

NORTHERN TRUST CORP

Form 424B3

November 01, 2010

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The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)
Registration No. 333-152678

Subject to Completion

Preliminary Prospectus Supplement dated November 1, 2010

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To prospectus dated July 31, 2008)

\$

Northern Trust Corporation

% Notes due

The notes will bear interest at the rate of % per year. Interest on the notes is payable on and of each year, beginning , 2011. The notes will mature on November , . We have no right to redeem the notes prior to their maturity.

The notes are unsecured and rank equally with all of our other existing and future senior unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The notes will be issued only in registered book-entry form in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000.

See Risk Factors on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement and page 3 of the accompanying prospectus to read about important factors you should consider before buying the notes.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Per Note	Total
Initial public offering price	%	\$
Underwriting discount (1)	%	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to Northern Trust	%	\$

(1) See Underwriting.

The initial public offering price set forth above does not include accrued interest, if any. Interest on the notes will accrue from November , 2010 and must be paid by the purchasers if the notes are delivered after that date.

The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. Currently, there is no public market for the notes.

The underwriters expect to deliver the notes through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company against payment in New York, New York on November , 2010.

Joint Book-Running Managers

BofA Merrill Lynch Morgan Stanley Goldman, Sachs & Co. J.P. Morgan

The date of this prospectus supplement is November , 2010.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of the notes we are offering and certain other matters relating to us and our financial condition. The second part, the base prospectus, gives more general information about securities we may offer from time to time, some of which does not apply to the notes we are offering. Generally, when we refer to this prospectus, we are referring to both parts of this document combined. To the extent the description of the notes in this prospectus supplement differs from the description in the base prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

You should rely only on the information contained in this document or to which this document refers you, or other offering materials filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). We have not authorized anyone, and we have not authorized the underwriters to authorize anyone, to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement, the base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference is accurate only as of their respective dates, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement or any sale of the notes. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

The notes are offered globally for sale in those jurisdictions in the United States, Europe, Asia and elsewhere where it is lawful to make such offers. See Underwriting.

The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the offering of the notes in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus come should inform themselves about and observe any such restrictions. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. See Underwriting.

References herein to \$ and dollars are to the currency of the United States.

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SUMMARY

*This summary highlights selected information from this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to help you understand us and the notes. The **Supplemental Description of Notes** section of this prospectus supplement and the **Description of Debt Securities** section of the accompanying prospectus contain more detailed information regarding the terms and conditions of the notes. You should carefully read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to fully understand the terms of the notes and the other considerations that are important to you in making a decision about whether to invest in the notes.*

*Unless otherwise indicated, references in this prospectus supplement to **Northern Trust**, *the Corporation*, *we*, *us* and *our* are to Northern Trust Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries. References to *the Bank* are to The Northern Trust Company.*

Northern Trust Corporation

We are a financial holding company that is a leading provider of asset servicing, fund administration, investment management, banking and fiduciary solutions for corporations, institutions, and affluent individuals worldwide. We conduct business through various U.S. and non-U.S. subsidiaries, including the Bank. We have a network of 78 offices in 18 U.S. states and offices in 16 international locations outside the U.S. At September 30, 2010, we had consolidated total assets of \$80.7 billion and stockholders' equity of \$6.8 billion. At December 31, 2009, we had consolidated total assets of \$82.1 billion and stockholders' equity of \$6.3 billion.

The Bank is an Illinois banking corporation headquartered in the Chicago financial district and our principal subsidiary. Founded in 1889, the Bank conducts its business through its U.S. operations and its various U.S. and non-U.S. branches and subsidiaries. At September 30, 2010, the Bank had consolidated assets of \$67.5 billion and common equity capital of \$5.3 billion. At December 31, 2009, the Bank had consolidated assets of \$68.8 billion and common equity capital of \$4.8 billion.

We expect that, although the operations of other banking and non-banking subsidiaries will continue to be of increasing significance, the Bank will in the foreseeable future continue to be the major source of our consolidated assets, revenues, and net income.

Business Units

We organize our services globally around our two client-focused principal business units: Corporate and Institutional Services (C&IS) and Personal Financial Services (PFS). Two other business units provide services to the two principal business units: Northern Trust Global Investments (NTGI), which provides investment management, and Operations and Technology (O&T), which provides operating and systems support. Additional activities are organized under the Corporate Financial Management Group and the Corporate Risk Management Group.

The following is a brief summary of each business unit's activities.

Corporate and Institutional Services

C&IS is a leading global provider of asset servicing, asset management, and related services to corporate and public retirement funds, foundations, endowments, fund managers, insurance companies, and government funds. C&IS also offers a full range of commercial banking services, placing special emphasis on developing and supporting institutional relationships in two target markets: large and mid-sized corporations and financial institutions. Asset servicing, asset management, and related services encompass a full range of state-of-the-art capabilities including: global master trust and custody, trade settlement and reporting; fund administration; cash management; investment risk and performance analytical services; and investment operations outsourcing. Client relationships are managed through the Bank and the Bank's and the Corporation's subsidiaries, including support from locations in North America,

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Europe, the Asia-Pacific region and the Middle East. Asset servicing relationships managed by C&IS often include investment management, securities lending, transition management, and commission recapture services provided through NTGI. C&IS also provides related foreign exchange services in the U.S., U.K., and Singapore. At September 30, 2010, total C&IS assets under custody were \$3.6 trillion and assets under management were \$508.6 billion. At December 31, 2009, total C&IS assets under custody were \$3.3 trillion and assets under management were \$482.0 billion.

Personal Financial Services

PFS provides personal trust, investment management, custody, and philanthropic services; financial consulting; guardianship and estate administration; brokerage services; and private and business banking. PFS focuses on high net worth individuals and families, business owners, executives, professionals, retirees, and established privately-held businesses in its target markets. PFS also includes the Wealth Management Group, which provides customized products and services to meet the complex financial needs of individuals and family offices in the United States and throughout the world with assets typically exceeding \$200 million.

PFS is one of the largest providers of personal trust services in the United States, with \$349.1 billion and \$331.1 billion in assets under custody and \$148.6 billion and \$145.2 billion in assets under management at September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively. PFS services are delivered through a network of 78 offices in 18 U.S. states as well as offices in London and Guernsey.

Northern Trust Global Investments

NTGI, through various subsidiaries of the Corporation, provides a broad range of investment management and related services and other products to U.S. and non-U.S. clients, including clients of C&IS and PFS. Clients include institutional and individual separately managed accounts, bank common and collective funds, registered investment companies, non-U.S. collective investment funds and unregistered private investment funds. NTGI offers both active and passive equity and fixed income portfolio management, as well as alternative asset classes (such as private equity and hedge funds of funds) and multi-manager products and services. NTGI's activities also include brokerage, securities lending, transition management, and related services. NTGI's business operates internationally through subsidiaries, joint ventures, alliances, and distribution arrangements.

Operations and Technology

O&T supports all of Northern Trust's business activities, including the processing and product management activities of C&IS, PFS, and NTGI. These activities are conducted principally in the operations and technology centers in Chicago, London, and Bangalore and fund administration centers in Ireland.

