UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): May 2, 2023



ARES COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

001-35517

(Commission File Number)

45-3148087 (IRS Employer Identification No.)

Maryland (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

245 Park Avenue, 42nd Floor, New York, NY 10167 (Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (212) 750-7300

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report) N/A

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

 \square Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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

Title of each class Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share Trading Symbol(s)

Name of each exchange on which registered

ACRE New York Stock Exchange

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§ 230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§ 240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. 🗆

Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On May 2, 2023, the registrant issued a press release announcing its financial results for the quarter ended March 31, 2023. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

On May 2, 2023, the registrant made available on its website an earnings presentation with respect to its financial results for the quarter ended March 31, 2023. A copy of the presentation is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.2, and incorporated herein by reference.

The information disclosed under Item 2.02 and Item 7.01, including Exhibit 99.1 and Exhibit 99.2 hereto, is being furnished and shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and shall not be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing made under the Securities Act of 1933, except as expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

Exhibits:

| Press Release, dated May 2, 2023 |
| 99.2 | Presentation of Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation, dated May 2, 2023 |
| 104 | Cover Page Interactive Data File - the cover page XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document

SIGNATURES

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

ARES COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CORPORATION

Date: May 2, 2023 By: /s/ Tae-Sik Yoon

Name: Tae-Sik Yoon
Title: Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer



ARES COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CORPORATION REPORTS FIRST QUARTER 2023 RESULTS

First quarter GAAP net loss of \$6.4 million or \$0.12 per diluted common share and Distributable Earnings⁽¹⁾ of \$15.1 million or \$0.27 per diluted common share

- Subsequent to end of first quarter -

Declared second quarter 2023 dividend of \$0.33 per common share and a supplemental dividend of \$0.02 per common share

NEW YORK—(BUSINESS WIRE)—Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation (the "Company") (NYSE:ACRE), a specialty finance company engaged in originating and investing in commercial real estate assets, reported generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") net loss of \$6.4 million or \$0.12 per diluted common share and Distributable Earnings(") of \$15.1 million or \$0.27 per diluted common share for the first quarter of 2023.

"Our results this quarter demonstrated not only another period of healthy investment returns as we benefited from higher interest rates, but also solid progress with respect to resolving watch list assets," said Bryan Donohoe, Chief Executive Officer of Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation. "Our \$0.27 of Distributable Earnings per diluted common share, inclusive of the previously announced realized loss of \$0.10 per diluted common share, would have resulted in \$0.37 per diluted common share without the realized loss, which more than fully covers our regular and supplemental quarterly dividend. We remain confident that our strong financial position, our deep credit capabilities and the broad resources of Ares Management will enable us to navigate the industry challenges, capitalize on an expanded market opportunity from bank retrenchment and continue to generate attractive dividends for shareholders."

"We continued to build liquidity and operate with strong capital levels throughout the quarter," said Tae-Sik Yoon, Chief Financial Officer of Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation. "With non-spread based mark to market financing, net debt-to-equity below 2.0x and more than \$150 million in cash representing more than 20% of stockholders' equity as of March 31, 2023, we believe our strong balance sheet positions us to maximize credit outcomes on our higher risk rated assets and make new opportunistic investments with attractive risk adjusted returns."

(1) Distributable Earnings is a non-GAAP financial measure. Refer to Schedule I for the definition and reconciliation of Distributable Earnings.

COMMON STOCK DIVIDEND

On February 15, 2023, the Board of Directors of the Company declared a regular cash dividend of \$0.33 per common share and a supplemental cash dividend of \$0.02 per common share for the first quarter of 2023. The first quarter 2023 dividend and supplemental cash dividend were paid on April 18, 2023 to common stockholders of record as of March 31, 2023.

On May 2, 2023, the Board of Directors of the Company declared a regular cash dividend of \$0.33 per common share and a supplemental cash dividend of \$0.02 per common share for the second quarter of 2023. The second quarter 2023 dividend and supplemental cash dividend will be payable on July 18, 2023 to common stockholders of record as of June 30, 2023.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Company issued a presentation of its first quarter 2023 results, which can be viewed at www.arescre.com on the Investor Resources section of our home page under Events and Presentations. The presentation is titled "First Quarter 2023 Earnings Presentation." The Company also filed its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2023 with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on May 2, 2023.

CONFERENCE CALL AND WEBCAST INFORMATION

On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, the Company invites all interested persons to attend its webcast/conference call at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) to discuss its first quarter 2023 financial results.

All interested parties are invited to participate via telephone or the live webcast, which will be hosted on a webcast link located on the Home page of the Investor Resources section of the Company's website at www.arescre.com. Please visit the website to test your connection before the webcast. Domestic callers can access the conference call by dialing +1 (201) 389-0899. All callers are asked to dial in 10-15 minutes prior to the call so that name and company information can be collected. For interested parties, an archived replay of the call will be available through May 30, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) to domestic callers by dialing +1 (277) 660-6835 and to international callers by dialing +1 201 612 7415. For all replays, please reference access code 13736870. An archived replay will also be available through May 30, 2023 on a webcast link located on the Home page of the Investor Resources section of the Company's website.

ABOUT ARES COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CORPORATION

Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation (the "Company") is a specialty finance company primarily engaged in originating and investing in commercial real estate loans and related investments. Through its national direct origination platform, the Company provides a broad offering of flexible and reliable financing solutions for commercial real estate owners and operators. The Company originates senior mortgage loans, as well as subordinate financings, mezzanine debt and preferred equity, with an emphasis on providing value added financing on a variety of properties located in liquid markets across the United States. Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation elected and qualified to be taxed as a real estate investment trust and is externally managed by a subsidiary of Ares Management Corporation. For more information, please visit www.arescre.com. The contents of such website are not, and should not be deemed to be, incorporated by reference herein.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Statements included herein or on the webcast / conference call may constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which relate to future events or the Company's future performance or financial condition. These statements are not guarantees of future performance, condition or results and involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements as a result of a number of factors, including the returns on current and future investments, rates of repayments on the Company's mortgage loans, availability of investment opportunities, the Company's sublity to originate additional investments and completion of pending investments, the availability and cost of financing, market trends and conditions in the Company's industry and the general economy, including heightened inflation, slower growth or recession, changes to fiscal and monetary policy, currency fluctuations and challenges in the supply chain; the level of lending and borrowing spreads and interest rates, commercial real estate loan volumes, the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the U.S. and global economy, the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the international community's filings with the

Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including, but not limited to, the risk factors described in Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed with the SEC on February 15, 2023 and the risk factors described in Part II, Item 1A. Risk Factors in the Company's subsequent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed with the SEC on May 2, 2023. Any forward-looking statement, including any contained herein, speaks only as of the time of this press release and Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation undertakes no duty to update any forward-looking statements made herein or on the webcast/conference call. Projections and forward-looking statements are based on management's good faith and reasonable assumptions, including the assumptions described herein.

