

# **NRRIT**

## **National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust**

**Annual Management Report for Fiscal Year 2018  
Required by Public Law 107-90,  
The Railroad Retirement and Survivors'  
Improvement Act of 2001**

**National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust**  
**Mission Statement**

The mission of the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust is to help secure the retirement benefits of all participants of the railroad retirement system. Through the diligent oversight and prudent investment of railroad retirement assets, and an adherence to the highest ethical and professional standards within the industry, NRRIT's trustees and investment professionals contribute to the financial security of rail workers, retirees, and their families, and the strength of the American rail industry.

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**ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF THE  
NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2018**

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## 1) Introductory Statement

### a) Overview

The global economy remained relatively strong during fiscal year 2018 (October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018), although there was a clear divergence in growth and interest rate outlooks between the US and the rest of the world. In the US, real GDP ticked upward, and the unemployment rate declined, reaching a multi-decade low at fiscal year-end. In addition, interest rates continued to rise in the US, with expectations for further rate increases into 2019. However, outside the US, economic conditions were not as favorable. Concerns over slowing growth and a strengthening US dollar impacted many countries, particularly in emerging markets. Interest rates remain extremely low in most developed countries outside the US, with major central banks continuing their accommodative monetary policies.

In this environment, the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust ("Trust") achieved an investment return of 7.4% (net of fees). This investment return compares with the return on the Trust's benchmark of 7.1% over the same period.

Overall, during fiscal year 2018, the net asset value of Trust-managed assets increased from \$26.5 billion on October 1, 2017, to \$26.6 billion on September 30, 2018. This increase in asset value includes \$1.8 billion that the Trust transferred to the US Treasury (the "Treasury") for railroad retirement (tier 2) benefit payments during the fiscal year.

#### Market Value of Trust-Managed Assets

	(\$ in billions)	
October 1, 2017		\$26.5
Transfers from Trust to Treasury	\$(1.8)	
Net Change in value	1.9	
Net Increase/(Decrease)		0.1
September 30, 2018		<u>\$26.6</u>

In addition to Trust-managed assets, other assets of the railroad retirement system are retained by the Railroad Retirement Board ("RRB") as reserves in accounts at the

Treasury. These reserves are made up of recent payroll tax contributions from rail employers and employees, as well as assets that the Trust has transferred to the Treasury to pay future benefits. In order to understand the overall financial position of the railroad retirement system, it is important to consider both the Trust-managed assets and the system reserves held at the Treasury.

During its sixteen years of investment operations, the Trust has transferred \$22.9 billion to the Treasury to pay railroad retirement benefits. Even with these benefit payments, total railroad retirement system assets (Trust-managed assets plus reserves maintained at the Treasury) grew from \$20.7 billion in 2002 to \$28.3 billion as of the end of fiscal year 2018. As such, despite investment challenges encountered over the years, the Trust has made a significant contribution to the increase in total assets available to the railroad retirement system.

**Trust-Managed Assets and RRB Assets Held in Reserve**  
**(\$ in billions)**

February 1, 2002 (total system assets at Trust inception)		\$20.7
Net transfers from the Trust to the Treasury for payment of RR Benefits	\$ (22.9)	
Net Change in value*	30.5	
Net increase/(decrease)	7.6	
September 30, 2018		\$28.3

\* This includes investment return, payroll tax revenues, additional benefit payments and administrative expenses.

***b) Portfolio Diversification***

Over the past sixteen years, the Trust has deployed assets received from the Treasury into a diversified portfolio of US and non-US equity, and US and non-US fixed income securities. Over time, the Trust has furthered that diversification by allocating a percentage of the portfolio to private equity, private debt, real assets, commodities, and absolute return investments. As mandated by its statute, the Trust has avoided undue concentration of investment in any asset class, type of security, or market sector.

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This policy of broad diversification is intended to serve the Trust well in strong markets and to protect its assets from disproportionate market shocks in volatile periods. The assumption underlying this diversification of Trust assets is that not all asset classes will perform the same in any given market environment. As part of this diversification process, the Trust holds tens of thousands of different securities selected by its numerous investment managers, pursuing many different strategies, for the Trust portfolio. The Trust's Board and its investment staff carefully monitored the activities of the Trust's investment managers throughout the fiscal year, examining portfolio weights in each asset class, holdings within each asset class, and the work of active managers, in order to evaluate strategy and performance.

***c) Board and Committee Matters***

During this fiscal year, the Board and its investment staff reviewed and updated the Trust's investment, accounting, and operations procedures manuals. The Board and the investment staff also continued to monitor the Trust's asset allocation structure, though this review did not result in any changes to the Trust's *Investment Guidelines* that reflect the evolution of the Trust's portfolio in the current market environment.

The Board of Trustees met six times during the course of the year to consider the various investment and management issues that are discussed in this sixteenth Annual Management Report. In addition, the Board's Audit and Administrative Committees met periodically to consider matters within their areas of responsibility. A copy of the Audit Committee Charter, as revised and approved by the Board on February 24, 2017, is contained at Appendix I. A copy of the Administrative Committee Charter setting forth the duties of the Committee, as approved by the Board on May 22, 2013, is contained at Appendix J.

This report and its various appendices provide information on the operations and financial status of the Trust for the fiscal year, including the report of the audit of the financial statements as required by the Trust's enabling statute.

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## **2) Operations of the Trust: Administrative Matters**

### ***a) Trustee Update***

In February 2018, the Trust announced the appointment of three Trustees and a new Chair for the period beginning February 1, 2018. Railroad management appointed Mr. Christopher R. Neikirk, Assistant Vice President Finance, Norfolk Southern Corporation, to a three-year term that expires on January 31, 2021. Railroad management also appointed Mr. Richard G. Patsy, Assistant Vice President Pensions and Investments, CSX Corporation, to serve the remaining two years of the three-year term vacated by Mr. C. Alec Vincent of BNSF Railway Company upon his retirement as Trustee on January 31, 2018. Mr. Patsy's term will expire on January 31, 2020. Railway labor unions appointed Mr. George J. Francisco, Jr., President Emeritus, National Conference of Firemen and Oilers – SEIU to a three-year term that expires on January 31, 2021. In addition, the Trustees appointed Mr. Joel Parker, former Special Assistant to the President and International Vice President of the Transportation Communications International Union (TCU)/IAM as the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the period February 1, 2018 - January 31, 2019.

Mr. Neikirk, Mr. Patsy, and Mr. Francisco joined the following four members on the Board: for terms expiring on January 31, 2019, Ms. Mary S. Jones, Vice President and Treasurer (Retired), Union Pacific Corporation, and Mr. William C. Walpert, National Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET).; and for terms expiring on January 31, 2020, Mr. Parker and Mr. William F. Quinn, former chairman and founder of American Beacon Advisors.

Biographical information on the Trustees can be found in Appendix N.

### ***b) Coordination with Federal Government Agencies***

Throughout the fiscal year, the Trust maintained regular communications with the RRB and the Treasury on all matters relating to the transfer of monies between the various RRB accounts at the Treasury and the Trust. In addition, the Trust transmitted all monthly data required pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") entered

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into in 2002 with these entities and the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”). This 2002 MOU outlines the budgetary, transfer, accounting, and financial reporting responsibilities for assets held by the Trust and railroad retirement system assets held within the Treasury. This MOU requires the Trust to report on a monthly basis: receipts and disbursements of funds, purchases and sales of assets, earnings and losses on investments, value of investments held, and administrative expenses incurred. A copy of the 2002 MOU is included in Appendix C.

The Trust and the RRB entered into a subsequent MOU in 2014 that delineates responsibilities and procedures for financial audits and performance reviews with respect to assets held by the Trust. This MOU formalizes the requirement that the Trust retain an independent qualified public accounting firm to annually audit the Trust’s financial statements, and the deadline for transmittal of the audited financial statements to the RRB. In addition, this MOU contains provisions related to the timing, structuring, scope, and cost of periodic performance reviews, as well as the assessment of the results of the reviews. A copy of this 2014 MOU is included in Appendix D.

Pursuant to its established practice of periodic meetings with the RRB, during fiscal year 2018, the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer/Chief Investment Officer, and Trust legal counsel held periodic meetings and telephone conferences with the Members of the RRB and its General Counsel and Chief Financial Officer to review the investment and administrative activities of the Trust. Senior staff of the two organizations and Trust legal counsel conferred after each meeting of the Trust’s Board. The Trustees and the Members of the RRB met twice during the year. In addition, the Trust prepared Quarterly Updates that were transmitted to the Congressional committees of jurisdiction and posted on the RRB website to be available to all other interested parties.

