

Edgar Filing: HANCOCK JOHN INVESTORS TRUST - Form N-CSR

HANCOCK JOHN INVESTORS TRUST  
Form N-CSR  
August 30, 2004

August 25, 2004

EDGAR

United States Securities and  
Exchange Commission  
Judiciary Plaza  
450 Fifth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20549

Re: Form N-CSR  
John Hancock Investors Trust (the "Registrant")

File Nos. 811-4186

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed herewith for filing pursuant to the Investment Company Act of 1940 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is the Registrant's Form N-CSR filing for the period ending June 30, 2004.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this filing, please contact the undersigned at (617) 375-1513.

Sincerely,

/s/Alfred P. Ouellette  
Alfred Ouellette  
Attorney and Assistant Secretary

ITEM 1. REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS.

JOHN HANCOCK  
Investors Trust

6.30.2004

Semiannual Report

[A 2" x 1" John Hancock (Signature)/John Hancock Funds logo in lower, center middle of page. A tag line below reads "JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS."]

[A photo of James A. Shepherdson, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of John Hancock Funds, LLC flush left next to first paragraph.]

WELCOME

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To Our Shareholders,

I am pleased to be writing to you as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of John Hancock Funds, LLC.

As you may know, John Hancock Financial Services, Inc. -- the parent company of John Hancock Funds -- was acquired by Manulife Financial Corporation on April 28, 2004. Although this change has no impact on the mutual funds you have invested in, it did bring with it some changes in the executive-level management of John Hancock Funds. Specifically, Maureen Ford Goldfarb has decided to step down as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of John Hancock Funds, LLC in order to pursue personal interests, and I was named her replacement. Since her appointment in January 2000, Maureen has provided John Hancock Funds with strong leadership and steady guidance through several years of extremely turbulent market and industry conditions.

Additionally, on May 12, 2004, your fund's Board of Trustees appointed me to the roles of Trustee, President and Chief Executive Officer of your fund. On June 15, 2004, the board also appointed Charles L. Ladner as independent Chairman of the Board of Trustees, a position previously held by Ms. Goldfarb. This appointment came just in advance of new SEC regulations requiring all mutual funds to have independent chairmen.

As to our backgrounds, I have been in the investment business for over 25 years, most recently as President of Retirement Services at John Hancock Financial Services. My responsibilities included developing and directing the sale of John Hancock's variable and fixed annuity products through a diverse distribution network of banks and broker-dealers -- including wirehouses, regional brokerage houses and financial planners.

Mr. Ladner has served as an independent member of John Hancock Funds' Board of Trustees since 1992 and formerly held the position of Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of UGI Corporation, a public utility holding company in Valley Forge, PA, until his retirement in 1998. He brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and leadership and we are delighted to have him serve as Chairman.

Although there has been change in executive-level management, the one thing that never wavers is John Hancock Funds' commitment to placing the needs of our shareholders above all else. We are all dedicated to the task of working with you and your financial advisor to help you reach your long-term financial goals.

Sincerely,

/S/ JAMES A. SHEPHERDSON

James A. Shepherdson,

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Chief Executive Officer

This commentary reflects the CEO's views as of June 30, 2004. They are subject to change at any time.

YOUR FUND  
AT A GLANCE

The Fund seeks a high level of current income consistent with prudent investment risk by investing in a diversified portfolio of debt securities.

Over the last six months

- \* Bonds posted mixed results as interest rates rose.
- \* Lower-quality corporate bonds and mortgage-backed securities posted positive results, while Treasury bonds declined.
- \* The Fund reduced its overall risk profile during the period.

[Bar chart with heading "John Hancock Investors Trust." Under the heading is a note that reads "Fund performance for the six months ended June 30, 2004." The chart is scaled in increments of 0.5% with -1.0% at the bottom and 0.0% at the top. The bar represents the -0.59% total return for the Fund. A note below the chart reads "The total return for the Fund is at net asset value with all distributions reinvested."]

Top 10 issuers

21.8%	Federal National Mortgage Assn.
4.6%	U.S. Treasury
1.2%	General Motors Acceptance Corp.
1.0%	Midland Funding Corp. II
0.9%	HCA, Inc.
0.8%	Sprint Capital Corp.
0.8%	NOVA Chemicals Corp.
0.8%	Ford Motor Credit Co.
0.8%	AT&T Corp.
0.8%	Abitibi-Consolidated Co.

As a percentage of net assets plus value of preferred shares on June 30, 2004.

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BY BARRY H. EVANS, CFA, AND JEFFREY N. GIVEN, CFA, PORTFOLIO MANAGERS  
MANAGERS'

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### REPORT

JOHN HANCOCK  
Investors Trust

Rising interest rates dampened bond market performance during the first six months of 2004. The robust economic recovery that blossomed in 2003 continued to gain momentum in the first half of 2004. The only missing piece in the economic puzzle was job growth, which continued to disappoint in the first quarter of the year. However, an upturn in the employment numbers finally materialized in the last few months of the period. The rebound in job growth, coupled with rising commodity prices (particularly oil), led the Federal Reserve to raise short-term interest rates on the final day of the period. The Fed's first rate hike in more than four years increased the federal funds rate target from a 46-year low of 1% to 1.25%.

The bond market rallied early in the year as job growth remained weak, but the employment rebound in the latter part of the period sent yields sharply higher, causing bonds to give up their earlier gains. Short-term bond yields increased the most, reflecting expectations of more Fed rate hikes later in the year. Despite the negative impact of rising interest rates, bonds managed to tread water during the period -- the broad Lehman Brothers U.S. Aggregate Index returned 0.15%.

"Rising interest rates dampened bond market performance during the first six months of 2004."

Lower-quality corporate bonds and mortgage-backed securities, which are among the highest-yielding segments of the bond market, were the best performers during the period. Investment-grade corporate bonds and Treasury securities posted modestly negative returns.

### FUND PERFORMANCE

For the six months ended June 30, 2004, John Hancock Investors Trust produced a total return of --0.59% at net asset value. The average closed-end general bond fund returned 1.63%, according to Lipper, Inc., while the Lehman Brothers Government/Credit Bond Index returned --0.19%. We attribute

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our underperformance to the weak performance of a few select corporate credits, and to insufficient weightings in both the high yield and mortgage bond sectors.

[Photos of Barry Evans and Jeff Given flush right at top of page.]

### CORPORATE BONDS BOOST RESULTS

Corporate bonds made up more than 60% of the portfolio during the six-month period. The vast majority of the portfolio's corporate bonds were lower-quality issues, which include below-investment-grade securities and bonds rated BBB, the lowest investment-grade rating. These securities were the best performers in the bond market during the

period.

Within the portfolio, the top performers included two lower-rated credits, PDVSA Finance and XM Satellite Radio. PDVSA, the finance arm of the state-run Venezuelan oil company, made a cash tender offer for its bonds at a price above face value, and the bonds rallied in response. At XM Satellite Radio, subscriber growth for the company's commercial-free satellite radio service has been very strong, both in vehicles and in homes. The nascent development of satellite radio is reminiscent of the early days of cable television.

"Mortgage-backed securities, which made up a little less than a quarter of the portfolio during the period, also performed well."

During the six-month period, we trimmed the portfolio's cable and media bond holdings. These segments of the market had performed very well over the past couple of years, so we reduced our exposure by taking some profits in selected names, such as Clear Channel Communications and EchoStar. We increased the portfolio's exposure to finance-related bonds, which offered attractive values. Recent additions to the portfolio included insurance firm Liberty Mutual and Japanese banking conglomerate Mizuho Finance.

#### MORTGAGES PAY OFF

Mortgage-backed securities, which made up a little less than a quarter of the portfolio during the period, also performed well. Mortgage-backed bonds lagged the other sectors of the bond market in the first quarter of the year as falling interest rates led to a brief mortgage refinancing wave. However, when interest

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rates rose later in the period, refinancing activity dropped off, allowing mortgage-backed securities to hold their value better than most other types of bonds.

[Table at top left-hand side of page entitled "Top five industry groups 1." The first listing is Government--U.S. agencies 23%, the second is Telecommunications 8%, the third is Utilities 7%, the fourth is Media 6% and the fifth is Finance 5%.]

