# NORTHEAST INVESTORS TRUST

A NO LOAD FUND



**Annual Report** 

For the Year Ending

**September 30, 2023** 

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### Dear Fellow Shareholders:

Dear Fellow Shareholders.

During fiscal year 2023 which ended on September 30, Northeast Investors Trust posted a total return of 9.7% which compares slightly unfavorably with the 10.2% total return on the ICE BAML US High Yield Index. Coming on the heels of a favorable performance in fiscal 2022, we are not terribly displeased with the results and, in fact, our three-year trailing total return compares favorably against the index and the category.

Absolute performance was helped by declining bond yields in both our portfolio and the overall high yield market. Relative performance was helped by the absence of major credit problems, but was restrained by an underweight position in industries such as cruise lines and airlines which benefitted from a rebound in sentiment in the post-Covid environment. With our focus on securities with short effective durations, we were more able to deflect the price pressure from rising interest rates in the government bond market.

More granularly, one notable outperformance was our large position in the Crestwood 9.25s, which benefitted from an announced takeover by a larger company and, subsequent to fiscal year end, a completed tender offer for our position. Because this security was a "perpetual" with no fixed maturity, it theoretically should have been more significantly exposed to the price pressure from rising interest rates in the last few years. However, the specific covenants and terms of the investment, coupled with its high interest rate, allowed this long-duration security to rise in price and outperform similar maturity instruments by a wide margin.

Looking forward, we hold a relatively constructive view of the U.S. economy, with the associated implication that the Federal Reserve will not be as quick as is anticipated to reduce interest rates in the 2024-2025 horizon. While this view suggests that the high yield market credit quality and outcomes will be more favorable than anticipated, it also implies that the short end of the high yield market is likely the most attractive part of the asset class, especially with the yield curve being inverted (that is, with short-term interest rates yielding more than longer-term interest rates). On a risk-adjusted basis, this would hold even more true. We also believe that, given the rise in interest rates in recent years, fixed income investments generally have become significantly more attractive compared to other assets, including equities.

As always, please contact us with any questions that you might have about the fund and the outlook. We are always pleased to discuss the fund with our investors. In the meantime, thank you for putting your confidence in Northeast Investors Trust. The Trustees and management remain significant shareholders in our own right, and, accordingly, there is a mutuality of interest as we seek high levels of income for our shareholders hopefully in a prudent manner

Sincerely,

Bruce H. Monrad

Bruce U. Morrad

## Historical Information (unaudited)

				Distribution	n Per Share	
	At End of	Fiscal Year		During	Fiscal Year	
						Average Monthly
	Full	Net Asset	Total	From	From	Net Asset
Fiscal Year	Shares	Value	Net	Net	Capital	Value
Ended Sept. 30	Outstanding	Per Share	Assets	Income	Gain	Per Share
2014	83,921,225	\$6.48	\$543,360,576	\$0.47	\$0.0000	\$6.57
2015	69,240,411	4.86	335,875,302	0.43	0.0000	5.63
2016	70,765,064	4.58	323,791,971	0.32	0.0000	4.34
2017	63,155,485	4.82	303,915,087	0.30	0.0000	4.70
2018	56,897,420	4.53	257,206,545	0.26	0.0000	4.64
2019	48,736,225	4.14	201,345,500	0.20	0.0000	4.32
2020	44,482,113	3.72	165,376,082	0.23	0.0000	3.85
2021	41,954,648	3.75	156,933,091	0.22	0.0000	3.78
2022	39,967,484	3.38	134,814,295	0.20	0.0000	3.62
2023	38,640,787	3.51	135,365,790	0.19	0.0000	3.47

# Average Annual Total Return (unaudited)

One year ended September 30, 2023	9.69%
Five years ended September 30, 2023	0.36%
Ten years ended September 30, 2023	0.04%

# SEC Yield (unaudited)\*

### Yield calculated as of September 30, 2023: 5.83%

\* The 30-Day SEC yield is derived using a formula specified by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The Statement of Additional Information contains additional information regarding the computation of the SEC yield.

## About Your Fund's Expenses (unaudited)

	Annualized Expense Ratio	Beginning Account Value 3/31/2023	Ending Account Value 9/30/2023	Expenses Paid During Period 3/31/2023 - 9/30/2023 *
Actual Return 3.21%	2.11%	\$1,000.00	\$1,032.08	\$10.85
Hypothetical (5% return before expenses)	2.11%	\$1,000.00	\$1,014.48	\$10.67

<sup>\*</sup> Expenses are equal to the Trust's annualized prior six month expense ratio, multiplied by the average account value over the period, multiplied by the number of days in the most recent fiscal half year (183), and divided by the days in the year (365) to reflect the half-year period.

As a shareholder of the Trust, you incur ongoing costs, which include costs for portfolio management, administrative services and other fund expenses. The above example is intended to help you understand the ongoing costs (in dollars) of investing in the Trust and to compare these costs with those of similar mutual funds. The example is based on an investment of \$1,000 invested at the beginning of the period shown and held for the entire period.

### **Actual Expenses:**

The first line of the table above provides information about actual account values and actual expenses based on the Trust's actual returns. You may use the information in this line, together with your account balance on 9/30/2023, to estimate the expenses you paid over the period. Simply divide your account value by \$1,000 (for example, an \$8,600 account value divided by \$1,000 = 8.6), then multiply the result by the number in the first line under the heading "Expenses Paid During Period" to estimate the expenses you paid on your account during this period.

