

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

Form 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2012

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number: 1-7182

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

13-2740599

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**Bank of America Corporate Center
100 N. Tryon Street
Charlotte, North Carolina**

28255

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(704) 386-5681

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

☒ YES ☐ NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

☒ YES ☐ NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer ☐ Accelerated filer ☐ Non-accelerated filer ☒ Smaller reporting company ☐
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

☐ YES ☒ NO

As of the close of business on May 3, 2012, there were 1,000 shares of Common Stock outstanding, all of which were held by Bank of America Corporation.

The Registrant is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of America Corporation and meets the conditions set forth in General Instructions H(1)(a) and (b) of Form 10-Q and is therefore filing this Form with the reduced disclosure format as permitted by Instruction H(2).

QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q
FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2012
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PART I - Financial Information

Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited)

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. and Subsidiaries Condensed Consolidated Statements of (Loss) Earnings (Unaudited)

<i>(dollars in millions)</i>	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	Three Months Ended March 31, 2011
Revenues		
Principal transactions	\$ (141)	\$ 1,171
Commissions	1,355	1,590
Managed account and other fee-based revenues	1,287	1,291
Investment banking	1,204	1,532
Earnings from equity method investments	157	138
Intercompany service fee revenue from BAC	167	233
Other revenues	772	1,895
Other-than-temporary impairment losses on available-for-sale debt securities:		
Total other-than-temporary impairment losses on AFS debt securities	(2)	(38)
Less: Portion of other-than-temporary impairment losses recognized in OCI on AFS debt securities	—	1
Subtotal	4,799	7,813
Interest and dividend revenues	1,837	2,400
Less interest expense	1,907	2,353
Net interest (expense) income	(70)	47
Revenues, net of interest expense	4,729	7,860
Non-interest expenses		
Compensation and benefits	4,514	4,610
Communications and technology	439	428
Occupancy and related depreciation	305	336
Brokerage, clearing, and exchange fees	282	300
Advertising and market development	108	121
Professional fees	195	227
Office supplies and postage	28	32
Provision for representations and warranties	11	(22)
Intercompany service fee expense from BAC	394	553
Other	305	654
Total non-interest expenses	6,581	7,239
Pre-tax (loss) earnings	(1,852)	621
Income tax (benefit) expense	(224)	215
Net (loss) earnings	\$ (1,628)	\$ 406

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive (Loss) Income (Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	Three Months Ended March 31, 2011
<i>(dollars in millions)</i>		
Net (Loss) Earnings	\$ (1,628)	\$ 406
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax:		
Foreign currency translation adjustment	14	2
Net unrealized gains on investment securities available-for-sale	—	1
Net deferred gains (losses) on cash flow hedges	3	(5)
Defined benefit pension and postretirement plans	35	4
Total other comprehensive income, net of tax	52	2
Comprehensive (Loss) Income	<u>\$ (1,576)</u>	<u>\$ 408</u>

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets (Unaudited)

(dollars in millions)

	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 10,789	\$ 13,731
Cash and securities segregated for regulatory purposes or deposited with clearing organizations	14,453	11,757
Securities financing transactions		
Receivables under resale agreements (includes \$90,998 in 2012 and \$85,652 in 2011 measured at fair value in accordance with the fair value option election)	147,975	143,491
Receivables under securities borrowed transactions (includes \$533 in 2012 and \$259 in 2011 measured at fair value in accordance with the fair value option election)	67,367	58,109
	<u>215,342</u>	<u>201,600</u>
Trading assets, at fair value (includes securities pledged as collateral that can be sold or repledged of \$45,355 in 2012 and \$34,932 in 2011):		
Derivative contracts	29,214	35,013
Equities and convertible debentures	34,345	25,619
Non-U.S. governments and agencies	38,009	30,239
Corporate debt and preferred stock	18,649	17,305
Mortgages, mortgage-backed, and asset-backed	9,162	8,254
U.S. Government and agencies	51,742	43,003
Municipals, money markets, physical commodities and other	13,368	13,044
	<u>194,489</u>	<u>172,477</u>
Investment securities (includes \$209 in 2012 and \$244 in 2011 measured at fair value in accordance with the fair value option election)	6,675	6,684
Securities received as collateral, at fair value	17,615	13,716
Receivables from Bank of America	42,837	50,972
Other receivables		
Customers (net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$15 in 2012 and \$15 in 2011)	22,566	20,512
Brokers and dealers	9,804	8,691
Interest and other	9,190	9,130
	<u>41,560</u>	<u>38,333</u>
Loans, notes, and mortgages (net of allowances for loan losses of \$75 in 2012 and \$72 in 2011) (includes \$2,774 in 2012 and \$2,322 in 2011 measured at fair value in accordance with the fair value option election)	20,429	20,574
Equipment and facilities, net	1,383	1,385
Goodwill and intangible assets	10,014	10,079
Other assets	15,266	15,155
Total Assets	<u>\$ 590,852</u>	<u>\$ 556,463</u>
 Assets of Consolidated VIEs Included in Total Assets Above (pledged as collateral)		
Trading assets	\$ 8,947	\$ 8,800
Investment securities	76	162
Loans, notes, and mortgages (net)	69	94
Other assets	1,352	3,022
Total Assets of Consolidated VIEs	<u>\$ 10,444</u>	<u>\$ 12,078</u>

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets (Unaudited)

(dollars in millions)

LIABILITIES

Securities financing transactions

Payables under repurchase agreements (includes \$54,434 in 2012 and \$34,235 in 2011 measured at fair value in accordance with the fair value option election)

Payables under securities loaned transactions

Short-term borrowings (includes \$5,732 in 2012 and \$5,908 in 2011 measured at fair value in accordance with the fair value option election)

Deposits

Trading liabilities, at fair value

Derivative contracts

Equities and convertible debentures

Non-U.S. governments and agencies

Corporate debt and preferred stock

U.S. Government and agencies

Municipals, money markets and other

Obligation to return securities received as collateral, at fair value

Payables to Bank of America

Other payables

Customers

Brokers and dealers

Interest and other (includes \$123 in 2012 and \$173 in 2011 measured at fair value in accordance with the fair value option election)

Long-term borrowings (includes \$32,569 in 2012 and \$30,325 in 2011 measured at fair value in accordance with the fair value option election)

Junior subordinated notes (related to trust preferred securities)

Total Liabilities

COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY

Common stock (par value \$1.33¹/₃ per share; authorized: 3,000,000,000 shares; issued: 2012 and 2011 — 1,000 shares)

Paid-in capital

Accumulated other comprehensive loss (net of tax)

Retained earnings

Total Stockholder's Equity

Total Liabilities and Stockholder's Equity

Liabilities of Consolidated VIEs Included in Total Liabilities Above

Short-term borrowings (includes \$12 in 2012 and \$0 in 2011 of non-recourse debt)

Derivative contracts

Other payables

Long-term borrowings (includes \$2,751 in 2012 and \$2,579 in 2011 of non-recourse debt)

Total Liabilities of Consolidated VIEs

	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
	\$	\$
	214,096	173,767
	15,459	11,460
	229,555	185,227
	5,918	6,051
	12,538	12,364
	24,664	26,239
	17,913	12,223
	18,414	16,554
	8,659	7,084
	17,874	16,976
	465	645
	87,989	79,721
	17,615	13,716
	13,134	31,779
	43,362	40,153
	8,088	8,667
	17,587	18,099
	69,037	66,919
	102,082	107,118
	3,606	3,600
	541,474	506,495
	—	—
	42,953	41,967
	(183)	(235)
	6,608	8,236
	49,378	49,968
	\$ 590,852	\$ 556,463
	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,939
	4	4
	173	186
	7,028	6,595
	\$ 11,905	\$ 11,724

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)

<i>(dollars in millions)</i>	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	Three Months Ended March 31, 2011
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net (loss) earnings	\$ (1,628)	\$ 406
Adjustments to reconcile net (loss) earnings to cash provided by (used for) operating activities		
Depreciation and amortization	156	194
Share-based compensation expense	744	956
Deferred taxes	(518)	218
Earnings from equity method investments	(157)	(138)
Other	37	287
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Trading assets	(22,012)	(11,134)
Cash and securities segregated for regulatory purposes or deposited with clearing organizations	(2,696)	1,926
Receivables from Bank of America	8,135	(8,741)
Receivables under resale agreements	(4,484)	(17,620)
Receivables under securities borrowed transactions	(9,258)	(4,489)
Customer receivables	(2,054)	(4,053)
Brokers and dealers receivables	(1,114)	(886)
Proceeds from loans, notes, and mortgages held for sale	390	2,493
Other changes in loans, notes, and mortgages held for sale	(42)	(1,420)
Trading liabilities	8,208	13,310
Payables under repurchase agreements	40,329	11,385
Payables under securities loaned transactions	3,999	3,298
Payables to Bank of America	(18,645)	14,344
Customer payables	3,209	3,323
Brokers and dealers payables	(579)	(5,303)
Other, net	2,475	(1,036)
Cash provided by (used for) operating activities	<u>4,495</u>	<u>(2,680)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Proceeds from (payments for):		
Maturities of available-for-sale securities	183	364
Sales of available-for-sale securities	3	1,587
Purchases of available-for-sale securities	(163)	(150)
Equipment and facilities, net	(78)	(48)
Loans, notes, and mortgages held for investment	(19)	618
Other investments	417	1,145
Cash provided by investing activities	<u>343</u>	<u>3,516</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from (payments for):		
Short-term borrowings	(133)	431
Issuance and resale of long-term borrowings	2,415	3,076
Settlement and repurchases of long-term borrowings	(10,480)	(7,857)
Deposits	174	590
Derivative financing transactions	60	35
Cash used for financing activities	<u>(7,964)</u>	<u>(3,725)</u>
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	184	68
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(2,942)	(2,821)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	13,731	17,220
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	<u>\$ 10,789</u>	<u>\$ 14,399</u>

Non-cash financing activities:

During the three months ended March 31, 2012, Merrill Lynch received a non-cash capital contribution of approximately \$1.1 billion from Bank of America associated with certain employee stock awards.

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. and Subsidiaries
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)
March 31, 2012

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Description of Business

Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. ("ML & Co.") and together with its subsidiaries ("Merrill Lynch"), provides investment, financing and other related services to individuals and institutions on a global basis through its broker, dealer, banking and other financial services subsidiaries. On January 1, 2009, ML & Co. was acquired by Bank of America Corporation ("Bank of America") in exchange for common and preferred stock with a value of \$29.1 billion. ML & Co. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of America.

Basis of Presentation

The Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements include the accounts of Merrill Lynch. The Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements are presented in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("U.S. GAAP"). Intercompany transactions and balances within Merrill Lynch have been eliminated. Transactions and balances with Bank of America have not been eliminated. The interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements are unaudited; however, all adjustments for a fair presentation of the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements have been included.

These unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the audited Consolidated Financial Statements included in Merrill Lynch's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 (the "2011 Annual Report"). The nature of Merrill Lynch's business is such that the results of any interim period are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year. Certain prior-period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current period presentation.

Consolidation Accounting

Merrill Lynch determines whether it is required to consolidate an entity by first evaluating whether the entity qualifies as a voting rights entity ("VRE") or as a variable interest entity ("VIE").

The Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements include the accounts of Merrill Lynch, whose subsidiaries are generally controlled through a majority voting interest or a controlling financial interest. On January 1, 2010, Merrill Lynch adopted accounting guidance on consolidation of VIEs, which has been deferred for certain investment funds managed on behalf of third parties if Merrill Lynch does not have an obligation to fund losses that could potentially be significant to these funds. Any funds meeting the deferral requirements will continue to be evaluated for consolidation in accordance with the prior guidance.

VREs - VREs are defined to include entities that have both equity at risk that is sufficient to fund future operations and have equity investors that have a controlling financial interest in the entity through their equity investments. In accordance with ASC 810, *Consolidation* ("Consolidation Accounting"), Merrill Lynch generally consolidates those VREs where it has the majority of the voting rights. For investments in limited partnerships and certain limited liability corporations that Merrill Lynch does not control, Merrill Lynch applies ASC 323, *Investments - Equity Method and Joint Ventures* ("Equity Method Accounting"), which requires use of the equity method of accounting for investors that have more than a minor influence, which is typically defined as an investment of greater than 3% to 5% of the outstanding equity in the entity. For more traditional corporate structures, in accordance with Equity Method Accounting, Merrill Lynch applies the equity method of accounting where it has the ability to exercise significant influence over the operating and financing decisions of the investee. Significant influence can be evidenced by a significant ownership interest (which is generally defined as a voting interest of 20% to 50%), significant board of director representation, or other contracts and arrangements.

VIEs - Those entities that do not meet the VRE criteria are generally analyzed for consolidation as VIEs. A VIE is an entity that lacks equity investors or whose equity investors do not have a controlling financial interest in the entity through their equity investments. Merrill Lynch consolidates those VIEs for which it is the primary beneficiary. In accordance with Consolidation Accounting guidance, Merrill Lynch is considered the primary beneficiary when it has a controlling financial interest in a VIE. Merrill Lynch has a controlling financial interest when it has both the power to direct the activities of the VIE that most significantly impact the VIE's economic performance and an obligation to absorb losses or the right to receive benefits that could potentially be significant to the VIE. Merrill Lynch reassesses whether it is the primary beneficiary of a VIE on a quarterly basis. The quarterly reassessment process considers whether Merrill Lynch has acquired or divested the power to direct the activities of the VIE through changes in governing documents or other circumstances. The reassessment also considers whether Merrill Lynch has acquired or disposed of a financial interest that could be significant to the VIE, or whether an interest in the VIE has become significant or is no longer significant. The consolidation status of the VIEs with which Merrill Lynch is involved may change as a result of such reassessments.

Securitization Activities

In the normal course of business, Merrill Lynch has securitized commercial and residential mortgage loans; municipal, government, and corporate bonds; and other types of financial assets. Merrill Lynch may retain interests in the securitized financial assets by holding notes or other debt instruments issued by the securitization vehicle. In accordance with ASC 860, *Transfers and Servicing* ("Financial Transfers and Servicing Accounting"), Merrill Lynch recognizes transfers of financial assets where it relinquishes control as sales to the extent of cash and any other proceeds received.

Revenue Recognition

Principal transactions revenue includes both realized and unrealized gains and losses on trading assets and trading liabilities, investment securities classified as trading investments and fair value changes associated with certain structured debt. These instruments are recorded at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. Gains and losses on sales are recognized on a trade date basis.

Commissions revenues include commissions, mutual fund distribution fees and contingent deferred sales charge revenue, which are all accrued as earned. Commissions revenues also include mutual fund redemption fees, which are recognized at the time of redemption. Commissions revenues earned from certain customer equity transactions are recorded net of related brokerage, clearing and exchange fees.

Managed account and other fee-based revenues primarily consist of asset-priced portfolio service fees earned from the administration of separately managed accounts and other investment accounts for retail investors, annual account fees, and certain other account-related fees.

Investment banking revenues include fees for the underwriting and distribution of debt, equity and loan products and fees for advisory services and tailored risk management solutions, which are accrued when services for the transactions are substantially completed. Underwriting revenues are presented net of transaction-related expenses.

Earnings from equity method investments include Merrill Lynch's pro rata share of income and losses associated with investments accounted for under the equity method of accounting.

Other revenues include gains (losses) on investment securities, including sales of available-for-sale securities, gains (losses) on private equity investments and other principal investments and gains (losses) on loans and other miscellaneous items.

Contractual interest received and paid, and dividends received on trading assets and trading liabilities, excluding derivatives, are recognized on an accrual basis as a component of interest and dividend revenues and interest expense. Interest and dividends on investment securities are recognized on an accrual basis as a component of

interest and dividend revenues. Interest related to loans, notes, and mortgages, securities financing activities and certain short- and long-term borrowings are recorded on an accrual basis as interest revenue or interest expense, as applicable.

Use of Estimates

In presenting the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, management makes estimates including the following:

- Valuations of assets and liabilities requiring fair value estimates;
- The allowance for credit losses;
- Determination of other-than-temporary impairments for available-for-sale investment securities;
- The outcome of litigation;
- Determination of the liability for representations and warranties made in connection with the sales of residential mortgage and home equity loans;
- Determination of whether VIEs should be consolidated;
- The ability to realize deferred tax assets and the recognition and measurement of uncertain tax positions;
- The carrying amount of goodwill and intangible assets;
- The amortization period of intangible assets with definite lives;
- Incentive-based compensation accruals and valuation of share-based payment compensation arrangements; and
- Other matters that affect the reported amounts and disclosure of contingencies in the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Estimates, by their nature, are based on judgment and available information. Therefore, actual results could differ from those estimates and could have a material impact on the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, and it is possible that such changes could occur in the near term. A discussion of certain areas in which estimates are a significant component of the amounts reported in the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements follows:

Fair Value Measurement

Merrill Lynch accounts for a significant portion of its financial instruments at fair value or considers fair value in their measurement. Merrill Lynch accounts for certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value under various accounting literature, including ASC 320, *Investments - Debt and Equity Securities* (“Investment Accounting”), ASC 815, *Derivatives and Hedging* (“Derivatives Accounting”), and the fair value option election in accordance with ASC 825-10-25, *Financial Instruments - Recognition* (the “fair value option election”). Merrill Lynch also accounts for certain assets at fair value under applicable industry guidance, namely ASC 940, *Financial Services - Broker and Dealers* (“Broker-Dealer Guide”) and ASC 946, *Financial Services - Investment Companies* (“Investment Company Guide”).

ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* (“Fair Value Accounting”) defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, establishes a fair value hierarchy based on the quality of inputs used to measure fair value and enhances disclosure requirements for fair value measurements.

Fair values for over-the-counter (“OTC”) derivative financial instruments, principally forwards, options, and swaps, represent the present value of amounts estimated to be received from or paid to a marketplace participant in settlement of these instruments (i.e., the amount Merrill Lynch would expect to receive in a derivative asset assignment or would expect to pay to have a derivative liability assumed). These derivatives are valued using pricing models based on the net present value of estimated future cash flows and directly observed prices from exchange-traded derivatives, other OTC trades, or external pricing services, while taking into account the counterparty's creditworthiness, or Merrill Lynch's own creditworthiness, as appropriate. When external pricing services are used, the methods and assumptions used are reviewed by Merrill Lynch. Determining the fair value for

OTC derivative contracts can require a significant level of estimation and management judgment.

New and/or complex instruments may have immature or limited markets. As a result, the pricing models used for valuation often incorporate significant estimates and assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the instrument, which may impact the results of operations reported in the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. For instance, on long-dated and illiquid contracts extrapolation methods are applied to observed market data in order to estimate inputs and assumptions that are not directly observable. This enables Merrill Lynch to mark to fair value all positions consistently when only a subset of prices are directly observable. Values for OTC derivatives are verified using observed information about the costs of hedging the risk and other trades in the market. As the markets for these products develop, Merrill Lynch continually refines its pricing models to correlate more closely to the market price of these instruments. The recognition of significant inception gains and losses that incorporate unobservable inputs is reviewed by management to ensure such gains and losses are derived from observable inputs and/or incorporate reasonable assumptions about the unobservable component, such as implied bid-offer adjustments.

Certain financial instruments recorded at fair value are initially measured using mid-market prices which results in gross long and short positions valued at the same pricing level prior to the application of position netting. The resulting net positions are then adjusted to fair value representing the exit price as defined in Fair Value Accounting. The significant adjustments include liquidity and counterparty credit risk.

Liquidity

Merrill Lynch makes adjustments to bring a position from a mid-market to a bid or offer price, depending upon the net open position. Merrill Lynch values net long positions at bid prices and net short positions at offer prices. These adjustments are based upon either observable or implied bid-offer prices.

Counterparty Credit Risk

In determining fair value, Merrill Lynch considers both the credit risk of its counterparties, as well as its own creditworthiness. Merrill Lynch attempts to mitigate credit risk to third parties by entering into netting and collateral arrangements. Net counterparty exposure (counterparty positions netted by offsetting transactions and both cash and securities collateral) is then valued for counterparty creditworthiness and the resultant credit valuation adjustment ("CVA") is incorporated into the fair value of the respective instruments. Merrill Lynch generally calculates the CVA for derivatives based on observable market credit spreads.

Fair Value Accounting also requires that Merrill Lynch consider its own creditworthiness when determining the fair value of certain instruments, including OTC derivative instruments and certain structured notes carried at fair value under the fair value option election (i.e., debit valuation adjustment or "DVA"). Merrill Lynch's DVA is measured in the same manner as third party counterparty credit risk. The impact of Merrill Lynch's DVA is incorporated into the fair value of instruments such as OTC derivative contracts even when credit risk is not readily observable in the instrument. OTC derivative liabilities are valued based on the net counterparty exposure as described above.

Legal and Representation and Warranty Reserves

Merrill Lynch is a party in various actions, some of which involve claims for substantial amounts. Amounts are accrued for the financial resolution of claims that have either been asserted or are deemed probable of assertion if, in the opinion of management, it is both probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. In many cases, it is not possible to determine whether a liability has been incurred or to estimate the ultimate or minimum amount of that liability until the case is close to resolution, in which case no accrual is made until that time. Accruals are subject to significant estimation by management, with input from any outside counsel handling the matter.

In addition, Merrill Lynch and certain of its subsidiaries made various representations and warranties in connection with the sale of residential mortgage and home equity loans. Breaches of these representations and warranties may

result in the requirement to repurchase mortgage loans or to otherwise make whole or provide other remedies. Refer to Note 14 for further information.

Income Taxes

Merrill Lynch provides for income taxes on all transactions that have been recognized in the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements in accordance with ASC 740, *Income Taxes* ("Income Tax Accounting"). Accordingly, deferred taxes are adjusted to reflect the tax rates at which future taxable amounts will likely be settled or realized. The effects of tax rate changes on deferred tax liabilities and deferred tax assets, as well as other changes in income tax laws, are recognized in net earnings in the period during which such changes are enacted. Valuation allowances are established when necessary to reduce deferred tax assets to the amounts that are more-likely-than-not to be realized. Pursuant to Income Tax Accounting, Merrill Lynch may consider various sources of evidence in assessing the necessity of valuation allowances to reduce deferred tax assets to amounts more-likely-than-not to be realized, including the following: 1) past and projected earnings, including losses, of Merrill Lynch and Bank of America, as certain tax attributes such as U.S. net operating losses ("NOLs"), U.S. capital loss carryforwards and foreign tax credit carryforwards can be utilized by Bank of America in certain income tax returns, 2) tax carryforward periods, and 3) tax planning strategies and other factors of the legal entities, such as the intercompany tax-allocation policy. Included within Merrill Lynch's net deferred tax assets are carryforward amounts generated in the U.S. and the U.K. that are deductible in the future as NOLs. Merrill Lynch has concluded that these deferred tax assets are more-likely-than-not to be fully utilized prior to expiration, based on the projected level of future taxable income of Merrill Lynch and Bank of America, which is relevant due to the intercompany tax-allocation policy. For this purpose, future taxable income was projected based on forecasts, historical earnings after adjusting for the past market disruptions and the anticipated impact of the differences between pre-tax earnings and taxable income.

Merrill Lynch recognizes and measures its unrecognized tax benefits in accordance with Income Tax Accounting. Merrill Lynch estimates the likelihood, based on their technical merits, that tax positions will be sustained upon examination considering the facts and circumstances and information available at the end of each period. Merrill Lynch adjusts the level of unrecognized tax benefits when there is more information available, or when an event occurs requiring a change. In accordance with Bank of America's policy, any new or subsequent change in an unrecognized tax benefit related to a Bank of America state consolidated, combined or unitary return in which Merrill Lynch is a member will generally not be reflected in Merrill Lynch's balance sheet. However, upon Bank of America's resolution of the item, any material impact determined to be attributable to Merrill Lynch will be reflected in Merrill Lynch's balance sheet. Merrill Lynch accrues income-tax-related interest and penalties, if applicable, within income tax expense.

Merrill Lynch's results of operations are included in the U.S. federal income tax return and certain state income tax returns of Bank of America. The method of allocating income tax expense is determined under the intercompany tax allocation policy of Bank of America. This policy specifies that income tax expense will be computed for all Bank of America subsidiaries generally on a separate pro forma return basis, taking into account the tax position of the consolidated group and the pro forma Merrill Lynch group. Under this policy, tax benefits associated with NOLs (or other tax attributes) of Merrill Lynch are payable to Merrill Lynch generally upon utilization in Bank of America's tax returns.

Securities Financing Transactions

Merrill Lynch enters into repurchase and resale agreements and securities borrowed and loaned transactions to accommodate customers and earn interest rate spreads (also referred to as "matched-book transactions"), obtain securities for settlement and finance inventory positions. Resale and repurchase agreements are generally accounted for as collateralized financing transactions and may be recorded at their contractual amounts plus accrued interest or at fair value under the fair value option election. In resale and repurchase agreements, typically the termination date of the agreements is before the maturity date of the underlying security. However, in certain situations, Merrill Lynch may enter into agreements where the termination date of the transaction is the same as the maturity date of the underlying security. These transactions are referred to as repo-to-maturity ("RTM") transactions. In accordance

with applicable accounting guidance, Merrill Lynch accounts for RTM transactions as sales and purchases when the transferred securities are highly liquid. In instances where securities are considered sold or purchased, Merrill Lynch removes or recognizes the securities from the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet and, in the case of sales, recognizes a gain or loss in the Condensed Consolidated Statement of (Loss) Earnings. At March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, Merrill Lynch had no outstanding RTM transactions that had been accounted for as sales and an immaterial amount of transactions that had been accounted for as purchases.

Resale and repurchase agreements recorded at fair value are generally valued based on pricing models that use inputs with observable levels of price transparency. Where the fair value option election has been made, changes in the fair value of resale and repurchase agreements are reflected in principal transactions revenues and the contractual interest coupon is recorded as interest revenue or interest expense, respectively. For further information refer to Note 4.

Resale and repurchase agreements recorded at their contractual amounts plus accrued interest approximate fair value, as the fair value of these items is not materially sensitive to shifts in market interest rates because of the short-term nature of these instruments and/or variable interest rates or to credit risk because the resale and repurchase agreements are substantially collateralized.

Merrill Lynch may use securities received as collateral for resale agreements to satisfy regulatory requirements such as Rule 15c3-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Securities borrowed and loaned transactions may be recorded at the amount of cash collateral advanced or received plus accrued interest or at fair value under the fair value option election. Securities borrowed transactions require Merrill Lynch to provide the counterparty with collateral in the form of cash, letters of credit, or other securities. Merrill Lynch receives collateral in the form of cash or other securities for securities loaned transactions. For these transactions, the fees received or paid by Merrill Lynch are recorded as interest revenue or expense. The carrying value of securities borrowed and loaned transactions recorded at the amount of cash collateral advanced or received approximates fair value as these items are not materially sensitive to shifts in market interest rates because of their short-term nature and/or variable interest rates or to credit risk because securities borrowed and loaned transactions are substantially collateralized.

For securities financing transactions, Merrill Lynch's policy is to obtain possession of collateral with a market value equal to or in excess of the principal amount loaned under the agreements. To ensure that the market value of the underlying collateral remains sufficient, collateral is generally valued daily and Merrill Lynch may require counterparties to deposit additional collateral or may return collateral pledged when appropriate. Securities financing agreements give rise to negligible credit risk as a result of these collateral provisions, and no allowance for loan losses is considered necessary. These instruments therefore are managed based on market risk rather than credit risk.

Substantially all securities financing activities are transacted under master agreements that give Merrill Lynch the right, in the event of default, to liquidate collateral held and to offset receivables and payables with the same counterparty. Merrill Lynch offsets certain repurchase and resale transactions with the same counterparty on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets where it has such a master agreement, that agreement is legally enforceable and the transactions have the same maturity date.

All Merrill Lynch-owned securities pledged to counterparties where the counterparty has the right, by contract or custom, to sell or repledge the securities are disclosed parenthetically in trading assets or in investment securities on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets.

In transactions where Merrill Lynch acts as the lender in a securities lending agreement and receives securities that can be pledged or sold as collateral, it recognizes an asset on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets carried at fair value, representing the securities received (securities received as collateral), and a liability for the same amount, representing the obligation to return those securities (obligation to return securities received as collateral). The

amounts on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets result from such non-cash transactions.

Trading Assets and Liabilities

Merrill Lynch's trading activities consist primarily of securities brokerage and trading; derivatives dealing and brokerage; commodities trading and futures brokerage; and securities financing transactions. Trading assets and trading liabilities consist of cash instruments (e.g., securities and loans) and derivative instruments. Trading assets also include commodities inventory. See Note 6 for additional information on derivative instruments.

Trading assets and liabilities are generally recorded on a trade date basis at fair value. Included in trading liabilities are securities that Merrill Lynch has sold but did not own and will therefore be obligated to purchase at a future date ("short sales"). Commodities inventory is recorded at the lower of cost or fair value. Changes in fair value of trading assets and liabilities (i.e., unrealized gains and losses) are recognized as principal transactions revenues in the current period. Realized gains and losses and any related interest amounts are included in principal transactions revenues and interest revenues and expenses, depending on the nature of the instrument.

Derivatives

A derivative is an instrument whose value is derived from an underlying instrument or index, such as interest rates, equity security prices, currencies, commodity prices or credit spreads. Derivatives include futures, forwards, swaps, option contracts and other financial instruments with similar characteristics. Derivative contracts often involve future commitments to exchange interest payment streams or currencies based on a notional or contractual amount (e.g., interest rate swaps or currency forwards) or to purchase or sell other financial instruments at specified terms on a specified date (e.g., options to buy or sell securities or currencies). Refer to Note 6 for further information.

Investment Securities

Investment securities consist of marketable investment securities and non-qualifying investments. Refer to Note 8.

Marketable Investment Securities

ML & Co. and certain of its non-broker-dealer subsidiaries follow the guidance within Investment Accounting for investments in debt and publicly traded equity securities. Merrill Lynch classifies those debt securities that it does not intend to sell as held-to-maturity securities. Held-to-maturity securities are carried at amortized cost unless a decline in value is deemed other-than-temporary, in which case the carrying value is reduced. For Merrill Lynch, the trading classification under Investment Accounting generally includes those securities that are bought and held principally for the purpose of selling them in the near term, securities that are economically hedged, or securities that may contain a bifurcable embedded derivative as defined in Derivatives Accounting. Securities classified as trading are marked to fair value through earnings. All other qualifying securities are classified as available-for-sale ("AFS") and are held at fair value with unrealized gains and losses reported in accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income ("OCI").

Realized gains and losses on investment securities are included in current period earnings. For purposes of computing realized gains and losses, the cost basis of each investment sold is based on the specific identification method.

Merrill Lynch regularly (at least quarterly) evaluates each held-to-maturity and AFS security whose fair value has declined below amortized cost to assess whether the decline in fair value is other-than-temporary. A decline in a debt security's fair value is considered to be other-than-temporary if it is probable that all amounts contractually due will not be collected or Merrill Lynch either plans to sell the security or it is more likely than not that it will be required to sell the security before recovery of its amortized cost. For unrealized losses on debt securities that are deemed other-than-temporary, the credit component of an other-than-temporary impairment is recognized in earnings and the non-credit component is recognized in OCI when Merrill Lynch does not intend to sell the security and it is more likely than not that Merrill Lynch will not be required to sell the security prior to recovery.

Non-Qualifying Investments

Non-qualifying investments are those investments that are not within the scope of Investment Accounting and primarily include private equity investments accounted for at fair value and other equity securities carried at cost or under the equity method of accounting.

Private equity investments that are held for capital appreciation and/or current income are accounted for under the Investment Company Guide and carried at fair value. Additionally, certain private equity investments that are not accounted for under the Investment Company Guide may be carried at fair value under the fair value option election. The fair value of private equity investments reflects expected exit values based upon market prices or other valuation methodologies, including market comparables of similar companies and discounted expected cash flows.

Merrill Lynch has non-controlling investments in the common shares of corporations and in partnerships that do not fall within the scope of Investment Accounting or the Investment Company Guide. Merrill Lynch accounts for these investments using either the cost or the equity method of accounting based on management's ability to influence the investees, or Merrill Lynch may elect the fair value option. See the Consolidation Accounting section of this Note for more information.

