ARES CAPITAL CORP
Form 497
April 03, 2013

Use these links to rapidly review the document

Table of Contents

Filed pursuant to Rule 497
Registration No. 333-181563

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

Subject to Completion
Preliminary Prospectus Supplement dated April 2, 2013

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To Prospectus dated August 16, 2012)

16,650,000 Shares

Common Stock

We are offering for sale 16,650,000 shares of our common stock.

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

We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management LLC, a global alternative asset manager and a Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") registered investment adviser with approximately $59 billion of total committed capital under management as of December 31, 2012. Ares Operations LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management LLC, provides certain administrative and other services necessary for us to operate.

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "ARCC." On April 1, 2013 the last reported sales price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Select Market was $17.95 per share. The net asset value per share of our common stock at December 31, 2012 (the last date prior to the date of this prospectus supplement on which we determined net asset value) was $16.04.

Investing in our common stock involves risks that are described in the "Risk Factors" section beginning on page S-17 of this prospectus supplement and page 24 of the accompanying prospectus, including the risk of leverage.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus concisely provide important information about us that you should know before investing in our common stock. Please read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before you invest and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. This information is available free of charge by calling us collect at (310) 201-4200 or on our website at *www.arescapitalcorp.com*. The SEC also maintains a website at *www.sec.gov* that contains such information. The information on the websites referred to herein is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

The underwriters have agreed to purchase the common stock from us at a price of $ per share, which will result in $ of proceeds to us before expenses. The underwriters may offer the shares of common stock from time to time for sale in one or more transactions on The NASDAQ Global Select Market, in the over-the-counter market, through negotiated transactions or otherwise at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

The underwriters may also purchase up to an additional 2,497,500 shares from us at the price per share set forth above within 30 days of the date of this prospectus supplement.

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

The shares will be ready for delivery on or about , 2013.

Joint Book-Running Managers

BofA Merrill Lynch **J.P. Morgan** **Morgan Stanley** **UBS Investment Bank**

The date of this prospectus supplement is , 2013.

Table of Contents

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

Prospectus Supplement
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

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

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

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

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

We have based the forward-looking statements included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus on information available to us as of their respective dates, and we assume no

Table of Contents

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

The forward-looking statements in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are excluded from the safe harbor protection provided by 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").

Table of Contents

THE COMPANY

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

Ares Capital

Ares Capital, a Maryland corporation, is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company, or a "BDC," under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder or the "Investment Company Act." We were founded on April 16, 2004, were initially funded on June 23, 2004 and completed our initial public offering on October 8, 2004. We are one of the largest BDCs with approximately $6.4 billion of total assets as of December 31, 2012.

We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management, a global alternative asset manager and an SEC registered investment adviser with approximately $59 billion of total committed capital under management as of December 31, 2012. Our administrator, Ares Operations, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management, provides certain administrative and other services necessary for us to operate.

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

We invest primarily in first lien senior secured loans (including unitranche loans), second lien senior secured loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. First and second lien senior secured loans generally are senior debt instruments that rank ahead of subordinated debt of a given portfolio company. Mezzanine debt is subordinated to senior loans and is generally unsecured. Our investments in corporate borrowers generally range between $30 million and $400 million each, investments in project finance/power generation projects generally range between $10 million and $200 million each and investments in early-stage and/or venture capital-backed companies generally range between $1 million and $25 million each. However, the investment sizes may be more or less than these ranges and may vary based on, among other things, our capital availability, the composition of our portfolio and general micro- and macro-economic factors.

To a lesser extent, we also make preferred and/or common equity investments, which have generally been non-control equity investments of less than $20 million (usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment). However, we may increase the size or change the nature of these investments.

Table of Contents

The proportion of these types of investments will change over time given our views on, among other things, the economic and credit environment in which we are operating. In connection with our investing activities, we may make commitments with respect to indebtedness or securities of a potential portfolio company substantially in excess of our final investment. In such situations, while we may initially agree to fund up to a certain dollar amount of an investment, we may subsequently syndicate a portion of such amount (including, without limitation, to vehicles managed by our portfolio company, Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P. ("IHAM")), such that we are left with a smaller investment than what was reflected in our original commitment. In addition to originating investments, we may also acquire investments in the secondary market.

The first and second lien senior secured loans in which we invest generally have stated terms of three to 10 years and the mezzanine debt investments in which we invest generally have stated terms of up to 10 years, but the expected average life of such first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt is generally between three and seven years. However, we may invest in loans and securities with any maturity or duration. The instruments in which we invest typically are not rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such instruments were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by Moody's Investors Service, lower than "BBB-" by Fitch Ratings or lower than "BBB-" by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services), which, under the guidelines established by these entities, is an indication of having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Bonds that are rated below investment grade are sometimes referred to as "high yield bonds" or "junk bonds." We may invest without limit in debt or other securities of any rating, as well as debt or other securities that have not been rated by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

We believe that our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, is able to leverage the current investment platform, resources and existing relationships of Ares with financial sponsors, financial institutions, hedge funds and other investment firms to provide us with attractive investment opportunities. In addition to deal flow, the Ares investment platform assists our investment adviser in analyzing, structuring and monitoring investments. Ares has been in existence for more than 15 years and its senior partners have an average of over 23 years experience in leveraged finance, private equity, distressed debt, commercial real estate finance, investment banking and capital markets. The Company has access to Ares' investment professionals and administrative professionals, who provide assistance in accounting, finance, legal, compliance, operations, information technology and investor relations. As of December 31, 2012, Ares had approximately 240 investment professionals and approximately 320 administrative professionals.

Since our initial public offering on October 8, 2004 through December 31, 2012, our realized gains have exceeded our realized losses by approximately $194 million (excluding the one-time gain on the acquisition of Allied Capital Corporation (the "Allied Acquisition") and gains/losses from the extinguishment of debt and other assets). For this same time period, our exited investments have resulted in an aggregate cash flow realized internal rate of return to us of approximately 13% (based on original cash invested, net of syndications, of approximately $6.8 billion and total proceeds from such exited investments of approximately $8.3 billion). Approximately 72% of these exited investments resulted in an aggregate cash flow realized internal rate of return to us of 10% or greater. Internal rate of return is the discount rate that makes the net present value of all cash flows related to a particular investment equal to zero. Internal rate of return is gross of expenses related to investments as these expenses are not allocable to specific investments. Investments are considered to be exited when the original investment objective has been achieved through the receipt of cash and/or non-cash consideration upon the repayment of a debt investment or sale of an investment or through the determination that no further consideration was collectible and, thus, a loss may have been realized. These internal rates of return results are historical results relating to our past performance and are not necessarily indicative of future results, the achievement of which cannot be assured.

Table of Contents

We and General Electric Capital Corporation and GE Global Sponsor Finance LLC (collectively, "GE") also co-invest through an unconsolidated vehicle, the Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC, which operates using the name "Senior Secured Loan Program" (the "SSLP"). The SSLP was initially formed in December 2007 by Allied Capital Corporation ("Allied Capital") and GE to co-invest in first lien senior secured loans of middle-market companies. In October 2009, we acquired from Allied Capital subordinated certificates issued by the SSLP and management rights in respect thereto. As of December 31, 2012, the SSLP had available capital of $9.0 billion of which approximately $6.3 billion in aggregate principal amount was funded at December 31, 2012. As of December 31, 2012, we had agreed to make available to the SSLP approximately $1.8 billion, of which approximately $1.2 billion was funded. The SSLP is capitalized as transactions are completed and all portfolio decisions and generally all other decisions in respect of the SSLP must be approved by an investment committee of the SSLP consisting of representatives of the Company and GE (with approval from a representative of each required). As of December 31, 2012, our investment in the SSLP was approximately $1.3 billion at fair value (including unrealized appreciation of $25.8 million), which represented approximately 21% of our total portfolio at fair value.

While our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior secured loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of eligible portfolio companies, we also may invest up to 30% of our portfolio in non-qualifying assets, as permitted by the Investment Company Act. See "Regulation" in the accompanying prospectus. Specifically, as part of this 30% basket, we may invest in entities that are not considered "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in the Investment Company Act), including companies located outside of the United States, entities that are operating pursuant to certain exceptions under the Investment Company Act, and publicly traded entities whose public equity market capitalization exceeds the levels provided for under the Investment Company Act.

In the first quarter of 2011, the staff of the SEC (the "Staff") informally communicated to certain BDCs the Staff's belief that certain entities, which would be classified as an "investment company" under the Investment Company Act but for the exception from the definition of "investment company" set forth in Rule 3a-7 promulgated under the Investment Company Act, could not be treated as eligible portfolio companies (as defined in Section 2(a)(46) of the Investment Company Act) (i.e., in a BDC's 70% basket of "qualifying assets"). Subsequently, in August 2011 the SEC issued a concept release (the "Concept Release") which stated that "[a]s a general matter, the Commission presently does not believe that Rule 3a-7 issuers are the type of small, developing and financially troubled businesses in which the U.S. Congress intended BDCs primarily to invest" and requested comment on whether or not a 3a-7 issuer should be considered an "eligible portfolio company." We provided a comment letter in respect of the Concept Release and continue to believe that the language of Section 2(a)(46) of the Investment Company Act permits a BDC to treat as "eligible portfolio companies" entities that rely on the 3a-7 exception. However, given the current uncertainty in this area (including the language in the Concept Release), we have, solely for purposes of calculating the composition of our portfolio pursuant to Section 55(a) of the Investment Company Act, identified such entities, which include the SSLP, as "non-qualifying assets" should the Staff ultimately take an official view that 3a-7 issuers are not "eligible portfolio companies."

As of December 31, 2012, our portfolio company, IHAM, which became an SEC registered investment adviser effective March 30, 2012, managed 13 credit vehicles and served as the sub-manager/sub-servicer for three other credit vehicles (these vehicles managed or sub-managed/sub-serviced by IHAM are collectively referred to as the "IHAM Vehicles"), which are described in more detail under "Business Investments Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P." in the accompanying prospectus. As of December 31, 2012, IHAM had total committed capital under management of approximately $3.3 billion, which included approximately $0.2 billion invested by Ares Capital in IHAM. In connection with IHAM's registration as a registered investment adviser, on March 30, 2012,

Table of Contents

we received exemptive relief from the SEC allowing us to, subject to certain conditions, own directly or indirectly up to 100% of IHAM's outstanding equity interests and make additional investments in IHAM.

About Ares

Founded in 1997, Ares is a global alternative asset manager and an SEC registered investment adviser with approximately $59 billion of total committed capital under management and approximately 560 employees as of December 31, 2012.

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

The following chart shows the structure and various investment strategies of Ares as of December 31, 2012:

Ares is organized around four primary investment platforms: Private Equity, Capital Markets, Private Debt and Commercial Real Estate. Ares' senior partners have been working together as a group for many years and have an average of over 23 years of experience in leveraged finance, private equity, distressed debt, commercial real estate, investment banking and capital markets. They are backed by a team of approximately 240 highly disciplined investment professionals which as of December 31, 2012 covered investments in more than 1,100 companies across over 30 industries. Ares' rigorous investment approach is based upon an intensive, independent financial analysis, with a focus on preservation of capital, diversification and active portfolio management. These fundamentals underlie Ares' investment strategy and have resulted in large pension funds, banks, insurance companies, endowments and high net worth individuals investing in Ares' funds.

