

# NORTHERN FUNDS

## Stock Index Fund



Summary Prospectus | July 31, 2018

Ticker: NOSIX

Before you invest, you may want to review the Fund's complete Prospectus, which contains more information about the Fund and its risks. You can find the Fund's complete Prospectus and other information about the Fund online at [northerntrust.com/prospectus](http://northerntrust.com/prospectus). You can also get this information at no cost by calling 800-595-9111 or by sending an e-mail request to [northern-funds@ntrs.com](mailto:northern-funds@ntrs.com). If you purchase shares of the Fund 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 Fund's complete Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, both dated July 31, 2018, 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 Fund seeks to provide investment results approximating the aggregate price and dividend performance of the securities included in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index.

### FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE FUND

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

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

None

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

Management Fees	0.08%
Other Expenses	0.04%
Transfer Agent Fees	0.02%
Other Operating Expenses	0.02%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b>	<b>0.12%</b>
Expense Reimbursement <sup>(1)</sup>	(0.02)%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement</b>	<b>0.10%</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Northern Trust Investments, Inc. has contractually agreed to reimburse a portion of the operating expenses of the Fund (other than certain excepted expenses, i.e., Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, the compensation paid to each Independent Trustee of the Trust, expenses of third party consultants engaged by the Board of Trustees, membership dues paid to the Investment Company Institute and Mutual Fund Directors Forum, expenses in connection with the negotiation and renewal of the revolving credit facility, extraordinary expenses and interest) to the extent the "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses" exceed 0.10%. The "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement" may be higher than the contractual limitation as a result of the excepted expenses that are not reimbursed. This contractual limitation may not be terminated before July 31, 2019 without the approval of the Board of Trustees.

### EXAMPLE

The following Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund 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 Fund'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
\$10	\$37	\$66	\$152

**PORTFOLIO TURNOVER.** The Fund 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 Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual portfolio operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 6.76% of the average value of its portfolio.

### PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Under normal circumstances, the Fund will invest substantially all (and at least 80%) of its net assets in the equity securities included in the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index, in weightings that approximate the relative composition of the securities contained in the S&P 500 Index, and in S&P 500 Index futures approved by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The S&P 500 Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index consisting of 500 stocks and is a widely recognized common measure of the performance of the overall U.S. stock market. As of May 31, 2018, the approximate market capitalization range of the companies included in the S&P 500 Index was between approximately \$1.9 billion and \$948.2 billion. It is rebalanced quarterly.

The Fund is passively managed, which means it tries to duplicate the investment composition and performance of the S&P 500 Index using computer programs and statistical procedures. The Fund's investment adviser will buy and sell securities in response to changes in the S&P 500 Index. The Fund invests in substantially all of the securities in the S&P 500 Index in approximately the same proportion as the index (i.e., replication). Because the Fund will have fees and transaction expenses (while the S&P 500 Index has none), returns are likely to be below those of the S&P 500 Index.

The Fund's investment adviser expects that, under normal circumstances, the quarterly performance of the Fund, before expenses, will track the performance of the S&P 500 Index within a 0.95 correlation coefficient.

*S&P® Global Ratings ("S&P") does not endorse any of the securities in the S&P 500 Index. It is not a sponsor of the Stock Index Fund and is not affiliated with the Fund in any way.*

## PRINCIPAL RISKS

**CYBERSECURITY RISK** is the risk of an unauthorized breach and access to fund assets, customer data (including private shareholder information), or proprietary information, or the risk of an incident occurring that causes the Fund, the investment adviser, custodian, transfer agent, distributor and other service providers and financial intermediaries to suffer data breaches, data corruption or lose operational functionality. Successful cyber-attacks or other cyber-failures or events affecting the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund or its shareholders.

**LARGE CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that large-capitalization stocks as a group could fall out of favor with the market, causing the fund to underperform investments that focus solely on small- or medium-capitalization stocks.

**MANAGEMENT RISK** is the risk that a strategy used by the Fund's investment adviser may fail to produce the intended results or that imperfections, errors or limitations in the tools and data used by the investment adviser may cause unintended results.

**MARKET RISK** is the risk that general market conditions, such as real or perceived adverse economic or political conditions, inflation, changes in interest rates, lack of liquidity in the bond or equity markets, volatility in the equities markets or adverse investor sentiment could cause the value of your investment in the Fund to decline. The market value of the securities in which the Fund invests may go up or down in response to the prospects of particular sectors or governments and/or general economic conditions throughout the world due to increasingly interconnected global economies and financial markets.

**SECTOR RISK** is the risk that companies in similar businesses may be similarly affected by particular economic or market events, which may, in certain circumstances, cause the value of securities of all companies in a particular sector of the market to decrease. While the Fund may not concentrate in any one industry, the Fund may invest without limitation in a particular market sector.

