

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC
Form N-Q
October 20, 2011

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM N-Q

QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF
REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY

Investment Company Act file number: 811-00041

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS COMPANY, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

100 Park Avenue, 35th Floor, New York, NY 10017

(Address of principal executive offices)(Zip code)

Eugene S. Stark
General American Investors Company, Inc.
100 Park Avenue, 35th Floor,
New York, NY 10017

(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 212-916-8400

Date of fiscal year end: December 31

Date of reporting period: September 30, 2011

Item 1: Statement of Investments

Shares	COMMON STOCKS	Value (note 1a)
AEROSPACE/DEFENSE (2.9%)		
325,000	United Technologies Corporation	(Cost \$22,957,205) \$22,867,000
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SERVICES (7.1%)		
960,000	Cisco Systems, Inc.	14,880,000
255,000	MSCI Inc. Class A (a)	7,734,150

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700,000	QUALCOMM Incorporated	34,041,000
		(Cost \$46,083,491) 56,655,150
COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND SYSTEMS (9.5%)		
60,000	Apple Inc. (a)	22,879,200
1,015,000	Dell Inc. (a)	14,352,100
770,000	Microsoft Corporation	19,165,300
360,000	Teradata Corporation	19,270,800
		(Cost \$65,058,433) 75,667,400
CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES (13.4%)		
350,000	Diageo plc ADR*	26,575,500
450,000	Nestle S.A.	24,673,325
325,000	PepsiCo, Inc.	20,117,500
206,000	Towers Watson & Co. Class A	12,314,680
712,288	Unilever N.V.	22,467,957
		(Cost \$81,355,585) 106,148,962
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (INCLUDING SERVICES) (6.0%)		
957,100	Republic Services, Inc.	26,856,226
630,000	Waste Management, Inc.	20,512,800
		(Cost \$39,190,474) 47,369,026
FINANCE AND INSURANCE (26.6%)		
BANKING (4.2%)		
500,000	Bond Street Holdings LLC (a) (b)	10,250,000
520,000	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	15,662,400
110,000	M&T Bank Corporation	7,689,000
		(Cost \$31,140,007) 33,601,400
INSURANCE (13.0%)		
875,000	Arch Capital Group Ltd. (a)	28,590,625
245,000	Everest Re Group, Ltd.	19,448,100
53,500	Forethought Financial Group, Inc. Class A (a) (c)	10,860,500
325,000	MetLife, Inc.	9,103,250
275,000	PartnerRe Ltd.	14,374,250
400,000	Platinum Underwriters Holdings, Ltd.	12,300,000
180,000	The Travelers Companies, Inc.	8,771,400
		(Cost \$65,172,570) 103,448,125
OTHER (9.4%)		
315,000	American Express Company	14,143,500
330,492	Aon Corporation	13,874,054
110	Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Class A (a)	11,748,000
1,666,667	Epoch Holding Corporation	22,616,671
645,000	Nelnet, Inc.	12,113,100
		(Cost \$37,619,544) 74,495,325

(Cost \$133,932,121) 211,544,850

Shares	COMMON STOCKS (continued)	Value (note 1a)
HEALTH CARE / PHARMACEUTICALS (6.1%)		
40,000	Amgen Inc.	\$2,198,400
170,000	Celgene Corporation (a)	10,524,700
529,900	Cytokinetics, Incorporated (a)	619,983
564,500	Gilead Sciences, Inc. (a)	21,902,600
755,808	Pfizer Inc.	13,362,685
195,344	Poniard Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)	24,418
	(Cost \$50,609,652)	48,632,786
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT (3.3%)		
1,200,000	ABB Ltd. ADR*	20,496,000
900,000	The Manitowoc Company, Inc.	6,039,000
	(Cost \$23,703,922)	26,535,000
METALS AND MINING (1.6%)		
467,700	Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. (a)	8,273,613
150,000	Nucor Corporation	4,746,000
	(Cost \$25,756,342)	13,019,613
MISCELLANEOUS (5.5%)		
	Other (d)	(Cost \$67,119,289) 43,487,727
OIL AND NATURAL GAS (INCLUDING SERVICES) (11.0%)		
296,478	Apache Corporation	23,789,395
300,000	Canadian Natural Resources Limited	8,781,000
130,062	Devon Energy Corporation	7,210,637
750,000	Halliburton Company	22,890,000
2,050,000	Weatherford International Ltd. (a)	25,030,500
	(Cost \$74,984,196)	87,701,532
RETAIL TRADE (19.6%)		
394,500	Costco Wholesale Corporation	32,400,285
460,000	Target Corporation	22,558,400
1,512,400	The TJX Companies, Inc.	83,892,828
333,000	Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	17,282,700
	(Cost \$60,947,765)	156,134,213
SEMICONDUCTORS (2.5%)		
575,000	ASML Holding N.V.	(Cost \$13,463,950) 19,860,500
TECHNOLOGY (3.0%)		
750,000	International Game Technology	10,897,500