Table of Contents

Ares Capital Management

Ares Capital Management, our investment adviser, is served by an origination, investment and portfolio management team of approximately 80 U.S.-based investment professionals as of December 31, 2012 and led by the senior partners of the Ares Management Private Debt Group: Michael Arougheti, Eric Beckman, Kipp deVeer, Mitchell Goldstein and Michael Smith. Ares Capital Management leverages off of Ares' investment platform and benefits from the significant capital markets, trading and research expertise of Ares' investment professionals. Ares Capital Management's investment committee has eight members, including the senior partners of the Ares Management Private Debt Group, senior partners in the Ares Management Private Equity Group and a senior adviser to the Ares Management Capital Markets Group.

Recent Developments

On January 25, 2013, we and Ares Capital Funding LLC ("Ares Capital CP"), an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Capital, entered into an amendment to Ares Capital CP's revolving funding facility (the "Revolving Funding Facility" and together with the Revolving Credit Facility (as defined below) and the SMBC Facility (as defined below), the "Facilities"). The amendment, among other things, modified the interest charged on the Revolving Funding Facility from the previous applicable spreads of 2.50% over LIBOR and 1.50% over "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the Revolving Funding Facility) to applicable spreads ranging from 2.25% to 2.50% over LIBOR and ranging from 1.25% to 1.50% over "base rate," in each case, determined monthly based on the composition of the borrowing base relative to outstanding borrowings under the facility. After giving effect to the amendment and the relevant borrowing base and amounts outstanding thereunder, the interest charged on the Revolving Funding Facility as of January 25, 2013 was based on a spread over one-month LIBOR of 2.25% or a spread over "base rate" of 1.25%. As of such date, one-month LIBOR was 0.2037% and the "base rate" was 3.25%.

From January 1, 2013 through March 28, 2013, we made new investment commitments of $410 million, of which $327 million were funded. Of these new commitments, 60% were in first lien senior secured loans, 24% were in second lien senior secured loans, 10% were in senior subordinated debt, 5% were investments in subordinated certificates of the SSLP, the proceeds of which were applied to co-investments with GE to fund first lien senior secured loans through the SSLP, and 1% were in other equity securities. Of the $410 million of new investment commitments, 77% were floating rate, 22% were fixed rate and 1% were non-interest bearing. The weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities funded during the period at amortized cost was 9.6%. We may seek to syndicate a portion of these new investment commitments, although there can be no assurance that we will be able to do so.

From January 1, 2013 through March 28, 2013, we exited $221 million of investment commitments. Of these investment commitments, 48% were first lien senior secured loans, 44% were second lien senior secured loans, 7% were investments in subordinated certificates of the SSLP and 1% were other equity securities. Of the $221 million of exited investment commitments, 96% were floating rate, 2% were fixed rate, 1% were non-interest bearing and 1% were on non-accrual status. The weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities exited or repaid during the period at amortized cost was 9.8%. On the $221 million of investment commitments exited from January 1, 2013 through March 28, 2013, we recognized total net realized gains of approximately $12 million.

In addition, as of March 28, 2013, we had an investment backlog and pipeline of approximately $440 million and $490 million, respectively. Investment backlog includes transactions approved by our investment adviser's investment committee and/or for which a formal mandate, letter of intent or a signed commitment have been issued, and therefore we believe are likely to close. Investment pipeline includes transactions where due diligence and analysis are in process, but no formal mandate, letter of

Table of Contents

intent or signed commitment have been issued. The consummation of any of the investments in this backlog and pipeline depends upon, among other things, one or more of the following: satisfactory completion of our due diligence investigation of the prospective portfolio company, our acceptance of the terms and structure of such investment and the execution and delivery of satisfactory transaction documentation. In addition, we may syndicate a portion of these investments. We cannot assure you that we will make any of these investments or that we will syndicate any portion of these investments.

Our Corporate Information

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

Table of Contents

FEES AND EXPENSES

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

Stockholder transaction expenses (as a percentage of offering price):	
Sales load paid by us	%(1)
Offering expenses	%(2)
Dividend reinvestment plan expenses	None (3)
Total stockholder transaction expenses paid	%
Annual expenses (as a percentage of consolidated net assets attributable to common stock)(4):	
Management fees	2.47%(5)
Incentive fees	3.56%(6)
Interest payments on borrowed funds	4.00%(7)
Other expenses	1.20%(8)
Acquired fund fees and expenses	0.03%(9)
Total annual expenses	11.26%(10)

(1) The underwriting discounts and commissions with respect to the shares sold in this offering, which is a one-time fee, is the only sales load paid in connection with this offering. Because the underwriters may offer the shares from time to time, for the purpose of calculating sales load, we have assumed the underwriters will sell the shares to the public at a price of $ per share, the last reported sales price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Select Market on April , 2013.

(2) Amount reflects estimated offering expenses of approximately $ based on the 16,650,000 shares offered in this offering (assuming that the underwriters do not exercise their option to purchase additional shares).

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

(4) The "consolidated net assets attributable to common stock" used to calculate the percentages in this table is our average net assets of $3.6 billion for the year ended December 31, 2012.

(5) Our management fee is currently 1.5% of our total assets (other than cash and cash equivalents which includes assets purchased with borrowed amounts). For the purposes of this table, we have assumed that we maintain no cash or cash equivalents. The 2.47% reflected on the table is higher than 1.5% because it is calculated on our average net assets (rather than our average total assets). See "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement" in the accompanying prospectus.

(6) This item represents our investment adviser's incentive fees based on pre-incentive fee net investment income for the year ended December 31, 2012 and our accrual in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") of a capital gains incentive fee of $31.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, even though the capital gains incentive fee actually payable under the investment advisory and management agreement (the "Capital Gains Fee") for the year ended December 31, 2012 was

$11.5 million.

Table of Contents

GAAP requires that the capital gains incentive fee accrual consider the cumulative aggregate unrealized capital appreciation in the calculation, as a capital gains incentive fee would be payable if such unrealized capital appreciation were realized, even though such unrealized capital appreciation is not permitted to be considered in calculating the fee actually payable under the Investment Company Act or the investment advisory and management agreement. This GAAP accrual is calculated using the aggregate cumulative realized capital gains and losses and aggregate cumulative unrealized capital depreciation included in the calculation of the Capital Gains Fee plus the aggregate cumulative unrealized capital appreciation. If such amount is positive at the end of a period, then GAAP requires us to record a capital gains incentive fee equal to 20% of such cumulative amount, less the aggregate amount of actual Capital Gains Fees paid or capital gains incentive fees accrued under GAAP in all prior periods. The resulting accrual for any capital gains incentive fee under GAAP in a given period may result in an additional expense if such cumulative amount is greater than in the prior period or a reversal of previously recorded expense if such cumulative amount is less than in the prior period. If such cumulative amount is negative, then there is no accrual. There can be no assurance that such unrealized capital appreciation will be realized in the future or that the amount accrued will ultimately be paid.

For purposes of this table, we have assumed that these fees will be payable (in the case of the capital gains incentive fee) and that they will remain constant, although they are based on Ares Capital's performance and will not be paid unless Ares Capital achieves certain goals. We expect to invest or otherwise utilize all of the net proceeds from this offering within three months of the date of this prospectus supplement and may have capital gains and interest income that could result in the payment of an incentive fee to our investment adviser in the first year after completion of this offering. Since our initial public offering through December 31, 2012, the average quarterly incentive fee accrued (including capital gains incentive fees accrued under GAAP even though they may not be payable) has been approximately 0.79% of our weighted average net assets (3.18% on an annualized basis). For more detailed information on the calculation of our incentive fees, please see below. For more detailed information about incentive fees previously incurred by us, please see Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2012.

The incentive fee consists of two parts:

The first, payable quarterly in arrears, equals 20% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income (including interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash), subject to a 1.75% quarterly (7.0% annualized) hurdle rate and a "catch-up" provision measured as of the end of each calendar quarter. Under this provision, in any calendar quarter, our investment adviser receives no incentive fee until our net investment income equals the hurdle rate of 1.75% but then receives, as a "catch-up," 100% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income with respect to that portion of such pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, that exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.1875%. The effect of this provision is that, if pre-incentive fee net investment income exceeds 2.1875% in any calendar quarter, our investment adviser will receive 20% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income as if a hurdle rate did not apply.

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

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

Table of Contents

incentive fees payable during the period) is less than 7.0% of our net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) at the beginning of such period.

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

See "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement" in the accompanying prospectus.

(7)
"Interest payments on borrowed funds" represents an estimate of our interest expenses based on actual interest and credit facility expenses incurred for the year ended December 31, 2012. During the year ended December 31, 2012, our average outstanding borrowings were $2,195.2 million and cash paid for interest expense was $108.8 million. We had outstanding borrowings of $2,293.8 million (with a carrying value of $2,195.9 million) at December 31, 2012. This item is based on our assumption that our borrowings and interest costs after an offering will remain similar to those prior to this offering. The amount of leverage that we employ at any particular time will depend on, among other things, our board of directors' and our investment adviser's assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business We borrow money, which magnifies the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and may increase the risk of investing with us."

(8)
Includes our overhead expenses, including payments under our administration agreement, based on our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Ares Operations in performing its obligations under the administration agreement, and income taxes. Such expenses are estimated based on "Other expenses" for the year ended December 31, 2012. The holders of shares of our common stock (and not the holders of our debt securities or preferred stock, if any) indirectly bear the cost associated with our annual expenses. See "Management Administration Agreement" in the accompanying prospectus.

(9)
The Company's stockholders indirectly bear the expenses of underlying funds or other investment vehicles that would be investment companies under section 3(a) of the Investment Company Act but for the exceptions to that definition provided for in sections 3(c)(1) and 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act ("Acquired Funds") in which the Company invests. This amount includes the estimated annual fees and expenses of Acquired Funds in which the Company is invested as of December 31, 2012. Certain of these Acquired Funds are subject to management fees, which generally range from 1% to 2.5% of total net assets, or incentive fees, which generally range between 15% to 25% of net profits. When applicable, fees and expenses estimates are based on historic fees and expenses for the Acquired Funds. For those Acquired Funds with little or no operating history, fees and expenses are estimates based on expected fees and expenses stated in the Acquired Funds' offering memorandum, private placement memorandum or other similar communication without giving effect to any performance. Future fees and expenses for these Acquired Funds may be substantially higher or lower because certain fees and expenses are based on the performance of the Acquired Funds, which may fluctuate over time.

(10)
"Total annual expenses" as a percentage of consolidated net assets attributable to common stock are higher than the total annual expenses percentage would be for a company that is not leveraged. We borrow money to leverage and increase our total assets. The SEC requires that the "Total annual expenses" percentage be calculated as a percentage of net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any incentive fees payable during the period), rather than the total assets, including assets that have been funded with borrowed monies.

Table of Contents

Example

The following example demonstrates the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in our common stock. In calculating the following expense amounts, we have assumed that we would have no additional leverage, that none of our assets are cash or cash equivalents, and that our annual operating expenses would remain at the levels set forth in the table above. Transaction expenses are not included in the following example.

