FRANKLIN RESOURCES INC Form 10-K

November 29, 2007 **Table of Contents** 

#### UNITED STATES

### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

#### FORM 10-K

(MARK ONE)

x ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2007

or

" TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 For the transition period from to

Commission file number 001-09318

# FRANKLIN RESOURCES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or

13-2670991 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

organization)

One Franklin Parkway, San Mateo, California (Address of principal executive offices)

94403 (Zip Code)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (650) 312-2000

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

**Title of each class**Common Stock, par value \$.10 per share

Name of each exchange on which registered New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

x YES "NO

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

" YES x NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

x YES "NO

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant s knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of accelerated filer and large accelerated filer in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer x Accelerated filer " Non-accelerated filer "

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act).

" YES x NO

The aggregate market value of the voting common equity (common stock) held by non-affiliates of the registrant, as of March 30, 2007 (the last business day of registrant s second quarter of fiscal year 2007), was approximately \$17.9 billion based upon the last sale price reported for such date on the New York Stock Exchange. For purposes of this calculation, shares of common stock held or controlled by executive officers and directors of the registrant and by persons who hold more than 5% of the outstanding shares of common stock have been treated as shares held by affiliates. However, such treatment should not be construed as an admission that any such person is an affiliate of the registrant. The registrant has no non-voting common equity.

Number of shares of the registrant s common stock outstanding at October 31, 2007: 245,015,630.

# DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:

Certain portions of the registrant s definitive proxy statement for its annual meeting of stockholders, to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days after September 30, 2007, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this report.

# INDEX TO ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K

FORM 10-K		PAGE
ITEM		NUMBER
PART I		
ITEM 1		3
	General Company History and Acquisitions	3
	Lines of Business	5
	Investment Management and Related Services	5
	Banking/Finance	22
	Financial Information About Segments and Geographic Areas	23
	Regulatory Considerations Competition	23 25
	Intellectual Property	26
	Employees	27
	Available Information	27
ITEM 1	A. <u>RISK FACTORS</u>	27
ITEM 1	B. <u>UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS</u>	35
ITEM 2	<u>PROPERTIES</u>	35
ITEM 3	LEGAL PROCEEDINGS	35
ITEM 4	SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS  Executive Officers of the Registrant	35 36
PART II		
ITEM 5	MARKET FOR REGISTRANT S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES	39
ITEM 6	SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA	40
ITEM 7	MANAGEMENT S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS	40
ITEM 7	A. <u>QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK</u>	60
ITEM 8	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA	62
ITEM 9	CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE	110
ITEM 9		110
ITEM 9	B. <u>OTHER INFORMATION</u>	110
PART III		
ITEM 1	0. <u>DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	111
ITEM 1	1. <u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	111
ITEM 1		
	RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS	112
ITEM 1		112
ITEM 1	4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES	112
PART IV		
ITEM 1	5. <u>EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES</u>	113
<u>SIGNA</u>	<u>CURES</u>	122

# EXHIBIT INDEX

2

# **PART I**

Forward-looking Statements. In addition to historical information, this Annual Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements that involve a number of known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other important factors, including the risks and other factors discussed in Item 1A (Risk Factors), that could cause the actual results and outcomes to differ materially from any future results or outcomes expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. When used in this report, words or phrases generally written in the future tense and/or preceded by words such as will, may, could, expect, believe, anticipate, intend, or other similar words are forward-looking statements as defined Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Moreover, statements in Risk Factors, Management is Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (MD&A) and elsewhere in this report that speculate about future events are forward-looking statements. While forward-looking statements are our best prediction at the time that they are made, you should not rely on them. If a circumstance occurs after the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K that causes any of our forward-looking statements to be inaccurate, we do not have an obligation, and we undertake no obligation, to announce publicly the change to our expectations, or to make any revision to our forward-looking statements, unless required by law.

# Item 1. Business. GENERAL

Franklin Resources, Inc. ( Franklin Resources, Inc. or the Company ) is an investment management company that is regulated as a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the BHC Act ), and has elected to be a financial holding company under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (the GLB Act ). Through our wholly-owned direct and indirect subsidiaries, we provide investment management and fund administration services ( investment management services ) to open-end and closed-end investment companies (including our own family of retail mutual funds), institutional accounts, high net-worth families, individuals and separate accounts in the United States (U.S.) and internationally. Our sponsored investment products include a broad range of domestic (U.S.) and global/international equity, hybrid, fixed-income and money market mutual funds, as well as other investment products that are sold to the public under the Franklin, Templeton, Mutual Series, Bissett, Fiduciary Trust and Darby brand names. As of September 30, 2007, we had \$645.9 billion in assets under our management with approximately 20.4 million billable shareholder accounts worldwide. In support of our primary business and operating segment, we provide investment management services and other related services, including shareholder services, transfer agency, underwriting, distribution, custodial, trustee and other fiduciary services (collectively investment management and related services ). In our secondary business and operating segment, banking/finance, we provide clients with select retail banking, private banking and consumer lending services through our bank subsidiaries. The common stock of the Company is traded on the New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE ) under the ticker symbol BEN and on the London Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol FRK, and is included in the Standard & Poor s 500 Index. The Frant Investments brand name refers to Franklin Resources, Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively Franklin Templeton Investments ). In this report, words such as we, us, our and similar terms refer to Franklin Resources, Inc. and its subsidiaries collectively.

