

Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc.
Form 10-Q
October 31, 2012
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the Quarterly Period Ended September 30, 2012

OR

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 001-34626

PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

58-2328421

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

11695 Johns Creek Parkway

Ste. 350

Johns Creek, Georgia 30097

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(770) 418-8800

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

(Former name, former address, and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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 whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer", and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large Accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-Accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting
company)

Smaller reporting company

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

Number of shares outstanding of the Registrant's
common stock, as of October 30, 2012:

167,847,028 shares

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CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained in this Form 10-Q and other written or oral statements made by or on behalf of Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. (“Piedmont”) may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. In addition, Piedmont, or its executive officers on Piedmont’s behalf, may from time to time make forward-looking statements in reports and other documents Piedmont files with the Securities and Exchange Commission or in connection with oral statements made to the press, potential investors, or others. Statements regarding future events and developments and Piedmont’s future performance, as well as management’s expectations, beliefs, plans, estimates, or projections relating to the future, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of these laws. Forward-looking statements include statements preceded by, followed by, or that include the words “may,” “will,” “expect,” “intend,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “believe,” “continue,” or other similar words. Examples of such statements report include descriptions of our real estate, financing, and operating objectives; discussions regarding future dividends and stock repurchases; and discussions regarding the potential impact of economic conditions on our portfolio.

These statements are based on beliefs and assumptions of Piedmont’s management, which in turn are based on currently available information. Important assumptions relating to the forward-looking statements include, among others, assumptions regarding the demand for office space in the sectors in which Piedmont operates, competitive conditions, and general economic conditions. These assumptions could prove inaccurate. The forward-looking statements also involve risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. Many of these factors are beyond Piedmont’s ability to control or predict. Such factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The success of our real estate strategies and investment objectives, including our ability to identify and consummate suitable acquisitions;
- The demand for office space, rental rates and property values may continue to lag the general economic recovery causing our business, results of operations, cash flows, financial condition and access to capital to be adversely affected or otherwise impact performance, including the potential recognition of impairment charges;
- Lease terminations or lease defaults, particularly by one of our large lead tenants;
- The impact of competition on our efforts to renew existing leases or re-let space on terms similar to existing leases;
- Changes in the economies and other conditions of the office market in general and of the specific markets in which we operate, particularly in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and the New York metropolitan area;
- Economic and regulatory changes, including accounting standards, that impact the real estate market generally;
- Additional risks and costs associated with directly managing properties occupied by government tenants;
- Adverse market and economic conditions may continue to negatively affect us and could cause us to recognize impairment charges or otherwise impact our performance;
- Availability of financing and our lending banks’ ability to honor existing line of credit commitments;
- Costs of complying with governmental laws and regulations;
- Uncertainties associated with environmental and other regulatory matters;
- Potential changes in the political environment and reduction in federal and/or state funding of our government tenants;
- We are and may continue to be subject to litigation, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition;
- Piedmont’s ability to continue to qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”); and
- Other factors, including the risk factors discussed under Item 1A. of Piedmont’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Management believes these forward-looking statements are reasonable; however, undue reliance should not be placed on any forward-looking statements, which are based on current expectations. Further, forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and management undertakes no obligation to update publicly any of them in light of new information or future events.

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PART I. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ITEM 1. CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The information presented in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity, and cash flows reflects all adjustments that are, in management's opinion, necessary for a fair and consistent presentation of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

The accompanying financial statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to Piedmont's financial statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in this report on Form 10-Q and with Piedmont's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. Piedmont's results of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 are not necessarily indicative of the operating results expected for the full year.

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PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(in thousands, except for share and per share amounts)

| | (Unaudited) | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | September 30, 2012 | December 31, 2011 |
| Assets: | | |
| Real estate assets, at cost: | | |
| Land | \$627,812 | \$640,196 |
| Buildings and improvements, less accumulated depreciation of \$857,993 and \$792,342 as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively | 2,902,854 | 2,967,254 |
| Intangible lease assets, less accumulated amortization of \$79,640 and \$119,419 as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively | 59,076 | 79,248 |
| Construction in progress | 22,808 | 17,353 |
| Total real estate assets | 3,612,550 | 3,704,051 |
| Investments in unconsolidated joint ventures | 37,369 | 38,181 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 20,763 | 139,690 |
| Tenant and notes receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$346 and \$631 as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively | 160,215 | 129,523 |
| Due from unconsolidated joint ventures | 533 | 788 |
| Restricted cash and escrows | 23,001 | 9,039 |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | 13,552 | 9,911 |
| Goodwill | 180,097 | 180,097 |
| Deferred financing costs, less accumulated amortization of \$9,887 and \$9,214 as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively | 7,022 | 5,977 |
| Deferred lease costs, less accumulated amortization of \$115,640 and \$120,358 as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively | 230,729 | 230,577 |
| Total assets | \$4,285,831 | \$4,447,834 |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Line of credit and notes payable | \$1,436,025 | \$1,472,525 |
| Accounts payable, accrued expenses, and accrued capital expenditures | 109,125 | 122,986 |
| Deferred income | 24,110 | 27,321 |
| Intangible lease liabilities, less accumulated amortization of \$39,451 and \$63,981 as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively | 42,375 | 49,037 |
| Interest rate swaps | 8,916 | 2,537 |
| Total liabilities | 1,620,551 | 1,674,406 |
| Commitments and Contingencies | — | — |
| Stockholders' Equity: | | |
| Shares-in-trust, 150,000,000 shares authorized; none outstanding as of September 30, 2012 or December 31, 2011 | — | — |
| Preferred stock, no par value, 100,000,000 shares authorized; none outstanding as of September 30, 2012 or December 31, 2011 | — | — |
| Common stock, \$.01 par value, 750,000,000 shares authorized; 168,044,328 and 172,629,748 shares issued and outstanding as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively | 1,680 | 1,726 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 3,665,870 | 3,663,662 |
| Cumulative distributions in excess of earnings | (994,967 |) (891,032 |
| Other comprehensive loss | (8,916 |) (2,537 |
| Piedmont stockholders' equity | 2,663,667 | 2,771,819 |

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| | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Noncontrolling interest | 1,613 | 1,609 |
| Total stockholders' equity | 2,665,280 | 2,773,428 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$4,285,831 | \$4,447,834 |
| See accompanying notes | | |

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PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(in thousands, except for share and per share amounts)

| | (Unaudited) Three Months Ended September 30, | | (Unaudited) Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|--|--|-------------|---|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Rental income | \$ 106,826 | \$ 104,121 | \$ 317,177 | \$ 306,450 |
| Tenant reimbursements | 27,470 | 28,234 | 81,120 | 85,703 |
| Property management fee revenue | 520 | 110 | 1,719 | 1,303 |
| Other rental income | 75 | 13 | 287 | 4,415 |
| | 134,891 | 132,478 | 400,303 | 397,871 |
| Expenses: | | | | |
| Property operating costs | 51,645 | 50,707 | 157,835 | 152,207 |
| Depreciation | 28,489 | 25,891 | 83,252 | 76,193 |
| Amortization | 15,302 | 14,808 | 39,474 | 39,098 |
| General and administrative | 5,508 | 4,731 | 15,629 | 18,868 |
| | 100,944 | 96,137 | 296,190 | 286,366 |
| Real estate operating income | 33,947 | 36,341 | 104,113 | 111,505 |
| Other income (expense): | | | | |
| Interest expense | (16,247) | (16,236) | (48,727) | (49,638) |
| Interest and other income (expense) | 383 | (91) | 765 | 3,130 |
| Equity in income of unconsolidated joint ventures | 322 | 485 | 739 | 1,032 |
| Litigation settlement expense | (7,500) | — | (7,500) | — |
| Gain on consolidation of variable interest entity | — | — | — | 1,532 |
| | (23,042) | (15,842) | (54,723) | (43,944) |
| Income from continuing operations | 10,905 | 20,499 | 49,390 | 67,561 |
| Discontinued operations: | | | | |
| Operating income | 184 | 3,775 | 1,805 | 11,715 |
| Gain/(loss) on sale of real estate assets | (254) | 26,756 | 27,583 | 26,756 |
| Income/(loss) from discontinued operations | (70) | 30,531 | 29,388 | 38,471 |
| Net income | 10,835 | 51,030 | 78,778 | 106,032 |
| Less: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | (4) | (4) | (12) | (12) |
| Net income attributable to Piedmont | \$ 10,831 | \$ 51,026 | \$ 78,766 | \$ 106,020 |
| Per share information – basic: | | | | |
| Income from continuing operations | \$0.06 | \$0.12 | \$0.29 | \$0.39 |
| Income from discontinued operations | — | 0.18 | 0.17 | 0.22 |
| Net income available to common stockholders | \$0.06 | \$0.30 | \$0.46 | \$0.61 |
| Per share information – diluted: | | | | |
| Income from continuing operations | \$0.06 | \$0.12 | \$0.29 | \$0.39 |
| Income from discontinued operations | — | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.22 |
| Net income available to common stockholders | \$0.06 | \$0.29 | \$0.46 | \$0.61 |
| Weighted-average common shares outstanding – basic | 168,805,589 | 172,826,869 | 171,162,281 | 172,755,805 |
| Weighted-average common shares outstanding – diluted | 168,929,039 | 173,045,192 | 171,295,098 | 172,995,849 |

See accompanying notes.

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PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.
 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
 (in thousands)

| | (Unaudited) Three Months Ended September 30, | | (Unaudited) Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|--|----------|---|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Net income attributable to Piedmont | \$10,831 | \$51,026 | \$78,766 | \$106,020 |
| Other comprehensive income/(loss): | | | | |
| Effective portion of loss on derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges (See Note 6) | (2,756) | — | (8,628) | (204) |
| Less: reclassification of previously recorded loss included in net income (See Note 6) | 762 | 44 | 2,249 | 895 |
| Other comprehensive income/(loss) | (1,994) | 44 | (6,379) | 691 |
| Comprehensive income attributable to Piedmont | \$8,837 | \$51,070 | \$72,387 | \$106,711 |

See accompanying notes

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PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011
AND FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2012 (UNAUDITED)
(in thousands, except per share amounts)

| | Common Shares | Stock Amount | Additional Paid-In Capital | Cumulative Distributions in Excess of Earnings | Other Comprehensive Loss | Non- controlling Interest | Total Stockholders' Equity |
|---|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Balance, December 31, 2010 | 172,658 | \$1,727 | \$3,661,308 | \$ (895,122) | \$ (691) | \$ 6,232 | \$2,773,454 |
| Share repurchases as part of an announced program | (199) | (2) | — | (3,242) | — | — | (3,244) |
| Offering costs associated with the issuance of common stock | — | — | (479) | — | — | — | (479) |
| Attribution of asset sales proceeds to noncontrolling interest | — | — | — | — | — | (2,684) | (2,684) |
| Dividends to common stockholders (\$1.26 per share), distributions to noncontrolling interest, and dividends reinvested | — | — | (249) | (217,709) | — | (2,407) | (220,365) |
| Shares issued under the 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan, net of tax | 171 | 1 | 3,082 | — | — | — | 3,083 |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | — | — | — | — | — | 468 | 468 |
| Net income attributable to Piedmont | — | — | — | 225,041 | — | — | 225,041 |
| Other comprehensive loss | — | — | — | — | (1,846) | — | (1,846) |
| Balance, December 31, 2011 | 172,630 | 1,726 | 3,663,662 | (891,032) | (2,537) | 1,609 | 2,773,428 |
| Share repurchases as part of an announced program | (4,764) | (48) | — | (80,082) | — | — | (80,130) |
| Dividends to common stockholders (\$0.60 per share), distributions to noncontrolling interest, and dividends reinvested | — | — | (143) | (102,619) | — | (8) | (102,770) |
| Shares issued under the 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan, net of tax | 178 | 2 | 2,351 | — | — | — | 2,353 |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | — | — | — | — | — | 12 | 12 |
| Net income attributable to Piedmont | — | — | — | 78,766 | — | — | 78,766 |
| Other comprehensive loss | — | — | — | — | (6,379) | — | (6,379) |
| Balance, September 30, 2012 | 168,044 | \$1,680 | \$3,665,870 | \$ (994,967) | \$ (8,916) | \$ 1,613 | \$2,665,280 |

