

# Dreyfus Premier Core Value Fund

Seeks long-term capital growth by  
investing in large-cap value stocks

**PROSPECTUS** May 1, 2004



YOU, YOUR ADVISOR AND

**Dreyfus**

A MELLON FINANCIAL COMPANY™

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*See back cover.*

## Dreyfus Premier Core Value Fund

Ticker Symbols **Class A: DCVIX**  
**Class B: DBCVX**  
**Class C: DCVCX**  
**Class R: DTCRX**  
**Class T: DCVTX**  
**Institutional shares: DCVFX**



### GOAL/APPROACH

The fund seeks long-term capital growth as a primary objective, with current income as a secondary objective. These objectives may be changed without shareholder approval. To pursue these goals, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its assets in equity securities. The fund focuses on stocks of large-cap value companies (market capitalizations of \$1 billion and above). The fund invests mainly in the stocks of U.S. issuers; it limits its foreign stock holdings to 20% of the value of its total assets. The fund's equity investments may include common stocks, preferred stocks and securities convertible into common stocks, including those issued in initial public offerings (IPOs).

In choosing stocks, the portfolio manager focuses on individual stock selection (a "bottom-up" approach) rather than forecasting stock market trends (a "top-down" approach), and looks for value companies. A three-step value screening process is used to select stocks:

- **value:** quantitative screens track traditional measures such as price-to-earnings, price-to-book and price-to-sales ratios; these ratios are analyzed and compared against the market
- **sound business fundamentals:** a company's balance sheet and income data are examined to determine the company's financial history
- **positive business momentum:** a company's earnings and forecast changes are analyzed and sales and earnings trends are reviewed to determine the company's financial condition

# The Fund

The fund typically sells a stock when it is no longer considered a value company, appears less likely to benefit from the current market and economic environment, shows deteriorating fundamentals or falls short of the manager's expectations.

The fund may, but is not required to, use derivatives, such as options, as a substitute for taking a position in an underlying asset, to increase returns, or as part of a hedging strategy.

### Concepts to understand

**Value companies:** companies that appear undervalued in terms of price relative to other financial measurements of their intrinsic worth or business prospects (such as price-to-earnings or price-to-book ratios). Because a stock can remain undervalued for years, value investors often look for factors that could trigger a rise in price.

**Large-cap companies:** established companies that are considered "known quantities." Large-cap companies often have the resources to weather economic shifts, though they can be slower to innovate than small companies.



## MAIN RISKS

The fund's principal risks are discussed below. The value of your investment in the fund will fluctuate, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- *Market risk.* The value of a security may decline due to general market conditions which are not specifically related to a particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the general outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment generally. They also may decline because of factors that affect a particular industry or industries, such as labor shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry.
- *Issuer risk.* The value of a security may decline for a number of reasons which directly relate to the issuer, such as management performance, financial leverage and reduced demand for the issuer's products or services.
- *Value stock risk.* Value stocks involve the risk that they may never reach what the manager believes is their full market value, either because the market fails to recognize the stock's intrinsic worth or the manager misgauged that worth. They also may decline in price, even though in theory they are already undervalued. Because different types of stocks tend to shift in and out of favor depending on market and economic conditions, the fund's performance may sometimes be lower or higher than that of other types of funds (such as those emphasizing growth stocks).
- *Foreign investment risk.* To the extent the fund invests in foreign securities, its performance will be influenced by political, social and economic factors affecting investments in foreign companies. Special risks associated with investments in foreign companies include exposure to currency fluctuations, less liquidity, less developed or less efficient trading markets, lack of comprehensive company information, political instability and differing auditing and legal standards.
- *Foreign currency risk.* Investments in foreign currencies are subject to the risk that those currencies will decline in value relative to the U.S. dollar, or, in the case of hedged positions, that the U.S. dollar will decline relative to the currency being hedged.

- *Market sector risk.* The fund may overweight or underweight certain companies, industries or market sectors, which may cause the fund's performance to be more or less sensitive to developments affecting those companies, industries or sectors.

### Other potential risks

The fund may purchase securities of companies in IPOs. The prices of securities purchased in IPOs can be very volatile. The effect of IPOs on the fund's performance depends on a variety of factors, including the number of IPOs the fund invests in relative to the size of the fund and whether and to what extent a security purchased in an IPO appreciates or depreciates in value. As a fund's asset base increases, IPOs often have a diminished effect on such fund's performance.

Under adverse market conditions, the fund could invest some or all of its assets in U.S. Treasury securities and money market securities. Although the fund would do this for temporary defensive purposes, it could reduce the benefit from any upswing in the market. During such periods, the fund may not achieve its primary investment objective.

The fund may invest in derivative securities, such as options. A small investment in derivatives could have a potentially large impact on the fund's performance. The use of derivatives involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the underlying assets. Derivatives can be highly volatile, illiquid and difficult to value, and there is the risk that changes in the value of a derivative held by the fund will not correlate with the fund's other investments.

At times, the fund may engage in short-term trading, which could produce higher transaction costs and taxable distributions, and lower the fund's after-tax performance.

The fund may lend its portfolio securities to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions. In connection with such loans, the fund will receive collateral from the borrower equal to at least 100% of the value of the loaned securities. Should the borrower of the securities fail financially, the fund may experience delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising its rights in the collateral.



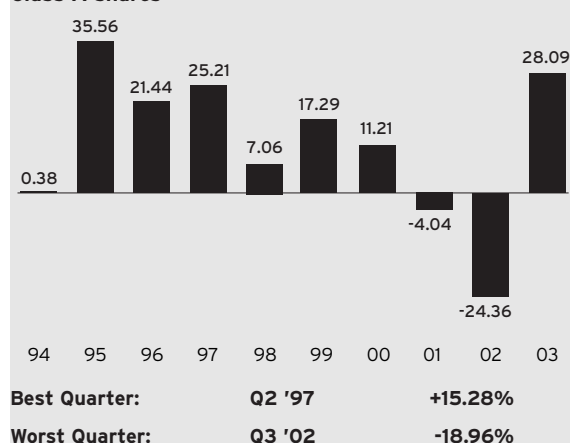
## PAST PERFORMANCE

The bar chart and table shown illustrate the risks of investing in the fund. The bar chart shows the changes in the fund's Class A performance from year to year. Sales loads are not reflected in the chart; if they were, the returns shown would have been lower. The table compares the average annual total returns of each of the fund's share classes to those of the Standard & Poor's 500/BARRA Value Index (S&P 500/BARRA Value), a broad measure of the performance of the stocks in the S&P 500 Index with the lowest price-to-book ratios. The returns shown in the table reflect any applicable sales load. All returns assume reinvestment of dividends and distributions. Of course, past performance is no guarantee of future results. Performance for each share class will vary from the performance of the fund's other share classes due to differences in charges and expenses.

After-tax performance is shown only for Class A shares. After-tax performance of the fund's other share classes will vary. 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 the investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown, and the 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.

Year-by-year total returns as of 12/31 each year (%)

### Class A shares



### Average annual total returns as of 12/31/03

Share class/ inception date	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years	Since inception
<b>Class A</b> (2/6/47) returns before taxes	<b>20.70%</b>	<b>2.71%</b>	<b>9.73%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Class A</b> returns after taxes on distributions	<b>20.58%</b>	<b>1.19%</b>	<b>6.61%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Class A</b> returns after taxes on distributions and sale of fund shares	<b>13.59%</b>	<b>1.55%</b>	<b>6.72%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Class B</b> (1/16/98) returns before taxes	<b>23.12%</b>	<b>2.82%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4.20%</b>
<b>Class C</b> (1/16/98) returns before taxes	<b>26.12%</b>	<b>3.14%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4.32%</b>
<b>Class R</b> (8/4/94) returns before taxes	<b>28.43%</b>	<b>4.19%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11.00%</b>
<b>Class T</b> (8/16/99) returns before taxes	<b>21.95%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.39%</b>
<b>Institutional shares</b> (2/1/93) returns before taxes	<b>28.25%</b>	<b>4.04%</b>	<b>10.49%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>S&amp;P 500/ BARRA Value</b> reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes	<b>31.79%</b>	<b>1.95%</b>	<b>10.55%</b>	<b>11.13%*</b>

\* Based on the life of Class R shares. For comparative purposes, the value of the index on 7/31/94 is used as the beginning value on 8/4/94.

### What this fund is – and isn't

This fund is a mutual fund: a pooled investment that is professionally managed and gives you the opportunity to participate in financial markets. It strives to reach its stated goals, although as with all mutual funds, it cannot offer guaranteed results.

An investment in this fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. You could lose money in this fund, but you also have the potential to make money.



## EXPENSES

As an investor, you pay certain fees and expenses in connection with the fund, which are described in the table below.

Fee table	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class R	Class T	Institutional shares
<b>Shareholder transaction fees</b> ( <i>fees paid from your account</i> )						
Maximum front-end sales charge on purchases % of offering price	5.75	none	none	none	4.50	none
Maximum contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC) % of purchase or sale price, whichever is less	none*	4.00	1.00	none	none*	none
<b>Annual fund operating expenses</b> ( <i>expenses paid from fund assets</i> )						
% of average daily net assets						
Management fees	.90	.90	.90	.90	.90	.90
Rule 12b-1 fee	.25	1.00	1.00	none	.50	.15
Other expenses	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>.90</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>1.05</b>

\* Shares bought without an initial sales charge as part of an investment of \$1 million or more may be charged a CDSC of 1.00% if redeemed within one year.

Expense example	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
<b>Class A</b>	<b>\$685</b>	<b>\$919</b>	<b>\$1,172</b>	<b>\$1,892</b>
<b>Class B</b>				
with redemption	\$593	\$897	\$1,226	\$1,848**
without redemption	\$193	\$597	\$1,026	\$1,848**
<b>Class C</b>				
with redemption	\$293	\$597	\$1,026	\$2,222
without redemption	\$193	\$597	\$1,026	\$2,222
<b>Class R</b>	<b>\$92</b>	<b>\$287</b>	<b>\$498</b>	<b>\$1,108</b>
<b>Class T</b>	<b>\$586</b>	<b>\$873</b>	<b>\$1,181</b>	<b>\$2,054</b>
<b>Institutional shares</b>	<b>\$107</b>	<b>\$334</b>	<b>\$579</b>	<b>\$1,283</b>

\*\* Assumes conversion of Class B to Class A at end of the sixth year following the date of purchase.

This example shows what you could pay in expenses over time. It uses the same hypothetical conditions other funds use in their prospectuses: \$10,000 initial investment, 5% total return each year and no changes in expenses. Because actual returns and expenses will be different, the example is for comparison only.

## Concepts to understand

**Management fee:** the fee paid to Dreyfus for managing the fund. Unlike the arrangements between most investment advisers and their funds, Dreyfus pays all fund expenses except for brokerage fees, taxes, interest, fees and expenses of the independent directors, Rule 12b-1 fees and extraordinary expenses.

**Rule 12b-1 fee:** the fee paid out of fund assets (attributable to appropriate share classes) for distribution expenses and shareholder service. Because this fee is paid out of the fund's assets on an ongoing basis, over time it will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more than paying other types of sales charges.



## MANAGEMENT

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The investment adviser for the fund is The Dreyfus Corporation (Dreyfus), 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166. Founded in 1947, Dreyfus manages approximately \$165 billion in approximately 200 mutual fund portfolios. For the past fiscal year, the fund paid Dreyfus a management fee at the annual rate of 0.90% of the fund's average daily net assets. Dreyfus is the primary mutual fund business of Mellon Financial Corporation (Mellon Financial), a global financial services company with approximately \$3.6 trillion of assets under management, administration or custody, including approximately \$679 billion under management. Mellon Financial provides financial services for institutions, corporations and individuals, offering institutional asset management, mutual funds, private wealth management, asset servicing, human resources services and treasury services. Mellon Financial is headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

On March 30, 2004, Mellon Bank, N.A., a wholly owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial and the then-current parent company of Dreyfus, transferred its entire interest in Dreyfus, including Dreyfus Service Corporation (the fund's distributor) and all of Dreyfus' other direct and indirect subsidiaries, to Mellon Financial. The reorganization did not result in a change in the control or management of Dreyfus under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, or the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act); Dreyfus merely became a direct, rather than indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial. The reorganization was part of a larger reorganization of Mellon Financial that is expected to increase organizational synergies and create a more efficient capital structure throughout the organization.

The Dreyfus asset management philosophy is based on the belief that discipline and consistency are important to investment success. For each fund, Dreyfus seeks to establish clear guidelines for portfolio management and to be systematic in making decisions. This approach is designed to provide each fund with a distinct, stable identity.

Investment decisions for the fund are made by a committee of portfolio managers. No individual committee member is primarily responsible for making these investment decisions. The committee is the Large Cap Value Team of The Boston Company Asset Management, which is an affiliate of Dreyfus. Each committee member also is an employee of Dreyfus. The portfolio managers comprising the committee are identified in the Statement of Additional Information.

The fund, Dreyfus and Dreyfus Service Corporation have each adopted a code of ethics that permits its personnel, subject to such code, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the fund. The Dreyfus code of ethics restricts the personal securities transactions of its employees, and requires portfolio managers and other investment personnel to comply with the code's preclearance and disclosure procedures. Its primary purpose is to ensure that personal trading by Dreyfus employees does not disadvantage any Dreyfus-managed fund.



Two class actions have been filed against Mellon Financial and Mellon Bank, N.A., and Dreyfus and Founders Asset Management LLC (the Investment Advisers), and the directors of all or substantially all of the Dreyfus funds, alleging that the Investment Advisers improperly used assets of the Dreyfus funds, in the form of directed brokerage commissions and 12b-1 fees, to pay brokers to promote sales of Dreyfus funds, and that the use of fund assets to make these payments was not properly disclosed to investors. The complaints further allege that the directors breached their fiduciary duties to fund shareholders under the 1940 Act and at common law. The complaints seek unspecified compensatory and punitive damages, rescission of the funds' contracts with the Investment Advisers, an accounting of all fees paid, and an award of attorneys' fees and litigation expenses. Dreyfus and the Dreyfus funds believe the allegations to be totally without merit and will defend the actions vigorously.

A purported class action has been filed against Dreyfus and the directors of Dreyfus Founders Funds, Inc., Dreyfus Premier Core Value Fund, and Dreyfus Premier NexTech Fund (the Funds), seeking to recover allegedly improper and excessive Rule 12b-1 fees charged to the Funds. The complaint alleges that the Funds were closed to new investors but that Dreyfus nonetheless improperly continued to charge, and the board members approved, Rule 12b-1 fees for marketing and distribution services in violation of the 1940 Act and in breach of their common law fiduciary duties. Plaintiff also seeks to recover a portion of the investment advisory fees charged to the Funds while Dreyfus was "in breach of its fiduciary duty" and to enjoin Dreyfus from collecting additional 12b-1 fees from those Funds. Finally, plaintiff alleges that the board members wasted corporate assets by causing the Funds to pay unnecessary 12b-1 fees, and also seeks an award of attorneys' fees and litigation expenses. Dreyfus and the Funds believe the allegations to be totally without merit and will defend the actions vigorously.

Additional lawsuits arising out of these circumstances and presenting similar allegations and requests for relief may be filed against the defendants in the future. Neither Dreyfus nor the Dreyfus funds believe that any of the pending actions will have a material adverse effect on the Dreyfus funds or Dreyfus' ability to perform its contract with the Dreyfus funds.





## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following tables describe the performance of each share class for the fiscal periods indicated. “Total return” shows how much your investment in the fund would have increased (or decreased) during each period, assuming you had reinvested all

dividends and distributions. These financial highlights have been audited by KPMG LLP, whose report, along with the fund’s financial statements, is included in the annual report, which is available upon request.

		Year Ended December 31,				
Class A		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Per-Share Data (\$):						
Net asset value, beginning of period		21.57	28.62	30.93	30.83	29.26
Investment operations:	Investment income – net <sup>1</sup>	.17	.10	.17	.24	.13
	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.86	(7.06)	(1.46)	3.04	4.78
Total from investment operations		6.03	(6.96)	(1.29)	3.28	4.91
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.16)	(.09)	(.16)	(.23)	(.13)
	Dividends from net realized gain on investments	–	–	(.86)	(2.95)	(3.21)
Total distributions		(.16)	(.09)	(1.02)	(3.18)	(3.34)
Net asset value, end of period		27.44	21.57	28.62	30.93	30.83
Total Return (%) <sup>2</sup>		28.09	(24.36)	(4.04)	11.21	17.29
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):						
Ratio of expenses to average net assets		1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets		.71	.41	.58	.79	.41
Portfolio turnover rate		54.58	67.21	68.77	88.70	91.22
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		607,633	504,371	695,054	634,410	590,129

<sup>1</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>2</sup> Exclusive of sales charge.

		Year Ended December 31,				
Class B		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
<b>Per-Share Data (\$):</b>						
Net asset value, beginning of period		21.27	28.33	30.68	30.64	29.19
Investment operations:	Investment income (loss) – net <sup>1</sup>	(.01)	(.08)	(.07)	.01	(.10)
	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.77	(6.98)	(1.42)	3.01	4.76
Total from investment operations		5.76	(7.06)	(1.49)	3.02	4.66
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.01)	–	(.00) <sup>2</sup>	(.03)	–
	Dividends from net realized gain on investments	–	–	(.86)	(2.95)	(3.21)
Total distributions		(.01)	–	(.86)	(2.98)	(3.21)
Net asset value, end of period		27.02	21.27	28.33	30.68	30.64
Total Return (%) <sup>3</sup>		27.12	(24.92)	(4.79)	10.39	16.37
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>						
Ratio of expenses to average net assets		1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets		(.04)	(.33)	(.24)	.03	(.33)
Portfolio turnover rate		54.58	67.21	68.77	88.70	91.22
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		78,780	62,820	68,123	17,209	6,792

<sup>1</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>2</sup> Amount represents less than \$.01 per share.

<sup>3</sup> Exclusive of sales charge.

		Year Ended December 31,				
Class C		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Per-Share Data (\$):						
Net asset value, beginning of period		21.27	28.34	30.68	30.64	29.19
Investment operations:	Investment income (loss) – net <sup>1</sup>	(.01)	(.08)	(.06)	.00 <sup>2</sup>	(.11)
	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.77	(6.99)	(1.42)	3.02	4.77
Total from investment operations		5.76	(7.07)	(1.48)	3.02	4.66
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.01)	–	(.00) <sup>2</sup>	(.03)	–
	Dividends from net realized gain on investments	–	–	(.86)	(2.95)	(3.21)
Total distributions		(.01)	–	(.86)	(2.98)	(3.21)
Net asset value, end of period		27.02	21.27	28.34	30.68	30.64
Total Return (%) <sup>3</sup>		27.12	(24.95)	(4.75)	10.35	16.41
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):						
Ratio of expenses to average net assets		1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets		(.04)	(.32)	(.24)	.01	(.35)
Portfolio turnover rate		54.58	67.21	68.77	88.70	91.22
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		22,480	20,819	23,612	3,459	1,192

<sup>1</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.<sup>2</sup> Amount represents less than \$.01 per share.<sup>3</sup> Exclusive of sales charge.

Class R		Year Ended December 31,				
		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Per-Share Data (\$):						
Net asset value, beginning of period		21.56	28.62	30.92	30.82	29.25
Investment operations:	Investment income – net <sup>1</sup>	.22	.17	.23	.32	.20
	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.87	(7.08)	(1.44)	3.04	4.79
Total from investment operations		6.09	(6.91)	(1.21)	3.36	4.99
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.22)	(.15)	(.23)	(.31)	(.21)
	Dividends from net realized gain on investments	–	–	(.86)	(2.95)	(3.21)
Total distributions		(.22)	(.15)	(1.09)	(3.26)	(3.42)
Net asset value, end of period		27.43	21.56	28.62	30.92	30.82
Total Return (%)		28.43	(24.18)	(3.80)	11.49	17.59
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):						
Ratio of expenses to average net assets		.90	.90	.90	.90	.90
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets		.95	.67	.78	1.03	.65
Portfolio turnover rate		54.58	67.21	68.77	88.70	91.22
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		52,723	40,320	46,555	1,138	885

<sup>1</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

		Year Ended December 31,				
Class T		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999 <sup>1</sup>
Per-Share Data (\$):						
Net asset value, beginning of period		21.57	28.63	30.93	30.84	32.45
Investment operations:	Investment income – net <sup>2</sup>	.11	.05	.07	.17	.01
	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.85	(7.07)	(1.42)	3.03	1.23
Total from investment operations		5.96	(7.02)	(1.35)	3.20	1.24
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.10)	(.04)	(.09)	(.16)	(.02)
	Dividends from net realized gain on investments	–	–	(.86)	(2.95)	(2.83)
Total distributions		(.10)	(.04)	(.95)	(3.11)	(2.85)
Net asset value, end of period		27.43	21.57	28.63	30.93	30.84
Total Return (%) <sup>3</sup>		27.72	(24.53)	(4.28)	10.89	4.10 <sup>4</sup>
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):						
Ratio of expenses to average net assets		1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	.53 <sup>4</sup>
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets		.45	.21	.25	.57	.05 <sup>4</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate		54.58	67.21	68.77	88.70	91.22
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		2,264	1,567	1,132	154	18

<sup>1</sup> From August 16, 1999 (commencement of initial offering) to December 31, 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>3</sup> Exclusive of sales charge.

<sup>4</sup> Not annualized.

		Year Ended December 31,				
Institutional shares		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Per-Share Data (\$):						
Net asset value, beginning of period		21.55	28.60	30.90	30.81	29.24
Investment operations:	Investment income – net <sup>1</sup>	.19	.13	.20	.27	.16
	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.87	(7.07)	(1.45)	3.04	4.78
Total from investment operations		6.06	(6.94)	(1.25)	3.31	4.94
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.19)	(.11)	(.19)	(.27)	(.16)
	Dividends from net realized gain on investments	–	–	(.86)	(2.95)	(3.21)
Total distributions		(.19)	(.11)	(1.05)	(3.22)	(3.37)
Net asset value, end of period		27.42	21.55	28.60	30.90	30.81
Total Return (%)		28.25	(24.28)	(3.96)	11.30	17.41
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):						
Ratio of expenses to average net assets		1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets		.81	.51	.70	.89	.50
Portfolio turnover rate		54.58	67.21	68.77	88.70	91.22
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		41,848	37,174	58,557	63,473	65,111

<sup>1</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

# Your Investment



## ACCOUNT POLICIES

The Dreyfus Premier Funds are designed primarily for people who are investing through a third party, such as a bank, broker-dealer or financial adviser, or in a 401(k) or other retirement plan. Third parties with whom you open a fund account may impose policies, limitations and fees which are different from those described herein. In addition, such third parties may receive payments from Dreyfus in connection with their offering of fund shares to their customers or for marketing, distribution or other services. The receipt of such payments could create an incentive for the third party to offer the fund instead of other mutual funds where such payments are not received. Consult a representative of your plan or financial institution for further information.

**You will need to choose a share class** before making your initial investment. The different classes of shares represent investments in the same portfolio of securities, but the classes are subject to different expenses and will likely have different share prices. In making your choice, you should consider how much you plan to invest and how long you plan to hold your investment, then weigh the impact of all potential costs over the length of your investment, including sales charges and annual fees. For example, in some cases, it can be more economical to pay an initial sales charge than to choose a class with no initial sales charge but higher annual fees and a CDSC. Your financial representative can help you choose the share class that is appropriate for you.

- **Class A** shares may be appropriate for investors who prefer to pay the fund's sales charge up front rather than upon the sale of their shares, want to take advantage of the reduced sales charges available on larger investments and/or have a longer-term investment horizon. If you invest \$1 million or more (and are not eligible to purchase Class R shares), Class A shares will be the most advantageous choice, no matter how long you intend to hold your shares.
- **Class B** shares may be appropriate for investors who wish to avoid paying a front-end sales charge, put 100% of their investment dollars to work immediately and/or have a longer-term investment horizon.
- **Class C** shares may be appropriate for investors who wish to avoid paying a front-end sales charge, put 100% of their investment dollars to work immediately and/or have a shorter-term investment horizon.
- **Class R** shares are designed for eligible institutions and their clients (individuals may not purchase these shares directly).
- **Class T** shares may be appropriate for investors who prefer to pay the fund's sales charge up front rather than upon the sale of their shares, want to take advantage of the reduced sales charges available on larger investments and have a shorter-term investment horizon. However, if you invest \$1 million or more in the fund, you should buy Class A shares, regardless of your investment horizon, because Class A has lower expenses than Class T.
- **Institutional** shares are offered to those customers of certain financial planners and investment advisers who held shares of a predecessor class of the fund on April 4, 1994 (this share class is not available for new accounts).

## Share class charges

Each share class has its own fee structure. In some cases, you may not have to pay a sales charge or may qualify for a reduced sales charge to buy or sell shares. Consult your financial representative or refer to the SAI to see if this may apply to you. Shareholders holding Class A shares since January 15, 1998 are not subject to any front-end sales loads.

### Sales charges

#### Class A and Class T – charged when you buy shares

Your investment	Sales charge deducted as a % of offering price		Sales charge as a % of your net investment	
	Class A	Class T	Class A	Class T
Up to \$49,999	5.75%	4.50%	6.10%	4.70%
\$50,000 – \$99,999	4.50%	4.00%	4.70%	4.20%
\$100,000 – \$249,999	3.50%	3.00%	3.60%	3.10%
\$250,000 – \$499,999	2.50%	2.00%	2.60%	2.00%
\$500,000 – \$999,999	2.00%	1.50%	2.00%	1.50%
\$1 million or more*	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

\* A 1.00% CDSC may be charged on any shares sold within one year of purchase (except shares bought through dividend reinvestment).

Class A shares carry an annual Rule 12b-1 fee of 0.25%, and Class T shares carry an annual Rule 12b-1 fee of 0.50%, of the respective class's average daily net assets.

#### Class B – charged when you sell shares

Years since purchase was made	CDSC as a % of your initial investment or your redemption (whichever is less)
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Up to 2 years	4.00%
2 – 4 years	3.00%
4 – 5 years	2.00%
5 – 6 years	1.00%
More than 6 years	Shares will automatically convert to Class A

Class B shares also carry an annual Rule 12b-1 fee of 1.00% of the class's average daily net assets.

#### Class C – charged when you sell shares

A 1.00% CDSC is imposed on redemptions made within the first year of purchase. Class C shares also carry an annual Rule 12b-1 fee of 1.00% of the class's average daily net assets.

#### Class R – no sales load or Rule 12b-1 fees

#### Institutional shares – no sales load

Institutional shares carry an annual Rule 12b-1 fee of 0.15% of the class's average daily net assets.

Your financial representative may receive different compensation for selling one class of shares than for selling another class. It is important to remember that the CDSCs and Rule 12b-1 fees for Class B and Class C shares have the same purpose as the front-end sales charge on sales of Class A and Class T shares: to compensate the distributor for concessions and expenses it pays to dealers and financial institutions for selling shares.

### Reduced Class A and Class T sales charge

**Letter of intent:** lets you purchase Class A and Class T shares over a 13-month period at the same sales charge as if all shares had been purchased at once.

**Right of accumulation:** when calculating your sales charge on Class A or Class T shares, you may take into account the value of any shares you own in this fund or in certain other Dreyfus Premier Funds or Dreyfus Founders Funds. For any such right of accumulation to be made available, at the time of purchase you must provide sufficient information to permit the confirmation of qualification.

*Refer to the Statement of Additional Information (SAI) or consult your financial representative for more details.*

## Buying shares

The **net asset value (NAV)** of each class is generally calculated as of the close of trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) (usually 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on days the exchange is open for regular business. Your order will be priced at the next NAV calculated after your order is accepted by the fund's transfer agent or other authorized entity. The fund's investments are valued on the basis of market quotations or official closing prices. If market quotations or official closing prices are not readily available, or are determined not to accurately reflect fair value (such as when the value of a security has been materially affected by events occurring after the close of the exchange or market on which the security is principally traded (for example, a foreign exchange or market), but before the fund calculates its NAV), the fund may value those investments at fair value as determined in accordance with procedures approved by the fund's board. Using fair value to price securities may result in a value that is different from a security's most recent closing price and from the prices used by other mutual funds to calculate their net asset values. Foreign securities may trade on days when the fund does not calculate its NAV and thus may affect the fund's NAV on days when investors have no access to the fund.

**Orders to buy and sell shares** received by dealers by the close of trading on the NYSE and transmitted to the distributor or its designee by the close of its business day (normally 5:15 p.m. Eastern time) will be based on the NAV determined as of the close of trading on the NYSE that day.

### Minimum investments

	Initial	Additional
<b>Regular accounts</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$100; \$500 for Dreyfus TeleTransfer investments</b>
<b>Traditional IRAs</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>no minimum</b>
<b>Spousal IRAs</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>no minimum</b>
<b>Roth IRAs</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>no minimum</b>
<b>Education Savings Accounts</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>no minimum after the first year</b>

All investments must be in U.S. dollars. Third-party checks cannot be accepted. You may be charged a fee for any check that does not clear. Maximum Dreyfus TeleTransfer purchase is \$150,000 per day. Institutional shares are not available for new accounts.

## Concepts to understand

**Net asset value (NAV):** the market value of one share, computed by dividing the total net assets of a fund or class by its shares outstanding. The fund's Class A and Class T shares are offered to the public at NAV plus a sales charge. Classes B, C, R and Institutional shares are offered at NAV, but Classes B and C generally are subject to higher annual operating expenses and a CDSC.

## Selling shares

You may sell (redeem) shares at any time. Your shares will be sold at the next NAV calculated after your order is accepted by the fund's transfer agent or other authorized entity. Any certificates representing fund shares being sold must be returned with your redemption request. Your order will be processed promptly and you will generally receive the proceeds within a week.

To keep your CDSC as low as possible, each time you request to sell shares we will first sell shares that are not subject to a CDSC, and then those subject to the lowest charge. The CDSC is based on the lesser of the original purchase cost or the current market value of the shares being sold, and is not charged on shares you acquired by reinvesting your dividends. There are certain instances when you may qualify to have the CDSC waived. Consult your financial representative or refer to the SAI for details.

**Before selling shares recently purchased by check, Dreyfus TeleTransfer or Automatic Asset Builder, please note that:**

- if you send a written request to sell such shares, the fund may delay sending the proceeds for up to eight business days following the purchase of those shares
- the fund will not process wire, telephone, online or Dreyfus TeleTransfer redemption requests for up to eight business days following the purchase of those shares

### Limitations on selling shares by phone or online

Proceeds sent by	Minimum phone/online	Maximum phone/online
<b>Check*</b>	<b>no minimum</b>	<b>\$250,000</b> per day
<b>Wire</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b> for joint accounts every 30 days/ <b>\$20,000</b> per day
<b>Dreyfus TeleTransfer</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500,000</b> for joint accounts every 30 days/ <b>\$20,000</b> per day

\* Not available online on accounts whose address has been changed within the last 30 days.

## Written sell orders

Some circumstances require written sell orders along with signature guarantees. These include:

- amounts of \$10,000 or more on accounts whose address has been changed within the last 30 days
- requests to send the proceeds to a different payee or address

Written sell orders of \$100,000 or more must also be signature guaranteed.

**A signature guarantee** helps protect against fraud. You can obtain one from most banks or securities dealers, but not from a notary public. For joint accounts, each signature must be guaranteed. Please call us to ensure that your signature guarantee will be processed correctly.



### General policies

Unless you decline teleservice privileges on your application, the fund's transfer agent is authorized to act on telephone or online instructions from any person representing himself or herself to be you and reasonably believed by the transfer agent to be genuine. You may be responsible for any fraudulent telephone or online order as long as the fund's transfer agent takes reasonable measures to confirm that instructions are genuine.

Excessive trading, short-term market timing or other abusive trading practices may disrupt portfolio management strategies and harm fund performance. Accordingly, the fund reserves the right to refuse any purchase or exchange request that could adversely affect the fund or its operations, including those from any individual or group who, in the fund's view, is likely to engage in excessive trading, short-term market timing or other abusive trading practices. Multiple accounts under common ownership or control may be considered as one account for purposes of determining a pattern of excessive trading practices. Transactions placed by suspected excessive traders may not be deemed accepted by the fund and may be cancelled or revoked by the fund on the next business day following receipt by the fund or its transfer agent. While the fund will take reasonable steps to prevent trading practices deemed to be harmful to the fund, it may not be able to identify such trading conducted through certain financial intermediaries or omnibus accounts.

The fund also reserves the right to:

- refuse any purchase or exchange request
- change or discontinue its exchange privilege, or temporarily suspend the privilege during unusual market conditions
- change its minimum investment amounts
- delay sending out redemption proceeds for up to seven days (generally applies only in cases of very large redemptions, excessive trading or during unusual market conditions)
- "redeem in kind," or make payment in securities rather than cash, if the amount you are redeeming is large enough to affect fund operations (for example, if it exceeds 1% of the fund's assets)

### Small account policies

To offset the relatively higher costs of servicing smaller accounts, the fund charges regular accounts with balances below \$2,000 an annual fee of \$12. The fee will be imposed during the fourth quarter of each calendar year.

The fee will be waived for: any investor whose aggregate Dreyfus mutual fund investments total at least \$25,000; IRA accounts; Education Savings Accounts; accounts participating in automatic investment programs; and accounts opened through a financial institution.

If your account falls below \$500, the fund may ask you to increase your balance. If it is still below \$500 after 45 days, the fund may close your account and send you the proceeds.



## DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

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The fund earns dividends, interest and other income from its investments, and distributes this income (less expenses) to shareholders as dividends. The fund also realizes capital gains from its investments, and distributes these gains (less any losses) to shareholders as capital gain distributions. The fund normally pays dividends quarterly and distributes capital gains annually. Fund dividends and capital gain distributions will be reinvested in the fund unless you instruct the fund otherwise. There are no fees or sales charges on reinvestments.

**Distributions paid by the fund** are subject to federal income tax, and may also be subject to state or local taxes (unless you are investing through a tax-advantaged retirement account). For federal tax purposes, in general, certain fund distributions, including interest income distributions of short-term capital gains, are taxable to you as ordinary income. Other fund distributions, including dividends from U.S. companies and certain foreign companies and distributions of long-term capital gains, generally are taxable to you as qualified dividends and capital gains.

**High portfolio turnover** and more volatile markets can result in significant taxable distributions to shareholders, regardless of whether their shares have increased in value. The tax status of any distribution generally is the same regardless of how long you have been in the fund and whether you reinvest your distributions or take them in cash.

**If you buy shares of a fund when the fund has realized** but not yet distributed income or capital gains, you will be “buying a dividend” by paying the full price for the shares and then receiving a portion back in the form of a taxable distribution.

Your redemption of shares, including exchanges into other funds, may result in a capital gain or loss for tax purposes. A capital gain or loss on your investment in the fund generally is the difference between the cost of your shares and the amount you receive upon redemption.

The tax status of your distributions will be detailed in your annual tax statement from the fund. Because everyone’s tax situation is unique, please consult your tax advisor before investing.



## SERVICES FOR FUND INVESTORS

The third party through whom you purchased fund shares may impose different restrictions on these services and privileges offered by the fund, or may not make them available at all. Consult your financial representative for more information on the availability of these services and privileges.

### Automatic services

**Buying or selling shares automatically** is easy with the services described below. With each service, you select a schedule and amount, subject to certain restrictions. You can set up most of these services with your application, or by calling your financial representative or 1-800-554-4611.

#### For investing

<b>Dreyfus Automatic Asset Builder®</b>	For making automatic investments from a designated bank account.
<b>Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan</b>	For making automatic investments through a payroll deduction.
<b>Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege</b>	For making automatic investments from your federal employment, Social Security or other regular federal government check.
<b>Dreyfus Dividend Sweep</b>	For automatically reinvesting the dividends and distributions from the fund into another Dreyfus fund or certain Founders-advised funds (not available for IRAs).

#### For exchanging shares

<b>Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege</b>	For making regular exchanges from the fund into another Dreyfus fund or certain Founders-advised funds.
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#### For selling shares

<b>Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan</b>	For making regular withdrawals from most Dreyfus funds. There will be no CDSC on Class B or Class C shares, as long as the amount of any withdrawal does not exceed on an annual basis 12% of the greater of the account value at the time of the first withdrawal under the plan, or at the time of the subsequent withdrawal.
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### Exchange privilege

**You can exchange shares worth \$500 or more** (no minimum for retirement accounts) from one class of the fund into the same class of another Dreyfus Premier fund or Founders-advised fund. You can also exchange Class T shares into Class A shares of certain Dreyfus Premier fixed-income funds. You can request your exchange by contacting your financial representative. Be sure to read the current prospectus for any fund into which you are exchanging before investing. Any new account established through an exchange will generally have the same privileges as your original account (as long as they are available). There is currently no fee for exchanges, although you may be charged a sales load when exchanging into any fund that has a higher one.

### Dreyfus TeleTransfer privilege

**To move money between your bank account and your Dreyfus fund account** with a phone call or online, use the Dreyfus TeleTransfer privilege. You can set up Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your account by providing bank account information and following the instructions on your application, or contacting your financial representative.



### Reinvestment privilege

**Upon written request, you can reinvest** up to the number of Class A, B or T shares you redeemed within 45 days of selling them at the current share price without any sales charge. If you paid a CDSC, it will be credited back to your account. This privilege may be used only once.

### Account statements

**Every fund investor** automatically receives regular account statements. You'll also be sent a yearly statement detailing the tax characteristics of any dividends and distributions you have received.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR **REGULAR ACCOUNTS**



TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT		TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT	TO SELL SHARES
 In Writing	Complete the application. Mail your application and a check to: Name of Fund P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502 Attn: Institutional Processing	Fill out an investment slip, and write your account number on your check. Mail the slip and the check to: Name of Fund P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502 Attn: Institutional Processing	Write a letter of instruction that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• your name(s) and signature(s)</li><li>• your account number</li><li>• the fund name</li><li>• the share class</li><li>• the dollar amount you want to sell</li><li>• how and where to send the proceeds</li></ul> Obtain a signature guarantee or other documentation, if required (see "Account Policies – Selling Shares"). Mail your request to: The Dreyfus Family of Funds P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502 Attn: Institutional Processing
	 By Telephone	<b>Wire</b> Have your bank send your investment to Mellon Trust of New England, N.A., with these instructions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ABA# 011001234</li><li>• DDA# 044210 (Class A, B, C, R &amp; T)</li><li>• DDA# 044121 (Institutional Class)</li><li>• the fund name</li><li>• the share class</li><li>• your account number</li><li>• name(s) of investor(s)</li><li>• dealer number if applicable</li></ul> <b>Electronic check</b> Same as wire, but before your 14-digit account number insert "401" for Class A, "472" for Class B, "473" for Class C, "444" for Class R, "562" for Class T, or "402" for Institutional Class. <b>Dreyfus TeleTransfer</b> Request Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your application. Call us to request your transaction.	<b>Wire</b> Call us or your financial representative to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be wired to your bank. <b>Dreyfus TeleTransfer</b> Call us or your financial representative to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be sent to your bank by electronic check. <b>Check</b> Call us or your financial representative to request your transaction. A check will be sent to the address of record.

To open an account, make subsequent investments or to sell shares, please contact your financial representative or call toll free in the U.S. **1-800-554-4611**.  
Make checks payable to: **The Dreyfus Family of Funds**.

Concepts to understand

- Wire transfer:** for transferring money from one financial institution to another. Wiring is the fastest way to move money, although your bank may charge a fee to send or receive wire transfers. Wire redemptions from the fund are subject to a \$1,000 minimum.
- Electronic check:** for transferring money out of a bank account. Your transaction is entered electronically, but may take up to eight business days to clear. Electronic checks usually are available without a fee at all Automated Clearing House (ACH) banks.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR **REGULAR ACCOUNTS** (continued)

TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT	TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT	TO SELL SHARES
 Online ( <a href="http://www.dreyfus.com">www.dreyfus.com</a> )	<b>Dreyfus TeleTransfer</b> Request Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your application. Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction.	<b>Wire</b> Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be wired to your bank.  <b>Dreyfus TeleTransfer</b> Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be sent to your bank by electronic check.  <b>Check</b> Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. A check will be sent to the address of record.
 Automatically  <b>With an initial investment</b> Indicate on your application which automatic service(s) you want. Return your application with your investment.	<b>All services</b> Call us or your financial representative to request a form to add any automatic investing service (see "Services for Fund Investors"). Complete and return the form along with any other required materials.	<b>Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan</b> Call us or your financial representative to request a form to add the plan. Complete the form, specifying the amount and frequency of withdrawals you would like.  Be sure to maintain an account balance of \$5,000 or more.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR IRAS

### TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT



#### In Writing

Complete an IRA application, making sure to specify the fund name and to indicate the year the contribution is for.

Mail your application and a check to:  
The Dreyfus Trust Company, Custodian  
P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568  
Attn: Institutional Processing



#### By Telephone



#### Automatically

### TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT

Fill out an investment slip, and write your account number on your check. Indicate the year the contribution is for.

Mail the slip and the check to:  
The Dreyfus Trust Company, Custodian  
P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568  
Attn: Institutional Processing

**Wire** Have your bank send your investment to Mellon Trust of New England, N.A., with these instructions:

- ABA# 011001234
- DDA# 044210 (Class A, B, C, R & T)
- DDA# 044121 (Institutional Class)
- the fund name
- the share class
- your account number
- name of investor
- the contribution year
- dealer number if applicable

**Electronic check** Same as wire, but before your 14-digit account number insert "401" for Class A, "472" for Class B, "473" for Class C, "444" for Class R, "562" for Class T, or "402" for Institutional Class.

**All services** Call us or your financial representative to request a form to add any automatic investing service (see "Services for Fund Investors"). Complete and return the form along with any other required materials. All contributions will count as current year.

### TO SELL SHARES

Write a letter of instruction that includes:

- your name and signature
- your account number and fund name
- the share class
- the dollar amount you want to sell
- how and where to send the proceeds
- whether the distribution is qualified or premature
- whether the 10% TEFRA should be withheld

Obtain a signature guarantee or other documentation, if required (see "Account Policies – Selling Shares").

Mail your request to:  
The Dreyfus Trust Company  
P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568  
Attn: Institutional Processing

**Systematic Withdrawal Plan** Call us to request instructions to establish the plan.

For information and assistance, contact your financial representative or call toll free in the U.S. **1-800-554-4611**. Make checks payable to: **The Dreyfus Trust Company, Custodian**.







# For More Information

**Dreyfus Premier Core Value Fund**  
A series of The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds Trust  
SEC file number: 811-5240

More information on this fund is available free upon request, including the following:

## **Annual/Semiannual Report**

Describes the fund's performance, lists portfolio holdings and contains a letter from the fund's manager discussing recent market conditions, economic trends and fund strategies that significantly affected the fund's performance during the last fiscal year.

## **Statement of Additional Information (SAI)**

Provides more details about the fund and its policies. A current SAI is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is incorporated by reference and legally considered a part of this prospectus.

To obtain information:

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**By telephone**

Call your financial representative or 1-800-554-4611

**By mail** Write to:

The Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds  
144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard  
Uniondale, NY 11556-0144

**On the Internet** Text-only versions of certain fund documents can be viewed online or downloaded from:  
<http://www.sec.gov>

You can also obtain copies, after paying a duplicating fee, by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC (for information, call 1-202-942-8090) or by E-mail request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov), or by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, DC 20549-0102.

# Dreyfus Premier Limited Term High Yield Fund

Seeks to maximize total return by investing in  
fixed-income securities rated below investment grade

**PROSPECTUS** May 1, 2004



YOU, YOUR ADVISOR AND

**Dreyfus**

A MELLON FINANCIAL COMPANY™

As with all mutual funds, the Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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## For More Information

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*See back cover.*



## GOAL/APPROACH

The fund seeks to maximize total return, consisting of capital appreciation and current income. To pursue this goal, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its assets in fixed-income securities that, at the time of purchase, are rated below investment grade (“high yield” or “junk” bonds) or are the unrated equivalent as determined by Dreyfus. The fund’s portfolio may include various types of fixed-income securities, such as corporate bonds and notes, mortgage-related securities, asset-backed securities, zero coupon securities, convertible securities, preferred stock and other debt instruments of U.S. and foreign issuers.

In choosing securities, the portfolio manager seeks to capture the higher yields offered by junk bonds, while managing credit risk and the volatility caused by interest rate movements. The fund attempts to manage interest rate risk by maintaining an average effective portfolio maturity of 5.5 years or less, although there is no limit on the maturity of individual securities. In calculating average effective portfolio maturity, the fund may treat a security that can be repurchased by its issuer on an earlier date (known as a “call date”) as maturing on the call date rather than on its stated maturity date.

# The Fund

The fund’s investment process involves a “top-down” approach to security selection. The fund looks at a variety of factors when assessing a potential investment, including the state of the industry or sector, the company’s financial strength, and the company’s management. The fund also looks for companies that are underleveraged, have positive free cash flow, and are self-financing.

The fund may, but is not required to, use certain derivatives as a substitute for taking a position in an underlying asset, to increase returns, to manage interest rate risk, or as part of a hedging strategy. The fund also may engage in short-selling, typically for hedging purposes, such as to limit exposure to a possible market decline in the value of its portfolio securities.

## Concepts to understand

**High yield bonds:** those rated at the time of purchase BB or Ba and below by credit rating agencies such as Standard & Poor’s or Moody’s, or the unrated equivalent as determined by Dreyfus. Because the issuers of high yield securities may be at an early stage of development or may have been unable to repay past debts, these bonds typically must offer higher yields than investment grade bonds to compensate investors for greater credit risk.

**Average effective portfolio maturity:** an average of the stated maturities of bonds held by the fund, based on their dollar-weighted proportions in the fund, adjusted to reflect provisions or market conditions that may cause a bond’s principal to be repaid earlier than at maturity.



## MAIN RISKS

The fund's principal risks are discussed below. The value of your investment in the fund will fluctuate, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- **Credit risk.** Failure of an issuer to make timely interest or principal payments, or a decline or perception of a decline in the credit quality of a bond, can cause a bond's price to fall, potentially lowering the fund's share price. High yield ("junk") bonds involve greater credit risk, including the risk of default, than investment grade bonds, and are considered predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's continuing ability to make principal and interest payments. The prices of high yield bonds can fall dramatically in response to bad news about the issuer or its industry, or the economy in general.
- **Interest rate risk.** Prices of bonds tend to move inversely with changes in interest rates. Typically, a rise in rates will adversely affect bond prices and, accordingly, the fund's share price. Unlike investment grade bonds, however, the prices of high yield bonds may fluctuate unpredictably and not necessarily inversely with changes in interest rates. The longer the fund's effective maturity and duration, the more its share price is likely to react to interest rates.
- **Call risk.** Some bonds give the issuer the option to call, or redeem, the bonds before their maturity date. If an issuer "calls" its bond during a time of declining interest rates, the fund might have to reinvest the proceeds in an investment offering a lower yield.
- **Market risk.** The value of a security may decline due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment generally. They also may decline because of factors that affect a particular industry or industries, such as labor shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry.
- **Liquidity risk.** When there is little or no active trading market for specific types of securities, it can become more difficult to sell the securities at or near their perceived value. In such a market, the value of such securities and the fund's share price may fall dramatically. Investments in foreign securities tend to have greater exposure to liquidity risk than domestic securities.
- **Prepayment and extension risk.** When interest rates fall, the principal on mortgage-backed and certain asset-backed securities may be prepaid. The loss of higher-yielding, underlying mortgages and the reinvestment of proceeds at lower interest rates can reduce the fund's potential price gain in response to falling interest rates, reduce the fund's yield, or cause the fund's share price to fall. When interest rates rise, the effective duration of the fund's mortgage-related and other asset-backed securities may lengthen due to a drop in prepayments of the underlying mortgages or other assets. This is known as extension risk and would increase the fund's sensitivity to rising rates and its potential for price declines. The fund may invest up to 25% of its assets in asset-backed and mortgage-related securities.
- **Market sector risk.** The fund's overall risk level will depend on the market sectors in which the fund is invested and the current interest rate, liquidity and credit quality of such sectors. The fund may overweight or underweight certain companies, industries or market sectors, which may cause the fund's performance to be more or less sensitive to developments affecting those companies, industries or sectors.
- **Foreign investment risk.** Special risks associated with investments in foreign bonds include exposure to currency fluctuations, less liquidity, less developed or efficient trading markets, lack of comprehensive company information, economic, political and social instability and differing auditing and legal standards.

- *Short sale risk.* The fund may make short sales, which involves selling a security it does not own in anticipation that the security's price will decline. Short sales expose the fund to the risk that it will be required to buy the security sold short (also known as "covering" the short position) at a time when the security has appreciated in value, thus resulting in a loss to the fund.
- *Derivatives risk.* The fund may invest in derivative instruments, such as options, futures and options on futures (including those relating to indexes, foreign currencies and interest rates), swaps and other credit derivatives, CMOs, stripped mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities. The fund intends to use options, futures and options on futures only as part of a hedging strategy. A small investment in derivatives could have a potentially large impact on the fund's performance. The use of derivatives involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the underlying assets. Derivatives can be highly volatile, illiquid and difficult to value, and there is the risk that changes in the value of a derivative held by the fund will not correlate with the fund's other investments.

## Other potential risks

Under adverse market conditions, the fund could invest some or all of its assets in U.S. Treasury securities and money market securities. Although the fund would do this for temporary defensive purposes, it could reduce the benefit from any upswing in the market. During such periods, the fund may not achieve its investment objective.

The fund may borrow for certain purposes, including to facilitate trades in its portfolio securities (a form of leveraging), which could have the effect of magnifying the fund's gains or losses.

The fund may lend its portfolio securities to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions. In connection with such loans, the fund will receive collateral from the borrower equal to at least 100% of the value of the loaned securities. Should the borrower of the securities fail financially, the fund may experience delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising its rights in the collateral.

At times, the fund may engage in short-term trading, which could produce higher transaction costs and taxable distributions, and lower the fund's after-tax performance.





## PAST PERFORMANCE

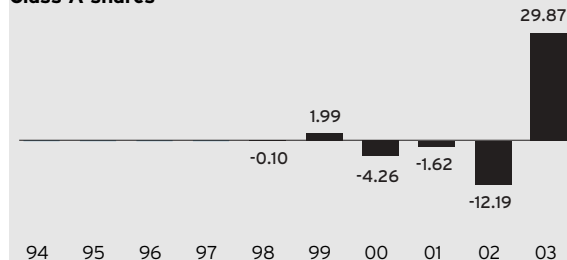
The bar chart and table shown illustrate the risks of investing in the fund. The bar chart shows the fund's Class A performance from year to year. Sales loads are not reflected in the chart; if they were, the returns shown would have been lower. The table compares the average annual total returns of each of the fund's share classes to those of the Merrill Lynch High Yield Master II Index (Merrill Lynch Index), a widely recognized, unmanaged index of high yield bond performance. The returns shown in the table reflect any applicable sales loads. All returns assume reinvestment of dividends and distributions. Of course, past performance is no guarantee of future results. Performance for each share class will vary from the performance of the fund's other share classes due to differences in charges and expenses.

*Effective January 20, 2003, the fund's investment objective changed from seeking high current income, to its current objective.*

After-tax performance is shown only for Class A shares. After-tax performance of the fund's other share classes will vary. 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 the investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown, and the 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.

Year-by-year total returns as of 12/31 each year (%)

### Class A shares



**Best Quarter:** Q2 '03 +10.96%  
**Worst Quarter:** Q3 '02 -9.75%

Average annual total returns as of 12/31/03

Share class/ Inception date	1 Year	5 Years	Since inception
<b>Class A</b> (6/2/97) returns before taxes	<b>23.95%</b>	<b>0.91%</b>	<b>1.48%</b>
<b>Class A</b> returns after taxes on distributions	<b>20.06%</b>	<b>-2.97%</b>	<b>-2.39%</b>
<b>Class A</b> returns after taxes on distributions and sale of fund shares	<b>15.38%</b>	<b>-1.63%</b>	<b>-1.13%</b>
<b>Class B</b> (6/2/97) returns before taxes	<b>25.25%</b>	<b>1.08%</b>	<b>1.72%*</b>
<b>Class C</b> (6/2/97) returns before taxes	<b>28.10%</b>	<b>1.11%</b>	<b>1.45%</b>
<b>Class R</b> (6/2/97) returns before taxes	<b>30.15%</b>	<b>2.10%</b>	<b>2.44%</b>
<b>Merrill Lynch High Yield Master II Index**</b> reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes	<b>28.15%</b>	<b>5.02%</b>	<b>5.56%***</b>

\* Assumes conversion of Class B shares to Class A shares at the end of the sixth year following the date of purchase.

\*\* Effective in 2004, the fund ceased using the Dreyfus customized limited-term high yield index as a secondary benchmark index. This change followed the prior change to the fund's maturity and duration requirements (maximum average effective maturity was lengthened and maximum average effective duration was eliminated).

\*\*\* For comparative purposes, the value of the index on 5/31/97 is used as the beginning value on 6/2/97.

## What this fund is – and isn't

This fund is a mutual fund: a pooled investment that is professionally managed and gives you the opportunity to participate in financial markets. It strives to reach its stated goal, although as with all mutual funds, it cannot offer guaranteed results.

An investment in this fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. You could lose money in this fund, but you also have the potential to make money.



## EXPENSES

As an investor, you pay certain fees and expenses in connection with the fund, which are described in the table below.

Fee table	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class R
<b>Shareholder transaction fees</b> ( <i>fees paid from your account</i> )				
Maximum front-end sales charge on purchases % of offering price	<b>4.50</b>	<b>none</b>	<b>none</b>	<b>none</b>
Maximum contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC) % of purchase or sale price, whichever is less	<b>none*</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>none</b>
<b>Annual fund operating expenses</b> ( <i>expenses paid from fund assets</i> )				
% of average daily net assets				
Management fees	<b>.70</b>	<b>.70</b>	<b>.70</b>	<b>.70</b>
Rule 12b-1 fee	<b>.25</b>	<b>.75</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>none</b>
Other expenses**	<b>.02</b>	<b>.02</b>	<b>.02</b>	<b>.02</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>.97</b>	<b>1.47</b>	<b>1.72</b>	<b>.72</b>

\* Shares bought without an initial sales charge as part of an investment of \$1 million or more may be charged a CDSC of 1.00% if redeemed within one year.

\*\* The .02% amount noted in "Other expenses" reflects proxy and legal fees resulting from the change in the fund's investment objective.

Expense example	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
<b>Class A</b>	<b>\$545</b>	<b>\$745</b>	<b>\$962</b>	<b>\$1,586</b>
<b>Class B</b>				
with redemption	<b>\$550</b>	<b>\$765</b>	<b>\$1,003</b>	<b>\$1,498***</b>
without redemption	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$465</b>	<b>\$803</b>	<b>\$1,498***</b>
<b>Class C</b>				
with redemption	<b>\$275</b>	<b>\$542</b>	<b>\$933</b>	<b>\$2,030</b>
without redemption	<b>\$175</b>	<b>\$542</b>	<b>\$933</b>	<b>\$2,030</b>
<b>Class R</b>	<b>\$74</b>	<b>\$230</b>	<b>\$401</b>	<b>\$894</b>
*** Assumes conversion of Class B to Class A at end of the sixth year following the date of purchase.				
This example shows what you could pay in expenses over time. It uses the same hypothetical conditions other funds use in their prospectuses: \$10,000 initial investment, 5% total return each year and no changes in expenses. Because actual returns and expenses will be different, the example is for comparison only.				

## Concepts to understand

**Management fee:** the fee paid to Dreyfus for managing the fund. Unlike the arrangements between most investment advisers and their funds, Dreyfus pays all fund expenses except for brokerage fees, taxes, interest, fees and expenses of the independent directors, Rule 12b-1 fees and extraordinary expenses.

**Rule 12b-1 fee:** the fee paid out of fund assets (attributable to appropriate share classes) for distribution expenses and shareholder service. Because this fee is paid out of the fund's assets on an ongoing basis, over time it will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more than paying other types of sales charges.



## MANAGEMENT

The investment adviser for the fund is The Dreyfus Corporation (Dreyfus), 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166. Founded in 1947, Dreyfus manages approximately \$165 billion in approximately 200 mutual fund portfolios. For the past fiscal year, the fund paid Dreyfus a management fee at the annual rate of 0.70% of the fund's average daily net assets. Dreyfus is the primary mutual fund business of Mellon Financial Corporation (Mellon Financial), a global financial services company with approximately \$3.6 trillion of assets under management, administration or custody, including approximately \$679 billion under management. Mellon Financial provides financial services for institutions, corporations and individuals, offering institutional asset management, mutual funds, private wealth management, asset servicing, human resources services and treasury services. Mellon Financial is headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

On March 30, 2004, Mellon Bank, N.A., a wholly owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial and the then-current parent company of Dreyfus, transferred its entire interest in Dreyfus, including Dreyfus Service Corporation (the fund's distributor) and all of Dreyfus' other direct and indirect subsidiaries, to Mellon Financial. The reorganization did not result in a change in the control or management of Dreyfus under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, or the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act); Dreyfus merely became a direct, rather than indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial. The reorganization was part of a larger reorganization of Mellon Financial that is expected to increase organizational synergies and create a more efficient capital structure throughout the organization.

The Dreyfus asset management philosophy is based on the belief that discipline and consistency are important to investment success. For each fund, Dreyfus seeks to establish clear guidelines for portfolio management and to be systematic in making decisions. This approach is designed to provide each fund with a distinct, stable identity.

The Dreyfus Taxable Fixed Income Team, which consists of sector specialists, collectively makes investment decisions for the fund. The team has managed the fund since March 2001. The team's specialists focus on, and monitor conditions in, the different sectors of the fixed income market. Once different factors have been analyzed, the sector specialists then decide on allocation weights for the portfolio and recommend securities for investment. The portfolio managers comprising the team are identified in the Statement of Additional Information.

The fund, Dreyfus and Dreyfus Service Corporation have each adopted a code of ethics that permits its personnel, subject to such code, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the fund. The Dreyfus code of ethics restricts the personal securities transactions of its employees, and requires portfolio managers and other investment personnel to comply with the code's preclearance and disclosure procedures. Its primary purpose is to ensure that personal trading by Dreyfus employees does not disadvantage any Dreyfus-managed fund.

Two class actions have been filed against Mellon Financial and Mellon Bank, N.A., and Dreyfus and Founders Asset Management LLC (the Investment Advisers), and the directors of all or substantially all of the Dreyfus funds, alleging that the Investment Advisers improperly used assets of the Dreyfus funds, in the form of directed brokerage commissions and 12b-1 fees, to pay brokers to promote sales of Dreyfus funds, and that the use of fund assets to make these payments was not properly disclosed to investors. The complaints further allege that the directors breached their fiduciary duties to fund shareholders under the 1940 Act and at common law. The complaints seek unspecified compensatory and punitive damages, rescission of the funds' contracts with the Investment Advisers, an accounting of all fees paid, and an award of attorneys' fees and litigation expenses. Dreyfus and the Dreyfus funds believe the allegations to be totally without merit and will defend the actions vigorously.

Additional lawsuits arising out of these circumstances and presenting similar allegations and requests for relief may be filed against the defendants in the future. Neither Dreyfus nor the Dreyfus funds believe that any of the pending actions will have a material adverse effect on the Dreyfus funds or Dreyfus' ability to perform its contract with the Dreyfus funds.



## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following tables describe the performance of each share class for the fiscal periods indicated. "Total return" shows how much your investment in the fund would have increased (or decreased) during each period, assuming you had reinvested

all dividends and distributions. These financial highlights have been audited by KPMG LLP, whose report, along with the fund's financial statements, is included in the annual report, which is available upon request.

		Year Ended December 31,				
Class A		2003	2002	2001 <sup>1</sup>	2000	1999
Per-Share Data (\$):						
Net asset value, beginning of period		6.28	7.94	8.95	10.45	11.33
Investment operations:	Investment income – net	.63 <sup>2</sup>	.68 <sup>2</sup>	.84 <sup>2</sup>	1.07	1.12
	Net realized and unrealized (loss) on investments	1.17	(1.62)	(.96)	(1.47)	(.90)
Total from investment operations		1.80	(.94)	(.12)	(.40)	.22
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.65)	(.72)	(.89)	(1.10)	(1.10)
Net asset value, end of period		7.43	6.28	7.94	8.95	10.45
Total Return (%) <sup>3</sup>		29.87	(12.19)	(1.62)	(4.26)	1.99
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):						
Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets		.97	.95	.95	.95	.95
Ratio of interest expense to average net assets		.00 <sup>4</sup>	.01	.01	.01	.01
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets		8.87	10.05	9.91	10.80	10.19
Portfolio turnover rate		235.42	340.47	158.92	26.76	40.79
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		190,270	121,775	114,886	132,652	106,959

<sup>1</sup> As required, effective January 1, 2001, the fund has adopted the provisions of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide for Investment Companies and began amortizing discount or premium on fixed-income securities on a scientific basis. The effect of this change for the period ended December 31, 2001 was to decrease net investment income per share by \$.06, increase net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments per share by \$.06, and decrease the ratio of net investment income to average net assets from 10.52% to 9.91%. Per-share data and ratios/supplemental data for periods prior to January 1, 2001 have not been restated to reflect this change in presentation.

<sup>2</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>3</sup> Exclusive of sales charge.

<sup>4</sup> Amount represents less than .01%.

		Year Ended December 31,				
Class B		2003	2002	2001 <sup>1</sup>	2000	1999
Per-Share Data (\$):						
Net asset value, beginning of period		6.28	7.94	8.95	10.45	11.33
Investment operations:	Investment income – net	.59 <sup>2</sup>	.66 <sup>2</sup>	.80 <sup>2</sup>	1.02	1.06
	Net realized and unrealized (loss) on investments	1.18	(1.64)	(.96)	(1.47)	(.89)
Total from investment operations		1.77	(.98)	(.16)	(.45)	.17
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.62)	(.68)	(.85)	(1.05)	(1.05)
Net asset value, end of period		7.43	6.28	7.94	8.95	10.45
Total Return (%) <sup>3</sup>		29.25	(12.64)	(2.10)	(4.74)	1.48
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):						
Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets		1.47	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
Ratio of interest expense to average net assets		.00 <sup>4</sup>	.01	.01	.01	.01
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets		8.46	9.41	9.42	10.32	9.70
Portfolio turnover rate		235.42	340.47	158.92	26.76	40.79
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		239,015	230,011	325,834	403,702	562,605

<sup>1</sup> As required, effective January 1, 2001, the fund has adopted the provisions of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide for Investment Companies and began amortizing discount or premium on fixed-income securities on a scientific basis. The effect of this change for the period ended December 31, 2001 was to decrease net investment income per share by \$.05, increase net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments per share by \$.05, and decrease the ratio of net investment income to average net assets from 10.03% to 9.42%. Per-share data and ratios/supplemental data for periods prior to January 1, 2001 have not been restated to reflect this change in presentation.

<sup>2</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>3</sup> Exclusive of sales charge.

<sup>4</sup> Amount represents less than .01%.

		Year Ended December 31,				
Class C		2003	2002	2001 <sup>1</sup>	2000	1999
Per-Share Data (\$):						
Net asset value, beginning of period		6.28	7.95	8.96	10.45	11.33
Investment operations:	Investment income – net	.57 <sup>2</sup>	.64 <sup>2</sup>	.78 <sup>2</sup>	1.01	1.04
	Net realized and unrealized (loss) on investments	1.18	(1.65)	(.96)	(1.47)	(.90)
Total from investment operations		1.75	(1.01)	(.18)	(.46)	.14
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.60)	(.66)	(.83)	(1.03)	(1.02)
Net asset value, end of period		7.43	6.28	7.95	8.96	10.45
Total Return (%) <sup>3</sup>		29.10	(12.97)	(2.23)	(4.96)	1.23
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):						
Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets		1.72	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70
Ratio of interest expense to average net assets		.00 <sup>4</sup>	.01	.01	.01	.01
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets		8.15	9.17	9.17	10.09	9.45
Portfolio turnover rate		235.42	340.47	158.92	26.76	40.79
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		86,479	62,036	84,044	105,167	170,011

<sup>1</sup> As required, effective January 1, 2001, the fund has adopted the provisions of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide for Investment Companies and began amortizing discount or premium on fixed-income securities on a scientific basis. The effect of this change for the period ended December 31, 2001 was to decrease net investment income per share by \$.05, increase net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments per share by \$.05, and decrease the ratio of net investment income to average net assets from 9.78% to 9.17%. Per-share data and ratios/supplemental data for periods prior to January 1, 2001 have not been restated to reflect this change in presentation.

<sup>2</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>3</sup> Exclusive of sales charge.

<sup>4</sup> Amount represents less than .01%.



Class R		Year Ended December 31,				
		2003	2002	2001 <sup>1</sup>	2000	1999
Per-Share Data (\$):						
Net asset value, beginning of period		6.27	7.94	8.95	10.44	11.32
Investment operations:	Investment income – net	.67 <sup>2</sup>	.70 <sup>2</sup>	.86 <sup>2</sup>	1.16	1.05
	Net realized and unrealized (loss) on investments	1.16	(1.64)	(.96)	(1.52)	(.80)
Total from investment operations		1.83	(.94)	(.10)	(.36)	.25
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.67)	(.73)	(.91)	(1.13)	(1.13)
Net asset value, end of period		7.43	6.27	7.94	8.95	10.44
Total Return (%)		30.15	(11.99)	(1.26)	(4.02)	2.24
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):						
Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets		.72	.70	.70	.70	.70
Ratio of interest expense to average net assets		.00 <sup>3</sup>	.00 <sup>3</sup>	.01	.01	.01
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets		9.26	10.08	10.19	11.01	10.65
Portfolio turnover rate		235.42	340.47	158.92	26.76	40.79
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		1,283	114	131	143	329

<sup>1</sup> As required, effective January 1, 2001, the fund has adopted the provisions of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide for Investment Companies and began amortizing discount or premium on fixed-income securities on a scientific basis. The effect of this change for the period ended December 31, 2001 was to decrease net investment income per share by \$.05 and increase net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments per share by \$.05, and decrease the ratio of net investment income to average net assets from 10.80% to 10.19%. Per-share data and ratios/supplemental data for periods prior to January 1, 2001 have not been restated to reflect this change in presentation.

<sup>2</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>3</sup> Amount represents less than .01%.

# Your Investment



## ACCOUNT POLICIES

The **Dreyfus Premier Funds** are designed primarily for people who are investing through a third party, such as a bank, broker-dealer or financial adviser, or in a 401(k) or other retirement plan. Third parties with whom you open a fund account may impose policies, limitations and fees which are different from those described herein. In addition, such third parties may receive payments from Dreyfus in connection with their offering of fund shares to their customers or for marketing, distribution or other services. The receipt of such payments could create an incentive for the third party to offer the fund instead of other mutual funds where such payments are not received. Consult a representative of your plan or financial institution for further information.

**You will need to choose a share class** before making your initial investment. The different classes of shares represent investments in the same portfolio of securities, but the classes are subject to different expenses and will likely have different share prices. In making your choice, you should consider how much you plan to invest and how long you plan to hold your investment, then weigh the impact of all potential costs over the length of your investment, including sales charges and annual fees. For example, in some cases, it can be more economical to pay an initial sales charge than to choose a class with no initial sales charge but higher annual fees and a CDSC. Your financial representative can help you choose the share class that is appropriate for you.

- **Class A** shares may be appropriate for investors who prefer to pay the fund's sales charge up front rather than upon the sale of their shares, want to take advantage of the reduced sales charges available on larger investments and/or have a longer-term investment horizon. If you invest \$1 million or more (and are not eligible to purchase Class R shares), Class A shares will be the most advantageous choice, no matter how long you intend to hold your shares.
- **Class B** shares may be appropriate for investors who wish to avoid paying a front-end sales charge, put 100% of their investment dollars to work immediately and/or have a longer-term investment horizon.
- **Class C** shares may be appropriate for investors who wish to avoid paying a front-end sales charge, put 100% of their investment dollars to work immediately and/or have a shorter-term investment horizon.
- **Class R** shares are designed for eligible institutions and their clients (individuals may not purchase these shares directly).



### Buying shares

The **net asset value (NAV)** of each class is generally calculated as of the close of trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) (usually 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on days the exchange is open for regular business. Your order will be priced at the next NAV calculated after your order is accepted by the fund's transfer agent or other authorized entity. The fund's investments are generally valued by using available market quotations or at face value, which may be determined by one or more pricing services approved by the fund's board. Foreign securities may trade on days when the fund does not calculate its NAV and thus may affect the fund's NAV on days when investors have no access to the fund.

**Orders to buy and sell shares** received by dealers by the close of trading on the NYSE and transmitted to the distributor or its designee by the close of its business day (normally 5:15 p.m. Eastern time) will be based on the NAV determined as of the close of trading on the NYSE that day.

Minimum investments		
	Initial	Additional
<b>Regular accounts</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$100; \$500</b> for Dreyfus TeleTransfer investments
<b>Traditional IRAs</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>no minimum</b>
<b>Spousal IRAs</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>no minimum</b>
<b>Roth IRAs</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>no minimum</b>
<b>Education Savings Accounts</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>no minimum</b> after the first year

All investments must be in U.S. dollars. Third-party checks cannot be accepted. You may be charged a fee for any check that does not clear. Maximum Dreyfus TeleTransfer purchase is \$150,000 per day.

### Concepts to understand

**Net asset value (NAV):** the market value of one share, computed by dividing the total net assets of a fund or class by its shares outstanding. The fund's Class A shares are offered to the public at NAV plus a sales charge. Classes B, C and R are offered at NAV, but Classes B and C generally are subject to higher annual operating expenses and a CDSC.

## Selling shares

**You may sell (redeem) shares at any time.** Your shares will be sold at the next NAV calculated after your order is accepted by the fund's transfer agent or other authorized entity. Any certificates representing fund shares being sold must be returned with your redemption request. Your order will be processed promptly and you will generally receive the proceeds within a week.

**To keep your CDSC as low as possible,** each time you request to sell shares we will first sell shares that are not subject to a CDSC, and then those subject to the lowest charge. The CDSC is based on the lesser of the original purchase cost or the current market value of the shares being sold, and is not charged on shares you acquired by reinvesting your dividends. There are certain instances when you may qualify to have the CDSC waived. Consult your financial representative or refer to the SAI for details.

**Before selling or writing a check** against shares recently purchased by check, Dreyfus TeleTransfer or Automatic Asset Builder, please note that:

- if you send a written request to sell such shares, the fund may delay sending the proceeds for up to eight business days following the purchase of those shares
- the fund will not honor redemption checks, or process wire, telephone, online or Dreyfus TeleTransfer redemption requests, for up to eight business days following the purchase of those shares

### Limitations on selling shares by phone or online

Proceeds sent by	Minimum phone/online	Maximum phone/online
<b>Check*</b>	<b>no minimum</b>	<b>\$250,000 per day</b>
<b>Wire</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$500,000 for joint accounts every 30 days/ \$20,000 per day</b>
<b>Dreyfus TeleTransfer</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500,000 for joint accounts every 30 days/ \$20,000 per day</b>

*\* Not available online on accounts whose address has been changed within the last 30 days.*

## Written sell orders

Some circumstances require written sell orders along with signature guarantees. These include:

- amounts of \$10,000 or more on accounts whose address has been changed within the last 30 days
- requests to send the proceeds to a different payee or address

Written sell orders of \$100,000 or more must also be signature guaranteed.

**A signature guarantee** helps protect against fraud. You can obtain one from most banks or securities dealers, but not from a notary public. For joint accounts, each signature must be guaranteed. Please call us to ensure that your signature guarantee will be processed correctly.

### General policies

Unless you decline teleservice privileges on your application, the fund's transfer agent is authorized to act on telephone or online instructions from any person representing himself or herself to be you and reasonably believed by the transfer agent to be genuine. You may be responsible for any fraudulent telephone or online order as long as the fund's transfer agent takes reasonable measures to confirm that instructions are genuine.

Excessive trading, short-term market timing or other abusive trading practices may disrupt portfolio management strategies and harm fund performance. Accordingly, the fund reserves the right to refuse any purchase or exchange request that could adversely affect the fund or its operations, including those from any individual or group who, in the fund's view, is likely to engage in excessive trading, short-term market timing or other abusive trading practices. Multiple accounts under common ownership or control may be considered as one account for purposes of determining a pattern of excessive trading practices. Transactions placed by suspected excessive traders may not be deemed accepted by the fund and may be cancelled or revoked by the fund on the next business day following receipt by the fund or its transfer agent. While the fund will take reasonable steps to prevent trading practices deemed to be harmful to the fund, it may not be able to identify such trading conducted through certain financial intermediaries or omnibus accounts.

### The fund also reserves the right to:

- refuse any purchase or exchange request
- change or discontinue its exchange privilege, or temporarily suspend the privilege during unusual market conditions
- change its minimum investment amounts
- delay sending out redemption proceeds for up to seven days (generally applies only in cases of very large redemptions, excessive trading or during unusual market conditions)
- “redeem in kind,” or make payment in portfolio securities rather than cash, if the amount you are redeeming is large enough to affect fund operations (for example, if it exceeds 1% of the fund's assets)

### Small account policies

To offset the relatively higher costs of servicing smaller accounts, the fund charges regular accounts with balances below \$2,000 an annual fee of \$12. The fee will be imposed during the fourth quarter of each calendar year.

The fee will be waived for: any investor whose aggregate Dreyfus mutual fund investments total at least \$25,000; IRA accounts; Education Savings Accounts; accounts participating in automatic investment programs; and accounts opened through a financial institution.

If your account falls below \$500, the fund may ask you to increase your balance. If it is still below \$500 after 45 days, the fund may close your account and send you the proceeds.



## DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

The fund earns dividends, interest and other income from its investments, and distributes this income (less expenses) to shareholders as dividends. The fund also realizes capital gains from its investments, and distributes these gains (less any losses) to shareholders as capital gain distributions. The fund normally pays dividends monthly and distributes capital gains annually. Fund dividends and capital gain distributions will be reinvested in the fund unless you instruct the fund otherwise. There are no fees or sales charges on reinvestments.

**Distributions paid by the fund** are subject to federal income tax, and may also be subject to state or local taxes (unless you are investing through a tax-advantaged retirement account). For federal tax purposes, in general, certain fund distributions, including interest income distributions or short-term capital gains, are taxable to you as ordinary income. Other fund distributions, including dividends from U.S. companies and certain foreign companies and distributions of long-term capital gains, generally are taxable to you as qualified dividends and capital gains.

**High portfolio turnover** and more volatile markets can result in significant taxable distributions to shareholders, regardless of whether their shares have increased in value. The tax status of any distribution generally is the same regardless of how long you have been in the fund and whether you reinvest your distributions or take them in cash.

**If you buy shares of a fund** when the fund has realized but not yet distributed income or capital gains, you will be “buying a dividend” by paying the full price for the shares and then receiving a portion back in the form of a taxable distribution.

Your redemption of shares, including exchanges into other funds, may result in a capital gain or loss for tax purposes. A capital gain or loss on your investment in the fund generally is the difference between the cost of your shares and the amount you receive upon redemption.

The tax status of your distributions will be detailed in your annual tax statement from the fund. Because everyone's tax situation is unique, please consult your tax advisor before investing.



## SERVICES FOR FUND INVESTORS

The third party through whom you purchased fund shares may impose different restrictions on these services and privileges offered by the fund, or may not make them available at all. Consult your financial representative for more information on the availability of these services and privileges.

### Automatic services

**Buying or selling shares automatically** is easy with the services described below. With each service, you select a schedule and amount, subject to certain restrictions. You can set up most of these services with your application, or by calling your financial representative or **1-800-554-4611**.

#### For investing

**Dreyfus Automatic Asset Builder®** For making automatic investments from a designated bank account.

**Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege** For making automatic investments from your federal employment, Social Security or other regular federal government check.

**Dreyfus Dividend Sweep** For automatically reinvesting the dividends and distributions from the fund into another Dreyfus fund or certain Founders-advised funds (not available for IRAs).

#### For exchanging shares

**Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege** For making regular exchanges from the fund into another Dreyfus fund or certain Founders-advised funds.

#### For selling shares

**Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan** For making regular withdrawals from most Dreyfus funds. There will be no CDSC on Class B or Class C shares, as long as the amount of any withdrawal does not exceed on an annual basis 12% of the greater of the account value at the time of the first withdrawal under the plan, or at the time of the subsequent withdrawal.

### Checkwriting privilege (Class A only)

**You can write redemption checks** for Class A shares for \$500 or more. Please consider share price fluctuations when doing so. Checks are free, but a stop payment fee may be charged. Do not use checks to close an account. Do not postdate your checks.

### Exchange privilege

**You can exchange shares worth \$500 or more** (no minimum for retirement accounts) from one class of the fund into the same class of another Dreyfus Premier fund or Founders-advised fund. You can request your exchange by contacting your financial representative. Be sure to read the current prospectus for any fund into which you are exchanging before investing. Any new account established through an exchange will generally have the same privileges as your original account (as long as they are available). There is currently no fee for exchanges, although you may be charged a sales load when exchanging into any fund that has a higher one.

### Dreyfus TeleTransfer privilege

**To move money between your bank account and your Dreyfus fund account** with a phone call or online, use the Dreyfus TeleTransfer privilege. You can set up Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your account by providing bank account information and following the instructions on your application, or contacting your financial representative.

