APOLLO INVESTMENT CORP Form N-2/A April 15, 2011

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 15, 2011

Securities Act Registration No. 333-170519

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

FORM N-2

Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933

Pre-Effective Amendment No. 2
Post-Effective Amendment No. _____

Apollo Investment Corporation (Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in the Charter)

9 West 57th Street New York, NY 10019 (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code: (212) 515-3450

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c/o Apollo Investment Corporation
9 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019
(Name and Address of Agent for Service)

Copies to:

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Four Times Square
New York, New York 10036

Approximate date of proposed public offering: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement

| If any securities being registered on this form will be offered on a delayed or continuous basis in reliance on Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box ý |
|---|
| It is proposed that this filing will become effective (check appropriate box): |
| ý when declared effective pursuant to section 8(a) If appropriate, check the following box: o this amendment designates a new effective for a previously filed registration statement. o this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act and the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective date is |

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

| | | Proposed | Proposed | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|----|--------------|
| | | Maximum | Maximum | A | Amount of |
| Title of Securities Being | Amount Being | Offering | Aggregate | R | Registration |
| Registered | Registered | Price per Unit | Offering Price | | Fee |
| Common Stock, \$0.001 par | | | | | |
| value per share(2) | | | | | |
| Preferred Stock, \$0.001 par | | | | | |
| value per share(2) | | | | | |
| Warrants(3) | | | | | |
| Debt Securities(4) | | | | | |
| Units(5) | | | | | |
| Purchase Contracts(6) | | | | | |
| | | | \$1,500,000,000 | | |
| Total(7) | | | (1) | \$ | 106,950(1) |
| | | | | | |

- (1) Estimated pursuant to Rule 457(o) solely for the purpose of determining the registration fee. The proposed maximum offering price per security will be determined, from time to time, by the Registrant in connection with the sale by the Registrant of the securities registered under this registration statement. \$19,337.37 was previously paid in relation to \$492,045,000.00 (out of \$1,000,000,000) of securities remaining issuable under the Registrant's registration statement no. 333-153879, filed on October 7, 2008 which will be included in this registration statement upon its being declared effective.
- (2) Subject to Note 7 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate principal amount of common stock or preferred stock as may be sold, from time to time.
- (3) Subject to Note 7 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate principal amount of warrants as may be sold, from time to time, representing rights to purchase common stock, preferred stock or debt securities.
- (4) Subject to Note 7 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate principal amount of debt securities as may be sold, from time to time. If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price shall be in such greater principal amount as shall result in an aggregate price to investors not to exceed \$1,500,000,000.
- (5) Subject to Note 7 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate principal amount of units issuable upon conversion or exchange of securities registered hereunder to the extent any such securities, are, by their terms convertible into or exchangeable for units, including upon the exercise of warrants or delivery upon settlement of purchase contracts. Each unit may consist of a combination of any two or more of the securities being registered hereby or debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities.
- (6) Subject to Note 7 below, there is being registered hereunder an indeterminate principal amount of purchase contracts issuable upon conversion or exchange of securities registered hereunder to the extent any such securities are, by their terms convertible into or exchangeable for purchase contracts. Each purchase contract obligates the registrant to sell, and the holder thereof to purchase, an indeterminate number of debt securities, common stock, preferred stock or other securities registered hereunder.

(7) In no event will the aggregate offering price of all securities issued from time to time pursuant to this registration statement exceed \$1,500,000,000.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said section 8(a), may determine.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer and sale is not permitted.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer and sale is not permitted.

Preliminary Base Prospectus dated April 8, 2011

Subject to Completion

\$1,500,000,000
Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Warrants
Debt Securities
Units
Purchase Contracts

Apollo Investment Corporation is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company, or BDC, under the Investment Company Act of 1940, or 1940 Act. Our primary investment objective is to generate current income and capital appreciation. We invest primarily in the form of subordinated debt, as well as by making investments in certain senior secured loans and/or equity in private middle market companies. From time to time, we may also invest in the securities of public companies. We fund a portion of our investment with borrowed money, a practice commonly known as leverage. We can offer no assurances that we will continue to achieve our objective.

Apollo Investment Management, L.P., an affiliate of Apollo Global Management, LLC, a leading private equity investor, serves as our investment adviser. Apollo Investment Administration, LLC provides the administrative services necessary for us to operate.

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings, together or separately, up to \$1,500,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, units, purchase contracts or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, which we refer to, collectively, as the "securities." The securities may be offered at prices and on terms to be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus.

Our common stock is quoted on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol "AINV." The last reported closing price for our common stock on April 7, 2011 was \$12.17 per share.

