MFA FINANCIAL, INC. Form 10-Q November 06, 2012 Table of Contents

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

# **FORM 10-Q**

x QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2012

OR

o TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from

to

Commission File Number: 1-13991

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland	13-3974868
(State or other jurisdiction of	(I.R.S. Employer
incorporation or organization)	Identification No.)
350 Park Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, New York (Address of principal executive offices)	<b>10022</b> (Zip Code)
(2	12) 207-6400
(Registrant s teleph	one number, including area code)
	rts required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act I that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject
	onically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data egulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that o o
	I filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting rated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.
Large accelerated filer x	Accelerated filer o
Non-accelerated filer o	Smaller reporting company o
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (	as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes o No x
357,548,609 shares of the registrant s common stock, \$0.01 par va	alue, were outstanding as of October 25, 2012.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
	PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Item 1.	Financial Statements	
	Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2012 (Unaudited) and December 31, 2011	1
	Consolidated Statements of Operations (Unaudited) for the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 and September 30, 2011	2
	Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income/(Loss) (Unaudited) for the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 and September 30, 2011	3
	Consolidated Statement of Changes in Stockholders Equity (Unaudited) for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012	4
	Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited) for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 and September 30, 2011	5
	Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements	6
Item 2.	Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	38
Item 3.	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk	66
Item 4.	Controls and Procedures	73
	PART II OTHER INFORMATION	
Item 1.	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	74
Item 1A.	Risk Factors	74
Item 6.	<u>Exhibits</u>	74
<u>Signatures</u>		75

## MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)		September 30, 2012 (Unaudited)		December 31, 2011
Assets:				
Mortgage-backed securities ( MBS ):			_	
Agency MBS, at fair value (\$6,902,954 and \$6,666,963 pledged as collateral, respectively)	\$	7,476,848	\$	7,137,531
Non-Agency MBS, at fair value (\$1,489,463 and \$692,534 pledged as collateral,		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		4 400 000
respectively)		2,541,846		1,492,376
Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated variable interest entities (VIEs) (1)		2,655,129		2,283,070
Securities obtained and pledged as collateral, at fair value		509,704		306,401
Cash and cash equivalents		450,442		394,022
Restricted cash		7,013		15,502
MBS linked transactions, net ( Linked Transactions ), at fair value		12,767		55,801
Interest receivable		44,980		42,837
Derivative hedging instruments, at fair value		- 400		26
Goodwill		7,189		7,189
Prepaid and other assets	_	29,251		15,879
Total Assets	\$	13,735,169	\$	11,750,634
7.4. N. M. L.				
Liabilities:			_	
Repurchase agreements	\$	8,832,326	\$	7,813,159
Securitized debt (2)		749,471		875,520
Obligation to return securities obtained as collateral, at fair value		509,704		306,401
8% Senior Notes due 2042 ( Senior Notes )		100,000		
Accrued interest payable		14,117		9,112
Derivative hedging instruments, at fair value		78,169		114,220
Dividends and dividend equivalents rights ( DERs ) payable		76,051		97,525
Payable for unsettled purchases		126,035		27,056
Accrued expenses and other liabilities		10,142		9,881
Total Liabilities	\$	10,496,015	\$	9,252,874
Commitments and contingencies (Note 10)				
Stockholders Equity:				
Preferred stock, \$.01 par value; series A 8.50% cumulative redeemable; 5,000 shares				
authorized; 3,840 shares issued and outstanding (\$96,000 aggregate liquidation preference)	\$	38	\$	38
Common stock, \$.01 par value; 895,000 shares authorized; 357,013 and 356,112 issued and	Ψ	30	Ψ	30
outstanding, respectively		3,570		3,561
Additional paid-in capital, in excess of par		2,804,688		2,795,925
Accumulated deficit		(255,591)		(243,061)
Accumulated other comprehensive income/(loss)		686,449		(58,703)
Total Stockholders Equity	\$	3,239,154	\$	2,497,760
Total Liabilities and Stockholders Equity	\$	13,735,169	\$	11,750,634
Total Enterinces and Stockholders Equity	φ	13,733,109	φ	11,750,054

<sup>(1)</sup> Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs represent assets of the consolidated VIEs that can be used only to settle the obligations of each respective VIE.

<sup>(2)</sup> Securitized Debt represents third-party liabilities of consolidated VIEs and excludes liabilities of the VIEs acquired by the Company that eliminate in consolidation. The third-party beneficial interest holders in the VIEs have no recourse to the general credit of the Company. (See

Notes 10 and 15 for further discussion.)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

1

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

# (UNAUDITED)

		Three Mor Septem				Nine Mon Septem		
(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)		2012		2011		2012	2011	
Interest Income:								
Agency MBS	\$	47,198	\$	59,957	\$	150,048	\$	186,114
Non-Agency MBS		37,087		24,379		95,555		76,098
Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs		40,812		46,405		128,502		110,435
Cash and cash equivalent investments		38		25		84		106
Interest Income		125,135		130,766		374,189		372,753
Interest Expense:								
Repurchase agreements		39,317		34,924		111,639		102,513
Securitized debt		4,477		3,828		13,186		8,087
Senior Notes		2,007				3,791		
Interest Expense		45,801		38,752		128,616		110,600
Net Interest Income		79,334		92,014		245,573		262,153
Other Then Terror come Investigation								
Other-Than-Temporary Impairments: Total other-than-temporary impairment losses				(14,913)		(879)		(15,550)
Portion of loss recognized in/(reclassified from) other				(14,913)		(879)		(13,330)
comprehensive income				10,922		(321)		9.167
Net Impairment Losses Recognized in Earnings				(3,991)		(1,200)		(6,383)
Net Impairment Losses Recognized in Earnings				(3,991)		(1,200)		(0,363)
Other Income, net:								
Unrealized net gains and net interest income from Linked								
Transactions		3,177		733		11,444		9,970
Gains on sales of MBS		4,279		4,196		7,232		4,196
Revenue from operations of real estate held-for-sale				390				1,146
Other, net		1		(898)		2		(886)
Other Income, net		7,457		4,421		18,678		14,426
Operating and Other Expense:								
Compensation and benefits		5,984		5,477		16,752		15,591
Other general and administrative expense		2,666		3,031		8,679		7,981
Real estate held-for-sale operating expense				237				774
Operating and Other Expense		8,650		8,745		25,431		24,346
Net Income		78,141		83,699		237,620		245,850
Less: Preferred Stock Dividends		2,040		2,040		6,120		6,120
Net Income Available to Common Stock and		,-		, , ,				-,-,-
Participating Securities	\$	76,101	\$	81,659	\$	231,500	\$	239,730
Famings non Common Chara Basis and Dilutad	¢	0.21	ø	0.00	¢	0.65	¢	0.71
Earnings per Common Share - Basic and Diluted	\$	0.21	\$	0.23	\$	0.65	\$	0.71
Dividends Declared per share of Common Stock	\$	0.21	\$	0.25	\$	0.68	\$	0.74

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(LOSS)

# (UNAUDITED)

	Three Mon Septem	 	Nine Months Ended September 30,							
(In Thousands)	2012	2011	2012	,	2011					
Net Income	\$ 78,141	\$ 83,699	\$ 237,620	\$	245,850					
Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss):										
Unrealized gain on Agency MBS, net	61,999	12,035	47,169		50,092					
Unrealized gain/(loss) on Non-Agency MBS, net	409,742	(109,294)	666,287		(250,845)					
Reclassification adjustment for MBS sales included in net										
income	(3,130)	(4,525)	(5,529)		(4,869)					
Reclassification adjustment for other-than-temporary										
impairments included in net income		3,991	1,200		6,383					
Unrealized gain/(loss) on derivative hedging instruments, net	11,654	(10,255)	36,025		4,483					
Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss)	480,265	(108,048)	745,152		(194,756)					
Comprehensive income/(loss) before preferred stock										
dividends	\$ 558,406	\$ (24,349)	\$ 982,772	\$	51,094					
Dividends declared on preferred stock	(2,040)	(2,040)	(6,120)		(6,120)					
Comprehensive Income/(Loss) Available to Common Stock										
and Participating Securities	\$ 556,366	\$ (26,389)	\$ 976,652	\$	44,974					

#### MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY

#### (UNAUDITED)

**Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 Dollars** (In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts) **Shares** Preferred Stock, Series A 8.50% Cumulative Redeemable Liquidation Preference \$25.00 per Share: Balance at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 \$ 38 3,840 Common Stock, Par Value \$.01: Balance at December 31, 2011 3,561 356,112 Issuance of common stock 901 Balance at September 30, 2012 3,570 357,013 Additional Paid-in Capital, in excess of Par: Balance at December 31, 2011 2,795,925 Issuance of common stock, net of expenses 4,389 Equity-based compensation expense 4,374 Balance at September 30, 2012 2,804,688 **Accumulated Deficit:** Balance at December 31, 2011 (243,061)Net income 237,620 Dividends declared on common stock (242,970)Dividends declared on preferred stock (6,120)Dividends attributable to DERs (1,060)Balance at September 30, 2012 (255,591)**Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income:** Balance at December 31, 2011 (58,703)Change in unrealized gains on MBS, net 709,127 Change in unrealized losses on derivative hedging instruments 36,025 Balance at September 30, 2012 686,449 Total Stockholders Equity at September 30, 2012 \$ 3,239,154

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

# (UNAUDITED)

		Nine Mon Septem				
(In Thousands)		2012		2011		
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:						
Net income	\$	237,620	\$	245,850		
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:						
Gain on sales of MBS		(7,232)		(4,196)		
Other-than-temporary impairment charges		1,200		6,383		
Accretion of purchase discounts on MBS		(28,173)		(33,159)		
Amortization of purchase premiums on MBS		38,175		26,779		
Increase in interest receivable		(1,998)		(6,125)		
Depreciation and amortization on real estate and other assets		2,471		2,263		
Unrealized (gains)/losses and other on Linked Transactions		(8,851)		4,831		
Increase in prepaid and other assets		(10,342)		(47)		
Increase in accrued expenses and other liabilities		344		37		
Increase/(decrease) in accrued interest payable		5,005		(529)		
Equity-based compensation expense		4,374		2,983		
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$	232,593	\$	245,070		
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:						
Principal payments on MBS	\$	1,977,366	\$	1,688,520		
Proceeds from sale of MBS	·	137,079	·	76,495		
Purchases of MBS		(2,896,359)		(4,430,941)		
Additions to leasehold improvements, furniture, fixtures and real estate investment		(367)		(2,004)		
Net cash used in investing activities	\$	(782,281)	\$	(2,667,930)		
Cash Flows From Financing Activities:						
Principal payments on repurchase agreements	\$	(48,911,503)	\$	(43,843,055)		
Proceeds from borrowings under repurchase agreements	Ψ	49,930,670	Ψ	45,821,751		
Proceeds from issuance of securitized debt		186,691		963,255		
Principal payments on securitized debt		(312,740)		(225,782)		
Payments made for resecuritization related costs		(1,814)		(6,981)		
Proceeds from issuance of Senior Notes		100,000		(0,701)		
Payments made for Senior Notes related costs		(3,415)				
Cash disbursements on financial instruments underlying Linked Transactions		(513,418)		(2,051,908)		
Cash received from financial instruments underlying Linked Transactions		390,363		1,464,965		
Payments made for margin calls on repurchase agreements and interest rate swap		370,303		1,404,703		
agreements ( Swaps )		(2,390)		(8,460)		
Proceeds from reverse margin calls on repurchase agreements and Swaps		10,890		25,914		
Payment made to purchase interest rate swaption ( Swaption )		10,070		(915)		
Proceeds from issuances of common stock		4,398		605,765		
Dividends paid on preferred stock		(6,120)		(6,120)		
Dividends paid on common stock and DERs		(265,504)		(239,786)		
Net cash provided by financing activities	\$	606,108	\$	2,498,643		
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	\$	56,420	\$	75,783		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	\$	394,022	\$	345,243		
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$	450,442	\$	421,026		
equi aconto at ond or period	Ψ	.50,112	Ψ	.21,020		

Non-cash Investing and Financing Activities:		
MBS recorded upon de-linking of Linked Transactions	\$ 174,940	\$ 744,231
Repurchase agreements recorded upon de-linking of Linked Transactions	\$	\$ 46,698
Securities obtained as collateral	\$ 203,303	\$
Dividends and DERs declared and unpaid	\$ 76,051	\$ 90,200

#### Table of Contents

#### MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

#### 1. Organization

MFA Financial, Inc. (the Company) was incorporated in Maryland on July 24, 1997 and began operations on April 10, 1998. The Company has elected to be treated as a real estate investment trust (REIT) for federal income tax purposes. In order to maintain its qualification as a REIT, the Company must comply with a number of requirements under federal tax law, including that it must distribute at least 90% of its annual REIT taxable income to its stockholders. (See Note 11(b))

#### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (a) Basis of Presentation and Consolidation

The interim unaudited financial statements of the Company have been prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Certain information and note disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) have been condensed or omitted according to these SEC rules and regulations. Management believes that the disclosures included in these interim financial statements are adequate to make the information presented not misleading. The accompanying financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. In the opinion of management, all normal and recurring adjustments necessary to present fairly the financial condition of the Company at September 30, 2012 and results of operations for all periods presented have been made. The results of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 should not be construed as indicative of the results to be expected for the full year.

The consolidated financial statements of the Company have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with GAAP. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Although the Company s estimates contemplate current conditions and how it expects them to change in the future, it is reasonably possible that actual conditions could be worse than anticipated in those estimates, which could materially impact the Company s results of operations and its financial condition. Management has made significant estimates in several areas, including other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) on Agency and Non-Agency MBS (Note 3), valuation of Agency and Non-Agency MBS (Notes 3 and 14), derivative hedging instruments (Notes 4 and 14), and income recognition on certain Non-Agency MBS purchased at a discount (Note 3). Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The consolidated financial statements of the Company include the accounts of all subsidiaries; significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated. Certain prior period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current period presentation.

(	b)	Agency an	d Non-Agenc	v MBS	(including	Non-Agency	MBS trans	ferred i	to a consolidated	l VIE)

The Company has investments in residential MBS that are issued or guaranteed as to principal and/or interest by a federally chartered corporation, such as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, or any agency of the U.S. Government, such as Ginnie Mae (collectively, Agency MBS), and residential MBS that are not guaranteed by any U.S. Government agency or any federally chartered corporation (Non-Agency MBS), as described in Note 3.

Designation

The Company generally intends to hold its MBS until maturity; however, from time to time, it may sell any of its securities as part of the overall management of its business. As a result, all of the Company s MBS are designated as available-for-sale and, accordingly, are carried at their fair value with unrealized gains and losses excluded from earnings (except when an OTTI is recognized, as discussed below) and reported in accumulated other comprehensive income/(loss), a component of stockholders equity.

Upon the sale of an investment security, any unrealized gain or loss is reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income/(loss) to earnings as a realized gain or loss using the specific identification method.

Revenue Recognition, Premium Amortization and Discount Accretion

Interest income on securities is accrued based on the outstanding principal balance and their contractual terms. Premiums and discounts associated with Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS rated AA and higher at the time of purchase are amortized into interest income over the life of such securities using the effective yield method. Adjustments to premium amortization are made for actual prepayment activity.

6

**Table of Contents** 

#### MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

Interest income on the Non-Agency MBS that were purchased at a discount to par value and/or are considered to be of less than high credit quality is recognized based on the security s effective interest rate. The effective interest rate on these securities is based on management s estimate from each security of the projected cash flows, which are estimated based on the Company s observation of current information and events and include assumptions related to fluctuations in interest rates, prepayment speeds and the timing and amount of credit losses. On at least a quarterly basis, the Company reviews and, if appropriate, makes adjustments to its cash flow projections based on input and analysis received from external sources, internal models, and its judgment about interest rates, prepayment rates, the timing and amount of credit losses, and other factors. Changes in cash flows from those originally projected, or from those estimated at the last evaluation, may result in a prospective change in the yield/interest income recognized on these securities or in the recognition of OTTI impairments. (See Note 3)

Based on the projected cash flows from the Company s Non-Agency MBS purchased at a discount to par value, a portion of the purchase discount may be designated as non-accretable purchase discount (Credit Reserve), which effectively mitigates the Company s risk of loss on the mortgages collateralizing such MBS and is not expected to be accreted into interest income. The amount designated as Credit Reserve may be adjusted over time, based on the actual performance of the security, its underlying collateral, actual and projected cash flow from such collateral, economic conditions and other factors. If the performance of a security with a Credit Reserve is more favorable than forecasted, a portion of the amount designated as Credit Reserve may be reallocated to accretable discount and recognized into interest income over time. Conversely, if the performance of a security with a Credit Reserve is less favorable than forecasted, the amount designated as Credit Reserve may be increased, or impairment charges and write-downs of such securities to a new cost basis could result.

Determination of MBS Fair Value

In determining the fair value of its MBS, management considers a number of observable market data points, including prices obtained from pricing services, brokers and repurchase agreement counterparties, dialogue with market participants, as well as management s observations of market activity. (See Note 14)

Impairments/OTTI

When the fair value of an investment security is less than its amortized cost at the balance sheet date, the security is considered impaired. The Company assesses its impaired securities on at least a quarterly basis and designates such impairments as either temporary or other-than-temporary. If the Company intends to sell an impaired security, or it is more likely than not that it will be required to sell the impaired security before its anticipated recovery, then the Company must recognize an OTTI through charges to earnings equal to the entire difference between the investment s amortized cost and its fair value at the balance sheet date. If the Company does not expect to sell an other-than-temporarily impaired security, only the portion of the OTTI related to credit losses is recognized through charges to earnings with the remainder recognized through other accumulated comprehensive income/(loss) on the consolidated balance sheet. Impairments recognized through other comprehensive income/(loss) do not impact earnings. Following the recognition of an OTTI through earnings, a new cost basis is established for the security and may not be adjusted for subsequent recoveries in fair value through earnings. However, OTTIs recognized

through charges to earnings may be accreted back to the amortized cost basis of the security on a prospective basis through interest income. The determination as to whether an OTTI exists and, if so, the amount of credit impairment recognized in earnings is subjective, as such determinations are based on factual information available at the time of assessment as well as the Company s estimates of the future performance and cash flow projections. As a result, the timing and amount of OTTIs constitute material estimates that are susceptible to significant change. (See Note 3)

Non-Agency MBS that are purchased at significant discounts to par and/or are otherwise assessed to be of less than high credit quality on which impairments are recognized have experienced, or are expected to experience, credit-related adverse cash flow changes. The Company's estimate of cash flows for its Non-Agency MBS is based on its review of the underlying mortgage loans securing the MBS. The Company considers information available about the past and expected future performance of underlying mortgage loans, including timing of expected future cash flows, prepayment rates, default rates, loss severities, delinquency rates, percentage of non-performing loans, Fair Isaac Corporation (FICO) scores at loan origination, year of origination, loan-to-value ratios, geographic concentrations, as well as reports by credit rating agencies, such as Moody's Investors Services, Inc. (Moody's), Standard & Poor's Corporation (S&P), or Fitch, Inc. (collectively, Rating Agencies), general market assessments, and dialogue with market participants. As a result, significant judgment is used in the Company's analysis to determine the expected cash flows for its Non-Agency MBS. In determining the OTTI related to credit losses for securities that were purchased at significant discounts to par and/or are considered to be of less than high credit quality, the Company compares the present value of the remaining cash flows expected to be collected at the purchase date (or last date previously revised) against the present value of the cash flows expected to be collected at

#### **Table of Contents**

#### MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

the current financial reporting date. The discount rate used to calculate the present value of expected future cash flows is the current yield used for income recognition purposes. Impairment assessment for Non-Agency MBS that were purchased at prices close to par and are considered to be of high credit quality involves comparing the present value of the remaining cash flows expected to be collected against the amortized cost of the security at the assessment date. The discount rate used to calculate the present value of the expected future cash flows is based on the instrument s effective interest rate.