# COMPANY HISTORY AND ACQUISITIONS

Franklin Templeton Investments and its predecessors have been engaged in the investment management and related services business since 1947. Franklin Resources, Inc. was incorporated in Delaware in November 1969. We originated our mutual fund business with the Franklin family of funds, which is now known as the Franklin Funds. We expanded our business, in part, by acquiring companies engaged in the investment management and/or related services business.

3

#### **Table of Contents**

In October 1992, we acquired substantially all of the assets and liabilities of the investment management and related services business of Templeton, Galbraith & Hansberger Ltd. This acquisition added the Templeton family of funds to our organization. The Templeton funds are known for their international and global investment strategies and value style of investing.

In November 1996, we acquired certain assets and liabilities of Heine Securities Corporation, which provided investment management services to various accounts and investment companies, including Mutual Series Fund Inc., now known as Franklin Mutual Series Fund Inc. (Mutual Series ). Mutual Series is known for its value-oriented equity funds.

We expanded our business in Korea in July 2000 when we purchased all of the remaining outstanding shares of a Korean asset management company, Ssangyong Templeton Investment Trust Management Co., Ltd. (currently known as Franklin Templeton Investment Trust Management Co., Ltd.), in which we previously held a partial interest. The acquisition has made us one of the larger independent foreign money managers in that country.

We acquired all of the outstanding shares of Bissett & Associates Investment Management Ltd. (Bissett) in October 2000. Bissett now operates as part of our Canadian subsidiary, Franklin Templeton Investments Corp. With the addition of Bissett, we added Bissett s family of mutual funds to our existing Canadian based funds (some of which we previously acquired as part of the Templeton family of funds) and expanded our investment management services throughout Canada to a broad range of clients, including institutional clients such as pension plans, municipalities, universities, charitable foundations and private clients.

In April 2001, we acquired Fiduciary Trust Company International, a bank organized under the New York State Banking Law (Fiduciary Trust). Following the acquisition, Fiduciary Trust became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Franklin Resources, Inc. Fiduciary Trust provides investment management and related services to institutional clients and high net-worth families and individuals. With the acquisition of Fiduciary Trust, we also added Fiduciary Trust s U.S. and non-U.S. mutual funds to our product line.

In July 2002, our subsidiary, Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) Private Limited (FTAMIPL), acquired all of the outstanding shares of Pioneer ITI AMC Limited (Pioneer). Pioneer was an Indian asset management company that had approximately \$800 million in assets under management as of the purchase date. In April 2007, we completed the purchase of the remaining 25% interest in each of FTAMIPL and Franklin Templeton Trustee Services Private Limited, each located in India, and each of which are now wholly-owned indirect subsidiaries of Franklin Resources, Inc. With these acquisitions, we continue our position as one of the largest private sector asset managers in India.

In October 2003, we acquired all of the remaining outstanding shares of Darby Overseas Investments, Ltd. and all of the remaining outstanding limited partnership interests of Darby Overseas Partners, L.P. (collectively, Darby ). Darby, based in Washington, D.C., sponsors and manages funds for institutional investors and high net-worth individuals that invest primarily in emerging markets, private equity, and mezzanine finance transactions, including regional and specialized sector funds.

In July 2006, we completed the purchase of all of the remaining interests in a Brazilian asset management company, Bradesco Templeton Asset Management Ltda., in which we previously held a partial interest. Upon acquisition, the company was renamed Franklin Templeton Investimentos (Brasil) Ltda. and is licensed to manage investment products in Brazil.

4

#### LINES OF BUSINESS

### I. Investment Management and Related Services

We derive substantially all of our revenues from providing investment management and related services to our retail mutual funds, and to institutional, high net-worth and separately-managed accounts and other investment products. Our revenues depend to a large extent on the amount of assets under management. Underwriting and distribution fees, also a large source of revenue, consist of sales charges and commissions derived from sales of our sponsored investment products and distribution fees. When used in this report, unless the context otherwise makes clear, the term funds means all of the Franklin, Templeton, Mutual Series, and Bissett mutual funds; similarly, unless the context otherwise makes clear, sponsored investment products means all of the funds together with closed-end investment companies, non-U.S.-based investment products, and other U.S. and international private, institutional, high net-worth and separate accounts.

