



**BlackRock.**

**2020 Annual Report**

# **Moving forward together.**

**Our commitment to you.**

# We help more and more people experience financial well-being

## How we live it

### We help millions of people invest to build savings that serve them throughout their lives

People deserve financial security across their lifetime. That means meeting expenses today, saving enough for important goals like retirement and being prepared for all of life's moments in between. At BlackRock, the assets we manage on behalf of our clients — who are pension plans that serve workers from all industries, individuals through financial advisors, nonprofit organizations and academic institutions, insurance companies and governments — represent the futures of millions of people across the world. This is why we work with such a deep sense of passion and responsibility each and every day.

### We make investing easier and more affordable

Investing is out of reach for too many people, so BlackRock is helping to make investing easier and more affordable for all savers. Our more than 1,100 *iShares* exchange-traded funds (ETFs) simplify investing by making it more convenient for people to access market opportunities anywhere in the world. And we have demonstrated our commitment to making investing more affordable for more investors. In the past five years, *iShares* has helped save investors over \$400 million through reductions in fund fees.<sup>1</sup>

### We advance sustainable investing because our conviction is it delivers better outcomes for investors

BlackRock understands that climate risk is investment risk that all of our clients face. To help manage it, we have put sustainability at the center of our investment approach. We offer more than 200 environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategies to help investors meet their goals, from screening out specific sectors to proactively supporting positive sustainable outcomes. We also offer tools and technology to aid investors in better understanding how climate change may impact their investments over time.

### We contribute to a more resilient economy that benefits more people

We invest our clients' money in companies of all types and sizes, in every region of the world. These investments provide capital for companies to grow and create jobs, which, in turn, enables economies and societies to prosper. We use our voice as shareholders to urge companies to focus on important issues that will also impact the value of their investments, like climate change, the fair treatment of workers and equality. We are also working through the BlackRock Foundation to expand financial security for low income groups who face barriers to economic participation and may be vulnerable to disruption from climate change.

<sup>1</sup> Cumulative cost-savings figure is calculated by taking the difference between the previous fund expense ratio and the new fund expense ratio from 2015 through 2020, multiplied by the fund assets under management at the time of the fund reduction. Methodology does not account for compounding savings over time.





Delivering for clients

# Building a global investment platform with clients at the center

**We support millions of people around the world**

**100+**

countries where we serve clients<sup>1</sup>

**35 million**

U.S. retirement savers invest in our products through their defined contribution plans<sup>1,2</sup>

**We support clients when they need it most**

**100+ million**

people use our indexing capabilities globally<sup>1</sup>

**150,000**

wealth management professionals empowered by *Aladdin* technology<sup>1</sup>

**We use our voice to advocate on clients' behalf**

**1,939**

engagements with companies on environmental topics such as climate risk and the transition to a low-carbon economy<sup>1,3</sup>

**160,769**

management and shareholder proposals voted<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: BlackRock

<sup>2</sup> As of November 1, 2020.

<sup>3</sup> BlackRock Investment Stewardship data reflects the period from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

**Delivering value for all stakeholders is critical to BlackRock's long-term success, but our clients — who entrust us to manage assets on their behalf — are the reason BlackRock exists. We have a responsibility to put their best interest at the center of every decision we make.**

Our clients include people of all backgrounds saving for their futures. They are pensions, who manage the retirement savings of teachers, nurses, factory workers and small business owners. They are educational and nonprofit organizations, who work to educate students in pursuit of solving social challenges. And they are insurance companies and governments, who support people during life's most difficult moments and build hospitals, schools and roads to improve their communities. By investing on our clients' behalf, we help more and more people experience financial well-being throughout their lives.

BlackRock has spent the last 33 years helping to provide better financial futures for our clients. We offer an extensive set of investment strategies, across active and index, asset classes, geographies and exposures, so that we can develop solutions

that meet clients' specific needs. It is why we built our *Aladdin* technology and risk management system: to help clients understand and manage risk, operate more efficiently and make more informed investment decisions. It is why we pioneered the target-date fund, an all-in-one portfolio that automatically adjusts for different stages of an investor's life. And it is why we use our voice as shareholders to urge companies to focus on important issues — like climate change, the fair treatment of workers and equality — to better protect the long-term value of our clients' investments.

We continue to innovate ahead of clients' evolving needs. For example, in 2020 we introduced *Aladdin* Climate to better assess climate risks in investment portfolios and launched *LifePath* Paycheck to provide millions of American workers with simplified access to lifetime income throughout their retirement. We innovate every day because challenging the status quo and finding new solutions enhances returns, convenience, value and transparency for our clients and helps them achieve their long-term goals.

# Helping clients achieve their long – term goals

**Spotlight:** Building resilience with renewable power

BlackRock is unwavering in our commitment to working with clients to help them reach their goals over the long term. One example of this commitment in action is our renewable power platform. BlackRock’s Real Assets team manages one of the largest renewable power platforms in the world, and across our strategies, we have over \$11 billion of invested and committed capital. Renewables have continued to grow as more of our clients look to alternative sources of return and sustainable investments to add resilience to their portfolios. At the same time, renewables are playing a key role in helping to solve the global climate crisis and the shift from fossil fuels to cleaner energy

**270 projects**

BlackRock has invested in over 270 wind and solar infrastructure projects around the world<sup>1</sup>

**36 million cars**

Our renewable power projects will reduce carbon emissions equivalent to removing 36 million cars from the road<sup>1</sup>

**30 million homes**

Our wind and solar investments produce enough clean energy to power over 30 million homes for one year<sup>1</sup>

**20,000 jobs**

These investments have supported approximately 20,000 jobs<sup>1</sup>

sources — both of which are necessary for long-term financial well-being.

Our robust portfolio of renewable energy projects gives clients access to the opportunity presented by the global transition to a net-zero economy. BlackRock has invested on their behalf in over 270 wind and solar infrastructure projects around the world.<sup>1</sup> Collectively these investments produce enough clean energy to power over 30 million homes for one year, leading to carbon emissions reductions equivalent to removing 36 million cars from the road and providing approximately 20,000 jobs.<sup>1</sup>

These big numbers have meaningful on-the-ground impacts. For example, BlackRock invested in the construction of two solar power projects in Queensland, Australia, in an area long known for coal mining, but which had recently begun to transition to renewable energy. The 240-megawatt portfolio was slated to generate enough clean energy to power around 85,000 homes in the region annually.

The project was based in a small rural town of about 1,200 people. Over the nearly two-year construction period, BlackRock’s investment led to the creation of 550 building jobs, in addition

to boosting local service-related employment. Today, the town continues to benefit from the management of these green projects — from ongoing sponsorship of community events to supplying a printing facility for an internet access center.

Capturing the growth opportunity in renewable projects such as these helps our clients build portfolios for the future — not only for the next five years but for the next century. They also serve a large universe of stakeholders by adding resilience to local economies and the environment.

<sup>1</sup> Source: BlackRock. Metrics estimated over the lifetime of BlackRock’s renewable power assets and funds. Employment figures are estimated using Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Green Growth, “A U.S. Program for Controlling Climate Change and Expanding Job Opportunities.”

<sup>1</sup> Source: BlackRock. Metrics estimated over the lifetime of BlackRock’s renewable power assets and funds. Employment figures are estimated using Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Green Growth, “A U.S. Program for Controlling Climate Change and Expanding Job Opportunities.”



## Inspiring employees

# Investing in our business by investing in our people

**BlackRock's strong performance over time is because of the investments we make in our talented employees.**

Our employees are the foundation of our client-centric culture. They help deliver performance and innovation, serve our communities and ultimately drive returns for our shareholders. Our ability to continue delivering for all stakeholders hinges on our ability to attract, develop and retain dedicated and talented people who are inspired by our purpose and take emotional ownership of the work they do each and every day.

BlackRock's growth over time means we can continuously enhance the programs and resources we provide employees to support their well-being and ongoing development. For example, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we increased the benefits we offer our employees by providing services such as company-paid COVID-19 diagnostic and antibody testing and free on-demand physical, mental and emotional healthcare programs. We also expanded the content available on BlackRock Academies, our platform for providing best-in-class resources and courses to our employees, so that they can continue learning and growing their careers even

in a remote environment. Being a student is core to who we are at BlackRock and our capacity to learn helps us deliver the best of BlackRock to our clients, each other and ourselves.

Most importantly, BlackRock is committed to improving and maintaining a diverse, inclusive and equitable culture. It is central to our success and is what enables all 16,500 of BlackRock's employees to drive our purpose of helping more and more people experience financial well-being. Our goal is to build, develop and retain a diverse talent pipeline, while fostering a culture where every employee feels comfortable, confident and empowered to make an impact. We believe that diverse groups make better decisions, which in turn leads to better outcomes for our clients. While we still have work to do, in 2020, we advanced our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in three key areas: 1) talent and culture; 2) our role as a fiduciary on behalf of our clients and 3) public policy and social impact in the communities where we operate. A respectful culture that values diversity in all its forms not only encourages employees to question our assumptions and consider the unique perspectives that each of us brings, but also serves the BlackRock purpose of helping more and more people experience financial well-being.