**Balance Sheet Presentation** 

The Company s MBS pledged as collateral against repurchase agreements and Swaps are included in MBS on the consolidated balance sheets with the fair value of the MBS pledged disclosed parenthetically. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on the trade date. However, if on the purchase settlement date, a repurchase agreement is used to finance the purchase of an MBS with the same counterparty and such transactions are determined to be linked, then the MBS and linked repurchase borrowing will be reported on the same settlement date as Linked Transactions. (See Notes 2(n) and 4)

#### (c) Securities Obtained and Pledged as Collateral/Obligation to Return Securities Obtained as Collateral

The Company has obtained securities as collateral under collateralized financing arrangements in connection with its financing strategy for Non-Agency MBS. Securities obtained as collateral in connection with these transactions are recorded on the Company s consolidated balance sheet as an asset along with a liability representing the obligation to return the collateral obtained, at fair value. While beneficial ownership of securities obtained remains with the counterparty, the Company has the right to sell the collateral obtained or to pledge it as part of a subsequent collateralized financing transaction. (See Note 2(i) for Repurchase Agreements and Reverse Repurchase Agreements)

#### (d) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on deposit with financial institutions and investments in money market funds, all of which have original maturities of three months or less. Cash and cash equivalents may also include cash pledged as collateral to the Company by its repurchase agreement and/or Swap counterparties as a result of reverse margin calls (i.e., margin calls made by the Company). The Company did not hold any cash pledged by its counterparties at September 30, 2012 or December 31, 2011. At September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, all of the Company s cash investments were comprised of overnight money market funds, which are not bank deposits and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. (See Notes 8 and 14)

#### (e) Restricted Cash

Restricted cash represents the Company s cash held by its counterparties as collateral against the Company s Swaps and/or repurchase agreements. Restricted cash, which earns interest, is not available to the Company for general corporate purposes, but may be applied against amounts due to counterparties to the Company s repurchase agreements and/or Swaps, or returned to the Company when the collateral requirements are exceeded or at the maturity of the Swap or repurchase agreement. The Company had aggregate restricted cash held as collateral against its Swaps of \$7.0 million and \$15.5 million at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively. (See Notes 4, 7, 8 and 14)

#### (f) Goodwill

At September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the Company had goodwill of \$7.2 million, which represents the unamortized portion of the excess of the fair value of its common stock issued over the fair value of net assets acquired in connection with its formation in 1998. Goodwill is tested for impairment at least annually, or more frequently under certain circumstances, at the entity level. Through September 30, 2012, the Company had not recognized any impairment against its goodwill.

#### (g) Depreciation

Real Estate

During 2011 the Company had 100% of the ownership interest in Lealand Place, a 191-unit apartment property located in Lawrenceville, Georgia, through Lealand Place, LLC ( Lealand ), an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary. This property was acquired through a tax-deferred exchange under Section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code ). This investment was sold for cash proceeds of \$11.4 million, resulting in a gain on sale in the fourth quarter of 2011 of \$430,000. (See Note 6)

**Table of Contents** 

#### MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

The property, capital improvements and other assets held in connection with this investment were carried at cost, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization. Maintenance, repairs and minor improvements were expensed in the period incurred, while real estate assets, except land, and capital improvements were depreciated over their useful life using the straight-line method. The estimated life was 27.5 years for buildings and five to seven years for furniture and fixtures.

Leasehold Improvements and Other Depreciable Assets

Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the related assets or, in the case of leasehold improvements, over the shorter of the useful life or the lease term. Furniture, fixtures, computers and related hardware have estimated useful lives ranging from five to eight years at the time of purchase.

#### (h) Resecuritization and Senior Notes Related Costs

Resecuritization related costs are costs associated with the issuance of beneficial interests by consolidated VIEs and incurred by the Company in connection with various resecuritization transactions completed by the Company. Senior Notes related costs are costs incurred by the Company in connection with the issuance of its Senior Notes in April, 2012. These costs may include underwriting, rating agency, legal, accounting and other fees. Such costs, which reflect deferred charges, are included on the Company s consolidated balance sheet in prepaid and other assets. These deferred charges are amortized as an adjustment to interest expense using the effective interest method, based upon the actual repayments of the associated beneficial interests issued to third parties and over the stated legal maturity of the Senior Notes.

#### (i) Repurchase Agreements and Reverse Repurchase Agreements

The Company finances the acquisition of a significant portion of its MBS with repurchase agreements. Under repurchase agreements, the Company sells securities to a lender and agrees to repurchase the same securities in the future for a price that is higher than the original sale price. The difference between the sale price that the Company receives and the repurchase price that the Company pays represents interest paid to the lender. Although legally structured as sale and repurchase transactions, the Company accounts for repurchase agreements as secured borrowings, with the exception of certain repurchase agreements accounted for as components of Linked Transactions. (See Note 2(n) below) Under its repurchase agreements, the Company pledges its securities as collateral to secure the borrowing, which is equal in value to a specified percentage of the fair value of the pledged collateral, while the Company retains beneficial ownership of the pledged collateral. At the maturity of a repurchase financing, unless the repurchase financing is renewed with the same counterparty, the Company is required to repay the loan including any accrued interest and concurrently receives back its pledged collateral from the lender. With the consent of the lender, the Company may renew a repurchase financing at the then prevailing financing terms. Margin calls, whereby a lender requires that the Company pledge additional securities or cash as collateral to secure borrowings under its repurchase financing with such lender, are routinely experienced

by the Company when the value of the MBS pledged as collateral declines as a result of principal amortization and prepayments or due to changes in market interest rates, spreads or other market conditions. The Company also may make margin calls on counterparties when collateral values increase.

The Company s repurchase financings typically have terms ranging from one month to six months at inception, but may also have longer or shorter terms. Should a counterparty decide not to renew a repurchase financing at maturity, the Company must either refinance elsewhere or be in a position to satisfy the obligation. If, during the term of a repurchase financing, a lender should default on its obligation, the Company might experience difficulty recovering its pledged assets which could result in an unsecured claim against the lender for the difference between the amount loaned to the Company plus interest due to the counterparty and the fair value of the collateral pledged by the Company to such lender, including accrued interest receivable on such collateral. The Company enters into repurchase agreements with multiple counterparties with a maximum loan from any lender of no more than three times the Company s stockholders equity. (See Notes 2(n), 4, 7, 8 and 14)

In addition to the repurchase agreement financing arrangements discussed above, as part of its financing strategy for Non-Agency MBS, the Company has entered into contemporaneous repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements with a single counterparty. Under a typical reverse repurchase agreement, the Company buys securities from a borrower for cash and agrees to sell the same securities in the future for a price that is higher than the original purchase price. The difference between the purchase price the Company originally paid and the sale price represents interest received from the borrower. In contrast, the contemporaneous repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions effectively resulted in the Company pledging Non-Agency MBS as collateral to the counterparty in connection with the repurchase agreement financing and obtaining U.S. Treasury securities as collateral from the same counterparty in connection with the reverse repurchase agreement. No net cash was exchanged between the Company and counterparty at the inception of the transactions. Securities obtained and pledged as collateral are recorded as an asset on the Company s consolidated balance sheet. Interest income is recorded on the reverse

#### **Table of Contents**

#### MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

repurchase agreement and interest expense is recorded on the repurchase agreement on an accrual basis. Both the Company and the counterparty have the right to make daily margin calls based on changes in the value of the collateral obtained and/or pledged. The Company s liability to the counterparty in connection with this financing arrangement is recorded on the Company s consolidated balance sheet and disclosed as Obligation to return securities obtained as collateral. (See Note 2(c))

#### (j) Equity-Based Compensation

Compensation expense for equity based awards is recognized ratably over the vesting period of such awards, based upon the fair value of such awards at the grant date. With respect to awards granted in 2009 and prior years, the Company has applied a zero forfeiture rate for these awards, as they were granted to a limited number of employees, and historical forfeitures have been minimal. Forfeitures, or an indication that forfeitures are expected to occur, may result in a revised forfeiture rate and would be accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

During 2010, the Company granted certain restricted stock units (RSUs) that vest after either two or four years of service and provided that certain criteria are met, which are based on a formula that includes changes in the Company's closing stock price over a two- or four-year period and dividends declared on the Company's common stock during those periods. During 2011 and 2012, the Company granted certain RSUs that vest annually over a three-year period, provided that certain criteria are met, which are based on a formula that includes changes in the Company's closing stock price over the annual vesting period and dividends declared on the Company's common stock during those periods. Such criteria constitute a market condition which impacts the amount of compensation expense recognized for these awards. Specifically, the uncertainty regarding whether the market condition will be achieved is reflected in the grant date fair valuation of the RSUs, which in addition to estimates regarding the amount of RSUs expected to be forfeited during the associated service period, determines the amount of compensation expense that is recognized. Compensation expense is not reversed should the market condition not be achieved, while differences in actual forfeiture experience relative to estimated forfeitures will result in adjustments to the timing and amount of compensation expense recognized.

The Company has awarded DERs that may be attached to or awarded separately from other equity based awards. Compensation expense for separately awarded DERs is based on the grant date fair value of such awards and is recognized over the vesting period. Payments pursuant to these DERs are charged to stockholders equity. Payments pursuant to DERs that are attached to equity based awards are charged to stockholders equity to the extent that the attached equity awards are expected to vest. Compensation expense is recognized for payments made for DERs to the extent that the attached equity awards do not or are not expected to vest and grantees are not required to return payments of dividends or DERs to the Company. (See Notes 2(k) and 13)

#### (k) Earnings per Common Share ( EPS )

Basic EPS is computed using the two-class method, which includes the weighted-average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period and other securities that participate in dividends, such as the Company's unvested restricted stock and RSUs that have non-forfeitable rights to dividends and DERs attached to/associated with RSUs and vested stock options to arrive at total common equivalent shares. In applying the two-class method, earnings are allocated to both shares of common stock and securities that participate in dividends based on their respective weighted-average shares outstanding for the period. For the diluted EPS calculation, common equivalent shares are further adjusted for the effect of dilutive unexercised stock options and RSUs outstanding that are unvested and have dividends that are subject to forfeiture using the treasury stock method. Under the treasury stock method, common equivalent shares are calculated assuming that all dilutive common stock equivalents are exercised and the proceeds, along with future compensation expenses associated with such instruments, are used to repurchase shares of the Company's outstanding common stock at the average market price during the reported period. (See Note 12)

#### (l) Comprehensive Income/(Loss)

The Company s comprehensive income/(loss) available to common stock and participating securities includes net income, the change in net unrealized gains/(losses) on its MBS and its derivative hedging instruments, currently comprised of Swaps, (to the extent that such changes are not recorded in earnings), adjusted by realized net gains/(losses) reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income/(loss) for MBS and is reduced by dividends declared on the Company s preferred stock.

10

#### **Table of Contents**

#### MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

(m) U.S.	Federal	Income	Taxes
----------	---------	--------	-------

The Company has elected to be taxed as a REIT under the provisions of the Code and the corresponding provisions of state law. The Company expects to operate in a manner that will enable it to continue to be taxed as a REIT. A REIT is not subject to tax on its earnings to the extent that it distributes at least 90% of its annual REIT taxable income to its stockholders. As such, no provision for current or deferred income taxes has been made in the accompanying consolidated financial statements. To the extent that the Company incurs interest and/or penalties in connection with its tax obligations, such amounts shall be classified as income tax expense on the Company s consolidated statements of operations.

## (n) Derivative Financial Instruments

Hedging Activity

As part of the Company s interest rate risk management, it periodically hedges a portion of its interest rate risk using derivative financial instruments, currently comprised of Swaps. Hedge accounting is used to account for these instruments.

The Company documents its risk-management policies, including objectives and strategies, as they relate to its hedging activities and the relationship between the hedging instrument and the hedged liability. The Company assesses, both at inception of a hedge and on a quarterly basis thereafter, whether or not the hedge is highly effective.

The Company discontinues hedge accounting on a prospective basis and recognizes changes in the fair value through earnings when: (i) it is determined that the derivative is no longer effective in offsetting cash flows of a hedged item (including forecasted transactions); (ii) it is no longer probable that the forecasted transaction will occur; or (iii) it is determined that designating the derivative as a hedge is no longer appropriate.

Although permitted under certain circumstances, the Company does not offset cash collateral receivables or payables against its net derivative positions. (See Notes 4, 8 and 14)

Swaps

Swaps are carried on the Company s balance sheet at fair value, as assets, if their fair value is positive, or as liabilities, if their fair value is negative. Changes in the fair value of the Company s Swaps are recorded in other comprehensive income/(loss) provided that the hedge remains effective. Changes in fair value for any ineffective amount of a Swap are recognized in earnings. The Company has not recognized any change in the value of its existing Swaps through earnings as a result of hedge ineffectiveness.

**Swaptions** 

As part of its strategy to hedge its exposure to increases in interest rates, the Company in 2011 purchased a Swaption, which gave it the right, but not the obligation, to enter into a Swap at a future date. This contract expired unexercised in early 2012. Swaptions are carried as assets on the Company s balance sheet at fair value. Changes in the intrinsic value of the Swap underlying the Swaption are recorded in other comprehensive income/(loss), a component of stockholders—equity, provided that the hedge remains effective, while changes in the time value of the Swaption are recorded as gains/losses through earnings as a component of other income during the option period. The Company uses the cumulative dollar-offset ratio to assess the hedge effectiveness of its Swaptions.

Non-Hedging Activity/Linked Transactions

It is presumed that the initial transfer of a financial asset (i.e., the purchase of an MBS by the Company) and contemporaneous repurchase financing of such MBS with the same counterparty are considered part of the same arrangement, or a linked transaction, unless certain criteria are met. The two components of a linked transaction (MBS purchase and repurchase financing) are not reported separately but are evaluated on a combined basis and reported as a forward (derivative) contract and are presented as Linked Transactions on the Company s consolidated balance sheet. Changes in the fair value of the assets and liabilities underlying Linked Transactions and associated interest income and expense are reported as unrealized net gains/(losses) and net interest income from Linked Transactions on the Company s consolidated statements of operations and are not included in other comprehensive income/(loss). However, if certain criteria are met, the initial transfer (i.e., the purchase of a security by the Company) and repurchase financing will not be treated as a Linked Transaction and will be evaluated and reported separately, as an MBS purchase and repurchase financing. When or if a transaction is no longer considered to be linked, the MBS and repurchase financing will be reported on a gross basis. In this case, the fair value of the MBS at the time the transactions are no longer considered linked will become the cost basis of the MBS, and the income recognition yield for such MBS will be calculated prospectively using this new cost basis. (See Notes 4 and 14)

#### Table of Contents

#### MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

#### (o) Fair Value Measurements and the Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

The Company s presentation of fair value for its financial assets and liabilities is determined within a framework that stipulates that the fair value of a financial asset or liability is an exchange price in an orderly transaction between market participants to sell the asset or transfer the liability in the market in which the reporting entity would transact for the asset or liability, that is, the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability. The transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability is a hypothetical transaction at the measurement date, considered from the perspective of a market participant that holds the asset or owes the liability. This definition of fair value is based on a consistent definition of fair value which focuses on exit price and prioritizes the use of market-based inputs over entity-specific inputs when determining fair value. In addition, the framework for measuring fair value establishes a three-level hierarchy for fair value measurements based upon the transparency of inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability as of the measurement date. (See Note 14)

Although permitted under GAAP to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value, the Company has not elected the fair value option for any of its assets or liabilities. If the fair value option is elected, unrealized gains and losses on such items for which fair value is elected would be recognized in earnings at each subsequent reporting date. A decision to elect the fair value option for an eligible financial instrument, which may be made on an instrument by instrument basis, is irrevocable.

#### (p) Variable Interest Entities

An entity is referred to as a VIE if it meets at least one of the following criteria: (1) the entity has equity that is insufficient to permit the entity to finance its activities without additional subordinated financial support of other parties; or (2) as a group, the holders of the equity investment at risk lack (a) the power to direct the activities of an entity that most significantly impact the entity s economic performance; (b) the obligation to absorb the expected losses; or (c) the right to receive the expected residual returns; or (3) have disproportional voting rights and the entity s activities are conducted on behalf of the investor that has disproportionally few voting rights.

The Company consolidates a VIE when it has both the power to direct the activities that most significantly impact the economic performance of the VIE and a right to receive benefits or absorb losses of the entity that could be potentially significant to the VIE. The Company is required to reconsider its evaluation of whether to consolidate a VIE each reporting period, based upon changes in the facts and circumstances pertaining to the VIE.

The Company has entered into resecuritization transactions which result in the Company consolidating the VIEs that were created to facilitate the transactions and to which the underlying assets in connection with the resecuritizations were transferred. In determining the accounting treatment to be applied to these resecuritization transactions, the Company evaluated whether the entities used to facilitate these transactions were VIEs and, if so, whether they should be consolidated. Based on its evaluation, the Company concluded that the VIEs should be

consolidated. If the Company had determined that consolidation was not required, it would have then assessed whether the transfer of the underlying assets would qualify as a sale or should be accounted for as secured financings under GAAP.

Prior to the completion of its initial resecuritization transaction in October 2010, the Company had not transferred assets to VIEs or Qualifying Special Purpose Entities ( QSPEs ) and other than acquiring MBS issued by such entities, had no other involvement with VIEs or QSPEs. (See Note 15)

(q) New and Proposed Accounting Standards and Interpretations

Accounting Standards Adopted in 2012

Transfers and Servicing

In April 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2011-03, *Reconsideration of Effective Control for Repurchase Agreements*, (ASU 2011-03), which changes the assessment of whether repurchase agreement transactions should be accounted for as sales or secured financings. In a typical repurchase agreement transaction, an entity transfers financial assets to the counterparty in exchange for cash with an agreement for the counterparty to return the same or equivalent financial assets for a fixed price in the future. Prior to this update, one of the factors in determining whether sale treatment could be used was whether the transferor maintained effective control of the transferred assets and in order to do so, the transferor must have the ability to repurchase such assets. This ASU changes the assessment of effective control by focusing on a transferor s contractual rights and obligations with respect to transferred financial assets, rather than whether the transferor has the practical ability to perform in accordance with those rights or obligations. ASU 2011-03 was effective for the Company for the first interim or annual period beginning on or after December 15, 2011. With the exception of Linked Transactions, the Company records repurchase agreements as secured borrowings and not sales,

#### MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

and accordingly, the adoption of this update on January 1, 2012 did not have a material impact on the Company s consolidated financial statements.

Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-04, *Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs*, (ASU 2011-04) further converging U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) by providing common fair value measurement and disclosure requirements. The amendments in this update change the wording used to describe many of the requirements in U.S. GAAP for measuring fair value and for disclosing information about fair value measurements. These include those that clarify the FASB s intent about the application of existing fair value measurement and disclosure requirements and those that change a particular principle or requirement for measuring fair value or for disclosing information about fair value measurements. ASU 2011-04 was effective for the Company for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2011 and upon adoption on January 1, 2012, did not have a material impact on the Company s consolidated financial statements.

Comprehensive Income

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-05, *Presentation of Comprehensive Income*, ( ASU 2011-05 ) which allows an entity to present the total of comprehensive income, the components of net income, and the components of other comprehensive income ( OCI ) either in a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. Either presentation requires the presentation on the face of the financial statements any reclassification adjustments for items that are reclassified from OCI to net income in the statement(s) where the components of net income and the components of OCI are presented. There is no change in what must be reported in OCI or when an item of OCI must be reclassified to net income. ASU 2011-05 requires retrospective application and is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011. In December 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-12, *Deferral of the Effective Date for Amendments to the Presentation of Reclassifications of Items Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income in Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05*, ( ASU 2011-12 ) which defers certain aspects of ASU 2011-05. Specifically, ASU 2011-12 defers the effective date for the requirements of ASU 2011-05 to present on the face of the financial statements the effects of reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive income on the components of net income and OCI for all periods presented. All other requirements of ASU 2011-05 are not affected by this update. ASU 2011-12 requires retrospective application and was effective for the Company for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011. The Company s adoption of ASU 2011-05 and ASU 2011-12 beginning on January 1, 2012 did not have a material impact on the Company s consolidated financial statements.

Intangibles Goodwill and Other

In September 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-08, *Testing Goodwill for Impairment*, ( ASU 2011-08 ) which simplifies how entities test goodwill for impairment. Under ASU 2011-08, an entity has the option to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether the existence of events or circumstances leads the entity to determine that it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. If, after assessing the totality of events or circumstances, an entity determines that it is not more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount, then performing the two-step impairment test is unnecessary. If the entity concludes otherwise, then it is required to test goodwill for impairment under the currently prescribed two-step process. ASU 2011-08 was effective for annual and interim goodwill impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2011. The Company s adoption of ASU 2011-08 beginning on January 1, 2012, did not have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

Recent Accounting Standards to be Adopted in Future Periods

Balance Sheet

In December 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-11, *Disclosures about Offsetting Assets and Liabilities*, (ASU 2011-11) regarding disclosures concerning the offsetting of assets and liabilities. Under ASU 2011-11, an entity is required to disclose both gross information and net information about both instruments and transactions eligible for offset in the statement of financial position and instruments and transactions subject to an agreement similar to a master netting arrangement. The scope would include derivatives, sale and repurchase agreements and reverse sale and repurchase agreements, and securities borrowing and securities lending arrangements. This disclosure is intended to support further the convergence of U.S. GAAP and IFRS requirements. ASU 2011-11 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2013, and interim periods within those annual periods. The adoption of this ASU is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents** 

#### MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

Proposed Accounting Standards

The FASB has recently issued or discussed a number of proposed standards on such topics as investment companies and investment property entities, financial statement presentation, repurchase agreements and similar transactions, revenue recognition, leases, financial instruments, hedging, measurement of credit impairment and disclosures about liquidity risk and interest rate risk. Some of the proposed changes are potentially significant and could have a material impact on the Company s reporting. The Company has not yet fully evaluated the potential impact of these proposals but will make such an evaluation as the standards are finalized.

#### 3. MBS

The Company s MBS are comprised of Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS. These MBS are secured by: (i) hybrid mortgages ( Hybrids ), which have interest rates that are fixed for a specified period of time and, thereafter, generally adjust annually to an increment over a specified interest rate index; (ii) adjustable-rate mortgages ( ARMs ); (iii) mortgages that have interest rates that reset more frequently (collectively, ARM-MBS ); and (iv) 15-year and longer-term fixed rate mortgages. MBS do not have a single maturity date, and further, the mortgage loans underlying ARM-MBS do not all reset at the same time.