	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
You would pay the following expenses on a $1,000 common stock investment, assuming a 5% annual return(1)	$ 79	$ 230	$ 372	$ 694

(1) The above illustration assumes that we will not realize any capital gains computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation. The expenses you would pay, based on a $1,000 investment and assuming a 5% annual return resulting entirely from net realized capital gains (and therefore subject to the capital gains incentive fee), and otherwise making the same assumptions in the example above, would be: 1 year, $89; 3 years, $258; 5 years, $416; and 10 years, $767. However, cash payment of the capital gains incentive fee would be deferred if, during the most recent four full calendar quarter period ending on or prior to the date the payment set forth in the example is to be made, the sum of (a) our aggregate distributions to our stockholders and (b) our change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any incentive fees payable during the period) was less than 7.0% of our net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) at the beginning of such period (as adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases).

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

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

Table of Contents

SELECTED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF ARES CAPITAL

The following selected financial and other data as of and for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009 and 2008 are derived from our consolidated financial statements, which have been audited by KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm whose report thereon is included elsewhere in the accompanying prospectus. The quarterly financial information is derived from our unaudited financial statements, but in the opinion of management, reflects all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) that are necessary to present fairly the results of such interim periods. The data should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Senior Securities," which are included elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA
As of and For the Years Ended December 31, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009 and 2008
(dollar amounts in millions, except per share data and as otherwise indicated)

	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2012	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2011	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2010	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2009	As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2008
Total Investment Income	$ 748.0	$ 634.5	$ 483.4	$ 245.3	$ 240.4
Total Expenses	387.9	344.6	262.2	111.3	113.2
Net Investment Income Before Income Taxes	360.1	289.9	221.2	134.0	127.2
Income Tax Expense (Benefit), Including Excise Tax	11.2	7.5	5.4	0.6	0.2
Net Investment Income	348.9	282.4	215.8	133.4	127.0
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments, Foreign Currencies, Extinguishment of Debt and Other Assets	159.3	37.1	280.1	69.3	(266.5)
Gain on the Allied Acquisition(1)			195.9		
Net Increase (Decrease) in Stockholders' Equity Resulting from Operations	$ 508.2	$ 319.5	$ 691.8	$ 202.7	$ (139.5)
Per Share Data:					
Net Increase (Decrease) in Stockholder's Equity Resulting from Operations:					
Basic(2)	$ 2.21	$ 1.56	$ 3.91	$ 1.99	$ (1.56)
Diluted(2)	$ 2.21	$ 1.56	$ 3.91	$ 1.99	$ (1.56)
Cash Dividend Declared	$ 1.60	$ 1.41	$ 1.40	$ 1.47	$ 1.68
Net Asset Value	$ 16.04	$ 15.34	$ 14.92	$ 11.44	$ 11.27
Total Assets	$ 6,401.2	$ 5,387.4	$ 4,562.5	$ 2,313.5	$ 2,091.3
Total Debt (Carrying Value)	$ 2,195.9	$ 2,073.6	$ 1,378.5	$ 969.5	$ 908.8
Total Debt (Principal Amount)	$ 2,293.8	$ 2,170.5	$ 1,435.1	$ 969.5	$ 908.8
Total Stockholders' Equity	$ 3,988.3	$ 3,147.3	$ 3,050.5	$ 1,257.9	$ 1,094.9
Other Data:					
Number of Portfolio Companies at Period End(3)	152	141	170	95	91
Principal Amount of Investments Purchased	$ 3,161.6	$ 3,239.0	$ 1,583.9	$ 575.0	$ 925.9
Principal Amount of Investments Acquired as part of the Allied Acquisition	$	$	$ 1,833.8	$	$
Principal Amount of Investments Sold and Repayments	$ 2,482.9	$ 2,468.2	$ 1,555.9	$ 515.2	$ 485.3
Weighted Average Yield of Debt and Other Income Producing Securities at Fair Value(4):	11.3%	12.0%	12.9%	12.7%	12.8%
Weighted Average Yield of Debt and Other Income Producing Securities at Amortized Cost(4):	11.4%	12.1%	13.2%	12.1%	11.7%
Total Return Based on Market Value(5)	23.6%	2.3%	43.6%	119.9%	(45.3)%
Total Return Based on Net Asset Value(6)	14.3%	10.5%	31.6%	17.8%	(11.2)%

(1) See Note 17 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2012 for more information on the Allied Acquisition.

(2)

In accordance with Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 260-10, the weighted average shares of common stock outstanding used in computing basic and diluted earnings per common share have been adjusted retroactively by a factor of 1.02% to recognize the bonus element associated with rights to acquire shares of common stock that we issued to stockholders of record as of March 24, 2008 in connection with a rights offering.

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

Table of Contents

(4)
Weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities at fair value is computed as (a) the annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing debt and income producing securities, divided by (b) total debt and income producing securities at fair value. Weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities at amortized cost is computed as (a) annual stated interest rate or yield earned plus the net annual amortization of original issue discount and market discount earned on accruing debt and income producing securities, divided by (b) total debt and income producing securities at amortized cost.

(5)
Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2012 equalled the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2012 of $17.50 per share from the ending market value at December 31, 2011 of $15.45 per share plus the declared dividends of $1.60 per share for the year ended December 31, 2012. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2011 equalled the decrease of the ending market value at December 30, 2011 of $15.45 per share from the ending market value at December 31, 2010 of $16.48 per share plus the declared dividends of $1.41 per share for the year ended December 31, 2011. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2010 equalled the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2010 of $16.48 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2009 of $12.45 per share plus the declared dividends of $1.40 per share for the year ended December 31, 2010. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2009 equalled the increase of the ending market value at December 31, 2009 of $12.45 per share over the ending market value at December 31, 2008 of $6.33 per share plus the declared dividends of $1.47 per share for the year ended December 31, 2009. Total return based on market value for the year ended December 31, 2008 equalled the decrease of the ending market value at December 31, 2008 of $6.33 per share from the ending market value at December 31, 2007 of $14.63 per share plus the declared dividends of $1.68 per share for the year ended December 31, 2008. Total return based on market value is not annualized. Our shares fluctuate in value. Our performance changes over time and currently may be different than that shown. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

(6)
Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2012 equalled the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of $1.60 per share for the year ended December 31, 2012, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2011 equalled the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of $1.41 per share for the year ended December 31, 2011, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2010 equalled the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of $1.40 per share for the year ended December 31, 2010, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2009 equalled the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of $1.47 per share for the year ended December 31, 2009, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value for the year ended December 31, 2008 equalled the change in net asset value during the period (adjusted for share issuances) plus the declared dividends of $1.68 per share for the year ended December 31, 2008, divided by the beginning net asset value. Total return based on net asset value is not annualized. Our performance changes over time and currently may be different than that shown. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Table of Contents

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

	2012			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income	$ 212,160	$ 190,572	$ 177,555	$ 167,738
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains and incentive compensation	$ 138,249	$ 123,599	$ 110,634	$ 103,424
Incentive compensation	$ 43,787	$ 34,139	$ 22,733	$ 26,386
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains	$ 94,462	$ 89,460	$ 87,901	$ 77,038
Net realized and unrealized gains	$ 80,682	$ 47,095	$ 3,031	$ 28,509
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	$ 175,144	$ 136,555	$ 90,932	$ 105,547
Basic and diluted earnings per common share	$ 0.71	$ 0.59	$ 0.41	$ 0.49
Net asset value per share as of the end of the quarter	$ 16.04	$ 15.74	$ 15.51	$ 15.47

	2011			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Total investment income	$ 187,123	$ 167,365	$ 144,307	$ 135,691
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses) and incentive compensation	$ 121,990	$ 108,517	$ 85,509	$ 78,764
Incentive compensation	$ 29,531	$ 10,159	$ 41,746	$ 30,941
Net investment income before net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	$ 92,459	$ 98,358	$ 43,763	$ 47,823
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	$ 25,666	$ (57,719)	$ (6,840)	$ 75,943
Net increase in stockholders' equity resulting from operations	$ 118,125	$ 40,639	$ 36,923	$ 123,766
Basic and diluted earnings per common share	$ 0.58	$ 0.20	$ 0.18	$ 0.61
Net asset value per share as of the end of the quarter	$ 15.34	$ 15.13	$ 15.28	$ 15.45

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

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

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

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

RISKS RELATING TO OUR BUSINESS

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

The global capital markets have been in an extended period of instability as evidenced by periodic disruptions in liquidity in the debt capital markets, significant write-offs in the financial services sector, the re-pricing of credit risk in the broadly syndicated credit market and the failure of major financial institutions. Despite actions of the U.S. federal government and foreign governments, these events contributed to worsening general economic conditions that materially and adversely impacted the broader financial and credit markets and reduced the availability of debt and equity capital for the market as a whole and financial services firms in particular. While recent market conditions have improved, there have been continuing periods of volatility and there can be no assurance that adverse market conditions will not repeat themselves or worsen in the future. If these adverse and volatile market conditions worsen, we and other companies in the financial services sector may have to access, if available, alternative markets for debt and equity capital in order to grow. Equity capital may be difficult to raise because, subject to some limited exceptions, as a BDC, we are generally not able to issue additional shares of our common stock at a price less than net asset value without first obtaining approval for such issuance from our stockholders and our independent directors. At our 2012 annual stockholders meeting, subject to certain determinations required to be made by our board of directors, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, in an amount not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock, at a price below the then current net asset value per share during a period that began on June 4, 2012 and expires on the earlier of June 4, 2013 and the date of our 2013 annual stockholders meeting. On March 19, 2013, we filed our 2013 Preliminary Proxy Statement for our 2013 annual stockholders meeting. The 2013 Preliminary Proxy Statement sets forth certain proposals to be voted upon at our 2013 annual stockholders meeting (currently expected to take place on June 4, 2013), including a proposal that, if approved by stockholders, would have the effect of extending this approval to the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of our 2013 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2014 annual stockholders meeting. In addition, our ability to incur indebtedness (including by issuing preferred stock) is limited by applicable regulations such that our asset coverage, as calculated in accordance with the Investment Company Act, must equal at least 200% immediately after each time we incur indebtedness. The debt capital that will be available to us in the future, if at all, may be at a higher cost and on less favorable terms and conditions than what we currently experience. Any inability to raise capital could have a negative effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

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

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

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

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

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

We depend on the diligence, skill and network of business contacts of certain key personnel of the Ares Management Private Debt Group. We also depend, to a significant extent, on access to the investment professionals of other groups within Ares and the information and deal flow generated by Ares' investment professionals in the course of their investment and portfolio management activities. Our future success depends on the continued service of the key personnel of the Ares Management Private Debt Group. The departure of any of these individuals, or of a significant number of the investment professionals or partners of Ares, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. In addition, we cannot assure you that Ares Capital Management will remain our investment adviser or that we will continue to have access to Ares' investment professionals or its information and deal flow. Further, there can be no assurance that Ares Capital will replicate Ares' historical success, and we caution you that our investment returns could be substantially lower than the returns achieved by other Ares managed funds.