## Helping families navigate a crisis

The stresses of working from home during COVID-19 hit families particularly hard, as parents have juggled their day jobs with childcare, eldercare and finding time for selfcare. And while all working parents are feeling these pressures, research shows that women are disproportionately carrying this increased burden and millions of women are leaving the workforce as a result.

BlackRock recognizes the strain on employee caregivers and we are leveraging both grassroots efforts and institutional expertise to support families financially, logistically and emotionally. For example, our global Benefits team extended the number of back-up care days where available and offered mental health workshops, one-on-one counseling and tools to support selfcare, manage stress and avoid burnout.

These and other solutions were shaped in collaboration with Families at BlackRock (FAB), an employee network with 16 chapters and 2,000-plus members in 30 countries. At the pandemic's outset, FAB initiated a "Kids Chat," where parents could crowd-source ideas and resources on issues like schooling, services for children with disabilities and talking about race. The Benefits team converted these tips into a searchable database that was shared across the chat rooms to make these insights more readily accessible.

In September 2020, when it became clear that a return to normal was still far off, the firm launched an innovative mentoring program that pairs new parents with more experienced colleagues. It's yet another way BlackRock is helping employees thrive in an unimaginable year.

**91%**

of employees are proud to work at BlackRock<sup>1</sup>

**6.3**

years average employee tenure at BlackRock<sup>2</sup>

**50%**

of our 2020 U.S. hires identify as a racial or ethnic minority<sup>3</sup>

**52%**

of BlackRock employees are involved in an employee or impact network<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: BlackRock's Employee Opinion Survey conducted in September 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Source: BlackRock. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median number of years that wage and salary workers had been with their current employer was 4.1 years in January 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Source: BlackRock

<sup>4</sup> Source: BlackRock. As of March 30, 2021.



# Committed to a more prosperous and equitable world for more people

**Living our purpose includes making a positive impact in our communities through our actions, our investments and our people.**

Through The BlackRock Foundation and The BlackRock Charitable Trust, our Donor Advised Fund, we seek to advance more inclusive and sustainable economies through evidence-based mission-aligned grants, community-based investments, humanitarian and disaster relief efforts and employee engagement and volunteerism.

- We partner with 28 organizations worldwide that offer job readiness programs and access to proven savings strategies and tools. For example, in Germany we partner with CodeDoor, a nonprofit that enables underserved youth and adults to gain in-demand technical and coding skills to launch upwardly mobile careers.<sup>1</sup>
- In March 2020, we committed \$50 million to COVID-19 relief efforts. More than half of this commitment has been deployed across 60 food relief, community support, and frontline response organizations serving the hardest-hit communities in 18 of the countries where

we operate. The remaining commitment will be fulfilled in 2021 and is aimed at long-term recovery for households and communities.<sup>1</sup>

- We donated \$9 million in funds to match \$8 million in employee giving, benefiting over 3,700 organizations that employees either volunteered with or donated to in 2020.<sup>1</sup>

BlackRock is also contributing to a stronger, more resilient economy through our investments and in how we serve our clients. Our clients' investments support businesses small and large, finance infrastructure projects that connect and power cities and make a positive social or environmental impact in the world. For example, we are developing and launching products focused on racial equity and social justice across our active and index businesses. We also maintain a dedicated Diverse Broker Program aimed at increasing connectivity and engagement with minority, women and disabled-veteran owned firms while helping them grow their businesses. And in 2020, we traded \$295 billion of securities with diverse brokers in the U.S.<sup>1</sup> We are committed to delivering innovative strategies and serving our clients in a way that meets their needs, supports healthy economies and delivers value for society.

## Supporting an inclusive and sustainable economic recovery

BlackRock is committed to helping those in the most vulnerable communities build financial stability so they can realize a better future. One way we do this is by fostering equitable access to skill-building and job training — a need that has grown more acute as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

The numbers are stark: 255 million jobs eliminated globally by the pandemic, 75 million unemployed young people and more than 375 million workers who will lack the skills needed for jobs in 2030.<sup>2</sup>

To help address this gap, The BlackRock Foundation has committed \$13 million to Generation, a nonprofit organization that transitions people around the world into life-changing careers that may otherwise be inaccessible. The funds will support more than 50,000 job seekers in the U.S., U.K., Italy, India, France and Spain, as well as infrastructure to scale the program globally.

BlackRock's contributions go beyond financial. We are leveraging our client and vendor networks to match Generation graduates with employers, using our expertise to help Generation scope future high-potential career paths, and facilitating volunteer opportunities for our own employees in communities across the world.

<sup>1</sup> Source: BlackRock

<sup>2</sup> Source: Generation; International Labour Organization



## \$589 million

contribution to our existing Donor Advised Fund and a newly established BlackRock Foundation to support our future philanthropic efforts<sup>1</sup>

## \$50 million

commitment to establish BlackRock's Emergency Savings Initiative, which works to increase access to and usage of proven savings strategies and tools for low-to-moderate income households in the U.S.<sup>2</sup>

## \$50 million

donated to COVID-19 relief efforts and other charitable organizations in 2020

## \$10 million

commitment aimed at bringing visibility and increased resources to support the upward mobility of Black and Latinx communities<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Commitment made in February 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Commitment made in February 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Commitment made in June 2020.





Returns for shareholders

# Aligning strategy and purpose to drive performance

**By helping clients achieve their long-term goals, inspiring our employees and supporting communities, we are better positioned to generate long-term, durable profits for our shareholders and have a positive impact on society.**

Similar to our clients, many of our shareholders are people saving for retirement, buying homes and starting businesses. Living our purpose includes consistently growing our business and delivering long-term returns so our shareholders can meet their own goals.

It also includes being transparent to all our stakeholders and providing information that holds us accountable to ourselves and others. In addition to financial disclosure, BlackRock is committed to providing meaningful sustainability disclosure because we believe that effective disclosure can lead to real change in how our own company is managed for the benefit of all stakeholders. In 2020, we published our inaugural Sustainability Accounting

Standards Board and Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures reports and we will continue to work to meet the same standards of transparency that we ask of the companies our clients are invested in.

We believe the stability of our financial results and our commitment to investing in our business positions us to generate value for shareholders, better help millions of people invest to build savings, make investing easier and more affordable, advance sustainable investing and contribute to a more resilient economy.

## 4 million

shares of BlackRock's stock are held directly by pension funds on behalf of employees saving for retirement<sup>1</sup>

## 2 million

shares of BlackRock's stock are held by sustainability-focused funds<sup>2</sup>

## \$3.8 billion

returned to shareholders after investing for growth in 2020<sup>3</sup>

## \$391 billion

in net new assets that clients entrusted to BlackRock in 2020<sup>3</sup>

## 394%

total return of BlackRock's stock over the past 10 years<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: Form 13F filings; Q4 Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Form 13F filings; Q4 Inc. Methodology for identifying sustainability-focused funds defined by BlackRock; Q4 Inc.

<sup>3</sup> Source: BlackRock

<sup>4</sup> Data is reflective of 1/1/2011–12/31/2020. Past performance is not indicative of future results.





## To our shareholders,

When I sit down to write this letter every spring, I reflect on the year that's passed, and it often feels like a distant memory. By nature, I focus on what lies ahead. But right now, it's not so easy to draw that distinction between years. More than 13 months after COVID-19 became a global health crisis, we are still confronting its impacts daily and have yet to return to normalcy. For billions of people around the world, the pandemic has brought on hardships — physically, emotionally, mentally and financially.

**More than ever before, I think about what BlackRock stands for, who we serve and where we are making an impact in the world. The events of this past year have only further strengthened our sense of responsibility to help millions of people invest to build savings, make investing easier and more affordable, advance sustainable investing and contribute to a more resilient economy.**

I am an optimist. And while there are still immediate and pressing matters such as economic relief and vaccination rollout to address, the events of 2020 have brought to the forefront heightened conversations, and more important, *actions* by governments and companies on issues such as climate change, racial equity and economic inequality. Major asset managers and financial institutions, including BlackRock, can make a significant impact in these areas and accelerate positive long-term developments.

That is why we are increasingly using our voice and our insights to advocate on behalf of clients for more sustainable and inclusive economies. We're asking ourselves: how can we contribute to an effective transition to the net zero economy? How can we bring the voices of smaller and individual shareholders to the companies they invest in? How can we help more people benefit from the long-term growth of capital markets?