The Company pledges a significant portion of its MBS as collateral against its borrowings under repurchase agreements and Swaps.

Non-Agency MBS that are accounted for as components of Linked Transactions are not reflected in the tables set forth in this note, as they are accounted for as derivatives. (See Notes 4 and 8)

Agency MBS: Agency MBS are guaranteed as to principal and/or interest by a federally chartered corporation, such as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, or an agency of the U.S. Government, such as Ginnie Mae. The payment of principal and/or interest on Ginnie Mae MBS is explicitly backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. Since the third quarter of 2008, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have been under the conservatorship of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, which significantly strengthened the backing for these government-sponsored entities.

Non-Agency MBS (including Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs): The Company s Non-Agency MBS are secured by pools of residential mortgages, which are not guaranteed by an agency of the U.S. Government or any federally chartered corporation. Non-Agency MBS may be rated by one or more Rating Agencies or may be unrated (i.e., not assigned a rating by any Rating Agency). The rating indicates the opinion of the Rating Agency as to the creditworthiness of the investment, indicating the obligor s ability to meet its full financial commitment on the obligation. A rating of D is assigned when a security has defaulted on any of its contractual terms.

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

The following tables present certain information about the Company s MBS at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

#### **September 30, 2012**

(In Thousands)	Current Face	Purchase remiums	F	ccretable Purchase Discounts	Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI (1)		Amortized Cost (2)		Fair Value		Gross Unrealized Gains		Gross Unrealized Losses		Net prealized pin/(Loss)
Agency MBS:															
Fannie Mae	\$ 6,357,355	\$ 204,196	\$	(70)	\$		\$	6,561,481	\$	6,792,421	\$	231,889	\$	(949)	\$ 230,940
Freddie Mac	615,976	20,996						642,312		668,748		26,448		(12)	26,436
Ginnie Mae	14,902	257						15,159		15,679		520			520
Total Agency MBS Non-Agency	6,988,233	225,449		(70)				7,218,952		7,476,848		258,857		(961)	257,896
MBS: (3)															
Rated AAA	35,908	179		(938)				35,149		36,259		1,110			1,110
Rated AA	46	1						47		39				(8)	(8)
Rated A	22,713	644						23,357		22,214				(1,143)	(1,143)
Rated BBB	32,049	29		(2,123)		(378)		29,577		31,391		1,981		(167)	1,814
Rated BB	120,010	41		(8,802)		(1,724)		109,525		110,928		2,456		(1,053)	1,403
Rated B	307,488	15		(27,539)		(18,879)		261,085		275,878		17,036		(2,243)	14,793
Rated CCC	1,155,928			(86,864)		(203,508)		865,556		969,810		107,609		(3,355)	104,254
Rated CC	647,499			(27,799)		(128,181)		491,519		533,770		42,923		(672)	42,251
Rated C	1,104,962			(44,439)		(225,212)		835,311		916,709		83,075		(1,677)	81,398
Unrated and															
D-rated (4)	3,030,468			(109,572)		(881,769)		2,039,127		2,299,977		263,737		(2,887)	260,850
Total Non-Agency MBS	6,457,071	909		(308,076)		(1,459,651)		4,690,253		5,196,975		519,927		(13,205)	506,722
Total MBS	\$ 13,445,304	\$ 226,358	\$	(308,146)	\$	(1,459,651)	\$	11,909,205	\$	12,673,823	\$	778,784	\$	(14,166)	\$ 764,618

# December 31, 2011

(In Thousands)	Current Purchase Face Premiums		Accretable as Cre		esignated s Credit Reserve	it e Amortized		Fair Value		Uı	Gross Unrealized Gains		Gross realized Losses	_	Net realized in/(Loss)		
Agency MBS:									(-)							-	()
Fannie Mae	\$	5,981,834	\$ 154,809	\$	(135)	\$		\$	6,136,508	\$	6,329,925	\$	194,997	\$	(1,580)	\$	193,417
Freddie Mac		743,517	22,717						768,572		791,085		22,677		(164)		22,513
Ginnie Mae		15,920	275						16,195		16,521		326				326
Total Agency MBS		6,741,271	177,801		(135)				6,921,275		7,137,531		218,000		(1,744)		216,256
Non-Agency MBS: (3)																	
Rated AAA		12,258	245						12,503		12,258				(245)		(245)
Rated AA		47	1						48		34				(14)		(14)
Rated A		28,950	765		(624)		(5)		29,086		24,911		341		(4,516)		(4,175)
Rated BBB		46,593	42		(3,020)		(582)		43,033		38,352				(4,681)		(4,681)

Discount

Edgar Filing: MFA FINANCIAL, INC. - Form 10-Q

n	400 540	2.2	(10.710)	(0.000)	06.554	04.500	0.000	(= 0.4=)	(4.505)
Rated BB	100,513	33	(10,749)	(3,223)	86,574	81,789	2,232	(7,017)	(4,785)
Rated B	355,930	17	(30,584)	(25,004)	300,359	277,438	2,729	(25,650)	(22,921)
Rated CCC	1,031,407		(68,174)	(203,185)	760,048	741,028	27,767	(46,787)	(19,020)
Rated CC	687,664		(33,478)	(142,777)	511,409	487,619	14,209	(37,999)	(23,790)
Rated C	2,128,919		(64,963)	(487,397)	1,576,559	1,503,737	44,988	(117,810)	(72,822)
Unrated and									
D-rated (4)	1,022,072		(38,887)	(366,593)	616,592	608,280	34,934	(43,246)	(8,312)
Total Non-Agency									
MBS	5,414,353	1,103	(250,479)	(1,228,766)	3,936,211	3,775,446	127,200	(287,965)	(160,765)
Total MBS	\$ 12,155,624	\$ 178,904	\$ (250,614)	\$ (1,228,766)	\$ 10,857,486	\$ 10,912,977	\$ 345,200	\$ (289,709)	\$ 55,491

<sup>(1)</sup> Discount designated as Credit Reserve and amounts related to OTTI are generally not expected to be accreted into interest income. Amounts disclosed at September 30, 2012 reflect Credit Reserve of \$1.409 billion and OTTI of \$50.3 million. Amounts disclosed at December 31, 2011 reflect Credit Reserve of \$1.174 billion and OTTI of \$54.5 million.

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes principal payments receivable of \$5.3 million and \$2.3 million at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively, which are not included in the Current Face.

<sup>(3)</sup> Non-Agency MBS, including Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs, are reported based on the lowest rating issued by a Rating Agency, if more than one rating is issued on the security, at the date presented.

<sup>(4)</sup> Includes 214 Non-Agency MBS that were D-rated and had an aggregate amortized cost and fair value of \$2.025 billion and \$2.281 billion, respectively, at September 30, 2012 and 78 Non-Agency MBS that were D-rated and had an aggregate amortized cost and fair value of \$602.0 million and \$593.8 million, respectively, at December 31, 2011.

#### MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

Unrealized Losses on MBS and Impairments

The following table presents information about the Company s MBS that were in an unrealized loss position at September 30, 2012:

Unrealized Loss Position For:														
		Les	s thai	n 12 Mont	hs		12 Months or more					To	tal	
		Fair	Un	realized	Number			Fair	Uı	nrealized	Number of	Fair	Un	realized
(In Thousands)		Value	I	osses	Securit	ies		Value		Losses	Securities	Value	J	Losses
Agency MBS:														
Fannie Mae	\$	117,361	\$	214		23	\$	45,376	\$	735	10	\$ 162,737	\$	949
Freddie Mac								2,757		12	1	2,757		12
Total Agency MBS		117,361		214		23		48,133		747	11	165,494		961
Non-Agency MBS:														
Rated AA								39		8	1	39		8
Rated A								22,214		1,143	2	22,214		1,143
Rated BBB								1,282		167	2	1,282		167
Rated BB								30,000		1,053	5	30,000		1,053
Rated B								97,342		2,243	8	97,342		2,243
Rated CCC		6,955		18		1		72,474		3,337	8	79,429		3,355
Rated CC								48,847		672	5	48,847		672
Rated C								74,379		1,677	5	74,379		1,677
Unrated and other								136,871		2,887	14	136,871		2,887
Total Non-Agency														
MBS		6,955		18		1		483,448		13,187	50	490,403		13,205
Total MBS	\$	124,316	\$	232		24	\$	531,581	\$	13,934	61	\$ 655,897	\$	14,166

At September 30, 2012, the Company did not intend to sell any of its MBS that were in an unrealized loss position, and it is more likely than not that the Company will not be required to sell these MBS before recovery of their amortized cost basis, which may be at their maturity. With respect to Non-Agency MBS held by consolidated VIEs, the ability of any entity to cause the sale by the VIE prior to the maturity of these Non-Agency MBS is either specifically precluded, or is limited to specified events of default, none of which have occurred to date.

Gross unrealized losses on the Company s Agency MBS were \$961,000 aSeptember 30, 2012. Given the credit quality inherent in Agency MBS, the Company does not consider any of the current impairments on its Agency MBS to be credit related. In assessing whether it is more likely than not that it will be required to sell any impaired security before its anticipated recovery, which may be at their maturity, the Company considers the significance of each investment, the amount of impairment, the projected future performance of such impaired securities, as well as the Company s current and anticipated leverage capacity and liquidity position. Based on these analyses, the Company determined that at September 30, 2012 any unrealized losses on its Agency MBS were temporary.

Unrealized losses on the Company s Non-Agency MBS (including Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs) were \$13.2 million at September 30, 2012. Based upon the most recent evaluation, the Company does not consider these unrealized losses to be indicative of OTTI and does not believe that these unrealized losses are credit related, but are rather due to non-credit related factors. The Company has reviewed its Non-Agency MBS that are in an unrealized loss position to identify those securities with losses that are other-than-temporary based on an assessment of changes in expected cash flows for such MBS, which considers recent bond performance and expected future performance of the underlying collateral.

The Company did not recognize credit-related OTTI losses through earnings during the three months ended September 30, 2012 and recognized approximately \$1.2 million of credit-related OTTI losses on Non-Agency MBS during the nine months ended September 30, 2012. The Company recognized credit-related OTTI losses through earnings of approximately \$4.0 million and \$6.4 million on Non-Agency MBS during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, respectively.

MBS on which OTTI is recognized have experienced, or are expected to experience, credit-related adverse cash flow changes. The Company s estimate of cash flows for its Non-Agency MBS is based on its review of the underlying mortgage loans securing these MBS. The Company considers information available about the structure of the securitization, including structural credit enhancement, if any, and the past and expected future performance of underlying mortgage loans, including timing of expected future cash flows, prepayment rates, default rates, loss severities, delinquency rates, percentage of non-performing loans, FICO scores at loan origination, year of

16

#### MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

origination, loan-to-value ratios, geographic concentrations, as well as Rating Agency reports, general market assessments, and dialogue with market participants. Significant judgment is used in both the Company s analysis of the expected cash flows for its Non-Agency MBS and any determination of the credit component of OTTI.

The following table presents the composition of OTTI charges recorded by the Company for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

		Months Entember 30		Nine Mon Septem		
(In Thousands)	2012		2011	2012		2011
Total OTTI losses	\$	\$	(14,913) \$	(879)	\$	(15,550)
OTTI recognized in/(reclassified from) other						
comprehensive income			10,922	(321)		9,167
OTTI recognized in earnings	\$	\$	(3,991) \$	(1,200)	\$	(6,383)

The following table presents a roll-forward of the credit loss component of OTTI on the Company s Non-Agency MBS for which a non-credit component of OTTI was previously recognized in other comprehensive income. Changes in the credit loss component of OTTI are presented based upon whether the current period is the first time OTTI was recorded on a security or a subsequent OTTI charge was recorded.

	Three	Months Ended	Nine Months Ended
(In Thousands)	Septe	ember 30, 2012	September 30, 2012
Credit loss component of OTTI at beginning of period	\$	36,115	\$ 34,915
Additions for credit related OTTI not previously recognized			458
Subsequent additional credit related OTTI recorded			742
Credit loss component of OTTI at end of period	\$	36,115	\$ 36,115

The significant inputs considered and assumptions made at time of impairment in determining the measurement of the component of OTTI recognized in earnings for the Company s Non-Agency MBS for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 are summarized as follows:

		Ionths Ended ember 30,	Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2012	2011	2012	2011		
Credit enhancement (1) (2)						
Weighted average (3)		2.70%	3.26%	3.02%		
Range (4)		0.00-10.40%	0.00-16.50%	0.00-13.30%		

Projected CPR (2) (5)			
Weighted average (3)	11.00%	9.90%	10.90%
Range (4)	6.90-12.20%	9.10-13.30%	1.90-12.20%
Projected Loss Severity (2) (6)			
Weighted average (3)	56.10%	55.50%	53.60%
Range (4)	46.10-70.00%	45.90-60.00%	41.90-70.00%
60+ days delinquent (2) (7)			
Weighted average (3)	21.40%	24.40%	21.30%
Range (4)	9.10-36.70%	18.20-32.40%	7.30-36.70%

<sup>(1)</sup> Represents a level of protection for these securities, expressed as a percentage of total current underlying loan balance.

- (3) Calculated by weighting the relevant input/assumptions for each individual security by current outstanding face of the security.
- (4) Represents the range of inputs/assumptions based on individual securities.
- (5) CPR conditional prepayment rate.
- (6) Projected loss severity represents the projected amount of loss realized on liquidated properties as a percentage of the principal balance.
- (7) Includes, for each security, underlying loans 60 or more days delinquent, foreclosed loans and other real estate owned.

<sup>(2)</sup> Information provided is based on loans for all groups that provide credit enhancement for MBS with credit enhancement. If an MBS no longer has credit enhancement, information provided is based on loans for the individual group owned by the Company.

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

Purchase Discounts on Non-Agency MBS

The following tables present the changes in the components of the Company's purchase discount on its Non-Agency MBS between purchase discount designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI and accretable purchase discount for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

	Three Mon September			Three Months Ended September 30, 2011			
	Discount			Discount			
	Designated as			Designated as			
	Credit Reserve		Accretable	Credit Reserve		Accretable	
(In Thousands)	and OTTI (1)	]	Discount (1) (2)	and OTTI (1)	]	Discount (1) (2)	
Balance at beginning of period	\$ (1,440,752)	\$	(265,137) \$	(1,174,890)	\$	(222,930)	
Accretion of discount			8,816			10,785	
Realized credit losses	49,314			10,735			
Purchases	(122,266)		4,554	(29,141)		(16,198)	
Net impairment losses							
recognized in earnings				(3,991)			
Unlinking of Linked							
Transactions			(2,256)	(10,419)		(61)	
Transfers/release of credit							
reserve	54,053		(54,053)	11,305		(11,305)	
Balance at end of period	\$ (1,459,651)	\$	(308,076) \$	(1,196,401)	\$	(239,709)	

		Nine Montl September Discount			September 30, 2011 Discount				
	Designated as Credit Reserve			Accretable	Designated as Credit Reserve		Accretable		
(In Thousands)		and OTTI (3)	D	Discount (2) (3)	and OTTI (3)		Discount (2) (3)		
Balance at beginning of period	\$	(1,228,766)	\$	(250,479) \$	(746,678)	\$	(228,966)		
Accretion of discount				28,107			33,107		
Realized credit losses		107,229			20,612				
Purchases		(370,649)		(3,883)	(360,655)		(19,035)		
Reclass discount for OTTI		866		(866)	101		(101)		
Net impairment losses									
recognized in earnings		(1,200)			(6,383)				
Unlinking of Linked									
Transactions		(38,662)		(9,424)	(116,489)		(11,623)		
Transfers/release of credit									
reserve		71,531		(71,531)	13,091		(13,091)		
Balance at end of period	\$	(1,459,651)	\$	(308,076) \$	(1,196,401)	\$	(239,709)		

- (1) In addition, the Company reallocated \$54,000 of purchase discount designated as Credit Reserve to accretable purchase discount on Non-Agency MBS underlying Linked Transactions during the three months ended September 30, 2012. The Company reallocated \$1.1 million of purchase discount designated as accretable purchase discount to Credit Reserve on Non-Agency MBS underlying Linked Transactions during the three months ended September 30, 2011.
- (2) Together with coupon interest, accretable purchase discount is recognized as interest income over the life of the security.
- (3) In addition, the Company reallocated \$575,000 and \$309,000 of purchase discount designated as accretable purchase discount to Credit Reserve on Non-Agency MBS underlying Linked Transactions during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

18

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

Impact of MBS on Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss)

The following table presents the impact of the Company s MBS on its accumulated other comprehensive income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

	Three Mon Septem	 	Nine Mon Septem		
(In Thousands)	2012	2011	2012		2011
Accumulated other comprehensive income from MBS:					
Unrealized gain on MBS at beginning of period	\$ 296,007	\$ 292,376 \$	55,491	\$	393,822
Unrealized gain on Agency MBS, net	61,999	12,035	47,169		50,092
Unrealized gain/(loss) on Non-Agency MBS, net	409,742	(109,294)	666,287		(250,845)
Reclassification adjustment for MBS sales included in net					
income	(3,130)	(4,525)	(5,529)		(4,869)
Reclassification adjustment for OTTI included in net					
income		3,991	1,200		6,383
Change in accumulated other comprehensive					
income/(loss) from MBS	\$ 468,611	(97,793)	709,127		(199,239)
Balance at end of period	\$ 764,618	\$ 194,583 \$	764,618	\$	194,583

Sales of MBS

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, the Company sold certain Agency MBS for \$66.0 million and \$137.1 million, realizing gross gains of \$4.3 million and \$7.2 million, respectively. During the first nine months of 2011, the Company sold certain Agency MBS for \$76.5 million, realizing gross gains of \$4.2 million; all of these sales occurred during the third quarter of 2011.

MBS Interest Income

The following table presents the components of interest income on the Company s Agency MBS for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

Three Months Ended

**Nine Months Ended** 

	Septem	ber 30	),	Septem	,	
(In Thousands)	2012		2011	2012		2011
Coupon interest	\$ 61,978	\$	70,654	\$ 187,963	\$	212,703
Effective yield adjustment (1)	(14,780)		(10,697)	(37,915)		(26,589)
Agency MBS interest income	\$ 47,198	\$	59,957	\$ 150,048	\$	186,114

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes amortization of premium paid net of accretion of purchase discount. For Agency MBS, interest income is recorded at an effective yield, which reflects net premium amortization based on actual prepayment activity.

The following table presents components of interest income for the Company s Non-Agency MBS (including MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs) for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

	Three Mor Septem			onths Ended ember 30,		
(In Thousands)	2012	2011	2012		2011	
Coupon interest	\$ 69,139	\$ 60,038	\$ 196,144	\$	153,563	
Effective yield adjustment (1)	8,760	10,746	27,913		32,970	
Non-Agency MBS interest						
income	\$ 77,899	\$ 70,784	\$ 224,057	\$	186,533	

<sup>(1)</sup> The effective yield adjustment is the difference between the net interest income calculated using the net yield, which is based on management s estimates of future cash flows for Non-Agency MBS, less the current coupon yield.

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

#### 4. Derivatives

The Company s derivatives are comprised of Swaps, which are designated as cash flow hedges against the interest rate risk associated with its borrowings, and Linked Transactions, which are not designated as hedging instruments. The following table presents the fair value of the Company s derivative instruments and their balance sheet location at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

Derivative Instrument (In Thousands)	Designation	Balance Sheet Location	September 30, 2012	De	ecember 31, 2011
Swaps, at fair value (\$0 notional at September 30, 2012)	Hedging	Assets	\$	\$	26
Linked Transactions, at fair value	Non-Hedging	Assets	\$ 12,767	\$	55,801
Swaps, at fair value (\$2.761 billion notional at September 30, 2012)	Hedging	Liabilities	\$ (78,169)	\$	(114,220)

Linked Transactions

The Company s Linked Transactions are evaluated on a combined basis, reported as forward (derivative) instruments and presented as assets on the Company s consolidated balance sheets at fair value. The fair value of Linked Transactions reflect the value of the underlying Non-Agency MBS, linked repurchase agreement borrowings and accrued interest receivable/payable on such instruments. The Company s Linked Transactions are not designated as hedging instruments and, as a result, the change in the fair value and net interest income from Linked Transactions is reported in other income on the Company s consolidated statements of operations.

