

TRI-CONTINENTAL CORP  
Form N-Q  
November 24, 2008

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

FORM N-Q

QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF REGISTERED  
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY

Investment Company Act file number 811-0266

Tri-Continental Corporation  
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in charter)

100 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10017  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Lawrence P. Vogel  
100 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10017  
(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 850-1864

Date of fiscal year end: 12/31

Date of reporting period: 9/30/08

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## FORM N-Q

## ITEM 1. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS.

**Tri-Continental Corporation****Schedule of Investments** (unaudited)

September 30, 2008

	Shares, Shares Subject to Call/Put, Partnership Interest or Principal Amount		Value
<b>COMMON STOCKS 93.2%</b>			
<b>AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE 2.9%</b>			
Boeing Company (The)	137,900 shs.	\$	7,908,565
Honeywell International Inc.	382,700		15,901,185
Raytheon Company	262,300		14,035,673
United Technologies Corporation	176,600		10,606,596
			48,452,019
<b>AIR FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS 1.2%</b>			
United Parcel Service Inc. (Class B)	310,900		19,552,501
<b>AIRLINES 1.5%</b>			
Delta Air Lines, Inc.*	1,103,229		8,219,056
Northwest Airlines Corporation	1,329,600		12,006,288
UAL Corporation	468,300		4,116,357
			24,341,701
<b>BIOTECHNOLOGY 2.1%</b>			
Amgen Inc.*	193,600		11,474,672
Cephalon, Inc.*	299,600		23,216,004
			34,690,676
<b>CAPITAL MARKETS 2.9%</b>			
Bank of New York Mellon Corporation	325,500		10,604,790
Fortress Investments Group LLC (Class A)	1,172,129		12,307,354
Janus Capital Group Inc.	378,600		9,192,408
Morgan Stanley	377,300		8,677,900
State Street Corporation	132,800		7,553,664
			48,336,116
<b>COMMERCIAL BANKS 1.4%</b>			
Wachovia Corporation	617,063		2,159,721
Wells Fargo & Company	564,100		21,170,673
			23,330,394

**COMMUNICATIONS**

<b>EQUIPMENT 4.6%</b>		
Cisco Systems, Inc.*	762,980	17,212,829
Comverse Technology, Inc.*	2,508,614	24,007,436
Nokia Corp. (ADR)	260,400	4,856,460
QUALCOMM Inc.	499,600	21,467,812
Research in Motion Limited	129,700	8,858,510
		76,403,047
<b>COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS 2.0%</b>		
Apple Inc.*	111,000	12,616,260
Hewlett-Packard Company	429,700	19,869,328
		32,485,588
<b>CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING 0.4%</b>		
Foster Wheeler Ltd.*	165,400	5,972,594
<b>CONSUMER FINANCE 0.9%</b>		
American Express Company	409,600	14,512,128
<b>CONTAINERS AND PACKAGING 1.3%</b>		
Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation*	4,670,904	21,953,249
<b>DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICES 5.9%</b>		
Bank of America Corporation	1,284,040	44,941,400
CIT Group Inc.	1,284,200	8,938,032
Citigroup Inc.	274,800	5,636,148
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	807,500	37,710,250
		97,225,830
<b>DIVERSIFIED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES 3.5%</b>		
AT&T Inc.	1,031,000	28,785,520
Frontier Communications Corporation	1,011,300	11,629,950
Qwest Communications International Inc.	3,746,500	12,101,195
tw telecom inc.*	467,300	4,855,247
		57,371,912
<b>ELECTRIC UTILITIES 0.8%</b>		
Exelon Corporation	208,700	13,068,794
<b>ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT 1.0%</b>		
ABB Limited (ADR)*	348,200	6,755,080
Energy Conversion Devices, Inc.*	76,700	4,467,775

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First Solar, Inc.*	19,500	3,683,745
JA Solar Holdings Co., Ltd. (ADR)*	160,000	1,692,800
		16,599,400
<b>ENERGY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES 3.1%</b>		
Baker Hughes Incorporated	108,400	6,562,536
Exterran Holdings, Inc.*	148,600	4,749,256
Halliburton Company	264,500	8,567,155
Noble Corporation	189,700	8,327,830
Schlumberger Limited	159,100	12,424,119
Transocean Inc.*	94,400	10,368,896
		50,999,792
<b>FOOD AND STAPLES RETAILING 1.6%</b>		
CVS Caremark Corporation	399,000	13,430,340
Rite Aid Corporation*	15,227,951	12,791,479
		26,221,819
<b>HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES 1.8%</b>		
Baxter International Inc.	141,000	9,253,830
Hologic, Inc.*	528,500	10,215,905
Zimmer Holdings, Inc.*	161,800	10,445,808
		29,915,543
<b>HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND SERVICES 1.5%</b>		
Express Scripts, Inc.*	127,800	9,434,196
Health Net, Inc.*	406,475	9,592,810
UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	222,680	5,653,845
		24,680,851
<b>HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS 1.6%</b>		
Procter & Gamble Company (The)	378,100	26,349,789
<b>INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS AND ENERGY TRADERS 0.5%</b>		
AES Corporation (The)*	669,600	7,827,624
<b>INDEX DERIVATIVES 2.3%</b>		
Consumer Discretionary Select Sector SPDR Fund	752,100	20,983,590
Financial Select Sector SPDR Fund	844,400	16,795,116
		37,778,706

