

---

---

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

---

**FORM 8-K**

---

**CURRENT REPORT**

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

**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): May 7, 2012**

---

**ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**001-34569**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**26-0489289**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**53 Forest Avenue**  
**Old Greenwich, CT 06870**  
(Address and zip code of principal executive offices)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (203) 698-1200**

---

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
- 
-

**Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.**

The information in this Item 2.02 and the disclosure incorporated by reference in Item 7.01 with respect to Exhibit 99.1 attached to this Current Report on Form 8-K are being furnished by Ellington Financial LLC (the "Company") pursuant to Item 7.01 of Form 8-K in satisfaction of the public disclosure requirements of Regulation FD and Item 2.02 of Form 8-K, insofar as they disclose historical information regarding the Company's results of operations or financial condition for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2011.

On May 7, 2012, the Company issued a press release announcing its financial results for the quarter ended March 31, 2012. A copy of the press release is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.**

The disclosure contained in Item 2.02 is incorporated herein by reference.

The information contained in this Current Report on Form 8-K (including Exhibit 99.2 attached hereto) is being furnished by Ellington Financial LLC (the "Company") pursuant to Item 7.01 of Form 8-K in satisfaction of the public disclosure requirements of Regulation FD.

On May 7, 2012, the Company issued a press release announcing its estimated book value per common share as of April 30, 2012. A copy of the press release is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.2 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

In accordance with General Instructions B.2 and B.6 of Form 8-K, the information included in this Current Report on Form 8-K (including the information included in Item 2.02, the information included in and incorporated by reference in this Item 7.01, Exhibit 99.1 and Exhibit 99.2 hereto), shall not be deemed "filed" for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing made by the Company under the Exchange Act or the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

**Item 8.01. Other Events.**

On May 7, 2012, the Company issued a press release announcing that its Board of Directors had declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.70 per share for the first quarter of 2012. The dividend will be paid on June 15, 2012 to shareholders of record on June 1, 2012. The Company's management also announced that, subject to the ultimate discretion of the Board of Directors, it expected to continue to recommend dividends of \$0.70 per share until conditions warrant otherwise. In addition, at the end of any year the Board of Directors will take into account the Company's earnings and other factors and will consider whether to declare a special dividend. The declaration of dividends and the amount of such dividends are at the discretion of the Board of Directors. A copy of the press release is filed herewith as Exhibit 99.3 to this current report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) *Exhibits.* The following exhibit is being furnished herewith this Current Report on Form 8-K.

- 99.1 Earnings Press Release dated May 7, 2012
- 99.2 Estimated Book Value Press Release dated May 7, 2012
- 99.3 Dividend Press Release dated May 7, 2012



---

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Earnings Press Release dated May 7, 2012
99.2	Estimated Book Value Press Release dated May 7, 2012
99.3	Dividend Press Release dated May 7, 2012

## Ellington Financial LLC Reports First Quarter 2012 Results

OLD GREENWICH, Connecticut—May 7, 2012

Ellington Financial LLC (NYSE: EFC) (the “Company”) today reported financial results for the quarter ended March 31, 2012.

### Highlights

- Net increase in shareholders’ equity resulting from operations (“net income”) for the first quarter was \$32.1 million, or \$1.90 per basic and diluted share. The Company benefited from strong performance in both its non-Agency and Agency MBS strategies.
- Book value per share as of March 31, 2012 was \$23.53 on a diluted basis after payment of a \$0.40 per share fourth quarter dividend on March 15, 2012, as compared to book value per share of \$22.03 on a diluted basis as of December 31, 2011.
- The Company’s non-Agency MBS strategy generated income of \$28.7 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2012. Performance was driven by yield earned on assets, trading gains, and higher asset valuations, a portion of which was monetized through sales.
- The Company’s Agency RMBS strategy again performed well, generating \$6.3 million in income during the quarter, driven by the Company’s continued strategy to invest in and actively trade pools with prepayment-protection characteristics.
- The Company announced a dividend for the first quarter of 2012 of \$0.70 per share payable on June 15, 2012 to shareholders of record on June 1, 2012.

### First Quarter 2012 Results

For the first quarter of 2012, the Company recognized net income of \$32.1 million, or \$1.90 per diluted share. This compares to net income of \$1.7 million, or \$0.10 per diluted share, for the quarter ended December 31, 2011. The Company’s reported results reflected strong performance from both of its strategies—non-Agency MBS, including CMBS, as well as Agency RMBS.

The Company’s non-Agency strategy generated income in the amount of \$28.7 million, or \$1.70 per diluted share. During the quarter, market appetite for non-Agency MBS improved (as highlighted by the successful Maiden Lane II sales), and many of the factors that had contributed to the downward valuation trend in non-Agency MBS in 2011 eased (such as large-scale selling by banks and dealers). As a result, the Company benefited from higher valuations broadly across its non-Agency MBS portfolio, including in the 2006 and 2007 subprime/Alt-A/Alt-B sectors into which the Company had rotated a significant portion of its portfolio in the second half of 2011. In addition, the confluence of positive market events led to opportunities for the Company to realize trading gains during the quarter. Of the \$28.7 million of income from the non-Agency strategy, \$6.5 million was related to realized trading gains arising from non-Agency MBS portfolio turnover during the quarter. For the quarter, portfolio turnover was approximately 31% on a non-annualized basis. Portfolio turnover is based on sales proceeds during the quarter as a percentage of average non-Agency MBS assets. The Company’s non-Agency MBS strategy results for the quarter also included \$1.5 million of income from its CMBS and commercial mortgage loan holdings. While representing a small portion of the portfolio, this sector performed well during the quarter as credit spreads tightened on recently issued CMBS and the Company took the opportunity to monetize some of these gains through portfolio sales.