Corporate Financial Management Group

The Corporate Financial Management Group includes the Chief Financial Officer, Controller, Treasurer and Investor Relations functions. The Group is responsible for Northern Trust's accounting and financial infrastructure and for managing the Corporation's financial position.

Corporate Risk Management Group

The Corporate Risk Management Group includes the Credit Policy and other Corporate Risk Management functions. The Corporate Risk Management Group monitors, measures, and facilitates the management of risks across the businesses of the Corporation and its subsidiaries.

Our principal executive offices are located at 50 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603, and our telephone number is (312) 630-6000.

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We reported net income per common share of \$.64 in the third quarter of 2010 compared with reported net income per common share of \$.77 in the third quarter of 2009. Net income in the third quarter was \$155.6 million compared with reported net income of \$187.9 million in the third quarter of last year. Reported earnings for the prior year period included a pre-tax non-operating benefit of \$17.8 million (\$.05 per share, net of tax) for reductions of an indemnification liability related to Visa, Inc.

Our risk-based capital ratios at September 30, 2010 included a tier 1 capital ratio of 13.2%, total risk-based capital ratio of 15.3%, and leverage ratio of 9.3%, which exceeded the regulatory requirements for classification as a well capitalized institution established by U.S. banking regulators of 6%, 10%, and 5%, respectively. Each of our U.S. subsidiary banks had capital ratios at September 30, 2010 that were above the level required for classification as a well capitalized institution.

The ratio of tier 1 common equity to risk-weighted assets was 12.7% at September 30, 2010 and September 30, 2009. Tier 1 common equity includes tier 1 capital less floating rate capital securities. The ratio of tier 1 common equity to risk-weighted assets is a non-GAAP financial measure that is being provided as it is a measure that we and investors use to assess capital adequacy.

The following table provides a reconciliation of tier 1 common equity to tier 1 capital calculated in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements and GAAP.

(\$ in Millions)	September 30, 2010	September 30, 2009
Tier 1 Capital	\$ 6,902.6	\$ 6,379.8
Less: Floating Rate Capital Securities	268.5	268.4
Tier 1 Common Equity	\$ 6,634.1	\$ 6,111.4
Ratios		
Tier 1 Capital	13.2%	13.3%
Tier 1 Common Equity Ratio	12.7%	12.7%

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THE OFFERING

Issuer	Northern Trust Corporation
Securities offered	\$ aggregate principal amount of % notes due .
Maturity date	The notes will mature on November , .
Interest rate	The interest rate on the notes will be % per annum.
Interest payment dates	Each and , commencing , 2011.
Ranking	The notes are unsecured and rank equally with all of our other existing and future senior unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The Indenture does not limit the amount of debt that Northern Trust Corporation or any of its subsidiaries may incur.
Redemption	We have no right to redeem the notes prior to maturity.
Use of proceeds	The net proceeds, after estimated expenses, to us from the sale of the notes offered hereby will be approximately \$. We intend to use the proceeds of this offering for general corporate purposes.
Risk factors	See Risk Factors and other information we include or incorporate by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in the notes. For additional information regarding the notes, see Supplemental Description of the Notes on page S-10.

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RISK FACTORS

In deciding whether to invest in the notes, you should consider carefully the following factors that could materially adversely affect our operating results and financial condition and the value of your investment in the notes. Although we have tried to discuss key factors, please be aware that other risks may prove to be important in the future. New risks may emerge at any time, and we cannot predict those risks or estimate the extent to which they may affect our financial performance. You should also consider the information included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2010, June 30, 2010 and September 30, 2010, as well as any subsequent reports on Form 8-K we may file. Each of the risks described below could result in a decrease in the value of the notes and your investment therein.

We are a holding company, and as a result we are dependent on dividends from our subsidiaries, including the Bank, to meet our obligations, including with respect to the notes.

We are a non-operating holding company, whose principal asset and source of income is our investment in the Bank. We are a legal entity separate and distinct from the Bank and our other subsidiaries and, therefore, rely primarily on dividends from these subsidiaries to meet our obligations, including with respect to the notes, and to provide funds for payment of dividends to our shareholders, to the extent declared by our board of directors. There are various legal limitations on the extent to which the Bank and our other subsidiaries can finance or otherwise supply funds to us (by dividend or otherwise) and certain of our affiliates. Although we maintain cash positions for liquidity at the holding company level, if the Bank or other of our subsidiaries were unable to supply us with cash over time, we could be unable to meet our obligations, including with respect to the notes. See **Certain Regulatory Considerations Restrictions on Payment of Dividends** in the accompanying prospectus.

Because we are a holding company, our rights and the rights of our creditors, including the holders of the notes, to a share of the assets of any subsidiary upon the liquidation or recapitalization of the subsidiary will be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors (including, in the case of the Bank and our other banking subsidiaries, its depositors), except to the extent that we may ourselves be a creditor with recognized claims against the subsidiary. Accordingly, the notes will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries.

There may not be any trading market for the notes; many factors affect the trading market and value of the notes.

Upon issuance, the notes will not have an established trading market. We cannot assure you that a trading market for the notes will ever develop or be maintained if developed. In addition to our creditworthiness, many factors affect the trading market for, and trading value of, the notes. These factors include:

the time remaining to the maturity of the notes,

the outstanding amount of notes with terms identical to the notes offered in this prospectus supplement,

the redemption or repayment features, if any, of the notes, and

the level, direction and volatility of market interest rates generally.

You should also be aware that there may be a limited number of buyers when you decide to sell your notes. This may affect the price you receive for your notes or your ability to sell your notes at all.

Our credit ratings may not reflect all risks of an investment in the notes.

Our credit ratings are an assessment of our ability to pay our obligations. Consequently, real or anticipated changes in our credit ratings will generally affect the market value of the notes. Our credit ratings, however, may not reflect the potential impact of risks related to market or other

factors discussed above on the value of the notes.

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INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

We are subject to the informational reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. You may read and copy any document that we file at the public reference facilities of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Information on the operation of the public reference facilities may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also inspect our annual, quarterly and current reports, any proxy statements and other information over the Internet at the SEC's home page at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document that we have filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Information that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement will automatically modify and supersede the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to the extent that the subsequently filed information modifies or supersedes the existing information. Nothing in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus shall be deemed to incorporate by reference information furnished to, but not filed with, the SEC, unless specifically stated otherwise. We incorporate by reference:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 (including portions of our definitive Proxy Statement for the 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders incorporated therein by reference);

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2010;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2010;

Amendment No. 1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2010;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2010;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K dated February 16, 2010, April 20, 2010 (with respect to Items 5.02 and 8.01) and April 20, 2010 (with respect to Item 5.07); and

any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until we sell all of the notes offered by this prospectus supplement.

