# Matrix Trust Company Collective Investment Trusts for Employee Benefit Plans Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund

Financial Statements as of and for the year ended May 31, 2024, and Independent Auditor's Report

# Matrix Trust Company Collective Investment Trusts for Employee Benefit Plans

# Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund

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# **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Trust Committee of Matrix Trust Company Collective Investment Trusts for Employee Benefit Plans

# Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund, one of the funds of Matrix Trust Company Collective Investment Trusts for Employee Benefit Plans (the "Fund"), which comprise the statement of financial condition, including the schedule of investments, as of May 31, 2024, and the related statements of operations, changes in participants' interest, and the financial highlights for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as of May 31, 2024, and the results of its operations, changes in its participants' interest, and financial highlights for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

# **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Fund and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### **Responsibilities of Management 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, and for 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are issued.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures including examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Fund's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

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September 4, 2024

# Matrix Trust Company Collective Investment Trusts for Employee Benefit Plans Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund Statement of Financial Condition May 31, 2024

	Donaldson		
	<b>Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund</b>		
Assets			
Investments at Fair Value (1)	s	55,641,643	
Cash		280,274	
Dividend Receivable		108,629	
Issuances Receivable		31,854	
Total Assets		56,062,400	
Liabilities and Participants' Interest			
Liabilities			
Trustee Fee Payable Class I		4,732	
Audit Fee Payable		6,202	
Total Liabilities		10,934	
Participants' Interest			
Participants' Interest Class I		56,051,466	
Total Participants' Interest		56,051,466	
Total Linkilities and Destining at Links set		FC 052 400	
Total Liabilities and Participants' Interest	\$	56,062,400	
(1) Cost	s	49,360,357	
See Notes to Financial Statements	-	,,,	

# Matrix Trust Company Collective Investment Trusts for Employee Benefit Plans Schedule of Investments Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund May 31, 2024

	Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund			
	Fair Value as a % of Participants' Interest (1)	Shares	Cost	Fair Value
Exchange Traded Fund				
U.S. Stock				
Comm Srv Sel SPDR		18,933	\$1,484,579	\$1,576,362
iShares Semiconductor ETF		7,412	1,468,394	1,734,482
Total U.S. Stock	5.9%		2,952,973	3,310,844
Total Exchange Traded Fund	5.9%		2,952,973	3,310,844
U.S. Stock				
Aflac Incorporated		21,065	1,365,933	1,893,112
Broadcom Incorporated		1,835	1,104,699	2,437,889
Chevron Corporation		8,076	1,284,872	1,310,735
Johnson & Johnson		11,079	1,862,974	1,624,957
Merck & Company Incorporated		14,879	1,425,324	1,867,910
Paychex, Incorporated		13,447	1,623,925	1,615,792
Abbvie Incorporated		13,219	1,975,838	2,131,432
Accenture PLC Class A		6,385	1,907,575	1,802,422
Allstate Corporation		15,658	2,083,582	2,623,028
Apple Incorporated		11,815	1,842,237	2,271,434
BlackRock, Incorporated Class A		1,575	1,116,631	1,215,947
Costco Wholesale Corporation		3,130	1,603,672	2,534,956
Exxon Mobil Corporation		19,528	1,976,959	2,289,853
Home Depot Incorporated		5,467	1,683,279	1,830,734
JPMorgan Chase & Company		10,157	1,390,024	2,058,113
Lockheed Martin Corporation		3,747	1,655,953	1,762,364
Microsoft Corporation		5,576	1,561,384	2,314,765
NextEra Energy, Incorporated		20,928	1,639,637	1,674,659
Northrop Grumman Corporation		2,602	1,215,987	1,172,904
Raytheon Technologies Corporation		10,183	967,106	1,097,829
T.Rowe Price Group, Incorporated		13,945	1,686,213	1,643,139
Texas Instruments Incorporated		10,873	1,845,862	2,120,344
Union Pacific Corporation		7,291	1,612,181	1,697,491
Cisco Systems Incorporated		22,024	1,164,197	1,024,116
CME Group Incorporated		8,013	1,655,484	1,626,479
Ex Space Storage Real Estate Investment Trust		6,739	932,939	975,605
Marsh & McLennan Incorporated		7,503	1,474,829	1,557,473
Pepsico Incorporated		6,284	1,187,045	1,086,504
United Parcel Services Incorporated		10,137	1,848,865	1,408,333
Unitedhealth Group		3,352	1,712,178	1,660,480
U.S. Stock Total	93.4%		46,407,384	52,330,799
Total Investments	99.3%		\$49,360,357	\$55,641,643

See Notes to financial statements. <sup>(1)</sup> Percentages of participants' interest may not recompute as fair value and participants' interest are rounded

# Matrix Trust Company Collective Investment Trusts for Employee Benefit Plans Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund Statement of Operations May 31, 2024

Widy 51, 2024		
	Donaldson	
	Rising Divide	end Cornerstone Fund
Investment Income		
Dividends	s	1,373,941
Interest		238
fotal Investment Income		1,374,179
xpenses		
Audit Fee		6,202
Trustee Fees Class I		52,052
fotal Expenses		58,254
let Investment Income		1,315,925
lealized and Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments		
Net Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments Sold		(708,850)
Net Change in Unrealized Appreciation/(Depreciation) on Investments		7,104,441
Vet Realized and Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments		6,395,591
Net Increase(Decrease) in Participants' Interest Resulting From Operations	S	7,711,516

See notes to financial statements.