In response to reverse inquiries from counterparties, the Company was also able to realize additional trading gains by terminating certain of its CDS on Individual RMBS contracts at what it believed to be very attractive levels.

The strong returns in the Company’s non-Agency MBS strategy were augmented by strong returns in its Agency RMBS strategy, which generated \$6.3 million in income for the quarter ended March 31, 2012. In this strategy, the Company continued to invest in pools with prepayment-protection characteristics (known as “prepayment-protected” pools) such as those comprised of low loan balance mortgages and those containing mortgages not eligible for one of the government-sponsored refinancing programs. The Company’s Agency pools continued to prepay slowly, both on an absolute basis and relative to their generic TBA counterparts, which allowed the Company to capture greater net carry income on its Agency RMBS portfolio. Even more importantly, superior actual and forecast prepayment performance relative to TBAs led to significant price gains for these Agency pools. By actively trading and rotating between sectors, the Company monetized many of these gains. The Company’s Agency RMBS activity in the first quarter of 2012 was a continuation of its Agency RMBS activity in the fourth quarter of 2011, with similarly strong results. However, as the price premiums for many prepayment-protected pools have increased recently, the Company continues to focus its research efforts on uncovering additional pool characteristics not fully valued by the market that would provide additional prepayment protection.

One gauge that the Company uses to measure its overall prepayment risk is the Company's net Agency premium as a percentage of its long Agency RMBS holdings. Net Agency premium represents the total premium (excess of market value over outstanding principal balance) on long Agency RMBS holdings less the total premium on net short (TBA) Agency RMBS positions. The lower its net Agency premium, the less the Company believes it is exposed to market-wide increases in Agency RMBS prepayments. As of March 31, 2012, net Agency premium as a percentage of fair value on long Agency RMBS holdings represents less than 2%.

The Company prepares its financial statements in accordance with ASC 946, *Financial Services—Investment Companies*. As a result, investments are carried at fair value and all valuation changes are recorded in the Consolidated Statement of Operations.

The Company also measures its performance through net-asset-value-based total return. Net-asset-value-based total return measures the change in the Company's book value per share, and assumes the reinvestment of dividends at book value per share. For the quarter ended March 31, 2012, net-asset-value-based total return was 8.66%. Net-asset-value-based total return from inception of the Company (August 17, 2007) through March 31, 2012 was 72.76%.

"We are pleased to report our financial results for the first quarter of 2012," said Laurence Penn, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Company. "Our non-annualized return on equity for the quarter was 8.4%, strong results by almost any measure. The non-Agency MBS market improved significantly during the quarter, as many of the technical factors that had depressed prices in 2011 began to show signs of abating. There was noticeably less selling by banks during the quarter, and the successful disposition by the Fed of assets held in the Maiden Lane II portfolio actually bolstered the market for non-Agency MBS. Meanwhile, the European debt crisis, while still a concern, weighed less on the market. We are reaping the benefits of the portfolio decisions we made in 2011, namely to add non-Agency MBS assets overall and to increase our exposure to some of the higher-yielding sectors within that asset class. Our strong performance was not confined to our non-Agency MBS strategy, as our Agency RMBS strategy – with its emphasis on prepayment-protected sectors, active trading, and tight interest rate risk management – continued to perform extremely well."

"Consistent with these results, and in light of the high-yielding portfolio that we have built along with our expectations for a continued excellent investment environment, our Board of Directors recently increased our dividend to \$0.70 per share for the first quarter of 2012," Mr. Penn continued. "Subject to the ultimate discretion of our Board of Directors, management expects to continue to recommend this amount as a quarterly dividend until conditions warrant otherwise. In addition, at the end of any year the Board of Directors will take into account the Company's earnings and other factors and will consider whether to declare a special dividend."

The following table summarizes the Company's operating results for the quarters ended March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

