

NORTHERN TRUST CORP  
Form 11-K  
June 28, 2004

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# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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## FORM 11-K

[Mark One]

ANNUAL REPORT Pursuant to Section 15(d) 1934 For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003.

OR

TRANSITION REPORT Pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the Transition Period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number 0-5965.

A. Full Title of Plan:

## THE NORTHERN TRUST COMPANY THRIFT-INCENTIVE PLAN

B. Name of Issuer of securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

Northern Trust Corporation

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**50 South LaSalle Street**

**Chicago, Illinois 60675**

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**Report of Independent Public Accountants**

To The Northern Trust Company Employee Benefit Administrative Committee:

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of **THE NORTHERN TRUST COMPANY THRIFT-INCENTIVE PLAN** as of December 31, 2003 and 2002 and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2003. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2003 and 2002 and the changes in net assets available for benefits for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2003 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedules of investments at December 31, 2003 and reportable transactions for the year ended December 31, 2003 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The supplemental schedules have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ Hill, Taylor LLC

**HILL, TAYLOR LLC**

May 7, 2004

**Index to Exhibits**

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32.1	Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 Of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	5