# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 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): February 17, 2015

# **Ellington Residential Mortgage REIT**

(Exact name of registrant specified in its charter)

Maryland

(State or Other Jurisdiction Of Incorporation)

**001-35896** (Commission File Number) 46-0687599

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

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

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

Not applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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:

o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

o 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 Residential Mortgage REIT (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 year ended December 31, 2014.

On February 17, 2015, the Company issued a press release announcing its financial results for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2014. 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.

In accordance with General Instructions B.2 and B.6 of Form 8-K, the information included in Item 2.02 and the disclosure incorporated by reference in Item 7.01 shall not be deemed "filed" for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange 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 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

The disclosure contained in Item 2.02 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 February 17, 2015

## SIGNATURES

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

# ELLINGTON RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE REIT

Dated: February 17, 2015

By: /s/ Lisa Mumford

Lisa Mumford Chief Financial Officer

# Exhibit Index

# Exhibit Description

99.1 Earnings Press Release dated February 17, 2015

# Ellington Residential Mortgage REIT Reports Fourth Quarter 2014 Results

OLD GREENWICH, Connecticut—February 17, 2015

Ellington Residential Mortgage REIT (NYSE: EARN) today reported financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2014.

# **Summary of Financial Results**

- Net loss for the quarter was \$1.2 million, or \$0.13 per share.
- Core Earnings<sup>1</sup> for the quarter was \$7.0 million, or \$0.76 per share, as compared to \$6.9 million, or \$0.76 per share, in the third quarter of 2014.
- Book value decreased 3.6% to \$17.86 per share as of December 31, 2014 from \$18.53 per share as of September 30, 2014, after giving effect to a fourth quarter dividend of \$0.55 per share.
- Net interest margin was 2.49%, as compared to 2.38% for the third quarter of 2014.
- Weighted average prepayment speed for the Agency RMBS portfolio was 4.6% CPR for the quarter, as compared to 5.3% in the third quarter.
- Dividend yield of 13.5% based on February 13, 2015 closing stock price of \$16.28.
- Debt-to-equity ratio was 8.1:1 as of December 31, 2014, as compared to 7.3:1 as of September 30, 2014.

# Fourth Quarter 2014 Results

"In the face of sharply lower interest rates and a flattening yield curve, we incurred a net loss of \$0.13 per share in the fourth quarter, and we maintained our Core Earnings at \$0.76 per share," said Laurence Penn, Chief Executive Officer and President. "For the full-year 2014, our net income was \$1.77 per share, and our economic return on book value was 9.7% uncompounded, or 9.9% compounded.

"During the fourth quarter, we believed that the market was underestimating the risk of a spike in prepayments, as it was lulled into a false sense of security by the relatively muted level of refinancing activity despite the sharp decline in interest rates. As a result, we continued to concentrate our portfolio in specified pools that we believe offer substantial prepayment protection, and we maintained a large portion of our interest rate hedges in the form of short TBA positions. In the new year, we have already seen a meaningful uptick in the refinancing index, thereby enhancing the value of our specified pools as compared to their TBA/generic pool counterparts. We expect specified pools to outperform generic pools over the near to medium term, and are positioned accordingly. Meanwhile, we continue to actively hedge the portfolio against the risk of rising interest rates, which we believe remains a significant risk. We also continue to actively trade our specified pool portfolio to exploit inefficiencies in the market, and over the course of 2014 this meaningfully augmented our net income. We remain pleased with the performance of our small but profitable non-Agency portfolio, as improved performance has served to boost our portfolio yields."

As of December 31, 2014, our mortgage-backed securities portfolio consisted of \$1.271 billion of fixed rate Agency "specified pools," \$44.3 million of Agency RMBS backed by adjustable rate mortgages, or "Agency ARMs," \$34.4 million of Agency reverse mortgage pools, \$11.2 million of Agency interest only securities, or "Agency IOs," and \$32.5 million of non-Agency RMBS. Specified pools are fixed rate Agency pools with special characteristics, such as pools comprised of low loan balance mortgages, pools comprised of mortgages backed by investor properties, pools containing mortgages originated through the government-sponsored "Making Homes Affordable" refinancing programs, and pools containing mortgages with various other characteristics. During the quarter, we increased our holdings of 30-year fixed rate pools as well as reverse mortgage pools. Our overall Agency RMBS portfolio increased slightly to \$1.361 billion as of December 31, 2014 from \$1.334 billion as of September 30, 2014, and the size of our non-Agency portfolio was relatively unchanged. Additionally, we increased our holdings of long TBAs, which for financial reporting purposes are treated as derivative instruments, to a notional amount of \$68.3 million as of December 31, 2014 as compared to \$51.4 million as of September 30, 2014.