#### TAKING SOME RISK OFF THE TABLE

We made no major changes to the portfolio during the period, but given the rising interest rate environment, we made some modest adjustments to reduce the portfolio's overall risk profile. For example, we reduced the interest rate sensitivity of the portfolio to limit the negative impact of higher rates. We also cut back our exposure to preferred stocks -- which occupy the lower rungs of the capital structure -- and moved the proceeds into Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities.

Although the credit quality of the portfolio remained roughly the same throughout the period, we shortened the average maturity of the portfolio's lower-quality corporate bond holdings. This helped lower the degree of credit risk in the portfolio without changing its overall

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credit quality.

[Pie chart at middle of page with heading "Portfolio diversification 1." The chart is divided into five sections (from top to left): Corporate bonds 68%, U.S. government & agency bonds 27%, Short-term investments & other 3%, Foreign government bonds 1% and Preferred stocks 1%.]

### OUTLOOK

Economic growth has been moderating recently but remains quite strong overall, and the inflation rate has picked up in the last six months. Consequently, we expect the Fed to continue raising short-term interest rates in the coming months, although it is likely to do so at a gradual pace. As of June 30, the futures market was projecting a federal funds rate target of 2.25%-2.50% by the end of 2004. This backdrop suggests that bond yields will rise in the second half of 2004, but we think the bond market has already priced in the effects of a strong

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economy and several Fed rate hikes, so we believe yields will remain in a somewhat narrow range.

[Table at top of page entitled "SCORECARD." The header for the left column is "INVESTMENT" and the header for the right column is "PERIOD'S PERFORMANCE...AND WHAT'S BEHIND THE NUMBERS." The first listing is Corn Products International followed by an up arrow with the phrase "Higher earnings and reduced debt stoked expectations for a credit upgrade." The second listing is Mizuho Finance followed by an up arrow with the phrase "Benefited from growth in China and strengthening Japanese bank industry." The third listing is Golden State Tobacco followed by a down arrow with the phrase "Adverse legal rulings hurt tobacco-revenue bonds."]

In the portfolio, we continue to favor corporate bonds, with a focus on lower-rated issues. The economy's strength should provide a further lift to corporate earnings and help companies repair their balance sheets. Lower-quality corporate bonds should benefit the most from the improving credit environment. We also intend to maintain our meaningful position in mortgage-backed securities, which should benefit from less refinancing activity and a relatively stable interest rate environment.

"...we expect the Fed to continue raising short-term interest rates in the coming months..."

This commentary reflects the views of the portfolio managers through the end of the Fund's period discussed in this report. The managers' statements reflect their own opinions. As such, they are in no way guarantees of future events, and are not intended to be used as investment advice or a recommendation regarding any specific security. They are also subject to change at any time as market and other conditions warrant.

1 As a percentage of the Fund's portfolio on June 30, 2004.

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## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FUND'S INVESTMENTS

Securities owned  
by the Fund on  
June 30, 2004  
(unaudited)

This schedule is divided into three main categories: publicly traded bonds, preferred stocks and short-term investments. Publicly traded bonds and preferred stocks are further broken down by industry group. Short-term investments, which represent the Fund's cash position, are listed last.

ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	CREDIT RATING*	PAR V (000s)
PUBLICLY TRADED BONDS 145.69%			
(Cost \$243,574,384)			
Aerospace 0.70%			
Jet Equipment Trust, Equipment Trust Ctf Ser 95B2 08-15-14 (B) (1) (R) Raytheon Co., Note 03-01-10	10.910%	D	
	8.300	BBB-	1
Automobile / Trucks 0.64%			
American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc., Sr Note 02-11-14 Ford Motor Co., Deb 02-15-47	5.250	BBB	
	9.980	BBB-	
Banks -- Foreign 3.72%			
Barclays Bank Plc, Perpetual Bond (6.860% to 6-15-32 then variable) (United Kingdom) 06-15-49 (R) HSBC Capital Funding LP, Gtd Bond, Step Coupon (4.610%, 06-27-13) 12-29-49 (R)	6.860	Aa3	1
Mizuho Financial Group Cayman Ltd., Gtd Note (Cayman Islands) 12-29-49	4.610	A-	1
Rabobank Capital Fund II, Perpetual Bond (5.260% to 12-31-13 then variable) 12-31-49 (R)	8.375	Baa1	
Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc, Perpetual Bond (7.648% to 09-30-31 then variable) (United Kingdom) 08-31-49	5.260	AA	1
Woori Bank, Sub Debt (5.750% to 03-13-09 then variable) (South Korea) 03-13-14 (R)	7.648	A	
	5.750	BBB-	

See notes to  
financial statements.

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ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	CREDIT RATING*	PAR V (000s)
Banks -- United States 1.43%			
Bank of New York, Cap Security 12-01-26 (R)	7.780%	A-	
Capital One Bank, Note 06-13-13	6.500	BB+	
Wachovia Corp., Sub Note 02-15-14	4.875	A-	1
Building 2.10%			
KB Home, Sr Note 02-01-14	5.750	BB+	1
North American Energy Partners, Sr Note 12-01-11 (R)	8.750	B+	
Pulte Homes, Inc., Note 02-15-13+	6.250	BBB-	1
Toll Brothers, Inc., Gtd Sr Note 11-15-12	6.875	BBB-	1
Business Services -- Misc. 0.74%			
Muzak LLC/Muzak Finance Corp., Sr Note 02-15-09	10.000	CCC+	1
Chemicals 3.31%			
Braskem S.A., Note (Brazil) 01-22-14 (R)	11.750	B+**	
Lyondell Chemical Co., Gtd Note 12-15-08+	9.500	B+	1
NOVA Chemicals Corp., Note (Canada) 09-15-05	7.000	BB+	2
Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan, Inc., Note (Canada) 05-31-11	7.750	BBB+	1
RPM International, Inc., Bond 12-15-13 (R)	6.250	BBB	1
Computers 0.86%			
NCR Corp., Note 06-15-09	7.125	BBB-	
Unisys Corp., Sr Note 03-15-10+	6.875	BB+	1
Containers 2.44%			
BWAY Corp., Sr Sub Note 10-15-10	10.000	B-	
Owens-Brockway Glass Container, Inc., Gtd Sr Note 11-15-12	8.750	BB-	1
Gtd Sr Note 05-15-13	8.250	B	
Sealed Air Corp., Sr Note 04-15-08 (R)	5.375	BBB	1

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ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	CREDIT RATING*	PAR V (000s)
Diversified Operations 1.96%			
Glencore Funding LLC, Gtd Note 04-15-14 (R)	6.000%	BBB	\$1
Hutchison Whampoa International Ltd., Gtd Sr Note (U.S. Virgin Islands) 02-13-13 (R)	6.500	A-	
Tyco International Group S.A., Gtd Note (Luxembourg) 10-15-11	6.375	BBB	1
Electronics 0.97%			
AMETEK, Inc., Sr Note 07-15-08	7.200	BBB	1
Finance 7.44%			
Capital One Financial Corp., Note 11-15-13	6.250	BB+	1
Citigroup, Inc., Sub Note 10-31-33	6.000	A+	
Credit-Based Asset Servicing & Securitization, Pass Thru Ctf Ser 2004-CB4 Class A3 07-25-08***	4.632	AAA	1
Duke Capital LLC, Sr Note 10-01-19	8.000	BBB-	
Ford Motor Credit Co., Note 10-28-09	7.375	BBB-	1
General Motors Acceptance Corp., Note 03-02-11	7.250	BBB	3
Household Finance Corp., Note 05-15-11	6.750	A	1
Humpuss Funding Corp., Note 12-15-09 (R)	7.720	B2	
PDVSA Finance Ltd., Note (Cayman Islands) 11-16-12	8.500	B+	
PPL Capital Funding, Gtd Note 03-01-09 (R)	4.330	BBB-	1
St. George Funding Co., Perpetual Bond (8.485% to 06-30-17 then variable) (Australia) 12-31-49 (R)	8.485	Baa1	
Food 0.53%			
Corn Products International, Inc., Sr Note 08-15-09	8.450	BBB-	
Furniture 0.60%			
Steelcase, Inc., Sr Note 11-15-06	6.375	BBB-	