### **Hypothetical Example for Comparison Purposes:**

The second line of the table above provides information about hypothetical account values and hypothetical expenses based on the Trust's actual expense ratio and an assumed rate of return of 5% per year before expenses. The hypothetical account values and expenses may not be used to estimate the actual ending account balance or expenses you paid for the period. You may use this information to compare the ongoing costs of investing in the Trust and other funds. To do so, compare this 5% hypothetical example with the 5% hypothetical examples that appear in the shareholder reports of other funds.

## Fixed Income Portfolio Composition (unaudited)

# Maturity Schedule (% of portfolio)

Total	100%
Over 10/1/2038	0%
10/1/2033 - 9/30/2038	1%
10/1/2028 - 9/30/2033	26%
10/1/2024 - 9/30/2028	69%
10/1/2023 - 9/30/2024	4%

# Quarterly Portfolio Holdings

The Trust files its complete Schedule of Investments with the SEC on Form N-CSR (as of the end of the second and fourth quarters) and on Form N-PORT Part F (as of the end of the first and third quarters). Form N-PORT is primarily designed for use by the SEC. Form N-CSR (Annual and Semi-Annual Reports) and N-PORT Part F are available without charge, upon request, by calling the Trust at 800-225-6704, on it's website at www.northeastinvestors.com and on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

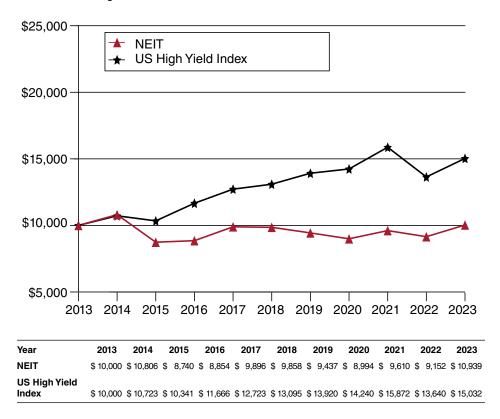
Shareholders may also access and review information and reports of the Trust at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. You can call the SEC at 1-202-942-8090 for information about the operation of the Public Reference Room. Reports and other information about the Trust are available on the SEC's website at http://www.sec.gov and copies may be obtained for a duplicating fee by electronic request at the following e-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov or by writing the Public Reference Center of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C. 20549-0102. The Trust's reference number as a registrant under the Investment Company Act of 1940 is 811-00576.

## Performance Graph — Ten Years (unaudited)

The following graph compares the cumulative total return on Northeast Investors Trust shares over the ten preceding fiscal years to the cumulative total share return on the ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch US High Yield Index, (US High Yield Index) assuming an investment of \$10,000 in both on September 30, 2013 and the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains.

The US High Yield Index is an unmanaged market capitalization-weighted index comprised of all domestic and yankee high yield bonds, including deferred interest bonds and payment-in-kind securities. Bonds included in the index have maturities of one year or more and have a below investment grade rating, but are not in default. It is shown for comparative purposes only and reflects no deductions for fees, expenses or taxes.

Keep in mind that past performance does not guarantee future returns, and an investment in the Trust is not guaranteed.



# Summary of Net Assets September 30, 2023 (unaudited)

		Value	% of Net Assets
Corporate Bonds & Notes			
Aerospace / Defense	\$	5,091,885	3.76%
Auto Manufacturers	Ψ	1,996,098	1.47%
Building Products		8,286,170	6.12%
Coal		780,787	0.58%
Drug Stores		595,623	0.44%
Energy / Natural Resources		11,307,099	8.35%
Food Processing		9,983,870	7.38%
Homebuilders		4,911,540	3.63%
Industrial Servicing / Manufacturing		6,840,068	5.05%
Metals & Mining		4,511,475	3.33%
Oil & Gas Drilling		7,492,589	5.54%
Pipeline		4,862,500	3.59%
Real Estate		4,146,652	3.06%
Retail Food Chains		5,851,026	4.32%
Retail General		5,392,099	3.98%
Technology		9,042,745	6.68%
Tobacco		11,513,655	8.51%
Wireless Telecom		4,435,965	3.28%
Total Corporate Bonds & Notes	\$	107,041,846	79.07%
Common Stock			
Chemicals	\$	2,452,111	1.81%
Coal		303,317	0.22%
Electrical Utility		0	0.00%
Energy / Natural Resources		768,129	0.57%
Food Processing		5,647,375	4.17%
Metals & Mining		5,734,755	4.24%
Oil & Gas Drilling		1,826,239	1.35%
Packaging & Container		129,811	0.10%
Transportation		117,437	0.09%
Total Common Stock	\$	16,979,174	12.55%
Total Preferred Stock		10,681,000	7.89%
Total GDP-Linked Bonds		948,038	0.70%
Total Investments	\$	135,650,058	100.21%
Receivables		2,340,669	1.73%
Total Assets	\$	137,990,727	101.94%
Liabilities		(2,624,937)	-1.94%
Total Net Assets	\$	135,365,790	100.00%