### Reinvestment privilege

**Upon written request, you can reinvest** up to the number of Class A or B shares you redeemed within 45 days of selling them at the current share price without any sales charge. If you paid a CDSC, it will be credited back to your account. This privilege may be used only once.

### Account statements

**Every fund investor** automatically receives regular account statements. You'll also be sent a yearly statement detailing the tax characteristics of any dividends and distributions you have received.



# INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGULAR ACCOUNTS

## TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT



### In Writing

Complete the application.  
Mail your application and a check to:  
Name of Fund  
P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502  
Attn: Institutional Processing



### By Telephone

**Wire** Call us to request an account application and an account number. Have your bank send your investment to Mellon Trust of New England, N.A., with these instructions:

- ABA# 011001234
- DDA# 044350
- the fund name
- the share class
- your account number
- name(s) of investor(s)
- dealer number if applicable

Return your application with the account number on the application.

## TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT

Fill out an investment slip, and write your account number on your check.  
Mail the slip and the check to:  
Name of Fund  
P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502  
Attn: Institutional Processing

**Wire** Have your bank send your investment to Mellon Trust of New England, N.A., with these instructions:

- ABA# 011001234
- DDA# 044350
- the fund name
- the share class
- your account number
- name(s) of investor(s)
- dealer number if applicable

**Electronic check** Same as wire, but before your 14-digit account number insert "455" for Class A, "456" for Class B, "457" for Class C, or "458" for Class R.

**Dreyfus TeleTransfer** Request Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your application. Call us to request your transaction.

## TO SELL SHARES

Write a redemption check (Class A only) **or** write a letter of instruction that includes:

- your name(s) and signature(s)
- your account number
- the fund name
- the share class
- the dollar amount you want to sell
- how and where to send the proceeds

Obtain a signature guarantee or other documentation, if required (see "Account Policies – Selling Shares").

Mail your request to:  
The Dreyfus Family of Funds  
P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502  
Attn: Institutional Processing

**Wire** Call us or your financial representative to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be wired to your bank.

**Dreyfus TeleTransfer** Call us or your financial representative to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be sent to your bank by electronic check.

**Check** Call us or your financial representative to request your transaction. A check will be sent to the address of record.



To open an account, make subsequent investments or to sell shares, please contact your financial representative or call toll free in the U.S. **1-800-554-4611**.  
Make checks payable to: **The Dreyfus Family of Funds**.

## Concepts to understand

**Wire transfer:** for transferring money from one financial institution to another. Wiring is the fastest way to move money, although your bank may charge a fee to send or receive wire transfers. Wire redemptions from the fund are subject to a \$1,000 minimum.

**Electronic check:** for transferring money out of a bank account. Your transaction is entered electronically, but may take up to eight business days to clear. Electronic checks usually are available without a fee at all Automated Clearing House (ACH) banks.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR **REGULAR ACCOUNTS** (continued)

TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT	TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT	TO SELL SHARES
 Online ( <a href="http://www.dreyfus.com">www.dreyfus.com</a> )	<b>Dreyfus TeleTransfer</b> Request Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your application. Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction.	<b>Wire</b> Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be wired to your bank.  <b>Dreyfus TeleTransfer</b> Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be sent to your bank by electronic check.  <b>Check</b> Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. A check will be sent to the address of record.
 Automatically  <b>With an initial investment</b> Indicate on your application which automatic service(s) you want. Return your application with your investment.	<b>All services</b> Call us or your financial representative to request a form to add any automatic investing service (see “Services for Fund Investors”). Complete and return the form along with any other required materials.	<b>Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan</b> Call us or your financial representative to request a form to add the plan. Complete the form, specifying the amount and frequency of withdrawals you would like.  Be sure to maintain an account balance of \$5,000 or more.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR IRAS

### TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT



#### In Writing

Complete an IRA application, making sure to specify the fund name and to indicate the year the contribution is for.

Mail your application and a check to:  
The Dreyfus Trust Company, Custodian  
P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568  
Attn: Institutional Processing

### TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT

Fill out an investment slip, and write your account number on your check. Indicate the year the contribution is for.

Mail the slip and the check to:  
The Dreyfus Trust Company, Custodian  
P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568  
Attn: Institutional Processing

### TO SELL SHARES

Write a letter of instruction that includes:

- your name and signature
- your account number and fund name
- the share class
- the dollar amount you want to sell
- how and where to send the proceeds
- whether the distribution is qualified or premature
- whether the 10% TEFRA should be withheld

Obtain a signature guarantee or other documentation, if required (see "Account Policies – Selling Shares").

Mail your request to:  
The Dreyfus Trust Company  
P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568  
Attn: Institutional Processing



#### By Telephone

**Wire** Have your bank send your investment to Mellon Trust of New England, N.A., with these instructions:

- ABA# 011001234
- DDA# 044350
- the fund name
- the share class
- your account number
- name of investor
- the contribution year
- dealer number if applicable

**Electronic check** Same as wire, but before your 14-digit account number insert "455" for Class A, "456" for Class B, "457" for Class C, or "458" for Class R.



#### Automatically

**All services** Call us or your financial representative to request a form to add any automatic investing service (see "Services for Fund Investors"). Complete and return the form along with any other required materials. All contributions will count as current year.

**Systematic Withdrawal Plan** Call us to request instructions to establish the plan.

For information and assistance, contact your financial representative or call toll free in the U.S. **1-800-554-4611.**

Make checks payable to: **The Dreyfus Trust Company, Custodian.**

# For More Information

## Dreyfus Premier Limited Term

### High Yield Fund

A series of The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds Trust

SEC file number: 811-5240

More information on this fund is available free upon request, including the following:

#### Annual/Semiannual Report

Describes the fund's performance, lists portfolio holdings and contains a letter from the fund's manager discussing recent market conditions, economic trends and fund strategies that significantly affected the fund's performance during the last fiscal year.

#### Statement of Additional Information (SAI)

Provides more details about the fund and its policies. A current SAI is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and is incorporated by reference (is legally considered part of this prospectus).

To obtain information:

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**By telephone**

Call your financial representative or 1-800-554-4611

**By mail** Write to:

The Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds  
144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard  
Uniondale, NY 11556-0144

**On the Internet** Text-only versions of certain fund documents can be viewed online or downloaded from:  
<http://www.sec.gov>

You can also obtain copies, after paying a duplicating fee, by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC (for information, call 1-202-942-8090) or by E-mail request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov), or by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, DC 20549-0102.

# Dreyfus Premier Managed Income Fund

Seeks high current income by investing in  
fixed-income securities

**PROSPECTUS** May 1, 2004



YOU, YOUR ADVISOR AND

**Dreyfus**

A MELLON FINANCIAL COMPANY™

As with all mutual funds, the Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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## The Fund

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## Your Investment

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## For More Information

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*See back cover.*

## Dreyfus Premier Managed Income Fund

Ticker Symbols **Class A: PMNIX**  
**Class B: DTMBX**  
**Class C: DTMCX**  
**Class R: DTMRX**



### GOAL/APPROACH

The fund seeks high current income consistent with what is believed to be prudent risk of capital. This objective may be changed without shareholder approval. To pursue its goal, the fund normally invests at least 65% of its total assets in various types of U.S. government and corporate debt obligations rated investment grade (or their unrated equivalent as determined by Dreyfus). The fund also normally invests at least 65% of its total assets in debt obligations having effective maturities of 10 years or less.

The fund may also invest up to:

- 35% of its total assets in obligations rated below investment grade or comparable unrated securities
- 25% of its total assets in convertible debt obligations and preferred stocks
- 20% of its total assets in foreign securities, including those of issuers in emerging markets

The fund may invest in inflation-indexed securities. These are fixed-income securities designed to protect investors from a loss of value due to inflation by periodically adjusting their principal and/or coupon according to the rate of inflation.

In addition to obligations issued by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities, the fund may invest up to 25% of its total assets in asset-backed securities, including mortgage-backed securities, that are not issued by such entities.

# The Fund

The fund may, but is not required to, use derivatives, such as futures and options, as a substitute for taking a position in an underlying asset, to increase returns, to manage interest rate risk, or as part of a hedging strategy. The fund may enter into swap agreements, such as credit default swaps, which can be used to transfer the credit risk of a security without actually transferring ownership of the security. To enhance current income, the fund also may engage in a series of purchase and sale contracts or forward roll transactions in which the fund sells a mortgage-related security, for example, to a financial institution and simultaneously agrees to purchase a similar security from the institution at a later date at an agreed-upon price.

### Concepts to understand

**Credit quality:** independent rating organizations analyze and evaluate a bond issuer's credit history and ability to repay debts. Based on their assessment, rating organizations assign letter grades that reflect the issuer's creditworthiness. AAA or Aaa represents the highest credit rating, AA/Aa the second highest, and so on down to D, for defaulted debt. Bonds rated BBB or Baa and above are considered investment grade, although they have some speculative characteristics. Bonds rated below BBB or Baa are sometimes referred to as "junk" bonds. Because the issuers of high yield securities may be at an early stage of development or may have been unable to repay past debts, junk bonds typically must offer higher yields than investment grade bonds to compensate for greater credit risk.

**Effective maturity:** the stated maturity of a bond, adjusted to reflect provisions or market conditions that may cause the bond's principal to be repaid earlier than at its stated maturity.

**Credit default swap:** a derivative instrument whereby the buyer makes fixed, periodic premium payments to the seller in exchange for being made whole on an agreed-upon amount of principal, should the specified reference entity (i.e., the issuer of a particular security) experience a "credit event" (e.g., failure to pay interest or principal, bankruptcy or restructuring).



## MAIN RISKS

The fund's principal risks are discussed below. The value of your investment in the fund will fluctuate, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- *Interest rate risk.* Prices of bonds tend to move inversely with changes in interest rates. Typically, a rise in rates will adversely affect bond prices and, accordingly, the fund's share price. The longer the fund's effective maturity and duration, the more its share price is likely to react to interest rates.
- *Call risk.* Some bonds give the issuer the option to call, or redeem, the bonds before their maturity date. If an issuer "calls" its bond during a time of declining interest rates, the fund might have to reinvest the proceeds in an investment offering a lower yield.
- *Credit risk.* Failure of an issuer to make timely interest or principal payments, or a decline or perception of a decline in the credit quality of a bond, can cause a bond's price to fall, potentially lowering the fund's share price. High yield ("junk") bonds involve greater credit risk, including the risk of default, than investment grade bonds, and are considered predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's continuing ability to make principal and interest payments. The prices of high yield bonds can fall dramatically in response to bad news about the issuer or its industry, or the economy in general.
- *Market risk.* The value of a security may decline due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment generally. They also may decline because of factors that affect a particular industry or industries, such as labor shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry.
- *Liquidity risk.* When there is little or no active trading market for specific types of securities, it can become more difficult to sell the securities at or near their perceived value. In such a market, the value of such securities and the fund's share price may fall dramatically. Investments in foreign securities tend to have greater exposure to liquidity risk than domestic securities.
- *Prepayment and extension risk.* When interest rates fall, the principal on mortgage-backed and certain asset-backed securities may be prepaid. The loss of higher-yielding, underlying mortgages and the reinvestment of proceeds at lower interest rates can reduce the fund's potential price gain in response to falling interest rates, reduce the fund's yield, or cause the fund's share price to fall. When interest rates rise, the effective duration of the fund's mortgage-related and other asset-backed securities may lengthen due to a drop in prepayments of the underlying mortgages or other assets. This is known as extension risk and would increase the fund's sensitivity to rising rates and its potential for price declines.
- *Market sector risk.* The fund's overall risk level will depend on the market sectors in which the fund is invested and the current interest rate, liquidity and credit quality of such sectors. The fund may overweight or underweight certain companies, industries or market sectors, which may cause the fund's performance to be more or less sensitive to developments affecting those companies, industries or sectors.
- *Inflation-indexed bond risk.* Interest payments on inflation-indexed bonds can be unpredictable and will vary as the principal and/or interest is periodically adjusted based on the rate of inflation. If the index measuring inflation falls, the interest payable on these securities will be reduced. In the case of U.S. Treasury inflation-indexed bonds, the U.S. Treasury has guaranteed that in the event of a drop in prices, it would repay the par amount of its inflation-indexed bonds. Inflation-indexed bonds issued by corporations generally do not guarantee repayment of principal. Any increase in the principal amount of an inflation-indexed bond will be considered taxable ordinary income, even though investors do not receive their principal until maturity. As a result, the fund may be required to make annual distributions to shareholders that exceed the cash the fund received, which may cause the fund to liquidate certain investments when it is not advantageous to do so. Also, if the principal value of an inflation-indexed bond is adjusted downward due to deflation, amounts previously distributed may be characterized in some circumstances as a return of capital.



- *Foreign investment risk.* The prices and yields of foreign bonds may be affected by political and economic instability or changes in currency exchange rates. The bonds of issuers located in emerging markets can be more volatile and less liquid than those of issuers in more mature economies.
- *Derivatives risk.* In addition to mortgage-related and asset-backed securities, the fund may invest in other derivative instruments, such as options, futures and options on futures (including those relating to foreign currencies, indexes and interest rates), swaps and other credit derivatives. A small investment in derivatives could have a potentially large impact on the fund's performance. The use of derivatives involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the underlying assets. Derivatives can be highly volatile, illiquid and difficult to value, and there is the risk that changes in the value of a derivative held by the fund will not correlate with the fund's other investments. The use of a derivative instrument involves the risk that a loss may be sustained as a result of the failure of another party to the contract (usually referred to as a "counterparty") to make required payments or otherwise comply with the contract's terms. Additionally, credit default swaps could result in losses if the fund does not correctly evaluate the creditworthiness of the company on which the credit default swap is based.
- *Government securities risk.* Not all obligations of the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury. Some obligations, such as those issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, are backed only by the credit of the issuing agency or instrumentality, and in some cases there may be some risk of default by the issuer. Any guarantee by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities of a security held by the fund does not apply to the market value of such security or to shares of the fund itself. In addition, because many types of U.S. government securities trade actively outside the U.S., their prices may rise and fall as changes in global economic conditions affect the demand for these securities.

## Other potential risks

Under adverse market conditions, the fund could invest some or all of its assets in U.S. Treasury securities and money market securities. Although the fund would do this for temporary defensive purposes, it could reduce the benefit from any upswing in the market. During such periods, the fund may not achieve its investment objective.

The fund may lend its portfolio securities to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions. In connection with such loans, the fund will receive collateral from the borrower equal to at least 100% of the value of the loaned securities. Should the borrower of the securities fail financially, the fund may experience delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising its rights in the collateral.

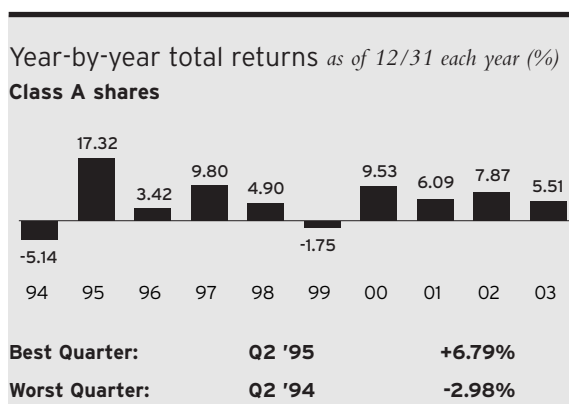
At times, the fund may engage in short-term trading, which could produce higher transaction costs and taxable distributions, and lower the fund's after-tax performance. The fund's forward roll transactions will increase its portfolio turnover rate.



## PAST PERFORMANCE

The bar chart and table shown illustrate the risks of investing in the fund. The bar chart shows the fund's Class A performance from year to year. Sales loads are not reflected in the chart; if they were, the returns shown would have been lower. The table compares the average annual total returns of each of the fund's share classes to those of the Lehman Brothers U.S. Aggregate Index, a widely recognized, unmanaged index of bond performance. The returns shown in the table reflect any applicable sales loads. All returns assume reinvestment of dividends and distributions. Of course, past performance is no guarantee of future results. Performance for each share class will vary from the performance of the fund's other share classes due to differences in charges and expenses.

After-tax performance is shown only for Class A shares. After-tax performance of the fund's other share classes will vary. 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 the investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown, and the 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.



### Average annual total returns as of 12/31/03

Share class/ inception date	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years	Since inception
<b>Class A</b> (8/1/79) returns before taxes	<b>0.73%</b>	<b>4.41%</b>	<b>5.10%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Class A</b> returns after taxes on distributions	<b>-0.64%</b>	<b>2.39%</b>	<b>2.72%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Class A</b> returns after taxes on distributions and sale of fund shares	<b>0.48%</b>	<b>2.47%</b>	<b>2.80%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Class B</b> (12/19/94) returns before taxes	<b>0.73%</b>	<b>4.26%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6.23%*</b>
<b>Class C</b> (12/19/94) returns before taxes	<b>3.73%</b>	<b>4.60%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5.98%</b>
<b>Class R</b> (2/1/93) returns before taxes	<b>5.78%</b>	<b>5.63%</b>	<b>5.85%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Lehman Brothers U.S. Aggregate Index</b> reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes	<b>4.10%</b>	<b>6.62%</b>	<b>6.95%</b>	<b>8.10%**</b>

\* Assumes conversion of Class B shares to Class A shares at the end of the sixth year following the date of purchase.

\*\* Based on life of Class B and Class C. For comparative purposes, the value of the index on 12/31/94 is used as the beginning value on 12/19/94.

### What this fund is – and isn't

This fund is a mutual fund: a pooled investment that is professionally managed and gives you the opportunity to participate in financial markets. It strives to reach its stated goal, although as with all mutual funds, it cannot offer guaranteed results.

An investment in this fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. You could lose money in this fund, but you also have the potential to make money.



## EXPENSES

As an investor, you pay certain fees and expenses in connection with the fund, which are described in the table below.

Fee table				
	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class R
<b>Shareholder transaction fees</b> ( <i>fees paid from your account</i> )				
Maximum front-end sales charge on purchases <i>% of offering price</i>	4.50	none	none	none
Maximum contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC) <i>% of purchase or sale price, whichever is less</i>	none*	4.00	1.00	none
<b>Annual fund operating expenses</b> ( <i>expenses paid from fund assets</i> )				
<i>% of average daily net assets</i>				
Management fees	.70	.70	.70	.70
Rule 12b-1 fee	.25	1.00	1.00	none
Other expenses	.00	.00	.00	.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>.95</b>	<b>1.70</b>	<b>1.70</b>	<b>.70</b>

\* Shares bought without an initial sales charge as part of an investment of \$1 million or more may be charged a CDSC of 1.00% if redeemed within one year.

Expense example				
	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
<b>Class A</b>	<b>\$543</b>	<b>\$739</b>	<b>\$952</b>	<b>\$1,564</b>
<b>Class B</b>				
<i>with redemption</i>	<b>\$573</b>	<b>\$836</b>	<b>\$1,123</b>	<b>\$1,627**</b>
<i>without redemption</i>	<b>\$173</b>	<b>\$536</b>	<b>\$923</b>	<b>\$1,627**</b>
<b>Class C</b>				
<i>with redemption</i>	<b>\$273</b>	<b>\$536</b>	<b>\$923</b>	<b>\$2,009</b>
<i>without redemption</i>	<b>\$173</b>	<b>\$536</b>	<b>\$923</b>	<b>\$2,009</b>
<b>Class R</b>	<b>\$72</b>	<b>\$224</b>	<b>\$390</b>	<b>\$871</b>

\*\* Assumes conversion of Class B to Class A at end of the sixth year following the date of purchase.

This example shows what you could pay in expenses over time. It uses the same hypothetical conditions other funds use in their prospectuses: \$10,000 initial investment, 5% total return each year and no changes in expenses. Because actual returns and expenses will be different, the example is for comparison only.

## Concepts to understand

**Management fee:** the fee paid to Dreyfus for managing the fund. Unlike the arrangements between most investment advisers and their funds, Dreyfus pays all fund expenses except for brokerage fees, taxes, interest, fees and expenses of the independent directors, Rule 12b-1 fees and extraordinary expenses.

**Rule 12b-1 fee:** the fee paid out of fund assets (attributable to appropriate share classes) for distribution expenses and shareholder service. Because this fee is paid out of the fund's assets on an ongoing basis, over time it will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more than paying other types of sales charges.



## MANAGEMENT

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The investment adviser for the fund is The Dreyfus Corporation (Dreyfus), 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166. Founded in 1947, Dreyfus manages approximately \$165 billion in approximately 200 mutual fund portfolios. For the past fiscal year, the fund paid Dreyfus a management fee at the annual rate of 0.70% of the fund's average daily net assets. Dreyfus is the primary mutual fund business of Mellon Financial Corporation (Mellon Financial), a global financial services company with approximately \$3.6 trillion of assets under management, administration or custody, including approximately \$679 billion under management. Mellon Financial provides financial services for institutions, corporations and individuals, offering institutional asset management, mutual funds, private wealth management, asset servicing, human resources services and treasury services. Mellon Financial is headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

On March 30, 2004, Mellon Bank, N.A., a wholly owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial and the then-current parent company of Dreyfus, transferred its entire interest in Dreyfus, including Dreyfus Service Corporation (the fund's distributor) and all of Dreyfus' other direct and indirect subsidiaries, to Mellon Financial. The reorganization did not result in a change in the control or management of Dreyfus under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, or the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act); Dreyfus merely became a direct, rather than indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial. The reorganization was part of a larger reorganization of Mellon Financial that is expected to increase organizational synergies and create a more efficient capital structure throughout the organization.

The Dreyfus asset management philosophy is based on the belief that discipline and consistency are important to investment success. For each fund, Dreyfus seeks to establish clear guidelines for portfolio management and to be systematic in making decisions. This approach is designed to provide each fund with a distinct, stable identity.

Investment decisions for the fund are made by a committee of portfolio managers. The committee

has managed the fund since October 2001. No individual committee member is primarily responsible for making these investment decisions. This committee also comprises the Standish Fixed Income Team of Standish Mellon Asset Management LLC, an affiliate of Dreyfus.

The fund, Dreyfus and Dreyfus Service Corporation have each adopted a code of ethics that permits its personnel, subject to such code, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the fund. The Dreyfus code of ethics restricts the personal securities transactions of its employees, and requires portfolio managers and other investment personnel to comply with the code's preclearance and disclosure procedures. Its primary purpose is to ensure that personal trading by Dreyfus employees does not disadvantage any Dreyfus-managed fund.

Two class actions have been filed against Mellon Financial and Mellon Bank, N.A., and Dreyfus and Founders Asset Management LLC (the Investment Advisers), and the directors of all or substantially all of the Dreyfus funds, alleging that the Investment Advisers improperly used assets of the Dreyfus funds, in the form of directed brokerage commissions and 12b-1 fees, to pay brokers to promote sales of Dreyfus funds, and that the use of fund assets to make these payments was not properly disclosed to investors. The complaints further allege that the directors breached their fiduciary duties to fund shareholders under the 1940 Act and at common law. The complaints seek unspecified compensatory and punitive damages, rescission of the funds' contracts with the Investment Advisers, an accounting of all fees paid, and an award of attorneys' fees and litigation expenses. Dreyfus and the Dreyfus funds believe the allegations to be totally without merit and will defend the actions vigorously.

Additional lawsuits arising out of these circumstances and presenting similar allegations and requests for relief may be filed against the defendants in the future. Neither Dreyfus nor the Dreyfus funds believe that any of the pending actions will have a material adverse affect on the Dreyfus funds or Dreyfus' ability to perform its contract with the Dreyfus funds.



## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following tables describe the performance of each share class for the fiscal periods indicated. “Total return” shows how much your investment in the fund would have increased (or decreased) during each period, assuming you had reinvested all

dividends and distributions. These financial highlights have been audited by KPMG LLP, whose report, along with the fund’s financial statements, is included in the annual report, which is available upon request.

		Year Ended December 31,				
Class A		2003	2002	2001 <sup>1</sup>	2000	1999
<b>Per-Share Data (\$):</b>						
Net asset value, beginning of period		10.75	10.37	10.29	9.99	10.81
Investment operations:	Investment income – net	.33 <sup>2</sup>	.38 <sup>2</sup>	.52 <sup>2</sup>	.61	.64
	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	.26	.42	.10	.30	(.82)
Total from investment operations		.59	.80	.62	.91	(.18)
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.39)	(.42)	(.54)	(.61)	(.64)
	Dividends from net realized gain on investments	(.05)	–	–	–	–
Total distributions		(.44)	(.42)	(.54)	(.61)	(.64)
Net asset value, end of period		10.90	10.75	10.37	10.29	9.99
Total Return (%) <sup>3</sup>		5.51	7.87	6.09	9.53	(1.75)
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>						
Ratio of expenses to average net assets		.95	.95	.95	.95	.95
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets		3.06	3.63	5.01	6.16	6.21
Portfolio turnover rate		469.41 <sup>4</sup>	524.46	477.71	531.86	309.42
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		43,811	47,571	49,729	51,527	60,755

<sup>1</sup> As required, effective January 1, 2001, the fund has adopted the provisions of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide for Investment Companies and began amortizing discount or premium on fixed-income securities on a scientific basis. The effect of this change for the period ended December 31, 2001 was to decrease net investment income per share by \$.02, increase net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments per share by \$.02 and decrease the ratio of net investment income to average net assets from 5.16% to 5.01%. Per-share data and ratios/supplemental data for periods prior to January 1, 2001 have not been restated to reflect this change in presentation.

<sup>2</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>3</sup> Exclusive of sales charge.

<sup>4</sup> The portfolio turnover rate excluding mortgage dollar roll transactions was 272.57%.

		Year Ended December 31,				
Class B		2003	2002	2001 <sup>1</sup>	2000	1999
Per-Share Data (\$):						
Net asset value, beginning of period		10.75	10.37	10.29	9.99	10.81
Investment operations:	Investment income – net	.25 <sup>2</sup>	.30 <sup>2</sup>	.44 <sup>2</sup>	.54	.57
	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	.25	.42	.10	.30	(.83)
Total from investment operations		.50	.72	.54	.84	(.26)
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.30)	(.34)	(.46)	(.54)	(.56)
	Dividends from net realized gain on investments	(.05)	–	–	–	–
Total distributions		(.35)	(.34)	(.46)	(.54)	(.56)
Net asset value, end of period		10.90	10.75	10.37	10.29	9.99
Total Return (%) <sup>3</sup>		4.73	7.07	5.30	8.73	(2.48)
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):						
Ratio of expenses to average net assets		1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets		2.31	2.91	4.27	5.41	5.44
Portfolio turnover rate		469.41 <sup>4</sup>	524.46	477.71	531.86	309.42
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		10,309	12,470	14,172	15,069	15,905

<sup>1</sup> As required, effective January 1, 2001, the fund has adopted the provisions of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide for Investment Companies and began amortizing discount or premium on fixed-income securities on a scientific basis. The effect of this change for the period ended December 31, 2001 was to decrease net investment income per share by \$.02, increase net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments per share by \$.02 and decrease the ratio of net investment income to average net assets from 4.42% to 4.27%. Per-share data and ratios/supplemental data for periods prior to January 1, 2001 have not been restated to reflect this change in presentation.

<sup>2</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>3</sup> Exclusive of sales charge.

<sup>4</sup> The portfolio turnover rate excluding mortgage dollar roll transactions was 272.57%.

		Year Ended December 31,				
Class C		2003	2002	2001 <sup>1</sup>	2000	1999
Per-Share Data (\$):						
Net asset value, beginning of period		10.76	10.38	10.30	10.00	10.82
Investment operations:	Investment income – net	.25 <sup>2</sup>	.31 <sup>2</sup>	.45 <sup>2</sup>	.54	.57
	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	.25	.41	.09	.30	(.83)
Total from investment operations		.50	.72	.54	.84	(.26)
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.30)	(.34)	(.46)	(.54)	(.56)
	Dividends from net realized gain on investments	(.05)	–	–	–	–
Total distributions		(.35)	(.34)	(.46)	(.54)	(.56)
Net asset value, end of period		10.91	10.76	10.38	10.30	10.00
Total Return (%) <sup>3</sup>		4.73	7.06	5.29	8.73	(2.48)
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):						
Ratio of expenses to average net assets		1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets		2.31	2.92	4.30	5.42	5.46
Portfolio turnover rate		469.41 <sup>4</sup>	524.46	477.71	531.86	309.42
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		1,692	1,980	2,245	2,834	3,695

<sup>1</sup> As required, effective January 1, 2001, the fund has adopted the provisions of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide for Investment Companies and began amortizing discount or premium on fixed-income securities on a scientific basis. The effect of this change for the period ended December 31, 2001 was to decrease net investment income per share by \$.02, increase net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments per share by \$.02 and decrease the ratio of net investment income to average net assets from 4.44% to 4.30%. Per-share data and ratios/supplemental data for periods prior to January 1, 2001 have not been restated to reflect this change in presentation.

<sup>2</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>3</sup> Exclusive of sales charge.

<sup>4</sup> The portfolio turnover rate excluding mortgage dollar roll transactions was 272.57%.

		Year Ended December 31,				
Class R		2003	2002	2001 <sup>1</sup>	2000	1999
<b>Per-Share Data (\$):</b>						
Net asset value, beginning of period		10.74	10.36	10.28	9.98	10.81
Investment operations:	Investment income – net	.37 <sup>2</sup>	.41 <sup>2</sup>	.56 <sup>2</sup>	.65	.67
	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	.24	.41	.08	.29	(.84)
Total from investment operations		.61	.82	.64	.94	(.17)
Distributions:	Dividends from investment income – net	(.41)	(.44)	(.56)	(.64)	(.66)
	Dividends from net realized gain on investments	(.05)	–	–	–	–
Total distributions		(.46)	(.44)	(.56)	(.64)	(.66)
Net asset value, end of period		10.89	10.74	10.36	10.28	9.98
Total Return (%)		5.78	8.14	6.24	9.92	(1.57)
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>						
Ratio of expenses to average net assets		.70	.70	.70	.70	.70
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets		3.30	3.88	5.34	6.41	6.45
Portfolio turnover rate		469.41 <sup>3</sup>	524.46	477.71	531.86	309.42
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)		2,202	3,387	3,595	4,813	9,270

<sup>1</sup> As required, effective January 1, 2001, the fund has adopted the provisions of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide for Investment Companies and began amortizing discount or premium on fixed-income securities on a scientific basis. The effect of this change for the period ended December 31, 2001 was to decrease net investment income per share by \$.01, increase net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments per share by \$.01 and decrease the ratio of net investment income to average net assets from 5.49% to 5.34%. Per-share data and ratios/supplemental data for periods prior to January 1, 2001 have not been restated to reflect this change in presentation.

<sup>2</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>3</sup> The portfolio turnover rate excluding mortgage dollar roll transactions was 272.57%.



# Your Investment



## ACCOUNT POLICIES

The Dreyfus Premier Funds are designed primarily for people who are investing through a third party, such as a bank, broker-dealer or financial adviser, or in a 401(k) or other retirement plan. Third parties with whom you open a fund account may impose policies, limitations and fees which are different from those described herein. In addition, such third parties may receive payments from Dreyfus in connection with their offering of fund shares to their customers or for marketing, distribution or other services. The receipt of such payments could create an incentive for the third party to offer the fund instead of other mutual funds where such payments are not received. Consult a representative of your plan or financial institution for further information.

**You will need to choose a share class** before making your initial investment. The different classes of shares represent investments in the same portfolio of securities, but the classes are subject to different expenses and will likely have different share prices. In making your choice, you should consider how much you plan to invest and how long you plan to hold your investment, then weigh the impact of all potential costs over the length of your investment, including sales charges and annual fees. For example, in some cases, it can be more economical to pay an initial sales charge than to choose a class with no initial sales charge but higher annual fees and a CDSC. Your financial representative can help you choose the share class that is appropriate for you.

- **Class A** shares may be appropriate for investors who prefer to pay the fund's sales charge up front rather than upon the sale of their shares, want to take advantage of the reduced sales charges available on larger investments and/or have a longer-term investment horizon. If you invest \$1 million or more (and are not eligible to purchase Class R shares), Class A shares will be the most advantageous choice, no matter how long you intend to hold your shares.
- **Class B** shares may be appropriate for investors who wish to avoid paying a front-end sales charge, put 100% of their investment dollars to work immediately and/or have a longer-term investment horizon.
- **Class C** shares may be appropriate for investors who wish to avoid paying a front-end sales charge, put 100% of their investment dollars to work immediately and/or have a shorter-term investment horizon.
- **Class R** shares are designed for eligible institutions and their clients (individuals may not purchase these shares directly).

## Share class charges

Each share class has its own fee structure. In some cases, you may not have to pay a sales charge or may qualify for a reduced sales charge to buy or sell shares. Consult your financial representative or refer to the SAI to see if this may apply to you. Shareholders holding Class A shares of the fund since December 19, 1994 may continue to purchase Class A shares without a front-end sales load.

Sales charges

**Class A – charged when you buy shares**

Your investment	Sales charge deducted as a % of offering price	Sales charge as a % of your net investment
Up to \$49,999	4.50%	4.70%
\$50,000 – \$99,999	4.00%	4.20%
\$100,000 – \$249,999	3.00%	3.10%
\$250,000 – \$499,999	2.50%	2.60%
\$500,000 – \$999,999	2.00%	2.00%
\$1 million or more*	0.00%	0.00%

\* A 1.00% CDSC may be charged on any shares sold within one year of purchase (except shares bought through dividend reinvestment).

Class A shares also carry an annual Rule 12b-1 fee of 0.25% of the class's average daily net assets.

**Class B – charged when you sell shares**

Years since purchase was made	CDSC as a % of your initial investment or your redemption (whichever is less)
Up to 2 years	4.00%
2 – 4 years	3.00%
4 – 5 years	2.00%
5 – 6 years	1.00%
More than 6 years	Shares will automatically convert to Class A

Class B shares also carry an annual Rule 12b-1 fee of 1.00% of the class's average daily net assets.

**Class C – charged when you sell shares**

A 1.00% CDSC is imposed on redemptions made within the first year of purchase. Class C shares also carry an annual Rule 12b-1 fee of 1.00% of the class's average daily net assets.

**Class R – no sales load or Rule 12b-1 fees**

Your financial representative may receive different compensation for selling one class of shares than for selling another class. It is important to remember that the CDSCs and Rule 12b-1 fees for Class B and Class C shares have the same purpose as the front-end sales charge on sales of Class A shares: to compensate the distributor for concessions and expenses it pays to dealers and financial institutions for selling shares.

## Reduced Class A sales charge

**Letter of intent:** lets you purchase Class A shares over a 13-month period at the same sales charge as if all shares had been purchased at once.

**Right of accumulation:** when calculating your sales charge on Class A shares, you may take into account the value of any shares you own in this fund or in certain other Dreyfus Premier Funds or Dreyfus Founders Funds. For any such right of accumulation to be made available, at the time of purchase you must provide sufficient information to permit the confirmation of qualification.

*Consult the Statement of Additional Information (SAI) or your financial representative for more details.*

## Buying shares

The **net asset value (NAV)** of each class is generally calculated as of the close of trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) (usually 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on days the exchange is open for regular business. Your order will be priced at the next NAV calculated after your order is accepted by the fund's transfer agent or other authorized entity. The fund's investments are generally valued by using available market quotations or at fair value, which may be determined by one or more pricing services approved by the fund's board. Foreign securities may trade on days when the fund does not calculate its NAV and thus may affect the fund's NAV on days when investors have no access to the fund.

**Orders to buy and sell shares** received by dealers by the close of trading on the NYSE and transmitted to the distributor or its designee by the close of its business day (normally 5:15 p.m. Eastern time) will be based on the NAV determined as of the close of trading on the NYSE that day.

### Minimum investments

	Initial	Additional
<b>Regular accounts</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$100; \$500</b> <i>for Dreyfus TeleTransfer investments</i>
<b>Traditional IRAs</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>no minimum</b>
<b>Spousal IRAs</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>no minimum</b>
<b>Roth IRAs</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>no minimum</b>
<b>Education Savings Accounts</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>no minimum</b> <i>after the first year</i>

All investments must be in U.S. dollars. Third-party checks cannot be accepted. You may be charged a fee for any check that does not clear. Maximum Dreyfus TeleTransfer purchase is \$150,000 per day.

## Concepts to understand

**Net asset value (NAV):** the market value of one share, computed by dividing the total net assets of a fund or class by its shares outstanding. The fund's Class A shares are offered to the public at NAV plus a sales charge. Classes B, C and R are offered at NAV, but Classes B and C generally are subject to higher annual operating expenses and a CDSC.

Selling shares

You may sell (redeem) shares at any time. Your shares will be sold at the next NAV calculated after your order is accepted by the fund’s transfer agent or other authorized entity. Any certificates representing fund shares being sold must be returned with your redemption request. Your order will be processed promptly and you will generally receive the proceeds within a week.

To keep your CDSC as low as possible, each time you request to sell shares we will first sell shares that are not subject to a CDSC, and then those subject to the lowest charge. The CDSC is based on the lesser of the original purchase cost or the current market value of the shares being sold, and is not charged on shares you acquired by reinvesting your dividends. Certain investors may qualify to have the CDSC waived. Consult your financial representative or refer to the SAI for details.

Before selling shares recently purchased by check, Dreyfus TeleTransfer or Automatic Asset Builder, please note that:

- if you send a written request to sell such shares, the fund may delay sending the proceeds for up to eight business days following the purchase of those shares
- the fund will not process wire, telephone, online or Dreyfus TeleTransfer redemption requests for up to eight business days following the purchase of those shares

Limitations on selling shares by phone or online		
Proceeds sent by	Minimum phone/online	Maximum phone/online
Check*	no minimum	\$250,000 per day
Wire	\$1,000	\$500,000 for joint accounts every 30 days / \$20,000 per day
Dreyfus TeleTransfer	\$500	\$500,000 for joint accounts every 30 days / \$20,000 per day

\* Not available online on accounts whose address has been changed within the last 30 days.

Small account policies

To offset the relatively higher costs of servicing smaller accounts, the fund charges regular accounts with balances below \$2,000 an annual fee of \$12. The fee will be imposed during the fourth quarter of each calendar year.

The fee will be waived for: any investor whose aggregate Dreyfus mutual fund investments total at least \$25,000; IRA accounts; Education Savings Accounts; accounts participating in automatic investment programs; and accounts opened through a financial institution.

If your account falls below \$500, the fund may ask you to increase your balance. If it is still below \$500 after 45 days, the fund may close your account and send you the proceeds.

## General policies

Unless you decline teleservice privileges on your application, the fund's transfer agent is authorized to act on telephone or online instructions from any person representing himself or herself to be you and reasonably believed by the transfer agent to be genuine. You may be responsible for any fraudulent telephone or online order as long as the transfer agent takes reasonable measures to confirm that instructions are genuine.

Excessive trading, short-term market timing or other abusive trading practices may disrupt portfolio management strategies and harm fund performance. Accordingly, the fund reserves the right to refuse any purchase or exchange request that could adversely affect the fund or its operations, including those from any individual or group who, in the fund's view, is likely to engage in excessive trading, short-term market timing or other abusive trading practices. Multiple accounts under common ownership or control may be considered as one account for purposes of determining a pattern of excessive trading, short-term market timing or other abusive trading practices. Transactions placed by suspected excessive traders may not be deemed accepted by the fund and may be cancelled or revoked by the fund on the next business day following receipt by the fund or its transfer agent. While the fund will take reasonable steps to prevent trading practices deemed to be harmful to the fund, it may not be able to identify such trading conducted through certain financial intermediaries or omnibus accounts.

The fund also reserves the right to:

- refuse any purchase or exchange request
- change or discontinue its exchange privilege, or temporarily suspend the privilege during unusual market conditions
- change its minimum investment amounts
- delay sending out proceeds for up to seven days (generally applies only in cases of very large redemptions, excessive trading or during unusual market conditions)
- "redeem in kind," or make payment in securities rather than cash, if the amount you are redeeming is large enough to affect fund operations (for example, if it exceeds 1% of the fund's assets)

## Written sell orders

Some circumstances require written sell orders along with signature guarantees. These include:

- amounts of \$10,000 or more on accounts whose address has been changed within the last 30 days
- requests to send the proceeds to a different payee or address

Written sell orders of \$100,000 or more must also be signature guaranteed.

**A signature guarantee** helps protect against fraud. You can obtain one from most banks or securities dealers, but not from a notary public. For joint accounts, each signature must be guaranteed. Please call us to ensure that your signature guarantee will be processed correctly.



## DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

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The fund earns dividends, interest and other income from its investments, and distributes this income (less expenses) to shareholders as dividends. The fund also realizes capital gains from its investments, and distributes these gains (less any losses) to shareholders as capital gain distributions. The fund normally pays dividends monthly and distributes capital gains annually. Fund dividends and capital gain distributions will be reinvested in the fund unless you instruct the fund otherwise. There are no fees or sales charges on reinvestments.

**Distributions paid by the fund** are subject to federal income tax, and may also be subject to state or local taxes (unless you are investing through a tax-advantaged retirement account). For federal tax purposes, in general, certain fund distributions, including interest income and distributions of short-term capital gains, are taxable to you as ordinary income. Other fund distributions, including dividends from U.S. companies and certain foreign companies and distributions of long-term capital gains, generally are taxable to you as qualified dividends and capital gains.

**High portfolio turnover** and more volatile markets can result in significant taxable distributions to shareholders, regardless of whether their shares have increased in value. The tax status of any distribution generally is the same regardless of how long you have been in the fund and whether you reinvest your distributions or take them in cash.

**If you buy shares when a fund has realized** but not yet distributed income or capital gains, you will be “buying a dividend” by paying the full price for the shares and then receiving a portion back in the form of a taxable distribution.

Your redemption of shares, including exchanges into other funds, may result in a capital gain or loss for tax purposes. A capital gain or loss on your investment in the fund generally is the difference between the cost of your shares and the amount you receive upon redemption.

The tax status of your distributions will be detailed in your annual tax statement from the fund. Because everyone’s tax situation is unique, please consult your tax advisor before investing.



## SERVICES FOR FUND INVESTORS

The third party through whom you purchased fund shares may impose different restrictions on these services and privileges offered by the fund, or may not make them available at all. Consult your financial representative for more information on the availability of these services and privileges.

### Automatic services

**Buying or selling shares automatically** is easy with the services described below. With each service, you select a schedule and amount, subject to certain restrictions. You can set up most of these services with your application, or by calling your financial representative or 1-800-554-4611.

#### For investing

<b>Dreyfus Automatic Asset Builder®</b>	For making automatic investments from a designated bank account.
<b>Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege</b>	For making automatic investments from your federal employment, Social Security or other regular federal government check.
<b>Dreyfus Dividend Sweep</b>	For automatically reinvesting the dividends and distributions from the fund into another Dreyfus fund or certain Founders-advised funds (not available for IRAs).

#### For exchanging shares

<b>Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege</b>	For making regular exchanges from the fund into another Dreyfus fund or certain Founders-advised funds.
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#### For selling shares

<b>Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan</b>	For making regular withdrawals from most Dreyfus funds. There will be no CDSC on Class B or Class C shares, as long as the amount of any withdrawal does not exceed on an annual basis 12% of the greater of the account value at the time of the first withdrawal under the plan, or at the time of the subsequent withdrawal.
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### Exchange privilege

**You can exchange shares worth \$500 or more** (no minimum for retirement accounts) from one class of the fund into the same class of another Dreyfus Premier fund or Founders-advised fund. You can request your exchange by contacting your financial representative. Be sure to read the current prospectus for any fund into which you are exchanging before investing. Any new account established through an exchange will generally have the same privileges as your original account (as long as they are available). There is currently no fee for exchanges, although you may be charged a sales load when exchanging into any fund that has a higher one.

### Dreyfus TeleTransfer privilege

To move money between your bank account and your Dreyfus fund account with a phone call or online, use the Dreyfus TeleTransfer privilege. You can set up Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your account by providing bank account information and following the instructions on your application, or contacting your financial representative.

### Reinvestment privilege

Upon written request, you can reinvest up to the number of Class A or B shares you redeemed within 45 days of selling them at the current share price without any sales charge. If you paid a CDSC, it will be credited back to your account. This privilege may be used only once.

### Account statements

Every fund investor automatically receives regular account statements. You'll also be sent a yearly statement detailing the tax characteristics of any dividends and distributions you have received.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGULAR ACCOUNTS

### TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT



#### In Writing

Complete the application.

Mail your application and a check to:

Name of Fund

P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502

Attn: Institutional Processing

### TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT

Fill out an investment slip, and write your account number on your check.

Mail the slip and the check to:

Name of Fund

P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502

Attn: Institutional Processing

### TO SELL SHARES

Write a letter of instruction that includes:

- your name(s) and signature(s)
- your account number
- the fund name
- the share class
- the dollar amount you want to sell
- how and where to send the proceeds

Obtain a signature guarantee or other documentation, if required (see "Account Policies – Selling Shares").

Mail your request to:

The Dreyfus Family of Funds

P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502

Attn: Institutional Processing



#### By Telephone

**Wire** Call us to request an account application and an account number. Have your bank send your investment to Mellon Trust of New England, N.A., with these instructions:

- ABA# 011001234
- DDA# 044350
- the fund name
- the share class
- your account number
- name(s) of investor(s)
- dealer number if applicable

Return your application with the account number on the application.

**Wire** Have your bank send your investment to Mellon Trust of New England, N.A., with these instructions:

- ABA# 011001234
- DDA# 044350
- the fund name
- the share class
- your account number
- name(s) of investor(s)
- dealer number if applicable

**Electronic check** Same as wire, but before your 14-digit account number insert "437" for Class A, "438" for Class B, "439" for Class C, or "440" for Class R.

**Dreyfus TeleTransfer** Request Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your application. Call us to request your transaction.

**Wire** Call us or your financial representative to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be wired to your bank.

**Dreyfus TeleTransfer** Call us or your financial representative to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be sent to your bank by electronic check.

**Check** Call us or your financial representative to request your transaction. A check will be sent to the address of record.

To open an account, make subsequent investments or to sell shares, please contact your financial representative or call toll free in the U.S. **1-800-554-4611**.

Make checks payable to: **The Dreyfus Family of Funds**.

### Concepts to understand




**Wire transfer:** for transferring money from one financial institution to another. Wiring is the fastest way to move money, although your bank may charge a fee to send or receive wire transfers. Wire redemptions are subject to a \$1,000 minimum.

**Electronic check:** for transferring money out of a bank account. Your transaction is entered electronically, but may take up to eight business days to clear. Electronic checks usually are available without a fee at all Automated Clearing House (ACH) banks.



TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT	TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT	TO SELL SHARES
<div></div> <div>Online (<a href="http://www.dreyfus.com">www.dreyfus.com</a>)</div>	<p><b>Dreyfus TeleTransfer</b> Request Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your application. Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction.</p>	<p><b>Wire</b> Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be wired to your bank.</p> <p><b>Dreyfus TeleTransfer</b> Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be sent to your bank by electronic check.</p> <p><b>Check</b> Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. A check will be sent to the address of record.</p>
<div></div> <div>Automatically</div> <p><b>With an initial investment</b> Indicate on your application which automatic service(s) you want. Return your application with your investment.</p>	<p><b>All services</b> Call us or your financial representative to request a form to add any automatic investing service (see "Services for Fund Investors"). Complete and return the form along with any other required materials.</p>	<p><b>Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan</b> Call us or your financial representative to request a form to add the plan. Complete the form, specifying the amount and frequency of withdrawals you would like.</p> <p>Be sure to maintain an account balance of \$5,000 or more.</p>

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR IRAS

TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT	TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT	TO SELL SHARES
 <p><b>In Writing</b></p> <p>Complete an IRA application, making sure to specify the fund name and to indicate the year the contribution is for.</p> <p>Mail your application and a check to: The Dreyfus Trust Company, Custodian P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568 Attn: Institutional Processing</p>	<p>Fill out an investment slip, and write your account number on your check. Indicate the year the contribution is for.</p> <p>Mail the slip and the check to: The Dreyfus Trust Company, Custodian P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568 Attn: Institutional Processing</p>	<p>Write a letter of instruction that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• your name and signature</li> <li>• your account number and fund name</li> <li>• the share class</li> <li>• the dollar amount you want to sell</li> <li>• how and where to send the proceeds</li> <li>• whether the distribution is qualified or premature</li> <li>• whether the 10% TEFRA should be withheld</li> </ul> <p>Obtain a signature guarantee or other documentation, if required (see "Account Policies – Selling Shares").</p> <p>Mail your request to: The Dreyfus Trust Company P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568 Attn: Institutional Processing</p>
 <p><b>By Telephone</b></p>	<p><b>Wire</b> Have your bank send your investment to Mellon Trust of New England, N.A., with these instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABA# 011001234</li> <li>• DDA# 044350</li> <li>• the fund name</li> <li>• the share class</li> <li>• your account number</li> <li>• name of investor</li> <li>• the contribution year</li> <li>• dealer number if applicable</li> </ul> <p><b>Electronic check</b> Same as wire, but before your 14-digit account number insert "437" for Class A, "438" for Class B, "439" for Class C, or "440" for Class R.</p>	
 <p><b>Automatically</b></p>	<p><b>All services</b> Call us or your financial representative to request a form to add any automatic investing service (see "Services for Fund Investors"). Complete and return the form along with any other required materials. All contributions will count as current year.</p>	<p><b>Systematic Withdrawal Plan</b> Call us to request instructions to establish the plan.</p>

For information and assistance, contact your financial representative or call toll free in the U.S. **1-800-554-4611**. Make checks payable to: **The Dreyfus Trust Company, Custodian.**



# For More Information

## **Dreyfus Premier Managed Income Fund**

A series of The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds Trust

SEC file number: 811-5240

More information on this fund is available free upon request, including the following:

### **Annual/Semiannual Report**

Describes the fund's performance, lists portfolio holdings and contains a letter from the fund's manager discussing recent market conditions, economic trends and fund strategies that significantly affected the fund's performance during the last fiscal year.

### **Statement of Additional Information (SAI)**

Provides more details about the fund and its policies. A current SAI is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and is incorporated by reference (is legally considered part of this prospectus).

To obtain information:

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**By telephone**

Call your financial representative or 1-800-554-4611

**By mail** Write to:

The Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds  
144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard  
Uniondale, NY 11556-0144

**On the Internet** Text-only versions of certain fund documents can be viewed online or downloaded from:  
<http://www.sec.gov>

You can also obtain copies, after paying a duplicating fee, by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC (for information, call 1-202-942-8090) or by E-mail request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov), or by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, DC 20549-0102.

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**DREYFUS PREMIER CORE VALUE FUND**  
**CLASS A, CLASS B, CLASS C, CLASS R, CLASS T AND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES**  
**PART B**  
**(STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)**  
**MAY 1, 2004**

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This Statement of Additional Information, which is not a prospectus, supplements and should be read in conjunction with the current Prospectus of Dreyfus Premier Core Value Fund (the "Fund"), dated May 1, 2004, as it may be revised from time to time. The Fund is a separate, diversified portfolio of The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds Trust (the "Trust"), an open-end management investment company, known as a mutual fund, that is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). To obtain a copy of the Fund's Prospectus, please call your financial adviser, write to the Fund at 144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard, Uniondale, New York 11556-0144, visit the Dreyfus.com website, or call one of the following numbers:

Call Toll Free 1-800-554-4611 for Class A, B, C, R or T shares,  
or 1-800-645-6561 for Institutional shares  
In New York City -- Call 1-718-895-1206  
Outside the U.S. -- Call 516-794-5452

The financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 including notes to the financial statements and supplementary information and the Independent Auditors' Report, are included in the Annual Report to Shareholders. A copy of the Annual Report accompanies this Statement of Additional Information. The financial statements included in the Annual Report, and the Independent Auditors' Report thereon contained therein, and related notes, are incorporated herein by reference.

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND/TRUST

The Trust was organized as a business trust under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on March 30, 1979. The Trust is an open-end management investment company comprised of separate portfolios, including the Fund, each of which is treated as a separate fund. The Fund is diversified, which means that, with respect to 75% of its total assets, the Fund will not invest more than 5% of its assets in the securities of any single issuer, nor hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any single issuer (other than, in each case, securities of other investment companies, and securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities).

The Dreyfus Corporation ("Dreyfus") serves as the Fund's investment adviser.

Dreyfus Service Corporation (the "Distributor") is the distributor of the Fund's shares.

### Certain Portfolio Securities

The following information regarding the securities that the Fund may purchase supplements that found in the Fund's Prospectus.

Equity Securities. Equity securities, including common stock, preferred stock, convertible securities and warrants, fluctuate in value, often based on factors unrelated to the value of the issuer of the securities, and such fluctuations can be pronounced. Changes in the value of the Fund's investments will result in changes in the value of its shares and thus the Fund's total return to investors. Although the Fund focuses on "blue chip" companies, it may invest in securities issued by companies in the technology sector, which has been among the most volatile sectors of the market. Technology companies involve greater risk because their revenues and earnings tend to be less predictable (and some companies may be experiencing significant losses) and their share prices tend to be more volatile. Certain technology companies may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources, or may depend on a limited management group. In addition, these companies are strongly affected by worldwide technological developments, and their products and services may not be economically successful or may quickly become outdated. Investor perception may play a greater role in determining the day-to-day value of technology stocks than it does in other sectors. Fund investments made in anticipation of future products and services may decline dramatically in value if the anticipated products or services are delayed or cancelled.

Preferred Stock. The Fund may purchase preferred stock, which is a class of capital stock that typically pays dividends at a specified rate. Preferred stock is generally senior to common stock, but subordinate to debt securities, with respect to the payment of dividends and on liquidation of the issuer. In general, the market value of preferred stock is its "investment value," or its value as a fixed-income security. Accordingly, the market value of preferred stock generally increases when interest rates decline and decreases when interest rates rise, but, as with debt securities, is also affected by the issuer's ability to make payments on the preferred stock. While most preferred stocks pay a dividend, the Fund may purchase preferred stock where the issuer has omitted, or is in danger of omitting, payment of its dividend. Such investments would be made primarily for their capital appreciation potential.

Convertible Securities. The Fund may purchase convertible securities. Convertible securities may be converted at either a stated price or stated rate into underlying shares of common stock.

Convertible securities have characteristics similar to both fixed-income and equity securities. Convertible securities generally are subordinated to other similar but non-convertible securities of the same issuer, although convertible bonds, as corporate debt obligations, enjoy seniority in right of payment to all equity securities, and convertible preferred stock is senior to common stock, of the same issuer. Because of the subordination feature, however, convertible securities typically have lower ratings than similar non-convertible securities.

Although to a lesser extent than with fixed-income securities, the market value of convertible securities tends to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, tends to increase as interest rates decline. In addition, because of the conversion feature, the market value of convertible securities tends to vary with fluctuations in the market value of the underlying common stock. A unique feature of convertible securities is that as the market price of the underlying common stock declines, convertible securities tend to trade increasingly on a yield basis, and so may not experience market value declines to the same extent as the underlying common stock. When the market price of the underlying common stock increases, the prices of the convertible securities tend to rise as a reflection of the value of the underlying common stock. While no securities investments are without risk, investments in convertible securities generally entail less risk than investments in common stock of the same issuer.

Convertible securities provide for a stable stream of income with generally higher yields than common stocks, but there can be no assurance of current income because the issuers of the convertible securities may default on their obligations. A convertible security, in addition to providing fixed income, offers the potential for capital appreciation through the conversion feature, which enables the holder to benefit from increases in the market price of the underlying common stock. There can be no assurance of capital appreciation, however, because securities prices fluctuate. Convertible securities generally offer lower interest or dividend yields than non-convertible securities of similar quality because of the potential for capital appreciation.

Warrants. A warrant is a form of derivative that gives the holder the right to subscribe to a specified amount of the issuing corporation's capital stock at a set price for a specified period of time. The Fund may invest up to 5% of its net assets in warrants, except that this limitation does not apply to warrants purchased by the Fund that are sold in units with, or attached to, other securities.

Initial Public Offerings ("IPOs"). The Fund may invest in stock issued in an IPO, a corporation's first offering of stock to the public. Shares are given a market value reflecting expectations for the corporation's future growth. Special rules of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") apply to the distribution of IPOs. Corporations offering IPOs generally have a limited operating history and may involve greater risk. The prices of these companies' securities may be very volatile, rising and falling rapidly, sometimes based solely on investor perceptions rather than economic reasons.

American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs") and New York Shares. The Fund may invest in U.S. dollar-denominated ADRs and New York shares. ADRs typically are issued by an American bank or trust company and evidence ownership of underlying securities issued by foreign companies. New York Shares are securities of foreign companies that are issued for trading in the United States. ADRs and New York Shares are traded in the United States on national securities exchanges or in the over-the-counter market. Investment in securities of foreign issuers presents certain risks, including those resulting from adverse political and economic developments and the imposition of foreign governmental laws or restrictions. See "Foreign Securities."



Other Investment Companies. The Fund may invest in securities issued by other investment companies. Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), the Fund's investment in such securities, subject to certain exceptions, currently is limited to (i) 3% of the total voting stock of any one investment company, (ii) 5% of the Fund's total assets with respect to any one investment company and (iii) 10% of the Fund's total assets in the aggregate. As a shareholder of another investment company, the Fund would bear, along with other shareholders, its pro rata portion of the other investment company's expenses, including advisory fees. These expenses would be in addition to the advisory and other expenses that the Fund bears directly in connection with its own operations. The Fund also may invest its uninvested cash reserves, or cash it receives as collateral from borrowers of its portfolio securities in connection with the Fund's securities lending program, in shares of one or more money market funds advised by Dreyfus. Such investments will not be subject to the limitations described above, except that the Fund's aggregate investment of uninvested cash reserves in such money market funds may not exceed 25% of its total assets. See "Loans of Fund Securities."

U.S. Government Securities. The Fund may invest in U.S. Government securities that are direct obligations of the U.S. Treasury, or that are issued by agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. Government and supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. These include Treasury notes, bills and bonds and securities issued by the Government National Mortgage Association ("GNMA"), the Federal Housing Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Export-Import Bank, the Farmers Home Administration, the General Services Administration, the Maritime Administration and the Small Business Administration.

The Fund may also invest in U.S. Government securities that are not supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. These include securities issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA"), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("FHLMC"), Federal Home Loan Banks, Tennessee Valley Authority, Student Loan Marketing Association and District of Columbia Armory Board. Because the U.S. Government is not obligated by law to provide support to an instrumentality it sponsors, the Fund will invest in obligations issued by such an instrumentality only when Dreyfus determines that the credit risk with respect to the instrumentality does not make its securities unsuitable for investment by the Fund.

GNMA Certificates are mortgage-backed securities representing part ownership of a pool of mortgage loans. These loans are made by mortgage bankers, commercial banks, savings and loan associations, and other lenders and are either insured by the Federal Housing Administration or guaranteed by the Veterans Administration. A "pool" or group of such mortgages is assembled and, after being approved by GNMA, is offered to investors through securities dealers. Once approved by GNMA, the timely payment of interest and principal on each mortgage is guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. Although the mortgage loans in a pool underlying a GNMA Certificate will have maturities of up to 30 years, the average life of a GNMA Certificate will be substantially less because the mortgages will be subject to normal principal amortization and also may be prepaid prior to maturity. Prepayment rates vary widely and may be affected by changes in mortgage interest rates. In periods of falling interest rates, the rate of prepayment on higher interest mortgage rates tends to increase, thereby shortening the actual average life of the GNMA Certificate. Conversely, when interest rates are rising, the rate of prepayment tends to decrease, thereby lengthening the average life of the GNMA Certificates. Reinvestment of prepayments may occur at higher or lower rates than the original yield of the Certificates. Due to the prepayment feature and the need to reinvest prepayments of principal at current rates, GNMA

Certificates, with underlying mortgages bearing higher interest rates can be less effective than typical non-callable bonds of similar maturities at locking in yields during periods of declining interest rates, although they may have comparable risks of decline in value during periods of rising interest rates.

FNMA and FHLMC are Government-sponsored corporations owned entirely by private stockholders. Each is subject to general regulation by an office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. FNMA and FHLMC purchase residential mortgages from a list of approved sellers/services which include state and federally-chartered savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, commercial banks and credit unions and mortgage bankers. Pass-through securities issued by FNMA and FHLMC are guaranteed by those entities as to payment of principal and interest.

Bank Obligations. The Fund is permitted to invest in high-quality, short-term money market instruments. The Fund may invest temporarily, and without limitation in bank certificates of deposit, time deposits, and bankers' acceptances when, in Dreyfus' opinion, a "defensive" investment posture is warranted.

Certificates of deposit ("CDs") are short-term negotiable obligations of commercial banks; time deposits ("TDs") are non-negotiable deposits maintained in banking institutions for specified periods of time at stated interest rates; and bankers' acceptances are time drafts drawn on commercial banks by borrowers, usually in connection with international transactions. Domestic commercial banks organized under Federal law are supervised and examined by the Comptroller of the Currency and are required to be members of the Federal Reserve System and to be insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC"). Domestic banks organized under state law are supervised and examined by state banking authorities but are members of the Federal Reserve System only if they elect to join. In addition, all banks whose CDs may be purchased by the Fund are insured by the FDIC and are subject to Federal examination and to a substantial body of Federal law and regulation. As a result of governmental regulations, domestic branches of foreign banks are, among other things, generally required to maintain specified levels of reserves, and are subject to other supervision and regulations designed to promote financial soundness.

Obligations of foreign branches of domestic banks, such as CDs and TDs, may be general obligations of the parent bank in addition to the issuing branch, or may be limited by the terms of a specific obligation and by governmental regulations. Payment of interest and principal upon obligations of foreign banks and foreign branches of domestic banks may be affected by governmental action in the country of domicile of the branch (generally referred to as sovereign risk). Examples of such action would be the imposition of currency controls, interest limitations, seizure of assets, or the declaration of a moratorium. Evidence of ownership of portfolio securities may be held outside of the United States, and the Fund may be subject to the risks associated with the holdings of such property overseas.

Obligations of domestic branches of foreign banks may be general obligations of the parent bank in addition to the issuing branch, or may be limited by the terms of a specific obligation and by Federal and state regulation as well as by governmental action in the countries in which the foreign bank has its head office. In addition, there may be less publicly available information about a domestic branch of a foreign bank than about a domestic bank.

Low-Rated Securities. The Fund may invest in low-rated and comparable unrated securities (collectively referred to in this discussion as "low-rated" securities). Low-rated securities will likely have some quality and protective characteristics that, in the judgment of the rating organization, are outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposures to adverse conditions. Low-rated securities are predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation. While the market values of low-rated securities tend to react less to fluctuations in interest rate levels than the market values of higher-rated securities, the market values of certain low-rated securities tend to be more sensitive to individual corporate developments and changes in economic conditions than higher-rated securities. In addition, low-rated securities generally present a higher degree of credit risk. Issuers of low-rated securities are often highly leveraged and may not have more traditional methods of financing available to them so that their ability to service their debt obligations during an economic downturn or during sustained periods of rising interest rates may be impaired. The risk of loss due to default by such issuers is significantly greater because low-rated securities generally are unsecured and frequently are subordinated to the prior payment of senior indebtedness. The Fund may incur additional expenses to the extent that it is required to seek recovery upon a default in the payment of principal or interest on its portfolio holdings. The existence of limited markets for low-rated securities may diminish the Fund's ability to obtain accurate market quotations for purposes of valuing such securities and calculating its net asset value ("NAV").

The ratings of the various nationally recognized statistical rating organizations ("NRSROs"), such as Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. ("S&P"), and Fitch Ratings ("Fitch"), generally represent the opinions of those organizations as to the quality of the securities that they rate. Such ratings, however, are relative and subjective, are not absolute standards of quality and do not evaluate the market risk of the securities. Although Dreyfus uses these ratings as a criterion for the selection of securities for the Fund, Dreyfus also relies on its independent analysis to evaluate potential investments for the Fund. The Fund's achievement of its investment objective may be more dependent on Dreyfus' credit analysis of low-rated securities than would be the case for a portfolio of higher-rated securities.

Subsequent to its purchase by the Fund, an issue of securities may cease to be rated or its rating may be reduced below the minimum required for purchase by the Fund. In addition, it is possible that an NRSRO might not timely change its ratings of a particular issue to reflect subsequent events. None of these events will require the sale of the securities by the Fund, although Dreyfus will consider these events in determining whether the Fund should continue to hold the securities. To the extent that the ratings given by an NRSRO for securities may change as a result of changes in the rating systems or due to a corporate reorganization of the NRSRO, the Fund will attempt to use comparable ratings as standards for its investments in accordance with the investment objective and policies of the Fund. The Appendix to this Statement of Additional Information describes the ratings used by Moody's, S&P and Fitch.

The Fund may invest in these securities when their issuers will be close to, or already have entered, reorganization proceedings. As a result, it is expected that at or shortly after the time of acquisition by the Fund, these securities will have ceased to meet their interest payment obligations, and accordingly would trade in much the same manner as an equity security. Consequently, the Fund intends to make such investments on the basis of potential appreciation in the price of these securities, rather than any expectation of realizing income. Reorganization entails a complete change in the structure of a business entity. An attempted reorganization may be unsuccessful,

resulting in substantial or total loss of amounts invested. If reorganization is successful, the value of securities of the restructured entity may depend on numerous factors, including the structure of the reorganization, the market success of the entity's products or services, the entity's management, and the overall strength of the marketplace.

Repurchase Agreements. The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements with U.S. Government securities dealers recognized by the Federal Reserve Board, with member banks of the Federal Reserve System, or with other brokers or dealers that meet the Fund's credit guidelines. This technique offers a method of earning income on idle cash. In a repurchase agreement, the Fund buys a security from a seller that has agreed to repurchase the same security at a mutually agreed upon date and price. The Fund's resale price will be in excess of the purchase price, reflecting an agreed upon interest rate. This interest rate is effective for the period of time the Fund is invested in the agreement and is not related to the coupon rate on the underlying security. Repurchase agreements may also be viewed as a fully collateralized loan of money by the Fund to the seller. The period of these repurchase agreements will usually be short, from overnight to one week, and at no time will the Fund invest in repurchase agreements for more than one year. The Fund will always receive as collateral securities whose market value including accrued interest is, and during the entire term of the agreement remains, at least equal to 100% of the dollar amount invested by the Fund in each agreement, including interest, and the Fund will make payment for such securities only upon physical delivery or upon evidence of book entry transfer to the account of the custodian. If the seller defaults, the Fund might incur a loss if the value of the collateral securing the repurchase agreement declines and might incur disposition costs in connection with liquidating the collateral. In addition, if bankruptcy proceedings are commenced with respect to the seller of a security which is the subject of a repurchase agreement, realization upon the collateral by the Fund may be delayed or limited. The Fund seeks to minimize the risk of loss through repurchase agreements by analyzing the creditworthiness of the obligors under repurchase agreements, in accordance with the Fund's credit guidelines.

Commercial Paper. The Fund may invest in commercial paper. These instruments are short-term obligations issued by banks and corporations that have maturities ranging from two to 270 days. Each instrument may be backed only by the credit of the issuer or may be backed by some form of credit enhancement, typically in the form of a guarantee by a commercial bank. Commercial paper backed by guarantees of foreign banks may involve additional risk due to the difficulty of obtaining and enforcing judgments against such banks and the generally less restrictive regulations to which such banks are subject. For a description of commercial paper ratings, see the Appendix.

Foreign Securities. The Fund may purchase securities of foreign issuers and may invest in foreign currencies and obligations of foreign branches of domestic banks and domestic branches of foreign banks. Investment in foreign securities presents certain risks, including those resulting from fluctuations in currency exchange rates, revaluation of currencies, adverse political and economic developments and the possible imposition of currency exchange blockages or other foreign governmental laws or restrictions, reduced availability of public information concerning issuers and the fact that foreign issuers are not generally subject to uniform accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards or to other regulatory practices and requirements comparable to those applicable to domestic issuers. Moreover, securities of many foreign issuers may be less liquid and their prices more volatile than those of comparable domestic issuers. In addition, with respect to certain foreign countries, there is the possibility of expropriation, confiscatory taxation and limitations on the use or removal of funds or other assets of the Fund including withholding dividends. Foreign

securities may be subject to foreign government taxes that would reduce the return on such securities. Foreign securities held by the Fund may trade on days that the Fund is not open for business, thus affecting the value of the Fund's assets on days when Fund shareholders may not be able to buy or sell Fund shares.

**Illiquid Securities.** The Fund will not invest more than 15% of the value of its net assets in illiquid securities, including time deposits and repurchase agreements having maturities longer than seven days. Securities that have readily available market quotations are not deemed illiquid for purposes of this limitation (irrespective of any legal or contractual restrictions on resale.) The Fund may invest in commercial obligations issued in reliance on the so-called "private placement" exemption from registration afforded by Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("Section 4(2) paper"). The Fund may also purchase securities that are not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, but that can be sold to qualified institutional buyers in accordance with Rule 144A under that Act ("Rule 144A securities"). Liquidity determinations with respect to Section 4(2) paper and Rule 144A securities will be made by the Trust's Board of Trustees (the "Board" or "Trustees" or "Board of Trustees") or by Dreyfus pursuant to guidelines established by the Board of Trustees. The Board or Dreyfus will consider availability of reliable price information and other relevant information in making such determinations. Section 4(2) paper is restricted as to disposition under the federal securities laws, and generally is sold to institutional investors, such as the Fund, that agree that they are purchasing the paper for investment and not with a view to public distribution. Any resale by the purchaser must be pursuant to registration or an exemption therefrom. Section 4(2) paper normally is resold to other institutional investors like the Fund through or with the assistance of the issuer or investment dealers who make a market in the Section 4(2) paper, thus providing liquidity. Rule 144A securities generally must be sold to other qualified institutional buyers. If a particular investment in Section 4(2) paper or Rule 144A securities is not determined to be liquid, that investment will be included within the percentage limitation on investment in illiquid securities. The ability to sell Rule 144A securities to qualified institutional buyers is a recent development and it is not possible to predict how this market will mature. Investing in Rule 144A securities could have the effect of increasing the level of Fund illiquidity to the extent that qualified institutional buyers become, for a time, uninterested in purchasing these securities from the Fund or other holder.

### **Investment Techniques**

In addition to the principal investment strategies discussed in the Fund's Prospectus, the Fund also may engage in the investment techniques described below. The Fund might not use, or may not have the ability to use, any of these strategies and there can be no assurance that any strategy that is used will succeed.

**Borrowing.** The Fund is authorized, within specified limits, to borrow money for temporary administrative purposes and to pledge its assets in connection with such borrowings.

**Loans of Fund Securities.** The Fund may lend securities from its portfolio to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions needing to borrow securities to complete certain transactions. In connection with such loans, the Fund remains the owner of the loaned securities and continues to be entitled to payments in amounts equal to the interest, dividends or other distributions payable on the loaned securities. The Fund also has the right to terminate a loan at any time. The Fund may call the loan to vote proxies if a material issue affecting the Fund's investment is to be voted upon. Loans of portfolio securities may not exceed 33-1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets

(including the value of all assets received as collateral for the loan). The Fund will receive collateral consisting of cash, U.S. Government securities or irrevocable letters of credit which will be maintained at all times in an amount equal to at least 100% of the current market value of the loaned securities. If the collateral consists of a letter of credit or securities, the borrower will pay the Fund a loan premium fee. If the collateral consists of cash, the Fund will reinvest the cash and pay the borrower a pre-negotiated fee or "rebate" from any return earned on the investment. The Fund may participate in a securities lending program operated by Mellon Bank, N.A., as lending agent (the "Lending Agent"). The Lending Agent will receive a percentage of the total earnings of the Fund derived from lending its portfolio securities. Should the borrower of the securities fail financially, the Fund may experience delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising its rights in the collateral. Loans are made only to borrowers that are deemed by Dreyfus to be of good financial standing. In a loan transaction, the Fund will also bear the risk of any decline in value of securities acquired with cash collateral. The Fund will minimize this risk by limiting the investment of cash collateral to money market funds advised by Dreyfus, repurchase agreements or other high quality instruments with short maturities.

Derivative Instruments. The Fund may purchase and sell various financial instruments ("Derivative Instruments"), such as options on U.S. and foreign securities or indices of such securities. The index Derivative Instruments the Fund may use may be based on indices of U.S. or foreign equity securities. These Derivative Instruments may be used, for example, to preserve a return or spread or to facilitate or substitute for the sale or purchase of securities.

Hedging strategies can be broadly categorized as "short hedges" and "long hedges." A short hedge is a purchase or sale of a Derivative Instrument intended partially or fully to offset potential declines in the value of one or more investments held in the Fund's portfolio. Thus, in a short hedge the Fund takes a position in a Derivative Instrument whose price is expected to move in the opposite direction of the price of the investment being hedged.

Conversely, a long hedge is a purchase or sale of a Derivative Instrument intended partially or fully to offset potential increases in the acquisition cost of one or more investments that the Fund intends to acquire. Thus, in a long hedge the Fund takes a position in a Derivative Instrument whose price is expected to move in the same direction as the price of the prospective investment being hedged. A long hedge is sometimes referred to as an anticipatory hedge. In an anticipatory hedge transaction, the Fund does not own a corresponding security and, therefore, the transaction does not relate to a security the Fund owns. Rather, it relates to a security that the Fund intends to acquire. If the Fund does not complete the hedge by purchasing the security it anticipated purchasing, the effect on the Fund's portfolio is the same as if the transaction were entered into for speculative purposes.

Derivative Instruments on securities generally are used to hedge against price movements in one or more particular securities positions that the Fund owns or intends to acquire. Derivative Instruments on indices, in contrast, generally are used to attempt to hedge against price movements in market sectors in which the Fund has invested or expects to invest.

The use of Derivative Instruments is subject to applicable regulations of the SEC, the several options and futures exchanges upon which they are traded, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") and various state regulatory authorities. In addition, the Fund's ability to use Derivative Instruments may be limited by tax considerations. See "Dividends, Other Distributions and Taxes."

In addition to the instruments, strategies and risks described below and in the Prospectus, Dreyfus expects to discover additional opportunities in connection with other Derivative Instruments. These new opportunities may become available as Dreyfus develops new techniques, as regulatory authorities broaden the range of permitted transactions and as new techniques are developed. Dreyfus may utilize these opportunities to the extent that they are consistent with the Fund's investment objective, and permitted by the Fund's investment policies and applicable regulatory authorities.

Special Risks. The use of Derivative Instruments involves special considerations and risks, certain of which are described below. Risks pertaining to particular Derivative Instruments are described in the sections that follow.

(1) Successful use of most Derivative Instruments depends upon Dreyfus' ability not only to forecast the direction of price fluctuations of the investment involved in the transaction, but also to predict movements of the overall securities and interest rate markets, which requires different skills than predicting changes in the prices of individual securities. There can be no assurance that any particular strategy will succeed.

(2) There might be imperfect correlation, or even no correlation, between price movements of a Derivative Instrument and price movements of the investments being hedged. For example, if the value of a Derivative Instrument used in a short hedge increased by less than the decline in value of the hedged investment, the hedge would not be fully successful. Such a lack of correlation might occur due to factors unrelated to the value of the investments being hedged, such as speculative or other pressures on the markets in which Derivative Instruments are traded. The effectiveness of hedges using Derivative Instruments on indices will depend on the degree of correlation between price movements in the index and price movements in the securities being hedged.

Because there are a limited number of types of exchange-traded option contracts, it is likely that the standardized contracts available will not match the Fund's current or anticipated investments exactly. The Fund may invest in options contracts based on securities with different issuers, maturities, or other characteristics from the securities in which it typically invests, which involves a risk that the options position will not track the performance of the Fund's other investments.

Options prices can also diverge from the prices of their underlying instruments, even if the underlying instruments match the Fund's investments well. Options are affected by such factors as current and anticipated short-term interest rates, changes in volatility of the underlying instrument, and the time remaining until expiration of the contract, which may not affect security prices the same way. Imperfect correlation may also result from differing levels of demand in the options markets and the securities markets, from structural differences in how options and securities are traded, or from imposition of daily price fluctuation limits or trading halts. The Fund may purchase or sell options contracts with a greater or lesser value than the securities it wishes to hedge or intends to purchase in order to attempt to compensate for differences in volatility between the contract and the securities, although this may not be successful in all cases. If price changes in the Fund's options positions are poorly correlated with its other investments, the positions may fail to produce anticipated gains or result in losses that are not offset by gains in other investments.

(3) If successful, the above-discussed strategies can reduce risk of loss by wholly or partially offsetting the negative effect of unfavorable price movements. However, such strategies can also reduce opportunity for gain by offsetting the positive effect of favorable price movements. For example, if the Fund entered into a short hedge because Dreyfus projected a decline in the price of a security in the Fund's portfolio, and the price of that security increased instead, the gain from that increase might be wholly or partially offset by a decline in the price of the Derivative Instrument. Moreover, if the price of the Derivative Instrument declined by more than the increase in the price of the security, the Fund could suffer a loss. In either such case, the Fund would have been in a better position had it not attempted to hedge at all.

(4) As described below, the Fund might be required to maintain assets as "cover," maintain segregated accounts or make margin payments when it takes positions in Derivative Instruments involving obligations to third parties (*i.e.*, Derivative Instruments other than purchased options). If the Fund were unable to close out its positions in such Derivative Instruments, it might be required to continue to maintain such assets or accounts or make such payments until the position expired or matured. These requirements might impair the Fund's ability to sell a portfolio security or make an investment at a time when it would otherwise be favorable to do so, or require that the Fund sell a portfolio security at a disadvantageous time. The Fund's ability to close out a position in a Derivative Instrument prior to expiration or maturity depends on the existence of a liquid secondary market or, in the absence of such a market, the ability and willingness of the other party to the transaction ("counterparty") to enter into a transaction closing out the position. Therefore, there is no assurance that any position can be closed out at a time and price that is favorable to the Fund.