	Quarter Ended 3/31/12	Per Share	% of Average Shareholders' Equity	Quarter Ended 12/31/11	Per Share	% of Average Shareholders' Equity
<i>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</i>						
<b>Non-Agency MBS and Commercial Mortgage Loans:</b>						
Interest income	\$ 9,565	\$ 0.57	2.50%	\$ 10,093	\$ 0.60	2.71%
Net realized gain (loss)	6,545	0.39	1.71%	(157)	(0.01)	-0.04%
Net change in net unrealized gain (loss)	19,430	1.15	5.07%	(7,726)	(0.46)	-2.07%
Net interest rate hedges	138	0.01	0.03%	(89)	(0.01)	-0.02%
Net credit hedges	(5,825)	(0.35)	-1.52%	(3,120)	(0.18)	-0.84%
Interest expense	(1,179)	(0.07)	-0.31%	(1,194)	(0.07)	-0.32%
<b>Total non-Agency MBS and Commercial Mortgage Loans profit (loss)</b>	<b>28,674</b>	<b>1.70</b>	<b>7.48%</b>	<b>(2,193)</b>	<b>(0.13)</b>	<b>-0.58%</b>
<b>Agency RMBS:</b>						
Interest income	6,082	0.36	1.59%	5,327	0.32	1.43%
Net realized gain	6,815	0.40	1.78%	12,854	0.76	3.45%
Net change in net unrealized loss	(3,925)	(0.23)	-1.02%	(6,055)	(0.36)	-1.62%
Net interest rate hedges	(2,066)	(0.12)	-0.54%	(5,123)	(0.30)	-1.37%
Interest expense	(572)	(0.03)	-0.15%	(583)	(0.04)	-0.16%
<b>Total Agency RMBS profit</b>	<b>6,334</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>1.66%</b>	<b>6,420</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>1.73%</b>
<b>Total non-Agency and Agency MBS and Commercial Mortgage Loans profit</b>	<b>35,008</b>	<b>2.08</b>	<b>9.14%</b>	<b>4,227</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>1.15%</b>
Other interest expense, net	(12)	—	0.00%	(4)	—	0.00%
Other expenses (excluding incentive fee)	(2,941)	(0.18)	-0.77%	(2,522)	(0.15)	-0.68%
<b>Net increase in shareholders' equity resulting from operations (before incentive fee)</b>	<b>32,055</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>8.37%</b>	<b>1,701</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.47%</b>
Incentive fee	—	—	0.00%	—	—	0.00%
<b>Net increase in shareholders' equity resulting from operations</b>	<b>\$ 32,055</b>	<b>\$ 1.90</b>	<b>8.37%</b>	<b>\$ 1,701</b>	<b>\$ 0.10</b>	<b>0.47%</b>
Weighted average shares & LTIP units outstanding	16,838			16,871		
Average shareholder's equity <sup>(1)</sup>	\$383,038			\$373,084		

<sup>(1)</sup> Average shareholders' equity is calculated using month end values.

## Portfolio

The following tables summarize the Company's portfolio holdings as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

### Bond Portfolio

(In thousands)	March 31, 2012					December 31, 2011				
	Current Principal	Fair Value	Average Price <sup>(1)</sup>	Cost	Average Cost <sup>(1)</sup>	Current Principal	Fair Value	Average Price <sup>(1)</sup>	Cost	Average Cost <sup>(1)</sup>
Non-Agency RMBS <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 716,516	\$ 407,197	\$ 56.83	\$ 416,520	\$ 58.13	\$ 736,869	\$ 410,109	\$ 55.66	\$ 437,103	\$ 59.32
Non-Agency CMBS and Commercial Mortgage Loans	22,004	16,671	75.76	18,274	83.05	30,611	20,493	66.95	23,856	77.93
Total Non-Agency MBS and Commercial Mortgage Loans	738,520	423,868	57.39	434,794	58.87	767,480	430,602	56.11	460,959	60.06
Agency RMBS: <sup>(3)</sup>										
Floating	22,741	24,065	105.82	23,509	103.38	35,988	37,956	105.47	37,342	103.76
Fixed	708,867	753,353	106.28	747,803	105.49	643,215	689,018	107.12	679,168	105.59
Total Agency RMBS	731,608	777,418	106.26	771,312	105.43	679,203	726,974	107.03	716,510	105.49
Total Non-Agency and Agency MBS and Commercial Mortgage Loans	<u>\$1,470,128</u>	<u>\$1,201,286</u>	<u>\$ 81.71</u>	<u>\$1,206,106</u>	<u>\$ 82.04</u>	<u>\$1,446,683</u>	<u>\$1,157,576</u>	<u>\$ 80.02</u>	<u>\$1,177,469</u>	<u>\$ 81.39</u>
Agency Interest Only RMBS	n/a	\$ 6,016	n/a	\$ 7,663	n/a	n/a	\$ 5,337	n/a	\$ 7,416	n/a
Non-Agency Interest Only RMBS and Other	n/a	\$ 1,033	n/a	\$ 1,102	n/a	n/a	\$ 7,424	n/a	\$ 7,482	n/a
TBAs:										
Long	\$ 16,500	\$ 17,249	\$ 104.54	\$ 17,291	\$ 104.79	\$ 30,500	\$ 32,033	\$ 105.03	\$ 31,845	\$ 104.41
Short	(534,680)	(566,366)	105.93	(566,348)	105.92	(416,900)	(446,707)	107.15	(443,893)	106.47
Net Short TBAs	<u>\$ (518,180)</u>	<u>\$ (549,117)</u>	<u>\$ 105.97</u>	<u>\$ (549,057)</u>	<u>\$ 105.96</u>	<u>\$ (386,400)</u>	<u>\$ (414,674)</u>	<u>\$ 107.32</u>	<u>\$ (412,048)</u>	<u>\$ 106.64</u>
U.S. Treasury Securities:										
Long	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,113	\$ 101.13	\$ 9,991	\$ 99.91
Short	(13,000)	(13,486)	103.74	(13,099)	100.76	(15,000)	(15,687)	104.58	(15,120)	100.80
Net Short U.S. Treasury Securities	<u>\$ (13,000)</u>	<u>\$ (13,486)</u>	<u>\$ 103.74</u>	<u>\$ (13,099)</u>	<u>\$ 100.76</u>	<u>\$ (5,000)</u>	<u>\$ (5,574)</u>	<u>\$ 111.48</u>	<u>\$ (5,129)</u>	<u>\$ 102.58</u>
Repurchase Agreements	\$ 13,650	\$ 13,650	\$ 100.00	\$ 13,650	\$ 100.00	\$ 15,750	\$ 15,750	\$ 100.00	\$ 15,750	\$ 100.00
Total Net Investments		<u>\$ 659,382</u>		<u>\$ 666,365</u>			<u>\$ 765,839</u>		<u>\$ 790,940</u>	

(1) Represents the dollar amount, per \$100 of current principal of the price or cost for the security.