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ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	CREDIT RATING*	PAR V (000s)
Government -- Foreign 1.19%			
Brazil, Federative Republic of, Bond (Brazil) 01-20-34+	8.250%	B+	
Colombia, Republic of, Note (Colombia) 01-23-12	10.000	BB	1
United Mexican States, Global Medium Term Note Ser A (Mexico) 01-16-13	6.375	BBB-	
Government -- U.S. 6.92%			
United States Treasury, Bond 05-15-18+	9.125	AAA	
Bond 02-15-31+	5.375	AAA	
Note 05-15-06+	6.875	AAA	1
Note 08-15-09+	6.000	AAA	2
Note 05-15-14+	4.750	AAA	6
Government -- U.S. Agencies 34.29%			
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp., 20 Yr Pass Thru Ctf 01-01-16	11.250	AAA	
CMO REMIC 2563-PA 03-15-31	4.250	AAA	
Federal National Mortgage Assn., 15 Yr Pass Thru Ctf 02-01-08	7.500	AAA	
15 Yr Pass Thru Ctf 09-01-10 to 04-01-17	7.000	AAA	2
30 Yr Pass Thru Ctf 04-01-33	5.500	AAA	2
30 Yr Pass Thru Ctf 10-01-33 to 01-01-34	6.000	AAA	40
30 Yr Pass Thru Ctf 02-01-34	7.000	AAA	1
30 Yr Pass Thru Ctf 07-01-34	6.500	AAA	3
CMO REMIC 2003-16-PD 10-25-16	5.000	AAA	1
CMO REMIC 2003-17-QT 08-25-27	5.000	AAA	1
Financing Corp., Bond 02-08-18	9.400	AAA	
Government National Mortgage Assn., 30 Yr Pass Thru Ctf 11-15-19 to 02-15-25	9.500	AAA	
30 Yr Pass Thru Ctf 11-15-20	10.000	AAA	
Insurance 2.80%			
Assurant, Inc., Note 02-15-14	5.625	BBB+	
Liberty Mutual Group, Note 03-15-14 (R)	5.750	BBB	
Mantis Reef Ltd., Note (Australia) 11-14-08 (R)	4.692	A-	1
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., Surplus Note 11-15-23 (R)	7.625	AA	
Ohio Casualty Corp., Note 06-15-14	7.300	BB	

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ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	CREDIT RATING*	PAR V (000s)
Insurance (continued)			
QBE Insurance Group Ltd., Bond (Australia) 07-01-23 (R)	5.647%	BBB	\$1
URC Holdings Corp., Sr Note 06-30-06 (R)	7.875	AA-	
Leisure 5.36%			
Chukchansi Economic Development Authority, Sr Note 06-15-09 (R)	14.500	Caa1**	1
Cinemark USA, Inc., Sr Sub Note 02-01-13	9.000	B-	
Harrah's Operating Co., Inc., Gtd Sr Note 07-01-10 (R)	5.500	BBB-	1
Gtd Sr Sub Note 12-15-05	7.875	BB+	
Hyatt Equities LLC, Note 06-15-07 (R)	6.875	BBB	1
K2 Corp., Sr Note 07-01-14 (R)	7.375	BB	
MTR Gaming Group, Inc., Gtd Sr Note Ser B 04-01-10	9.750	B+	
Premier Entertainment Biloxi, 1st Mtg Note 02-01-12 (R)	10.750	B-	
Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc., Gtd Sr Note 05-01-07	7.375	BB+	
Trump Casino Holdings, LLC/Trump Casino Funding, Inc., Gtd Sr Sec 1st Mtg Note 03-15-10	11.625	CCC+	1
Waterford Gaming LLC, Sr Note 09-15-12 (R)	8.625	B+	1
Machinery 1.78%			
Brunswick Corp., Note 06-01-11	5.000	BBB+	1
Kennametal, Inc., Sr Note 06-15-12	7.200	BBB	1
Manitowoc Co., Inc., (The) Sr Note 11-01-13	7.125	B+	
Media 9.35%			
British Sky Broadcasting Group Plc, Sr Note (United Kingdom) 07-15-09	8.200	BBB-	
Charter Communications Holdings II, Sr Note 09-15-10 (R)	10.250	CCC-	2
Comcast Cable Communications, Inc., Note 11-15-08	6.200	BBB	
Continental Cablevision, Inc., Deb 08-01-13	9.500	BBB	

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ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	CREDIT RATING*	PAR V (000s)
Media (continued)			
Garden State Newspapers, Inc., Sr Sub Note 07-01-11	8.625%	B+	
Grupo Televisa S.A., Note (Mexico) 09-13-11	8.000	BBB-	1
Innova S. de R.L., Note (Mexico) 09-19-13	9.375	B+	1
Sr Note (Mexico) 04-01-07	12.875	B+	
News America Holdings, Inc., Gtd Sr Deb 08-10-18	8.250	BBB-	
Paxson Communications Corp., Gtd Sr Sub Note 07-15-08	10.750	CCC+	1
Rogers Cablesystems Ltd., Sr Note Ser B (Canada) 03-15-05	10.000	BBB-	
Shaw Communications Corp., Sr Note (Canada) 04-11-10	8.250	BB+	1
TCI Communications, Inc., Sr Deb 02-01-12	9.800	BBB	
Time Warner, Inc., Deb 01-15-13	9.125	BBB+	1
XM Satellite Radio, Inc., Sr Sec Note 06-15-10	12.000	CCC+	
Sr Sec Note, Step Coupon (Zero to 12-31-05 then 14.000%) 12-31-09 (A)	Zero	CCC+	
Medical 3.59%			
HCA, Inc., Note 11-06-08	5.250	BBB-	1
Note 09-01-10	8.750	BBB-	1
Medco Health Solutions, Inc., Sr Note 08-15-13	7.250	BBB	1
Schering-Plough Corp., Sr Note 12-01-33	6.500	A-	
Wyeth, Note 03-15-13	5.500	A	1
Metal 1.08%			
Brascan Corp., Note (Canada) 03-01-10	5.750	A-	1
Mortgage Banking 6.69%			
Ameriquest Mortgage Securities, Inc., Pass Thru Ctf Ser 2003-IA1 Class A-4 11-25-33	4.965	AAA	2
Bank of America Mortgage Securities, Inc., Mtg Pass Thru Ctf Ser 2004-D Class 2A1 05-25-34	3.647	AAA	2

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ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	CREDIT RATING*	PAR V (000s)
Mortgage Banking (continued)			
Bear Stearns Commercial Mortgage Securities, Inc., CMO Sub Bond Ser 2004-ESA Class C 05-14-16 (R)	4.937%	AA	\$1
ContiMortgage Home Equity Loan Trust, Home Equity Pass Thru Ctf Ser 1995-2 Class A-5 08-15-25	8.100	AAA	
Deutsche Mortgage & Asset Receiving Corp., Commercial Mtg Pass-Thru Ctf Ser 1998-C1 Class C 06-15-31	6.861	A2	
DLJ Mortgage Acceptance Corp., Commercial Mortgage Pass Thru Ctf Ser 1996-CF1 Class B1 03-13-28 (R)	8.530	A	1
Global Signal Trust, Sub Bond Ser 2004-1A Class D 01-15-34 (R)	5.098	BBB	2
LB-UBS Commercial Mortgage Trust, Commercial Mortgage Pass Thru Ctf Ser 2003-C3 05-15-32	4.166	AAA	1
MBNA Master Credit Card Trust, Sub Bond Ser 1998-E Class C 09-15-10 (R)	6.600	BBB	1
Oil & Gas 4.83%			
Alberta Energy Co. Ltd., Note (Canada) 09-15-30	8.125	A-	
Gazprom, Note (Russia) 03-01-13 (R)	9.625	BB-	1
Grant Prideco Escrow Corp., Sr Note Ser B 12-15-09	9.000	BB-	
Key Energy Group, Inc., Conv Sub Note 09-15-04	5.000	B	
Magellan Midstream Partners, L.P., Note 06-01-14	6.450	BBB	
Occidental Petroleum Corp., Sr Deb 09-15-09	10.125	BBB+	1
Pemex Project Funding Master Trust, Gtd Note 10-13-10	9.125	BBB-	1
Plains Exploration & Production Co., Sr Note 06-15-14 (R)	7.125	BB-	
TEPPCO Partners, L.P., Gtd Sr Note 02-15-12	7.625	BBB	1

