

# NORTHERN INSTITUTIONAL FUNDS

## Global Tactical Asset Allocation Portfolio



Summary Prospectus | April 1, 2011

Ticker: Class A—BBALX, Class C—BBCCX, Class D—BBADX

Before you invest, you may want to review the Portfolio's complete Prospectus, which contains more information about the Portfolio and its risks. You can find the Portfolio's complete Prospectus and other information about the Portfolio online at [www.northernfunds.com/institutional/prospectus](http://www.northernfunds.com/institutional/prospectus). You can also get this information at no cost by calling 800-637-1380 or by sending an e-mail request to [northern-funds@ntrs.com](mailto:northern-funds@ntrs.com). If you purchase shares of the Portfolio through a financial intermediary (such as a bank or a broker-dealer), the complete Prospectus and other information are also available from your financial intermediary. The Portfolio's complete Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, both dated April 1, 2011, as supplemented, are incorporated by reference into this summary prospectus and may be obtained, free of charge, at the website, phone number or e-mail address noted above.

### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Portfolio seeks to provide long-term capital appreciation and current income.

### FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE PORTFOLIO

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Portfolio.

#### Shareholder Fees (fees paid directly from your investment)

None

**Annual Portfolio Operating Expenses** (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

	Class A	Class C	Class D
Management Fees	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%
Distribution (12b-1) Fees	None	None	None
Other Expenses	0.78%	1.02%	1.17%
Administration Fees	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%
Service Agent Fees	None	0.15%	0.25%
Other Operating Expenses	0.68%	0.77%	0.82%
Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses	0.43%	0.43%	0.43%
<b>Total Annual Portfolio Operating Expenses<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>1.46%</b>	<b>1.70%</b>	<b>1.85%</b>
Fee Waiver and/or Expense Reimbursement <sup>(2)</sup>	(0.78)%	(0.78)%	(0.78)%
<b>Total Annual Portfolio Operating Expenses After Fee Waiver and/or Expense Reimbursement</b>	<b>0.68%</b>	<b>0.92%</b>	<b>1.07%</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> The Total Annual Portfolio Operating Expenses will not correlate to the Portfolio's ratio of expenses to net assets included in the Portfolio's Financial Highlights in the Portfolio's complete Prospectus, which do not reflect indirect expenses such as Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses.

<sup>(2)</sup> Northern Trust Investments, Inc. ("NTI" or the "Investment Adviser") has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fees and reimburse certain expenses of the Portfolio. The contractual waiver and reimbursement arrangements are expected to continue until at least April 1, 2012. After this date, NTI or the Portfolio may terminate the contractual arrangements. The Portfolio's Board of Trustees may terminate the contractual arrangements at any time if it determines that it is in the best interest of the Portfolio and its shareholders.

### EXAMPLE

The following Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Portfolio with the cost of investing in

other mutual funds. The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Portfolio for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Portfolio's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
<b>Class A</b>	\$69	\$385	\$723	\$1,679
<b>Class C</b>	\$94	\$460	\$850	\$1,944
<b>Class D</b>	\$109	\$506	\$928	\$2,105

**PORTFOLIO TURNOVER.** The Portfolio pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when Portfolio shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual portfolio operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Portfolio's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Portfolio's portfolio turnover rate was 87.17% of the average value of its portfolio.

### PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

The Portfolio invests primarily in shares of a combination of underlying mutual funds to which Northern Trust Investments, Inc. ("NTI"), the Portfolio's investment adviser, or an affiliate acts as investment adviser. The Portfolio also may invest in other unaffiliated mutual funds and exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") (together, with affiliated underlying funds, the "Underlying Funds"), affiliated ETFs and other securities and investments not issued by mutual funds.

The Portfolio will be diversified among a number of asset classes, and its allocation will be based on an asset allocation framework developed by the Investment Policy Committee of The Northern Trust Company ("TNTC") and NTI (TNTC and NTI are collectively referred to herein as "Northern Trust"). The Portfolio intends to invest indirectly, through Underlying Funds, in equity and fixed-income securities of both U.S. and non-U.S. corporate and governmental issuers. The asset classes in which the Portfolio invests include but are not limited to small-, mid- and large-capitalization common stocks; real estate securities; commodity-related securities; securities of foreign issuers, including emerging markets; and fixed-income

securities, including high yield securities and money market instruments. The Portfolio also may invest directly in equity and fixed-income securities and money market instruments.

