

FRANKLIN RESOURCES INC
Form 11-K
March 19, 2013

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

FORM 11-K

(Mark One)

☒ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2012

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 No. 001-09318

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

FRANKLIN TEMPLETON 401(k) RETIREMENT PLAN

B. Name of Issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

FRANKLIN RESOURCES, INC.

One Franklin Parkway

San Mateo, California 94403

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As of September 30, 2012 and 2011 and
For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2012
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Note: Other schedules required by 29 CFR Section 2520.103-10 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, have been omitted because they are not applicable.

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Participants and Plan Administrator
Franklin Templeton 401(k) Retirement Plan
San Mateo, California

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Franklin Templeton 401(k) Retirement Plan (the "Plan") as of September 30, 2012 and 2011, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended September 30, 2012. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of September 30, 2012 and 2011, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended September 30, 2012 in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the United States Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic 2012 financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic 2012 financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ Crowe Horwath LLP
Sacramento, California
March 19, 2013

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Franklin Templeton 401(k) Retirement Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	September 30, 2012	2011
Assets		
Cash	\$186,999	\$1,580,444
Investments, at fair value	865,541,153	693,169,326
Receivables:		
Employer contributions receivable	6,195,359	5,670,038
Employee contributions receivable	1,237,289	—
Notes receivable from participants	15,288,035	15,166,718
Other receivables	509,549	97,851
Total receivables	23,230,232	20,934,607
Total assets	888,958,384	715,684,377
Liabilities		
Amounts due to brokers for securities purchased	112,988	253,630
Total liabilities	112,988	253,630
Net assets available for benefits	\$888,845,396	\$715,430,747

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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Franklin Templeton 401(k) Retirement Plan
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2012

Additions

Additions to net assets attributed to:

Investment income:

Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$120,172,633
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Dividends	25,272,227
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	145,444,860
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	670,239
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Interest on notes receivable from participants	
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Contributions:

Participants	35,608,252
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Employer	26,176,888
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Rollovers	2,050,693
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Total contributions	63,835,833
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Total additions	209,950,932
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Deductions

Deductions to net assets attributed to:

Benefit payments and withdrawals	36,500,914
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Administrative fees and expenses	35,369
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Total deductions	36,536,283
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Net Increase	173,414,649
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Net assets available for benefits:

Beginning of year	715,430,747
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End of year	\$888,845,396
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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Franklin Templeton 401(k) Retirement Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

1. Description of the Plan

General

The Franklin Templeton 401(k) Retirement Plan (the “Plan”), formerly the Franklin Templeton Profit Sharing 401(k) Plan, is a defined contribution plan. The Plan was originally effective as of October 1, 1981 and was most recently amended as of October 1, 2010.

The Plan covers substantially all employees of Franklin Resources, Inc. (the “Company”) and its U.S. subsidiaries who meet certain employment requirements. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”). Participants should refer to, and solely rely upon, the Plan documents and summary plan description for a more complete description of the Plan’s provisions.

The Board of Directors of the Company has appointed an administrative committee (the “Administrative Committee”) and an investment committee (the “Investment Committee”) with certain authority to manage the policy, design, administration and investments of the Plan. The Administrative Committee, consisting of at least five members appointed by the Board of Directors of the Company, is the administrator of the Plan (the “Plan Administrator”). In the absence of the Administrative Committee for any reason, the Company acts as the Plan Administrator. The Investment Committee, consisting of at least five members appointed by the Board of Directors of the Company, is responsible for, among other things, analyzing the performance of investment options under the Plan and selecting new investment options to be offered under the Plan.

Charles Schwab Bank’s Business Trust Division, formerly known as Charles Schwab Trust Company, is the Plan’s trustee (the “Trustee”). The administration and recordkeeping services for the Plan are provided by Schwab Retirement Plan Services Company, a subsidiary of the Trustee. Gallagher Fiduciary Advisors, LLC, formerly known as Independent Fiduciary Services, Inc., is the investment manager and independent fiduciary (the “Independent Fiduciary”) concerning the purchase, holding and sale by Plan participants and beneficiaries of the Company’s common stock in the Plan.

Contributions

Participants may contribute up to 50% of pretax annual compensation and up to 100% of the cash portion of the participant’s year-end bonus, if any, as described in the Plan documents and subject to Internal Revenue Code limitations, each year to the Plan. Participants age 50 or older may elect to make catch-up contributions. Participants in the Plan may also elect to make contributions to Roth salary deferral accounts and Roth rollover accounts.