**INDUSTRIAL****CONGLOMERATES 2.2%**

3M Company	109,600	7,486,776
General Electric Company	1,168,100	29,786,550
		37,273,326

**INSURANCE 2.5%**

American International Group, Inc.	472,200	1,572,426
Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.	219,700	9,005,503
MetLife, Inc.	314,600	17,617,600
Prudential Financial, Inc.	176,434	12,703,248
		40,898,777

**INTERNET SOFTWARE  
AND SERVICES 3.5%**

Google Inc. (Class A)*	52,800	21,147,456
SAVVIS, Inc.*	1,194,170	16,049,645
Yahoo!, Inc.*	1,217,512	21,062,958
		58,260,059

**MACHINERY 0.3%**

Deere & Company	86,700	4,291,650
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**MEDIA 0.7%**

Comcast Corporation (Class A)	581,200	11,408,956
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**METALS AND MINING 2.2%**

Alcoa Inc.	529,613	11,958,662
Barrick Gold Corporation	222,400	8,170,976
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc.	193,600	11,006,160
Nucor Corporation	124,900	4,933,550
		36,069,348

**MULTI-UTILITIES 1.0%**

Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated	530,600	17,398,374
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**MULTILINE RETAIL 1.3%**

Kohl's Corporation*	238,400	10,985,472
Target Corporation	233,800	11,467,890
		22,453,362

**OIL, GAS AND****CONSUMABLE FUELS 10.7%**

Chesapeake Energy Corporation	395,500	14,182,630
Chevron Corporation	407,700	33,627,096
ConocoPhillips Company	337,100	24,692,575

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El Paso Corporation	1,103,800	14,084,488
Exxon Mobil Corporation	795,000	61,739,700
Occidental Petroleum Corporation	142,400	10,032,080
Valero Energy Corporation	280,000	8,484,000
XTO Energy, Inc.	225,625	10,496,075
		177,338,644

**PHARMACEUTICALS 9.5%**

Abbott Laboratories	372,500	21,448,550
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	677,900	14,134,215
Forest Laboratories, Inc.*	449,500	12,711,860
Merck & Co. Inc.	292,200	9,221,832
Mylan, Inc.*	1,629,700	18,611,174
Pfizer Inc.	1,334,638	24,610,725
Schering-Plough Corporation	1,245,500	23,004,385
Sepracor Inc.*	562,000	10,290,220
Wyeth	640,434	23,657,632
		157,690,593

**SEMICONDUCTORS AND**

**SEMICONDUCTOR**

**EQUIPMENT 3.2%**

Analog Devices, Inc.	241,900	6,374,065
Intel Corporation	971,800	18,201,814
Marvell Technology Group Ltd.*	2,520,181	23,437,683
MEMC Electronic Materials, Inc.*	170,700	4,823,982
		52,837,544

**SOFTWARE 7.0%**

Activision Blizzard, Inc.*	1,532,800	23,651,104
BMC Software Inc.*	280,200	8,022,126
Macrovision Solutions Corporation*	1,688,027	25,961,855
Microsoft Corporation	1,479,856	39,497,357
Oracle Corporation*	900,100	18,281,031
		115,413,473

**SPECIALTY RETAIL 1.5%**

Abercrombie & Fitch Co. (Class A)	449,000	17,713,050
OfficeMax Inc.	845,992	7,520,869
		25,233,919

**TOBACCO 2.4%**

Altria Group, Inc.	684,880	13,588,019
Philip Morris International Inc.	546,380	26,280,877
		39,868,896

