

ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC  
Form 10-K  
February 28, 2012  
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
FORM 10-K

þ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011

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: 001-31775

# ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC.

*(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)*

**Maryland**  
*(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)*

**14185 Dallas Parkway, Suite 1100**  
**Dallas, Texas**  
*(Address of principal executive offices)*

(972) 490-9600

*(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)*

**86-1062192**  
*(IRS employer identification number)*

**75254**  
*(Zip code)*

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

Title of each class  
**Common Stock**  
**Preferred Stock, Series A**  
**Preferred Stock, Series D**

Name of each exchange on which registered  
**New York Stock Exchange**  
**New York Stock Exchange**  
**New York Stock Exchange**

Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

Preferred Stock, Series E

New York Stock Exchange

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 (§232.405 of this chapter) 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 (§229.405 of this chapter) 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 (as defined 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

As of June 30, 2011, the aggregate market value of 56,401,846 shares of the registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates was approximately \$702,203,000.

As of February 21, 2012, the registrant had 68,032,289 shares of common stock issued and outstanding.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the registrant's definitive Proxy Statement pertaining to the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders are incorporated herein by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC.**

**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

**INDEX TO FORM 10-K**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>PART I</b>	
Item 1. <u>Business</u>	3
Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	14
Item 1B. <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	34
Item 2. <u>Properties</u>	35
Item 3. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	37
Item 4. <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	37
<b>PART II</b>	
Item 5. <u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	38
Item 6. <u>Selected Financial Data</u>	41
Item 7. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	42
Item 7A. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	66
Item 8. <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	66
Item 9. <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	119
Item 9A. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	119
Item 9B. <u>Other Information</u>	121
<b>PART III</b>	
Item 10. <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	121
Item 11. <u>Executive Compensation</u>	121
Item 12. <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	121
Item 13. <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	121
Item 14. <u>Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u>	121
<b>PART IV</b>	
Item 15. <u>Financial Statement Schedules and Exhibits</u>	121
<b><u>SIGNATURES</u></b>	

## **Table of Contents**

This Annual Report is filed by Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc., a Maryland corporation (the **Company** ). Unless the context otherwise requires, all references to the Company include those entities owned or controlled by the Company. In this report, the terms **the Company**, **we**, **us** or **our** mean Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and all entities included in its consolidated financial statements.

## **FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Throughout this Form 10-K and documents incorporated herein by reference, we make forward-looking statements that are subject to risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements include information about possible or assumed future results of our business, financial condition and liquidity, results of operations, plans, and objectives. Statements regarding the following subjects are forward-looking by their nature:

our business and investment strategy;

our projected operating results;

completion of any pending transactions;

our ability to obtain future financing arrangements;

our understanding of our competition;

market trends;

projected capital expenditures; and

the impact of technology on our operations and business.

Such forward-looking statements are based on our beliefs, assumptions, and expectations of our future performance taking into account all information currently known to us. These beliefs, assumptions, and expectations can change as a result of many potential events or factors, not all of which are known to us. If a change occurs, our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations, plans, and other objectives may vary materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. Additionally, the following factors could cause actual results to vary from our forward-looking statements:

factors discussed in this Form 10-K, including those set forth under the sections titled **Risk Factors**, **Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**, **Business**, and **Properties**;

general volatility of the capital markets and the market price of our common stock;

changes in our business or investment strategy;

availability, terms, and deployment of capital;

availability of qualified personnel;

changes in our industry and the market in which we operate, interest rates, or the general economy; and

the degree and nature of our competition.

When we use words or phrases such as will likely result, may, anticipate, estimate, should, expect, believe, intend, or similar expressions, we intend to identify forward-looking statements. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. We are not obligated to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

---

**Table of Contents**

**PART I**

**Item 1. Business**

**GENERAL**

Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc., together with its subsidiaries, is a self-administered real estate investment trust ( REIT ) focused on investing in the hospitality industry across all segments and in all methods including direct real estate, securities, equity and debt. Additional information can be found on our website at [www.ahtreit.com](http://www.ahtreit.com). We commenced operations in August 2003 with the acquisition of six hotel properties (the Initial Properties ) in connection with our initial public offering. We own our lodging investments and conduct our business through Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership, our operating partnership. Ashford OP General Partner LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, serves as the sole general partner of our operating partnership.

Since the initial public offering and through 2006, we acquired a total of 67 hotel properties through purchase transactions. In April 2007, we acquired a 51-property hotel portfolio from CNL Hotels and Resorts, Inc. ( CNL ). Pursuant to the CNL purchase agreement, we acquired 100% of 33 properties and interests ranging from 70% to 89% in 18 properties through existing joint ventures. In connection with the CNL transaction, we acquired the 15% remaining joint venture interest in one hotel property not owned by CNL at the acquisition, and in May 2007, we acquired two other hotel properties previously owned by CNL (collectively, the CNL Acquisition ). In December 2007, we completed an asset swap with Hilton Hotels Corporation ( Hilton ), whereby we surrendered our majority ownership interest in two hotel properties in exchange for Hilton s minority ownership interest in nine hotel properties. Effective December 2, 2011, one of our joint venture partners assigned to us its 11% ownership interest in the joint venture, in which we previously had an 89% ownership interest. The joint venture held a single hotel property under a triple-net lease arrangement. As of December 31, 2011, our consolidated financial statements included 92 directly owned hotel properties and four hotel properties that we owned through majority-owned investments in joint ventures. These hotels represent 20,656 total rooms, or 20,395 net rooms, excluding those attributable to joint venture partners. Our hotels are primarily operated under the widely recognized upscale and upper upscale brands of Crowne Plaza, Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott and Sheraton. Currently, all of our hotels are located in the United States.

In March 2011, in connection with the foreclosure on a mezzanine loan held in a joint venture with Prudential Real Estate Investors ( PREI ), we and PREI each invested additional funds and each contributed an existing mezzanine loan to form a new joint venture, the PIM Highland JV, which acquired the 28-hotel property portfolio (the Highland Portfolio ) securing the two mezzanine loans. We have an ownership interest of 71.74% in PIM Highland JV s common equity and a \$25.0 million preferred equity interest. Our investment in the PIM Highland JV is accounted for using the equity method. The Highland Portfolio consists of high quality full and select service hotel properties with 8,084 total rooms, or 5,800 net rooms excluding those attributable to our joint venture partner.

Additionally, in March 2011, we acquired 96 hotel condominiums units at WorldQuest Resort in Orlando, Florida for \$12.0 million and subsequently during the period sold two units. At December 31, 2011, we also wholly owned one mezzanine loan of \$3.1 million and one note receivable of \$8.1 million in connection with a joint venture restructuring.

Beginning in March 2008, we entered into various derivative transactions with financial institutions to hedge our debt, to improve cash flows, and to capitalize on the historical correlation between changes in LIBOR and RevPAR (Revenue Per Available Room). Through December 31, 2011, we recorded cash and accrued income of \$196.1 million from the derivative transactions.

For federal income tax purposes, we elected to be treated as a REIT, which imposes limitations related to operating hotels. As of December 31, 2011, all of our 96 hotel properties were leased or owned by our

---

**Table of Contents**

wholly-owned subsidiaries that are treated as taxable REIT subsidiaries for federal income tax purposes (collectively, these subsidiaries are referred to as Ashford TRS ). Ashford TRS then engages third-party or affiliated hotel management companies to operate the hotels under management contracts. Hotel operating results related to these properties are included in the consolidated statements of operations. Through December 1, 2011, the hotel property held by a joint venture in which we previously had an ownership of 89% was leased on a triple-net lease basis to a third-party tenant who operated the hotel property. Rental income from this operating lease is included in the consolidated results of operations for the period from January 1, 2011 through December 1, 2011. Effective December 2, 2011, we acquired the remaining 11% ownership interest from our joint venture partner at no cost to us. The triple-net lease agreement was canceled and the operating results of this hotel property have been included in our consolidated statements of operations since December 2, 2011. With respect to our unconsolidated joint venture, PIM Highland JV, the 28 hotels are leased to PIM Highland JV s wholly-owned subsidiary, which is treated as a taxable REIT subsidiary for federal income tax purposes.

We do not operate any of our hotels directly; instead we employ hotel management companies to operate them for us under management contracts. Remington Lodging & Hospitality, LLC, together with its affiliates, ( Remington Lodging ), is our primary property manager, and is beneficially wholly owned by Mr. Archie Bennett, Jr., our Chairman, and Mr. Monty J. Bennett, our Chief Executive Officer. As of December 31, 2011, Remington Lodging managed 45 of our 96 legacy hotel properties, while third-party management companies managed the remaining 51 hotel properties. In addition, Remington Lodging also managed 19 of the 28 PIM Highland JV hotel properties and the WorldQuest condominium properties.

**SIGNIFICANT TRANSACTIONS IN 2011 AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

**Restructuring and Extension of a Mortgage Loan** In December 2011, we successfully restructured a \$203.4 million mortgage loan and extended the maturity date from December 2011 to March 2014. There is also a one-year extension option subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions. The restructuring provides for a new interest rate of LIBOR plus 4.5% with no LIBOR floor. At the closing of the restructuring, we paid down the loan by \$25.0 million to \$178.4 million. In connection with the restructuring and extension of the mortgage loan, we entered into an interest rate cap agreement through the new maturity date with a strike rate of 6.25% on \$178.4 million notional amount for \$68,000.

In addition, we are engaged in negotiations with the existing lenders to restructure and extend the \$167.2 million non-recourse portfolio mortgage loan that matures in May 2012. On a parallel path, we are also in discussions with third party lenders to refinance this loan.

**Reinstatement of Share Repurchase Program and Increased Authorization** In September 2011, our Board of Directors authorized the reinstatement of our 2007 share repurchase program and authorized an increase in our repurchase plan authority from \$58.4 million to \$200 million (excluding fees, commissions and all other ancillary expenses). Under this plan, the board has authorized: (i) the repurchase of shares of our common stock, Series A preferred stock, Series D preferred stock and Series E preferred stock, and/or (ii) discounted purchases of our outstanding debt obligations, including debt secured by our hotel assets. We intend to fund any repurchases or discounted debt purchases with the net proceeds from asset sales, cash flow from operations, existing cash on the balance sheet, and other sources. As of December 31, 2011, no shares of our common or preferred stock have been repurchased under the share repurchase program since its reinstatement.

**New Credit Facility** In September 2011, we obtained a new \$105.0 million senior credit facility which matures in September 2014 with a one-year extension option and replaces our previous credit line that was scheduled to mature in April 2012. The new credit facility provides for a three-year revolving line of credit priced at 275 to 350 basis points over LIBOR or Base Rate, as defined in the agreement, which is the same as our previous credit line. The new credit facility includes the opportunity to expand the borrowing capacity by up to \$45.0 million to an aggregate size of \$150.0 million upon a request by us and the consent of each lender, provided there is no default or event of default and each representation and warranty made or deemed made by us

**Table of Contents**

remains true and correct in all material respects on the effective date of such increase. The previous credit line was repaid in full in July 2011. The financial covenant tests with respect to the fixed charge coverage ratio and the leverage tests are similar to our previous credit line. On February 21, 2012, we closed on expanding the borrowing capacity to an aggregate \$145.0 million.

**Credit Default Swap Transactions** In August 2011, we entered into credit default swap transactions for a notional amount of \$100.0 million to hedge financial and capital market risk for an upfront cost of \$8.2 million that was subsequently returned to us by our counterparty. A credit default swap is a derivative contract that works like an insurance policy against the credit risk of an entity or obligation. The credit risk underlying the credit default swaps are referenced to the CMBX index. The CMBX is a group of indices that references underlying bonds from 25 Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities (CMBS), tranching by rating class. The CMBX is traded via pay-as-you-go credit default swaps, which involve ongoing, two-way payments over the life of the contract between the buyer and the seller of protection. The reference obligations are CMBS bonds. The seller of protection assumes the credit risk of the reference obligation from the buyer of protection in exchange for payments of an annual premium. If there is a default or a loss, as defined in the credit default swap agreements, on the underlying bonds, then the buyer of protection is protected against those losses. The only liability for Ashford, the buyer of protection, is the annual premium and any change in value of the underlying CMBX index (if the trade is terminated prior to maturity). For the CMBX trades that we have completed, we were the buyer of protection in all trades. Assuming the underlying bonds pay off at par over their remaining average life, our total exposure for these trades is approximately \$8.5 million. The fair value of the credit default swaps is obtained from a third party who publishes various information including the index composition and price data. The change in the market value of the credit default swaps is settled net through posting cash collateral or reclaiming cash collateral between us and our counterparty when the change in the market value is over \$250,000. As of December 31, 2011, the credit default swap had a net carrying value of a liability of \$2,000, and since inception we have recognized an unrealized loss of \$1.3 million. See Notes 10 and 11 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8.

**Sale of Additional Shares of Our Common Stock** In July 2011, we reissued 7.0 million of our treasury shares at \$12.50 per share and received net proceeds of \$83.2 million. The net proceeds were used to repay the \$50.0 million outstanding balance on our senior credit facility and for general corporate purposes, including investments, capital expenditures and working capital.

In January 2011, an underwriter purchased 300,000 shares of our common stock through the partial exercise of the underwriter's 1.125 million share over-allotment option in connection with the issuance of 7.5 million shares of common stock completed in December 2010, and we received net proceeds of \$2.8 million, which were used for general corporate purposes.

**Investments in Securities and Other** We continually seek new and alternative strategies to leverage our industry and capital markets knowledge in ways that we believe will be accretive to our company. We believe that we can utilize the same real-time information we use to manage our portfolio and capital structure to invest capital in the public markets. To implement this investment strategy, during the second quarter of 2011, our Board of Directors authorized the formation of an investment subsidiary to invest in public securities and other investments. These investments are carried at fair market value. Our maximum aggregate net investment amount is limited to \$20 million. As of December 31, 2011, based on the closing price of the securities, we recorded total investments in securities and other of \$21.4 million and liabilities associated with investments in securities of \$2.2 million. Through December 31, 2011, we recognized unrealized losses of \$391,000. We also recognized realized losses of \$981,000 and investment income of \$2,000, or a net investment loss of \$979,000. See Notes 10 and 11 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8.

**Preferred Stock Offering and Redemption of Series B-1 Convertible Preferred Stock** In April 2011, we completed the offering of 3.35 million shares (including 350,000 shares pursuant to the underwriter's exercise of an over-allotment option) of our 9.00% Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock at a net price of \$24.2125 per share,



---

**Table of Contents**

and we received net proceeds of \$80.8 million after underwriting fees. Of the net proceeds from the offering, \$73.0 million was used to redeem 5.9 million shares of the total 7.3 million shares of our Series B-1 convertible preferred stock outstanding on May 3, 2011. The remaining proceeds were used for other general corporate purposes. The remaining 1.4 million outstanding Series B-1 convertible preferred shares were converted into 1.4 million shares of our common stock, which was treated as a stock dividend of \$17.4 million to the Series B-1 preferred shareholder in accordance with the applicable accounting guidance.

In October 2011, we issued and sold an additional 1.3 million shares of our 9.00% Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock at a price of \$23.47 per share, in an underwritten public offering pursuant to an effective registration statement. We received net proceeds of \$28.9 million after underwriting fees. The proceeds from the offering may be used for general corporate purposes, including, without limitation, repayment of debt or other maturing obligations, financing future hotel related investments, capital expenditures and working capital. A portion of the proceeds may also be used for repurchasing shares of our common stock under our existing repurchase program.

**At-the-Market Preferred Stock Offering** On September 30, 2011, we entered into an at-the-market ( ATM ) program with an investment banking firm, pursuant to which we may issue up to 700,000 shares of 8.55% Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock and up to 700,000 shares of 8.45% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock at market prices up to \$30.0 million. No shares of our preferred stock have been sold under this program as of the date of this report.

**Repayment of a Mezzanine Loan** In April 2011, we entered into a settlement agreement with the borrower of the mezzanine loan which was secured by a 105-hotel property portfolio and scheduled to mature in April 2011. The borrower paid off the loan for \$22.1 million. The difference between the settlement amount and the carrying value of \$17.9 million was recorded as a credit to impairment charges in accordance with applicable accounting guidance.

**Acquisition of Hotel Properties Securing Mezzanine Loans Held in Unconsolidated Joint Ventures** In July 2010, as a strategic complement to our existing joint venture with Prudential Real Estate Investors ( PREI ) formed in 2008, we contributed \$15.0 million for an ownership interest in a new joint venture with PREI. The new joint venture acquired a portion of the tranche 4 mezzanine loan associated with JER Partners' 2007 privatization of the JER/Highland Hospitality portfolio (the Highland Portfolio ). The mezzanine loan was secured by the same 28 hotel properties as our then existing joint venture investment in the tranche 6 mezzanine loan. Both of these mezzanine loans had been in default since August 2010. After negotiating with the borrowers, senior secured lenders and senior mezzanine lenders for a restructuring, we, through a new joint venture, the PIM Highland JV, with PRISA III Investments, LLC ( PRISA III ) (an affiliate of PREI), invested \$150.0 million and PRISA III invested \$50.0 million of new capital to acquire the 28 high quality full and select service hotel properties comprising the Highland Portfolio on March 10, 2011. We and PRISA III have ownership interests of 71.74% and 28.26%, respectively, in the new joint venture. In addition to the common equity splits, we and PRISA III each have a \$25.0 million preferred equity interest earning an accrued but unpaid 15% annual return with priority over common equity distributions. Our investment in the PIM Highland JV is accounted for using the equity method and the carrying value was \$179.5 million at December 31, 2011. The PIM Highland JV recognized a gain of \$82.1 million related to a bargain purchase and settlement of a pre-existing relationship, of which our share was \$46.3 million. The purchase price allocation has been finalized as of December 31, 2011. See Note 5 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8.

**Litigation Settlement** In March 2011, we entered into a Consent and Settlement Agreement (the Settlement Agreement ) with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ( Wells ) to resolve potential disputes and claims between us and Wells relating to our purchase of a participation interest in certain mezzanine loans. Wells denied the allegations in our complaint and further denies any liability for the claims asserted by us; however, the Settlement Agreement was entered into to resolve our claims against Wells and to secure Wells' consent to our participation in the Highland Hospitality Portfolio restructuring. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, Wells

---

**Table of Contents**

agreed to pay us \$30.0 million over the next five years, or earlier, if certain conditions are satisfied. As part of the Settlement Agreement, we and Wells have agreed to a mutual release of claims. We received the settlement payment of \$30.0 million and paid legal costs of \$6.9 million in June 2011. The settlement amount was recorded as Other income and the legal costs of \$6.9 million were recorded as Corporate general and administrative expenses in the consolidated statements of operations.

**Acquisition of Condominium Properties** In March 2011, we acquired real estate and certain other rights in connection with the acquisition of the WorldQuest Resort, a condominium hotel project. More specifically, we acquired 96 condominium units, hotel amenities, land and improvements, developable raw land, developer rights and Rental Management Agreements ( RMAs ) with third party owners of condominium units in the project. Units owned by third parties with RMAs and all of the 96 units we acquired participate in a rental pool program whereby the units are rented to guests similar to a hotel operation. Under the terms of the RMA, we share in a percentage of the guest room revenues and are reimbursed for certain costs. In the third quarter 2011, we sold two of the completed units at a price of \$175,000 each and realized a gain of \$96,000. All of the units owned at December 31, 2011, are included in Investment in hotel properties, net in the consolidated balance sheets.

**Resumption of Common Dividends** In February 2011, the Board of Directors accepted management's recommendation to resume paying cash dividends on our outstanding shares of common stock with an annualized target of \$0.40 per share for 2011. For the year ended December 31, 2011, we have declared dividends of \$0.40 per share. In December 2011, the Board of Directors approved our dividend policy for 2012 and we expect to pay a quarterly dividend of \$0.11 per share for 2012. The adoption of a dividend policy does not commit our Board of Directors to declare future dividends or the amount thereof. The Board of Directors will continue to review its dividend policy on a quarterly basis.

**Completion of Sales of Hotel Properties** In 2011, we completed the sale of four hotel properties, the Hampton Inn hotel in Jacksonville, Florida, the JW Marriott hotel in San Francisco, California, the Hilton hotel in Rye Town, New York and the Hampton Inn hotel in Houston, Texas. We received total proceeds of \$153.7 million and repaid the related mortgage debt of \$50.2 million. We used the net proceeds to reduce \$70.0 million of the borrowings on our senior credit facility. We recorded an impairment charge of \$6.2 million on the Jacksonville Hampton Inn hotel property in June 2011, based on the selling price. The operating results of these hotel properties, including the impairment charge, for all periods presented have been reported as discontinued operations in the consolidated statements of operations.

**BUSINESS STRATEGIES**

Following a recession that lasted over two years, beginning in 2010 the lodging industry started experiencing improvement in fundamentals, specifically occupancy and this improvement continued into 2011. Room rates, measured by the average daily rate, or ADR, which typically lags occupancy growth in the early stage of a recovery, have continued showing upward growth. We believe the improvements in the economy will continue to positively impact the lodging industry and hotel operating results for 2012, and we intend to continue to seek ways to benefit from the cyclical nature of the hotel industry. We believe that in the current cycle, hotel values and cash flows, for the most part, peaked in 2007, and we believe we will not achieve similar cash flows and values in the immediate future. Industry experts have suggested that cash flows within our industry may achieve these previous highs again in 2014 through 2016.

Based on our primary business objectives and forecasted operating conditions, our current key priorities and financial strategies include, among other things:

acquisition of hotel properties;

disposition of hotel properties;

**Table of Contents**

investing in securities;

pursuing capital market activities to enhance long-term shareholder value;

repurchasing capital stock subject to regulatory limitations and our Board of Directors' authorization;

preserving capital, enhancing liquidity, and continuing current cost saving measures;

implementing selective capital improvements designed to increase profitability;

implementing effective asset management strategies to minimize operating costs and increase revenues;

financing or refinancing hotels on competitive terms;

utilizing hedges and derivatives to mitigate risks; and

making other investments or divestitures that our Board of Directors deems appropriate.

Our investment strategies continue to focus on the upscale and upper-upscale segments within the lodging industry. We believe that as supply, demand, and capital market cycles change, we will be able to shift our investment strategies to take advantage of new lodging-related investment opportunities as they may develop. Our Board of Directors may change our investment strategies at any time without shareholder approval or notice.

As the business cycle changes and the hotel markets continue to improve, we intend to continue to invest in a variety of lodging-related assets based upon our evaluation of diverse market conditions including our cost of capital and the expected returns from those investments. Our investments may include: (i) direct hotel investments; (ii) mezzanine financing through origination or acquisition; (iii) first-lien mortgage financing through origination or acquisition; and (iv) sale-leaseback transactions.

Our strategy is designed to take advantage of lodging industry conditions and adjust to changes in market circumstances over time. Our assessment of market conditions will determine asset reallocation strategies. While we seek to capitalize on favorable market fundamentals, conditions beyond our control may have an impact on overall profitability and our investment returns.

Our strategy of combining lodging-related equity and debt investments seeks, among other things, to:

capitalize on both current yield and price appreciation, while simultaneously offering diversification of types of assets within the hospitality industry; and

vary investments across an array of hospitality assets to take advantage of market cycles for each asset class.

Our long-term investment strategy primarily targets select service and full-service hotels in primary, secondary, and resort markets, typically throughout the United States. To take full advantage of future investment opportunities in the lodging industry, we intend to invest according to the asset allocation strategies described below. However, due to ongoing changes in market conditions, we will continually evaluate the appropriateness of our investment strategies. Our Board of Directors may change any or all of these strategies at any time without notice.

**Direct Hotel Investments** In selecting hotels to acquire, we target hotels that offer one or more of the following attributes: a high current return or have the opportunity to increase in value through repositioning.

## **Table of Contents**

capital investments, market-based recovery, or improved management practices. Our direct hotel acquisition strategy will continue to follow similar investment criteria and will seek to achieve both current income and appreciation. In addition, we will continue to assess our existing hotel portfolio and make strategic decisions to sell certain under-performing or non-strategic hotels that do not fit our investment strategy or criteria due to micro or macro market changes or other reasons.

**Mezzanine Financing** Subordinated loans, or mezzanine loans, that we acquire or originate may relate to a diverse segment of hotels that are located across the U.S. These mezzanine loans are secured by junior mortgages on hotels or pledges of equity interests in entities owning hotels. As the global economic environment improves and the hotel industry stabilizes, we may refocus our efforts on the acquisition or origination of mezzanine loans. Given the greater repayment risks of these types of loans, to the extent we acquire or originate them in the future, we will have a more conservative approach in underwriting these assets. Mezzanine loans that we acquire in the future may be secured by individual assets as well as cross-collateralized portfolios of assets.

**First Mortgage Financing** From time to time, we may acquire or originate first mortgages. As the dynamics in the capital markets and the hotel industry make first-mortgage investments more attractive, we may acquire, potentially at a discount to par, or originate loans secured by first priority mortgages on hotels. We may be subject to certain state-imposed licensing regulations related to commercial mortgage lenders, with which we intend to comply. However, because we are not a bank or a federally chartered lending institution, we are not subject to state and federal regulatory constraints imposed on such entities.

**Sale-Leaseback Transactions** To date, we have not participated in any sale-leaseback transactions. However, if the lodging industry fundamentals shift such that sale-leaseback transactions become more attractive investments, we intend to purchase hotels and lease them back to their existing hotel owners.

## **BUSINESS SEGMENTS**

We currently operate in two business segments within the hotel lodging industry: direct hotel investments and hotel financing. A discussion of each operating segment is incorporated by reference to Note 22 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Part II, Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

## **FINANCING STRATEGY**

We utilize debt to increase equity returns. When evaluating our future level of indebtedness and making decisions regarding the incurrence of indebtedness, our Board of Directors considers a number of factors, including:

our leverage levels across the portfolio;

the purchase price of our investments to be acquired with debt financing;

impact on financial covenants;

cost of debt;

loan maturity schedule;

the estimated market value of our investments upon refinancing; and

## Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

the ability of particular investments, and our Company as a whole, to generate cash flow to cover expected debt service. We may incur debt in the form of purchase money obligations to the sellers of properties, publicly or privately placed debt instruments, or financing from banks, institutional investors, or other lenders. Any such

## **Table of Contents**

indebtedness may be secured or unsecured by mortgages or other interests in our properties or mortgage loans. This indebtedness may be recourse, non-recourse, or cross-collateralized. If recourse, such recourse may include our general assets or be limited to the particular investment to which the indebtedness relates. In addition, we may invest in properties or loans subject to existing loans secured by mortgages or similar liens on the properties, or we may refinance properties acquired on a leveraged basis.

We may use the proceeds from any borrowings for working capital to:

purchase interests in partnerships or joint ventures;

refinance existing indebtedness;

finance the origination or purchase of debt investments; or

finance acquisitions, expand, redevelop or improve existing properties, or develop new properties or other uses.

In addition, if we do not have sufficient cash available, we may need to borrow to meet taxable income distribution requirements under the Internal Revenue Code. No assurances can be given that we will obtain additional financings or, if we do, what the amount and terms will be. Our failure to obtain future financing under favorable terms could adversely impact our ability to execute our business strategy. In addition, we may selectively pursue debt financing on our individual properties and debt investments.

## **DISTRIBUTION POLICY**

In February 2011, the Board of Directors accepted management's recommendation to resume paying cash dividends on our outstanding shares of common stock with an annualized target of \$0.40 per share for 2011. For the year ended December 31, 2011, we have declared dividends of \$0.40 per share. We may incur indebtedness to meet distribution requirements imposed on REITs under the Internal Revenue Code to the extent that working capital and cash flow from our investments are insufficient to fund required distributions. Or, we may elect to pay dividends on our common stock in cash or a combination of cash and shares of securities as permitted under federal income tax laws governing REIT distribution requirements. We may pay dividends in excess of our cash flow.

Distributions are authorized by our Board of Directors and declared by us based upon a variety of factors deemed relevant by our directors. No assurance can be given that our dividend policy will not change in the future. In December 2011, the Board of Directors approved our dividend policy for 2012 and we expect to pay a quarterly dividend of \$0.11 per share for 2012. The adoption of a dividend policy does not commit our Board of Directors to declare future dividends or the amount thereof. The Board of Directors will continue to review its dividend policy on a quarterly basis. Our ability to pay distributions to our shareholders will depend, in part, upon our receipt of distributions from our operating partnership. This, in turn, may depend upon receipt of lease payments with respect to our properties from indirect, wholly-owned subsidiaries of our operating partnership and the management of our properties by our property managers. Distributions to our shareholders are generally taxable to our shareholders as ordinary income. However, since a portion of our investments are equity ownership interests in hotels, which result in depreciation and non-cash charges against our income, a portion of our distributions may constitute a non-taxable return of capital, to the extent of a shareholder's tax basis in the stock. To the extent that it is consistent with maintaining our REIT status, we may maintain accumulated earnings of Ashford TRS in that entity.

Our charter allows us to issue preferred stock with a preference on distributions, such as our Series A, Series D and Series E preferred stock. The partnership agreement of our operating partnership also allows the operating partnership to issue units with a preference on distributions, such as our class B common units. The issuance of

## **Table of Contents**

these series of preferred stock and units together with any similar issuance in the future, given the dividend preference on such stock or units, could limit our ability to make a dividend distribution to our common shareholders.

## **COMPETITION**

The hotel industry is highly competitive and the hotels in which we invest are subject to competition from other hotels for guests. Competition is based on a number of factors, most notably convenience of location, brand affiliation, price, range of services, guest amenities or accommodations offered and quality of customer service. Competition is often specific to the individual markets in which our properties are located and includes competition from existing and new hotels. Increased competition could have a material adverse effect on the occupancy rate, average daily room rate and room revenue per available room of our hotels or may require us to make capital improvements that we otherwise would not have to make, which may result in decreases in our profitability.

Our principal competitors include other hotel operating companies, ownership companies (including hotel REITs) and national and international hotel brands. We face increased competition from providers of less expensive accommodations, such as select service hotels or independent owner-managed hotels, during periods of economic downturn when leisure and business travelers become more sensitive to room rates.

## **EMPLOYEES**

At December 31, 2011, we had 75 full-time employees. These employees directly or indirectly perform various acquisition, development, asset management, capital markets, accounting, tax, risk management, legal, redevelopment, and corporate management functions. None of our corporate employees are unionized. All persons employed in day-to-day hotel operations are employees of the management companies and not the Company, and some of the management company employees are unionized. Occasionally, we hire temporary employees to assist in tasks. We also hire numerous third parties to provide various professional services. In addition, certain employees of a related party provide services to us or split their time between us and the related party. Costs for these services are included in the corporate general and administrative expense reimbursements to the related party.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Under various federal, state, and local laws and regulations, an owner or operator of real estate may be liable for the costs of removal or remediation of certain hazardous or toxic substances on such property. These laws often impose liability without regard to whether the owner knew of, or was responsible for, the presence of hazardous or toxic substances. Furthermore, a person who arranges for the disposal of a hazardous substance or transports a hazardous substance for disposal or treatment from property owned by another may be liable for the costs of removal or remediation of hazardous substances released into the environment at that property. The costs of remediation or removal of such substances may be substantial, and the presence of such substances, or the failure to promptly remediate such substances, may adversely affect the owner's ability to sell the affected property or to borrow using the affected property as collateral. In connection with the ownership and operation of our properties, we, our operating partnership, or Ashford TRS may be potentially liable for any such costs. In addition, the value of any lodging property loan we originate or acquire would be adversely affected if the underlying property contained hazardous or toxic substances.

Phase I environmental assessments, which are intended to identify potential environmental contamination for which our properties may be responsible, have been obtained on substantially all of our properties. Phase I environmental assessments included:

historical reviews of the properties;

reviews of certain public records;



## **Table of Contents**

preliminary investigations of the sites and surrounding properties;

screening for the presence of hazardous substances, toxic substances, and underground storage tanks; and

the preparation and issuance of a written report.

Phase I environmental assessments did not include invasive procedures, such as soil sampling or ground water analysis. Phase I environmental assessments have not revealed any environmental liability that we believe would have a material adverse effect on our business, assets, results of operations, or liquidity, and we are not aware of any such liability. To the extent Phase I environmental assessments reveal facts that require further investigation, we would perform a Phase II environmental assessment. However, it is possible that these environmental assessments will not reveal all environmental liabilities. There may be material environmental liabilities of which we are unaware, including environmental liabilities that may have arisen since the environmental assessments were completed or updated. No assurances can be given that (i) future laws, ordinances, or regulations will not impose any material environmental liability, or (ii) the current environmental condition of our properties will not be affected by the condition of properties in the vicinity (such as the presence of leaking underground storage tanks) or by third parties unrelated to us.

We believe our properties are in compliance in all material respects with all federal, state, and local ordinances and regulations regarding hazardous or toxic substances and other environmental matters. Neither we nor, to our knowledge, any of the former owners of our properties have been notified by any governmental authority of any material noncompliance, liability, or claim relating to hazardous or toxic substances or other environmental matters in connection with any of our properties.

## **INSURANCE**

We maintain comprehensive insurance, including liability, property, workers' compensation, rental loss, environmental, terrorism, and, when available on commercially reasonable terms, flood and earthquake insurance, with policy specifications, limits, and deductibles customarily carried for similar properties. Certain types of losses (for example, matters of a catastrophic nature such as acts of war or substantial known environmental liabilities) are either uninsurable or require substantial premiums that are not economically feasible to maintain. Certain types of losses, such as those arising from subsidence activity, are insurable only to the extent that certain standard policy exceptions to insurability are waived by agreement with the insurer. We believe, however, that our properties are adequately insured, consistent with industry standards.

## **FRANCHISE LICENSES**

We believe that the public's perception of quality associated with a franchisor can be an important feature in the operation of a hotel. Franchisors provide a variety of benefits for franchisees, which include national advertising, publicity, and other marketing programs designed to increase brand awareness, training of personnel, continuous review of quality standards, and centralized reservation systems.

As of December 31, 2011, we owned interests in 124 hotels, 120 of which operated under the following franchise licenses or brand management agreements:

Embassy Suites is a registered trademark of Hilton Hospitality, Inc.

Doubletree is a registered trademark of Hilton Hospitality, Inc.

Hilton is a registered trademark of Hilton Hospitality, Inc.

**Table of Contents**

Hilton Garden Inn is a registered trademark of Hilton Hospitality, Inc.

Homewood Suites by Hilton is a registered trademark of Hilton Hospitality, Inc.

Hampton Inn is a registered trademark of Hilton Hospitality, Inc.

Marriott is a registered trademark of Marriott International, Inc.

SpringHill Suites is a registered trademark of Marriott International, Inc.

Residence Inn by Marriott is a registered trademark of Marriott International, Inc.

Courtyard by Marriott is a registered trademark of Marriott International, Inc.

Fairfield Inn by Marriott is a registered trademark of Marriott International, Inc.

TownePlace Suites is a registered trademark of Marriott International, Inc.

Renaissance is a registered trademark of Marriott International, Inc.

Ritz Carlton is a registered trademark of Marriott International, Inc.

Hyatt Regency is a registered trademark of Hyatt Corporation.

Sheraton is a registered trademark of Sheraton Hotels and Resorts, a division of Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

Westin is a registered trademark of Westin Hotels and Resorts, a division of Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

Crowne Plaza is a registered trademark of InterContinental Hotels Group.

One Ocean is a registered trademark of Remington Hotels LP.

Our management companies, including our affiliate Remington Lodging, must operate each hotel pursuant to the terms of the related franchise or brand management agreement, and must use their best efforts to maintain the right to operate each hotel pursuant to such terms. In the event of termination of a particular franchise or brand management agreement, our management companies must operate any affected hotels under another franchise or brand management agreement, if any, that we enter into. We anticipate that many of the additional hotels we acquire could be operated under franchise licenses or brand management agreements as well.

Our franchise licenses and brand management agreements generally specify certain management, operational, recordkeeping, accounting, reporting, and marketing standards and procedures with which the franchisee or brand operator must comply, including requirements related to:

training of operational personnel;

safety;

maintaining specified insurance;

types of services and products ancillary to guestroom services that may be provided;

---

## **Table of Contents**

display of signage; and

type, quality, and age of furniture, fixtures, and equipment included in guestrooms, lobbies, and other common areas.

### **SEASONALITY**

Our properties' operations historically have been seasonal as certain properties maintain higher occupancy rates during the summer months and some during the winter months. This seasonality pattern can cause fluctuations in our quarterly lease revenue under our percentage leases. We anticipate that our cash flows from the operations of our properties will be sufficient to enable us to make quarterly distributions to maintain our REIT status. To the extent that cash flows from operations are insufficient during any quarter due to temporary or seasonal fluctuations in lease revenue, we expect to utilize other cash on hand or borrowings to fund required distributions. However, we cannot make any assurances that we will make distributions in the future.

### **ACCESS TO REPORTS AND OTHER INFORMATION**

We maintain a website at [www.ahtreit.com](http://www.ahtreit.com). On our website, we make available free-of-charge our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and other reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, Code of Ethics for the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Accounting Officer, Corporate Governance Guidelines, and Board Committee Charters are also available free-of-charge on our website or can be made available in print upon request.

All reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission may also be read and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20549-1090. Further information regarding the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, all of our filed reports can be obtained at the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

### **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

#### **RISKS RELATED TO OUR BUSINESS**

*The recent financial crisis and general economic slowdown, which began in late 2007, harmed the operating performance of the hotel industry generally. If these or similar events continue or occur again in the future, our operating and financial results may be harmed by declines in occupancy, average daily room rates and/or other operating revenues.*

The performance of the lodging industry has traditionally been closely linked with the performance of the general economy and, specifically, growth in the U.S. gross domestic product. A majority of our hotels are classified as upscale and upper upscale. In an economic downturn, these types of hotels may be more susceptible to a decrease in revenue, as compared to hotels in other categories that have lower or higher room rates. This characteristic may result from the fact that upscale and upper upscale hotels generally target business and high-end leisure travelers. In periods of economic difficulties, business and leisure travelers may seek to reduce travel costs by limiting travel or seeking to reduce costs on their trips. Any economic recession will likely have an adverse effect on our business.

*Failure of the lodging industry to exhibit sustained improvement or to improve as expected may adversely affect our ability to execute our business plan.*

A substantial part of our business plan is based on our belief that the lodging markets in which we invest will experience improving economic fundamentals in the future. In particular, our business strategy is dependent

---

**Table of Contents**

on our expectation that key industry performance indicators, especially RevPAR, will continue to improve. There can be no assurance as to whether or to what extent, lodging industry fundamentals will continue to improve. In the event conditions in the industry do not sustain improvement or improve as we expect, or deteriorate, our ability to execute our business plan may be adversely affected.

*We are subject to various risks related to our use of, and dependence on, debt.*

As of December 31, 2011, we had aggregated borrowings of approximately \$2.4 billion outstanding, including \$517.7 million of variable interest rate debt. The interest we pay on variable-rate debt increases as interest rates increase, which may decrease cash available for distribution to shareholders. We are also subject to the risk that we may not be able to meet our debt service obligations or refinance our debt as it becomes due. If we do not meet our debt service obligations, we risk the loss of some or all of our assets to foreclosure. Changes in economic conditions or our financial results or prospects could (i) result in higher interest rates on variable-rate debt, (ii) reduce the availability of debt financing generally or debt financing at favorable rates, (iii) reduce cash available for distribution to shareholders, (iv) increase the risk that we could be forced to liquidate assets or repay debt, any of which could have a material adverse effect on us, and (v) create other hazardous situations for us.

Some of our debt agreements contain financial and other covenants. If we violate covenants in any debt agreements, including as a result of impairments of our hotel or mezzanine loan assets, we could be required to repay all or a portion of our indebtedness before maturity at a time when we might be unable to arrange financing for such repayment on attractive terms, if at all. Violations of certain debt covenants may also prohibit us from borrowing unused amounts under our lines of credit, even if repayment of some or all the borrowings is not required. In any event, financial covenants under our current or future debt obligations could impair our planned business strategies by limiting our ability to borrow beyond certain amounts or for certain purposes. Our governing instruments do not contain any limitation on our ability to incur indebtedness.

*We voluntarily elected to cease making payments on the mortgages securing three of our hotels during the recent economic down turn, and we may voluntarily elect to cease making payments on additional mortgages in the future, which could reduce the number of hotels we own as well as our revenues and could affect our ability to raise equity or debt financing in the future or violate covenants in our debt agreements.*

During the recent economic crisis, we undertook a series of actions to manage the sources and uses of our funds in an effort to navigate through challenging market conditions while still pursuing opportunities to create long-term shareholder value. In this effort, we attempted to proactively address value and cash flow deficits among certain of our mortgaged hotels, with a goal of enhancing shareholder value through loan amendments, or in certain instances, consensual transfers of hotel properties to the lenders in satisfaction of the related debt, some of which resulted in impairment charges. The loans secured by these hotels, subject to certain customary exceptions, were non-recourse to us. We may continue to proactively address value and cash flow deficits in a similar manner as necessary and appropriate.

We had approximately \$2.4 billion of mortgage debt outstanding as of December 31, 2011. We may face issues with these loans or with other loans or borrowings that we incur in the future, some of which issues may be beyond our control, including our ability to service payment obligations from the cash flow of the applicable hotel, or the inability to refinance existing debt at the applicable maturity date. In such event, we may elect to default on the applicable loan and, as a result, the lenders would have the right to exercise various remedies under the loan documents, which would include foreclosure on the applicable hotels. Any such defaults, whether voluntary or involuntary, could result in a default under our other debt agreements, could have an adverse effect on our ability to raise equity or debt capital, could increase the cost of such capital or could otherwise have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

## **Table of Contents**

***Joint venture investments could be adversely affected by our lack of sole decision-making authority, our reliance on a co-venturer's financial condition and disputes between us and our co-venturers.***

We have in the past and may continue to co-invest with third parties through partnerships, joint ventures or other entities, acquiring controlling or non-controlling interests in, or sharing responsibility for, managing the affairs of a property, partnership, joint venture or other entity. In such event, we may not be in a position to exercise sole decision-making authority regarding the property, partnership, joint venture or other entity. Investments in partnerships, joint ventures or other entities may, under certain circumstances, involve risks not present were a third party not involved, including the possibility that partners or co-venturers might become bankrupt or fail to fund their share of required capital contributions. Partners or co-venturers may have economic or other business interests or goals which are inconsistent with our business interests or goals, and may be in a position to take actions contrary to our policies or objectives. Such investments may also have the potential risk of impasses on decisions, such as a sale, budgets, or financing, because neither we nor the partner or co-venturer would have full control over the partnership or joint venture. Disputes between us and partners or co-venturers may result in litigation or arbitration that would increase our expenses and prevent our officers and/or trustees from focusing their time and effort on our business. Consequently, actions by, or disputes with, partners or co-venturers might result in subjecting properties owned by the partnership or joint venture to additional risk. In addition, we may in certain circumstances be liable for the actions of our third-party partners or co-venturers.

***Our business strategy depends on our continued growth. We may fail to integrate recent and additional investments into our operations or otherwise manage our planned growth, which may adversely affect our operating results.***

Our business plan contemplates a period of growth in the next several years. We cannot assure you that we will be able to adapt our management, administrative, accounting, and operational systems, or hire and retain sufficient operational staff to successfully integrate and manage any future acquisitions of additional assets without operating disruptions or unanticipated costs. Acquisitions of any additional portfolios of properties or mortgages would generate additional operating expenses that we will be required to pay. As we acquire additional assets, we will be subject to the operational risks associated with owning those assets. Our failure to successfully integrate any future acquisitions into our portfolio could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition and our ability to pay dividends to shareholders.

***We may be unable to identify additional investments that meet our investment criteria or to acquire the properties we have under contract.***

We cannot assure you that we will be able to identify real estate investments that meet our investment criteria, that we will be successful in completing any investment we identify, or that any investment we complete will produce a return on our investment. Moreover, we have broad authority to invest in any real estate investments that we may identify in the future. We also cannot assure you that we will acquire properties we currently have under firm purchase contracts, if any, or that the acquisition terms we have negotiated will not change.

***Conflicts of interest could result in our management acting other than in our shareholders' best interest.***

Conflicts of interest in general and specifically relating to Remington Lodging may lead to management decisions that are not in the shareholders' best interest. The Chairman of our Board of Directors, Mr. Archie Bennett, Jr., serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Remington Lodging, and our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Monty J. Bennett, serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Remington Lodging. Messrs. Archie and Monty J. Bennett beneficially own 100% of Remington Lodging, which, as of December 31, 2011, managed 45 of our 96 legacy properties, 19 of the 28 PIM Highland JV hotel properties and the WorldQuest condominium properties; and provides related services, including property management services and project management services.

## **Table of Contents**

Messrs. Archie and Monty J. Bennett's ownership interests in and management obligations to Remington Lodging present them with conflicts of interest in making management decisions related to the commercial arrangements between us and Remington Lodging and reduce the time and effort they each spend managing Ashford. Our Board of Directors has adopted a policy that requires all material approvals, actions or decisions to which we have the right to make under the management agreements with Remington Lodging be approved by a majority or, in certain circumstances, all of our independent directors. However, given the authority and/or operational latitude to Remington Lodging under the management agreements to which we are a party, Messrs. Archie Bennett and Monty J. Bennett, as officers of Remington Lodging, could take actions or make decisions that are not in the shareholders' best interest or that are otherwise inconsistent with their obligations under the management agreement or our obligations under the applicable franchise agreements.

Holders of units in our operating partnership, including members of our management team, may suffer adverse tax consequences upon our sale of certain properties. Therefore, holders of units, either directly or indirectly, including Messrs. Archie and Monty J. Bennett, Mr. David Brooks, our Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel, Mr. David Kimichik, our Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Mark Nunneley, our Chief Accounting Officer, and Mr. Martin L. Edelman (or his family members), one of our directors, may have different objectives regarding the appropriate pricing and timing of a particular property's sale. These officers and directors of ours may influence us to sell, not sell, or refinance certain properties, even if such actions or inactions might be financially advantageous to our shareholders, or to enter into tax deferred exchanges with the proceeds of such sales when such a reinvestment might not otherwise be in our best interest.

In addition, we have agreed to indemnify for a period of time contributors of properties contributed to us in exchange for operating partnership units, including (indirectly) Messrs. Archie and Monty J. Bennett, Brooks, Kimichik, Nunneley, and Edelman (or his family members), against the income tax they may incur if we dispose of the specified contributed properties. Because of this indemnification, our indemnified management team members may make decisions about selling any of these properties that are not in our shareholders' best interest.

We are a party to a master hotel management agreement and an exclusivity agreement with Remington Lodging, which describes the terms of Remington Lodging's services to our hotels, as well as any future hotels we may acquire that may or may not be managed by Remington Lodging. If we terminate the management agreement as to any of the remaining four hotels we acquired in connection with our initial public offering, which are all subject to the management agreement, because we elect to sell those hotels, we will be required to pay Remington Lodging a substantial termination fee. Remington Lodging may agree to waive the termination fee if a replacement hotel is substituted but is under no contractual obligation to do so. The exclusivity agreement requires us to engage Remington Lodging, unless our independent directors either (i) unanimously vote to hire a different manager or developer, or (ii) by a majority vote, elect not to engage Remington Lodging because they have determined that special circumstances exist or that, based on Remington Lodging's prior performance, another manager or developer could perform the duties materially better. As the sole owners of Remington Lodging, which would receive any development, management, and management termination fees payable by us under the management agreement, Messrs. Archie and Monty J. Bennett may influence our decisions to sell, acquire, or develop hotels when it is not in the best interests of our shareholders to do so.

### ***Tax indemnification obligations that apply in the event that we sell certain properties could limit our operating flexibility.***

We have acquired certain of our properties in exchange transactions in which we issued units in our operating partnership in exchange for hotel properties. In certain of these transactions, we agreed to ongoing indemnification obligations in the event we sell or transfer the related property and in some instances in the event we refinance the related property. Accordingly, we may be obligated to indemnify the contributors, including Messrs. Archie and Monty J. Bennett whom have substantial ownership interests, against the tax consequences of the transaction.

