

CREDIT ACCEPTANCE CORP  
Form 10-K  
February 24, 2012

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2011

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the Transition Period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number 000-20202  
CREDIT ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION  
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Michigan  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

38-1999511  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

25505 W. Twelve Mile Road  
Southfield, Michigan  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

48034-8339  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (248) 353-2700

Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:	
Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock	NASDAQ

Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:  
None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (Section 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (Section 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	Accelerated filer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes  No

The aggregate market value of 5,759,970 shares of the Registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates on June 30, 2011 was approximately \$486.5 million. For purposes of this computation all officers, directors and 10% beneficial owners of the Registrant are assumed to be affiliates. Such determination should not be deemed an admission that such officers, directors and beneficial owners are, in fact, affiliates of the Registrant.

At February 15, 2012, there were 25,622,480 shares of the Registrant's common stock issued and outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement pertaining to the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Proxy Statement") filed pursuant to Regulation 14A are incorporated herein by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K (this "Form 10-K").

CREDIT ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

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PART I

ITEM BUSINESS

1.

General

Since 1972, Credit Acceptance Corporation (referred to as the “Company”, “Credit Acceptance”, “we”, “our” or “us”) has provided auto loans to consumers, regardless of their credit history. Our product is offered through a nationwide network of automobile dealers who benefit from sales of vehicles to consumers who otherwise could not obtain financing; from repeat and referral sales generated by these same customers; and from sales to customers responding to advertisements for our product, but who actually end up qualifying for traditional financing.

Credit Acceptance was founded to collect retail installment contracts (referred to as “Consumer Loans”) originated by automobile dealerships owned by Donald Foss, our Chairman, founder, and significant shareholder. During the 1980s, we began to market this service to non-affiliated dealers and, at the same time, began to offer dealers a non-recourse cash payment (referred to as an “advance”) against anticipated future collections on Consumer Loans serviced for that dealer.

We refer to dealers who participate in our programs and who share our commitment to changing consumers’ lives as “Dealer-Partners”. Upon enrollment in our financing programs, the Dealer-Partner enters into a dealer servicing agreement with us that defines the legal relationship between Credit Acceptance and the Dealer-Partner. The dealer servicing agreement assigns the responsibilities for administering, servicing, and collecting the amounts due on Consumer Loans from the Dealer-Partners to us. We are an indirect lender from a legal perspective, meaning the Consumer Loan is originated by the Dealer-Partner and assigned to us.

Consumers and Dealer-Partners benefit from our programs as follows:

**Consumers.** We help change the lives of consumers who do not qualify for conventional automobile financing by helping them obtain quality transportation. Without our product, consumers are often unable to purchase a vehicle or they purchase an unreliable one. Further, as we report to the three national credit reporting agencies, an important ancillary benefit of our program is that we provide a significant number of our consumers with an opportunity to improve their lives by improving their credit score and move on to more traditional sources of financing.

**Dealer-Partners.** Our program increases Dealer-Partners’ profits in the following ways:

- Enables Dealer-Partners to sell cars to consumers who may not be able to obtain financing without our program. In addition, consumers often become repeat customers by financing future vehicle purchases either through our program or, after they have successfully established or reestablished their credit, through conventional financing.
- Allows Dealer-Partners to share in the profit, not only from the sale of the vehicle, but also from its financing.
- Enables Dealer-Partners to attract consumers by advertising “guaranteed credit approval”, where allowed by law. The consumers will often use other services of the Dealer-Partners and refer friends and relatives to them.
- Enables Dealer-Partners to attract consumers who mistakenly assume they do not qualify for conventional financing.

Business Segment Information

We currently operate in one reportable segment which represents our core business of offering auto loans, and related products and services to consumers through our network of Dealer-Partners. For information regarding our reportable segment and related entity-wide disclosures, see Note 15 to the consolidated financial statements contained in Item 8 of this Form 10-K, which is incorporated herein by reference.



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## Principal Business

We have two programs: the Portfolio Program and the Purchase Program. Under the Portfolio Program, we advance money to Dealer-Partners (referred to as a “Dealer Loan”) in exchange for the right to service the underlying Consumer Loans. Under the Purchase Program, we buy the Consumer Loans from the Dealer-Partners (referred to as a “Purchased Loan”) and keep all amounts collected from the consumer. Dealer Loans and Purchased Loans are collectively referred to as “Loans”. The following table shows the percentage of Consumer Loans assigned to us based on unit volumes under each of the programs for each of the last 12 quarters:

Quarter Ended	Portfolio Program	Purchase Program
March 31, 2009	82.3%	17.7%
June 30, 2009	86.0%	14.0%
September 30, 2009	89.0%	11.0%
December 31, 2009	90.8%	9.2%
March 31, 2010	90.9%	9.1%
June 30, 2010	90.5%	9.5%
September 30, 2010	90.5%	9.5%
December 31, 2010	91.8%	8.2%
March 31, 2011	92.9%	7.1%
June 30, 2011	92.1%	7.9%
September 30, 2011	92.3%	7.7%
December 31, 2011	92.6%	7.4%

## Portfolio Program

As payment for the vehicle, the Dealer-Partner generally receives the following:

- a down payment from the consumer;
  - a cash advance from us; and
- after the advance has been recovered by us, the cash from payments made on the Consumer Loan, net of certain collection costs and our servicing fee (“Dealer Holdback”).