INVESTOR RELATIONS CONTACTS

Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation Carl Drake or John Stilmar (888) 818-5298 iracre@aresmgmt.com

ARES COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (in thousands, except share and per share data)

	As	of	
	March 31, 2023		December 31, 2022
	(unaudited)		
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 153,764	\$	141,278
Loans held for investment (\$846,718 and \$887,662 related to consolidated VIEs, respectively)	2,173,205		2,264,008
Current expected credit loss reserve	(87,502)		(65,969)
Loans held for investment, net of current expected credit loss reserve	2,085,703		2,198,039
Loans held for sale, at fair value	27,375		_
Investment in available-for-sale debt securities, at fair value	28,007		27,936
Other assets (\$2,959 and \$2,980 of interest receivable related to consolidated VIEs, respectively; \$128,334 and \$129,495 of other receivables related to consolidated VIEs, respectively)	149,471		155,749
Total assets	\$ 2,444,320	\$	2,523,002
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	 -		
LIABILITIES			
Secured funding agreements	\$ 698,153	\$	705,231
Notes payable	104,509		104,460
Secured term loan	149,247		149,200
Collateralized loan obligation securitization debt (consolidated VIEs)	735,839		777,675
Due to affiliate	3,899		5,580
Dividends payable	19,346		19,347
Other liabilities (\$1,942 and \$1,913 of interest payable related to consolidated VIEs, respectively)	 15,024		13,969
Total liabilities	1,726,017		1,775,462
Commitments and contingencies			
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, 450,000,000 shares authorized at March 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 and 54,606,826 and 54,443,983 shares issued and outstanding at March 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, respectively	537		537
Additional paid-in capital	813,748		812,788
Accumulated other comprehensive income	3,129		7,541
Accumulated earnings (deficit)	(99,111)		(73,326)
Total stockholders' equity	718,303		747,540
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 2,444,320	\$	2,523,002

ARES COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS (in thousands, except share and per share data)

	(p		
		For the three months ended Mare	ch 31,
	2023	3	2022
	(unaud	ited)	(unaudited)
Revenue:			
Interest income	\$	49,500 \$	33,364
Interest expense		(22,999)	(12,013)
Net interest margin	<u></u>	26,501	21,351
Revenue from real estate owned		_	2,672
Total revenue	<u></u>	26,501	24,023
Expenses:			
Management and incentive fees to affiliate		3,010	2,974
Professional fees		771	778
General and administrative expenses		1,685	1,613
General and administrative expenses reimbursed to affiliate		732	834
Expenses from real estate owned		<u> </u>	4,309
Total expenses		6,198	10,508
Provision for current expected credit losses		21,019	(594)
Realized losses on loans sold		5,613	_
Gain on sale of real estate owned		_	2,197
Income (loss) before income taxes		(6,329)	16,306
Income tax expense, including excise tax		110	105
Net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders	\$	(6,439) \$	16,201
Earnings per common share:			
Basic and diluted earnings (loss) per common share	\$	(0.12) \$	0.34
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:			
Basic weighted average shares of common stock outstanding		54,591,650	47,204,397
Diluted weighted average shares of common stock outstanding		54,591,650	47,654,549
Dividends declared per share of common stock ⁽¹⁾	\$	0.35 \$	0.35

⁽¹⁾ There is no assurance dividends will continue at these levels or at all.

SCHEDULE I

Reconciliation of Net Income to Non-GAAP Distributable Earnings

Distributable Earnings is a non-GAAP financial measure that helps the Company evaluate its financial performance excluding the effects of certain transactions and GAAP adjustments that it believes are not necessarily indicative of its current loan origination portfolio and operations. To maintain the Company's REIT status, the Company is generally required to annually distribute to its stockholders substantially all of its taxable income. The Company believes the disclosure of Distributable Earnings provides useful information to investors regarding the Company's ability to pay dividends, which is one of the principal reasons the Company believes investors invest in the Company. The presentation of this additional information is not meant to be considered in isolation or as a substitute for financial results prepared in accordance with GAAP. Distributable Earnings is defined as net income (loss) computed in accordance with GAAP, excluding non-cash equity compensation expense, the incentive fees the Company pays to its Manager (Ares Commercial Real Estate Management LLC), depreciation and amortization (to the extent that any of the Company's target investments are structured as debt and the Company forecloses on any properties underlying such debt), any unrealized gains, losses or other non-cash items recorded in net income (loss) for the period, regardless of whether such items are included in other comprehensive income or loss, or in net income (loss), one-time events pursuant to changes in GAAP and certain non-cash charges after discussions between the Company's independent directors and after approval by a majority of the Company's independent directors. Loan balances that are deemed to be uncollectible are written off as a realized loss and are included in Distributable Earnings is aligned with the calculation of "Core Earnings," which is defined in the Management Agreement and is used to calculate the incentive fees the Company pays to its Manager.

Reconciliation of net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders, the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure, to Distributable Earnings is set forth in the table below for the three months and twelve months ended March 31, 2023 (\$ in thousands):

thousands):		
<u> </u>	For the three months ended March 31, 2023	For the twelve months ended March 31, 2023
Net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders \$	(6,439)	\$ 7,145
Stock-based compensation	960	3,070
Incentive fees to affiliate	_	3,084
Provision for current expected credit losses	21,019	67,673
Realized gain on termination of interest rate cap derivative ⁽¹⁾	(457)	(1,496)
Distributable Earnings	15,083	\$ 79,476
Net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders \$	(0.12)	\$ 0.13
Stock-based compensation	0.02	0.06
Incentive fees to affiliate	_	0.06
Provision for current expected credit losses	0.39	1.26
Realized gain on termination of interest rate cap derivative ⁽¹⁾	(0.01)	(0.03)
Basic Distributable Earnings per common share	0.28	\$ 1.49
Net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders \$	(0.12)	\$ 0.13
Stock-based compensation	0.02	0.06
Incentive fees to affiliate	_	0.06
Provision for current expected credit losses	0.38	1.25
Realized gain on termination of interest rate cap derivative ⁽¹⁾	(0.01)	(0.03)
Diluted Distributable Earnings per common share	0.27	\$ 1.47

⁽¹⁾ For the three and twelve months ended March 31, 2023, Distributable Earnings includes a \$0.5 million and \$1.5 million, respectively, adjustment to reverse the impact of the \$2.0 million realized gain from the termination of the interest rate cap derivative that was amortized into GAAP net income.