The following tables present certain information about the Non-Agency MBS and repurchase agreements underlying the Company s Linked Transactions at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

			Link	ed Transactions at Septem	ber 30	), 2012					
Linked Repu	rchas	e Agreement	s			Lin	iked N	MBS			
			Weighted Average								Weighted Average
Maturity or Repricing			Interest	Non-Agency MBS	_		A	mortized	Pa	r/Current	Coupon
(Dollars in Thousands)	J	Balance	Rate	(Dollars in Thousands)	Fa	ir Value		Cost		Face	Rate
Within 30 days	\$	36,423	1.61%	Rated AA	\$	14,544	\$	13,728	\$	14,120	5.00%
Total	\$	36,423	1.61%	Rated A		3,137		2,641		3,486	0.79
				Rated BBB		8,210		7,340		9,022	2.61
				Rated BB		7,257		6,855		7,639	2.74
				Rated D		15,910		15,094		20,423	5.81
				Total	\$	49,058	\$	45,658	\$	54,690	4.32%

# Linked Transactions at December 31, 2011

**Linked Repurchase Agreements** 

Linked MBS

Maturity or Repricing (Dollars in Thousands)	Balance	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Non-Agency MBS (Dollars in Thousands)	F	air Value	A	mortized Cost	Pa	nr/Current Face	Weighted Average Coupon Rate
Within 30 days	\$ 141,719	1.89%	Rated AAA	\$	29,057	\$	29,917	\$	30,675	3.31%
>30 days to 90 days	29,178	1.81	Rated AA		17,427		16,858		17,297	5.00
Total	\$ 170,897	1.88%	Rated BBB		41,825		42,419		49,781	2.81
			Rated CCC		20,782		20,988		26,680	4.42
			Rated CC		43,644		47,060		61,470	6.00
			Rated C		32,870		36,934		45,857	5.20
			Unrated		40,364		43,419		57,776	5.54
			Total	\$	225,969	\$	237,595	\$	289.536	4.74%

At September 30, 2012, Linked Transactions also included approximately \$195,000 of associated accrued interest receivable and \$63,000 of accrued interest payable. At December 31, 2011, Linked Transactions also included \$1.1 million of associated accrued interest receivable and \$412,000 of accrued interest payable.

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

The following table presents certain information about the components of the unrealized net gains and net interest income from Linked Transactions included in the Company s consolidated statements of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

Components of Unrealized Net Gains and Net Interest Income from Linked Transactions	Three Mon Septeml	 	Nine Months Ended September 30,			
(In Thousands)	2012	2011		2012		2011
Interest income attributable to MBS underlying Linked						
Transactions	\$ 812	\$ 4,631	\$	4,386	\$	21,475
Interest expense attributable to linked repurchase						
agreement borrowings underlying Linked Transactions	(168)	(864)		(965)		(3,938)
Change in fair value of Linked Transactions included in						
earnings	2,533	(3,034)		8,023		(7,567)
Unrealized net gains and net interest income from						
Linked Transactions	\$ 3,177	\$ 733	\$	11,444	\$	9,970

Derivative Hedging Instruments

Consistent with market practice, the Company has agreements with its Swap counterparties that provide for the posting of collateral based on the fair values of its derivative contracts. Through this margining process, either the Company or its derivative counterparty may be required to pledge cash or securities as collateral. Collateral requirements vary by counterparty and change over time based on the market value, notional amount and remaining term of the derivative contract. Certain derivative contracts provide for cross collateralization with repurchase agreements with the same counterparty.

A number of the Company s derivative contracts include financial covenants, which, if breached, could cause an event of default or early termination event to occur under such agreements. If the Company were to cause an event of default or trigger an early termination event pursuant to one of its derivative contracts, the counterparty to such agreement may have the option to terminate all of its outstanding derivative contracts with the Company and, if applicable, any close-out amount due to the counterparty upon termination of the derivative contracts would be immediately payable by the Company. The Company was in compliance with all of its financial covenants through September 30, 2012. At September 30, 2012, the aggregate fair value of assets needed to immediately settle derivative contracts that were in a liability position to the Company, if so required, was \$81.5 million, including accrued interest payable of approximately \$3.3 million.

The following table presents the assets pledged as collateral against the Company s derivative contracts at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

Edgar Filing: MFA FINANCIAL, INC. - Form 10-Q

(In Thousands)	Sept	tember 30, 2012	Ι	December 31, 2011
Agency MBS, at fair value	\$	84,150	\$	117,687
Restricted cash		7,013		15,502
Total assets pledged against derivative contracts	\$	91,163	\$	133,189

The use of derivative hedging instruments exposes the Company to counterparty credit risk. In the event of a default by a derivative counterparty, the Company may not receive payments to which it is entitled under its derivative agreements, and may have difficulty recovering its assets pledged as collateral against such agreements. If, during the term of a derivative contract, a counterparty should file for bankruptcy, the Company may experience difficulty recovering its assets pledged as collateral which could result in the Company having an unsecured claim against such counterparty s assets for the difference between the fair value of the derivative and the fair value of the collateral pledged to such counterparty. At September 30, 2012, all of the Company s derivative counterparties were rated A or better by a Rating Agency.

The Company s derivative hedging instruments, or a portion thereof, could become ineffective in the future if the associated repurchase agreements or securitized debt that such derivatives hedge fail to exist or fail to have terms that match those of the derivatives that hedge such borrowings. At September 30, 2012, all of the Company s derivatives were deemed effective for hedging purposes and no derivatives were terminated during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and September 30, 2011.

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

Swaps

The Company s Swaps have the effect of modifying the repricing characteristics of the Company s repurchase agreements and securitized debt and cash flows for such liabilities. To date, no cost has been incurred at the inception of a Swap, pursuant to which the Company agrees to pay a fixed rate of interest and receive a variable interest rate, generally based on one-month or three-month London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), on the notional amount of the Swap. The Company has not recognized any change in the value of its derivative hedging instruments in earnings as a result of the hedge or a portion thereof being ineffective during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and September 30, 2011.

At September 30, 2012, the Company had Swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$2.761 billion, which had gross unrealized losses of \$78.2 million, and extended 16 months on average with a maximum term of approximately 40 months. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, the Company did not enter into any new Swaps, and had Swaps amortize and/or expire with an aggregate notional amount of \$187.7 million and \$617.2 million, respectively. The following table presents information about the Company s Swaps at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

Maturity (1) (Dollars in Thousands)	Notional Amount	September 30, 2012 Weighted Average Fixed-Pay Interest Rate	Weighted Average Variable Interest Rate (2)	Notional Amount	December 31, 2011 Weighted Average Fixed-Pay Interest Rate	Weighted Average Variable Interest Rate (2)
Within 30 days	\$ 129,533	4.56%	0.24% \$	34,056	4.05%	0.37%
Over 30 days to 3 months	211,618	4.35	0.41	120,001	4.43	0.38
Over 3 months to 6						
months	56,013	3.92	0.34	275,351	2.54	0.33
Over 6 months to 12						
months	884,287	2.66	0.23	528,894	4.42	0.39
Over 12 months to 24						
months	598,372	2.16	0.24	974,352	2.78	0.30
Over 24 months to 36						
months	830,892	2.17	0.23	685,042	2.28	0.31
Over 36 months to 48						
months	50,000	2.13	0.22	710,170	1.96	0.29
Over 48 months to 60						
months				50,000	2.13	0.29
Total Swaps	\$ 2,760,715	2.64%	0.25% \$	3,377,866	2.80%	0.32%

<sup>(1)</sup> Each maturity category reflects contractual amortization and/or maturity of notional amounts.

(2) Reflects the benchmark variable rate due from the counterparty at the date presented, which rate adjusts monthly or quarterly based on one-month or three-month LIBOR, respectively.

The following table presents the net impact of the Company s derivative hedging instruments on its interest expense and the weighted average interest rate paid and received for such Swaps for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

	Three Mon Septem		Nine Mon Septem	 
(Dollars in Thousands)	2012	2011	2012	2011
Interest expense attributable to				
Swaps	\$ 18,138	\$ 24,322 \$	58,275	\$ 73,091
Weighted average Swap rate paid	2.72%	2.88%	2.74%	3.24%
Weighted average Swap rate				
received	0.27%	0.21%	0.29%	0.24%

**Swaptions** 

In June 2011, the Company purchased a Swaption, for which it paid a premium of \$915,000, that provided the Company with the right to enter into a fixed-pay Swap at termination of the option period in January 2012. The terms of the Swap that the Company could have entered into were as follows: \$100.0 million notional; four-year term; fixed strike rate 1.90%; variable index equal to one month LIBOR. Swaptions are used as a hedge against the risk of changes in the interest component above a specified level on a portion of forecasted one-month fixed rate borrowings. At the termination of the option period in January 2012, the Company allowed the Swaption to expire. At September 30, 2011, the Company s Swaption had a fair value of \$28,000. During the three months ended September 30, 2011, the Company s Swaption decreased in value by \$227,000, which was reflected in other comprehensive income, reflecting changes in the intrinsic value component of the Swaption, and \$899,000 of expense in other income, reflecting changes in the time-value component of the Swaption. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, the Company recognized \$887,000 of expense in other income, reflecting changes in the time-value component of the Swaption.

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

Impact of Hedging Instruments on Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss)

The following table presents the impact of the Company s derivative hedging instruments on its accumulated other comprehensive income/(loss) for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

	Three Mon Septem		Nine Mont Septem		
(In Thousands)	2012	2011	2012		2011
Accumulated other comprehensive loss					
from derivative hedging instruments:					
Balance at beginning of period	\$ (89,823)	\$ (124,404) \$	(114,194)	\$	(139,142)
Unrealized gain/(loss) on Swaps, net	11,654	(10,028)	36,025		4,483
Unrealized loss on Swaptions		(227)			
Balance at end of period	\$ (78,169)	\$ (134,659) \$	(78,169)	\$	(134,659)

Counterparty Credit Risk

By using derivative hedging instruments, the Company is exposed to counterparty credit risk if counterparties to the derivative contracts do not perform as expected. If a counterparty fails to perform, the Company s counterparty credit risk is equal to the amount reported as a derivative asset on its balance sheet to the extent that amount exceeds collateral obtained from the counterparty or, if in a net liability position, the extent to which collateral posted exceeds the liability to the counterparty. The amounts reported as a derivative asset/(liability) are derivative contracts in a gain/(loss) position, and to the extent subject to master netting arrangements, net of derivatives in a loss/(gain) position with the same counterparty and collateral received/(pledged). The Company attempts to minimize counterparty credit risk through credit approvals, limits, monitoring procedures, executing master netting arrangements and obtaining collateral, where appropriate. Counterparty credit risk related to the Company s derivative hedging instruments is considered in determining fair value of such derivatives and its assessment of hedge effectiveness.

#### 5. Interest Receivable

The following table presents the Company s interest receivable by investment category at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

September 30, December 31,

Edgar Filing: MFA FINANCIAL, INC. - Form 10-Q

(In Thousands)	2012	2011	
MBS interest receivable:			
Fannie Mae	\$ 18,881	\$	19,774
Freddie Mac	2,425		3,179
Ginnie Mae	24		32
Non-Agency MBS	23,649		19,850
Total MBS interest receivable	44,979		42,835
Money market investments	1		2
Total interest receivable	\$ 44,980	\$	42.837

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

#### 6. Real Estate

In December 2011, the Company completed the sale of its investment in Lealand, which had been classified as held-for-sale on the consolidated balance sheet since March 31, 2011. The following table presents the summary of assets and liabilities of Lealand at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

(In Thousands)	September 30, 2012	December 2011	r <b>31</b> ,
Real Estate Assets and Liabilities:			
Land and buildings, net of accumulated depreciation	\$	\$	
Cash and other assets			941
Accrued interest and other payables (1)			(95)

<sup>(1)</sup> The Company had a loan to Lealand which had a balance of \$445,000 at December 31, 2011. This loan and the related interest accounts were eliminated in consolidation. The loan was paid-off during the quarter ended March 31, 2012.

The following table presents the summary results of operations for Lealand for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

	Three Mo Septer	onths Ei mber 30		Nine Months Ended September 30,			
(In Thousands)	2012		2011		2012		2011
Revenue from operations of real estate	\$	\$	390	\$		\$	1,146
Other real estate operating expense			(237)				(660)
Depreciation and amortization expense (1)							(114)
Gain from real estate operations, net	\$	\$	153	\$		\$	372

<sup>(1)</sup> On March 31, 2011, the Company classified its investment in Lealand as held-for-sale and accordingly ceased depreciating assets related to this investment as of such date.

# 7. Repurchase Agreements

The Company s repurchase agreements are collateralized by the Company s MBS and U.S. Treasury securities (obtained as part of a reverse repurchase agreement) and cash and bear interest that is generally LIBOR-based. (See Note 8) At September 30, 2012, the Company s borrowings under repurchase agreements had a weighted average remaining term-to-interest rate reset of 29 days and an effective repricing period of six months, including the impact of related Swaps. At December 31, 2011, the Company s borrowings under repurchase agreements had a weighted average remaining term-to-interest rate reset of 31 days and an effective repricing period of nine months, including the impact of related Swaps.

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

The following table presents information with respect to the Company s borrowings under repurchase agreements and associated assets pledged as collateral at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

(In Thousands)	Septe	ember 30, 2012	D	December 31, 2011
Repurchase agreement borrowings secured by Agency				
MBS	\$	6,460,037	\$	6,198,829
Fair Value of Agency MBS pledged as collateral under				
repurchase agreements	\$	6,818,804	\$	6,549,276
Weighted average haircut on Agency MBS (1)		4.77%		4.78%
Repurchase agreement borrowings secured by				
Non-Agency MBS (2)	\$	1,869,175	\$	1,313,336
Fair Value of Non-Agency MBS pledged as collateral				
under repurchase agreements (2) (3)	\$	3,215,875	\$	2,067,221
Weighted average haircut on Non-Agency MBS (1)		30.38%		30.97%
Repurchase agreements secured by U.S. Treasuries	\$	503,114	\$	300,994
Fair value of U.S. Treasuries pledged as collateral under				
repurchase agreements	\$	509,704	\$	306,401
Weighted average haircut on U.S. Treasuries (1)		1.59%		2.00%

<sup>(1)</sup> Haircut represents the percentage amount by which the collateral value is contractually required to exceed the loan amount on the Company's repurchase agreements borrowings.

The following table presents repricing information about the Company s borrowings under repurchase agreements, which does not reflect the impact of associated derivative hedging instruments, at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

	September 3	0, 2012	December 3	1, 2011
Time Until Interest Rate Reset		Weighted Average		Weighted Average
(Dollars in Thousands)	Balance (1)	Interest Rate	Balance (1)	Interest Rate
Within 30 days	\$ 6,821,216	0.62% \$	5,220,740	0.54%
Over 30 days to 3 months	1,859,753	1.27	2,570,119	0.77
Over 3 months to 6 months	151,357	2.45		
Over 6 months to 12 months			22,300	3.15
Total	\$ 8,832,326	0.78% \$	7,813,159	0.62%

<sup>(2)</sup> Does not reflect Non-Agency MBS and repurchase agreement borrowings that are components of Linked Transactions.

<sup>(3)</sup> Includes \$1.726 billion and \$1.375 billion of Non-Agency MBS acquired from consolidated VIEs at September 30, 2012, and December 31, 2011, respectively, that are eliminated from the Company s consolidated balance sheet.

(1) At September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the Company had repurchase agreements of \$36.4 million and \$170.9 million, respectively, that were linked to Non-Agency MBS purchases and accounted for as Linked Transactions, and as such, the linked repurchase agreements are not included in the above table. (See Note 4)

25

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

The following table at September 30, 2012 presents contractual maturity information about the Company s borrowings under repurchase agreements and does not reflect the impact of derivative contracts that hedge such repurchase agreements:

	<b>September 30, 2012</b>								
Contractual Maturity (Dollars in Thousands)		Balance (1)	Weighted Average Interest Rate						
Overnight	\$	` '	<b>%</b>						
Within 30 days		6,679,373	0.58						
Over 30 days to 90 days		1,441,613	0.94						
Over 90 days to 12 months		240,479	1.60						
Over 12 months		470,861	2.66						
Total	\$	8,832,326	0.78%						

<sup>(1)</sup> At September 30, 2012, the Company had repurchase agreements of \$36.4 million that were linked to Non-Agency MBS purchases and were accounted for as Linked Transactions, and as such, the linked repurchase agreements are not included in the above table. (See Note 4)

The Company had repurchase agreements with 26 counterparties at September 30, 2012 and 25 counterparties at December 31, 2011. The following table presents information with respect to any counterparty for repurchase agreements and/or Linked Transactions for which the Company had greater than 5% of stockholders equity at risk in the aggregate at September 30, 2012:

September 30, 2012									
				Weighted Average Months to Maturity for	Percent of				
Counterparty	Counterparty	Amount at		Repurchase	Stockholders				
(Dollars in Thousands)	Rating (1)		Risk (2)	Agreements	Equity				
Credit Suisse	A/Aa2/A	\$	593,219	1	18.3%				
UBS (3) (4)	A/A2/A		305,865	32	9.4				
Wells Fargo (5)	A+/A2/AA-		268,430	18	8.3				
Deutsche Bank	A+/A2/A+		214,607	1	6.6				

<sup>(1)</sup> As rated at September 30, 2012 by S&P, Moody s and Fitch, Inc., respectively. The counterparty rating presented is the lowest published for these entities.

<sup>(2)</sup> The amount at risk reflects the difference between (a) the amount loaned to the Company through repurchase agreements and repurchase agreements underlying Linked Transactions, including interest payable, and (b) the cash and the fair value of the securities pledged by the Company as collateral and MBS underlying Linked Transactions, including accrued interest receivable on such securities.

- (3) Includes \$297.7 million at risk with UBS AG and \$8.2 million at risk with UBS Securities LLC.
- (4) Includes Non-Agency MBS pledged as collateral in connection with contemporaneous repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements.
- (5) Includes \$184.0 million with Wells Fargo Bank, NA and \$84.4 million at risk with Wells Fargo Securities LLC.

#### 8. Collateral Positions

The Company pledges securities or cash as collateral to its counterparties pursuant to its borrowings under repurchase agreements and its derivative contracts that are in an unrealized loss position, and it receives securities or cash as collateral pursuant to financing provided under reverse repurchase agreements and its derivative contracts in an unrealized gain position. The Company exchanges collateral with its counterparties based on changes in the fair value, notional amount and term of the associated repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements and derivative contracts, as applicable. Through this margining process, either the Company or its counterparty may be required to pledge cash or securities as collateral. When the Company s pledged collateral exceeds the required margin, the Company may initiate a reverse margin call, at which time the counterparty may either return the excess collateral, or provide collateral to the Company in the form of cash or high-quality securities.

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

The following table summarizes the fair value of the Company s collateral positions, which includes collateral pledged and collateral held, with respect to its borrowings under repurchase agreements, reverse repurchase agreements and derivative hedging instruments at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

	Septembe	r 30, 2	2012	December 31, 2011				
(In Thousands)	Assets Pledged		Collateral Held		Assets Pledged	C	ollateral Held	
Derivative hedging instruments:								
Agency MBS	\$ 84,150	\$		\$	117,687	\$		
Cash (1)	7,013				15,502			
	91,163				133,189			
Repurchase Agreement								
Borrowings:								
Agency MBS	\$ 6,818,804	\$		\$	6,549,276	\$		
Non-Agency MBS (2)(3)	3,215,875				2,067,221			
U.S. Treasury securities	509,704				306,401			
	10,544,383				8,922,898			
Reverse Repurchase Agreements:								
U.S. Treasury securities	\$	\$	509,704	\$		\$	306,401	
			509,704				306,401	
Total	\$ 10,635,546	\$	509,704	\$	9,056,087	\$	306,401	

<sup>(1)</sup> Cash pledged as collateral is reported as restricted cash on the Company s consolidated balance sheets.

The following table presents detailed information about the Company s assets pledged as collateral pursuant to its borrowings under repurchase agreements and derivative hedging instruments at September 30, 2012:

	MBS Pl	edged Under Repurc	chase	MBS Ple	Total Fair		
		Agreements		He	Value of		
(In Thousands)	Fair Value	Amortized	Accrued	Fair Value	Amortized	Accrued	MBS
		Cost	Interest on		Cost	Interest on	Pledged and
			Pledged			Pledged	Accrued

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes \$1.726 billion and \$1.375 billion of Non-Agency MBS acquired in connection with resecuritization transactions from consolidated VIEs at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively, that are eliminated from the Company s consolidated balance sheet.

<sup>(3)</sup> In addition, \$797.3 million and \$448.4 million of Non-Agency MBS are pledged as collateral in connection with contemporaneous repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements entered into with a single counterparty at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively.

Edgar Filing: MFA FINANCIAL, INC. - Form 10-Q

			MBS			MBS	Interest
U.S. Treasury							
securities	\$ 509,704	\$ 513,316	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 509,704
Fannie Mae	\$ 6,254,273	\$ 6,032,905	\$ 17,715	\$ 65,883	\$ 62,901	\$ 185	\$ 6,338,056
Freddie Mac	562,372	538,205	2,156	8,949	8,563	37	573,514
Ginnie Mae	2,159	2,102	3	9,318	8,994	15	11,495
Agency MBS	\$ 6,818,804	\$ 6,573,212	\$ 19,874	\$ 84,150	\$ 80,458	\$ 237	\$ 6,923,065
Rated AAA	\$ 33,619	\$ 32,534	\$ 108	\$	\$	\$	\$ 33,727
Rated A	21,164	22,217	59				21,223
Rated BBB	13,442	12,337	61				13,503
Rated BB	330,200	307,753	1,187				331,387
Rated B	99,176	89,421	327				99,503
Rated CCC	273,113	245,188	1,066				274,179
Rated CC	237,426	215,418	1,090				238,516
Rated C	171,079	156,944	910				171,989
Rated D	668,121	609,303	3,629				671,750
Not Rated	1,368,535	1,159,898	7,805				1,376,340
Non-Agency MBS							
(1)(2)	\$ 3,215,875	\$ 2,851,013	\$ 16,242	\$	\$	\$	\$ 3,232,117
Total	\$ 10,544,383	\$ 9,937,541	\$ 36,116	\$ 84,150	\$ 80,458	\$ 237	\$ 10,664,886

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes \$1.726 billion of Non-Agency MBS acquired in connection with resecuritization transactions from consolidated VIEs at September 30, 2012, that are eliminated from the Company s consolidated balance sheet.