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1,900,000	Xerox Corporation		13,243,000
		(Cost \$34,368,474)	24,140,500
TOTAL COMMON STOCKS (118.1%)		(Cost \$739,530,899)	939,764,259
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Warrants	WARRANT		
BANKING (0.3%)			
225,000	JPMorgan Chase & Co., expires 10/28/2018 (a)	(Cost \$2,865,853)	2,094,750

Shares	SHORT-TERM SECURITY AND OTHER ASSETS		Value (note 1a)
49,153,165	SSgA U.S. Treasury Money Market Fund (6.2%)	(Cost \$49,153,165)	\$49,153,165
TOTAL INVESTMENTS (e) (124.6%)		(Cost \$791,549,917)	991,012,174
Liabilities in excess of cash, receivables and other assets (-0.7%)			(5,212,306)
PREFERRED STOCK (-23.9%)			(190,117,175)
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK (100%)			\$795,682,693

* ADR - American Depository Receipt

(a) Non-income producing security.

(b) Level 3 fair value measurement, restricted security acquired 11/4/09, aggregate cost \$10,000,000, unit cost is \$20 per share and fair value is \$20.50 per

share, note 2. Fair value is based upon bid and/or transaction prices provided via the NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc. PORTAL Alliance trading and trans-

fer system for privately placed equity securities traded in the over-the-counter market among qualified investors.

(c) Level 3 fair value measurement, restricted security acquired 11/3/09, aggregate cost \$10,748,000, unit cost is \$200.90 per share and fair value is \$203 per

share, note 2. Fair valuation is based upon recent transactions and, secondarily, a market approach using valuation metrics (market price-earnings and

market price-book value multiples), and changes therein, relative to a peer group of companies established by the underwriters.

(d) Securities which have been held for less than one year, not previously disclosed, and not restricted.

(e) At September 30, 2011: the cost of investments for Federal income tax purposes was the same as the cost for financial reporting purposes, aggre-

gate gross unrealized appreciation was \$289,908,884, aggregate gross unrealized depreciation was \$90,446,627, and net unrealized appreciation was

\$199,462,257.

(see notes to financial statements)

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited) General American Investors

General American Investors Company, Inc. (the "Company"), established in 1927, is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as a closed-end, diversified management investment company. It is internally managed by its officers under the direction of the Board of Directors.

1. SECURITY VALUATION

Equity securities traded on a national securities exchange are valued at the last reported sales price on the last business day of the period. Equity securities reported on the NASDAQ national market are valued at the official closing price on that day. Listed and NASDAQ equity securities for which no sales are reported on that day and other securities traded in the over-the-counter market are valued at the last bid price (asked price for options written) on the valuation date. Equity securities traded primarily in foreign markets are valued at the closing price of such securities on their respective exchanges or markets. Corporate debt securities, domestic and foreign, are generally traded in the over-the-counter market rather than on a securities exchange. The Company utilizes the latest bid prices provided by independent dealers and information with respect to transactions in such securities to assist in determining current market value. If, after the close of foreign markets, conditions change significantly, the price of certain foreign securities may be adjusted to reflect fair value as of the time of the valuation of the portfolio. Investments in money market funds are valued at their net asset value. Special holdings (restricted securities) and other securities for which quotations are not readily available are valued at fair value determined in good faith pursuant to procedures established by and under the general supervision of the Board of Directors.

