

# NRRIT

## National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust

**APRIL 2019**

### **QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2019**

The National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (the "Trust") issues a Quarterly Update to provide current information on the Trust's operations and activities relating to its investment operations. This update reports on the Trust's activities for the quarter ending March 31, 2019. Copies of the Trust's Annual Management Report and each Quarterly Update are available on the website of the Railroad Retirement Board ("RRB"), <http://www.rrb.gov>.

As of March 31, 2019, the Trust had received a total of \$21.3 billion from the Treasury for investment. Most of this amount was transferred to the Trust periodically during the first six months of its 2003 fiscal year beginning in October 2002. No transfers were received in the fiscal quarter just ended. In the quarter ended March 31, 2019, the Trust continued to transfer monies to the Treasury to help fund benefit payments and administrative expenses of the Railroad Retirement Account ("RRA"). Transfers to the Treasury during the quarter amounted to \$635 million. Since the Trust's inception, it has transferred a total of \$23.9 billion to the Treasury.

#### **Investment Objectives**

The Trust's primary investment objectives are to establish a portfolio that will achieve a long-term rate-of-return on assets sufficient to enhance the financial strength of the railroad retirement system and to do so in a diversified manner that minimizes the risk of large losses. Achievement of these objectives will facilitate the payment of benefits by the Railroad Retirement Board and the United States Treasury. To further these objectives the Trust has established an asset allocation policy and will seek to add value by obtaining returns that are in the aggregate greater than the returns of its strategic policy benchmark for this asset allocation. In addition, the Trust takes other appropriate steps to manage investment risk and volatility effectively.

In 2002, the Trust conducted its first comprehensive asset allocation study for the purpose of analyzing alternative asset allocation strategies for the Trust. The study analyzed the long-term expected return, risk, and return correlation of various asset classes, as well as the expected return and risk of various portfolios of these asset classes. In 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2014 and 2017, the Trust took steps to review and update its asset allocation. As a result of these reviews, the Trustees have refined periodically the Trust's asset allocation policy and strategic policy benchmark.

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#### **TRUSTEES:**

**Chair:** William F. Quinn  
Independent Trustee

George J. Francisco, Jr.  
President Emeritus  
National Conference of Firemen and  
Oilers - SEIU

Beth Miller  
AVP Treasury & Risk Management  
BNSF Railway Company

Christopher R. Neikirk  
AVP Finance  
Norfolk Southern Corporation

Richard G. Patsy  
Assistant Vice President Pensions and  
Investments  
CSX Corporation

Joel Parker  
Labor Trustee

William C. Walpert  
National Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus  
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers  
and Trainmen (BLET)

The Trust's current asset allocation policy and strategic policy benchmark are contained in its Investment Guidelines which are included as Appendix B of the Trust's Annual Management Report.

The investment performance for the Trust, as well as the change in market value of Trust-managed and RRB-held assets, is summarized below for the most recent quarter.

<b>Investment Performance – Net of Fees for the Quarter ended March 31, 2019</b>	
Trust-Managed Assets:	7.36%
Strategic Policy Benchmark:	6.75%

<b>Market Value of Assets (Asset values are in billions of dollars)</b>	
<b>Trust-managed assets</b>	
As of December 31, 2018	\$ 24.2
As of March 31, 2019	\$ 25.3
Change for quarter ended March 31, 2019	\$ 1.1
<b>Change in Trust-managed assets since inception</b>	
Total transfers from Treasury since inception	\$ 21.3
Total transfers to Treasury since inception	\$-23.9
Total change in assets since inception	\$ 27.9
As of March 31, 2019	\$ 25.3
<b>Trust-managed assets and RRB assets held in reserve</b>	
As of December 31, 2018	\$ 25.7
As of March 31, 2019	\$ 27.1
Change for quarter ended March 31, 2019	\$ 1.4

### **Financial Market Volatility**

The Trust originally deployed assets received from Treasury into a diversified and balanced portfolio of US and non-US equity and US fixed income securities. Over time, the Trust has furthered that diversification by allocating a percentage of the portfolio to non-US fixed income securities, private equity, private debt, real estate, and commodities. As mandated by its statute, the Trust has avoided undue concentration of investment in any asset class, type of security, or market sector. 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. As part of this diversification process, the Trust holds tens of thousands of different securities selected by its investment managers for its portfolio.

Trustees and investment staff continue to monitor carefully the Trust's existing investments and examine ways to refine its strategies to invest Trust assets in the most effective and prudent manner. The Board of Trustees will continue to manage the assets of the Trust as a patient, long-term investor, recognizing its responsibilities to the railroad retirement system, its workers and retirees.

## **Annual Report**

The Trust's Annual Management Report contains additional information regarding the Trust's investment activities as well as other financial information. This report can be found on the Railroad Retirement Board's website at <http://www.rrb.gov>.