amount is estimable, and as such the \$10,000 of deferred underwriting fee is recorded as a contingent liability with a corresponding reduction in additional paid in capital.

Table of Contents**Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance Inc. and Subsidiaries****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)**

(in thousands except share and per share data)

Note 13 Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The following table presents the carrying value and estimated fair value of the Company's financial instruments not carried at fair value on the condensed consolidated balance sheet at September 30, 2010:

	Carrying Value	Estimated Fair Value
Commercial first mortgage loans	\$ 109,813	\$ 114,001
Mezzanine loans	58,994	61,760
TALF borrowings	(305,335)	(305,335)
Borrowings under repurchase agreements	(125,639)	(125,639)

To determine estimated fair values for the Company's commercial first mortgage loans, mezzanine loans and TALF borrowings, market rates of interest are used to discount contractual cash flows. Credit assumptions reflect the Company's original underwriting as all of the assets have been originated since December 2009. The estimated fair values are not necessarily indicative of the amount the Company could realize on disposition of the financial instruments. The use of different market assumptions or estimation methodologies could have a material effect on the estimated fair value amounts.

Note 14 Net Income (Loss) per Share

GAAP requires use of the two-class method of computing earnings per share for all periods presented. The two-class method is an earnings allocation formula that determines earnings per share for each class of common stock and participating security as if all earnings for the period had been distributed. Unvested RSUs that earn non-forfeitable dividend rights qualify as participating securities and, accordingly, are included in the basic and diluted computations. Calculations of earnings per share under the two-class method exclude any dividends declared for each class of common stock and participating security. The Company's unvested RSUs participate in dividends on an equal basis with common stock; therefore, there is no difference in earnings allocated to each participating security. Accordingly, the presentation below is prepared on a combined basis and is presented as earnings per share of common stock.

	Three months ended September 30, 2010	Nine months ended September 30, 2010	For the Period from September 29, 2009 (commencement of operations) through September 30, 2009
Numerator:			
Net income attributable to common stockholders and participating securities for basic and diluted earnings per share	\$ 2,356	\$ 7,033	\$ (91)
Denominator:			
Weighted average common shares outstanding	11,330,573	10,919,333	10,757,500
Weighted average participating securities	117,552	77,345	
Denominator for basic and diluted earnings per share - weighted average common shares outstanding and common stock equivalents outstanding	11,448,125	10,996,678	10,757,500

Edgar Filing: Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Basic net income per weighted average common stock	\$	0.21	\$	0.64	\$	(0.01)
Diluted net income per weighted average common stock and common stock equivalents	\$	0.21	\$	0.64	\$	(0.01)

Table of Contents

Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) (Continued)

(in thousands except share and per share data)

Note 15 Subsequent Events

Dividends. On November 10, 2010, the Company's board of directors declared a dividend of \$0.40 per share of common stock which is payable on January 12, 2011 to common stockholders of record on December 31, 2010.

Investment activity. During October 2010, the Company borrowed \$25,187 under the Wells Facility to settle the purchase of an unsettled AAA-rated CMBS as of September 30, 2010. In addition, the Company purchased additional AAA-rated CMBS with an aggregate face value of \$102,962 and an aggregate purchase price of \$107,539. The securities were financed with \$91,901 of borrowings under the Wells Facility with a fully-hedged weighted average rate of 2.2%. Through the date hereof, the Company has deployed equity totaling \$39,670 to purchase CMBS financed under the Wells Facility.

Table of Contents

ITEM 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations
FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

Certain statements contained herein and in future filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") or in press releases or other written or oral communications constitute forward-looking statements as such term is defined in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and such statements are intended to be covered by the safe harbor provided by the same. Forward-looking statements are subject to substantial risks and uncertainties, many of which are difficult to predict and are generally beyond the Company's control. These forward-looking statements include information about possible or assumed future results of the Company's business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations, plans and objectives. When the Company uses the words "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "plan," "continue," "intend," "should," "may" or similar expressions, it intends to identify forward-looking statements.

Statements regarding the following subjects, among others, may be forward-looking: changes in interest rates and the market value of the Company's target assets; market trends in its industry; the amount of commercial mortgage loans requiring refinancing over the 2011 to 2014 period; the anticipated shortfall of debt financing from traditional lenders; the volume of short-term loan extensions; the demand for new capital to replace maturing loans; real estate values, the debt securities markets or the general economy or the demand for commercial real estate loans; changes in the prepayment rates on the mortgage loans securing the Company's CMBS; the Company's ability to borrow to finance its assets; the weighted average internal rates of returns or other anticipated rates of returns on the Company's assets, changes in government regulations affecting the Company's business; the Company's ability to maintain its qualification as a REIT for federal income tax purposes; the Company's ability to maintain its exemption from registration under the 1940 Act; and risks associated with investing in real estate assets, including changes in business conditions and the general economy.

The forward-looking statements, and other risks, uncertainties and factors, including those described in the annual, quarterly and current reports that the Company files with the SEC, are based on the Company's beliefs, assumptions and expectations of its future performance, taking into account all information currently available to it. Forward-looking statements are not predictions of future events. These beliefs, assumptions and expectations can change as a result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to the Company. For further discussion of factors that could materially affect the outcome of the Company's forward-looking statements, see Item 1A. Risk Factors of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009. The Company does not undertake any obligation to release publicly any revisions to its forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Overview

The Company is a commercial real estate finance company that originates, acquires, invests in and manages performing commercial first mortgage loans, CMBS, mezzanine financings and other commercial real estate-related debt investments in the U.S. The Company refers to these asset classes as its target assets.

