

Summary Prospectus

FlexShares® Quality Dividend Defensive Index Fund



March 1, 2013 | Ticker: QDEF | Stock Exchange: NYSE Arca

Before you invest, you may want to review the Fund's complete Prospectus, which contains more information about the Fund and its risks. You can find the Fund's complete Prospectus and other information about the Fund online at www.flexshares.com/prospectus. You can also get this information at no cost by calling 1-855-FLEXETF (1-855-353-9383) or by sending an e-mail request to info@flexshares.com. The Fund's complete Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, both dated March 1, 2013, as supplemented, are incorporated by reference into this summary prospectus and may be obtained, free of charge, at the website, phone number or e-mail address noted above.

Investment Objective

The Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the Northern Trust Quality Dividend Defensive IndexSM (the "Underlying Index").

Fees and Expenses of the Fund

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. You will also incur usual and customary brokerage commissions when buying or selling shares of the Fund in the secondary market, which are not reflected in the example that follows:

Shareholder Fees (fees paid directly from your investment)	
None	
Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)	
Management Fees	0.37%
Distribution (12b-1) Fees	0.00%
Other Expenses ⁽¹⁾	0.01%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses	0.38%
Expense Reimbursement ⁽²⁾	(0.01)%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement	0.37%

⁽¹⁾ Under the Fund's Investment Advisory Agreement, Northern Trust Investments, Inc. ("NTI" or "Investment Adviser") is responsible for most of the operating expenses of the Fund. However, the Investment Adviser is not responsible for the following expenses: interest expenses, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, fees and expenses of the independent trustees and their independent legal counsel, taxes and other extraordinary costs such as litigation and other expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of business. Other Expenses are estimated as the Fund had not commenced operations as of October 31, 2012.

⁽²⁾ NTI has contractually agreed to reimburse the fees and expenses of the Trust's independent trustees and their independent legal counsel until March 1, 2014. The Fund's Board of Trustees may terminate the contractual arrangement at any time if it determines that it is in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders.

Example

The following Example is intended to help you compare

the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other funds. The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain the same (taking into account the expense reimbursement arrangement for one year). Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

1 Year	\$ 38
3 Years	\$121

Portfolio Turnover. The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. Portfolio turnover may vary from year to year, as well as within a year.

Principal Investment Strategies

The Underlying Index is designed to provide exposure to a high-quality, income-oriented portfolio of U.S. equity securities, with an emphasis on long-term capital growth and a targeted overall volatility that is lower than that of the Northern Trust 1250 IndexSM (the "Parent Index"). Companies included in the Underlying Index are a subset of the Parent Index, and are selected based on expected dividend payment and fundamental factors such as profitability, management expertise and cash flow, as determined by NTI (in its capacity as the index provider (the "Index Provider")), pursuant to its index methodology. The Underlying Index is designed to outperform the Parent Index on a risk-adjusted basis, with respect to a combination of dividend yield and capital appreciation. The Underlying Index begins with the Parent Index, and then follows a rules-based methodology to calculate optimal weights for securities in the Underlying Index based upon a targeted

overall beta generally between 0.5 to 1.0 times that of the Parent Index, dividend yield, quality factors and lower total risk. Beta represents the market sensitivity, relative to a given market index and time period, and is one measure of volatility. The Parent Index is a float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index comprised of the 1250 largest U.S. domiciled companies by market capitalization. In addition to tracking the performance of the Underlying Index, the Investment Adviser seeks to minimize portfolio turnover and tax inefficiencies. As of January 31, 2013, there were 178 issues in the Underlying Index. As of the same date, the Underlying Index's five largest industries were Financials, Information Technology, Consumer Staples, Energy and Consumer Discretionary. The Underlying Index is governed by transparent, objective rules for security selection, exclusion, rebalancing and adjustments for corporate actions.

NTI uses a "passive" or indexing approach to try to achieve the Fund's investment objective. Unlike many investment companies, the Fund does not try to "beat" its Underlying Index and does not seek temporary defensive positions when markets decline or appear overvalued.

NTI uses a representative sampling strategy to manage the Fund. "Representative sampling" is investing in a representative sample of securities that collectively has an investment profile similar to the Underlying Index. Securities selected are expected to have, in the aggregate, investment characteristics (based on factors such as market capitalization and industry weightings), fundamental characteristics (such as return variability and yield) and liquidity measures similar to those of the Underlying Index. The Fund may or may not hold all of the securities that are included in the Underlying Index. Funds that employ a representative sampling strategy may incur tracking error to a greater extent than a fund that seeks to replicate an index. "Replication" is an indexing strategy in which a fund invests in substantially all of the securities in its underlying index in approximately the same proportions as in the underlying index. The Fund reserves the right to use a replication indexing strategy if NTI determines that it is in the best interests of the Fund.

The Fund generally will invest under normal circumstances at least 80% of its total assets in the securities of the Underlying Index. The Fund may also invest up to 20% of its assets in cash and cash equivalents, including shares of money market funds advised by NTI or its affiliates, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, options and swaps, as well as securities not included in the Underlying Index,

but which NTI believes will help the Fund track its Underlying Index.

The Underlying Index is sponsored by the Index Provider. The Index Provider determines the composition and relative weightings of the securities in the Underlying Index and publishes information regarding the market value of the Underlying Index. The Index is reconstituted quarterly. Additional information regarding the Index Provider is provided in the "More Information about Underlying Indexes and Index Provider" section of the Prospectus.

