ARES CAPITAL CORP
Form 497
August 20, 2012

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Filed pursuant to Rule 497
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PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To Prospectus dated August 16, 2012)

22,500,000 Shares

Common Stock

We are offering for sale 22,500,000 shares of our common stock.

Ares Capital Corporation is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company incorporated in Maryland. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. To a lesser extent, we also make equity investments.

We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management LLC, a global alternative asset manager and a Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") registered investment adviser with approximately $54 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012. Ares Operations LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management LLC, provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "ARCC." On August 16, 2012, the last reported sales price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Select Market was $17.42 per share. The net asset value per share of our common stock at June 30, 2012 (the last date prior to the date of this prospectus supplement on which we determined net asset value) was $15.51.

Investing in our common stock involves risks that are described in the "Risk Factors" section beginning on page 24 of the accompanying prospectus, including the risk of leverage.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus concisely provide important information about us that you should know before investing in our common stock. Please read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before you invest and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. This information is available free of charge by calling us collect at (310) 201-4200 or on our website at *www.arescapitalcorp.com*. The SEC also maintains a website at *www.sec.gov* that contains such information. The information on the websites referred to herein is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

The underwriters have agreed to purchase the common stock from us at a price of $16.55 per share, which will result in $372,375,000 of proceeds to us before expenses. The underwriters may offer the shares of common stock from time to time for sale in one or more transactions on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, in the over-the-counter market, through negotiated transactions or otherwise at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

The underwriters may also purchase up to an additional 3,375,000 shares of our common stock from us at the price per share set forth above within 30 days of the date of this prospectus supplement.

Neither the SEC nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The shares will be ready for delivery on or about August 22, 2012.

Joint Book-Running Managers

BofA Merrill Lynch **Morgan Stanley** **Wells Fargo Securities**

Joint Lead Managers

Goldman, Sachs & Co. **J.P. Morgan** **UBS Investment Bank**

Co-Managers

RBC Capital Markets **Stifel Nicolaus Weisel**

The date of this prospectus supplement is August 17, 2012.

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You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as applicable. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus constitute forward-looking statements, which relate to future events or our future performance or financial condition. The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus involve a number of risks and uncertainties, including statements concerning:

- our, or our portfolio companies', future business, operations, operating results or prospects;
- the return or impact of current and future investments;
- the impact of a protracted decline in the liquidity of credit markets on our business;
- the impact of fluctuations in interest rates on our business;
- the impact of changes in laws or regulations (including the interpretation thereof) governing our operations or the operations of our portfolio companies;
- the valuation of our investments in portfolio companies, particularly those having no liquid trading market;
- our ability to recover unrealized losses;
- our ability to successfully invest any capital raised in this offering;
- market conditions and our ability to access alternative debt markets and additional debt and equity capital;
- our contractual arrangements and relationships with third parties;
- Middle East turmoil and the potential for rising energy prices and its impact on the industries in which we invest;
- the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;
- the uncertainty surrounding the strength of the U.S. economic recovery;
- European sovereign debt issues;
- the financial condition of and ability of our current and prospective portfolio companies to achieve their objectives;

- our expected financings and investments;
- our ability to successfully integrate any acquisitions;
- the adequacy of our cash resources and working capital;
- the timing, form and amount of any dividend distributions;
- the timing of cash flows, if any, from the operations of our portfolio companies; and
- the ability of our investment adviser to locate suitable investments for us and to monitor and administer our investments.

We use words such as "anticipates," "believes," "expects," "intends," "will," "should," "may" and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements include these words. Our actual results and condition could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements for any reason, including the factors set forth in "Risk Factors" in the accompanying prospectus and the other information included in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

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The forward-looking statements included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have been based on information available to us as of their respective dates, and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Although we undertake no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, you are advised to consult any additional disclosures that we may make directly to you or through reports that we have filed or in the future may file with the SEC, including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K.

The forward-looking statements in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are excluded from the safe harbor protection provided by Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act").

