TRI-CONTINENTAL CORP Form N-CSRS August 30, 2012 Table of Contents

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED

MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act File Number 811-00266

TRI-CONTINENTAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

50606 Ameriprise Financial Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55474 (Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Scott R. Plummer - 5228 Ameriprise Financial Center, Minneapolis, MN 55474 (Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (612) 671-1947

Date of fiscal year end: December 31

Date of reporting period: June 30, 2012

Item 1. Reports to Stockholders.

Semiannual Report

June 30, 2012

Tri-Continental Corporation

Tri-Continental Corporation

Letter to Stockholders

Dear Stockholders,

We are pleased to present the semiannual stockholder report for Tri-Continental Corporation (the fund). The report includes the fund s investment results and a portfolio of investment and financial statements as of June 30, 2012.

The fund s Common Stock gained 9.23%, based on net asset value, and 10.51%, based on market price, for the six months ended June 30, 2012. The fund s benchmark, the S&P 500 Index, returned 9.49% during the same period.

During the first half of 2012, the fund paid two distributions, in accordance with its earned distribution policy, that aggregated \$0.255 per share of Common Stock of the fund. Distributions are based upon amounts distributed by underlying portfolio companies owned by the fund.

We welcome the addition of Oliver Buckley and Yan Jin, who joined Brian Condon and David King in March 2012 as co-portfolio managers of the fund.

On April 12, 2012, the fund held its 82nd Annual Meeting of Stockholders. During the meeting, Stockholders re-elected three Directors and ratified the selection of Ernst & Young LLP (Ernst & Young) as the fund s independent registered public accounting firm for 2012. Subsequently, at its June Meeting, the fund s Audit Committee recommended, and the fund s Board of Directors approved, the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PricewaterhouseCoopers) as independent auditor for the fund, as well as the other funds in the Columbia Family of Funds (collectively, the funds). PricewaterhouseCoopers engagement is effective at the completion of Ernst & Young s audits of the financial statements of the funds with fiscal years ending July 31, 2012, which is expected to be completed in September 2012. Ernst & Young completed the audit of the fund s financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011 and issued its report on February 22, 2012.

Information about the fund, including daily pricing, current performance, fund holdings, stockholder reports, the most current prospectus for the fund, distributions and other information can be found at columbiamanagement.com under the Closed-End Funds tab.

On behalf of the Board, we would like to thank you for your support of Tri-Continental Corporation.

Stephen R. Lewis

Tri-Continental Corporation

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The views expressed in this report reflect the current views of the respective parties. These views are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict, so actual outcomes and results may differ significantly from the views expressed. These views are subject to change at any time based upon economic, market or other conditions and the respective parties disclaim any responsibility to update such views. These views may not be relied on as investment advice and, because investment decisions for a Columbia Fund are based on numerous factors, may not be relied on as an indication of trading intent on behalf of any particular Columbia Fund. References to specific securities should not be construed as a recommendation or investment advice.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Performance Overview

(Unaudited)

Performance Summary

- > Tri-Continental Corporation (the fund) Common Stock gained 9.23%, based on net asset value, and 10.51%, based on market price for the six months ended June 30, 2012.
- > The fund s benchmark, the S&P 500 Index, returned 9.49% for the same time period.

Average Annual Total Returns (%) (for	period ended June 30, 2012)				
		6 Months			
	Inception	cumulative	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
Market Price	01/05/29	10.51	6.45	-4.22	3.42
Net Asset Value	01/05/29	9.23	7.38	-2.31	3.67
S&P 500 Index		9.49	5.45	0.22	5.33

The performance information shown represents past performance and is not a guarantee of future results. The investment return and principal value of your investment will fluctuate so that your shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance information shown. You may obtain performance information current to the most recent month-end by visiting columbiamanagement.com.

Returns reflect changes in market price or net asset value, as applicable, and assume reinvestment of distributions. Returns do not reflect the deduction of taxes that investors may pay on distributions or the sale of shares.

The S&P 500 Index, an unmanaged index of common stocks, is frequently used as a general measure of market performance. The index reflects reinvestment of all distributions and changes in market prices.

Indices are not available for investment, are not professionally managed and do not reflect sales charges, fees, brokerage commissions, taxes or other expenses of investing. Securities in the fund may not match those in an index.

			l
June 30, 2012	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011	
15.47	15.92	14.23	
18.02	18.67	16.77	
	15.47	15.47 15.92	15.47 15.92 14.23

Distributions Paid Per Common Share ^(a) Payable Date March 29, 2012 June 28, 2012

Per Share Amount (\$) 0.105 0.150

(a) Preferred Stockholders were paid dividends totaling \$2.50 per share.