During the fourth quarter, the broader financial markets experienced a heightened level of volatility, most notably in connection with the steep drop in oil prices. In addition, the yield curve flattened significantly during the fourth quarter. Ten-year interest rate swap rates declined approximately 36 basis points, while seven-year swap rates declined approximately 26 basis points. The ten-year U.S. Treasury yield ended the fourth quarter at 2.17%, as compared to 2.49% at the end of the third quarter. Meanwhile short-term interest rates remained relatively stable or increased slightly. Mortgage rates to the consumer declined during the quarter, dropping approximately 0.33% to 3.87% for a fixed-rate 30-year conventional mortgage.

In October 2014, and as anticipated in light of the growing strength in the U.S. economy, the Federal Reserve ceased its monthly bond purchases of Agency RMBS and U.S. Treasury securities, but continues to reinvest paydown proceeds from its

<sup>1</sup> Core Earnings is a non-GAAP financial measure. See "Reconciliation of Core Earnings to Net Income (Loss)" below for an explanation regarding the calculation of Core Earnings.

held portfolio into additional securities. Over the course of the fourth quarter, the reduced buying activity of the Federal Reserve was more than offset by other investors, including mortgage REITs and bond funds.

With interest rates declining sharply, our long specified pool positions generated significant gains for the quarter, while our interest rate hedges, which were largely concentrated in interest rate swaps and short TBA positions, generated offsetting losses. Specified pools performed well during the fourth quarter, as the drop in interest rates increased the value of prepayment protection, although pay-ups for some coupons benefited more than others. Pay-ups are price premiums for specified pools relative to their TBA counterparts. However, TBAs also performed well over the course of the fourth quarter, as the decline in mortgage rates did not trigger substantial increases in refinancing activity during the quarter, with the exception of a temporary spike after the brief sharp drop in interest rates on October 15th. In addition to providing support to Agency RMBS prices, the relatively benign level of refinancing activity also helped support TBA monthly roll prices. TBA monthly roll prices were further supported by Federal Reserve settlement activity in the quarter; notwithstanding the cessation of its monthly bond purchase program, the Federal Reserve still had large outstanding purchases to settle through the end of the fourth quarter. Since we generally hold a net short position in TBAs to hedge the interest rate and prepayment risk in our specified pool portfolio, and since we use the TBA roll market to maintain these short TBA positions, the strength of the TBA roll market in the fourth quarter served as a drag on our earnings.

During the fourth quarter, we continued to focus our Agency RMBS purchasing activity primarily on specified pools, especially those with higher coupons. We also continued to be active in the reverse mortgage pool sector. During the quarter we added new issue reverse mortgage pools, which we believe currently offer excellent relative value. Our Agency RMBS portfolio also includes a small allocation to Agency IOs. With prepayment activity low, option-adjusted spreads on Agency IOs remained tight during the fourth quarter. As a result, we took the opportunity to execute selective sales. However, with interest rates having dropped substantially since year end and with prepayment activity therefore poised to increase substantially, we are ready to take advantage of possible upcoming dislocations in the Agency IO market. Overall, during the fourth quarter, we turned over 20% of our Agency RMBS portfolio, as measured by sales and excluding paydowns.

With prepayment rates already increasing sharply after year end, pay-ups on many specified pools have also increased significantly. In addition, the impact of the Federal Reserve's reduction in asset purchases has finally begun to depress TBA roll prices, especially in higher coupons. We believe that there is a heightened risk of substantial interest rate and prepayment volatility in the near term, thus reinforcing the importance of our ability to hedge our risks using a variety of tools, including TBAs. We also believe that increased volatility can create opportunities for us, particularly given our active style of portfolio management.

We expect to continue to target specified pools that, taking into account their particular composition and based on our prepayment projections: (1) should generate attractive yields relative to other Agency RMBS and U.S. Treasury securities, (2) should have less prepayment sensitivity to government policy shocks, and/or (3) create opportunities for trading gains once the market recognizes their value, which for newer pools may come only after several months, when actual prepayment experience can be observed. We believe that our research team, our proprietary prepayment models, and our extensive databases remain essential tools in our implementation of this strategy.