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

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

Accomplishing this result on a cost-effective basis is largely a function of the structuring of our investment process and the ability of our investment adviser to provide competent, attentive and

Table of Contents

efficient services to us. Our executive officers and the members of our investment adviser's investment committee have substantial responsibilities in connection with their roles at Ares and with the other Ares funds, as well as responsibilities under the investment advisory and management agreement. They may also be called upon to provide significant managerial assistance to certain of our portfolio companies. These demands on their time, which will increase as the number of investments grow, may distract them or slow the rate of investment. In order to grow, Ares will need to hire, train, supervise, manage and retain new employees. However, we cannot assure you that we will be able to do so effectively. Any failure to manage our future growth effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

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

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

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

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

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

We may issue senior securities or borrow money from banks or other financial institutions, up to the maximum amount permitted by the Investment Company Act. Under the provisions of the Investment Company Act, we are permitted, as a BDC, to incur indebtedness or issue senior securities only in amounts such that our asset coverage, as calculated in accordance with the Investment Company Act, equals at least 200% after each such incurrence or issuance. If the value of our assets declines, we may be unable to satisfy this test, which may prohibit us from paying dividends and could prevent us from maintaining our status as a RIC or may prohibit us from repurchasing shares of our common stock. In addition, our inability to satisfy this test could cause an event of default under our existing indebtedness. If we cannot satisfy this test, we may be required to sell a portion of our investments at a time when such sales may be disadvantageous and, depending on the nature of our leverage, repay a portion of our indebtedness. Accordingly, any failure to satisfy this test could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. As of December 31, 2012, our asset coverage calculated in accordance with the Investment Company Act was

282%. Also, to generate cash for funding new investments, we may in the future seek to issue additional debt or to securitize certain of our loans. The Investment Company Act may impose restrictions on the structure of any such securitization.

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

At our 2012 annual stockholders meeting, subject to certain determinations required to be made by our board of directors, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, in an amount not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock, at a price below the then current net asset value per share during a period that began on June 4, 2012 and expires on the earlier of June 4, 2013 and the date of our 2013 annual stockholders meeting. On March 19, 2013, we filed our 2013 Preliminary Proxy Statement for our 2013 annual stockholders meeting. The 2013 Preliminary Proxy Statement sets forth certain proposals to be voted upon at our 2013 annual stockholders meeting (currently expected to take place on June 4, 2013), including a proposal that, if approved by stockholders, would have the effect of extending this approval to the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of our 2013 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2014 annual stockholders meeting.

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

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

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

As of December 31, 2012, we had $300.0 million of outstanding borrowings under the Facilities, $756.3 million in aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Unsecured Notes (as defined below) and $1,237.5 million in aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Convertible Unsecured Notes (as defined below). In order for us to cover our annual interest payments on our outstanding indebtedness at December 31, 2012, we must achieve annual returns on our December 31, 2012 total assets of at

Table of Contents

least 2.0%. The weighted average stated interest rate charged on our outstanding indebtedness as of December 31, 2012 was 5.5%. We intend to continue borrowing under the Facilities in the future and we may increase the size of the Facilities or issue additional debt securities or other evidences of indebtedness (although there can be no assurance that we will be successful in doing so). Our ability to service our debt depends largely on our financial performance and is subject to prevailing economic conditions and competitive pressures. The amount of leverage that we employ at any particular time will depend on our investment adviser's and our board of directors' assessments of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.

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

The following table illustrates the effect on return to a holder of our common stock of the leverage created by our use of borrowing at the weighted average stated interest rate of 5.5% as of December 31, 2012, together with (a) our total value of net assets as of December 31, 2012; (b) $2,293.8 million in aggregate principal amount of indebtedness outstanding as of December 31, 2012 and (c) hypothetical annual returns on our portfolio of minus 15% to plus 15%.

Assumed Return on Portfolio (Net of Expenses)(1)	(15)%	(10)%	(5)%	0%	5%	10%	15%
Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders(2)	(27)%	(19)%	(11)%	(3)%	5%	13%	21%

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

(2) In order to compute the "Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders," the "Assumed Return on Portfolio" is multiplied by the total value of our assets at December 31, 2012 to obtain an assumed return to us. From this amount, the interest expense (calculated by multiplying the weighted average stated interest rate of 5.5% by the $2,293.8 million of principal debt) is subtracted to determine the return available to stockholders. The return available to stockholders is then divided by the total value of our net assets as of December 31, 2012 to determine the "Corresponding Return to Common Stockholders."

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities.

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

We do not seek to compete primarily based on the interest rates we offer and we believe that some of our competitors may make loans with interest rates that are comparable to or lower than the rates we offer. Rather, we compete with our competitors based on our existing investment platform, seasoned investment professionals, experience and focus on middle-market companies, disciplined

Table of Contents

investment philosophy, extensive industry focus and flexible transaction structuring. For a more detailed discussion of these competitive advantages, see "Business Competitive Advantages" in the accompanying prospectus.

We may lose investment opportunities if we do not match our competitors' pricing, terms and structure. If we match our competitors' pricing, terms and structure, we may experience decreased net interest income and increased risk of credit loss. As a result of operating in such a competitive environment, we may make investments that are on less favorable terms than what we may have originally anticipated, which may impact our return on these investments.

We may be subject to additional U.S. federal corporate-level taxes if we fail to maintain our status as a RIC.

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

To satisfy the Annual Distribution Requirement (as defined below) for a RIC we must distribute to our stockholders on a timely basis generally an amount equal to at least 90% of our investment company taxable income for each year. We have the ability to pay a large portion of our dividends in shares of our stock, and as long as a portion of such dividend is paid in cash and other requirements are met, such stock dividends will be taxable as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes. This may result in our U.S. stockholders having to pay tax on such dividends, even if no cash is received, and may result in our non-U.S. stockholders being subject to withholding tax in respect of amounts distributed in our stock. Because we use debt financing, we are subject to certain asset coverage ratio requirements under the Investment Company Act and financial covenants under our indebtedness that could, under certain circumstances, restrict us from making distributions necessary to qualify as a RIC. If we are unable to obtain cash from other sources, we may fail to maintain our status as a RIC and, thus, may be subject to corporate-level income tax on all of our income and/or gains.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

A large percentage of our portfolio investments are not publicly traded. The fair value of investments that are not publicly traded may not be readily determinable. We value these investments quarterly at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors based on, among other things, the input of our management and audit committee and independent valuation firms that have been engaged at the direction of our board of directors to assist in the valuation of each portfolio investment without a readily available market quotation at least once during a trailing 12-month period (with certain de minimis exceptions). The valuation process is conducted at the end of each fiscal quarter, with a minimum of 50% (based on value) of our valuations of portfolio companies without readily available market quotations subject to review by an independent valuation firm each quarter. However, we may use these independent valuation firms to review the value of our investments more frequently, including in connection with the occurrence of significant events or changes in value affecting a particular investment. In addition, our independent registered public accounting firm reviews our valuation process as part of their overall integrated audit.

The types of factors that may be considered in valuing our investments include the enterprise value of the portfolio company (the entire value of the portfolio company to a market participant, including the sum of the values of debt and equity securities used to capitalize the enterprise at a point in time), the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings and discounted cash flows, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, a comparison of the portfolio company's securities to similar publicly traded securities, changes in the interest rate environment and the credit markets generally that may affect the price at which similar investments would trade in their principal markets and other relevant factors. When an external event such as a purchase transaction, public offering or subsequent equity sale occurs, we consider the pricing indicated by the external event to corroborate our valuation. Because such valuations, and particularly valuations of private investments and private companies, are inherently uncertain, may fluctuate over short periods of time and may be based on estimates, our determinations of fair value may differ materially from the values that would have been used if a ready market for these investments existed and may differ materially from the values that we may ultimately realize. Our net asset value per share could be adversely affected if our determinations regarding the fair value of these investments are materially higher than the values that we realize upon disposition of such investments.

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

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

We may experience fluctuations in our quarterly results.

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

Table of Contents

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

Certain of our executive officers and directors, and members of the investment committee of our investment adviser, serve or may serve as officers, directors or principals of other entities and affiliates of our investment adviser and investment funds managed by our affiliates. Accordingly, they may have obligations to investors in those entities, the fulfillment of which might not be in our or our stockholders' best interests or that may require them to devote time to services for other entities, which could interfere with the time available to provide services to us. Certain members of our investment adviser's investment committee have significant responsibilities for other Ares funds. For example, Mr. Rosenthal is required to devote a substantial majority of his business time to the affairs of the Ares Management Private Equity Group. Similarly, although the professional staff of our investment adviser will devote as much time to the management of the Company as appropriate to enable our investment adviser to perform its duties in accordance with the investment advisory and management agreement, the investment professionals of our investment adviser may have conflicts in allocating their time and services among the Company, on the one hand, and investment vehicles managed by Ares or one or more of its affiliates, on the other hand. These activities could be viewed as creating a conflict of interest insofar as the time and effort of the professional staff of our investment adviser and its officers and employees will not be devoted exclusively to the business of the Company but will instead be allocated between the business of the Company and the management of these other investment vehicles. However, Ares believes that the efforts of such individuals are synergistic with and beneficial to the affairs of Ares Capital and these other investment vehicles managed by Ares or its affiliates.

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

Our investment advisory and management agreement renews for successive annual periods if approved by our board of directors or by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of our outstanding voting securities, including, in either case, approval by a majority of our directors who are not "interested persons" of the Company as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act. However, both we and our investment adviser have the right to terminate the agreement without penalty upon 60 days' written notice to the other party. Moreover, conflicts of interest may arise if our investment adviser seeks to change the terms of our investment advisory and management agreement, including, for example, the terms for compensation. While any material change to the investment advisory and management agreement must be submitted to stockholders for approval under the Investment Company Act, we may from time to time decide it is appropriate to seek stockholder approval to change the terms of the agreement.

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

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

We are party to a New York office lease that will expire in February 2026 pursuant to which we are leasing office facilities from a third party. We are also party to an office sublease with Ares Commercial Real Estate Management LLC ("ACREM"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management and the manager of Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation, pursuant to which we are subleasing approximately 12% of ACREM's Chicago office space for a fixed rent equal to 12% of the basic annual rent payable by ACREM under its Chicago office lease, plus certain additional costs and expenses. We also entered into separate subleases with Ares Management and IHAM, pursuant to which Ares Management and IHAM sublease approximately 15% and 20%, respectively, of our New York office space, for a fixed rent equal to 15% and 20%, respectively, of the basic annual rent payable by us under our office lease, plus certain additional costs and expenses.

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

Our stockholders may have conflicting investment, tax and other objectives with respect to their investments in us. The conflicting interests of individual stockholders may relate to or arise from, among other things, the nature of our investments, the structure or the acquisition of our investments, and the timing of dispositions of our investments. As a consequence, conflicts of interest may arise in

Table of Contents

connection with decisions made by our investment adviser, including with respect to the nature or structuring of our investments, that may be more beneficial for one stockholder than for another stockholder, especially with respect to stockholders' individual tax situations. In selecting and structuring investments appropriate for us, our investment adviser will consider the investment and tax objectives of the Company and our stockholders, as a whole, not the investment, tax or other objectives of any stockholder individually.

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

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

On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Dodd-Frank Act. Many of the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act have had extended implementation periods and delayed effective dates and have required extensive rulemaking by regulatory authorities. While many of the rules required to be written have been promulgated, some have not yet been implemented. Many of these rules will be implemented in 2013. Although the full impact of the Dodd-Frank Act on us and our portfolio companies may not be known for an extended period of time, the Dodd-Frank Act, including the rules implementing its provisions and the interpretation of those rules, along with other legislative and regulatory proposals directed at the financial services industry or affecting taxation that are proposed or pending in the U.S. Congress, may negatively impact the operations, cash flows or financial condition of us or our portfolio companies, impose additional costs on us or our portfolio companies, intensify the regulatory supervision of us or our portfolio companies or otherwise adversely affect our business or the business of our portfolio companies.

