

APOLLO INVESTMENT CORP

Form 10-K

May 23, 2012

[Table of Contents](#)

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

FORM 10-K

x **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT
OF 1934**
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

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: 814-00646

APOLLO INVESTMENT CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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Maryland
(State of Incorporation)

52-2439556
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

9 West 57th Street

New York, N.Y.
(Address of principal executive offices)

10019
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 515-3450

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class
Common Stock, par value

Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
The NASDAQ Global Select Market

\$0.001 per share

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes ☐ No ☒

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes ☐ No ☒

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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ☐

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 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 Act) Yes ☐ No ☒

The aggregate market value of common stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant on September 30, 2011 based on the closing price on that date of \$7.52 on the NASDAQ Global Select Market was approximately \$1.5 billion. For the purposes of calculating this amount only, all directors and executive officers of the Registrant have been treated as affiliates. There were 202,891,351 shares of the Registrant's common stock outstanding as of May 22, 2012.

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Portions of the registrant's Proxy Statement for its 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

Table of Contents

APOLLO INVESTMENT CORPORATION

FORM 10-K

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>PART I</u>	
Item 1. <u>Business</u>	1
Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	9
Item 1B. <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	30
Item 2. <u>Properties</u>	30
Item 3. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	30
Item 4. <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	30
<u>PART II</u>	
Item 5. <u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	31
Item 6. <u>Selected Financial Data</u>	34
Item 7. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	35
Item 7A. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	48
Item 8. <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	49
Item 9. <u>Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	95
Item 9A. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	95
Item 9B. <u>Other Information</u>	95
<u>PART III</u>	
Item 10. <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	96
Item 11. <u>Executive Compensation</u>	100
Item 12. <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	101
Item 13. <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	103
Item 14. <u>Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u>	103
<u>PART IV</u>	
Item 15. <u>Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules</u>	105
<u>Signatures</u>	107

Table of Contents

PART I

Item 1. Business

Apollo Investment Corporation

Apollo Investment Corporation (Apollo Investment , Company , AIC , we , us and our), a Maryland corporation organized on February 2, 2004, is a closed-end, externally managed, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company (BDC) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the 1940 Act). In addition, for tax purposes we have elected to be treated as a regulated investment company (RIC), under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code).

Our investment objective is to generate current income and capital appreciation. We invest primarily in various forms of debt investments including senior secured loans, subordinated and mezzanine investments and/or equity in private middle market companies. From time to time, we may also invest in the securities of public companies.

Our portfolio is comprised primarily of investments in subordinated debt, sometimes referred to as mezzanine debt, and senior secured loans of private middle-market companies that, in the case of senior secured loans, generally are not broadly syndicated and whose aggregate tranche size is typically less than \$300 million. From time to time our portfolio also includes equity interests such as common stock, preferred stock, warrants or options. In this Form 10-K, we use the term middle-market to refer to companies with annual revenues between \$50 million and \$2 billion. While our investment objective is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in U.S. senior and subordinated loans, other debt securities and equity, we may also invest a portion of the portfolio in other investment opportunities, including foreign securities. Most of the debt instruments we invest in are unrated or rated below investment grade, which is an indication of having predominately speculative characteristics with respect to the capacity to pay interest and principal.

Apollo Investment Management, L.P. (AIM) is our investment adviser and an affiliate of Apollo Global Management, LLC, and its consolidated subsidiaries (AGM). AGM and other affiliates manage other funds that may have investment mandates that are similar, in whole or in part, with ours. AIM and its affiliates may determine that an investment is appropriate both for us and for one or more of those other funds. In such event, depending on the availability of such investment and other appropriate factors, AIM may determine that we should invest on a side-by-side basis with one or more other funds. We may make all such investments subject to compliance with applicable regulations and interpretations, and our allocation procedures. In certain circumstances negotiated co-investments may be made only if we receive an order from the SEC permitting us to do so. There can be no assurance that any such order will be obtained.