Our net Agency premium as a percentage of our long Agency RMBS holdings is a metric that we use to measure our overall prepayment risk. 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 related net short TBA positions. The lower our net Agency premium, the less we believe we are exposed to market-wide increases in Agency RMBS prepayments. As of December 31, 2014, our net Agency premium as a percentage of fair value on long Agency RMBS holdings was approximately 4.0% as compared to 3.2%, as of September 30, 2014. Excluding TBA positions used to hedge our long Agency RMBS portfolio, our Agency premium as a percentage of fair value was approximately 6.9% and 5.6% as of December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2014, respectively.

During the fourth quarter, non-Agency RMBS prices exhibited stability relative to the broader financial markets. Non-Agency RMBS prices were generally supported by the decline in interest rates, ongoing improvements in fundamental data, including mortgage delinquency and foreclosure rates, as well as by the drop in oil prices. Since crude oil prices directly and indirectly drive the price of gasoline, heating oil, and other significant budget items for homeowners, the decline in oil prices should free up significant disposable income for homeowners over the near term, and should therefore benefit the credit performance of non-Agency RMBS. In addition, recent declines in interest rates are translating into lower rate resets on adjustable rate mortgages, thereby freeing up additional disposable income for homeowners. The drop in interest rates, if sustained, could further benefit non-Agency RMBS credit performance by creating additional upward pressure on home prices, which slowed in 2014 after increasing sharply in 2012 and 2013. However, as market yields for non-Agency RMBS have remained compressed, prudent and careful security selection, based on loan-level analysis performed on a security-by-security basis, continues to be

of paramount importance. As of December 31, 2014, our investment in non-Agency RMBS was \$32.5 million as compared to \$33.7 million as of September 30, 2014.

For the quarter ended December 31, 2014, net realized gains and change in net unrealized gains (losses) on our mortgage-backed securities were \$14.1 million, or \$1.54 per share. Our assets generally increased in value during the fourth quarter. Net realized losses and change in net unrealized gains (losses) on our derivatives were \$(24.1) million, or \$(2.64) per share, and were principally attributable to the decline in interest rates over the quarter.

For the quarter ended December 31, 2014, the annualized weighted average yield of our portfolio of Agency and non-Agency RMBS was 3.43%, while our weighted average cost of funds including interest rate swaps was 0.94%, resulting in a net interest margin for the quarter of 2.49%. In comparison, for the quarter ended September 30, 2014, the annualized weighted average yield of our Agency and non-Agency RMBS was 3.40%, while the weighted average cost of funds including interest rate swaps was 1.02%, resulting in a net interest margin of 2.38%. Our portfolio yield increased three basis points during the fourth quarter, while our cost of funds declined eight basis points. The increase in our portfolio yield was primarily a function of improved cash flows on our non-Agency securities. The decline in our cost of funds was primarily the result of three factors: (1) the impact of the decline in long-term interest rates on our swap hedging portfolio, (2) a roughly six-month decline in the weighted average remaining term of our swap hedging portfolio, and (3) the greater weighting of our overall hedging portfolio towards short TBAs as opposed to interest rate swaps. The decline in the weighted average remaining term of our cost of repo was relatively stable quarter over quarter, even though the weighted average remaining maturity of our repo borrowings increased to 60 days as of December 31, 2014, up from 48 days as of September 30, 2014. Our interest income is also subject to fluctuations based on adjustments to premium amortization as a result of changes in prepayments of our Agency RMBS (accompanied by a corresponding offsetting adjustment to realized and unrealized gains and losses). During the fourth quarter, this "catch-up amortization adjustment," increased interest income by \$0.1 million. The amount of this adjustment can vary significantly from quarter to quarter.

After giving effect to a fourth quarter dividend of \$0.55 per share, our book value per share was \$17.86 as of December 31, 2014, a 3.6% decrease from our book value per share as of September 30, 2014 of \$18.53. Our economic return on book value for the fourth quarter was (0.6)%. Economic return on book value is computed by adding back dividends to ending book value per share, and comparing that amount to book value per share as of the beginning of the quarter.

For the quarter ended December 31, 2014, Core Earnings was \$7.0 million, or \$0.76 per share, and for the quarter ended September 30, 2014, Core Earnings was \$6.9 million, also \$0.76 per share. Core Earnings is a non-GAAP financial measure. See "Reconciliation of Core Earnings to Net Income (Loss)" below for an explanation regarding the calculation of Core Earnings.