All eligible employees, as defined in the Plan, may begin contributing to the Plan as of the first of the month following their date of hire. Newly-hired eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan at a deferral rate of three percent of compensation following an election period during which the employee may either opt out of the Plan or choose a different salary deferral percentage in the manner prescribed by the Plan Administrator. Unless the participant elects otherwise, participants who are automatically enrolled in the Plan have their deferral rate automatically increase by one percent each year on December 1. The automatic increase is stopped when a deferral rate of 15% is attained, unless changed by the participant.

The Company makes a matching contribution equal to 75% of eligible compensation deferred by participants. Eligible employees become participants in the matching portions of the Plan on the first day of the month immediately following the later of the one-year anniversary of their hire date or completion of one year of service.

Participant Accounts

Individual accounts are maintained for each Plan participant. Each participant’s account is credited with the participant’s deferral contributions, the Company’s matching contributions and allocations of Plan earnings, and charged with withdrawals and allocations of Plan losses and administrative expenses. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant’s vested account. Prior to October 1, 2010, the Company also made profit sharing contributions under the Plan.

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their deferral contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Participants vest gradually in the Company's matching and prior profit sharing contribution portions of their accounts plus actual earnings thereon based on their years of service. Typically, a participant is 100% vested after completing five "years of service," as defined in the Plan. Upon death, disability or upon reaching normal retirement age, a participant's account shall become 100% vested.

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Forfeitures

With respect to any unvested Company matching and prior profit sharing contribution portions of a participant's account, any amount forfeited at distribution or pursuant to terms of the Plan remains in the Plan. Forfeitures may be used by the Plan to offset matching contributions or for other purposes, such as restoring returning participant accounts or for the payment of Plan expenses. Forfeitures attributable to Company matching contributions not used by the Plan are used to reduce current and future Company matching contributions. Forfeitures attributable to prior Company profit sharing contributions are allocated to participants' eligible share in such contributions. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2012 ("fiscal year 2012"), the amount of forfeitures used to offset Company matching contributions was \$155,031 and the amount of forfeitures used to pay Plan expenses was \$24,266.

Investment Options

Upon enrollment in the Plan, a participant may direct all contributions in one-percent increments into any of the following investment options as of September 30, 2012:

Tier 1 - Asset allocation funds. The three asset allocation funds offer a convenient way to obtain a broadly diversified investment program for Plan assets.

- Franklin Templeton Conservative Allocation Fund - The fund seeks the highest level of long-term total return consistent with a lower level of risk. The manager allocates assets among broad asset classes by primarily investing in a distinctly weighted combination of Franklin, Templeton and Mutual Series funds; generally 40% equity funds, 40% fixed-income funds and 20% short-term investments.

- Franklin Templeton Growth Allocation Fund - The fund seeks the highest level of long-term total return consistent with a higher level of risk. The manager allocates assets among broad asset classes by primarily investing in a distinctly weighted combination of Franklin, Templeton and Mutual Series funds; generally 80% equity funds, 15% fixed-income funds and 5% short-term investments.

- Franklin Templeton Moderate Allocation Fund - The fund seeks the highest level of long-term total return consistent with a moderate level of risk. The manager allocates assets among broad asset classes by primarily investing in a distinctly weighted combination of Franklin, Templeton and Mutual Series funds; generally 55% equity funds, 35% fixed-income funds and 10% short-term investments.

Tier 2 - Building a diversified portfolio. Investment options offered for those who are more comfortable with investing and would like to build their own diversified portfolio that will be consistent with their retirement planning investment objectives and tolerance for risk.

- Franklin Growth Fund - The fund seeks capital appreciation by investing substantially in the equity securities of companies that are leaders in their industries, and which the managers believe are suitable for a buy-and-hold strategy.

- Franklin International Growth Fund - The fund seeks capital appreciation by investing predominantly in the equity securities of mid- and large-capitalization companies outside the U.S. with long-term growth potential.

- Franklin Money Fund - The fund seeks to provide investors with as high a level of current income as is consistent with the preservation of shareholders' capital and liquidity.

- Franklin Large Cap Value Fund - The fund seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing at least 80% of the fund's net assets in large-capitalization companies, which are defined as those similar in size to companies in the Russell 1000® Index, at the time of purchase.

- Franklin Small Cap Growth Fund - The fund seeks long-term capital growth by investing at least 80% of its net assets in the equity securities of companies with market capitalizations of generally less than \$1.5 billion, or the highest market capitalization in the Russell 2000® Index, whichever is greater, at the time of purchase.

- Franklin Small Cap Value Fund - The fund seeks long-term total return by investing at least 80% of its net assets in the securities of smaller companies (market capitalizations under \$3.5 billion at the time of purchase).