For investments accounted for using the equity method, income is recognized based on Merrill Lynch's share of the earnings or losses of the investee. Dividend distributions are generally recorded as reductions in the investment balance. Impairment testing is based on the guidance provided in Equity Method Accounting, and the investment is reduced when an impairment is deemed other-than-temporary.

For investments accounted for at cost, income is recognized when dividends are received, or the investment is sold. Instruments are periodically tested for impairment based on the guidance provided in Investment Accounting, and the cost basis is reduced when an impairment is deemed other-than-temporary.

Loans, Notes and Mortgages, Net

Merrill Lynch's lending and related activities include loan originations, syndications and securitizations. Loan originations include corporate and institutional loans, residential and commercial mortgages, asset-backed loans, and other loans to individuals and businesses. Merrill Lynch also engages in secondary market loan trading (see the Trading Assets and Liabilities section of this Note) and margin lending, which is included in customer receivables. Loans included in loans, notes, and mortgages are classified for accounting purposes as loans held for investment and loans held for sale. Upon completion of the acquisition of Merrill Lynch by Bank of America, certain loans carried by Merrill Lynch were subject to the requirements of ASC 310-30, *Loans and Debt Securities Acquired with Deteriorated Credit Quality* ("Acquired Impaired Loan Accounting").

Loans held for investment are generally carried at amortized cost, less an allowance for loan losses, which represents Merrill Lynch's estimate of probable losses inherent in its lending activities. The fair value option election has been made for certain held-for-investment loans, notes and mortgages. Merrill Lynch performs periodic and systematic detailed reviews of its lending portfolios to identify credit risks and to assess overall collectability. These reviews, which are updated on a quarterly basis, consider a variety of factors including, but not limited to, historical loss experience, estimated defaults, delinquencies, economic conditions, credit scores and the fair value of any underlying collateral. Provisions for loan losses are included in interest and dividend revenue in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of (Loss) Earnings.

Merrill Lynch's estimate of loan losses includes judgment about collectability based on available information at the balance sheet date, and the uncertainties inherent in those underlying assumptions. While management has based its estimates on the best information available, future adjustments to the allowance for loan losses may be necessary as a result of changes in the economic environment or variances between actual results and the original assumptions.

In general, loans that are past due 90 days or more as to principal or interest, or where reasonable doubt exists as to

timely collection, including loans that are individually identified as being impaired, are classified as non-performing unless well-secured and in the process of collection. Loans, primarily commercial, whose contractual terms have been restructured in a manner which grants a concession to a borrower experiencing financial difficulties are considered troubled debt restructurings ("TDRs") and are classified as non-performing until the loans have performed for an adequate period of time under the restructured agreement. Interest accrued but not collected is reversed when a commercial loan is considered non-performing. Interest collections on commercial loans for which the ultimate collectability of principal is uncertain are applied as principal reductions; otherwise, such collections are credited to income when received. Commercial loans may be restored to performing status when all principal and interest is current and full repayment of the remaining contractual principal and interest is expected, or when the loan otherwise becomes well-secured and is in the process of collection.

Loans held for sale are carried at lower of cost or fair value. The fair value option election has been made for certain held-for-sale loans, notes and mortgages. Estimation is required in determining these fair values. The fair value of loans made in connection with commercial lending activity, consisting mainly of senior debt, is primarily estimated using the market value of publicly issued debt instruments when available or discounted cash flows.

Nonrefundable loan origination fees, loan commitment fees, and "draw down" fees received in conjunction with held for investment loans are generally deferred and recognized over the contractual life of the loan as an adjustment to the yield. If, at the outset, or any time during the term of the loan, it becomes probable that the repayment period will be extended, the amortization is recalculated using the expected remaining life of the loan. When the loan contract does not provide for a specific maturity date, management's best estimate of the repayment period is used. At repayment of the loan, any unrecognized deferred fee is immediately recognized in earnings. If the loan is accounted for as held for sale, the fees received are deferred and recognized as part of the gain or loss on sale in other revenues. If the loan is accounted for under the fair value option election, the fees are included in the determination of the fair value and included in other revenues.

New Accounting Pronouncements

Effective January 1, 2012, Merrill Lynch adopted new accounting guidance, on a prospective basis, that addresses effective control in repurchase agreements and eliminates the requirement for entities to consider whether the transferor/seller has the ability to repurchase the financial assets in a repurchase agreement. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on Merrill Lynch's consolidated financial position or results of operations.

Effective January 1, 2012, Merrill Lynch adopted amendments to Fair Value Accounting. The amendments clarify the application of the highest and best use, and valuation premise concepts, preclude the application of "blockage factors" in the valuation of all financial instruments and include criteria for applying the fair value measurement principles to portfolios of financial instruments. The amendments also prescribe additional disclosures for Level 3 fair value measurements and financial instruments not carried at fair value. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on Merrill Lynch's consolidated financial position or results of operations.

On January 1, 2012, new accounting guidance on the presentation of comprehensive income in financial statements became effective, which was early adopted by Merrill Lynch in the 2011 Annual Report by reporting the components of comprehensive income in two separate but consecutive statements.

Note 2. Transactions with Bank of America

Merrill Lynch has entered into various transactions with Bank of America, including transactions in connection with certain sales and trading and financing activities as well as the allocation of certain shared services. Details on amounts receivable from and payable to Bank of America as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 are presented below.

Receivables from Bank of America are comprised of:

(dollars in millions)

	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,729	\$ 7,491
Cash and securities segregated for regulatory purposes	5,865	6,107
Receivables under resale agreements	22,784	26,855
Trading assets	1,942	700
Net intercompany funding receivable	77	3,567
Other receivables	5,440	6,252
	<u>\$ 42,837</u>	<u>\$ 50,972</u>

Payables to Bank of America are comprised of:

(dollars in millions)

	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Payables under repurchase agreements	\$ 586	\$ 22,647
Payables under securities loaned transactions	4,046	2,519
Short-term borrowings	1,160	1,450
Deposits	105	75
Trading liabilities	692	503
Other payables	3,365	1,935
Long-term borrowings ⁽¹⁾	3,180	2,650
Total	<u>\$ 13,134</u>	<u>\$ 31,779</u>

(1) Amounts include \$2,578 of subordinated borrowings from Bank of America (see Note 12).

Total net revenues and non-interest expenses related to transactions with Bank of America for the three months ended March 31, 2012 were \$209 million and \$425 million, respectively. Total net revenues and non-interest expenses related to transactions with Bank of America for the three months ended March 31, 2011 were \$318 million and \$615 million, respectively. Total net revenues related to transactions with Bank of America for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011 included intercompany service fee revenues of \$167 million and \$233 million, respectively. Total non-interest expenses related to transactions with Bank of America for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011 included intercompany service fee expenses of \$394 million and \$553 million, respectively. Intercompany service fee revenue and service fee expense from Bank of America represents the allocations of certain centralized or shared business activities between Merrill Lynch and Bank of America. Such fees are generally determined in accordance with subsidiary transfer pricing agreements.

Bank of America and Merrill Lynch have entered into certain intercompany lending and borrowing arrangements to facilitate centralized liquidity management. Included in these arrangements is a \$50 billion extendible one-year revolving credit facility that allows Bank of America to borrow funds from Merrill Lynch at a spread to the London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") that is reset periodically and is consistent with other intercompany agreements. The credit facility matures on January 1, 2013 and will automatically be extended by one year to the succeeding January 1st unless Merrill Lynch provides written notice not to extend at least 45 days prior to the maturity date. There were no amounts outstanding at both March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 under this credit facility. There is also a short-term revolving credit facility that allows Bank of America to borrow up to an additional \$25 billion. Interest on borrowings under the credit facility is based on prevailing short-term market rates. The line of credit matures on February 12, 2013. At March 31, 2012, there were no amounts outstanding under this credit facility. See Note 12 for further information on intercompany financing agreements with Bank of America. In addition, Bank of America has guaranteed the performance of Merrill Lynch on certain derivative transactions (see Note 6). Bank of America has also guaranteed certain debt securities, warrants and/or other certificates and obligations of certain subsidiaries of ML & Co. (see Note 12).

Note 3. Segment and Geographic Information

Segment Information

Pursuant to ASC 280, *Segment Reporting*, operating segments represent components of an enterprise for which separate financial information is available that is regularly evaluated by the chief operating decision maker in determining how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. The business activities of Merrill Lynch are included within certain of the operating segments of Bank of America. Detailed financial information related to the operations of Merrill Lynch, however, is not provided to Merrill Lynch's chief operating decision maker. As a result, Merrill Lynch does not contain any identifiable operating segments under Segment Reporting, and therefore the financial information of Merrill Lynch is presented as a single segment.

Geographic Information

Merrill Lynch conducts its business activities through offices in the following five regions:

- United States;
- Europe, Middle East, and Africa (“EMEA”);
- Pacific Rim;
- Latin America; and
- Canada.

The principal methodologies used in preparing the geographic information below are as follows:

- Revenues are generally recorded based on the location of the employee generating the revenue; and
- Intercompany transfers are based primarily on service agreements.

The information that follows, in management’s judgment, provides a reasonable representation of each region’s contribution to the consolidated net revenues:

(dollars in millions)

	For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2011
Revenues, net of interest expense		
Europe, Middle East, and Africa	\$ 1,417	\$ 1,318
Pacific Rim	720	771
Latin America	262	332
Canada	106	79
Total Non-U.S.	2,505	2,500
United States ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	2,224	5,360
Total revenues, net of interest expense	\$ 4,729	\$ 7,860

(1) U.S. results for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011 included net losses of \$2.1 billion and \$0.3 billion, respectively, due to the impact of the changes in Merrill Lynch’s credit spreads on the carrying values of certain long-term borrowings, primarily structured notes.

(2) Corporate net revenues and adjustments are reflected in the U.S. region.

Note 4. Fair Value Disclosures

Fair Value Accounting*Fair Value Hierarchy*

In accordance with Fair Value Accounting, Merrill Lynch has categorized its financial instruments, based on the priority of the inputs to the valuation technique, into a three-level fair value hierarchy.

The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3).

Financial assets and liabilities recorded on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets are categorized based on the inputs to the valuation techniques as follows:

- Level 1.* Financial assets and liabilities whose values are based on unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in an active market that Merrill Lynch has the ability to access (examples include active exchange-traded equity securities, exchange-traded derivatives, U.S. Government securities, and certain other sovereign government obligations).
- Level 2.* Financial assets and liabilities whose values are based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or model inputs that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full term of the asset or liability. Level 2 inputs include the following:
- a) Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets (examples include restricted stock and U.S. agency securities);
 - b) Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in non-active markets (examples include corporate and municipal bonds, which can trade infrequently);
 - c) Pricing models whose inputs are observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability (examples include most over-the-counter derivatives, including interest rate and currency swaps); and
 - d) Pricing models whose inputs are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data through correlation or other means for substantially the full term of the asset or liability (examples include certain residential and commercial mortgage-related assets, including loans, securities and derivatives).
- Level 3.* Financial assets and liabilities whose values are based on prices or valuation techniques that require inputs that are both unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement. These inputs reflect management's view about the assumptions a market participant would use in pricing the asset or liability (examples include certain private equity investments, certain residential and commercial mortgage-related assets and long-dated or complex derivatives).

As required by Fair Value Accounting, when the inputs used to measure fair value fall within different levels of the hierarchy, the level within which the fair value measurement is categorized is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. For example, a Level 3 fair value measurement may include inputs that are observable (Level 1 and 2) and unobservable (Level 3). Therefore gains and losses for such assets and liabilities categorized within the Level 3 reconciliation below may include changes in fair value that are attributable to both observable inputs (Levels 1 and 2) and unobservable inputs (Level 3). Further, the following reconciliations do not take into consideration the offsetting effect of Level 1 and 2 financial instruments entered into by Merrill Lynch that economically hedge certain exposures to the Level 3 positions.

A review of fair value hierarchy classifications is conducted on a quarterly basis. Changes in the observability of valuation inputs may result in a reclassification for certain financial assets or liabilities. Level 3 gains and losses represent amounts incurred during the period in which the instrument was classified as Level 3. Reclassifications impacting Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy are reported as transfers in or transfers out of the Level 3 category as of the beginning of the quarter in which the reclassifications occur. Refer to the recurring and non-recurring sections within this Note for further information on transfers in and out of Level 3.

Valuation Processes and Techniques

Merrill Lynch has various processes and controls in place to ensure that its fair value measurements are reasonably estimated. A model validation policy governs the use and control of valuation models used to estimate fair value. This policy requires review and approval of models by personnel who are independent of the front office and periodic re-assessments to ensure that models are continuing to perform as designed. In addition, detailed reviews of trading gains and losses are analyzed on a daily basis by personnel who are independent of the front office. A price verification group, which is also independent of the front office, utilizes available market information including executed trades, market prices and market observable valuation model inputs to ensure that fair values are reasonably estimated. Merrill Lynch executes due diligence procedures over third party pricing service providers in order to support their use in the valuation process. Where market information is not available to support internal valuations, independent reviews of the valuations are performed and any material exposures are escalated through a management review process.

While Merrill Lynch believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different estimate of fair value at the reporting date.

During the first quarter of 2012, there were no changes to Merrill Lynch's valuation techniques that had or are expected to have, a material impact on its condensed consolidated financial position or results of operations.

The following outlines the valuation methodologies for Merrill Lynch's material categories of assets and liabilities:

U.S. Government and agencies

U.S. Treasury securities U.S. Treasury securities are valued using quoted market prices and are generally classified as Level 1 in the fair value hierarchy.

U.S. agency securities U.S. agency securities are comprised of two main categories consisting of agency issued debt and mortgage pass-throughs. The fair value of agency issued debt securities is derived using market prices and recent trade activity gathered from independent dealer pricing services or brokers. Generally, the fair value of mortgage pass-throughs is based on market prices of comparable securities. Agency issued debt securities and mortgage pass-throughs are generally classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Non-U.S. governments and agencies

Sovereign government obligations Sovereign government obligations are valued using quoted prices in active markets when available. To the extent quoted prices are not available, fair value is determined based on reference to recent trading activity and quoted prices of similar securities. These securities are generally classified in Level 1 or Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy, primarily based on the issuing country.

Municipal debt

Municipal bonds The fair value of municipal bonds is calculated using recent trade activity, market price quotations and new issuance levels. In the absence of this information, fair value is calculated using comparable bond credit spreads. Current interest rates, credit events, and individual bond characteristics such as coupon, call features, maturity, and revenue purpose are considered in the valuation process. The majority of these bonds are classified as

Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Auction Rate Securities (“ARS”) Merrill Lynch holds investments in certain ARS, including student loan and municipal ARS. Student loan ARS are comprised of various pools of student loans. Municipal ARS are issued by states and municipalities for a wide variety of purposes, including but not limited to healthcare, industrial development, education and transportation infrastructure. The fair value of the student loan ARS is calculated based upon a number of assumptions including weighted average life, coupon, discount margin and liquidity discounts. The fair value of the municipal ARS is calculated based upon projected refinancing and spread assumptions. In both cases, recent trades and issuer tenders are considered in the valuations. Student loan ARS and municipal ARS are classified as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy.

Corporate and other debt

Corporate bonds Corporate bonds are valued based on either the most recent observable trade and/or external quotes, depending on availability. The most recent observable trade price is given highest priority as the valuation benchmark based on an evaluation of transaction date, size, frequency, and bid-offer. This price may be adjusted by bond or credit default swap spread movement. When credit default swap spreads are referenced, cash-to-synthetic basis magnitude and movement as well as maturity matching are incorporated into the value. When neither external quotes nor a recent trade is available, the bonds are valued using a discounted cash flow approach based on risk parameters of comparable securities. In such cases, the potential pricing difference in spread and/or price terms with the traded comparable is considered. Corporate bonds are generally classified as Level 2 or Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy.

Corporate loans and commitments The fair values of corporate loans and loan commitments are based on market prices and most recent transactions when available. When not available, a discounted cash flow valuation approach is applied using market-based credit spreads of comparable debt instruments, recent new issuance activity or relevant credit derivatives with appropriate cash-to-synthetic basis adjustments. Corporate loans and commitments are generally classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy. Certain corporate loans, particularly those related to emerging market, leveraged and distressed companies have limited price transparency. These loans are generally classified as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy.

Mortgages, mortgage-backed and asset-backed

Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities (“RMBS”), Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities (“CMBS”), and other Asset-Backed Securities (“ABS”) RMBS, CMBS and other ABS are valued based on observable price or credit spreads for the particular security, or when price or credit spreads are not observable, the valuation is based on prices of comparable bonds or the present value of expected future cash flows. Valuation levels of RMBS and CMBS indices are used as an additional data point for benchmarking purposes or to price outright index positions.

When estimating the fair value based upon the present value of expected future cash flows, Merrill Lynch uses its best estimate of the key assumptions, including forecasted credit losses, prepayment rates, forward yield curves and discount rates commensurate with the risks involved, while also taking into account performance of the underlying collateral.

RMBS, CMBS and other ABS are classified as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy if external prices or credit spreads are unobservable or if comparable trades/assets involve significant subjectivity related to property type differences, cash flows, performance and other inputs; otherwise, they are classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Equities

Exchange-Traded Equity Securities Exchange-traded equity securities are generally valued based on quoted prices from the exchange. These securities are classified as either Level 1 or Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy, primarily based on the exchange on which they are traded.

Convertible debentures Convertible debentures are valued based on observable trades and/or external quotes, depending on availability. When neither observable trades nor external quotes are available, the instruments are valued using a discounted cash flow approach based on risk parameters of comparable securities. In such cases, the potential pricing difference in spread and/or price terms with the traded comparable is considered. Convertible debentures are generally classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Derivative contracts

Listed Derivative Contracts Listed derivatives that are actively traded are generally valued based on quoted prices from the exchange and are classified as Level 1 in the fair value hierarchy. Listed derivatives that are not actively traded are valued using the same approaches as those applied to OTC derivatives; they are generally classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

OTC Derivative Contracts OTC derivative contracts include forwards, swaps and options related to interest rate, foreign currency, credit, equity or commodity underlyings.

The fair value of OTC derivatives is derived using market prices and other market based pricing parameters such as interest rates, currency rates and volatilities that are observed directly in the market or gathered from independent sources such as dealer consensus pricing services or brokers. Where models are used, they are used consistently and reflect the contractual terms of and specific risks inherent in the contracts. Generally, the models do not require a high level of subjectivity since the valuation techniques used in the models do not require significant judgment and inputs to the models are readily observable in active markets. When appropriate, valuations are adjusted for various factors such as liquidity and credit considerations based on available market evidence. In addition, for most collateralized interest rate and currency derivatives the requirement to pay interest on the collateral may be considered in the valuation. The majority of OTC derivative contracts are classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

OTC derivative contracts that do not have readily observable market based pricing parameters are classified as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy. Examples of derivative contracts classified within Level 3 include contractual obligations that have tenures that extend beyond periods in which inputs to the model would be observable, exotic derivatives with significant inputs into a valuation model that are less transparent in the market and certain credit default swaps (“CDS”) referenced to mortgage-backed securities. For example, derivative instruments, such as certain CDS referenced to RMBS, CMBS, ABS and collateralized debt obligations (“CDOs”), may be valued based on the underlying mortgage risk where these instruments are not actively quoted. Inputs to the valuation will include available information on similar underlying loans or securities in the cash market. The prepayments and loss assumptions on the underlying loans or securities are estimated using a combination of historical data, prices on recent market transactions, relevant observable market indices such as the Asset Backed Securities Index (“ABX”) or Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities Index (“CMBX”) and prepayment and default scenarios and analyses.

CDOs The fair value of CDOs is derived from a referenced basket of CDS, the CDO's capital structure, and the default correlation, which is an input to a proprietary CDO valuation model. The underlying CDO portfolios typically contain investment grade as well as non-investment grade obligors. After adjusting for differences in risk profile, the correlation parameter for an actual transaction is estimated by benchmarking against observable standardized index tranches and other comparable transactions. CDOs are classified as either Level 2 or Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy.

Investment securities non-qualifying

Investments in Private Equity, Real Estate and Hedge Funds Merrill Lynch has investments in numerous asset classes, including: direct private equity, private equity funds, hedge funds and real estate funds. Valuing these investments requires significant management judgment due to the nature of the assets and the lack of quoted market prices and liquidity in these assets. Initially, the transaction price of the investment is generally considered to be the best indicator of fair value. Thereafter, valuation of direct investments is based on an assessment of each individual

investment using various methodologies, which include publicly traded comparables derived by multiplying a key performance metric (e.g., earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) ("EBITDA") of the portfolio company by the relevant valuation multiple observed for comparable companies, acquisition comparables, entry level multiples and discounted cash flows. These valuations are subject to appropriate discounts for lack of liquidity or marketability. Certain factors which may influence changes to fair value include but are not limited to, recapitalizations, subsequent rounds of financing, and offerings in the equity or debt capital markets. For fund investments, Merrill Lynch generally records the fair value of its proportionate interest in the fund's capital as reported by the fund's respective managers.

Investment securities non-qualifying include equity securities that have recently gone through initial public offerings or secondary sales of public positions. These investments are primarily classified as either Level 1 or Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy. Level 2 classifications generally include those publicly traded equity investments that have a legal or contractual transfer restriction. All other investments in private equity, real estate and hedge funds are classified as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy due to infrequent trading and/or unobservable market prices.

Resale and repurchase agreements

Merrill Lynch elected the fair value option for certain resale and repurchase agreements. For such agreements, the fair value is estimated using a discounted cash flow model which incorporates inputs such as interest rate yield curves and option volatility. Resale and repurchase agreements for which the fair value option has been elected are generally classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Long-term and short-term borrowings

Merrill Lynch and its consolidated VIEs issue structured notes that have coupons or repayment terms linked to the performance of debt or equity securities, indices, currencies or commodities. The fair value of structured notes is estimated using valuation models for the combined derivative and debt portions of the notes when the fair value option has been elected. These models incorporate observable, and in some instances unobservable, inputs including security prices, interest rate yield curves, option volatility, currency, commodity or equity rates and correlations between these inputs. The impact of Merrill Lynch's own credit spreads is also included based on Merrill Lynch's observed secondary bond market spreads. Structured notes are classified as either Level 2 or Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy.

Recurring Fair Value

The following tables present Merrill Lynch's fair value hierarchy for those assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively.

(dollars in millions)

	Fair Value Measurements on a Recurring Basis as of March 31, 2012				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Netting Adj ⁽¹⁾	Total
Assets:					
Securities segregated for regulatory purposes or deposited with clearing organizations:					
Corporate debt	\$ —	\$ 113	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 113
Non-U.S. governments and agencies	33	1,612	—	—	1,645
U.S. Government and agencies	3,608	501	—	—	4,109
Total securities segregated for regulatory purposes or deposited with clearing organizations	3,641	2,226	—	—	5,867
Receivables under resale agreements	—	90,998	—	—	90,998
Receivables under securities borrowed transactions	—	533	—	—	533
Trading assets, excluding derivative contracts:					
Equities	21,100	8,104	178	—	29,382
Convertible debentures	—	4,920	43	—	4,963
Non-U.S. governments and agencies	34,080	3,383	546	—	38,009
Corporate debt	—	14,893	3,418	—	18,311
Preferred stock	—	131	207	—	338
Mortgages, mortgage-backed and asset-backed	—	5,394	3,768	—	9,162
U.S. Government and agencies	27,857	23,885	—	—	51,742
Municipals and money markets	994	10,037	2,009	—	13,040
Physical commodities and other	—	328	—	—	328
Total trading assets, excluding derivative contracts	84,031	71,075	10,169	—	165,275
Derivative contracts ⁽²⁾	2,326	639,871	8,220	(621,203)	29,214
Investment securities available-for-sale:					
U.S. treasury securities and agency debentures	405	—	—	—	405
Securities, mortgage-backed and asset backed					
Non-agency MBS	—	60	—	—	60
Corporate ABS	—	161	45	—	206
Total investment securities available-for-sale	405	221	45	—	671
Investment securities non-qualifying	1,991	1,432	421	—	3,844
Total investment securities	2,396	1,653	466	—	4,515
Securities received as collateral	16,775	840	—	—	17,615
Loans, notes and mortgages	—	965	1,809	—	2,774
Other assets	—	—	1,302	—	1,302
Liabilities:					
Payables under repurchase agreements	—	54,434	—	—	54,434
Short-term borrowings	—	5,732	—	—	5,732
Trading liabilities, excluding derivative contracts:					
Equities	15,829	1,930	—	—	17,759
Convertible debentures	—	154	—	—	154
Non-U.S. governments and agencies	17,339	1,075	—	—	18,414
Corporate debt	—	8,509	—	—	8,509
Preferred stock	—	136	14	—	150
U.S. Government and agencies	17,137	737	—	—	17,874
Municipals, money markets and other	399	21	45	—	465

Total trading liabilities, excluding derivative contracts	50,704	12,562	59	—	63,325
Derivative contracts ⁽²⁾	1,747	641,960	5,013	(624,056)	24,664
Obligation to return securities received as collateral	16,775	840	—	—	17,615
Other payables — interest and other	—	120	3	—	123
Long-term borrowings	—	30,826	1,743	—	32,569

During the three months ended March 31, 2012, approximately \$1,740 million and \$350 million of assets and liabilities, respectively, were transferred from Level 1 to Level 2, and approximately \$250 million and \$40 million of assets and liabilities, respectively, were transferred from Level 2 to Level 1. Approximately \$640 million of the transfer from Level 1 to Level 2 was due to a restriction that became effective for a non-qualifying investment security. The remaining transfers were the result of additional information associated with certain equities, derivative contracts and investment securities non-qualifying.

(dollars in millions)

	Fair Value Measurements on a Recurring Basis as of December 31, 2011				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Netting Adj ⁽¹⁾	Total
Assets:					
Securities segregated for regulatory purposes or deposited with clearing organizations:					
Corporate debt	\$ —	\$ 295	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 295
Non-U.S. governments and agencies	—	1,757	—	—	1,757
U.S. Government and agencies	1,796	740	—	—	2,536
Total securities segregated for regulatory purposes or deposited with clearing organizations	1,796	2,792	—	—	4,588
Receivables under resale agreements	—	85,652	—	—	85,652
Receivables under securities borrowed transactions	—	259	—	—	259
Trading assets, excluding derivative contracts:					
Equities	14,962	5,860	179	—	21,001
Convertible debentures	—	4,519	99	—	4,618
Non-U.S. governments and agencies	28,026	1,871	342	—	30,239
Corporate debt	—	13,027	3,962	—	16,989
Preferred stock	—	89	227	—	316
Mortgages, mortgage-backed and asset-backed	—	5,055	3,199	—	8,254
U.S. Government and agencies	22,183	20,820	—	—	43,003
Municipals and money markets	1,067	9,755	2,047	—	12,869
Physical commodities and other	—	175	—	—	175
Total trading assets, excluding derivative contracts	66,238	61,171	10,055	—	137,464
Derivative contracts ⁽²⁾	1,810	722,108	10,110	(699,015)	35,013
Investment securities available-for-sale:					
U.S. treasury securities and agency debentures	398	—	—	—	398
Securities, mortgage-backed and asset backed					
Non-agency MBS	—	249	—	—	249
Corporate ABS	—	—	47	—	47
Total investment securities available-for-sale	398	249	47	—	694
Investment securities non-qualifying	2,624	328	574	—	3,526
Total investment securities	3,022	577	621	—	4,220
Securities received as collateral	13,058	658	—	—	13,716

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Loans, notes and mortgages	—	596	1,726	—	2,322
Other assets	—	—	1,349	—	1,349
Liabilities:					
Payables under repurchase agreements	—	34,235	—	—	34,235
Short-term borrowings	—	5,908	—	—	5,908
Trading liabilities, excluding derivative contracts:					
Equities	10,868	1,230	—	—	12,098
Convertible debentures	—	125	—	—	125
Non-U.S. governments and agencies	15,911	643	—	—	16,554
Corporate debt	—	6,927	52	—	6,979
Preferred stock	—	89	16	—	105
U.S. Government and agencies	15,603	1,373	—	—	16,976
Municipals, money markets and other	549	51	45	—	645
Total trading liabilities, excluding derivative contracts	42,931	10,438	113	—	53,482
Derivative contracts ⁽²⁾	1,419	724,713	5,615	(705,508)	26,239
Obligation to return securities received as collateral	13,058	658	—	—	13,716
Other payables — interest and other	—	163	10	—	173
Long-term borrowings	—	28,139	2,186	—	30,325

(1) Represents counterparty and cash collateral netting.

(2) Refer to Note 6 for product level detail.

Transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 assets and liabilities were not significant for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Level 3 derivative contracts (assets) relate to derivative positions on U.S. ABS CDOs and other mortgage products of \$2.4 billion, \$3.1 billion of other credit derivatives that incorporate unobservable model valuation inputs, and \$4.6 billion of equity, currency, interest rate and commodity derivatives that are long-dated and/or have unobservable model valuation inputs (e.g., unobservable correlation).

Level 3 non-qualifying investment securities primarily relate to certain private equity positions.

Level 3 loans, notes and mortgages primarily relate to residential mortgage and corporate loans.

Level 3 other assets represent net monoline exposure to a single counterparty. This exposure was reclassified from derivative contracts (assets) during the third quarter of 2011 because of the inherent default risk and given that these contracts no longer provide a hedge benefit (see Note 6).

Level 3 derivative contracts (liabilities) relate to derivative positions on U.S. ABS CDOs and other mortgage products of \$1.6 billion, \$0.7 billion of other credit derivatives that incorporate unobservable model valuation inputs, and \$3.3 billion of equity, currency, interest rate and commodity derivatives that are long-dated and/or have unobservable model valuation inputs (e.g., unobservable correlation).

Level 3 long-term borrowings primarily relate to equity-linked structured notes of \$1.7 billion, which have unobservable model valuation inputs (e.g., unobservable correlation).

Level 3 Financial Instruments

The following tables provide a summary of changes in Merrill Lynch's Level 3 financial assets and liabilities for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011.

(dollars in millions)

Level 3 Financial Assets and Liabilities Three Months Ended March 31, 2012													
	Total Realized and Unrealized Gains or (Losses) included in Income				Total Realized and Unrealized Gains or (Losses) included in Income	Unrealized Gains or (Losses) to OCI	Sales	Purchases	Issuances	Settlements	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Ending Balance
	Beginning Balance	Principal Transactions	Other Revenue	Interest									
Assets:													
Trading assets, excluding derivative contracts:													
Equities	\$ 179	\$ 1	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 1	\$ —	(39)	41	\$ —	(9)	\$ 7	(2)	\$ 178
Convertible debentures	99	2	—	—	2	—	(53)	—	—	—	5	(10)	43
Non-U.S. governments and agencies	342	24	—	—	24	—	(81)	273	—	—	—	(12)	546
Corporate debt	3,962	85	—	—	85	—	(523)	368	—	(154)	56	(376)	3,418
Preferred stock	227	12	—	—	12	—	(70)	38	—	(1)	1	—	207
Mortgages, mortgage-backed and asset-backed	3,199	90	—	—	90	—	(230)	166	—	(80)	736	(113)	3,768
Municipals and money markets	2,047	(6)	—	—	(6)	—	(132)	134	—	(11)	—	(23)	2,009
Total trading assets, excluding derivative contracts	10,055	208	—	—	208	—	(1,128)	1,020	—	(255)	805	(536)	10,169
Derivative contracts, net	4,495	(701)	—	—	(701)	—	(258)	353	—	(375)	59	(366)	3,207
Investment securities available-for-sale :													
Corporate ABS	47	—	(2)	—	(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45
Total investment securities available-for-sale	47	—	(2)	—	(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45
Investment securities non-qualifying	574	—	(7)	—	(7)	—	(13)	9	—	(142)	—	—	421
Total investment securities	621	—	(9)	—	(9)	—	(13)	9	—	(142)	—	—	466
Loans, notes and mortgages	1,726	—	95	7	102	—	—	4	—	(23)	—	—	1,809
Other assets	1,349	—	(47)	—	(47)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,302
Liabilities:													
Trading liabilities, excluding derivative contracts:													
Corporate debt	52	—	—	—	—	—	19	(38)	—	—	1	(34)	—
Preferred stock	16	(2)	—	—	(2)	—	—	(4)	—	—	—	—	14
Municipals, money markets and other	45	1	—	—	1	—	6	(6)	1	—	—	—	45
Total trading liabilities, excluding derivative contracts	113	(1)	—	—	(1)	—	25	(48)	1	—	1	(34)	59
Other payables - interest and other	10	—	3	—	3	—	—	(1)	—	—	—	(3)	3
Long-term borrowings	2,186	(139)	(44)	—	(183)	—	33	(68)	28	(377)	222	(464)	1,743

Transfers out for corporate debt primarily relates to increased market liquidity for certain corporate loans. Transfers in for mortgages, mortgage-backed and asset-backed is primarily the result of additional information related to certain CLOs. Transfers out for mortgages, mortgage-backed and asset-backed relates to increased market activity (i.e., executed trades) for certain loans backed by commercial real estate. Transfers out for derivative contracts, net primarily relates to increased price observability (i.e., market comparables) for certain total return swaps ("TRS") and foreign exchange swaps. Transfers in and out related to long-term borrowings are primarily due to changes in the impact of unobservable inputs on the value of certain equity-linked structured notes.

