NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF STATE TREASURER INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

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FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

This audit required approximately 585 hours at a cost of $76,000.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Dale R. Folwell, CPA, State Treasurer
North Carolina Department of State Treasurer
Investment Programs

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the External Investment Pool (the Pool), the Bond Index Investment Pool (the BIF), and the Equity Index Investment Account (the EIF) of the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer Investment Programs, collectively referred to as "Investment Programs," as of and for the year then ended June 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Investment Programs' basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Investment Program's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Investment Program's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the net position of the Investment Programs as of June 30, 2021, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Dale R. Folwell, CPA, State Treasurer
North Carolina Department of State Treasurer
Investment Programs

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements. The supplementary information and other supplementary information, as referenced in the Table of Contents, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements.

The supplementary information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the supplementary Information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

The other supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 15, 2021 on our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Investment Programs' internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Baltimore, Maryland
October 15, 2021

Introduction

This section of the financial statements of the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer Investment Programs (State Treasurer Investments) presents our discussion and analysis of the External Investment Pool's (the Pool), the Bond Index Investment Pool's (BIF), and the Equity Index Investment Account's (EIF) financial position as of June 30, 2021 and 2020. Since this discussion and analysis is designed to focus on current activities, it should be read in conjunction with the State Treasurer Investments' basic financial statements, which follow this section.

For the purposes of presenting the basic financial statements, investments of the Pool are allocated to broad classifications that follow the North Carolina General Statutes' definitions in Section 147-69.2(b). These "portfolios" are described in Note 3 and include the Short-Term Investment Fund (STIF), Long Term Investment Fund (LTIF), Equity Investment portfolio, Real Estate Investment portfolio, Alternative Investment portfolio, Opportunistic Fixed Income Investment portfolio, Inflation Sensitive Investment portfolio, and the Cash Pool portfolio. Amounts associated with these portfolios are presented in the tables in Note 3. The classifications defined in the Investment Policy Statement of the Department of State Treasurer Investments are used for the purposes of Management's Discussion and Analysis of the economic and financial environment, investment performance, and risk management of the Pool. The Supplementary Information contains a mapping of the Investment Policy Statement's classifications to the statutory classifications which are used to prepare the basic financial statements of the Pool as of June 30, 2021.

The BIF (Note 7) is an external government sponsored bond index investment pool in which the Treasurer is authorized to invest funds for governmental entities (Ancillary Governmental Participant Investment Program or AGPIP) which are outside the Retirement Systems defined as The Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System, Consolidated Judicial Retirement System, Legislative Retirement System, Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund, North Carolina National Guard Pension Fund, Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System, and Retiree Health Benefit Fund.

The EIF (Note 8) is an equity index investment account for AGPIP where the Treasurer has contracted with an external party to invest in a commingled equity index investment trust.

Financial Statements

The Pool's, BIF's, and EIF's basic financial statements include the statement of fiduciary net position and statement of changes in fiduciary net position, which have been presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States as applicable to governmental entities.

The statement of fiduciary net position provides information on the financial position of the Pool, BIF, and EIF for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. The statement of changes in fiduciary net position presents the results of the investing activities during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. The notes to the financial statements offer additional discussion that is essential to the full understanding of the data presented in the financial statements. The notes give more detail about accounting policies, significant account balances and activities, material risks, obligations, contingencies and subsequent events, if any.

Statements of Fiduciary Net Position

The following statements of fiduciary net position present the assets, liabilities, and net position held in trust (assets minus liabilities) of the Pool as of the end of each of the respective fiscal years and are point in time financial statements.

Statements of Fiduciary Net Position (External Pool)

	As of June 30	
	2021	2020
	(*In Thousands*)	
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 289,742	$ 268,857
Securities lending collateral	814,098	1,361,725
Investments, at fair value	153,078,001	125,430,249
Receivables	565,729	475,294
Total assets	154,747,570	127,536,125
Liabilities		
Other payables	$ 709,320	$ 79,125
Obligations under securities lending	814,098	1,361,725
Total liabilities	1,523,418	1,440,850
Net Position		
Net position held in trust	$ 153,224,152	$ 126,095,275

The following statements of fiduciary net position present the assets, liabilities and net position held in trust (assets minus liabilities) of the BIF as of the end of each of the respective fiscal years and are point in time financial statements.

Statements of Fiduciary Net Position (BIF)

	As of June 30	
	2021	2020
	(*In Thousands)*	
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 568	$ -
Investments, at fair value	1,577,168	1,639,536
Receivables	38,657	29,439
Total assets	1,616,393	1,668,975
Liabilities		
Other payables	9,960	32,244
Net Position		
Net position held in trust	$ 1,606,433	$ 1,636,731

Statements of Fiduciary Net Position (Continued)

The following statements of fiduciary net position present the assets, liabilities, and net position held in trust (assets minus liabilities) of the EIF as of the end of each of the respective fiscal years and are point in time financial statements.

Statements of Fiduciary Net Position (EIF)

	As of June 30	
	2021	**2020**
	(In Thousands)	
Assets		
Investments, at fair value	$ 492,041	$ 690,231
Total assets	492,041	690,231
Net Position		
Net position held in trust	$ 492,041	$ 690,231

Analysis of Statements of Fiduciary Net Position

Investments, at fair value, in the External Investment Pool increased 22.0% to approximately $153 billion from approximately $125 billion during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. This was primarily due to investment gains. Net share purchases also increased approximately $5.7 million. Other Payables increased due to approximately $677 million of securities purchased not yet settled as of the year ended 2021.

Investments, at fair value, in the BIF decreased 3.8% to approximately $1.58 billion from $1.64 billion during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, as a result of losses on investments. Additionally, net share redemptions of $23 million added to the investments at fair value reduction.

Investments, at fair value, in the EIF decreased 28.7% to approximately $492 million from $690 million during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, as net share redemptions outpaced the gains from operations.

Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position

The following statements of changes in net position present the net investment income earned by the Pool as well as expenses other purchases and other withdrawals.

Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position (Ext Pool)

	Fiscal Years Ended June 30	
	2021	2020
	(*In Thousands*)	
Additions		
Investment income		
Interest and dividend income	$ 1,745,409	$ 2,208,555
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	17,867,151	2,580,307
Other investment income	552,424	368,393
Securities lending income	7,232	34,524
Total investment income	20,172,216	5,191,779
Deductions		
Investment management expenses	385,422	409,726
Other and administrative expenses	48,579	56,946
Securities lending expenses (rebates)	(1,795)	21,397
Total deductions	432,206	488,069
Net increase in net position resulting from operations	19,740,010	4,703,710
Distributions to participants		
Distributions paid and payable	(19,740,010)	(4,703,710)
Share transactions		
Reinvestment of distributions	19,747,651	4,705,598
Net share purchases	7,381,226	1,707,203
Change in net position	27,128,877	6,412,801
Net position held in trust:		
Beginning of year	126,095,275	119,682,474
End of year	$ 153,224,152	$ 126,095,275

Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position (Continued)

The following statements of changes in net position present the net investment income (loss) earned by the BIF as well as expenses and other purchases and other withdrawals.

Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position (BIF)

	Fiscal Years Ended June 30	
	2021	2020
	(In Thousands)	
Additions		
Investment income		
Interest and dividend income	$ 42,935	$ 46,632
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	(50,059)	87,733
Other investment income	250	138
Total investment income (loss)	(6,874)	134,503
Deductions		
Investment management expenses	333	387
Total deductions	333	387
Net increase (decrease) in net position resulting from operations	(7,207)	134,116
Distributions to participants		
Distributions paid and payable	7,207	(134,116)
Share transactions		
Reinvestment (purchase) of distributions	(7,207)	134,116
Net share redemptions	(23,091)	(108,167)
Change in net position	(30,298)	25,949
Net position held in trust:		
Beginning of year	1,636,731	1,610,782
End of year	$ 1,606,433	$ 1,636,731

Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position (Continued)

The following statements of changes in net position present the net investment income earned by the EIF as well as expenses and other purchases and other withdrawals.

Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position (EIF)

	Fiscal Years Ended June 30	
	2021	**2020**
	(In Thousands)	
Additions		
Investment income		
Interest and dividend income	$ 12	$ 29
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	149,880	14,120
Total investment income	149,892	14,149
Deductions		
Investment management expenses	99	80
Total deductions	99	80
Net increase in net position resulting from operations	149,793	14,069
Distributions to participants		
Distributions paid and payable	(149,793)	(14,069)
Share transactions		
Reinvestment of distributions	149,793	14,069
Net share purchases (redemptions)	(347,983)	42,015
Change in net position	(198,190)	56,084
Net position held in trust:		
Beginning of year	690,231	634,147
End of year	$ 492,041	$ 690,231

Analysis of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position

The External Investment Pool had total investment income of $20.2 billion in fiscal year 2021, an increase of $14.9 billion from fiscal year 2020. The year over year increase in total investment income was primarily attributable to an increase in net appreciation. Net appreciation reflects realized and unrealized gains or losses. The net appreciation was higher due to earning higher returns in nearly all asset classes as the economy and investment markets benefited from significant fiscal and monetary stimulus, as well as an easing of the COVID-19 lockdowns. Total deductions decreased by $55.9 million, which was largely attributable to decreases in investment management expenses and expenses of the securities lending program. Investment management expenses include management and performance-based fees paid to external investment managers. For fiscal year 2021, net share purchases into the Pool were $7.4 billion, largely driven by continued Short Term Investment Fund deposits, compared to net share purchases of $1.7 billion in the prior year.

The BIF had a total investment loss of -$6.9 million in fiscal year 2021, a decrease of $141.4 million from the prior fiscal year 2020. The year over year decrease in investment income was driven by net depreciation in the fair value of the investments. This net depreciation was driven largely by increases in US Treasury yields. The fair value of bonds typically reflects an inverse relationship to yields, as a rise in yields results in a fall in fair value. Net share redemptions for the year were $23.1 million, lower than the prior year by approximately $85.1 million.

The EIF had total investment income of $149.9 million for the fiscal year 2021, an increase of $135.7 million from the prior fiscal year 2020. The year over year increase was attributable to higher total returns earned on broad equity markets for the current fiscal year.

Legislative Restrictions

Prior to June of 2021, the State Treasurer was required to comply with the Sudan Divestment Act, North Carolina General Statutes 147-86.41 through 147-86.49, which requires the State Treasurer to (i) develop and annually update a list of entities engaging in certain activities in Sudan, (ii) refrain from making investment in such companies, and (iii) divest from the same within 180 days of their being listed. Effective in June of 2021 the Sudan Divestment Act was repealed per Session Law 2021-58. The Iran Divestment Act, General Statutes 147-86.55 through 147-86.63 requires the State Treasurer to (i) develop and annually update a list of entities engaging in specific activities in Iran, (ii) refrain from contracting with or investing in such companies, and (iii) divest from the same within 180 days of their being listed. Indirect investments through structures such as index funds, commingled funds, limited partnerships, or derivative instruments are excepted from the Act under General Statutes 147-86.42(5a) and 147-86.57(3), respectively.

The Divestment from Companies Boycotting Israel Act, North Carolina General Statutes 147-86.80 through 147-86.84, functions similarly to the Sudan and Iran Divestment Acts. Specifically, pursuant to a policy adopted in compliance with the statute, the State Treasurer must not invest in companies on its list of those engaged in a "boycott of Israel," a statutorily defined term. The State Treasurer is required to annually update the list and divest from such companies within 180 days of their being listed. In addition, listed companies are ineligible to contract with the State or any of its political subdivisions where the value of the contract is over $1,000.