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

Our investment adviser has not assumed any responsibility to us other than to render the services described in the investment advisory and management agreement, and it will not be responsible for any action of our board of directors in declining to follow our investment adviser's advice or recommendations. Pursuant to the investment advisory and management agreement, our investment adviser and its members and their respective officers, managers, partners, agents, employees, controlling persons and members and any other person or entity affiliated with it will not be liable to us for their acts under the investment advisory and management agreement, absent willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard in the performance of their duties. We have agreed to indemnify, defend and protect our investment adviser and its members and their respective officers, managers, partners, agents, employees, controlling persons and members and any other person or entity affiliated

Table of Contents

with it with respect to all damages, liabilities, costs and expenses resulting from acts of our investment adviser not arising out of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard in the performance of their duties under the investment advisory and management agreement. These protections may lead our investment adviser to act in a riskier manner when acting on our behalf than it would when acting for its own account. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Investments Our investment adviser's incentive fee may induce it to make certain investments, including speculative investments."

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

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

Under the investment advisory and management agreement, we will defer cash payment of any incentive fee otherwise earned by our investment adviser if, during the most recent four full calendar quarter periods ending on or prior to the date such payment is to be made, the sum of (a) our aggregate distributions to our stockholders and (b) our change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any incentive fees payable during the period) is less than 7.0% of our net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) at the beginning of such period. These calculations will be adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases. Any deferred incentive fees will be carried over for payment in subsequent calculation periods to the extent such payment can then be made under the investment advisory and management agreement.

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

RISKS RELATING TO OUR INVESTMENTS

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

As a BDC, we are required to carry our investments at market value or, if no market value is ascertainable, at fair value as determined in good faith by or under the direction of our board of directors. We may take into account the following types of factors, if relevant, in determining the fair value of our investments: the enterprise value of a portfolio company (the entire value of the portfolio company to a market participant, including the sum of the values of debt and equity securities used to capitalize the enterprise at a point in time), the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings and discounted cash flow, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, a comparison of the portfolio company's securities to similar publicly traded securities, changes in the interest rate environment and the credit markets generally that may affect the price at which similar investments would trade in their principal markets and other relevant factors. When an external event such as a purchase transaction, public offering or subsequent equity sale occurs, we use the pricing indicated by the external event to corroborate our valuation. While most of our investments are not publicly traded, applicable accounting standards require us to assume as part of our valuation process that our investments are sold in a principal market to market participants (even if we plan on holding an investment through its maturity). As a result, volatility in the capital markets can also adversely affect our investment valuations. Decreases in the market values or fair values of our investments are recorded as unrealized depreciation. The effect of all of these factors on our portfolio can reduce our net asset value by increasing net unrealized depreciation in our portfolio. Depending on market conditions, we could incur substantial realized losses and may suffer unrealized losses, which could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- there is generally little public information about these companies. These companies and their financial information are not subject to the Exchange Act and other regulations that govern public companies, and we may be unable to uncover all material information about these

Table of Contents

companies, which may prevent us from making a fully informed investment decision and cause us to lose money on our investments;

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

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

changes in laws and regulations, as well as their interpretations, may adversely affect their business, financial structure or prospects; and

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

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

The debt that we invest in is typically not initially rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such investments were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by Moody's Investors Service, lower than "BBB-" by Fitch Ratings or lower than "BBB-" by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services), which under the guidelines established by these entities, is an indication of having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Bonds that are rated below investment grade are sometimes referred to as "high yield bonds" or "junk bonds." Therefore, our investments may result in an above average amount of risk and volatility or loss of principal.

Our investment portfolio includes our investment in the SSLP, which as of December 31, 2012 represented approximately 21% of our portfolio at fair value. While the SSLP's portfolio is comprised of 36 separate first lien senior secured loans, any material degradation of the performance of these loans in the aggregate could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. We also may invest in assets other than first and second lien and mezzanine debt investments, including high-yield securities, U.S. government securities, credit derivatives and other structured securities and certain direct equity investments. These investments entail additional risks that could adversely affect our investment returns.

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

Our portfolio companies may be highly leveraged.

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

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

The incentive fee payable by us to Ares Capital Management may create an incentive for Ares Capital Management to make investments on our behalf that are risky or more speculative than would be the case in the absence of such compensation arrangement. The way in which the incentive fee

Table of Contents

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

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

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

Our investments in foreign companies may involve significant risks in addition to the risks inherent in U.S. investments.

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

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

We may expose ourselves to risks if we engage in hedging transactions.

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

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

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

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

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

RISKS RELATING TO THIS OFFERING

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

Shares of closed-end investment companies frequently trade at a market price that is less than the net asset value that is attributable to those shares. This characteristic of closed-end investment companies is separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value per share may decline. It is not possible to predict whether any shares of our common stock will trade at, above, or below net asset value. In the recent past, including during much of 2009, the stocks of BDCs as an industry, including at times shares of our common stock, traded below net asset value and at near historic lows as a result of concerns over liquidity, leverage restrictions and distribution requirements. When our common stock is trading below its net asset value per share, we will generally not be able to issue additional shares of our common stock at its market price without first obtaining approval for such issuance from our

Table of Contents

stockholders and our independent directors. At our 2012 annual stockholders meeting, subject to certain determinations required to be made by our board of directors, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, in an amount not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock, at a price below the then current net asset value per share during a period that began on June 4, 2012 and expires on the earlier of June 4, 2013 and the date of our 2013 annual stockholders meeting. On March 19, 2013, we filed our 2013 Preliminary Proxy Statement for our 2013 annual stockholders meeting. The 2013 Preliminary Proxy Statement sets forth certain proposals to be voted upon at our 2013 annual stockholders meeting (currently expected to take place on June 4, 2013), including a proposal that, if approved by stockholders, would have the effect of extending this approval to the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of our 2013 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2014 annual stockholders meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

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

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

The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly.

The capital and credit markets have experienced periods of extreme volatility and disruption over the past several years. The market price and liquidity of the market for shares of our common stock may be significantly affected by numerous factors, some of which are beyond our control and may not be directly related to our operating performance. These factors include:

- significant volatility in the market price and trading volume of securities of publicly traded RICs, BDCs or other companies in our sector, which are not necessarily related to the operating performance of these companies;
- price and volume fluctuations in the overall stock market from time to time;
- changes in law, regulatory policies or tax guidelines, or interpretations thereof, particularly with respect to RICs or BDCs;
- loss of our RIC status;
- changes in our earnings or variations in our operating results;
- changes in the value of our portfolio of investments;
- any shortfall in revenue or net income or any increase in losses from levels expected by investors or securities analysts;
- departure of Ares Capital Management's key personnel;
- operating performance of companies comparable to us;
- short-selling pressure with respect to shares of our common stock or BDCs generally;
- future sales of our securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for our common stock or the conversion of such securities, including the Convertible Unsecured Notes;

uncertainty surrounding the strength of the U.S. economic recovery;

concerns regarding European sovereign debt;

general economic trends and other external factors; and

loss of a major funding source.

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

We may in the future determine to issue preferred stock, which could adversely affect the market value of our common stock.

The issuance of shares of preferred stock with dividend or conversion rights, liquidation preferences or other economic terms favorable to the holders of preferred stock could adversely affect the market price for our common stock by making an investment in the common stock less attractive. In addition, the dividends on any preferred stock we issue must be cumulative. Payment of dividends and repayment of the liquidation preference of preferred stock must take preference over any dividends or other payments to our common stockholders, and holders of preferred stock are not subject to any of our expenses or losses and are not entitled to participate in any income or appreciation in excess of their stated preference (other than convertible preferred stock that converts into common stock). In addition, under the Investment Company Act, preferred stock constitutes a "senior security" for purposes of the 200% asset coverage test.

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

At our 2012 annual stockholders meeting, subject to certain determinations required to be made by our board of directors, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, in an amount not exceeding 25% of our then outstanding common stock, at a price below the then current net asset value per share during a period that began on June 4, 2012 and expires on the earlier of June 4, 2013 and the date of our 2013 annual stockholders meeting. On March 19, 2013, we filed our 2013 Preliminary Proxy Statement for our 2013 annual stockholders meeting. The 2013 Preliminary Proxy Statement sets forth certain proposals to be voted upon at our 2013 annual stockholders meeting (currently expected to take place on June 4, 2013), including a proposal that, if approved by stockholders, would have the effect of extending this approval to the earlier of the one-year anniversary of the date of our 2013 annual stockholders meeting and the date of our 2014 annual stockholders meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

We generally expect the public offering price of any offering of shares of our common stock to be higher than the book value per share of our outstanding common stock. Accordingly, investors purchasing shares of our common stock in this offering may pay a price per share that exceeds the tangible book value per share after such offering.

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

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

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

The February 2016 Convertible Notes (as defined below) are convertible into shares of our common stock beginning August 15, 2015 or, under certain circumstances, earlier. The June 2016 Convertible Notes (as defined below) are convertible into shares of our common stock beginning on December 15, 2015 or, under certain circumstances, earlier. The 2017 Convertible Notes (as defined below) are convertible into shares of our common stock beginning on September 15, 2016 or, under certain circumstances, earlier. The 2018 Convertible Notes (as defined below) are convertible into shares of our common stock beginning on July 15, 2017 or, under certain circumstances, earlier. Upon conversion of the Convertible Unsecured Notes, we have the choice to pay or deliver, as the case may be, at our election, cash, shares of our common stock or a combination of cash and shares of our common stock. The current conversion price of the February 2016 Convertible Notes is approximately $18.89 per share of common stock, the current conversion price of the June 2016 Convertible Notes is approximately $18.80 per share, the current conversion price of the 2017 Convertible Notes is approximately $19.21 per share and the current conversion price of the 2018 Convertible Notes is approximately $19.81 per share, in each case subject to adjustment in certain circumstances. If we elect to deliver shares of common stock upon a conversion at the time our tangible book value per share exceeds the conversion price in effect at such time, our stockholders may incur dilution. In addition,

Table of Contents

our stockholders will experience dilution in their ownership percentage of common stock upon our issuance of common stock in connection with the conversion of the Convertible Unsecured Notes and any dividends paid on our common stock will also be paid on shares issued in connection with such conversion after such issuance.

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

In order to satisfy the Annual Distribution Requirement applicable to RICs, we have the ability to declare a large portion of a dividend in shares of our common stock instead of in cash. As long as a portion of such dividend is paid in cash (which portion can be as low as 20%) and certain requirements are met, the entire distribution would be treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, a stockholder would be taxed on 100% of the fair market value of the dividend on the date a stockholder received it in the same manner as a cash dividend, even though most of the dividend was paid in shares of our common stock.

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

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

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds we will receive from the sale of 16,650,000 shares of our common stock in this offering will be approximately $ million (or approximately $ million if the underwriters fully exercise their option to purchase 2,497,500 additional shares), in each case after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us.