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ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	CREDIT RATING*	PAR V (000s)
Paper & Paper Products 4.87%			
Abitibi-Consolidated Co., Gtd Sr Note (Canada) 12-15-06	6.950%	BB	\$2
Boise Cascade Corp., Sr Note 11-01-10	6.500	BB	1
Corporacion Durango S.A. de C.V., Sr Note (Mexico) 07-15-09 (B) (R)	13.750	D**	
International Paper Co., Note 10-30-12	5.850	BBB	2
MDP Acquisitions Plc, Sr Note (Ireland) 10-01-12	9.625	B	1
Stone Container Corp., Sr Note 02-01-11	9.750	B	
Sr Note 07-01-12	8.375	B	1
Printing -- Commercial 0.26%			
Dex Media West, Sr Sub Note Ser B 08-15-13	9.875	B	
Real Estate Investment Trust 2.81%			
Healthcare Realty Trust, Inc., Sr Note 05-01-11	8.125	BBB-	
iStar Financial, Inc., Sr Note 03-15-08	7.000	BB+	
Meditrust, Note 08-15-07	7.000	BB-	1
ProLogis Trust, Sr Note 07-15-06	7.050	BBB+	
Spieker Properties L.P., Note 12-01-06	7.125	BBB+	1
TriNet Corporate Realty Trust, Inc., Sr Note 07-15-17	7.700	BB+	
Real Estate Operations 0.33%			
Socgen Real Estate Co. LLC, Perpetual Bond Ser A (7.640% to 09-30-07 then variable) 12-31-49 (R)	7.640	A	
Retail 2.96%			
Delhaize America, Inc., Gtd Note 04-15-11	8.125	BB+	1
Gap, Inc. (The), Note 12-15-08+	10.550	BB+	
Office Depot, Inc., Note 08-15-13	6.250	BBB-	1
TRW Automotive, Inc., Sr Note 02-15-13	9.375	BB-	1
See notes to financial statements.			

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	CREDIT RATING*	PAR V (000s)
Revenue Bonds 0.52% Golden State Tobacco Securitization Corp., Rev Ser 2003-A-1 06-01-39	6.750%	BBB	
Telecommunications 11.54% America Movil S.A. de C.V., Gtd Note (Mexico) 03-01-14 (R)	5.500	BBB-	
AT&T Corp., Sr Note 11-15-11	7.300	BBB	2
AT&T Wireless Services, Inc., Note 05-01-12	8.125	BBB	1
Corning, Inc., Note 03-01-09	6.300	BB+	
Note 04-04-25	8.300	BB+	1
Deutsche Telekom International Finance B.V., Bond (Coupon rate step up/down on rating) (Netherlands) 06-15-10	8.000	BBB+	
France Telecom S.A., Note (France) 03-01-11	8.750	BBB+	1
Mobile Telesystems Finance S.A., Gtd Bond (Luxembourg) 12-21-04 (R)	10.950	BB-	
Gtd Bond (Luxembourg) 12-21-04	10.950	BB-	
Gtd Sr Note (Luxembourg) 01-30-08 (R)	9.750	BB-	
Nextel Communications, Inc., Sr Note 08-01-15	7.375	BB	1
Qwest Capital Funding, Inc., Gtd Note 08-15-06+	7.750	B	1
Sprint Capital Corp., Gtd Sr Bond 01-30-11	7.625	BBB-	1
Note 05-01-19	6.900	BBB-	1
Telecom Italia Capital, Gtd Class B Note (Luxembourg) 11-15-13 (R)+	5.250	BBB+	1
Telefonos de Mexico S.A. de C.V., Note (Mexico) 11-19-08	4.500	BBB-	1
Telus Corp., Note (Canada) 06-01-11	8.000	BBB	1
Tobacco 1.55% Altria Group, Inc., Note 11-04-13	7.000	BBB	1
Commonwealth Brands, Inc., Sr Sec Sub Note 09-01-08 (R)	10.625	B**	1

See notes to  
financial statements.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	CREDIT RATING*	PAR V (000s)
Transportation 4.16%			
American Airlines, Inc., Pass Thru Ctf Ser 2001-2 04-01-13	7.858%	A-	\$1
CNF, Inc., Sr Deb 05-01-34 (R)	6.700	BBB-	
Continental Airlines, Inc., Pass Thru Ctf Ser 1999-1A 02-02-19	6.545	A-	1
CSX Corp., Note 11-01-09	4.875	BBB	2
Delta Air Lines, Inc., Equip Tr Ctf Ser A 06-01-08	10.000	B	2
Northwest Airlines Corp., Pass Thru Ctf Ser 1996-1C 01-02-05	10.150	B-	
Pass Thru Ctf Ser 1996-1D 01-02-15	8.970	B-	
TFM S.A. de C.V., Gtd Sr Disc Note (Mexico) 06-15-09	11.750	B	
Utilities 9.82%			
AES Eastern Energy L.P., Pass Thru Ctf Ser 1999-A 01-02-17	9.000	BB+	
Beaver Valley Funding Corp., Sec Lease Obligation Bond 06-01-17	9.000	BB+	
BVPS II Funding Corp., Collateralized Lease Bond 06-01-17	8.890	BB+	
CalEnergy Co., Inc., Sr Bond 09-15-28	8.480	BBB-	
CenterPoint Energy, Inc., Sr Note Ser B 09-01-10	7.250	BBB-	
El Paso Electric Co., 1st Mtg Ser E 05-01-11	9.400	BBB-	1
Empresa Electrica Guacolda S.A., Sec Sr Note (Chile) 04-30-13 (R)	8.625	BBB-	
HQI Transelect Chile S.A., Sr Note (Chile) 04-15-11	7.875	A-	1
IPALCO Enterprises, Inc., Sr Sec Note 11-14-11	7.625	BB-	
Korea Gas Corp., Sr Unsub Note (South Korea) 11-26-10 (R)	4.750	A-	1
Midland Funding Corp. II, Deb Ser B 07-23-06	13.250	BB-	2
MSW Energy Holdings /Finance II, Gtd Sr Sec Note 09-01-10 (R)	7.375	BB-	
NorAm Energy Corp., Deb 02-01-08	6.500	BBB	
PNPP II Funding Corp., Deb 05-30-16	9.120	BB+	
See notes to financial statements.			



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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	CREDIT RATING*	PAR V (000s)
Utilities (continued)			
Salton Sea Funding Corp., Sr Sec Note Ser C 05-30-10	7.840%	BB+	
System Energy Resources, Inc., Sec Bond 01-15-14 (R)	5.129	BBB-	
TransAlta Corp., Note (Canada) 12-15-13	5.750	BBB-	2
Waterford 3 Funding Corp., Sec Lease Obligation Bond 01-02-17	8.090	BBB-	
Waste Disposal Service & Equip. 1.55%			
Allied Waste North America, Inc., Gtd Sr Sub Note Ser B 08-01-09	10.000	B+	1
Waste Services, Inc., Sr Sub Note (Canada) 04-15-14 (R)	9.500	B-	

ISSUER, DESCRIPTION	CREDIT RATING*	SH
PREFERRED STOCKS 2.09% (Cost \$3,446,910)		
Banks 0.59%		
Abbey National Plc, 7.375% (United Kingdom)	A-	38
Utilities 1.50%		
Ameren Corp., 9.75%, Conv	BBB+	20
Dominion Resources, Inc., 9.50%, Conv	BBB+	7
DTE Energy Co., 8.75%, Conv	BBB	20
KeySpan Corp., 8.75%, Conv	A3	20

ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	CREDIT RATING*	PAR V (000s)
SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS 2.99% (Cost \$5,000,000)			
Government -- U.S. Agencies 2.99%			
Federal Home Loan Bank, Disc Note 7-01-04	Zero	AAA	\$5,
TOTAL INVESTMENTS 150.77%			
OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, NET (50.77%)			
TOTAL NET ASSETS 100.00%			

See notes to  
financial statements.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Notes to Schedule of Investments

+ All or a portion of this security is on loan as of June 30, 2004.