## A. Assets Under Management ( AUM )

Fees for providing investment management and fund administration services (investment management fees), a large source of our revenue, are generally based upon the monetary value of assets in the accounts that we advise. As of September 30, 2007, the types of assets under management by investment category held by investors on a worldwide basis were:

Type of Asset	Value	in Billions	% Total of AUM
Equity			
Growth potential, income potential or various combinations thereof	\$	387.2	60.0%
Fixed-Income			
Both long-term and short-term	\$	133.8	20.7%
Hybrid			
Asset allocation, balanced, flexible and income-mixed funds	\$	117.2	18.1%
Money Market			
Short-term liquid assets	\$	7.7	1.2%

Broadly speaking, the change in the net assets of the sponsored investment products depends primarily upon two factors: (1) the increase or decrease in the market value of the securities held in the portfolio of investments; and (2) the level of sales (inflows) as compared to the level of redemptions (outflows). We are subject to the risk of asset volatility, resulting from changes in the domestic and global financial and equity markets. In addition, because we generally derive higher revenues and income from our equity assets, a shift in assets from equity to fixed-income or hybrid funds reduces total revenue and, thus, net income. Despite such a risk of volatility, we believe that we are more competitive as a result of the greater diversity of sponsored investment products available to our customers.

# B. Types of Investment Management and Related Services

A majority of our revenues are derived from providing investment management and related services to our sponsored investment products. We advise, manage and implement the investment and administrative activities necessary to operate our U.S.-registered open-end and closed-end funds or series, separately-managed accounts and our many non-U.S.-based sponsored investment products.

#### **Table of Contents**

### 1. Investment Management Services

We earn investment management fees by providing investment management services pursuant to agreements with each sponsored investment product, including each fund, or, if applicable, each person or legal entity acting on behalf of a sponsored investment product. This business is primarily conducted through our direct and indirect subsidiaries, including, among others, the following:

Fiduciary International, Inc., a registered investment adviser (an Investment Adviser ) under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the Advisers Act ), provides investment management services to certain of our sponsored investment products, including separate accounts for institutional clients;

Fiduciary Investment Management International, Inc., an Investment Adviser, provides investment management services to separate accounts for institutional and private clients:

Fiduciary Trust, a New York state-chartered bank, provides investment management, custody and related services to high net-worth individuals, families and institutions;

Fiduciary Trust Company of Canada ( FTCC ), a registered foreign equivalent of an investment adviser with many of the Canadian provincial and territorial securities commissions, provides investment management services to certain Canadian registered retail funds and to separate accounts for private clients primarily in Canada;

Fiduciary Trust International Limited, an Investment Adviser and a registered foreign equivalent investment adviser in the United Kingdom (U.K.), provides investment management services to certain of our funds and separate accounts for institutional and private clients;

Franklin Advisers, Inc., an Investment Adviser, provides investment management services to certain of our funds, non-affiliated entities and institutional and separate accounts:

Franklin Advisory Services, LLC, an Investment Adviser, provides investment management services to certain of our funds and to certain non-affiliated entities:

Franklin Investment Advisory Services, LLC, an Investment Adviser, provides investment management services to fund clients;

Franklin Mutual Advisers, LLC, an Investment Adviser, provides investment management services to the Mutual Series funds and also to certain other funds;

Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) Private Limited, an Asset Management Company approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, provides investment management services to certain of our funds and to institutional and private accounts in India and other jurisdictions;

Franklin Templeton Asset Management S.A., a registered foreign equivalent of an investment adviser in France, provides investment management services to the funds of funds it manages and separate accounts;

Franklin Templeton Institutional, LLC ( FTI ), an Investment Adviser, provides investment management services to institutional clients and certain of our sponsored investment products;

#### **Table of Contents**

Franklin Templeton Investimentos (Brasil) Ltda., a registered foreign equivalent of an investment adviser in Brazil, provides investment management services to certain of our sponsored investment products and separate accounts in Brazil;

Franklin Templeton Investment Management Limited, an Investment Adviser and a registered foreign equivalent of an investment adviser in the U.K., provides investment management services to certain of our investment companies registered in the United States and in non-U.S. jurisdictions, including Europe;

Franklin Templeton Investment Trust Management Co., Ltd., a registered foreign equivalent of an investment adviser in Korea, provides investment management services to equity and fixed income products;

Franklin Templeton Investments (Asia) Limited, an Investment Adviser and a foreign equivalent of an investment adviser in Hong Kong, provides investment management services to certain of our sponsored investment products and to institutional and private accounts in Hong Kong and other jurisdictions;

Franklin Templeton Investments Australia Limited, a registered foreign equivalent of an investment adviser in Australia, provides investment management services to institutional and retail clients in Australia;