- Franklin Total Return Fund - The fund seeks to provide high, current income consistent with preservation of capital. Capital appreciation over the long term is a secondary goal.

- State Street Global Advisors S&P 500 Index Fund - Collective trust established for retirement plans seeks to replicate the total return of the S&P 500 Index.

- Templeton Institutional Funds - Foreign Equity Series - The fund seeks long-term capital growth by investing at least 80% of its net assets in foreign (non-U.S.) equity securities.

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Tier 3 - Expanded investment options. Additional investment options offered for those with more investment expertise who may want a wider selection of investment options from which to build a diversified portfolio that will be consistent with their investment objectives and tolerance for risk.

- Franklin Balance Sheet Investment Fund - The fund seeks high total return by investing most of its assets in the stocks of companies the fund managers believe are undervalued and trading at a low price relative to book value.
- Franklin Flex Cap Growth Fund - The fund seeks capital appreciation by investing predominantly in equity securities of companies in any industry and of any market cap size.
- Franklin Growth Opportunities Fund - The fund seeks capital appreciation by investing substantially in equity securities of leading and emerging growth companies demonstrating increasing profitability or accelerating growth potential.
- Franklin High Income Fund - The fund seeks a high level of current income, with a secondary focus on capital appreciation, by investing substantially in higher-yielding, lower-rated corporate bonds.
- Franklin Income Fund - The fund seeks to maximize income, while maintaining prospects for capital appreciation, by investing in a diversified portfolio of dividend-paying stocks, bonds and convertible securities.
- Franklin MicroCap Value Fund - The fund seeks high total return by investing at least 80% of its net assets in companies with a total market capitalization of less than \$400 million at the time of purchase.
- Franklin Real Return Fund - The fund seeks to achieve total return that exceeds the rate of inflation over an economic cycle. The fund will generally invest a significant portion of its assets in inflation-protected securities. The manager also has the flexibility to invest in other sectors of the market as it seeks to achieve a high level of real return (total return less inflation), consistent with an acceptable level of risk.
- Franklin Rising Dividends Fund - The fund seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing at least 80% of its net assets in companies that have paid consistently rising dividends.
- Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund - The fund seeks long-term capital growth by investing at least 80% of its net assets in equity securities of small- and medium-sized companies within the market capitalization ranges of the Russell 2500™ Index for small-cap companies and Russell Midcap Index for mid-cap companies, at the time of purchase.
- Franklin Strategic Income Fund - The fund seeks to provide a high level of current income. Its secondary goal is capital appreciation over the long term. The fund is a multi-sector income fund that invests primarily in U.S. and foreign debt securities.
- Franklin U.S. Government Securities Fund - The fund's investment goal is income. Since 1983, the fund has invested substantially in Government National Mortgage Association securities, or Ginnie Maes. These securities carry a guarantee backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government as to timely payment of principal and interest.
- Mutual Beacon Fund - The fund seeks capital appreciation with income as a secondary goal. Its strategy is focused on undervalued mid- and large-cap equity securities which may include foreign equities and, to a lesser extent, distressed securities and merger arbitrage.
- Mutual European Fund - The fund seeks capital appreciation, with income as a secondary goal, by investing at least 80% of its net assets in the securities of European companies. It focuses mainly on undervalued equity securities and, to a lesser extent, distressed securities and merger arbitrage opportunities.
- Mutual Global Discovery Fund - The fund seeks capital appreciation. Its strategy is focused on undervalued mid- and large-cap equity securities, which may include foreign securities and, to a lesser extent, distressed securities and merger arbitrage.
- Templeton Developing Markets Trust - The fund seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing at least 80% of its net assets in securities of developing- or emerging-market issuers.
- Templeton Global Bond Fund - The fund seeks current income with capital appreciation and growth of income by investing predominantly in bonds of governments and governmental agencies located around the world.
- Templeton Global Smaller Companies Fund - The fund seeks long-term capital growth by investing at least 80% of its net assets in securities of smaller companies located anywhere in the world, including emerging markets.

- Templeton Growth Fund - The fund seeks long-term capital growth by investing primarily in the equity securities of companies located anywhere in the world, including emerging markets.
- Templeton World Fund - The fund seeks long-term capital growth by investing primarily in the equity securities of companies located anywhere in the world, including emerging markets.
- Franklin Resources, Inc. - Common stock of the Company.

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Participants may make investment allocation changes daily via either telephone or internet access to their personal account through Schwab Retirement Plan Services Company.