During our fiscal year ended March 31, 2012, we invested \$1.5 billion across 21 new and 18 existing portfolio companies through a combination of primary and secondary market purchases. This compares to investing \$1.1 billion in 21 new and 18 existing portfolio companies for the previous fiscal year ended March 31, 2011. Investments sold or prepaid during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2012 totaled \$1.6 billion versus \$977 million for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2011. The weighted average yields on our senior secured loan portfolio, subordinated debt portfolio and total debt portfolio as of March 31, 2012 at our current cost basis were 10.2%, 12.7% and 11.9%, respectively. At March 31, 2011, the yields were 9.0%, 13.1%, and 11.6%, respectively.

Our targeted investment size typically ranges between \$20 million and \$250 million, although this investment size may vary proportionately as the size of our available capital base changes. At March 31, 2012, our net portfolio consisted of 62 portfolio companies and was invested 30% in senior secured loans, 60% in subordinated debt, 1% in preferred equity and 9% in common equity and warrants measured at fair value versus 69 portfolio companies invested 33% in senior secured loans, 58% in subordinated debt, 1% in preferred equity and 8% in common equity and warrants at March 31, 2011.

Since the initial public offering of Apollo Investment in April 2004 and through March 31, 2012, invested capital totaled \$8.8 billion in 166 portfolio companies. Over the same period, Apollo Investment completed transactions with more than 100 different financial sponsors.

Table of Contents

At March 31, 2012, 67% or \$1.6 billion of our income-bearing investment portfolio is fixed rate debt and 33% or \$0.8 billion is floating rate debt, measured at fair value. On a cost basis, 65% or \$1.7 billion of our income-bearing investment portfolio is fixed rate debt and 35% or \$0.9 billion is floating rate debt. At March 31, 2011, 59% or \$1.7 billion of our income-bearing investment portfolio was fixed rate debt and 41% or \$1.2 billion was floating rate debt. On a cost basis, 60% or \$1.7 billion of our income-bearing investment portfolio is fixed rate debt and 40% or \$1.1 billion is floating rate debt.

Apollo Investment Management, L.P.

AIM, our investment adviser, is led by a dedicated team of investment professionals. The investment committee of AIM currently consists of Marc Rowan, a Senior Managing Director of AGM; James C. Zelter, our Chief Executive Officer and a Vice President of the general partner of AIM; Gregory W. Hunt, our Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (effective as of May 23, 2012); Ted Goldthorpe, our President, Chief Investment Officer and a Partner of AIM; Eileen Patrick, Executive Vice President of Corporate Strategy; Justin Sendak, a Partner of AIM; Phil Guerin, a Partner of AIM; Greg Beard, Head of Natural Resources at AGM; and Bret Leas, Senior Portfolio Manager of Structured Credit at AGM. The participation of Greg Beard and Bret Leas in the decision making activity of the investment committee are limited to their respective areas of investment expertise within AGM. The composition of the investment committee of AIM may change from time to time. AIM draws upon AGM's more than 20 year history and benefits from the broader firm's significant capital markets, trading and research expertise developed through investments in many core sectors in over 150 companies since inception.

Apollo Investment Administration

In addition to furnishing us with office facilities, equipment, and clerical, bookkeeping and record keeping services, Apollo Investment Administration, LLC ("AIA" or "Apollo Administration") also oversees our financial records as well as prepares our reports to stockholders and reports filed with the SEC. AIA also performs the calculation and publication of our net asset value, the payment of our expenses and oversees the performance of various third-party service providers and the preparation and filing of our tax returns. Furthermore, AIA provides on our behalf managerial assistance to those portfolio companies to which we are required to provide such assistance.

Operating and Regulatory Structure

Our investment activities are managed by AIM and supervised by our board of directors, a majority of whom are independent of AGM and its affiliates. AIM is an investment adviser that is registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. Under our investment advisory and management agreement, we pay AIM an annual base management fee based on our average gross assets as well as an incentive fee.

As a business development company, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. Also, while we are permitted to finance investments using debt, our ability to use debt is limited in certain significant respects (see Item 1A Risk Factors). We have elected to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code.