(2) Excludes Interest Only and similar securities.

(3) Excludes Interest Only securities and TBAs.

Non-Agency RMBS and CMBS are generally securitized in senior/subordinated structures, or in excess spread/over-collateralization structures. Disregarding TBAs, Agency RMBS consist primarily of whole-pool pass through certificates.

The Company actively invests in the TBA market. TBAs are forward-settling Agency RMBS where the mortgage pass-through certificates to be delivered are "To-Be Announced." Given that the Company uses TBAs primarily to hedge risks associated with its long Agency RMBS (and to a lesser extent long non-Agency MBS), the Company generally carries a net short TBA position.

	March 31, 2012		December 31, 2011	
	Notional Value	Fair Value	Notional Value	Fair Value
<i>(In thousands)</i>				
Long Mortgage Related: <sup>(1)</sup>				
CDS on RMBS and CMBS Indices	\$ 19,800	\$(11,508)	\$ 22,615	\$(9,548)
Total Long Mortgage Related Derivatives	19,800	(11,508)	22,615	(9,548)
Net Short Mortgage Related: <sup>(2) (3)</sup>				
CDS on RMBS and CMBS Indices	(86,819)	36,195	(82,642)	40,303
CDS on Individual RMBS	(57,875)	48,746	(74,787)	61,498
Total Net Short Mortgage Related Derivatives	(144,694)	84,941	(157,429)	101,801
Net Mortgage Related Derivatives	(124,894)	73,433	(134,814)	92,253
Short CDS on Corporate Bond Indices	(78,250)	(364)	(106,500)	963
Short Total Return Swaps on Corporate Equities <sup>(4)</sup>	(22,446)	(249)	(20,571)	(274)
Interest Rate Derivatives:				
Net Interest Rate Swaps <sup>(2)</sup>	(205,700)	(6,010)	(300,900)	(17,123)
Eurodollar Futures <sup>(5)</sup>	(126,000)	(52)	(147,000)	12
Total Net Interest Rate Derivatives	(331,700)	(6,062)	(447,900)	(17,111)
Total Net Derivatives	<u>\$(557,290)</u>	<u>\$ 66,758</u>	<u>\$(709,785)</u>	<u>\$ 75,831</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> Long mortgage-related derivatives represent transactions where the Company sold credit protection to a counterparty.

<sup>(2)</sup> In the table above, CDS transactions involving the same underlying security but with different counterparties are shown on a net basis. Additionally, long and short interest rate swaps are shown net. The accompanying financial statements separate derivative transactions as either assets or liabilities. As of March 31, 2012, derivative assets and derivative liabilities were \$94.1 million and \$27.3 million, respectively, for a net fair value of \$66.8 million, as reflected in "Total Derivatives" above. As of December 31, 2011, derivative assets and derivative liabilities were \$102.9 million and \$27.0 million, respectively, for a net fair value of \$75.8 million, as reflected in "Total Derivatives" above.

<sup>(3)</sup> Short mortgage-related derivatives represent transactions where the Company purchased credit protection from a counterparty.

<sup>(4)</sup> Notional value represents number of underlying shares or par value times the closing price of the underlying security.

<sup>(5)</sup> Every \$1 million in notional value represents one contract.

The Company's short positions in RMBS and CMBS indices remained concentrated in MBS vintage years 2006 and 2007 and short total return swaps on corporate equities are principally short equity positions in certain publicly traded, commercial property REITs.

The following table summarizes, as of March 31, 2012, the estimated effects on the value of our portfolio, both overall and by category, of hypothetical, immediate 50 basis point downward and upward parallel shifts in interest rates.

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Estimated Change in Value <sup>(1)</sup>	
	50 Basis Point Decline in Interest Rates	50 Basis Point Increase in Interest Rates
Agency ARM Pools	\$ 58	\$ (99)
Agency Fixed Pools and IOs	10,391	(14,815)
TBAs	(7,274)	11,232
Non-Agency RMBS, CMBS and Commercial		
Mortgage Loans	5,654	(5,798)
Interest Rate Swaps	(5,023)	4,842
U.S. Treasury Securities	(275)	268
Eurodollar Futures	(156)	156
Mortgage-Related Derivatives	(1,072)	634
Repurchase Agreements and Reverse		
Repurchase Agreements	(308)	404
	<u>\$ 1,995</u>	<u>\$ (3,176)</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> Based on the market environment as of March 31, 2012. The preceding analysis does not include sensitivities to changes in interest rates for our derivatives on corporate securities (whether debt or equity-related), or other categories of instruments for which we believe that the effect of a change in interest rates is not material to the value of the overall portfolio and/or cannot be accurately estimated. Results are based on forward-looking models, which are inherently imperfect, and incorporate various simplifying assumptions. Therefore, the table above is for illustrative purposes only and actual changes in interest rates would likely cause changes in the actual value of our portfolio that would differ from those presented above and such differences might be significant and adverse.