# Schedule of Investments(a) September 30, 2023

# Corporate Bonds & Notes — 79.07%

Name of Issuer	Principal		Value
Aerospace / Defense — 3.76%			
Spirit Aerosystems, Inc., 9.375%, 11/30/2029 (c)	\$ 5,000,000	\$	5,091,885
Auto Manufacturers - 1.47%			
Ford Motor Credit Co. LLC, 3.37%, 11/17/23	2,000,000		1,996,098
Building Products — 6.12%			
Builders Firstsource, Inc., 4.25%, 2/01/32 (c)	5,000,000		4,099,820
Louisiana Pacific Corp., 3.625%, 3/15/29 (c)	5,000,000		4,186,350
			8,286,170
Coal — 0.58%			
Westmoreland Mining Holdings LLC, 8%, 11/4/30 (d)	897,457		780,787
Drug Stores — 0.44%			
Rite Aid Corp., 8%, 11/15/26 (c)	1,012,000		595,623
Energy/Natural Resources — 8.35%			
Buckeye Partners LP, 4.35%, 10/15/24	5,000,000		4,830,845
CNX Resources Corp., 7.25%, 3/14/27 (c)	919,000		906,909
Comstock Resources, Inc., 6.75%, 3/01/29 (c)	5,000,000		4,599,615
Range Resources Corp., 4.875%, 5/15/25	1,000,000		969,730
			11,307,099
Food Processing — 7.38%			
B&G Foods, Inc., 5.25%, 4/01/25	5,000,000		4,906,370
Pilgrims Pride Corp., 5.875%, 9/30/27 (c)	5,000,000		5,077,500
			9,983,870
Homebuilders — 3.63%			
KB Home, 7.25%, 7/15/30	5,000,000		4,911,540
Industrial Servicing / Manufacturing — 5.05%			
Clean Harbors, Inc., 4.875%, 7/15/27 (c)	500,000		471,252
Fortress Transportation and Infrastructure Investors LLC,	,		,
9.75%, 8/01/27 <sup>(c)</sup>	5,500,000		5,688,870
Fortress Transportation and Infrastructure Investors LLC, 5.5%, 5/01/28 (c)	750,000		670.046
5/01/28 🔍	750,000	_	679,946
Metalo 9 Mining 2 229/			6,840,068
Metals & Mining — 3.33%	4 500 000		4 544 475
Allegheny Technologies, Inc., 6.95%, 12/15/25	4,500,000		4,511,475

Corporate Bonds & Notes — (continued)	5		
Name of Issuer	Principal		Value
Oil & Gas Drilling — 5.54%			
Parker Drilling Co., 13%, 9/26/25 <sup>(d)</sup>	\$ 2,687,479 4,700,000	\$	2,633,729 4,858,860
			7,492,589
Pipeline — 3.59%			
NuStar Energy LP, 5.75%, 10/01/25	5,000,000		4,862,500
Real Estate — 3.06%			
Five Point Operating Co. LP, 7.875%, 11/15/25 (c)	4,395,000		4,146,652
Retail Food Chains — 4.32%			
Brinker International, Inc., 5%, 10/01/24 (c)	6,000,000		5,851,026
Retail General — 3.98%			
G-III Apparel Group LTD, 7.875%, 8/15/25 (c)	5,430,000		5,392,099
Technology — 6.68%			
Iron Mountain, Inc., 4.5%, 2/15/31 (c)	1,000,000 4,000,000		822,463 3,453,312
Western Digital Corp., 4.75%, 2/15/26	5,000,000		4,766,970
Western Digital Golp., 4.7076, 2/10/20	0,000,000		9,042,745
Tobacco — 8.51%			
Pyxus Holdings, Inc., 8.5%, 12/31/27 (c)	10,845,675		6,507,405
Vector Group LTD, 10.5%, 11/01/26 (c)	5,000,000		5,006,250
			11,513,655
Wireless Telecom — 3.28%			
Altice France SA, 8.125%, 2/01/27 (c)	5,000,000		4,435,965
Total Corporate Bonds & Notes — (cost—\$111,905,579)		\$	107,041,846
GDP-Linked Bonds — 0.70%			
Name of Issuer	Principal		Value
Republic of Argentina GDP Linked Security, FRN (based on the			
performance of Argentina's GDP), 12/15/35 (e)	\$ 34,386,874	\$ \$	948,038 948,038
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Common Stock — 12.55%	Number		Value
Name of Issuer	of Shares		Value
Chemicals — 1.81%		Φ.	00.004
Ingevity Corp. (e)	602	\$	28,661
NL Industries, Inc.	510,200	_	2,423,450 2,452,111
Coal — 0.22%			2,402,111
Westmet Group Holdings (d) (e)	22,614		79,150
Westmoreland Mining Holdings LLC, Class A Units (d) (e)	22,416		224,167
<b>3 3</b>	, -		303,317
Electrical Utility — 0.00%			
Homer City Holdings, LLC (b) (d) (e)	221,338		0
Energy / Natural Resources — 0.57%			
SilverBow Resources, Inc. (e)	5,058		180,925
Talos Energy, Inc. (e)	35,718		587,204
			768,129
Food Processing — 4.17%			
Viskase Cos., Inc. (e)	3,052,635		5,647,375
Metals & Mining — 4.24%			
American Gilsonite (b) (d) (e)	1,597,765		5,184,747
Metals Recovery Holdings, LLC (b) (d) (e)	21,539		550,008
, ,	•		5,734,755
Oil & Gas Drilling — 1.35%			
Key Energy Services, Inc. (e)	129		116
Parker Drilling Co. (e)	140,471		1,826,123
•			1,826,239
Packaging & Container — 0.10%			
Westrock Co.	3,626		129,811
Transportation — 0.09%			
Getlink SA (France)	7.349		117,437
` '	1,349	\$	
<b>Total Common Stock</b> — (cost—\$43,030,403)		Φ	16,979,174

Preferred Stock — 7.89% Name of issuer	Number of Shares	Value
Pipeline — 7.89%		
Crestwood Equity Partners LP PFD, 9.25%, Perpetual	1,100,000	\$ 10,681,000
Total Preferred Stock — (cost—\$10,441,640)		\$ 10,681,000
Total Investments — 100.21% (cost—\$166,801,043)		\$ 135,650,058
Net Other Assets and Liabilities — (0.21%)		(284,268)

(a) Portions of the portfolio may be pledged to collateralize short term borrowings.

(b) Security is valued at fair value as determined in good faith under consistently applied procedures approved by the Board of Trustees. The aggregate market value of good faith securities as of September 30, 2023 was \$5,734,755 which represents 4,24% of total net assets.