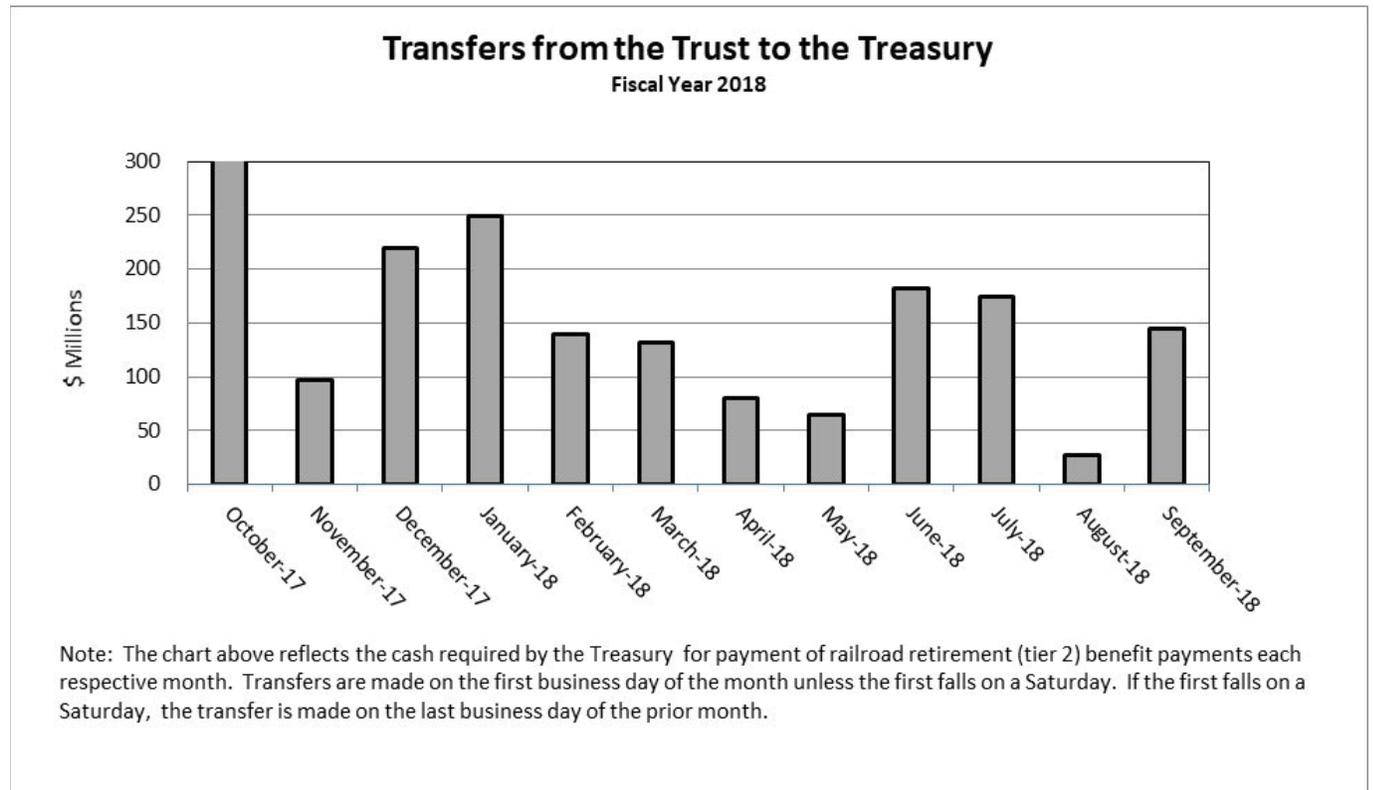
During 2018, the Trust also consulted with the RRB on its fiscal year-end audit and reporting processes to facilitate the transmittal of fiscal year audited net asset data of the Trust to the RRB by November 15 for use in its financial statements. In addition, the Trust worked with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (“GAO”) during 2018 on an MOU related to GAO access to information supporting the Trust’s audited financial

statements. The MOU was finalized after the Trust's 2018 fiscal year concluded, and provides for coordination between the GAO and the Trust's auditors to facilitate the inclusion of audited Trust net asset balances in the Financial Report of the United States Government. A copy of this MOU is included in Appendix E.

**c) Transfers to and from the Treasury**

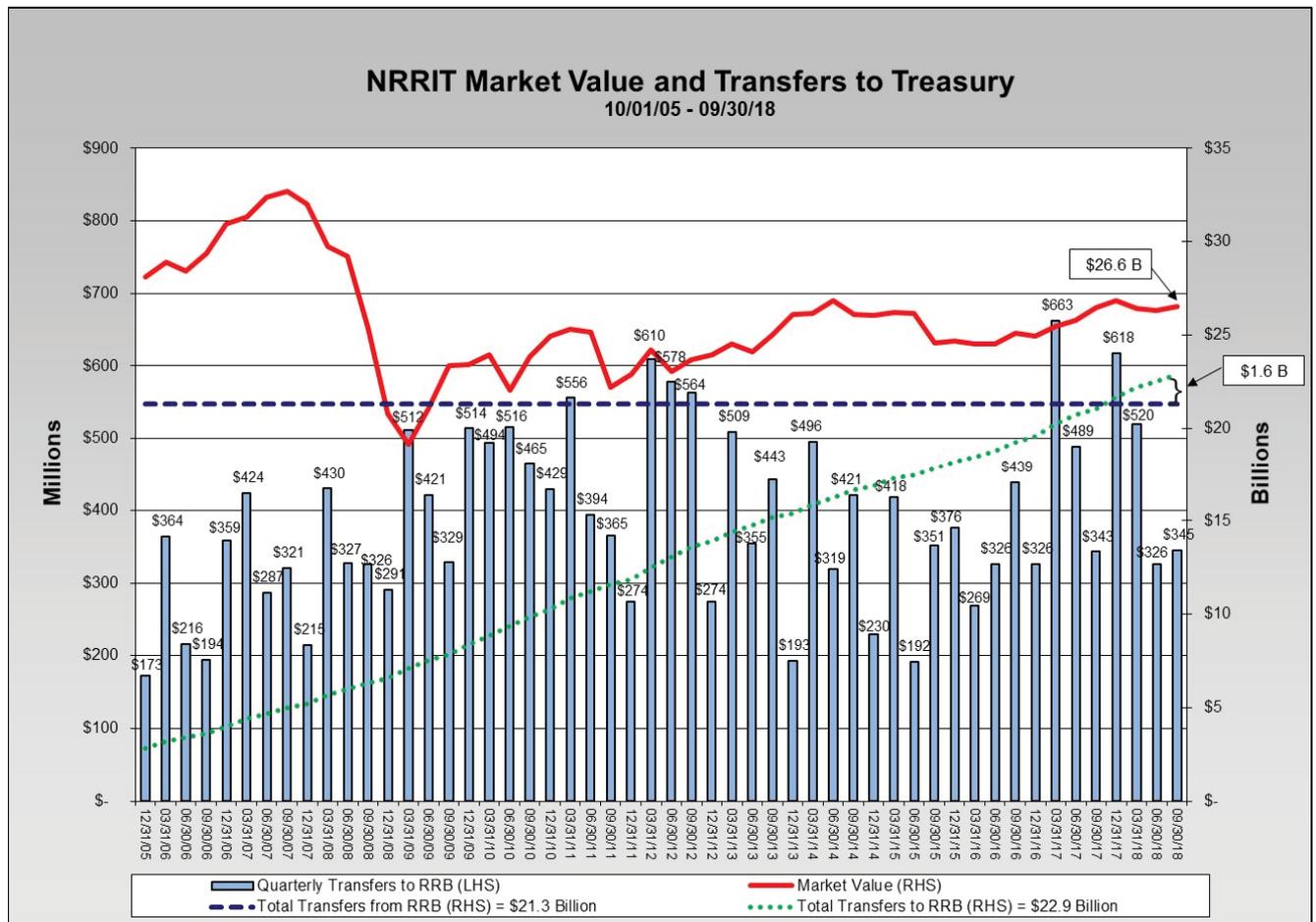
The Railroad Retirement and Survivors’ Improvement Act of 2001 (the "Act") provided for the transfer of railroad retirement system funds to the Trust for investment in a diversified portfolio similar to those of other large US pension plans. From inception through fiscal year 2004, the Trust received \$21.3 billion of railroad retirement system funds. The Trust has received no transfers from the Treasury since the end of fiscal year 2004. The funds transferred to the Trust consisted primarily of assets transferred from the Railroad Retirement Account ("RRA"), and a smaller amount from the Social Security Equivalent Benefit ("SSEB") Account. The RRA assets were invested in a diversified portfolio in accordance with the Trust’s *Investment Guidelines*, while the funds received from the SSEB Account were invested in federal securities as required in the Act.

The Act also provides for the transfer from the Trust to the Treasury of amounts necessary to pay RRA benefits under the Act. During fiscal year 2018, the Trust transferred a total of \$1.8 billion to the Treasury for payment of RRA benefit obligations. The following chart displays the individual transfers from the Trust to the Treasury in fiscal year 2018.