Investments

Apollo Investment seeks to create a portfolio that includes primarily debt investments in mezzanine and senior secured loans and, to a lesser extent, private equity investments by generally investing, on an individual portfolio company basis, approximately \$20 million to \$250 million of capital, on average, in these securities of middle-market companies. The average investment size will vary as the size of our capital base varies. Our target portfolio will generally be long-term subordinated debt, referred to as mezzanine debt, and senior secured loans of private middle-market companies. Structurally, mezzanine debt usually rank subordinate in priority of

Table of Contents

payment to senior debt, such as senior bank debt, and are often unsecured. As such, other creditors may rank senior to us in the event of an insolvency. However, mezzanine debt rank senior to common and preferred equity in a borrower's capital structure. Mezzanine debt may have a fixed or floating interest rate. Additional upside can be generated from upfront fees, call protection including call premiums, equity co-investments or warrants. We believe that mezzanine debt investments offer an attractive investment opportunity based upon their historic returns.

Our principal focus is to provide capital to middle-market companies in a variety of industries. We generally seek to target companies that generate positive free cash flows or that may support debt investments with strong asset coverage, and we may provide debtor-in-possession or reserve financing. Additionally we may acquire investments in the secondary market if we believe the risk-adjusted returns are attractive.

The following is a representative list of the industries in which we have invested:

Building materials	Education	Lodging/Leisure/Resorts
Business services	Energy/Utilities	Manufacturing/Basic industry
Cable television	Environmental services	Media
Chemicals	Financial services	Packaging
Communications	Food	Printing and publishing
Consumer products	Government services	Restaurants
Distribution	Healthcare	Transportation

We may also invest in other industries if we are presented with attractive opportunities.

In an effort to increase our returns and the number of investments that we can make, we may in the future seek to securitize our debt investments. To securitize debt investments, we may create a wholly owned subsidiary and contribute a pool of loans to the subsidiary. We may sell debt of or interests in the subsidiary on a non-recourse basis to purchasers whom we would expect to be willing to accept a lower interest rate to invest in investment-grade securities. We may use the proceeds of such sales to pay down bank debt or to fund additional investments. We may also invest through special purpose entities or other arrangements, including total return swaps and repurchase agreements, in order to obtain non-recourse financing or for other purposes.

We may invest, to the extent permitted by law, in the securities and instruments of other investment companies, including private funds. We may also co-invest on a concurrent basis with affiliates of ours, subject to compliance with applicable regulations and our allocation procedures. Certain types of negotiated co-investments may be made only if we receive an order from the SEC permitting us to do so. There can be no assurance that any such order will be obtained.

At March 31, 2012, our net portfolio consisted of 62 portfolio companies and was invested 30% in senior secured loans, 60% in subordinated debt, 1% in preferred equity and 9% in common equity and warrants measured at fair value. We expect that our portfolio will continue to include primarily mezzanine investments and senior secured loans as well as, to a lesser extent, equity-related securities. In addition, we also expect to invest a portion of our portfolio in other investments, which are not our primary focus, but are intended to enhance our risk-adjusted returns to stockholders. These investments may include, but are not limited to, securities of public companies and debt and equity securities of companies located outside of the United States.

While our investment objective is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in U.S. senior and subordinated loans, other debt securities and equity, we may also invest a portion of the portfolio in other investments, including foreign securities.

Table of Contents

Listed below are our top ten portfolio companies and industries based on their fair value and represented as a percentage of the portfolio for the years ended March 31, 2012 and 2011:

TOP TEN PORTFOLIO COMPANIES AND INDUSTRIES AS OF MARCH 31, 2012

PORTFOLIO COMPANY	% of Portfolio	INDUSTRY	% of Portfolio
inVentiv Health, Inc.	5.4%	Diversified Service	8.9%
Ranpak Corporation	5.3%	Business Services	8.1%
Altegrity, Inc.	5.2%	Education	7.8%
US Security Associates Holdings, Inc.	5.2%	Market Research	7.3%
Intelsat Bermuda Ltd.	4.0%	Distribution	5.6%
Asurion Corporation	4.0%	Insurance	5.4%
Playpower Holdings, Inc.	3.7%	Packaging	5.4%
TL Acquisitions, Inc. (Cengage Learning)	3.5%	Broadcasting & Entertainment	5.1%
Univar Inc.	3.5%	Healthcare	4.9%
Advantage Sales & Marketing, Inc.	3.2%	Grocery	4.8%