Legislative Restrictions (Continued)

In addition, the State Treasurer is required to comply with certain restrictions issued by the United States government, including Executive Order 14032, which restricts investment activity in certain Chinese entities as identified by the Secretary of Treasury (generally military-related companies), as well as restrictions issued by the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Economic Discussion

Over the fiscal year, there was substantial positive economic and investment market activity as fiscal and monetary stimulus took hold. For the year ended June 30, 2021, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) adjusted for inflation and seasonality experienced a year over year change of 12.2%; the unemployment rate was 5.6%, consumer price inflation was 4.9% year over year; and core consumer price inflation (i.e., removing the volatile food and energy sectors) was 4.0% year over year. To combat the economic slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting lockdowns, the Federal Government implemented large fiscal and monetary stimulus packages, via significant deficit spending, Federal Reserve balance sheet expansion, and by keeping rates low. Over the year, the Federal Reserve maintained a 0% Federal Funds Target Rate. For the fiscal year, domestic equity markets, as measured by the S&P 500 Index, experienced strong total returns, gaining nearly 41%. Corporate bonds, both investment grade and non-investment grade earned positive returns over the year as credit spreads narrowed. Credit spreads fell nearly 80 basis points on investment grade corporate bonds, and nearly 340 basis points on non-investment grade corporate bonds. As the economic activity increased, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil ended the fiscal year at $73 a barrel, up nearly $30 a barrel from the start of the fiscal year.

External Investment Pool Portfolio Discussion

The Investment Management Division of the Department of State Treasurer's goal is to strengthen and sustain the retirement systems by providing a long-term rate of return that approximates the actuarial rate of return while managing risk in the portfolio. The division conducts its activities in accordance with the Investment Policy Statement for the North Carolina Retirement Systems, which is approved by the State Treasurer in consultation with the Investment Advisory Committee. This policy covers investment objectives, asset allocation ranges, rebalancing processes and other issues.

It is the policy of the State Treasurer to invest consistent with the following objectives:

A. Provide investment returns sufficient for the pension fund to make timely payment of statutory benefits to current and future members and keep contribution rates at a reasonable level over the long-term. To achieve this, long-term projected investment returns should be generally consistent with the actuarial assumed rate of return unless otherwise determined by the State Treasurer.

B. Avoid excessive volatility in contribution rates over the intermediate-term by maintaining a moderate risk profile and diversifying with respect to economic and financial risk factors. It is acceptable to limit the use of return-seeking strategies in order to avoid excessive volatility.

C. Additionally:

1. Achieve cost-efficiency in the overall investment program
2. Exceed composite benchmark returns for the pension fund and broad categories of investments within reasonable risk limits and over market cycles
3. Ensure sufficient liquidity to meet the pension fund's obligations over all time periods

External Investment Pool Portfolio Discussion (Continued)

4. Comply with all governing statutes as consistent with fiduciary obligations

North Carolina's defined benefit plans are consistently ranked in the top ten of state retirement funding ratios.

The discussion below refers to classifications in the Investment Policy Statement. The Supplementary Information contains a mapping of the Investment Policy Statement's classifications to the statutory classifications.

The Total Pension Plan classification, as defined in the Investment Policy Statement, generated a total return of 19.1% for the fiscal year, underperforming the benchmark's 21.3% return.

The Public Equity portfolio generated a total return of 41.9% for the fiscal year, outperforming the benchmark's 40.7% return. The Domestic Equity portfolio returned 43.1% for the year, while the International Equity portfolio returned 40.4%. As of June 30, 2021, nearly $17 billion of domestic equity securities were managed by the internal public equity team.

The Private Equity portfolio generated a total return of 58.5% for the fiscal year, outperforming the benchmark's 45.7% return. All four segments of the portfolio contributed positively to returns, the strongest gains came from the Venture Capital/Growth Equity strategies with a total return of 84.6%.

The Non-Core Real Estate portfolio generated a total return of 6.9% for the fiscal year, underperforming the benchmark's 9.3% return. Within the Non-Core portfolio, the value-added strategies returned 7.8% for the year, while the opportunistic strategies earned 6.6%. The Core Real Estate portfolio generated a total return of 10.6%, underperforming the benchmark's 11.8% return. Within the Core Real Estate portfolio, the public equity REIT strategies led the way with a return of 34.1% for the year. The private equity core strategies earned 6.7%.

The Opportunistic Fixed Income portfolio generated a total return of 24.7% for the fiscal year, outperforming the benchmark's 16.8% return. All strategies within the portfolio outperformed the benchmark.

The Investment Grade Fixed Income portfolio generated a total return of -0.4%, outperforming the benchmark's return of -1.0%. The negative returns were driven by a rise in medium to long term interest rates over the year.

The Pension Cash portfolio generated a total return of 0.4% for the fiscal year, outperforming the benchmark's 0.02% return.

The Inflation Sensitive portfolio generated a total return of 12.6% for the fiscal year, outperforming the benchmark's 9.7% return. The Inflation portfolio has significant exposure to Commodities, Energy, and other Natural Resources which contributed to the portfolio's strong performance for the fiscal year. As a point of reference, WTI crude prices rose nearly 80% over the fiscal year.

The Multi-Strategy portfolio generated a total return of 13.9% for the fiscal year, outperforming the benchmark's 12.1% return.

External Investment Pool Portfolio Discussion (Continued)

Over the fiscal year, the Investment Management Division engaged with an external consultant to begin the process of conducting a new asset and liability management study. The ultimate objective of this study will be to identify a long-term asset allocation mix that most efficiently meets the goals and objectives of the pension plan investments. The division anticipates the study to be complete by the end of the calendar year 2021.

BIF Portfolio Discussion

The BIF portfolio generated a total return of -0.4% for the fiscal year, roughly in line with the benchmark return of -0.3%. The negative performance was driven by an increase in Treasury rates over the year. The BIF portfolio is designed to passively replicate the return and risk profile of the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index.

EIF Portfolio Discussion

The EIF generated a total return of 39.5% for the fiscal year, outperforming the benchmark's 39.3% return. The EIF portfolio is designed to passively replicate the return and risk profile of the Morgan Stanley Capital International All Country World Index.

Request for Information

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer's investment finances and to demonstrate the accountability of the Department and State Treasurer for the money they receive. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer, 3200 Atlantic Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27604, United States. The Department's website is www.nctreasurer.com and investment reports are available on that site at that address.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
STATE TREASURER INVESTMENT PROGRAMS
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
AS OF JUNE 30, 2021
(IN THOUSANDS)

	As of June 30, 2021		
	External Investment Pool	**Bond Index Investment Pool**	**Equity Index Investment Account**
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 289,742	$ 568	$ -
Securities lending collateral	814,098	-	-
Investments, at fair value	153,078,001	1,577,168	492,041
Receivables:			
Accrued interest and dividends	383,009	8,183	-
Investments sold, but not settled	164,835	30,474	-
Other receivables	17,885	-	-
Total receivables	565,729	38,657	-
Total assets	154,747,570	1,616,393	492,041
Liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	32,599	-	-
Investments purchased, but not settled	676,721	9,960	-
Obligations under securities lending	814,098	-	-
Total liabilities	1,523,418	9,960	-
Net Position			
Net position held in trust	$ 153,224,152	$ 1,606,433	$ 492,041

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF STATE TREASURER INVESTMENT PROGRAMS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021
(IN THOUSANDS)

	External Investment Pool	Bond Index Investment Pool	Equity Index Investment Account
Additions			
Investment income:			
Interest and dividend income	$ 1,745,409	$ 42,935	$ 12
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	17,867,151	(50,059)	149,880
Other investment income	552,424	250	-
Securities lending income	7,232	-	-
Total investment income (loss)	20,172,216	(6,874)	149,892
Deductions			
Investment management expenses	385,422	333	99
Administrative and other expenses	48,579	-	-
Securities lending expense (rebates)	(1,795)	-	-
Total deductions	432,206	333	99
Net increase (decrease) in net position resulting from operations	19,740,010	(7,207)	149,793
Distributions to participants			
Distributions paid and payable	(19,740,010)	7,207	(149,793)
Share transactions			
Reinvestment (purchase) of distributions	19,747,651	(7,207)	149,793
Net share purchases (redemptions)	7,381,226	(23,091)	(347,983)
Change in net position	27,128,877	(30,298)	(198,190)
Net position held in trust:			
Beginning of year	126,095,275	1,636,731	690,231
End of year	$ 153,224,152	$ 1,606,433	$ 492,041

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

1. Financial Reporting Entity

The North Carolina Department of State Treasurer Investment Programs (State Treasurer Investments) contain deposits from funds and component units of the State of North Carolina, except for certain investments of the Escheat Fund and the Bond Proceeds Investment Accounts. State Treasurer Investments include the External Investment Pool (the Pool), the Bond Index Investment Pool (BIF), and the Equity Index Investment Account (EIF).

The primary participants of the Pool include Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System, Consolidated Judicial Retirement System, Legislative Retirement System, Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund, North Carolina National Guard Pension Fund, Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System, and Retiree Health Benefit Fund.

The Pool, a governmental set of investments of the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer (the Treasurer), consists of the following individual investment portfolios: Short-term Investment Fund (STIF), Long-term Investment Fund (LTIF), Equity Investment portfolio, Real Estate Investment portfolio, Alternative Investment portfolio, Opportunistic Fixed Income Investment portfolio, Inflation Sensitive Investment portfolio and the Cash Pool portfolio. The Pool operates under General Statutes 147-69.1 to 147-69.3. The statutes address credit and other risks to which the Treasurer adheres in the management of the Pool. The deposits are commingled; therefore, the Treasurer considers all investment portfolios listed above to be part of the Pool. The Pool is not a legally separate entity within the state of North Carolina. Also, the Pool is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is not subject to any formal oversight other than that of the legislative body of the state of North Carolina.

Participants in the BIF may include public hospitals, the local government other post employment benefit (OPEBs) trusts, the Law Enforcement Officer Special Separation Allowance trusts (LEOSSAs), the North Carolina Teachers' and State Employees' Benefit Trust (Death Benefit Plans of N.C.), the Disability Income Plan of N.C., the Registers of Deeds' Supplemental Pension Fund, and other funds and component units of the state of North Carolina with investment authority under General Statue 147-69.2. See Note 7 for additional information.

The EIF's primary participants are public hospitals, local government OPEBs, and LEOSSAs. See Note 8 for additional information.

The accompanying financial statements present only the net position of the State Treasurer Investments and do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the state of North Carolina as of June 30, 2021 and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP) for governments as applicable to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and reporting principles.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, additions are recorded when earned and deductions are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Pool reports all cash on hand, deposits in banks including demand deposits, and restricted cash held by counterparties, as cash and cash equivalents. Restricted cash represents the Pool's cash held by counterparties as collateral against the Pool's derivative instruments. Cash held by counterparties as collateral is not available to the Pool for general operating purposes but may be applied against amounts due to derivative instrument counterparties or returned to the Pool when the collateral requirements are exceeded or at the maturity of the derivative instruments. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments with an original maturity of ninety days or less when purchased.

Securities Lending

Cash received as collateral on securities lending transactions is used to purchase investments. These investments are reported as securities lending collateral in the accompanying financial statements and are primarily repurchase agreements, which are reported at cost. A corresponding liability is also reported as obligations under securities lending in the accompanying financial statements of the Pool for the amount owed to the broker at the termination of the lending agreement. Income and expenses related to securities lending are reported at gross amount.

Valuation of Investments and Derivative Instruments

Investments and derivative instruments are reported at fair value with significant exceptions noted below. Repurchase agreements in the STIF are reported at amortized cost which approximates fair value.