\$ 135,365,790

- Security exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. These (c) securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers. At the period end, the value of these securities amounted to \$67,012,942 which represents 49.51% of total net assets. These securities are generally deemed liquid.
- All or a portion the security is restricted. The Trust may acquire restricted securities which are (d) subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale and may be illiquid. The aggregate market value of restricted securities as of September 30, 2023 was \$9,452,588 which represents 6.98% of total net assets. Additional information on each holding is as follows:

<u>Security</u>	Acquisition Date	<b>Acquisition Cost</b>
American Gilsonite	1/2/17 - 8/26/21	\$ 9,640,360
Metals Recovery Holdings, LLC	9/30/2016 - 12/10/2019	\$ 3,294,709
Homer City Holdings, LLC	4/6/2017	\$ 588,216
Parker Drilling Co. 13% 9/26/25	3/27/2019	\$ 2,485,714
Westmoreland Mining Holdings LLC. 8% 11/4/30	5/4/2023	\$ 780,787
Westmoreland Mining Holdings LLC,		
Class A Units	3/15/2019 - 5/4/2023	\$ 861,283
Westmet Group Holdings	5/4/2023	\$ 135,685

Non-income producing security. (e)

Preferred Stock - 780%

FRN Floating Rate Note - rates reflected are as of September 30, 2023

PFD Preferred Security

# Statement of Assets and Liabilities

September 30, 2023	
Assets	
Investments—at market value (cost \$166,801,043) Receivable for interest	\$ 135,650,058 2,340,158 511 \$ 137,990,727
Liabilities	
Line of Credit Accrued expenses Payable for trustee fees Contingent Liability (see Note-K) Payable for shares repurchased  Total Liabilities	\$ 2,070,400 192,869 169,438 161,005 31,225 \$ 2,624,937
Net Assets	\$ 135,365,790
Net Assets Consist of: Capital, at a \$1.00 par value Paid in surplus Total Distributable Earnings / (Loss) Net Assets Net Asset Value, offering price and redemption price	\$ 38,640,787 419,016,314 (322,291,311) \$ 135,365,790
per share (\$135,365,790/38,640,787 shares)	<u>\$3.51</u>

## Statement of Operations

#### Year Ended September 30, 2023 Investment Income 8,034,497 1,079,027 61,185 Reduction of Contingent Liability (see Note-K) ...... 150,481 \$ 9.325.190 Expenses 1,236,645 682,485 434,450 Legal Fees ...... 227.875 83.760 75,625 60.225 Registration and filing fees ..... 58.400 Printing, postage and stationery fees ..... 48,005 Insurance ..... 38,325 21,509 Telephone ...... 10,950 8,847 Other expenses ..... 81,350 Total Expenses 3,068,451 ............ 6,256,739 Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments: Net realized gain (loss) from investment transactions ..... (7,927,341)Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments . . . . . . . 14,281,399 Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Resulting from Operations . . 12,610,797

# Statements of Changes in Net Assets

	Sepi	Year Ended tember 30, 2023		Year Ended ember 30, 2022
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets				
From Operations:				
Net investment income	\$	6,256,739	\$	5,261,469
Net realized gain (loss) from investment transactions		(7,927,341)		(22,569,152)
(depreciation) of investments	_	14,281,399	_	10,475,090
Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets				
Resulting from Operations	\$	12,610,797	\$	(6,832,593)
Distributions to Shareholders from Operations		(7,428,152)		(8,268,898)
From Net Trust Share Transactions - (See Note D)	_	(4,631,150)		(7,017,305)
Total Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$	551,495	\$	(22,118,796)
Net Assets:				
Beginning of Period		134,814,295		156,933,091
End of Period	\$	135,365,790	\$	134,814,295

# Financial Highlights

	Year Ended September 30,			,	
Per Share Data	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net Asset Value:					
Beginning of Period	\$ 3.38	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.72	\$ 4.14	\$ 4.53
Income From Investment Operations:					
Net investment income^	0.16	0.13	0.17	0.20	0.21
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	0.40	0.00	0.00	2.22	0.40
on investment	0.16	-0.30	0.08	-0.39	-0.40
Total from investment operations	0.32	-0.17	0.25	-0.19	-0.19
Less Distributions:					
Net investment income	-0.19	-0.20	-0.22	-0.23	-0.20
Net Asset Value:					
End of Period	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.38	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.72	\$ 4.14
Total Return #	9.69%	-4.77%	6.85%	-4.69%	-4.27%
Ratios & Supplemental Data					
Net assets end of period (in thousands)	\$135,366	\$134,814	\$156,933	\$165,376	\$201,346
Ratio of operating expenses to average					
net assets *	2.26%	2.74%	1.83%	1.71%	1.56%
Ratio of interest expense and commitment					
fee to average net assets	0.06%	0.06%	0.06%	0.08%	0.09%
Ratio of net investment income to average	4.600/	0 5 40/	4.070/	E 140/	4.040/
net assets	4.60%	3.54%	4.37%	5.14%	4.91%
Portfolio turnover rate	26.41%	44.56%	75.20%	43.75%	45.13%

<sup>\*</sup> Includes Interest Expense and Commitment Fee when applicable

<sup>^</sup> Calculated using the Average Share Method

<sup>\*</sup> Total Return reflects the rate that an investor would have earned on an investment in the Trust during each period, assuming reinvestment of all distributions.

### Notes to Financial Statements

### Note A-Organization

Northeast Investors Trust (the "Trust"), a diversified open-end management investment company (a Massachusetts Trust), is registered with the SEC under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. The primary objective of the Trust is the production of income. The Trust follows the investment company accounting and reporting guidance of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification Topic 946 Financial Services — Investment Companies including FASB Accounting Standard update ("ASU") 2013-08.