---

**Table of Contents**

In general, our tax indemnities will be equal to the amount of the federal, state, and local income tax liability the contributor or its specified assignee incurs with respect to the gain allocated to the contributor. The terms of the contribution agreements also generally require us to gross up tax indemnity payments for the amount of income taxes due as a result of the tax indemnity and this additional payment.

While the tax indemnities generally do not contractually limit our ability to conduct our business in the way we desire, we are less likely to sell any of the contributed properties for which we have agreed to the tax indemnities described above in a taxable transaction during the applicable indemnity period. Instead, we would likely either hold the property for the entire indemnity period or seek to transfer the property in a tax-deferred like-kind exchange. In addition, a condemnation of one of our properties could trigger our tax indemnification obligations.

***Hotel franchise requirements could adversely affect distributions to our shareholders.***

We must comply with operating standards, terms, and conditions imposed by the franchisors of the hotel brands under which our hotels operate. Franchisors periodically inspect their licensed hotels to confirm adherence to their operating standards. The failure of a hotel to maintain standards could result in the loss or cancellation of a franchise license. With respect to operational standards, we rely on our property managers to conform to such standards. Franchisors may also require us to make certain capital improvements to maintain the hotel in accordance with system standards, the cost of which can be substantial. It is possible that a franchisor could condition the continuation of a franchise based on the completion of capital improvements that our management or Board of Directors determines is too expensive or otherwise not economically feasible in light of general economic conditions or the operating results or prospects of the affected hotel. In that event, our management or Board of Directors may elect to allow the franchise to lapse or be terminated, which could result in a termination charge as well as a change in brand franchising or operation of the hotel as an independent hotel.

In addition, when the term of a franchise expires, the franchisor has no obligation to issue a new franchise. The loss of a franchise could have a material adverse effect on the operations and/or the underlying value of the affected hotel because of the loss of associated name recognition, marketing support, and centralized reservation systems provided by the franchisor. The loss of a franchise could also have a material adverse effect on cash available for distribution to shareholders.

***Our investments are concentrated in particular segments of a single industry.***

Nearly all of our business is hotel related. Our current long-term investment strategy is to acquire or develop upscale to upper-upscale hotels, acquire first mortgages on hotel properties, invest in other mortgage-related instruments such as mezzanine loans to hotel owners and operators, and participate in hotel sale-leaseback transactions. Adverse conditions in the hotel industry will have a material adverse effect on our operating and investment revenues and cash available for distribution to our shareholders.

***We rely on third party property managers, including Remington Lodging, to operate our hotels and for a significant majority of our cash flow.***

For us to continue to qualify as a REIT, third parties must operate our hotels. A REIT may lease its hotels to taxable REIT subsidiaries in which the REIT can own up to a 100% interest. A taxable REIT subsidiary, or TRS, pays corporate-level income tax and may retain any after-tax income. A REIT must satisfy certain conditions to use the TRS structure. One of those conditions is that the TRS must hire, to manage the hotels, an eligible independent contractor ( EIC ) that is actively engaged in the trade or business of managing hotels for parties other than the REIT. An EIC cannot (i) own more than 35% of the REIT, (ii) be owned more than 35% by persons owning more than 35% of the REIT, or (iii) provide any income to the REIT (i.e., the EIC cannot pay fees to the REIT, and the REIT cannot own any debt or equity securities of the EIC).



## **Table of Contents**

Accordingly, while we may lease hotels to a TRS that we own, the TRS must engage a third-party operator to manage the hotels. Thus, our ability to direct and control how our hotels are operated is less than if we were able to manage our hotels directly. We have entered into management agreements with Remington Lodging, which is owned 100% by Messrs. Archie and Monty J. Bennett, to manage 45 of our 96 legacy hotel properties, 19 of the 28 PIM Highland JV hotel properties, and the WorldQuest condominium properties as of December 31, 2011. We have hired unaffiliated third party property managers to manage our remaining properties. We do not supervise any of the property managers or their respective personnel on a day-to-day basis, and we cannot assure you that the property managers will manage our properties in a manner that is consistent with their respective obligations under the applicable management agreement or our obligations under our hotel franchise agreements. We also cannot assure you that our property managers will not be negligent in their performance, will not engage in criminal or fraudulent activity, or will not otherwise default on their respective management obligations to us. If any of the foregoing occurs, our relationships with the franchisors may be damaged, we may be in breach of the franchise agreement, and we could incur liabilities resulting from loss or injury to our property or to persons at our properties. Any of these circumstances could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition, as well as our ability to pay dividends to shareholders.

***If we cannot obtain additional financing, our growth will be limited.***

We are required to distribute to our shareholders at least 90% of our REIT taxable income, excluding net capital gains, each year to continue to qualify as a REIT. As a result, our retained earnings available to fund acquisitions, development, or other capital expenditures are nominal. As such, we rely upon the availability of additional debt or equity capital to fund these activities. Our long-term ability to grow through acquisitions or development of hotel-related assets will be limited if we cannot obtain additional financing. Market conditions may make it difficult to obtain financing, and we cannot assure you that we will be able to obtain additional debt or equity financing or that we will be able to obtain it on favorable terms. We may elect to pay dividends on our common stock in cash or a combination of cash and shares of securities as permitted under federal income tax laws governing REIT distribution requirements. In certain circumstances, if we are unable to obtain replacement refinancing or loan modifications, we could be forced to raise equity capital at inappropriate times, make unplanned asset sales or face foreclosure on our hotel properties.

***We may be unable to generate sufficient revenue from operations to pay our operating expenses and to pay dividends to our shareholders. Currently, our credit facility limits us from paying dividends if we are in default under the credit facility, including by reason of failing to meet certain covenants .***

As a REIT, we are required to distribute at least 90% of our REIT taxable income each year, excluding net capital gains, to our shareholders. Our ability to make distributions may be adversely affected by the risk factors described herein. We cannot assure you that we will be able to make distributions in the future. In the event of future downturns in our operating results and financial performance, unanticipated capital improvements to our hotels or declines in the value of our mortgage portfolio, we may be unable to declare or pay distributions to our shareholders to the extent required to maintain our REIT qualification. The timing and amount of such distributions will be in the sole discretion of our Board of Directors, which will consider, among other factors, our financial performance, and debt service obligations. We may elect to pay dividends on our common stock in cash or a combination of cash and shares of securities as permitted under federal income tax laws governing REIT distribution requirements. Currently, our credit facility limits us from paying dividends if we are in default under the credit facility, including by reason of failing to meet certain covenants.

***We compete with other hotels for guests. We also face competition for acquisitions and sales of lodging properties and of desirable debt investments.***

The hotel business is competitive. Our hotels compete on the basis of location, room rates, quality, service levels, amenities, reputation, and reservation systems, among many other factors. New hotels may be constructed

## **Table of Contents**

and these additions to supply create new competitors, in some cases without corresponding increases in demand for hotel rooms. The result in some cases may be lower revenue, which would result in lower cash available to meet debt service obligations, operating expenses, and requisite distributions to shareholders.

We compete for hotel acquisitions with entities that have similar investment objectives as we do. This competition could limit the number of suitable investment opportunities offered to us. It may also increase the bargaining power of property owners seeking to sell to us, making it more difficult for us to acquire new properties on attractive terms or on the terms contemplated in our business plan.

We also compete for mortgage asset investments with numerous public and private real estate investment vehicles, such as mortgage banks, pension funds, other REITs, institutional investors, and individuals. Mortgages and other investments are often obtained through a competitive bidding process. In addition, competitors may seek to establish relationships with the financial institutions and other firms from which we intend to purchase such assets. Competition may result in higher prices for mortgage assets, lower yields, and a narrower spread of yields over our borrowing costs.

Some of our competitors are larger than us, may have access to greater capital, marketing, and other resources, may have personnel with more experience than our officers, may be able to accept higher levels of debt or otherwise may tolerate more risk than us, may have better relations with hotel franchisors, sellers, or lenders, and may have other advantages over us in conducting certain business and providing certain services.

We compete to sell hotel properties. Availability of capital, the number of hotels available for sale and market conditions, all affect prices. We may not be able to sell hotel assets at our targeted price.

***Future terrorist attacks similar in nature to the events of September 11, 2001 and other global issues such as the sovereign debt crisis in Europe and elsewhere as well as other Geo-political risks, may negatively affect the performance of our properties, the hotel industry in general, and our future results of operations and financial condition.***

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, their after-effects, and the resulting U.S.-led military action in Iraq substantially reduced business and leisure travel throughout the United States and hotel industry revenue per available room, or RevPAR, generally during the period following September 11, 2001. We cannot predict the extent to which additional terrorist attacks, acts of war, or similar events may occur in the future or how such events would directly or indirectly impact the hotel industry or our operating results.

Future terrorist attacks, acts of war, or similar events could have further material adverse effects on the hotel industry at large and our operations in particular.

***We may not be able to sell any hotel properties we decide to sell on favorable terms.***

We may decide to sell one or more of our hotel properties from time to time for a variety of reasons. We cannot assure you that we will be able to sell any of the properties we decide to sell on favorable terms or that any such properties will not be sold at a loss.

## **Table of Contents**

### **RISKS RELATED TO HOTEL INVESTMENTS**

*We are subject to general risks associated with operating hotels.*

Our hotels and hotels underlying our mortgage and mezzanine loans are subject to various operating risks common to the hotel industry, many of which are beyond our control, including the following:

our hotels compete with other hotel properties in their geographic markets and many of our competitors have substantial marketing and financial resources;

over-building in our markets, which adversely affects occupancy and revenues at our hotels;

dependence on business and commercial travelers and tourism; and

adverse effects of general, regional, and local economic conditions and increases in energy costs or labor costs and other expenses affecting travel, which may affect travel patterns and reduce the number of business and commercial travelers and tourists.

These factors could adversely affect our hotel revenues and expenses, as well as the hotels underlying our mortgage and mezzanine loans, which in turn would adversely affect our ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

*We may have to make significant capital expenditures to maintain our lodging properties.*

Our hotels have an ongoing need for renovations and other capital improvements, including replacements of furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Franchisors of our hotels may also require periodic capital improvements as a condition of maintaining franchise licenses. Generally, we are responsible for the cost of these capital improvements, which gives rise to the following risks:

cost overruns and delays;

renovations can be disruptive to operations and can displace revenue at the hotels, including revenue lost while rooms under renovation are out of service;

the cost of funding renovations and the possibility that financing for these renovations may not be available on attractive terms; and

the risk that the return on our investment in these capital improvements will not be what we expect.

If we have insufficient cash flow from operations to fund needed capital expenditures, then we will need to borrow or access equity to fund future capital improvements.

*The hotel business is seasonal, which affects our results of operations from quarter to quarter.*

The hotel industry is seasonal in nature. This seasonality can cause quarterly fluctuations in our revenues, EBITDA, profitability and shareholder dividend payments.

*Our hotel investments may be subject to risks relating to potential terrorist activity.*

## Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

During 2011, approximately 18.5% of our total hotel revenue was generated from 11 hotels located in the Washington D.C. and Baltimore areas, areas considered vulnerable to terrorist attack. Our financial and operating performance may be adversely affected by potential terrorist activity. Future terrorist activity may cause in the future, our results to differ materially from anticipated results. Other hotels we own may be subject to this risk as well.

## **Table of Contents**

*Our development activities may be more costly than we have anticipated.*

As part of our long-term growth strategy, we may develop hotels. Hotel development involves substantial risks, including that:

actual development costs may exceed our budgeted or contracted amounts;

construction delays may prevent us from opening hotels on schedule;

we may not be able to obtain all necessary zoning, land use, building, occupancy, and construction permits;

our developed properties may not achieve our desired revenue or profit goals; and

we may incur substantial development costs and then have to abandon a development project before completion.

## **RISKS RELATED TO DERIVATIVE TRANSACTIONS AND INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES AND OTHER**

*We have engaged in and may continue to engage in derivative transactions, which can limit our gains and expose us to losses.*

We have entered into and may continue to enter into hedging transactions to (i) attempt to take advantage of changes in prevailing interest rates, (ii) protect our portfolio of mortgage assets from interest rate fluctuations, (iii) protect us from the effects of interest rate fluctuations on floating-rate debt, (iv) protect us from the risk of fluctuations in the financial and capital markets, or (v) preserve net cash in the event of a major downturn in the economy. Our hedging transactions may include entering into interest rate swap agreements, interest rate cap or floor agreements or flooridor and corridor agreements, credit default swaps and purchasing or selling futures contracts, purchasing or selling put and call options on securities or securities underlying futures contracts, or entering into forward rate agreements. Hedging activities may not have the desired beneficial impact on our results of operations or financial condition. No hedging activity can completely insulate us from the risks inherent in our business.

Credit default hedging could fail to protect us or adversely affect us because if a swap counterparty cannot perform under the terms of our credit default swap, we may not receive payments due under such agreement and, thus, we may lose any potential benefit associated with such credit default swap. Additionally, we may also risk the loss of any collateral we have pledged to secure our obligations under such credit default swaps if the counterparty becomes insolvent or files for bankruptcy.

Moreover, interest rate hedging could fail to protect us or adversely affect us because, among other things:

available interest rate hedging may not correspond directly with the interest rate risk for which protections is sought;

the duration of the hedge may not match the duration of the related liability;

the party owing money in the hedging transaction may default on its obligation to pay;

the credit quality of the party owing money on the hedge may be downgraded to such an extent that it impairs our ability to sell or assign our side of the hedging transaction;



---

**Table of Contents**

the value of derivatives used for hedging may be adjusted from time to time in accordance with generally accepted accounting rules to reflect changes in fair value; downward adjustments, or mark-to-market loss, would reduce our shareholders' equity. Hedging involves both risks and costs, including transaction costs, which may reduce our overall returns on our investments. These costs increase as the period covered by the hedging relationship increases and during periods of rising and volatile interest rates. These costs will also limit the amount of cash available for distributions to shareholders. We generally intend to hedge to the extent management determines it is in our best interest given the cost of such hedging transactions as compared to the potential economic returns or protections offered. The REIT qualification rules may limit our ability to enter into hedging transactions by requiring us to limit our income and assets from hedges. If we are unable to hedge effectively because of the REIT rules, we will face greater interest rate exposure than may be commercially prudent.

***The assets associated with certain of our derivative transactions and investments in securities do not constitute qualified REIT assets and the related income will not constitute qualified REIT income. Significant fluctuations in the value of such assets or the related income could jeopardize our REIT status or result in additional tax liabilities.***

We have entered into certain derivative transactions to protect against interest rate risks and credit default risks not specifically associated with debt incurred to acquire qualified REIT assets. The REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code limit our income and assets in each year from such derivative transactions. Failure to comply with the asset or income limitation within the REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code could result in penalty taxes or loss of our REIT status. If we elect to contribute the non-qualifying derivatives into a taxable REIT subsidiary to preserve our REIT status, such an action would result in any income from such transactions being subject to federal income taxation.

***Our prior investment performance is not indicative of future results.***

The performance of our prior investments is not necessarily indicative of the results that can be expected for the investments to be made by our newly-formed investment subsidiary. On any given investment, total loss of the investment is possible. Although our management team has experience and has had success in making investments in real estate-related lodging debt and hotel assets, the past performance of these investments is not necessarily indicative of the results of our future investments.

***Our investment portfolio will contain investments concentrated in a single industry and will not be fully diversified.***

Our investment subsidiary was formed for the purpose of acquiring public securities and other investments of lodging-related entities. As such, our investment portfolio will contain investments concentrated in a single industry and may not be fully diversified by asset class, geographic region or other criteria, which will expose us to significant loss due to concentration risk. Investors have no assurance that the degree of diversification in our investment portfolio will increase at any time in the future.

***The values of our investments are affected by the credit and financial markets and, as such, may fluctuate.***

The U.S. credit and financial markets have recently experienced severe dislocations and liquidity disruptions. The values of our investments are likely to be sensitive to the volatility of the credit and financial markets, and, to the extent that turmoil in the credit and financial markets continues or intensifies, such volatility has the potential to materially affect the value of our investment portfolio.

***We are subject to the risk of default or insolvency by the hospitality entities underlying our investments.***

The leveraged capital structure of the hospitality entities underlying our investments will increase their exposure to adverse economic factors (such as rising interest rates, competitive pressures, downturns in the

## **Table of Contents**

economy or deterioration in the condition of the real estate company) and to the risk of unforeseen events. If an underlying entity cannot generate adequate cash flow to meet such entity's debt obligations (which may include leveraged obligations in excess of its aggregate assets), it may default on its loan agreements or be forced into bankruptcy. As a result, we may suffer a partial or total loss of the capital we have invested in the securities and other investments of such entity.

### **RISKS RELATED TO INVESTMENTS IN MORTGAGES AND MEZZANINE LOANS**

*If the underlying hotel properties supporting our mezzanine loan portfolio are unable to generate enough cash flows for the scheduled payments, there is a possibility that our remaining mezzanine loan portfolio could be written off in its entirety, which may adversely affect our operating results.*

When we implemented our mezzanine loan investment strategy, we generally performed the underwriting stress test based on worst case scenarios similar to what the hotel industry experienced during the downturn following the events of September 11, 2001. However, the magnitude of the economic downturn that began in late 2007 far exceeded our underwriting sensitivity. As a result, we recorded impairment charges, net of subsequent valuation adjustments, with respect to our mezzanine loan portfolio of approximately \$28.1 million and \$148.7 million in 2010 and 2009, respectively. The impairment charges for 2010 included \$21.6 million for our mezzanine loan investment in a joint venture. In 2011, we recorded a credit to impairment charges of \$4.8 million for valuation adjustments. We may record additional impairment charges to this portfolio equal to as much as the remaining balance of our mezzanine loan of \$3.1 million as of December 31, 2011. Due to the valuation allowance recorded on these loans, we do not expect to recognize any interest income in the future on these investments.

*Debt investments that are not United States government insured involve risk of loss.*

As part of our business strategy, we may originate or acquire lodging-related uninsured and mortgage assets, including mezzanine loans. While holding these interests, we are subject to risks of borrower defaults, bankruptcies, fraud and related losses, and special hazard losses that are not covered by standard hazard insurance. Also, costs of financing the mortgage loans could exceed returns on the mortgage loans. In the event of any default under mortgage loans held by us, we will bear the risk of loss of principal and non-payment of interest and fees to the extent of any deficiency between the value of the mortgage collateral and the principal amount of the mortgage loan. We suffered significant impairment charges with respect to our investments in mortgage loans in 2009 and 2010, and a credit of \$4.8 million to impairment charges in 2011. We may incur similar losses in the future for the remaining mezzanine loan of \$3.1 million at December 31, 2011. The value and the price of our securities may be adversely affected.

*We invest in non-recourse loans, which will limit our recovery to the value of the mortgaged property.*

Our mortgage and mezzanine loan assets have typically been non-recourse. With respect to non-recourse mortgage loan assets, in the event of a borrower default, the specific mortgaged property and other assets, if any, pledged to secure the relevant mortgage loan, may be less than the amount owed under the mortgage loan. As to those mortgage loan assets that provide for recourse against the borrower and its assets generally, we cannot assure you that the recourse will provide a recovery in respect of a defaulted mortgage loan greater than the liquidation value of the mortgaged property securing that mortgage loan.

*Investment yields affect our decision whether to originate or purchase investments and the price offered for such investments.*

In making any investment, we consider the expected yield of the investment and the factors that may influence the yield actually obtained on such investment. These considerations affect our decision whether to originate or purchase an investment and the price offered for that investment. No assurances can be given that we can make an accurate assessment of the yield to be produced by an investment. Many factors beyond our control



## **Table of Contents**

are likely to influence the yield on the investments, including, but not limited to, competitive conditions in the local real estate market, local and general economic conditions, and the quality of management of the underlying property. Our inability to accurately assess investment yields may result in our purchasing assets that do not perform as well as expected, which may adversely affect the price of our securities.

*Volatility of values of mortgaged properties may adversely affect our mortgage loans.*

Lodging property values and net operating income derived from lodging properties are subject to volatility and may be affected adversely by a number of factors, including the risk factors described herein relating to general economic conditions, operating lodging properties, and owning real estate investments. In the event its net operating income decreases, a borrower may have difficulty paying our mortgage loan, which could result in losses to us. In addition, decreases in property values reduce the value of the collateral and the potential proceeds available to a borrower to repay our mortgage loans, which could also cause us to suffer losses.

*Mezzanine loans involve greater risks of loss than senior loans secured by income-producing properties.*

We may continue to make and acquire mezzanine loans. These types of loans are considered to involve a higher degree of risk than long-term senior mortgage lending secured by income-producing real property due to a variety of factors, including the loan being entirely unsecured or, if secured, becoming unsecured as a result of foreclosure by the senior lender. We may not recover some or all of our investment in these loans. In addition, mezzanine loans may have higher loan-to-value ratios than conventional mortgage loans resulting in less equity in the property and increasing the risk of loss of principal.

## **RISKS RELATED TO THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY**

*Mortgage debt obligations expose us to increased risk of property losses, which could harm our financial condition, cash flow, and ability to satisfy our other debt obligations and pay dividends.*

Incurring mortgage debt increases our risk of property losses because defaults on indebtedness secured by properties may result in foreclosure actions initiated by lenders and ultimately our loss of the property securing any loans for which we are in default. For tax purposes, a foreclosure of any of our properties would be treated as a sale of the property for a purchase price equal to the outstanding balance of the debt secured by the mortgage. If the outstanding balance of the debt secured by the mortgage exceeds our tax basis in the property, we would recognize taxable income on the foreclosure but would not receive any cash proceeds. As a result, we may be required to identify and utilize other sources of cash for distributions to our shareholders of that income.

In addition, our default under any one of our mortgage debt obligations may result in a default on our other indebtedness. If this occurs, our financial condition, cash flow, and ability to satisfy our other debt obligations or ability to pay dividends may be impaired.

*Illiquidity of real estate investments could significantly impede our ability to respond to adverse changes in the performance of our properties and harm our financial condition.*

Because real estate investments are relatively illiquid, our ability to promptly sell one or more properties or mortgage loans in our portfolio in response to changing economic, financial, and investment conditions is limited.

The real estate market is affected by many factors that are beyond our control, including:

adverse changes in national and local economic and market conditions;

changes in interest rates and in the availability, cost, and terms of debt financing;

**Table of Contents**

changes in governmental laws and regulations, fiscal policies, and zoning and other ordinances, and costs of compliance with laws and regulations;

the ongoing need for capital improvements, particularly in older structures;

changes in operating expenses; and

civil unrest, acts of war, and natural disasters, including earthquakes and floods, which may result in uninsured and underinsured losses.

We cannot predict whether we will be able to sell any property or loan for the price or on the terms set by us, or whether any price or other terms offered by a prospective purchaser would be acceptable to us. We also cannot predict the length of time needed to find a willing purchaser and to close the sale of a property or loan. Because we intend to offer more flexible terms on our mortgage loans than some providers of commercial mortgage loans, we may have more difficulty selling or participating our loans to secondary purchasers than would these more traditional lenders.

We may be required to expend funds to correct defects or to make improvements before a property can be sold. We cannot assure you that we will have funds available to correct those defects or to make those improvements. In acquiring a property, we may agree to lock-out provisions that materially restrict us from selling that property for a period of time or impose other restrictions, such as a limitation on the amount of debt that can be placed or repaid on that property. These factors and any others that would impede our ability to respond to adverse changes in the performance of our properties could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition, as well as our ability to pay dividends to shareholders.

***The costs of compliance with or liabilities under environmental laws may harm our operating results.***

Our properties and properties underlying our loan assets may be subject to environmental liabilities. An owner of real property, or a lender with respect to a property that exercises control over the property, can face liability for environmental contamination created by the presence or discharge of hazardous substances on the property. We may face liability regardless of:

our knowledge of the contamination;

the timing of the contamination;

the cause of the contamination; or

the party responsible for the contamination.

There may be environmental problems associated with our properties or properties underlying our loan assets of which we are unaware. Some of our properties or the properties underlying our loan assets use, or may have used in the past, underground tanks for the storage of petroleum-based or waste products that could create a potential for release of hazardous substances. If environmental contamination exists on a property, we could become subject to strict, joint and several liabilities for the contamination if we own the property or if we foreclose on the property or otherwise have control over the property.

The presence of hazardous substances on a property we own or have made a loan with respect to may adversely affect our ability to sell or foreclose on the property, and we may incur substantial remediation costs. The discovery of environmental liabilities attached to our properties or properties underlying our loan assets could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition, and ability to pay dividends to shareholders.



## **Table of Contents**

We generally have environmental insurance policies on each of our owned properties, and we intend to obtain environmental insurance for any other properties that we may acquire. However, if environmental liabilities are discovered during the underwriting of the insurance policies for any property that we may acquire in the future, we may be unable to obtain insurance coverage for the liabilities at commercially reasonable rates or at all, and we may experience losses. In addition, we generally do not require our borrowers to obtain environmental insurance on the properties they own that secure their loans from us.

***Our properties and the properties underlying our mortgage loans may contain or develop harmful mold, which could lead to liability for adverse health effects and costs of remediating the problem.***

When excessive moisture accumulates in buildings or on building materials, mold growth may occur, particularly if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or is not addressed over a period of time. Some molds may produce airborne toxins or irritants. Concern about indoor exposure to mold has been increasing as exposure to mold may cause a variety of adverse health effects and symptoms, including allergic or other reactions. As a result, the presence of significant mold at any of our properties or the properties underlying our loan assets could require us or our borrowers to undertake a costly remediation program to contain or remove the mold from the affected property. In addition, the presence of significant mold could expose us or our borrowers to liability from guests, employees, and others if property damage or health concerns arise.

***Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and fire, safety, and other regulations may require us or our borrowers to make unintended expenditures that adversely impact our operating results.***

All of our properties and properties underlying our mortgage loans are required to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, or the ADA. The ADA requires that public accommodations such as hotels be made accessible to people with disabilities. Compliance with the ADA requirements could require removal of access barriers and non-compliance could result in imposition of fines by the U.S. government or an award of damages to private litigants, or both. We or our borrowers may be required to expend funds to comply with the provisions of the ADA at our hotels or hotels underlying our loan assets, which could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition and our ability to make distributions to shareholders. In addition, we and our borrowers are required to operate our properties in compliance with fire and safety regulations, building codes, and other land use regulations as they may be adopted by governmental agencies and bodies and become applicable to our properties. We and our borrowers may be required to make substantial capital expenditures to comply with those requirements, and these expenditures could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition as well as our ability to pay dividends to shareholders.

***We may experience uninsured or underinsured losses.***

We have property and casualty insurance with respect to our properties and other insurance, in each case, with loss limits and coverage thresholds deemed reasonable by our management (and with the intent to satisfy the requirements of lenders and franchisors). In doing so, we have made decisions with respect to what deductibles, policy limits, and terms are reasonable based on management's experience, our risk profile, the loss history of our property managers and our properties, the nature of our properties and our businesses, our loss prevention efforts, and the cost of insurance.

Various types of catastrophic losses may not be insurable or may not be economically insurable. In the event of a substantial loss, our insurance coverage may not cover the full current market value or replacement cost of our lost investment. Inflation, changes in building codes and ordinances, environmental considerations, and other factors might cause insurance proceeds to be insufficient to fully replace or renovate a hotel after it has been damaged or destroyed. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that (i) the insurance coverage thresholds that we have obtained will fully protect us against insurable losses (i.e., losses may exceed coverage limits); (ii) we will not incur large deductibles that will adversely affect our earnings; (iii) we will not incur losses from risks that are not insurable or that are not economically insurable; or (iv) current coverage thresholds will continue to be

---

## **Table of Contents**

available at reasonable rates. In the future, we may choose not to maintain terrorism insurance on any of our properties. As a result, one or more large uninsured or underinsured losses could have a material adverse affect on us.

Each of our current lenders requires us to maintain certain insurance coverage thresholds, and we anticipate that future lenders will have similar requirements. We believe that we have complied with the insurance maintenance requirements under the current governing loan documents and we intend to comply with any such requirements in any future loan documents. However, a lender may disagree, in which case the lender could obtain additional coverage thresholds and seek payment from us, or declare us in default under the loan documents. In the former case, we could spend more for insurance than we otherwise deem reasonable or necessary or, in the latter case, subject us to a foreclosure on hotels collateralizing one or more loans. In addition, a material casualty to one or more hotels collateralizing loans may result in (i) the insurance company applying to the outstanding loan balance insurance proceeds that otherwise would be available to repair the damage caused by the casualty, which would require us to fund the repairs through other sources, or (ii) the lender foreclosing on the hotels if there is a material loss that is not insured.

### **RISKS RELATED TO OUR STATUS AS A REIT**

*If we do not qualify as a REIT, we will be subject to tax as a regular corporation and could face substantial tax liability.*

We conduct operations so as to qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. However, qualification as a REIT involves the application of highly technical and complex Internal Revenue Code provisions for which only a limited number of judicial or administrative interpretations exist. Even a technical or inadvertent mistake could jeopardize our REIT status. Furthermore, new tax legislation, administrative guidance, or court decisions, in each instance potentially with retroactive effect, could make it more difficult or impossible for us to qualify as a REIT. If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any tax year, then:

we would be taxed as a regular domestic corporation, which, among other things, means being unable to deduct distributions to shareholders in computing taxable income and being subject to federal income tax on our taxable income at regular corporate rates;

we would also be subject to federal alternative minimum tax and, possibly, increased state and local taxes;

any resulting tax liability could be substantial and would reduce the amount of cash available for distribution to shareholders; and

unless we were entitled to relief under applicable statutory provisions, we would be disqualified from treatment as a REIT for the subsequent four taxable years following the year that we lost our qualification, and, thus, our cash available for distribution to shareholders could be reduced for each of the years during which we did not qualify as a REIT.

If we fail to qualify as a REIT, we will not be required to make distributions to shareholders to maintain our tax status. As a result of all of these factors, our failure to qualify as a REIT could impair our ability to raise capital, expand our business, and make distributions to our shareholders and could adversely affect the value of our securities.

*Even if we remain qualified as a REIT, we may face other tax liabilities that reduce our cash flow.*

Even if we remain qualified for taxation as a REIT, we may be subject to certain federal, state, and local taxes on our income and assets. For example:

We will be required to pay tax on undistributed REIT taxable income.

---

**Table of Contents**

We may be required to pay the alternative minimum tax on our items of tax preference.

If we have net income from the disposition of foreclosure property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business or other non-qualifying income from foreclosure property, we must pay tax on that income at the highest corporate rate.

If we sell a property in a prohibited transaction, our gain from the sale would be subject to a 100% penalty tax.

Our taxable REIT subsidiary, Ashford TRS, is a fully taxable corporation and will be required to pay federal and state taxes on its income.

We may continue to experience increases in our state and local income tax burden. Over the past several years, certain states have significantly changed their income tax regimes in order to raise revenues. The changes enacted that have increased our state and local income tax burden include the taxation of modified gross receipts (as opposed to net taxable income), the suspension of and/or limitation on the use of net operating loss deduction, increases in tax rates and fees, the addition of surcharges, and the taxation of our partnership income at the entity level. Facing mounting budget deficits, more state and local taxing authorities have indicated that they are going to revise their income tax regimes in this fashion and/or eliminate certain federally allowed tax deductions such as the REIT dividends paid deduction.

***We may be subject to taxes in the event our leases are held not to be on an arm's-length basis.***

In the event that leases between us and our taxable REIT subsidiaries are held not to be on an arm's-length basis, we or our taxable REIT subsidiaries could be subject to taxes, and adjustments to the rents could cause us to fail to meet certain REIT income tests. In determining amounts payable by our taxable REIT subsidiaries under our leases, we engaged a third party to prepare a transfer pricing study to ascertain whether the lease terms we established were on an arm's-length basis. The transfer pricing study concluded that the lease terms were consistent with arm's-length terms as required by applicable Treasury Regulations. In 2010, the Internal Revenue Service, or the IRS, audited a taxable REIT subsidiary of ours that leases two of our hotel properties, and issued a notice of proposed adjustment that reduced the amount of rent we charged to the taxable REIT subsidiary. We own a 75% interest in the hotel properties and the taxable REIT subsidiary at issue. We disagree with the IRS position, and have filed a written protest with the IRS and requested an IRS Appeals Office Conference. If the IRS prevails in its proposed adjustment, however, our taxable REIT subsidiary would owe approximately \$1.1 million of additional U.S. federal income taxes plus possible additional state income taxes, or we could be subject to a 100% excise tax on our share of the amount by which the rent is held to be greater than the arm's-length rate. In addition, if the IRS were to successfully challenge the terms of our leases with any of our taxable REIT subsidiaries for 2007 and later years, we or our taxable REIT subsidiaries could owe additional taxes and we could be required to pay penalty taxes if the effect of such challenges were to cause us to fail to meet certain REIT income tests, which could materially adversely affect us and the value of our securities.

***Complying with REIT requirements may cause us to forego otherwise attractive opportunities.***

To qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes, we must continually satisfy tests concerning, among other things, the sources of our income, the nature and diversification of our assets, the amounts we distribute to our shareholders, and the ownership of our stock. We may be required to make distributions to shareholders at disadvantageous times or when we do not have funds readily available for distribution. We may elect to pay dividends on our common stock in cash or a combination of cash and shares of securities as permitted under federal income tax laws governing REIT distribution requirements. Thus, compliance with the REIT requirements may hinder our ability to operate solely on the basis of maximizing profits.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Complying with REIT requirements may limit our ability to hedge effectively.***

The REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code may limit our ability to hedge mortgage securities and related borrowings by requiring us to limit our income and assets in each year from certain hedges, together with any other income not generated from qualified real estate assets, to no more than 25% of our gross income. In addition, we must limit our aggregate income from nonqualified hedging transactions, from our provision of services, and from other non-qualifying sources to no more than 5% of our annual gross income. As a result, we may have to limit our use of advantageous hedging techniques. This could result in greater risks associated with changes in interest rates than we would otherwise want to incur. However, for transactions occurring after July 30, 2008 that we enter into to protect against interest rate risks on debt incurred to acquire qualified REIT assets and for which we identify as hedges for tax purposes, any associated hedging income is excluded from the 95% income test and the 75% income test applicable to a REIT. If we were to violate the 25% or 5% limitations, we may have to pay a penalty tax equal to the amount of income in excess of those limitations multiplied by a fraction intended to reflect our profitability. If we fail to satisfy the REIT gross income tests, unless our failure was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, we could lose our REIT status for federal income tax purposes.

### ***Complying with REIT requirements may force us to liquidate otherwise attractive investments.***

To qualify as a REIT, we must also ensure that at the end of each calendar quarter at least 75% of the value of our assets consists of cash, cash items, government securities, and qualified REIT real estate assets. The remainder of our investment in securities (other than government securities and qualified real estate assets) generally cannot include more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer or more than 10% of the total value of the outstanding securities of any one issuer. In addition, in general, no more than 5% of the value of our assets (other than government securities and qualified real estate assets) can consist of the securities of any one issuer, and no more than 25% of the value of our total assets can be represented by securities of one or more taxable REIT subsidiaries. If we fail to comply with these requirements at the end of any calendar quarter, we must correct such failure within 30 days after the end of the calendar quarter to avoid losing our REIT status and suffer adverse tax consequences. As a result, we may be required to liquidate otherwise attractive investments.

### ***Complying with REIT requirements may force us to borrow to make distributions to shareholders.***

As a REIT, we must distribute at least 90% of our annual REIT taxable income, excluding net capital gains, (subject to certain adjustments) to our shareholders. To the extent that we satisfy the distribution requirement, but distribute less than 100% of our taxable income, we will be subject to federal corporate income tax on our undistributed taxable income. In addition, we will be subject to a 4% nondeductible excise tax if the actual amount that we pay out to our shareholders in a calendar year is less than a minimum amount specified under federal tax laws.

From time to time, we may generate taxable income greater than our net income for financial reporting purposes or our taxable income may be greater than our cash flow available for distribution to shareholders. If we do not have other funds available in these situations, we could be required to borrow funds, sell investments at disadvantageous prices, or find another alternative source of funds to make distributions sufficient to enable us to pay out enough of our taxable income to satisfy the distribution requirement and to avoid corporate income tax and the 4% excise tax in a particular year. These alternatives could increase our costs or reduce our equity. We may elect to pay dividends on our common stock in cash or a combination of cash and shares of securities as permitted under federal income tax laws governing REIT distribution requirements.

### ***We may in the future choose to pay dividends in our common shares instead of cash, in which case shareholders may be required to pay income taxes in excess of the cash dividends they receive.***

Although we have no current intention to do so, we may, in the future, distribute taxable dividends that are payable in cash and common shares at the election of each shareholder. Taxable shareholders receiving such

---

**Table of Contents**

dividends will be required to include the full amount of the dividend as ordinary income to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, shareholders may be required to pay income taxes with respect to such dividends in excess of the cash dividends received. If a U.S. shareholder sells the common shares that it receives as a dividend in order to pay this tax, the sales proceeds may be less than the amount included in income with respect to the dividend, depending on the market price of our shares at the time of the sale. Furthermore, with respect to certain non-U.S. shareholders, we may be required to withhold U.S. federal income tax with respect to such dividends, including in respect of all or a portion of such dividend that is payable in common shares. In addition, if a significant number of our shareholders determine to sell common shares in order to pay taxes owed on dividends, it may put downward pressure on the trading price of our common shares.

It is unclear whether and to what extent we will be able to pay taxable dividends in cash and common shares in later years. Moreover, various aspects of such a taxable cash/share dividend are uncertain and have not yet been addressed by the IRS. No assurance can be given that the IRS will not impose additional requirements in the future with respect to taxable cash/share dividends, including on a retroactive basis, or assert that the requirements for such taxable cash/share dividends have not been met.

*We may be subject to adverse legislative or regulatory tax changes that could reduce the market price of our securities.*

At any time, the federal income tax laws governing REITs or the administrative interpretations of those laws may be amended. Any of those new laws or interpretations may take effect retroactively and could adversely affect us or our shareholders. Effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2002, the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 reduced the maximum rate of tax applicable to individuals on dividend income from regular C corporations from 38.6% to 15.0%. This reduced substantially the so-called double taxation (that is, taxation at both the corporate and shareholder levels) that has generally applied to corporations that are not taxed as REITs. Generally, dividends from REITs will not qualify for the dividend tax reduction. The implementation of this tax Act could ultimately cause individual investors to view stocks of non-REIT corporations as more attractive relative to shares of REITs because the dividends paid by non-REIT corporations would be subject to lower tax rates. We cannot predict whether in fact this will occur or whether, if it occurs, what the impact will be on the value of our securities. Unless extended, the provision allowing for reduction in the tax rate on dividend income from regular C corporations is scheduled to expire after December 31, 2012.

*Your investment in our securities has various federal, state, and local income tax risks that could affect the value of your investment.*

Although the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code relevant to your investment in our securities are generally described in Federal Income Tax Consequences of Our Status as a REIT, we strongly urge you to consult your own tax advisor concerning the effects of federal, state, and local income tax law on an investment in our securities because of the complex nature of the tax rules applicable to REITs and their shareholders.

**RISKS RELATED TO OUR CORPORATE STRUCTURE**

*There are no assurances of our ability to make distributions in the future.*

In February 2011, the Board of Directors accepted management's recommendation to resume paying cash dividends on our outstanding shares of common stock with an annualized target of \$0.40 per share for 2011. For the year ended December 31, 2011, we have declared dividends of \$0.40 per share. In December 2011, the Board of Directors approved our dividend policy for 2012 and we expect to pay a quarterly dividend of \$0.11 per share for 2012. However, our ability to pay dividends may be adversely affected by the risk factors described herein. All distributions will be made at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend upon our earnings, our financial condition, maintenance of our REIT status and such other factors as our Board of Directors may deem



---

**Table of Contents**

relevant from time to time. There are no assurances of our ability to pay dividends in the future. In addition, some of our distributions may include a return of capital.

***Failure to maintain an exemption from the Investment Company Act would adversely affect our results of operations.***

We believe that we will conduct our business in a manner that allows us to avoid registration as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, or the 1940 Act. Under Section 3(c)(5)(C) of the 1940 Act, entities that are primarily engaged in the business of purchasing or otherwise acquiring mortgages and other liens on and interests in real estate are not treated as investment companies. The SEC staff's position generally requires us to maintain at least 55% of our assets directly in qualifying real estate interests to be able to rely on this exemption. To constitute a qualifying real estate interest under this 55% requirement, a real estate interest must meet various criteria. Mortgage securities that do not represent all of the certificates issued with respect to an underlying pool of mortgages may be treated as securities separate from the underlying mortgage loans and, thus, may not qualify for purposes of the 55% requirement. Our ownership of these mortgage securities, therefore, is limited by the provisions of the 1940 Act and SEC staff interpretive positions. There are no assurances that efforts to pursue our intended investment program will not be adversely affected by operation of these rules.

***Our charter does not permit ownership in excess of 9.8% of our capital stock, and attempts to acquire our capital stock in excess of the 9.8% limit without approval from our Board of Directors are void.***

For the purpose of preserving our REIT qualification, our charter prohibits direct or constructive ownership by any person of more than 9.8% of the lesser of the total number or value of the outstanding shares of our common stock or more than 9.8% of the lesser of the total number or value of the outstanding shares of our preferred stock unless our Board of Directors grants a waiver. Our charter's constructive ownership rules are complex and may cause the outstanding stock owned by a group of related individuals or entities to be deemed to be constructively owned by one individual or entity. As a result, the acquisition of less than 9.8% of the outstanding stock by an individual or entity could cause that individual or entity to own constructively in excess of 9.8% of the outstanding stock, and thus be subject to our charter's ownership limit. Any attempt to own or transfer shares of our common or preferred stock in excess of the ownership limit without the consent of the Board of Directors will be void, and could result in the shares being automatically transferred to a charitable trust.

***Because provisions contained in Maryland law and our charter may have an anti-takeover effect, investors may be prevented from receiving a control premium for their shares.***

Provisions contained in our charter and Maryland general corporation law may have effects that delay, defer, or prevent a takeover attempt, which may prevent shareholders from receiving a control premium for their shares. For example, these provisions may defer or prevent tender offers for our common stock or purchases of large blocks of our common stock, thereby limiting the opportunities for our shareholders to receive a premium for their common stock over then-prevailing market prices. These provisions include the following:

**Ownership limit:** The ownership limit in our charter limits related investors, including, among other things, any voting group, from acquiring over 9.8% of our common stock without our permission.

**Classification of preferred stock:** Our charter authorizes our Board of Directors to issue preferred stock in one or more classes and to establish the preferences and rights of any class of preferred stock issued. These actions can be taken without soliciting shareholder approval. Our preferred stock issuances could have the effect of delaying or preventing someone from taking control of us, even if a change in control were in our shareholders' best interests.

## **Table of Contents**

Maryland statutory law provides that an act of a director relating to or affecting an acquisition or a potential acquisition of control of a corporation may not be subject to a higher duty or greater scrutiny than is applied to any other act of a director. Hence, directors of a Maryland corporation are not required to act in takeover situations under the same standards as apply in Delaware and other corporate jurisdictions.

***Offerings of debt securities, which would be senior to our common stock and any preferred stock upon liquidation, or equity securities, which would dilute our existing shareholders' holdings could be senior to our common stock for the purposes of dividend distributions, may adversely affect the market price of our common stock and any preferred stock.***

We may attempt to increase our capital resources by making additional offerings of debt or equity securities, including commercial paper, medium-term notes, senior or subordinated notes, convertible securities, and classes of preferred stock or common stock or classes of preferred units. Upon liquidation, holders of our debt securities or preferred units and lenders with respect to other borrowings will receive a distribution of our available assets prior to the holders of shares of preferred stock or common stock. Furthermore, holders of our debt securities and preferred stock or preferred units and lenders with respect to other borrowings will receive a distribution of our available assets prior to the holders of our common stock. Additional equity offerings may dilute the holdings of our existing shareholders or reduce the market price of our common or preferred stock or both. Our preferred stock or preferred units could have a preference on liquidating distributions or a preference on dividend payments that could limit our ability to make a dividend distribution to the holders of our common stock. Because our decision to issue securities in any future offering will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control, we cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing, or nature of our future offerings. Thus, our shareholders bear the risk of our future offerings reducing the market price of our securities and diluting their securities holdings in us.

***Securities eligible for future sale may have adverse effects on the market price of our securities.***

We cannot predict the effect, if any, of future sales of securities, or the availability of securities for future sales, on the market price of our outstanding securities. Sales of substantial amounts of common stock, or the perception that these sales could occur, may adversely affect prevailing market prices for our securities.

We also may issue from time to time additional securities or units of our operating partnership in connection with the acquisition of properties and we may grant additional demand or piggyback registration rights in connection with these issuances. Sales of substantial amounts of our securities or the perception that such sales could occur may adversely affect the prevailing market price for our securities or may impair our ability to raise capital through a sale of additional debt or equity securities.

***We depend on key personnel with long-standing business relationships. The loss of key personnel could threaten our ability to operate our business successfully.***

Our future success depends, to a significant extent, upon the continued services of our management team. In particular, the lodging industry experience of Messrs. Monty J. Bennett, Kessler, Brooks, Kimichik, and Nunneley and the extent and nature of the relationships they have developed with hotel franchisors, operators, and owners and hotel lending and other financial institutions are critically important to the success of our business. We do not maintain key person life insurance on any of our officers other than in connection with our deferred compensation plan. Although these officers currently have employment agreements with us, we cannot assure their continued employment. The loss of services of one or more members of our corporate management team could harm our business and our prospects.

***An increase in market interest rates may have an adverse effect on the market price of our securities.***

A factor investors may consider in deciding whether to buy or sell our securities is our dividend rate as a percentage of our share or unit price relative to market interest rates. If market interest rates increase, prospective

**Table of Contents**

investors may desire a higher dividend or interest rate on our securities or seek securities paying higher dividends or interest. The market price of our securities is likely based on the earnings and return that we derive from our investments, income with respect to our properties, and our related distributions to shareholders and not from the market value or underlying appraised value of the properties or investments themselves. As a result, interest rate fluctuations and capital market conditions can affect the market price of our securities. For instance, if interest rates rise without an increase in our dividend rate, the market price of our common or preferred stock could decrease because potential investors may require a higher dividend yield on our common or preferred stock as market rates on interest-bearing securities, such as bonds, rise. In addition, rising interest rates would result in increased interest expense on our variable rate debt, thereby adversely affecting cash flow and our ability to service our indebtedness and pay dividends.

*Our major policies, including our policies and practices with respect to investments, financing, growth, debt capitalization, and REIT qualification and distributions, are determined by our Board of Directors. Although we have no present intention to do so, our Board of Directors may amend or revise these and other policies from time to time without a vote of our shareholders. Accordingly, our shareholders will have limited control over changes in our policies and the changes could harm our business, results of operations, and share price.*

Changes in our strategy or investment or leverage policy could expose us to greater credit risk and interest rate risk or could result in a more leveraged balance sheet. We cannot predict the effect any changes to our current operating policies and strategies may have on our business, operating results, and stock price. However, the effects may be adverse.

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

**Table of Contents****Item 2. Properties**

**OFFICES.** We lease our headquarters located at 14185 Dallas Parkway, Suite 1100, Dallas, Texas 75254.

**HOTEL PROPERTIES.** As of December 31, 2011, we had ownership interests in 96 hotel properties that were included in our consolidated operations, which included direct ownership in 92 hotel properties and between 75%-85% ownership in four hotel properties through equity investments with joint venture partners. Currently, all of our hotel properties are located in the United States. The following table presents certain information related to our hotel properties.