(5) The purchase and sale of Derivative Instruments could result in a loss if the counterparty to the transaction does not perform as expected and may increase portfolio turnover rates, which results in correspondingly greater commission expenses and transaction costs, and may result in certain tax consequences.

Cover for Derivative Instruments. Transactions using Derivative Instruments may expose the Fund to an obligation to another party. The Fund will not enter into any such transactions unless it owns either (1) an offsetting ("covered") position in securities, futures or options, or (2) permissible liquid assets with a value sufficient at all times to cover its potential obligations to the extent not covered as provided in (1) above. The Fund will comply with SEC guidelines regarding cover for Derivative Instruments and will, if the guidelines so require, segregate permissible liquid assets with its custodian in the prescribed amount.

Assets used as cover or segregated cannot be sold while the position in the corresponding Derivative Instrument is open, unless they are replaced with other appropriate assets. As a result, the commitment of a large portion of the Fund's assets to cover or segregated accounts could impede portfolio management or the Fund's ability to meet redemption requests or other current obligations.

Options. A call option gives the purchaser the right to buy, and obligates the writer to sell, the underlying investment at the agreed upon exercise price during the option period. A put option gives the purchaser the right to sell, and obligates the writer to buy, the underlying investment at the agreed upon exercise price during the option period. A purchaser of an option pays an amount, known as the premium, to the option writer in exchange for rights under the option contract.



Options on indices are similar to options on securities except that all settlements are in cash and gain or loss depends on changes in the index in question rather than on price movements in individual securities. The Fund may purchase and write exchange-listed put and call options on stock indices to hedge against risks of market-wide movements. A stock index measures the movement of a certain group of stocks by assigning relative values to the common stocks included in the index. The advisability of using stock index options to hedge against the risk of market-wide movements will depend on the extent of diversification of the Fund's stock instruments to factors influencing the underlying index. The effectiveness of purchasing or writing stock index options as a hedging technique will depend upon the extent to which price movements in the portion of the portfolio being hedged correlate with price movements in the stock index selected.

The purchase of call options can serve as a long hedge, and the purchase of put options can serve as a short hedge. Writing put or call options can enable the Fund to enhance income or yield by reason of the premiums paid by the purchasers of such options. However, if the market price of the security or other instrument underlying a put option declines to less than the exercise price on the option, minus the premium received, the Fund would expect to suffer a loss.

Writing call options can also serve as a limited short hedge because declines in the value of the hedged investment would be offset to the extent of the premium received for writing the option. However, if the investment appreciates to a price higher than the exercise price of the call option, it can be expected that the option will be exercised and the Fund will be obligated to sell the investment at less than its market value.

Writing put options can serve as a limited long hedge because increases in the value of the hedged investment would be offset to the extent of the premium received for writing the option. However, if the investment depreciates to a price lower than the exercise price of the put option, it can be expected that the put option will be exercised and the Fund will be obligated to purchase the investment at more than its market value unless the option is closed out in an offsetting transaction.

The value of an option position will reflect, among other things, the current market value of the underlying investment, the time remaining until expiration, the relationship of the exercise price to the market price of the underlying investment, the historical price volatility of the underlying investment and general market conditions. Options that expire unexercised have no value and the Fund would experience losses to the extent of premiums paid for them.

The Fund may effectively terminate its right or obligation under an option by entering into a closing transaction. For example, the Fund may terminate its obligation under a call or put option that it had written by purchasing an identical call or put option; this is known as a closing purchase transaction. Conversely, the Fund may terminate a position in a put or call option it had purchased by writing an identical put or call option; this is known as a closing sale transaction. Closing transactions permit the Fund to realize profits or limit losses on an option position prior to its exercise or expiration.

The Fund may purchase and sell both exchange-traded and over-the-counter ("OTC") options. Exchange-traded options in the United States are issued by a clearing organization that, in effect, guarantees completion of every exchange-traded option transaction. In contrast, OTC options are contracts between the Fund and its counterparty (usually a securities dealer or a bank) with no clearing organization guarantee. Thus, when the Fund purchases an OTC option, it relies on the counterparty from whom it purchased the option to make or take delivery of the underlying

investment upon exercise of the option. Failure by the counterparty to do so would result in the loss of any premium paid by the Fund as well as the loss of any expected benefit of the transaction. The Fund will enter into only those option contracts that are listed on a national securities or commodities exchange or traded in the OTC market for which there appears to be a liquid secondary market.

The Fund will not purchase or write OTC options if, as a result of such transaction, the sum of (i) the market value of outstanding OTC options purchased by the Fund, (ii) the market value of the underlying securities covered by outstanding OTC call options written by the Fund, and (iii) the market value of all other assets of the Fund that are illiquid or are not otherwise readily marketable, would exceed 15% of the net assets of the Fund, taken at market value. However, if an OTC option is sold by the Fund to a primary U.S. Government securities dealer recognized by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the Fund has the unconditional contractual right to repurchase such OTC option from the dealer at a predetermined price, then the Fund will treat as illiquid such amount of the underlying securities as is equal to the repurchase price less the amount by which the option is "in-the-money" (the difference between the current market value of the underlying securities and the price at which the option can be exercised). The repurchase price with primary dealers is typically a formula price that is generally based on a multiple of the premium received for the option plus the amount by which the option is "in-the-money."

The Fund's ability to establish and close out positions in exchange-listed options depends on the existence of a liquid market. However, there can be no assurance that such a market will exist at any particular time. Closing transactions can be made for OTC options only by negotiating directly with the counterparty, or by a transaction in the secondary market if any such market exists. Although the Fund will enter into OTC options only with major dealers in unlisted options, there is no assurance that the Fund will in fact be able to close out an OTC option position at a favorable price prior to expiration. In the event of insolvency of the counterparty, the Fund might be unable to close out an OTC option position at any time prior to its expiration.

If the Fund were unable to effect a closing transaction for an option it had purchased, it would have to exercise the option to realize any profit. The inability to enter into a closing purchase transaction for a covered call option written by the Fund could cause material losses because the Fund would be unable to sell the investment used as cover for the written option until the option expires or is exercised.

The Fund may write options on securities only if it covers the transaction through: an offsetting option with respect to the security underlying the option it has written, exercisable by it at a more favorable price; ownership of (in the case of a call) or a short position in (in the case of a put) the underlying security; or segregation of permissible liquid assets sufficient to cover its exposure.

Foreign Currency Strategies - Special Considerations. The Fund may use Derivative Instruments on foreign currencies to hedge against movements in the values of the foreign currencies in which the Fund's securities are denominated. Such currency hedges can protect against price movements in a security that the Fund owns or intends to acquire that are attributable to changes in the value of the currency in which it is denominated. Such hedges do not, however, protect against price movements in the securities that are attributable to other causes.

The Fund might seek to hedge against changes in the value of particular currency when no Derivative Instruments on that currency are available or such Derivative Instruments are more expensive than certain other Derivative Instruments. In such cases, the Fund may hedge against price movements in that currency by entering into transactions using Derivative Instruments on another currency or a basket of currencies, the values of which Dreyfus believes will have a high degree of positive correlation to the value of the currency being hedged. The risk that movements in the price of the Derivative Instrument will not correlate perfectly with movements in the price of the currency being hedged is magnified when this strategy is used.

The value of Derivative Instruments on foreign currencies depends on the value of the underlying currency relative to the U.S. dollar. Because foreign currency transactions occurring in the interbank market might involve substantially larger amounts than those involved in the use of foreign currency Derivative Instruments, the Fund could be disadvantaged by having to deal in the odd lot market (generally consisting of transactions of less than \$1 million) for the underlying foreign currencies at prices that are less favorable than for round lots.

There is no systematic reporting of last sale information for foreign currencies or any regulatory requirement that quotations available through dealers or other market sources be firm or revised on a timely basis. Quotation information generally is representative of very large transactions in the interbank market and thus might not reflect odd-lot transactions where rates might be less favorable. The interbank market in foreign currencies is a global, round-the-clock market.

Settlement of transactions involving foreign currencies might be required to take place within the country issuing the underlying currency. Thus, the Fund might be required to accept or make delivery of the underlying foreign currency in accordance with any U.S. or foreign regulations regarding the maintenance of foreign banking arrangements by U.S. residents and might be required to pay any fees, taxes and charges associated with such delivery assessed in the issuing country.

Forward Contracts. A forward foreign currency exchange contract ("forward contract") is a contract to purchase or sell a currency at a future date. The two parties to the contract set the number of days and the price. Forward contracts are used as a hedge against future movements in foreign exchange rates. The Fund may enter into forward contracts to purchase or sell foreign currencies for a fixed amount of U.S. dollars or other foreign currency.

Forward contracts may serve as long hedges -- for example, the Fund may purchase a forward contract to lock in the U.S. dollar price of a security denominated in a foreign currency that the Fund intends to acquire. Forward contracts may also serve as short hedges -- for example, the Fund may sell a forward contract to lock in the U.S. dollar equivalent of the proceeds from the anticipated sale of a security denominated in a foreign currency or from anticipated dividend or interest payments denominated in a foreign currency. Dreyfus may seek to hedge against changes in the value of a particular currency by using forward contracts on another foreign currency or basket of currencies, the value of which Dreyfus believes will bear a positive correlation to the value of the currency being hedged.

The cost to the Fund of engaging in forward contracts varies with factors such as the currency involved, the length of the contract period and the market conditions then prevailing. Because forward contracts are usually entered into a principal basis, no fees or commissions are involved. When the Fund enters into a forward contract, it relies on the counterparty to make or

take delivery of the underlying currency at the maturity of the contract. Failure by the counterparty to do so would result in the loss of any expected benefit of the transaction.

Buyers and sellers of forward contracts can enter into offsetting closing transactions by selling or purchasing, respectively, an instrument identical to the instrument purchased or sold. Secondary markets generally do not exist for forward contracts, with the result that closing transactions generally can be made for forward contracts only by negotiating directly with the counterparty. Thus, there can be no assurance that the Fund will in fact be able to close out a forward contract at a favorable price prior to maturity. In addition, in the event of insolvency of the counterparty, the Fund might be unable to close out a forward contract at any time prior to maturity. In either event, the Fund would continue to be subject to market risk with respect to the position, and would continue to be required to maintain a position in the securities or currencies that are the subject of the hedge or to segregate permissible liquid assets.

The precise matching of forward currency contract amounts and the value of the securities involved generally will not be possible because the value of such securities measured in the foreign currency will change after the forward contract has been established. Thus, the Fund might need to purchase or sell foreign currencies in the spot (cash) market to the extent such foreign currencies are not covered by forward contracts. The projection of short-term currency market movements is extremely difficult, and the successful execution of a short-term hedging strategy is highly uncertain.

Master/Feeder Option. The Trust may in the future seek to achieve the Fund's investment objective by investing all of the Fund's net investable assets in another investment company having the same investment objective and substantially the same investment policies and restrictions as those applicable to the Fund. Shareholders of the Fund will be given at least 30 days' prior notice of any such investment. Such investment would be made only if the Trustees determine it to be in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders. In making that determination, the Trustees will consider, among other things, the benefits to shareholders and/or the opportunity to reduce costs and achieve operational efficiencies. Although the Fund believes that the Trustees will not approve an arrangement that is likely to result in higher costs, no assurance is given that costs will be materially reduced if this option is implemented.

Certain Investments. From time to time, to the extent consistent with its investment objective, policies and restrictions, the Fund may invest in securities of companies with which Mellon Bank, N.A. ("Mellon Bank"), an affiliate of Dreyfus, has a lending relationship.

### Investment Restrictions

Fundamental. The following limitations have been adopted by the Fund. The Fund may not change any of these fundamental investment limitations without the consent of: (a) 67% or more of the shares present at a meeting of shareholders duly called if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund are present or represented by proxy; or (b) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund, whichever is less. The Fund may not:

1. Purchase any securities which would cause more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets at the time of such purchase to be invested in the securities of one or more issuers conducting their principal activities in the same industry. (For purposes of this limitation, U.S. Government securities, and state or municipal governments and their political subdivisions are

not considered members of any industry. In addition, this limitation does not apply to investments in domestic banks, including U.S. branches of foreign banks and foreign branches of U.S. banks).

2. Borrow money or issue senior securities as defined in the 1940 Act, except that (a) the Fund may borrow money in an amount not exceeding one-third of the Fund's total assets at the time of such borrowings, and (b) the Fund may issue multiple classes of shares. The purchase or sale of futures contracts and related options shall not be considered to involve the borrowing of money or issuance of senior securities.

3. Purchase with respect to 75% of the Fund's total assets securities of any one issuer (other than securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities) if, as a result, (a) more than 5% of the Fund's total assets would be invested in the securities of that issuer, or (b) the Fund would hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of that issuer.

4. Make loans or lend securities, if as a result thereof more than one-third of the Fund's total assets would be subject to all such loans. For purposes of this limitation, debt instruments and repurchase agreements shall not be treated as loans.

5. Purchase or sell real estate, unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments (but this shall not prevent the Fund from investing in securities or other instruments backed by real estate, including mortgage loans, or securities of companies that engage in real estate business or invest or deal in real estate or interests therein).

6. Underwrite securities issued by any other person, except to the extent that the purchase of securities and later disposition of such securities in accordance with the Fund's investment program may be deemed an underwriting.

7. Purchase or sell commodities, except that the Fund may enter into futures contracts and related options, forward currency contracts and other similar instruments.

The Fund may, notwithstanding any other fundamental investment policy or limitation, invest all of its investable assets in securities of a single open-end management investment company with substantially the same investment objective, policies and limitations as the Fund.

*Nonfundamental.* Under normal circumstances, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes, in equity securities (or other investments with similar economic characteristics). The Fund has adopted a policy to provide its shareholders with at least 60 days' prior notice of any change in its policy to so invest 80% of its assets. The Fund has also adopted the following additional non-fundamental investment restrictions. These non-fundamental restrictions may be changed without shareholder approval, in compliance with applicable law and regulatory policy.

1. The Fund shall not sell securities short, unless it owns or has the right to obtain securities equivalent in kind and amounts to the securities sold short, and provided that transactions in futures contracts and options are not deemed to constitute selling short.

2. The Fund shall not purchase securities on margin, except that the Fund may obtain such short-term credits as are necessary for the clearance of transactions, and provided that margin

payments in connection with futures contracts and options shall not constitute purchasing securities on margin.

3. The Fund shall not purchase oil, gas or mineral leases (the Fund may, however, purchase and sell the securities of companies engaging in the exploration, development, production, refining, transportation, and marketing of oil, gas, or minerals.)

4. The Fund will not purchase or retain the securities of any issuer if the officers, Trustees of the Fund, its advisers, or managers, owning beneficially more than one half of one percent of the securities of such issuer, together own beneficially more than 5% of such securities.

5. The Fund will not purchase securities of issuers (other than securities issued or guaranteed by domestic or foreign governments or political subdivisions thereof), including their predecessors, that have been in operation for less than three years, if by reason thereof, the value of the Fund's investment in such securities would exceed 5% of the Fund's total assets. For purposes of this limitation, sponsors, general partners, guarantors and originators of underlying assets may be treated as the issuer of a security.

6. The Fund will invest no more than 15% of the value of its net assets in illiquid securities, including repurchase agreements with remaining maturities in excess of seven days, time deposits with maturities in excess of seven days and other securities which are not readily marketable. For purposes of this limitation, illiquid securities shall not include Section 4(2) paper and securities which may be resold under Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, provided that the Board of Trustees, or its delegate, determines that such securities are liquid based upon the trading markets for the specific security.

7. The Fund may not invest in securities of other investment companies, except to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act.

8. The Fund shall not purchase any security while borrowings representing more than 5% of the Fund's total assets are outstanding.

9. The Fund will not purchase warrants if at the time of such purchase: (a) more than 5% of the value of the Fund's assets would be invested in warrants, or (b) more than 2% of the value of the Fund's assets would be invested in warrants that are not listed on the New York or American Stock Exchange (for purposes of this undertaking, warrants acquired by the Fund in units or attached to securities will be deemed to have no value).

10. The Fund will not purchase puts, calls, straddles, spreads and any combination thereof if by reason thereof the value of its aggregate investment in such classes of securities will exceed 5% of its total assets except that: (a) this limitation shall not apply to standby commitments, and (b) this limitation shall not apply to the Fund's transactions in futures contracts and options.

As an operating policy, the Fund will not invest more than 25% of the value of its total assets, at the time of such purchase in domestic banks, including U.S. branches of foreign banks and foreign branches of U.S. banks. The Board of Trustees may change this operating policy without shareholder approval. Notice will be given to shareholders if this operating policy is changed by the Board.

If a percentage restriction is adhered to at the time of an investment, a later change in such percentage resulting from a change in the values of assets will not constitute a violation of such restriction. With respect to Fundamental Investment Restriction No. 2, however, if borrowings exceed 33-1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets as a result of a change in values or assets, the Fund must take steps to reduce such borrowings at least to the extent of such excess.

The Trust and Dreyfus have received an exemptive order from the SEC which, among other things, permits the Fund to use cash collateral received in connection with lending the Fund's securities and other uninvested cash to purchase shares of one or more registered money market funds advised by Dreyfus in excess of the limitations imposed by the 1940 Act.

If the Fund's investment objective, policies, restrictions, practices or procedures change, shareholders should consider whether the Fund remains an appropriate investment in light of the shareholder's then-current position and needs.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND/TRUST

The Board is responsible for the management and supervision of the Fund, and approves all significant agreements with those companies that furnish services to the Fund. These companies are as follows:

The Dreyfus Corporation .....	Investment Adviser
Dreyfus Service Corporation .....	Distributor
Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. ....	Transfer Agent
Mellon Bank, N.A. ....	Custodian

### Trustees of the Trust\*

Trustees of the Trust, together with information as to their positions with the Trust, principal occupations and other board memberships and affiliations, are shown below. Each of the Trustees also serves as a Director of The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds, Inc. and as a Trustee of The Dreyfus/Laurel Tax-Free Municipal Funds (collectively, with the Trust, the "Dreyfus/Laurel Funds") and Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund.

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\* Name of the Trustees are "interested persons" of the Trust, as defined in the 1940 Act.

<u>Name (Age)</u> <u>Position with Trust (Since)</u>	<u>Principal Occupation</u> <u>During Past 5 Years</u>	<u>Other Board Memberships and Affiliations</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino (61) Chairman of the Board (1999)	Corporate Director and Trustee	The Muscular Dystrophy Association, Director Levor International, Inc., an apparel fabric processor, Director Century Business Services, Inc., a provider of outsourcing functions for small and medium sized companies, Director The Newark Group, a provider of a national market of paper recovery facilities, paperboard mills and paperboard converting plants, Director
James Fitzgibbons (69) Board Member (1994)	Chairman of the Board, Davidson Cotton Company (1998-2002)	Howes Leather Corporation, Director
J. Tomlinson Fort (75) Board Member (1994)	Retired: Of Counsel, Reed Smith LLP (1998 – January 2003)	Allegheny College, Trustee Pittsburgh Ballet, Trustee American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow
Kenneth A. Himmel (57) Board Member (1988)	President and CEO, Related Urban Development, a real estate development company (1996-Present)  President and CEO, Himmel & Company, a real estate development company (1980-Present)  CEO, American Food Management, a restaurant company (1983-Present)	-
Stephen J. Lockwood (56) Board Member (1993)	Chairman of the Board, Stephen J. Lockwood and Company LLC, an investment company (2000 - Present)  Chairman of the Board and CEO, LDG Reinsurance Corporation (1977-2000)	BDML Holdings, an insurance company, Chairman of the Board Affiliated Managers Group, an investment management company, Director
Roslyn Watson (54) Board Member (1992)	Principal, Watson Ventures, Inc., a real estate investment company (1993 - Present)	American Express Centurion Bank, Director The Hyams Foundation Inc., a Massachusetts Charitable Foundation, Trustee National Osteoporosis Foundation, Trustee
Benaree Pratt Wiley (57) Board Member (1998)	President and CEO of The Partnership, an organization dedicated to increasing the representation of African Americans in positions of leadership, influence and decision-making in Boston, MA (1991 - Present)	Boston College, Trustee The Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Director The First Albany Companies, Inc., an investment bank, Director Mass Development, Director Commonwealth Institute, Director Efficacy Institute, Director PepsiCo Africa - America, Advisory Board



Board members are elected to serve for an indefinite term. The Trust has standing audit, nominating and compensation committees, each comprised of its Board members who are not "interested persons" of the Trust, as defined in the 1940 Act. The function of the audit committee is to oversee the Trust's financial and reporting policies and certain internal control matters; the function of the nominating committee is to select and nominate all candidates who are not "interested persons" of the Trust for election to the Board; and the function of the compensation committee is to establish the appropriate compensation for serving on the Board. The nominating committee does not normally consider nominees recommended by shareholders. The Trust also has a standing pricing committee comprised of any one Board member. The function of the pricing committee is to assist in valuing the Fund's investments. The audit committee met twice during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003. The nominating, compensation and pricing committees had no meetings during the last fiscal year.

The table below indicates the dollar range of each Board member's ownership of Fund shares and shares of other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which he or she is a Board member, in each case as of December 31, 2003.

<u>Name of Board Member</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Aggregate Holding of Funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which Responsible as a Board Member</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino	None	Over \$100,000
James Fitzgibbons	\$10,001 - \$50,000	Over \$100,000
J. Tomlinson Fort	None	\$10,001 - \$50,000
Kenneth A. Himmel	None	None
Stephen J. Lockwood	None	None
Roslyn Watson	None	None
Benaree Pratt Wiley	None	None

As of December 31, 2003, none of the Board members or their immediate family members owned securities of Dreyfus, the Distributor or any other person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with Dreyfus or the Distributor.

#### Officers of the Trust

STEPHEN E. CANTER, President since March 2000. Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Operating Officer of Dreyfus, and an officer of 96 investment companies (comprised of 186 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. Mr. Canter also is a Board member and, where applicable, an Executive Committee Member of the other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of Dreyfus. He is 58 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since May 1995.

STEPHEN R. BYERS, Executive Vice President since November 2002. Chief Investment Officer, Vice Chairman and a director of Dreyfus, and an officer of 96 investment companies (comprised of 186 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. Mr. Byers also is an officer, director or an Executive Committee Member of certain other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of Dreyfus. He is 50 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since January 2000. Prior to joining Dreyfus, he served as an Executive Vice President – Capital Markets, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer at Gruntal & Co., L.L.C.

MARK N. JACOBS, Vice President since March 2000. Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Dreyfus, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 57 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since June 1977.

STEVEN F. NEWMAN, Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of Dreyfus, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 54 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since July 1980.

JAMES WINDELS, Treasurer since November 2001. Director – Mutual Fund Accounting of Dreyfus, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 45 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since April 1985.

JEFF PRUSNOFSKY, Assistant Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel of Dreyfus, and an officer of 25 investment companies (comprised of 82 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 38 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since October 1990.

MICHAEL A. ROSENBERG, Assistant Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel of Dreyfus, and an officer of 94 investment companies (comprised of 195 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 44 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since October 1991.

RICHARD CASSARO, Assistant Treasurer since August 2003. Senior Accounting Manager – Equity Funds of Dreyfus, and an officer of 26 investment companies (comprised of 102 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 44 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since September 1982.

ERIK D. NAVILOFF, Assistant Treasurer since December 2002. Senior Accounting Manager – Taxable Fixed Income Funds of Dreyfus, and an officer of 19 investment companies (comprised of 74 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 35 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since November 1992.

KENNETH J. SANDGREN, Assistant Treasurer since November 2001. Mutual Funds Tax Director of Dreyfus, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 49 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since June 1993.

ROBERT J. SVAGNA, Assistant Treasurer since December 2002. Senior Accounting Manager – Equity Funds of Dreyfus, and an officer of 26 investment companies (comprised of 102 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 36 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since November 1990.

WILLIAM GERMENIS, Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer since July 2002. Vice President and Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of the Distributor, and the Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of 92 investment companies (comprised of 197 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 33 years old and has been an employee of the Distributor since October 1998.

The address of each Trustee and officer of the Trust is 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166.

No officer or employee of Dreyfus or the Distributor (or of any parent, subsidiary or affiliate thereof) receives any compensation from the Trust for serving as an officer or Trustee of the Trust. The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds pay each Director/Trustee who is not an "interested person" of the Trust (as defined in the 1940 Act) \$40,000 per annum, plus \$5,000 per joint Dreyfus/Laurel Funds Board meeting attended, \$2,000 for separate committee meetings attended which are not held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Board meeting and \$500 for Board meetings and separate committee meetings attended that are conducted by telephone. The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds also reimburse each Director/Trustee who is not an "interested person" of the Trust (as defined in the 1940 Act) for travel and out-of-pocket expenses. The Chairman of the Board receives an additional 25% of such compensation (with the exception of reimbursable amounts). In the event that there is a joint committee meeting of the Dreyfus/Laurel Funds and Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund, the \$2,000 fee will be allocated between the Dreyfus/Laurel Funds and Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund.

In addition, the Trust currently has two Emeritus Board members who are entitled to receive an annual retainer and a per meeting fee of one-half the amount paid to them as Board members.

The aggregate amounts of fees and expenses received by each current Trustee from the Trust for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, and from all funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which such person was a Board member (the number of portfolios of such funds is set forth in parenthesis next to each Board member's total compensation) during the year ended December 31, 2003, were as follows:

<u>Name of Board Member</u>	<u>Aggregate Compensation From the Trust#</u>	<u>Total Compensation From the Trust and Fund Complex Paid to Board Member(*)</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino	\$27,084	\$800,306 (191)
James M. Fitzgibbons	\$21,667	\$88,000 (23)
J. Tomlinson Fort	\$21,667	\$89,000 (23)
Kenneth A. Himmel	\$21,667	\$88,000 (23)

<u>Name of Board Member</u>	<u>Aggregate Compensation From the Trust#</u>	<u>Total Compensation From the Trust and Fund Complex Paid to Board Member(*)</u>
Stephen J. Lockwood	\$21,667	\$89,000 (23)
Roslyn M. Watson	\$21,667	\$89,000 (23)
Benaree Pratt Wiley	\$21,667	\$89,000 (23)

# Amounts required to be paid by the Trust directly to the non-interested Trustees, that would be applied to offset a portion of the management fee payable to Dreyfus, are in fact paid directly by Dreyfus to the non-interested Trustees. This amount does not include reimbursed expenses for attending Board meetings, which amounted to \$3,427 for the Trust.

\* Represents the number of separate portfolios comprising the investment companies in the Fund Complex, including the Fund, for which the Board member served.

Trustees and officers as a group owned less than 1% of the Fund's voting securities outstanding on April 7, 2004. The following persons are known by the Trust to own of record 5% or more of the indicated Fund's outstanding voting securities on April 7, 2004. A shareholder who beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, more than 25% of a Fund's voting securities may be deemed a "control person" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund.

#### **Class A Shares**

Citigroup Global Markets Inc Mutual Fund Processing Department 333 West 34th St 3rd Floor New York NY 10001-2402	8.03%
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Smith Barney Corp Trust Company TTEE Two Tower Center P.O. Box 1063 East Brunswick NJ 08816-1063	5.36%
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#### **Class B Shares**

Fiserv Securities, Inc. One Commerce Square 2005 Market Street Suite 1200 Philadelphia PA 19103-7084	17.24%
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Pershing LLC Pershing Div - Transfer Dept P O BOX 2052 7th Floor Jersey City NJ 07303	12.21%
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National Financial Services 9.96%  
82 Devonshire Street  
G10G  
Boston, MA 02109-3605

Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith 7.54%  
For the Sole Benefit Of Its Customers  
4800 Deer Lake Drive East Floor 3  
Jacksonville, Fl 32246-6484

Wells Fargo Investments LLC 6.07%  
A/C 5673-2513  
608 Second Avenue South 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1916

**Class C Shares**

MSCS Financial Services, LLC 26.1%  
700 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 300  
Denver, CO 80202-3531

Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith 20.25%  
For the Sole Benefit of its Customers  
4800 Deer Lake Drive East Floor 3  
Jacksonville, FL 32246-6484

**Class R Shares**

Boston Safe Deposit & Trust Company TTEE 98.6%  
As Agent-Omnibus Account  
Dreyfus Retirement Services  
AIM #026-0027  
135 Santilli Highway  
Everett, MA 02149-1906

**Class T Shares**

First Clearing, LLC 15.93%  
10750 Wheat First Drive  
Glen Allen VA 23060-9245

First Clearing, LLC 12.67%  
10750 Wheat First Drive  
Glen Allen VA 23060-9245

The Guardian Insurance & Annuity Co. 8.93%  
C/O Equity Accounting  
Attn: Paul Iannelli  
3900 Burgess Place  
Bethlehem, PA 18017-9097

A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc., FBO 8.14%  
One North Jefferson  
St. Louis, MO 63103-2287

The Guardian Insurance & Annuity Co. 8.1365%  
C/O Equity Accounting  
3900 Burgess Place  
Bethlehem, PA 18017-9097

### **Class T Shares**

Dreyfus Trust Company Custodian 5.82%  
FBO Stanley J. Greengard  
Under IRA Rollover Plan  
23226 Ocean Avenue  
Torrance CA 90505-3532

## **MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the sections in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Expenses" and "Management."

Investment Adviser. Dreyfus is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial Corporation ("Mellon"). Mellon is a global financial holding company incorporated under Pennsylvania law in 1971 and registered under the Federal Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Mellon provides a comprehensive range of financial products and services in domestic and selected international markets.

Management Agreement. Dreyfus serves as the investment adviser for the Fund pursuant to an Investment Management Agreement (the "Management Agreement") between Dreyfus and the Trust, subject to the overall authority of the Board of Trustees in accordance with Massachusetts law. Pursuant to the Management Agreement, Dreyfus provides, or arranges for one or more third parties to provide, investment advisory, administrative, custody, fund accounting and transfer agency services to the Fund. As investment adviser, Dreyfus manages the Fund by making investment decisions based on the Fund's investment objective, policies and restrictions. The Management Agreement is subject to review and approval at least annually by the Board of Trustees.

The Management Agreement will continue from year to year provided that a majority of the Trustees who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust and either a majority of all Trustees or a majority of the shareholders of the Fund approve its continuance. The Trust may terminate the Management Agreement upon the vote of a majority of the Board of

Trustees or upon the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund on 60 days' written notice to Dreyfus. Dreyfus may terminate the Management Agreement upon 60 days' written notice to the Trust. The Management Agreement will terminate immediately and automatically upon its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

In approving the current Management Agreement, the Board considered a number of factors, including the nature and quality of the services provided by Dreyfus; the investment philosophy and investment approach as applied to the Fund by Dreyfus; the investment management expertise of Dreyfus in respect of the Fund's investment strategies; the personnel, resources and experience of Dreyfus; the Fund's performance history and the management fees paid to Dreyfus relative to those of mutual funds with similar investment objectives, strategies and restrictions; Dreyfus' costs of providing services under the Management Agreement; the relationship between the fees paid to Dreyfus under the Management Agreement and the Fund's Distribution and Service Plans; and ancillary benefits Dreyfus may receive from its relationship with the Trust.

The following persons are officers and/or directors of Dreyfus: Stephen E. Canter, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer; Michael G. Millard, President and a director; Stephen R. Byers, Chief Investment Officer, Vice Chairman and a director; J. Charles Cardona, Vice Chairman and a director; J. David Officer, Vice Chairman and a director; Ronald P. O'Hanley III, Vice Chairman and a director; Diane P. Durnin, Executive Vice President; Mark N. Jacobs, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary; Patrice M. Kozlowski, Senior Vice President-Corporate Communications; Mary Beth Leibig, Vice President-Human Resources; Theodore A. Schachar, Vice President-Tax; Angela E. Price, Vice President; Wendy H. Strutt, Vice President; Ray Van Cott, Vice President-Information Systems; William H. Maresca, Controller; James Bitetto, Assistant Secretary; Steven F. Newman, Assistant Secretary; and Steven G. Elliott, David F. Lamere, Martin G. McGuinn and Richard W. Sabo, directors.

The Trust, Dreyfus and the Distributor each have adopted a Code of Ethics, that permits its personnel, subject to such respective Code of Ethics, to invest in securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund. Dreyfus' Code of Ethics subjects its employees' personal securities transactions to various restrictions to ensure that such trading does not disadvantage any fund advised by Dreyfus. In that regard, portfolio managers and other investment personnel of Dreyfus must preclear and report their personal securities transactions and holdings, which are reviewed for compliance with Dreyfus' Code of Ethics and are also subject to the oversight of Mellon's Investment Ethics Committee (the "Committee"). Portfolio managers and other investment personnel who comply with the preclearance and disclosure procedures of Dreyfus' Code of Ethics and the requirements of the Committee, may be permitted to purchase, sell or hold securities which also may be or are held in fund(s) they manage or for which they otherwise provide investment advice.

Expenses. Under the Management Agreement, the Fund has agreed to pay Dreyfus a monthly fee at the annual rate of 0.90% of the value of the Fund's average daily net assets. Dreyfus pays all of the Fund's expenses, except brokerage fees, taxes, interest, fees and expenses of the non-interested Trustees (including counsel fees), Rule 12b-1 fees (if applicable) and extraordinary expenses. Although Dreyfus does not pay for the fees and expenses of the non-interested Trustees (including counsel fees), Dreyfus is contractually required to reduce its investment management fee by an amount equal to the Fund's allocable share of such fees and expenses. From time to time, Dreyfus may voluntarily waive a portion of the investment management fees payable by the Fund,

which would have the effect of lowering the expense ratio of the Fund and increasing return to investors. Expenses attributable to the Fund are charged against the Fund's assets; other expenses of the Trust are allocated among its funds on the basis determined by the Trustees, including, but not limited to, proportionately in relation to the net assets of each fund.

For the last three fiscal years, the Fund has paid the following management fees:

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31,		
<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
\$6,321,400	\$7,097,069	\$6,975,044

The Distributor. The Distributor, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dreyfus, located at 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, serves as the Fund's distributor on a best efforts basis pursuant to an agreement with the Trust which is renewable annually. Dreyfus may pay the Distributor for shareholder services from Dreyfus' own assets, including past profits but not including the management fee paid by the Fund. The Distributor may use part or all of such payments to pay certain banks, securities brokers or dealers and other financial institutions ("Agents") for these services. The Distributor also acts as distributor for the other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds.

The Distributor compensates certain Agents for selling Class A or Class T shares subject to a contingent deferred sales charge ("CDSC"), and Class B and Class C shares at the time of purchase from its own assets. The proceeds of the CDSC and fees pursuant to the Fund's Distribution and Service Plans (as described below), in part, are used to defray these expenses. The amounts retained by the Distributor from sales loads and CDSCs with respect to Class A, Class B, Class C and Class T shares are contained in the following table:

<u>Class A</u>		
<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2001</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2002</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2003</u>
\$139,627	\$106,540	\$55,627
<u>Class B</u>		
<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2001</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2002</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2003</u>
\$116,658	\$290,909	\$231,645
<u>Class C</u>		
<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2001</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2002</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2003</u>
\$5,079	\$8,994	\$6,088
<u>Class T</u>		
<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2001</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2002</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2003</u>
\$1,333	\$1,939	\$462

The Distributor may pay Agents that have entered into agreements with the Distributor a fee based on the amount invested through such dealers in Fund shares by employees participating in



qualified or non-qualified employee benefit plans including pension, profit-sharing and other deferred compensation plans, whether established by corporations, partnerships, non-profit entities or state and local governments ("Retirement Plans"), or other programs. The term "Retirement Plans" does not include IRAs, IRA "Rollover Accounts" or IRAs set up under a Simplified Employee Pension Plan ("SEP-IRAs"). Generally, the Distributor may pay such Agents a fee of up to 1% of the amount invested through the Agents. The Distributor, however, may pay Agents a higher fee and reserves the right to cease paying these fees at any time. The Distributor will pay such fees from its own funds, other than amounts received from the Fund, including past profits or any other source available to it. Sponsors of such Retirement Plans or the participants therein should consult their Agent for more information regarding any such fee payable to the Agent.

The Distributor, at its expense, may provide promotional incentives to Agents that sell shares of funds advised by Dreyfus which are sold with a sales load. In some instances, those incentives may be offered only to certain Agents who have sold or may sell significant amounts of shares.

Transfer and Dividend Disbursing Agent and Custodian. Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. (the "Transfer Agent"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dreyfus, 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, is the Trust's transfer and dividend disbursing agent. Under a transfer agency agreement with the Trust, Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. arranges for the maintenance of shareholder account records for the Fund, the handling of certain communications between shareholders and the Fund, and the payment of dividends and distributions payable by the Fund. For these services, Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. receives a monthly fee computed on the basis of the number of shareholder accounts it maintains for the Trust during the month, and is reimbursed for certain out-of-pocket expenses.

Mellon Bank, N.A. ("Mellon Bank"), an affiliate of Dreyfus, located at One Mellon Bank Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15258, acts as the custodian of the Fund's investments. Under a custody agreement with the Trust, Mellon Bank holds the Fund's portfolio securities and keeps all necessary accounts and records. For its custody services, Mellon Bank receives a monthly fee based on the market value of the Fund's assets held in custody and receives certain securities transaction charges. This fee is paid to Mellon Bank by Dreyfus pursuant to the Fund's unitary fee structure.

## **PURCHASE OF SHARES**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the sections in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Account Policies," "Services for Fund Investors," "Instructions for Regular Accounts," and "Instructions for IRAs."

General. The Fund offers Class A, Class B, Class C, Class R, Class T and Institutional shares.

When purchasing Fund shares, you must specify which Class is being purchased. The decision as to which Class of shares is most beneficial to you depends on the amount and the intended length of your investment. You should consider whether, during the anticipated life of your investment in the Fund, the accumulated distribution fee, service fee and CDSC, if any, on Class B or Class C shares would be less than the accumulated distribution fee and initial sales charge on Class A shares or the accumulated distribution fee, service fee and initial sales charge on Class T shares, purchased at the same time, and to what extent, if any, such differential would be

offset by the return on Class A shares and Class T shares, respectively. You may also want to consider whether, during the anticipated life of your investment in the Fund, the accumulated distribution fee, service fee, and initial sales charge on Class T shares would be less than the accumulated distribution fee and higher initial sales charge on Class A shares purchased at the same time, and to what extent, if any, such differential could be offset by the return of Class A. Additionally, investors qualifying for reduced initial sales charges who expect to maintain their investment for an extended period of time might consider purchasing Class A shares because the accumulated continuing distribution and service fees on Class B or Class C shares and the accumulated distribution fee, service fee and initial sales charge on Class T shares may exceed the accumulated distribution fee and initial sales charge on Class A shares during the life of the investment. Finally, you should consider the effect of the CDSC period and any conversion rights of the Classes in the context of your own investment time frame. For example, while Class C shares have a shorter CDSC period than Class B shares, Class C shares do not have a conversion feature and, therefore, are subject to ongoing distribution and service fees. Thus, Class B shares may be more attractive than Class C shares to investors with longer term investment outlooks. Generally, Class A shares will be most appropriate for investors who invest \$1,000,000 or more in Fund shares, and Class A and Class T shares will not be appropriate for investors who invest less than \$50,000 in Fund shares. The Fund reserves the right to reject any purchase order.

Class A, Class B, Class C and Class T shares may be purchased only by clients of Agents, except that full-time or part-time employees of Dreyfus or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries, directors of Dreyfus, Board members of a fund advised by Dreyfus or its affiliates, including members of the Board, or the spouse or minor child of any of the foregoing may purchase Class A shares directly through the Distributor. In addition, holders of Investor shares of the Fund as of January 15, 1998 may continue to purchase Class A shares of the Fund at NAV. Subsequent purchases may be sent directly to the Transfer Agent or your Agent.

Institutional shares are offered to those customers of certain financial planners and investment advisers who held shares of a predecessor class of the Fund on April 4, 1994.

Class R shares are offered only to (i) bank trust departments and other financial service providers (including Mellon Bank and its affiliates) acting on behalf of their customers having a qualified trust or investment account or relationship at such institution, or to customers who have received and hold shares of the Fund distributed to them by virtue of such an account or relationship, and (ii) institutional investors acting for themselves or in a fiduciary, advisory, agency, custodial or similar capacity for Retirement Plans and SEP-IRAs. Class R shares may be purchased for a Retirement Plan or SEP-IRA only by a custodian, trustee, investment manager or other entity authorized to act on behalf of such a Retirement Plan or SEP-IRA. In addition, holders of Class R shares of the Fund who have held their shares since June 5, 2003 may continue to purchase Class R shares of the Fund for their existing accounts whether or not they would otherwise be eligible to do so. Institutions effecting transactions in Class R shares of the accounts of their clients may charge their clients direct fees in connection with such transactions.

The minimum initial investment is \$1,000. Subsequent investments must be at least \$100. With respect to Class A, Class B, Class C, Class R and Class T shares, the minimum initial investment for Dreyfus-sponsored self-employed individual retirement plans ("Keogh Plans"), IRAs (including regular IRAs, spousal IRAs for a non-working spouse, Roth IRAs, SEP-IRAs and rollover IRAs) and 403(b)(7) Plans with only one participant is \$750 and \$500 for Dreyfus-sponsored Coverdell Education Savings Accounts, with no minimum on subsequent purchases

except that the no minimum on Coverdell Education Savings Accounts does not apply until after the first year. The initial investment must be accompanied by the Fund's Account Application. The Fund reserves the right to offer Fund shares without regard to minimum purchase requirements to employees participating in certain Retirement Plans or other programs where contributions or account information can be transmitted in a manner and form acceptable to the Fund. The Fund reserves the right to vary further the initial and subsequent investment minimum requirements at any time.

The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), imposes various limitations on the amount that may be contributed annually to certain Retirement Plans. These limitations apply with respect to participants at the plan level and, therefore, do not directly affect the amount that may be invested in the Fund by a Retirement Plan. Participants and plan sponsors should consult their tax advisers for details.

Fund shares are sold on a continuous basis. NAV per share is determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") (usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time), on each day the NYSE is open for regular business. For purposes of determining NAV, certain options and futures contracts may be valued 15 minutes after the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE. NAV per share of each class is computed by dividing the value of the Fund's net assets represented by such class (i.e., the value of its assets less liabilities) by the total number of shares of such class outstanding. For information regarding the methods employed in valuing the Fund's investments, see "Determination of Net Asset Value."

If an order is received in proper form by the Transfer Agent or other entity authorized to receive orders on behalf of the Fund by the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE (usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) on a business day, Fund shares will be purchased at the public offering price determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on that day. Otherwise, Fund shares will be purchased at the public offering price determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on the next business day, except where shares are purchased through a dealer as provided below.

Orders for the purchase of Fund shares received by dealers by the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on any business day and transmitted to the Distributor or its designee by the close of its business day (usually 5:15 p.m., Eastern time) will be based on the public offering price per share determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on that day. Otherwise, the orders will be based on the next determined public offering price. It is the dealers' responsibility to transmit orders so that they will be received by the Distributor or its designee before the close of its business day. For certain institutions that have entered into agreements with the Distributor, payment for the purchase of Fund shares may be transmitted, and must be received by the Transfer Agent, within three business days after the order is placed. If such payment is not received within three business days after the order is placed, the order may be canceled and the institution could be held liable for resulting fees and/or losses.

Agents may receive different levels of compensation for selling different Classes of shares. Management understands that some Agents may impose certain conditions on their clients which are different from those described in the Fund's Prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information, and, to the extent permitted by applicable regulatory authority, may charge their clients direct fees which would be in addition to any amounts which might be received under the Distribution and Service Plans. Each Agent has agreed to transmit to its clients a schedule of such fees.

Third parties may receive payments from Dreyfus in connection with their offering of Fund shares to their customers, or for marketing, distribution or other services. The receipt of such payments could create an incentive for the third party to offer the Fund instead of other mutual funds where such payments are not received. You should consult your Agent in this regard.

Federal regulations require that you provide a certified taxpayer identification number ("TIN") upon opening or reopening an account. See the Fund's Account Application for further information concerning this requirement. Failure to furnish a certified TIN to the Fund could subject you to a \$50 penalty imposed by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS").

Class A Shares. The public offering price for Class A shares is the NAV of that Class, plus, except for shareholders owning Investor shares of the Fund on January 15, 1998, a sales load as shown below:

<u>Amount of Transaction</u>	<u>Total Sales Load - Class A</u>		
	<u>As a % of offering price per share</u>	<u>As a % of net asset value per share</u>	<u>Dealers' Reallowance as a % of offering price</u>
Less than \$50,000	5.75	6.10	5.00
\$50,000 to less than \$100,000	4.50	4.70	3.75
\$100,000 to less than \$250,000	3.50	3.60	2.75
\$250,000 to less than \$500,000	2.50	2.60	2.25
\$500,000 to less than \$1,000,000	2.00	2.00	1.75
\$1,000,000 or more	-0-	-0-	-0-

Holders of Investor shares of the Fund as of January 15, 1998 may continue to purchase Class A shares of the Fund at NAV. However, investments by such holders in other funds advised by Dreyfus will be subject to any applicable front-end sales load. Omnibus accounts will be eligible to purchase Class A shares without a front-end sales load only on behalf of their customers who held Investor shares of the Fund through such omnibus account on January 15, 1998.

There is no initial sales charge on purchases of \$1,000,000 or more of Class A shares. However, if you purchase Class A shares without an initial sales charge as part of an investment of at least \$1,000,000 and redeem all or a portion of those shares within one year of purchase, a CDSC of 1% will be assessed at the time of redemption. The Distributor may pay Agents an amount up to 1% of the NAV of Class A shares purchased by their clients that are subject to a CDSC. The terms contained below under "Redemption of Shares - Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class B Shares" (other than the amount of the CDSC and time periods) and "Redemption of Shares - Waiver of CDSC" are applicable to the Class A shares subject to a CDSC. Letter of Intent and Right of Accumulation apply to such purchases of Class A shares.

Full-time employees of NASD member firms and full-time employees of other financial institutions which have entered into an agreement with the Distributor pertaining to the sale of Fund shares (or which otherwise have a brokerage related or clearing arrangement with an NASD member firm or financial institution with respect to the sale of such shares) may purchase Class A shares for themselves directly or pursuant to an employee benefit plan or other program, or for their spouses or minor children at NAV, provided that they have furnished the Distributor with such information as it may request from time to time in order to verify eligibility for this privilege. This privilege also applies to full-time employees of financial institutions affiliated with NASD member

firms whose full-time employees are eligible to purchase Class A shares at NAV. In addition, Class A shares are offered at NAV to full-time or part-time employees of Dreyfus or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries, directors of Dreyfus, Board members of a fund advised by Dreyfus or its affiliates, including members of the Board, or the spouse or minor child of any of the foregoing.

Class A shares are offered at NAV without a sales load to employees participating in Retirement Plans. Class A shares also may be purchased (including by exchange) at NAV without a sales load for Dreyfus-sponsored IRA "Rollover Accounts" with the distribution proceeds from a qualified retirement plan or a Dreyfus-sponsored 403(b)(7) plan, provided that, at the time of such distribution, such qualified retirement plan or Dreyfus-sponsored 403(b)(7) plan invested all or a portion of its assets in funds in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds or the Dreyfus Family of Funds, or certain funds advised by Founders Asset Management LLC ("Founders"), an indirect subsidiary of Dreyfus, or certain other products made available by the Distributor to such plans.

Class A shares may be purchased at NAV through certain broker-dealers and other financial institutions which have entered into an agreement with the Distributor, which includes a requirement that such shares be sold for the benefit of clients participating in a "wrap account" or a similar program under which such clients pay a fee to such broker-dealer or other financial institution.

Class A shares also may be purchased at NAV, subject to appropriate documentation, by (i) qualified separate accounts maintained by an insurance company pursuant to the laws of any State or territory of the United States, (ii) a State, county or city or instrumentality thereof, (iii) a charitable organization (as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code) investing \$50,000 or more in Fund shares, and (iv) a charitable remainder trust (as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code).

Class T Shares. The public offering price for Class T shares is the NAV per share of that Class plus a sales load as shown below:

<u>Amount of Transaction</u>	<u>Total Sales Load - Class T</u>		
	<u>As a % of offering price per share</u>	<u>As a % of net asset value per share</u>	<u>Dealers' Reallowance as a % of offering price</u>
Less than \$50,000	4.50	4.70	4.00
\$50,000 to less than \$100,000	4.00	4.20	3.50
\$100,000 to less than \$250,000	3.00	3.10	2.50
\$250,000 to less than \$500,000	2.00	2.00	1.75
\$500,000 to less than \$1,000,000	1.50	1.50	1.25
\$1,000,000 or more	-0-	-0-	-0-

There is no initial sales charge on purchases of \$1,000,000 or more of Class T shares. However, if you purchase Class T shares without an initial sales charge as part of an investment of at least \$1,000,000 and redeem all or a portion of those shares within one year of purchase, a CDSC of 1.00% will be assessed at the time of redemption. The Distributor may pay Agents an amount up to 1% of the NAV of Class T shares purchased by their clients that are subject to a CDSC. The terms contained below under "Redemption of Shares - Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class B Shares" (other than the amount of the CDSC and time periods) and "Redemption of Shares - Waiver of CDSC" are applicable to the Class T shares subject to a CDSC. Letter of Intent and Right of Accumulation apply to such purchases of Class T shares. Because the expenses associated with Class A shares will be lower than those associated with Class T shares, purchasers investing

\$1,000,000 or more in the Fund will generally find it beneficial to purchase Class A shares rather than Class T shares.

Class T shares are offered at NAV without a sales load to employees participating in Retirement Plans. Class T shares also may be purchased (including by exchange) at NAV without a sales load for Dreyfus-sponsored IRA "Rollover Accounts" with the distribution proceeds from a qualified retirement plan or a Dreyfus-sponsored 403(b)(7) plan, provided that, at the time of such distribution, such qualified retirement plan or Dreyfus-sponsored 403(b)(7) plan invested all or a portion of its assets in funds in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds or the Dreyfus Family of Funds, or certain funds advised by Founders, or certain other products made available by the Distributor to such plans.

Dealer Reallowance -- Class A and Class T Shares. The dealer reallowance provided with respect to Class A and Class T shares may be changed from time to time but will remain the same for all dealers. The Distributor, at its own expense, may provide additional promotional incentives to dealers that sell shares of funds advised by Dreyfus which are sold with a sales load, such as Class A and Class T shares. In some instances, these incentives may be offered only to certain dealers who have sold or may sell significant amounts of such shares.

Sales Loads -- Class A and Class T Shares. The scale of sales loads applies to purchases of Class A and Class T shares made by any "purchaser," which term includes an individual and/or spouse purchasing securities for his, her or their own account or for the account of any minor children, or a trustee or other fiduciary purchasing securities for a single trust estate or a single fiduciary account (including a pension, profit-sharing or other employee benefit trust created pursuant to a plan qualified under Section 401 of the Code) although more than one beneficiary is involved; or a group of accounts established by or on behalf of the employees of an employer or affiliated employers pursuant to an employee benefit plan or other program (including accounts established pursuant to Sections 403(b), 408(k) and 457 of the Code); or an organized group which has been in existence for more than six months, provided that it is not organized for the purpose of buying redeemable securities of a registered investment company and provided that the purchases are made through a central administration or a single dealer, or by other means which result in economy of sales effort or expense.

Set forth below is an example of the method of computing the offering price of the Fund's Class A shares. The example assumes a purchase of Class A shares of the Fund aggregating less than \$50,000 subject to the schedule of sales charges set forth in the Fund's Prospectus at a price based upon the NAV of a Class A share at the close of business on December 31, 2003:

NAV per share	\$27.44
Per Share Sales Charge – 5.75% of offering price (6.10% of NAV per share)	\$ 1.67
Per Share Offering Price to Public	\$29.11

Set forth below is an example of the method of computing the offering price of the Fund's Class T shares. The example assumes a purchase of Class T shares of the Fund aggregating less than \$50,000 subject to the schedule of sales charges set forth in the Fund's Prospectus at a price based upon the NAV of a Class T share at the close of business on December 31, 2003:

NAV per share	\$27.43
Per Share Sales Charge – 4.50% of offering price (4.70% of NAV per share)	\$ 1.29
Per Share Offering Price to Public	\$28.72

Right of Accumulation—Class A and Class T Shares. Reduced sales loads apply to any purchase of Class A and Class T shares by you and any related "purchaser" as defined above, where the aggregate investment, including such purchase, is \$50,000 or more. If, for example, you previously purchased and still hold Class A or Class T shares of the Fund, or shares of certain other funds advised by Dreyfus or Founders which are subject to a front-end sales load or CDSC or shares acquired by a previous exchange of such shares (hereinafter referred to as "Eligible Funds"), or combination thereof, with an aggregate current market value of \$40,000 and subsequently purchase Class A or Class T shares of the Fund or shares of an Eligible Fund having a current value of \$20,000, the sales load applicable to the subsequent purchase would be reduced to 4.50% of the offering price in the case of Class A shares or 4.00% of the offering price in the case of Class T shares. All present holdings of Eligible Funds may be combined to determine the current offering price of the aggregate investment in ascertaining the sales load applicable to each subsequent purchase.

To qualify for reduced sales loads, at the time of purchase you or your Agent must notify the Distributor if orders are made by wire, or the Transfer Agent if orders are made by mail. The reduced sales load is subject to confirmation of your holdings through a check of appropriate records.

Class B Shares. The public offering price for Class B shares is the NAV per share of that Class. No initial sales charge is imposed at the time of purchase. A CDSC is imposed, however, on certain redemptions of Class B shares as described in the Fund's Prospectus and in this Statement of Additional Information under "Redemption of Shares - Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class B Shares. "

Approximately six years after the date of purchase, Class B shares automatically will convert to Class A shares, based on the relative NAVs for shares of each such Class. Class B shares that have been acquired through the reinvestment of dividends and distributions will be converted on a pro rata basis together with other Class B shares, in the proportion that a shareholder's Class B shares converting to Class A shares bears to the total Class B shares not acquired through the reinvestment of dividends and distributions.

Class C Shares. The public offering price for Class C shares is the NAV per share of that Class. No initial sales charge is imposed at the time of purchase. A CDSC is imposed, however, on redemptions of Class C shares made within the first year of purchase. See "Class B Shares" above and "How to Redeem Shares."

Class R Shares. The public offering price for Class R shares is the NAV per share of that Class.

Institutional Shares. The public offering price for Institutional shares is the NAV per share of that Class.

Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege. You may purchase Fund shares by telephone or online if you have checked the appropriate box and supplied the necessary information on the Account Application or have filed a Shareholder Services Form with the Transfer Agent. The proceeds will be transferred between the bank account designated in one of these documents and your Fund account, which will subject the purchase order to a processing delay. Only a bank account maintained in a domestic financial institution that is an Automated Clearing House ("ACH") member may be so designated.

Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* purchase orders may be made at any time. If purchase orders are received by 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on any day that the Transfer Agent and the NYSE are open for regular business Fund shares will be purchased at the public offering price determined on the next bank business day following such purchase order. If purchase orders are made after 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on any day the Transfer Agent and the NYSE are open for regular business, or made on Saturday, Sunday or any Fund holiday (e.g., when the NYSE is not open for business), Fund shares will be purchased at the public offering price determined on the second bank business day following such purchase order. To qualify to use the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege, the initial payment for purchase of Fund shares must be drawn on, and redemption proceeds paid to, the same bank and account as are designated on the Account Application or Shareholder Services Form on file. If the proceeds of a particular redemption are to be sent to an account at any other bank, the request must be in writing and signature-guaranteed. See "Redemption of Shares – Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege." The Fund may modify or terminate this Privilege at any time or charge a service fee upon notice to shareholders. No such fee currently is contemplated.

Reopening an Account. An investor may reopen an account with a minimum investment of \$100 without filing a new Account Application during the calendar year the account is closed or during the following calendar year, provided the information on the old Account Application is still applicable.

In-Kind Purchases. If the following conditions are satisfied, the Fund may at its discretion, permit the purchase of shares through an "in-kind" exchange of securities. Any securities exchanged must meet the investment objective, policies and limitations of the Fund, must have a readily ascertainable market value, must be liquid and must not be subject to restrictions on resale. The market value of any securities exchanged, plus any cash, must be at least equal to \$25,000. Shares purchased in exchange for securities generally cannot be redeemed for fifteen days following the exchange in order to allow time for the transfer to settle.

The basis of the exchange will depend upon the relative NAVs of the shares purchased and securities exchanged. Securities accepted by the Fund will be valued in the same manner as the Fund values its assets. Any interest earned on the securities following their delivery to the Fund and prior to the exchange will be considered in valuing the securities. All interest, dividends, subscription or other rights attached to the securities become the property of the Fund, along with the securities. For further information about "in-kind" purchases, call 1-800-554-4611.

Share Certificates. Share certificates are issued upon written request only. No certificates are issued for fractional shares.



## DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE PLANS

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Your Investment."

Class A, Class B, Class C, Class T and Institutional shares are subject to annual fees for distribution and shareholder services.

The SEC has adopted Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act ("Rule") regulating the circumstances under which investment companies such as the Trust may, directly or indirectly, bear the expenses of distributing their shares. The Rule defines distribution expenses to include expenditures for "any activity which is primarily intended to result in the sale of fund shares." The Rule, among other things, provides that an investment company may bear such expenses only pursuant to a plan adopted in accordance with the Rule.

Distribution Plan - Class A and Institutional Shares. With respect to the Class A shares and Institutional shares of the Fund, the Board of Trustees has adopted a Distribution Plan (the "Distribution Plan") pursuant to the Rule whereby the Fund may spend annually up to 0.25% of net assets attributable to the Class A shares, and up to 0.15% of the average daily net assets attributable to the Institutional shares, to compensate Mellon Bank and its affiliates (including but not limited to Dreyfus and the Distributor) for shareholder servicing activities and the Distributor for shareholder servicing activities and expenses primarily intended to result in the sale of Class A shares and Institutional shares of the Fund. The Distribution Plan allows the Distributor to make payments from the Rule 12b-1 fees it collects from the Fund to compensate Agents that have entered into Selling Agreements ("Agreements") with the Distributor. Under the Agreements, the Agents are obligated to provide distribution related services with regard to the Fund and/or shareholder services to the Agent's clients that own Class A shares and Institutional shares of the Fund. The Board of Trustees believes that there is a reasonable likelihood that the Distribution Plan will benefit the Fund and the holders of Class A and Institutional shares.

The Distribution Plan provides that a report of the amounts expended under the Distribution Plan, and the purposes for which such expenditures were incurred, must be made to the Trustees for their review at least quarterly. In addition, the Distribution Plan provides that it may not be amended to increase materially the costs which holders of Class A or Institutional shares may bear pursuant to the Distribution Plan without approval of the holders of such Classes and that other material amendments of the Distribution Plan must be approved by the vote of a majority of the Trustees and of the Trustees who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust and who do not have any direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Distribution Plan or in any agreement entered into in connection with the Distribution Plan, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such amendments. The Distribution Plan is subject to annual approval by such vote of the Trustees cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Distribution Plan. The Distribution Plan is terminable, as to the Fund's Class A and Institutional shares, at any time by vote of a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Distribution Plan or by vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of such class of the Fund.

Distribution and Service Plans -- Class B, Class C and Class T Shares. In addition to the above described Distribution Plan for Class A and Institutional shares, the Board of Trustees has adopted a Service Plan (the "Service Plan") under the Rule for Class B, Class C and Class T shares, pursuant to which the Fund pays the Distributor, and/or any of its affiliates, a fee at the annual rate of 0.25% of the value of the average daily net assets of Class B, Class C and Class T shares for the provision of certain services to the holders of Class B, Class C and Class T shares, respectively. The services provided may include personal services relating to shareholder accounts, such as answering shareholder inquiries regarding the Fund and providing reports and other information, and providing services related to the maintenance of such shareholder accounts. With regard to such services, each Agent is required to disclose to its clients any compensation payable to it by the Fund and any other compensation payable by its clients in connection with the investment of their assets in Class B, Class C and Class T shares. The Distributor may pay one or more Agents in respect of services for these Classes of shares. The Distributor determines the amounts, if any, to be paid to Agents under the Service Plan and the basis on which such payments are made. The Board of Trustees has also adopted a Distribution Plan pursuant to the Rule with respect to Class B and Class C shares (the "Class B and Class C Plan") and a separate Distribution Plan pursuant to the Rule with respect to Class T shares (the "Class T Plan"). Pursuant to the Class B and Class C Plan, the Fund pays the Distributor for distributing the Fund's Class B and Class C shares at an aggregate annual rate of 0.75% of the value of the average daily net assets of Class B and Class C shares, respectively. Pursuant to the Class T Plan, the Fund pays the Distributor for distributing the Fund's Class T shares at an annual rate of 0.25% of the value of the average daily net assets of Class T shares. The Distributor may pay one or more Agents in respect of advertising, marketing and other distribution services for Class T shares, and determines the amounts, if any, to be paid to Agents and the basis on which such payments are made. The Board of Trustees believes that there is a reasonable likelihood that the Service Plan, the Class B and Class C Plan and the Class T Plan (each a "Plan" and collectively, the "Plans") will benefit the Fund and the holders of Class B, Class C and Class T shares.

A quarterly report of the amounts expended under each Plan, and the purposes for which such expenditures were incurred, must be made to the Trustees for their review. In addition, each Plan provides that it may not be amended to increase materially the cost which holders of Class B, Class C or Class T shares may bear pursuant to the Plan without the approval of the holders of such Classes and that other material amendments of the Plan must be approved by a vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees and by a majority of the Trustees who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plan or in any agreements entered into in connection with the Plan, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such amendments. Each Plan is subject to annual approval by such vote of the Trustees cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Plan. Each Plan may be terminated at any time by vote of a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plan or in any agreements entered into in connection with the Plan or by vote of the holders of a majority of Class B, Class C or Class T shares, as applicable.

An Agent entitled to receive compensation for selling and servicing the Fund's shares may receive different compensation with respect to one Class of shares over another. Potential investors should read this Statement of Additional Information in light of the terms governing Agreements with their Agents. The fees payable under each Plan are payable without regard to actual expenses incurred. The Fund and the Distributor may suspend or reduce payments under any of the Plans at any time, and payments are subject to the continuation of the Fund's Plans and the Agreements

described above. From time to time, the Agents, the Distributor and the Fund may voluntarily agree to reduce the maximum fees payable under the plans.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Fund paid the Distributor, with respect to Class A shares, \$1,329,963 in distribution fees pursuant to the Class A Plan.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Fund paid the Distributor with respect to Class B and Class C shares, \$500,307 and \$145,591, respectively, in distribution fees pursuant to the Class B and Class C Plan.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Fund paid the Distributor, with respect to Class T shares, \$4,576 in distribution fees pursuant to the Class T Plan.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Fund paid the distributor, with respect to Institutional shares, \$55,984 in distribution fees pursuant to the Distribution Plan.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Fund paid the Distributor, with respect to Class B, Class C, and Class T shares, \$166,769, \$48,531, and \$4,576, respectively, in service fees pursuant to the Service Plan.

## **REDEMPTION OF SHARES**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the sections in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Account Policies," "Services For Fund Investors," "Instructions for Regular Accounts" and "Instructions for IRAs."

**General.** If you hold Fund shares of more than one Class, any request for redemption must specify the Class of shares being redeemed. If you fail to specify the Class of shares to be redeemed or if you own fewer shares of the Class than specified to be redeemed, the redemption request may be delayed until the Transfer Agent receives further instructions from you or your Agent.

The Fund imposes no charges (other than any applicable CDSC) when shares are redeemed. Agents may charge their clients a fee for effecting redemptions of Fund shares. Any certificates representing Fund shares being redeemed must be submitted with the redemption request. The value of the shares redeemed may be more or less than their original cost, depending upon the Fund's then-current NAV.

The Fund ordinarily will make payment for all shares redeemed within seven days after receipt by the Transfer Agent of a redemption request in proper form, except as provided by the rules of the SEC. However, if you have purchased Fund shares by check or by the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege, or through Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder® and subsequently submit a written redemption request to the Transfer Agent, the Fund may delay sending the redemption proceeds for up to eight business days after the purchase of such shares. In addition, the Fund will reject requests to redeem shares by wire or telephone, online or pursuant to the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege for a period of up to eight business days after receipt by the Transfer Agent of the purchase check, the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* purchase or the Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder order against which such redemption is requested. These procedures will not apply if your shares were purchased by wire payment, or you otherwise have a sufficient collected balance in your

account to cover the redemption request. Fund shares will not be redeemed until the Transfer Agent has received your Account Application.

Procedures. You may redeem Fund shares by using the regular redemption procedure through the Transfer Agent, or through the Telephone Redemption Privilege, which is granted automatically unless you specifically refuse it by checking the applicable "No" box on the Account Application. The Telephone Redemption Privilege may be established for an existing account by a separate signed Shareholder Services Form or by oral request from any of the authorized signatories on the account by calling 1-800-554-4611 if you hold Class A, Class B, Class C, Class R or Class T shares and 1-800-645-6561 if you hold Institutional shares. You also may redeem shares through the Wire Redemption Privilege or the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege if you have checked the appropriate box and supplied the necessary information on the Account Application or have filed a Shareholder Services Form with the Transfer Agent. If you are a client of certain Agents ("Selected Dealers"), you may also redeem Class A, Class B, Class C and Class T shares through the Selected Dealer. Other redemption procedures may be in effect for clients of certain Agents and institutions. The Fund makes available to certain large institutions the ability to issue redemption instructions through compatible computer facilities. The Fund reserves the right to refuse any request made by telephone, including requests made shortly after a change of address, and may limit the amount involved or the number of such requests. The Fund may modify or terminate any redemption privilege at any time or charge a service fee upon notice to shareholders. No such fee currently is contemplated. Shares held under Keogh Plans, IRAs, or other retirement plans, and shares for which certificates have been issued, are not eligible for the Wire Redemption, Telephone Redemption or Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege.

The Telephone Redemption Privilege, the Wire Redemption Privilege, the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege, or Telephone Exchange Privilege authorizes the Transfer Agent to act on telephone instructions (including the Dreyfus Express® voice response telephone system) or online instructions from any person representing himself or herself to be you, or a representative of your Agent, and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. The Fund will require the Transfer Agent to employ reasonable procedures, such as requiring a form of personal identification, to confirm that instructions are genuine and, if it does not follow such procedures, the Fund or the Transfer Agent may be liable for any losses due to unauthorized or fraudulent instructions. Neither the Fund nor the Transfer Agent will be liable for following telephone or online instructions reasonably believed to be genuine.

During times of drastic economic or market conditions, you may experience difficulty in contacting the Transfer Agent by telephone to request a redemption or an exchange of Fund shares. In such cases, you should consider using the other redemption procedures described herein. Use of these other redemption procedures may result in your redemption request being processed at a later time than it would have been if a telephone redemption option had been used. During the delay, the Fund's NAV may fluctuate.

Redemption Through a Selected Dealer. With respect to Class A, Class B, Class C and Class T shares, customers of Selected Dealers may make redemption requests to their Selected Dealer. If the Selected Dealer transmits the redemption request so that it is received by the Transfer Agent prior to the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE (usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time), the redemption request will be effective on that day. If a redemption request is received by the Transfer Agent after the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE, the redemption request will be effective on the next business day. It is the responsibility of the Selected Dealer to transmit a request so that

it is received in a timely manner. The proceeds of the redemption are credited to your account with the Selected Dealer.

In addition, the Distributor or its designee will accept orders from Selected Dealers with which the Distributor has sales agreements for the repurchase of Fund shares held by shareholders. Repurchase orders received by dealers by the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on any business day and transmitted to the Distributor or its designee prior to the close of its business day (usually 5:15 p.m., Eastern time) are effected at the price determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on that day. Otherwise, the Fund shares will be redeemed at the next determined NAV per share. It is the responsibility of the Selected Dealer to transmit orders on a timely basis. The Selected Dealer may charge the shareholder a fee for executing the order. This repurchase arrangement is discretionary and may be withdrawn at any time.

Telephone Redemption Privilege. You may request by telephone that redemption proceeds (maximum \$250,000 per day) be paid by check and mailed to your address.

Wire Redemption Privilege. By using this Privilege, you authorize the Transfer Agent to act on telephone, letter or online redemption instructions from any person representing himself or herself to be you and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. Ordinarily, the Fund will initiate payment for shares redeemed pursuant to this Privilege on the next business day after receipt by the Transfer Agent of a redemption request in proper form. Redemption proceeds (\$1,000 minimum) will be transferred by Federal Reserve wire only to the commercial bank account specified by you on the Account Application or Shareholder Services Form, or to a correspondent bank if your bank is not a member of the Federal Reserve System. Fees ordinarily are imposed by such bank and borne by you. Immediate notification by the correspondent bank to your bank is necessary to avoid a delay in crediting the funds to your bank account.

To change the commercial bank or account designated to receive wire redemption proceeds, a written request must be sent to the Transfer Agent. This request must be signed by each shareholder, with each signature guaranteed as described below under "Share Certificates; Signatures."

Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege. You may request by telephone or online that redemption proceeds (minimum \$500 per day) be transferred between your Fund account and your bank account. Only a bank account maintained in a domestic financial institution which is an ACH member may be designated. Redemption proceeds will be on deposit in your account at an ACH member bank ordinarily two days after receipt of the redemption request. Investors should be aware that if they have selected the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege, any request for a Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* transaction will be effected through the ACH system unless more prompt transmittal specifically is requested. See "Purchase of Shares—Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege."

Reinvestment Privilege. Upon written request, you may reinvest up to the number of Class A, Class B or Class T shares you have redeemed, within 45 days of redemption, at the then-prevailing NAV without a sales load, or reinstate your account for the purpose of exercising Fund exchanges. Upon reinstatement, with respect to Class B shares, or Class A or Class T shares if such shares were subject to a CDSC, your account will be credited with an amount equal to the CDSC previously paid upon redemption of the shares reinvested. The Reinvestment Privilege may be exercised only once.

Share Certificates; Signatures. Any certificates representing Fund shares to be redeemed must be submitted with the redemption request. Written redemption requests must be signed by each shareholder, including each holder of a joint account, and each signature must be guaranteed. Signatures on endorsed certificates submitted for redemption also must be guaranteed. The Transfer Agent has adopted standards and procedures pursuant to which signature-guarantees in proper form generally will be accepted from domestic banks, brokers, dealers, credit unions, national securities exchanges, registered securities associations, clearing agencies and savings associations as well as from participants in the NYSE Medallion Signature Program, the Securities Transfer Agents Medallion Program ("STAMP") and the Stock Exchanges Medallion Program. Guarantees must be signed by an authorized signatory of the guarantor and "Signature-Guaranteed" must appear with the signature. The Transfer Agent may request additional documentation from corporations, executors, administrators, trustees or guardians, and may accept other suitable verification arrangements from foreign investors, such as consular verification. For more information with respect to signature-guarantees, please call one of the telephone numbers listed on the cover.

Redemption Commitment. The Fund has committed itself to pay in cash all redemption requests by any shareholder of record of the Fund, limited in amount during any 90-day period to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the value of the Fund's net assets at the beginning of such period. Such commitment is irrevocable without the prior approval of the SEC. In the case of requests for redemptions in excess of such amount, the Board of Trustees reserves the right to make payments in whole or in part in securities or other assets in case of an emergency or any time a cash distribution would impair the liquidity of the Fund to the detriment of the existing shareholders. In such event, the securities would be valued in the same manner as the Fund's portfolio is valued. If the recipient sold such securities, brokerage charges might be incurred.

Suspension of Redemptions. The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed (a) during any period when the NYSE is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings), (b) when trading in the markets the Fund ordinarily utilizes is restricted, or when an emergency exists as determined by the SEC so that disposal of the Fund's investments or determination of its NAV is not reasonably practicable, or (c) for such other periods as the SEC by order may permit to protect the Fund's shareholders.

Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class B Shares. A CDSC payable to the Distributor is imposed on any redemption of Class B shares which reduces the current NAV of your Class B shares to an amount which is lower than the dollar amount of all payments by you for the purchase of Class B shares of the Fund held by you at the time of redemption. No CDSC will be imposed to the extent that the NAV of the Class B shares redeemed does not exceed (i) the current NAV of Class B shares acquired through reinvestment of dividends or other distributions, plus (ii) increases in the NAV of Class B shares above the dollar amount of all your payments for the purchase of Class B shares of the Fund held by you at the time of redemption.

If the aggregate value of the Class B shares redeemed has declined below their original cost as a result of the Fund's performance, a CDSC may be applied to the then-current NAV rather than the purchase price.

In circumstances where the CDSC is imposed, the amount of the charge will depend on the number of years from the time you purchased the Class B shares until the time of redemption of such shares. Solely for purposes of determining the number of years from the time of any payment

for the purchase of Class B shares, all payments during a month will be aggregated and deemed to have been made on the first day of the month.

In determining whether a CDSC is applicable to a redemption, the calculation will be made in a manner that results in the lowest possible rate. It will be assumed that the redemption is made first of amounts representing shares acquired pursuant to the reinvestment of dividends and distributions; then of amounts representing the increase in NAV of Class B shares above the total amount of payments for the purchase of Class B shares made during the preceding six years; then of amounts representing the cost of shares purchased six years prior to the redemption; and finally, of amounts representing the cost of shares held for the longest period of time within the applicable six-year period.

For example, assume an investor purchased 100 shares at \$10 per share for a cost of \$1,000. Subsequently, the shareholder acquired five additional shares through dividend reinvestment. During the second year after the purchase the investor decided to redeem \$500 of his or her investment. Assuming at the time of the redemption the NAV has appreciated to \$12 per share, the value of the investor's shares would be \$1,260 (105 shares at \$12 per share). The CDSC would not be applied to the value of the reinvested dividend shares and the amount which represents appreciation (\$260). Therefore, \$240 of the \$500 redemption proceeds (\$500 minus \$260) would be charged at a rate of 4% (the applicable rate in the second year after purchase) for a total CDSC of \$9.60.

For purposes of determining the applicable CDSC payable with respect to redemption of Class B shares of the Fund where such shares were acquired through exchange of Class B shares of another fund advised by Dreyfus, the year since purchase payment was made is based on the date of purchase of the original Class B shares of the fund exchanged.

Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class C Shares. A CDSC of 1% is paid to the Distributor on any redemption of Class C shares within one year of the date of purchase. The basis for calculating the payment of any such CDSC will be the method used in calculating the CDSC for Class B shares. See "Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class B Shares" above.

Waiver of CDSC. The CDSC may be waived in connection with (a) redemptions made within one year after the death or disability, as defined in Section 72(m)(7) of the Code, of the shareholder, (b) redemptions by employees participating in Retirement Plans, (c) redemptions as a result of a combination of any investment company with the Fund by merger, acquisition of assets or otherwise, (d) a distribution following retirement under a tax-deferred retirement plan or upon attaining age 70½ in the case of an IRA or Keogh plan or custodial account pursuant to Section 403(b) of the Code, and (e) redemptions pursuant to the Automatic Withdrawal Plan, as described below. If the Board determines to discontinue the waiver of the CDSC, the disclosure herein will be revised appropriately. Any Fund shares subject to a CDSC which were purchased prior to the termination of such waiver will have the CDSC waived as provided in the Prospectus or this Statement of Additional Information at the time of the purchase of such shares.

To qualify for a waiver of the CDSC, at the time of redemption you must notify the Transfer Agent or your Agent must notify the Distributor. Any such qualification is subject to confirmation of your entitlement.

## SHAREHOLDER SERVICES

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the sections in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Account Policies" and "Services for Fund Investors."

**Fund Exchanges.** You may purchase, in exchange for shares of the Fund, shares of the same (or comparable) Class of another fund in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds, shares of the same class (or comparable) of certain funds advised by Founders, or shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds, and, with respect to Class T shares of the Fund, Class A shares of certain Dreyfus Premier fixed-income funds, to the extent such shares are offered for sale in your state of residence. Shares of other funds purchased by exchange will be purchased on the basis of relative NAV per share as follows:

- A. Exchanges for shares of funds that are offered without a sales load will be made without a sales load.
- B. Shares of funds purchased without a sales load may be exchanged for shares of other funds sold with a sales load, and the applicable sales load will be deducted.
- C. Shares of funds purchased with a sales load may be exchanged without a sales load for shares of other funds sold without a sales load.
- D. Shares of funds purchased with a sales load, shares of funds acquired by a previous exchange from shares purchased with a sales load and additional shares acquired through reinvestment of dividends or distributions of any such funds (collectively referred to herein as "Purchased Shares") may be exchanged for shares of other funds sold with a sales load (referred to herein as "Offered Shares"), but if the sales load applicable to the Offered Shares exceeds the maximum sales load that could have been imposed in connection with the Purchased Shares (at the time the Purchased Shares were acquired), without giving effect to any reduced loads, the difference may be deducted.
- E. Shares of funds subject to a CDSC that are exchanged for shares of another fund will be subject to the higher applicable CDSC of the two funds and, for purposes of calculating CDSC rates and conversion periods, if any, will be deemed to have been held since the date the shares being exchanged were initially purchased.

To accomplish an exchange under item D above, an investor or the investor's Agent must notify the Transfer Agent of the investor's prior ownership of shares with a sales load and the investor's account number. Any such exchange is subject to confirmation of an investor's holdings through a check of appropriate records.