In the Pool, fair values are determined daily for the LTIF and Equity Investment portfolios, and quarterly for the Real Estate Investment and Alternative Investment portfolios. The Opportunistic Fixed Income Investment portfolio is valued quarterly except for hedge fund investments which are valued monthly. The Inflation Sensitive Investment portfolio consists primarily of limited partnerships which are valued quarterly. It also contains futures and fixed income securities which are valued daily or monthly. In the LTIF portfolio, the fair value of fixed income securities is calculated by a third-party pricing vendor based on future principal and interest payments discounted using market yields. For the Alternative Investment portfolio (private equity investment partnerships and hedge funds), the Real Estate Investment portfolio (limited partnerships and other investments), the Opportunistic Fixed Income Investment and Inflation Sensitive Investment portfolios (limited partnerships, hedge funds, and other nonpublicly traded investments) the methodology for determining an estimated fair value is established by the general partner, which may utilize a third-party pricing source or an independent real estate appraiser.

Contracts with these partnerships, hedge funds, and other investments require an annual audit, except for certain older investments that are immaterial to the financial statements.

Valuation of Investments and Derivative Instruments (Continued)

The general partners' estimated fair values are based on the partnership's and fund's respective net asset values (NAV). The most significant input into the NAV of such an entity is the fair value of its holdings. These nonpublicly traded assets are valued at current fair value, taking into consideration the financial performance of the issuer, cash flow analysis, recent sales prices, market comparable transactions, a new round of financing, a change in economic conditions, and other pertinent information. The fair values of certain investments may require significant management judgment or estimation. Fair value is determined using the best information available for a hypothetical transaction at the measurement date, not using forced sale or fire sale pricing. Participants' shares sold and redeemed are determined in the same manner as is used to report investments, and the Treasurer does not provide or obtain legally binding guarantees to support share values. Net investment income earned by the Pool and BIF is generally distributed on a pro rata basis.

For the BIF and EIF, fair values are determined daily. In addition, the fair values for the fixed income securities in the BIF are calculated by a third-party pricing vendor based on future principal and interest payments discounted using market yields.

Forward foreign currency contracts and futures contracts are included in the Statements of Fiduciary Net Position as "Investments, at fair value." Investments, at fair value, incorporate unrealized gains or losses on outstanding forward foreign currency contracts and futures contracts. Gains or losses, incurred when forward foreign currency contracts and futures contracts entered into by the Pool mature or are closed out, are included in "Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments" in the Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position.

Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities include amounts due for administrative and investment management expenses.

Income Recognition

Investment transactions are accounted for on a trade (investment) date basis. Net appreciation (depreciation) in the fair value of investments consists of both the realized and unrealized gains or losses which include those resulting from the sale of assets during the year as well as changes in the fair market value of the investments held at fiscal year-end. Interest and dividend income is recorded on the accrual basis, with dividends accruing on the ex-dividend date.

Investment Management Expenses

The Investment Management Division (IMD) at the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer hires external investment managers to invest a significant portion of the investment assets. The State Treasurer typically pays investment management fees based on individually negotiated investment management agreements. The fees, usually paid quarterly, may be based on a sliding scale of the portfolio's net asset value at quarter-end, calculated by multiplying each level of net position by a specified basis point charge, or may be performance-related, typically associated with exceeding a market benchmark and/or hurdle rate. Fees are paid from the appropriate manager's portfolio and are recognized as an expense over the time period for which the fees are applicable. These charges are reported on the Statements of Changes in Net Fiduciary Position as part of the State Treasurer's investment management expenses.

Administrative and Other Expenses

Certain administrative expenses of the Pool are paid by the Treasurer. These expenses consist of charges to the individual funds administered by IMD and include custodial fees, bank charges, the Treasurer's allocated costs of administering the Pool, partnership expenses, and other costs of administering the investment portfolios. These charges are reported on the Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position as part of the Pool's administrative and other expenses.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of income and expense during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. External Investment Pool Deposits and Investments

All deposits are cash and cash equivalents. As of June 30, 2021, the balance of the Pool's deposits was $289.7 million. Also at June 30, 2021, the amount of restricted cash held by the Pool was $50.1 million.

Unless specifically exempt, every agency of the state and certain component units are required by General Statute 147-77 to deposit moneys received with the Treasurer or with a depository institution in the name of the Treasurer. Deposits to the Pool may be made in any bank, savings and loan association, or trust company in the state as approved by the Treasurer. General Statute 147-79 requires depositories to collateralize all balances that are not FDIC insured. The depositories must maintain specified security types in a third-party escrow account established by the Treasurer.

The Treasurer is directed by statute to establish, maintain, administer, manage, and operate investment programs for the Pool's assets, pursuant to the applicable statutes. In doing so, the Treasurer has full powers as a fiduciary and, with IMD staff, manages the investment programs so assets may be readily converted into cash when needed.

In establishing the comprehensive management program, the Treasurer, utilizing a professional investment staff, has developed an investment strategy for each portfolio that recognizes the guidelines of the governing General Statutes. In addition to the Treasurer and IMD staff managing these programs, the Investment Advisory Committee (IAC) provides opinions on policies and opinions on general strategy for the Pension Fund investments, including asset allocation, in consultation with IMD staff.

Investment Portfolios

The Pool invests in the following individual investment portfolios as of June 30, 2021:

Statutory Asset Allocation *(in Thousands)*	
Short-Term Investment Fund	$ 46,769,161
Long-Term Investment Fund	29,179,493
Equity Investment	43,994,051
Real Estate Investment	8,722,458
Alternative Investment	9,687,737
Opportunistic Fixed Income Investment	6,943,136
Inflation Sensitive Investment	5,508,528
Cash Pool	3,087,535
Total investments and securities lending collateral	$ 153,892,099

STIF – This fixed-income investment portfolio is the primary cash management account and is managed in such a manner as to be readily convertible into cash. The primary participants of this portfolio are the General Fund and the Highway Funds. Other participants may include universities and various boards, commissions, community colleges, and school administrative units that make voluntary deposits with the Treasurer as well as the remaining portfolios listed below. The Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System, Consolidated Judicial Retirement System, Legislative Retirement System, Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund, North Carolina National Guard Pension Fund, Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System, and Retiree Health Benefit Fund (collectively the North Carolina Retirement Systems) hold a cash allocation that is invested in STIF and provides liquidity for the Pool.

LTIF – This portfolio holds fixed-income investments, including Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA) certificates, corporate bonds, U.S. Treasuries, and U.S. agency obligations. Since the deposits in this fund are typically not needed for day-to-day operations, the investment vehicles used generally have a longer term and higher yield than those held in the STIF. The sole participants of the portfolio are the North Carolina Retirement Systems.

Equity Investment – This portfolio primarily holds an equity-based trust. The North Carolina Retirement Systems are the sole participants in the portfolio.

Real Estate Investment – This portfolio holds investments in real estate-based trust funds, limited partnerships and other limited liability investment vehicles, group annuity contracts, and accounts managed under contractual relationships giving an external investment manager discretion. The North Carolina Retirement Systems are the sole participants in the portfolio.

Alternative Investment – This portfolio holds investments in limited partnerships and other limited liability investment vehicles, hedge funds, and equities received in the form of distributions from its primary investments. The North Carolina Retirement Systems are the sole participants in the portfolio.

Investment Portfolios (Continued)

Opportunistic Fixed Income Investment – This portfolio holds investments in debt-related strategies made primarily through limited partnerships or other limited liability vehicles. The North Carolina Retirement Systems are the sole participants in the portfolio.

Inflation Sensitive Investment – This portfolio holds investments in assets that are acquired for the primary purpose of providing protection against risks associated with inflation made primarily through limited partnerships or other limited liability vehicles which hold fixed income securities including U.S. Treasuries and corporate bonds. The North Carolina Retirement Systems are the sole participants in the portfolio.

Cash Pool – The cash pool is managed in a manner to be readily convertible into cash. It holds a collective investment fund with a maturity of less than 60 days. The sole participants are the North Carolina Retirement Systems.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of debt instruments. There is no formally adopted investment policy to manage interest rate risk. Fixed income assets of the STIF are invested in a laddered maturity approach that focuses on short maturity securities with ample liquidity. The STIF had a weighted average maturity of 1.3 years as of June 30, 2021. Most of the cash and cash equivalents of the major governmental and enterprise funds are invested in this portfolio.

The Pool maintained by the Treasurer had the following investments and maturities in the STIF as of June 30, 2021:

		Investment Maturities (in Years)			
STIF	**Carry Amount**	**Less Than 1**	**1 to 5**	**6 to 10**	**More Than 10**
			(In Thousands)		
As of June 30, 2021					
U.S. treasuries	$ 33,788,705	$ 16,687,046	$ 17,101,659	$ -	$ -
U.S. agencies	11,699,927	-	11,699,927	-	-
Securities purchased with cash collateral under securities lending program:					
Repurchase agreements	529	529	-	-	-
Repurchase agreements	1,280,000	1,280,000	-	-	-
Total short-term investment fund assets	$ 46,769,161	$ 17,967,575	$ 28,801,586	$ -	$ -

Interest Rate Risk (Continued)

The assets of the LTIF are primarily invested in securities with maturities longer than five years. The longer maturity range is more sensitive to interest rate changes; however, the longer duration structure of the portfolio provides a better match to the long duration characteristics of the North Carolina Retirement Systems' liabilities. The Treasurer considers the maturity for interest rate risk purposes to be the length of time to the next reset date rather than the stated maturity. The LTIF had a weighted average maturity of 17.4 years as of June 30, 2021.

The LTIF holds investments in GNMA mortgage pass-through funds. Critical to the pricing of these securities are the specific features of the cash flows from the interest and principal payments of the underlying mortgages. Therefore, these valuations are sensitive to the potential of principal prepayments by mortgagees in periods of changing interest rates. Also, included within the LTIF are U.S. government agencies and domestic corporate bonds which may carry call options in which the issuer has the option to prepay the principal at certain dates over the life of the security. As such, these types of securities are more sensitive to the decline in long-term interest rates than similar securities without call options. In addition to the domestic corporate bonds with call options, there are domestic corporate bonds with variable coupon rates that reset on specific dates. Critical to the cash flows and pricing of these securities are the changes in interest rates.

The Pool maintained by the Treasurer had the following investments and maturities in the LTIF as of June 30, 2021:

		Investment Maturities (in Years)			
LTIF	**Carry Amount**	**Less Than 1**	**1 to 5**	**6 to 10**	**More Than 10**
			(In Thousands)		
As of June 30, 2021					
U.S. treasuries	$ 6,733,178	$ -	$ 1,261,186	$ 2,327,546	$ 3,144,446
U.S. agencies	774,687	-	-	371,625	403,062
Mortgage pass-through	10,389,558	514,458	3,096	16,816	9,855,188
Domestic corporate bonds	10,909,059	10,109	827,353	4,580,599	5,490,998
Foreign government bonds	13,948	-	-	7,573	6,375
Securities purchased with cash collateral under securities lending program:					
Repurchase agreements	339,968	339,968	-	-	-
Money market mutual funds	19,095	19,095	-	-	-
Total long-term investment fund assets	$ 29,179,493	$ 883,630	$ 2,091,635	$ 7,304,159	$ 18,900,069

Interest Rate Risk (Continued)

The Other Investment Portfolios of the Pool (Equity, Real Estate, Alternative, Opportunistic Fixed Income, Inflation Sensitive, and Cash Pool) hold fixed income investments in U.S. treasuries, corporate bonds, and collective investment funds. The Pool maintained by the Treasurer had the following investments and maturities separated by Other Investment Portfolios as of June 30, 2021:

		Investment Maturities (in Years)			
Other Investment Portfolios	**Carry Amount**	**Less Than 1**	**1 to 5**	**6 to 10**	**More Than 10**
			(In Thousands)		
As of June 30, 2021					
U.S. treasuries	$ 265,210	$ 198,656	$ 66,554	$ -	$ -
Asset-backed securities	41,025	38,270	-	-	2,755
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	24,521	407	-	-	24,114
Collateralized mortgage obligations	66,548	31,777	102	-	34,669
Collective investment funds	3,383,610	3,383,610	-	-	-
Domestic corporate bonds	649,627	274,946	85,543	122,269	166,869
Foreign government bonds	39,119	1,558	4,319	3,107	30,135
Securities purchased with cash collateral under securities lending program:					
Asset-backed securities	20,098	20,098	-	-	-
Money market mutual funds	22,188	22,188	-	-	-
Repurchase agreements	412,219	412,219	-	-	-
Total other investment portfolios assets	$ 4,924,165	$ 4,383,729	$ 156,518	$ 125,376	$ 258,542

The major investment classifications had the following attributes as of June 30, 2021:

Investment Classification	**Principal Amount**	**Range of Interest Rates**
	(In Thousands)	
STIF		
U.S. treasuries	$ 33,725,000	0.00%-1.88%
U.S. agencies	11,700,000	0.17%-0.60%
Securities purchased with cash collateral under securities lending program:		
Repurchase agreements	529	0.06%
Repurchase agreements	1,280,000	0.02%-0.04%
LTIF		
U.S. treasuries	5,620,748	0.75%-7.63%
U.S. agencies	530,786	4.65%-7.13%
Mortgage pass-throughs	9,876,241	2.00%-9.00%
Domestic corporate bonds	9,366,334	0.80%-10.50%
Foreign government bonds	13,000	2.75%-3.25%
Securities purchased with cash collateral under securities lending program:		
Repurchase agreements	339,979	0.05%-0.09%
Money market mutual funds	19,095	0.035%-0.036%

Interest Rate Risk (Continued)

Investment Classification (Continued)		Principal Amount	Range of Interest Rates
		(In Thousands)	
Other investment portfolios			
U.S. treasuries	$	337,602	0.00%-1.64%
Asset-backed securities		83,269	0.23%-5.79%
Commercial mortgage-backed securities		152,202	0.68%-5.34%
Collateralized mortgage obligations		224,994	0.61%-6.50%
Collective investment funds		3,383,610	0.00%-0.50%
Domestic corporate bonds		930,446	0.00%-15.50%
Foreign government bonds		38,200	1.00%-5.88%
Securities purchased with cash collateral under securities lending program:			
Asset-backed securities		20,195	0.22%-0.93%
Money market mutual funds		22,188	0.035%-0.036%
Repurchase agreements		411,988	0.05%-0.09%

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfil its obligations such as the chance that a bond issuer will fail to pay interest or principal in a timely manner, or that negative perceptions of the issuer's ability to make these payments will cause security prices to decline. These circumstances may arise due to a variety of factors such as financial weakness, bankruptcy, litigation, and/or adverse political developments. Certain fixed income securities, including obligations of the U.S. government or those explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government, are not considered to have credit risk.

General Statute 147-69.1 limits credit risk by restricting the STIF's corporate obligations, asset-backed securities, and commercial paper to securities that bear the highest rating of at least one nationally recognized rating service and do not bear a rating below the highest by any nationally recognized rating service.

The STIF had the following credit quality distribution for securities with credit exposure as of June 30, 2021:

STIF	Aaa/AAA	Aa/AA	A	Baa/BBB	Less than Investment Grade	Unrated
			(In Thousands)			
As of June 30, 2021						
U.S. agencies	$ -	$ 11,699,927	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Securities purchased with cash collateral under securities lending program:						
Repurchase agreements	-	529	-	-	-	-
Repurchase agreements	-	1,280,000	-	-	-	-
Total short-term investment fund assets	$ -	$ 12,980,456	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Excluded from this chart are securities exempt from credit risk such as U.S. Treasuries and GNMA mortgage pass-through investments.

Credit Risk (Continued)

General Statute 147-69.2 specifies the cash investment options for the LTIF and limits credit risk by restricting the LTIF's asset-backed securities and corporate obligations to securities that bear one of the four highest ratings of at least one nationally recognized rating service when acquired. In the LTIF, all holdings were rated BBB (or equivalent) or higher at the time of purchase by at least one of the nationally recognized rating agencies.

The LTIF had the following credit quality distribution for securities with credit exposure as of June 30, 2021:

LTIF	**Aaa/AAA**	**Aa/AA**	**A**	**Baa/BBB**	**Less than Investment Grade**	**Unrated**
			(In Thousands)			
As of June 30, 2021						
U.S. agencies	$ -	$ 774,687	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Domestic corporate bonds	269,385	793,632	4,969,442	4,616,220	260,380	-
Foreign government bonds	-	6,375	7,573	-	-	-
Securities purchased with cash collateral under securities lending program:						
Repurchase agreements	-	339,968	-	-	-	-
Money market mutual fund	19,095	-	-	-	-	-
Total long-term investment fund assets	$ 288,480	$ 1,914,662	$ 4,977,015	$ 4,616,220	$ 260,380	$ -

Excluded from this chart are securities exempt from credit risk such as U.S. Treasuries and GNMA mortgage pass-through investments.

The Other Investment Portfolios of the Pool had the following credit quality distribution for securities with credit exposure as of June 30, 2021:

Other Investment Portfolios	**Aaa/AAA**	**Aa/AA**	**A**	**Baa/BBB**	**Less than Investment Grade**	**Unrated**
			(In Thousands)			
As of June 30, 2021						
Asset-backed securities	$ -	$ -	$ 2,000	$ 2,472	$ 36,553	$ -
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	1,744	7,435	10,081	1,932	77	3,252
Collateralized mortgage obligations	1,998	24,017	-	-	16,583	23,950
Collective investment funds	-	-	-	-	-	3,383,610
Domestic corporate bonds	10,668	46,649	26,318	162,338	232,846	170,808
Foreign government bonds	-	4,716	5,576	22,683	6,144	-
Securities purchased with cash collateral under securities lending program:						
Asset-backed securities	-	18,500	-	-	1,598	-
Money market mutual funds	22,188	-	-	-	-	-
Repurchase agreements	-	412,219	-	-	-	-
Total other investment portfolios assets	$ 36,598	$ 513,536	$ 43,975	$ 189,425	$ 293,801	$ 3,581,620

Excluded from this chart are securities exempt from credit risk such as U.S. Treasuries and GNMA mortgage pass-through investments.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, the Pool's deposits may not be recovered. As of June 30, 2021, the Pool's deposits had no exposure to custodial credit risk.

For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Treasurer will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. As of June 30, 2021, the investments purchased with cash collateral under the securities lending programs of $814 million were not exposed to custodial credit risk since the securities were held by the counterparty in separate accounts in the name of the Treasurer. All other investments of the Pool were not exposed to custodial credit risk at year-end. There is no formally adopted investment policy to manage custodial credit risk for these investment types.

The Treasurer's deposit policy for custodial credit risk is limited to complying with the collateralization rules of the North Carolina Administrative Code (Chapter 20 NCAC 7). The collateral securities must be governmental in origin (e.g., U.S. Treasury, U.S. agency, Federal Home Loan Bank letters of credit, or state and local government obligations) or the highest-grade commercial paper, surety bonds and bankers' acceptances. The market value of the collateral must not be less than the value of the uninsured deposits. The depositories may elect to collateralize deposits separately (dedicated method) or include deposits of the North Carolina local government units in a collateral pool with the state and certain component units (pooling method).

Concentration of Credit Risk

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of a government's investment in a single issuer. Mutual funds, money market funds, and external pooled accounts are excluded from this disclosure requirement. Obligations explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. Government are not considered to have credit risk. However, more than 5% of the Pool's securities were invested in Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation. These investments totaled $8.4 billion and comprised 5.5% of the Pool's total investments. These investments are held primarily by the STIF and LTIF portfolios and are classified as U.S. Agencies. There is no formal policy regarding concentration of credit risk.

Foreign Currency Risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that changes in exchange rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment or a deposit. There is no formally adopted investment policy to limit foreign currency exposure.

The Pool had the following exposure to foreign currency risk as of June 30, 2021:

	Carrying Value As of June 30, 2021				
	Investment Type				
Currency	Equity Based Trust - International	Alternative Investment - Private Equity Investment Partnerships	Real Estate Trust Funds	Opportunistic Fixed Income Investment Partnership	Total
	(In Thousands)				
Euro	$ 5,007,786	$ 312,153	$ 95,400	$ 28,715	$ 5,444,054
Japanese Yen	2,913,197	-	94,459	-	3,007,656
British Pound Sterling	1,848,271	23,801	263,711	-	2,135,783
Hong Kong Dollar	1,859,932	-	84,453	-	1,944,385
Swiss Franc	877,306	-	9,641	-	886,947
Australian Dollar	565,525	-	28,998	-	594,523
Danish Krone	560,093	-	-	-	560,093
Swedish Krona	428,331	-	21,756	-	450,087
New Taiwan Dollar	338,426	-	623	-	339,049
Canadian Dollar	225,051	-	25,328	-	250,379
South Korean Won	177,701	-	190	-	177,891
Singapore Dollar	131,317	-	26,531	-	157,848
Indian Rupee	121,740	-	2,418	-	124,158
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	106,236	-	1,516	-	107,752
Norwegian Krone	80,730	-	1,790	-	82,520
Brazil Real	62,607	-	3,523	-	66,130
South African Rand	23,459	-	3,718	-	27,177
Mexican Peso	23,336	-	3,164	-	26,500
Thai Baht	21,721	-	3,086	-	24,807
Israeli Shekel	20,312	-	1,267	-	21,579
Indonesian Rupiah	19,114	-	793	-	19,907
Polish Zloty	19,433	-	-	-	19,433
Philippines Peso	8,780	-	5,936	-	14,716
New Zealand Dollar	10,778	-	1,893	-	12,671
Hungarian Forint	7,149	-	-	-	7,149
UAE Dirham	-	-	2,390	-	2,390
Other Currencies	10,248	-	4,003	-	14,251
Total investments subject to foreign currency risk	$ 15,468,579	$ 335,954	$ 686,587	$ 28,715	$ 16,519,835

The Pool recognized an aggregate foreign currency transaction loss of $2.4 million for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021 as part of the Pool's net appreciation in fair value of investments. Transaction gains or losses result from a change in exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and the currency in which a foreign currency transaction is denominated.

4. External Investment Pool Fair Value Measurement

The Pool categorizes fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy levels are summarized in the three broad levels listed below:

Level 1 – Unadjusted quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.

Level 2 – Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable.

Level 3 – Valuations derived from valuation techniques in which significant value drivers are unobservable.