### Borrowed Funds and Liquidity<sup>(1)</sup>

*By Collateral Type*

<u>Collateral for Borrowing</u> <i>(In thousands)</i>	As of March 31, 2012	For the Quarter Ended March 31, 2012		As of December 31, 2011	For the Quarter Ended December 31, 2011	
	Outstanding Borrowings	Average Borrowings for the Quarter Ended	Average Cost of Funds	Outstanding Borrowings	Average Borrowings for the Quarter Ended	Average Cost of Funds
Non-Agency RMBS, CMBS and Other	\$ 224,280	\$ 231,496	2.02%	\$ 235,881	\$ 229,450	2.08%
Agency RMBS	697,126	657,354	0.35%	660,329	686,363	0.34%
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$ 921,406</u>	<u>\$ 888,850</u>	<u>0.78%</u>	<u>\$ 896,210</u>	<u>\$ 915,813</u>	<u>0.78%</u>
Leverage Ratio <sup>(2)</sup>		2.33:1		2.42:1		

<sup>(1)</sup> Borrowed amounts exclude \$1.5 million in securitized debt, representing long term financing for the related asset.

<sup>(2)</sup> The leverage ratio does not account for liabilities other than debt financings. The Company's debt financings consist solely of reverse repurchase agreements ("reverse repos") and a securitized debt financing in the amount of \$1.5 million.

By Remaining Maturity <sup>(1)(2)</sup>

(In thousands)	As of March 31, 2012		As of December 31, 2011	
	Outstanding Borrowings	% of Borrowings	Outstanding Borrowings	% of Borrowings
<b>Remaining Maturity <sup>(3)</sup></b>				
30 Days or Less	\$ 520,213	56.5%	\$ 558,695	62.4%
31-60 Days	156,280	17.0%	249,961	27.9%
61-90 Days	99,058	10.7%	37,976	4.2%
91-120 Days	87,336	9.5%	—	0.0%
121-150 Days	—	0.0%	4,343	0.5%
151-180 Days	58,519	6.3%	45,235	5.0%
181-360 Days	—	0.0%	—	0.0%
	<u>\$ 921,406</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>\$ 896,210</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> Borrowed amounts above exclude \$1.5 million in securitized debt, representing long term financing for the related asset.

<sup>(2)</sup> Reverse repos involving underlying investments that the Company had sold prior to the applicable period end for settlement following the applicable period end, are shown using their original maturity dates even though such reverse repos may be expected to be terminated early upon settlement of the sale of the underlying investment. Not included are any reverse repos that the Company may have entered into prior to the applicable period end for which we will not take delivery of the borrowed funds until after the applicable period end.

<sup>(3)</sup> Remaining maturity for a reverse repo is based on the contractual maturity date in effect as of the applicable period end. Some reverse repos have floating interest rates, which may reset before maturity.

The vast majority of the Company's borrowed funds are in the form of reverse repos. Aside from borrowings under reverse repos, as of March 31, 2012, the Company also had securitized debt outstanding in the amount of \$1.5 million. The weighted average remaining term on the Company's reverse repos as of March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 were 43 and 33 days, respectively. The Company's borrowings outstanding under reverse repos were with a total of eleven counterparties as of March 31, 2012 as compared to nine as of December 31, 2011. As of March 31, 2012, the Company had liquid assets in the form of cash and cash equivalents in the amount of \$51.5 million. In addition, at March 31, 2012, the Company held investments in unencumbered Agency pools on a settlement date basis in the amount of \$75.3 million.

### Hedging Summary

The following table summarizes the components of the Company's hedging results for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

(In thousands)	Quarter Ended March 31, 2012				Quarter Ended December 31, 2011			
	Net Interest Expense	Realized Gain (Loss)	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Total	Net Interest Expense	Realized Gain (Loss)	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Total
<b>Hedges:</b>								
Interest Rate Swaps	\$ (931)	\$ (8,931)	\$ 10,576	\$ 714	\$(1,299)	\$ (1,937)	\$ 2,025	\$(1,211)
Eurodollar Futures	—	(8)	(63)	(71)	—	1	12	13
Net TBA's Held Short	—	(4,681)	2,567	(2,114)	—	(625)	(3,310)	(3,935)
Net U.S. Treasuries Held Short	17	(532)	58	(457)	(71)	(333)	325	(79)
Total Interest Rate Hedges	<u>(914)</u>	<u>(14,152)</u>	<u>13,138</u>	<u>(1,928)</u>	<u>(1,370)</u>	<u>(2,894)</u>	<u>(948)</u>	<u>(5,212)</u>
<b>Credit Hedges<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<u>(391)</u>	<u>(9,135)</u>	<u>3,701</u>	<u>(5,825)</u>	<u>(454)</u>	<u>3,448</u>	<u>(6,114)</u>	<u>(3,120)</u>
Total Hedges	<u>\$(1,305)</u>	<u>\$(23,287)</u>	<u>\$ 16,839</u>	<u>\$(7,753)</u>	<u>\$(1,824)</u>	<u>\$ 554</u>	<u>\$ (7,062)</u>	<u>\$(8,332)</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> Net interest expense represents fixed rate periodic payments made by the Company.

### Other

The Company's base management fee and other operating expenses, but excluding interest expense and incentive fees, represent 3.1% and 2.7% on an annualized basis of average shareholders' equity for each of the quarters ended March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively. No incentive fees were incurred for the quarters ended March 31, 2012 or December 31, 2011.

## Dividends

During the quarter ended March 31, 2012, the Company paid a dividend for the fourth quarter of 2011 in the amount of \$0.40 per share. Dividends paid related to 2011 totaled \$1.60 per share.