You may request a copy of any of these filings at no cost by writing to or telephoning us at the following address and telephone number: Northern Trust Corporation, 50 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603, Attention: Corporate Secretary, Telephone: (312) 444-3714. These filings are also available on the website we maintain at www.northerntrust.com. The information contained at our Internet site is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, and you should not consider it a part of this prospectus supplement.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds, after estimated expenses, to us from the sale of the notes offered hereby will be approximately \$. We intend to use the proceeds of this offering for general corporate purposes.

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The following table shows our capitalization and short-term indebtedness at September 30, 2010 (1) on a consolidated basis and (2) on a consolidated basis as adjusted to reflect the issuance and sale of the notes. This table should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes for the nine months ended September 30, 2010, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) in the accompanying prospectus.

	September 30, 2010	
	Actual	As Adjusted
	(in millions)	
Senior notes (excluding amounts due within one year)	\$ 1,155.2	\$
Long-term debt (excluding amounts due within one year)	2,188.9	
Floating rate capital debt	276.8	
Stockholders' equity		
Common stock	408.6	
Additional paid-in capital	911.7	
Retained earnings	5,883.8	
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(266.1)	
Treasury stock	(169.3)	
Total stockholders' equity	6,768.7	
Total capitalization	\$ 10,389.6	\$
Short-term borrowings (including current portion of long-term and senior debt)	\$ 8,511.0	\$

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The following are ratios of our earnings to fixed charges and ratios of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for each of the periods indicated:

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010	Fiscal Year Ended December 31,				
		2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Earnings to Fixed Charges						
Excluding Interest on Deposits:	5.98	6.43	5.06	3.60	3.27	3.64
Including Interest on Deposits:	3.67	3.86	1.89	1.54	1.67	1.92
Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividend Requirements						
Excluding Interest on Deposits:	5.98	4.09	4.83	3.60	3.27	3.64
Including Interest on Deposits:	3.67	3.05	1.88	1.54	1.67	1.92

For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of net income before extraordinary items plus applicable income taxes and fixed charges. Fixed charges, excluding interest on deposits consist of interest expense (other than on deposits) and the portion of rental expenses deemed to be representative of the interest factor. Fixed charges, including interest on deposits consist of all interest and the portion of rental expenses deemed to be representative of the interest factor.

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SUPPLEMENTAL DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

Please read the following information concerning the notes in conjunction with the statements under Description of the Debt Securities in the accompanying prospectus, which the following information supplements and, if there are any inconsistencies, supersedes. The following description is not complete. The notes will be issued under the Indenture, dated as of August 15, 2006, that we have entered into with The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (as successor-in-interest to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.), as trustee. The Indenture is described in the accompanying prospectus and is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement under which the notes are being offered and sold.

Maturity, Interest and Payment

The notes will mature on November , . The notes will bear interest from and including November , 2010, payable in arrears on and of each year, commencing , 2011. Interest payable on each interest payment date will be paid to the persons in whose names the notes are registered at the close of business on the 15th calendar day prior to such interest payment date, and interest payable at maturity will be paid to the persons to whom the principal is then payable. If an interest payment date falls on a day that is not a business day, interest will be payable on the next succeeding business day with the same force and effect as if made on such interest payment date, and interest will not accrue on the amount so payable for the period from and after the interest payment date. Interest on the notes will be calculated on the basis of a 360-day year, consisting of twelve 30-day months, and will accrue from November , 2010 or from the most recent interest payment date to which interest has been paid. We have no right to redeem the notes prior to maturity.

At maturity, the amounts due and payable on the notes will be 100% of their principal amount outstanding, together with interest accrued to the maturity date. If the maturity falls on a day that is not a business day, the payment of principal and interest will be made on the next succeeding business day with the same force and effect as if made at maturity, and no interest on such payment will accrue for the period from and after such maturity.

Forms and Denominations

The notes will be issued as one or more fully registered global securities in the name of a nominee of The Depository Trust Company and will be available only in book-entry form. See Global Securities in the accompanying prospectus. The notes are available for purchase in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and in integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

Additional Notes

We may, without the consent of the holders of the notes offered in this prospectus supplement, create and issue additional notes ranking equally with the notes offered in this prospectus supplement in all respects, including having the same CUSIP number, so that such additional notes would be consolidated and form a single series with the notes offered in this prospectus supplement and would have the same terms as to status, redemption or otherwise as the notes offered hereby. No additional notes may be issued if an Event of Default (as defined in the accompanying prospectus) has occurred and is continuing with respect to the notes offered in this prospectus supplement. Additional notes may not be fungible with the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Listing

The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. Currently, there is no public market for the notes.

Depository

Upon issuance, the notes will be represented by one or more fully registered global notes. Each global note will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company or any successor thereto, as depository, and registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee).

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The following summary describes the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the notes as of the date hereof to U.S. holders and non-U.S. holders (each as defined below) that acquire notes for cash at their original issue price pursuant to this offer. The summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), Treasury Regulations, judicial decisions, published positions of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and other applicable authorities, all as in effect as of the date hereof and all of which are subject to change or differing interpretations (possibly with retroactive effect). The discussion does not address all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a particular person or to persons subject to special treatment under U.S. federal income tax laws (such as financial institutions, broker-dealers, insurance companies, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, cooperatives, traders in securities who elect to apply a mark-to-market method of accounting, persons that have a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar, expatriates, tax-exempt organizations, or persons that are, or hold their notes through, partnerships or other pass-through entities), or to persons who hold the notes as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion, synthetic security, or constructive sale transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes, all of whom may be subject to tax rules that differ from those summarized below. In addition, this discussion does not address the consequences of the alternative minimum tax, or any state, local or foreign tax consequences or any tax consequences other than U.S. federal income tax consequences. This summary deals only with persons who hold the notes as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code (generally, property held for investment). No IRS ruling has been or will be sought regarding any matter discussed herein. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors as to the particular U.S. federal tax consequences to them of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of notes, as well as the effects of state, local and non-U.S. tax laws.

For purposes of this summary, a U.S. holder means a beneficial owner of a note (as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes) that is, or is treated as, a citizen or individual resident of the U.S., a corporation, partnership or other entity created or organized in the U.S. or under the laws of the U.S. or any political subdivision thereof, or the District of Columbia, an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source, or a trust if (i) a court within the U.S. is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or (ii) the trust has a valid election in effect to be treated as a U.S. person. A non-U.S. holder means any beneficial owner (other than a partnership or other pass-through entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes) that is not a U.S. holder.

If a partnership (including any entity treated as a partnership or other pass-through entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes) is a holder of a note, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner in the partnership generally will depend on the status of the partner and the activities of such partnership. Partners and partnerships should consult their tax advisors as to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to them.

It is not expected that the notes will be issued with original issue discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the notes are issued with more than a defined de minimis amount of original issue discount, U.S. federal income tax consequences materially different than those described below would apply to U.S. holders.

U.S. Holders

Interest. Payments of interest on the notes will be taxable to a U.S. holder as ordinary interest income at the time such holder receives or accrues such amounts, in accordance with its regular method of tax accounting.