### Mortgage-backed securities

The following table summarizes our portfolio of mortgage-backed securities as of December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2014:

		Dec	ember 31, 20		September 30, 2014											
(In thousands)	Current Principal			Average alue 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>	
Agency RMBS <sup>(2)</sup>																
15-year fixed rate mortgages	\$ 130,720	\$ 138,028	\$ 105.59	\$	137,024	\$ 104.82	\$	136,558	\$	143,357	\$	104.98	\$	143,056	\$	104.76
20-year fixed rate mortgages	9,764	10,568	108.23		10,341	105.91		9,974		10,662		106.90		10,570		105.98
30-year fixed rate mortgages	1,042,550	1,122,254	107.65		1,103,639	105.86		1,036,799		1,098,761		105.98		1,092,290		105.35
ARMs	41,710	44,283	106.17		44,523	106.74		43,288		46,121		106.54		46,233		106.80
Reverse mortgages	31,412	34,425	109.59		34,153	108.73		19,523		21,217		108.68		21,103		108.09
Total Agency RMBS	1,256,156	1,349,558	107.44		1,329,680	105.85		1,246,142		1,320,118		105.94		1,313,252		105.39
Non-Agency RMBS	50,668	32,501	64.15		30,291	59.78		52,785		33,732		63.90		31,217		59.14
Total RMBS <sup>(2)</sup>	1,306,824	1,382,059	105.76		1,359,971	104.07		1,298,927		1,353,850		104.23		1,344,469		103.51
Agency IOs	n/a	11,244	n/a		10,780	n/a		n/a		14,242		n/a		12,108		n/a
Total mortgage- backed securities		1,393,303			1,370,751					1,368,092				1,356,577		
U.S. Treasury securities sold short	(13,860)	(13,959)	100.71		(13,917)	100.41		(2,500)		(2,483)		99.32		(2,479)		99.16
Reverse repurchase agreements	13,987	13,987	100.00		13,987	100.00		2,484		2,484		100.00		2,484		100.00
Total		\$ 1,393,331		\$	1,370,821				\$	1,368,093			\$	1,356,582		

Represents the dollar amount (not shown in thousands) per \$100 of current principal of the price or cost for the security.
 Excludes Agency IOs.

Our weighted average holdings of RMBS based on amortized cost was \$1.375 billion and \$1.352 billion for the three month periods ended December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2014, respectively.

### **Financial Derivatives Portfolio**

The following table summarizes fair value of our financial derivatives as of December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2014:

	December 31, 2014	September 30, 2014
Financial derivatives-assets, at fair value:	(I)	thousands)
TBA securities purchase contracts	\$ 38	7 \$ 28
TBA securities sale contracts	8	9 369
Fixed payer interest rate swaps	2,51	8 8,042
Swaptions	7	8 —
Total financial derivatives-assets, at fair value:	3,07	2 8,439
Financial derivatives–liabilities, at fair value:		
TBA securities purchase contracts	(	5) (81)
TBA securities sale contracts	(1,66	9) (411)
Fixed payer interest rate swaps	(7,02	6) (2,333)
Swaptions	-	- (25)
Total financial derivatives-liabilities, at fair value:	(8,70	0) (2,850)
Total	\$ (5,62	8) \$ 5,589

# Interest Rate Swaps

The following tables provide details about our interest rate swaps as of December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2014:

	December 31, 2014											
Maturity	Notion	al Amount	Fa	ir Value	Weighted Average Remaining Years to Maturity							
		(In the	ousands)									
2016	\$	48,000	\$	(91)	0.80%	0.23%	1.77					
2017		74,750		(388)	1.21	0.24	2.59					
2018		10,000		167	0.84	0.23	3.33					
2020		23,500		471	1.42	0.23	5.38					
2023		209,350		140	2.13	0.23	8.40					
2024		12,900		(605)	2.73	0.23	9.45					
2043		46,320		(4,202)	3.12	0.23	28.42					
Total	\$	424,820	\$	(4,508)	1.87%	0.23%	8.56					