We expect to use the net proceeds of this offering to repay outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Funding Facility ($280.0 million aggregate principal amount outstanding as of March 28, 2013), the Revolving Credit Facility (as defined below) (no amounts outstanding as of March 28, 2013) and/or the SMBC Funding Facility (as defined below) (no amounts outstanding as of March 28, 2013).

Subject to certain exceptions, the interest charged on the indebtedness incurred under the Revolving Credit Facility is based on LIBOR (one, two, three or six month) plus an applicable spread of 2.25% or a "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the Revolving Credit Facility) plus an applicable spread of 1.25%. As of March 28, 2013, one, two, three and six month LIBOR were 0.20%, 0.24%, 0.28% and 0.44%, respectively. The Revolving Credit Facility matures on May 4, 2016. Subject to certain exceptions, the interest charged on the Revolving Funding Facility is based on LIBOR plus applicable spreads ranging from 2.25% to 2.50% and ranging from 1.25% to 1.50% over "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the Revolving Funding Facility), in each case, determined monthly based on the composition of the borrowing base relative to outstanding borrowings under the facility. The Revolving Funding Facility is scheduled to expire on April 18, 2017 (subject to extension exercisable upon mutual consent). Subject to certain exceptions, the interest charged on the indebtedness incurred under the SMBC Funding Facility is based on one month LIBOR plus an applicable spread of 2.125% or a "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the SMBC Funding Facility) plus an applicable spread of 1.125%. The SMBC Funding Facility is scheduled to expire on September 14, 2020 (subject to two one-year extension options exercisable upon mutual consent).

Affiliates of the underwriters are lenders under the Revolving Credit Facility. Accordingly, affiliates of the underwriters may receive more than 5% of the proceeds of this offering to the extent such proceeds are used to repay or repurchase outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility.

We intend to use any net proceeds from this offering that are not applied as described above for general corporate purposes, which include investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective.

Investing in portfolio companies could include investments in our investment backlog and pipeline that, as of March 28, 2013, were approximately $440 million and $490 million, respectively. Please note that the consummation of any of the investments in this backlog and pipeline depends upon, among other things: satisfactory completion of our due diligence investigation of the prospective portfolio company, our acceptance of the terms and structure of such investment and the execution and delivery of satisfactory transaction documentation, and there can be no guarantee that we will consummate any of these investments or that we will syndicate any portion of such investments or commitments.

Our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior secured loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of eligible portfolio companies. In addition to such investments, we may invest up to 30% of our portfolio in non-qualifying assets, as permitted by the Investment Company Act. See "Regulation" in the accompanying prospectus. Specifically, as part of this 30% basket, we may invest in entities that are not considered "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in the Investment Company Act), including companies located outside of the United States, entities that are operating pursuant to certain exceptions under the Investment Company Act, and publicly traded entities whose public equity market capitalization exceeds the levels provided for under the Investment Company Act.

Pending such investments, we will invest a portion of the net proceeds primarily in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and other high-quality short-term investments. These securities generally earn yields substantially lower than the income that we anticipate receiving once we are fully invested in accordance with our investment objective. As a result, we may not, for a time, be able to achieve our investment objective and/or we may need to, for a time, decrease the amount of any dividend that we may pay to our stockholders to a level that is substantially lower than the level that we expect to pay when the net proceeds of this offering are fully invested in accordance with our investment objective. If we do not realize yields in excess of our expenses, we may incur operating losses and the market price of our common stock and debt securities may decline. See "Regulation Temporary Investments" in the accompanying prospectus for additional information about temporary investments we may make while waiting to make longer-term investments in pursuit of our investment objective.

Table of Contents

CAPITALIZATION

The following table sets forth our actual capitalization at December 31, 2012. You should read this table together with "Use of Proceeds" and our most recent balance sheet included elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

		As of December 31, 2012 (dollar amounts in thousands)
Cash and cash equivalents	$	269,043
Debt(1)		
Revolving Credit Facility		
Revolving Funding Facility	$	300,000
SMBC Funding Facility		
February 2016 Convertible Notes		548,521
June 2016 Convertible Notes		218,761
2017 Convertible Notes		158,312
2018 Convertible Notes		262,829
February 2022 Notes		143,750
October 2022 Notes		182,500
2040 Notes		200,000
2047 Notes		181,199
Total Debt	$	2,195,872
Stockholders' Equity		
Common stock, par value $0.001 per share, 500,000,000 common shares authorized, and 248,652,699 common shares issued and outstanding		249
Capital in excess of par value		4,117,517
Accumulated overdistributed net investment income		(27,910)
Accumulated net realized loss on investments, foreign currency transactions, extinguishment of debt and acquisitions		(202,614)
Net unrealized gain on investments and foreign currency transactions		101,104
Total stockholders' equity	$	3,988,346
Total capitalization	$	6,184,218

(1) The above table reflects the carrying value of indebtedness outstanding as of December 31, 2012. As of March 28, 2013, indebtedness under the Revolving Funding Facility was $280.0 million. There were no amounts outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility or the SMBC Funding Facility. The net proceeds from the sale of our common stock in this offering are expected to be used to pay down outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Funding Facility, the Revolving Credit Facility and/or the SMBC Funding Facility, and for general corporate purposes, which include investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective. See "Use of Proceeds".

Table of Contents

PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DISTRIBUTIONS

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

The following table sets forth, for each fiscal quarter for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2011, 2012 and 2013, the net asset value per share of our common stock, the range of high and low closing sales prices of our common stock, the closing sales price as a percentage of net asset value and the dividends or distributions declared by us. On April 1, 2013, the last reported closing sales price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Select Market was $17.95 per share, which represented a premium of approximately 11.9% to the net asset value per share reported by us as of December 31, 2012.

	Net Asset Value(1)	Price Range High	Price Range Low	High Sales Price to Net Asset Value(2)	Low Sales Price to Net Asset Value(2)	Cash Dividend Per Share(3)
Year ended December 31, 2011						
First Quarter	$ 15.45	$ 17.83	$ 16.08	115.4%	104.1%	$ 0.35
Second Quarter	$ 15.28	$ 17.71	$ 15.70	115.9%	102.7%	$ 0.35
Third Quarter	$ 15.13	$ 16.30	$ 13.07	107.7%	86.4%	$ 0.35
Fourth Quarter	$ 15.34	$ 15.95	$ 13.26	104.0%	86.4%	$ 0.36
Year ended December 31, 2012						
First Quarter	$ 15.47	$ 16.70	$ 15.51	108.0%	100.3%	$ 0.37
Second Quarter	$ 15.51	$ 16.55	$ 14.67	106.7%	94.6%	$ 0.37
Third Quarter	$ 15.74	$ 17.68	$ 16.04	112.3%	101.9%	$ 0.43(4)
Fourth Quarter	$ 16.04	$ 17.74	$ 16.08	110.6%	100.2%	$ 0.43(4)
Year ended December 31, 2013						
First Quarter	*	$ 18.54	$ 17.66	*	*	$ 0.38
Second Quarter (through April 1, 2013)	*	$ 17.95	$ 17.95	*	*	**

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

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

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

(4) Consists of a quarterly dividend of $0.38 per share and an additional dividend of $0.05 per share.

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

** Dividend has not yet been declared for this period.

We currently intend to distribute dividends or make distributions to our stockholders on a quarterly basis out of assets legally available for distribution. We may also distribute additional dividends or make additional distributions to our stockholders from time to time. Our quarterly and additional dividends or distributions, if any, will be determined by our board of directors.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes our dividends declared for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2011, 2012 and 2013:

Date Declared	**Record Date**	**Payment Date**	**Amount**
March 1, 2011	March 15, 2011	March 31, 2011	$ 0.35
May 3, 2011	June 15, 2011	June 30, 2011	$ 0.35
August 4, 2011	September 15, 2011	September 30, 2011	$ 0.35
November 8, 2011	December 15, 2011	December 31, 2011	$ 0.36
Total declared for 2011			$ 1.41
February 28, 2012	March 15, 2012	March 30, 2012	$ 0.37
May 8, 2012	June 15, 2012	June 29, 2012	$ 0.37
August 7, 2012	September 14, 2012	September 28, 2012	$ 0.38
August 7, 2012	September 14, 2012	September 28, 2012	$ 0.05(1)
November 5, 2012	December 14, 2012	December 28, 2012	$ 0.38
November 5, 2012	December 14, 2012	December 28, 2012	$ 0.05(1)
Total declared for 2012			$ 1.60
February 27, 2013	March 15, 2013	March 29, 2013	$ 0.38
Total declared for 2013			$ 0.38

---

(1) Represents an additional dividend.

Of the $1.60 per share in dividends declared during the year ended December 31, 2012, $1.56 per share was comprised of ordinary income and $0.04 per share was comprised of long-term capital gains.

To maintain our status as a regulated investment company, or a "RIC," under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), we must timely distribute an amount equal to at least 90% of our investment company taxable income (as defined by the Code, which generally includes net ordinary income and net short term capital gains) to our stockholders. In addition, we generally will be required to pay an excise tax equal to 4% on certain undistributed income unless we distribute in a timely manner an amount at least equal to the sum of (i) 98% of our net ordinary income recognized during a calendar year, (ii) 98.2% of our capital gain net income, as defined by the Code, recognized for the one year period ending October 31st in that calendar year and (iii) any income recognized, but not distributed, in preceding years. The taxable income on which we pay excise tax is generally distributed to our stockholders in the next tax year. Depending on the level of taxable income earned in a tax year, we may choose to carry forward taxable income for distribution in the following year, and pay any applicable excise tax. For the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, we recorded an excise tax expense of $7.9 million and $6.6 million, respectively. We cannot assure you that we will achieve results that will permit the payment of any cash distributions. We maintain an "opt out" dividend reinvestment plan for our common stockholders. As a result, if we declare a cash dividend, stockholders' cash dividends will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, unless they specifically "opt out" of the dividend reinvestment plan so as to receive cash dividends. See "Dividend Reinvestment Plan" in the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

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

The information contained in this section should be read in conjunction with the financial data and our financial statements and notes thereto appearing elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

OVERVIEW

We are a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company incorporated in Maryland. We have elected to be regulated as a BDC under the Investment Company Act.

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

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

To a lesser extent, we also make preferred and/or common equity investments, which have generally been non-control equity investments, of less than $20 million (usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment). However, we may increase the size or change the nature of these investments.

As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. For instance, we generally have to invest at least 70% of our total assets in "qualifying assets," including securities and indebtedness of private U.S. companies and certain public U.S. companies, cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and high-quality debt investments that mature in one year or less. We also may invest up to 30% of our portfolio in non-qualifying assets, as permitted by the Investment Company Act. Specifically, as part of this 30% basket, we may invest in entities that are not considered "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in the Investment Company Act), including companies located outside of the United States, entities that are operating pursuant to certain exceptions under the Investment Company Act, and publicly traded entities whose public equity market capitalization exceeds the levels provided for under the Investment Company Act.

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

Table of Contents

PORTFOLIO AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

The Company's investment activity for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 is presented below (information presented herein is at amortized cost unless otherwise indicated).