Disposition. Upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of a note, a U.S. holder generally will recognize taxable capital gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between the amount realized and the holder's adjusted tax basis in the note at the time. Such gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder's holding period with respect to the note disposed of is more than one year at the time. To the extent that

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amounts received include accrued but unpaid interest that the U.S. holder has not yet included in income, such interest will not be taken into account in determining gain or loss, but will instead be taxable as ordinary interest income. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Information reporting and backup withholding. Interest paid or accrued on a note, as well as the proceeds from a sale, exchange or other disposition of a note, generally will be subject to information reporting (unless the U.S. holder is a corporation or other exempt recipient). In addition, such amounts may be subject to backup withholding (imposed under current law at a rate of 28% through 2010 and a rate of 31% thereafter) unless the U.S. holder (1) is a corporation or is otherwise exempt from backup withholding or (2) provides a correct taxpayer identification number (generally on IRS Form W-9) and, in each case, otherwise complies with the applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. If backup withholding results in an overpayment of taxes, a U.S. holder may obtain a refund or credit, provided that the U.S. holder furnishes the required information to the IRS in a timely manner.

Non-U.S. Holders

Interest. Subject to the discussion of backup withholding below, a non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax on interest paid on a note, if the interest is not effectively connected with a non-U.S. holder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business (or, in the case of certain tax treaties, is not attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base within the United States), provided that the non-U.S. Holder:

- (1) does not actually or constructively, directly or indirectly, own 10% or more of our voting stock;
- (2) is not a controlled foreign corporation that is related to us (directly or indirectly) through stock ownership;
- (3) is not a bank that acquired the note in connection with an extension of credit made pursuant to a loan entered into in the ordinary course of business; and
- (4) certifies to its non-U.S. status on IRS Form W-8 BEN.

A non-U.S. holder that cannot satisfy the above requirements generally will be exempt from U.S. federal withholding tax with respect to interest paid on the notes if the holder establishes that such interest is not subject to withholding tax because it is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business in the U.S. (generally, by providing an IRS Form W-8ECI). However, to the extent that such interest is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business (and, in the case of certain tax treaties, is attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base within the U.S.), the non-U.S. holder will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net basis and, if it is a foreign corporation, may be subject to a 30% U.S. branch profits tax (or lower applicable treaty rate). In addition, under certain income tax treaties, the U.S. withholding rate on interest payments may be reduced or eliminated, provided the non-U.S. holder complies with the applicable certification requirements (generally, by providing an IRS Form W-8 BEN).

Disposition. Subject to the discussion below regarding information reporting and backup withholding, a non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income taxation with respect to gain realized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of a note, unless:

- (1) the non-U.S. holder holds the note in connection with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business (and, in the case of certain tax treaties, the gain is attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base within the U.S.); or
- (2) in the case of an individual, such individual is present in the U.S. for 183 days or more during the taxable year in which gain is realized and certain other conditions are met.

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Information reporting and backup withholding. A non-U.S. holder not subject to U.S. income tax may nonetheless be subject to backup withholding (imposed under current law at a rate of 28% through 2010 and a rate of 31% thereafter) and information reporting with respect to interest paid or accrued on a note, and with respect to amounts realized on the disposition of a note, unless the non-U.S. holder provides the withholding agent with the applicable IRS Form W-8 or otherwise establishes an exemption. Non-U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors as to their qualifications for an exemption for backup withholding and the procedure for obtaining such an exemption. In addition, payments to a Non-U.S. Holder and proceeds from certain dispositions of a note may be reported to the IRS and may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the non-U.S. holder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a non-U.S. holder may be credited against the non-U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, or refunded, if the required information is furnished to the IRS in a timely manner. Non-U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the information reporting and backup withholding rules to them.

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CERTAIN ERISA CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain considerations associated with the purchase of notes by employee benefit plans that are subject to Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA), plans, individual retirement accounts and other arrangements that are subject to Section 4975 of the Code, and entities whose underlying assets are considered to include plan assets of such plans, accounts and arrangements (each, a Plan) and plans or arrangements subject to provisions under any federal, state, local non-U.S. or other laws or regulations that are similar to such provisions of ERISA or the Code (Similar Law).

General Fiduciary Matters

ERISA and the Code impose certain duties on persons who are fiduciaries of a Plan and prohibit certain transactions involving the assets of a Plan and its fiduciaries or other interested parties. Under ERISA and the Code, any person who exercises any discretionary authority or control over the management or administration of such a Plan or the management or disposition of the assets of such a Plan, or who renders investment advice for a fee or other compensation to such a Plan, is generally considered to be a fiduciary of such Plan.

In considering an investment in the notes of a portion of the assets of any Plan or arrangement subject to Similar Law, a fiduciary should determine whether the investment is in accordance with the documents and instruments governing the Plan and the applicable provisions of ERISA, the Code or any Similar Law relating to a fiduciary's duties including, without limitation, the prudence, diversification, delegation of control and prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA, the Code and Similar Laws.

Prohibited Transaction Issues

Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code prohibit Plans from engaging in specified transactions involving plan assets with persons or entities who are parties in interest, within the meaning of ERISA, or disqualified persons, within the meaning of Section 4975 of the Code, unless an exemption is available. A party in interest or disqualified person who engages in a non-exempt prohibited transaction may be subject to excise taxes and other penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Code. In addition, the fiduciary of the Plan that engages in such a non-exempt prohibited transaction may be subject to penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Code. The acquisition or holding of notes by a Plan with respect to which we or an underwriter are considered a party in interest or a disqualified person may constitute or result in a direct or indirect prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, unless the investment is acquired and is held in accordance with an applicable statutory, class or individual prohibited transaction exemption. In this regard, the U.S. Department of Labor has issued prohibited transaction class exemptions, or PTCEs, that may apply to the acquisition and holding of the notes. These class exemptions include PTCE 84-14 respecting transactions determined by independent qualified professional asset managers, PTCE 90-1 respecting insurance company pooled separate accounts, PTCE 91-38 respecting bank collective investment funds, PTCE 95-60 respecting life insurance company general accounts and PTCE 96-23 respecting transactions determined by in-house asset managers. Also, in this regard, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 added statutory exemptions including Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA pertaining to certain transactions between a Plan and a non-fiduciary service provider. There can be no assurance that a particular purchase of notes will satisfy all of the conditions of any such exemptions.

Because of the foregoing, the notes should not be purchased or held by any person investing plan assets of any Plan, unless such purchase and holding will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction under ERISA and the Code, or with respect to assets of a plan or arrangement that is subject to Similar Law, or a violation of any applicable Similar Laws.

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Representation

By acceptance of a note, each purchaser and subsequent transferee of a note will be deemed to have represented and warranted that (i) no portion of the assets used by such purchaser or transferee to acquire and hold the note constitutes assets of any Plan or assets of a plan or arrangement that is subject to Similar Law, or (ii) the purchase and holding of the note by such purchaser or transferee will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or violation under any applicable Similar Laws because such purchase and holding satisfies the conditions of a class exemption, including without limitation PTCE 91-38, 90-1, 84-14, 95-60 or 96-23 or a statutory exemption (including without limitation Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA).