<sup>(2)</sup> Reported based on the lowest rating issued by a Rating Agency, if more than one rating is issued on the security, at the date presented.

# Table of Contents

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

#### 9. Senior Notes

On April 11, 2012 the Company issued \$100.0 million in aggregate principal amount of its Senior Notes in an underwritten public offering. The total net proceeds to the Company from the offering of the Senior Notes were approximately \$96.6 million, after deducting offering expenses and the underwriting discount. The Senior Notes bear interest at a fixed rate of 8.00% per year, paid quarterly in arrears on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of each year and will mature on April 15, 2042. The Company may redeem the Senior Notes, in whole or in part, at any time on or after April 15, 2017 at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not excluding, the redemption date.

The Senior Notes are the Company s senior unsecured obligations and are subordinate to all of the Company s secured indebtedness, which includes the Company s repurchase agreements, securitized debt, obligation to return securities obtained as collateral, and other financing arrangements, to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such indebtedness.

# 10. Commitments and Contingencies

#### (a) Lease Commitments

The Company pays monthly rent pursuant to two operating leases. The lease term for the Company's headquarters in New York, New York extends through May 31, 2020. The lease provides for aggregate cash payments ranging over time from approximately \$2.4 million to \$2.5 million per year, paid on a monthly basis, exclusive of escalation charges. In addition, as part of this lease agreement, the Company has provided the landlord a \$785,000 irrevocable standby letter of credit fully collateralized by cash. The letter of credit may be drawn upon by the landlord in the event that the Company defaults under certain terms of the lease. In addition, the Company has a lease through December 31, 2016 for its off-site back-up facility located in Rockville Centre, New York, which provides for, among other things, cash payments ranging over time from \$27,000 to \$30,000 per year, paid on a monthly basis.

# (b) Representations and Warranties in Connection with Resecuritization Transactions

In connection with the resecuritization transactions engaged in by the Company (See Note 15 for further discussion), the Company has the obligation under certain circumstances to repurchase assets from its VIEs upon breach of certain representations and warranties.

# (c) MBS Purchase Commitments

At September 30, 2012, the Company had commitments to purchase Agency MBS at an estimated purchase price of \$126.0 million. This commitment is included in the Agency MBS balances presented at fair value on the Company s consolidated balance sheet.

### 11. Stockholders Equity

#### (a) Dividends on Preferred Stock

At September 30, 2012, the Company had issued and outstanding 3.8 million shares of Series A preferred stock, with a par value of \$0.01 per share and a liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share. Beginning April 27, 2009, the Company s preferred stock became redeemable at \$25.00 per share plus accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not declared) exclusively at the Company s option. The preferred stock is entitled to receive a dividend at a rate of 8.50% per year on the \$25.00 liquidation preference before the Company s common stock is paid any dividends and is senior to the common stock with respect to distributions upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up. The preferred stock generally does not have any voting rights, subject to an exception in the event the Company fails to pay dividends on the preferred stock for six or more quarterly periods (whether or not consecutive). Under such circumstances, the preferred stock will be entitled to vote to elect two additional directors to the Company s Board of Directors (Board), until all unpaid dividends have been paid or declared and set apart for payment. In addition, certain material and adverse changes to the terms of the preferred stock cannot be made without the affirmative vote of holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding shares of preferred stock.

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

From the time of original issuance of the preferred stock through September 30, 2012, the Company has declared and paid all required quarterly dividends on such stock. The following table presents the relevant dates with respect to such quarterly cash dividends, of \$0.53125 per share, from January 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012:

<b>Declaration Date</b>	Record Date	Payment Date
August 22, 2012	September 4, 2012	October 1, 2012
May 18, 2012	June 1, 2012	July 2, 2012
February 17, 2012	March 1, 2012	April 2, 2012
November 21, 2011	December 1, 2011	December 30, 2011
August 22, 2011	September 1, 2011	September 30, 2011
May 20, 2011	June 1, 2011	June 30, 2011
February 18, 2011	March 1, 2011	March 31, 2011

### (b) Dividends on Common Stock

The following table presents cash dividends declared by the Company on its common stock from January 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012:

			Divi	idend Per
Declaration Date	Record Date	Payment Date		Share
September 28, 2012	October 12, 2012	October 31, 2012	\$	0.210(1)
June 27, 2012	July 13, 2012	July 31, 2012	\$	0.230
March 23, 2012	April 4, 2012	April 30, 2012		0.240
December 14, 2011	December 30, 2011	January 31, 2012		0.270(2)
September 26, 2011	October 11, 2011	October 31, 2011		0.250
June 30, 2011	July 14, 2011	July 29, 2011		0.250
March 31, 2011	April 11, 2011	April 29, 2011		0.235

<sup>(1)</sup> At September 30, 2012 the Company had accrued dividends and DERs payable of \$76.1 million related to the common stock dividend declared on September 28, 2012.

# (c) Discount Waiver, Direct Stock Purchase and Dividend Reinvestment Plan ( DRSPP )

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes a special dividend of \$0.02 per share.

On November 22, 2011, the Company filed a shelf registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (1933 Act), for the purpose of registering additional common stock for sale through its DRSPP. Pursuant to Rule 462(e) of the 1933 Act, this shelf registration statement became effective automatically upon filing with the SEC and, when combined with the unused portion of the Company s previous DRSPP shelf registration statements, registered an aggregate of 10 million shares of common stock. The Company s DRSPP is designed to provide existing stockholders and new investors with a convenient and economical way to purchase shares of common stock through the automatic reinvestment of dividends and/or optional cash investments. At September 30, 2012, 9.4 million shares of common stock remained available for issuance pursuant to the DRSPP shelf registration statement.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, the Company issued 75,454 shares and 596,079 shares of common stock through the DRSPP, raising net proceeds of \$603,519 and \$4.4 million, respectively. From the inception of the DRSPP in September 2003 through September 30, 2012, the Company issued 15,146,939 shares pursuant to the DRSPP, raising net proceeds of \$132.7 million.

# (d) Controlled Equity Offering Program

On August 20, 2004, the Company initiated a controlled equity offering program (the CEO Program ) through which it may, from time to time, publicly offer and sell shares of common stock through Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. ( Cantor ) in privately negotiated and/or at-the-market transactions. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, the Company did not issue any shares through the CEO Program. From inception of the CEO Program through September 30, 2012, the Company issued 30,144,815 shares of common stock in at-the-market transactions through the CEO Program, raising net proceeds of \$194,908,570. In connection with such transactions, the Company paid Cantor aggregate fees and commissions of \$4,189,247. Shares for the CEO Program are issued through the automatic shelf registration statement on Form S-3 that was filed on October 22, 2010, as amended by Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 thereto, which was filed on April 2, 2012.

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

On December 12, 2008, the Company entered into its most recent Sales Agreement (the Agreement ) with Cantor, as sales agent. In accordance with the terms of the Agreement, the Company may offer and sell up to 40 million shares of common stock (the CEO Shares ) from time to time through Cantor. Sales of the CEO Shares, if any, may be made in privately negotiated transactions and/or by any other method permitted by law, including, but not limited to, sales at other than a fixed price made on or through the facilities of the New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE ), or sales made to or through a market maker or through an electronic communications network, or in any other manner that may be deemed to be an at-the-market offering as defined in Rule 415 of the 1933 Act. Cantor will make all sales on a best efforts basis using commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices on mutually agreed terms between the Company and Cantor.

# (e) Stock Repurchase Program

On August 11, 2005, the Company announced the implementation of a stock repurchase program (the Repurchase Program ). At September 30, 2012, the Company was authorized to repurchase 4.0 million shares of its outstanding common stock under the Repurchase Program. Subject to applicable securities laws, repurchases of common stock under the Repurchase Program are made at times and in amounts as the Company deems appropriate, using available cash resources. Shares of common stock repurchased by the Company under the Repurchase Program are cancelled and, until reissued by the Company, are deemed to be authorized but unissued shares of the Company s common stock. The Repurchase Program may be suspended or discontinued by the Company at any time and without prior notice. The Company has not repurchased any shares of its common stock under the Repurchase Program since April 2006.

### (f) Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss)

The following table presents the components of the Company s accumulated other comprehensive income/(loss) at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

(In Thousands)	et Unrealized Gain on ble-for-Sale MBS	Net Unrealized (Loss)/Gain on Swaps	Total Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss)/Income	;
Balance at December 31, 2011	\$ 55,491	\$ (114,194)	\$ (58,70	03)
Current period other comprehensive				
income (1)	709,127	36,025	745,13	52
Balance at September 30, 2012	\$ 764,618	\$ (78,169)	\$ 686,44	49

(1) For further information regarding changes in current period other comprehensive income, see the Company s consolidated statements of comprehensive income/(loss).

At September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the Company had OTTI recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income/(loss) of \$5.0 million and \$65.4 million, respectively.

#### 12. EPS Calculation

The following table presents a reconciliation of the earnings and shares used in calculating basic and diluted EPS for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

	Three Mon Septem	 	Nine Mon Septem		
(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)	2012	2011	2012		2011
Numerator:					
Net income	\$ 78,141	\$ 83,699 \$	237,620	\$	245,850
Dividends declared on preferred stock	(2,040)	(2,040)	(6,120)		(6,120)
Dividends, DERs and undistributed earnings allocated to					
participating securities	(360)	(446)	(1,168)		(1,195)
Net income to common stockholders - basic and diluted	\$ 75,741	\$ 81,213 \$	230,332	\$	238,535
Denominator:					
Weighted average common shares for basic and diluted					
earnings per share (1)	356,921	355,964	356,563		336,756
Basic and diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.23 \$	0.65	\$	0.71

<sup>(1)</sup> At September 30, 2012, the Company had an aggregate of 2.0 million equity instruments outstanding that were not included in the calculation of diluted EPS for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, as their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive. These equity instruments were comprised of 432,000 stock options with a weighted average exercise price of \$10.11 and a weighted average remaining contractual life of 1.1 years, approximately 536,000 shares of restricted common stock with a weighted average grant date fair value of \$7.42 and approximately 995,000 RSUs with a weighted average grant date fair value of \$7.04. These equity instruments may have a dilutive impact on future EPS.

# Table of Contents

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

- 13. Equity Compensation, Employment Agreements and Other Benefit Plans
- (a) 2010 Equity Compensation Plan

In accordance with the terms of the Company s Amended and Restated 2010 Equity Compensation Plan (the 2010 Plan), directors, officers and employees of the Company and any of its subsidiaries and other persons expected to provide significant services for the Company and any of its subsidiaries are eligible to receive grants of stock options (Options), restricted stock, RSUs, DERs and other stock-based awards under the 2010 Plan.

Subject to certain exceptions, stock-based awards relating to a maximum of 13.5 million shares of common stock may be granted under the 2010 Plan; forfeitures and/or awards that expire unexercised do not count towards such limit. At September 30, 2012, approximately 9.6 million shares of common stock remained available for grant in connection with stock-based awards under the 2010 Plan. A participant may generally not receive stock-based awards in excess of 1,500,000 shares of common stock in any one-year and no award may be granted to any person who, assuming exercise of all Options and payment of all awards held by such person, would own or be deemed to own more than 9.8% of the outstanding shares of the Company s common stock. Unless previously terminated by the Board, awards may be granted under the 2010 Plan until May 20, 2020.

**DERs** 

A DER is a right to receive a distribution equal to the dividend distributions that would be paid on a share of the Company s common stock. DERs may be granted separately or together with other awards and are paid in cash or other consideration at such times and in accordance with such rules, as the Compensation Committee of the Board (the Compensation Committee) shall determine at its discretion. Payments made on the Company s existing DERs are charged to stockholders equity when the common stock dividends are declared to the extent that such DERs are expected to vest. The Company made DER payments of approximately \$357,000 and \$418,000 during the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively, and approximately \$1.2 million and \$1.1 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011. At September 30, 2012, the Company had 1,544,933 DERs outstanding, of which 409,500 were attached to common stock options and 1,135,433 were awarded in connection with, or attached to, RSUs. At September 30, 2012, the average forfeiture rate on DERs outstanding attached to RSUs was 18.9%. On the remaining DERs outstanding that are not attached to RSUs, a 0% forfeiture rate was assumed at September 30, 2012. At September 30, 2012, all outstanding DERs were entitled to receive non-forfeitable distributions and are scheduled to elapse over a weighted average period of 1.9 years.

**Options** 

Pursuant to Section 422(b) of the Code, in order for Options granted under the 2010 Plan and vesting in any one calendar year to qualify as an incentive stock option ( ISO ) for tax purposes, the market value of the common stock to be received upon exercise of such Options as determined on the date of grant shall not exceed \$100,000 during such calendar year. The exercise price of an ISO may not be lower than 100% (110% in the case of an ISO granted to a 10% stockholder) of the fair market value of the Company s common stock on the date of grant. The exercise price for any other type of Option issued under the 2010 Plan may not be less than the fair market value on the date of grant. Each Option is exercisable after the period or periods specified in the award agreement, which will generally not exceed ten years from the date of grant.

The Company did not grant any stock options during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and September 30, 2011. There were 50,000 stock options cancelled during the nine months ended September 30, 2012, and 55,000 stock options cancelled during the nine months ended September 30, 2011. At September 30, 2012, 432,000 stock options were outstanding, all of which were vested and exercisable, with a weighted average exercise price of \$10.11. As of September 30, 2012, the aggregate intrinsic value of total Options outstanding was approximately \$10.000.

Restricted Stock

The Company awarded zero and 81,439 shares of restricted common stock during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively, and awarded zero and 37,255 shares of restricted common stock during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, respectively. At September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the Company had unrecognized compensation expense of \$2.7 million and \$5.5 million, respectively, related to the unvested shares of restricted common stock. The Company had accrued dividends payable of \$722,000 and \$886,000 on unvested shares of restricted common stock at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively. The unrecognized compensation expense at September 30, 2012 is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 1.1 years.

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

Restricted Stock Units and Associated DERs

Under the terms of the 2010 Plan, RSUs are instruments that provide the holder with the right to receive, subject to the satisfaction of conditions set by the Compensation Committee at the time of grant, a payment of a specified value, which may be a share of the Company's common stock, the fair market value of a share of the Company's common stock, or such fair market value to the extent in excess of an established base value, on the applicable settlement date. Although the 2010 Plan permits the Company to issue RSUs settleable in cash, all of the Company's outstanding RSUs as of September 30, 2012 are designated to be settled in shares of the Company's common stock. The Company granted 72,500 RSUs during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, respectively, and granted 87,500 RSUs during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, respectively. All RSUs outstanding at September 30, 2012 had DERs attached or issued as separate associated instruments in connection with RSUs. At September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the Company had unrecognized compensation expense of \$2.8 million and \$4.0 million, respectively, related to RSUs and DERs. The unrecognized compensation expense at September 30, 2012 is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 2.7 years. As of September 30, 2012, the Company had an expected average forfeiture rate of 15.4% with respect to unvested RSUs.

Expense Recognized for Equity-Based Compensation Instruments

The following table presents the Company s expenses related to its equity-based compensation instruments for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,			
(In Thousands)		2012	2011	2012	2011			
Restricted shares of common								
stock	\$	1,445	\$	560	\$ 3,362	\$	1,944	
RSUs		289		407	835		976	
DERs		59		60	177		60	
Options							3	
Total	\$	1,793	\$	1,027	\$ 4,374	\$	2,983	

# (b) Employment Agreements

At September 30, 2012, the Company had employment agreements with six of its officers, with varying terms that provide for, among other things, base salary, bonus and change-in-control payments upon the occurrence of certain triggering events.

# (c) Deferred Compensation Plans

The Company administers deferred compensation plans for its senior officers and non-employee directors (collectively, the Deferred Plans ), pursuant to which participants may elect to defer up to 100% of certain cash compensation. The Deferred Plans are designed to align participants interests with those of the Company s stockholders.

Amounts deferred under the Deferred Plans are considered to be converted into stock units of the Company. Stock units do not represent stock of the Company, but rather are a liability of the Company that changes in value as would equivalent shares of the Company s common stock. Deferred compensation liabilities are settled in cash at the termination of the deferral period, based on the value of the stock units at that time. The Deferred Plans are non-qualified plans under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and, as such, are not funded. Prior to the time that the deferred accounts are settled, participants are unsecured creditors of the Company.

The Company s liability for stock units in the Deferred Plans is based on the market price of the Company s common stock at the measurement date. The following table presents the Company s expenses related to its Deferred Plans for its non-employee directors and senior officers for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

	Three M	onths E	inded		Nine Months Ended					
	Septe	ember 3	0,	September 30,						
(In Thousands)	2012		2011		2012		2011			
Non-employee directors	\$ 33	\$	(21)	\$	76	\$	(17)			
Officers							(1)			
Total	\$ 33	\$	(21)	\$	76	\$	(18)			

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

The following table presents the aggregate amount of income deferred by participants of the Deferred Plans through September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 that had not been distributed and the Company s associated liability for such deferrals at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

		September	2		1			
	Undi	stributed			Und	istributed		
	Income		Liabi	lity Under	I	ncome	Liabi	lity Under
(In Thousands)	Defe	rred (1)	Defer	red Plans	Def	erred (1)	Defe	rred Plans
Non-employee directors	\$	199	\$	309	\$	209	\$	254
Total	\$	199	\$	309	\$	209	\$	254

<sup>(1)</sup> Represents the cumulative amounts that were deferred by participants through September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, which had not been distributed through such date.

# (d) Savings Plan

The Company sponsors a tax-qualified employee savings plan (the Savings Plan ), in accordance with Section 401(k) of the Code. Subject to certain restrictions, all of the Company s employees are eligible to make tax deferred contributions to the Savings Plan subject to limitations under applicable law. Participant s accounts are self-directed and the Company bears the costs of administering the Savings Plan. The Company matches 100% of the first 3% of eligible compensation deferred by employees and 50% of the next 2%, subject to a maximum as provided by the Code. The Company has elected to operate the Savings Plan under the applicable safe harbor provisions of the Code, whereby among other things, the Company must make contributions for all participating employees and all matches contributed by the Company immediately vest 100%. For the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, the Company recognized expenses for matching contributions of \$60,000 and \$43,000, respectively, and \$179,000 and \$128,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

# 14. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

A financial instrument s categorization within the valuation hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The three levels of valuation hierarchy are defined as follows:

Level 1 inputs to the valuation methodology are quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.

Level 2 inputs to the valuation methodology include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, and inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the financial instrument.
Level 3 inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.
The following describes the valuation methodologies used for the Company s financial instruments measured at fair value, as well as the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy.
Securities Obtained and Pledged as Collateral/Obligation to Return Securities Obtained as Collateral
The fair value of U.S. Treasury securities obtained as collateral and the associated obligation to return securities obtained as collateral are based upon prices obtained from a third-party pricing service, which are indicative of market activity. Securities obtained as collateral are classified as Level 1 in the fair value hierarchy.
Agency MBS, Non-Agency MBS and Securitized Debt
The Company determines the fair value of its Agency MBS, based upon prices obtained from third-party pricing services, which are indicative of market activity and repurchase agreement counterparties.
For Agency MBS, the valuation methodology of the Company s third-party pricing services incorporate commonly used market pricing methods, incorporates trading activity observed in the marketplace and other data inputs. The methodology also considers the underlying characteristics of each security, which are also observable inputs, including: collateral vintage; coupon; maturity date; loan age; reset date; collateral type; periodic and life cap; geography; and prepayment speeds. Management analyzes pricing data received from third-party pricing services and compares it to other indications of fair value including data received from repurchase agreement counterparties and its own observations of trading activity observed in the marketplace.
In determining the fair value of its Non-Agency MBS and securitized debt, management considers a number of observable market data points, including prices obtained from pricing services and brokers, as well as dialogue with market participants. In valuing Non-Agency MBS, the Company understands that pricing services use observable inputs that include, in addition to trading activity observed in the marketplace, loan delinquency data, credit enhancement levels and vintage, which are taken into account to assign pricing factors such as spread and

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

prepayment assumptions.	For tranches that are cross-collateralized, performance of all collateral groups involved in the tranche are considered.
The Company collects and	l considers current market intelligence on all major markets, including benchmark security evaluations and bid-lists
throughout the day from v	arious sources, when available.