TOP TEN PORTFOLIO COMPANIES AND INDUSTRIES AS OF MARCH 31, 2011

PORTFOLIO COMPANY	% of Portfolio	INDUSTRY	% of Portfolio
Altegrity, Inc.	5.5%	Diversified Service	10.4%
Ranpak Corporation	5.3%	Education	9.9%
Asurion Corporation	3.7%	Healthcare	7.5%
TL Acquisitions, Inc. (Cengage Learning)	3.6%	Retail	6.6%
AB Acquisitions (Alliance Boots)	3.3%	Packaging	5.3%
Intelsat Bermuda Ltd.	3.2%	Distribution	5.2%
AIC Credit Opportunity Fund LLC	3.1%	Insurance	5.0%
Ceridian Corporation	3.1%	Grocery	4.6%
Univar Inc.	3.0%	Broadcasting & Entertainment	4.2%
Fleetpride Corporation	2.8%	Asset Management	4.1%

Listed below is the geographic breakdown of the portfolio based on fair value as of March 31, 2012 and 2011:

Geographic Region	% of Portfolio at March 31, 2012	Geographic Region	% of Portfolio at March 31, 2011
United States	90.6%	United States	93.8%
Western Europe	9.4%	Western Europe	6.2%
	100.0%		100.0%

Investment selection & due diligence

We are committed to a value oriented philosophy and will commit resources to managing risk to our capital. Our investment adviser conducts due diligence on prospective portfolio companies. In conducting its due diligence, our adviser uses information provided by the company and its management team, publicly available information, as well as information from their extensive relationships with former and current management teams, consultants, competitors and investment bankers and the direct experience of the senior partners of our affiliates.

Our investment adviser's due diligence will typically include:

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review of historical and prospective financial information;

on-site visits;

Table of Contents

interviews with management, employees, customers and vendors of the potential portfolio company;

review of loan documents;

background checks; and

research relating to the company's management, industry, markets, products and services, and competitors.

Upon the completion of due diligence and a decision to proceed with an investment in a company, the professionals leading the investment present the investment opportunity to our investment adviser's investment committee, which determines whether to pursue the potential investment. Additional due diligence with respect to any investment may be conducted on our behalf by attorneys and accountants prior to the closing of the investment, as well as other outside advisers, as appropriate.

Investment structure

Once we have determined that a prospective portfolio company is suitable for investment, we work with the management of that company and its other capital providers, including senior, junior and equity capital providers, to structure an investment.

We seek to structure our mezzanine investments primarily as unsecured, subordinated loans that provide for relatively high interest rates that provide us with significant current interest income. These investments typically have interest-only payments. In some cases, we may enter into debt investments that, by their terms, convert into equity or additional debt securities or defer payments of interest after our investment. Also, in some cases our mezzanine debt investments may be collateralized by a subordinated lien on some or all of the assets of the borrower. Typically, our mezzanine loans have maturities of five to ten years.

We also seek to invest in portfolio companies in the form of senior secured loans. We expect these senior secured loans to have terms of three to ten years and may provide for deferred interest payments over the term of the loan. We generally seek to obtain security interests in the assets of our portfolio companies that serve as collateral in support of the repayment of these loans. This collateral may take the form of first or second priority liens on the assets of a portfolio company.

In the case of our mezzanine and senior secured loan investments, we seek to tailor the terms of the investment to the facts and circumstances of the transaction and the prospective portfolio company, negotiating a structure that protects our rights and manages our risk while creating incentives for the portfolio company to achieve its business plan and improve its profitability. For example, in addition to seeking a senior position in the capital structure of our portfolio companies, we seek to limit the downside potential of our investments by:

requiring an expected total return on our investments (including both interest and potential equity appreciation) that compensates us for credit risk;

generally incorporating call protection into the investment structure where possible; and

negotiating covenants and information rights in connection with our investments that afford our portfolio companies as much flexibility in managing their businesses as possible, consistent with our goal of preserving our capital. Such restrictions may include affirmative and negative covenants, default penalties, lien protection, change of control provisions and board rights, including either observation or participation rights.

