

CORPORATE OFFICE PROPERTIES TRUST
Form 8-K
April 02, 2009

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) **April 2, 2009 (April 1, 2009)**

CORPORATE OFFICE PROPERTIES TRUST

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation)

1-14023
(Commission
File Number)

23-2947217
(IRS Employer
Identification Number)

6711 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300

Columbia, Maryland 21046

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(Address of principal executive offices)

(443) 285-5400

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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 (see General Instruction A.2 below):

- 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))
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Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

On April 1, 2009, Corporate Office Properties Trust (the Company) announced that it agreed to sell 2,600,000 of its common shares of beneficial interest in an underwritten public offering. The offering was increased in size from an originally contemplated size of 2,100,000 common shares. The Company also granted the underwriters a thirty-day option to purchase up to 390,000 additional shares. The specific terms of the offering will be described in a prospectus supplement, dated April 1, 2009, relating to the offering to be filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission on or about April 1, 2009.

The Company hereby updates its guidance for diluted earnings per share and diluted funds from operations (FFO) per share based solely on the final terms of the offering of common shares, including the assumption that the underwriters fully exercise the option to purchase additional common shares.

Based on the Company's current view of existing market conditions, the terms and size of the offering, and certain current assumptions and estimates, the Company expects that its updated guidance for diluted earnings per share will be \$0.03 lower and diluted FFO per share will be \$0.07 lower than guidance previously issued in its press release, dated February 11, 2009, filed as Exhibit 99.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K as furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 12, 2009.

FFO is defined as net income computed using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), excluding gains (or losses) from sales of real estate, plus real estate-related depreciation and amortization, and after adjustments for unconsolidated partnerships and joint ventures. Gains from sales of newly-developed properties less accumulated depreciation, if any, required under GAAP are included in FFO on the basis that development services are the primary revenue generating activity; the Company believes that inclusion of these development gains is in accordance with the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT) definition of FFO, although others may interpret the definition differently.

Accounting for real estate assets using historical cost accounting under GAAP assumes that the value of real estate assets diminishes predictably over time. NAREIT stated in its April 2002 White Paper on Funds from Operations that since real estate asset values have historically risen or fallen with market conditions, many industry investors have considered presentations of operating results for real estate companies that use historical cost accounting to be insufficient by themselves. As a result, the concept of FFO was created by NAREIT for the REIT industry to address this problem. The Company agrees with the concept of FFO and believes that FFO is useful to management and investors as a supplemental measure of operating performance because, by excluding gains and losses related to sales of previously depreciated operating real estate properties and excluding real estate-related depreciation and amortization, FFO can help one compare the Company's operating performance between periods.

Basic funds from operations (Basic FFO) is FFO adjusted to (1) subtract (a) preferred share dividends and (b) issuance costs associated with redeemed preferred shares and (2) add back GAAP net income allocated to common units in Corporate Office Properties, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (the Operating Partnership), not owned by the Company. With these adjustments, Basic FFO represents FFO available to common shareholders and common unitholders. Common units in the Operating Partnership are substantially similar to the Company's common shares and are exchangeable into common shares, subject to certain conditions.

Diluted funds from operations (Diluted FFO) is Basic FFO adjusted to add back any changes in Basic FFO that would result from the assumed conversion of securities that are convertible or exchangeable into common shares. However, the computation of Diluted FFO does not assume conversion of securities other than common units in the Operating Partnership that are convertible into common shares if the conversion of those

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securities would increase Diluted FFO per share in a given period.

Diluted funds from operations per share (Diluted FFO per share) is (1) Diluted FFO divided by (2) the sum of the (a) weighted average common shares outstanding during a period, (b) weighted average common units outstanding during a period and (c) weighted average number of potential additional common shares that would have been outstanding during a period if other securities that are convertible or exchangeable into common shares were converted or exchanged. However, the computation of Diluted FFO per share does not assume conversion of

securities other than common units in the Operating Partnership that are convertible into common shares if the conversion of those securities would increase Diluted FFO per share in a given period. The Company believes that Diluted FFO per share is useful to investors because it provides investors with a further context for evaluating the Company's FFO results in the same manner that investors use earnings per share (EPS) in evaluating net income available to common shareholders. In addition, since most equity REITs provide Diluted FFO per share information to the investment community, the Company believes Diluted FFO per share is a useful supplemental measure for comparing the Company to other equity REITs. The Company believes that diluted EPS is the most directly comparable GAAP measure to Diluted FFO per share. Since Diluted FFO per share excludes the effect of certain items includable in diluted EPS, reliance on the measure has limitations; management compensates for these limitations by using the measure simply as a supplemental measure that is weighed in the balance with other GAAP and non-GAAP measures. Diluted FFO per share is not necessarily an indication of the Company's cash flow available to fund cash needs. Additionally, it should not be used as an alternative to diluted EPS when evaluating the Company's financial performance or to cash flow from operating, investing and financing activities when evaluating the Company's liquidity or ability to make cash distributions or pay debt service. The Diluted FFO per share that the Company presents may not be comparable to the Diluted FFO per share presented by other REITs.

This item contains forward-looking statements, as defined in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, that are based on the Company's current expectations, estimates and projections about future events and financial trends affecting the Company. Forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as may, will, should, expect, estimate or other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, many of which the Company cannot predict with accuracy and some of which the Company might not even anticipate. Accordingly, the Company can give no assurance that these expectations, estimates and projections will be achieved. Future events and actual results may differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements.

Important factors that may affect these expectations, estimates, and projections include, but are not limited to:

- our ability to borrow on favorable terms;
- general economic and business conditions, which will, among other things, affect office property demand and rents, tenant creditworthiness, interest rates and financing availability;
- adverse changes in the real estate markets including, among other things, increased competition with other companies;
- risks of real estate acquisition and development activities, including, among other things, risks that development projects may not be completed on schedule, that tenants may not take occupancy or pay rent or that development and operating costs may be greater than anticipated;
- risks of investing through joint venture structures, including risks that our joint venture partners may not fulfill their financial obligations as investors or may take actions that are inconsistent with our objectives;
- our ability to satisfy and operate effectively under Federal income tax rules relating to real estate investment trusts and partnerships;
- governmental actions and initiatives;
- environmental requirements; and

- the other factors described beginning on page 8 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 under the heading Risk Factors.

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.

Date: April 2, 2009

CORPORATE OFFICE PROPERTIES TRUST

By:	/s/ Stephen E. Riffie
Name:	Stephen E. Riffie
Title:	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer