

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.
Form 10-Q
August 01, 2013
Table of Contents

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

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2013

OR

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 (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) | 13-3974868 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.) |
|---|---|

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| 350 Park Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, New York (Address of principal executive offices) | 10022 (Zip Code) |
|---|---------------------|

(212) 207-6400
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting

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

company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

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

362,560,900 shares of the registrant’s common stock, \$0.01 par value, were outstanding as of July 25, 2013.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|-----------------------|---|
| PART I | |
| FINANCIAL INFORMATION | |
| Item 1. | Financial Statements |
| | <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of June 30, 2013 (Unaudited) and December 31, 2012</u> |
| | <u>1</u> |
| | <u>Consolidated Statements of Operations (Unaudited) for the Three and Six Months Ended June 30, 2013 and June 30, 2012</u> |
| | <u>2</u> |
| | <u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Unaudited) for the Three and Six Months Ended June 30, 2013 and June 30, 2012</u> |
| | <u>3</u> |
| | <u>Consolidated Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity (Unaudited) for the Six Months Ended June 30, 2013</u> |
| | <u>4</u> |
| | <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited) for the Six Months Ended June 30, 2013 and June 30, 2012</u> |
| | <u>5</u> |
| | <u>Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements</u> |
| | <u>6</u> |
| Item 2. | <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> |
| | <u>45</u> |
| Item 3. | <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u> |
| | <u>78</u> |
| Item 4. | <u>Controls and Procedures</u> |
| | <u>84</u> |
| PART II | |
| OTHER INFORMATION | |
| Item 1. | <u>Legal Proceedings</u> |
| | <u>85</u> |
| Item 1A. | <u>Risk Factors</u> |
| | <u>85</u> |
| Item 2. | <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> |
| | <u>85</u> |
| Item 6. | <u>Exhibits</u> |
| | <u>85</u> |
| <u>Signatures</u> | <u>86</u> |

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

| (In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts) | June 30, 2013 (Unaudited) | December 31, 2012 |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Assets: | | |
| Mortgage-backed securities (“MBS”): | | |
| Agency MBS, at fair value (\$6,484,697 and \$6,747,299 pledged as collateral, respectively) | \$6,937,911 | \$7,225,460 |
| Non-Agency MBS, at fair value (\$1,971,604 and \$1,602,953 pledged as collateral, respectively) | 2,857,418 | 2,762,006 |
| Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated variable interest entities (“VIEs”) (1) | 2,438,235 | 2,620,159 |
| Securities obtained and pledged as collateral, at fair value | 405,458 | 408,833 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 448,282 | 401,293 |
| Restricted cash | 3,020 | 5,016 |
| MBS linked transactions, net (“Linked Transactions”), at fair value | 10,519 | 12,704 |
| Interest receivable | 40,875 | 44,033 |
| Derivative hedging instruments, at fair value | 7,140 | 203 |
| Goodwill | 7,189 | 7,189 |
| Prepaid and other assets | 40,664 | 30,654 |
| Total Assets | \$13,196,711 | \$13,517,550 |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Repurchase agreements | \$8,909,283 | \$8,752,472 |
| Securitized debt (2) | 443,748 | 646,816 |
| Obligation to return securities obtained as collateral, at fair value | 405,458 | 508,827 |
| 8% Senior Notes due 2042 (“Senior Notes”) | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Accrued interest payable | 11,331 | 16,104 |
| Derivative hedging instruments, at fair value | 39,107 | 63,034 |
| Dividends and dividend equivalents rights (“DERs”) payable | 80,440 | 72,222 |
| Payable for unsettled purchases | 27,588 | 33,479 |
| Excise tax and interest payable | 7,000 | 7,500 |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities | 8,254 | 6,090 |
| Total Liabilities | \$10,032,209 | \$10,206,544 |
| Commitments and contingencies (Note 10) | | |
| Stockholders’ Equity: | | |
| Preferred stock, \$.01 par value; 8.50% Series A cumulative redeemable 5,000 shares authorized; 0 and 3,840 shares issued and outstanding, respectively (\$0 and \$96,000 aggregate liquidation preference, respectively) | \$— | \$38 |
| Preferred stock, \$.01 par value; 7.50% Series B cumulative redeemable 8,050 and 0 shares authorized; 8,000 and 0 shares issued and outstanding, respectively (\$200,000 and \$0 aggregate liquidation preference, respectively) | 80 | — |
| Common stock, \$.01 par value; 886,950 and 895,000 shares authorized; 362,124 and 357,546 shares issued and outstanding, respectively | 3,621 | 3,575 |
| Additional paid-in capital, in excess of par | 2,949,483 | 2,805,724 |

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

| | | | | |
|--|--------------|---|--------------|---|
| Accumulated deficit | (457,586 |) | (260,308 |) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | 668,904 | | 761,977 | |
| Total Stockholders' Equity | \$3,164,502 | | \$3,311,006 | |
| Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity | \$13,196,711 | | \$13,517,550 | |

(1) 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.

(2) 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 Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | June 30, | | June 30, | |
| (In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts) | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Interest Income: | | | | |
| Agency MBS | \$38,037 | \$49,550 | \$80,824 | \$102,850 |
| Non-Agency MBS | 43,997 | 32,674 | 85,044 | 58,468 |
| Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs | 38,601 | 43,280 | 77,469 | 87,690 |
| Cash and cash equivalent investments | 36 | 27 | 72 | 46 |
| Interest Income | \$120,671 | \$125,531 | \$243,409 | \$249,054 |
| Interest Expense: | | | | |
| Repurchase agreements | \$33,397 | \$36,252 | \$68,072 | \$72,322 |
| Securitized debt | 3,075 | 4,652 | 6,551 | 8,709 |
| Senior Notes | 2,006 | 1,784 | 4,013 | 1,784 |
| Total Interest Expense | \$38,478 | \$42,688 | \$78,636 | \$82,815 |
| Net Interest Income | \$82,193 | \$82,843 | \$164,773 | \$166,239 |
| Other-Than-Temporary Impairments: | | | | |
| Total other-than-temporary impairment losses | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$(879) |
| Portion of loss reclassified from other comprehensive income | — | (280) | — | (321) |
| Net Impairment Losses Recognized in Earnings | \$— | \$(280) | \$— | \$(1,200) |
| Other Income, net: | | | | |
| Unrealized net (losses)/gains and net interest income from Linked Transactions | \$(295) | \$568 | \$1,241 | \$8,267 |
| Gain on sales of MBS and U.S. Treasury securities, net | 4,365 | — | 5,998 | 2,953 |
| Other, net | 55 | 1 | 110 | 1 |
| Other Income, net | \$4,125 | \$569 | \$7,349 | \$11,221 |
| Operating and Other Expense: | | | | |
| Compensation and benefits | \$5,284 | \$5,156 | \$10,557 | \$10,768 |
| Other general and administrative expense | 3,561 | 3,210 | 6,741 | 6,013 |
| Excise tax and interest | 2,000 | — | 2,000 | — |
| Operating and Other Expense | \$10,845 | \$8,366 | \$19,298 | \$16,781 |
| Net Income | \$75,473 | \$74,766 | \$152,824 | \$159,479 |
| Less Preferred Stock Dividends | 4,210 | 2,040 | 6,250 | 4,080 |
| Less Issuance Costs of Redeemed Preferred Stock | 3,947 | — | 3,947 | — |
| Net Income Available to Common Stock and Participating Securities | \$67,316 | \$72,726 | \$142,627 | \$155,399 |

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

| | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| Earnings per Common Share - Basic and Diluted | \$0.19 | \$0.20 | \$0.39 | \$0.43 |
| Dividends Declared per Share of Common Stock | \$0.22 | \$0.23 | \$0.94 | (1) \$0.47 |

(1) Includes a special dividend of \$0.50 per share declared on March 4, 2013.

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

2

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(UNAUDITED)

| (In Thousands) | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| | June 30, | | June 30, | |
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Net income | \$75,473 | \$74,766 | \$152,824 | \$159,479 |
| Other Comprehensive Income: | | | | |
| Unrealized loss on Agency MBS, net | (140,480) | (11,170) | (167,771) | (14,328) |
| Unrealized (loss)/gain on Non-Agency MBS, net | (98,282) | (6,057) | 48,388 | 256,545 |
| Reclassification adjustment for MBS sales included in net income | (3,254) | — | (4,554) | (2,901) |
| Reclassification adjustment for other-than-temporary impairments included in net income | — | 280 | — | 1,200 |
| Unrealized gain on derivative hedging instruments, net | 18,548 | 12,280 | 30,864 | 24,371 |
| Other Comprehensive (Loss)/Income | (223,468) | (4,667) | (93,073) | 264,887 |
| Comprehensive (loss)/income before preferred stock dividends and issuance costs of redeemed preferred stock | \$(147,995) | \$70,099 | \$59,751 | \$424,366 |
| Dividends declared on preferred stock | (4,210) | (2,040) | (6,250) | (4,080) |
| Issuance costs of redeemed preferred stock | (3,947) | — | (3,947) | — |
| Comprehensive (Loss)/Income Available to Common Stock and Participating Securities | \$(156,152) | \$68,059 | \$49,554 | \$420,286 |

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

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

(UNAUDITED)

| (In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts) | Six Months Ended | |
|---|------------------|----------|
| | June 30, 2013 | |
| | Dollars | Shares |
| Preferred Stock, 8.50% Series A Cumulative Redeemable - Liquidation Preference \$25.00 per Share: | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2012 | \$ 38 | 3,840 |
| Redemption of Series A Preferred Stock | (38 |) (3,840 |
| Balance at June 30, 2013 | — | — |
| Preferred Stock, 7.50% Series B Cumulative Redeemable - Liquidation Preference \$25.00 per Share: | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2012 | — | — |
| Issuance of Series B Preferred Stock | 80 | 8,000 |
| Balance at June 30, 2013 | 80 | 8,000 |
| Common Stock, Par Value \$.01: | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2012 | 3,575 | 357,546 |
| Issuance of common stock (1) | 46 | 4,620 |
| Repurchase of shares of common stock (1) | — | (42 |
| Balance at June 30, 2013 | 3,621 | 362,124 |
| Additional Paid-in Capital, in excess of Par: | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2012 | 2,805,724 | |
| Issuance of common stock, net of expenses (1) | 40,567 | |
| Redemption of Series A Preferred Stock | (92,015 |) |
| Issuance of Series B Preferred Stock, net of expenses | 193,236 | |
| Equity-based compensation expense | 2,186 | |
| Repurchase of shares of common stock (1) | (215 |) |
| Balance at June 30, 2013 | 2,949,483 | |
| Accumulated Deficit: | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2012 | (260,308 |) |
| Net income | 152,824 | |
| Dividends declared on common stock | (338,693 |) |
| Dividends declared on preferred stock | (6,250 |) |
| Dividends attributable to DERs | (1,212 |) |
| Issuance costs of redeemed Preferred Stock | (3,947 |) |
| Balance at June 30, 2013 | (457,586 |) |
| Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income: | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2012 | 761,977 | |
| Change in unrealized gains on MBS, net | (123,937 |) |
| Change in unrealized losses on derivative hedging instruments, net | 30,864 | |
| Balance at June 30, 2013 | 668,904 | |

Total Stockholders' Equity at June 30, 2013

\$3,164,502

(1) For the six months ended June 30, 2013, includes approximately \$215,000 (42,276 shares) surrendered for tax purposes related to equity-based compensation awards.

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

4

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(UNAUDITED)

| (In Thousands) | Six Months Ended | |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| | June 30, 2013 | 2012 |
| Cash Flows From Operating Activities: | | |
| Net income | \$ 152,824 | \$ 159,479 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Gain on sales of MBS and U.S. Treasury securities | (5,998) | (2,953) |
| Other-than-temporary impairment charges | — | 1,200 |
| Accretion of purchase discounts on MBS | (28,762) | (19,322) |
| Amortization of purchase premiums on MBS | 31,301 | 23,302 |
| Depreciation and amortization on fixed assets and other assets | 2,160 | 1,322 |
| Equity-based compensation expense | 2,186 | 2,581 |
| Unrealized gains and other on Linked Transactions | (466) | (6,145) |
| Decrease/(increase) in interest receivable | 3,142 | (939) |
| (Increase)/decrease in prepaid and other assets | (12,088) | 251 |
| Increase/(decrease) in accrued expenses and other liabilities, and excise tax and interest | 1,720 | (2,332) |
| (Decrease)/increase in accrued interest payable on financial instruments | (4,773) | 4,290 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | \$ 141,246 | \$ 160,734 |
| Cash Flows From Investing Activities: | | |
| Principal payments on MBS | \$ 1,483,476 | \$ 1,222,662 |
| Proceeds from sale of MBS and U.S. Treasury securities | 216,079 | 71,103 |
| Purchases of MBS | (1,251,726) | (1,603,202) |
| Additions to leasehold improvements, furniture and fixtures | (135) | (301) |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities | \$ 447,694 | \$ (309,738) |
| Cash Flows From Financing Activities: | | |
| Principal payments on repurchase agreements | \$(39,284,004) | \$(31,191,396) |
| Proceeds from borrowings under repurchase agreements | 39,440,815 | 31,746,644 |
| Proceeds from issuance of securitized debt | — | 186,691 |
| Principal payments on securitized debt | (203,068) | (200,956) |
| Payments made on obligation to return securities obtained as collateral | (300,119) | — |
| Payments made for resecuritization related costs | — | (1,814) |
| Proceeds from issuance of Senior Notes | — | 100,000 |
| Payments made for Senior Notes related costs | — | (3,415) |
| Cash disbursements on financial instruments underlying Linked Transactions | (114,903) | (439,243) |
| Cash received from financial instruments underlying Linked Transactions | 117,554 | 328,515 |
| Payments made for margin calls on repurchase agreements and interest rate swaps (“Swaps”) | (3) | (2,390) |
| Proceeds from reverse margin calls on repurchase agreements and Swaps | 2,000 | 8,890 |
| Proceeds from issuances of common stock | 40,398 | 3,795 |
| Payments made for redemption of Series A Preferred Stock | (96,000) | — |
| Proceeds from issuance of Series B Preferred Stock | 200,000 | — |
| Payments made for preferred stock offering costs | (6,684) | — |
| Dividends paid on preferred stock | (6,250) | (4,080) |

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

| | | | |
|--|------------|-------------|---|
| Dividends paid on common stock and DERs | (331,687 |) (182,883 |) |
| Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities | \$(541,951 |) \$348,358 | |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | \$46,989 | \$199,354 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | \$401,293 | \$394,022 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$448,282 | \$593,376 | |
| Non-cash Investing and Financing Activities: | | | |
| MBS recorded upon de-linking of Linked Transactions | \$— | \$158,379 | |
| Net increase in securities obtained as collateral/obligation to return securities obtained as collateral | \$200,098 | \$206,506 | |
| Dividends and DERs declared and unpaid | \$80,440 | \$83,263 | |
| The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements. | | | |

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.
NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2013

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)

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 (the “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, 2012. In the opinion of management, all normal and recurring adjustments necessary to present fairly the financial condition of the Company at June 30, 2013 and results of operations for all periods presented have been made. The results of operations for the six months ended June 30, 2013 should not be construed as indicative of the results to be expected for the full year.

The accompanying 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 5 and 14) and income recognition on certain Non-Agency MBS purchased at a discount (Note 3). In addition, estimates are used in the determination of taxable income used in the assessment of REIT compliance and contingent liabilities for related taxes, penalties and interest (Note 2(m)). 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.

(b) Agency and Non-Agency MBS (including Non-Agency MBS transferred to a consolidated 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) (“AOCI”), a component of stockholders’ equity.

Upon the sale of an investment security, any unrealized gain or loss is reclassified out of AOCI to earnings as a realized gain or loss using the specific identification method.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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.

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 is based on management's estimate of the projected cash flows for each security, which are 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. (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 the Company's 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 AOCI on the consolidated balance sheet. Impairments

recognized through other comprehensive income/(loss) (“OCI”) 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 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,

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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 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 sheet 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 5)

(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 June 30, 2013 or December 31, 2012. At June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, 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 7 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 \$3.0 million and \$5.0 million at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively. (See Notes 5, 6, 7 and 14)

(f) Goodwill

At June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, 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 June 30, 2013, the Company had not recognized any impairment against its goodwill.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

(g) Depreciation

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 securitization 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 or such collateral. (See Notes 2(n), 5, 6, 7 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 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

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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 one or 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)

(1) 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 AOCI for MBS and is reduced by dividends declared on the Company's preferred stock.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

(m) U.S. Federal Income Taxes

The Company has elected to be taxed as a REIT under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (the "Code") and the corresponding provisions of state law. The Company expects to operate in a manner that will enable it to satisfy the various requirements to maintain its status as a REIT. In order to maintain its status as a REIT, the Company must, among other things, distribute at least 90% of its REIT taxable income to stockholders in the timeframe permitted by the Code. The Company is not subject to tax to the extent that it distributes 100% of its REIT taxable income to its stockholders within the permitted timeframe. Should this not occur, the Company would be subject to federal taxes at prevailing corporate tax rates on the difference between its REIT taxable income and the amounts deemed to be distributed for that tax year. As the Company's objective is to distribute 100% of its REIT taxable income to its stockholders within the permitted timeframe, no provision for current or deferred income taxes has been made in the accompanying consolidated financial statements. Should the Company incur a liability for corporate income tax, such amounts would be recorded as REIT income tax expense on the Company's consolidated statements of operations. Furthermore, if the Company fails to distribute during each calendar year, or by the end of January following the calendar year in the case of distributions with declaration and record dates falling in the last three months of the calendar year, at least the sum of (i) 85% its REIT ordinary income for such year; (ii) 95% of its REIT capital gain income for such year and; (iii) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, the Company will be subject to a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the amounts actually distributed. To the extent that the Company incurs interest, penalties or related excise taxes in connection with its tax obligations, including as a result of its assessment of uncertain tax positions, such amounts shall be included within Operating and other expense on the Company's consolidated statements of operations.

Based on its analysis of any potential uncertain tax positions, the Company concluded that it does not have any material uncertain tax positions that meet the relevant recognition or measurement criteria as of June 30, 2013, December 31, 2012, or June 30, 2012. The Company's tax returns for tax years 2009 through 2011 are open to examination. The Company expects to file its 2012 tax return prior to September 15, 2013.

(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 5, 7 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 OCI 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.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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 OCI. 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 5 and 14)

(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 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 observability 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 disproportionately 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.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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) Offering Costs Related to Issuance and Redemption of Preferred Stock

Offering costs related to issuance of preferred stock are recorded as a reduction in Additional paid-in capital, a component of stockholders’ equity, at the time such preferred stock is issued. On redemption of preferred stock, any excess of the fair value of the consideration transferred to the holders of the preferred stock over the carrying amount of the preferred stock in the Company’s consolidated balance sheets is included in the determination of Net Income Available to Common Stock and Participating Securities in the calculation of EPS. (See Notes 11 and 12)

(r) New and Proposed Accounting Standards and Interpretations

Accounting Standards Adopted in 2013

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 includes 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 International Financial Reporting Standards requirements. ASU 2011-11 was effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2013, and interim periods within those annual periods.

In January 2013, the FASB issued ASU 2013-01, Clarifying the Scope of Disclosures about Offsetting Assets and Liabilities (“ASU 2013-01”). The main objective of this ASU is to limit the scope of the new balance sheet and offsetting disclosure requirements of ASU 2011-11 to certain derivatives (including bifurcated embedded derivatives,) repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements, and securities borrowing and securities lending transactions. The amendments of ASU 2013-01 should be applied for fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2013, and interim periods within those annual periods. An entity should provide the required disclosures retrospectively for all comparative periods presented.

The Company’s adoption of ASU 2011-11 and ASU 2013-01 beginning on January 1, 2013 did not have a material impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

Comprehensive Income

In February 2013, the FASB issued ASU 2013-02, Reporting of Amounts Reclassified Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (“ASU 2013-02”). The amendments of this ASU do not change the current requirements for reporting net income or OCI in financial statements. However, the amendments require an entity to provide information about the amounts reclassified out of AOCI by component. In addition, an entity is required to present,

either on the face of the statement where net income is presented or in the notes, significant amounts reclassified out of AOCI by the respective line items of net income but only if the amount reclassified is required under U.S. GAAP to be reclassified to net income in its entirety in the same reporting period. For other amounts that are not required under U.S. GAAP to be reclassified in their entirety to net income, an entity is required to cross-reference to other disclosures required under U.S. GAAP that provide additional detail about those amounts. ASU 2013-02 was effective prospectively for the Company for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2012. The Company's adoption of ASU 2013-02 beginning on January 1, 2013 did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Derivatives and Hedging

In July 2013, the FASB issued ASU 2013-10, Inclusion of the Fed Funds Effective Swap Rate (or Overnight Index Swap Rate) as a Benchmark Interest Rate for Hedge Accounting Purposes (a consensus of the FASB Emerging Issues Task Force) ("ASU 2013-10"). The amendments of this ASU apply to all entities that elect to apply hedge accounting of the benchmark interest rate

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

under Derivatives and Hedging (FASB Accounting Standards Codification Topic 815). ASU 2013-10 permits the Federal Funds Effective Rate (also referred to as the Overnight Index Swap Rate, or OIS) to be used as a U.S. benchmark interest rate for hedge accounting purposes in addition to the interest rates on direct Treasury obligations of the U.S. government and London Interbank Offered Rate. ASU 2013-10 was effective prospectively for qualifying new or redesignated hedging relationships entered into on or after July 17, 2013. The Company's adoption of ASU 2103-10 is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Recent Accounting Standards to be Adopted in Future Periods

Financial Services - Investment Companies

In June 2013, the FASB issued ASU 2013-08, Financial Services - Investment Companies: Amendments to the Scope, Measurement, and Disclosure Requirements ("ASU 2013-08"). In general, the amendments of this ASU: (i) revise the definition of an investment company; (ii) require an investment company to measure non-controlling ownership interests in other investment companies at fair value rather than using the equity method of accounting; and (iii) require information to be disclosed concerning the status of the entity and any financial support provided, or contractually required to be provided, by the investment company to its investees. ASU 2013-08 is effective for interim and annual periods that begin after December 15, 2013 and early application is prohibited. As the FASB has decided to retain the current U.S. GAAP scope exception from investment company accounting and financial reporting for real estate investment trusts, the adoption of this ASU will not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Proposed Accounting Standards

The FASB has recently issued or discussed a number of proposed standards on such topics as repurchase agreements and similar transactions, measurement of credit impairment, financial instrument measurement and classification, revenue recognition, leases, hedging, disclosures about liquidity risk and interest rate risk, and disclosures of uncertainties about an Entity's going concern presumption. 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 5 and 7)

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.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

The following tables present certain information about the Company's MBS at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

June 30, 2013

| (In Thousands) | Principal/ Current Face | Purchase Premiums | Accretable Purchase Discounts | Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI (1) | Amortized Cost (2) | Fair Value | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Net Unrealized Gain/(Loss) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Agency MBS: | | | | | | | | | |
| Fannie Mae | \$5,388,034 | \$184,066 | \$(83) |) \$— | \$5,572,017 | \$5,620,499 | \$102,540 | \$(54,058) | \$48,482 |
| Freddie Mac | 1,266,355 | 48,203 | — | — | 1,318,884 | 1,303,143 | 11,096 | (26,837) | (15,741) |
| Ginnie Mae | 13,604 | 234 | — | — | 13,838 | 14,269 | 431 | — | 431 |
| Total Agency MBS | 6,667,993 | 232,503 | (83) |) — | 6,904,739 | 6,937,911 | 114,067 | (80,895) | 33,172 |
| Non-Agency MBS (3) | | | | | | | | | |
| Rated AAA | 19,831 | 107 | (191) |) — | 19,747 | 20,192 | 445 | — | 445 |
| Rated A | 961 | 20 | — | — | 981 | 933 | — | (48) | (48) |
| Rated BBB | 48,809 | 563 | (1,266) |) — | 48,106 | 48,694 | 1,547 | (959) | 588 |
| Rated BB | 107,733 | 47 | (8,395) |) (884) | 98,501 | 103,346 | 5,097 | (252) | 4,845 |
| Rated B | 281,447 | — | (30,377) |) (12,437) | 238,633 | 263,172 | 24,593 | (54) | 24,539 |
| Rated CCC | 1,161,319 | 12 | (111,764) |) (178,567) | 871,000 | 1,010,131 | 141,672 | (2,541) | 139,131 |
| Rated CC | 420,330 | — | (28,895) |) (96,002) | 295,433 | 339,948 | 44,546 | (31) | 44,515 |
| Rated C | 463,562 | — | (45,691) |) (72,795) | 345,076 | 398,050 | 53,512 | (538) | 52,974 |
| Unrated and D-rated (4) | 3,784,765 | — | (170,002) |) (904,286) | 2,710,477 | 3,111,187 | 404,677 | (3,967) | 400,710 |
| Total Non-Agency MBS | 6,288,757 | 749 | (396,581) |) (1,264,971) | 4,627,954 | 5,295,653 | 676,089 | (8,390) | 667,699 |
| Total MBS | \$12,956,750 | \$233,252 | \$(396,664) | \$(1,264,971) | \$11,532,693 | \$12,233,564 | \$790,156 | \$(89,285) | \$700,871 |

December 31, 2012

| (In Thousands) | Principal/ Current Face | Purchase Premiums | Accretable Purchase Discounts | Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI (1) | Amortized Cost (2) | Fair Value | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Net Unrealized Gain/(Loss) |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Agency MBS: | | | | | | | | | |
| Fannie Mae | \$5,977,388 | \$196,686 | \$(58) |) \$— | \$6,174,016 | \$6,351,621 | \$178,970 | \$(1,365) | \$177,605 |
| Freddie Mac | 800,854 | 30,447 | — | — | 835,724 | 858,560 | 22,925 | (89) | 22,836 |
| Ginnie Mae | 14,526 | 251 | — | — | 14,777 | 15,279 | 502 | — | 502 |
| Total Agency MBS | 6,792,768 | 227,384 | (58) |) — | 7,024,517 | 7,225,460 | 202,397 | (1,454) | 200,943 |
| Non-Agency MBS (3) | | | | | | | | | |

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

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Rated AAA | 25,209 | 158 | (219) | — | 25,148 | 25,905 | 757 | — | 757 |
| Rated A | 1,147 | 24 | — | — | 1,171 | 1,086 | — | (85) | (85) |
| Rated BBB | 49,301 | 637 | (1,741) | (378) | 47,819 | 48,563 | 1,806 | (1,062) | 744 |
| Rated BB | 118,031 | 39 | (8,892) | (853) | 108,325 | 112,905 | 4,937 | (357) | 4,580 |
| Rated B | 247,532 | — | (31,133) | (12,462) | 203,937 | 225,281 | 21,452 | (108) | 21,344 |
| Rated CCC | 1,235,638 | 14 | (107,618) | (201,126) | 926,908 | 1,055,757 | 131,826 | (2,977) | 128,849 |
| Rated CC | 579,632 | — | (41,191) | (132,061) | 406,380 | 468,017 | 61,739 | (102) | 61,637 |
| Rated C | 952,984 | — | (55,294) | (166,529) | 731,161 | 812,523 | 81,850 | (488) | 81,362 |
| Unrated and D-rated (4) | 3,300,086 | — | (125,538) | (867,097) | 2,307,451 | 2,632,128 | 325,796 | (1,119) | 324,677 |
| Total | | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Agency MBS | 6,509,560 | 872 | (371,626) | (1,380,506) | 4,758,300 | 5,382,165 | 630,163 | (6,298) | 623,865 |
| Total MBS | \$13,302,328 | \$228,256 | \$(371,684) | \$(1,380,506) | \$11,782,817 | \$12,607,625 | \$832,560 | \$(7,752) | \$824,808 |

(1) Discount designated as Credit Reserve and amounts related to OTTI are generally not expected to be accreted into interest income. Amounts disclosed at June 30, 2013 reflect Credit Reserve of \$1.219 billion and OTTI of \$45.7 million. Amounts disclosed at December 31, 2012 reflect Credit Reserve of \$1.332 billion and OTTI of \$48.7 million.