*Summary of transfers:* From its inception in February 2002 to September 30, 2018, the Trust has received \$21.3 billion from the Treasury. The Trust has since returned the entire \$21.3 billion, as well as an additional \$1.6 billion, to the Treasury; therefore cumulative transfers to the Treasury since inception are \$22.9 billion.

The assets received by the Trust have been invested in a diversified multi-asset-class portfolio in accordance with the Trust’s *Investment Guidelines*. This diversification of assets away from the prior all-Treasury-securities portfolio has allowed the Trust’s assets to grow beyond their original value. The cumulative increase in value in Trust-managed assets since inception is \$28.2 billion, representing total Trust-managed assets of \$26.6 billion as of September 30, 2018, plus \$1.6 billion in excess funds returned to Treasury. The following chart reflects the growth of the Trust’s assets over time, as well as cumulative transfers between the Trust and the Treasury.



***d) Account Benefits Ratio***

The funds available to pay railroad retirement benefits and administrative costs include assets held in the RRA, the SSEB Account, and assets held by the Trust. Section 204 of the Act requires that amounts in the RRA and assets held by the Trust be included in the annual calculation of the account benefits ratio ("ABR"). The ABR is the ratio of the combined fair market value of RRA and Trust assets as of the close of the fiscal year to the total benefits and RRB and Trust expenses paid in that fiscal year. The average account benefits ratio ("AABR"), the ten-year average of the ABR, is used to determine the tier 2 tax rates for railroad employers and employees.

As provided in the Act, the RRB computed the account benefits ratio for fiscal year 2018 and certified the ratio to the Secretary of the Treasury on October 31, 2018. The Secretary determined the AABR for fiscal year 2018 and on November 23, 2018 published a notice in the Federal Register of the tier 2 employer and employee tax rates for calendar year 2019. Copies of the RRB certification letter and the Treasury notice are contained in Appendix L. The ABR decreased from 4.92 for fiscal year 2017 to 4.86 for fiscal year 2018. The ten-year AABR declined from 5.2 at September 30, 2017 to 5.1 at September 30, 2018.

***e) Trust Staff***

The Trust's staff is comprised of professionals in three major areas of responsibility: investments, operations, and accounting. The investment staff reports to a Chief Executive Officer/Chief Investment Officer ("CEO/CIO"). The operations and accounting staff report to the Chief Financial and Operating Officer. All senior officers and investment directors report to the CEO/CIO. The CEO/CIO and staff are accountable to the Board of Trustees. The Trust also employs a Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") to oversee compliance activities of the Trust. The CCO reports directly to the Trustees on all compliance-related matters.

Investment management personnel include Directors who are responsible for each major asset class. Working with the Directors are investment analysts assigned to specific

asset classes. The operations staff is responsible for tracking and monitoring Trust assets, as well as other operational functions such as treasury and cash management, information technology, office management, and human resources. The accounting staff interacts with the Trust's independent auditor, and is responsible for financial reporting in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Biographical information on the Trust's staff can be found in Appendix N.

### **3) Operations of the Trust: Investment Matters**

#### ***a) Overview***

For fiscal year 2018, the investment return, net of fees, on Trust-managed assets was 7.4%, while the Trust's strategic benchmark returned 7.1%. The relative outperformance for the Trust during the current fiscal year was driven by the investment performance of the Trust's investment managers as well as the tactical investment positions taken by the Trust.

The top three performing asset classes for the Trust were US equity, private equity, and private debt, which returned 17.5%, 17.3% and 13.5% respectively for the year. The Trust maintains a long-term focus and a well-diversified portfolio to take advantage of market movements regardless of which asset classes are in favor in any single year.

#### ***b) Investment Plan: Structure***

Since its inception in September 2002, the Trust's asset class structure has evolved from a portfolio consisting entirely of government securities, to a simple three-asset-class approach, and finally to a structure which is more fully diversified across geography, capitalization size, investment style, credit quality, and other characteristics. The Trust's *Investment Guidelines* specify the neutral target allocation and approved ranges for each asset class, as well as rules for rebalancing back towards these neutral targets as market valuations change. The *Investment Guidelines* also provide a policy benchmark for each asset class and a composite benchmark for the total portfolio to measure actual Trust performance against an objective standard. The Trust's most recent full asset allocation study was conducted during fiscal year 2017 and resulted in minor revisions to the previous target allocations and ranges reflecting changes in capital market expectations since the previous asset allocation study. The new target allocations and ranges became effective beginning October 1, 2017. The Trust's *Investment Guidelines* are included in Appendix B.

***Current Long-Term Target Asset Allocation***

***(Approved August 16, 2017)***

<b><u>Asset Class</u></b>	<b><u>Target</u></b>	<b><u>Range</u></b>
US Equity	24%	19-29%
Non-US Equity	24%	19-29%
Private Equity	10%	5-15%
US Fixed Income	14%	10-18%
Non-US Fixed Income	4%	2-6%
Private Debt	2%	0-4%
Real Estate	10%	5-15%
Commodities	4%	2-6%
Absolute Return	7%	3-11%
Cash	<u>1%</u>	0-3%
	<u>100%</u>	

***c) Investment Plan: Implementation***

**US Equity:** During fiscal year 2018, the Trust added two active manager accounts with existing managers and terminated one active manager account. At the end of the fiscal year, this asset class had 15 active US equity managers, two of which manage two separate accounts, and one US equity index manager managing three products. 73% of the Trust's US equity portfolio was actively managed at the end of the fiscal year.

**Non-US Equity:** There were no additions or terminations to the non-US equity manager accounts during the fiscal year. The Trust ended fiscal year 2018 with 11 active non-US equity managers, two of which manage two separate accounts each and one of which manages three separate accounts, and one index manager, which manages five products in non-US equity. Approximately 89% of the Trust's non-US equity allocation was actively managed. Additionally, for the currency overlay program, there were no additions or terminations, and the Trust continued to employ three active managers at the end of the fiscal year.

**US Fixed Income:** During fiscal year 2018, the Trust added three active manager accounts, two of which were with existing managers, and terminated two active manager accounts. At the end of the fiscal year, this asset class had 13 active/specialist managers, and 100% of the Trust's US fixed income allocation was actively managed.

**Non-US Fixed Income:** There were no additions or terminations to the Non-US fixed income manager accounts during the fiscal year. At the end of the fiscal year, this asset class had five active managers, and 100% of the Trust's non-US fixed income allocation was actively managed.

**Commodities:** During fiscal year 2018, one specialist manager was terminated. At the end of the fiscal year, this asset class had three active managers, and 100% of the Trust's allocation to commodities was actively managed.

**Absolute Return:** During fiscal year 2018, one specialist manager account was added and two mandates were terminated. At the end of the fiscal year, this asset class had 11 active/specialist managers, one of which manages four separate portfolios for the Trust, and two of which each manage two separate portfolios for the Trust. This allocation is 100% actively managed. Additionally, a commitment was made to an existing manager for a new mandate scheduled to begin during fiscal year 2019.

**Private Equity:** During fiscal year 2018, the Trust continued its private equity program implementation with four new private equity funds with new managers and eight new funds with existing managers, bringing the total number of active partnerships in the private equity portfolio to 93 at the end of the fiscal year. These 93 partnerships are actively managed by 40 managers. Additionally, commitments were made to eight new partnerships with existing managers scheduled to begin their investment period during fiscal year 2019. One partnership wound up operations upon reaching the end of its fund life during the fiscal year.

**Private Debt:** One new private debt fund with an existing manager began its investment period during fiscal year 2018, bringing the total number of active partnerships in private debt to 12 at the end of the fiscal year. These 12 partnerships are actively managed by 8 managers. Additionally, commitments were made to one new

partnership with an existing manager and one new partnership with a new manager, which were scheduled to begin their investment period during fiscal year 2019. One partnership wound up operations upon reaching the end of its fund life during the fiscal year.

**Real Assets:** Eight new real estate partnerships with existing managers began their investment period during fiscal year 2018, bringing the total number of active partnerships in real assets to 81. These 81 partnerships are actively managed by 35 managers. Additionally, commitments were made to six new partnerships, all with existing managers, which were scheduled to begin their investment period during fiscal year 2019. The Trust also had investments in three actively-managed REIT funds at the end of the fiscal year.

**Cash:** At the end of the fiscal year, the Trust had one cash account with its custodian bank.

#### ***d) Proxy Voting Policy***

The Trust maintains a proxy voting policy which delegates the voting of Trust proxies to its investment managers as fiduciaries of the Trust. It also details specific responsibilities of those managers in the voting of proxies, makes clear the responsibility of investment managers to coordinate proxy voting with the Trust's custodian, and retains for the Trust itself responsibility for monitoring, reviewing, and reporting on the implementation of the proxy voting policy. A copy of the proxy voting policy can be found in Appendix H.