Disclaimer

Statements included herein may constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which may relate to future events or the future performance or financial condition of Ares Corp. act of 1905 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which may relate to future events or the future results of their subsidiaries, including, without limitation, ACRE. These statements are not guarantees of future results or financial condition and involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements as a result of a number of factors, including the returns on current and future investments, rates of repayments and prepayments on the Company's mortgage loans, availability of investment opportunities, the Company's ability to originate additional investments and completion of pending investments, the availability of capital, the availability and cost of financing, market trends and conditions in the Company's industry and the general economy, including heightened inflation, slower growth or recession, changes to fiscal and monetary policy, currency fluctuations and challenges in the supply chain; the level of lending and borrowing spreads and interest rates, commercial real estate levels or at all, and other risks described from time to time in ACRE's fillings within the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Any forward-looking statements are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions available under applicable securities and Exchange Commission of Securities and Exchange Commission of the Securities and all underlying ares the paragrent of the securities and all underlying ares the paragrent of the securities and all underlying ares the paragrent of the securities and all underlying ares the paragrent of the securities and all underlying ares the paragrent of the securities and all underlying ares

Ares Corp. is the parent to several registered investment advisers, including Ares Management LLC ("Ares Management") and ACREM. Collectively, Ares Corp., its affiliated entities, and all underlying subsidiary entities shall be referred to as "Ares" unless specifically noted otherwise. For a discussion regarding potential risks on ACRE, see Part L, Item 7. "Management"s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and Part I., Item 1A. "Risk Factors" in ACRE's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022 and Part II., Item 1A. "Risk Factors" in subsequent ACRE's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q.

The information contained in this presentation is summary information that is intended to be considered in the context of ACRE's SEC filings and other public announcements that ACRE, ACREM or Ares may make, by press release or otherwise, from time to time. ACRE, ACREM and Ares undertake no duty or obligation to publicly update or revise the forward-looking statements or other information contained in this presentation. These materials contain information about ACRE, ACREM and Ares, and certain of their respective personnel and affiliates, information about their respective historical performance and general information about the market. You should not view information related to the past performance of ACRE, ACREM or Ares or information about the market, as indicative of future results, the achievement of which cannot be assured.

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In addition, in light of the various investment strategies of such other investment partnerships, funds and/or pools, it is noted that such other investment programs may have portfolio investments inconsistent with those of the investment vehicle or strategy discussed herein.

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For the definitions of certain terms used in this presentation, please refer to the "Glossary" slide in the appendix.

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Company Highlights

Loan	\$2.2 billion outstanding principal balance	98% Senior Loans	Earnings and	\$0.27 Q1 Distributable Earnings ⁽²⁾ per diluted common share, impacted by \$0.10 per diluted common share realized loss			
Portfolio	loans held for investme or 48% of the total re	serve equates to 4% of ent ⁽¹⁾ , with \$43.9 million, eserve, consisting of on two risk rated 5 loans	Dividends	Declared Q2 2023 regular dividend of \$0.33 plus \$0.02 supplemental dividend per common share			
Balance Sheet	1.9x Net Debt to Equity Ratio ⁽³⁾	\$153.8 million cash balance, representing 21% of stockholders' equity	Ares	\$360.3 billion ARES AUM	\$49.2 billion ARES real estate platform AUM		
Positioning		l mark to market sions	Sponsorship	Benefits from market intelligence and deep relationships			

- As of March 31, 2023, unless otherwise noted. Past performance is not indicative of future results. There is no guarantee or assurance investment objectives will be achieved. Diversification does not ensure profit or protect against market loss.

 1. Based on outstanding principal balance.
 2. Distributable Earnings is a non-GAAP financial measure. See page 19 for Distributable Earnings definition and page 18 for the Reconciliation of Net Income to Non-GAAP Distributable Earnings.

 2. Net doubt to continue to the continue of the continue
- Net debt to equity ratio is calculated as (i) \$1.7 billion of outstanding borrowings less \$153.8 million of cash, (ii) divided by total stockholders' equity excluding CECL reserve of \$92.3 million at March 31, 2023. Net debt to equity ratio including the CECL reserve is 2.1x. Excluding the impact of cash on the outstanding borrowings, the total debt to equity ratio excluding the CECL reserve is 2.1x and including the CECL reserve is 2.4x.



Summary of Q1 2023 Results and Activity

Earnings Results	 GAAP net loss of \$0.12 per diluted common share⁽¹⁾ Distributable Earnings of \$0.27 per diluted common share⁽²⁾ Distributable Earnings was impacted by a \$5.6 million, or \$0.10 per diluted common share, realized loss on the sale of a residential senior loan, consistent with the specific CECL reserve as of Q4 2022 Book value per common share of \$13.15, or \$14.84 per common share excluding the CECL reserve Cash dividend of \$0.33 per common share and supplemental cash dividend per common share of \$0.02⁽³⁾
Portfolio Activity	 \$26.4 million in new principal funded⁽⁴⁾ \$82.6 million in loan repayments and sales Transfer of a \$27.4 million defaulted senior office loan to held for sale at fair value equal to its prior period loan amount. Subsequent to quarter end, we closed on the sale of this loan equal to the loan amount
Balance Sheet Positioning	 Available capital of \$228.8 million⁽⁵⁾ Moderate leverage with net debt to equity ratio of 1.9x⁽⁶⁾ No direct exposure to regional banks that were impacted by the recent strain on the banking system
Recent Developments	On May 2, 2023, declared a cash dividend for the second quarter 2023 of \$0.33 per common share and a supplemental cash dividend of \$0.02 per common share

- Note: As of March 31, 2023, unless otherwise noted.

 1. Inclusive of \$0.38 provision per diluted common share for Q1 2023 for CECL.

 2. Distributable Earnings is a non-GAAP financial measure. See page 19 for Distributable Earnings definition and page 18 for the Reconciliation of Net Income to Non-GAAP Distributable Earnings.