You also may exchange your Fund shares that are subject to a CDSC for shares of Dreyfus Worldwide Dollar Money Market Fund, Inc. The shares so purchased will be held in a special account created solely for this purpose ("Exchange Account"). Exchanges of shares from an Exchange Account only can be made into certain other funds managed or administered by Dreyfus. No CDSC is charged when an investor exchanges into an Exchange Account; however, the applicable CDSC will be imposed when shares are redeemed from an Exchange Account or other applicable Fund account. Upon redemption, the applicable CDSC will be calculated without regard



to the time such shares were held in an Exchange Account. See "Redemption of Shares." Redemption proceeds for Exchange Account shares are paid by Federal wire or check only. Exchange Account shares also are eligible for the Auto-Exchange Privilege, Dividend Sweep and the Automatic Withdrawal Plan.

To request an exchange, an investor or an investor's Agent acting on the investor's behalf, must give exchange instructions to the Transfer Agent in writing, by telephone or online. The ability to issue exchange instructions by telephone or online is given to all Fund shareholders automatically, unless the investor checks the applicable "No" box on the Account Application, indicating that the investor specifically refuses this privilege. This privilege may be established for an existing account by written request signed by all shareholders on the account, by a separate signed Shareholder Services Form, available by calling 1-800-554-4611 in the case of Class A, Class B, Class C, Class R and Class T shares and 1-800-645-6561 in the case of Institutional shares, or by oral request from any of the authorized signatories on the account, also by calling 1-800-554-4611 in the case of Class A, Class B, Class C, Class R and Class T shares and 1-800-645-6561 in the case of Institutional shares. By using this privilege, the investor authorizes the Transfer Agent to act on telephonic and online instructions (including over The Dreyfus Express® voice response telephone system) from any person representing himself or herself to be the investor, or a representative of the investor's Agent, and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. Exchanges may be subject to limitations as to the amount involved or the number of exchanges permitted. Shares issued in certificate form are not eligible for telephone or online exchange. No fees currently are charged shareholders directly in connection with exchanges, although the Fund reserves the right, upon not less than 60 days' written notice, to charge shareholders a nominal fee in accordance with rules promulgated by the SEC.

Exchanges of Class R shares held by a Retirement Plan may be made only between the investor's Retirement Plan account in one fund and such investor's Retirement Plan account in another fund.

To establish a personal Retirement Plan by exchange, shares of the fund being exchanged must have a value of at least the minimum initial investment required for the fund into which the exchange is being made.

Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege. Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege permits you to purchase (on a semi-monthly, monthly, quarterly or annual basis), in exchange for shares of the Fund, shares of the same (or comparable) Class of another fund in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds, shares of the same (or comparable) Class of certain funds advised by Founders, or shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds, and, with respect to Class T shares of the Fund, Class A shares of certain Dreyfus Premier fixed-income funds, of which the investor is a shareholder. The amount the investor designates, which can be expressed either in terms of a specific dollar or share amount (\$100 minimum), will be exchanged automatically on the first and/or fifteenth day of the month according to the schedule the investor has selected. This Privilege is available only for existing accounts. With respect to Class R shares held by a Retirement Plan, exchanges may be made only between the investor's Retirement Plan account in one fund and such investor's Retirement Plan account in another fund. Shares will be exchanged on the basis of relative NAV as described above under "Fund Exchanges." Enrollment in or modification or cancellation of this Privilege is effective three business days following notification by the investor. An investor will be notified if the investor's account falls below the amount designated to be exchanged under this Privilege. In this case, an investor's account will fall to zero unless additional

investments are made in excess of the designated amount prior to the next Dreyfus Auto-Exchange transaction. Shares held under IRAs and other retirement plans are eligible for this Privilege. Exchanges of IRA shares may be made between IRA accounts and from regular accounts to IRA accounts, but not from IRA accounts to regular accounts. With respect to all other retirement accounts, exchanges may be made only among those accounts.

The right to exercise this Privilege may be modified or canceled by the Fund or the Transfer Agent. An investor may modify or cancel the exercise of this Privilege at any time by mailing written notification to Dreyfus Premier Core Value Fund, P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502. The Fund may charge a service fee for the use of this Privilege. No such fee currently is contemplated. For more information concerning this Privilege and the funds in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds, the Dreyfus Family of Funds or the Dreyfus Founders Family of Funds eligible to participate in this Privilege, or to obtain a Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Authorization Form, please call toll free 1-800-554-4611 for Class A, Class B, Class C, Class R and Class T shares and 1-800-645-6561 for Institutional shares.

Fund exchanges and the Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege are available to shareholders resident in any state in which shares of the fund being acquired may legally be sold. Shares may be exchanged only between accounts having certain identical identifying designations. The exchange of shares of one fund for shares of another is treated for Federal income tax purposes as a sale of the shares given in exchange and, therefore, an exchanging shareholder (other than a tax-exempt Retirement Plan) may realize a taxable gain or loss.

Shareholder Services Forms and prospectuses of the other funds may be obtained by calling 1-800-554-4611, or visiting the Dreyfus.com website. The Fund reserves the right to reject any exchange request in whole or in part. The Fund Exchange service or the Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege may be modified or terminated at any time upon notice to shareholders.

Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder®. Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder permits you to purchase Fund shares (minimum of \$100 and maximum of \$150,000 per transaction) at regular intervals selected by you. Fund shares are purchased by transferring funds from the bank account designated by you. Only an account maintained at a domestic financial institution which is an ACH member may be so designated. To establish a Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder account, you must file an authorization form with the Transfer Agent. You may obtain the necessary authorization form by calling 1-800-554-4611 for Class A, Class B, Class C, Class R and Class T shares and 1-800-645-6561 for Institutional shares. You may cancel your participation in this Privilege or change the amount of purchase at any time by mailing written notification to Dreyfus Premier Core Value Fund, P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502 and the notification will be effective three business days following receipt. The Fund may modify or terminate this Privilege at any time or charge a service fee. No such fee currently is contemplated.

Automatic Withdrawal Plan. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan permits an investor with a \$5,000 minimum account to request withdrawal of a specified dollar amount (minimum of \$50) on either a monthly or quarterly basis. Withdrawal payments are the proceeds from sales of Fund shares, not the yield on the shares. If withdrawal payments exceed reinvested dividends and other distributions, the investor's shares will be reduced and eventually may be depleted. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan may be established by filing an Automatic Withdrawal Plan application with the Transfer Agent or by oral request from any of the authorized signatories on the account by calling 1-800-554-4611 for Class A, Class B, Class C, Class R and Class T shares and 1-800-645-6561 for

Institutional shares. Automatic Withdrawal may be terminated at any time by the investor, the Fund or the Transfer Agent. Shares for which certificates have been issued may not be redeemed through the Automatic Withdrawal Plan.

Particular Retirement Plans, including Dreyfus-sponsored Retirement Plans, may permit certain participants to establish an automatic withdrawal plan from such Retirement Plans. Participants should consult their Retirement Plan sponsor and tax adviser for details. Such a withdrawal plan is different from the Automatic Withdrawal Plan. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan may be ended at any time by the shareholder, the Fund or the Transfer Agent. Shares for which certificates have been issued may not be redeemed through the Automatic Withdrawal Plan.

No CDSC with respect to Class B or Class C shares will be imposed on withdrawals made under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan, provided that any amount withdrawn under the plan does not exceed on an annual basis 12% of the greater of (1) the account value at the time of the first withdrawal under the Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan, or (2) the account value at the time of the subsequent withdrawal. Withdrawals with respect to Class B or Class C shares under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan that exceed such amounts will be subject to a CDSC.

Withdrawals of Class A and Class T shares subject to a CDSC under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan will be subject to any applicable CDSC. Purchases of additional Class A and Class T shares where the sales load is imposed concurrently with withdrawals of Class A and Class T shares generally are undesirable.

Dividend Options. Dreyfus Dividend Sweep allows you to invest automatically your dividends or dividends and capital gain distributions, if any, from the Fund in shares of the same Class of another fund in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds, shares of the same Class of certain funds advised by Founders, or shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds, and, with respect to Class T shares of the Fund, in Class A shares of certain Dreyfus Premier fixed-income funds, of which you are a shareholder. Shares of certain other funds purchased pursuant to this Privilege will be purchased on the basis of relative NAV per share as follows:

- A. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund may be invested without a sales load in shares of other funds that are offered without a sales load.
- B. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund which does not charge a sales load may be invested in shares of other funds sold with a sales load, and the applicable sales load will be deducted.
- C. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund that charges a sales load may be invested in shares of other funds sold with a sales load (referred to herein as "Offered Shares"), but if the sales load applicable to the Offered Shares exceeds the maximum sales load charged by a fund from which dividends or distributions are being swept (without giving effect to any reduced loads), the difference may be deducted.
- D. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund may be invested in shares of other funds that impose a CDSC and the applicable CDSC, if any, will be imposed upon redemption of such shares.

Dividend ACH permits you to transfer electronically dividends or dividends and capital gain distributions, if any, from the Fund to a designated bank account. Only an account maintained at a domestic financial institution which is an ACH member may be so designated. Banks may charge a fee for this service.

For more information concerning these Privileges, or to request a Dividend Options Form, please call toll free 1-800-554-4611 for Class A, Class B, Class C, Class R and Class T shares and 1-800-645-6561 for Institutional shares. You may cancel these Privileges by mailing written notification to Dreyfus Premier Core Value Fund, P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502. To select a new fund after cancellation, you must submit a new Dividend Options Form. Enrollment in or cancellation of these Privileges is effective three business days following receipt. These Privileges are available only for existing accounts and may not be used to open new accounts. Minimum subsequent investments do not apply for Dividend Sweep. The Fund may modify or terminate these Privileges at any time or charge a service fee. No such fee currently is contemplated. Shares held under Keogh Plans, IRAs or other retirement plans are not eligible for Dividend Sweep.

Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege. Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege enables you to purchase Fund shares (minimum of \$100 and maximum of \$50,000 per transaction) by having Federal salary, Social Security or certain veterans', military or other payments from the Federal government automatically deposited into your Fund account. You may deposit as much of such payments as you elect. You should consider whether Direct Deposit of your entire payment into a fund with a fluctuating NAV, such as the Fund, may be appropriate for you. To enroll in the Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege, you must file with the Transfer Agent a completed Direct Deposit Sign-Up Form for each type of payment that you desire to include in this Privilege. The appropriate form may be obtained from your Agent or by calling 1-800-554-4611 for Class A, Class B, Class C, Class R and Class T shares and 1-800-645-6561 for Institutional shares. Death or legal incapacity will terminate your participation in this Privilege. You may elect at any time to terminate your participation by notifying in writing the appropriate Federal agency. Further, the Fund may terminate your participation upon 30 days' notice to you.

Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan. Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan permits you to purchase Fund shares (minimum \$100 per transaction) automatically on a regular basis. Depending upon your employer's direct deposit program, you may have part or all of your paycheck transferred to your existing Dreyfus account electronically through the ACH system at each pay period. To establish a Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan account, you must file an authorization form with your employer's payroll department. Your employer must complete the reverse side of the form and return it to The Dreyfus Family of Funds, P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502. You may obtain the necessary authorization form by calling 1-800-554-4611 for Class A, Class B, Class C, Class R and Class T shares and 1-800-645-6561 for Institutional shares. You may change the amount of purchase or cancel the authorization only by written notification to your employer. It is the sole responsibility of your employer, not the Distributor, your Agent, Dreyfus, the Fund, the Transfer Agent or any other person, to arrange for transactions under the Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan. The Fund may modify or terminate this Privilege at any time or charge a service fee. No such fee currently is contemplated. Shares held under Keogh Plans, IRAs or other retirement plans are not eligible for this Privilege.

Dreyfus Step Program. Holders of the Fund's Investor shares prior to January 16, 1998 who had enrolled in Dreyfus Step Program may continue to purchase shares of the same class (currently

designated Class A shares) without regard to the Fund's minimum initial investment requirements through Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder®, Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege or Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan. Participation in this Program may be terminated by the shareholder at any time by discontinuing participation in Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder, Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege or Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan, as the case may be, as provided under the terms of such Privilege(s). The Fund reserves the right to redeem your account if you have terminated your participation in the Program and your account's NAV is \$500 or less. See "Account Policies-General Policies" in the Fund's Prospectus. The Fund may modify or terminate this Program at any time. The Dreyfus Step Program is not available to open new accounts in any Class of the Fund.

Letter of Intent—Class A and Class T Shares. By signing a Letter of Intent form, you become eligible for the reduced sales load on purchases of Class A and Class T shares based on the total number of shares of Eligible Funds (as defined under "Right of Accumulation" above) purchased by you and any related "purchaser" (as defined above) in a 13-month period pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the Letter of Intent. Shares of any Eligible Fund purchased within 90 days prior to the submission of the Letter of Intent may be used to equal or exceed the amount specified in the Letter of Intent. A minimum initial purchase of \$5,000 is required. You can obtain a Letter of Intent form by calling 1-800-554-4611.

Each purchase you make during the 13-month period (which begins on the date you submit the Letter of Intent) will be at the public offering price applicable to a single transaction of the aggregate dollar amount you select in the Letter of Intent. The Transfer Agent will hold in escrow 5% of the amount indicated in the Letter of Intent, which may be used for payment of a higher sales load if you do not purchase the full amount indicated in the Letter of Intent. When you fulfill the terms of the Letter of Intent by purchasing the specified amount the escrowed amount will be released and additional shares representing such amount credited to your account. If your purchases meet the total minimum investment amount specified in the Letter of Intent within the 13-month period, an adjustment will be made at the conclusion of the 13-month period to reflect any reduced sales load applicable to shares purchased during the 90-day period prior to submission of the Letter of Intent. If your purchases qualify for a further sales load reduction, the sales load will be adjusted to reflect your total purchase at the end of 13 months. If total purchases are less than the amount specified, the offering price of the shares you purchased (including shares representing the escrowed amount) during the 13-month period will be adjusted to reflect the sales load applicable to the aggregate purchases you actually made (which will reduce the number of shares in your account), unless you have redeemed the shares in your account, in which case, the Transfer Agent, as attorney-in-fact pursuant to the terms of the Letter of Intent, will redeem an appropriate number of Class A or Class T shares of the Fund held in escrow to realize the difference between the sales load actually paid and the sales load applicable to the aggregate purchases actually made and any remaining shares will be credited to your account. Signing a Letter of Intent does not bind you to purchase, or the Fund to sell, the full amount indicated at the sales load in effect at the time of signing, but you must complete the intended purchase to obtain the reduced sales load. At the time you purchase Class A or Class T shares, you must indicate your intention to do so under a Letter of Intent. Purchases pursuant to a Letter of Intent will be made at the then-current NAV plus the applicable sales load in effect at the time such Letter of Intent was submitted.

Retirement Plans and IRAs. The Fund makes available to corporations a variety of prototype pension and profit-sharing plans, including a 401(K) Salary Reduction Plan. In addition, the Fund makes available Keogh Plans, IRAs (including regular IRAs, spousal IRAs for a non-

working spouse, Roth IRAs, SEP-IRAs, and rollover IRAs), Education Savings Accounts 401(k) Salary Reduction Plans and 403(b)(7) Plans. Plan support services also are available.

Investors who wish to purchase Fund shares in conjunction with a Keogh Plan, a 403(b)(7) Plan or an IRA, including a SEP-IRA, or an Education Savings Account, may request from the Distributor forms for adoption of such plans.

The entity acting as custodian may charge a fee for Keogh Plans, 403(b)(7) Plans, IRAs or Education Savings Accounts, payment of which could require the liquidation of shares. All fees charged are described in the appropriate form.

Shares may be purchased in connection with these plans only by direct remittance to the entity acting as custodian. Purchases for these plans may not be made in advance of receipt of funds.

Each investor should read the prototype retirement plan and the appropriate form of Custodial Agreement for further details on eligibility, service fees and tax implications, and should consult a tax adviser.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PURCHASES, EXCHANGES AND REDEMPTIONS**

The Fund is intended to be a long-term investment vehicle and is not designed to provide investors with a means of speculation on short-term market movements. A pattern of frequent purchases and exchanges can be disruptive to efficient portfolio management and, consequently, can be detrimental to the Fund's performance and its shareholders. Accordingly, if the Fund's management determines that an investor is engaged in excessive trading, the Fund, with or without prior notice, may temporarily or permanently terminate the availability of Fund Exchanges, or reject in whole or part any purchase or exchange request, with respect to such investor's account. Such investors also may be barred from purchasing other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds. Generally, an investor who makes more than four purchases/redemptions or exchanges (so called round-trips) during any twelve-month period or who makes exchanges that appear to coincide with an active market-timing strategy may be deemed to be engaged in excessive trading. Accounts under common ownership or control will be considered as one account for purposes of determining a pattern of excessive trading. In addition, the Fund may refuse or restrict purchase or exchange requests by any person or group if, in the judgment of the Fund's management, the Fund would be unable to invest the money effectively in accordance with its investment objective and policies or could otherwise be adversely affected or if the Fund receives or anticipates receiving simultaneous orders that may significantly affect the Fund (e.g., amounts equal to 1% or more of the Fund's total assets). If an exchange request is refused, the Fund will take no other action with respect to the shares until it receives further instructions from the investor. The Fund may delay forwarding redemption proceeds for up to seven days if the investor redeeming shares is engaged in excessive trading or if the amount of the redemption request otherwise would be disruptive to efficient portfolio management or would adversely affect the Fund. The Fund's policy on excessive trading applies to investors who invest in the Fund directly or through financial intermediaries, but does not apply to the Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege, to any automatic investment or withdrawal privilege described herein, or to non-IRA plan accounts.

During times of drastic economic or market conditions, the Fund may suspend exchange privileges temporarily without notice and treat exchange requests based on their separate components - redemption orders with a simultaneous request to purchase the other fund's shares. In such a case, the redemption request would be processed at the Fund's next determined NAV but the purchase order would be effective only at the NAV next determined after the fund being purchased receives the proceeds of the redemption, which may result in the purchase being delayed.

## **DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Account Policies."

Valuation of Portfolio Securities. The Fund's securities are valued at the last sale price on the securities exchange or national securities market on which such securities primarily are traded. Securities not listed on an exchange or national securities market, or securities in which there were no transactions, are valued at the average of the most recent bid and asked prices. Bid price is used when no asked price is available. Where market quotations are not readily available, the Fund's investments are valued based on fair value as determined in good faith by the Board. The value of debt securities may be determined by an independent pricing service approved by the Board. Any assets or liabilities initially expressed in terms of foreign currency will be translated into U.S. dollars at the midpoint of the New York interbank market spot exchange rate as quoted on the day of such translation or, if no such rate is quoted on such date, such other quoted market exchange rate as may be determined to be appropriate by Dreyfus. If the Fund has to obtain prices as of the close of trading on various exchanges throughout the world, the calculation of NAV may not take place contemporaneously with the determination of prices of certain of the Fund's securities. Short-term investments are carried at amortized cost, which approximates value. Expenses and fees, including the management fee, are accrued daily and taken into account for the purpose of determining the NAV of the Fund's shares.

Restricted securities, as well as securities or other assets for which recent market quotations are not readily available or are determined by the Trust not to reflect accurately fair value (such as when an event occurs after the close of the exchange on which the security is principally traded and that is determined by the Trust to have changed the value of the security), are valued at fair value as determined in good faith based on procedures approved by the Trust's Board. The valuation of a security based on fair value procedures may differ from the security's most recent closing price, and from the prices used by other mutual funds to calculate their net asset values. Restricted securities which are, or are convertible into, securities of the same class of other securities for which a public market exists usually will be valued at such market value less the same percentage discount at which the restricted securities were purchased. This discount will be revised periodically by the Board if the Board members believe that it no longer reflects the value of the restricted securities. Restricted securities not of the same class as securities for which a public market exists usually will be valued initially at cost. Any subsequent adjustment from cost will be based upon considerations deemed relevant by the Board.

NYSE Closings. The holidays (as observed) on which the NYSE is currently scheduled to be closed are: New Year's Day, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

## **DIVIDENDS, OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES**

Dreyfus believes that the Fund has qualified for treatment as a "regulated investment company" under the Code for its most recent fiscal year. The Fund intends to continue to so qualify if such qualification is in the best interest of its shareholders. As a regulated investment company, the Fund will pay no Federal income tax on its net investment income and net realized gains to the extent such income and gains are distributed to its shareholders. To qualify for treatment as a regulated investment company, the Fund must distribute each taxable year at least 90% of its investment company taxable net income (consisting of net investment income, the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long term capital loss and net gains from certain foreign currency transactions, all determined without regard to any deduction for dividends paid) to its shareholders and meet certain asset diversification and other requirements. If the Fund does not qualify for treatment as a regulated investment company, it will be treated for tax purposes as an ordinary corporation subject to Federal income tax. The term "regulated investment company" does not imply the supervision of management or investment practices or policies by any government agency.

If you elect to receive dividends and other distributions in cash, and your dividend or distribution check is returned to the Fund as undeliverable or remains uncashed for six months, the Fund reserves the right to reinvest such distributions and all future distributions payable to you in additional Fund shares at net asset value. No interest will accrue on amounts represented by uncashed distribution or redemption checks.

Any dividend or other distribution paid shortly after your purchase may have the effect of reducing the aggregate net asset value of your shares below the cost of your investment. Such a distribution would be a return of investment in an economic sense, as described herein. In addition, if a shareholder holds shares of the Fund for six months or less and has received a capital gain distribution with respect to such shares, any loss incurred on the sale of such shares will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of the capital gain distribution received.

In general, dividends (other than capital gain dividends) paid by the Fund to U.S. individual shareholders may be eligible for the 15% preferential maximum tax rate to the extent that the Fund's income consists of dividends paid by U.S. corporations and certain foreign corporations on shares that have been held by the Fund for at least 61 days during the 121-day period commencing 60 days before the shares become ex-dividend. In order to be eligible for the preferential rate, the shareholder must have held his or her shares in the Fund for at least 61 days during the 120-day period commencing 60 days before the Fund shares become ex-dividend. Additional restrictions on an individual shareholder's qualification for the preferential rate may apply.

In general, dividends (but not capital gain distributions) paid by the Fund to U.S. corporate shareholders may be eligible for the dividends received deduction to the extent that the Fund's income consists of dividends paid by U.S. corporations on shares that have been held by the Fund for at least 46 days during the 90-day period commencing 45 days before the shares become ex-dividend and with respect to which the Fund satisfies certain other requirements. In order to claim the dividends received deduction, the shareholder must have held its shares in the Fund for at least 46 days during the 90-day period commencing 45 days before the Fund shares become ex-dividend. Additional restrictions on a corporate shareholder's ability to claim the dividends received deduction apply.



Distributions to you of the Fund's net capital gain (i.e., the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss) are taxable as long-term capital gains, regardless of how long you have held your Fund shares, and also are subject to a 15% maximum federal income tax rate for individual shareholders to the extent the distributions are attributable to net capital gain the Fund recognizes on sales or exchanges of capital assets after May 5, 2003, through its last taxable year beginning before January 1, 2009. In addition, any capital gain an individual shareholder recognizes on a redemption or exchange during that period of his or her Fund shares that have been held for more than one year will qualify for that maximum rate.

Ordinarily, gains and losses realized from portfolio transactions will be treated as capital gains and losses. However, a portion of the gain or loss realized from the disposition of foreign currencies and non-U.S. dollar denominated securities (including debt instruments and certain forward contracts and options) may be treated as ordinary income or loss. In addition, all or a portion of any gains realized from the sale or other disposition of certain market discount bonds will be treated as ordinary income. Finally, all or a portion of the gain realized from engaging in "conversion transactions" (generally including certain transactions designed to convert ordinary income into capital gain) may be treated as ordinary income.

Gain or loss, if any, realized by the Fund from certain foreign currency forward contracts and futures and options transactions ("Section 1256 contracts") will be treated as 60% long-term capital gain or loss and 40% short-term capital gain or loss. Gain or loss will arise upon exercise or lapse of Section 1256 contracts as well as from closing transactions. In addition, any Section 1256 contracts remaining open at the end of the Fund's taxable year will be treated as sold for their then fair market value, resulting in additional gain or loss to the Fund characterized in the manner described above.

Offsetting positions held by the Fund involving certain actively traded futures or forward contracts or options may be considered, for tax purposes, to constitute "straddles." To the extent the straddle rules apply to positions established by the Fund, losses realized by the Fund on a straddle position may be deferred to the extent of unrealized gain in the offsetting position. In addition, short-term capital loss on straddle positions may be recharacterized as long-term capital loss, and long-term capital gains on straddle positions may be treated as short-term capital gains or ordinary income. Certain of the straddle positions held by the Fund may constitute "mixed straddles." The Fund may make one or more elections with respect to the treatment of "mixed straddles," resulting in different tax consequences. In certain circumstances, the provisions governing the tax treatment of straddles override or modify certain of the provisions discussed above.

If the Fund either (1) holds an appreciated financial position with respect to stock, certain debt obligations, or partnership interests ("appreciated financial position") and then enters into a short sale, futures, forward, or offsetting notional principal contract (collectively, a "Contract") with respect to the same or substantially identical property or (2) holds an appreciated financial position that is a Contract and then acquires property that is the same as, or substantially identical to, the underlying property, the Fund generally will be taxed as if the appreciated financial position were sold at its fair market value on the date the Fund enters into the financial position or acquires the property, respectively. The foregoing will not apply, however, to any transaction during any taxable year that otherwise would be treated as a constructive sale if the transaction is closed within 30 days after the end of that year and the Fund holds the appreciated financial position unhedged for 60 days after that closing (i.e., at no time during that 60-day period is the Fund's risk of loss regarding that position reduced by reason of certain specified transactions with respect to substantially identical or related

property, such as having an option to sell, being contractually obligated to sell, making a short sale, or granting an option to buy substantially identical stock or securities).

If the Fund enters into certain derivatives (including forward contracts, long positions under notional principal contracts, and related puts and calls) with respect to equity interests in certain pass-thru entities (including other regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, partnerships, real estate mortgage investment conduits and certain trusts and foreign corporations), long-term capital gain with respect to the derivative may be recharacterized as ordinary income to the extent it exceeds the long-term capital gain that would have been realized had the interest in the pass-thru entity been held directly by the Fund during the term of the derivative contract. Any gain recharacterized as ordinary income will be treated as accruing at a constant rate over the term of the derivative contract and may be subject to an interest charge. The Treasury Department has authority to issue regulations expanding the application of these rules to derivatives with respect to debt instruments and/or stock in corporations that are not pass-thru entities.

Investment by the Fund in securities issued or acquired at a discount, or providing for deferred interest or for payment of interest in the form of additional obligations, could under special tax rules affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders by causing the Fund to recognize income prior to the receipt of cash payments. For example, a Fund could be required each year to accrue a portion of the discount (or deemed discount) at which the securities were issued and to distribute such income in order to maintain its qualification for treatment as a regulated investment company. In such case, the Fund may have to dispose of securities, which it might otherwise have continued to hold, in order to generate cash to satisfy the distribution requirements.

If a Fund invests in an entity that is classified as a "passive foreign investment company" ("PFIC") for Federal income tax purposes, the operation of certain provisions of the Code applying to PFICs could result in the imposition of Federal income taxes (and interest thereon) on the Fund. In addition, gain realized from the sale or other disposition of PFIC securities held beyond the end of the Fund's taxable year generally will be treated as ordinary income.

## **PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS**

General. The Fund is managed by a dual employee of Dreyfus and The Boston Company Asset Management LLC ("TBCAM"), an affiliated entity in the Mellon organization. Funds managed by dual employees use the research and trading facilities, and are subject to the internal policies and procedures, of the affiliated entities. While the policies and procedures of the affiliated entities are different than those of Dreyfus, they are based on the same principles, and are substantially similar.

TBCAM assumes general supervision over the placement of securities buy and sell orders on behalf of the funds it manages. In choosing brokers, TBCAM evaluates the ability of the broker to execute the particular transaction (taking into account the market for the stock and the size of the order) at the best combination of price and quality of execution. In selecting brokers no factor is necessarily determinative, and seeking to obtain best execution for all trades takes precedence over all other considerations. Brokers are selected after a review of all relevant criteria, including: the actual price to be paid for the shares; the broker's knowledge of the market for the particular stock; the broker's reliability; the broker's integrity or ability to maintain confidentiality; the broker's research capability; commission rates; the broker's ability to ensure that the shares will be delivered

on settlement date; the broker's ability to handle specific orders of various size and complexity; the broker's financial condition; the broker's willingness to commit capital; and the sale by the broker of funds managed by Dreyfus. At various times and for various reasons, certain factors will be more important than others in determining which broker to use.

TBCAM has adopted written trade allocation procedures for its equity trading desks. Under the procedures, portfolio managers and the trading desks ordinarily will seek to aggregate (or "bunch") orders that are placed or received concurrently for more than one account. In some cases, this policy may adversely affect the price paid or received by an account, or the size of the position obtained or liquidated. Generally, bunched trades will be allocated among the participating accounts based on the number of shares designated for each account on the trade order. If securities available are insufficient to satisfy the requirements of the participating accounts, available securities generally are allocated among accounts pro rata, based on order sizes. In the case of debt securities, the pro rata allocation is based on the accounts' asset sizes. In allocating trades made on a combined basis, the trading desks seeks to achieve the same net unit price of the securities for each participating account. Because a pro rata allocation may not always adequately accommodate all facts and circumstances, the trade allocation procedures allow the allocation of securities on a basis other than pro rata. For example, adjustments may be made to eliminate de minimis positions, to give priority to accounts with specialized investment policies and objectives or to consider the unique characteristics of certain accounts (e.g., available cash, industry or issuer concentration, duration, credit exposure).

Dreyfus or TBCAM may deem it appropriate for one of their accounts to sell a security while another of their accounts is purchasing the same security. Under such circumstances, they may arrange to have the purchase and sale transaction effected directly between their accounts ("cross transactions"). Cross transactions will be effected pursuant to procedures adopted under Rule 17a-7 under the 1940 Act.

For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001 the Fund paid brokerage commissions amounting to \$1,491,899, \$2,227,761 and \$1,938,248, respectively. For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001 the Fund paid brokerage concessions amounting to \$0, \$0 and \$463,878, respectively.

The Trust contemplates that, consistent with the policy of obtaining the most favorable net price, brokerage transactions may be conducted through Dreyfus or its affiliates. The Trust's Board has adopted procedures in conformity with Rule 17e-1 under the 1940 Act to ensure that all brokerage commissions paid to Dreyfus or its affiliates are reasonable and fair.

IPO Allocations. Under Dreyfus' and TBCAM's special trade allocation procedures applicable to domestic and foreign initial and secondary public offering and Rule 144A transactions (collectively herein "IPOs"), all portfolio managers seeking to participate in an IPO must use reasonable efforts to indicate their interest in the IPO, by account and in writing, to the Equity Trading Desk at least 24 hours prior to the pricing of a deal. Except, as applicable, upon prior written authorization from the Director of Investments or his designee, an indication of interest submitted on behalf of any account must not exceed an amount based on the account's approximate median position size.

Portfolio managers may specify by account the minimum number of shares deemed to be an adequate allocation. Portfolio managers may not decline any allocation in excess of the minimum

number of shares specified on the ground that too few shares are available, and will not receive an allocation of fewer than the minimum number of shares specified. If a portfolio manager does not specify a minimum number of shares deemed to be an adequate allocation, a "default minimum" equal to ten percent of the requested number of shares is assumed. De minimis adjustments may result in larger accounts participating in IPOs to a lesser extent than smaller accounts.

Based on the indications of interest received by the Equity Trading Desk, the Chief Investment Officer's designee prepares an IPO Allocation Worksheet indicating an appropriate order size for each account, taking into consideration (i) the number of shares requested for each account; (ii) the relative size of each account; (iii) each account's investment objectives, style and portfolio composition, and (iv) any other factors that may lawfully be considered in allocating IPO shares among accounts.

If there are insufficient securities to satisfy all orders as reflected on the IPO Allocation Worksheet, Dreyfus' allocation generally will be distributed among participating accounts pro rata on the basis of each account's order size. Allocations may deviate from a strict pro rata allocation if the Chief Investment Officer or his designee determines that it is fair and equitable to allocate on other than a pro rata basis.

Soft Dollars. Subject to the policy of seeking the best combination of price and execution, a Fund may execute transactions with brokerage firms that provide, along with brokerage services, research services and products, as defined in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Section 28(e) provides a "safe harbor" to investment managers who use commission dollars of their advised accounts to obtain investment research and brokerage services and products. These arrangements are often called "soft dollar arrangements." Research and brokerage services and products that provide lawful and appropriate assistance to the manager in performing investment decision-making responsibilities fall within the safe harbor.

The services and products provided under these arrangements permit Dreyfus and TBCAM to supplement their own research and analysis activities, and provide them with information from individuals and research staffs of many securities firms.

Some of the research products or services received by Dreyfus and TBCAM may have both a research function and a non-research administrative function (a "mixed use"). If Dreyfus or TBCAM determines that any research product or service has a mixed use, Dreyfus or TBCAM, as applicable, will allocate in good faith the cost of such service or product accordingly. The portion of the product or service that is determined to assist in the investment decision-making process may be paid for in soft dollars. The non-research portion is paid for by Dreyfus or TBCAM, as applicable, in hard dollars. Any such allocation may create a conflict of interest for Dreyfus or TBCAM

Dreyfus and TBCAM generally consider the amount and nature of research, execution and other services provided by brokerage firms, as well as the extent to which such services are relied on, and each attempts to allocate a portion of the brokerage business of its clients on the basis of that consideration. Neither the research services nor the amount of brokerage given to a particular brokerage firm are made pursuant to any agreement or commitment with any of the selected firms that would bind Dreyfus or TBCAM to compensate the selected brokerage firm for research provided. Dreyfus and TBCAM endeavor to direct sufficient commissions to broker/dealers that have provided them with research to ensure continued receipt of research they believe is useful.

Actual brokerage commissions received by a broker/dealer may be more or less than the suggested allocations.

Dreyfus or TBCAM may receive a benefit from the research services and products that is not passed on to the Fund in the form of a direct monetary benefit. Further, research services and products may be useful to Dreyfus or TBCAM in providing investment advice to any of the funds or clients it advises. Likewise, information made available to Dreyfus or TBCAM from brokerage firms effecting securities transactions for the Fund may be utilized on behalf of another fund or client. Thus, there may be no correlation between the amount of brokerage commissions generated by the Fund and the indirect benefits received by the Fund.

The aggregate amount of transactions during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 in securities effected on an agency basis through a broker-dealer for research was approximately 17,710,966 and the commissions and concessions related to such transactions was approximately 1,491,899.

Portfolio Turnover. While securities are purchased for the fund on the basis of potential for long-term growth of capital and not for short-term trading profits, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate may exceed 100%. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% would occur, for example, if all the securities held by the Fund were replaced once in a period of one year. A higher rate of portfolio turnover (100% or greater) involves correspondingly greater brokerage commissions and other expenses that must be borne directly by the Fund and, thus, indirectly by its shareholders. In addition, a higher rate of portfolio turnover may result in the realization of larger amounts of short-term and/or long-term capital gains that, when distributed to the Fund's shareholders, are taxable to them at the then current rate. Nevertheless, securities transactions for the Fund will be based only upon investment considerations and will not be limited by any other considerations when Dreyfus deems its appropriate to make changes in the Fund's assets. The portfolio turnover rate for the Fund is calculated by dividing the lesser of the Fund's annual sales or purchases of portfolio securities (exclusive of purchases and sales of securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition were one year or less) by the monthly average value of securities in the Fund during the year. Portfolio turnover may vary from year to year as well as within a year. In periods in which extraordinary market conditions prevail, Dreyfus will not be deterred from changing the Fund's investment strategy as rapidly as needed, in which case higher turnover rates can be anticipated.

Regular Broker-Dealers. The Fund may execute transactions with one or more of its "regular brokers or dealers," as defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act. Rule 10b-1 provides that a "regular broker or dealer" is one of the ten brokers or dealers that, during the Fund's most recent fiscal year (i) received the greatest dollar amount of brokerage commissions from participating, either directly or indirectly, in the Fund's portfolio transactions, (ii) engaged as principal in the largest dollar amount of the Fund's portfolio transactions or (iii) sold the largest dollar amount of the Fund's securities. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Fund acquired securities of its regular brokers or dealers. The following is a list of the issuers of the securities and the aggregate value per issuer, as of December 31, 2003, of such securities:

<u>Name of Regular Broker or Dealer</u>	<u>Aggregate Value Per Issuer</u>
Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co.	\$19,572,000
Lehman Brothers, Inc.	\$ 8,618,000
Goldman, Sachs & Co.	\$ 24,742,000
Citigroup Securities Services, Inc.	\$ 38,057,000

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.	\$16,514,000
Bear, Stearns Co., Inc.	\$ 3,926,000
General Electric Credit Corp.	\$ 11,557,000
Banc of America Securities, LLC	\$ 11,984,000

## **SUMMARY OF THE PROXY VOTING POLICY, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE DREYFUS FAMILY OF FUNDS**

The Board of each fund in the Dreyfus Family of Funds has delegated to Dreyfus the authority to vote proxies of companies held in the fund's portfolio. Dreyfus, through its participation on the Mellon Proxy Policy Committee (the "MPPC"), applies Mellon's Proxy Voting Policy, related procedures, and voting guidelines when voting proxies on behalf of the funds.

Dreyfus recognizes that an investment adviser is a fiduciary that owes its clients, including funds it manages, a duty of utmost good faith and full and fair disclosure of all material facts. An investment adviser's duty of loyalty requires an adviser to vote proxies in a manner consistent with the best interest of its clients and precludes the adviser from subrogating the clients' interests to its own. In addition, an investment adviser voting proxies on behalf of a fund must do so in a manner consistent with the best interests of the fund and its shareholders. Dreyfus seeks to avoid material conflicts of interest by participating in the MPPC, which applies detailed, pre-determined written proxy voting guidelines (the "Voting Guidelines") in an objective and consistent manner across client accounts, based on internal and external research and recommendations provided by a third party vendor, and without consideration of any client relationship factors. Further, the MPPC engages a third party as an independent fiduciary to vote all proxies of funds managed by Mellon or its affiliates (including the Dreyfus Family of Funds), and may engage an independent fiduciary to vote proxies of other issuers at its discretion.

All proxies received by the funds are reviewed, categorized, analyzed and voted in accordance with the Voting Guidelines. The guidelines are reviewed periodically and updated as necessary to reflect new issues and any changes in Mellon's or Dreyfus's policies on specific issues. Items that can be categorized under the Voting Guidelines are voted in accordance with any applicable guidelines or referred to the MPPC, if the applicable guidelines so require. Proposals that cannot be categorized under the Voting Guidelines are referred to the MPPC for discussion and vote. Additionally, the MPPC reviews proposals where it has identified a particular company, industry or issue for special scrutiny. With regard to voting proxies of foreign companies, the MPPC weighs the cost of voting and potential inability to sell the securities (which may occur during the voting process) against the benefit of voting the proxies to determine whether or not to vote. With respect to securities lending transactions, the MPPC seeks to balance the economic benefits of continuing to participate in an open securities lending transaction against the inability to vote proxies.

When evaluating proposals, the MPPC recognizes that the management of a publicly-held company may need protection from the market's frequent focus on short-term considerations, so as to be able to concentrate on such long-term goals as productivity and development of competitive products and services. In addition, the MPPC generally supports proposals designed to provide management with short-term insulation from outside influences so as to enable them to bargain effectively with potential suitors to the extent such proposals are discrete and not bundled with other proposals. The MPPC believes that a shareholder's role in the governance of

a publicly-held company is generally limited to monitoring the performance of the company and its management and voting on matters which properly come to a shareholder vote. However, the MPPC generally opposes proposals designed to insulate an issuer's management unnecessarily from the wishes of a majority of shareholders. Accordingly, the MPPC generally votes in accordance with management on issues that the MPPC believes neither unduly limit the rights and privileges of shareholders nor adversely affect the value of the investment.

On questions of social responsibility where economic performance does not appear to be an issue, the MPPC attempts to ensure that management reasonably responds to the social issues. Responsiveness will be measured by management's efforts to address the particular social issue including, where appropriate, assessment of the implications of the proposal to the ongoing operations of the company. The MPPC will pay particular attention to repeat issues where management has failed in its commitment in the intervening period to take actions on issues.

In evaluating proposals regarding incentive plans and restricted stock plans, the MPPC typically employs a shareholder value transfer model. This model seeks to assess the amount of shareholder equity flowing out of the company to executives as options are exercised. After determining the cost of the plan, the MPPC evaluates whether the cost is reasonable based on a number of factors, including industry classification and historical performance information. The MPPC generally votes against proposals that permit or are silent on the repricing or replacement of stock options without shareholder approval.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND/TRUST**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "The Fund."

Each Fund share has one vote and, when issued and paid for in accordance with the terms of the offering, is fully paid and non-assessable. Fund shares have equal rights in liquidation. Fund shares are without par value, have no preemptive or subscription rights, and are freely transferable. The Fund is one of three portfolios of the Trust.

Unless otherwise required by the 1940 Act, ordinarily it will not be necessary for the Trust to hold annual meetings of shareholders. As a result, Fund shareholders may not consider each year the election of Trustees or the appointment of auditors. However, the holders of at least 10% of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote may require the Trust to hold a special meeting of shareholders for purposes of removing a Trustee from office or any other purpose. Shareholders may remove a Trustee by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Trust's outstanding voting shares. In addition, the Board of Trustees will call a meeting of shareholders for the purpose of electing Trustees if, at any time, less than a majority of the Trustees then holding office have been elected by shareholders.

The Trust is a "series fund," which is a mutual fund divided into separate portfolios, each of which is treated as a separate entity for certain matters under the 1940 Act and for other purposes. A shareholder of one portfolio is not deemed to be a shareholder of any other portfolio. For certain matters shareholders vote together as a group; as to others they vote separately by portfolio, or, where matters affect different classes of a portfolio differently, by class.

Rule 18f-2 under the 1940 Act provides that any matter required to be submitted under the provisions of the 1940 Act or applicable state law or otherwise to the holders of the outstanding voting securities of an investment company, such as the Trust, will not be deemed to have been effectively acted upon unless approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of each series affected by such matter. Rule 18f-2 further provides that a series shall be deemed to be affected by a matter unless it is clear that the interests of each series in the matter are identical or that the matter does not affect any interest of such series. The Rule exempts the selection of independent accountants and the election of Trustees from the separate voting requirements of the Rule.

The Fund will send annual and semi-annual financial statements to all of its shareholders.

Under Massachusetts law, shareholders could, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable for the obligations of the Trust. However, the Agreement and Declaration of Trust disclaims shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Trust and requires that notice of such disclaimer be given in each agreement, obligation or instrument entered into or executed by the Trust or a Trustee. The Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides for indemnification from Fund property for all losses and expenses of any shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of the Fund. Thus, the risk of a shareholder's incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which the Fund itself would be unable to meet its obligations, a possibility which Dreyfus believes is remote. Upon payment of any liability incurred by the Fund, the shareholder of the Fund paying such liability will be entitled to reimbursement from the general assets of the Fund. The Trustees intend to conduct the operations of the Fund in such a way so as to avoid, as far as possible, ultimate liability of the shareholders for liabilities of the Fund.

## **COUNSEL AND INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP, 1800 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Second Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036-1800, has passed upon the legality of the shares offered by the Prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information.

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, 180 Maiden Lane, New York, New York 10038-4982, serves as counsel to the non-interested Trustees of the Trust.

KPMG LLP, 757 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017, was appointed by the Trustees to serve as the Fund's independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2004, providing audit and other services including (1) examination of the annual financial statements, (2) review and consultation in connection with SEC filings and (3) review of the annual federal income tax return filed on behalf of the Fund.



## APPENDIX

### Rating Categories

Description of certain ratings assigned by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("S&P"), Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), and Fitch Ratings ("Fitch"):

#### **S&P**

##### Long-term

#### **AAA**

An obligation rated 'AAA' has the highest rating assigned by S&P. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.

#### **AA**

An obligation rated 'AA' differs from the highest rated obligations only in small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is very strong.

#### **A**

An obligation rated 'A' is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher rated categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is still strong.

#### **BBB**

An obligation rated 'BBB' exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

#### ***BB, B, CCC, CC, and C***

Obligations rated 'BB', 'B', 'CCC', 'CC', and 'C' are regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. 'BB' indicates the least degree of speculation and 'C' the highest. While such obligations will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposures to adverse conditions.

#### **BB**

An obligation rated 'BB' is less vulnerable to nonpayment than other speculative issues. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

#### **B**

An obligation rated 'B' is more vulnerable to nonpayment than obligations rated 'BB', but the obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor's capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

## **CCC**

An obligation rated 'CCC' is currently vulnerable to nonpayment, and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. In the event of adverse business, financial, or economic conditions, the obligor is not likely to have the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

## **CC**

An obligation rated 'CC' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment.

## **C**

A subordinated debt or preferred stock obligation rated 'C' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment. The 'C' rating may be used to cover a situation where a bankruptcy petition has been filed or similar action taken, but payments on this obligation are being continued. A 'C' also will be assigned to a preferred stock issue in arrears on dividends or sinking fund payments, but that is currently paying.

## **D**

An obligation rated 'D' is in payment default. The 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless S&P believes that such payments will be made during such grace period. The 'D' rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized.

## **r**

The symbol 'r' is attached to the ratings of instruments with significant noncredit risks. It highlights risks to principal or volatility of expected returns which are not addressed in the credit rating. Examples include: obligations linked or indexed to equities, currencies, or commodities; obligations exposed to severe prepayment risk—such as interest-only or principal-only mortgage securities; and obligations with unusually risky interest terms, such as inverse floaters.

## **N.R.**

The designation 'N.R.' indicates that no rating has been requested, that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that S&P does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.

Note: The ratings from 'AA' to 'CCC' may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign designation to show relative standing within the major rating categories.

## **Short-term**

### **SP-1**

Strong capacity to pay principal and interest. An issue determined to possess a very strong capacity to pay debt service is given a plus sign (+) designation.

### **SP-2**

Satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest, with some vulnerability to adverse financial and economic changes over the term of the notes.

### **SP-3**

Speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

### Commercial paper

#### **A-1**

This designation indicates that the degree of safety regarding timely payment is strong. Those issues determined to possess extremely strong safety characteristics are denoted with a plus sign (+) designation.

#### **A-2**

Capacity for timely payment on issues with this designation is satisfactory. However, the relative degree of safety is not as high as for issues designated 'A-1'.

#### **A-3**

Issues carrying this designation have an adequate capacity for timely payment. They are, however, more vulnerable to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances than obligations carrying the higher designations.

#### **B**

Issues rated B are regarded as having only speculative capacity for timely payment.

#### **C**

This rating is assigned to short-term debt obligations with a doubtful capacity for payment.

#### **D**

Debt rated 'D' is payment default. The 'D' rating category is used when interest payments or principal payments are not made on the due date, even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless S&P believes such payments will be made during such grace period.

### **Moody's**

### Long-term

#### **Aaa**

Bonds rated 'Aaa' are judged to be of the best quality. They carry the smallest degree of investment risk and are generally referred to as "gilt edged." Interest payments are protected by a large or by an exceptionally stable margin and principal is secure. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most unlikely to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues.

#### **Aa**

Bonds rated 'Aa' are judged to be of high quality by all standards. Together with the 'Aaa' group they comprise what are generally known as high-grade bonds. They are rated lower than the best bonds because margins of protection may not be as large as in 'Aaa' securities or fluctuation of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long-term risk appear somewhat larger than the 'Aaa' securities.

## **A**

Bonds rated 'A' possess many favorable investment attributes and are to be considered as upper-medium-grade obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate, but elements may be present which suggest a susceptibility to impairment some time in the future.

## **Baa**

Bonds rated 'Baa' are considered as medium-grade obligations (i.e., they are neither highly protected nor poorly secured). Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such bonds lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well.

## **Ba**

Bonds rated 'Ba' are judged to have speculative elements; their future cannot be considered as well-assured. Often the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate, and thereby not well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future. Uncertainty of position characterizes bonds in this class.

## **B**

Bonds rated 'B' generally lack characteristics of the desirable investment. Assurance of interest and principal payments or of maintenance of other terms of the contract over any long period of time may be small.

## **Caa**

Bonds rated 'Caa' are of poor standing. Such issues may be in default or there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.

## **Ca**

Bonds rated 'Ca' represent obligations which are speculative in a high degree. Such issues are often in default or have other marked shortcomings.

## **C**

Bonds rated 'C' are the lowest rated class of bonds, and issues so rated can be regarded as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing.

Note: Moody's applies numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 in each generic rating classification from 'Aa' through 'Caa'. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category.

### Prime rating system (short-term)

Issuers rated **Prime-1** (or supporting institutions) have a superior ability for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. Prime-1 repayment ability will often be evidenced by many of the following characteristics:

Leading market positions in well-established industries.

High rates of return on funds employed.

Conservative capitalization structure with moderate reliance on debt and ample asset protection.

Broad margins in earnings coverage of fixed financial charges and high internal cash generation.

Well-established access to a range of financial markets and assured sources of alternate liquidity.

Issuers rated **Prime-2** (or supporting institutions) have a strong ability for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. This will normally be evidenced by many of the characteristics cited above but to a lesser degree. Earnings trends and coverage ratios, while sound, may be more subject to variation. Capitalization characteristics, while still appropriate, may be more affected by external conditions. Ample alternate liquidity is maintained.

Issuers rated **Prime-3** (or supporting institutions) have an acceptable ability for repayment of senior short-term obligations. The effect of industry characteristics and market compositions may be more pronounced. Variability in earnings and profitability may result in changes in the level of debt protection measurements and may require relatively high financial leverage. Adequate alternate liquidity is maintained.

Issuers rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.

### MIG/VMIG--U.S. short-term

Municipal debt issuance ratings are designated as Moody's Investment Grade (MIG) and are divided into three levels -- MIG 1 through MIG 3.

The short-term rating assigned to the demand feature of variable rate demand obligations (VRDOs) is designated as VMIG. When either the long- or short-term aspect of a VRDO is not rated, that piece is designated NR, e.g., Aaa/NR or NR/VMIG 1.

#### **MIG 1/VMIG1**

This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by established cash flows, highly reliable liquidity support, or demonstrated broad-based access to the market for refinancing.

## **MIG 2/VMIG 2**

This designation denotes strong credit quality. Margins of protection are ample, although not as large as in the preceding group.

## **MIG 3/VMIG 3**

This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Liquidity and cash-flow protection may be narrow, and market access for refinancing is likely to be less well-established.

## **SG**

This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Debt instruments in this category may lack sufficient margins of protection.

## **Fitch**

### Long-term investment grade

#### **AAA**

**Highest credit quality.** 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

#### **AA**

**Very high credit quality.** 'AA' ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

#### **A**

**High credit quality.** 'A' ratings denote a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

#### **BBB**

**Good credit quality.** 'BBB' ratings indicate that there is currently a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in circumstances and in economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity. This is the lowest investment-grade category.

### Long-term speculative grade

#### **BB**

**Speculative.** 'BB' ratings indicate that there is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as the result of adverse economic change over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met. Securities rated in this category are not investment grade.

#### **B**

**Highly speculative.** 'B' ratings indicate that significant credit risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

## CCC, CC, C

**High default risk.** Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favorable business or economic developments. 'CC' ratings indicate that default of some kind appears probable. 'C' ratings signal imminent default.

## DDD, DD, D

**Default.** The ratings of obligations in this category are based on their prospects for achieving partial or full recovery in a reorganization or liquidation of the obligor. While expected recovery values are highly speculative and cannot be estimated with any precision, the following serve as general guidelines. 'DDD' obligations have the highest potential for recovery, around 90% - 100% of outstanding amounts and accrued interest. 'DD' ratings indicate potential recoveries in the range of 50% - 90% and 'D' the lowest recovery potential, i.e., below 50%.

Entities rated in this category have defaulted on some or all of their obligations. Entities rated 'DDD' have the highest prospect for resumption of performance or continued operation with or without a formal reorganization process. Entities rated 'DD' and 'D' are generally undergoing a formal reorganization or liquidation process; those rated 'DD' are likely to satisfy a higher portion of their outstanding obligations, while entities rated 'D' have a poor prospect of repaying all obligations.

## Short-term

A short-term rating has a time horizon of less than 12 months for most obligations, or up to three years for U.S. public finance securities, and thus places greater emphasis on the liquidity necessary to meet financial commitments in a timely manner.

## F1

**Highest credit quality.** Indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added "+" to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.

## F2

**Good credit quality.** A satisfactory capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, but the margin of safety is not as great as in the case of the higher ratings.

## F3

**Fair credit quality.** The capacity for timely payment of financial commitment is adequate; however, near-term adverse changes could result in a reduction non-investment grade.

## B

**Speculative.** Minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments plus vulnerability to near-term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

## C

**High default risk.** Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

**D**

**Default.** Denotes actual or imminent payment default.

'**NR**' indicates that Fitch does not rate the issuer or issue in question.

Notes to long-term and short-term ratings: A plus (+) or minus (-) sign designation may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the 'AAA' long-term rating category, to categories below 'CCC', or to short-term ratings other than 'F1.'



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**DREYFUS PREMIER LIMITED TERM HIGH YIELD FUND**  
**CLASS A, CLASS B, CLASS C AND CLASS R SHARES**  
**PART B**  
**(STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)**  
**MAY 1, 2004**

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This Statement of Additional Information, which is not a prospectus, supplements and should be read in conjunction with the current Prospectus of Dreyfus Premier Limited Term High Yield Fund (the “Fund”), dated May 1, 2004, as it may be revised from time to time. The Fund is a separate, diversified portfolio of The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds Trust (the “Trust”), an open-end management investment company, known as a mutual fund, that is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). To obtain a copy of the Fund’s Prospectus, please call your financial adviser, write to the Fund at 144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard, Uniondale, New York 11556-0144, visit the Dreyfus.com website, or call one of the following numbers:

Call Toll Free 1-800-554-4611  
In New York City -- Call 1-718-895-1206  
Outside the U.S. -- Call 516-794-5452

The financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, including notes to the financial statements and supplementary information and the Independent Auditors’ Report, are included in the Annual Report to Shareholders. A copy of the Annual Report accompanies this Statement of Additional Information. The financial statements included in the Annual Report, and the Independent Auditors’ Report thereon contained therein, and related notes, are incorporated herein by reference.

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND/TRUST

The Trust was organized as a business trust under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on March 30, 1979. The Trust is an open-end management investment company comprised of separate portfolios, including the Fund, each of which is treated as a separate fund. Prior to February 3, 2003, the Fund's name was Dreyfus Premier Limited Term High Income Fund. The Fund is diversified, which means that, with respect to 75% of its total assets, the Fund will not invest more than 5% of its assets in the securities of any single issuer, nor hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any single issuer (other than, in each case, securities of other investment companies, and securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities).

The Fund's investment objective is to maximize total return, consisting of capital appreciation and current income. This objective cannot be changed without approval by the holders of a majority (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act")) of the Fund's outstanding voting shares. Prior to January 20, 2003, the Fund's investment objective was to provide high current income.

The Dreyfus Corporation ("Dreyfus") serves as the Fund's investment adviser.

Dreyfus Service Corporation (the "Distributor") is the distributor of the Fund's shares.

### Certain Portfolio Securities

The following information regarding the securities that the Fund may purchase supplements that found in the Fund's Prospectus.

Corporate Debt Securities. Corporate debt securities include corporate bonds, debentures, notes and other similar instruments, including certain convertible securities. Debt securities may be acquired with warrants attached. Corporate income-producing securities also may include forms of preferred or preference stock. The rate of interest on a corporate debt security may be fixed, floating or variable, and may vary inversely with respect to a reference rate. The rate of return or return of principal on some debt obligations may be linked or indexed to the level of exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and a foreign currency or currencies.

High Yield-Lower Rated Securities. The Fund normally invests at least 80% of its assets in fixed-income securities rated, at the time of purchase, below Baa by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody") and below BBB by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("S&P") and Fitch Ratings ("Fitch," and with the other rating agencies, the "Rating Agencies") and as low as the lowest rating assigned by the Rating Agencies. Such securities (commonly known as junk bonds), though higher yielding, are characterized by risk. See the Appendix for a general description of the Rating Agencies' ratings. Although ratings may be useful in evaluating the safety of interest and principal payments, they do not evaluate the market value risk of these securities. The Fund will rely on the judgment, analysis and experience of Dreyfus in evaluating the creditworthiness of an issuer. The Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective may be more dependent on the credit analysis undertaken by Dreyfus than might be the case for a fund that invests in higher rated securities.

Investors should be aware that the market values of many of these securities tend to be more sensitive to economic conditions than are higher rated securities. These securities generally are considered by the Rating Agencies to be predominantly speculative with respect to capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation and generally will involve more credit risk than securities in the higher rating categories.

Companies that issue certain of these securities often are highly leveraged and may not have available to them more traditional methods of financing. Therefore, the risk associated with acquiring the securities of such issuers generally is greater than is the case with the higher rated securities. For example, during an economic downturn or a sustained period of rising interest rates, highly leveraged issuers of these securities may not have sufficient revenues to meet their interest payment obligations. The issuer's ability to service its debt obligations also may be affected adversely by specific corporate developments, forecasts, or the unavailability of additional financing. The risk of loss because of default by the issuer is significantly greater for the holders of these securities because such securities generally are unsecured and often are subordinated to other creditors of the issuer. Bond prices are inversely related to interest rate changes; however, bond price volatility also is inversely related to coupon. Accordingly, below investment grade securities may be relatively less sensitive to interest rate changes than higher quality securities of comparable maturity, because of their higher coupon. This higher coupon is what the investor receives in return for bearing greater credit risk.

Because there is no established retail secondary market for many of these securities, the Fund anticipates that such securities could be sold only to a limited number of dealers or institutional investors. To the extent a secondary trading market for these securities does exist, it generally is not as liquid as the secondary market for higher rated securities. The lack of a liquid secondary market may have an adverse impact on market price and yield and the Fund's ability to dispose of particular issues when necessary to meet the Fund's liquidity needs or in response to a specific economic event such as a deterioration in the creditworthiness of the issuer. The lack of a liquid secondary market for certain securities also may make it more difficult for the Fund to obtain accurate market quotations for purposes of valuing the Fund's portfolio and calculating its net asset value ("NAV"). Adverse publicity and investor perceptions, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may decrease the values and liquidity of these securities. In such cases, judgment may play a greater role in valuation because less reliable, objective data may be available.

These securities may be particularly susceptible to economic downturns. It is likely that an economic recession could disrupt severely the market for such securities and may have an adverse impact on the value of such securities. In addition, it is likely that any such economic downturn could adversely affect the ability of the issuers of such securities to repay principal and pay interest thereon and increase the incidence of default for such securities.

The Fund may acquire these securities during an initial offering. Such securities may involve special risks because they are new issues. The Fund has no arrangement with any person concerning the acquisition of such securities, and Dreyfus will review carefully the credit and other characteristics pertinent to such new issues.

Investment Grade Obligations. Corporate obligations rated Baa or higher by Moody's or BBB or higher by S&P, and Fitch are considered by those Rating Agencies to be "investment grade" securities. The Fund may invest in investment grade securities (or if unrated, of

comparable quality as determined by Dreyfus) when the yield differential between below investment grade and investment grade securities narrows and the risk of loss may be reduced with only a relatively small reduction in yield. The Fund also may invest in investment grade securities when Dreyfus determines that a defensive investment position is appropriate in light of market or economic conditions.

Portfolio Securities Ratings. The average distribution of investments of the Fund in corporate bonds by ratings for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, calculated monthly on a dollar weighted basis, was as follows:

<u>Moody's</u>	<u>S&amp;P or Fitch</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Aaa	AAA	7.9%
Aa	AA	1.0%
A	A	0.5%
Baa	BBB	2.5%
Ba	BB	16.7%
B	B	39.9%
Caa	CCC	15.5%
Ca	CC	0.4%
C	C	0.3%
D	D	2.1%
NR	NR	5.1%*
		91.9%**

\* These unrated securities have been determined by Dreyfus to be of comparable quality to securities rated as follows: Ba/BB 3.9%, B 0.4% and Caa/CCC 0.4% and D 0.4%.

\*\* The Fund also owns equity securities as follows: common stocks 2.6%; preferred stocks rated B 1.4% and D 0.8%, convertible preferred stocks rated B 0.2% and Caa/CCC 1.3%; and convertible bonds rated Ba/BB 0.3% and Caa/CCC 0.1%.

The actual distribution of the Fund's corporate bond investments by ratings on any given date will vary, and the distribution of the Fund's investments by ratings as set forth above should not be considered as representative of the Fund's future portfolio composition.

U.S. Government Securities. Securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities include U.S. Treasury securities which differ in their interest rates, maturities and times of issuance. Some obligations issued or guaranteed by U.S. Government agencies and instrumentalities are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government; others by the right of the issuer to borrow from the Treasury; others by discretionary authority of the U.S. Government to purchase certain obligations of the agency or instrumentality; and others only by the credit of the agency or instrumentality. These securities bear fixed, floating or variable rates of interest. While the U.S. Government provides financial support to such U.S. Government-sponsored agencies and instrumentalities, no assurance can be given that it will always do so since it is not so obligated by law.

Municipal Obligations. Municipal obligations are debt obligations issued by states, territories and possessions of the United States and the District of Columbia and their political subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities, or multistate agencies or authorities. Municipal

obligations bear fixed, floating or variable rates of interest. Certain municipal obligations are subject to redemption at a date earlier than their stated maturity pursuant to call options, which may be separated from the related municipal obligations and purchased and sold separately. The Fund also may acquire call options on specific municipal obligations. The Fund generally would purchase these call options to protect the Fund from the issuer of the related municipal obligation redeeming, or other holder of the call option from calling away, the municipal obligation before maturity.

Municipal obligations generally include debt obligations issued to obtain funds for various public purposes as well as certain industrial development bonds issued by or on behalf of public authorities. Municipal obligations are classified as general obligation bonds, revenue bonds and notes. General obligation bonds are secured by the issuer's pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power for the payment of principal and interest. Revenue bonds are payable from the revenue derived from a particular facility or class of facilities or, in some cases, from the proceeds of a special excise or other specific revenue source, but not from the general taxing power. Industrial development bonds, in most cases, are revenue bonds that generally do not carry the pledge of the credit of the issuing municipality, but generally are guaranteed by the corporate entity on whose behalf they are issued. Notes are short-term instruments which are obligations of the issuing municipalities or agencies and are sold in anticipation of a bond sale, collection of taxes or receipt of other revenues. Municipal obligations include municipal lease/purchase agreements which are similar to installment purchase contracts for property or equipment issued by municipalities.

While, in general, municipal obligations are tax exempt securities having relatively low yields as compared to taxable, non-municipal obligations of similar quality, certain municipal obligations are taxable obligations offering yields comparable to, and in some cases greater than, the yields available on other permissible Fund investments. Dividends received by shareholders on Fund shares which are attributable to interest income received by the Fund from municipal obligations generally will be subject to Federal income tax. The Fund may invest in municipal obligations, the ratings of which correspond with the ratings of other permissible Fund investments. The Fund currently intends to invest no more than 25% of its assets in municipal obligations. However, this percentage may be varied from time to time without shareholder approval.

Mortgage-Related Securities. The Fund may invest in various mortgage-related securities. Mortgage backed securities may represent an ownership interest in a pool of residential mortgage loans. These securities are designed to provide monthly payments of interest and principal to the investor. The mortgagor's monthly payments to his/her lending institution are "passed through" to an investor. Most issuers or poolers provide guarantees of payments, regardless of whether or not the mortgagor actually makes the payment. The guarantees made by issuers or poolers are supported by various forms of credit, collateral, guarantees or insurance, including individual loan, title, pool and hazard insurance purchased by the issuer. There can be no assurance that the private issuers or poolers can meet their obligations under the policies. Mortgage backed securities issued by private issuers or poolers, whether or not such securities are subject to guarantees, may entail greater risk than securities directly or indirectly guaranteed by the U.S. Government.

The mortgage-related securities which may be purchased include those with fixed, floating and variable interest rates, those with interest rates that change based on multiples of

changes in interest rates and those with interest rates that change inversely to changes in interest rates, as well as stripped mortgage-backed securities. Stripped mortgage-backed securities usually are structured with two classes that receive different proportions of interest and principal distributions on a pool of mortgage-backed securities or whole loans. A common type of stripped mortgage-backed security will have one class receiving some of the interest and most of the principal from the mortgage collateral, while the other class will receive most of the interest and the remainder of the principal. Although certain mortgage-related securities are guaranteed by a third party or otherwise similarly secured, the market value of the security, which may fluctuate, is not secured. If a mortgage-related security is purchased at a premium, all or part of the premium may be lost if there is a decline in the market value of the security, whether resulting from changes in interest rates or prepayments on the underlying mortgage collateral.

As with other interest-bearing securities, the prices of certain mortgage-related securities are inversely affected by changes in interest rates. However, although the value of a mortgage-related security may decline when interest rates rise, the converse is not necessarily true, since in periods of declining interest rates the mortgages underlying the security are more likely to be prepaid. For this and other reasons, a mortgage-related security's stated maturity may be shortened by unscheduled prepayments on the underlying mortgages, and, therefore, it is not possible to predict accurately the security's return to the Fund. Moreover, with respect to stripped mortgage-backed securities, if the underlying mortgage securities experience greater than anticipated prepayments of principal, the Fund may fail to fully recoup its initial investment even if the securities rated in the highest rating category by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

The mortgage-related securities in which the Fund may invest also include multi-class pass-through certificates secured principally by mortgage loans on commercial properties. These mortgage-related securities are structured similarly to mortgage-related securities secured by pools of residential mortgages. Commercial lending, however, generally is viewed as exposing the lender to a greater risk of loss than one- to four-family residential lending. Commercial lending, for example, typically involves larger loans to single borrowers or groups of related borrowers than residential one- to four-family mortgage loans. In addition, the repayment of loans secured by income producing properties typically is dependent upon the successful operation of the related real estate project and the cash flow generated therefrom. Consequently, adverse changes in economic conditions and circumstances are more likely to have an adverse impact on mortgage-related securities secured by loans on commercial properties than on those secured by loans on residential properties.

During periods of rapidly rising interest rates, prepayments of mortgage-backed securities may occur at slower than expected rates. Slower prepayments effectively may change a mortgage-backed security that was considered short- or intermediate-term at the time of purchase into a long-term security. The values of long-term securities generally fluctuate more widely in response to changes in interest rates than short- or intermediate-term securities. Were the prepayments on the Fund's mortgage-backed securities to decrease broadly, the Fund's average effective duration, and thus sensitivity to increase rate fluctuations, would increase.

Certificates of the Government National Mortgage Association ("GNMA") are mortgage-backed securities representing part ownership of a pool of mortgage loans. These loans are made by mortgage bankers, commercial banks, savings and loan associations, and other lenders and are either insured by the Federal Housing Administration or guaranteed by the Veterans

Administration. A “pool” or group of such mortgages is assembled and, after being approved by GNMA, is offered to investors through securities dealers. Once approved by GNMA, the timely payment of interest and principal on each mortgage is guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. Although the mortgage loans in a pool underlying a GNMA Certificate will have maturities of up to 30 years, the average life of a GNMA Certificate will be substantially less because the mortgages will be subject to normal principal amortization and also may be prepaid prior to maturity. Prepayment rates vary widely and may be affected by changes in mortgage interest rates. In periods of falling interest rates, the rate of prepayment on higher interest mortgage rates tends to increase, thereby shortening the actual average life of the GNMA Certificate. Conversely, when interest rates are rising, the rate of prepayment tends to decrease, thereby lengthening the average life of the GNMA Certificates. Reinvestment of prepayments may occur at higher or lower rates than the original yield of the Certificates. Due to the prepayment feature and the need to reinvest prepayments of principal at current rates, GNMA Certificates with underlying mortgages bearing higher interest rates can be less effective than typical non-callable bonds of similar maturities at locking in yields during periods of declining interest rates, although they may have comparable risks of decline in value during periods of rising interest rates.

The Federal National Mortgage Association (“FNMA”) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“FHLMC”) are government sponsored corporations owned by private stockholders. Each is subject to general regulation by an office within HUD. FNMA and FHLMC purchase residential mortgages from a list of approved sellers/servicers which include state and federally chartered savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, commercial banks, credit unions and mortgage bankers. Pass through securities issued by FNMA and FHLMC are guaranteed by FNMA or FHLMC as to payment of principal and interest.

Collateralized mortgage obligations (“CMOs”) are generally issued as a series of different classes. Interest and principal payments on the mortgages underlying any series will first be applied to meet the interest payment requirements of each class in the series other than any class in respect of which interest accrues but is not paid or any principal only class. Then, principal payments on the underlying mortgages are generally applied to pay the principal amount of the class that has the earliest maturity date. Once that class is retired, the principal payments on the underlying mortgages are applied to the class with the next earliest maturity date. This is repeated until all classes are paid. Therefore, while each class of CMOs remains subject to prepayment as the underlying mortgages prepay, structuring several classes of CMOs in the stream of principal payments allows one to more closely estimate the period of time when any one class is likely to be repaid.

Commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, private mortgage insurance companies, mortgage bankers and other secondary market issuers also create mortgage backed securities in which the Fund can invest. Pools created by such nongovernmental issuers generally offer a higher rate of interest than government and government related pools because there are no direct or indirect U.S. Government guarantees of payments in the former pools. However, timely payment of interest and principal of these pools is supported by various forms of insurance or guarantees, including individual loan, title, pool and hazard insurance purchased by the issuer. The insurance and guarantees are issued by U.S. Government entities, private insurers and the mortgage poolers. There can be no assurance that the private insurers or mortgage poolers can meet their obligations under the policies.

The Fund expects that U.S. Government or private entities may create mortgage loan pools offering pass through investments in addition to those described above. The mortgages underlying these securities may be alternative mortgage instruments, that is, mortgage instruments whose principal or interest payment may vary or whose terms to maturity may be shorter than previously customary. As new types of mortgage backed securities are developed and offered to investors, the Fund will, consistent with its investment objective and policies, consider making investments in such new types of securities.

Other Asset Backed Securities. The Fund may also invest in non-mortgage asset backed securities. Some non-mortgage asset backed securities are forms of derivatives. The securitization techniques used for non-mortgage asset backed securities are similar to those used for mortgage-related securities. The collateral for these securities has included home equity loans, automobile and credit card receivables, boat loans, computer leases, airplane leases, mobile home loans, recreational vehicle loans and hospital account receivables. The Fund may invest in these and other types of non-mortgage asset backed securities that may be developed in the future.

Non-mortgage asset backed securities present certain risks that are not presented by mortgage-backed securities. Primarily, these securities may provide the Fund with a less effective security interest in the related collateral than do mortgage-backed securities. Therefore, there is the possibility that recoveries on the underlying collateral may not, in some cases, be available to support payments on these securities.

The purchase of non-mortgage asset backed securities raises considerations peculiar to the financing of the instruments underlying such securities. For example, most organizations that issue non-mortgage asset backed securities relating to motor vehicle installment purchase obligations perfect their interests in their respective obligations only by filing a financing statement and by having the servicer of the obligations, which is usually the originator, take custody thereof. In such circumstances, if the servicer were to sell the same obligations to another party, in violation of its duty not to do so, there is a risk that such party could acquire an interest in the obligations superior to that of the holders of the non-mortgage asset backed securities. Also, although most such obligations grant a security interest in the motor vehicle being financed, in most states the security interest in a motor vehicle must be noted on the certificate of title to perfect such security interest against competing claims of other parties. Due to the large number of vehicles involved, however, the certificate of title to each vehicle financed, pursuant to the obligations underlying the non-mortgage asset backed securities, usually is not amended to reflect the assignment of the seller's security interest for the benefit of the holders of the non-mortgage asset backed securities. Therefore, there is the possibility that recoveries on repossessed collateral may not, in some cases, be available to support payments on those securities. In addition, various state and Federal laws give the motor vehicle owner the right to assert against the holder of the owner's obligation certain defenses such owner would have against the seller of the motor vehicle. The assertion of such defenses could reduce payments on the related non-mortgage asset backed securities. Insofar as credit card receivables are concerned, credit card holders are entitled to the protection of a number of state and Federal consumer credit laws, many of which give such holders the right to set off certain amounts against balances owed on the credit card thereby reducing the amounts paid on such receivables. In addition, unlike most other non-mortgage asset backed securities, credit card receivables are unsecured obligations of the card holder.



Senior-Subordinated Securities. Mortgage-related and non-mortgage asset backed securities may be structured in multiple classes with one or more classes subordinate to other classes as to payments of cash flow from, principal of and/or interest on the underlying assets. In such a “senior/subordinated” structure, defaults on the underlying assets are borne first by the holders of the subordinated class or classes. The Fund may invest in such subordinated securities, which typically entail greater credit risk but provide higher yields.

Repurchase Agreements. The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements. In a repurchase agreement, the Fund buys a security from a seller that has agreed to repurchase the same security at a mutually agreed upon date and price. The Fund’s resale price will be in excess of the purchase price, reflecting an agreed upon interest rate. This interest rate is effective for the period of time the Fund is invested in the agreement and is not related to the coupon rate on the underlying security. Repurchase agreements may also be viewed as a fully collateralized loan of money by the Fund to the seller. The period of these repurchase agreements will usually be short, from overnight to one week, and at no time will the Fund invest in repurchase agreements for more than one year. The Fund will always receive as collateral securities whose market value including accrued interest is, and during the entire term of the agreement remains, at least equal to 100% of the dollar amount invested by the Fund in each agreement, including interest, and the Fund will make payment for such securities only upon physical delivery or upon evidence of book entry transfer to the account of the custodian. If the seller defaults, the Fund might incur a loss if the value of the collateral securing the repurchase agreement declines and might incur disposition costs in connection with liquidating the collateral. In addition, if bankruptcy proceedings are commenced with respect to the seller of a security which is the subject of a repurchase agreement, realization upon the collateral by the Fund may be delayed or limited. The Fund seeks to minimize the risk of loss through repurchase agreements by analyzing the creditworthiness of the obligors under repurchase agreements, in accordance with the Fund’s credit guidelines.

Repurchase agreements are considered by the staff of the SEC to be loans by the Fund. In an attempt to reduce the risk of incurring a loss on a repurchase agreement, the Fund will enter into repurchase agreements only with domestic banks with total assets in excess of \$1 billion, or primary government securities dealers reporting to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, with respect to securities of the type in which the Fund may invest, and will require that additional securities be deposited with it if the value of the securities purchased should decrease below the resale price.

Commercial Paper and Other Short-Term Corporate Obligations. These instruments include variable amount master demand notes, which are obligations that permit the Fund to invest fluctuating amounts at varying rates of interest pursuant to direct arrangements between the Fund, as lender, and the borrower. These notes permit daily changes in the amounts borrowed. Because these obligations are direct lending arrangements between the lender and borrower, it is not contemplated that such instruments generally will be traded, and there generally is no established secondary market for these obligations, although they are redeemable at face value, plus accrued interest, at any time. Accordingly, where these obligations are not secured by letters of credit or other credit support arrangements, the Fund’s right to redeem is dependent on the ability of the borrower to pay principal and interest on demand. Such obligations frequently are not rated by credit rating agencies, and the Fund may invest in them only if at the time of an investment the borrower meets the criteria set forth below for other commercial paper issuers.

Commercial paper consists of short-term, unsecured obligations issued by banks and corporations that have maturities ranging from two to 270 days. Each instrument may be backed only by the credit of the issuer or may be backed by some form of credit enhancement, typically in the form of a guarantee by a commercial bank. Commercial paper backed by guarantees of foreign banks may involve additional risk due to the difficulty of obtaining and enforcing judgments against such banks and the generally less restrictive regulations to which such banks are subject. The commercial paper purchased by the Fund will consist only of direct obligations which, at the time of their purchase, are (a) rated not lower than Prime-1 by Moody's, A-1 by S&P or F1 by Fitch, (b) issued by companies having an outstanding unsecured debt issue currently rated at least A3 by Moody's, A-1 by S&P or, F1 by Fitch or (c) if unrated, determined by Dreyfus to be of comparable quality to those rated obligations which may be purchased by the Fund.

Bank Obligations. The Fund may purchase certificates of deposit, time deposits, bankers' acceptances and other short-term obligations issued by domestic banks, foreign subsidiaries or foreign branches of domestic banks, domestic and foreign branches of foreign banks, domestic savings and loan associations and other banking institutions. With respect to such securities issued by foreign subsidiaries or foreign branches of domestic banks, and domestic and foreign branches of foreign banks, the Fund may be subject to additional investment risks that are different in some respects from those incurred by a fund which invests only in debt obligations of U.S. domestic issuers. See "Foreign Securities."

Certificates of deposit are negotiable certificates evidencing the obligation of a bank to repay funds deposited with it for a specified period of time. Time deposits are non-negotiable deposits maintained in a banking institution for a specified period of time (in no event longer than seven days) at a stated interest rate. Bankers' acceptances are credit instruments evidencing the obligation of a bank to pay a draft drawn on it by a customer. These instruments reflect the obligation both of the bank and the drawer to pay the face amount of the instrument upon maturity. The other short-term obligations may include uninsured, direct obligations bearing fixed, floating or variable interest rates.

