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TRI-CONTINENTAL CORP
Form N-CSRS
September 02, 2009

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

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act File Number 811-00266

TRI-CONTINENTAL CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

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

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

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

Date of fiscal year end: 12/31

Date of reporting period: 6/30

Semiannual Report

TRI-CONTINENTAL CORPORATION

SEMIANNUAL REPORT FOR
THE PERIOD ENDED
JUNE 30, 2009

TRI-CONTINENTAL CORPORATION SEEKS FUTURE GROWTH OF
BOTH CAPITAL AND INCOME, WHILE PROVIDING REASONABLE
CURRENT INCOME.

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 TRI-CONTINENTAL CORPORATION -- 2009 SEMIANNUAL REPORT 1

YOUR FUND AT A GLANCE -----
 (UNAUDITED)

FUND SUMMARY

- > Tri-Continental Corporation (the Fund) common stock declined 0.19% based on net asset value and 5.64% based on market price for the six-month period ended June 30, 2009.
- > The Fund underperformed its benchmark, the S&P 500 Index, which gained 3.16% for the six-month period.
- > The Fund underperformed its peer group, as represented by the Lipper Closed-End Core Funds Average, which gained 5.77% for the same period.

ANNUALIZED TOTAL RETURNS (for period ended June 30, 2009)

| | 6 MONTHS* | 1 YEAR | 3 YEARS | 5 YEARS | 10 YEARS |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Tri-Continental Corporation | | | | | |
| Market Price | -5.64% | -39.55% | -15.11% | -6.15% | -5.25% |
| Net Asset Value | -0.19% | -35.07% | -13.57% | -6.10% | -5.21% |
| S&P 500 Index(1) (unmanaged) | +3.16% | -26.21% | -8.22% | -2.24% | -2.22% |
| Lipper Closed-End Core | | | | | |

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| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| Funds Average(2) | +5.77% | -28.93% | -10.20% | -2.65% | -0.29% |
| ----- | | | | | |
| Lipper Large-Cap Core Funds Average(3) | +4.83% | -25.92% | -8.14% | -2.21% | -1.82% |
| ----- | | | | | |

* Not annualized.

The performance information shown represents past performance and is not a guarantee of future results. The investment return and principal value of your investment will fluctuate so that your shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance information shown. You may obtain performance information current to the most recent month-end by visiting seligman.com. J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated, former investment manager of the Fund, made certain payments to the Fund in 2004. Absent such payments, the net asset value returns that include this period would have been lower.

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

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The index and the averages do not reflect the effects of sales charges, expenses (excluding Lipper) and taxes. It is not possible to invest directly in an index or an average.

- (1) The Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Stock Price Index (S&P 500 Index), an unmanaged index of common stocks, is frequently used as a general measure of market performance. The index reflects reinvestment of all distributions and changes in market prices.
- (2) The Lipper Closed-End Core Funds Average measures the performance of closed-end funds. The average reflects reinvestment of all distributions and changes in market prices.
- (3) The Lipper Large-Cap Core Funds Average includes open-end funds that, by portfolio practice, invest at least 75% of their assets in companies with market capitalizations (on a three-year weighted basis) above Lipper's U.S. Diversified Equity large-cap floor. Large-cap core funds typically have an average price-to-earnings ratio, price-to-book ratio, and three-year sales-per-share growth value relative to the S&P 500 Index. The average reflects reinvestment of all distributions and changes in market prices. The Lipper Large-Cap Core Funds Average is provided for comparative purposes so that the Fund's performance can be measured against both closed-end and open-end funds with similar portfolio holdings as the Fund. Lipper classifies the Fund, based on its portfolio holdings, as a Closed-End Core Fund.

PRICE PER SHARE

JUNE 30, 2009 MARCH 31, 2009 DEC. 31, 2008

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| | | | |
|-----------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Market price | \$ 9.19 | \$8.42 | \$ 9.86 |
| Net asset value | 11.13 | 9.74 | 11.29 |

DIVIDEND AND CAPITAL GAIN INFORMATION (for period ended June 30, 2009)

| DISTRIBUTIONS PAID (a) | CAPITAL GAIN (LOSS) | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | REALIZED | UNREALIZED GAIN (b) | UNREALIZED LOSS (b) |
| \$0.11 | \$(2.38) | \$0.58 | \$(2.90) |

- (a) Preferred Stockholders were paid dividends totaling \$1.25 per share.
 (b) Represents the per share amount of gross unrealized gain or loss on portfolio securities as of June 30, 2009.

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

TRI-CONTINENTAL CORPORATION -- 2009 SEMIANNUAL REPORT 3

YOUR FUND AT A GLANCE (continued)

STYLE MATRIX

| VALUE | STYLE BLEND | GROWTH | | |
|-------|----------------|--------|--------|------|
| | | X | LARGE | |
| | | | MEDIUM | SIZE |
| | | | SMALL | |

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Shading within the style matrix approximates areas in which the Fund is designed to generally invest.

The style matrix can be a valuable tool for constructing and monitoring your portfolio. It provides a frame of reference for distinguishing the types of stocks or bonds owned by a fund, and may serve as a guideline for helping you build a portfolio.

Investment products, including shares of funds, are not federally or FDIC-insured, are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by any financial institution, and involve investment risks including possible loss of principal and fluctuation in value.

SECTOR DIVERSIFICATION(1) (at June 30, 2009; % of portfolio assets)

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Consumer Discretionary | 9.2% |
| Consumer Staples | 11.0% |
| Energy | 12.6% |
| Financials | 15.8% |
| Health Care | 22.6% |
| Industrials | 5.6% |
| Information Technology | 13.0% |
| Materials | 2.2% |
| Telecommunication Services | 2.6% |
| Utilities | 3.1% |
| Other(2) | 2.3% |

(1) Sectors can be comprised of several industries. Please refer to the section entitled "Portfolio of Investments" for a complete listing. No single industry exceeds 25% of portfolio assets.

Percentages indicated are based upon total investments (excluding Investments of Cash Collateral Received for Securities on Loan) as of June 30, 2009. The Fund's composition is subject to change.

(2) Cash & Cash Equivalentents.

The sectors identified above are based on the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS), which was developed by and is the exclusive property of Morgan Stanley Capital International Inc. and Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

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TOP TEN HOLDINGS (at June 30, 2009; % of portfolio assets)

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Chevron | 5.7% |
| Johnson & Johnson | 4.7% |
| Procter & Gamble | 4.3% |
| Pfizer | 4.2% |
| McDonald's | 3.6% |
| IBM | 3.0% |
| Home Depot | 3.0% |
| Amgen | 2.5% |
| Bank of America | 2.4% |
| Occidental Petroleum | 1.8% |

Excludes cash & cash equivalents.

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

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

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PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS -----

JUNE 30, 2009 (UNAUDITED)
(Percentages represent value of investments compared to net assets)

INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES

COMMON STOCKS (97.3%)
ISSUER

SHARES

VALUE (a)

AEROSPACE & DEFENSE (1.4%)

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| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Boeing | 59,616 | \$2,533,680 |
| General Dynamics | 96,271 | 5,332,450 |
| ITT | 18,839 | 838,336 |
| Northrop Grumman | 29,620 | 1,353,042 |
| United Technologies | 37,005 | 1,922,780 |
| Total | | 11,980,288 |
| ----- | | |
| AIR FREIGHT & LOGISTICS (0.6%) | | |
| CH Robinson Worldwide | 26,764 | 1,395,743 |
| FedEx | 58,611 | 3,259,943 |
| Total | | 4,655,686 |
| ----- | | |
| AUTO COMPONENTS (0.2%) | | |
| Johnson Controls | 66,547 | 1,445,401 |
| ----- | | |
| AUTOMOBILES (0.1%) | | |
| Harley-Davidson | 47,514 | 770,202 |
| ----- | | |
| BEVERAGES (2.4%) | | |
| Brown-Forman Cl B | 20,369 | 875,460 |
| Coca-Cola | 191,183 | 9,174,872 |
| PepsiCo | 173,093 | 9,513,191 |
| Total | | 19,563,523 |
| ----- | | |
| BIOTECHNOLOGY (3.0%) | | |
| Amgen | 392,867 (b) | 20,798,379 |
| Biogen Idec | 21,192 (b) | 956,819 |
| Cephalon | 31,037 (b) | 1,758,246 |
| Gilead Sciences | 13,835 (b) | 648,031 |
| Total | | 24,161,475 |
| ----- | | |
| BUILDING PRODUCTS (0.1%) | | |
| Masco | 68,608 | 657,265 |
| ----- | | |
| CAPITAL MARKETS (2.7%) | | |
| Bank of New York Mellon | 104,993 | 3,077,344 |
| Charles Schwab | 42,014 | 736,926 |
| Goldman Sachs Group | 16,649 | 2,454,729 |
| Morgan Stanley | 405,709 | 11,566,763 |
| State Street | 61,120 | 2,884,864 |
| WCAS Capital Partners II LP | 4,292,803 (f,h) | 1,352,233 |
| Total | | 22,072,859 |
| ----- | | |
| CHEMICALS (1.1%) | | |
| CF Inds Holdings | 9,852 | 730,427 |
| Dow Chemical | 350,196 | 5,652,163 |
| EI du Pont de Nemours & Co | 70,716 | 1,811,744 |
| PPG Inds | 26,162 | 1,148,512 |
| ----- | | |

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Total 9,342,846

COMMERCIAL BANKS (2.2%)

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| BB&T | 70,863 | 1,557,569 |
| Comerica | 50,712 | 1,072,559 |
| Fifth Third Bancorp | 98,736 | 701,026 |
| First Horizon Natl | 73,739 | 884,864 |
| KeyCorp | 123,471 | 646,988 |
| Marshall & Ilsley | 140,663 | 675,182 |
| PNC Financial Services Group | 68,155 | 2,645,096 |
| SunTrust Banks | 61,720 | 1,015,294 |
| Wells Fargo & Co | 359,945 | 8,732,265 |

Total 17,930,843

COMMERCIAL SERVICES & SUPPLIES (0.5%)

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| Avery Dennison | 27,121 | 696,467 |
| Iron Mountain | 27,654 (b) | 795,053 |
| Republic Services | 81,844 | 1,997,812 |
| Stericycle | 15,157 (b) | 781,040 |

Total 4,270,372

COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT (2.3%)

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| Cisco Systems | 259,043 (b) | 4,828,562 |
| Corning | 326,269 | 5,239,880 |
| Motorola | 406,815 | 2,697,183 |
| QUALCOMM | 137,914 | 6,233,713 |

Total 18,999,338

See accompanying Notes to Portfolio of Investments.