4. External Investment Pool Fair Value Measurement (Continued)

The Pool had the following recurring fair value measurements as of June 30, 2021:

Investments and Derivative Instruments at Fair Value

		Fair Value Measurements Using		
	As of June 30, 2021	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Significant other observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)
Investments measured at fair value		*(In Thousands)*		
STIF				
U.S. Treasuries	$ 33,788,705	$ -	$ 33,788,705	$ -
U.S. Agencies	11,699,927	-	11,699,927	-
Subtotal	45,488,632	-	45,488,632	-
LTIF				
U.S. Treasuries	6,733,178	-	6,733,178	-
U.S. Agencies	774,687	-	774,687	-
Mortgage pass-through	10,389,558	-	10,389,558	-
Domestic corporate bonds	10,909,059	-	10,909,059	-
Foreign government bonds	13,948	-	13,948	-
Subtotal	28,820,430	-	28,820,430	-
Other investment portfolios				
U.S. Treasuries-inflation	265,210	-	265,210	-
Asset-backed securities	41,025	-	41,025	-
Collateralized mortgage obligations	66,548	-	66,548	-
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	24,521	-	24,521	-
Securities purchased with cash collateral under equity securities lending program:				
Asset-backed securities	20,098	-	20,098	-
Equity securities - domestic	20,939,367	20,939,367	-	-
Equity securities - foreign	17,304,066	17,298,283	5,783	-
Equity securities - preferred domestic	1,378	1,271	-	107
Equity securities - preferred foreign	116,217	116,217	-	-
Domestic corporate bonds	649,627	-	571,727	77,900
Foreign government bonds	39,119	-	39,119	-
Subtotal	39,467,176	38,355,138	1,034,031	78,007
Investment derivative instruments				
Futures contracts	8,098	8,098	-	-
Futures contracts (liability)	(3,868)	(3,868)	-	-
Total investment derivative instruments	4,230	4,230	-	-
Total investments by fair value level	$ 113,780,468	$ 38,359,368	$ 75,343,093	$ 78,007

4. External Investment Pool Fair Value Measurement (Continued)

Investments measured at the Net Asset Value (NAV)

		Unfunded commitments	Redemption frequency (if currently eligible)	Redemption notice period (days)
Commingled international equity funds [1]	$ 4,369,059	$ -	Daily	2
Commingled real estate funds [2]	156,364	-	Daily, Quarterly	1 - 60
Core real estate funds [3]	4,662,051	412,072	Quarterly, Illiquid	90-Illiquid
Equity rebalancing [4]	1,819,383	-	Daily	1 - 5
Hedge funds				
Global public equity - hedged [5]	249,959	-	Daily, Monthly, Quarterly, Illiquid	3 - 180
Multi-strategy funds [6]	131,045	-	Weekly, Quarterly, Illiquid	5 - Illiquid
Opportunistic fixed income - distressed credit [7]	135,431	-	Illiquid	Illiquid
Opportunistic fixed income - hedged fixed income [8]	3,330,233	-	Monthly, Quarterly, Annually	15 - 90
Inflation protected bonds [9]	437,734	-	Monthly	30
Long-only public equity [10]	1,288,522	-	Illiquid	--
Non-core real estate funds [11]	2,959,577	743,517	Illiquid	Illiquid
Private credit funds [12]	3,477,473	766,393	Daily, Annually, Illiquid	60 - Illiquid
Private equity funds [13]	7,389,098	1,663,147	Illiquid	Illiquid
Private infrastructure funds [14]	704,507	15,844	Illiquid	Illiquid
Private multi-strategy funds [15]	334,401	-	Illiquid	Illiquid
Private natural resources funds [16]	2,143,624	465,103	Illiquid	Illiquid
Private real asset funds [17]	1,065,780	830,894	Illiquid	Illiquid
Collective investment funds [18]	3,383,610	-	Daily	--
Total investments at the NAV	38,037,851			
Subtotal	151,818,319			
Money market mutual funds	41,283			
Repurchase agreements	2,032,497			
Investments at amortized cost	2,073,780			
Total investments and securities lending collateral	$ 153,892,099			

4. External Investment Pool Fair Value Measurement (Continued)

(1) *Commingled International Equity Funds:* 5 funds. Each are valued at the net asset value of units held at the end of the period based upon the fair value of the underlying investments.

(2) *Commingled Real Estate Fund:* 1 fund. This investment is valued at the net asset value of units held at the end of the period based upon the fair value of the underlying investments

(3) *Core Real Estate Funds:* 18 funds. These investments are valued using net assets valued as of the previous quarter end, plus current quarter cash flows. These investments include a mix of predominately U.S. domiciled equity and debt investments in core commercial real estate. These funds are not eligible for redemption. Distributions are received as underlying investments within the funds are liquidated, which on average can occur over the span of 5-10 years.

(4) *Equity Rebalancing:* 3 funds. Each are valued at NAV per share. These investments are options-based equity rebalancing programs used as a tool to maintain asset exposures within plan policy portfolio tolerances.

(5) *Hedge Funds - Global Public Equity – Hedged:* 3 funds. These investments are valued at NAV per share. These investments may include various equity-based hedge fund strategies.

(6) *Hedge Funds - Multi-Strategy:* 1 fund. This investment is valued at NAV per share. These investments have the flexibility to invest across markets, asset classes, commodities, and currencies, including hedging. Strategies may include opportunistic, event-driven, relative value, global macro, rebalancing, tail hedging and overlays.

(7) *Hedge Funds - Opportunistic Fixed Income - Distressed Credit*: 1 fund. This investment is valued at NAV per share. These investments may include strategies that trade distressed debt, but occasionally actively participate in restructurings and seek control post-reorganization of target issuers. These strategies may have equity exposure.

(8) *Hedge Funds - Opportunistic Fixed Income - Hedged Fixed Income:* 8 funds. These investments are valued at NAV per share. These investments include hedged implementations of market neutral strategies, relative value strategies, and multi-strategy (i.e., predominantly fixed income) utilizing non-investment grade instruments.

(9) *Inflation Protected Bonds:* 1 fund. This investment is valued at NAV per share. These strategies may invest in Treasury Inflation Protected Securities, non U.S. inflation linked bonds, or floating rate debt. Currently, the strategy represented in this category is one which invests primarily in publicly traded securities, but also has the ability to invest up to 15% in private investments.

(10) *Long Only Public Equity:* 1 fund. This investment is valued at NAV per share. These investments may include publicly traded U.S. equity, non-U.S. equity, and global equity securities held in long-only vehicles. Currently, the strategies represented in this category have a North American-focus, with an activist role in investing. As such, the portfolios will tend to be concentrated in its positioning. *These strategies may have multi-year initial lock ups. Funds may be withdrawn as of the last day of each calendar year following the expiration of the expiration of the relevant lockup period, provided that 90 days written notice is given.*

4. External Investment Pool Fair Value Measurement (Continued)

(11) *Non Core Real Estate Funds:* 68 funds. These investments are valued using net assets valued as of the previous quarter end, plus current quarter cash flows. These investments include a mix of global equity and debt investments in commercial and residential real estate, and each strategy falls into one of three major categories: Value (with a target allocation of 50%), Opportunistic (with a target allocation of 50%) and Special Situations (with a target allocation of 0%). These funds are not eligible for redemption. Distributions are received as underlying investments within the funds are liquidated, which on average can occur over the span of 5-10 years.

(12) *Private Credit Funds:* 27 funds. These investments are valued using net assets valued as of the previous quarter end, plus current quarter cash flows. These investments include a mix of non-investment grade or unrated obligations, debt securities and asset-backed securities, including but not limited to bank loans, high yield, mortgage-backed securities, convertibles, whole loans, mezzanine debt, credit default swaps, collateralized debt obligations and sovereign debt. These funds are not eligible for redemption. Distributions are received as underlying investments within the funds are liquidated, which on average can occur over the span of 5-10 years.

(13) *Private Equity Funds:* 101 funds. These investments are valued using net assets valued as of the previous quarter end, plus current quarter cash flows. These investments include a mix of buyout, venture capital, growth equity, and private special situations vehicles. All investments fall into one of three major categories: Growth (with a target allocation of 20%), Buyout (with a target allocation of 50%) and Special Situations (with a target allocation of 30%). These funds are not eligible for redemption. Distributions are received as underlying investments within the funds are liquidated, which on average can occur over the span of 5-10 years.

(14) *Private Infrastructure Funds:* 3 funds. These investments are valued using net assets valued as of the previous quarter end, plus current quarter cash flows. These strategies invest in various infrastructure-related markets including but not limited to utilities, transportation, energy and communication. These funds are not eligible for redemption. Distributions are received as underlying investments within the funds are liquidated, which on average can occur over the span of 5-10 years.

(15) *Private Multi-Strategy Funds:* 1 fund. This investment is valued using net assets valued as of the previous quarter end, plus current quarter cash flows. These investments have the flexibility to invest across markets, asset classes, commodities, and currencies, including hedging. Strategies may include opportunistic, event-driven, relative value, global macro, rebalancing, tail hedging and overlays. Currently the strategy represented in this category is considered opportunistic, and will tactically invest across a broad range of investible assets. These funds are not eligible for redemption. Distributions are received as underlying investments within the funds are liquidated, which on average can occur over the span of 5-10 years.

(16) *Private Natural Resources Funds:* 27 funds. These investments are valued using net assets valued as of the previous quarter end, plus current quarter cash flows. These strategies make non-public equity or debt investments in timberland, energy, agriculture, and other natural resources implementations. These funds are not eligible for redemption. Distributions are received as underlying investments within the funds are liquidated, which on average can occur over the span of 5-10 years.

4. External Investment Pool Fair Value Measurement (Continued)

(17) *Private Real Asset Funds:* 14 funds. These investments are valued using net assets valued as of the previous quarter end, plus current quarter cash flows. These investments represent a mix of strategies including ships, airplanes, rail cars, mines, real estate and other markets whose primary purpose is providing protection against risks associated with inflation. These funds are not eligible for redemption. Distributions are received as underlying investments within the funds are liquidated, which on average can occur over the span of 5-10 years.

(18) *Collective Investment Trusts:* 1 fund. This investment is the BNY Mellon EB Temporary Investment Fund. This fund primarily invests in instruments issued by the US Government and Federal agencies, short term corporate obligations, commercial paper, and certificates of deposit. The average weighted maturity of this fund does not exceed 60 days.

Valuation Methodologies and Inputs

Equity securities classified in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy are valued using prices quoted in active markets for those securities.

Level 2 U.S. Treasuries are evaluated by using data from several live feeds which include active market makers and inter-dealer brokers. Sources are reviewed on the basis of their historical accuracy for individual issues and maturity ranges. For inflation securities which include Treasury Inflation Protection Securities tied to the Consumer Price Index, prices are evaluated continuously throughout the day using a variety of real-time sources from active market makers in Treasury securities and market makers.

Level 2 U.S. Agencies, which are primarily mortgage pass-through securities, use a dealer derived to-be-announced (TBA) security as a benchmark, plus a dollar (or pay up) adjustment which is based on market data for the underlying collateral. When the underlying TBA is not applicable or observable, a discounted cash flow is calculated using a spread to the treasury curve based on applicable market data and internally generated long-term speed.

Level 2 mortgage pass-through securities are evaluated on interest rate movements and other market data to derive spread, yield and/or price data as appropriate allowing data points to be extrapolated for application across a range of related securities.

Level 2 bonds are priced using both spread-based and priced-based evaluations. For spread-based evaluations, an option adjusted spread model is developed incorporating credit risk and based on the new issue market, secondary trading, and dealer quotes. For priced-based evaluations, evaluators use recently executed transactions of similar securities and dealer quotes to arrive at appropriate pricing. These methods also are used to value Canadian government bonds, which make up foreign government bonds classified as Level 2.

Level 2 asset-backed securities are priced using a model which considers days to final maturity to generate a yield based on the relevant curve for the security. Adjustments to the yield can be made as market conditions warrant. Days are counted from settlement to final maturity using the relevant settlement convention for each market. A bid evaluation is calculated from these inputs.

Valuation Methodologies and Inputs (Continued)

Level 2 collateralized mortgage obligations and commercial mortgage-backed securities are evaluated using predicted cash flows, adjusted by an applicable spread/yield/price adjustment incorporating benchmark yields, collateral performance, and prevailing market conditions.

Level 3 bonds are priced using broker quotes. Level 3 equity securities are priced using manager pricing.

5. External Investment Pool Securities Lending

Based on General Statute 147-69.3(e), the Treasurer lends securities from its Pool to broker-dealers and other entities (borrowers) for collateral that will be returned for the same securities in the future. The Treasurer’s custodian manages the securities lending program for the internally managed fixed income portfolios, the equity based trust and the Inflation Sensitive portfolio. During the year, the securities lending program lent U.S. government and agency securities, corporate bonds, equity securities and notes for collateral. The program is permitted to receive cash, U.S. government, and agency securities as collateral for the securities lent.