Industry Concentration Policy. The Fund will concentrate its investments (*i.e.*, hold 25% or more of its total assets) in a particular industry or group of industries to approximately the same extent that the Underlying Index is concentrated.

Principal Risks

As with any investment, you could lose all or part of your investment in the Fund, and the Fund's performance could trail that of other investments. The Fund is subject to the principal risks noted below, any of which may adversely affect the Fund's net asset value ("NAV"), trading price, yield, total return and ability to meet its investment objective.

Asset Class Risk is the risk that securities in the Underlying Index or the Fund's portfolio may underperform in comparison to the general securities markets or other asset classes.

Concentration Risk is the risk that, to the extent the Fund's investments are concentrated in the securities of issuers in a particular region, country, market, industry, sector or asset class, the Fund may be subject to increased price volatility and may be more susceptible to adverse economic, market, political or regulatory occurrences affecting that region, country, market, industry, sector or asset class.

Counterparty Risk is the risk that a counterparty to a financial instrument may default on its payment obligation to the Fund. Such a default may cause the value of an investment in the Fund to decrease.

Derivatives Risk is the risk of investing in derivative instruments, including liquidity, interest rate, market, credit, counterparty and management risks, as well as the risk of mispricing or improper valuation. Changes in the value of a derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying asset, rate or index, and the Fund could lose more than the principal amount invested.

Dividend Risk is the risk that an issuer of stock held by the Fund may choose not to declare a dividend or the dividend rate might not remain at current levels. Dividend paying stocks might not experience the same level of earnings growth or capital appreciation as non-dividend paying stocks. The Fund's performance during a broad market advance could suffer because dividend paying stocks may not experience the same capital appreciation as non-dividend paying stocks.

Equity Securities Risk is the risk that the values of the equity securities owned by the Fund may be more volatile than other asset classes.

Issuer Risk is the risk that changes in the financial condition of an issuer or counterparty, changes in specific economic or political conditions that affect a particular type of security or issuer, and changes in general economic or political conditions can affect a security's or instrument's credit quality or value.

Management Risk is the risk that the representative sampling strategy used by NTI may fail to produce the intended results.

Market Risk is the risk that the Fund could lose money over short periods due to short-term market movements and over longer periods during market downturns.

Market Trading Risk is the risk that the Fund faces because its shares are listed on a securities exchange, including the potential lack of an active market for Fund shares, losses from trading in secondary markets, and disruption in the creation/redemption process of the Fund. ANY OF THESE FACTORS MAY LEAD TO THE FUND'S SHARES TRADING AT A PREMIUM OR DISCOUNT TO NAV.

New Fund Risk is the risk that the Fund faces because it is a new fund. As a new fund, there can be no assurance that it will grow to or maintain an economically viable size, in which case it may experience greater tracking error to its Underlying Index than it otherwise would at higher asset levels, or it could ultimately liquidate. The Fund's Distributor does not maintain a secondary market in the shares.

Passive Investment Risk is the risk that the Fund is not actively managed and NTI does not attempt to take defensive positions in any market conditions, including declining markets.

Tracking Error Risk is the risk that the Fund's performance may vary substantially from the performance of the Underlying Index. The Fund employs a representative sampling strategy, and may incur tracking error to a greater

extent than a fund that seeks to replicate an index.

Volatility Risk is the risk that the actual level of volatility experienced by the Fund may be greater or lower than the targeted overall volatility of the Underlying Index. Although the Underlying Index is designed to have a targeted overall volatility that is lower than that of the Parent Index, there is no guarantee that it will have the targeted overall volatility. The Fund will continue to seek to track the Underlying Index even if the Underlying Index does not have the targeted overall volatility. There is also the risk that the Fund may experience volatility greater or lower than that of the Underlying Index as a result of tracking error. A portfolio of securities with greater volatility is generally considered to have a higher risk profile than a portfolio with lower volatility.

It is possible to lose money on an investment in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, any other government agency, or The Northern Trust Company, its affiliates, subsidiaries or any other bank.

Fund Performance

Because the Fund has less than one full calendar year of performance, no performance information has been included.

Management

Investment Adviser and Portfolio Managers. Northern Trust Investments, Inc., an indirect subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the Investment Adviser of the Fund. Chad M. Rakvin, Senior Vice President of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., Shaun Murphy, Senior Vice President of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., and Jordan Dekhayser, Vice President of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., have each been managers of the Fund since its inception.

Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

The Fund is an exchange-traded fund (commonly referred to as an "ETF"). Individual Fund shares may only be purchased and sold on a national securities exchange through a broker-dealer. The price of Fund shares is based on market price, and because ETF shares trade at market prices rather than NAV, shares may trade at a price greater than NAV (a premium) or less than NAV (a discount). The Fund will only issue or redeem shares that have been aggregated into blocks of 100,000 shares or multiples thereof ("Cre-

ation Units”) to authorized participants who have entered into agreements with the Fund’s distributor. The Fund will issue or redeem Creation Units in return for a basket of assets that the Fund specifies each day.

Tax Information

The Fund’s distributions are generally taxable to you as ordinary income, capital gains, or a combination of the two, unless you are investing through a tax-exempt or tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. Distributions may be taxable upon withdrawal from tax-deferred accounts.

Payments to Brokers-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries

If you purchase the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), NTI and its related companies may pay the intermediary for activities related to the marketing and promotion of the Fund. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary’s website for more information.