

FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE & FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

Form N-Q

April 08, 2014

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

FORM N-Q

QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF REGISTERED  
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY

Investment Company Act file number 811-22039  
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First Trust Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities  
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Fund (Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
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(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

W. Scott Jardine, Esq.

First Trust Portfolios L.P.  
120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
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(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 630-765-8000  
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Date of fiscal year end: November 30  
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Date of reporting period: February 28, 2014  
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Form N-Q is to be used by management investment companies, other than small business investment companies registered on Form N-5 (ss.ss. 239.24 and 274.5 of this chapter), to file reports with the Commission, not later than 60 days after the close of the first and third fiscal quarters, pursuant to rule 30b1-5 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30b1-5). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-Q in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-Q, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-Q unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") control number. Please direct comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. The OMB has reviewed this collection of information under the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. ss. 3507.

ITEM 1. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS. The Schedule(s) of Investments is attached

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herewith.

FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND  
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)  
 FEBRUARY 28, 2014 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES	DESCRIPTION	V
-----		
COMMON STOCKS - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES - 99.9%		
CAPITAL MARKETS - 99.9%		
169,032	American Capital Ltd. (b).....	\$
10,000	American Capital Senior Floating Ltd. ....	
440,608	Apollo Investment Corp. (a).....	
774,552	Ares Capital Corp. (a).....	1
214,420	BlackRock Kelso Capital Corp. (a).....	
20,000	CM Finance, Inc .....	
6,964	Fidus Investment Corp. ....	
90,594	Fifth Street Finance Corp. (a).....	
50,000	Full Circle Capital Corp. ....	
314,304	Gladstone Capital Corp. (a).....	
183,333	Gladstone Investment Corp. (a).....	
517,240	Golub Capital BDC, Inc. (a).....	
8,699	Harvest Capital Credit Corp. ....	
463,198	Hercules Technology Growth Capital, Inc. (a).....	
222,697	Horizon Technology Finance Corp. (a).....	
340,472	KCAP Financial, Inc. (a).....	
38,798	Main Street Capital Corp. (a).....	
444,100	MCG Capital Corp. (a).....	
250,353	Medallion Financial Corp. (a).....	
545,561	Medley Capital Corp. (a).....	
5,000	Monroe Capital Corp. ....	
244,496	MVC Capital, Inc. (a).....	
384,861	New Mountain Finance Corp. (a).....	
333,937	NGP Capital Resources Co. (a).....	
134,390	OFS Capital Corp. (a).....	
160,965	PennantPark Floating Rate Capital Ltd. (a).....	
680,573	PennantPark Investment Corp. (a).....	
14,936	Saratoga Investment Corp. ....	
290,709	Solar Capital Ltd. (a).....	
55,050	Solar Senior Capital Ltd. (a).....	
125,026	Stellus Capital Investment Corp. (a).....	
392,728	TCP Capital Corp. (a).....	
509,618	THL Credit, Inc. (a).....	
104,903	TICC Capital Corp. (a).....	
176,601	Triangle Capital Corp. (a).....	
TOTAL COMMON STOCKS - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES.....		12
(Cost \$114,760,507)		-----
COMMON STOCKS - 16.3%		
CAPITAL MARKETS - 4.2%		
97,467	Safeguard Scientifics, Inc. (b).....	
127,000	Stonecastle Financial Corp. ....	

FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND  
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)  
 FEBRUARY 28, 2014 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES/UNITS	DESCRIPTION	VA
COMMON STOCKS (CONTINUED)		
	REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS - 12.1%	
367,500	Annaly Capital Management, Inc. (a).....	\$
20,000	Ares Commercial Real Estate Corp. ....	
696,880	CYS Investments, Inc. (a).....	
20,000	Gladstone Commercial Corp. ....	
194,282	Hatteras Financial Corp. (a).....	
	TOTAL COMMON STOCKS .....	1
	(Cost \$24,017,467)	
MASTER LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS - 3.1%		
	DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICES - 3.1%	
199,092	Compass Diversified Holdings (a).....	
	TOTAL MASTER LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS .....	1
	(Cost \$808,454)	
EXCHANGE-TRADED FUNDS - 0.5%		
	DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICES - 0.5%	
15,000	SPDR Barclays High Yield Bond ETF .....	
	TOTAL EXCHANGE-TRADED FUNDS .....	14
	(Cost \$532,814)	
	TOTAL INVESTMENTS - 119.8% .....	(2)
	(Cost \$140,119,242) (c)	
	OUTSTANDING LOAN - (20.6%) .....	\$ 12
	NET OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES - 0.8% .....	
	NET ASSETS - 100.0% .....	=====