2. OPTIONS

The Company may purchase and write (sell) put and call options. The Company typically purchases put options or writes call options to hedge the value of portfolio investments while it typically purchases call options and writes put options to obtain equity market exposure under specified circumstances. The risk associated with purchasing an option is that the Company pays a premium whether or not the option is exercised. Additionally, the Company bears the risk of loss of the premium and a change in market value should the counterparty not perform under the contract. Put and call options purchased are accounted for in the same manner as portfolio securities. Premiums received from writing options are reported as a liability on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Those that expire unexercised are treated by the Company on the expiration date as realized gains on written option transactions in the Statement of Operations. The difference between the premium received and the amount paid on effecting a closing purchase transaction, including brokerage commissions, is also treated as a realized gain, or, if the premium is less than the amount paid for the closing purchase transaction, as a realized loss on written option transactions in the Statement of Operations. If a call option is exercised, the premium is added to the proceeds from the sale of the underlying security in determining whether the Company has realized a gain or loss on investments in the Statement of Operations. If a put option is exercised, the premium reduces the cost basis for the securities purchased by the Company and is parenthetically disclosed under cost of investments on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. The Company as writer of an option bears the market risk of an unfavorable change in the price of the security underlying the written option.

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Various data inputs are used in determining the value of the Company's investments. These inputs are summarized in a hierarchy consisting of the three broad levels listed below:

Level 1 - quoted prices in active markets for identical securities (including money market funds which are valued using amortized cost and which transact at net asset value, typically \$1 per share),

Level 2 - other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, credit risk, etc.), and

Level 3 - significant unobservable inputs (including the Company's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments).

The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities. The following is a summary of the inputs used to value the Company's net assets as of September 30, 2011:

Assets	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Common Stocks	\$918,653,759	-	\$21,110,500	\$939,764,259
Warrant	2,094,750	-	-	2,094,750
Money Market	49,153,165	-	-	49,153,165

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Total	\$969,901,674	-	\$21,110,500	\$991,012,174
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The aggregate value of Level 3 portfolio investments changed during the three months ended September 30, 2011 as follows:

	Level 3
Change in portfolio valuations using significant unobservable inputs	
Fair value at December 31, 2010	\$17,550,000
Purchases	3,248,000
Net change in unrealized appreciation on investments	312,500
Fair value at September 30, 2011	\$21,110,500

The increase in net unrealized appreciation included in the results of operations attributable to Level 3 assets held at September 30, 2011 and reported within the caption *Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation* in the Statement of Operations:

\$312,500

ITEM 2. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

Conclusions of principal officers concerning controls and procedures

(a) As of September 30, 2011, an evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of the officers of General American Investors Company, Inc. (the "Registrant"), including the principal executive officer ("PEO") and principal financial officer ("PFO"), of the effectiveness of the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures. Based on that evaluation, the Registrant's officers, including the PEO and PFO, concluded that, as of September 30, 2011, the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures were reasonably designed so as to ensure: (1) that information required to be disclosed by the Registrant on Form N-Q is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified by the rules and forms of the Securities and Exchange Commission; and (2) that material information relating to the Registrant is made known to the PEO and PFO as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

(b) There have been no significant changes in the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30a-3(d))) 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.

The certifications of the principal executive officer and principal financial officer pursuant to Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 are attached hereto as Exhibit 99 CERT.

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.

General American Investors Company, Inc.

By: /s/ Eugene S. Stark

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Eugene S. Stark
Vice-President, Administration

Date: October 20, 2011

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 and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By: /s/ Spencer Davidson
Spencer Davidson
President and Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: October 20, 2011

By: /s/ Eugene S. Stark
Eugene S. Stark
Vice-President, Administration
(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: October 20, 2011