Hotel Property	Location	Service Type	Total Rooms	% Owned	Owned Rooms	Year Ended December 31, 2011		
						Occupancy	ADR	RevPAR
<i>Fee Simple Properties</i>								
Embassy Suites	Austin, TX	Full	150	100%	150	75.77%	\$ 137.34	\$ 104.06
Embassy Suites	Dallas, TX	Full	150	100%	150	68.57%	\$ 113.08	\$ 77.54
Embassy Suites	Herndon, VA	Full	150	100%	150	75.42%	\$ 156.30	\$ 117.88
Embassy Suites	Las Vegas, NV	Full	220	100%	220	78.85%	\$ 116.75	\$ 92.06
Embassy Suites	Syracuse, NY	Full	215	100%	215	77.35%	\$ 114.05	\$ 88.21
Embassy Suites	Flagstaff, AZ	Full	119	100%	119	80.96%	\$ 117.63	\$ 95.23
Embassy Suites	Houston, TX	Full	150	100%	150	79.84%	\$ 148.60	\$ 118.65
Embassy Suites	West Palm Beach, FL	Full	160	100%	160	74.67%	\$ 112.18	\$ 83.77
Embassy Suites	Philadelphia, PA	Full	263	100%	263	75.38%	\$ 135.55	\$ 102.17
Embassy Suites	Walnut Creek, CA	Full	249	100%	249	79.29%	\$ 120.54	\$ 95.58
Embassy Suites	Arlington, VA	Full	267	100%	267	77.93%	\$ 193.10	\$ 150.48
Embassy Suites	Portland, OR	Full	276	100%	276	81.07%	\$ 154.82	\$ 125.51
Embassy Suites	Santa Clara, CA	Full	257	100%	257	77.76%	\$ 152.89	\$ 118.89
Embassy Suites	Orlando, FL	Full	174	100%	174	77.67%	\$ 123.79	\$ 96.16
Hilton Garden Inn	Jacksonville, FL	Select service	119	100%	119	63.23%	\$ 102.47	\$ 64.79
Hilton	Houston, TX	Full	243	100%	243	64.32%	\$ 108.88	\$ 70.03
Hilton	St. Petersburg, FL	Full	333	100%	333	68.34%	\$ 111.08	\$ 75.91
Hilton	Santa Fe, NM	Full	157	100%	157	71.82%	\$ 131.85	\$ 94.70
Hilton	Bloomington, MN	Full	300	100%	300	81.79%	\$ 117.30	\$ 95.94
Hilton	Washington DC	Full	544	75%	408	82.23%	\$ 212.17	\$ 174.46
Hilton	Costa Mesa, CA	Full	486	100%	486	75.69%	\$ 113.15	\$ 85.64
Hilton	Tucson, AZ	Full	428	100%	428	55.01%	\$ 119.64	\$ 65.82
Homewood Suites	Mobile, AL	Select service	86	100%	86	78.46%	\$ 110.60	\$ 86.78
Hampton Inn	Lawrenceville, GA	Select service	86	100%	86	58.18%	\$ 89.18	\$ 51.88
Hampton Inn	Evansville, IN	Select service	141	100%	141	70.86%	\$ 99.47	\$ 70.49
Hampton Inn	Terre Haute, IN	Select service	112	100%	112	71.73%	\$ 86.51	\$ 62.06
Hampton Inn	Buford, GA	Select service	92	100%	92	68.02%	\$ 105.51	\$ 71.77
Marriott	Durham, NC	Full	225	100%	225	60.07%	\$ 137.78	\$ 82.77
Marriott	Arlington, VA	Full	697	100%	697	73.71%	\$ 186.69	\$ 137.60
Marriott	Seattle, WA	Full	358	100%	358	74.84%	\$ 189.63	\$ 141.92
Marriott	Bridgewater, NJ	Full	347	100%	347	67.53%	\$ 177.11	\$ 119.60
Marriott	Plano, TX	Full	404	100%	404	63.20%	\$ 160.48	\$ 101.42
Marriott	Dallas, TX	Full	266	100%	266	67.66%	\$ 122.48	\$ 82.87
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Jacksonville, FL	Select service	102	100%	102	68.99%	\$ 83.69	\$ 57.53
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Baltimore, MD	Select service	133	100%	133	80.30%	\$ 113.13	\$ 90.84
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Kennesaw, GA	Select service	90	100%	90	65.19%	\$ 96.35	\$ 62.81
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Buford, GA	Select service	96	100%	96	69.63%	\$ 91.71	\$ 63.85
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Gaithersburg, MD	Select service	162	100%	162	61.40%	\$ 115.45	\$ 70.88
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Centreville, VA	Select service	136	100%	136	68.24%	\$ 89.53	\$ 61.10
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Charlotte, NC	Select service	136	100%	136	56.62%	\$ 91.79	\$ 51.97
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Durham, NC	Select service	120	100%	120	65.71%	\$ 81.95	\$ 53.78
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Orlando, FL	Select service	400	100%	400	71.26%	\$ 88.94	\$ 63.38
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Manhattan Beach, CA	Select service	164	100%	164	79.87%	\$ 107.58	\$ 85.92
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Plymouth Meeting, PA	Select service	199	100%	199	61.53%	\$ 116.69	\$ 71.80

**Table of Contents**

Hotel Property	Location	Service Type	Total Rooms	% Owned	Owned Rooms	Year Ended December 31, 2011		
						Occupancy	ADR	RevPAR
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Glen Allen, VA	Select service	136	100%	136	48.20%	\$ 84.70	\$ 40.82
Fairfield Inn by Marriott	Kennesaw, GA	Select service	87	100%	87	61.53%	\$ 80.91	\$ 49.78
Fairfield Inn by Marriott	Orlando, FL	Select service	388	100%	388	77.89%	\$ 73.71	\$ 57.41
Courtyard by Marriott	Bloomington, IN	Select service	117	100%	117	71.66%	\$ 118.67	\$ 85.04
Courtyard by Marriott	Columbus, IN	Select service	90	100%	90	69.53%	\$ 84.94	\$ 59.06
Courtyard by Marriott	Louisville, KY	Select service	150	100%	150	61.03%	\$ 125.16	\$ 76.39
Courtyard by Marriott	Crystal City, VA	Select service	272	100%	272	70.25%	\$ 151.75	\$ 106.61
Courtyard by Marriott	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Select service	174	100%	174	68.54%	\$ 95.36	\$ 65.36
Courtyard by Marriott	Overland Park, KS	Select service	168	100%	168	58.54%	\$ 90.51	\$ 52.99
Courtyard by Marriott	Palm Desert, CA	Select service	151	100%	151	53.87%	\$ 94.87	\$ 51.11
Courtyard by Marriott	Foothill Ranch, CA	Select service	156	100%	156	70.06%	\$ 101.32	\$ 70.98
Courtyard by Marriott	Alpharetta, GA	Select service	154	100%	154	68.61%	\$ 90.77	\$ 62.28
Courtyard by Marriott	Philadelphia, PA	Select service	498	100%	498	78.10%	\$ 147.17	\$ 114.92
Courtyard by Marriott	Seattle, WA	Select service	250	100%	250	69.87%	\$ 139.81	\$ 97.68
Courtyard by Marriott	San Francisco, CA	Select service	405	100%	405	85.98%	\$ 183.21	\$ 157.52
Courtyard by Marriott	Orlando, FL	Select service	312	100%	312	71.69%	\$ 90.41	\$ 64.82
Courtyard by Marriott	Oakland, CA	Select service	156	100%	156	73.36%	\$ 102.31	\$ 75.06
Courtyard by Marriott	Scottsdale, AZ	Select service	180	100%	180	71.36%	\$ 84.88	\$ 60.57
Courtyard by Marriott	Plano, TX	Select service	153	100%	153	67.05%	\$ 111.93	\$ 75.05
Courtyard by Marriott	Edison, NJ	Select service	146	100%	146	70.72%	\$ 102.34	\$ 72.38
Courtyard by Marriott	Newark, CA	Select service	181	100%	181	70.91%	\$ 86.27	\$ 61.17
Courtyard by Marriott	Manchester, CT	Select service	90	85%	77	71.74%	\$ 103.78	\$ 73.83
Courtyard by Marriott	Basking Ridge, NJ	Select service	235	100%	235	68.02%	\$ 154.45	\$ 105.06
Marriott Residence Inn	Lake Buena Vista, FL	Select service	210	100%	210	80.62%	\$ 118.29	\$ 95.36
Marriott Residence Inn	Evansville, IN	Select service	78	100%	78	79.62%	\$ 116.58	\$ 92.83
Marriott Residence Inn	Orlando, FL	Select service	350	100%	350	75.49%	\$ 104.66	\$ 79.01
Marriott Residence Inn	Falls Church, VA	Select service	159	100%	159	80.42%	\$ 148.14	\$ 119.14
Marriott Residence Inn	San Diego, CA	Select service	150	100%	150	80.89%	\$ 139.96	\$ 113.22
Marriott Residence Inn	Salt Lake City, UT	Select service	144	100%	144	68.53%	\$ 117.23	\$ 80.34
Marriott Residence Inn	Palm Desert, CA	Select service	130	100%	130	60.67%	\$ 111.86	\$ 67.87
Marriott Residence Inn	Las Vegas, NV	Select service	256	100%	256	71.92%	\$ 100.10	\$ 72.00
Marriott Residence Inn	Phoenix, AZ	Select service	200	100%	200	61.71%	\$ 108.98	\$ 67.25
Marriott Residence Inn	Plano, TX	Select service	126	100%	126	73.17%	\$ 99.03	\$ 72.46
Marriott Residence Inn	Newark, CA	Select service	168	100%	168	80.96%	\$ 94.81	\$ 76.76
Marriott Residence Inn	Manchester CT	Select service	96	85%	82	84.04%	\$ 109.07	\$ 91.66
Marriott Residence Inn Buckhead	Atlanta, GA	Select service	150	100%	150	73.13%	\$ 102.78	\$ 75.16
Marriott Residence Inn	Jacksonville, FL	Select service	120	100%	120	71.03%	\$ 91.74	\$ 65.16
TownePlace Suites by Marriott	Manhattan Beach, CA	Select service	144	100%	144	71.91%	\$ 101.98	\$ 76.39
One Ocean	Atlantic Beach, FL	Full	193	100%	193	55.48%	\$ 164.75	\$ 91.41
Sheraton Hotel	Langhorne, PA	Full	187	100%	187	67.26%	\$ 109.49	\$ 73.65
Sheraton Hotel	Minneapolis, MN	Full	222	100%	222	71.70%	\$ 104.29	\$ 74.77
Sheraton Hotel	Indianapolis, IN	Full	371	100%	371	64.75%	\$ 104.28	\$ 67.52
Sheraton Hotel	Anchorage, AK	Full	370	100%	370	71.29%	\$ 120.18	\$ 85.67
Sheraton Hotel	San Diego, CA	Full	260	100%	260	70.38%	\$ 101.66	\$ 71.55
Hyatt Regency	Coral Gables, FL	Full	242	100%	242	80.86%	\$ 157.32	\$ 127.21
Crowne Plaza	Beverly Hills, CA	Full	260	100%	260	82.91%	\$ 153.08	\$ 126.91
Annapolis Historic Inn	Annapolis, MD	Full	124	100%	124	61.40%	\$ 131.98	\$ 81.04
<b>Air Rights/Ground Lease Properties</b>								
Doubletree Guest Suites <sup>(a)</sup>	Columbus, OH	Full	194	100%	194	73.10%	\$ 108.66	\$ 79.44
Hilton <sup>(b)</sup>	Ft. Worth, TX	Full	294	100%	294	77.12%	\$ 136.56	\$ 105.32
Hilton <sup>(c)</sup>	La Jolla, CA	Full	394	75%	296	75.91%	\$ 157.27	\$ 119.39
Crowne Plaza <sup>(d)</sup>	Key West, FL	Full	160	100%	160	85.11%	\$ 206.66	\$ 175.89
Renaissance <sup>(e)</sup>	Tampa, FL	Full	293	100%	293	75.89%	\$ 149.43	\$ 113.40
Total			20,656		20,395	72.20%	\$ 128.67	\$ 92.87

<sup>(a)</sup> This hotel was built on an air rights lease above the parking garage that expires in 2070.

<sup>(b)</sup> The partial ground lease expires in 2040.

- (c) The ground lease expires in 2043.
- (d) The ground lease expires in 2084.
- (e) The ground lease expires in 2080.

**Table of Contents**

**Item 3.     *Legal Proceedings***

We are currently subject to litigation arising in the normal course of our business. In the opinion of management, none of these lawsuits or claims against us, either individually or in the aggregate, is likely to have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, or financial condition. In addition, we believe we have adequate insurance in place to cover such litigation.

**Item 4.     *Mine Safety Disclosures***

None

**Table of Contents****PART II****Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters, and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities****(a) Market Price of and Dividends on, Registrant's Common Equity and Related Stockholder Matters****Market Price and Dividend Information**

Our common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AHT. On February 21, 2012, there were 103 registered holders of record of our common stock. In order to comply with certain requirements related to our qualification as a REIT, our charter limits the number of shares of capital stock that may be owned by any single person or affiliated group without our permission to 9.8% of the outstanding shares of any class of our capital stock. We are aware of two Section 13G filers that presently each hold in excess of 9.8% of our outstanding common shares, but our Board of Directors has passed waiver requests which grant each of these holders an exception to our ownership restrictions, and which are still in effect.

The following table sets forth, for the indicated periods, the high and low sales prices for our common stock as traded on that exchange and cash distributions declared per common share:

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
<b>2011</b>				
High	\$ 11.18	\$ 14.32	\$ 12.90	\$ 9.15
Low	\$ 9.09	\$ 10.82	\$ 5.93	\$ 6.18
Close	\$ 11.02	\$ 12.45	\$ 7.02	\$ 8.00
Cash dividends declared per share	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10
<b>2010</b>				
High	\$ 7.42	\$ 9.67	\$ 9.58	\$ 10.81
Low	\$ 4.68	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.46	\$ 9.00
Close	\$ 7.17	\$ 7.33	\$ 9.05	\$ 9.65
Cash dividends declared per share	\$	\$	\$	\$

In February 2011, the Board of Directors accepted management's recommendation to resume paying cash dividends on our outstanding shares of common stock with an annualized target of \$0.40 per share for 2011. For the year ended December 31, 2011, we have declared dividends of \$0.40 per share. In December 2011, the Board of Directors approved our dividend policy for 2012 and we expect to pay a quarterly dividend of \$0.11 per share for 2012. The adoption of a dividend policy does not commit our Board of Directors to declare future dividends or the amount thereof. The Board of Directors will continue to review our dividend policy on a quarterly basis. We may incur indebtedness to meet distribution requirements imposed on REITs under the Internal Revenue Code to the extent that working capital and cash flow from our investments are insufficient to fund required distributions. Or, we may elect to pay dividends on our common stock in cash or a combination of cash and shares of securities as permitted under federal income tax laws governing REIT distribution requirements. To maintain our qualification as a REIT, we intend to make annual distributions to our shareholders of at least 90% of our REIT taxable income, excluding net capital gains (which does not necessarily equal net income as calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles). Distributions will be authorized by our Board of Directors and declared by us based upon a variety of factors deemed relevant by our Directors. Our ability to pay distributions to our shareholders will depend, in part, upon our receipt of distributions from our operating partnership. This, in turn, may depend upon receipt of lease payments with respect to our properties from indirect, wholly-owned subsidiaries of our operating partnership and the management of our properties by our property managers.



**Table of Contents****Characterization of Distributions**

For income tax purposes, distributions paid consist of ordinary income, capital gains, return of capital or a combination thereof. Distributions paid per share were characterized as follows:

	2011		2010		2009	
	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%
<b>Common Stock:</b>						
Ordinary income	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Capital gain						
Return of capital	0.3000 <sup>(1)</sup>	100.00				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 0.3000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Preferred Stock Series A:</b>						
Ordinary income	\$ 1.5092	70.60%	\$	%	\$ 2.13750	100.00%
Capital gain						
Return of capital	0.6283 <sup>(1)</sup>	29.40	1.6031 <sup>(1)</sup>	100.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2.1375</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 1.6031</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 2.13750</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Preferred Stock Series D:</b>						
Ordinary income	\$ 1.4915	70.60%	\$	%	\$ 2.11250	100.00%
Capital gain						
Return of capital	0.6210 <sup>(1)</sup>	29.40	1.5844 <sup>(1)</sup>	100.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2.1125</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 1.5844</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 2.11250</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Preferred Stock Series E:</b>						
Ordinary income	\$ 0.7193	70.60%	\$	%	\$	%
Capital gain						
Return of capital	0.2995 <sup>(1)</sup>	29.40				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1.0188</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> The fourth quarter 2010 preferred distributions, paid January 14, 2011, are treated as 2011 distributions for tax purposes. The fourth quarter 2011 preferred and common distributions paid January 16, 2012 are treated as 2012 distributions for tax purposes.

**Equity Compensation Plan Information**

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to securities authorized and available for issuance under our equity compensation plans.

	Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants, and Rights	Weighted-Average Exercise Price Of Outstanding Options, Warrants, And Rights	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance

Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

Equity compensation plans approved by security holders:			
Restricted common stock	None	N/A	4,584,129 <sup>(1)</sup>
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	None	N/A	None

<sup>(1)</sup> As of December 31, 2011, 8,568 shares of our common stock, or securities convertible into 8,568 shares of our common stock, remain available for issuance under our Amended and Restated 2003 Stock Incentive Plan and 4,575,561 shares of our common stock, or securities convertible into 4,575,561 shares of our common stock, remain available for issuance under our 2011 Stock Incentive Plan.

**Table of Contents****Performance Graph**

The following graph compares the percentage change in the cumulative total shareholder return on our common stock with the cumulative total return of the S&P 500 Stock Index, the FTSE NAREIT Mortgage REITs Index, and the NAREIT Lodging & Resorts Index for the period from December 31, 2006 through December 31, 2011, assuming an initial investment of \$100 in stock on December 31, 2006 with reinvestment of dividends. The NAREIT Lodging Resorts Index is not a published index; however, we believe the companies included in this index provide a representative example of enterprises in the lodging resort line of business in which we engage. Shareholders who wish to request a list of companies in the NAREIT Lodging Resorts Index may send written requests to Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc., Attention: Shareholder Relations, 14185 Dallas Parkway, Suite 1100, Dallas, Texas 75254.

The stock price performance shown below on the graph is not necessarily indicative of future price performance.

**Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer**

The following table provides the information with respect to purchases of shares of our common stock during each of the months in the fourth quarter of 2011:

<b>Period</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased</b>	<b>Average Price Paid Per Share</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plan<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Maximum Dollar Value of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plan</b>
<b>Common stock:</b>				
October 1 to October 31		\$		\$ 200,000,000
November 1 to November 30		\$		\$ 200,000,000
December 1 to December 31		\$		\$ 200,000,000
<b>Total</b>		\$		

<sup>(1)</sup> In September 2011, our Board of Directors authorized the reinstatement of our 2007 share repurchase program and authorized an increase in repurchase plan authorization from the remaining \$58.4 million to \$200.0 million. The plan provides for: (i) the repurchase of shares of our common stock, Series A preferred stock, Series D preferred stock and Series E preferred stock, and /or (ii) discounted purchases of outstanding debt obligations, including debt secured by hotel assets.

**Table of Contents****Item 6. Selected Financial Data**

The following sets forth our selected consolidated financial and operating information on a historical basis and should be read together with Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto, which are included in Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
	(in thousands, except per share amounts)				
<b>Statements of Operations Data:</b>					
Total revenue	\$ 889,797	\$ 838,624	\$ 837,684	\$ 1,027,550	\$ 876,986
Total operating expenses	\$ 798,372	\$ 820,709	\$ 919,500	\$ 873,197	\$ 745,465
Operating income (loss)	\$ 91,425	\$ 17,915	\$ (81,816)	\$ 154,353	\$ 131,521
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 3,989	\$ (71,304)	\$ (188,393)	\$ 98,250	\$ 1,018
Income (loss) from discontinued operations	\$ (4,106)	\$ 9,512	\$ (100,267)	\$ 47,421	\$ 35,420
Net income (loss) attributable to the Company	\$ 2,109	\$ (51,740)	\$ (250,242)	\$ 129,194	\$ 30,160
Net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders	\$ (44,767)	\$ (72,934)	\$ (269,564)	\$ 102,552	\$ 6,170
Diluted income (loss) per common share:					
Income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to common shareholders	\$ (0.66)	\$ (1.59)	\$ (2.67)	\$ 0.53	\$ (0.24)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations attributable to common shareholders	(0.07)	0.16	(1.26)	0.38	0.29
Net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders	\$ (0.73)	\$ (1.43)	\$ (3.93)	\$ 0.91	\$ 0.05
Weighted average diluted common shares	61,954	51,159	68,597	111,295	105,787

	At December 31,				
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
	(in thousands)				
<b>Balance Sheets Data:</b>					
Investments in hotel properties, net	\$ 2,957,899	\$ 3,023,736	\$ 3,383,759	\$ 3,568,215	\$ 3,885,737
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 167,609	\$ 217,690	\$ 165,168	\$ 241,597	\$ 92,271
Restricted cash	\$ 84,069	\$ 67,666	\$ 77,566	\$ 69,806	\$ 52,872
Notes receivable	\$ 11,199	\$ 20,870	\$ 55,655	\$ 212,815	\$ 94,225
Total assets	\$ 3,589,726	\$ 3,716,524	\$ 3,914,498	\$ 4,339,682	\$ 4,380,411
Indebtedness of continuing operations	\$ 2,362,458	\$ 2,518,164	\$ 2,772,396	\$ 2,790,364	\$ 2,639,546
Series B-1 preferred stock	\$	\$ 72,986	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Total shareholders' equity of the Company	\$ 973,407	\$ 816,808	\$ 837,976	\$ 1,212,219	\$ 1,285,003

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
	(in thousands)				
<b>Other Data:</b>					
Cash provided by operating activities	\$ 74,593	\$ 82,647	\$ 65,614	\$ 144,995	\$ 155,727
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities	\$ (47,774)	\$ (47,476)	\$ (44,754)	\$ 168,455	\$ (1,872,900)
Cash provided by (used in) financing activities	\$ (76,900)	\$ 17,351	\$ (97,289)	\$ (164,124)	\$ 1,736,032
Cash dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.40	\$	\$	\$ 0.63	\$ 0.80
EBITDA (unaudited) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 361,029	\$ 331,911	\$ 231,337	\$ 472,836	\$ 357,151
Funds From Operations (FFO) (unaudited) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 74,188	\$ 107,696	\$ 64,464	\$ 240,862	\$ 147,680

<sup>(1)</sup> A more detailed description and computation of FFO and EBITDA is contained in the Non-GAAP Financial Measures section of Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in Item 7.



---

**Table of Contents**

**Item 7. *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations***

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW**

**General**

Following a recession that lasted over two years, beginning in 2010 the lodging industry started experiencing improvement in fundamentals, specifically occupancy and this improvement continued into 2011. Room rates, measured by the average daily rate, or ADR, which typically lags occupancy growth in the early stage of a recovery, have shown upward growth. We believe the improvements in the economy will continue to positively impact the lodging industry and hotel operating results for 2012, and we intend to continue to seek ways to benefit from the cyclical nature of the hotel industry. We believe that in the current cycle, hotel values and cash flows, for the most part, peaked in 2007, and we believe we will not achieve similar cash flows and values in the immediate future. Industry experts have suggested that cash flows within our industry may achieve these previous highs again during the period 2014 through 2016.

As of December 31, 2011, we owned 92 hotel properties directly, and four hotel properties through majority-owned investments in joint ventures, which represents 20,656 total rooms, or 20,395 net rooms excluding those attributable to our joint venture partners. Currently, all of our hotel properties are located in the United States. In March 2011, we acquired 96 hotel condominium units at WorldQuest Resort in Orlando, Florida for \$12.0 million. Also in March 2011, with an investment of \$150.0 million, we converted our interest in a joint venture that held a mezzanine loan into a 71.74% common equity interest and a \$25.0 million preferred equity interest in a new joint venture (the PIM Highland JV ) that holds 28 high quality full and select service hotel properties with 8,084 total rooms, or 5,800 net rooms excluding those attributable to our joint venture partner. At December 31, 2011, we also wholly owned one mezzanine loan of \$3.1 million and one note receivable of \$8.1 million in connection with a joint venture restructuring.

Based on our primary business objectives and forecasted operating conditions, our current key priorities and financial strategies include, among other things:

acquisition of hotel properties;

disposition of hotel properties;

investing in securities;

pursuing capital market activities to enhance long-term shareholder value;

repurchasing capital stock subject to regulatory limitations and our Board of Directors' authorization;

preserving capital, enhancing liquidity, and continuing current cost saving measures;

implementing selective capital improvements designed to increase profitability;

implementing effective asset management strategies to minimize operating costs and increase revenues;

financing or refinancing hotels on competitive terms;

utilizing hedges and derivatives to mitigate risks; and

making other investments or divestitures that our Board of Directors deems appropriate.

Our investment strategies continue to focus on the upscale and upper-upscale segments within the lodging industry. We believe that as supply, demand, and capital market cycles change, we will be able to shift our

---

**Table of Contents**

investment strategies to take advantage of new lodging-related investment opportunities as they may develop. Our Board of Directors may change our investment strategies at any time without shareholder approval or notice.

**SIGNIFICANT TRANSACTIONS IN 2011 AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

**Restructuring and Extension of a Mortgage Loan** In December 2011, we successfully restructured a \$203.4 million mortgage loan and extended the maturity date from December 2011 to March 2014. There is also a one-year extension option subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions. The restructuring provides for a new interest rate of LIBOR plus 4.5% with no LIBOR floor. At the closing of the restructuring, we paid down the loan by \$25.0 million to \$178.4 million. In connection with the restructuring and extension of the mortgage loan, we entered into an interest rate cap agreement through the new maturity date with a strike rate of 6.25% on \$178.4 million notional amount for \$68,000.

In addition, we are engaged in negotiations with the existing lenders to restructure and extend the \$167.2 million non-recourse portfolio mortgage loan that matures in May 2012. On a parallel path, we are also in discussions with third party lenders to refinance this loan.

**Reinstatement of Share Repurchase Program and Increased Authorization** In September 2011, our Board of Directors authorized the reinstatement of our 2007 share repurchase program and authorized an increase in our repurchase plan authority from \$58.4 million to \$200 million (excluding fees, commissions and all other ancillary expenses). Under this plan, the board has authorized: (i) the repurchase of shares of our common stock, Series A preferred stock, Series D preferred stock and Series E preferred stock, and/or (ii) discounted purchases of our outstanding debt obligations, including debt secured by our hotel assets. We intend to fund any repurchases or discounted debt purchases with the net proceeds from asset sales, cash flow from operations, existing cash on the balance sheet, and other sources. As of December 31, 2011, no shares of our common or preferred stock have been repurchased under the share repurchase program since its reinstatement.

**New Credit Facility** In September 2011, we obtained a new \$105.0 million senior credit facility which matures in September 2014 with a one-year extension option and replaces our previous credit line that was scheduled to mature in April 2012. The new credit facility provides for a three-year revolving line of credit priced at 275 to 350 basis points over LIBOR or Base Rate, as defined in the agreement, which is the same as our previous credit line. The new credit facility includes the opportunity to expand the borrowing capacity by up to \$45.0 million to an aggregate size of \$150.0 million upon a request by us and the consent of each lender, provided there is no default or event of default and each representation and warranty made or deemed made by us remains true and correct in all material respects on the effective date of such increase. The previous credit line was repaid in full in July 2011. The financial covenant tests with respect to fixed charge coverage ratio and leverage tests are similar to our previous credit line. On February 21, 2012, we closed on expanding the borrowing capacity to an aggregate \$145.0 million.

**Credit Default Swap Transactions** In August 2011, we entered into credit default swap transactions for a notional amount of \$100.0 million to hedge financial and capital market risk for an upfront cost of \$8.2 million that was subsequently returned to us by our counterparty. A credit default swap is a derivative contract that works like an insurance policy against the credit risk of an entity or obligation. The credit risk underlying the credit default swaps are referenced to the CMBX index. The CMBX is a group of indices that references underlying bonds from 25 Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities (CMBS), tranching by rating class. The CMBX is traded via pay-as-you-go credit default swaps, which involve ongoing, two-way payments over the life of the contract between the buyer and the seller of protection. The reference obligations are CMBS bonds. The seller of protection assumes the credit risk of the reference obligation from the buyer of protection in exchange for payments of an annual premium. If there is a default or a loss, as defined in the credit default swap agreements, on the underlying bonds, then the buyer of protection is protected against those losses. The only liability for Ashford, the buyer of protection, is the annual premium and any change in value of the underlying CMBX index (if the trade is terminated prior to maturity). For the CMBX trades that we have completed, we were the buyer of



**Table of Contents**

protection in all trades. Assuming the underlying bonds pay off at par over their remaining average life, our total exposure for these trades is approximately \$8.5 million. The fair value of the credit default swaps is obtained from a third party who publishes various information including the index composition and price data. The change in the market value of the credit default swaps is settled net through posting cash collateral or reclaiming cash collateral between us and our counterparty when the change in the market value is over \$250,000. As of December 31, 2011, the credit default swap had a net carrying value of a liability of \$2,000, and since inception we have recognized an unrealized loss of \$1.3 million. See Notes 10 and 11 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8.

**Sale of Additional Shares of Our Common Stock** In July 2011, we reissued 7.0 million of our treasury shares at \$12.50 per share and received net proceeds of \$83.2 million. The net proceeds were used to repay the \$50.0 million outstanding balance on our senior credit facility and for general corporate purposes, including investments, capital expenditures and working capital.

In January 2011, an underwriter purchased 300,000 shares of our common stock through the partial exercise of the underwriter's 1.125 million share over-allotment option in connection with the issuance of 7.5 million shares of common stock completed in December 2010, and we received net proceeds of \$2.8 million, which were used for general corporate purposes.

**Investments in Securities and Other** We continually seek new and alternative strategies to leverage our industry and capital markets knowledge in ways that we believe will be accretive to our company. We believe that we can utilize the same real-time information we use to manage our portfolio and capital structure to invest capital in the public markets. To implement this investment strategy, during the second quarter of 2011, our Board of Directors authorized the formation of an investment subsidiary to invest in public securities and other investments. These investments are carried at fair market value. Our maximum aggregate net investment amount is limited to \$20 million. As of December 31, 2011, based on the closing price of the securities, we recorded total investments in securities and other of \$21.4 million and liabilities associated with investments in securities of \$2.2 million. Through December 31, 2011, we recognized unrealized losses of \$391,000. We also recognized realized losses of \$981,000 and investment income of \$2,000, or a net investment loss of \$979,000. See Notes 10 and 11 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8.

**Preferred Stock Offering and Redemption of Series B-1 Convertible Preferred Stock** In April 2011, we completed the offering of 3.35 million shares (including 350,000 shares pursuant to the underwriters' exercise of an over-allotment option) of our 9.00% Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock at a net price of \$24.2125 per share, and we received net proceeds of \$80.8 million after underwriting fees. Of the net proceeds from the offering, \$73.0 million was used to redeem 5.9 million shares of the total 7.3 million shares of our Series B-1 convertible preferred stock outstanding on May 3, 2011. The remaining proceeds were used for other general corporate purposes. The remaining 1.4 million outstanding Series B-1 convertible preferred shares were converted into 1.4 million shares of our common stock, which was treated as a stock dividend of \$17.4 million paid to the Series B-1 preferred shareholder in accordance with the applicable accounting guidance.

In October 2011, we issued and sold an additional 1.3 million shares of our 9.00% Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock at a price of \$23.47 per share, in an underwritten public offering pursuant to an effective registration statement. We received net proceeds of \$28.9 million after underwriting fees. The proceeds from the offering may be used for general corporate purposes, including, without limitation, repayment of debt or other maturing obligations, financing future hotel related investments, capital expenditures and working capital. A portion of the proceeds may also be used for repurchasing shares of our common stock under our existing repurchase program.

**At-the-Market Preferred Stock Offering** On September 30, 2011, we entered into an at-the-market ( ATM ) program with an investment banking firm, pursuant to which we may issue up to 700,000 shares of 8.55% Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock and up to 700,000 shares of 8.45% Series D Cumulative Preferred

---

**Table of Contents**

Stock at market prices up to \$30.0 million. No shares of our preferred stock have sold under this program as of the date of this report.

**Repayment of a Mezzanine Loan** In April 2011, we entered into a settlement agreement with the borrower of the mezzanine loan which was secured by a 105-hotel property portfolio and scheduled to mature in April 2011. The borrower paid off the loan for \$22.1 million. The difference between the settlement amount and the carrying value of \$17.9 million was recorded as a credit to impairment charges in accordance with applicable accounting guidance.

**Acquisition of Hotel Properties Securing Mezzanine Loans Held in Unconsolidated Joint Ventures** In July 2010, as a strategic complement to our existing joint venture with Prudential Real Estate Investors ( PREI ) formed in 2008, we contributed \$15.0 million for an ownership interest in a new joint venture with PREI. The new joint venture acquired a portion of the tranche 4 mezzanine loan associated with JER Partners' 2007 privatization of the JER/Highland Hospitality portfolio (the Highland Portfolio ). The mezzanine loan was secured by the same 28 hotel properties as our then existing joint venture investment in the tranche 6 mezzanine loan. Both of these mezzanine loans had been in default since August 2010. After negotiating with the borrowers, senior secured lenders and senior mezzanine lenders for a restructuring, we, through a new joint venture, the PIM Highland JV, with PRISA III Investments, LLC ( PRISA III ) (an affiliate of PREI), invested \$150.0 million and PRISA III invested \$50.0 million of new capital to acquire the 28 high quality full and select service hotel properties comprising the Highland Portfolio on March 10, 2011. We and PRISA III have ownership interests of 71.74% and 28.26%, respectively, in the new joint venture. In addition to the common equity splits, we and PRISA III each have a \$25.0 million preferred equity interest earning an accrued but unpaid 15% annual return with priority over common equity distributions. Our investment in the PIM Highland JV is accounted for using the equity method and the carrying value was \$179.5 million at December 31, 2011. The PIM Highland JV recognized a gain of \$82.1 million related to a bargain purchase and settlement of a pre-existing relationship, of which our share was \$46.3 million. The purchase price allocation has been finalized as of December 31, 2011. See Note 5 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8.

**Litigation Settlement** In March 2011, we entered into a Consent and Settlement Agreement (the Settlement Agreement ) with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ( Wells ) to resolve potential disputes and claims between us and Wells relating to our purchase of a participation interest in certain mezzanine loans. Wells denied the allegations in our complaint and further denies any liability for the claims asserted by us; however, the Settlement Agreement was entered into to resolve our claims against Wells and to secure Wells' consent to our participation in the Highland Hospitality Portfolio restructuring. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, Wells agreed to pay us \$30.0 million over the next five years, or earlier, if certain conditions are satisfied. As part of the Settlement Agreement, we and Wells have agreed to a mutual release of claims. We received the settlement payment of \$30.0 million and paid legal costs of \$6.9 million in June 2011. The settlement amount was recorded as Other income and the legal costs of \$6.9 million were recorded as Corporate general and administrative expenses in the consolidated statements of operations.

**Acquisition of Condominium Properties** In March 2011, we acquired real estate and certain other rights in connection with the acquisition of the WorldQuest Resort, a condominium hotel project. More specifically, we acquired 96 condominium units, hotel amenities, land and improvements, developable raw land, developer rights and Rental Management Agreements ( RMAs ) with third party owners of condominium units in the project. Units owned by third parties with RMAs and all of the 96 units we acquired participate in a rental pool program whereby the units are rented to guests similar to a hotel operation. Under the terms of the RMAs, we share in a percentage of the guest room revenues and are reimbursed for certain costs. In the third quarter 2011, we sold two of the completed units at a price of \$175,000 each and realized a gain of \$96,000. All of the units owned at December 31, 2011, are included in Investment in hotel properties, net in the consolidated balance sheets.

**Resumption of Common Dividends** In February 2011, the Board of Directors accepted management's recommendation to resume paying cash dividends on our outstanding shares of common stock with an annualized

**Table of Contents**

target of \$0.40 per share for 2011. For the year ended December 31, 2011, we have declared dividends of \$0.40 per share. In December 2011, the Board of Directors approved our dividend policy for 2012 and we expect to pay a quarterly dividend of \$0.11 per share for 2012. The adoption of a dividend policy does not commit our Board of Directors to declare future dividends or the amount thereof. The Board of Directors will continue to review its dividend policy on a quarterly basis.

**Completion of Sales of Hotel Properties** In 2011, we completed the sale of four hotel properties, the Hampton Inn hotel in Jacksonville, Florida, the JW Marriott hotel in San Francisco, California, the Hilton hotel in Rye Town, New York and the Hampton Inn hotel in Houston, Texas. We received total proceeds of \$153.7 million and repaid the related mortgage debt of \$50.2 million. We used the net proceeds to reduce \$70.0 million of the borrowings on our senior credit facility. We recorded an impairment charge of \$6.2 million on the Jacksonville Hampton Inn hotel property in June 2011, based on the selling price. The operating results of these hotel properties, including the impairment charge, for all periods presented have been reported as discontinued operations in the consolidated statements of operations.

**LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

Our cash position from operations is affected primarily by macro industry movements in occupancy and rate as well as by our ability to control costs. Further, the movement in interest rates, can greatly affect the cost of our floating-rate debt. We monitor very closely the industry fundamentals as well as interest rates. Capital expenditures above our reserves will affect cash flow as well.

In September 2011, we entered into an at-the-market ( ATM ) program with an investment banking firm to authorize the issuance of up to 700,000 shares of our 8.55% Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock and up to 700,000 shares of our 8.45% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock at market prices. No shares were sold as of the date of this report. In September 2010, we entered into an ATM program with an investment banking firm to offer for sale from time to time up to \$50.0 million of our common stock at market prices. No shares were sold during 2011. Proceeds from our ATM programs, to the extent the programs are utilized, are expected to be used for general corporate purposes including investments and reduction of debt.

In February 2010, we entered into a Standby Equity Distribution Agreement (the SEDA ) with YA Global Master SPV Ltd. ( YA Global ) that terminates in 2013, and is available to provide us additional liquidity if needed. Pursuant to the SEDA, YA Global has agreed to purchase up to \$50.0 million (which may be increased to \$65.0 million pursuant to the SEDA) of newly issued shares of our common stock if notified to do so by us in accordance with the SEDA. No shares were sold during 2011.

Our principal sources of funds to meet our cash requirements include: positive cash flow from operations, capital market activities, property refinancing proceeds, asset sales, and net cash derived from interest rate derivatives. Additionally, our principal uses of funds are expected to include possible operating shortfalls, owner-funded capital expenditures, new investments and debt interest and principal payments. Items that impacted our cash flow and liquidity during the periods indicated are summarized as follows:

***Net Cash Flows Provided By Operating Activities.*** Net cash flows provided by operating activities, pursuant to our Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, which includes the changes in balance sheet items, were \$74.6 million and \$82.6 million for 2011 and 2010, respectively. The decrease in cash flows from operating activities was primarily due to the net investment of \$20.1 million in trading securities, the timing of collecting receivables from hotel guests, paying vendors and settling with hotel managers and an increase in restricted cash due to additional cash deposits for certain debt services and capital expenditures. The decrease was partially offset by a net litigation settlement payment of \$23.1 million.

***Net Cash Flows Used In Investing Activities.*** In 2011, investing activities used net cash flows of \$47.8 million. Cash outlays consisted of \$145.4 million for the acquisition of the 71.74% interest in PIM Highland JV,

**Table of Contents**

\$12.0 million for the acquisition of hotel condominiums, and \$67.8 million for capital improvements made to various hotel properties. Cash inflows consisted of \$154.0 million from the sale of four hotel properties and two condominium properties, \$22.6 million from repayment of mezzanine loans and \$748,000 of insurance proceeds from settlement of insurance claims. In 2010, investing activities used cash of \$47.5 million. Principal payments on notes receivable generated total cash of \$28.3 million and the net cash proceeds from disposition of hotel properties was \$1.4 million. We received \$4.9 million net cash proceeds from the sale of the Hilton Suites in Auburn Hills, Michigan and a cash balance of \$3.5 million was removed from our consolidated balance sheet as the Westin O Hare hotel property was deconsolidated at the completion of the deed-in-lieu of foreclosure. Cash outlays consisted of a \$15.0 million cash contribution to a joint venture for a 50% ownership interest in a mezzanine loan and capital improvements of \$62.2 million made to various hotel properties.

***Net Cash Flows Provided by (Used in) Financing Activities.*** For 2011, net cash flows used in financing activities were \$76.9 million. Cash outlays consisted of \$73.0 million for the repurchase of our Series B-1 preferred stock, \$53.3 million for dividend payments to common and preferred stockholders and operating partnership unit holders, \$6.0 million payment for loan modification and extension fees, \$235.8 million for repayments of indebtedness and capital leases, \$3.2 million of distributions to noncontrolling interest joint venture partners, and \$97,000 payment for entering into interest rate caps. These cash outlays were partially offset by cash inflows of \$109.8 million from issuance of Series E preferred stock, \$25.0 million from borrowings on our senior credit facility, \$86.0 million from issuance of 7.3 million shares of common stock, \$72.7 million from the counterparties of our interest rate derivatives, and \$970,000 from the holder of the Series B-1 preferred stock for short swing profit and buy-in payments from the issuance of operating partnership units.

For 2010, financing activities provided net cash inflows of \$17.4 million. Cash inflows for 2010 consisted of \$259.0 million from borrowings under our senior credit facility and mortgage refinances, \$72.2 million from issuance of 3.3 million shares of Series D preferred stock, \$70.4 million from reissuance of 7.5 million shares of treasury stock, \$62.2 million from the counterparties of our interest rate derivatives, and \$1.0 million of contributions from a noncontrolling interest joint venture partner. For 2010, cash outlays consisted of \$365.7 million for repayments of indebtedness and capital leases, \$45.1 million for purchases of common stock, \$24.0 million for dividend payments to preferred shareholders and unit holders, \$7.1 million payment for loan modification and extension fees, \$5.3 million for the redemption of operating partnership units, \$333,000 distribution to a noncontrolling interest joint venture partner, and \$75,000 for purchases of interest rate caps.

We are required to maintain certain financial ratios under various debt and derivative agreements. If we violate covenants in any debt or derivative agreement, we could be required to repay all or a portion of our indebtedness before maturity at a time when we might be unable to arrange financing for such repayment on attractive terms, if at all. Violations of certain debt covenants may result in us being unable to borrow unused amounts under a line of credit, even if repayment of some or all borrowings is not required. In any event, financial covenants under our current or future debt obligations could impair our planned business strategies by limiting our ability to borrow (i) beyond certain amounts or (ii) for certain purposes. Presently, our existing financial debt covenants primarily relate to maintaining minimum debt coverage ratios, maintaining an overall minimum net worth, maintaining a maximum loan to value ratio, and maintaining an overall minimum total assets. As of December 31, 2011, we were in compliance in all material respects with all covenants or other requirements set forth in our debt and related agreements as amended.

The mortgage and mezzanine loans securing the Highland Portfolio are nonrecourse to the borrowers, except for customary exceptions, or carve-outs, that trigger recourse liability to the borrowers in certain limited instances. The recourse obligations typically include only the payment of costs and liabilities suffered by the lenders as a result of the occurrence of certain bad acts on the part of the borrower; however, in certain cases, the carve-outs could trigger recourse obligations on the part of the borrower with respect to repayment of all or a portion of the outstanding principal amount of the loans. We have entered into customary guaranty agreements pursuant to which we guaranty payment of any recourse liabilities of the borrowers that result from the non-recourse carve-outs (which include, but are not limited to, fraud, misrepresentation, willful conduct resulting

---

**Table of Contents**

in waste, misappropriations of rents following an event of default, voluntary bankruptcy filings, unpermitted transfers of collateral and certain environmental liabilities). In the opinion of management, none of these guaranty agreements, either individually or in the aggregate, are likely to have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, or financial condition.

Virtually, our only recourse obligation is our \$105.0 million senior credit facility held by four banks, which expires in September 2014. Currently, there is no outstanding balance on this credit facility. The main covenants in this senior credit facility include (i) the minimum fixed charge coverage ratio, as defined, of 1.35x through expiration (ours was 1.70x at December 31, 2011); and (ii) the maximum leverage ratio, as defined, of 65% (ours was 58.8% at December 31, 2011). In the event we borrow on this credit facility, we may be unable to refinance a portion or all of this senior credit facility before maturity, and if it becomes necessary to pay down the principal balance, if any, at maturity, we believe we will be able to accomplish that with cash on hand, cash flows from operations, equity raises or, to the extent necessary, asset sales.

Based upon the current level of operations, management believes that our cash flow from operations along with our cash balances and the amount available under our senior credit facility (\$105.0 million at December 31, 2011) will be adequate to meet upcoming anticipated requirements for interest and principal payments on debt, working capital, and capital expenditures for the next 12 months. With respect to upcoming maturities, we will continue to proactively address our upcoming 2012 and 2013 maturities. No assurances can be given that we will obtain additional financings or, if we do, what the amount and terms will be. Our failure to obtain future financing under favorable terms could adversely impact our ability to execute our business strategy. In addition, we may selectively pursue debt financing on individual properties.

We are committed to an investment strategy where we will opportunistically pursue hotel-related investments as suitable situations arise. Funds for future hotel-related investments are expected to be derived, in whole or in part, from cash on hand, future borrowings under the credit facility or other loans, or from proceeds from additional issuances of common stock, preferred stock, or other securities, asset sales, and joint ventures. However, we have no formal commitment or understanding to invest in additional assets, and there can be no assurance that we will successfully make additional investments. We may, when conditions are suitable, look at additional capital raising opportunities.

Our existing hotels are mostly located in developed areas that contain competing hotel properties. The future occupancy, ADR, and RevPAR of any individual hotel could be materially and adversely affected by an increase in the number or quality of the competitive hotel properties in its market area. Competition could also affect the quality and quantity of future investment opportunities.

**Dividend Policy.** In February 2011, the Board of Directors accepted management's recommendation to resume paying cash dividends on our outstanding shares of common stock with an annualized target of \$0.40 per share for 2011. For the year ended December 31, 2011, we have declared dividends of \$0.40 per share. In December 2011, the Board of Directors approved our dividend policy for 2012 and we expect to pay a quarterly dividend of \$0.11 per share for 2012. The adoption of a dividend policy does not commit our Board of Directors to declare future dividends or the amount thereof. The Board of Directors will continue to review its dividend policy on a quarterly basis. We may incur indebtedness to meet distribution requirements imposed on REITs under the Internal Revenue Code to the extent that working capital and cash flow from our investments are insufficient to fund required distributions. Or, we may elect to pay dividends on our common stock in cash or a combination of cash and shares of securities as permitted under federal income tax laws governing REIT distribution requirements. We may pay dividends in excess of our cash flow.

**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Marriott International, Inc. ( Marriott ) currently manages 40 of our properties. For these Marriott-managed hotels, the fiscal year reflects twelve weeks of operations for each of the first three quarters of the year and

**Table of Contents**

seventeen weeks for the fourth quarter of the year. Therefore, in any given quarterly period, period-over-period results will have different ending dates. For Marriott-managed hotels, the fourth quarters of 2011, 2010 and 2009 ended December 31, 2011, December 30, 2010, and January 1, 2010, respectively.

RevPAR is a commonly used measure within the hotel industry to evaluate hotel operations. RevPAR is defined as the product of the average daily room rate ( ADR ) charged and the average daily occupancy achieved. RevPAR does not include revenues from food and beverage or parking, telephone, or other guest services generated by the property. Although RevPAR does not include these ancillary revenues, it is generally considered the leading indicator of core revenues for many hotels. We also use RevPAR to compare the results of our hotels between periods and to analyze results of our comparable hotels (comparable hotels represent hotels we have owned for the entire year). RevPAR improvements attributable to increases in occupancy are generally accompanied by increases in most categories of variable operating costs. RevPAR improvements attributable to increases in ADR are generally accompanied by increases in limited categories of operating costs, such as management fees and franchise fees.