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- (a) All or a portion of this security serves as collateral on the outstanding loan.
- (b) Non-income producing security.
- (c) Aggregate cost for financial reporting purposes, which approximates the aggregate cost for federal income tax purposes. As of February 28, 2014, the aggregate gross unrealized appreciation for all securities in which there was an excess of value over tax cost was \$21,739,034 and the aggregate gross unrealized depreciation for all securities in which there was an excess of tax cost over value was \$16,672,156.

Page 2                      See Notes to Quarterly Portfolio of Investments

FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND  
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)  
 FEBRUARY 28, 2014 (UNAUDITED)

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VALUATION INPUTS

A summary of the inputs used to value the Fund's investments as of February 28, 2014 is as follows (see Note 2A - Portfolio Valuation in the Notes to Quarterly Portfolio of Investments):

INVESTMENTS	TOTAL VALUE AT 2/28/2014	LEVEL 1 QUOTED PRICES	LEVEL 2 SIGNIFICA OBSERVABL INPUTS
-----	-----	-----	-----
Common Stocks - Business Development Companies*.....	\$ 121,054,893	\$ 121,054,893	\$
Common Stocks*.....	19,777,293	19,777,293	
Master Limited Partnerships*.....	3,730,984	3,730,984	
Exchange-Traded Funds*.....	622,950	622,950	
-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Investments.....	\$ 145,186,120	\$ 145,186,120	\$
	=====	=====	=====

\* See Portfolio of Investments for industry breakout.

All transfers in and out of the Levels during the period are assumed to be transferred on the last day of the period at their current value. There were no transfers between levels at February 28, 2014.

See Notes to Quarterly Portfolio of Investments

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NOTES TO QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS

FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (FGB)  
FEBRUARY 28, 2014 (UNAUDITED)

1. ORGANIZATION

First Trust Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund (the "Fund") is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company organized as a Massachusetts business trust on March 20, 2007, and is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). The Fund trades under the ticker symbol FGB on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE").

2. VALUATION AND INVESTMENT PRACTICES

A. PORTFOLIO VALUATION:

The net asset value ("NAV") of the Common Shares of the Fund is determined daily as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE, normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern time, on each day the NYSE is open for trading. If the NYSE closes early on a valuation day, the NAV is determined as of that time. Domestic debt securities and foreign securities are priced using data reflecting the earlier closing of the principal markets for those securities. The NAV per Common Share is calculated by dividing the value of all assets of the Fund (including accrued interest and dividends), less all liabilities (including accrued expenses, dividends declared but unpaid, and any borrowings of the Fund) by the total number of Common Shares outstanding.

The Fund's investments are valued daily at market value, or in absence of market value with respect to any portfolio securities, at fair value in accordance with valuation procedures adopted by the Fund's Board of Trustees, and in accordance with provisions of the 1940 Act. Market quotations and prices used to value the Fund's investments are primarily obtained from third party pricing services. The Fund's investments are valued as follows:

Common stocks, master limited partnerships and other securities listed on any national or foreign exchange (excluding the NASDAQ(R) Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ") and the London Stock Exchange Alternative Investment Market ("AIM")) are valued at the last sale price on the exchange on which they are principally traded or, for NASDAQ and AIM securities, the official closing price. Securities traded on one or more than one securities exchange are valued at the last sale price or official closing price, as applicable, at the close of the securities exchange representing the principal market for such securities.

Securities traded in an over-the-counter market are valued at the mean of the most recent bid and asked prices, if available, and otherwise at their closing bid price.

Short-term investments that mature in less than 60 days when purchased are valued at amortized cost.