## BlackRock can help more and more people experience financial well-being only if we contribute to solutions for some of the most pressing issues our society faces today.

This starts with serving all our stakeholders; BlackRock exists because of them and we focused on meeting their needs through the pandemic. The platform we've built over three decades enabled us to help clients navigate the turbulent markets and heightened risk that characterized the early part of the pandemic. We prioritized providing resources to keep our employees and their families safe and healthy. We served our communities' urgent needs by contributing to organizations delivering food security and supporting frontline workers. We provided greater transparency and more information to shareholders, so they could better understand how we were adjusting our operations and how our business was performing. By staying true to our purpose and serving all our stakeholders, 2020 included some of the proudest moments in BlackRock's 33-year history.

What I look forward to most in a post-pandemic world is meeting in person with our clients again. Our entire business is built on *listening* to the people we serve and understanding their needs. There is no substitute for meeting in person to hear about the challenges and opportunities they face in trying to meet the needs of their own clients: pension beneficiaries in the United Kingdom retiring after long careers in public service; families in the United States saving to buy their first homes; and countries like Mexico, Norway and Japan looking to build new hospitals, schools and infrastructure. Helping our clients is what gives me, and the employees of BlackRock, our sense of purpose.

In this remote work environment, technology has made it easier to connect with people in places around the world — a convenience that will no doubt remain longer term and reduce the need for some of the travel we all used to do. But I miss the personal connections and unexpected ideas that come from meeting face-to-face and sharing a meal together. It's often through a less structured conversation than one can have on a video call that we learn most about each other and experience intangibles, like culture, that are hard to see through a screen. These in-person conversations we have with all stakeholders are often the most fruitful in providing us with insights to better serve them.

It's through my conversations over the past year that I've heard from people who feel even further away from being prepared with enough savings for retirement. Embedded in BlackRock's purpose is a responsibility to help people not be left behind. That's why we are working to educate, empower and prepare people with the investment solutions, technology and mindset required to invest for the long term. It is why we continuously push ourselves to evolve our business. And it's why our Social Impact programs partner with organizations that are confronting structural barriers to financial resilience and economic mobility.

It's the driving force behind our strategy in *iShares*, where we are making it easier and more affordable for more people to participate in the growth of capital markets through ETFs. It's why we are investing in technology, to help people construct portfolios that are more resilient across market cycles and throughout their lives. It's why sustainable investing, including managing climate risk and promoting equity, is at the center of how we help clients invest. And it's why BlackRock is at the forefront of creating new solutions to address the retirement crisis.

Investing in our business isn't only about developing products and solutions or enhancing our operations. Just as important is putting time, money and effort into our culture and our people.

In the wake of the financial crisis more than 10 years ago, for example, challenging economic and market conditions created a difficult backdrop for companies globally, ourselves included. But our unwavering commitment to serving clients and meeting their needs over the long term guided our investments during this critical time, as it has throughout our history.

Since our acquisition of Barclays Global Investors in 2009, clients in more than 100 countries have entrusted BlackRock with \$1.7 trillion of net new assets. Our assets under management have grown from \$3.3 trillion to \$8.7 trillion. As we have grown, we have prioritized using our increased scale to benefit our clients, through lower fees and trading costs and better investment sourcing. We consistently invested in our talented employees through development programs and benefits that supported both their



## Ability to meet client needs resonated in our 2020 results<sup>1</sup>

**Diverse investment platform**



**Unified technology**



**Robust risk management**



**Global connectivity**

**Record client demand**

for active equity, sustainable, cash and alternative investment strategies

**\$391 billion**

of net new assets

**> \$1 billion**

of net inflows in each of 19 countries and 104 different products

**\$1.1 billion**

in technology services revenue

**11%**

Revenue growth

**13%**

Operating income growth

**19%**

EPS growth

growth and the growth of BlackRock. We created more than 7,500 jobs for new employees to join us. We invested in our culture and in defining our purpose, which unify us and serve as our constant north star, guiding all of our long-term decisions. We invested in our communities through partnerships with impact-driven organizations. We continuously enhanced our disclosures to increase transparency and accountability between BlackRock and our stakeholders. As a result of our continued investments in all our stakeholders, our stock delivered nearly 400% total return for our shareholders over the past decade, exceeding peers and broader markets.<sup>2</sup>

**Our purpose, strategy and responsibility to society are all interconnected.** By investing in BlackRock for the long term, we are able to better serve our clients, strengthen our culture, inspire and reward our employees and help advance our communities, which ultimately drives our ability to deliver long-term durable profits for our shareholders.

## BlackRock's 2020 results

While we did not design our operating model with this pandemic or an almost entirely virtual work environment in mind, the strength of our culture

and long history of connecting a global and growing organization on one technology platform enabled us to adapt quickly as the world shifted to working remotely. This helped us to not miss a beat in serving our clients when they most needed our help. And that in turn resonated in our 2020 results.

More than any year before, 2020 highlighted the benefits of our unified *Aladdin* platform. *Aladdin* enabled us to rebuild BlackRock beyond its walls and deliver operational resilience, advice and solutions for our clients. *Aladdin* also enabled more than 250 third-party *Aladdin* clients — asset managers, asset owners, banks and insurance clients — to operate seamlessly during this time.

Our strong 2020 performance was possible because of the dedication and tireless effort of our 16,500 employees. Throughout the past year, we have kept the health and safety of our employees and their families as the top priority. We committed to our employees, including those whose jobs were dependent on people being in the office, that we would not eliminate any roles as a result of the pandemic in 2020. We also implemented efforts to support employees, including company-paid COVID-19 diagnostic and antibody testing, and free on-demand physical, mental and emotional healthcare programs.

BlackRock's success in 2020 meant we were able to do more to support our communities when they needed it most. We committed to donating \$50 million to COVID-19 relief efforts, and to date, we have deployed more than half of this commitment to 60 food relief, community support and frontline response organizations serving the hardest-hit areas across 18 countries. BlackRock is also helping people in vulnerable communities build financial stability through job readiness programs and access to saving strategies and tools. By supporting organizations such as Generation, which trains job seekers across 14 countries with the skills necessary to access stable employment in high-demand sectors, BlackRock is advancing our purpose of helping more and more people experience financial well-being.

## The importance of our culture

**As I think about how far BlackRock has come in serving our clients and delivering for shareholders since becoming a public company, culture has been critical to creating value.**

Through most of the past year, more than 90% of BlackRock employees worked from their homes. During these times, I realized the strength of our culture, how it binds us together and how it propels us forward. It's reflected in: our employees' deep sense of responsibility to help more and more people experience financial well-being; BlackRock's investment in our employees, their families and communities; and in our commitment to running our business sustainably for the benefit of all stakeholders.

We never take our culture for granted. It's why we invest so heavily and consistently in cultivating it and are relentless at ensuring that it is lived each day. Working from home makes it difficult, however, to nurture our culture in the same way we're able to in person. We have employees, including more than 400 graduate program analysts, who have never set foot in our offices nor met their colleagues face-to-face. I firmly believe the culture we want can't be built or maintained remotely over the long term and I am looking forward to having more people return to the office.

BlackRock's high-performance culture is what enables us to stay ahead of clients' needs. It challenges us to be forward-thinkers, problem solvers and innovators. A high-performance culture also requires diversity, empathy, equity, respect and inclusion.

I know our culture is not perfect. It depends on the contribution of 16,500 individuals. And in some cases, certain employees have not upheld BlackRock's standards. I have made it clear to employees that we want to know when that happens, and those individuals don't have a place at BlackRock. Rooting out misconduct — and ensuring an environment that doesn't allow it — is critical to building the

culture we all aspire to and ensuring everyone can experience BlackRock at its best. That is why we are taking a number of actions internally to promote an environment of respect and inclusivity and making enhancements to our processes for investigating employee complaints. At the same time, we have retained an external law firm to conduct a review of recent reports of employee-workplace matters and to provide recommendations on how we might further enhance our processes and procedures.

BlackRock must have a supportive, welcoming, inclusive and equitable work environment. This includes drawing on the expertise of people with varied backgrounds and perspectives.

## Just as we ask of other companies, we have a long-term strategy aimed at improving diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) at BlackRock.

Our goal is to build, develop and retain a diverse talent pipeline while fostering a culture where everyone feels seen, heard and empowered to thrive. Our strategy includes: mitigating bias in our hiring and talent management practices; providing professional development, sponsorship and executive coaching opportunities; raising awareness of DEI matters; and resetting behavioral expectations across the organization. In order to execute on our strategy, DEI needs to be owned by everyone at BlackRock and we must hold each other accountable.