(2) Includes principal payments receivable of \$4.3 million and \$4.4 million at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively, which are not included in the Principal/Current Face.

(3) 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.

(4) Includes 312 Non-Agency MBS that were D-rated and had an aggregate amortized cost and fair value of \$2.662 billion and \$3.055 billion, respectively, at June 30, 2013 and 246 Non-Agency MBS that were D-rated and had an aggregate amortized cost and fair value of \$2.252 billion and \$2.573 billion, respectively, at December 31, 2012.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

Unrealized Losses on MBS and Impairments

The following table presents information about the Company's MBS that were in an unrealized loss position at June 30, 2013:

Unrealized Loss Position For:

| (In Thousands) | Less than 12 Months | | | 12 Months or more | | | Total | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| | Fair Value | Unrealized Losses | Number of Securities | Fair Value | Unrealized Losses | Number of Securities | Fair Value | Unrealized Losses |
| Agency MBS: | | | | | | | | |
| Fannie Mae | \$2,211,844 | \$53,388 | 197 | \$38,484 | \$670 | 10 | \$2,250,328 | \$54,058 |
| Freddie Mac | 866,186 | 26,830 | 109 | 2,542 | 7 | 1 | 868,728 | 26,837 |
| Total Agency MBS | 3,078,030 | 80,218 | 306 | 41,026 | 677 | 11 | 3,119,056 | 80,895 |
| Non-Agency MBS: | | | | | | | | |
| Rated A | — | — | — | 933 | 49 | 2 | 933 | 49 |
| Rated BBB | 7,300 | 41 | 1 | 19,205 | 917 | 2 | 26,505 | 958 |
| Rated BB | — | — | — | 2,025 | 252 | 3 | 2,025 | 252 |
| Rated B | 6,924 | 54 | 1 | — | — | — | 6,924 | 54 |
| Rated CCC | 55,054 | 790 | 6 | 22,482 | 1,751 | 4 | 77,536 | 2,541 |
| Rated CC | 1,187 | 31 | 1 | — | — | — | 1,187 | 31 |
| Rated C | 32,029 | 538 | 6 | — | — | — | 32,029 | 538 |
| Unrated and other | 223,264 | 3,935 | 30 | 1 | 32 | 1 | 223,265 | 3,967 |
| Total Non-Agency MBS | 325,758 | 5,389 | 45 | 44,646 | 3,001 | 12 | 370,404 | 8,390 |
| Total MBS | \$3,403,788 | \$85,607 | 351 | \$85,672 | \$3,678 | 23 | \$3,489,460 | \$89,285 |

At June 30, 2013, 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 \$80.9 million at June 30, 2013. Agency MBS are issued by Government Sponsored Entities ("GSEs") that enjoy either the implicit or explicit backing of the full faith and credit of the United States Government. While the Company's Agency MBS are not rated by any rating agency, they are currently perceived by market participants to be of high credit quality, with risk of default limited to the unlikely event that the United States Government would not continue to support the GSEs. 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 for each impaired security, 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 June 30, 2013 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 \$8.4 million at June 30, 2013. 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 any credit-related OTTI losses through earnings during the three and six months ended June 30, 2013. The Company recognized credit-related OTTI losses through earnings of approximately \$280,000 and \$1.2 million on Non-Agency MBS during the three and six months ended June 30, 2012.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

Non-Agency 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 origination, loan-to-value ratios, geographic concentrations, as well as Rating Agency reports, general market assessments, and dialogue with market participants. Changes in the Company's evaluation of each of these factors impacts the cash flows expected to be collected at the OTTI assessment date. For Non-Agency MBS purchased at a discount to par that were assessed for OTTI during the quarter, such cash flow estimates indicated that the amount of expected losses decreased compared to the previous OTTI assessment date. These positive cash flow changes are primarily driven by recent improvements in loan-to-value ratios due to loan amortization and home price appreciation, which, in turn, positively impacts the Company's estimates of default rates and loss severities for the underlying collateral. In addition, voluntary prepayments (i.e. loans that prepay in full with no loss) have generally trended higher for these MBS which also positively impacts the Company's estimate of expected loss. Overall, the combination of higher voluntary prepayments and lower loan-to-value ratios supports the Company's assessment that such MBS are not other-than-temporarily impaired. 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 six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012:

| (In Thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, | | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------------|------------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Total OTTI losses | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$(879) |
| OTTI reclassified from OCI | — | (280) | — | (321) |
| OTTI recognized in earnings | \$— | \$(280) | \$— | \$(1,200) |

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 OCI. 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.

| (In Thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, 2013 | Six Months Ended June 30, 2013 |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Credit loss component of OTTI at beginning of period | \$36,115 | \$36,115 |
| Additions for credit related OTTI not previously recognized | — | — |
| Subsequent additional credit related OTTI recorded | — | — |
| Credit loss component of OTTI at end of period | \$36,115 | \$36,115 |

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

The significant inputs considered and assumptions made at time of impairment in determining the measurement of the component of OTTI recorded in earnings for the Company's Non-Agency MBS for the three and six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012 are summarized as follows:

| | Three Months Ended June 30, | | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Credit enhancement (1)(2) | | | | |
| Weighted average (3) | — | 4.00% | — | 3.26% |
| Range (4) | — | 0.00-12.10% | — | 0.00-16.50% |
| Projected CPR (2)(5) | | | | |
| Weighted average (3) | — | 9.80% | — | 9.90% |
| Range (4) | — | 9.10-11.00% | — | 9.10-13.30% |
| Projected Loss Severity (2)(6) | | | | |
| Weighted average (3) | — | 52.20% | — | 55.50% |
| Range (4) | — | 45.70-55.40% | — | 45.90-60.00% |
| 60+ days delinquent (2)(7) | | | | |
| Weighted average (3) | — | 28.60% | — | 24.40% |
| Range (4) | — | 21.00-32.40% | — | 18.20-32.40% |

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

(2) 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.

(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.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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 six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012:

| (In Thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, 2013 | | Three Months Ended June 30, 2012 | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| | Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI (1) | Accretable Discount (1)(2) | Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI (1) | Accretable Discount (1)(2) |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$(1,312,952) | \$(381,913) | \$(1,344,718) | \$(264,182) |
| Accretion of discount | — | 16,698 | — | 9,881 |
| Realized credit losses | 38,375 | — | 35,521 | — |
| Purchases | (49,852) | 18,425 | (139,934) | (1,004) |
| Sales | 4,689 | 4,978 | — | — |
| Reclass discount for OTTI | — | — | 182 | (182) |
| Net impairment losses recognized in earnings | — | — | (280) | — |
| Unlinking of Linked Transactions | — | — | (83) | (1,090) |
| Transfers/release of credit reserve | 54,769 | (54,769) | 8,560 | (8,560) |
| Balance at end of period | \$(1,264,971) | \$(396,581) | \$(1,440,752) | \$(265,137) |

| (In Thousands) | Six Months Ended June 30, 2013 | | Six Months Ended June 30, 2012 | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| | Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI (3) | Accretable Discount (2)(3) | Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI (3) | Accretable Discount (2)(3) |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$(1,380,506) | \$(371,626) | \$(1,228,766) | \$(250,479) |
| Accretion of discount | — | 28,749 | — | 19,291 |
| Realized credit losses | 88,682 | — | 57,915 | — |
| Purchases | (73,387) | 29,654 | (248,383) | (8,437) |
| Sales | 10,972 | 5,910 | — | — |
| Reclass discount for OTTI | — | — | 866 | (866) |
| Net impairment losses recognized in earnings | — | — | (1,200) | — |
| Unlinking of Linked Transactions | — | — | (38,662) | (7,168) |
| Transfers/release of credit reserve | 89,268 | (89,268) | 17,478 | (17,478) |
| Balance at end of period | \$(1,264,971) | \$(396,581) | \$(1,440,752) | \$(265,137) |

(1) During the three months ended June 30, 2013, the Company reallocated \$116,000 of purchase discount designated as Credit Reserve to accretable purchase discount on Non-Agency MBS underlying Linked Transactions. The Company did not reallocate purchase discount designated as accretable purchase discount to Credit Reserve on Non-Agency MBS underlying Linked Transactions during the three months ended June 30, 2012.

- (2) Together with coupon interest, accretable purchase discount is recognized as interest income over the life of the security.
- (3) During the six months ended June 30, 2013, the Company reallocated \$129,000 of purchase discount designated as Credit Reserve to accretable purchase discount on Non-Agency MBS underlying Linked Transactions. In addition, the Company reallocated \$629,000 of purchase discount designated as accretable purchase discount to Credit Reserve on Non-Agency MBS underlying Linked Transactions during the six months ended June 30, 2012, all of which occurred during the three months ended June 30, 2012.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

Impact of MBS on AOCI

The following table presents the impact of the Company's MBS on its AOCI for the three and six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012:

| (In Thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, | | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| AOCI from MBS: | | | | |
| Unrealized gain on MBS at beginning of period | \$942,887 | \$312,954 | \$824,808 | \$55,491 |
| Unrealized loss on Agency MBS, net | (140,480) | (11,170) | (167,771) | (14,328) |
| Unrealized (loss)/gain on Non-Agency MBS, net | (98,282) | (6,057) | 48,388 | 256,545 |
| Reclassification adjustment for MBS sales included in net income | (3,254) | — | (4,554) | (2,901) |
| Reclassification adjustment for OTTI included in net income | — | 280 | — | 1,200 |
| Change in AOCI from MBS | \$(242,016) | \$(16,947) | \$(123,937) | \$240,516 |
| Balance at end of period | \$700,871 | \$296,007 | \$700,871 | \$296,007 |

Sales of MBS

During the three and six months ended June 30, 2013, the Company sold certain Non-Agency MBS for \$9.9 million and \$16.0 million, realizing gross gains of \$4.4 million and \$6.0 million, respectively. During the first six months of 2012, the Company sold certain Agency MBS for \$71.1 million, realizing gross gains of \$3.0 million; all of these sales occurred during the first quarter of 2012. The Company has no continuing involvement with any of the sold MBS.

MBS Interest Income

The following table presents the components of interest income on the Company's Agency MBS for the three and six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012:

| (In Thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, | | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Coupon interest | \$54,485 | \$61,976 | \$111,989 | \$125,984 |
| Effective yield adjustment (1) | (16,448) | (12,426) | (31,165) | (23,134) |
| Agency MBS interest income | \$38,037 | \$49,550 | \$80,824 | \$102,850 |

(1) 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 six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012:

Three Months Ended June 30, Six Months Ended June 30,

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

| (In Thousands) | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Coupon interest | \$65,954 | \$66,144 | \$133,887 | \$127,004 |
| Effective yield adjustment (1) | 16,644 | 9,810 | 28,626 | 19,154 |
| Non-Agency MBS interest income | \$82,598 | \$75,954 | \$162,513 | \$146,158 |

(1) The effective yield adjustment is the difference between the net 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.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

4. Interest Receivable

The following table presents the Company's interest receivable by investment category at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

| (In Thousands) | June 30, 2013 | December 31, 2012 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| MBS interest receivable: | | |
| Fannie Mae | \$15,049 | \$17,597 |
| Freddie Mac | 3,484 | 2,696 |
| Ginnie Mae | 22 | 24 |
| Non-Agency MBS | 22,301 | 23,707 |
| Total MBS interest receivable | 40,856 | 44,024 |
| Money market and other investments | 19 | 9 |
| Total interest receivable | \$40,875 | \$44,033 |

5. 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 June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

| Derivative Instrument (1) (In Thousands) | Designation | Balance Sheet Location | June 30, 2013 | December 31, 2012 |
|---|-------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Non-cleared legacy Swaps, at fair value (\$450.0 million notional at June 30, 2013) | Hedging | Assets | \$7,140 | \$203 |
| Linked Transactions, at fair value | Non-Hedging | Assets | \$10,519 | \$12,704 |
| Non-cleared legacy Swaps, at fair value (\$1.836 billion notional at June 30, 2013) | Hedging | Liabilities | \$(38,525) | \$(63,034) |
| Cleared Swaps, at fair value (\$401.0 million notional at June 30, 2013) | Hedging | Liabilities | \$(582) | \$— |

(1) Non-cleared legacy Swaps include Swaps executed and settled bilaterally with counterparties without the use of an organized exchange or central clearing house. Cleared Swaps include Swaps executed bilaterally with a counterparty in the over-the-counter market but then novated to a central clearing house, whereby the central clearing house becomes the counterparty to both of the original counterparties.

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 sheet 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.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

The following tables present certain information about the Non-Agency MBS and repurchase agreements underlying the Company's Linked Transactions at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

Linked Transactions at June 30, 2013

| Linked Repurchase Agreements | Linked MBS | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| | Balance | Weighted Average Interest Rate | Non-Agency MBS | Fair Value | Amortized Cost | Par/Current Face | Weighted Average Coupon Rate |
| Maturity or Repricing | | | | | | | |
| (Dollars in Thousands) | | | (Dollars in Thousands) | | | | |
| Within 30 days | \$23,386 | 1.65 % | Rated AA | \$11,271 | \$10,600 | \$10,943 | 5.00 % |
| >30 days to 90 days | 9,863 | 1.40 | Rated A | 2,713 | 2,215 | 2,917 | 1.29 |
| Total | \$33,249 | 1.58 % | Rated BBB | 7,993 | 6,961 | 8,452 | 2.41 |
| | | | Rated BB | 6,959 | 6,454 | 7,101 | 2.64 |
| | | | Rated D | 14,715 | 13,214 | 17,820 | 5.80 |
| | | | Total | \$43,651 | \$39,444 | \$47,233 | 4.26 % |

Linked Transactions at December 31, 2012

| Linked Repurchase Agreements | Linked MBS | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| | Balance | Weighted Average Interest Rate | Non-Agency MBS | Fair Value | Amortized Cost | Par/Current Face | Weighted Average Coupon Rate |
| Maturity or Repricing | | | | | | | |
| (Dollars in Thousands) | | | (Dollars in Thousands) | | | | |
| Within 30 days | \$13,672 | 1.57 % | Rated AA | \$13,588 | \$12,817 | \$13,192 | 5.00 % |
| >30 days to 90 days | 21,599 | 1.66 | Rated A | 3,075 | 2,548 | 3,342 | 0.76 |
| Total | \$35,271 | 1.63 % | Rated BBB | 8,299 | 7,226 | 8,847 | 2.55 |
| | | | Rated BB | 7,365 | 6,854 | 7,593 | 2.75 |
| | | | Rated D | 15,501 | 14,372 | 19,303 | 5.80 |
| | | | Total | \$47,828 | \$43,817 | \$52,277 | 4.28 % |

At June 30, 2013, Linked Transactions also included approximately \$165,000 of associated accrued interest receivable and \$48,000 of accrued interest payable. At December 31, 2012, Linked Transactions also included approximately \$185,000 of associated accrued interest receivable and \$38,000 of accrued interest payable.

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 six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012:

| Components of Unrealized Net Gains and Net Interest Income from Linked Transactions (In Thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, | | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | \$654 | \$1,286 | \$1,322 | \$3,574 |

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

Interest income attributable to MBS underlying Linked Transactions

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|---|-------|---|---------|---|---------|---|
| Interest expense attributable to linked repurchase agreement borrowings underlying Linked Transactions | (137 |) | (293 |) | (277 |) | (797 |) |
| Change in fair value of Linked Transactions included in earnings | (812 |) | (425 |) | 196 | | 5,490 | |
| Unrealized net (losses)/gains and net interest income from Linked Transactions | \$(295 |) | \$568 | | \$1,241 | | \$8,267 | |

22

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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. In addition, Swaps novated to and cleared by a central clearing house are subject to initial margin requirements. 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. Such financial covenants include minimum net worth requirements and maximum debt-to-equity ratios. 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 June 30, 2013. At June 30, 2013, 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 approximately \$41.2 million, including accrued interest payable of approximately \$2.1 million.

The following table presents the assets pledged as collateral against the Company's derivative contracts at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

| (In Thousands) | June 30, 2013 | December 31, 2012 |
|---|---------------|----------------------|
| Agency MBS, at fair value | \$41,264 | \$68,915 |
| Restricted cash | 3,020 | 5,016 |
| Total assets pledged against derivative contracts | \$44,284 | \$73,931 |

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 June 30, 2013, 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 June 30, 2013, all of the Company's derivatives were deemed effective for hedging purposes and no derivatives were terminated during the three and six months ended June 30, 2013 and 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 (except for certain transaction fees related to entering in to Swaps cleared through a central clearing house), 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 six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

At June 30, 2013, the Company had Swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$2.687 billion, which had net unrealized losses of \$32.0 million, and extended 27 months on average with a maximum term of approximately 85 months. During the three months ended June 30, 2013, the Company entered into eight new Swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$701.0 million, a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 1.24% and initial maturities ranging from two months to seven years, and had Swaps amortize and/or expire with an aggregate notional amount of \$527.3 million. During the six months ended June 30, 2013, the Company entered into nine new Swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$751.0 million, a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 1.21% and initial maturities ranging from two months to seven years, and had Swaps amortize and/or expire with an aggregate notional amount of \$583.3 million.

The following table presents information about the Company's Swaps at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

| Maturity (1) | June 30, 2013 | | | December 31, 2012 | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|---|-------------------|--|---|
| | Notional Amount | Weighted Average Fixed-Pay Interest Rate | Weighted Average Variable Interest Rate (2) | Notional Amount | Weighted Average Fixed-Pay Interest Rate | Weighted Average Variable Interest Rate (2) |
| (Dollars in Thousands) | | | | | | |
| Within 30 days | \$ 185,729 | 4.02 | % 0.20 | % \$25,828 | 3.88 | % 0.28 |
| Over 30 days to 3 months | 172,283 | 4.32 | 0.20 | 30,185 | 3.96 | 0.26 |
| Over 3 months to 6 months | 34,051 | 4.10 | 0.23 | 527,275 | 1.63 | 0.21 |
| Over 6 months to 12 months | 517,998 | 1.97 | 0.20 | 391,063 | 4.17 | 0.22 |
| Over 12 months to 24 months | 877,214 | 2.20 | 0.20 | 685,042 | 2.28 | 0.22 |
| Over 24 months to 36 months | 50,000 | 2.13 | 0.19 | 710,171 | 1.97 | 0.21 |
| Over 36 months to 48 months | 450,000 | 0.56 | 0.19 | 150,000 | 1.03 | 0.21 |
| Over 48 months to 60 months | 50,000 | 1.45 | 0.20 | — | — | — |
| Over 60 months to 72 months | 150,000 | 1.46 | 0.20 | — | — | — |
| Over 72 months to 84 months | 200,000 | 2.05 | 0.20 | — | — | — |
| Total Swaps | \$2,687,275 | 2.10 | % 0.20 | % \$2,519,564 | 2.31 | % 0.22 |

(1) 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 six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012:

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

| (Dollars in Thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, | | Six Months Ended June 30, | | |
|--|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|---|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 | |
| Interest expense attributable to Swaps | \$12,027 | \$19,314 | \$24,996 | \$40,137 | |
| Weighted average Swap rate paid | 2.12 | % 2.70 | % 2.22 | % 2.74 | % |
| Weighted average Swap rate received | 0.20 | % 0.28 | % 0.20 | % 0.29 | % |

24

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

Impact of Hedging Instruments on AOCI

The following table presents the impact of the Company's derivative hedging instruments on its AOCI for the three and six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012:

| (In Thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, | | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| AOCI from derivative hedging instruments: | | | | |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$(50,515) | \$(102,103) | \$(62,831) | \$(114,194) |
| Unrealized gain on Swaps, net | 18,548 | 12,280 | 30,864 | 24,371 |
| Balance at end of period | \$(31,967) | \$(89,823) | \$(31,967) | \$(89,823) |

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.

6. 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 7) At June 30, 2013, the Company's borrowings under repurchase agreements had a weighted average remaining term-to-interest rate reset of 28 days and an effective repricing period of nine months, including the impact of related Swaps. At December 31, 2012, the Company's borrowings under repurchase agreements had a weighted average remaining term-to-interest rate reset of 28 days and an effective repricing period of five months, including the impact of related Swaps.

The following table presents information with respect to the Company's borrowings under repurchase agreements and associated assets pledged as collateral at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

| (Dollars in Thousands) | June 30, 2013 | December 31, |
|--|---------------|--------------|
| | | 2012 |
| Repurchase agreement borrowings secured by Agency MBS | \$6,080,964 | \$6,353,489 |
| Fair Value of Agency MBS pledged as collateral under repurchase agreements | \$6,443,433 | \$6,678,384 |
| Weighted average haircut on Agency MBS (1) | 4.65 | % 4.80 |
| Repurchase agreement borrowings secured by Non-Agency MBS (2) | \$2,424,349 | \$1,988,172 |

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

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|--|---|
| Fair Value of Non-Agency MBS pledged as collateral under repurchase agreements (2)(3) | \$3,906,157 | \$3,463,128 | | |
| Weighted average haircut on Non-Agency MBS (1) | 30.19 | % 30.49 | | % |
| Repurchase agreements secured by U.S. Treasuries | \$403,970 | \$410,811 | | |
| Fair value of U.S. Treasuries pledged as collateral under repurchase agreements | \$405,458 | \$408,833 | | |
| Weighted average haircut on U.S. Treasuries (1) | 0.89 | % 1.74 | | % |

(1) 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.