**WIRELESS**

**TELECOMMUNICATION**

<b>SERVICES 0.4%</b>		
NII Holdings Inc.*	165,800	6,287,136
<b>TOTAL COMMON STOCKS</b>		<b>1,540,794,130</b>
<b>OPTIONS PURCHASED* 0.7%</b>		
<b>BIOTECHNOLOGY 0.1%</b>		
Amgen Inc., Call expiring January 2009 at \$60	394,300	1,892,640
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
<b>EQUIPMENT 0.0%</b>		
JDS Uniphase Corporation, Call expiring January 2009 at \$15	994,900	99,490
<b>DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL</b>		
<b>SERVICES 0.0%</b>		
CIT Group Inc., Call expiring January 2009 at \$35	303,600	15,180
Citigroup Inc., Call expiring January 2009 at \$30	565,200	271,296 286,476
<b>FOOD AND STAPLES</b>		
<b>RETAILING 0.0%</b>		
Rite Aid Corporation, Call expiring January 2009 at \$5	3,495,200	174,760
<b>INDEX DERIVATIVES 0.5%</b>		
United States Oil Fund, Put expiring October 2008 at \$100	215,900	4,231,640
United States Oil Fund, Put expiring October 2008 at \$90	333,300	3,266,340 7,497,980
<b>INTERNET SOFTWARE AND SERVICES 0.1%</b>		
Yahoo! Inc., Call expiring January 2009 at \$30	556,300	66,756
Yahoo! Inc., Call expiring January 2009 at \$25	1,233,500	703,095 769,851
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS 0.0%</b>		
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Call expiring January 2009 at \$25	738,800	162,536
Wyeth, Call expiring October 2008 at \$45	280,900	22,472 185,008

**SEMICONDUCTORS AND  
SEMICONDUCTOR  
EQUIPMENT 0.0%**

Marvell Technology Group, Ltd., Call expiring January 2009 at \$20	908,200	90,820
Marvell Technology Group, Ltd., Call expiring January 2009 at \$15	352,900	52,935
		143,755
<b>TOTAL OPTIONS PURCHASED</b>		11,049,960

**LIMITED  
PARTNERSHIP 0.1%**

WCAS Capital Partners II, L.P. □	\$ 4,292,803	2,192,377
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**SHORT-TERM  
HOLDINGS 4.6%**

**EQUITY-LINKED NOTES □ □ 2.6%**

Credit Suisse 39.54%, 11/21/08 (a)	15,603,000	12,586,784
Deutsche Bank 37.5%, 11/20/08 (b)	15,603,000	10,522,975
Goldman Sachs Group 34.6%, 10/2/08 (c)	14,844,000	9,146,873
Lehman Brothers: 53.51%, 9/14/08 (d) **	14,844,000	1,231,978
39.5%, 10/2/08 (e) **	14,844,000	737,881
Morgan Stanley 37.05%, 10/17/08 (f)	14,844,000	8,227,732
<b>TOTAL EQUITY LINKED NOTES</b>		42,454,223

**TIME DEPOSIT 2.0%**

Citibank, Nassau, 1.5%, 10/1/08	33,749,000	33,749,000
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<b>TOTAL SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS</b>		76,203,223
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<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS 98.6%</b>		1,630,239,690
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<b>OTHER ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES 1.4%</b>		23,034,537
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<b>NET INVESTMENT ASSETS 100.0%</b>	\$	1,653,274,227
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At September 30, 2008, the cost of investments for federal income tax purposes was \$2,315,261,439. The tax basis gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of portfolio securities were \$36,426,888 and \$721,448,637, respectively. Net unrealized depreciation was \$685,021,749.

\* Non-income producing security.

\*\* Security in default and non-income producing.

□ At September 30, 2008, Tri-Continental Corporation owned one limited partnership investment that was purchased through a private offering and cannot be sold without prior registration under the Securities Act of 1933 or pursuant to an exemption therefrom. The investment is valued at fair value as determined in accordance with procedures approved by the Board of Directors of the Corporation. The acquisition dates of investment in the limited partnership, along with the cost and value at September 30, 2008, was as follows:

Investment	Acquisition Dates	Cost	Value
WCAS Capital Partners II, L.P.	12/11/90 to 3/24/98	\$4,292,803	\$2,192,377

□□ The security may be offered and sold only to a □qualified institutional buyer□ under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. These notes are exchangeable at maturity, based on the terms of the respective notes, for shares of common stock of a company or cash at a maturity value which is generally determined as follows:

The principal amount of the notes plus or minus the lowest return of the companies□ respective stock prices determined at maturity from the date of purchase of the notes:

- (a) Energizer Holdings, Inc., Longs Drug Stores Corporation and Sepracor Inc.
- (b) CIGNA Corporation, Hologic, Inc. and Qwest Communications International Inc.
- (c) Adobe Systems Incorporated, UnitedHealth Group Incorporated and Wyeth
- (d) Delta Air Lines, Inc., Intel Corporation and Mylan Inc.
- (e) Health Net, Inc., Kohl's Corporation and Prudential Financial, Inc.
- (f) Comcast Corporation, Merck & Co., Inc. and Nokia Corporation ADR

ADR □ American Depositary Receipts.