The Company is externally managed and advised by ACREFI Management, LLC (the "Manager"), an indirect subsidiary of Apollo Global Management, LLC, together with its subsidiaries, "Apollo" , a leading global alternative asset manager with a contrarian and value oriented investment approach in private equity, credit-oriented capital markets and real estate. Apollo had total assets under management of \$54.5 billion as of June 30, 2010. The Manager is led by an experienced team of senior real estate professionals who have significant experience in commercial property investing, financing and ownership. The Manager benefits from the investment, finance and managerial expertise of Apollo's private equity, credit-oriented capital markets and real estate investment professionals. The Company believes its relationship with Apollo provides the Company with significant advantages in sourcing, evaluating, underwriting and managing investments in the Company's target assets.

Table of Contents

Market conditions

The Company believes that the current market environment presents a compelling opportunity to achieve attractive risk adjusted returns in senior performing commercial real estate debt investments. Beginning in mid-2007, global financial markets encountered a series of events from the collapse of the sub-prime mortgage market to the ensuing dramatic widening of credit spreads and corresponding broad-scale freezing of corporate lending. These events led to a significant dislocation in capital markets and created a severe shortage of debt capital across markets, a deleveraging of the entire global financial system and a severe decline in the market values of mortgage, real estate-related and other financial assets. As a result of these conditions, many traditional commercial real estate mortgage loan and securities investors withdrew from the market or significantly curtailed their lending activities, resulting in a severe contraction in market liquidity and a sharp reduction in the availability of credit for real estate-related assets. The resulting illiquidity has negatively affected both the terms and the availability of financing for all real estate-related assets, and has generally resulted in real estate-related assets trading at significantly lower prices and higher yields compared to prior periods.

The Company estimates that from 2011 to 2015, approximately \$1.5 trillion of commercial real estate loans are scheduled to mature and that markets are likely to face a void of several hundred billion dollars over this period that must be filled by new mortgage lenders since the supply of debt from traditional lending sources is anticipated to be less than the volume necessary to refinance maturing real estate loans. In the second quarter of 2010, although commercial and multifamily mortgage loan originations were 2% higher than during the second quarter of 2009, such originations remained 83% lower than in the second quarter of 2007.

During 2009 and the first half of 2010, the demand for new capital to refinance maturing commercial mortgage debt was tapered by the volume of extensions that were granted by lenders across the commercial mortgage loan industry. For example, the number of fixed-rate conduit and fusion loans for which the trustee published an extension of the maturity date was 130 through the first half of 2010 and 120 in 2009, compared to six in 2008 and four in 2007. In addition, in 2009, the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of the Treasury issued guidance which provided loan servicers with increased flexibility in relation to their ability to modify commercial mortgage loans held by Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits, or REMICs, opening the door to previously unavailable loan restructurings. Despite this trend, the Company was able to deploy substantially all of the IPO and the Private Placement proceeds in our target asset classes. In addition, the Company believes that as the economic recovery continues the volume of short-term loan extensions and restructurings will be reduced, resulting in increased demand for new capital to replace maturing loans and opportunities for us to originate first mortgage loans in the market.

The Company also believes that the supply of new capital to meet this increasing demand will continue to be constrained by the historically low activity levels in the CMBS market. The volume of issuances of newly created CMBS dropped from \$230 billion in 2007 to \$2.7 billion in 2009 and was recorded at \$3.9 billion for year-to-date through August 20, 2010. This decline has had a concomitant impact on the supply of capital for new commercial mortgage lending since the net proceeds from newly created CMBS issuances are applied to purchase commercial mortgage loans from loan originators. The Company believes that lower levels of CMBS issuances will enhance our first mortgage origination business. The Company further believes that any increase in CMBS issuances will likely be at lower loan-to-value ratios and will therefore continue to provide the Company with opportunities to originate mezzanine financings with respect to those parts of the financing capital structure which are unsuitable to be sold as part of CMBS.

In July 2010, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Bill) was passed by Congress. The Dodd-Frank Bill aims to restore responsibility and accountability to the financial system by reforming the legal and regulatory framework governing financial institutions. It is difficult to predict at this time how the legislation may impact the borrowing environment, the investing environment for the Company's target assets, interest rate swaps and other derivatives in that many of the regulations mandated by the Dodd-Frank Bill are yet to be proposed or implemented.

Critical Accounting Policies

A summary of the Company's accounting policies is set forth in its annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 under Note 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. Other than the adoption of the fair value option during the third quarter of 2010 discussed below, there have been no significant changes to these policies during 2010.

Table of Contents

Fair Value Election

Securities at estimated fair value Securities at estimated fair value consist of AAA-rated CMBS which are pledged under the Company's master repurchase agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. (the Wells Facility). In accordance with GAAP, the Company elected the fair value option for these securities, which permits the Company to measure these securities at fair value with the change in estimated fair value included as a component of earnings. Management believes that the election of the fair value option for this portion of the Company's CMBS portfolio improves financial reporting by aligning the change in the estimated fair value of the securities and the related interest rate hedges without having to apply complex hedge accounting provisions.