(dollars in millions)

in millions

in millions

Level 3 Financial Assets and Liabilities
Three Months Ended March 31, 2011

	Beginning Balance	Principal Transactions	Other Revenue	Interest	Total Realized and Unrealized Gains or (Losses) included in Income	Total Realized and Unrealized Gains or (Losses) included in Income	Unrealized Gains or (Losses) to OCI	Sales	Purchases	Issuances	Settlements	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Ending Balance
Assets:														
Trading assets, excluding derivative contracts:														
Equities	\$ 170	\$ 34	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 34	\$ —	(48)	60	\$ —	—	—	\$ —	\$ (1)	\$ 215
Convertible debentures	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	119	—	—	—	—	—	119
Non-U.S. governments and agencies	243	5	—	—	5	—	(4)	48	—	—	—	—	(40)	252
Corporate debt	4,605	285	—	—	285	—	(1,069)	341	—	—	(39)	96	(221)	3,998
Preferred stock	287	9	—	—	9	—	(13)	3	—	—	—	39	—	325
Mortgages, mortgage- backed and asset- backed	5,747	329	—	—	329	—	(836)	561	—	—	(19)	1	(350)	5,433
Municipals and money markets	2,327	19	—	—	19	—	(909)	936	—	—	(23)	4	(4)	2,350
Total trading assets, excluding derivative contracts	13,379	681	—	—	681	—	(2,879)	2,068	—	—	(81)	140	(616)	12,692
Derivative contracts, net	6,368	(257)	—	—	(257)	—	(432)	337	—	—	(438)	299	(323)	5,554
Investment securities available-for-sale :														
Mortgage-backed securities — agency CMOs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	56	—	—	—	—	—	56
Mortgage-backed securities — non- agency MBSs	213	—	(9)	—	(9)	(19)	(82)	—	—	—	—	—	—	103
Total investment securities available-for- sale	213	—	(9)	—	(9)	(19)	(82)	56	—	—	—	—	—	159
Investment securities non-qualifying	3,394	—	220	—	220	—	(804)	22	—	—	(189)	—	(1,548)	1,095
Total investment securities	3,607	—	211	—	211	(19)	(886)	78	—	—	(189)	—	(1,548)	1,254
Loans, notes and mortgages	1,891	—	175	8	183	—	(169)	31	—	—	(42)	113	(14)	1,993
Liabilities:														
Trading liabilities, excluding derivative contracts:														
Corporate debt	—	—	—	—	—	—	52	—	—	—	—	—	—	52
Preferred stock	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
Municipals, money markets and other	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
Total trading liabilities, excluding derivative contracts	—	—	—	—	—	—	97	—	—	—	—	—	—	97
Other payables - interest and other	126	—	24	—	24	—	4	(6)	—	—	—	—	—	100
Long-term borrowings	2,396	(92)	(35)	—	(127)	—	—	(62)	43	43	(231)	300	(209)	2,364

Sales of corporate debt primarily relates to sales of corporate ARS and distressed loans. Sales and purchases of municipal securities is primarily due to dealer activity in student loan ARS. Sales of investment securities non-qualifying relates to the sale of a private equity investment during the first quarter of 2011.

Transfers out for corporate debt primarily relates to increased price observability (e.g., trading comparables) for certain corporate bond positions. Transfers out for mortgages, mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities primarily relates to increased price observability for certain RMBS and consumer ABS portfolios. Transfers in for net derivative contracts primarily relates to changes in the valuation methodology for certain CDO positions. Transfers out for net derivative contracts primarily relates to increased price observability for certain credit derivative positions. Transfers out related to investment securities non-qualifying is due to a private equity investment that underwent an initial public offering during the first quarter of 2011. Transfers in and out related to long-term borrowings are primarily due to changes in the impact of unobservable inputs on the value of certain equity-linked structured notes.

The following tables provide the portion of gains or losses included in income for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011 attributable to unrealized gains or losses relating to those Level 3 assets and

liabilities held at March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011, respectively.

(dollars in millions)

	Unrealized Gains or (Losses) for Level 3 Assets and Liabilities Still Held			
	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012			
	Principal Transactions	Other Revenue	Interest	Total
Assets:				
Trading assets, excluding derivative contracts:				
Equities	\$ 6	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 6
Convertible debentures	2	—	—	2
Non-U.S. governments and agencies	13	—	—	13
Corporate debt	62	—	—	62
Preferred stock	3	—	—	3
Mortgages, mortgage-backed and asset-backed	50	—	—	50
Municipals and money markets	(8)	—	—	(8)
Total trading assets, excluding derivative contracts	128	—	—	128
Derivative contracts, net	(613)	—	—	(613)
Investment securities non-qualifying	—	(10)	—	(10)
Total investment securities	—	(10)	—	(10)
Loans, notes and mortgages	—	96	—	96
Other assets	—	(47)	—	(47)
Liabilities:				
Trading liabilities, excluding derivative contracts:				
Preferred stock	(2)	—	—	(2)
Municipals, money markets and other	1	—	—	1
Total trading liabilities, excluding derivative contracts	(1)	—	—	(1)
Other payables — interest and other	—	3	—	3
Long-term borrowings	(129)	(44)	—	(173)

(dollars in millions)

	Unrealized Gains or (Losses) for Level 3 Assets and Liabilities Still Held			
	Three Months Ended March 31, 2011			
	Principal Transactions	Other Revenue	Interest	Total
Assets:				
Trading assets, excluding derivative contracts:				
Equities	\$ 15	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 15
Non-U.S. governments and agencies	3	—	—	3
Corporate debt	198	—	—	198
Preferred stock	6	—	—	6
Mortgages, mortgage-backed and asset-backed	243	—	—	243
Municipals and money markets	19	—	—	19
Total trading assets, excluding derivative contracts	484	—	—	484
Derivative contracts, net	(75)	—	—	(75)
Investment securities available-for-sale:				
Mortgage-backed securities - non-agency MBSs	—	(19)	—	(19)
Total investment securities available-for-sale	—	(19)	—	(19)
Investment securities non-qualifying	—	(30)	—	(30)
Total investment securities	—	(49)	—	(49)
Loans, notes and mortgages	—	168	—	168
Liabilities:				
Other payables — interest and other	—	22	—	22
Long-term borrowings	(92)	(35)	—	(127)

Level 3 Significant Inputs

The following tables present information about significant unobservable inputs related to material components of Merrill Lynch's Level 3 financial assets and liabilities as of March 31, 2012:

Quantitative Information about Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

(Dollars in millions)		Inputs	
Financial Instrument	Fair Value	Unobservable Inputs	Ranges of Inputs
Loans and Securities			
Instruments backed by residential real estate assets	\$ 1,656	Yield	1% to 25%
Loans, notes and mortgages	1,111	Prepayment Speeds	3% to 10% CPR
Trading assets - Mortgages, mortgage-backed and asset-backed	545	Default Rates	1% to 4% CDR
		Loss Severities	35% to 45%
Instruments backed by commercial real estate assets	\$ 1,849	Yield	1% to 11%
Loans, notes and mortgages	248	Loss Severities	16% to 91%
Other assets	1,302		
Trading assets - Mortgages, mortgage-backed and asset-backed	299		
Instruments backed by other assets	\$ 634	Yield	1% to 5%
Loans, notes and mortgages	450		
Trading assets - Mortgages, mortgage-backed and asset-backed	184		
Corporate loans and debt securities	\$ 2,315	Yield (for loans)	2% to 20%
Trading assets - Corporate debt	2,315	Enterprise Value/EBITDA multiple	3x to 7x
Corporate CLOs and CDOs	\$ 3,843	Yield	2% to 20%
Trading assets - Corporate debt	1,103	Prepayment Speed	5% to 25%
Trading assets - Mortgages, mortgage-backed and asset-backed	2,740	Default Rates	1% to 5%
		Loss Severity	25% to 40%
Auction Rate Securities	\$ 2,009	Projected tender price / re-financing level	50% to 99%
Trading assets - Municipals and money markets	2,009		
Structured liabilities			
Long-term borrowings	\$ 1,743	Correlation (Index/Index)	50% to 97%
		Correlation (Stock/Stock)	30% to 80%
		Long-Dated Volatilities	20% to 70%

CPR = Constant Prepayment Rate

CDR = Constant Default Rate

Quantitative Information about Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

(Dollars in millions)		Inputs	
Financial Instrument	Fair Value	Unobservable Inputs	Ranges of Inputs
Net Derivative Contracts			
Credit default swaps referencing CLOs	\$ 933	Yield Prepayment Speed Default Rates Loss Severity	2% to 20% 5% to 25% 1% to 5% 25% to 40%
Credit default swaps referencing other assets	\$ 731	Yield Upfront Points Correlation Spread to Index	6% to 25% 53 to 99 points 45% to 70% -1,000bps to 4,000bps
Structured credit derivatives	\$ 1,121	Default Correlation Wrong-way Correlation Ratings Based Spreads	30% to 80% 20% to 50% 300 bps to 500 bps
Equity derivatives	\$ (467)	Correlation (Index/Index) Correlation (Stock/Stock) Long-Dated Volatilities	50% to 97% 30% to 80% 20% to 70%
Commodity derivatives	\$ (14)	Long term Natural Gas basis curve	-\$0.53 to \$0.22
Interest rate derivatives	\$ 903	Correlation (IR/IR) Correlation (FX/IR) Long Dated Inflation Rates Long Dated Inflation Volatilities Long Dated Volatilities (FX) Long Dated Swap Rates	46% to 98% -65% to 50% 2% to 3% 1% to 2% 4% to 45% 11% to 12%
Total net derivative contracts	\$ 3,207		

IR = Interest Rate

FX = Foreign Exchange

In the tables above, instruments valued using a discounted cash flow model include: instruments backed by residential and commercial real estate assets, including RMBS, CMBS, whole loans, mortgage CDOs and net monoline exposure and instruments backed by other assets (i.e., securities backed by non-real estate assets), corporate loans, debt securities, CLOs and CDOs. Market comparables are used in the valuation of auction rate securities, as well as certain corporate loans and debt securities. Structured liabilities primarily include equity-linked notes that are accounted for under the fair value option. The equity exposure in these instruments is valued using industry standard derivative pricing models such as Monte Carlo simulation and Black-Scholes.

Credit default swaps referencing CLOs and other assets, primarily CDS on residential and commercial single name and baskets, and commodity derivatives are valued using a discounted cash flow model. Structured credit derivatives include tranching portfolio CDS and derivatives with derivative product company ("DPC") and monoline counterparties. These instruments are valued using a Stochastic recovery correlation model which is adjusted for

counterparty credit risk.

Equity and interest rate derivatives are valued using industry standard derivative pricing models such as Monte Carlo simulation, Black-Scholes and other numerical methods which, for example, model the joint dynamics of interest, inflation and foreign exchange rates.

In addition to the instruments disclosed in the table above, Merrill Lynch holds \$421 million of Investment securities non-qualifying that are primarily comprised of certain direct private equity investments and private equity funds that are classified as Level 3. Valuations of direct private equity investments are prepared internally based on the most recent portfolio company financial information. Inputs generally include market and acquisition comparables, entry level multiples, as well as other variables. Merrill Lynch selects a valuation methodology (e.g., market comparables) for each investment and, in certain instances, multiple inputs are weighted to derive the most representative value. Discounts are applied as appropriate to consider the lack of liquidity and marketability versus publicly traded companies. For private equity funds, fair value is generally determined using the net asset value as provided by the individual fund's general partner.

Sensitivity of Fair Value Measurements to Changes in Unobservable Inputs

Loans and Securities

For instruments backed by residential real estate assets, commercial real estate assets, and corporate CLOs and CDOs, a significant increase in market yields, default rates or loss severities would result in a significantly lower fair value for long positions. Short positions would be impacted in a directionally opposite way. The impact of changes in prepayment speeds would have differing impacts depending on the seniority of the instrument and, in the case of CLOs, whether prepayments can be reinvested.

For student loan and municipal ARS, a significant increase in projected tender price/refinancing levels would result in a significantly higher fair value.

Structured Liabilities and Derivatives

For credit default swaps referencing CLOs and other assets, a significant increase in market yield, including spreads to indices, upfront points (i.e., a single upfront payment made by a protection buyer at inception) or spreads, default rates or loss severities would result in a significantly lower fair value for protection sellers and higher fair value for protection buyers. The impact of changes in prepayment speeds would have differing impacts depending on the seniority of the instrument and, in the case of CLOs, whether prepayments can be reinvested.

Default correlation, which is a parameter that describes the degree of dependence between credit default rates within a credit portfolio that underlies a credit derivative instrument, is utilized in valuing synthetic basket positions and structured credit derivatives. The sensitivity of this input on the fair value varies depending on the level of subordination of the tranche. For senior tranches that are net purchases of protection, a significant increase in default correlation would result in a significantly higher fair value. Net short protection positions would be impacted in a directionally opposite way.

Transactions with DPC counterparties are impacted by ratings-based spreads and wrong-way correlation with the underlying derivative exposure. Ratings-based spreads represent the CDS spread implied from liquid credits with comparable credit ratings. A significant increase in ratings-based spreads would result in a significantly lower fair value for net long positions. Net short positions would be impacted in a directionally opposite way. Wrong-way correlation is a parameter that describes the probability that as exposure to a counterparty increases the credit quality of the counterparty decreases. A significantly higher degree of wrong-way correlation between the DPC counterparty and underlying derivative exposure would also result in a significantly lower fair value.

For equity derivatives, equity-linked long-term debt (structured liabilities) and interest rate derivatives, a significant change in long-dated inflation and swap rates and volatilities and correlation inputs (e.g., the degree of correlation

between an equity security to an index, between two different interest rates or between interest rates and foreign exchange rates) would result in a significant impact to the fair value. However, the magnitude and direction of the impact depends on Merrill Lynch's exposure.

Non-recurring Fair Value

Certain assets and liabilities are measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis and are not included in the tables above. These assets and liabilities primarily include loans and loan commitments held for sale that are reported at lower of cost or fair value and loans held for investment that were initially measured at cost and have been written down to fair value as a result of an impairment. The following tables show the fair value hierarchy for those assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively.

(dollars in millions)

	Non-Recurring Basis			Gains (Losses)	
	as of March 31, 2012			Three Months Ended	
	Level 2	Level 3	Total	March 31, 2012	March 31, 2011
Assets:					
Investment securities non-qualifying	\$ —	\$ 4	\$ 4	\$ —	\$ (4)
Loans, notes and mortgages	70	127	197	12	35
Other assets	—	12	12	—	—
Liabilities:					
Other payables - interest and other	\$ —	\$ 9	\$ 9	\$ —	\$ (1)

(dollars in millions)

	Non-Recurring Basis		
	as of December 31, 2011		
	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets:			
Investment securities non-qualifying	\$ —	\$ 5	\$ 5
Loans, notes and mortgages	298	245	543
Other assets	—	19	19

Loans, notes and mortgages includes held for sale loans that are carried at the lower of cost or fair value and for which the fair value was below the cost basis at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011. It also includes certain impaired held for investment loans where an allowance for loan losses has been calculated based upon the fair value of the loans or collateral. Level 3 assets as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 primarily relate to commercial real estate loans that are classified as held for sale where there continues to be significant illiquidity in the loan trading and securitization markets.

Other payables - interest and other includes amounts recorded for loan commitments at lower of cost or fair value where the funded loan will be held for sale.

Fair Value Option Election

The fair value option election allows companies to irrevocably elect fair value as the initial and subsequent measurement attribute for certain financial assets and liabilities. Changes in fair value for assets and liabilities for which the election is made will be recognized in earnings as they occur. The fair value option election is permitted on an instrument by instrument basis at initial recognition of an asset or liability or upon an event that gives rise to a new basis of accounting for that instrument. As discussed above, certain of Merrill Lynch's financial instruments are

required to be accounted for at fair value under Investment Accounting and Derivatives Accounting, as well as industry level guidance. For certain financial instruments that are not accounted for at fair value under other applicable accounting guidance, the fair value option election has been made.

The following tables provide information about the line items in the Consolidated Statements of (Loss) Earnings where changes in fair values of assets and liabilities, for which the fair value option election has been made, are included for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011.

(dollars in millions)

	Changes in Fair Value For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2012, for Items Measured at Fair Value Pursuant to the Fair Value Option Election			Changes in Fair Value For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2011, for Items Measured at Fair Value Pursuant to the Fair Value Option Election		
	Gains (Losses) Principal Transactions	Gains (Losses) Other Revenues	Total Changes in Fair Value	Gains (Losses) Principal Transactions	Gains (Losses) Other Revenues	Total Changes in Fair Value
Assets:						
Receivables under resale agreements	\$ (34)	\$ —	\$ (34)	\$ (59)	\$ —	\$ (59)
Investment securities	—	5	5	—	29	29
Loans	26	92	118	—	138	138
Liabilities:						
Payables under repurchase agreements	(34)	—	(34)	11	—	11
Short-term borrowings	7	—	7	56	—	56
Other payables — interest and other	—	49	49	—	13	13
Long-term borrowings	(2,433)	—	(2,433)	(361)	—	(361)

The following describes the rationale for electing to account for certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value, as well as the impact of instrument-specific credit risk on the fair value.

Resale and repurchase agreements

Merrill Lynch elected the fair value option for certain resale and repurchase agreements and, to a lesser extent, securities borrowing agreements. The fair value option election was made based on the tenor of the agreements, which reflect the magnitude of the interest rate risk. The majority of resale and repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. Government securities were excluded from the fair value option election as these contracts are generally short-dated and therefore the interest rate risk is not considered significant. Amounts loaned under resale agreements require collateral with a market value equal to or in excess of the principal amount loaned, resulting in minimal credit risk for such transactions.

Loans and loan commitments

Merrill Lynch elected the fair value option for certain loans that are risk managed on a fair value basis. Upon the acquisition of Merrill Lynch by Bank of America, Merrill Lynch also elected the fair value option for certain mortgage, corporate, and leveraged loans and loan commitments. The changes in the fair value of loans and commitments, for which the fair value option was elected, that were attributable to changes in borrower-specific credit risk were not material for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011.

As of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the aggregate fair value of loans for which the fair value option election has been made that were 90 days or more past due was \$18 million and \$28 million, respectively, and the aggregate fair value of loans that were in non-accrual status was \$108 million and \$117 million at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively. As of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the unpaid principal amount due exceeded the aggregate fair value of such loans that are 90 days or more past due and/or in non-accrual status by \$168 million and \$172 million, respectively.

Short-term and long-term borrowings

Merrill Lynch elected the fair value option for certain short-term and long-term borrowings that are risk managed on a fair value basis (e.g., structured notes) and/or for which hedge accounting under Derivatives Accounting had been difficult to obtain. The majority of the fair value changes on long-term borrowings are from structured notes with coupon or repayment terms that are linked to the performance of debt and equity securities, indices, currencies or commodities. Excluding gains (losses) related to changes in Merrill Lynch's credit spreads, the majority of the gains (losses) for the respective years are offset by gains (losses) on derivatives and securities that economically hedge these borrowings and that are accounted for at fair value. The changes in the fair value of liabilities for which the fair value option election was made that were attributable to changes in Merrill Lynch's credit spreads were losses of approximately \$2.1 billion and \$0.3 billion for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011, respectively. Changes in Merrill Lynch specific credit risk are derived by isolating fair value changes due to changes in Merrill Lynch's credit spreads as observed in the secondary cash market.

The fair value option was also elected for certain non-recourse long-term borrowings and secured borrowings issued by consolidated VIEs. The fair value of these borrowings is not materially affected by changes in Merrill Lynch's creditworthiness.

The following tables present the difference between fair values and the aggregate contractual principal amounts of receivables under resale agreements, receivables under securities borrowed transactions, loans and long-term borrowings for which the fair value option election has been made as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

(dollars in millions)

	Fair Value at		Principal Amount Due Upon Maturity	Difference
	March 31, 2012			
Assets:				
Receivables under resale agreements	\$	90,998	\$ 90,578	\$ 420
Receivables under securities borrowed transactions		533	557	(24)
Loans ⁽¹⁾		3,237	4,283	(1,046)
Liabilities:				
Long-term borrowings ⁽²⁾		32,569	34,580	(2,011)

(1) Includes trading loans with a fair value of \$463 million.

(2) The majority of the difference between the fair value and principal amount due upon maturity at March 31, 2012 relates to the impact of changes in Merrill Lynch's credit spreads, as well as the fair value of the embedded derivative, where applicable.

(dollars in millions)

	Fair Value at		Principal Amount	
	December 31, 2011		Due Upon Maturity	Difference
Assets:				
Receivables under resale agreements	\$	85,652	\$ 85,197	\$ 455
Receivables under securities borrowed transactions		259	287	(28)
Loans ⁽¹⁾		2,742	4,023	(1,281)
Liabilities:				
Long-term borrowings ⁽²⁾		30,325	36,537	(6,212)

(1) Includes loans held for sale with a fair value of \$420 million, accounted for under the fair value option, which were reclassified to trading assets because they are risk managed on that basis.

(2) The majority of the difference between the fair value and principal amount due upon maturity at December 31, 2011 relates to the impact of changes in Merrill Lynch's credit spreads, as well as the fair value of the embedded derivative, where applicable.

Note 5. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The fair values of financial instruments have been derived, in part, by management's assumptions, the estimated amount and timing of future cash flows and estimated discount rates. Different assumptions could significantly affect these estimated fair values. Accordingly, the net realizable values could be materially different from the estimates presented below. In addition, the estimates are only indicative of the value of individual financial instruments and should not be considered an indication of the fair value of Merrill Lynch.

The classifications of financial instruments within the fair value hierarchy have been derived using methodologies described in Note 4 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

The following disclosures relate to financial instruments for which the ending balances at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 are not carried at fair value in their entirety on Merrill Lynch's Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Short-term Financial Instruments

The carrying value of short-term financial instruments, including cash and cash equivalents, cash and securities segregated for regulatory purposes or deposited with clearing organizations, certain securities financing transactions, customer and broker-dealer receivables and payables, and commercial paper and other short-term borrowings, approximates the fair value of these instruments. These financial instruments generally expose Merrill Lynch to limited credit risk and have no stated maturities or have short-term maturities and carry interest rates that approximate market interest rates.

For purposes of the fair value hierarchy, cash is classified as Level 1. Cash equivalents (including time deposits placed and other short-term investments) and securities segregated for regulatory purposes or deposited with clearing organizations are classified as Level 1 and Level 2. Securities financing transactions are classified as Level 2. Customer receivables and payables are primarily classified as Level 2. Broker-dealer receivables and payables, and commercial paper and other short-term borrowings are classified as Level 2.

Loans, Notes and Mortgages

Fair values were generally determined by discounting both principal and interest cash flows expected to be collected using a discount rate for similar instruments with adjustments that Merrill Lynch believes a market participant would consider in determining fair value. Merrill Lynch estimates the cash flows expected to be collected using internal credit risk, interest rate and prepayment risk models that incorporate its best estimate of current key assumptions, such as default rates, loss severity and prepayment speeds for the life of the loan. Merrill Lynch elected the fair value option for certain loans and loan commitments. See Note 4 for additional information.

Deposits

The fair value for certain deposits with stated maturities was determined by discounting contractual cash flows using current market rates for instruments with similar maturities. For deposits with no stated maturities, the carrying amount was considered to approximate fair value and does not take into account the significant value of the cost advantage and stability of Merrill Lynch's long-term relationships with depositors.

Long-term Borrowings

Merrill Lynch uses quoted market prices, when available, to estimate the fair value of its long-term borrowings. When quoted market prices are not available, fair value is estimated based on current market interest rates and credit spreads for Merrill Lynch debt with similar terms and maturities. Merrill Lynch elected the fair value option for certain long-term borrowings, including structured notes. See Note 4 for additional information.

The following table presents the carrying value and fair value, by fair value hierarchy, of Merrill Lynch's loans, notes and mortgages, deposits and long-term borrowings at March 31, 2012. See Note 4 for further information regarding the fair value hierarchy:

(dollars in millions)

	Carrying Value	Fair Value Measurement as of March 31, 2012		
		Level 2	Level 3	Total
Financial assets				
Loans, notes and mortgages ⁽¹⁾	\$ 20,429	\$ 511	\$ 19,689	\$ 20,200
Financial liabilities				
Deposits	12,538	12,538	—	12,538
Long-term borrowings ⁽²⁾	105,688	104,326	1,743	106,069

(1) Loans are presented net of the allowance for loan losses.

(2) Includes junior subordinated notes (related to trust preferred securities).

The following table presents the carrying value and fair value of loans, notes and mortgages, deposits and long-term borrowings at December 31, 2011:

(dollars in millions)

	December 31, 2011	
	Carrying Value	Fair Value
Financial assets		
Loans, notes and mortgages ⁽¹⁾	\$ 20,574	\$ 20,048
Financial liabilities		
Deposits	12,364	12,364
Long-term borrowings ⁽²⁾	110,718	102,339

(1) Loans are presented net of the allowance for loan losses.

(2) Includes junior subordinated notes (related to trust preferred securities).

Note 6. Derivatives

A derivative is an instrument whose value is derived from an underlying instrument or index, such as interest rates, equity security prices, currencies, commodity prices or credit spreads. Derivatives include futures, forwards, swaps, option contracts, and other financial instruments with similar characteristics. Derivative contracts often involve future commitments to exchange interest payment streams or currencies based on a notional or contractual amount (e.g., interest rate swaps or currency forwards) or to purchase or sell other financial instruments at specified terms on a specified date (e.g., options to buy or sell securities or currencies).

Derivatives Accounting establishes accounting and reporting standards for derivative instruments, including certain derivative instruments embedded in other contracts (“embedded derivatives”) and for hedging activities. Derivatives Accounting requires that an entity recognize all derivatives as either assets or liabilities and measure those instruments at fair value. The fair value of all derivatives and associated cash collateral is recorded on a net-by-counterparty basis on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets where Merrill Lynch believes a legal right of setoff exists under an enforceable netting agreement. All derivatives, including bifurcated embedded derivatives within structured notes, are reported on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as trading assets and liabilities.

The accounting for changes in fair value of a derivative instrument depends on its intended use and if it is designated and qualifies as an accounting hedging instrument under Derivatives Accounting.

Trading derivatives

Merrill Lynch enters into derivatives to facilitate client transactions, for trading and financing purposes, and to

manage risk exposures arising from trading assets and liabilities. Changes in fair value for these derivatives are reported in current period earnings as principal transactions revenues.

Derivatives that contain a significant financing element

Merrill Lynch may enter into certain transactions that are documented as derivatives where a significant cash investment is made by one party. Certain derivative instruments that contain a significant financing element at inception and where Merrill Lynch is deemed to be the borrower are included in financing activities in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows. The cash flows from all other derivative transactions that do not contain a significant financing element at inception are included in operating activities.

Non-trading derivatives

Merrill Lynch also enters into derivatives in order to manage risk exposures arising from assets and liabilities not carried at fair value as follows:

1. Merrill Lynch's debt was issued in a variety of maturities and currencies to achieve the lowest cost financing possible. Merrill Lynch enters into derivative transactions to hedge these liabilities. Derivatives used most frequently include swap agreements that:
 - Convert fixed-rate interest payments into variable-rate interest payments;
 - Change the underlying interest rate basis or reset frequency; and
 - Change the settlement currency of a debt instrument.

Changes in the fair value of these interest rate and foreign currency derivatives are reported in interest expense or other revenues.

2. Merrill Lynch uses foreign-exchange forward contracts, foreign-exchange options, and currency swaps to hedge its net investments in foreign operations, as well as other foreign currency exposures (e.g., non-U.S. dollar denominated debt and expenses). These derivatives are used to mitigate the impact of changes in exchange rates. Changes in the fair value of these derivatives are reported in OCI, other revenue and interest expense when net investment hedge accounting is applied; otherwise changes in fair value are reported in other revenues.
3. Merrill Lynch enters into futures, swaps, options and forward contracts to manage the price risk of certain commodity inventory and forecasted commodity purchases and sales. Changes in fair value of these derivatives are reported in principal transactions revenues, unless cash flow hedge accounting is applied.
4. Merrill Lynch enters into CDS to manage the credit risk on certain loans that are not part of trading activities. Changes in the fair value of these derivatives are reported in other revenue.

Certain derivatives, primarily entered into with an affiliate, qualify as accounting hedges under Derivatives Accounting. These derivatives are designated as one of the following:

1. A hedge of the fair value of a recognized asset or liability ("fair value hedge"). Changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as fair value hedges of interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk and commodity price risk, along with the gain or loss on the hedged asset or liability that is attributable to the hedged risk, are recorded in current period earnings as interest expense, other revenues, or principal transactions.
2. A hedge of the variability of cash flows to be received or paid related to a recognized asset or liability ("cash flow hedge"). Changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges are recorded in OCI until earnings are affected by the variability of cash flows of the hedged asset or liability or when the forecasted purchase or sale occurs. All cash flow hedges were de-designated in 2011. See Note 6 to the

Consolidated Financial Statements in the 2011 Annual Report for further information. The amount remaining in OCI that is expected to be reclassified into earnings in the next 12 months is not material.

3. A hedge of a net investment in a foreign operation (“net investment hedge”). Changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as hedges of a net investment in a foreign operation are recorded in the foreign currency translation adjustment account within OCI. Changes in the fair value of the hedging instruments that are associated with the difference between the spot rate and the contracted forward rate are recorded in current period earnings in other revenues and in interest expense.

Merrill Lynch formally assesses, both at the inception of the hedge and on an ongoing basis, whether the hedging derivatives are highly effective in offsetting changes in fair value or cash flows of hedged items. Merrill Lynch uses regression analysis at the hedge's inception and for each reporting period thereafter to assess whether the derivative used in its hedging transaction is expected to be and has been highly effective in offsetting changes in the fair value or cash flows of the hedged item. When it is determined that a derivative is not highly effective as a hedge, Merrill Lynch discontinues hedge accounting.

Hedge accounting activity for 2012 and 2011 included the following:

Fair value hedges

(dollars in millions)

	2012			2011		
	Derivative ⁽¹⁾	Hedged Item ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Hedge Ineffectiveness ⁽¹⁾	Derivative ⁽¹⁾	Hedged Item ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Hedge Ineffectiveness ⁽¹⁾
For the three months ended March 31:						
Interest rate risk on USD denominated long-term borrowings	\$ (411)	\$ 274	\$ (137)	\$ (342)	\$ 247	\$ (95)
Interest rate risk on foreign currency denominated long-term borrowings	88	(115)	(27)	273	(322)	(49)
Commodity price risk on commodity inventory	23	(23)	—	(4)	4	—

	2012		2011	
	Trading Assets	Trading Liabilities	Trading Assets	Trading Liabilities
As of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011:				
Carrying value of hedging derivatives				
Long-term borrowings	\$ 5,943	\$ 588	\$ 6,940	\$ 841
Commodity inventory	86	4	70	5
Notional amount of hedging derivatives				
Long-term borrowings	40,545	9,876	44,180	11,092
Commodity inventory	135	5	152	6

(1) Amounts are recorded in interest expense and other revenues for long-term borrowings and principal transactions for commodity inventory.