The net asset value of the fund s shares may not always correspond to the market price of such shares. Common stock of many closed-end funds frequently trade at a discount from their net asset value. The fund is subject to stock market risk, which is the risk that stock prices overall will decline over short or long periods, adversely affecting the value of an investment in the fund.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Portfolio Overview

(Unaudited)

Portfolio Breakdown (%)	
(at June 30, 2012)	
Common Stocks	69.6
Consumer Discretionary	6.4
Consumer Staples	7.3
Energy	7.4
Financials	10.7
Health Care	8.2
Industrials	7.9
Information Technology	13.3
Materials	3.0
Telecommunication Services	2.6
Utilities	2.8
Convertible Preferred Stocks	6.0
Consumer Discretionary	0.4
Consumer Staples	0.5
Energy	0.7
Financials	2.5
Industrials	0.9
Utilities	1.0
Corporate Bonds & Notes	12.6
Convertible Bonds	11.1
Limited Partnerships	(a)
Other ^(b)	0.7
Percentages indicated are based upon total investments (excluding Investments of Cash Collateral Received for Securities on Loan). The Fund composition is subject to change.	s portfolio

(a) Rounds to less than 0.1%.

(b) Includes investments in Money Market Funds.

Top Ten Holdings (%)	
(at June 30, 2012)	
Apple, Inc.	3.6
Chevron Corp.	2.3
Microsoft Corp.	2.3
Verizon Communications, Inc.	2.2
Pfizer, Inc.	2.1
Merck & Co., Inc.	2.1
Philip Morris International, Inc.	1.9
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	1.9
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	1.4
Abbott Laboratories	1.2
Percentages indicated are based upon total investments (excluding Money Market Funds and Investments of Cash Collateral Received for Section 2014).	ecurities on Loan).

For further detail about these holdings, please refer to the section entitled Portfolio of Investments.

Fund holdings are as of the date given, are subject to change at any time, and are not recommendations to buy or sell any security.

Portfolio Management

Oliver E. Buckley

Brian M. Condon

Yan Jin

David L. King

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Tri-Continental Corporation

Portfolio of Investments

June 30, 2012 (Unaudited)

(Percentages represent value of investments compared to net assets)

Common Stocks 68.9%

Common Stocks 68.9% Issuer	Shares	Value (\$)
Consumer Discretionary 6.3%		
Diversified Consumer Services 0.6%		
Apollo Group, Inc., Class A ^(a)	178,921	6,475,152
Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure 0.8%		
Darden Restaurants, Inc.	115,000	5,822,450
McDonald s Corp.	45,200	4,001,556
Total		9,824,006
Media 2.2%		
Comcast Corp., Class A ^(b)	73,126	2,337,838
DIRECTV, Class A ^(a)	255,600	12,478,392
DISH Network Corp., Class A	291,300	8,316,615
McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. (The)	76,700	3,451,500
Total		26,584,345
Multiline Retail 0.3%		
Macy s, Inc.	92,800	3,187,680
Specialty Retail 2.4%		
Bed Bath & Beyond, Inc. ^(a)	5,355	330,939
GameStop Corp., Class A ^(b)	237,900	4,367,844
Home Depot, Inc. (The) ^(b)	139,300	7,381,507
O Reilly Automotive, Inéa)	17,700	1,482,729
Ross Stores, Inc.	57,200	3,573,284
TJX Companies, Inc.	268,400	11,522,412
Total		28,658,715
Total Consumer Discretionary		74,729,898

Consumer Staples 7.2% Beverages 0.4%		
Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc.	180,101	5,050,032
Food & Staples Retailing 2.4%		
CVS Caremark Corp.	25,400	1,186,942
Kroger Co. (The)	397,294	9,213,248
Safeway, Inc. ^(b)	91,700	1,664,355