The Company s MBS and securitized debt are valued using various market data points as described above, which management considers directly or indirectly observable parameters. Accordingly, the Company s MBS and securitized debt are classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Linked Transactions

The Non-Agency MBS underlying the Company s Linked Transactions are valued using similar techniques to those used for the Company s other Non-Agency MBS. The value of the underlying MBS is then netted against the carrying amount (which approximates fair value) of the repurchase agreement borrowing at the valuation date. The fair value of Linked Transactions also includes accrued interest receivable on the MBS and accrued interest payable on the underlying repurchase agreement borrowings. The Company s Linked Transactions are classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Derivative Hedging Instruments (Swaps)

The Company determines the fair value of its derivative hedging instruments considering valuations obtained from a third-party pricing service and such valuations are tested with internally developed models that apply readily observable market parameters. In valuing its derivative hedging instruments, the Company considers the creditworthiness of both the Company and its counterparties, along with collateral provisions contained in each derivative agreement, from the perspective of both the Company and its counterparties. All of the Company s derivative hedging instruments are subject to bilateral collateral arrangements. Consequently, no credit valuation adjustment was made in determining the fair value of such instruments. The Company s derivative hedging instruments are classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

The following table presents the Company s financial instruments carried at fair value as of September 30, 2012, on the consolidated balance sheet by the valuation hierarchy, as previously described:

Fair Value at September 30, 2012
(In Thousands) Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Total
Assets:

Edgar Filing: MFA FINANCIAL, INC. - Form 10-Q

Agency MBS	\$	\$ 7,476,848	\$ \$	7,476,848
Non-Agency MBS, including				
MBS transferred to				
consolidated VIEs		5,196,975		5,196,975
Securities obtained and				
pledged as collateral	509,704			509,704
Linked Transactions		12,767		12,767
Total assets carried at fair				
value	\$ 509,704	\$ 12,686,590	\$ \$	13,196,294
Liabilities:				
Derivative hedging				
instruments	\$	\$ 78,169	\$ \$	78,169
Obligation to return securities				
obtained as collateral	509,704			509,704
Total liabilities carried at fair				
value	\$ 509,704	\$ 78,169	\$ \$	587,873

Changes to the valuation methodologies used with respect to the Company s financial instruments are reviewed by management to ensure any such changes result in appropriate exit price valuations. As markets and products develop and the pricing for certain products becomes more transparent, the Company continues to refine its valuation methodologies. The methods described above may produce fair value estimates that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Company believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with those used by market participants, the use of different methodologies, or assumptions, to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different estimate of fair value at the reporting date. The Company uses inputs that are current as of the measurement date, which may include periods of market dislocation, during which price transparency may be reduced. The Company reviews the classification of its financial instruments within the fair value hierarchy on a quarterly basis, which could cause its financial instruments to be reclassified to a different level.

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

The following table presents the carrying value and estimated fair value of the Company s financial instruments, at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

	<b>September 30, 2012</b>				Decembe	2011			
(In Thousands)	Carrying Estima Value Fair Va				Carrying Value		Estimated Fair Value		
Financial Assets:									
Agency MBS	\$ 7,476,848	\$	7,476,848	\$	7,137,531	\$	7,137,531		
Non-Agency MBS, including MBS									
transferred to consolidated VIEs	5,196,975		5,196,975		3,775,446		3,775,446		
Securities obtained and pledged as									
collateral	509,704		509,704		306,401		306,401		
Cash and cash equivalents	450,442		450,442		394,022		394,022		
Restricted cash	7,013		7,013		15,502		15,502		
Linked Transactions	12,767		12,767		55,801		55,801		
Derivative hedging instruments					26		26		
Financial Liabilities:									
Repurchase agreements	8,832,326		8,832,751		7,813,159		7,812,652		
Securitized debt	749,471		749,022		875,520		859,506		
Obligation to return securities obtained									
as collateral	509,704		509,704		306,401		306,401		
Senior Notes	100,000		103,920						
Derivative hedging instruments	78,169		78,169		114,220		114,220		

In addition to the methodologies used to determine the fair value of the Company s financial assets and liabilities reported at fair value, as previously described, the following methods and assumptions were used by the Company in arriving at the fair value of the Company s other financial instruments presented in the above table:

Cash and Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash: Cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash are comprised of cash held in overnight money market investments and demand deposit accounts. At September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the Company s money market funds were invested in securities issued by the U.S. Government, or its agencies, instrumentalities, and sponsored entities, and repurchase agreements involving the securities described above. Given the overnight term and assessed credit risk, the Company s investments in money market funds are determined to have a fair value equal to their carrying value.

Repurchase Agreements: The fair value of repurchase agreements reflects the present value of the contractual cash flows discounted at market interest rates at the valuation date for repurchase agreements with a term equivalent to the remaining term to interest rate repricing, which may be at maturity. Such interest rates are estimated based on LIBOR rates observed in the market. The Company s repurchase agreements are classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Senior Notes: The fair value of the Senior Notes is determined using the end of day market price quoted on the NYSE at the reporting date. The Company s Senior Notes are classified as Level 1 in the fair value hierarchy.

#### 15. Use of Special Purpose Entities and Variable Interest Entities

A Special Purpose Entity (SPE) is an entity designed to fulfill a specific limited need of the company that organized it. SPEs are often used to facilitate transactions that involve securitizing financial assets or resecuritizing previously securitized financial assets. The objective of such transactions may include obtaining non-recourse financing, obtaining liquidity or refinancing the underlying securitized financial assets on improved terms. Securitization involves transferring assets to a SPE to convert all or a portion of those assets into cash before they would have been realized in the normal course of business, through the SPE s issuance of debt or equity instruments. Investors in an SPE usually have recourse only to the assets in the SPE and depending on the overall structure of the transaction, may benefit from various forms of credit enhancement, such as over-collateralization in the form of excess assets in the SPE, priority with respect to receipt of cash flows relative to holders of other debt or equity instruments issued by the SPE, or a line of credit or other form of liquidity agreement that is designed with the objective of ensuring that investors receive principal and/or interest cash flow on the investment in accordance with the terms of their investment agreement.

# MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

Resecuritization transactions

Since October 2010, the Company entered into several resecuritization transactions that resulted in the Company consolidating as VIEs the SPEs that were created to facilitate the transactions and to which the underlying assets in connection with the resecuritizations were transferred. See Note 2(p) for a discussion of the accounting policies applied to the consolidation of VIEs and transfers of financial assets in connection with resecuritization transactions.

The following table summarizes the key details of the resecuritization transactions the Company has been involved in to date:

Fe	bruary 2012		June 2011	1	February 2011		October 2010
WF	MLT Series	CSMC Series		CSMC Series			
2	2012-RR1		2011-7R		2011-1R	D	MSI 2010-RS2
\$	433,347	\$	1,283,422	\$	1,319,969	\$	985,228
\$	186,691	\$	474,866	\$	488,389	\$	246,307
\$	155,125	\$	275,189	\$	266,632	\$	52,525
						On	e-month LIBOR
		Oı	ne-month LIBOR	On	e-month LIBOR	1	olus 125 basis
	2.85%	b plu	is 125 basis points	plus	100 basis points		points
\$	246,656	\$	808,556	\$	831,580	\$	738,921
\$	186,691	\$	474,866	\$	488,389	\$	246,307
\$	186,691	\$	474,866	\$	488,389	\$	246,307
\$	1,814	\$	3,230	\$	3,527	\$	3,562
	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$ 186,691 \$ 155,125 2.859 \$ 246,656 \$ 186,691 \$ 186,691	WFMLT Series 2012-RR1 \$ 433,347 \$ \$ 186,691 \$ \$ 155,125 \$	WFMLT Series 2011-7R 2011-7R 2012-RR1 2011-7R 1,283,422 2 186,691 \$ 474,866 2.85% plus 125 basis points 246,656 \$ 808,556 \$ 186,691 \$ 474,866 \$ 186,691 \$ 474,866	WFMLT Series	WFMLT Series         CSMC Series         CSMC Series           2012-RR1         2011-7R         2011-1R           \$ 433,347         1,283,422         1,319,969           \$ 186,691         474,866         488,389           \$ 155,125         275,189         266,632           One-month LIBOR         One-month LIBOR plus 100 basis points           \$ 246,656         808,556         831,580           \$ 186,691         474,866         488,389           \$ 186,691         474,866         488,389	WFMLT Series         CSMC Series         CSMC Series           2012-RR1         2011-7R         2011-1R         D           \$ 433,347         \$ 1,283,422         \$ 1,319,969         \$           \$ 186,691         \$ 474,866         \$ 488,389         \$           \$ 155,125         \$ 275,189         \$ 266,632         \$ On           One-month LIBOR         One-month LIBOR plus 100 basis points         On           \$ 246,656         \$ 808,556         \$ 831,580         \$           \$ 186,691         \$ 474,866         \$ 488,389         \$

<sup>(1)</sup> Provides credit support for the sequential Senior Non-Agency MBS sold to third-party investors in resecuritization transactions ( Senior Bonds ).

The Company engaged in these transactions primarily for the purpose of obtaining non-recourse financing on a portion of its Non-Agency MBS portfolio, as well as refinancing a portion of its Non-Agency MBS portfolio on improved terms. As a result of engaging in these transactions, the risks facing the Company are largely unchanged as the Company remains economically exposed to the first loss position on the underlying MBS transferred to the VIEs.

<sup>(2)</sup> Amortized to interest expense based upon the actual repayments of the associated beneficial interests issued to third parties.

The activities that can be performed by an entity created to facilitate a resecuritization transaction are predominantly specified in the entity s formation documents. Those documents do not permit the entity, any beneficial interest holder in the entity, or any other party associated with the entity to cause the entity to sell or replace the assets held by the entity, or to limit such ability to specific events of default.

The Company concluded that the entities created to facilitate these transactions are VIEs. The Company then completed an analysis of whether each VIE created to facilitate the resecuritization transaction should be consolidated by the Company, based on consideration of its involvement in each VIE, including the design and purpose of the SPE, and whether its involvement reflected a controlling financial interest that resulted in the Company being deemed the primary beneficiary of each VIE. In determining whether the Company would be considered the primary beneficiary, the following factors were assessed:

- Whether the Company has both the power to direct the activities that most significantly impact the economic performance of the VIE; and
- Whether the Company has a right to receive benefits or absorb losses of the entity that could be potentially significant to the VIE.

Based on its evaluation of the factors discussed above, including its involvement in the purpose and design of the entity, the Company determined that it was required to consolidate each VIE created to facilitate these resecuritization transactions.

#### Table of Contents

#### MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the aggregate fair value of the Non-Agency MBS that were resecuritized as described above was \$2.655 billion and \$2.283 billion, respectively. These assets are included in the Company s consolidated balance sheet and disclosed as Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs. As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the aggregate outstanding balance of Senior Bonds issued by consolidated VIEs was \$749.5 million and \$875.5 million, respectively. These Senior Bonds are included in the Company s consolidated balance sheet and disclosed as Securitized debt. The holders of the Senior Bonds have no recourse to the general credit of the Company, but the Company does have the obligation, under certain circumstances to repurchase assets from the VIE upon the breach of certain representations and warranties in relation to the Non-Agency MBS sold to the VIE. In the absence of such a breach, the Company has no obligation to provide any other explicit or implicit support to any VIE.

Prior to the completion of the Company s first resecuritization transaction in October 2010, the Company had not transferred assets to VIEs or QSPEs and other than acquiring MBS issued by such entities, had no other involvement with VIEs or QSPEs.

#### Item 2. Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

In this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, we refer to MFA Financial, Inc. and its subsidiaries as we, us, or our, unless we specifically state otherwise or the context otherwise indicates.

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our financial statements and accompanying notes included in Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q as well as our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

#### **Forward Looking Statements**

When used in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, in future filings with the SEC or in press releases or other written or oral communications, statements which are not historical in nature, including those containing words such as will, believe, expect, anticipate, estimate, plan, c intend, should, could, would, may or similar expressions, are intended to identify forward-looking statements within the meaning of Sect of the 1933 Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (or the 1934 Act), and, as such, may involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions.

These forward-looking statements include information about possible or assumed future results with respect to our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations, plans and objectives. Statements regarding the following subjects, among others, may be forward-looking: changes in interest rates and the market value of our MBS; changes in the prepayment rates on the mortgage loans securing our MBS, an increase of which could result in a reduction of the yield on MBS in our portfolio and an increase of which could require us to reinvest the proceeds received by us as a result of such prepayments in MBS with lower coupons; changes in the default rates and management s assumptions regarding default rates of our Non-Agency MBS; our ability to borrow to finance our assets and the terms, including the cost, maturity and other terms, of any such borrowings; implementation of or changes in government regulations or programs affecting our business; our ability to maintain our qualification as a REIT for federal income tax purposes; our ability to maintain our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (or the Investment Company Act), including statements regarding the concept release issued by the SEC relating to interpretive issues under the Investment Company Act with respect to the status under the Investment Company Act of certain companies that are in engaged in the business of acquiring mortgages and mortgage-related interests; and risks associated with investing in real estate assets, including changes in business conditions and the general economy. These and other risks, uncertainties and factors, including those described in the annual, quarterly and current reports that we file with the SEC, could cause our actual results to differ materially from those projected in any forward-looking statements we make. All forward-looking statements are based on beliefs, assumptions and expectations of our future performance, taking into account all information currently available. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they are made. New risks and uncertainties arise over time and it is not possible to predict those events or how they may affect us. Except as required by law, we are not obligated to, and do not intend to, update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

### Business/General

We are a REIT primarily engaged in the business of investing, on a leveraged basis, in residential Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS. Our principal business objective is to generate net income for distribution to our stockholders resulting from the difference between the interest and

other income we earn on our investments and the interest expense we pay on the borrowings that we use to finance our leveraged investments and our operating costs.

At September 30, 2012, we had total assets of approximately \$13.735 billion, of which \$12.674 billion, or 92.3%, represented our MBS portfolio. At such date, our MBS portfolio was comprised of \$7.477 billion of Agency MBS and \$5.197 billion of Non-Agency MBS. Our remaining investment-related assets were primarily comprised of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, collateral obtained in connection with reverse repurchase agreements, Linked Transactions and other MBS-related receivables.

The results of our business operations are affected by a number of factors, many of which are beyond our control, and primarily depend on, among other things, the level of our net interest income, the market value of our assets, the supply and demand for MBS in the marketplace, the terms and availability of adequate financing, general economic and real estate conditions (both on national and local level), the impact of government actions in the real estate and mortgage sector, and the credit performance of our Non-Agency MBS. Our net interest income varies primarily as a result of changes in interest rates, the slope of the yield curve (i.e., the differential between long-term and short-term interest rates), borrowing costs (i.e., our interest expense) and prepayment speeds on our MBS, the behavior of which involves various risks and uncertainties. Interest rates and CPRs (which measure the amount of

#### **Table of Contents**

unscheduled principal prepayment on a bond as a percentage of the bond balance), vary according to the type of investment, conditions in the financial markets, competition and other factors, none of which can be predicted with any certainty.

With respect to our business operations, increases in interest rates, in general, may over time cause: (i) the interest expense associated with our borrowings to increase; (ii) the value of our MBS portfolio and, correspondingly, our stockholders equity to decline; (iii) coupons on our ARM-MBS to reset, on a delayed basis, to higher interest rates; (iv) prepayments on our MBS to decline, thereby slowing the amortization of our MBS purchase premiums and the accretion of our purchase discounts; and (v) the value of our derivative hedging instruments and, correspondingly, our stockholders equity to increase. Conversely, decreases in interest rates, in general, may over time cause: (i) the interest expense associated with our borrowings to decrease; (ii) the value of our MBS portfolio and, correspondingly, our stockholders equity to increase; (iii) coupons on our ARM-MBS to reset, on a delayed basis, to lower interest rates; (iv) prepayments on our MBS to increase, thereby accelerating the amortization of our MBS purchase premiums and the accretion of our purchase discounts; and (v) the value of our derivative hedging instruments and, correspondingly, our stockholders equity to decrease. In addition, our borrowing costs and credit lines are further affected by the type of collateral we pledge and general conditions in the credit market.

We are exposed to credit risk in our Non-Agency MBS portfolio, generally meaning that we are subject to credit losses in our Non-Agency MBS portfolio that correspond to the risk of delinquency, default and foreclosure on the real estate collateralizing our Non-Agency MBS. In particular we have significantly higher exposure in our Non-Agency MBS portfolio in California, Florida, New York, Virginia and New Jersey. However, the remaining credit support built into Non-Agency MBS transaction structures is designed to mitigate the extent of expected credit losses. In addition, we believe the discounted purchase prices paid on certain of our Non-Agency MBS effectively mitigates our risk of loss in the event, as we expect on most, that we receive less than 100% of the par value of these securities. Our Non-Agency MBS investment process involves analysis focused primarily on quantifying and pricing credit risk. Interest income on Non-Agency MBS purchased at a significant discount are recorded at an effective yield, based on management s estimate of expected cash flows from each security, which estimate is based on our observation of current information and events and include assumptions related to fluctuations in interest rates, prepayment speeds and the timing and amount of credit losses.

Premiums arise when we acquire MBS at a price in excess of the principal balance of the mortgages securing such MBS (i.e., par value). Conversely, discounts arise when we acquire MBS at a price below the principal balance of the mortgages securing such MBS. Premiums paid on our MBS are amortized against interest income and accretable purchase discounts on our MBS are accreted to interest income. Purchase premiums on our MBS, which are primarily carried on our Agency MBS, are amortized against interest income over the life of each security using the effective yield method, adjusted for actual prepayment activity. An increase in the prepayment rate, as measured by the CPR, will typically accelerate the amortization of purchase premiums, thereby reducing the yield/interest income earned on such assets. Generally, if prepayments on our Non-Agency MBS are less than anticipated, we expect that the income recognized on such assets would be reduced and impairments could result.

CPR levels are impacted by, among other things, conditions in the housing market, new regulations, government and private sector initiatives, interest rates, availability of credit to home borrowers, underwriting standards and the economy in general. In particular, CPR reflects the conditional repayment rates (or CRR), which measures voluntary prepayments of mortgages collateralizing a particular MBS, and the conditional default rates (or CDR), which measures involuntary prepayments resulting from defaults. CPRs on Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS may differ significantly. For the three months ended September 30, 2012, our Agency MBS portfolio experienced a weighted average CPR of 21.6%, and our Non-Agency MBS portfolio (including Non-Agency MBS underlying our Linked Transactions) experienced a CPR of 15.4%. For the three months ended June 30, 2012 our Agency MBS portfolio experienced a weighted average CPR of 20.4% and our Non-Agency MBS portfolio (including Non-Agency MBS underlying our Linked Transactions) experienced a CPR of 14.9%. Over the last consecutive eight quarters, ending with September 30, 2012, the monthly fair value weighted average CPR on our MBS portfolio ranged from a high of 23.9% experienced during the quarter ended December 31, 2010 to a low of 15.2%, experienced during the quarter ended June 30, 2011, with an average CPR over such quarters of 18.1%.

When we purchase Non-Agency MBS at significant discounts to par value, we make certain assumptions with respect to each security. These assumptions include, but are not limited to, future interest rates, voluntary prepayment rates, default rates, mortgage modifications and loss severities. As part of our Non-Agency MBS surveillance process, we track and compare each security s actual performance over time to the performance expected at the time of purchase or, if we have modified our original purchase assumptions, to our revised

#### Table of Contents

performance expectations. To the extent that actual performance of our Non-Agency MBS deviates materially from our expected performance parameters, we may revise our performance expectations, such that the amount of purchase discount designated as credit discount may be increased or decreased over time. Nevertheless, credit losses greater than those anticipated or in excess of the recorded purchase discount could occur, which could materially adversely impact our operating results.

It is our business strategy to hold our MBS as long-term investments. On at least a quarterly basis, we assess our ability and intent to continue to hold each security and, as part of this process, we monitor our securities for other-than-temporary impairment. A change in our ability and/or intent to continue to hold any of our securities that are in an unrealized loss position, or a deterioration in the underlying characteristics of these securities, could result in our recognizing future impairment charges or a loss upon the sale of any such security. At September 30, 2012, we had net unrealized gains of \$257.9 million on our Agency MBS, comprised of gross unrealized gains of \$258.9 million and gross unrealized losses of \$961,000, and had net unrealized gains on our Non-Agency MBS of \$506.7 million, comprised of gross unrealized gains of \$519.9 million and gross unrealized losses of \$13.2 million. At September 30, 2012, we did not intend to sell any of our MBS that were in an unrealized loss position, and we believe it is more likely than not that we will not be required to sell those MBS before recovery of their amortized cost basis, which may be at their maturity. (See following discussion on Recent Market Conditions and Our Strategy.)

We rely primarily on borrowings under repurchase agreements to finance our Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS. Our MBS have longer-term contractual maturities than our borrowings under repurchase agreements. We have also engaged in resecuritization transactions with respect to our Non-Agency MBS, which provide access to non-recourse financing. Even though most of our MBS have interest rates that adjust over time based on short-term changes in corresponding interest rate indices (typically following an initial fixed-rate period for our Hybrids), the interest rates we pay on our borrowings and securitized debt will typically change at a faster pace than the interest rates we earn on our MBS. In order to reduce this interest rate risk exposure, we may enter into derivative hedging instruments, which are currently comprised of Swaps.