See accompanying notes

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PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(in thousands)

| | (Unaudited) | |
|---|-------------------|------------|
| | Nine Months Ended | |
| | September 30, | |
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities: | | |
| Net income | \$78,778 | \$106,032 |
| Operating distributions received from unconsolidated joint ventures | 1,805 | 2,289 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Income attributable to noncontrolling interest- discontinued operations | — | 366 |
| Depreciation | 84,100 | 82,660 |
| Amortization of deferred financing costs | 2,056 | 4,126 |
| Other amortization | 38,895 | 43,316 |
| Accretion of notes receivable discount | — | (482) |
| Stock compensation expense | 1,492 | 2,975 |
| Equity in income of unconsolidated joint ventures | (740) | (1,032) |
| Gain on sale of real estate assets, net | (27,583) | (26,756) |
| Gain on consolidation of variable interest entity | — | (1,532) |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | |
| Increase in tenant receivables, net | (15,358) | (9,690) |
| Increase in restricted cash and escrows | (13,813) | (15,792) |
| Increase in prepaid expenses and other assets | (3,335) | (4,864) |
| (Decrease)/increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses | (483) | 1,823 |
| Decrease in deferred income | (3,211) | (7,250) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 142,603 | 176,189 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities: | | |
| Investments in real estate assets and related intangibles | (74,436) | (175,322) |
| Cash assumed upon consolidation of variable interest entity | — | 5,063 |
| Net sales proceeds from wholly-owned properties | 74,845 | 68,041 |
| Net sales proceeds from unconsolidated joint ventures | — | 3,036 |
| Investments in unconsolidated joint ventures | — | (151) |
| Deferred lease costs paid | (39,319) | (27,409) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (38,910) | (126,742) |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities: | | |
| Deferred financing costs paid | (2,991) | (1,401) |
| Proceeds from line of credit and notes payable | 365,000 | 469,000 |
| Repayments of line of credit and notes payable | (401,500) | (392,000) |
| Costs of issuance of common stock | (229) | — |
| Share repurchases as part of an announced program | (80,130) | — |
| Dividends paid and discount on dividend reinvestments | (102,770) | (165,636) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (222,620) | (90,037) |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents | (118,927) | (40,590) |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | 139,690 | 56,718 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | \$20,763 | \$16,128 |
| Supplemental Disclosures of Significant Noncash Investing and Financing Activities: | | |
| Change in accrued offering costs related to issuance of common stock | \$— | \$479 |
| Accrued capital expenditures and deferred lease costs | \$11,177 | \$9,395 |

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| | | |
|--|-------|-----------|
| Accrued deferred financing costs | \$110 | \$— |
| Net assets assumed upon consolidation of variable interest entity, net of notes receivable previously recorded | \$— | \$188,283 |
| Liabilities assumed upon consolidation of variable interest entity | \$— | \$191,814 |
| See accompanying notes | | |

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PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.
CONDENSED NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2012
(unaudited)

1. Organization

Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. ("Piedmont") (NYSE: PDM) is a Maryland corporation that operates in a manner so as to qualify as a real estate investment trust ("REIT") for federal income tax purposes and engages in the acquisition and ownership of commercial real estate properties throughout the United States, including properties that are under construction, are newly constructed, or have operating histories. Piedmont was incorporated in 1997 and commenced operations in June of 1998. Piedmont conducts business primarily through Piedmont Operating Partnership, L.P. ("Piedmont OP"), a Delaware limited partnership, as well as performing the management of its buildings through two wholly-owned subsidiaries, Piedmont Government Services, LLC and Piedmont Office Management, LLC. Piedmont is the sole general partner of Piedmont OP and possesses full legal control and authority over the operations of Piedmont OP. Piedmont OP owns properties directly, through wholly-owned subsidiaries, and through both consolidated and unconsolidated joint ventures. References to Piedmont herein shall include Piedmont and all of its subsidiaries, including Piedmont OP and its subsidiaries and joint ventures.

As of September 30, 2012, Piedmont owned interests in 74 consolidated office properties, plus five buildings owned through unconsolidated joint ventures. Our 74 consolidated office properties are located in 17 metropolitan areas across the United States. These office properties comprise approximately 20.5 million square feet of primarily Class A commercial office space, and were approximately 87.0% leased as of September 30, 2012.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
Basis of Presentation

The consolidated financial statements of Piedmont have been prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X, and do not include all of the information and footnotes required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, the statements for the unaudited interim periods presented include all adjustments, which are of a normal and recurring nature, necessary for a fair presentation of the results for such periods. Results for these interim periods are not necessarily indicative of a full year's results and certain prior period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current period financial statement presentation, specifically relating to the required presentation of income from discontinued operations for the Eastpointe Corporate Center in Issaquah, Washington (sold in July 2011); the 5000 Corporate Court building in Holtsville, New York (sold in August 2011); the 35 West Wacker Drive building in Chicago, IL (sold in December 2011); the Deschutes building, the Rhein building, the Rogue building, the Willamette building, and 18.19 acres of adjoining, undeveloped land in Beaverton, Oregon (collectively the "Portland Portfolio" sold in March 2012); the 26200 Enterprise Way building in Lake Forest, California (sold in May 2012); and the 110 and 112 Hidden Lake Circle buildings in Duncan, South Carolina (sold in September 2012). More information on Piedmont's current year property sales is included in Note 10. Piedmont's consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Piedmont, Piedmont's wholly-owned subsidiaries, any variable interest entity of which Piedmont or any of its wholly-owned subsidiaries is considered the primary beneficiary, or any entity in which Piedmont or any of its wholly-owned subsidiaries owns a controlling interest. For further information, refer to the financial statements and footnotes included in Piedmont's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Further, Piedmont has formed special purpose entities to acquire and hold real estate. Each special purpose entity is a separate legal entity and consequently the assets of the special purpose entities are not available to all creditors of Piedmont. The assets owned by these special purpose entities are being reported on a consolidated basis with

Piedmont's assets for financial reporting purposes only.

Income Taxes

Piedmont has elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and has operated as such, beginning with its taxable year ended December 31, 1998. To qualify as a REIT, Piedmont must meet certain organizational and operational requirements, including a requirement to distribute at least 90% of its annual REIT taxable income. As a REIT, Piedmont is generally not subject to federal income taxes. Piedmont is subject to certain taxes related to the operations of properties in certain locations, as well as operations conducted by its taxable REIT subsidiary, which have been provided for in the financial statements.

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Goodwill

Goodwill is the excess of cost of an acquired entity over the amounts specifically assigned to assets acquired and liabilities assumed in purchase accounting for business combinations. Piedmont tests the carrying value of its goodwill for impairment on an annual basis, or on an interim basis if an event occurs or circumstances change that would indicate the carrying amount may be impaired. Such interim circumstances may include, but are not limited to, significant adverse changes in legal factors or in the general business climate, adverse action or assessment by a regulator, unanticipated competition, the loss of key personnel, or persistent declines in an entity's stock price below carrying value of the entity. In accordance with GAAP, Piedmont has the option, should it chose to do so, to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether the existence of events or circumstances leads to a determination that it is more likely than not that the fair value of the reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. If, after assessing the totality of events or circumstances, Piedmont concludes that the estimated fair value is greater than the carrying amount, then performing a further two-step impairment test is unnecessary. However, if Piedmont chooses to forgo the availability of the qualitative analysis, the test prescribed by authoritative accounting guidance is a two-step test. The first step involves comparing the estimated fair value of the entity to its carrying value, including goodwill. Fair value is determined by adjusting the trading price of the stock for various factors including, but not limited to: (i) liquidity or transferability considerations, (ii) control premiums, and/or (iii) fully distributed premiums, if necessary, multiplied by the common shares outstanding. If such calculated fair value exceeds the carrying value, no further procedures or analysis is required. However, if the carrying value exceeds the calculated fair value, goodwill is potentially impaired and step two of the analysis would be required. Step two of the test involves calculating the implied fair value of goodwill by deducting the fair value of all tangible and intangible net assets of the entity from the entity's fair value calculated in step one of the test. If the implied value of the goodwill (the remainder left after deducting the fair values of the entity from its calculated overall fair value in step one of the test) is less than the carrying value of goodwill, an impairment loss would be recognized.

3.Acquisitions

On June 28, 2012, Piedmont purchased undeveloped land adjacent to the Medici building in Atlanta, Georgia for a purchase price of approximately \$2.5 million. The undeveloped land consists of approximately 2.01 acres, is zoned for office and accessory use, and has a site plan approved for approximately 249,000 square feet.

On October 15, 2012, Piedmont purchased undeveloped land adjacent to the Glenridge Highlands II building in Atlanta, Georgia for a purchase price of approximately \$1.7 million. The land consists of approximately 3.0 acres, is zoned for office use, and has a site plan approved for approximately 113,000 square feet.

4. Tenant and Notes Receivable

Tenant and notes receivables as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively, were comprised of the following (in thousands):

| | September 30, 2012 | December 31, 2011 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Tenant receivables, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$346 and \$631 as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively | \$ 24,768 | \$24,722 |
| Cumulative rental revenue recognized on a straight-line basis in excess of cash received in accordance with lease terms | 116,447 | 104,801 |
| Notes receivable received in conjunction with real estate asset sale (See Note 10) | 19,000 | — |
| Tenant and notes receivable, net | \$ 160,215 | \$ 129,523 |

5. Line of Credit and Notes Payable

Replacement of \$500 Million Unsecured Facility

During the three months ended September 30, 2012, Piedmont OP entered into a new \$500 million unsecured line of credit facility (the “\$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit”) with a consortium of lenders to replace its expiring \$500 Million Unsecured Facility. The term of the \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit is four years with a maturity date of August 19, 2016; however, Piedmont may extend the term for up to one additional year (through two available six month extensions) to a final extended maturity date of August 21, 2017 provided Piedmont is not then in default and subject to payment of extension fees. Additionally, under certain terms of the agreement, Piedmont may increase the new facility by up to an additional \$500 million (to an aggregate size of \$1.0 billion); however, none of the existing lenders have any obligation to participate in such increase. Piedmont paid customary fees

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to the lenders in connection with the closing of the new \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit.

The \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit has the option to bear interest at varying levels based on (i) the London Interbank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”) or Base Rate, defined as the greater of the prime rate, the federal funds rate plus 0.5%, or LIBOR for a one-month period plus one percent, (ii) the credit rating for Piedmont, and (iii) for LIBOR loans, an interest period selected by Piedmont of one, two, three, or six months, or to the extent available from all lenders in each case, one year or periods of less than one month. The stated interest rate spread over LIBOR can vary from 1.00% to 1.75% based upon the then current credit rating of Piedmont. As of September 30, 2012, the current stated LIBOR spread on the \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit was 1.175%.

Under the \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit, Piedmont is subject to certain financial covenants that require, among other things, the maintenance of an unencumbered interest coverage ratio of at least 1.75, an unencumbered leverage ratio of at least 1.60, a fixed charge coverage ratio of at least 1.50, a leverage ratio of no more than 0.60, and a secured debt ratio of no more than 0.40. As of September 30, 2012, Piedmont had met all of the financial covenant requirements.

Other Financing Activity

During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, Piedmont fully repaid its \$140 Million mortgage which had been secured by the 500 W. Monroe building and its \$45.0 Million loan which had been secured by the 4250 N. Fairfax building.

Additionally, during the nine months ended September 30, 2012, Piedmont incurred net borrowings of approximately \$148.5 million on its \$500 Million Unsecured Facility prior to its expiration. Piedmont also made interest payments on all debt facilities, including interest rate swap cash settlements related to certain of its debt facilities, totaling approximately \$15.7 million and \$16.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and September 30, 2011, respectively, and approximately \$47.1 million and \$50.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

See Note 8 for a description of Piedmont’s estimated fair value of debt as of September 30, 2012.