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Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	238,029	16,595,382
Total		28,659,927
Food Products 1.1%		
Campbell Soup Co. ^(b)	120,200	4,012,276
Hershey Co. (The)	9,400	677,082
Kellogg Co.	110,000	5,426,300
Tyson Foods, Inc., Class A ^(b)	140,500	2,645,615
Total		12,761,273
Household Products 0.5%		
Kimberly-Clark Corp.	71,500	5,989,555
Tobacco 2.8%		
Altria Group, Inc.	37,500	1,295,625
Common Stocks (continued) Issuer	Shares	Value (\$)
Lorillard, Inc.	70,764	9,337,310
Philip Morris International, Inc.	254,600	22,216,396
	,,	
Total		32,849,331
Total Consumer Staples		85,310,118
Energy 7.4%		
Energy Equipment & Services 0.6%		
National Oilwell Varco, Inc.	103,537	6,671,924
Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels 6.8%		
Apache Corp.	82,500	7,250,925
Chevron Corp. ^(c)	258,142	27,233,981
ConocoPhillips	116,758	6,524,437
Exxon Mobil Corp.	111,611	9,550,554
Marathon Oil Corp.	188,418	4,817,848
Occidental Petroleum Corp.	68,000	5,832,360
Royal Dutch Shell PLC, ADR	130,000	8,765,900
Valero Energy Corp.	443,061	10,699,923
Total		80,675,928
Total Energy		87,347,852
Financials 10.6% Capital Markets 1.9%		
Ares Capital Corp.	350,000	5,586,000
BlackRock, Inc.	51,000	8,660,820
Franklin Resources, Inc. ^(b)	71,008	7,881,178
Invesco Ltd.	38,300	865,580
Total		22,993,578
Commercial Banks 1.9%		

Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc. Fifth Third Bancorp Huntington Bancshares, Inc. 5,863,980

1,535,640

4,480,000

102,000

114,600

700,000

U.S. Bancorp	31,600	1,016,256
Wells Fargo & Co.	294,100	9,834,704
Total		22,730,580
Consumer Finance 1.0%	212.007	10.057.000
Discover Financial Services	313,996	10,857,982
SLM Corp. ^(b)	53,500	840,485
Total		11,698,467
Diversified Financial Services 2.1%		
IntercontinentalExchange, Inc. ^(a)	9,500	1,291,810
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	613,757	21,929,537
Moody s Corp ^{b)}	35,200	1,286,560
Total		24,507,907

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Portfolio of Investments (continued)

June 30, 2012 (Unaudited)

Common Stocks (continued)		
Issuer	Shares	Value (\$)
Insurance 2.4%		
Aflac, Inc.	97,031	4,132,550
Chubb Corp. (The)	85,000	6,189,700
MetLife, Inc.	343,800	10,606,230
Prudential Financial, Inc.	42,500	2,058,275
Travelers Companies, Inc. (The)	88,000	5,617,920
Total		28,604,675
Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) 1.3%		
Digital Realty Trust, Inc. ^(b)	25,200	1,891,764
Simon Property Group, Inc. ^(b)	83,486	12,995,431
Total		14,887,195
Total Financials		125,422,402

Health Care 8.2%		
Biotechnology 1.1%		
Amgen, Inc.	169,400	12,372,976
Health Care Providers & Services 0.8%		
AmerisourceBergen Corp. ^(b)	23,700	932,595
Humana, Inc.	58,200	4,507,008
UnitedHealth Group, Inc.	63,356	3,706,326
Total		9,145,929
Pharmaceuticals 6.3%		
Abbott Laboratories ^(b)	214,129	13,804,896
Eli Lilly & Co.	59,248	2,542,332
Johnson & Johnson	134,000	9,053,040
Merck & Co., Inc.	594,400	24,816,200
Pfizer, Inc.	1,082,365	24,894,395
Total		75,110,863
Total Health Care		96,629,768

Industrials 7.8%

82,607	5,448,758
20,423	10,486,435
53,000	3,380,870
97,300	11,165,207
	30,481,270
37,141	10,801,225
8,204	122,814
12,500	5,622,750
35,297	5,123,446
	10,869,010
~	
Shares	Value (\$)
323,589	6,743,595
184,023	9,725,615
	16,469,210
65,500	3,464,295
74,600	5,735,248
95,000	6,114,200
	15,313,743
33,400	2,377,078
267,000	5,970,120
	92,281,656
	207,000

Communications Equipment 1.0%		
Cisco Systems, Inc. ^(b)	722,800	12,410,476
Computers & Peripherals 4.0%		
Apple, Inc. ^(a)	72,700	42,456,800
Diebold, Inc.	150,000	5,536,500
Total		47,993,300
Internet Software & Services 0.5%		
Google, Inc., Class A ^(a)	9,800	5,684,686
IT Services 2.1%		
Automatic Data Processing, Inc.	105,000	5,844,300
International Business Machines Corp.	11,408	2,231,177
Mastercard, Inc., Class A	27,600	11,871,036
Visa, Inc., Class A ^(b)	42,400	5,241,912
Total		25,188,425

