

ALLIED CAPITAL CORP
Form 497
August 24, 2007

PROSPECTUS

**Filed Pursuant to Rule 497
Registration Statement No. 333-
141847**

**\$1,500,000,000
Debt Securities**

We may offer, from time to time, up to an aggregate principal amount of \$1,500,000,000 of one or more classes or series of debt securities, including notes, debentures, medium-term notes, commercial paper, retail notes or similar obligations evidencing indebtedness in one or more offerings.

The debt securities may be offered at prices and on terms to be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus.

We are an internally managed closed-end, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Our investment objective is to achieve current income and capital gains. We seek to achieve our investment objective by investing in primarily private middle market companies in a variety of industries. No assurances can be given that we will continue to achieve our objective.

Please read this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement, if any, and the pricing supplement, if any, before investing in our debt securities and keep it for future reference. The prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, if any, and the pricing supplement, if any, will contain important information about us that a prospective investor should know before investing in our debt securities. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This information is available free of charge by contacting us at 1919 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC, 20006 or by telephone at (202) 721-6100 or on our website at www.alliedcapital.com. The SEC also maintains a website at www.sec.gov that contains such information.

Our 6.875% Notes due 2047 are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AFC.

You should review the information set forth under Risk Factors on page 9 of this prospectus before investing in our debt securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of our debt securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement and, if applicable, a pricing supplement.

August 22, 2007

We have not authorized any dealer, salesman or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, if any, or any pricing supplement, if any, to this prospectus. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained in this prospectus or any such supplements as if we had authorized it. This prospectus and any such supplements do not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of any offer to buy any security other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor do they constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such an offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. The information contained in this prospectus and any such supplements is accurate as of the dates on their covers; however, the prospectus and any supplements will be updated to reflect any material changes.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using the shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, which constitutes a delayed offering in

reliance on Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, we may offer, from time to time, up to \$1,500,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of debt securities on the terms to be determined at the time of the offering. The debt securities may be offered at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the debt securities we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer debt securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement and, if applicable, a pricing supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. Please carefully read this prospectus and any such supplements together with the additional information described under **Where You Can Find Additional Information** in the **Prospectus Summary** and **Risk Factors** sections before you make an investment decision.

A prospectus supplement and, if applicable, a pricing supplement may also add to, update or change information contained in this prospectus.

(i)

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

The following summary contains basic information about this offering. It may not contain all the information that is important to an investor. For a more complete understanding of this offering, we encourage you to read this entire prospectus and the documents that are referred to in this prospectus, together with any accompanying supplements.

In this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement, unless otherwise indicated, Allied Capital, we, us or our refer to Allied Capital Corporation and its subsidiaries.

BUSINESS (Page 83)

We are a business development company in the private equity business and we are internally managed. We provide long-term debt and equity capital to primarily private middle market companies in a variety of industries. We have participated in the private equity business since we were founded in 1958 and have financed thousands of companies nationwide. Our investment objective is to achieve current income and capital gains.

We believe the private equity capital markets are important to the growth of small and middle market companies because such companies often have difficulty accessing the public debt and equity capital markets. We use the term middle market to include companies with annual revenues typically between \$50 million and \$500 million. We believe that we are well positioned to be a source of capital for such companies.

We primarily invest in the American entrepreneurial economy. At June 30, 2007, our private finance portfolio included investments in 143 companies that generate aggregate annual revenues of over \$12 billion and employ more than 85,000 people.

We generally target companies in less cyclical industries with, among other things, high returns on invested capital, management teams with meaningful equity ownership, well-constructed balance sheets, and the ability to generate free cash flow. As a private equity investor, we spend significant time and effort identifying, structuring, performing due diligence, monitoring, developing, valuing, and ultimately exiting our investments.

Our investment activity is primarily focused on making long-term investments in the debt and equity of primarily private middle market companies. Debt investments may include senior loans, unitranche debt (a single debt investment that is a blend of senior and subordinated debt terms), or subordinated debt (with or without equity features). Equity investments may include a minority equity stake in connection with a debt investment or a substantial equity stake in connection with a buyout transaction. In a buyout transaction, we generally invest in senior debt, subordinated debt and equity (preferred and/or voting or non-voting common) where our equity ownership represents a significant portion of the equity, but may or may not represent a controlling interest.

Our investments in the debt and equity of primarily private middle market companies are generally long-term in nature and are privately negotiated, and no readily available market exists for them. This makes our investments highly illiquid and, as result, we cannot readily trade them. When we make an investment, we enter into a long-term arrangement where our ultimate exit from that investment may be three to ten years in the future.

The capital we provide is used by portfolio companies to fund buyouts, acquisitions, growth, recapitalizations, note purchases, or other types of financings.