Under normal market conditions, the Portfolio will invest significantly in funds that invest in companies that are located, headquartered, incorporated or otherwise organized outside of the U.S. as represented in either the MSCI EAFE® Index, MSCI Emerging Markets<sup>SM</sup> Index or other diversified foreign indices. The Portfolio expects its foreign investments to be allocated among funds that are diversified among various regions, countries, including the U.S. (but in no less than three different countries), industries and capitalization ranges. The Portfolio may invest in funds that invest in equity and debt of issuers in both developed and emerging markets.

Northern Trust's Investment Policy Committee is responsible for developing tactical asset allocation recommendations with respect to the Portfolio using the asset allocation framework and incorporating various criteria, including, for example, economic factors such as gross domestic product and inflation; fixed-income market factors such as sovereign yields, credit spreads and currency trends; and equity market factors such as domestic and foreign operating earnings and valuation levels. NTI monitors the Portfolio daily to ensure it is invested pursuant to the current asset allocation framework. NTI reviews the asset allocation framework and recommended allocations at least monthly, or more frequently as needed, to consider adjusting the allocations based on its evolving investment views amid changing market and economic conditions. There is no limit in the number of Underlying Funds in which the Portfolio may invest. The Portfolio is not required to maintain any minimum or maximum investment in any asset class, and the Portfolio may at times invest more than 25% of its assets in one Underlying Fund or asset class.

The investment management team may engage in active trading, and will not consider portfolio turnover a limiting factor in making decisions for the Portfolio.

## PRINCIPAL RISKS

**AFFILIATED PERSON RISK** is the risk that the Investment Adviser may select investments for the Portfolio based on its own financial interests rather than the Portfolio's interests.

**ASSET ALLOCATION RISK** is the risk that the selection by a manager of the Underlying Funds and the allocation of the Portfolio's assets among the various asset classes and market segments will cause the Portfolio to underperform other funds with similar investment objectives. The Portfolio's investment in any one Underlying Fund or asset class may exceed 25% of the Portfolio's total assets, which may cause it to be subject to greater risk than a more diversified fund.

**COMMODITY-RELATED SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that investing in commodity-related securities investments may subject the Portfolio to greater volatility than investments in other kinds of securities. In addition to overall market movements,

commodity-related securities may be adversely impacted by commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates, or factors affecting a particular industry or commodity, such as weather, disease, embargoes, acts of war or terrorism, or political and regulatory developments.

**CREDIT (OR DEFAULT) RISK** is the risk that the inability or unwillingness of an issuer or guarantor of a fixed-income security, or a counterparty to a repurchase or other transaction, to meet its payment or other financial obligations will adversely affect the value of the Portfolio's investments and its returns. Changes in the credit rating of a debt security held by the Portfolio could have a similar effect.

**CURRENCY RISK** is the risk that foreign currencies will fluctuate in value relative to the U.S. dollar, adversely affecting the value of the Portfolio's investments and its returns. Because the Portfolio's net asset value ("NAV") is determined on the basis of U.S. dollars, you may lose money if the local currency of a foreign market depreciates against the U.S. dollar, even if the market value of the Portfolio's holdings appreciates.

**DEBT EXTENSION RISK** is the risk that an issuer will exercise its right to pay principal on an obligation held by the Portfolio (such as a mortgage-backed security) later than expected. This may happen during a period of rising interest rates. Under these circumstances, the value of the obligation will decrease and the Portfolio will suffer from the inability to invest in higher yielding securities.

**EMERGING MARKETS RISK** is the risk that markets of emerging market countries are less developed and less liquid, subject to greater price volatility and generally subject to increased economic, political, regulatory and other uncertainties than more developed markets.