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COMMON STOCKS (CONTINUED)

| ISSUER | SHARES | VALUE (a) |
|--------|--------|-----------|
|--------|--------|-----------|

COMPUTERS & PERIPHERALS (4.3%)

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Dell | 351,031 (b) | \$4,819,656 |
| Hewlett-Packard | 110,964 | 4,288,759 |
| IBM | 232,905 (d) | 24,319,939 |
| Lexmark Intl Cl A | 64,655 (b) | 1,024,782 |
| QLogic | 74,089 (b) | 939,449 |

Total 35,392,585

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| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING (0.2%) | | |
| Fluor | 25,350 | 1,300,202 |
| ----- | | |
| CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS (0.2%) | | |
| Vulcan Materials | 36,162 | 1,558,582 |
| ----- | | |
| CONSUMER FINANCE (0.7%) | | |
| American Express | 29,059 | 675,331 |
| Capital One Financial | 110,776 | 2,423,779 |
| Discover Financial Services | 99,564 | 1,022,522 |
| SLM | 129,265 (b) | 1,327,552 |
| Total | | 5,449,184 |
| ----- | | |
| DISTRIBUTORS (0.1%) | | |
| Genuine Parts | 29,421 | 987,369 |
| ----- | | |
| DIVERSIFIED CONSUMER SERVICES (0.6%) | | |
| Apollo Group Cl A | 45,020 (b) | 3,201,822 |
| H&R Block | 77,095 | 1,328,347 |
| Total | | 4,530,169 |
| ----- | | |
| DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICES (4.7%) | | |
| Bank of America | 1,472,802 | 19,440,987 |
| CIT Group | 137,161 | 294,896 |
| Citigroup | 2,617,393 | 7,773,657 |
| CME Group | 2,791 | 868,308 |
| JPMorgan Chase & Co | 292,301 | 9,970,387 |
| Total | | 38,348,235 |
| ----- | | |
| DIVERSIFIED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES (2.1%) | | |
| AT&T | 60,738 | 1,508,732 |
| CenturyTel | 36,445 | 1,118,862 |
| Frontier Communications | 80,589 | 575,405 |
| Qwest Communications Intl | 183,030 | 759,575 |
| Verizon Communications | 415,670 | 12,773,538 |
| Total | | 16,736,112 |
| ----- | | |
| ELECTRIC UTILITIES (1.6%) | | |
| Edison Intl | 29,772 | 936,627 |
| Northeast Utilities | 38,587 | 860,876 |
| Pinnacle West Capital | 30,607 | 922,801 |
| Progress Energy | 84,011 | 3,178,136 |
| Southern | 238,044 | 7,417,451 |
| Total | | 13,315,891 |
| ----- | | |
| ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT (0.4%) | | |
| Emerson Electric | 68,399 | 2,216,128 |
| Rockwell Automation | 24,160 | 776,019 |
| ----- | | |

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| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Total | | 2,992,147 |
| ----- | | |
| ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, INSTRUMENTS & COMPONENTS (0.5%) | | |
| FLIR Systems | 39,880 (b) | 899,693 |
| Jabil Circuit | 166,965 | 1,238,880 |
| Tyco Electronics | 121,885 (c) | 2,265,842 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | | 4,404,415 |
| ----- | | |
| ENERGY EQUIPMENT & SERVICES (2.1%) | | |
| Baker Hughes | 67,743 | 2,468,555 |
| BJ Services | 96,118 | 1,310,088 |
| Diamond Offshore Drilling | 11,999 | 996,517 |
| ENSCO Intl | 65,568 | 2,286,356 |
| Halliburton | 202,292 | 4,187,444 |
| Nabors Inds | 16,496 (b, c) | 257,008 |
| Natl Oilwell Varco | 76,799 (b) | 2,508,255 |
| Noble | 62,178 | 1,880,885 |
| Smith Intl | 29,906 | 770,080 |
| Weatherford Intl | 11,912 (b, c) | 232,999 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | | 16,898,187 |
| ----- | | |
| FOOD & STAPLES RETAILING (1.0%) | | |
| SYSCO | 75,211 | 1,690,743 |
| Walgreen | 82,882 | 2,436,731 |
| Wal-Mart Stores | 90,429 | 4,380,381 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | | 8,507,855 |
| ----- | | |
| FOOD PRODUCTS (1.1%) | | |
| Archer-Daniels-Midland | 57,068 | 1,527,710 |
| Campbell Soup | 29,686 | 873,362 |
| Dean Foods | 40,694 (b) | 780,918 |
| General Mills | 52,101 | 2,918,698 |
| JM Smucker | 26,839 | 1,305,986 |

See accompanying Notes to Portfolio of Investments.

 TRI-CONTINENTAL CORPORATION -- 2009 SEMIANNUAL REPORT 7

PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (continued) -----

| COMMON STOCKS (CONTINUED) | | |
|---------------------------|--------|-----------|
| ISSUER | SHARES | VALUE (a) |
| FOOD PRODUCTS (CONT.) | | |
| Kellogg | 19,352 | \$901,223 |
| Sara Lee | 85,249 | 832,030 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | | 9,139,927 |

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| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| ----- | | |
| GAS UTILITIES (0.2%) | | |
| Nicor | 24,521 | 848,917 |
| Questar | 22,473 | 698,011 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | | 1,546,928 |
| ----- | | |
| HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES (0.5%) | | |
| Becton Dickinson & Co | 27,125 | 1,934,283 |
| Covidien | 38,683 (c) | 1,448,292 |
| Medtronic | 31,535 | 1,100,256 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | | 4,482,831 |
| ----- | | |
| HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS & SERVICES (2.5%) | | |
| Cardinal Health | 57,345 | 1,751,890 |
| CIGNA | 125,553 | 3,024,572 |
| DaVita | 32,035 (b) | 1,584,451 |
| Humana | 24,709 (b) | 797,112 |
| Laboratory Corp of America Holdings | 12,563 (b) | 851,646 |
| McKesson | 39,454 | 1,735,976 |
| Quest Diagnostics | 58,653 | 3,309,789 |
| UnitedHealth Group | 281,928 | 7,042,561 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | | 20,097,997 |
| ----- | | |
| HOTELS, RESTAURANTS & LEISURE (3.7%) | | |
| McDonald's | 508,270 | 29,220,442 |
| Starbucks | 56,747 (b) | 788,216 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | | 30,008,658 |
| ----- | | |
| HOUSEHOLD DURABLES (0.2%) | | |
| Leggett & Platt | 56,843 | 865,719 |
| Pulte Homes | 81,133 | 716,404 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | | 1,582,123 |
| ----- | | |
| HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS (5.2%) | | |
| Clorox | 42,557 | 2,375,957 |
| Colgate-Palmolive | 73,635 | 5,208,940 |
| Procter & Gamble | 687,232 | 35,117,555 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | | 42,702,452 |
| ----- | | |
| INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS & ENERGY TRADERS (0.1%) | | |
| Constellation Energy Group | 35,925 | 954,887 |
| | | ----- |
| INDUSTRIAL CONGLOMERATES (0.9%) | | |
| General Electric | 288,775 | 3,384,443 |
| Textron | 66,356 | 640,999 |
| Tyco Intl | 115,005 (c) | 2,987,830 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | | 7,013,272 |

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| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| INSURANCE (4.8%) | | |
| AFLAC | 55,592 | 1,728,355 |
| Allstate | 353,880 | 8,634,673 |
| Aon | 84,339 | 3,193,918 |
| Assurant | 28,410 | 684,397 |
| Chubb | 59,901 | 2,388,852 |
| Hartford Financial Services Group | 61,987 | 735,786 |
| Lincoln Natl | 49,430 | 850,690 |
| Marsh & McLennan Companies | 74,640 | 1,502,503 |
| MetLife | 172,900 | 5,188,729 |
| Principal Financial Group | 62,611 | 1,179,591 |
| Progressive | 196,964 (b) | 2,976,126 |
| Prudential Financial | 31,793 | 1,183,335 |
| Torchmark | 41,023 | 1,519,492 |
| Travelers Companies | 152,125 | 6,243,210 |
| Unum Group | 57,272 | 908,334 |
| Total | | 38,917,991 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| IT SERVICES (1.3%) | | |
| Affiliated Computer Services Cl A | 28,552 (b) | 1,268,280 |
| Automatic Data Processing | 103,230 | 3,658,472 |
| Computer Sciences | 29,428 (b) | 1,303,660 |
| MasterCard Cl A | 15,243 | 2,550,306 |
| Paychex | 68,965 | 1,737,918 |
| Total | | 10,518,636 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| LEISURE EQUIPMENT & PRODUCTS (0.2%) | | |
| Hasbro | 17,965 | 435,472 |
| Mattel | 66,506 | 1,067,421 |
| Total | | 1,502,893 |

See accompanying Notes to Portfolio of Investments.