The collateral is initially pledged at 102% of the market value of the domestic securities lent in the fixed income and Inflation Sensitive portfolios as well as the equity based trust and 105% of the market value of foreign securities lent in the equity based trust program. Additional collateral is required if its value falls to less than 100% of the market value of the securities lent. There are no restrictions on the amount of loans that can be made. Substantially all security loans can be terminated on demand by either the Treasurer or the borrower. The Treasurer cannot pledge or sell the collateral securities received unless the borrower defaults.

The cash collateral received is invested by the lending provider and held in a separate account in the name of the Treasurer. The policies for investments purchased with cash collateral under the securities lending program are set forth in the contract with the lending provider. The weighted average maturities of the cash collateral investments do not match the weighted average maturities of the securities loans as current securities lending guidelines require collateral to be invested in overnight investments and loan maturities are extended beyond overnight in an effort to stabilize loan balances. At June 30, 2021, the weighted average maturity of all securities loans was one day.

As of June 30, 2021, the Treasurer had no credit risk exposure to borrowers because the amounts the Treasurer owed the borrowers exceeded the amounts the borrowers owed the Treasurer. The lending provider is contractually obligated to indemnify the Treasurer for certain conditions, the most important is default on the part of the borrowers.

As of September 15, 2016, securities purchased with cash collateral under the current securities lending guidelines are limited to repurchase agreements and shares in money market funds registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and that comply with Rule 2a-7. The securities pledged as collateral for repurchase agreements are limited to securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies. All counterparties for repurchase agreements must have a short-term debt rating of at least A2, P2, or F2 by at least one of the nationally recognized statistical rating organizations.

5. External Investment Pool Securities Lending (Continued)

Under prior securities lending contractual guidelines, additional flexibility was given with regards to acceptable assets purchased with cash collateral. As of June 30, 2021, a total of $20.1 million remained in securities approved under prior guidelines, consisting of asset-backed securities. These securities will remain in the account until maturity or until sold. The weighted average maturity of investments, including the securities purchased under prior guidelines, was two days.

As of June 30, 2021, the fair value of loaned securities was $6.2 billion; the fair value of the associated collateral was $6.4 billion of which $814 million was cash.

6. External Investment Pool Derivative Instruments

Derivative instruments are securities that derive value from another asset and are in the form of a contract between two or more parties. Common derivative instruments are futures contracts, forward contracts, options, and swaps.

The Pool maintained by the Treasurer has investments in equity and commodity futures, foreign currency forward and spot currency contracts. All of these derivative instruments are designated as investment derivative instruments; they are used to implement portfolio strategies, capture valuation opportunities, and to exploit market inefficiencies. The primary risks managed by using these derivative instruments include foreign exchange rate and market price risks.

Futures contracts are standardized, exchange-traded contracts to purchase or sell a specific financial instrument at a predetermined price. Gains and losses on futures contracts are settled daily based on underlying principal value and do not involve an actual transfer of the specific instrument. The exchange assumes the risk that the counterparty will not pay and generally requires margin payments to minimize such risk. Futures are generally used to achieve the desired market exposure of a security or index or to rebalance the total portfolio.

Forward currency contracts are agreements to exchange the currency of one country for the currency of another country at an agreed-upon price and settlement date. These forward commitments are not standardized and carry credit risk due to the possible non-performance of one of the counterparties. The maximum potential loss is the aggregate face value in U.S. dollars at the time the contract was opened; however, the likelihood of such a loss is remote. In addition to forward currency contracts, the Pool also utilizes spot currency contracts. Spot currency contracts are used primarily for trade settlement and currency repatriation.

As of June 30, 2021 the counterparties' credit ratings for forward currency contracts that are subject to credit risk had a rating of no less than BBB by one of the nationally recognized ratings agencies.

6. External Investment Pool Derivative Instruments (Continued)

The following table is a summary of derivative instruments activity during the fiscal year and balances at year-end, classified by type with notional amount for the year ending June 30, 2021:

	Increase (Decrease) in in Fair Value		Fair Value		
Investment Derivatives	**Classification**	**Amount (In U.S. $)**	**Classification**	**Amount (In U.S. $)**	**Notional (In U.S. $)**
		(In Thousands)			
Foreign equity futures a)	Investment Income	$ (156)	Investment	$ (156)	$ 13,053
Commodity futures b)	Investment Income	4,386	Investment	4,386	253,279
Forward currency contracts	Investment Income	(214)	Investment	(214)	243,921
Spot currency contracts	Investment Income	(7)	Investment	(7)	37,791

a) 2.1 million Australian Dollar; 4.4 million Euro; 408.0 million Japanese Yen; 1.8 million British Pound Sterling.

b) 361,000 barrels of Brent crude oil; 414,000 barrels of West Texas Intermediate crude oil; 7,050,000 million British thermal units natural gas; 1,205,000 bushels soybeans

6. External Investment Pool Derivative Instruments (Continued)

Schedule of all foreign derivative instruments outstanding at June 30, 2021 are presented below by currency:

Fair value of foreign currency contracts, Assets (Liabilities)

As of June 30, 2021

Currency	Forwards Currency Contracts	Spot Currency Contracts	Foreign Equity Futures	Total
(In Thousands)				
Australian Dollar	$ (43)	$ -	$ (12)	$ (55)
Brazilian Real	31	-	-	31
British Pound Sterling	80	7	(34)	53
Canadian Dollar	34	-	-	34
Chilean Peso	(1)	-	-	(1)
Chinese Yuan	10	-	-	10
Danish Krone	-	3	-	3
Euro	101	(8)	(86)	7
Hong Kong Dollar	(28)	-	-	(28)
Indian Rupee	(1)	-	-	(1)
Israeli Shekel	11	-	-	11
Japanese Yen	(260)	3	(24)	(281)
Kuwaiti Dinar	(1)	-	-	(1)
Mexican Peso	(2)	-	-	(2)
New Taiwan Dollar	(3)	-	-	(3)
New Zealand Dollar	(11)	-	-	(11)
Norwegian Krone	(20)	-	-	(20)
Philippine Peso	1	-	-	1
Polish Zloty	-	1	-	1
Quatari Riyal	(8)	-	-	(8)
Russian Ruble	11	-	-	11
Singapore Dollar	(7)	-	-	(7)
South African Rand	-	(6)	-	(6)
South Korean Won	44	-	-	44
Swedish Krona	(74)	-	-	(74)
Swiss Franc	(71)	-	-	(71)
Thai Baht	(4)	-	-	(4)
Turkish Lira	(3)	(7)	-	(10)
Total	$ (214)	$ (7)	$ (156)	$ (377)

7. Bond Index Investment Pool

North Carolina Department of State Treasurer provides an external government sponsored bond index investment pool (BIF) in which the Treasurer is authorized to invest funds for governmental entities which are outside the Retirement Systems. The BIF invests in high quality debt securities eligible under General Statute 147-69.2(b) (1)-(6). The BIF consists of a separate account managed by a fund manager selected by the Department of State Treasurer.

The deposits are commingled; and therefore, the State Treasurer considers all funds to be part of a single pool. The BIF contains deposits from funds and component units of the state of North Carolina reporting entity as well as deposits from certain legally separate organizations outside the state of North Carolina reporting entity. The BIF is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is not subject to any formal oversight other than that of the legislative body of the state of North Carolina.

Participants in the BIF may include public hospitals, Law Enforcement Officer Special Separation Allowance trusts (LEOSSAs), local government Other Post Employment Benefit trusts (OPEBs), the North Carolina Teachers' and State Employees' Benefit Trust (Death Benefit Plan of N.C.), the Disability Income Plan of N.C., the Register of Deeds' Supplemental Pension Fund, and other funds and component units of the state of North Carolina with investment authority under General Statue 147-69.2.

At June 30, 2021, there were twenty-three OPEBs, three LEOSSAs, and two hospitals participating in the BIF.

Net investment income earned by the BIF is distributed on a pro rata basis to all participants on a monthly basis net of fees.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of debt instruments. There is no formally adopted investment policy to manage interest rate risk. The BIF had a weighted average effective maturity of 8.34 years as of June 30, 2021.

The BIF maintained by the Treasurer had the following investments and maturities as of June 30, 2021:

		Investment Maturities (in Years)			
Bond Index	**Carry Amount**	**Less Than 1**	**1 to 5**	**6 to 10**	**More Than 10**
			(In Thousands)		
As of June 30, 2021					
U.S. treasuries	$ 580,673	$ -	$ 320,986	$ 131,608	$ 128,079
U.S. agencies	28,976	1,012	17,759	6,528	3,677
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	27,669	-	-	883	26,786
Asset-backed securities	5,323	-	5,074	249	-
Mortgage pass-through	430,487	-	126	14,026	416,335
Collective investment funds	17,877	17,877	-	-	-
Municipal bonds	11,395	-	55	1,403	9,937
Domestic corporate bonds	422,240	-	122,184	130,991	169,065
Foreign government bonds	52,528	-	29,981	14,019	8,528
Total investment fund assets	$ 1,577,168	$ 18,889	$ 496,165	$ 299,707	$ 762,407

Interest Rate Risk (Continued)

The major investment classifications had the following attributes as of June 30, 2021:

Investment Classification		Principal Amount	Range of Interest Rates
		(In Thousands)	
Bond Index			
U.S. Treasuries	$	545,254	0.25%-6.88%
U.S agencies		26,415	0.13%-7.25%
Commercial mortgage-backed securities		25,774	3.04%-4.12%
Asset-backed securities		5,179	0.44%-3.01%
Mortgage Pass Throughs		410,908	1.50%-5.50%
Collective investment funds		17,877	0.94%
Municipal bonds		8,132	2.15%-7.55%
Domestic corporate bonds		374,866	0.45%-9.25%
Foreign government bonds		49,050	0.25%-8.13%

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfil its obligations such as the chance that a bond issuer will fail to pay interest or principal in a timely manner, or that negative perceptions of the issuer's ability to make these payments will cause security prices to decline. These circumstances may arise due to a variety of factors such as financial weakness, bankruptcy, litigation, and/or adverse political developments. Certain fixed income securities, including obligations of the U.S. government or those explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government, are not considered to have credit risk.

General Statute 147-69.2 specifies the cash investment options for the BIF and limits credit risk by restricting the BIF's asset-backed securities and corporate obligations to securities that bear one of the four highest ratings of at least one nationally recognized rating service when acquired. In the BIF, all holdings were rated BBB (or equivalent) or higher at the time of purchase by at least one of the nationally recognized rating agencies.

Credit Risk (Continued)

The BIF had the following credit quality distribution for securities with credit exposure as of June 30, 2021:

Bond Index	Aaa/AAA	Aa/AA	A	Baa/BBB	Less than Investment Grade	Unrated
			(In Thousands)			
As of June 30, 2021						
U.S. Agencies	$ 285	$ 28,691	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	26,786	883	-	-	-	-
Asset-backed securities	5,323	-	-	-	-	-
Mortgage pass-through	-	290,513	-	-	-	-
Collective investment funds	17,877	-	-	-	-	-
Municipal bonds	674	5,745	3,188	1,788	-	-
Domestic corporate bonds	8,525	21,698	141,581	240,426	10,010	-
Foreign government bonds	25,113	3,397	7,061	13,919	3,038	-
Total investment fund assets	$ 84,583	$ 350,927	$ 151,830	$ 256,133	$ 13,048	$ -

Excluded from this chart are securities exempt from credit risk such as U.S. Treasuries and GNMA mortgage pass-through investments.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Treasurer will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. As of June 30, 2021, the investments of the BIF were not exposed to custodial credit risk since the securities were held in separate accounts in the name of the Treasurer. There is no formally adopted investment policy to manage custodial credit risk for these investment types.