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The following table summarizes the terms of Piedmont's indebtedness outstanding as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 (in thousands):

| Facility | Collateral | Rate ⁽¹⁾ | Maturity | Amount Outstanding as of September 30, 2012 | December 31, 2011 |
|--|--|---------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Secured (Fixed) | | | | | |
| \$45.0 Million Fixed-Rate Loan | 4250 N. Fairfax | 5.20 | % 6/1/2012 | \$— | \$45,000 |
| \$200.0 Million Mortgage Note | Aon Center | 4.87 | % 5/1/2014 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| \$25.0 Million Mortgage Note | Aon Center | 5.70 | % 5/1/2014 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| \$350.0 Million Secured Pooled Facility | Nine Property Collateralized Pool ⁽²⁾ | 4.84 | % 6/7/2014 | 350,000 | 350,000 |
| \$105.0 Million Fixed-Rate Loan | US Bancorp Center | 5.29 | % 5/11/2015 | 105,000 | 105,000 |
| \$125.0 Million Fixed-Rate Loan | Four Property Collateralized Pool ⁽³⁾ | 5.50 | % 4/1/2016 | 125,000 | 125,000 |
| \$42.5 Million Fixed-Rate Loan | Las Colinas Corporate Center I & II | 5.70 | % 10/11/2016 | 42,525 | 42,525 |
| \$140.0 Million WDC Mortgage Notes | 1201 & 1225 Eye Street | 5.76 | % 11/1/2017 | 140,000 | 140,000 |
| \$140.0 Million 500 W. Monroe Mortgage Loan | 500 W. Monroe | LIBOR + 1.008% | 8/9/2012 | — | 140,000 |
| Subtotal/Weighted Average ⁽⁴⁾ | | 5.17 | % | 987,525 | 1,172,525 |
| Unsecured (Variable) | | | | | |
| \$300 Million Unsecured Term Loan | | LIBOR + 1.45% | ⁽⁵⁾ 11/22/2016 | 300,000 | 300,000 |
| \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit | | 1.40 | % ⁽⁶⁾ 8/19/2016 | 148,500 | — |
| Subtotal/Weighted Average ⁽⁴⁾ | | 2.26 | % | 448,500 | 300,000 |
| Total/ Weighted Average ⁽⁴⁾ | | 4.26 | % | \$1,436,025 | \$1,472,525 |

⁽¹⁾ All of Piedmont's outstanding debt as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 is interest-only debt.

Nine property collateralized pool includes: 1200 Crown Colony Drive, Braker Pointe III, 2 Gatehall Drive, One

⁽²⁾ and Two Independence Square, 2120 West End Avenue, 400 Bridgewater Crossing, 200 Bridgewater Crossing, and Fairway Center II.

⁽³⁾ Four property collateralized pool includes 1430 Enclave Parkway, Windy Point I and II, and 1055 East Colorado Boulevard.

⁽⁴⁾ Weighted average is based on contractual balance of outstanding debt and interest rates in the table as of September 30, 2012.

The \$300 Million Unsecured Term Loan has a stated variable rate; however, Piedmont entered into interest rate

⁽⁵⁾ swap agreements which effectively fix, exclusive of changes to Piedmont's credit rating, the rate on this facility to 2.69%.

Piedmont may select from multiple interest rate options with each draw, including the prime rate and various-length LIBOR locks. All LIBOR selections are subject to an additional spread (1.175% as of (6) September 30, 2012) over the selected rate based on Piedmont's current credit rating. The outstanding balance as of September 30, 2012 consisted of LIBOR draws at 0.22% (subject to the additional spread mentioned above).

6. Derivative Instruments

Risk Management Objective of Using Derivatives

In addition to operational risks which arise in the normal course of business, Piedmont is exposed to economic risks such as interest rate, liquidity, and credit risk. In certain situations, Piedmont has entered into derivative financial instruments such as interest rate swap agreements and interest rate cap agreements to manage interest rate risk exposure arising from variable rate debt transactions

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that result in the receipt or payment of future known and uncertain cash amounts, the value of which is determined by interest rates. Piedmont's objective in using interest rate derivatives is to add stability to interest expense and to manage its exposure to interest rate movements.

Cash Flow Hedges of Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate swaps designated as cash flow hedges involve the receipt of variable-rate amounts from a counterparty in exchange for Piedmont making fixed-rate payments over the life of the agreements without exchange of the underlying notional amount.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, Piedmont used interest rate swap agreements to hedge the variable cash flows associated with its \$300 Million Unsecured Term Loan. Piedmont's interest rate swap agreements outstanding as of September 30, 2012 were as follows:

| Interest Rate Derivative | Notional Amount (in millions) | Effective Date | Maturity Date |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Interest rate swap | \$125 | 11/22/2011 | 11/22/2016 |
| Interest rate swap | 75 | 11/22/2011 | 11/22/2016 |
| Interest rate swap | 50 | 11/22/2011 | 11/22/2016 |
| Interest rate swap | 50 | 11/22/2011 | 11/22/2016 |
| Total | \$300 | | |

All of Piedmont's interest rate swap agreements outstanding for the periods presented were designated as cash flow hedges of interest rate risk. The effective portion of changes in the fair value of derivatives designated as, and that qualify as, cash flow hedges is recorded in other comprehensive income ("OCI") and is reclassified into earnings as interest expense in the period that the hedged forecasted transaction affects earnings. The effective portion of Piedmont's interest rate swaps that was recorded in the accompanying consolidated statements of income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively, was as follows:

| Derivative in Cash Flow Hedging Relationships (Interest Rate Swaps) (in thousands) | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | September 30, 2012 | September 30, 2011 | September 30, 2012 | September 30, 2011 |
| Amount of loss recognized in OCI on derivative | \$2,756 | \$— | \$8,628 | \$204 |
| Amount of previously recorded loss reclassified from accumulated OCI into interest expense | \$(762) | \$(44) | \$(2,249) | \$(895) |

Piedmont estimates that approximately \$3.1 million will be reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss to interest expense over the next twelve months; however Piedmont's total exposure to interest rate expense related to the swaps and the associated debt facility is limited to 2.69% (exclusive of changes to Piedmont's credit rating). No gain or loss was recognized related to hedge ineffectiveness or to amounts excluded from effectiveness testing on Piedmont's cash flow hedges during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 or 2011, respectively. Please see the accompanying statements of comprehensive income for a rollforward of Piedmont's Other Comprehensive Loss account. Additionally, see Note 8 for fair value disclosures of Piedmont's interest rate swap derivatives.

Credit-risk-related Contingent Features

Piedmont has agreements with its derivative counterparties that contain a provision whereby if Piedmont defaults on any of its indebtedness, including default where repayment of the indebtedness has not been accelerated by the lender,

then Piedmont could also be declared in default on its derivative obligations. If Piedmont were to breach any of the contractual provisions of the derivative contracts, it would be required to settle its obligations under the agreements at their termination value of the fair values plus accrued interest, or approximately \$9.2 million.

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7. Variable Interest Entities

Variable interest holders who have the power to direct the activities of the VIE that most significantly impact the entity's economic performance and have the obligation to absorb the majority of losses of the entity or the right to receive significant benefits of the entity are considered to be the primary beneficiary and must consolidate the VIE. A summary of Piedmont's interests in and consolidation treatment of its VIEs as of September 30, 2012 is as follows (net carrying amount in millions):

| Entity | Piedmont's % Ownership of Entity | Related Building | Consolidated/ Unconsolidated | Net Carrying Amount as of September 30, 2012 | Net Carrying Amount as of December 31, 2011 | Primary Beneficiary Considerations |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1201 Eye Street NW Associates, LLC | 49.5% | 1201 Eye Street | Consolidated | \$ (4.4 |) \$ (3.4 | In accordance with the partnership's governing documents, Piedmont is entitled to 100% of the cash flow of the entity and has sole discretion in directing the management and leasing activities of the building. |
| 1225 Eye Street NW Associates, LLC | 49.5% | 1225 Eye Street | Consolidated | \$ 0.8 | \$ 0.6 | In accordance with the partnership's governing documents, Piedmont is entitled to 100% of the cash flow of the entity and has sole discretion in directing the management and leasing activities of the building. |
| Wells REIT Multi-State Owner, LLC | 100% | 1200 Crown Colony Drive | Consolidated | \$ 32.4 | \$ 28.0 | In accordance with a tenant's lease, if Piedmont sells the property on or before March 2013, then the tenant would be entitled to an equity participation fee. The Omnibus Agreement with the previous owner includes equity participation rights for the previous owner, if certain financial returns are achieved; however, Piedmont has sole decision making authority and is entitled to the economic benefits of the property until such returns are met. |
| Piedmont 500 W. Monroe Fee, LLC | 100% | 500 W. Monroe | Consolidated | \$ 194.5 | \$ 76.9 | |
| | 100% | | Consolidated | \$ 7.5 | \$ 7.7 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|---------------------|--------------|---------|---------|--|--|
| Suwanee Gateway One, LLC | | Suwanee Gateway One | | | | | The fee agreement includes equity participation rights for the incentive manager, if certain returns on investment are achieved; however, Piedmont has sole decision making authority and is entitled to the economic benefits of the property until such returns are met. |
| Medici Atlanta, LLC | 100% | The Medici | Consolidated | \$ 13.9 | \$ 13.0 | | The fee agreement includes equity participation rights for the incentive manager, if certain returns on investment are achieved; however, Piedmont has sole decision making authority and is entitled to the economic benefits of the property until such returns are met. |
| 400 TownPark, LLC | 100% | 400 TownPark | Consolidated | \$ 23.6 | \$ 23.7 | | The fee agreement includes equity participation rights for the incentive manager, if certain returns on investment are achieved; however, Piedmont has sole decision making authority and is entitled to the economic benefits of the property until such returns are met. |

Each of the VIEs described above has the sole purpose of holding office buildings and their resulting operations, and are classified in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets in the same manner as Piedmont's wholly-owned properties.

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8. Fair Value Measurement of Financial Instruments

Piedmont considers its cash, accounts receivable, notes receivable, restricted cash and escrows, accounts payable and accrued expenses, interest rate swap agreements, and line of credit and notes payable to meet the definition of financial instruments. The following table sets forth the carrying and estimated fair value for each of Piedmont's financial instruments as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 (in thousands):

| Financial Instrument | As of September 30, 2012 | | Level Within Fair Value Hierarchy | As of December 31, 2011 | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | Carrying Value | Estimated Fair Value | | Carrying Value | Estimated Fair Value |
| Assets: | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents ⁽¹⁾ | \$20,763 | \$ 20,763 | Level 1 | \$139,690 | \$ 139,690 |
| Tenant and notes receivable, net ⁽¹⁾ | \$160,215 | \$ 160,215 | Level 1 | \$129,523 | \$ 129,523 |
| Restricted cash and escrows ⁽¹⁾ | \$23,001 | \$ 23,001 | Level 1 | \$9,039 | \$ 9,039 |
| Liabilities: | | | | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses ⁽¹⁾ | \$22,719 | \$ 22,719 | Level 1 | \$14,637 | \$ 14,637 |
| Interest rate swap agreements | \$8,916 | \$ 8,916 | Level 2 | \$2,537 | \$ 2,537 |
| Line of credit and notes payable | \$1,436,025 | \$ 1,488,131 | Level 2 | \$1,472,525 | \$ 1,529,811 |

⁽¹⁾ For the periods presented, the carrying value approximates estimated fair value due to its short-term maturity.

Piedmont's line of credit and notes payable were carried at book value as of September 30, 2012; however, Piedmont's estimate of their fair value is disclosed in the table above. Piedmont uses widely accepted valuation techniques including discounted cash flow analysis based on the contractual terms of the debt facilities, including the period to maturity of each instrument, and uses observable market-based inputs for similar debt facilities which have transacted recently in the market. Therefore, the fair values determined are considered to be based on significant other observable inputs (Level 2). Scaling adjustments are made to these inputs to make them applicable to the remaining life of Piedmont's outstanding debt. Piedmont has not changed its valuation technique for estimating the fair value of its line of credit and notes payable.