# Matrix Trust Company Collective Investment Trusts for Employee Benefit Plans Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund Statement of Changes in Participants' Interest May 31, 2024

	Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund	
	Units	Amount
Participants' Interest as of May 31, 2023	5,161,582	\$ 48,411,394
From Operations		
Net Investment Income		1,315,925
Net Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments Sold		(708,850)
Net Change in Unrealized Appreciation/(Depreciation) on Investments		7,104,441
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Participants' Interest Resulting From Operations		7,711,516
From Participating Unit Transactions		
Issuance of Units - Share Class I	948,445	9,704,778
Redemption of Units - Share Class I	(964,567)	(9,776,222)
Net Increase/{Decrease} from Participating Unit Transactions	(16,122)	(71,444)
Participants' Interest at Year End	5,145,460	\$ 56,051,466
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See notes to financial statements.

# Matrix Trust Company Collective Investment Trusts for Employee Benefit Plans Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund Financial Highlights

May 31, 2024

	Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund		
Selected Per Unit Data		Class I	
Unit Value, Beginning of Year	s	9.38	
Income From Investment Operations: (2)			
Net Investment Income (1)		0.26	
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments		1.25	
Total From Investment Operations		1.51	
Unit Value, End of Year	\$	10.89	
Total Return <sup>(2)</sup>		16.10%	
Ratios and Supplemental Data			
Participants' Interest, End of Year	s	56,051,466	
Ratio of Net Investment Income to Average Participants' Interest		2.53%	
Ratio of Expenses to Average Participants' Interest		0.11%	

(1) Net Investment Income Per Unit was Calculated Using the Average Shares Method

<sup>(2)</sup> Due to Timing of Participant Unit Transactions, the Per Unit Amounts and Total Return Presented May Not Agree With The Change In Aggregate Gains and Losses as Presented on the Statement of Operations

See Notes to Financial Statements

#### Notes To Financial Statements As of and for the Year Ended May 31, 2024

#### 1. Organization

The Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund (the Fund) is a collective investment fund established under the Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust of the Matrix Trust Company Collective Investment Trusts for Employee Benefit Plans (Declaration of Trust) to provide for the collective investment and reinvestment of assets of qualified employer sponsored retirement plans. Matrix Trust Company (referred to herein as the Trustee) serves as the trustee, custodian, transfer agent, and recordkeeper for the Fund. While the Trustee maintains all management authority, Donaldson Capital Management, LLC (referred to herein as the Sub-Advisor) provides investment sub-advisory services for the Fund.

The following describes the Fund and its investment objective, as set forth in the Fund Declaration established under the Declaration of Trust:

**Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund**— The Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund is a diversified portfolio of companies with market capitalizations of greater than \$10 billion. The Fund seeks to generate income and long-term capital appreciation by investing in companies that have consistently paid and increased their dividend over time. The fund will invest exclusively in equities with up to a 3% allocation to cash or cash equivalents for liquidity purposes.

# 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies followed by the Fund in the preparation of the financial statements.

**Principles of Accounting**—The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), as established by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), to ensure consistent reporting of financial condition and results of operations. The Fund each meet the definition of an investment company and therefore follow the investment company guidance in FASB Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 946, Financial Services – Investment Companies.

**Use of Estimates**—The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires the Fund's Trustee to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported results of operations during the reporting period. Estimates include determination of fair value of investments. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**—The Fund considers all highly liquid instruments with original maturities of three months or less at the acquisition date to be cash equivalents. Cash balances of the Fund pending investment or disbursement may be placed overnight into a deposit account provided by an affiliate of the Trustee. The balance held on behalf of a Fund in the deposit account may be in excess of federally insured limits; however, management of the Fund does not believe the Fund is exposed to any significant credit risk.

**Investment Valuation**—The Fund records investments at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Fund's utilizes valuation techniques to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. Assets and liabilities recorded at fair value are categorized within the fair value hierarchy based upon the level of judgment associated with the inputs used to measure their value. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). Inputs are broadly defined as assumptions market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability.

The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

*Level 1*—Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Fund has the ability to access at the measurement date. The Fund does not adjust the quoted price for these investments, even in situations where the Funds hold a large position and a sale could reasonably impact the quoted price.