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| COMMON STOCKS (CONTINUED) | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| ISSUER | SHARES | VALUE (a) |
| MACHINERY (1.2%) | | |
| Cummins | 36,900 | \$1,299,249 |
| Eaton | 30,441 | 1,357,973 |
| Illinois Tool Works | 67,069 | 2,504,357 |
| Ingersoll-Rand | 108,637 (c) | 2,270,513 |
| PACCAR | 30,371 | 987,361 |

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| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Parker Hannifin | 27,786 | 1,193,687 |
| Total | | 9,613,140 |
| ----- | | |
| MEDIA (1.0%) | | |
| CBS Cl B | 202,002 | 1,397,854 |
| Comcast Cl A | 220,998 | 3,202,261 |
| DIRECTV Group | 82,626 (b) | 2,041,688 |
| Gannett | 234,802 | 838,243 |
| News Corp Cl A | 107,443 | 978,806 |
| Total | | 8,458,852 |
| ----- | | |
| METALS & MINING (0.8%) | | |
| Alcoa | 60,562 | 625,605 |
| Allegheny Technologies | 24,486 | 855,296 |
| Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold | 28,588 | 1,432,544 |
| Newmont Mining | 34,888 | 1,425,873 |
| Nucor | 29,439 | 1,307,975 |
| United States Steel | 30,531 | 1,091,178 |
| Total | | 6,738,471 |
| ----- | | |
| MULTILINE RETAIL (0.8%) | | |
| Family Dollar Stores | 71,498 | 2,023,393 |
| JC Penney | 29,136 | 836,495 |
| Kohl's | 58,972 (b) | 2,521,053 |
| Macy's | 65,125 | 765,870 |
| Total | | 6,146,811 |
| ----- | | |
| MULTI-UTILITIES (1.2%) | | |
| Consolidated Edison | 61,365 | 2,296,278 |
| PG&E | 141,394 | 5,435,185 |
| SCANA | 27,155 | 881,723 |
| Xcel Energy | 66,717 | 1,228,260 |
| Total | | 9,841,446 |
| ----- | | |
| OFFICE ELECTRONICS (0.1%) | | |
| Xerox | 123,011 | 797,111 |
| ----- | | |
| OIL, GAS & CONSUMABLE FUELS (10.6%) | | |
| Apache | 63,178 | 4,558,293 |
| Chevron | 708,056 (d) | 46,908,711 |
| ConocoPhillips | 123,756 | 5,205,177 |
| Hess | 53,467 | 2,873,851 |
| Marathon Oil | 160,201 | 4,826,856 |
| Murphy Oil | 34,239 | 1,859,862 |
| Occidental Petroleum | 223,422 | 14,703,403 |
| Peabody Energy | 52,438 | 1,581,530 |
| Sunoco | 24,149 | 560,257 |
| Tesoro | 44,673 | 568,687 |
| Valero Energy | 109,961 | 1,857,241 |
| Williams Companies | 47,673 | 744,176 |
| ----- | | |

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| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total | | 86,248,044 |
| ----- | | |
| PHARMACEUTICALS (12.9%) | | |
| Abbott Laboratories | 36,220 | 1,703,789 |
| Allergan | 22,029 | 1,048,140 |
| Bristol-Myers Squibb | 72,690 | 1,476,334 |
| Eli Lilly & Co | 69,672 | 2,413,438 |
| Forest Laboratories | 114,465 (b) | 2,874,216 |
| Johnson & Johnson | 671,478 | 38,139,949 |
| King Pharmaceuticals | 64,212 (b) | 618,362 |
| Merck & Co | 309,587 | 8,656,053 |
| Pfizer | 2,293,822 | 34,407,330 |
| Schering-Plough | 352,988 | 8,867,059 |
| Wyeth | 112,068 | 5,086,767 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | | 105,291,437 |
| ----- | | |
| PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (0.1%) | | |
| Dun & Bradstreet | 9,432 | 765,973 |
| ----- | | |
| ROAD & RAIL (0.1%) | | |
| Norfolk Southern | 28,132 | 1,059,732 |
| ----- | | |
| SEMICONDUCTORS & SEMICONDUCTOR EQUIPMENT (2.1%) | | |
| Altera | 22,501 | 366,316 |
| Intel | 743,067 | 12,297,759 |
| Linear Technology | 28,598 | 667,763 |
| MEMC Electronic Materials | 75,552 (b) | 1,345,581 |
| Microchip Technology | 48,510 | 1,093,901 |
| Xilinx | 83,265 | 1,703,602 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | | 17,474,922 |
| ----- | | |

See accompanying Notes to Portfolio of Investments.

 TRI-CONTINENTAL CORPORATION -- 2009 SEMIANNUAL REPORT 9

PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (continued) -----

| COMMON STOCKS (CONTINUED) | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------|
| ISSUER | SHARES | VALUE (a) |
| SOFTWARE (2.3%) | | |
| BMC Software | 17,722 (b) | \$598,826 |
| Intuit | 59,727 (b) | 1,681,912 |
| Macrovision Solutions | 590,649 (b) | 12,882,055 |
| Symantec | 214,023 (b) | 3,330,198 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | | 18,492,991 |

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| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|--|------------|
| SPECIALTY RETAIL (5.5%) | | | |
| Abercrombie & Fitch Cl A | 42,922 | | 1,089,790 |
| AutoNation | 50,188 (b) | | 870,762 |
| AutoZone | 8,613 (b) | | 1,301,510 |
| Bed Bath & Beyond | 79,348 (b) | | 2,439,951 |
| Best Buy | 33,771 | | 1,130,991 |
| Gap | 136,021 | | 2,230,744 |
| Home Depot | 1,028,999 | | 24,315,246 |
| Lowe's Companies | 312,372 | | 6,063,141 |
| O'Reilly Automotive | 49,800 (b) | | 1,896,384 |
| Sherwin-Williams | 60,838 | | 3,270,043 |
| Total | | | 44,608,562 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|--|-----------|
| TEXTILES, APPAREL & LUXURY GOODS (0.6%) | | | |
| Coach | 47,997 | | 1,290,159 |
| Nike Cl B | 53,138 | | 2,751,486 |
| VF | 19,467 | | 1,077,498 |
| Total | | | 5,119,143 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--|-----------|
| THRIFTS & MORTGAGE FINANCE (0.3%) | | | |
| People's United Financial | 181,962 | | 2,736,708 |

| | | | |
|----------------|---------|--|-----------|
| TOBACCO (1.2%) | | | |
| Altria Group | 446,561 | | 7,319,135 |
| Lorillard | 37,660 | | 2,552,218 |
| Total | | | 9,871,353 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|--|-----------|
| TRADING COMPANIES & DISTRIBUTORS (0.1%) | | | |
| Fastenal | 23,363 | | 774,951 |
| WW Grainger | 4,874 | | 399,083 |
| Total | | | 1,174,034 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|--|-----------|
| WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES (0.6%) | | | |
| Sprint Nextel | 933,158 (b) | | 4,488,490 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|---------------|
| TOTAL COMMON STOCKS | | | |
| (Cost: \$929,915,289) | | | \$793,666,846 |

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|
| BONDS (0.4%) | | | |
| ISSUER | COUPON RATE | PRINCIPAL AMOUNT | VALUE (a) |
| BROKERAGE | | | |

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Lehman Brothers Holdings
 Equity-Linked Notes (ELNs)
 Sr Unsecured

| | | | |
|----------|--------|---------------------|-------------|
| 09-14-08 | 53.31% | \$148,440 (b, e, f) | \$1,584,389 |
| 10-02-08 | 39.50 | 148,440 (b, e, f) | 1,961,783 |

Total 3,546,172

TOTAL BONDS
 (Cost: \$29,688,000) \$3,546,172

MONEY MARKET FUND (2.3%)

| | SHARES | VALUE (a) |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| RiverSource Short-Term Cash Fund, 0.30% | 19,045,128 (g) | \$19,045,128 |

TOTAL MONEY MARKET FUND
 (Cost: \$19,045,128) \$19,045,128

TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES
 (Cost: \$978,648,417) (i) \$816,258,146

INVESTMENTS IN DERIVATIVES
 FUTURES CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING AT JUNE 30, 2009

| CONTRACT DESCRIPTION | NUMBER OF CONTRACTS LONG (SHORT) | NOTIONAL MARKET VALUE | EXPIRATION DATE | UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| S&P 500 Index | 46 | 10,528,250 | Sept. 2009 | (241,084) |

See accompanying Notes to Portfolio of Investments.

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NOTES TO PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS

- (a) Securities are valued by using policies described in Note 2 to the financial statements.
- (b) Non-income producing. For long-term debt securities, item identified is in default as to payment of interest and/or principal.
- (c) Foreign security values are stated in U.S. dollars. At June 30, 2009, the value of foreign securities represented 1.2% of net assets.
- (d) At June 30, 2009, investments in securities included securities valued at \$1,997,590 that were partially pledged as collateral to cover initial margin deposits on open stock index futures contracts.
- (e) This position is in bankruptcy.
- (f) Identifies issues considered to be illiquid as to their marketability (see Note 2 to the financial statements). The aggregate value of such securities at June 30, 2009 was \$4,898,405 representing 0.6% of net assets. Information concerning such security holdings at June 30, 2009 is as follows:

| SECURITY | ACQUISITION DATES | COST |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| ----- | | |
| Lehman Brothers Holdings | | |
| 53.31% 2008 | 03-07-08 | \$14,844,000 |
| 39.50% 2008 | 03-26-08 | 14,844,000 |
| WCAS Capital Partners II | | |
| LP | 12-11-90 thru 03-24-98 | 4,292,803 |

- (g) Affiliated Money Market Fund -- See Note 7 to the financial statements. The rate shown is the seven-day current annualized yield at June 30, 2009.
- (h) Restricted security.
- (i) At June 30, 2009, the cost of securities for federal income tax purposes was approximately \$978,648,000 and the approximate aggregate gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation based on that cost was:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Unrealized appreciation | \$40,373,000 |
| Unrealized depreciation | (202,763,000) |
| ----- | |
| Net unrealized depreciation | \$ (162,390,000) |
| ----- | |

The industries identified above are based on the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS), which was developed by and is the exclusive property of Morgan Stanley Capital International Inc. and Standard & Poor's, a division of The

McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

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PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (continued) -----

FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 157 (SFAS 157) requires disclosure regarding the inputs and valuation techniques used to measure fair value and any changes in valuation inputs or techniques. In addition, investments shall be disclosed by major category.