**EXPENSES RISK** is the risk that the Portfolio's expense structure may result in lower investment returns. You may invest in the Underlying Funds directly. By investing in the Underlying Funds indirectly through the Portfolio, you will incur not only a proportionate share of the expenses of the Underlying Funds held by the Portfolio (including operating costs and investment management fees), but also expenses of the Portfolio.

**FOREIGN SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that investing in foreign (non-U.S.) securities may result in the Portfolio experiencing more rapid and extreme changes in value than a fund that invests exclusively in securities of U.S. companies, due to less liquid markets, and adverse economic, political, diplomatic, financial, and regulatory factors. Foreign governments also may impose limits on investment and repatriation and impose taxes. Any of these events could cause the value of the Portfolio's investments to decline.

**HIGH-YIELD RISK** is the risk that the Portfolio's non-investment grade fixed-income securities, sometimes known as "junk bonds," will be subject to greater credit risk, price volatility and risk of loss than investment grade securities, which can adversely impact the Portfolio's return and net asset value. High yield securities are considered primarily speculative with

respect to the issuer's continuing ability to make principal and interest payment.

**INTEREST RATE/MATURITY RISK** is the risk that the value of the Portfolio's assets will decline because of rising interest rates. The magnitude of this decline will often be greater for longer-term fixed-income securities than shorter-term fixed income securities.

**MANAGEMENT RISK** is the risk that a strategy used by the investment management team may fail to produce the intended results.

**MARKET RISK** is the risk that the value of securities owned by the Portfolio may decline, at times sharply and unpredictably, because of economic changes or other events that affect individual issuers or large portions of the market. It includes the risk that a particular style of equity investing, such as growth or value, may underperform the market generally.

**PORTFOLIO TURNOVER RISK** is the risk that high portfolio turnover is likely to lead to increased Portfolio expenses that may result in lower investment returns. High portfolio turnover also is likely to result in higher short-term capital gains taxable to shareholders.

**PREPAYMENT (OR CALL) RISK** is the risk that prepayment of the underlying mortgage or other collateral of some fixed-income securities may result in a decreased rate of return and a decline in value of those securities.

**REAL ESTATE SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that investments in real estate investment trusts (REITs) and securities of real estate companies will make the Portfolio more susceptible to risks associated with the ownership of real estate and with the real estate industry in general. REITs and real estate companies may be less diversified than other pools of securities, may have lower trading volumes and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements than the overall securities markets.

**SMALL CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that stocks of smaller companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than stocks of larger, more established companies. Small companies may have limited product lines or financial resources, or may be dependent upon a small or inexperienced management group, and their securities may trade less frequently and in lower volume than the securities of larger companies, which could lead to higher transaction costs. Generally the smaller the company size, the greater the risk.

**UNDERLYING FUND RISK** is the risk that the Portfolio's investment performance and its ability to achieve its investment objective are directly related to the performance of the Underlying Funds in which it invests. There can be no assurance that the Underlying Funds will achieve their respective investment objectives. The Portfolio is subject to the risks of the Underlying Funds in direct proportion to the allocation of its assets among the Underlying Funds.

**As with any mutual fund, it is possible to lose money on an investment in the Portfolio. An investment in the Portfolio is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or**

**guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, any other government agency, or The Northern Trust Company, its affiliates, subsidiaries or any other bank.**

## PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

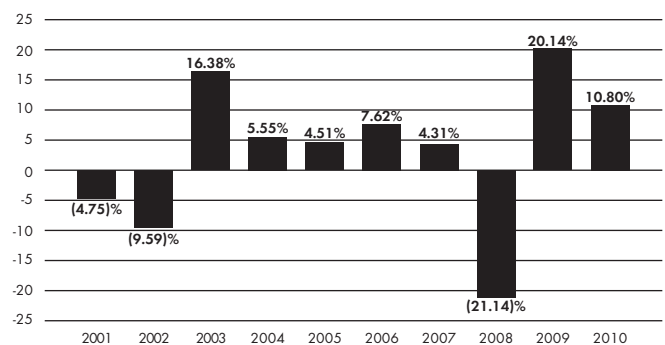
The bar chart and table that follow provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Portfolio by showing (A) changes in the performance of the Portfolio's Class A Shares from year to year, and (B) how the average annual total returns of the Portfolio's outstanding classes of shares compare to those of a broad-based securities market index.