*Level* **2**—Inputs other than quoted prices within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. A significant adjustment to a Level 2 input could result in the Level 2 measurement becoming a Level 3 measurement.

*Level 3*—Inputs are unobservable for the asset or liability and include situations where there is little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability. The inputs into the determination of fair value are based upon the best information in the circumstances and may require significant management judgment or estimation.

As of May 31, 2024, the Fund's investments are valued using Level 1 inputs.

In certain cases, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, an investment's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The Fund's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment and takes into consideration factors specific to the investment. The inputs or methodology used for valuing investments are not necessarily an indication of the risks associated with investing in those investments.

A description of the valuation techniques applied to the Fund's major categories of assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis follows:

Short Term Money Market Funds, U. S. Stock, and Exchange Traded Funds— Short Term Money Market Funds, U. S. Stock, and exchange traded funds are measured at fair value on a recurring basis using Level 1 inputs based on quoted prices for identical assets in active markets as of the measurement date. The inputs or methodology used for valuing investments are not necessarily an indication of the risks associated with investing in those investments.

*Investment Transactions and Dividends*—Investment transactions are recorded on the trade date. Realized gains and losses on investment transactions are determined on the average lot cost method and are included as net realized gain or loss on investments in the accompanying statement of operations. The difference between the cost and the fair value of open investments is reflected as unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments, and any change in that amount from the prior period is reflected in the accompanying statement of operations. Dividend income is recognized on the ex-dividend date.

*Federal Income Taxes*— The Fund is established hereunder is intended to qualify as a group trust under Revenue Ruling 81-100, 1981-1 C.B. 326, issued by the Internal Revenue Service, as clarified and modified by Revenue Ruling 2004-67, 2004-2 C.B. 28, Revenue Ruling 2011-01, 2011-2 I.R.B. 251. As a result, the Funds are exempt from federal income taxes under provisions of section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The FASB provides guidance for how uncertain tax positions should be recognized, measured, disclosed and presented in the financial statement. This requires the evaluation of tax positions taken or expected to be taken in the course of preparing the Fund's tax returns to determine whether the tax positions are "more likely than not" to be sustained "when challenged" or "when examined" by the applicable tax authority. Tax positions not deemed to meet the more likely than not threshold would be recorded as a tax benefit or expense and liability in the current year. As of May 31, 2024, and for the year then ended, management has determined that there are no material uncertain tax positions. The Fund files income tax returns in U.S. federal jurisdiction. The current and prior three tax years generally remain subject to examination by U.S. federal tax authorities.

**Participant Transactions**—The unit values of the Fund are determined at the close of each business day that the New York Stock Exchange is open for business. Units may be issued and redeemed on any business day at the daily unit value. All earnings, gains, and losses of the Fund are reflected in the computation of the daily unit value and are realized by the participants upon redemption from the Fund. Net investment income and net realized gains are reinvested, and thus, there are no distributions of net investment income or net realized gains to participants.

#### 3. Purchases, Sales, and Realized Gain (Losses) of Underlying Investments

For the year ended May 31, 2024, the aggregate cost of purchases, proceeds from sales and realized gains (losses) of underlying investments were:

Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund Total	\$18,493,561	\$17,792,988	(\$708,850)
U.S. Stock Stock	14,011,814	15,675,191	(\$708,850)
U.S. Stock Exchange Traded Fund	2,952,973		
Money Market Fund	\$1,528,774	\$2,117,797	-
Donaldson Rising Dividend Cornerstone Fund			

#### 4. Subsequent Events

Management has determined there are no subsequent events or transactions through the date the financial statements were issued that would have materially impacted the financial statements as presented.

#### 5. Related Party Transactions and Fees

The cash component for the Fund is held in a bank depository account maintained by the Trustee for retirement account customers.

In the event the audit fees to exceed .05 percent of average participants' interest annually, the sub-advisor will assume such excess audit fees. For the year ended May 31, 2024, the sub-advisor did not assume any fees.

The Trustee charges the Fund a fee in accordance with a tiered fee schedule (below) based on net assets held by external participants in the collective investment funds (CIF) with a common sub-advisor. The fee for the year ended May 31, 2024, was .10 percent per annum of net assets.

This fee accrues on a daily basis and is payable monthly in arrears.

Net CIF Assets	Fee
\$0 - \$100,000,000	0.10%
\$100,000,001 - \$200,000,000	0.08%
\$200,000,001 – and above	0.06%

#### 6. Risks and Indemnifications

In the normal course of business, the Fund enters into contracts that contain a variety of representations and warranties that provide indemnification under certain circumstances. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown, as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Fund that have not yet occurred. The Fund expects the risk of future obligation under these indemnifications to be remote.

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