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

(3) Includes \$1.935 billion and \$1.860 billion of Non-Agency MBS acquired from consolidated VIEs at June 30, 2013, and December 31, 2012, respectively, that are eliminated from the Company's consolidated balance sheet.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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 June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

| Time Until Interest Rate Reset | June 30, 2013 | | December 31, 2012 | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | Balance (1) | Weighted Average Interest Rate | Balance (1) | Weighted Average Interest Rate | |
| (Dollars in Thousands) | | | | | |
| Within 30 days | \$7,503,586 | 0.76 | % \$6,293,802 | 0.71 | % |
| Over 30 days to 3 months | 1,152,390 | 0.75 | 2,458,670 | 1.21 | |
| Over 6 months to 12 months | 253,307 | 1.83 | — | — | |
| Total | \$8,909,283 | 0.79 | % \$8,752,472 | 0.85 | % |

(1) At June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, the Company had repurchase agreements of \$33.2 million and \$35.3 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 5)

The following table at June 30, 2013 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:

| Contractual Maturity | June 30, 2013 | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| | Balance (1) | Weighted Average Interest Rate |
| (Dollars in Thousands) | | |
| Overnight | \$— | — % |
| Within 30 days | 7,004,532 | 0.67 |
| Over 30 days to 90 days | 1,104,778 | 0.70 |
| Over 90 days to 12 months | 342,043 | 1.89 |
| Over 12 months | 457,930 | 2.04 |
| Total | \$8,909,283 | 0.79 % |

(1) At June 30, 2013, the Company had repurchase agreements of \$33.2 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 5)

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

The Company had repurchase agreements with 27 counterparties at June 30, 2013 and 26 counterparties at December 31, 2012. 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 June 30, 2013:

| Counterparty | Counterparty Rating (1) | Amount at Risk (2) | Weighted Average Months to Maturity for Repurchase Agreements | Percent of Stockholders' Equity | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| (Dollars in Thousands) | | | | | |
| Alpine Securitization Corporation/Credit Suisse (3) | A-1/P-1/F1 | \$704,276 | 1 | 22.3 | % |
| Wells Fargo (4) | AA-/Aa3/AA- | 357,260 | 9 | 11.3 | |
| UBS (5)(6) | A/A2/A | 250,088 | 26 | 7.9 | |
| Deutsche Bank | A+/A2/A+ | 206,555 | 2 | 6.5 | |

(1) As rated at June 30, 2013 by S&P, Moody's and Fitch, Inc., respectively. The counterparty rating presented is the lowest published for these entities.

(2) 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 Transaction, including accrued interest receivable on such securities.

(3) Includes \$677.2 million at risk with Alpine Securitization Corporation and \$27.0 million at risk with Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC. Alpine Securitization Corporation is a special purpose funding vehicle that is a consolidated affiliate of Credit Suisse Group. Counterparty rating shown is the asset backed short term rating for Alpine Securitization Corporation.

(4) Includes \$114.3 million at risk with Wells Fargo Bank, NA and \$242.9 million at risk with Wells Fargo Securities LLC.

(5) Includes \$239.9 million at risk with UBS AG and \$10.2 million at risk with UBS Securities LLC.

(6) Includes Non-Agency MBS pledged as collateral with contemporaneous repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements.

7. 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 certain of 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. In addition, Swaps novated to and cleared by a central clearing house are subject to initial margin requirements. 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.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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 June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

| (In Thousands) | June 30, 2013 | | December 31, 2012 | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | Assets Pledged | Collateral Held | Assets Pledged | Collateral Held |
| Derivative Hedging Instruments: | | | | |
| Agency MBS | \$41,264 | \$— | \$68,915 | \$— |
| Cash (1) | 3,020 | — | 5,016 | — |
| | 44,284 | — | 73,931 | — |
| Repurchase Agreement Borrowings: | | | | |
| Agency MBS | \$6,443,433 | \$— | \$6,678,384 | \$— |
| Non-Agency MBS (2)(3) | 3,906,157 | — | 3,463,128 | — |
| U.S. Treasury securities | 405,458 | — | 408,833 | — |
| | 10,755,048 | — | 10,550,345 | — |
| Reverse Repurchase Agreements: | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities | \$— | \$405,458 | \$— | \$408,833 |
| | — | 405,458 | — | 408,833 |
| Total | \$10,799,332 | \$405,458 | \$10,624,276 | \$408,833 |

(1) Cash pledged as collateral is reported as "restricted cash" on the Company's consolidated balance sheet.

(2) Includes \$1.935 billion and \$1.860 billion of Non-Agency MBS acquired in connection with securitization transactions from consolidated VIEs at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively, that are eliminated from the Company's consolidated balance sheet.

(3) In addition, \$740.0 million and \$759.2 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 June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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 June 30, 2013:

| (In Thousands) | Assets Pledged Under Repurchase Agreements | | | Assets Pledged Against Derivative Hedging Instruments | | | Total Fair Value of Assets Pledged and Accrued Interest |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | Fair Value/ Carrying Value | Amortized Cost | Accrued Interest on Pledged MBS | Fair Value/ Carrying Value | Amortized Cost | Accrued Interest on Pledged MBS | |
| U.S. Treasuries | \$405,458 | \$405,458 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$405,458 |
| Fannie Mae | \$5,261,649 | \$5,214,739 | \$14,091 | \$29,328 | \$28,350 | \$82 | \$5,305,150 |
| Freddie Mac | 1,176,891 | 1,190,698 | 3,178 | 4,184 | 4,033 | 17 | 1,184,270 |
| Ginnie Mae | 4,893 | 4,770 | 7 | 7,752 | 7,503 | 12 | 12,664 |
| Agency MBS | \$6,443,433 | \$6,410,207 | \$17,276 | \$41,264 | \$39,886 | \$111 | \$6,502,084 |
| Rated AAA | \$18,629 | \$18,184 | \$64 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$18,693 |
| Rated BBB | 31,020 | 30,790 | 104 | — | — | — | 31,124 |
| Rated BB | 332,903 | 298,848 | 1,083 | — | — | — | 333,986 |
| Rated B | 152,221 | 135,456 | 412 | — | — | — | 152,633 |
| Rated CCC | 366,903 | 318,387 | 1,307 | — | — | — | 368,210 |
| Rated CC | 143,955 | 130,633 | 644 | — | — | — | 144,599 |
| Rated C | 94,060 | 83,385 | 314 | — | — | — | 94,374 |
| Rated D | 1,178,816 | 1,057,747 | 5,928 | — | — | — | 1,184,744 |
| Not Rated | 1,587,650 | 1,143,461 | 7,517 | — | — | — | 1,595,167 |
| Non-Agency MBS (1)(2)(3) | \$3,906,157 | \$3,216,891 | \$17,373 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$3,923,530 |
| Total | \$10,755,048 | \$10,032,556 | \$34,649 | \$41,264 | \$39,886 | \$111 | \$10,831,072 |

(1) Includes \$1.935 billion of Non-Agency MBS acquired in connection with securitization transactions from consolidated VIEs at June 30, 2013, that are eliminated from the Company's consolidated balance sheet.

(2) 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.

(3) In addition, \$740.0 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 June 30, 2013.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

8. Offsetting Assets and Liabilities

The following tables present information about certain assets and liabilities that are subject to master netting arrangements (or similar agreements) and can potentially be offset on the Company's consolidated balance sheet at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

Offsetting of Financial Assets and Derivative Assets

| (In Thousands) | Gross Amounts of Recognized Assets | Gross Amounts Offset in the Consolidated Balance Sheet | Net Amounts of Gross Amounts Not Offset in the Consolidated Balance Sheet | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| | | | Assets Presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheet | Financial Instruments | Cash Collateral Received | Net Amount |
| June 30, 2013 | | | | | | |
| Derivative hedging instruments, at fair value | \$7,140 | \$ — | \$ 7,140 | \$ (7,140) | \$ — | \$ — |
| Total | \$7,140 | \$ — | \$ 7,140 | \$ (7,140) | \$ — | \$ — |
| December 31, 2012 | | | | | | |
| Derivative hedging instruments, at fair value | \$203 | \$ — | \$ 203 | \$ (203) | \$ — | \$ — |
| Total | \$203 | \$ — | \$ 203 | \$ (203) | \$ — | \$ — |

Offsetting of Financial Liabilities and Derivative Liabilities

| (In Thousands) | Gross Amounts of Recognized Liabilities | Gross Amounts Offset in the Consolidated Balance Sheet | Net Amounts of Gross Amounts Not Offset in the Consolidated Balance Sheet | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | Liabilities Presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheet | Financial Instruments (1) | Cash Collateral Pledged (1) | Net Amount |
| June 30, 2013 | | | | | | |
| Derivative hedging instruments, at fair value (2) | \$39,107 | \$ — | \$ 39,107 | \$ (36,087) | \$ (3,020) | \$ — |
| Repurchase agreements (3) | 8,909,283 | — | 8,909,283 | (8,909,283) | — | — |
| Total | \$8,948,390 | \$ — | \$ 8,948,390 | \$ (8,945,370) | \$ (3,020) | \$ — |
| December 31, 2012 | | | | | | |
| Derivative hedging instruments, at fair value (2) | \$63,034 | \$ — | \$ 63,034 | \$ (58,018) | \$ (5,016) | \$ — |
| | 8,752,472 | — | 8,752,472 | (8,752,472) | — | — |

Repurchase
agreements (3)

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------|------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|------|
| Total | \$8,815,506 | \$ — | \$ 8,815,506 | \$ (8,810,490) | \$ (5,016) | \$ — |
|-------|-------------|------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|------|

(1) Amounts disclosed in the Financial Instruments column of the table above represents collateral pledged that is available to be offset against liability balances associated with repurchase agreement and derivative transactions. Amounts disclosed in the Cash Collateral Pledged column of the table above represents amounts pledged as collateral against derivative transactions.

(2) The fair value of securities pledged against the Company's Swaps was \$41.3 million and \$68.9 million at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively.

(3) The fair value of securities pledged against the Company's repurchase agreements was \$10.755 billion and \$10.550 billion at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively.

Nature of Setoff Rights

In the Company's consolidated balance sheets, all balances associated with the repurchase agreement and derivatives transactions are presented on a gross basis.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

Certain of the Company's repurchase agreement and derivative transactions are governed by underlying agreements that generally provide for a right of setoff in the event of default or in the event of a bankruptcy of either party to the transaction. For one repurchase agreement counterparty, the underlying agreements provide for an unconditional right of setoff.

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 \$28,000 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 June 30, 2013, the Company had commitments to purchase Agency MBS at an estimated purchase price of \$15.0 million and Non-Agency MBS at an estimated purchase price of \$12.5 million. This commitment is included in the Agency and Non-Agency MBS balances presented at fair value on the Company's consolidated balance sheet.

11. Stockholders' Equity

(a) Preferred Stock

Redemption of 8.50% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock ("Series A Preferred Stock")

On May 16, 2013 (the "Redemption Date"), the Company redeemed all 3,840,000 outstanding shares of its Series A Preferred Stock at an aggregate redemption price of approximately \$97.0 million, or \$25.27153 per share, including all accrued and unpaid dividends to the Redemption Date. The redemption value of the Series A Preferred Stock exceeded its carrying value by \$3.9 million, which represents the original offering costs for the Series A Preferred Stock. This amount is included in the determination of net income available to common stock and participating securities for the three and six months ended June 30, 2013.

31

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

From the time of original issuance of the Series A Preferred Stock through the Redemption Date, the Company had declared and paid all required quarterly dividends of \$0.53125 per share on such stock. In addition, as part of the redemption price on its Series A Preferred Stock (discussed above), the Company paid a dividend of \$0.27153 per share, which reflected accrued and unpaid dividends for the period from April 1, 2013, through and including the Redemption Date.

Issuance of 7.50% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (“Series B Preferred Stock”)

On April 15, 2013, the Company amended its charter through filing of articles supplementary to its charter to reclassify 8,050,000 shares of the Company's authorized but unissued common stock as shares of the Company's Series B Preferred Stock. On April 15, 2013, the Company completed the issuance of 8.0 million shares of its Series B Preferred Stock, with a par value of \$0.01 per share and a liquidation preference \$25.00 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, in an underwritten public offering. The aggregate net proceeds to the Company from the offering of the Series B Preferred Stock were approximately \$193.3 million, after deducting the underwriting discount and related offering expenses. The Company used a portion of such net proceeds to redeem all of its outstanding Series A Preferred Stock (as discussed above), and intend to use the remaining net proceeds of the offering for general corporate purposes, including, without limitation, to acquire additional MBS consistent with its investment policy, and for working capital, which may include, among other things, the repayment of its repurchase agreements.

The Company's Series B Preferred Stock, which is redeemable at \$25.00 per share plus accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not authorized or declared) exclusively at the Company's option commencing on April 15, 2018 (subject to the Company's right under limited circumstances to redeem the Series B Preferred Stock prior to that date in order to preserve its qualification as a REIT and upon certain specified change in control transactions in which the Company's common stock and the acquiring or surviving entity common securities would not be listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the “NYSE”), the NYSE MKT or NASDAQ, or any successor exchanges), is entitled to receive a dividend at a rate of 7.50% per year on the \$25.00 liquidation preference before the Company's common stock is paid any dividends and is senior to the Company's common stock with respect to distributions upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

Dividends on the Series B Preferred Stock are payable quarterly in arrears on or about March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31 of each year. On May 20, 2013, the Company's Board of Directors (the “Board”) declared the first dividend payable on the Series B Preferred Stock, which was paid on July 1, 2013 to preferred stockholders of record as of June 3, 2013. The amount of such dividend payable was \$0.39583 per share, and was paid in respect of the partial period commencing on April 15, 2013, the date of original issue of the Series B Preferred Stock, and ending on, and including, June 30, 2013.

The Series B Preferred Stock generally does not have any voting rights, subject to an exception in the event the Company fails to pay dividends on such stock for six or more quarterly periods (whether or not consecutive). Under such circumstances, the Series B Preferred Stock will be entitled to vote to elect two additional directors to the Company's 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 Series B Preferred Stock cannot be made without the affirmative vote of holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

(b) Dividends on Common Stock

The following table presents cash dividends declared by the Company on its common stock from January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013:

| Declaration Date (1) | Record Date | Payment Date | Dividend Per Share |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| June 28, 2013 | July 12, 2013 | July 31, 2013 | \$ 0.22 (2) |
| March 28, 2013 | April 12, 2013 | April 30, 2013 | 0.22 |
| March 4, 2013 | March 18, 2013 | April 10, 2013 | 0.50 (3) |
| December 12, 2012 | December 28, 2012 | January 31, 2013 | 0.20 |
| September 28, 2012 | October 12, 2012 | October 31, 2012 | 0.21 |
| June 27, 2012 | July 13, 2012 | July 31, 2012 | 0.23 |
| March 23, 2012 | April 4, 2012 | April 30, 2012 | 0.24 |

(1) Table excludes the special cash dividend of \$0.28 per share payable on August 30, 2013 to stockholders of record on August 12, 2013. (See Note 16)

(2) At June 30, 2013, the Company had accrued dividends and DERs payable of \$80.4 million related to the common stock dividend declared on June 28, 2013.

(3) Reflects the special cash dividend on common stock declared on March 4, 2013.

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

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 (the “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 June 30, 2013, 3.5 million shares of common stock remained available for issuance pursuant to the DRSPP shelf registration statement.

During the three and six months ended June 30, 2013, the Company issued 3,365,102 shares and 4,499,140 shares of common stock through the DRSPP, raising net proceeds of \$33,244,012 and \$40,611,206, respectively. From the inception of the DRSPP in September 2003 through June 30, 2013, the Company issued 21,027,165 shares pursuant to the DRSPP, raising net proceeds of \$184.4 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 six months ended June 30, 2013, the Company did not issue any shares through the CEO Program. From inception of the CEO Program through June 30, 2013, 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.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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 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

As previously disclosed, in August 2005, the Company’s Board authorized a stock repurchase program (the “Repurchase Program”), to repurchase up to 4.0 million shares of its outstanding common stock under the Repurchase Program. The Board reaffirmed such authorization in May 2010. Such authorization does not have an expiration date and, at present, there is no intention to modify or otherwise rescind such authorization. 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. During the six months ended June 30, 2013, the Company did not repurchase any shares of its common stock under the Repurchase Program. At June 30, 2013, 2,759,709 shares remained authorized for repurchase.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

(f) Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss)

The following table presents changes in the balances of each component of the Company's AOCI for the three and six months ended June 30, 2013:

| (In Thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, 2013 | | | Six Months Ended June 30, 2013 | | |
|--|---|---|------------|---|---|------------|
| | Net Unrealized Gain on Available-for- Sale MBS | Net Unrealized (Loss)/Gain MBS | Total AOCI | Net Unrealized Gain on Available-for- Sale MBS | Net Unrealized (Loss)/Gain MBS | Total AOCI |
| Balance at the beginning of the period | \$942,887 | \$ (50,515) | \$892,372 | \$824,808 | \$ (62,831) | \$761,977 |
| OCI before reclassifications | (238,762) | 18,548 | (220,214) | (119,383) | 30,864 | (88,519) |
| Amounts reclassified from AOCI (1) | (3,254) | — | (3,254) | (4,554) | — | (4,554) |
| Net OCI during the period (2) | (242,016) | 18,548 | (223,468) | (123,937) | 30,864 | (93,073) |
| Balance at end of period | \$700,871 | \$ (31,967) | \$668,904 | \$700,871 | \$ (31,967) | \$668,904 |

The following table presents changes in the balances of each component of the Company's AOCI for the three and six months ended June 30, 2012:

| (In Thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, 2012 | | | Six Months Ended June 30, 2012 | | |
|--|---|---|------------|---|---|--------------|
| | Net Unrealized Gain on Available-for- Sale MBS | Net Unrealized (Loss)/Gain MBS | Total AOCI | Net Unrealized Gain on Available-for- Sale MBS | Net Unrealized (Loss)/Gain MBS | Total AOCI |
| Balance at the beginning of the period | \$312,954 | \$ (102,103) | \$210,851 | \$55,491 | \$ (114,194) | \$ (58,703) |
| OCI before reclassifications | (17,227) | 12,280 | (4,947) | 242,217 | 24,371 | 266,588 |
| Amounts reclassified from AOCI (1) | 280 | — | 280 | (1,701) | — | (1,701) |
| Net OCI during the period (2) | (16,947) | 12,280 | (4,667) | 240,516 | 24,371 | 264,887 |
| Balance at end of period | \$296,007 | \$ (89,823) | \$206,184 | \$296,007 | \$ (89,823) | \$206,184 |

(1) See separate table below for details about these reclassifications.

(2) For further information regarding changes in OCI, see the Company's consolidated statement of comprehensive income/(loss).

The following table presents information about the significant amounts reclassified out of the Company's AOCI for the three and six months ended June 30, 2013:

| Details about | Three Months Ended June 30, 2013 | Six Months Ended June 30, 2013 | Affected Line Item in the Statement |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | |

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

| AOCI Components | Amounts Reclassified from AOCI | Amounts Reclassified from AOCI | Where Net Income is Presented |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| (In Thousands) | | | |
| Available-for-sale MBS: | | | |
| Realized gain on sale of securities | \$(3,254 |) \$(4,554 |) Gain on sales of MBS and U.S. Treasury securities, net |
| Total reclassifications for period | \$(3,254 |) \$(4,554 |) |

35

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

The following table presents information about the significant amounts reclassified out of the Company's AOCI for the three and six months ended June 30, 2012:

| Details about AOCI Components (In Thousands) Available-for-sale MBS: | Three Months Ended June 30, 2012 Amounts Reclassified from AOCI | Six Months Ended June 30, 2012 Amounts Reclassified from AOCI | Affected Line Item in the Statement Where Net Income is Presented |
|---|--|--|--|
| Realized gain on sale of securities | \$— | (2,901 |) Gain on sales of MBS and U.S. Treasury securities, net |
| OTTI recognized in earnings | 280 | 1,200 |) Net impairment losses recognized in earnings |
| Total reclassifications for period | \$280 | (1,701 |) |

At June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, the Company had OTTI recognized in AOCI of \$1.4 million and \$2.6 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 six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012:

| (In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts) | Three Months Ended June 30, | | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Numerator: | | | | |
| Net income | \$75,473 | \$74,766 | \$152,824 | \$159,479 |
| Dividends declared on preferred stock | (4,210) | (2,040) | (6,250) | (4,080) |
| Dividends, DERs and undistributed earnings allocated to participating securities | (329) | (395) | (650) | (811) |
| Issuance costs of redeemed preferred stock (1) | (3,947) | — | (3,947) | — |
| Net income to common stockholders - basic and diluted | \$66,987 | \$72,331 | \$141,977 | \$154,588 |
| Denominator: | | | | |
| Weighted average common shares for basic and diluted earnings per share (2) | 361,450 | 356,598 | 359,790 | 356,382 |
| Basic and diluted earnings per share | \$0.19 | \$0.20 | \$0.39 | \$0.43 |

(1) Issuance costs of redeemed preferred stock represent the original offering costs related to the Series A Preferred Stock, which was redeemed on May 16, 2013. (See Note 11)

(2) At June 30, 2013, the Company had an aggregate of 1.6 million equity instruments outstanding that were not included in the calculation of diluted EPS for the three and six months ended June 30, 2013, as their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive. These equity instruments were comprised of 407,000 stock options with a weighted average exercise price of \$10.23 and a weighted average remaining contractual life of 0.3 years, approximately 411,000 shares of restricted common stock with a weighted average grant date fair value of \$7.73 and approximately 768,000 RSUs with a weighted average grant date fair value of \$6.58. These equity instruments may have a dilutive impact on future EPS.

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

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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 June 30, 2013, approximately 9.5 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 \$922,000 and \$378,000 during the three months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012, and approximately \$1.2 million and \$825,000 during the six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The 2013 periods reflect the special cash dividend of \$0.50 per share paid on April 10, 2013. At June 30, 2013, the Company had 1,316,222 DERs outstanding, of which 403,250 were attached to common stock options and 912,972 were awarded in connection with, or attached to, RSUs. At June 30, 2013, the average forfeiture rate on DERs outstanding attached to RSUs was 17.1%. On the remaining DERs outstanding that are not attached to RSUs, a 0% forfeiture rate was assumed at June 30, 2013. At June 30, 2013, all outstanding DERs were entitled to receive non-forfeitable distributions and are scheduled to elapse over a weighted average period of 1.6 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 six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012. There were 20,000 stock options exercised and no stock options cancelled during the six months ended June 30, 2013, and no stock options exercised and 50,000 stock options cancelled during the six months ended June 30, 2012. At June 30, 2013, 407,000 stock options were outstanding, all of which were vested and exercisable, with a weighted average exercise price of \$10.23. As of June 30, 2013, the aggregate intrinsic value of total Options outstanding was

approximately \$250.

Restricted Stock

The Company awarded 16,412 and 28,743 shares of restricted common stock during the three and six months ended June 30, 2013 and awarded 66,558 and 81,439 shares of restricted common stock during the three and six months ended June 30, 2012. At June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, the Company had unrecognized compensation expense of \$2.9 million and \$3.7 million, respectively, related to the unvested shares of restricted common stock. The Company had accrued dividends payable of \$444,000 and \$428,000 on unvested shares of restricted stock at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively. The unrecognized compensation expense at June 30, 2013 is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 1.3 years.