We record the amount advanced to the Dealer-Partner as a Dealer Loan, which is classified within Loans receivable in our consolidated balance sheets. Cash advanced to the Dealer-Partner is automatically assigned to the Dealer-Partner’s open pool of advances. We generally require Dealer-Partners to group advances into pools of at least 100 Consumer Loans. At the Dealer-Partner’s option, a pool containing at least 100 Consumer Loans can be closed and subsequent advances assigned to a new pool. All advances within a Dealer-Partner’s pool are secured by the future collections on the related Consumer Loans assigned to the pool. For Dealer-Partners with more than one pool, the pools are cross-collateralized so the performance of other pools is considered in determining eligibility for Dealer Holdback. We perfect our security interest in the Dealer Loans by taking possession of the Consumer Loans, which list us as lien holder on the vehicle title.

The dealer servicing agreement provides that collections received by us during a calendar month on Consumer Loans assigned by a Dealer-Partner are applied on a pool-by-pool basis as follows:

- First, to reimburse us for certain collection costs;
- Second, to pay us our servicing fee, which generally equals 20% of collections;
-

Third, to reduce the aggregate advance balance and to pay any other amounts due from the Dealer-Partner to us;  
and

- Fourth, to the Dealer-Partner as payment of Dealer Holdback.

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If the collections on Consumer Loans from a Dealer-Partner's pool are not sufficient to repay the advance balance and any other amounts due to us, the Dealer-Partner will not receive Dealer Holdback.

Dealer-Partners have an opportunity to receive an accelerated Dealer Holdback payment each time 100 Consumer Loans have been assigned to us. The amount paid to the Dealer-Partner is calculated using a formula that considers the forecasted collections and the advance balance on the related Consumer Loans.

Since typically the combination of the advance and the consumer's down payment provides the Dealer-Partner with a cash profit at the time of sale, the Dealer-Partner's risk in the Consumer Loan is limited. We cannot demand repayment of the advance from the Dealer-Partner except in the event the Dealer-Partner is in default of the dealer servicing agreement. Advances are made only after the consumer and Dealer-Partner have signed a Consumer Loan contract, we have received the original Consumer Loan contract and supporting documentation, and we have approved all of the related stipulations for funding. The Dealer-Partner can also opt to repurchase Consumer Loans that have been assigned to us under the Portfolio Program, at their discretion, for a fee.

For accounting purposes, the transactions described under the Portfolio Program are not considered to be loans to consumers. Instead, our accounting reflects that of a lender to the Dealer-Partner. The classification as a Dealer Loan for accounting purposes is primarily a result of (1) the Dealer-Partner's financial interest in the Consumer Loan and (2) certain elements of our legal relationship with the Dealer-Partner.

## Purchase Program

The Purchase Program differs from our Portfolio Program in that the Dealer-Partner receives a one-time payment from us at the time of assignment to purchase the Consumer Loan instead of a cash advance at the time of assignment and future Dealer Holdback payments. For accounting purposes, the transactions described under the Purchase Program are considered to be originated by the Dealer-Partner and then purchased by us.

## Program Enrollment

Dealer-Partners may enroll in our program by choosing one of our two enrollment options (referred to as "Option A" and "Option B"). In recent years, the terms of Option A have remained consistent while the terms of Option B have varied. The following table summarizes the terms of our enrollment options for the three year period ending December 31, 2011:

Effective Period	Option A	Option B
Since June 1, 2011	Upfront, one-time fee of \$9,850	Agreement to allow us to retain 50% of their first accelerated Dealer Holdback payment
From September 1, 2009 to May 31, 2011	Upfront, one-time fee of \$9,850	Upfront, one-time fee of \$1,950 and agreement to allow us to retain 50% of their first accelerated Dealer Holdback payment
Prior to September 1, 2009	Upfront, one-time fee of \$9,850	Agreement to allow us to retain 50% of their first accelerated Dealer Holdback payment



For all Dealer-Partners enrolling in our program, access to the Purchase Program is typically only granted after the first accelerated Dealer Holdback payment has been received under the Portfolio Program.

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Revenue Sources

Credit Acceptance derives its revenues from the following principal sources:

- Finance charges, which are comprised of: (1) servicing fees earned as a result of servicing Consumer Loans assigned to us by Dealer-Partners under the Portfolio Program, (2) finance charge income from Purchased Loans, (3) fees earned from our third party ancillary product offerings, (4) monthly program fees of \$599, charged to Dealer-Partners under