Voting Rights for Shares of Company Stock

Each participant is entitled to exercise voting rights attributable to any shares of common stock of the Company allocated to his or her account and is notified by the Trustee prior to the time that such voting rights are exercisable for a voting event. The Independent Fiduciary acts as an investment manager and independent fiduciary concerning the Company's common stock in the Plan. In accordance with the terms of that appointment, if the Trustee does not receive timely voting directions from participants, all such unvoted shares are voted by the Independent Fiduciary for and against the proposals in the same proportion as shares for which directions are received from participants, unless the Independent Fiduciary decides that the law requires that the Independent Fiduciary vote them differently.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants with a vested balance of at least \$2,000 may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. Participants are allowed to have two outstanding loans at any given time. Loan transactions are treated as transfers to (from) the investment funds from (to) the participant loans. Loan terms range from 1 to 5 years for general purpose loans, or up to 15 years for the purchase of a primary residence. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at the prime lending rate plus one percent. Interest rates range from 4.25% to 11.00% with maturity dates ranging from October 2012 to October 2027. Principal and interest are paid through semi-monthly payroll deductions.

Payment of Benefits

On termination of service for any reason, a participant is permitted to elect to receive the value of the vested interest in his or her account as, with limited exceptions, a lump-sum or partial distribution in cash or property or as a rollover to another eligible retirement plan. Participants may be entitled to receive pre-retirement distributions from their fully-vested accounts upon reaching age 59 1/2 or in the event they incur a hardship, as defined in the Plan. A participant who makes a hardship withdrawal is restricted from making salary deferral contributions to the Plan or from making any elective contributions under any other plan maintained by the Company for six months following the date of the withdrawal. A pre-retirement distribution is not in addition to their other benefits and will, therefore, reduce the value of benefits received at retirement. There were no benefits due to participants that had elected to withdraw from the Plan as of September 30, 2012 and 2011.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the Plan's management to make estimates, judgments and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of net assets available for benefits and changes therein and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Management believes that the accounting estimates are appropriate and the resulting balances are reasonable; however, due to the inherent uncertainties in making estimates, actual amounts may differ from these estimates.

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Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Plan uses a three-level fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value based on whether the inputs to those valuation techniques are observable or unobservable. The three levels of fair value hierarchy are set forth below. The Plan's assessment of the hierarchy level of the assets or liabilities measured at fair value is determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. Transfers between levels are recognized at the end of each fiscal year.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Level 1 | Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. |
| Level 2 | Observable inputs other than Level 1 quoted prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active; or inputs other than quoted prices that are observable or corroborated by observable market data. Level 2 quoted prices are obtained from independent third-party brokers or dealers, including prices derived from model-based valuation techniques for which the significant assumptions are observable in the market or corroborated by observable market data. |
| Level 3 | Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity. These inputs require significant management judgment and reflect the Plan's estimation of assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. |

Investments are reported at fair value. The following is a description of the fair value methodologies used.

Mutual funds are valued using the published net asset values of the funds which are quoted in an active market, and they are classified as Level 1.

The collective trust is valued using the net asset value of the trust as reported by the trust's manager and is classified as Level 2. There are no restrictions on participant redemptions of the collective trust fund.

Franklin Resources, Inc. common stock is valued using the closing price reported on the New York Stock Exchange, and is classified as Level 1.

While the Plan's management believes the valuation methodologies described above are appropriate, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value could result in a different estimate of fair value at the reporting date.

Income Recognition

Purchases and sales of investment securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments consists of the change in fair value of investment securities and net realized gains (losses) on the sale of investment securities during the fiscal year. Gains and losses on sales of investment securities are calculated based on the weighted-average cost. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Management fees and operating expenses charged to the Plan for investments in shares of mutual funds are deducted from income earned on a daily basis and recorded as a reduction of investment return for such investments.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are carried at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income on notes receivable from participants is recorded when earned.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan utilizes various investment securities including the Company's common stock and mutual funds. Investment securities, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities and the concentration of credit risk in the Company's common stock, and the level of uncertainty related to changes in the values of these securities, changes in market values of these securities in the near term could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the financial statements.

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New Accounting Guidance

In October 2011, the Plan adopted new Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) guidance that requires separate disclosures about purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements in the rollforward of activity in Level 3 fair value measurements. The adoption of the guidance did not have an impact on the Plan’s financial statements.

3. Investments

The following table presents investments at fair value that represent 5% or more of the Plan’s net assets available for benefits.

	September 30,	
	2012	2011
Franklin Resources, Inc. common stock	\$ 107,092,563	\$ 84,133,934