Zero Coupon, Pay-In-Kind and Step-Up Securities. The Fund may invest in zero coupon U.S. Treasury securities, which are debt securities issued or sold at a discount from their face value that do not entitle the holder to any periodic payment of interest prior to maturity or a specified redemption date or cash payment date; pay-in-kind bonds which are debt securities that generally pay interest through the issuance of additional bonds; and step-up bonds which are debt securities that typically do not pay interest for a specified period of time and then pay interest at a series of different rates. For zero coupon bonds, the amount of the discount varies depending on the time remaining until maturity or cash payment date, prevailing interest rates, liquidity of the security and perceived credit quality of the issuer. Zero coupon securities also may take the form of debt securities that have been stripped of their unmatured interest coupons, the coupons themselves and receipts or certificates representing interest in such stripped debt obligations and coupons. The market prices of these securities generally are more volatile and are likely to respond to a greater degree to changes in interest rates than the market prices of securities that pay cash interest periodically having similar maturities and credit qualities. In addition, unlike bonds which pay interest throughout the period to maturity, the Fund will realize no cash until the cash payment date unless a portion of such securities is sold and, if the issuer defaults the Fund may obtain no return at all on its investment. Federal income tax law requires the holder of

a zero coupon security or of certain pay-in-kind or step-up bonds to accrue income with respect to these securities prior to the receipt of cash payments. To maintain its qualification as a regulated investment company and avoid liability for Federal income taxes, the Fund may be required to distribute such income accrued with respect to these securities and may have to dispose of portfolio securities under disadvantageous circumstances in order to generate cash to satisfy these distribution requirements. See "Dividends, Distributions and Taxes."

Preferred Stock. The Fund may purchase preferred stock, which is a class of capital stock that typically pays dividends at a specified rate. Preferred stock is generally senior to common stock, but subordinate to debt securities, with respect to the payment of dividends and on liquidation of the issuer. In general, the market value of preferred stock is its "investment value," or its value as a fixed-income security. Accordingly, the market value of preferred stock generally increases when interest rates decline and decreases when interest rates rise, but, as with debt securities, is also affected by the issuer's ability to make payments on the preferred stock. While most preferred stocks pay a dividend, the Fund may purchase preferred stock where the issuer has omitted, or is in danger of omitting, payment of its dividend. Such investments would be made primarily for their capital appreciation potential.

Convertible Securities. Convertible securities may be converted at either a stated price or stated rate into underlying shares of common stock. Convertible securities have characteristics similar to both fixed-income and equity securities. Convertible securities generally are subordinated to other similar but non-convertible securities of the same issuer, although convertible bonds, as corporate debt obligations, enjoy seniority in right of payment to all equity securities, and convertible preferred stock is senior to common stock, of the same issuer. Because of the subordination feature, however, convertible securities typically have lower ratings than similar non-convertible securities.

Although to a lesser extent than with fixed-income securities, the market value of convertible securities tends to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, tends to increase as interest rates decline. In addition, because of the conversion feature, the market value of convertible securities tends to vary with fluctuations in the market value of the underlying common stock. A unique feature of convertible securities is that as the market price of the underlying common stock declines, convertible securities tend to trade increasingly on a yield basis, and so may not experience market value declines to the same extent as the underlying common stock. When the market price of the underlying common stock increases, the prices of the convertible securities tend to rise as a reflection of the value of the underlying common stock. While no securities investments are without risk, investments in convertible securities generally entail less risk than investments in common stock of the same issuer.

Convertible securities are investments that provide for a stable stream of income with generally higher yields than common stocks. There can be no assurance of current income because the issuers of the convertible securities may default on their obligations. A convertible security, in addition to providing fixed income, offers the potential for capital appreciation through the conversion feature, which enables the holder to benefit from increases in the market price of the underlying common stock. There can be no assurance of capital appreciation, however, because securities prices fluctuate. Convertible securities, however, generally offer lower interest or dividend yields than non-convertible securities of similar quality because of the potential for capital appreciation.

Warrants. A warrant is an instrument issued by a corporation which gives the holder the right to subscribe to a specified amount of the corporation's capital stock at a set price for a specified period of time. The Fund may invest up to 5% of its net assets in warrants, except that this limitation does not apply to warrants purchased by the Fund that are sold in units with, or attached to, other securities. Bonds with warrants attached to purchase equity securities have many characteristics of convertible bonds and their prices may, to some degree, reflect the performance of the underlying stock. Bonds also may be issued with warrants attached to purchase additional fixed-income securities at the same coupon rate. A decline in interest rates would permit the Fund to buy additional bonds at the favorable rate or to sell the warrants at a profit. If interest rates rise, the warrants would generally expire with no value.

Common Stock. From time to time, the Fund may hold common stock sold in units with, or attached to, debt securities purchased by the Fund. In connection with its investments in corporate debt securities, or restructuring of investments owned by the Fund, the Fund may receive warrants or other non-income producing equity securities. The Fund may retain such securities, including equity securities received upon conversion of convertible securities, until Dreyfus determines it is appropriate in light of current market conditions to effect a disposition of such securities.

Foreign Securities. The Fund may purchase securities of foreign issuers and may invest in obligations of foreign branches of domestic banks and domestic branches of foreign banks. Investment in foreign securities presents certain risks, including those resulting from fluctuations in currency exchange rates, revaluation of currencies, adverse political and economic developments, the possible imposition of currency exchange blockages or other foreign governmental laws or restrictions, reduced availability of public information concerning issuers, and the fact that foreign issuers are not generally subject to uniform accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards or to other regulatory practices and requirements comparable to those applicable to domestic issuers. Moreover, securities of many foreign issuers may be less liquid and their prices more volatile than those of comparable domestic issuers. In addition, with respect to certain foreign countries, there is the possibility of expropriation, confiscatory taxation and limitations on the use or removal of funds or other assets of the Fund, including withholding of dividends. Foreign securities may be subject to foreign government taxes that would reduce the yield on such securities. Foreign securities held by the Fund may trade on days that the Fund is not open for business, thus affecting the value of the Fund's assets on days when Fund shareholders may not be able to buy or sell Fund shares.

Developing countries have economic structures that are generally less diverse and mature, and political systems that are less stable, than those of developed countries. The markets of developing countries may be more volatile than the markets of more mature economies; however, such markets may provide higher rates of return to investors. Many developing countries providing investment opportunities for the Fund have experienced substantial, and in some periods extremely high, rates of inflation for many years. Inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had and may continue to have adverse effects on the economies and securities markets of certain of these countries. Foreign securities held by the fund may trade on days that the Fund is not open for business, thus affecting the value of the Fund's assets on days when Fund shareholders may not be able to buy or sell Fund shares.

Foreign Government Obligations; Securities of Supranational Entities. The Fund may invest in obligations issued or guaranteed by one or more foreign governments or any of their

political subdivisions, agencies or instrumentalities that are determined by Dreyfus to be of comparable quality to the other obligations in which the Fund may invest. Such securities also include debt obligations of supranational entities. Supranational entities include international organizations designated or supported by governmental entities to promote economic reconstruction or development and international banking institutions and related government agencies. Examples include the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank), the Asian Development Bank and the InterAmerican Development Bank.

Illiquid Investments. The Fund may invest up to 15% of the value of its net assets in illiquid securities, including repurchase agreements and time deposits with maturities in excess of seven days, certain mortgage-backed securities, securities involved in swap, collar and floor transactions, and privately negotiated traded options and securities used to cover such options. Securities that have readily available market quotations are not deemed illiquid for purposes of this limitation (irrespective of any legal or contractual restrictions on resale). The Fund may invest in commercial obligations issued in reliance on the so-called “private placement” exemption from registration afforded by Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (“Section 4(2) paper”). The Fund may also purchase securities that are not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, but that can be sold to qualified institutional buyers in accordance with Rule 144A under that Act (“Rule 144A securities”). Liquidity determinations with respect to Section 4(2) paper and Rule 144A securities will be made by the Trust’s Board of Trustees (the “Board” or “Trustees” or “Board of Trustees”) or by Dreyfus pursuant to guidelines established by the Board. The Board or Dreyfus will consider availability of reliable price information and other relevant information in making such determinations. Section 4(2) paper is restricted as to disposition under the federal securities laws, and generally is sold to institutional investors, such as the Fund, that agree that they are purchasing the paper for investment and not with a view to public distribution. Any resale by the purchaser must be pursuant to registration or an exemption therefrom. Section 4(2) paper normally is resold to other institutional investors like the Fund through or with the assistance of the issuer or investment dealers who make a market in the Section 4(2) paper, thus providing liquidity. Rule 144A securities generally must be sold to other qualified institutional buyers. If a particular investment in Section 4(2) paper or Rule 144A securities is not determined to be liquid, that investment will be included within the percentage limitation on investment in illiquid securities. The ability to sell Rule 144A securities to qualified institutional buyers is a recent development and it is not possible to predict how this market will mature. Investing in Rule 144A securities could have the effect of increasing the level of Fund illiquidity to the extent that qualified institutional buyers become, for a time, uninterested in purchasing these securities from the Fund or other holders.

When purchasing securities that have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and are not readily marketable, the Fund will endeavor, to the extent practicable, to obtain the right to registration at the expense of the issuer. Generally, there will be a lapse of time between the Fund’s decision to sell any such security and the registration of the security permitting sale. During any such period, the price of securities will be subject to market fluctuations. During this period, the Fund’s NAV could be adversely effected.

Participation Interests. The Fund may invest in short-term corporate obligations denominated in U.S. and foreign currencies that are originated, negotiated and structured by a syndicate of lenders (“Co-Lenders”) consisting of commercial banks or other institutions, one or more of which administers the security on behalf of the syndicate (the “Agent Bank”). Co-Lenders may sell such securities to third parties called “Participants.” The Fund may invest in

such securities either by participating as a Co-Lender at origination or by acquiring an interest in the security from a Co-Lender or a Participant (collectively, “participation interests”). Co-Lenders and Participants interposed between the Fund and the corporate borrower (the “Borrower”), together with Agent Banks, are referred herein as “Intermediate Participants.” The Fund also may purchase a participation interest in a portion of the rights of an Intermediate Participant, which would not establish any direct relationship between the Fund and the Borrower. In such cases, the Fund would be required to rely on the Intermediate Participant that sold the participation interest not only for the enforcement of the Fund’s rights against the Borrower but also for the receipt and processing of payments due to the Fund under the security. Because it may be necessary to assert through an Intermediate Participant such rights as may exist against the Borrower, in the event the Borrower fails to pay principal and interest when due, the Fund may be subject to delays, expenses and risks that are greater than those that would be involved if the Fund would enforce its rights directly against the Borrower. Moreover, under the terms of a participation interest, the Fund may be regarded as a creditor of the Intermediate Participant (rather than of the Borrower), so that the Fund may also be subject to the risk that the Intermediate Participant may become insolvent. Similar risks may arise with respect to the Agent Bank if, for example, assets held by the Agent Bank for the benefit of the Fund were determined by the appropriate regulatory authority or court to be subject to the claims of the Agent Bank’s creditors. In such case, the Fund might incur certain costs and delays in realizing payment in connection with the participation interest or suffer a loss of principal and/or interest. Further, in the event of the bankruptcy or insolvency of the Borrower, the obligation of the Borrower to repay the loan may be subject to certain defenses that can be asserted by such Borrower as a result of improper conduct by the Agent Bank or Intermediate Participant.

The Fund will not act as an Agent Bank, guarantor, sole negotiator or sole structuror with respect to securities that are the subject of a participation interest. A participation interest gives the Fund an undivided interest in the security in the proportion that the Fund’s participation interest bears to the total principal amount of the security. These instruments may have fixed, floating or variable rates of interest. For certain participation interests, the Fund will have the right to demand payment, on not more than seven days’ notice, for all or any part of the Fund’s participation interest in the security, plus accrued interest. As to these instruments, the Fund intends to exercise its right to demand payment only upon a default under the terms of the security, as needed to provide liquidity to meet redemptions, or to maintain or improve the quality of its investment portfolio. The Fund will not invest more than 15% of the value of its net assets in participation interests maturing in more than seven days that do not have this demand feature, and in other securities that are illiquid.

Other Investment Companies. The Fund may invest in securities issued by other investment companies. Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), the Fund’s investment in such securities, subject to certain exceptions, currently is limited to (i) 3% of the total voting stock of any one investment company, (ii) 5% of the Fund’s total assets with respect to any one investment company and (iii) 10% of the Fund’s total assets in the aggregate. As a shareholder of another investment company, the Fund would bear, along with other shareholders, its pro rata portion of the other investment company’s expenses, including advisory fees. These expenses would be in addition to the advisory and other expenses that the Fund bears directly in connection with its own operations. The Fund also may invest its uninvested cash reserves, or cash it receives as collateral from borrowers of its portfolio securities in connection with the Fund’s securities lending program, in shares of one or more money market funds advised by Dreyfus. Such investments will not be subject to the limitations

described above, except that the Fund's aggregate investment of uninvested cash reserves in such money market funds may not exceed 25% of its total assets. See "Lending Portfolio Securities."

### Investment Techniques

In addition to the principal investment strategies discussed in the Fund's Prospectus, the Fund also may engage in the investment techniques described below. The Fund might not use, or may not have the ability to use, any of these strategies and there can be no assurance that any strategy that is used will succeed.

Portfolio Maturity. Under normal market conditions, the average effective portfolio maturity of the Fund is expected to be 5.5 years or less. For purposes of calculating average effective portfolio maturity, a security that is subject to redemption at the option of the issuer on a particular date (the "call date") which is prior to the security's stated maturity may be deemed to mature on the call date rather than on its stated maturity date. The call date of a security will be used to calculate average effective portfolio maturity when Dreyfus reasonably anticipates, based upon information available to it, that the issuer will exercise its right to redeem the security. Dreyfus may base its conclusion on such factors as the interest rate paid on the security compared to prevailing market rates, the amount of cash available to the issuer of the security, events affecting the issuer of the security, and other factors that may compel or make it advantageous for the issuer to redeem a security prior to its stated maturity.

Foreign Currency Transactions. Currency exchange rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time. They generally are determined by the forces of supply and demand in the foreign exchange markets and the relative merits of investments in different countries, actual or perceived changes in interest rates and other complex factors, as seen from an international perspective. Currency exchange rates also can be affected unpredictably by intervention by U.S. or foreign governments or central banks, or the failure to intervene, or by currency controls or political developments in the U.S. or abroad.

Foreign currency transactions may be entered into for a variety of purposes, including: to fix in U.S. dollars, between trade and settlement date, the value of a security the Fund has agreed to buy or sell; to hedge the U.S. dollar value of securities the Fund already owns, particularly if it expects a decrease in the value of the currency in which the foreign security is denominated; or to gain exposure to the foreign currency in an attempt to realize gains.

Foreign currency transactions may involve, for example, the Fund's purchase of foreign currencies for U.S. dollars or the maintenance of short positions in foreign currencies, which would involve the Fund agreeing to exchange an amount of a currency it did not currently own for another currency at a future date in anticipation of a decline in the value of the currency sold relative to the currency the Fund contracted to receive in the exchange. The Fund's success in these transactions will depend principally on the ability of Dreyfus to predict accurately the future exchange rates between foreign currencies and the U.S. dollar.

Leverage. The Fund may borrow money for certain purposes. In addition to borrowing for temporary or emergency purposes and in anticipation of share redemptions, the Fund may borrow to facilitate trades in its portfolio securities. This could occur, for example, when the Fund expects settlement on its purchase of a security will occur within a shorter time than settlement on its sale of a security. Borrowing exaggerates the effect on NAV of any increase or

decrease in the market value of the Fund's portfolio. Money borrowed will be limited to 33-1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets. These borrowings will be subject to interest costs which may or may not be recovered by appreciation of the securities purchased; in certain cases, interest costs may exceed the return received on the securities purchased.

The Fund may enter into reverse repurchase agreements with banks, brokers or dealers. This form of borrowing involves the transfer by the Fund of an underlying debt instrument in return for cash proceeds based on a percentage of the value of the security. The Fund retains the right to receive interest and principal payments on the security. At an agreed upon future date, the Fund repurchases the security at principal plus accrued interest. Except for these transactions, the Fund's borrowings generally will be unsecured.

For borrowings for investment purposes, the 1940 Act requires the Fund to maintain continuous asset coverage (that is, total assets including borrowings, less liabilities exclusive of borrowings) of 300% of the amount borrowed. If the required coverage should decline as a result of market fluctuations or other reasons, the Fund may be required to sell some of its portfolio securities within three days to reduce the amount of its borrowings and restore the 300% asset coverage, even though it may be disadvantageous from an investment standpoint to sell securities at that time. The Fund also may be required to maintain minimum average balances in connection with such borrowing or pay a commitment or other fee to maintain a line of credit; either of these requirements would increase the cost of borrowing over the stated interest rate. The SEC views reverse repurchase transactions as collateralized borrowings by the Fund. To the extent the Fund enters into a reverse repurchase agreement, the Fund will maintain in a segregated custodial account permissible liquid assets at least equal to the aggregate amount of its reverse repurchase obligations, plus accrued interest, in certain cases, in accordance with releases promulgated by the SEC.

Forward Commitments. The Fund may purchase securities on a forward commitment or when-issued basis, which means that delivery and payment take place a number of days after the date of the commitment to purchase. The payment obligation and the interest rate receivable on a forward commitment or when-issued security are fixed when the Fund enters into the commitment, but the Fund does not make payment until it receives delivery from the counterparty. The Fund will commit to purchase such securities only with the intention of actually acquiring the securities, but the Fund may sell these securities before the settlement date if it is deemed advisable. A segregated account of the Fund consisting of permissible liquid assets at least equal at all times to the amount of the commitments will be established and maintained at the Fund's custodian bank.

Securities purchased on a forward commitment or when-issued basis are subject to changes in value (generally changing in the same way, i.e., appreciating when interest rates decline and depreciating when interest rates rise) based upon the public's perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and changes, real or anticipated, in the level of interest rates. Securities purchased on a forward commitment or when-issued basis may expose the Fund to risks because they may experience such fluctuations prior to their actual delivery. Purchasing securities on a forward commitment or when-issued basis can involve the additional risk that the yield available in the market when the delivery takes place actually may be higher than that obtained in the transaction itself. Purchasing securities on a forward commitment or when-issued basis when the Fund is fully or almost fully invested may result in greater potential fluctuation in the value of the Fund's net assets and its NAV per share.



Short-Selling. In these transactions, the Fund sells a security it does not own in anticipation of a decline in the market value of the security. To complete the transaction, the Fund must borrow the security to make delivery to the buyer. The Fund is obligated to replace the security borrowed by purchasing it subsequently at the market price at the time of replacement. The price at such time may be more or less than the price at which the security was sold by the Fund, which would result in a loss or gain, respectively. Until the Fund closes its short position or replaces the borrowed security, it will: (a) maintain a segregated account, containing permissible liquid assets, at a level such that the amount deposited in the account plus the amount provided as collateral always equals the current value of the security sold short; or (b) otherwise cover its short position.

Securities will not be sold short if, after effect is given to any such short sale, the total market value of all securities sold short would exceed 25% of the value of the Fund's net assets. The Fund may not sell short the securities of any single issuer listed on a national securities exchange to the extent of more than 5% of the value of the Fund's net assets. The Fund may not make a short sale which results in the Fund having sold short in the aggregate more than 5% of the outstanding securities of any class of an issuer.

The Fund also may make short sales "against the box," in which the Fund enters into a short sale of a security it owns in order to hedge an unrealized gain on the security. At no time will more than 15% of the value of the Fund's net assets be in deposits on short sales against the box.

Lending Portfolio Securities. The Fund may lend securities from its portfolio to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions needing to borrow securities to complete certain transactions. In connection with such loans, the Fund remains the owner of the loaned securities and continues to be entitled to payments in amounts equal to the interest, dividends or other distributions payable on the loaned securities. The Fund also has the right to terminate a loan at any time. The Fund may call the loan to vote proxies if a material issue affecting the Fund's investment is to be voted upon. Loans of portfolio securities may not exceed 33-1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets (including the value of all assets received as collateral for the loan). The Fund will receive collateral consisting of cash, U.S. Government securities or irrevocable letters of credit which will be maintained at all times in an amount equal to at least 100% of the current market value of the loaned securities. If the collateral consists of a letter of credit or securities, the borrower will pay the Fund a loan premium fee. If the collateral consists of cash, the Fund will reinvest the cash and pay the borrower a pre-negotiated fee or "rebate" from any return earned on the investment. The Fund may participate in a securities lending program operated by Mellon Bank, N.A., as lending agent (the "Lending Agent"). The Lending Agent will receive a percentage of the total earnings of the Fund derived from lending its portfolio securities. Should the borrower of the securities fail financially, the Fund may experience delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising its rights in the collateral. Loans are made only to borrowers that are deemed by Dreyfus to be of good financial standing. In a loan transaction, the Fund will also bear the risk of any decline in value of securities acquired with cash collateral. The Fund will minimize this risk by limiting the investment of cash collateral to money market funds advised by Dreyfus, repurchase agreements or other high quality instruments with short maturities.

Derivatives. The Fund may invest, to a limited extent, in derivatives (“Derivatives”). These are financial instruments which derive their performance, at least in part, from the performance of an underlying asset, index or interest rate and include financial futures contracts (including interest rate, index and foreign currency futures contracts), options (including options on securities, indices, foreign currencies and futures contracts), forward currency contracts, mortgage-related securities, asset-backed securities, and interest rate, equity index and currency swaps, caps, collars and floors. The Fund may invest in Derivatives for a variety of reasons, including to preserve a return or spread, to lock in unrealized market value gains or losses, to facilitate or substitute for the sale or purchase of securities, to manage the duration of securities, to alter the exposure of a particular investment or portion of the Fund’s portfolio to fluctuations in interest rates or currency rates, to uncapped a capped security or to convert a fixed rate security into a variable rate security or a variable rate security into a fixed rate security. The Fund does not intend to invest in futures and options except for hedging purposes, which may include preserving a return or spread or locking in unrealized market value gains or losses. The Fund will not invest in mortgage-related or non-mortgage asset backed securities in an amount exceeding, in the aggregate, 25% of its net assets.

Derivatives may provide a cheaper, quicker or more specifically focused way for the Fund to invest than “traditional” securities would. Derivatives permit the Fund to increase or decrease the level of risk, or change the character of the risk, to which its portfolio is exposed in much the same way as the Fund can increase or decrease the level of risk, or change the character of the risk, of its portfolio by making investments in specific securities. While Derivatives can be used effectively in furtherance of the Fund’s investment objective, under certain market conditions, they can increase the volatility of the Fund’s NAV, can decrease the liquidity of the Fund’s portfolio and make more difficult the accurate pricing of the Fund’s portfolio. Derivatives may entail investment exposures that are greater than their cost would suggest, meaning that a small investment in Derivatives could have a large potential impact on the Fund’s performance.

The Fund’s ability to use Derivatives may be limited by market conditions, regulatory limits and tax considerations. The Fund might not use any of these strategies and there can be no assurance that any strategy that is used will succeed.

The use of Derivatives involves special risks, including: (1) possible imperfect or no correlation between price movements of the portfolio investments (held or intended to be purchased) involved in the transaction and price movements of the Derivatives involved in the transaction; (2) possible lack of a liquid secondary market for any particular Derivative at a particular time; (3) the need for additional portfolio management skills and techniques; (4) losses due to unanticipated market price movements and changes in liquidity; (5) the fact that, while such strategies can reduce the risk of loss, they can also reduce the opportunity for gain, or even result in losses, by offsetting favorable price movements in portfolio investments; (6) incorrect forecasts by Dreyfus concerning interest or currency exchange rates or direction of price fluctuations of the investment involved in the transaction, which may result in the strategy being ineffective; (7) loss of premiums paid by the Fund on options it purchases; and (8) the possible inability of the Fund to purchase or sell a portfolio security at a time when it would otherwise be favorable for it to do so, or the need to sell a portfolio security at a disadvantageous time, due to the need for the Fund to maintain “cover” or to segregate securities in connection with such transactions and the possible inability of the Fund to close out or liquidate its positions.

Neither the Company nor any Fund will be a commodity pool. In addition, the Company has claimed an exclusion from the definition of commodity pool operator and, therefore, is not subject to registration or regulation as a pool operator under the Commodity Exchange Act.

The Fund may invest up to 5% of its assets, represented by the premium paid, in the purchase of call and put options. The Fund may write (i.e., sell) covered call and put option contracts to the extent of 20% of the value of its net assets at the time such option contracts are written. When required by the SEC, the Fund will set aside permissible liquid assets in a segregated account to cover its obligations relating to its transactions in Derivatives. To maintain this required cover, the Fund may have to sell portfolio securities at disadvantageous prices or times since it may not be possible to liquidate a Derivative position at a reasonable price.

Derivatives may be purchased on established exchanges or through privately negotiated transactions referred to as over-the-counter Derivatives. Exchange-traded Derivatives generally are guaranteed by the clearing agency which is the issuer or counterparty to such Derivatives. This guarantee usually is supported by a daily payment system (i.e., variation margin requirements) operated by the clearing agency in order to reduce overall credit risk. As a result, unless the clearing agency defaults, there is relatively little counterparty credit risk associated with Derivatives purchased on an exchange. By contrast, no clearing agency guarantees over-the-counter Derivatives. Therefore, each party to an over-the-counter Derivative bears the risk that the counterparty will default. Accordingly, Dreyfus will consider the creditworthiness of counterparties to over-the-counter Derivatives in the same manner as it would review the credit quality of a security to be purchased by the Fund. Over-the-counter Derivatives are less liquid than exchange-traded Derivatives since the other party to the transaction may be the only investor with sufficient understanding of the Derivative to be interested in bidding for it.

Futures Transactions. The Fund may enter into futures contracts in U.S. domestic markets, such as the Chicago Board of Trade and the International Monetary Market of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, or on exchanges located outside the United States, such as the London International Financial Futures Exchange and the Sydney Futures Exchange Limited. Foreign markets may offer advantages such as trading opportunities or arbitrage possibilities not available in the United States. Foreign markets, however, may have greater risk potential than domestic markets. For example, some foreign exchanges are principal markets so that no common clearing facility exists and an investor may look only to the broker for performance of the contract. In addition, any profits that the Fund might realize in trading could be eliminated by adverse changes in the exchange rate, or the Fund could incur losses as a result of those changes. Transactions on foreign exchanges may include both commodities which are traded on domestic exchanges and those which are not. Unlike trading on domestic commodity exchanges, trading on foreign commodity exchanges is not regulated by the CFTC.

Engaging in these transactions involves risk of loss to the Fund which could adversely affect the value of the Fund's net assets. Although the Fund intends to purchase or sell futures contracts only if there is an active market for such contracts, no assurance can be given that a liquid market will exist for any particular contract at any particular time. Many futures exchanges and boards of trade limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in futures contract prices during a single trading day. Once the daily limit has been reached in a particular contract, no trades may be made that day at a price beyond that limit or trading may be suspended for specified periods during the trading day. Futures contract prices could move to the limit for

several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of futures positions and potentially subjecting the Fund to substantial losses.

Successful use of futures by the Fund also depends on the ability of Dreyfus to predict correctly movements in the direction of the relevant market and to ascertain the appropriate correlation between the transaction being hedged and the price movements of the futures contract. For example, if the Fund uses futures to hedge against the possibility of a decline in the market value of securities held in its portfolio and the prices of such securities instead increase, the Fund will lose part or all of the benefit of the increased value of securities which it has hedged because it will have offsetting losses in its futures positions. Furthermore, if in such circumstances the Fund has insufficient cash, it may have to sell securities to meet daily variation margin requirements. The Fund may have to sell such securities at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so.

Pursuant to regulations and/or published positions of the SEC, the Fund may be required to segregate permissible liquid assets in connection with its futures transactions in an amount generally equal to the value of the underlying futures position exposure. The segregation of such assets will have the effect of limiting the Fund's ability otherwise to invest those assets.

The Fund may purchase and sell interest rate futures contracts. An interest rate future obligates the Fund to purchase or sell an amount of a specific debt security at a future date at a specific price. The Fund may also purchase and sell currency futures. A foreign currency future obligates the Fund to purchase or sell an amount of a specific currency at a future date at a specific price.

Interest Rate Swaps. Interest rate swaps involve the exchange by the Fund with another party of their respective commitments to pay or receive interest (for example, an exchange of floating rate payments for fixed-rate payments). The exchange commitments can involve payments to be made in the same currency or in different currencies. The use of interest rate swaps is a highly specialized activity which involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. If Dreyfus is incorrect in its forecasts of market values, interest rates and other applicable factors, the investment performance of the Fund would diminish compared with what it would have been if these investment techniques were not used. Moreover, even if Dreyfus is correct in its forecasts, there is a risk that the swap position may correlate imperfectly with the price of the asset or liability being hedged. There is no limit on the amount of interest rate swap transactions that may be entered into by the Fund. These transactions do not involve the delivery of securities or other underlying assets or principal. Accordingly, the risk of loss with respect to interest rate swaps is limited to the net amount of interest payments that the Fund is contractually obligated to make. If the other party to an interest rate swap defaults, the Fund's risk of loss consists of the net amount of interest payments that the Fund contractually is entitled to receive.

Credit Derivatives. The Fund may engage in credit derivative transactions. There are two broad categories of credit derivatives: default price risk derivatives and market spread derivatives. Default price risk derivatives are linked to the price of reference securities or loans after a default by the issuer or borrower, respectively. Market spread derivatives are based on the risk that changes in market factors, such as credit spreads, can cause a decline in the value of a security, loan or index. There are three basic transactional forms for credit derivatives: swaps, options and structured instruments. The use of credit derivatives is a highly specialized activity

which involves strategies and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. If Dreyfus is incorrect in its forecasts of default risks, market spreads or other applicable factors, the investment performance of the Fund would diminish compared with what it would have been if these techniques were not used. Moreover, even if Dreyfus is correct in its forecasts, there is a risk that a credit derivative position may correlate imperfectly with the price of the asset or liability being hedged. There is no limit on the amount of credit derivative transactions that may be entered into by the Fund. The Fund's risk of loss in a credit derivative transaction varies with the form of the transaction. For example, if the Fund purchases a default option on a security, and if no default occurs with respect to the security, the Fund's loss is limited to the premium it paid for the default option. In contrast, if there is a default by the grantor of a default option, the Fund's loss will include both the premium that it paid for the option and the decline in value of the underlying security that the default option hedged.

Options--In General. The Fund may purchase and write (i.e., sell) call or put options with respect to specific securities. A call option gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and obligates the writer to sell, the underlying security or securities at the exercise price at any time during the option period, or at a specific date. Conversely, a put option gives the purchaser of the option the right to sell, and obligates the writer to buy, the underlying security or securities at the exercise price at any time during the option period, or at a specific date.

A covered call option written by the Fund is a call option with respect to which the Fund owns the underlying security or otherwise covers the transaction by segregating cash or other securities. A put option written by the Fund is covered when, among other things, cash or liquid securities having a value equal to or greater than the exercise price of the option are placed in a segregated account with the Fund's custodian to fulfill the obligation undertaken. The principal reason for writing covered call and put options is to realize, through the receipt of premiums, a greater return than would be realized on the underlying securities alone. The Fund receives a premium from writing covered call or put options which it retains whether or not the option is exercised.

There is no assurance that sufficient trading interest to create a liquid secondary market on a securities exchange will exist for any particular option or at any particular time, and for some options no such secondary market may exist. A liquid secondary market in an option may cease to exist for a variety of reasons. In the past, for example, higher than anticipated trading activity or order flow, or other unforeseen events, at times have rendered certain of the clearing facilities inadequate and resulted in the institution of special procedures, such as trading rotations, restrictions on certain types of orders or trading halts or suspensions in one or more options. There can be no assurance that similar events, or events that may otherwise interfere with the timely execution of customers' orders, will not recur. In such event, it might not be possible to effect closing transactions in particular options. If, as a covered call option writer, the Fund is unable to effect a closing purchase transaction in a secondary market, it will not be able to sell the underlying security until the option expires or it delivers the underlying security upon exercise or it otherwise covers its position.

The Fund may purchase and sell call and put options on foreign currency. These options convey the right to buy or sell the underlying currency at a price which is expected to be lower or higher than the spot price of the currency at the time the option is exercised or expires. The Fund also may purchase cash-settled options on equity index swaps and interest rate swaps, respectively, in pursuit of its investment objective. Equity index swaps involve the exchange by

the Fund with another party of cash flows based upon the performance of an index or a portion of an index of securities which usually includes dividends. A cash-settled option on a swap gives the purchaser the right, but not the obligation, in return for the premium paid, to receive an amount of cash equal to the value of the underlying swap as of the exercise date. These options typically are purchased in privately negotiated transactions from financial institutions, including securities brokerage firms.

Successful use by the Fund of options will be subject to the ability of Dreyfus to predict correctly movements in the prices of individual stocks, the stock market generally, foreign currencies, or interest rates. To the extent such predictions are incorrect, the Fund may incur losses.

Future Developments. The Fund may take advantage of opportunities in options and futures contracts and options on futures contracts and any other Derivatives which are not presently contemplated for use by the Fund or which are not currently available but which may be developed, to the extent such opportunities are both consistent with the Fund's investment objective and legally permissible for the Fund. Before entering into such transactions or making any such investment, the Fund will provide appropriate disclosure in its Prospectus or Statement of Additional Information.

Forward Roll Transactions. To enhance current income, the Fund may enter into forward roll transactions with respect to mortgage-related securities. The Fund will only enter into covered rolls. In a forward roll transaction, the Fund sells a mortgage-related security to a financial institution, such as a bank or broker-dealer, and simultaneously agrees to purchase a similar security from the institution at a later date at an agreed upon price. The securities that are purchased will bear the same interest rate as those sold, but generally will be collateralized by different pools of mortgages with different pre-payment histories than those sold. During the period between the sale and purchase, the Fund will not be entitled to receive interest and principal payments on the securities sold. Proceeds of the sale typically will be invested in short-term instruments, particularly repurchase agreements, and the income from these investments, together with any additional fee income received on the sale will be expected to generate income for the Fund exceeding the yield on the securities sold. Forward roll transactions involve the risk that the market value of the securities sold by the Fund may decline below the purchase price of those securities. The Fund will segregate permissible liquid assets at least equal to the amount of the repurchase price (including accrued interest).

Master/Feeder Option. The Trust may in the future seek to achieve the Fund's investment objective by investing all of the Fund's net investable assets in another investment company having the same investment objective and substantially the same investment policies and restrictions as those applicable to the Fund. Shareholders of the Fund will be given at least 30 days' prior notice of any such investment. Such investment would be made only if the Trustees determine it to be in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders. In making that determination, the Trustees will consider, among other things, the benefits to shareholders and/or the opportunity to reduce costs and achieve operational efficiency. Although the Fund believes that the Trustees will not approve an arrangement that is likely to result in higher costs, no assurance is given that costs will be materially reduced if this option is implemented.

Certain Investments. From time to time, to the extent consistent with its investment objective, policies and restrictions, the Fund may invest in securities of companies with which Mellon Bank, an affiliate of Dreyfus, has a lending relationship.

### Investment Restrictions

*Fundamental.* The Fund has adopted the following restrictions as fundamental policies, which cannot be changed without approval by the holders of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund's outstanding voting shares. The Fund may not:

1. Purchase any securities which would cause 25% or more of the value of the Fund's total assets at the time of such purchase to be invested in the securities of one or more issuers conducting their principal activities in the same industry. (For purposes of this limitation, U.S. Government securities and state or municipal governments and their political subdivisions are not considered members of any industry.)
2. Borrow money or issue senior securities as defined in the 1940 Act, except that (a) the Fund may borrow money in an amount not exceeding one third of the Fund's total assets at the time of such borrowing, and (b) the Fund may issue multiple classes of shares. The purchase or sale of options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those relating to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices shall not be considered to involve the borrowing of money or issuance of senior securities.
3. Purchase, with respect to 75% of the Fund's total assets, securities of any issuer (other than securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities) if, as a result, (a) more than 5% of the Fund's total assets would be invested in the securities of that issuer, or (b) the Fund would hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of that issuer.
4. Make loans or lend securities, if as a result thereof more than one-third of the Fund's total assets would be subject to all such loans. For purposes of this limitation, debt instruments and repurchase agreements shall not be treated as loans.
5. Purchase or sell real estate unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments (but this shall not prevent the Fund from investing in securities or other instruments backed by real estate, including mortgage loans or securities of companies that engage in the real estate business or invest or deal in real estate or interests therein).
6. Underwrite securities issued by any other person, except to the extent that the purchase of securities and the later disposition of such securities in accordance with the Fund's investment program may be deemed an underwriting.
7. Purchase or sell commodities, except that the Fund may enter into options, forward contracts, and futures contracts, including those related to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices.

The Fund may, notwithstanding any other fundamental investment policy or limitation, invest all of its investable assets in securities of a single, open-end management investment Trust

with substantially the same fundamental investment objective, policies, and limitations as the Fund.

*Non-fundamental.* Under normal circumstances, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes, in securities that are rated below investment grade at the time of purchase. The Fund has adopted a policy to provide its shareholders with at least 60 days' prior notice of any change in its policy to so invest 80% of its assets. The Fund has also adopted the following additional non-fundamental investment restrictions. These non-fundamental restrictions may be changed without shareholder approval, in compliance with applicable law and regulatory policy.

1. The Fund will not invest more than 15% of the value of its net assets in illiquid securities, including repurchase agreements with remaining maturities in excess of seven days, time deposits with maturities in excess of seven days, and other securities which are not readily marketable. For purposes of this limitation, illiquid securities shall not include commercial paper issued pursuant to Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and securities which may be resold under Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, provided that the Board of Trustees, or its delegate, determines that such securities are liquid, based upon the trading markets for the specific security.

2. The Fund will not invest in securities of other investment companies, except to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act.

3. The Fund will not purchase securities on margin, but the Fund may make margin deposits in connection with transactions in options, forward contracts, futures contracts, and options on futures contracts.

4. The Fund will not sell securities short, or purchase, sell or write puts, calls or combinations thereof, except as described in the Fund's Prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information.

If a percentage restriction is adhered to at the time of an investment, a later change in such percentage resulting from a change in the values of assets will not constitute a violation of such restriction, except as otherwise required by the 1940 Act. With respect to Fundamental Investment Restriction No. 2, however, if borrowings exceed 33-1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets as a result of a change in values or assets, the Fund must take steps to reduce such borrowings at least to the extent of such excess.

The Trust and Dreyfus have received an exemptive order from the SEC which, among other things, permits the Fund to use cash collateral received in connection with lending the Fund's securities and other uninvested cash to purchase shares of one or more registered money market funds advised by Dreyfus in excess of the limitations imposed by the 1940 Act.

If the Fund's investment objective, policies, restrictions, practices or procedures change, shareholders should consider whether the Fund remains an appropriate investment in light of the shareholder's then-current position and needs.



## MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND/TRUST

The Board is responsible for the management and supervision of the Fund, and approves all significant agreements with those companies that furnish services to the Fund. These companies are as follows:

The Dreyfus Corporation .....	Investment Adviser
Dreyfus Service Corporation.....	Distributor
Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. ....	Transfer Agent
Mellon Bank, N.A. ....	Custodian

### Trustees of the Trust\*

Trustees of the Trust, together with information as to their positions with the Trust, principal occupations and other board memberships and affiliations, are shown below. Each of the Trustees also serves as a Director of The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds, Inc. and as a Trustee of The Dreyfus/Laurel Tax-Free Municipal Funds (collectively, with the Trust, the “Dreyfus/Laurel Funds”) and Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund.

Name (Age) <u>Position with Trust (Since)</u>	<u>Principal Occupation</u> <u>During Past 5 Years</u>	<u>Other Board Memberships and Affiliations</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino (61) Chairman of the Board (1999)	Corporate Director and Trustee	The Muscular Dystrophy Association, Director Levcor International, Inc., an apparel fabric processor, Director Century Business Services, Inc., a provider of outsourcing functions for small and medium size companies, Director The Newark Group, a provider of a national market of paper recovery facilities, paperboard mills and paperboard converting plants, Director
James Fitzgibbons (69) Board Member (1994)	Chairman of the Board, Davidson Cotton Company (1998-2002)	Howes Leather Corporation, Director
J. Tomlinson Fort (75) Board Member (1994)	Retired: Of Counsel, Reed Smith LLP (1998-2003)	Allegheny College, Trustee Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Trustee American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow

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\* None of the Trustees are “interested persons” of the Trust, as defined in the 1940 Act.

<u>Name (Age)</u> <u>Position with Trust (Since)</u>	<u>Principal Occupation</u> <u>During Past 5 Years</u>	<u>Other Board Memberships and Affiliations</u>
Kenneth A. Himmel (56) Board Member (1988)	President and CEO, Related Urban Development, a real estate development company (1996-Present)  President and CEO, Himmel & Company, a real estate development company (1980-Present)  CEO, American Food Management, a restaurant company (1983-Present)	-
Stephen J. Lockwood (56) Board Member (1993)	Chairman of the Board, Stephen J. Lockwood and Company LLC, an investment company (2000 - Present)  Chairman of the Board and CEO, LDG Reinsurance Corporation (1977-2000)	BDML Holdings, an insurance company, Chairman of the Board Affiliated Managers Group, an investment management company, Director
Roslyn Watson (54) Board Member (1992)	Principal, Watson Ventures, Inc., a real estate investment company (1993 - Present)	American Express Centurion Bank, Director The Hyams Foundation Inc., a Massachusetts Charitable Foundation, Trustee National Osteoporosis Foundation, Trustee
Benaree Pratt Wiley (57) Board Member (1998)	President and CEO, The Partnership, an organization dedicated to increasing the representation of African Americans in positions of leadership, influence and decision-making in Boston, MA (1991 - Present)	Boston College, Trustee The Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Director The First Albany Companies, Inc., an investment bank, Director Mass Development, Director Commonwealth Institute, Director Efficacy Institute, Director PepsiCo Africa - America, Advisory Board

Board members are elected to serve for an indefinite term. The Trust has standing audit, nominating and compensation committees, each comprised of its Board members who are not “interested persons” of the Trust, as defined in the 1940 Act. The function of the audit committee is to oversee the Trust’s financial and reporting policies and certain internal control matters; the function of the nominating committee is to select and nominate all candidates who are not “interested persons” of the Trust for election to the Board; and the function of the compensation committee is to establish the appropriate compensation for serving on the Board. The nominating committee does not normally consider nominees recommended by shareholders. The Trust also has a standing pricing committee comprised of any one Board member. The function of the pricing committee is to assist in valuing the Fund’s investments. The audit and pricing committees met twice during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003. The nominating and compensation committees had no meetings during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003.

The table below indicates the dollar range of each Board member’s ownership of Fund shares and shares of other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which he or she is a Board member, in each case as of December 31, 2003.

<u>Name of Board Member</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Aggregate Holding of Funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which Responsible as a Board Member</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino	None	Over \$100,000
James Fitzgibbons	\$50,001 - \$100,000	Over \$100,000
J. Tomlinson Fort	None	\$10,001-\$50,000
Kenneth A. Himmel	None	None
Stephen J. Lockwood	None	None
Roslyn Watson	None	None
Benaree Pratt Wiley	None	None

As of December 31, 2003, none of the Board members or their immediate family members owned securities of Dreyfus, the Distributor or any person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with Dreyfus or the Distributor.

#### Officers of the Trust

STEPHEN E. CANTER, President since March 2000. Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Operating Officer of Dreyfus, and an officer of 96 investment companies (comprised of 186 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. Mr. Canter also is a Board member and, where applicable, an Executive Committee Member of the other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of Dreyfus. He is 58 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since May 1995.

STEPHEN R. BYERS, Executive Vice President since November 2002. Chief Investment Officer, Vice Chairman and a director of Dreyfus, and an officer of 96 investment companies (comprised of 186 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. Mr. Byers also is an officer, director or an Executive Committee Member of certain other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of Dreyfus. He is 50 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since January 2000. Prior to joining Dreyfus, he served as an Executive Vice President – Capital Markets, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer at Gruntal & Co., L.L.C.

MARK N. JACOBS, Vice President since March 2000. Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Dreyfus, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 57 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since June 1977.

STEVEN F. NEWMAN, Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of Dreyfus, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 54 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since July 1980.

JAMES WINDELS, Treasurer since November 2001. Director – Mutual Fund Accounting of Dreyfus, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 45 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since April 1985.

JEFF PRUSNOFSKY, Assistant Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel of Dreyfus, and an officer of 25 investment companies (comprised of 82 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 38 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since October 1990.

MICHAEL A. ROSENBERG, Assistant Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel of Dreyfus, and an officer of 94 investment companies (comprised of 195 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 44 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since October 1991.

RICHARD CASSARO, Assistant Treasurer since August 2003. Senior Accounting Manager – Equity Funds of Dreyfus, and an Officer of 26 investment companies (comprised of 102 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 44 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since September 1982.

ERIK D. NAVILOFF, Assistant Treasurer since December 2003. Senior Accounting Manager – Taxable Fixed Income Funds of Dreyfus, and an officer of 19 investment companies (comprised of 74 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 35 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since November 1992.

KENNETH J. SANDGREN, Assistant Treasurer since November 2001. Mutual Funds Tax Director of Dreyfus, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 49 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since June 1993.

ROBERT J. SVAGNA, Assistant Treasurer since December 2003. Senior Accounting Manager – Equity Funds of Dreyfus, and an officer of 26 investment companies (comprised of 102 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 36 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since November 1990.

WILLIAM GERMENIS, Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer since July 2003. Vice President and Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of the Distributor, and the Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of 92 investment companies (comprised of 197 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 33 years old and has been an employee of the Distributor since October 1998.

The address of each Trustee and officer of the Trust is 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166.

No officer or employee of Dreyfus or the Distributor (or of any parent, subsidiary or affiliate thereof) receives any compensation from the Trust for serving as an officer or Trustee of the Trust. The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds pay each Director/Trustee who is not an “interested person” of the Trust (as defined in the 1940 Act) \$40,000 per annum, plus \$5,000 per joint Dreyfus/Laurel Funds Board meeting attended, \$2,000 for separate committee meetings attended which are not held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Board meeting and \$500 for Board meetings and separate committee meetings attended that are conducted by telephone. The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds also reimburse each Director/Trustee who is not an “interested person” of the Trust (as defined in the 1940 Act) for travel and out-of-pocket expenses. The Chairman of the Board receives an additional 25% of such compensation (with the exception of reimbursable amounts). In the event that there is a joint committee meeting of the Dreyfus/Laurel Funds and Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund, the \$2,000 fee will be allocated between the Dreyfus/Laurel Funds and Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund.

In addition, the Trust currently has two Emeritus Board members who are entitled to receive an annual retainer and a per meeting fee of one-half the amount paid to them as Board members.

The aggregate amounts of fees and expenses received by each current Trustee from the Trust for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, and from all funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which such person was a Board member (the number of portfolios of such funds is set forth in parenthesis next to each Board members total compensation) during the year ended December 31, 2003, were as follows:

Name of Board Member	Aggregate Compensation From the Trust <sup>#</sup>	Total Compensation From the Trust and Fund Complex Paid to Board Member*
Joseph S. DiMartino	\$27,084	\$800,306 (191)
James M. Fitzgibbons	\$21,667	\$88,000 (23)
J. Tomlinson Fort	\$21,667	\$89,000 (23)
Kenneth A. Himmel	\$21,667	\$88,000 (23)
Stephen J. Lockwood	\$21,667	\$89,000 (23)
Roslyn M. Watson	\$21,667	\$89,000 (23)
Benaree Pratt Wiley	\$21,667	\$89,000 (23)

<sup>#</sup> Amounts required to be paid by the Trust directly to the non-interested Trustees, that would be applied to offset a portion of the management fee payable to Dreyfus, are in fact paid directly by Dreyfus to the non-interested Trustees. This amount does not include reimbursed expenses for attending Board meetings, which amounted to \$3,427 for the Trust.

\* Represents the number of separate portfolios comprising the investment companies in the Fund Complex, including the Fund, for which the Board member served.

Trustees and officers as a group owned less than 1% of the Fund's voting securities outstanding on April 7, 2004. The following persons are known by the Trust to own of record 5% or more of the indicated Fund's outstanding voting securities on April 15, 2004. A shareholder who beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, more than 25% of a Fund's voting securities may be deemed a "control person" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund.

### **Class A Shares**

Charles Schwab & Co 101 Montgomery Street San Francisco, CA 94104-4122	13.71%
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National Financial Services 82 Devonshire Street Boston, MA 02109-3605	7.17%
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Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith For The Sole Benefit Of Its Customers Attn Fund Administration 4800 Deer Lake Drive East, Floor 3 Jacksonville, FL 32246-6484	13.93%
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Pershing LLC Pershing Division P.O. Box 2052 Jersey City, NJ 07303-2052	6.23%
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### **Class B Shares**

Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith For The Sole Benefit Of Its Customers 4800 Deer Lake Drive East, Floor 3 Jacksonville, Fl 32246-6484	24.34%
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Pershing LLC Pershing Div – Transfer Department P.O. Box 2052 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor Jersey City, NJ 07303-2052	7.44%
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Citigroup Global Markets, Inc. Mutual Fund Processing Department 333 West 34 <sup>th</sup> Street 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10001-2402	6.46%
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National Financial Services 82 Devonshire Street G10G	6.45%
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Boston, MA 02109-3605

First Clearing, LLC 10750 Wheat First Drive Glen Allen, VA 23060-9245	5.20%
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**Class C Shares**

Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith For The Sole Benefit Of Its Customers 4800 Deer Lake Drive East, Floor 3 Jacksonville, FL 32246-6484	30.38%
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Wedbush Morgan Securities Accounting Department P.O. Box 30014 Los Angeles, CA 90030-0014	8.10%
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Citigroup Global Markets Inc. 00109801250 333 West 34 <sup>th</sup> Street, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10001-2402	5.15%
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**Class R Shares**

JP Morgan Invest LLC (FBO) 68275328 One Beacon Street, 18 <sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, MA 02108-3107	11.92%
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Stanley B Block & Cathy Block Com Prop 4413 Willow Way Road Fort Worth, TX 76133-6730	75.05%
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MBCIC C/O Mellon Bank 4001 Kennett Pike, Suite 218 2 Greenville Crossing Greenville, DE 19807-2029	9.08%
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**MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the sections in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Expenses" and "Management."

Investment Adviser. Dreyfus is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial Corporation ("Mellon"). Mellon is a global financial holding company incorporated under

Pennsylvania law in 1971 and registered under the Federal Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Mellon provides a comprehensive range of financial products and services in domestic and selected international markets.

Management Agreement. Dreyfus serves as the investment adviser for the Fund pursuant to an Investment Management Agreement (the “Management Agreement”) between Dreyfus and the Trust, subject to the overall authority of the Board of Trustees in accordance with Massachusetts law. Pursuant to the Management Agreement, Dreyfus provides, or arranges for one or more third parties to provide, investment advisory, administrative, custody, fund accounting and transfer agency services to the Fund. As investment adviser, Dreyfus manages the Fund by making investment decisions based on the Fund’s investment objective, policies and restrictions. The Fund’s investment adviser is responsible for investment decisions and provides the Fund with portfolio managers who are authorized by the Fund’s Board to execute purchases and sales of securities. The Fund’s portfolio managers, who comprise the Dreyfus taxable fixed income team, are Keith Chan, Martin F. Fetherston, Michael Hoeh, William Howarth, Kenneth E. Smalley, Gerald E. Thunelius and Samuel Weinstock. The Management Agreement is subject to review and approval at least annually by the Board of Trustees.

The Management Agreement will continue from year to year provided that a majority of the Trustees who are not “interested persons” (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust and either a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of all Trustees or a majority of the shareholders of the Fund approve its continuance. The Trust may terminate the Management Agreement upon the vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees or upon the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund on 60 days’ written notice to Dreyfus. Dreyfus may terminate the Management Agreement upon 60 days’ written notice to the Trust. The Management Agreement will terminate immediately and automatically upon its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

In approving the current Management Agreement, the Board considered a number of factors, including the nature and quality of the services provided by Dreyfus; the investment philosophy and investment approach as applied to the Fund by Dreyfus; the investment management expertise of Dreyfus in respect of the Fund’s investment strategies; the personnel, resources and experience of Dreyfus; the Fund’s performance history and the management fees paid to Dreyfus relative to those of mutual funds with similar investment objectives, strategies and restrictions; Dreyfus’ costs of providing services under the Management Agreement; the relationship between the fees paid to Dreyfus under the Management Agreement and the Fund’s Distribution and Service Plans; and ancillary benefits Dreyfus may receive from its relationship with the Trust.

The following persons are officers and/or directors of Dreyfus: Stephen E. Canter, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer; Michael G. Millard, President and a director; Stephen R. Byers, Chief Investment Officer, Vice Chairman and a director; J. Charles Cardona, Vice Chairman and a director; J. David Officer, Vice Chairman and a director; Ronald P. O’Hanley III, Vice Chairman and a director; Diane P. Durnin, Executive Vice President; Mark N. Jacobs, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary; Patrice M. Kozlowski, Senior Vice President-Corporate Communications; Mary Beth Leibig, Vice President-Human Resources; Theodore A. Schachar, Vice President-Tax; Angela E. Price, Vice President; Wendy H. Strutt, Vice President; Ray Van Cott, Vice President-Information Systems; William H. Maresca, Controller; James Bitetto, Assistant Secretary;



Steven F. Newman, Assistant Secretary; and Steven G. Elliott, David F. Lamere, Martin G. McGuinn and Richard W. Sabo, directors.

The Trust, Dreyfus and the Distributor each have adopted a Code of Ethics, that permits its personnel, subject to such respective Code of Ethics to invest in securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund. Dreyfus' Code of Ethics subjects its employees' personal securities transactions to various restrictions to ensure that such trading does not disadvantage any fund advised by Dreyfus. In that regard, portfolio managers and other investment personnel of Dreyfus must preclear and report their personal securities transactions and holdings, which are reviewed for compliance with Dreyfus' Code of Ethics and are also subject to the oversight of Mellon's Investment Ethics Committee (the "Committee"). Portfolio managers and other investment personnel who comply with the preclearance and disclosure procedures of Dreyfus' Code of Ethics and the requirements of the Committee, may be permitted to purchase, sell or hold securities which also may be or are held in fund(s) they manage or for which they otherwise provide investment advice.

Expenses. Under the Management Agreement, the Fund has agreed to pay Dreyfus a monthly fee at the annual rate of 0.70% of the value of the Fund's average daily net assets. Dreyfus pays all of the Fund's expenses, except brokerage fees, taxes, interest, fees and expenses of the non-interested Trustees (including counsel fees), Rule 12b-1 fees (if applicable) and extraordinary expenses. Although Dreyfus does not pay for the fees and expenses of the non-interested Trustees (including counsel fees), Dreyfus is contractually required to reduce its investment management fee by an amount equal to the Fund's allocable share of such fees and expenses. From time to time, Dreyfus may voluntarily waive a portion of the investment management fees payable by the Fund, which would have the effect of lowering the expense ratio of the Fund and increasing return to investors. Expenses attributable to the Fund are charged against the Fund's assets; other expenses of the Trust are allocated among its funds on the basis determined by the Trustees, including, but not limited to, proportionately in relation to the net assets of each fund.

For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003, the Fund paid Dreyfus a management fee of \$4,141,524, \$3,176,278 and \$3,388,650 respectively.

The Distributor. The Distributor, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dreyfus located at 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, serves as the Fund's distributor on a best efforts basis pursuant to an agreement with the Trust which is renewable annually. Dreyfus may pay the Distributor for shareholder services from Dreyfus' own assets, including past profits but not including the management fee paid by the Fund. The Distributor may use part or all of such payments to pay certain banks, securities brokers or dealers and other financial institutions ("Agents") for these services. The Distributor also acts as distributor for the other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds.

The Distributor compensates certain Agents for selling Class A shares subject to a contingent deferred sales charge ("CDSC"), and Class B and Class C shares at the time of purchase from its own assets. The proceeds of the CDSC and fees pursuant to the Fund's Distribution and Service Plans (as described below), in part, are used to defray these expenses. The amounts retained by the Distributor from sales loads and CDSCs with respect to Class A, Class B and Class C shares are contained in the following table:

CLASS A

<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2001</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2002</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2003</u>
\$24,659	\$36,440	\$250,226

CLASS B

<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2001</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2002</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2003</u>
\$1,811,618	\$1,242,580	\$591,258

CLASS C

<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2001</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2002</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2003</u>
\$4,620	\$13,959	\$16,151

The Distributor may pay Agents that have entered into agreements with the Distributor a fee based on the amount invested through such dealers in Fund shares by employees participating in qualified or non-qualified employee benefit plans including pension, profit sharing and other deferred compensation plans, whether established by corporations, partnerships, non-profit entities or state and local governments ("Retirement Plans"), or other programs. The term "Retirement Plans" does not include IRAs, IRA "Rollover Accounts" or IRAs set up under a Simplified Employee Pension Plan ("SEP-IRAs"). Generally, the Distributor may pay such Agents a fee of up to 1% of the amount invested through the Agents. The Distributor, however, may pay Agents a higher fee and reserves the right to cease paying these fees at any time. The Distributor will pay such fees from its own funds, other than amounts received from the Fund, including past profits or any other source available to it. Sponsors of such Retirement Plans or the participants therein should consult their Agent for more information regarding any such fee payable to the Agent.

The Distributor, at its expense, may provide promotional incentives to Agents that sell shares of funds advised by Dreyfus which are sold with a sales load. In some instances, those incentives may be offered only to certain Agents who have sold or may sell significant amounts of shares.

Transfer and Dividend Disbursing Agent and Custodian. Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. (the “Transfer Agent”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dreyfus, 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, is the Trust’s transfer and dividend disbursing agent. Under a transfer agency agreement with the Trust, Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. arranges for the maintenance of shareholder account records for the Fund, the handling of certain communications between shareholders and the Fund, and the payment of dividends and distributions payable by the Fund. For these services, Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. receives a monthly fee computed on the basis of the number of shareholder accounts it maintains for the Fund during the month, and is reimbursed for certain out-of-pocket expenses.

Mellon Bank, N.A. (“Mellon Bank”), an affiliate of Dreyfus, located at One Mellon Bank Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15258, acts as the custodian of the Fund’s investments. Under a custody agreement with the Trust, Mellon Bank holds the Fund’s portfolio securities and keeps all necessary accounts and records. For its custody services, Mellon Bank receives a monthly fee based on the market value of the Fund’s assets held in custody and receives certain securities transaction charges. This fee is paid to Mellon Bank by Dreyfus pursuant to the Fund’s unitary fee structure.

## PURCHASE OF SHARES

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the sections in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Account Policies," "Services for Fund Investors," "Instructions for Regular Accounts," and "Instructions for IRAs."

General. The Fund offers Class A, Class B, Class C and Class R shares.

When purchasing Fund shares, you must specify which Class is being purchased. The decision as to which Class of shares is most beneficial to you depends on the amount and the intended length of your investment. You should consider whether, during the anticipated life of your investment in the Fund, the accumulated distribution fee, service fee and CDSC, if any, on Class B or Class C shares would be less than the accumulated distribution fee and initial sales charge on Class A shares purchased at the same time, and to what extent, if any, such differential would be offset by the return on Class A shares. Additionally, investors qualifying for reduced initial sales charges who expect to maintain their investment for an extended period of time might consider purchasing Class A shares because the accumulated continuing distribution and service fees on Class B or Class C shares may exceed the accumulated distribution fees and initial sales charge on Class A shares during the life of the investment. Finally, you should consider the effect of the CDSC period and any conversion rights of the Classes in the context of your own investment time frame. For example, while Class C shares have a shorter CDSC period than Class B shares, Class C shares do not have a conversion feature and, therefore, are subject to ongoing distribution and service fees. Thus, Class B shares may be more attractive than Class C shares to investors with longer term investment outlooks. Generally, Class A shares may be more appropriate for investors who invest \$1,000,000 or more in Fund shares, but will not be appropriate for investors who invest less than \$50,000 in Fund shares. The Fund reserves the right to reject any purchase order.

Class A shares, Class B shares and Class C shares may be purchased only by clients of Agents, except that full-time or part-time employees of Dreyfus or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries, directors of Dreyfus, Board members of a fund advised by Dreyfus or its affiliates, including members of the Board, or the spouse or minor child of any of the foregoing may purchase Class A shares directly through the Distributor. Subsequent purchases may be sent directly to the Transfer Agent or your Agent.

Class R shares are offered only to (i) bank trust departments and other financial service providers (including Mellon Bank and its affiliates) acting on behalf of their customers having a qualified trust or investment account or relationship at such institution, or to customers who have received and hold shares of the Fund distributed to them by virtue of such an account or relationship, and (ii) institutional investors acting for themselves or in a fiduciary, advisory, agency, custodial or similar capacity for Retirement Plans and SEP-IRAs. Class R shares may be purchased for a Retirement Plan or SEP-IRA only by a custodian, trustee, investment manager or other entity authorized to act on behalf of such a Retirement Plan or SEP-IRA. In addition, holders of Class R shares of the Fund who have held their shares since June 5, 2003 may continue to purchase Class R shares of the Fund for their existing accounts whether or not they would otherwise be eligible to do so. Institutions effecting transactions in Class R shares for the accounts of their clients may charge their clients direct fees in connection with such transactions.

The minimum initial investment is \$1,000. Subsequent investments must be at least \$100. The minimum initial investment for Dreyfus-sponsored self-employed individual retirement plans (“Keogh Plans”), IRAs (including regular IRAs, spousal IRAs for a non-working spouse, Roth IRAs, SEP-IRAs and rollover IRAs) and 403(b)(7) Plans with only one participant is \$750 and \$500 for Dreyfus-sponsored Coverdell Education Savings Accounts, with no minimum on subsequent purchases except that the no minimum on Coverdell Education Savings Accounts does not apply until after the first year. The initial investment must be accompanied by the Fund’s Account Application. The Fund reserves the right to offer Fund shares without regard to minimum purchase requirements to employees participating in certain Retirement Plans or other programs where contributions or account information can be transmitted in a manner and form acceptable to the Fund. The Fund reserves the right to vary further the initial and subsequent investment minimum requirements at any time.

The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), imposes various limitations on the amount that may be contributed annually to certain Retirement Plans. These limitations apply with respect to participants at the plan level and, therefore, do not directly affect the amount that may be invested in the Fund by a Retirement Plan. Participants and plan sponsors should consult their tax advisers for details.

Fund shares are sold on a continuous basis. NAV per share is determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) (usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time), on each day the NYSE is open for regular business. For purposes of determining NAV, certain options and futures contracts may be valued 15 minutes after the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE. NAV per share of each Class is computed by dividing the value of the Fund’s net assets represented by such Class (i.e., the value of its assets less liabilities) by the total number of shares of such Class outstanding. For information regarding the methods employed in valuing the Fund’s investments, see “Determination of Net Asset Value.”

If an order is received in proper form by the Transfer Agent or other entity authorized to receive orders on behalf of the Fund by the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE (usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) on a business day, Fund shares will be purchased at the public offering price determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on that day. Otherwise, Fund shares will be purchased at the public offering price determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on the next business day, except where shares are purchased through a dealer as provided below.

Orders for the purchase of Fund shares received by dealers by the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on any business day and transmitted to the Distributor or its designee by the close of its business day (usually 5:15 p.m., Eastern time) will be based on the public offering price per share determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on that day. Otherwise, the orders will be based on the next determined public offering price. It is the dealers’ responsibility to transmit orders so that they will be received by the Distributor or its designee before the close of its business day. For certain institutions that have entered into agreements with the Distributor, payment for the purchase of Fund shares may be transmitted, and must be received by the Transfer Agent, within three business days after the order is placed. If such payment is not received within three business days after the order is placed, the order may be canceled and the institution could be held liable for resulting fees and/or losses.

Agents may receive different levels of compensation for selling different Classes of shares. Management understands that some Agents may impose certain conditions on their clients which are different from those described in the Fund's Prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information, and, to the extent permitted by applicable regulatory authority, may charge their clients direct fees which would be in addition to any amounts which might be received under the Distribution and Service Plans. Each Agent has agreed to transmit to its clients a schedule of such fees.

Third parties may receive payments from Dreyfus in connection with their offering of Fund shares to their customers, or for marketing, distribution or other services. The receipt of such payments could create an incentive for the third party to offer the Fund instead of other mutual funds where such payments are not received. You should consult your Agent in this regard.

Federal regulations require that you provide a certified taxpayer identification number ("TIN") upon opening or reopening an account. See the Fund's Account Application for further information concerning this requirement. Failure to furnish a certified TIN to the Fund could subject you to a \$50 penalty imposed by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS").

Class A Shares. The public offering price for Class A shares is the NAV of that Class, plus a sales load as shown below:

<u>Total Sales Load – Class A</u>			
<u>Amount of Transaction</u>	<u>As a % of offering price per share</u>	<u>As a % of net asset value per share</u>	<u>Dealers' Reallowance as a % of offering price</u>
Less than \$50,000	4.50	4.70	4.25
\$50,000 to less than \$100,000	4.00	4.20	3.75
\$100,000 to less than \$250,000	3.00	3.10	2.75
\$250,000 to less than \$500,000	2.50	2.60	2.25
\$500,000 to less than \$1,000,000	2.00	2.00	1.75
\$1,000,000 or more	-0-	-0-	-0-

Sales Loads -- Class A. The scale of sales loads applies to purchases of Class A shares made by any "purchaser," which term includes an individual and/or spouse purchasing securities for his, her or their own account or for the account of any minor children, or a trustee or other fiduciary purchasing securities for a single trust estate or a single fiduciary account (including a pension, profit-sharing or other employee benefit trust created pursuant to a plan qualified under Section 401 of the Code) although more than one beneficiary is involved; or a group of accounts established by or on behalf of the employees of an employer or affiliated employers pursuant to an employee benefit plan or other program (including accounts established pursuant to Sections 403(b), 408(k) and 457 of the Code); or an organized group which has been in existence for more than six months, provided that it is not organized for the purpose of buying redeemable securities of a registered investment company and provided that the purchases are made through a central administration or a single dealer, or by other means which result in economy of sales effort or expense.

Set forth below is an example of the method of computing the offering price of the Fund's Class A shares. The example assumes a purchase of Class A shares of the Fund aggregating less than \$50,000 subject to the schedule of sales charges set forth above and in the Fund's Prospectus at a price based upon the NAV of a Class A share at the close of business on December 31, 2003.

NAV per Share	\$7.43
Per Share Sales Charge - 4.50% of offering price (4.70% of NAV per share)	\$ .35
Per Share Offering Price to the Public	\$7.78

There is no initial sales charge on purchases of \$1,000,000 or more of Class A shares. However, if you purchase Class A shares without an initial sales charge as part of an investment of at least \$1,000,000 and redeem all or a portion of those shares within one year of purchase, a CDSC of 1% will be assessed at the time of redemption. The Distributor may pay Agents an amount up to 1% of the NAV of Class A shares purchased by their clients that are subject to a CDSC. The terms contained below under "Redemption of Shares - Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class B Shares" (other than the amount of the CDSC and time periods) and "Redemption of Shares - Waiver of CDSC" are applicable to the Class A shares subject to a CDSC. Letter of Intent and Right of Accumulation apply to such purchases of Class A shares.

Full-time employees of NASD member firms and full-time employees of other financial institutions which have entered into an agreement with the Distributor pertaining to the sale of Fund shares (or which otherwise have a brokerage related or clearing arrangement with an NASD member firm or financial institution with respect to the sale of such shares) may purchase Class A shares for themselves directly or pursuant to an employee benefit plan or other program, or for their spouses or minor children at NAV, provided that they have furnished the Distributor with such information as it may request from time to time in order to verify eligibility for this privilege. This privilege also applies to full-time employees of financial institutions affiliated with NASD member firms whose full-time employees are eligible to purchase Class A shares at NAV. In addition, Class A shares are offered at NAV to full-time or part-time employees of Dreyfus or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries, directors of Dreyfus, Board members of a fund advised by Dreyfus or its affiliates, including members of the Board, or the spouse or minor child of any of the foregoing.

Class A shares are offered at NAV without a sales load to employees participating in Retirement Plans. Class A shares also may be purchased (including by exchange) at NAV without a sales load for Dreyfus-sponsored IRA "Rollover Accounts" with the distribution proceeds from a qualified retirement plan or a Dreyfus-sponsored 403(b)(7) plan, provided that, at the time of such distribution, such qualified retirement plan or Dreyfus-sponsored 403(b)(7) plan invested all or a portion of its assets in funds in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds or the Dreyfus Family of Funds or certain funds advised by Founders Asset Management LLC ("Founders"), an indirect subsidiary of Dreyfus, or certain other products made available by the Distributor to such plans.

Class A shares may be purchased at NAV through certain broker-dealers and other financial institutions which have entered into an agreement with the Distributor, which includes a

requirement that such shares be sold for the benefit of clients participating in a “wrap account” or a similar program under which such clients pay a fee to such broker-dealer or other financial institution.

Class A shares also may be purchased at NAV, subject to appropriate documentation, by (i) qualified separate accounts maintained by an insurance company pursuant to the laws of any State or territory of the United States, (ii) a State, county or city or instrumentality thereof, (iii) a charitable organization (as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code) investing \$50,000 or more in Fund shares, and (iv) a charitable remainder trust (as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code).

The dealer reallowance may be changed from time to time but will remain the same for all dealers. The Distributor, at its own expense, may provide additional promotional incentives to dealers that sell shares of funds advised by Dreyfus which are sold with a sales load, such as Class A shares. In some instances, these incentives may be offered only to certain dealers who have sold or may sell significant amounts of such shares.

Class B Shares. The public offering price for Class B shares is the NAV per share of that Class. No initial sales charge is imposed at the time of purchase. A CDSC is imposed, however, on certain redemptions of Class B shares as described in the Fund’s Prospectus and in this Statement of Additional Information under “Redemption of Shares – Contingent Deferred Sales Charge – Class B Shares.”

Approximately six years after the date of purchase, Class B shares automatically will convert to Class A shares, based on the relative NAVs for shares of each such Class. Class B shares that have been acquired through the reinvestment of dividends and distributions will be converted on a pro rata basis together with other Class B shares, in the proportion that a shareholder’s Class B shares converting to Class A shares bears to the total Class B shares not acquired through the reinvestment of dividends and distributions.

Class C Shares. The public offering price for Class C shares is the NAV per share of that Class. No initial sales charge is imposed at the time of purchase. A CDSC is imposed, however, on redemptions of Class C shares made within the first year of purchase. See “Class B Shares” above and “How to Redeem Shares.”

Class R Shares. The public offering price for Class R shares is the NAV per share of that Class.

Right of Accumulation—Class A Shares. Reduced sales loads apply to any purchase of Class A shares by you and any related “purchaser” as defined above, where the aggregate investment, including such purchase, is \$50,000 or more. If, for example, you previously purchased and still hold Class A shares of the Fund, or shares of certain other funds advised by Dreyfus or Founders which are subject to a front-end sales load or CDSC or shares acquired by a previous exchange of such shares (hereinafter referred to as “Eligible Funds”), or combination thereof, with an aggregate current market value of \$40,000 and subsequently purchase Class A shares of such Fund having a current value of \$20,000, the sales load applicable to the subsequent purchase would be reduced to 4% of the offering price. All present holdings of Eligible Funds may be combined to determine the current offering price of the aggregate investment in ascertaining the sales load applicable to each subsequent purchase.



To qualify for reduced sales loads, at the time of purchase you or your Agent must notify the Distributor if orders are made by wire, or the Transfer Agent if orders are made by mail. The reduced sales load is subject to confirmation of your holdings through a check of appropriate records.

Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege. You may purchase Fund shares by telephone or online if you have checked the appropriate box and supplied the necessary information on the Account Application or have filed a Shareholder Services Form with the Transfer Agent. The proceeds will be transferred between the bank account designated in one of these documents and your Fund account, which will subject the purchase order to a processing delay. Only a bank account maintained in a domestic financial institution that is an Automated Clearing House (“ACH”) member may be so designated.

Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* purchase orders may be made at any time. If purchase orders are received by 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on any day that the Transfer Agent and the NYSE are open for regular business Fund shares will be purchased at the public offering price determined on the next bank business day following such purchase order. If purchase orders are made after 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on any day the Transfer Agent and the NYSE are open for regular business, or made on Saturday, Sunday or any Fund holiday (e.g., when the NYSE is not open for business), Fund shares will be purchased at the public offering price determined on the second bank business day following such purchase order. To qualify to use the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege, the initial payment for purchase of Fund shares must be drawn on, and redemption proceeds paid to, the same bank and account as are designated on the Account Application or Shareholder Services Form on file. If the proceeds of a particular redemption are to be sent to an account at any other bank, the request must be in writing and signature-guaranteed. See “Redemption of Shares – Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege.” The Fund may modify or terminate this Privilege at any time or charge a service fee upon notice to shareholders. No such fee currently is contemplated.

Reopening an Account. An investor may reopen an account with a minimum investment of \$100 without filing a new Account Application during the calendar year the account is closed or during the following calendar year, provided the information on the old Account Application is still applicable.

In-Kind Purchases. If the following conditions are satisfied, the Fund may at its discretion, permit the purchase of shares through an “in-kind” exchange of securities. Any securities exchanged must meet the investment objective, policies and limitations of the Fund, must have a readily ascertainable market value, must be liquid and must not be subject to restrictions on resale. The market value of any securities exchanged, plus any cash, must be at least equal to \$25,000. Shares purchased in exchange for securities generally cannot be redeemed for fifteen days following the exchange in order to allow time for the transfer to settle.

The basis of the exchange will depend upon the relative NAVs of the shares purchased and securities exchanged. Securities accepted by the Fund will be valued in the same manner as the Fund values its assets. Any interest earned on the securities following their delivery to the Fund and prior to the exchange will be considered in valuing the securities. All interest, dividends, subscription or other rights attached to the securities become the property of the Fund,

along with the securities. For further information about “in-kind” purchases, call 1-800-554-4611.

Share Certificates. Share certificates are issued upon written request only. No certificates are issued for fractional shares.

## **DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE PLANS**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the Fund’s Prospectus entitled “Your Investment.”

Class A, Class B and Class C shares are subject to annual fees for distribution and shareholder services.

The SEC has adopted Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act (the “Rule”) regulating the circumstances under which investment companies such as the Trust may, directly or indirectly, bear the expenses of distributing their shares. The Rule defines distribution expenses to include expenditures for “any activity which is primarily intended to result in the sale of fund shares.” The Rule, among other things, provides that an investment company may bear such expenses only pursuant to a plan adopted in accordance with the Rule.

Distribution Plan--Class A Shares. The Board of Trustees has adopted a Distribution Plan pursuant to the Rule with respect to the Class A shares of the Fund (“Class A Plan”), whereby Class A shares of the Fund may spend annually up to 0.25% of the average daily net assets to compensate Mellon Bank and its affiliates (including but not limited to Dreyfus and the Distributor) for shareholder servicing activities and the Distributor for shareholder servicing activities and expenses primarily intended to result in the sale of Class A shares of the Fund. The Class A Plan allows the Distributor to make payments from the Rule 12b-1 fees it collects from the Fund to compensate Agents that have entered into Selling Agreements (“Agreements”) with the Distributor. Under the Agreements, the Agents are obligated to provide distribution related services with regard to the Fund and/or shareholder services to the Agent’s clients that own Class A shares of the Fund. The Board of Trustees believes that there is a reasonable likelihood that the Class A Plan will benefit the Fund and the holders of its Class A shares.

The Class A Plan provides that a report of the amounts expended under the Class A Plan, and the purposes for which such expenditures were incurred, must be made to the Trustees for their review at least quarterly. In addition, the Class A Plan provides that it may not be amended to increase materially the costs which holders of Class A shares may bear for distribution pursuant to the Class A Plan without approval of the holders of such class and that other material amendments of the Class A Plan must be approved by the vote of a majority of the Trustees and of the Trustees who are not “interested persons” (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust and who do not have any direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Class A Plan or in any agreements entered into in connection with the Class A Plan, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such amendments. The Class A Plan is subject to annual approval by such vote of the Trustees cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Class A Plan. The Class A Plan is terminable, as to the Fund’s Class A shares, at any time by vote of a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons and have no direct or indirect

financial interest in the operation of the Class A Plan or by vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of such class of the Fund.

Distribution and Service Plans -- Class B and Class C Shares. In addition to the above described Class A Plan for Class A shares, the Board of Trustees has adopted a Service Plan (the “Service Plan”) under the Rule for Class B and Class C shares, pursuant to which the Fund pays the Distributor, and/or any of its affiliates, a fee at the annual rate of 0.25% of the value of the average daily net assets of Class B and Class C shares for the provision of certain services to the holders of Class B and Class C shares. The services provided may include personal services relating to shareholder accounts, such as answering shareholder inquiries regarding the Fund and providing reports and other information, and providing services related to the maintenance of such shareholder accounts. With regard to such services, each Agent is required to disclose to its clients any compensation payable to it by the Fund and any other compensation payable by its clients in connection with the investment of their assets in Class B and Class C shares. The Distributor may pay one or more Agents in respect of services for these Classes of shares. The Distributor determines the amounts, if any, to be paid to Agents under the Service Plan and the basis on which such payments are made. The Board of Trustees has also adopted a Distribution Plan pursuant to the Rule with respect to Class B and Class C shares (the “Distribution Plan”) pursuant to which the Fund pays the Distributor for distributing the Fund’s Class B and Class C shares at an aggregate annual rate of 0.50% and 0.75% of the value of the average daily net assets of Class B and Class C shares, respectively. The Board of Trustees believes that there is a reasonable likelihood that the Distribution and Service Plans (each a “Plan” and collectively, the “Plans”) will benefit the Fund and the holders of Class B and Class C shares.