Recent accounting pronouncements

In January 2010, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the FASB) issued guidance on improving disclosures about fair value measurements. The guidance requires additional disclosure on transfers in and out of Levels I and II fair value measurements in the fair value hierarchy and the reasons for such transfers. In addition, for fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level III), the reconciliation of beginning and ending balances must be presented on a gross basis, with separate disclosure of gross purchases, sales, issuances, settlements and transfers in and transfers out of Level III. The new guidance also requires enhanced disclosures on the fair value hierarchy to disaggregate disclosures by each class of assets and liabilities. In addition, an entity is required to provide further disclosures on valuation techniques and inputs used to measure fair value for fair value measurements that fall in either Level II or Level III. Except for the Level III reconciliation disclosures, this guidance became effective for the Company beginning January 1, 2010. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on the financial statements of the Company. The Level III reconciliation disclosures are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2010. The adoption of this guidance is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's financial statements.

In June 2009, the FASB issued new guidance applicable to disclosures about fair value measurements which modifies the existing quantitative guidance used in determining the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity (VIE) by requiring entities to qualitatively assess whether an enterprise is a primary beneficiary, based on whether the entity has (i) power over the significant activities of the VIE, and (ii) an obligation to absorb losses or the right to receive benefits that could be potentially significant to the VIE. The adoption of this guidance on January 1, 2010 did not have any impact on the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**Financial Condition and Results of Operations****Investments**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the Company's investments at September 30, 2010:

Description	Face Amount	Carrying Value	Remaining Weighted Average Life (years)	Debt	Cost of Funds	Remaining Debt Term (years)*
CMBS - TALF collateral:						
BSCMS 07-PW16 A2	\$ 45,000	46,838	1.6	38,221	2.8%	2.3
BSCMS 2007-PW18 A2	13,493	14,212	2.1	11,449	2.7%	2.5
CD 2007-CD4 A2B	28,000	29,107	1.9	23,779	2.8%	2.3
JPMCC 2006-LDP8 A2	27,409	29,091	2.1	23,263	2.7%	2.5
JPMCC 07-LD11 A2	25,000	26,121	1.6	20,958	3.6%	4.2
JPMCC 2007-LD12 A2	34,800	36,349	1.8	29,522	2.7%	2.5
LBUBS 06-C7 A2	33,810	34,616	1.0	28,642	2.7%	2.2
LBUBS 07-C6 A2	22,392	23,411	1.6	18,957	2.8%	2.3
MSC 06-HQ10 A2	12,300	12,472	0.6	10,455	2.7%	2.2
MSC 07-IQ14 A2	39,100	40,702	1.8	33,192	2.8%	2.3
WBCMT 07-C33 A2	24,830	26,024	1.6	20,998	2.7%	2.2
WBCMT 07-C32 A2	55,105	57,195	1.6	45,899	2.7%	2.4
Total CMBS - TALF collateral	\$ 361,239	\$ 376,138	1.6	305,335	2.8%	2.5
CMBS - Wells Facility collateral:						
WBCMT 2007-C31 A2	18,605	19,193	1.5	16,744	2.3%	2.9
GSMS 2007-GG10 A2	65,253	67,777	1.6	58,728	2.2%	2.9
JPMCC 2007-CB19 A2	14,741	15,349	1.5	13,267	2.3%	2.9
JPMCC 2007-LDPX A2S	41,000	42,003	1.6	36,900	2.4%	2.9
MSC 2007-HQ11 A31	28,786	30,104	2.9		2.1%	2.9
Total CMBS - Wells Facility collateral	168,385	174,426	1.8	125,639	2.3%	2.9
First mortgages						
Hotel - NY, NY	32,000	32,000	4.4			
Office Condo (Headquarters) NY, NY	27,911	27,911	4.3			
Hotel - Silver Spring, MD	25,902	25,902	4.5			
Hotel - NY, NY	24,000	24,000	1.9			
Total first mortgages	109,813	109,813	3.9			
Mezzanine loans						
Retail portfolio (Senior) - Various	30,000	30,000	9.2			
Retail portfolio (Junior) - Various	20,000	20,000	9.2			
Office Troy, MI	8,994	8,994	9.7			
Total mezzanine loans	58,994	58,994	9.3			

Edgar Filing: Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Total	\$ 698,431	\$ 719,371	2.1	\$ 430,974	2.7%	2.6
-------	------------	------------	-----	------------	------	-----

* Assumes extension options on Wells Facility are exercised.

Investment Activity

CMBS. During the nine months ended September 30, 2010, the Company purchased AAA-rated legacy CMBS with a face amount of \$223,014 and a cost of \$229,169 as collateral for potential borrowings under the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (the TALF) program administered by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY). Securities with a face amount of \$210,908 were financed through the TALF. One AAA-rated legacy CMBS with a face amount of \$12,106 and an amortized cost of \$12,221 was not accepted for the TALF financing and was sold during February 2010, resulting in a realized loss of \$33.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2010, the Company purchased AAA-rated legacy CMBS with a face amount of \$168,385 and a cost of \$174,859 as collateral borrowings under the Company's repurchase facility with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. (Wells Fargo). See Liquidity and Capital Resources below for further discussion of the Company's repurchase agreements. The Company elected the Fair Value Option for all of the CMBS financed under the Wells Facility.