Our investments may include equity features, such as warrants or options to buy a minority interest in the portfolio company. Any warrants we receive with our debt securities generally require only a nominal cost to exercise, and thus, as a portfolio company appreciates in value, we may achieve additional investment return from this equity interest. We may structure the warrants to provide provisions protecting our rights as a minority-

Table of Contents

interest holder, as well as puts, or rights to sell such securities back to the company, upon the occurrence of specified events. In many cases, we may also seek to obtain registration rights in connection with these equity interests, which may include demand and piggyback registration rights.

We expect to hold most of our investments to maturity or repayment, but we may sell certain of our investments sooner if a liquidity event takes place such as a sale or recapitalization or worsening of credit quality of a portfolio company, among other reasons.

Ongoing relationships with portfolio companies

Monitoring

AIM monitors our portfolio companies on an ongoing basis and also monitors the financial trends of each portfolio company to determine if each is meeting its respective business plans and to assess the appropriate course of action for each company. In addition, senior investment professionals of AIM may take board seats or obtain board observation rights for our portfolio companies.

AIM has several methods of evaluating and monitoring the performance and fair value of our investments, which can include, but are not limited to, the assessment of success of the portfolio company in adhering to its business plan and compliance with covenants; periodic and regular contact with portfolio company management and, if appropriate, the financial or strategic sponsor, to discuss financial position, requirements and accomplishments; comparisons to other portfolio companies in the industry; attendance at and participation in board meetings; and review of monthly and quarterly financial statements and financial projections for portfolio companies.

AIM also uses an investment rating system to characterize and monitor our expected level of returns on each investment in our portfolio. These ratings are just one of several factors that AIM uses to monitor our portfolio, are not in and of themselves determinative of fair value or revenue recognition and are presented for indicative purposes. AIM grades the credit risk of all investments on a scale of 1 to 5 no less frequently than quarterly. This system is intended primarily to reflect the underlying risk of a portfolio investment relative to our initial cost basis in respect of such portfolio investment (i.e., at the time of acquisition), although it may also take into account under certain circumstances the performance of the portfolio company's business, the collateral coverage of the investment and other relevant factors.

Under this system, investments with a grade of 1 involve the least amount of risk to our initial cost basis. The trends and risk factors for this investment since origination or acquisition are generally favorable, which may include the performance of the portfolio company or a potential exit. Investments graded 2 involve a level of risk to our initial cost basis that is similar to the risk to our initial cost basis at the time of origination or acquisition. This portfolio company is generally performing in accordance with our analysis of its business and the full return of principal and interest or dividend is expected. Investments graded 3 indicate that the risk to our ability to recoup the cost of such investment has increased since origination or acquisition, but full return of principal and interest or dividend is expected. A portfolio company with an investment grade of 3 requires closer monitoring. Investments graded 4 indicate that the risk to our ability to recoup the cost of such investment has increased significantly since origination or acquisition, including as a result of factors such as declining performance and noncompliance with debt covenants, and we expect some loss of interest, dividend or capital appreciation, but still expect an overall positive internal rate of return on the investment. Investments graded 5 indicate that the risk to our ability to recoup the cost of such investment has increased materially since origination or acquisition and the portfolio company likely has materially declining performance. Loss of interest or dividend and some loss of principal investment is expected, which would result in an overall negative internal rate of return on the investment. For investments graded 4 or 5, AIM enhances its level of scrutiny over the monitoring of such portfolio company.

AIM monitors and, when appropriate, changes the investment ratings assigned to each investment in our portfolio. In connection with our valuation process, AIM reviews these investment ratings on a quarterly basis,

Table of Contents

and our audit committee monitors such ratings. It is possible that the grade of certain of these portfolio investments may be reduced or increased over time.

Managerial assistance

As a BDC, we must offer, and must provide upon request, significant managerial assistance to certain of our portfolio companies. This assistance could involve, among other things, monitoring the operations of our portfolio companies, participating in board and management meetings, consulting with and advising officers of portfolio companies and providing other organizational and financial guidance. We may receive fees for these services.