To truly drive change, we must embed DEI into everything we do. Advancing a more equitable and inclusive environment begins by examining our own culture and talent practices, but we cannot be content to stop there. Our global strategy aims to advance DEI holistically. We are focused on racial equity and social justice in our investment and stewardship activities, and we're using our voice to advocate for public policy changes that promote social justice. We are also enhancing connectivity and engagement with minority businesses that support our client investment activities, including by increasing our partnerships with diverse brokers, asset managers and vendors. We cannot help more and more people experience financial well-being without advancing equity and social justice.

<sup>1</sup> Operating income and EPS growth figures are as adjusted. See BlackRock's 2020 10-K for an explanation of the use of non-GAAP financial measures and a reconciliation to GAAP.

<sup>2</sup> Data is reflective of 1/1/2011–12/31/2020. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



## Our long-term strategy is guided by our purpose

BlackRock's culture and purpose are centered around our clients' needs, and that is what guides our long-term strategy for growth. We built the industry's most comprehensive investment platform across active and index, asset classes, geographies and exposures, all unified by one culture and one technology platform so we can focus on clients and support them with solutions no matter their objective or risk preference. BlackRock's ability to be a whole portfolio partner for clients has proven to be critical, as more institutional and wealth clients are turning to us for help to build more resilient portfolios.

**BlackRock's strategy for future growth, which our Global Executive Committee carefully reviews with our Board of Directors each year, is aligned with our purpose and centers on helping clients navigate their most complex challenges as the investment landscape and the world change around them.** By accelerating growth in *iShares*, illiquid alternatives and technology, keeping alpha at the heart of BlackRock and being a global leader in sustainable investing, BlackRock is uniquely positioned to provide whole portfolio solutions for clients. This is leading to deeper and more comprehensive relationships with more clients and we believe will enable us to continue to deliver on our 5% organic base fee growth target.<sup>3</sup>

## Making Investing Easier and More Affordable for More People

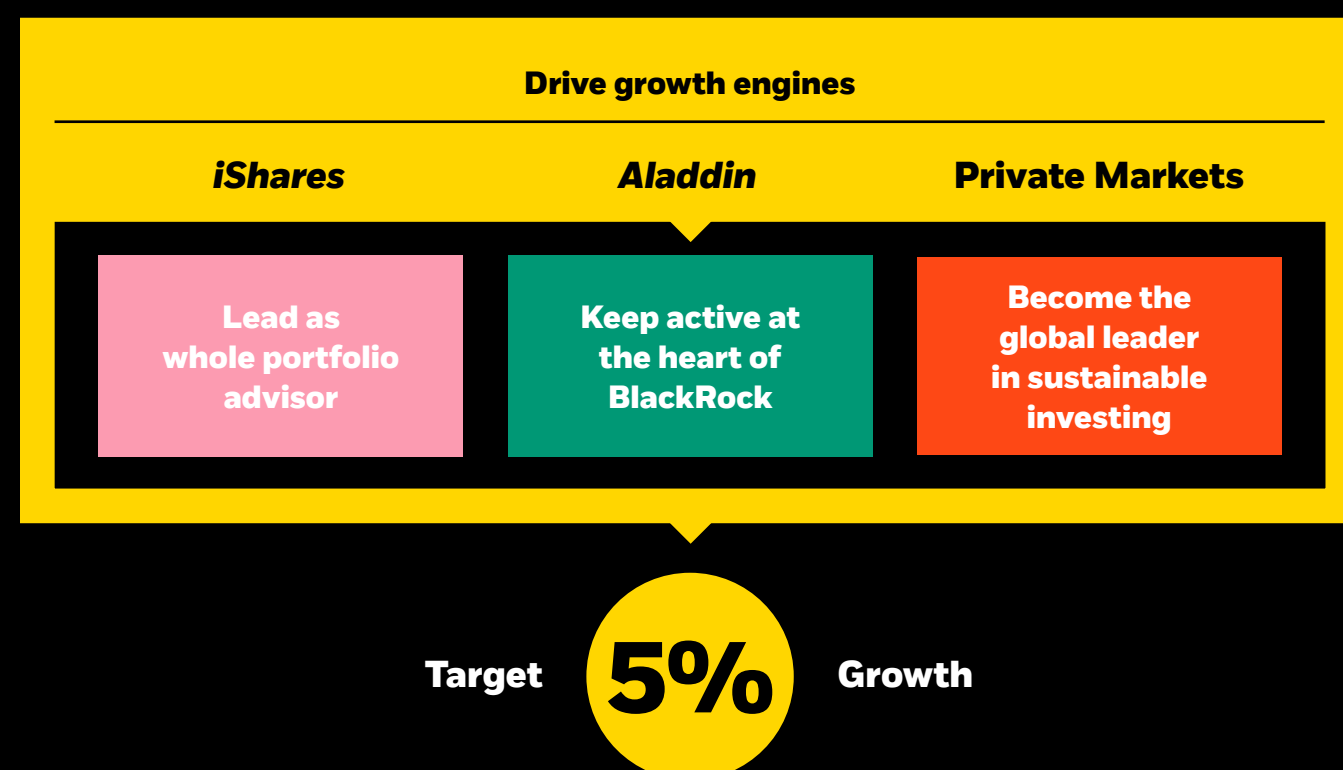
Our mission to help people save for the future starts with making it easier and more affordable for people to be invested in the capital markets.

Our more than 1,100 *iShares* ETFs make it simpler for anyone to access market opportunities anywhere in the world. In Brazil, for example, we launched the country's first locally-listed ETF, making it easier for Brazilians to access global markets through a single investment at a low cost. In Germany, more than one million people contribute monthly to ETF savings plans composed of *iShares* ETFs. These plans allow regular investments for just one or two euros, meaning people can start investing earlier and in a way that works best for them. And our *iShares* Fixed Income ETFs once again proved their resilience, making it easier for anyone to buy and sell bundles of bonds while sidestepping a legacy marketplace that remains fragmented and comparatively difficult to access.

By giving individuals access to an entire market through a single investment, wealth managers an opportunity to customize portfolios in a more efficient and scalable way, and institutions the ability to allocate capital, adjust positions and manage risk more simply, *iShares* ETFs are unlocking tens of millions of new investors who are using this technology to help them achieve their goals. This has driven the growth of our *iShares* assets under management from \$500 billion in 2009 to \$2.7 trillion today.

<sup>3</sup> Target is based on estimates and assumptions. There is no guarantee that it will be achieved.

## Our Strategy for Long-Term Growth



To drive the next leg of growth for *iShares*, we are investing in new product innovation in areas like Fixed Income and Sustainable ETFs, offering value and quality across all our products and helping more people use *iShares* ETFs in more ways.

## An Ability to Generate Differentiated Returns When Clients Need It Most

The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent monetary and fiscal policy actions from governments and central banks across the world has had a profound impact on investment portfolios. With equity markets near record highs and interest rates globally near historic lows, more and more investors are adjusting their portfolio allocations in search of alpha to help them achieve their objectives.

BlackRock has evolved our platform over time to better position ourselves to deliver more durable alpha across public and private markets and help more people reach their goals. That's why we are investing heavily in areas such as investment sourcing, data analytics and technology, while leveraging our global scale and reach.

Private markets in particular are becoming a critical component for alpha. More and more clients I speak with are looking to increase their allocations to illiquid alternatives for the yield and uncorrelated returns they offer, and we believe there is no manager better positioned to partner with clients than BlackRock. We are investing in product innovation, such as our Long Term Private Capital strategy, that seeks to better align incentives and meets client needs for longer duration solutions. We are advancing sustainable strategies, including through our global renewable power platform, which help clients capture investment opportunities presented by the transition to a net zero emissions economy. And we are investing in technology, such as eFront, to give clients greater transparency and an integrated view of their whole portfolio so they can better understand what is happening across their public and private investments.

## Making Investing Clearer and More Informed with Aladdin

Last year, I wrote that the biggest change for asset managers will be how technology is used. In the future, asset managers will have to be as good at using technology as anything else they do — and as good at it as any tech firm. This became even more apparent during the pandemic as coronavirus worries injected severe bouts of extreme market volatility into the financial ecosystem. In this rapidly changing market environment, *Aladdin* delivered operational resilience and risk analysis that enabled BlackRock and the *Aladdin* community to adapt.

By creating a whole portfolio ecosystem with straight-through processing, we are making *Aladdin* the language of portfolios across public and private

markets, while also providing greater scale and efficiency for clients. We are investing to bring *Aladdin* onto the cloud, partnering with leading providers like Snowflake, to make it easier for investors to analyze the exponential amount of data available to them and accelerate the pace of innovation in *Aladdin*. And we are investing in rapidly growing spaces like sustainability — both organically and through minority investments such as Clarity AI — to position *Aladdin* for the future of asset management.