The foregoing discussion is general in nature and is not intended to be all-inclusive. Due to the complexity of these rules and the penalties that may be imposed upon persons involved in non-exempt prohibited transactions, it is particularly important that fiduciaries, or other persons considering purchasing the notes on behalf of, or with the assets of, any Plan or assets of a plan or arrangement subject to Similar Law, consult with their counsel regarding the potential applicability of ERISA, Section 4975 of the Code and any Similar Laws to such investment and whether an exemption would be applicable to the purchase and holding of the notes.

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We and the underwriters for the offering named below have entered into an underwriting agreement with respect to the notes. Subject to certain conditions, each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase the principal amount of notes indicated in the following table.

Underwriters	Principal Amount of Notes
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	\$
Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated Goldman, Sachs & Co.	
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	
Total	\$

The underwriters are committed to take and pay for all of the notes being offered, if any are taken.

Notes sold by the underwriters to the public will initially be offered at the initial public offering price set forth on the cover of this prospectus supplement. Any notes sold by the underwriters to securities dealers may be sold at a discount from the initial public offering price of up to _____ of the principal amount of notes. Any such securities dealers may resell any notes purchased from the underwriters to certain other brokers or dealers at a discount from the initial public offering price of up to _____ of the principal amount of notes. If all the notes are not sold at the initial offering price, the underwriters may change the offering price and the other selling terms. The offering of the notes by the underwriters is subject to receipt and acceptance and subject to the underwriters' right to reject any order in whole or in part.

The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. We have been advised by the underwriters that the underwriters intend to make a market in the notes but are not obligated to do so and may discontinue market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the notes.

We have agreed that we will not, for a period of 30 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, without first obtaining the prior written consent of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC directly or indirectly, issue, sell, offer or contract to sell, grant any option for the sale of, or otherwise transfer or dispose of, any debt securities, except for the notes sold to the underwriters pursuant to the underwriting agreement.

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell notes in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover positions created by short sales. Short sales involve the sale by the underwriters of a greater number of notes than they are required to purchase in the offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of certain bids or purchases made for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the notes while the offering is in progress.

The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the representatives have repurchased notes sold by or for the account of such underwriter in stabilizing or short covering transactions.

These activities by the underwriters, as well as other purchases by the underwriters for their own accounts, may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the notes. As a result, the price of the notes may be higher than the price that otherwise might exist in the open market. If these activities are commenced, they may be discontinued by the underwriters at any time. These transactions may be effected in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

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Notice to Prospective Investors in the EEA

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), each underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of notes to the public in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the notes which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of notes to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time:

- (a) to legal entities which are authorised or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorised or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;
- (b) to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;
- (c) to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives for any such offer; or
- (d) in any other circumstances which do not require the publication by the Issuer of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of notes to the public in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the notes, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- (a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to the Issuer; and
- (b) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Hong Kong

The notes may not be offered or sold by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), or (ii) to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so

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under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Japan

The securities have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law) and each underwriter has agreed that it will not offer or sell any securities, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Singapore

This prospectus has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest in that trust shall not be transferable for 6 months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the notes under Section 275 except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is given for the transfer; or (3) by operation of law.

We estimate that our share of the total expenses of the offering, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$. The underwriters have agreed to reimburse us for \$ of expenses incurred in connection with the offering.

We have agreed to indemnify the several underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. Certain of the underwriters and their respective affiliates have, from time to time, performed, and may in the future perform, various financial advisory and investment banking services for us, for which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses. In addition, our broker-dealer subsidiary has referral agreements with certain of the underwriters under which it may refer securities underwriting opportunities to those underwriters, for which it would receive a referral fee.

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In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of the issuer. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

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LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the notes will be passed upon for us by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Chicago, Illinois. The underwriters have been represented by McDermott Will & Emery LLP, Chicago, Illinois.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Northern Trust Corporation and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2009, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, which are included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

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PROSPECTUS

Northern Trust Corporation

COMMON STOCK

PREFERRED STOCK

DEBT SECURITIES

WARRANTS

STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS

STOCK PURCHASE UNITS

NTC Capital III

NTC Capital IV

NTC Capital V

PREFERRED SECURITIES

FULLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED BY

NORTHERN TRUST CORPORATION

Northern Trust Corporation may offer and sell debt securities, preferred stock, common stock, warrants, stock purchase contracts and stock purchase units.

The trusts are Delaware statutory trusts. Each trust may offer and sell:

preferred securities representing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the trust to the public; and

common securities representing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the trust to Northern Trust Corporation.

Northern Trust Corporation will fully and unconditionally guarantee the payments by the trusts on the preferred securities based on obligations discussed in this prospectus.

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We may offer these securities from time to time, in amounts, on terms and at prices that will be determined at the time of offering. We will provide specific terms of these securities, including their offering prices, in prospectus supplements to this prospectus. The prospectus supplements may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

The common stock of Northern Trust Corporation is listed on The Nasdaq Stock Market under the symbol NTRS.

We may offer these securities to or through underwriters, through dealers or agents, directly to you or through a combination of these methods. You can find additional information about our plan of distribution for the securities under the heading Plan of Distribution beginning on page 25 of this prospectus. We will also describe the plan of distribution for any particular offering of these securities in the applicable prospectus supplement. This prospectus may not be used to sell our securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The securities will be equity securities or unsecured obligations of Northern Trust Corporation or equity securities of a NTC Capital trust and will not be savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of any bank or nonbank subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Bank Insurance Fund or any other government agency.

You should fully consider the risk factors beginning on page 3 in this prospectus and in the accompanying prospectus supplement, if any, prior to investing in the offered securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is July 31, 2008.

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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, utilizing a shelf registration or continuous offering process. Under this process, we may from time to time sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer securities registered under this process, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. That prospectus supplement may include a description of any risk factors or other special considerations applicable to those securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in the prospectus and the prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** before you invest.

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer to sell or soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction in which the offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making the offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make the offer or solicitation. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of the document.

Any of the securities described in this prospectus may be convertible or exchangeable into other securities we describe in this prospectus or will describe in a prospectus supplement and may be issued separately, together or as part of a unit consisting of two or more securities, which may or may not be separate from one another. These securities may include new or hybrid securities developed in the future that combine features of any of the securities described in this prospectus.

Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to Northern Trust, we, us, our or similar references mean Northern Trust Corporation and its subsidiaries, including the trusts. References to securities refer collectively to all of the securities registered hereunder.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, that registers the offer and sale of the securities described in this prospectus. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits and schedules, contains additional relevant information about us. As permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC, we have not included certain portions of the registration statement in this prospectus.

Northern Trust files annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document Northern Trust files at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain additional information about the public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains a site on the Internet (<http://www.sec.gov>) that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC, including Northern Trust.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document that Northern Trust has filed

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separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus. Information that Northern Trust files with the SEC after the date of this prospectus will automatically modify and supersede the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus to the extent that the subsequently filed information modifies or supersedes the existing information. We incorporate by reference the following documents filed with the SEC:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2008 and June 30, 2008;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K dated January 11, 2008, February 22, 2008 and July 16, 2008;

the description of our Common Stock contained in a registration statement filed pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description, including Exhibit 99(i) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999; and

the description of our Preferred Stock Purchase Rights contained in the registration statement on Form 8-A dated July 24, 1998 and filed with the SEC on July 24, 1998, as amended by Amendment No. 1 dated as of November 18, 1998 and filed with our Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 20, 1998, and Amendment No. 2 dated as of February 16, 1999 and filed with our Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 19, 1999.