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THE COMPANY

This summary highlights some of the information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider. You should read carefully the more detailed information set forth under "Risk Factors" in the accompanying prospectus and the other information included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Except where the context suggests otherwise, the terms "we," "us," "our," "the Company" and "Ares Capital" refer to Ares Capital Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries; "Ares Capital Management" and the "investment adviser" refer to Ares Capital Management LLC; "Ares Operations" and the "administrator" refer to Ares Operations LLC; and "Ares" refers to Ares Management LLC ("Ares Management") and its affiliated companies (other than portfolio companies of its affiliated funds).

Ares Capital

Ares Capital, a Maryland corporation, is a specialty finance company that is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company. We have elected to be regulated as a business development company, or a "BDC," under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, or the "Investment Company Act." We were founded on April 16, 2004, were initially funded on June 23, 2004 and completed our initial public offering on October 8, 2004. We are one of the largest BDCs with approximately $5.8 billion of total assets as of June 30, 2012.

We are externally managed by our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management, a global alternative asset manager and an SEC registered investment adviser with approximately $54 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012. Our administrator, Ares Operations, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ares Management, provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

Our investment objective is to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. We invest primarily in U.S. middle-market companies, where we believe the supply of primary capital is limited and the investment opportunities are most attractive. However, we may from time to time invest in larger companies. In this prospectus supplement, we generally use the term "middle-market" to refer to companies with annual EBITDA between $10 million and $250 million. As used herein, EBITDA represents net income before net interest expense, income tax expense, depreciation and amortization.

We invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases includes an equity component. First and second lien senior loans generally are senior debt instruments that rank ahead of subordinated debt of a given portfolio company. Mezzanine debt is subordinated to senior loans and is generally unsecured. Our investments in corporate borrowers generally range between $30 million and $400 million each, investments in the project finance/power generation sector generally range between $10 million and $200 million each and investments in the venture finance sector generally range between $1 million and $25 million each. However, the investment sizes may be more or less than these ranges and may vary based on our capital availability.

To a lesser extent, we also make preferred and/or common equity investments, which have generally been non-control equity investments of less than $20 million (usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment). However, we may increase the size or change the nature of these investments.

The proportion of these types of investments will change over time given our views on, among other things, the economic and credit environment in which we are operating. In connection with our investing activities, we may make commitments with respect to indebtedness or securities of a potential

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portfolio company substantially in excess of our final investment. In such situations, while we may initially agree to fund up to a certain dollar amount of an investment, we may subsequently syndicate a portion of such amount to third parties, such that we are left with a smaller investment than what was reflected in our original commitment. In addition to originating investments, we may also acquire investments in the secondary market.

The first and second lien senior loans in which we invest generally have stated terms of three to 10 years and the mezzanine debt investments in which we invest generally have stated terms of up to 10 years, but the expected average life of such first and second lien loans and mezzanine debt is generally between three and seven years. However, we may invest in loans and securities with any maturity or duration. The instruments in which we invest typically are not rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such instruments were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by Moody's Investors Service, lower than "BBB-" by Fitch Ratings or lower than "BBB-" by Standard & Poor's Rating Services), which is an indication of having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Bonds that are rated below investment grade are sometimes referred to as "high yield bonds" or "junk bonds." We may invest without limit in debt or other securities of any rating, as well as debt or other securities that have not been rated by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

We believe that our investment adviser, Ares Capital Management, is able to leverage the current investment platform, resources and existing relationships with financial sponsors, financial institutions, hedge funds and other investment firms of Ares to provide us with attractive investment opportunities. In addition to deal flow, the Ares investment platform assists our investment adviser in analyzing, structuring and monitoring investments. Ares has been in existence for more than 14 years and its senior partners have an average of over 22 years experience investing in senior loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and private equity securities. The Company has access to the Ares staff of 231 investment professionals and 289 administrative professionals as of June 30, 2012 who provide assistance in accounting, finance, legal, compliance, operations, information technology and investor relations.