Certain securities may not be able to be priced by pre-established pricing methods. Such securities may be valued by the Fund's Board of Trustees or its delegate at fair value. These securities generally include, but are not limited to, restricted securities (securities which may not be publicly sold without registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended) for which a pricing service is unable to provide a market price; securities whose trading has been

formally suspended; a security whose market price is not available from a pre-established pricing source; a security with respect to which an event has occurred that is likely to materially affect the value of the security after the market has closed but before the calculation of the Fund's NAV or make it difficult or impossible to obtain a reliable market quotation; and a security whose price, as provided by the pricing service, does not reflect the security's "fair value." As a general principle, the current "fair value" of a security would appear to be the amount which the owner might reasonably expect to receive for the security upon its current sale. The use of fair value prices by the Fund generally results in prices used by the Fund that may differ from current market quotations or official closing prices on the applicable exchange. A variety of factors may be considered in determining the fair value of such securities, including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) the type of security;
- 2) the size of the holding;
- 3) the initial cost of the security;
- 4) transactions in comparable securities;
- 5) price quotes from dealers and/or pricing services;
- 6) relationships among various securities;
- 7) information obtained by contacting the issuer, analysts, or the appropriate stock exchange;
- 8) an analysis of the issuer's financial statements; and
- 9) the existence of merger proposals or tender offers that might affect the value of the security.

If the securities in question are foreign securities, the following additional information may be considered:

- 1) the value of similar foreign securities traded on other foreign markets;
- 2) ADR trading of similar securities;
- 3) closed-end fund trading of similar securities;
- 4) foreign currency exchange activity;

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NOTES TO QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS - (CONTINUED)

FIRST TRUST SPECIALTY FINANCE AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND(FGB)  
FEBRUARY 28, 2014 (UNAUDITED)

- 5) the trading prices of financial products that are tied to baskets of foreign securities;
- 6) factors relating to the event that precipitated the

pricing problem;

- 7) whether the event is likely to recur; and
- 8) whether the effects of the event are isolated or whether they affect entire markets, countries or regions.

The Fund is subject to fair value accounting standards that define fair value, establish the framework for measuring fair value and provide a three-level hierarchy for fair valuation based upon the inputs to the valuation as of the measurement date. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

- o Level 1 - Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical investments. An active market is a market in which transactions for the investment occur with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.
- o Level 2 - Level 2 inputs are observable inputs, either directly or indirectly, and include the following:
  - o Quoted prices for similar investments in active markets.
  - o Quoted prices for identical or similar investments in markets that are non-active. A non-active market is a market where there are few transactions for the investment, the prices are not current, or price quotations vary substantially either over time or among market makers, or in which little information is released publicly.
  - o Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the investment (for example, interest rates and yield curves observable at commonly quoted intervals, volatilities, prepayment speeds, loss severities, credit risks, and default rates).
  - o Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.
- o Level 3 - Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs may reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the investment.

The inputs or methodology used for valuing investments are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those investments. A summary of the inputs used to value the Fund's investments as of February 28, 2014, is included with the Fund's Portfolio of Investments.

#### B. SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS:

Securities transactions are recorded as of the trade date. Realized gains and losses from securities transactions are recorded on the identified cost basis.

#### ITEM 2. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

- (a) The registrant's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule

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30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") (17 CFR 270.30a-3(c)) are effective, as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of the report that includes the disclosure required by this paragraph, based on their evaluation of these controls and procedures required by Rule 30a-3(b) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(b)) and Rules 13a-15(b) or 15d-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (17 CFR 240.13a-15(b) or 240.15d-15(b)).

(b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(d)) that occurred during the registrant's last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 3. EXHIBITS.

Certifications pursuant to Rule 30a-2(a) under the 1940 Act and Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

(Registrant) First Trust Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund  
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By (Signature and Title)\* /s/ Mark R. Bradley  
-----  
Mark R. Bradley  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
(principal executive officer)

Date: March 20, 2014  
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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By (Signature and Title)\* /s/ Mark R. Bradley  
-----  
Mark R. Bradley  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
(principal executive officer)

Date: March 20, 2014  
-----

By (Signature and Title)\* /s/ James M. Dykas  
-----  
James M. Dykas  
Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer and  
Chief Accounting Officer  
(principal financial officer)

Date: March 20, 2014  
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\*Print the name and title of each signing officer under his or her signature.