This prospectus, and the accompanying prospectus supplement, contains important information you should know before investing in our securities. Please read it before you invest and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This information is available free of charge by contacting us at 9 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019 or by calling us collect at (212) 515-3450 or on our website at www.apolloic.com. The SEC also maintains a website at www.sec.gov that contains such information free of charge.

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| investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk and is highly speculative. Before buying any securities, y | /ou |
|---|--------|
| should read the discussion of the material risks of investing in our securities in "Risk Factors" beginning on page | e 7 of |
| this prospectus. | |
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| | ge Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a |
|------------------------------------|---|
| This prospectus may not be used to | consummate sales of securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement. |

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with additional information, or information different from that contained in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement. If anyone provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it. We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, securities only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus or such prospectus supplement. We will update these documents to reflect material changes. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since then.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using the "shelf" registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may offer, from time to time, up to \$1,500,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, units, purchase contracts or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities on the terms to be determined at the time of the offering. The securities may be offered at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the

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securities that we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. If applicable, the prospectus supplement will identify any selling stockholders acting under the terms of certain registration rights agreements we may enter into from time to time. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Please carefully read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with any exhibits and the additional information described under the headings "Available Information" and "Risk Factors" before you make an investment decision.

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights some of the information in this prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider. You should read carefully the more detailed information set forth under "Risk Factors" and the other information included in this prospectus. In this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, except where the context suggests otherwise, the terms "we", "us", "our" and "Apollo Investment" refer to Apollo Investment Corporation; "Apollo Investment Management", "AIM" or "investment adviser" refers to Apollo Investment Management, L.P.; "Apollo Administration" or "AIA" refers to Apollo Investment Administration, LLC; and "Apollo" refers to the affiliated companies of Apollo Investment Management, L.P.

APOLLO INVESTMENT

Apollo Investment Corporation, a Maryland corporation organized on February 2, 2004, is a closed-end, externally managed, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company ("BDC") under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act"). In addition, for tax purposes we have elected to be treated as a regulated investment company, or RIC, under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").

Our primary investment objective is to generate current income and capital appreciation. We invest primarily in the form of subordinated debt, as well as by making investments in certain senior secured loans and/or equity in private middle market companies. From time to time, we may also invest in the securities of public companies.

Our portfolio is comprised primarily of investments in subordinated debt, sometimes referred to as mezzanine debt, and senior secured loans of private middle-market companies that, in the case of senior secured loans, generally are not broadly syndicated and whose aggregate tranche size is typically less than \$200 million. From time to time our portfolio also includes equity interests such as common stock, preferred stock, warrants or options. In this prospectus, we use the term "middle-market" to refer to companies with annual revenues between \$50 million and \$2 billion. While our primary investment objective is to generate current income and capital appreciation through investments in U.S. senior and subordinated loans, other debt securities and equity, we may also invest a portion of the portfolio in opportunistic investments, including foreign securities. Most of the debt instruments we invest in are unrated or rated below investment grade, which is an indication of having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the capacity to pay interest and principal. See "Risk Factors—Risks Related to Our Investments."

AIM and its affiliates manage other funds that may have investment mandates that are similar, in whole or in part, with ours. AIM and its affiliates may determine that an investment is appropriate both for us and for one or more of those other funds. In such event, depending on the availability of such investment and other appropriate factors, AIM may determine that we should invest on a side-by-side basis with one or more other funds. We may make all such investments subject to compliance with applicable regulations and interpretations, and our allocation procedures. In certain circumstances negotiated co-investments may be made only if we receive an order from the SEC permitting us

to do so. There can be no assurance that any such order will be obtained.

During our fiscal year ended March 31, 2010, we invested \$716 million across 5 new and 24 existing portfolio companies, primarily through opportunistic secondary market purchases. This compares to investing \$435 million in 12 new and 13 existing portfolio companies for the previous fiscal year ended March 31, 2009. Investments sold or prepaid during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2010 totaled \$452 million versus \$340 million for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2009. The weighted average yields on our senior secured loan portfolio, subordinated debt portfolio and total debt portfolio as of March 31, 2010 at our current cost basis were 8.5%, 13.5% and 11.8%, respectively. At March 31, 2009, the yields were 8.2%, 13.2%, and 11.7%, respectively.

Our targeted investment size typically ranges between \$20 million and \$250 million, although this investment size may vary proportionately as the size of our available capital base changes. At March 31, 2010, our net portfolio consisted of 67 portfolio companies and was invested 30% in senior secured loans, 59% in subordinated debt, 1% in preferred equity and 10% in common equity and warrants measured at fair value versus 72 portfolio companies invested 26% in senior secured loans, 58% in subordinated debt, 5% in preferred equity and 11% in common equity and warrants at March 31, 2009.