SFAS 157 establishes a fair value hierarchy for inputs used in measuring fair value that maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs by prioritizing that the most observable input be used when available. Observable inputs are those that market participants would use in pricing an investment based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity. Unobservable inputs are those that reflect the Fund's assumptions about the information market participants would use in pricing an investment. An investment's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is deemed significant to the asset or liability's fair value measurement. When a valuation uses multiple inputs from varying levels of the hierarchy, the hierarchy level is determined based on the lowest level input or inputs that are significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. The input levels are not necessarily an indication of the risk or liquidity associated with investments at that level. For example, certain U.S. government securities are generally high quality and liquid, however, they are reflected as Level 2 because the inputs used to determine fair value may not always be quoted prices in an active market.

Fair value inputs are summarized in the three broad levels listed below:

- Level 1 -- Valuations based on quoted prices for investments in active markets that the Fund has the ability to access at the measurement date. Valuation adjustments are not applied to Level 1 investments.
- Level 2 -- Valuations based on other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risks, etc.).
- Level 3 -- Valuations based on significant unobservable inputs (including the Fund's own assumptions and judgment in determining the fair value of investments).

Inputs that are used in determining fair value of an investment may include price information, credit data, volatility statistics, and other factors. These inputs can be either observable or unobservable. The availability of observable inputs can vary between investments, and is affected by various factors such as the type of investment, and the volume and level of activity for that investment or similar investments in the marketplace. The inputs will be considered by the Fund Administrator, along with any other relevant factors in the calculation of an investment's fair value. The Fund uses prices and inputs that are current as of the measurement date, which may include periods of market dislocations. During these periods, the availability of prices and inputs may be reduced for many investments. This condition could cause an investment to be reclassified

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between the various levels within the hierarchy.

Non-U.S. equity securities actively traded in foreign markets may be reflected in Level 2 despite the availability of closing prices, because the Fund evaluates and determines whether those closing prices reflect fair value at the close of the NYSE or require adjustment, as described in Note 2 to the financial statements -- Valuation of securities.

Investments falling into the Level 3 category are primarily supported by quoted prices from brokers and dealers participating in the market for those investments. However, these may be classified as

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FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (CONTINUED)

Level 3 investments due to lack of market transparency and corroboration to support these quoted prices. Additionally, valuation models may be used as the pricing source for any remaining investments classified as Level 3. These models rely on one or more significant unobservable inputs and/or significant assumptions by the Fund Administrator. Inputs used in a valuation model may include, but are not limited to, financial statement analysis, discount rates and estimated cash flows, and comparable company data.

The following table is a summary of the inputs used to value the Fund's investments as of June 30, 2009:

| DESCRIPTION | FAIR VALUE AT JUNE 30, 2009 | | | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| | LEVEL 1 QUOTED PRICES IN ACTIVE MARKETS FOR IDENTICAL ASSETS | LEVEL 2 OTHER SIGNIFICANT OBSERVABLE INPUTS | LEVEL 3 SIGNIFICANT UNOBSERVABLE INPUTS | |
| ----- | | | | |
| Equity Securities | | | | |
| Common Stocks | | | | |
| Capital Markets | \$20,720,626 | \$-- | \$1,352,233 | \$22,072,859 |
| Other | 771,593,987 (a) | -- | -- | 771,593,987 |
| ----- | | | | |
| Total Equity Securities | 792,314,613 | -- | 1,352,233 | 793,666,846 |
| ----- | | | | |
| Bonds | | | | |
| Corporate Debt | | | | |
| Securities | -- | 3,546,172 | -- | 3,546,172 |
| ----- | | | | |
| Total Bonds | -- | 3,546,172 | -- | 3,546,172 |
| ----- | | | | |
| Other | | | | |
| Affiliated Money | | | | |
| Market Fund | 19,045,128 (b) | -- | -- | 19,045,128 |

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| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Total Other | 19,045,128 | -- | -- | 19,045,128 |
| Investments in Securities | 811,359,741 | 3,546,172 | 1,352,233 | 816,258,146 |
| Other Financial Instruments | (241,084) (c) | -- | -- | (241,084) |
| Total | \$811,118,657 | \$3,546,172 | \$1,352,233 | \$816,017,062 |

- (a) All other industry classifications are identified in the Portfolio of Investments.
- (b) Money market fund that is a sweep investment for cash balances in the Fund at June 30, 2009.
- (c) Other financial instruments are derivative instruments, such as futures, which are valued at the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on the instrument.

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PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (continued)

FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (CONTINUED)

The following table is a reconciliation of Level 3 assets for which significant unobservable inputs were used to determine fair value.

| | COMMON STOCKS |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Balance as of Dec. 31, 2008 | \$1,893,126 |
| Accrued discounts/premiums | -- |
| Realized gain (loss) | -- |
| Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) | (540,893) |
| Net purchases (sales) | -- |
| Transfers in and/or out of Level 3 | -- |
| Balance as of June 30, 2009 | \$1,352,233 |

HOW TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND'S QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

- (i) The Fund files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the

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Securities and Exchange Commission (Commission) for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q;

- (ii) The Fund's Forms N-Q are available on the Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov>;
- (iii) The Fund's Forms N-Q may be reviewed and copied at the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC (information on the operations of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling 1-800-SEC-0330); and
- (iv) The Fund's complete schedule of portfolio holdings, as filed on Form N-Q, can be obtained without charge, upon request, by calling the RiverSource Family of Funds at 1(800) 221-2450.

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
 JUNE 30, 2009 (UNAUDITED)

ASSETS

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Investments in securities, at value | |
| Unaffiliated issuers (identified cost \$959,603,289) | \$797,213,018 |
| Affiliated money market fund (identified cost \$19,045,128) | 19,045,128 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total investments (identified cost \$978,648,417) | 816,258,146 |
| Cash | 650,844 |
| Dividends and accrued interest receivable | 1,017,664 |
| Variation margin receivable on futures contracts | 18,400 |
| Other assets | 47,490 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total assets | 817,992,544 |
| <hr/> | |
| LIABILITIES | |
| Preferred Stock dividends payable | 470,463 |
| Accrued investment management services fees | 245,625 |
| Accrued Stockholder servicing and transfer agency fees | 973,679 |
| Accrued administrative services fees | 22,345 |
| Accrued stockholders' meeting fees | 65,761 |
| Other accrued expenses | 358,216 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total liabilities | 2,136,089 |
| <hr/> | |
| NET INVESTMENT ASSETS | 815,856,455 |
| Preferred Stock | 37,637,000 |
| <hr/> | |
| NET ASSETS FOR COMMON STOCK | \$778,219,455 |
| <hr/> | |
| Net assets per share of Common Stock | |
| (Market value -- \$9.19) | \$ 11.13 |
| <hr/> | |

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

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STATEMENT OF CAPITAL STOCK AND SURPLUS -----

JUNE 30, 2009 (UNAUDITED)

CAPITAL STOCK

\$2.50 Cumulative Preferred Stock, \$50 par value, assets

coverage per share \$1,084

Shares authorized -- 1,000,000; issued and

outstanding -- 752,740

\$ 37,637,000

Common Stock, \$0.50 par value:

Shares authorized -- 159,000,000; issued and

outstanding -- 69,903,600

34,951,800

SURPLUS

Capital surplus

1,734,700,922

Excess of dividends over net investment income

(1,746,554)

Accumulated net realized gain (loss)

(827,055,358)

Net unrealized depreciation on investments

(162,631,355)

NET INVESTMENT ASSETS

\$ 815,856,455

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

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STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS -----

SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

INVESTMENT INCOME

Income:

Dividends

\$ 11,497,927

Income distributions from affiliated money market fund

2,360

Total income

11,500,287

Expenses:

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| | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Investment management services fees | 1,537,418 |
| Stockholder servicing and transfer agency fees | 2,196,809 |
| Administrative services fees | 22,345 |
| Custodian fees | 86,332 |
| Stockholders' meeting fees | 98,135 |
| Printing and postage | 246,600 |
| Professional fees | 35,989 |
| Compensation of board members | 12,730 |
| Tender offer fees | 479,860 |
| Other | 225,103 |
| ----- | |
| Total expenses | 4,941,321 |
| ----- | |
| Investment income (loss) -- net* | 6,558,966 |
| ----- | |

REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) -- NET

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Net realized gain (loss) on: | |
| Security transactions | (167,767,799) |
| Futures contracts | (1,634,939) |
| Payment from the Investment Manager (Note 2) | 3,120,206 |
| ----- | |
| Net realized gain (loss) on investments | (166,282,532) |
| Net change in unrealized depreciation on investments | 145,843,298 |
| ----- | |
| Net gain (loss) on investments | (20,439,234) |
| ----- | |
| Net increase (decrease) in net assets from operations | \$ (13,880,268) |
| ----- | |

* Net investment income for Common Stock is \$5,618,041, which is net of Preferred Stock dividends of \$940,925.