\* Credit ratings are unaudited and are rated by Standard & Poor's where available, or Moody's Investors Service, unless indicated otherwise.

\*\* Security rated internally by John Hancock Advisers, LLC.

\*\*\* All or a portion of these securities, having an aggregate value of \$999,400 or 0.60% of the Fund's net assets, have been purchased as forward commitments; that is, the Fund has agreed on trade date to take delivery of and to make payment for such securities.

(A) Cash interest will be paid on this obligation at the stated rate beginning on the stated date.

(B) Non-income-producing issuer, filed for protection under the Federal Bankruptcy code or is in default of interest payment.

(I) This security is fair valued in good faith under procedures established by the Board of Trustees.

(R) These securities are exempt from registration under rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. Such securities may be resold, normally to qualified institutional buyers, in transactions exempt from registration. Rule 144A securities amounted to \$39,614,015 or 23.70% of the Fund's net assets as of June 30, 2004.

Parenthetical disclosure of a foreign country in the security description represents country of a foreign issuer; however, the security is U.S. dollar-denominated.

The percentage shown for each investment category is the total value of that category as a percentage of the net assets of the Fund.

See notes to financial statements.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

June 30, 2004  
(unaudited)

This Statement  
of Assets and

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Liabilities is the Fund's balance sheet. It shows the value of what the Fund owns, is due and owes. You'll also find the net asset value for each common share.

### ASSETS

Investments at value (cost \$252,021,294) including \$18,010,356 of securities loaned	\$252,000,229
Cash	431
Cash segregated for futures contract	490,000
Receivable for investments sold	3,681,146
Interest receivable	3,301,766
Other assets	14,830
 Total assets	 259,488,402

### LIABILITIES

Payable for investments purchased	5,538,984
Payable for futures variation margin	291,406
Payable to affiliates	
Management fees	325,792
Other	4,576
Other payable and accrued expenses	183,724

Total liabilities	6,344,482
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Auction Preferred Shares (APS) Series A, at value, unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest authorized with no par value, 1,720 shares issued, liquidation preference of \$25,000 per share	43,000,962
APS Series B, at value, unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest authorized with no par value, 1,720 shares issued, liquidation preference of \$25,000 per share	43,000,962

### NET ASSETS

Common shares capital paid-in	167,364,601
Accumulated net realized gain on investments	594,074
Net unrealized depreciation of investments	(576,426)
Distributions in excess of net investment income	(240,253)
 Net assets	 \$167,141,996

### NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE

Based on 8,116,524 common shares outstanding	
-- 20 million shares authorized with no par value	\$20.59

See notes to financial statements.

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### OPERATIONS

For the period ended  
June 30, 2004  
(unaudited) 1

This Statement  
of Operations  
summarizes the  
Fund's investment  
income earned  
and expenses  
incurred in operat-  
ing the Fund.

It also shows net  
gains (losses) for  
the period stated.

#### INVESTMENT INCOME

Interest (net of foreign withholding taxes of \$4,612)	\$7,713,083
Dividends	315,339
Securities lending	19,181
 Total investment income	 8,047,603

#### EXPENSES

Investment management fees	673,042
APS auction fees	133,498
Transfer agent fees	54,733
Printing	49,461
Custodian fees	43,449
Accounting and legal services fees	35,099
Professional fees	25,792
Registration and filing fees	13,517
Trustees' fees	8,117
Miscellaneous	7,328
Interest	2,080
Securities lending fees	470

Total expenses	1,046,586
----------------	-----------

Net investment income	7,001,017
-----------------------	-----------

#### REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS)

Net realized gain (loss) on	
Investments	1,042,383
Financial futures contracts	443,521
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of	
Investments	(8,425,380)
Financial futures contracts	(593,709)

Net realized and unrealized loss	(7,533,185)
----------------------------------	-------------

Distributions to APS Series A	(250,770)
Distributions to APS Series B	(249,793)

Decrease in net assets from operations	(\$1,032,731)
--	---------------

1 Semiannual period from 1-1-04 through 6-30-04.

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See notes to  
financial statements.

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### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

These Statements of Changes in Net Assets show how the value of the Fund's net assets has changed during the last two periods. The difference reflects earnings less expenses, any investment gains and losses, distributions to shareholders, if any, and any increase or decrease due to reinvestment of distributions.

	YEAR ENDED 12-31-03	PERIOD ENDED 6-30-04 1
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>		
From operations		
Net investment income	\$10,991,576	\$7,001,017
Net realized gain	4,125,672	1,485,904
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	5,201,422	(9,019,089)
Distributions to APS Series A and B 2	(164,641)	(500,563)
Increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	20,154,029	(1,032,731)
Distributions to common shareholders		
From net investment income	(11,408,065)	(6,730,881)
From net realized gains	(4,815,418)	--
From Fund share transactions	663,868	307,631
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Beginning of period	170,003,563	174,597,977
End of period 3	\$174,597,977	\$167,141,996

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1 Semiannual period from 1-1-04 through 6-30-04. Unaudited.

2 APS Series A and B were issued on 11-4-03.

3 Includes distributions in excess of net investment income of \$9,826 and \$240,253, respectively.

See notes to financial statements.

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### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

#### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

##### COMMON SHARES

The Financial Highlights show how the Fund's net asset value for a share has changed since the end of the previous period.

PERIOD ENDED	12-31-99 1	12-31-00 1	12-31-01 1,2	12-31-04 1
<b>PER SHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE</b>				
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$21.78	\$20.11	\$20.79	\$20.11
Net investment income 4	1.47	1.42	1.32	1.34
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(1.67)	0.68	0.21	0.21
Distributions to APS Series A and B 5	--	--	--	--
Total from investment operations	(0.20)	2.10	1.53	1.55
Less distributions to common shareholders	(1.47)	(1.42)	(1.34)	(1.34)
From net investment income	--	--	--	--
From net realized gains	(1.47)	(1.42)	(1.34)	(1.34)
Capital charges				
Offering costs and underwriting discount related to APS	--	--	--	--
Net asset value, end of period	\$20.11	\$20.79	\$20.98	\$21.78
Per share market value, end of period	\$16.56	\$19.25	\$19.04	\$19.04
Total return at market value 6 (%)	(18.16)	25.75	5.96	6.97
<b>RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA</b>				
Net assets applicable to common shares, end of period (in millions)	\$158	\$165	\$167	\$167
Ratio of expenses to average net assets 8 (%)	0.81	0.83	0.82	0.82
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets 10 (%)	6.98	6.97	6.20	6.20
Portfolio turnover (%)	183	247	300	300

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### SENIOR SECURITIES

Total APS Series A outstanding (in millions)	--	--	--
Total APS Series B outstanding (in millions)	--	--	--
Involuntary liquidation preference APS Series A per unit (in thousands)	--	--	--
Involuntary liquidation preference APS Series B per unit (in thousands)	--	--	--
Average market value per unit (in thousands)	--	--	--
Asset coverage per unit 11	--	--	--

See notes to  
financial statements.

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### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

#### Notes to Financial Highlights

- 1 Audited by previous auditor.
- 2 As required, effective January 1, 2001, the Fund has adopted the provisions of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide for Investment Companies, as revised, relating to the amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts on debt securities. The effect of this change on per share amounts for the year ended December 31, 2001, was to decrease net investment income per share by \$0.02, increase net realized and unrealized gain per share by \$0.02 and, had the Fund not made these changes to amortization and accretion, the ratio of net investment income to average net assets would have been 6.31%. Per share ratios and supplemental data for periods prior to January 1, 2001, have not been restated to reflect this change in presentation.
- 3 Semiannual period from 1-1-04 through 6-30-04. Unaudited.
- 4 Based on the average shares outstanding.
- 5 APS Series A and B were issued on 11-4-03.
- 6 Assumes dividend reinvestment.
- 7 Not annualized.
- 8 Ratios calculated on the basis of expenses relative to the average net assets of common shares. Without the exclusion of preferred shares, the annualized ratio of expenses during the year or period ended December 31, 2003 and June 30, 2004, would have been 0.82% and 0.81%, respectively.
- 9 Annualized.
- 10 Ratios calculated on the basis of net investment income relative to the average net assets of common shares. Without the exclusion of

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preferred shares, the annualized ratio of net investment income during the year or period ended December 31, 2003 and June 30, 2004, would have been 5.81% and 5.42%, respectively.