### Note B-Significant Accounting Policies

Valuation of Investments: The value of equity securities or equity-like securities such as warrants for which market quotations are readily available, shall be determined on the basis of the last quoted sale prices taken from the primary market or exchange on which they are traded. A bid price may be used instead of last quoted sale price if it more closely reflects the fair value of the security as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange. Fixed income securities, including securities convertible into equity, shall be valued on the basis of evaluated prices furnished by independent pricing services or from quotations received from dealers who make markets in such securities. The evaluations provided by the pricing services are based on analysis of market data and other factors such as last sale, dealer bids, yields, quality ratings, coupon rate, maturity, type of issue, trading characteristics and other relevant bond market data. Repurchase agreements are valued at contract value.

Securities for which market quotations are not readily available (including certain restricted securities and private placements, if any) are valued at their fair value as determined in good faith under consistently applied procedures approved by the Board of Trustees. Methodologies and factors used to fair value securities may include, but are not limited to, the analysis of current debt to cash flow, information of any recent sales, quotations or evaluated prices from broker-dealers, information obtained from the issuer or analysts and the nature of the existing market for securities with characteristics similar to such obligations. Valuations may also be derived following a review of pertinent data (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA), Revenue, etc.) from company financial statements, relevant market valuation multiples for comparable companies in comparable industries, recent transactions, and management assumptions.

The Trust may use fair value pricing for foreign securities if a material event occurs that may affect the price of a security after the close of the foreign market or exchange (or on days the foreign market is closed) but before the Trust prices its portfolio, generally at 4:00 P.M. ET. Fair value pricing may also be used for securities acquired as a result of corporate restructurings or reorganizations as reliable market quotations for such issues may not be readily available. For securities valued in good faith, the value of an investment used to determine the Trust's net asset value may differ from published or quoted prices for the same investment. The valuations for these good faith securities are monitored and reviewed in accordance with the methodologies described above by the Trust's Valuation Designee on an ongoing basis as information becomes available, but are evaluated at least quarterly. The good faith security valuations and fair value methodologies are reviewed by the Trust's Board of Trustees on a quarterly basis as part of their oversight responsibilities. There can be no assurance that the Trust could obtain the fair value assigned to an investment if it were to sell

the investment at the same time which the Trust determines its net asset value per share. The market value of securities valued in good faith on September 30, 2023 was \$5,734,755 which represents 4.24% of net assets.

**Federal Income Taxes:** It is the Trust's policy to comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to regulated investment companies and to distribute each year substantially all of its investment company taxable income and capital gains to its shareholders. Accordingly, no federal tax provisions are required. Income distributions, if any, are declared and paid quarterly for the Trust. Capital gains distributions, if any, are declared and paid annually.

The Trust has reviewed the tax positions for the open tax years as of September 30, 2023 and has determined that no provision for income tax is required in the Trust's financial statements. The Trust's federal tax returns for the prior three fiscal years remain subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service. The Trust recognizes interest and penalties, if any, related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense on the Statement of Operations.

The characterization of distributions to shareholders for financial reporting purposes is determined in accordance with income tax rules. Therefore, the source of the Trust's distributions may be shown in the accompanying financial statements as either from net investment income or net realized gain on investment transactions.

**State Income Taxes:** Because the Trust is organized by an Agreement and Declaration of Trust executed under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, it is not subject to state income or excise taxes.

**Net Asset Value:** In determining the net asset value per share, rounding adjustments are made for fractions of a cent to the next higher cent.

**Distributions and Income:** Income and capital gain distributions are determined in accordance with income tax regulations which may differ from generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America. These differences are primarily due to differing treatments for capital loss carryforwards and losses deferred due to wash sales. Permanent book and tax differences relating to shareholder distributions will result in reclassifications to paid in surplus. The Trust's distributions and dividend income are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Interest income, which includes accretion of market discount and amortization of premium, is accrued as earned. Certain securities held by the Trust pay interest in the form of cash or additional securities (known as Payment-in-kind or PIK); interest on such securities is recorded on the accrual basis.

**Expenses:** All expenses, including legal fees paid on behalf of the Trustees, are accrued for in the period in which the professional and other services are incurred.

**Security Transactions:** Security transactions are accounted for as of trade date. Realized gains and losses on securities sold are determined on the basis of identified cost.

Use of Estimates and Basis of Accounting: The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America requires management to, where applicable, make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Credit Risk:** Investments in high-yield securities involve greater degrees of credit and market risks than investments in higher-rated securities. Bonds which are rated as less than investment grade tend to be more susceptible to real or perceived adverse economic conditions.

**Payment-In-Kind (PIK) Risk:** Investments in PIK bonds may offer a higher interest rate than other securities; however, these bonds also carry additional risk of default as they are generally issued by companies that do not have the cash flow available to make routine cash interest payments to the lenders.

### Note C-Trustees' Compensation

Trustees' compensation was computed at the rate of 1/8 of 1% of the net assets (before deduction of accrued Trustees' compensation and excluding any borrowing from the bank) at the close of each quarter, from which the Trustees paid certain expenses specified in the Declaration of Trust. For the year ended September 30, 2023, the aggregate Trustee fee was \$682,485 from which the current Independent Trustees were aggregately paid \$120,000.

The total number of shares owned beneficially by the Trustees, officers and members of their immediate families on September 30, 2023 was 2,875,750 shares (7.44%).

Administrative Expenses & Salaries: Northeast Investors Trust incurs salary and administrative expenses which include such expenses for personnel performing transfer agent and dividend disbursement related functions and other administrative functions of the Trust.