Since our initial public offering in April 2004 and through March 31, 2010, our invested capital totaled \$6.3 billion in 128 portfolio companies. Over the same period, Apollo Investment completed transactions with more than 85 different financial sponsors.

At March 31, 2010, 64% or \$1.6 billion of our income-bearing investment portfolio is fixed rate debt and 36% or \$0.9 billion is floating rate debt, measured at fair value. On a cost basis, 65% or \$1.8 billion of our income-bearing investment portfolio is fixed rate debt and 35% or \$1.0 billion is floating rate debt. At March 31, 2009, 70% or \$1.5 billion of our income-bearing investment portfolio was fixed rate debt and 30% or \$0.7 billion was floating rate debt, measured at fair value. On a cost basis, 66% or \$2.0 billion of our income-bearing investment portfolio is fixed rate debt and 34% or \$1.0 billion is floating rate debt.

ABOUT APOLLO INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

AIM, our investment adviser, is led by a dedicated team of investment professionals. The investment committee of AIM currently consists of James C. Zelter, our Chief Executive Officer and a Vice President of the general partner of AIM; Patrick J. Dalton, our President and Chief Operating Officer and a Vice President of the general partner of AIM; Rajay Bagaria, a Partner of AIM; and Justin Sendak, a Partner of AIM. Mr. Dalton is also the Chief Investment Officer of AIM. The composition of the investment committee of AIM may change from time to time. AIM draws upon Apollo Global Management, LLC and its consolidated affiliates ("AGM") 20 year history and benefits from the broader firm's significant capital markets, trading and research expertise developed through investments in many core sectors in over 150 companies since inception.

ABOUT APOLLO INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION

In addition to furnishing us with office facilities, equipment, and clerical, bookkeeping and record keeping services, AIA also oversees our financial records as well as prepares our reports to stockholders and reports filed with the SEC. AIA also performs the calculation and publication of our net asset value, oversees the preparation and filing of our tax returns, the payment of our expenses and the performance of various third-party service providers. Furthermore, AIA provides on our behalf managerial assistance to those portfolio companies to which we are required to provide such assistance.

OPERATING AND REGULATORY STRUCTURE

Our investment activities are managed by AIM and supervised by our board of directors, a majority of whom are independent of Apollo and its affiliates. AIM is an investment adviser that is registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or the Advisers Act. Under our investment advisory and management agreement, we pay AIM an annual base management fee based on our average gross assets as well as an incentive fee. See "Management—Investment Advisory and Management Agreement."

As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. Also, while we are permitted to finance investments using debt, our ability to use debt is limited in certain significant respects. See "Regulation."

We have elected to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. For more information, see "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations."

DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE

The net asset value per share of our outstanding shares of common stock is determined quarterly by dividing the value of our total assets minus our liabilities by the total number of our shares outstanding.

In calculating the value of our total assets, we value investments for which market quotations are readily available at such market quotations if they are deemed to represent fair value. Market quotations may be deemed not to represent fair value in certain circumstances where AIM believes that facts and circumstances applicable to an issuer, a seller or purchaser or the market for a particular security causes current market quotes to not reflect the fair value of the security. Examples of these events could include cases in which material events are announced after the close of the market on which a security is primarily traded, when a security trades infrequently causing a quoted purchase or sale price to become stale or in the event of a "fire sale" by a distressed seller. Debt and equity securities that are not publicly traded or whose market price is not readily available or whose market quotations are not deemed to represent fair value are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by, or under the direction of, our board of directors pursuant to a written valuation policy and a consistently applied valuation process utilizing the input of our investment adviser, independent valuation firms, and the audit committee. Because there is no readily available market value for a significant portion of the investments in our portfolio, we value these portfolio investments at fair value as determined in good faith by the board of directors.

Due to the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of our investments, the value of our investments may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a readily available market existed for such investments, and the differences could be material. Determination of fair values involves subjective judgments and estimates not susceptible to substantiation by auditing procedures. Accordingly, under current accounting standards, the notes to our financial statements refer to the uncertainty with respect to the possible effect of such valuations, and any change in such valuations, on our financial statements. For more information, see "Determination of Net Asset Value."

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of our securities pursuant to this prospectus for general corporate purposes, which include investing in portfolio companies in accordance with our investment objective and strategies and repaying indebtedness incurred under our senior credit facility.