Each year, managers with proxy voting responsibilities are required to certify that they have voted all proxies in accordance with the policy and solely in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries of the Trust. After the end of the fiscal year, staff reviews and reports to the Board of Trustees regarding each manager's proxy voting record with respect to Trust securities.

#### ***e) Railroad Retirement System Assets***

While most railroad retirement system assets are managed by the Trust, some assets

remain in Treasury accounts managed by the RRB. Approximately 6.3% of the total, or \$1.8 billion out of \$28.3 billion as of September 30, 2018, is held in the form of reserves that are invested in Treasury securities by the RRB. These reserves are replenished as needed through transfers from the Trust to the Treasury. In determining its asset allocation, the Trust takes into account these reserves and sets its investment policies accordingly.

### ***f) Expenses***

The largest component of the Trust's expenses is investment management fees which now constitute approximately 84% of all expenses. Total expenses as a percentage of assets under management have stabilized as the investment portfolio has been transitioned from an all-indexed portfolio to one that is primarily actively managed. The expense ratio compares favorably to investment industry standards. The Trust's expense ratios for the past ten years are shown below.

#### Trust Expense Ratio FY 2009 – FY 2018

Fiscal Year	Expense Ratio (%)
2018	0.29
2017	0.31
2016	0.28
2015	0.27
2014	0.29
2013	0.29
2012	0.30
2011	0.36
2010	0.33
2009	0.26

#### **4) Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee (the “Committee”) held four meetings during fiscal year 2018. During the year, the Committee engaged KPMG LLP to perform the annual audit of the Trust’s financial statements for the fiscal year-ended September 30, 2018. The Audit Committee provided oversight of the financial statement audit process in accordance with its fiduciary duty to the Trust. The Trust issued its financial statements which contained an unqualified audit opinion, within 45 days of its fiscal year-end. This allowed the RRB to include the Trust’s audited net assets in its financial statements and meet its financial reporting deadline.

Also during fiscal year 2018, the Committee provided oversight of the Trust’s ongoing program of periodic performance reviews. This included consideration of the scope for the upcoming review, and an evaluation of proposals received from qualified, independent, non-governmental organizations to conduct the review. Both the potential scope areas, as well as the candidate firms, were considered in consultation with the RRB, in accordance with the 2014 MOU included in Appendix D.

The Trust maintains a whistleblower telephone hotline as a means for all Trust employees, investment managers, service providers and other interested parties to report, on a confidential basis, any suspected acts of fraud or actions involving the inaccurate or incomplete recording of financial information. The Committee monitors this hotline throughout the year. The hotline number is (877) 888-0002.

## **5) Internal Accounting and Administrative Controls**

During fiscal year 2018, the Trust's staff continued to improve the system of internal accounting and administrative controls designed to ensure the safekeeping and proper accounting of investments, and the efficient operation of the Trust's activities. Enhancements were made to the Trust's accounting and operations procedures manuals, and these updates were presented to the Trustees.

### ***a) Custodial Arrangements***

The Trust's assets are primarily held by its custodian, The Northern Trust Company ("Custodian"). Assets invested in commingled funds are held with the custodian of each respective fund. Likewise, investments in private partnerships and absolute return strategies are maintained by the custodian or administrator of each respective fund. Periodic statements are presented to and recorded by the Custodian on the Trust's books. The Custodian maintains records of, and custodial accounts for, all of the Trust's assets.

As the Trust's investments have grown in complexity over the years, the Trust has worked closely with the Custodian to enhance internal processes, procedures, and systems supporting all investment and operational activity.

### ***b) Accounting***

The Custodian provides the Trust with investment performance of Trust assets, as well as a record of all transactions involving Trust assets. Reconciliations of the primary custodial records to the investment managers' records are performed monthly. The Trust has established a process to review the monthly reconciliations to ensure that all transactions are recorded properly on the respective books. Financial data from the custodial bank form an integral part of the Trust's required reports and financial statements.

**6) Financial Status of the Trust**

***a) Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report***

*National Railroad  
Retirement Investment  
Trust*

*Financial Statements as of and for the  
Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018, and  
Independent Auditors' Report*

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

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KPMG LLP  
1676 International Drive  
McLean, VA 22102

## Independent Auditors' Report

The Board of Trustees  
National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, which comprise the statement of assets and liabilities, including the condensed schedule of investments, as of September 30, 2018, and the related statements of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust as of September 30, 2018, and the results of its operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

**KPMG LLP**

McLean, VA  
November 15, 2018

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As of September 30, 2018

(\$ in thousands)

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### Assets

Investments — at fair value (cost \$20,390,848)	\$ 25,976,353
Cash and cash equivalents (including restricted cash of \$21,327)	823,812
Receivable for investments sold	595,515
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	59,900
Interest receivable	39,368
Unrealized gain on forward contracts	29,023
Swap contracts, at fair value	28,734
Dividends receivable	20,582
Cash denominated in foreign currency — at fair value (cost \$18,937)	18,945
Other assets	18,657
Total assets	<u>27,610,889</u>

### Liabilities

Payable for investments purchased	947,549
Obligation to return cash collateral held	34,856
Unrealized loss on forward contracts	26,281
Accrued management fees	16,700
Swap contracts, at fair value	5,865
Other liabilities	16,183
Total liabilities	<u>1,047,434</u>

### Net Assets

\$ 26,563,455

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

## NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

### Condensed Schedule of Investments

As of September 30, 2018

(\$ in thousands)

	% of Net Assets	Number of Units, Shares or Par Value (000)	Fair Value
<b>Global Equity</b>			
<b>US Equity</b>			
US Common Stocks			
Amazon.com Inc.		61	\$ 121,452
Microsoft Corp.		1,026	117,303
Apple Inc.		434	98,031
Visa Inc.		576	86,444
Facebook Inc.		510	83,857
Citigroup Inc.		923	66,238
JP Morgan Chase & Co.		533	62,431
Other US Common Stocks			4,304,567
	18.62%		<u>4,940,323</u>
Other US Equity Securities (a)	0.05%		<u>14,550</u>
US Equity Commingled Funds			
BlackRock Russell 1000 Index Fund		30,932	1,349,466
BlackRock Russell Growth Index Fund		13,796	569,171
Other US Equity Commingled Funds			8,797
	7.27%		<u>1,927,434</u>
<b>Total US Equity</b>	<b>25.94%</b>		<b><u>\$ 6,882,307</u></b>

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

## NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

### Condensed Schedule of Investments (continued)

As of September 30, 2018

(\$ in thousands)

	% of Net Assets	Number of Units, Shares or Par Value (000)	Fair Value
<i>Global Equity (continued)</i>			
<b>Non-US Equity</b>			
Non-US Common Stocks			
Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd.		2,260	\$ 94,627
Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.		464	76,405
Tencent Holdings Ltd.		1,552	64,114
Other Non-US Common Stock			<u>5,457,160</u>
	21.46%		<u>5,692,306</u>
Non-US Preferred Stocks	0.24%		<u>62,858</u>
Non-US Equity Commingled Funds			
BlackRock EAFE Value Index Fund		17,839	226,329
BlackRock MSCI EAFE Equity Index Fund		6,633	166,622
BlackRock EAFE Growth Index Fund		6,597	147,923
BlackRock World ex-US Small Cap Equity Index Fund		4,121	99,224
BlackRock MSCI Equity Index Fund (Canada)		1,050	<u>92,018</u>
	2.76%		<u>732,116</u>
<b>Total Non-US Equity</b>	<b>24.45%</b>		<b><u>\$ 6,487,280</u></b>

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

## NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

### Condensed Schedule of Investments (continued)

As of September 30, 2018

(\$ in thousands)

	% of Net Assets	Number of Units, Shares or Par Value (000)	Fair Value
<b>Global Equity (continued)</b>			
<b>Private Equity</b>			
Blackstone Capital Partners VI, LP		36,964	\$ 105,936
Silver Lake Partners IV, LP		39,640	78,321
AlpInvest North Rush, LP		37,426	77,257
TCV VIII, LP		47,353	75,598
McCoy Investments LP		2,187	75,521
TCV VII, LP		1	74,577
NGP Natural Resources XI, LP		51,244	72,668
Apollo Investment Fund VIII, LP		42,403	62,321
Energy & Minerals Group Fund II, LP		15,514	59,395
Other Private Equity			1,446,507
<b>Total Private Equity</b>	8.01%		<b>2,128,101</b>
<b>Total Global Equity (cost \$11,081,667)</b>	58.34%		<b>\$ 15,497,688</b>
<b>Global Fixed Income</b>			
Corporate Bonds	6.42%		1,704,949
Government Notes and Bonds			
US Treasury Notes, 2.75%, 06/30/25		64,386	\$ 63,352
Other Government Notes and Bonds			1,484,824
	5.83%		1,548,176
Government-Sponsored Entity Mortgage - Backed Securities ("MBS")			
Fannie Mae Single Family Mortgage 3.5%, 11/13/48		67,000	\$ 65,859
Other Government-Sponsored Entity MBS			858,118
	3.48%		923,977

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

## NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

### Condensed Schedule of Investments (continued)

As of September 30, 2018

(\$ in thousands)

	% of Net Assets	Number of Units, Shares or Par Value (000)	Fair Value
<b><i>Global Fixed Income (continued)</i></b>			
Asset Backed Securities	0.68%		\$ 179,716
Index-Linked Government Bonds	0.43%		115,037
Commercial MBS	0.40%		105,831
Government Agencies	0.34%		91,254
Short-Term Bills and Notes	0.27%		72,814
Private Debt	0.25%		67,670
Municipal Bonds	0.20%		53,283
Non-Government Collateralized Mortgage Obligations	0.20%		52,422
Other Fixed Income Securities (b)	0.10%		25,695
Fixed Income Commingled Funds			
Wellington Emerging Market Debt		14,632	\$ 139,734
AG Mortgage Value Partners		79,870	123,563
Other Fixed Income Commingled Funds			77,443
	1.28%		<u>340,740</u>
<b><i>Total Global Fixed Income (cost \$5,354,924)</i></b>	<b>19.88%</b>		<b><u>\$ 5,281,564</u></b>

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

## NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

### Condensed Schedule of Investments (continued)

As of September 30, 2018

(\$ in thousands)

	% of Net Assets	Number of Units, Shares or Par Value (000)	Fair Value
<b>Global Real Assets</b>			
<b>Private Real Estate</b>			
Blackstone Real Estate Partners VII, LP		1	\$ 116,235
Northwood Real Estate Partners, LP		42,541	80,829
Prudential PRISA II		2	72,301
Other Private Real Estate			1,539,600
	6.81%		<u>1,808,965</u>
<b>Commodities</b>			
Gresham ETAP Fund		355,000	325,455
Wellington Commodity Fund		33,988	318,472
PIMCO Short-Term Floating NAV Portfolio II		13,628	136,405
	2.94%		<u>780,332</u>
<b>Real Estate Investment Trusts (c)</b>	2.13%		<u>565,857</u>
<b>Total Global Real Assets (cost \$2,432,766)</b>	11.88%		<u>\$ 3,155,154</u>

### Absolute Return

Elliott International Class B	224	\$ 308,858
Bridgewater Pure Alpha II Ltd Class B	135	295,226
Element Capital US Feeder Fund LLC	140,000	197,319
Davidson Kempner International Ltd Class C	1,071	166,250
Blue Mountain Credit Alternatives	1,611	165,259
Farallon Capital Institutional Partners	125,000	155,005
Carlson Double Black Diamond Ltd Series E	984	129,038

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

## NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

### Condensed Schedule of Investments (continued)

As of September 30, 2018

(\$ in thousands)

	% of Net Assets	Number of Units, Shares or Par Value (000)	Fair Value
<i>Absolute Return (continued)</i>			
Tilden Park Investment Fund LP		100,000	\$ 117,700
CQS Directional Opportunities Feeder Fund Ltd Class A		17	110,068
PDT Fusion Fund, LLC Class A		570	79,946
Two Sigma Absolute Return Fund		60,000	79,795
PDT Mosaic Fund, LLC Class A		536	74,989
Fir Tree International Value Fund		70,000	67,852
Other Absolute Return Funds			94,642
<b>Total Absolute Return (cost \$1,521,491)</b>	7.69%		<b>\$ 2,041,947</b>
<b>Total Investments (cost \$20,390,848)</b>	97.79%		<b>25,976,353</b>
Other Assets less Liabilities	2.21%		<b>587,102</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	100%		<b>\$ 26,563,455</b>

Note: The Condensed Schedule of Investments presents the investments of the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust within each asset class while identifying the largest 50 holdings in the portfolio, including all holdings exceeding 5% of net assets.

- (a) Includes Purchased Options, Preferred Stock, and Rights/Warrants.
- (b) Primarily consists of Government-Issued Commercial MBS.
- (c) Primarily consists of exchange-traded equity instruments in both US and Non-US real estate investment trusts.

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

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Statement of Operations

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

(\$ in thousands)

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Income	
Dividends	\$ 269,928
Interest	185,520
Total income	<u>455,448</u>
Expenses	
Investment management fees	64,443
Compensation and benefits	4,818
Investment related fees and expenses	2,724
Professional fees	2,087
Network, software and systems	1,098
Occupancy expense	741
Trustee fees and expenses	185
Custodial fees	108
Other expenses	848
Total expenses	<u>77,052</u>
Net investment income	378,396
Realized and unrealized gain/loss from unvestments	
Net realized gain from investments and foreign currency	1,600,302
Net change in unrealized gain/loss from investments and foreign currency	<u>(94,050)</u>
Net realized and unrealized gain/loss from investments	<u>1,506,252</u>
<b>Change in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<b><u><u>\$ 1,884,648</u></u></b>

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

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

(\$ in thousands)

*Cash flows from operating activities:*

Change in net assets resulting from operations \$ 1,884,648

Adjustments to reconcile net change in net assets from operations to net cash provided by operating activities:

Proceeds from sales and maturities of long-term investments	23,890,753
Purchase of long-term investments	(22,472,450)
Net realized gain from investments and foreign currency	(1,600,303)
Net proceeds from purchases/sales of short-term investments (a)	(300,603)
Proceeds from principal paydowns of asset-backed securities	237,793
Net change in unrealized gain/loss on investments and foreign currency	94,050
Change in payable for investments purchased	(74,356)
Net decrease in cash from swap contract transactions	(32,992)
Change in receivable for investments sold	(58,655)
Change in obligation to return cash collateral held	22,467
Change in other accrued expenses and liabilities	7,621
Change in accrued investment management fees	(5,700)
Change in interest receivable	(2,368)
Change in dividends receivable	(1,777)
Changes in other assets	970
	<u>1,589,098</u>

*Cash flows from financing activities:*

Assets transferred to the Treasury	<u>(1,809,000)</u>
	<u>(1,809,000)</u>

Effect of foreign currency on cash	<u>420</u>
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Net change in cash, cash equivalents and foreign currency	<u>(219,482)</u>
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Beginning balance	1,062,239
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Ending balance	<u>\$ 842,757</u>
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- (a) Short-term investments consist of debt instruments and repurchase agreements with original maturities of less than 60 days.

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

## NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

### Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

(\$ in thousands)

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Change in net assets from operations:	
Net investment income	\$ 378,396
Net realized gain from investments and foreign currency	1,600,302
Net change in unrealized gain/loss on investments and foreign currency	<u>(94,050)</u>
Net change in net assets resulting from operations	1,884,648
Assets transferred to the Treasury	(1,809,000)
Net Assets:	
Beginning of year	<u>26,487,807</u>
End of year	<u><u>\$ 26,563,455</u></u>

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

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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### 1. ORGANIZATION

**Formation** — The National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (the “Trust”) was created as a result of Federal legislation. The Railroad Retirement and Survivors’ Improvement Act of 2001 (the “Act”) established the Trust, the sole purpose of which is to manage and invest industry-funded Railroad Retirement assets as set forth in the Act. Domiciled in, and subject to the laws of the District of Columbia (to the extent not inconsistent with the Act), the Trust is a tax-exempt entity under section 501(c)(28) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and is neither an agency nor instrumentality of the Federal Government. The Trust became effective on February 1, 2002.

The Railroad Retirement system was created as a Federal pension program during the 1930s to fund retirement benefits of railroad workers and their dependents. For more than 80 years, the Railroad Retirement Account (“RRA”), a Federal trust fund, has collected payroll taxes from railroad employers and employees and paid out benefits to beneficiaries. Railroad Retirement is funded as a pay-as-you-go system that is not subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”) funding rules.

The Act authorizes the Trust to manage and invest the assets of the Railroad Retirement system in the same array of investment alternatives available to private sector pension plans, and to pay administrative expenses of the Trust from the assets in the Trust. Prior to the Act, Railroad Retirement assets were limited to investment in US Government securities issued directly by the United States Treasury (the “Treasury”). Responsibility for administering the Railroad Retirement system, including eligibility determinations and the calculation of beneficiary payments, remains with the Railroad Retirement Board (the “Board”), a Federal agency.

**Investment Management** — The Trust’s principal investment objective for its portfolio of investments (“portfolio”) is to achieve a long term rate-of-return on assets for the portfolio sufficient to enhance the financial strength of the railroad retirement system and to provide timely funding to the Treasury for payment of benefit obligations and administrative expenses.

Except for limited partnership interests in Private Real Assets funds, Private Debt funds, Private Equity funds, Absolute Return funds and derivative instruments owned by the Trust, generally all assets in the Trust’s portfolio are held by custodians appointed by the Trust, or transfer agents in the case of commingled funds.

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Basis of Preparation** — The Trust qualifies as an investment company and follows the accounting and reporting requirements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) Topic 946, *Financial Services – Investment Companies*. The accompanying financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”), including but not limited to ASC 946.