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

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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 June 30, 2013 are designated to be settled in shares of the Company's common stock. The Company granted 40,324 RSUs during the three and six months ended June 30, 2013 and did not grant any RSUs during the three and six months ended June 30, 2012. All RSUs outstanding at June 30, 2013 had DERs attached or issued as separate associated instruments in connection with RSUs. At June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, the Company had unrecognized compensation expense of \$1.9 million and \$2.6 million, respectively, related to RSUs and DERs. The unrecognized compensation expense at June 30, 2013 is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 1.9 years. As of June 30, 2013, the Company had an expected average forfeiture rate of 17.1% 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 six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012:

| (In Thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, | | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Restricted shares of common stock | \$591 | \$1,155 | \$1,135 | \$1,917 |
| RSUs | 659 | 266 | 949 | 546 |
| DERs | 51 | 59 | 102 | 118 |
| Total | \$1,301 | \$1,480 | \$2,186 | \$2,581 |

(b) Employment Agreements

At June 30, 2013, 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

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

its non-employee directors and senior officers for the three and six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012:

| (In Thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, | | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Non-employee directors | \$— | \$17 | \$52 | \$43 |
| Total | \$— | \$17 | \$52 | \$43 |

38

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

The following table presents the aggregate amount of income deferred by participants of the Deferred Plans through June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 that had not been distributed and the Company's associated liability for such deferrals at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

| (In Thousands) | June 30, 2013 | | December 31, 2012 | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| | Undistributed Income Deferred (1) | Liability Under Deferred Plans | Undistributed Income Deferred (1) | Liability Under Deferred Plans |
| Non-employee directors | \$214 | \$361 | \$199 | \$302 |
| Total | \$214 | \$361 | \$199 | \$302 |

(1) Represents the cumulative amounts that were deferred by participants through June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, 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 June 30, 2013 and 2012, the Company recognized expenses for matching contributions of \$63,000 and \$60,000, respectively, and \$125,000 and \$120,000 for the six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012, 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, trading activity observed in the marketplace and other data inputs. The methodology also considers the

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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

For non-centrally cleared swaps, the Company determines the fair value of its derivative hedging instruments considering valuations obtained from a third party pricing service. For swaps that are cleared by a central clearing house valuations provided by the clearing house are used. All valuations obtained 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 either to bilateral collateral arrangements, or for cleared swaps, to the clearing house's margin requirements. 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.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

The following table presents the Company's financial instruments carried at fair value as of June 30, 2013, on the consolidated balance sheet by the valuation hierarchy, as previously described:

Fair Value at June 30, 2013

| (In Thousands) | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
|--|-----------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| Assets: | | | | |
| Agency MBS | \$— | \$6,937,911 | \$— | \$6,937,911 |
| Non-Agency MBS, including MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs | — | 5,295,653 | — | 5,295,653 |
| Securities obtained and pledged as collateral | 405,458 | — | — | 405,458 |
| Linked Transactions | — | 10,519 | — | 10,519 |
| Derivative hedging instruments | — | 7,140 | — | 7,140 |
| Total assets carried at fair value | \$405,458 | \$12,251,223 | \$— | \$12,656,681 |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Derivative hedging instruments | \$— | \$39,107 | \$— | \$39,107 |
| Obligation to return securities obtained as collateral | 405,458 | — | — | 405,458 |
| Total liabilities carried at fair value | \$405,458 | \$39,107 | \$— | \$444,565 |

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.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

The following table presents the carrying value and estimated fair value of the Company's financial instruments, at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

| (In Thousands) | June 30, 2013 | | December 31, 2012 | |
|--|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Carrying Value | Estimated Fair Value | Carrying Value | Estimated Fair Value |
| Financial Assets: | | | | |
| Agency MBS | \$6,937,911 | \$6,937,911 | \$7,225,460 | \$7,225,460 |
| Non-Agency MBS, including MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs | 5,295,653 | 5,295,653 | 5,382,165 | 5,382,165 |
| Securities obtained and pledged as collateral | 405,458 | 405,458 | 408,833 | 408,833 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 448,282 | 448,282 | 401,293 | 401,293 |
| Restricted cash | 3,020 | 3,020 | 5,016 | 5,016 |
| Linked Transactions | 10,519 | 10,519 | 12,704 | 12,704 |
| Derivative hedging instruments | 7,140 | 7,140 | 203 | 203 |
| Financial Liabilities: | | | | |
| Repurchase agreements | 8,909,283 | 8,908,660 | 8,752,472 | 8,754,521 |
| Securitized debt | 443,748 | 444,661 | 646,816 | 647,070 |
| Obligation to return securities obtained as collateral | 405,458 | 405,458 | 508,827 | 508,827 |
| Senior Notes | 100,000 | 103,360 | 100,000 | 103,040 |
| Derivative hedging instruments | 39,107 | 39,107 | 63,034 | 63,034 |

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 June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, 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 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.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

Resecuritization transactions

Since October 2010, the Company has 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:

| (Dollars in Thousands) | February 2012 | June 2011 | February 2011 | October 2010 (1) |
|--|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| Name of Trust (Consolidated as a VIE) | WFMLT Series 2012-RR1 | CSMC Series 2011-7R | CSMC Series 2011-1R | DMSI 2010-RS2 |
| Principal value of Non-Agency MBS sold | \$433,347 | \$1,283,422 | \$1,319,969 | \$985,228 |
| Face amount of Senior Bonds issued by the VIE and purchased by 3rd party investors | \$186,691 | \$474,866 | \$488,389 | \$246,307 |
| Outstanding amount of Senior Bonds at June 30, 2013 | \$118,545 | \$152,274 | \$172,930 | \$— |
| Pass-through rate for Senior Bonds issued | 2.85 | % One-month LIBOR plus 125 basis points | One-month LIBOR plus 100 basis points | One-month LIBOR plus 125 basis points |
| Face amount of Senior Support Certificates received by the Company (2) | \$246,656 | \$808,556 | \$831,580 | \$738,921 |
| Cash received | \$186,691 | \$474,866 | \$488,389 | \$246,307 |
| Notional amount acquired of non-rated, interest only senior certificates | \$186,691 | \$474,866 | \$488,389 | \$246,307 |
| Expenses incurred (3) | \$1,814 | \$3,230 | \$3,527 | \$3,562 |

(1) The principal balance for the DMSI 2010-RS2 Senior Bond was paid off during the quarter ended June 30, 2013.

(2) Provides credit support for the sequential Senior Non-Agency MBS sold to third-party investors in resecuritization transactions ("Senior Bonds").

(3) Amortized to interest expense based upon the actual repayments of the associated beneficial interests.

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.

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.

Table of Contents

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2013

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.

As of June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, the aggregate fair value of the Non-Agency MBS that were resecuritized as described above was \$2.438 billion and \$2.620 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 June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, the aggregate outstanding balance of Senior Bonds issued by consolidated VIEs was \$443.7 million and \$646.8 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.

16. Subsequent Events

Special Dividend

On August 1, 2013, the Company's Board declared a special cash dividend of \$0.28 per share of common stock. The dividend will be paid on August 30, 2013 to stockholders of record on August 12, 2013.

Swap Transactions entered into subsequent to Quarter-End

Since June 30, 2013, the Company has entered into eight Swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$950 million, a weighted average fixed pay rate of 1.97% and initial maturities ranging from five to ten years. The following table presents information about such Swaps:

| Maturity | Notional Amount | Weighted Average Fixed-Pay Interest Rate | |
|------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| (Dollars in Thousands) | | | |
| 5 years | \$350,000 | 1.00 | % |
| 7 years | 500,000 | 2.14 | |
| 10 years | 100,000 | 2.75 | |
| Total Swaps | \$950,000 | 1.97 | % |

At July 31, 2013, the aggregate notional amount of the Company's Swaps is \$3.452 billion with a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 1.96% and an average maturity of 43 months.

Table of Contents

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, 2012.

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," "continue," "intend," "should," "could," "would," "may" or similar expressions, are intended to identify "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A 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 on the mortgage loans securing 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 estimates regarding taxable income the actual amount of which is dependent on a number of factors, including, but not limited to, changes in the amount of interest income and financing costs, the method elected by us to accrete the market discount on Non-Agency MBS and the extent of prepayments, realized losses and changes in the composition of our Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS portfolios that may occur during the applicable tax period, including gain or loss on any MBS disposals; the timing and amount of distributions to stockholders, which are declared and paid at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend on, among other things, our taxable income, our financial results and overall financial condition and liquidity, maintenance of our REIT qualification and such other factors as the Board deems relevant; 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 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 June 30, 2013, we had total assets of approximately \$13.197 billion, of which \$12.234 billion, or 92.7%, represented our MBS portfolio. At such date, our MBS portfolio was comprised of \$6.938 billion of Agency MBS and \$5.296 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 MBS-related receivables.

Table of Contents

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 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 is 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.

As of June 30, 2013, approximately \$8.648 billion, or 70.7%, of our MBS portfolio was in its contractual fixed-rate period or were fixed-rate MBS and approximately \$3.582 billion, or 29.3%, was in its contractual adjustable-rate period, or were floating rate MBS. Our ARM-MBS in their contractual adjustable-rate period primarily include MBS collateralized by Hybrids for which the initial fixed-rate period has elapsed, such that the interest rate will typically adjust on an annual or semiannual basis. In addition, at June 30, 2013, we had \$192.1 million, or 1.6%, of MBS with interest rates that reset monthly.

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 conditional prepayment rate (or 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 rate (or CRR), which measures voluntary prepayments of mortgages collateralizing a particular MBS, and the conditional default rate (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 June 30, 2013,

Table of Contents

our Agency MBS portfolio experienced a weighted average CPR of 20.2%, and our Non-Agency MBS portfolio (including Non-Agency MBS underlying our Linked Transactions) experienced a weighted average CPR of 16.4%. For the three months ended March 31, 2013, our Agency MBS portfolio experienced a weighted average CPR of 19.1%, and our Non-Agency MBS portfolio (including Non-Agency MBS underlying our Linked Transactions) experienced a weighted average CPR of 15.1%. Over the last consecutive eight quarters, ending with June 30, 2013, the monthly fair value weighted average CPR on our MBS portfolio ranged from a high of 19.5% experienced during the quarter ended June 30, 2012 to a low of 15.9%, experienced during the quarter ended March 31, 2012, with an average CPR over such quarters of 17.8%.

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 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 June 30, 2013, we had net unrealized gains of \$33.2 million on our Agency MBS, comprised of gross unrealized gains of \$114.1 million and gross unrealized losses of \$80.9 million, and had net unrealized gains on our Non-Agency MBS of \$667.7 million, comprised of gross unrealized gains of \$676.1 million and gross unrealized losses of \$8.4 million. At June 30, 2013, 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 the majority 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 six months ended June 30, 2013, we entered into nine new Swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$751.0 million, a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 1.21% and initial maturities ranging from two months to seven years, and had Swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$583.3 million and a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 1.85% amortize and/or expire. At June 30, 2013, we had Swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$2.687 billion with a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 2.10% and a weighted average variable interest rate received of 0.20%.

Recent Market Conditions and Our Strategy

During the second quarter of 2013, we continued to invest in both Agency and Non-Agency MBS. During the three months ended June 30, 2013, we acquired approximately (i) \$465.3 million of Agency MBS at a weighted average purchase price of 103.9% of par value and (ii) \$245.0 million of Non-Agency MBS at a weighted average purchase price of 88.7% of par value. During the six months ended June 30, 2013, we acquired approximately (i) \$935.2 million of Agency MBS at a weighted average purchase price of 104.1% of par value and (ii) \$310.6 million of Non-Agency MBS at a weighted average purchase price of 87.7% of par value. At June 30, 2013, our combined MBS portfolio was approximately \$12.234 billion compared to \$12.608 billion at December 31, 2012. During the three months ended June 30, 2013, we experienced a decrease in our MBS portfolio primarily due to principal repayments exceeding the addition of newly acquired assets and the decrease in net unrealized gains.

Table of Contents

At June 30, 2013, \$6.938 billion, or 56.7% of our MBS portfolio, was invested in Agency MBS. During the three months ended June 30, 2013, we experienced a decrease of \$216.0 million in the fair value of our Agency MBS primarily due to a decrease in net unrealized gains of \$140.5 million for the portfolio as a result of market price declines. In addition, we experienced \$524.4 million of principal repayments and \$16.4 million of premium amortization which was partially offset by the addition of \$465.3 million of newly acquired assets.

At June 30, 2013, \$5.296 billion, or 43.3% of our MBS portfolio, was invested in Non-Agency MBS. In addition, we had \$43.7 million of Non-Agency MBS that were reported as a component of our Linked Transactions. During the three months ended June 30, 2013, we experienced a decrease of \$92.6 million in the fair value of our Non-Agency MBS portfolio primarily due to a decrease in net unrealized gains of \$101.5 million for the portfolio as a result of market price declines. In addition, we experienced \$247.2 million of principal repayments and the sale of Non-Agency MBS with an amortized cost of \$5.5 million, which was partially offset by the addition of \$245.0 million of newly acquired assets and \$16.6 million of discount accretion.

Our book value per common share was \$8.19 as of June 30, 2013, compared to \$8.84 at March 31, 2013. Increased uncertainty about the pace and amount of future Federal Reserve Bank asset purchases impacted the value of our MBS during the second quarter of 2013.

Due to the interest rate environment in 2012 and the first six months of 2013, yields on acquired assets were lower than in prior periods. At the end of the second quarter of 2013, the average coupon on mortgages underlying our Agency MBS was lower compared to the end of the second quarter of 2012, 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 54 basis points to 3.14% for three months ended June 30, 2013 from 3.68% for the three months ended June 30, 2012. In addition, the net Agency MBS yield decreased to 2.19% for the three months ended June 30, 2013, from 2.95% for the three months ended June 30, 2012. Our Non-Agency MBS portfolio yielded 7.15% for the three months ended June 30, 2013 compared to 6.77% for the three months ended June 30, 2012. The increase in the yield on our Non-Agency MBS portfolio is primarily due to increases in accretable discount and changes in the forward yield curve.

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. Home price appreciation is generally continuing due to a combination of low mortgage rates, limited housing supply, capital flows into own-to-rent foreclosure purchases and demographic-driven U.S. household formation. We believe that our \$1.265 billion Credit Reserve appropriately factors in remaining uncertainties regarding housing fundamentals and the potential impact on future cash flows. A combination of both home price appreciation and mortgage amortization continues to lower the Loan-To-Value ratio (or LTV) for many of the mortgages underlying our Non-Agency portfolio. We believe that due to underlying mortgage loan amortization and based on regional home price appreciation, the LTV of mortgage loans underlying our Non-Agency MBS has declined from approximately 105% to approximately 90% since January 2012. Due to this lower LTV, we continue to reduce our estimate of future losses within our Non-Agency portfolio. Lower LTVs lessen the likelihood of defaults and simultaneously decrease loss severities. Additionally, current to 60-days delinquent transition rates continue to decline from their 2009 peak. We have also observed faster voluntary prepayment (i.e. prepayment of loans in full with no loss) speeds than originally projected. Due primarily to these factors, we have reduced our estimates of default rates and loss severities. Based on these revised projections, we have reduced estimated future losses within our Non-Agency portfolio. As a result, during the three months ended June 30, 2013 we transferred \$54.8 million to accretable discount from Credit Reserve bringing the total transferred over the last twelve months to \$224.3 million. This increase in accretable discount is expected to prospectively increase the interest income from Non-Agency MBS, in an amount equal to the amount transferred from Credit Reserve. The

impact on interest income will be realized over the remaining life of the assets. The remaining average contractual life of such assets is approximately 25 years, but based on scheduled loan amortization and prepayments (both voluntary and involuntary), loan balances will decline substantially over time. Consequently, we believe that the majority of the impact on interest income from the reduction in Credit Reserve will occur over the next ten years.

With \$448.3 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$433.8 million of unpledged Agency MBS at June 30, 2013, we believe that we are positioned to continue to take advantage of investment opportunities within the residential MBS marketplace. During the remainder of 2013 we intend to continue to selectively acquire Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS. We believe that our Non-Agency assets will benefit 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

Table of Contents

to loan defaults, we believe that they will deliver attractive loss adjusted yields due to our discounted average amortized cost of 74% of face value at June 30, 2013. We expect that the majority of our assets will remain in Agency MBS.

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 June 30, 2013, our debt consisted of borrowings under repurchase agreements with 27 counterparties, securitized debt, payable for unsettled purchases and Senior Notes outstanding, and obligation to return securities obtained as collateral, resulting in a debt-to-equity multiple of 3.1 times. (See table on page 66 under Results of Operations that presents our quarterly leverage multiples since June 30, 2012.)

Recent Developments

As discussed below under “Tax Considerations - Status of 2012 tax return and impact on distribution of taxable income,” on August 1, 2013 our Board declared a special cash dividend of \$0.28 per share payable on August 30, 2013 to stockholders of record on August 12, 2013.

Since June 30, 2013 the Company entered into new Swaps, which increased the aggregate notional amount of its Swaps at July 31, 2013 to \$3.452 billion with a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 1.96% and an average maturity of 43 months. (See Note 16 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements, included under Item 1 of the Quarterly Report of Form 10-Q.)

Table of Contents

Information About Our Assets

The tables below present certain information about our asset allocation at June 30, 2013:

ASSET ALLOCATION

| GAAP Basis | Agency MBS | Non-Agency MBS | MBS Portfolio | Cash (1) | Other, net (2) | Total |
|---|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------|
| (Dollars in Thousands) | | | | | | |
| Amortized Cost | \$6,904,739 | \$4,627,954 | \$11,532,693 | \$451,302 | \$(7,778) | \$11,976,217 |
| Market Value | \$6,937,911 | \$5,295,653 | \$12,233,564 | \$451,302 | \$(7,778) | \$12,677,088 |
| Less Payable for Unsettled Purchases | (15,043) | (12,545) | (27,588) | — | — | (27,588) |
| Less Repurchase Agreements | (6,080,964) | (2,828,319) | (8,909,283) | — | — | (8,909,283) |
| Less Securitized Debt | — | (443,748) | (443,748) | — | — | (443,748) |
| Less Senior Notes | — | — | — | — | (100,000) | (100,000) |
| Equity Allocated | \$841,904 | \$2,011,041 | \$2,852,945 | \$451,302 | \$(107,778) | \$3,196,469 |
| Less Swaps at Market Value | — | — | — | — | (31,967) | (31,967) |
| Net Equity Allocated | \$841,904 | \$2,011,041 | \$2,852,945 | \$451,302 | \$(139,745) | \$3,164,502 |
| Debt/Net Equity Ratio (3) | 7.24 | x 1.63 | x | | | 3.12 x |
| Non-GAAP Adjustments | Agency MBS | Non-Agency MBS (4) | MBS Portfolio | Cash (1) | Other, net (4) | Total |
| (Dollars in Thousands) | | | | | | |
| Amortized Cost | \$— | \$39,444 | \$39,444 | \$— | \$(8,914) | \$30,530 |
| Market Value | \$— | \$43,651 | \$43,651 | \$— | \$(8,914) | \$34,737 |
| Repurchase Agreements | — | 370,721 | 370,721 | — | — | 370,721 |
| Multi-year Collateralized Financing Arrangements | — | (405,458) | (405,458) | — | — | (405,458) |
| Equity Allocated | \$— | \$8,914 | \$8,914 | \$— | \$(8,914) | \$— |
| Less Swaps at Market Value | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Net Equity Allocated | \$— | \$8,914 | \$8,914 | \$— | \$(8,914) | \$— |
| Non-GAAP Basis | Agency MBS | Non-Agency MBS (4) | MBS Portfolio | Cash (1) | Other, net (6) | Total |
| (Dollars in Thousands) | | | | | | |
| Amortized Cost | \$6,904,739 | \$4,667,398 | \$11,572,137 | \$451,302 | \$(16,692) | \$12,006,747 |
| Market Value | \$6,937,911 | \$5,339,304 | \$12,277,215 | \$451,302 | \$(16,692) | \$12,711,825 |
| Less Payable for Unsettled Purchases | (15,043) | (12,545) | (27,588) | — | — | (27,588) |
| Less Repurchase Agreements | (6,080,964) | (2,457,598) | (8,538,562) | — | — | (8,538,562) |
| Less Multi-year Collateralized Financing Arrangements | — | (405,458) | (405,458) | — | — | (405,458) |
| Less Securitized Debt | — | (443,748) | (443,748) | — | — | (443,748) |
| Less Senior Notes | — | — | — | — | (100,000) | (100,000) |
| Equity Allocated | \$841,904 | \$2,019,955 | \$2,861,859 | \$451,302 | \$(116,692) | \$3,196,469 |
| Less Swaps at Market Value | — | — | — | — | (31,967) | (31,967) |
| Net Equity Allocated | \$841,904 | \$2,019,955 | \$2,861,859 | \$451,302 | \$(148,659) | \$3,164,502 |
| Debt/Net Equity Ratio (5) | 7.24 | x 1.64 | x | | | 3.14 x |

(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, interest payable, dividends payable, excise tax and interest payable, and accrued expenses and other liabilities.

50

Table of Contents

(3) For the Agency and Non-Agency MBS portfolio, represents the sum of borrowings under repurchase agreements, payable for unsettled purchases and securitized debt as a multiple of net equity allocated. The numerator of our Total Debt/Net Equity ratio also includes the obligation to return securities obtained as collateral of \$405.5 million and Senior Notes.

(4) Includes Non-Agency MBS and repurchase agreements underlying Linked Transactions. The purchase of a Non-Agency MBS and contemporaneous 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 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) For the Agency and Non-Agency MBS portfolio, represents the sum of borrowings under repurchase agreements, payable for unsettled purchases, multi-year collateralized financing arrangements of \$405.5 million and securitized debt as a multiple of net equity allocated. The numerator of our Total Debt/Net Equity ratio also includes borrowings under repurchase agreements of \$405.5 million for which U.S. Treasury securities are pledged as collateral and Senior Notes.

(6) Includes securities obtained and pledged as collateral, interest receivable, goodwill, prepaid and other assets, borrowings under repurchase agreements of \$405.5 million for which U.S. Treasury securities are pledged as collateral, interest payable, dividends payable, excise tax and interest 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 June 30, 2013:

| (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 |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 15-Year Fixed Rate: | | | | | | | |
| Low Loan Balance (3) | \$2,138,913 | 104.3 | % 102.7 | % \$2,197,126 | 15 | 3.06 | % 10.6 |
| HARP (4) | 223,798 | 104.7 | 102.9 | 230,230 | 14 | 3.03 | 10.6 |
| Other (Post June 2009) (5) | 237,963 | 103.4 | 105.4 | 250,797 | 36 | 4.18 | 25.8 |
| Other (Pre June 2009) (6) | 1,579 | 104.9 | 106.0 | 1,674 | 49 | 4.50 | 43.1 |
| Total 15-Year Fixed Rate | \$2,602,253 | 104.2 | % 103.0 | % \$2,679,827 | 17 | 3.16 | % 12.1 |
| Hybrid: | | | | | | | |
| Other (Post June 2009) (5) | \$2,487,534 | 103.9 | % 103.8 | % \$2,583,098 | 26 | 3.21 | % 26.8 |
| Other (Pre June 2009) (6) | 1,399,585 | 101.4 | 106.1 | 1,485,305 | 77 | 3.70 | 24.1 |
| Total Hybrid | \$3,887,119 | 103.0 | 104.7 | % \$4,068,403 | 45 | 3.39 | 25.8 |
| CMO/Other | \$178,621 | 102.5 | 103.8 | % \$185,354 | 150 | 2.53 | 10.5 |
| Total Portfolio | \$6,667,993 | 103.5 | % 104.0 | % \$6,933,584 | 36 | 3.27 | % 20.2 |

(1) Does not include principal payments receivable of \$4.3 million at June 30, 2013.

(2) Weighted average is based on MBS current face at June 30, 2013.

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

- (4) 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.
- (5) MBS issued in June 2009 or later. Majority of underlying loans are ineligible to refinance through the HARP program.
- (6) MBS issued before June 2009.

Table of Contents

The following table presents certain information regarding our 15-year fixed-rate Agency MBS as of June 30, 2013:

| Coupon | Current 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 |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (Dollars in Thousands) | | | | | | | | |
| 15-Year Fixed Rate: | | | | | | | | |
| 2.5% | \$1,154,454 | 104.0 % | 100.7 % | \$1,162,448 | 6 | 3.04 % | 100 % | 3.3 % |
| 3.0% | 514,879 | 105.9 | 103.1 | 530,645 | 12 | 3.49 | 100 | 8.6 |
| 3.5% | 18,609 | 103.5 | 104.4 | 19,425 | 32 | 4.16 | 100 | 19.0 |
| 4.0% | 766,538 | 103.3 | 105.7 | 810,404 | 32 | 4.40 | 82 | 23.6 |
| 4.5% | 147,773 | 105.2 | 106.2 | 156,905 | 35 | 4.87 | 32 | 19.7 |
| Total 15-Year Fixed Rate | \$2,602,253 | 104.2 % | 103.0 % | \$2,679,827 | 17 | 3.64 % | 91 % | 12.1 % |

(1) Does not include principal payments receivable of \$4.3 million at June 30, 2013.

(2) Weighted average is based on MBS current face at June 30, 2013.

(3) 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.

The following table presents certain information regarding our Hybrid Agency MBS as of June 30, 2013:

| (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) | Weighted Interest Only (4) | Weighted Average Month CPR |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Hybrid Post | | | | | | | | | |
| June 2009: | | | | | | | | | |
| Agency 5/1 | \$998,746 | 103.3 % | 105.5 % | \$1,053,360 | 3.42 % | 35 | 25 | 25 % | 28.0 % |
| Agency 7/1 | 1,266,301 | 104.3 | 103.1 | 1,305,456 | 3.08 | 22 | 62 | 21 | 26.9 |
| Agency 10/1 | 222,487 | 104.9 | 100.8 | 224,282 | 2.95 | 13 | 106 | 84 | 12.9 |
| Total Hybrids Post June 2009 | \$2,487,534 | 103.9 % | 103.8 % | \$2,583,098 | 3.21 % | 26 | 51 | 28 % | 26.8 % |
| Hybrid Pre June 2009: | | | | | | | | | |
| Coupon < 4.5% (5) | \$878,975 | 101.6 % | 106.1 % | \$932,927 | 2.63 % | 82 | 5 | 52 % | 14.4 % |
| Coupon >= 4.5% (6) | 520,610 | 101.2 | 106.1 | 552,378 | 5.51 | 69 | 23 | 78 | 39.5 |
| Total Hybrids Pre June 2009 | \$1,399,585 | 101.4 % | 106.1 % | \$1,485,305 | 3.70 % | 77 | 12 | 62 % | 24.1 % |
| Total Hybrids | \$3,887,119 | 103.0 % | 104.7 % | \$4,068,403 | 3.39 % | 45 | 37 | 40 % | 25.8 % |

(1) Does not include principal payments receivable of \$4.3 million at June 30, 2013.

(2) Weighted average is based on MBS current face at June 30, 2013.

(3) 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.

(4) Interest only represents MBS backed by mortgages currently in their interest only period. Percentage is based on MBS current face at June 30, 2013.

- (5) Agency 3/1, 5/1, 7/1 and 10/1 Hybrid ARM-MBS with coupon less than 4.5%.
- (6) Agency 3/1, 5/1, 7/1 and 10/1 Hybrid ARM-MBS with coupon greater than or equal to 4.5%.