Since our initial public offering on October 8, 2004 through June 30, 2012, our realized gains have exceeded our realized losses by approximately $101 million (excluding the one-time gain on our acquisition of Allied Capital Corporation on April 1, 2010 and gains/losses from the extinguishment of debt and other assets). For this same time period, our portfolio exits have resulted in an aggregate cash flow realized internal rate of return to us of approximately 14% (based on original cash invested of approximately $5.4 billion and total proceeds from such exits of approximately $6.5 billion). Approximately 73% of these exits resulted in an aggregate cash flow internal rate of return to us of 10% or greater. Internal rate of return is the discount rate that makes the net present value of all cash flows related to a particular investment equal to zero. Internal rate of return is gross of expenses related to investments as these expenses are not allocable to specific investments. Investments are considered to be exited when the original investment objective has been achieved through the receipt of cash and/or non-cash consideration upon the repayment of our debt investment or sale of an investment or through the determination that no further consideration was collectible and, thus, a loss may have been realized. These internal rates of return results are historical results relating to our past performance and are not necessarily indicative of future results, the achievement of which cannot be assured.

We and General Electric Capital Corporation and GE Global Sponsor Finance LLC (collectively, "GE") also co-invest through an unconsolidated vehicle, the Senior Secured Loan Fund LLC, which operates using the name "Senior Secured Loan Program" (the "SSLP"). The SSLP was initially formed in December 2007 to co-invest in first lien senior secured loans of middle-market companies. As of June 30, 2012, the SSLP had approximately $7.7 billion of available capital, approximately $5.4 billion in aggregate principal amount of which was funded as of June 30, 2012. At

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June 30, 2012, we had agreed to make available to the SSLP approximately $1.5 billion, of which approximately $1.1 billion was funded. The SSLP is capitalized as transactions are completed and all portfolio decisions and generally all other decisions in respect of the SSLP must be approved by an investment committee of the SSLP consisting of representatives of the Company and GE (with approval from a representative of each required). As of June 30, 2012, our investment in the SSLP was approximately $1.1 billion at fair value (including unrealized appreciation of $26.3 million) which represented approximately 20% of our total portfolio at fair value. Effective March 30, 2012, Ares Capital Management assumed from the Company the role of co-manager of the SSLP. However, this change did not impact the Company's economics in respect of its participation in the SSLP and Ares Capital Management does not receive any remuneration in respect of its co-manager role.

While our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of eligible portfolio companies, we also may invest up to 30% of our portfolio in non-qualifying assets, as permitted by the Investment Company Act. See "Regulation" in the accompanying prospectus. Specifically, as part of this 30% basket, we may invest in entities that are not considered "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in the Investment Company Act), including companies located outside of the United States, entities that are operating pursuant to certain exceptions under the Investment Company Act, and publicly traded entities whose public equity market capitalization exceeds the levels provided for under the Investment Company Act.

Our portfolio company, Ivy Hill Asset Management, L.P. ("IHAM"), which became an SEC registered investment adviser effective March 30, 2012, manages 11 unconsolidated credit vehicles and sub-manages or sub-advises four other unconsolidated credit vehicles (these vehicles managed or sub-managed/sub-advised by IHAM are collectively referred to as the "IHAM Vehicles"), which are described in more detail under "Business Investments Ivy Hill Management, L.P." in the accompanying prospectus. We have also made direct investments in securities of certain of these vehicles. As of June 30, 2012, IHAM had total committed capital under management of approximately $3.2 billion, which included approximately $0.3 billion invested by Ares Capital in IHAM or securities issued by the IHAM Vehicles. In connection with IHAM's registration as a registered investment adviser, on March 30, 2012, we received exemptive relief from the SEC allowing us to, subject to certain conditions, own directly or indirectly up to 100% of IHAM's outstanding equity interests and make additional investments in IHAM.

About Ares

Founded in 1997, Ares is a global alternative asset manager and an SEC registered investment adviser with approximately $54 billion of total committed capital under management and 520 employees as of June 30, 2012.

Ares specializes in originating and managing assets in both the leveraged finance and private equity markets. Ares' leveraged finance activities include the origination, acquisition and management of senior loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and special situation investments. Ares' private equity activities focus on providing flexible, junior capital to middle-market companies. Ares has the ability to invest across a capital structure, from senior floating rate debt to common equity. This flexibility, combined with Ares' "buy and hold" philosophy, enables Ares to structure an investment to meet the specific needs of a company rather than the less flexible demands of the public markets.