Piedmont's interest rate swap agreements discussed in Note 6 above are classified as "Interest rate swap" liabilities in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and were carried at fair value as of September 30, 2012, and December 31, 2011. The valuation of these derivative instruments was determined using widely accepted valuation techniques including discounted cash flow analysis based on the contractual terms of the derivatives, including the period to maturity of each instrument, and uses observable market-based inputs, including interest rate curves and implied volatilities. Therefore, the fair values determined are considered to be based on significant other observable inputs (Level 2). In addition, Piedmont considered both its own and the respective counterparties' risk of nonperformance in determining the fair value of its derivative financial instruments by estimating the current and potential future exposure under the derivative financial instruments that both Piedmont and the counterparties were at risk for as of the valuation date. The credit risk of Piedmont and its counterparties was factored into the calculation of the estimated fair value of the interest rate swaps; however, as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, this credit valuation adjustment did not comprise a material portion of the estimated fair value. Therefore, Piedmont believes that any unobservable inputs used to determine the fair values of its derivative financial instruments are not significant to the fair value measurements in their entirety, and does not consider any of its derivative financial instruments to be Level 3 liabilities.

9. Commitments and Contingencies

Commitments Under Existing Agreements

Certain lease agreements include provisions that, at the option of the tenant, may obligate Piedmont to provide funding for capital improvements. Under its existing lease agreements, Piedmont may be required to fund significant tenant improvements, leasing commissions, and building improvements. In addition, certain agreements contain provisions that require Piedmont to issue corporate or property guarantees to provide funding for capital improvements or other financial obligations. Further, Piedmont classifies such tenant and building improvements into two classes: (i) improvements which incrementally enhance the building's asset value by expanding its revenue generating capacity ("incremental capital expenditures") and (ii) improvements which maintain the building's existing asset value and its revenue generating capacity ("non-incremental capital expenditures"). As of September 30, 2012, Piedmont anticipates funding potential non-incremental capital expenditures for tenant improvements of approximately \$122.0 million related to its existing lease portfolio over the respective lease terms, the majority of which Piedmont

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estimates may be required to be funded over the next several years. For most of Piedmont's leases, the timing of the actual funding of these tenant improvements is largely dependent upon tenant requests for reimbursement. In some cases, these obligations may expire with the leases without further recourse to Piedmont.

Additionally, as of September 30, 2012, commitments for incremental capital expenditures associated with new leases, primarily at value-add properties, totals approximately \$63.1 million.

Contingencies Related to Tenant Audits/Disputes

Certain lease agreements include provisions that grant tenants the right to engage independent auditors to audit their annual operating expense reconciliations. Such audits may result in the re-interpretation of language in the lease agreements which could result in the refund of previously recognized tenant reimbursement revenues, resulting in financial loss to Piedmont. Piedmont recorded additional expense related to such tenant audits/disputes of approximately \$0.2 million and \$0.0 million during the three months ended September 30, 2012 and September 30, 2011, respectively, and approximately \$0.2 million for both the nine month periods ended September 30, 2012 and September 30, 2011.

Letters of Credit

As of September 30, 2012, Piedmont was subject to the following letters of credit, which reduce the total outstanding capacity under its \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit:

| Amount | Expiration of Letter of Credit ⁽¹⁾ |
|--------------|---|
| \$382,556 | July 2013 |
| \$10,000,000 | July 2013 |
| \$9,033,164 | July 2013 |

⁽¹⁾ These letter of credit agreements automatically renew for consecutive, one-year periods each anniversary, subject to the satisfaction of the credit obligation and certain other limitations.

Agreements in Principle to Resolve Legal Actions

Piedmont and certain of its current and former officers and directors are currently party to a securities class action lawsuit filed in March 2007 which challenged disclosures made in connection with Piedmont's April 2007 internalization transaction. On September 26, 2012, the Court granted the defendant's motion for summary judgment, and entered judgment in the defendants' favor dismissing all claims.

In addition, Piedmont and certain of its current officers and directors are also party to a second securities class action lawsuit where one of the lead plaintiffs is the same plaintiff in the March 2007 lawsuit. The second suit challenged disclosures made in two separate 2007 Piedmont SEC filings - a response to a May 2007 tender offer for Piedmont's shares, and an October 2007 proxy statement seeking approval of amendments to Piedmont's charter. On August 27, 2012, the Court granted the defendants' motion to dismiss, and entered judgment in the defendants' favor dismissing all claims.

The plaintiffs recently appealed both judgments to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. On October 11, 2012, Piedmont reached agreement in principle to settle both of the above lawsuits. Under the terms of the proposed settlement of the first suit, the plaintiffs will dismiss the appeal and release all defendants from liability in exchange for total payment of \$4.9 million in cash by Piedmont and its insurer. In the second case, the plaintiffs will dismiss the appeal and release all defendants from liability in exchange for total payment of \$2.6 million in cash by Piedmont and its insurer. As a result of the agreements to settle, Piedmont recorded a \$7.5 million charge (representing the total of both proposed settlements) in its statements of income for the three months ended September 30, 2012. The amounts expected to be recovered from Piedmont's insurers has not yet been determined; therefore, no such amounts have been

recorded as of September 30, 2012.

The settlements, which are subject to court approval following the negotiation and execution of definitive agreements, will resolve the appeals and result in the final disposition of both cases.

Please refer to Part II, Item 1 “Legal Proceedings” for a complete description of the chronology of legal actions related to the two lawsuits.

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10. Discontinued Operations

Piedmont has classified the results of operations related to the following properties as discontinued operations (in thousands):

| Building(s) Sold | Location | Date of Sale | Gain/(Loss) on Sale | Net Sales Proceeds |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Eastpointe Corporate Center | Issaquah, Washington | July 1, 2011 | \$12,152 | \$31,704 |
| 5000 Corporate Court | Holtsville, New York | August 31, 2011 | \$14,367 | \$36,100 |
| 35 West Wacker Drive ⁽¹⁾ | Chicago, Illinois | December 15, 2011 | \$96,138 | \$223,981 |
| Portland Portfolio ⁽²⁾ | Beaverton, Oregon | March 19, 2012 | \$17,823 | \$24,832 |
| 26200 Enterprise Way | Lake Forest, California | May 31, 2012 | \$10,012 | \$24,411 |
| 110 & 112 Hidden Lake Circle Buildings | Duncan, South Carolina | September 21, 2012 | \$(252 |) \$25,602 |

(1) Piedmont sold its approximate 96.5% ownership in the property. Transaction data above is presented at Piedmont's ownership percentage.

(2) The Portland Portfolio consists of four office properties known as the Deschutes building, the Rhein building, the Rogue building, and the Willamette building, as well as 18.19 acres of adjoining, undeveloped land. As part of the transaction, Piedmont accepted an unsecured promissory note from the buyer for the remaining \$19.0 million owed on the sale at a rate of 8.73% and a maturity date of October 31, 2012.

Income/(loss) from Discontinued Operations

The details comprising income/(loss) from discontinued operations are presented below (in thousands):

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Rental income | \$434 | \$9,234 | \$2,945 | \$29,941 |
| Tenant reimbursements | 73 | 3,790 | 469 | 14,967 |
| Other rental income | — | (46 |) — | 303 |
| | 507 | 12,978 | 3,414 | 45,211 |
| Expenses: | | | | |
| Property operating costs | 100 | 3,758 | 566 | 16,762 |
| Depreciation | 163 | 2,000 | 848 | 6,467 |
| Amortization of deferred leasing costs | 22 | 1,776 | 148 | 5,406 |
| General and administrative expenses | 38 | (14 |) 47 | (157 |
| | 323 | 7,520 | 1,609 | 28,478 |
| Other income (expense): | | | | |
| Interest expense | — | (1,568 |) — | (4,653 |
| Interest and other income | — | 16 | — | 1 |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | — | (131 |) — | (366 |
| | — | (1,683 |) — | (5,018 |
| Operating income, excluding gain/(loss) on sale | 184 | 3,775 | 1,805 | 11,715 |
| Gain/(loss) on sale of real estate assets | (254 |) 26,756 | 27,583 | 26,756 |
| Income/(loss) from discontinued operations | \$(70 |) \$30,531 | \$29,388 | \$38,471 |

11. Stock Based Compensation
Deferred Stock Awards

Piedmont has granted deferred stock awards in the form of restricted stock to its employees. The awards are determined by the Compensation Committee of the board of directors of Piedmont on an annual basis and typically vest over a three-year period beginning on the grant date. In addition, Piedmont has adopted a multi-year performance share program for certain of its employees. Restricted shares are earned based on the relative performance of Piedmont's total stockholder return as compared with a

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predetermined peer group's total stockholder return over a three-year period. Typically, shares are not awarded until the end of the third year in the performance period and vest immediately upon award; however, the inaugural performance share program, which covers the fiscal 2010-2012 performance period, contains three interim performance periods whereby shares may be awarded.

A rollforward of Piedmont's deferred stock award activity for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 is as follows:

| | Unvested Deferred Stock Awards as of January 1, 2012 | Deferred Stock Awards Granted During Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 | Adjustment to Estimated Future Grants of Performance Share Awards During Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 | Deferred Stock Awards Vested During Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 | Deferred Stock Awards Forfeited During Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 | Unvested Deferred Stock Awards as of September 30, 2012 |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| Shares | 511,203 | 209,177 | (164,740) | (250,269) | (4,546) | 300,825 |
| Weighted-Average Grant Date Fair Value (per share) | \$21.67 | \$17.48 | \$23.80 | \$20.95 | \$18.76 | \$18.25 |

A detail of Piedmont's outstanding employee deferred stock awards as of September 30, 2012 is as follows:

| Date of grant | Type of Award | Net Shares Granted ⁽¹⁾ | Grant Date Fair Value | Vesting Schedule | Unvested Shares as of September 30, 2012 |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| May 11, 2010 | Fiscal Year 2010-2012 Performance Share Program | 56,875 ⁽²⁾ | \$28.44 | Shares vest immediately upon determination of award in 2013. | — ⁽³⁾ |
| May 24, 2010 | Annual Deferred Stock Award | 161,148 | \$18.71 | Of the shares granted, 25% vested on the date of grant, and 25% vested or will vest on May 24, 2011, 2012, and 2013, respectively. | 53,125 |
| May 24, 2010 | One-Time Special Deferred Stock Award in Recognition of Piedmont's Initial Public Offering | 40,085 | \$18.71 | Of the shares granted, 33.33% vested or will vest on May 24, 2011, 2012, and 2013, respectively. | 17,457 |
| April 5, 2011 | Annual Deferred Stock Award | 128,986 | \$19.40 | Of the shares granted, 25% vested on the date of grant, and 25% vested or will vest on April | 74,999 |

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| | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|---------|----------|--|---------|-----|
| | | | | 5, 2012, 2013, and 2014, respectively. | | |
| April 5, 2011 | Fiscal Year 2011-2013 Performance Share Program | — | \$ 18.27 | Shares vest immediately upon determination of award in 2014. | — | (3) |
| April 4, 2012 | Annual Deferred Stock Award | 191,738 | \$ 17.49 | Of the shares granted, 25% vested on the date of grant, and 25% will vest on April 4, 2013, 2014, and 2015, respectively. | 155,244 | |
| April 4, 2012 | Fiscal Year 2012-2014 Performance Share Program | — | \$ 17.42 | Shares vest immediately upon determination of award in 2015. | — | (3) |
| Total | | | | | 300,825 | |

(1) Amounts reflect the total grant, net of shares surrendered upon vesting to satisfy required minimum tax withholding obligations through September 30, 2012.

(2) Represents net shares granted at the end of the first and second interim performance periods ended December 31, 2010 and 2011, respectively.

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Estimated based on Piedmont's cumulative total stockholder return for the respective performance period through (3) September 30, 2012. Such estimates are subject to change in future periods based on both Piedmont's and its peers' stock performance and dividends paid.

During the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively, Piedmont recognized approximately \$0.9 million and \$1.1 million of compensation expense related to stock awards, all of which related to the amortization of nonvested shares. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, Piedmont recognized approximately \$3.1 million and \$4.8 million of compensation expense related to stock awards, of which \$1.8 million and \$3.6 million relates to the amortization of nonvested shares, respectively. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, a total of 178,329 shares were issued to employees, directors, and officers. As of September 30, 2012, approximately \$2.5 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to nonvested, share-based compensation remained, which Piedmont will record in its consolidated statements of income over a weighted-average vesting period of approximately one year.

12. Earnings Per Share

There are no adjustments to "Net income attributable to Piedmont" or "Income from continuing operations" for the diluted earnings per share computations.