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

 TRI-CONTINENTAL CORPORATION -- 2009 SEMIANNUAL REPORT 17

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET INVESTMENT

ASSETS -----

| | SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2009 (UNAUDITED) | YEAR EN DEC. 31, 2009 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| OPERATIONS | | |
| Investment Income (loss) -- net | \$ 6,558,966 | \$ 53,714,298 |
| Net realized gain (loss) on investments | (166,282,532) | (937,438,298) |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments | 145,843,298 | (116,914,298) |
| ----- | | |
| Net increase (decrease) in net investment assets resulting from operations | (13,880,268) | (1,000,638,298) |

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DISTRIBUTIONS TO STOCKHOLDERS

Net investment income:

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Preferred Stock (per share: \$1.25 and \$2.50) | (940,925) | (1,881, |
| Common Stock (per share: \$0.10 and \$0.50) | (7,330,148) | 51,832, |

Net realized gain:

| | | |
|------------------------------------------|----|----------|
| Common Stock (per share: \$0 and \$0.39) | -- | (40,184, |
|------------------------------------------|----|----------|

Return of capital:

| | | |
|------------------------------------------|----|-----------|
| Common Stock (per share: \$0 and \$1.22) | -- | (126,224, |
|------------------------------------------|----|-----------|

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Decrease in net investment assets from distributions | (8,271,073) | (220,123, |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|

CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Value of shares of Common Stock issued at market price in distributions (348,285 and 4,651,557 shares) | 2,958,559 | 70,865, |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Value of shares of Common Stock issued for investment plan purchases (238,102 and 375,285 shares) | 2,096,305 | 5,809, |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| Cost of shares of Common Stock purchased from investment plan participants (629,207 and 1,810,291 shares) | (5,569,768) | (27,998, |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----------|
| Cost of shares of Common Stock purchased in the open market (0 and 1,463,111 shares) | -- | (26,013, |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----------|

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----------|
| Cost of shares of Common Stock purchased in in-kind tender offer (0 and 25,633,247 shares) | -- | (281,453, |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----------|

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Cost of shares of Common Stock purchased in cash tender offer (9,247,000 and 0 shares) | (93,024,820) | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--|

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| Net proceeds from issuance of shares of Common Stock upon exercise of warrants (12,095 and 23,516 shares) | 11,248 | 22, |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Increase (decrease) in net investment assets from capital share transactions | (93,528,476) | (258,767, |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Total increase (decrease) in net investment assets | (115,679,817) | (1,479,529, |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Net investment assets at beginning of period | 931,536,272 | 2,411,065, |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|

| | | |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Net investment assets at end of period | \$ 815,856,455 | \$ 931,536, |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Excess of distributions over net investment income | \$ (1,746,554) | \$ (34, |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|

Certain line items from the prior year have been renamed to conform to the current year presentation.

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

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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS -----

Per share operating performance data is designed to allow investors to trace the operating performance, on a per Common shares basis, from the beginning net asset value to the ending net asset value, so that investors can understand what effect the individual items have on their investment, assuming it was held throughout the period. Generally, the per share amounts are derived by converting the actual dollar amounts incurred for each item, as disclosed in the

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financial statements, to their equivalent per Common share amounts, using average shares outstanding during the period.

Total investment return measures the Fund's performance assuming that investors purchased shares of the Fund at the market value or net asset value as of the beginning of the period, invested all distributions paid, as provided for in the Fund's Prospectus and Automatic Dividend Investment and Cash Purchase Plan, and then sold their shares at the closing market value or net asset value per share on the last day of the period. The computations do not reflect any sales charges or transaction costs on your investment or taxes investors may incur on distributions or on the sale of shares of the Fund, and are not annualized for periods of less than one year.

The ratios of expenses and net investment income to average net investment assets and to average net assets for Common Stock for the periods presented do not reflect the effect of dividends paid to Preferred Stockholders.

 TRI-CONTINENTAL CORPORATION -- 2009 SEMIANNUAL REPORT 19

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (continued) -----

PER SHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE

| | 2009(e) | 2008 | Fiscal period ended Dec. 31, | |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------------|---------|
| | | | 2007 | 2006 |
| Net asset value, beginning of period | \$11.29 | \$23.03 | \$25.66 | \$22.16 |
| ----- | | | | |
| INCOME FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS: | | | | |
| Net investment income (loss) | .09 | .52 | .84 | .33 |
| Net gains (losses) (both realized and unrealized) | (.16) | (9.88) | (1.01) | 3.47 |
| ----- | | | | |
| Increase (decrease) from investment operations | (.07) | (9.36) | (0.17) | 3.80 |
| ----- | | | | |
| LESS: | | | | |
| Dividends paid on Preferred Stock | (.01) | (.02) | (.02) | (.02) |
| Dividends paid on Common Stock | (.10) | (.50) | (.87) | (.28) |
| Distributions from realized gains | -- | (.39) | (1.57) | -- |
| Distributions from return of capital | -- | (1.22) | -- | -- |
| Issuance of Common Stock in distributions | (.02) | (.25) | -- | -- |
| ----- | | | | |

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| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Total distributions | (.13) | (2.38) | (2.46) | (.30) |
| Payment from the Investment Manager (b) | .04 | -- | -- | -- |
| Net asset value, end of period | \$11.13 | \$11.29 | \$23.03 | \$25.66 |
| Adjusted net asset value, end of period(a) | \$11.09 | \$11.26 | \$22.98 | \$25.60 |
| Market value, end of period | \$9.19 | \$9.86 | \$20.90 | \$22.38 |
| TOTAL RETURN | | | | |
| Based upon market value | (5.64%) | (45.89%) | 3.51% | 22.10% |
| Based upon net asset value | (.19%) (b) | (43.77%) | (.52%) | 17.38% |
| RATIOS/SUPPLEMENTAL DATA | | | | |
| Expenses to average net investment assets | 1.12% (d) | .71% | .65% | .79% |
| Expenses to average net assets for Common Stock | 1.17% (d) | .73% | .66% | .80% |
| Net investment income to average net investment assets | 1.83% (d) | 2.90% | 3.17% | 1.37% |
| Net investment income to average net assets for Common Stock | 1.93% (d) | 2.96% | 3.22% | 1.40% |
| Portfolio turnover rate | 38% | 111% | 123% | 122% |
| NET INVESTMENT ASSETS, END OF PERIOD (IN MILLIONS): | | | | |
| For Common Stock | \$777,908 | \$893,899 | \$2,373,429 | \$2,657,209 |
| For Preferred Stock | 37,637 | 37,637 | 37,637 | 37,637 |
| TOTAL NET INVESTMENT ASSETS | \$815,545 | \$931,536 | \$2,411,066 | \$2,694,846 |

See accompanying Notes to Financial Highlights.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

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- (a) Assumes the exercise of outstanding warrants.
- (b) During the six months ended June 30, 2009, the Investment Manager reimbursed the Fund for a loss on a trading error. Had the Fund not received this reimbursement, total return would have been lower by 0.48%.
- (c) Excluding the effect of the payments received from the Fund's predecessor investment manager in 2004, the total investment return would have been 13.33%.
- (d) Adjusted to an annual basis. The Non-Recurring Charges (see Note 4 to the Financial Statements) have not been annualized, as they represent a one-time occurrence.
- (e) Six months ended June 30, 2009 (Unaudited).

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

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS -----
(UNAUDITED AS OF JUNE 30, 2009)

1. ORGANIZATION

Tri-Continental Corporation (the Fund) is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (1940 Act) as a diversified, closed-end management investment company. The Fund has 1 million authorized shares of preferred capital stock and 159 million authorized shares of common stock which trades primarily on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) under the symbol "TY".

The Fund invests primarily for the longer term and its objective is to produce future growth of both capital and income while providing reasonable current income.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

USE OF ESTIMATES

Preparing financial statements that conform to U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates (e.g., on assets, liabilities and contingent assets and liabilities) that could differ from actual results.

VALUATION OF SECURITIES

All securities are valued at the close of business of the NYSE. Securities traded on national securities exchanges or included in national market systems are valued at the last quoted sales price. Debt securities are generally traded in the over-the-counter market and are valued by an independent pricing service using an evaluated bid. When market quotes are not readily available, the pricing service, in determining fair values of debt securities, takes into consideration such factors as current quotations by broker/dealers, coupon, maturity, quality, type of issue, trading characteristics, and other yield and risk factors it deems relevant in determining valuations. Foreign securities are valued based on quotations from the principal market in which such securities are normally traded. The procedures adopted by the Board of Directors (the Board) generally contemplate the use of fair valuation in the event that price quotations or valuations are not readily available, price quotations or valuations from other sources are not reflective of market value and thus deemed unreliable, or a significant event has occurred in relation to a security or class of securities (such as foreign securities) that is not reflected in price quotations or valuations from other sources. A fair value price is a good faith

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estimate of the value of a security at a given point in time.

Many securities markets and exchanges outside the U.S. close prior to the close of the NYSE and therefore the closing prices for securities in such markets or on

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such exchanges may not fully reflect events that occur after such close but before the close of the NYSE, including significant movements in the U.S. market after foreign exchanges have closed. Accordingly, in those situations, Ameriprise Financial, Inc. (Ameriprise Financial), parent company of RiverSource Investments, LLC (RiverSource Investments or the Investment Manager), as administrator to the Fund, will fair value foreign securities pursuant to procedures adopted by the Board, including utilizing a third party pricing service to determine these fair values. These procedures take into account multiple factors, including movements in the U.S. securities markets, to determine a good faith estimate that reasonably reflects the current market conditions as of the close of the NYSE.

Short-term securities maturing in more than 60 days from the valuation date are valued at the market price or approximate market value based on current interest rates. Typically, those maturing in 60 days or less that originally had maturities of more than 60 days at acquisition date are valued at amortized cost using the market value on the 61(st) day before maturity. Short-term securities maturing in 60 days or less at acquisition date are valued at amortized cost. Amortized cost is an approximation of market value. Investments in money market funds are valued at net asset value.

FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATIONS

Securities and other assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated daily into U.S. dollars. Foreign currency amounts related to the purchase or sale of securities and income and expenses are translated at the exchange rate on the transaction date. The effect of changes in foreign exchange rates on realized and unrealized security gains or losses is reflected as a component of such gains or losses. In the Statement of Operations, net realized gains or losses from foreign currency transactions, if any, may arise from sales of foreign currency, closed forward contracts, exchange gains or losses realized between the trade date and settlement date on securities transactions, and other translation gains or losses on dividends, interest income and foreign withholding taxes.