Edgar Filing: Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Commercial mortgage loans. In January 2010, the Company originated a \$32,000 five-year fixed rate first mortgage loan secured by a well-located, 151 room Hilton Garden Inn hotel in downtown Manhattan, New York. The loan has a loan-to-value (LTV) of 55%, an interest rate of 8.25% and a 30-year amortization schedule.

In February 2010, the Company completed the origination of a \$28,000 five-year fixed rate first mortgage loan secured by a fully occupied 73,419 square feet office condominium located in a premier Manhattan office building. The loan has an LTV of 54%, an interest rate of 8.00% and a 30-year amortization schedule.

Table of Contents

In March 2010, the Company completed the origination of a \$26,000 five-year fixed rate first mortgage loan secured by a well-located, full-service, 263 room Hilton hotel in the greater Washington D.C. area. The loan has an LTV of 58%, an interest rate of 9.00% and a 25-year amortization schedule.

In August 2010, the Company acquired a \$24,000 two-year interest-only fixed rate first mortgage on a recently constructed 155 room boutique hotel in midtown Manhattan, New York. The loan has an appraised LTV of 40% and interest rate of 8.00%.

Mezzanine loans. In May 2010, the Company invested \$9,000 in a mezzanine loan originated as part of a \$42,000 10-year financing package collateralized by a Class A office building in Troy, Michigan. The financing package is comprised of a \$33,000 first mortgage loan and the Company's \$9,000 mezzanine loan. The mezzanine loan has a 10-year term, a fixed interest rate of 13.0%, an appraised loan-to-value of approximately 70% and will amortize on a 25-year schedule.

Net Investment Income

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the Company's investments at September 30, 2010:

Asset type	Cost Basis	Borrowings	Invested equity at cost	Weighted Average IRR *
Commercial mortgage loans	\$ 109,813	\$	\$ 109,813	8.3%
Mezzanine Loans	58,994		58,994	13.0%
AAA CMBS - financed with TALF borrowings	368,254	(305,335)	62,919	13.4%
AAA CMBS - financed with Wells Facility borrowings	174,712	(150,826) **	23,886	12.6%
Total invested equity at cost	\$ 711,773	\$ (456,161)	\$ 255,612	11.1%

* The internal rate of return (IRR) for the investments shown in the above table reflect the returns underwritten by the Manager at the time each investment is made, calculated on a weighted average basis assuming no extensions, dispositions, early prepayments or defaults and include the fully hedged cost of borrowings under the Wells Facility. The Company has also assumed that the cost of financing each investment will remain constant over the life of the investment. IRR is the annualized effective compounded return rate that accounts for the time-value of money and represents the rate of return on an investment over a holding period expressed as a percentage of the investment. It is the discount rate that makes the net present value of all cash outflows (the costs of investment) equal to the net present value of cash inflows (returns on investment). It is derived from the negative and positive cash flows resulting from or produced by each transaction (or for a transaction involving more than one investment, cash flows resulting from or produced by each of the investments), whether positive, such as investment returns, or negative, such as transaction expenses or other costs of investment, taking into account the dates on which such cash flows occurred or are expected to occur, and compounding interest accordingly. There can be no assurance that the actual IRRs will equal the underwritten IRRs shown in the table. See Risk Factors in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 for a discussion of some of the factors that could adversely impact the returns received by the Company from the investments shown in the table over time.

** Includes \$25,187 of borrowings under the Wells Facility for an acquisition of CMBS executed in September 2010 but not settled until October 2010.

Operating Expenses

Management Fee Expense. The Company recorded a management fee expense for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, of approximately \$761 and \$2,220 payable to its Manager under the Management Agreement. The Company pays its Manager a quarterly management fee equal to 1.5% per annum of the Company's stockholders' equity (as defined in the Management Agreement).

General and Administrative Expenses. The Company recorded general and administrative expenses of approximately \$1,021 and \$3,059, respectively, for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, which

Table of Contents

represent professional fees, insurance, and overhead costs of the Company. The Company also incurred stock-based compensation expense of \$339 and \$1,098, respectively, related to restricted stock and RSU vesting for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010.

The management fees, expense reimbursements and the relationship between the Company and its Manager are discussed further in Note 9 - Related Party Transactions.

Realized and unrealized gain/loss

In order to mitigate interest rate risk resulting from the Company's floating-rate borrowings under the Wells Facility, the Company entered into interest rate swaps and caps with an aggregate notional equal to the borrowings outstanding under the Wells Facility. The interest rate swaps are intended to hedge the floating-rate borrowings through the expected maturity of the underlying collateral and the interest rate caps are intended to hedge the floating-rate borrowings related to the potential extension of the underlying collateral.

The Company chose not to pursue hedge accounting for these derivative instruments and will record the change in estimated fair value related to interest rate agreements in earnings. The Company also elected to record the change in estimated fair value related to the CMBS securing the Wells Facility in earnings. This election allows the Company to align the change in the estimated fair value of the Wells Facility collateral and related interest rate hedges without having to apply complex hedge accounting provisions.

The following amounts related to changes in fair value of the Company's CMBS and derivative instruments are included in the Company's consolidated statement of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010:

	For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010
Unrealized loss on securities available-for-sale	\$ (286)
Unrealized loss on derivative instruments	(690)
Realized loss on derivative instruments	(49)
 Total	 \$ (1,025)

Dividends.