Net income per share-basic is calculated as net income available to common stockholders divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Net income per share-diluted is calculated as net income available to common stockholders divided by the diluted weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period, including nonvested restricted stock. Diluted weighted average number of common shares is calculated to reflect the potential dilution under the treasury stock method that would occur as if the remaining unvested restricted stock awards has vested and resulted in additional common shares outstanding.

The following table reconciles the denominator for the basic and diluted earnings per share computations shown on the consolidated statements of income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively:

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Weighted-average common shares – basic | 168,806 | 172,827 | 171,162 | 172,756 |
| Plus incremental weighted-average shares from time-vested conversions: | | | | |
| Restricted stock awards | 123 | 218 | 133 | 240 |
| Weighted-average common shares – diluted | 168,929 | 173,045 | 171,295 | 172,996 |

13. Other Subsequent Events

Fourth Quarter Dividend Declaration

On October 30, 2012, the board of directors of Piedmont declared dividends for the fourth quarter of 2012 in the amount of \$0.20 per common share outstanding to stockholders of record as of the close of business on November 30, 2012. Such dividends are to be paid on December 21, 2012.

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ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the accompanying consolidated financial statements and notes thereto of Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. ("Piedmont"). See also "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" preceding Part I, as well as the notes to our consolidated financial statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

We intend to use cash flows generated from the operation of our wholly-owned properties, distributions from our joint ventures, proceeds from selective property dispositions, and proceeds from our \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit as our primary sources of immediate liquidity. During the three months ended September 30, 2012, we entered into a new \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit to replace the expiring \$500 Million Unsecured Facility. All amounts outstanding on the \$500 Million Unsecured Facility were transferred to the \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit at closing. Depending on the timing and volume of our property acquisition and disposition activities, we may also seek other financing opportunities (such as issuance of additional equity or debt securities or additional borrowings from third-party lenders) afforded to us based on our relatively low leverage and quality asset base as additional sources of capital; however, the availability and attractiveness of terms for these sources of capital is highly dependent on market conditions. As of September 30, 2012 approximately \$22.5 million of net sales proceeds related to the tax deferred exchange of certain real estate assets under Section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") was held in escrow pending the acquisition of replacement properties. If suitable replacement properties are not identified within the requisite time frame allowed under the IRC, these proceeds will be returned to the Company as unrestricted cash and become immediately available to fund expenditures. As of the time of this filing, we had \$153.5 million outstanding under our \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit. As a result, we had approximately \$327.1 million under this facility available for future borrowing (approximately \$19.4 million of capacity is reserved as security for outstanding letters of credit required by various third parties).

We estimate that our most immediate use of capital will be to fund capital expenditures for our existing portfolio of properties. These expenditures include two types of specifically identified building improvement projects: (i) general repair and maintenance projects that we as the owner may choose to perform at any of our various properties and (ii) tenant improvement allowances and leasing commissions negotiated as part of executed leases with our tenants. Both the timing and magnitude of general repair and maintenance projects are subject to our discretion. We anticipate funding approximately \$122.0 million in unrecorded contractual obligations for non-incremental tenant improvements related to our existing lease portfolio over the respective lease term, the majority of which we estimate may be required to be funded over the next several years. For many of our leases, the timing of the actual funding of these tenant improvements is largely dependent upon tenant requests for reimbursement. In some cases, these obligations may expire with the respective lease, without further recourse to us. Additionally, commitments for incremental capital expenditures associated with new leases, primarily at value-add properties, total approximately \$63.1 million. We also anticipate funding certain tenant improvements and leasing commissions related to anticipated re-leasing efforts for several of our large tenants as they approach their lease expiration dates in the next twelve to eighteen months. Both the timing and magnitude of these amounts are subject to change as competitive market conditions at the time of lease negotiations dictate.

Subject to the identification and availability of attractive investment opportunities and our ability to consummate additional acquisitions on satisfactory terms, acquiring new assets compatible with our investment strategy could also be a significant use of capital. Further, given that the Company's board believes our common stock is trading at a discount to the estimated fair value of our net assets, our board of directors has authorized the use of up to \$300 million for the repurchase of our common stock through November 2013. Through September 30, 2012 (including repurchases made in December 2011), we have expended approximately \$83.4 million under the stock repurchase program (including transactions fees) and may continue to make additional purchases as market conditions warrant.

On a longer term basis, we expect to use funds to make scheduled debt service payments and/or debt repayments when such obligations become due. We currently have no debt maturities until 2014.

Our primary focus is to achieve an attractive long-term, risk-adjusted return for our stockholders. Competition to attract and retain high-credit-quality tenants remains intense due to general economic conditions. At the same time, we have been in a period of high lease rollover for the past several years, and in some cases we have had to accept lower market driven rental rates and grant larger tenant improvement packages to renew leases or secure new tenants than a stronger economic climate might have produced. The sale of the 35 West Wacker Drive building in Chicago, Illinois during the fourth quarter of 2011, the commencement of certain significant leases with lower rental rates during 2012, and the downtime we have, and continue to, experience while re-tenanting certain properties put pressure on 2012 cash flow and caused our board of directors to lower our quarterly dividend to \$.20 per share (\$.80 per share on an annualized basis) beginning with the first quarter of 2012.

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The amount and form of payment (cash or stock issuance) of future dividends to be paid to our stockholders will continue to be largely dependent upon (i) the amount of cash generated from our operating activities; (ii) our expectations of future cash flows; (iii) our determination of near-term cash needs for debt repayments and selective acquisitions of new properties; (iv) the timing of significant expenditures for tenant improvements and general property capital improvements; (v) long-term payout ratios for comparable companies; (vi) our ability to continue to access additional sources of capital, including potential sales of our properties; and (vii) the amount required to be distributed to maintain our status as a REIT. Given the fluctuating nature of cash flows and expenditures, we may periodically borrow funds on a short-term basis to cover timing differences in cash receipts and cash disbursements.

Results of Operations

Overview

Our income from continuing operations decreased from \$0.12 per share for the three months ended September 30, 2011 to \$0.06 per share for the three months ended September 30, 2012 primarily due to a \$7.5 million charge related to proposed settlements of two class action lawsuits. Rental income and property operating costs also increased due to properties acquired during the last twelve months as well as increased occupancy. The increase in rental income was offset by increased depreciation and amortization expense associated with significant tenant improvements and leasing commissions associated with higher leasing activity as well as properties acquired over the last twelve months.

Comparison of the three months ended September 30, 2012 versus the three months ended September 30, 2011

The following table sets forth selected data from our consolidated statements of income for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively, as well as each balance as a percentage of total revenues for the same periods presented (dollars in millions):

| | September 30, 2012 | | September 30, 2011 | | \$ Increase (Decrease) |
|---|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Revenue: | | | | | |
| Rental income | \$ 106.8 | | \$ 104.1 | | \$2.7 |
| Tenant reimbursements | 27.5 | | 28.2 | | (0.7) |
| Property management fee revenue | 0.5 | | 0.1 | | 0.4 |
| Other rental income | 0.1 | | — | | 0.1 |
| Total revenues | 134.9 | 100 | % 132.4 | 100 | % 2.5 |
| Expense: | | | | | |
| Property operating costs | 51.7 | 38 | % 50.7 | 38 | % 1.0 |
| Depreciation | 28.5 | 21 | % 25.9 | 20 | % 2.6 |
| Amortization | 15.3 | 12 | % 14.8 | 11 | % 0.5 |
| General and administrative expense | 5.5 | 4 | % 4.7 | 4 | % 0.8 |
| Real estate operating income | 33.9 | 25 | % 36.3 | 27 | % (2.4) |
| Other income (expense): | | | | | |
| Interest expense | (16.2) | (12) | % (16.2) | (12) | % — |
| Interest and other income | 0.4 | — | % (0.1) | — | % 0.5 |
| Equity in income of unconsolidated joint ventures | 0.3 | — | % 0.5 | — | % (0.2) |
| Litigation settlement expense | (7.5) | (5) | % — | — | % (7.5) |
| Income from continuing operations | \$ 10.9 | 8 | % \$ 20.5 | 15 | % \$(9.6) |

Income/(loss) from discontinued operations \$ (0.1) \$ 30.5 \$(30.6)

Continuing Operations

Revenue

Rental income increased from approximately \$104.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011 to approximately \$106.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. Approximately \$1.8 million of the increase is attributable to three properties

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acquired subsequent to June 30, 2011. Additionally, new leases commenced at our Piedmont Pointe I and II buildings in Bethesda, Maryland in late 2011, which contributed to the current year increase.

Tenant reimbursements decreased from approximately \$28.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011 to approximately \$27.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. Lease expirations at our 200 Bridgewater Crossing building in Bridgewater, New Jersey and at our Aon Center building in Chicago, Illinois in December 2011 account for approximately \$1.1 million of the decrease. However, these decreases were partially offset by incurring higher property tax expense in the current period which resulted in higher tenant reimbursements primarily at our 800 North Brand Boulevard building in Glendale, California.

Property management fee revenue increased from approximately \$0.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011 to approximately \$0.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. The increase is directly attributable to retaining the property management of the 35 West Wacker Drive building in Chicago, Illinois subsequent to selling the building to an unrelated third-party in December 2011.

Expense

Property operating costs increased approximately \$1.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the same period in the prior year primarily due to an increase in recoverable property taxes of approximately \$1.5 million, as well as operating costs contributed by properties acquired subsequent to June 30, 2011, accounting for approximately \$0.3 million of the increase. These increases, however, were offset by decreases of approximately \$0.5 million in utility costs and \$0.3 million in non-recoverable professional service fees.

Depreciation expense increased approximately \$2.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the same period in the prior year. The variance is largely attributable to depreciation on additional tenant improvements placed in service subsequent to June 30, 2011 which contributed approximately \$1.9 million of the increase. The remainder of the increase is due to new properties acquired subsequent to June 30, 2011.

Amortization expense increased approximately \$0.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the same period in the prior year. The variance is primarily attributable to the acceleration of amortization expense on certain lease intangible assets related to a lease termination due to a tenant bankruptcy at our 500 W. Monroe building in Chicago, Illinois which contributed an additional \$3.5 million of expense. However, this increase is largely offset by reduced amortization expense as a result of lease intangible assets becoming fully amortized at certain of our existing properties subsequent to June 30, 2011.

General and administrative expenses increased approximately \$0.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the same period in the prior year. The increase is primarily attributable to higher bad debt expense and transfer agent expenses during the current period.

Other Income (Expense)

Interest and other income increased approximately \$0.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the same period in the prior year. The increase reflects higher income in the current period related to interest earned on a \$19.0 million note receivable originated as part of the sale of the Deschutes building, the Rhein building, the Rogue building, the Willamette building, and 18.19 acres of adjoining, undeveloped land in Beaverton, Oregon (collectively the "Portland Portfolio") in March 2012.

For the three months ended September 30, 2012 we recognized \$7.5 million of litigation settlement expense related to potential settlement agreements of the two class action lawsuits. See Note 9 for further detail.

Discontinued Operations

In accordance with GAAP, the operations of the Eastpointe Corporate Center in Issaquah, Washington, the 5000 Corporate Court building in Holtsville, New York, the 35 West Wacker Drive building, the Portland Portfolio, the 26200 Enterprise Way building in Lake Forest, California, and the 110 and 112 Hidden Lake Circle buildings in Duncan, South Carolina are classified as discontinued operations for all periods presented. Income from discontinued operations decreased approximately \$30.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the same period in the prior year primarily due to the net gain realized on the sale of the Eastpointe Corporate Center building and the 5000 Corporate Center building in the prior period for approximately \$26.8 million. We incurred a net loss on the sale of the 110 and 112 Hidden Lake Circle buildings in the current period of approximately \$0.3 million. We do not expect that income from discontinued operations will be comparable to future periods, as such income is subject to the timing and existence of future property dispositions.