Ares is comprised of the following groups:

Private Debt Group. The Ares Private Debt Group manages Ares Capital, Ares Capital Europe (Ares' European private debt business), Ares' commercial real estate business (which includes private funds and Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation (NYSE: ACRE)) as well as certain other private funds and managed accounts. The Ares Private

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Debt Group also co-manages the SSLP. In the aggregate, the Ares Private Debt Group had approximately $21.1 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012, including capital which may be committed for investment both directly and through certain financial services portfolio companies of the Company. The Ares Private Debt Group focuses primarily on non-syndicated first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases may include an equity component. The Ares Private Debt Group also makes equity investments in private middle-market companies, usually in conjunction with a concurrent debt investment.

Capital Markets Group. The Ares Capital Markets Group had approximately $23.1 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012 and focuses primarily on syndicated senior secured loans, high yield bonds, distressed debt, other liquid fixed income investments and other publicly traded debt securities.

Private Equity Group. The Ares Private Equity Group had approximately $9.6 billion of total committed capital under management as of June 30, 2012, primarily through Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund L.P., Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund II, L.P., Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund III, L.P. and Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund IV, L.P. (collectively referred to as "ACOF"). ACOF generally makes private equity investments in amounts substantially larger than the private equity investments anticipated to be made by Ares Capital. In particular, the Ares Private Equity Group generally focuses on control-oriented equity investments in under-capitalized companies or companies with capital structure issues.

Ares' senior partners have been working together as a group for many years and have an average of over 22 years of experience in leveraged finance, private equity, distressed debt, investment banking and capital markets. They are backed by a team of 231 highly disciplined investment professionals as of June 30, 2012 covering current investments in more than 1,100 companies across over 30 industries. Ares' rigorous investment approach is based upon an intensive, independent financial analysis, with a focus on preservation of capital, diversification and active portfolio management. These fundamentals underlie Ares' investment strategy and have resulted in large pension funds, banks, insurance companies, endowments and certain high net worth individuals investing in Ares' funds.

Ares Capital Management

Ares Capital Management, our investment adviser, is served by an origination, investment and portfolio management team of 73 U.S.-based investment professionals as of June 30, 2012 led by the senior partners of the Ares Private Debt Group: Michael Arougheti, Eric Beckman, Kipp deVeer, Mitchell Goldstein and Michael Smith. Ares Capital Management leverages off of Ares' investment platform and benefits from the significant capital markets, trading and research expertise of Ares' investment professionals. Ares Capital Management's investment committee has eight members, including the senior partners of the Ares Private Debt Group, senior partners in the Ares Private Equity Group and a senior adviser to the Ares Capital Markets Group.

Recent Developments

In July 2012, pursuant to the terms of the amended revolving funding facility of our wholly owned subsidiary, Ares Capital CP Funding LLC ("Ares Capital CP") (the "Revolving Funding Facility"), Ares Capital CP received an increase in the commitments under the Revolving Funding Facility of $40 million, bringing the total commitment to $620 million.

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In August 2012, we declared a third quarter dividend of $0.38 per share and an additional dividend of $0.05 per share. Both dividends are payable on September 28, 2012 to stockholders of record as of September 14, 2012.

From July 1, 2012 through August 3, 2012, we had made new investment commitments of $299 million, of which $281 million were funded. Of these new commitments, 70% were in first lien senior secured debt, 17% were investments in subordinated certificates of the SSLP which were applied to co-investments with GE in first lien senior secured loans, 10% were in second lien senior secured debt and 3% were in other equity securities. Of the $299 million of new investment commitments, 97% were floating rate and 3% were non-interest bearing. The weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities funded during the period at amortized cost was 10.4%. We may seek to syndicate a portion of these new investment commitments to third parties, although there can be no assurance that we will be able to do so.

From July 1, 2012 through August 3, 2012, we exited $144 million of investment commitments. Of these investment commitments, 58% were first lien senior secured debt, 39% were senior subordinated debt and 3% were other equity securities. Of the $144 million of exited investment commitments, 56% were floating rate investments, 39% were fixed rate investments, 3% were non-interest bearing and 2% were investments on non-accrual status. The weighted average yield of debt and other income producing securities exited or repaid during the period at amortized cost was 11.5%. On the $144 million of investment commitments exited from July 1, 2012 through August 3, 2012, we recognized total net realized gains of approximately $23 million.