Franklin Templeton Investments Corp., a registered foreign equivalent of an investment adviser with many of the Canadian provincial and territorial securities commissions, a registered mutual fund dealer with the Ontario Securities Commission and Alberta Securities Commission and an Investment Adviser, provides investment management and related services to Canadian registered retail funds and investment management services to certain institutional and separate accounts;

Franklin Templeton Investments Japan Limited, an authorized manager in Japan which is a registered foreign equivalent of an investment adviser, provides investment management services to certain of our funds and separate accounts in Japan and manages and sub-advises Japan equity funds that are sold in other regions;

Franklin Templeton Portfolio Advisors, Inc., an Investment Adviser, provides investment management services to separate accounts and in connection with third-party broker/dealer separately-managed accounts or wrap fee programs;

Templeton Asset Management Ltd., an Investment Adviser and a registered foreign equivalent of an investment adviser in Singapore and Hong Kong, provides investment management services to certain of our funds and institutional and separate accounts in Singapore, Hong Kong and other jurisdictions;

Templeton Global Advisors Limited, an Investment Adviser and a registered foreign equivalent of an investment adviser in The Bahamas, provides investment management services to certain of our funds and institutional and separate accounts; and

Templeton Investment Counsel, LLC, an Investment Adviser, provides investment management services to certain of our funds and to institutional and private accounts.

Our subsidiaries conducting investment management services perform investment research for our sponsored investment products and determine which securities the sponsored investment products will purchase, hold or sell under the supervision and oversight of the funds boards of directors or trustees. In addition, these subsidiaries take all steps necessary to implement such decisions, including selecting brokers and dealers and executing and settling trades in accordance with detailed criteria set forth in the management agreement for each fund, internal policies, and applicable law and practice.

#### **Table of Contents**

Generally, the funds themselves have no paid employees. Through our subsidiaries, we provide and pay the salaries of personnel who serve as officers of our U.S.-registered open-end and closed-end funds, including the administrative personnel necessary to conduct such funds day-to-day business operations. Our subsidiaries either provide or arrange for the provision of: office space, telephone, office equipment and supplies; trading desk facilities (unless these facilities are provided by another subsidiary); authorization of expenditures and approval of bills for payment; preparation of annual and semi-annual reports to fund shareholders, notices of dividends, capital gains distributions and tax credits, and other regulatory reports; the daily pricing of fund investment portfolios, including collecting quotations from pricing services; accounting services, including preparing and supervising publication of daily net asset value quotations, periodic earnings reports and other financial data; services to ensure compliance with securities regulations, including recordkeeping requirements; preparation and filing of tax reports; the maintenance of accounting systems and controls; and other administrative services. In some cases our subsidiaries are compensated, based on a percentage of assets under management, under separate administration agreements with the funds. In other cases, our subsidiaries are compensated by our investment management subsidiary from the fees received from our funds and clients. The funds generally pay their own expenses, such as external legal, custody and independent audit fees, regulatory registration fees, and other related expenses. The funds also share in board and shareholder meeting and reporting costs.

Our investment management services include fundamental investment research and valuation analyses, including original economic, political, industry and company research (including the utilization of such sources as company public records and activities, management interviews, company prepared information, and other publicly available information, as well as company visits and inspections), and analyses of suppliers, customers and competitors. In addition, research services provided by brokerage firms are used to support our findings.

Investment management services are provided pursuant to agreements in effect with each of our U.S.-registered open-end and closed-end funds. Agreements are in effect with foreign-registered funds and separate and institutional accounts. In general, the investment management agreements for our U.S.-registered open-end and closed-end funds must be renewed each year (after an initial two-year term), and must be specifically approved at least annually by a vote of each fund s board of directors or trustees as a whole and separately by the directors/trustees that are not interested persons of such fund under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 40 Act ), or by a vote of the holders of a majority of such fund s outstanding voting securities. Foreign-registered funds and separate and institutional accounts have various termination rights, and review and renewal provisions.

Under the majority of investment management agreements, the U.S.-registered open-end and closed-end funds pay us a monthly fee in arrears based upon a fund s average daily net assets. Annual fee rates under the various global investment management agreements generally range from 0.15% to a maximum of 2.50% and are often reduced as net assets exceed various threshold levels.

We use a master/feeder fund structure in certain situations. This structure allows an investment adviser to manage a single portfolio of securities at the master fund level and have multiple feeder funds that invest all of their respective assets into the master fund. Individual and institutional shareholders invest in the feeder funds which can offer a variety of service and distribution options. A management fee typically is charged at the master fund level and administrative and shareholder servicing fees are charged at the feeder fund level, although with certain funds, all fees may be charged at the feeder fund level only.

Each U.S. investment management agreement between certain of our subsidiaries and each fund automatically terminates in the event of its assignment, as defined in the 40 Act. In addition, either party may terminate the agreement without penalty after written notice ranging from 30 to 60 days. If agreements

8

### **Table of Contents**

representing a significant portion of our assets under management were terminated, it would have a material adverse impact on us. To date, none of our agreements with any of our retail funds has been involuntarily terminated.