Our derivative hedging instruments are designated as cash-flow hedges against a portion of our current and forecasted LIBOR-based repurchase agreements and securitized debt. Our Swaps do not extend the maturities of our repurchase agreements and/or securitized debt; they do, however, lock in a fixed rate of interest over their term for the notional amount of the Swap corresponding to the hedged item. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, we did not enter into any new Swaps and had Swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$617.2 million and a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 3.56% amortize and/or expire. At September 30, 2012, we had Swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$2.761 billion with a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 2.64% and a weighted average variable interest rate of 0.25%.

#### **Recent Market Conditions and Our Strategy**

During the third quarter of 2012, we continued to invest in both Agency and Non-Agency MBS, as reflected by the increase in size of our MBS portfolio at September 30, 2012. During the three months ended September 30, 2012, we acquired approximately (i) \$1.025 billion of Agency MBS at a weighted average purchase price of 105.2% of par value and (ii) \$295.3 million of Non-Agency MBS (none of which were reported as a component of Linked Transactions) at a weighted average purchase price of 71.5% of par value. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, we acquired approximately (i) \$1.899 billion of Agency MBS at a weighted average purchase price of 104.8% of par value and (ii) \$1.096 billion of Non-Agency MBS (none of which were reported as a component of Linked Transactions) at a weighted average purchase price of 74.5% of par value. At September 30, 2012, our combined MBS portfolio was approximately \$12.674 billion compared to \$10.913 billion at December 31, 2011.

Our MBS portfolio acquisitions during the third quarter of 2012 reflected attractive investment opportunities and the continued availability of financing. We were able to selectively find relative value in the Agency MBS market due, in part, to the positively-sloped U.S. Treasury and

LIBOR yield curves and low funding costs. Additionally, Non-Agency MBS were available in the marketplace at discounts to par value.

#### Table of Contents

We continue to believe that loss-adjusted returns on Non-Agency MBS represent attractive investment opportunities. The yields on our Non-Agency MBS that were purchased at a discount are generally positively impacted if prepayment rates on these securities exceed our prepayment assumptions. Given rising multifamily rents, limited housing construction, capital flows into rent-to-own foreclosure purchases and demographic-driven U.S. household formation, there have been increasing signs of home price stabilization. However, we do continue to appropriately factor in the uncertainty regarding housing fundamentals into our cash flow projection and credit reserve analysis. We expect that the majority of our assets will remain in Agency MBS.

At September 30, 2012, \$5.197 billion, or 41.0% of our MBS portfolio, was invested in Non-Agency MBS. In addition, we had \$49.1 million of Non-Agency MBS that were reported as a component of our Linked Transactions. During the three months ended September 30, 2012, we experienced an increase of \$409.7 million in the market value of our Non-Agency MBS. In addition, we recognized unrealized gains of \$2.5 million on Non-Agency MBS underlying our Linked Transactions.

With \$450.4 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$568.6 million of unpledged Agency MBS at September 30, 2012, we believe that we are positioned to continue to take advantage of investment opportunities within the residential MBS marketplace. During the remainder of 2012 we intend to continue to selectively acquire Agency and Non-Agency MBS. We believe that our Non-Agency assets will be positively impacted going forward as the existing private label MBS universe continues to decline in size due to prepayments, defaults and limited issuance. In addition, while most Non-Agency MBS in our portfolio will not return their full face value due to loan defaults, we believe that they will deliver attractive loss adjusted yields due to our discounted average amortized cost of 73% of face value.

To finance the growth of our portfolio, we continue to pursue diversified financing sources, including longer term forms of repurchase agreement financing and resecuritizations. During the third quarter of 2012, we extended by 13 months through January 2016 the maturity of our multi-year collateralized financing arrangements that effectively provides financing for approximately \$500 million Non-Agency MBS. The financing obtained under these arrangements was increased by approximately \$200 million in the first quarter of 2012. During the second quarter of 2012, we added a \$350.0 million three-year repurchase agreement and a \$90.0 million 18-month repurchase agreement to finance Non-Agency MBS assets, and we issued \$100.0 million aggregate principal amount of Senior Notes in an underwritten public offering. The total net proceeds from the offering were approximately \$96.6 million, after deducting offering expenses and the underwriting discount. On February 9, 2012, we sold \$433.3 million in principal amount of Non-Agency MBS as a part of a resecuritization. In connection with this transaction, \$186.7 million of senior bonds rated AAA by DBRS, Inc. were issued to third-party investors via a trust. These bonds, with an average life of 1.9 years, were priced at a 2.75% yield. While funding obtained under our multi-year collateralized financing arrangements is incrementally more expensive than short-term repurchase agreement financing by approximately 100-150 basis points, we believe the certainty of the committed term outweighs the additional cost. Consequently, we anticipate that the net interest spread for the portion of the portfolio financed using these multi-year financing arrangements will be lower in future periods. See Liquidity and Capital Resources below for more information regarding our financing sources and strategies.

We believe the financial environment continues to be favorably impacted by accommodative U.S. monetary policy. Repurchase agreement funding for both Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS continues to be available to us from multiple counterparties. Typically, repurchase agreement funding involving Non-Agency MBS is available from fewer counterparties, at terms requiring higher collateralization and higher interest rates, than for repurchase agreement funding involving Agency MBS. At September 30, 2012, we had borrowings under repurchase agreements with 26 counterparties, securitized debt and Senior Notes outstanding, payable for unsettled MBS purchases, and obligation to return securities obtained as collateral, resulting in a debt-to-equity multiple of 3.2x. (See table on page 55 under Results of Operations that presents our quarterly leverage multiples since September 30, 2011.)

In the third quarter of 2012, the U.S. Federal Reserve announced that it intends to keep the target range for the Federal Funds rate at 0% to 0.25% and anticipates that exceptionally low levels are likely to be warranted at least through mid-2015. The U.S. Federal Reserve also

announced that it will increase its holdings of Agency MBS by \$40 billion per month until the labor market improves. It is also continuing its policy of reinvesting principal payments from existing Agency holdings, bringing total monthly purchases near \$85 billion. These actions have put downward pressure on Agency MBS yields.

**GAAP Basis** 

At September 30, 2012

### **Information About Our Assets**

The table below presents certain information about our asset allocation at September 30, 2012:

#### ASSET ALLOCATION

Non-Agency

MBS

(Dollars in Thousands)	A	gency MBS		MBS		Portfolio		Cash (1)	C	Other, net (2)	Total
Amortized Cost	\$	7,218,952	\$	4,690,253	\$	11,909,205	\$	457,455	\$	(6,123) \$	12,360,537
Market Value	\$	7,476,848	\$	5,196,975	\$	12,673,823	\$	457,455	\$	(6,123) \$	13,125,155
Less Payable for Unsettled											
Purchases		(126,035)				(126,035)					(126,035)
Less Repurchase Agreements		(6,460,037)		(2,372,289)		(8,832,326)					(8,832,326)
Less Securitized Debt				(749,471)		(749,471)					(749,471)
Less Senior Notes										(100,000)	(100,000)
Equity Allocated	\$	890,776	\$	2,075,215	\$	2,965,991	\$	457,455	\$	(106,123) \$	3,317,323
Less Swaps at Market Value										(78,169)	(78,169)
Net Equity Allocated	\$	890,776	\$	2,075,215	\$	2,965,991	\$	457,455	\$	(184,292) \$	3,239,154
Debt/Net Equity Ratio (3)		7.39x		1.50x							3.19x
Non-GAAP Adjustments											
At September 30, 2012		A NEDG		Non-Agency		MBS		G 1 (1)	_	N	TD 4.1
(Dollars in Thousands)		Agency MBS	φ	MBS (4)	Φ	Portfolio	φ	Cash (1)		Other, net (4)	Total
Amortized Cost	\$		\$		\$		\$		\$	(12,635) \$	33,023
Market Value	\$	•	\$		\$	49,058	\$		\$	(12,635) \$	36,423
Repurchase Agreements				466,691		466,691					466,691
Multi-year Collateralized				(502.114)		(502.114)					(502.114)
Financing Agreements (5)	đ	,	ф	(503,114)		(503,114)			Φ	(12 (25) ф	(503,114)
Equity Allocated	\$		\$			12,635			\$	(12,635) \$	
Net Equity Allocated	\$	i	\$	12,635	\$	12,635	\$		\$	(12,635) \$	
Amortized Cost	\$	7,218,952	\$	4,735,911	\$	11,954,863	\$	457,455	\$	(18,758) \$	12,393,560
i morazea cost	Ψ	7,210,732	Ψ	1,733,711	Ψ	11,95 1,005	Ψ	137,133	Ψ	(10,730) ¢	12,373,300
Less Payable for Unsettled											
Purchases		(126,035)				(126,035)					(126,035)
		( 1,111)				( 1,111)					( 1,111)
Less Multi-year Collateralized											
Financing Agreements (5)				(503,114)		(503,114)					(503,114)
Less Senior Notes										(100,000)	(100,000)
Less Swaps at Market Value										(78,169)	(78,169)

Debt/Net Equity Ratio (3) 7.39x 1.51x 3.20x

- (1) Includes cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash.
- (2) Includes securities obtained and pledged as collateral, Linked Transactions, interest receivable, goodwill, prepaid and other assets, obligation to return securities obtained as collateral, Senior Notes, interest payable, derivative hedging instruments at fair value, dividends payable and accrued expenses and other liabilities.
- (3) Represents the sum of borrowings under repurchase agreements, multi-year collateralized financing arrangements, payable for unsettled purchases, obligation to return securities obtained as collateral of \$509.7 million, securitized debt and Senior Notes as a multiple of net equity allocated.
- (4) Includes Non-Agency MBS and repurchase agreements underlying Linked Transactions. The purchase of a Non-Agency MBS and repurchase borrowing of this MBS with the same counterparty are accounted for under GAAP as a linked transaction. The two components of a linked transaction (MBS purchase and associated borrowings under a repurchase agreement) are evaluated on a combined basis and are presented net as Linked Transactions on our consolidated balance sheet.
- (5) Multi-year collateralized financing arrangements are viewed by management as having an effective term of 3.3 years, but for GAAP reporting purposes are disclosed within repurchase agreements and as having a contractual term of over 30 days to 90 days.
- (6) Includes securities obtained and pledged as collateral, interest receivable, goodwill, prepaid and other assets, obligation to return securities obtained as collateral of \$509.7 million, Senior Notes, interest payable, derivative hedging instruments at fair value, dividends payable and accrued expenses and other liabilities.

### **Agency MBS**

The following table presents certain information regarding the composition of our Agency MBS portfolio as of September 30, 2012:

(Dollars in Thousands)	Current Face	Weighted Average Purchase Price	Weighted Average Market Price	Fair Value (1)	Weighted Average Loan Age (Months) (2)	Weighted Average Coupon (2)	Weighted Average 3 Month CPR	1 Month CPR (October 2012) (3)
15-Year Fixed Rate:								
Low Loan Balance (4)	\$ 1,475,467	104.3%	107.6% \$	1,587,401	13	3.47%	12.1%	8.9%
HARP (5)	170,714	104.8	107.2	182,956	9	3.31	5.9	3.4
Other (Post June 2009) (6)	362,981	103.2	107.0	388,499	27	4.17	24.4	28.7
Other (Pre June 2009) (7)	2,549	104.9	107.7	2,746	40	4.50	14.7	45.4
Total 15-Year Fixed								
Rate	\$ 2,011,711	104.1%	107.5% \$	2,161,602	16	3.58%	14.4%	12.3%
Hybrid:								
Other (Post June 2009) (6)	\$ 2,877,251	103.9%	106.4% \$	3,060,914	19	3.28%	23.7%	20.0%
Other (Pre June 2009) (7)	1,894,055	101.4	107.4	2,034,802	67	4.22	26.0	21.3
Total Hybrid	\$ 4,771,306	102.9%	106.8% \$	5,095,716	38	3.65%	24.6%	20.5%
CMO/Other	\$ 205,216	102.4%	104.4% \$	214,190	143	2.48%	10.2%	11.2%
Total Portfolio	\$ 6,988,233	103.2%	106.9% \$	7,471,508	35	3.60%	21.6%	18.0%

<sup>(1)</sup> Does not include principal payments receivable of \$5.3 million at September 30, 2012.

- (6) MBS issued in June 2009 or later. Majority of underlying loans are ineligible to refinance through the HARP program.
- (7) MBS issued before June 2009.

The following table presents certain information regarding our 15-year fixed-rate Agency MBS as of September 30, 2012:

Coupon (Dollars in Thousand	Current s) Face	Weighted Average Purchase Price	Weighted Average Market Price	Fair Value (1)	Weighted Average Loan Age (Months) (2)	Weighted Average Loan Rate	Low Loan Balance and/or HARP (3)	Weighted Average 3 Month CPR	1 Month CPR (October 2012) (4)
15-Year Fixed Rate:									
2.5% \$	290,274	103.9%	105.3% \$	\$ 305,671	2	3.04%	99%	1.5%	1.2%

<sup>(2)</sup> Weighted average is based on MBS current face at September 30, 2012.

<sup>(3)</sup> Weighted average one-month CPR realized in October 2012 for Agency MBS settled as of September 30, 2012.

<sup>(4)</sup> Low loan balance represents MBS collateralized by mortgages with original loan balance of less than or equal to \$175,000.

<sup>(5)</sup> Home Affordable Refinance Program (or HARP) MBS are backed by refinanced loans with loan-to-value ratio (or LTV) greater than or equal to 80% at origination.

3.0	492,007	105.8	106.7	524,920	3	3.48	100	3.4	2.5
3.5	23,865	103.5	107.6	25,684	23	4.16	100	29.4	14.4
4.0	1,007,141	103.2	108.3	1,090,623	23	4.40	78	17.0	17.4
4.5	198,424	105.2	108.2	214,704	26	4.87	31	18.9	20.2
Total 15-Year									
Fixed Rate	\$ 2,011,711	104.1%	107.5% \$	2,161,602	16	4.02%	82%	14.4%	12.3%

<sup>(1)</sup> Does not include principal payments receivable at September 30, 2012.

<sup>(2)</sup> Weighted average is based on MBS current face at September 30, 2012.

<sup>(3)</sup> Low Loan Balance represents MBS collateralized by mortgages with original loan balance less than or equal to \$175,000. HARP MBS are backed by refinanced loans with LTV greater than or equal to 80% at origination.

<sup>(4)</sup> Weighted average one-month CPR realized in October 2012 for Agency MBS settled as of September 30, 2012.

### Table of Contents

The following table presents certain information regarding our Hybrid Agency MBS as of September 30, 2012:

(Dollars in Thousands)	Current Face	Weighted Average Purchase Price	Weighted Average Market Price	Fair Value (1)	Weighted Average Coupon (2)	Weighted Average Loan Age (Months) (2)	Weighted Average Months to Reset (3)	Interest Only (4)	Weighted Average 3 Month CPR	1 Month CPR (October 2012) (5)
Hybrid Post June 2009:										
Agency 5/1	\$ 1,304,556	103.3%	106.1%\$	1,384,365	3.43%	26	33	24%	28.1%	23.0%
Agency 7/1	1,532,890	104.3	106.6	1,634,255	3.17	14	69	19	20.2	17.8
Agency 10/1	39,805	104.4	106.3	42,294	2.94	3	116		4.3	9.9
Total Hybrids Post June 2009	\$ 2,877,251	103.9%	106.4%\$	3,060,914	3.28%	19	54	21%	23.7%	20.0%
Hybrid Pre June 2009:										
Coupon < 4.5% (6)	\$ 864,603	101.6%	107.1%\$	926,311	2.79%	76	6	53%	14.5%	13.1%
Coupon $>= 4.5\%$ (7)	1,029,452	101.2	107.7	1,108,491	5.42	59	27	76	34.6	28.4
Total Hybrids Pre										
June 2009	\$ 1,894,055	101.4%	107.4%\$	2,034,802	4.22%	67	17	66%	26.0%	21.3%
Total Hybrids	\$ 4,771,306	102.9%	106.8%\$	5,095,716	3.65%	38	39	39%	24.6%	20.5%

<sup>(1)</sup> Does not include principal payments receivable at September 30, 2012.

- (5) Weighted average one-month CPR realized in October 2012 for Agency MBS settled as of September 30, 2012.
- (6) Agency 3/1, 5/1, 7/1 and 10/1 Hybrid ARM MBS with coupon less than 4.5%.
- (7) Agency 3/1, 5/1, 7/1 and 10/1 Hybrid ARM MBS with coupon greater than or equal to 4.5%.

<sup>(2)</sup> Weighted average is based on MBS current face at September 30, 2012.

<sup>(3)</sup> Weighted average months to reset is the number of months remaining before the coupon interest rate resets. At reset, the MBS coupon will adjust based upon the underlying benchmark interest rate index, margin and periodic or lifetime caps. The months to reset do not reflect scheduled amortization or prepayments.

<sup>(4)</sup> Interest only represents MBS backed by mortgages currently in their interest only period. Percentage is based on MBS current face at September 30, 2012.

### Non-Agency MBS

The following table presents information with respect to our Non-Agency MBS: (i) excluding Linked Transactions and reported in accordance with GAAP; (ii) underlying our Linked Transactions and reflected consistent with GAAP reporting requirements; and (iii) on a combined basis as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

(In Thousands)	September 30, 2012			December 31, 2011
(i) Non-Agency MBS (GAAP - excluding Linked Transactions)				
Face/Par	\$	6,457,071	\$	5,414,353
Fair Value		5,196,975		3,775,446
Amortized Cost		4,690,253		3,936,211
Purchase (Discount) Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI		(1,459,651)(1,	)	(1,228,766)(2)
Purchase (Discount) Designated as Accretable		(308,076)		(250,479)
Purchase Premiums		909		1,103
(ii) Non-Agency MBS Underlying Linked Transactions				
Face/Par	\$	54,690	\$	289,536
Fair Value		49,058		225,969
Amortized Cost		45,658		237,595
Purchase (Discount) Designated as Credit Reserve		(6,646)		(45,735)
Purchase (Discount) Designated as Accretable		(2,386)		(6,206)
Purchase Premiums				
(iii) Combined Non-Agency MBS and MBS Underlying Linked				
Transactions (Non-GAAP)				
Face/Par	\$	6,511,761	\$	5,703,889
Fair Value		5,246,033		4,001,415
Amortized Cost		4,735,911		4,173,806
Purchase (Discount) Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI		(1,466,297)(3)	)	(1,274,501)(4)
Purchase (Discount) Designated as Accretable		(310,462)		(256,685)
Purchase Premiums		909		1,103

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes discount designated as Credit Reserve of \$1.409 billion and OTTI of \$50.3 million.

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes discount designated as Credit Reserve of \$1.174 billion and OTTI of \$54.5 million.

<sup>(3)</sup> Includes discount designated as Credit Reserve of \$1.416 billion and OTTI of \$50.3 million.

<sup>(4)</sup> Includes discount designated as Credit Reserve of \$1.220 billion and OTTI of \$54.5 million.

Purchase Discounts on Non-Agency MBS and Securities Underlying Linked Transactions

The following tables present the changes in the components of purchase discount on Non-Agency MBS with respect to purchase discount designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI, and accretable purchase discount, including securities underlying Linked Transactions, for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 on both a GAAP and Non-GAAP basis.

GAAP Basis (In Thousands)	Three Mont September Discount esignated as lit Reserve and OTTI	 	Three Mo Septembe Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI		
Balance at beginning of	0111	Discount (1)	0111		Discount (1)
period	\$ (1,440,752)	\$ (265,137)	\$ (1,174,890)	\$	(222,930)
Accretion of discount		8,816			10,785
Realized credit losses	49,314		10,735		
Purchases	(122,266)	4,554	(29,141)		(16,198)
Net impairment losses					
recognized in earnings			(3,991)		
Unlinking of Linked					
Transactions		(2,256)	(10,419)		(61)
Transfers/release of credit					
reserve	54,053	(54,053)	11,305		(11,305)
Balance at the end of period	\$ (1,459,651)	\$ (308,076)	\$ (1,196,401)	\$	(239,709)

		Three Month September 3	 	Three Months Ended September 30, 2011			
	-	Discount signated as		Discount Designated as	,		
Non-GAAP Adjustments (In Thousands)		t Reserve and OTTI	Accretable Discount (1)	Credit Reserve and OTTI		Accretable Discount (1)	
Balance at beginning of period	\$	(7,152)	\$ (5,541)	\$ (60,804)	\$	(3,711)	
Accretion of discount			173			42	
Realized credit losses		452		374			
Purchases				(6,106)		862	
Unlinking of Linked							
Transactions			3,036	10,419		(1,928)	
Transfers/release of credit							
reserve		54	(54)	(1,107)		1,107	
Balance at the end of period	\$	(6,646)	\$ (2,386)	\$ (57,224)	\$	(3,628)	

	Three Mont September			Three Months Ended September 30, 2011			
Non-GAAP Basis (In Thousands)	Discount esignated as it Reserve and OTTI		Accretable Discount (1)	Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI			Accretable Discount (1)
Balance at beginning of period	\$ (1,447,904)	\$	(270,678)	\$	(1,235,694)	\$	(226,641)
Accretion of discount Realized credit losses	49,766		8,989	·	11,109		10,827

Purchases	(122,266)	4,554	(35,247)	(15,336)
Net impairment losses				
recognized in earnings			(3,991)	
Unlinking of Linked				
Transactions		780		(1,989)
Transfers/release of credit				
reserve	54,107	(54,107)	10,198	(10,198)
Balance at the end of period	\$ (1,466,297)	\$ (310,462) \$	(1,253,625)	\$ (243,337)

<sup>(1)</sup> Together with coupon interest, accretable purchase discount is recognized as interest income over the life of the security.