**Valuation of Investments** — The Trust follows FASB ASC Topic 820, *Fair Value Measurement*. The Topic establishes a single definition of fair value, creates a three-tier hierarchy as a framework for measuring fair value based on inputs used to value the Trust’s investments, and requires certain disclosures about fair value. The Topic defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset, or paid to transfer a liability, in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 3 for further information on fair value.

Securities (US and foreign) for which quotations are not readily available are valued under procedures contained in the Investment Manager Guidelines of the Trust’s custodian contract with Northern Trust, approved by the Trustees. The pricing procedures for a security traded within the US, which includes, among other factors, researching most recent bid and ask prices, documenting the reason(s) for unavailability of data from a pricing service, and requesting current bids for similar securities from independent securities broker-dealers, may also be used to estimate the fair value of a foreign security should something occur that renders quotations not readily available for a foreign security.

**Security Transactions, Accrued Income, and Expense** — The Trust records purchases and sales of investment securities on a trade-date basis. Interest income is determined on the basis of coupon interest accrued using the effective interest method. Dividend income (less foreign tax withheld, if any) is recorded on the ex-dividend date. Gains or losses realized on sales of investment securities are based on average cost.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents** — Cash and cash equivalents includes cash held at banks and cash balances held in short-term investment funds, which can be drawn down with same day notice. As of September 30, 2018, the Trust held approximately \$21.3 million of restricted cash, representing initial margin on futures contracts and pledged collateral received from counterparties for option, swap or forward contracts.

**Options Contracts** — The Trust may purchase or sell (write) exchange-traded or over-the-counter (“OTC”) options contracts to hedge against risks associated with price fluctuations for certain securities.

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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When either a put or call option is purchased, the contract is recorded as an investment and the premium is marked-to-market daily to reflect the current fair market value of the option contract. When a purchased option contract expires (unexercised), a loss is realized in the amount of the cost of (premium paid for) the option. If a closing sale contract is entered into, however, a gain or loss is realized, to the extent that the proceeds from the sale are greater or less than the cost of the option. If a put option is exercised, a gain or loss is realized from the sale of the underlying security by adjusting the proceeds from such sale by the amount of the premium paid for the put option. If a call option is exercised, the cost of the security purchased upon exercise is increased by the premium paid for the call option.

When either a put or call option is sold (written), an amount equal to the premium received is recorded as a liability. The liability is marked-to-market daily to reflect the current market value of the written option. When a written option contract expires (unexercised), a gain is realized in the amount of the premium received for this option. If a closing purchase contract is entered into, however, a gain or loss is realized in the amount of the premium less the cost of the option. If a written put option is exercised, the amount of the premium originally received reduces the cost of the security, which is purchased upon exercise of the put option. If a sold (written) call is exercised, a gain or loss is realized from the sale of the underlying security, and the proceeds (if any) from such sale are increased by the premium received for the written call.

The Trust could be exposed to risk if the counterparties in options transactions were unable to meet the terms of the contracts. To mitigate this risk, the Trust requires its counterparties to these contracts to pledge either cash or securities as collateral against any default in these transactions.

**Futures Contracts** — The Trust may invest in financial futures contracts for the purpose of hedging its portfolio to counter fluctuations in value, to gain access to securities the Trust intends to purchase, and to manage overall portfolio risk as part of a broad risk management program.

The Trust is required to pledge an amount of cash, US government securities, or other assets, equal to a certain percentage of the futures contract amount (initial margin deposit) upon entering a financial futures contract. Subsequent payments, known as “variation margin,” are made (or received) by the Trust each day, depending on the daily fluctuations in the value of the underlying financial instrument. The Trust records a receivable or payable (and corresponding realized gain or loss) equal to the daily variation margin. Futures contracts are valued at the last sales price quoted on the exchange on which they primarily trade.

The Trust’s use of financial futures transactions entails the risk of imperfect correlation in movements in the price of futures contracts and the value of the underlying hedged assets, and the risk associated with the possibility of an illiquid market. Should futures’ market conditions change unexpectedly, and the Trust takes no action to respond to such changes, the Trust may not achieve

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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the anticipated benefits of the financial futures contracts and may realize a loss. Potential losses associated with counterparty risk are mitigated by initial margin deposits either in the form of cash or securities and variation margins deposited daily.

**Foreign Currency Translation** — The Trust maintains accounting records in US dollars. All investments quoted in foreign currency are translated into US dollars at the prevailing foreign exchange spot rates on the date of valuation. Purchases and sales of securities, income receipts and trading expenses are translated into US dollars at the exchange rate on the date of the transactions.

Foreign securities are valued as of the close of each foreign security's market wherein each security trades. Investments in foreign securities may involve risks not present in domestic investments. Since foreign securities may be denominated in foreign currency and involve settlement and pay interest or dividends in foreign currencies, changes in the relationship of these foreign currencies to the US dollar can significantly affect the value of investments and earnings of the portfolio. Foreign investments may also subject the Trust to foreign government exchange restrictions, expropriations, taxation or other political, social or economic risks, all of which could affect the value of the foreign securities investments.

**Forward Foreign Currency Exchange Contracts** — The Trust may use forward foreign currency exchange contracts to hedge against foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations related to portfolio holdings or concentrations of such holdings. The Trust may also use spot currency contracts to hedge against foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations related to a specific portfolio transaction, such as the delay between a security transaction's trade date and settlement date. Differences in currency exchange rates can adversely impact the value associated with the purchasing or selling of investment securities denominated in a foreign currency.

Currency contracts are adjusted daily by the prevailing spot or forward rate of the underlying currency, and any appreciation or depreciation is recorded for financial statement purposes as unrealized until the contract settlement date, at which time the Trust records realized gains or losses equal to the difference between the value of the contract at the time the contract opened and the value at the time it closed.

The Trust could be exposed to risk if the counterparty is unable to meet the terms of a currency contract or if the value of the foreign currency changes unfavorably and the Trust does not alter its position in the transaction. To mitigate this risk, the Trust requires its counterparties to pledge either cash or corporate securities as collateral against default in these transactions.

**Swap Contracts** — The Trust may enter swap transactions for hedging purposes and/or to efficiently gain exposure to a particular asset class index.

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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Swaps are marked-to-market daily based upon values from third party vendors or quotations from other sources. Unrealized appreciation is recorded as an asset and unrealized depreciation is recorded as a liability on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. The change in value of swaps, including accruals of periodic amounts of interest to be paid or received on swaps, is recorded as unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the Statement of Operations. Payments received or made at the beginning of the measurement period represent payments made or received upon entering into the swap agreement to compensate for differences between the stated terms of the swap contracts and prevailing market conditions (credit spreads, currency exchange rates, interest rates, and other relevant factors). These upfront payments are included in the calculation of realized gain or loss in the Statement of Operations. A liquidation payment received or made at the termination of the swap is recorded as realized gain or loss in the Statement of Operations. Net periodic payments received by the Trust are included as part of the realized gain or loss in the Statement of Operations.

Entering into these contracts involves, to varying degrees, elements of credit, market and counterparty risk in excess of the amounts recognized in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Such risks involve the possibility that there will be no liquid market for these contracts, that the counterparty to the contracts may default on its obligations to perform or disagree as to the meaning of contractual terms in the contracts, and that there may be unfavorable changes in interest rates. At the time a swap contract reaches its scheduled termination (or contract expiration) date, there is risk that the Trust would not be able to obtain a replacement transaction or that the terms of the replacement would not be as favorable as the expiring transaction. The Trust's swap contracts consist of interest rate swaps, credit default swaps and total return swaps.

**Repurchase Agreements** — The Trust may engage in repurchase agreement transactions, whereby a security is simultaneously purchased and sold under a master forward agreement.

**Income Taxes** — The Trust is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(28) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and from state and local taxes pursuant to Section 231(n)(j)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974. As such, no provision for income taxes is included in the financial statements. The Trust is subject to unrelated business income tax, in connection with certain of its limited partnership and commingled fund interests. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018, the Trust had no unrelated business income tax expense.

Uncertain tax positions are evaluated in accordance with the Income Taxes Topic ("Topic 740") of the FASB ASC. The Trust has no material uncertain tax positions.

**Investment Management Fees** — The Trust has entered into investment management agreements with third party investment managers. These agreements provide for the payment of investment management fees, which are generally paid on a quarterly basis. The fees are calculated as a

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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percentage of the weighted-average value of assets under management, with an additional performance fee in some instances.

**Counterparty Risk and Collateral** — The Trust invests in derivatives that are transacted and settle directly with a counterparty and thereby expose the Trust to counterparty risk. To mitigate this risk, the Trust's third party investment managers have entered into master netting arrangements with certain counterparties that permit net settlement under specified conditions and, for certain counterparties, also provide collateral agreements. The Trust accounts for derivatives on a gross basis. It does not offset the fair value of derivative liabilities against the fair value of derivative assets in its financial statements.

**Use of Estimates** — The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of increases and decreases in net assets from operations during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### 3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

The Trust's assets and liabilities recorded at fair value have been categorized based upon a fair value hierarchy in accordance with FASB's guidance on fair value measurement.

The hierarchy of inputs is summarized below.

*Level 1* — Investments that reflect unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Trust has the ability to access at the measurement date. The types of investments generally included in this category are exchange traded common and preferred stock, futures contracts, foreign currency, and commingled funds in which the Trust's ownership interest in such fund is traded in an active market. The fair value of these securities is generally based on quotations obtained from national securities exchanges or published to investors by the issuer of the commingled fund.

*Level 2* — Investments valued using observable inputs such as quoted prices for identical securities in inactive markets or quoted prices for similar securities in active markets. Where securities are not listed on an exchange, quotations may be obtained from brokerage firms. Other observable inputs may include such factors as interest rates, credit spreads, prepayment speeds, and credit risk, among other relevant factors. Level 2 investments generally included in this category are bonds, swap contracts, foreign currency exchange contracts, and options contracts.

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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*Level 3* — Investments valued using pricing inputs which are both unobservable and significant to the valuation. The Level 3 investments consist primarily of corporate bonds and certain foreign government bonds. The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement of these securities are predominantly uncorroborated non-binding broker quotes, and extrapolated data points in security pricing models. These prices are provided by third-party pricing services, and the range of unobservable inputs applied by these sources is not readily available or cannot be reasonably estimated. Significant changes in any of those inputs could result in a significantly different fair value measurement.

In certain cases, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement in its entirety falls has been determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. The Trust's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment and considers factors specific to the asset or liability. Investments are transferred into or out of any level at their beginning period values.

The availability of observable inputs can vary from security to security and is affected by a wide variety of factors, including, for example, the type of security, whether the security is new and not yet established in the marketplace, and other characteristics. To the extent that valuation is based on models or inputs that are less observable in the market, the determination of fair value requires more judgment. Accordingly, the degree of judgment exercised by the Trust in determining fair value is greatest for instruments categorized as Level 3.

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities. The following table is a summary of the inputs used in valuing the Trust's assets and liabilities carried at fair value (\$ in thousands):

<b>Assets</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Other*</b>	<b>Total</b>
US Equity	\$ 6,865,842	\$ 10,228	\$ 6,237	\$ -	\$ 6,882,307
Non-US Equity	6,477,942	6,770	2,568	-	6,487,280
Private Equity	-	-	-	2,128,101	2,128,101
Global Fixed Income	95,622	4,822,536	22,255	341,151	5,281,564
Global Real Assets	1,020,734	-	-	2,134,420	3,155,154
Absolute Return Mandates	-	-	-	2,041,947	2,041,947
	<u>\$ 14,460,140</u>	<u>\$ 4,839,534</u>	<u>\$ 31,060</u>	<u>\$ 6,645,619</u>	<u>\$ 25,976,353</u>
Swap contracts, at fair value	\$ -	\$ 28,734	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,734
Futures contracts**	4,717	-	-	-	4,717
Forward contracts	-	29,023	-	-	29,023
Foreign currency	18,945	-	-	-	18,945
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Swap contracts, at fair value	\$ -	\$ 5,865	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,865
Futures contracts**	8,582	-	-	-	8,582
Forward contracts	-	26,281	-	-	26,281
Written options***	-	9,908	-	-	9,908

\* In accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2015-07, *Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities that Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (or Its Equivalent)*, investments in certain commingled funds and partnerships which are valued using the Net Asset Value ("NAV") practical expedient are not classified within the fair value hierarchy.

\*\*Amounts represent cumulative gross gains and losses on open futures contracts, translated into US dollars, as of September 30, 2018. Only the current day's variation margin is included in Other Assets and Other Liabilities in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

\*\*\*Included in Other Liabilities in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

For the year ended September 30, 2018, there were no significant changes to the Trust's fair value methodologies. Purchases and sales of Level 3 securities during the year were \$20.2 million and \$23.6 million, respectively. Certain US Equity, Non-US Equity, Global Fixed Income and Global Real Assets securities were transferred between the Level 2 and 3 categories due to changes in the availability of significant observable inputs in the valuation of these securities. For the year ended September 30, 2018, transfers into and out of Level 3 were \$9.7 million and \$3.8 million, respectively.

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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The Trust uses a third party pricing agent to value its securities. When determining the reliability of third party pricing information, the Trust reviews the valuation policies of the pricing agent and conducts due diligence on the execution of the agent's pricing procedures. External investment managers reconcile valuations to the pricing agent on a monthly basis, and discrepancies are investigated and resolved.

Equity securities that are traded on a national securities exchange or quoted on the NASDAQ National Market System ("NMS") are valued on their last reported sale price on the principal exchange (US or foreign) or official closing price as reported by NASDAQ. Options and futures contracts are valued at the last sales price quoted on the exchange on which they primarily trade. Securities traded on OTC markets as well as listed securities for which no sales are reported are valued at the most recent bid quotation.

Fixed income securities (US and foreign) for which price quotations are readily available are valued at the most recent reported sales price. If no reported sales price is available, fixed income securities are valued at prices furnished by an independent pricing service, which considers yield or price of bonds of comparable quality, coupon, maturity, and type, as well as prices quoted by dealers who make markets in such securities.

The ability of issuers of the fixed income securities held by the Trust to meet their obligations may be affected by economic developments in a specific industry or region. The values of the securities can be significantly affected by changes in interest rates or in the financial condition of the issuer or market conditions generally. The Trust invests a portion of its assets in mortgage-backed securities and debentures. The value and related income of these securities is sensitive to changes in economic conditions, including delinquencies and/or defaults.

Commingled funds ("Funds"), which are not publicly traded, may include publicly-traded securities for which detailed holdings are reported to the Trust. Fair values of these Funds are determined after consideration of net asset valuations provided by the external investment managers. The valuation of these non-publicly traded securities held by Funds may involve estimates, appraisals, assumptions, and methods that are reviewed by management.

Private Debt, Private Equity and Real Estate limited partnership assets ("Partnerships") are valued by the Trust at fair value after consideration of net asset valuations provided by each Partnership's general partner. The valuation of these Partnerships may involve estimates, appraisals, assumptions, and methods that are reviewed by management.

As a practical expedient, the Trust relies on the NAV of certain Funds and Partnerships as their fair value. The NAVs that have been provided by investees are derived from the fair values of the underlying investments as of the reporting date. All investments for which NAV is used as fair value

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

(a) do not have a readily determinable fair value pursuant to the guidance in ASU 2015-07 and (b) either prepare financial statements consistent with the measurement principles of an investment company or have the attributes of an investment company.

The following table lists the Trust's unfunded commitments to investments in Funds and Partnerships by major category (\$ in thousands):

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Unfunded Commitments</u>	<u>Note</u>
US Equity	Includes passively managed funds tracking major US Equity indices	\$ -	(a)
Non-US Equity	Includes passively managed funds tracking major Non-US Equity indices	-	(a)
Private Equity	Includes Venture Capital, Leveraged Buyout, and Corporate Finance investment funds	1,219,447	(b)
Global Fixed Income	Includes US Investment Grade, High Yield, Private Debt, and Global Government Bond and Currency investment funds	157,970	(c)
Global Real Assets	Includes Commodities, Natural Resources, Private Real Estate and Real Estate Investment Trust investment funds	1,398,496	(d)
Absolute Return	Includes multi-asset class strategies that offer an attractive risk-adjusted return and have a low correlation with other Trust investments	77,433	(e)
		<u>\$ 2,853,346</u>	

- (a) Investments may have redemption restrictions that limit the days when redemption requests can be made to one or more days per month. Advance notice of up to 3 days may be required for redemption.
- (b) Private Equity investments are generally held for the life of the investment.
- (c) Private Debt investments are generally held for the life of the investment. All other investments can generally be redeemed on either a monthly or quarterly basis with the exception of one fund which may impose redemption fees, and one fund which may impose gate provisions.
- (d) Private Real Estate and Natural Resources investment funds are generally held for the life of the investment. Commodities fund investments can be redeemed on either a monthly or quarterly basis with up to 90 days advance notice.

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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- (e) Absolute Return investments can generally be redeemed on either a monthly, quarterly or annual basis after the expiration of an initial lock-up period of up to three years.

#### 4. DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

As of September 30, 2018, the Trust invested in derivative contracts: primarily futures, forwards, options and swaps. Derivative contracts serve as components of the Trust's investment strategy as described in Note 2. The following tables summarize the value of asset and liability derivatives and related gains and losses as of and for the year ended September 30, 2018 (\$ in thousands).