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Comparison of the nine months ended September 30, 2012 versus the nine months ended September 30, 2011

The following table sets forth selected data from our consolidated statements of income for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively, as well as each balance as a percentage of total revenues for the same periods presented (dollars in millions):

| | September 30, 2012 | | September 30, 2011 | | \$ Increase (Decrease) |
|---|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|------------------------|
| | | % | | % | |
| Revenue: | | | | | |
| Rental income | \$ 317.2 | | \$ 306.5 | | \$ 10.7 |
| Tenant reimbursements | 81.1 | | 85.7 | | (4.6) |
| Property management fee revenue | 1.7 | | 1.3 | | 0.4 |
| Other rental income | 0.3 | | 4.4 | | (4.1) |
| Total revenues | 400.3 | 100 | % 397.9 | 100 | % 2.4 |
| Expense: | | | | | |
| Property operating costs | 157.8 | 39 | % 152.2 | 38 | % 5.6 |
| Depreciation | 83.3 | 21 | % 76.2 | 19 | % 7.1 |
| Amortization | 39.5 | 10 | % 39.1 | 10 | % 0.4 |
| General and administrative expense | 15.6 | 4 | % 18.9 | 5 | % (3.3) |
| Real estate operating income | 104.1 | 26 | % 111.5 | 28 | % (7.4) |
| Other income (expense): | | | | | |
| Interest expense | (48.7) | (12) | % (49.6) | (12) | % 0.9 |
| Interest and other income | 0.8 | — | % 3.1 | 1 | % (2.3) |
| Equity in income of unconsolidated joint ventures | 0.7 | — | % 1.1 | — | % (0.4) |
| Litigation settlement expense | (7.5) | (2) | % — | — | % (7.5) |
| Gain on consolidation of variable interest entity | — | — | % 1.5 | — | % (1.5) |
| Income from continuing operations | \$ 49.4 | 12 | % \$ 67.6 | 17 | % \$(18.2) |
| Income from discontinued operations | \$ 29.4 | | \$ 38.5 | | \$ (9.1) |

Continuing Operations

Revenue

Rental income increased from approximately \$306.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to approximately \$317.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. Approximately \$10.1 million of the variance is attributable to properties acquired subsequent to January 1, 2011, which include the 1200 Enclave Parkway building in Houston, Texas, the 500 W. Monroe building, the Dupree building in Atlanta, Georgia, the Medici building in Atlanta, Georgia, the 225 and 235 Presidential Way buildings in Boston, Massachusetts, and the 400 TownPark building in Lake Mary, Florida. Additionally, new leases commenced at our Piedmont Pointe I and II buildings in late 2011 and at our 1075 West Entrance Drive building in Auburn Hills, Michigan in July 2011, contributed approximately \$5.6 million of the year over year increase. These increases were partially offset by a reduction in leased space due to lease expirations at various properties (primarily at our 200 Bridgewater Crossing building, our Windy Point II building in Chicago, Illinois, and our Aon Center building). However, we have since executed a new lease for approximately one-third of the 200 Bridgewater Crossing building which will commence in first quarter 2013, and have executed a new lease for the entire Windy Point II building, also commencing in first quarter 2013.

Tenant reimbursements decreased from approximately \$85.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to approximately \$81.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. Approximately \$5.8 million of the decrease is attributable to the lease expirations noted above at the 200 Bridgewater Crossing building, the Windy Point II building, and the Aon Center building, as well as the 400 Bridgewater Crossing building. Properties acquired subsequent to January 1, 2011 contributed approximately \$2.0 million to offset the decline in tenant reimbursements related to these lease expirations.

Property management fee revenue increased from approximately \$1.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 to approximately \$1.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. The increase is primarily attributable to retaining the property management of the 35 West Wacker Drive building in Chicago, Illinois subsequent to selling the building to an unrelated

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third-party in December 2011.

Other rental income is comprised primarily of income recognized for lease terminations and restructurings. Unlike the majority of our rental income, which is recognized ratably over long-term contracts, other rental income is recognized once we have completed our obligation to provide space to the tenant. Lease termination fee income for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 of approximately \$4.4 million primarily relate to leases terminated or contracted at the 1201 and 1225 Eye Street buildings in Washington, D.C., the US Bancorp building in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the 1075 West Entrance building. We do not expect such income to be comparable in future periods, as it will be dependent upon the exercise of lease terminations by tenants and/or the execution of restructuring agreements that may not be in our control or are deemed by management to be in the best interest of the portfolio over the long term.

Expense

Property operating costs increased approximately \$5.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the same period in the prior year primarily due to properties acquired subsequent to January 1, 2011, accounting for approximately \$4.9 million of the increase. The remainder of the variance is due to higher property tax expense and billback expense in 2012 at our Aon Center building.

Depreciation expense increased approximately \$7.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the same period in the prior year. Of the year over year increase, approximately \$4.2 million is attributable to depreciation on additional tenant improvements subsequent to January 1, 2011. The remainder of the increase is due to properties acquired subsequent to January 1, 2011.

Amortization expense increased approximately \$0.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the same period in the prior year. The variance is primarily attributable to the acceleration of amortization expense on certain lease intangible assets related to a lease termination due to a tenant bankruptcy at our 500 W. Monroe building which contributed an additional \$2.4 million of expense. The increase is also attributable to properties acquired subsequent to January 1, 2011. However, these increases are largely offset by reduced amortization expense as a result of lease intangible assets becoming fully amortized at certain of our existing portfolio of properties subsequent to January 1, 2011.

General and administrative expenses decreased approximately \$3.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the same period in the prior year. The decrease is attributable to recoveries in excess of current period billings from our insurance carriers related to our litigation defense, as well as lower costs associated with our deferred stock compensation plan in the current period, totaling approximately \$3.2 million.

Other Income (Expense)

Interest expense decreased approximately \$0.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the same period in the prior year primarily due to the repayment of the \$45.0 Million 500 W. Monroe Mezzanine I Loan in November 2011, the \$140.0 Million 500 W. Monroe Mortgage Loan in January 2012, and the \$45.0 Million Fixed-Rate Loan secured by the 4250 N. Fairfax building in May 2012. However, in November 2011, we entered into a new \$300 Million Unsecured Term Loan which had an effectively fixed interest rate, through interest rate swap agreements, of 2.69% compared to the previous \$250 Million Unsecured Term Loan, which carried an effectively fixed rate of 2.36%, and matured in June 2011. The higher interest rate on the new debt, coupled with the higher outstanding balance, resulted in the recognition of increased interest expense in the current period, partially offsetting the effect of the loan pay-offs noted above.

Interest and other income decreased approximately \$2.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the same period in the prior year. The decrease reflects the recognition in the prior period of approximately \$2.6 million of previously deferred property operating income upon consolidation of the 500 W. Monroe building.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2012 we recognized \$7.5 million of litigation settlement expense related to potential settlement agreements of the two class action lawsuits. See Note 9 for further detail.

The approximate \$1.5 million gain on the consolidation of our VIE recognized during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 is the net result of recording the estimated fair value of the net assets associated with taking ownership of the 500 W. Monroe building through foreclosure.

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Discontinued Operations

In accordance with GAAP, the operations of the Eastpointe Corporate Center, the 5000 Corporate Court building, the 35 West Wacker Drive building, the Portland Portfolio, the 26200 Enterprise Way building, and the 110 and 112 Hidden Lake Circle buildings are classified as discontinued operations for all periods presented. Income from discontinued operations decreased approximately \$9.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the same period in the prior year and is mostly attributable to the lack of operational activity in the current period at the 35 West Wacker Drive building, Eastpointe Corporate Center, or the 5000 Corporate Court building, as these properties were sold in 2011. We do not expect that income from discontinued operations will be comparable to future periods, as such income is subject to the timing and existence of future property dispositions.

Funds From Operations (“FFO”), Core FFO, and Adjusted Funds from Operations (“AFFO”)

Net income calculated in accordance with GAAP is the starting point for calculating FFO, Core FFO, and AFFO. FFO, Core FFO, and AFFO are non-GAAP financial measures and should not be viewed as an alternative measurement of our operating performance to net income. Management believes that accounting for real estate assets in accordance with GAAP implicitly assumes that the value of real estate assets diminishes predictably over time. Since real estate values have historically risen or fallen with market conditions, many industry investors and analysts have considered the presentation of operating results for real estate companies that use historical cost accounting to be insufficient by themselves. As a result, we believe that the use of FFO, Core FFO, and AFFO, together with the required GAAP presentation, provides a more complete understanding of our performance relative to our competitors and a more informed and appropriate basis on which to make decisions involving operating, financing, and investing activities.

We calculate FFO in accordance with the current NAREIT definition as follows: Net income (computed in accordance with GAAP), excluding gains or losses from sales of property and impairment charges (including our proportionate share of any impairment charges and/or gains or losses from sales of property related to investments in unconsolidated joint ventures), plus depreciation and amortization on real estate assets (including our proportionate share of depreciation and amortization related to investments in unconsolidated joint ventures). Other REITs may not define FFO in accordance with the NAREIT definition, or may interpret the current NAREIT definition differently than we do; therefore, our computation of FFO may not be comparable to such other REITs.

We calculate Core FFO as FFO (calculated as set forth above) less acquisition costs and other significant, non-recurring items.

We calculate AFFO as Core FFO (calculated as set forth above) exclusive of the net effects of: (i) amortization associated with deferred financing costs; (ii) depreciation of non real estate assets; (iii) straight-line lease revenue/expense; (iv) amortization of above and below-market lease intangibles; (v) stock-based and other non-cash compensation expense; (vi) amortization of mezzanine discount income; (vii) acquisition costs, and (viii) non-incremental capital expenditures (as defined below). Our proportionate share of such adjustments related to investments in unconsolidated joint ventures are also included when calculating AFFO.

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Reconciliations of net income to FFO, Core FFO, and AFFO are presented below (in thousands except per share amounts):

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| | 2012 | Per Share ⁽¹⁾ | 2011 | Per Share ⁽¹⁾ | 2012 | Per Share ⁽¹⁾ | 2011 | Per Share ⁽¹⁾ |
| Net income attributable to Piedmont | \$10,831 | \$0.06 | \$51,026 | \$0.29 | \$78,766 | \$0.46 | \$106,020 | \$0.61 |
| Depreciation of real assets ⁽²⁾ | 28,763 | 0.18 | 28,102 | 0.16 | 84,605 | 0.50 | 83,135 | 0.48 |
| Amortization of lease-related costs ⁽²⁾ | 15,366 | 0.09 | 16,616 | 0.10 | 39,744 | 0.23 | 44,601 | 0.26 |
| Gain on consolidation of VIE | — | — | — | — | — | — | (1,532) | (0.01) |
| (Gain)/loss on sale-wholly-owned properties | 254 | — | (26,756) | (0.15) | (27,583) | (0.16) | (26,756) | (0.15) |
| Gain on sale- unconsolidated partnership | — | — | (70) | — | — | — | (116) | — |
| Funds From Operations | \$55,214 | \$0.33 | \$68,918 | \$0.40 | \$175,532 | \$1.03 | \$205,352 | \$1.19 |
| Adjustment: | | | | | | | | |
| Litigation settlement expense | 7,500 | 0.04 | — | — | 7,500 | 0.04 | — | — |
| Acquisition costs | 7 | — | 285 | — | 88 | — | 975 | — |
| Core Funds From Operations | \$62,721 | \$0.37 | \$69,203 | \$0.40 | \$183,120 | \$1.07 | \$206,327 | \$1.19 |
| Adjustments: | | | | | | | | |
| Deferred financing cost amortization | 663 | — | 879 | — | 2,056 | 0.01 | 2,546 | 0.01 |
| Amortization of fair market adjustments on notes payable | — | — | 471 | — | — | — | 1,413 | 0.01 |
| Depreciation of non real estate assets | 196 | — | 84 | — | 397 | — | 422 | — |
| Straight-line effects of lease revenue ⁽²⁾ | (4,193) | (0.02) | (4,129) | (0.02) | (11,236) | (0.06) | (4,488) | (0.03) |
| Stock-based and other non-cash compensation | 869 | 0.01 | 1,111 | — | 1,492 | 0.01 | 2,975 | 0.02 |
| Net effect of amortization of below-market in-place lease intangibles ⁽²⁾ | (1,315) | (0.01) | (1,817) | (0.01) | (4,631) | (0.03) | (4,850) | (0.03) |
| Income from amortization of discount on purchase of mezzanine loans | — | — | — | — | — | — | (484) | — |
| Acquisition costs | (7) | — | (285) | — | (88) | — | (975) | — |
| Non-incremental capital expenditures ⁽³⁾ | (38,583) | (0.23) | (14,529) | (0.08) | (64,430) | (0.38) | (45,009) | (0.26) |
| Adjusted Funds From Operations | \$20,351 | \$0.12 | \$50,988 | \$0.29 | \$106,680 | \$0.62 | \$157,877 | \$0.91 |
| Weighted-average shares outstanding – diluted | 168,929 | | 173,045 | | 171,295 | | 172,996 | |

(1) Based on weighted average shares outstanding – diluted.