	Year Ended December 31,		
(dollar amounts in millions)	**2012**	**2011**	**2010**
New investment commitments(1):			
New portfolio companies	$ 1,794.7	$ 1,778.0	$ 774.3
Existing portfolio companies(2)	1,402.3	1,896.4	933.8
Total new investment commitments	3,197.0	3,674.4	1,708.1
Less:			
Investment commitments exited	2,614.5	2,603.1	1,644.5
Net investment commitments	$ 582.5	$ 1,071.3	$ 63.6
Principal amount of investments funded:			
Senior term debt	$ 2,686.4	$ 2,484.2	$ 1,376.4
Subordinated Certificates of the SSLP(3)	270.0	496.8	391.6
Senior subordinated debt	101.3	51.8	1,055.3
Collateralized loan obligations			166.1
Preferred equity securities		164.1	91.7
Other equity securities	103.9	41.2	295.4
Commercial real estate		0.9	41.2
Total	$ 3,161.6	$ 3,239.0	$ 3,417.7
Principal amount of investments sold or repaid:			
Senior term debt	$ 1,786.9	$ 1,607.5	$ 987.4
Subordinated Certificates of the SSLP	66.3		15.4
Senior subordinated debt	409.0	463.2	461.9
Collateralized loan obligations	55.5	166.3	6.8
Preferred equity securities	26.2	43.5	21.5
Other equity securities	126.0	166.1	61.9
Commercial real estate	13.0	21.6	1.0
Total	$ 2,482.9	$ 2,468.2	$ 1,555.9
Number of new investment commitments(4)	82	72	63
Average new investment commitment amount	$ 39.0	$ 51.0	$ 27.1
Weighted average term for new investment commitments (in months)	66	63	61
Percentage of new investment commitments at floating rates	88%	94%	71%
Percentage of new investment commitments at fixed rates	8%	5%	23%
Weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities(5):			
Funded during the period at fair value(6)	9.9%	10.9%	13.1%
Funded during the period at amortized cost	9.9%	10.9%	13.2%
Exited or repaid during the period at fair value(6)	9.6%	10.1%	12.9%
Exited or repaid during the period at amortized cost	9.7%	10.2%	12.9%

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

(2) Includes investment commitments to the SSLP to make co-investments with GE in first lien senior secured loans of middle market companies of $270.0 million, $496.8 million and $391.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

(3) See "Senior Secured Loan Program" below and Note 4 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2012 for more detail on the SSLP.

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

Table of Contents

(5)

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

(6)

Represents fair value for investments in the portfolio as of the most recent prior quarter end, if applicable.

As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, our investments consisted of the following:

	As of December 31,			
	2012		2011	
(in millions)	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Senior term debt	$ 3,587.8	$ 3,555.1	$ 2,691.0	$ 2,671.1
Subordinated Certificates of the SSLP(1)	1,237.9	1,263.6	1,034.3	1,059.2
Senior subordinated debt	321.3	259.8	592.6	515.0
Collateralized loan obligations			55.5	54.0
Preferred equity securities	238.8	250.1	251.2	251.1
Other equity securities	430.4	584.1	463.9	527.0
Commercial real estate	7.3	11.9	20.2	17.1
Total	$ 5,823.5	$ 5,924.6	$ 5,108.7	$ 5,094.5

(1)

The proceeds from these certificates were applied to co-investments with GE to fund first lien senior secured loans to 36 and 32 different borrowers as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

The weighted average yields at fair value and amortized cost of the following portions of our portfolio as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 were as follows:

	As of December 31,			
	2012		2011	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Debt and other income producing securities	11.4%	11.3%	12.1%	12.0%
Total portfolio	10.1%	10.0%	10.4%	10.4%
Senior term debt	9.5%	9.6%	10.5%	10.5%
First lien senior term debt	9.0%	9.0%	9.6%	9.7%
Second lien senior term debt	10.5%	10.7%	12.4%	12.4%
Subordinated Certificates of the SSLP(1)	15.8%	15.4%	16.0%	15.7%
Senior subordinated debt	11.7%	14.5%	10.3%	11.9%
Collateralized loan obligations	%	%	8.8%	9.1%
Income producing equity securities (excluding collateralized loan obligations)	9.9%	8.8%	10.4%	10.0%

(1)

The proceeds from these certificates were applied to co-investments with GE to fund first lien senior secured loans.

Table of Contents

Ares Capital Management, our investment adviser, employs an investment rating system to categorize our investments. In addition to various risk management and monitoring tools, our investment adviser grades the credit risk of all investments on a scale of 1 to 4 no less frequently than quarterly. This system is intended primarily to reflect the underlying risk of a portfolio investment relative to our initial cost basis in respect of such portfolio investment (i.e., at the time of acquisition), although it may also take into account under certain circumstances the performance of the portfolio company's business, the collateral coverage of the investment and other relevant factors. Under this system, investments with a grade of 4 involve the least amount of risk to our initial cost basis. The trends and risk factors for this investment since origination or acquisition are generally favorable, which may include the performance of the portfolio company or a potential exit. Investments graded 3 involve a level of risk to our initial cost basis that is similar to the risk to our initial cost basis at the time of origination or acquisition. This portfolio company is generally performing as expected and the risk factors to our ability to ultimately recoup the cost of our investment are neutral to favorable. All investments or acquired investments in new portfolio companies are initially assessed a grade of 3. Investments graded 2 indicate that the risk to our ability to recoup the initial cost basis of such investment has increased materially since origination or acquisition, including as a result of factors such as declining performance and non-compliance with debt covenants; however, payments are generally not more than 120 days past due. An investment grade of 1 indicates that the risk to our ability to recoup the initial cost basis of such investment has substantially increased since origination or acquisition, and the portfolio company likely has materially declining performance. For debt investments with an investment grade of 1, most or all of the debt covenants are out of compliance and payments are substantially delinquent. For investments graded 1, it is anticipated that we will not recoup our initial cost basis and may realize a substantial loss of our initial cost basis upon exit. For investments graded 1 or 2, our investment adviser enhances its level of scrutiny over the monitoring of such portfolio company. Our investment adviser grades the investments in our portfolio at least each quarter and it is possible that the grade of a portfolio investment may be reduced or increased over time.

Set forth below is the grade distribution of our portfolio companies as of December 31, 2012 and 2011:

	As of December 31,							
	2012				**2011**			
(dollar amounts in millions)	**Fair Value**	**%**	**Number of Companies**	**%**	**Fair Value**	**%**	**Number of Companies**	**%**
Grade 1	$ 75.1	1.3%	9	5.9%	$ 77.1	1.5%	9	6.4%
Grade 2	136.7	2.3%	9	5.9%	184.4	3.7%	11	7.8%
Grade 3	5,108.8	86.2%	121	79.7%	4,265.5	83.7%	110	78.0%
Grade 4	604.0	10.2%	13	8.5%	567.5	11.1%	11	7.8%
Total	$ 5,924.6	100.0%	152	100.0%	$ 5,094.5	100.0%	141	100.0%

As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the weighted average grade of the investments in our portfolio at fair value was 3.1 and 3.0, respectively.

As of December 31, 2012, loans on non-accrual status represented 2.3% and 0.6% of the total investments at amortized cost and at fair value, respectively. As of December 31, 2011, loans on non-accrual status represented 3.3% and 0.9% of the total investments at amortized cost and at fair value, respectively.

Table of Contents

Senior Secured Loan Program

The Company co-invests in first lien senior secured loans of middle market companies with GE through an unconsolidated Delaware limited liability company, the Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC (d/b/a "The Senior Secured Loan Program") or the SSLP. The SSLP is capitalized as transactions are completed and all portfolio decisions and generally all other decisions in respect of the SSLP must be approved by an investment committee of the SSLP consisting of representatives of the Company and GE (with approval from a representative of each required). The Company provides capital to the SSLP in the form of subordinated certificates (the "SSLP Certificates").

As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the SSLP had available capital of $9.0 billion and $7.7 billion, respectively, of which approximately $6.3 billion and $5.0 billion in aggregate principal amount was funded at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company had agreed to make available to the SSLP approximately $1.8 billion and $1.5 billion, respectively, of which approximately $1.2 billion and $1.0 billion was funded, respectively. Investment of any unfunded amount must still be approved by the investment committee of the SSLP as described above.

As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the SSLP had total assets of $6.3 billion and $5.1 billion, respectively. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, GE's investment in the SSLP consisted of senior notes of $4.8 billion and $3.8 billion, respectively, and SSLP Certificates of $178 million and $149 million, respectively. The SSLP Certificates are junior in right of payment to the senior notes held by GE. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company and GE owned 87.5% and 12.5%, respectively, of the outstanding SSLP Certificates.

As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the SSLP's portfolio was comprised of all first lien senior secured loans to U.S. middle-market companies and none of these loans was on non-accrual status. The portfolio companies in the SSLP are in industries similar to the companies in the Company's portfolio.

Below is a summary of the SSLP's portfolio, followed by a listing of the individual first lien senior secured loans in the SSLP's portfolio as of December 31, 2012 and 2011:

	As of December 31,	
(dollar amounts in millions)	**2012**	**2011**
Total first lien senior secured loans(1)	$ 5,998.1	$ 5,017.9
Weighted average yield on first lien senior secured loans(2)	8.0%	8.2%
Number of borrowers in the SSLP	36	32
Largest loan to a single borrower(1)	$ 330.0	$ 300.0
Total of five largest loans to borrowers(1)	$ 1,441.4	$ 1,362.9

(1) At principal amount.

(2) Computed as the (a) annual stated interest rate on accruing first lien senior secured loans, divided by (b) total first lien senior secured loans at principal amount.

Table of Contents

(dollar amounts in millions)