To date, the Company's board of directors has declared the following dividends:

Declaration Date	Record Date	Payment Date	Amount
March 17, 2010	March 31, 2010	April 12, 2010	\$ 0.35
May 12, 2010	June 30, 2010	July 12, 2010	\$ 0.35
August 11, 2010	September 30, 2010	October 12, 2010	\$ 0.40

For the nine months ended September 30, 2010, the Company recorded dividends totaling \$14,605 and net income for the same period of \$7,033. The difference between dividend and net income is primarily related to non-cash charges in income related to premium amortization, non-cash stock-based compensation, amortization of deferred financing fees and unrealized gains (losses) included in earnings.

Subsequent Events

Dividends. On November 10, 2010, the Company's board of directors declared a dividend of \$0.40 per share of common stock which is payable on January 12, 2011 to common stockholders of record on December 31, 2010.

Table of Contents

Investment activity. During October 2010, the Company borrowed \$25,187 under the Wells Facility to settle the purchase of an unsettled AAA-rated CMBS as of September 30, 2010. In addition, the Company purchased additional AAA-rated CMBS with an aggregate face value of \$102,962 and an aggregate purchase price of \$107,539. The securities were financed with \$91,901 of borrowings under the Wells Facility with a fully-hedged weighted average rate of 2.2%. Through the date hereof, the Company has deployed equity totaling \$39,670 to purchase CMBS financed under the Wells Facility.

Liquidity and capital resources

Liquidity is a measure of the Company's ability to meet potential cash requirements, including ongoing commitments to repay borrowings, fund and maintain its assets and operations, make distributions to its stockholders and other general business needs. The Company's primary sources of cash currently consist of the cash available at September 30, 2010, principal and interest the Company receives on its portfolio of assets, as well as available borrowings under its repurchase agreements as described in more detail below. The Company has also secured borrowings under TALF as described above. The Company expects its primary sources of cash to consist of payments of principal and interest the Company receives on its portfolio of assets, cash generated from operations, borrowing capacity under its repurchase agreements and other financing sources. Depending on market conditions, such borrowings may include additional repurchase agreements as well as other borrowings such as credit facilities. To the extent market conditions improve and markets stabilize over time, the Company expects to increase its borrowing levels. In the future, the Company may seek to raise further equity capital or issue debt securities in order to fund future investments.

While the Company generally intends to hold its target assets as long-term investments, it may sell certain of its investments in order to manage its interest rate risk and liquidity needs, meet other operating objectives and adapt to market conditions.

In January 2010, the Company entered into the \$100,000 JPMorgan Facility, pursuant to which the Company may borrow up to \$100,000 in order to finance the origination and acquisition of commercial first mortgage loans and CMBS. Amounts borrowed under the JPMorgan Facility bear interest at a spread of 3.00% over one-month LIBOR with no floor. The JPMorgan Facility has a term of one-year, with two one-year extensions available at the Company's option. Additionally, beginning on the 91st day following the closing date and depending on the utilization rate of the facility, a portion of the undrawn amount may be subject to non-use fees. The JPMorgan Facility contains customary terms and conditions for repurchase facilities of this type, including, but not limited to: (1) negative covenants intended to restrict the Company from failing to qualify as a REIT and (2) financial covenants to be met by the Company when the repurchase facility is being utilized, including a minimum consolidated tangible net worth covenant (\$125,000), a maximum total debt to consolidated tangible net worth covenant (3:1), a minimum liquidity covenant (the greater of 10% of total consolidated recourse indebtedness and \$12,500) and a minimum net income covenant (\$1 during any four consecutive fiscal quarters). At September 30, 2010, the Company did not have any borrowings outstanding under the JPMorgan Facility.

During August 2010, the Company through an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary entered the Wells Facility pursuant to which the Company may borrow up to \$250,000 in order to finance the acquisition of AAA-rated CMBS. The Wells repurchase facility has a term of one year, with two one-year extensions available at our option, subject to certain restrictions. Advances under the Wells Facility accrue interest at a per annum pricing rate equal to the sum of (i) 30 day LIBOR and (ii) a pricing margin of 1.25%. The purchase price of the CMBS is determined on a per asset basis by applying an advance rate schedule agreed upon by the Company and Wells Fargo. The Wells Facility contains customary terms and conditions for repurchase facilities of this type, including, but not limited to: (1) negative covenants intended to restrict the Company from failing to qualify as a REIT and (2) financial covenants to be met by the Company, including a minimum net asset value covenant (which shall not be less than an amount equal to (i) \$100,000, (ii) 75% of the greatest net asset value during the prior calendar quarter, and (iii) 65% of the greatest net asset value during the prior calendar year), a maximum total debt to consolidated tangible net worth covenant (8:1), a minimum liquidity covenant (\$2,500), and a minimum EBITDA to interest expense covenant (1.5:1). The Company has agreed to provide a limited guarantee of up to 15%, or a maximum of \$37,500, of the obligations of its indirect wholly-owned subsidiary under the Wells Facility. At September 30, 2010, the Company had \$125,639 of borrowings outstanding under the Wells Facility secured by AAA-rated CMBS held by the Company.