(2) Includes amounts for wholly-owned properties, as well as such amounts for our proportionate ownership in unconsolidated joint ventures.

(3)

Piedmont defines non-incremental capital expenditures as capital expenditures of a recurring nature related to tenant improvements, leasing commissions, and building capital that do not incrementally enhance the underlying assets' income generating capacity. Tenant improvements, leasing commissions, building capital and deferred lease incentives incurred to lease space that was vacant at acquisition, leasing costs for spaces vacant for greater than one year, leasing costs for spaces at newly acquired properties for which in-place leases expire shortly after acquisition, improvements associated with the expansion of a building, and renovations that either change the underlying classification from a Class B to a Class A property or enhance the marketability of a building are excluded from this measure. All data for prior periods presented have been calculated in accordance with this definition for comparability.

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Election as a REIT

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Code and have operated as such beginning with our taxable year ended December 31, 1998. To qualify as a REIT, we must meet certain organizational and operational requirements, including a requirement to distribute at least 90% of our adjusted REIT taxable income, computed without regard to the dividends-paid deduction and by excluding net capital gains attributable to our stockholders, as defined by the Code. As a REIT, we generally will not be subject to federal income tax on income that we distribute to our stockholders. If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any taxable year, we may be subject to federal income taxes on our taxable income for that year and for the four years following the year during which qualification is lost and/or penalties, unless the IRS grants us relief under certain statutory provisions. Such an event could materially adversely affect our net income and net cash available for distribution to our stockholders. However, we believe that we are organized and operate in such a manner as to qualify for treatment as a REIT and intend to continue to operate in the foreseeable future in such a manner that we will remain qualified as a REIT for federal income tax purposes. We have elected to treat Piedmont Office Holdings, Inc. ("POH"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Piedmont, as a taxable REIT subsidiary. We perform non-customary services for tenants of buildings that we own, including solar power generation, real estate and non-real estate related-services; however, any earnings related to such services performed by our taxable REIT subsidiary are subject to federal and state income taxes. In addition, for us to continue to qualify as a REIT, our investments in taxable REIT subsidiaries cannot exceed 25% of the value of our total assets.

Inflation

We are exposed to inflation risk, as income from long-term leases is the primary source of our cash flows from operations. There are provisions in the majority of our tenant leases that are intended to protect us from, and mitigate the risk of, the impact of inflation. These provisions include rent steps, reimbursement billings for operating expense pass-through charges, real estate tax, and insurance reimbursements on a per square-foot basis, or in some cases, annual reimbursement of operating expenses above certain per square-foot allowance. However, due to the long-term nature of the leases, the leases may not readjust their reimbursement rates frequently enough to fully cover inflation.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We are not dependent on off-balance sheet financing arrangements for liquidity. Our off-balance sheet arrangements consist of our investments in unconsolidated joint ventures and operating lease obligations related to ground leases at certain of our properties. The unconsolidated joint ventures in which we invest are prohibited by their governing documents from incurring debt. For further information regarding our commitments under operating lease obligations, see the Contractual Obligations table below.

Application of Critical Accounting Policies

Our accounting policies have been established to conform with GAAP. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to use judgment in the application of accounting policies, including making estimates and assumptions. These judgments affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the dates of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting periods. If our judgment or interpretation of the facts and circumstances relating to various transactions had been different, it is possible that different accounting policies would have been applied, thus, resulting in a different presentation of the financial statements. Additionally, other companies may utilize different estimates that may impact comparability of our results of operations to those of companies in similar businesses. The critical accounting policies outlined below have been discussed with members of the Audit Committee of the board of directors.

Investment in Real Estate Assets

We are required to make subjective assessments as to the useful lives of our depreciable assets. We consider the period of future benefit of the asset to determine the appropriate useful lives. These assessments have a direct impact on net income attributable to Piedmont. The estimated useful lives of our assets by class are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Buildings | 40 years |
| Building improvements | 5-25 years |
| Land improvements | 20-25 years |
| Tenant improvements | Shorter of economic life or lease term |
| Intangible lease assets | Lease term |

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Allocation of Purchase Price of Acquired Assets

Upon the acquisition of real properties, it is our policy to allocate the purchase price of properties to acquired tangible assets, consisting of land and building, and identified intangible assets and liabilities, consisting of the value of above-market and below-market leases, other value of in-place leases, and value of tenant relationships, based in each case on their estimated fair values.

The fair values of the tangible assets of an acquired property (which includes land and buildings) are determined by valuing the property as if it were vacant, and the “as-if-vacant” value is then allocated to land and building based on our determination of the fair value of these assets. We determine the as-if-vacant fair value of a property using methods similar to those used by independent appraisers. Factors considered by us in performing these analyses include an estimate of carrying costs during the expected lease-up periods considering current market conditions and costs to execute similar leases. In estimating carrying costs, we include real estate taxes, insurance, and other operating expenses and estimates of lost rental revenue during the expected lease-up periods based on current market demand. We also estimate the cost to execute similar leases including leasing commissions, legal, and other related costs.

The fair values of above-market and below-market in-place lease values are recorded based on the present value (using an interest rate that reflects the risks associated with the leases acquired) of the difference between (i) the contractual amounts to be paid pursuant to the in-place leases and (ii) our estimate of fair market lease rates for the corresponding in-place leases, measured over a period equal to the remaining noncancelable term of the lease. The above-market and below-market lease values are capitalized as intangible lease assets and liabilities and amortized as an adjustment of rental income over the remaining terms of the respective leases.

The fair values of in-place leases include direct costs associated with obtaining a new tenant, opportunity costs associated with lost rentals that are avoided by acquiring an in-place lease, and tenant relationships. Direct costs associated with obtaining a new tenant include commissions, tenant improvements, and other direct costs and are estimated based on management’s consideration of current market costs to execute a similar lease. These direct costs are included in deferred lease costs in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and are amortized to expense over the remaining terms of the respective leases. The value of opportunity costs is calculated using the contractual amounts to be paid pursuant to the in-place leases over a market absorption period for a similar lease. Customer relationships are valued based on expected renewal of a lease or the likelihood of obtaining a particular tenant for other locations. These lease intangibles are included in intangible lease assets in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and are amortized to expense over the remaining terms of the respective leases.

Estimates of the fair values of the tangible and intangible assets require us to estimate market lease rates, property operating expenses, carrying costs during lease-up periods, discount rates, market absorption periods, and the number of years the property is held for investment. The use of inappropriate estimates would result in an incorrect assessment of our purchase price allocations, which could impact the amount of our reported net income attributable to us.

Valuation of Real Estate Assets and Investments in Joint Ventures Which Hold Real Estate Assets

We continually monitor events and changes in circumstances that could indicate that the carrying amounts of the real estate and related intangible assets, both operating properties and properties under construction, in which we have an ownership interest, either directly or through investments in joint ventures, may not be recoverable. When indicators of potential impairment are present which indicate that the carrying amounts of real estate and related intangible assets may not be recoverable, we assess the recoverability of these assets by determining whether the carrying value will be recovered through the undiscounted future operating cash flows expected from the use of the asset and its eventual disposition. In the event that such expected undiscounted future cash flows do not exceed the carrying value, we adjust the real estate and related intangible assets to the fair value and recognize an impairment loss.

Projections of expected future cash flows require that we estimate future market rental income amounts subsequent to the expiration of current lease agreements, property operating expenses, the number of months it takes to re-lease the property, and the number of years the property is held for investment, among other factors. The subjectivity of assumptions used in the future cash flow analysis, including capitalization and discount rates, could result in an incorrect assessment of the property's fair value and, therefore, could result in the misstatement of the carrying value of our real estate and related intangible assets and our net income attributable to us. We have determined that there has been no impairment in the carrying value of real estate assets owned by us or any of our unconsolidated joint ventures as of September 30, 2012.

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Goodwill

Goodwill is the excess of cost of an acquired entity over the amounts specifically assigned to assets acquired and liabilities assumed in purchase accounting for business combinations, as well as costs incurred as part of the acquisition. We test the carrying value of our goodwill for impairment on an annual basis, or on an interim basis if an event occurs or circumstances change that would indicate the carrying amount may be impaired. Such interim circumstances may include, but are not limited to, significant adverse changes in legal factors or in the general business climate, adverse action or assessment by a regulator, unanticipated competition, the loss of key personnel, or persistent declines in an entity's stock price below carrying value of the entity. We have the option, should we choose to use it, to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether the existence of events or circumstances leads to a determination that it is more likely than not that the fair value of the reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. If, after assessing the totality of events or circumstances, we conclude that the estimated fair value is greater than the carrying amount, then performing the two-step impairment test is unnecessary. However, if we chose to forgo the availability of the qualitative analysis, the test prescribed by authoritative accounting guidance is a two-step test. The first step involves comparing the estimated fair value of the entity to its carrying value, including goodwill. Fair value is determined by adjusting the trading price of the stock for various factors including, but not limited to: (i) liquidity or transferability considerations, (ii) control premiums, and/or (iii) fully distributed premiums, if necessary, multiplied by the common shares outstanding. If such calculated fair value exceeds the carrying value, no further procedures or analysis is required. However, if the carrying value exceeds the calculated fair value, goodwill is potentially impaired and step two of the analysis would be required. Step two of the test involves calculating the implied fair value of goodwill by deducting the fair value of all tangible and intangible net assets of the entity from the entity's fair value calculated in step one of the test. If the implied value of the goodwill (the remainder left after deducting the fair values of the entity from its calculated overall fair value in step one of the test) is less than the carrying value of goodwill, an impairment loss would be recognized. We have determined that there have been no events or circumstances that would indicate that the carrying amount may be impaired as of September 30, 2012.

Investment in Variable Interest Entities

VIEs are defined by GAAP as entities in which equity investors do not have sufficient equity at risk for the entity to finance its activities without additional subordinated financial support from other parties. If an entity is determined to be a VIE, it must be consolidated by the primary beneficiary. The primary beneficiary is the enterprise that has the power to direct the activities of the VIE that most significantly impact the VIE's economic performance, absorbs the majority of the entity's expected losses, or receives a majority of the entity's expected residual returns. Generally, expected losses and expected residual returns are the anticipated negative and positive variability, respectively, in the fair value of the VIE's net assets. When we make an investment, we assess whether the investment represents a variable interest in a VIE and, if so, whether we are the primary beneficiary of the VIE. Incorrect assumptions or assessments may result in an inaccurate determination of the primary beneficiary. The result could be the consolidation of an entity acquired or formed in the future that would otherwise not have been consolidated or the non-consolidation of such an entity that would otherwise have been consolidated.

We evaluate each investment to determine whether it represents variable interests in a VIE. Further, we evaluate the sufficiency of the entities' equity investment at risk to absorb expected losses, and whether as a group, the equity has the characteristics of a controlling financial interest.

Contractual Obligations

Our contractual obligations as of September 30, 2012 are as follows (in thousands):

| Contractual Obligations | Payments Due by Period | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Total | Less than | 1-3 years | 3-5 years | More than |

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| | | 1 year | | | 5 years |
|--|--------------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Long-term debt ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 1,436,025 | \$— | \$680,000 | \$616,025 | \$140,000 |
| Operating lease obligations ⁽²⁾ | 78,056 | 750 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 74,306 |
| Total | \$ 1,514,081 | \$750 | \$681,500 | \$617,525 | \$214,306 |

(1) Amounts include principal payments only. We made interest payments, including payments under our interest rate swaps, of approximately \$47.1 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2012, and expect to pay interest in future periods on outstanding debt obligations based on the rates and terms disclosed herein and in Note 5 of our accompanying consolidated financial statements.

(2) Three properties (the River Corporate Center building in Tempe, Arizona; the 8700 South Price Road building in Tempe, Arizona; and the 2001 NW 64th Street building in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida) are subject to ground leases with expiration dates ranging between 2048 and 2101. The aggregate remaining payments required under the terms of these operating leases as of September 30, 2012 are presented above.