Table of Contents

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 June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

| (In Thousands) | June 30, 2013 | December 31, 2012 |
|---|---------------|----------------------|
| (i) Non-Agency MBS (GAAP - excluding Linked Transactions) | | |
| Face/Par | \$6,288,757 | \$6,509,560 |
| Fair Value | 5,295,653 | 5,382,165 |
| Amortized Cost | 4,627,954 | 4,758,300 |
| Purchase Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI | (1,264,971) | (1,380,506) |
| Purchase Discount Designated as Accretable | (396,581) | (371,626) |
| Purchase Premiums | 749 | 872 |
| (ii) Non-Agency MBS Underlying Linked Transactions | | |
| Face/Par | \$47,233 | \$52,277 |
| Fair Value | 43,651 | 47,828 |
| Amortized Cost | 39,444 | 43,817 |
| Purchase Discount Designated as Credit Reserve | (5,523) | (6,051) |
| Purchase Discount Designated as Accretable | (2,266) | (2,409) |
| (iii) Combined Non-Agency MBS and MBS Underlying Linked Transactions (Non-GAAP) | | |
| Face/Par | \$6,335,990 | \$6,561,837 |
| Fair Value | 5,339,304 | 5,429,993 |
| Amortized Cost | 4,667,398 | 4,802,117 |
| Purchase Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI | (1,270,494) | (1,386,557) |
| Purchase Discount Designated as Accretable | (398,847) | (374,035) |
| Purchase Premiums | 749 | 872 |

(1) Includes discount designated as Credit Reserve of \$1.219 billion and OTTI of \$45.7 million.

(2) Includes discount designated as Credit Reserve of \$1.332 billion and OTTI of \$48.7 million.

(3) Includes discount designated as Credit Reserve of \$1.225 billion and OTTI of \$45.7 million.

(4) Includes discount designated as Credit Reserve of \$1.338 billion and OTTI of \$48.7 million.

Table of Contents

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

The following table presents 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 June 30, 2013 and June 30, 2012 on both a GAAP and Non-GAAP basis:

| GAAP Basis | Three Months Ended June 30, 2013 | | Three Months Ended June 30, 2012 | |
|--|---|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| | Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI | Accretable Discount (1) | Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI | Accretable Discount (1) |
| (In Thousands) | | | | |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$ (1,312,952) | \$ (381,913) | \$ (1,344,718) | \$ (264,182) |
| Accretion of discount | — | 16,698 | — | 9,881 |
| Realized credit losses | 38,375 | — | 35,521 | — |
| Purchases | (49,852) | 18,425 | (139,934) | (1,004) |
| Sales | 4,689 | 4,978 | — | — |
| Reclass discount for OTTI | — | — | 182 | (182) |
| Net impairment losses recognized in earnings | — | — | (280) | — |
| Unlinking of Linked Transactions | — | — | (83) | (1,090) |
| Transfers/release of credit reserve | 54,769 | (54,769) | 8,560 | (8,560) |
| Balance at the end of period | \$ (1,264,971) | \$ (396,581) | \$ (1,440,752) | \$ (265,137) |
| Non-GAAP Adjustments | | | | |
| (In Thousands) | | | | |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$ (5,778) | \$ (2,293) | \$ (7,473) | \$ (6,587) |
| Accretion of discount | — | 143 | — | 324 |
| Realized credit losses | 139 | — | 238 | — |
| Unlinking of Linked Transactions | — | — | 83 | 722 |
| Transfers/release of credit reserve | 116 | (116) | — | — |
| Balance at the end of period | \$ (5,523) | \$ (2,266) | \$ (7,152) | \$ (5,541) |
| Non-GAAP Basis | | | | |
| (In Thousands) | | | | |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$ (1,318,730) | \$ (384,206) | \$ (1,352,191) | \$ (270,769) |
| Accretion of discount | — | 16,841 | — | 10,205 |
| Realized credit losses | 38,514 | — | 35,759 | — |
| Purchases | (49,852) | 18,425 | (139,934) | (1,004) |
| Sales | 4,689 | 4,978 | — | — |

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

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------|---------|------------|-------|--------------|
| Reclass discount for OTTI | — | — | 182 | (182 |) |
| Net impairment losses recognized in earnings | — | — | (280 |) | — |
| Unlinking of Linked Transactions | — | — | — | (368 |) |
| Transfers/release of credit reserve | 54,885 | (54,885 |) | 8,560 | (8,560 |
| Balance at the end of period | \$(1,270,494 |) | \$(398,847 |) | \$(1,447,904 |
| | | | |) | \$(270,678 |

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

Table of Contents

The following table presents 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 six months ended June 30, 2013 and June 30, 2012 on both a GAAP and Non-GAAP basis:

| GAAP Basis | Six Months Ended June 30, 2013 | | Six Months Ended June 30, 2012 | |
|--|---|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| | Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI | Accretable Discount (1) | Discount Designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI | Accretable Discount (1) |
| (In Thousands) | | | | |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$(1,380,506) | \$(371,626) | \$(1,228,766) | \$(250,479) |
| Accretion of discount | — | 28,749 | — | 19,291 |
| Realized credit losses | 88,682 | — | 57,915 | — |
| Purchases | (73,387) | 29,654 | (248,383) | (8,437) |
| Sales | 10,972 | 5,910 | — | — |
| Reclass discount for OTTI | — | — | 866 | (866) |
| Net impairment losses recognized in earnings | — | — | (1,200) | — |
| Unlinking of Linked Transactions | — | — | (38,662) | (7,168) |
| Transfers/release of credit reserve | 89,268 | (89,268) | 17,478 | (17,478) |
| Balance at the end of period | \$(1,264,971) | \$(396,581) | \$(1,440,752) | \$(265,137) |
| Non-GAAP Adjustments | | | | |
| (In Thousands) | | | | |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$(6,051) | \$(2,409) | \$(45,735) | \$(6,206) |
| Accretion of discount | — | 272 | — | 653 |
| Realized credit losses | 399 | — | 550 | — |
| Unlinking of Linked Transactions | — | — | 38,662 | (617) |
| Transfers/release of credit reserve | 129 | (129) | (629) | 629 |
| Balance at the end of period | \$(5,523) | \$(2,266) | \$(7,152) | \$(5,541) |
| Non-GAAP Basis | | | | |
| (In Thousands) | | | | |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$(1,386,557) | \$(374,035) | \$(1,274,501) | \$(256,685) |
| Accretion of discount | — | 29,021 | — | 19,944 |
| Realized credit losses | 89,081 | — | 58,465 | — |
| Purchases | (73,387) | 29,654 | (248,383) | (8,437) |
| Sales | 10,972 | 5,910 | — | — |
| Reclass discount for OTTI | — | — | 866 | (866) |
| Net impairment losses recognized in earnings | — | — | (1,200) | — |

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

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Unlinking of Linked Transactions | — | — | — | (7,785) |
| Transfers/release of credit reserve | 89,397 | (89,397) | 16,849 | (16,849) |
| Balance at the end of period | \$(1,270,494) | \$(398,847) | \$(1,447,904) | \$(270,678) |

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

55

Table of Contents

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 June 30, 2013 and June 30, 2012:

| | Three Months Ended | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|---------------|---|
| | June 30, 2013 | | June 30, 2012 | |
| Non-Agency MBS (GAAP - excluding Linked Transactions) | | | | |
| Coupon Yield (1) | 5.71 | % | 5.89 | % |
| Effective Yield Adjustment (2) | 1.44 | | 0.88 | |
| Net Yield | 7.15 | % | 6.77 | % |
| Non-Agency MBS Underlying Linked Transactions | | | | |
| Coupon Yield (1) | 5.00 | % | 4.50 | % |
| Effective Yield Adjustment (2) | 1.40 | | 1.52 | |
| Net Yield | 6.40 | % | 6.02 | % |
| Combined Non-Agency MBS and MBS Underlying Linked Transactions (Non-GAAP) | | | | |
| Coupon Yield (1) | 5.70 | % | 5.86 | % |
| Effective Yield Adjustment (2) | 1.44 | | 0.89 | |
| Net Yield | 7.14 | % | 6.75 | % |

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

The information in the above tables, on pages 53-56, 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 has a term of 90 days at inception. For purposes of presentation of its repurchase agreement financing liabilities in the Non-GAAP Asset Allocation table on page 50, the obligation to return the \$405 million of U.S.

Treasury collateral, is separately presented as “Multi-year collateralized financing arrangements” and is included in the numerator of the Debt/Net Equity Ratio for the Non-Agency MBS portfolio. In addition, the asset balance for U.S. Treasury securities obtained as collateral and the repurchase agreement liability to the second counterparty to which we pledged those U.S Treasury securities as collateral are included in the “Other, net” column 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,

Table of Contents

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 disclosed as “Repurchase Agreements” and is included in the numerator of the Debt/Net Equity Ratio for the Non-Agency MBS portfolio. In addition, the asset balance for the U.S. Treasury securities obtained as collateral and the liability balance for the obligation to return this collateral are included in the “Other, net” column. However, management considers that the Non-GAAP Asset Allocation table presented on page 50 more appropriately reflects the economic substance of the transactions. Consequently, this presentation constitutes a Non-GAAP financial measure within the meaning of Regulation G, as promulgated by the SEC. The Non-GAAP presentation of liabilities associated with the Company’s collateralized financing arrangements does not impact the overall calculation of Debt/Net Equity for the Company as a whole.

Actual maturities of MBS are generally shorter than stated contractual maturities because actual maturities of MBS are affected by the contractual lives of the underlying mortgages, periodic payments of principal, and prepayments of principal. The following table presents certain information regarding the amortized costs, estimated fair values, weighted average yields and contractual maturities of our MBS at June 30, 2013 and does not reflect the effect of prepayments or scheduled principal amortization on our MBS:

| (Dollars in Thousands) | One to Five Years | | Five to Ten Years | | Over Ten Years | | Total MBS (1) | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|--|
| | Amortized Cost | Weighted Average Yield | Amortized Cost | Weighted Average Yield | Amortized Cost | Weighted Average Yield | Total Amortized Cost | Total Fair Value | Weighted Average Yield | |
| Agency MBS: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fannie Mae | \$676 | 4.11 % | \$1,631 | 1.69 % | \$5,883,718 | 2.31 % | \$5,886,025 | \$5,620,499 | 2.31 % | |
| Freddie Mac | — | — | — | — | 1,100,342 | 2.32 | 1,100,342 | 1,303,143 | 2.41 | |
| Ginnie Mae | — | — | — | — | 14,393 | 1.67 | 14,393 | 14,269 | 1.67 | |
| Total Agency MBS | \$676 | 4.11 % | \$1,631 | 1.69 % | \$6,998,453 | 2.31 % | \$7,000,760 | \$6,937,911 | 2.31 % | |
| Non-Agency MBS | \$— | — | \$14,513 | 6.56 % | \$4,647,974 | 6.97 % | \$4,662,487 | \$5,295,653 | 6.97 % | |
| Total MBS | \$676 | 4.11 % | \$16,144 | 6.07 % | \$11,646,427 | 4.17 % | \$11,663,247 | \$12,233,564 | 4.17 % | |

(1) We did not have any MBS with contractual maturities of less than one year at June 30, 2013.

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 0.6% - 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 for a swap that is not subject to central clearing 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 benefited from accommodative monetary policy of central banks.

57

Table of Contents

The table below summarizes our exposure to our counterparties at June 30, 2013, by country of domicile:

| Country | Number of Counterparties | Repurchase Agreement Financing | Swaps at Fair Value | Exposure (1) | Exposure as a Percentage of MFA Total Assets |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--|
| (Dollars in Thousands) | | | | | |
| European Countries: (2) | | | | | |
| Germany | 1 | \$718,060 | \$(5,544) |) \$208,346 | 1.58 % |
| Switzerland | 4 | 1,471,625 | — | 954,363 | 7.23 |
| France | 1 | 438,625 | — | 24,695 | 0.19 |
| Holland | 1 | 269,996 | 2,881 | 23,775 | 0.18 |
| United Kingdom | 2 | 1,007,145 | (15,315) |) 88,289 | 0.67 |
| Total European | 9 | 3,905,451 | (17,978) |) 1,299,468 | 9.85 % |
| Other Countries: | | | | | |
| United States (3) | 12 | \$4,158,368 | \$(13,989) |) \$733,602 | 5.56 % |
| Japan | 4 | 678,679 | — | 46,825 | 0.35 |
| Other | 3 | 700,034 | — | 157,304 | 1.19 |
| Total Other | 19 | 5,537,081 | (13,989) |) 937,731 | 7.10 % |
| Total | 28 | \$9,442,532 | (4)(5) \$(31,967) |) \$2,237,199 | 16.95 % |

(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 one counterparty that is a central clearing house for our Swaps.

(4) Includes \$500.0 million of repurchase agreements entered into in connection with contemporaneous repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements with a single counterparty.

(5) Includes \$33.2 million of repurchase agreements which are a component of our Linked Transactions.

At June 30, 2013, 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 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

Key differences between GAAP net income and REIT Taxable Income for Non-Agency MBS

Our total Non-Agency MBS portfolio for tax differs from our portfolio reported for GAAP 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 our Non-Agency MBS tax portfolio, potential timing differences arise with respect to the accretion of market discount into income and recognition of actual and estimated realized losses for tax purposes as compared to GAAP. Consequently, our REIT taxable income calculated in a given period may differ significantly from our GAAP net income.

The determination of taxable income attributable to Non-Agency MBS is dependent on a number of factors, including principal payments, defaults and loss severities. In projecting taxable income for Non-Agency MBS during the year, management considers estimates of the amount of discount expected to be accreted. Such estimates require significant judgment and actual results may

Table of Contents

differ from these estimates. In calculating taxable income on Non-Agency MBS realized losses are applied not in the aggregate but rather on an asset-by-asset basis. In addition, the application of losses for the calculation of taxable income depends on the method of discount accretion elected, again, on an asset-by-asset basis. Finally, even using the discount accretion method that results in lower income recognition in earlier periods, realized losses impact only the amount of market discount accretion recognized in the period in which the loss occurs and future periods. Therefore, while realized losses on Non-Agency MBS will result in a reduction of taxable income, this reduction occurs gradually and primarily in periods after such losses are incurred.

Resecuritization transactions result in differences between GAAP net income and REIT Taxable Income

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, with realized losses impacting the amount of OID recognized in REIT taxable income once they are actually incurred. 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.

Status of 2012 tax return and impact on distribution of taxable income for 2012 and 2013

As previously disclosed, following a detailed review of tax calculations, we determined that our originally calculated taxable income for certain years did not fully include the impact of discount accretion and premium amortization for certain MBS within our portfolio. In addition, in prior periods the Company utilized a reconciliation process to compare its calculation of GAAP income to taxable income, which did not identify the underreporting of taxable income. Consequently, during the first quarter of 2013 our Board declared a special cash dividend of \$0.50 per share of common stock payable on April 10, 2013, to stockholders of record on March 18, 2013. Approximately \$120.0 million of this distribution was allocated to the previously undistributed REIT taxable income for 2010 and 2011, with the remainder available to satisfy a portion of 2012 taxable income undistributed to date.

We currently estimate that our REIT taxable income for the year ended December 31, 2012 REIT will be approximately \$475 million. Our 2012 REIT taxable income will not be finalized until the timely filing of our 2012 tax return, which is expected to occur not later than September 16, 2013. Based on our current calculations, and following the payment of our second quarter regular dividend on July 31, 2013, 2012 REIT taxable income will be fully distributed. In addition, on August 1, 2013 we declared a special cash dividend of \$100 million or \$0.28 per share of common stock to shareholders of record as of August 12, 2013. After the special cash dividend, we will have distributed approximately \$155 million in dividends in 2013 not allocated to prior years. We have until the filing of our 2013 tax return (due not later than September 15, 2014) to declare the distribution of any 2013 REIT taxable income not previously distributed.

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 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 section 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.

The implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act requires numerous regulations, many of which (including those mentioned above regarding underwriting and mortgage originator compensation) have only recently been finalized and are not effective. Several significant Dodd-Frank Act rulemakings (including the risk retention requirements) have yet to be finalized. Thus, we are unable

Table of Contents

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 and made effective 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.

Results of Operations

Quarter Ended June 30, 2013 Compared to the Quarter Ended June 30, 2012

General

For the second quarter of 2013, we had net income available to common stock and participating securities of \$67.3 million, or \$0.19 per basic and diluted common share, compared to net income available to common stock and participating securities of \$72.7 million, or \$0.20 per basic and diluted common share, for the second quarter of 2012. 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 primarily due to the write-off of issuance costs on the redemption of Series A Preferred Stock (see below), an increase in preferred stock dividends resulting from the issuance of the Series B Preferred Stock in April 2013, as well as the lower unrealized net gains and net interest income from Linked Transactions for the second quarter of 2013. In addition, net interest income decreased slightly due to a decline in the interest rate spread of our Agency MBS portfolio partially offset by an increase in the interest rate spread of our Non-Agency MSB portfolio.

Issuance costs of redeemed preferred stock of \$3.9 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2013 represent the original offering costs related to the Series A Preferred Stock, which was redeemed on May 16, 2013. The excess of the redemption value of the Series A Preferred Stock over its carrying value (i.e., offering costs) is included in the determination of net income available to common stock and participating securities and earnings per common share for the three months ended June 30, 2013. (See Note 11 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements, included under Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.)

Net Interest Income

Net interest income represents the difference between income on interest-earning assets and expense on interest-bearing liabilities. Net interest income depends primarily upon the volume of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities and the corresponding interest rates earned or paid. 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

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.

The changes in average interest-earning assets and average interest-bearing liabilities and their related yields and costs are discussed in greater detail below under “Interest Income” and “Interest Expense.”

For the second quarter of 2013, our net interest income decreased by \$650,000 to \$82.2 million from \$82.8 million for the second quarter of 2012. This decrease primarily reflects the impact of lower yielding Agency MBS partially offset by higher yielding Non-Agency MBS and lower borrowing costs. The net interest spread on our Agency MBS portfolio declined to 1.04% for the second quarter of 2013 compared to 1.32% for the second quarter of 2012. The net interest spread on our Non-Agency

Table of Contents

MBS portfolio increased to 4.74% for the second quarter of 2013 compared to 4.45% for the second quarter of 2012. Our net interest spread and margin for the second quarter of 2013 were 2.38% and 2.73%, respectively, compared to a net interest spread and margin of 2.45% and 2.87%, respectively, for the second quarter of 2012.

61

Table of Contents

Analysis of Net Interest Income

The following table sets forth certain information about the average balances of our assets and liabilities and their related yields and costs for the three months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012. Average yields are derived by dividing annualized interest income by the average amortized cost of the related assets and average costs are derived by dividing annualized interest expense by the daily average balance of the related liabilities, for the periods shown. The yields and costs include premium amortization and purchase discount accretion which are considered adjustments to interest rates.

| (Dollars in Thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|------|---|
| | 2013 Average Balance | Interest | Average Yield/Cost | 2012 Average Balance | Interest | Average Yield/Cost | | |
| Assets: | | | | | | | | |
| Interest-earning assets: | | | | | | | | |
| Agency MBS (1) | \$6,933,936 | \$38,037 | 2.19 | % \$6,728,914 | \$49,550 | 2.95 | % | |
| Non-Agency MBS (1) | 4,623,593 | 82,598 | 7.15 | 4,490,141 | 75,954 | 6.77 | | |
| Total MBS | 11,557,529 | 120,635 | 4.18 | 11,219,055 | 125,504 | 4.47 | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents (2) | 471,795 | 36 | 0.03 | 292,302 | 27 | 0.04 | | |
| Total interest-earning assets | 12,029,324 | 120,671 | 4.01 | 11,511,357 | 125,531 | 4.36 | | |
| Total non-interest-earning assets | 1,537,906 | | | 983,821 | | | | |
| Total assets | \$13,567,230 | | | \$12,495,178 | | | | |
| Liabilities and stockholders' equity: | | | | | | | | |
| Interest-bearing liabilities: | | | | | | | | |
| Agency repurchase agreements (3) | \$6,253,417 | \$17,877 | 1.15 | \$6,071,711 | \$24,637 | 1.63 | | |
| Non-Agency repurchase agreements (3) | 2,588,601 | 15,520 | 2.40 | 1,889,786 | 11,615 | 2.47 | | |
| Total repurchase agreements | 8,842,018 | 33,397 | 1.51 | 7,961,497 | 36,252 | 1.83 | | |
| Securitized debt | 505,409 | 3,075 | 2.44 | 931,045 | 4,652 | 2.01 | | |
| Senior Notes (4) | 100,000 | 2,006 | 8.03 | 89,011 | 1,784 | 8.02 | | |
| Total interest-bearing liabilities | 9,447,427 | 38,478 | 1.63 | 8,981,553 | 42,688 | 1.91 | | |
| Total non-interest-bearing liabilities | 681,096 | | | 719,920 | | | | |
| Total liabilities | 10,128,523 | | | 9,701,473 | | | | |
| Stockholders' equity | 3,438,707 | | | 2,793,705 | | | | |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$13,567,230 | | | \$12,495,178 | | | | |
| Net interest income/ net interest rate spread (5) | | \$82,193 | 2.38 | % | \$82,843 | 2.45 | % | |
| Net interest-earning assets/ net interest margin (6) | \$2,581,897 | | 2.73 | % | \$2,529,804 | | 2.87 | % |
| Ratio of interest-earning assets to interest-bearing liabilities | 1.27 | x | | | 1.28 | x | | |

(1) Yields presented throughout this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are calculated using average amortized cost data which excludes unrealized gains and losses and includes principal payments receivable on such MBS. For GAAP

reporting purposes, MBS purchases and sales are reported on the trade date. Average amortized cost data used to determine yields is calculated based on the settlement date of the associated purchase or sale as interest income is not earned on purchased bonds and continues to be earned on sold bonds until settlement date. Includes Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs.

(2) Includes average interest-earning cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash.

(3) Average cost of repurchase agreements includes the cost of Swaps designated as hedges against such repurchase agreements.

(4) We did not have any Senior Notes prior to April 11, 2012.

(5) Net interest rate spread reflects the difference between the yield on average interest-earning assets and average cost of funds.

(6) Net interest margin reflects annualized net interest income divided by average interest-earning assets.

Table of Contents

Rate/Volume Analysis

The following table presents the extent to which changes in interest rates (yield/cost) and changes in the volume (average balance) of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities have affected our interest income and interest expense during the periods indicated. Information is provided in each category with respect to: (i) the changes attributable to changes in volume (changes in average balance multiplied by prior rate); (ii) the changes attributable to changes in rate (changes in rate multiplied by prior average balance); and (iii) the net change. The changes attributable to the combined impact of volume and rate have been allocated proportionately, based on absolute values, to the changes due to rate and volume.

| (In Thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, 2013 Compared to Three Months Ended June 30, 2012 | | |
|---|---|------------|--|
| | Increase/(Decrease) due to | | Total Net Change in Interest Income/Expense |
| | Volume | Rate | |
| Interest-earning assets: | | | |
| Agency MBS | \$4,165 | \$(15,678) | \$(11,513) |
| Non-Agency MBS | 2,301 | 4,343 | 6,644 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 23 | (14) | 9 |
| Total net change in income from interest-earning assets | \$6,489 | \$(11,349) | \$(4,860) |
| Interest-bearing liabilities: | | | |
| Agency repurchase agreements | \$2,077 | \$(8,837) | \$(6,760) |
| Non-Agency repurchase agreements | 4,847 | (942) | 3,905 |
| Securitized debt | (3,804) | 2,227 | (1,577) |
| Senior Notes (1) | 220 | 2 | 222 |
| Total net change in expense of interest-bearing liabilities | \$3,340 | \$(7,550) | \$(4,210) |
| Net change in net interest income | \$3,149 | \$(3,799) | \$(650) |

(1) We did not have any Senior Notes prior to April 11, 2012.

The following table presents certain quarterly information regarding our net interest spread and net interest margin for the quarterly periods presented:

| Quarter Ended | Total Interest-Earning Assets and Interest-Bearing Liabilities | |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | Net Interest Spread (1) | Net Interest Margin (2) |
| June 30, 2013 | 2.38 | % 2.73 |
| March 31, 2013 | 2.32 | 2.69 |
| December 31, 2012 | 2.32 | 2.69 |
| September 30, 2012 | 2.22 | 2.61 |
| June 30, 2012 | 2.45 | 2.87 |

(1) Reflects the difference between the yield on average interest-earning assets and average cost of funds.

(2) Annualized net interest income divided by average interest-earning assets.

Table of Contents

The following table presents the components of the net interest spread earned on our Agency and Non-Agency MBS for the quarterly periods presented:

| Quarter Ended | Agency MBS | | | Non-Agency MBS | | | Total MBS | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | Net Yield (1) | Cost of Funding (2) | Net Interest Spread (3) | Net Yield (1) | Cost of Funding (2) | Net Interest Spread (3) | Net Yield (1) | Cost of Funding (2) | Net Interest Spread (3) |
| June 30, 2013 | 2.19 % | 1.15 % | 1.04 % | 7.15 % | 2.41 % | 4.74 % | 4.18 % | 1.56 % | 2.62 % |
| March 31, 2013 | 2.42 | 1.24 | 1.18 | 6.80 | 2.45 | 4.35 | 4.17 | 1.63 | 2.54 |
| December 31, 2012 | 2.59 | 1.36 | 1.23 | 6.70 | 2.42 | 4.28 | 4.23 | 1.71 | 2.52 |
| September 30, 2012 | 2.66 | 1.53 | 1.13 | 6.65 | 2.41 | 4.24 | 4.25 | 1.82 | 2.43 |
| June 30, 2012 | 2.95 | 1.63 | 1.32 | 6.77 | 2.32 | 4.45 | 4.47 | 1.85 | 2.62 |

(1) Annualized interest income on MBS divided by average amortized cost of MBS.

(2) Annualized interest expense divided by average balance of repurchase agreements and securitized debt.