We also incorporate by reference any future filings we make with the SEC under sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until we sell all of the securities.

You may request a copy of any of these filings at no cost by writing to or telephoning us at the following address and telephone number: Northern Trust Corporation, 50 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603, Telephone: (312) 444-7811, Attention: Investor Relations.

We maintain an Internet site at <http://www.northerntrust.com> which contains information concerning Northern Trust and its subsidiaries. The information contained at our Internet site is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and you should not consider it a part of this prospectus.

We have filed this prospectus with the SEC as part of a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933. This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. Any statement made in this prospectus concerning the contents of any contract, agreement or other document is only a summary of the actual document. If we have filed any contract, agreement or other document as an exhibit to the registration statement, you should read the exhibit for a more complete understanding of the document or matter involved. Each statement regarding a contract, agreement or other document is qualified in its entirety by reference to the actual document.

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RISK FACTORS

Investing in the securities involves risk. Please see the Risk Factors section in Northern Trust's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, along with the disclosure related to the risk factors contained in Northern Trust's subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus, as updated by our future filings with the SEC. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider these risks as well as other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. The risks and uncertainties not presently known to Northern Trust or that Northern Trust currently deems immaterial may also impair its business operations, its financial results and the value of the securities. The prospectus supplement applicable to each type or series of securities we offer may contain a discussion of additional risks applicable to an investment in us and the particular type of securities we are offering under that prospectus supplement.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains statements that may be considered forward-looking, such as the statements relating to our financial goals, dividend policy, expansion and business development plans, anticipated expense levels and projected profit improvements, business prospects and positioning with respect to market, demographic and pricing trends, strategic initiatives, re-engineering and outsourcing activities, new business results and outlook, changes in securities market prices, credit quality including reserve levels, planned capital expenditures and technology spending, anticipated tax benefits and expenses, and the effects of any extraordinary events and various other matters (including developments with respect to litigation, other contingent liabilities and obligations, and regulation involving Northern Trust and changes in accounting policies, standards and interpretations) on our business and results.

Forward-looking statements are typically identified by words or phrases such as believe, expect, anticipate, intend, estimate, may increase, fluctuate, plan, goal, target, strategy, and similar expressions or future or conditional verbs such as may, will, should, would, and Forward-looking statements are our current estimates or expectations of future events or future results. Actual results could differ materially from the results indicated by these statements because the realization of those results is subject to many risks and uncertainties including:

the health of the U.S. and international economies;

changes in financial markets, including debt and equity markets, that impact the value, liquidity or credit ratings of financial assets in general, financial assets in specific investment funds with respect to which Northern Trust has taken, or may in the future take, action to provide stability to the funds and investors in the funds, or financial assets in other investment funds or client portfolios;

changes in foreign exchange trading client volumes and currency volatility;

our success in managing various risks inherent in our business, including credit risk, interest rate risk and liquidity risk, particularly during times of economic uncertainty and volatility in the credit and other markets;

geopolitical risks and the risks of extraordinary events such as natural disasters, terrorist events, war and the U.S. government's response to those events;

the pace and extent of continued globalization of investment activity and growth in worldwide financial assets;

regulatory and monetary policy developments;

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failure to obtain regulatory approvals when required;

changes in tax laws, accounting requirements or interpretations and other legislation in the U.S. or other countries that could affect us or our clients;

changes in the nature and activities of our competition;

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our success in maintaining existing business and continuing to generate new business in our existing markets;

our success in identifying and penetrating targeted markets, through acquisition, strategic alliance or otherwise;

our success in integrating recent and future acquisitions, strategic alliances, and preferred provider arrangements;

our success in addressing the complex needs of a global client base across multiple time zones and from multiple locations, and managing compliance with legal, tax, regulatory and other requirements in areas of faster growth in our businesses, especially in immature markets;

our ability to maintain a product mix that achieves acceptable margins;

our ability to continue to generate investment results that satisfy our clients and continue to develop our array of investment products;

our success in recruiting and retaining the necessary personnel to support business growth and expansion and maintain sufficient expertise to support increasingly complex products and services;

our ability, as products, methods of delivery, and client requirements change or become more complex, to continue to fund and accomplish innovation, improve risk management practices and controls, and address operating risks, including human errors or omissions, pricing or valuation of securities, fraud, systems performance or defects, systems interruptions, and breakdowns in processes or internal controls;

our success in controlling expenses;

increased costs of compliance and other risks associated with changes in regulation and the current regulatory environment, including the requirements of the new Basel II capital regime and areas of increased regulatory emphasis and oversight such as the Bank Secrecy Act and Anti-Money Laundering Act;

risks and uncertainties inherent in the litigation and regulatory process, including the adequacy of contingent liability, tax and other reserves; and

the risk of events that could harm our reputation and so undermine the confidence of clients, counterparties, rating agencies, and stockholders.

Some of these and other risks and uncertainties that may affect future results are discussed in more detail in the sections of Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations captioned Risk Management, Market Risk Management and Operational Risk Management in the 2007 Financial Annual Report to Shareholders, in the section of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in the 2007 Financial Annual Report to Shareholders captioned Note 25, Contingent Liabilities, in the sections of Item 1 Business of the 2007 Annual Report on Form 10-K captioned Government Monetary and Fiscal Policies, Competition and Regulation and Supervision, and in Item 1A Risk Factors of the 2007 Annual Report on Form 10-K. All forward-looking statements included in this document are based upon

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information presently available, and we assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements. You should not rely on the accuracy of predictions contained in forward-looking statements. These statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus or, in the case of documents incorporated by reference, the date of those documents.

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NORTHERN TRUST CORPORATION

Northern Trust Corporation is a financial holding company that is a leading provider of investment management, asset and fund administration, fiduciary and banking solutions for corporations, institutions and affluent individuals. Northern Trust has a network of 85 offices in 18 U.S. states and has offices in 15 international locations outside the U.S. Northern Trust conducts business through various U.S. and non-U.S. subsidiaries, including The Northern Trust Company (the Bank). At June 30, 2008, Northern Trust had assets under custody of \$4.0 trillion, assets under management of \$751.4 billion, consolidated total assets of \$74.8 billion and stockholders' equity of \$5.0 billion. As of December 31, 2007, Northern Trust was the largest bank holding company headquartered in Illinois and the 17th largest in the United States based on consolidated total assets of \$67.6 billion on that date.

The Bank is an Illinois banking corporation headquartered in the Chicago financial district and our principal subsidiary. Founded in 1889, the Bank conducts business through its U.S. operations, its Canada, London and Singapore branches, and various U.S. and non-U.S. subsidiaries. At June 30, 2008, the Bank had consolidated assets of \$65.2 billion and stockholders' equity of \$3.8 billion.