SSLP Loan Portfolio as of December 31, 2012

Portfolio Company	Business Description	Maturity Date	Stated Interest Rate(1)	Principal Amount	Fair Value(2)
Access CIG, LLC(3)	Records and information management services provider	10/2017	7.0%	$ 152.8	$ 152.8
ADG, LLC	Dental services	10/2016	8.8%	199.4	199.4
AMZ Products Merger Corporation	Specialty chemicals manufacturer	12/2018	6.8%	240.0	240.0
BECO Holding Company, Inc.(5)	Wholesale distributor of first response fire protection equipment and related parts	12/2017	8.3%	160.0	160.0
Cambridge International, Inc.	Manufacturer of custom designed and engineered metal products	4/2018	8.0%	88.3	83.9
CCS Group Holdings, LLC(5)	Correctional facility healthcare operator	4/2016	8.0%	142.8	142.8
Chariot Acquisition, LLC	Distributor and designer of aftermarket golf cart parts and accessories	1/2018	8.8%	146.8	146.8
CIBT Holdings, Inc.(5)	Expedited travel document processing services	12/2017	8.5%	146.4	146.4
CT Technologies Intermediate Holdings, Inc. and CT Technologies Holdings LLC(3)(5)	Healthcare analysis services	3/2017	7.8%	284.9	273.5
CWD, LLC	Supplier of automotive aftermarket brake parts	3/2014	8.8%	119.8	110.2
Drayer Physical Therapy Institute, LLC	Outpatient physical therapy provider	7/2018	7.5%	138.1	138.1
Driven Holdings, LLC(5)	Automotive aftermarket car care franchisor	3/2017	7.0%	160.4	160.4
Excelligence Learning Corporation(5)	Developer, manufacturer and retailer of educational products	8/2016	8.0%	115.8	115.8
Fleischmann's Vinegar Company, Inc.	Manufacturer and marketer of industrial vinegar	5/2016	8.9%	59.6	59.6
Fox Hill Holdings, LLC	Operating company that develops middle market manufacturing and industrial distribution companies	12/2017	8.0%	292.5	292.5
III US Holdings, LLC	Provider of library automation software and systems	3/2018	7.6%	202.9	202.9
Implus Footcare, LLC(5)	Provider of footwear and other accessories	10/2016	9.5%	178.0	178.0
Instituto de Banca y Comercio, Inc. & Leeds IV Advisors, Inc.(5)	Private school operator	6/2015	10.5%	165.6	165.6
Intermedix Corporation(4)	Revenue cycle management provider to the emergency healthcare industry	12/2018	6.3%	330.0	330.0
LJSS Acquisition, Inc.	Fluid power distribution company in the industrial and mobile equipment markets	9/2017	6.8%	163.9	163.9
MWI Holdings, Inc.(3)	Highly engineered springs, fasteners, and other precision components	6/2017	8.0%	251.2	251.2
Nordco, Inc.	Designer and manufacturer of railroad maintenance-of-way machinery	6/2016	7.0%	113.2	113.2
Oak Parent, Inc.(3)	Manufacturer of athletic apparel	4/2018	8.0%	282.8	282.8
Opinionology, LLC and Survey Sampling International LLC	Provider of outsourced data collection to the market research industry	7/2017	8.5%	152.3	152.3
Penn Detroit Diesel Allison, LLC	Distributor of new equipment and aftermarket parts to the heavy-duty truck industry	12/2016	9.0%	65.3	65.3
PetroChoice Holdings, LLC	Provider of lubrication solutions	1/2017	10.0%	162.4	162.4
Power Buyer, LLC	Provider of emergency maintenance services for power transmission, distribution, and substation infrastructure	12/2018	8.8%	208.0	208.0
Powersport Auctioneer Holdings, LLC(5)	Powersport vehicle auction operator	12/2016	8.5%	40.7	40.7
Pregis Corporation, Pregis Intellipack Corp. and Pregis Innovative Packaging Inc.(3)	Provider of highly-customized and tailored protective packaging solutions	3/2017	7.8%	125.9	125.9
PSSI Holdings, LLC	Provider of mission-critical outsourced cleaning and sanitation services to the food processing industry	6/2017	6.8%	161.7	161.7
Selig Sealing Products, Inc.	Manufacturer of container sealing products for rigid packaging applications	7/2018	7.8%	169.6	169.6
Singer Sewing Company	Manufacturer of consumer sewing machines	6/2017	7.3%	199.0	199.0
Strategic Partners, Inc.	Designer, manufacturer and distributor of medical uniforms	8/2018	7.8%	234.4	234.4
Talent Partners G.P. and Print Payroll Services, G.P.	Provider of technology-enabled payroll to the advertising industry	10/2017	8.0%	65.5	65.5

Table of Contents

(dollar amounts in millions)

SSLP Loan Portfolio as of December 31, 2012

Portfolio Company	Business Description	Maturity Date	Stated Interest Rate(1)	Principal Amount	Fair Value(2)
The Teaching Company, LLC and The Teaching Company Holdings, Inc.(3)(5)	Education publications provider	3/2017	9.0%	113.9	113.9
WB Merger Sub, Inc.	Importer, distributor and developer of premium wine and spirits	12/2016	9.0%	164.2	164.2
				$ 5,998.1	$ 5,972.7

(1) Represents the weighted average annual stated interest rate as of December 31, 2012. All interest rates are payable in cash.

(2) Represents the fair value in accordance with ASC 820-10. The determination of such fair value is not included in the Company's board of directors valuation process described elsewhere herein.

(3) The Company also holds a portion of the first lien senior secured loan in this portfolio company.

(4) The Company also holds a second lien senior secured loan in the portfolio company.

(5) The Company holds an equity investment in this portfolio company.

(dollar amounts in millions)

SSLP Loan Portfolio as of December 31, 2011

Portfolio Company	Business Description	Maturity Date	Stated Interest Rate(1)	Principal Amount	Fair Value(2)
ADG, LLC	Dental services	10/2016	8.8%	$ 176.4	$ 176.4
AMZ Products Merger Corporation	Specialty chemicals manufacturer	6/2014	7.8%	156.6	156.6
Anthony, Inc. and Anthony Holdings, Inc.	Manufacturer of refrigeration glass doors and related products	6/2017	7.1%	243.8	243.8
Augusta Sportswear, Inc.(3)	Manufacturer of athletic apparel	7/2015	8.5%	239.9	239.9
BECO Holding Company, Inc.(5)	Wholesale distributor of first response fire protection equipment and related parts	7/2015	9.0%	116.0	116.0
Cambridge International, Inc.	Manufacturer of custom designed and engineered metal products	12/2015	8.8%	73.7	73.7
CCS Group Holdings, LLC(5)	Correctional facility healthcare operator	4/2016	8.0%	109.9	109.9
CIBT Holdings, Inc.(5)	Expedited travel document processing services	12/2017	9.3%	133.0	133.0
CWD, LLC	Supplier of automotive aftermarket brake parts	3/2014	8.8%	123.8	123.8
CT Technologies Intermediate Holdings, Inc. and CT Technologies Holdings LLC(3)(5)	Healthcare analysis services	3/2017	7.8%	288.5	274.1
Driven Holdings, LLC(5)	Automotive aftermarket car care franchisor	12/2016	8.5%	170.0	170.0
Excelligence Learning Corporation(5)	Developer, manufacturer and retailer of educational products	8/2016	8.0%	121.0	121.0
Fleischmann's Vinegar Company, Inc.	Manufacturer and marketer of industrial vinegar	5/2016	8.8%	62.3	62.3
Fox Hill Holdings, LLC	Operating company that develops middle market manufacturing and industrial distribution companies	12/2017	8.8%	300.0	300.0
Huddle House, Inc.(4)(5)	Restaurant owner and operator	6/2013	11.0%(6)	58.2	58.2

Implus Footcare, LLC(5)	Provider of footwear and other accessories	10/2016	9.5%	179.8	179.8
Industrial Air Tool, L.P.	Industrial products	6/2014	7.5%	34.1	34.1
Instituto de Banca y Comercio, Inc. & Leeds IV Advisors, Inc.(5)	Private school operator	6/2015	10.5%	173.8	173.8
Intermedix Corporation	Revenue cycle management provider to the emergency healthcare industry	8/2016	6.0%	225.9	225.9
LJSS Acquisition, Inc.	Fluid power distribution company in the industrial and mobile equipment markets	10/2017	8.8%	167.0	167.0
MWI Holdings, Inc.(3)	Highly engineered springs, fasteners, and other precision components	6/2017	8.0%	253.7	253.7
Nivel Parts and Manufacturing Co., LLC	Provider of golf car aftermarket parts and accessories	2/2016	8.0%	88.0	88.0
Nordco, Inc.	Designer and manufacturer of railroad maintenance-of-way machinery	6/2016	7.0%	119.4	119.4

Table of Contents

(dollar amounts in millions)

SSLP Loan Portfolio as of December 31, 2011

Portfolio Company	Business Description	Maturity Date	Stated Interest Rate(1)	Principal Amount	Fair Value(2)
Opinionology, LLC and Survey Sampling International LLC	Provider of outsourced data collection to the market research industry	7/2017	9.0%	158.5	158.5
Penn Detroit Diesel Allison, LLC	Distributor of new equipment and aftermarket parts to the heavy-duty truck industry	12/2016	9.0%	66.0	66.0
PG Mergersub, Inc. and PGA Holdings, Inc.(3)(4)(5)	Provider of patient surveys, management reports and national databases for the integrated healthcare delivery system	11/2015	6.8%	267.3	267.3
Powersport Auctioneer Holdings, LLC	Powersport vehicle auction operator	12/2016	8.8%	74.5	74.5
PSSI Holdings, LLC	Provider of mission-critical outsourced cleaning and sanitation services to the food processing industry	6/2017	6.8%	158.8	158.8
The Teaching Company, LLC and The Teaching Company Holdings, Inc.(5)	Education publications provider	3/2017	9.0%	116.2	116.2
United Central Industrial Supply Company, LLC	Provider of mining supplies and services to the U.S. underground coal mining industry	10/2015	6.3%	152.5	152.5
WB Merger Sub, Inc.	Importer, distributor and developer of premium wine and spirits	12/2016	9.0%	155.9	155.9
WP CPP Holdings, LLC(3)	Precision engineered castings manufacturer	10/2017	8.5%	253.4	248.3
				$ 5,017.9	$ 4,998.4

(1) Represents the weighted average annual stated interest rate as of December 31, 2011. Unless otherwise stated, all interest rates are payable in cash.

(2) Represents the fair value in accordance with ASC 820-10. The determination of such fair value is not included in the Company's board of directors valuation process described elsewhere herein.

(3) The Company also holds a portion of the first lien senior secured loan in this portfolio company.

(4) The Company holds a senior subordinated loan in this portfolio company.

(5) The Company holds an equity investment in this portfolio company.

(6) Consists of 9.0% interest payable in cash and 2.0% of payment-in-kind interest.

The amortized cost and fair value of the SSLP Certificates held by the Company was $1.2 billion and $1.3 billion, respectively, as of December 31, 2012, and $1.0 billion and $1.1 billion, respectively, as of December 31, 2011. The SSLP Certificates pay a weighted average contractual coupon of three month LIBOR plus approximately 8.0% and also entitle the holders thereof to receive a portion of the excess cash flow from the underlying loan portfolio, which may result in a return to the holders of the SSLP Certificates that is greater than both the contractual coupon on the SSLP Certificates as well as the weighted average yield on the SSLP's portfolio of 8.0% and 8.2% at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The Company's yield on its investment in the SSLP at fair value was 15.4% and 15.7% as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, the Company earned interest income of $185 million, $118 million and $50 million, respectively, from its investment in the SSLP Certificates.

The Company is also entitled to certain fees in connection with the SSLP. For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, in connection with the SSLP, the Company earned capital structuring service fees and sourcing, management and other fees totaling $58 million, $55 million and $36 million, respectively.

Effective March 30, 2012, Ares Capital Management assumed from the Company the role of co-manager of the SSLP. However, this change did not impact the Company's economics in respect of its participation in the SSLP and Ares Capital Management does not receive any remuneration in respect of its co-manager role.

Table of Contents

Below is certain summarized financial information for the SSLP as of and for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2012	2011
Selected Balance Sheet Information:		
Investments in loans receivable, net of discount for loan origination fees	$ 5,952.3	$ 4,981.3
Cash and other assets	$ 369.2	$ 126.4
Total assets	$ 6,321.5	$ 5,107.7
Senior notes	$ 4,840.4	$ 3,846.2
Other liabilities	$ 46.9	$ 66.7
Total liabilities	$ 4,887.3	$ 3,912.9
Subordinated certificates and members' equity	$ 1,434.2	$ 1,194.8
Total liabilities and members' capital	$ 6,321.5	$ 5,107.7
Selected Statement of Operations Information:		
Total revenues	$ 479.4	$ 284.8
Total expenses	$ 258.7	$ 155.7
Net income	$ 220.7	$ 129.1

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010

Operating results for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 are as follows:

(in millions)	For the Years Ended December 31, 2012	2011	2010
Total investment income	$ 748.0	$ 634.5	$ 483.4
Total expenses	387.9	344.6	262.2