Concentration of Credit Risk

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of a government's investment in a single issuer. Mutual funds, money market funds, and external pooled accounts are excluded from this disclosure requirement. Obligations explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. Government are not considered to have credit risk. However, more than 5% of the BIF's securities were invested in Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC) and Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA). FHLMC investments totaled $103 million and comprised 6.5% of BIF's total investments; FNMA investments totaled $217 million and comprised 13.8% of BIF's total investments. Both FHLMC and FNMA investments are classified as U.S. Agencies with the majority of the investments classified as Mortgage pass-throughs. At June 30, 2021, there is no formal policy regarding concentration of credit risk.

Fair Value Measurement

The BIF categorizes fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The BIF had the following recurring fair value measurements as of June 30, 2021:

Investments and Derivative Instruments at Fair Value

		Fair Value Measurements Using		
	As of June 30, 2021	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Significant other observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)
Investments measured at fair value		*(In Thousands)*		
Bond Index Fund				
U.S. Treasuries	$ 580,673	$ -	$ 580,673	$ -
U.S. Agencies	28,976	-	28,976	-
Asset-backed securities	5,323	-	5,323	-
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	27,669	-	27,669	-
Mortgage pass-through	430,486	-	430,486	-
Municipal bonds	11,396	-	11,396	-
Domestic corporate bonds	422,240	-	422,240	-
Foreign government bonds	52,528	-	52,528	-
Total investments by fair value level	$ 1,559,291	$ -	$ 1,559,291	$ -

Investments measured at the Net Asset Value (NAV)		Unfunded commitments	Redemption frequency	Redemption notice (days)
Collective investment fund [(1)]	17,877	-	Daily	1
Total investments	$ 1,577,168			

[(1)] One fund. This fund invests in a diversified portfolio of U.S. government securities, U.S. government agency securities, and repurchase agreements. It is operated on an amortized cost basis, and transacts at $1.00 per unit.

Valuation Methodologies and Inputs

Level 2 U.S. Treasuries are evaluated by using data from several live feeds which include active market makers and inter-dealer brokers. Sources are reviewed on the basis of their historical accuracy for individual issues and maturity ranges.

Level 2 U.S. Mortgage pass-through securities use a dealer derived to-be-announced (TBA) security as a benchmark, plus a dollar (or pay up) adjustment which is based on market data for the underlying collateral. When the underlying TBA is not applicable or observable, a discounted cash flow is calculated using a spread to the treasury curve based on applicable market data and internally generated long-term spread.

Level 2 domestic corporate bonds are priced using both spread and yield-based and priced-based evaluations. For spread and yield-based evaluations, an option adjusted spread model is developed incorporating credit risk and based on the new issue market, secondary trading, and dealer quotes. For price-based evaluations, evaluators use recently executed transactions of similar securities and dealer quotes to arrive at appropriate pricing. These methods are also used to value Canadian government bonds. For non-US/Canadian foreign government bonds, the majority of issues are evaluated using discounted cash flow models, incorporating option-adjusted features as appropriate.

8. Equity Index Investment Account

The State Treasurer has contracted with an external party (Trustee) to create the equity index investment account (EIF). Participation in this equity index investment account consists of deposits from funds of the state of North Carolina reporting entity as well as public hospital trusts, LEOSSAs, and local government other post-employment benefit trust (OPEB) funds. These funds and trusts are part of a commingled equity index investment trust (Trust). The Trustee manages the assets in the Trust primarily in equity and equity-based securities in accordance with the General Statutes. The Trustee maintains custody of the underlying securities in the name of the Trust, services the securities, and maintains all related accounting records.

Pursuant to General Statute 159-30.1, the State Treasurer manages the OPEB trusts' assets. These trusts are established for local governments, public authorities, any entity eligible to participate in the state's Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System, and local school administrative units. Eligible participants make voluntary contributions to the trusts for the purpose of depositing and investing all or part of the contribution from their other post-employment benefit plans. As of June 30, 2021, there were 30 participants of which 24 participate in the EIF. Each participant is responsible for making its own investment decision with respect to the allocation of assets between investment options.

The State Treasurer also manages the public hospitals' assets. As of June 30, 2021, there were three participants consisting of the Margaret R. Pardee Hospital Trust, Columbus Regional Healthcare Trust, and Watauga Medical Center Trust. Two public hospitals are also participants in the BIF.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Treasurer will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. As of June 30, 2021, the investments of the EIF were not exposed to custodial credit risk. There is no formally adopted investment policy to manage custodial credit risk for these investment types.

Fair Value Measurement

EIF investments, a commingled global equity index fund, are valued at the net asset value of units held at the end of the period based upon the fair value of the underlying investments. As of June 30, 2021, the EIF had a recurring fair value measurement of $492 million. The redemption frequency of the EIF is daily, with a two-day redemption notice.

9. Commitments and Contingencies

The Treasurer has entered into contracts with external fund managers of the Real Estate Investment, Alternative Investment, Inflation Sensitive Investment, and Opportunistic Fixed Income Investment portfolios, where the Treasurer agreed to commit capital to these investments. The unfunded balances of these capital commitments by fund type are presented as unfunded commitments in the Investments measured at the Net Asset Value (NAV) table in Note 4. The portfolios are part of the Treasurer's Pool as described in Note 3.

The Treasurer is a defendant in legal proceedings and claims arising out of the ordinary course of business. The Treasurer believes it has adequate legal defenses and that the ultimate outcome of these actions will not have a material adverse effect on the State Treasurer Investment Programs' financial position.

Introduction

The financial statements include investments managed by the Treasurer. The tradition of conservative fiscal management has served North Carolina's public workers and taxpayers well throughout the years. The Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System, Consolidated Judicial Retirement System, Legislative Retirement System, Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund, North Carolina National Guard Pension Fund, Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System, and Retiree Health Benefit Fund (collectively NCRS) continue that tradition with a significant allocation in fixed income assets (bonds) combined with reasonable exposure to more volatile growth-oriented assets and a diversified portfolio. The result of this strategy is a fund that obtains lower returns than the typical large public fund peer in strong equity markets but is a top performer in turbulent economic and financial market environments.

NCRS comprised 79% of the total net position of the Pool. Following is a discussion of the Investment Policy Statement and management and incentive fees paid relative to NCRS.

Investment Policy Statement

The pension fund investments are allocated according to the NCRS Investment Policy Statement (IPS). The IPS is reviewed annually, although there have been no changes to the asset allocation targets and ranges since July 1, 2014. Periodically, the Investment Management Division conducts an asset liability study utilizing updated capital market assumptions and presents the results to the Treasurer and the Investment Advisory Committee. The table below maps the investment policy statement's classifications to the statutory classifications which are used to prepare the financial statements as of June 30, 2021. The numbers only reflect net position of the NCRS funds in the statutory asset classes excluding securities lending. The Investment Portfolios chart in Note 3 for these portfolios reflects gross investments for all of the State Treasurer Pool.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF STATE TREASURER
NCRS – NORTH CAROLINA RETIREMENT SYSTEM
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

	Statutory Classification (NCRS assets only)									
IPS Classification	Public Equity [1]	Long Term [2]	Pension Cash [2]	Fixed Income [2,8]	Alternatives [3]	Real Estate [4]	Inflation Sensitive [5]	Opportunistic Fixed Income [6]	Public Equity Limited Liability [7]	Total NCRS assets
					(In Thousands)					
Public Equity	$ 42,152,003	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,536,376	$ 43,688,379
Private Equity	-	-	-	-	7,409,284	-	-	-	-	7,409,284
Non-Core Real Estate	-	-	-	-	-	2,959,577	-	-	-	2,959,577
Opportunistic Fixed Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,943,137	-	6,943,137
Investment Grade Fixed Income and Cash	-	29,722,744	-	3,595,357	-	-	-	-	-	33,318,101
Pension Cash	-	-	13,495,054	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,495,054
Inflation Sensitive	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,535,500	-	-	5,535,500
Core Real Estate	-	-	-	-	-	5,769,262	-	-	-	5,769,262
Multi-Strategy	-	-	-	-	2,284,829	-	-	-	-	2,284,829
Total NCRS assets	$ 42,152,003	$ 29,722,744	$ 13,495,054	$ 3,595,357	$ 9,694,113	$ 8,728,839	$ 5,535,500	$ 6,943,137	$ 1,536,376	$ 121,403,123

[1] NCGS 147-69.2(b)(8)(a),(c)
[2] NCGS 147-69.1(c) and NCGS $ 147-69.2(b)(1)-(6b)
[3] NCGS 147-69.2(b)(9)
[4] NCGS 147-69.2(b)(7)
[5] NCGS 147-69.2(b)(9a)
[6] NCGS 147-69.2(b)(6c)
[7] NCGS 147-69.2(b)(8)(b)
[8] Consists solely of investments in STIF

As of June 30, 2021

Cost

The IMD utilizes external managers for a portion of the Retirement Systems. Over time, the department, with advice and counsel of the Investment Advisory Committee, has used a lower risk and lower cost approach to investing the Retirement Systems when compared to peers. While costs have risen somewhat over time as more diverse external investment strategies were pursued, the all-in cost of investing the North Carolina Retirement Systems remains modest and IMD continues to seek out cost-efficiencies in their operations.

Management and Incentive Fees for the External Investment Pool

The management and incentive fees incurred to external investment managers, by asset class, were as follows for the year ended June 30, 2021.

Total Investment Management Fees Incurred as of June 30, 2021

Asset Classification	Management Fees	Incentive Fees	Total Fees	NCRS Portfolio Market Value (1)	Ratio of Fees to Market Value
		(In Thousands)			
Public Equity	$ 59,413	$ -	$ 59,413	$ 43,688,379	0.14%
Private Equity	49,676	53,776	103,452	7,409,284	1.40%
Non-Core Real Estate	37,163	16,841	54,004	2,959,577	1.82%
Opportunistic Fixed Income	43,689	22,042	65,731	6,943,137	0.95%
Investment Grade Fixed Income and Cash	-	-	-	33,318,101	0.00%
Pension Cash	-	-	-	13,495,054	0.00%
Inflation Sensitive	35,659	19,341	55,000	5,535,500	0.99%
Core Real Estate	33,701	7,828	41,529	5,769,262	0.72%
Multi-Strategy	6,293	-	6,293	2,284,829	0.28%
Total	$265,594	$119,828	$385,422	$121,403,123	

(1) **NCRS assets only**

In addition to the fees shown in this table, internal administrative expenses of the Pool and trade transaction costs (for the internally managed fixed income portfolio) are paid by the Treasurer. These charges are reported on the Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF STATE TREASURER
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Expenses Paid: Management and Incentive Fee (Asset Class Average Market Value)							
	0 bps	0 - 25bps	25 - 50bps	50 - 100bps	100 - 150bps	150+bps	Total
				(In Thousands)			
Public Equity	$ 14,527,802	$ 10,752,921	$ 13,047,605	$ 1,428,236	$ -	$ 152,529	$ 39,909,093
Private Equity	866,648	325,523	773,043	1,612,666	1,196,529	1,581,804	6,356,213
Non-Core Real Estate	30,211	11,494	482,744	734,298	724,947	1,019,139	3,002,833
Opportunistic Fixed Income	18,106	45,892	1,172,904	3,198,698	1,053,749	1,075,315	6,564,665
Investment Grade Fixed Income & Cash	33,439,025	-	-	-	-	-	33,439,025
Pension Cash	11,117,258	-	-	-	-	-	11,117,258
Inflation Sensitive	343,349	459,907	2,072,924	1,152,876	757,796	772,351	5,559,203
Core Real Estate	284,033	-	1,711,400	2,427,094	764,977	416,161	5,603,665
Multi-Strategy	45	1,733,730	292,840	-	136,339	17,824	2,180,779
Total Fund	$ 60,626,477	$ 13,329,467	$ 19,553,460	$ 10,553,869	$ 4,634,337	$ 5,035,123	$ 113,732,733