The Trust sponsors a 401(K) profit sharing plan which is available to employees deemed eligible participants as defined by the plan documents. Annual safe harbor contributions are made during the year and are included in the administrative expenses and salaries on the Statement of Operations. No changes to the plan were made during the period.

### Note D-Shares of Beneficial Interest

At September 30, 2023, there were unlimited shares of beneficial interest authorized with a par value of \$1. Transactions in shares of beneficial interest were as follows:

_	Year Ended September 30, 2023			Ended er 30, 2022
Shares Sold	1,438,621	\$ 4,967,934	3,074,688	\$ 11,194,908
Shares issued to shareholders in reinvestment of distributions from				
net investment income	1,457,095	5,024,506	1,521,443	5,489,477
	2,895,716	\$ 9,992,440	4,596,131	\$ 16,684,385
Shares redeemed	(4,222,413)	(14,623,590)	(6,583,295)	(23,701,690)
Net Increase (Decrease)	(1,326,697)	<u>\$ (4,631,150)</u>	(1,987,164)	<u>\$ (7,017,305)</u>

#### Note E-Purchases and Sales of Investments

The cost of purchases and the proceeds from sales and maturities of securities, other than short-term and government securities, aggregated \$34,123,500 and \$34,190,377 respectively, for the year ended September 30, 2023.

### Note F-Line of Credit

State Street Bank and Trust Company has made available to the Trust a line of credit pursuant to a loan agreement for temporary or extraordinary purposes. The Trust's line of credit, which does not require maintenance of compensating balances, is generally on a demand basis and is at a rate equal to the applicable margin (1.25%) plus the higher of (a) the Federal Funds Rate or (b) the daily Simple SOFR Rate during the period in which such loan is outstanding. At September 30, 2023 the Trust had an unused line of credit amounting to \$22,929,600. The Trust pays a commitment fee of 0.30% on the unused portion of the line of credit. The line of credit may be terminated at the bank's option at its annual renewal date, on March 19, 2024. Portions of the Trust's portfolio are pledged to collateralize these short-term borrowings.

The line of credit details for the fiscal year ended September 2023 were as follows:

Maximum available credit	\$ 25,000,000
Largest amount outstanding on an individual day	\$ 2,070,400
Average balance when in use	\$ 1,134,855
Credit facility outstanding as of September 30, 2023	\$ 2,070,400
Average interest rate when use	6.58%

Interest expense for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, is disclosed in the Statements of Operations.

## Note G-Repurchase Agreement

The Trust invests its cash balances into repurchase agreements secured by U.S. Government obligations. Securities pledged as collateral for repurchase agreements are held by the Trust's custodian bank until maturity of the repurchase agreement. Provisions of the agreement ensure that the market value of the collateral is sufficient in the event of default. However, in the event of default or bankruptcy by the other party to the agreement, realization and/or retention of the collateral may be subject to legal proceedings.

#### Note H-Additional Tax Information

The amount of distributions paid during years ended September 30, 2023 and 2022 were \$7,428,152 and \$8,268,898, respectively, and were classified as ordinary income. Capital accounts within the financial statements are adjusted for permanent book-tax differences. These adjustments have no impact on net assets or the results of operations. Temporary book-tax differences will reverse in future periods.

As of September 30, 2023 the components of accumulated earnings (losses) on a tax basis were as follows:

Undistributed Net Investment Income	\$ 502,212
Total Capital Loss Carryforward	(286,542,162)
Timing Differences	(152,586)
Net Unrealized gains (losses) - net	 (36,098,775)
Total distributable earnings (losses) - net	\$ (322,291,311)

Timing differences relate to certain expense accruals.

As of September 30, 2023, the Trust had short term capital loss carryforward of \$3,022,086 and long term capital loss carryforward of \$283,520,076, both of which do not expire.

At September 30, 2023 the Trust's aggregate security unrealized gains and losses based on cost for U.S. federal income tax purposes was as follows:

Tax cost	\$ 171,748,833
Gross unrealized gain	5,590,855
Gross unrealized loss	(41,689,630)
Net unrealized security gain (loss)	\$ (36,098,775)

The difference between book and tax basis cost of investments and net unrealized gains (losses) is primarily attributable to accretion and amortization differences.

Reclassification of Capital Accounts: U.S. GAAP requires that certain components of net assets relating to permanent differences be reclassified between financial and tax reporting. These reclassifications have no effect on net assets or net asset value per share. For the year ended September 30,2023, the following adjustments were made:

	ributable umulated)		
Earnin	gs (Losses)	Paid	-in Capital
\$	4.420	\$	(4.420)

These differences were primarily due to expenses.

#### Note I-Fair Value Measurements

Accounting Standards Codification ASC 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures (ASC 820) defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an investment in an orderly transaction between two market participants at the measurement date. ASC 820 establishes a fair value hierarchy that distinguishes between market data obtained from independent sources (observable inputs) and the Trust's own market assumptions (unobservable inputs). The inputs or methodologies used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities and the determination of the significance of certain inputs to the fair value measurement requires judgments and considers factors that may be specific to each security. The various inputs that may be used to determine the value of the Trust's investments are summarized in the following fair value hierarchy:

Level 1 — Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical securities.

Level 2 — Other significant observable inputs based on data obtained from various pricing sources (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.).

Level 3 — Significant unobservable inputs including the Trust's own assumptions used to determine the fair value of investments. Factors considered in making such determinations may include, but are not limited to, information obtained directly from the company or analysts and the analysis of the company's financial statements or other documents.