**Table of Contents**

The following table summarizes the changes in key line items from our consolidated statements of operations for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,			Favorable (Unfavorable) Change	
	2011	2010	2009	2011 to 2010	2010 to 2009
Total revenue	\$ 889,797	\$ 838,624	\$ 837,684	\$ 51,173	\$ 940
Total hotel expenses	\$ (580,879)	\$ (554,645)	\$ (550,482)	\$ (26,234)	\$ (4,163)
Property taxes, insurance and other	\$ (46,758)	\$ (49,389)	\$ (53,097)	\$ 2,631	\$ 3,708
Depreciation and amortization	\$ (133,882)	\$ (132,651)	\$ (138,620)	\$ (1,231)	\$ 5,969
Impairment charges	\$ 4,841	\$ (46,404)	\$ (148,679)	\$ 51,245	\$ 102,275
Gain on insurance settlements	\$ 2,035	\$	\$ 1,329	\$ 2,035	\$ (1,329)
Transaction acquisition and contract termination costs	\$ 793	\$ (7,001)	\$	\$ 7,794	\$ (7,001)
Corporate general and administrative	\$ (44,522)	\$ (30,619)	\$ (29,951)	\$ (13,903)	\$ (668)
Operating income (loss)	\$ 91,425	\$ 17,915	\$ (81,816)	\$ 73,510	\$ 99,731
Equity in earnings (loss) of unconsolidated joint ventures	\$ 14,528	\$ (20,265)	\$ 2,486	\$ 34,793	\$ (22,751)
Interest income	\$ 85	\$ 283	\$ 297	\$ (198)	\$ (14)
Other income	\$ 109,524	\$ 62,826	\$ 56,556	\$ 46,698	\$ 6,270
Interest expense and amortization of loan costs	\$ (138,547)	\$ (140,609)	\$ (132,997)	\$ 2,062	\$ (7,612)
Write-off of premiums, loan costs and exit fees	\$ (729)	\$ (3,893)	\$ 371	\$ 3,164	\$ (4,264)
Unrealized loss on investments	\$ (391)	\$	\$	\$ (391)	\$
Unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives	\$ (70,286)	\$ 12,284	\$ (31,782)	\$ (82,570)	\$ 44,066
Income tax (expense) benefit	\$ (1,620)	\$ 155	\$ (1,508)	\$ (1,775)	\$ 1,663
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 3,989	\$ (71,304)	\$ (188,393)	\$ 75,293	\$ 117,089
Income (loss) from discontinued operations	\$ (4,106)	\$ 9,512	\$ (100,267)	\$ (13,618)	\$ 109,779
Net loss	\$ (117)	\$ (61,792)	\$ (288,660)	\$ 61,675	\$ 226,868
(Income) loss from consolidated joint ventures attributable to noncontrolling interests	\$ (610)	\$ 1,683	\$ 765	\$ (2,293)	\$ 918
Net loss attributable to redeemable noncontrolling interests in operating partnership	\$ 2,836	\$ 8,369	\$ 37,653	\$ (5,533)	\$ (29,284)
Net income (loss) attributable to the Company	\$ 2,109	\$ (51,740)	\$ (250,242)	\$ 53,849	\$ 198,502

**Table of Contents****Comparison of Year Ended December 31, 2011 with Year Ended December 31, 2010**

Income from continuing operations represents the operating results of 96 hotel properties ( comparable hotels ) included in continuing operations, that we have owned throughout the entire year ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, but excludes the operating results of a hotel property we began to consolidate its operations for the period from December 2, 2011 through December 31, 2011. The hotel property previously was under a triple-net operating lease for which we only recorded rental income through December 1, 2011. The following table illustrates the key performance indicators of these hotels:

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2011	2010
Total hotel revenue (in thousands)	\$ 877,317	\$ 830,283
Room revenue (in thousands)	\$ 681,286	\$ 640,989
RevPAR (revenue per available room)	\$ 92.68	\$ 87.19
Occupancy	72.02%	70.19%
ADR (average daily rate)	\$ 128.68	\$ 124.22

**Revenue.** Room revenues from comparable hotels increased \$40.3 million, or 6.3%, during the year ended December 31, 2011 ( 2011 ) compared to the year ended December 31, 2010 ( 2010 ). The increase in room revenue was primarily due to the continued improvements in occupancy coupled with the increase in average daily rate. During 2011, we experienced a 183 basis points increase in occupancy and a 3.6% increase in room rates as the economy continues to improve. Food and beverage revenues from comparable hotels experienced a similar increase of \$6.8 million, or 4.5%, due to improved occupancy. Other revenue from comparable hotels experienced a decrease of \$45,000. Rental income of \$5.3 million was recognized through December 1, 2011 for a hotel property that was leased to a third-party under a triple-net basis. Effective December 2, 2011, we were assigned the remaining 11% ownership interest in the joint venture which previously held a hotel property under a triple-net lease. The lease agreement was canceled and the operating results of this hotel property have been included in our consolidated statements of operations, which accounted for a total of \$2.5 million of room, food and beverage, and other hotel revenues. The remaining increase in total hotel revenue of \$4.3 million is attributable to the acquisition of the WorldQuest condominium properties in March 2011.

No interest income from notes receivable has been recorded for 2011 as the remaining two mezzanine loans in our loan portfolio as of December 31, 2010 were impaired in the previous two years. Interest income on notes receivable was \$1.4 million for 2010. We recorded a credit to impairment charges of \$4.8 million and \$2.2 million for 2011 and 2010, respectively. In April 2011, we entered into a settlement agreement with the borrower of the mezzanine loan which was secured by a 105-hotel property portfolio and scheduled to mature in April 2011. The borrower repaid the loan for \$22.1 million. The mezzanine loan had a carrying value of \$17.9 million at March 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, after an impairment charge of \$7.8 million was recorded at December 31, 2010. The difference of \$4.2 million between the settlement amount and the carrying value was recorded as a credit to impairment charges in accordance with applicable accounting guidance. During 2010, impairment charges included a credit of \$1.1 million on the cash settlement of a mezzanine loan that was previously impaired.

Asset management fees and other was \$362,000 for 2011 and \$425,000 for 2010.

**Hotel Operating Expenses.** Hotel operating expenses consist of direct expenses from departments associated with revenue streams and indirect expenses associated with support departments and management fees. We experienced increases of \$13.9 million in direct expenses and \$12.4 million in indirect expenses and management fees in 2011. The increase in direct and indirect expenses from comparable hotels was \$12.2 million and \$9.9 million, respectively. The increase in these expenses is primarily attributable to higher occupancy and higher management fees resulting from increased hotel revenues, and higher sales and marketing expenses. The



## **Table of Contents**

WorldQuest condominium properties incurred \$3.1 million in total hotel operating expenses and the consolidation of the previous triple-net lease hotel property contributed \$987,000 increase in total hotel operating expenses during 2011. The direct expenses were 32.7% of total hotel revenue for 2011 and 33.1% for 2010.

**Property Taxes, Insurance and Other.** Property taxes, insurance and other decreased \$2.6 million for 2011 to \$46.8 million. The decrease in comparable hotels is primarily due to a \$1.8 million reduction in property taxes resulting from our continued successful appeals as we secured significant reductions in the assessed value related to certain of our hotel properties. The decrease in these expenses also reflects a decline of \$387,000 of other taxes, a gain of \$323,000 recognized on an insurance claim and other activities in 2011.

**Depreciation and Amortization.** Depreciation and amortization increased \$1.2 million for 2011 compared to 2010 primarily due to increase in depreciation expense for capital improvements made at certain hotel properties. The increase was partially offset by decrease in depreciation for certain assets that had been fully depreciated during 2011.

**Impairment Charges.** We recorded a credit to impairment charges of \$4.8 million in 2011, for cash received and valuation adjustments on the previously impaired mezzanine loans.

The impairment charges for our continuing operations were \$46.4 million for 2010. We recorded \$8.7 million of impairment charges on mezzanine loans, \$39.9 million impairment on a hotel property, and a credit of \$2.2 million related to the valuation adjustments on previously impaired loans in our mezzanine loan portfolio. Of the total impairment charges of \$148.7 million for 2009, \$109.4 million was the valuation allowance recorded for the Extended Stay Hotels mezzanine loan and \$39.3 million for four other mezzanine notes. The impairment charge recorded on hotel properties for 2010 and 2009 of \$35.7 million and \$70.2 million, respectively, are included in the operating results of discontinued operations.

In evaluating possible loan impairment, we analyze our notes receivable individually and collectively for possible loan losses in accordance with the applicable authoritative accounting guidance. Based on the analysis, if we conclude that no loans are individually impaired, we then further analyze the specific characteristics of the loans, based on other authoritative guidance to determine if there would be probable losses in a group of loans with similar characteristics.

The loans we have had in our portfolio were collateralized by hotel properties. Some loans were collateralized by single hotel properties and others by hotel portfolios. The hotel properties were in different geographic locations, had different ages and a few of the properties had completed significant renovations which had a significant impact on the value of the underlying collateral. The hotel properties included independent and nationally recognized brands in all segments and classes including luxury, economy, extended-stay, full service, and select service. In addition, our loan assets varied by position in the related borrower's capital structure, ranging from junior mortgage participations to mezzanine loans. The terms of our notes or participations were structured based on the different features of the related collateral and the priority in the borrower's capital structure.

The authoritative accounting guidance requires that an individual loan not impaired individually be included in the assessment of the loss in a group of loans only if specific characteristics of the loan indicate that it is probable that there would be an incurred loss in a group of loans with similar characteristics. As loans in our portfolio have significantly different risk factors and characteristics, such as different maturity terms, different types and classes of collateral, different interest rate structures, and different priority status, we concluded that the characteristics of the loans within the portfolio were not sufficiently similar as to allow an evaluation of these loans as a group for possible impairment within the authoritative accounting guidance.

Investments in hotel properties are reviewed for impairment for each reporting period. We take into account the latest operating cash flows and market conditions and their impact on future projections. For the properties

---

**Table of Contents**

that showed indicators of impairment, we perform a recoverability analysis using the sum of each property's estimated future undiscounted cash flows compared to the property's carrying value. The estimates of future cash flows are based on assumptions about the future operating results including disposition of the property. In addition, the cash flow estimation periods used are based on the properties' remaining useful lives to us (expected holding periods). For properties securing mortgage loans, the assumptions regarding holding periods considered our ability and intent to hold the property to or beyond the maturity of the related indebtedness.

In analyzing projected hotel properties' operating cash flows, we factored in RevPAR growth based on data from third party sources. In addition, the projected hotel properties' operating cash flows factored in our ongoing implementation of asset management strategies to minimize operating costs. After factoring in the expected revenue growth and the impact of company-specific strategies implemented to minimize operating costs, the hotel properties' estimated future undiscounted cash flows were in excess of the properties' carrying values. With the exception of the three Hilton hotel properties, the analyses performed in 2010 did not identify any other properties with respect to which an impairment loss should be recognized.

For a full description of impairment charges, see Notes 3, 4, 6 and 17 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements and the Executive Overview.

***Transaction Acquisition and Contract Termination Costs.*** We recorded a credit of \$793,000 and costs of \$1.4 million to transaction acquisition costs in 2011 and 2010, respectively. For 2011, we were reimbursed \$1.1 million by the joint venture in 2011 relating to certain costs for the acquisition of the 71.74% interest in PIM Highland JV and incurred an additional \$135,000 for the acquisition. In addition, we incurred \$298,000 for the acquisition of real estate and other rights in the WorldQuest Resort condominium project.

During 2010, we terminated the management contract of the Hilton hotel property in Costa Mesa, California managed by Hilton Hotels and paid a contract termination fee of \$5.6 million. This hotel property is currently managed by Remington Lodging.

***Corporate General and Administrative.*** Corporate general and administrative expenses increased to \$44.5 million in 2011 period compared to \$30.6 million in 2010. The non-cash stock/unit-based compensation expense increased \$5.3 million, primarily due to the higher expense recognized on the restricted stock/unit-based awards granted at a higher price per share in 2011. For 2011, corporate general and administrative expenses also included \$6.9 million in legal costs associated with a litigation for which we received a \$30.0 million settlement. The increase in other corporate general and administrative expenses during 2011 is primarily attributable to an increase in employee compensation and target incentives for certain executives. These increases are partially offset by reimbursements from the PIM Highland JV of \$2.5 million.

***Equity in Earnings (Loss) of Unconsolidated Joint Ventures.*** We recorded equity in earnings of unconsolidated joint ventures of \$14.5 million and equity loss of \$20.3 million for 2011 and 2010, respectively. Included in the 2011 period was a gain of \$82.1 million recognized by the PIM Highland JV at acquisition, of which our share was \$46.3 million, and \$17.6 million of transaction costs recorded for the acquisition. In addition, the PIM Highland JV incurred contract termination costs of \$2.9 million for 2011.

All the loans held in our joint ventures were in non-accrual status since July 2010. In addition, the borrowers of the mezzanine loan held in our joint venture with PREI related to the JER/Highland Hospitality portfolio stopped making debt service payments in August 2010 and we were negotiating a restructuring with their equity holders, senior secured lenders and senior mezzanine lenders. Due to our junior participation status, it was expected the tranche 6 mezzanine loan would be completely extinguished in the restructuring. As a result, we recorded a valuation allowance of \$21.6 million for the entire carrying value of our investment in the joint venture on December 31, 2010.

---

**Table of Contents**

**Interest Income.** Interest income decreased \$198,000 in 2011 compared to 2010 primarily due to lower average cash balance and the decline in short-term interest rates in 2011.

**Other Income.** Other income was \$109.5 million and \$62.8 million for 2011 and 2010, respectively. Income from the non-hedge interest rate swap, floor and floorridors accounted for \$70.6 million and \$62.9 million for 2011 and 2010, respectively. For 2011, other income also included a gain of \$30.0 million recognized from a litigation settlement, income of \$9.7 million recognized from the 11% of ownership interest we acquired in a joint venture at no cost, income of \$289,000 from a previously written-off mezzanine loan, a net investment loss of \$979,000 on investment in securities, and the credit default swap premium amortization of \$31,000.

**Interest Expense and Amortization of Loan Costs.** Interest expense and amortization of loan costs decreased \$2.1 million to \$138.5 million for 2011 from \$140.6 million for 2010. The decrease is primarily attributable to a decline in interest expense resulting from the principal repaid on our senior credit facility and other indebtedness, and decreased amortization of loan costs resulting from certain loan costs that were fully amortized at their initial maturity dates, net of the effect of the increase in interest from loans refinanced at higher interest rates since December 31, 2010. The average LIBOR rates for 2011 and 2010 were 0.23% and 0.27%, respectively.

**Write-off of Loan Cost and Exit Fees.** In the 2011 period, we repaid the outstanding balance on the \$250.0 million senior credit facility, terminated the credit facility and wrote off the unamortized deferred loan cost of \$729,000. During 2010 we refinanced the mortgage loan secured by the Gateway Arlington Marriott hotel property and incurred prepayment penalty of \$3.3 million and wrote off the unamortized loan cost of \$630,000.

**Unrealized Loss on Investments.** We recorded unrealized loss of \$391,000 on investment in securities based on the closing price of securities at December 31, 2011.

**Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Derivatives.** We recorded a net unrealized loss of \$70.3 million for 2011 and an unrealized gain of \$12.3 million for 2010 on derivatives. The unrealized loss for 2011 consists of unrealized losses of \$69.0 million on the interest rate derivatives and an unrealized loss of \$1.3 million from the credit default swaps we entered into during 2011. The fair value of interest rate derivatives decreased during 2011 primarily due to the movements in the LIBOR forward curve used in determining the fair value and the passage of time. The decrease in value of the credit default swaps is attributable to the change in value of the CMBX indices.

**Income Tax (Expense) Benefit.** We recorded an income tax expense from continuing operations of \$1.6 million for 2011 and a benefit of \$155,000 for 2010. The increase in tax expense in 2011 is primarily due to increased profitability in certain of our TRS subsidiaries. In addition, in 2011, we were unable to continue recording the state tax benefits from losses incurred by one of our joint ventures as realization of a net deferred tax asset became doubtful due to cumulative losses. Our 2011 Texas Margin Tax expense decreased significantly compared to prior years as the tax write-off of certain mezzanine loans for the 2010 tax year resulted in a larger actual benefit in 2011 than anticipated at December 31, 2010.

**Income (Loss) from Discontinued Operations.** Discontinued operations reported loss from operations of \$4.1 million for 2011 and income of \$9.5 million for 2010. During 2011, we completed the sale of the Hampton Inn hotel in Jacksonville, FL, JW Marriott hotel in San Francisco, CA, the Hilton hotel in Rye Town, NY and the Hampton Inn hotel in Houston, TX. We recorded a net gain of \$2.6 million mainly from the sale of the Hampton Inn hotel in Houston, Texas and the adjustments at final settlements. During 2011, an impairment of \$6.2 million was recorded for the Hampton Inn hotel in Jacksonville, Florida. Discontinued operations include the operating results of six hotel properties for 2010. Included in the income from discontinued operations for 2010 was a gain of \$56.2 million on the consensual transfer of the Westin O Hare hotel property and a loss of \$283,000 on the sale of Hilton Auburn Hills property. The 2010 results also included impairment charges of \$35.7 million recorded on the Hilton Auburn Hills property and the Hilton Rye Town property.

**Table of Contents**

**Loss (Income) from Consolidated Joint Ventures Attributable to Noncontrolling Interests.** The noncontrolling interest partners in consolidated joint ventures were allocated income of \$610,000 during 2011 and a loss of \$1.7 million during 2010. In 2011, we recorded a gain of \$2.1 million from the sale of the Hampton Inn hotel property in Houston, Texas that was held by a joint venture. At December 31, 2011, noncontrolling interests in consolidated joint ventures represent ownership interests ranging from 15% to 25% of four hotel properties held by two joint ventures. Effective December 2, 2011, we were assigned the remaining 11% ownership interest from our joint venture partner at no cost to us and the operating results of this hotel property have been included in our consolidated statements of operations.

**Net Loss (Income) Attributable to Redeemable Noncontrolling Interests in Operating Partnership.** Net loss allocated to noncontrolling interests in operating partnership and distributions paid to these limited partners were \$2.8 million and \$8.4 million for 2011 and 2010, respectively.

**Comparison of Year Ended December 31, 2010 with Year Ended December 31, 2009**

Income from continuing operations includes the operating results of 96 hotel properties that we have owned throughout all of 2010 and 2009. The following table illustrates the key performance indicators of the comparable hotels for the periods indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2010	2009
Total hotel revenue (in thousands)	\$ 836,821	\$ 826,082
Room revenue (in thousands)	\$ 640,989	\$ 626,434
RevPAR (revenue per available room)	\$ 87.19	\$ 85.21
Occupancy	70.19%	66.56%
ADR (average daily rate)	\$ 124.22	\$ 128.02

**Revenue.** Room revenues increased \$14.6 million, or 2.3%, during the year ended December 31, 2010 ( 2010 ) compared to the year ended December 31, 2009 ( 2009 ). The room revenue increase resulting from the improved occupancy in 2010 of 363 basis points was partially offset by the decrease in average daily rate. The economic downturn placed tremendous pressure on rates to maintain occupancy levels. Food and beverage revenue experienced a decline of \$1.3 million due to lower volume on catering and banquet events. Other revenue, which consists mainly of telecommunication, parking, spa and golf fees, experienced a \$2.3 million decline due to less demand for these services.

Rental income from the triple-net operating lease decreased \$214,000 primarily due to the lower hotel revenues related to that hotel property resulting from the lower average daily rate net of the effect of slightly higher occupancy during 2010.

Interest income from notes receivable decreased \$9.5 million for 2010 compared to 2009. This decrease is primarily due to the impairment of five mezzanine loans and the sale of one loan in our portfolio during 2009.

Asset management fees and other was \$425,000 for 2010 and \$726,000 for 2009. The decrease is primarily due to the expiration at December 31, 2009, of a consulting agreement with a joint venture.

**Hotel Operating Expenses.** Hotel operating expenses consist of direct expenses from departments associated with revenue streams and indirect expenses associated with support departments and management fees. We experienced increases of \$3.7 million in direct expenses and \$421,000 in indirect expenses and management fees in 2010 compared to 2009. The increase in direct expense was primarily the result of improved occupancy during 2010. The direct expenses were 33.1% of total hotel revenue for both 2010 and 2009.

**Property Taxes, Insurance and Other.** Property taxes, insurance and other decreased \$3.7 million for 2010 to \$49.4 million. Property taxes decreased \$3.8 million for 2010 resulting from our successful appeals for the

---

**Table of Contents**

assessed value reductions related to certain of our hotel properties, which was partially offset by the tax rate increases in some jurisdictions as city/county and state governments try to maintain their tax base. The decrease in property taxes was partially offset by the increase in insurance costs of \$254,000. The increase in insurance costs is primarily due to higher premiums for property policies renewed in 2010.

***Depreciation and Amortization.*** Depreciation and amortization decreased \$6.0 million for 2010 compared to 2009 primarily due to certain assets that had been fully depreciated during 2010. The decrease is partially offset by an increase in depreciation expense as a result of capital improvements made at several hotel properties.

***Impairment Charges.*** The impairment charges for our continuing operations were \$46.4 million for 2010. We recorded \$8.7 million impairment charge on mezzanine loans, \$39.9 million impairment on a hotel property, and a credit of \$2.2 million related to the valuation adjustments on previously impaired loans in our mezzanine loan portfolio. Of the total impairment charges of \$148.7 million for 2009, \$109.4 million was the valuation allowance recorded for the Extended Stay Hotels mezzanine loan and \$39.3 million for four other mezzanine notes. The impairment charge recorded on hotel properties for 2010 and 2009 of \$35.7 million and \$70.2 million, respectively, are included in the operating results of discontinued operations.

***Transaction Acquisition and Contract Termination Costs.*** In 2010, we were in negotiation with the borrowers, their equity holders, senior secured lenders and senior mezzanine lenders with respect to possible restructuring of the two mezzanine tranches owned by our joint ventures with PREI associated with the hotel portfolio of JER/Highland Hospitality. The resolution of such negotiation was consummated via a conversion of the loans into equity and assumption of senior indebtedness associated with the portfolio with us investing additional funds. We incurred transaction acquisition costs of \$1.4 million related to these negotiations through December 31, 2010.

In addition, during 2010, we terminated the management contract of the Hilton hotel property in Costa Mesa, California managed by Hilton Hotels and paid a contract termination fee of \$5.6 million. This hotel property is currently managed by Remington Lodging.

***Corporate General and Administrative.*** Corporate general and administrative expenses increased \$668,000 in 2010 from 2009. The non-cash stock/unit-based compensation expense increased \$2.0 million in 2010 primarily due to certain restricted stock/unit-based awards granted in the current year at a higher price per share. Other corporate general and administrative expenses decreased \$1.4 million during 2010 primarily attributable to a decline in legal expense of \$1.2 million as the 2009 corporate general and administrative expenses included legal expense associated with defaulted mezzanine loan activities.

***Equity in Earnings (Loss) of Unconsolidated Joint Ventures.*** Equity loss in unconsolidated joint venture was \$20.3 million for 2010 and equity earnings for 2009 were \$2.5 million. The decrease is primarily due to all the three mezzanine loans held in our joint ventures being in non-accrual status since July 2010. In addition, the borrowers of the mezzanine loan tranche 6 held in our joint venture with PREI related to the JER/Highland Hospitality portfolio stopped making debt service payments in August 2010 and we were negotiating a restructuring with their equity holders, senior secured lenders and senior mezzanine lenders. Due to our junior participation status, it was expected the tranche 6 mezzanine loan would be completely extinguished in the restructuring. As a result, we recorded a valuation allowance of \$21.6 million for the entire carrying value of our investment in the joint venture on December 31, 2010.

***Interest Income.*** Interest income decreased \$14,000 in 2010 compared to 2009 primarily due to lower average cash balance and the decline in short-term interest rates in 2010.

***Other Income.*** Other income was \$62.8 million and \$56.6 million in 2010 and 2009, respectively. Other income included income from non-hedge interest rate swaps, floors and floorridors of \$62.9 million and \$52.3 million for 2010 and 2009, respectively. The increase is primarily due to the new interest rate derivatives we

**Table of Contents**

entered into since July 2009. Also included in 2009 was a gain of \$2.4 million recognized on the sale of a mezzanine note receivable, income of \$1.5 million recognized for business interruption insurance proceeds received related to hotel properties sold in 2008, and a gain of \$434,000 from the sale of our interest in a laundry joint venture.

***Interest Expense and Amortization of Loan Costs.*** Interest expense and amortization of loan costs increased \$7.6 million to \$140.6 million for 2010 from \$133.0 million for 2009. The increase is primarily attributable to certain debt that was refinanced at higher interest rates. The increase was partially offset by the lower average variable rate debt outstanding and the lower LIBOR rates in the 2010 period. Average LIBOR rates for 2010 and 2009 were 0.27% and 0.33%, respectively.

***Write-off of Premiums, Loan Costs and Exit Fees.*** During 2010 we refinanced the mortgage loan secured by the Gateway Arlington Marriott hotel property and incurred a prepayment penalty of \$3.3 million and wrote off the unamortized loan cost of \$630,000. During 2009 we refinanced mortgage debt totaling \$285.0 million. The unamortized premiums of \$1.4 million and loan costs of \$985,000 on the refinanced loans were written off.

***Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Derivatives.*** We recorded an unrealized gain of \$12.3 million in 2010 and an unrealized loss of \$31.8 million in 2009 on our interest rate derivatives. The fair value of these derivatives increased during 2010 primarily due to the movements in the LIBOR forward curve used in determining the fair value.

***Income Tax (Expense) Benefit.*** Income tax expense for continuing operations was a benefit of \$155,000 for 2010 and an expense of \$1.5 million for 2009. The decrease in income tax expense is primarily due to our being able to record an income tax benefit of \$898,000 in 2010 in connection with losses incurred by our joint venture partnership that is subject to District of Columbia income taxes. This benefit is largely offset by our accruals for the Texas Margin Tax and our federal and state income tax accruals for one of our TRS subsidiaries that began generating taxable income in the fourth quarter of 2009. Our 2010 accrual for the Texas Margin Tax was lower than in prior years primarily due to the tax write-off of mezzanine loans in 2010 that had been impaired in prior years for financial reporting purposes.

***Income (Loss) from Discontinued Operations.*** Income from discontinued operations was \$9.5 million for 2010 and loss from discontinued operations was \$100.3 million for 2009. Discontinued operations include the operating results of six hotel properties for 2010 and seven properties for 2009. These hotel properties were either sold, returned to lenders or under contracts to sell. Included in the income (loss) from discontinued operations for 2010 was a gain of \$56.2 million on the consensual transfer of the Westin O Hare hotel property and a loss of \$283,000 on the sale of Hilton Auburn Hills property. The 2010 results also included impairment charges of \$35.7 million recorded on the Hilton Auburn Hills property and the Hilton Rye Town property. For 2009, impairment charges totaling \$70.2 million on the Westin O Hare hotel property and the Hyatt Dearborn hotel property were recorded to write down the hotel properties to their estimated fair value. A loss of \$2.9 million was also recorded at deconsolidation of the Hyatt Regency Dearborn hotel property for 2009. Operating results of discontinued operations also reflected interest and related debt expense of \$8.5 million and \$14.1 million for 2010 and 2009, respectively. In addition, unamortized loan costs of \$552,000 were written off in 2009 when the related mortgage debt was refinanced.

***(Income) Loss from Consolidated Joint Ventures Attributable to Noncontrolling Interests.*** During 2010 and 2009, the noncontrolling interest partners in consolidated joint ventures were allocated a loss of \$1.7 million and \$765,000, respectively. Noncontrolling interests in consolidated joint ventures represent ownership interests ranging from 11% to 25% of six hotel properties held by two joint ventures.

***Net (Income) Loss Attributable to Redeemable Noncontrolling Interests in Operating Partnership.*** Net loss allocated to noncontrolling interests and distributions paid to these limited partners were \$8.4 million and \$37.7 million for 2010 and 2009, respectively.

**Table of Contents****INFLATION**

We rely entirely on the performance of our properties and the ability of the properties managers to increase revenues to keep pace with inflation. Hotel operators can generally increase room rates rather quickly, but competitive pressures may limit their ability to raise rates faster than inflation. Our general and administrative costs, real estate and personal property taxes, property and casualty insurance, and utilities are subject to inflation as well.

**SEASONALITY**

Our properties operations historically have been seasonal as certain properties maintain higher occupancy rates during the summer months and some during the winter months. This seasonality pattern can cause fluctuations in our quarterly lease revenue under our percentage leases. We anticipate that our cash flows from the operations of our properties will be sufficient to enable us to make quarterly distributions to maintain our REIT status. To the extent that cash flows from operations are insufficient during any quarter due to temporary or seasonal fluctuations in lease revenue, we expect to utilize other cash on hand or borrowings to fund required distributions. However, we cannot make any assurances that we will make distributions in the future.

**OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS**

During 2011, we did not maintain any off-balance sheet arrangements and do not currently anticipate any such arrangements.

**CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS**

The table below summarizes our future obligations for principal and estimated interest payments on our debt, future minimum lease payments on our operating and capital leases with regard to our continuing operations, each as of December 31, 2011 (in thousands):

	Payments Due by Period				Total
	< 1 Year	2-3 Years	4-5 Years	> 5 Years	
<b>Contractual obligations excluding extension options:</b>					
Long-term debt obligations	\$ 196,243	\$ 505,437	\$ 682,953	\$ 977,825	\$ 2,362,458
Operating lease obligations	3,737	6,474	6,041	112,192	128,444
Estimated interest obligations <sup>(1)</sup>	131,393	239,477	160,733	44,055	575,658
<b>Total contractual obligations</b>	<b>\$ 331,373</b>	<b>\$ 751,388</b>	<b>\$ 849,727</b>	<b>\$ 1,134,072</b>	<b>\$ 3,066,560</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> For variable interest rate indebtedness, interest obligations are estimated based on the LIBOR interest rate as of December 31, 2011. In addition to the amounts discussed above, we also have management agreements which require us to pay monthly management fees, market service fees and other general fees, if required. These management agreements expire from 2012 through 2028. See Note 13 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

**CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Our accounting policies are fully described in Note 2 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data. We believe that the following discussion

**Table of Contents**

addresses our most critical accounting policies, representing those policies considered most vital to the portrayal of our financial condition and results of operations and require management's most difficult, subjective, and complex judgments.

**Management Agreements** In connection with our acquisitions of Marriott Crystal Gateway hotel in Arlington, Virginia, on July 13, 2006 and the 51-hotel CNL portfolio on April 11, 2007, we assumed certain existing management agreements. Based on our review of these management agreements, we concluded that the terms of certain management agreements are more favorable to the respective managers than typical current market management agreements. As a result, we recorded unfavorable contract liabilities related to these management agreements of \$23.4 million as of the respective acquisition dates based on the present value of expected cash outflows over the initial terms of the related agreements. Such unfavorable contract liabilities are being amortized as non-cash reductions to incentive management fees on a straight-line basis over the initial terms of the related agreements. In evaluating unfavorable contract liabilities, our analysis involves considerable management judgment and assumptions.

**Income Taxes** At December 31, 2011, we had a valuation allowance of approximately \$58.1 million which substantially offsets our gross deferred tax asset. As a result of consolidated losses in 2011, 2010 and 2009, and the limitations imposed by the Internal Revenue Code on the utilization of net operating losses of acquired subsidiaries, we believe that it is more likely than not our gross deferred tax asset will not be realized, and therefore, have provided a valuation allowance to substantially reserve the balance. At December 31, 2011, Ashford TRS has net operating loss carryforwards for federal income tax purposes of approximately \$133.4 million, which are available to offset future taxable income, if any, through 2031. At December 31, 2011, Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc., our REIT, had net operating loss carryforwards for federal income purposes of approximately \$153.7 million, which are available to offset future taxable income, if any, through 2031. The analysis utilized in determining our deferred tax asset valuation allowance involves considerable management judgment and assumptions.

In July 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued accounting guidance that clarified the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an enterprise's financial statements. The guidance prescribes a financial statement recognition and measurement attribute for the recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. The guidance also provides direction on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure and transition. We classify interest and penalties related to underpayment of income taxes as income tax expense. We and our subsidiaries file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and various states and cities. Tax years 2008 through 2011 remain subject to potential examination by certain federal and state taxing authorities. Income tax examinations of two of our TRS subsidiaries are currently in process; see Note 13 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data. We believe that the results of the completion of these examinations will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition.

**Investment in Hotel Properties** Hotel properties are generally stated at cost. However, the remaining four hotel properties contributed upon Ashford's formation in 2003 that are still owned by Ashford (the Initial Properties ) are stated at the predecessor's historical cost, net of impairment charges, if any, plus a noncontrolling interest partial step-up related to the acquisition of noncontrolling interests from third parties associated with four of the Initial Properties. For hotel properties owned through our majority-owned joint ventures, the carrying basis attributable to the joint venture partners' minority ownership is recorded at the predecessor's historical cost, net of any impairment charges, while the carrying basis attributable to our majority ownership is recorded based on the allocated purchase price of our ownership interests in the joint ventures. All improvements and additions which extend the useful life of the hotel properties are capitalized.

**Impairment of Investment in Hotel Properties** Hotel properties are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying amounts may not be recoverable. We test impairment by using current or projected cash flows over the estimated useful life of the asset. In evaluating the



**Table of Contents**

impairment of hotel properties, we make many assumptions and estimates, including projected cash flows, expected holding period and expected useful life. We may also use fair values of comparable assets. If an asset is deemed to be impaired, we record an impairment charge for the amount that the property's net book value exceeds its estimated fair value. During 2010, we recorded impairment charges of \$39.9 million on one hotel property. See the detailed discussion in Notes 3 and 17 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

**Depreciation and Amortization Expense** Depreciation expense is based on the estimated useful life of the assets, while amortization expense for leasehold improvements is based on the shorter of the lease term or the estimated useful life of the related assets. Presently, hotel properties are depreciated using the straight-line method over lives which range from 7.5 to 39 years for buildings and improvements and 3 to 5 years for furniture, fixtures, and equipment. While we believe our estimates are reasonable, a change in estimated lives could affect depreciation expense and net income (loss) as well as resulting gains or losses on potential hotel sales.

**Assets Held For Sale and Discontinued Operations** We classify assets as held for sale when management has obtained a firm commitment from a buyer, and consummation of the sale is considered probable and expected within one year. In addition, we deconsolidate a property when it becomes subject to the control of a government, court, administrator or regulator and we effectively lose control of the property/subsidiary. When deconsolidating a property/subsidiary, we recognize a gain or loss in net income measured as the difference between the fair value of any consideration received, the fair value of any retained noncontrolling investment in the former subsidiary at the date the subsidiary is deconsolidated, and the carrying amount of the former property/subsidiary. The related operations of assets held for sale are reported as discontinued if a) such operations and cash flows can be clearly distinguished, both operationally and financially, from our ongoing operations, b) such operations and cash flows will be eliminated from ongoing operations once the disposal occurs, and c) we will not have any significant continuing involvement subsequent to the disposal.

During 2011, 2010 and 2009, we recorded impairment charges of \$6.2 million, \$75.6 million and \$70.2 million on hotel properties, respectively. Of these impairment charges, \$6.2 million, \$35.7 million and \$70.2 million for 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively, are included in the operating results of discontinued operations. See the detailed discussion in Notes 3, 6 and 17 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

**Notes Receivable** We provide mezzanine and first-mortgage financing in the form of notes receivable. These loans are held for investment and are intended to be held to maturity and accordingly, are recorded at cost, net of unamortized loan origination costs and fees, loan purchase discounts and net of the allowance for losses when a loan is deemed to be impaired. Premiums, discounts, and net origination fees are amortized or accreted as an adjustment to interest income using the effective interest method over the life of the loan. We discontinue recording interest and amortizing discounts/premiums when the contractual payment of interest and/or principal is not received. Payments received on impaired nonaccrual loans are recorded as reductions to the note receivable balance. The net carrying amount of the impaired notes receivable is adjusted to reflect the net present value of the future cash flows with the adjustment recorded in impairment charges.

Our mezzanine and first-mortgage notes receivable are each secured by various hotel properties or partnership interests in hotel properties and are subordinate to the senior holders in the secured hotel properties. All such notes receivable are considered to be variable interests in the entities that own the related hotels. Variable Interest Entities ( VIE ), as defined by authoritative accounting guidance, must be consolidated by a reporting entity if the reporting entity is the primary beneficiary that has: (i) the power to direct the VIE's activities that most significantly impact the VIE's economic performance, (ii) an implicit financial responsibility to ensure that a VIE operates as designed, and (iii) the obligation to absorb losses of the VIE or the right to receive benefits from the VIE. Because we do not have the power and financial responsibility to direct the mezzanine loan VIEs' activities and operations, we are not considered to be the primary beneficiary of these

---

**Table of Contents**

hotel properties as a result of holding these loans. Therefore, we do not consolidate the hotels for which we have provided financing. We assess our interests in those entities on an ongoing basis to determine whether such entities should be consolidated. In evaluating VIEs, our analysis involves considerable management judgment and assumptions.

**Impairment of Notes Receivable** We review notes receivable for impairment in each reporting period pursuant to the applicable authoritative accounting guidance. A loan is impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable that we will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms. We apply normal loan review and underwriting procedures (as may be implemented or modified from time to time) in making that judgment.

When a loan is impaired, we measure impairment based on the present value of expected cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate against the value of the asset recorded on the balance sheet. We may also measure impairment based on a loan's observable market price or the fair value of collateral if the loan is collateral dependent. If a loan is deemed to be impaired, we record a valuation allowance through a charge to earnings for any shortfall. Our assessment of impairment is based on considerable judgment and estimates. During 2010 and 2009, we recorded a valuation allowance of \$6.5 million and \$148.7 million, net of subsequent valuation adjustments, for our mezzanine loan portfolio. See Notes 4 and 17 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

**Investments in Unconsolidated Joint Ventures** Investments in joint ventures in which we have ownership interests ranging from 14.4% to 71.74% are accounted for under the equity method of accounting by recording the initial investment and our percentage of interest in the joint venture's net income (loss). We review the investments in our unconsolidated joint ventures for impairment in each reporting period pursuant to the applicable authoritative accounting guidance. An investment is impaired when its estimated fair value is less than the carrying amount of our investment. Any impairment is recorded in equity earnings (loss) in unconsolidated joint ventures. No such impairment was recorded in 2011, and \$27.1 million and \$5.5 million of impairment charges were recorded in 2010 and 2009, respectively. We adopted the equity accounting method for our investment in the PIM Highland JV due to the fact that we do not control the joint venture. Although we have the majority ownership of 71.74% in the joint venture, all the major decisions related to the joint venture, including establishment of policies and operating procedures with respect to business affairs, incurring obligations and expenditures, are subject to the approval of an executive committee, which is comprised of four persons with us and our joint venture partner each designating two of those persons. Our investment in the PIM Highland JV had a carrying value of \$179.5 million at December 31, 2011, which was based on our share of PIM Highland JV's equity.

Our investments in unconsolidated joint ventures are considered to be variable interests in the underlying entities. Variable Interest Entities (VIE), as defined by authoritative accounting guidance, must be consolidated by a reporting entity if the reporting entity is the primary beneficiary because it has (i) the power to direct the VIE's activities that most significantly impact the VIE's economic performance, (ii) an implicit financial responsibility to ensure that a VIE operates as designed, and (iii) the obligation to absorb losses of the VIE or the right to receive benefits from the VIE. Because we do not have the power and financial responsibility to direct the unconsolidated joint ventures activities and operations, we are not considered to be the primary beneficiary of these joint ventures on an ongoing basis to determine whether such entities should be consolidated. In evaluating VIEs, our analysis involves considerable management judgment and assumptions.

**Investments in Securities and Other** Beginning in June 2011, we have invested in securities and other investments, including U.S. treasury bills, stocks, and put and call options of certain publicly traded companies. All of these investments are recorded at fair value. Put and call options are considered derivatives. The fair value of these investments has been determined based on the closing price as of the balance sheet date and is reported as Investments in securities and other or Liabilities associated with investments in securities and other in the consolidated balance sheets. Net investment income, including interest income (expense), dividends, investment

**Table of Contents**

costs, and realized gains or losses on the investments, is reported as a component of Other income, and unrealized gains and losses on all of the investments in securities and other are reported as Unrealized gain on investments in the consolidated statements of operations.

***Derivative Financial Instruments and Hedges*** We primarily use interest rate derivatives to capitalize on the historical correlation between changes in LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate) and RevPAR (Revenue per Available Room). Interest rate swaps (or reverse swaps) involve the exchange of fixed-rate payments for variable-rate payments (or vice versa) over the life of the derivative agreements without exchange of the underlying principal amount. Interest rate caps designated as cash flow hedges provide us with interest rate protection above the strike rate of the cap and result in us receiving interest payments when actual rates exceed the cap strike. For interest rate floors, we pay our counterparty interest when the variable interest rate index is below the strike rate. The interest rate flooridor combines two interest rate floors, structured such that the purchaser simultaneously buys an interest rate floor at a strike rate X and sells an interest rate floor at a lower strike rate Y. The purchaser of the flooridor is paid when the underlying interest rate index (for example, LIBOR) resets below strike rate X during the term of the flooridor. Unlike a standard floor, the flooridor limits the benefit the purchaser can receive as the related interest rate index falls. Once the underlying index falls below strike rate Y, the sold floor offsets the purchased floor. The interest rate corridor involves purchasing an interest rate cap at strike rate X and selling an interest rate cap with a higher strike rate Y. The purchaser of the corridor is paid when the underlying interest rate index resets above the strike rate X during the term of the corridor. The corridor limits the benefit the purchaser can receive as the related interest rate index rises above the strike rate Y. There is no additional liability to us other than the purchase price associated with the flooridor and corridor.

We also use credit default swaps to hedge financial and capital market risk. A credit default swap is a derivative contract that works like an insurance policy against the credit risk of an entity or obligation. The credit risk underlying the credit default swaps are referenced to the CMBX index. The CMBX is a group of indices that references underlying bonds from 25 Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities (CMBS), tranching by rating class. The CMBX is traded via pay-as-you-go credit default swaps, which involve ongoing, two-way payments over the life of the contract between the buyer and the seller of protection. The reference obligations are CMBS bonds. The seller of protection assumes the credit risk of the reference obligation from the buyer of protection in exchange for payments of an annual premium. If there is a default or a loss, as defined in the credit default swap agreements, on the underlying bonds, then the buyer of protection, is protected against those losses.

All these derivatives are subject to master netting settlement arrangements and the credit default swaps are subject to credit support annexes. For credit default swaps, cash collateral is posted by us as well as our counterparty. We offset the fair value of the derivative and the obligation/right to return/reclaim cash collateral.

All derivatives are recorded at fair value in accordance with the applicable authoritative accounting guidance and reported as Derivative assets or Derivative liabilities. Accrued interest on the non-hedge designated interest rate derivatives is included in Accounts receivable, net in the consolidated balance sheets. For interest rate derivatives designated as cash flow hedges, the effective portion of changes in the fair value is reported as a component of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (OCI) in the equity section of the consolidated balance sheets. The amount recorded in OCI is reclassified to interest expense in the same period or periods during which the hedged transaction affects earnings, while the ineffective portion of changes in the fair value of the derivative is recognized directly in earnings as Unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives in the consolidated statements of operations. For non-hedge designated interest rate derivatives, the credit default swap derivatives and all other derivatives, the changes in the fair value are recognized in earnings as Unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives in the consolidated statements of operations.

**RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS**

In May 2011, the FASB issued accounting guidance for common fair value measurement and disclosure requirements. The guidance requires disclosures of (i) quantitative information about the significant

## **Table of Contents**

unobservable inputs used for level 3 measurements; (ii) description of the valuation processes surrounding level 3 measurements; (iii) narrative description of the sensitivity of recurring level 3 measurements to unobservable inputs; (iv) hierarchy classification for items whose fair value is only disclosed in the footnotes; and (v) any transfers between level 1 and 2 of the fair value hierarchy. The new accounting guidance is effective during interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. We do not expect a material impact on our financial position and results of operations from the adoption of this accounting guidance, but will make the required additional disclosures upon adoption.

In December 2011, the FASB issued accounting guidance to clarify how to determine whether a reporting entity should derecognize the in substance real estate upon loan defaults when it ceases to have controlling interest in a subsidiary that is in substance real estate. Under this guidance, a reporting entity would not satisfy the requirements to derecognize the in substance real estate before the legal transfer of the real estate to the lender and the extinguishment of the related non-recourse indebtedness. That is, even if the reporting entity ceases to have a controlling financial interest, the reporting entity would continue to include the real estate, debt, and the results of the subsidiary's operations in its consolidated financial statements until legal title to the real estate is transferred to legally satisfy the debt. The new accounting guidance is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning on or after June 15, 2012. Early adoption is permitted. We do not expect any impact on our financial position and results of operations from the adoption of this accounting guidance as our current accounting practice is to derecognize the in substance real estate when the legal title to the real estate is transferred to legally satisfy the non-recourse indebtedness.

In December 2011, the FASB issued accounting guidance to require disclosures about offsetting assets and liabilities. Entities are 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. This scope would include derivatives, sale and repurchase agreements and reverse sale and repurchase agreements, and securities borrowing and securities lending arrangements. The new accounting guidance is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after January 1, 2013 and the disclosures should be reported retrospectively for all comparative periods presented. We do not expect a material impact on our financial position and results of operations from the adoption of this accounting guidance, but will make the required additional disclosures upon adoption.

## **NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES**

The following non-GAAP presentations of EBITDA, Adjusted EBITDA, FFO and Adjusted FFO are made to help our investors in evaluating our operating performance.

EBITDA is defined as net income (loss) attributable to the Company before interest expense, interest income other than interest income from mezzanine loans, income taxes, depreciation and amortization, and noncontrolling interests in the operating partnership. We adjust EBITDA to exclude certain additional items such as gains or losses on sales of properties, write-off of loan costs, premiums and exit fees, impairment of assets, acquisition related costs, non-cash items, and various other items which are detailed in the following table. We present EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA because we believe they reflect more accurately the ongoing performance of our hotel assets and other investments and provide more useful information to investors as they are indicators of our ability to meet our future debt payment requirements, working capital requirements and they provide an overall evaluation of our financial condition. EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA as calculated by us may not be comparable to EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA reported by other companies that do not define EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA exactly as we define the term. EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA does not represent cash generated from operating activities determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ( GAAP ), and should not be considered as an alternative to operating income or net income determined in accordance with GAAP as an indicator of performance or as an alternative to cash flows from operating activities as determined by GAAP as a indicator of liquidity.

**Table of Contents**

The following table reconciles net loss to EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA (in thousands) (unaudited):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Net loss	\$ (117)	\$ (61,792)	\$ (288,660)
(Income) loss from consolidated joint ventures attributable to noncontrolling interests	(610)	1,683	765
Net loss attributable to redeemable noncontrolling interests in operating partnership	2,836	8,369	37,653
Net income (loss) attributable to the Company	2,109	(51,740)	(250,242)
Interest expense and amortization of loan costs	137,466	147,233	145,171
Depreciation and amortization	130,995	141,547	153,907
Income tax expense (benefit)	1,705	(132)	1,565
Impairment charges	1,395	82,055	218,878
Net loss attributable to redeemable noncontrolling interests in operating partnership	(2,836)	(8,369)	(37,653)
Interest income	(84)	(273)	(289)
Equity in (earnings) loss of unconsolidated joint ventures	(14,528)	20,265	(2,486)
Company's portion of EBITDA of unconsolidated joint ventures	104,807	1,325	2,486
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>361,029</b>	<b>331,911</b>	<b>231,337</b>
Amortization of unfavorable management contract liability	(2,447)	(2,447)	(2,446)
(Gain) loss on sale/disposition of properties	(2,655)	(55,931)	511
Non-cash gain on insurance settlements	(1,287)		(1,329)
Write-off of loan costs, premiums and exit fees, net	1,677	3,893	181
Other income <sup>(1)</sup>	(109,524)	(62,906)	(52,282)
Transaction acquisition and contract termination costs	(793)	7,001	
Legal costs related to a litigation settlement <sup>(2)</sup>	6,875		
Debt restructuring costs	823		
Unrealized loss on investments	391		
Unrealized (gains) losses on derivatives	70,286	(12,284)	31,782
Company's portion of adjustments to EBITDA of unconsolidated joint ventures	(42,248)		
<b>Adjusted EBITDA</b>	<b>\$ 282,127</b>	<b>\$ 209,237</b>	<b>\$ 207,754</b>

(1) Other income related to income from interest rate derivatives is excluded from the Adjusted EBITDA for all periods presented. In addition, the gain from litigation settlement, other income recognized for the acquisition of 11% ownership interest in a joint venture at no cost, the net investment loss on investments in securities and other, and the premiums and fees associated with credit default swaps are also excluded from Adjusted EBITDA for 2011.