A quarterly report of the amounts expended under each Plan, and the purposes for which such expenditures were incurred, must be made to the Trustees for their review. In addition, each Plan provides that it may not be amended to increase materially the cost which holders of Class B or Class C shares may bear pursuant to the Plan without the approval of the holders of such Classes and that other material amendments of the Plan must be approved by a vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees and by a majority of the Trustees who are not “interested persons” (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plan or in any agreements entered into in connection with the Plan, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such amendments. Each Plan is subject to annual approval by such vote of the Trustees cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Plan. Each Plan may be terminated at any time by vote of a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plan or in any agreements entered into in connection with the Plan or by vote of the holders of a majority of Class B and Class C shares.

An Agent entitled to receive compensation for selling and servicing the Fund’s shares may receive different compensation with respect to one Class of shares over another. Potential investors should read this Statement of Additional Information in light of the terms governing Agreements with their Agents. The fees payable under each Plan are payable without regard to actual expenses incurred. The Fund and the Distributor may suspend or reduce payments under any of the Plans at any time, and payments are subject to the continuation of the Fund’s Plans and the Agreements described above. From time to time, the Agents, the Distributor and the Fund may voluntarily agree to reduce the maximum fees payable under the Plans.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Fund paid the Distributor, with respect to Class A shares, \$398,436 in distribution fees pursuant to the Class A Plan.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Fund paid the Distributor, with respect to Class B and Class C shares, \$1,236,851 and \$571,773, respectively, in distribution fees pursuant to the Distribution Plan.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Fund paid the Distributor, with respect to Class B and Class C shares, \$618,425 and \$190,591, respectively, in service fees pursuant to the Service Plan.

## **REDEMPTION OF SHARES**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the sections in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Account Policies," "Services For Fund Investors," "Instructions for Regular Accounts" and "Instructions for IRAs."

General. If you hold Fund shares of more than one Class, any request for redemption must specify the Class of shares being redeemed. If you fail to specify the Class of shares to be redeemed or if you own fewer shares of the Class than specified to be redeemed, the redemption request may be delayed until the Transfer Agent receives further instructions from you or your Agent.

The Fund imposes no charges (other than any applicable CDSC) when shares are redeemed. Agents may charge their clients a fee for effecting redemptions of Fund shares. Any certificates representing Fund shares being redeemed must be submitted with the redemption request. The value of the shares redeemed may be more or less than their original cost, depending upon the Fund's then-current NAV per share.

The Fund ordinarily will make payment for all shares redeemed within seven days after receipt by the Transfer Agent of a redemption request in proper form, except as provided by the rules of the SEC. However, if you have purchased Fund shares by check, by Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege, or through Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder® and subsequently submit a written redemption request to the Transfer Agent, the Fund may delay sending the redemption proceeds for up to eight business days after the purchase of such shares. In addition, the Fund will not honor Redemption Checks ("Checks") under the Checkwriting Privilege, and will reject requests to redeem shares by wire or telephone, online or pursuant to the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege, for a period of up to eight business days after receipt by the Transfer Agent of the purchase check, the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* purchase or the Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder order against which such redemption is requested. These procedures will not apply if your shares were purchased by wire payment, or if you otherwise have a sufficient collected balance in your account to cover the redemption request. Fund shares may not be redeemed until the Transfer Agent has received your Account Application.

Procedures. You may redeem Fund shares by using the regular redemption procedure through the Transfer Agent, or through the Telephone Redemption Privilege, or, through the Checkwriting Privilege with respect to Class A shares only, which is granted automatically (if you invest in Class A shares) unless you specifically refuse it by checking the applicable "No"

box on the Account Application. The Checkwriting Privilege may be established for an existing account by a separate signed Shareholder Services Form. The Telephone Redemption Privilege may be established for an existing account by a separate signed Shareholder Services Form or by oral request from any of the authorized signatories on the account by calling 1-800-554-4611. You also may redeem shares through the Wire Redemption Privilege, or the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege if you have checked the appropriate box and supplied the necessary information on the Account Application or have filed a Shareholder Services Form with the Transfer Agent. If you are a client of certain Agents (“Selected Dealers”), you may also redeem Fund shares through the Selected Dealer. Other redemption procedures may be in effect for clients of other Agents and institutions. The Fund makes available to certain large institutions the ability to issue redemption instructions through compatible computer facilities. The Fund reserves the right to refuse any request made by telephone, including requests made shortly after a change of address, and may limit the amount involved or the number of such requests. The Fund may modify or terminate any redemption privilege at any time or charge a service fee upon notice to shareholders. No such fee currently is contemplated. Shares held under Keogh Plans, IRAs, or other retirement plans, and shares for which certificates have been issued, are not eligible for the Wire Redemption, Telephone Redemption, Checkwriting Privilege, or Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege.

The Telephone Redemption Privilege, the Wire Redemption Privilege, Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege or Telephone Exchange Privilege authorizes the Transfer Agent to act on telephone instructions (including the Dreyfus Express<sup>®</sup> voice response telephone system) or online instructions from any person representing himself or herself to be you, or a representative of your Agent, and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. The Fund will require the Transfer Agent to employ reasonable procedures, such as requiring a form of personal identification, to confirm that instructions are genuine and, if it does not follow such procedures, the Fund or the Transfer Agent may be liable for any losses due to unauthorized or fraudulent instructions. Neither the Fund nor the Transfer Agent will be liable for following telephone or online instructions reasonably believed to be genuine.

During times of drastic economic or market conditions, you may experience difficulty in contacting the Transfer Agent by telephone to request a redemption or an exchange of Fund shares. In such cases, you should consider using the other redemption procedures described herein. Use of these other redemption procedures may result in your redemption request being processed at a later time than it would have been if Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* redemption or other telephone redemption options had been used. During the delay, the Fund’s NAV may fluctuate.

Checkwriting Privilege - Class A. Investors may write Checks drawn on their Fund accounts. The Fund provides Checks to investors in Class A shares automatically upon opening an account, unless such investors specifically refuse the Checkwriting Privilege by checking the applicable “No” box on the Account Application. Checks will be sent only to the registered owner(s) of the account and only to the address of record. The Checkwriting Privilege may be established for an existing account by a separate signed Shareholder Services Form. The Account Application or Shareholder Services Form must be manually signed by the registered owner(s). Checks are drawn on the investor’s Fund account and may be made payable to the order of any person in an amount of \$500 or more. When a Check is presented to the Transfer Agent for payment, the Transfer Agent, as the investor’s agent, will cause the Fund to redeem a sufficient number of full and fractional Class A shares in the investor’s account to cover the amount of the Check. Potential fluctuations in the NAV of Class A should be considered in

determining the amount of a Check. Dividends are earned until the Check clears. After clearance, a copy of the Check will be returned to the investor. Investors generally will be subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to checking accounts, although election of this Privilege creates only a shareholder-transfer agent relationship with the Transfer Agent.

If the amount of the Check is greater than the value of the shares in an investor's account, the Check will be returned marked insufficient funds. Checks should not be used to close an account. Checks are free but the Transfer Agent will impose a fee for stopping payment of a Check upon request or if the Transfer Agent cannot honor a Check because of insufficient funds or other valid reason. Investors should date Checks with the current date when writing them. Please do not postdate Checks. If Checks are postdated, the Transfer Agent will honor, upon presentment, even if presented before the date of the Check, all postdated Checks which are dated within six months of presentment for payment, if they are otherwise in good order.

This privilege will be terminated immediately, without notice, with respect to any account which is, or becomes, subject to backup withholding on redemptions. Any Check written on an account which has become subject to backup withholding on redemptions will not be honored by the Transfer Agent.

Redemption Through a Selected Dealer. Customers of Selected Dealers may make redemption requests to their Selected Dealer. If the Selected Dealer transmits the redemption request so that it is received by the Transfer Agent prior to the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE (usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time), the redemption request will be effective on that day. If a redemption request is received by the Transfer Agent after the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE, the redemption request will be effective on the next business day. It is the responsibility of the Selected Dealer to transmit a request so that it is received in a timely manner. The proceeds of the redemption are credited to your account with the Selected Dealer.

In addition, the Distributor or its designee will accept orders from Selected Dealers with which the Distributor has sales agreements for the repurchase of Fund shares held by shareholders. Repurchase orders received by dealers by the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on any business day and transmitted to the Distributor or its designee prior to the close of its business day (usually 5:15 p.m., Eastern time) are effected at the price determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on that day. Otherwise, the Fund shares will be redeemed at the next determined NAV per share. It is the responsibility of the Selected Dealer to transmit orders on a timely basis. The Selected Dealer may charge the shareholder a fee for executing the order. This repurchase arrangement is discretionary and may be withdrawn at any time.

Telephone Redemption Privilege. You may request by telephone that redemption proceeds (maximum \$250,000 per day) be paid by check and mailed to your address.

Wire Redemption Privilege. By using this Privilege, you authorize the Transfer Agent to act on telephone, letter or online redemption instructions from any person representing himself or herself to be you and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. Ordinarily, the Fund will initiate payment for shares redeemed pursuant to this Privilege on the next business day after receipt by the Transfer Agent of a redemption request in proper form. Redemption proceeds (\$1,000 minimum) will be transferred by Federal Reserve wire only to the commercial bank account specified by you on the Account Application or Shareholder Services Form, or to a

correspondent bank if your bank is not a member of the Federal Reserve System. Fees ordinarily are imposed by such bank and borne by you. Immediate notification by the correspondent bank to your bank is necessary to avoid a delay in crediting the funds to your bank account.

To change the commercial bank or account designated to receive redemption proceeds, a written request must be sent to the Transfer Agent. This request must be signed by each shareholder, with each signature guaranteed as described below under “Share Certificates; Signatures.”

Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege. You may request by telephone or online that redemption proceeds (minimum \$500 per day) be transferred between your Fund account and your bank account. Only a bank account maintained in a domestic financial institution which is an ACH member may be designated. Redemption proceeds will be on deposit in your account at an ACH member bank ordinarily two days after receipt of the redemption request. Investors should be aware that if they have selected the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege, any request for a Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* transaction will be effected through the ACH system unless more prompt transmittal specifically is requested. See “Purchase of Shares—Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege.”

Reinvestment Privilege. Upon written request, you may reinvest up to the number of Class A or Class B shares you have redeemed, within 45 days of redemption, at the then-prevailing NAV without a sales load, or reinstate your account for the purpose of exercising Fund Exchanges. Upon reinstatement, with respect to Class B shares, or Class A shares if such shares were subject to a CDSC, your account will be credited with an amount equal to the CDSC previously paid upon redemption of the Class A or Class B shares reinvested. The Reinvestment Privilege may be exercised only once.

Share Certificates; Signatures. Any certificates representing Fund shares to be redeemed must be submitted with the redemption request. Written redemption requests must be signed by each shareholder, including each owner of a joint account, and each signature must be guaranteed. Signatures on endorsed certificates submitted for redemption also must be guaranteed. The Transfer Agent has adopted standards and procedures pursuant to which signature-guarantees in proper form generally will be accepted from domestic banks, brokers, dealers, credit unions, national securities exchanges, registered securities associations, clearing agencies and savings associations, as well as from participants in the NYSE Medallion Signature Program, the Securities Transfer Agents Medallion Program (“STAMP”) and the Stock Exchanges Medallion Program. Guarantees must be signed by an authorized signatory of the guarantor and “Signature-Guaranteed” must appear with the signature. The Transfer Agent may request additional documentation from corporations, executors, administrators, trustees or guardians, and may accept other suitable verification arrangements from foreign investors, such as consular verification. For more information with respect to signature-guarantees, please call one of the telephone numbers listed on the cover.

Redemption Commitment. The Fund has committed itself to pay in cash all redemption requests by any shareholder of record, limited in amount during any 90-day period to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the value of the Fund’s net assets at the beginning of such period. Such commitment is irrevocable without the prior approval of the SEC. In the case of requests for redemptions in excess of such amount, the Trustees reserve the right to make payments in whole or in part in securities or other assets in case of an emergency or any time a cash distribution would impair the liquidity of the Fund to the detriment of the existing shareholders. In such

event, the securities would be valued in the same manner as the Fund's portfolio is valued. If the recipient sold such securities, brokerage charges might be incurred.

Suspension of Redemptions. The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed (a) during any period when the NYSE is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings), (b) when trading in the markets the Fund ordinarily utilizes is restricted, or when an emergency exists as determined by the SEC so that disposal of the Fund's investments or determination of its NAV is not reasonably practicable, or (c) for such other periods as the SEC by order may permit to protect the Fund's shareholders.

Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class B Shares. A CDSC payable to the Distributor is imposed on any redemption of Class B shares which reduces the current NAV of your Class B shares to an amount which is lower than the dollar amount of all payments by you for the purchase of Class B shares of the Fund held by you at the time of redemption. No CDSC will be imposed to the extent that the NAV of the Class B shares redeemed does not exceed (i) the current NAV of Class B shares acquired through reinvestment of dividends or other distributions, plus (ii) increases in the NAV of Class B shares above the dollar amount of all your payments for the purchase of Class B shares of the Fund held by you at the time of redemption.

If the aggregate value of the Class B shares redeemed has declined below their original cost as a result of the Fund's performance, a CDSC may be applied to the then-current NAV rather than the purchase price.

In circumstances where the CDSC is imposed, the amount of the charge will depend on the number of years from the time you purchased the Class B shares until the time of redemption of such shares. Solely for purposes of determining the number of years from the time of any payment for the purchase of Class B shares, all payments during a month will be aggregated and deemed to have been made on the first day of the month.

In determining whether a CDSC is applicable to a redemption, the calculation will be made in a manner that results in the lowest possible rate. It will be assumed that the redemption is made first of amounts representing shares acquired pursuant to the reinvestment of dividends and distributions; then of amounts representing the increase in NAV of Class B shares above the total amount of payments for the purchase of Class B shares made during the preceding six years; then of amounts representing the cost of shares purchased six years prior to the redemption; and finally, of amounts representing the cost of shares held for the longest period of time within the applicable six-year period.

For example, assume an investor purchased 100 shares at \$10 per share for a cost of \$1,000. Subsequently, the shareholder acquired five additional shares through dividend reinvestment. During the second year after the purchase the investor decided to redeem \$500 of his or her investment. Assuming at the time of the redemption the NAV has appreciated to \$12 per share, the value of the investor's shares would be \$1,260 (105 shares at \$12 per share). The CDSC would not be applied to the value of the reinvested dividend shares and the amount which represents appreciation (\$260). Therefore, \$240 of the \$500 redemption proceeds (\$500 minus \$260) would be charged at a rate of 4% (the applicable rate in the second year after purchase) for a total CDSC of \$9.60.



For purposes of determining the applicable CDSC payable with respect to redemption of Class B shares of the Fund where such shares were acquired through exchange of Class B shares of another fund advised by Dreyfus, the year since purchase payment was made is based on the date of purchase of the original Class B shares of the fund exchanged.

Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class C Shares. A CDSC of 1% is paid to the Distributor on any redemption of Class C shares within one year of the date of purchase. The basis for calculating the payment of any such CDSC will be the method used in calculating the CDSC for Class B shares. See “Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class B Shares” above.

Waiver of CDSC. The CDSC applicable to Class B and Class C shares (and to certain Class A shares) may be waived in connection with (a) redemptions made within one year after the death or disability, as defined in Section 72(m)(7) of the Code, of the shareholder, (b) redemptions by employees participating in Retirement Plans, (c) redemptions as a result of a combination of any investment company with the Fund by merger, acquisition of assets or otherwise, (d) a distribution following retirement under a tax-deferred retirement plan or upon attaining age 70½ in the case of an IRA or Keogh plan or custodial account pursuant to Section 403(b) of the Code, and (e) redemptions pursuant to the Automatic Withdrawal Plan, as described below. If the Board determines to discontinue the waiver of the CDSC, the disclosure herein will be revised appropriately. Any Fund shares subject to a CDSC which were purchased prior to the termination of such waiver will have the CDSC waived as provided in the Prospectus or this Statement of Additional Information at the time of the purchase of such shares.

To qualify for a waiver of the CDSC, at the time of redemption you must notify the Transfer Agent or your Agent must notify the Distributor. Any such qualification is subject to confirmation of your entitlement.

## **SHAREHOLDER SERVICES**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the sections in the Fund’s Prospectus entitled “Account Policies” and “Services for Fund Investors.”

Fund Exchanges. You may purchase, in exchange for shares of the Fund, shares of the same Class of another fund in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds, shares of the same Class of certain funds advised by Founders, or shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds, to the extent such shares are offered for sale in your state residence. Shares of the same Class of such other funds purchased by exchange will be purchased on the basis of relative NAV per share as follows:

- A. Exchanges for shares of funds that are offered without a sales load will be made without a sales load.
- B. Shares of funds purchased without a sales load may be exchanged for shares of other funds sold with a sales load, and the applicable sales load will be deducted.
- C. Shares of funds purchased with a sales load may be exchanged without a sales load for shares of other funds sold without a sales load.

- D. Shares of funds purchased with a sales load, shares of funds acquired by a previous exchange from shares purchased with a sales load and additional shares acquired through reinvestment of dividends or distributions of any such funds (collectively referred to herein as “Purchased Shares”) may be exchanged for shares of other funds sold with a sales load (referred to herein as “Offered Shares”), but if the sales load applicable to the Offered Shares exceeds the maximum sales load that could have been imposed in connection with the Purchased Shares (at the time the Purchased Shares were acquired), without giving effect to any reduced loads, the difference may be deducted.
- E. Shares of funds subject to a CDSC that are exchanged for shares of another fund will be subject to the higher applicable CDSC of the two funds and, for purposes of calculating CDSC rates and conversion periods, if any, will be deemed to have been held since the date the shares being exchanged were initially purchased.

To accomplish an exchange under item D above, an investor or the investor’s Agent must notify the Transfer Agent of the investor’s prior ownership of shares with a sales load and the investor’s account number. Any such exchange is subject to confirmation of an investor’s holdings through a check of appropriate records.

You also may exchange your Fund shares that are subject to a CDSC for shares of Dreyfus Worldwide Dollar Money Market Fund, Inc. The shares so purchased will be held in a special account created solely for this purpose (“Exchange Account”). Exchanges of shares from an Exchange Account only can be made into certain other funds managed or administered by Dreyfus. No CDSC is charged when an investor exchanges into an Exchange Account; however, the applicable CDSC will be imposed when shares are redeemed from an Exchange Account or other applicable Fund account. Upon redemption, the applicable CDSC will be calculated without regard to the time such shares were held in an Exchange Account. See “Redemption of Shares.” Redemption proceeds for Exchange Account shares are paid by Federal wire or check only. Exchange Account shares also are eligible for the Auto-Exchange Privilege, Dividend Sweep and the Automatic Withdrawal Plan.

To request an exchange, an investor or an investor’s Agent acting on the investor’s behalf, must give exchange instructions to the Transfer Agent in writing, by telephone or online. The ability to issue exchange instructions by telephone or online is given to all Fund shareholders automatically unless the investor checks the applicable “No” box on the Account Application, indicating that the investor specifically refuses this privilege. This privilege may be established for an existing account by written request signed by all shareholders on the account, by a separate signed Shareholder Services Form, available by calling 1-800-554-4611, or by oral request from any of the authorized signatories on the account, also by calling 1-800-554-4611. By using this privilege, the investor authorizes the Transfer Agent to act on telephonic or online instructions (including over the Dreyfus Express<sup>®</sup> voice response telephone system) from any person representing himself or herself to be the investor, or a representative of the investor’s Agent, and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. Exchanges may be subject to limitations as to the amount involved or the number of exchanges permitted. Shares issued in certificate form are not eligible for telephone or online exchange. No fees currently are charged

shareholders directly in connection with exchanges, although the Fund reserves the right, upon not less than 60 days' written notice, to charge shareholders a nominal fee in accordance with rules promulgated by the SEC.

Exchanges of Class R shares held by a Retirement Plan may be made only between the investor's Retirement Plan account in one fund and such investor's Retirement Plan account in another fund.

To establish a personal Retirement Plan by exchange, shares of the fund being exchanged must have a value of at least the minimum initial investment required for the fund into which the exchange is being made.

Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege. Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege permits you to purchase (on a semi-monthly, monthly, quarterly or annual basis), in exchange for shares of the Fund, shares of the same Class of another fund in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds, shares of the same Class of certain funds advised by Founders, or shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds, of which the investor is a shareholder. The amount the investor designates, which can be expressed either in terms of a specific dollar or share amount (\$100 minimum), will be exchanged automatically on the first and/or fifteenth day of the month according to the schedule the investor has selected. This Privilege is available only for existing accounts. With respect to Class R shares held by a Retirement Plan, exchanges may be made only between the investor's Retirement Plan account in one fund and such investor's Retirement Plan account in another fund. Shares will be exchanged on the basis of relative NAV per share as described above under "Fund Exchanges." Enrollment in or modification or cancellation of this Privilege is effective three business days following notification by the investor. An investor will be notified if the investor's account falls below the amount designated to be exchanged under this Privilege. In this case, an investor's account will fall to zero unless additional investments are made in excess of the designated amount prior to the next Auto-Exchange transaction. Shares held under IRAs and other retirement plans are eligible for this Privilege. Exchanges of IRA shares may be made between IRA accounts and from regular accounts to IRA accounts, but not from IRA accounts to regular accounts. With respect to all other retirement accounts, exchanges may be made only among those accounts.

The right to exercise this Privilege may be modified or canceled by the Fund or the Transfer Agent. An investor may modify or cancel the exercise of this Privilege at any time by mailing written notification to Dreyfus Premier Limited Term High Yield Fund, P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568. The Fund may charge a service fee for the use of this Privilege. No such fee currently is contemplated. For more information concerning this Privilege and the funds in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds, the Dreyfus Family of Funds or the Dreyfus Founders Family of Funds eligible to participate in this Privilege, or to obtain an Auto-Exchange Authorization Form, please call toll free 1-800-554-4611.

Fund exchanges and the Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege are available to shareholders resident in any state in which shares of the fund being acquired may legally be sold. Shares may be exchanged only between accounts having certain identical identifying designations. The exchange of shares of one fund for shares of another is treated for Federal income tax purposes as a sale of the shares given in exchange and, therefore, an exchanging shareholder (other than a tax-exempt Retirement Plan) may realize a taxable gain or loss.

Shareholder Services Forms and prospectuses of the other funds may be obtained by calling 1-800-554-4611, or visiting the Dreyfus.com website. The Fund reserves the right to reject any exchange request in whole or in part. The Fund Exchange service or the Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege may be modified or terminated at any time upon notice to shareholders.

Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder®. Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder permits you to purchase Fund shares (minimum of \$100 and maximum of \$150,000 per transaction) at regular intervals selected by you. Fund shares are purchased by transferring funds from the bank account designated by you. Only an account maintained at a domestic financial institution which is an ACH member may be so designated. To establish a Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder account, you must file an authorization form with the Transfer Agent. You may obtain the necessary authorization form by calling 1-800-554-4611. You may cancel your participation in this Privilege or change the amount of purchase at any time by mailing written notification to Dreyfus Premier Limited Term High Yield Fund, P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8568 and the notification will be effective three business days following receipt. The Fund may modify or terminate this Privilege at any time or charge a service fee. No such fee currently is contemplated.

Automatic Withdrawal Plan. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan permits an investor with a \$5,000 minimum account to request withdrawal of a specified dollar amount (minimum of \$50) on either a monthly or quarterly basis. Withdrawal payments are the proceeds from sales of Fund shares, not the yield on the shares. If withdrawal payments exceed reinvested dividends and other distributions, the investor's shares will be reduced and eventually may be depleted. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan may be established by filing an Automatic Withdrawal Plan application with the Transfer Agent or by oral request from any of the authorized signatories on the account by calling 1-800-554-4611. Automatic Withdrawal may be terminated at any time by the investor, the Fund or the Transfer Agent. Shares for which certificates have been issued may not be redeemed through the Automatic Withdrawal Plan.

Particular Retirement Plans, including Dreyfus-sponsored Retirement Plans, may permit certain participants to establish an automatic withdrawal plan from such Retirement Plans. Participants should consult their Retirement Plan sponsor and tax adviser for details. Such a withdrawal plan is different from the Automatic Withdrawal Plan. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan may be ended at any time by the shareholder, the Fund or the Transfer Agent. Shares for which certificates have been issued may not be redeemed through the Automatic Withdrawal Plan.

No CDSC with respect to Class B or Class C shares will be imposed on withdrawals made under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan, provided that any amount withdrawn under the plan does not exceed on an annual basis 12% of the greater of (1) the account value at the time of the first withdrawal under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan, or (2) the account value at the time of the subsequent withdrawal. Withdrawals with respect to Class B or Class C shares under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan that exceed such amounts will be subject to a CDSC.

Withdrawals of Class A shares subject to a CDSC under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan will be subject to any applicable CDSC. Purchases of additional Class A shares where the sales load is imposed concurrently with withdrawals of Class A shares generally are undesirable.

Dividend Options. Dreyfus Dividend Sweep allows you to invest automatically your dividends or dividends and capital gain distributions, if any, from the Fund in shares of the same Class of another fund in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds, shares of the same Class of certain funds advised by Founders, or shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds, of which you are a shareholder. Shares of certain other funds purchased pursuant to this Privilege will be purchased on the basis of relative NAV per share as follows:

- A. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund may be invested without a sales load in shares of other funds that are offered without a sales load.
- B. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund which does not charge a sales load may be invested in shares of other funds sold with a sales load, and the applicable sales load will be deducted.
- C. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund that charges a sales load may be invested in shares of other funds sold with a sales load (referred to herein as "Offered Shares"), but if the sales load applicable to the Offered Shares exceeds the maximum sales load charged by a fund from which dividends or distributions are being swept (without giving effect to any reduced loads), the difference may be deducted.
- D. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund may be invested in shares of other funds that impose a CDSC and the applicable CDSC, if any, will be imposed upon redemption of such shares.

Dividend ACH permits you to transfer electronically dividends or dividends and other distributions, if any, from the Fund to a designated bank account. Only an account maintained at a domestic financial institution which is an ACH member may be so designated. Banks may charge a fee for this service.

For more information concerning these Privileges, or to request a Dividend Options Form, please call toll free 1-800-554-4611. You may cancel these Privileges by mailing written notification to Dreyfus Premier Limited Term High Yield Fund, P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568. To select a new fund after cancellation, you must submit a new Dividend Options Form. Enrollment in or cancellation of these privileges is effective three business days following receipt. These Privileges are available only for existing accounts and may not be used to open new accounts. Minimum subsequent investments do not apply for Dreyfus Dividend Sweep. The Fund may modify or terminate these Privileges at any time or charge a service fee. No such fee currently is contemplated. Shares held under Keogh Plans, IRAs or other retirement plans are not eligible for Dreyfus Dividend Sweep.

Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege. Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege enables you to purchase Fund shares (minimum of \$100 and maximum of \$50,000 per transaction) by having Federal salary, Social Security or certain veterans', military or other payments from the Federal government automatically deposited into your Fund account. You may deposit as much of such payments as you elect. You should consider whether Direct Deposit of your entire payment into a fund with fluctuating NAV, such as the Fund, may be appropriate for you. To enroll in Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit, you must file with the Transfer Agent a completed Direct Deposit Sign-Up Form for each type of payment that you

desire to include in this Privilege. The appropriate form may be obtained from your Agent or by calling 1-800-554-4611. Death or legal incapacity will terminate your participation in this Privilege. You may elect at any time to terminate your participation by notifying in writing the appropriate Federal agency. Further, the Fund may terminate your participation upon 30 days' notice to you.

Letter of Intent—Class A Shares. By signing a Letter of Intent form, you become eligible for the reduced sales load on purchases of Class A shares based on the total number of shares of Eligible Funds (as defined under “Right of Accumulation” above) purchased by you and any related “purchaser” (as defined above) in a 13-month period pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the Letter of Intent. Shares of any Eligible Fund purchased within 90 days prior to the submission of the Letter of Intent may be used to equal or exceed the amount specified in the Letter of Intent. A minimum initial purchase of \$5,000 is required. You can obtain a Letter of Intent form by calling 1-800-554-4611.

Each purchase you make during the 13-month period (which begins on the date you submit the Letter of Intent) will be at the public offering price applicable to a single transaction of the aggregate dollar amount you select in the Letter of Intent. The Transfer Agent will hold in escrow 5% of the amount indicated in the Letter of Intent, which may be used for payment of a higher sales load if you do not purchase the full amount indicated in the Letter of Intent. When you fulfill the terms of the Letter of Intent by purchasing the specified amount the escrowed amount will be released and additional shares representing such amount credited to your account. If your purchases meet the total minimum investment amount specified in the Letter of Intent within the 13-month period, an adjustment will be made at the conclusion of the 13-month period to reflect any reduced sales load applicable to shares purchased during the 90-day period prior to submission of the Letter of Intent. If your purchases qualify for a further sales load reduction, the sales load will be adjusted to reflect your total purchase at the end of 13 months. If total purchases are less than the amount specified, the offering price of the shares you purchased (including shares representing the escrowed amount) during the 13-month period will be adjusted to reflect the sales load applicable to the aggregate purchases you actually made (which will reduce the number of shares in your account), unless you have redeemed the shares in your account, in which case the Transfer Agent, as attorney-in-fact pursuant to the terms of the Letter of Intent, will redeem an appropriate number of Class A shares of the Fund held in escrow to realize the difference between the sales load actually paid and the sales load applicable to the aggregate purchases actually made and any remaining shares will be credited to your account. Signing a Letter of Intent does not bind you to purchase, or the Fund to sell, the full amount indicated at the sales load in effect at the time of signing, but you must complete the intended purchase to obtain the reduced sales load. At the time you purchase Class A shares, you must indicate your intention to do so under a Letter of Intent. Purchases pursuant to a Letter of Intent will be made at the then-current NAV plus the applicable sales load in effect at the time such Letter of Intent was submitted.

Retirement Plans and IRAs. The Fund makes available to corporations a variety of prototype pension and profit-sharing plans, including a 401(k) Salary Reduction Plans. In addition the Fund makes available, Keogh Plans, IRAs (including regular IRAs, spousal IRAs for a non-working spouse, Roth IRAs, SEP-IRAs and rollover IRAs), Education Savings Accounts, 401(k) Salary Reduction Plans and 403(b)(7) Plans. Plan support services also are available.

Investors who wish to purchase Fund shares in conjunction with a Keogh Plan, a 403(b)(7) Plan, an IRA, including a SEP-IRA, or an Education Savings Account may request from the Distributor forms for adoption of such plans.

The entity acting as custodian for Keogh Plans, 403(b)(7) Plans, IRAs or Education Savings Accounts may charge a fee, payment of which could require the liquidation of shares. All fees charged are described in the appropriate form.

Shares may be purchased in connection with these plans only by direct remittance to the entity acting as custodian. Purchases for these plans may not be made in advance of receipt of funds.

Each investor should read the prototype retirement plan and the appropriate form of custodial agreement for further details on eligibility, service fees and tax implications, and should consult a tax adviser.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PURCHASES, EXCHANGES AND REDEMPTIONS**

The Fund is intended to be a long-term investment vehicle and is not designed to provide investors with a means of speculation on short-term market movements. A pattern of frequent purchases and exchanges can be disruptive to efficient portfolio management and, consequently, can be detrimental to the Fund's performance and its shareholders. Accordingly, if the Fund's management determines that an investor is engaged in excessive trading, the Fund, with or without prior notice, may temporarily or permanently terminate the availability of Fund Exchanges, or reject in whole or part any purchase or exchange request, with respect to such investor's account. Such investors also may be barred from purchasing other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds. Generally, an investor who makes more than four purchases/redemptions or exchanges (so called round-trips) during any twelve-month period or who makes exchanges that appear to coincide with an active market-timing strategy may be deemed to be engaged in excessive trading. Accounts under common ownership or control will be considered as one account for purposes of determining a pattern of excessive trading. In addition, the Fund may refuse or restrict purchase or exchange requests by any person or group if, in the judgment of the Fund's management, the Fund would be unable to invest the money effectively in accordance with its investment objective and policies or could otherwise be adversely affected or if the Fund receives or anticipates receiving simultaneous orders that may significantly affect the Fund (e.g., amounts equal to 1% or more of the Fund's total assets). If an exchange request is refused, the Fund will take no other action with respect to the shares until it receives further instructions from the investor. The Fund may delay forwarding redemption proceeds for up to seven days if the investor redeeming shares is engaged in excessive trading or if the amount of the redemption request otherwise would be disruptive to efficient portfolio management or would adversely affect the Fund. The Fund's policy on excessive trading applies to investors who invest in the Fund directly or through financial intermediaries, but does not apply to the Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege, to any automatic investment or withdrawal privilege described herein, or to non-IRA plan accounts.

During times of drastic economic or market conditions, the Fund may suspend exchange privileges temporarily without notice and treat exchange requests based on their separate

components - redemption orders with a simultaneous request to purchase the other fund's shares. In such a case, the redemption request would be processed at the Fund's next determined NAV but the purchase order would be effective only at the NAV next determined after the fund being purchased receives the proceeds of the redemption, which may result in the purchase being delayed.

## **DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Account Policies."

Valuation of Portfolio Securities. Substantially all of the Fund's investments (excluding short-term investments) are valued each business day by an independent pricing service (the "Service") approved by the Fund's Board. Securities valued by the Service for which quoted bid prices in the judgment of the Service are readily available and are representative of the bid side of the market are valued at the mean between the quoted bid prices (as obtained by the Service from dealers in such securities) and asked prices (as calculated by the Service based upon its evaluation of the market for such securities). The value of other debt securities is determined by the Service based on methods which include consideration of: yields or prices of securities of comparable quality, coupon, maturity and type; indications as to values from dealers; and general market conditions. Short-term investments are not valued by the Service and may be carried at amortized cost, which approximates value. Debt securities that are not valued by the Service are valued at the average of the most recent bid and asked prices in the market in which such investments are primarily traded, or at the last sales price for securities traded primarily on an exchange. In the absence of reported sales of investments traded primarily on an exchange, the average of the most recent bid and asked prices is used. Bid price is used when no asked price is available. Investments traded in foreign currencies are translated to U.S. dollars at the prevailing rates of exchange. If the Fund has to obtain prices as of the close of trading on various exchanges throughout the world, the calculation of NAV may not take place contemporaneously with the determination of prices of certain of the Fund's securities. Expenses and fees, including the management fee, are accrued daily and are taken into account for the purpose of determining the NAV of Fund shares.

NYSE Closings. The holidays (as observed) on which the NYSE is currently scheduled to be closed are: New Year's Day, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

## **DIVIDENDS, OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES**

Dreyfus believes that the Fund has qualified for treatment as a "regulated investment company" under the Code for its most recent fiscal year. The Fund intends to continue to so qualify if such qualification is in the best interest of its shareholders. As a regulated investment company, the Fund will pay no Federal income tax on its net investment income and net realized gains to the extent such income and gains are distributed to its shareholders. To qualify for treatment as a regulated investment company, the Fund must distribute each taxable year at least 90% of its investment company taxable net income (consisting of net investment income, the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long term capital loss and net gains from certain



foreign currency transactions, all determined without regard to any deduction for dividends paid) to its shareholders and meet certain asset diversification and other requirements. If the Fund does not qualify for treatment as a regulated investment company, it will be treated for tax purposes as an ordinary corporation subject to Federal income tax. The term "regulated investment company" does not imply the supervision of management or investment practices or policies by any government agency.

If you elect to receive dividends and other distributions in cash, and your dividend or distribution check is returned to the Fund as undeliverable or remains uncashed for six months, the Fund reserves the right to reinvest such distributions and all future distributions payable to you in additional Fund shares at net asset value. No interest will accrue on amounts represented by uncashed distribution or redemption checks.

Any dividend or other distribution paid shortly after your purchase may have the effect of reducing the aggregate net asset value of your shares below the cost of your investment. Such a distribution would be a return of investment in an economic sense, as described herein. In addition, if a shareholder holds shares of the Fund for six months or less and has received a capital gain distribution with respect to such shares, any loss incurred on the sale of such shares will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of the capital gain distribution received.

In general, dividends (other than capital gain dividends) paid by the Fund to U.S. individual shareholders may be eligible for the 15% preferential maximum tax rate to the extent that the Fund's income consists of dividends paid by U.S. corporations and certain foreign corporations on shares that have been held by the Fund for at least 61 days during the 120-day period commencing 60 days before the shares become ex-dividend. In order to be eligible for the preferential rate, the shareholder must have held his or her shares in the Fund for at least 61 days during the 121-day period commencing 60 days before the Fund shares become ex-dividend. Additional restrictions on an individual shareholder's qualification for the preferential rate may apply.

In general, dividends (but not capital gain distributions) paid by the Fund to U.S. corporate shareholders may be eligible for the dividends received deduction to the extent that the Fund's income consists of dividends paid by U.S. corporations on shares that have been held by the Fund for at least 46 days during the 90-day period commencing 45 days before the shares become ex-dividend and with respect to which the Fund satisfies certain other requirements. In order to claim the dividends received deduction, the shareholder must have held its shares in the Fund for at least 46 days during the 90-day period commencing 45 days before the Fund shares become ex-dividend. Additional restrictions on a corporate shareholder's ability to claim the dividends received deduction apply.

Distributions to you of the Fund's net capital gain (i.e., the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss) are taxable as long-term capital gains, regardless of how long you have held your Fund shares, and also are subject to a 15% maximum federal income tax rate for individual shareholders to the extent the distributions are attributable to net capital gain the Fund recognizes on sales or exchanges of capital assets after May 5, 2003, through its last taxable year beginning before January 1, 2009. In addition, any capital gain an individual shareholder recognizes on a redemption or exchange during that period of his or her Fund shares that have been held for more than one year will qualify for that maximum rate.

Ordinarily, gains and losses realized from portfolio transactions will be treated as capital gains and losses. However, a portion of the gain or loss realized from the disposition of foreign currencies and non-U.S. dollar denominated securities (including debt instruments and certain forward contracts and options) may be treated as ordinary income or loss. In addition, all or a portion of any gains realized from the sale or other disposition of certain market discount bonds will be treated as ordinary income. Finally, all or a portion of the gain realized from engaging in "conversion transactions" (generally including certain transactions designed to convert ordinary income into capital gain) may be treated as ordinary income.

Gain or loss, if any, realized by the Fund from certain foreign currency forward contracts and futures and options transactions ("Section 1256 contracts") will be treated as 60% long-term capital gain or loss and 40% short-term capital gain or loss. Gain or loss will arise upon exercise or lapse of Section 1256 contracts as well as from closing transactions. In addition, any Section 1256 contracts remaining open at the end of the Fund's taxable year will be treated as sold for their then fair market value, resulting in additional gain or loss to the Fund characterized in the manner described above.

Offsetting positions held by the Fund involving certain actively traded futures or forward contracts or options may be considered, for tax purposes, to constitute "straddles." To the extent the straddle rules apply to positions established by the Fund, losses realized by the Fund on a straddle position may be deferred to the extent of unrealized gain in the offsetting position. In addition, short-term capital loss on straddle positions may be recharacterized as long-term capital loss, and long-term capital gains on straddle positions may be treated as short-term capital gains or ordinary income. Certain of the straddle positions held by the Fund may constitute "mixed straddles." The Fund may make one or more elections with respect to the treatment of "mixed straddles," resulting in different tax consequences. In certain circumstances, the provisions governing the tax treatment of straddles override or modify certain of the provisions discussed above.

If the Fund either (1) holds an appreciated financial position with respect to stock, certain debt obligations, or partnership interests ("appreciated financial position") and then enters into a short sale, futures, forward, or offsetting notional principal contract (collectively, a "Contract") with respect to the same or substantially identical property or (2) holds an appreciated financial position that is a Contract and then acquires property that is the same as, or substantially identical to, the underlying property, the Fund generally will be taxed as if the appreciated financial position were sold at its fair market value on the date the Fund enters into the financial position or acquires the property, respectively. The foregoing will not apply, however, to any transaction during any taxable year that otherwise would be treated as a constructive sale if the transaction is closed within 30 days after the end of that year and the Fund holds the appreciated financial position unhedged for 60 days after that closing (i.e., at no time during that 60-day period is the Fund's risk of loss regarding that position reduced by reason of certain specified transactions with respect to substantially identical or related property, such as having an option to sell, being contractually obligated to sell, making a short sale, or granting an option to buy substantially identical stock or securities).

If the Fund enters into certain derivatives (including forward contracts, long positions under notional principal contracts, and related puts and calls) with respect to equity interests in certain pass-thru entities (including other regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, partnerships, real estate mortgage investment conduits and certain trusts and foreign

corporations), long-term capital gain with respect to the derivative may be recharacterized as ordinary income to the extent it exceeds the long-term capital gain that would have been realized had the interest in the pass-thru entity been held directly by the Fund during the term of the derivative contract. Any gain recharacterized as ordinary income will be treated as accruing at a constant rate over the term of the derivative contract and may be subject to an interest charge. The Treasury Department has authority to issue regulations expanding the application of these rules to derivatives with respect to debt instruments and/or stock in corporations that are not pass-thru entities.

Investment by the Fund in securities issued or acquired at a discount, or providing for deferred interest or for payment of interest in the form of additional obligations, could under special tax rules affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders by causing the Fund to recognize income prior to the receipt of cash payments. For example, a Fund could be required each year to accrue a portion of the discount (or deemed discount) at which the securities were issued and to distribute such income in order to maintain its qualification for treatment as a regulated investment company. In such case, the Fund may have to dispose of securities, which it might otherwise have continued to hold, in order to generate cash to satisfy the distribution requirements.

If the Fund invests in an entity that is classified as a "passive foreign investment company" ("PFIC") for Federal income tax purposes, the operation of certain provisions of the Code applying to PFICs could result in the imposition of Federal income taxes (and interest thereon) on the Fund. In addition, gain realized from the sale or other disposition of PFIC securities held beyond the end of a Fund's taxable year generally will be treated as ordinary income.

## **PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS**

All portfolio transactions of the Fund are placed on behalf of the Fund by Dreyfus. Debt securities purchased and sold by the Fund are generally traded on a net basis (i.e., without commission) through dealers acting for their own account and not as brokers, or otherwise involve transactions directly with the issuer of the instrument. This means that a dealer (the securities firm or bank dealing with the Fund) makes a market for securities by offering to buy at one price and sell at a slightly higher price. The difference between the prices is known as a spread. Other portfolio transactions may be executed through brokers acting as agent. The Fund will pay a spread or commissions in connection with such transactions. Dreyfus uses its best efforts to obtain execution of portfolio transactions at prices which are advantageous to the Fund and at spreads and commission rates, if any, which are reasonable in relation to the benefits received. Dreyfus also places transactions for other accounts that it provides with investment advice.

Brokers and dealers involved in the execution of portfolio transactions on behalf of the Fund are selected on the basis of their professional capability and the value and quality of their services. In selecting brokers or dealers, Dreyfus will consider various relevant factors, including, but not limited to, the size and type of the transaction; the nature and character of the markets for the security to be purchased or sold; the execution efficiency, settlement capability, and financial condition of the broker-dealer; the broker-dealer's execution services rendered on a continuing basis; and the reasonableness of any spreads (or commissions, if any). Any spread,

commission, fee or other remuneration paid to an affiliated broker-dealer is paid pursuant to the Trust's procedures adopted in accordance with Rule 17e-1 under the 1940 Act.

Brokers or dealers may be selected who provide brokerage and/or research services to the Fund and/or other accounts over which Dreyfus or its affiliates exercise investment discretion. Such services may include advice concerning the value of securities; the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities; the availability of securities or the purchasers or sellers of securities; furnishing analyses and reports concerning issuers, industries, securities, economic factors and trends, portfolio strategy and performance of accounts; and effecting securities transactions and performing functions incidental thereto (such as clearance and settlement).

The receipt of research services from broker-dealers may be useful to Dreyfus in rendering investment management services to the Fund and/or its other clients; conversely, such information provided by brokers or dealers who have executed transaction orders on behalf of other clients of Dreyfus may be useful to Dreyfus in carrying out its obligations to the Fund. The receipt of such research services does not reduce Dreyfus' normal independent research activities; however, it enables Dreyfus to avoid the additional expenses which might otherwise be incurred if it were to attempt to develop comparable information through its own staff.

Dreyfus may use research services of and place brokerage transactions with broker-dealers affiliated with it or Mellon if the commissions are reasonable, fair and comparable to commissions charged by non-affiliated brokerage firms for similar services. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 the Fund did not pay any brokerage commissions.

Although Dreyfus manages other accounts in addition to the Fund, investment decisions for the Fund are made independently from decisions made for these other accounts. It sometimes happens that the same security is held by more than one of the accounts managed by Dreyfus. Simultaneous transactions may occur when several accounts are managed by the same investment manager, particularly when the same investment instrument is suitable for the investment objective of more than one account.

When more than one account is simultaneously engaged in the purchase or sale of the same investment instrument, the prices and amounts are allocated in accordance with a formula considered by Dreyfus to be equitable to each account. In some cases this system could have a detrimental effect on the price or volume of the investment instrument as far as the Fund is concerned. In other cases, however, the ability of the Fund to participate in volume transactions will produce better executions for the Fund.

Portfolio Turnover. While securities are purchased for the Fund on the basis of potential for high current income and not for short-term trading profits, the portfolio turnover rate of the Fund may exceed 100%. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% would occur, for example, if all the securities held by the Fund were replaced once in a period of one year. A higher rate of portfolio turnover (100% or greater) involves correspondingly greater brokerage commissions and other expenses that must be born directly by the Fund and, thus, indirectly by its shareholders. In addition, a high rate of portfolio turnover may result in the realization of larger amounts of short-term capital gains that, when distributed to the Fund's shareholders, are taxable to them as ordinary income. Nevertheless, security transactions will be based only upon investment considerations and will not be limited by any other considerations when Dreyfus deems it appropriate to make changes in the Fund's assets. The portfolio turnover rate for the Fund is

calculated by dividing the lesser of the Fund's annual sales or purchases of portfolio securities (exclusive of purchases and sales of securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition were one year or less) by the monthly average value of securities in the Fund during the year. Portfolio turnover may vary from year to year as well as within a year. In periods in which extraordinary market conditions prevail, Dreyfus will not be deterred from changing the Fund's investment strategy as rapidly as needed, in which case higher turnover rates can be anticipated.

Regular Broker-Dealers. The Fund may execute transactions with one or more of its "regular brokers or dealers," as defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act. Rule 10b-1 provides that a "regular broker or dealer" is one of the ten brokers or dealers that, during the Fund's most recent fiscal year (i) received the greatest dollar amount of brokerage commissions from participating, either directly or indirectly, in the Fund's portfolio transactions, (ii) engaged as principal in the largest dollar amount of the Fund's portfolio transactions or (iii) sold the largest dollar amount of the Fund's securities. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Fund acquired securities of its regular brokers or dealers as follows: Banc of America Securities, LLC issued securities at the aggregate value of \$268,000.

## **SUMMARY OF THE PROXY VOTING POLICY, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE DREYFUS FAMILY OF FUNDS**

The Board of each fund in the Dreyfus Family of Funds has delegated to Dreyfus the authority to vote proxies of companies held in the fund's portfolio. Dreyfus, through its participation on the Mellon Proxy Policy Committee (the "MPPC"), applies Mellon's Proxy Voting Policy, related procedures, and voting guidelines when voting proxies on behalf of the funds.

Dreyfus recognizes that an investment adviser is a fiduciary that owes its clients, including funds it manages, a duty of utmost good faith and full and fair disclosure of all material facts. An investment adviser's duty of loyalty requires an adviser to vote proxies in a manner consistent with the best interest of its clients and precludes the adviser from subrogating the clients' interests to its own. In addition, an investment adviser voting proxies on behalf of a fund must do so in a manner consistent with the best interests of the fund and its shareholders. Dreyfus seeks to avoid material conflicts of interest by participating in the MPPC, which applies detailed, pre-determined written proxy voting guidelines (the "Voting Guidelines") in an objective and consistent manner across client accounts, based on internal and external research and recommendations provided by a third party vendor, and without consideration of any client relationship factors. Further, the MPPC engages a third party as an independent fiduciary to vote all proxies of funds managed by Mellon or its affiliates (including the Dreyfus Family of Funds), and may engage an independent fiduciary to vote proxies of other issuers at its discretion.

All proxies received by the funds are reviewed, categorized, analyzed and voted in accordance with the Voting Guidelines. The guidelines are reviewed periodically and updated as necessary to reflect new issues and any changes in Mellon's or the Dreyfus's policies on specific issues. Items that can be categorized under the Voting Guidelines are voted in accordance with any applicable guidelines or referred to the MPPC, if the applicable guidelines so require. Proposals that cannot be categorized under the Voting Guidelines are referred to the MPPC for discussion and vote. Additionally, the MPPC reviews proposals where it has identified a particular company, industry or issue for special scrutiny. With regard to voting proxies of foreign companies, the MPPC weighs the cost of voting and potential inability to sell the

securities (which may occur during the voting process) against the benefit of voting the proxies to determine whether or not to vote. With respect to securities lending transactions, the MPPC seeks to balance the economic benefits of continuing to participate in an open securities lending transaction against the inability to vote proxies.

When evaluating proposals, the MPPC recognizes that the management of a publicly-held company may need protection from the market's frequent focus on short-term considerations, so as to be able to concentrate on such long-term goals as productivity and development of competitive products and services. In addition, the MPPC generally supports proposals designed to provide management with short-term insulation from outside influences so as to enable them to bargain effectively with potential suitors to the extent such proposals are discrete and not bundled with other proposals. The MPPC believes that a shareholder's role in the governance of a publicly-held company is generally limited to monitoring the performance of the company and its management and voting on matters which properly come to a shareholder vote. However, the MPPC generally opposes proposals designed to insulate an issuer's management unnecessarily from the wishes of a majority of shareholders. Accordingly, the MPPC generally votes in accordance with management on issues that the MPPC believes neither unduly limit the rights and privileges of shareholders nor adversely affect the value of the investment.

On questions of social responsibility where economic performance does not appear to be an issue, the MPPC attempts to ensure that management reasonably responds to the social issues. Responsiveness will be measured by management's efforts to address the particular social issue including, where appropriate, assessment of the implications of the proposal to the ongoing operations of the company. The MPPC will pay particular attention to repeat issues where management has failed in its commitment in the intervening period to take actions on issues.

In evaluating proposals regarding incentive plans and restricted stock plans, the MPPC typically employs a shareholder value transfer model. This model seeks to assess the amount of shareholder equity flowing out of the company to executives as options are exercised. After determining the cost of the plan, the MPPC evaluates whether the cost is reasonable based on a number of factors, including industry classification and historical performance information. The MPPC generally votes against proposals that permit or are silent on the repricing or replacement of stock options without shareholder approval.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND/TRUST**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "The Fund."

Each Fund share has one vote and, when issued and paid for in accordance with the terms of the offering, is fully paid and non-assessable. Fund shares have equal rights in liquidation. Fund shares are without par value, have no preemptive or subscription rights, and are freely transferable. The Fund is one of three portfolios of the Trust.

Unless otherwise required by the 1940 Act, ordinarily it will not be necessary for the Trust to hold annual meetings of shareholders. As a result, Fund shareholders may not consider each year the election of Trustees or the appointment of auditors. However, the holders of at least 10% of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote may require the Trust to hold a special meeting of shareholders for purposes of removing a Trustee from office or any other purpose.

Shareholders may remove a Trustee by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Trust's outstanding voting shares. In addition, the Board of Trustees will call a meeting of shareholders for the purpose of electing Trustees if, at any time, less than a majority of the Trustees then holding office have been elected by shareholders.

The Trust is a "series fund," which is a mutual fund divided into separate portfolios, each of which is treated as a separate entity for certain matters under the 1940 Act and for other purposes. A shareholder of one portfolio is not deemed to be a shareholder of any other portfolio. For certain matters shareholders vote together as a group; as to others they vote separately by portfolio, or, where matters affect different classes of a portfolio differently, by class.

Rule 18f-2 under the 1940 Act provides that any matter required to be submitted under the provisions of the 1940 Act or applicable state law or otherwise to the holders of the outstanding voting securities of an investment company, such as the Trust, will not be deemed to have been effectively acted upon unless approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of each series affected by such matter. Rule 18f-2 further provides that a series shall be deemed to be affected by a matter unless it is clear that the interests of each series in the matter are identical or that the matter does not affect any interest of such series. The Rule exempts the selection of independent accountants and the election of Trustees from the separate voting requirements of the Rule.

The Fund will send annual and semi-annual financial statements to all of its shareholders.

Under Massachusetts law, shareholders could, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable for the obligations of the Trust. However, the Agreement and Declaration of Trust disclaims shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Trust and requires that notice of such disclaimer be given in each agreement, obligation or instrument entered into or executed by the Trust or a Trustee. The Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides for indemnification from Fund property for all losses and expenses of any shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of the Fund. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which the Fund itself would be unable to meet its obligations, a possibility which Dreyfus believes is remote. Upon payment of any liability incurred by the Fund, the shareholder of the Fund paying such liability will be entitled to reimbursement from the general assets of the Fund. The Trustees intend to conduct the operations of the Fund in such a way so as to avoid, as far as possible, ultimate liability of the shareholders for liabilities of the Fund.

## **COUNSEL AND INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP, 1800 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Second Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036-1800, has passed upon the legality of the shares offered by the Prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information.

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, 180 Maiden Lane, New York, New York 10038-4982, serves as counsel to the non-interested Trustees of the Trust.

KPMG LLP, 757 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017, was appointed by the Trustees to serve as the Fund's independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2004, providing audit and other services including (1) examination of the annual financial statements, (2) review and consultation in connection with SEC filings and (3) review of the annual federal income tax return filed on behalf of the Fund.



## APPENDIX

### Rating Categories

Description of certain ratings assigned by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("S&P"), Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), and Fitch Ratings ("Fitch"):

#### **S&P**

##### Long-term

#### **AAA**

An obligation rated 'AAA' has the highest rating assigned by S&P. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.

#### **AA**

An obligation rated 'AA' differs from the highest rated obligations only in small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is very strong.

#### **A**

An obligation rated 'A' is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher rated categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is still strong.

#### **BBB**

An obligation rated 'BBB' exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

#### ***BB, B, CCC, CC, and C***

Obligations rated 'BB', 'B', 'CCC', 'CC', and 'C' are regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. 'BB' indicates the least degree of speculation and 'C' the highest. While such obligations will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposures to adverse conditions.

#### **BB**

An obligation rated 'BB' is less vulnerable to nonpayment than other speculative issues. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

#### **B**

An obligation rated 'B' is more vulnerable to nonpayment than obligations rated 'BB', but the obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor's capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

### **CCC**

An obligation rated ‘CCC’ is currently vulnerable to nonpayment, and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. In the event of adverse business, financial, or economic conditions, the obligor is not likely to have the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

### **CC**

An obligation rated ‘CC’ is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment.

### **C**

A subordinated debt or preferred stock obligation rated ‘C’ is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment. The ‘C’ rating may be used to cover a situation where a bankruptcy petition has been filed or similar action taken, but payments on this obligation are being continued. A ‘C’ also will be assigned to a preferred stock issue in arrears on dividends or sinking fund payments, but that is currently paying.

### **D**

An obligation rated ‘D’ is in payment default. The ‘D’ rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless S&P believes that such payments will be made during such grace period. The ‘D’ rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized.

### **r**

The symbol ‘r’ is attached to the ratings of instruments with significant noncredit risks. It highlights risks to principal or volatility of expected returns which are not addressed in the credit rating. Examples include: obligations linked or indexed to equities, currencies, or commodities; obligations exposed to severe prepayment risk—such as interest-only or principal-only mortgage securities; and obligations with unusually risky interest terms, such as inverse floaters.

### **N.R.**

The designation ‘N.R.’ indicates that no rating has been requested, that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that S&P does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.

Note: The ratings from ‘AA’ to ‘CCC’ may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign designation to show relative standing within the major rating categories.

## Short-term

### **SP-1**

Strong capacity to pay principal and interest. An issue determined to possess a very strong capacity to pay debt service is given a plus sign (+) designation.

### **SP-2**

Satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest, with some vulnerability to adverse financial and economic changes over the term of the notes.

### **SP-3**

Speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

## Commercial paper

### **A-1**

This designation indicates that the degree of safety regarding timely payment is strong. Those issues determined to possess extremely strong safety characteristics are denoted with a plus sign (+) designation.

### **A-2**

Capacity for timely payment on issues with this designation is satisfactory. However, the relative degree of safety is not as high as for issues designated 'A-1'.

### **A-3**

Issues carrying this designation have an adequate capacity for timely payment. They are, however, more vulnerable to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances than obligations carrying the higher designations.

### **B**

Issues rated B are regarded as having only speculative capacity for timely payment.

### **C**

This rating is assigned to short-term debt obligations with a doubtful capacity for payment.

### **D**

Debt rated 'D' is payment default. The 'D' rating category is used when interest payments or principal payments are not made on the due date, even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless S&P believes such payments will be made during such grace period.

## **Moody's**

### Long-term

#### **Aaa**

Bonds rated 'Aaa' are judged to be of the best quality. They carry the smallest degree of investment risk and are generally referred to as "gilt edged." Interest payments are protected by a large or by an exceptionally stable margin and principal is secure. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most unlikely to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues.

#### **Aa**

Bonds rated 'Aa' are judged to be of high quality by all standards. Together with the 'Aaa' group they comprise what are generally known as high-grade bonds. They are rated lower than the best bonds because margins of protection may not be as large as in 'Aaa' securities or fluctuation of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long-term risk appear somewhat larger than the 'Aaa' securities.

#### **A**

Bonds rated 'A' possess many favorable investment attributes and are to be considered as upper-medium-grade obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate, but elements may be present which suggest a susceptibility to impairment some time in the future.

#### **Baa**

Bonds rated 'Baa' are considered as medium-grade obligations (i.e., they are neither highly protected nor poorly secured). Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such bonds lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well.

#### **Ba**

Bonds rated 'Ba' are judged to have speculative elements; their future cannot be considered as well-assured. Often the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate, and thereby not well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future. Uncertainty of position characterizes bonds in this class.

#### **B**

Bonds rated 'B' generally lack characteristics of the desirable investment. Assurance of interest and principal payments or of maintenance of other terms of the contract over any long period of time may be small.

#### **Caa**

Bonds rated 'Caa' are of poor standing. Such issues may be in default or there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.

## Ca

Bonds rated 'Ca' represent obligations which are speculative in a high degree. Such issues are often in default or have other marked shortcomings.

## C

Bonds rated 'C' are the lowest rated class of bonds, and issues so rated can be regarded as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing.

Note: Moody's applies numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 in each generic rating classification from 'Aa' through 'Caa'. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category.

### Prime rating system (short-term)

Issuers rated **Prime-1** (or supporting institutions) have a superior ability for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. Prime-1 repayment ability will often be evidenced by many of the following characteristics:

Leading market positions in well-established industries.

High rates of return on funds employed.

Conservative capitalization structure with moderate reliance on debt and ample asset protection.

Broad margins in earnings coverage of fixed financial charges and high internal cash generation.

Well-established access to a range of financial markets and assured sources of alternate liquidity.

Issuers rated **Prime-2** (or supporting institutions) have a strong ability for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. This will normally be evidenced by many of the characteristics cited above but to a lesser degree. Earnings trends and coverage ratios, while sound, may be more subject to variation. Capitalization characteristics, while still appropriate, may be more affected by external conditions. Ample alternate liquidity is maintained.

Issuers rated **Prime-3** (or supporting institutions) have an acceptable ability for repayment of senior short-term obligations. The effect of industry characteristics and market compositions may be more pronounced. Variability in earnings and profitability may result in changes in the level of debt protection measurements and may require relatively high financial leverage. Adequate alternate liquidity is maintained.

Issuers rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.

## MIG/VMIG--U.S. short-term

Municipal debt issuance ratings are designated as Moody's Investment Grade (MIG) and are divided into three levels -- MIG 1 through MIG 3.

The short-term rating assigned to the demand feature of variable rate demand obligations (VRDOs) is designated as VMIG. When either the long- or short-term aspect of a VRDO is not rated, that piece is designated NR, e.g., Aaa/NR or NR/VMIG 1.

### **MIG 1/VMIG1**

This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by established cash flows, highly reliable liquidity support, or demonstrated broad-based access to the market for refinancing.

### **MIG 2/VMIG 2**

This designation denotes strong credit quality. Margins of protection are ample, although not as large as in the preceding group.

### **MIG 3/VMIG 3**

This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Liquidity and cash-flow protection may be narrow, and market access for refinancing is likely to be less well-established.

### **SG**

This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Debt instruments in this category may lack sufficient margins of protection.

## **Fitch**

### Long-term investment grade

#### **AAA**

**Highest credit quality.** 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

#### **AA**

**Very high credit quality.** 'AA' ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

#### **A**

**High credit quality.** 'A' ratings denote a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

## **BBB**

**Good credit quality.** ‘BBB’ ratings indicate that there is currently a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in circumstances and in economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity. This is the lowest investment-grade category.

### Long-term speculative grade

## **BB**

**Speculative.** ‘BB’ ratings indicate that there is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as the result of adverse economic change over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met. Securities rated in this category are not investment grade.

## **B**

**Highly speculative.** ‘B’ ratings indicate that significant credit risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

## **CCC, CC, C**

**High default risk.** Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favorable business or economic developments. ‘CC’ ratings indicate that default of some kind appears probable. ‘C’ ratings signal imminent default.

## **DDD, DD, D**

**Default.** The ratings of obligations in this category are based on their prospects for achieving partial or full recovery in a reorganization or liquidation of the obligor. While expected recovery values are highly speculative and cannot be estimated with any precision, the following serve as general guidelines. ‘DDD’ obligations have the highest potential for recovery, around 90% - 100% of outstanding amounts and accrued interest. ‘DD’ ratings indicate potential recoveries in the range of 50% - 90% and ‘D’ the lowest recovery potential, i.e., below 50%.

Entities rated in this category have defaulted on some or all of their obligations. Entities rated ‘DDD’ have the highest prospect for resumption of performance or continued operation with or without a formal reorganization process. Entities rated ‘DD’ and ‘D’ are generally undergoing a formal reorganization or liquidation process; those rated ‘DD’ are likely to satisfy a higher portion of their outstanding obligations, while entities rated ‘D’ have a poor prospect of repaying all obligations.

### Short-term

A short-term rating has a time horizon of less than 12 months for most obligations, or up to three years for U.S. public finance securities, and thus places greater emphasis on the liquidity necessary to meet financial commitments in a timely manner.

**F1**

**Highest credit quality.** Indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added “+” to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.

**F2**

**Good credit quality.** A satisfactory capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, but the margin of safety is not as great as in the case of the higher ratings.

**F3**

**Fair credit quality.** The capacity for timely payment of financial commitment is adequate; however, near-term adverse changes could result in a reduction non-investment grade.

**B**

**Speculative.** Minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments plus vulnerability to near-term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

**C**

**High default risk.** Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

**D**

**Default.** Denotes actual or imminent payment default.

‘NR’ indicates that Fitch does not rate the issuer or issue in question.

Notes to long-term and short-term ratings: A plus (+) or minus (-) sign designation may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the ‘AAA’ long-term rating category, to categories below ‘CCC’, or to short-term ratings other than ‘F1.’



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**DREYFUS PREMIER MANAGED INCOME FUND**  
**CLASS A, CLASS B, CLASS C AND CLASS R SHARES**  
**PART B**  
**(STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)**  
**MAY 1, 2004**

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This Statement of Additional Information, which is not a prospectus, supplements and should be read in conjunction with the current Prospectus of Dreyfus Premier Managed Income Fund (the "Fund"), dated May 1, 2004, as it may be revised from time to time. The Fund is a separate, diversified portfolio of The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds Trust (the "Trust"), an open-end management investment company, known as a mutual fund, that is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). To obtain a copy of the Fund's Prospectus, please call your financial adviser, write to the Fund at 144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard, Uniondale, New York 11556-0144, visit the Dreyfus.com website, or call one of the following numbers:

Call Toll Free 1-800-554-4611  
In New York City -- Call 1-718-895-1206  
Outside the U.S. -- Call 516-794-5452

The financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, including notes to the financial statements and supplementary information and the Independent Auditors' Report are included in the Annual Report to Shareholders. A copy of the Annual Report accompanies this Statement of Additional Information. The financial statements, included in the Annual Report, and the Independent Auditors' Report thereon contained therein, and related notes, are incorporated herein by reference.

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND/TRUST

The Trust was organized as a business trust under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on March 30, 1979. The Trust is an open-end management investment company comprised of separate portfolios, including the Fund, each of which is treated as a separate fund. The Fund is diversified, which means that, with respect to 75% of its total assets, the Fund will not invest more than 5% of its assets in the securities of any single issuer, nor hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any single issuer (other than, in each case, securities of other investment companies, and securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities).

The Dreyfus Corporation (“Dreyfus”) serves as the Fund’s investment adviser.

Dreyfus Service Corporation (the “Distributor”) is the distributor of the Fund’s shares.

### Certain Portfolio Securities

The following information regarding the securities that the Fund may purchase supplements that found in the Fund’s Prospectus.

Corporate Obligations. The Fund may invest in corporate obligations rated Baa or higher by Moody’s Investors Service, Inc. (“Moody’s”) or BBB or higher by Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. (“S&P”), or if unrated, of comparable quality as determined by Dreyfus. Securities rated BBB by S&P or Baa by Moody’s are considered by those rating agencies to be “investment grade” securities, although Moody’s considers securities rated Baa to have speculative characteristics. Further, while bonds rated BBB by S&P exhibit adequate protection parameters, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to pay interest and principal for debt in this category than debt in higher rated categories. The Fund may also invest up to 35% of its total assets in obligations rated below the four highest ratings of Moody’s or S&P, with no minimum rating required, or comparable unrated securities. Such securities, which are considered to have speculative characteristics, include securities rated in the lowest rating categories of Moody’s or S&P (commonly known as “junk bonds”) which are extremely speculative and may be in default with respect to payment of principal or interest. See “Low-Rated Securities.”

Government Obligations. The Fund may invest in U.S. Government securities that are direct obligations of the U.S. Treasury, or that are issued by agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. Government and supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. These include Treasury notes, bills and bonds and securities issued by the Government National Mortgage Association (“GNMA”), the Federal Housing Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Export-Import Bank, the Farmers Home Administration, the General Services Administration, the Maritime Administration and the Small Business Administration.

The Fund may also invest in U.S. Government securities that are not supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. These include securities issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association (“FNMA”), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“FHLMC”), Federal Home Loan Banks, Tennessee Valley Authority, Student Loan Marketing Association

and District of Columbia Armory Board. Because the U.S. Government is not obligated by law to provide support to an instrumentality it sponsors, the Fund will invest in obligations issued by such an instrumentality only when Dreyfus determines that the credit risk with respect to the instrumentality does not make its securities unsuitable for investment by the Fund.

GNMA Certificates are mortgage-backed securities representing part ownership of a pool of mortgage loans. These loans are made by mortgage bankers, commercial banks, savings and loan associations, and other lenders and are either insured by the Federal Housing Administration or guaranteed by the Veterans Administration. A “pool” or group of such mortgages is assembled and, after being approved by GNMA, is offered to investors through securities dealers. Once approved by GNMA, the timely payment of interest and principal on each mortgage is guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. Although the mortgage loans in a pool underlying a GNMA Certificate will have maturities of up to 30 years, the average life of a GNMA Certificate will be substantially less because the mortgages will be subject to normal principal amortization and also may be prepaid prior to maturity. Prepayment rates vary widely and may be affected by changes in mortgage interest rates. In periods of falling interest rates, the rate of prepayment on higher interest mortgage rates tends to increase, thereby shortening the actual average life of the GNMA Certificate. Conversely, when interest rates are rising, the rate of prepayment tends to decrease, thereby lengthening the average life of the GNMA Certificates. Reinvestment of prepayments may occur at higher or lower rates than the original yield of the Certificates. Due to the prepayment feature and the need to reinvest prepayments of principal at current rates, GNMA Certificates, with underlying mortgages bearing higher interest rates can be less effective than typical non-callable bonds of similar maturities at locking in yields during periods of declining interest rates, although they may have comparable risks of decline in value during periods of rising interest rates.

FNMA and FHLMC are Government sponsored corporations owned by private stockholders. Each is subject to general regulation by an office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. FNMA purchases residential mortgages from a list of approved sellers/servicers which include state and federally-chartered savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, commercial banks and credit unions and mortgage bankers. Pass-through securities issued by FNMA and FHLMC are guaranteed by those entities as to payment of principal and interest.

Mortgage-Backed Securities. The mortgage-backed securities in which the Fund will invest represent pools of mortgage loans assembled for sale to investors by various governmental agencies and government-related organizations, such as GNMA, FNMA and FHLMC, as well as by private issuers such as commercial banks, savings institutions, mortgage bankers and private mortgage insurance companies. Interests in pools of mortgage backed securities differ from other forms of debt securities, which normally provide for periodic payment of interest in fixed amounts with principal payments at maturity or specified call dates. Instead, these securities provide a monthly payment which consists of both interest and principal payments. In effect, these payments are a “pass-through” of the monthly payments made by the individual borrowers on their residential mortgage loans, net of any fees paid. Additional payment may be made out of unscheduled repayments of principal resulting from the sale of the underlying residential property, refinancing or foreclosure, net of fees or costs that may be incurred. Prepayments of principal on mortgage-backed securities may tend to increase due to refinancing of mortgages as interest rates decline. Some mortgage backed securities are described as “modified pass-through.” These securities entitle the holders to receive all interest and principal payments

owed on the mortgages in the pool, net of certain fees, regardless of whether or not the mortgagors actually make the payments. Prompt payment of principal and interest on GNMA mortgage pass-through certificates is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. FNMA guaranteed mortgage pass-through certificates and FHLMC participation certificates are solely the obligations of those entities but are supported by the discretionary authority of the U.S. Government to purchase the agencies' obligations. Mortgage pools created by private organizations generally offer a higher rate of interest than governmental and government-related pools because there are no direct or indirect guarantees of payments in the former pools. Timely payment of interest and principal in these pools, however, may be supported by various forms of private insurance or guarantees, including individual loan, title, pool and hazard insurance. There can be no assurance that the private insurers can meet their obligations under the policies.

Collateralized mortgage obligations ("CMOs") are a type of bond secured by an underlying pool of mortgages or mortgage pass-through certificates that are structured to direct payments on underlying collateral to different series or classes of the obligations. CMO classes may be specially structured in a manner that provides any of a wide variety of investment characteristics, such as yield, effective maturity and interest rate sensitivity. CMO structuring is accomplished by stripping out portions of the cash flows (comprised of principal and interest payments) on the underlying mortgage assets and prioritizing the payments of those cash flows. In the most extreme case, one class will be a "principal-only" (PO) security, the holder of which receives the principal payments made by the underlying mortgage-backed security. CMOs may be structured in other ways that, based on mathematical modeling or similar techniques, are expected to provide certain results. As market conditions change, however, and particularly during periods of rapid or unanticipated changes in market interest rates, the attractiveness of a CMO class, and the ability of a structure to provide the anticipated investment characteristics, may be significantly reduced. Such changes can result in volatility in the market value, and in some instances reduced liquidity, of the CMO class.

An issue of CMOs tends to be backed by a larger number of mortgages than GNMA, FNMA or FHLMC certificates, thus allowing greater statistical prediction of prepayment characteristics. Interest and principal payments on the mortgages underlying any series will first be applied to meet the interest payment requirements of each class in the series other than any class in respect of which interest accrues but is not paid or any principal only class. Then, principal payments on the underlying mortgages are generally applied to pay the principal amount of the class that has the earliest maturity date. Once that class is retired, the principal payments on the underlying mortgages are applied to the class with the next earliest maturity date. This is repeated until all classes are paid. Therefore, while each class of CMOs remains subject to prepayment as the underlying mortgages prepay, structuring several classes of CMOs in the stream of principal payments allows one to more closely estimate the period of time when any one class is likely to be repaid.

Inverse floaters are instruments whose interest rates bear an inverse relationship to the interest rate of another security or the value of an index. Changes in the interest rate on the other security or index inversely affect the residual interest rate paid on the inverse floater, with the result that the inverse floater's price will be considerably more volatile than that of a fixed-rate bond. For example, an issuer may decide to issue two variable rate instruments instead of a single long-term, fixed-rate bond. The interest rate on one instrument reflects short-term interest rates, while the interest rate on the other instrument (the inverse floater) reflects the approximate

rate the issuer would have paid on a fixed-rate bond, multiplied by two, minus the interest rate paid on the short-term instrument. The market for inverse floaters is relatively new.

To the extent that the Fund purchases mortgage-related securities at a premium, mortgage foreclosures pre-payments of principal by mortgagors (which may be made at any time without penalty) may result in some loss of the Fund's principal investment to the extent of the premium paid. The yield of a Fund that invests in mortgage-related securities may be affected by reinvestment of prepayments at higher or lower rates than the original investment.

The Fund expects that U.S. Government or private entities may create mortgage loan pools offering pass-through investments in addition to those described above. The mortgages underlying these securities may be alternative mortgage instruments, that is, mortgage instruments whose principal or interest payment may vary or whose terms to maturity may be shorter than previously customary. As new types of mortgage backed securities are developed and offered to investors, the Fund will, consistent with its investment objective and policies, consider making investments in such new types of securities.

Other Asset-Backed Securities. The Fund may also invest in non-mortgage backed securities including interests in pools of receivables, such as motor vehicle installment purchase obligations and credit card receivables. Such securities are generally issued as pass-through certificates, which represent undivided fractional ownership interests in the underlying pools of assets. Such securities may also be debt instruments, which are also known as collateralized obligations and are generally issued as the debt of a special purpose entity organized solely for the purpose of owning such assets and issuing such debt. Non-mortgage backed securities are not issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities; however, the payment of principal and interest on such obligations may be guaranteed up to certain amounts and for a certain time period by a letter of credit issued by a financial institution (such as a bank or insurance company) unaffiliated with the issuers of such securities. Non-mortgage backed securities will be purchased by the Fund only when such securities are readily marketable and generally will have remaining estimated lives at the time of purchase of 5 years or less.

The purchase of non-mortgage backed securities raises considerations peculiar to the financing of the instruments underlying such securities. For example, most organizations that issue non-mortgage backed securities relating to motor vehicle installment purchase obligations perfect their interests in their respective obligations only by filing a financing statement and by having the servicer of the obligations, which is usually the originator, take custody thereof. In such circumstances, if the servicer were to sell the same obligations to another party, in violation of its duty not to do so, there is a risk that such party could acquire an interest in the obligations superior to that of the holders of the non-mortgage backed securities. Also, although most such obligations grant a security interest in the motor vehicle being financed, in most states the security interest in a motor vehicle must be noted on the certificate of title to perfect such security interest against competing claims of other parties. Due to the large number of vehicles involved, however, the certificate of title to each vehicle financed, pursuant to the obligations underlying the non-mortgage backed securities, usually is not amended to reflect the assignment of the seller's security interest for the benefit of the holders of the non-mortgage backed securities. Therefore, there is the possibility that recoveries on repossessed collateral may not, in some cases, be available to support payments on those securities. In addition, various state and Federal laws give the motor vehicle owner the right to assert against the holder of the owner's obligation certain defenses such owner would have against the seller of the motor vehicle. The

assertion of such defenses could reduce payments on the related non-mortgage backed securities. Insofar as credit card receivables are concerned, credit card holders are entitled to the protection of a number of state and Federal consumer credit laws, many of which give such holders the right to set off certain amounts against balances owed on the credit card thereby reducing the amounts paid on such receivables. In addition, unlike most other non-mortgage backed securities, credit card receivables are unsecured obligations of the card holder.

Dreyfus intends to limit its purchases of mortgage backed securities issued by certain private organizations and non-mortgage backed securities to securities that are readily marketable at the time of purchase.

Low-Rated Securities. The Fund may invest in low-rated and comparable unrated securities (collectively referred to in this discussion as “low-rated” securities). Low-rated securities will likely have some quality and protective characteristics that, in the judgment of the rating organization, are outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposures to adverse conditions. Low-rated securities are predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer’s capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation. While the market values of low-rated securities tend to react less to fluctuations in interest rate levels than the market values of higher-rated securities, the market values of certain low-rated securities tend to be more sensitive to individual corporate developments and changes in economic conditions than higher-rated securities. In addition, low-rated securities generally present a higher degree of credit risk. Issuers of low-rated securities are often highly leveraged and may not have more traditional methods of financing available to them so that their ability to service their debt obligations during an economic downturn or during sustained periods of rising interest rates may be impaired. The risk of loss due to default by such issuers is significantly greater because low-rated securities generally are unsecured and frequently are subordinated to the prior payment of senior indebtedness. The Fund may incur additional expenses to the extent that it is required to seek recovery upon a default in the payment of principal or interest on its portfolio holdings. The existence of limited markets for low-rated securities may diminish the Fund’s ability to obtain accurate market quotations for purposes of valuing such securities and calculating its net asset value (“NAV”).

The ratings of the various nationally recognized statistical rating organizations (“NRSROs”), such as Moody’s and S&P, generally represent the opinions of those organizations as to the quality of the securities that they rate. Such ratings, however, are relative and subjective, are not absolute standards of quality and do not evaluate the market risk of the securities. Although Dreyfus uses these ratings as a criterion for the selection of securities for the Fund, Dreyfus also relies on its independent analysis to evaluate potential investments for the Fund. The Fund’s achievement of its investment objective may be more dependent on Dreyfus’ credit analysis of low-rated securities than would be the case for a portfolio of higher-rated securities.