11 Calculated by subtracting the Fund's total liabilities from the Fund's total assets and dividing that amount by the number of APS outstanding as of the applicable 1940 Act Evaluation Date, which may differ from the financial reporting date.

See notes to financial statements.

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### NOTES TO STATEMENTS

Unaudited

#### NOTE A Accounting policies

John Hancock Investors Trust (the "Fund") is a closed-end diversified management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Significant accounting policies of the Fund are as follows:

#### Valuation of investments

Securities in the Fund's portfolio are valued on the basis of market quotations, valuations provided by independent pricing services or at fair value as determined in good faith in accordance with procedures approved by the Trustees. Short-term debt investments maturing within 60 days are valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value. The fund determines the net asset value of common shares each business day.

#### Joint repurchase agreement

Pursuant to an exemptive order issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Fund, along with other registered investment companies having a management contract with John Hancock Advisers, LLC (the "Adviser"), a wholly owned subsidiary of John Hancock Financial Services, Inc., may participate in a joint repurchase agreement transaction. Aggregate cash balances are invested in one or more large repurchase agreements, whose underlying securities are obligations of the U.S. government and/or its agencies. The Fund's custodian bank receives delivery of the underlying securities for the joint account on the Fund's behalf. The Adviser is responsible for ensuring that the agreement is fully collateralized at all times.

#### Investment transactions

Investment transactions are recorded as of the date of purchase, sale or maturity. Net realized gains and losses on sales of investments are determined on the identified cost basis. Some securities may be purchased on a "when-issued" or "forward commitment" basis, which means that the securities will be delivered to the Fund at a future date, usually beyond the customary settlement date.



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Discount and premium  
on securities

The Fund accretes discount and amortizes premium from par value on securities from either the date of issue or the date of purchase over the life of the security.

Expenses

The majority of expenses are directly identifiable to an individual fund. Expenses that are not readily identifiable to a specific fund are allocated in such a manner as deemed equitable, taking into consideration, among other things, the nature and type of expense and the relative sizes of the funds.

Options

The Fund may enter into option contracts. Listed options will

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be valued at the last quoted sales price on the exchange on which they are primarily traded. Over-the-counter options are valued at the mean between the last bid and asked prices. Upon the writing of a call or put option, an amount equal to the premium received by the Fund will be included in the Fund's Statement of Assets and Liabilities as an asset and corresponding liability. The amount of the liability will be subsequently marked to market to reflect the current market value of the written option.

The Fund may use option contracts to manage its exposure to the price volatility of financial instruments. Writing puts and buying calls will tend to increase the Fund's exposure to the underlying instrument, and buying puts and writing calls will tend to decrease the Fund's exposure to the underlying instrument, or hedge other Fund investments.

The maximum exposure to loss for any purchased options will be limited to the premium initially paid for the option. In all other cases, the face (or "notional") amount of each contract at value will reflect the maximum exposure of the Fund in these contracts, but the actual exposure will be limited to the change in value of the contract over the period the contract remains open.

Risks may also arise if counterparties do not perform under the contract's terms ("credit risk") or if the Fund is unable to offset a contract with a counterparty on a timely basis ("liquidity risk"). Exchange-traded options have minimal credit risk as the exchanges act as counterparties to each transaction, and only present liquidity risk in highly unusual market conditions. To minimize credit and liquidity risks in over-the-counter option contracts, the Fund continuously monitors the creditworthiness of all its counterparties.

At any particular time, except for purchased options, market or credit risk may involve amounts in excess of those reflected in the Fund's Statement of Assets and Liabilities. The Fund had no written option transactions during the period ended June 30, 2004.

Securities lending

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The Fund may lend securities to certain qualified brokers who pay the Fund negotiated lender fees. The loans are collateralized at all times with cash or securities with a market value at least equal to the market value of the securities on loan. As with other extensions of credit, the Fund may bear the risk of delay of the loaned securities in recovery or even loss of rights in the collateral, should the borrower of the securities fail financially. At June 30, 2004, the Fund loaned securities having a market value of \$18,010,356 collateralized by securities in the amount of \$18,409,964. Securities lending expenses are paid by the Fund to the Adviser.

Financial futures contracts

The Fund may buy and sell financial futures contracts. Buying futures tends to increase the Fund's exposure to the underlying instrument. Selling futures tends to decrease the Fund's exposure to the underlying instrument or hedge other Fund's instruments. At the time the Fund enters into a financial futures contract, it is required to deposit with its custodian a specified amount of cash or U.S. government securities, known as "initial margin," equal to a certain percentage of the value of the financial futures contract being traded. Each day, the futures contract is valued at the official settlement price of the board of trade or U.S. commodities exchange on which it trades. Subsequent payments to and from the broker, known as "variation margin," are made on a daily basis as the market price of the financial futures contract fluctuates. Daily variation margin adjustments arising from this "mark to market" are recorded by the Fund as unrealized gains or losses.

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When the contracts are closed, the Fund recognizes a gain or loss. Risks of entering into financial futures contracts include the possibility that there may be an illiquid market and/or that a change in the value of the contracts may not correlate with changes in the value of the underlying securities. In addition, the Fund could be prevented from opening or realizing the benefits of closing out financial futures positions because of position limits or limits on daily price fluctuation imposed by an exchange.

For federal income tax purposes, the amount, character and timing of the Fund's gains and/or losses can be affected as a result of financial futures contracts. On June 30, 2004, the Fund had deposited \$490,000 in a segregated account to cover margin requirements on open financial futures contracts.

The Fund had the following financial futures contracts on June 30, 2004:

OPEN CONTRACTS	NUMBER OF CONTRACTS	POSITION	EXPIRATION	DEPRECIATION
US TBond	50	Short	SEPT 04	(\$97,616)
US TBond	50	Short	SEPT 04	(103,475)
10YR TNote	275	Short	SEPT 04	(354,270)
				(\$555,361)

Federal income taxes

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The Fund qualifies as a "regulated investment company" by complying with the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and will not be subject to federal income tax on taxable income that is distributed to shareholders. Therefore, no federal income tax provision is required.

Dividends, interest  
and distributions

Dividend income on investment securities is recorded on the ex-dividend date or, in the case of some foreign securities, on the date thereafter when the Fund identifies the dividend. Interest income on investment securities is recorded on the accrual basis. The Fund may place a debt obligation on non-accrual status and reduce related interest income by ceasing current accruals and writing off interest receivables when the collection of interest has become doubtful. Foreign income may be subject to foreign withholding taxes, which are accrued as applicable.

The Fund records distributions to shareholders from net investment income and net realized gains on the ex-dividend date.

Such distributions, on a tax basis, are determined in conformity with income tax regulations, which may differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Distributions in excess of tax basis earnings and profits, if any, are reported in the Fund's financial statements as a return of capital.

Use of estimates

The preparation of these financial statements, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, incorporates estimates made by management in determining the reported amount of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of the Fund. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

NOTE B

Management fee and  
transactions with  
affiliates and others

The Fund has an investment management contract with the Adviser. Under the investment management contract, the Fund pays a quarterly management fee to the Adviser equivalent, on an annual basis, to the sum of: (a) 0.65% of the

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first \$150,000,000 of the Fund's average daily net asset value and the value attributable to the Auction Preferred Shares (collectively, "managed assets"), (b) 0.375% of the next \$50,000,000, (c) 0.350% of the next \$100,000,000 and (d) 0.300% of the Fund's average daily managed assets in excess of \$300,000,000.