(2) The legal costs associated with the litigation settlement are also excluded from Adjusted EBITDA for 2011.

We calculate Funds From Operations ( FFO ) and Adjusted FFO in the following table. FFO is calculated on the basis defined by the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts ( NAREIT ), which is net income (loss), computed in accordance with GAAP, excluding gains or losses on sales of properties and extraordinary items as defined by GAAP, plus depreciation and amortization of real estate assets, and net of adjustments for the portion of these items attributable to noncontrolling interests in the operating partnership. NAREIT developed FFO as a

## Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

relative measure of performance of an equity REIT to recognize that income-producing real estate historically has not depreciated on the basis determined by GAAP. Our calculation of AFFO excludes write-off of loan costs, premiums and exit fees, impairment of assets, acquisition related costs, non-cash items, and various other items as detailed in the following table. Our calculation of AFFO assumes the conversion of the Series B-1 preferred stock to the shares of our common stock by increasing the FFO for the non-cash dividends paid to Series B-1 preferred stock and includes our share of AFFO of unconsolidated joint ventures. We consider FFO and AFFO to be appropriate measures of our ongoing normalized operating performance as a REIT. We compute FFO in accordance with our interpretation of standards established by

**Table of Contents**

NAREIT, which may not be comparable to FFO reported by other REITs that either do not define the term in accordance with the current NAREIT definition or interpret the NAREIT definition differently than us. FFO and AFFO do not represent cash generated from operating activities as determined by GAAP and should not be considered as an alternative to a) GAAP net income or loss as an indication of our financial performance or b) GAAP cash flows from operating activities as a measure of our liquidity, nor is it indicative of funds available to satisfy our cash needs, including our ability to make cash distributions. However, to facilitate a clear understanding of our historical operating results, we believe that FFO and AFFO should be considered along with our net income or loss and cash flows reported in the consolidated financial statements.

The following table reconciles net loss to FFO and Adjusted FFO (in thousands) (unaudited):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Net loss	\$ (117)	\$ (61,792)	\$ (288,660)
(Income) loss from consolidated joint ventures attributable to noncontrolling interests	(610)	1,683	765
Net loss attributable to redeemable noncontrolling interests in operating partnership	2,836	8,369	37,653
Preferred dividends	(46,876)	(21,194)	(19,322)
<b>Net loss available to common shareholders</b>	<b>(44,767)</b>	<b>(72,934)</b>	<b>(269,564)</b>
Depreciation and amortization on real estate	130,741	141,285	153,621
(Gain) loss on sale/disposition of properties/note receivable	(2,655)	(55,931)	511
Non-cash gain on insurance settlement	(1,287)		(1,329)
Impairment charges	1,395	82,055	218,878
Net loss attributable to redeemable noncontrolling interests in operating partnership	(2,836)	(8,369)	(37,653)
Equity in (earnings) loss of unconsolidated joint ventures	(14,528)	20,265	(2,486)
Company's portion of FFO of unconsolidated joint ventures	8,125	1,325	2,486
<b>FFO available to common shareholders</b>	<b>74,188</b>	<b>107,696</b>	<b>64,464</b>
Dividends on convertible preferred stock	1,374	4,143	4,171
Write-off of loan costs, premiums and exit fees, net	1,677	3,893	181
Transaction acquisition and contract termination costs	(793)	7,001	
Other income <sup>(1)</sup>	(38,663)		
Legal costs related to a litigation settlement <sup>(2)</sup>	6,875		
Debt restructuring costs	823		
Unrealized gain on investments	391		
Unrealized (gains) losses on derivatives	70,286	(12,284)	31,782
Non-cash dividends on Series B-1 preferred stock <sup>(3)</sup>	17,363		
Company's portion of adjustments to FFO of unconsolidated joint ventures	16,682		
<b>Adjusted FFO available to common shareholders</b>	<b>\$ 150,203</b>	<b>\$ 110,449</b>	<b>\$ 100,598</b>

(1) For 2011, the gain from litigation settlement, other income recognized for the acquisition of 11% ownership interest in a joint venture at no cost, the net investment loss on investments in securities and other, and the premiums and fees associated with credit default swaps are excluded from Adjusted FFO.

(2) The legal costs associated with the litigation settlement are also excluded from the Adjusted FFO for 2011.

(3) Represents the conversion of 1.4 million shares of the Series B-1 preferred stock to shares of our common stock that was treated as a dividend in accordance with applicable accounting guidance.

**Table of Contents****Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

Our primary market risk exposure consists of changes in interest rates on borrowings under our debt instruments, our derivatives portfolio and notes receivable that bear interest at variable rates that fluctuate with market interest rates. The analysis below presents the sensitivity of the market value of our financial instruments to selected changes in market interest rates.

At December 31, 2011, the total indebtedness of \$2.4 billion included \$517.7 million of variable-rate debt. The impact on the results of operations of a 25-basis point change in interest rate on the outstanding balance of variable-rate debt at December 31, 2011 would be approximately \$1.2 million per year. Interest rate changes will have no impact on the remaining \$1.9 billion of fixed rate debt.

The above amounts were determined based on the impact of hypothetical interest rates on our borrowings and assume no changes in our capital structure. As the information presented above includes only those exposures that existed at December 31, 2011, it does not consider exposures or positions that could arise after that date. Accordingly, the information presented herein has limited predictive value. As a result, the ultimate realized gain or loss with respect to interest rate fluctuations will depend on exposures that arise during the period, the hedging strategies at the time, and the related interest rates.

We primarily use interest rate derivatives in order to capitalize on the historical correlation between changes in LIBOR and RevPAR. Beginning in March 2008, we entered into various interest rate swap, cap, floor, and flooridor transactions that were not designated as hedges. The changes in the fair market values of these transactions are noncash items and recorded in earnings. The interest rate derivatives we entered into since 2008 have resulted in total income of approximately \$196.1 million through December 31, 2011. Based on the LIBOR in effect on December 31, 2011, these derivatives are expected to result in income of approximately \$31.5 million for 2012.

In August 2011, we entered into credit default swap transactions for a notional amount of \$100.0 million to hedge financial and capital market risk. A credit default swap is a derivative contract that works like an insurance policy against the credit risk of an entity or obligation. The credit risk underlying the credit default swaps are referenced to the CMBX index. The CMBX is a group of indices that references underlying bonds from 25 Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities (CMBS), tranching by rating class. The only liability for Ashford, the buyer of protection, is the annual premium and any change in value of the underlying CMBX index (if the trade is terminated prior to maturity). For the CMBX trades that we have completed, we were the buyer of protection in all trades. Assuming the underlying bonds pay off at par over their remaining average life, our total exposure for these trades is approximately \$8.5 million.

**Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data**

Index to Consolidated Financial Statements

<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	67
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets – December 31, 2011 and 2010</u>	68
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations – Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009</u>	69
<u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) – Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009</u>	70
<u>Consolidated Statements of Changes in Equity – Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009</u>	71
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows – Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009</u>	72
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	73



**Table of Contents**

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of

Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and subsidiaries

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income (loss), changes in equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011. Our audits also included the financial statement schedules listed in the Index at Item 15(a). These consolidated financial statements and schedules are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedules based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and subsidiaries at December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedules, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, present fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 28, 2012 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Dallas, Texas

February 28, 2012

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****(in thousands, except share amounts)**

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
<b>Assets</b>		
Investments in hotel properties, net	\$ 2,957,899	\$ 3,023,736
Cash and cash equivalents	167,609	217,690
Restricted cash	84,069	67,666
Accounts receivable, net of allowance of \$212 and \$298, respectively	28,623	27,493
Inventories	2,371	2,909
Notes receivable, net of allowance of \$8,711 and \$16,875, respectively	11,199	20,870
Investment in unconsolidated joint ventures	179,527	15,000
Assets held for sale		144,511
Investments in securities and other	21,374	
Deferred costs, net	17,421	17,519
Prepaid expenses	11,308	12,727
Derivative assets	37,918	106,867
Other assets	4,851	7,502
Intangible asset, net	2,810	2,899
Due from third-party hotel managers	62,747	49,135
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,589,726</b>	<b>\$ 3,716,524</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>		
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Indebtedness of continuing operations	\$ 2,362,458	\$ 2,518,164
Indebtedness of assets held for sale		50,619
Capital leases payable		36
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	82,282	79,248
Dividends payable	16,941	7,281
Unfavorable management contract liabilities	13,611	16,058
Due to related party	2,569	2,400
Due to third-party hotel managers	1,602	1,870
Liabilities associated with investments in securities and other	2,246	
Other liabilities	5,400	4,627
Other liabilities of assets held for sale		2,995
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,487,109</b>	<b>2,683,298</b>
<b>Commitments and contingencies (Note 13)</b>		
Series B-1 cumulative convertible redeemable preferred stock, \$0.01 par value, 7,247,865 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2010		72,986
Redeemable noncontrolling interests in operating partnership	112,796	126,722
<b>Equity:</b>		
Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value, 50,000,000 shares authorized		
Series A cumulative preferred stock, 1,487,900 shares issued and outstanding	15	15
Series D cumulative preferred stock, 8,966,797 shares issued and outstanding, respectively	90	90
Series E cumulative preferred stock, 4,630,000 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2011	46	
Common stock, \$0.01 par value, 200,000,000 shares authorized, 124,896,765 shares and 123,403,893 shares issued, respectively; and 68,032,289 shares and 58,999,324 shares outstanding, respectively	1,249	1,234

Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

Additional paid-in capital	1,746,259	1,552,657
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(184)	(550)
Accumulated deficit	(609,272)	(543,788)
Treasury stock, at cost, 56,864,476 and 64,404,569 shares, respectively	(164,796)	(192,850)
Total shareholders' equity of the Company	973,407	816,808
Noncontrolling interests in consolidated joint ventures	16,414	16,710
Total equity	989,821	833,518
Total liabilities and equity	\$ 3,589,726	\$ 3,716,524

*See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.*

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**

(in thousands, except per share amounts)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
<b>Revenue</b>			
Rooms	\$ 685,568	\$ 640,989	\$ 626,434
Food and beverage	158,258	151,105	152,366
Rental income from operating leases	5,341	5,436	5,650
Other	40,268	39,291	41,632
Total hotel revenue	889,435	836,821	826,082
Interest income from notes receivable		1,378	10,876
Asset management fees and other	362	425	726
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>889,797</b>	<b>838,624</b>	<b>837,684</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Hotel operating expenses:			
Rooms	158,645	148,308	142,425
Food and beverage	108,961	105,229	106,909
Other expenses	277,133	266,199	266,964
Management fees	36,140	34,909	34,184
Total hotel expenses	580,879	554,645	550,482
Property taxes, insurance and other	46,758	49,389	53,097
Depreciation and amortization	133,882	132,651	138,620
Impairment charges	(4,841)	46,404	148,679
Gain on insurance settlement	(2,035)		(1,329)
Transaction acquisition and contract termination costs	(793)	7,001	
Corporate general and administrative	44,522	30,619	29,951
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>798,372</b>	<b>820,709</b>	<b>919,500</b>
<b>Operating income (loss)</b>	<b>91,425</b>	<b>17,915</b>	<b>(81,816)</b>
Equity in earnings (loss) of unconsolidated joint ventures	14,528	(20,265)	2,486
Interest income	85	283	297
Other income	109,524	62,826	56,556
Interest expense and amortization of loan costs	(138,547)	(140,609)	(132,997)
Write-off of premiums, loan costs and exit fees	(729)	(3,893)	371
Unrealized loss on investments	(391)		
Unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives	(70,286)	12,284	(31,782)
<b>Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes</b>	<b>5,609</b>	<b>(71,459)</b>	<b>(186,885)</b>
Income tax (expense) benefit	(1,620)	155	(1,508)
<b>Income (loss) from continuing operations</b>	<b>3,989</b>	<b>(71,304)</b>	<b>(188,393)</b>
Income (loss) from discontinued operations	(4,106)	9,512	(100,267)
<b>Net loss</b>	<b>(117)</b>	<b>(61,792)</b>	<b>(288,660)</b>
(Income) loss from consolidated joint ventures attributable to noncontrolling interests	(610)	1,683	765
Net loss attributable to redeemable noncontrolling interests in operating partnership	2,836	8,369	37,653
<b>Net income (loss) attributable to the Company</b>	<b>2,109</b>	<b>(51,740)</b>	<b>(250,242)</b>
Preferred dividends	(46,876)	(21,194)	(19,322)

Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

<b>Net loss available to common shareholders</b>	\$ (44,767)	\$ (72,934)	\$ (269,564)
<b>Income (loss) per share basic and diluted:</b>			
Loss from continuing operations attributable to common shareholders	\$ (0.66)	\$ (1.59)	\$ (2.67)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations attributable to common shareholders	(0.07)	0.16	(1.26)
<b>Net loss attributable to common shareholders</b>	\$ (0.73)	\$ (1.43)	\$ (3.93)
<b>Weighted average common shares outstanding basic and diluted</b>	61,954	51,159	68,597
<b>Dividends declared per common share</b>	\$ 0.40	\$	\$
<b>Amounts attributable to common shareholders:</b>			
Income (loss) from continuing operations, net of tax	\$ 6,609	\$ (60,158)	\$ (163,582)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of tax	(4,500)	8,418	(86,660)
Preferred dividends	(46,876)	(21,194)	(19,322)
<b>Net loss attributable to common shareholders</b>	\$ (44,767)	\$ (72,934)	\$ (269,564)

*See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.*

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)**

(in thousands)

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Net loss</b>	\$ (117)	\$ (61,792)	\$ (288,660)
<b>Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax:</b>			
Change in unrealized loss on derivatives	(78)	(136)	(235)
Reclassification to interest expense	603	633	206
<b>Total other comprehensive income (loss)</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>(29)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income (loss)</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>(61,295)</b>	<b>(288,689)</b>
Comprehensive (income) loss attributable to noncontrolling interests in consolidated joint ventures	(718)	1,590	749
Comprehensive loss attributable to redeemable noncontrolling interests in operating partnership	2,785	8,313	37,661
<b>Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to the Company</b>	<b>\$ 2,475</b>	<b>\$ (51,392)</b>	<b>\$ (250,279)</b>

*See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.*

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**

(in thousands)

	Series A		Preferred Stock Series D		Series E		Common Stock		Additional Paid-in Capital	Accumulated Deficit	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss)	Treasury Stock		Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Joint Ventures	Total	Redeemable Noncontrolling Interests Open Partnership
	Shares	Amounts	Shares	Amounts	Shares	Amounts	Shares	Amounts				Shares	Amounts			
at January 1,	2,185	\$ 22	6,394	\$ 64		\$	122,749	\$ 1,227	\$ 1,450,146	\$ (124,782)	\$ (860)	(36,194)	\$ (113,598)	\$ 19,355	\$ 1,231,574	\$ 10
Issuance of restricted shares	(697)	(7)	(727)	(7)					(10,642)						(10,656)	
Issuance of common shares												(30,058)	(81,329)		(81,329)	
Expiration of restricted share units under performance-based incentive plan									(8,426)			1,100	8,503		77	
Share-based incentive plan expense								3,977							3,977	
Contributions from noncontrolling interests														281	281	
Adjustments to noncontrolling interests														(972)	(972)	
Dividends declared										(250,242)				(765)	(251,007)	(3)
Dividends declared on A shares										(3,180)					(3,180)	
Dividends declared on B-1 shares										(4,171)					(4,171)	
Dividends declared on D shares										(11,971)					(11,971)	
Change in unrealized gains on derivatives										(202)					(202)	
Provision for share-based compensation expense										165				16	181	
Share-based compensation settled in shares									954						954	
Share repurchase/conversion of partnership units																
Share repurchase/conversion of partnership units at redemption value										(17,665)					(17,665)	1
at December 31, 2009	1,488	15	5,667	57			122,749	1,227	1,436,009	(412,011)	(897)	(65,152)	(186,424)	17,915	855,891	8
Issuance of common shares												(7,158)	(45,087)		(45,087)	
Issuance of treasury shares									34,478			7,500	35,572		70,050	
Expiration of Series D share units			3,300	33					72,151						72,184	
Expiration of restricted share units under performance-based incentive plan									(3,536)			469	3,536			
Share-based incentive plan expense									4,129						4,129	
									146			(63)	(447)		(301)	

## Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

Share of restricted																					
Contributions from controlling interests																				1,033	1,033
Contributions to controlling interests																				(648)	(648)
Dividends declared									(51,740)											(1,683)	(53,423)
Dividends declared - Class A shares									(3,180)												(3,180)
Dividends declared - Class B-1 shares									(4,143)												(4,143)
Dividends declared - Class D shares									(13,871)												(13,871)
Change in unrealized derivatives									(101)											(14)	(115)
Reclassification to expense									448											107	555
Dividend compensation settled in shares									3,591												3,591
Issuance of Series E preferred shares					200	2		2,012													2,014
Redemption/conversion of partnership units					455	5		3,677	(212)												3,470
Change in partnership redemption value adjustments									(58,631)												(58,631)
Share of net income at December 31, 2010	1,488	15	8,967	90				123,404	1,234	1,552,657	(543,788)	(550)	(64,404)	(192,850)	16,710					833,518	12
Share of net income of treasury										58,700				7,300	27,269						85,969
Share of net income of Series E preferred shares					4,630	46				109,580											109,626
Share of net income of Series E preferred stock								1,393	14	17,349	(17,363)										
Share of net income of restricted units under compensated																					
Share of net income of restricted units under compensation										(1,195)			285	1,195							
Share of net income of restricted units under compensation expense										3,180											3,180
Share of net income of restricted units under other										41			(45)	(410)							(369)
Share of net income of restricted units under other contributions to controlling interests																					(3,691)
Share of net income of restricted units under other (loss)										2,109				610							2,719
Share of net income of restricted units under other holder short																					
Share of net income of restricted units under other profit payments										859											859
Share of net income of restricted units under other dividends declared - Class A shares										(25,652)											(25,652)
Share of net income of restricted units under other dividends declared - Class B-1 shares										(3,180)											(3,180)
Share of net income of restricted units under other dividends declared - Class B-1 shares										(1,374)											(1,374)
Share of net income of restricted units under other dividends declared - Class D shares										(18,940)											(18,940)
Share of net income of restricted units under other dividends declared - Class E shares										(6,019)											(6,019)
Share of net income of restricted units under other change in fair value of related joint										(2,677)											2,677
Share of net income of restricted units under other change in fair value of related joint																					
Share of net income of restricted units under other change in fair value of related joint - unrealized derivatives										(69)											(69)
Share of net income of restricted units under other change in fair value of related joint - reclassification to expense										435										108	543
Share of net income of restricted units under other change in fair value of related joint - redemption/conversion of partnership units										100	1		1,030	(66)							965



Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

ing partnership emption value ents and d LTIP units fied to equity											6,735	5,001							11,736	(1
at ber 31, 2011	1,488	\$ 15	8,967	\$ 90	4,630	\$ 46	124,897	\$ 1,249	\$ 1,746,259	\$ (609,272)	\$ (184)	(56,864)	\$ (164,796)	\$ 16,414	\$	989,821	\$ 11			

*See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.*

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

(in thousands)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
Net loss	\$ (117)	\$ (61,792)	\$ (288,660)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash flows provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	134,273	145,326	157,107
Impairment charges	1,395	82,055	218,878
Equity in (earnings) loss of unconsolidated joint ventures	(14,528)	20,265	(2,486)
Distributions of earnings from unconsolidated joint ventures		492	873
Income from financing derivatives	(70,573)	(62,906)	(52,282)
(Gain) loss on sale of properties/notes receivable, net	(2,655)	(55,905)	511
Realized and unrealized loss on trading securities	1,371		
Purchases of trading securities	(56,167)		
Sales of trading securities	35,667		
Gain on insurance settlement	(2,035)		(1,329)
Amortization of loan costs, write-off of loan costs, premiums and exit fees, net	6,325	9,731	7,881
Amortization discounts and deferred costs and income on notes receivable, net			(3,129)
Unrealized (gain) loss on derivatives	70,286	(12,284)	31,782
Equity-based compensation	12,391	7,067	5,037
Changes in operating assets and liabilities			
Restricted cash	(16,403)	9,900	(7,806)
Accounts receivable and inventories	(2,725)	3,065	(4,677)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(180)	(4,167)	1,084
Net settlement of trading derivatives	(1,315)		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	2,704	8,922	1,784
Due to/from related party	169	1,370	(1,369)
Due to/from third-party hotel managers	(13,880)	(6,606)	4,280
Other liabilities	(9,410)	(1,886)	(1,865)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>74,593</b>	<b>82,647</b>	<b>65,614</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>			
Proceeds from sale/payments of notes receivable	22,611	28,284	13,355
Investment in unconsolidated joint ventures	(145,351)	(15,000)	
Acquisition of condominium properties	(12,000)		
Cash released at disposition of hotel properties		(3,458)	(3,494)
Improvements and additions to hotel properties	(67,797)	(62,205)	(69,176)
Net proceeds from sale of assets/properties	154,015	4,903	858
Proceeds from property insurance	748		13,703
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(47,774)</b>	<b>(47,476)</b>	<b>(44,754)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>			
Borrowings on indebtedness and capital leases	25,000	259,000	208,800
Repayments of indebtedness and capital leases	(235,753)	(365,702)	(196,772)
Payments of loan costs and prepayment penalties	(6,048)	(7,080)	(5,903)
Payments of dividends	(53,295)	(24,008)	(22,867)
Repurchases of treasury shares		(45,087)	(81,327)
Repurchase of preferred shares	(72,986)		(10,656)
Payments for derivatives	(97)	(75)	(38,058)
Cash income from derivatives	72,705	62,212	50,928
Proceeds from preferred stock offering	109,756	72,208	
Proceeds from common stock offering	86,027	70,443	
Contributions from noncontrolling interests in consolidated joint ventures		1,033	

## Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

Distributions to noncontrolling interests in consolidated joint ventures	(3,179)	(333)	(972)
Redemption of operating partnership units and other	970	(5,260)	(462)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(76,900)</b>	<b>17,351</b>	<b>(97,289)</b>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(50,081)	52,522	(76,429)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	217,690	165,168	241,597
 Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	 \$ 167,609	 \$ 217,690	 \$ 165,168

### Supplemental Cash Flow Information

Interest paid	\$ 134,668	\$ 142,998	\$ 137,252
Income taxes paid	\$ 2,366	\$ 1,424	\$ 651

### Supplemental Disclosure of Investing and Financing Activities

Accrued interest added to principal of indebtedness	\$ 4,392	\$ 4,042	\$
Noncash dividends paid to Series B-1 preferred stock holder	\$ 17,363	\$	\$
Note receivable assigned by noncontrolling interest in consolidated joint venture	\$ 8,098	\$	\$
Assets transferred to receivership/lender	\$	\$ 54,625	\$ 36,177
Liabilities transferred to receivership/lender	\$	\$ 110,837	\$ 33,290
Note receivable contributed to unconsolidated joint venture	\$ 15,000	\$	\$

*See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.*

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**For the Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009**

**1. Organization and Description of Business**

Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc., together with its subsidiaries ( Ashford ), is a self-advised real estate investment trust ( REIT ) focused on investing in the hospitality industry across all segments and in all methods including direct real estate, securities, equity, and debt. We commenced operations in August 2003 with the acquisition of six hotels in connection with our initial public offering. We own our lodging investments and conduct our business through Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership, our operating partnership. Ashford OP General Partner LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ashford, serves as the sole general partner of our operating partnership. In this report, the terms the Company, we, us or our mean Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and all entities included in its consolidated financial statements.

As of December 31, 2011, we directly owned 92 hotel properties and four hotel properties that we owned through majority-owned investments in joint ventures. These hotels represent 20,656 total rooms, or 20,395 net rooms excluding those attributable to our joint venture partners. Currently, all of our hotel properties are located in the United States. In March 2011, we acquired 96 hotel condominium units at WorldQuest Resort in Orlando, Florida for \$12.0 million. Also in March 2011, with an investment of \$150.0 million, we converted our interest in a joint venture that held a mezzanine loan into a 71.74% common equity interest and a \$25.0 million preferred equity interest in a new joint venture (the PIM Highland JV ) that holds 28 high quality full and select service hotel properties with 8,084 total rooms, or 5,800 net rooms excluding those attributable to our joint venture partner. At December 31, 2011, we also wholly owned one mezzanine loan of \$3.1 million and one note receivable of \$8.1 million in connection with a joint venture restructuring.

For federal income tax purposes, we elected to be treated as a REIT, which imposes limitations related to operating hotels. As of December 31, 2011, all of our 96 hotel properties were leased or owned by our wholly-owned subsidiaries that are treated as taxable REIT subsidiaries for federal income tax purposes (collectively, these subsidiaries are referred to as Ashford TRS ). Ashford TRS then engages third-party or affiliated hotel management companies to operate the hotels under management contracts. Hotel operating results related to these properties are included in the consolidated statements of operations. Through December 1, 2011, the hotel property held by a joint venture in which we previously had an ownership of 89% was leased on a triple-net lease arrangement to a third-party tenant who operated the hotel property. Rental income from this operating lease is included in the consolidated results of operations for the period from January 1, 2011 through December 1, 2011. Effective December 2, 2011, we acquired the remaining 11% ownership interest from our joint venture partner at no cost to us. The triple-net lease agreement was canceled and the operating results of this hotel property have been included in our consolidated statements of operations since December 2, 2011. With respect to our unconsolidated joint venture, PIM Highland JV, the 28 hotels are leased to PIM Highland JV s wholly-owned subsidiary, which is treated as a taxable REIT subsidiary for federal income tax purposes.

Remington Lodging & Hospitality, LLC, together with its affiliates, ( Remington Lodging ), is our primary property manager, and is beneficially wholly owned by Mr. Archie Bennett, Jr., our Chairman, and Mr. Monty J. Bennett, our Chief Executive Officer. As of December 31, 2011, Remington Lodging managed 45 of our 96 legacy hotel properties, while third-party management companies managed the remaining 51 hotel properties. In addition, Remington Lodging also managed 19 of the 28 PIM Highland JV hotel properties and the WorldQuest condominium properties.

---

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**2. Significant Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Presentation** The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Ashford, its majority-owned subsidiaries and its majority-owned joint ventures in which it has a controlling interest. All significant inter-company accounts and transactions between consolidated entities have been eliminated in these consolidated financial statements.

Marriott International, Inc. ( Marriott ) manages 40 of our properties. For these Marriott-managed hotels, the fiscal year reflects twelve weeks of operations in each of the first three quarters of the year and 16 weeks for the fourth quarter of the year. Therefore, in any given quarterly period, period-over-period results will have different ending dates. For Marriott-managed hotels, the fourth quarters of 2011, 2010 and 2009 ended December 30, 2011, December 31, 2010, and January 1, 2010, respectively.

**Use of Estimates** The preparation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States 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 revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents** Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand or held in banks and short-term investments with an initial maturity of three months or less at the date of purchase.

**Restricted Cash** Restricted cash includes reserves for debt service, real estate taxes, and insurance, as well as excess cash flow deposits and reserves for furniture, fixtures, and equipment replacements of approximately 4% to 6% of property revenue for certain hotels, as required by certain management or mortgage debt agreement restrictions and provisions.

**Accounts Receivable** Accounts receivable consists primarily of meeting and banquet room rental and hotel guest receivables. We generally do not require collateral. We maintain an allowance for doubtful accounts for estimated losses resulting from the inability of guests to make required payments for services. The allowance is maintained at a level believed adequate to absorb estimated receivable losses. The estimate is based on past receivable loss experience, known and inherent credit risks, current economic conditions, and other relevant factors, including specific reserves for certain accounts.

**Inventories** Inventories, which primarily consist of food, beverages, and gift store merchandise, are stated at the lower of cost or market value. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out method.

**Investments in Hotel Properties** Hotel properties are generally stated at cost. However, the remaining four hotel properties contributed upon Ashford's formation in 2003 that are still owned by Ashford (the Initial Properties ) are stated at the predecessor's historical cost, net of impairment charges, if any, plus a noncontrolling interest partial step-up related to the acquisition of noncontrolling interests from third parties associated with four of the Initial Properties. For hotel properties owned through our majority-owned joint ventures, the carrying basis attributable to the joint venture partners' minority ownership is recorded at the predecessor's historical cost, net of any impairment charges, while the carrying basis attributable to our majority ownership is recorded based on the allocated purchase price of our ownership interests in the joint ventures. All improvements and additions which extend the useful life of the hotel properties are capitalized.

**Impairment of Investment in Hotel Properties** Hotel properties are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying amounts may not be recoverable. We test

---

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

impairment by using current or projected cash flows over the estimated useful life of the asset. In evaluating the impairment of hotel properties, we make many assumptions and estimates, including projected cash flows, expected holding period and expected useful life. We may also use fair values of comparable assets. If an asset is deemed to be impaired, we record an impairment charge for the amount that the property's net book value exceeds its estimated fair value. No impairment charges were recorded for investment in hotel properties included in our continuing operations for 2011 and 2009, and impairment charge of \$39.9 million was recorded for a hotel property included in the continuing operations for 2010.

**Notes Receivable** We provide mezzanine loan financing, documented by notes receivable. These loans are held for investment and are intended to be held to maturity and accordingly, are recorded at cost, net of unamortized loan origination costs and fees, loan purchase discounts and net of the allowance for losses when a loan is deemed to be impaired. Premiums, discounts, and net origination fees are amortized or accreted as an adjustment to interest income using the effective interest method over the life of the loan. We discontinue recording interest and amortizing discounts/premiums when the contractual payment of interest and/or principal is not received. Payments received on impaired nonaccrual loans are recorded as adjustments to impairment charges. No interest income was recorded for 2011, and \$1.4 million and \$10.9 million interest income was recognized for 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Variable interest entities, as defined by authoritative accounting guidance, must be consolidated by their controlling interest beneficiaries if the variable interest entities do not effectively disperse risks among the parties involved. Our remaining mezzanine note receivable at December 31, 2011 is secured by a hotel property and is subordinate to the controlling interest in the secured hotel property. The note receivable is considered to be a variable interest in the entity that owns the related hotel. However, we are not considered to be the primary beneficiary of the hotel property as a result of holding the loan. Therefore, we do not consolidate the hotel property for which we have provided financing. We will evaluate the interests in entities acquired or created in the future to determine whether such entities should be consolidated. In evaluating the variable interest entity, our analysis involves considerable management judgment and assumptions.

**Impairment of Notes Receivable** We review notes receivable for impairment in each reporting period pursuant to the applicable authoritative accounting guidance. A loan is impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable that we will be unable to collect all amounts recorded as assets on the balance sheet. We apply normal loan review and underwriting procedures (as may be implemented or modified from time to time) in making that judgment.

When a loan is impaired, we measure impairment based on the present value of expected cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate against the value of the asset recorded on the balance sheet. We may also measure impairment based on a loan's observable market price or the fair value of collateral if the loan is collateral dependent. If a loan is deemed to be impaired, we record a valuation allowance through a charge to earnings for any shortfall. Our assessment of impairment is based on considerable judgment and estimates. No impairment charges were recorded in 2011. Valuation adjustments of \$4.8 million on previously impaired notes were credited to impairment charges during 2011. For 2010 and 2009, we recorded a valuation allowance of \$6.5 million and \$148.7 million, net of subsequent valuation adjustments, for our mezzanine loan portfolio. See Notes 4 and 17.

**Investments in Unconsolidated Joint Ventures** Investments in joint ventures in which we have ownership interests ranging from 14.4% to 71.74% are accounted for under the equity method of accounting by recording the initial investment and our percentage of interest in the joint venture's net income (loss). We review the investments in our unconsolidated joint ventures for impairment in each reporting period pursuant to the applicable authoritative accounting guidance. An investment is impaired when its estimated fair value is less than

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

the carrying amount of our investment. Any impairment is recorded in equity earnings (loss) in unconsolidated joint ventures. No such impairment was recorded in 2011. In 2010, we recorded a valuation allowance of \$21.6 million to fully reserve our investment in a joint venture that held a mezzanine loan.

Our investments in unconsolidated joint ventures are considered to be variable interests in the underlying entities. Variable Interest Entities ( VIE ), as defined by authoritative accounting guidance, must be consolidated by a reporting entity if the reporting entity is the primary beneficiary because it has (i) the power to direct the VIE s activities that most significantly impact the VIE s economic performance, (ii) an implicit financial responsibility to ensure that a VIE operates as designed, and (iii) the obligation to absorb losses of the VIE or the right to receive benefits from the VIE. Because we do not have the power and financial responsibility to direct the unconsolidated joint ventures activities and operations, we are not considered to be the primary beneficiary of these joint ventures on an ongoing basis to determine whether such entities should be consolidated. In evaluating VIEs, our analysis involves considerable management judgment and assumptions.

In 2011, we acquired a 71.74% ownership interest in PIM Highland JV through contributions made by various entities in which we had equity investments and an additional cash investment. We adopted the equity accounting method for our investment in the PIM Highland JV due to the fact that we exercise significant influence but do not control the joint venture. Although we have the majority ownership of 71.74% in the joint venture, all the major decisions related to the joint venture, including establishment of policies and operating procedures with respect to business affairs, incurring obligations and expenditures, are subject to the approval of an executive committee, which is comprised of four persons with us and our joint venture partner each designating two of those persons. Our investment in PIM Highland JV had a carrying value of \$179.5 million at December 31, 2011.

**Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations** We classify assets as held for sale when management has obtained a firm commitment from a buyer, and consummation of the sale is considered probable and expected within one year. In addition, we deconsolidate a property when it becomes subject to the control of a government, court, administrator or regulator and we effectively lose control of the property/subsidiary. When deconsolidating a property/subsidiary, we recognize a gain or loss in net income measured as the difference between the fair value of any consideration received, the fair value of any retained noncontrolling investment in the former subsidiary at the date the subsidiary is deconsolidated, and the carrying amount of the former property/subsidiary. The related operations of assets held for sale are reported as discontinued if a) such operations and cash flows can be clearly distinguished, both operationally and financially, from our ongoing operations, b) such operations and cash flows will be eliminated from ongoing operations once the disposal occurs, and c) we will not have any significant continuing involvement subsequent to the disposal.

In June 2011, we recorded an impairment charge of \$6.2 million for a hotel property that was sold in July 2011. During 2011, we completed the sale of four hotel properties, three of which were reclassified as assets held for sale previously, and recognized a net gain of \$2.6 million. In 2010, we recorded impairment charges totaling \$35.7 million on two hotel properties that were subsequently sold in 2011. In 2009, we recorded impairment charges totaling \$70.2 million on two hotel properties that were subsequently transferred to the lenders.

**Investments in Securities and Other** Beginning in June 2011, we invested in securities and other investments, including U.S. treasury bills, and stocks, put and call options of certain publicly traded companies. All of these investments are recorded at fair value. Put and call options are considered derivatives. The fair value of these investments has been determined based on the closing price as of the balance sheet date and is reported as Investments in securities and other or Liabilities associated with investments in securities and other in the consolidated balance sheets. Net investment income, including interest income (expense), dividends, realized gains and losses, and costs of investment, is reported as a component of Other income. Unrealized gains and losses on these investments are reported as Unrealized loss on investments in the consolidated statements of operations.

---

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**Deferred Costs, net** Deferred loan costs are recorded at cost and amortized over the terms of the related indebtedness using the effective interest method. Deferred franchise fees are amortized on a straight-line basis over the terms of the related franchise agreements.

**Derivative Instruments and Hedging** We primarily use interest rate derivatives to hedge our risks and to capitalize on the historical correlation between changes in LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate) and RevPAR (Revenue per Available Room). The interest rate derivatives include swaps, caps, floors, floorridors and corridors. Interest rate swaps (or reverse swaps) involve the exchange of fixed-rate payments for variable-rate payments (or vice versa) over the life of the derivative agreements without exchange of the underlying principal amount. Interest rate caps designated as cash flow hedges provide us with interest rate protection above the strike rate on the cap and result in us receiving interest payments when actual rates exceed the cap strike. For interest rate floors, we pay our counterparty interest when the variable interest rate index is below the strike rate. The interest rate floorridor combines two interest rate floors, structured such that the purchaser simultaneously buys an interest rate floor at a strike rate X and sells an interest rate floor at a lower strike rate Y. The purchaser of the floorridor is paid when the underlying interest rate index (for example, LIBOR) resets below strike rate X during the term of the floorridor. Unlike a standard floor, the floorridor limits the benefit the purchaser can receive as the related interest rate index falls. Once the underlying index falls below strike rate Y, the sold floor offsets the purchased floor. The interest rate corridor involves purchasing of an interest rate cap at one strike rate X and selling an interest rate cap with a higher strike rate Y. The purchaser of the corridor is paid when the underlying interest rate index resets above the strike rate X during the term of the corridor. The corridor limits the benefit the purchaser can receive as the related interest rate index rises above the strike rate Y. There is no liability to us other than the purchase price associated with the floorridor and corridor.

We assess the effectiveness of each hedging relationship by comparing the changes in fair value or cash flows of the derivative hedging instrument with the changes in fair value or cash flows of the designated hedged item or transaction. We also use credit default swaps to hedge financial and capital market risk. All these derivatives are subject to master netting settlement arrangements and the credit default swaps are subject to credit support annexes. As the derivatives are subject to master netting settlement arrangements, we report derivatives with the same counterparty net on the consolidated balance sheets. For credit default swaps, cash collateral is posted by us as well as our counterparty. We offset the fair value of the derivative and the obligation/right to return/reclaim cash collateral.

All derivatives are recorded at fair value in accordance with the applicable authoritative accounting guidance. Interest rate derivatives and credit default swaps are reported as Derivative assets or Derivative liabilities. Accrued interest on the non-hedge designated interest rate derivatives is included in Accounts receivable, net in the consolidated balance sheets. For interest rate derivatives designated as cash flow hedges, the effective portion of changes in the fair value is reported as a component of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (OCI) in the equity section of the consolidated balance sheets. The amount recorded in OCI is reclassified to interest expense in the same period or periods during which the hedged transaction affects earnings, while the ineffective portion of changes in the fair value of the derivative is recognized directly in earnings as Unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives in the consolidated statements of operations. For non-hedge designated interest rate derivatives and the credit default swap derivatives, the changes in the fair value are recognized in earnings as Unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives in the consolidated statements of operations.

**Due to/from Affiliates** Due to/from affiliates represents current receivables and payables resulting from transactions related to hotel management and project management with affiliated entities. Due from affiliates results primarily from advances of shared costs incurred. Due to affiliates results primarily from hotel management and project management fees incurred. Both due to and due from affiliates are generally settled within a period not exceeding one year.



---

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**Due to/from Third-Party Hotel Managers** Due from third-party hotel managers primarily consists of amounts due from Marriott related to cash reserves held at the Marriott corporate level related to operating, capital improvements, insurance, real estate taxes, and other items.

**Unfavorable Management Contract Liabilities** Certain management agreements assumed in the acquisition of a hotel in 2006 and the CNL acquisition in 2007 have terms that are more favorable to the respective managers than typical market management agreements at the acquisition dates. As a result, we recorded unfavorable contract liabilities related to those management agreements totaling \$23.4 million based on the present value of expected cash outflows over the initial terms of the related agreements. The unfavorable contract liabilities are amortized as reductions to incentive management fees on a straight-line basis over the initial terms of the related agreements. In evaluating unfavorable contract liabilities, our analysis involves considerable management judgment and assumptions.

**Noncontrolling Interests** The redeemable noncontrolling interests in the operating partnership represent the limited partners' proportionate share of equity in earnings/losses of the operating partnership, which is an allocation of net income attributable to the common unit holders based on the weighted average ownership percentage of these limited partners' common unit holdings throughout the period plus distributions paid to these limited partners' Class B unit holdings. The redeemable noncontrolling interests in our operating partnership is classified in the mezzanine section of the consolidated balance sheets as these redeemable operating units do not meet the requirements for equity classification prescribed by the authoritative accounting guidance because the redemption feature requires the delivery of cash or registered shares. The carrying value of the noncontrolling interests in the operating partnership is based on the greater of the accumulated historical cost or the redemption value.

The noncontrolling interests in consolidated joint ventures represent ownership interests ranging from 15% to 25% of four hotel properties at December 31, 2011 held by two joint ventures, and 11% to 25% of six hotel properties at December 31, 2010 held by three joint ventures, and are reported in equity in the consolidated balance sheets. Through December 1, 2011, the hotel property held by a joint venture in which we previously had an ownership of 89% was leased on a triple-net lease basis to a third-party tenant who operated the hotel property. Effective December 2, 2011, we acquired the remaining 11% ownership interest from our joint venture partner at no cost to us. The triple-net lease agreement was canceled and the operating results of this hotel property have been included in our consolidated statements of operations since December 2, 2011. We recognized a gain of \$9.7 million for this transaction, consisting of the assignment of an \$8.1 million note receivable and an agreement to retain \$1.6 million of security deposits that were originally refundable, which is included in "Other income" in the consolidated statements of operations.

Net income/loss attributable to redeemable noncontrolling interests in the operating partnership and income/loss from consolidated joint ventures attributable to noncontrolling interests in our consolidated joint ventures are reported as deductions/additions from/to net income/loss. Comprehensive income/loss attributable to these noncontrolling interests is reported as reductions/additions from/to comprehensive income/loss.

**Guarantees** Upon acquisition of the 51-hotel CNL portfolio on April 11, 2007, we assumed certain guarantees, which represent funds provided by third-party hotel managers to guarantee minimum returns for certain hotel properties. As we are obligated to repay such amounts through increased incentive management fees through cash reimbursements, such guarantees are recorded as other liabilities. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, these liabilities totaled \$344,000.

**Revenue Recognition** Hotel revenues, including room, food, beverage, and ancillary revenues such as long-distance telephone service, laundry, parking and space rentals, are recognized when services have been rendered. Rental income represents income from leasing hotel properties to third-party tenants on triple-net

---

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

operating leases. Base rent on the triple-net lease is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease terms and variable rent is recognized when earned. Interest income, representing interest on the mezzanine loan (including accretion of discounts on the mezzanine loan using the effective interest method), is recognized when earned. We discontinue recording interest and amortizing discounts/premiums when the contractual payment of interest and/or principal is not received. Asset management fees are recognized when services are rendered. Taxes collected from customers and submitted to taxing authorities are not recorded in revenue. For the hotel that was leased to a third party, we reported deposits into our escrow accounts for capital expenditure reserves as income up to the point in time the lease was terminated.

**Other Expenses** Other expenses include telephone charges, guest laundry, valet parking, and hotel-level general and administrative fees, sales and marketing expenses, repairs and maintenance, franchise fees and utility costs. They are expensed as incurred.

**Advertising Costs** Advertising costs are charged to expense as incurred. For 2011, 2010 and 2009, our continuing operations incurred advertising costs of \$3.5 million, \$2.4 million and \$2.9 million, respectively. Advertising costs related to continuing operations are included in Other expenses in the accompanying consolidated statement of operations.

**Equity-Based Compensation** Stock/unit-based compensation is accounted for at the fair value based on the market price of the shares at the date of grant in accordance with applicable authoritative accounting guidance. The fair value is charged to compensation expense on a straight-line basis over the vesting period of the shares/units.

**Depreciation and Amortization** Owned hotel properties are depreciated over the estimated useful life of the assets and leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of the lease term or the estimated useful life of the related assets. Presently, hotel properties are depreciated using the straight-line method over lives ranging from 7.5 to 39 years for buildings and improvements and three to five years for furniture, fixtures and equipment. While we believe our estimates are reasonable, a change in estimated useful lives could affect depreciation expense and net income (loss) as well as resulting gains or losses on potential hotel sales.

**Income Taxes** As a REIT, we generally will not be subject to federal corporate income tax on the portion of our net income (loss) that does not relate to taxable REIT subsidiaries. However, Ashford TRS is treated as a taxable REIT subsidiary for federal income tax purposes. In accordance with authoritative accounting guidance, we account for income taxes related to Ashford TRS using the asset and liability method under which deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective bases. In addition, the analysis utilized by us in determining our deferred tax asset valuation allowance involves considerable management judgment and assumptions.

In July 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued accounting guidance that clarified the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an enterprise's financial statements. The guidance prescribes a financial statement recognition and measurement attribute for the recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. The guidance also provides direction on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure and transition. We classify interest and penalties related to underpayment of income taxes as income tax expense. We and our subsidiaries file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and various states and cities. Tax years 2008 through 2011 remain subject to potential examination by certain federal and state taxing authorities. As more fully described in Note 13, income tax examinations of two of our TRS subsidiaries are currently in process. We believe that the results of the completion of these examinations will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition.

---

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**Income (Loss) Per Share** Basic income (loss) per common share is calculated by dividing net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders by the weighted average common shares outstanding during the period using the two-class method prescribed by applicable authoritative accounting guidance. Diluted income (loss) per common share is calculated using the two-class method, or the treasury stock method, if more dilutive. Diluted income/loss per common share reflects the potential dilution that could occur if securities or other contracts to issue common shares were exercised or converted into common shares, whereby such exercise or conversion would result in lower income per share.

**Reclassifications** Certain amounts in the consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 have been reclassified for discontinued operations. These reclassifications have no effect on our cash flows, equity or net income (loss) previously reported.

**Recently Adopted Accounting Standards** In December 2010, the FASB issued accounting standard update to require a public entity to disclose pro forma information for business combinations that occurred in the current reporting period. The disclosures include pro forma revenue and earnings of the combined entity for the current reporting period as though the acquisition date for all business combinations that occurred during the year had been as of the beginning of the annual reporting period. If comparative financial statements are presented, the pro forma revenue and earnings of the combined entity for the comparable prior reporting period should be reported as though the acquisition date for all business combinations that occurred during the current year had been as of the beginning of the comparable prior annual reporting period. The new disclosures are effective prospectively for business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after December 15, 2010. The pro forma disclosures related to our acquisition of the 28-hotel portfolio through the PIM Highland JV in Note 26 are made in accordance with the new requirements. The adoption did not have an impact on our financial position and results of operations.

In June 2011, the FASB issued accounting guidance for presentation of comprehensive income. The accounting update requires an entity to present each component of net income along with total net income, each component of other comprehensive income along with a total for other comprehensive income, and a total amount for comprehensive income. The entity has the option to present the total of comprehensive income, the components of net income, and the components of other comprehensive income either in a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. The new accounting guidance is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011, except for the presentation requirements for reclassifications of items out of accumulated other comprehensive income, the effective date of which was deferred in December 2011 until the FASB is able to reconsider the disclosure requirements. We have adopted this accounting guidance as we have been presenting net income and other comprehensive income in two separate but consecutive statements, and the adoption did not result in any impact on our financial statements. Upon the effectiveness of the requirements for reclassifications of items out of accumulated other comprehensive income, we will make the required presentation on the face of the financial statements of reclassification adjustments for items that are reclassified from other comprehensive income to net income in the statements where the components of net income and the components of other comprehensive income are presented.

**Recently Issued Accounting Standards** In May 2011, the FASB issued accounting guidance for common fair value measurement and disclosure requirements. The guidance requires disclosures of (i) quantitative information about the significant unobservable inputs used for level 3 measurements; (ii) description of the valuation processes surrounding level 3 measurements; (iii) narrative description of the sensitivity of recurring level 3 measurements to unobservable inputs; (iv) hierarchy classification for items whose fair value is only disclosed in the footnotes; and (v) any transfers between level 1 and 2 of the fair value hierarchy. The new

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

accounting guidance is effective during interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. We do not expect any material impact on our financial position and results of operations from the adoption of this accounting guidance, but will make the required additional disclosures upon adoption.