Our investments are typically structured to provide recurring cash flow in the form of interest income to us as the investor. In addition to earning interest income, we may structure our investments to generate income from management, consulting, diligence, structuring, or other fees. We may also enhance our total return from capital gains through equity features, such as nominal cost warrants, or by investing in equity investments.

We provide managerial assistance to our portfolio companies, including, but not limited to, management and consulting services related to corporate finance, marketing, human resources, personnel and board member recruiting, business operations, corporate governance, risk management and other general business matters.

We have elected to be taxed as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, otherwise referred to as the Code. Assuming that we qualify as a regulated investment company, we generally will not be subject to corporate level income taxation on income we timely distribute to our stockholders as dividends. See Tax Status. We pay regular quarterly dividends based upon an estimate of annual taxable income available for distribution to shareholders and the amount of taxable income carried over from the prior year for distribution in the current year. Since 1963, our portfolio has provided sufficient ordinary taxable income and realized net capital gains to sustain or grow our dividends over time.

We are a Maryland corporation and a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, which we refer to as the 1940 Act.

As a business development company, we are required to meet certain regulatory tests, the most significant relating to our investments and borrowings. A business development company is required to invest at least 70% of its assets in eligible portfolio companies. A business development company must also maintain a coverage ratio of assets to senior securities of at least 200%. See Certain Government Regulations and Risk Factors.

Our executive offices are located at 1919 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC, 20006-3434 and our telephone number is (202) 721-6100. In addition, we have regional offices in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

Our Internet website address is www.alliedcapital.com. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and you should not consider information contained on our website to be part of this prospectus.

Our 6.875% Notes due 2047 are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AFC.

**DETERMINATION OF
NET ASSET VALUE (Page 109)**

Our portfolio investments are generally recorded at fair value as determined in good faith by our Board of Directors in the absence of readily available public market values.

Pursuant to the requirements of the 1940 Act, we value substantially all of our portfolio investments at fair value as determined in good faith by the Board of Directors on a quarterly basis. Since there is typically no readily available market value for the investments in our portfolio, our Board of Directors determines in good faith the fair value of these portfolio investments pursuant to our valuation policy and consistently applied valuation process.

There is no single standard for determining fair value in good faith. As a result, determining fair value requires that judgment be applied to the specific facts and circumstances of each portfolio investment while employing a consistently applied valuation process for the types of investments we make. Unlike banks, we are not permitted to provide a general reserve for anticipated loan losses. Instead, we are required to specifically value each individual investment on a quarterly basis. We will record unrealized depreciation on investments when we believe that an investment has become impaired, including where collection of a loan or realization of an equity security is doubtful, or when the enterprise value of the portfolio company does not currently support the cost of our debt or equity investment. Enterprise value means the entire value of the company to a potential buyer, including the sum of the values of debt and equity securities used to capitalize the enterprise at a point in time. We will record unrealized appreciation if we believe that the underlying portfolio company has appreciated in value and/or our equity security has appreciated in value. Without a readily available market value and because of the inherent uncertainty of valuation, the fair value of our investments determined in good faith by the Board of Directors may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market existed for the investments, and the differences could be material.

We adjust the valuation of our portfolio quarterly to reflect the change in the value of each investment in our portfolio. Any changes in value are recorded in our statement of operations as net change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION *(Page 175)*

We may offer, from time to time, up to \$1,500,000,000 aggregate principal amount of debt securities, including notes, debentures, medium-term notes, commercial paper, retail notes or similar obligations evidencing indebtedness, on terms to be determined at the time of the offering.

Our debt securities may be offered at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. Our debt securities may be offered directly to one or more purchasers, through agents designated from time to time by us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. The supplements to this prospectus relating to any offering of debt securities will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our debt securities, and will set forth any applicable purchase price, fee and commission or discount arrangement or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated.

We may not offer our debt securities if our BDC asset coverage ratio would be less than 200% after giving effect to such offering. We may not sell debt securities pursuant to this prospectus without delivering a prospectus supplement and, if applicable, a pricing supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of such debt securities.

USE OF PROCEEDS *(Page 20)*

We intend to use the net proceeds from selling debt securities for general corporate purposes, which includes investing in debt or equity securities in primarily privately negotiated transactions, repayment of indebtedness, acquisitions and other general corporate purposes.

Any supplement to this prospectus relating to any offering of debt securities will more fully identify the use of proceeds from such offering.

RISK FACTORS (Page 9)

Investment in our debt securities involves a number of significant risks relating to our business and our investment objective that you should consider before investing in our debt securities.

Our portfolio of investments is generally illiquid. Our portfolio includes securities primarily issued by private companies. These investments may involve a high degree of business and financial risk; they are illiquid, and may not produce current returns or capital gains. If we were forced to immediately liquidate some or all of the investments in the portfolio, the proceeds of such liquidation could be significantly less than the current value of such investments. We may be required to liquidate some or all of our portfolio investments to meet our debt service obligations or in the event we are required to fulfill our obligations under agreements pursuant to which we guarantee the repayment of indebtedness by third parties.