### Table of Contents

The following tables present the changes in the components of purchase discount on Non-Agency MBS with respect to purchase discount designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI, and accretable purchase discount, including securities underlying Linked Transactions, for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 on both a GAAP and Non-GAAP basis.

		Nine Month September 3	 	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011				
		Discount Designated as	Discount Designated as					
GAAP Basis (In Thousands)	Cre	dit Reserve and OTTI	Accretable Discount (1)	Credit Reserve and OTTI		Accretable Discount (1)		
Balance at beginning of		0111	Discount (1)	0111		Discoult (1)		
period	\$	(1,228,766)	\$ (250,479)	\$ (746,678)	\$	(228,966)		
Accretion of discount			28,107			33,107		
Realized credit losses		107,229		20,612				
Purchases		(370,649)	(3,883)	(360,655)		(19,035)		
Reclass discount for OTTI		866	(866)	101		(101)		
Net impairment losses								
recognized in earnings		(1,200)		(6,383)				
Unlinking of Linked								
Transactions		(38,662)	(9,424)	(116,489)		(11,623)		
Transfers/release of credit								
reserve		71,531	(71,531)	13,091		(13,091)		
Balance at the end of period	\$	(1,459,651)	\$ (308,076)	\$ (1,196,401)	\$	(239,709)		

		Nine Months September 3	 	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011			
	D	Discount esignated as		Discount Designated as			
Non-GAAP Adjustments (In Thousands)	Credit Reserve and OTTI		Accretable Discount (1)	Credit Reserve and OTTI		Accretable Discount (1)	
Balance at beginning of period	\$	(45,735)	\$ (6,206)	\$ (99,094)	\$	(45,756)	
Accretion of discount			826			2,737	
Realized credit losses		1,002		499			
Purchases				(74,809)		4,892	
Unlinking of Linked							
Transactions		38,662	2,419	116,489		34,190	
Transfers/release of credit							
reserve		(575)	575	(309)		309	
Balance at the end of period	\$	(6,646)	\$ (2,386)	\$ (57,224)	\$	(3,628)	

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012					Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011				
Non-GAAP Basis (In Thousands)	Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI			Accretable Discount (1)		Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI		Accretable Discount (1)		
Balance at beginning of										
period	\$	(1,274,501)	\$	(256,685)	\$	(845,772)	\$	(274,722)		
Accretion of discount				28,933				35,844		
Realized credit losses		108,231				21,111				
Purchases		(370,649)		(3,883)		(435,464)		(14,143)		

Edgar Filing: MFA FINANCIAL, INC. - Form 10-Q

Reclass discount for OTTI	866	(866)	101	(101)
Net impairment losses				
recognized in earnings	(1,200)		(6,383)	
Unlinking of Linked				
Transactions		(7,005)		22,567
Transfers/release of credit				
reserve	70,956	(70,956)	12,782	(12,782)
Balance at the end of period	\$ (1,466,297)	\$ (310,462) \$	(1,253,625)	\$ (243,337)

<sup>(1)</sup> Together with coupon interest, accretable purchase discount is recognized as interest income over the life of the security.

The following table presents information with respect to the yield components of our Non-Agency MBS: (i) excluding Linked Transactions and reported in accordance with GAAP; (ii) underlying our Linked Transactions and (iii) combined with the securities underlying Linked Transactions (Non-GAAP) for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

	Three Months September	
	2012	2011
Non-Agency MBS (GAAP - excluding Linked Transactions)		
Coupon Yield (1)	5.90%	6.15%
Effective Yield Adjustment (2)	0.75	1.10
Net Yield	6.65%	7.25%
Non-Agency MBS Underlying Linked Transactions		
Coupon Yield (1)	5.00%	6.37%
Effective Yield Adjustment (2)	1.34	0.05
Net Yield	6.34%	6.42%
Combined Non-Agency MBS and MBS Underlying Linked		
Transactions (Non-GAAP)		
Coupon Yield (1)	5.89%	6.17%
Effective Yield Adjustment (2)	0.76	1.03
Net Yield	6.65%	7.20%

<sup>(1)</sup> Reflects the annualized coupon interest income divided by the average amortized cost. The discounted purchase price on Non-Agency MBS causes the coupon yield to be higher than the pass-through coupon interest rate.

The information in the above tables, on pages 45-48, includes certain underlying Non-Agency MBS and the associated repurchase agreement borrowings that are disclosed both separately and/or on a combined basis with our Non-Agency MBS portfolio. However, for GAAP financial reporting purposes, these items are required to be accounted for by us as Linked Transactions. Consequently, the presentation of this information in the above tables constitutes Non-GAAP financial measures within the meaning of Regulation G, as promulgated by the SEC.

In assessing the performance of the Non-Agency MBS portfolio, we do not view these transactions as linked, but rather view the performance of the linked Non-Agency MBS and the related repurchase agreement borrowings as we would any other Non-Agency MBS that is not part of a linked transaction. Accordingly, we consider that the Non-GAAP information disclosed in the above tables enhances the ability of investors to analyze the performance of our Non-Agency MBS in the same way that we assess such assets.

In addition, in connection with our financing strategy for Non-Agency MBS, we have entered into contemporaneous repurchase agreement and reverse repurchase agreement transactions with a single counterparty. The transactions effectively result in us pledging Non-Agency MBS as collateral to the counterparty in connection with the repurchase agreement financing and obtaining U.S. Treasury securities as collateral in connection with the reverse repurchase agreement. Both the repurchase agreement and the reverse repurchase agreement have a contractual maturity of January 2016 with no net exchange of cash at inception. The U.S. Treasury collateral obtained is pledged as collateral in a subsequent repurchase agreement transaction with a different counterparty for cash. This subsequent repurchase transaction had a term of 90

<sup>(2)</sup> The effective yield adjustment is the difference between the net yield, calculated utilizing management s estimates of future cash flows for Non-Agency MBS, less the current coupon yield.

days at inception. For purposes of presentation of its repurchase agreement financing liabilities in the Non-GAAP Asset Allocation table on page 42, we offset our reverse repurchase agreement receivable that is secured by U.S. Treasuries received from the first counterparty against the repurchase agreement liability with the second counterparty for which we pledged those U.S. Treasury securities as collateral, as we believe net presentation is consistent with the economic substance of the transactions. However, GAAP prohibits offsetting of this asset and liability for a number of reasons, including the fact that the counterparties to these transactions are different, and there is no legal right of offset. For GAAP presentation purposes, the repurchase agreement liability against which we have pledged U.S. Treasuries is reported based on its legal contractual maturity. However, based on an evaluation of the economic substance of these collateralized financing arrangements, management considers that the Non-GAAP Asset Allocation table presented on page 42

more appropriately reflects the effective economic term of the financing obtained. Consequently, this presentation constitutes a Non-GAAP financial measure within the meaning of Regulation G, as promulgated by the SEC.

#### **Exposure to Financial Counterparties**

We finance the acquisition of a significant portion of our MBS with repurchase agreements. In connection with these financing arrangements, we pledge our securities as collateral to secure the borrowing. The amount of collateral pledged will typically exceed the amount of the financing with the extent of over-collateralization ranging from 1 - 6% of the amount borrowed (U.S. Treasury and Agency MBS collateral) to up to 63% (Non-Agency MBS collateral). Consequently, while repurchase agreement financing results in us recording a liability to the counterparty in our consolidated balance sheet, we are exposed to the counterparty, if during the term of the repurchase agreement financing, a lender should default on its obligation and we are not able to recover our pledged assets. The amount of this exposure is the difference between the amount loaned to us plus interest due to the counterparty and the fair value of the collateral pledged by us to the lender including accrued interest receivable on such collateral.

In addition, we use interest rate swaps to manage interest rate risk exposure in connection with our repurchase agreement financings. We will make cash payments or pledge securities as collateral as part of a margin arrangement in connection with interest rate swaps that are in an unrealized loss position. In the event that a counterparty were to default on its obligation, we would be exposed to a loss to a swap counterparty to the extent that the amount of cash or securities pledged exceeded the unrealized loss on the associated swaps and we were not able to recover the excess collateral.

During the past several years, certain of our repurchase agreement counterparties in the United States and Europe have experienced financial difficulty and have been either rescued by government assistance or otherwise benefitted from accommodative monetary policy of Central Banks.

The table below summarizes our exposure to our financial counterparties at September 30, 2012:

Country (Dollars in Thousands)	Number of Counterparties	Repurchase Agreement Financing	Sw	aps at Fair Value	E	exposure (1)	Exposure as a Percentage of MFA Total Assets
European Countries: (2)							
Germany	1	\$ 554,345	\$	(18,313)	\$	217,732	1.58%
Switzerland	3	1,411,410				899,084	6.53
France	1	418,823				23,467	0.17
Holland	1	346,611				17,003	0.12
United Kingdom	2	1,017,474		(25,809)		62,942	0.46
Total	8	3,748,663		(44,122)		1,220,228	8.86%
Other Countries:							
United States	11	\$ 4,264,033	\$	(34,047)	\$	631,781	4.59%
Japan	4	788,047				53,167	0.39
Other	3	568,006				158,742	1.17
Total	18	5,620,086		(34,047)		843,690	6.15%

Total Counterparty Exposure 26 \$ 9,368,749 (3)(4) \$ (78,169) \$ 2,063,918 15.01%

- (1) Represents for each counterparty the amount of cash and/or securities pledged as collateral less the aggregate of repurchase agreement financing, Swaps at fair value, and net interest receivable/payable on all such instruments.
- (2) Includes European-based counterparties as well as U.S.-domiciled subsidiaries of the European parent entity.
- (3) Includes \$500.0 million of repurchase agreements entered into in connection with contemporaneous repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements with a single counterparty.
- (4) Includes \$36.4 million of repurchase agreements which are a component of our Linked Transactions.

At September 30, 2012, we did not use credit default swaps or other forms of credit protection to hedge the exposures summarized in the table above.

If the European credit crisis continues to impact our major European financial counterparties, there is the possibility that it will also impact the operations of their U.S. domiciled subsidiaries. This could adversely affect our financing and operations as well as those of the entire mortgage sector in general. Management monitors our exposure to our repurchase agreement and swap counterparties on a regular basis, using various methods, including review of recent rating agency actions or other developments and by monitoring the amount of cash and securities

#### Table of Contents

collateral pledged and the associated loan amount under repurchase agreements and/or the fair value of swaps with our counterparties. We intend to make reverse margin calls on our counterparties to recover excess collateral as permitted by the agreements governing our financing arrangements, or take other necessary actions to reduce the amount of our exposure to a counterparty when such actions are considered necessary.

#### **Tax Considerations**

Variances between GAAP and Tax Income

Due to the potential timing differences in the recognition of GAAP net income compared to REIT taxable income on our investments, our net income and the unamortized amount of purchase discounts and premiums calculated in accordance with GAAP may differ significantly from such amounts calculated for purposes of determining our REIT taxable income. At September 30, 2012, net premiums on our Agency MBS portfolio (excluding net premiums on MBS purchased but not yet settled) were \$217.7 million compared to \$214.4 million for tax purposes. In accordance with GAAP, a portion of the purchase discounts on our Non-Agency MBS are allocated to a Credit Reserve and, as such, are not expected to be accreted into interest income. In addition, under GAAP, certain Non-Agency MBS underlying our Linked Transactions are not reported as MBS; however, for purposes of determining our REIT taxable income, all Non-Agency MBS, including those underlying Linked Transactions, are treated as being owned and the purchase discounts associated with these securities are accreted into taxable income over the life of the applicable security. Under GAAP, we had net purchase discounts on our Non-Agency MBS portfolio of \$1,767 billion, which when combined with purchase discounts of \$9.0 million related to securities underlying our Linked Transactions, resulted in total net purchase discounts on Non-Agency MBS of \$1.776 billion at September 30, 2012. Our total Non-Agency MBS portfolio for tax differs from our portfolio reported for GAAP. These differences are primarily due to the fact that for tax purposes; (i) certain of the MBS contributed to the VIEs used to facilitate resecuritization transactions were deemed to be sold; (ii) the tax portfolio includes certain securities issued by these VIEs; and (iii) Non-Agency MBS underlying Linked Transactions are included in our tax portfolio. In addition, for bonds common to both tax and GAAP reported portfolios, potential timing differences arise with respect to the accretion of market discount into income for tax purposes as compared to GAAP. These differences result in net purchase discounts for tax on our Non-Agency MBS at September 30, 2012 of \$1.507 billion. We currently anticipate that our REIT taxable income and GAAP net income will trend closer during the remainder of 2012.

### Resecuritizations

For tax purposes, depending on the transaction structure, a resecuritization transaction may be treated either as a sale or a financing of the underlying MBS. Income recognized from resecuritization transactions will differ for tax and GAAP. For tax purposes, we own and may in the future acquire interests in resecuritization trusts, in which several of the classes of securities are or will be issued with Original Issue Discount (or OID). As the holder of the retained interests in the trust, we generally will be required to include OID in our current gross interest income over the term of the applicable securities as the OID accrues. The rate at which the OID is recognized into taxable income is calculated using a constant rate of yield to maturity, without a loss assumption provision. For tax purposes, REIT taxable income may be recognized in excess of economic income (i.e., OID) or in advance of the corresponding cash flow from these assets, thereby effecting our dividend distribution requirement to stockholders.

#### **Regulatory Developments**

The U.S. Congress, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, U.S. Treasury, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, SEC and other governmental and regulatory bodies have taken and continue to consider additional actions in response to the financial crisis. In particular, the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (or the Dodd-Frank Act) created a new regulator housed within the Federal Reserve System, an independent bureau known as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (or the CFPB), which has broad authority over a wide range of consumer financial products and services, including mortgage lending. Another portion of the Dodd-Frank Act, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act (or the Mortgage Reform Act), contains new underwriting and servicing standards for the mortgage industry, as well as restrictions on compensation for mortgage originators. In addition, the Mortgage Reform Act grants broad discretionary regulatory authority to the CFPB to prohibit or condition terms, acts or practices relating to residential mortgage loans that the CFPB finds abusive, unfair, deceptive or predatory, as well as to take other actions that the CFPB finds are necessary or proper to ensure responsible affordable mortgage credit remains available to consumers. The Dodd-Frank Act also affects the securitization of mortgages (and other assets) with requirements for risk retention by securitizers and requirements for regulating credit rating agencies.

#### Table of Contents

The implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act requires implementing numerous regulations, many of which (including those mentioned above regarding underwriting and risk retention requirements) have been proposed for public comment. However, a large number of the Dodd-Frank Act rulemakings have yet to be finalized. Thus, we are unable to fully predict at this time how the Dodd-Frank Act, as well as other laws that may be adopted in the future, will impact our business, results of operations and financial condition, or the environment for repurchase financing and other forms of borrowing, the investing environment for Agency MBS, Non-Agency MBS and/or residential mortgage loans, the securitization industry, Swaps and other derivatives. However, at a minimum, we believe that the Dodd-Frank Act and the regulations to be promulgated thereunder are likely to increase the economic and compliance costs for participants in the mortgage and securitization industries, including us.

In addition to the regulatory actions being implemented under the Dodd-Frank Act, on August 31, 2011, the SEC issued a concept release under which it is reviewing interpretive issues related to Section 3(c)(5)(C) of the Investment Company Act. Section 3(c)(5)(C) excludes from the definition of investment company entities that are primarily engaged in, among other things, purchasing or otherwise acquiring mortgages and other liens on and interests in real estate. Many companies that engage in the business of acquiring mortgages and mortgage-related instruments, including us, seek to rely on an existing interpretation of the SEC Staff with respect to Section 3(c)(5)(C) so as not to become an investment company for the purpose of regulation under the Investment Company Act. The SEC has requested comments on, among other things, whether it should reconsider its existing interpretation of Section 3(c)(5)(C) on which we rely.

The potential timetable and outcome of the SEC  $\,$ s review are unclear. However, if the SEC determines to narrow or eliminate the interpretive exemption under Section 3(c)(5)(C) upon which we rely, we could be required to significantly restructure our operations in order to maintain our investment company exemption. Under these circumstances, our ability to use leverage could be substantially reduced, which would require us to change the way we conduct our business. For additional discussion of the SEC  $\,$ s concept release and its potential impact on us, please see Other Matters  $\,$ below.

#### **Results of Operations**

Quarter Ended September 30, 2012 Compared to the Quarter Ended September 30, 2011

For the third quarter of 2012, we had net income available to common stock and participating securities of \$76.1 million, or \$0.21 per basic and diluted common share, compared to net income available to common stock and participating securities of \$81.7 million, or \$0.23 per basic and diluted common share, for the third quarter of 2011. The decrease in net income available to our common stock and participating securities, and the decrease of this item on a per share basis, were generally influenced by the impact of declining net interest spreads on interest bearing assets and liabilities. These declining spreads were primarily attributable to lower net yields on both Agency and Non-Agency MBS. Yields on Agency MBS were impacted by the lower interest rate environment and higher CPRs, while yields on Non-Agency MBS were primarily impacted by the addition of lower yielding assets and changes in expected future interest rates. In addition, we have also increased the amount of higher cost longer-term financing for our Non-Agency MBS portfolio consistent with our overall financing strategy.

Interest income on our Agency MBS for the third quarter of 2012 decreased \$12.8 million, or 21.3%, to \$47.2 million from \$60.0 million for the third quarter of 2011. This change primarily reflects a decrease in the net yield on our Agency MBS to 2.66% for the third quarter of 2012 from 3.37% for the third quarter of 2011, and, to a lesser extent, a decrease of \$12.5 million in the average amortized cost of our Agency MBS portfolio to \$7.094 billion for the third quarter of 2012 from \$7.106 billion for the third quarter of 2011. During the third quarter of 2012, our Agency MBS portfolio experienced a 21.6% CPR and we recognized \$14.8 million of net premium amortization compared to a CPR of 19.3% and \$10.7 million of net premium amortization for the third quarter of 2011. At the end of the third quarter of 2012, the average coupon on

mortgages underlying our Agency MBS was lower compared to the end of the third quarter of 2011, due to acquisition of assets in the marketplace at generally lower coupons reflecting current market conditions and as a result of prepayments on higher yielding assets and resets on Hybrid and ARM-MBS within the portfolio. As a result, the coupon yield on our Agency MBS portfolio declined 49 basis points to 3.49% for the third quarter of 2012 from 3.98% for the third quarter of 2011. At September 30, 2012, we had net purchase premiums on our Agency MBS of \$225.4 million, or 3.2% of current par value, compared to net purchase premiums of \$177.7 million and 2.6% of par value at December 31, 2011.

#### Table of Contents

Interest income on our Non-Agency MBS (which includes Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs) increased \$7.1 million, or 10.1%, for the third quarter of 2012 to \$77.9 million compared to \$70.8 million for the third quarter of 2011, principally due to the increase in the amortized cost of our Non-Agency MBS portfolio. For the third quarter of 2012, the average amortized cost of our Non-Agency MBS increased by \$780.8 million, or 20.0%, to \$4.685 billion, from \$3.904 billion for the third quarter of 2011. The growth in our Non-Agency MBS has primarily been funded with longer term forms of repurchase agreement financings. In addition, certain of our Non-Agency MBS underlying Linked Transactions became delinked during the third quarter of 2012, due to the repayment of the repurchase agreement financing. These delinkings resulted in Non-Agency MBS of \$16.8 million, previously included as a component of Linked Transactions, being recognized as Non-Agency MBS on our consolidated balance sheet at September 30, 2012. Our Non-Agency MBS portfolio yielded 6.65% for the third quarter of 2012 compared to 7.25% for the third quarter of 2011. The decrease in the yield on our Non-Agency MBS is primarily due to the flattening (downward movement in the later years) of the forward yield curve, which causes us to lower the projected future coupons and therefore the expected yields on our Hybrid Non-Agency MBS and the addition of newly acquired assets at yields less than our overall portfolio yield. During the third quarter of 2012, we recognized net purchase discount accretion of \$8.8 million on our Non-Agency MBS compared to \$10.7 million for the third quarter of 2011. At September 30, 2012, we had net purchase discounts of \$1.767 billion, including Credit Reserve and previously recognized OTTI of \$1.460 billion, on our Non-Agency MBS, or 27.4% of par value.

The following table presents the components of the coupon yield and net yields earned on our Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS and weighted average CPRs experienced for such MBS for the quarterly periods presented:

	Agency MBS (1)		Non-Agency MBS (1) Total MBS (1)	
		Weighted	Weighted	Weighted
Coupon	Net	Average		