Table of Contents

On September 22, 2010, the Company completed a follow-on public offering of 6,900,000 shares of its common stock at a price of \$16.00 per share, which included 900,000 shares of common stock sold pursuant to the underwriters' full exercise of their over-allotment option. Net proceeds (after deducting underwriting fees and expenses) were approximately \$104,324.

Leverage policies

The Company uses leverage for the sole purpose of financing its portfolio and not for the purpose of speculating on changes in interest rates. Consistent with the Company's strategy of keeping its total borrowings within a conservative range, the Company expects that its borrowings will be in an amount that is approximately 35% of the value of its total assets on a portfolio basis, except in conjunction with financings that may be available to the Company through government sponsored debt programs, such as the TALF program. In addition to the Company's current TALF financings and repurchase agreements, in the future the Company expects to access additional repurchase agreements as well as other borrowings such as credit facilities. In the future, the Company may seek to raise further equity capital or issue debt securities in order to fund future investments. The Company's charter and bylaws do not limit the amount of indebtedness the Company can incur, and its board of directors has discretion to deviate from or change its leverage policy at any time.

Contractual obligations and commitments

The Company's contractual obligations as of September 30, 2010 are as follows:

	Less than 1 year	1 to 3 years	3 to 5 years	More than 5 years	Total
TALF borrowings	\$	\$ 284,377	\$ 20,958	\$	\$ 305,335
Wells Facility borrowings		125,639*			125,639
JPMorgan Facility borrowings					
Total	\$	\$ 410,016	\$ 20,958	\$	\$ 430,974

* Assumes extension options on Wells Facility are exercised. See below for further discussion.

The table above does not include amounts due under the Company's Management Agreement or underwriting agreement as those obligations, discussed below, do not have fixed and determinable payments.

On September 23, 2009, the Company entered into (i) an underwriting agreement with a group of underwriters to sell 10,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock for \$20.00 per share for an aggregate offering price of \$200,000, and (ii) the Management Agreement with the Manager pursuant to which the Manager is entitled to receive a management fee and the reimbursement of certain expenses.

Underwriting Agreement. As part of the Company's IPO, the underwriters did not receive the underwriting fee (equal to 5% of the gross proceeds raised or \$10,000) directly from the Company. Instead, the Manager paid the underwriters \$8,000 and the Company's underwriters agreed to forego the receipt of \$2,000. Under the terms of the underwriting agreement and the Management Agreement, the Company has agreed to pay \$8,000 to the Manager and pay \$2,000 to the underwriters if during any period of four consecutive calendar quarters during the 16 full calendar quarters after the consummation of the IPO the Company's Core Earnings for any such four-quarter period exceeds an 8% performance Hurdle Rate.

Core Earnings is a non-GAAP measure and is defined as GAAP net income (loss) as adjusted, excluding (i) non-cash equity compensation expense; (ii) depreciation and amortization (to the extent the Company forecloses on any properties underlying its target assets); (iii) any unrealized gains, losses or other non-cash items, regardless of whether such items are included in other comprehensive income or loss, or in net income; and (iv) one-time events pursuant to changes in GAAP and certain other non-cash charges after discussions between the Company and its Manager and the Company's independent directors and after approval by a majority of the Company's independent directors.

Table of Contents

Pursuant to an agreement between the Manager and the Company's underwriters, the aforementioned Hurdle Rate test is considered met if during a period of four consecutive quarters occurring during the above measurement period the Company's Core Earnings exceed the product of (x) the public offering price per share of the Company's common stock (\$20 per share) multiplied by the number of shares of common stock sold in the IPO and the concurrent private placement (a total of 10,500,000 shares) and (y) 8%. In addition, if the Management Agreement is terminated before the end of the above measurement period and the Company is required to pay its Manager the termination fee described in the Management Agreement, the Company would also be required to refund its Manager for its payment of the initial underwriting discount irrespective of whether the Company has met the Hurdle Rate described above.

Management Agreement. Pursuant to the Management Agreement, the Manager is entitled to a base management fee calculated and payable quarterly in arrears in an amount equal to 1.5% of the Company's stockholders' equity (as defined in the Management Agreement), per annum. The Manager will use the proceeds from its management fee in part to pay compensation to its officers and personnel. The Company does not reimburse its Manager or its affiliates for the salaries and other compensation of their personnel, except for the allocable share of the compensation of (1) the Company's Chief Financial Officer based on the percentage of his time spent on the Company's affairs and (2) other corporate finance, tax, accounting, internal audit, legal, risk management, operations, compliance and other non-investment professional personnel of the Manager or its affiliates who spend all or a portion of their time managing the Company's affairs based on the percentage of time devoted by such personnel to the Company's affairs. The Company is also required to reimburse its Manager for operating expenses related to the Company incurred by its Manager, including expenses relating to legal, accounting, due diligence and other services. Expense reimbursements to the Manager are made in cash on a monthly basis following the end of each month. The Company's reimbursement obligation is not subject to any dollar limitation.