Subsequent to its purchase by the Fund, an issue of securities may cease to be rated or its rating may be reduced below the minimum required for purchase by the Fund. In addition, it is possible that an NRSRO might not timely change its ratings of a particular issue to reflect subsequent events. None of these events will require the sale of the securities by the Fund, although Dreyfus will consider these events in determining whether the Fund should continue to hold the securities. To the extent that the ratings given by an NRSRO for securities may change as a result of changes in the rating systems or due to a corporate reorganization of the NRSRO, the Fund will attempt to use comparable ratings as standards for its investments in accordance

with the investment objective and policies of the Fund. The Appendix to this Statement of Additional Information describes the ratings used by Moody's, S&P and Fitch Ratings.

Portfolio Securities Ratings. The average distribution of investments of the Fund in corporate bonds by ratings for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, calculated monthly on a dollar weighted basis, was as follows:

<u>Moody's</u>	<u>S&amp;P</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Aaa	AAA	84.3%
Aa	AA	5.1%
A	A	6.3%
Baa	BBB	18.6%
Ba	BB	4.7%
B	B	0.8%
NR	NR	0.2%*
		120.0%**

\* These unrated securities have been determined by Dreyfus to be of comparable quality to securities rated as follows: Ba/BB (0.2%).

\*\* The Fund also owns convertible preferred stocks rated Baa/BBB (0.3%) and convertible bonds rated Baa/BBB (0.2%).

The actual distribution of the Fund's corporate bond investments by ratings on any given date will vary, and the distribution of the Fund's investments by ratings as set forth above should not be considered as representative of the Fund's future portfolio composition.

Inflation-Indexed Bonds. The Fund may invest in inflation-indexed bonds, which are fixed-income securities whose value is periodically adjusted according to the rate of inflation. Two structures are common. The U.S. Treasury and some other issuers utilize a structure that accrues inflation into the principal value of the bond. Most other issuers pay out the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") accruals as part of a semiannual coupon.

Inflation-indexed securities issued by the U.S. Treasury have varying maturities and pay interest on a semi-annual basis equal to a fixed percentage of the inflation-adjusted principal amount. If the periodic adjustment rate measuring inflation falls, the principal value of inflation-indexed bonds will be adjusted downward, and consequently the interest payable on these securities (calculated with respect to a smaller principal amount) will be reduced. Repayment of the original bond principal upon maturity (as adjusted for inflation) is guaranteed in the case of U.S. Treasury inflation-indexed bonds, even during a period of deflation. However, the current market value of the bonds is not guaranteed and will fluctuate. The Fund also may invest in other inflation-related bonds which may or may not provide a similar guarantee. If a guarantee of principal is not provided, the adjusted principal value of the bond repaid at maturity may be less than the original principal amount.

The value of inflation-indexed bonds is expected to change in response to changes in real interest rates. Real interest rates in turn are tied to the relationship between nominal interest rates and the rate of inflation. Therefore, if the rate of inflation rises at a faster rate than nominal interest rates, real interest rates might decline, leading to an increase in value of inflation-indexed bonds. In contrast, if nominal interest rates increase at a faster rate than inflation, real interest

rates might rise, leading to a decrease in value of inflation-indexed bonds. Any increase in the principal amount of an inflation-indexed bond will be considered taxable ordinary income, even though investors do not receive their principal until maturity.

While these securities are expected to be protected from long-term inflationary trends, short-term increases in inflation may lead to a decline in value. If interest rates rise due to reasons other than inflation (for example, due to changes in currency exchange rates), investors in these securities may not be protected to the extent that the increase is not reflected in the bond's inflation measure.

The periodic adjustment of U.S. inflation-indexed bonds is tied to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers ("CPI-U"), which is calculated monthly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI-U is a measurement of changes in the cost of living, made up of components such as housing, food, transportation and energy. Inflation-indexed bonds issued by a foreign government are generally adjusted to reflect a comparable inflation index calculated by that government. There can be no assurance that the CPI-U or any foreign inflation index will accurately measure the real rate of inflation in the prices of goods and services. Moreover, there can be no assurance that the rate of inflation in a foreign country will be correlated to the rate of inflation in the United States.

Convertible Securities. The Fund may purchase convertible securities which may be converted into or exchanged for a specified number of shares of common stock of the same or a different issuer within a specified period of time and at a specified price or formula. Convertible securities are senior to common stock in a corporation's capital structure, but may be subordinated to non-convertible debt securities. Before conversion, convertible securities ordinarily provide a stable stream of income with yields generally higher than those on common stock, but lower than those on non-convertible debt securities of similar quality. In general, the market value of a convertible security is the higher of its "investment value" (*i.e.*, its value as a fixed-income security) or its "conversion value" (*i.e.*, the value of the underlying shares of common stock if the security is converted). The market value of a convertible security generally increases when interest rates decline and generally decreases when interest rates rise. However, the price of a convertible security also is influenced by the market value of the security's underlying common stock. Thus, the price of a convertible security generally increases as the market value of the underlying stock rises, and generally decreases as the market value of the underlying stock declines. Investments in convertible securities generally entail less risk than investments in the common stock of the same issuer. The Fund does not invest in common stocks and does not intend to exercise conversion rights for any convertible security that it may hold and will sell any common stocks received upon the conversion of convertible securities as promptly as it can and in a manner that it believes will reduce its risk of loss in connection with the sale.

Preferred Stock. The Fund may also purchase preferred stock, which is a class of capital stock that typically pays dividends at a specified rate. Preferred stock is generally senior to common stock, but subordinate to debt securities, with respect to the payment of dividends and on liquidation of the issuer. In general, the market value of preferred stock is its "investment value," or its value as a fixed-income security. Accordingly, the market value of preferred stock generally increases when interest rates decline and decreases when interest rates rise, but, as with debt securities, is also affected by the issuer's ability to make payments on the preferred stock.



Repurchase Agreements. The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements with U.S. Government securities dealers recognized by the Federal Reserve Board, with member banks of the Federal Reserve System, or with such other brokers or dealers that meet the Fund's credit guidelines. This technique offers a method of earning income on idle cash. In a repurchase agreement, the Fund buys a security from a seller that has agreed to repurchase the same security at a mutually agreed upon date and price. The Fund's resale price will be in excess of the purchase price, reflecting an agreed upon interest rate. This interest rate is effective for the period of time the Fund is invested in the agreement and is not related to the coupon rate on the underlying security. Repurchase agreements may also be viewed as a fully collateralized loan of money by the Fund to the seller. The period of these repurchase agreements will usually be short, from overnight to one week, and at no time will the Fund invest in repurchase agreements for more than one year. The Fund will always receive as collateral securities whose market value including accrued interest is, and during the entire term of the agreement remains, at least equal to 100% of the dollar amount invested by the Fund in each agreement, including interest, and the Fund will make payment for such securities only upon physical delivery or upon evidence of book entry transfer to the account of the custodian. If the seller defaults, the Fund might incur a loss if the value of the collateral securing the repurchase agreement declines and might incur disposition costs in connection with liquidating the collateral. In addition, if bankruptcy proceedings are commenced with respect to the seller of a security which is the subject of a repurchase agreement, realization upon the collateral by the Fund may be delayed or limited. The Fund seeks to minimize the risk of loss through repurchase agreements by analyzing the creditworthiness of the obligors under repurchase agreements, in accordance with the Fund's credit guidelines.

Commercial Paper. The Fund may invest in commercial paper. These instruments are short-term obligations issued by banks and corporations that have maturities ranging from 2 to 270 days. Each instrument may be backed only by the credit of the issuer or may be backed by some form of credit enhancement, typically in the form of a guarantee by a commercial bank. Commercial paper backed by guarantees of foreign banks may involve additional risk due to the difficulty of obtaining and enforcing judgments against such banks and the generally less restrictive regulations to which such banks are subject. The Fund will only invest in commercial paper of U.S. and foreign companies rated at the time of purchase at least A-1 by S&P, Prime-1 by Moody's or F1 by Fitch Ratings ("Fitch"). For a description of ratings, see the Appendix.

Bank Obligations. The Fund is permitted to invest in high-quality, short-term money market instruments. The Fund may invest temporarily, and without limitation, in such instruments when, in Dreyfus' opinion, a "defensive" investment posture is warranted.

Certificates of deposit are short-term negotiable obligations of commercial banks; time deposits are non-negotiable deposits maintained in banking institutions for specified periods of time at stated interest rates; and bankers' acceptances are time drafts drawn on commercial banks by borrowers, usually in connection with international transactions. Domestic commercial banks organized under Federal law are supervised and examined by the Comptroller of the Currency and are required to be members of the Federal Reserve System and to be insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC"). Domestic banks organized under state law are supervised and examined by state banking authorities but are members of the Federal Reserve System only if they elect to join. In addition, all banks whose certificates of deposit may be purchased by the Fund are insured by the FDIC and are subject to Federal examination and to a substantial body of Federal law and regulation. As a result of governmental regulations, domestic

branches of foreign banks are, among other things, generally required to maintain specified levels of reserves, and are subject to other supervision and regulations designed to promote financial soundness.

Bank certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances in which the Fund may invest are limited to U.S. dollar-denominated instruments of domestic banks, including their branches located outside the United States and of domestic branches of foreign banks. In addition, the Fund may invest in U.S. dollar-denominated, non-negotiable time deposits issued by foreign branches of domestic banks and London branches of foreign banks; and negotiable certificates of deposit issued by London branches of foreign banks. The foregoing investments may be made provided that the bank has capital, surplus and undivided profits (as of the date of its most recently published annual financial statements) in excess of \$100 million as of the date of investment.

The Fund may invest in Eurodollar certificates of deposit ("ECDs"), Eurodollar time deposits ("ETDs") and Yankee Dollar certificates of deposit ("Yankee CDs"). ECDs are U.S. dollar-denominated certificates of deposit issued by foreign branches of domestic banks. ETDs are U.S. dollar-denominated time deposits in a foreign branch of a U.S. bank or a foreign bank. Yankee CDs are certificates of deposit issued by a U.S. branch of a foreign bank denominated in U.S. dollars and held in the United States. The Fund may also invest in Eurodollar bonds and notes which are obligations that pay principal and interest in U.S. dollars held in banks outside the United States, primarily in Europe. All of these obligations are subject to somewhat different risks than are the obligations of domestic banks or issuers in the United States. See "Foreign Securities."

Obligations of foreign branches of domestic banks may be general obligations of the parent bank in addition to the issuing branch or may be limited by the terms of a specific obligation and by governmental regulations. Payment of interest and principal upon obligations of foreign banks and foreign branches of domestic banks may be affected by governmental action in the country of domicile of the branch (generally referred to as sovereign risk). Examples of such action would be the imposition of currency controls, interest limitations, seizure of assets, or the declaration of a moratorium. Evidence of ownership of portfolio securities may be held outside of the United States, and the Fund may be subject to the risks associated with the holdings of such property overseas.

Obligations of domestic branches of foreign banks may be general obligations of the parent bank in addition to the issuing branch, or may be limited by the terms of a specific obligation and by Federal and state regulation as well as by governmental action in the countries in which the foreign bank has its head office. In addition, there may be less publicly available information about a domestic branch of a foreign bank than about a domestic bank.

Foreign Securities. The Fund may purchase securities of foreign issuers and may invest in foreign currencies and obligations of foreign branches of domestic banks and domestic branches of foreign banks. Investment in such foreign currencies, securities and obligations presents certain risks, including those resulting from fluctuations in currency exchange rates, adverse political and economic developments and the possible imposition of currency exchange blockages or other foreign governmental laws or restrictions, reduced availability of public information concerning issuers, and the fact that foreign issuers are not generally subject to uniform accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards or to other regulatory practices

and requirements comparable to those applicable to domestic issuers. Moreover, securities of many foreign issuers may be less liquid and their prices more volatile than those of comparable domestic issuers. In addition, with respect to certain foreign countries, there is the possibility of expropriation, confiscatory taxation and limitations on the use or removal of funds or other assets of the Fund, including withholding of dividends. Foreign securities may be subject to foreign government taxes that would reduce the return on such securities. Foreign securities held by the Fund may trade on days that the Fund is not open for business, thus affecting the value of the Fund's assets on days when Fund shareholders may not be able to buy or sell Fund shares.

Securities of Emerging Markets Issuers. The Fund may invest in companies whose principal activities are in, or governments of, emerging markets. Emerging markets will include any countries (i) having an "emerging stock market" as defined by the International Finance Corporation; (ii) with low- to middle-income economies according to the World Bank; or (iii) listed in World Bank publications as developing. Currently, the countries not included in these categories are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Issuers whose principal activities are in countries with emerging markets include issuers: (1) organized under the laws of, (2) whose securities have their primary trading market in, (3) deriving at least 50% of their revenues or profits from goods sold, investments made, or services performed in, or (4) having at least 50% of their assets located in a country with, an emerging market. In emerging markets, the Fund may purchase debt securities issued or guaranteed by foreign governments, including participation in loans between foreign governments and financial institutions, and interests in entities organized and operated for the purpose of restructuring the investment characteristics of instruments issued or guaranteed by foreign governments ("Sovereign Debt Obligations"). These include Brady Bonds, Structured Securities, and Loan Participations and Assignments (as defined below).

Brady Bonds--Brady Bonds are debt obligations created through the exchange of existing commercial bank loans to foreign entities for new obligations in connection with debt restructurings under a plan introduced by former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Nicholas F. Brady.

Brady Bonds have been issued only relatively recently, and, accordingly, do not have a long payment history. They may be collateralized or uncollateralized and issued in various currencies (although most are U.S. dollar-denominated). They are actively traded in the over-the-counter secondary market.

Collateralized Brady Bonds may be fixed rate par bonds or floating rate discount bonds, which are generally collateralized in full as to principal due at maturity by U.S. Treasury zero coupon obligations which have the same maturity as the Brady Bonds. Interest payments on these Brady Bonds generally are collateralized by cash or securities in an amount that, in the case of fixed rate bonds, is equal to at least one year of rolling interest payments or, in the case of floating rate bonds, initially is equal to at least one year's rolling interest payments based on the applicable interest rate at that time and is adjusted at regular intervals thereafter. Certain Brady Bonds are entitled to "value recovery payments" in certain circumstances, which in effect constitute supplemental interest payments but generally are not collateralized. Brady Bonds are often viewed as having three or four valuation components: (i) the collateralized repayment of principal at final maturity; (ii) the collateralized interest payments; (iii) the uncollateralized interest payments; and (iv) any uncollateralized repayment of principal at maturity (these

uncollateralized amounts constitute the "residual risk"). In the event of a default with respect to Collateralized Brady Bonds as a result of which the payment obligations of the issuer are accelerated, the U.S. Treasury zero coupon obligations held as collateral for the payment of principal will not be distributed to investors, nor will such obligations be sold and the proceeds distributed. The collateral will be held by the collateral agent to the scheduled maturity of the defaulted Brady Bonds, which will continue to be outstanding, at which time the face amount of the collateral will equal the principal payments which would have then been due on the Brady Bonds in the normal course. In addition, in light of the residual risk of Brady Bonds and, among other factors, the history of defaults with respect to commercial bank loans by public and private entities of countries issuing Brady Bonds, investments in Brady Bonds are to be viewed as speculative.

Structured Securities--Structured Securities are interests in entities organized and operated solely for the purpose of restructuring the investment characteristics of Sovereign Debt Obligations. This type of restructuring involves the deposit with or purchase by an entity, such as a corporation or trust, of specified instruments (such as commercial bank loans or Brady Bonds) and the issuance by that entity of one or more classes of securities ("Structured Securities") backed by, or representing interests in, the underlying instruments. The cash flow on the underlying instruments may be apportioned among the newly-issued Structured Securities to create securities with different investment characteristics such as varying maturities, payment priorities and interest rate provisions, and the extent of the payments made with respect to Structured Securities is dependent on the extent of the cash flow on the underlying instruments. Because Structured Securities of the type in which the Fund anticipates it will invest typically involve no credit enhancement, their credit risk generally will be equivalent to that of the underlying instruments.

The Fund is permitted to invest in a class of Structured Securities that is either subordinated or unsubordinated to the right of payment of another class. Subordinated Structured Securities typically have higher yields and present greater risks than unsubordinated Structured Securities.

Certain issuers of Structured Securities may be deemed to be "investment companies" as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). As a result, the Fund's investment in these Structured Securities may be limited by the restrictions contained in the 1940 Act. See "Other Investment Companies" below.

Loan Participations and Assignments--The Fund may invest in fixed and floating rate loans ("Loans") arranged through private negotiations between an issuer of Sovereign Debt Obligations and one or more financial institutions ("Lenders"). The Fund's investments in Loans are expected in most instances to be in the form of participations in Loans ("Participations") and assignments of all or a portion of Loans ("Assignments") from third parties. The government that is the borrower on the Loan will be considered by the Fund to be the issuer of a Participation or Assignment. The Fund's investment in Participations typically will result in the Fund having a contractual relationship only with the Lender and not with the borrower. The Fund will have the right to receive payments of principal, interest and any fees to which it is entitled only from the Lender selling the Participation and only upon receipt by the Lender of the payments from the borrower. In connection with purchasing Participations, the Fund generally will have no right to enforce compliance by the borrower with the terms of the loan agreement relating to the Loan, nor any rights of set-off against the borrower, and the Fund may not directly benefit from any

collateral supporting the Loan in which it has purchased the Participation. As a result, the Fund may be subject to the credit risk of both the borrower and the Lender that is selling the Participation. In the event of the insolvency of the Lender selling a Participation, the Fund may be treated as a general creditor of the Lender and may not benefit from any set-off between the Lender and the borrower. Certain Participations may be structured in a manner designed to avoid purchasers of Participations being subject to the credit risk of the Lender with respect to the Participation, but even under such a structure, in the event of the Lender's insolvency, the Lender's servicing of the Participation may be delayed and the assignability of the Participation impaired. The Fund will acquire Participations only if the Lender interpositioned between the Fund and the borrower is a Lender having total assets of more than \$25 billion and whose senior unsecured debt is rated investment grade or higher (i.e., Baa/BBB or higher).

When the Fund purchases Assignments from Lenders it will acquire direct rights against the borrower on the Loan. Because Assignments are arranged through private negotiations between potential assignees and potential assignors, however, the rights and obligations acquired by the Fund as the purchaser of an Assignment may differ from, and be more limited than, those held by the assigning Lender. The assignability of certain Sovereign Debt Obligations is restricted by the governing documentation as to the nature of the assignee, such that the only way in which the Fund may acquire an interest in a Loan is through a Participation and not an Assignment. The Fund may have difficulty disposing of Assignments and Participations because to do so it will have to assign such securities to a third party. Because there is no established secondary market for such securities, the Fund anticipates that such securities could be sold only to a limited number of institutional investors. The lack of an established secondary market may have an adverse impact on the value of such securities and the Fund's ability to dispose of particular Assignments or Participations when necessary to meet the Fund's liquidity needs or in response to a specific economic event such as a deterioration in the creditworthiness of the borrower. The lack of an established secondary market for Assignments and Participations also may make it more difficult for the Fund to assign a value to these securities for purposes of valuing the Fund's portfolio and calculating its net asset value. The Fund may not invest more than 15% of the value of its net assets in Loan Participations and Assignments that are illiquid, and in other illiquid securities.

Investing in Sovereign Debt Obligations of Emerging Market Countries. No established secondary markets may exist for many of the Sovereign Debt Obligations in which the Fund will invest. Reduced secondary market liquidity may have an adverse effect on the market price and the Fund's ability to dispose of particular instruments when necessary to meet its liquidity requirements or in response to specific economic events such as a deterioration in the creditworthiness of the issuer. Reduced secondary market liquidity for certain Sovereign Debt Obligations also may make it more difficult for the Fund to obtain accurate market quotations for purposes of valuing its portfolio. Market quotations are generally available on many Sovereign Debt Obligations only from a limited number of dealers and may not necessarily represent firm bids of those dealers or prices for actual sales.

The Sovereign Debt Obligations in which the Fund will invest in most cases pertain to countries that are among the world's largest debtors to commercial banks, foreign governments, international financial organizations and other financial institutions. In recent years, the governments of some of these countries have encountered difficulties in servicing their external debt obligations, which led to defaults on certain obligations and the restructuring of certain indebtedness. Restructuring arrangements have included, among other things, reducing and

rescheduling interest and principal payments by negotiating new or amended credit agreements or converting outstanding principal and unpaid interest to Brady Bonds, and obtaining new credit to finance interest payments. Certain governments have not been able to make payments of interest on or principal of Sovereign Debt Obligations as those payments have come due. Obligations arising from past restructuring agreements may affect the economic performance and political and social stability of those issuers.

The Fund is permitted to invest in Sovereign Debt Obligations that are not current in the payment of interest or principal or are in default, so long as Dreyfus believes it to be consistent with the Fund's investment objective. The Fund may have limited legal recourse in the event of a default with respect to certain Sovereign Debt Obligations it holds. Bankruptcy, moratorium and other similar laws applicable to issuers of Sovereign Debt Obligations may be substantially different from those applicable to issuers of private debt obligations. The political context, expressed as the willingness of an issuer of Sovereign Debt Obligations to meet the terms of the debt obligation, for example, is of considerable importance. In addition, no assurance can be given that the holders of commercial bank debt will not contest payments to the holders of securities issued by foreign governments in the event of default under commercial bank loan agreements.

The ability of governments to make timely payments on their obligations is likely to be influenced strongly by the issuer's balance of payments, including export performance, and its access to international credits and investments. A country whose exports are concentrated in a few commodities could be vulnerable to a decline in the international prices of one or more of those commodities. Increased protectionism on the part of a country's trading partners also could adversely affect the country's exports and diminish its trade account surplus, if any. To the extent that a country receives payment for its exports in currencies other than dollars, its ability to make debt payments denominated in dollars could be adversely affected.

To the extent that a country develops a trade deficit, it will need to depend on continuing loans from foreign governments, multilateral organizations or private commercial banks, aid payments from foreign governments and on inflows of foreign investment. The access of a country to these forms of external funding may not be certain, and a withdrawal of external funding could adversely affect the capacity of a government to make payments on its obligations. In addition, the cost of servicing debt obligations can be affected by a change in international interest rates since the majority of these obligations carry interest rates that are adjusted periodically based upon international rates.

Another factor bearing on the ability of a country to repay Sovereign Debt Obligations is the level of the country's international reserves. Fluctuations in the level of these reserves can affect the amount of foreign exchange readily available for external debt payments and, thus, could have a bearing on the capacity of the country to make payments on its Sovereign Debt Obligations.

Expropriation, confiscatory taxation, nationalization, political, economic or social instability or other similar developments, such as military coups, have occurred in the past in countries in which the Fund will invest and could adversely affect the Fund's assets should these conditions or events recur.

Foreign investment in certain Sovereign Debt Obligations is restricted or controlled to varying degrees. These restrictions or controls at times may limit or preclude foreign investment

in certain Sovereign Debt Obligations and increase the costs and expenses of the Fund. Certain countries in which the Fund will invest require governmental approval prior to investment by foreign persons, limit the amount of investment by foreign persons in a particular issuer, limit the investment by foreign persons only to a specific class of securities of an issuer that may have less advantageous rights than the classes available for purchase by domiciliaries of the countries and/or impose additional taxes on foreign investors.

Certain countries other than those on which the Fund initially will focus its investments may require governmental approval for the repatriation of investment income, capital or the proceeds of sales of securities by foreign investors. In addition, if a deterioration occurs in a country's balance of payments, the country could impose temporary restrictions on foreign capital remittances. The Fund could be adversely affected by delays in, or a refusal to grant, any required governmental approval for repatriation of capital, as well as by the application to the Fund of any restrictions on investments. Investing in local markets may require the Fund to adopt special procedures, seek local government approvals or take other actions, each of which may involve additional costs to the Fund.

Discount Obligations. A significant portion of the Fund's investments may be in (i) securities (including most Brady Bonds) which were initially issued at a discount from their face value (collectively, "Discount Obligations") and (ii) securities purchased by the Fund at a price less than their stated face amount or, in the case of Discount Obligations, at a price less than their issue price plus the portion of "original issue discount" previously accrued thereon, i.e., purchased at a "market discount." The amount of original issue discount and/or market discount on obligations purchased by the Fund may be significant, and accretion of market discount together with original issue discount, will cause the Fund to realize income prior to the receipt of cash payments with respect to these securities. To maintain its qualification as a regulated investment company and avoid liability for Federal income taxes, the Fund may be required to distribute such income accrued with respect to these securities and may have to dispose of portfolio securities under disadvantageous circumstances in order to generate cash to satisfy these distribution requirements.

Illiquid Investments. The Fund will not knowingly invest more than 15% of the value of its net assets in illiquid securities, including repurchase agreements and time deposits with maturities in excess of seven days. Securities that have readily available market quotations are not deemed illiquid for purposes of this limitation (irrespective of any legal or contractual restrictions on resale). The Fund may invest in commercial obligations issued in reliance on the so-called "private placement" exemption from registration afforded by Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("Section 4(2) paper"). The Fund may also purchase securities that are not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, but that can be sold to qualified institutional buyers in accordance with Rule 144A under that Act ("Rule 144A securities"). Liquidity determinations with respect to Section 4(2) paper and Rule 144A securities will be made by the Trust's Board of Trustees (the "Board" or "Trustees" or "Board of Trustees") or by Dreyfus pursuant to guidelines established by the Board. The Board or Dreyfus will consider availability of reliable price information and other relevant information in making such determinations. Section 4(2) paper is restricted as to disposition under the federal securities laws, and generally is sold to institutional investors, such as the Fund, that agree that they are purchasing the paper for investment and not with a view to public distribution. Any resale by the purchaser must be pursuant to registration or an exemption therefrom. Section 4(2) paper normally is resold to other institutional investors like the Fund through or with the assistance of

the issuer or investment dealers who make a market in the Section 4(2) paper, thus providing liquidity. Rule 144A securities generally must be sold to other qualified institutional buyers. If a particular investment in Section 4(2) paper or Rule 144A securities is not determined to be liquid, that investment will be included within the percentage limitation on investment in illiquid securities. The ability to sell Rule 144A securities to qualified institutional buyers is a recent development and it is not possible to predict how this market will mature. Investing in Rule 144A securities could have the effect of increasing the level of Fund illiquidity to the extent that qualified institutional buyers become, for a time, uninterested in purchasing these securities from the Fund or other holders.

**Municipal Obligations.** Municipal obligations are debt obligations issued by states, territories and possessions of the United States and the District of Columbia and their political subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities, or multistate agencies or authorities, and certain specified entities, generally to obtain funds for various public purposes, and include certain industrial development bonds issues by or on behalf of public authorities. Municipal obligations are classified as general obligation bonds, revenue bonds and notes. General obligation bonds are secured by the issuer's pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power for the payment of principal and interest. Revenue bonds are payable from the revenue derived from a particular facility or class of facilities or, in some cases, from the proceeds of a special excise or other specific revenue source, but not from the general taxing power. Industrial development bonds, in most cases, are revenue bonds that do not carry the pledge of the credit of the issuing municipality, but generally are guaranteed by the corporate entity on whose behalf they are issued. Notes are short-term instruments which are obligations of the issuing municipalities or agencies and are sold in anticipation of a bond sale, collection of taxes or receipt of other revenues. Municipal obligations bear fixed, floating or variable rates of interest, which are determined in some instances by formulas under which the municipal obligation's interest rate will change directly or inversely to changes in interest or an index, or multiples thereof, in many cases subject to a maximum and minimum. Certain municipal obligations are subject to redemption at a date earlier than their stated maturity pursuant to call options, which may be separated from the related municipal obligation and purchased and sold separately. The Fund also may acquire call options to protect the Fund from the issuer of the related municipal obligation redeeming, or other holder of the call option from calling away, the municipal obligation before maturity.

While in general, municipal obligations are tax-exempt securities having relatively low yields as compared to taxable, non-municipal obligations of similar quality, certain municipal obligations are taxable obligations offering yields comparable to, and in some cases greater than, the yields available on other permissible Fund investments. Dividends received by shareholders on Fund shares which are attributable to interest income received by the Fund from municipal obligations generally will be subject to Federal income tax. The Fund may invest in municipal obligations generally will be subject to Federal income tax. The Fund may invest in municipal obligations, the ratings of which correspond with the ratings of other permissible Fund investments. The Fund currently intends to invest no more than 5% of its assets in municipal obligations. However, this percentage may be varied from time to time without shareholder approval.

**Other Investment Companies.** The Fund may invest in securities issued by other investment companies. Under the 1940 Act, the Fund's investment in such securities, subject to certain exceptions, currently is limited to (i) 3% of the total voting stock of any one investment



company, (ii) 5% of the Fund's total assets with respect to any one investment company and (iii) 10% of the Fund's total assets in the aggregate. As a shareholder of another investment company, the Fund would bear, along with other shareholders, its pro rata portion of the other investment company's expenses, including advisory fees. These expenses would be in addition to the advisory and other expenses that the Fund bears directly in connection with its own operations. The Fund also may invest its uninvested cash reserves, or cash it receives as collateral from borrowers of its portfolio securities in connection with the Fund's securities lending program, in shares of one or more money market funds advised by Dreyfus. Such investments will not be subject to the limitations described above, except that the Fund's aggregate investment of uninvested cash reserves in such money market funds may not exceed 25% of its total assets. See "Loans of Fund Securities."

### Investment Techniques

In addition to the principal investment strategies discussed in the Fund's Prospectus, the Fund also may engage in the investment techniques described below. The Fund might not use, or may not have the ability to use, any of these strategies and there can be no assurance that any strategy that is used will succeed.

Borrowing. The Fund is authorized, within specified limits, to borrow money for temporary administrative purposes and to pledge its assets in connection with such borrowings.

When-Issued Securities and Delayed Delivery Transactions. New issues of U.S. Treasury and Government securities are often offered on a "when-issued" basis. This means that delivery and payment for the securities normally will take place approximately 7 to 45 days after the date the buyer commits to purchase them. The payment obligation and the interest rate that will be received on securities purchased on a "when-issued" basis are each fixed at the time the buyer enters into the commitment. The Fund will make commitments to purchase such securities only with the intention of actually acquiring the securities, but the Fund may sell these securities or dispose of the commitment before the settlement date if it is deemed advisable as a matter of investment strategy. Cash or marketable high-grade debt securities equal to the amount of the above commitments will be segregated on the Fund's records. For the purpose of determining the adequacy of these securities the segregated securities will be valued at market. If the market value of such securities declines, additional cash or securities will be segregated on the Fund's records on a daily basis so that the market value of the account will equal the amount of such commitments by the Fund.

Securities purchased on a "when-issued" basis and the securities held by the Fund are subject to changes in market value based upon the public's perception of changes in the level of interest rates. Generally, the value of such securities will fluctuate inversely to changes in interest rates -- i.e., they will appreciate in value when interest rates decline and decrease in value when interest rates rise. Therefore, if in order to achieve higher interest income the Fund remains substantially fully invested at the same time that it has purchased securities on a "when-issued" basis, there will be a greater possibility of fluctuation in the Fund's NAV.

When payment for "when-issued" securities is due, the Fund will meet its obligations from then-available cash flow, the sale of segregated securities, the sale of other securities and/or, although it would not normally expect to do so, from the sale of the "when-issued"

securities themselves (which may have a market value greater or less than the Fund's payment obligation). The sale of securities to meet such obligations carries with it a greater potential for the realization of capital gains, which are subject to federal income taxes.

To secure advantageous prices or yields, the Fund may purchase or sell securities for delayed delivery. In such transactions, delivery of the securities occurs beyond the normal settlement periods, but no payment or delivery is made by the Fund prior to the actual delivery or payment by the other party to the transaction. The purchase of securities on a delayed delivery basis involves the risk that the value of the securities purchased will decline prior to the settlement date. The sale of securities for delayed delivery involves the risk that the prices available in the market on the delivery date may be greater than those obtained in the sale transaction. The Fund will establish a segregated account consisting of permissible liquid assets in an amount at least equal at all times to the amounts of its delayed delivery commitments.

Derivatives. In addition to mortgage-related securities and asset-backed securities, the Fund may invest in, or enter into, other derivatives, such as options, futures, options on futures, swaps and custodial receipts, for a variety of reasons, including to hedge certain market risks, to provide a substitute for purchasing or selling particular securities or to increase potential income gain. Derivatives may provide a cheaper, quicker or more specifically focused way for the Fund to invest than "traditional" securities would.

Derivatives can be volatile and involve various types and degrees of risk, depending upon the characteristics of the particular derivative and the portfolio as a whole. Derivatives permit the Fund to increase or decrease the level of risk, or change the character of the risk, to which its portfolio is exposed in much the same way as the Fund can increase or decrease the level of risk, or change the character of the risk, of its portfolio by making investments in specific securities. However, derivatives may entail investment exposures that are greater than their cost would suggest, meaning that a small investment in derivatives could have a large potential impact on the Fund's performance.

If the Fund invests in derivatives at inopportune times or judges market conditions incorrectly, such investments may lower the Fund's return or result in a loss. The Fund also could experience losses if its derivatives were poorly correlated with its other investments, or if the Fund were unable to liquidate its position because of an illiquid secondary market. The market for many derivatives is, or suddenly can become, illiquid. Changes in liquidity may result in significant, rapid and unpredictable changes in the prices for derivatives.

Neither the Company nor any Fund will be a commodity pool. In addition, the Company has claimed an exclusion from the definition of commodity pool operator and, therefore, is not subject to registration or regulation as a pool operator under the Commodity Exchange Act.

Derivatives may be purchased on established exchanges or through privately negotiated transactions referred to as over-the-counter derivatives. Exchange-traded derivatives generally are guaranteed by the clearing agency which is the issuer or counterparty to such derivatives. This guarantee usually is supported by a daily variation margin system operated by the clearing agency in order to reduce overall credit risk. As a result, unless the clearing agency defaults, there is relatively little counterparty credit risk associated with derivatives purchased on an exchange. By contrast, no clearing agency guarantees over-the-counter derivatives. Therefore, each party to an over-the-counter derivative bears the risk that the counterparty will default. Accordingly, Dreyfus will consider the creditworthiness of counterparties to over-the-counter

derivatives in the same manner as it would review the credit quality of a security to be purchased by the Fund. Over-the-counter derivatives are less liquid than exchange-traded derivatives since the other party to the transaction may be the only investor with sufficient understanding of the derivative to be interested in bidding for it.

Futures Transactions--In General. The Fund may enter into futures contracts in U.S. domestic markets, or on exchanges located outside the United States. Foreign markets may offer advantages such as trading opportunities or arbitrage possibilities not available in the United States. Foreign markets, however, may have greater risk potential than domestic markets. For example, some foreign exchanges are principal markets so that no common clearing facility exists and an investor may look only to the broker for performance of the contract. In addition, any profits that the Fund might realize in trading could be eliminated by adverse changes in the currency exchange rate, or the Fund could incur losses as a result of those changes. Transactions on foreign exchanges may include commodities which are traded on domestic exchanges or those which are not. Unlike trading on domestic commodity exchanges, trading on foreign commodity exchanges is not regulated by the CFTC.

Engaging in these transactions involves risk of loss to the Fund which could adversely affect the value of the Fund's net assets. Although the Fund intends to purchase or sell futures contracts only if there is an active market for such contracts, no assurance can be given that a liquid market will exist for any particular contract at any particular time. Many futures exchanges and boards of trade limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in futures contract prices during a single trading day. Once the daily limit has been reached in a particular contract, no trades may be made that day at a price beyond that limit or trading may be suspended for specified periods during the trading day. Futures contract prices could move to the limit for several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of futures positions and potentially subjecting the Fund to substantial losses.

Successful use of futures by a Fund also is subject to Dreyfus' ability to predict correctly movements in the direction of the relevant market and, to the extent the transaction is entered into for hedging purposes, to ascertain the appropriate correlation between the position being hedged and the price movements of the futures contract. For example, if the Fund uses futures to hedge against the possibility of a decline in the market value of securities held in its portfolio and the prices of such securities instead increase, the Fund will lose part or all of the benefit of the increased value of securities which it has hedged because it will have offsetting losses in its futures positions. Furthermore, if in such circumstances the Fund has insufficient cash, it may have to sell securities to meet daily variation margin requirements. The Fund may have to sell such securities at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so.

Pursuant to regulations and/or published positions of the SEC, the Fund may be required to segregate permissible liquid assets to cover its obligations relating to its transactions in derivatives. To maintain this required cover, the Fund may have to sell portfolio securities at disadvantageous prices or times since it may not be possible to liquidate a derivative position at a reasonable price. In addition, the segregation of such assets will have the effect of limiting the Fund's ability otherwise to invest those assets.

Specific Futures Transactions. The Fund may purchase and sell interest rate futures contracts. An interest rate future obligates the Fund to purchase or sell an amount of a specific debt security at a future date at a specific price.

The Fund may purchase and sell currency futures. A foreign currency future obligates the Fund to purchase or sell an amount of a specific currency at a future date at a specific price.

The Fund may purchase and sell stock index futures contracts. A stock index future obligates the Fund to pay or receive an amount of cash equal to a fixed dollar amount specified in the futures contract multiplied by the difference between the settlement price of the contract on the contract's last trading day and the value of the index based on the stock prices of the securities that comprise it at the opening of trading in such securities on the next business day.

Interest Rate Swaps. Interest rate swaps involve the exchange by the Fund with another party of their respective commitments to pay or receive interest (for example, an exchange of floating rate payments for fixed-rate payments). The exchange commitments can involve payments to be made in the same currency or in different currencies. The use of interest rate swaps is a highly specialized activity which involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. If Dreyfus is incorrect in its forecasts of market values, interest rates and other applicable factors, the investment performance of the Fund would diminish compared with what it would have been if these investment techniques were not used. Moreover, even if Dreyfus is correct in its forecasts, there is a risk that the swap position may correlate imperfectly with the price of the asset or liability being hedged. There is no limit on the amount of interest rate swap transactions that may be entered into by the Fund. These transactions do not involve the delivery of securities or other underlying assets or principal. Accordingly, the risk of loss with respect to interest rate swaps is limited to the net amount of interest payments that the Fund is contractually obligated to make. If the other party to an interest rate swap defaults, the Fund's risk of loss consists of the net amount of interest payments that the Fund contractually is entitled to receive.

Credit Derivatives. The Fund may engage in credit derivative transactions, such as those involving default price risk derivatives and market spread derivatives. Default price risk derivatives are linked to the price of reference securities or loans after a default by the issuer or borrower, respectively. Market spread derivatives are based on the risk that changes in market factors, such as credit spreads, can cause a decline in the value of a security, loan or index. There are three basic transactional forms for credit derivatives: swaps, options and structured instruments. The use of credit derivatives is a highly specialized activity which involves strategies and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. If Dreyfus is incorrect in its forecasts of default risks, market spreads or other applicable factors, the investment performance of the Fund would diminish compared with what it would have been if these techniques were not used. Moreover, even if Dreyfus is correct in its forecasts, there is a risk that a credit derivative position may correlate imperfectly with the price of the asset or liability being hedged. There is no limit on the amount of credit derivative transactions that may be entered into by the Fund. The Fund's risk of loss in a credit derivative transaction varies with the form of the transaction. For example, if the Fund purchases a default option on a security, and if no default occurs with respect to the security, the Fund's loss is limited to the premium it paid for the default option. In contrast, if there is a default by the grantor of a default option, the Fund's loss will include both the premium that it paid for the option and the decline in value of the underlying security that the default option hedged.

Custodial Receipts. The Fund may purchase custodial receipts representing the right to receive certain future principal and/or interest payments on a basket of securities which underlie the

custodial receipts. A number of different arrangements are possible. In a typical custodial receipt arrangement, an issuer or a third party owner of securities deposits such securities obligations with a custodian in exchange for custodial receipts. These custodial receipts typically are sold in private placements and are designed to provide investors with pro rata ownership of a portfolio of underlying securities.

Options--In General. A call option gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and obligates the writer to sell, the underlying security or securities at the exercise price at any time during the option period, or at a specific date. Conversely, a put option gives the purchaser of the option the right to sell, and obligates the writer to buy, the underlying security or securities at the exercise price at any time during the option period, or at a specific date.

A covered call option written by the Fund is a call option with respect to which the Fund owns the underlying security or otherwise covers the transaction by segregating permissible liquid assets. A put option written by the Fund is covered when, among other things, the Fund segregates permissible liquid assets having a value equal to or greater than the exercise price of the option to fulfill the obligation undertaken. The principal reason for writing covered call and put options is to realize, through the receipt of premiums, a greater return than would be realized on the underlying securities alone. The Fund receives a premium from writing covered call or put options which it retains whether or not the option is exercised.

There is no assurance that sufficient trading interest to create a liquid secondary market on a securities exchange will exist for any particular option or at any particular time, and for some options no such secondary market may exist. A liquid secondary market in an option may cease to exist for a variety of reasons. In the past, for example, higher than anticipated trading activity or order flow, or other unforeseen events, at times have rendered certain of the clearing facilities inadequate and resulted in the institution of special procedures, such as trading rotations, restrictions on certain types of orders or trading halts or suspensions in one or more options. There can be no assurance that similar events, or events that may otherwise interfere with the timely execution of customers' orders, will not recur. In such event, it might not be possible to effect closing transactions in particular options. If, as a covered call option writer, the Fund is unable to effect a closing purchase transaction in a secondary market, it will not be able to sell the underlying security until the option expires or it delivers the underlying security upon exercise or it otherwise covers its position.

Specific Options Transactions. The Fund may purchase and sell call and put options on foreign currency. These options convey the right to buy or sell the underlying currency at a price which is expected to be lower or higher than the spot price of the currency at the time the option is exercised or expires.

The Fund may purchase cash-settled options on swaps in pursuit of their respective investment objective. A cash-settled option on a swap gives the purchaser the right, but not the obligation, in return for the premium paid, to receive an amount of cash equal to the value of the underlying swap as of the exercise date. These options typically are purchased in privately negotiated transactions from financial institutions, including securities brokerage firms.

Successful use by the Fund of options will be subject to the ability of Dreyfus to predict correctly movements in the prices of individual securities, the stock market generally, foreign

currencies or interest rates. To the extent such predictions are incorrect, the Fund may incur losses.

Forward Roll Transactions. To enhance current income, the Fund may enter into forward roll transactions with respect to mortgage-related securities. The Fund will only enter into covered rolls. In a forward roll transaction, the Fund sells a mortgage-related security to a financial institution, such as a bank or broker-dealer, and simultaneously agrees to purchase a similar security from the institution at a later date at an agreed upon price. The securities that are purchased will bear the same interest rate as those sold, but generally will be collateralized by different pools of mortgages with different pre-payment histories than those sold. During the period between the sale and purchase, the Fund will not be entitled to receive interest and principal payments on the securities sold. Proceeds of the sale typically will be invested in short-term instruments, particularly repurchase agreements, and the income from these investments, together with any additional fee income received on the sale will be expected to generate income for the Fund exceeding the yield on the securities sold. Forward roll transactions involve the risk that the market value of the securities sold by the Fund may decline below the purchase price of those securities. The Fund will segregate permissible liquid assets at least equal to the amount of the repurchase price (including accrued interest).

Loans of Fund Securities. The Fund may lend securities from its portfolio to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions needing to borrow securities to complete certain transactions. In connection with such loans, the Fund remains the owner of the loaned securities and continues to be entitled to payments in amounts equal to the interest, dividends or other distributions payable on the loaned securities. The Fund also has the right to terminate a loan at any time. The Fund may call the loan to vote proxies if a material issue affecting the Fund's investment is to be voted upon. Loans of portfolio securities may not exceed 33-1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets (including the value of all assets received as collateral for the loan). The Fund will receive collateral consisting of cash, U.S. Government securities or irrevocable letters of credit which will be maintained at all times in an amount equal to at least 100% of the current market value of the loaned securities. If the collateral consists of a letter of credit or securities, the borrower will pay the Fund a loan premium fee. If the collateral consists of cash, the Fund will reinvest the cash and pay the borrower a pre-negotiated fee or "rebate" from any return earned on the investment. The Fund may participate in a securities lending program operated by Mellon Bank, N.A., as lending agent (the "Lending Agent"). The Lending Agent will receive a percentage of the total earnings of the Fund derived from lending its portfolio securities. Should the borrower of the securities fail financially, the Fund may experience delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising its rights in the collateral. Loans are made only to borrowers that are deemed by Dreyfus to be of good financial standing. In a loan transaction, the Fund will also bear the risk of any decline in value of securities acquired with cash collateral. The Fund will minimize this by limiting the investment of cash collateral to money market funds advised by Dreyfus, repurchase agreements or other high quality instruments with short maturities.

Currency Transactions. The Fund may engage in currency exchange transactions as a means of managing certain risks associated with purchasing and selling securities denominated in foreign securities. Generally, the currency exchange transactions of the Fund will be conducted on a spot (i.e., cash) basis at the spot rate for purchasing or selling currency prevailing in the currency exchange market. This rate under normal market conditions differs from the prevailing

exchange rate in an amount generally less than 0.1% due to the cost of converting from one currency to another. The Fund also may deal in forward exchanges between currencies of the different countries in which it invests as a hedge against possible variations in the exchange rates between these currencies. This is accomplished through contractual agreements to purchase or sell a specified currency at a specified future date and price set at the time of the contract.

Dealings in forward currency exchanges by the Fund are limited to hedging involving either specific transactions or aggregate portfolio positions. Transaction hedging is the purchase or sale of foreign currency with respect to specific receivables or payables of a Fund generally arising in connection with the purchase or sale of its portfolio securities. Position hedging is the sale of foreign currency with respect to portfolio security positions denominated or quoted in such currency. The Fund will not speculate in forward currency exchanges. The Fund may position hedge with respect to a particular currency to an extent greater than the aggregate market value (at the time of making such sale) of the securities held in its portfolio denominated or quoted in or currently convertible into that particular currency. If the Fund enters into a position hedging transaction, its custodian or sub-custodian bank will place cash or readily marketable securities in a segregated account of the Fund in an amount equal to the value of the Fund's total assets committed to the consummation of such forward contract. If the value of the securities placed in the segregated account declines, additional cash or securities will be placed in the account so that the value of the account will equal the amount of the Fund's commitment with respect to such contracts. The Fund will not attempt to hedge all of its foreign portfolio positions and will enter into such transactions only to the extent, if any, deemed appropriate by Dreyfus. The Fund will not enter into a position hedging commitment if, as a result thereof, the Fund would have more than 15% of the value of its total assets committed to such contracts. The Fund will not enter into a forward contract with a term of more than one year.

It may not be possible for the Fund to hedge against a devaluation that is so generally anticipated that the Fund is not able to contract to sell the currency at a price above the devaluation level it anticipates. The cost to the Fund of engaging in currency transactions varies with such factors as the currency involved, the length of the contract period and the market conditions then prevailing. Since transactions in currency exchanges are usually conducted on a principal basis, no fees or commissions are involved.

At or before the maturity of a forward contract, the Fund may either sell a portfolio security and make delivery of the currency, or it may retain the security and offset its contractual obligation to deliver the currency by purchasing a second contract with the same currency trader obligating it to purchase, on the same maturity date, the same amount of the currency. If the Fund retains the portfolio security and engages in an offsetting transaction, the Fund, at the time of execution of the offsetting transaction, will incur a gain or a loss (as described below) to the extent that there has been movement in forward contract prices. If the Fund engages in an offsetting transaction, it may subsequently enter into a new forward contract to sell the currency. Should forward prices decline during the period between the Fund's entering into a forward contract for the sale of a currency and the date it enters into an offsetting contract for the purchase of the currency, the Fund will realize a gain to the extent the price of the currency it has agreed to sell exceeds the price of the currency it has agreed to purchase. Should forward prices increase, the Fund will suffer a loss to the extent the price of the currency it has agreed to purchase exceeds the price of the currency it has agreed to sell.

The use of forward currency contracts by the Fund will be limited to the transactions described above. The Fund is not required to enter into such transactions with regard to its portfolio securities, regardless of currency denomination, and will not do so unless deemed appropriate by Dreyfus. The use of forward currency contracts does not eliminate fluctuations in the underlying prices of the securities. It simply establishes a rate of exchange which can be achieved at some future point in time. In addition, although forward currency contracts tend to minimize the risk of loss due to a decline in the value of the hedged currency, they also tend to limit any potential gain which might result should the value of the currency increase.

Because the Fund invests in foreign securities, the Fund will hold from time to time various foreign currencies pending its investment in foreign securities or conversion into U.S. dollars. Although the Fund values its assets daily in terms of U.S. dollars, it does not convert its holdings of foreign currencies into U.S. dollars on a daily basis. When converting foreign currencies to U.S. dollars, the Fund may incur costs of currency conversion. A foreign exchange dealer does not charge a fee for conversion, but it does realize a profit based on the difference, which is known as the spread, between the prices at which the dealer is buying and selling various currencies. Thus, a dealer may offer to sell a foreign currency to a Fund at one rate, while offering a lesser rate of exchange should the Fund desire to resell that currency to the dealer.

Master/Feeder Option. The Trust may in the future seek to achieve the Fund's investment objective by investing all of the Fund's assets in another investment company having the same investment objective and substantially the same investment policies and restrictions as those applicable to the Fund. Shareholders of the Fund will be given at least 30 days' prior notice of any such investment. Such investment would be made only if the Trustees determine it to be in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders. In making that determination, the Trustees will consider, among other things, the benefits to shareholders and/or the opportunity to reduce costs and achieve operational efficiencies. Although the Fund believes that the Trustees will not approve an arrangement that is likely to result in higher costs, no assurance is given that costs will be materially reduced if this option is implemented.

Certain Investments. From time to time, to the extent consistent with its investment objective, policies and restrictions, the Fund may invest in securities of companies with which Mellon Bank, N.A., an affiliate of Dreyfus, has a lending relationship.

### Investment Restrictions

Fundamental. The following limitations have been adopted by the Fund. The Fund may not change any of these fundamental investment limitations without the consent of: (a) 67% or more of the shares present at a meeting of shareholders duly called if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund are present or represented by proxy; or (b) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund, whichever is less. The Fund may not:

1. Purchase any securities which would cause 25% or more of the value of the Fund's total assets at the time of such purchase to be invested in the securities of one or more issuers conducting their principal activities in the same industry. (For purposes of this limitation, U.S. Government securities and state or municipal governments and their political subdivisions are not considered members of any industry. In addition, this limitation does not apply to investments of domestic banks, including U.S. branches of foreign banks and foreign branches of U.S. banks.)



2. Borrow money or issue senior securities as defined in the 1940 Act, except that (a) the Fund may borrow money in an amount not exceeding one-third of the Fund's total assets at the time of such borrowing, and (b) the Fund may issue multiple classes of shares. The purchase or sale of futures contracts and related options shall not be considered to involve the borrowing of money or issuance of senior securities.

3. Make loans or lend securities, if as a result thereof more than one-third of the Fund's total assets would be subject to all such loans. For purposes of this restriction, debt instruments and repurchase agreements shall not be treated as loans.

4. Underwrite securities issued by any other person, except to the extent that the purchase of securities and the later disposition of such securities in accordance with the Fund's investment program may be deemed an underwriting.

5. Purchase or sell real estate, unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments (but this shall not prevent the Fund from investing in securities or other instruments backed by real estate, including mortgage loans, or securities of companies that engage in the real estate business or invest or deal in real estate or interests therein).

6. Purchase or sell commodities, except that the Fund may enter into futures contracts and related options, forward currency contracts and other similar instruments.

7. Purchase with respect to 75% of the Fund's total assets securities of any issuer (other than securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities) if, as a result, (a) more than 5% of the Fund's total assets would be invested in the securities of that issuer, or (b) the Fund would hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of that issuer.

The Fund may, notwithstanding any other fundamental investment policy or limitation, invest all of its investable assets in securities of a single open-end management investment company with substantially the same investment objective, policies, and limitations as the Fund.

*Non-fundamental.* The Fund has adopted the following additional non-fundamental restrictions. These non-fundamental restrictions may be changed without shareholder approval, in compliance with applicable law and regulatory policy.

1. The Fund will not purchase or retain the securities of any issuer if the officers, directors or Trustees of the Trust, its advisers, or managers owning beneficially more than one half of one percent of the securities of each issuer together own beneficially more than 5% of such securities.

2. The Fund will not purchase securities of issuers (other than securities issued or guaranteed by domestic or foreign governments or political subdivisions thereof), including their predecessors, that have been in operation for less than three years, if by reason thereof the value of the Fund's investment in such securities would exceed five percent of the Fund's total assets. For purposes of this limitation, sponsors, general partners, guarantors and originators of underlying assets may be treated as the issuer of a security.

3. The Fund will not purchase puts, calls, straddles, spreads and any combination thereof if by reason thereof the value of its aggregate investment in such classes of securities will

exceed 5% of its total assets except that: (a) this restriction shall not apply to standby commitments, and (b) this restriction shall not apply to the Fund's transactions in futures contracts and options.

4. The Fund will not purchase warrants if at the time of such purchase: (a) more than 5% of the value of the Fund's assets would be invested in warrants, or (b) more than 2% of the value of the Fund's assets would be invested in warrants that are not listed on the New York or American Stock Exchange (for purposes of this restriction, warrants acquired by the Fund in units or attached to securities will be deemed to have no value).

5. The Fund will not invest more than 15% of the value of its net assets in illiquid securities, including repurchase agreements with remaining maturities in excess of seven days, time deposits with maturities in excess of seven days, and other securities which are not readily marketable. For purposes of this restriction, illiquid securities shall not include commercial paper issued pursuant to Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and securities which may be resold under Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, provided that the Board of Trustees, or its delegate, determines that such securities are liquid, based upon the trading markets for the specific security.

6. The Fund may not invest in securities of other investment companies, except to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act.

7. The Fund will not purchase oil, gas or mineral leases (the Fund may, however, purchase and sell the securities of companies engaged in the exploration, development, production, refining, transporting and marketing of oil, gas or minerals).

8. The Fund shall not sell securities short, unless it owns or has the right to obtain securities equivalent in kind and amounts to the securities sold short, and provided that transactions in futures contracts and options are not deemed to constitute selling securities short.

9. The Fund shall not purchase securities on margin, except that the Fund may obtain such short-term credits as are necessary for the clearance of transactions, and provided that margin payments in connection with futures contracts and options shall not constitute purchasing securities on margin.

10. The Fund shall not purchase any security while borrowings representing more than 5% of the Fund's total assets are outstanding.

As an operating policy, the Fund will not invest more than 25% of the value of its total assets, at the time of purchase, in domestic banks, including U.S. branches of foreign banks and foreign branches of U.S. banks. The Board of Trustees may change this policy without shareholder approval. Notice will be given to shareholders if this policy is changed by the Board.

If a percentage restriction is adhered to at the time of an investment, a later change in such percentage resulting from a change in the values of assets will not constitute a violation of such restriction. With respect to Fundamental Investment Restriction No. 2, however, if borrowings exceed 33-1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets as a result of a change in values or assets, the Fund must take steps to reduce such borrowings at least to the extent of such excess.

The Trust and Dreyfus have received an exemptive order from the SEC which, among other things, permits the Fund to use cash collateral received in connection with lending the Fund's securities and other uninvested cash to purchase shares of one or more registered money market funds advised by Dreyfus in excess of the limitations imposed by the 1940 Act.

If the Fund's investment objective, policies, restrictions, practices or procedures change, shareholders should consider whether the Fund remains an appropriate investment in light of the shareholder's then-current position and needs.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND/TRUST

The Board is responsible for the management and supervision of the Fund, and approves all significant agreements with those companies that furnish services to the Fund. These companies are as follows:

The Dreyfus Corporation .....	Investment Adviser
Dreyfus Service Corporation.....	Distributor
Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. ....	Transfer Agent
Mellon Bank, N.A. ....	Custodian

### Trustees of the Trust\*

Trustees of the Trust, together with information as to their positions with the Trust, principal occupations and other board memberships and affiliations, are shown below. Each of the Trustees also serves as a Director of The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds, Inc. and as a Trustee of The Dreyfus/Laurel Tax-Free Municipal Funds (collectively, with the Trust, the "Dreyfus/Laurel Funds") and Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund.

Name (Age) <u>Position with Trust (Since)</u>	<u>Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years</u>	<u>Other Board Memberships and Affiliations</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino (61) Chairman of the Board (1999)	Corporate Director and Trustee	The Muscular Dystrophy Association, Director Levcor International, Inc., an apparel fabric processor, Director Century Business Services, Inc., a provider of outsourcing functions for small and medium size companies, Director The Newark Group, a provider of a national market of paper recovery facilities, paperboard mills and paperboard converting plants, Director Howes Leather Corporation, Director
James Fitzgibbons (69) Board Member (1994)	Chairman of the Board, Davidson Cotton Company (1998-2002)	
J. Tomlinson Fort (75) Board Member (1994)	Retired; Of Counsel, Reed Smith LLP (1998 – January 2003)	Allegheny College, Trustee Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Trustee American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow

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\* None of the Trustees are "interested persons" of the Trust, as defined in the 1940 Act.

<u>Name (Age)</u> <u>Position with Trust (Since)</u>	<u>Principal Occupation</u> <u>During Past 5 Years</u>	<u>Other Board Memberships and Affiliations</u>
Kenneth A. Himmel (57) Board Member (1988)	President and CEO, Related Urban Development, a real estate development company (1996-Present)  President and CEO, Himmel & Company, a real estate development company (1980-Present)  CEO, American Food Management, a restaurant company (1983-Present)	-
Stephen J. Lockwood (56) Board Member (1993)	Chairman of the Board, Stephen J. Lockwood and Company LLC, an investment company (2000 - Present)  Chairman of the Board and CEO, LDG Reinsurance Corporation (1977-2000)	BDML Holdings, an insurance company, Chairman of the Board Affiliated Managers Group, an investment management company, Director
Roslyn Watson (54) Board Member (1992)	Principal, Watson Ventures, Inc., a real estate investment company (1993 - Present)	American Express Centurion Bank, Director The Hyams Foundation Inc., a Massachusetts Charitable Foundation, Trustee National Osteoporosis Foundation, Trustee
Benaree Pratt Wiley (57) Board Member (1998)	President and CEO, The Partnership, an organization dedicated to increasing the representation of African Americans in positions of leadership, influence and decision-making in Boston, MA (1991 - Present)	Boston College, Trustee The Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Director The First Albany Companies, Inc., an investment bank, Director Mass Development, Director Commonwealth Institute, Director Efficacy Institute, Director PepsiCo Africa - America, Advisory Board

Board members are elected to serve for an indefinite term. The Trust has standing audit, nominating and compensation committees, each comprised of its Board members who are not “interested persons” of the Trust, as defined in the 1940 Act. The function of the audit committee is to oversee the Trust’s financial and reporting policies and certain internal control matters; the function of the nominating committee is to select and nominate all candidates who are not “interested persons” of the Trust for election to the Board; and the function of the compensation committee is to establish the appropriate compensation for serving on the Board. The nominating committee does not normally consider nominees recommended by shareholders. The Trust also has a standing pricing committee comprised of any one Board member. The function of the pricing committee is to assist in valuing the Fund’s investments. The audit committee met twice during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003. The nominating, compensation and pricing committees had no meetings during the last fiscal year.

The table below indicates the dollar range of each Board member’s ownership of Fund shares and shares of other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which he or she is a Board member, in each case as of December 31, 2003.

<u>Name of Board Member</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Aggregate Holding of Funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino	None	Over \$100,000

James Fitzgibbons	None	Over \$100,000
J. Tomlinson Fort	None	\$10,001 - \$50,000
Kenneth A. Himmel	None	None
Stephen J. Lockwood	None	None
Roslyn Watson	None	None
Benaree Pratt Wiley	None	None

As of December 31, 2003, none of the Board members or their immediate family members owned securities of Dreyfus, the Distributor or any person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with Dreyfus or the Distributor.

#### Officers of the Trust

STEPHEN E. CANTER, President since March 2000. Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer of Dreyfus, and an officer of 96 investment companies (comprised of 186 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. Mr. Canter also is a Board member and, where applicable, an Executive Committee Member of the other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of Dreyfus. He is 57 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since May 1995.

STEPHEN R. BYERS, Executive Vice President since November 2002. Chief Investment Officer, Vice Chairman and a director of Dreyfus, and an officer of 96 investment companies (comprised of 186 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. Mr. Byers also is an officer, director or an Executive Committee Member of certain other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of Dreyfus. He is 49 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since January 2000. Prior to joining Dreyfus, he served as an Executive Vice President – Capital Markets, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer at Gruntal & Co., L.L.C.

MARK N. JACOBS, Vice President since March 2000. Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Dreyfus, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 57 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since June 1977.

STEVEN F. NEWMAN, Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of Dreyfus, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 53 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since July 1980.

JAMES WINDELS, Treasurer since November 2001. Director – Mutual Fund Accounting of Dreyfus, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 44 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since April 1985.

JEFF PRUSNOFSKY, Assistant Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel of Dreyfus, and an officer of 25 investment companies (comprised of 82 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 37 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since October 1990.

MICHAEL A. ROSENBERG, Assistant Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel of Dreyfus, and an officer of 94 investment companies (comprised of 195 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 43 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since October 1991.

ERIK D. NAVILOFF, Assistant Treasurer since December 2002. Senior Accounting Manager – Taxable Fixed Income Funds of Dreyfus, and an officer of 19 investment companies (comprised of 74 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 34 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since November 1992.

KENNETH J. SANDGREN, Assistant Treasurer since November 2001. Mutual Funds Tax Director of Dreyfus, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 48 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since June 1993.

ROBERT J. SVAGNA, Assistant Treasurer since December 2002. Senior Accounting Manager – Equity Funds of Dreyfus, and an officer of 26 investment companies (comprised of 102 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 36 years old and has been an employee of Dreyfus since November 1990.

WILLIAM GERMENIS, Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer since July 2002. Vice President and Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of the Distributor, and the Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of 92 investment companies (comprised of 197 portfolios) managed by Dreyfus. He is 33 years old and has been an employee of the Distributor since October 1998.

The address of each Trustee and officer of the Trust is 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166.

No officer or employee of Dreyfus or the Distributor (or of any parent, subsidiary or affiliate thereof) receives any compensation from the Trust for serving as an officer or Trustee of the Trust. The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds pay each Director/Trustee who is not an “interested person” of the Trust (as defined in the 1940 Act) \$40,000 per annum, plus \$5,000 per joint Dreyfus/Laurel Funds Board meeting attended, \$2,000 for separate committee meetings attended which are not held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Board meeting and \$500 for Board meetings and separate committee meetings attended that are conducted by telephone. The Dreyfus/Laurel Funds also reimburse each Director/Trustee who is not an “interested person” of the Trust (as defined in the 1940 Act) for travel and out-of-pocket expenses. The Chairman of the Board receives an additional 25% of such compensation (with the exception of reimbursable

amounts). In the event that there is a joint committee meeting of the Dreyfus/Laurel Funds and Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund, the \$2,000 fee will be allocated between the Dreyfus/Laurel Funds and Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund.

In addition, the Trust currently has two Emeritus Board members who are entitled to receive an annual retainer and a per meeting fee of one-half the amount paid to them as Board members.

The aggregate amount of fees and expenses received by each current Trustee from the Trust for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, and from all funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which such person was a Board member (the number of portfolios of such funds is set forth in parenthesis next to each Board member's total compensation) during the year ended December 31, 2003, were as follows:

<u>Name of Board Member</u>	<u>Aggregate Compensation From the Trust#</u>	<u>Total Compensation From the Trust and Fund Complex Paid to Board Member<sup>(*)</sup></u>
Joseph S. DiMartino	\$27,084	\$800,306(191)
James M. Fitzgibbons	\$21,667	\$88,000 (191)
J. Tomlinson Fort	\$21,667	\$89,000 (23)
Kenneth A. Himmel	\$21,667	\$88,000 (23)
Stephen J. Lockwood	\$21,667	\$89,000 (23)
Roslyn M. Watson	\$21,667	\$89,000 (23)
Benaree Pratt Wiley	\$21,667	\$89,000 (23)

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# Amounts required to be paid by the Trust directly to the non-interested Trustees, that would be applied to offset a portion of the management fee payable to Dreyfus, are in fact paid directly by Dreyfus to the non-interested Trustees. Amount does not include reimbursed expenses for attending Board meetings, which amounted to \$3,427 for the Trust.

\* Represents the number of separate portfolios comprising the investment companies in the Fund Complex, including the Fund, for which the Board member served.

Trustees and officers as a group owned less than 1% of the Fund's voting securities outstanding on April 15, 2004. The following persons are known by the Trust to own of record 5% or more of the indicated Fund's outstanding voting securities on April 15, 2004. A shareholder who beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, more than 25% of a Fund's voting securities may be deemed a "control person" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund.

**Class A Shares**

Fiserv Securities Inc 11.24%  
One Commerce Square  
2005 Market Street Suite 1200  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7084

**Class B Shares**

Fiserv Securities Inc 22.53%  
One Commerce Square  
2005 Market Street Suite 1200  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7084

Merrill Lynch 18.82%  
Book Entry  
4800 Deer Lake Drive East  
3rd Floor  
Jacksonville Fl 32246-6486

Pershing LLC 9.71%  
Pershing Div - Transfer Dept  
P O Box 2052  
7th Floor  
Jersey City NJ 07303

National Financial Services 7.84%  
82 Devonshire Street  
G10G  
Boston MA 02109-3605

**Class C Shares**

Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith 41.14%  
For the Sole Benefit Of Its Customers  
4800 Deer Lake Drive East, Floor 3  
Jacksonville, Fl 32246-6484

Wells Fargo Investments LLC 8.87%  
420 Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, CA 94104-1207

Wells Fargo Investments LLC 6.69%  
420 Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, CA 94104-1207

Fiserv Securities Inc 5.30%



One Commerce Square  
2005 Market Street Suite 1200  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7084

D A Davidson & Co. Inc FBO  
D A Davidson & Co. Cust for  
P.O. Box 5015  
Great Falls, MT 59403-5015

7.77%

**Class R Shares**

SEI Private Trust  
One Freedom Valley Drive  
Oaks, PA 19456

97.43%

**MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the sections in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Expenses" and "Management."

Investment Adviser. Dreyfus is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial Corporation ("Mellon"). Mellon is a global financial holding company incorporated under Pennsylvania law in 1971 and registered under the Federal Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Mellon provides a comprehensive range of financial products and services in domestic and selected international markets.

Management Agreement. Dreyfus serves as the investment adviser for the Fund pursuant to an Investment Management Agreement (the "Management Agreement") between Dreyfus and the Trust, subject to the overall authority of the Board of Trustees in accordance with Massachusetts law. Pursuant to the Management Agreement, Dreyfus provides, or arranges for one or more third parties to provide, investment advisory, administrative, custody, fund accounting and transfer agency services to the Fund. As investment adviser, Dreyfus manages the Fund by making investment decisions based on the Fund's investment objective, policies and restrictions. The Fund's investment adviser is responsible for investment decisions and provides the Fund with portfolio managers who are authorized by the Fund's Board to execute purchases and sales of securities. Investment decisions for the Fund are made by a committee of portfolio managers who comprise the Standish Fixed Income Team of Standish Mellon Asset Management LLC, an affiliate of Dreyfus. The members are George Noyes, Marc Seidner and Kent Wosepka. The Management Agreement is subject to review and approval at least annually by the Board of Trustees.

The Management Agreement will continue from year to year provided that a majority of the Trustees who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust and either a majority of all Trustees or a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the shareholders of the Fund approve its continuance. The Trust may terminate the Management Agreement upon the vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees or upon the vote of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities on 60 days' written notice to Dreyfus. Dreyfus may terminate the

Management Agreement upon 60 days' written notice to the Trust. The Management Agreement will terminate immediately and automatically upon its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

In approving the current Management Agreement, the Board considered a number of factors, including the nature and quality of the services provided by Dreyfus; the investment philosophy and investment approach as applied to the Fund by Dreyfus; the investment management expertise of Dreyfus in respect of the Fund's investment strategies; the personnel, resources and experience of Dreyfus; the Fund's performance history and the management fees paid to Dreyfus relative to those of mutual funds with similar investment objectives, strategies and restrictions; Dreyfus' costs of providing services under the Management Agreement; the relationship between the fees paid to Dreyfus under the Management Agreement and the Fund's Distribution and Service Plans; and ancillary benefits Dreyfus may receive from its relationship with the Trust.

The following persons are officers and/or directors of Dreyfus: Stephen E. Canter, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer; Michael G. Millard, President and a director; Stephen R. Byers, Chief Investment Officer, Vice Chairman and a director; J. Charles Cardona, Vice Chairman and a director; J. David Officer, Vice Chairman and a director; Ronald P. O'Hanley III, Vice Chairman and a director; Diane P. Durnin, Executive Vice President; Mark N. Jacobs, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary; Patrice M. Kozlowski, Senior Vice President-Corporate Communications; Mary Beth Leibig, Vice President-Human Resources; Theodore A. Schachar, Vice President-Tax; Angela E. Price, Vice President; Wendy H. Strutt, Vice President; Ray Van Cott, Vice President-Information Systems; William H. Maresca, Controller; James Bitetto, Assistant Secretary; Steven F. Newman, Assistant Secretary; and Steven G. Elliot, David F. Lamere, Martin G. McGuinn and Richard W. Sabo, directors.

The Trust, Dreyfus and the Distributor each have adopted a Code of Ethics, that permits its personnel, subject to such respective Code of Ethics, to invest in securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund. Dreyfus' Code of Ethics subjects its employees' personal securities transactions to various restrictions to ensure that such trading does not disadvantage any fund advised by Dreyfus. In that regard, portfolio managers and other investment personnel of Dreyfus must preclear and report their personal securities transactions and holdings, which are reviewed for compliance with Dreyfus' Code of Ethics and are also subject to the oversight of Mellon's Investment Ethics Committee (the "Committee"). Portfolio managers and other investment personnel who comply with the preclearance and disclosure procedures of Dreyfus' Code of Ethics and the requirements of the Committee, may be permitted to purchase, sell or hold securities which also may be or are held in fund(s) they manage or for which they otherwise provide investment advice.

Expenses. Under the Management Agreement, the Fund has agreed to pay Dreyfus a monthly fee at the annual rate of 0.70% of the value of the Fund's average daily net assets. Dreyfus pays all of the Fund's expenses, except brokerage fees, taxes, interest, fees and expenses of the non-interested Trustees (including counsel fees), Rule 12b-1 fees (if applicable) and extraordinary expenses. Although Dreyfus does not pay for the fees and expenses of any non-interested Trustees (including counsel fees), Dreyfus is contractually required to reduce its investment management fee by an amount equal to the Fund's allocable share of any such fees and expenses. From time to time, Dreyfus may voluntarily waive a portion of the investment management fees payable by the Fund, which would have the effect of lowering the expense ratio

of the Fund and increasing return to investors. Expenses attributable to the Fund are charged against the Fund's assets; other expenses of the Trust are allocated among its funds on the basis determined by the Trustees, including, but not limited to, proportionately in relation to the net assets of each fund.

For the last three fiscal years, the Fund paid the following management fees:

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31,

<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
\$440,048	\$468,976	\$515,566

The Distributor. The Distributor, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dreyfus located at 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, serves as the Fund's distributor on a best efforts basis pursuant to an agreement with the Trust which is renewable annually. Dreyfus may pay the Distributor for shareholder services from Dreyfus' own assets, including past profits but not including the management fee paid by the Fund. The Distributor may use part or all of such payments to pay certain banks, securities brokers or dealers and other financial institutions ("Agents") for these services. The Distributor also acts as distributor for the other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds.

The Distributor compensates certain Agents for selling Class A shares subject to a contingent deferred sales charge ("CDSC"), and Class B and Class C shares at the time of purchase from its own assets. The proceeds of the CDSC and fees pursuant to the Fund's Distribution and Service Plans (as described below), in part, are used to defray these expenses. The amounts retained by the Distributor from sales loads and CDSCs with respect to Class A, Class B and Class C shares are contained in the following table:

Class A

<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2001</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2002</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2003</u>
\$4,368	\$2,006	\$1,761

Class B

<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2001</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2002</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2003</u>
\$57,880	\$40,885	\$30,697

Class C

Fiscal Year Ended 2001

Fiscal Year Ended 2002

Fiscal Year Ended 2003

\$51

\$80

\$137

The Distributor may pay Agents that have entered into agreements with the Distributor a fee based on the amount invested through such dealers in Fund shares by employees participating in qualified or non-qualified employee benefit plans including pension, profit-sharing and other deferred compensation plans, whether established by corporations, partnerships, non-profit entities or state and local governments ("Retirement Plans"), or other programs. The term "Retirement Plans" does not include IRAs, IRA "Rollover Accounts" or IRAs set up under a Simplified Employee Pension Plan ("SEP-IRAs"). Generally, the Distributor may pay such Agents a fee of up to 1% of the amount invested through the Agents. The Distributor, however, may pay Agents a higher fee and reserves the right to cease paying these fees at anytime. The Distributor will pay such fees from its own funds, other than amounts received from the Fund, including past profits or any other source available to it. Sponsors of such Retirement Plans or the participants therein should consult their Agent for more information regarding any such fee payable to the Agent.

The Distributor, at its expense, may provide promotional incentives to Agents that sell shares of funds advised by Dreyfus which are sold with a sales load. In some instances, those incentives may be offered only to certain Agents who have sold or may sell significant amounts of shares.

Transfer and Dividend Disbursing Agent and Custodian. Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. (the "Transfer Agent"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dreyfus, 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, is the Trust's transfer and dividend disbursing agent. Under a transfer agency agreement with the Trust, Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. arranges for the maintenance of shareholder account records for the Fund, the handling of certain communications between shareholders and the Fund, and the payment of dividends and distributions payable by the Fund. For these services, Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. receives a monthly fee computed on the basis of the number of shareholder accounts it maintains for the Trust during the month, and is reimbursed for certain out-of-pocket expenses.

Mellon Bank, N.A. ("Mellon Bank"), an affiliate of Dreyfus, located at One Mellon Bank Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15258, acts as the custodian of the Fund's investments. Under a custody agreement with the Trust, Mellon Bank holds the Fund's portfolio securities and keeps all necessary accounts and records. For its custody services, Mellon Bank receives a monthly fee based on the market value of the Fund's assets held in custody and receives certain securities transaction charges. This fee is paid to Mellon Bank by Dreyfus pursuant to the Fund's unitary fee structure.

## PURCHASE OF SHARES

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the sections in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Account Policies," "Services for Fund Investors," "Instructions for Regular Accounts," and "Instructions for IRAs."

General. The Fund offers Class A, Class B, Class C and Class R shares.

When purchasing Fund shares, you must specify which Class is being purchased. The decision as to which Class of shares is most beneficial to you depends on the amount and the intended length of your investment. You should consider whether, during the anticipated life of your investment in the Fund, the accumulated distribution fee, service fee and CDSC, if any, on Class B or Class C shares would be less than the accumulated distribution fee and initial sales charge on Class A shares purchased at the same time, and to what extent, if any, such differential would be offset by the return on Class A shares. Additionally, investors qualifying for reduced initial sales charges who expect to maintain their investment for an extended period of time might consider purchasing Class A shares because the accumulated continuing distribution and service fees on Class B or Class C shares may exceed the accumulated distribution fees and initial sales charge on Class A shares during the life of the investment. Finally, you should consider the effect of the CDSC period and any conversion rights of the Classes in the context of your own investment time frame. For example, while Class C shares have a shorter CDSC period than Class B shares, Class C shares do not have a conversion feature and, therefore, are subject to ongoing distribution and service fees. Thus, Class B shares may be more attractive than Class C shares to investors with longer term investment outlooks. Generally, Class A shares may be more appropriate for investors who invest \$1,000,000 or more in Fund shares, but will not be appropriate for investors who invest less than \$50,000 in Fund shares. The Fund reserves the right to reject any purchase order.

Class A shares, Class B shares and Class C shares may be purchased only by clients of Agents, except that full-time or part-time employees of Dreyfus or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries, directors of Dreyfus, Board members of a fund advised by Dreyfus or its affiliates, including members of the Board, or the spouse or minor child of any of the foregoing may purchase Class A shares directly through the Distributor. Subsequent purchases may be sent directly to the Transfer Agent or your Agent.

Class R shares are offered only to (i) bank trust departments and other financial service providers (including Mellon Bank and its affiliates) acting on behalf of their customers having a qualified trust or investment account or relationship at such institution, or to customers who have received and hold shares of the Fund distributed to them by virtue of such an account or relationship, and (ii) institutional investors acting for themselves or in a fiduciary, advisory, agency, custodial or similar capacity for Retirement Plans and SEP-IRAs. Class R shares may be purchased for a Retirement Plan or SEP-IRA only by a custodian, trustee, investment manager or other entity authorized to act on behalf of such a Retirement Plan or SEP-IRA. In addition, holders of Class R shares of the Fund who have held their shares since June 5, 2003, may continue to purchase Class R shares of the Fund for their existing accounts whether or not they would otherwise be eligible to do so. Institutions effecting transactions in Class R shares of the accounts of their clients may charge their clients direct fees in connection with such transactions.