	September 30, 2014												
Maturity	Notional Amount	Fair Value	Weighted AverageWeighted AverageFair ValuePay RateReceive Rate										
	(In th	ousands)											
2016	\$ 48,000	\$ (37)	0.80%	0.23%	2.02								
2017	74,750	(96)	1.21	0.24	2.84								
2018	33,500	695	0.88	0.24	3.63								
2020	43,200	1,313	1.42	0.23	5.62								
2021	27,000	(150)	2.29	0.23	6.77								
2023	210,600	5,034	2.13	0.23	8.65								
2024	27,700	(340)	2.74	0.21	9.83								
2043	54,500	(119)	3.15	0.23	28.68								
2044	9,820	(591)	3.48	0.23	29.66								
Total	\$ 529,070	\$ 5,709	1.91%	0.23%	9.08								

# Interest Rate Swaptions

The following table provides information about our swaptions as of December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2014:

			Decem	ber 31	1, 2014								
	Opt	ion		Underlying Swap									
Туре	Fair	Value	Months to Expiration		Notional Amount	Term (Years)	Fixed Rate						
(\$ in thousands)													
Straddle	\$	78	6.5	\$	9,700	10.0	3.00%						
			Septem	ber 3	0, 2014								
	Opt	ion				Underlying Swap							
Туре	Fair	<sup>•</sup> Value	Months to Expiration		Notional Amount	Term (Years)	Fixed Rate						
(\$ in thousands)													
Straddle	\$	(25)	9.5	\$ 9,700		10.0	3.00%						

### TBAs

The following table provides information about our TBAs as of December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2014:

		December	2014		September 30, 2014										
TBA Securities	Notional Mount <sup>(1)</sup>		Cost         Net           Basis <sup>(2)</sup> Market Value         Carrying         Notional           (3)         Value <sup>(4)</sup> Amount <sup>(1)</sup>						Cost Basis <sup>(2)</sup>		arket Value ⑶	Net Carrying Value <sup>(4)</sup>			
(In thousands) Purchase contracts:															
Assets	\$ 53,319	\$	54,757	\$	55,144	\$	387	\$	19,208	\$	19,072	\$	19,100	\$	28
Liabilities	15,000		15,603		15,598		(5)		32,181		32,567		32,486		(81)
	 68,319		70,360		70,742		382		51,389		51,639		51,586		(53)
Sale contracts:															
Assets	(79,090)		(85,730)		(85,641)		89		(335,197)		(353,155)		(352,786)		369
Liabilities	(525,986)		(559,219)		(560,888)		(1,669)		(195,429)		(209,093)		(209,504)		(411)
	 (605,076)		(644,949)		(646,529)		(1,580)		(530,626)		(562,248)		(562,290)		(42)
Total TBA securities, net	\$ (536,757)	\$	(574,589)	\$	(575,787)	\$	(1,198)	\$	(479,237)	\$	(510,609)	\$	(510,704)	\$	(95)

Notional amount represents the principal balance of the underlying Agency RMBS. Cost basis represents the forward price to be paid for the underlying Agency RMBS. (1) (2)

(3)

Market value represents the current market value of the underlying Agency RMBS (on a forward delivery basis) as of the respective period end. Net carrying value represents the difference between the market value of the TBA contract as of the respective period end and the cost basis, and is reported in Financial derivatives-assets, at (4) fair value and Financial derivatives-liabilities, at fair value on the Consolidated Balance Sheet, for each respective period end.

We primarily use TBAs to hedge interest rate risk, typically in the form of short positions. However, from time to time we also invest in TBAs as a means of acquiring exposure to Agency RMBS, or for speculative purposes, including holding long positions. Overall, we typically hold a net short position.

The following tables detail gains and losses on our financial derivatives for the three month periods ended December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2014:

### Three Month Period Ended December 31, 2014

Derivative Type (In thousands)	(Loss Settlen	Realized Gains es) on Periodic nents of Interest tate Swaps	Net Realized Gains (Losses) Other Than Periodic Settlements of Interest Rate Swaps			Net Realized Gains (Losses) on Financial Derivatives		Change in Net Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Accrued Periodic Settlements of Interest Rate Swaps		Change in Net Unrealized Gains sses) Other Than on Accrued Periodic tlements of Interest Rate Swaps		Change in Net Unrealized Gains osses) on Financial Derivatives
Fixed payer interest rate swaps	¢	(3,643)	\$	(2,190)	¢	(5,833)	¢	1,725	\$	(11,942)	¢	(10,217)
1	φ	(3,043)	φ	(2,150)	φ	(3,033)	Ψ	1,725	ψ		φ	
Swaptions										104		104
TBAs				(7,090)	_	(7,090)				(1,104)		(1,104)
Total	\$	(3,643)	\$	(9,280)	\$	(12,923)	\$	1,725	\$	(12,942)	\$	(11,217)

### Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2014

Derivative Type (In thousands)	(Losses Settleme	ealized Gains s) on Periodic ents of Interest ite Swaps	(Los Perio	Realized Gains ses) Other Than dic Settlements of rest Rate Swaps	Net Realized Gains (Losses) on Financial Derivatives		U (Lo Perio	Change in Net nrealized Gains ssses) on Accrued odic Settlements of erest Rate Swaps	U (Los A	Change in Net Inrealized Gains ses) Other Than on ccrued Periodic lements of Interest Rate Swaps	Change in Net Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Financial Derivatives		
Fixed payer interest rate swaps	\$	(678)	\$	502	\$	(176)	\$	(1,475)	\$	(10)	\$	(1,485)	
Swaptions				(935)		(935)				898		898	
TBAs				(3,280)		(3,280)				2,867		2,867	
Total	\$	(678)	\$	(3,713)	\$	(4,391)	\$	(1,475)	\$	3,755	\$	2,280	

### **Interest Rate Sensitivity**

The following table summarizes, as of December 31, 2014, the estimated effects on the value of our portfolio, both overall and by category, of immediate downward and upward parallel shifts of 50 basis points in interest rates.

	Estimated Chang	ge in Faiı	r Value <sup>(1)</sup>
(In thousands)	sis Point Decline Interest Rates	50	Basis Point Increase in Interest Rates
Agency RMBS - ARM Pools	\$ 382	\$	(505)
Agency RMBS - Fixed Pools and IOs	22,694		(30,899)
TBAs	(9,150)		12,301
Non-Agency RMBS	523		(493)
Interest Rate Swaps	(16,057)		15,049
Swaptions	415		(221)
U.S. Treasury Securities	(610)		577
Repurchase and Reverse Repurchase Agreements	(851)		1,108
Total	\$ (2,654)	\$	(3,083)

(1) Based on the market environment as of December 31, 2014. 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 the overall portfolio that would differ from those presented above and such differences might be significant and adverse.

### **Repo Borrowings**

The following table details our outstanding borrowings under repo agreements as of December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2014:

			December 31, 2014		September 30, 2014							
			Weighted	Average			Weighted Average					
Remaining Days to Maturity		Borrowings Outstanding	Interest Rate	Remaining Days to Maturity		Borrowings Outstanding	Interest Rate	Remaining Days to Maturity				
	(	In thousands)				(In thousands)						
30 days or less	\$	437,633	0.33%	15	\$	325,079	0.34%	16				
31-60 days		417,009	0.34	44		519,999	0.33	45				
61-90 days		333,580	0.36	72		338,669	0.33	73				
91-120 days			—	—		22,192	0.38	106				
121-150 days			_			27,394	0.38	135				
151-180 days		85,917	0.41	165				_				
301-330 days		48,941	0.47	317		_	—	_				
Total	\$	1,323,080	0.35%	60	\$	1,233,333	0.33%	48				

As of December 31, 2014, we had no outstanding borrowings other than under repo agreements. Our repo borrowings were with ten counterparties as of December 31, 2014 and were entirely related to Agency RMBS. The above figures are as of the respective quarter ends; over the course of each quarter our average cost of repo was 0.34%.

### Other

We incur an annual base management fee, payable quarterly in arrears, in an amount equal to 1.50% of shareholders' equity (as defined in our management agreement, effective March 13, 2014). For the quarter ended December 31, 2014, our expense ratio, defined as management fees and operating expenses as a percentage of shareholders' equity, was 4.1% on an annualized basis. Our expense ratio based on our full year results was 3.4%. The increase in our fourth quarter expense ratio was due to certain increased professional fees which we consider to be of a non-recurring nature.

### Dividends

On December 11, 2014, our Board of Trustees declared a fourth quarter dividend of \$0.55 per share, or \$5.0 million, which was paid on January 26, 2015 to shareholders of record on December 31, 2014.

### **Share Repurchase Program**

On August 13, 2013, our Board of Trustees approved the adoption of a \$10 million share repurchase program. The program, which is open-ended in duration, allows us to make repurchases from time to time on the open market or in negotiated transactions. Repurchases are at our discretion, subject to applicable law, share availability, price and our financial performance, among other considerations. To date, we have not repurchased any shares under the program.