 3. There is no assurance dividends will continue at these levels or at all.

 4. Outstanding principal funded represents funding on previously closed loans.

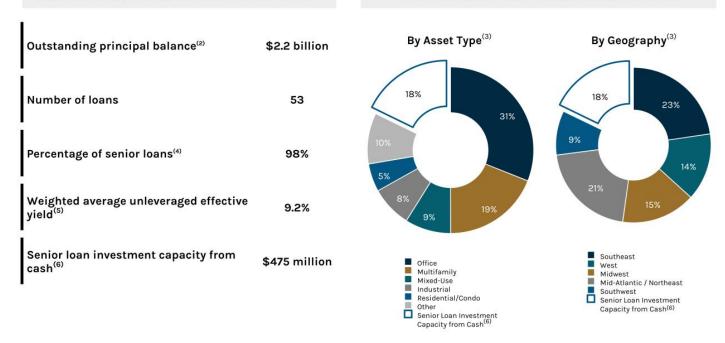
 5. Available capital includes \$153.8 million of unrestricted cash and \$75.0 million of available financing proceeds under the secured revolving funding agreement with City National Bank ("CNB Facility").

 6. Net debt to equity ratio is calculated as (i) \$1.7 billion of outstanding borrowings less \$153.8 million of cash, (ii) divided by total stockholders' equity excluding CECL reserve of \$92.3 million at March 31, 2023. Net debt to equity ratio including the CECL reserve is 2.1x. Excluding the impact of cash on the outstanding borrowings, the total debt to equity ratio excluding the CECL reserve is 2.1x. ARES

Loan Portfolio Positioning and Performance

Loans Held for Investment Portfolio Metrics⁽¹⁾

Diverse Loans Held for Investment Portfolio



- Note: As of March 31, 2023, unless otherwise noted. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Diversification does not ensure profit or protect against market loss.

 1. Unless otherwise noted, includes only loans held for investment and excludes \$27.4 million of loans held for sale and \$28.0 million of AAA rated CRE debt securities purchased in 2022.

 2. Weighted average unpaid principal balance of loan portfolio of \$2.262 billion during Q1 2023.

 3. Based on outstanding principal balance of loans held for investment and senior loan investment capacity from cash.

- Based on outstanding principal balance.
 Excludes impact of five loans on non-accrual status. Including the five non-accrual loans, total weighted average unleveraged effective yield for total loans held for investment is 8.5%.
- Our senior loan investment capacity from cash is assuming that we use all available unrestricted cash of \$153.8 million as of March 31, 2023 to originate new senior loans and we are able to leverage such amount under our Secured Funding Agreements at our total debt to equity ratio of 2.1x excluding the CECL reserve.



Q1 2023 Loan Activity

Loan Repayments and Sales

Loan Repayments and Sales by Property Type

Total repayments and sales ⁽¹⁾	\$82.6 million		2%
Number of repayments and sales ⁽²⁾	6	Industrial Residential/Condo	34%
Repayments and sales as a percentage of total loan portfolio	4%	Hotel Office Mixed-Use	48%

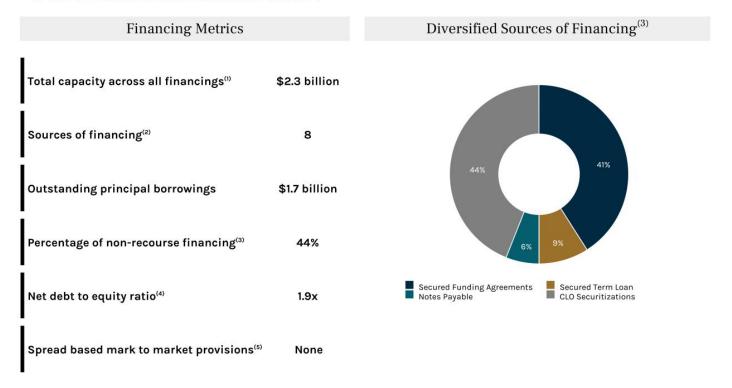
Note: As of March 31, 2023, unless otherwise noted. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Diversification does not ensure profit or protect against market loss.

1. Includes \$65.8 million in full and \$7.0 million in partial loan repayments, respectively, and \$9.8 million in loan sales.

2. Excludes one loan transferred from held for investment portfolio to held for sale.



Well-Positioned Balance Sheet



Note: As of March 31, 2023, unless otherwise noted. Diversification does not ensure profit or protect against market loss.

- e As or March 31, 2023, Unless otherwise hoted. Diversification does not ensure profit or protect against market loss.

 Weighted average unpaid principal balance of \$1.703 billion across all financings for Q1 2023.

 Excludes Notes Payable. See page 11 for additional details on sources of financing.

 Based on outstanding principal balance.

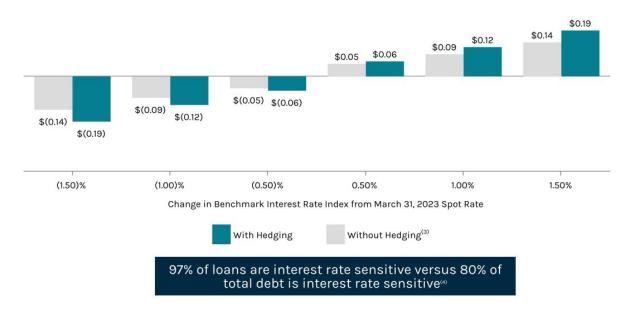
 Net debt to equity ratio is calculated as (i) \$1.7 billion of outstanding borrowings less \$153.8 million of cash, (ii) divided by total stockholders' equity excluding CECL reserve of \$92.3 million at March
 31, 2023. Net debt to equity ratio including the CECL reserve is 2.1x. Excluding the impact of cash on the outstanding borrowings, the total debt to equity ratio excluding the CECL reserve is 2.1x and
- including the CECL reserve is 2.4x.

 Secured funding agreements are not subject to mark-to-market provisions based on changes in market borrowing spreads but are subject to remargining provisions based on the credit performance of our loans.



Interest Rate Sensitivity to Benchmark Interest Rate Index⁽¹⁾ Changes

(\$ per diluted Annual estimated change in Distributable Earnings per diluted common share⁽²⁾ common share)



Note: As of March 31, 2023, unless otherwise noted.