The initial term of the Management Agreement expires on September 29, 2012 (the third anniversary of the closing of the IPO), and is automatically renewed for one-year terms on each anniversary thereafter. Following the initial term, the Management Agreement may be terminated upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the Company's independent directors, based upon (1) unsatisfactory performance by the Manager that is materially detrimental to the Company or (2) a determination that the management fee payable to the Manager is not fair, subject to the Manager's right to prevent such a termination based on unfair fees by accepting a mutually acceptable reduction of management fees agreed to by at least two-thirds of the Company's independent directors. The Manager must be provided with written notice of any such termination at least 180 days prior to the expiration of the then existing term and will be paid a termination fee equal to three times the sum of the average annual base management fee during the 24-month period immediately preceding the date of termination, calculated as of the end of the most recently completed fiscal quarter prior to the date of termination. Amounts payable under the Company's underwriting agreement and Management Agreement are not fixed and determinable.

Off-balance sheet arrangements

The Company does not have any relationships with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships, such as entities often referred to as structured investment vehicles, or special purpose or variable interest entities, established to facilitate off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes. Further, the Company has not guaranteed any obligations of unconsolidated entities or entered into any commitment to provide additional funding to any such entities.

Dividends

The Company intends to continue to make regular quarterly distributions to holders of its common stock. U.S. federal income tax law generally requires that a REIT distribute annually at least 90% of its REIT taxable income, without regard to the deduction for dividends paid and excluding net capital gains, and that it pay tax at regular corporate rates to the extent that it annually distributes less than 100% of its net taxable income. The Company generally intends over time to pay dividends to its stockholders in an amount equal to its net taxable income, if and to the extent authorized by its board of directors. Any distributions the Company makes will be at the discretion of its board of directors and will depend upon, among other things, its actual results of operations. These results and the Company's ability to pay distributions will be affected by various factors, including the net interest

Table of Contents

and other income from its portfolio, its operating expenses and any other expenditures. If the Company's cash available for distribution is less than its net taxable income, the Company could be required to sell assets or borrow funds to make cash distributions or the Company may make a portion of the required distribution in the form of a taxable stock distribution or distribution of debt securities.

ITEM 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

The Company seeks to manage its risks related to the credit quality of its assets, interest rates, liquidity, prepayment speeds and market value while, at the same time, seeking to provide an opportunity to stockholders to realize attractive risk-adjusted returns through ownership of its capital stock. While risks are inherent in any business enterprise, the Company seeks to quantify and justify risks in light of available returns and to maintain capital levels consistent with the risks the Company undertakes.

Credit risk

One of the Company's strategic focuses is acquiring assets that it believes to be of high credit quality. The Company believes this strategy will generally keep its credit losses and financing costs low. However, the Company is subject to varying degrees of credit risk in connection with its other target assets. The Manager seeks to mitigate this risk by seeking to acquire high quality assets, at appropriate prices given anticipated and unanticipated losses, and by deploying a value-driven approach to underwriting and diligence, consistent with Apollo's historical investment strategy, with a focus on current cash flows and potential risks to cash flow. The Manager enhances its due diligence and underwriting efforts by accessing Apollo's knowledge base and industry contacts. Nevertheless, unanticipated credit losses could occur which could adversely impact the Company's operating results.

Interest rate risk

Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors, including fiscal and monetary policies and domestic and international economic and political considerations, as well as other factors beyond the Company's control. The Company is subject to interest rate risk in connection with its target assets and its related financing obligations.

To the extent consistent with maintaining the Company's REIT qualification, the Company seeks to manage risk exposure to protect its portfolio of financial assets against the effects of major interest rate changes. The Company generally seeks to manage this risk by:

attempting to structure its financing agreements to have a range of different maturities, terms, amortizations and interest rate adjustment periods;

using hedging instruments, interest rate swap and interest rate caps; and

to the extent available, using securitization financing to better match the maturity of the Company's financing with the duration of its assets.

At September 30, 2010, the only floating-rate instruments held by the Company were \$125,639 of borrowings outstanding under the Wells Facility. The Company has entered into interest rate swaps and caps in order to convert the floating-rate borrowings to fixed-rate borrowings. As such, movements in LIBOR should not impact the quarterly interest expense related to the Company's borrowings at September 30, 2010. Any such hypothetical impact on interest rates on the Company's variable rate borrowings does not consider the effect of any change in overall economic activity that could occur in a rising interest rate environment.

Prepayment risk

Prepayment risk is the risk that principal will be repaid at a different rate than anticipated, causing the return on an asset to be less than expected. The Company does not anticipate facing prepayment risk on most of its portfolio of assets since the Company anticipates that most of the commercial loans held directly by the Company or securing the Company's CMBS assets will contain provisions preventing prepayment or imposing prepayment penalties in the event of loan prepayments.

Table of Contents

Market risk

Market value risk. The Company's available-for-sale securities are reflected at their estimated fair value, with the difference between amortized cost and estimated fair value reflected in accumulated other comprehensive income. The estimated fair value of these securities fluctuates primarily due to changes in interest rates and other factors. Generally, in a rising interest rate environment, the estimated fair value of these securities would be expected to decrease; conversely, in a decreasing interest rate environment, the estimated fair value of these securities would be expected to increase. As market volatility increases or liquidity decreases, the fair value of the Company's assets may be adversely impacted.

Real estate risk. Commercial mortgage assets are subject to volatility and may be affected adversely by a number of factors, including, but not limited to, national, regional and local economic conditions (which may be adversely affected by industry slowdowns and other factors); local real estate conditions; changes or continued weakness in specific industry segments; construction quality, age and design; demographic factors; and retroactive changes to building or similar codes. In addition, decreases in property values reduce the value of the collateral and the potential proceeds available to a borrower to repay the underlying loans or loans, as the case may be, which could also cause the Company to suffer losses.