(2) Excludes the impact of the accretion of purchase accounting adjustments made to certain long-term borrowings in connection with the acquisition of Merrill Lynch by Bank of America.

Net investment hedges of foreign operations

(dollars in millions)

	2012			2011		
	Gains (losses) Recognized in Accumulated OCI	Gains (losses) in Income Reclassified from Accumulated OCI ⁽¹⁾	Hedge Ineffectiveness and Amounts Excluded from Effectiveness Testing ⁽²⁾	Gains (losses) Recognized in Accumulated OCI	Gains (losses) in Income Reclassified from Accumulated OCI ⁽¹⁾	Hedge Ineffectiveness and Amounts Excluded from Effectiveness Testing ⁽²⁾
For the three months ended March 31:						
Foreign exchange risk	\$ (445)	\$ 41	\$ 2	\$ (467)	\$ (3)	\$ (70)

	2012	2011
As of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011:		
Carrying value of hedging derivatives		
Trading assets	\$ 336	\$ 690
Trading liabilities	633	492
Carrying value of non-derivative hedges		
Long-term borrowings	—	61
Notional amount of hedging derivatives		
in an asset position	12,240	20,068
in a liability position	14,454	7,338

(1) Amounts are recorded in other revenues.

(2) Amounts are recorded in other revenues and interest expense.

Net gains (losses) on economic hedges

(dollars in millions)

	2012 ⁽¹⁾	2011 ⁽¹⁾
For the three months ended March 31:		
Interest rate risk	\$ (6)	\$ (81)
Foreign currency risk	199	2,091
Credit risk	(49)	(15)

(1) Amounts are recorded in other revenues and interest expense.

The amounts in the “Net gains (losses) on economic hedges” table above represent net gains (losses) on derivatives that are not used for trading purposes and are not used in accounting hedging relationships. Interest rate risk primarily relates to derivatives used to economically hedge long-term borrowings. Foreign currency risk primarily relates to economic hedges of foreign currency denominated transactions that generate earnings upon remeasurement in accordance with ASC 830-20, *Foreign Currency Transactions* (“Foreign Currency Transactions”). As both the remeasurement of the foreign currency risk on the transaction and the changes in fair value of the derivative are recorded in earnings, hedge accounting is not applied. Credit risk relates to credit default swaps used to economically manage the credit risk on certain loans not included in trading activities.

Derivative balances by primary risk

Derivative instruments contain numerous market risks. In particular, most derivatives have interest rate risk, as they contain an element of financing risk that is affected by changes in interest rates. Additionally, derivatives expose Merrill Lynch to counterparty credit risk, although this is generally mitigated by collateral margining and netting arrangements. For disclosure purposes below, the primary risk of a derivative is largely determined by the business that is engaging in the derivative activity. For instance, a derivative that is initiated by an equities derivative

business will generally have equity price risk as its primary underlying market risk and is classified as such for the purposes of this disclosure, despite the fact that there may be other market risks that affect the value of the instrument.

The following tables identify the primary risk for derivative instruments, which includes trading, non-trading and bifurcated embedded derivatives, at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011. The primary risk is provided on a gross basis, prior to the application of the impact of counterparty and cash collateral netting.

(dollars in millions)

	As of March 31, 2012			
	Contract/ Notional	Trading Assets- Derivative Contracts	Contract/ Notional	Trading Liabilities- Derivative Contracts
Interest rate contracts				
Swaps	\$ 8,018,311	\$ 492,672	\$ 7,682,832	\$ 488,598
Futures and forwards	2,305,262	1,504	2,297,324	1,417
Written options	—	—	1,385,809	61,308
Purchased options	1,336,671	64,225	—	—
Foreign exchange contracts				
Swaps	792,287	27,130	798,320	33,202
Spot, futures and forwards	88,004	2,235	92,636	2,645
Written options	—	—	265,242	6,074
Purchased options	250,860	5,972	—	—
Equity contracts				
Swaps	26,310	1,145	25,262	1,239
Futures and forwards	29,256	1,472	27,151	1,534
Written options	—	—	273,448	16,157
Purchased options	274,762	14,990	—	—
Commodity contracts				
Swaps	41,005	4,747	34,518	5,502
Futures and forwards	309,977	5,739	304,711	3,437
Written options	—	—	160,926	10,865
Purchased options	158,610	10,757	—	—
Credit derivatives				
Purchased protection:				
Credit default swaps	140,862	14,085	91,386	2,080
Total return swaps	6,987	1,254	6,198	911
Other credit derivatives	196	2	68	—
Written protection:				
Credit default swaps	94,394	2,174	141,489	13,647
Total return swaps	5,436	314	1,325	102
Other credit derivatives	85	—	450	2
Gross derivative assets/liabilities	<u>\$ 13,879,275</u>	<u>\$ 650,417</u>	<u>\$ 13,589,095</u>	<u>\$ 648,720</u>
Less: Legally enforceable master netting		(593,571)		(593,571)
Less: Cash collateral applied		(27,632)		(30,485)
Total derivative assets and liabilities		<u>\$ 29,214</u>		<u>\$ 24,664</u>

(dollars in millions)

	As of December 31, 2011			
	Contract/ Notional	Trading Assets- Derivative Contracts	Contract/ Notional	Trading Liabilities- Derivative Contracts
Interest rate contracts				
Swaps	\$ 8,196,809	\$ 564,696	\$ 7,978,404	\$ 560,638
Futures and forwards	2,117,971	1,510	2,003,741	1,339
Written options	—	—	1,419,278	66,733
Purchased options	1,336,149	69,812	—	—
Foreign exchange contracts				
Swaps	766,899	27,312	798,173	35,299
Spot, futures and forwards	104,356	3,887	98,411	3,791
Written options	—	—	249,575	7,437
Purchased options	236,465	7,220	—	—
Equity contracts				
Swaps	23,233	1,028	22,887	1,141
Futures and forwards	30,791	1,747	20,988	1,450
Written options	—	—	345,947	14,596
Purchased options	341,731	14,816	—	—
Commodity contracts				
Swaps	35,681	4,823	36,391	5,799
Futures and forwards	233,567	5,254	236,919	3,183
Written options	—	—	140,600	9,443
Purchased options	139,312	9,426	—	—
Credit derivatives				
Purchased protection:				
Credit default swaps	174,857	20,124	67,664	1,416
Total return swaps	2,771	407	3,493	291
Other credit derivatives	274	3	25	—
Written protection:				
Credit default swaps	66,841	1,737	179,907	19,061
Total return swaps	4,350	226	1,239	129
Other credit derivatives	—	—	25	1
Gross derivative assets/liabilities	<u>\$ 13,812,057</u>	<u>\$ 734,028</u>	<u>\$ 13,603,667</u>	<u>\$ 731,747</u>
Less: Legally enforceable master netting		(672,524)		(672,524)
Less: Cash collateral applied		(26,491)		(32,984)
Total derivative assets and liabilities		<u>\$ 35,013</u>		<u>\$ 26,239</u>

Trading revenues

Merrill Lynch enters into trading derivatives and non-derivative cash instruments to facilitate client transactions, for trading and financing purposes, and to manage risk exposures arising from trading assets and liabilities. The resulting risk from derivatives and non-derivative cash instruments is managed on a portfolio basis as part of Merrill Lynch's sales and trading activities and the related revenue is recorded on different income statement line items, including principal transactions, commissions, other revenues and net interest income (expense).

Sales and trading revenue includes changes in fair value and realized gains and losses on the sales of trading and other assets, which are included in principal transactions and other revenues, net interest income, and commissions. Initial trading related revenue is generated by the difference in the client price for an instrument and the price at which the trading desk can execute the trade in the dealer market. That revenue is included within principal transactions on the Condensed Consolidated Statement of (Loss) Earnings. For equity securities, commissions related to purchases and sales are recorded in commissions on the Condensed Consolidated Statement of (Loss) Earnings. Changes in the fair value of these equity securities are included in principal transactions. These amounts

are reflected in equity risk in the tables below. For debt securities, revenue, with the exception of interest, is typically included in principal transactions. Unlike commissions for equity securities, the initial revenue related to broker/dealer services for debt securities is included in the pricing of the instrument rather than charged through separate fee agreements. Therefore, this revenue is recorded in principal transactions as part of the initial mark to fair value. In transactions where Merrill Lynch acts as an agent, fees are earned and recorded in commissions. In the tables below, most sovereign government debt securities are reflected in interest rate risk. All other government debt securities (including, for example, municipal bonds and emerging markets sovereign debt) and corporate debt securities are included in credit risk.

For derivatives, revenue is typically included in principal transactions. Similar to debt securities, the initial revenue related to dealer services is included in the initial pricing of the instrument rather than charged through separate fee agreements. Therefore, this revenue is recorded in principal transactions as part of the initial mark to fair value. In transactions where Merrill Lynch acts as agent, which includes exchange traded futures and options, fees are earned and recorded in commissions. Derivatives are included in the tables below based on their predominant risk (e.g., credit default swaps are included in credit risk).

Certain instruments, primarily available-for-sale securities and loans, are not considered trading assets or liabilities. Gains/losses on sales and changes in fair value of these instruments, where applicable (e.g., the fair value option has been elected), are recorded in other revenues. These instruments are typically reflected in credit risk.

Interest revenue for debt securities and loans is included in net interest (expense) income.

The following tables identify the amounts in the income statement line items attributable to trading and non-trading activities, including both derivatives and non-derivative cash instruments categorized by primary risk for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011.

Non-trading related amounts include activities in connection with principal investment, wealth management, and certain lending activities; economic hedging activity discussed in the *Non-trading derivatives* section above; and the impact of changes in Merrill Lynch's own creditworthiness on borrowings accounted for at fair value.

For The Three Months Ended March 31, 2012

(dollars in millions)

	Principal Transactions	Commissions	Other Revenues ⁽¹⁾	Net Interest Income (Expense)	Total
Interest rate risk	\$ 169	\$ 18	\$ —	\$ 207	\$ 394
Foreign exchange risk	25	—	—	—	25
Equity risk	420	719	20	50	1,209
Commodity risk	260	—	—	(28)	232
Credit risk	1,150	—	77	532	1,759
Total trading related	2,024	737	97	761	3,619
Non-trading related	(2,165)	618	673	(831)	(1,705)
Total	\$ (141)	\$ 1,355	\$ 770	\$ (70)	\$ 1,914

(1) Includes other income and other-than-temporary impairment losses on available-for-sale debt securities.

For The Three Months Ended March 31, 2011

(dollars in millions)

	Principal Transactions	Commissions	Other Revenues ⁽¹⁾	Net Interest Income (Expense)	Total
Interest rate risk	\$ 120	\$ 22	\$ 13	\$ 183	\$ 338
Foreign exchange risk	4	—	—	1	5
Equity risk	487	901	30	86	1,504
Commodity risk	133	—	(1)	(29)	103
Credit risk	726	14	210	677	1,627
Total trading related	1,470	937	252	918	3,577
Non-trading related	(299)	653	1,606	(871)	1,089
Total	\$ 1,171	\$ 1,590	\$ 1,858	\$ 47	\$ 4,666

(1) Includes other income and other-than-temporary impairment losses on available-for-sale debt securities.

Derivatives as guarantees

Merrill Lynch enters into certain derivative contracts that meet the definition of a guarantee under ASC 460, *Guarantees* (“Guarantees Accounting”). Merrill Lynch considers all credit derivatives and credit-related notes that can potentially be used by clients to protect against changes in an underlying to be guarantees.

Merrill Lynch’s derivatives that act as guarantees at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 are summarized below:

(dollars in millions)

	Maximum Payout/ Notional	Less than 1 year	1 – 3 years	3 – 5 years	Over 5 years	Carrying Value ⁽¹⁾
At March 31, 2012:						
Derivative contracts:						
Credit derivatives:						
Investment grade ⁽²⁾	\$ 124,608	\$ 22,997	\$ 45,861	\$ 42,492	\$ 13,258	\$ 2,515
Non-investment grade ⁽²⁾	118,571	12,572	26,416	39,566	40,017	11,236
Total credit derivatives	243,179	35,569	72,277	82,058	53,275	13,751
Credit related notes:						
Investment grade ⁽²⁾	2,808	2	33	190	2,583	2,808
Non-investment grade ⁽²⁾	904	125	59	57	663	904
Total credit related notes	3,712	127	92	247	3,246	3,712
Total derivative contracts	\$ 246,891	\$ 35,696	\$ 72,369	\$ 82,305	\$ 56,521	\$ 17,463
At December 31, 2011:						
Derivative contracts:						
Credit derivatives:						
Investment grade ⁽²⁾	\$ 130,770	\$ 22,021	\$ 47,593	\$ 46,918	\$ 14,238	\$ 4,189
Non-investment grade ⁽²⁾	121,592	13,263	26,428	38,301	43,600	15,002
Total credit derivatives	252,362	35,284	74,021	85,219	57,838	19,191
Credit related notes:						
Investment grade ⁽²⁾	2,038	—	5	132	1,901	2,038
Non-investment grade ⁽²⁾	1,026	123	66	58	779	1,026
Total credit related notes	3,064	123	71	190	2,680	3,064
Total derivative contracts	\$ 255,426	\$ 35,407	\$ 74,092	\$ 85,409	\$ 60,518	\$ 22,255

(1) Derivative contracts are shown on a gross basis prior to counterparty or cash collateral netting.

(2) Refers to the creditworthiness of the underlying reference obligations.

Credit derivatives

Credit derivatives derive value based on an underlying third party referenced obligation or a portfolio of referenced obligations. Merrill Lynch is both a seller and a buyer of credit protection. A seller of credit protection is required to make payments to a buyer upon the occurrence of a predefined credit event. Such credit events generally include bankruptcy of the referenced credit entity and failure to pay under their credit obligations, as well as acceleration of indebtedness and payment repudiation or moratorium. Merrill Lynch considers credit derivatives to be guarantees where it is the seller of credit protection. For credit derivatives based on a portfolio of referenced credits or credit indices, Merrill Lynch as a seller of credit protection may not be required to make payment until a specified amount of loss has occurred and/or may only be required to make payment up to a specified amount.

For most credit derivatives, the notional value represents the maximum amount payable by Merrill Lynch as a seller of credit protection. However, Merrill Lynch does not exclusively monitor its exposure to credit derivatives based on notional value. Instead, a risk framework is used to define risk tolerances and establish limits to help to ensure that certain credit risk-related losses occur within acceptable, predefined limits. Merrill Lynch discloses internal categorizations (i.e., investment grade, non-investment grade) consistent with how risk is managed to evaluate the payment status of its freestanding credit derivative instruments.

Merrill Lynch economically hedges its exposure to credit derivatives by entering into a variety of offsetting derivative contracts and security positions. For example, in certain instances, Merrill Lynch purchases credit protection with identical underlying referenced names to offset its exposure. At March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the notional value and carrying value of credit protection purchased and credit protection sold by Merrill Lynch with identical underlying referenced names was:

(dollars in millions)

	Maximum Payout/ Notional	Less than 1 year	1 – 3 years	3 – 5 years	Over 5 years	Carrying Value ⁽¹⁾
At March 31, 2012:						
Credit derivatives purchased	\$ 210,132	\$ 30,061	\$ 58,006	\$ 79,847	\$ 42,218	\$ 9,212
Credit derivatives sold	220,387	34,088	60,702	76,865	48,732	9,832
At December 31, 2011:						
Credit derivatives purchased	219,358	31,335	63,284	77,485	47,254	15,563
Credit derivatives sold	219,669	33,852	61,797	77,527	46,493	15,502

(1) Derivative contracts are shown on a gross basis prior to counterparty or cash collateral netting.

Credit related notes

Credit related notes in the guarantees table above include investments in securities issued by CDO, CLO and credit linked note vehicles. These instruments are classified as trading securities. Most of the entities that issue these instruments have either the ability to enter into, or have entered into, credit derivatives that meet the definition of a guarantee (in this case, the sale of credit protection). Since most of these securities could potentially have embedded credit derivatives that would meet the definition of a guarantee, Merrill Lynch includes all of its investments in these securities above.

The carrying value of these instruments equals Merrill Lynch's maximum exposure to loss. Merrill Lynch is not obligated to make any payments to the entities under the terms of the securities owned. Merrill Lynch discloses internal categorizations (i.e., investment grade, non-investment grade) consistent with how risk is managed for these instruments.

Credit risk management of derivatives

Merrill Lynch defines counterparty credit risk as the potential for loss that can occur as a result of an individual,

counterparty, or issuer being unable or unwilling to honor its contractual obligations. Merrill Lynch mitigates its credit risk to counterparties through a variety of techniques, including, where appropriate, the right to require initial collateral or margin, the right to terminate transactions or to obtain collateral should unfavorable events occur, the right to call for collateral when certain exposure thresholds are exceeded, the right to call for third party guarantees, and the purchase of credit default protection.

Merrill Lynch enters into International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. ("ISDA") master agreements or their equivalent ("master netting agreements") with almost all derivative counterparties. Master netting agreements provide protection in bankruptcy in certain circumstances and, where legally enforceable, enable receivables and payables with the same counterparty to be offset for accounting and risk management purposes. Netting agreements are generally negotiated bilaterally and can require complex terms. While Merrill Lynch makes reasonable efforts to execute such agreements, it is possible that a counterparty may be unwilling to sign such an agreement and, as a result, would subject Merrill Lynch to additional credit risk.

Where Merrill Lynch has entered into legally enforceable netting agreements with counterparties, it reports derivative assets and liabilities, and any related cash collateral, net in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets in accordance with ASC 210-20, *Balance Sheet-Offsetting*. At March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, cash collateral received of \$27.6 billion and \$26.5 billion, respectively, and cash collateral paid of \$30.5 billion and \$33.0 billion, respectively, was netted against derivative assets and liabilities. The enforceability of master netting agreements under bankruptcy laws in certain countries or in certain industries is not free from doubt, and receivables and payables with counterparties in these countries or industries are accordingly reported on a gross basis.

Merrill Lynch considers the impact of counterparty credit risk on the valuation of derivative contracts. Factors used to determine the CVA on the derivatives portfolio include current exposure levels (i.e., fair value prior to CVA) and expected exposure levels profiled over the maturity of the contracts. CDS market information, including either quoted single name CDS or index or other proxy CDS, is also considered. In addition, the CVA also takes into account the netting and credit provisions of relevant agreements including collateral margin agreements and master netting agreements. During the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011, CVA (net of hedges) of approximately \$0.2 billion of gains and \$0.5 billion of losses, respectively, was recognized in principal transactions for counterparty credit risk. At March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the cumulative CVA that was reflected in derivative assets was \$1.4 billion and \$1.5 billion, respectively. In addition, the fair value of derivative liabilities is adjusted to reflect the impact of Merrill Lynch's credit quality. During the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011, DVA (net of hedges) of approximately \$0.7 billion and \$0.2 billion of losses were recognized in principal transactions for changes in Merrill Lynch's credit risk. At March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the cumulative DVA that was reflected in the derivative liabilities balance was \$0.7 billion and \$1.1 billion, respectively.

Monoline derivative credit exposure at March 31, 2012 had a notional value of \$12.9 billion compared with \$15.8 billion at December 31, 2011. The fair value of monoline derivative credit exposure was \$1.5 billion at March 31, 2012 compared with \$1.7 billion at December 31, 2011. At March 31, 2012, the CVA related to monoline derivative trading instruments exposure was \$235 million compared with \$382 million at December 31, 2011, which reduced Merrill Lynch's net exposure to \$1.2 billion at March 31, 2012. Monoline related gains for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 were \$115 million.

Bank of America has guaranteed the performance of Merrill Lynch on certain derivative transactions. The aggregate amount of such derivative liabilities was approximately \$0.7 billion at March 31, 2012.

Credit-risk related contingent features

Most of Merrill Lynch's derivative contracts contain credit risk related contingent features, primarily in the form of ISDA master netting agreements and credit support documentation that enhance the creditworthiness of these instruments compared to other obligations of the respective counterparty with whom Merrill Lynch has transacted. These contingent features may be for the benefit of Merrill Lynch as well as its counterparties with respect to

changes in Merrill Lynch's creditworthiness and the exposure under the derivative transactions. At March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, Merrill Lynch held cash and securities collateral of \$39.2 billion and \$40.9 billion and posted collateral of \$39.9 billion and \$45.2 billion in the normal course of business under derivative agreements.

At March 31, 2012, the amount of collateral, calculated based on the terms of the contracts that Merrill Lynch could be required to post to counterparties but had not yet posted to counterparties was approximately \$1.8 billion.

Some counterparties are currently able to unilaterally terminate certain contracts, or Merrill Lynch may be required to take other action such as find a suitable replacement or obtain a guarantee. At March 31, 2012, the current liability for these derivative contracts was \$0.6 billion, against which Merrill Lynch had posted \$0.4 billion of collateral.

In addition, under the terms of certain OTC derivative contracts and other trading agreements, in the event of a further credit rating downgrade of ML & Co. or certain subsidiaries that have entered into these transactions, counterparties to those agreements may require ML & Co. or certain subsidiaries to provide additional collateral or to terminate these contracts or agreements or provide other remedies. The amount of additional collateral required depends on the contract and is usually a fixed incremental amount and/or market value of the exposure. At March 31, 2012, if the rating agencies had downgraded their long-term senior debt ratings for ML & Co. or certain subsidiaries by one incremental notch, the amount of additional collateral contractually required by such derivative contracts and other trading agreements would have been approximately \$0.5 billion. If the rating agencies had downgraded their long-term senior debt ratings for ML & Co. or certain subsidiaries by a second incremental notch, approximately \$0.6 billion in additional collateral would have been required.

Also, if the rating agencies had downgraded their long-term senior debt ratings for ML & Co. or certain subsidiaries by one incremental notch, the derivative liability that would be subject to unilateral termination by counterparties as of March 31, 2012 was \$1.3 billion, against which \$0.6 billion of collateral had been posted. Further, if the rating agencies had downgraded their long-term debt ratings for ML & Co. or certain subsidiaries by a second incremental notch, the derivative liability that would be subject to unilateral termination by counterparties as of March 31, 2012 was an incremental \$3.6 billion, against which \$3.4 billion of collateral had been posted.

Note 7. Securities Financing Transactions

Merrill Lynch enters into secured borrowing and lending transactions in order to meet customers' needs and earn residual interest rate spreads, obtain securities for settlement and finance trading inventory positions.

Under these transactions, Merrill Lynch either receives or provides collateral, including U.S. Government and agency securities, asset-backed, corporate debt, equity, and non-U.S. government and agency securities. Merrill Lynch receives collateral in connection with resale agreements, securities borrowed transactions, customer margin loans and other loans. Under most agreements, Merrill Lynch is permitted to sell or repledge the securities received (e.g., use the securities to secure repurchase agreements, enter into securities lending transactions, or deliver to counterparties to cover short positions). At March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the fair value of securities received as collateral where Merrill Lynch is permitted to sell or repledge the securities was \$452 billion and \$418 billion, respectively, and the fair value of the portion that had been sold or repledged was \$395 billion and \$349 billion, respectively. Merrill Lynch may use securities received as collateral for resale agreements to satisfy regulatory requirements such as Rule 15c3-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Additionally, Merrill Lynch receives securities as collateral in connection with certain securities transactions in which Merrill Lynch is the lender. In instances where Merrill Lynch is permitted to sell or repledge securities received, Merrill Lynch reports the fair value of such securities received as collateral and the related obligation to return securities received as collateral in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Merrill Lynch pledges assets to collateralize repurchase agreements and other secured financings. Pledged securities that can be sold or repledged by the secured party are parenthetically disclosed in trading assets on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets. The carrying value and classification of securities owned by Merrill Lynch that have been pledged to counterparties where those counterparties do not have the right to sell or repledge at March 31,

2012 and December 31, 2011 are as follows:

(dollars in millions)

	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Trading asset category		
Equities and convertible debentures	\$ 9,765	\$ 6,469
Corporate debt and preferred stock	8,398	7,961
U.S. Government and agencies	25,596	22,689
Non-U.S. governments and agencies	1,158	627
Mortgages, mortgage-backed, and asset-backed securities	2,266	1,959
Municipals and money markets	48	561
Total	\$ 47,231	\$ 40,266

In certain cases, Merrill Lynch has transferred assets to consolidated VIEs where those restricted assets serve as collateral for the interests issued by the VIEs. These assets are disclosed on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet as Assets of Consolidated VIEs. These transactions are also described in Note 9.

Generally, when Merrill Lynch transfers financial instruments that are not recorded as sales (i.e., secured borrowing transactions), the liability is recorded as either payables under repurchase agreements or payables under securities loaned transactions; however, in instances where Merrill Lynch transfers financial assets to a consolidated VIE, the liabilities of the consolidated VIE will be reflected in long or short-term borrowings (see Note 9). In either case, at the time of transfer, the related liability is equal to the cash received in the transaction. In most cases the lenders in secured borrowing transactions have full recourse to Merrill Lynch (i.e., recourse beyond the assets pledged).

Note 8. Investment Securities

Investment securities on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets include:

- Investments within the scope of Investment Accounting that are held by ML & Co. and certain of its non-broker-dealer subsidiaries consist of debt held-for-investment and liquidity and collateral management purposes that are classified as available-for-sale.
- Non-qualifying investments are those that are not within the scope of Investment Accounting and consist principally of equity investments, including investments in partnerships and joint ventures. Included in non-qualifying investments are investments accounted for under the equity method of accounting, which consist of investments in (i) partnerships and certain limited liability corporations where Merrill Lynch has more than a minor influence (generally defined as three to five percent interest) and (ii) corporate entities where Merrill Lynch has the ability to exercise significant influence over the investee (generally defined as ownership and voting interest of 20% to 50%). Also included in non-qualifying investments are private equity investments that Merrill Lynch holds for capital appreciation and/or current income and which are accounted for at fair value in accordance with the Investment Company Guide, as well as private equity investments accounted for at fair value under the fair value option election.

Investment securities reported on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 are presented below.

(dollars in millions)

	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Investment securities		
Available-for-sale	\$ 671	\$ 694
Non-qualifying ⁽¹⁾		
Equity investments	3,508	3,810
Other investments	2,496	2,180
Total	<u>\$ 6,675</u>	<u>\$ 6,684</u>

(1) Investments that are non-qualifying for Investment Accounting purposes.

For the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011, other-than-temporary impairment ("OTTI") losses related to non-agency mortgage-backed AFS securities were \$2 million and \$38 million respectively. Net impairment losses recognized in earnings represent the credit component of OTTI losses on AFS debt securities and total OTTI losses for AFS debt securities that Merrill Lynch does not intend to hold to recovery. Those amounts were \$2 million and \$37 million for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011, respectively. Refer to Note 1 for Merrill Lynch's accounting policy regarding OTTI of investment securities.

Information regarding investment securities subject to Investment Accounting follows.

(dollars in millions)

	March 31, 2012	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Available-for-Sale		
Securities, mortgage-backed and asset-backed:		
Corporate ABS	\$ 206	\$ 206
Non-agency mortgage backed securities	60	60
Subtotal	266	266
U.S. Government and agencies	405	405
Total available-for-sale securities	<u>\$ 671</u>	<u>\$ 671</u>

(dollars in millions)

	December 31, 2011	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Available-for-Sale		
Securities, mortgage-backed and asset-backed:		
Corporate ABS	\$ 47	\$ 47
Non-agency mortgage backed securities	249	249
Subtotal	296	296
U.S. Government and agencies	398	398
Total available-for-sale securities	<u>\$ 694</u>	<u>\$ 694</u>

There were no material gross unrealized gains or losses associated with available-for-sale securities as of March 31, 2012 or December 31, 2011. Additionally, there were no individual securities that had been in a continuous unrealized loss position for a year or more as of March 31, 2012 or December 31, 2011.

The amortized cost and fair value of available-for-sale debt securities by expected maturity for mortgage-backed securities and contractual maturity for other debt securities at March 31, 2012 are as follows:

	Available-for-Sale	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Due in one year or less	\$ 612	\$ 612
Due after one year through five years	59	59
Due after five years through ten years	—	—
Due after ten years	—	—
Total ⁽¹⁾	<u>\$ 671</u>	<u>\$ 671</u>

(1) Actual maturities may differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay their obligations with or without prepayment penalties.

The proceeds and gross realized gains (losses) from the sale of available-for-sale securities during the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011 are as follows:

(dollars in millions)

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012		Three Months Ended March 31, 2011	
Proceeds	\$	3	\$	1,587
Gross realized gains		—		44
Gross realized losses		—		—

At March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, Merrill Lynch held certain investments that were accounted for under the equity method of accounting, none of which were individually material.

Note 9. Securitizations and Other Variable Interest Entities (“VIEs”)

Merrill Lynch utilizes VIEs in the ordinary course of business to support its own and its customers' financing and investing needs. Merrill Lynch securitizes loans and debt securities using VIEs as a source of funding and as a means of transferring the economic risk of the loans or debt securities to third parties. The assets are transferred into a trust or other securitization vehicle such that the assets are legally isolated from the creditors of Merrill Lynch and are not available to satisfy its obligations. These assets can only be used to settle obligations of the trust or other securitization vehicle. Merrill Lynch also administers, structures or invests in other VIEs including municipal bond trusts, CDOs and other entities as described in more detail below.

The entity that has a controlling financial interest in a VIE is referred to as the primary beneficiary and consolidates the VIE. Merrill Lynch is deemed to have a controlling financial interest and is the primary beneficiary of a VIE if it has both the power to direct the activities of the VIE that most significantly impact the VIE's economic performance and an obligation to absorb losses or the right to receive benefits that could potentially be significant to the VIE.

The tables below present the assets and liabilities of consolidated and unconsolidated VIEs if Merrill Lynch has continuing involvement with transferred assets or if Merrill Lynch otherwise has a variable interest in the VIE. For consolidated VIEs, these amounts are net of intercompany balances. The tables also present Merrill Lynch's maximum loss exposure resulting from its involvement with consolidated VIEs and unconsolidated VIEs in which Merrill Lynch holds a variable interest as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011. Merrill Lynch's maximum loss exposure is based on the unlikely event that all of the assets in the VIEs become worthless and incorporates not only potential losses associated with assets recorded on Merrill Lynch's Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet but also potential losses associated with off-balance sheet commitments such as unfunded liquidity commitments and other contractual arrangements. Merrill Lynch's maximum loss exposure does not include losses previously recognized.

Merrill Lynch invests in ABS issued by third party VIEs with which it has no other form of involvement. These securities are described in more detail in Note 8. In addition, Merrill Lynch uses VIEs such as trust preferred securities trusts in connection with its funding activities (see Note 12).

Except as described below, Merrill Lynch has not provided financial support to consolidated or unconsolidated VIEs that it was not contractually required to provide, nor does it intend to do so.

Loan VIEs

Merrill Lynch securitizes mortgage loans that it originates or purchases from third parties. In certain circumstances, Merrill Lynch has continuing involvement with the securitized loans as servicer of the loans. Merrill Lynch may also retain beneficial interests in the securitization vehicles including senior and subordinated securities, and the equity tranche. Except as described below, Merrill Lynch does not provide guarantees to the securitization vehicles and investors do not have recourse to Merrill Lynch other than through standard representations and warranties.

The following table summarizes certain information related to Loan VIEs in which Merrill Lynch is either the transferor, servicer or sponsor and holds a variable interest as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

(dollars in millions)

	Non-Agency					
	Prime		Subprime		Commercial Mortgage	
	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Unconsolidated VIEs:						
Maximum loss exposure⁽¹⁾	\$ 9	\$ 16	\$ 110	\$ 52	\$ 100	\$ 130
Senior securities held						
Trading assets	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ 8	\$ 19
Subordinated securities held						
Trading assets	—	—	63	8	1	1
Residual interests held	2	8	—	—	26	42
Total retained securities⁽²⁾	\$ 3	\$ 9	\$ 65	\$ 10	\$ 35	\$ 62
Principal balance outstanding⁽³⁾	\$ 172	\$ 191	\$ 6,067	\$ 6,192	\$ 19,792	\$ 24,545

(1) Maximum loss exposure excludes liabilities for representations and warranties.