An economic slowdown may affect the ability of a portfolio company to engage in a liquidity event, which is a transaction that involves the sale or recapitalization of all or part of a portfolio company. These conditions could lead to financial losses in our portfolio and a decrease in our revenues, net income and assets. Numerous other factors may affect a borrower's ability to repay its loan, including the failure to meet its business plan, a downturn in its industry or negative economic conditions.

Our total investment in companies may be significant individually or in the aggregate. As a result, if a significant investment in one or more companies fails to perform as expected, our financial results could be more negatively affected and the magnitude of the loss could be more significant than if we had made smaller investments in more companies.

We may not borrow money unless we maintain asset coverage for indebtedness of at least 200%, which may affect returns to shareholders. We borrow funds to make investments. As a result, we are exposed to the risks of leverage, which may be considered a speculative investment technique. Borrowings, also known as leverage, magnify the potential for gain and loss on amounts invested and therefore increase the risks associated with investing in our securities.

A large number of entities and individuals compete for the same kind of investment opportunities as we do. Increased competition would make it more difficult for us to purchase or originate investments at attractive prices. As a result of this competition, sometimes we may be precluded from making otherwise attractive investments.

Our business of making private equity investments and positioning them for liquidity events also may be affected by current and future market conditions.

To maintain our status as a business development company, we must not acquire any assets other than qualifying assets unless, at the time of and after giving effect to such acquisition, at least 70% of our total assets are qualifying assets.

We may not be able to pay dividends and failure to qualify as a regulated investment company for tax purposes could have a material adverse effect on the income available for debt service or distributions to our shareholders, which may have a material adverse effect on our total return to common shareholders, if any.

Also, we are subject to certain risks associated with valuing our portfolio, changing interest rates, accessing additional capital, fluctuating financial results, operating in a regulated environment, and certain conflicts of interest.

The trading market or the market value of our publicly issued debt securities may be volatile.

CERTAIN ANTI-TAKEOVER PROVISIONS *(Page 158)*

Our charter and bylaws, as well as certain statutory and regulatory requirements, contain certain provisions that may have the effect of discouraging a third party from making an acquisition proposal for Allied Capital. These anti-takeover provisions may inhibit a change in control in circumstances that could give the holders of our common stock the opportunity to realize a premium over the market price for our common stock.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES *(Page 18)*

Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the five years ended December 31, 2006, was 3.6, 12.3, 4.3, 3.4, and 4.2, respectively, and was 4.5 for six months ended June 30, 2007. For more information, see the section entitled Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges in this prospectus.

SENIOR SECURITIES *(Page 80)*

At June 30, 2007, we had \$1.9 billion of outstanding indebtedness bearing a weighted average annual interest cost of 6.6%. If our portfolio fails to produce adequate returns, we may be unable to make interest or principal payments on our indebtedness when they are due, which could give rise to a default on and acceleration of our indebtedness. Our revolving line of credit and notes payable contain financial and operating covenants that could restrict our business activities, including our ability to declare dividends if we default under certain provisions. Breach of any of those covenants could cause a default under those instruments. Such a default, if not cured or waived, could have a material adverse effect on us. In order for us to cover annual interest payments on indebtedness, we had to achieve annual returns on our assets of at least 2.5% as of June 30, 2007, which returns were achieved.

SELECTED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA

You should read the condensed consolidated financial information below with the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto included herein. Financial information at and for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, and 2002, has been derived from our financial statements that were audited by KPMG LLP. Quarterly financial information is derived from unaudited financial data, but in the opinion of management, reflects all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) which are necessary to present fairly the results for such interim periods. Interim results at and for the six months ended June 30, 2007, are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2007. See **Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations** and **Senior Securities** below for more information.

(in thousands, except per share data)	At and for the Six Months Ended June 30,		At and for the Year Ended December 31,				
	2007	2006	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
	(unaudited)						
Operating Data:							
Interest and related portfolio income:							
Interest and dividends	\$204,797	\$184,314	\$386,427	\$317,153	\$319,642	\$290,719	\$264,042
Fees and other income	20,831	37,153	66,131	56,999	47,448	38,510	45,886
Total interest and related portfolio income	225,628	221,467	452,558	374,152	367,090	329,229	309,928
Expenses:							
Interest	64,624	46,346	100,600	77,352	75,650	77,233	70,443
Employee	50,539	41,826	92,902	78,300	53,739	36,945	33,126
Employee stock options ⁽¹⁾	13,180	8,203	15,599				
Administrative	27,729	21,195	39,005	69,713	34,686	22,387	21,504
Total operating expenses	156,072	117,570	248,106	225,365	164,075	136,565	125,073
Net investment income before income taxes	69,556	103,897	204,452	148,787	203,015	192,664	184,855
Income tax expense (benefit), including excise tax	4,881	12,402	15,221	11,561	2,057	(2,466)	930
Net investment income	64,675	91,495	189,231	137,226	200,958	195,130	183,925