Our investment management agreements permit us to provide investment management services to more than one fund so long as our ability to render services to each of the funds is not impaired, and so long as purchases and sales of portfolio securities for various advised funds are made on an equitable basis.

Our management personnel and the fund directors or trustees regularly review the investment management services fee structures in light of fund performance, the level and range of services provided, industry conditions and other relevant factors. Investment management services fees are generally waived or voluntarily reduced when a new fund is established and then increased to contractual levels within an established timeline or as net asset values reach certain levels.

#### Underwriting and Distribution

A significant portion of our revenues under the investment management and related services operating segment are generated from providing underwriting and distribution services. Franklin/Templeton Distributors, Inc. (FTDI), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, acts as the principal underwriter and distributor of shares of most of our U.S.-registered open-end funds. Certain of our non-U.S. subsidiaries provide underwriting and distribution services to our non-U.S.-registered funds distributed outside the United States. We earn underwriting and distribution fees primarily by distributing the funds pursuant to distribution agreements between FTDI and the funds. Under each distribution agreement, we offer and sell the fund s shares on a continuous basis and pay certain costs associated with underwriting and distributing the fund s shares, including the costs of developing and producing sales literature and printing prospectuses, which may be then either partially or fully reimbursed by the funds.

Most of our U.S. and non-U.S.-registered retail funds are distributed with a multi-class share structure. We adopted this share structure to provide investors with greater sales charge alternatives for their investments. Class A shares represent a traditional fee structure whereby, in most cases, the investor pays a commission at the time of purchase unless minimum investment criteria are met. Class B shares, which are available in some of our non-U.S. funds, have no front-end sales charges, but instead have a declining schedule of sales charges (called contingent deferred sales charges) if the investor redeems within a number of years from the original purchase date. The U.S. funds that had offered Class B shares have ceased offering these shares to both new investors and existing shareholders. Existing Class B shareholders may continue to exchange shares into Class B shares of different funds. Existing Class B shareholders may also continue to reinvest dividends on Class B shares in additional Class B shares. Class C shares have no front-end sales charges, but do have a back-end sales charge for redemptions within 12 months from the date of purchase. Class R shares are available for purchase by certain retirement, college savings and health savings plan accounts in the United States only. Outside of the United States, we offer additional share classes to respond to local needs.

In the United States, we offer Advisor Class shares in many of our funds, and we offer Class Z shares in the Mutual Series funds, both of which have no sales charges. Franklin Global Trust offers eight series of funds, seven of which are sold with no sales charge primarily to high net-worth or institutional investors. Advisor and Class Z shares are offered to institutions and high net-worth clients (both affiliated and unaffiliated) who have assets held in accounts managed by a subsidiary of the Company and are also available to our full-time employees, current and former officers, trustees and directors. In the United States, we also sell money market funds to investors without a sales charge. Under the terms and conditions described in the prospectuses or the statements of additional information for some funds, certain investors

9

can purchase shares at net asset value or at reduced sales charges. Outside the United States, we offer share classes similar to the Advisor Class shares to certain types of investors, although depending upon the fund and the country(ies) in which the fund is domiciled, the equivalent share class may be offered on a more restrictive or less restrictive basis than the similar U.S. Advisor Class shares.

Some of our insurance product funds offered for sale in the United States offer a three-class share structure, Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 shares, which are offered at net asset value without a sales charge directly to insurance company separate accounts.

Internationally, we offer types of share classes based on the local needs of the investors in a particular market. In the majority of cases, investors in any class of shares may exchange their shares for a like class of shares in another fund, subject to certain fees that may apply.

The following table summarizes the sales charges and distribution and service fee structure that generally apply to various share classes of our U.S.-registered retail funds; however, there are exceptions to this schedule for some funds.

Sales Charges and Distribution and Service Fees that Generally Apply to U.S.-Registered Retail Funds

U.S. Retail Funds  Maximum Sales Charge at Time of Investment	Class A Shares	Class B Shares (c)	Class C Shares (d)	Class R Shares
Equity Fixed-income	5.75%(a) 4.25%(a)	0.0% 0.0%	0.0% 0.0%	0.0% 0.0%
Contingent Deferred Sales Charge	None.(b)	4% maximum declining to zero after 6 years of each investment.	1% if share-holder sells shares within 12 months of investment.	None.
Maximum Yearly Rule 12b-1 Plan Fees				
Equity	0.35%	1.00%	1.00%	0.50%
Fixed-income				
Taxable	0.25%	0.65%	0.65%	0.50%
Tax-free	0.10%	0.65%	0.65%	0.0%
Types of Investors That May Purchase	Any.	See Note(c) below.	Any.	See Note (f) below.
This Share Class				

U.S. Retail Funds Sales Charge at Time of Investment Equity Fixed-income	Advisor Class Shares None.	Class Z Shares (e) None.
Contingent Deferred Sales Charge	None.	None.
Yearly Rule 12b-1 Plan Fees Types of Investors That May Generally	None. Full-time employees, current and former officers, trustees and directors of	None. Full-time employees, current and former officers, trustees and directors
Purchase This Share Class	Franklin Templeton Investments; institutional and high net-worth clients who have assets held in accounts managed by a subsidiary of the Company.	of Franklin Templeton Investments; institutional and high net-worth clients who have assets held in accounts managed by a subsidiary of the Company.