(3) Reflects the difference between the net yield on average MBS and average cost of funds on MBS.

Interest Income

Interest income on our Agency MBS for the second quarter of 2013 decreased by \$11.5 million, or 23.2% to \$38.0 million from \$49.6 million for the second quarter of 2012. This change primarily reflects a decrease in the net yield on our Agency MBS to 2.19% for the second quarter of 2013 from 2.95% for the second quarter of 2012, partially offset by an increase in the average amortized cost of our Agency MBS portfolio to \$6.934 billion for the second quarter of 2013 from \$6.729 billion for the second quarter of 2012. During the second quarter of 2013, our Agency MBS portfolio experienced a 20.2% CPR and we recognized \$16.4 million of net premium amortization compared to a CPR of 20.4% and \$12.4 million of net premium amortization for the second quarter of 2012. At the end of the second quarter of 2013, the average coupon on mortgages underlying our Agency MBS was lower compared to the end of the second quarter of 2012, 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 54 basis points to 3.14% for the second quarter of 2013 from 3.68% for the second quarter of 2012. At June 30, 2013, we had net purchase premiums on our Agency MBS of \$232.4 million, or 3.5% of current par value, compared to net purchase premiums of \$227.3 million and 3.3% of par value at December 31, 2012.

Interest income on our Non-Agency MBS (which includes Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs) increased \$6.6 million, or 8.7%, for the second quarter of 2013 to \$82.6 million compared to \$76.0 million for the second quarter of 2012, principally due to the increase in the amortized cost of and net yield on our Non-Agency MBS portfolio. For the second quarter of 2013, the average amortized cost of our Non-Agency MBS increased by \$133.5 million or 3.0%, to \$4.624 billion, from \$4.490 billion for the second quarter of 2012. Our Non-Agency MBS portfolio yielded 7.15% for the second quarter of 2013 compared to 6.77% for the second quarter of 2012. The increase in the yield on our Non-Agency MBS is primarily due to increases in accretable discount and changes in the forward yield curve, partially offset by the addition of newly acquired assets at yields less than our overall portfolio yield. During the second quarter of 2013, we recognized net purchase discount accretion of \$16.6 million on our Non-Agency MBS, compared to \$9.8 million for the second quarter of 2012. At June 30, 2013, we had net purchase discounts of \$1.661 billion, including Credit Reserve and previously recognized OTTI of \$1.265 billion, on our Non-Agency MBS, or 26.4% of par value. During the second quarter of 2013 we reallocated \$54.8 million of purchased discount designated as Credit Reserve to accretable purchase discount.

Table of Contents

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:

| Quarter Ended | Agency MBS | | | Non-Agency MBS | | | Total MBS | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| | Coupon Yield (1) | Net Yield (2) | Weighted Average CPR | Coupon Yield (1) | Net Yield (2) | Weighted Average CPR | Coupon Yield (1) | Net Yield (2) | Weighted Average CPR |
| June 30, 2013 | 3.14 % | 2.19 % | 20.19 % | 5.71 % | 7.15 % | 16.37 % | 4.17 % | 4.18 % | 18.53 % |
| March 31, 2013 | 3.25 | 2.42 | 19.08 | 5.78 | 6.80 | 15.06 | 4.26 | 4.17 | 17.34 |
| December 31, 2012 | 3.38 | 2.59 | 19.23 | 5.85 | 6.70 | 15.53 | 4.37 | 4.23 | 17.67 |
| September 30, 2012 | 3.49 | 2.66 | 21.62 | 5.90 | 6.65 | 15.42 | 4.45 | 4.25 | 19.08 |
| June 30, 2012 | 3.68 | 2.95 | 20.39 | 5.89 | 6.77 | 14.87 | 4.57 | 4.47 | 18.20 |

(1) 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. (Does not include MBS underlying our Linked Transactions. See Note 5 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements, included under Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.)

(2) Reflects annualized interest income on MBS divided by average amortized cost of MBS.

Interest income from our cash investments, which are comprised of money market investments and are not a material source of income as the yields on such funds remain at historically low levels, increased by \$9,000, or 33.3% to \$36,000 for the second quarter of 2013 from \$27,000 for the 2012 period. Our average cash investments were \$471.8 million and yielded 0.03% for the second quarter of 2013 compared to average cash investments of \$292.3 million that yielded 0.04% for the second quarter of 2012. In general, we manage our cash investments relative to our investing, financing and operating requirements, investment opportunities and current and anticipated market conditions.

Interest Expense

Our interest expense for the second quarter of 2013 decreased by \$4.2 million, or 9.9% to \$38.5 million, from \$42.7 million for the second quarter of 2012. This decrease primarily reflects the lower effective interest rate paid on borrowings to finance Agency MBS and a decrease in the average balance of securitized debt which was partially offset by an increase in our average borrowings to finance Non-Agency MBS.

At June 30, 2013, we had repurchase agreement borrowings of \$8.909 billion and securitized debt of \$443.7 million, of which \$2.687 billion was hedged with Swaps. At June 30, 2013, our Swaps had a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 2.10% and extended 27 months on average with a maximum remaining term of approximately 85 months.

The following table presents information about our securitized debt at June 30, 2013:

| Benchmark Interest Rate (Dollars in Thousands) | At June 30, 2013 Securitized Debt Interest Rate | | |
|---|--|------|---|
| 30 Day LIBOR + 100 basis points | \$172,930 | 1.19 | % |
| 30 Day LIBOR + 125 basis points | 152,273 | 1.44 | |
| Fixed Rate | 118,545 | 2.85 | |
| Total | \$443,748 | 1.72 | % |

The effective interest rate paid on our borrowings decreased to 1.63% for the quarter ended June 30, 2013 from 1.91% for the quarter ended June 30, 2012. This decrease reflects the maturity of Swaps with higher fixed-pay rates partially offset by additional higher cost financing associated with our Non-Agency MBS portfolio. Payments made and/or received on our Swaps are a component of our borrowing costs and accounted for interest expense of \$12.0 million or 51 basis points, for the quarter ended June 30, 2013, compared to interest expense of \$19.3 million, or 86 basis points, for the second quarter of 2012. Certain of our Swaps have fixed interest rates that are significantly higher than current market interest rates. As these Swaps continue to amortize and/or expire, the Swap component of our borrowing costs is expected to continue to decrease. The weighted average fixed-pay rate on our Swaps decreased to 2.12% for the quarter ended June 30, 2013 from 2.70% for the quarter ended June 30,

Table of Contents

2012. The weighted average variable interest rate received on our Swaps decreased to 0.20% for the quarter ended June 30, 2013 from 0.28% for the quarter ended June 30, 2012. During the quarter ended June 30, 2013, we entered into eight new Swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$701.0 million, a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 1.24% with initial maturities ranging from two months to seven years, and had Swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$527.3 million and a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 1.63% amortize and/or expire.

We expect that our interest expense and funding costs for the remainder of 2013 will be impacted by market interest rates, the amount of our borrowings and incremental hedging activity, our existing and future interest rates on our hedging instruments and the extent to which we execute additional financing transactions, such as resecuritizations. As a result of these variables, our borrowing costs cannot be predicted with any certainty. (See Notes 5, 6 and 14 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements, included under Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.)

The following table presents our leverage multiples, as measured by debt-to-equity, at the dates presented:

| At the Period Ended | GAAP Leverage Multiple (1) | | Non-GAAP Leverage Multiple (2) |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| June 30, 2013 | 3.1 | | 3.1 |
| March 31, 2013 | 3.1 | (3) | 3.1 |
| December 31, 2012 | 3.0 | (4) | 3.0 |
| September 30, 2012 | 3.2 | (4) | 3.2 |
| June 30, 2012 | 3.6 | | 3.6 |

(1) Represents the sum of borrowings under repurchase agreements, securitized debt, payable for unsettled MBS purchases, and obligations to return securities obtained as collateral and Senior Notes divided by stockholders' equity.

(2) The Non-GAAP Leverage Multiple reflects the sum of our borrowings under repurchase agreements, securitized debt, payable for unsettled MBS purchases, obligations to return securities obtained as collateral, Senior Notes and borrowings that are reported on our consolidated balance sheet as a component of Linked Transactions of \$33.2 million, \$34.1 million, \$35.3 million, \$36.4 million and \$51.2 million at June 30, 2013, March 31, 2013, December 31, 2012, September 30, 2012 and June 30, 2012, respectively. We present a Non-GAAP leverage multiple since repurchase agreement borrowings that are a component of Linked Transactions may not be linked in the future and, if no longer linked, will be reported as repurchase agreement borrowings, which will increase our leverage multiple. (See Note 5 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements, included under Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.)

(3) The increase compared to the prior quarter primarily reflects a higher use of financing structures during the quarter.

(4) The decrease compared to the prior quarter primarily reflects an increase in the market value of our Non-Agency MBS.

OTTI

During the second quarter of 2013, we did not recognize any OTTI charges through earnings against our Non-Agency MBS compared to \$280,000 against our Non-Agency MBS during the second quarter of 2012. The impairment charges during the second quarter of 2012 reflected changes in our estimated cash flows for such securities based on an updated assessment of the estimated future performance of the underlying collateral, including the expected principal loss over the term of the security and changes in the expected timing of receipt of cash flows. At June 30, 2013, we had 317 Agency MBS with a gross unrealized loss of \$80.9 million and 57 Non-Agency MBS with a gross unrealized loss of \$8.4 million. Impairments on Agency MBS in an unrealized loss position at June 30, 2013 are considered temporary and not credit related. Unrealized losses on Non-Agency MBS for which no OTTI was

recorded during the quarter are considered temporary based on an assessment of changes in the expected cash flows for such MBS, which considers recent bond performance and expected future performance of the underlying collateral. Significant judgment is used both in the Company's analysis of expected cash flows for its Non-Agency MBS and any determination of the credit component of OTTI.

Table of Contents

Other Income, net

For the second quarter of 2013, other income, net increased by \$3.6 million to \$4.1 million, from \$569,000 for the second quarter of 2012. The 2013 income primarily reflects \$4.4 million of net gains realized on the sale of certain Non-Agency MBS, which was partially offset by unrealized net losses of \$295,000 on our Linked Transactions. During the three months ended June 30, 2013, we sold Non-Agency MBS for \$9.9 million, realizing gross gains of \$4.4 million. The unrealized net losses and net interest income from Linked Transactions of \$295,000 for the three months ended June 30, 2013 included interest income of \$654,000 on the underlying Non-Agency MBS, interest expense of \$137,000 on the borrowings under repurchase agreements and a decline of \$812,000 in the fair value of the underlying securities. The unrealized net gains and net interest income on Linked Transactions of \$568,000 for the three months ended June 30, 2012 included interest income of \$1.3 million on the underlying Non-Agency MBS, interest expense of \$293,000 on borrowings under repurchase agreements and a decline of \$425,000 in the fair value of the underlying securities. Changes in the market value of the securities underlying our Linked Transactions, the amount of bond purchases recorded as Linked Transactions in the future and the amount of Linked Transactions that become unlinked in the future, none of which can be predicted with any certainty, will impact future gains/(losses) on our Linked Transactions.

Operating and Other Expense

For the second quarter of 2013, we had compensation and benefits and other general and administrative expense of \$8.8 million, or 1.03% of average equity, compared to \$8.4 million, or 1.20% of average equity, for the second quarter of 2012. Our other general and administrative expenses increased by \$351,000 to \$3.6 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2013 compared to \$3.2 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2012. The increase was primarily comprised of increases in professional services, including auditing and legal fees, recruitment costs and the cost of data and analytical systems, which primarily reflects expenses to expand our investment analytic capability, associated primarily with our investments in Non-Agency MBS, and data system upgrades.

In addition, an excise tax and interest accrual of \$2.0 million was recorded during the quarter ended of June 30, 2013, reflecting an updated estimate of excise tax payable in respect of undistributed REIT taxable income for the 2012 tax year and additional accrual of interest with respect to prior years undistributed taxable income.

Selected Financial Ratios

The following table presents information regarding certain of our financial ratios at or for the dates presented:

| At or for the Quarter Ended | Return on Average Total Assets (1) | Return on Average Total Stockholders' Equity (2) | Total Average Stockholders' Equity to Total Average Assets (3) | Dividend Payout Ratio (4) | Book Value per Share of Common Stock (5) |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------|---|
| June 30, 2013 | 2.10 | % 8.29 | % 25.35 | 1.16 | % \$8.19 |
| March 31, 2013 | 2.20 | 8.92 | 24.63 | 1.05 | (6) 8.84 |
| December 31, 2012 | 1.96 | 8.12 | 24.16 | 1.06 | 8.99 |
| September 30, 2012 | 2.26 | 10.14 | 22.32 | 0.99 | 8.80 |
| June 30, 2012 | 2.33 | 10.41 | 22.36 | 1.13 | 7.45 |

(1) Reflects annualized net income divided by average total assets.

(2) Reflects annualized net income divided by average total stockholders' equity.

(3) Reflects total average stockholders' equity divided by total average assets.

(4) Reflects dividends declared per share of common stock divided by earnings per share.

(5) Reflects total stockholders' equity less the preferred stock liquidation preference divided by total shares of common stock outstanding.

(6) Excludes the special common stock dividend declared on March 4, 2013.

Table of Contents

Six Month Period Ended June 30, 2013 Compared to the Six Month Period Ended June 30, 2012

General

For the six months ended June 30, 2013, we had net income available to common stock and participating securities of \$142.6 million, or \$0.39 per basic and diluted common share, compared to net income available to common stock and participating securities of \$155.4 million, or \$0.43 per basic and diluted common share, for the six months ended June 30, 2012. 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 primarily due to the write-off of issuance costs on the redemption of Series A Preferred Stock (see below), an increase in preferred stock dividends resulting from the issuance of the Series B Preferred Stock in April 2013, as well as the lower unrealized net gains and net interest income from Linked Transactions for the first six months of 2013. In addition, net interest income decreased slightly due to a decline in the interest rate spread of our Agency MBS portfolio partially offset by an increase in the interest rate spread of our Non-Agency MSB portfolio.

Issuance costs of redeemed preferred stock of \$3.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2013 represent the original offering costs related to the Series A Preferred Stock, which was redeemed on May 16, 2013. The excess of the redemption value of the Series A Preferred Stock over its carrying value (i.e., offering costs) is included in the determination of net income available to common stock and participating securities and earnings per common share for the six months ended June 30, 2013. (See Note 11 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements, included under Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.)

Net Interest Income

For the six months ended June 30, 2013, our net interest income decreased by \$1.5 million to \$164.8 million from \$166.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2012. This decrease primarily reflects the impact of lower yielding Agency MBS partially offset by higher yielding Non-Agency MBS and lower borrowing costs. The net interest spread on our Agency MBS portfolio declined to 1.12% for the first six months of 2013 compared to 1.38% for the first six months of 2012. The net interest spread on our Non-Agency MBS portfolio declined to 4.54% for the first six months of 2013 compared to 4.60% for the first six months of 2012. Our net interest spread and margin for the first six months of 2013 were 2.35% and 2.71%, respectively, compared to a net interest spread and margin of 2.50% and 2.91%, respectively, for the first six months of 2012.

Table of Contents

Analysis of Net Interest Income

The following table sets forth certain information about the average balances of our assets and liabilities and their related yields and costs for the six months ended June 30, 2013 and 2012. Average yields are derived by dividing annualized interest income by the average amortized cost of the related assets and average costs are derived by dividing annualized interest expense by the daily average balance of the related liabilities, for the periods shown. The yields and costs include premium amortization and purchase discount accretion which are considered adjustments to interest rates.

| (Dollars in Thousands) | Six Months Ended June 30, | | 2012 | | 2013 | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|---|--|
| | Average Balance | Interest | Average Yield/Cost | Average Balance | Interest | Average Yield/Cost | | |
| Assets: | | | | | | | | |
| Interest-earning assets: | | | | | | | | |
| Agency MBS (1) | \$7,000,760 | \$80,824 | 2.31 | % \$6,753,734 | \$102,850 | 3.05 | % | |
| Non-Agency MBS (1) | 4,662,487 | 162,513 | 6.97 | 4,265,559 | 146,158 | 6.85 | | |
| Total MBS | 11,663,247 | 243,337 | 4.17 | 11,019,293 | 249,008 | 4.52 | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents (2) | 454,107 | 72 | 0.03 | 358,497 | 46 | 0.05 | | |
| Total interest-earning assets | 12,117,354 | 243,409 | 4.02 | 11,377,790 | 249,054 | 4.38 | | |
| Total non-interest-earning assets | 1,521,156 | | | 928,171 | | | | |
| Total assets | \$13,638,510 | | | \$12,305,961 | | | | |
| Liabilities and stockholders' equity: | | | | | | | | |
| Interest-bearing liabilities: | | | | | | | | |
| Agency repurchase agreements (3) | \$6,333,137 | \$37,517 | 1.19 | \$6,063,292 | \$50,360 | 1.67 | | |
| Non-Agency repurchase agreements (3) | 2,524,710 | 30,555 | 2.44 | 1,803,457 | 21,962 | 2.45 | | |
| Total repurchase agreements | 8,857,847 | 68,072 | 1.55 | 7,866,749 | 72,322 | 1.85 | | |
| Securitized debt | 555,854 | 6,551 | 2.38 | 940,456 | 8,709 | 1.86 | | |
| Senior Notes (4) | 100,000 | 4,013 | 8.09 | 44,505 | 1,784 | 8.02 | | |
| Total interest-bearing liabilities | 9,513,701 | 78,636 | 1.67 | 8,851,710 | 82,815 | 1.88 | | |
| Total non-interest-bearing liabilities | 716,570 | | | 720,092 | | | | |
| Total liabilities | 10,230,271 | | | 9,571,802 | | | | |
| Stockholders' equity | 3,408,239 | | | 2,734,159 | | | | |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$13,638,510 | | | \$12,305,961 | | | | |
| Net interest income/ net interest rate spread (5) | | \$164,773 | 2.35 | % | \$166,239 | 2.50 | % | |
| Net interest-earning assets/ net interest margin (6) | \$2,603,653 | | 2.71 | % | \$2,526,080 | 2.91 | % | |
| Ratio of interest-earning assets to interest-bearing liabilities | 1.27 | x | | | 1.29 | x | | |

(1) Yields presented throughout this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are calculated using average amortized cost data which excludes unrealized gains and losses and includes principal payments receivable on such MBS. For GAAP reporting purposes, MBS purchases and sales are reported on the trade date. Average amortized cost data used to

determine yields is calculated based on the settlement date of the associated purchase or sale as interest income is not earned on purchased bonds and continues to be earned on sold bonds until settlement date. Includes Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs.

(2) Includes average interest-earning cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash.

(3) Average cost of repurchase agreements includes the cost of Swaps designated as hedges against such repurchase agreements.

(4) We did not have any Senior Notes prior to April 11, 2012.

(5) Net interest rate spread reflects the difference between the yield on average interest-earning assets and average cost of funds.

(6) Net interest margin reflects annualized net interest income divided by average interest-earning assets.

Table of Contents

Rate/Volume Analysis

The following table presents the extent to which changes in interest rates (yield/cost) and changes in the volume (average balance) of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities have affected our interest income and interest expense during the periods indicated. Information is provided in each category with respect to: (i) the changes attributable to changes in volume (changes in average balance multiplied by prior rate); (ii) the changes attributable to changes in rate (changes in rate multiplied by prior average balance); and (iii) the net change. The changes attributable to the combined impact of volume and rate have been allocated proportionately, based on absolute values, to the changes due to rate and volume.

| (In Thousands) | Six Months Ended June 30, 2013 Compared to Six Months Ended June 30, 2012 | | |
|---|---|------------|--|
| | Increase/(Decrease) due to Volume | Rate | Total Net Change in Interest Income/Expense |
| Interest-earning assets: | | | |
| Agency MBS | \$3,638 | \$(25,664) | \$(22,026) |
| Non-Agency MBS | 13,818 | 2,537 | 16,355 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 39 | (13) | 26 |
| Total net change in income from interest-earning assets | \$17,495 | \$(23,140) | \$(5,645) |
| Interest-bearing liabilities: | | | |
| Agency repurchase agreements | \$2,180 | \$(15,023) | \$(12,843) |
| Non-Agency repurchase agreements | 8,685 | (92) | 8,593 |
| Securitized debt | (4,186) | 2,028 | (2,158) |
| Senior Notes (1) | 2,213 | 16 | 2,229 |
| Total net change in expense of interest-bearing liabilities | \$8,892 | \$(13,071) | \$(4,179) |
| Net change in net interest income | \$8,603 | \$(10,069) | \$(1,466) |

(1) We did not have any Senior Notes prior to April 11, 2012.

The following table presents the components of the net interest spread earned on our Agency and Non-Agency MBS for the periods presented:

| Six Months Ended | Agency MBS | | | Non-Agency MBS | | | Total MBS | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Net Yield (1) | Cost of Funding (2) | Net Interest Spread (3) | Net Yield (1) | Cost of Funding (2) | Net Interest Spread (3) | Net Yield (1) | Cost of Funding (2) | Net Interest Spread (3) |
| June 30, 2013 | 2.31 % | 1.19 % | 1.12 % | 6.97 % | 2.43 % | 4.54 % | 4.17 % | 1.60 % | 2.57 % |
| June 30, 2012 | 3.05 | 1.67 | 1.38 | 6.85 | 2.25 | 4.60 | 4.52 | 1.85 | 2.67 |

(1) Annualized interest income on MBS divided by average amortized cost of MBS.

(2) Annualized interest expense divided by average balance of repurchase agreements and securitized debt.

(3) Reflects the difference between the net yield on average MBS and average cost of funds on MBS.

Interest Income

Interest income on our Agency MBS for the six months of 2013 decreased by \$22.0 million, or 21.4% to \$80.8 million from \$102.9 million for the first six months of 2012. This change primarily reflects a decrease in the net yield on our Agency MBS to 2.31% for the first six months of 2013 from 3.05% for the first six months of 2012, partially offset by an increase in the average amortized cost of our Agency MBS portfolio to \$7.001 billion for the first six months of 2013 from \$6.754 billion for the first six months of 2012. During the first six months of 2013, our Agency MBS portfolio experienced a 19.6% CPR and we recognized \$31.2 million of net premium amortization compared to a CPR of 19.1% and \$23.1 million of net premium amortization for the first six months of 2012. At the end of the second quarter of 2013, the average coupon on mortgages underlying our Agency MBS

Table of Contents

was lower compared to the end of the second quarter of 2012, 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 53 basis points to 3.20% for the first six months of 2013 from 3.73% for the first six months of 2012. At June 30, 2013, we had net purchase premiums on our Agency MBS of \$232.4 million, or 3.5% of current par value, compared to net purchase premiums of \$227.3 million and 3.3% of par value at December 31, 2012.

Interest income on our Non-Agency MBS (which includes Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs) increased by \$16.4 million, or 11.2%, for the first six months of 2013 to \$162.5 million compared to \$146.2 million for the first six months of 2012, principally due to the increase in the amortized cost of our Non-Agency MBS portfolio. For the first six months of 2013, the average amortized cost of our Non-Agency MBS increased by \$396.9 million or 9.3%, to \$4.662 billion, from \$4.266 billion for the first six months of 2012. Our Non-Agency MBS portfolio yielded 6.97% for the first six months of 2013 compared to 6.85% for the first six months of 2012. The increase in the yield on our Non-Agency MBS is primarily due to increases in accretible discount and changes in the forward yield curve, partially offset by the addition of newly acquired assets at yields less than our overall portfolio yield. During the first six months of 2013, we recognized net purchase discount accretion of \$28.6 million on our Non-Agency MBS, compared to \$19.2 million for the first six months of 2012. At June 30, 2013, we had net purchase discounts of \$1.661 billion, including Credit Reserve and previously recognized OTTI of \$1.265 billion, on our Non-Agency MBS, or 26.4% of par value. During the first six months of 2013 we reallocated \$89.3 million of purchased discount designated as Credit Reserve to accretible purchase discount.

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 periods presented:

| Six Months Ended | Agency MBS | | | Non-Agency MBS | | | Total MBS | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| | Coupon Yield (1) | Net Yield (2) | Weighted Average CPR | Coupon Yield (1) | Net Yield (2) | Weighted Average CPR | Coupon Yield (1) | Net Yield (2) | Weighted Average CPR |
| June 30, 2013 | 3.20 % | 2.31 % | 19.63 % | 5.74 % | 6.97 % | 15.71 % | 4.22 % | 4.17 % | 17.93 % |
| June 30, 2012 | 3.73 | 3.05 | 19.14 | 5.95 | 6.85 | 14.44 | 4.59 | 4.52 | 17.31 |

(1) 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. (Does not include MBS underlying our Linked Transactions. See Note 5 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements, included under Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.)

(2) Reflects annualized interest income on MBS divided by average amortized cost of MBS.

Interest income from our cash investments, which are comprised of money market investments and are not a material source of income as the yields on such funds remain at historically low levels, increased by \$26,000, or 56.5% to \$72,000 for the first six months of 2013 from \$46,000 for the 2012 period. Our average cash investments were \$454.1 million and yielded 0.03% for the first six months of 2013 compared to average cash investments of \$358.5 million that yielded 0.05% for the first six months of 2012. In general, we manage our cash investments relative to our investing, financing and operating requirements, investment opportunities and current and anticipated market conditions.