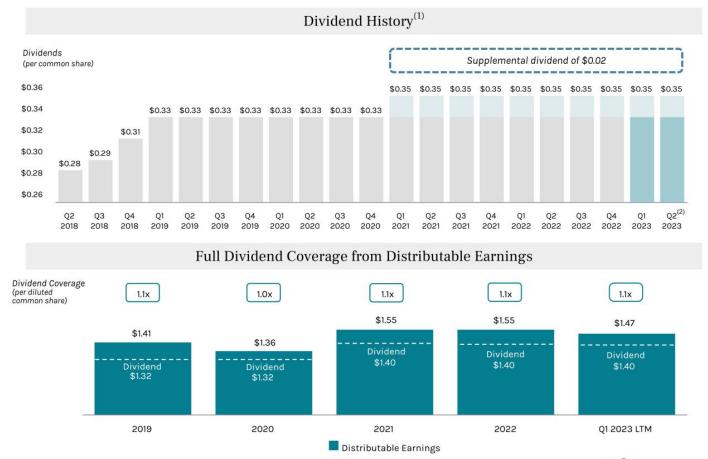
Benchmark Interest Rate Index represents the interest rates indexed to LIBOR and SOFR.

The chart estimates the hypothetical changes in Distributable Earnings per diluted common share for the twelve month period ended March 31, 2023, assuming (1) an immediate increase or decrease in 30-day Benchmark Interest Rate Index as of March 31, 2023, (2) no change in the outstanding principal balance of our loans held for investment portfolio, available-for-sale debt securities and borrowings as of March 31, 2023 and (3) no changes in the notional amount of the interest rate swap agreement entered into as of March 31,

Represents the hypothetical impact to Distributable Earnings per diluted common share had we not entered into interest rate swap agreement as of the reporting date
Based on LIBOR and SOFR rates as of March 31, 2023 and LIBOR and SOFR floors in place.



History of Growing and Consistent Dividends



 There is no assurance that dividends will be paid at historical levels or at all.
 Dividend declared but not paid. Q2 2023 dividend and supplemental cash dividend will be payable on July 18, 2023 to common stockholders of record as of June 30, 2023.



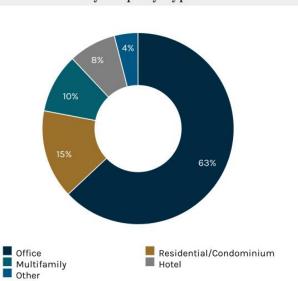




Current Expected Credit Losses

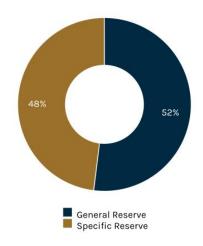
(\$ in thousands)	
Balance at 12/31/2022	\$ 71,307
Provision for CECL	21,019
Balance at 3/31/2023	\$ 92,326

Current Expected Credit Loss Reserve by Property Type



- Increase in total CECL reserve of \$21.0 million (bifurcated between an increase in funded commitments provision of \$21.5 million partially offset by a decrease in unfunded commitments provision of \$0.5 million)
- As of March 31, 2023, the total CECL reserve includes specific reserves of \$43.9 million, including \$38.3 million on a senior office loan and \$5.6 million on a senior hotel loan

Current Expected Credit Loss Reserve by Reserve Type





Additional Details on Sources of Funding

(\$ in millions)				
Financing Sources	Total Commitments	Outstanding Balance	Pricing Range	Mark-to-Market
Secured Funding Agreements				
Wells Fargo Facility	\$450.0	\$261.1	Base Rate ⁽¹⁾ +1.50 to 3.75%	Credit
Citibank Facility	325.0	236.2	Base Rate ⁽¹⁾ +1.50 to 2.10%	Credit
CNB Facility	75.0	_	SOFR+2.65%	Credit
Morgan Stanley Facility	250.0	200.9	SOFR+1.60 to 3.10%	Credit
MetLife Facility	180.0	_	Base Rate ⁽¹⁾ +2.10 to 2.50%	Credit
Subtotal	\$1,280.0	\$698.2		
Asset Level Financing				
Notes Payable	\$105.0	\$105.0	SOFR + 2.00%	Credit
Capital Markets				
Secured Term Loan	\$150.0	\$150.0	4.50% (Fixed)	Credit
2017-FL3 Securitization	445.6	445.6	LIBOR+ 1.70%	None
2021-FL4 Securitization	291.3	291.3	LIBOR+ 1.45%	None
Subtotal	\$886.9	\$886.9		
Total Debt	\$2,271.9	\$1,690.1		



Note: As of March 31, 2023.

The base rate is LIBOR for loans pledged prior to December 31, 2021 and SOFR for loans pledged subsequent to December 31, 2021.

(\$ ir	n millions)										
#	Loan Type	Location	Origination Date	Current Loan Commitment	Outstanding Principal	Carrying Value	Interest Rate	LIBOR/ SOFR Floor	Unleveraged Effective Yield	Maturity Date	Payment Terms ⁽¹⁾
Offi	ice Loans:										
1	Senior	IL	Nov 2020	\$155.7	\$155.7	\$154.0	(2)	1.5%	7.1% ⁽²⁾	Mar 2025	1/0
2	Senior	Diversified	Jan 2020	122.4	120.4	120.2	S+3.75%	1.6%	8.8%	Jan 2024	P/I
3	Senior	AZ	Sep 2021	115.7	78.0	77.6	L+3.50%	0.1%	8.8%	Oct 2024	1/0
4	Senior	NY	Jul 2021	81.0	70.2	69.6	L+3.85%	0.1%	9.1%	Aug 2025	1/0
5	Senior	NC	Mar 2019	68.9	68.9	68.7	S+4.35%	2.3%	9.5%	Mar 2024	P/I
6	Senior	NC	Aug 2021	85.0	67.3	66.9	S+3.65%	0.2%	8.9%	Aug 2024	1/0
7	Senior	IL	May 2018	58.9	56.9	53.8	S+3.95%	2.0%	-% ⁽³⁾	Jun 2023	1/0
8	Senior	IL	Dec 2022	56.0	56.0	55.5	S+4.25%	3.0%	9.6%	Jan 2025	1/0
9	Senior	GA	Nov 2019	48.6	48.6	48.5	S+3.15%	1.9%	8.3%	Dec 2023	P/I
10	Senior	CA	Oct 2019	33.2	33.2	32.6	S+3.45%	1.9%	-% ⁽³⁾	Nov 2023	1/0
11	Senior	MA	Apr 2022	82.2	26.8	26.1	S+3.75%	-%	9.9%	Apr 2025	1/0
12	Senior	CA	Nov 2018	22.9	22.9	22.8	S+3.50%	2.3%	8.6%	Nov 2023	1/0
13	Subordinate	NJ	Mar 2016	18.5	18.5	17.4	12.00%	-%	-% ⁽³⁾	Jan 2026	1/0
Tota	al Office			\$949.0	\$823.4	\$813.7					



Note: As of March 31, 2023.