- (a) Reductions in the maximum sales charges may be available depending upon the amount invested and the type of investor. In some cases noted in each fund s prospectus or statement of additional information, certain investors may invest in Class A shares at net asset value (with no load). In connection with certain of these no-load purchases, FTDI may make a payment out of its own resources to a broker/dealer involved with that sale.
- (b) For net asset value purchases over \$1 million, a contingent deferred sales charge of 1.00% may apply to shares redeemed within 18 months
- (c) Class B shares convert to Class A shares after eight years of ownership. In the United States, the U.S. funds that had offered Class B shares have ceased offering these shares to new investors and existing shareholders. Existing Class B shareholders may continue to exchange shares into Class B shares of different funds. Existing Class B shareholders may also continue to reinvest dividends on Class B shares in additional Class B shares.
- (d) FTDI pays a 1.00% broker/dealer commission to broker/dealers of record of Class C shares at the time of purchase. This includes prepaid commission and an advance of the first year s Rule 12b-1 (as defined below) service fee.
- (e) When the Company entered into investment management contracts for the Mutual Series funds, the outstanding shares of Mutual Series funds were reclassified as Class Z shares on October 31, 1996. Current shareholders who held shares of any Mutual Series funds on October 31, 1996 may continue to purchase Class Z shares of any Mutual Series fund. Class Z shareholders may exchange into Class A shares of other funds, which are subject to Rule12b-1 fees, at net asset value. FTDI may make a payment out of its own resources to a broker/dealer involved in selling Class Z shares.
- (f) The types of investors that may purchase Class R shares include employer sponsored retirement plans, any trust or plan established as part of a qualified tuition program under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and Health Reimbursement Accounts and Health Savings Accounts, either as a direct investment or as a separate or managed account.

Our non-U.S.-registered funds, including Corporate Class shares offered in Canada, have various sales charges and fee structures that are not discussed in this report.

The distribution agreements with the U.S.-registered funds generally provide for FTDI to pay commission expenses for sales of fund shares to broker/dealers. These broker/dealers receive various sales commissions and other fees from FTDI, including fees from the investors in the funds and the funds themselves, for services in matching investors with funds whose investment objectives match such investors—goals and risk profiles. Broker/dealers may also receive fees for their assistance in explaining the operations of the funds, in servicing the investor—s account, reporting and various other distribution services. Fund shares are sold primarily through a large network of independent intermediaries, including broker/dealers, banks and other similar financial advisers. We are heavily dependent upon these distribution channels and business relationships. FTDI may make payments to certain broker/dealers who provide marketing support services, which may include business planning assistance, advertising, educating broker/dealer personnel about the funds and shareholder financial planning needs, placement on the broker/dealer—s list of offered funds, and access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the broker/dealer. There is increasing competition for access to these channels, which has caused our distribution costs to rise and could cause further increases in the future as competition continues and service expectations increase. As of September 30, 2007, over 2,400 local, regional and national securities brokerage firms offered shares of our U.S.-registered funds for sale to the U.S. investing public. In the United States, we have approximately 100 general wholesalers who interface with the broker/dealer community.

Most of the U.S.-registered funds, with the exception of certain of our money market funds, have adopted distribution plans (the Plans ) under Rule 12b-1 promulgated under the 40 Act (Rule 12b-1). The Plans are established for an initial term of one year and, thereafter, must be approved annually by each fund s board of directors or trustees and by a majority of its directors or trustees who are not interested persons of the fund under the 40 Act (the disinterested fund directors/trustees). All of these Plans are subject to termination at any time by a majority vote of the disinterested fund directors/trustees or by the particular fund shareholders. Fees from the Plans are paid primarily to third-party broker/dealers who provide services to the shareholder accounts and engage in distribution activities. The Plans permit the funds to bear certain expenses relating to the distribution of their shares, such as expenses for marketing,

11

### **Table of Contents**

advertising, printing and sales promotion. FTDI may also receive reimbursement from the funds for various expenses that FTDI incurs in distributing the funds, such as marketing, advertising, printing and sales promotion, subject to the Plans limitations on amounts. Each fund has a percentage limit for these types of expenses based on average daily net assets under management.