(2) Substantially all of the securities were in Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

(3) Principal balance outstanding includes those loans that Merrill Lynch transferred and with which it has continuing involvement.

In accordance with consolidation guidance, Merrill Lynch consolidates Loan VIEs in which it has a controlling financial interest. For loan securitizations, Merrill Lynch is considered to have a controlling financial interest (i.e., is the primary beneficiary) when it is the servicer of the loans and also holds a financial interest that could potentially be significant to the entity. If Merrill Lynch is not the servicer of an entity or does not hold a financial interest that could be significant to the entity, Merrill Lynch does not have a controlling financial interest and does not consolidate the entity. Merrill Lynch did not have a controlling financial interest in Loan VIEs at March 31, 2012.

Merrill Lynch sells mortgage loans to VIEs with various representations and warranties related to, among other things, the ownership of the loan, validity of the lien securing the loan, absence of delinquent taxes or liens against the property securing the loan, the process used in selecting the loans for inclusion in a transaction, the loan's compliance with any applicable loan criteria established by the buyer, and the loan's compliance with applicable local, state and federal laws. Under these representations and warranties, Merrill Lynch may be required to repurchase mortgage loans with the identified defects or indemnify or provide other recourse to the investor or insurer. In such cases, Merrill Lynch bears any subsequent credit loss on the mortgage loans. Merrill Lynch's representations and warranties are generally not subject to stated limits and extend over the life of the loans. See Note 14.

Municipal Bond Securitizations

Merrill Lynch sponsors municipal bond trusts that hold highly-rated, long-term, fixed-rate municipal bonds, some of which are callable prior to maturity. A majority of the bonds are rated AAA or AA and some benefit from

insurance provided by third parties. The trusts obtain financing by issuing floating-rate trust certificates that reprice on a frequent basis to third party investors. Merrill Lynch may serve as remarketing agent and/or liquidity provider for the trusts. The floating-rate investors have the right to tender the certificates at specified dates, often with as little as seven days' notice. Should Merrill Lynch be unable to remarket the tendered certificates, it is generally obligated to purchase them at par under standby liquidity facilities unless the bond's credit rating has declined below investment grade or there has been an event of default or bankruptcy of the issuer and insurer.

Merrill Lynch also provides default protection or credit enhancement to investors in certain municipal bond trusts whereby Merrill Lynch guarantees the payment of interest and principal on floating-rate certificates issued by these trusts. If an investor holds the residual interest, that investor typically has the unilateral ability to liquidate the trust at any time, while Merrill Lynch typically has the ability to trigger the liquidation of that trust only if the market value of the bonds held in the trust declines below a specified threshold. The weighted average remaining life of bonds held in the trusts at March 31, 2012 was 8.9 years.

The following table summarizes certain information related to municipal bond trusts in which Merrill Lynch holds a variable interest as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

(dollars in millions)

	March 31, 2012			December 31, 2011		
	Consolidated	Unconsolidated	Total	Consolidated	Unconsolidated	Total
Maximum Loss Exposure	\$ 3,125	\$ 883	\$ 4,008	\$ 3,713	\$ 920	\$ 4,633
On-balance sheet assets						
Trading assets	\$ 3,125	\$ 108	\$ 3,233	\$ 3,713	\$ 178	\$ 3,891
Total	\$ 3,125	\$ 108	\$ 3,233	\$ 3,713	\$ 178	\$ 3,891
On-balance sheet liabilities						
Short-term borrowings	\$ 4,688	\$ —	\$ 4,688	\$ 4,939	\$ —	\$ 4,939
Total	\$ 4,688	\$ —	\$ 4,688	\$ 4,939	\$ —	\$ 4,939
Total assets of VIEs	\$ 3,125	\$ 1,165	\$ 4,290	\$ 3,713	\$ 1,154	\$ 4,867

Merrill Lynch consolidates municipal bond trusts when it has a controlling financial interest. As transferor of assets into a trust, Merrill Lynch has the power to determine which assets would be held in the trust and to structure the liquidity facilities, default protection and credit enhancement, if applicable. In some instances, Merrill Lynch retains a residual interest in such trusts and has loss exposure that could potentially be significant to the trust through the residual interest, liquidity facilities and other arrangements. Merrill Lynch is also the remarketing agent, through which it has the power to direct the activities that most significantly impact economic performance. Accordingly, Merrill Lynch is the primary beneficiary of and consolidates these trusts. In other instances, one or more third party investor(s) hold(s) the residual interest and, through that interest, has the unilateral right to liquidate the trust. Merrill Lynch does not consolidate these trusts.

In the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011, Merrill Lynch was the transferor of assets into unconsolidated municipal bond trusts and received cash proceeds from new securitizations of \$75 million and \$67 million, respectively. At both March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the principal balance outstanding for unconsolidated municipal bond securitization trusts for which Merrill Lynch was the transferor was \$1.2 billion.

Merrill Lynch's liquidity commitments to unconsolidated municipal bond trusts totaled \$775 million and \$742 million at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively.

CDOs

CDO vehicles hold diversified pools of fixed income securities, typically corporate debt or asset-backed securities, which they fund by issuing multiple tranches of debt and equity securities. Synthetic CDOs enter into a portfolio of credit default swaps to synthetically create exposure to fixed income securities. CLOs are a subset of CDOs that

hold pools of loans, typically corporate loans or commercial mortgages. CDOs are typically managed by third party portfolio managers. Merrill Lynch transfers assets to these CDOs, holds securities issued by the CDOs, and may be a derivative counterparty to the CDOs, including credit default swap counterparty for synthetic CDOs. Merrill Lynch has also entered into total return swaps with certain CDOs whereby Merrill Lynch will absorb the economic returns generated by specified assets held by the CDO. Merrill Lynch receives fees for structuring CDOs and providing liquidity support for super senior tranches of securities issued by certain CDOs.

The following table summarizes certain information related to CDO vehicles in which Merrill Lynch holds a variable interest as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

(dollars in millions)

	March 31, 2012			December 31, 2011		
	Consolidated	Unconsolidated	Total	Consolidated	Unconsolidated	Total
Maximum Loss Exposure	\$ 2,249	\$ 1,928	\$ 4,177	\$ 1,695	\$ 2,185	\$ 3,880
On-balance sheet assets						
Trading assets	\$ 2,249	\$ 356	\$ 2,605	\$ 1,844	\$ 397	\$ 2,241
Derivative contracts	—	531	531	—	678	678
Other assets	—	65	65	—	72	72
Total	<u>\$ 2,249</u>	<u>\$ 952</u>	<u>\$ 3,201</u>	<u>\$ 1,844</u>	<u>\$ 1,147</u>	<u>\$ 2,991</u>
On-balance sheet liabilities						
Derivative contracts	\$ —	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ —	\$ 11	\$ 11
Long-term borrowings	2,883	—	2,883	2,712	—	2,712
Total	<u>2,883</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>2,897</u>	<u>2,712</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>2,723</u>
Total assets of VIEs	<u>\$ 2,249</u>	<u>\$ 30,278</u>	<u>\$ 32,527</u>	<u>\$ 1,844</u>	<u>\$ 32,847</u>	<u>\$ 34,691</u>

Merrill Lynch's maximum loss exposure is significantly less than the total assets of unconsolidated CDO vehicles in the table above because Merrill Lynch typically has exposure to only a portion of the total assets.

At March 31, 2012, Merrill Lynch had \$2.1 billion of aggregate liquidity exposure to CDOs. This amount includes \$557 million of commitments to CDOs to provide funding for super senior exposures and \$1.5 billion notional amount of derivative contracts with unconsolidated VIEs, principally CDO vehicles, which hold non-super senior CDO debt securities or other debt securities on Merrill Lynch's behalf. Refer to Note 14 for additional information. Merrill Lynch's liquidity exposure to CDOs at March 31, 2012 is included in the table above to the extent that Merrill Lynch sponsored the CDO vehicle or the liquidity exposure is more than insignificant compared to total assets of the CDO vehicle. Liquidity exposure included in the table is reported net of previously recorded losses.

Customer Vehicles

Customer vehicles include credit-linked and equity-linked note vehicles and repackaging vehicles, which are typically created on behalf of customers who wish to obtain exposure to a specific company or financial instrument. Credit-linked and equity-linked note vehicles issue notes which pay a return that is linked to the specific credit or equity risk. The vehicles purchase high-grade assets as collateral and enter into CDS or equity derivatives to synthetically create the credit or equity risk required to pay the specified return on the notes issued by the vehicles. Repackaging vehicles issue notes that are designed to incorporate risk characteristics desired by customers of Merrill Lynch. The vehicles hold debt instruments such as corporate bonds, convertible bonds or ABS with the desired credit risk profile. Merrill Lynch enters into derivatives with the vehicles to change the interest rate or currency profile of the debt instruments. If a vehicle holds convertible bonds and Merrill Lynch retains the conversion option, Merrill Lynch is deemed to have a controlling financial interest and consolidates the vehicle.

The following table summarizes certain information related to customer vehicles in which Merrill Lynch holds a variable interest as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

(dollars in millions)

	March 31, 2012			December 31, 2011		
	Consolidated	Unconsolidated	Total	Consolidated	Unconsolidated	Total
Maximum Loss Exposure	<u>\$ 2,152</u>	<u>\$ 1,871</u>	<u>\$ 4,023</u>	<u>\$ 2,333</u>	<u>\$ 2,106</u>	<u>\$ 4,439</u>
On-balance sheet assets						
Trading assets	\$ 3,573	\$ 188	\$ 3,761	\$ 3,243	\$ 211	\$ 3,454
Derivative contracts	—	681	681	—	896	896
Other assets	1,260	—	1,260	1,446	—	1,446
Total	<u>\$ 4,833</u>	<u>\$ 869</u>	<u>\$ 5,702</u>	<u>\$ 4,689</u>	<u>\$ 1,107</u>	<u>\$ 5,796</u>
On-balance sheet liabilities						
Derivative contracts	\$ 4	\$ 46	\$ 50	\$ 4	\$ 42	\$ 46
Short-term borrowings	12	—	12	—	—	—
Long-term borrowings	4,135	—	4,135	3,873	—	3,873
Other liabilities	—	374	374	1	448	449
Total	<u>\$ 4,151</u>	<u>\$ 420</u>	<u>\$ 4,571</u>	<u>\$ 3,878</u>	<u>\$ 490</u>	<u>\$ 4,368</u>
Total assets of VIEs	<u>\$ 4,833</u>	<u>\$ 3,520</u>	<u>\$ 8,353</u>	<u>\$ 4,689</u>	<u>\$ 5,265</u>	<u>\$ 9,954</u>

Merrill Lynch consolidates customer vehicles in which it has a controlling financial interest. Merrill Lynch typically has control over the initial design of the vehicle and may also have the ability to replace the collateral assets. Merrill Lynch consolidates these vehicles if it also absorbs potentially significant gains or losses through derivative contracts or investments. Merrill Lynch does not consolidate a vehicle if a single investor controlled the initial design of the vehicle or if Merrill Lynch does not have a variable interest that could potentially be significant to the vehicle.

Merrill Lynch is typically the counterparty for the credit and equity derivatives entered into by the customer vehicles, and it may invest in securities issued by the vehicles. Merrill Lynch may also enter into interest rate and foreign currency derivatives with the vehicles. Merrill Lynch had approximately \$707 million of other liquidity commitments, including written put options and collateral value guarantees, with unconsolidated credit-linked and equity-linked note vehicles at March 31, 2012.

Merrill Lynch's maximum loss exposure from customer vehicles includes the notional amount of the credit or equity derivatives to which it is counterparty, net of losses previously recorded, and Merrill Lynch's investment, if any, in securities issued by the vehicles. It has not been reduced to reflect the benefit of offsetting swaps with the customers or collateral arrangements.

Real Estate and other VIEs

Real Estate and other VIEs primarily includes a real estate investment fund that is a VIE, investments in VIEs that hold investment property, certain hedge fund investment entities, and residential agency securitizations.

The following table summarizes certain information related to Real Estate and other VIEs in which Merrill Lynch holds a variable interest as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

(dollars in millions)

	March 31, 2012			December 31, 2011		
	Consolidated	Unconsolidated	Total	Consolidated	Unconsolidated	Total
Maximum Loss Exposure	\$ 226	\$ 3,227	\$ 3,453	\$ 1,821	\$ 4,631	\$ 6,452
On-balance sheet assets						
Trading assets	\$ —	\$ 1,739	\$ 1,739	\$ —	\$ 2,980	\$ 2,980
Derivative contracts	—	404	404	—	440	440
Investment securities	76	59	135	162	62	224
Loans, notes, and mortgages	69	711	780	94	804	898
Other assets	91	318	409	1,575	344	1,919
Total	\$ 236	\$ 3,231	\$ 3,467	\$ 1,831	\$ 4,630	\$ 6,461
On-balance sheet liabilities						
Long-term borrowings	\$ 10	\$ —	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ —	\$ 10
Other liabilities	173	—	173	185	265	450
Total	\$ 183	\$ —	\$ 183	\$ 195	\$ 265	\$ 460
Total assets of VIEs	\$ 236	\$ 22,775	\$ 23,011	\$ 1,831	\$ 26,731	\$ 28,562

Merrill Lynch consolidates real estate and other VIEs in which it has a controlling financial interest. Merrill Lynch has established real estate investment funds designed to provide returns to clients through limited partnership holdings. Merrill Lynch invests in real estate lending vehicles and establishes vehicles to hold real estate investments. In certain instances these entities do not have sufficient equity to finance operations and are therefore considered VIEs. Merrill Lynch consolidates these vehicles when it has decision-making power over the property held by the vehicle and absorbs potentially significant gains or losses through its equity or loan investment.

Merrill Lynch transfers existing securities, typically MBS, into resecuritization vehicles at the request of customers seeking securities with specific characteristics. Generally, there are no significant ongoing activities performed in a resecuritization trust and no single investor has the unilateral ability to liquidate the trust.

Merrill Lynch resecuritized \$9.9 billion and \$2.5 billion of securities during the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Merrill Lynch consolidates a resecuritization trust if it has sole discretion over the design of the trust, including the identification of securities to be transferred in and the structure of securities to be issued, and also retains a variable interest that could potentially be significant to the trust. If one or a limited number of third-party investors share responsibility for the design of the trust and purchase a significant portion of securities, including subordinated securities issued by non agency trusts, Merrill Lynch does not consolidate the trust. There were no consolidated resecuritization trusts at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

Other Transactions

Merrill Lynch transferred pools of securities to certain independent third parties and provided financing for up to 75 percent of the purchase price under asset-backed financing arrangements. At March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, Merrill Lynch's maximum loss exposure under these financing arrangements was \$4.5 billion and \$4.7 billion, respectively, substantially all of which was recorded as loans, notes and mortgages on Merrill Lynch's Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet. All principal and interest payments have been received when due in accordance with their contractual terms. These arrangements are not included in the tables above because the purchasers are not VIEs.

Note 10. Loans, Notes and Mortgages

Loans, notes and mortgages include:

- Consumer loans, which are substantially secured, including residential mortgages, home equity loans, and other loans to individuals for household, family, or other personal expenditures;
- Commercial loans, including corporate and institutional loans (including corporate and financial sponsor, non-investment grade lending commitments), commercial mortgages, asset-backed loans, small- and middle-market business loans, and other loans to businesses; and
- Other loans, which include securities-backed loans and loans classified as held-for-sale.

The table below presents information on Merrill Lynch's loans outstanding at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

Age Analysis of Outstanding Loans

(dollars in millions)

(dollars in millions)	March 31, 2012															
	30-59 Days		60-89 Days		90 Days or more		Total Past		Total Current or Less Than		Nonperforming		Loans Measured at		Total	
	Past Due		Past Due		Past Due		Due		30 Days Past Due		Loans ⁽¹⁾		Fair Value		Outstanding	
Consumer loans																
Residential mortgage	\$	11	\$	6	\$	—	\$	17	\$	421	\$	27	\$	—	\$	465
Home equity		1		1		—		2		110		3		—		115
Total consumer		12		7		—		19		531		30		—		580
Commercial																
U.S. commercial		—		—		1		1		3,589		68		—		3,658
Commercial real estate		—		—		—		—		628		89		—		717
Non-U.S. commercial		—		—		—		—		3,029		62		—		3,091
Total commercial loans		—		—		1		1		7,246		219		—		7,466
Commercial loans measured at fair value		—		—		—		—		—		—		1,276		1,276
Total commercial		—		—		1		1		7,246		219		1,276		8,742
Other ⁽²⁾		—		—		—		—		9,684		—		1,498		11,182
Total loans	\$	12	\$	7	\$	1	\$	20	\$	17,461	\$	249	\$	2,774	\$	20,504
Allowance for loan losses																(75)
Total loans, net															\$	20,429

Age Analysis of Outstanding Loans
(dollars in millions)

	December 31, 2011							
	30-59 Days Past Due	60-89 Days Past Due	90 Days or more Past Due	Total Past Due	Total Current or Less Than 30 Days Past Due	Nonperforming Loans ⁽¹⁾	Loans Measured at Fair Value	Total Outstanding
Consumer loans								
Residential mortgage	\$ 20	\$ 4	\$ —	\$ 24	\$ 420	\$ 25	\$ —	\$ 469
Home equity	—	—	—	—	117	4	—	121
Total consumer	20	4	—	24	537	29	—	590
Commercial								
U.S. commercial	—	1	2	3	3,753	85	—	3,841
Commercial real estate	—	—	—	—	667	108	—	775
Non-U.S. commercial	—	—	—	—	3,040	65	—	3,105
Total commercial loans	—	1	2	3	7,460	258	—	7,721
Commercial loans measured at fair value	—	—	—	—	—	—	909	909
Total commercial	—	1	2	3	7,460	258	909	8,630
Other ⁽³⁾	—	—	—	—	10,013	—	1,413	11,426
Total loans	\$ 20	\$ 5	\$ 2	\$ 27	\$ 18,010	\$ 287	\$ 2,322	\$ 20,646
Allowance for loan losses								(72)
Total loans, net								<u>\$ 20,574</u>

(1) Excludes loans measured at fair value.

(2) Includes securities-backed loans and loans held-for-sale of \$8.9 billion and \$2.3 billion, respectively, as of March 31, 2012.

(3) Includes securities-backed loans and loans held-for-sale of \$8.9 billion and \$2.5 billion, respectively, as of December 31, 2011.

Merrill Lynch monitors the credit quality of its loans on an ongoing basis. Merrill Lynch's commercial loans are evaluated using the internal classifications of pass rated or reservable criticized as the primary credit quality indicators. The term reservable criticized refers to those commercial loans that are internally classified or listed by Merrill Lynch as Special Mention, Substandard or Doubtful, which are asset categories defined by regulatory authorities. These assets have an elevated level of risk and may have a high probability of default or total loss. Pass rated refers to all loans not considered reservable criticized. In addition to these primary credit quality indicators, Merrill Lynch uses other credit quality indicators for certain types of loans. The table below presents credit quality indicators for Merrill Lynch's commercial loan portfolio, excluding loans accounted for under the fair value option, at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

(dollars in millions)

March 31, 2012			
	U.S Commercial	Commercial Real Estate	Non-U.S. Commercial
Risk Ratings			
Pass rated	\$ 3,454	\$ 478	\$ 2,949
Reservable criticized	204	239	142
Total Commercial Credit	\$ 3,658	\$ 717	\$ 3,091

(dollars in millions)

December 31, 2011

	U.S. Commercial	Commercial Real Estate	Non-U.S. Commercial
Risk Ratings			
Pass rated	\$ 3,594	\$ 511	\$ 2,967
Reservable criticized	247	264	138
Total Commercial Credit	\$ 3,841	\$ 775	\$ 3,105

Activity in the allowance for loan losses, which is primarily associated with commercial loans, is presented below:

(dollars in millions)

	For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2011
Allowance for loan losses, at beginning of period	\$ 72	\$ 170
Provision for loan losses	3	(28)
Charge-offs	(3)	(66)
Recoveries	3	1
Net charge-offs	—	(65)
Other	—	1
Allowance for loan losses, at end of period	<u>\$ 75</u>	<u>\$ 78</u>

Consumer loans, substantially all of which are collateralized, consisted of approximately 23,000 individual loans at March 31, 2012. Commercial loans consisted of approximately 1,000 separate loans.

Merrill Lynch's outstanding loans include \$2.2 billion and \$2.5 billion of loans held for sale at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively. Loans held for sale are loans that Merrill Lynch expects to sell prior to maturity. At March 31, 2012, such loans consisted of \$0.9 billion of consumer loans, primarily residential mortgages, and \$1.3 billion of commercial loans. At December 31, 2011, such loans consisted of \$1.0 billion of consumer loans, primarily residential mortgages, and \$1.5 billion of commercial loans.

In some cases, Merrill Lynch enters into single name and index credit default swaps to mitigate credit exposure related to funded and unfunded commercial loans. The notional value of these swaps totaled \$3.2 billion and \$3.4 billion at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively.

The following tables provide information regarding Merrill Lynch's net credit default protection associated with its funded and unfunded commercial loans as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

Net Credit Default Protection by Maturity Profile

	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Less than or equal to one year	14%	16%
Greater than one year and less than or equal to five years	84	82
Greater than five years	2	2
Total net credit default protection	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

Net Credit Default Protection by Credit Exposure Debt Rating

(dollars in millions)				
Ratings ⁽¹⁾	March 31, 2012		December 31, 2011	
	Net Notional	Percent	Net Notional	Percent
AA	\$ (565)	17.5%	\$ (661)	19.4%
A	(1,588)	49.1	(1,542)	45.1
BBB	(659)	20.4	(637)	18.6
BB	(181)	5.6	(190)	5.6
B	(85)	2.6	(190)	5.6
CCC and below	(155)	4.8	(195)	5.7
Total net credit default protection	<u>\$ (3,233)</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$ (3,415)</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

(1) Merrill Lynch considers ratings of BBB- or higher to meet the definition of investment grade.

Note 11. Goodwill and Intangible Assets

Goodwill

Goodwill is the cost of an acquired company in excess of the fair value of identifiable net assets at the acquisition date. Goodwill is tested annually (or more frequently under certain conditions) for impairment at the reporting unit level in accordance with Goodwill and Intangible Assets Accounting. If the fair value of the reporting unit exceeds its carrying value, its goodwill is not deemed to be impaired. If the fair value is less than the carrying value, a further analysis is required to determine the amount of impairment, if any. Merrill Lynch's next annual impairment test will be performed during the third quarter of 2012, based on financial information as of June 30, 2012.

The carrying amount of goodwill was \$6.4 billion at both March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011. Such amounts include the impact of an adjustment made during the quarter ended March 31, 2012 for \$675 million of additional goodwill associated with Merrill Lynch's merger with Bank of America Securities Holdings Corporation as of November 1, 2010. Prior period financial statements have been adjusted to reflect this change, along with a corresponding adjustment to additional paid-in capital.

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets with definite lives at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 consisted primarily of value assigned to customer relationships. Intangible assets with definite lives are tested for impairment in accordance with ASC 360, *Property, Plant and Equipment* whenever certain conditions exist which would indicate the carrying amounts of such assets may not be recoverable. Intangible assets with definite lives are amortized over their respective estimated useful lives. Intangible assets with indefinite lives consist of value assigned to the Merrill Lynch brand and are tested for impairment in accordance with Goodwill and Intangible Assets Accounting. Merrill Lynch's next annual impairment test will be performed during the third quarter of 2012, based on financial information as of June 30, 2012. Intangible assets with indefinite lives are not amortized.

The gross carrying amount of intangible assets with definite lives was \$3.1 billion at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011. Accumulated amortization of intangible assets with definite lives was \$1.0 billion and \$0.9 billion at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively. The carrying amount of intangible assets with indefinite lives was \$1.5 billion as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

Amortization expense was \$77 million for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011.

Note 12. Borrowings and Deposits

Prior to Merrill Lynch's acquisition by Bank of America, ML & Co. was the primary issuer of Merrill Lynch's unsecured debt instruments. Debt instruments were also issued by certain subsidiaries. Bank of America has not assumed or guaranteed the long-term debt that was issued or guaranteed by ML & Co. or its subsidiaries prior to the acquisition of Merrill Lynch by Bank of America.

Beginning late in the third quarter of 2009, in connection with the update or renewal of certain Merrill Lynch international securities offering programs, Bank of America agreed to guarantee debt securities, warrants and/or certificates issued by certain subsidiaries of ML & Co. on a going forward basis. All existing ML & Co. guarantees of securities issued by those same Merrill Lynch subsidiaries under various international securities offering programs will remain in full force and effect as long as those securities are outstanding, and Bank of America has not assumed any of those prior ML & Co. guarantees or otherwise guaranteed such securities. There were approximately \$6.0 billion of securities guaranteed by Bank of America at March 31, 2012.

Following the completion of Bank of America's acquisition of Merrill Lynch, ML & Co. became a subsidiary of Bank of America and established intercompany lending and borrowing arrangements to facilitate centralized liquidity management. Included in these intercompany agreements is a \$75 billion one-year revolving unsecured line of credit that allows ML & Co. to borrow funds from Bank of America at a spread to LIBOR that is reset periodically and is consistent with other intercompany agreements. This credit line was renewed effective January 1, 2012 with a maturity date of January 1, 2013. The credit line will automatically be extended by one year to the succeeding January 1st unless Bank of America provides written notice not to extend at least 45 days prior to the maturity date. The agreement does not contain any financial or other covenants. There were no outstanding borrowings under the line of credit at March 31, 2012.

In addition to the \$75 billion unsecured line of credit, there is also a revolving unsecured line of credit that allows ML & Co. to borrow up to \$25 billion from Bank of America. Interest on borrowings under the line of credit is based on prevailing short-term market rates. The line of credit does not contain any financial or other covenants. The line of credit matures on February 12, 2013. At March 31, 2012, there was approximately \$0.4 billion outstanding under the line of credit.

Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S") also has the following borrowing agreements with Bank of America:

- A subordinated loan agreement for approximately \$1.5 billion - Borrowings under this agreement bear interest based on a spread to LIBOR, and have a scheduled maturity date of December 31, 2013. The loan agreement contains a provision that automatically extends the loan's maturity by one year unless Bank of America provides 13 months written notice not to extend prior to the scheduled maturity date.
- A \$7 billion revolving subordinated line of credit - The subordinated line of credit bears interest based on a spread to LIBOR, and has a scheduled maturity date of October 1, 2013. The revolving subordinated line of credit contains a provision that automatically extends the maturity by one year unless Bank of America provides 13 months written notice not to extend prior to the scheduled maturity date. At March 31, 2012, \$1.1 billion was outstanding under the subordinated line of credit.
- A \$4 billion one-year revolving unsecured line of credit - Interest on the line of credit is based on prevailing short-term market rates. The credit line will mature on November 1, 2012 and may automatically be extended by one year to the succeeding November 1st unless Bank of America provides written notice not to extend at least 45 days prior to the maturity date. At March 31, 2012, there were no outstanding borrowings under the line of credit.
- A \$15 billion 364-day revolving unsecured line of credit - Interest on the line of credit is based on prevailing short-term market rates. The line of credit matures on February 19, 2013. At March 31, 2012, approximately

\$1.2 billion was outstanding under the line of credit.

During the quarter ended March 31, 2012, Merrill Lynch completed a tender offer to purchase and retire certain subordinated notes for approximately \$1.2 billion in cash, which resulted in a pre-tax gain of \$328 million. On April 25, 2012, Merrill Lynch commenced a tender offer for the repurchase of certain outstanding subordinated debt securities. This tender is part of a broader tender with Bank of America and includes both Bank of America and Merrill Lynch subordinated debt. Bank of America and Merrill Lynch are offering to pay a total of up to \$1 billion (such aggregate consideration is subject to increase). The Merrill Lynch securities included in the tender have an outstanding principal balance of \$1 billion. Any repurchases pursuant to this tender offer are expected to be completed during the second quarter of 2012.

The value of Merrill Lynch's debt instruments as recorded on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets does not necessarily represent the amount that will be repaid at maturity. This is due to the following:

- As a result of the acquisition by Bank of America, all debt instruments were adjusted to fair value on January 1, 2009;
- Certain debt issuances are accounted for at fair value and incorporate changes in Merrill Lynch's creditworthiness (see Note 4);
- Certain structured notes whose coupon or repayment terms are linked to the performance of debt and equity securities, indices, currencies or commodities reflect the fair value of those risks (see Note 4); and
- Certain debt issuances are adjusted for the impact of fair value hedge accounting (see Note 6).

The tables below exclude Merrill Lynch's intercompany borrowings from Bank of America, see Note 2 for further information. Total borrowings at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, which are comprised of short-term borrowings, long-term borrowings and junior subordinated notes (related to trust preferred securities), consisted of the following:

(dollars in millions)

	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Senior debt	\$ 54,756	\$ 59,583
Senior structured notes	29,470	28,523
Subordinated debt	10,911	12,661
Junior subordinated notes (related to trust preferred securities)	3,606	3,600
Other subsidiary financing	1,135	868
Debt issued by consolidated VIEs	11,728	11,534
Total	<u>\$ 111,606</u>	<u>\$ 116,769</u>

Borrowings and deposits at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, are presented below:

(dollars in millions)

	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Short-term borrowings		
Other unsecured short-term borrowings	\$ 1,218	\$ 1,112
Short-term debt issued by consolidated VIEs ⁽¹⁾	4,700	4,939
Total	<u>\$ 5,918</u>	<u>\$ 6,051</u>
Long-term borrowings⁽²⁾		
Fixed-rate obligations ⁽³⁾	\$ 56,673	\$ 60,671
Variable-rate obligations ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	38,381	39,852
Long-term debt issued by consolidated VIEs ⁽¹⁾	7,028	6,595
Total	<u>\$ 102,082</u>	<u>\$ 107,118</u>
Deposits		
Non-U.S.	<u>\$ 12,538</u>	<u>\$ 12,364</u>

(1) See Note 9 for additional information on debt issued by consolidated VIEs.

(2) Excludes junior subordinated notes (related to trust preferred securities).

(3) Fixed-rate obligations are generally swapped to variable rates.

(4) Variable interest rates are generally based on rates such as LIBOR, the U.S. Treasury Bill Rate, or the Federal Funds Rate.

(5) Includes structured notes.

See Note 5 for additional information on the fair value of long-term borrowings.

The weighted-average interest rates for borrowings at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 (excluding structured products) were as follows:

	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Short-term borrowings	0.3 %	0.4 %
Long-term borrowings	3.9	4.0
Junior subordinated notes (related to trust preferred securities)	6.9	6.9

Merrill Lynch also obtains standby letters of credit from issuing banks to satisfy various counterparty collateral requirements, in lieu of depositing cash or securities collateral. Such standby letters of credit aggregated \$1.7 billion and \$2.1 billion at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively.

Long-Term Borrowings

At March 31, 2012, long-term borrowings mature as follows:

(dollars in millions)

	Amount	Percentage of Total
Less than 1 year	\$ 21,717	21 %
1 – 2 years	22,615	22
2 – 3 years	15,969	16
3 – 4 years	2,757	3
4 – 5 years	5,375	5
Greater than 5 years	33,649	33
Total	<u>\$ 102,082</u>	<u>100 %</u>

Certain long-term borrowing agreements contain provisions whereby the borrowings are redeemable at the option of the holder (“put” options) at specified dates prior to maturity. These borrowings are reflected in the above table as maturing at their put dates, rather than their contractual maturities. However, Merrill Lynch believes that a

portion of such borrowings will remain outstanding beyond their earliest redemption date.

The maturity of certain structured notes whose coupon or repayment terms are linked to the performance of debt and equity securities, indices, currencies or commodities may be accelerated based on the value of a referenced index or security, in which case Merrill Lynch may be required to immediately settle the obligation for cash or other securities. These notes are included in the portion of long-term debt maturing in less than a year.

