

80  
3-22-04



04003746

OMB Number: 3235-0123  
Expires: October 31, 2004  
Estimated average burden  
hours per response..... 12.00

ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT  
FORM X-17A-5  
PART III

SEC FILE NUMBER  
8-065485

FACING PAGE

Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING 01/01/03 AND ENDING 12/31/03  
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION

NAME OF BROKER DEALER:

Tri-Artisan Partners, LLC

OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
FIRM ID. NO.

ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: (Do not use P.O. Box No.)

590 Madison Avenue, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor

(No. and Street)

New York

(City)

NY

(State)

10022

(Zip Code)

NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO CONTACT IN REGARD TO THIS REPORT

Gennaro J. Fulvio, CPA

212-490-3113

(Area Code — Telephone No.)

B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report\*

BDO Seidman, LLP

(Name — if individual, state last, first, middle name)

330 Madison Avenue

(Address)

New York

(City)

NY

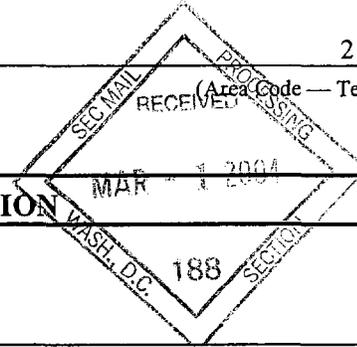
(State)

10017

(Zip Code)

CHECK ONE:

- Certified Public Accountant
- Public Accountant
- Accountant not in residence in United States or any of its possessions.



PROCESSED

MAR 24 2004

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
THOMSON FINANCIAL

\*Claims for exemption from the requirement that the annual report be covered by the opinion of an independent public accountant must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See section 240.17a-5(e)(2).

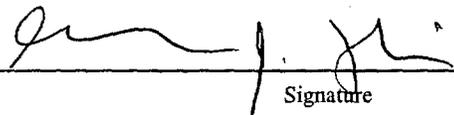
80  
3-22-04

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I, Gennaro J. Fulvio, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of Tri-Artisan Partners, LLC, as of December 31, 2003, are true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that neither the company nor any partner, proprietor, principal officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account classified solely as that of a customer, except as follows:

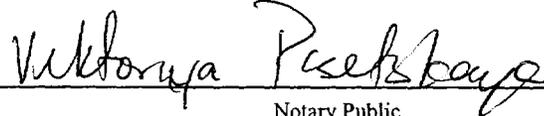
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

VIKTORIYA PISETSKAYA  
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York  
No. 01PI6063786  
Qualified in Kings County  
Commission Expires September 10, 2005

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Financial and Operations Principal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

This report\*\* contains (check all applicable boxes):

- (a) Facing Page.
- (b) Statement of Financial Condition.
- (c) Statement of Income (Loss).
- (d) Statement of Cash Flows.
- (e) Statement of Changes in Financial Condition.
- (f) Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity or Partners' or Sole Proprietor's Capital.
- (g) Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of Creditors.
- (h) Computation of Net Capital.
- (i) Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3.
- (j) Information Relating to the Possession or Control Requirements Under Rule 15c3-3.
- (k) A Reconciliation, including appropriate explanation, of the Computation of Net Capital Under Rule 15c3-1 and the Computation for Determination of the Reserve Requirements Under Exhibit A of Rule 15c3-3.
- (l) A Reconciliation between the audited and unaudited Statements of Financial Condition with respect to methods of consolidation.
- (m) An Oath or Affirmation.
- (n) A copy of the SIPC Supplemental Report.
- (o) A report describing any material inadequacies found to exist or found to have existed since the date of the previous audit.
- (p) Independent Auditors' Report on internal accounting control required by SEC Rule 17a-5.

\*\*For conditions of confidential treatment of certain portions of this filing, see section 240.17a-5(e)(3).



## Independent Auditors' Report

The Member  
Tri-Artisan Partners LLC  
New York, New York

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of Tri-Artisan Partners LLC (formerly Tri-Artisan, LLC) as of December 31, 2003. This financial statement is the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement of financial condition is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the statement of financial condition. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall statement of financial condition presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the statement of financial condition referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Tri-Artisan Partners LLC as of December 31, 2003, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*BDO Seidman, LLP*

February 6, 2004

# Tri-Artisan Partners LLC

## Statement of Financial Condition

*December 31, 2003*

---

**Assets**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,604,210
Deposits with clearing broker (Note 1)	100,000
Receivable from customer	30,000
Other	554
	<hr/>
	\$1,734,764

---

**Liabilities and Member's Equity****Liabilities:**

Accrued expenses	\$ 35,628
Administrative fees payable (Note 2)	180,000
Deferred advisory fees	117,500
	<hr/>
	333,128
<b>Member's equity (Note 3)</b>	<b>1,401,636</b>
	<hr/>
	<b>\$1,734,764</b>

*See accompanying summary of business and significant accounting policies  
and notes to statement financial condition.*

# Tri-Artisan Partners LLC

## Summary of Business And Significant Accounting Policies

### **Business**

Tri-Artisan Partners LLC (“Company”) (formerly Tri-Artisan, LLC) is a Delaware limited liability company, which was formed on March 21, 2002 and commenced operations on April 1, 2002. The Company provides investment banking services to its customers. Tri-Artisan Capital Partners, LLC (“Member”) is the sole member of the Company.