Similar arrangements exist with the distribution of our international funds and where, generally, the distributor of the funds in the local market arranges for and pays commissions.

Class C shares are generally more costly to us in the year of sale, but they allow us to be competitive by increasing our presence in various distribution channels. Historically, Class B and certain of our Class C deferred commission assets (DCA) arising from our U.S., Canadian and European operations were financed through transfers to or other arrangements with a company in which we hold a 49% ownership interest. The holder of the 51% ownership interest in this company is a subsidiary of an international banking institution that is not affiliated with the Company. Repayments under these financing arrangements are limited to the asset-based distribution fees paid by the funds pursuant to the distribution agreements the funds have with their distributors and to the contingent deferred sales charges collected in connection with early redemptions. The U.S. funds that had offered Class B shares have ceased offering these shares to new investors and existing shareholders. As of December 2005, our DCA have been financed generally by an independent third party.

The sales commissions and payments below, payable to qualifying broker/dealers and other intermediaries, generally apply to our U.S.-registered retail funds; however, there are exceptions to this schedule for some funds. Complete information can be found in each fund s prospectus or statement of additional information.

Sales Commissions and Other Payments Paid to Qualifying Broker/Dealers and Other Intermediaries that Generally Apply to U.S.-Registered Retail Funds

U.S. Retail Funds	Class A Shares	Class C Shares	Class R Shares		
Maximum Broker/Dealer Commission at Time of					
Investment					
Equity	5.00%	1.00%	0.0%		
Fixed-income	4.00%	1.00%	0.0%		
Maximum Yearly Rule 12b-1 Plan Fees					
Equity	0.25%(a)	1.00%(b)	0.50%		
Fixed-income					
Taxable	0.25%(a)	0.65%(c)	0.50%		
Tax-free	0.10%	0.65%(c)	0.0%		

- (a) The fees referenced above generally apply; however, there are certain individual funds that may apply a different fee structure, such as certain hybrid or taxable fixed-income funds whose Rule 12b-1 fees are 0.15%.
- (b) Rule 12b-1 service fees of 0.25% are paid in advance for the first year and are included within the 1.00% commission payment. FTDI retains the asset-based charge of 0.75% during the first year. Qualifying dealers will earn the full Rule 12b-1 fee (service fee and asset-based charge) beginning in the 13<sup>th</sup> month.
- (c) Rule 12b-1 service fees of 0.15% are paid in advance for the first year and are included within the 1.00% commission payment. FTDI retains the asset-based charge of 0.50% during the first year. Qualifying dealers will earn the full Rule 12b-1 fee (service fee and asset-based charge) beginning in the 13<sup>th</sup> month.

Two of the three share classes of our insurance product funds also have adopted a distribution plan under Rule 12b-1. Class 2 and Class 3 shares allow the fund to pay FTDI, the fund s underwriter, the insurance company or others for distribution, including servicing; Class 3 shares, which are offered by three of the insurance funds, may also assess a 1.00% redemption fee when contract owners redeem units of interest from

12

### **Table of Contents**

an insurance company sub-account held for less than 60 days. The Rule 12b-1 distribution fees are generally assessed quarterly at the current annual rate of 0.25% of the average daily net assets of the class.

Our non-U.S. subsidiaries that provide underwriting and distribution services for our non-U.S.-registered funds pay various sales commissions and other payments to qualifying broker/dealers and other intermediaries that are not discussed in this report.

FTDI and/or its affiliates may make the following additional payments out of FTDI s or its affiliates own assets to broker/dealers that sell shares of our funds:

Marketing support payments. FTDI may make payments to certain broker/dealers who are holders or dealers of record for accounts in one or more of our funds. A broker/dealer s marketing support services may include business planning assistance, advertising, educating broker/dealer personnel about the funds and shareholder financial planning needs, placement on the broker/dealer s list of offered funds, and access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the broker/dealer. FTDI compensates broker/dealers differently depending upon, among other factors, sales and asset levels, redemption rates and the level and/or type of marketing and educational activities provided by the broker/dealer. Such compensation may include financial assistance to broker/dealers that enable FTDI to participate in and/or present at conferences or seminars, sales or training programs for invited registered representatives and other employees, client and investor events and other broker/dealer-sponsored events. These payments may vary depending upon the nature of the event. FTDI periodically reviews its marketing support arrangements to determine whether to continue such payments. In the case of any one broker/dealer, marketing support payments will not exceed the sum of 0.10% of that broker/dealer s current year s total sales of our funds and 0.05% (or 0.03%) of the total assets of equity (or fixed income) funds attributable to that broker/dealer, on an annual basis. The statement of additional information for each retail fund provides a list of broker/dealers that receive such marketing support payments. Marketing support payments made to organizations located outside the United States, with respect to investments in a fund by non-U.S. persons, may exceed the above-stated limitations.