Expenses Paid: Management and Incentive Fee (% of Asset Class Average Market Value)							
	0 bps	0 - 25bps	25 - 50bps	50 - 100bps	100 - 150bps	150+bps	Total
Public Equity	36.40%	26.94%	32.69%	3.58%	0.00%	0.38%	100.00%
Private Equity	13.63%	5.12%	12.16%	25.37%	18.82%	24.89%	100.00%
Non-Core Real Estate	1.01%	0.38%	16.08%	24.45%	24.14%	33.94%	100.00%
Opportunistic Fixed Income	0.28%	0.70%	17.87%	48.73%	16.05%	16.38%	100.00%
Investment Grade Fixed Income & Cash	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Pension Cash	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Inflation Sensitive	6.18%	8.27%	37.29%	20.74%	13.63%	13.89%	100.00%
Core Real Estate	5.07%	0.00%	30.54%	43.31%	13.65%	7.43%	100.00%
Multi-Strategy	0.00%	79.50%	13.43%	0.00%	6.25%	0.82%	100.00%
Total Fund	53.31%	11.72%	17.19%	9.28%	4.07%	4.43%	100.00%

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Fee Type by Contract (Asset Class Average Market Value)

(In Thousands)

	No Fees	Management Only	Incentive Only	Management & Incentive	Total
Public Equity	$ 14,405,695	$ 23,949,086	$ 36,230	$ 1,518,082	$ 39,909,092
Private Equity	346,764	9,585	-	5,999,864	6,356,213
Non-Core Real Estate	-	-	-	3,002,833	3,002,833
Opportunistic Fixed Income	-	575,421	-	5,989,244	6,564,665
Investment Grade Fixed Income & Cash	33,439,025	-	-	-	33,439,025
Pension Cash	11,117,258	-	-	-	11,117,258
Inflation Sensitive	101,267	1,329,624	181,961	3,946,351	5,559,203
Core Real Estate	-	1,121,639	-	4,482,026	5,603,665
Multi-Strategy	-	1,733,730	-	447,047	2,180,777
Total Fund	$ 59,410,009	$ 28,719,085	$ 218,191	$ 25,385,448	$ 113,732,733

Fee Type by Contract (% of Asset Class Average Market Value)

	No Fees	Management Only	Incentive Only	Management & Incentive	Total
Public Equity	36.10%	60.01%	0.09%	3.80%	100.00%
Private Equity	5.46%	0.15%	0.00%	94.39%	100.00%
Non-Core Real Estate	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Opportunistic Fixed Income	0.00%	8.77%	0.00%	91.23%	100.00%
Investment Grade Fixed Income & Cash	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Pension Cash	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Inflation Sensitive	1.82%	23.92%	3.27%	70.99%	100.00%
Core Real Estate	0.00%	20.02%	0.00%	79.98%	100.00%
Multi-Strategy	0.00%	79.50%	0.00%	20.50%	100.00%
Total Fund	52.24%	25.25%	0.19%	22.32%	100.00%

Average Market Value

The market value of investments held by investment managers are averaged monthly from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. This schedule is presented in average market value because it measures the performance of an investment manager over the past year, instead of ending market value where the performance is measured as of June 30, 2021. Note: The Investment Returns schedule is reported at ending market value and the External Investment Pool Fee Schedule by Basis Points and the External Investment Pool Fee Schedule-Fee Type by Contract are presented at average market value. Thus, the asset market values reported on these schedules will not agree.

Management Fee

A management fee represents a charge by the investment manager as consideration for serving as a delegated fiduciary with respect to investment duties and powers assigned under a contract. Generally, this fee is expressed as an annual fixed percentage of some base value. Depending on the type of investment structure and strategy, this base value can be a function of the market value of the investments, cost basis of the investments, or the total capital that the investment manager may request under a contractual commitment.

Incentive Fee

An incentive fee represents a profit sharing arrangement with the investment manager as consideration for serving as a delegated fiduciary with respect to investment duties and powers assigned under a contract. These profit sharing arrangements may also be referred to as carried interest or a performance fee. Depending on the type of investment structure and strategy, incentive fees can be charged against all profits earned or applied only to the profits above an agreed upon level that is often referred to as a hurdle rate of return. Incentive fees can be paid annually based on realized and/or unrealized profits, at agreed to interim milestones, or paid only as a measure of realized profits (i.e., generally all are subject to certain criteria and conditions). The incentive fees shown in the preceding tables represent paid incentive fees. They do not include accrued incentive fees.

Fund of Funds

Consistent with industry convention, cost figures do not include the fees and expenses of investment managers that are held within fund of fund vehicles.

Investment Returns and Peer Comparison Information

The following other supplementary information includes a discussion of the retirement system's risk and returns compared to benchmarks and comparisons to peer cost benchmarks. The tables below relate to NCRS as defined in the Introduction section of Supplementary Information.

As of June 30, 2021, the NCRS had the following investment returns over applicable one, three, five and ten-year periods:

Investment Returns as of June 30, 2021 (%, Net of Fees)

Asset Classification	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Growth	39.46	14.96	14.79	10.71
Benchmark	36.51	13.19	12.92	9.27
Public Equity	41.87	16.10	15.95	10.97
Benchmark	40.65	14.12	14.17	9.71
Private Equity	58.54	22.08	18.35	13.47
Benchmark	45.72	16.28	14.33	11.79
Non-Core Real Estate	6.90	5.63	8.71	11.11
Benchmark	9.27	4.86	6.15	7.82
Opportunistic Fixed Income	24.65	6.50	7.53	6.17
Benchmark	16.81	5.93	5.51	2.95
Rates & Liquidity	(0.18)	5.43	3.11	4.09
Benchmark	(0.99)	5.95	3.32	4.32
Investment Grade Fixed Income and Cash	(0.42)	6.28	3.58	4.37
Benchmark	(1.03)	6.12	3.39	4.39
Pension Cash	0.39	1.50	1.37	-
Benchmark	0.02	1.21	1.09	-
Inflation Sensitive & Diversifiers	11.55	4.44	6.14	3.73
Benchmark	10.65	3.82	4.24	3.70
Inflation Sensitive	12.56	2.68	5.22	0.71
Benchmark	9.67	2.83	2.98	(0.08)
Core Real Estate	10.55	6.34	7.14	8.19
Benchmark	11.77	4.95	5.72	8.60

Investment Returns as of June 30, 2021 (%, Net of Fees) (Continued)

Asset Classification (Continued)	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Multi-Strategy	13.93	3.13	5.70	7.11
Benchmark	12.14	3.81	5.85	6.23
Total Pension Plan	19.13	9.83	9.51	7.73
Implementation Benchmark	21.31	10.07	9.13	7.27
Long-Term Policy Benchmark	22.29	11.29	9.74	7.29

The Growth benchmark used is a blend of the Public Equity, Private Equity, Non-Core Real Estate, and Opportunistic Fixed Income benchmarks at their policy weights. The Public Equity benchmark is a dynamically weighted combination of the MSCI ACWI IMI Net (Long-Only) and a beta adjusted MSCI ACWI IMI Net (Hedged Equity). Private Equity's benchmark is comprised of the following Burgiss Group Private iQ indices: 50% Buyout, 20% Venture Capital, and 30% Distressed. The Non-Core Real Estate benchmark is comprised of the following Burgiss Group Private iQ indices: 80% U.S. Non-Core Real Estate (Opportunistic and Value-Added) and 20% Non-U.S. Non-Core Real Estate (Opportunistic and Value-Added). Opportunistic Fixed Income's benchmark is comprised of 50% HFRX Distressed Securities Index, 20% HFRX Relative Value Index, 15% Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index, and 15% BOAML High Yield Index.

The overall Rates & Liquidity benchmark is a blend of the Investment Grade Fixed Income & Cash and Pension Cash benchmarks at their policy weights. The benchmark used for Investment Grade Fixed Income & Cash is comprised of 10% iMoneyNet First Tier Institutional Money Market Funds Net Index and 90% custom BOAML Core Investment Grade Index. The Custom BOAML index is comprised of the following weightings: 30% BOAML 5+ Years Governments, 35% BOAML 5+ Years Investment Grade Corporates, and 35% BOAML Mortgage Master. The Pension Cash benchmark used is the iMoneyNet First Tier Institutional Money Market Net Index.

The Inflation Sensitive & Diversifiers benchmark used is a blend of the Inflation Sensitive and Core Real Estate benchmarks at their policy weights. The Inflation Sensitive benchmark is a dynamically weighted combination of the Bank of America Merrill Lynch 1-3 Years U.S. Inflation-Linked Treasury Index (TIPS), the Bloomberg Commodities Index (Commodities), and a combination of benchmarks of investments classified within Private Natural Resources or Other Real Assets and Diversifiers. The Core Real Estate Benchmark is comprised of 80% NCREIF ODCE Net and 20% FTSE-EPRA NAREIT Global Index.

The Multi-Strategy benchmark is comprised of a dynamically weighted combination of the HFRX ED: Multi-Strategy Index, net of fees, and the market value weighted benchmarks for any other total fund strategies within the portfolio.

The Benchmarks used for the total plan are the Implementation and Long-Term Policy Benchmarks. The Implementation Benchmark is a blend of the asset class benchmarks at policy weights. It is currently as follows: 58% Growth, 29% Rates and Liquidity, 11% Inflation Sensitive & Diversifiers, and 2% Multi-Strategy. Lastly, the Long-Term Policy Benchmark is comprised of 57% MSCI ACWI IMI Net, 33% BOAML 5+ Years U.S. Treasury Index, 6% Bloomberg Commodity Index, and 4% BOAML 1-3 Years U.S. Inflation-Linked Treasury Index.

Peer Comparison of Returns and Risks

The below chart outlines the one, three, five and ten-year average returns and exposure to risk within the different percentiles of public funds in comparison to the performance and exposure to risk of the North Carolina Retirement System. These returns are presented gross of fees.

National Peer Data on Gross of Fees Returns and Exposure to Risk as of June 30, 2021 (%)

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Returns				
25th Percentile	29.99	12.66	12.15	9.44
Median	28.34	11.63	11.25	9.01
75th Percentile	24.07	10.75	10.60	8.38
NC Pension Fund	19.44	10.20	9.96	8.25
Risk*				
25th Percentile	7.79	10.32	8.34	8.01
Median	6.87	9.29	7.57	7.15
75th Percentile	6.29	7.87	6.52	6.15
NC Pension Fund	5.87	6.80	5.60	5.90

Source: BNY Mellon Total Funds - Public Funds $20+ Billion (Gross of Fees)

* Volatility of Returns (Standard Deviation)

Peer Cost Comparison

For the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Treasurer's cost of investment can be compared to the median peer amount utilizing the following table.

Cost of Investment Compared to Peers as of December 31

Total (bps)

	2020	2019
Median Peer	48.1	51.6
North Carolina Retirement Systems	28.0	32.1
Percentile	0%	0%

Source: CEM [Cost Effectiveness Measurement]. Note that 2020 data is based upon preliminary CEM data as of September 27, 2021. CEM benchmarking methodology excludes certain fees that are reported by the Pool, but not reported by most peers. See text below.

For the calendar years ended 2020 and 2019, the peer group consisted of 14 U.S. public pension funds managing $61 billion to $244 billion, and 13 U.S. public pension funds managing $55 billion to $228 billion, respectively. For the calendar year ended December 31, 2020, the median peer managed $105 billion versus North Carolina's $106 billion. For the calendar year ended December 31, 2019, the median peer managed $100 billion versus North Carolina's $101 billion. The CEM benchmarking methodology excludes carry/performance fees for private investments because some peers do not provide such data. All such fees and expenses have been deducted from all reported investment returns. The CEM methodology differs from that used by the Department in preparing the data in the section titled "Management and Incentive Fees."