We expect that, although the operations of other banking and non-banking subsidiaries will continue to be of increasing significance, the Bank will in the foreseeable future continue to be the major source of our consolidated assets, revenues and net income.

Business Units

We organize our services globally around our two client-focused principal business units: Corporate and Institutional Services (C&IS) and Personal Financial Services (PFS). Two other business units provide services to the two principal business units: Northern Trust Global Investments (NTGI), which provides investment management, and Worldwide Operations and Technology (WWOT), which provides operating and systems support. For financial management reporting purposes, the operations of NTGI and WWOT are allocated to the two principal business units.

The following is a brief summary of each business unit's activities and the activities of the Corporate Financial Management Group and the Corporate Risk Management Group.

Corporate and Institutional Services

C&IS is a leading global provider of asset servicing, asset management and related services to corporate and public retirement funds, foundations, endowments, fund managers, insurance companies and government funds. C&IS also offers a full range of commercial banking services, placing special emphasis on developing and supporting institutional relationships in two target markets: large and mid-sized corporations and financial institutions. Asset servicing, asset management, and related services encompass a full range of state-of-the-art capabilities including: global master trust and custody, trade settlement and reporting; fund administration; cash management; and investment risk and performance analytical services. Client relationships are managed through the Bank and the Bank's and Northern Trust Corporation's subsidiaries, including support from international locations in North America, Europe, the Asia-Pacific region and the Middle East. Asset servicing relationships managed by C&IS often include investment management, securities lending, transition management, and commission recapture services provided through NTGI. C&IS also provides related foreign exchange services in the U.S., U.K., Guernsey, and Singapore. At June 30, 2008, total C&IS assets under custody were \$3.6 trillion, and assets under management were \$608.6 billion.

Personal Financial Services

PFS provides personal trust, investment management, custody, and philanthropic services; financial consulting; guardianship and estate administration; qualified retirement plans; and private and business banking.

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PFS focuses on high net worth individuals and families, business owners, executives, professionals, retirees and established privately-held businesses in its target markets. PFS also includes the Wealth Management Group, which provides customized products and services to meet the complex financial needs of individuals and family offices in the United States and throughout the world with assets typically exceeding \$200 million.

PFS is one of the largest providers of personal trust services in the United States, with \$325.9 billion in assets under custody and \$142.8 billion in assets under management at June 30, 2008. PFS services are delivered through a network of 85 offices in 18 U.S. states, as well as offices in London and Guernsey.

Northern Trust Global Investments

NTGI, through various subsidiaries of Northern Trust, provides a broad range of investment management and related services and other products to U.S. and non-U.S. clients of C&IS and PFS. Clients include institutional and individual separately managed accounts, bank common and collective funds, registered investment companies, non-U.S. collective investment funds and unregistered private investment funds. NTGI offers both active and passive equity and fixed income portfolio management, as well as alternative asset classes (such as private equity and hedge funds of funds) and multi-manager products and services. NTGI's activities also include brokerage, securities lending, transition management and related services. NTGI's business operates internationally through subsidiaries, joint ventures, alliances and distribution arrangements.

Worldwide Operations and Technology

WWOT supports all of our business activities, including the processing and product management activities of C&IS, PFS and NTGI. These activities are conducted principally in the operations and technology centers in Chicago, London and Bangalore and fund administration centers in Ireland.

Corporate Financial Management Group

The Corporate Financial Management Group includes the Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Controller, Corporate Treasurer, Corporate Development, Investor Relations and Strategic Sourcing functions. The Group is responsible for Northern Trust's accounting and financial infrastructure and for managing Northern Trust's financial position.

Corporate Risk Management Group

The Corporate Risk Management Group includes the Credit Policy and other Corporate Risk Management functions. Credit Policy manages credit risk for Northern Trust's diverse credit-related activities by establishing and monitoring all credit-related policies and practices throughout Northern Trust and assuring their uniform application. The Corporate Risk Management Group monitors, measures and facilitates the management of risks across Northern Trust's businesses.

Our principal executive offices are located at 50 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603, and our telephone number is (312) 630-6000.

THE TRUSTS

We have formed each of the trusts as a statutory trust under Delaware law pursuant to a trust agreement, signed by us, as depositor of each trust, and a property trustee, a Delaware trustee and one or more administrative trustees, and a certificate of trust filed with the Delaware Secretary of State. Each trust agreement will be amended and restated in its entirety substantially in the form filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part prior to the issuance of any securities by the trust. Each amended and restated trust agreement will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. The principal executive office of each trust is c/o Northern Trust Corporation, 50 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603, telephone number (312) 630-6000.

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Each trust may offer to the public, from time to time, its preferred securities representing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the trust. If a trust issues its preferred securities to investors, it will sell to us common securities representing common ownership interest in the trust. We will directly or indirectly own all of the common securities of each trust.

The prospectus supplement relating to any preferred securities offered by a trust will describe the terms of those securities, any securities issued to Northern Trust Corporation and any agreements entered into by the trust issuing the preferred securities.

The trusts are not subject to the information reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and we have not included any separate financial statements of the trusts in this prospectus. We do not consider that financial statements of the trusts would be material to holders of trust preferred securities because the trusts are special purpose entities, have no operating histories or independent operations and are not engaged in and do not propose to engage in any activity other than holding Northern Trust Corporation's subordinated debt securities as trust assets and issuing the trust securities. Furthermore, taken together, Northern Trust Corporation's obligations under the subordinated debt securities that the trusts would hold, the subordinated indenture, the trust agreements and the related guarantees will provide, in the aggregate, a full, irrevocable and unconditional guarantee of payments of distributions and other amounts due on the preferred securities of the trusts.

CERTAIN REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

General

As a bank holding company that has elected to be a financial holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act, we and our business activities throughout the world are subject to the supervision, examination and regulation of the Federal Reserve Board.

For a discussion of the material elements of the regulatory framework applicable to bank and financial holding companies and their subsidiaries, and specific information relevant to us, please refer to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and any subsequent reports we file with the SEC that are so incorporated. This regulatory framework is intended primarily for the protection of depositors and other clients of banking subsidiaries, the deposit insurance fund of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the banking system as a whole, not for the protection of investors.

The Bank is a member of the Federal Reserve System, its deposits are insured by the FDIC, and it is subject to regulation by both these entities, as well as by the Division of Banking of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Northern Trust Corporation's national bank subsidiaries are members of the Federal Reserve System and are subject to regulation by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, with deposits insured by the FDIC to the extent provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. Northern Trust Bank, FSB is a federal savings bank that is not a member of the Federal Reserve System and is subject to regulation by the Office of Thrift Supervision and the FDIC. Our nonbanking affiliates are all subject to examination by the Federal Reserve Board, as well as other applicable state and federal regulatory agencies and self-regulating organizations. For example, our broker dealer subsidiary is registered with the SEC and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, subject to the rules and regulations of both of these bodies.