Transaction support payments. FTDI may pay ticket charges of up to \$20 per purchase or exchange order placed by a broker/dealer or one-time payments for ancillary services, such as setting up funds on a broker/dealer s fund trading system.

Other payments. From time to time, FTDI, at its expense, may make additional payments to broker/dealers that sell or arrange for the sale of shares of the funds. FTDI routinely sponsors due diligence meetings for registered representatives during which they receive updates on various funds and are afforded the opportunity to speak with portfolio managers. Invitation to these meetings is not conditioned on selling a specific number of shares. Those who have shown an interest in our funds, however, are more likely to be considered. To the extent permitted by their firm s policies and procedures, registered representatives expenses in attending these meetings may be covered by FTDI.

Other compensation may be offered to the extent not prohibited by federal or state laws or any self-regulatory agency, such as the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), formerly the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (the NASD). FTDI makes payments for events it deems appropriate, subject to FTDI s guidelines and applicable law.

#### 3. Shareholder and Transfer Agency Services

One of our subsidiaries, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC (FTIS), provides shareholder record keeping services and acts as transfer agent and dividend-paying agent for the U.S.-registered

13

### **Table of Contents**

open-end funds. FTIS is registered with the SEC as a transfer agent under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Generally, FTIS is compensated under an agreement with each fund on the basis of an annual per account fee that varies with the fund and the type of services being provided. FTIS also is reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses. In some instances, certain funds compensate FTIS based on assets under management. Other subsidiaries provide the same services to the funds offered for sale in Canada, Europe, Asia and other non-U.S. regions under similar fee arrangements.

FTIS may also pay servicing fees, which are reimbursed by the funds, in varying amounts to certain financial institutions (primarily to help offset costs associated with client account maintenance support, statement preparation and transaction processing) that: (i) maintain omnibus accounts with the fund in the institution s name on behalf of numerous beneficial owners of fund shares; or (ii) provide support for fund shareholder accounts by sharing account data with FTIS through the National Securities Clearing Corporation (NSCC) networking system. FTIS will also receive a fee from the funds for services provided in support of beneficial owners and NSCC networking system accounts.

## C. High Net-Worth Investment Management and Related Services

Through Fiduciary Trust (including its trust company and investment adviser subsidiaries), we provide investment management services to, among others, high net-worth individuals and families. Similarly, through our Canadian high net-worth business unit, FTCC, we provide investment management services and offer sponsored investment products to high net-worth individuals and families. Our high net-worth client business seeks to maintain relationships that span generations and help families plan the most appropriate method of intergenerational wealth transfer.

Individual client assets are typically held in accounts separately managed by individual portfolio managers. These portfolio managers determine asset allocation and stock selection for client accounts, taking into consideration each client s specific long-term objectives while utilizing our macroeconomic and individual stock research.

Fiduciary Trust services that focus on managing family wealth from generation to generation include wealth management, estate planning, private banking, tax and custody services. We offer clients personalized attention and estate planning expertise in an integrated package of services known as Family Resource Management<sup>®</sup> (FRM). Services under FRM provide clients with an integrated strategy to optimize wealth accumulation and maximize after-tax wealth transfer to the next generation. Evaluation of third-party investment management products or services is performed by the Strategic Advisory Group, an investment advisory group within Fiduciary Trust.

### D. Institutional Management

We provide a broad array of investment management services to institutional clients, focusing on foundations, endowment funds and government and corporate pension funds. Our subsidiaries offer a wide range of both domestic and international equity, fixed-income and specialty strategies through a variety of investment vehicles, including separate and commingled accounts and open-end and closed-end domestic and offshore funds.

We operate our institutional business under the trade name Franklin Templeton Institutional . Through various legal entities, including FTI, we distribute and market globally the different investment management capabilities of our various investment management subsidiaries under the Franklin, Templeton, Mutual Series, Bissett and Darby brand names. We primarily attract new institutional business through our strong relationships with pension and management consultants and through additional mandates from our existing client relationships.

14

### **Table of Contents**

Our retirement business is conducted through divisions of FTDI that work closely with sponsors of defined contribution plans, including 401(k) plans, bundled defined contribution plans, variable annuity products and individual retirement accounts ( IRAs ). This business unit allows us to focus on expanding sales of our asset management capabilities to the U.S. retirement industry by offering a number of investment options, including sub-advised portfolios, funds, education savings plans and variable insurance trusts.

Through our various subsidiaries, we also market and distribute our sponsored investment products to separately-managed accounts. Our subsidiaries, Franklin Templeton Financial Services Corp. and Templeton/Franklin Investment Services, Inc., also serve as direct marketing broker/dealers for institutional investors for certain of our institutional mutual funds and private equity funds.

# E. Trust and Custody

Through various trust company subsidiaries, including Fiduciary Trust, we offer a wide range of investment management and related services, including trust services, custody and administration, estate planning, tax planning, and