The minimum initial investment is \$1,000. Subsequent investments must be at least \$100. The minimum initial investment for Dreyfus-sponsored self-employed individual retirement plans (“Keogh Plans”), IRAs (including regular IRAs, spousal IRAs for a non-working spouse, Roth IRAs, SEP-IRAs and rollover IRAs) and 403(b)(7) Plans with only one participant is \$750 and \$500 for Dreyfus-sponsored Coverdell Education Savings Accounts, with no minimum on subsequent purchases except that the no minimum on Coverdell Education Savings Accounts does not apply until after the first year. The initial investment must be accompanied by the Fund’s Account Application. The Fund reserves the right to offer Fund shares without regard to minimum purchase requirements to employees participating in certain Retirement Plans or other programs where contributions or account information can be transmitted in a manner and form acceptable to the Fund. The Fund reserves the right to vary further the initial and subsequent investment minimum requirements at any time.

The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), imposes various limitations on the amount that may be contributed annually to certain Retirement Plans. These limitations apply with respect to participants at the plan level and, therefore, do not directly affect the amount that may be invested in the Fund by a Retirement Plan. Participants and plan sponsors should consult their tax advisers for details.

Fund shares are sold on a continuous basis. NAV per share is determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) (usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time), on each day the NYSE is open for regular business. For purposes of determining NAV, certain options and futures contracts may be valued 15 minutes after the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE. NAV per share of each Class is computed by dividing the value of the Fund’s net assets represented by such Class (i.e., the value of its assets less liabilities) by the total number of shares of such Class outstanding. For information regarding the methods employed in valuing the Fund’s investments, see “Determination of Net Asset Value.”

If an order is received in proper form by the Transfer Agent or other entity authorized to receive orders on behalf of the Fund by the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE (usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) on a business day, Fund shares will be purchased at the public offering price determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on that day. Otherwise, Fund shares will be purchased at the public offering price determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on the next business day, except where shares are purchased through a dealer as provided below.

Orders for the purchase of Fund shares received by dealers by the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on any business day and transmitted to the Distributor or its designee by the close of its business day (usually 5:15 p.m., Eastern time) will be based on the public offering price per share determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on that day. Otherwise, the orders will be based on the next determined public offering price. It is the dealers’ responsibility to transmit orders so that they will be received by the Distributor or its designee before the close of its business day. For certain institutions that have entered into agreements with the Distributor, payment for the purchase of Fund shares may be transmitted, and must be received by the Transfer Agent, within three business days after the order is placed. If such payment is not received within three business days after the order is placed, the order may be canceled and the institution could be held liable for resulting fees and/or losses.

Agents may receive different levels of compensation for selling different Classes of shares. Management understands that some Agents may impose certain conditions on their clients which are different from those described in the Fund's Prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information, and, to the extent permitted by applicable regulatory authority, may charge their clients direct fees which would be in addition to any amounts which might be received under the Distribution and Service Plans. Each Agent has agreed to transmit to its clients a schedule of such fees. You should consult your Agent in this regard.

Third parties may receive payments from Dreyfus in connection with their offering of Fund shares to their customers, or for marketing, distribution or other services. The receipt of such payments could create an incentive for the third party to offer the Fund instead of other mutual funds where such payments are not received. You should consult your Agent in this regard.

Federal regulations require that you provide a certified taxpayer identification number ("TIN") upon opening or reopening an account. See the Fund's Account Application for further information concerning this requirement. Failure to furnish a certified TIN to the Fund could subject you to a \$50 penalty imposed by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS").

Class A Shares. The public offering price for Class A shares is the NAV of that Class, plus a sales load as shown below:

<u>Total Sales Load – Class A</u>			
<u>Amount of Transaction</u>	<u>As a % of offering price per share</u>	<u>As a % of net asset value per share</u>	<u>Dealers' Reallowance as a % of offering price</u>
Less than \$50,000	4.50	4.70	4.25
\$50,000 to less than \$100,000	4.00	4.20	3.75
\$100,000 to less than \$250,000	3.00	3.10	2.75
\$250,000 to less than \$500,000	2.50	2.60	2.25
\$500,000 to less than \$1,000,000	2.00	2.00	1.75
\$1,000,000 or more	-0-	-0-	-0-

Sales Loads--Class A. The scale of sales loads applies to purchases of Class A shares made by any "purchaser," which term includes an individual and/or spouse purchasing securities for his, her or their own account or for the account of any minor children, or a trustee or other fiduciary purchasing securities for a single trust estate or a single fiduciary account (including a pension, profit-sharing or other employee benefit trust created pursuant to a plan qualified under Section 401 of the Code) although more than one beneficiary is involved; or a group of accounts established by or on behalf of the employees of an employer or affiliated employers pursuant to an employee benefit plan or other program (including accounts established pursuant to Sections 403(b), 408(k), and 457 of the Code); or an organized group which has been in existence for more than six months, provided that it is not organized for the purpose of buying redeemable securities of a registered investment company and provided that the purchases are made through a central administration or a single dealer, or by other means which result in economy of sales effort or expense.

Set forth below is an example of the method of computing the offering price of the Fund's Class A shares. The example assumes a purchase of Class A shares of the Fund aggregating less than \$50,000 subject to the schedule of sales charges set forth in the Fund's Prospectus at a price based upon the NAV of a Class A share at the close of business on December 31, 2003.

NAV per Share	\$10.90
Per Share Sales Charge - 4.50% of offering price (4.7% of NAV per share)	\$.51
Per Share Offering Price to the Public	\$11.41

Holders of Class A accounts of the Fund as of December 19, 1994 may continue to purchase Class A shares of the Fund at NAV. However, investments by such holders in other funds advised by Dreyfus will be subject to the applicable front-end sales load.

There is no initial sales charge on purchases of \$1,000,000 or more of Class A shares. However, if you purchase Class A shares without an initial sales charge as part of an investment of at least \$1,000,000 and redeem all or a portion of those shares within one year of purchase, a CDSC of 1% will be assessed at the time of redemption. The Distributor may pay Agents an amount up to 1% of the NAV of Class A shares purchased by their clients that are subject to a CDSC. The terms contained below under "Redemption of Shares - Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class B Shares" (other than the amount of the CDSC and time periods) and "Redemption of Shares - Waiver of CDSC" are applicable to the Class A shares subject to a CDSC. Letter of Intent and Right of Accumulation apply to such purchases of Class A shares.

Full-time employees of NASD member firms and full-time employees of other financial institutions which have entered into an agreement with the Distributor pertaining to the sale of Fund shares (or which otherwise have a brokerage related or clearing arrangement with an NASD member firm or financial institution with respect to the sale of such shares) may purchase Class A shares for themselves directly or pursuant to an employee benefit plan or other program, or for their spouses or minor children, at NAV, provided that they have furnished the Distributor with such information as it may request from time to time in order to verify eligibility for this privilege. This privilege also applies to full-time employees of financial institutions affiliated with NASD member firms whose full-time employees are eligible to purchase Class A shares at NAV. In addition, Class A shares are offered at NAV to full-time or part-time employees of Dreyfus or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries, directors of Dreyfus, Board members of a fund advised by Dreyfus or its affiliates, including members of the Board, or the spouse or minor child of any of the foregoing.

Class A shares are offered at NAV without a sales load to employees participating in Retirement Plans. Class A shares also may be purchased (including by exchange) at NAV without a sales load for Dreyfus-sponsored IRA "Rollover Accounts" with the distribution proceeds from a qualified retirement plan or a Dreyfus-sponsored 403(b)(7) plan, provided that, at the time of such distribution, such qualified retirement plan or Dreyfus-sponsored 403(b)(7)



plan invested all or a portion of its assets in funds in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds or the Dreyfus Family of Funds, or certain funds advised by Founders Asset Management LLC (“Founders”), an indirect subsidiary of Dreyfus, or certain other products made available by the Distributor to such plans.

Class A shares may be purchased at NAV through certain broker-dealers and other financial institutions which have entered into an agreement with the Distributor, which includes a requirement that such shares be sold for the benefit of clients participating in a “wrap account” or a similar program under which such clients pay a fee to such broker-dealer or other financial institution.

Class A shares also may be purchased at NAV, subject to appropriate documentation, by (i) qualified separate accounts maintained by an insurance company pursuant to the laws of any State or territory of the United States, (ii) a State, county or city or instrumentality thereof, (iii) a charitable organization (as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code) investing \$50,000 or more in Fund shares, and (iv) a charitable remainder trust (as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code).

The dealer reallowance may be changed from time to time but will remain the same for all dealers. The Distributor, at its own expense, may provide additional promotional incentives to dealers that sell shares of funds advised by Dreyfus which are sold with a sales load, such as Class A shares. In some instances, these incentives may be offered only to certain dealers who have sold or may sell significant amounts of such shares.

Class B Shares. The public offering price for Class B shares is the NAV per share of that Class. No initial sales charge is imposed at the time of purchase. A CDSC is imposed, however, on certain redemptions of Class B shares as described in the Fund’s Prospectus and in this Statement of Additional Information under “Redemption of Shares - Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class B Shares.”

Approximately six years after the date of purchase, Class B shares automatically will convert to Class A shares, based on the relative NAVs for shares of each such Class. Class B shares that have been acquired through the reinvestment of dividends and distributions will be converted on a pro rata basis together with other Class B shares, in the proportion that a shareholder’s Class B shares converting to Class A shares bears to the total Class B shares not acquired through the reinvestment of dividends and distributions.

Class C Shares. The public offering price for Class C shares is the NAV per share of that Class. No initial sales charge is imposed at the time of purchase. A CDSC is imposed, however, on redemptions of Class C shares made within the first year of purchase. See “Class B Shares” above and “How to Redeem Shares.”

Class R Shares. The public offering price for Class R shares is the NAV per share of that Class.

Right of Accumulation – Class A Shares. Reduced sales loads apply to any purchase of Class A shares by you and any related “purchaser” as defined above, where the aggregate investment, including such purchase, is \$50,000 or more. If, for example, you previously purchased and still hold Class A shares of the Fund, or shares of certain other funds advised by Dreyfus or Founders, which are subject to a front-end sales load or CDSC or shares acquired by a

previous exchange of such shares (hereinafter referred to as “Eligible Funds”), or combination thereof, with an aggregate current market value of \$40,000 and subsequently purchase Class A shares of such Fund having a current value of \$20,000, the sales load applicable to the subsequent purchase would be reduced to 4% of the offering price. All present holdings of Eligible Funds may be combined to determine the current offering price of the aggregate investment in ascertaining the sales load applicable to each subsequent purchase.

To qualify for reduced sales loads, at the time of purchase you or your Agent must notify the Distributor if orders are made by wire, or the Transfer Agent if orders are made by mail. The reduced sales load is subject to confirmation of your holdings through a check of appropriate records.

Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege. You may purchase Fund shares by telephone or online if you have checked the appropriate box and supplied the necessary information on the Account Application or have filed a Shareholder Services Form with the Transfer Agent. The proceeds will be transferred between the bank account designated in one of these documents and your Fund account, which will subject the purchase order to a processing delay. Only a bank account maintained in a domestic financial institution that is an Automated Clearing House (“ACH”) member may be so designated.

Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* purchase orders may be made at any time. If purchase orders are received by 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on any day that the Transfer Agent and the NYSE are open for regular business Fund shares will be purchased at the public offering price determined on the next bank business day following such purchase order. If purchase orders are made after 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on any day the Transfer Agent and the NYSE are open for regular business, or orders made on Saturday, Sunday or any Fund holiday (e.g., when the NYSE is not open for business), will be purchased at the public offering price determined on the second bank business day following such purchase order. To qualify to use the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege, the initial payment for purchase of Fund shares must be drawn on, and redemption proceeds paid to, the same bank and account as are designated on the Account Application or Shareholder Services Form on file. If the proceeds of a particular redemption are to be sent to an account at any other bank, the request must be in writing and signature-guaranteed. See “Redemption of Shares – Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege.” The Fund may modify or terminate this Privilege at any time or charge a service fee upon notice to shareholders. No such fee currently is contemplated.

Reopening an Account. An investor may reopen an account with a minimum investment of \$100 without filing a new Account Application during the calendar year the account is closed or during the following calendar year, provided the information on the old Account Application is still applicable.

In-Kind Purchases. If the following conditions are satisfied, the Fund may at its discretion, permit the purchase of shares through an “in-kind” exchange of securities. Any securities exchanged must meet the investment objective, policies and limitations of the Fund, must have a readily ascertainable market value, must be liquid and must not be subject to restrictions on resale. The market value of any securities exchanged, plus any cash, must be at least equal to \$25,000. Shares purchased in exchange for securities generally cannot be redeemed for fifteen days following the exchange in order to allow time for the transfer to settle.

The basis of the exchange will depend upon the relative NAV of the shares purchased and securities exchanged. Securities accepted by the Fund will be valued in the same manner as the

Fund values its assets. Any interest earned on the securities following their delivery to the Fund and prior to the exchange will be considered in valuing the securities. All interest, dividends, subscription or other rights attached to the securities become the property of the Fund, along with the securities. For further information about “in-kind” purchases, call 1-800-554-4611.

Share Certificates. Share certificates are issued upon written request only. No certificates are issued for fractional shares.

## **DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE PLANS**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the Fund's Prospectus entitled “Your Investment.”

Class A, Class B and Class C shares are subject to annual fees for distribution and shareholder services.

The SEC has adopted Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act (the “Rule”) regulating the circumstances under which investment companies such as the Trust may, directly or indirectly, bear the expenses of distributing their shares. The Rule defines distribution expenses to include expenditures for “any activity which is primarily intended to result in the sale of fund shares.” The Rule, among other things, provides that an investment company may bear such expenses only pursuant to a plan adopted in accordance with the Rule.

Distribution Plan--Class A Shares. The Board of Trustees has adopted a Distribution Plan pursuant to the Rule with respect to the Class A shares of the Fund (“Class A Plan”), whereby Class A shares of the Fund may spend annually up to 0.25% of the average daily net assets to compensate Mellon Bank and its affiliates (including but not limited to Dreyfus and the Distributor) for shareholder servicing activities and the Distributor for shareholder servicing activities and expenses primarily intended to result in the sale of Class A shares of the Fund. The Class A Plan allows the Distributor to make payments from the Rule 12b-1 fees it collects from the Fund to compensate Agents that have entered into Selling Agreements (“Agreements”) with the Distributor. Under the Agreements, the Agents are obligated to provide distribution related services with regard to the Fund and/or shareholder services to the Agent’s clients that own Class A shares of the Fund. The Board of Trustees believes that there is a reasonable likelihood that the Class A Plan will benefit the Fund and the holders of its class A shares.

The Class A Plan provides that a report of the amounts expended under the Class A Plan, and the purposes for which such expenditures were incurred, must be made to the Trustees for their review at least quarterly. In addition, the Class A Plan provides that it may not be amended to increase materially the costs which holders of Class A shares may bear for distribution pursuant to the Class A Plan without approval of the holders of such Class and that other material amendments of the Class A Plan must be approved by the vote of a majority of the Trustees and of the Trustees who are not “interested persons” (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust and who do not have any direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Class A Plan, or in any agreements entered into in connection with the Class A Plan, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such amendments. The Class A Plan is subject to annual approval by such vote of the Trustees cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Class A Plan. The Class A Plan is terminable, as to the Fund's Class A shares, at any time

by vote of a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Class A Plan or by vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of such class of the Fund.

Distribution and Service Plans -- Class B and Class C Shares. In addition to the above described Class A Plan for Class A shares, the Board of Trustees has adopted a Service Plan (the “Service Plan”) under the Rule for Class B and Class C shares, pursuant to which the Fund pays the Distributor, and/or any of its affiliates, a fee at the annual rate of 0.25% of the value of the average daily net assets of Class B and Class C shares for the provision of certain services to the holders of Class B and Class C shares. The services provided may include personal services relating to shareholder accounts, such as answering shareholder inquiries regarding the Fund and providing reports and other information, and providing services related to the maintenance of such shareholder accounts. With regard to such services, each Agent is required to disclose to its clients any compensation payable to it by the Fund and any other compensation payable by its clients in connection with the investment of their assets in Class B and Class C shares. The Distributor may pay one or more Agents in respect of services for these Classes of shares. The Distributor determines the amounts, if any, to be paid to Agents under the Service Plan and the basis on which such payments are made. The Board of Trustees has also adopted a Distribution Plan pursuant to the Rule with respect to Class B and Class C shares (the “Distribution Plan”) pursuant to which the Fund pays the Distributor for distributing the Fund’s Class B and Class C shares at an aggregate annual rate of 0.75% of the value of the average daily net assets of Class B and Class C shares. The Board of Trustees believes that there is a reasonable likelihood that the Distribution and Service Plans (each a “Plan” and collectively, the “Plans”) will benefit the Fund and the holders of Class B and Class C shares.

A quarterly report of the amounts expended under each Plan, and the purposes for which such expenditures were incurred, must be made to the Trustees for their review. In addition, each Plan provides that it may not be amended to increase materially the cost which holders of Class B or Class C shares may bear pursuant to the Plan without the approval of the holders of such Classes and that other material amendments of the Plan must be approved by a vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees and by a majority of the Trustees who are not “interested persons” (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plan or in any agreements entered into in connection with the Plan, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such amendments. Each Plan is subject to annual approval by such vote of the Trustees cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Plan. Each Plan may be terminated at any time by vote of a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plan or in any agreements entered into in connection with the Plan or by vote of the holders of a majority of Class B and Class C shares.

An Agent entitled to receive compensation for selling and servicing the Fund’s shares may receive different compensation with respect to one Class of shares over another. Potential investors should read this Statement of Additional Information in light of the terms governing Agreements with their Agents. The fees payable under each Plan are payable without regard to actual expenses incurred. The Fund and the Distributor may suspend or reduce payments under the any of the Plans at any time, and payments are subject to the continuation of the Fund’s Plans and the Agreements described above. From time to time, the Agents, the Distributor and the Fund may voluntarily agree to reduce the maximum fees payable under the Plans.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Fund paid the Distributor, with respect to Class A shares, \$115,430 in distribution fees pursuant to the Class A Plan.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Fund paid the Distributor, with respect to Class B and Class C shares, \$86,215 and \$13,663, respectively, in distribution fees pursuant to the Distribution Plan.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Fund paid the Distributor, with respect to Class B and Class C shares, \$28,738 and \$4,555, respectively, in service fees pursuant to the Service Plan.

## **REDEMPTION OF SHARES**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the sections in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Account Policies," "Services For Fund Investors," "Instructions for Regular Accounts" and "Instructions for IRAs."

General. If you hold Fund shares of more than one Class, any request for redemption must specify the Class of shares being redeemed. If you fail to specify the class of shares to be redeemed or if you own fewer shares of the Class than specified to be redeemed, the redemption request may be delayed until the Transfer Agent receives further instructions from you or your Agent.

The Fund imposes no charges (other than any applicable CDSC) when shares are redeemed. Agents may charge their clients a fee for effecting redemptions of Fund shares. Any certificates representing Fund shares being redeemed must be submitted with the redemption request. The value of the shares redeemed may be more or less than their original cost, depending upon the Fund's then-current NAV per share.

The Fund ordinarily will make payment for all shares redeemed within seven days after receipt by the Transfer Agent of a redemption request in proper form, except as provided by the rules of the SEC. However, if you have purchased Fund shares by check, by Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege, or through Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder® and subsequently submit a written redemption request to the Transfer Agent, the Fund may delay sending the redemption proceeds for up to eight business days after the purchase of such shares. In addition, the Fund will reject requests to redeem shares by wire or telephone, online or pursuant to the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege for a period of up to eight business days after receipt by the Transfer Agent of the purchase check, the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* purchase or the Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder® order against which such redemption is requested. These procedures will not apply if your shares were purchased by wire payment, or you otherwise have a sufficient collected balance in your account to cover the redemption request. Fund shares may not be redeemed until the Transfer Agent has received your Account Application.

Procedures. You may redeem Fund shares by using the regular redemption procedure through the Transfer Agent, or through the Telephone Redemption Privilege, which is granted automatically unless you specifically refuse it by checking the applicable "No" box on the Account Application. The Telephone Redemption Privilege may be established for an existing account by a separate signed Shareholder Services Form or by oral request from any of the authorized signatories on the account by calling 1-800-554-4611. You also may redeem shares

through the Wire Redemption Privilege or the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege if you have checked the appropriate box and supplied the necessary information on the Account Application or have filed a Shareholder Services Form with the Transfer Agent. If you are a client of certain Agents ("Selected Dealers"), you can also redeem Fund shares through the Selected Dealer. Other redemption procedures may be in effect for clients of certain Agents and institutions. The Fund makes available to certain large institutions the ability to issue redemption instructions through compatible computer facilities. The Fund reserves the right to refuse any request made by telephone, including requests made shortly after a change of address, and may limit the amount involved or the number of such requests. The Fund may modify or terminate any redemption privilege at any time or charge a service fee upon notice to shareholders. No such fee currently is contemplated. Shares held under Keogh Plans, IRAs, or other retirement plans, and shares for which certificates have been issued, are not eligible for the Wire Redemption, Telephone Redemption or Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege.

The Telephone Redemption Privilege, Wire Redemption Privilege, Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege or Telephone Exchange Privilege authorizes the Transfer Agent to act on telephone instructions (including the Dreyfus Express<sup>®</sup> voice response telephone system) or online instructions from any person representing himself or herself to be you, or a representative of your Agent, and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. The Fund will require the Transfer Agent to employ reasonable procedures, such as requiring a form of personal identification, to confirm that instructions are genuine and, if it does not follow such procedures, the Fund or the Transfer Agent may be liable for any losses due to unauthorized or fraudulent instructions. Neither the Fund nor the Transfer Agent will be liable for following telephone or online instructions reasonably believed to be genuine.

During times of drastic economic or market conditions, you may experience difficulty in contacting the Transfer Agent by telephone to request a redemption or an exchange of Fund shares. In such cases, you should consider using the other redemption procedures described herein. Use of these other redemption procedures may result in your redemption request being processed at a later time than it would have been if Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* redemption or other telephone redemption options had been used. During the delay, the Fund's NAV may fluctuate.

Redemption Through a Selected Dealer. Customers of Selected Dealers may make redemption requests to their Selected Dealer. If the Selected Dealer transmits the redemption request so that it is received by the Transfer Agent prior to the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE (usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time), the redemption request will be effective on that day. If a redemption request is received by the Transfer Agent after the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE, the redemption request will be effective on the next business day. It is the responsibility of the Selected Dealer to transmit a request so that it is received in a timely manner. The proceeds of the redemption are credited to your account with the Selected Dealer.

In addition, the Distributor or its designee will accept orders from Selected Dealers with which the Distributor has sales agreements for the repurchase of Fund shares held by shareholders. Repurchase orders received by dealers by the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on any business day and transmitted to the Distributor or its designee prior to the close of its business day (usually 5:15 p.m., Eastern time) are effected at the price determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the NYSE on that day. Otherwise, the Fund shares will be redeemed at the next determined NAV per share. It is the responsibility of the Selected Dealer to transmit orders on a timely basis. The Selected Dealer may charge the shareholder a fee for

executing the order. This repurchase arrangement is discretionary and may be withdrawn at any time.

Telephone Redemption Privilege. You may request by telephone that redemption proceeds (maximum \$250,000 per day) be paid by check and mailed to your address.

Wire Redemption Privilege. By using this Privilege, you authorize the Transfer Agent to act on telephone, letter or online redemption instructions from any person representing himself or herself to be you and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. Ordinarily, the Fund will initiate payment for shares redeemed pursuant to this Privilege on the next business day after receipt by the Transfer Agent of a redemption request in proper form. Redemption proceeds (\$1,000 minimum) will be transferred by Federal Reserve wire only to the commercial bank account specified by you on the Account Application or Shareholder Services Form, or to a correspondent bank if your bank is not a member of the Federal Reserve System. Fees ordinarily are imposed by such bank and borne by you. Immediate notification by the correspondent bank to your bank is necessary to avoid a delay in crediting the funds to your bank account.

To change the commercial bank or account designated to receive redemption proceeds, a written request must be sent to the Transfer Agent. This request must be signed by each shareholder, with each signature guaranteed as described below under "Share Certificates; Signatures."

Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege. You may request by telephone or online that redemption proceeds (minimum \$500 per day) be transferred between your Fund account and your bank account. Only a bank account maintained in a domestic financial institution which is an ACH member may be designated. Redemption proceeds will be on deposit in your account at an ACH member bank ordinarily two days after receipt of the redemption request. Investors should be aware that if they have selected the Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege, any request for a Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* transaction will be effected through the ACH system unless more prompt transmittal specifically is requested. See "Purchase of Shares—Dreyfus *TeleTransfer* Privilege."

Reinvestment Privilege. Upon written request, you may reinvest up to the number of Class A or Class B shares you have redeemed, within 45 days of redemption, at the then-prevailing NAV without a sales load, or reinstate your account for the purpose of exercising Fund Exchanges. Upon reinstatement, with respect to Class B shares, or Class A shares if such shares were subject to a CDSC, your account will be credited with an amount equal to the CDSC previously paid upon redemption of the Class A or Class B shares reinvested. The Reinvestment Privilege may be exercised only once.

Share Certificates; Signatures. Any certificates representing Fund shares to be redeemed must be submitted with the redemption request. Written redemption requests must be signed by each shareholder, including each holder of a joint account, and each signature must be guaranteed. Signatures on endorsed certificates submitted for redemption also must be guaranteed. The Transfer Agent has adopted standards and procedures pursuant to which signature-guarantees in proper form generally will be accepted from domestic banks, brokers, dealers, credit unions, national securities exchanges, registered securities associations, clearing agencies and savings associations as well as from participants in the NYSE Medallion Signature Program, the Securities Transfer Agents Medallion Program ("STAMP") and the Stock Exchanges Medallion Program. Guarantees must be signed by an authorized signatory of the guarantor and "Signature-Guaranteed" must appear with the signature. The Transfer Agent may

request additional documentation from corporations, executors, administrators, trustees or guardians, and may accept other suitable verification arrangements from foreign investors, such as consular verification. For more information with respect to signature-guarantees, please call one of the telephone numbers listed on the cover.

Redemption Commitment. The Fund has committed itself to pay in cash all redemption requests by any shareholder of record of the Fund, limited in amount during any 90-day period to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the value of the Fund's net assets at the beginning of such period. Such commitment is irrevocable without the prior approval of the SEC. In the case of requests for redemptions in excess of such amount, the Board of Trustees reserves the right to make payments in whole or in part in securities or other assets in case of an emergency or any time a cash distribution would impair the liquidity of the Fund to the detriment of the existing shareholders. In such event, the securities would be valued in the same manner as the Fund's portfolio is valued. If the recipient sold such securities, brokerage charges might be incurred.

Suspension of Redemptions. The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed (a) during any period when the NYSE is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings), (b) when trading in the markets the Fund ordinarily utilizes is restricted, or when an emergency exists as determined by the SEC so that disposal of the Fund's investments or determination of its NAV is not reasonably practicable, or (c) for such other periods as the SEC by order may permit to protect the Fund's shareholders.

Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class B Shares. A CDSC payable to the Distributor is imposed on any redemption of Class B shares which reduces the current NAV of your Class B shares to an amount which is lower than the dollar amount of all payments by you for the purchase of Class B shares of the Fund held by you at the time of redemption. No CDSC will be imposed to the extent that the NAV of the Class B shares redeemed does not exceed (i) the current NAV of Class B shares acquired through reinvestment of dividends or other distributions, plus (ii) increases in the NAV of Class B shares above the dollar amount of all your payments for the purchase of Class B shares of the Fund held by you at the time of redemption.

If the aggregate value of the Class B shares redeemed has declined below their original cost as a result of the Fund's performance, a CDSC may be applied to the then-current NAV rather than the purchase price.

In circumstances where the CDSC is imposed, the amount of the charge will depend on the number of years from the time you purchased the Class B shares until the time of redemption of such shares. Solely for purposes of determining the number of years from the time of any payment for the purchase of Class B shares, all payments during a month will be aggregated and deemed to have been made on the first day of the month.

In determining whether a CDSC is applicable to a redemption, the calculation will be made in a manner that results in the lowest possible rate. It will be assumed that the redemption is made first of amounts representing shares acquired pursuant to the reinvestment of dividends and distributions; then of amounts representing the increase in NAV of Class B shares above the total amount of payments for the purchase of Class B shares made during the preceding six years; then of amounts representing the cost of shares purchased six years prior to the redemption; and finally, of amounts representing the cost of shares held for the longest period of time within the applicable six-year period.



For example, assume an investor purchased 100 shares at \$10 per share for a cost of \$1,000. Subsequently, the shareholder acquired five additional shares through dividend reinvestment. During the second year after the purchase the investor decided to redeem \$500 of his or her investment. Assuming at the time of the redemption the NAV has appreciated to \$12 per share, the value of the investor's shares would be \$1,260 (105 shares at \$12 per share). The CDSC would not be applied to the value of the reinvested dividend shares and the amount which represents appreciation (\$260). Therefore, \$240 of the \$500 redemption proceeds (\$500 minus \$260) would be charged at a rate of 4% (the applicable rate in the second year after purchase) for a total CDSC of \$9.60.

For purposes of determining the applicable CDSC payable with respect to redemption of Class B shares of the Fund where such shares were acquired through exchange of Class B shares of another fund advised by Dreyfus, the year since purchase payment was made is based on the date of purchase of the original Class B shares of the fund exchanged.

Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class C Shares. A CDSC of 1% is paid to the Distributor on any redemption of Class C shares within one year of the date of purchase. The basis for calculating the payment of any such CDSC will be the method used in calculating the CDSC for Class B shares. See "Contingent Deferred Sales Charge - Class B Shares" above.

Waiver of CDSC. The CDSC may be waived in connection with (a) redemptions made within one year after the death or disability, as defined in Section 72(m)(7) of the Code, of the shareholder, (b) redemptions by employees participating in Retirement Plans, (c) redemptions as a result of a combination of any investment company with the Fund by merger, acquisition of assets or otherwise, (d) a distribution following retirement under a tax-deferred retirement plan or upon attaining age 70½ in the case of an IRA or Keogh plan or custodial account pursuant to Section 403(b) of the Code, and (e) redemptions pursuant to the Automatic Withdrawal Plan, as described below. If the Board determines to discontinue the waiver of the CDSC, the disclosure herein will be revised appropriately. Any Fund shares subject to a CDSC which were purchased prior to the termination of such waiver will have the CDSC waived as provided in the Prospectus or this Statement of Additional Information at the time of the purchase of such shares.

To qualify for a waiver of the CDSC, at the time of redemption you must notify the Transfer Agent or your Agent must notify the Distributor. Any such qualification is subject to confirmation of your entitlement.

## **SHAREHOLDER SERVICES**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the sections in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Account Policies" and "Services for Fund Investors."

Fund Exchanges. You may purchase, in exchange for shares of the Fund, shares of the same Class of another fund in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds, shares of the same Class of certain funds advised by Founders, or shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds, to the extent such shares are offered for sale in your state residence. Shares of the same class of such funds purchased by exchange will be purchased on the basis of relative NAV per share as follows:

- A. Exchanges for shares of funds that are offered without a sales load will be made without a sales load.

- B. Shares of funds purchased without a sales load may be exchanged for shares of other funds sold with a sales load, and the applicable sales load will be deducted.
- C. Shares of funds purchased with a sales load may be exchanged without a sales load for shares of other funds sold without a sales load.
- D. Shares of funds purchased with a sales load, shares of funds acquired by a previous exchange from shares purchased with a sales load and additional shares acquired through reinvestment of dividends or distributions of any such funds (collectively referred to herein as “Purchased Shares”) may be exchanged for shares of other funds sold with a sales load (referred to herein as “Offered Shares”), but if the sales load applicable to the Offered Shares exceeds the maximum sales load that could have been imposed in connection with the Purchased Shares (at the time the Purchased Shares were acquired), without giving effect to any reduced loads, the difference may be deducted.
- E. Shares of funds subject to a CDSC that are exchanged for shares of another fund will be subject to the higher applicable CDSC of the two funds, and for purposes of calculating CDSC rates and conversion periods, if any, will be deemed to have been held since the date the shares being exchanged were initially purchased.

To accomplish an exchange under item D above, an investor or the investor’s Agent must notify the Transfer Agent of the investor’s prior ownership of shares with a sales load and the investor’s account number. Any such exchange is subject to confirmation of an investor’s holdings through a check of appropriate records.

To request an exchange, an investor, or an investor's Agent acting on the investor's behalf, must give exchange instructions to the Transfer Agent in writing, by telephone or online. The ability to issue exchange instructions by telephone or online is given to all Fund shareholders automatically, unless the investor checks the applicable “No” box on the Account Application, indicating that the investor specifically refuses this privilege. The Telephone Exchange Privilege may be established for an existing account by written request signed by all shareholders on the account, by a separate signed Shareholder Services Form, available by calling 1-800-554-4611, or by oral request from any of the authorized signatories on the account, also by calling 1-800-554-4611. By using this privilege, the investor authorizes the Transfer Agent to act on telephonic and online instructions (including over the Dreyfus Express® voice response telephone system) from any person representing himself or herself to be the investor, or a representative of the investor's Agent, and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. Exchanges may be subject to limitations as to the amount involved or the number of exchanges permitted. Shares issued in certificate form are not eligible for telephone or online exchange. No fees currently are charged shareholders directly in connection with exchanges, although the Fund reserves the right, upon not less than 60 days’ written notice, to charge shareholders a nominal fee in accordance with rules promulgated by the SEC.

Exchanges of Class R shares held by a Retirement Plan may be made only between the investor's Retirement Plan account in one fund and such investor's Retirement Plan account in another fund.

To establish a personal retirement plan by exchange, shares of the fund being exchanged must have a value of at least the minimum initial investment required for the fund into which the exchange is being made.

Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege. Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege permits you to purchase (on a semi-monthly, monthly, quarterly or annual basis), in exchange for shares of the Fund, shares of the same Class of another fund in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds, shares of the same Class of certain funds advised by Founders, or shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds, of which the investor is a shareholder. The amount the investor designates, which can be expressed either in terms of a specific dollar or share amount (\$100 minimum), will be exchanged automatically on the first and/or fifteenth day of the month according to the schedule the investor has selected. This Privilege is available only for existing accounts. With respect to Class R shares held by a Retirement Plan, exchanges may be made only between the investor's Retirement Plan account in one fund and such investor's Retirement Plan account in another fund. Shares will be exchanged on the basis of relative NAV per share as described above under "Fund Exchanges." Enrollment in or modification or cancellation of this Privilege is effective three business days following notification by the investor. An investor will be notified if the investor's account falls below the amount designated to be exchanged under this Privilege. In this case, an investor's account will fall to zero unless additional investments are made in excess of the designated amount prior to the next Auto-Exchange transaction. Shares held under IRAs and other retirement plans are eligible for this Privilege. Exchanges of IRA shares may be made between IRA accounts and from regular accounts to IRA accounts, but not from IRA accounts to regular accounts. With respect to all other retirement accounts, exchanges may be made only among those accounts.

The right to exercise this Privilege may be modified or canceled by the Fund or the Transfer Agent. An investor may modify or cancel the exercise of this Privilege at any time by mailing written notification to Dreyfus Premier Managed Income Fund, P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568. The Fund may charge a service fee for the use of this Privilege. No such fee currently is contemplated. For more information concerning this Privilege and the funds in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds or the Dreyfus Family of Funds eligible to participate in this Privilege, or to obtain a Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Authorization Form, please call toll free 1-800-554-4611.

Fund exchanges and the Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege are available to shareholders resident in any state in which shares of the fund being acquired may legally be sold. Shares may be exchanged only between accounts having certain identical identifying designations. The exchange of shares of one fund for shares of another is treated for Federal income tax purposes as a sale of the shares given in exchange and, therefore, an exchanging shareholder (other than a tax-exempt Retirement Plan) may realize a taxable gain or loss.

Shareholder Services Forms and prospectuses of the other funds may be obtained by calling 1-800-554-4611, or visiting the Dreyfus.com website. The Fund reserves the right to reject any exchange request in whole or in part. The Fund Exchange service or the Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege may be modified or terminated at any time upon notice to shareholders.

Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder®. Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder permits you to purchase Fund shares (minimum of \$100 and maximum of \$150,000 per transaction) at regular intervals selected by you. Fund shares are purchased by transferring funds from the bank account

designated by you. Only an account maintained at a domestic financial institution which is an ACH member may be so designated. To establish a Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder account, you must file an authorization form with the Transfer Agent. You may obtain the necessary authorization form by calling 1-800-554-4611. You may cancel your participation in this Privilege or change the amount of purchase at any time by mailing written notification to Dreyfus Premier Managed Income Fund, P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502 and the notification will be effective three business days following receipt. The Fund may modify or terminate this Privilege at any time or charge a service fee. No such fee currently is contemplated.

Automatic Withdrawal Plan. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan permits an investor with a \$5,000 minimum account to request withdrawal of a specified dollar amount (minimum of \$50) on either a monthly or quarterly basis. Withdrawal payments are the proceeds from sales of Fund shares, not the yield on the shares. If withdrawal payments exceed reinvested dividends and other distributions, the investor's shares will be reduced and eventually may be depleted. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan may be established by filing an Automatic Withdrawal Plan application with the Transfer Agent or by oral request from any of the authorized signatories on the account by calling 1-800-554-4611. Automatic Withdrawal may be terminated at any time by the investor, the Fund or the Transfer Agent. Shares for which certificates have been issued may not be redeemed through the Automatic Withdrawal Plan.

Particular Retirement Plans, including Dreyfus-sponsored Retirement Plans, may permit certain participants to establish an automatic withdrawal plan from such Retirement Plans. Participants should consult their Retirement Plan sponsor and tax adviser for details. Such a withdrawal plan is different from the Automatic Withdrawal Plan. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan may be ended at any time by the shareholder, the Fund or the Transfer Agent. Shares for which certificates have been issued may not be redeemed through the Automatic Withdrawal Plan.

No CDSC with respect to Class B or Class C shares will be imposed on withdrawals made under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan, provided that any amount withdrawn under the plan does not exceed on an annual basis 12% of the greater of (1) the account value at the time of the first withdrawal under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan, or (2) the account value at the time of the subsequent withdrawal. Withdrawals with respect to Class B or Class C shares under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan that exceed such amounts will be subject to a CDSC.

Withdrawals of Class A shares subject to a CDSC under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan will be subject to any applicable CDSC. Purchases of additional Class A shares where the sales load is imposed concurrently with withdrawals of Class A shares generally are undesirable.

Dividend Options. Dreyfus Dividend Sweep allows you to invest automatically your dividends or dividends and capital gain distributions, if any, from the Fund in shares of the same Class of another fund in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds, shares of the same Class of certain funds advised by Founders, or shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds, of which you are a shareholder. Shares of certain other funds purchased pursuant to this privilege will be purchased on the basis of relative NAV per share as follows:

- A. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund may be invested without a sales load in shares of other funds that are offered without a sales load.

- B. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund which does not charge a sales load may be invested in shares of other funds sold with a sales load, and the applicable sales load will be deducted.
- C. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund that charges a sales load may be invested in shares of other funds sold with a sales load (referred to herein as "Offered Shares"), but if the sales load applicable to the Offered Shares exceeds the maximum sales load charged by a fund from which dividends or distributions are being swept (without giving effect to any reduced loads), the difference may be deducted.
- D. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund may be invested in shares of other funds that impose a CDSC and the applicable CDSC, if any, will be imposed upon redemption of such shares.

Dividend ACH permits you to transfer electronically dividends or dividends and other distributions, if any, from the Fund to a designated bank account. Only an account maintained at a domestic financial institution which is an ACH member may be so designated. Banks may charge a fee for this service.

For more information concerning these Privileges, or to request a Dividend Options Form, please call toll free 1-800-554-4611. You may cancel these Privileges by mailing written notification to Dreyfus Premier Managed Income Fund, P.O. Box 55263, Boston, MA 02205-8501. To select a new fund after cancellation, you must submit a new Dividend Options Form. Enrollment in or cancellation of these privileges is effective three business days following receipt. These Privileges are available only for existing accounts and may not be used to open new accounts. Minimum subsequent investments do not apply for Dividend Sweep. The Fund may modify or terminate these Privileges at any time or charge a service fee. No such fee currently is contemplated. Shares held under Keogh Plans, IRAs or other retirement plans are not eligible for Dividend Sweep.

Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege. Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege enables you to purchase Fund shares (minimum of \$100 and maximum of \$50,000 per transaction) by having Federal salary, Social Security or certain veterans', military or other payments from the Federal government automatically deposited into your Fund account. You may deposit as much of such payments as you elect. You should consider whether Direct Deposit of your entire payment into a fund with a fluctuating NAV, such as the Fund, may be appropriate for you. To enroll in Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit, you must file with the Transfer Agent a completed Direct Deposit Sign-Up Form for each type of payment that you desire to include in this Privilege. The appropriate form may be obtained from your Agent or by calling 1-800-554-4611. Death or legal incapacity will terminate your participation in this Privilege. You may elect at any time to terminate your participation by notifying in writing the appropriate Federal agency. Further, the Fund may terminate your participation upon 30 days' notice to you.

Letter of Intent—Class A Shares. By signing a Letter of Intent form, you become eligible for the reduced sales load on purchases of Class A shares based on the total number of shares of Eligible Funds (as defined under "Right of Accumulation" above) purchased by you and any related "purchaser" (as defined above) in a 13-month period pursuant to the terms and conditions

set forth in the Letter of Intent. Shares of any Eligible Fund purchased within 90 days prior to the submission of the Letter of Intent may be used to equal or exceed the amount specified in the Letter of Intent. A minimum initial purchase of \$5,000 is required. You can obtain a Letter of Intent form by calling 1-800-554-4611.

Each purchase you make during the 13-month period (which begins on the date you submit the Letter of Intent) will be at the public offering price applicable to a single transaction of the aggregate dollar amount you select in the Letter of Intent. The Transfer Agent will hold in escrow 5% of the amount indicated in the Letter of Intent, which may be used for payment of a higher sales load if you do not purchase the full amount indicated in the Letter of Intent. When you fulfill the terms of the Letter of Intent by purchasing the specified amount the escrowed amount will be released and additional shares representing such amount credited to your account.

If your purchases meet the total minimum investment amount specified in the Letter of Intent within the 13-month period, an adjustment will be made at the conclusion of the 13-month period to reflect any reduced sales load applicable to shares purchased during the 90-day period prior to submission of the Letter of Intent. If your purchases qualify for a further sales load reduction, the sales load will be adjusted to reflect your total purchase at the end of 13 months. If total purchases are less than the amount specified, the offering price of the shares you purchased (including shares representing the escrowed amount) during the 13-month period will be adjusted to reflect the sales load applicable to the aggregate purchases you actually made (which will reduce the number of shares in your account), unless you have redeemed the shares in your account, in which case the Transfer Agent, as attorney-in-fact pursuant to the terms of the Letter of Intent, will redeem an appropriate number of Class A shares of the Fund held in escrow to realize the difference between the sales load actually paid and the sales load applicable to the aggregate purchases actually made and any remaining shares will be credited to your account. Signing a Letter of Intent does not bind you to purchase, or the Fund to sell, the full amount indicated at the sales load in effect at the time of signing, but you must complete the intended purchase to obtain the reduced sales load. At the time you purchase Class A shares, you must indicate your intention to do so under a Letter of Intent. Purchases pursuant to a Letter of Intent will be made at the then-current NAV plus the applicable sales load in effect at the time such Letter of Intent was submitted.

Retirement Plans and IRAs. The Fund makes available to corporations a variety of prototype pension and profit-sharing plans, including a 401(k) Salary Reduction Plan. In addition, the Fund makes available Keogh Plans, IRAs (including regular IRAs, spousal IRAs for a non-working spouse, Roth IRAs, SEP-IRAs, and rollover IRAs), Education Savings Accounts, 401(k) Salary Reduction Plans and 403(b)(7) Plans. Plan support services also are available.

Investors who wish to purchase Fund shares in conjunction with a Keogh Plan, a 403(b)(7) Plan or an IRA, including a SEP-IRA, or an Education Savings Account, may request from the Distributor forms for adoption of such plans.

The entity acting as custodian for Keogh Plans, 403(b)(7) Plans, IRAs or Education Savings Accounts may charge a fee, payment of which could require the liquidation of shares. All fees charged are described in the appropriate form.

Shares may be purchased in connection with these plans only by direct remittance to the entity acting as custodian. Purchases for these plans may not be made in advance of receipt of funds.

Each investor should read the Prototype Retirement Plan and the appropriate form of Custodial Agreement for further details on eligibility, service fees and tax implications, and should consult a tax adviser.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PURCHASES, EXCHANGES AND REDEMPTIONS**

The Fund is intended to be a long-term investment vehicle and is not designed to provide investors with a means of speculation on short-term market movements. A pattern of frequent purchases and exchanges can be disruptive to efficient portfolio management and, consequently, can be detrimental to the Fund's performance and its shareholders. Accordingly, if the Fund's management determines that an investor is engaged in excessive trading, the Fund, with or without prior notice, may temporarily or permanently terminate the availability of Fund Exchanges, or reject in whole or part any purchase or exchange request, with respect to such investor's account. Such investors also may be barred from purchasing other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds. Generally, an investor who makes more than four purchases/redemptions or exchanges (so called round-trips) during any twelve-month period or who makes exchanges that appear to coincide with an active market-timing strategy may be deemed to be engaged in excessive trading. Accounts under common ownership or control will be considered as one account for purposes of determining a pattern of excessive trading. In addition, the Fund may refuse or restrict purchase or exchange requests by any person or group if, in the judgment of the Fund's management, the Fund would be unable to invest the money effectively in accordance with its investment objective and policies or could otherwise be adversely affected or if the Fund receives or anticipates receiving simultaneous orders that may significantly affect the Fund (e.g., amounts equal to 1% or more of the Fund's total assets). If an exchange request is refused, the Fund will take no other action with respect to the shares until it receives further instructions from the investor. The Fund may delay forwarding redemption proceeds for up to seven days if the investor redeeming shares is engaged in excessive trading or if the amount of the redemption request otherwise would be disruptive to efficient portfolio management or would adversely affect the Fund. The Fund's policy on excessive trading applies to investors who invest in the Fund directly or through financial intermediaries, but does not apply to the Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege, to any automatic investment or withdrawal privilege described herein, or to non-IRA plan accounts.

During times of drastic economic or market conditions, the Fund may suspend exchange privileges temporarily without notice and treat exchange requests based on their separate components - redemption orders with a simultaneous request to purchase the other fund's shares. In such a case, the redemption request would be processed at the Fund's next determined NAV but the purchase order would be effective only at the NAV next determined after the fund being purchased receives the proceeds of the redemption, which may result in the purchase being delayed.

## **DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Account Policies."

**Valuation of Portfolio Securities.** Substantially all of the Fund's investments (excluding short-term investments) are valued each business day by an independent pricing service (the "Service") approved by the Fund's Board. Securities valued by the Service for which quoted bid prices in the judgment of the Service are readily available and are representative of the bid side of the market are valued at the mean between the quoted bid prices (as obtained by the Service from dealers in such securities) and asked prices (as calculated by the Service based upon its evaluation of the market for such securities). The value of other debt securities valued by the Service is determined by the Service based on methods which include consideration of: yields or prices of securities of comparable quality, coupon, maturity and type; indications as to values from dealers; and general market conditions. Short-term investments are not valued by the Service and may be carried at amortized cost, which approximates value. Debt securities that are not valued by the Service are valued at the average of the most recent bid and asked prices in the market in which such investments are primarily traded, or at the last sales price for securities traded primarily on an exchange. In the absence of reported sales of investments traded primarily on an exchange, the average of the most recent bid and asked prices is used. Bid price is used when no asked price is available. Investments traded in foreign currencies are translated to U.S. dollars at the prevailing rates of exchange. If the Fund has to obtain prices as of the close of trading on various exchanges throughout the world, the calculation of NAV may not take place contemporaneously with the determination of prices of certain of the Fund's securities. Expenses and fees, including the management fee, are accrued daily and are taken into account for the purpose of determining the NAV of Fund shares.

**NYSE Closings.** The holidays (as observed) on which the NYSE is currently scheduled to be closed are: New Year's Day, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

## **DIVIDENDS, OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "Distributions and Taxes."

Dreyfus believes that the Fund has qualified for treatment as a "regulated investment company" under the Code for its most recent fiscal year. The Fund intends to continue to so qualify if such qualification is in the best interest of its shareholders. As a regulated investment company, the Fund will pay no Federal income tax on its net investment income and net realized gains to the extent such income and gains are distributed to its shareholders. To qualify for treatment as a regulated investment company, the Fund must distribute each taxable year at least 90% of its investment company taxable net income (consisting of net investment income, the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long term capital loss and net gains from certain foreign currency transactions, all determined without regard to any deduction for dividends paid) to its shareholders and meet certain asset diversification and other requirements. If the Fund does not qualify for treatment as a regulated investment company, it will be treated for tax purposes as an ordinary corporation subject to Federal income tax. The term "regulated



investment company" does not imply the supervision of management or investment practices or policies by any government agency.

If you elect to receive dividends and other distributions in cash, and your dividend or distribution check is returned to the Fund as undeliverable or remains uncashed for six months, the Fund reserves the right to reinvest such distributions and all future distributions payable to you in additional Fund shares at net asset value. No interest will accrue on amounts represented by uncashed distribution or redemption checks.

Any dividend or other distribution paid shortly after your purchase may have the effect of reducing the aggregate net asset value of your shares below the cost of your investment. Such a distribution would be a return of investment in an economic sense, as described herein. In addition, if a shareholder holds shares of the Fund for six months or less and has received a capital gain distribution with respect to such shares, any loss incurred on the sale of such shares will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of the capital gain distribution received.

In general, dividends (other than capital gain dividends) paid by the Fund to U.S. individual shareholders may be eligible for the 15% preferential maximum tax rate to the extent that the Fund's income consists of dividends paid by U.S. corporations and certain foreign corporations on shares that have been held by the Fund for at least 61 days during the 121-day period commencing 60 days before the shares become ex-dividend. In order to be eligible for the preferential rate, the shareholder must have held his or her shares in the Fund for at least 61 days during the 120-day period commencing 60 days before the Fund shares become ex-dividend. Additional restrictions on an individual shareholder's qualification for the preferential rate may apply.

In general, dividends (but not capital gain distributions) paid by the Fund to U.S. corporate shareholders may be eligible for the dividends received deduction to the extent that the Fund's income consists of dividends paid by U.S. corporations on shares that have been held by the Fund for at least 46 days during the 90-day period commencing 45 days before the shares become ex-dividend and with respect to which the Fund satisfies certain other requirements. In order to claim the dividends received deduction, the shareholder must have held its shares in the Fund for at least 46 days during the 90-day period commencing 45 days before the Fund shares become ex-dividend. Additional restrictions on a corporate shareholder's ability to claim the dividends received deduction apply.

Distributions to you of the Fund's net capital gain (i.e., the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss) are taxable as long-term capital gains, regardless of how long you have held your Fund shares, and also are subject to a 15% maximum federal income tax rate for individual shareholders to the extent the distributions are attributable to net capital gain the Fund recognizes on sales or exchanges of capital assets after May 5, 2003, through its last taxable year beginning before January 1, 2009. In addition, any capital gain an individual shareholder recognizes on a redemption or exchange during that period of his or her Fund shares that have been held for more than one year will qualify for that maximum rate.

Ordinarily, gains and losses realized from portfolio transactions will be treated as capital gains and losses. However, a portion of the gain or loss realized from the disposition of foreign currencies and non-U.S. dollar denominated securities (including debt instruments and certain forward contracts and options) may be treated as ordinary income or loss. In addition, all or a

portion of any gains realized from the sale or other disposition of certain market discount bonds will be treated as ordinary income. Finally, all or a portion of the gain realized from engaging in "conversion transactions" (generally including certain transactions designed to convert ordinary income into capital gain) may be treated as ordinary income.

Gain or loss, if any, realized by the Fund from certain foreign currency forward contracts and futures and options transactions ("Section 1256 contracts") will be treated as 60% long-term capital gain or loss and 40% short-term capital gain or loss. Gain or loss will arise upon exercise or lapse of Section 1256 contracts as well as from closing transactions. In addition, any Section 1256 contracts remaining open at the end of the Fund's taxable year will be treated as sold for their then fair market value, resulting in additional gain or loss to the Fund characterized in the manner described above.

Offsetting positions held by the Fund involving certain actively traded futures or forward contracts or options may be considered, for tax purposes, to constitute "straddles." To the extent the straddle rules apply to positions established by the Fund, losses realized by the Fund on a straddle position may be deferred to the extent of unrealized gain in the offsetting position. In addition, short-term capital loss on straddle positions may be recharacterized as long-term capital loss, and long-term capital gains on straddle positions may be treated as short-term capital gains or ordinary income. Certain of the straddle positions held by the Fund may constitute "mixed straddles." The Fund may make one or more elections with respect to the treatment of "mixed straddles," resulting in different tax consequences. In certain circumstances, the provisions governing the tax treatment of straddles override or modify certain of the provisions discussed above.

If the Fund either (1) holds an appreciated financial position with respect to stock, certain debt obligations, or partnership interests ("appreciated financial position") and then enters into a short sale, futures, forward, or offsetting notional principal contract (collectively, a "Contract") with respect to the same or substantially identical property or (2) holds an appreciated financial position that is a Contract and then acquires property that is the same as, or substantially identical to, the underlying property, the Fund generally will be taxed as if the appreciated financial position were sold at its fair market value on the date the Fund enters into the financial position or acquires the property, respectively. The foregoing will not apply, however, to any transaction during any taxable year that otherwise would be treated as a constructive sale if the transaction is closed within 30 days after the end of that year and the Fund holds the appreciated financial position unhedged for 60 days after that closing (i.e., at no time during that 60-day period is the Fund's risk of loss regarding that position reduced by reason of certain specified transactions with respect to substantially identical or related property, such as having an option to sell, being contractually obligated to sell, making a short sale, or granting an option to buy substantially identical stock or securities).

If the Fund enters into certain derivatives (including forward contracts, long positions under notional principal contracts, and related puts and calls) with respect to equity interests in certain pass-thru entities (including other regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, partnerships, real estate mortgage investment conduits and certain trusts and foreign corporations), long-term capital gain with respect to the derivative may be recharacterized as ordinary income to the extent it exceeds the long-term capital gain that would have been realized had the interest in the pass-thru entity been held directly by the Fund during the term of the derivative contract. Any gain recharacterized as ordinary income will be treated as accruing at a

constant rate over the term of the derivative contract and may be subject to an interest charge. The Treasury Department has authority to issue regulations expanding the application of these rules to derivatives with respect to debt instruments and/or stock in corporations that are not pass-thru entities.

Investment by the Fund in securities issued or acquired at a discount, or providing for deferred interest or for payment of interest in the form of additional obligations, could under special tax rules affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders by causing the Fund to recognize income prior to the receipt of cash payments. For example, a Fund could be required each year to accrue a portion of the discount (or deemed discount) at which the securities were issued and to distribute such income in order to maintain its qualification for treatment as a regulated investment company. In such case, the Fund may have to dispose of securities, which it might otherwise have continued to hold, in order to generate cash to satisfy the distribution requirements.

If a Fund invests in an entity that is classified as a "passive foreign investment company" ("PFIC") for Federal income tax purposes, the operation of certain provisions of the Code applying to PFICs could result in the imposition of Federal income taxes (and interest thereon) on the Fund. In addition, gain realized from the sale or other disposition of PFIC securities held beyond the end of the Fund's taxable year generally will be treated as ordinary income.

## **PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS**

All portfolio transactions of the Fund are placed on behalf of the Fund by Dreyfus. Debt securities purchased and sold by the Fund are generally traded on a net basis (i.e., without commission) through dealers acting for their own account and not as brokers, or otherwise involve transactions directly with the issuer of the instrument. This means that a dealer (the securities firm or bank dealing with the Fund) makes a market for securities by offering to buy at one price and sell at a slightly higher price. The difference between the prices is known as a spread. Other portfolio transactions may be executed through brokers acting as agent. The Fund will pay a spread or commissions in connection with such transactions. Dreyfus uses its best efforts to obtain execution of portfolio transactions at prices which are advantageous to the Fund and at spreads and commission rates, if any, which are reasonable in relation to the benefits received. Dreyfus also places transactions for other accounts that it provides with investment advice.

Brokers and dealers involved in the execution of portfolio transactions on behalf of the Fund are selected on the basis of their professional capability and the value and quality of their services. In selecting brokers or dealers, Dreyfus will consider various relevant factors, including, but not limited to, the size and type of the transaction; the nature and character of the markets for the security to be purchased or sold; the execution efficiency, settlement capability, and financial condition of the broker-dealer; the broker-dealer's execution services rendered on a continuing basis; and the reasonableness of any spreads (or commissions, if any). Dreyfus may use research services of and place brokerage transactions with broker-dealers affiliated with it or Mellon if the commissions are reasonable, fair and comparable to commissions charged by non-affiliated brokerage firms for similar services. Any spread, commission, fee or other remuneration paid to an affiliated broker-dealer is paid pursuant to the Trust's procedures adopted in accordance with Rule 17e-1 under the 1940 Act.

Brokers or dealers may be selected who provide brokerage and/or research services to the Fund and/or other accounts over which Dreyfus or its affiliates exercise investment discretion. Such services may include advice concerning the value of securities; the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities; the availability of securities or the purchasers or sellers of securities; furnishing analyses and reports concerning issuers, industries, securities, economic factors and trends, portfolio strategy and performance of accounts; and effecting securities transactions and performing functions incidental thereto (such as clearance and settlement).

The receipt of research services from broker-dealers may be useful to Dreyfus in rendering investment management services to the Fund and/or its other clients; and, conversely, such information provided by brokers or dealers who have executed transaction orders on behalf of other clients of Dreyfus may be useful to Dreyfus in carrying out its obligations to the Fund. The receipt of such research services does not reduce the normal independent research activities of Dreyfus; however, it enables these organizations to avoid the additional expenses which might otherwise be incurred if it were to attempt to develop comparable information through its own staffs.

Although Dreyfus manages other accounts in addition to the Fund, investment decisions for the Fund are made independently from decisions made for these other accounts. It sometimes happens that the same security is held by more than one of the accounts managed by Dreyfus. Simultaneous transactions may occur when several accounts are managed by the same investment manager, particularly when the same investment instrument is suitable for the investment objective of more than one account.

When more than one account is simultaneously engaged in the purchase or sale of the same investment instrument, the prices and amounts are allocated in accordance with a formula considered by Dreyfus to be equitable to each account. In some cases this system could have a detrimental effect on the price or volume of the investment instrument as far as the Fund is concerned. In other cases, however, the ability of the Fund to participate in volume transactions will produce better executions for the Fund. While the Trustees will continue to review simultaneous transactions, it is their present opinion that the desirability of retaining Dreyfus as investment manager to the Fund outweighs any disadvantages that may be said to exist from exposure to simultaneous transactions.

For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001 the Fund paid brokerage commissions amounting to \$292, \$0 and \$2,562, respectively.

Portfolio Turnover. While securities are purchased for the Fund on the basis of potential for high current income and not for short-term trading profits, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate may exceed 100%. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% would occur, for example, if all the securities held by the Fund were replaced once in a period of one year. A higher rate of portfolio turnover involves correspondingly greater brokerage commissions and other expenses that must be borne directly by the Fund and, thus, indirectly by its shareholders. In addition, a higher rate of portfolio turnover may result in the realization of larger amounts of short-term and/or long-term capital gains that, when distributed to the Fund's shareholders, are taxable to them at the then current rate. Nevertheless, securities transactions for the Fund will be based only upon investment considerations and will not be limited by any other considerations when Dreyfus deems its appropriate to make changes in the Fund's assets. The portfolio turnover rate for the Fund is calculated by dividing the lesser of the Fund's annual sales or purchases of portfolio

securities (exclusive of purchases and sales of securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition were one year or less) by the monthly average value of securities in the Fund during the year. Portfolio turnover may vary from year to year as well as within a year. In periods in which extraordinary market conditions prevail, Dreyfus will not be deterred from changing the Fund's investment strategy as rapidly as needed, in which case higher turnover rates can be anticipated.

Regular Broker-Dealers. The Fund may execute transactions with one or more of its "regular brokers or dealers," as defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act. Rule 10b-1 provides that a "regular broker or dealer" is one of the ten brokers or dealers that, during the Fund's most recent fiscal year (i) received the greatest dollar amount of brokerage commissions from participating, either directly or indirectly, in the Fund's portfolio transactions, (ii) engaged as principal in the largest dollar amount of the Fund's portfolio transactions or (iii) sold the largest dollar amount of the Fund's securities. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, the Fund acquired securities of its regular brokers or dealers. The following is a list of the issuers of the securities and the aggregate value per issuer, as of December 31, 2003, of such securities:

<u>Name of Regular Broker or Dealer</u>	<u>Aggregate Value Per Issuer</u>
Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co.	\$ 582,000
JPMorgan Chase Bank	\$ 1,626,000
Goldman, Sachs & Co.	\$ 162,000
Citigroup Global Markets, Inc.	\$ 296,000
Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation	\$ 151,000
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.	\$ 131,000
Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc.	\$ 293,000

## **SUMMARY OF THE PROXY VOTING POLICY, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE DREYFUS FAMILY OF FUNDS**

The Board of each fund in the Dreyfus Family of Funds has delegated to Dreyfus the authority to vote proxies of companies held in the fund's portfolio. Dreyfus, through its participation on the Mellon Proxy Policy Committee (the "MPPC"), applies Mellon's Proxy Voting Policy, related procedures, and voting guidelines when voting proxies on behalf of the funds.

Dreyfus recognizes that an investment adviser is a fiduciary that owes its clients, including funds it manages, a duty of utmost good faith and full and fair disclosure of all material facts. An investment adviser's duty of loyalty requires an adviser to vote proxies in a manner consistent with the best interest of its clients and precludes the adviser from subrogating the clients' interests to its own. In addition, an investment adviser voting proxies on behalf of a fund must do so in a manner consistent with the best interests of the fund and its shareholders. Dreyfus seeks to avoid material conflicts of interest by participating in the MPPC, which applies detailed, pre-determined written proxy voting guidelines (the "Voting Guidelines") in an objective and consistent manner across client accounts, based on internal and external research and recommendations provided by a third party vendor, and without consideration of any client relationship factors. Further, the MPPC engages a third party as an independent fiduciary to vote all proxies of funds managed by Mellon or its affiliates (including the Dreyfus Family of Funds), and may engage an independent fiduciary to vote proxies of other issuers at its discretion.

All proxies received by the funds are reviewed, categorized, analyzed and voted in accordance with the Voting Guidelines. The guidelines are reviewed periodically and updated as necessary to reflect new issues and any changes in Mellon's or the Dreyfus's policies on specific issues. Items that can be categorized under the Voting Guidelines are voted in accordance with any applicable guidelines or referred to the MPPC, if the applicable guidelines so require. Proposals that cannot be categorized under the Voting Guidelines are referred to the MPPC for discussion and vote. Additionally, the MPPC reviews proposals where it has identified a particular company, industry or issue for special scrutiny. With regard to voting proxies of foreign companies, the MPPC weighs the cost of voting and potential inability to sell the securities (which may occur during the voting process) against the benefit of voting the proxies to determine whether or not to vote. With respect to securities lending transactions, the MPPC seeks to balance the economic benefits of continuing to participate in an open securities lending transaction against the inability to vote proxies.

When evaluating proposals, the MPPC recognizes that the management of a publicly-held company may need protection from the market's frequent focus on short-term considerations, so as to be able to concentrate on such long-term goals as productivity and development of competitive products and services. In addition, the MPPC generally supports proposals designed to provide management with short-term insulation from outside influences so as to enable them to bargain effectively with potential suitors to the extent such proposals are discrete and not bundled with other proposals. The MPPC believes that a shareholder's role in the governance of a publicly-held company is generally limited to monitoring the performance of the company and its management and voting on matters which properly come to a shareholder vote. However, the MPPC generally opposes proposals designed to insulate an issuer's management unnecessarily from the wishes of a majority of shareholders. Accordingly, the MPPC generally votes in accordance with management on issues that the MPPC believes neither unduly limit the rights and privileges of shareholders nor adversely affect the value of the investment.

On questions of social responsibility where economic performance does not appear to be an issue, the MPPC attempts to ensure that management reasonably responds to the social issues. Responsiveness will be measured by management's efforts to address the particular social issue including, where appropriate, assessment of the implications of the proposal to the ongoing operations of the company. The MPPC will pay particular attention to repeat issues where management has failed in its commitment in the intervening period to take actions on issues.

In evaluating proposals regarding incentive plans and restricted stock plans, the MPPC typically employs a shareholder value transfer model. This model seeks to assess the amount of shareholder equity flowing out of the company to executives as options are exercised. After determining the cost of the plan, the MPPC evaluates whether the cost is reasonable based on a number of factors, including industry classification and historical performance information. The MPPC generally votes against proposals that permit or are silent on the repricing or replacement of stock options without shareholder approval.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND/TRUST

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the Fund's Prospectus entitled "The Fund."

Each Fund share has one vote and, when issued and paid for in accordance with the terms of the offering, is fully paid and non-assessable. Fund shares have equal rights in liquidation. Fund shares are without par value, have no preemptive or subscription rights, and are freely transferable. The Fund is one of three portfolios of the Trust.

Unless otherwise required by the 1940 Act, ordinarily it will not be necessary for the Trust to hold annual meetings of shareholders. As a result, Fund shareholders may not consider each year the election of Trustees or the appointment of auditors. However, the holders of at least 10% of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote may require the Trust to hold a special meeting of shareholders for purposes of removing a Trustee from office or any other purpose. Shareholders may remove a Trustee by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Trust's outstanding voting shares. In addition, the Board of Trustees will call a meeting of shareholders for the purpose of electing Trustees if, at any time, less than a majority of the Trustees then holding office have been elected by shareholders.

The Trust is a "series fund," which is a mutual fund divided into separate portfolios, each of which is treated as a separate entity for certain matters under the 1940 Act and for other purposes. A shareholder of one portfolio is not deemed to be a shareholder of any other portfolio. For certain matters shareholders vote together as a group; as to others they vote separately by portfolio, or, where matters affect different classes of a portfolio differently, by class.

Rule 18f-2 under the 1940 Act provides that any matter required to be submitted under the provisions of the 1940 Act or applicable state law or otherwise to the holders of the outstanding voting securities of an investment company, such as the Trust, will not be deemed to have been effectively acted upon unless approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of each series affected by such matter. Rule 18f-2 further provides that a series shall be deemed to be affected by a matter unless it is clear that the interests of each series in the matter are identical or that the matter does not affect any interest of such series. The Rule exempts the selection of independent accountants and the election of Trustees from the separate voting requirements of the Rule.

The Fund will send annual and semi-annual financial statements to all of its shareholders.

Under Massachusetts law, shareholders could, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable for the obligations of the Trust. However, the Agreement and Declaration of Trust disclaims shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Trust and requires that notice of such disclaimer be given in each agreement, obligation or instrument entered into or executed by the Trust or a Trustee. The Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides for indemnification from Fund property for all losses and expenses of any shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of the Fund. Thus, the risk of a shareholder's incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which the Fund itself would be unable to meet its obligations, a possibility which Dreyfus believes is remote. Upon payment of any liability incurred by the Fund, the shareholder of the Fund paying such liability will be entitled to

reimbursement from the general assets of the Fund. The Trustees intend to conduct the operations of the Fund in such a way so as to avoid, as far as possible, ultimate liability of the shareholders for liabilities of the Fund.

### **COUNSEL AND INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP, 1800 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Second Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036-1800, has passed upon the legality of the shares offered by the Prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information.

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, 180 Maiden Lane, New York, New York 10038-4982, serves as counsel to the non-interested Trustees of the Trust.

KPMG LLP, 757 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017, was appointed by the Trustees to serve as the Fund's independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2004 providing audit and other services including (1) examination of the annual financial statements, (2) review and consultation in connection with SEC filings and (3) review of the annual federal income tax return filed on behalf of the Fund.



## APPENDIX

### Rating Categories

Description of certain ratings assigned by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("S&P"), Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), and Fitch Ratings ("Fitch"):

#### **S&P**

##### Long-term

#### **AAA**

An obligation rated 'AAA' has the highest rating assigned by S&P. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.

#### **AA**

An obligation rated 'AA' differs from the highest rated obligations only in small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is very strong.

#### **A**

An obligation rated 'A' is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher rated categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is still strong.

#### **BBB**

An obligation rated 'BBB' exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

#### ***BB, B, CCC, CC, and C***

Obligations rated 'BB', 'B', 'CCC', 'CC', and 'C' are regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. 'BB' indicates the least degree of speculation and 'C' the highest. While such obligations will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposures to adverse conditions.

#### **BB**

An obligation rated 'BB' is less vulnerable to nonpayment than other speculative issues. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

#### **B**

An obligation rated 'B' is more vulnerable to nonpayment than obligations rated 'BB', but the obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor's capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

## **CCC**

An obligation rated 'CCC' is currently vulnerable to nonpayment, and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. In the event of adverse business, financial, or economic conditions, the obligor is not likely to have the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

## **CC**

An obligation rated 'CC' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment.

## **C**

A subordinated debt or preferred stock obligation rated 'C' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment. The 'C' rating may be used to cover a situation where a bankruptcy petition has been filed or similar action taken, but payments on this obligation are being continued. A 'C' also will be assigned to a preferred stock issue in arrears on dividends or sinking fund payments, but that is currently paying.

## **D**

An obligation rated 'D' is in payment default. The 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless S&P believes that such payments will be made during such grace period. The 'D' rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized.

## **r**

The symbol 'r' is attached to the ratings of instruments with significant noncredit risks. It highlights risks to principal or volatility of expected returns which are not addressed in the credit rating. Examples include: obligations linked or indexed to equities, currencies, or commodities; obligations exposed to severe prepayment risk—such as interest-only or principal-only mortgage securities; and obligations with unusually risky interest terms, such as inverse floaters.

## **N.R.**

The designation 'N.R.' indicates that no rating has been requested, that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that S&P does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.

Note: The ratings from 'AA' to 'CCC' may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign designation to show relative standing within the major rating categories.

## Short-term

### **SP-1**

Strong capacity to pay principal and interest. An issue determined to possess a very strong capacity to pay debt service is given a plus sign (+) designation.

### **SP-2**

Satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest, with some vulnerability to adverse financial and economic changes over the term of the notes.

### **SP-3**

Speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

#### Commercial paper

##### **A-1**

This designation indicates that the degree of safety regarding timely payment is strong. Those issues determined to possess extremely strong safety characteristics are denoted with a plus sign (+) designation.

##### **A-2**

Capacity for timely payment on issues with this designation is satisfactory. However, the relative degree of safety is not as high as for issues designated 'A-1'.

##### **A-3**

Issues carrying this designation have an adequate capacity for timely payment. They are, however, more vulnerable to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances than obligations carrying the higher designations.

##### **B**

Issues rated B are regarded as having only speculative capacity for timely payment.

##### **C**

This rating is assigned to short-term debt obligations with a doubtful capacity for payment.

##### **D**

Debt rated 'D' is payment default. The 'D' rating category is used when interest payments or principal payments are not made on the due date, even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless S&P believes such payments will be made during such grace period.

### **Moody's**

#### Long-term

##### **Aaa**

Bonds rated 'Aaa' are judged to be of the best quality. They carry the smallest degree of investment risk and are generally referred to as "gilt edged." Interest payments are protected by a large or by an exceptionally stable margin and principal is secure. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most unlikely to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues.

##### **Aa**

Bonds rated 'Aa' are judged to be of high quality by all standards. Together with the 'Aaa' group they comprise what are generally known as high-grade bonds. They are rated lower than the best bonds because margins of protection may not be as large as in 'Aaa' securities or fluctuation of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long-term risk appear somewhat larger than the 'Aaa' securities.

##### **A**

Bonds rated 'A' possess many favorable investment attributes and are to be considered as upper-medium-grade obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate, but elements may be present which suggest a susceptibility to impairment some time in the future.

#### **Baa**

Bonds rated 'Baa' are considered as medium-grade obligations (i.e., they are neither highly protected nor poorly secured). Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such bonds lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well.

#### **Ba**

Bonds rated 'Ba' are judged to have speculative elements; their future cannot be considered as well-assured. Often the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate, and thereby not well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future. Uncertainty of position characterizes bonds in this class.

#### **B**

Bonds rated 'B' generally lack characteristics of the desirable investment. Assurance of interest and principal payments or of maintenance of other terms of the contract over any long period of time may be small.

#### **Caa**

Bonds rated 'Caa' are of poor standing. Such issues may be in default or there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.

#### **Ca**

Bonds rated 'Ca' represent obligations which are speculative in a high degree. Such issues are often in default or have other marked shortcomings.

#### **C**

Bonds rated 'C' are the lowest rated class of bonds, and issues so rated can be regarded as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing.

Note: Moody's applies numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 in each generic rating classification from 'Aa' through 'Caa'. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category.

#### Prime rating system (short-term)

Issuers rated **Prime-1** (or supporting institutions) have a superior ability for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. Prime-1 repayment ability will often be evidenced by many of the following characteristics:

Leading market positions in well-established industries.

High rates of return on funds employed.

Conservative capitalization structure with moderate reliance on debt and ample asset protection.

Broad margins in earnings coverage of fixed financial charges and high internal cash generation.

Well-established access to a range of financial markets and assured sources of alternate liquidity.

Issuers rated **Prime-2** (or supporting institutions) have a strong ability for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. This will normally be evidenced by many of the characteristics cited above but to a lesser degree. Earnings trends and coverage ratios, while sound, may be more subject to variation. Capitalization characteristics, while still appropriate, may be more affected by external conditions. Ample alternate liquidity is maintained.

Issuers rated **Prime-3** (or supporting institutions) have an acceptable ability for repayment of senior short-term obligations. The effect of industry characteristics and market compositions may be more pronounced. Variability in earnings and profitability may result in changes in the level of debt protection measurements and may require relatively high financial leverage. Adequate alternate liquidity is maintained.

Issuers rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.

#### MIG/VMIG--U.S. short-term

Municipal debt issuance ratings are designated as Moody's Investment Grade (MIG) and are divided into three levels -- MIG 1 through MIG 3.

The short-term rating assigned to the demand feature of variable rate demand obligations (VRDOs) is designated as VMIG. When either the long- or short-term aspect of a VRDO is not rated, that piece is designated NR, e.g., Aaa/NR or NR/VMIG 1.

#### **MIG 1/VMIG1**

This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by established cash flows, highly reliable liquidity support, or demonstrated broad-based access to the market for refinancing.

#### **MIG 2/VMIG 2**

This designation denotes strong credit quality. Margins of protection are ample, although not as large as in the preceding group.

#### **MIG 3/VMIG 3**

This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Liquidity and cash-flow protection may be narrow, and market access for refinancing is likely to be less well-established.

#### **SG**

This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Debt instruments in this category may lack sufficient margins of protection.

## **Fitch**

### Long-term investment grade

#### **AAA**

**Highest credit quality.** 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

#### **AA**

**Very high credit quality.** 'AA' ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

#### **A**

**High credit quality.** 'A' ratings denote a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

#### **BBB**

**Good credit quality.** 'BBB' ratings indicate that there is currently a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in circumstances and in economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity. This is the lowest investment-grade category.

### Long-term speculative grade

#### **BB**

**Speculative.** 'BB' ratings indicate that there is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as the result of adverse economic change over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met. Securities rated in this category are not investment grade.

#### **B**

**Highly speculative.** 'B' ratings indicate that significant credit risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

#### **CCC, CC, C**

**High default risk.** Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favorable business or economic developments. 'CC' ratings indicate that default of some kind appears probable. 'C' ratings signal imminent default.

#### **DDD, DD, D**

**Default.** The ratings of obligations in this category are based on their prospects for achieving partial or full recovery in a reorganization or liquidation of the obligor. While expected recovery

values are highly speculative and cannot be estimated with any precision, the following serve as general guidelines. 'DDD' obligations have the highest potential for recovery, around 90% - 100% of outstanding amounts and accrued interest. 'DD' ratings indicate potential recoveries in the range of 50% - 90% and 'D' the lowest recovery potential, i.e., below 50%.

Entities rated in this category have defaulted on some or all of their obligations. Entities rated 'DDD' have the highest prospect for resumption of performance or continued operation with or without a formal reorganization process. Entities rated 'DD' and 'D' are generally undergoing a formal reorganization or liquidation process; those rated 'DD' are likely to satisfy a higher portion of their outstanding obligations, while entities rated 'D' have a poor prospect of repaying all obligations.

### Short-term

A short-term rating has a time horizon of less than 12 months for most obligations, or up to three years for U.S. public finance securities, and thus places greater emphasis on the liquidity necessary to meet financial commitments in a timely manner.

#### **F1**

**Highest credit quality.** Indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added "+" to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.

#### **F2**

**Good credit quality.** A satisfactory capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, but the margin of safety is not as great as in the case of the higher ratings.

#### **F3**

**Fair credit quality.** The capacity for timely payment of financial commitment is adequate; however, near-term adverse changes could result in a reduction non-investment grade.

#### **B**

**Speculative.** Minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments plus vulnerability to near-term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

#### **C**

**High default risk.** Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

#### **D**

**Default.** Denotes actual or imminent payment default.

'NR' indicates that Fitch does not rate the issuer or issue in question.

Notes to long-term and short-term ratings: A plus (+) or minus (-) sign designation may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the 'AAA' long-term rating category, to categories below 'CCC', or to short-term ratings other than 'F1.'