The increasingly important activities of our subsidiaries outside the United States are subject to regulation by a number of non-U.S. regulatory agencies. Subsidiaries conducting banking, investment management, fund administration and asset servicing businesses in the United Kingdom, for example, are authorized to do so pursuant to the UK Financial Services and Markets Act of 2000 or are otherwise subject to regulation under it by the Financial Services Authority. Our non-U.S. subsidiaries and branches of the Bank outside the United States are subject to the laws and regulatory authorities of the jurisdictions in which they operate.

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Restrictions on Payment of Dividends

We are a legal entity separate and distinct from our subsidiaries. Our principal source of funds is dividends from the Bank and other banking and non-banking subsidiaries of Northern Trust Corporation. As a result, our ability to meet our obligations and pay dividends on our common stock will depend primarily on the ability of these subsidiaries to pay dividends in amounts sufficient to service these obligations. Provisions of state and federal banking laws restrict the amount of dividends that our U.S. banking subsidiaries may pay to us. Under applicable state and federal laws, no dividends may be paid in an amount greater than the net or undivided profits (as defined) then on hand, subject to other applicable provisions of law. In addition, prior approval from the relevant federal banking regulator is required if dividends declared by any of our banking subsidiaries in any calendar year will exceed the subsidiary's net profits for that year, combined with its retained net profits for the preceding two years. The ability of each banking subsidiary to pay dividends to Northern Trust Corporation may be further restricted as a result of statutes applicable to the particular banking organization or regulatory policies and guidelines relating to dividend payments and capital adequacy. For example, the Bank may not pay a dividend in an amount greater than its undivided profits, as defined, without regulatory and shareholder approval.

Our U.S. banking subsidiaries are also prohibited under federal law from paying any dividend that would cause them to become undercapitalized. In addition, the federal regulatory agencies are authorized to prohibit a bank or bank holding company from engaging in an unsafe or unsound banking practice. The payment of dividends could, depending on the financial condition of particular banking organization, be deemed to constitute an unsafe or unsound practice.

The payment of dividends by each of our non-bank subsidiaries is limited by the laws of the jurisdiction in which each is incorporated. Particular subsidiaries may also be subject to regulatory limitations on the payment of dividends or regulations that have the effect of limiting dividend payments.

The Federal Reserve Board has issued a policy statement with regard to the payment of cash dividends by bank holding companies. The policy statement provides that, as a matter of prudent banking, a bank holding company should not maintain a rate of cash dividends unless its net income available to common stockholders has been sufficient to fully fund the dividends, and the prospective rate of earnings retention appears to be consistent with the holding company's capital needs, asset quality, and overall financial condition. Accordingly, a bank holding company should not pay cash dividends that exceed its net income or can only be funded in ways that weaken the bank holding company's financial health, such as by borrowing.

Transactions with Affiliates

Our bank subsidiaries are subject to restrictions under federal law, including Regulation W of the Federal Reserve Board, which limit certain transactions with us and our non-banking subsidiaries, including loans, other extensions of credit, investments or asset purchases. Such transactions by a banking subsidiary with any one affiliate are limited in amount to 10 percent of the bank's capital and surplus and, with all affiliates together, to an aggregate of 20 percent of the bank's capital and surplus. Furthermore, such loans and extensions of credit, as well as certain other transactions, are required to be secured in specified amounts. These and certain other transactions with us or any of our subsidiaries, including any payment of money by a banking subsidiary, must be on terms and conditions that are, or in good faith would be, offered to nonaffiliated companies.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of securities offered by this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement for general corporate purposes. These may include additions to working capital, repayment of existing indebtedness and acquisitions. If we decide to use the net proceeds of any offering of securities other than for general corporate purposes, we will describe the use of the net proceeds in the prospectus supplement for that offering.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following are ratios of our earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated:

	Six Months		Fiscal Year Ended December 31			
	Ended June 30, 2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Earnings to Fixed Charges:						
Excluding Interest on Deposits:	7.14	3.66	3.29	3.65	3.64	2.99
Including Interest on Deposits:	2.27	1.55	1.68	1.93	2.29	2.14

For purposes of calculating the ratios of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of net income before extraordinary items plus applicable income taxes and fixed charges. Fixed charges, excluding interest on deposits consist of interest expense (other than on deposits) and the portion of rental expenses deemed to be representative of the interest factor. Fixed charges, including interest on deposits consist of all interest and the portion of rental expenses deemed to be representative of the interest factor.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON STOCK

The following summary of the terms of our common stock is not complete. You should refer to the applicable provision of our Restated Certificate of Incorporation and to the Delaware General Corporation Law for a complete statement of the terms and rights of the common stock.

General

We have authorized 560,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$1.66²/₃ per share. As of June 30, 2008, there were 221,046,920 shares of common stock outstanding. The outstanding shares of common stock are listed on The Nasdaq Stock Exchange under the symbol NTRS.

Voting. Holders of common stock vote as a single class on all matters submitted to a vote of the stockholders, with each share of common stock entitled to one vote. The voting rights of the holders of common stock are qualified, however, by the voting rights of holders of any issued and outstanding preferred stock described below under the heading Description of Preferred Stock.

Dividends. Holders of common stock are entitled to receive the dividends that may be declared from time to time by the board of directors. The rights of holders of common stock to receive dividends are subject to the prior rights of holders of any issued and outstanding preferred stock.

Other Provisions. Upon voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution, distribution of assets or winding up of the corporation, the holders of the common stock are entitled to receive, pro rata according to the number of shares held by each, all of our assets remaining for distribution after payment to creditors and the holders of any issued and outstanding preferred stock of the full preferential amounts to which they are entitled. The common stock has no preemptive or other subscription rights, and there are no other conversion rights or redemption provisions with respect to the shares.

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Transfer Agent and Registrar. The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

Preferred Stock Purchase Rights

Each outstanding share of common stock includes one half of one preferred stock purchase right, which entitles the holder to purchase from us one one-hundredth of a share of our Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, no par value, at an exercise price of \$330, subject to adjustment under certain circumstances. The description and terms of the rights are set forth in a Rights Agreement dated as of July 21, 1998, between us and Norwest Bank Minnesota, N.A. (now known as Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, N.A.), as amended by Amendment No. 1 dated November 18, 1998 and Amendment No. 2 dated February 16, 1999.

Unless earlier redeemed, the rights will separate from the common stock and a distribution date will occur upon the earlier of:

20 days following the stock acquisition date ; and

20 days (or a later date as determined by the Board, with certain limitations) after the date a tender or exchange offer that would result in a person or group beneficially owning 15% or more of the outstanding shares of common stock is first published, sent or given to our stockholders.

The stock acquisition date is the earlier of:

The first date of our public announcement that any person or group (other than certain exempt persons or groups) has acquired, or obtained the right to acquire, beneficial ownership of 15% or more of the shares of common stock then outstanding; and

The date that any person enters into an agreement or arrangement with us or any of our subsidiaries providing for:

a merger, consolidation or similar transaction resulting in our stockholders owning less than 60% of the outstanding shares of our common stock or the common stock of a publicly traded entity that controls us or into which we have been merged or otherwise combined;