Senior and subordinated debt obligations do not contain provisions that could, upon an adverse change in ML & Co.'s credit rating, financial ratios, earnings or cash flows, trigger a requirement for an early payment, additional collateral support, changes in terms, acceleration of maturity, or the creation of an additional financial obligation.

See Note 12 to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained in the 2011 Annual Report for additional information on Borrowings.

Note 13. Stockholder's Equity and Earnings Per Share

Common Stock

As of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, there are 1,000 shares of ML & Co. common stock outstanding, all of which are held by Bank of America.

Earnings Per Share

Earnings per share data is not provided, as Merrill Lynch is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of America.

Note 14. Commitments, Contingencies and Guarantees

Litigation and Regulatory Matters

The following supplements the disclosure in Note 14 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Merrill Lynch's 2011 Annual Report (the "prior commitments, contingencies and guarantees disclosures").

In the ordinary course of business, Merrill Lynch is routinely a defendant in, or party to, many pending and threatened legal actions and proceedings, including actions brought on behalf of various classes of claimants. These actions and proceedings are generally based on alleged violations of securities, employment, contract and other laws. In some of these actions and proceedings, claims for substantial monetary damages are asserted against Merrill Lynch.

In the ordinary course of business, Merrill Lynch is also subject to regulatory examinations, information gathering requests, inquiries and investigations. Certain Merrill Lynch subsidiaries are registered broker/dealers or investment advisors and are subject to regulation by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA"), the New York Stock Exchange, the United Kingdom's ("U.K.") Financial Services Authority ("FSA") and other domestic, international and state securities regulators. In connection with formal and informal inquiries by those agencies, such subsidiaries receive numerous requests, subpoenas and orders for documents, testimony and information in connection with various aspects of their regulated activities.

In view of the inherent difficulty of predicting the outcome of such litigation and regulatory matters, particularly where the claimants seek very large or indeterminate damages or where the matters present novel legal theories or involve a large number of parties, Merrill Lynch generally cannot predict what the eventual outcome of the pending matters will be, what the timing of the ultimate resolution of these matters will be, or what the eventual loss, fines or penalties related to each pending matter may be.

In accordance with applicable accounting guidance, Merrill Lynch establishes an accrued liability for litigation and regulatory matters when those matters present loss contingencies that are both probable and estimable. In such cases, there may be an exposure to loss in excess of any amounts accrued. When a loss contingency is not both

probable and estimable, Merrill Lynch does not establish an accrued liability. As a litigation or regulatory matter develops, Merrill Lynch, in conjunction with any outside counsel handling the matter, evaluates on an ongoing basis whether such matter presents a loss contingency that is probable and estimable. If, at the time of evaluation, the loss contingency related to a litigation or regulatory matter is not both probable and estimable, the matter will continue to be monitored for further developments that would make such loss contingency both probable and estimable. Once the loss contingency related to a litigation or regulatory matter is deemed to be both probable and estimable, Merrill Lynch will establish an accrued liability with respect to such loss contingency and record a corresponding amount of litigation-related expense. Merrill Lynch continues to monitor the matter for further developments that could affect the amount of the accrued liability that has been previously established. Excluding expenses of internal or external legal service providers, litigation-related expenses of approximately \$4 million were recognized for the three months ended March 31, 2012, as compared with approximately \$63 million for the same period in 2011.

For a limited number of the matters disclosed in this Note, and in the prior commitments, contingencies and guarantees disclosure, for which a loss is probable or reasonably possible in future periods, whether in excess of a related accrued liability or where there is no accrued liability, Merrill Lynch is able to estimate a range of possible loss. In determining whether it is possible to provide an estimate of loss or range of possible loss, Merrill Lynch reviews and evaluates its material litigation and regulatory matters on an ongoing basis, in conjunction with any outside counsel handling the matter, in light of potentially relevant factual and legal developments. These may include information learned through the discovery process, rulings on dispositive motions, settlement discussions, and other rulings by courts, arbitrators or others. In cases in which Merrill Lynch possesses sufficient appropriate information to develop an estimate of loss or range of possible loss, that estimate is aggregated and disclosed below. There may be other disclosed matters for which a loss is probable or reasonably possible but such an estimate may not be possible. For those matters where an estimate is possible, management currently estimates the aggregate range of possible loss is \$0 to \$1.3 billion in excess of the accrued liability (if any) related to those matters. This estimated range of possible loss is based upon currently available information and is subject to significant judgment and a variety of assumptions, and known and unknown uncertainties. The matters underlying the estimated range will change from time to time, and actual results may vary significantly from the current estimate. Those matters for which an estimate is not possible are not included within this estimated range. Therefore, this estimated range of possible loss represents what Merrill Lynch believes to be an estimate of possible loss only for certain matters meeting these criteria. It does not represent Merrill Lynch's maximum loss exposure. Information is provided below, or in the prior commitments, contingencies and guarantees disclosure, regarding the nature of all of these contingencies and, where specified, the amount of the claim associated with these loss contingencies. Based on current knowledge, management does not believe that loss contingencies arising from pending matters, including the matters described herein, and in the prior commitments, contingencies and guarantees disclosure, will have a material adverse effect on the consolidated financial position or liquidity of Merrill Lynch. However, in light of the inherent uncertainties involved in these matters, some of which are beyond Merrill Lynch's control, and the very large or indeterminate damages sought in some of these matters, an adverse outcome in one or more of these matters could be material to Merrill Lynch's results of operations or cash flows for any particular reporting period.

Mortgage-Backed Securities ("MBS") Litigation

Merrill Lynch entities and their affiliates have been named as defendants in a number of cases relating to their various roles as issuer, originator, seller, depositor, sponsor, underwriter and/or controlling entity in MBS offerings, pursuant to which the MBS investors were entitled to a portion of the cash flow from the underlying pools of mortgages. These cases generally include actions by individual MBS purchasers. Although the allegations vary by lawsuit, these cases generally allege that the registration statements, prospectuses and prospectus supplements for securities issued by securitization trusts contained material misrepresentations and omissions, in violation of Sections 11, 12 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933, Sections 10(b) and 20 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and/or state securities laws and other state statutory and common laws.

These cases generally involve allegations of false and misleading statements regarding: (i) the process by which the properties that served as collateral for the mortgage loans underlying the MBS were appraised; (ii) the percentage of equity that mortgage borrowers had in their homes; (iii) the borrowers' ability to repay their mortgage loans; (iv) the

underwriting practices by which those mortgage loans were originated; (v) the ratings given to the different tranches of MBS by rating agencies; and (vi) the validity of each issuing trusts' title to the mortgage loans comprising the pool for the securitization (collectively, "MBS Claims"). Plaintiffs in these cases generally seek unspecified compensatory damages, unspecified costs and legal fees and, in some instances, seek rescission. A number of other entities (including the National Credit Union Administration) have threatened legal actions against Merrill Lynch and its affiliates concerning MBS offerings.

AIG Litigation

On April 24, 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit granted plaintiffs' petition for leave to appeal the ruling of the federal district court in the Southern District of New York denying plaintiffs' motion to remand the case to New York Supreme Court.

Region of Puglia, Italy Criminal Investigation

On February 18, 2012, the judge ordered the release of the €64 million under the control of the Public Prosecutor, and these funds were paid to Merrill Lynch International ("MLI").

Rosen Capital Partners LP & Rosen Capital Institutional LP's FINRA Arbitration

On February 23, 2012, Merrill Lynch Professional Clearing Corporation filed a notice of appeal with the California Court of Appeal.

Commitments

At March 31, 2012, Merrill Lynch's commitments had the following expirations:

(dollars in millions)

	Total	Commitment expiration			
		Less than 1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	Over 5 Years
Lending commitments	\$ 6,387	\$ 1,447	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,897	\$ 243
Purchasing and other commitments	6,332	4,520	735	619	458
Operating leases	2,812	752	964	559	537
Commitments to enter into resale and securities borrowing agreements	89,356	89,356	—	—	—
Commitments to enter into repurchase and securities lending agreements	64,245	64,245	—	—	—
Total	<u>\$ 169,132</u>	<u>\$ 160,320</u>	<u>\$ 3,499</u>	<u>\$ 4,075</u>	<u>\$ 1,238</u>

Lending Commitments

Merrill Lynch enters into commitments to extend credit, predominantly at variable interest rates, in connection with corporate finance, corporate and institutional transactions and asset-based lending transactions. Clients may also be extended loans or lines of credit collateralized by first and second mortgages on real estate, certain liquid assets of small businesses, or securities. These commitments usually have a fixed expiration date and are contingent on certain contractual conditions that may require payment of a fee by the counterparty. Once commitments are drawn upon, Merrill Lynch may require the counterparty to post collateral depending upon creditworthiness and general market conditions. See Note 10 for additional information.

Commitments to extend credit are outstanding as of the date the commitment letter is issued and are comprised of closed and contingent commitments. Closed commitments represent the unfunded portion of existing commitments

available for draw down. Contingent commitments are contingent on the borrower fulfilling certain conditions or upon a particular event, such as an acquisition. A portion of these contingent commitments may be syndicated among other lenders or the counterparty may replace the commitment with capital markets funding.

The contractual amounts of these commitments represent the amounts at risk should the contract be fully drawn upon, the client defaults, and the value of the existing collateral becomes worthless. The total amount of outstanding commitments may not represent future cash requirements, as commitments may expire without being drawn.

For lending commitments where the loan will be classified as held for sale upon funding, liabilities associated with unfunded commitments are calculated at the lower of cost or fair value, capturing declines in the fair value of the respective credit risk. For loan commitments where the loan will be classified as held for investment upon funding, liabilities are calculated considering both market and historical loss rates. Loan commitments either held by entities that apply the Broker-Dealer Guide or for which the fair value option was elected are accounted for at fair value.

Purchasing and Other Commitments

Merrill Lynch had commitments to purchase partnership interests, primarily related to private equity and principal investing activities at both March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 of \$0.3 billion. Merrill Lynch also has entered into agreements with providers of market data, communications, systems consulting, and other office-related services. At March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, minimum fee commitments over the remaining life of these agreements totaled \$1.4 billion and \$1.5 billion, respectively. At March 31, 2012, Merrill Lynch entered into commitments to purchase loans of \$3.8 billion, which, upon settlement of the commitment, will be included in trading assets, loans held for investment or loans held for sale. Such commitments totaled \$2.5 billion at December 31, 2011. Other purchasing commitments amounted to \$0.8 billion and \$1.0 billion at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively.

In the normal course of business, Merrill Lynch enters into commitments for underwriting transactions. Settlement of these transactions as of March 31, 2012 would not have a material effect on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet of Merrill Lynch.

In connection with trading activities, Merrill Lynch enters into commitments to enter into resale and securities borrowing and also repurchase and securities lending agreements.

Operating Leases

Merrill Lynch has entered into various non-cancelable long-term lease agreements for premises that expire through 2028. Merrill Lynch has also entered into various non-cancelable short-term lease agreements, which are primarily commitments of less than one year under equipment leases.

Guarantees

Merrill Lynch issues various guarantees to counterparties in connection with certain transactions. Merrill Lynch's guarantee arrangements and their expiration at March 31, 2012 are summarized as follows (see Note 6 for information related to derivative financial instruments within the scope of Guarantees Accounting):

(dollars in millions)

	Expiration					Carrying Value
	Maximum Payout	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	Over 5 years	
Standby liquidity facilities	\$ 795	\$ 225	\$ 551	\$ 3	\$ 16	\$ —
Residual value guarantees	320	—	320	—	—	—
Standby letters of credit and other guarantees	373	288	23	49	13	—

Standby Liquidity Facilities

Standby liquidity facilities are primarily comprised of liquidity facilities provided to certain unconsolidated

municipal bond securitization VIEs. In these arrangements, Merrill Lynch is required to fund these standby liquidity facilities if certain contingent events take place (e.g., a failed remarketing) and in certain cases if the fair value of the assets held by the VIE declines below the stated amount of the liquidity obligation. The potential exposure under the facilities is mitigated by economic hedges and/or other contractual arrangements entered into by Merrill Lynch. Based upon historical activity, it is considered remote that future payments would need to be made under these guarantees.

Refer to Note 9 for further information.

Residual Value Guarantees

At March 31, 2012, residual value guarantees of \$320 million consist of amounts associated with certain power plant facilities. Payments under these guarantees would only be required if the fair value of such assets declined below their guaranteed value. As of March 31, 2012, no payments have been made under these guarantees and the carrying value of the associated liabilities was not material, as Merrill Lynch believes that the estimated fair value of such assets was in excess of their guaranteed value.

Standby Letters of Credit

At March 31, 2012, Merrill Lynch provided guarantees to certain counterparties in the form of standby letters of credit in the amount of \$0.4 billion. Payment risk is evaluated based upon historical payment activity.

Representations and Warranties

Background

In prior years, Merrill Lynch and certain of its subsidiaries, including First Franklin Financial Corporation ("First Franklin"), sold pools of first-lien residential mortgage loans and home equity loans as private-label securitizations (in a limited number of these securitizations, monolines insured all or some of the securities) or in the form of whole loans. Most of the loans sold in the form of whole loans were subsequently pooled into private-label securitizations sponsored by the third-party buyer of the whole loans. In addition, Merrill Lynch and First Franklin securitized first-lien residential mortgage loans generally in the form of mortgage-backed securities guaranteed by the government sponsored enterprises (the "GSEs"). In connection with these transactions, Merrill Lynch made various representations and warranties. These representations and warranties, as set forth in the agreements, related to, among other things, the ownership of the loan, the validity of the lien securing the loan, the absence of delinquent taxes or liens against the property securing the loan, the process used to select the loan for inclusion in a transaction, the loan's compliance with any applicable loan criteria, including underwriting standards, and the loan's compliance with applicable federal, state and local laws. Breaches of these representations and warranties may result in the requirement to repurchase mortgage loans or to otherwise make whole or provide other remedies to the GSEs, whole-loan buyers, securitization trusts or monoline insurers (collectively, "repurchases"). In such cases, Merrill Lynch would be exposed to any credit loss on the repurchased mortgage loans after accounting for any mortgage insurance or mortgage guaranty payments that it may receive.

Subject to the requirements and limitations of the applicable sales and securitization agreements, these representations and warranties can be enforced by the GSEs, the whole-loan buyer, the securitization trustee, or others as governed by the applicable agreement or, in a limited number of first-lien and home equity securitizations where monoline insurers have insured all or some of the securities issued, by the monoline insurer. In the case of loans sold to parties other than the GSEs, the contractual liability to repurchase typically arises only if there is a breach of the representations and warranties that materially and adversely affects the interest of the investor or investors in the loan or of the monoline insurer (as applicable). Contracts with the GSEs do not contain equivalent language. Merrill Lynch believes that the longer a loan performs prior to default, the less likely it is that an alleged underwriting breach of representations and warranties had a material impact on the loan's performance. Historically, most demands for repurchase have occurred within the first several years after origination, generally after a loan has defaulted.

Merrill Lynch's credit loss would be reduced by any recourse it may have to organizations (e.g., correspondents) that, in turn, had sold such loans to Merrill Lynch based upon its agreements with these organizations. When a loan is originated by a correspondent or other third party, Merrill Lynch typically has the right to seek a recovery of related repurchase losses from that originator. Many of the correspondent originators of loans in 2004 through 2008 are no longer in business, or are in a weakened condition, and Merrill Lynch's ability to recover on valid claims is therefore impacted, or eliminated accordingly.

The fair value of the obligations to be absorbed under the representations and warranties provided is recorded as an accrued liability when the loans are sold. This liability for probable losses is updated by accruing a representations and warranties provision in Non-interest expenses on the Condensed Consolidated Statement of (Loss) Earnings. This is done throughout the life of the loan, as necessary when additional relevant information becomes available.

The methodology used to estimate the liability for representations and warranties is a function of the representations and warranties given and considers a variety of factors, which include, depending on the counterparty, actual defaults, estimated future defaults, historical loss experience, estimated home prices, other economic conditions, estimated probability that a repurchase claim will be received, including consideration of whether presentation thresholds will be met, number of payments made by the borrower prior to default and estimated probability that a loan will be required to be repurchased as well as other relevant facts and circumstances, such as bulk settlements, including those of its affiliates, and identity of the counterparty or type of counterparty, as we believe appropriate. The estimate of the liability for representations and warranties is based upon currently available information, significant judgment, and a number of factors, including those set forth above, that are subject to change. Changes to any one of these factors could significantly impact the estimate of the liability and could have a material adverse impact on Merrill Lynch's results of operations for any particular period. Given that these factors vary by counterparty, Merrill Lynch analyzes representations and warranties obligations based on the specific counterparty, or type of counterparty, with whom the sale was made.

Merrill Lynch has vigorously contested any request for repurchase when it has concluded that a valid basis for repurchase does not exist and will continue to do so in the future. Merrill Lynch may reach settlements in the future if opportunities arise on terms it believes to be advantageous to Merrill Lynch.

An investor opposed to Bank of America's settlement (the "BNY Mellon Settlement") with the Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee (the "Trustee"), removed the proceeding to federal district court, and the federal district court denied the Trustee's motion to remand the proceeding to state court. On February 27, 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals issued an opinion reversing the district court denial of the Trustee's motion to remand the proceeding to state court and ordered that the proceeding be remanded to state court. On April 24, 2012, a hearing was held on threshold issues, at which the court denied the objectors' motion to convert the proceeding to a plenary proceeding. A hearing on discovery matters was set for May 8, 2012. Bank of America and Merrill Lynch are not parties to the proceeding. For additional information, see Note 14 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Merrill Lynch's 2011 Annual Report.

Outstanding Claims

The table below presents outstanding representations and warranties claims by counterparty at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011. The outstanding claims include only claims where Merrill Lynch believes that the counterparty has a basis to submit claims. During the three months ended March 31, 2012, Merrill Lynch received \$329 million of new repurchase claims, primarily from whole-loan investors and private-label securitization trustees.

Outstanding Claims by Counterparty

(dollars in millions)

	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
GSEs	\$ 65	\$ 65
Monoline	152	136
Whole-loan investors, private-label securitization trustees and other ⁽¹⁾	1,383	1,101
Total	<u>\$ 1,600</u>	<u>\$ 1,302</u>

(1) The majority of these repurchase claims are from whole loan buyers of subprime loans or trustees of private label securitization trusts through which First Franklin sold subprime loans.

Of the \$1.6 billion of total outstanding claims as of March 31, 2012, Merrill Lynch believes that for \$701 million, a valid defect has not been identified which would constitute an actionable breach of representations and warranties. The remaining \$899 million of claims are in the process of review. When a claim has been denied and there has not been communication with the counterparty for six months, Merrill Lynch views these claims as inactive; however, they remain in the outstanding claims balance until resolution.

In addition, not included in outstanding claims in the table above, during the three months ended March 31, 2012, Merrill Lynch received \$1.4 billion in repurchase demands from a master servicer where it believes the claimant has not satisfied the contractual thresholds to direct the securitization trustee to take action and/or that these demands are otherwise procedurally or substantively invalid. Merrill Lynch does not believe the \$1.4 billion in additional demands are valid claims, and therefore it is not possible to predict the resolution with respect to such demands.

Cash Settlements

As presented in the table below, Merrill Lynch paid \$11 million and \$2 million during the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011, respectively, to resolve \$11 million and \$3 million, respectively, of repurchase claims through repurchase or indemnification payments to investors or securitization trusts, resulting in a loss on the related loans at the time of repurchase or indemnification payment of \$11 million and \$2 million, respectively. Cash paid for loan repurchases includes the unpaid principal balance of the loan plus past due interest. The amount of loss for loan repurchases is reduced by the fair value of the underlying loan collateral. The repurchase of loans and indemnification payments related to repurchase claims generally resulted from material breaches of representations and warranties related to the loans' material compliance with the applicable underwriting standards, including borrower misrepresentation, credit exceptions without sufficient compensating factors and non-compliance with underwriting procedures. The actual representations and warranties made in a sales transaction and the resulting repurchase and indemnification activity can vary by transaction or investor. A direct relationship between the type of defect that causes the breach of representations and warranties and the severity of the realized loss has not been observed.

(dollars in millions)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2012	2011
Claims resolved ⁽¹⁾	<u>\$ 11</u>	<u>\$ 3</u>
Repurchases	\$ —	\$ —
Indemnification payments	11	2
Total	<u>\$ 11</u>	<u>\$ 2</u>

(1) Represents unpaid principal balance.

Liability for Representations and Warranties

The liability for representations and warranties is included in Interest and other payables on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets, and the related provision is included in Non-interest expenses on the Condensed Consolidated Statements of (Loss) Earnings. The table below presents a rollforward of the liability for representations and warranties and includes the provisions for non-GSE representation and warranties exposure recorded in the three months ended March 31, 2012.

(dollars in millions)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2012	2011
Balance, beginning of period	\$ 2,847	\$ 213
Charge-offs	(11)	(61)
Provision	11	(22)
Balance, end of period	\$ 2,847	\$ 130

The liability for representations and warranties is established when those obligations are both probable and reasonably estimable. The representations and warranties provision may vary significantly each period as the methodology used to estimate the expense continues to be refined based on the level and type of repurchase requests presented, defects identified, the latest experience gained on repurchase requests and other relevant facts and circumstances.

Estimated Range of Possible LossNon-GSE Counterparties

In private-label securitizations, certain presentation thresholds need to be met in order for repurchase claims to be asserted by investors. Merrill Lynch has seen and continues to see an increased trend in both requests for loan files and repurchase claims from private-label securitization trustees. Merrill Lynch believes it is probable that other claimants in certain types of securitizations may come forward with claims that meet the requirements of the terms of the securitizations. As a result of the BNY Mellon Settlement in the second quarter of 2011, Merrill Lynch determined that it had sufficient experience to record a liability of \$2.7 billion related to its exposure on certain private-label securitizations. Merrill Lynch believes that with the liability recorded in 2011, it has provided for a substantial portion of its non-GSE representations and warranties exposures.

However, it is reasonably possible that future representations and warranties losses may occur in excess of the amounts recorded for these exposures. In addition, the BNY Mellon Settlement did not provide sufficient experience related to certain private-label securitizations sponsored by third-party whole-loan investors. As it relates to certain private-label securitizations sponsored by third-party whole-loan investors and certain whole loan sales, it is not possible to determine whether a loss has occurred or is probable and, therefore, no representations and warranties liability has been recorded in connection with these transactions. Merrill Lynch currently estimates that the range of possible loss related to non-GSE representations and warranties exposure as of March 31, 2012 could be up to \$0.5 billion over existing accruals. This estimated range of possible loss for non-GSE representations and warranties does not represent a probable loss, is based on currently available information, significant judgment, and a number of assumptions, including those set forth below, that are subject to change.

The methodology used to estimate the non-GSE representations and warranties liability and the corresponding range of possible loss considers a variety of factors including Merrill Lynch's experience related to actual defaults, projected future defaults, historical loss experience, estimated home prices, other economic conditions and the experience of Merrill Lynch's affiliates. Among the factors that impact the non-GSE representations and warranties

liability and the corresponding estimated range of possible loss are: (1) contractual material adverse effect requirements, (2) the representations and warranties provided, and (3) the requirement to meet certain presentation thresholds. The first factor is based on Merrill Lynch's belief that a non-GSE contractual liability to repurchase a loan generally arises only if the counterparties prove there is a breach of representations and warranties that materially and adversely affects the interest of the investor or all investors, or of the monoline insurer (as applicable), in a securitization trust and, accordingly, Merrill Lynch believes that the repurchase claimants must prove that the alleged representations and warranties breach was the cause of the loss. The second factor is related to the fact that non-GSE securitizations include different types of representations and warranties than those provided to the GSEs. Merrill Lynch believes the non-GSE securitizations' representations and warranties are less rigorous and actionable than the explicit provisions of comparable agreements with the GSEs without regard to any variations that may have arisen as a result of dealings with the GSEs. The third factor is related to the fact that certain presentation thresholds need to be met in order for any repurchase claim to be asserted on the initiative of investors under the non-GSE agreements. A securitization trustee may investigate or demand repurchase on its own action, and most agreements contain a threshold, for example 25% of the voting rights per trust, that allows investors to declare a servicing event of default under certain circumstances or to request certain action, such as requesting loan files, that the trustee may choose to accept and follow, exempt from liability, provided the trustee is acting in good faith. If there is an un-cured servicing event of default, and the trustee fails to bring suit during a 60-day period, then, under most agreements, investors may file suit. In addition to this, most agreements also allow investors to direct the securitization trustee to investigate loan files or demand the repurchase of loans, if security holders hold a specified percentage, for example, 25%, of the voting rights of each tranche of the outstanding securities.

Although Merrill Lynch continues to believe that presentation thresholds are a factor in the determination of probable loss, given the BNY Mellon Settlement, the estimated range of possible loss assumes that the presentation threshold can be met for all of the non-GSE securitization transactions.

In addition, in the case of private-label securitizations, the methodology used to estimate the non-GSE representations and warranties liability and the corresponding range of possible loss considers the experience resulting from the BNY Mellon Settlement and assumes that the conditions to the BNY Mellon Settlement will be satisfied. Since the non-GSE transactions that were included in the BNY Mellon Settlement differ from those that were not included in the BNY Mellon Settlement, Merrill Lynch adjusted the experience implied in the settlement in order to determine the estimated non-GSE representations and warranties liability and the corresponding range of possible loss. The judgmental adjustments made include consideration of the differences in the mix of products in the securitizations, loan originator, likelihood of claims differences, the differences in the number of payments that the borrower has made prior to default, and the sponsor of the securitization.

Future provisions and/or ranges of possible loss for non-GSE representations and warranties may be significantly impacted if actual experiences are different from Merrill Lynch's assumptions in its predictive models, including, without limitation, those regarding the ultimate resolution of the BNY Mellon Settlement, estimated repurchase rates, economic conditions, estimated home prices, consumer and counterparty behavior, and a variety of other judgmental factors. Adverse developments with respect to one or more of the assumptions underlying the liability for representations and warranties and the corresponding estimated range of possible loss could result in significant increases to future provisions and/or this estimated range of possible loss. For example, if courts were to disagree with Merrill Lynch's interpretation that the underlying agreements require a claimant to prove that the representations and warranties breach was the cause of the loss, it could significantly impact this estimated range of possible loss. Additionally, if recent court rulings related to monoline litigation, including one related to an affiliate of Merrill Lynch, that have allowed sampling of loan files instead of requiring a loan-by-loan review to determine if a representations and warranties breach has occurred are followed generally by the courts, private-label securitization investors may view litigation as a more attractive alternative as compared to a loan-by-loan review. Finally, although Merrill Lynch believes that the representations and warranties typically given in non-GSE transactions are less rigorous and actionable than those given in GSE transactions, Merrill Lynch does not have significant loan-level experience in non-GSE transactions to measure the impact of these differences on the probability that a loan will be required to be repurchased.

The liability for obligations under representations and warranties with respect to GSE and non-GSE exposures and the corresponding estimated range of possible loss for non-GSE representations and warranties exposures does not include any losses related to litigation matters disclosed herein, nor do they include any potential securities law or fraud claims or potential indemnity or other claims against Merrill Lynch. Merrill Lynch is not able to reasonably estimate the amount of any possible loss with respect to any such securities law (except to the extent reflected in the aggregate range of possible loss for litigation and regulatory matters disclosed herein), fraud or other claims against Merrill Lynch; however, such loss could be material.

Whole Loan Sales and Private-label Securitizations Experience

The majority of repurchase claims that Merrill Lynch has received are from private-label securitization trustees or third-party whole loan investors on loans sold by ML & Co.'s subsidiary, First Franklin. In connection with those transactions, Merrill Lynch provided representations and warranties, and the whole-loan investors may retain those rights even when the loans were aggregated with other collateral into private-label securitizations sponsored by the whole-loan investors. Merrill Lynch has received approximately \$3.0 billion of representations and warranties claims from whole-loan investors and private-label securitization trustees for loans originated between 2004-2008, including \$2.1 billion from whole-loan investors and \$0.9 billion from private-label securitization trustees. Merrill Lynch reviews properly presented repurchase claims for these whole loans on a loan-by-loan basis. If, after Merrill Lynch's review, it does not believe a claim is valid, it will deny the claim and generally indicate a reason for the denial. When the counterparty agrees with Merrill Lynch's denial of the claim, the counterparty may rescind the claim. When there is disagreement as to the resolution of the claim, meaningful dialogue and negotiation between the parties is generally necessary to reach a conclusion on an individual claim. Generally, a whole-loan sale claimant is engaged in the repurchase process and Merrill Lynch and the claimant reach resolution, either through loan-by-loan negotiation or at times, through a bulk settlement. In the case of private-label securitization trustees, there is currently no established process in place for the private-label securitization trustee to rescind a claim if they agree with a claim denial or for the parties to reach a conclusion on an individual loan if there is a disagreement on the resolution of the claim. Although the timeline for resolution varies, once an actionable breach is identified on a given loan, settlement is generally reached as to that loan within 60 to 90 days. When a claim has been denied and Merrill Lynch does not have communication with the counterparty for six months, Merrill Lynch views these claims as inactive; however, they remain in the outstanding claims balance until resolution.

In private-label securitizations, certain presentation thresholds need to be met in order for any investors to direct a trustee to assert repurchase claims. Merrill Lynch and its affiliates have had limited experience with loan-level private-label securitization repurchases as the number of valid repurchase claims received has been limited. In the year ended December 31, 2011, Merrill Lynch received \$665 million of new repurchase claims from whole-loan and private-label securitization investors, predominately from private-label securitization trustees received in the fourth quarter of 2011. In the first three months of 2012, Merrill Lynch received \$329 million of new repurchase claims, primarily from whole-loan and private-label securitization trustees. In addition, there have been and continues to be an increased trend for both requests for loan files and repurchase claims from private-label securitization trustees. Merrill Lynch believes it is likely that these requests will lead to an increase in repurchase claims from private-label securitization trustees with standing to bring such claims. The representations and warranties, as governed by the private-label securitization agreements, generally require that counterparties have the ability to both assert a claim and actually prove that a loan has an actionable defect under the applicable contracts. While Merrill Lynch believes the agreements for private-label securitizations generally contain less rigorous representations and warranties and place higher burdens on investors seeking repurchases than the explicit provisions of comparable agreements with the GSEs without regard to any variations that may have arisen as a result of dealings with the GSEs, the agreements generally include a representation that underwriting practices were prudent and customary.

Note 15. Employee Benefit Plans

Merrill Lynch provides pension and other postretirement benefits to its employees worldwide through sponsorship of defined contribution pension, defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans. These plans vary based on the country and local practices. Effective January 1, 2009, the Bank of America Corporation Corporate Benefits Committee assumed overall responsibility for the administration of all of Merrill Lynch's employee benefit plans. Merrill Lynch continues as the plan sponsor. Refer to Note 15 to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained in the 2011 Annual Report for a complete discussion of employee benefit plans.

Defined Benefit Pension Plans

In 1988, Merrill Lynch purchased a group annuity contract that guarantees the payment of benefits vested under the terminated U.S. pension plan. Merrill Lynch, under a supplemental agreement, may be responsible for, or benefit from, actual experience and investment performance of the annuity assets. Merrill Lynch made no contribution under this agreement for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011. Additional contributions may be required in the future under this agreement.

The net periodic benefit (income) cost of Merrill Lynch's plans for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011 included the following components:

(dollars in millions)

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012			Three Months Ended March 31, 2011		
	U.S. Defined Benefit Pension Plans	Non-U.S. Defined Benefit Pension Plans	Postretirement Plans ⁽¹⁾	U.S. Defined Benefit Pension Plans	Non-U.S. Defined Benefit Pension Plans	Postretirement Plans ⁽¹⁾
Service cost	\$ —	\$ 9	\$ 1	\$ —	\$ 10	\$ 1
Interest cost	22	20	4	25	21	4
Expected return on plan assets	(38)	(30)	—	(35)	(25)	—
Amortization of prior service cost (gains) losses	—	—	1	—	—	2
Amortization of net actuarial (gains) losses	1	(2)	2	2	—	2
Net periodic benefit (income) cost	\$ (15)	\$ (3)	\$ 8	\$ (8)	\$ 6	\$ 9

(1) Approximately 96% and 97% of the postretirement benefit obligation at March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011 relates to the U.S. postretirement plan.