Valuation Process

The following is a description of the steps we take each quarter to determine the value of our portfolio. Many of our portfolio investments are recorded at fair value as determined in good faith by or under the direction of our board of directors pursuant to a written valuation policy and a consistently applied valuation process utilizing the input of our investment adviser, independent valuation firms and the audit committee. Since this process necessarily involves the use of judgment and the engagement of independent valuation firms, there is no certainty as to the value of our portfolio investments. Investments for which market quotations are readily available are recorded in our financial statements at such market quotations if they are deemed to represent fair value. Market quotations may be deemed not to represent fair value where AIM believes that facts and circumstances applicable to an issuer, a seller or purchaser or the market for a particular security causes current market quotes not to reflect the fair value of the security, among other reasons. Examples of these events could include cases in which material events are announced after the close of the market on which a security is primarily traded, when a security trades infrequently causing a quoted purchase or sale price to become stale or in the event of a fire sale by a distressed seller.

With respect to investments for which market quotations are not readily available or when such market quotations are deemed not to represent fair value, our board of directors has approved a multi-step valuation process each quarter, as described below:

- (1) our quarterly valuation process begins with each portfolio company or investment being initially valued by the investment professionals of our investment adviser responsible for the portfolio investment;
- (2) preliminary valuation conclusions are then documented and discussed with senior management of our investment adviser;
- (3) independent valuation firms are engaged by our board of directors to conduct independent appraisals by reviewing our investment adviser's preliminary valuations and then making their own independent assessment;
- (4) the audit committee of the board of directors reviews the preliminary valuation of our investment adviser and the valuation prepared by the independent valuation firm and responds to the valuation recommendation of the independent valuation firm to reflect any comments; and
- (5) the board of directors discusses valuations and determines the fair value of each investment in our portfolio in good faith based on the input of our investment adviser, the respective independent valuation firm and the audit committee.

In addition, some of our investments provide for payment-in-kind (PIK) interest or dividends. Such amounts of accrued PIK interest or dividends are added to the cost of the investment on the respective capitalization dates and generally become due at maturity of the investment or upon the investment being called by the issuer.

Competition

Our primary competitors in providing financing to middle-market companies include public and private funds, commercial and investment banks, commercial financing companies, other BDCs or hedge funds, and, to the

Table of Contents

extent they provide an alternative form of financing, private equity funds. Some of our existing and potential competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do. For example, some competitors may have a lower cost of funds and access to funding sources that are not available to us. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of investments and establish more relationships than we. Furthermore, many of our competitors are not subject to the regulatory restrictions that the 1940 Act imposes on us as a BDC or the restrictions that the Code imposes on us as a RIC. We also expect to use the industry information of AGM's investment professionals to which we have access to assess investment risks and determine appropriate pricing for our investments in portfolio companies. In addition, we believe that the relationships of the senior managers of AIM and those of our affiliates enable us to learn about, and compete effectively for, financing opportunities with attractive middle-market companies in the industries in which we seek to invest.

Staffing

The Company has a chief financial officer and a chief compliance officer and, to the extent necessary, they have hired and may hire additional personnel. These individuals perform their respective functions under the terms of the administration agreement. Certain of our other executive officers are managing partners of our investment adviser. Our day-to-day investment operations are managed by our investment adviser. AIM has hired and may hire additional investment professionals in the future. In addition, we generally reimburse AIA for our allocable portion of expenses incurred by it in performing its obligations under the administration agreement, including rent and our allocable portion of the cost of our chief financial officer, chief compliance officer and corporate secretary and their respective staffs.

Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 imposes a wide variety of regulatory requirements on publicly-held companies and their insiders. Many of these requirements affect us. For example:

Pursuant to Rule 13a-14 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the 1934 Act), our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer must certify the accuracy of the financial statements contained in our periodic reports;

Pursuant to Item 307 of Regulation S-K, our periodic reports must disclose our conclusions about the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures;

Pursuant to Rule 13a-15 of the 1934 Act, our management must prepare a report regarding its assessment of our internal control over financial reporting; and

Pursuant to Item 308 of Regulation S-K and Rule 13a-15 of the 1934 Act, our periodic reports must disclose whether there were significant changes in our internal controls or in other factors that could significantly affect these controls subsequent to the date of their evaluation, including any corrective actions with regard to material weaknesses.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act requires us to review our current policies and procedures to determine whether we comply with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder. We will continue to monitor our compliance with all regulations that are adopted under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and will take actions necessary to ensure that we are in compliance therewith.