In addition, as of August 3, 2012, we had an investment backlog and pipeline of approximately $430 million and $570 million, respectively. Investment backlog includes transactions for which a formal mandate, letter of intent or a signed commitment have been issued, and therefore we believe are likely to close. Investment pipeline includes transactions where due diligence and analysis are in process, but no formal mandate, letter of intent or signed commitment have been issued. The consummation of any of the investments in this backlog and pipeline depends upon, among other things, one or more of the following: satisfactory completion of our due diligence investigation of the prospective portfolio company, our acceptance of the terms and structure of such investment and the execution and delivery of satisfactory transaction documentation. In addition, we may syndicate a portion of these investments to third parties. We cannot assure you that we will make any of these investments or that we will syndicate any portion of these investments.

Our Corporate Information

Our administrative offices are located at 2000 Avenue of the Stars, 12^{th} Floor, Los Angeles, California 90067, telephone number (310) 201-4200, and our executive offices are located at 245 Park Avenue, 44^{th} Floor, New York, New York 10167, telephone number (212) 750-7300.

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FEES AND EXPENSES

The following table is intended to assist you in understanding the costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear, directly or indirectly, based on the assumptions set forth below. We caution you that some of the percentages indicated in the table below are estimates and may vary. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this table or the accompanying prospectus contains a reference to our fees or expenses, we will pay such fees and expenses out of our net assets and, consequently, stockholders will indirectly bear such fees or expenses as investors in Ares Capital.

Stockholder transaction expenses (as a percentage of offering price):	
Sales load	4.99%(1)
Offering expenses	0.21%(2)
Dividend reinvestment plan expenses	None (3)
Total stockholder transaction expenses paid	5.21%

Annual expenses (as a percentage of consolidated net assets attributable to common stock)(4):	
Management fees	2.46%(5)
Incentive fees	2.89%(6)
Interest payments on borrowed funds	3.99%(7)
Other expenses	1.33%(8)
Acquired fund fees and expenses	0.01%(9)
Total annual expenses	10.68%(10)

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(1) The underwriting discounts and commissions with respect to the shares sold in this offering, which is a one time fee, is the only sales load paid in connection with this offering. Because the underwriters may offer the shares from time to time, for the purpose of calculating sales load, we have assumed the underwriters will sell the shares to the public at a price of $17.42 per share, our closing price on August 16, 2012.

(2) Amount reflects estimated offering expenses of approximately $830,000 based on the 22,500,000 shares offered in this offering (assuming that the underwriters do not exercise their option to purchase additional shares).

(3) The expenses of the dividend reinvestment plan are included in "Other expenses."

(4) The "consolidated net assets attributable to common stock" used to calculate the percentages in this table is our average net assets of $3.4 billion for the six months ended June 30, 2012.

(5) Our management fee is currently 1.5% of our total assets other than cash and cash equivalents (which includes assets purchased with borrowed amounts). For the purposes of this table, we have assumed that we maintain no cash or cash equivalents. The 2.46% reflected on the table is higher than 1.5% because it is calculated on our average net assets (rather than our average total assets). See "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement" in the accompanying prospectus.

(6) This item represents our investment adviser's incentive fees estimated by annualizing our incentive fee related to our pre-incentive fee net investment income for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and annualizing our accrual in accordance with United States generally

accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") of a capital gains incentive fee of $6.3 million for the six months ended June 30, 2012, even though no capital gains incentive fee was payable under the investment advisory and management agreement.

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GAAP requires that the capital gains incentive fee accrual consider the cumulative aggregate unrealized capital appreciation in the calculation, as a capital gains incentive fee would be payable if such unrealized capital appreciation were realized, even though such unrealized capital appreciation is not permitted to be considered in calculating the fee actually payable under the Investment Company Act or the investment advisory and management agreement. This GAAP accrual is calculated using the aggregate cumulative realized capital gains and losses and aggregate cumulative unrealized capital depreciation included in the calculation of the Capital Gains Fee (as defined below) plus the aggregate cumulative unrealized capital appreciation. If such amount is positive at the end of a period, then GAAP requires us to record a capital gains incentive fee equal to 20% of such cumulative amount, less the aggregate amount of actual Capital Gains Fees paid or capital gains incentive fees accrued under GAAP in all prior periods. The resulting accrual for any capital gains incentive fee under GAAP in a given period may result in an additional expense if such cumulative amount is greater than in the prior period or a reversal of previously recorded expense if such cumulative amount is less than in the prior period. If such cumulative amount is negative, then there is no accrual. There can be no assurance that such unrealized capital appreciation will be realized in the future or that the amount accrued for will ultimately be paid.