At the heart of *Aladdin* is a data processing and risk management platform. As risks change over time, we are constantly monitoring the impact on companies and as a result, on our clients' portfolios. We see a very real example of this related to climate change and the risks and opportunities it presents. Climate risk, and other risks related to a company's long-term sustainability, is investment risk. And over the last several years, there has been a proliferation of data related to the impacts of climate change on businesses and society. We launched Aladdin Climate to extend our capabilities to help BlackRock and our *Aladdin* clients better understand the impacts of both physical risk and transition risk associated with climate change on their portfolios.

Through Aladdin Climate, we are building tools and analytics to track investment portfolios' trajectories toward net zero emissions, quantifying the impact of climate change on strategies ranging from cash management to illiquid alternatives, and helping catalyze increasingly robust and standardized climate data and metrics so more investors can understand, report and act on climate change.

## Advancing Sustainable Investing to Drive Better Outcomes for Investors

BlackRock's commitment to sustainability is embedded across our business because our deeply held investment conviction is that integrating sustainability can help investors build more resilient portfolios and achieve better long-term, risk-adjusted returns. That is why we have made sustainability integral to the way we manage risk, generate alpha, build portfolios and pursue investment stewardship.

As the pandemic took hold, we saw investors of all types and sizes choose to tilt their investments toward sustainability-focused companies in greater magnitude than ever before. Investors in mutual funds and ETFs invested more than \$360 billion globally in sustainable assets in 2020, more than double the amount invested in 2019.<sup>4</sup> BlackRock captured a leading \$68 billion of net new assets across our sustainable investment strategies.

Earlier this year, I asked all companies BlackRock is invested in on behalf of our clients to disclose a plan for how their business model will be compatible with a net zero economy, because every company will be profoundly affected.

<sup>4</sup> Source: Simfund, Morningstar, Broadridge and BlackRock. Data as of December 31, 2020.



# BlackRock’s net zero commitment centers on helping clients prepare their portfolios for a net zero world, and our ambition is to have net zero emissions across all our assets under management by 2050.

In line with this ambition, I’m proud that BlackRock announced recently that we joined the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative.

We are committed to making our ambition a reality and we are evolving our business to embed the management of climate-related risks and opportunities across our strategy and operations. As we outlined in our 2021 sustainability commitments, we are: advocating for companies to transition their own business models; offering our clients more choice to reallocate their capital; helping clients realize the substantial investment opportunities that will come from the climate transition; and investing in better data, tools and technology to measure and assess the impact on portfolios of climate and other sustainability factors.

## The importance of government policy – including mandatory disclosure – in advancing toward net zero

Achieving a net zero economy will require both technological innovation and planning over decades. Much of the conversation is currently focused on public companies and their role in that transition. They have an important role to play. Government, however, must play the leadership role in addressing this crisis: setting standards, creating the right incentives, putting a price on carbon and investing in the technology and infrastructure required for the energy transition. Every level of government working in partnership with the private sector is required to ensure a just transition that protects people’s livelihoods, vulnerable communities and developing nations.

Within the corporate world, the focus today is primarily on public companies — and understandably so. BlackRock has been a major advocate of enhancing public companies’ disclosure of sustainability data. This will benefit both investors and broader society. But we cannot overlook the role of private companies as well. If large private companies are not held to the same level of scrutiny as public companies, we will create an unintended incentive to shift carbon-intensive assets to markets with less transparency and, often, less regulation. This might make public companies look better but will do nothing to advance us toward a net zero economy by 2050. By contrast, global implementation of carbon pricing mechanisms is an essential tool for reducing demand for fossil fuels.

I believe that private markets will play an indispensable role in the net zero transition. Many of the investments needed, such as renewable power infrastructure, are best financed through private structures. In addition, the decarbonization technologies needed to achieve net zero are highly experimental and demand investors, often private entities, with a high tolerance for risk and a long investment timeline.

I strongly believe we also need a comprehensive disclosure regime that covers not only public companies, but large private companies as well. In many areas, such as carbon disclosure, I believe that voluntary disclosure can be best and companies shouldn’t wait for government-mandated disclosure. However, climate risk is both such a significant investment risk and massive societal risk that I believe we need a globally-consistent sustainability reporting framework. The business ministry in the U.K. and the SEC in the U.S. are already moving forward on enhanced disclosure, which I support. Global consistency is critical, and I urge regulators across the globe to work together on this front.

A consistent set of reporting standards will promote access to consistent, high-quality and material public information that will enable both asset owners and asset managers to make more informed decisions about how to achieve durable long-term returns. Crucially, to ease companies’ concerns as they adopt these disclosures for the first time, governments should pair any mandate with temporary legal protections to shield companies from liability, as long as they make a best effort at representing material risks.

## The silent crisis of retirement and what BlackRock is doing to help millions of people build savings

To build a more just and equitable society for more people, we also need to address the retirement crisis. While challenges vary country by country, we’ve

## 2020 Sustainability Actions

- 100% of active and advisory strategies ESG-integrated, covering \$2.9 trillion in AUM
- Introduced 100 new sustainable solutions in 2020 to provide investors with more choice
- Launched Aladdin Climate, setting a new standard for assessing environmental risks across asset classes in investment portfolios
- Added 1,200 sustainability metrics to *Aladdin* to enable clients to understand ESG and physical climate risks
- Intensified engagement and transparency through investment stewardship

## 2021 Sustainability Commitments

- Incorporating climate considerations into our capital markets assumptions, which underpins portfolio construction at BlackRock
- Publishing a temperature alignment metric for our public equity and bond funds, where sufficient data is available
- Implementing a “heightened-scrutiny model” in our active portfolios as a framework for managing holdings that pose significant climate risk (including flagging holdings for potential exit)
- Launching investment products with explicit temperature alignment goals, including products aligned to a net zero pathway
- Using stewardship to encourage the companies that our clients are invested in to both mitigate climate risk and consider the opportunities presented by the net zero transition

known for a long time that millions of people are approaching retirement with inadequate savings. In the U.S., nearly 50% of households over 55 years old have no retirement savings.<sup>5</sup> In Latin America, many existing retirement systems are unable to accommodate the growing wealth creation and rising income levels that are bringing millions of people into the middle class. And in several countries across East and Southeast Asia, an aging population is posing a significant challenge for their retirement systems.

A year like 2020 puts people even further behind. The loss of millions of jobs as a result of the pandemic is causing real pain for families today, with many individuals now thinking they’re going to have to continue to work in some capacity during retirement. And for too many people, retirement planning is deprioritized because of imminent needs.

BlackRock is committed to building more intuitive, resilient retirement solutions so that more people can save for retirement. We are working with governments and the private sector across dozens of countries to provide our retirement system expertise, insights, products and services. With more than half of our assets linked to retirement, BlackRock’s commitment to addressing the silent retirement crisis across the world is instrumental to our future success as an organization and central to fulfilling our purpose.

## Investing in growing markets, like China, to help more and more people experience financial well-being

Our focus on investing for the long term and living our purpose is also reflected in the way we approach growing markets. The Chinese market represents a significant opportunity to help meet the long-term goals of investors in China and internationally. It also provides us an opportunity to help address the challenge of retirement for millions of people in China.

Many of our global clients are looking to BlackRock to help them invest in this market for the return opportunities and portfolio diversification that Chinese assets offer. Although China represents the second-largest economy and capital market in the world, Chinese equity and bond markets are only 3% owned by foreign investors.<sup>6</sup>

We are also committed to helping more people in China meet their long-term goals, such as retirement. China has a high savings rate, but most of that money is currently in bank accounts, where it is generating only a small amount of interest. For China to address its retirement challenge, these assets must be put to work in products that can offer greater returns.

<sup>5</sup> Source: U.S. Government Accountability Office. <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-19-442r.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Source: BlackRock. <https://www.blackrock.com/us/individual/insights/investing-in-china>



As China’s capital markets continue to open to foreign firms, BlackRock has taken meaningful actions to expand our onshore presence and respond to the needs of our clients. We are in the final stages of receiving regulatory approvals to set up a wholly-owned fund management company and an asset management joint venture with China Construction Bank and Temasek. As BlackRock deepens its partnerships and grows its presence in China, I am optimistic that we can help create a better future for more people.

## Commitment to lead by example: Importance of transparency to drive accountability

When BlackRock went public over 20 years ago, we understood that with access to more capital came greater responsibility. Being a public company brought a new type of transparency and discipline to our firm, with constant feedback from the market on where we were succeeding and where we needed to improve. At the time — in 1999 — that meant reporting quarterly and annual financial results and telling the market who we were, because few people knew us. Now, more than 20 years later, the external demand from all stakeholders for more transparency is growing exponentially. And it’s no longer just about financial metrics.

BlackRock’s shareholders want more information to assess material sustainability risks and opportunities. They want to know: How does BlackRock instill and maintain its culture? What is BlackRock doing to advance racial and gender equity within our own organization and beyond our walls? What is BlackRock’s strategy for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050?