In December 2011, the FASB issued accounting guidance to clarify how to determine whether a reporting entity should derecognize the in substance real estate upon loan defaults when it ceases to have controlling interest in a subsidiary that is in substance real estate. Under this guidance, a reporting entity would not satisfy the requirements to derecognize the in substance real estate before the legal transfer of the real estate to the lender and the extinguishment of the related non-recourse indebtedness. That is, even if the reporting entity ceases to have a controlling financial interest, the reporting entity would continue to include the real estate, debt, and the results of the subsidiary's operations in its consolidated financial statements until legal title to the real estate is transferred to legally satisfy the debt. The new accounting guidance is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning on or after June 15, 2012. Early adoption is permitted. We do not expect any impact on our financial position and results of operations from the adoption of this accounting guidance as our current accounting policy is to derecognize the in substance real estate when the legal title to the real estate is transferred to legally satisfy the non-recourse indebtedness.

In December 2011, the FASB issued accounting guidance to require disclosures about offsetting assets and liabilities. Entities are 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. This scope would include derivatives, sale and repurchase agreements and reverse sale and repurchase agreements, and securities borrowing and securities lending arrangements. The new accounting guidance is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after January 1, 2013 and the disclosures should be reported retrospectively for all comparative periods presented. We do not expect any material impact on our financial position and results of operations from the adoption of this accounting guidance, but will make the required additional disclosures upon adoption.

**3. Investment in Hotel Properties**

Investment in hotel properties consisted of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
Land	\$ 487,184	\$ 488,901
Buildings and improvements	2,779,828	2,774,822
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	276,292	383,860
Construction in progress	5,841	4,473
Condominium properties	12,661	
Total cost	3,561,806	3,652,056
Accumulated depreciation	(603,907)	(628,320)
Investment in hotel properties, net	\$ 2,957,899	\$ 3,023,736

The cost of land and depreciable property, net of accumulated depreciation, for federal income tax purposes was approximately \$2.8 billion.

## Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

In March 2011, we acquired real estate and certain other rights in connection with the acquisition of the WorldQuest Resort, a condominium hotel project for \$12.0 million and incurred acquisition costs of \$298,000. More specifically, we acquired 96 condominium units, hotel amenities, land and improvements, developable raw land, developer rights and Rental Management Agreements ( RMA's ) with third party owners of condominium units in the project. Units owned by third parties with RMA's and all of the 96 units we acquired participate in a

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

rental pool program whereby the units are rented to guests similar to a hotel operation. Under the terms of the RMAs, we share in a percentage of the guest room revenues and are reimbursed for certain costs. In third quarter 2011, we sold two of the completed units at a price of \$175,000 each and realized a gain of \$96,000.

For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, we recognized depreciation expense, including depreciation of assets under capital leases and discontinued hotel properties, of \$133.5 million, \$144.9 million and \$156.7 million, respectively.

The authoritative accounting guidance requires non-financial assets be measured at fair value when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset will not be recoverable. An asset is considered impaired if the carrying value of the hotel property exceeds its estimated undiscounted cash flows and the impairment is calculated as the amount by which the carrying value of the hotel property exceeds its estimated fair value. Our investments in hotel properties are reviewed for impairment at each reporting period, taking into account the latest operating cash flows and market conditions and their impact on future projections. Management uses considerable subjective and complex judgments in determining the assumptions used to estimate the fair value and undiscounted cash flows, and believes these are assumptions that would be consistent with the assumptions of market participants.

At December 31, 2010, the Hilton hotel property in Tucson, Arizona had a reasonable probability of being sold. Based on our assessment of the purchase price obtained from potential buyers, we recorded an impairment charge of \$39.9 million.

**4. Notes Receivable**

In December 2011, in connection with the restructuring of the joint venture in which we previously owned an 89% interest, we acquired the remaining 11% at no cost to us. Our joint venture partner also assigned to us a note receivable of \$8.1 million from a city government and an agreement to retain \$1.6 million of security deposits that were originally refundable. The note bears interest at a rate of 12.85% and matures in 2018. In addition, we had one mezzanine loan at December 31, 2011 and two mezzanine loans at December 31, 2010. In April 2011, we entered into a settlement agreement with the borrower of the mezzanine loan which was secured by a 105-hotel property portfolio and scheduled to mature in April 2011. The borrower paid off the loan for \$22.1 million. The mezzanine loan had a carrying value of \$17.9 million at March 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, after an impairment charge of \$7.8 million was recorded at December 31, 2010. The difference between the settlement amount and the carrying value of \$4.2 million was recorded as a credit to impairment charges in accordance with the applicable accounting guidance.

Our remaining mezzanine loan, which is secured by one hotel property, had an original face amount of \$38.0 million, of which our initial investment was \$33.0 million. This loan was restructured in 2010 with a cash payment of \$20.2 million and a \$4.0 million note receivable which matures in June 2017, with an interest rate of 6.09%. At December 31, 2011 and 2010, this mezzanine loan had a net carrying value of \$3.1 million and \$3.0 million, respectively, net of the balance in the valuation allowance of \$8.7 million and \$9.1 million, respectively. All required payments on this loan have been made and payments on this loan have been treated as a reduction of carrying values and the valuation allowance adjustments have been recorded as credits to impairment charges in accordance with applicable accounting guidance.

In May 2010, the mezzanine loan with a principal balance of \$7.0 million secured by the Le Meridien hotel property in Dallas, Texas was settled with a cash payment of \$1.1 million. The loan was fully reserved in 2009 as the borrower ceased making debt service payments on the loan. As a result of the settlement, the \$1.1 million was recorded as a credit to impairment charges in accordance with authoritative accounting guidance for impaired loans.

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Principal and interest payments were not made since October 2008, on the \$18.2 million junior participation note receivable secured by the Four Seasons hotel property in Nevis. The underlying hotel property suffered significant damage by Hurricane Omar. In 2009, we recorded an impairment charge to fully reserve this note receivable. In May 2010, the senior mortgage lender foreclosed on the loan. As a result of the foreclosure, our interest in the senior mortgage was converted to a 14.4% subordinate beneficial interest in the equity of the trust that holds the hotel property. Due to our junior status in the trust, we have not recorded any value for our beneficial interest at December 31, 2011 and 2010.

Interest payments since March of 2009 were not made on the \$7.1 million junior participation note receivable maturing January 2011 secured by a hotel property in La Jolla, California. In accordance with our accounting policy, we discontinued recording interest and fee income on this note beginning in March 2009. In August 2010, we reached an agreement with the borrower of the \$7.1 million junior participation note receivable secured by the hotel property to settle the loan. Pursuant to the settlement agreement, we received total cash payments of \$6.2 million in 2010. We recorded a net impairment charge of \$836,000 based on the expected cash settlement.

The borrower of a \$4.0 million junior participation loan collateralized by the Sheraton hotel property in Dallas, Texas due in July 2009 had been in default since May 11, 2009. Based on a third-party appraisal, it was unlikely that we would be able to recover our full investment due to our junior status. As a result, we recorded a valuation allowance for the full amount of the note receivable during 2009. In February 2010, we and the senior note holder of the participation note receivable formed Redus JV for the purposes of holding, managing or disposing of the Sheraton hotel property in Dallas, Texas, which collateralized our \$4.0 million principal amount junior participating note receivable. We had an 18% subordinated ownership interest in Redus JV that was carried at no value. This hotel was sold in May 2011, but due to our subordinated status, we did not receive any proceeds from the sale, and no gain or loss was recognized.

In November 2009, we completed the sale of the \$11.0 million mezzanine loan receivable secured by the Westin Westminster hotel property that was defeased by the original borrower. We negotiated for the release of the portfolio of government agency securities serving as the defeased loan collateral, and sold the actual securities via an auction for \$13.6 million. We received net proceeds of \$13.3 million and recorded a gain of \$2.4 million which is included in Other income in the consolidated statements of operations.

In June 2009, Extended Stay Hotels, LLC ( ESH ), the issuer of our \$164 million principal balance mezzanine loan receivable secured by 681 hotels with an initial maturity in June 2009, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection from its creditors. This mezzanine loan was originally purchased for \$98.4 million. At the time of ESH 's bankruptcy filing, a discount of \$11.4 million had been amortized to increase the carrying value of the note to \$109.4 million. We anticipated that ESH, through its bankruptcy filing, would attempt to impose a plan of reorganization which could extinguish our investment. Accordingly, we recorded a valuation allowance of \$109.4 million in earnings for the full amount of the book value of the note. In October 2010, the ESH bankruptcy proceedings were completed and settled with new owners. The full amount of the valuation allowance was charged off in 2010.

**5. Investment in Unconsolidated Joint Ventures**

In March 2011, we acquired a 71.74% ownership interest in the PIM Highland JV and a \$25.0 million preferred equity interest earning an accrued but unpaid 15% annual return with priority over common equity distributions. Additionally, in March 2011, PIM Highland JV through a debt restructuring and consensual foreclosure, acquired a 28-hotel portfolio. We have determined that the PIM Highland JV is a variable interest entity as its total equity at risk is not sufficient to permit it to finance its activities without additional subordinated

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

financial support provided by any parties, including its equity holders. Although we have the majority ownership interest and can exercise significant influence over the joint venture, we do not control the activities that most significantly impact the PIM Highland JV's economic performance. All the major decisions related to the joint venture, including establishment of policies and operating procedures with respect to business affairs, incurring obligations and expenditures, are subject to the approval of an executive committee, which is comprised of four persons with us and our joint venture partner each designating two of those persons. As a result, we are not the primary beneficiary of PIM Highland JV and our investment in the joint venture is accounted for using the equity method. We had a carrying value of \$179.5 million at December 31, 2011, and our maximum exposure of loss is limited to our investment in PIM Highland JV except as discussed below.

The mortgage and mezzanine loans securing the Highland Portfolio are nonrecourse to the borrowers, except for customary exceptions, or carve-outs, that trigger recourse liability to the borrowers in certain limited instances. The recourse obligations typically include only the payment of costs and liabilities suffered by the lenders as a result of the occurrence of certain bad acts on the part of the borrower; however, in certain cases, the carve-outs could trigger recourse obligations on the part of the borrower with respect to repayment of all or a portion of the outstanding principal amount of the loans. We have entered into customary guaranty agreements pursuant to which we guaranty payment of any recourse liabilities of the borrowers that result from the non-recourse carve-outs (which include, but are not limited to, fraud, misrepresentation, willful conduct resulting in waste, misappropriations of rents following an event of default, voluntary bankruptcy filings, unpermitted transfers of collateral and certain environmental liabilities). In the opinion of management, none of these guaranty agreements, either individually or in the aggregate, are likely to have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, or financial condition.

The 28-hotel property portfolio acquired and the indebtedness assumed by the joint venture had fair values of \$1.3 billion and \$1.1 billion, respectively, at the date of acquisition based on third-party appraisals (after a pay-down of \$170.0 million of related debt). The purchase price was the result of arms-length negotiations. In the fourth quarter of 2011, the joint venture finalized the purchase price allocation to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. The joint venture recognized a gain of \$82.1 million related to a bargain purchase and settlement of a pre-existing relationship, of which our share was \$46.3 million.

The following tables summarize the condensed balance sheet as of December 31, 2011 and the condensed statement of operations for the period from March 10, 2011 through December 31, 2011 of the PIM Highland JV (in thousands):

**PIM Highland JV****Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet**

	<b>December 31, 2011</b>
Total assets	\$ 1,400,264
Total liabilities	1,132,977
Members' capital	267,287
Total liabilities and members' capital	\$ 1,400,264
Our ownership interest in PIM Highland JV	\$ 179,527



**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****PIM Highland JV****Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations**

	<b>Period From March 10 to December 31, 2011</b>
Total revenue	\$ 332,205
Total expenses	322,419
Operating income	9,786
Interest expense and amortization of loan costs	(50,021)
Gain recognized at acquisition	82,144
Other expenses	(4,622)
Net income	\$ 37,287
Our equity in earnings of PIM Highland JV	\$ 14,528

At December 31, 2010, we had ownership interests ranging from 50% and 25% in two joint ventures with carrying values of \$15.0 million. These joint ventures were formed to hold investments in tranche 4 and tranche 6 of mezzanine loans secured by the above 28-hotel portfolio acquired by PIM Highland JV. The tranche 6 mezzanine loan was in default since August 2010. As a result, we recorded a valuation allowance of \$21.6 million for the entire carrying value of our investment in the joint venture.

Additionally, as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, we had a 14.4% subordinated beneficial interest in a trust that holds the Four Seasons hotel property in Nevis, which had a zero carrying value. The Sheraton hotel property in Dallas, Texas was held by a joint venture in which we had an 18% subordinated ownership interest that was carried at no value. This hotel was sold in May 2011, but due to our subordinated status, we did not receive any proceeds from the sale, and no gain or loss was recognized.

**6. Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations**

Beginning in June 2009, we ceased making payments on the note payable of \$29.1 million secured by the Hyatt Regency Dearborn hotel property, due to the fact that the operating cash flows from the hotel property were not anticipated to cover the principal and interest payments on the note and the related capital expenditures on the property. The lender issued a notice of default and an acceleration notice. We did not cure the notice of default and intended to fully settle the debt via a judicial foreclosure of the hotel property. As a result, we wrote down the hotel property to its estimated fair value and recorded an impairment charge of \$10.9 million. In determining the fair value of the property, we obtained a market analysis based on eight recent hotel sales in the Midwest region provided by a third party. Those sales ranged from a low of \$33,000 per key to a high of \$125,000 per key. We evaluated the analysis and determined that the note payable balance on the Dearborn hotel property of \$29.1 million, or \$38,000 per key, was within the price range and approximated the fair value of the hotel property. Effective December 3, 2009, a receiver appointed by the State of Michigan circuit court completed taking possession and full control of the hotel property and was authorized to sell the property to settle the indebtedness. As a result, the hotel property and related debt were deconsolidated and a loss of \$2.9 million was recognized at deconsolidation.

## Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

In June 2010, we entered into an agreement to sell the Hilton Suites in Auburn Hills, Michigan for \$5.1 million, and the sale was completed in September 2010. Based on the sales price, we recorded an impairment charge of \$12.1 million for the expected loss in June 2010 on the sale and an additional loss of \$283,000 based on net proceeds received at closing.

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Beginning in December 2009, we elected to cease making payments on the note payable of \$101.0 million secured by the Westin O Hare hotel property in Rosemont, Illinois as the operating cash flows from the hotel property were inadequate to cover the debt service payments. As a result, we recorded an impairment charge of \$59.3 million in the fourth quarter of 2009 to write down the hotel property to its estimated fair value of \$50.0 million. The fair value was determined based on market analyses performed by third parties. Those analyses employed the discounted cash flow method using forecasted cash flows, including the estimated residual value, discounted at rates that were based on the market yields of the similar hotel class and similar hotel sales. The forecasted cash flows also considered the hotel property's declining market shares, the decline in advanced bookings, and the sharp RevPAR decline in Chicago O Hare submarket. It also projected an improved market starting in 2011 and assumed a market recovery leading to an increase in RevPAR of over 70% of the projected holding period. In September 2010, we successfully negotiated a consensual transfer of the underlying hotel property to the lender and the related non-recourse mortgage loan was settled. The hotel property was deconsolidated from our financial statements and a gain of \$56.2 million was recognized upon deconsolidation.

In 2011, we completed the sales of the Hampton Inn hotel in Jacksonville, Florida, the JW Marriott hotel in San Francisco, California, the Hilton hotel in Rye Town, New York, and the Hampton Inn hotel in Houston, Texas. Other than the Hampton Inn hotel in Jacksonville, Florida, the remaining three hotel properties were classified as assets held for sale at December 31, 2010. The operating results of these hotel properties are reported as discontinued operations for all periods presented. For 2010 and 2009, operating results of discontinued operations also include those of the Hilton Suites hotel in Auburn Hills, Michigan that was sold in June 2010, the Westin hotel in Rosemont, Illinois that was transferred to the lender through a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure in September 2010. In addition, for 2009, operating results of discontinued operations included the Hyatt Regency hotel in Dearborn, Michigan that was placed in receivership in December 2009 and deconsolidated.

The hotel properties included in discontinued operations were carried at lower of cost or estimated fair value at the date they were classified as assets held for sale. In accordance with applicable accounting guidance, the inputs used in determining the fair values are categorized into three levels: level 1 inputs are inputs obtained from quoted prices in active markets for identical assets, level 2 inputs are significant other inputs that are observable for the assets either directly or indirectly, and level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset and reflect our own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset.

The following table presents our hotel properties measured at fair value aggregated by the level in the fair value hierarchy within which measurements fall on a non-recurring basis at December 31, 2011 and 2010, and related impairment charges recorded (in thousands):

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total	Impairment Charges
<b>2011</b>					
Hampton Inn Jacksonville, FL	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 6,237 <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>2010</b>					
Hilton Rye Town, NY	\$	\$	\$ 34,790 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 34,790 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 23,583 <sup>(2)</sup>
Hilton Auburn Hills, MI					12,068 <sup>(2)</sup>
Total	\$	\$	\$ 34,790	\$ 34,790	\$ 35,651
<b>2009</b>					
Hyatt Regency Dearborn, MI	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 10,871 <sup>(3)</sup>
Westin O Hare, IL			50,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	50,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	59,328 <sup>(3)</sup>

Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

Total	\$	\$	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 70,199
-------	----	----	-----------	-----------	-----------

86

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

<sup>(1)</sup>The impairment charge was taken in the quarter ended June 30, 2011, based on its anticipated net sales prices of \$10.0 million which we considered to be a level 3 fair value measure.

<sup>(2)</sup>The impairment charges were taken in the quarter ended December 31, 2010 and June 30, 2010, for the Hilton Rye Town property and the Hilton Auburn Hills property, respectively, based on their respective anticipated net sales prices of \$34.8 million and \$5.0 million, respectively.

<sup>(3)</sup>The impairment charges were taken in the quarters ended December 31, 2009 and June 30, 2009, for the Westin O Hare property and the Hyatt Regency Dearborn property, respectively, based on their respective estimated fair value of \$50.0 million and \$29.1 million, respectively.

The following table summarizes the operating results of the discontinued operations (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Hotel revenues	\$ 10,461	\$ 75,216	\$ 102,177
Hotel operating expenses	(7,970)	(59,770)	(86,485)
Operating income	2,491	15,446	15,692
Property taxes, insurance and other	(803)	(4,997)	(9,685)
Depreciation and amortization	(391)	(12,675)	(18,486)
Impairment charge	(6,236)	(35,651)	(70,199)
Gain (loss) on disposal/sales of properties	2,554	55,905	(2,887)
Interest expense and amortization of loan costs	(688)	(8,494)	(14,093)
Write-off of loan costs, premiums and exit fees, net	(948)		(552)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations before income taxes	(4,021)	9,534	(100,210)
Income tax expense	(85)	(22)	(57)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations	(4,106)	9,512	(100,267)
Income from discontinued operations of consolidated joint ventures attributable to noncontrolling interests	(1,031)	(122)	(24)
(Income) loss from discontinued operations attributable to redeemable noncontrolling interests in operating partnership	637	(972)	13,631
Income (loss) from discontinued operations attributable to the Company	\$ (4,500)	\$ 8,418	\$ (86,660)

The Jacksonville Hampton Inn hotel property sold in 2011 and not reported as held for sale as of December 31, 2010 had an investment in hotel property of \$16.6 million, other assets of \$403,000 and other liabilities of \$134,000.

**7. Deferred Costs, net**

Deferred costs, net consist of the following (in thousands):

Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Deferred loan costs	\$ 29,514	\$ 30,770
Deferred franchise fees	4,121	4,151
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>33,635</b>	<b>34,921</b>
Accumulated amortization	(16,214)	(17,402)
<b>Deferred costs, net</b>	<b>\$ 17,421</b>	<b>\$ 17,519</b>

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****8. Intangible Asset, net**

Intangible asset consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
Cost	\$ 3,233	\$ 3,233
Accumulated amortization	(423)	(334)
<b>Intangible asset, net</b>	<b>\$ 2,810</b>	<b>\$ 2,899</b>

Intangible asset represents a favorable market-rate lease which relates to the purchase price allocated to a hotel property in the CNL Portfolio and is being amortized over the remaining lease term that expires in 2070.

For each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011, amortization expense related to intangibles was \$89,000. Estimated future amortization expense is \$89,000 for each of the next five years.

**9. Indebtedness**

Indebtedness of our continuing operations and the carrying values of related collateral were as follows at December 31, 2011 and 2010 (in thousands):

Indebtedness	Collateral	Maturity	Interest Rate	December 31, 2011		December 31, 2010	
				Debt Balance	Book Value of Collateral	Debt Balance	Book Value of Collateral
Senior credit facility <sup>(1)</sup>	Various	April 2012	LIBOR <sup>(2)</sup> + 2.75% to 3.5%	\$	\$	\$ 115,000	\$ 28,670
Mortgage loan	10 hotels	May 2012	LIBOR <sup>(2)</sup> + 1.65%	167,202	211,322	167,202	218,133
Mortgage loan	2 hotels	August 2013	LIBOR <sup>(2)</sup> + 2.75%	145,667	264,147	150,383	271,907
Mortgage loan <sup>(3)</sup>	5 hotels	March 2014	LIBOR <sup>(2)</sup> + 4.50%	178,400	224,686	203,400	233,818
Mortgage loan	1 hotel	May 2014	8.32%	5,476	8,098	5,775	8,222
Senior credit facility	Various	September 2014	LIBOR <sup>(2)</sup> + 2.75% to 3.5%				
Mortgage loan	1 hotel	December 2014	Greater of 5.5% or LIBOR <sup>(2)</sup> + 3.5%	19,740	22,827	19,740	22,198
Mortgage loan	8 hotels	December 2014	5.75%	106,863	81,764	108,940	83,255
Mortgage loan	10 hotels	July 2015	5.22%	155,831	171,809	159,001	172,324
Mortgage loan	8 hotels	December 2015	5.70%	98,786	80,702	100,576	80,794
Mortgage loan <sup>(4)</sup>	5 hotels	December 2015	12.72%	151,185	322,796	148,013	329,242
Mortgage loan	5 hotels	February 2016	5.53%	112,453	124,994	114,629	126,238

## Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

Mortgage loan	5 hotels	February 2016	5.53%	93,257	100,531	95,062	103,595
Mortgage loan	5 hotels	February 2016	5.53%	80,782	104,410	82,345	105,708
Mortgage loan	1 hotel	April 2017	5.91%	35,000	93,956*	35,000	96,622*
Mortgage loan	2 hotels	April 2017	5.95%	128,251	148,244	128,251	150,747
Mortgage loan	3 hotels	April 2017	5.95%	260,980	282,823	260,980	289,046
Mortgage loan	5 hotels	April 2017	5.95%	115,600	130,408	115,600	130,498
Mortgage loan	5 hotels	April 2017	5.95%	103,906	114,254	103,906	116,768
Mortgage loan	5 hotels	April 2017	5.95%	158,105	164,919	158,105	169,209
Mortgage loan	7 hotels	April 2017	5.95%	126,466	146,673	126,466	147,141
TIF loan	1 hotel	June 2018	12.85%	8,098		8,098	*
Mortgage loan	1 hotel	November 2020	6.26%	103,759	118,496	104,901	124,069
Mortgage loan	1 hotel	April 2034	Greater of 6% or Prime + 1%	6,651	18,304	6,791	17,670
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 2,362,458</b>	<b>\$ 2,936,163</b>	<b>\$ 2,518,164</b>	<b>\$ 3,025,874</b>

(1) This senior credit facility was terminated and replaced with the senior credit facility maturing in September 2014.

(2) LIBOR rates were 0.295% and 0.261% at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

(3) This mortgage loan has a one-year extension option subject to satisfaction of certain conditions.

(4) This note includes reverse amortization of 8% on \$45 million of the original principal balance, plus 12% on the cumulative reverse amortization. Since the date at which we obtained this loan, the reverse amortization has resulted in a principal increase of \$8.5 million.

\* These mortgage loans are collateralized by the same property.



---

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

In December 2011, we successfully restructured a \$203.4 million mortgage loan and extended the maturity date from December 2011 to March 2014. There is also a one-year extension option subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions. The restructuring provides for a new interest rate of LIBOR plus 4.5% with no LIBOR floor. At the closing of the restructuring, we paid down the loan by \$25.0 million to \$178.4 million.

In addition, we are engaged in negotiations with the existing lenders to restructure and extend the \$167.2 million non-recourse portfolio mortgage loan that matures in May 2012. On a parallel path, the Company is also in discussions with third party lenders to refinance this loan.

In September 2011, we obtained a new \$105.0 million senior credit facility which matures September 2014 with a one-year extension option and replaces our previous credit line that was scheduled to mature in April 2012. The new credit facility provides for a three-year revolving line of credit priced at 275 to 350 basis points over LIBOR or Base Rate, as defined in the agreement, which is the same as our previous credit line. The new credit facility includes the opportunity to expand the borrowing capacity by up to \$45.0 million to an aggregate size of \$150.0 million upon a request by us and the consent of each lender, provided there is no default or event of default and each representation and warranty made or deemed made by us remains true and correct in all material respects on the effective date of such increase. The previous credit line was repaid in full in July 2011. The financial covenant tests with respect to fixed charge coverage ratio and leverage tests are similar to our previous credit line.

In 2010, we made net payments of \$135.0 million on our senior credit facility with proceeds from the reissuance of 7.5 million shares of our treasury stock, the issuance of 3.3 million shares of our 8.45% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock and the refinance of a mortgage loan discussed below.

In October 2010, we closed on a \$105.0 million refinancing of the Marriott Gateway in Arlington, Virginia. The new loan, which has a 10-year term and fixed interest rate of 6.26%, replaces a \$60.8 million loan set to mature in 2012 with an interest rate of LIBOR plus 4.0%. The excess proceeds from the refinancing were used to reduce \$40.0 million of the outstanding borrowings on our senior credit facility. In conjunction with the refinance, we incurred prepayment penalties and fees of \$3.3 million and wrote off the unamortized loan costs on the refinanced debt of \$630,000.

Effective April 1, 2010, we completed the modification of the \$156.2 million mortgage loan secured by two hotel properties in Washington D.C. and La Jolla, California. Pursuant to the modified loan agreement, we obtained the full extension of the loan to August 2013 without any extension tests in exchange for a \$5.0 million paydown. We paid \$2.5 million of the paydown amount at closing, and the remaining \$2.5 million is payable quarterly in four consecutive installments of \$625,000 each with the installments due and paid on July 1 and October 1, 2010, January 1, 2011 and April 1, 2011. We paid a modification fee of \$1.5 million in lieu of future extension fees. The modification also modifies covenant tests to minimize the likelihood of additional cash being trapped.

In March 2010, we elected to stop making payments on the \$5.8 million mortgage note payable maturing January 2011, secured by a hotel property in Manchester, Connecticut. After negotiating with the special servicer, in May 2011, we obtained a three-year extension on this loan to May 2014. We paid \$1.0 million at closing for the principal and interest through May 1, 2011 to bring the loan current, a 1.25% extension fee and certain deposits pursuant to the modification agreement.

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Maturities of indebtedness of our continuing operations as of December 31, 2011 for each of the five following years are as follows (in thousands):

2012	\$ 196,243
2013	171,196
2014	334,241
2015	407,030
2016	275,923
Thereafter	977,825
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,362,458</b>

We are required to maintain certain financial ratios under various debt and derivative agreements. If we violate covenants in any debt or derivative agreement, we could be required to repay all or a portion of our indebtedness before maturity at a time when we might be unable to arrange financing for such repayment on attractive terms, if at all. Violations of certain debt covenants may result in us being unable to borrow unused amounts under a line of credit, even if repayment of some or all borrowings is not required. In the event of default, we are subject to restrictions on incurring additional indebtedness, limitations on investments, limitations on dividends and other payments in respect of capital stock. The assets of certain of our subsidiaries listed on Exhibit 21.2 of this filing are pledged under non-recourse indebtedness and are not available to satisfy the debts and other obligations of Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. or our operating partnership, Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and the liabilities of such subsidiaries do not constitute the obligations of Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. or Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership. Presently, our existing financial covenants are non-recourse and primarily relate to maintaining minimum debt coverage ratios, maintaining an overall minimum net worth, maintaining a maximum loan to value ratio, and maintaining an overall minimum total assets. As of December 31, 2011, we were in compliance in all material respects with all covenants or other requirements set forth in our debt and related agreements as amended.

We have derivative agreements that incorporate the loan covenant provisions of our senior credit facility requiring us to maintain certain minimum financial covenant ratios with respect to our indebtedness. Failure to comply with the covenant provisions would result in us being in default on any derivative instrument obligations covered by the applicable agreement. At December 31, 2011, we were in compliance with all the covenants under the senior credit facility and the fair value of derivatives that incorporate our senior credit facility covenant provisions was an asset of \$37.9 million related to the interest rate derivatives.

In May 2011, we swapped \$1.18 billion of our existing floating-rate debt (including our 71.74% of the floating rate debt of the PIM Highland JV) to a fixed one-month LIBOR rate of 0.2675%. The swap was effective from June 13, 2011 and terminated on January 13, 2012. There was no upfront cost to us for entering into this swap other than customary transaction costs. We made swap interest payments totaling \$302,000 under the agreement that is included in Other income in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.

**10. Derivative Instruments and Hedging**

**Interest Rate Derivatives** We are exposed to risks arising from our business operations, economic conditions and financial markets. To manage the risks, we primarily use interest rate derivatives to hedge our debt as a way to potentially improve cash flows. We also use non-hedge derivatives to capitalize on the historical correlation between changes in LIBOR and RevPAR. The interest rate derivatives include interest rate swaps, caps, floorridors and corridors. All these derivatives are subject to master netting settlement arrangements. To mitigate the nonperformance risk, we routinely rely on a third party's analysis of the creditworthiness of the counterparties, which supports our belief that the

counterparties nonperformance risk is limited. All derivatives are recorded at fair value.

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

In May 2011, we entered into an interest rate swap agreement for a notional amount of \$1.18 billion to convert our existing floating-rate debt (including our 71.74% of the floating rate debt of the PIM Highland JV) to a fixed one-month LIBOR rate of 0.2675%. The swap was effective from June 13, 2011 and terminated on January 13, 2012. There was no upfront cost to us for entering into this swap other than customary transaction costs.

In October 2010, we converted our \$1.8 billion interest rate swap into a fixed rate swap of 4.09%, resulting in locked-in annual interest savings of approximately \$31.5 million through March 2013 at no cost to us. Under the previous swap, which we entered into in March 2008 and which expires in March 2013, we received a fixed rate of 5.84% and paid a variable rate of LIBOR plus 2.64%, subject to a LIBOR floor of 1.25%. Under the terms of the new swap transaction, we will continue to receive a fixed rate of 5.84%, but will pay a fixed rate of 4.09%.

Since 2008, in order to take advantage of the declining LIBOR rates, we entered into various floorridors with notional amounts totaling \$11.7 billion and maturing between December 2010 and December 2011 for a total cost of \$40.6 million. Income from these derivatives totaling \$38.9 million, \$28.1 million and \$16.7 million was recognized in 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

During 2011 and 2010, we entered into interest rate caps with total notional amounts of \$365.3 million and \$370.6 million, respectively, to cap the interest rates on our mortgage loans with maturities between May 2012 and March 2014, and strike rates between 4.0% and 6.25%, for total costs of \$97,000 and \$75,000, respectively. These interest rate caps were designated as cash flow hedges. At December 31, 2011 and 2010, our floating interest rate mortgage loans, including mortgage loans of assets held for sale, with total principal balances of \$365.3 million and \$588.2 million, respectively, were capped by interest rate hedges.

The cost basis of interest rate derivatives for federal income tax purposes was approximately \$340,000 as of December 31, 2011.

**Credit Default Swap Derivatives** In August 2011, we entered into credit default swap transactions for a notional amount of \$100.0 million to hedge financial and capital market risk for an upfront cost of \$8.2 million that was subsequently returned to us as collateral by our counterparty. A credit default swap is a derivative contract that works like an insurance policy against the credit risk of an entity or obligation. The seller of protection assumes the credit risk of the reference obligation from the buyer of protection in exchange for payments of an annual premium. If there is a default or a loss, as defined in the credit default swap agreements, on the underlying bonds, then the buyer of protection, is protected against those losses. The only liability for us, the buyer of protection, is the annual premium and any change in value of the underlying CMBX index (if the trade is terminated prior to maturity). For the CMBX trades that we have completed, we were the buyer of protection in all trades. The credit default swaps are subject to master netting settlement arrangements and credit support annexes. Assuming the underlying bonds pay off at par over their remaining average life, our total exposure for these trades is approximately \$8.5 million. Cash collateral is posted by us as well as our counterparty. We offset the fair value of the derivative and the obligation/right to return/reclaim cash collateral. The change in the market value of the credit default swaps is settled net through posting cash collateral or reclaiming cash collateral between us and our counterparty when the change in the market value is over \$250,000. As of December 31, 2011, the credit default swap had a net carrying value of a liability of \$2,000 that is included in Liabilities associated with investments in securities and other in the consolidated balance sheets, and since inception we have recognized an unrealized loss of \$1.3 million that is included in Unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives in the consolidated statements of operations.

---

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**Investment in Securities and Other** During the second quarter of 2011, our Board of Directors authorized the formation of a subsidiary to invest in public securities, including stocks, put and call and other options. The put and call and other option transactions are considered derivatives. At December 31, 2011, we had investments in these derivatives totaling \$1.0 million and liabilities of \$486,000.

**11. Fair Value Measurements**

**Fair Value Hierarchy** Our financial instruments measured at fair value either on a recurring or a non-recurring basis are classified in a hierarchy for disclosure purposes consisting of three levels based on the observability of inputs in the market place as discussed below:

Level 1: Fair value measurements that are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets that we have the ability to access for identical assets or liabilities. Market price data generally is obtained from exchange or dealer markets.

Level 2: Fair value measurements based on inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, such as interest rates and yield curves that are observable at commonly quoted intervals.

Level 3: Fair value measurements based on valuation techniques that use significant inputs that are unobservable. The circumstances for using these measurements include those in which there is little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability. The fair values of interest rate swaps are determined using the market standard methodology of netting the discounted future fixed cash receipts/payments and the discounted expected variable cash payments/receipts. The fair values of interest rate caps, floors, floorridors and corridors are determined using the market standard methodology of discounting the future expected cash receipts that would occur if variable interest rates fell below the strike rates of the floors or rise above the strike rates of the caps. The variable interest rates used in the calculation of projected receipts and payments on the swaps, caps, and floors are based on an expectation of future interest rates derived from observable market interest rate curves (LIBOR forward curves) and volatilities (the Level 2 inputs). We also incorporate credit valuation adjustments (the Level 3 inputs) to appropriately reflect both our own non-performance risk and the respective counterparty's non-performance risk in the fair value measurements.

The fair value of the credit default swaps is obtained from a third party who publishes various information including the index composition and price data (the Level 2 inputs). The fair value of the credit default swaps does not contain credit-risk related adjustments as the change in the fair value is settled net through posting cash collateral or reclaiming cash collateral between us and our counterparty.

The fair value of investments in securities and other and liabilities associated with investments in securities and other, including stocks, put and call options and other are carried at fair market value based on their closing prices (the level 1 inputs).

We have determined that when a majority of the inputs used to value our derivatives fall within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy, the derivative valuations in their entirety are classified in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy. However, when the valuation adjustments associated with our derivatives utilize Level 3 inputs, such as estimates of current credit spreads, to evaluate the likelihood of default by us and our counter-parties, which we consider significant (10% or more) to the overall valuation of our derivatives, the derivative valuations in their entirety are classified in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. Transfers of inputs between levels are



**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

determined at the end of each reporting period. In determining the fair values of our derivatives at December 31, 2011, the LIBOR interest rate forward curve (the Level 2 inputs) assumed an uptrend from 0.28% to 0.54% for the remaining term of our derivatives. The credit spreads (the Level 3 inputs) used in determining the fair values of the hedge and non-hedge designated derivatives assumed an uptrend in nonperformance risk for us and all of our counterparties through the maturity dates.

**Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis**

The following table presents our assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis aggregated by the level within which measurements fall in the fair value hierarchy (in thousands):

	Quoted Market Prices (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Counter- party and Cash Collateral Netting	Total
<b>December 31, 2011:</b>					
<b>Assets</b>					
Derivative assets:					
Interest rate derivatives non-hedge	\$	\$ 59,397	\$	\$	\$ 59,397 <sup>(1)</sup>
Interest rate derivatives hedge		12			12 <sup>(1)</sup>
Call options and other	1,011				1,011 <sup>(2)</sup>
	1,011	59,409			60,420
Non-derivative assets:					
Equity securities	20,363				20,363 <sup>(2)</sup>
Total	21,374	59,409			80,783
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Derivative liabilities:					
Interest rate derivatives non-hedge		(21,491)			(21,491) <sup>(1)</sup>
Credit default swaps		6,855		(6,857) <sup>(4)</sup>	(2) <sup>(3)</sup>
Short equity put options	(71)				(71) <sup>(3)</sup>
Short equity call options	(415)				(415) <sup>(3)</sup>
Non-derivative liabilities:					
Margin account balance	(1,758)				(1,758) <sup>(3)</sup>
Total	(2,244)	(14,636)		(6,857)	(23,737)
Net	\$ 19,130	\$ 44,773	\$	\$ (6,857)	\$ 57,046

**December 31, 2010:**

Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

**Assets**

Derivative assets:

Interest rate derivatives	non-hedge	\$	\$ 132,737	\$	\$	\$ 132,737
Interest rate derivatives	hedge		3			3

**Liabilities**

Derivative liabilities:

Interest rate derivatives	non-hedge		(25,873)			(25,873)
Net		\$	\$ 106,867	\$	\$	\$ 106,867 <sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Reported net as Derivative assets in the consolidated balance sheets.

(2) Reported as Investments in securities and other in the consolidated balance sheets.

(3) Reported as Liabilities associated with investments in securities and other in the consolidated balance sheets.

(4) Represents cash collateral posted by our counterparty.



**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances of the derivatives that were measured using Level 3 inputs is as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Balance at beginning of period	\$	\$ (17,972)	\$ (17,080)
Total unrealized (loss) gain included in earnings		(2,042)	5,589
Total unrealized loss included in other comprehensive income			(127)
Total loss reclassified to interest expense			(33)
Purchases			162
Assets transferred into Level 3 still held at the reporting date <sup>(1)</sup>			73,922
Assets/liabilities transferred out of Level 3 and terminated during the year		16,400	
Assets/liabilities transferred out of Level 3 still held at the reporting date <sup>(1)</sup>		3,614	(80,405)
Balance at end of period	\$	\$	\$ (17,972)

<sup>(1)</sup> Transferred in/out of Level 3 because the unobservable inputs used to determine the fair value at the period-end were more/less than 10% of the total valuation of these derivatives.

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)*****Effect of Fair Value Measured Assets and Liabilities on Consolidated Statements of Operations***

The following table summarizes the effect of fair value measured assets and liabilities on the consolidated statement of operations (in thousands):

	Gain or (Loss) Recognized in Income Year Ended December 31,			Interest Savings or (Cost) Recognized in Income Year Ended December 31,			Reclassified from Accumulated OCI into Interest Expense Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010	2009
<b>Assets</b>									
Derivative assets:									
Interest rate derivatives	\$ (73,227)	\$ (737)	\$ (30,977)	\$ 92,846	\$ 77,479	\$ 68,380	\$ 603	\$ 633	\$ 206
Call options and other	(786)								
	(74,013)	(737)	(30,977)	92,846	77,479	68,380	603	633	206
Non-derivative assets:									
Equity securities	229								
Total	(73,784)	(737)	(30,977)	92,846	77,479	68,380	603	633	206
<b>Liabilities</b>									
Derivative liabilities:									
Interest rate derivatives	4,258	13,021	(805)	(22,273)	(14,573)	(16,098)			
Credit default swaps	(1,348)								
Short equity put options	(1,277)								
Short equity call options	89								
Total	1,722	13,021	(805)	(22,273)	(14,573)	(16,098)			
Non-derivative liabilities:									
Short equity securities	375								
Total	2,097	13,021	(805)	(22,273)	(14,573)	(16,098)			
Net	\$ (71,687)	\$ 12,284	\$ (31,782)	\$ 70,573	\$ 62,906	\$ 52,282	\$ 603	\$ 633	\$ 206
<b>Total combined</b>									
Interest rate derivatives	\$ (68,969)	\$ 12,284	\$ (31,782)	\$ 70,573	\$ 62,906	\$ 52,282	\$ 603	\$ 633	\$ 206
Credit default swaps	(1,317)								
Total derivatives	(70,286) <sup>(1)</sup>	12,284 <sup>(1)</sup>	(31,782) <sup>(1)</sup>	70,573 <sup>(2)</sup>	62,906 <sup>(2)</sup>	52,282 <sup>(2)</sup>	603	633	206
Unrealized loss on investments in securities and other	(391) <sup>(3)</sup>								
Realized loss on investments in securities and other	(1,010) <sup>(4)</sup>								

## Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

Net	\$ (71,687)	\$ 12,284	\$ (31,782)	\$ 70,573	\$ 62,906	\$ 52,282	\$ 603	\$ 633	\$ 206
-----	-------------	-----------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	--------	--------	--------

(1) Reported as Unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives in the consolidated statements of operations.

(2) Included in Other income in the consolidated statements of operations.

(3) Reported as Unrealized loss on investments in the consolidated statements of operations.

(4) Included in Other income in the consolidated statements of operations.

In 2011, 2010 and 2009, the change in fair values of our interest rate derivatives that were recognized as change in other comprehensive income totaled \$525,000, \$497,000 and \$(28,000), respectively.

During the next twelve months, we expect \$31,000 of accumulated comprehensive loss will be reclassified to interest expense.

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****12. Summary of Fair Value of Financial Instruments****Financial Instruments Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring basis**

The carrying amounts and estimated fair values of financial instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis were as follows (in thousands):

	December 31, 2011		December 31, 2010	
	Carrying Value	Estimated Fair Value	Carrying Value	Estimated Fair Value
Financial assets:				
Investments in securities and other	\$ 21,374	\$ 21,374	\$	\$
Derivative assets	\$ 37,918	\$ 37,918	\$ 106,867	\$ 106,867
Liabilities associated with investments in securities and other	\$ 2,246	\$ 2,246	\$	\$

*Investments in securities and other.* Investments in securities and other consist of a margin account balance, public equity securities, and put and call options. The fair value of these investments is based on quoted market closing prices at the balance sheet date. See Notes 2, 10, and 11 for a complete description of the methodology and assumptions utilized in determining the fair values.

*Derivative assets and Liabilities associated with investments in securities and other.* Fair value of the interest rate derivatives are determined using the net present value of the expected cash flows of each derivative based on the market-based interest rate curve and adjusted for credit spreads of Ashford and the counterparties. Fair value of the credit default swap derivatives is obtained from a third party who publishes the CMBX index composition and price data. Fair value of liabilities associated with investments in securities and other is determined based on the quoted market closing prices at the balance sheet date. See Notes 2, 10, and 11 for a complete description of the methodology and assumptions utilized in determining the fair values.

**Financial Instruments Not Measured at Fair Value**

Some of our financial instruments are not measured at fair value on a recurring basis. Determining the estimated fair values of certain financial instruments such as notes receivable and indebtedness requires considerable judgment to interpret market data. The use of different market assumptions and/or estimation methodologies may have a material effect on the estimated fair value amounts. Accordingly, the estimates presented are not necessarily indicative of the amounts at which these instruments could be purchased, sold or settled. The carrying amounts and estimated fair values of financial instruments not measured at fair value were as follows (in thousands):

	December 31, 2011		December 31, 2010	
	Carrying Value	Estimated Fair Value	Carrying Value	Estimated Fair Value
Financial assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 167,609	\$ 167,609	\$ 217,690	\$ 217,690
Restricted cash	\$ 84,069	\$ 84,069	\$ 67,666	\$ 67,666
Accounts receivable	\$ 28,623	\$ 28,623	\$ 27,493	\$ 27,493

Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

Notes receivable	\$ 11,199	\$11,715 to \$12,947	\$ 20,870	\$6,756 to \$7,467
Due from third-party hotel managers	\$ 62,747	\$ 62,747	\$ 49,135	\$ 49,135
Financial liabilities:				
Indebtedness of continuing operations	\$ 2,362,458	\$2,180,027 to \$2,409,503	\$ 2,518,164	\$2,082,207 to \$2,301,387
Indebtedness of discontinued operations	\$	\$	\$ 50,619	\$44,587 to \$49,281
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 82,282	\$ 82,282	\$ 79,248	\$ 79,248
Dividends payable	\$ 16,941	\$ 16,941	\$ 7,281	\$ 7,281
Due to related party	\$ 2,569	\$ 2,569	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400
Due to third-party hotel managers	\$ 1,602	\$ 1,602	\$ 1,870	\$ 1,870

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

*Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash.* These financial assets bear interest at market rates and have maturities of less than 90 days. The carrying values approximate fair value due to the short-term nature of these financial instruments.

*Accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued expenses, dividends payable, due to/from related party, and due to/from third-party hotel managers.* The carrying values of these financial instruments approximate their fair values due to the short-term nature of these financial instruments.

*Notes receivable.* Fair value of the notes receivable was determined by using similar loans with similar collateral. Since there is very little to no trading activity we had to rely on our internal analysis of what we believe a willing buyer would pay for these notes at December 31, 2011 and 2010. We estimated the fair value of the notes receivable to be approximately 4.6% to 15.6% higher than the carrying value of \$11.2 million at December 31, 2011, and approximately 64.2% to 67.6% lower than the carrying value of \$20.9 million at December 31, 2010.

*Indebtedness.* Fair value of the indebtedness is determined using future cash flows discounted at current replacement rates for these instruments. For variable rate instruments, cash flows are determined using a forward interest rate yield curve. The current replacement rates are determined by using the U.S. Treasury yield curve or the index to which these financial instruments are tied, and adjusted for the credit spreads. Credit spreads take into consideration general market conditions, maturity and collateral. For the December 31, 2011 and 2010 indebtedness valuations, we used estimated future cash flows discounted at applicable index forward curves adjusted for credit spreads. We estimated the fair value of the total indebtedness to be approximately 92.3% to 102.0% of the carrying value of \$2.4 billion at December 31, 2011, and approximately 82.7% to 91.4% of the carrying value of \$2.6 billion at December 31, 2010.

**13. Commitments and Contingencies**

**Restricted Cash** Under certain management and debt agreements for our hotel properties existing at December 31, 2011, escrow payments are required for insurance, real estate taxes, and debt service. In addition, for certain properties based on the terms of the underlying debt and management agreements, we escrow 4% to 6% of gross revenues for capital improvements.

**Franchise Fees** Under franchise agreements for our hotel properties existing at December 31, 2011, we pay franchisor royalty fees between 2.5% and 7.3% of gross room revenue and, in some cases, food and beverage revenues. Additionally, we pay fees for marketing, reservations, and other related activities aggregating between 1% and 3.75% of gross room revenue and, in some cases, food and beverage revenues. These franchise agreements expire on varying dates between 2013 and 2030. When a franchise term expires, the franchisor has no obligation to renew the franchise. A franchise termination could have a material adverse effect on the operations or the underlying value of the affected hotel due to loss of associated name recognition, marketing support, and centralized reservation systems provided by the franchisor. A franchise termination could also have a material adverse effect on cash available for distribution to shareholders. In addition, if we breach the franchise agreement and the franchisor terminates a franchise prior to its expiration date, we may be liable for up to three times the average annual fees incurred for that property.

For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010, and 2009, our continuing operations incurred franchise fees of \$28.1 million, \$24.4 million, and \$23.4 million, respectively, which are included in other expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.