On May 7, 2012, the Company's Board of Directors declared a first quarter 2012 dividend of \$0.70 per share, payable on June 15, 2012 to shareholders of record on June 1, 2012. The Company's management also announced that, subject to the ultimate discretion of the Board of Directors, it expected to continue to recommend dividends of \$0.70 per common share until conditions warrant otherwise. In addition, at the end of any year the Board of Directors will take into account the Company's earnings and other factors and will consider whether to declare a special dividend.

## Share Repurchase Program

On August 4, 2011, the Company's Board of Directors approved the adoption of a \$10 million share repurchase program. The program, which is open-ended in duration, allows the Company to make repurchases from time to time on the open market or in negotiated transactions. Repurchases are at the Company's discretion, subject to applicable law, share availability, price and the Company's financial performance, among other considerations. To date, the Company has repurchased 60,980 shares under this program at an aggregate cost of \$1.1 million, or an average cost per share of \$17.22. No additional shares were purchased during the quarter ended March 31, 2012.

## About Ellington Financial LLC

Ellington Financial LLC is a specialty finance company that acquires and manages mortgage-related assets, including residential mortgage-backed securities backed by prime jumbo, Alt-A, manufactured housing and subprime residential mortgage loans, residential mortgage-backed securities for which the principal and interest payments are guaranteed by a U.S. government agency or a U.S. government-sponsored enterprise, mortgage-related derivatives, commercial mortgage-backed securities, commercial mortgage loans and other commercial real estate debt, as well as corporate debt and equity securities and derivatives. Ellington Financial LLC is externally managed and advised by Ellington Financial Management LLC, an affiliate of Ellington Management Group LLC.

## Conference Call

The Company will host a conference call at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, to discuss its financial results for the quarter ended March 31, 2012. To participate in the event by telephone, please dial (877) 941-2333 at least 10 minutes prior to the start time and reference the conference passcode 4535247. International callers should dial (480) 629-9821 and reference the same passcode. The conference call will also be webcast live over the Internet and can be accessed via the "For Our Shareholders" section of the Company's web site at [www.ellingtonfinancial.com](http://www.ellingtonfinancial.com). To listen to the live webcast, please visit [www.ellingtonfinancial.com](http://www.ellingtonfinancial.com) at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the call to register, download, and install necessary audio software. In connection with the release of these financial results, the Company also posted an investor presentation, that will accompany the conference call, on its website at [www.ellingtonfinancial.com](http://www.ellingtonfinancial.com) under "For Our Shareholders—Presentations."

A dial-in replay of the conference call will be available on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at approximately 2 p.m. Eastern Time through Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at approximately 2 p.m. Eastern Time. To access this replay, please dial (800) 406-7325 and enter the conference ID number 4535247. International callers should dial (303) 590-3030 and enter the same conference ID number. A replay of the conference call will also be archived on the Company's web site at [www.ellingtonfinancial.com](http://www.ellingtonfinancial.com).

## Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

*This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements involve numerous risks and uncertainties. Our actual results may differ from our beliefs, expectations, estimates, and projections and, consequently, you should not rely on these forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. Forward-looking statements are not historical in nature and can be identified by words such as "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "project," "plan," "continue," "intend," "should," "would," "could," "goal," "objective," "will," "may," "seek," or similar expressions or their negative forms, or by references to strategy, plans, or intentions. Examples of forward-looking statements in this press release include without limitation management's beliefs regarding the current investment environment and the Company's ability to implement its investment and hedging strategies, performance of the Company's investment and hedging strategies, the Company's exposure to prepayment risk in its Agency portfolio, management's beliefs regarding the current economic environment and housing market including projections regarding yields on investments, estimated effects on the fair value of the Company's MBS and interest rate derivative holdings of a hypothetical change in interest rates, statements regarding the Company's intended dividend policy and share repurchase program including the amount of shares to be repurchased. The Company's results can fluctuate from month to month and from quarter to quarter depending on a variety of factors, some of which are beyond the Company's control and/or are difficult to*

predict, including, without limitation, changes in interest rates and the market value of the Company's securities, changes in mortgage default rates and prepayment rates, the Company's ability to borrow to finance its assets, changes in government regulations affecting the Company's business, the Company's ability to maintain its exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and other changes in market conditions and economic trends. Furthermore, forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, including, among other things, those described under Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on March 14, 2012 which can be accessed through the Company's website at [www.ellingtonfinancial.com](http://www.ellingtonfinancial.com) or at the SEC's website ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)). Other risks, uncertainties, and factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected may be described from time to time in reports we file with the SEC, including reports on Forms 10-Q, 10-K and 8-K. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

**Investor Contact:**

Neha Mathur  
Vice President  
Ellington Financial LLC  
(203) 409-3575

**Media Contact:**

Shawn Pattison or Dana Gorman  
The Abernathy MacGregor Group, for  
Ellington Financial LLC  
(212) 371-5999

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
(UNAUDITED)

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
<i>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</i>		
<b>Investment income</b>		
Interest income	\$ 15,733	\$ 15,442
<b>Expenses</b>		
Base management fee	1,492	1,396
Incentive fee	—	—
Interest expense	1,832	1,874
Other operating expenses	1,449	1,126
Total expenses	4,773	4,396
<b>Net investment income</b>	10,960	11,046
<b>Net realized gain (loss) on:</b>		
Investments	8,147	11,739
Swaps	(19,928)	(571)
Futures	(8)	1
	(11,789)	11,169
<b>Change in net unrealized gain (loss) on:</b>		
Investments	18,130	(16,766)
Swaps	14,817	(3,760)
Futures	(63)	12
	32,884	(20,514)
<b>Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments and financial derivatives</b>	21,095	(9,345)
<b>Net increase in shareholders' equity resulting from operations</b>	\$ 32,055	\$ 1,701
<b>Net increase in shareholders' equity resulting from operations per share:</b>		
Basic and diluted	\$ 1.90	\$ 0.10

ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY  
(UNAUDITED)

	As of	
	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011 <sup>(1)</sup>
<i>(In thousands, except share amounts)</i>		
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 51,546	\$ 62,737
Investments, financial derivatives and repurchase agreements:		
Investments at fair value (Cost—\$1,232,162 and \$1,234,203)	1,225,584	1,212,483
Financial derivatives—assets at fair value (Cost—\$105,906 and \$118,281)	94,056	102,871
Repurchase agreements (Cost—\$13,650 and \$15,750)	13,650	15,750
Total Investments, financial derivatives and repurchase agreements	1,333,290	1,331,104
Deposits with dealers held as collateral	32,362	34,163
Receivable for securities sold	642,218	533,708
Interest and principal receivable	6,138	6,127
Other assets	1,024	216
Total assets	<u>\$2,066,578</u>	<u>\$1,968,055</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Investments and financial derivatives:		
Investments sold short at fair value (Proceeds—\$579,447 and \$459,013)	\$ 579,852	\$ 462,394
Financial derivatives—liabilities at fair value (Proceeds—\$21,088 and \$9,636)	27,298	27,040
Total investments and financial derivatives	607,150	489,434
Reverse repurchase agreements	921,406	896,210
Due to brokers on margin accounts	65,497	79,735
Payable for securities purchased	70,688	127,517
Securitized debt (Proceeds—\$1,495 and \$0)	1,485	—
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,500	1,845
Accrued base management fee	1,492	1,396
Interest and dividends payable	1,096	1,002
Total liabilities	<u>1,670,314</u>	<u>1,597,139</u>
<b>SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>	<u>396,264</u>	<u>370,916</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>	<u>\$2,066,578</u>	<u>\$1,968,055</u>
<b>ANALYSIS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY:</b>		
Common shares, no par value, 100,000,000 shares authorized; (16,447,651 and 16,447,651 shares issued and outstanding)	\$ 387,367	\$ 362,047
Additional paid-in capital—LTIP units	8,897	8,869
<b>Total Shareholders' Equity</b>	<u>\$ 396,264</u>	<u>\$ 370,916</u>
<b>PER SHARE INFORMATION:</b>		
Common shares, no par value	<u>\$ 24.09</u>	<u>\$ 22.55</u>
<b>DILUTED PER SHARE INFORMATION:</b>		
Common shares and LTIPs, no par value	<u>\$ 23.53</u>	<u>\$ 22.03</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> Derived from audited financial statements as of December 31, 2011.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****ELLINGTON FINANCIAL LLC REPORTS ESTIMATED  
BOOK VALUE PER SHARE AS OF APRIL 30, 2012**

OLD GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT—May 7, 2012 – Ellington Financial LLC (NYSE: EFC) (“Ellington Financial” or the “Company”) today announced that its estimated book value per common share as of April 30, 2012, was \$24.36, or \$23.79 on a diluted basis. These estimates are subject to change upon completion of the Company’s month-end valuation procedures relating to its investment positions, and any such change could be material. For month-end reports of its estimated book value per common share, the Company’s valuation procedures are generally less comprehensive than the valuation procedures employed for the Company’s quarterly and year-end financial statements, as the Company does not necessarily solicit third party valuations on substantially all of its assets, nor do the Company’s registered independent public accountants generally perform the types of reviews or audits that they do for the Company’s quarterly or annual financial statements. It is possible that, if the Company were to undertake a more comprehensive valuation analysis and/or obtain a review or audit from its accountants for its month-end report, it could determine that its book value per common share as of April 30, 2012 differs materially from the estimate set forth above. There can be no assurance that the Company’s estimated book value per common share as of April 30, 2012 is indicative of what the Company’s results are likely to be for the three or six month period ending June 30, 2012 or in future periods, and we undertake no obligation to update or revise our estimated book value per common share prior to our issuance of financial statements for such three and six month periods.

*Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements*

*This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements involve numerous risks and uncertainties. Our actual results may differ from our beliefs, expectations, estimates, and projections and, consequently, you should not rely on these forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. Forward-looking statements are not historical in nature and can be identified by words such as “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “project,” “plan,” “continue,” “intend,” “should,” “would,” “could,” “goal,” “objective,” “will,” “may,” “seek” or similar expressions or their negative forms, or by references to strategy, plans, or intentions. The Company’s results can fluctuate from month to month depending on a variety of factors, some of which are beyond the Company’s control and/or are difficult to predict, including, without limitation, changes in interest rates, changes in mortgage default rates and prepayment rates, and other changes in market conditions and economic trends. Furthermore, forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, including, among other things, those described under Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on March 14, 2012, which can be accessed through the link to our SEC filings under “For Our Shareholders” on our website ([www.ellingtonfinancial.com](http://www.ellingtonfinancial.com)) or at the SEC’s website ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)). Other risks, uncertainties, and factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected may be described from time to time in reports we file with the SEC, including reports on Forms 10-Q, 10-K and 8-K. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.*

This release and the information contained herein do not constitute an offer of any securities or solicitation of an offer to purchase securities.