The Fund has an agreement with the Adviser to perform necessary tax, accounting and legal services for the Fund. The compensation for the period amounted to \$35,099. The Fund also paid the Adviser the amount of \$784 for certain publishing services, included in the printing fees.

Mr. James A. Shepherdson is the director and/or officer of the Adviser and/or its affiliates, as well as Trustee of the Fund. The compensation

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of unaffiliated Trustees is borne by the Fund. The unaffiliated Trustees may elect to defer, for tax purposes, their receipt of this compensation under the John Hancock Group of Funds Deferred Compensation Plan. The Fund makes investments into other John Hancock funds, as applicable, to cover its liability for the deferred compensation. Investments to cover the Fund's deferred compensation liability are recorded on the Fund's books as an other asset. The deferred compensation liability and the related other asset are always equal and are marked to market on a periodic basis to reflect any income earned by the investments, as well as any unrealized gains or losses. The Deferred Compensation Plan investments had no impact on the operations of the Fund.

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### NOTE C

#### Fund share transactions

##### Common shares

This listing illustrates the Fund common shares distributions reinvested, offering costs and underwriting discount charged to capital paid-in, reclassification of the capital accounts and the number of common shares outstanding at the beginning and end of the last two periods, along with the corresponding dollar value.

	YEAR ENDED 12-31-03		PERIOD ENDED 6-30-04 <sup>1</sup>	
	SHARES	AMOUNT	SHARES	AMOUNT
Beginning of period	8,015,867	\$166,689,302	8,102,295	\$167,056,970
Distributions reinvested	86,428	1,731,668	14,229	307,631
Offering costs and underwriting discount related to Auction Preferred Shares	--	(1,067,800)	--	--
Reclassification of capital accounts	--	(296,200)	--	--
End of period	8,102,295	\$167,056,970	8,116,524	\$167,364,601

<sup>1</sup> Semiannual period from 1-1-04 through 6-30-04. Unaudited.

##### Auction preferred shares

The Fund issued a total of 3,440 Auction Preferred Shares: 1,720 shares of Series A Auction Preferred Shares and 1,720 shares of Series B Auction Preferred Shares (collectively, the "Preferred Shares" or APS") on November 4, 2003 in a public offering. The offering costs of \$207,800 and the underwriting discount of \$860,000 has been charged to capital paid-in of common shares.

Dividends on the APS, which accrue daily, are cumulative at a rate that was established at the offering of the APS and has been reset every 7 days thereafter by an auction. Dividend rates on APS Series A ranged from 1.00% to 1.60% and on Series B from 1.00% to 1.49% during the period ended June

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30, 2004. Accrued dividends on APS are included in the value of APS on the Fund's Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The APS are redeemable at the option of the Fund, at a redemption price equal to \$25,000 per share, plus accumulated and unpaid dividends on any dividend payment date. The APS are also subject to mandatory redemption at a redemption price equal to \$25,000 per share, plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if the Fund is in default on its asset coverage requirements with respect to the APS as defined in the Fund's by-laws. If the dividends on the APS shall remain unpaid in an amount equal to two full years' dividends, the holders of the APS, as a class, have the right to elect a majority of the Board of Trustees. In general, the holders of the APS and the common shareholders have equal voting rights of one vote per share, except that the holders of the APS, as a class, vote to elect two members of the Board of Trustees, and separate class votes are required on certain matters that affect the respective interests of the APS and common shareholders.

### NOTE D

Investment  
transactions

Purchases and proceeds from sales or maturities of securities, other than short-term securities and obligations of the U.S. government, during the period ended June 30, 2004, aggregated

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\$136,899,114 and \$136,083,041 respectively. Purchases and proceeds from maturities of obligations of U.S. government aggregated \$24,478,486 and \$26,097,550, respectively, during the period ended June 30, 2004.

The cost of investments owned on June 30, 2004, including short-term investments, for federal income tax purposes, was \$252,719,414. Gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of investments aggregated \$4,853,161 and \$5,572,346, respectively, resulting in net unrealized depreciation of \$719,185. The difference between book basis and tax basis net unrealized depreciation of investments is attributable primarily to the tax deferral of losses on certain sales of securities and amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts on debt securities.

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### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

The Fund is a closed-end diversified management investment company, common shares of which were initially offered to the public on January 29, 1971, and are publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange. The Fund's primary investment objective is to generate income for distribution to its shareholders, with capital appreciation as a secondary objective. The preponderance of the Fund's assets are invested in a diversified portfolio of debt securities, some of which may carry equity features. Up to 50% of the value of the Fund's assets may be

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invested in restricted securities acquired through direct placement. The Fund may also invest in repurchase agreements. The Fund may issue a single class of senior securities not to exceed 331/3% of the market or fair value of its net assets and may borrow from banks as a temporary measure for emergency purposes in amounts not to exceed 5% of its total assets taken at cost. The Fund may lend portfolio securities not to exceed 331/3% of total assets.

### BY-LAWS

In November 2002, the Board of Trustees adopted several amendments to the Fund's by-laws, including provisions relating to the calling of a special meeting and requiring advance notice of shareholder proposals or nominees for Trustee. The advance notice provisions in the by-laws require shareholders to notify the Fund in writing of any proposal that they intend to present at an annual meeting of shareholders, including any nominations for Trustee, between 90 and 120 days prior to the first anniversary of the mailing date of the notice from the prior year's annual meeting of shareholders. The notification must be in the form prescribed by the by-laws. The advance notice provisions provide the Fund and its Trustees with the opportunity to thoughtfully consider and address the matters proposed before the Fund prepares and mails its proxy statement to shareholders. Other amendments set forth the procedures, which must be followed in order for a shareholder to call a special meeting of shareholders. Please contact the Secretary of the Fund for additional information about the advance notice requirements or the other amendments to the by-laws.

On August 21, 2003, shareholders approved the amendment of the Fund's by-laws, effective August 26, 2003, to provide for the issuance of preferred shares. Effective March 9, 2004, the Trustees approved additional changes to conform the Fund's maximum dividend rate on the preferred shares with the rate used by other John Hancock funds.

### FINANCIAL FUTURES CONTRACTS AND OPTIONS

The Fund may buy and sell financial futures contracts and options on futures contracts to hedge against the effects of fluctuations in interest rates and other market conditions. The Fund's ability to hedge successfully will depend on the Adviser's ability to predict accurately the future direction of interest rate changes and other market factors. There is no assurance that a liquid market for futures and options will always exist. In addition, the Fund could be prevented from opening, or realizing the benefits of closing out, a futures or options position because of position limits or limits on daily price fluctuations imposed by an exchange.

The Fund will not engage in transactions in futures contracts and options on futures for speculation, but only for hedging or other permissible risk management purposes. All of the Fund's futures contracts and options on futures will be traded on a U.S. commodity exchange or board of trade. The Fund will not engage in a transaction in futures or options on futures if, immediately thereafter, the sum of initial margin deposits on existing positions and premiums paid for options on futures would exceed 5% of the Fund's total assets.

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### DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

The Fund pays quarterly dividends from net investment income and intends to distribute any available net realized capital gains annually. All distributions are paid in cash unless the shareholder elects to participate in the Dividend Reinvestment Plan.

During the period ended June 30, 2004, the Fund paid to shareholders dividends from net investment income totaling \$0.83 per share. The dates of payment and the amounts per share are as follows:

PAYMENT DATE	INCOME DIVIDEND
March 31, 2004	\$0.41
June 30, 2004	0.42

### DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN

The Fund offers its common shareholders a Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the "Plan"), which offers the opportunity to earn compounded yields. Any holder of common shares of record of the Fund may elect to participate in the Plan and receive the Fund's common shares in lieu of all or a portion of the cash dividends. The Plan is available to all common shareholders without charge. Mellon Investor Services (the "Plan Agent") will act as agent for participating shareholders.

Shareholders may join the Plan by notifying the Plan Agent by telephone, in writing or by visiting the Plan Agent's Web site at [www.melloninvestor.com](http://www.melloninvestor.com) showing an election to reinvest all or a portion of dividend payments. If received in proper form by the Plan Agent prior to the record date for a dividend, the election will be effective with respect to all dividends paid after such record date. Shareholders whose shares are held in the name of a broker or nominee should contact the broker or nominee to determine whether and how they may participate in the Plan.