We anticipate that substantially all of the net proceeds of an offering of securities pursuant to this prospectus will be used for the above purposes within two years, depending on the availability of appropriate investment opportunities consistent with our investment objective and market conditions. Our portfolio currently consists primarily of investments in long-term subordinated debt, referred to as mezzanine debt, and senior secured loans of private middle-market companies, and from time to time includes equity interests such as common stock, preferred stock, warrants or options. Pending such investments, we will use the net proceeds of an offering to invest in cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and other high-quality debt investments that mature in one year or less from the date of investment, to reduce then-outstanding obligations under our credit facility or for other general corporate purposes. The supplement to this prospectus relating to an offering will more fully identify the use of the proceeds from such offering. For more information, see "Use of Proceeds."

DIVIDENDS ON COMMON STOCK

We intend to continue to distribute quarterly dividends to our common stockholders, however, we may not be able to maintain the current level of dividend payments, including due to regulatory requirements. Our quarterly dividends, if any, will be determined by our board of directors. We expect that our distributions to shareholders generally will be from accumulated net investment income and from net realized capital gains, as applicable. For more information, see "Dividends."

DIVIDENDS ON PREFERRED STOCK

We may issue preferred stock from time to time, although we have no immediate intention to do so. If we issue shares of preferred stock, holders of such preferred stock will be entitled to receive cash dividends at an annual rate that will be fixed or will vary for the successive dividend periods for each series. In general, the dividend periods for fixed rate preferred stock will be quarterly.

DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN

We have adopted an "opt-out" dividend reinvestment plan that provides for reinvestment of our dividend distributions on behalf of our stockholders, unless a stockholder elects to receive cash. As a result, if our board of directors authorizes, and we declare, a cash dividend, then our stockholders who have not "opted out" of our dividend reinvestment plan will have their cash dividends automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, rather than receiving the cash dividends. A registered stockholder must notify our transfer agent in writing in order to "opt-out" of the dividend reinvestment plan. For more information, see "Dividend Reinvestment Plan."

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may offer, from time to time, up to \$1,500,000,000 of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, units, purchase contracts or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, on terms to be determined at the time of the offering.

Securities may be offered at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus directly to one or more purchasers, through agents designated from time to time by us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. The supplement to this prospectus relating to the offering will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our securities, and will set forth any applicable purchase price, fee and commission or discount arrangement or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"), the maximum compensation to the underwriters or dealers in connection with the sale of our securities pursuant to this prospectus and the accompanying supplement to this prospectus may not exceed

8% of the aggregate offering price of the securities as set forth on the cover page of the supplement to this prospectus.

We may not sell securities pursuant to this prospectus without delivering a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of such securities. For more information, see "Plan of Distribution."

CONTINUED USE OF LEVERAGE

The availability of leverage depends upon the economic environment. Given current market conditions, there can be no assurance that we will be able to utilize leverage as anticipated, if at all, and we may determine or be required to reduce or eliminate our leverage over time. The current global economic environment, the potential systemic risk arising from illiquidity and rapid de-leveraging in the financial system at large may continue to

contribute to market volatility and may have long-term effects on the U.S. and international financial markets. We cannot predict how long the financial markets and economic environment will continue to be affected by these events and cannot predict the effects of these or similar events.

OUR CORPORATE INFORMATION

Our administrative and principal executive offices are located at 9 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019. Our common stock is quoted on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol "AINV." Our Internet website address is www.apolloic.com. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and you should not consider information contained on our website to be part of this prospectus.

FEES AND EXPENSES

The following table is intended to assist you in understanding the costs and expenses that an investor in shares of our common stock will bear directly or indirectly. We caution you that the percentage indicated for "Other expenses" in the table below is an estimate and may vary. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this prospectus contains a reference to fees or expenses paid by "you," "us" or "Apollo Investment," or that "we" will pay fees or expenses, common stockholders will indirectly bear such fees or expenses as investors in Apollo Investment.

Stockholder transaction expenses:

| Sales load (as a percentage of offering price) | — (1) |
|---|--------------|
| Offering expenses (as a percentage of offering price) | — (2) |
| Total common stockholder transaction expenses (as a percentage of offering price) | — (3) |

Annual expenses (as percentage of net assets attributable to common stock)(4):

| Management fees | 3.05%(5) |
|---|----------|
| Incentive fees payable under investment advisory and management agreement | 2.81%(6) |
| Interest and other credit facility related expenses on borrowed funds | 1.38%(7) |
| Other expenses | 0.70%(8) |
| | 7.94%(5, |
| Total annual expenses(9) | 6, 7, 8) |

Example

The following example demonstrates the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses that would be incurred over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in our common stock. These dollar amounts are based upon the assumption that our annual operating expenses (other than performance-based incentive fees) and leverage would remain at the levels set forth in the table above. Transaction expenses are not included in the following example. In the event that shares of our common stock to which this prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement will restate this example to reflect the applicable sales load.

| 1 year 3 years 5 years 10 years |
|---------------------------------|
|---------------------------------|