The following table summarized the Trust's investment as of September 30, 2023 based on the inputs used to value them:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total as of 9/30/2023
Corporate Bonds & Notes	\$ —	\$ 107,041,846	\$ —	\$ 107,041,846
Common Stock	5,176,290	6,068,129	5,734,755	16,979,174
Preferred Stock	10,681,000	_	_	10,681,000
GDP Linked Bond		948,038		948,038
	\$ 15,857,290	\$ 114,058,013	\$ 5,734,755	\$135,650,058

Transfers between hierarchy levels may occur due to market fluctuation, changes in valuation techniques and/or changes in the availability of market data used in the determination of an investment's valuation. For the year ended September 30, 2023, there were no transfers among levels.

At September 30, 2023, the reconciliation of assets in which significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) were used in determining fair value, is as follows:

	To	nmon Stock otals as of 0/30/2023
Beginning Balance @ 9/30/22	\$	6,872,445
Purchases		_
Sales		(792,895)
Realized Gain(Loss)		(2,128,910)
Net Change in Unrealized		
Appreciation/(Depreciation)		1,784,115
Transfers into Level 3 from Level 2		_
Transfers out of Level 3 to Level 2		
Ending Balance @ 9/30/2023	\$	5,734,755
	Ur Gain P Sti	hange in nrealized / (Loss) for ositions ill Held at tember 30, 2023
Total Common Stock	\$	1,784,115

The Financial Accounting Standard Board (FASB) issued guidance that a reporting entity should disclose quantitative information about the unobservable inputs used in the fair value determinations that are categorized in the Level 3 hierarchy. The guidance also required additional disclosure regarding the valuation process used and the sensitivity of the fair value measurements to changes in unobservable inputs and the interrelationships between those unobservable inputs within Level 3.

The following table presents a summary of valuation techniques, inputs and quantitative information used in determining the fair value of the Trust's Level 3 securities as of September 30, 2023:

Investment Type	<u>F</u>	air Value	Valuation Technique	Significant Unobservable Inputs	Range	Increase to Valuation from an Increase in Input <sup>(1)</sup>
Common Stock						
Metals and Mining	\$	5,184,747	Market Comparable (2)	EBITDA Multiple	8.4x - 11.8x	Increase
Metals and Mining		550,008	Market Transaction (3)	N/A	N/A	N/A
	\$	5,734,755	Market Comparable (2)	Forward EBITDA Multiple	4.9x - 6.7x	Increase

- (1) This column represents the direction change in the fair value of the Level 3 securities that would result from an increase to the corresponding unobservable input. A decrease to the unobservable inputs would have the opposite effect. Significant increases and decreases of these inputs could result in significantly higher or lower fair value determinations.
- (2) Earnings multiples are based on comparable companies and transactions of comparable companies.
- (3) Certain of the Trust's Level 3 investments have been valued using unadjusted inputs that have not been internally developed by the Trust including third-party transactions and quotations.

For additional information on the Trust's policy regarding valuation of investments and other significant accounting policies, please refer to the Fund's most recent semiannual or annual shareholder report.

### Note J-Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated whether any other events or transactions occurred subsequent to September 30, 2023 and through the date of issuance of the Trust's financial statements and determined that there were no material events or transactions that would require recognition or disclosure in the Trust's financial statements.

### Note K-Contingent Liability

A lawsuit filed by former Trustee Robert B. Minturn ("Minturn") against the current Trustees and another former Trustee (together with the current Trustees, the "Defendant Trustees") sought the portion of the Trustee fees that Minturn alleged he was owed pursuant to a contractual agreement among the Trustees. The current Trustees believed they acted in accordance with the agreement and their fiduciary duties and in the best interests of the Trust and its shareholders in taking the steps that were the subject of the lawsuit. Those steps included reducing and then suspending the payments that Minturn was receiving from the Trustees' fees paid by the Trust. The Trust was, but is no longer, a defendant to Minturn's action. A partial summary judgment was granted by the court in favor of Minturn in the amount of \$794,500, and the Defendant Trustees appealed this judgment. In March 2023, the appeals court affirmed the judgment. Consistent with an opinion provided by special independent

counsel, the Trustees adopted, by a majority vote, a resolution that provided, among other things: (i) indemnification of each of the Independent Trustees for the Judgment is necessary and proper; and (ii) that each Independent Trustee shall be indemnified to pay the Judgment. In April 2023, the Trust paid \$483,014 to the Independent Trustees as reimbursement for their portion of judgement awarded Minturn from the accrued contingent liability amount. In view of the appellate ruling, the Trustees expect to consider the Trust's indemnification obligations in relation to the estate of Ernest Monrad, a former Trustee, which represents the remaining accrued contingent liability of \$161,005. The Interested Trustee chose not to seek indemnification for his portion of the settlement resulting in a reduction of the contingent liability.

#### Note L-Indemnification

Under the Trust's Declaration of Trust, its officers and trustees are indemnified against certain liabilities arising out of the performance of their duties to the Trust.

In addition, in the normal course of business, the Trust enters into contracts with that provide general indemnifications to other parties. The Trust's maximum exposure under these contractual arrangements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Trust that have not yet occurred. However, based on experience, the Trust expects the risk of loss from these third party service contracts with indemnification clauses to be minimal.

### Note M-Change in Auditors

In February 2023, RSM US LLP ("RSM") elected not to stand for reappointment as independent registered public accountant of the Trust, and the decision was not the result of any disagreements between RSM and Trust management. In April 2023, the Trust's Audit Committee and Board of Trustees have approved the selection of Tait Weller and Baker LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm to audit the Trust's financial statements for its fiscal year ending September 30, 2023. During the two most recent fiscal years, RSMs audit reports contained no adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion; nor were the reports qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope, or accounting principles. Further, there were no disagreements between the Trust and RSM on accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or audit scope, which, if not resolved to the satisfaction of RSM, would have caused it to make reference to the disagreements in connection with their reports.

# Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

# To the Shareholders and the Board of Trustees of Northeast Investors Trust Boston, Massachusetts

### **Opinion on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of Northeast Investors Trust, including the schedule of investments, as of September 30, 2023, the related statement of operations, the statement of changes in net assets, and financial highlights for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Northeast Investors Trust as of September 30, 2023, the results of its operations, the changes in its net assets, and the financial highlights for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The statements of changes in net assets for the year ended September 30, 2022 and the financial highlights for each of the 4 years in the period ended September 30, 2022 have been audited by other auditors, whose report dated November 29, 2022 expressed an unqualified opinion on such financial statement and financial highlights.

### **Basis for Opinion**

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Fund's financial statements based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Fund in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB. We have served as the Fund's auditor since 2023.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Fund is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audit we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audit included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audit also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of September 30, 2023 by correspondence with the custodians. We believe that our audit provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

**TAIT, WELLER & BAKER LLP** 

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania November 21, 2023

# Statement Regarding Liquidity Risk Management Program (Unaudited)

Northeast Investors Trust (the "Trust") adopted and implemented a written Liquidity Risk Management Program (the "LRMP") pursuant to Rule 22e-4 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Liquidity Rule"). The LRMP is designed to reasonably assess and manage the Trust's liquidity risk with respect to its ability to fund redemptions without significant dilution of remaining investors' interests. The Board of Trustees designated the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") as the LRMP's administrator. In assessing liquidity, the CCO considers a variety of factors, including the Trust's investment strategy, the liquidity of its portfolio investments, cash flow projections, cash holdings and line of credit availability. The LRMP requires the CCO to report to the Board of Trustees, at least annually, on the operations of the program and its effectiveness in managing the Trust's liquidity risk pursuant to the Liquidity Rule.

At a meeting of the Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees held on May 22, 2023, the CCO provided a written report to the Committee on the LRMP's operations and its effectiveness for the period of May 2022-April 2023. The CCO's report concluded that the LRMP remains reasonably designed to assess and manage the Trust's liquidity risk. There were no liquidity events that impacted the Trust's ability to meet redemptions.

## Trustees & Officers

The Trustees of Northeast Investors Trust are Bruce H. Monrad, Peter J. Blampied, George P. Beal, and Charles R. Daugherty. Under Massachusetts Law, the Trustees are generally responsible for overseeing the operation and management of the Trust. The table below provides certain information about the Trust's Trustees and Officers. The mailing address for the Trustees and Officers of the Trust is 125 High Street, Suite 1802, Boston, MA 02110-2301.

The Trust's Statement of Additional Information (SAI) contains additional information about the Trustees. To request a free copy, call the Trust at 800-225-6704 or visit our website at www.northeastinvestors.com.

Principal Occupation(s) /

Name/Age/Service*	Position	Other Directorships During the Past Five Years
Affiliated Trustees and	Fund Officers	
Bruce H. Monrad Age: 61 Years of Service: 30	Trustee and Chairman	Trustee and Chairman of Northeast Investors Trust
Gordon C Barrett Age: 66 Years of Service: 35	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	Chief Financial Officer of Northeast Investors Trust; President of Sippican Capital Advisors
Chapin Mechem Age: 50 Years of Service: 21	Vice President and Co-Portfolio Manager	Officer of Northeast Investors Trust
David A. Randall Age: 56 Years of Service: 23	Chief Compliance Officer and Vice President of Operations	Officer of Northeast Investors Trust
Independent Trustees		
Peter J. Blampied Age: 81 Years of Service: 23	Trustee	Director of A.W. Perry, Inc.
George P. Beal Age: 70 Years of Service: 19	Trustee	Managing Partner, Boston Family Office, LLC; Director and Trustee of Breckinridge Capital Advisors
Charles R. Daugherty Age: 70 Years of Service: 19	Trustee	Managing Partner, Stanwich Advisors, LLC

<sup>\*</sup> The Trustees serve until their resignation or either the appointment or election of a successor, and the Officers serve at the pleasure of the Trustees.





#### **Trustees**

Peter J. Blampied Charles R. Daugherty Bruce H. Monrad George P. Beal

### Officers

Bruce H. Monrad, Chairman

Gordon C. Barrett, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer & Clerk David A. Randall, Vice President of Operations & Chief Compliance Officer Chapin P. Mechem, Vice President Matthew D. Fratolillo, Vice President Joseph R. Morrison, Vice President

#### Custodian

State Street Bank & Trust Co.
1 Iron Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

### Legal Counsel

Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C. One Financial Center Boston, MA 02111

### Transfer Agent

Northeast Investors Trust 125 High St. Boston, Massachusetts 02110

### Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Tait, Weller & Baker LLP
2 Liberty Place
50 South 16th Street – Suite 2900
Philadelphia, PA 19102

This report is prepared for the information of the shareholders of Northeast Investors Trust and must not be given to others unless preceded or accompanied by a copy of the current Prospectus by which all offerings of the Trust shares are made. It should be noted in reading this report and the letter to shareholders that the record of past performance is not a representation as to the Trust's future performance, and that the Trust's investments are subject to market risks.

For a free copy of the Trust's proxy voting guidelines or information on how the Trust voted proxies during the most recent 12 month period ended on June 30 visit www.northeastinvestors.com/downloads/, call 1-800-225-6704 or visit the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)'s web site at www.sec.gov.

Shares of the Trust are sold to investors at net asset value by

#### **Northeast Investors Trust**

125 High St. Boston, Massachusetts 02110 (800) 225-6704