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Commitments and Contingencies

We are subject to certain commitments and contingencies with regard to certain transactions. Refer to Note 9 to our consolidated financial statements for further explanation. Examples of such commitments and contingencies include:

- Commitments Under Existing Lease Agreements;
- Contingencies Related to Tenant Audits;
- Letters of Credit; and
- Assertion of Legal Action.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Our future income, cash flows, and fair values of our financial instruments depend in part upon prevailing market interest rates. Market risk is the exposure to loss resulting from changes in interest rates, foreign currency, exchange rates, commodity prices, and equity prices. Our exposure to market risk includes interest rate fluctuations in connection with any borrowings under our \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit (which replaced the \$500 Million Unsecured Facility in August 2012) and our \$300 Million Unsecured Term Loan. As a result, the primary market risk to which we believe we are exposed is interest rate risk. Many factors, including governmental monetary and tax policies, domestic and international economic and political considerations, and other factors that are beyond our control contribute to interest rate risk. Our interest rate risk management objectives are to limit the impact of interest rate changes on earnings and cash flow primarily through a low-to-moderate level of overall borrowings, as well as managing the variability in rate fluctuations on our outstanding debt. As such, a significant portion of our debt is based on fixed interest rates to hedge against instability in the credit markets, and we have effectively fixed the interest rate on our \$300 Million Unsecured Term Loan through interest rate swap agreements, provided that we maintain our corporate credit rating. We do not enter into derivative or interest rate transactions for speculative purposes.

All of our debt was entered into for other than trading purposes, and the estimated fair value of our debt as of September 30, 2012 was approximately \$1.5 billion. Our interest rate swap agreements in place as of September 30, 2012 carried notional amounts totaling \$300 million and fixed interest rates of 2.69%, exclusive of changes to our credit rating. See Notes 5 and 8 of our accompanying consolidated financial statements for further detail.

As of September 30, 2012, all of our outstanding debt, except for amounts outstanding under our \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit, is subject to fixed, or effectively fixed, interest rates. Our total outstanding debt subject to fixed or effectively fixed interest rates has an average effective interest rate of approximately 4.59% per annum with expirations ranging from 2014 to 2017. A change in the market interest rate impacts the net financial instrument position of our fixed-rate debt portfolio but has a minimal impact on interest incurred or cash flows.

As of September 30, 2012, we had \$148.5 million outstanding on our \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit, which is the only debt facility subject to variable interest rates. Our \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit currently has a stated rate of LIBOR plus 1.175% per annum or the prime rate, at the Company's discretion. Draws outstanding as of September 30, 2012 were subject to a blended rate of 1.40% as of September 30, 2012. To the extent that we borrow additional funds in the future under the \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit or potential future variable-rate lines of credit, we would have exposure to increases in interest rates, which would potentially increase our cost of debt.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Management's Conclusions Regarding the Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the Principal Executive Officer and the Principal Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as defined in Rule 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange

Act”) as of the end of the quarterly period covered by this report. Based upon that evaluation, the Principal Executive Officer and the Principal Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report in providing a reasonable level of assurance that information we are required to disclose in the reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in applicable SEC rules and forms, including providing a reasonable level of assurance that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports we file under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including the Principal Executive Officer and the Principal Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

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Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended September 30, 2012 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Assertions of Legal Actions and Proposed Settlements

In Re Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. Securities Litigation, Civil Action No. 1:07-cv-00862-CAP

On March 12, 2007, a stockholder filed a class action and derivative complaint in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland against, among others, Piedmont, Piedmont's previous advisors, and certain officers and directors of Piedmont. Upon motion by the defendants, the case was transferred to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia on April 17, 2007.

As subsequently amended and dismissed in part, the complaint alleges violations of Section 14(a), including Rule 14a-9 thereunder, and Section 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), based upon allegations that the proxy statement for Piedmont's 2007 internalization transaction (the "Internalization") contains false and misleading statements or omits to state material facts. On February 9, 2011, the plaintiff dismissed its claim for violation of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act.

As subsequently amended and dismissed in part, the complaint seeks, among other things, (i) certification of the class action; (ii) a judgment declaring the proxy statement false and misleading; (iii) unspecified monetary damages; (iv) to nullify any stockholder approvals obtained during the proxy process; (v) to nullify the Internalization; (vi) cancellation and rescission of any stock issued as consideration in the Internalization, or, in the alternative, rescissory damages; and (vii) the payment of reasonable attorneys' fees and experts' fees. On September 16, 2009, the court granted the plaintiff's motion for class certification.

On December 4, 2009, the parties filed motions for summary judgment. On August 2, 2010, the court entered an order denying the defendants' motion for summary judgment and granting, in part, the plaintiff's motion for partial summary judgment.

On November 17, 2011, the court issued rulings granting several of the plaintiff's pre trial motions to prohibit the defendants from introducing certain evidence, including evidence of the defendants' reliance on advice from their outside legal and financial advisors, and limiting the defendants' ability to relate their subjective views, considerations, and observations during the trial of the case.

On February 23, 2012, the court granted several of defendants' motions, including a motion for reconsideration regarding a motion plaintiff had filed seeking exclusion of certain evidence impacting damages, and motions seeking exclusion of certain evidence proposed to be submitted by plaintiff.

On March 20, 2012, the court granted the defendants leave to file a motion for summary judgment. On April 5, 2012, the defendants filed a motion for summary judgment. On September 26, 2012, the court granted the defendants' motion for summary judgment and entered judgment in favor of the defendants. Plaintiff appealed to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals on October 12, 2012.

In Re Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. Securities Litigation, Civil Action No. 1:07-cv-02660-CAP

On October 25, 2007, the same stockholder mentioned above filed a second purported class action in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia against Piedmont and its board of directors. The complaint attempts to assert class action claims on behalf of (i) those persons who were entitled to tender their shares pursuant to the tender offer filed with the SEC by Lex-Win Acquisition LLC, a former stockholder, on May 25, 2007, and (ii) all

persons who are entitled to vote on the proxy statement filed with the SEC on October 16, 2007.

As subsequently amended and dismissed in part, the complaint alleges, among other things, violations of the federal securities laws, including Sections 14(a) and 14(e) of the Exchange Act and Rules 14a-9 and 14e-2(b) promulgated thereunder based upon allegations regarding (i) the failure to disclose certain information in our amended response to the Lex-Win tender offer and (ii) purported misstatements or omissions in our proxy statement concerning then-existing market conditions, the alternatives to a listing or extension that were explored by the defendants, the results of conversations with potential buyers as to our valuation, and certain details of our share redemption program. On June 10, 2009, the plaintiffs filed a motion for class certification. The court granted the plaintiffs' motion for class certification on March 10, 2010. Defendants sought and received permission from the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals to appeal the class certification order on an interlocutory basis. On April 11, 2011, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated the district court's order certifying a class and remanded the case to the district court for further proceedings.

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Following remand, plaintiffs filed a third amended complaint pursuant to leave granted on September 27, 2011. On October 21, 2011, the defendants filed a motion to dismiss the third amended complaint. On August 27, 2012, the court granted the defendants' motion to dismiss the third amended complaint and entered judgment in favor of the defendants. On September 26, 2012, the plaintiffs filed a notice of appeal with the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Agreements in Principle to Resolve Legal Actions

On October 11, 2012, Piedmont reached agreement in principle to settle both of the above lawsuits. Under the terms of the proposed settlement of the first suit, Plaintiff will dismiss the appeal and release all defendants from liability in exchange for total payment of \$4.9 million in cash by Piedmont and its insurer. In the second case, Plaintiffs will dismiss the appeal and release all defendants from liability in exchange for total payment of \$2.6 million in cash by Piedmont and its insurer. The settlements are subject to court approval following the negotiation and execution of definitive agreements and notice to the classes. We believe that plaintiffs' allegations in these suits are without merit, and we will continue to vigorously defend these actions if for any reason the settlements are not approved. Due to the uncertainties inherent in the litigation process, our assessment of the merits of the claim notwithstanding, the risk of material financial loss does exist.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

There have been no known material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

(a) There were no unregistered sales of equity securities during the third quarter 2012.

(b) Not applicable.

During the quarter ended September 30, 2012, Piedmont repurchased shares of its common stock in the open (c)market, in order to reissue such shares under its dividend reinvestment plan (the "DRP"), as well as repurchasing and retiring shares as part of our previously announced stock repurchase program.

Of the 2,306,485 shares repurchased during the third quarter 2012, 2,191,544 shares (at an average price of \$16.95 per share) related to repurchases of our common stock pursuant to our previously announced stock repurchase program, and 114,941 shares (at an average price of \$17.55 per share) related to shares purchased and conveyed to participants in the DRP. The aggregate stock repurchases for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 are as follows:

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased (in 000's) | Average Price Paid per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Program (in 000's) ⁽¹⁾ | Maximum Approximate Dollar Value of Shares Available That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Program (in 000's) ⁽¹⁾ |
|---|---|------------------------------|--|--|
| July 1, 2012 to July 31, 2012 | 1,335 | \$ 16.89 | 1,335 | \$ — |
| August 1, 2012 to August 31, 2012 | 682 | \$ 17.01 | 682 | \$ — |
| September 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012 | 289 | \$ 17.31 | 175 | \$ 216,627 |

⁽¹⁾ Under our amended and restated DRP announced in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed February 24, 2011, we have the option to either issue shares that we purchase in the open market or issue shares directly from Piedmont from authorized but unissued shares. Such election will take place at the settlement of each quarterly dividend in which there are participants in our DRP, and may change from quarter to quarter based on our judgment of the best use of proceeds for Piedmont. Therefore, the "Maximum Approximate Dollar Value of Shares Available That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Program" relates only to the stock repurchase program. The stock repurchase program

was previously announced in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed November 3, 2011, and authorizes the repurchase of up to \$300 million of shares of our common stock, expiring on November 2, 2013. The stock repurchase program is separate from shares purchased for DRP issuance.

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

Not applicable.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

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ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

The Exhibits required to be filed with this report are set forth on the Exhibit Index to Third Quarter 2012 Form 10-Q of Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. attached hereto.

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SIGNATURES

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

PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.
(Registrant)

Dated: October 31, 2012

By: /s/ Robert E. Bowers
Robert E. Bowers
Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President
(Principal Financial Officer and Duly Authorized
Officer)

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EXHIBIT INDEX
TO
THIRD QUARTER 2012
FORM 10-Q

OF
PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.

| Exhibit Number | Description of Document |
|-------------------|---|
| 3.1 | Third Articles of Amendment and Restatement of Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. (the “Company”) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 filed on March 16, 2010) |
| 3.2 | Articles of Amendment of the Company effective June 30, 2011 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 6, 2011) |
| 3.3 | Articles Supplementary of the Company effective June 30, 2011 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 6, 2011) |
| 3.4 | Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company’s current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 22, 2010) |
| 10.1 | Revolving Credit Agreement dated August 21, 2012, by and among Piedmont Operating Partnership, LP, the Company, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, RBC Capital Markets LLC, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N. A., Royal Bank of Canada, PNC Bank, National Association, SunTrust Bank, and U.S. Bank National Association, and the other financial institutions initially signatory thereto and their assignees (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on August 23, 2012) |
| 10.2 | Amendment No. 1 to Term Loan Agreement, dated as of August 21, 2012, among Piedmont Operating Partnership, LP, as Borrower, Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc., as Parent, JPMorgan Chase Bank as Administrative Agent, and the other banks party thereto as Lenders (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on August 23, 2012) |
| 31.1 | Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification, executed by Donald A. Miller, CFA, Principal Executive Officer of the Company |
| 31.2 | Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification, executed by Robert E. Bowers, Principal Financial Officer of the Company |
| 32.1 | Certification required by Rule 13a-14(b)/15d-14(b) and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code, executed by Donald A. Miller, CFA, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Company |
| 32.2 | Certification required by Rule 13a-14(b)/15d-14(b) and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code, executed by Robert E. Bowers, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice-President of the Company |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document * |

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101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema *

101.CAL XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase *

101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase *

101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase *

101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase *

* Furnished with this Form 10-Q

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