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Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment 2.1%

Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. ^{(a)(b)}	84,700	485,331
Analog Devices, Inc.	150,000	5,650,500
Broadcom Corp., Class A ^(a)	268,800	9,085,440
Intel Corp.	310,539	8,275,864
NVIDIA Corp. ^(a)	68,700	949,434
Total		24,446,569
Software 3.4%		
Microsoft Corp.	862,277	26,377,053
Oracle Corp.	169,200	5,025,240
VMware, Inc., Class A ^{(a)(b)}	93,900	8,548,656
Total		39,950,949
Total Information Technology		155,674,405

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

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Tri-Continental Corporation

Portfolio of Investments (continued)

June 30, 2012 (Unaudited)

Common Stocks (continued)

Common Stocks (continued) Issuer	Shares	Value (\$)
Materials 3.0%		
Chemicals 1.9%		
CF Industries Holdings, Inc.	56,832	11,010,632
Dow Chemical Co. (The)	180,000	5,670,000
EI du Pont de Nemours & Co.	110,000	5,562,700
Total		22,243,332
Containers & Packaging 0.4%		
Packaging Corp. of America	190,000	5,365,600
Metals & Mining 0.7%		
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc.	213,189	7,263,349
Newmont Mining Corp.	10,400	504,504
Total		7,767,853
Total Materials		35,376,785
Telecommunication Services 2.5% Diversified Telecommunication Services 2.5%		
AT&T, Inc.	116,394	4,150,610
Verizon Communications, Inc.	586,398	26,059,527
Total		30,210,137
Total Telecommunication Services		30,210,137
Utilities 2.8% Electric Utilities 0.1%		
Entergy Corp.	26,900	1,826,241
Gas Utilities 0.1%		
ONEOK, Inc.	17,100	723,501
Independent Power Producers & Energy Traders 0.7%		
AES Corp. (The) ^(a)	671,239	8,611,996
Multi-Utilities 1.9%		
CMS Energy Corp.	240,000	5,640,000
Public Service Enterprise Group, Inc. ^(b)	332,592	10,809,240
Sempra Energy	84,000	5,785,920
Total		22,235,160

Total Utilities		33,396,898
Total Common Stocks (Cost: \$735,697,404)		816,379,919
Convertible Preferred Stocks 5.9%		
Consumer Discretionary 0.4% Auto Components 0.4%		
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., (The), 5.875%	105,000	4,560,937
Total Consumer Discretionary		4,560,937
Convertible Preferred Stocks (continued)		
Issuer	Shares	Value (\$)
Consumer Staples 0.4%		
Food Products 0.4%		
Bunge Ltd., 4.875%	58,000	5,502,170
Total Consumer Staples		5,502,170
Energy 0.7% Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels 0.7%		
Apache Corp., 6.000%	48,000	2,409,000
Chesapeake Energy Corp., 5.750% ^(d)	6,800	5,788,500
Total		8,197,500
Total Energy		8,197,500
Financials 2.5%		
Commercial Banks 0.5%	5.000	5 625 000
Wells Fargo & Co., 7.500% Diversified Financial Services 1.0%	5,000	5,625,000
Bank of America Corp., 7.250%	6,200	6,045,000
Citigroup, Inc., 7.500%	67,500	5,729,400
	,	
Total		11,774,400
Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) 1.0%		
Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc., 7.000%	231,000	6,121,500
Health Care REIT, Inc., 6.500%	109,000	5,886,000
Total		12,007,500
Total Financials		29,406,900

Industrials 0.9%		
Aerospace & Defense 0.5%		
United Technologies Corp., 7.50% ^(a)	115,000	6,059,350
Professional Services 0.4%		
Nielsen Holdings NV, 6.250%	98,000	5,094,040

Total Industrials

11,153,390

Utilities 1.0% Electric Utilities 1.0%		
NextEra Energy, Inc., 5.599% ^(a)	111,000	5,660,445
PPL Corp., 8.750%	110,000	5,877,300
Total		11,537,745
Total Utilities		11,537,745
Total Convertible Preferred Stocks (Cost: \$69,091,937)		70,358,642

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Portfolio of Investments (continued)

June 30, 2012 (Unaudited)