On April 1, 2008, the Portfolio changed its investment strategy from a traditional balanced fund to an asset allocation fund operating as a fund of funds. The performance shown prior to that date represents performance of the Portfolio's prior balanced fund strategy.

The Portfolio's past performance, before and after taxes, is not necessarily an indication of how the Portfolio will perform in the future.

Updated performance information for the Portfolio is available and may be obtained on the Portfolio's Web site at [www.northernfunds.com/institutional](http://www.northernfunds.com/institutional) or by calling 800-637-1380.

### CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL RETURN (CLASS A)\*



\* For the periods shown in the bar chart above, the highest quarterly return was 10.25% in the second quarter of 2009, and the lowest quarterly return was (8.63)% in the fourth quarter of 2008.

**AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS**  
(For the periods ended December 31, 2010)

	Inception Date	1-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
Class A					
Return before taxes	7/1/93	10.80%	3.34%	2.68%	6.26%
Return after taxes on distributions		9.94%	1.74%	1.45%	4.59%
Return after taxes on distributions and sale of Portfolio shares		7.13%	2.22%	1.75%	4.66%
Class C return before taxes	12/29/95	10.65%	3.09%	2.43%	6.05%
Class D return before taxes	2/20/96	10.40%	2.85%	2.24%	5.88%
Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)		6.54%	5.80%	5.84%	6.16%
Russell 1000® Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)		16.10%	2.59%	1.83%	8.26%
Asset Allocation Blend Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)		13.05%	4.36%	3.99%	7.70%

After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on an investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns shown are not relevant to investors who hold their shares through tax-deferred arrangements, such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts. After-tax returns are shown only for Class A Shares. After-tax returns for other classes will vary.

In calculating the federal income taxes due on redemptions, capital gains taxes resulting from redemptions are subtracted from the redemption proceeds and the tax benefits from capital losses resulting from the redemption are added to the redemption proceeds. Under certain circumstances, the addition of the tax benefits from capital losses resulting from redemptions may cause the Returns After Taxes on Distributions and Sale of Portfolio Shares to be greater than the Returns After Taxes on Distributions or even the Returns Before Taxes.

## MANAGEMENT

**INVESTMENT ADVISER AND PORTFOLIO MANAGERS.** Northern Trust Investments, Inc., an indirect subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the Investment Adviser of the Global Tactical Asset Allocation Portfolio. Peter J. Flood, Senior Vice President of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., and Daniel

J. Phillips, Second Vice President of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., have been managers of the Portfolio since April 2008 and April 2011, respectively.

## PURCHASE AND SALE OF PORTFOLIO SHARES

You may purchase Portfolio shares through your institutional account at Northern Trust (or an affiliate) or an authorized intermediary or you may open an account directly with Northern Institutional Funds (the "Trust") with a minimum initial investment of \$5 million in one or more of the Trust's portfolios. There is no minimum for subsequent investments.

On any business day, you may sell (redeem) or exchange shares through your institutional account by contacting your Northern Trust account representative or authorized intermediary. If you purchase shares directly from the Trust, you may sell (redeem) or exchange your shares in one of the following ways:

- By Mail – Send a written request to: Northern Institutional Funds, P.O. Box 75986, Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986.
- By Telephone – Call the Northern Institutional Funds Center at 800-637-1380 for instructions.
- By Wire – Authorize wire redemptions on your New Account Application and have proceeds sent by federal wire transfer to a previously designated bank account (the minimum redemption amount by this method is \$10,000).

## TAX INFORMATION

The Portfolio's distributions are generally taxable to you as ordinary income, capital gains, or a combination of the two, unless you are investing through a tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account.

## PAYMENTS TO BROKERS-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

If you purchase the Portfolio through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the Portfolio and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Portfolio shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Portfolio over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's Web site for more information.