For purposes of this table, we have assumed that these fees will be payable (in the case of the capital gain incentive fee) and that they will remain constant, although they are based on Ares Capital's performance and will not be paid unless Ares Capital achieves certain goals. We expect to invest or otherwise utilize all of the net proceeds from this offering within three months of the date of this prospectus supplement and may have capital gains and interest income that could result in the payment of an incentive fee to our investment adviser in the first year after completion of this offering. Since our initial public offering through June 30, 2012, the average quarterly incentive fee accrued (including capital gains incentive fees accrued under GAAP even though they may not be payable) has been approximately 0.76% of our weighted average net assets (3.03% on an annualized basis). For more detailed information on the calculation of our incentive fees, please see below. For more detailed information about incentive fees previously incurred by us, please see Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2011 and the three and six months ended June 30, 2012.

The incentive fee consists of two parts:

The first, payable quarterly in arrears, equals 20% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income (including interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash), subject to a 1.75% quarterly (7.0% annualized) hurdle rate and a "catch-up" provision measured as of the end of each calendar quarter. Under this provision, in any calendar quarter, our investment adviser receives no incentive fee until our net investment income equals the hurdle rate of 1.75% but then receives, as a "catch-up," 100% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income with respect to that portion of such pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, that exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.1875%. The effect of this provision is that, if pre-incentive fee net investment income exceeds 2.1875% in any calendar quarter, our investment adviser will receive 20% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income as if a hurdle rate did not apply.

The second part (the "Capital Gains Fee"), payable annually in arrears, equals 20% of our realized capital gains on a cumulative basis from inception through the end of the year, if any, computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation on a cumulative basis, less the aggregate amount of any previously paid capital gain incentive fees.

We will defer cash payment of any incentive fee otherwise earned by our investment adviser if, during the most recent four full calendar quarter period ending on or prior to the date such payment is to be made, the sum of (a) our aggregate distributions to our stockholders and (b) our change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any

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incentive fees payable during the period) is less than 7.0% of our net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) at the beginning of such period.

These calculations will be adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases.

See "Management Investment Advisory and Management Agreement" in the accompanying prospectus.

(7) "Interest payments on borrowed funds" represents our interest expense estimated by annualizing our actual interest and credit facility expenses incurred for the six months ended June 30, 2012. During the six months ended June 30, 2012, our average outstanding borrowings were $2,103.9 million and cash paid for interest expense was $50.4 million. We had outstanding borrowings of $2,291.3 million (with a carrying value of $2,194.8 million) at June 30, 2012. This item is based on our assumption that our borrowings and interest costs after this offering will remain similar to those prior to this offering. The amount of leverage that we employ at any particular time will depend on, among other things, our board of directors' and our investment adviser's assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business We borrow money, which magnifies the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and may increase the risk of investing with us" in the accompanying prospectus.

(8) Includes our overhead expenses, including payments under our administration agreement (as defined in the accompanying prospectus), based on our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Ares Operations in performing its obligations under the administration agreement, and income taxes. Such expenses are estimated by annualizing "Other expenses" for the six months ended June 30, 2012. The holders of shares of our common stock (and not the holders of our debt securities or preferred stock, if any) indirectly bear the cost associated with our annual expenses. See "Management Administration Agreement" in the accompanying prospectus.