Corporate Bonds & Notes 12.5%

Corporate Bonds & Notes 12.5%	_		
Issuer	Coupon Rate	Principal Amount (\$)	Value (\$)
Aerospace & Defense 0.5%			
ADS Tactical, Inc.			
Senior Secured ^(d)			
04/01/18	11.000%	2,600,000	2,606,500
Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc.			
Senior Secured 06/01/17	10.000%	3,529,000	3,802,498
0001/17	10.000 %	3,527,000	5,002,490
Total			6,408,998
			-,,
Automotive 1.1% Allison Transmission, Inc. ^(d)			
05/15/19	7.125%	5,300,000	5,538,500
Visteon Corp.	1.125 /0	5,500,000	5,550,500
04/15/19	6.750%	7,500,000	7,293,750
	0110070	1,000,000	1,220,700
Total			12,832,250
Banking 0.5% Synovus Financial Corp.			
Senior Unsecured			
02/15/19	7.875%	5,600,000	5,894,000
Chemicals 0.8%			
LyondellBasell Industries NV ^(d)			
11/15/21	6.000%	5,500,000	6,036,250
Senior Notes			
04/15/19	5.000%	3,448,000	3,616,090
Total			9,652,340
Construction Machinery 0.9%			
Manitowoc Co., Inc. (The)			
02/15/18	9.500%	5,300,000	5,783,625
UR Merger Sub Corp.			
09/15/20	8.375%	5,000,000	5,262,500
T-4-1			11.046.125
Total			11,046,125

Diversified Manufacturing 0.5%

Tomkins LLC/Inc. Secured 10/01/18	9.000%	5,300,000	5,896,250
Electric 0.5% AES Corp. (The) Senior Unsecured ^(d) 07/01/21	7.375%	5,300,000	5,896,250
Food and Beverage 0.4% Cott Beverages, Inc. 11/15/17	8.375%	4,700,000	5,111,250
Corporate Bonds & Notes (continued) Issuer	Coupon Rate	Principal Amount (\$)	Value (\$)
Health Care 0.5% HCA, Inc. Senior Secured 03/15/22	5.875%	5,713,000	5,970,085
Independent Energy 1.1% Goodrich Petroleum Corp. 03/15/19	8.875%	7,999,000	7,619,047
Laredo Petroleum, Inc. 02/15/19	9.500%	5,154,000	5,746,710
Total			13,365,757
Media Non-Cable 0.5% AMC Networks, Inc. ^(d) 07/15/21 Metals 0.5%	7.750%	5,100,000	5,622,750
Molycorp, Inc. ^(d) 06/01/20	10.000%	5,500,000	5,445,000
Non-Captive Diversified 0.5% International Lease Finance Corp. Senior Unsecured 05/15/16	5.750%	5,500,000	5,580,201
Pharmaceuticals 0.5% Pharmaceutical Product Development, Inc. Senior Unsecured ^(d) 12/01/19	9.500%	4,900,000	5,359,375
Retailers 1.4% 99 Cents Only Stores ^(d) 12/15/19	11.000%	2,700,000	2,929,500
J Crew Group, Inc. 03/01/19	8.125%	2,600,000	2,684,500
Michaels Stores, Inc. 11/01/18	7.750%	5,100,000	5,380,500

Rite Aid Corp. Senior Unsecured 02/15/27	7.700%	1,860,000	1,543,800
Rite Aid Corp. ^(d) 03/15/20	9.250%	4,300,000	4,310,750
Total			16,849,050
Transportation Services 0.7% Avis Budget Car Rental LLC/Finance, Inc. 03/15/20	9.750%	7,400,000	8,223,250
Wireless 0.9% Sprint Nextel Corp. ^(d) 11/15/18	9.000%	7,300,000	8,194,250

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

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Tri-Continental Corporation

Portfolio of Investments (continued)

June 30, 2012 (Unaudited)

Corporate Bonds & Notes (continued)

Issuer	Coupon Rate	Principal Amount (\$)	Value (\$)
Wind Acquisition Finance SA Secured ^(d) 07/15/17	11.750%	2,700,000	2,180,250
Total			10,374,500
Wirelines 0.7% Qwest Corp.			
Senior Unsecured 12/01/21	6.750%	7,100,000	7,988,792
Total Corporate Bonds & Notes (Cost: \$142,643,849)			147,516,223
Convertible Bonds 11.0% Airlines 0.4%			
Air Lease Corp. Senior Unsecured ^(d) 12/01/18	3.875%	2,800,000	2,770,132
United Continental Holdings, Inc. 06/30/21	4.500%	2,478,000	2,381,482