Interest Expense

Our interest expense for the first six months of 2013 decreased by \$4.2 million, or 5.0% to \$78.6 million, from \$82.8 million for the first six months of 2012. This decrease primarily reflects the lower effective interest rate paid on

borrowings to finance Agency MBS which was partially offset by the increase in our average borrowings to finance Non-Agency MBS.

At June 30, 2013, we had repurchase agreement borrowings of \$8.909 billion and securitized debt of \$443.7 million, of which \$2.687 billion was hedged with Swaps. At June 30, 2013, our Swaps had a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 2.10% and extended 27 months on average with a maximum remaining term of approximately 85 months.

The effective interest rate paid on our borrowings decreased to 1.67% for the six months ended June 30, 2013 from 1.88% for the six months ended June 30, 2012. This decrease reflects the maturity of Swaps with higher fixed-pay rates partially offset by additional higher cost financing associated with our Non-Agency MBS. Payments made and/or received on our Swaps are a component of our borrowing costs and accounted for interest expense of \$25.0 million, or 53 basis points, for the six months ended

Table of Contents

June 30, 2013, compared to interest expense of \$40.1 million, or 91 basis points, for the first six months of 2012. Certain of our Swaps have fixed interest rates that are significantly higher than current market interest rates. As these Swaps continue to amortize and/or expire, the Swap component of our borrowing costs is expected to continue to decrease. The weighted average fixed-pay rate on our Swaps decreased to 2.22% for the first six months of 2013 from 2.74% for the first six months of 2012. The weighted average variable interest rate received on our Swaps decreased to 0.20% for the first six months of 2013 from 0.29% for the first six months of 2012. During the first six months ended June 30, 2013, we entered into nine new Swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$751.0 million, a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 1.21% with initial maturities ranging from two months to seven years, and had Swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$583.3 million and a weighted average fixed-pay rate of 1.85% amortize and/or expire.

We expect that our interest expense and funding costs for the remainder of 2013 will be impacted by market interest rates, the amount of our borrowings and incremental hedging activity, our existing and future interest rates on our hedging instruments and the extent to which we execute additional financing transactions, such as resecuritizations. As a result of these variables, our borrowing costs cannot be predicted with any certainty. (See Notes 5, 6 and 14 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements, included under Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.)

OTTI

During the first six months of 2013, we did not recognize any OTTI charges through earnings against our Non-Agency MBS compared to \$1.2 million against our Non-Agency MBS during the first six months of 2012. The impairment charges during the first six months of 2012 reflected changes in our estimated cash flows for such securities based on an updated assessment of the estimated future performance of the underlying collateral, including the expected principal loss over the term of the security and changes in the expected timing of receipt of cash flows.

Other Income, net

For the first six months of 2013, other income, net decreased by \$3.9 million or 34.5%, to \$7.3 million, from \$11.2 million for the first six months of 2012. The 2013 income primarily reflects \$6.0 million of net gains realized on the sale of certain Non-Agency MBS and U.S. Treasury securities, and unrealized net gains and net interest income of \$1.2 million on our Linked Transactions. During the six months ended June 30, 2013, we sold Non-Agency MBS for \$16.0 million, realizing gross gains of \$6.0 million and sold U.S. Treasury securities for \$200.1 million, realizing gross losses of approximately \$27,000. For the six months ended June 30, 2012, we sold certain Agency MBS for \$71.1 million, realizing gross gains of \$3.0 million. The unrealized net gains and net interest income on Linked Transactions of \$1.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2013 included interest income of \$1.3 million on the underlying Non-Agency MBS, interest expense of \$277,000 on the borrowings under repurchase agreements and an increase of \$196,000 in the fair value of the underlying securities. The unrealized net gains and net interest income on Linked Transactions of \$8.3 million for the six months ended June 30, 2012 included interest income of \$3.6 million on the underlying Non-Agency MBS, interest expense of \$797,000 on borrowings under repurchase agreements and an increase of \$5.5 million in the fair value of the underlying securities. Changes in the market value of the securities underlying our Linked Transactions, the amount of bond purchases recorded as Linked Transactions in the future and the amount of Linked Transactions that become unlinked in the future, none of which can be predicted with any certainty, will impact future gains/(losses) on our Linked Transactions.

Operating and Other Expense

During the first six months of 2013, we had compensation and benefits and other general and administrative expense of \$17.3 million, or 1.02% of average equity, compared to \$16.8 million, or 1.23% of average equity, for the first six months of 2012. Our other general and administrative expenses increased by \$728,000 to \$6.7 million for the first six

months of 2013 compared to \$6.0 million for the first six months of 2012. The increase was primarily comprised of increases in professional services, including auditing and legal fees, recruitment costs and the cost of data and analytical systems, which primarily reflects expenses to expand our investment analytic capability, associated primarily with our investments in Non-Agency MBS, and data system upgrades.

In addition, an excise tax and interest accrual of \$2.0 million was recorded during the six months ended June 30, 2013, reflecting an updated estimate of excise tax payable in respect of undistributed REIT taxable income for the 2012 tax year and additional accrual of interest with respect to prior years undistributed taxable income.

Table of Contents

Selected Financial Ratios

The following table presents information regarding certain of our financial ratios at or for the dates presented:

| At or for the Six Months Ended | Return on Average Total Assets (1) | Return on Average Total Stockholders' Equity (2) | Total Average Stockholders' Equity to Total Average Assets (3) | Dividend Payout Ratio (4) | Book Value per Share of Common Stock (5) |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|--|
| June 30, 2013 | 2.09 | % 8.37 | % 24.99 | % 1.13 | % \$8.19 |
| June 30, 2012 | 2.53 | 11.37 | 22.22 | 1.09 | 7.45 |

(1) Reflects annualized net income divided by average total assets.

(2) Reflects annualized net income divided by average total stockholders' equity.

(3) Reflects total average stockholders' equity divided by total average assets.

(4) Reflects dividends declared per share of common stock divided by earnings per share.

(5) Reflects total stockholders' equity less the preferred stock liquidation preference divided by total shares of common stock outstanding.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

General

Our principal sources of cash generally consist of borrowings under repurchase agreements, payments of principal and interest we receive on our MBS portfolio, cash generated from our operating results and, depending on market conditions, proceeds from capital market and securitization transactions. Our most significant uses of cash are generally to pay principal and pay interest on our borrowings under repurchase agreements and securitized debt, to purchase MBS, to make dividend payments on our capital stock, to fund our operations and to make other investments that we consider appropriate.

We seek to employ a diverse capital raising strategy under which we may issue capital stock and other types of securities. To the extent we raise additional funds through capital market transactions, we currently anticipate using the net proceeds from such transactions to acquire additional MBS, consistent with our investment policy, and for working capital which may include, among other things, the repayment of our repurchase agreements. There can be no assurance, however, that we will be able to access the capital markets at any particular time or on any particular terms. We have available for issuance an unlimited amount (subject to the terms and limitations of our charter) of common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares representing preferred stock, warrants, debt securities, rights and/or units pursuant to our automatic shelf registration statement and, at June 30, 2013, we had 3.5 million shares of common stock available for issuance pursuant to our DRSPS shelf registration statement. During the six months ended June 30, 2013, we issued 4,499,140 shares of common stock through our DRSPS, raising net proceeds of \$40.6 million.

On April 15, 2013, we completed the issuance of 8.0 million shares of our Series B Preferred Stock, liquidation preference \$25.00 per share, in an underwritten public offering. The aggregate net proceeds to us from the offering of the Series B Preferred Stock were approximately \$193.3 million, after deducting the underwriting discount and related offering expenses. We used a portion of the net proceeds to redeem all of our outstanding Series A Preferred Stock (as discussed below), and intend to use the remaining net proceeds of the offering for general corporate purposes, including, without limitation, to acquire additional MBS consistent with our investment policy, and for working capital, which may include, among other things, the repayment of its repurchase agreements.

On May 16, 2013, we redeemed all 3,840,000 outstanding shares of our Series A Preferred Stock, at an aggregate redemption price of approximately \$97.0 million, or \$25.27153 per share, including all accrued and unpaid dividends to the redemption date. The redemption value of the Series A Preferred Stock exceeded its carrying value by \$3.9 million, which represents the original offering costs for the Series A Preferred Stock.

Our borrowings under repurchase agreements are uncommitted and renewable at the discretion of our lenders and, as such, our lenders could determine to reduce or terminate our access to future borrowings at virtually any time. The terms of the repurchase transaction borrowings under our master repurchase agreements as such terms relate to repayment, margin requirements and the segregation of all securities that are the subject of repurchase transactions generally conform to the terms in the standard master repurchase agreement as published by the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (or SIFMA) or the global master

Table of Contents

repurchase agreement published by SIFMA and the International Capital Market Association. In addition, each lender typically requires that we include supplemental terms and conditions to the standard master repurchase agreement. Typical supplemental terms and conditions, which differ by lender, may include changes to the margin maintenance requirements, required haircuts (as defined below), purchase price maintenance requirements, requirements that all controversies related to the repurchase agreement be litigated in a particular jurisdiction and cross default and setoff provisions.

With respect to margin maintenance requirements for repurchase agreements with Non-Agency MBS as collateral, margin calls are typically determined by our counterparties based on their assessment of changes in the fair value of the underlying collateral and in accordance with the agreed upon haircuts specified in the transaction confirmation with the counterparty. We address margin call requests in accordance with the required terms specified in the applicable repurchase agreement and such requests are typically satisfied by posting additional cash or collateral on the same business day. We review margin calls made by counterparties and assess them for reasonableness by comparing the counterparty valuation against our valuation determination. When we believe that a margin call is unnecessary because our assessment of collateral value differs from the counterparty valuation, we typically hold discussions with the counterparty and are able to resolve the matter. In the unlikely event that resolution cannot be reached, we will look to resolve the dispute based on the remedies available to us under the terms of the repurchase agreement, which in some instances may include the engagement of a third party to review collateral valuations. For other agreements that do not include such provisions, we could resolve the matter by substituting collateral as permitted in accordance with the agreement or otherwise request the counterparty to return the collateral in exchange for cash to unwind the financing.

The following table presents information regarding the margin requirements, or the percentage amount by which the collateral value is contractually required to exceed the loan amount (this difference is referred to as the “haircut”), on our repurchase agreements at June 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

| At June 30, 2013 | Weighted Average Haircut | Low | High | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------|--------|---|
| Repurchase agreement borrowings secured by: | | | | |
| Agency MBS | 4.65 | % 3.00 | % 6.00 | % |
| Non-Agency MBS | 30.19 | 10.00 | 63.00 | |
| U.S. Treasury securities | 0.89 | 0.60 | 1.40 | |
| | | | | |
| At December 31, 2012 | Weighted Average Haircut | Low | High | |
| Repurchase agreement borrowings secured by: | | | | |
| Agency MBS | 4.80 | % 3.00 | % 7.00 | % |
| Non-Agency MBS | 30.49 | 10.00 | 63.00 | |
| U.S. Treasury securities | 1.74 | 1.00 | 2.00 | |

The weighted average haircut requirements for the respective underlying collateral types for our repurchase agreements have not significantly changed since December 31, 2012.

During the first six months of 2013, the financial market environment was impacted by continued accommodative monetary policy. Repurchase agreement funding for both Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS has been available to us at generally attractive market terms from multiple counterparties. Typically, due to the credit risk inherent to Non-Agency MBS, repurchase agreement funding involving Non-Agency MBS is available from fewer

counterparties, at terms requiring higher collateralization and higher interest rates, than does repurchase agreement funding secured by Agency MBS and U.S. Treasury securities. Therefore, we generally expect to be able to finance our acquisitions of Agency MBS (which we expect will continue to comprise the majority of our assets) on more favorable terms than financing for Non-Agency MBS.

We maintain cash and cash equivalents, unpledged Agency MBS and collateral in excess of margin requirements held by our counterparties (or collectively, our Cushion) to meet routine margin calls and protect against unforeseen reductions in our borrowing capabilities. Our ability to meet future margin calls will be impacted by our Cushion, which varies based on the market value of our securities, our cash position and margin requirements. Our cash position fluctuates based on the timing of our operating, investing and financing activities and is managed based on our anticipated cash needs. (See our consolidated statements of cash

Table of Contents

flows, included under Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and “Interest Rate Risk” included under Item 3 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.)

At June 30, 2013, we had a total of \$10.796 billion of MBS and U.S. Treasury securities and \$3.0 million of restricted cash pledged against our repurchase agreements and Swaps. At June 30, 2013, we had a Cushion of \$961.1 million available to meet potential margin calls, comprised of cash and cash equivalents of \$448.3 million, unpledged Agency MBS of \$433.8 million, and excess Agency MBS collateral of \$79.0 million. In addition, at June 30, 2013, we had unpledged Non-Agency MBS with a fair value of \$133.2 million and Non-Agency MBS with a fair value of \$235.9 million pledged in excess of contractual requirements.

The table below presents certain information about our borrowings under repurchase agreements and securitized debt:

| Quarter Ended (1) | Repurchase Agreements | | | Securitized Debt | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Quarterly Average Balance | End of Period Balance | Maximum Balance at Any Month-End | Quarterly Average Balance | End of Period Balance | Maximum Balance at Any Month-End |
| (In Thousands) | | | | | | |
| June 30, 2013 | \$8,842,018 | \$8,909,283 | \$8,909,283 | \$505,409 | \$443,748 | \$508,893 |
| March 31, 2013 | 8,873,852 | 8,902,827 | 8,956,951 | 606,858 | 542,014 | 609,707 |
| December 31, 2012 | 8,841,994 | 8,752,472 | 8,966,468 | 712,259 | 646,816 | 718,326 |
| September 30, 2012 | 8,741,020 | 8,832,326 | 8,832,326 | 819,361 | 749,471 | 821,256 |
| June 30, 2012 | 7,961,497 | 8,368,407 | 8,368,407 | 931,045 | 861,255 | 935,051 |

(1) The information presented in the table above excludes Senior Notes issued in April 2012. The outstanding balance of Senior Notes has been unchanged at \$100.0 million since issuance.

Cash Flows and Liquidity For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2013

Our cash and cash equivalents increased by \$47.0 million during the six months ended June 30, 2013, reflecting: \$447.7 million provided by our investing activities, primarily from payments on MBS; \$141.2 million provided by our operating activities; and \$542.0 million used in our financing activities.

At June 30, 2013, our debt-to-equity multiple was 3.1x compared to 3.0x at December 31, 2012. At June 30, 2013, we had borrowings under repurchase agreements of \$8.909 billion with 27 counterparties, of which \$6.081 billion was secured by Agency MBS, \$2.424 billion was secured by Non-Agency MBS and \$404.0 million was secured by U.S. Treasuries. In addition, at such date, we had \$33.2 million of borrowings under repurchase agreements that were a component of our Linked Transactions. (See Note 5 to the consolidated financial statements, included under Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.) We continue to have available capacity under our repurchase agreement credit lines. At December 31, 2012, we had borrowings under repurchase agreements of \$8.752 billion with 26 counterparties and had borrowings under repurchase agreements of \$35.3 million that were a component of our Linked Transactions.

At June 30, 2013, we had aggregate securitized debt of \$443.7 million, resulting from our resecuritization transactions. During the six months ended June 30, 2013, we used cash of \$203.1 million to make principal payments on our securitized debt, which had a weighted average expected remaining term of 0.95 years at June 30, 2013.

During the six months ended June 30, 2013, we issued 8.0 million shares of our Series B Preferred Stock in an underwritten public offering. The aggregate net proceeds to us from the offering of the Series B Preferred Stock were approximately \$193.3 million, after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses. A portion of

such net proceeds were used during the six months ended June 30, 2013, to redeem all 3,840,000 outstanding shares of our Series A Preferred Stock at an aggregate redemption price of approximately \$97.0 million, or \$25.27153 per share, including all accrued and unpaid dividends to the redemption date. (See Note 11 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements, included under Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.)

During the six months ended June 30, 2013 we received \$447.7 million through our investing activities. During this period, we received cash of \$1.483 billion from prepayments and scheduled amortization on our MBS portfolio, of which \$1.024 billion was attributable to Agency MBS and \$459.7 million was from Non-Agency MBS. During the six months ended June 30, 2013,

Table of Contents

we purchased \$953.6 million of Agency MBS and \$298.1 million of Non-Agency MBS funded with cash and repurchase agreement borrowings. While we generally intend to hold our MBS as long-term investments, we may sell certain MBS in order to manage our interest rate risk and liquidity needs, meet other operating objectives and adapt to market conditions. During the six months ended June 30, 2013 we sold certain of our Non-Agency MBS and U.S. Treasury securities for \$216.1 million, realizing net gains of \$6.0 million.

In connection with our repurchase agreement borrowings and Swaps, we routinely receive margin calls/reverse margin calls from our counterparties and make margin calls to our counterparties. Margin calls and reverse margin calls, which requirements vary over time, may occur daily between us and any of our counterparties when the value of collateral pledged changes from the amount contractually required. The value of securities pledged as collateral fluctuates reflecting changes in: (i) the face (or par) value of our MBS; (ii) market interest rates and/or other market conditions; and (iii) the market value of our Swaps. Margin calls/reverse margin calls are satisfied when we pledge/receive additional collateral in the form of additional securities and/or cash.

The table below summarizes our margin activity with respect to our repurchase agreement financings (including underlying Linked Transactions) and derivative hedging instruments for the quarterly periods presented:

| For the Quarter Ended | Collateral Pledged to Meet Margin Calls | | Cash and Securities Received for Reverse Margin Calls | Net Assets Received/(Pledged) for Margin Activity | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------|---|---|---|
| | Fair Value of Securities Pledged | Cash Pledged | | | Aggregate Assets Pledged For Margin Calls |
| (In Thousands) | | | | | |
| June 30, 2013 | \$421,744 | \$2 | \$ 421,746 | \$ 294,067 | \$ (127,679) |
| March 31, 2013 | 631,265 | — | 631,265 | 575,083 | (56,182) |
| December 31, 2012 | 365,286 | — | 365,286 | 350,589 | (14,697) |
| September 30, 2012 | 429,201 | — | 429,201 | 461,123 | 31,922 |
| June 30, 2012 | 334,536 | 800 | 335,336 | 318,723 | (16,613) |

We are subject to various financial covenants under our repurchase agreements and derivative contracts, which include minimum net worth and/or profitability requirements, maximum debt-to-equity ratios and minimum market capitalization requirements. We have maintained compliance with all of our financial covenants to date.

During the six months ended June 30, 2013, we paid \$331.7 million for cash dividends on our common stock and DERs which included a special cash dividend paid on April 10, 2013 of \$0.50 per share of common stock, or \$179.9 million, including DERs of approximately \$641,000. In addition, during the six months ended June 30, 2013, we paid cash dividends of \$6.3 million on our preferred stock. On June 28, 2013, we declared our second quarter 2013 dividend on our common stock of \$0.22 per share; on July 31, 2013, we paid this dividend which totaled \$80.0 million, including DERs of approximately \$290,000. On August 1, 2013 we declared a special cash dividend of \$0.28 per share of common stock. The dividend will be paid on August 30, 2013 to stockholders of record on August 12, 2013.

We believe that we have adequate financial resources to meet our current obligations, including margin calls, as they come due, to fund dividends we declare and to actively pursue our investment strategies. However, should the value of our MBS suddenly decrease, significant margin calls on our repurchase agreement borrowings could result and our liquidity position could be materially and adversely affected. Further, should market liquidity tighten, our repurchase agreement counterparties may increase our margin requirements on new financings, reducing our ability to use leverage. Access to financing may also be negatively impacted by the ongoing volatility in the world financial markets, potentially adversely impacting our current or potential lenders' ability or willingness to provide us with

financing. In addition, there is no assurance that favorable market conditions will continue to permit us to consummate additional securitization transactions if we determine to seek that form of financing.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not have any material off-balance-sheet arrangements. Our Linked Transactions are comprised of MBS, associated repurchase agreements and interest receivable/payable on such accounts. The extent to which these transactions become unlinked in the future, the underlying MBS and the borrowings under repurchase agreements and associated interest income and expense will be presented on a gross basis on our consolidated balance sheet and statement of operations, prospectively. (See page 66 for information about our leverage multiple and Note 5 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements, included under Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.)

Inflation

Substantially all of our assets and liabilities are financial in nature. As a result, changes in interest rates and other factors impact our performance far more than does inflation. Our financial statements are prepared in accordance with GAAP and dividends declared are based upon net ordinary income as calculated for tax purposes. In each case, our results of operations and reported assets, liabilities and equity are measured with reference to historical cost or fair value without considering inflation.

Other Matters

Our objective has been to conduct our business so as not to become regulated as an investment company under the Investment Company Act. Section 3(c)(5)(C) of the Investment Company Act exempts from the definition of “investment company” entities that are “primarily engaged in the business of purchasing or otherwise acquiring mortgages and other liens on and interests in real estate.” Under current interpretations of the SEC staff, this exemption generally means that at least 55% of our assets must be comprised of “qualifying real estate assets” and at least 80% of our portfolio must be comprised of qualifying real estate assets and real estate-related assets under the Investment Company Act. We primarily rely on an existing interpretation of the SEC Staff that generally provides that “whole pool certificates” that are issued or guaranteed by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or Ginnie Mae (or Agency Whole Pool Certificates) are considered qualifying real estate assets under Section 3(c)(5)(C). We treat as real estate-related assets MBS that do not represent all of the certificates issued with respect to the entire pool of mortgages. Compliance with this exemption inherently limits the types of assets we may acquire from time to time.

On August 31, 2011, the SEC issued “concept release” in which it announced that it is reviewing interpretive issues related to the Section 3(c)(5)(C) exemption, including requesting comments on whether it should reconsider whether Agency Whole Pool Certificates may be treated as interests in real estate (and presumably Qualifying Real Estate Assets) and whether companies, such as us, whose primary business consists of investing in Agency Whole Pool Certificates, are the type of entities that Congress intended to be covered by the exclusion provided by Section 3(c)(5)(C).

The potential timetable and outcome of the SEC’s review are unclear. However, if the SEC determines that Agency Whole Pool Certificates are not interests in real estate (and therefore not Qualifying Real Estate Assets), adopts an otherwise adverse interpretation with respect to Agency Whole Pool Certificates, issues different guidance regarding any of the matters bearing upon the exemption under Section 3(c)(5)(C) or otherwise believes we do not satisfy an Investment Company Act exemption, we would be required to significantly restructure our operations in order to maintain our investment company exemption. Under these circumstances, our ability to use leverage and our access to more favorable methods of financing would be substantially reduced, and we would be unable to conduct our business as we currently conduct it. We may also be required to sell certain of our assets and/or limit the types of assets we acquire. Under the circumstances described above, it is likely that our net interest income would be significantly reduced, which would materially and adversely affect our business.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

We seek to manage our risks related to interest rates, liquidity, prepayment speeds, market value and the credit quality of our assets while, at the same time, seeking to provide an opportunity to stockholders to realize attractive total returns through ownership of our capital stock. While we do not seek to avoid risk, we seek, consistent with our investment policies, to: assume risk that can be quantified based on management's judgment and experience and actively manage such risk; earn sufficient returns to justify the taking of such risks; and maintain capital levels consistent with the risks that we undertake.

Interest Rate Risk

We generally acquire interest-rate sensitive assets and fund them with interest-rate sensitive liabilities, a portion of which are hedged with Swaps. We are exposed to interest rate risk on our assets, both Agency and Non-Agency MBS, and our liabilities, repurchase agreements and securitized debt. Changes in interest rates can affect our net interest income and the fair value of our assets and liabilities.

We finance the majority of our investments in Agency and Non-Agency MBS with short-term repurchase agreements. In general, the borrowing cost of our repurchase agreements changes more quickly, including the impact of Swaps, than the yield on our assets when interest rates change. In a rising interest rate environment the borrowing cost of our repurchase agreements may increase faster than the interest income on our assets, lowering our net income. In order to mitigate compression in net income based on such interest rate movements, we use Swaps and other hedging instruments to lock in a portion of the net interest spread between assets and liabilities.

The fair value of our MBS assets could change at a different rate than the fair value of our liabilities when interest rates change. We measure the sensitivity of our portfolio to changes in interest rates by estimating the duration of our assets and liabilities. Duration is the approximate percentage change in fair value for a 100 basis point parallel shift in the yield curve. In general, our assets have higher duration than our liabilities and in order to reduce this exposure we use Swaps and other hedging instruments to reduce the gap in duration between our assets and liabilities.

In calculating the duration of our Agency MBS we take into account the characteristics of the underlying mortgage loans including whether the underlying loans are fixed rate, adjustable or hybrid; coupon, expected prepayment rates and lifetime and periodic caps. We use third-party financial models, combined with management's assumptions and observed empirical data when estimating the duration of our Agency MBS.

Over the past few years, as the expected yields on Non-Agency MBS were significantly greater than expected yields on non-credit sensitive assets, changes in Non-Agency MBS prices were generally not highly correlated to changes in market interest rates. We believe that this low sensitivity to increases in interest rates was due to the fact that periods of rising interest rates had been generally accompanied by an improvement in economic expectations and therefore, more positive scenarios for Non-Agency MBS. Also, wide risk premiums for Non-Agency MBS meant that spreads could tighten to allow Non-Agency MBS to retain value despite increases in interest rates.