Net realized and unrealized gains (losses):							
Net realized gains	102,545	533,075	533,301	273,496	117,240	75,347	44,937
Net change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation							
	55,024	(491,254)	(477,409)	462,092	(68,712)	(78,466)	(571)
Total net gains (losses)							
	157,569	41,821	55,892	735,588	48,528	(3,119)	44,366
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations							
	\$ 222,244	\$ 133,316	\$ 245,123	\$ 872,814	\$ 249,486	\$ 192,011	\$ 228,291
Per Share:							
Diluted earnings per common share							
	\$ 1.44	\$ 0.94	\$ 1.68	\$ 6.36	\$ 1.88	\$ 1.62	\$ 2.20
Net investment income plus net realized gains per share ⁽²⁾							
	\$ 1.08	\$ 4.38	\$ 4.96	\$ 2.99	\$ 2.40	\$ 2.28	\$ 2.21
Dividends per common share ⁽²⁾							
	\$ 1.27	\$ 1.19	\$ 2.47	\$ 2.33	\$ 2.30	\$ 2.28	\$ 2.23
Weighted average common shares outstanding diluted							
	154,446	142,466	145,599	137,274	132,458	118,351	103,574

(in thousands, except per share data)	At and for the Six Months Ended June 30,			At and for the Year Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
	(unaudited)					
Balance Sheet Data:						
Portfolio at value	\$4,471,060	\$4,496,084	\$3,606,355	\$3,013,411	\$2,584,599	\$2,488,167
Total assets	5,045,488	4,887,505	4,025,880	3,260,998	3,019,870	2,794,319
Total debt outstanding ⁽³⁾	1,921,815	1,899,144	1,284,790	1,176,568	954,200	998,450
Undistributed (distributions in excess of) earnings	476,015	502,163	112,252	12,084	(13,401)	(15,830)
Shareholders' equity	2,991,134	2,841,244	2,620,546	1,979,778	1,914,577	1,546,071
Shareholders' equity per common share (net asset value) ⁽⁴⁾	\$ 19.59	\$ 19.12	\$ 19.17	\$ 14.87	\$ 14.94	\$ 14.22
Common shares outstanding at end of period	152,652	148,575	136,697	133,099	128,118	108,698
Asset Coverage ratio ⁽⁵⁾	256%	250%	309%	280%	322%	270%
Debt to equity ratio	0.64	0.67	0.49	0.59	0.50	0.65
Other Data:						
Investments funded	\$ 659,141	\$ 2,437,828	\$ 1,675,773	\$ 1,524,523	\$ 931,450	\$ 506,376
Principal collections related to investment repayments or sales	735,441	1,055,347	1,503,388	909,189	788,328	356,641
Realized gains	120,602	557,470	343,061	267,702	94,305	95,562
Realized losses	(18,057)	(24,169)	(69,565)	(150,462)	(18,958)	(50,625)

(in thousands, except per share data)	2007			2006			2005			
	Qtr 2	Qtr 1	Qtr 4	Qtr 3	Qtr 2	Qtr 1	Qtr 4	Qtr 3	Qtr 2	Qtr 1
Quarterly Data (unaudited):										
Total interest and related portfolio income	\$117,676	\$107,952	\$117,708	\$113,383	\$110,456	\$111,011	\$ 98,169	\$ 94,857	\$ 86,207	\$ 94,911
Net investment income	25,175	39,500	49,078	48,658	50,195	41,300	37,073	46,134	15,267	38,750
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	89,158	133,086	33,921	77,886	33,729	99,587	328,140	113,168	311,885	119,621
Adjusted earnings per common share	0.57	0.87	0.23	0.53	0.24	0.70	2.36	0.82	2.29	0.80
	0.64	0.63	0.67	0.61	0.60	0.59	0.61	0.58	0.57	0.55

Dividends declared per
Common share⁽⁶⁾

Net asset value per
Common share⁽⁴⁾

19.59	19.58	19.12	19.38	19.17	19.50	19.17	17.37	17.01	15.2
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- (1) Effective January 1, 2006, we adopted the provisions of Statement No. 123 (Revised 2004), *Share-Based Payment*. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations below.
- (2) Dividends are based on taxable income, which differs from income for financial reporting purposes. Net investment income and net realized gains are the most significant components of our annual taxable income from which dividends are paid. At December 31, 2006, we had estimated excess taxable income of \$397.1 million carried over for distribution to shareholders in 2007. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Dividends and Distributions below.
- (3) See Senior Securities and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations for more information regarding our level of indebtedness.