The Company is registered as a broker-dealer under the provisions of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and is a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (“NASD”). The Company claims exemption from the requirements of Rule 15c3-3 under Section (k)(2)(ii) of the Rule.

### **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

The Company considers all highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

The Company holds its cash and cash equivalents at a financial institution. The cash is generally insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation up to \$100,000. Such cash balances, at times, may exceed federally insured limits. The Company believes no significant credit risk exists with respect to its cash and cash equivalents.

### **Customer Transactions**

The Company engages in investment banking activities with its customers. In the event a customer does not fulfill its obligation, the Company may be exposed to credit risk.

The Company does not anticipate nonperformance by its customers. The Company’s policy is to monitor its market exposure and risk. In addition, the Company has a policy of reviewing, as considered necessary, the credit standing of each customer with which it conducts business.

# Tri-Artisan Partners LLC

## Summary of Business And Significant Accounting Policies

---

### **Use of Estimates**

In preparing a statement of financial condition in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the statement of financial condition. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

# Tri-Artisan Partners LLC

## Notes to Statement of Financial Condition

- 1. Due from Clearing Broker** The broker has custody of the Company securities and, from time to time, cash balances which may be due from this broker.

These securities and/or cash positions serve as collateral for any amounts due to broker and as collateral for potential defaults of the Company's customers which are carried on the books and records of the clearing firm.

The Company is subject to credit risk if the broker is unable to repay balances due or deliver securities in its custody.
- 2. Related Party Transactions** The Company shares office space, equipment and administrative expenses with an affiliated company pursuant to an Administrative Services Agreement. At December 31, 2003, the Company had a payable of \$180,000 due to the affiliate.

Effective July 1, 2003, the Member paid compensation for the employees of the Company and has been allocated its share of compensation expense.
- 3. Regulatory Net Capital Requirements** The Company is subject to the SEC Uniform Net Capital Rule 15c3-1, which requires the maintenance of minimum regulatory net capital and requires that the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to regulatory net capital, both as defined, shall not exceed 15 to 1. As of December 31, 2003, the Company had regulatory net capital of \$1,371,082 and a minimum regulatory net capital requirement of \$22,209. The Company's regulatory net capital ratio was .24 to 1.



## **Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control Required by SEC Rule 17a-5 for a Broker Dealer Claiming an Exemption from SEC Rule 15c3-3**

The Member  
Tri-Artisan Partners LLC  
New York, New York

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements and supplemental schedule of Tri-Artisan Partners LLC (formerly Tri-Artisan, LLC) ("Company") for the year ended December 31, 2003, we considered its internal control, including control activities for safeguarding securities, in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on internal control.

Also, as required by Rule 17a-5(g)(1) of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), we have made a study of the practices and procedures followed by the Company including tests of such practices and procedures that we considered relevant to the objectives stated in Rule 17a-5(g) in making the periodic computations of aggregate indebtedness and net capital under Rule 17a-3(a)(11) and for determining compliance with the exemptive provisions of Rule 15c3-3. Because the Company does not carry securities accounts for customers or perform custodial functions relating to customer securities, we did not review the practices and procedures followed by the Company in any of the following:

1. Making quarterly securities examinations, counts, verifications, and comparisons.
2. Recordation of differences required by Rule 17a-13.
3. Complying with the requirements for prompt payment for securities under Section 8 of Federal Reserve Regulation T of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control and the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of controls and of the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph and to assess whether those practices and procedures can be expected to achieve the SEC's above-mentioned objectives. Two of the objectives of internal control and the practices and procedures are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets for which the Company has responsibility are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Rule 17a-5(g) lists additional objectives of the practices and procedures listed in the preceding paragraph.

Because of inherent limitations in internal control or the practices and procedures referred to above, error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of them to future periods is subject to the risk that they may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of their design and operation may deteriorate.

Our consideration of internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in internal control that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of the specific internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. However, we noted no matters involving internal control, including control activities for safeguarding securities, that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above.

We understand that practices and procedures that accomplish the objectives referred to in the second paragraph of this report are considered by the SEC to be adequate for its purposes in accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and related regulations, and that practices and procedures that do not accomplish such objectives in all material respects indicate a material inadequacy for such purposes. Based on this understanding and on our study, we believe that the Company's practices and procedures were adequate at December 31, 2003 to meet the SEC's objectives.



This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the SEC, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. and other regulatory agencies that rely on Rule 17a-5(g) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in their regulation of registered brokers and dealers and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*BDO Seidman, LLP*

Certified Public Accountants

New York, New York

February 6, 2004