ILLIQUID SECURITIES

At June 30, 2009, investments in securities included issues that are illiquid which the Fund currently limits to 15% of net assets, at market value, at the time of purchase. The aggregate value of such securities at June 30, 2009 was \$4,898,405 representing 0.60% of net assets. Certain illiquid securities may be valued by management at fair value according to procedures approved, in good faith, by the Board. According to Board guidelines, certain unregistered securities are determined to be liquid and are not included within the 15% limitation specified

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) -----

above. Assets are liquid if they can be sold or disposed of in the ordinary course of business within seven days at approximately the value at which the asset is valued by the Fund.

PAYMENT FROM THE INVESTMENT MANAGER

During the six months ended June 30, 2009, the Investment Manager voluntarily reimbursed the Fund \$3,120,206 for a loss on a trading error.

GUARANTEES AND INDEMNIFICATIONS

Under the Fund's organizational documents, its officers and directors are indemnified against certain liabilities arising out of the performance of their duties to the Fund. In addition, certain of the Fund's contracts with its service providers contain general indemnification clauses. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown since the amount of any future claims that may be made against the Fund cannot be determined and the Fund has no historical basis for predicting the likelihood of any such claims.

FEDERAL TAXES

The Fund's policy is to comply with Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code that applies to regulated investment companies and to distribute substantially all of its taxable income (which includes net short-term capital gains) to Stockholders. No provision for income or excise taxes is thus required.

Management of the Fund has concluded that there are no significant uncertain tax positions that would require recognition in the financial statements. Generally, the tax authorities can examine all the tax returns filed for the last three years.

DIVIDENDS TO STOCKHOLDERS

Effective Jan. 8, 2009, the Fund adopted an earned distribution policy. Under this policy, the Fund intends to make distributions to holders of Common Stock that are approximately equal to net investment income, less dividends payable on the Fund's Preferred Stock. Capital gains, when available, are distributed to Common Stockholders along with the last income dividend of the calendar year.

Prior to Jan. 8, 2009, the Fund had a level rate distribution policy which called for quarterly distributions to holders of Common Stock equal to 2.75% of the net asset value attributable to a share of the Fund's Common Stock on the last business day of the preceding calendar quarter (or approximately 11% annually) consisting of distributions of income and one or both of net realized capital gains and returns of capital.

Dividends and other distributions to Stockholders are recorded on ex-dividend dates.

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OTHER

Security transactions are accounted for on the date securities are purchased or sold. Dividends receivable are recognized on ex-dividend dates, except that certain dividends from foreign securities where the ex-dividend dates may have

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passed are recorded as soon as the Fund is informed of the dividend. Interest income, including amortization of premium, market discount and original issue discount using the effective interest method, is accrued daily.

3. INVESTMENTS IN DERIVATIVES

The Fund may invest in certain derivative instruments, which are transactions whose values depend on or are derived from (in whole or in part) the value of one or more other assets, such as securities, currencies, commodities or indices. Such derivative instruments may be used to maintain cash reserves while maintaining exposure to certain other assets, to offset anticipated declines in values of investments, to facilitate trading, to reduce transaction costs, and to pursue higher investment returns. The Fund may also use derivative instruments to mitigate certain investment risks, such as foreign currency exchange rate risk, interest rate risk, and credit risk.

FUTURES TRANSACTIONS

The Fund may buy and sell financial futures contracts traded on any U.S. or foreign exchange to produce incremental earnings, hedge existing positions or protect against market changes in the value of equities, interest rates or foreign currencies. The Fund may also buy and write put and call options on these futures contracts. A futures contract represents a commitment for the future purchase or sale of an asset at a specified price on a specified date.

Futures and options on futures are valued daily based upon the last sale price at the close of the market on the principal exchange on which they are traded. Upon entering into a futures contract, the Fund is required to deposit either cash or securities in an amount (initial margin) equal to a certain percentage of the contract value. Subsequent payments (variation margin) are made or received by the Fund each day. The variation margin payments are equal to the daily changes in the contract value and are recorded as unrealized gains and losses. The Fund recognizes a realized gain or loss when the contract is closed or expires.

Upon entering into futures contracts, the Fund bears the risk of interest rates, exchange rates or securities prices moving unexpectedly, in which case, the Fund may not achieve the anticipated benefits of the futures contracts and may realize a loss. Additional risks include counterparty credit risk, the possibility of an illiquid market, and that a change in the value of the contract or option may not correlate with changes in the value of the underlying securities. The gross

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) -----

notional amount of long contracts was \$10.5 million at June 30, 2009. The fair value of such contracts on June 30, 2009 is set forth in the table below.

OPTION TRANSACTIONS

The Fund may buy and write options traded on any U.S. or foreign exchange or in the over-the-counter (OTC) market to produce incremental earnings, protect gains, and facilitate buying and selling of securities for investments. The Fund may also buy and sell put and call options and write covered call options on portfolio securities. Options are contracts which entitle the holder to purchase or sell securities or other financial instruments at a specified price, or in the case of index options, to receive or pay the difference between the index value and the strike price of the index option. Completion of transactions for

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options traded in the OTC market depends upon the performance of the other party. Cash collateral may be collected or posted by the Fund to secure certain OTC options trades. Cash collateral held or posted by the Fund for such option trades must be returned to the counterparty or the Fund upon closure, exercise or expiration of the contract.

Option contracts purchased are recorded as investments and options contracts written are recorded as liabilities of the Fund. Option contracts are valued daily at the closing prices on their primary exchanges and unrealized appreciation or depreciation is recorded. Option contracts, including OTC option contracts, with no readily available market value are valued using quotations obtained from independent brokers as of the close of the NYSE. The Fund will realize a gain or loss when the option transaction expires or is exercised. When options on debt securities or futures are exercised, the Fund will realize a gain or loss. When other options are exercised, the proceeds on sales for a written call option, the purchase cost for a written put option or the cost of a security for a purchased put or call option is adjusted by the amount of premium received or paid.

The risk in buying an option is that the Fund pays a premium whether or not the option is exercised. The Fund also has the additional risk of being unable to enter into a closing transaction if a liquid secondary market does not exist. The risk in writing a call option is that the Fund gives up the opportunity for profit if the market price of the security increases. The risk in writing a put option is that the Fund may incur a loss if the market price of the security decreases and the option is exercised. The Fund's maximum payout in the case of written put option contracts represents the maximum potential amount of future payments (undiscounted) that the Fund could be required to make as a guarantor for written put options. For OTC options contracts, the transaction is also subject to counterparty credit risk. The maximum payout amount may be offset by the subsequent sale, if any, of assets obtained upon the exercise of the put options by

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holders of the option contracts or proceeds received upon entering into the contracts. At June 30, 2009, the Fund had no outstanding written or purchased options.

EFFECTS OF DERIVATIVE TRANSACTIONS ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following tables are intended to provide additional information about the effect of derivatives on the financial statements of the Fund including: the fair value of derivatives by risk category and the location of those fair values in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities; the impact of derivative transactions on the Fund's operations over the period including realized gains or losses and unrealized gains or losses. The derivative schedules following the Portfolio of Investments present additional information regarding derivative instruments outstanding at the end of the period, if any.

FAIR VALUES OF DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS AT JUNE 30, 2009

ASSET DERIVATIVES

LIABILITY DERIVATIVES

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| RISK EXPOSURE CATEGORY | STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES | | STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------|------------|
| | LOCATION | FAIR VALUE | LOCATION | FAIR VALUE |
| Equity contracts | N/A | N/A | Net assets -- unrealized depreciation | \$241,084* |
| TOTAL | | N/A | | \$241,084 |

* Includes cumulative appreciation (depreciation) of futures contracts as reported in the Futures Contracts Outstanding table following the Portfolio of Investments. Only the current day's variation margin is reported in receivables or payables in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

EFFECT OF DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS ON THE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

AMOUNT OF REALIZED GAIN OR (LOSS) ON DERIVATIVES RECOGNIZED IN INCOME

| RISK EXPOSURE CATEGORY | FUTURES | OPTIONS | TOTAL |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Equity contracts | \$(1,634,939) | \$(13,629,094) | \$(15,264,033) |
| TOTAL | \$(1,634,939) | \$(13,629,094) | \$(15,264,033) |

CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OR (DEPRECIATION) ON DERIVATIVES RECOGNIZED IN INCOME

| RISK EXPOSURE CATEGORY | FUTURES | OPTIONS | TOTAL |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Equity contracts | \$(241,084) | \$13,368,643 | \$13,127,559 |
| TOTAL | \$(241,084) | \$13,368,643 | \$13,127,559 |

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

4. EXPENSES

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FEES

Under an Investment Management Services Agreement, the Investment Manager determines on behalf of the Fund which securities will be purchased, held or sold. Effective June 15, 2009, the management fee charged by the Investment Manager is 0.355% of the Fund's average daily net assets. Prior to June 15, 2009, the Investment Manager received a fee equal to 0.40% of the Fund's average daily net assets. The management fee for the six months ended June 30, 2009 was 0.40% of the Fund's average daily net assets. The reduction in the investment management services fee on June 15, 2009 is related to the elimination of the administrative portion of the management fee that is now being charged separately to the Fund through the Administrative Services Agreement with Ameriprise Financial. See Administrative services fees below for more information.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FEES

Under an Administrative Services Agreement, effective June 15, 2009, the Fund pays Ameriprise Financial a fee for administration and accounting services equal to a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets that declines from 0.06% to 0.03% annually as the Fund's net assets increase. The administrative services fee was 0.01% of the Fund's average daily net assets for the six months ended June 30, 2009 (annualized). Prior to June 15, 2009, Ameriprise Financial administered certain aspects of the Fund's business and other affairs for no additional fee. The fees payable under the Administrative Services Agreement beginning on June 15, 2009 are offset by corresponding decreases in the investment management fees charged to the Fund and the elimination of separate fees that were previously payable to State Street Bank and Trust Company, in its capacity as the Fund's prior administrative agent.

OTHER FEES

Other expenses are for, among other things, certain expenses of the Fund or the Board including: Fund boardroom and office expense, employee compensation, employee health and retirement benefits, and certain other expenses. Payment of these Fund and Board expenses is facilitated by a company providing limited administrative services to the Fund and the Board. For the six months ended June 30, 2009, other expenses paid to this company were \$3,873.

COMPENSATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Under a Deferred Compensation Plan (the Plan), the board members who are not "interested persons" of the Fund under the 1940 Act may defer receipt of their compensation. Deferred amounts are treated as though equivalent dollar amounts had been invested in shares of the Fund or other funds in the RiverSource Family

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of Funds. The Fund's liability for these amounts is adjusted for market value changes and remains in the Fund until distributed in accordance with the Plan.

STOCKHOLDER SERVICING FEES

Under a Stockholder Service Agent Agreement, RiverSource Service Corporation (the Stockholder Servicing Agent) maintains Fund Stockholder accounts and records and provides Fund Stockholder services. Effective June 15, 2009, the Fund pays the Stockholder Servicing Agent a fee equal to 0.10% of the average

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daily net assets of the Fund's shares of Common Stock.

Prior to June 15, 2009, Seligman Data Corp. (SDC), owned by six associated investment companies, including the Fund, provided Stockholder servicing and transfer agency services to the Fund, as well as certain other Seligman funds. The Fund's ownership interest in SDC at June 30, 2009 is included in other assets in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at a cost of \$43,681. In January 2009, the Board approved the Fund's termination of the Stockholder account servicing and transfer agency relationship with SDC, and the engagement of RiverSource Service Corporation to provide Stockholder account and transfer agency services. As a result of the Board's termination of the Stockholder servicing and transfer agency relationship with SDC (which was SDC's sole business), SDC has exited the Stockholder servicing and transfer agent business, effective June 15, 2009.

For the period from Jan. 1, 2009 to June 15, 2009, SDC charged the Fund \$915,850 for Stockholder account and transfer agency services in accordance with a methodology approved by the Fund's Board.

In connection with the termination of the Fund's relationship with SDC, the Fund incurred certain non-recurring charges, including charges relating to SDC's leases (the Non-Recurring Charges). These Non-Recurring Charges were incurred over a period from Jan. 28, 2009 to June 12, 2009, and amounted to \$1,174,205, or 0.16% of the Fund's average daily net assets for the six months ended June 30, 2009 (not annualized). These Non-Recurring Charges are included in the Stockholder servicing and transfer agency fees in the Statement of Operations. The liability remaining at June 30, 2009 for the Non-Recurring Charges amounted to \$935,293 and is included in the accrued Stockholder servicing and transfer agency fees in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Fund and certain other associated investment companies (together, the Guarantors) have severally but not jointly guaranteed the performance and observance of all the terms and conditions of a lease entered into by SDC, including the payment of rent by SDC (the Guaranty). The lease and the related Guaranty expire in January 2019. The obligation of the Fund to pay any amount

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) -----

due under the Guaranty is limited to a specified percentage of the full amount, which generally is based on the Fund's percentage of the expenses billed by SDC to all Guarantors in the preceding calendar quarter. As of June 30, 2009, the Fund's total potential future obligation under the Guaranty over the life of the Guaranty is \$921,300. The net present value of this obligation as of June 12, 2009 has been expensed as part of the aforementioned Non-Recurring Charges.

5. SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS

Cost of purchases and proceeds from sales of securities (other than short-term obligations) aggregated \$299,026,571 and \$377,204,666, respectively, for the six months ended June 30, 2009. Realized gains and losses are determined on an identified cost basis.

6. CAPITAL STOCK TRANSACTIONS

Under the Fund's Charter, dividends on Common Stock cannot be declared unless net assets, after such dividends and dividends on Preferred Stock, equal at

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least \$100 per share of Preferred Stock outstanding. The Preferred Stock is subject to redemption at the Fund's option at any time on 30 days' notice at \$55 per share (or a total of \$41,400,700 for the shares outstanding) plus accrued dividends, and entitled in liquidation to \$50 per share plus accrued dividends.

The Fund, in connection with its Automatic Dividend Investment and Cash Purchase Plan and other Stockholder plans, acquires and issues shares of its own Common Stock, as needed, to satisfy Plan requirements. For the six months ended June 30, 2009, the Fund purchased 629,207 shares of Common Stock from Plan participants at a cost of \$5,569,768, which represented a weighted average discount of 13.8% from the net asset value of those acquired shares. A total of 238,102 shares were issued to Plan participants during the period for proceeds of \$2,096,305, a weighted average discount of 14.4% from the net asset value of those shares. In addition, a total of 348,285 shares were issued at market price in distributions during the period for proceeds of \$2,958,559, a weighted average discount of 15.2% from the net asset value of those shares.

The Fund may make additional purchases of its Common Stock in the open market and elsewhere at such prices and in such amounts as the Board may deem advisable. No such additional purchases were made during the six months ended June 30, 2009.

At June 30, 2009, the Fund reserved 229,587 shares of Common Stock for issuance upon exercise of 9,491 Warrants, each of which entitled the holder to purchase 24.19 shares of Common Stock at \$0.93 per share.

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Assuming the exercise of all Warrants outstanding at June 30, 2009, net investment assets would have increased by \$213,516 and the net asset value of the Common Stock would have been \$11.09 per share. The number of Warrants exercised during the six months ended June 30, 2009 and the year ended Dec. 31, 2008 was 500 and 994, respectively.

The Fund conducted a cash tender offer for up to 12.5% of its issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock, which expired on Feb. 11, 2009. The number of shares of Common Stock that were tendered through the expiration date was 9,247,000 (or approximately 11.7% of the Fund's Common Stock outstanding). Because less than 12.5% of the issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock of the Fund was tendered through the expiration date, all properly tendered shares were accepted for purchase. The purchase price was equal to 99.25% of the net asset value per share of the Fund's Common Stock as of the close of the regular trading session of the NYSE on Feb. 12, 2009. The total value of the Common Stock shares purchased was \$93,024,820, which was paid in cash.

7. AFFILIATED MONEY MARKET FUND

The Fund may invest its daily cash balance in RiverSource Short-Term Cash Fund, a money market fund established for the exclusive use of funds in the RiverSource Family of Funds and other institutional clients of RiverSource Investments. The cost of the Fund's purchases and proceeds from sales of shares of RiverSource Short-Term Cash Fund aggregated \$20,183,964 and \$1,138,836, respectively, for the six months ended June 30, 2009. The income distributions received with respect to the Fund's investment in RiverSource Short-Term Cash Fund can be found in the Statement of Operations and the Fund's invested balance

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in RiverSource Short-Term Cash Fund at June 30, 2009, can be found in the Portfolio of Investments.

8. FEDERAL TAX INFORMATION

Net investment income (loss) and net realized gains (losses) may differ for financial statement and tax purposes primarily because of options contracts, investments in partnerships, post-October losses and losses deferred due to wash sales. The character of distributions made during the year from net investment income or net realized gains may differ from their ultimate characterization for federal income tax purposes. Also, due to the timing of dividend distributions, the fiscal year in which amounts are distributed may differ from the year that the income or realized gains (losses) were recorded by the Fund.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) -----

For federal income tax purposes, the Fund had a capital loss carry-over of \$217,818,492 at Dec. 31, 2008, that if not offset by capital gains will expire in 2016.

Because the measurement periods for a regulated investment company's income are different for excise tax purposes versus income tax purposes, special rules are in place to protect the amount of earnings and profits needed to support excise tax distributions. As a result, the Fund is permitted to treat net capital losses realized between Nov. 1, 2008 and its fiscal year end (post-October loss) as occurring on the first day of the following tax year. At Dec. 31, 2008, the Fund had a post-October loss of \$414,241,970 that is treated for income tax purposes as occurring on Jan. 1, 2009.

It is unlikely the Board will authorize a distribution of any net realized capital gains until the available capital loss carry-over has been offset or expires. There is no assurance that the Fund will be able to utilize all of its capital loss carry-over before it expires.

9. RISKS RELATING TO CERTAIN INVESTMENTS

To the extent that the Fund invests a substantial percentage of its assets in an industry, the Fund's performance may be negatively affected if that industry falls out of favor. Stocks of large-capitalization companies have at times experienced periods of volatility and negative performance. During such periods, the value of such stocks may decline and the Fund's performance may be negatively affected.

10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated Fund related events and transactions that occurred during the period from the date of the Statement of Assets and Liabilities through Aug. 24, 2009, the date of issuance of the Fund's financial statements. There were no events or transactions that occurred during the period that materially impacted the amounts or disclosures in the Fund's financial statements.

11. INFORMATION REGARDING PENDING AND SETTLED LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

In June 2004, an action captioned John E. Gallus et al. v. American Express Financial Corp. and American Express Financial Advisors Inc. was filed in the

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United States District Court for the District of Arizona. The plaintiffs allege that they are investors in several American Express Company (now known as RiverSource) mutual funds and they purport to bring the action derivatively on behalf of those funds under the Investment Company Act of 1940. The plaintiffs allege that fees allegedly paid to the defendants by the funds for investment

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advisory and administrative services are excessive. The plaintiffs seek remedies including restitution and rescission of investment advisory and distribution agreements. The plaintiffs voluntarily agreed to transfer this case to the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota (the District Court). In response to defendants' motion to dismiss the complaint, the District Court dismissed one of plaintiffs' four claims and granted plaintiffs limited discovery. Defendants moved for summary judgment in April 2007. Summary judgment was granted in the defendants' favor on July 9, 2007. The plaintiffs filed a notice of appeal with the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals (the Eighth Circuit) on August 8, 2007. On April 8, 2009, the Eighth Circuit reversed summary judgment and remanded to the District Court for further proceedings. On August 6, 2009, defendants filed a writ of certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court, asking the U.S. Supreme Court to stay the District Court proceedings while the U.S. Supreme Court considers and rules in a case captioned Jones v. Harris Associates, which involves issues of law similar to those presented in the Gallus case.