You may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days during the hours of 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is (<http://www.sec.gov>).

Table of Contents

Our internet address is www.apolloic.com. We make available free of charge on our website our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this annual report on Form 10-K, and you should not consider information contained on our website to be part of this annual report on Form 10-K.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Investing in Apollo Investment involves a number of significant risks related to our business, structure, investments and investment in our common stock. As a result, there can be no assurance that we will achieve our investment objective.

CERTAIN RISKS IN THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

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

The global capital markets have been in a period of disruption as evidenced by a lack of liquidity in the debt capital markets, significant write-offs in the financial services sector, the re-pricing of credit risk in the broadly syndicated credit market and the failure of certain major financial institutions. Despite actions of the United States federal government and foreign governments, these events contributed to worsening general economic conditions that materially and adversely impacted the broader financial and credit markets and reduced the availability of debt and equity capital for the market as a whole and financial services firms in particular. Although these conditions have ameliorated to some extent, they could continue for a prolonged period of time or worsen in the future. While these conditions persist, we and other companies in the financial services sector may have to access, if available, alternative markets for debt and equity capital. Equity capital may be difficult to raise because subject to some limited exceptions, as a BDC, we are generally not able to issue additional shares of our common stock at a price less than net asset value without general approval by our shareholders, which we currently have, and approval of the specific issuance by our Board. In addition, our ability to incur indebtedness or issue preferred stock is limited by applicable regulations such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, must equal at least 200% immediately after each time we incur indebtedness or issue preferred stock. The debt capital that may be available, if at all, may be at a higher cost and on less favorable terms and conditions in the future. Any inability to raise capital could have a negative effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Notwithstanding the amended and restated credit facility we recently executed (the Amended & Restated Facility), which, among other things, extended the final maturity of some of our indebtedness until May 2016, market conditions have made, and may in the future make, it difficult to extend the maturity of or refinance our existing indebtedness and any failure to do so could have a material adverse effect on our business. The illiquidity of our investments may make it difficult for us to sell such investments if required. As a result, we may realize significantly less than the value at which we have recorded our investments.

Given the extreme volatility and dislocation that the capital markets have experienced, many BDCs have faced, and may in the future face, a challenging environment in which to raise capital. Recent significant changes in the capital markets affecting our ability to raise capital have affected the pace of our investment activity. In addition, significant changes in the capital markets, including the extreme volatility and disruption, have had, and may in the future have, a negative effect on the valuations of our investments and on the potential for liquidity events involving our investments. An inability to raise capital, and any required sale of our investments for liquidity purposes, could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Table of Contents

The instability in the financial markets has led the U.S. Government to take a number of unprecedented actions and pass legislation designed to regulate and support certain financial institutions and numerous segments of the financial markets that have experienced extreme volatility, and in some cases a lack of liquidity.

On July 21, 2010, the President signed into law major financial services reform legislation in the form of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"). The Dodd-Frank Act, among other things, grants regulatory authorities such as the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") and SEC broad rulemaking authority to implement various provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act, including comprehensive regulation of the over-the-counter derivatives market. The regulations adopted to date by these regulators have not had a material adverse effect on our business. However, several significant rulemaking initiatives have not been completed and these could have the effect of reducing liquidity or otherwise adversely affecting us or our investments. There can be no assurance that future regulatory actions authorized by the Dodd-Frank Act will not significantly reduce our profitability. The implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act could also adversely affect us by increasing transaction and/or regulatory compliance costs. In addition, greater regulatory scrutiny may increase our exposure to potential liabilities. Increased regulatory oversight can also impose administrative burdens on us and on AIM, including, without limitation, responding to examinations or investigations and implementing new policies and procedures.