**Management Fees** Under management agreements for our hotel properties existing at December 31, 2011, we pay a) monthly property management fees equal to the greater of \$10,000 (CPI adjusted since 2003) or

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

3% of gross revenues, or in some cases 1.5% to 7% of gross revenues, as well as annual incentive management fees, if applicable, b) market service fees on approved capital improvements, including project management fees of up to 4% of project costs, for certain hotels, and c) other general fees at current market rates as approved by our independent directors, if required. These management agreements expire from 2012 through 2028, with renewal options. If we terminate a management agreement prior to its expiration, we may be liable for estimated management fees through the remaining term, liquidated damages or, in certain circumstances, we may substitute a new management agreement.

**Leases** We lease land and facilities under non-cancelable operating leases, which expire between 2040 and 2084, including four ground leases and one air lease related to our hotel properties. Several of these leases are subject to base rent plus contingent rent based on the related property's financial results and escalation clauses. For the years ended December 2011, 2010 and 2009, our continuing operations recognized rent expense of \$4.8 million, \$5.1 million and \$5.8 million, respectively, which included contingent rent of \$891,000, \$1.2 million and \$1.6 million, respectively. Rent expense related to continuing operations is included in other expenses in the consolidated statements of operations. Future minimum rentals due under non-cancelable leases are as follows for each of the years ending December 31, (in thousands):

2012	\$ 3,737
2013	3,397
2014	3,077
2015	3,028
2016	3,013
Thereafter	112,192
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 128,444</b>

At December 31, 2011, we had capital commitments of \$36.9 million relating to general capital improvements that are expected to be paid in the next 12 months.

**Employment Agreements** Our employment agreements with certain executive officers provide for minimum annual base salaries, other fringe benefits, and non-competition clauses as determined by the Board of Directors. The employment agreements terminated on December 31, 2011, with automatic one-year renewals, unless terminated by either party upon six months' notice, subject to severance provisions.

**Litigation** We are currently subject to litigation arising in the normal course of our business. In the opinion of management, none of these lawsuits or claims against us, either individually or in the aggregate, is likely to have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, or financial condition. In addition, management believes we have adequate insurance in place to cover any such significant litigation.

**Taxes** We and our subsidiaries file income tax returns in the federal jurisdiction and various states. Tax years 2008 through 2011 remain subject to potential examination by certain federal and state taxing authorities. In 2009 and 2010, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) audited one of our taxable REIT subsidiaries that leases two of our hotel properties for the tax year ended December 31, 2007. In September 2010, the IRS issued a notice of proposed adjustment based on Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 482 that reduced the amount of rent we charged to the taxable REIT subsidiary. We own a 75% interest in the hotel properties and the taxable REIT subsidiary at issue. We strongly disagreed with the IRS position and in October 2010, we filed a written protest with the IRS and requested an IRS Appeals Office conference, which was eventually granted, but later postponed due to the REIT IRS audit discussed below. In determining amounts payable by our TRS subsidiaries under our leases, we engaged a third party to prepare a transfer pricing study which concluded that the lease terms were





**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

consistent with arm's length terms as required by applicable Treasury regulations. If the IRS were to prevail in its proposed adjustment, our taxable REIT subsidiary would owe approximately \$1.1 million of additional U.S. federal income taxes plus possible additional state income taxes of \$199,000, net of federal benefit. However, in August 2011, the IRS commenced an audit of our REIT for the tax year ended December 31, 2007. In October 2011, the IRS issued an income tax adjustment to the REIT as an alternative to the September 2010 TRS proposed adjustment. The REIT adjustment is based on the REIT 100% federal excise tax on our share of the amount by which the rent was held to be greater than the arm's length rate. If the IRS were to prevail in this adjustment, our REIT would owe approximately \$5.1 million of U.S. federal excise taxes. If the IRS chooses to pursue the REIT 100% excise tax case over the TRS IRC Section 482 case, the excise taxes assessed on the REIT would be in lieu of the TRS adjustment. In December 2011, we filed a written protest with the IRS in regards to the REIT adjustment and an updated written protest in regards to the IRS IRC Section 482 adjustment. In addition, we requested, and the IRS agreed, that the IRS Appeals Office review both the REIT case and the TRS case simultaneously and we anticipate this will occur after the first quarter of 2012. We believe the IRS transfer pricing methodologies applied in the audit contain flaws and that the IRS adjustment to the rent charges is inconsistent with the U.S. federal tax laws related to REITs and true leases. We believe we will prevail in the eventual settlement of the audit and that the settlement will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. U.S federal income tax assessment statutes of limitations generally limit the time the IRS has to make assessments to within three years after a return is due or filed, whichever is later. Hence, the statute of limitations for the tax returns for the 2007 tax year for both the TRS and the REIT were due to expire on September 15, 2011. As a result, the IRS in 2011, prior to this expiration date, requested that we agree to extend the assessment statute of limitations to December 31, 2012 for both the TRS and the REIT. We consented to the extensions of time in order to obtain additional time to prepare our written protests and request an appeals conference for both the IRS and the REIT case. In addition, the IRS commenced audits of the same TRS for the tax years ended December 31, 2008 and 2009, in May 2011 and July 2011, respectively, and has indicated that it will also commence audits of the REIT for the same periods. During 2010, the Canadian taxing authorities selected our TRS subsidiary that leased our one Canadian hotel for audit for the tax years ended December 31, 2007, 2008 and 2009. The Canadian hotel was sold in June 2008 and the TRS ceased activity in Canada at that time. We believe that the results of the completion of this examination will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition. We have concluded that the positions reported on the tax returns under audit by the IRS are solely on their technical merits, more-likely-than-not to be sustained upon examination.

If we dispose of the four remaining properties contributed in connection with our initial public offering in 2003 in exchange for units of operating partnership, we may be obligated to indemnify the contributors, including our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, each of whom have substantial ownership interests, against the tax consequences of the sale. In addition, we agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to maintain non-recourse mortgage indebtedness of at least \$16.0 million, which allows contributors of the Las Vegas hotel property to defer gain recognition in connection with their contribution.

Additionally, for certain periods of time, we are prohibited from selling or transferring the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Arlington, Virginia, if as a result of such transactions, the entity from which we acquired the property would recognize gain for federal tax purposes.

Further, in connection with our acquisition of certain properties on March 16, 2005 that were contributed in exchange for units of our operating partnership, we agreed to certain tax indemnities with respect to ten of these properties. If we dispose of these properties or reduce debt on these properties in a transaction that results in a taxable gain to the contributors, we may be obligated to indemnify the contributors or their specified assignees against the tax consequences of the transaction.

In general, tax indemnities equal the federal, state, and local income tax liabilities the contributor or their specified assignee incurs with respect to the gain allocated to the contributor. The contribution agreements' terms

---

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

generally require us to gross up tax indemnity payments for the amount of income taxes due as a result of such tax indemnities.

**Potential Pension Liabilities** Certain employees at one of our hotel properties at the time of our acquisition of such hotel property in 2006 were unionized and covered by a multiemployer defined benefit pension plan. At acquisition of such hotel property, there were no unfunded pension liabilities. Subsequent to our acquisition, the employees at the hotel, which are employees of the hotel manager, elected to decertify from the union. At the time of this election by employees to decertify, the union has indicated there may be unfunded pension liabilities. The union filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board seeking, among other things, to overturn the decertification election. Pending the final determination of the decertification suit, including appeals, the pension fund entered into a settlement agreement with the hotel manager providing that (a) the hotel manager will continue to make pension fund payments pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement, and (b) if the union loses the suit, hotel manager will have an unfunded pension liability equal to the difference between \$1.7 million and the total amount of pension payments made by the hotel manager following the settlement agreement, which liability is payable in annual installments of \$84,000 until the 20<sup>th</sup> year following the settlement agreement. We have agreed to indemnify the hotel manager for the payment of the unfunded pension liability as set forth in the settlement agreement. As of December 31, 2011, we have accrued \$19,000 for the potential unfunded liabilities.

**14. Series B-1 Convertible Redeemable Preferred Stock**

At December 31, 2010, we had 7.2 million outstanding shares of Series B-1 cumulative convertible redeemable preferred stock. Series B-1 preferred stock was convertible at any time, at the option of the holder, into our common stock by dividing the preferred stock carrying value by the conversion price then in effect, which was \$10.07, subject to certain adjustments, as defined. Series B-1 preferred stock was redeemable for cash at our option at the liquidation preference, which is set at \$10.07. In 2010, 200,000 shares of our Series B-1 preferred stock with a carrying value of \$2.0 million were converted to common shares, pursuant to the terms of the Series B-1 preferred stock. Series B-1 preferred stock was also redeemable for cash at the option of the holder at a specified redemption price, as defined, if certain events occur. Due to these redemption features that were not under our control, the preferred stock was classified outside of permanent equity. Series B-1 preferred stock holders were entitled to vote, on an as-converted basis voting as a single class together with common stock holders, on all matters to be voted on by our shareholders.

In May 2011, we redeemed 5.9 million shares of the outstanding Series B-1 preferred shares at \$12.4656 per share, or a total of \$73.0 million, with the proceeds from issuance of 3.35 million shares of our 9% Series E cumulative preferred stock. The remaining 1.4 million outstanding shares were converted to 1.4 million shares our common stock, which was treated as a dividend of \$17.4 million to the Series B-1 preferred shareholder in accordance with the applicable accounting guidance. During 2011, 2010 and 2009, we declared dividends of \$1.4 million, \$4.1 million and \$4.2 million, respectively, to holders of the Series B-1 preferred stock.

**15. Redeemable Noncontrolling Interests in Operating Partnership**

Redeemable noncontrolling interests in the operating partnership represents the limited partners' proportionate share of equity in earnings/losses of the operating partnership, which is an allocation of net income/loss attributable to the common unit holders based on the weighted average ownership percentage of these limited partners' common units and the units issued under our Long-Term Incentive Plan (the LTIP units) that are vested throughout the period plus distributions paid to these limited partners with regard to the Class B units. Class B common units have a fixed dividend rate of 6.82% in years one to three and 7.2% thereafter, and have priority in payment of cash dividends over common units but otherwise have no preference over common units. Aside from the Class B units,

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

all other outstanding units represent common units. Beginning one year after issuance, each common unit of limited partnership interest (including each Class B common unit) may be redeemed for either cash or one share of Ashford's common stock at Ashford's discretion, subject to contractual lock-up agreements that prevent holders of Class B common units from redeeming two-thirds of such units before 18 months and one-third of such units before two years from the issuance date of such units. Beginning ten years after issuance, each Class B unit may be converted into a common unit at either party's discretion.

Beginning in 2008, we started issuing LTIP units to certain executives and employees as compensation. These units have vesting periods ranging from three to five years. Upon vesting, each LTIP unit can be converted by the holder into one common partnership unit of the operating partnership which then can be redeemed for cash or, at our election, settled in our common stock. Since 2008, we have issued 4.4 million LTIP units. As of December 31, 2011, all but 1.2 million of the LTIP units issued in May 2011 had reached full economic parity with the common units and are convertible into common partnership units. All the LTIP units issued had an aggregate value of \$41.4 million at the date of grant which is being amortized over their vesting periods. Compensation expense of \$9.2 million, \$2.9 million and \$983,000 was recognized for 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. The unamortized value of the LTIP units was \$27.3 million at December 31, 2011, which will be amortized over periods from 0.7 year to 4.2 years. During 2011, we declared cash distributions of \$377,000, or \$0.40 per unit, related to the vested LTIP units. These distributions were recorded as a reduction of redeemable noncontrolling interests in operating partnership. No distributions were declared for 2010 and 2009.

For the 2011 and 2010 redemptions, 100,000 and 455,000 units with fair value of \$1.0 million and \$3.7 million were converted to common shares at our election. For the 2010 and 2009 redemptions, 719,000 units and 110,000 units with fair value of \$5.3 million and \$464,000 were redeemed for cash at our election at an average price of \$7.39 and \$4.20 per unit, respectively.

Redeemable noncontrolling interests in our operating partnership as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 were \$112.8 million and \$126.7 million, which represented ownership of 17.5% and 15.9% in our operating partnership, respectively. The carrying value of redeemable noncontrolling interests as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 had adjustments of \$66.4 million and \$72.3 million, respectively, to reflect the excess of redemption value over the accumulated historical costs. The carrying value of the redeemable noncontrolling interests at December 31, 2011 also included a \$6.7 million reclassification to equity of the historical accumulated costs of unvested LTIP units. For 2011, 2010 and 2009, we allocated net loss of \$2.8 million, \$8.4 million and \$37.7 million to these redeemable noncontrolling interests, respectively. A summary of the activity of the operating partnership units is as follow (in thousands):

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Units outstanding at beginning of year	14,195	14,283	14,393
Units issued	2,222	1,086	
Units redeemed for cash of \$5,314 in 2010 and \$464 in 2009		(719)	(110)
Units converted to common shares	(100)	(455)	
<b>Units outstanding at end of year</b>	<b>16,317</b>	<b>14,195</b>	<b>14,283</b>
Units convertible/redeemable at end of year	12,895	12,475	13,227

**16. Equity**

**At-the-Market Preferred Stock Offering** In September 2011, we entered into an at-the-market ( ATM ) program with an investment banking firm, pursuant to which we may issue up to 700,000 shares of 8.55% Series

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

A Cumulative Preferred Stock and up to 700,000 shares of 8.45% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock at market prices up to \$30.0 million. No shares of our preferred stock have sold under this program as of the date of this report.

**Reissuance of treasury stock** In July 2011, we reissued 7.0 million shares of our treasury stock at a gross price of \$12.50 per share. We received net cash proceeds of \$83.2 million. In December 2010, we reissued 7.5 million shares of our treasury stock at a gross price of \$9.65 per share and received net proceeds of approximately \$70.4 million. In January 2011, an underwriter purchased an additional 300,000 shares of our common shares through the partial exercise of the underwriter's 1.125 million share over-allotment option and we received net proceeds of \$2.8 million. The net proceeds received from the reissuance were used to repay a portion of our outstanding borrowings under our senior credit facility and for other general corporate purposes.

At December 31, 2011 and 2010, there were 124.9 million and 123.4 million shares of common stock issued, and 68.0 million and 59.0 million shares outstanding, respectively.

**Potential Sale of Common Shares** In February 2010, we entered into a Standby Equity Distribution Agreement (the "SEDA") with YA Global Master SPV Ltd. ("YA Global") that terminates in 2013, and is available to provide us additional liquidity if needed. Pursuant to the SEDA, YA Global has agreed to purchase up to \$50.0 million (which may be increased to \$65.0 million pursuant to the SEDA) of newly issued shares of our common stock if notified to do so by us in accordance with the SEDA.

In September 2010, we entered into an ATM program with an investment banking firm to offer for sale from time to time up to \$50.0 million of our common stock at market prices. No shares were sold during 2010 and 2011. Proceeds from the ATM program, to the extent the program is utilized, are expected to be used for general corporate purposes including investments and reduction of debt.

**Stock Repurchases** Beginning in November 2007, our Board of Directors has authorized management to purchase our common shares from time to time on the open market and in December 2008, we completed all of the \$125.0 million repurchases authorized in 2007 and 2008. In January 2009, the Board of Directors approved an additional \$200 million authorization under the same repurchase plan (excluding fees, commissions and all other ancillary expenses) and expanded the plan to include: (i) the repurchase of shares of our common stock, Series A preferred stock, Series B-1 preferred stock and Series D preferred stock and/or (ii) the prepayment of our outstanding debt obligations, including debt secured by our hotel assets and debt senior to our mezzanine or loan investments. In February 2010, the Board of Directors expanded the repurchase program further to include the potential repurchase of units of our operating partnership. As of June 2010, we ceased all repurchases under this plan indefinitely. In September 2011, our Board of Directors authorized the reinstatement of our 2007 share repurchase program and authorized an increase in our repurchase plan authority from \$58.4 million to \$200 million (excluding fees, commissions and all other ancillary expenses). Under this plan, the board has authorized: (i) the repurchase of shares of our common stock, Series A preferred stock, Series D preferred stock and Series E preferred stock, and/or (ii) discounted purchases of our outstanding debt obligations, including debt secured by our hotel assets. We intend to fund any repurchases or discounted debt purchases with the net proceeds from asset sales, cash flow from operations, existing cash on the balance sheet, and other sources. As of December 31, 2011, no shares of our common or preferred stock have been repurchased under the share repurchase program since its reinstatement.

Table of Contents

## ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

Total shares repurchased on the open market are summarized as follows (in thousands, except per share amounts):

	Year Ended December 31, 2010			Year Ended December 31, 2009		
	Total Number of Shares	Aggregate Purchase Price	Average Price Per Share	Total Number of Shares	Aggregate Purchase Price	Average Price Per Share
Common Stock	7,158	\$ 45,087	\$ 6.30	30,058	\$ 81,329	\$ 2.71
Series A Preferred		\$	\$	697	\$ 5,338	\$ 7.65
Series D Preferred		\$	\$	727	\$ 5,318	\$ 7.31

In addition, we acquired 33,406 shares, 47,403 shares and 374 shares of our common stock in 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively, to satisfy employees' statutory minimum federal income tax obligations in connection with vesting of equity grants issued under our stock-based compensation plan. Included in the 56.9 million and 64.4 million shares of treasury stock at December 31, 2011 and 2010, 853,000 shares were purchased under a deferred compensation plan that will be settled in our shares.

**Preferred Stock** In accordance with Ashford's charter, we are authorized to issue 50 million shares of preferred stock, which currently includes Series A cumulative preferred stock, Series D cumulative preferred stock, and Series E cumulative preferred stock.

**Series A Preferred Stock.** At December 31, 2011 and 2010, we had 1.5 million outstanding shares of 8.55% Series A cumulative preferred stock. Series A preferred stock has no maturity date, and we are not required to redeem these shares at any time. After September 22, 2009, Series A preferred stock is redeemable at our option for cash, in whole or from time to time in part, at a redemption price of \$25 per share plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, at the redemption date. Series A preferred stock dividends are payable quarterly, when and as declared, at the rate of 8.55% per annum of the \$25 liquidation preference (equivalent to an annual dividend rate of \$2.1375 per share). In general, Series A preferred stock holders have no voting rights.

**Series D Preferred Stock.** In September 2010, we completed the offering of 3.3 million shares of our 8.45% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock at a gross price of \$23.178 per share, and we received net proceeds of \$72.2 million after underwriting fees and other costs and an accrued dividend of \$1.6 million. The proceeds from the offering, together with some corporate funds, were used to pay down \$80.0 million of our senior credit facility. At December 31, 2011 and 2010, we had 9.0 million shares of Series D preferred stock outstanding. Series D preferred stock has no maturity date, and we are not required to redeem the shares at any time. Prior to July 18, 2012, Series D preferred stock is not redeemable, except in certain limited circumstances such as to preserve the status of our qualification as a REIT or in the event the Series D stock ceases to be listed on an exchange and we cease to be subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act, as described in Ashford's charter. However, on and after July 18, 2012, Series D preferred stock is redeemable at our option for cash, in whole or from time to time in part, at a redemption price of \$25 per share plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, at the redemption date. Series D preferred stock quarterly dividends are set at the rate of 8.45% per annum of the \$25 liquidation preference (equivalent to an annual dividend rate of \$2.11 per share). The dividend rate increases to 9.45% per annum if these shares are no longer traded on a major stock exchange. In general, Series D preferred stock holders have no voting rights.

**Series E Preferred Stock.** In April 2011, we completed the offering of 3.35 million shares (including 350,000 shares pursuant to the underwriters exercise of an over-allotment option) of our 9.00% Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock at a net price of \$24.2125 per share, and we received net proceeds of \$80.8 million after underwriting fees. Of the net proceeds from the offering, \$73.0 million was used to redeem 5.9 million



**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

shares of the total 7.3 million shares of our Series B-1 convertible preferred stock outstanding. The remaining proceeds were used for other general corporate purposes. The remaining 1.4 million outstanding Series B-1 convertible preferred shares were converted into 1.4 million shares of our common stock.

In October 2011, we issued and sold an additional 1.3 million shares of our 9.00% Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock at a price of \$23.47 per share, in an underwritten public offering pursuant to an effective registration statement. We received net proceeds of \$28.9 million after underwriting fees. The proceeds from the offering may be used for general corporate purposes, including, without limitation, repayment of debt or other maturing obligations, financing future hotel related investments, capital expenditures and working capital. A portion of the proceeds may also be used for repurchasing shares of our common stock under our existing repurchase program. The Series E preferred stock has no maturity date, and we are not required to redeem the shares at any time. Prior to April 18, 2016, Series E preferred stock is not redeemable, except in certain limited circumstances such as to preserve the status of our qualification as a REIT or in the event a change of control occurs. If we choose not to redeem the Series E shares upon a change of control, each holder of Series E preferred stock can convert their shares into shares of our common stock based on a formula specified in the agreement. However, on and after April 18, 2016, Series E preferred stock is redeemable at our option for cash, in whole or from time to time in part, at a redemption price of \$25 per share plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, at the redemption date. Series E preferred stock quarterly dividends are set at the rate of 9.00% per annum of the \$25 liquidation preference (equivalent to an annual dividend rate of \$2.25 per share). In general, Series E preferred stock holders have no voting rights.

**Dividends** A summary of dividends declared is as follows (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Common stock related:			
Common shares	\$ 25,652	\$	\$
Preferred stocks:			
Series A preferred stock	3,180	3,180	3,180
Series D preferred stock	18,940	13,871	11,971
Series E preferred stock	6,019		
Total dividends declared	\$ 53,791	\$ 17,051	\$ 15,151

**Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Joint Ventures** Noncontrolling joint venture partners had ownership interests ranging from 15% to 25% in four hotel properties at December 31, 2011, with total carrying value of \$16.4 million, and 11% to 25% in six hotel properties at December 31, 2010, with total carrying value of \$16.7 million. Through December 1, 2011, the hotel property held by a joint venture in which we previously had an ownership interest of 89% was leased on a triple-net lease basis to a third-party tenant. Rental income from this operating lease is included in the consolidated results of operations for the period from January 1, 2011 through December 1, 2011. Effective December 2, 2011, we acquired the remaining 11% ownership interest from our joint venture partner at no cost to us. The triple-net lease agreement was canceled and the operating results of this hotel property have been included in our consolidated statements of operations since December 2, 2011. We recognized a gain of \$9.7 million for this transaction, consisting of the assignment of an \$8.1 million note receivable and an agreement to retain \$1.6 million of security deposits that were originally refundable, which is included in Other income in the consolidated statements of operations.



## Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

Income from consolidated joint ventures attributable to these noncontrolling interests was \$610,000 for 2011. Loss from consolidated joint ventures attributable to these noncontrolling interests was \$1.7 million and \$765,000 for 2010 and 2009, respectively.

---

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****17. Impairment Charges**

**Investment in Hotel Properties** At December 31, 2010, the Hilton hotel property in Tucson, Arizona had a reasonable probability of being sold. Based on our assessment of the expected purchase price obtained from potential buyers (a level 3 measure), we recorded an impairment charge of \$39.9 million. This hotel property had a carrying value of \$22.8 million and \$22.2 million at December 31, 2011 and 2010.

**Notes Receivable** We evaluated the collectability of the mezzanine loan secured by 105 hotel properties maturing in April 2011, and weighted different probabilities of outcome from full payment at maturity to a foreclosure by the senior lender. Based on this analysis, we recorded an impairment charge of \$7.8 million on December 31, 2010.

Interest payments since March of 2009 were not made on the \$7.1 million junior participation note receivable maturing January 2011 secured by a hotel property in La Jolla, California. In accordance with our accounting policy, we discontinued recording interest and fee income on this note beginning in March of 2009. In August 2010, we reached an agreement with the borrower to settle the loan and pursuant to the settlement agreement, we received total cash payments of \$6.2 million in 2010 and recorded a net impairment charge of \$836,000.

Principal and interest payments were not made since October 2008, on the \$18.2 million junior participation note receivable secured by the Four Seasons hotel property in Nevis. The underlying hotel property suffered significant damage by Hurricane Omar. We discontinued recording interest on this note beginning in October 2008. In 2009, we recorded an impairment charge to fully reserve this note receivable. In May 2010, the senior mortgage lender foreclosed on the loan. As a result of the foreclosure, our interest in the senior mortgage was converted to a 14.4% subordinate beneficial interest in the equity of the trust that holds the hotel property. Due to our junior status in the trust, we have not recorded any value for our beneficial interest at December 31, 2011.

The borrower of a \$4.0 million junior participation loan collateralized by the Sheraton hotel property in Dallas, Texas due in July 2009 has been in default since May 11, 2009. Based on a third-party appraisal, it was unlikely that we would be able to recover our full investment due to our junior status. As a result, we recorded a valuation allowance for the full amount of the note receivable during 2009. In February 2010, we and the senior note holder of the participation note receivable formed Redus JV for the purposes of holding, managing or disposing of the Sheraton hotel property in Dallas, Texas, which collateralized our \$4.0 million principal amount junior participating note receivable. We had an 18% subordinated ownership interest in Redus JV that was carried at no value. This hotel was sold in May 2011, but due to our subordinated status, we did not receive any proceeds from the sale, and no gain or loss was recognized.

In June 2009, Extended Stay Hotels, LLC ( ESH ), the issuer of our \$164 million principal balance mezzanine loan receivable secured by 681 hotels with initial maturity in June 2009, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection from its creditors. This mezzanine loan was originally purchased for \$98.4 million. At the time of ESH's bankruptcy filing, a discount of \$11.4 million had been amortized to increase the carrying value of the note to \$109.4 million. We anticipated that ESH, through its bankruptcy filing, would attempt to impose a plan of reorganization which could extinguish our investment. Accordingly, we recorded a valuation allowance of \$109.4 million in earnings for the full amount of the book value of the note. In October 2010, the ESH bankruptcy proceedings were completed and settled with new owners. The full amount of the valuation allowance was charged off in 2010.

In May 2010, the mezzanine loan with a principal balance of \$7.0 million secured by the Le Meridien hotel property in Dallas, Texas was settled with a cash payment of \$1.1 million. The loan was fully reserved in 2009 as the borrower ceased making debt service payments on the loan. As a result of the settlement, the \$1.1 million was recorded as a credit to impairment charges in accordance with authoritative accounting guidance for impaired loans.

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

In February 2010, the mezzanine loan secured by the Ritz-Carlton hotel property in Key Biscayne, Florida, with a principal amount of \$38.0 million and a net carrying value of \$23.0 million at December 31, 2009 was restructured. In connection with the restructuring, we received a cash payment of \$20.2 million and a \$4.0 million note receivable. We recorded a net impairment charge of \$10.7 million in 2009 on the original mezzanine loan. The restructured note bears an interest rate of 6.09% and matures in June 2017 with interest only payments through maturity. The note was recorded at its net present value of \$3.0 million at restructuring, based on its future cash flows. The interest payments are recorded as reductions of the principal of the note receivable, and the valuation adjustments to the net carrying amount of this note are recorded as a credit to impairment charges.

The following table summarizes the changes in allowance for losses for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 (in thousands):

	2011	2010	2009
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 16,875	\$ 148,679	\$
Impairment charges		8,691	149,285
Valuation adjustments (credits to impairment charges)	(4,841)	(2,216)	(606)
Charge-offs	(3,323)	(138,279)	
Balance at end of period	\$ 8,711	\$ 16,875	\$ 148,679

**Discontinued Operations** As fully discussed in Note 6, we recorded impairment charges on hotel properties included in discontinued operations of \$6.2 million, \$35.7 million and \$70.2 million in 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively, to write down those properties to their estimated fair values less cost to sell.

**18. Stock-Based Compensation**

Under the 2011 Restated 2003 Stock Incentive Plan approved by shareholders, we are authorized to grant 7.8 million restricted shares of our common stock as incentive stock awards. In 2011, shareholders approved the 2011 Stock Incentive Plan in the annual shareholders meeting, under which we are authorized to grant 5.8 million restricted shares as incentive stock awards. At December 31, 2011, 4.6 million shares were available for future issuance under these plans. A summary of our restricted stock activity is as follows (shares in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2011		2010		2009	
	Restricted Shares	Weighted Average Price at Grant	Restricted Shares	Weighted Average Price at Grant	Restricted Shares	Weighted Average Price at Grant
Outstanding at beginning of year	1,387	\$ 4.91	1,589	\$ 4.60	991	\$ 10.96
Restricted shares granted	285	\$ 11.39	468	\$ 7.08	1,100	\$ 1.84

Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

Restricted shares vested	(761)	\$	5.82	(655)	\$	5.72	(502)	\$	11.10
Restricted shares forfeited	(11)	\$	7.88	(15)	\$	4.51		\$	
Outstanding at end of year	900	\$	6.14	1,387	\$	4.91	1,589	\$	4.60

At December 31, 2011, the outstanding restricted stock had vesting schedules between January 2012 and January 2016. Stock-based compensation expense of \$3.2 million, \$4.1 million and \$4.0 million was recognized for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. The restricted stock vested during 2011 had a fair value of \$8.2 million at the date of vesting. At December 31, 2011, the unamortized cost of the unvested shares of restricted stock was \$3.8 million which will be amortized over a period of 4.0 years. The outstanding restricted shares had an aggregate intrinsic value of \$7.2 million.

---

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**19. Employee Benefit Plans**

In December 2008, management made a decision to suspend, effective January 1, 2009, the company match for all the benefit plans described below, unvested past matches will continue to vest in accordance with the terms of the plans. In December 2009, management announced the resumption of the company match for all the benefit plans effective January 1, 2010.

**Employee Savings and Incentive Plan (ESIP)** Our ESIP, a nonqualified compensation plan that covers employees who work at least 25 hours per week, allows eligible employees to contribute up to 100% of their compensation to various investment funds. We match 25% of the first 10% each employee contributes. Employee contributions vest immediately whereas company contributions vest 25% annually. For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, we incurred matching expenses of \$5,000, \$4,000 and \$-0-, respectively.

**401(k) Plan** Effective January 1, 2006, we established our 401(k) Plan, a qualified defined contribution retirement plan that covers employees 21 years of age or older who have completed one year of service and work a minimum of 1,000 hours annually. The 401(k) Plan allows eligible employees to contribute subject to IRS imposed limitations, to various investment funds. We make matching cash contributions of 50% of each participant's contributions, based on participant contributions of up to 6% of compensation. However, company matching only occurs in either the 401(k) Plan or the ESIP, as directed by the participant. Participant contributions vest immediately whereas company matches vest 25% annually. For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, we incurred matching expense of \$202,000, \$162,000, and \$-0-, respectively.

**Deferred Compensation Plan** Effective January 1, 2008, we established a nonqualified deferred compensation plan for certain executive officers. The plan allows participants to defer up to 100% of their base salary, bonus and stock awards and select an investment fund for measurement of the deferred compensation liability. We recorded losses of \$81,000 and \$27,000 in 2010 and 2009, respectively, for the change in cash surrender value of the life insurance policy where deferred funds were invested. In addition, as a result of the change in market value of the investment fund, an additional compensation expense of \$11,000 and \$387,000 was recorded for 2010 and 2009, respectively. In November 2010, we surrendered the life insurance policy that indexed the deferred compensation plan.

**20. Income Taxes**

For federal income tax purposes, we elected to be treated as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. To qualify as a REIT, we must meet certain organizational and operational stipulations, including a requirement that we distribute at least 90% of our REIT taxable income, excluding net capital gains, to our shareholders. We currently intend to adhere to these requirements and maintain our REIT status. If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any taxable year, we will be subject to federal income taxes at regular corporate rates (including any applicable alternative minimum tax) and may not qualify as a REIT for four subsequent taxable years. Even if we qualify for taxation as a REIT, we may be subject to certain state and local taxes as well as to federal income and excise taxes on our undistributed taxable income.

At December 31, 2011, all of our 96 hotel properties were leased or owned by Ashford TRS (our taxable REIT subsidiaries). Ashford TRS recognized net book income (loss) of \$18.8 million, \$21.8 million and \$(27.4) million for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The following table reconciles the income tax expense at statutory rates to the actual income tax expense recorded (in thousands):

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Income tax (expense) benefit at federal statutory income tax rate of 35%	\$ (8,723)	\$ (8,507)	\$ 660
State income tax (expense) benefit, net of federal income tax benefit	(1,278)	(1,228)	48
Permanent differences	(142)	(130)	(149)
State and local income tax benefit (expense) on pass-through entity subsidiaries	(114)	825	(123)
Gross receipts and margin taxes	40	(537)	(940)
Other	(9)	(32)	(91)
Valuation allowance	8,606	9,764	(913)
Income tax benefit (expense) for income from continuing operations	(1,620)	155	(1,508)
Income tax expense for income from discontinued operations	(85)	(22)	(57)
Total income tax (expense) benefit	\$ (1,705)	\$ 133	\$ (1,565)

The components of income tax benefit (expense) from continuing operations are as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Current:</b>			
Federal	\$ (579)	\$ (100)	\$ (349)
State	(165)	(656)	(1,135)
Total current	(744)	(756)	(1,484)
<b>Deferred:</b>			
Federal	(708)	85	
State	(168)	826	(24)
Total deferred	(876)	911	(24)
Total income tax (expense) benefit	\$ (1,620)	\$ 155	\$ (1,508)

For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 income tax expense includes interest and penalties paid to taxing authorities of \$9,000, \$32,000 and \$23,000, respectively. At December 31, 2011 and 2010, we determined that there were no amounts to accrue for interest and

penalties due to taxing authorities.

In May 2006, the State of Texas adopted House Bill 3, which modified the state's franchise tax structure, replacing the previous tax based on capital or earned surplus with a margin tax (the Texas Margin Tax) effective with franchise tax reports filed on or after January 1, 2008. The Texas Margin Tax is computed by applying the applicable tax rate (1% for our business) to the profit margin, which is generally determined by total revenue less either the cost of goods sold or compensation as applicable. Although House Bill 3 states that the Texas Margin Tax is not an income tax, we believe that the authoritative accounting guidance related to income taxes applies to the Texas Margin Tax. We were required to record an income tax provision for the Texas Margin Tax of \$73,000, \$574,000 and \$970,000 for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

At December 31, 2011 and 2010, our deferred tax asset (liability) and related valuation allowance consisted of the following (in thousands):

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$ 85	\$ 160
Unearned income	155	1,234
Unfavorable management contract liability	5,431	6,407
Federal and state net operating losses	53,829	46,174
Accrued expenses	2,125	2,340
Prepaid expenses	(5,783)	(3,241)
Interest expense carryforwards	3,545	5,332
Tax property basis greater (less) than book basis	(2,704)	14,306
Tax derivatives basis greater (less) than book basis	540	(7,449)
Other	129	90
<b>Gross deferred tax asset</b>	<b>57,352</b>	<b>65,353</b>
<b>Valuation allowance</b>	<b>(58,081)</b>	<b>(65,249)</b>
<b>Net deferred tax asset (liability)</b>	<b>\$ (729)</b>	<b>\$ 104</b>

At December 31, 2011 and 2010, we recorded a valuation allowance of \$58.1 million and \$65.2 million, respectively, to substantially offset our gross deferred tax asset. As a result of consolidated losses in 2011, 2010 and 2009, and the limitation imposed by the Internal Revenue Code on the utilization of net operating losses of acquired subsidiaries, we believe that it is more likely than not our gross deferred tax asset will not be realized, and therefore, have provided a valuation allowance to substantially reserve against the balances. At December 31, 2011, Ashford TRS had net operating loss carryforwards for federal income tax purposes of \$133.4 million, which begin to expire in 2022, and are available to offset future taxable income, if any, through 2030. Approximately \$14.2 million of the \$133.4 million of net operating loss carryforwards is attributable to acquired subsidiaries and subject to substantial limitation on its use. At December 31, 2011, Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc., our REIT, had net operating loss carryforwards for federal income tax purposes of \$153.7 million, which begin to expire in 2023, and are available to offset future taxable income, if any, through 2031. The following table summarizes the changes in the valuation allowance (in thousands):

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 65,249	\$ 73,633	\$ 77,160
Additions charged to other	19,255	3,786	11,554
Deductions	(26,423)	(12,170)	(15,081)
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>\$ 58,081</b>	<b>\$ 65,249</b>	<b>\$ 73,633</b>





**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****21. Income (Loss) Per Share**

The following table reconciles the amounts used in calculating basic and diluted earnings (loss) per share (in thousands, except per share amounts):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
<b><u>Income (loss) attributable to common shareholders Basic and diluted:</u></b>			
Income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to the Company	\$ 6,609	\$ (60,158)	\$ (163,582)
Less: Dividends on preferred stocks	(46,876)	(21,194)	(19,322)
Less: Dividends on common stock	(25,264)		
Less: Dividends on unvested restricted shares	(386)		
Less: (Income) loss from continuing operations allocated to unvested shares			
Undistributed loss from continuing operations allocated to common shareholders	\$ (65,917)	\$ (81,352)	\$ (182,904)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations attributable to the Company	\$ (4,500)	\$ 8,418	\$ (86,660)
Less: (Income) loss from discontinued operations allocated to unvested shares			
Undistributed income (loss) from discontinued operations allocated to common shareholders	\$ (4,500)	\$ 8,418	\$ (86,660)
<b><u>Income (loss) attributable to common shareholders Basic and diluted:</u></b>			
Income (loss) from continuing operations distributed to common shareholders	\$ 25,264	\$	\$
Undistributed loss from continuing operations allocated to common shareholders	(65,917)	(81,352)	(182,904)
Total distributed and undistributed loss from continuing operations	(40,653)	(81,352)	(182,904)
Total distributed and undistributed income (loss) from discontinued operations attributable to the Company	(4,500)	8,418	(86,660)
Total distributed and undistributed loss allocated to common shareholders	\$ (45,153)	\$ (72,934)	\$ (269,564)
Weighted average common shares outstanding	61,954	51,159	68,597
<b><u>Income (loss) per share basic and diluted:</u></b>			
Loss from continuing operations allocated to common shareholders per share	\$ (0.66)	\$ (1.59)	\$ (2.67)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations allocated to common shareholders per share	(0.07)	0.16	(1.26)
Net loss allocated to common shareholders per share	\$ (0.73)	\$ (1.43)	\$ (3.93)



**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Due to their anti-dilutive effect, the computation of diluted income per share does not reflect the adjustments for the following items (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Loss from continuing operations allocated to common shareholders is not adjusted for:			
Income allocated to unvested restricted shares	\$ 386	\$	\$
Dividends to Series B-1 Preferred Stock	18,737	4,143	4,171
Loss attributable to redeemable noncontrolling interests in operating partnership	(2,199)	(9,341)	(24,022)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,924</b>	<b>\$ (5,198)</b>	<b>\$ (19,851)</b>
Weighted average diluted shares are not adjusted for:			
Effect of unvested restricted shares	563	789	457
Effect of assumed conversion of Series B-1 Preferred Stock	2,509	7,414	7,448
Effect of assumed conversion of operating partnership units	15,571	14,470	13,485
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,643</b>	<b>22,673</b>	<b>21,390</b>

**22. Segment Reporting**

We operate in two business segments within the hotel lodging industry: direct hotel investments and hotel financing. Direct hotel investments refer to owning hotels through either acquisition or new development. We report operating results of direct hotel investments on an aggregate basis as substantially all of our hotel investments have similar economic characteristics and exhibit similar long-term financial performance. Hotel financing refers to owning subordinate hotel-related mortgages through acquisition or origination. We do not allocated corporate-level accounts to our operating segments, including transaction acquisition and contract termination costs, corporate general and administrative expenses, non-operating interest income, interest expense, amortization of loan costs, write-off of premiums, loan costs and exit fees, unrealized income (loss) on investments and derivatives, and income tax expense/benefit.

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Financial information related to our reportable segments is as follows (in thousands).

	<b>Direct Hotel Investments</b>	<b>Hotel Financing</b>	<b>Corporate</b>	<b>Consolidated</b>
<b><u>Year Ended December 31, 2011:</u></b>				
Total revenues	\$ 889,797	\$	\$	\$ 889,797
Total hotel expenses	580,879			580,879
Property taxes, insurance and other	46,758			46,758
Depreciation and amortization	133,882			133,882
Impairment charges		(4,841)		(4,841)
Gain on insurance settlement	(2,035)			(2,035)
Transaction acquisition and contract termination costs			(793)	(793)
Corporate general and administrative			44,522	44,522
Total expenses	759,484	(4,841)	43,729	798,372
Operating income (loss)	130,313	4,841	(43,729)	91,425
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated joint venture	14,528			14,528
Interest income			85	85
Other income		30,000	79,524	109,524
Interest expense and amortization of loan costs			(138,547)	(138,547)
Write-off of premiums, loan costs and exit fees			(729)	(729)
Unrealized loss on investments			(391)	(391)
Unrealized loss on derivatives			(70,286)	(70,286)
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes	144,841	34,841	(174,073)	5,609
Income tax expense			(1,620)	(1,620)
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 144,841	\$ 34,841	\$ (175,693)	\$ 3,989
<b><u>As of December 31, 2011:</u></b>				
Total assets	\$ 3,366,107	\$ 3,610	\$ 220,009	\$ 3,589,726

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

	Direct Hotel Investments	Hotel Financing	Corporate	Consolidated
<b><u>Year Ended December 31, 2010:</u></b>				
Total revenues	\$ 837,246	\$ 1,378	\$	\$ 838,624
Total hotel expenses	554,645			554,645
Property taxes, insurance and other	49,389			49,389
Depreciation and amortization	132,651			132,651
Impairment charges	39,903	6,501		46,404
Transaction acquisition and contract termination costs			7,001	7,001
Corporate general and administrative			30,619	30,619
Total expenses	776,588	6,501	37,620	820,709
Operating income (loss)	60,658	(5,123)	(37,620)	17,915
Equity in loss of unconsolidated joint ventures		(20,265)		(20,265)
Interest income			283	283
Other income			62,826	62,826
Interest expense and amortization of loan costs			(140,609)	(140,609)
Write-off of premiums, loan costs and exit fees			(3,893)	(3,893)
Unrealized gain on derivatives			12,284	12,284
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes	60,658	(25,388)	(106,729)	(71,459)
Income tax benefit			155	155
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 60,658	\$ (25,388)	\$ (106,574)	\$ (71,304)
<b><u>As of December 31, 2010:</u></b>				
Total assets	\$ 3,336,890	\$ 40,726	\$ 338,908	\$ 3,716,524
<b><u>Year Ended December 31, 2009:</u></b>				
Total revenues	\$ 826,808	\$ 10,876	\$	\$ 837,684
Total hotel expenses	550,482			550,482
Property taxes, insurance and other	53,097			53,097
Depreciation and amortization	138,620			138,620
Impairment charges		148,679		148,679
Gain on insurance settlements	(1,329)			(1,329)
Corporate general and administrative			29,951	29,951
Total expenses	740,870	148,679	29,951	919,500
Operating income (loss)	85,938	(137,803)	(29,951)	(81,816)
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated joint ventures		2,486		2,486
Interest income			297	297

Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

Other income			56,556	56,556
Interest expense and amortization of loan costs			(132,997)	(132,997)
Write-off of premiums, loan costs and exit fees			371	371
Unrealized loss on derivatives			(31,782)	(31,782)
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes	85,938	(135,317)	(137,506)	(186,885)
Income tax expense			(1,508)	(1,508)
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 85,938	\$ (135,317)	\$ (139,014)	\$ (188,393)

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, all of our hotel properties were domestically located and all hotel properties securing our notes receivable were also domestically located.

**23. Related Party Transactions**

We have management agreements with parties owned by our Chairman and our Chief Executive Officer. Under the agreements, we pay the related party a) monthly property management fees equal to the greater of \$10,000 (CPI adjusted since 2003) or 3% of gross revenues as well as annual incentive management fees, if certain operational criteria are met, b) project management fees of up to 4% of project costs, c) market service fees including purchasing, design and construction management not to exceed 16.5% of project budget cumulatively, including project management fees, and d) other general and administrative expense reimbursements, approved by our independent directors, including rent, payroll, office supplies, travel, and accounting. This related party allocates such charges to us based on various methodologies, including headcount and actual amounts incurred.

At December 31, 2011, the related party managed 45 of our 96 hotels and the WorldQuest condominium properties included in continuing operations and the continuing operations incurred the following fees related to the management agreements with the a related party (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Property management fees, including incentive property management fees	\$ 12,973	\$ 11,500	\$ 10,283
Market service fees	6,638	5,798	5,474
Corporate general and administrative expense reimbursements	4,281	4,665	4,589
Total	\$ 23,892	\$ 21,963	\$ 20,346

Management agreements with the related party include exclusivity clauses that require us to engage such related party, unless our independent directors either (i) unanimously vote to hire a different manager or developer or (ii) by a majority vote elect not to engage such related party because either special circumstances exist such that it would be in the best interest of our Company not to engage such related party, or, based on the related party's prior performance, it is believed that another manager or developer could perform the management, development or other duties materially better.

Upon formation, we also agreed to indemnify certain related parties, including our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, who contributed hotel properties in connection with our initial public offering in exchange for operating partnership units, against the income tax such related parties may incur if we dispose of one or more of those contributed properties under the terms of the agreement.

In addition, at December 31, 2011, the related party also managed 19 of the 28 hotels held by the PIM Highland JV in return for a base management fee of 3% of gross revenues, and an incentive management fee equal to the lesser of 1% of gross revenues or the amount by which Actual House Profit exceeds House Profit set forth in the Annual Operating Budget, as defined. During 2011, the related party received from PIM Highland JV a base management fee of \$4.8 million, \$1.1 million incentive management fee, \$1.6 million of market service fees, including purchasing, design and construction management, and \$2.5 million of corporate general and administrative expense reimbursements.



**24. Concentration of Risk**

Our investments are all concentrated within the hotel industry. Our investment strategy is to acquire or develop upscale to upper-upscale hotels, acquire first mortgages on hotel properties, and invest in other

**Table of Contents**

**ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

mortgage-related instruments such as mezzanine loans to hotel owners and operators. At present, all of our hotels are located domestically. During 2011, approximately 18.5% of our total hotel revenue was generated from 11 hotels located in the Washington D.C. and Baltimore areas. In addition, all hotels securing our loans receivable are also located domestically at December 31, 2011. Our remaining mezzanine loan is collateralized by income-producing real property. Accordingly, adverse conditions in the hotel industry will have a material adverse effect on our operating and investment revenues and cash available for distribution to shareholders.

Financial instruments that potentially subject us to significant concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash and cash equivalents. We are exposed to credit risk with respect to cash held at various financial institutions, access to our credit facility, and amounts due or payable under our derivative contracts. At December 31, 2011, our exposure risk related to our derivative contracts totaled \$37.9 million and the counterparties are investment grade financial institutions. Our credit risk exposure with regard to our cash and the \$105.0 million available under our credit facility is spread among a diversified group of investment grade financial institutions.

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****25. Selected Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited)**

The following is a summary of the quarterly results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 (in thousands, except per share data):

	<b>First Quarter</b>	<b>Second Quarter</b>	<b>Third Quarter</b>	<b>Fourth Quarter</b>	<b>Full Year</b>
<b>2011</b>					
Total revenue	\$ 211,790	\$ 230,099	\$ 214,587	\$ 233,321	\$ 889,797
Total operating expenses	\$ 193,843	\$ 194,424	\$ 196,937	\$ 213,168	\$ 798,372
Operating income	\$ 17,947	\$ 35,675	\$ 17,650	\$ 20,153	\$ 91,425
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 41,671	\$ (1,233)	\$ (24,633)	\$ (11,816)	\$ 3,989
Income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to the Company	\$ 36,799	\$ 969	\$ (20,906)	\$ (10,253)	\$ 6,609
Income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to common shareholders	\$ 30,244	\$ (23,802)	\$ (28,321)	\$ (18,388)	\$ (40,267)
Diluted income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to common shareholders per share	\$ 0.45	\$ (0.40)	\$ (0.43)	\$ (0.28)	\$ (0.66)
Weighted average diluted common shares	79,330	59,482	66,801	67,132	61,954
<b>2010</b>					
Total revenue	\$ 198,528	\$ 217,639	\$ 202,155	\$ 220,302	\$ 838,624
Total operating expenses	\$ 183,560	\$ 193,114	\$ 188,665	\$ 255,370	\$ 820,709
Operating income (loss)	\$ 14,968	\$ 24,525	\$ 13,490	\$ (35,068)	\$ 17,915
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 10,006	\$ 21,691	\$ (5,354)	\$ (97,647)	\$ (71,304)
Income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to the Company	\$ 9,211	\$ 18,660	\$ (4,304)	\$ (83,725)	\$ (60,158)
Income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to common shareholders	\$ 4,381	\$ 13,829	\$ (9,292)	\$ (90,270)	\$ (81,352)
Diluted income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to common shareholders per share	\$ 0.08	\$ 0.25	\$ (0.18)	\$ (1.76)	\$ (1.59)
Weighted average diluted common shares	53,073	72,981	49,714	51,407	51,159

Note: Quarterly amounts for the first quarter of 2011 and 2010 are different from the previous Form 10-Q filed for the quarter ended March 31, 2011 due to reclassification of a hotel property during the second quarter of 2011 to discontinued operations.