(9) The Company's stockholders indirectly bear the expenses of underlying funds or other investment vehicles that would be investment companies under section 3(a) of the Investment Company Act but for the exceptions to that definition provided for in sections 3(c)(1) and 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act ("Acquired Funds") in which the Company invests. This amount includes the estimated annual fees and expenses of Acquired Funds in which the Company is invested as of June 30, 2012. Certain of these Acquired Funds are subject to management fees, which generally range from 1% to 2.5% of total net assets, or incentive fees, which generally range between 15% to 25% of net profits. When applicable, fees and expenses estimates are based on historic fees and expenses for the Acquired Funds. For those Acquired Funds with little or no operating history, fees and expenses are estimates based on expected fees and expenses stated in the Acquired Funds' offering memorandum, private placement memorandum or other similar communication without giving effect to any performance. Future fees and expenses for these Acquired Funds may be substantially higher or lower because certain fees and expenses are based on the performance of the Acquired Funds, which may fluctuate over time.

(10) "Total annual expenses" as a percentage of consolidated net assets attributable to common stock are higher than the total annual expenses percentage would be for a company that is not leveraged. We borrow money to leverage and increase our total assets. The SEC requires that the "Total annual expenses" percentage be calculated as a percentage of net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any incentive fees payable during the period), rather than the total assets, including assets that have been funded with borrowed monies. As noted above, "Total annual expenses" is estimated by annualizing certain fees and expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2012, including the capital gains incentive fee required by GAAP for the six months ended June 30, 2012.

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Example

The following example demonstrates the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in our common stock. In calculating the following expense amounts, we have assumed that we would have no additional leverage, that none of our assets are cash or cash equivalents, and that our annual operating expenses would remain at the levels set forth in the table above. Transaction expenses are not included in the following example.

	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
You would pay the following expenses on a $1,000 common stock investment, assuming a 5% annual return(1)	$ 80	$ 232	$ 376	$ 699

(1) The above illustration assumes that we will not realize any capital gains computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation. The expenses you would pay, based on a $1,000 investment and assuming a 5% annual return resulting entirely from net realized capital gains (and therefore subject to the capital gain incentive fee), and otherwise making the same assumptions in the example above, would be: 1 year, $90; 3 years, $260; 5 years, $420; and 10 years, $772. However, cash payment of the capital incentive fee would be deferred if, during the most recent four full calendar quarter period ending on or prior to the date the payment set forth in the example is to be made, the sum of (a) our aggregate distributions to our stockholders and (b) our change in net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any incentive fees payable during the period) was less than 7.0% of our net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness) at the beginning of such period (as adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases).

The foregoing table is to assist you in understanding the various costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear directly or indirectly. While the example assumes, as required by the SEC, a 5% annual return, our performance will vary and may result in a return greater or less than 5%. The incentive fee under the investment advisory and management agreement, which, assuming a 5% annual return, would either not be payable or have an insignificant impact on the expense amounts shown above, is not included in the example. If we achieve sufficient returns on our investments, including through the realization of capital gains, to trigger an incentive fee of a material amount, our expenses, and returns to our investors, would be higher. In addition, while the example assumes reinvestment of all dividends and distributions at net asset value, if our board of directors authorizes and we declare a cash dividend, participants in our dividend reinvestment plan who have not otherwise elected to receive cash will receive a number of shares of our common stock, determined by dividing the total dollar amount of the dividend payable to a participant by the market price per share of our common stock at the close of trading on the valuation date for the dividend. See "Dividend Reinvestment Plan" in the accompanying prospectus for additional information regarding our dividend reinvestment plan.

This example and the expenses in the table above should not be considered a representation of our future expenses as actual expenses (including the cost of debt, if any, and other expenses) that we may incur in the future and such actual expenses may be greater or less than those shown.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds we will receive from the sale of 22,500,000 shares of our common stock in this offering will be approximately $371.5 million (or approximately $427.4 million if the underwriters fully exercise their option to purchase 3,375,000 additional shares), in each case after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us.

We expect to use the net proceeds of this offering to repay outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility (as defined in the accompanying prospectus) ($427.0 million outstanding as of August 10, 2012) and/or the Revolving Funding Facility ($372.0 million outstanding as of August 10, 2012).