1. I/O = interest only, P/I = principal and interest.

2. The Illinois loan is structured as both a senior and mezzanine loan with the Company holding both positions. The senior position has a per annum interest rate of \$ + 2.25% and the mezzanine position has a fixed per annum interest rate of 10.00%. The mezzanine position of this loan, which had an outstanding principal balance of \$41.8 million as of March 31, 2023, was on non-accrual status as of March 31, 2023 and therefore, the Unleveraged Effective Yield presented is for the senior position only as the mezzanine position is non-interest accruing.

3. Loan was on non-accrual status as of March 31, 2023 and the Unleveraged Effective Yield is not applicable.

			Origination	Current Loan	Outstanding	Carrying		LIBOR/	Unleveraged		Payment
#	Loan Type	Location	Date	Commitment	Principal	Value	Interest Rate	SOFR Floor	Effective Yield	Maturity Date	Terms ⁽¹⁾
Mu	ltifamily Loans:									15%	
14	Senior	NY	May 2022	\$133.0	\$132.2	\$131.0	S+3.90%	0.2%	9.2%	Jun 2025	1/0
15	Senior	TX	Jun 2022	100.0	100.0	99.2	S+3.50%	1.5%	9.1%	Jul 2025	1/0
16	Senior	TX	Nov 2021	68.8	68.1	67.7	S+2.95%	-%	8.1%	Dec 2024	1/0
17	Senior ⁽²⁾	SC	Dec 2021	67.0	67.0	66.8	L+2.90%	0.1%	8.0%	Nov 2024	1/0
18	Senior	CA	Nov 2021	31.7	31.7	31.5	S+3.00%	-%	8.1%	Dec 2025	1/0
19	Senior	PA	Dec 2018	30.2	29.4	29.3	S+4.00%	1.3%	9.1%	Dec 2023	1/0
20	Senior	WA	Dec 2021	23.1	23.1	23.0	S+3.00%	-%	8.0%	Nov 2025	1/0
21	Senior	TX	Oct 2021	23.1	22.4	22.2	S+2.60%	-%	7.8%	Oct 2024	1/0
22	Subordinate	sc	Aug 2022	20.6	20.6	20.5	S+9.53%	1.5%	14.7%	Sep 2025	1/0
23	Senior	WA	Feb 2020	18.8	18.8	18.7	S+3.10%	1.6%	8.4%	Sep 2023	1/0
Tot	al Multifamily			\$516.3	\$513.3	\$509.9					
Mix	red-Use Loans:										
24	Senior	FL	Feb 2019	\$82.7	\$82.7	\$82.7	L+4.25%	1.5%	9.1%	Feb 2023 ⁽³⁾	1/0
25	Senior	NY	Jul 2021	78.3	75.0	74.7	S+3.75%	-%	8.9%	Jul 2024	1/0
26	Senior	CA	Feb 2020	37.9	37.9	37.9	L+4.10%	1.7%	9.0%	Mar 2023 ⁽⁴⁾	1/0
27	Senior	TX	Sep 2019	35.3	35.3	35.2	S+3.85%	0.7%	8.9%	Sep 2024	1/0
Tota	al Mixed-Use			\$234.2	\$230.9	\$230.5					

Note: As of March 31, 2023.

te: As of March 31, 2023.

I/O = interest only, P/I = principal and interest.

Loan commitment is allocated between a multifamily property (\$60.5 million) and an office property (\$6.5 million).

As of March 31, 2023, the senior Florida loan, which is collateralized by a mixed-use property, is in maturity default due to the failure of the borrower to repay the outstanding principal balance of the loan by the February 2023 maturity date.

As of March 31, 2023, the senior California loan, which is collateralized by a mixed-use property, is in maturity default due to the failure of the borrower to repay the outstanding principal balance of the loan by the March 2023 maturity date.



(\$ in	millions)										
#	Loan Type	Location	Origination Date	Current Loan Commitment	Outstanding Principal	Carrying Value	Interest Rate	LIBOR/ SOFR Floor	Unleveraged Effective Yield	Maturity Date	Payment Terms ⁽¹⁾
Indu	strial Loans:										
28	Senior	IL	May 2021	\$100.7	\$98.2	\$97.8	L+4.55%	0.2%	9.8%	May 2024	1/0
29	Senior	FL	Dec 2021	25.5	25.5	25.4	L+2.90%	0.1%	8.0%	Dec 2025	1/0
30	Senior	NJ	Jun 2021	28.3	24.6	24.4	L+3.75%	0.3%	9.3%	May 2024	1/0
31	Senior ⁽³⁾	CO	Jul 2021	23.6	23.6	23.5	(2)	0.3%	12.2%	Feb 2024	1/0
32	Senior	CA	Aug 2019	19.6	19.6	19.5	S+3.85%	2.0%	8.9%	Sep 2024	1/0
33	Senior ⁽²⁾	TX	Nov 2021	10.0	10.0	9.9	S+5.35%	0.2%	10.5%	Dec 2024	1/0
34	Senior ⁽²⁾	TN	Oct 2021	6.4	6.4	6.4	S+5.60%	0.2%	10.8%	Nov 2024	1/0
35	Senior	FL	Feb 2022	4.0	4.0	4.0	S+5.75%	0.3%	11.0%	Mar 2025	1/0
Tota	l Industrial			\$218.1	\$211.9	\$210.9					
Resi	dential/Condo	minium Loai	ns:								
36	Senior ⁽⁴⁾	NY	Mar 2022	\$91.1	\$76.2	\$75.9	S+8.95%	0.4%	15.6%	Oct 2023	1/0
37	Senior	FL	Jul 2021	75.0	74.5	74.4	S+5.35%	-%	10.7%	Jul 2023	1/0
Tota	l Residential/(Condominiur	n	\$166.1	\$150.7	\$150.3					
Hote	el Loans:										
38	Senior	CA	Mar 2022	\$60.8	\$40.2	\$39.8	S+4.20%	-%	9.5%	Mar 2025	1/0
39	Senior	NY	Mar 2022	55.7	36.5	36.1	S+4.40%	0.1%	9.6%	Mar 2026	1/0
40	Senior ⁽⁵⁾	IL	Apr 2018	35.0	35.0	29.5	S+4.00%	0.3%	-% ⁽⁶⁾	May 2024	1/0
Tota	l Hotel		**	\$151.5	\$111.7	\$105.4				- 18: 	

- I/O = interest only, P/I = principal and interest.