Clients increasingly want more transparency on their investments. They want to know what they’re holding, from the underlying stocks and bonds in their portfolio to the carbon emissions of that portfolio. BlackRock has invested in making carbon emissions data and ESG scores available for our *iShares* ETFs and mutual funds globally, and we are working to raise the bar for transparency across the industry in pursuit of helping clients and meeting their needs.

We recognize that as our company has grown, there is increasing interest from all stakeholders in our stewardship efforts and we committed to providing more transparency on our work. For example, in 2020 we published 57 vote bulletins, which explain our vote decisions, and the engagement and analysis underpinning them, on certain high-profile proposals at company shareholder meetings. This is five times more than in the previous three years combined.

As a leading asset manager, we also embrace a broader set of responsibilities to improve markets and the investment landscape for all investors through our public policy efforts. We always strive for open dialogue and transparency on the important

issues that we advocate for: policies that increase financial market transparency, protect investors and facilitate responsible growth of capital markets.

Effective disclosure drives accountability and can lead to real change in how companies are managed for the benefit of *all* stakeholders. We are at the beginning of a major shift in the way companies provide data and disclosures and BlackRock intends to meet the same standards of transparency that our stewardship team asks of others and to lead by example. It is why we released our first Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)-aligned and Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB)-aligned reports in 2020. It is why we released the EEO-1 data on the racial, ethnic and gender diversity of our workforce. It is also why we are expanding our Scope 3 emissions reporting to include the aggregate emissions attributable to the investment portfolios we manage on our clients’ behalf, where data permits, and will be announcing an interim target on the proportion of our assets that will be aligned to net zero by 2030. As the sustainability landscape evolves, we will continue to refine and expand our disclosures to help all stakeholders assess our efforts on material environmental, social and governance matters.

In every aspect of our work, we are cognizant that whether we are working with asset management or *Aladdin* clients, counterparties, regulators, employees, communities or shareholders, **we must always act in a way that will earn and maintain the trust and respect of those we interact with.** That begins with acting in a transparent and accountable way, and we take this approach with all our stakeholders.

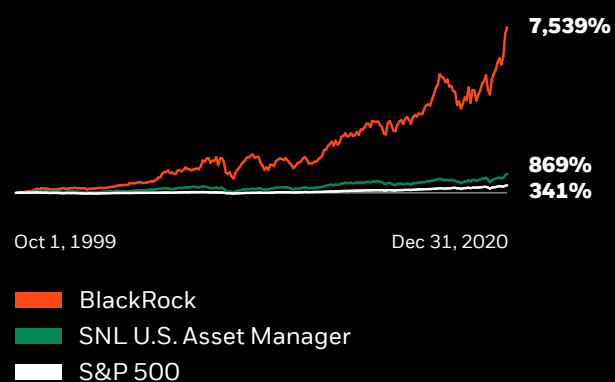
## Guided by our Board of Directors

Much of BlackRock’s success can be attributed to our engaged Board of Directors who act as stewards on behalf of our shareholders in overseeing BlackRock’s management and operations, evaluating risk and opportunities for our business and challenging our management team. The Board regularly reviews the pillars that underpin BlackRock’s ability to generate long-term value and our directors have played an integral role in helping us navigate our business through the pandemic.

A key component of preparing the firm for the future is preparing the next generation of leaders. While I have no intention of leaving BlackRock anytime soon, I have worked diligently with the Board over the past decade on building a strong bench of talent that represents the breadth of our business. We continue to move our senior leaders into new roles that provide them with the diversity of experience, global perspective and One BlackRock mindset that will allow them to lead BlackRock to new heights long after Rob Kapito and I have moved on.

The diverse backgrounds of our individual directors also play a significant role in their ability to oversee our business from a variety of perspectives. We

## Total return since BlackRock’s IPO



*Source: S&P Global. The performance graph is not necessarily indicative of future investment performance. Please refer to the Important Notes section on page 25 for information on constituents of the SNL U.S. Asset Manager Index.*

make diversity in gender, race, ethnicity, age, career experience and nationality, as well as diversity of mind, a priority when considering director candidates.

In March of this year, our Board voted unanimously to nominate Hans Vestberg, Chairman and CEO of Verizon, for election at our annual meeting. Hans brings a tremendous amount of senior leadership and international experience, as well as deep knowledge of technology and sustainability. I believe the Board and BlackRock will benefit greatly from his wisdom as we expand in key markets in Europe, use technology to continue transforming our business and further embed sustainability into our investment processes and corporate practices.

At the same time, we are incredibly fortunate to have had Mathis Cabiallavetta, who will be retiring from our Board this year, as a valued director of BlackRock. Mathis has given the Board invaluable guidance and leadership over his time with us. His global and financial expertise and knowledge of European financial markets has been critical as we have grown in the EMEA region and as a firm globally. His passion and dedication to BlackRock will be missed by the entire Board and by the BlackRock leadership team.

We will continue to evolve our Board over time to reflect the breadth of our global business and to guide us as we move forward in an ever-changing environment.

## Moving forward together: Our commitment to you

Each year, I have the privilege of writing to you about BlackRock’s outlook and plans for the future. And each year, I am more excited about the pace of change and size of opportunities that we are seeing.

Just as BlackRock is a fiduciary to our clients, helping them invest for the future, I recognize many of you are investing in BlackRock to achieve your own long-term goals and I want to thank you for your continued support.

By investing in and operating our business for the benefit of all stakeholders, BlackRock has been able to deliver durable, long-term profitability for you — our shareholders. Since our company went public in 1999, our stock has delivered over 7,500% in total return and we will continue leveraging our scale, globally diverse investment platform and capabilities in technology and portfolio construction to differentiate ourselves as we look ahead.<sup>7</sup>

We will continue to live by our purpose so we can: help millions of people invest to build savings; make investing easier and more affordable; advance sustainable investing; and contribute to a more resilient economy.

And we will be guided by our culture and a set of newly enriched principles that reflect who we are today and in the future:

**We are a fiduciary to our clients.** Their interests come first.

**We are One BlackRock.** We work collaboratively to create the best outcomes for our clients, our firm and the communities where we operate.

**We are passionate about performance.** We are relentless about finding better ways to serve clients and improve our firm.

**We take emotional ownership.** The people we serve entrust us to help them prepare for the future. Our culture is defined by the deep sense of responsibility we feel to our clients and to each other.

**We are committed to a better future.** We are long-term thinkers, focused on helping people build a better tomorrow. And we always strive to serve more people, and to find new and innovative ways to help them achieve financial well-being.

Sincerely,

**Laurence D. Fink**  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

<sup>7</sup> Data is reflective of 10/1/1999–12/31/2020. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



# Global Executive Committee

## Laurence D. Fink

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

## Stephen Cohen

Head of Europe, Middle East and Africa

## Robert W. Fairbairn

Vice Chairman

## Philipp Hildebrand

Vice Chairman

## Mark S. McCombe

Chief Client Officer

## Sudhir Nair

Global Head of the *Aladdin* Business

## Martin Small

Head of U.S. Wealth Advisory

## Robert S. Kapito

President

## Edwin N. Conway

Global Head of BlackRock Alternative Investors

## Robert L. Goldstein

Chief Operating Officer & Global Head of *BlackRock Solutions*

## J. Richard Kushel

Head of the Portfolio Management Group

## Christopher J. Meade

General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer

## Salim Ramji

Global Head of *iShares* and Index Investments

## Derek Stein

Global Head of Technology & Operations

## Sandy Boss

Global Head of Investment Stewardship

## Frank Cooper III

Chief Marketing Officer

## Ben Golub, PhD

Chief Risk Officer

## Rachel Lord

Chair and Head of Asia Pacific

## Manish Mehta

Global Head of Human Resources

## Gary S. Shedlin

Chief Financial Officer

## Mark K. Wiedman

Head of International and of Corporate Strategy

# Board of Directors

## Laurence D. Fink

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, BlackRock, Inc.

## Pamela Daley

Former Senior Vice President of Corporate Business Development, General Electric Company

## Fabrizio Freda

President and Chief Executive Officer, The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.

## Robert S. Kapito

President, BlackRock, Inc.

## Charles H. Robbins

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Cisco Systems, Inc.

## Mark Wilson

Co-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Abacai

## Bader M. Alsaad

Chairman of the Board and Director General, Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development

## Jessica Einhorn

Former Dean, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at The Johns Hopkins University

## Murry S. Gerber

Lead Independent Director; Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, EQT Corporation

## Cheryl Mills

Chief Executive Officer, Blacklvy Group

## Marco Antonio Slim Domit

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Grupo Financiero Inbursa

## Mathis Cabiallavetta

Former Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Swiss Re

## William E. Ford

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, General Atlantic

## Margaret L. Johnson

Chief Executive Officer, Magic Leap, Inc.