Subject to certain exceptions, the interest charged on the indebtedness incurred under the Revolving Credit Facility is based on LIBOR (one, two, three or six month) plus an applicable spread of 2.25% or a "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the Revolving Credit Facility) plus an applicable spread of 1.25%. As of August 10, 2012, one, two, three and six month LIBOR were 0.24%, 0.33%, 0.44% and 0.72%, respectively. The Revolving Credit Facility matures on May 4, 2016. Subject to certain exceptions, the interest charged on the Revolving Funding Facility is based on LIBOR plus an applicable spread of 2.50% or on a "base rate" (as defined in the agreements governing the Revolving Funding Facility) plus an applicable spread of 1.50%. The Revolving Funding Facility is scheduled to expire on April 18, 2017 (subject to extension exercisable upon mutual consent).

Affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders under the Revolving Credit Facility and affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders under the Revolving Funding Facility. Accordingly, affiliates of certain of the underwriters may receive more than 5% of the proceeds of this offering to the extent such proceeds are used to repay or repurchase outstanding indebtedness under the Revolving Credit Facility and/or the Revolving Funding Facility.

We intend to use any net proceeds from this offering that are not applied as described above for general corporate purposes, which include investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective.

Investing in portfolio companies could include investments in our investment backlog and pipeline that, as of August 3, 2012, were approximately $430 million and $570 million, respectively. Please note that the consummation of any of the investments in this backlog and pipeline depends upon, among other things: satisfactory completion of our due diligence investigation of the prospective portfolio company, our acceptance of the terms and structure of such investment and the execution and delivery of satisfactory transaction documentation, and there can be no guarantee that we will consummate any of these investments or that we will syndicate any portion of such investments or commitments.

Our primary focus is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt and, to a lesser extent, equity securities of eligible portfolio companies. In addition to such investments, we may invest up to 30% of our portfolio in opportunistic investments of non-qualifying assets, as permitted by the Investment Company Act. As part of this 30% basket, we may invest in entities that are not considered "eligible portfolio companies" (as defined in the Investment Company Act), including companies outside of the United States, entities that are operating pursuant to certain exceptions to the Investment Company Act, and publicly traded entities whose public equity market capitalization exceeds the levels provided for in the Investment Company Act.

Pending such investments, we will invest a portion of the net proceeds primarily in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and other high-quality short-term investments. These securities may earn yields substantially lower than the income that we anticipate receiving once we are fully invested in accordance with our investment objective. As a result, we may not be able to achieve our

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investment objective and/or pay any dividends during this period or, if we are able to do so, such dividends may be substantially lower than the dividends that we expect to pay when our portfolio is fully invested. If we do not realize yields in excess of our expenses, we may incur operating losses and the market price of our common stock may decline. See "Regulation Temporary Investments" in the accompanying prospectus for additional information about temporary investments we may make while waiting to make longer-term investments in pursuit of our investment objective.

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PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DISTRIBUTIONS

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "ARCC." Our common stock has historically traded at prices both above and below our net asset value per share. It is not possible to predict whether the common stock offered hereby will trade at, above or below net asset value. See "Risk Factors Risks Relating to Offerings Pursuant to this Prospectus Our shares of common stock have traded at a discount from net asset value and may do so again in the future, which could limit our ability to raise additional equity capital" in the accompanying prospectus.

The following table sets forth, for each fiscal quarter for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012, the net asset value per share of our common stock, the range of high and low closing sales prices of our common stock, the closing sales price as a percentage of net asset value and the dividends or distributions declared by us. On August 16, 2012, the last reported closing sales price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Select Market was $17.42 per share, which represented a premium of approximately 12.3% to the net asset value per share reported by us as of June 30, 2012.

	Net Asset Value(1)	Price Range High	Price Range Low	High Sales Price to Net Asset Value(2)	Low Sales Price to Net Asset Value(2)	Cash Dividend Per Share(3)
Year ended December 31, 2010						
First Quarter	$ 11.78	$ 14.82	$ 11.75	125.8%	99.7%	$ 0.35
Second Quarter	$ 14.11	$ 16.40	$ 12.53	116.2%	88.8%	$ 0.35
Third Quarter	$ 14.43	$ 15.89	$ 12.44	110.1%	86.2%	$ 0.35
Fourth Quarter	$ 14.92	$ 17.26	$ 15.64	115.7%	104.8	