 Loans are a cross-collateralized portfolio with affiliates of the same borrower.
- At origination, the Colorado loan was structured as a senior loan and in January 2022, the Company also originated the mezzanine loan. The senior loan, which had an outstanding principal balance of \$19.8 million as of March 31, 2023, accrues interest at a per annum rate of L + 6.75% and the mezzanine loan, which had an outstanding principal balance of \$3.8 million as of March 31, 2023, accrues interest at a per annum rate of S + 8.50%.
 This senior mortgage loan refinanced the previously existing \$53.3 million senior mortgage loan that was held by the Company. The senior New York loan is currently in default due to the
- failure of the borrower to reach certain construction milestones.

 The senior Illinois loan is currently in default due to the failure of the borrower to make certain contractual reserve deposits by the May 2022 due date and due to the borrower not making its
- contractual interest payments due subsequent to the January 2023 interest payment date. Loan was on non-accrual status as of March 31, 2023 and the Unleveraged Effective Yield is not applicable.



(\$ in	millions)										
#	Loan Type	Location	Origination Date	Current Loan Commitment	Outstanding Principal	Carrying Value	Interest Rate	LIBOR/ SOFR Floor	Unleveraged Effective Yield	Maturity Date	Payment Terms ⁽¹⁾
Self	Storage Loans	s:									
41	Senior	PA	Mar 2022	\$18.2	\$18.2	\$18.1	L+2.90%	1.0%	8.1%	Dec 2025	1/0
42	Senior	NJ	Aug 2022	17.6	17.6	17.4	S+2.90%	1.0%	8.5%	Apr 2025	1/0
43	Senior	WA	Aug 2022	11.5	11.5	11.4	S+2.90%	1.0%	8.4%	Mar 2025	1/0
44	Senior	MA	Mar 2022	8.5	8.5	8.5	L+2.90%	0.9%	7.9%	Dec 2024	1/0
45	Senior	TX	Apr 2022	8.0	8.0	8.0	L+2.90%	0.9%	8.0%	Aug 2024	1/0
46	Senior	MA	Apr 2022	7.7	7.7	7.7	L+2.90%	0.9%	8.0%	Nov 2024	1/0
47	Senior	MA	Apr 2022	6.7	6.6	6.6	L+2.90%	0.9%	8.0%	Oct 2024	1/0
48	Senior	МО	Jan 2021	6.5	6.5	6.5	L+3.00%	1.3%	8.0%	Dec 2023	1/0
49	Senior	NJ	Mar 2022	5.9	5.9	5.9	L+2.90%	0.9%	8.2%	Jul 2024	1/0
50	Senior	IL	Jan 2021	5.6	5.6	5.6	S+3.10%	0.9%	8.2%	Dec 2023	1/0
51	Senior	TX	Mar 2022	2.9	2.9	2.9	L+2.90%	0.9%	7.9%	Sep 2024	1/0
Tota	l Self Storage			\$99.1	\$99.0	\$98.6				300	
Stud	dent Housing L	oans:									
52	Senior	CA	Jun 2017	\$34.5	\$34.5	\$34.5	S+3.95%	0.5%	8.8%	Jul 2023	1/0
53	Senior	AL	Apr 2021	19.5	19.5	19.4	S+3.95%	0.1%	9.1%	May 2024	1/0
Tota	l Student Hou	sing		\$54.0	\$54.0	\$53.9					
0.21	n Portfolio Tota	al/Weighted	Average	\$2.388.3	\$2,194.9	\$2,173,2		1.0% ⁽²⁾	8.5%		

Note: As of March 31, 2023.

1. I/O = interest only, P/I = principal and interest.

2. The weighted average floor is calculated based on loans with LIBOR or SOFR floors.



Consolidated Balance Sheets

	As of					
(\$ in thousands, except share and per share data)	;	3/31/2023		12/31/2022		
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	153,764	\$	141,278		
Loans held for investment (\$846,718 and \$887,662 related to consolidated VIEs, respectively)		2,173,205		2,264,008		
Current expected credit loss reserve		(87,502)		(65,969		
Loans held for investment, net of current expected credit loss reserve		2,085,703		2,198,039		
Loans held for sale, at fair value		27,375		-		
Investment in available-for-sale debt securities, at fair value		28,007		27,936		
Other assets (\$2,959 and \$2,980 of interest receivable related to consolidated VIEs, respectively: \$128,334 and \$129,495 of other receivables related to consolidated VIEs, respectively)		149,471		155,749		
Total assets	\$	2,444,320	\$	2,523,002		
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY						
LIABILITIES						
Secured funding agreements	\$	698,153	\$	705,231		
Notes payable		104,509		104,460		
Secured term loan		149,247		149,200		
Collateralized loan obligation securitization debt (consolidated VIEs)		735,839		777,675		
Due to affiliate		3,899		5,580		
Dividends payable		19,346		19,347		
Other liabilities (\$1,942 and \$1,913 of interest payable related to consolidated VIEs, respectively)		15,024		13,969		
Total liabilities		1,726,017		1,775,462		
Commitments and contingencies						
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY						
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, 450,000,000 shares authorized at March 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 and 54,606,826 and 54,443,983 shares issued and outstanding at March 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, respectively		537		537		
Additional paid-in capital		813,748		812,788		
Accumulated other comprehensive income		3,129		7,54		
Accumulated earnings (deficit)		(99,111)		(73,326		
Total stockholders' equity		718,303		747,540		
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$	2,444,320	\$	2,523,002		