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****26. Pro Forma Financial Information**

As discussed in Note 5, on March 10, 2011, we and PREI formed the PIM Highland JV to take ownership of the Highland Hospitality Portfolio through a debt restructuring and consensual foreclosure. At closing, we invested \$150.0 million and PREI invested \$50.0 million to fund capital expenditures and to reduce debt. We own 71.74% of the joint venture and PREI owns the remaining 28.26%.

The following unaudited pro forma statements of operations for the year ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 are based on our historical consolidated financial statements adjusted to give effect to the completion of the acquisition of the Highland Hospitality Portfolio as if the transaction had occurred at January 1, 2010 and January 1, 2011. The unaudited pro forma financial information is prepared for informational purposes only and does not purport to be indicative of what would have resulted had the acquisition transaction occurred on the date indicated or what may result in the future (in thousands, except per share amounts).

	Year Ended December 31, 2011			Year Ended December 31, 2010		
	As Reported	Pro Forma Adjustments	Pro Forma Adjusted (Unaudited)	As Reported	Pro Forma Adjustments	Pro Forma Adjusted (Unaudited)
Hotel revenue	\$ 889,435	\$	\$ 889,435	\$ 836,821	\$	\$ 836,821
Other revenue	362		362	1,803		1,803
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>889,797</b>		<b>889,797</b>	<b>838,624</b>		<b>838,624</b>
Hotel expenses	580,879		580,879	554,645		554,645
Property taxes, insurance and other	46,758		46,758	49,389		49,389
Depreciation and amortization	133,882		133,882	132,651		132,651
Impairment charges	(4,841)		(4,841)	46,404		46,404
Gain on insurance settlement	(2,035)		(2,035)			
Transaction acquisition and contract termination costs	(793)	1,092 <sup>(1)</sup>	299	7,001	(1,352) <sup>(1)</sup>	5,649
Corporate general and administrative and other	44,522		44,522	30,619		30,619
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>798,372</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>799,464</b>	<b>820,709</b>	<b>(1,352)</b>	<b>819,357</b>
Operating income (loss)	91,425	(1,092)	90,333	17,915	1,352	19,267
Equity in earnings (loss) of unconsolidated joint ventures	14,528	(44,256) <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	(29,728)	(20,265)	(29,350) <sup>(2)</sup>	(49,615)
Interest and other income	109,609		109,609	63,109		63,109
Interest expense and amortization of loan costs and write-off of loan costs and exit fees	(139,276)		(139,276)	(144,502)		(144,502)
Unrealized loss on investments	(391)		(391)			
Unrealized gain (loss) on derivatives	(70,286)		(70,286)	12,284		12,284
Income tax (expense) benefit	(1,620)		(1,620)	155		155
<b>Income (loss) from continuing operations</b>	<b>3,989</b>	<b>(45,348)</b>	<b>(41,359)</b>	<b>(71,304)</b>	<b>(27,998)</b>	<b>(99,302)</b>
(Income) loss from continuing operating attributable to noncontrolling interests	2,620	3,516 <sup>(4)</sup>	6,136	11,146	4,301 <sup>(4)</sup>	15,447
	6,609	(41,832)	(35,223)	(60,158)	(23,697)	(83,855)

## Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

Income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to the Company						
Preferred dividends	(46,876)		(46,876)	(21,194)		(21,194)
Loss from continuing operations available to common shareholders	\$ (40,267)	\$ (41,832)	\$ (82,099)	\$ (81,352)	\$ (23,697)	\$ (105,049)

**Table of Contents****ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

	Year Ended December 31, 2011			Year Ended December 31, 2010		
	As Reported	Pro Forma Adjustments	Pro Forma Adjusted (Unaudited)	As Reported	Pro Forma Adjustments	Pro Forma Adjusted (Unaudited)
Loss from continuing operations per share basic and diluted	\$ (0.66)		\$ (1.34)	\$ (1.59)		\$ (2.05)
Weighted average number of shares outstanding basic and diluted	61,954		61,954	51,159		51,159
<p>(1) To eliminate transaction (costs) credits recorded in our consolidated financial statements.</p> <p>(2) To reflect our 71.74% loss in PIM Highland JV that owns the Highland Hospitality Portfolio, which is calculated as follows:</p>						
Historical net income (loss) of Highland Hospitality Portfolio		\$ 37,287			\$ (76,213)	
Pro forma adjustments:						
Additional hotel operating results for the period from January 1, 2011 through March 10, 2011		11,981				
Additional interest related to assumed debt at higher rates		(10,645)			(19,597)	
Amortization of loan costs incurred from assuming debt		(837)			(4,648)	
Additional depreciation expense based on the fair value of the hotel properties at acquisition and the useful lives under our accounting policies		(11,702)			(15,728)	
Additional corporate general and administrative expense for the period from January 1, 2011 through March 10, 2011		(565)				
Removal of impairment charges recorded					77,657	
Removal of gain recognized at acquisition		(82,144)				
Removal of transaction acquisition costs		17,554				
Additional income taxes		(95)				
Pro forma adjusted net loss		\$ (39,166)			\$ (38,529)	
Our portion of pro forma adjusted net loss based on hypothetical liquidation book value		\$ (29,728)			\$ (29,272)	
Reversal of equity earnings recorded		(14,528)			(78)	
Net adjustments		\$ (44,256)			\$ (29,350)	

(3) The equity loss in unconsolidated joint ventures does not include \$17.6 million of closing costs incurred by PIM Highland JV.

(4) To reflect our portion of pro forma loss in PIM Highland JV that is attributable to noncontrolling interests.

**27. Subsequent Events (Unaudited)**

On February 21, 2012, we closed on expanding our borrowing capacity under the new \$105.0 million senior credit facility which we obtained in September 2011 to an aggregate \$145.0 million.

---

**Table of Contents**

**Item 9. *Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure***

None.

**Item 9A. *Controls and Procedures***

**EVALUATION OF DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

Under the supervision and with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, our management has evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) as of December 31, 2011 ( Evaluation Date ). Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of the Evaluation Date, our disclosure controls and procedures are effective (i) to ensure that information required to be disclosed in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms; and (ii) to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures.

**MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting and for the assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. The internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Our internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of our assets; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and our expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and our directors and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of our assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010. In making the assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting, management has utilized the criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

Based on management's assessment of these criteria, we concluded that, as of December 31, 2011, our internal control over financial reporting is effective. The effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011 has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which appears in this Form 10-K.

**CHANGES IN INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

There have been no changes in our internal controls over financial reporting during our most recent fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

---

**Table of Contents**

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of

Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and subsidiaries

We have audited Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (the COSO criteria). Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and subsidiaries' management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and subsidiaries maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the 2011 consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules of Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and subsidiaries and our report dated February 28, 2012 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Dallas, Texas

February 28, 2012



**Table of Contents**

**Item 9B. *Other Information***

None.

**PART III**

**Item 10. *Directors, Executive Officer, and Corporate Governance***

The required information is incorporated by reference from the Proxy Statement pertaining to our 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

**Item 11. *Executive Compensation***

The required information is incorporated by reference from the Proxy Statement pertaining to our 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

**Item 12. *Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters***

The required information is incorporated by reference from the Proxy Statement pertaining to our 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

**Item 13. *Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence***

The required information is incorporated by reference from the Proxy Statement pertaining to our 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

**Item 14. *Principal Accountant Fees and Services***

The required information is incorporated by reference from the Proxy Statement pertaining to our 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

**PART IV**

**Item 15. *Financial Statement Schedules and Exhibits***

**(a) *Financial Statements and Schedules***

See Item 8, *Financial Statements and Supplementary Data*, on pages 58 through 103 hereof, for a list of our consolidated financial statements and report of independent registered public accounting firm.

The following financial statement schedules are included herein on pages 108 through 111.

Schedule III *Real Estate and Accumulated Depreciation*

Schedule IV *Mortgage Loans and Interest Earned on Real Estate*

All other financial statement schedules have been omitted because such schedules are not required under the related instructions, such schedules are not significant, or the required information has been disclosed elsewhere in the consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto.

**(b) Exhibits**

Exhibits required by Item 601 of Regulation S-K: The exhibits filed in response to this item are listed in the Exhibit Index on pages 112 through 117.

**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) 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, on February 28, 2012.

ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC.

By: /s/ MONTY J. BENNETT

Monty J. Bennett  
Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below on behalf of the Registrant in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ ARCHIE BENNETT, JR.  Archie Bennett, Jr.	Chairman of the Board of Director	February 28, 2012
/s/ MONTY J. BENNETT  Monty J. Bennett	Chief Executive Officer, and Director  (Principal Executive Officer)	February 28, 2012
/s/ DAVID J. KIMICHIK  David J. Kimichik	Chief Financial Officer	February 28, 2012
/s/ MARK L. NUNNELEY  Mark L. Nunneley	Chief Accounting Officer	February 28, 2012
/s/ BENJAMIN J. ANSELL, M.D.  Benjamin J. Ansell, M.D.	Director	February 28, 2012
/s/ THOMAS E. CALLAHAN  Thomas E. Callahan	Director	February 28, 2012
/s/ MARTIN L. EDELMAN  Martin L. Edelman	Director	February 28, 2012
/s/ MICHAEL MURPHY  Michael Murphy	Director	February 28, 2012

/s/ PHILLIP S. PAYNE

Director

February 28, 2012

Philip S. Payne

**Table of Contents**

## SCHEDULE REAL ESTATE AND ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION

## SCHEDULE III

## ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC.

## REAL ESTATE AND ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION

December 31, 2011

(dollars in thousands)

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F	Column G	Column H	Column I				
		Initial Cost FF&E, Buildings and	Costs Capitalized Since Acquisition FF&E, Buildings and	Gross Carrying Amount At Close of Period FF&E, Buildings and	Accumulated	Construction	Acquisition	Income				
Hotel Property	Location	Land improvements	Land improvements	Land improvements	Depreciation	Date	Date	Statement				
Embassy Suites	Austin, TX	\$ 14,042	\$ 1,204	\$ 9,661	\$ 193	\$ 5,548	\$ 1,397	\$ 15,209	\$ 16,606	\$ 5,056	08/1998	(1),(2),(3)
Embassy Suites	Dallas, TX	8,299	1,878	8,907	238	5,667	2,116	14,574	16,690	5,029	12/1998	(1),(2),(3)
Embassy Suites	Herndon, VA	25,054	1,303	9,837	277	4,316	1,580	14,153	15,733	5,071	12/1998	(1),(2),(3)
Embassy Suites	Las Vegas, NV	31,603	3,307	16,952	397	8,260	3,704	25,212	28,916	10,515	05/1999	(1),(2),(3)
Embassy Suites	Syracuse, NY	12,408	2,839	9,778		3,859	2,839	13,637	16,476	3,939	10/2003	(1),(2),(3)
Embassy Suites	Flagstaff, AZ	11,407	1,267	4,278		4,140	1,267	8,418	9,685	2,212	10/2003	(1),(2),(3)
Embassy Suites	Houston, TX	12,690	1,799	10,404		3,607	1,799	14,011	15,810	3,042	03/2005	(1),(2),(3)
Embassy Suites	West Palm Beach, FL	18,014	3,277	13,950		6,622	3,277	20,572	23,849	6,616	03/2005	(1),(2),(3)
Embassy Suites	Philadelphia, PA	34,000	5,791	34,819		11,901	5,791	46,720	52,511	10,896	12/2006	(1),(2),(3)
Embassy Suites	Walnut Creek, CA	30,000	7,452	25,334		7,946	7,452	33,280	40,732	7,290	12/2006	(1),(2),(3)
Embassy Suites	Arlington, VA	37,455	36,065	41,708		7,142	36,065	48,850	84,915	7,556	04/2007	(1),(2),(3)
Embassy Suites	Portland, OR	29,599	11,110	60,049		4,544	11,110	64,593	75,703	8,870	04/2007	(1),(2),(3)
Embassy Suites	Santa Clara, CA	26,330	8,948	47,541		8,011	8,948	55,552	64,500	11,630	04/2007	(1),(2),(3)
Embassy Suites	Orlando, FL	12,952	5,674	22,512		2,838	5,674	25,350	31,024	4,588	04/2007	(1),(2),(3)
Doubletree												
Guest Suites	Columbus, OH	7,896		8,693		2,515		11,208	11,208	3,167	10/2003	(1),(2),(3)
Hilton Garden Inn	Jacksonville, FL	10,900	1,751	9,164		2,224	1,751	11,388	13,139	3,561	11/2003	(1),(2),(3)
Hilton	Ft. Worth, TX	23,386	4,539	13,922		11,448	4,539	25,370	29,909	7,393	03/2005	(1),(2),(3)
Hilton	Houston, TX	15,388	2,200	13,247		16,720	2,200	29,967	32,167	11,053	03/2005	(1),(2),(3)
Hilton	St. Petersburg, FL	19,025	2,991	13,907		7,963	2,991	21,870	24,861	6,169	03/2005	(1),(2),(3)
Hilton	Santa Fe, NM	16,658	7,003	10,689		6,743	7,003	17,432	24,435	4,297	12/2006	(1),(2),(3)
Hilton	Bloomington, MN	56,000	5,685	59,139		6,733	5,685	65,872	71,557	11,131	04/2007	(1),(2),(3)
Hilton	Washington DC	81,938	45,720	112,690		30,885	45,720	143,575	189,295	28,863	04/2007	(1),(2),(3)
Hilton	La Jolla, CA	63,729		125,766		8,107		133,873	133,873	30,162	04/2007	(1),(2),(3)
Hilton	Costa Mesa, CA	44,848	12,917	92,006		8,379	12,917	100,385	113,302	14,005	04/2007	(1),(2),(3)
Hilton	Tucson, AZ	19,740	3,941	49,301		(25,680)	3,941	23,621	27,562	4,734	04/2007	(1),(2),(3)
Homewood Suites	Mobile, AL	8,470	1,334	7,307		1,605	1,334	8,912	10,246	2,493	11/2003	(1),(2),(3)
Hampton Inn	Lawrenceville, GA	5,084	697	3,808		925	697	4,733	5,430	1,325	11/2003	(1),(2),(3)
Hampton Inn	Evansville, IN	7,028	1,301	5,034		1,471	1,301	6,505	7,806	1,562	09/2004	(1),(2),(3)
Hampton Inn	Terre Haute, IN	9,121	700	7,520		1,249	700	8,769	9,469	2,032	09/2004	(1),(2),(3)
Hampton Inn	Buford, GA	7,680	1,168	5,338		567	1,168	5,905	7,073	1,272	07/2004	(1),(2),(3)
Marriott	Durham, NC	25,983	1,794	25,056		6,609	1,794	31,665	33,459	8,158	02/2006	(1),(2),(3)
Marriott	Arlington, VA	103,759	20,637	101,376		24,188	20,637	125,564	146,201	27,705	07/2006	(1),(2),(3)
Marriott	Seattle, WA	135,710	31,888	112,177		4,887	31,888	117,064	148,952	15,349	04/2007	(1),(2),(3)

Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

Marriott	Bridgewater, NJ	75,391	5,059	90,245	4,435	5,059	94,680	99,739	13,968	04/2007	(1),(2),(3)
Marriott	Plano, TX	79,575	2,725	93,118	4,919	2,725	98,037	100,762	13,416	04/2007	(1),(2),(3)
Marriott	Dallas, TX	26,942	2,701	30,893	2,197	2,701	33,090	35,791	4,739	04/2007	(1),(2),(3)
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Jacksonville, FL	8,023	1,348	7,111	1,377	1,348	8,488	9,836	2,485	11/2003	(1),(2),(3)
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Baltimore, MD	15,372	2,502	13,206	1,658	2,502	14,864	17,366	3,653	05/2004	(1),(2),(3)
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Kennesaw, GA	7,187	1,106	5,021	1,181	1,106	6,202	7,308	1,800	07/2004	(1),(2),(3)
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Buford, GA	7,895	1,132	6,089	987	1,132	7,076	8,208	1,436	07/2004	(1),(2),(3)
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Gaithersburg, MD	15,247	2,200	19,746	1,931	2,200	21,677	23,877	4,570	06/2005	(1),(2),(3)
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Centerville, VA	8,897	1,806	11,712	1,748	1,806	13,460	15,266	3,146	06/2005	(1),(2),(3)
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Charlotte, NC	6,117	1,235	6,818	1,668	1,235	8,486	9,721	1,479	06/2005	(1),(2),(3)
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Durham, NC	5,243	1,090	3,991	1,852	1,090	5,843	6,933	972	06/2005	(1),(2),(3)
SpringHill Suites by Marriott	Orlando, FL	30,213	8,620	27,699	1,933	8,620	29,632	38,252	4,125	04/2007	(1),(2),(3)

(Continued on Next Page)

**Table of Contents**

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F	Column G	Column H	Column I				
Property	Location	Encumbrances	Land	Initial Cost FF&E, Buildings and improvements	Costs Capitalized Since Acquisition FF&E, Buildings and improvements	Land	Gross Carrying Amount At Close of Period FF&E, Buildings and improvements	Total	Accumulated Depreciation	Construction Date	Acquisition Date	Inco State
Hill by tt	Manhattan Beach, CA	\$ 21,920	\$ 5,726	\$ 21,187	\$ 1,529	\$ 5,726	\$ 22,716	\$ 28,442	\$ 2,828		04/2007	(1),(
Hill by tt	Plymouth Meeting, PA	20,000	3,210	24,578	1,382	3,210	25,960	29,170	3,321		04/2007	(1),(
Hill by tt	Glen Allen, VA	15,286	2,045	15,802	1,733	2,045	17,535	19,580	2,214		04/2007	(1),(
d Inn by tt	Kennesaw, GA	7,045	840	4,359	1,382	840	5,741	6,581	1,206		07/2004	(1),(
d Inn by tt	Orlando, FL	15,930	6,507	9,895	2,339	6,507	12,234	18,741	2,460		04/2007	(1),(
ard by tt	Bloomington, IN	12,104	900	10,741	825	900	11,566	12,466	2,609		09/2004	(1),(
ard by tt	Columbus, IN	6,088	673	4,804	1,114	673	5,918	6,591	1,662		09/2004	(1),(
ard by tt	Louisville, KY	14,464	1,352	12,266	2,881	1,352	15,147	16,499	2,912		09/2004	(1),(
ard by tt	Crystal City, VA	33,552	5,411	38,610	5,970	5,411	44,580	49,991	9,205		06/2005	(1),(
ard by tt	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	14,586	2,244	18,520	2,398	2,244	20,918	23,162	4,175		06/2005	(1),(
ard by tt	Overland Park, KS	12,254	1,868	14,030	2,998	1,868	17,028	18,896	3,893		06/2005	(1),(
ard by tt	Palm Desert, CA	11,021	2,722	11,995	1,756	2,722	13,751	16,473	3,184		06/2005	(1),(
ard by tt	Foothill Ranch, CA	13,614	2,447	16,005	1,295	2,447	17,300	19,747	2,920		06/2005	(1),(
ard by tt	Alpharetta, GA	10,502	2,244	12,345	2,157	2,244	14,502	16,746	3,517		06/2005	(1),(
ard by tt	Philadelphia, PA	43,098	9,814	100,333	4,207	9,814	104,540	114,354	20,398		04/2007	(1),(
ard by tt	Seattle, WA	59,711	17,194	46,767	2,402	17,194	49,169	66,363	6,238		04/2007	(1),(
ard by tt	San Francisco, CA	68,540	22,653	72,734	5,010	22,653	77,744	100,397	12,279		04/2007	(1),(
ard by tt	Orlando, FL	29,190	7,389	26,817	3,955	7,389	30,772	38,161	5,769		04/2007	(1),(
ard by tt	Oakland, CA	24,002	5,112	19,429	980	5,112	20,409	25,521	2,595		04/2007	(1),(
ard by tt	Scottsdale, AS	23,043	3,700	22,134	1,851	3,700	23,985	27,685	3,076		04/2007	(1),(
ard by tt	Plano, TX	19,688	2,115	22,360	1,653	2,115	24,013	26,128	3,080		04/2007	(1),(
ard by tt	Edison, NJ	12,640	2,147	11,865	1,986	2,147	13,851	15,998	2,056		04/2007	(1),(
ard by tt	Newark, CA	6,227	2,863	10,722	1,431	2,863	12,153	15,016	1,567		04/2007	(1),(
ard by tt	Manchester, CT	5,476	1,301	7,859	679	1,301	8,538	9,839	1,742		04/2007	(1),(
ard by tt	Basking Ridge, NJ	42,640	5,419	45,304	3,156	5,419	48,460	53,879	7,504		04/2007	(1),(
tt nce Inn	Lake Buena Vista, FL	24,153	2,555	20,367	3,863	2,555	24,230	26,785	6,745		03/2004	(1),(

Edgar Filing: ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC - Form 10-K

tt nce Inn tt	Evansville, IN	6,788	961	5,972	1,054	961	7,026	7,987	1,922	09/2004	(1),(	
nce Inn tt	Orlando, FL	35,411	6,554	40,539	4,626	6,554	45,165	51,719	8,617	06/2005	(1),(	
nce Inn tt	Falls Church, VA	23,192	2,752	34,979	1,596	2,752	36,575	39,327	6,474	06/2005	(1),(	
nce Inn tt	San Diego, CA	20,785	3,156	29,514	1,579	3,156	31,093	34,249	5,517	06/2005	(1),(	
nce Inn tt	Salt Lake City, UT	14,273	1,897	16,357	1,278	1,897	17,635	19,532	3,158	06/2005	(1),(	
nce Inn tt	Palm Desert, CA	11,409	3,280	10,463	1,122	3,280	11,585	14,865	2,163	06/2005	(1),(	
nce Inn tt	Las Vegas, NV	46,266	18,177	39,670	1,697	18,177	41,367	59,544	5,511	04/2007	(1),(	
nce Inn tt	Phoenix, AZ	23,150	4,100	23,187	1,122	4,100	24,309	28,409	3,228	04/2007	(1),(	
nce Inn tt	Plano, TX	14,760	2,045	16,869	889	2,045	17,758	19,803	2,465	04/2007	(1),(	
nce Inn tt	Newark, CA	11,120	3,272	11,705	892	3,272	12,597	15,869	1,696	04/2007	(1),(	
nce Inn tt	Manchester, CT		1,462	8,819	766	1,462	9,585	11,047	2,043	04/2007	(1),(	
nce Inn tt	Atlanta, GA	15,933	1,901	16,749	1,426	1,901	18,175	20,076	2,564	04/2007	(1),(	
nce Inn Place	Jacksonville, FL	6,651	1,997	16,681	2,715	1,997	19,396	21,393	3,087	05/2007	(1),(	
by tt	Manhattan Beach, CA	20,230	4,805	17,543	2,039	4,805	19,582	24,387	3,238	04/2007	(1),(	
cean	Atlantic Beach, FL	19,365	5,815	14,817	37,515	5,815	52,332	58,147	19,740	04/2004	(1),(	
on Hotel	Langhorne, PA	18,382	2,037	12,424	5,530	2,037	17,954	19,991	4,667	07/2004	(1),(	
on Hotel	Minneapolis, MN	19,007	2,953	14,280	4,289	2,953	18,569	21,522	4,170	03/2005	(1),(	
on Hotel	Indianapolis, IN	26,473	3,100	22,040	13,816	3,100	35,856	38,956	11,783	03/2005	(1),(	
on Hotel	Anchorage, AK	32,000	4,023	39,363	17,859	4,023	57,222	61,245	13,991	12/2006	(1),(	
on Hotel	San Diego, CA	26,400	7,294	36,382	5,601	7,294	41,983	49,277	7,329	12/2006	(1),(	
Regency	Coral Gables, FL	33,859	4,805	50,820	9,134	4,805	59,954	64,759	10,508	04/2007	(1),(	
e Plaza	Beverly Hills, CA	31,141	6,510	22,061	5,517	6,510	27,578	34,088	6,487	03/2005	(1),(	
e Plaza	Key West, FL	28,619		27,513	7,710		35,223	35,223	7,592	03/2005	(1),(	
olis Inn	Annapolis, MD	12,477	3,028	7,833	4,632	3,028	12,465	15,493	3,342	03/2005	(1),(	
sance Quest	Tampa, FL	45,695		69,185	2,080		71,265	71,265	9,389	04/2007	(1),(	
	Orlando, FL		1,432	10,569	(15)	675	1,417	11,244	12,661	383	03/2011	(1),(
		\$ 2,362,458	\$ 487,511	\$ 2,645,681	\$ 1,090	\$ 425,916	\$ 488,601	\$ 3,071,597	\$ 3,560,198	\$ 602,749		

(1) Estimated useful life for buildings is 39 years.

(2) Estimated useful life for building improvements is 15 years.

(3) Estimated useful life for furniture and fixtures is 3 to 5 years.



**Table of Contents**

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
<b>Investment in Real Estate:</b>			
Beginning balance	\$ 3,649,582	\$ 3,925,287	\$ 3,965,227
Additions	83,288	58,528	68,746
Reclassification	3,368	(184,328)	6,780
Impairment/write-offs	(163,045)	(80,481)	(80,549)
Sales/disposals	(12,995)	(69,424)	(34,917)
Ending balance	3,560,198	3,649,582	3,925,287
<b>Accumulated Depreciation:</b>			
Beginning balance	626,433	542,274	398,043
Depreciation expense	133,316	144,666	156,423
Reclassification	2,165	(29,280)	4,093
Impairment/write-offs	(156,808)	(17,829)	(10,347)
Sales/disposals	(2,357)	(13,398)	(5,938)
Ending balance	602,749	626,433	542,274
Investment in Real Estate, net	\$ 2,957,449	\$ 3,023,149	\$ 3,383,013

**Table of Contents**

## MORTGAGE LOANS AND INTEREST EARNED ON REAL ESTATE

## SCHEDULE IV MORTGAGE LOANS AND INTEREST EARNED ON REAL ESTATE

## ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

December 31, 2011

(in thousands)

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F	Column G
Description	Prior Liens	Balance at December 31, 2011	Delinquent Principal December 31, 2011	Being Foreclosed at December 31, 2011	Accrued Interest at December 31, 2011	Interest Income During the Year Ended December 31, 2011
Ritz Carlton	Key Biscayne, FL	11,812				
Valuation allowance		(8,711)				
Net carrying value		\$ 3,101	\$			

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Investment in Mortgage Loans:			
Balance at January 1	\$ 20,870	\$ 55,699	\$ 212,771
Principal payments	(22,610)	(28,284)	(11,000)
Amortization of discounts/deferred income		(44)	3,129
Valuation allowance adjustments	4,841	(6,501)	(149,201)
Balance at December 31	\$ 3,101	\$ 20,870	\$ 55,699

**Table of Contents****EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Description</b>
3.1	Articles of Amendment and Restatement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of Form S-11/A, filed on July 31, 2003)
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on November 12, 2010)
4.1	Form of Certificate for Common Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of Form S-11/A, filed on August 20, 2003)
4.1.1*	Articles Supplementary for Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock, dated September 15, 2004
4.1.2*	Form of Certificate of Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock
4.2.1	Articles Supplementary for Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock, dated July 17, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.5 to the Registrant's Form 8-A, filed July 17, 2007)
4.2.2	Form of Certificate of Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-A, filed July 17, 2007)
4.3.1	Articles Supplementary for Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock, dated April 15, 2011 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.6 to the Registrant's Form 8-A, filed April 18, 2011)
4.3.2	Form of Certificate of Series E Cumulative Preferred Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-A, filed April 18, 2011)
10.1.1	Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1.4 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on May 9, 2007)
10.1.2	Amendment No. 1 to Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1.5 of Form 8-K, dated July 24, 2007, for the event dated July 18, 2007)
10.1.3	Amendment No. 2 to Third Amended Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1.3 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, filed on February 29, 2008)
10.1.4	Amendment No. 3 to Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on March 27, 2008)
10.1.5	Amendment No. 4 to Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on September 2, 2010)
10.1.6	Amendment No. 5 to Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on September 23, 2010)
10.1.7	Amendment No. 6 to Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on April 18, 2011)
10.1.8	Amendment No. 7 to Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on September 30, 2011)
10.1.9	Amendment No. 8 to Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on October 17, 2011)
10.2	Registration Rights Agreement among Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and the persons named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of Form S-11/A, filed on July 31, 2003)

(Continued on Next Page)

**Table of Contents**

<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.3.1*	Amended and Restated 2003 Stock Incentive Plan of Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc.
10.3.1.1	Amendment No. 1 to the Amended and Restated 2003 Incentive Stock Plan of Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc., dated June 10, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3.1.1 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, filed on March 2, 2009)
10.3.2	Amended and Restated Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan, dated April 4, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on April 8, 2008, for the event dated April 4, 2008)
10.3.2.1	First Amendment to the Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on January 7, 2009, for the event dated December 31, 2008)
10.3.3	2011 Incentive Stock Plan of Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. dated May 17, 2011 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on May 17, 2011, for the event dated May 17, 2011)
10.3.4	Form of LTIP Unit Award Agreement, (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, dated March 27, 2008, for the event dated March 21, 2008)
10.4	Non-Compete/Services Agreement, dated as of March 21, 2008, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and Archie Bennett, Jr. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, dated March 27, 2008, for the event dated March 21, 2008)
10.5.1	Employment Agreement, dated as of March 21, 2008, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and Montgomery J. Bennett (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, dated March 27, 2008, for the event dated March 21, 2008)
10.5.2	Amendment No. 1 to Employment Agreement, dated as of January 23, 2009, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and Montgomery J. Bennett (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5.2 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on November 6, 2009)
10.5.3	Amendment to Employment Agreement, dated as of September 3, 2009 and effective January 1, 2009, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and Montgomery J. Bennett (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5.9 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on November 6, 2009)
10.5.4	Amendment to Employment Agreement, dated as of November 10, 2011, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and Montgomery J. Bennett (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on November 16, 2011)
10.5.5	Employment Agreement, dated as of March 21, 2008, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and Douglas A. Kessler (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, dated March 27, 2008, for the event dated March 21, 2008)
10.5.6	Amendment No. 1 to Employment Agreement, dated as of January 23, 2009, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and Douglas Kessler (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5.4 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on November 6, 2009)
10.5.7	Amendment to Employment Agreement, dated as of September 3, 2009 and effective January 1, 2009, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and Douglas Kessler (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5.10 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on November 6, 2009)
10.5.8	Amendment to Employment Agreement, dated as of November 10, 2011, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and Douglas Kessler (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on November 16, 2011)
10.5.9	Employment Agreement, dated as of March 21, 2008, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and David A. Brooks (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, dated March 27, 2008, for the event dated March 21, 2008)
10.5.10	Amendment No. 1 to Employment Agreement, dated as of January 23, 2009, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and David A. Brooks (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5.6 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on November 6, 2009)

**Table of Contents**

<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.5.11	Amendment to Employment Agreement, dated as of September 3, 2009 and effective January 1, 2009, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and David A. Brooks (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5.11 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on November 6, 2009)
10.5.12	Amendment to Employment Agreement, dated as of November 10, 2011, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and David A. Brooks (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on November 16, 2011)
10.5.13	Employment Agreement, dated as of March 21, 2008, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and David J. Kimichik (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, dated March 27, 2008, for the event dated March 21, 2008)
10.5.14	Amendment to Employment Agreement, dated as of November 10, 2011, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and David J. Kimichik (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on November 16, 2011)
10.6	Form of Management Agreement between Remington Lodging and Ashford TRS Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 of Form S-11/A, filed on July 31, 2003)
10.6.1*	Hotel Management Agreement between Remington Management, L.P. and Ashford TRS companies
10.6.2*	Hotel Master Management Agreement between Remington Lodging & Hospitality, LLC and PHH TRS Corporation
10.7	Form of Lease Agreement between Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and Ashford TRS Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 of Form S-11/A, filed on July 31, 2003)
10.10	Mutual Exclusivity Agreement by and between Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership, Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc., Remington Hotel Corporation and Remington Lodging and Hospitality, L.P. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.22 of Form S-11/A, filed on July 31, 2003)
10.11	Tax Indemnification Agreement between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and the persons named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25 of Form S-11/A, filed on July 31, 2003)
10.12	Contribution and Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated December 27, 2004, between the Registrant and FGSB Master Corp. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.20 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, dated December 28, 2004, for the event dated December 27, 2004)
10.13*	Amended and Restated Loan Agreement, dated as of October 13, 2005, between the Registrant and Merrill Lynch Mortgage Lending, Inc.
10.13.1*	Amended and Restated Cross-Collateralization and Cooperation Agreement, dated October 13, 2005, between the Registrant and Merrill Lynch Mortgage Lending, Inc.
10.13.2*	Loan Agreement, dated as of October 13, 2005, between the Registrant and Merrill Lynch Mortgage Lending, Inc.
10.13.3*	Cross-Collateralization and Cooperation Agreement, dated October 13, 2005, between the Registrant and Merrill Lynch Mortgage Lending, Inc.
10.13.4*	Amended and Restated Loan Agreement, dated as of October 13, 2005, between the Registrant and Merrill Lynch Mortgage Lending, Inc.
10.13.5*	Amended and Restated Cross-Collateralization and Cooperation Agreement, dated October 13, 2005, between the Registrant and Merrill Lynch Mortgage Lending, Inc.
10.13.6*	Amended and Restated Loan Agreement, dated as of October 13, 2005, between the Registrant and Merrill Lynch Mortgage Lending, Inc.
10.13.7*	Amended and Restated Cross-Collateralization and Cooperation Agreement, dated October 13, 2005, between the Registrant and Merrill Lynch Mortgage Lending, Inc.
10.13.8*	Amended and Restated Loan Agreement, dated as of December 20, 2005, between the Registrant and Merrill Lynch Mortgage Lending, Inc.
10.13.9*	Amended and Restated Cross-Collateralization and Cooperation Agreement, dated December 20, 2005, between the Registrant and Merrill Lynch Mortgage Lending, Inc.

**Table of Contents**

<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.14*	Mortgage Loan Agreement (Pool 1), dated November 14, 2005, between the Registrant and UBS Real Estate Investments, Inc.
10.14.1*	Mortgage Loan Agreement (Pool 2), dated November 14, 2005, between the Registrant and UBS Real Estate Investments, Inc.
10.14.2*	Guaranty of Recourse Obligations, dated November 14, 2005, by the Registrant for the benefit of UBS Real Estate Investments, Inc. with respect to Pool 1
10.14.3*	Guaranty of Recourse Obligations, dated November 14, 2005, by the Registrant for the benefit of UBS Real Estate Investments, Inc. with respect to Pool 1
10.14.4*	Guaranty of Recourse Obligations, dated November 14, 2005, by the Registrant for the benefit of UBS Real Estate Investments, Inc. with respect to Pool 2
10.14.5*	Guaranty of Recourse Obligations, dated November 14, 2005, by the Registrant for the benefit of UBS Real Estate Investments, Inc. with respect to Pool 2
10.21*	Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated May 18, 2006, between the Registrant and EADS Associates Limited Partnership
10.23.1*	Loan Agreement, dated December 7, 2006, between the Registrant and Countrywide Commercial Real Estate Finance, Inc.
10.23.2*	MIP Loan Extension Agreement, dated December 9, 2011, between the Registrant and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
10.25	Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated January 18, 2007, between the Registrant and CNL Hotels and Resorts, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.33 of Form 10-K, filed on March 9, 2007)
10.25.1.1	Amendment #1 to Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated February 21, 2007, between the Registrant, MS Resort Holdings LLC, MS Resort Acquisition LLC, MS Resort Purchase LLC, and CNL Hotels & Resorts, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.33.1.1 of Form 10-Q, filed on May 9, 2007)
10.25.1.2	Amendment #2 to Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated April 4, 2007, between the Registrant, MS Resort Holdings LLC, MS Resort Acquisition LLC, MS Resort Purchase LLC, and CNL Hotels & Resorts, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.33.1.2 of Form 10-Q, filed on May 9, 2007)
10.25.2	Guaranty Agreement, dated January 18, 2007, between the Registrant and Morgan Stanley Real Estate Fund V U.S., L.P. in favor of CNL Hotels and Resorts, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.33.2 of Form 10-K, filed on March 9, 2007)
10.25.3	Contribution and Rights Agreement, dated January 18, 2007, between the Registrant and Morgan Stanley Real Estate Fund V U.S., L.P. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.33.3 of Form 10-K, filed on March 9, 2007)
10.25.4*	Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of April 11, 2007, between Ashford Sapphire Junior Holder I LLC, Ashford Sapphire Junior Holder II LLC, and Wachovia Bank, National Association
10.25.4.1*	Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of April 11, 2007, between Ashford Sapphire Junior Mezz I LLC, Ashford Sapphire Junior Mezz II LLC and Wachovia Bank, National Association
10.25.4.2*	Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of April 11, 2007, between Ashford Sapphire Senior Mezz I LLC, Ashford Senior Mezz II LLC and Wachovia Bank, National Association
10.25.4.3	Mortgage Security Agreement, Assignment of Rents and Fixture Filing from Ashford Atlantic Beach LP, as Borrower to Wachovia Bank, National Association, as Lender, dated April 11, 2007, with respect to Sea Turtle Inn, Atlantic Beach, Florida (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25.4.3 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on November 6, 2009)

**Table of Contents**

<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.25.4.3a	Schedule of Agreements omitted pursuant to Instruction 2 to Item 601 of Regulation S-K (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25.4.3a to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on November 6, 2009)
10.25.4.4	Mortgage Security Agreement, Assignment of Rents and Fixture Filing from Ashford Edison LP, as Borrower to Wachovia Bank, National Association, as Lender, dated April 11, 2007, with respect to Courtyard Edison, Edison, New Jersey (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25.4.3 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on November 6, 2009)
10.25.4.4a	Schedule of Agreements omitted pursuant to Instruction 2 to Item 601 of Regulation S-K (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25.4.3a to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on November 6, 2009)
10.25.4.6	Guaranty for Fixed-Rate Pool 1, executed as of April 11, 2007 by the Registrant, for the benefit of Wachovia Bank, National Association (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25.4.6 to Form 10-Q, filed on November 6, 2009)
10.25.4.6a	Schedule of Agreements omitted pursuant to Instruction 2 to Item 601 of Regulation S-K (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25.4.6a to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on November 6, 2009)
10.25.4.7	Guaranty Agreement for Floating-Rate Pool between Registrant and Wachovia Bank, National Association, dated April 11, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.33.4.7 of Form 10-Q, filed on May 9, 2007)
10.25.4.8*	Guaranty Agreement for Junior Mezzanine Loan between Registrant and Wachovia Bank, National Association, dated April 11, 2007
10.25.4.9*	Guaranty Agreement for Intermediate Mezzanine Loan between Registrant and Wachovia Bank, National Association, dated April 11, 2007
10.25.4.10*	Guaranty Agreement for Senior Mezzanine Loan between Registrant and Wachovia Bank, National Association, dated April 11, 2007
10.25.4.11*	Guaranty and Indemnity Agreement by Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and PRISA III REIT Operating LP for the benefit of Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, dated March 10, 2011
10.25.4.12*	Nonrecourse Exception Guaranty (Renaissance Nashville Hotel) by Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and PRISA III REIT Operating LP for the benefit of Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, dated March 10, 2011
10.25.4.13*	Nonrecourse Exception Guaranty (Boston Back Bay Hilton) by Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and PRISA III REIT Operating LP for the benefit of Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, dated March 10, 2011
10.25.4.14*	Nonrecourse Exception Guaranty (Westin Princeton at Forrestal) by Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and PRISA III REIT Operating LP for the benefit of Reliaster Life Insurance, ING Insurance and Annuity Company and Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, dated March 10, 2011
10.25.4.15*	Mezzanine 1 Guaranty and Indemnity Agreement by Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and PRISA III REIT Operating LP for the benefit of BRE/HH Acquisitions LLC and Barclay Capital Real Estate Finance, Inc., dated March 10, 2011
10.25.4.16*	Mezzanine 2 Guaranty and Indemnity Agreement by Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and PRISA III REIT Operating LP for the benefit of BRE/HH Acquisitions LLC and Barclay Capital Real Estate Finance, Inc., dated March 10, 2011
10.25.4.17*	Mezzanine 3 Guaranty and Indemnity Agreement by Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and PRISA III REIT Operating LP for the benefit of BRE/HH Acquisitions LLC and Barclay Capital Real Estate Finance, Inc., dated March 10, 2011

**Table of Contents**

<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.25.4.18*	Mezzanine 4 Guaranty and Indemnity Agreement by Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and PRISA III REIT Operating LP for the benefit of GSRE III, Ltd. dated March 10, 2011
10.26	Investor Program Agreement, dated January 22, 2008, between the registrant and Prudential Investment Management, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, filed on February 29, 2008)
10.26.1	Joint Venture Agreement to the Investor Program Agreement, dated February 6, 2008, between Registrant and Prudential Investment Management, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26.1 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on November 6, 2009)
10.26.2	Loan Servicing Agreement to the Investor Program Agreement, dated February 6, 2008, between Registrant and Prudential Investment Management, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26.2 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on November 6, 2009)
10.26.3	Limited Liability Company Agreement of PIM Ashford Venture I, LLC, dated February 6, 2008, between the registrant and Prudential Investment Management, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26.3 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, filed on February 29, 2008)
10.26.4	Limited Liability Company Agreement of PIM Holding LLC, dated March 10, 2011, by and between Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and PRISA III Investments, LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26.4 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on May 10, 2011)
10.27	ISDA Master Agreement between Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and Wachovia Bank, National Association, dated March 12, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.27.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K/A, dated March 18, 2008, for the event dated March 13, 2008)
10.27	ISDA Master Agreement between Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and Wachovia Bank, National Association, dated March 12, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.27.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K/A, dated March 18, 2008, for the event dated March 13, 2008)
10.27	ISDA Master Agreement between Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and Wachovia Bank, National Association, dated March 12, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.27.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K/A, dated March 18, 2008, for the event dated March 13, 2008)
10.27.1	Schedule to the Master Agreement between Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership and Wachovia Bank, National Association, dated March 12, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.27.1.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K/A, dated March 18, 2008, for the event dated March 13, 2008)
10.30.7	Confirmation of Amended and Restated Swap Transaction, dated November 4, 2010, related to the trade of an interest rate swap by Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership from Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as effected on October 13, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.30.7 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, filed on March 4, 2011)
10.30.8	Confirmation of Termination of Swap Transaction, dated November 4, 2010, related to the termination of an interest rate swap by Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership from Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as effected on October 13, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.30.8 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, filed on March 4, 2011)
10.30.9	Confirmation of Trade, dated November 19, 2010, related to the trade of an interest rate swap by Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership from Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank New York Branch as effected on October 13, 2010 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.30.9 to the Registrant's Form 10-K, filed on March 4, 2011)
10.31*	Consent and Settlement Agreement dated March 10, 2011, by and between Ashford Hospitality Finance, LP and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. (Confidential treatment granted on July 11, 2011, with respect to the redacted portions of this agreement)



**Table of Contents**

<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.32	Release and Waiver Agreement, Dated March 31, 2011, by and between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and Mr. Alan Tallis, former Executive Vice President of Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on April 6, 2011, for the event dated April 11, 2011)
10.33	Stock Repurchase Agreement, dated April 11, 2011, by and between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and Security Capital Preferred Growth Incorporated (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on April 11, 2011, for the event dated April 11, 2011)
10.34	Indemnity Agreement dated March 10, 2011, between the Registrant and Remington Lodging & Hospitality, LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.31 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed on May 10, 2011)
10.35	Credit Agreement, dated September 26, 2011, by and among Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership, Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc., KeyBanc Capital Markets and KeyBank, National Association (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed on September 30, 2011)
10.35.1*	Amended and Restated Mezzanine 1 Loan Agreement, dated March 10, 2011, between HH Swap A LLC, HH Swap C LLC, HH Swap C-1 LLC, HH Swap D LLC, HH Swap F LLC, HH Swap F-1 LLC, HH Swap G LLC, collectively as Borrower, and BRE/HH Acquisition LLC and Barclays Capital Real Estate Finance, Inc., collectively as Lender
10.35.2*	Amended and Restated Mezzanine 2 Loan Agreement, dated March 10, 2011, between HH Mezz Borrower A-2 LLC, HH Mezz Borrower C-2 LLC, HH Mezz Borrower D-2 LLC, HH Mezz Borrower F-2 LLC, HH Mezz Borrower G-2 LLC, collectively as Borrower, and BRE/HH Acquisition LLC and Barclays Capital Real Estate Finance, Inc., collectively as Lender
10.35.3*	Amended and Restated Mezzanine 3 Loan Agreement, dated March 10, 2011, between HH Mezz Borrower A-3 LLC, HH Mezz Borrower C-3 LLC, HH Mezz Borrower D-3 LLC, HH Mezz Borrower F-3 LLC, HH Mezz Borrower G-3 LLC, collectively as Borrower, and BRE/HH Acquisition LLC and Barclays Capital Real Estate Finance, Inc., collectively as Lender
10.35.4*	Amended and Restated Mezzanine 4 Loan Agreement, dated March 10, 2011, between HH Mezz Borrower A-4 LLC, HH Mezz Borrower C-4 LLC, HH Mezz Borrower D-4 LLC, HH Mezz Borrower F-4 LLC, HH Mezz Borrower G-4 LLC, collectively as Borrower, and GSRE III, LTD, as Lender
10.35.5*	Amended and Restated Mortgage Loan Agreement, dated March 10, 2011, between Entities set forth on Schedule I and II, collectively as Borrower, and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association and Barclays Capital Real Estate Finance, Inc., collectively as Lender
21.1*	Registrant's Subsidiaries Listing as of December 31, 2011
21.2*	Registrant's Special-Purpose Entities Listing as of December 31, 2011
23.1*	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP
31.1*	Certification of the Chief Executive Officer required by Rule 13a-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended
31.2*	Certification of the Chief Financial Officer required by Rule 13a-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended
32.1*	Certification of the Chief Executive Officer required by Rule 13a-14(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (In accordance with Sec Release 33-8212, this exhibit is being furnished, and is not being filed as part of this report or as a separate disclosure document, and is not being incorporated by reference into any Securities Act of 1933 registration statement.)
32.2*	Certification of the Chief Financial Officer required by Rule 13a-14(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (In accordance with Sec Release 33-8212, this exhibit is being furnished, and is not being filed as part of this report or as a separate disclosure document, and is not being incorporated by reference into any Securities Act of 1933 registration statement.)

---

**Table of Contents**

The following materials from the Company's Annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, formatted in XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Consolidated Balance Sheets; (ii) Consolidated Statements of Operations; (iii) Consolidated Statements Comprehensive Income (Loss); (iii) Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows; and (iv) Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements. In accordance with Rule 406T of Regulation S-T, the XBRL related information in Exhibit 101 to this Annual Report on Form 10-K shall not be deemed to be filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act), or otherwise subject to the liability of that section, and shall not be part of any registration statement or other document filed under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

101.INS	XBRL Instance Document	<i>Submitted electronically with this report.</i>
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.	<i>Submitted electronically with this report.</i>
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Calculation Linkbase Document.	<i>Submitted electronically with this report.</i>
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.	<i>Submitted electronically with this report.</i>
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Label Linkbase Document.	<i>Submitted electronically with this report.</i>
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Presentation Linkbase Document.	<i>Submitted electronically with this report.</i>

\* Filed herewith.