For the full year 2012, Merrill Lynch expects to contribute approximately \$1 million to its nonqualified pension plans, \$84 million to its non-U.S. pension plans, and \$20 million to its postretirement health and life plans. Through the first quarter of 2012, Merrill Lynch has contributed \$60 million to the non-U.S. pension plans and \$5 million to its postretirement health and life plans.

Note 16. Regulatory Requirements

As a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of America, a bank holding company that is also a financial holding company, Merrill Lynch is subject to the oversight of, and inspection by, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Certain U.S. and non-U.S. subsidiaries are subject to various securities and banking regulations and capital adequacy requirements promulgated by the regulatory and exchange authorities of the countries in which they operate. These regulatory restrictions may impose regulatory capital requirements and limit the amounts that these

subsidiaries can pay in dividends or advance to ML & Co. The principal regulated subsidiaries of ML & Co. are discussed below.

Securities Regulation

As a registered broker-dealer and futures commission merchant, MLPF&S is subject to the uniform net capital requirements of SEC Rule 15c3-1, and the Commodities Futures Trading Commission's ("CFTC") Regulation 1.17. MLPF&S has elected to compute the minimum capital requirement in accordance with the "Alternative Net Capital Requirement" as permitted by SEC Rule 15c3-1. At March 31, 2012, MLPF&S's regulatory net capital as defined by Rule 15c3-1 was \$10.8 billion and exceeded the minimum requirement of \$704 million by \$10.1 billion.

In accordance with the Alternative Net Capital Requirement, MLPF&S is required to maintain tentative net capital in excess of \$1 billion, net capital in excess of \$500 million, and notify the SEC in the event its tentative net capital is less than \$5 billion. As of March 31, 2012, MLPF&S had tentative net capital and net capital in excess of the minimum and notification requirements.

MLI, a U.K. regulated investment firm, is subject to capital requirements of the U.K.'s FSA. Financial resources, as defined, must exceed the total financial resources requirement set by the FSA. At March 31, 2012, MLI's financial resources were \$19.8 billion, exceeding the minimum requirement by \$4.2 billion.

Merrill Lynch Japan Securities Co., Ltd. ("MLJS"), a Japan-based regulated broker-dealer, is subject to capital requirements of the Japanese Financial Services Agency ("JFSA"). Net capital, as defined, must exceed 120% of the total risk equivalents requirement of the JFSA. At March 31, 2012, MLJS's net capital was \$2.4 billion, exceeding the minimum requirement by \$1.8 billion.

Banking Regulation

Merrill Lynch International Bank Limited ("MLIB"), an Ireland-based regulated bank, is subject to the capital requirements of the Central Bank of Ireland. MLIB is required to meet minimum regulatory capital requirements under the European Union ("EU") banking law as implemented in Ireland by the Central Bank of Ireland. At March 31, 2012, MLIB's financial resources were \$13.4 billion, exceeding the minimum requirement by \$3.0 billion.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Forward-Looking Statements

This report on Form 10-Q, the documents that it incorporates by reference and the documents into which it may be incorporated by reference may contain, and from time to time Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. ("ML & Co. and, together with its subsidiaries, "Merrill Lynch," the "Company," "we," "our" or "us") and its management may make certain statements that constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. When used in this report, "we," "us" and "our" may refer to ML & Co. individually, ML & Co. and its subsidiaries, or certain of ML & Co.'s subsidiaries or affiliates. These statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. Forward-looking statements often use words such as "expects," "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," "targets," "intends," "plans," "goal" and other similar expressions or future or conditional verbs such as "will," "may," "might," "should," "would" and "could." The forward-looking statements made represent the current expectations, plans or forecasts of Merrill Lynch regarding its future results and revenues and future business and economic conditions more generally, including statements concerning: the charge to income for each one percent reduction in the United Kingdom (the "U.K.") corporate income tax rate; the belief that the representations and warranties provision recorded in the year ended December 31, 2011 has provided for a substantial portion of Merrill Lynch's non-government sponsored enterprises ("GSEs") repurchase claims; the estimated range of possible loss for non-GSE representations and warranties exposure as of March 31, 2012 of up to \$0.5 billion over existing accruals; Merrill Lynch's intention to vigorously contest any requests for repurchase for which it concludes that a valid basis does not exist; the net recovery projections for credit default swaps with monoline financial guarantors; the impact on economic conditions and Merrill Lynch arising from further changes to the credit rating or perceived creditworthiness of instruments issued, insured or guaranteed by the U.S. government, or of institutions, agencies or instrumentalities directly linked to the U.S. government; the realizability of deferred tax assets prior to expiration of any carryforward periods; credit trends and conditions, including credit losses, credit reserves, charge-offs, delinquency trends and nonperforming asset levels; investment banking fees; sales and trading revenues; liquidity; the revenue impact resulting from, and any mitigation actions taken in response to, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Financial Reform Act"); that it is our objective to maintain high-quality credit ratings; the estimated range of possible loss from and the impact on Merrill Lynch of various legal proceedings discussed in Note 14 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements; our estimates of contributions to be made to pension plans; our interest rate risk management strategies and models; our trading risk management processes; completion of tender offers for the repurchase of certain of our outstanding subordinated debt securities; and other matters relating to Merrill Lynch. The foregoing is not an exclusive list of all forward-looking statements we make. These statements are not guarantees of future results or performance and involve certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict and often are beyond our control. Actual outcomes and results may differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, any of these forward-looking statements.

You should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statement and should consider the following uncertainties and risks, as well as the risks and uncertainties more fully discussed elsewhere in this report, under Item 1A. "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, and in any of ML & Co.'s subsequent Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") filings: Merrill Lynch's ability to resolve its representations and warranties obligations, and any related servicing, securities, fraud, indemnity or other claims with monolines, and private-label investors and other investors, including those monolines and investors from whom Merrill Lynch has not yet received claims or with whom it has not yet reached any resolutions; the identification and effectiveness of any initiatives to mitigate the negative impact of the Financial Reform Act; adverse changes to Merrill Lynch's credit ratings from the three major credit rating agencies; and decisions to downsize, sell or close units or otherwise change the business mix of Merrill Lynch.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and Merrill Lynch undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect the impact of circumstances or events that arise after the date the forward-looking statement was made.

The Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements referred to in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (the "MD&A") are incorporated by reference into MD&A. Certain prior-period amounts have been reclassified in order to conform with the current period presentation.

Introduction

Merrill Lynch was founded in 1914 and became a publicly traded company on June 23, 1971. In 1973, the holding company ML & Co. was created. Through our subsidiaries, we are one of the world's leading capital markets, advisory and wealth management companies. We are a leading global trader and underwriter of securities and derivatives across a broad range of asset classes, and we serve as a strategic advisor to corporations, governments, institutions and individuals worldwide.

Bank of America Acquisition

On January 1, 2009, Merrill Lynch was acquired by Bank of America Corporation ("Bank of America") through the merger of a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of America with and into ML & Co. with ML & Co. continuing as the surviving corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of America.

Business Segments

Pursuant to Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 280, *Segment Reporting*, operating segments represent components of an enterprise for which separate financial information is available that is regularly evaluated by the chief operating decision maker in determining how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. The business activities of Merrill Lynch are included within certain of the operating segments of Bank of America. Detailed financial information related to the operations of Merrill Lynch, however, is not provided to Merrill Lynch's chief operating decision maker. As a result, Merrill Lynch does not contain any identifiable operating segments under Segment Reporting, and therefore the financial information of Merrill Lynch is presented as a single segment.

Form 10-Q Presentation

As a result of the acquisition of Merrill Lynch by Bank of America, certain information is not required in this Form 10-Q as permitted by General Instruction H of Form 10-Q. We have also abbreviated the MD&A as permitted by General Instruction H.

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

We reported a net loss of \$1.6 billion for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 as compared with net earnings of \$406 million in the quarter ended March 31, 2011. Revenues, net of interest expense ("net revenues") for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 were \$4.7 billion compared with \$7.9 billion in 2011. Our pre-tax loss was \$1.9 billion in the quarter ended March 31, 2012 compared with pre-tax earnings of \$621 million in 2011.

The declines in net earnings and net revenues for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 were due primarily to lower principal transactions and other revenues. The decline in principal transactions revenues primarily reflected the impact of higher losses associated with the valuation of certain of our liabilities as compared with the prior year period. During the quarter ended March 31, 2012, we recorded net losses of \$2.1 billion due to the impact of the narrowing of Merrill Lynch's credit spreads on the carrying value of certain of our long-term debt liabilities, primarily structured notes, while in the quarter ended March 31, 2011, we recorded net losses of \$0.3 billion due to the narrowing of our credit spreads. In addition, we recorded losses of \$0.7 billion in the quarter ended March 31, 2012 due to valuation adjustments associated with the consideration of our own creditworthiness in the fair value of certain derivative liabilities ("DVA"), an increase of \$0.5 billion from the prior year period. The decrease in other revenues primarily reflected a \$1.1 billion gain associated with a private equity investment that was recorded in the quarter ended March 31, 2011. Investment banking and commissions revenues also declined as compared with the prior year period. These decreases were partially offset by lower non-interest expenses.

Transactions with Bank of America

We have entered into various transactions with Bank of America, including transactions in connection with certain sales and trading and financing activities as well as the allocation of certain shared services. Total net revenues and non-interest expenses related to transactions with Bank of America for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 were \$209 million and \$425 million, respectively. Such net revenues and non-interest expenses for the quarter ended March 31, 2011 were \$318 million and \$615 million, respectively. Net revenues and non-interest expenses for both periods included intercompany service fee revenues and expenses from Bank of America associated with allocations of certain centralized or shared business activities between Merrill Lynch and Bank of America. See Note 2 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information.

Credit Ratings

On February 15, 2012, Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") placed Bank of America's and ML & Co.'s long-term debt ratings on review for possible downgrade as part of its review of 17 financial institutions with global capital markets operations. On April 13, 2012, Moody's indicated that the review is expected to conclude between early May and the end of June, 2012. Any adjustment to our ratings will be determined based on Moody's review; however, Moody's offered guidance that downgrades to our ratings, if any, would likely be limited to one notch.

The major rating agencies (Moody's, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("S&P") and Fitch Ratings ("Fitch")) have each indicated that, as a systemically important financial institution, Bank of America's (and consequently ML & Co.'s) credit ratings currently reflect their expectation that, if necessary, Bank of America would receive significant support from the U.S. government, and that they will continue to assess such support in the context of sovereign financial strength and regulatory and legislative developments. For information regarding the risks associated with adverse changes in our credit ratings, see "MD&A - Funding and Liquidity - Credit Ratings", Note 6 to the Consolidated Financial Statements and Item 1A. "Risk Factors" contained in Merrill Lynch's 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

U.K. Corporate Income Tax Rate Change

The proposal to reduce the U.K. corporate income tax rate by two percent to 23% is expected to be enacted in July, 2012. The first proposed one percent reduction would be effective as of April 1, 2012 and the second reduction

would be effective as of April 1, 2013. These reductions would favorably affect income tax expense on future U.K. earnings, but also would require us to remeasure our U.K. net deferred tax assets using the lower tax rates. Upon enactment, we would record a charge to income tax expense of approximately \$800 million for these reductions. If the corporate income tax rate were reduced to 22% by 2014 as suggested in U.K. Treasury announcements and assuming no change in the deferred tax asset balance, we would record a charge to income tax expense for approximately \$400 million in the period of enactment.

Retirement of Certain Debt Instruments

During the quarter ended March 31, 2012, we completed a tender offer to purchase and retire certain subordinated notes for approximately \$1.2 billion in cash, which resulted in a pre-tax gain of \$328 million.

As credit spreads for many financial institutions, including Merrill Lynch, remain at wide levels, the fair value of debt previously issued by financial institutions has decreased, making it economically advantageous to repurchase and retire certain of our outstanding debt. On April 25, 2012, Merrill Lynch commenced a tender offer for the repurchase of certain outstanding subordinated debt securities. This tender is part of a broader tender with Bank of America and includes both Bank of America and Merrill Lynch subordinated debt. Bank of America and Merrill Lynch are offering to pay a total of up to \$1 billion (such aggregate consideration is subject to increase). The Merrill Lynch securities included in the tender have an outstanding principal balance of \$1 billion. We expect any repurchases pursuant to this tender offer to be completed during the second quarter of 2012. We will consider additional repurchases in the future depending on prevailing market conditions, liquidity and other factors. If the purchase of any debt instruments is at an amount less than the carrying value, such purchases would be accretive to earnings.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

(dollars in millions)

	For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2011	% Change between the Three Months Ended March 31, 2012 and the Three Months Ended March 31, 2011
Revenues			
Principal transactions	\$ (141)	\$ 1,171	N/M
Commissions	1,355	1,590	(15)
Managed account and other fee-based revenues	1,287	1,291	—
Investment banking	1,204	1,532	(21)
Earnings from equity method investments	157	138	14
Intercompany service fee revenue from BAC	167	233	(28)
Other revenues ⁽¹⁾	770	1,858	(59)
Subtotal	4,799	7,813	(39)
Interest and dividend revenues	1,837	2,400	(23)
Less interest expense	1,907	2,353	(19)
Net interest (expense) income	(70)	47	N/M
Revenues, net of interest expense	4,729	7,860	(40)
Non-interest expenses:			
Compensation and benefits	4,514	4,610	(2)
Communications and technology	439	428	3
Occupancy and related depreciation	305	336	(9)
Brokerage, clearing, and exchange fees	282	300	(6)
Advertising and market development	108	121	(11)
Professional fees	195	227	(14)
Office supplies and postage	28	32	(13)
Provision for representations and warranties	11	(22)	N/M
Intercompany service fee expense from BAC	394	553	(29)
Other	305	654	(53)
Total non-interest expenses	6,581	7,239	(9)
Pre-tax (loss) earnings	(1,852)	621	N/M
Income tax (benefit) expense	(224)	215	N/M
Net (loss) earnings	\$ (1,628)	\$ 406	N/M

(1) Amounts include other income and other-than-temporary impairment losses on available-for-sale debt securities. The other-than-temporary impairment losses were \$2 million and \$37 million for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011, respectively.

N/M = Not meaningful.

Consolidated Results of Operations

Our net loss for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 was \$1.6 billion compared with net earnings of \$406 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2011. Net revenues for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 were \$4.7 billion compared with \$7.9 billion in 2011.

Quarter Ended March 31, 2012 Compared With Quarter Ended March 31, 2011

Principal transactions revenues include both realized and unrealized gains and losses on trading assets and trading liabilities and investment securities classified as trading. Principal transactions revenues were negative \$141 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 compared with positive \$1.2 billion for the quarter ended March 31, 2011. The decline was primarily due to higher losses associated with the valuation of certain of our liabilities. In the quarter ended March 31, 2012, we recorded net losses of \$2.1 billion due to the impact of the narrowing of Merrill Lynch's credit spreads on the carrying value of certain of our long-term debt liabilities, primarily structured notes, as compared with net losses of \$0.3 billion from such long-term debt liabilities recorded in the quarter ended March

31, 2011. We also recorded losses from DVA of \$0.7 billion in the quarter ended March 31, 2012, an increase of \$0.5 billion from the prior year period. In addition, as discussed below, principal transactions revenues from proprietary trading declined by \$192 million due to the exit from our stand-alone proprietary trading business as of June 30, 2011. These decreases in principal transactions revenues were partially offset by higher revenues generated by our trading activities, primarily in our mortgage and rates and currencies businesses. Revenues from mortgage products increased as the results for the quarter ended March 31, 2011 included losses from credit valuation adjustments related to financial guarantors. Revenues from rates and currency products increased as a result of higher new deal activity and stronger client flows, which reflected some stabilization of the European debt crisis and an improved market sentiment in the current quarter.

Included in principal transactions revenues for the quarter ended March 31, 2011 are net revenues associated with activities we identified as “proprietary trading,” which was conducted separately from our customer trading activities. Our stand-alone proprietary trading operations engaged in trading activities in a variety of products, including stocks, bonds, currencies and commodities. In response to developments relating to the Volcker Rule, we exited our stand-alone proprietary trading business as of June 30, 2011. The revenues from these operations for the quarter ended March 31, 2011 were \$208 million, of which \$192 million were included within principal transactions revenues. The remainder of the revenues for these operations were primarily recorded within net interest revenues. See also “MD&A - Executive Overview - Other Events - Financial Reform Act - Limitations on Proprietary Trading” in our 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Net interest (expense) income is a function of (i) the level and mix of total assets and liabilities, including trading assets, deposits, financing and lending transactions, and trading strategies associated with our businesses, and (ii) the prevailing level, term structure and volatility of interest rates. Net interest (expense) income is an integral component of trading activity. In assessing the profitability of our client facilitation and trading activities, we view principal transactions and net interest (expense) income in the aggregate as net trading revenues. Changes in the composition of trading inventories and hedge positions can cause the mix of principal transactions and net interest (expense) income to fluctuate from period to period. Net interest expense was \$70 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 compared with net interest income of \$47 million in the quarter ended March 31, 2011. The increase in net interest expense was primarily due to lower net interest revenues generated from our trading and global wealth management activities, partially offset by lower financing costs.

Commissions revenues primarily arise from agency transactions in listed and over-the-counter (“OTC”) equity securities and commodities and options. Commissions revenues also include distribution fees for promoting and distributing mutual funds. Commissions revenues were \$1.4 billion for the quarter ended March 31, 2012, a decrease of 15% from the prior year. The decline was primarily attributable to our global equity products business, reflecting lower single-stock trading volumes in the U.S., Europe, Middle East and Africa (“EMEA”) and Pacific Rim regions, which declined by 4%, 47% and 34%, respectively, from the prior year period. Commissions revenues from our global wealth management business also declined due to lower transaction volumes as compared with the prior year period.

Managed account and other fee-based revenues primarily consist of asset-priced portfolio service fees earned from the administration of separately managed and other investment accounts for retail investors, annual account fees, and certain other account-related fees. Managed account and other fee-based revenues remained consistent at \$1.3 billion for both the quarters ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011.

Investment banking revenues include fees for the underwriting and distribution of debt, equity and loan products, and fees for advisory services and tailored risk management solutions. Total investment banking revenues were \$1.2 billion for the quarter ended March 31, 2012, a decrease of 21% from the prior year. The decrease was primarily driven by lower advisory and equity underwriting fees due to a decrease in our market share and an overall decline in equity capital markets and merger and acquisition fee pools. Underwriting revenues decreased 17% to \$1.0 billion, primarily driven by lower fees from equity underwriting. Revenues from debt capital markets also declined. Revenues from advisory services decreased 37% to \$202 million.

Sales and trading revenue and investment banking fees may be adversely affected in 2012 by lower client activity

and challenging market conditions as a result of, among other things, the European sovereign debt crisis, and uncertainty regarding the outcome of the evolving domestic regulatory landscape, our credit ratings and market volatility.

Earnings from equity method investments include our pro rata share of income and losses associated with investments accounted for under the equity method of accounting. Earnings from equity method investments were \$157 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 compared with \$138 million for the prior year period. The increase reflected higher revenues from certain equity method investments. Refer to Note 8 to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in our 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K for further information on equity method investments.

Intercompany service fee revenues from Bank of America include revenues associated with the provision of certain shared business activities with Bank of America. Intercompany service fee revenues from Bank of America were \$167 million in the quarter ended March 31, 2012 compared with \$233 million in the prior year period. The decrease was driven by lower fees earned from Bank of America in connection with certain shared brokerage and trading activities.

Other revenues include gains and losses on investment securities, including certain available-for-sale securities, gains and losses on private equity investments, and gains and losses on loans and other miscellaneous items. Other revenues were \$770 million in the quarter ended March 31, 2012 as compared with revenues of \$1.9 billion in the quarter ended March 31, 2011. The decrease was due to lower gains from certain investments, which was primarily attributable to a \$1.1 billion gain recorded in the quarter ended March 31, 2011 associated with a private equity investment that underwent an initial public offering during that period. This decrease was partially offset by a gain of \$328 million recorded in the quarter ended March 31, 2012 resulting from the repurchase and retirement of certain of our long-term borrowings (see "Executive Overview - Retirement of Certain Debt Instruments").

Compensation and benefits expenses were \$4.5 billion in the quarter ended March 31, 2012, a decrease of 2% from the prior year period. The decrease was due to lower amortization expense associated with stock-based compensation awards, including lower expense for retirement-eligible employees due to a decline in award grants. These decreases were partially offset by higher incentive-based compensation accruals.

Non-compensation expenses were \$2.1 billion in the quarter March 31, 2012 compared with \$2.6 billion in the prior year period. Advertising and market development expenses were \$108 million, a decrease of 11%, due primarily to lower travel, marketing and promotional costs. Professional fees were \$195 million, a decrease of 14% from the prior year. The decline was driven by lower legal, consulting and other professional fees. Intercompany service fee expenses from Bank of America were \$394 million in the quarter ended March 31, 2012 compared with \$553 million in the prior year period. The decline reflected a lower level of allocated expenses from Bank of America. Other expenses were \$305 million, a decrease of 53% from the prior year period. The decrease was primarily due to lower expense associated with non-controlling interests of certain principal investments as well as lower litigation-related expenses.

The income tax benefit was \$224 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 compared with an income tax expense of \$215 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2011, resulting in effective tax rates of 12.1% and 34.6%, respectively. The effective tax rate for the first quarter of 2012 was driven by net recurring tax preference items (such as tax exempt income), which reduce our full year estimated effective tax rate. Even though the estimated full year effective tax rate contains net preference items, the appropriate application of the low full year tax rate to the first quarter pre-tax loss resulted in a smaller income tax benefit from the loss. In addition, a true-up of final settlement of certain income tax audits was recorded in the first quarter of 2012, which increased the 2012 effective rate compared to what it otherwise would have been. Items such as the U.K. corporate income tax rate change referred to below may affect the income tax rate later this year.

The proposal to reduce the U.K. corporate income tax rate by two percent to 23% is expected to be enacted in July, 2012. For additional information, see "Executive Overview - U.K. Corporate Income Tax Rate Change."

OFF-BALANCE SHEET EXPOSURES

As a part of our normal operations, we enter into various off-balance sheet arrangements that may require future payments. The table and discussion below outline our significant off-balance sheet arrangements, as well as their future expirations, as of March 31, 2012. Refer to Note 14 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information.

(dollars in millions)

	Expiration				
	Maximum Payout	Less than 1 Year	1 - 3 Years	3 - 5 Years	Over 5 Years
Standby liquidity facilities	\$ 795	\$ 225	\$ 551	\$ 3	\$ 16
Residual value guarantees	320	—	320	—	—
Standby letters of credit and other guarantees	373	288	23	49	13

Standby Liquidity Facilities

We provide standby liquidity facilities primarily to certain unconsolidated municipal bond securitization variable interest entities (“VIEs”). In these arrangements, we are required to fund these standby liquidity facilities if certain contingent events take place (e.g., a failed remarketing) and in certain cases if the fair value of the assets held by the VIE declines below the stated amount of the liquidity obligation. The potential exposure under the facilities is mitigated by economic hedges and/or other contractual arrangements entered into by Merrill Lynch. Refer to Note 9 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information.

Residual Value Guarantees

At March 31, 2012, residual value guarantees of \$320 million consist of amounts associated with certain power plant facilities. Payments under these guarantees would only be required if the fair value of such assets declined below their guaranteed value. As of March 31, 2012, no payments have been made under these guarantees and the carrying value of the associated liabilities was not material, as Merrill Lynch believes that the estimated fair value of such assets was in excess of their guaranteed value.

Standby Letters of Credit

At March 31, 2012, we provided guarantees to certain counterparties in the form of standby letters of credit in the amount of \$0.4 billion.

Representations and Warranties

In prior years, Merrill Lynch and certain of its subsidiaries, including First Franklin Financial Corporation (“First Franklin”), sold pools of first-lien residential mortgage loans and home equity loans as private-label securitizations (in a limited number of these securitizations, monolines insured all or some of the securities) or in the form of whole loans. Most of the loans sold in the form of whole loans were subsequently pooled into private-label securitizations sponsored by the third-party buyer of the whole loans. In addition, Merrill Lynch and First Franklin securitized first-lien residential mortgage loans generally in the form of mortgage-backed securities guaranteed by the GSEs. In connection with these transactions, Merrill Lynch made various representations and warranties. Breaches of these representations and warranties may result in the requirement to repurchase mortgage loans or to otherwise make whole or provide other remedies to the GSEs, whole-loan buyers, securitization trusts or monoline insurers (collectively, “repurchases”). In such cases, Merrill Lynch would be exposed to any credit loss on the repurchased mortgage loans after accounting for any mortgage insurance or mortgage guaranty payments that it may receive.

Subject to the requirements and limitations of the applicable sales and securitization agreements, these

representations and warranties can be enforced by the GSEs, the whole-loan buyer, the securitization trustee, or others as governed by the applicable agreement or, in a limited number of first-lien and home equity securitizations where monoline insurers have insured all or some of the securities issued, by the monoline insurer. In the case of loans sold to parties other than the GSEs, the contractual liability to repurchase typically arises only if there is a breach of the representations and warranties that materially and adversely affects the interest of the investor or investors in the loan or of the monoline insurer (as applicable). Contracts with the GSEs do not contain equivalent language.

For additional information about accounting for representations and warranties and our representations and warranties claims and exposures, see Note 14 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements and Item 1A. "Risk Factors" in Merrill Lynch's 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Merrill Lynch has vigorously contested any request for repurchase when it has concluded that a valid basis for repurchase does not exist and will continue to do so in the future. Merrill Lynch may reach settlements in the future if opportunities arise on terms it believes to be advantageous to Merrill Lynch.

Recent Developments Related to the Bank of America BNY Mellon Settlement

Bank of America's settlement (the "BNY Mellon Settlement") with the Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee (the "Trustee") is subject to final court approval and certain other conditions. Under an order entered by the state court in connection with the BNY Mellon Settlement, potentially interested persons had the opportunity to give notice of intent to object to the settlement (including on the basis that more information was needed) until August 30, 2011. Approximately 44 groups or entities appeared prior to the deadline; three of those groups or entities have subsequently withdrawn from the proceeding and one motion to intervene was denied. Certain of these groups or entities filed notices of intent to object, made motions to intervene, or both filed notices of intent to object and made motions to intervene. The parties filing motions to intervene include the Attorneys General of the states of New York and Delaware.

Certain of the motions to intervene and/or notices of intent to object allege various purported bases for opposition to the settlement. These include challenges to the nature of the court proceeding and the lack of an opt-out mechanism, alleged conflicts of interest on the part of the institutional investor group and/or the Trustee, the inadequacy of the settlement amount and the method of allocating the settlement amount among the 525 legacy Countrywide first-lien and five second-lien non-GSE residential mortgage-backed securitization trusts, while other motions do not make substantive objections but state that they need more information about the settlement. Parties who filed notices stating that they wished to obtain more information about the settlement include the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

An investor opposed to the settlement removed the proceeding to federal district court, and the federal district court denied the Trustee's motion to remand the proceeding to state court. On February 27, 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals issued an opinion reversing the district court denial of the Trustee's motion to remand the proceeding to state court and ordered that the proceeding be remanded to state court. On April 24, 2012, a hearing was held on threshold issues, at which the court denied the objectors' motion to convert the proceeding to a plenary proceeding. A hearing on discovery matters was set for May 8, 2012. Bank of America and Merrill Lynch are not parties to the proceeding.

It is not currently possible to predict how many of the parties who have appeared in the court proceeding will ultimately object to the BNY Mellon Settlement, whether the objections will prevent receipt of final court approval or the ultimate outcome of the court approval process, which can include appeals and could take a substantial period of time. In particular, conduct of discovery and the resolution of the objections to the settlement and any appeals could take a substantial period of time and these factors could materially delay the timing of final court approval. Accordingly, it is not possible to predict when the court approval process will be completed.

Outstanding Claims

The table below presents outstanding representations and warranties claims by counterparty at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011. The outstanding claims include only claims where Merrill Lynch believes that the counterparty has a basis to submit claims. During the three months ended March 31, 2012, we received \$329 million of new repurchase claims, primarily from whole-loan investors and private-label securitization trustees.

Outstanding Claims by Counterparty*(dollars in millions)*

	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
GSEs	\$ 65	\$ 65
Monoline	152	136
Whole-loan investors, private-label securitization trustees and other ⁽¹⁾	1,383	1,101
Total	<u>\$ 1,600</u>	<u>\$ 1,302</u>

(1) The majority of these repurchase claims are from whole loan buyers of subprime loans or trustees of private label securitization trusts through which First Franklin sold subprime loans.

Of the \$1.6 billion of outstanding claims as of March 31, 2012, we believe that for \$701 million, a valid defect has not been identified which would constitute an actionable breach of representations and warranties. The remaining \$899 million of claims are in the process of review. When a claim has been denied and there has not been communication with the counterparty for six months, Merrill Lynch views these claims as inactive; however, they remain in the outstanding claims balance until resolution.

In addition, not included in outstanding claims in the table above, during the three months ended March 31, 2012, we received \$1.4 billion in repurchase demands from a master servicer where we believe the claimant has not satisfied the contractual thresholds to direct the securitization trustee to take action and/or that these demands are otherwise procedurally or substantively invalid. We do not believe the \$1.4 billion in additional demands are valid claims, and therefore it is not possible to predict the resolution with respect to such demands.

Cash Settlements

As presented in the table below, Merrill Lynch paid \$11 million and \$2 million during the three months ended March 31, 2012 and March 31, 2011, respectively, to resolve \$11 million and \$3 million, respectively, of repurchase claims through repurchase or indemnification payments to investors or securitization trusts, resulting in a loss on the related loans at the time of repurchase or indemnification payment of \$11 million and \$2 million, respectively. Cash paid for loan repurchases includes the unpaid principal balance of the loan plus past due interest. The amount of loss for loan repurchases is reduced by the fair value of the underlying loan collateral. The repurchase of loans and indemnification payments related to repurchase claims generally resulted from material breaches of representations and warranties related to the loans' material compliance with the applicable underwriting standards, including borrower misrepresentation, credit exceptions without sufficient compensating factors and non-compliance with underwriting procedures. The actual representations and warranties made in a sales transaction and the resulting repurchase and indemnification activity can vary by transaction or investor. A direct relationship between the type of defect that causes the breach of representations and warranties and the severity of the realized loss has not been observed.

dollars in millions

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2012	2011
Claims resolved ⁽¹⁾	\$ 11	\$ 3
Repurchases	\$ —	\$ —
Indemnification payments	11	2
Total	\$ 11	\$ 2

(1) Represents unpaid principal balance.

Liability for Representations and Warranties

The liability for representations and warranties is included in Interest and other payables on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets, and the related provision is included in Non-interest expenses on the Condensed Consolidated Statements of (Loss) Earnings. The methodology used to estimate the liability for representations and warranties is a function of the representations and warranties given and considers a variety of factors. Depending on the counterparty, these include actual defaults, estimated future defaults, historical loss experience, estimated home prices, other economic conditions, estimated probability that a repurchase claim will be received, including consideration of whether presentation thresholds will be met, number of payments made by the borrower prior to default and estimated probability that a loan will be required to be repurchased as well as other relevant facts and circumstances, such as bulk settlements and identity of the counterparty or type of counterparty, with whom a sale was made. The estimate of the liability for representations and warranties is based on currently available information, significant judgment and a number of factors, including those set forth above, that are subject to change. Changes to any one of these factors could significantly impact the estimate of the liability and could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations for any particular period.

At both March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the liability for representations and warranties was \$2.8 billion. In the three months ended March 31, 2012, we recorded a provision for representations and warranties related to our repurchase exposure on private-label securitizations of \$11 million.