**TECHNOLOGY SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that securities of technology companies may be subject to greater price volatility than securities of companies in other sectors. These securities may fall in and out of favor with investors rapidly, which may cause sudden selling and dramatically lower market prices. Technology securities also may be affected adversely by changes in technology, consumer and business purchasing patterns,

government regulation and/or obsolete products or services. In addition, a rising interest rate environment tends to negatively affect technology companies.

**TRACKING RISK** is the risk that the Fund's performance may vary substantially from the performance of the benchmark index it tracks as a result of share purchases and redemptions, transaction costs, expenses and other factors.

As with any mutual fund, it is possible to lose money on an investment in the Fund. An investment in the Fund 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.

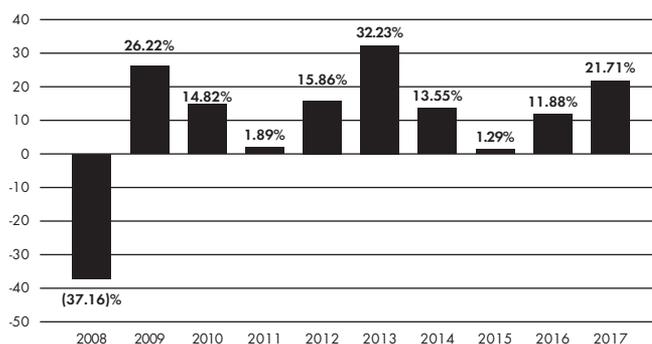
## FUND PERFORMANCE

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

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

Updated performance information for the Fund is available and may be obtained on the Fund's website at [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or by calling 800-595-9111.

### CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL RETURN\*



\* Year to date total return for the six months ended June 30, 2018 is 2.58%. For the periods shown in the bar chart above, the highest quarterly return was 15.88% in the second quarter of 2009, and the lowest quarterly return was (22.00)% in the fourth quarter of 2008.

## AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN

(For the periods ended December 31, 2017)

	Inception Date	1-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
Stock Index Fund	10/7/96				
Returns before taxes		21.71%	15.67%	8.33%	8.16%
Returns after taxes on distributions		20.76%	14.86%	7.79%	7.54%
Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of Fund shares		12.97%	12.48%	6.68%	6.77%
S&P 500 Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)		21.83%	15.79%	8.50%	8.62%

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.

## MANAGEMENT

**INVESTMENT ADVISER AND PORTFOLIO MANAGER.** Northern Trust Investments, Inc. ("NTI"), a subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the investment adviser of the Stock Index Fund. Brent D. Reeder, Senior Vice President of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., has been a manager of the Fund since November 2006. The Northern Trust Company, an affiliate of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., serves as transfer agent, custodian and sub-administrator to the Fund.

## PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

You may open an account directly with Northern Funds (the "Trust") with a minimum initial investment of \$2,500 in the Fund (\$500 for an IRA; \$250 under the Automatic Investment Plan; and \$500 for employees of Northern Trust and its affiliates). The minimum subsequent investment is \$50 (except for reinvestments of distributions for which there is no minimum). The Fund reserves the right to waive these minimums. You may also purchase Fund shares through your account at Northern Trust (or an affiliate) or an authorized intermediary.

On any business day, you may sell (redeem) or exchange shares through your 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 Funds, P.O. Box 75986, Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986.
- By Telephone – Authorize the telephone privilege on your New Account Application. Call 800-595-9111 to use the telephone privilege.

- 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 \$250). You will be charged \$15 for each wire redemption unless the designated bank account is maintained at Northern Trust or an affiliated bank. Call 800-595-9111 for instructions.
- By Systematic Withdrawal – If you own shares of the Fund with a minimum value of \$10,000, you may elect to have a fixed sum redeemed at regular intervals and distributed in cash or reinvested in one or more other funds of the Trust. Call 800-595-9111 for an application form and additional information. The minimum amount is \$250 per withdrawal.
- By Exchange – Complete the Exchange Privilege section of your New Account Application to exchange shares of one fund in the Trust for shares of another fund in the Trust. Shares being exchanged must have a value of at least \$1,000 (\$2,500 if a new account is being established by the exchange, \$500 if the new account is an IRA). Call 800-595-9111 for more information.
- By Internet – You may initiate transactions between Northern Trust banking and Fund accounts by using Northern Trust Private Passport. For details and to sign up for this service, go to [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or contact your Relationship Manager.

## TAX INFORMATION

The Fund's distributions are generally taxable to you as ordinary income, qualified dividend income, capital gains, or a combination of the three, unless you are investing through a tax-exempt or tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. Distributions may be taxable upon withdrawal from tax-deferred accounts.

## PAYMENTS TO BROKERS-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

If you purchase the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the Fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund 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 Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