Non-Agency prices have trended up during 2012 and through May of 2013. As with other financial assets, this has been driven by very accommodative Federal Reserve monetary policy. It has also been driven by strong mortgage credit fundamentals with increasing home prices, declining defaults, stable severities and higher voluntary prepayment rates.

With increased uncertainty about future Federal Reserve actions since May 2013, Non-Agency MBS prices have become more volatile and credit spreads have widened. We believe that our Non-Agency MBS have become more interest rate sensitive and now exhibit positive duration. In analyzing the interest rate sensitivity of our Non-Agency MBS we take into account the characteristics of the underlying mortgage loans including credit quality and whether the underlying loans are fixed-rate, adjustable or hybrid. We estimate the duration of our Non-Agency MBS using management's assumptions.

We use Swaps as part of our overall interest rate risk management strategy. Such derivative financial instruments are intended to act as a hedge against future interest rate increases on our repurchase agreement financings, which rates are typically highly correlated with LIBOR. While our derivatives do not extend the maturities of our borrowings under repurchase agreements, they do, however, in effect, lock in a fixed rate of interest over their term for a

corresponding amount of our repurchase agreements that are hedged.

78

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

At June 30, 2013, MFA's \$12.277 billion of Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS, which includes MBS underlying Linked Transactions, were backed by Hybrid, adjustable and fixed-rate mortgages. Additional information about these MBS, including months to reset and three-month average CPR, is presented below:

| (Dollars in Thousands) | Agency MBS | | | Non-Agency MBS | | | Total | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| | Fair Value | Average Months to Reset (1) | Average CPR (2) | Fair Value | Average Months to Reset (1) | Average CPR (2) | Fair Value | Average Months to Reset (1) | Average CPR (2) |
| Time to Reset: | | | | | | | | | |
| < 2 years (3) | \$2,191,620 | 11 | 23.4 % | \$3,049,255 | 3 | 15.6 % | \$5,240,875 | 6 | 18.8 % |
| 2-5 years | 953,910 | 39 | 31.4 | 602,501 | 38 | 17.4 | 1,556,411 | 39 | 26.4 |
| > 5 years | 1,112,554 | 72 | 21.9 | — | — | — | 1,112,554 | 72 | 21.9 |
| ARM-MBS Total | \$4,258,084 | 33 | 25.1 % | \$3,651,756 | 9 | 15.9 % | \$7,909,840 | 22 | 20.9 % |
| 15-year fixed (4) | \$2,679,827 | | 12.1 % | \$14,483 | | 20.1 % | \$2,694,310 | | 12.2 % |
| 30-year fixed (4) | — | | — | 1,667,125 | | 17.4 | 1,667,125 | | 17.4 |
| 40-year fixed (4) | — | | — | 5,940 | | 11.4 | 5,940 | | 11.4 |
| Fixed-Rate Total | \$2,679,827 | | 12.1 % | \$1,687,548 | | 17.4 % | \$4,367,375 | | 14.2 % |
| MBS Total | \$6,937,911 | | 20.2 % | \$5,339,304 | | 16.4 % | \$12,277,215 | | 18.5 % |

(1) 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.

(2) Average CPR weighted by positions as of the beginning of each month in the quarter.

(3) Includes floating rate MBS that may be collateralized by fixed-rate mortgages.

(4) Information presented based on data available at time of loan origination.

The information presented in the following "Shock Table" projects the potential impact of sudden parallel changes in interest rates on our net interest income and portfolio value, including the impact of derivative hedging instruments, over the next 12 months based on the assets in our investment portfolio at June 30, 2013. All changes in income and value are measured as the percentage change from the projected net interest income and portfolio value at the base interest rate scenario at June 30, 2013.

Shock Table

| Change in Interest Rates | Estimated Value of Assets (1) | Estimated Value of Derivative Hedging Instruments | Estimated Value of Financial Instruments Carried at Fair Value | Estimated Change in Fair Value | Percentage Change in Net Interest Income (2) | Percentage Change in Portfolio Value |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| (Dollars in Thousands) | | | | | | |
| +100 Basis Point Increase | \$12,423,988 | \$26,703 | \$12,450,691 | \$(242,839) | (5.92)% | (1.91)% |
| + 50 Basis Point Increase | \$12,579,684 | \$(2,632) | \$12,577,052 | \$(116,478) | (2.62)% | (0.92)% |

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

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------|----------|------|---|--|
| Actual at June 30, 2013 | \$ 12,725,497 | \$ (31,967) | \$ 12,693,530 | \$— | — | — | | |
| - 50 Basis Point Decrease | \$ 12,861,429 | \$ (61,302) | \$ 12,800,127 | \$ 106,597 | (1.01)% | 0.84 | % | |
| -100 Basis Point Decrease | \$ 12,987,479 | \$ (90,637) | \$ 12,896,842 | \$ 203,312 | (6.85)% | 1.60 | % | |

(1) Such assets include MBS, including linked MBS that are reported as a component of our Linked Transactions on our consolidated balance sheet, and cash and cash equivalents. Such linked MBS may not be linked in future periods.

(2) Includes underlying interest income and interest expense associated with MBS and repurchase agreement borrowings underlying our Linked Transactions. Such MBS and repurchase agreements may not be linked in future periods.

Certain assumptions have been made in connection with the calculation of the information set forth in the Shock Table and, as such, there can be no assurance that assumed events will occur or that other events will not occur that would affect the outcomes. The base interest rate scenario assumes interest rates at June 30, 2013. The analysis presented utilizes assumptions and estimates based on management's judgment and experience. Furthermore, while we generally expect to retain the majority of such assets and the associated interest rate risk to maturity, future purchases and sales of assets could materially change our interest rate risk profile. It should be specifically noted that the information set forth in the above table and all related disclosure constitute forward-

looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the 1933 Act, as amended and Section 21E of the 1934 Act, as amended. Actual results could differ significantly from those estimated in the Shock Table above.

The Shock Table quantifies the potential changes in net interest income and portfolio value, which includes the value of our derivative hedging instruments (which are carried at fair value), should interest rates immediately change (i.e., shocked). The Shock Table presents the estimated impact of interest rates instantaneously rising 50 and 100 basis points, and falling 50 and 100 basis points. The cash flows associated with our portfolio of MBS for each rate shock are calculated based on assumptions, including, but not limited to, prepayment speeds, yield on replacement assets, the slope of the yield curve and composition of our portfolio. Assumptions made on the interest rate sensitive liabilities, which are assumed to be repurchase financings and securitized debt, include anticipated interest rates, collateral requirements as a percent of the repurchase agreement, amount and term of borrowing. Given the low level of interest rates at June 30, 2013, we applied a floor of 0% for all anticipated interest rates included in our assumptions. Due to this floor, it is anticipated that any hypothetical interest rate shock decrease would have a limited positive impact on our funding costs; however, because prepayments speeds are unaffected by this floor, it is expected that any increase in our prepayment speeds (occurring as a result of any interest rate shock decrease or otherwise) could result in an acceleration of our premium amortization on our Agency MBS and discount accretion on our Non-Agency MBS and the reinvestment of principal repayments in lower yielding assets. As a result, because the presence of this floor limits the positive impact of interest rate decrease on our funding costs, hypothetical interest rate shock decreases could cause the fair value of our financial instruments and our net interest income to decline.

At June 30, 2013, the impact on portfolio value was approximated using a calculated effective duration (i.e., the price sensitivity to changes in interest rates), including the effect of derivative hedging instruments, of 1.67 which is the weighted average of 2.76 for our Agency MBS, (2.21) for our derivative hedging instruments, 1.51 for our Non-Agency MBS and zero for our cash and cash equivalents, and expected convexity (i.e., the approximate change in duration relative to the change in interest rates) of (0.30), which is the weighted average of (0.55) for our Agency MBS, zero for our derivative hedging instruments, zero for our Non-Agency MBS and zero for our cash and cash equivalents. The impact on our net interest income is driven mainly by the difference between portfolio yield and cost of funding of our repurchase agreements (including those underlying our Linked Transactions), which includes the cost and/or benefit from derivative hedging instruments. Our asset/liability structure is generally such that an increase in interest rates would be expected to result in a decrease in net interest income, as our borrowings are generally shorter in term than our interest-earning assets. When interest rates are shocked, prepayment assumptions are adjusted based on management's expectations along with the results from the prepayment model.

Market Value Risk

Our MBS are designated as "available-for-sale" and, as such, are reported at their fair value. The difference between amortized cost and fair value of our MBS is reflected in accumulated other comprehensive income/(loss), a component of stockholders' equity, except that credit related impairments that are identified as other-than-temporary are recognized through earnings. Changes in the fair value of our Linked Transactions are reported in earnings. At June 30, 2013, our investment portfolio was comprised of Agency MBS and Non-Agency MBS. While changes in the fair value of our Agency MBS are generally not credit-related, changes in the fair value of our Non-Agency MBS and Linked Transactions may reflect both market and interest rate conditions as well as credit risk. At June 30, 2013, our Non-Agency MBS had a fair value of \$5.296 billion and an amortized cost of \$4.628 billion, comprised of gross unrealized gains of \$676.1 million and gross unrealized losses of \$8.4 million. At June 30, 2013, our Linked Transactions included MBS with a fair value of \$43.7 million, including net unrealized gains of \$4.2 million, which have been reflected through earnings to date as a component of unrealized net gains and net interest income from Linked Transactions.

Generally, in a rising interest rate environment, the fair value of our MBS would be expected to decrease; conversely, in a decreasing interest rate environment, the fair value of such MBS would be expected to increase. If the fair value

of MBS collateralizing our repurchase agreements decreases, we may receive margin calls from our repurchase agreement counterparties for additional MBS collateral or cash due to such decline. If such margin calls are not met, our lender could liquidate the securities collateralizing our repurchase agreements with such lender, potentially resulting in a loss to us. To avoid forced liquidations, we could apply a strategy of reducing borrowings and assets, by selling assets or not replacing securities as they amortize and/or prepay. Such an action would likely reduce our interest income, interest expense and net income, the extent of which would be dependent on the level of reduction in assets and liabilities as well as the price at which such assets are sold. Such a decrease in our net interest income could negatively impact cash available for dividend distributions, which in turn could reduce the market price of our issued and outstanding common stock and preferred stock.

In evaluating our asset/liability management and Non-Agency MBS credit performance, we consider the credit characteristics underlying our Non-Agency MBS, including those that are a component of our Linked Transactions. The following table presents certain information about our Non-Agency MBS portfolio and Non-Agency MBS underlying our Linked Transactions at June 30, 2013. Information presented with respect to the weighted average FICO scores and other information aggregated based on information reported at the time of mortgage origination are historical and, as such, does not reflect the impact of the general decline in home prices or changes in a borrower's credit score or the current use of the mortgaged property.

81

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

The information in the table below is presented as of June 30, 2013:

| Year of Securitization (2) (Dollars in Thousands) | Securities with Average Loan FICO of 715 or Higher (1) | | | Securities with Average Loan FICO Below 715 (1) | | | Total | |
|---|---|--------------|-------------------|--|-------------|-------------------|---------------|---|
| | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 and Prior | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 and Prior | | |
| Number of securities | 107 | 94 | 109 | 15 | 41 | 54 | 420 | |
| MBS current face | \$2,047,026 | \$1,355,601 | \$1,447,779 | \$194,955 | \$633,303 | \$657,326 | \$6,335,990 | |
| Total purchase discounts, net | \$(519,720) | \$(390,454) | \$(286,924) | \$(77,441) | \$(233,940) | \$(160,113) | \$(1,668,592) | |
| Purchase discount designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI (3) | \$(431,028) | \$(265,022) | \$(162,148) | \$(57,076) | \$(232,565) | \$(122,655) | \$(1,270,494) | |
| Purchase discount designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI as percentage of current face | 21.1 | % 19.6 | % 11.2 | % 29.3 | % 36.7 | % 18.7 | % 20.1 | % |
| MBS amortized cost | \$1,527,306 | \$965,147 | \$1,160,855 | \$117,514 | \$399,363 | \$497,213 | \$4,667,398 | |
| MBS fair value | \$1,725,343 | \$1,125,342 | \$1,286,577 | \$149,533 | \$477,233 | \$575,276 | \$5,339,304 | |
| Weighted average fair value to current face | 84.3 | % 83.0 | % 88.9 | % 76.7 | % 75.4 | % 87.5 | % 84.3 | % |
| Weighted average coupon (4) | 4.66 | % 4.12 | % 3.47 | % 3.96 | % 4.71 | % 4.33 | % 4.22 | % |
| Weighted average loan age (months) (4)(5) | 75 | 84 | 98 | 77 | 85 | 99 | 86 | |
| Weighted average current loan size (4)(5) | \$537 | \$522 | \$345 | \$476 | \$277 | \$290 | \$436 | |
| Percentage amortizing (6) | 37 | % 47 | % 62 | % 41 | % 59 | % 70 | % 51 | % |
| Weighted average FICO score at origination (4)(7) | 734 | 730 | 727 | 703 | 705 | 706 | 725 | |
| Owner-occupied loans | 89.0 | % 89.7 | % 86.1 | % 84.9 | % 83.7 | % 84.2 | % 87.3 | % |
| Rate-term refinancings | 26.9 | % 19.0 | % 15.6 | % 19.3 | % 15.9 | % 14.0 | % 19.9 | % |
| Cash-out refinancings | 33.2 | % 33.4 | % 26.0 | % 43.4 | % 41.0 | % 37.1 | % 33.1 | % |
| 3 Month CPR (5) | 18.4 | % 16.8 | % 14.9 | % 16.8 | % 14.4 | % 14.8 | % 16.4 | % |
| 3 Month CRR (5)(8) | 13.8 | % 11.3 | % 10.4 | % 10.3 | % 8.3 | % 9.8 | % 11.4 | % |
| 3 Month CDR (5)(8) | 5.4 | % 6.2 | % 4.3 | % 7.1 | % 6.6 | % 5.4 | % 5.5 | % |
| 3 Month loss severity | 46.9 | % 43.4 | % 47.0 | % 64.9 | % 60.6 | % 51.0 | % 48.8 | % |
| 60+ days delinquent (7) | 18.6 | % 16.6 | % 14.1 | % 25.7 | % 27.6 | % 18.6 | % 18.3 | % |

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

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---|
| Percentage of always current borrowers (Lifetime) (9) | 50.5 | % 49.4 | % 54.8 | % 36.2 | % 33.9 | % 41.8 | % 48.2 | % |
| Percentage of always current borrowers (12M) (10) | 70.3 | % 71.3 | % 75.1 | % 61.1 | % 58.3 | % 65.4 | % 69.6 | % |
| Weighted average credit enhancement (7)(11) | 0.6 | % 1.6 | % 5.8 | % 0.7 | % 1.0 | % 6.9 | % 2.7 | % |

(1) FICO score is used by major credit bureaus to indicate a borrower's creditworthiness at time of loan origination.

(2) Information presented based on the initial year of securitization of the underlying collateral. Certain of our Non-Agency MBS have been resecuritized. The historical information presented in the table is based on the initial securitization date and data available at the time of original securitization (and not the date of resecuritized). No information has been updated with respect to any MBS that have been resecuritized.

(3) Purchase discounts designated as Credit Reserve and OTTI are not expected to be accreted into interest income.

(4) Weighted average is based on MBS current face at June 30, 2013.

(5) Information provided is based on loans for individual groups owned by us.

(6) Percentage of face amount for which the original mortgage note contractually calls for principal amortization in the current period.

(7) Information provided is based on loans for all groups that provide credit enhancement for MBS with credit enhancement.

(8) CRR represents voluntary prepayments and CDR represents involuntary prepayments.

(9) Percentage of face amount of loans for which the borrower has not been delinquent since origination.

(10) Percentage of face amount of loans for which the borrower has not been delinquent in the last twelve months.

(11) Credit enhancement for a particular security is expressed as a percentage of all outstanding mortgage loan collateral. A particular security will not be subject to principal loss as long as its credit enhancement is greater than zero. As of June 30, 2013, a total of 225 Non-Agency MBS in our portfolio representing approximately \$3.711 billion or 59% of the current face amount of the portfolio had no credit enhancement.

The mortgages securing our Non-Agency MBS are located in many geographic regions across the United States. The following table presents the six largest geographic concentrations of the mortgages collateralizing our Non-Agency MBS, including Non-Agency MBS underlying our Linked Transactions, at June 30, 2013:

| Property Location | Percent | |
|---------------------|---------|---|
| Southern California | 27.6 | % |
| Northern California | 17.2 | % |
| Florida | 8.1 | % |
| New York | 5.4 | % |
| Virginia | 3.8 | % |
| New Jersey | 3.2 | % |

Liquidity Risk

The primary liquidity risk for us arises from financing long-maturity assets, with shorter-term borrowings primarily in the form of repurchase agreements. We pledge MBS and cash to secure our repurchase agreements, including repurchase agreements that are reported as a component to our Linked Transactions, and Swaps. At June 30, 2013, we had a Cushion of \$961.1 million available to meet potential margin calls, comprised of cash and cash equivalents of \$448.3 million, unpledged Agency MBS of \$433.8 million and Agency MBS with a fair value of \$79.0 million pledged in excess of contractual requirements. In addition, at June 30, 2013, we had unpledged Non-Agency MBS with a fair value of \$133.2 million and Non-Agency MBS with a fair value of \$235.9 million pledged in excess of contractual requirements. Should the value of our MBS pledged as collateral suddenly decrease, margin calls relating to our repurchase agreements could increase, causing an adverse change in our liquidity position. As such, we cannot be assured that we will always be able to roll over our repurchase agreements. Further, should market liquidity tighten, our repurchase agreement counterparties may increase our margin requirements on new financings, including repurchase agreement borrowings that we roll with the same counterparty, reducing our ability to use leverage.

Credit Risk

Although we do not believe that we are exposed to credit risk in our Agency MBS portfolio, we are exposed to credit risk in our Non-Agency MBS portfolio. In the event of the return of less than 100% of par on our Non-Agency MBS, credit support contained in the MBS deal structures and the discount purchase prices we paid mitigate our risk of loss on these investments. Over time, we expect the level of credit support remaining in MBS deal structures to decrease, which will result in an increase in the amount of realized credit loss experienced by our Non-Agency MBS portfolio. Our Non-Agency investment process involves analysis focused primarily on quantifying and pricing credit risk. When we purchase Non-Agency MBS, we assign certain assumptions to each of the MBS, including but not limited to, future interest rates, voluntary prepayment rates, mortgage modifications, default rates and loss severities, and generally allocate a portion of the purchase discount as a Credit Reserve which provides credit protection for such securities. As part of our surveillance process, we review our Non-Agency MBS by tracking their actual performance compared to the security's expected performance at purchase or, if we have modified our original purchase assumptions, compared to our revised performance expectations. To the extent that actual performance of a Non-Agency MBS is less favorable than the expected performance of the security, we may revise our performance expectations. As a result, we could reduce the accretable discount on such security and/or recognize an other-than-temporary impairment through earnings, which could have a material adverse impact on our operating results. In addition, as discussed in Item 2, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, we are potentially exposed to repurchase agreement counterparties should they default on their obligations, and we are unable to recover any excess collateral pledged to them.

Prepayment and Reinvestment Risk

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.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

(a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Management, under the direction of its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, is responsible for maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "1934 Act"), that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in reports filed or submitted under the 1934 Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures.

In connection with the preparation of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, management evaluated the Company's disclosure controls and procedures. The evaluation was performed under the direction of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer to determine the effectiveness, as of June 30, 2013, of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures. As discussed below, under the caption "Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting," the Company determined that at December 31, 2012, control deficiencies existed in the Company's process to calculate taxable income for MBS, which in the aggregate rose to the level of a material weakness in internal control over financial reporting. The Company's efforts to remediate the identified material weakness are ongoing. Consequently, based on its evaluation, and after consideration of the status of its efforts to remediate control deficiencies that resulted in the previously identified material weakness, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were not effective as of June 30, 2013.

(b) Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As disclosed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, the Company determined that, at December 31, 2012, control deficiencies existed in the Company's process to calculate taxable income for its MBS, including deficiencies in the design and operating effectiveness and management review of certain reconciliations and other control activities that, in the aggregate, rose to the level of a material weakness in internal control over financial reporting. As a result, the Company determined that as of December 31, 2012, its internal control over financial reporting was not effective. The Company also determined that, solely as a result of the material weakness, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were not effective as of December 31, 2012.

As previously reported, the Company's management is in the process of developing and implementing new processes and procedures to remediate the material weakness described above. Those initiatives include the following:

- improvements in the design and operating effectiveness and management review of reconciliations of adjustments to GAAP income to arrive at REIT taxable income;
- improvement in technology based controls, including logical access and end user computing controls over spreadsheet-based models used in the determination of REIT taxable income; and
- increasing the resources dedicated to the Company's process to calculate taxable income for MBS, including the recruitment of a senior executive, reporting to the Chief Financial Officer, who is responsible for the process.

The Company believes that these measures will remediate the material weakness discussed above (as well as address the ineffectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures). However, the Company cannot provide any assurance that these remediation efforts will be successful or that its internal control over financial reporting will be

effective as a result of these efforts. As such efforts remain in process at June 30, 2013, management's conclusion regarding the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2012, has not changed as of June 30, 2013.

Table of Contents

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

There are no material pending legal proceedings to which we are a party or any of our assets are subject.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

For a discussion of the Company's risk factors, see Part I, Item 1A. "Risk Factors" of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012. There are no material changes from the risk factors set forth in such Annual Report on Form 10-K. However, the risks and uncertainties that the Company faces are not limited to those set forth in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to the Company or that it currently believes to be immaterial may also adversely affect the Company's business and the trading price of its securities.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Purchases of Equity Securities

As previously disclosed, in August 2005, the Company's Board authorized a Repurchase Program, to repurchase up to 4.0 million shares of the Company's outstanding common stock. The Board reaffirmed the authorization in May 2010. The authorization does not have an expiration date and, at present, there is no intention to modify or otherwise rescind such authorization. Subject to applicable securities laws, repurchases of common stock under the Repurchase Program may be made at times and in amounts as we deem 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 engaged in no share repurchase activity during the second quarter of 2013 pursuant to the Repurchase program. The Company did, however, withhold restricted shares (under the terms of grants under our 2010 Plan) to offset tax withholding obligations that occur upon the vesting and release of restricted stock awards and RSUs. The following table presents information with respect to (i) such withheld restricted shares, and (ii) eligible shares remaining for repurchase under the Repurchase Program:

| Month | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Weighted Average Price Paid Per Share (1) | Total Number of Shares Repurchased as Part of Publicly Announced Repurchase Program or Employee Plan | Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Repurchase Program or Employee Plan |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|--|
| April 1-30, 2013: | | | | |
| Repurchase Program | (2) — | \$— | — | 2,759,709 |
| Employee Transactions | (3) — | — | N/A | N/A |
| May 1-31, 2013: | | | | |
| Repurchase Program | (2) — | — | — | 2,759,709 |
| Employee Transactions | (3) 18,010 | 9.33 | N/A | N/A |
| June 1-30, 2013: | | | | |
| Repurchase Program | (2) — | — | — | 2,759,709 |
| Employee Transactions | (3) 14,659 | 8.45 | N/A | N/A |

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

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|--------|--------|-----|-----------|
| Total Repurchase Program | (2) | — | \$— | — | 2,759,709 |
| Total Employee Transactions | (3) | 32,669 | \$8.93 | N/A | N/A |

(1) Includes brokerage commissions.

(2) As of June 30, 2013, the Company had repurchased an aggregate of 1,240,291 shares under the Repurchase Program.

(3) The Company's 2010 Plan provides that the value of the shares delivered or withheld be based on the price of our common stock on the date the relevant transaction occurs.

Item 6. Exhibits

The list of exhibits required to be filed as exhibits to this report are listed on page E-1 hereof, under "Exhibit Index," which is incorporated herein by reference.

85

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

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

Date: August 1, 2013

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Stewart Zimmerman
Stewart Zimmerman
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

By: /s/ Stephen D. Yarad
Stephen D. Yarad
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

The following exhibits are filed as part of this Quarterly Report:

| Exhibit | Description |
|----------|--|
| 3.1 | Articles Supplementary, dated April 12, 2013, of MFA Financial, Inc. (the “Company”) designating the Company’s 7.50% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company’s Form 8-K, dated April 15, 2013 (Commission File No. 1-13991)). |
| 4.1 | Specimen of certificate representing the 7.50% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company’s Form 8-K, dated April 15, 2013 (Commission File No. 1-13991)). |
| 10.1 | Amendment No. 1, dated April 4, 2013, to the Amended and Restated Employment Agreement, dated as of June 30, 2011, between the Company and Craig L. Knutson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company’s Form 8-K, dated April 4, 2013 (Commission File No. 1-13991)). |
| 31.1 | Certification of the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 31.2 | Certification of the Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.1 | Certification of the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.2 | Certification of the Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 101.INS* | XBRL Instance Document |
| 101.SCH* | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document |
| 101.CAL* | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document |
| 101.DEF* | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document |
| 101.LAB* | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document |
| 101.PRE* | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document |

*These interactive data files are furnished and deemed not filed or part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of Sections 11 or 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, deemed not filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and otherwise are not subject to liability under those sections.