

NORTHERN TRUST'S RECORD OF STRENGTH, STABILITY AND SECURITY

September 25, 2008

Northern Trust entered this turbulent period with a robust financial condition across all key indicators, including capital strength, credit quality, credit ratings and price-to-earnings ratio.

RECENT FINANCIAL RESULTS (FULL YEAR 2007 AND SECOND QUARTER 2008 *)

In full year 2007, Northern Trust achieved excellent financial results, as evidenced by record operating net income and record operating net income per common share. Our financial performance in 2007 was also marked by record assets under custody and strong growth in assets under management.

Our strong financial performance continued into the Second Quarter of 2008 ended June 30, despite the continued challenging macroeconomic environment. Record quarterly net income of \$302.9 million increased 46% over the year-ago period while record net income per share of \$1.35 increased 47% over the year-ago quarter. Weaker equity markets tempered year-over-year growth in assets under custody and assets under management of -1% and -2%, respectively. However, our growth rates were significantly stronger than the year-over-year decline in the S&P 500 of -14.9% and international EAFE index of -22.4%.

We continue to derive approximately 75% of corporate revenues from fee based, non-interest activities. A high predominance of fee-related income is conducive to the consistent and predictable earnings that Northern Trust has enjoyed over the years.

BALANCE SHEET STRENGTH

Northern Trust's consistently focused strategies and conservative business practices allow us to maintain an extremely low-risk balance sheet – characterized by our high liquidity and low loan-to-asset ratio. Northern Trust's highly liquid balance sheet has loans representing only 38% of total assets as of June 30, 2008 (as opposed to a peer group [20 largest banks in the United States] average of 59%). In addition, at June 30, 2008, there was a significant liquidity reserve on our consolidated balance sheet in the form of cash, securities available for sale and money market assets, which in aggregate totaled \$41.2 billion or 55% of total assets.

STRONGLY CAPITALIZED

Northern Trust maintains a very strong capital position. As of June 30, 2008, capital levels were strengthened as common equity increased 17%, or \$737 million, over the same period last year, averaging a record \$4.9 billion in the second quarter of 2008. At June 30, 2008, each of Northern Trust's subsidiary banks had capital ratios above the level required for

* Adjusted basis, e.g. excluding the Fourth Quarter 2007 VISA charge and Second Quarter 2008 leasing charge due to their non-operating nature.

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classification as a “well capitalized” institution. The ratio of Total Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets for Northern Trust Corporation equaled 11.7% at June 30, 2008, well above the “well capitalized” minimum of 10.0%. Likewise, the ratio of Tier 1 Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets equaled 9.8%, also well above the “well capitalized” minimum of 6.0%.

In addition, under the continuing evolution of the Basel II framework, capital requirements are more risk sensitive than under the current regulatory rules. Highly focused custodian banks with high-quality credit exposures should have lower credit risk capital requirements than banks with an overall riskier credit portfolio. Northern Trust’s credit portfolio is one of the highest quality among the largest U.S. banks and should demonstrate lower regulatory capital requirements under the Basel II framework.

ASSET QUALITY

Northern Trust maintains a very high-quality securities and loan portfolio. The high-quality, and therefore low-risk, nature of our securities portfolio is evidenced by the high percentage of triple-A rated securities held in the portfolio. At June 30, 2008, 92% of the total securities portfolio was rated triple-A by either Standard & Poor’s or Moody’s Investors Service.

Similarly, our conservative, relationship-based lending strategy is best evidenced by the low level of nonperforming loans and loan charge-offs. While nearly all of our banking peers’ 2007 financial results include significant deterioration in their levels of nonperforming loans, charge-offs and other asset quality statistics, Northern Trust actually reported an improvement in key measures of asset quality in 2007 as compared to the previous year. We also have reported strong asset quality in 2008. As of June 30, 2008, the total loan portfolio of \$28.7 billion had only \$34.4 million in nonperforming assets, or just 0.12% of the total loan portfolio. In contrast, the ratio of nonperforming assets to loans of our peer group [20 largest banks in the U.S.] averaged 1.47% as of June 30, 2008. Net loan charge-offs in 2007 totaled just \$8.8 million for Northern Trust. Net loan charge-offs in the quarter ended June 30, 2008 were only \$4.7 million.

CONSISTENT GROWTH IN SHAREHOLDERS’ EQUITY

Northern Trust has achieved 81 consecutive quarters, or 20+ years, of growth in shareholders’ equity, without experiencing any downturn. This performance is highly differentiated within the U.S. banking industry, as no other major U.S. bank comes close to matching this level of consistent performance across a wide array of market and economic environments. This consistency and financial strength provides an important framework of stability and reliability for our clients, investors and employees.

However, the shareholders’ equity base is not in itself a meaningful measure. Instead, the capital base should be considered against the size and risk of the assets on the balance sheet; the amount of off-balance sheet risk taken; the proportionate size of assets under custody; and the management team’s attitude towards prudent management. Against all of these measures, Northern Trust has a strong position and we believe this is a strong differentiator in determining a ‘safe’ environment for your assets.

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CREDIT RATINGS

As a result of our consistently focused business strategies and the lack of distraction from more volatile and riskier activities such as investment banking, Northern Trust maintains very strong credit ratings, and more importantly, has retained these ratings over the long-term – through many business cycles and market environments.

Notably, Northern Trust has maintained an AA- holding company credit rating from Standard and Poor's continually for over 20 years. In addition, on May 30, 2008, Standard & Poor's affirmed the ratings on Northern Trust Corporation and upgraded The Northern Trust Company, the primary subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, to AA from AA- stating: "We believe that Northern Trust's prudent management strategy, conservative lending policies, and disciplined risk management policies and procedures have allowed it to outperform its peers in a challenging market environment."

In October 2007, Moody's Investors Service affirmed our A1 holding company senior debt and all other ratings and improved our outlook from 'Stable' to 'Positive' citing our pristine asset quality, strong capital, focused business model, and strong risk management.

PRICE-TO-EARNINGS RATIO

Northern Trust's P/E ratio on June 30, 2008 of 16.6 is relatively high versus our peer group of banks. Northern Trust's premium to the average P/E ratios of the top 19 banks in the United States was 93% as of June 30. The market, in effect, places a much higher value on the conservative, growth-oriented business mix of Northern Trust relative to our peers – particularly in an environment as tumultuous as 2007 and the first half of 2008 was for the financial services industry.

A UNIQUE COMPANY

Perhaps most importantly, Northern Trust's ownership structure is unique in the industry, and has contributed to Northern Trust's special culture. Employees, directors and retirees together own approximately 14% of Northern Trust's outstanding shares. This approximate 14% ownership position is by far the highest in our custody peer group. In addition, shares owned by the founding family do not hold special voting rights. Northern Trust's ownership structure serves to focus the minds of all employees working on your behalf, as we all have a vested interest in the long-term success of our business.

Throughout our 119-year history, asset servicing has been, and will continue to be, our principal business. We are committed to maintaining our independence and our leadership position in this industry, and have continually experienced stability, continuity and growth.

In summary, while no one of these financial indicators in isolation demonstrates that your assets are more secure with Northern Trust than our competitors, the combination of all these factors, we believe, provides tangible evidence that Northern Trust is one of the safest and securest environments for your investments.

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