Consolidated Statements of Operations

	For the Three Months Ended								
(\$ in thousands, except share and per share data)	3	3/31/2023		12/31/2022		9/30/2022	6/30/2022		3/31/2022
Revenue:									
Interest income	\$	49,500	\$	52,552	\$	45,633	\$ 38,621	\$	33,364
Interest expense		(22,999)		(22,144)		(18,362)	(13,475)		(12,013)
Net interest margin		26,501		30,408		27,271	25,146		21,351
Revenue from real estate owned		-		-		-	-		2,672
Total revenue		26,501		30,408		27,271	25,146		24,023
Expenses:									
Management and incentive fees to affiliate		3,010		4,290		3,868	3,766		2,974
Professional fees		771		630		842	1,100		778
General and administrative expenses		1,685		1,777		1,416	1,587		1,613
General and administrative expenses reimbursed to affiliate		732		1,136		1,011	796		834
Expenses from real estate owned						0.05			4,309
Total expenses		6,198		7,833		7,137	7,249		10,508
Provision for current expected credit losses		21,019		19,402		19,485	7,768		(594
Realized losses on loans sold		5,613		_		-	-		-
Gain on sale of real estate owned		-		_		_	_		2,197
Income (loss) before income taxes		(6,329)		3,173		649	10,129		16,306
Income tax expense, including excise tax		110		264		5	98		105
Net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders	\$	(6,439)	\$	2,909	\$	644	\$ 10,031	\$	16,201
Earnings per common share:									
Basic earnings (loss) per common share	\$	(0.12)	\$	0.05	\$	0.01	\$ 0.20	\$	0.34
Diluted earnings (loss) per common share	\$	(0.12)	\$	0.05	\$	0.01	\$ 0.20	\$	0.34
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:									
Basic weighted average shares of common stock outstanding		54,591,650		54,427,041		54,415,545	50,562,559		47,204,397
Diluted weighted average shares of common stock outstanding		54,591,650		54,894,888		54,846,756	50,999,505		47,654,549
Dividends declared per share of common stock ⁽¹⁾	\$	0.35	\$	0.35	\$	0.35	\$ 0.35	\$	0.35

^{1.} There is no assurance dividends will continue at these levels or at all.



Reconciliation of Net Income to Non-GAAP Distributable Earnings

	For the Three Months Ended									
(\$ in thousands, except per share data)	3,	/31/2023		12/31/2022		9/30/2022		6/30/2022		3/31/2022
Net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders	\$	(6,439)	\$	2,909	\$	644	\$	10,031	\$	16,201
Stock-based compensation		960		738		673		699		766
Incentive fees to affiliate		_		1,264		855		965		358
Depreciation of real estate owned		-		200				-		(2,385)
Provision for current expected credit losses		21,019		19,402		19,485		7,768		(594)
Realized gain on termination of interest rate cap derivative ⁽¹⁾		(457)		(422)		(354)		(264)		1,960
Distributable Earnings	\$	15,083	\$	23,891	\$	21,303	\$	19,199	\$	16,306
Net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders	\$	(0.12)	\$	0.05	\$	0.01	\$	0.20	\$	0.34
Stock-based compensation		0.02		0.01		0.01		0.01		0.02
Incentive fees to affiliate		-		0.02		0.02		0.02		0.01
Depreciation of real estate owned		_		_		-		_		(0.05)
Provision for current expected credit losses		0.39		0.36		0.36		0.15		(0.01)
Realized gain on termination of interest rate cap derivative ⁽¹⁾		(0.01)		(0.01)		(0.01)		(0.01)		0.04
Basic Distributable Earnings per common share	\$	0.28	\$	0.44	\$	0.39	\$	0.38	\$	0.35
Net income (loss) attributable to common stockholders	\$	(0.12)	\$	0.05	\$	0.01	\$	0.20	\$	0.34
Stock-based compensation		0.02		0.01		0.01		0.01		0.02
Incentive fees to affiliate		-		0.02		0.02		0.02		-
Depreciation of real estate owned		_		: 		_		_		(0.05)
Provision for current expected credit losses		0.38		0.35		0.36		0.15		(0.01)
Realized gain on termination of interest rate cap derivative ⁽¹⁾		(0.01)		(0.01)		(0.01)		(0.01)		0.04
Diluted Distributable Earnings per common share	\$	0.27	\$	0.44	\$	0.39	\$	0.38	\$	0.34

^{1.} For the three months ended March 31, 2023, December 31, 2022, September 30, 2022, and June 30, 2022, Distributable Earnings includes \$0.5 million, \$0.4 million, \$0.4 million, \$0.4 million and \$0.3 million, respectively, adjustment to reverse the impact of the \$2.0 million realized gain from the termination of the interest rate cap derivative that was amortized into GAAP net income.



Glossary

Ares Warehouse

The Ares Warehouse represents a real estate debt warehouse investment vehicle maintained by an affiliate of ACREM. The Ares Warehouse holds Ares Management originated commercial real estate loans, which are made available to purchase by other investment vehicles, including ACRE and other Ares Management managed investment vehicles.

Distributable Earnings

Distributable Earnings is a non-GAAP financial measure that helps the Company evaluate its financial performance excluding the effects of certain transactions and GAAP adjustments that it believes are not necessarily indicative of its current loan origination portfolio and operations. To maintain the Company's REIT status, the Company is generally required to annually distribute to its stockholders substantially all of its taxable income. The Company believes the disclosure of Distributable Earnings provides useful information to investors regarding the Company's ability to pay dividends, which the Company believes is one of the principal reasons investors invest in the Company. The presentation of this additional information is not meant to be considered in isolation or as a substitute for financial results prepared in accordance with GAAP. Distributable Earnings is defined as net income (loss) computed in accordance with GAAP, excluding non-cash equity compensation expense, the incentive fees the Company pays to its Manager, depreciation and amortization (to the extent that any of the Company's target investments are structured as debt and the Company forecloses on any properties underlying such debt), any unrealized gains, losses or other non-cash items recorded in net income (loss) for the period, regardless of whether such items are included in other comprehensive income or loss, or in net income (loss), one-time events pursuant to changes in GAAP and certain non-cash charges after discussions between the Company's manager and the Company's independent directors and after approval by a majority of the Company's independent directors. Loan balances that are deemed to be uncollectible are written off as a realized loss and are included in Distributable Earnings. Distributable Earnings is aligned with the calculation of "Core Earnings," which is defined in the Management Agreement and is used to calculate the incentive fees the Company pays to its Manager.

Unleveraged Effective

Unleveraged effective yield is the compounded effective rate of return that would be earned over the life of the investment based on the contractual interest rate (adjusted for any deferred loan fees, costs, premiums or discounts) and assumes no dispositions, early prepayments or defaults.

Weighted Average Unleveraged Effective Yield

Weighted average unleveraged effective yield is calculated based on the average of unleveraged effective yield of all loans held by the Company as weighted by the outstanding principal balance of each loan.