Additionally, federal, state, foreign, and other governments, their regulatory agencies or self regulatory organizations may take actions that affect the regulation of the securities in which we invest, or the issuers of such securities, in ways that are unforeseeable. Governments or their agencies may also acquire distressed assets from financial institutions and acquire ownership interests in those institutions. The implications of government ownership and disposition of these assets are unclear, and such a program may have positive or negative effects on the liquidity, valuation and performance of our portfolio companies. Furthermore, volatile financial markets can expose us to greater market and liquidity risk and potential difficulty in valuing securities.

At any time after the date hereof, legislation may be enacted that could negatively affect us or our portfolio companies. Changing approaches to regulation may have a negative impact on the entities in which we invest. Legislation or regulation may also change the way in which we are regulated. There can be no assurance that the Dodd-Frank Act or any future legislation, regulation or deregulation will not have a material adverse effect on us or will not impair our ability to achieve our investment objective.

The recent downgrade of the U.S. credit rating and uncertainty about the financial stability of several countries in the European Union (EU) could have a significant adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Due to long-term federal budget deficit concerns, on August 5, 2011 S&P downgraded the federal government's credit rating from AAA to AA+ for the first time in history. This downgrade could lead to subsequent downgrades by S&P, as well as to downgrades by the other two major credit rating agencies, Moody's and Fitch Ratings. These developments, and the government's credit concerns in general, could cause interest rates and borrowing costs to rise, which may negatively impact both the perception of credit risk associated with our debt portfolio and our ability to access the debt markets on favorable terms. In addition, a decreased credit rating could create broader financial turmoil and uncertainty, which may weigh heavily on our stock price and our financial performance.

In 2010, a financial crisis emerged in Europe, triggered by high budget deficits and rising direct and contingent sovereign debt in Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain, which created concerns about the ability of these EU peripheral nations to continue to service their sovereign debt obligations. Despite assistance packages to Greece, Ireland and Portugal, the creation of a joint EU-IMF European Financial Stability Facility in May 2010, and a recently announced plan to expand financial assistance to Greece, uncertainty over the outcome of the EU governments' financial support programs and worries about sovereign finances persist. Risks and ongoing concerns about the debt crisis in Europe could have a detrimental impact on the global economic recovery,

Table of Contents

sovereign and non-sovereign debt in these countries and the financial condition of European financial institutions. Market and economic disruptions have affected, and may continue to affect, consumer confidence levels and spending, personal bankruptcy rates, levels of incurrence and default on consumer debt and home prices, among other factors. There can be no assurance that the market disruptions in Europe, including the increased cost of funding for certain governments and financial institutions, will not spread, nor can there be any assurance that future assistance packages will be available or, even if provided, will be sufficient to stabilize the affected countries and markets in Europe or elsewhere. To the extent uncertainty regarding the economic recovery continues to negatively impact consumer confidence and consumer credit factors, our business and results of operations could be significantly and adversely affected.

RISKS RELATING TO OUR BUSINESS AND STRUCTURE

We may suffer credit losses.

Investment in small and middle-market companies is highly speculative and involves a high degree of risk of credit loss. These risks are likely to increase during volatile economic periods, as the U.S. and many other economies have experienced. See [Risks Related to Our Investments](#).

We are dependent upon Apollo Investment Management's key personnel for our future success and upon their access to Apollo's investment professionals and partners.

We depend on the diligence, skill and network of business contacts of the senior management of AIM. Members of our senior management may depart at any time. We also depend, to a significant extent, on AIM's access to the investment professionals and partners of Apollo and the information and deal flow generated by the Apollo investment professionals in the course of their investment and portfolio management activities. The senior management of AIM evaluates, negotiates, structures, closes and monitors our investments. Our future success depends on the continued service of the senior management team of AIM. The departure of our senior management, any senior managers of AIM, or of a significant number of the investment professionals or partners of Apollo, could have a material adverse effect on our ability to achieve our investment objective. In addition, we can offer no assurance that AIM will remain our investment adviser or that we will continue to have access to Apollo's partners and investment professionals or its information and deal flow.

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

Our ability to achieve our investment objective depends, in part, on our ability to grow, which depends, in turn, on AIM's ability to identify, invest in and monitor companies that meet our investment criteria. Accomplishing this result on a cost-effective basis is largely a function of AIM's structuring of the investment process, its ability to provide competent, attentive and efficient services to us and