Security Valuation □ Securities traded on an exchange are valued at the last sales price on the primary exchange or market on which they are traded. Securities not listed on an exchange or security market, or securities for which there is no last sales price, are valued at the mean of the most recent bid and asked prices or are valued by J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated (the □Manager□) based on quotations provided by primary market makers in such securities. Securities for which market quotations are not readily available (or are otherwise no longer valid or reliable) are valued at fair value determined in accordance with procedures approved by the Board of Directors. This can occur in the event of, among other things, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, market disruptions, intra-day trading halts, and extreme market volatility. The determination of fair value involves subjective judgments. As a result, using fair value to price a security may result in a price materially different from the prices used by other investment companies to determine net asset value or the price that may be realized upon the actual sale of the security. Short-term holdings maturing in 60 days or less are valued at current market quotations or amortized cost if the Manager believes it approximates fair value. Short-term holdings that mature in more than 60 days are valued at current market quotations until the 60th day prior to maturity and are then valued as described above for securities maturing in 60 days or less.

Fair Value Measurements □ On January 1, 2008, the Corporation adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 157 (□SFAS 157□), □Fair Value Measurements.□ SFAS 157 establishes a three-tier hierarchy to classify the assumptions, referred to as inputs, used in valuation techniques (see Security Valuation above) to measure fair value of the Corporation□s investments. These inputs are summarized in three broad levels: Level 1 □ quoted

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prices in active markets for identical investments; Level 2  other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices in inactive markets or for similar investments); and Level 3  significant unobservable inputs (including the Corporation's own assumptions in determining fair value). The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities may not be an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities.

The following is a summary of the value of the Corporation's investments as of September 30, 2008 based on the level of inputs used:

Valuation Inputs	Value
Level 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Quoted Prices	\$ 1,551,844,090
Level 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Other Significant Observable Inputs	76,203,223
Level 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Unobservable Inputs	2,192,377
Total	\$ 1,630,239,690

As required by SFAS 157, the following is a reconciliation of investments for which significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) were used to determine the fair value of investments classified as Level 3 at either the beginning or end of the period:

Balance as of December 31, 2007	\$ 1,784,956
Net change in unrealized depreciation	407,421
Balance as of September 30, 2008	\$ 2,192,377
Net change in unrealized depreciation from investments still held as of September 30, 2008	\$ 407,421

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

Subsequent Events  On November 7, 2008, RiverSource Investments, LLC (RiverSource Investments), a wholly owned subsidiary of Ameriprise Financial, Inc., announced the closing of its acquisition (the Acquisition) of the Manager. With the Acquisition completed and stockholders of the Corporation having previously approved (at a Special Meeting held on October 7, 2008) a new investment management services agreement between the Corporation and RiverSource Investments, RiverSource Investments is the new investment manager of the Corporation effective November 7, 2008.

On November 12, 2008, the Corporation announced an offer to repurchase up to approximately 35% of its issued and outstanding shares of common stock (Common Stock) in exchange for a pro rata portion of the Corporation's portfolio securities (subject to certain exceptions) and cash (or cash equivalents) at a price equal to 99.25% of the net asset value per share of Common Stock as of the close of the regular trading session of the New York Stock Exchange on the trading day immediately after the day the repurchase offer expires.

The offer commenced on November 12, 2008 and will expire at 5:00 p.m., Eastern time, on December 11, 2008 (unless extended). The offer is being made upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Offer to Repurchase, which was mailed on November 14, 2008 to holders of Common Stock of the Corporation on November 10, 2008.

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ITEM 2. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

- a. The registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded, based upon their evaluation of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures as conducted within 90 days of the filing date of this report, that these disclosure controls and procedures provide reasonable assurance that material information required to be disclosed by the registrant in the report it files or submits on Form N-Q is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Commission's rules and forms and that such material information is accumulated and communicated to the registrant's management, including its principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate, in order to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.
- b. The registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer are aware of no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's last fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 3. EXHIBITS.

- (a) Certifications of principal executive officer and principal financial officer as required by Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940.
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SIGNATURES

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

TRI-CONTINENTAL CORPORATION

By: /S/ PATRICK T. BANNIGAN  
Patrick T. Bannigan  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: November 24, 2008

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

By: /S/ PATRICK T. BANNIGAN  
Patrick T. Bannigan  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: November 24, 2008

By: /S/ LAWRENCE P. VOGEL  
Lawrence P. Vogel  
Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

Date: November 24, 2008

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TRI-CONTINENTAL CORPORATION

EXHIBIT INDEX

- (a) Certifications of principal executive officer and principal financial officer as required by Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940.
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