The Board of Trustees of the Fund will declare dividends from net investment income payable in cash or, in the case of shareholders participating in the Plan, partially or entirely in the Fund's common shares. The number of shares to be issued for the benefit of each shareholder will be determined by dividing the amount of the cash dividend otherwise payable to such shareholder on shares included under the Plan, by the per share net asset value of the common shares on the date for payment of the dividend, unless the net asset value per share on the payment date is less than 95% of the market price per share on that date, in which event the number of shares to be issued to a shareholder will be determined by dividing the amount of the cash dividend payable to such shareholder by 95% of the market price per share of the common shares on the payment date. The market price of the common shares on a particular date shall be the mean between the highest and lowest sales price on the New York Stock Exchange on that date. Net asset value will be determined in accordance with the established procedures of the Fund. However, if as of such payment date the market price of the common shares is lower than such net asset value per share, the number of shares to be issued will be determined on the basis of such market price. Fractional shares, carried out to four decimal places, will be credited to the shareholder's account. Such fractional shares will be entitled to future dividends.

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The shares issued to participating shareholders, including fractional shares, will be held by the Plan Agent in the name of the participant. A confirmation will be sent to each shareholder promptly, normally within seven days, after the payment date of the dividend. The confirmation will show the total number of shares held by such shareholder before and after the dividend, the amount of the most recent cash dividend that the shareholder has elected to reinvest and the number of shares acquired with such dividend.

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Participation in the Plan may be terminated at any time by contacting the Plan Agent by telephone, in writing or by visiting the Plan Agent's Web site, and such termination will be effective immediately. However, notice of termination must be received prior to the record date of any distribution to be effective for that distribution. Upon termination, certificates will be issued representing the number of full shares of common shares held by the Plan Agent. A shareholder will receive a cash payment for any fractional share held.

The reinvestment of dividends will not relieve participants of any federal, state or local income tax, which may be due with respect to such dividend. Dividends reinvested in common shares will be treated on your federal income tax return as though you had received a dividend in cash in an amount equal to the fair market value of the shares received, as determined by the prices for shares of the Fund on the New York Stock Exchange as of the dividend payment date. Distributions from the Fund's long-term capital gains will be processed as noted above for those electing to reinvest in common shares and will be taxable to you as long-term capital gains. The confirmation referred to above will contain all the information you will require for determining the cost basis of shares acquired and should be retained for that purpose. At year end, each account will be supplied with detailed information necessary to determine total tax liability for the calendar year.

All correspondence or additional information concerning the Plan should be directed to the Plan Agent, Mellon Bank, N.A., c/o Mellon Investor Services, P.O. Box 3338, South Hackensack, New Jersey 07606-1938 (telephone 1-800-852-0218).

### SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATION AND ASSISTANCE

If you have any questions concerning the Fund, we will be pleased to assist you. If you hold shares in your own name and not with a brokerage firm, please address all notices, correspondence, questions or other communications regarding the Fund to the transfer agent at:

Mellon Investor Services  
85 Challenger Road  
Overpeck Centre  
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660  
Telephone: 1-800-852-0218

If your shares are held with a brokerage firm, you should contact that firm, bank or other nominee for assistance.



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SHAREHOLDER MEETING

On March 18, 2004, the Annual Meeting of the Fund was held to elect eight Trustees and to ratify the actions of the Trustees in selecting independent auditors for the Fund.

Proxies covering 6,873,907 shares of beneficial interest were voted at the meeting.

The common shareholders elected the following Trustees to serve until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified, (there were no current nominees for election by the preferred shareholders), with the votes tabulated as follows:

	FOR	WITHHELD AUTHORITY
Dennis S. Aronowitz	6,733,301	137,167
Richard P. Chapman, Jr.	6,737,934	132,834
William J. Cosgrove	6,737,110	133,658
Richard A. Farrell	6,739,140	131,628
William F. Glavin	6,697,499	173,269
Maureen Ford Goldfarb	6,737,080	133,688
Patti McGill Peterson	6,685,609	185,159
John W. Pratt	6,737,046	133,722

The shareholders also ratified the Trustees' selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, as the Fund's independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2004, with the votes tabulated as follows: 6,723,191 FOR, 61,219 AGAINST and 89,497 ABSTAINING.

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FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION

TRUSTEES

Charles L. Ladner, Chairman\*  
 Dennis S. Aronowitz  
 Richard P. Chapman, Jr.  
 William J. Cosgrove  
 Richard A. Farrell  
 William F. Glavin\*  
 Dr. John A. Moore\*  
 Patti McGill Peterson\*  
 John W. Pratt  
 James A. Shepherdson

\*Members of the Audit Committee

OFFICERS

James A. Shepherdson

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President and  
Chief Executive Officer

Richard A. Brown  
Senior Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

Susan S. Newton  
Senior Vice President  
and Secretary

William H. King  
Vice President and Treasurer

### INVESTMENT ADVISER

John Hancock Advisers, LLC  
101 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02199-7603

### CUSTODIAN

The Bank of New York  
One Wall Street  
New York, New York 10286

### TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

Mellon Investor Services  
85 Challenger Road  
Overpeck Centre  
Ridgefield Park, New Jersey 07660

### TRANSFER AGENT FOR APS

Deutsche Bank Trust  
Company Americas  
280 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

### LEGAL COUNSEL

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP  
60 State Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-1803

### STOCK SYMBOL

Listed New York Stock Exchange:  
JHI

For shareholder assistance  
refer to page 31

HOW TO  
CONTACT US

On the Internet

[www.jhfunds.com](http://www.jhfunds.com)

By regular mail

Mellon Investor Services  
85 Challenger Road

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Overpeck Centre  
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660

Customer service representatives 1-800-852-0218

Portfolio commentary 1-800-344-7054

24-hour automated information 1-800-843-0090

TDD Line 1-800-231-5469

The Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures are available without charge, upon request:

By phone 1-800-225-5291

On the Fund's Web site [www.jhfunds.com/proxy](http://www.jhfunds.com/proxy)

On the SEC's Web site [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)

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[A 1 1/2" x 1/2" John Hancock (Signature) logo in upper left hand corner. A tag line below reads "JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS."]

1-800-852-0218

1-800-843-0090

1-800-231-5469 (TDD)

[www.jhfunds.com](http://www.jhfunds.com)

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STANDARD  
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P50SA 6/04  
8/04

ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

Not applicable at this time.

ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

Not applicable at this time.

ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

Not applicable at this time.

ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.

Not applicable.

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### ITEM 6. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS.

Not applicable.

### ITEM 7. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Not applicable.

### ITEM 8. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS.

Not applicable.

### ITEM 9. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.

(a) The registrant has adopted procedures by which shareholders may recommend nominees to the registrant's Board of Trustees. A copy of the procedures is filed as an exhibit to this Form N-CSR. See attached "John Hancock Funds - Administration Committee Charter".

### ITEM 10. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) Based upon their evaluation of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures as conducted within 90 days of the filing date of this Form N-CSR, the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that those disclosure controls and procedures provide reasonable assurance that the material information required to be disclosed by the registrant on this report is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms.

(c) There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal half-year (the registrant's second fiscal half-year in the case of an annual report) that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

### ITEM 11. EXHIBITS.

(a)(1) Separate certifications for the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, are attached.

(b)(1) Separate certifications for the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as required by 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and Rule 30a-2(b) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, are attached. The certifications furnished pursuant to this paragraph are not deemed to be "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or otherwise subject to the liability of that section. Such certifications are not deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent that the Registrant specifically incorporates them by reference.

(c)(1) Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders is attached. See attached "John Hancock Funds - Administration Committee Charter".

(c)(2) Contact person at the registrant.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

John Hancock Investors Trust

By:

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James A. Shepherdson  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: August 25, 2004

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By:

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James A. Shepherdson  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: August 25, 2004

By:

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Richard A. Brown  
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Date: August 25, 2004