## Gordon M. Nixon

Former President and Chief Executive Officer, Royal Bank of Canada

## Susan L. Wagner

Former Vice Chairman, BlackRock, Inc.



# Financial Highlights

Please review the Important Notes on page 25 for information on certain non-GAAP figures shown through page 24, as well as for source information on other data points on pages 2 through 24.

(in millions)	2020	2019	2018
Total AUM (end of period)	<b>\$ 8,676,680</b>	\$ 7,429,633	\$ 5,975,818
Revenue	<b>16,205</b>	14,539	14,198
Operating income, as adjusted	<b>6,284</b>	5,551	5,531
Operating margin, as adjusted	<b>44.9%</b>	43.7%	44.3%
Net income attributable to BLK, GAAP	<b>4,932</b>	4,476	4,305
Net income attributable to BLK, as adjusted	<b>5,237</b>	4,484	4,361
Diluted weighted-average common shares	<b>154.8</b>	157.5	161.9

## Per share

Diluted earnings, GAAP	<b>\$ 31.85</b>	\$ 28.43	\$ 26.58
Diluted earnings, as adjusted	<b>33.82</b>	28.48	26.93
Dividends declared	<b>14.52</b>	13.20	12.02

# Important Notes

## Opinions

Opinions expressed through page 24 are those of BlackRock, Inc. as of March 2021 and are subject to change. Investment involves risk including the loss of principal. The companies mentioned in this document are not meant to be a recommendation to buy or sell any security.

## BlackRock data points

All data through page 24 reflects as-adjusted full-year 2020 results or is as of December 31, 2020, unless otherwise noted. 2020 organic growth is defined as full-year 2020 net flows divided by assets under management (AUM) for the entire firm, a particular segment or particular product as of December 31, 2019. Long-term product offerings include active and passive strategies across equity, fixed income, multi-asset and alternatives, and exclude AUM and flows from the cash management and advisory businesses.

## Industry data points

All data is as of December 31, 2020 unless otherwise noted.

As of December 31, 2020, the SNL U.S. Asset Manager Index included: Affiliated Managers Group Inc.; AllianceBernstein Holding L.P.; Ameriprise Financial Inc.; Apollo Global Management Inc.; Ares Management

Corporation; Artisan Partners Asset Management Inc.; Ashford Inc.; Associated Capital Group Inc.; BlackRock, Inc.; Blackstone Group Inc.; BrightSphere Investment Group Inc.; Carlyle Group Inc.; Cohen & Steers Inc.; Diamond Hill Investment Group; Federated Hermes Inc.; Fifth Street Asset Management Inc.; Franklin Resources Inc.; GAMCO Investors Inc.; Great Elm Group; Hamilton Lane Inc.; Hennessy Advisors Inc.; Invesco Ltd.; Janus Henderson Group Plc.; KKR & Co; Manning & Napier Inc.; Medley Management Inc.; Pzena Investment Management Inc.; Safeguard Scientifics Inc.; Sculptor Capital Management Inc.; SEI Investments Co.; Silvercrest Asset Management Group; T. Rowe Price Group Inc.; The Gabelli Equity Trust; U.S. Global Investors Inc.; Victory Capital Holdings Inc.; Virtus Investment Partners Inc.; Waddell & Reed Financial Inc.; Westwood Holdings Group Inc.; WisdomTree Investments Inc.

## GAAP and as-adjusted results

See pages 40–41 of our 2020 10-K for an explanation of the use of non-GAAP financial measures and a reconciliation to GAAP.

## Performance notes

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Except as specified, the performance information shown is as of December 31, 2020 and is based on preliminary data available

at that time. The performance data shown reflects information for all actively and passively managed equity and fixed income accounts, including U.S. registered investment companies, European-domiciled retail funds and separate accounts for which performance data is available, including performance data for high net worth accounts available as of November 30, 2020. The performance data does not include accounts terminated prior to December 31, 2020 and accounts for which data has not yet been verified. If such accounts had been included, the performance data provided may have substantially differed from that shown.

Performance comparisons shown are gross-of-fees for institutional and high net worth separate accounts, and net-of-fees for retail funds. The performance tracking shown for index accounts is based on gross-of-fees performance and includes all institutional accounts and all *iShares* funds globally using an index strategy. AUM information is based on AUM available as of December 31, 2020 for each account or fund in the asset class shown without adjustment for overlapping management of the same account or fund. Fund performance reflects the reinvestment of dividends and distributions.

Performance shown is derived from applicable benchmarks or peer median information, as selected by BlackRock, Inc. Peer medians are based in part on data either from Lipper, Inc. or Morningstar, Inc. for each included product.



# BlackRock, Inc.

## Form 10-K

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## PART I

### Item 1. Business

#### OVERVIEW

BlackRock, Inc. (together, with its subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise indicates, “BlackRock” or the “Company”) is a leading publicly traded investment management firm with \$8.68 trillion of assets under management (“AUM”) at December 31, 2020. With approximately 16,500 employees in more than 30 countries who serve clients in over 100 countries across the globe, BlackRock provides a broad range of investment management and technology services to institutional and retail clients worldwide.

BlackRock’s diverse platform of alpha-seeking active, index and cash management investment strategies across asset classes enables the Company to tailor investment outcomes and asset allocation solutions for clients. Product offerings include single- and multi-asset portfolios investing in equities, fixed income, alternatives and money market instruments. Products are offered directly and through intermediaries in a variety of vehicles, including open-end and closed-end mutual funds, *iShares*® exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), separate accounts, collective trust funds and other pooled investment vehicles. BlackRock also offers technology services, including the investment and risk management technology platform, *Aladdin*®, Aladdin Wealth, eFront, Cachematrix and FutureAdvisor, as well as advisory services and solutions to a broad base of institutional and wealth management clients. The Company is highly regulated and manages its clients’ assets as a fiduciary. The Company does not engage in proprietary trading activities that could conflict with the interests of its clients.

BlackRock serves a diverse mix of institutional and retail clients across the globe. Clients include tax-exempt institutions, such as defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans, charities, foundations and endowments; official institutions, such as central banks, sovereign wealth funds, supranationals and other government entities; taxable institutions, including insurance companies, financial institutions, corporations and third-party fund sponsors, and retail intermediaries.

BlackRock maintains a significant global sales and marketing presence that is focused on establishing and maintaining retail and institutional investment management and technology service relationships by marketing its services to investors directly and through third-party distribution relationships, including financial professionals and pension consultants.

BlackRock is an independent, publicly traded company, with no single majority shareholder and over 85% of its Board of Directors consisting of independent directors.

Management seeks to deliver value for stockholders over time by, among other things, capitalizing on BlackRock’s differentiated competitive position, including:

- the Company’s focus on strong performance providing alpha for active products and limited or no tracking error for index products;
- the Company’s global reach and commitment to best practices around the world, with approximately 50% of employees outside the United States serving clients locally and supporting local investment capabilities. Approximately 40% of total AUM is managed for clients domiciled outside the United States;
- the Company’s breadth of investment strategies, including market-cap weighted index, factors, systematic active, traditional fundamental active, high conviction alpha and illiquid alternative product offerings, which enhance its ability to tailor whole-portfolio investment solutions to address specific client needs;
- the Company’s differentiated client relationships and fiduciary focus, which enable effective positioning toward changing client needs and macro trends including the secular shift to index investing and ETFs, a focus on income and retirement, increasing demand for sustainable investment strategies and barbell investing using index, active and illiquid alternatives products; and
- the Company’s longstanding commitment to innovation, technology services and the continued development of, and increased interest in, BlackRock technology products and solutions, including *Aladdin*, Aladdin Wealth, eFront, Cachematrix, and FutureAdvisor. This commitment is further extended by minority investments in distribution technologies including Envestnet, Scalable Capital, iCapital, Acorns and Embark. In January 2021, BlackRock also announced a minority investment in Clarity AI, a sustainability analytics and data science platform.

BlackRock operates in a global marketplace impacted by changing market dynamics and economic uncertainty, factors that can significantly affect earnings and stockholder returns in any given period.