---

**About Ellington Financial LLC**

Ellington Financial LLC is a specialty finance company that acquires and manages mortgage-related assets, including residential mortgage-backed securities backed by prime jumbo, Alt-A, manufactured housing and subprime residential mortgage loans, residential mortgage-backed securities for which the principal and interest payments are guaranteed by a U.S. government agency or a U.S. government-sponsored enterprise, mortgage-related derivatives, commercial mortgage-backed securities, commercial mortgage loans and other commercial real estate debt, as well as corporate debt and equity securities and derivatives. Ellington Financial LLC is externally managed and advised by Ellington Financial Management LLC, an affiliate of Ellington Management Group LLC.

**Investor Contact:**

Neha Mathur  
Vice President  
Ellington Financial LLC  
(203) 409-3575

**Media Contact:**

Shawn Pattison or Dana Gorman  
The Abernathy MacGregor Group, for  
Ellington Financial LLC  
(212) 371-5999

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Ellington Financial LLC Announces First Quarter Dividend of \$0.70 Per Share**

OLD GREENWICH, Conn., May 7, 2012 — Ellington Financial LLC (NYSE: EFC) (the “Company”) today announced that its Board of Directors has declared a first quarter 2012 dividend of \$0.70 per share, payable on June 15, 2012 to shareholders of record as of June 1, 2012<sup>(1)</sup>. Subject to the ultimate discretion of the Board of Directors, the Company’s management expects to continue to recommend dividends of \$0.70 per share until conditions warrant otherwise. In addition, at the end of any year the Board of Directors will take into account the Company’s earnings and other factors and will consider whether to declare a special dividend. Periodically, management may adjust its quarterly dividend recommendation based on the Company’s actual earnings, management’s assessment of the Company’s long-term earnings prospects, and other factors. The declaration and amount of future dividends remain in the discretion of the Board of Directors.

*(1) For U.S. federal income tax purposes, the first quarter 2012 dividend will be treated as a partnership distribution. Based on information currently available, the Company estimates that, when calculating U.S. federal withholding taxes, the entire amount of this dividend will be treated as portfolio interest income (as described in Section 871(h) of the Internal Revenue Code). As a result, no portion of this dividend should be considered attributable to income that is subject to U.S. federal withholding tax, including U.S. source dividend income or income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. Notwithstanding the foregoing, some portion of future dividends may be considered attributable to U.S. source dividend income, interest income that is not “portfolio interest,” or income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, and therefore may be subject to U.S. federal withholding taxes.*

The Company does not provide advice on tax matters to its shareholders or to broker/nominees who hold the Company’s shares on behalf of their customers. The information above is provided for informational purposes only, is subject to change as more definitive information is obtained by the Company, and does not constitute tax advice. Non-U.S. holders of the Company’s common shares and broker/nominees who hold shares on behalf of such holders are strongly urged to consult with their own tax advisors with regard to the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the dividends paid by the Company. This information is not intended to, and cannot, be used by any taxpayer to avoid penalties that may be imposed under U.S. federal income tax law.

**Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements involve numerous risks and uncertainties. Our actual results may differ from our beliefs, expectations, estimates, and projections and, consequently, you should not rely on these forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. Forward-looking statements are not historical in nature and can be identified by words such as “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “project,” “plan,” “continue,” “intend,” “should,” “would,” “could,” “goal,” “objective,” “will,” “may,” “seek” or similar expressions or their negative forms, or by references to strategy, plans, or intentions. Examples of forward-looking statements in this press release include statements regarding the Company’s intended dividend policy. The Company’s results can fluctuate from month to month and from quarter to quarter depending on a variety of factors, some of which are beyond the Company’s control and/or are difficult to predict, including, without limitation, changes in interest rates and the market value of the Company’s securities, changes in mortgage default rates and prepayment rates, the Company’s ability to borrow to finance its assets, changes in government regulations affecting the Company’s business, the Company’s ability to maintain its exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and other changes in market conditions and economic trends. Furthermore, forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, including, among other things, those described under Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on March 14, 2012, which can be accessed through the Company’s website at [www.ellingtonfinancial.com](http://www.ellingtonfinancial.com) or at the SEC’s website ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)). Other risks, uncertainties, and factors that could cause actual results to differ materially

from those projected may be described from time to time in reports we file with the SEC, including reports on Forms 10-Q, 10-K and 8-K. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

### **About Ellington Financial LLC**

Ellington Financial LLC is a specialty finance company that acquires and manages mortgage-related assets, including residential mortgage-backed securities backed by prime jumbo, Alt-A, manufactured housing and subprime residential mortgage loans, residential mortgage-backed securities for which the principal and interest payments are guaranteed by a U.S. government agency or a U.S. government-sponsored enterprise, mortgage-related derivatives, commercial mortgage-backed securities, commercial mortgage loans and other commercial real estate debt, as well as corporate debt and equity securities and derivatives. Ellington Financial LLC is externally managed and advised by Ellington Financial Management LLC, an affiliate of Ellington Management Group LLC.

#### **Investor Contact:**

Neha Mathur  
Vice President  
Ellington Financial LLC  
(203) 409-3575

#### **Media Contact:**

Shawn Pattison or Dana Gorman  
The Abernathy MacGregor Group, for  
Ellington Financial LLC  
(212) 371-5999