Inflation

Virtually all of the Company's assets and liabilities will be interest rate sensitive in nature. As a result, interest rates and other factors influence the Company's performance far more so than does inflation. Changes in interest rates do not necessarily correlate with inflation rates or changes in inflation rates. The Company's financial statements are prepared in accordance with GAAP and distributions will be determined by the Company's board of directors consistent with the Company's obligation to distribute to its stockholders at least 90% of its REIT taxable income on an annual basis in order to maintain the Company's REIT qualification. In each case, the Company's activities and balance sheet are measured with reference to historical cost and/or fair market value without considering inflation.

ITEM 4. Controls and Procedures

The Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, based on their evaluation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) required by paragraph (b) of Rule 13a-15 or Rule 15d-15, have concluded that as of September 30, 2010, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective to give reasonable assurances to the timely collection, evaluation and disclosure of information relating to the Company that would potentially be subject to disclosure under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

During the period ended September 30, 2010, there was no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute assurance that it will detect or uncover failures within the Company to disclose material information otherwise required to be set forth in the Company's periodic reports.

Table of Contents**PART II OTHER INFORMATION****ITEM 1. Legal Proceedings**

From time to time, the Company may be involved in various claims and legal actions arising in the ordinary course of business. As of September 30, 2010, the Company is not involved in any legal proceedings.

ITEM 1A. Risk Factors

See the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009. There have been no material changes to the Company's risk factors during the nine months ended September 30, 2010.

ITEM 2(a). Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

None.

ITEM 2(c). Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

Period	(a) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased	(b) Average Price Paid per Share (or Unit)
July 2010	16,875 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾
Total	16,875	0

¹ Effective as of July 21, 2010, the Company entered into restricted stock unit award agreements with certain personnel of the Manager. Pursuant to these agreements, an aggregate of 16,875 restricted shares of our common stock were forfeited in exchange for an equivalent number of restricted stock units. The restricted stock units granted by the award agreements will vest on a quarterly schedule in the same manner as the forfeited shares of restricted common stock with the initial vesting date scheduled for October 1, 2010 and the final vesting date scheduled for September 29, 2012. In addition, the award agreements grant recipients the right to receive, with respect to each restricted stock unit, within the first 30 days of the succeeding fiscal year, cash in an amount equal to the cash dividend distributions paid during the fiscal year in the ordinary course on a share of our common stock. Following the expiration of the final vesting period, the Company will deliver shares of non-restricted common stock to the applicable personnel of the Manager.

ITEM 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

ITEM 4. (Removed and Reserved)**ITEM 5. Other Information**

Edgar Filing: Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc. - Form 10-Q

While the Company has not, to date, raised any funds through the use of placement agents (other than through the ordinary course engagement of underwriters in connection with the IPO and the follow-on public offering which was completed on September 22, 2010), affiliates of the Manager sometimes use placement agents to assist in marketing certain of the investment funds that they manage. Various state attorneys general and federal and state agencies have initiated industry-wide investigations into the use of placement agents in connection with the solicitation of investments, particularly with respect to investments by public pension funds. Certain affiliates of the Manager have received subpoenas and other requests for information from various government regulatory agencies

Table of Contents

and investors in Apollo's funds, seeking information regarding the use of placement agents. The California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), one of Apollo's strategic investors, announced on October 14, 2009, that it had initiated a special review of placement agents and related issues. In addition, on May 6, 2010, the California Attorney General filed a civil complaint against Alfred Villalobos and his company, Arvco Capital Research, LLC (a placement agent that Apollo has used) and Federico Buenrostro Jr., the former CEO of CalPERS, alleging conduct in violation of certain California laws in connection with CalPERS' purchase of securities in various funds managed by affiliates of the Manager and another asset manager. None of the Company, its Manager or any other Apollo entity is a party to the civil lawsuit, nor does the lawsuit allege any misconduct on the part of any Apollo entity. Apollo has informed the Company that it believes that it has handled its use of placement agents in an appropriate manner and that it is cooperating with such investigations and other reviews.

ITEM 6. Exhibits

(a) Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description
3.1*	Articles of Amendment and Restatement of Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant's Form S-11, as amended (Registration No. 333-160533).
3.2*	By-laws of Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Registrant's Form S-11, as amended (Registration No. 333-160533).
4.1*	Specimen Stock Certificate of Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Registrant's Form S-11, as amended (Registration No. 333-160533).
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 as adopted pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

* Incorporated by reference

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

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

APOLLO COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE FINANCE, INC.

November 12, 2010

By: */s/* JOSEPH F. AZRACK
Joseph F. Azrack
President and Chief Executive Officer

By: */s/* STUART A. ROTHSTEIN
Stuart A. Rothstein
Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary
(Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)

32

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
3.1*	Articles of Amendment and Restatement of Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant's Form S-11, as amended (Registration No. 333-160533).
3.2*	By-laws of Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Registrant's Form S-11, as amended (Registration No. 333-160533).
4.1*	Specimen Stock Certificate of Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Registrant's Form S-11, as amended (Registration No. 333-160533).
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 as adopted pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

* Incorporated by reference