In December 2005, without admitting or denying the allegations, American Express Financial Corporation (AEFC, which is now known as Ameriprise Financial, Inc. (Ameriprise Financial), entered into settlement agreements with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Minnesota Department of Commerce (MDOC) related to market timing activities. As a result, AEFC was censured and ordered to cease and desist from committing or causing any violations of certain provisions of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, and various Minnesota laws. AEFC agreed to pay disgorgement of \$10 million and civil money penalties of \$7 million. AEFC also agreed to retain an independent distribution consultant to assist in developing a plan for distribution of all disgorgement and civil penalties ordered by the SEC in accordance with various undertakings detailed at <http://www.sec.gov/litigation/admin/ia-2451.pdf>. Ameriprise Financial and its affiliates have cooperated with the SEC and the MDOC in these legal proceedings, and have made regular reports to the RiverSource Funds' Boards of Directors/Trustees.

On November 7, 2008, RiverSource Investments, LLC, a subsidiary of Ameriprise Financial, Inc., acquired J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated (Seligman). In late 2003, Seligman conducted an extensive internal review concerning mutual fund trading practices. Seligman's review, which covered the period 2001-2003, noted one arrangement that permitted frequent trading in certain open-end registered investment companies managed by Seligman (the Seligman Funds); this arrangement was in the process of being closed down by Seligman before September 2003. Seligman identified three other arrangements that permitted frequent trading, all of which had been terminated by September 2002. In January 2004, Seligman, on a voluntary basis, publicly disclosed these four arrangements to its clients and to shareholders of the

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) -----

Seligman Funds. Seligman also provided information concerning mutual fund trading practices to the SEC and the Office of the Attorney General of the State of New York (NYAG).

In September 2006, the NYAG commenced a civil action in New York State Supreme Court against Seligman, Seligman Advisors, Inc. (now known as RiverSource Fund Distributors, Inc.), Seligman Data Corp. and Brian T. Zino (collectively, the Seligman Parties), alleging, in substance, that the Seligman Parties permitted various persons to engage in frequent trading and, as a result, the prospectus disclosure used by the registered investment companies then managed by Seligman was and had been misleading. The NYAG included other related claims and also claimed that the fees charged by Seligman to the Seligman Funds were excessive. On March 13, 2009, without admitting or denying any violations of law or wrongdoing, the Seligman Parties entered into a stipulation of settlement with the NYAG and settled the claims made by the NYAG. Under the terms of the settlement, Seligman paid \$11.3 million to four Seligman Funds. This settlement resolved all outstanding matters between the Seligman Parties and the NYAG. In addition to the foregoing matter, the New York staff of the SEC indicated in September 2005 that it was considering recommending to the Commissioners of the SEC the instituting of a formal action against Seligman and Seligman Advisors, Inc. relating to frequent trading in the Seligman Funds. Seligman responded to the staff in October 2005 that it believed that any action would be both inappropriate and unnecessary, especially in light of the fact that Seligman had previously resolved the underlying issue with the Independent Directors of the Seligman Funds and made recompense to the affected Seligman Funds. There have been no further developments with the SEC on this matter.

Ameriprise Financial and certain of its affiliates have historically been involved in a number of legal, arbitration and regulatory proceedings, including routine litigation, class actions, and governmental actions, concerning matters arising in connection with the conduct of their business activities. Ameriprise Financial believes that the Funds are not currently the subject of, and that neither Ameriprise Financial nor any of its affiliates are the subject of, any pending legal, arbitration or regulatory proceedings that are likely to have a material adverse effect on the Funds or the ability of Ameriprise Financial or its affiliates to perform under their contracts with the Funds. Ameriprise Financial is required to make 10-Q, 10-K and, as necessary, 8-K filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission on legal and regulatory matters that relate to Ameriprise Financial and its affiliates. Copies of these filings may be obtained by accessing the SEC website at www.sec.gov.

There can be no assurance that these matters, or the adverse publicity associated with them, will not result in increased fund redemptions, reduced sale of fund shares or other adverse consequences to the funds. Further, although we believe

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proceedings are not likely to have a material adverse effect on the funds or the ability of Ameriprise Financial or its affiliates to perform under their contracts with the funds, these proceedings are subject to uncertainties and, as such, we are unable to estimate the possible loss or range of loss that may result. An adverse outcome in one or more of these proceedings could result in adverse judgments, settlements, fines, penalties or other relief that could have a material adverse effect on the consolidated financial condition or results of operations of Ameriprise Financial.

PROXY VOTING -----

The policy of the Board is to vote the proxies of the companies in which the Fund holds investments consistent with the procedures as stated in the Statement of Additional Information (SAI). You may obtain a copy of the SAI without charge by calling the RiverSource Family of Funds at 1(800) 221-2450; visiting seligman.com; or searching the website of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) at <http://www.sec.gov>. Information regarding how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities is filed with the SEC by August 31 for the most recent 12-month period ending June 30 of that year, and is available without charge by visiting seligman.com; or searching the website of the SEC at www.sec.gov.

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CHANGE IN INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM -----

On March 11, 2009, Ernst & Young LLP was selected as the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm for the 2009 fiscal year. A majority of the Fund's Board of Directors, including a majority of the Independent Directors, approved the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP effective March 18, 2009. On June 9, 2009, Fund Stockholders ratified the Board's selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm for 2009. The predecessor independent registered public accounting firm's reports on the Fund's financial statements for the year ended Dec. 31, 2008 and the year ended Dec. 31, 2007 contained no adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles. During such fiscal periods and through March 11, 2009 there were no disagreements between the Fund and the predecessor independent registered public accounting firm on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedures, which such disagreements, if not resolved to the satisfaction of the predecessor independent registered public accounting firm, would have caused them to make reference to the subject matter of the disagreement in connection with their reports on the financial statements for such fiscal periods.

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PROXY RESULTS -----

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Fund was held on June 9, 2009. Stockholders voted in favor of each of the Board's two proposals and voted against a Stockholder proposal. The description of each proposal and number of shares voted are as follows:

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PROPOSAL 1

To elect four Directors to the Fund's Board, each to hold office until the 2012 annual meeting of Stockholders of the Fund and until their successors are elected and qualify:

| DIRECTOR | FOR | WITHHELD |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| Kathleen A. Blatz | 48,012,328 | 4,361,447 |
| Pamela G. Carlton | 48,016,192 | 4,357,583 |
| Alison Taunton-Rigby | 48,066,839 | 4,306,953 |
| William F. Truscott | 48,159,878 | 4,213,898 |

PROPOSAL 2

To ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm for 2009:

| FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAINING |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| 50,265,316 | 1,355,190 | 753,272 |

PROPOSAL 3

To provide for cumulative voting in the election of directors of the Fund:

| FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAINING |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| 9,152,096 | 21,866,117 | 1,889,075 |

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Item 2. Code of Ethics. Not applicable for semi-annual reports.

Item 3. Audit Committee Financial Expert. Not applicable for semi-annual reports.

Item 4. Principal Accountant Fees and Services. Not applicable for semi-annual reports.

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- Item 5. Audit Committee of Listed Registrants. Not applicable.
- Item 6. The complete schedule of investments is included in Item 1 of this Form N-CSR.
- Item 7. Disclosure of Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures for Closed-End Management Investment Companies. Not applicable.
- Item 8. Portfolio Managers of Closed-End Management Investment Companies. Not applicable.
- Item 9. Purchase of Equity Securities by Closed-End Management Investment Company and Affiliated Purchasers.

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid Per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (1) | Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (1) |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1-01-09 to 1-31-09 | 72,692 | \$9.92 | 72,692 | 3,886,374 |
| 2-01-09 to 2-28-09 | 52,413 | 8.50 | 52,413 | 3,833,961 |
| 3-01-09 to 3-31-09 | 148,348 | 8.01 | 148,348 | 3,685,613 |
| 4-01-09 to 4-30-09 | 107,920 | 8.68 | 107,920 | 3,577,693 |
| 5-01-09 to 5-31-09 | 149,976 | 9.21 | 149,976 | 3,427,717 |
| 6-01-09 to 6-30-09 | 97,858 | 9.16 | 97,858 | 3,329,859 |

- (1) On January 8, 2009, the registrant's Board renewed a modified version of the registrant's stock repurchase program. For 2009, the registrant is authorized to repurchase up to 5% of its outstanding Common Stock directly from stockholders and in the open market, provided that, with respect to shares repurchased in the open market the excess of the net asset value of a share of Common Stock over its market price (the discount) is greater than 10%. The registrant's 2008 stock repurchase program allowed the registrant to repurchase up to 5% of the registrant's outstanding Common Stock during the period directly from stockholders and in the open market, provided that, with respect to shares purchased in the open market, the discount was greater than 5%.

Item 10. Submission of matters to a vote of security holders. Not applicable.

Item 11. Controls and Procedures.

(a) Based upon their evaluation of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures as conducted within 90 days of the filing date of this Form N-CSR, the registrant's Principal Financial Officer and Principal Executive Officer have concluded that those disclosure controls and procedures provide reasonable assurance that the material information required to be disclosed by the registrant on this report is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms.

(b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's last fiscal half-year (the registrant's second fiscal half-year in the case of an annual report) that has

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materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Item 12. Exhibits.

(a) (1) Not applicable for semi-annual reports.

(a) (2) Separate certification for the Registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, are attached as EX.99.CERT.

(a) (3) Not applicable.

(b) A certification by the Registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and Rule 30a-2(b) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, is attached as EX.99.906 CERT.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

(Registrant) Tri-Continental Corporation

By /s/ Patrick T. Bannigan

Patrick T. Bannigan
President and Principal Executive Officer

Date September 2, 2009

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By /s/ Patrick T. Bannigan

Patrick T. Bannigan
President and Principal Executive Officer

Date September 2, 2009

By /s/ Jeffrey P. Fox

Jeffrey P. Fox
Treasurer and Principal Financial Officer

Date September 2, 2009