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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<u>Risk Exposure</u>	<u>Location within Statement of Assets and Liabilities</u>	<u>Derivative Assets</u>	<u>Derivative Liabilities</u>
<i>Commodity</i>			
Purchased Options	Investments - at fair value	\$ 2,265	\$ -
Written Options	Other liabilities	-	(2,599)
<i>Commodity</i>			
Forward Contracts	Unrealized gain/loss on forward contracts	931	(1,008)
Commodity Swaps	Swap contracts, at fair value	13,292	(426)
Futures Contracts	Other assets	54	(3,064)
<i>Credit</i>			
Credit Default Swaps	Swap contracts, at fair value	355	(718)
<i>Currency</i>			
Purchased Options	Investments - at fair value	4,250	-
Written Options	Other liabilities	-	(392)
Foreign Currency			
Exchange Contracts	Unrealized gain/loss on forward contracts	28,092	(25,273)
<i>Equity</i>			
Total Return Swaps	Swap contracts, at fair value	1,195	(1,201)
<i>Interest Rate</i>			
Purchased Options	Investments - at fair value	4,650	-
Written Options	Other liabilities	-	(6,917)
Interest Rate Swaps	Swap contracts, at fair value	13,892	(3,521)
Futures Contracts	Other assets/liabilities	1,816	(25)

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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<u>Risk Exposure</u>	<b>Location within the Statement of Operations</b>	
	Net change in unrealized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency	Net realized gain (loss) from investments and foreign currency
<i>Commodity</i>		
Options Contracts	\$ (641)	\$ 3,166
Commodity Forward Contracts	(124)	49
Commodity Swaps	16,613	(8,728)
Futures Contracts	-	1,240
<i>Credit</i>		
Options Contracts	-	43
Credit Default Swaps	(207)	(533)
<i>Currency</i>		
Options Contracts	2,669	(29,299)
Foreign Currency Exchange Contracts	(1,924)	(25,404)
<i>Equity</i>		
Options Contracts	(51)	123
Total Return Swaps	(695)	(51)
<i>Interest Rate</i>		
Options Contracts	(1,535)	1,399
Interest Rate Swaps	2,591	8,001
Futures Contracts	-	(3,038)

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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The following table summarizes the long and short notional exposure of derivative contracts as of September 30, 2018 (\$ in thousands):

<u>Risk Exposure</u>	<u>Long Exposure</u>	<u>Short Exposure</u>
<i>Commodity</i>		
Purchased Options	\$ 1	\$ -
Written Options	-	1
Commodity Forward Contracts	793	1,189
Commodity Swaps	2,782	335
Futures Contracts	286,170	260,664
<i>Credit</i>		
Credit Default Swaps	51,889	49,940
<i>Currency</i>		
Purchased Options	713,898	-
Written Options	-	48,750
Foreign Currency Exchange Contracts	1,808,951	1,830,167
<i>Equity</i>		
Total Return Swaps	47,345	40,511
<i>Interest Rate</i>		
Purchased Options	687,405	-
Written Options	-	559,402
Interest Rate Swaps	507,896	345,274
Futures Contracts	1,492,635	732,371

## 5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

**Railroad Retirement Board** — Under the provisions of the Act, the Board directs the Treasury to contribute RRA and Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account (“SSEBA”) assets to the Trust, as defined in the Act. Since the Trust’s inception, the Board has contributed \$21.3 billion to the Trust. The Board also periodically directs the Trust to transfer funds to the Treasury to fund benefit payments and administrative expenses of the RRA. Since the Trust’s inception, approximately \$22.9 billion has been transferred to the Treasury by the Trust. During the fiscal year ended

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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September 30, 2018, approximately \$1.8 billion was transferred to the Treasury. As defined in the Act, the Trust reports to the Board and is required to perform its duties solely in the interest of the Board and through it, the participants and beneficiaries of the programs funded by the Act.

**Legal Counsel** — The Trust incurred approximately \$1.3 million in legal fees during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018. Legal counsel was provided by firms that may also provide services to the major railroads and railway labor unions whose representatives are members of the Board of Trustees.

**Custodian** — The Trust's custodian may also be engaged to provide investment management services for a portion of Trust assets, however no such services were provided by the custodian during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018.

## 6. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN

The Trust provides a defined contribution plan ("Plan") covering all employees. Employees participate in the Plan by making discretionary contributions from their eligible compensation, but not more than the maximum annual amount allowed by law. The Trust makes matching contributions equal to 100% on the first 6% of compensation deferred. The Trust may also, at its discretion, make an additional profit-sharing contribution to the Plan. During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018, the Trust made contributions of approximately \$223 thousand to the Plan on behalf of the employees.

## 7. INDEMNIFICATIONS

In the ordinary course of business, the Trust may enter into contracts or agreements that contain indemnifications. Future events could occur that lead to the execution of these provisions against the Trust. The Trust's maximum exposure under these contracts or agreements is unknown. No such claims have occurred, nor are they expected to occur and the Trust expects the risk of loss to be remote.

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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### 8. COMMITMENTS

**Office Space Lease** — In October 2012, the Trust entered into an eleven year operating lease agreement with respect to its principal office space in Washington, DC.

Remaining rental payment obligations relating to the lease for each of the next five years and thereafter are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Years Ending September 30</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2019	\$ 483,665
2020	499,987
2021	510,001
2022	520,226
2023	530,655
Thereafter	<u>313,138</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,857,672</u>

**Investments** — The Trust has made contractual commitments to fund various investments. These investments typically have investment periods of five years and terms of ten years. The investment manager or general partner invests the committed dollars during the investment period and harvests the portfolio during the remainder of the term. The amounts of these commitments are disclosed in the table in Note 3.

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

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### 9. FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The financial ratios noted below encompass the net of all funds received by the Trust for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018.

	<b>October 1, 2017 — September 30, 2018</b>
FINANCIAL RATIOS <sup>(1)</sup> :	
Expense to average net assets	0.29%
Net investment income to average net assets	1.42%
 TOTAL RETURN <sup>(2)</sup> — Total return	 7.37%

<sup>(1)</sup> The ratios of expense to average net assets and net investment income to average net assets represent the expenses and net investment income for the period, as reported on the Statement of Operations, to the Trust's average net assets.

<sup>(2)</sup> The total return reflected in the table includes net investment income and net realized and unrealized gains on investments. The return is time-weighted and measures the performance of a unit of assets held continuously for the time period covered.

### 10. TRUST DIVERSIFICATION

Since its inception in 2002, the Trust has deployed assets received from Treasury into a diversified and balanced portfolio of US and Non-US equity and US and Non-US fixed income securities. Over time, the Trust has furthered that diversification by allocating a percentage of the portfolio to private equity, real estate, and commodities. As mandated by the Act, the Trust manages its concentration of investment in any asset class, type of security or market sector. The Trust's policy of broad diversification is intended to protect its assets from disproportionate market shocks in volatile periods.

# NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

## Notes to Financial Statements

As of and for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

The following table is a summary of the Trust's concentration of investments by geographic region (\$ in thousands):

<u>Geographic Region</u>	<u>US Equity</u>	<u>Non-US Equity</u>	<u>Private Equity</u>	<u>Global Fixed Income</u>	<u>Global Real Assets</u>	<u>Absolute Return</u>	<u>Total</u>
North America	\$ 6,882,307	\$ 530,317	\$ 1,695,441	\$ 3,786,736	\$ 2,604,838	\$ 1,221,807	\$ 16,721,446
Europe	-	2,591,769	123,554	495,763	231,738	-	3,442,824
Asia	-	2,482,852	-	347,113	250,640	-	3,080,605
South America	-	147,174	-	148,155	-	-	295,329
Australia	-	144,109	-	89,863	15,951	-	249,923
Central America	-	43,083	-	142,132	-	-	185,215
Africa	-	81,706	-	48,251	-	-	129,957
Multi-Region / Global	-	466,270	309,106	223,551	51,987	820,140	1,871,054
	<u>\$ 6,882,307</u>	<u>\$ 6,487,280</u>	<u>\$ 2,128,101</u>	<u>\$ 5,281,564</u>	<u>\$ 3,155,154</u>	<u>\$ 2,041,947</u>	<u>\$ 25,976,353</u>

## 11. RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, *Leases (Topic 842)*. This new standard requires a lessee to record a right-of-use asset and a lease liability for all leases with terms longer than 12 months. The standard is effective on January 1, 2020, with early adoption permitted. The Trust is currently assessing the potential impact of ASU 2016-02 on its financial statements and related disclosures.

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-13, *Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Disclosure Framework – Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Fair Value Measurement*. The guidance in this ASU, which resulted from the FASB's disclosure effectiveness project, removes or modifies certain fair value disclosures for non-public entities. Reporting entities may remove or amend the disclosures no longer required immediately, with retrospective application. The Trust has elected immediate adoption of this ASU.

## 12. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Trust has evaluated subsequent events through November 15, 2018, the date these financial statements were issued, and determined that there were no subsequent events requiring adjustments to or disclosure in the financial statements.

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