### **Reconciliation of Core Earnings to Net Income (Loss)**

Core Earnings consists of net income (loss), excluding realized and change in net unrealized gains and losses on mortgage-backed securities and financial derivatives, and, if applicable, items of income or loss that are of a non-recurring nature. Core Earnings includes net realized and change in net unrealized gains (losses) associated with payments and accruals of periodic payments on interest rate swaps. Core Earnings is a supplemental non-GAAP financial measure. We believe that Core Earnings provides information useful to investors because it is a metric that we use to assess our performance and to evaluate the effective net yield provided by the portfolio. Moreover, one of our objectives is to generate income from the net interest margin on the portfolio, and Core Earnings is used to help measure the extent to which this objective is being achieved. However, because Core Earnings is an incomplete measure of our financial results and differs from net income (loss) computed in accordance with GAAP, it should be considered as supplementary to, and not as a substitute for, net income (loss) computed in accordance with GAAP.



The following table reconciles, for the three month periods ended December 31, 2014 and September 30, 2014, our Core Earnings on a consolidated basis to the line on our Consolidated Statement of Operations entitled Net Income (Loss), which we believe is the most directly comparable GAAP measure on our Consolidated Statement of Operations to Core Earnings:

(In thousands except share amounts)	I	Three Month Period Ended December 31, 2014	Three Month Period Ended September 30, 2014
Net Income (Loss)	\$	(1,176)	\$ 3,533
Less:			
Net realized gains on mortgage-backed securities		3,070	2,030
Net realized losses on financial derivatives, excluding periodic payments <sup>(1)</sup>		(9,280)	(3,713)
Change in net unrealized gains (losses) on mortgage-backed securities		11,000	(5,455)
Change in net unrealized gains (losses) on financial derivatives, excluding accrued periodic payments <sup>(2)</sup>		(12,942)	3,755
Subtotal		(8,152)	 (3,383)
Core Earnings	\$	6,976	\$ 6,916
Weighted Average Shares Outstanding		9,149,274	 9,141,892
Core Earnings Per Share	\$	0.76	\$ 0.76

(1) For the three month period ended December 31, 2014, represents Net realized gains (losses) on financial derivatives of \$(12,923) less Net realized gains (losses) on periodic settlements of interest rate swaps of \$(3,643). For the three month period ended September 30, 2014, represents Net realized gains (losses) on financial derivatives of \$(4,391) less Net realized gains (losses) on periodic settlements of interest rate swaps of \$(678).

(2) For the three month period ended December 31, 2014, represents Change in net unrealized gains (losses) on financial derivatives of \$(11,217) less Change in net unrealized gains (losses) on accrued periodic settlements of interest rate swaps of \$1,725. For the three month period ended September 30, 2014, represents Change in net unrealized gains (losses) on financial derivatives of \$2,280 less Change in net unrealized gains (losses) on accrued periodic settlements of interest rate swaps of settlements of interest rate swaps of \$(1,475).

#### **About Ellington Residential Mortgage REIT**

Ellington Residential Mortgage REIT is a mortgage real estate investment trust that specializes in acquiring, investing in and managing residential mortgageand real estate-related assets, with a primary focus on 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. Ellington Residential Mortgage REIT is externally managed and advised by Ellington Residential Mortgage Management LLC, an affiliate of Ellington Management Group, L.L.C.

#### **Conference Call**

We will host a conference call at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, to discuss our financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2014. To participate in the event by telephone, please dial (877) 437-3698 at least 10 minutes prior to the start time and reference the conference ID number 74924064. International callers should dial (810) 740-4679 and reference the same conference ID number. The conference call will also be webcast live over the Internet and can be accessed via the "For Our Shareholders" section of our web site at www.earnreit.com. To listen to the live webcast, please visit www.earnreit.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, we also posted an investor presentation, that will accompany the conference call, on its website at www.earnreit.com under "For Our Shareholders—Presentations."