Estimated Range of Possible Loss for Non-GSEs

In private-label securitizations, certain presentation thresholds need to be met in order for repurchase claims to be asserted by investors. We believe it is probable that other claimants in certain types of securitizations may come forward with claims that meet the requirements of the terms of the securitizations. We have seen and continue to see an increased trend in both requests for loan files and repurchase claims from private-label securitization trustees. As a result of the BNY Mellon Settlement in the second quarter of 2011, we determined that we had sufficient experience to record a liability of \$2.7 billion related to our exposure on certain private-label securitizations. We believe that with the increased liability recorded in 2011, we have provided for a substantial portion of our non-GSE representations and warranties exposures.

However, it is reasonably possible that future representations and warranties losses may occur in excess of the amounts recorded for these exposures. In addition, the BNY Mellon Settlement did not provide sufficient experience related to certain private-label securitizations sponsored by third-party whole-loan investors. As it relates to certain private-label securitizations sponsored by third-party whole-loan investors and certain whole loan sales, it is not possible to determine whether a loss has occurred or is probable and, therefore, no representations and warranties liability has been recorded in connection with these transactions.

We currently estimate that the range of possible loss related to non-GSE representations and warranties exposure as of March 31, 2012 could be up to \$0.5 billion over existing accruals. This estimated range of possible loss for non-GSE representations and warranties does not represent a probable loss, and is based on currently available

information, significant judgment, and a number of assumptions, including those set forth below, that are subject to change.

The methodology used to estimate the non-GSE representations and warranties liability and the corresponding range of possible loss considers a variety of factors including Merrill Lynch's experience related to actual defaults, projected future defaults, historical loss experience, estimated home prices, other economic conditions and the experience of Merrill Lynch's affiliates. Among the factors that impact the non-GSE representations and warranties liability and the corresponding estimated range of possible loss are: (1) contractual material adverse effect requirements, (2) the representations and warranties provided, and (3) the requirement to meet certain presentation thresholds. The first factor is based on our belief that a non-GSE contractual liability to repurchase a loan generally arises only if the counterparties prove there is a breach of representations and warranties that materially and adversely affects the interest of the investor or all investors, or the monoline insurer (as applicable), in a securitization trust and, accordingly, we believe that the repurchase claimants must prove that the alleged representations and warranties breach was the cause of the loss. The second factor is related to the fact that non-GSE securitizations include different types of representations and warranties than those provided to the GSEs. We believe the non-GSE securitizations' representations and warranties are less rigorous and actionable than the explicit provisions of comparable agreements with the GSEs without regard to any variations that may have arisen as a result of dealings with the GSEs. The third factor is related to the fact that certain presentation thresholds need to be met in order for any repurchase claim to be asserted on the initiative of investors under the non-GSE agreements. A securitization trustee may investigate or demand repurchase on its own action, and most agreements contain a threshold, for example 25% of the voting rights per trust, that allows investors to declare a servicing event of default under certain circumstances or to request certain action, such as requesting loan files, that the trustee may choose to accept and follow, exempt from liability, provided the trustee is acting in good faith. If there is an un-cured servicing event of default, and the trustee fails to bring suit during a 60-day period, then, under most agreements, investors may file suit. In addition to this, most agreements also allow investors to direct the securitization trustee to investigate loan files or demand the repurchase of loans, if security holders hold a specified percentage, for example, 25%, of the voting rights of each tranche of the outstanding securities.

Although we continue to believe that presentation thresholds are a factor in the determination of probable loss, given the BNY Mellon Settlement, the estimated range of possible loss assumes that the presentation threshold can be met for all of the non-GSE securitization transactions.

In addition, in the case of private-label securitizations, the methodology used to estimate the non-GSE representations and warranties liability and the corresponding ranges of possible loss considers the experience resulting from the BNY Mellon Settlement and assumes that the conditions to the BNY Mellon Settlement will be satisfied. Since the non-GSE transactions that were included in the BNY Mellon Settlement differ from those that were not included in the BNY Mellon Settlement, Merrill Lynch adjusted the experience implied in the settlement in order to determine the estimated non-GSE representations and warranties liability and the corresponding range of possible loss. The judgmental adjustments made include consideration of the differences in the mix of products in the securitizations, loan originator, likelihood of claims differences, the differences in the number of payments that the borrower has made prior to default, and the sponsor of the securitization.

Future provisions and/or ranges of possible loss for non-GSE representations and warranties may be significantly impacted if actual experiences are different from our assumptions in our predictive models, including, without limitation, those regarding the ultimate resolution of the BNY Mellon Settlement, estimated repurchase rates, economic conditions, estimated home prices, consumer and counterparty behavior, and a variety of other judgmental factors. Adverse developments with respect to one or more of the assumptions underlying the liability for representations and warranties and the corresponding estimated range of possible loss could result in significant increases to future provisions and/or this estimated range of possible loss. For example, if courts were to disagree with our interpretation that the underlying agreements require a claimant to prove that the representations and warranties breach was the cause of the loss, it could significantly impact this estimated range of possible loss. Additionally, if recent court rulings related to monoline litigation, including one related to an affiliate of ours, that have allowed sampling of loan files instead of requiring a loan-by-loan review to determine if a representations and warranties breach has occurred are followed generally by the courts, private-label securitization investors may view

litigation as a more attractive alternative compared to a loan-by-loan review. Finally, although Merrill Lynch believes that the representations and warranties typically given in non-GSE transactions are less rigorous and actionable than those given in GSE transactions, Merrill Lynch does not have significant loan-level experience in non-GSE transactions to measure the impact of these differences on the probability that a loan will be required to be repurchased.

The liability for obligations under representations and warranties with respect to GSE and non-GSE exposures and the corresponding estimated range of possible loss for non-GSE representations and warranties exposures does not include any losses related to litigation matters disclosed in Note 14 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements or in Note 14 to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in our 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K, nor do they include any potential securities law or fraud claims or potential indemnity or other claims against us. Merrill Lynch is not able to reasonably estimate the amount of any possible loss with respect to any such securities law, except to the extent reflected in the aggregate range of possible loss for litigation and regulatory matters disclosed in Note 14 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, fraud or other claims against us; however, such loss could be material.

Experience with Non-GSE Investors

As presented in the table below, Merrill Lynch, including First Franklin, sold loans originated from 2004 to 2008 (primarily subprime and alt-A) with an original principal balance of \$132 billion to investors other than the GSEs (although the GSEs are investors in certain private-label securitizations), of which approximately \$63 billion in principal has been paid off and \$45 billion has defaulted or is severely delinquent (i.e., 180 days or more past due) at March 31, 2012.

As it relates to private-label securitizations, a contractual liability to repurchase mortgage loans generally arises only if counterparties prove there is a breach of the representations and warranties that materially and adversely affects the interest of the investor or all investors in a securitization trust or of the monoline insurer (as applicable). Merrill Lynch believes that the longer a loan performs, the less likely it is that an alleged representations and warranties breach had a material impact on the loan's performance or that a breach even exists. Because the majority of the borrowers in this population would have made a significant number of payments if they are not yet 180 days or more past due, we believe that the principal balance at the greatest risk for repurchase claims in this population of private-label securitization investors is a combination of loans that have already defaulted and those that are currently severely delinquent. Additionally, the obligation to repurchase loans also requires that counterparties have the contractual right to demand repurchase of the loans (presentation thresholds). Private-label securitization investors generally do not have the contractual right to demand repurchase of loans directly or the right to access loan files.

While we believe the agreements for private-label securitizations generally contain less rigorous representations and warranties and place higher burdens on investors seeking repurchases than the explicit provisions of the comparable agreements with the GSEs without regard to any variations that may have arisen as a result of dealings with the GSEs, the agreements generally include a representation that underwriting practices were prudent and customary.

The following table details the population of loans originated between 2004 and 2008 and the population of loans sold as whole loans or in non-GSE private-label securitizations by entity together with the defaulted and severely delinquent loans stratified by the number of payments the borrower made prior to default or becoming severely delinquent at March 31, 2012. In connection with these transactions, we provided representations and warranties, and the whole-loan investors may retain those rights even when the whole loans were aggregated with other collateral into private-label securitizations sponsored by the whole loan investors. At least 25 payments have been made on approximately 60% of the defaulted and severely delinquent loans. We have received approximately \$3.0 billion of representations and warranties claims from whole-loan investors and private-label securitization trustees related to these vintages, including \$2.1 billion from whole-loan investors and \$0.9 billion from private-label securitization trustees. Merrill Lynch believes many of the defaults observed in these securitizations have been, and continue to be, driven by external factors, such as the substantial depreciation in home prices, persistently high unemployment and other negative economic trends, diminishing the likelihood that any loan defect (assuming one

exists at all) was the cause of a loan's default. As of March 31, 2012, approximately 34% of the loans sold to non-GSEs that were originated between 2004 and 2008 have defaulted or are severely delinquent.

(dollars in billions)

Entity	Principal Balance					Principal at Risk			
	Original Principal Balance	Outstanding Principal Balance March 31, 2012	Outstanding Principal Balance Over 180 Days	Defaulted Principal Balance	Defaulted or Severely Delinquent	Borrower Made Less than 13 Payments	Borrower Made 13 to 24 Payments	Borrower Made 25 to 36 Payments	Borrower Made More Than 36 Payments
Merrill Lynch (excluding First Franklin)	\$ 50	\$ 16	\$ 5	\$ 12	\$ 17	\$ 3	\$ 4	\$ 3	\$ 7
First Franklin	82	20	7	21	28	5	6	5	12
Total ⁽¹⁾	<u>\$ 132</u>	<u>\$ 36</u>	<u>\$ 12</u>	<u>\$ 33</u>	<u>\$ 45</u>	<u>\$ 8</u>	<u>\$ 10</u>	<u>\$ 8</u>	<u>\$ 19</u>

(1) Excludes transactions sponsored by Merrill Lynch where no representations or warranties were made.

Prior to 2011, the majority of the claims that we received were from third-party whole-loan investors. In the year ended December 31, 2011, Merrill Lynch received \$665 million of new repurchase claims from whole-loan and private-label securitization investors, predominately from private-label securitization trustees received in the fourth quarter of 2011. In the first three months of 2012, Merrill Lynch received \$329 million of new repurchase claims, primarily from whole-loan and private-label securitization trustees. We have seen and continue to see an increased trend in both requests for loan files and repurchase claims from private-label securitization trustees. We believe it is likely that these requests will lead to an increase in repurchase claims from private-label securitization trustees with standing to bring such claims. For additional information, see "Representations and Warranties - Outstanding Claims" above.

Legal Matters

Merrill Lynch has been named as a defendant in various legal actions, including arbitrations, class actions, and other litigation arising in connection with its activities as a global diversified financial services institution. Refer to Note 14 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information, including the estimated aggregate range of possible loss.

Derivatives

We record all derivative transactions at fair value on our Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets. We do not monitor our exposure to derivatives based on the notional amount because that amount is not a relevant indicator of our risk to these contracts, as it is generally not indicative of the amount that we would owe on the contract. Instead, a risk framework is used to define risk tolerances and establish limits to help to ensure that certain risk-related losses occur within acceptable, predefined limits. Derivatives that meet the accounting definition of a guarantee and credit derivatives are included in Note 6 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Involvement with VIEs

We transact with VIEs in a variety of capacities, including those that we help establish as well as those initially established by third parties. We utilize VIEs in the ordinary course of business to support our own and our customers' financing and investing needs. Merrill Lynch securitizes loans and debt securities using VIEs as a source of funding and a means of transferring the economic risk of the loans or debt securities to third parties. We also administer, structure or invest in or enter into derivatives with other VIEs, including multi-seller conduits, municipal bond trusts, collateralized debt obligations ("CDOs") and other entities, as described in more detail below. Our involvement with VIEs can vary and we are required to continuously reassess prior consolidation and disclosure conclusions (refer to Note 9 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements). Refer to Note 1 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion of our consolidation accounting policy and for information regarding new VIE accounting rules that became effective on January 1, 2010.

Contractual Obligations

We have contractual obligations to make future payments of debt, lease and other agreements. Additionally, in the normal course of business, we enter into contractual arrangements whereby we commit to future purchases of products or services from unaffiliated parties. Other obligations include our contractual funding obligations related to our employee benefit plans. See Notes 12, 14 and 15 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

FUNDING AND LIQUIDITY

Funding

We fund our assets primarily with a mix of secured and unsecured liabilities through a globally coordinated funding strategy with Bank of America. We fund a portion of our trading assets with secured liabilities, including repurchase agreements, securities loaned and other short-term secured borrowings, which are less sensitive to our credit ratings due to the underlying collateral. Refer to Note 12 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding our borrowings.

Beginning late in the third quarter of 2009, in connection with the update or renewal of certain Merrill Lynch international securities offering programs, Bank of America agreed to guarantee debt securities, warrants and/or certificates issued by certain subsidiaries of ML & Co. on a going forward basis. All existing ML & Co. guarantees of securities issued by those same Merrill Lynch subsidiaries under various international securities offering programs will remain in full force and effect as long as those securities are outstanding, and Bank of America has not assumed any of those prior ML & Co. guarantees or otherwise guaranteed such securities. There were approximately \$6.0 billion of securities guaranteed by Bank of America at March 31, 2012. In addition, Bank of America has guaranteed the performance of Merrill Lynch on certain derivative transactions. The aggregate amount of such derivative liabilities was approximately \$0.7 billion at March 31, 2012.

Following the completion of Bank of America's acquisition of Merrill Lynch, ML & Co. became a subsidiary of Bank of America and established intercompany lending and borrowing arrangements to facilitate centralized liquidity management. Included in these intercompany agreements is a \$75 billion one-year revolving unsecured line of credit that allows ML & Co. to borrow funds from Bank of America at a spread to the London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") that is reset periodically and is consistent with other intercompany agreements. This credit line was renewed effective January 1, 2012 with a maturity date of January 1, 2013. The credit line will automatically be extended by one year to the succeeding January 1st unless Bank of America provides written notice not to extend at least 45 days prior to the maturity date. The agreement does not contain any financial or other covenants. There were no outstanding borrowings against the line of credit at March 31, 2012.

In addition to the \$75 billion unsecured line of credit, there is also a revolving unsecured line of credit that allows ML & Co. to borrow up to \$25 billion from Bank of America. Interest on borrowings under the line of credit is based on prevailing short-term market rates. The line of credit does not contain any financial or other covenants. The line of credit matures on February 12, 2013. There was approximately \$0.4 billion outstanding under the line of credit at March 31, 2012.

Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S") also has the following borrowing agreements with Bank of America:

- A subordinated loan agreement for approximately \$1.5 billion - Borrowings under this agreement bear interest based on a spread to LIBOR, and have a scheduled maturity date of December 31, 2013. The loan agreement contains a provision that automatically extends the loan's maturity by one year unless Bank of

America provides 13 months written notice not to extend prior to the scheduled maturity date.

- A \$7 billion revolving subordinated line of credit - The subordinated line of credit bears interest based on a spread to LIBOR, and has a scheduled maturity date of October 1, 2013. The revolving subordinated line of credit contains a provision that automatically extends the maturity by one year unless Bank of America provides 13 months written notice not to extend prior to the scheduled maturity date. At March 31, 2012, \$1.1 billion was outstanding under the subordinated line of credit.
- A \$4 billion one-year revolving unsecured line of credit - Interest on the line of credit is based on prevailing short-term market rates. The credit line matures on November 1, 2012 and may automatically be extended by one year to the succeeding November 1st unless Bank of America provides written notice not to extend at least 45 days prior to the maturity date. At March 31, 2012, there were no borrowings outstanding under the line of credit.
- A \$15 billion 364-day revolving unsecured line of credit - Interest on the line of credit is based on prevailing short-term market rates. The line of credit matures on February 19, 2013. At March 31, 2012, approximately \$1.2 billion was outstanding under the line of credit.

Bank of America and Merrill Lynch have entered into certain intercompany lending and borrowing arrangements to facilitate centralized liquidity management. Included in these arrangements is a \$50 billion extendible one-year revolving credit facility that allows Bank of America to borrow funds from Merrill Lynch at a spread to LIBOR that is reset periodically and is consistent with other intercompany agreements. The credit facility matures on January 1, 2013 and will automatically be extended by one year to the succeeding January 1st unless Merrill Lynch provides written notice not to extend at least 45 days prior to the maturity date. There were no amounts outstanding at both March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 under this credit facility. There is also a short-term revolving credit facility that allows Bank of America to borrow up to an additional \$25 billion. Interest on borrowings under the credit facility is based on prevailing short-term market rates. The line of credit matures on February 12, 2013. At March 31, 2012, there were no amounts outstanding under this credit facility.

Credit Ratings

Our borrowing costs and ability to raise funds are directly impacted by our credit ratings. In addition, credit ratings may be important to customers or counterparties when we compete in certain markets and when we seek to engage in certain transactions, including OTC derivatives. Thus, it is our objective to maintain high-quality credit ratings.

Credit ratings and outlooks are opinions on our creditworthiness and that of our obligations or securities, including long-term debt, short-term borrowings and other securities, including asset securitizations. Following the acquisition of Merrill Lynch by Bank of America, the major credit rating agencies have indicated that the major drivers of Merrill Lynch's credit ratings are Bank of America's credit ratings. Bank of America's credit ratings are subject to ongoing review by the rating agencies, which consider a number of factors, including Bank of America's financial strength, performance, prospects and operations as well as factors not under Bank of America's control. The rating agencies could make adjustments to our ratings at any time and they provide no assurances that they will maintain our ratings at current levels.

Other factors that influence Bank of America's and our credit ratings include changes to the rating agencies' methodologies for our industry or certain security types, the rating agencies' assessment of the general operating environment for financial services companies, our mortgage exposures, our relative positions in the markets in which we compete, reputation, liquidity position, diversity of funding sources, funding costs, the level and volatility of earnings, corporate governance and risk management policies, capital position, capital management practices and current or future regulatory and legislative initiatives.

Each of the three major rating agencies, Moody's, S&P and Fitch, downgraded the ratings of Bank of America and ML & Co. in late 2011. On February 15, 2012, Moody's placed Bank of America's and ML & Co.'s long-term debt ratings on review for possible downgrade as part of its review of 17 financial institutions with global capital

markets operations. On April 13, 2012, Moody's indicated that the review is expected to conclude between early May and the end of June, 2012. Any adjustment to our ratings will be determined based on Moody's review; however, Moody's offered guidance that downgrades to our ratings, if any, would likely be limited to one notch.

The major rating agencies have each indicated that, as a systemically important financial institution, Bank of America's (and consequently ML & Co.'s) credit ratings currently reflect their expectation that, if necessary, Bank of America would receive significant support from the U.S. government, and that they will continue to assess such support in the context of sovereign financial strength and regulatory and legislative developments.

Currently, Bank of America's and ML & Co.'s long-term/short-term senior debt ratings and outlooks expressed by the rating agencies are as follows: Baa1/P-2 (review for downgrade) by Moody's; A-/A-2 (negative) by S&P; and A/F1 (stable) by Fitch. MLPF&S's long-term/short-term senior debt ratings and outlooks are A/A-1 (negative) by S&P and A/F1 (stable) by Fitch. Merrill Lynch International, a U.K.-based registered investment firm and subsidiary of ML & Co., has a long-term/short-term senior debt rating and outlook of A/A-1 (negative) by S&P. Merrill Lynch International Bank Limited, an Ireland-based bank subsidiary of ML & Co., has a long-term/short-term senior debt rating and outlook of A/F1 (stable) by Fitch. The rating agencies could make further adjustments to our ratings at any time and they provide no assurances that they will maintain our ratings at current levels.

A further reduction in certain of our credit ratings may have a material adverse effect on our liquidity, potential loss of access to credit markets, the related cost of funds, our businesses and on certain trading revenues, particularly in those businesses where counterparty creditworthiness is critical. In addition, under the terms of certain OTC derivative contracts and other trading agreements, the counterparties to those agreements may require us to provide additional collateral, or to terminate these contracts or agreements, which could cause us to sustain losses and/or adversely impact our liquidity. If Bank of America's or ML & Co's short-term credit ratings, or those of our bank or broker-dealer subsidiaries, were downgraded by one or more levels, the potential loss of access to short-term funding sources, such as repurchase agreement financing, and the effect on our incremental cost of funds could be material.

At March 31, 2012, if the rating agencies had downgraded their long-term senior debt ratings for ML & Co. or certain subsidiaries by one incremental notch, the amount of additional collateral contractually required by such derivative contracts and other trading agreements would have been approximately \$0.5 billion. If the rating agencies had downgraded their long-term senior debt ratings for ML & Co. or certain subsidiaries by a second incremental notch, approximately \$0.6 billion in additional collateral would have been required.

Also, if the rating agencies had downgraded their long-term senior debt ratings for ML & Co. or certain subsidiaries by one incremental notch, the derivative liability that would be subject to unilateral termination by counterparties as of March 31, 2012 was \$1.3 billion, against which \$0.6 billion of collateral had been posted. Further, if the rating agencies had downgraded their long-term debt ratings for ML & Co. or certain subsidiaries by a second incremental notch, the derivative liability that would be subject to unilateral termination by counterparties as of March 31, 2012 was an incremental \$3.6 billion, against which \$3.4 billion of collateral had been posted.

While certain potential impacts are contractual and quantifiable, the full scope of consequences of a credit ratings downgrade to a financial institution are inherently uncertain, as they depend upon numerous dynamic, complex and inter-related factors and assumptions, including whether any downgrade of a firm's long-term credit ratings precipitates downgrades to its short-term credit ratings, and assumptions about the potential behaviors of various customers, investors and counterparties.

For information regarding the additional collateral and termination payments that would be required in connection with certain OTC derivative contracts and other trading agreements as a result of such a credit ratings downgrade, see Note 6 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements and Item 1A. "Risk Factors" of Merrill Lynch's 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

All three rating agencies have indicated that they will continue to assess fiscal projections and consolidation measures, as well as the medium-term economic outlook for the U.S.

Credit Risk Management

For information about our credit risk management activities, refer to Item 7A, "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk - Credit Risk Management" included in our 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

European Exposures

Certain European countries, including Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain, have experienced varying degrees of financial stress. Risks from the ongoing debt crisis in Europe could continue to disrupt the financial markets, which could have a detrimental impact on global economic conditions and sovereign and non-sovereign debt in these countries. Market sentiment improved during the quarter ended March 31, 2012, driven by a second long-term European Central Bank financing program and the successful Greek debt restructuring and bailout package that reinforced confidence in the financial system and solvency of systemically important banks. However, the lack of a clear resolution to the crisis and fears of contagion continue to contribute to market volatility.

The table below presents our direct sovereign and non-sovereign exposures in these countries at March 31, 2012. Our total sovereign and non-sovereign exposure to these countries was \$2.6 billion at March 31, 2012 compared with \$2.7 billion at December 31, 2011. Our total exposure to these countries, net of hedges, was \$1.3 billion at March 31, 2012 compared with \$1.1 billion at December 31, 2011. At March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the fair value of hedges and net credit default protection purchased was \$1.3 billion and \$1.6 billion, respectively.

Select European Countries

	Funded Loans		Unfunded	Net	Securities/	Country	Hedges and	Net Country
	and Loan		Loan	Counterparty	Other	Exposure	Credit	Exposure
(dollars in millions)	Equivalents		Commitments	Exposure ⁽¹⁾	Investments ⁽²⁾	March 31, 2012	Default Protection ⁽³⁾	March 31, 2012 ⁽⁴⁾
Country								
Greece								
Sovereign	\$	—	\$	—	\$	—	\$	(1)
Financial								
Institutions		—		2	—	2	(11)	(9)
Corporates		—		1	27	28	—	28
Total Greece	\$	—	\$	3	\$	27	\$	(12)
Ireland								
Sovereign	\$	—	\$	11	\$	1	12	12
Financial								
Institutions		46		9	126	36	(11)	206
Corporates		—		8	10	18	(14)	4
Total Ireland	\$	46	\$	9	\$	145	\$	(25)
Italy								
Sovereign	\$	—	\$	521	\$	625	1,146	668
Financial								
Institutions		—		218	81	299	(109)	190
Corporates		—		210	158	368	(268)	100
Total Italy	\$	—	\$	949	\$	864	\$	(855)
Portugal								
Sovereign	\$	—	\$	38	\$	6	44	23
Financial								
Institutions		—		16	1	17	(47)	(30)
Corporates		—		14	44	58	(121)	(63)
Total Portugal	\$	—	\$	68	\$	51	\$	(189)
Spain								
Sovereign	\$	—	\$	60	\$	5	65	(86)
Financial								
Institutions		2		91	74	167	(44)	123
Corporates		—		41	138	179	(40)	139
Total Spain	\$	2	\$	192	\$	217	\$	(235)
Total								
Sovereign	\$	—	\$	630	\$	637	1,267	616
Financial								
Institutions		48		9	453	192	(222)	480
Corporates		—		274	377	651	(443)	208
Total	\$	48	\$	9	\$	1,357	\$	(1,316)
								1,304

(1) Net counterparty exposure includes the fair value of derivatives and secured financing transactions. Derivatives have been reduced by all eligible collateral pledged under legally enforceable netting agreements. Secured financing transactions have been reduced by eligible cash or securities pledged. The notional amount of repurchase transactions was \$409 million at March 31, 2012. Counterparty exposure has not been reduced by hedges or credit default protection.

(2) Securities exposures are reduced by hedges and short positions on a single-name basis to, but not below,

zero.

(3) *Represents the fair value of credit default protection purchased, including (\$705) million in net credit default protection and other short positions, and (\$611) million in additional credit default protection to hedge derivative assets. Based on the credit default protection notional amount assuming zero recovery adjusted for any fair value receivable or payable.*

(4) *Represents country exposure less the fair value of hedges and credit default protection.*

We hedge certain of our selected European country exposure with credit default protection in the form of credit default swaps ("CDS"). The majority of our CDS contracts are with highly-rated financial institutions primarily outside of the Eurozone and we work to limit or eliminate correlated CDS. Due to our engagement in market-making activities, our CDS portfolio contains contracts with various maturities to a diverse set of counterparties.

Losses could still result even if there is credit default protection purchased because the purchased credit protection contracts only pay out under certain scenarios and thus not all losses may be covered by the credit protection contracts. The effectiveness of our CDS protection as a hedge of these risks is influenced by a number of factors, including the contractual terms of the CDS. Generally, only the occurrence of a credit event as defined by the CDS terms (which may include, among other events, the failure to pay by, or restructuring of, the reference entity) results in a payment under the purchased credit protection contracts. The determination as to whether a credit event has occurred is made by the relevant International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. ("ISDA") Determination Committee (comprised of various ISDA member firms) based on the terms of the CDS and facts and circumstances for the event. Accordingly, uncertainties exist as to whether any particular strategy or policy action for addressing the European debt crisis would constitute a credit event under the CDS. A voluntary restructuring may not trigger a credit event under CDS terms and consequently may not trigger a payment under the CDS contract.

On March 9, 2012, the majority of private holders of Greek sovereign bonds agreed to the restructure of bonds issued under Greek law. The ISDA EMEA Credit Derivatives Determination Committee declared the restructure a credit event, which led to a CDS auction on March 19, 2012. A final price of 21.5 cents to the euro was established and CDS holders received 78.5 cents to the euro.

For additional information on the debt crisis in Europe, see Item 1A. "Risk Factors" in our 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Not required pursuant to General Instruction H(2).

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

As of the end of the period covered by this report and pursuant to Rule 13a-15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”), Merrill Lynch’s management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of ML & Co., conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness and design of Merrill Lynch’s disclosure controls and procedures (as that term is defined in Rule 13a-15(e) of the Exchange Act). Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that Merrill Lynch’s disclosure controls and procedures were effective, as of the end of the period covered by this report, in recording, processing, summarizing and reporting information required to be disclosed by ML & Co. in reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act, within the time periods specified in the SEC’s rules and forms.

In addition, no change in Merrill Lynch’s internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) occurred during the quarter ended March 31, 2012 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, Merrill Lynch’s internal control over financial reporting.

PART II - Other Information

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

Legal and Regulatory Matters

See Note 14 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, which is incorporated herein by reference in this Item 1, for litigation and regulatory matters that supplement the disclosure in Note 14 to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Merrill Lynch's 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There are no material changes from the risk factors set forth under Part I, Item 1A. "Risk Factors" in Merrill Lynch's 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Item 6. Exhibits

An exhibit index has been filed as part of this report and is incorporated herein by reference.

SIGNATURES

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

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.
(Registrant)

By: /s/ JENNIFER M. HILL

Jennifer M. Hill
Chief Financial Officer

By: /s/ PETER D. TAUBE

Peter D. Taube
Chief Accounting Officer and Controller

Date: May 3, 2012

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description</u>
12	Statement re: computation of ratios. ⁽¹⁾
31.1	Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of the Chief Executive Officer. ⁽¹⁾
31.2	Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of the Chief Financial Officer. ⁽¹⁾
32.1	Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. ⁽¹⁾
32.2	Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. ⁽¹⁾
101	The following materials from Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2012, formatted in XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language): (i) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of (Loss) Earnings, (ii) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive (Loss) Income, (iii) the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets, (iv) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, and (v) the Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, tagged as blocks of text. ⁽¹⁾

(1) Included herewith

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
COMPUTATION OF RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND
COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS
(dollars in millions)

	Successor Company				Predecessor Company
	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	Year Ended December 31, 2011	Year Ended December 31, 2010	Year Ended December 31, 2009	Year Ended December 26, 2008
Pre-tax (loss) earnings (a)	\$ (2,037)	\$ (5,446)	\$ 2,708	\$ 6,455	\$ (45,438)
Add: Fixed charges (excluding capitalized interest and preferred security dividend requirements of subsidiaries)	1,982	9,098	9,935	12,341	29,641
Pre-tax (loss) earnings before fixed charges	\$ (55)	\$ 3,652	\$ 12,643	\$ 18,796	\$ (15,797)
Fixed charges:					
Interest	\$ 1,906	\$ 8,785	\$ 9,621	\$ 12,041	\$ 29,349
Other (b)	76	313	314	300	292
Total fixed charges	\$ 1,982	\$ 9,098	\$ 9,935	\$ 12,341	\$ 29,641
Preferred stock dividend requirements	—	—	140	141	4,356
Total combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	\$ 1,982	\$ 9,098	\$ 10,075	\$ 12,482	\$ 33,997
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	*	*	1.27	1.52	*
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	*	*	1.25	1.51	*

On January 1, 2009, Merrill Lynch (the "Predecessor Company") was acquired by Bank of America through the merger of a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of America with and into ML & Co. with ML & Co. (the "Successor Company") continuing as the surviving corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of America. The Predecessor Company and Successor Company periods have been separated by a vertical line above to highlight the fact that the financial information for such periods has been prepared under two different cost bases of accounting.

(a) Excludes undistributed earnings (loss) from equity investments and earnings from discontinued operations.

(b) Other fixed charges consist of the interest factor in rentals, amortization of debt issuance costs and preferred security dividend requirements of subsidiaries.

*The earnings for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and for the years 2011 and 2008 were inadequate to cover total fixed charges and total fixed charges and preferred stock dividends.

The coverage deficiencies for total fixed charges for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and for the years 2011 and 2008 were \$2,037 million, \$5,446 million and \$45,438 million, respectively.

The coverage deficiencies for total fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and for the years 2011 and 2008 were \$2,037 million, \$5,446 million and \$49,794 million, respectively.

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 302
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002
FOR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

I, Thomas K. Montag, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2012 of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: May 3, 2012

/s/ Thomas K. Montag

Thomas K. Montag
Chief Executive Officer

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 302
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002
FOR THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

I, Jennifer M. Hill, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2012 of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: May 3, 2012

/s/ Jennifer M. Hill

Jennifer M. Hill
Chief Financial Officer

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2012 of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (the “registrant”) as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the “Report”), I, Thomas K. Montag, Chief Executive Officer of the registrant, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the registrant.

Date: May 3, 2012

/s/ THOMAS K. MONTAG

Thomas K. Montag
Chief Executive Officer

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2012 of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (the “registrant”) as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the “Report”), I, Jennifer M. Hill, Chief Financial Officer of the registrant, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the registrant.

Date: May 3, 2012

/s/ Jennifer M. Hill

Jennifer M. Hill
Chief Financial Officer