A dial-in replay of the conference call will be available on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, at approximately 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time through Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at approximately 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. To access this replay, please dial (855) 859-2056 and enter the conference ID number 74924064. International callers should dial (404) 537-3406 and enter the same conference ID number. A replay of the conference call will also be archived on our web site at www.earnreit.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-lookina statements involve numerous risks and uncertainties. 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, our beliefs regarding the current economic and investment environment, our ability to implement our investment and hedging strategies, our future prospects and the protection of our net interest margin from prepayments, volatility and its impact on us, the performance of our investment and hedging strategies, our exposure to prepayment risk in our Agency portfolio, estimated effects on the fair value of our RMBS and interest rate derivative holdings of a hypothetical change in interest rates, statements regarding our share repurchase program, and statements regarding the drivers of our returns. Our results can fluctuate from month to month and from quarter to quarter depending on a variety of factors, some of which are beyond our control and/or are difficult to predict, including, without limitation, changes in interest rates and the market value of our securities, changes in mortgage default rates and prepayment rates, our ability to borrow to finance our assets, changes in government regulations affecting our business, our ability to maintain our 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 in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 filed on March 21, 2014 which can be accessed through the link to our SEC filings under "For Our Shareholders" on our website (www.earnreit.com) or at the SEC's website (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 undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

# ELLINGTON RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE REIT CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (UNAUDITED)

		Three Period		Year Ended		
	Decer	nber 31, 2014	Sep	otember 30, 2014	Dec	cember 31, 2014
(In thousands except share amounts)						
INTEREST INCOME (EXPENSE)						
Interest income	\$	11,806	\$	11,484	\$	46,824
Interest expense		(1,165)		(1,121)		(4,511)
Total net interest income		10,641		10,363		42,313
EXPENSES						
Management fees		552		574		2,285
Professional fees		587		123		986
Other operating expenses		608		597		2,481
Total expenses		1,747		1,294		5,752
OTHER INCOME (LOSS)						
Net realized gains on mortgage-backed securities		3,070		2,030		2,457
Net realized losses on financial derivatives		(12,923)		(4,391)		(31,878)
Change in net unrealized gains (losses) on mortgage-backed securities		11,000		(5,455)		48,550
Change in net unrealized gains (losses) on financial derivatives		(11,217)		2,280		(39,522)
Total other income (loss)		(10,070)		(5,536)		(20,393)
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$	(1,176)	\$	3,533	\$	16,168
NET INCOME (LOSS) PER COMMON SHARE:						
Basic and Diluted	\$	(0.13)	\$	0.39	\$	1.77
WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING		9,149,274		9,141,892		9,142,736
CASH DIVIDENDS PER SHARE:						
Dividends declared	\$	0.55	\$	0.55	\$	2.20

## ELLINGTON RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE REIT CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (UNAUDITED)

	As of					
	Dec	ember 31, 2014	Se	ptember 30, 2014		December 31, 2013 <sup>(1)</sup>
(In thousands except share amounts)						
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	45,237	\$	51,063	\$	50,112
Mortgage-backed securities, at fair value		1,393,303		1,368,092		1,326,036
Due from brokers		18,531		20,071		18,347
Financial derivatives–assets, at fair value		3,072		8,439		34,963
Reverse repurchase agreements		13,987		2,484		
Receivable for securities sold		41,834		25,945		76,692
Interest receivable		4,793		5,601		4,766
Other assets		317		497		174
Total Assets	\$	1,521,074	\$	1,482,192	\$	1,511,090
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY						
LIABILITIES						
Repurchase agreements	\$	1,323,080	\$	1,233,333	\$	1,310,347
Payable for securities purchased		4,227		63,143		2,776
Due to brokers		583		3,889		22,788
Financial derivatives–liabilities, at fair value		8,700		2,850		1,069
U.S. Treasury securities sold short, at fair value		13,959		2,483		
Dividend payable		5,032		5,032		4,570
Accrued expenses		890		754		996
Management fee payable		551		574		600
Interest payable		687		591		764
Total Liabilities		1,357,709		1,312,649		1,343,910
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			-			
Preferred shares, par value \$0.01 per share, 100,000,000 shares authorized; (0 shares issued and outstanding, respectively)		_				_
Common shares, par value \$0.01 per share, 500,000,000 shares authorized; (9,149,274, 9,149,274, and 9,139,842 shares issued and outstanding, respectively)		91		91		91
Additional paid-in-capital		181,282		181,252		181,147
Accumulated deficit		(18,008)		(11,800)		(14,058)
Total Shareholders' Equity		163,365		169,543		167,180
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$	1,521,074	\$	1,482,192	\$	1,511,090
PER SHARE INFORMATION					_	
Common shares, par value \$0.01 per share	\$	17.86	\$	18.53	\$	18.29

(1) Derived from audited financial statements as of December 31, 2013.