The Company’s ability to increase revenue, earnings and stockholder value over time is predicated on its ability to generate new business, including business in *Aladdin* and other technology products and services. New business efforts depend on BlackRock’s ability to achieve clients’ investment objectives, in a manner consistent with their risk preferences, to deliver excellent client service and to innovate in technology to serve clients’ evolving needs. All of these efforts require the commitment and contributions of BlackRock employees. Accordingly, the ability to attract, develop and retain talented professionals is critical to the Company’s long-term success.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

(in millions, except per share data)	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>GAAP:</b>					
Total revenue	\$ 16,205	\$ 14,539	\$ 14,198	\$ 13,600	\$ 12,261
Operating income	\$ 5,695	\$ 5,551	\$ 5,457	\$ 5,254	\$ 4,565
Operating margin	35.1%	38.2%	38.4%	38.6%	37.2%
Nonoperating income (expense) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 475	\$ 186	\$ (76)	\$ (32)	\$ (108)
Net income attributable to BlackRock, Inc.	\$ 4,932	\$ 4,476	\$ 4,305	\$ 4,952	\$ 3,168
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 31.85	\$ 28.43	\$ 26.58	\$ 30.12	\$ 19.02
(in millions, except per share data)	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>As adjusted<sup>(2)</sup>:</b>					
Operating income	\$ 6,284	\$ 5,551	\$ 5,531	\$ 5,269	\$ 4,669
Operating margin	44.9%	43.7%	44.3%	44.1%	43.8%
Nonoperating income (expense) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 353	\$ 186	\$ (76)	\$ (32)	\$ (108)
Net income attributable to BlackRock, Inc. <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 5,237	\$ 4,484	\$ 4,361	\$ 3,698	\$ 3,210
Diluted earnings per common share <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 33.82	\$ 28.48	\$ 26.93	\$ 22.49	\$ 19.27

- (1)

Net of net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests (redeemable and nonredeemable).
- (2)

BlackRock reports its financial results in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("GAAP"); however, management believes evaluating the Company's ongoing operating results may be enhanced if investors have additional non-GAAP financial measures.  
  
See Item 7, *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Non-GAAP Financial Measures*, for further information on non-GAAP financial measures and for as adjusted items for 2020 and 2019.  
  
In 2018 and 2016, a restructuring charge, primarily comprised of severance and accelerated amortization expense of previously granted compensation awards, has been excluded to provide more meaningful analysis of BlackRock's ongoing operations and to ensure comparability among periods presented. In 2018, 2017 and 2016, the portion of compensation expense associated with certain long-term incentive plans funded through share distributions to participants of BlackRock stock held by PNC has been excluded because it ultimately did not impact BlackRock's book value.
- (3)

Net income attributable to BlackRock, Inc., as adjusted, and diluted earnings per common share, as adjusted exclude the after-tax impact of the items referred to above and exclude the effect on deferred income tax expense resulting from certain income tax matters. In 2017, \$1.2 billion of net tax benefit related to The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was excluded from net income attributable to BlackRock, Inc., as adjusted, and diluted earnings per common share, as adjusted.

ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

The Company's AUM by product type for the years 2016 through 2020 is presented below.

(in millions)	December 31,					5-Year CAGR <sup>(1)</sup>
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	
Equity	\$ 4,419,806	\$ 3,820,329	\$ 3,035,825	\$ 3,371,641	\$ 2,657,176	13%
Fixed income	2,674,488	2,315,392	1,884,417	1,855,465	1,572,365	13%
Multi-asset	658,733	568,121	461,884	480,278	395,007	12%
Alternatives	235,042	178,072	143,358	129,347	116,938	16%
<b>Long-term</b>	<b>7,988,069</b>	<b>6,881,914</b>	<b>5,525,484</b>	<b>5,836,731</b>	<b>4,741,486</b>	<b>13%</b>
Cash management	666,252	545,949	448,565	449,949	403,584	17%
Advisory	22,359	1,770	1,769	1,515	2,782	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,676,680</b>	<b>\$ 7,429,633</b>	<b>\$ 5,975,818</b>	<b>\$ 6,288,195</b>	<b>\$ 5,147,852</b>	<b>13%</b>

- (1)
- Percentage represents CAGR over a five-year period (December 31, 2015 – December 31, 2020).

Component changes in AUM by product type for the five years ended December 31, 2020 are presented below.

(in millions)	December 31, 2015	Net inflows (outflows)	Acquisitions and dispositions <sup>(1)</sup>	Market change	FX impact	December 31, 2020	5-Year CAGR <sup>(2)</sup>
Equity	\$ 2,423,772	\$ 274,083	\$ 2,590	\$ 1,677,581	\$ 41,780	\$ 4,419,806	13%
Fixed income	1,422,368	799,393	18,539	399,477	34,711	2,674,488	13%
Multi-asset	376,336	73,572	683	196,244	11,898	658,733	12%
Alternatives	112,839	80,090	8,267	31,762	2,084	235,042	16%
<b>Long-term</b>	<b>4,335,315</b>	<b>1,227,138</b>	<b>30,079</b>	<b>2,305,064</b>	<b>90,473</b>	<b>7,988,069</b>	<b>13%</b>
Cash management	299,884	273,890	81,321	6,253	4,904	666,252	17%
Advisory	10,213	11,622	—	157	367	22,359	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,645,412</b>	<b>\$ 1,512,650</b>	<b>\$ 111,400</b>	<b>\$ 2,311,474</b>	<b>\$ 95,744</b>	<b>\$ 8,676,680</b>	<b>13%</b>

- (1)

Amounts include AUM acquired in the BofA® Global Capital Management transaction in April 2016, AUM acquired in the acquisition of the equity infrastructure franchise of First Reserve ("First Reserve Transaction") in June 2017, net AUM from the acquisitions of Tennenbaum Capital Partners in August 2018 ("TCP Transaction") and the asset management business of Citibanamex in September 2018 ("Citibanamex Transaction"), AUM reclassifications and net dispositions related to the transfer of BlackRock's UK Defined Contribution Administration and Platform business to Aegon N.V. in July 2018 ("Aegon Transaction"), and net AUM dispositions related to the sale of BlackRock's minority interest in DSP BlackRock Investment Managers Pvt. Ltd. to the DSP Group in August 2018 ("DSP Transaction").
- (2)

Percentage represents CAGR over a five-year period (December 31, 2015 – December 31, 2020).

AUM represents the broad range of financial assets managed for clients on a discretionary basis pursuant to investment management and trust agreements that are expected to continue for at least 12 months. In general, reported AUM reflects the valuation methodology that corresponds to the basis used for determining revenue (for example, net asset value). Reported AUM does not include assets for which BlackRock provides risk management or other forms of nondiscretionary advice, or assets that the Company is retained to manage on a short-term, temporary basis.

Investment management fees are typically earned as a percentage of AUM. BlackRock also earns performance fees on certain portfolios relative to an agreed-upon benchmark or return hurdle. On some products, the Company also may earn securities lending revenue. In addition, BlackRock offers its proprietary *Aladdin* investment system as well as risk management,

outsourcing, advisory and other technology services, to institutional investors and wealth management intermediaries. Revenue for these services may be based on several criteria including value of positions, number of users, implementation go-lives, software solution delivery and support, and hosting services.

At December 31, 2020, total AUM was \$8.68 trillion, representing a CAGR of 13% over the last five years. AUM growth during the period was achieved through the combination of net market valuation gains, net inflows and acquisitions, including BofA Global Capital Management, which added \$80.6 billion of AUM in 2016, the First Reserve Transaction, which added \$3.3 billion of AUM in 2017 and the net AUM impact from the TCP Transaction, the Citibanamex Transaction, the Aegon Transaction and the DSP Transaction, which added \$27.5 billion of AUM in 2018. Our AUM mix encompasses a broadly diversified product range, as described below.

The Company considers the categorization of its AUM by client type, product type, investment style, and client region useful to understanding its business. The following discussion of the Company's AUM will be organized as follows:

Client Type	Product Type	Investment Style	Client Region
• Retail	• Equity	• Active	• Americas
• <i>iShares</i> ETFs	• Fixed Income	• Index and <i>iShares</i> ETFs	• Europe, the Middle East and Africa ("EMEA")
• Institutional	• Multi-asset		• Asia-Pacific
	• Alternatives		
	• Cash Management		

CLIENT TYPE

BlackRock serves a diverse mix of institutional and retail clients across the globe, with a regionally focused business model. BlackRock leverages the benefits of scale across global investment, risk and technology platforms while at the same time using local distribution presence to deliver solutions for clients. Furthermore, our structure facilitates strong teamwork globally across both functions and regions in order to enhance our ability to leverage best practices to serve our clients and continue to develop our talent.

Clients include tax-exempt institutions, such as defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans, charities,

foundations and endowments; official institutions, such as central banks, sovereign wealth funds, supranationals and other government entities; taxable institutions, including insurance companies, financial institutions, corporations and third-party fund sponsors, and retail intermediaries.

*iShares* ETFs are a growing component of both institutional and retail client portfolios. However, as *iShares* ETFs are traded on exchanges, complete transparency on the ultimate end-client is unavailable. Therefore, *iShares* ETFs are presented as a separate client type below, with investments in *iShares* ETFs by institutions and retail clients excluded from figures and discussions in their respective sections.



AUM by investment style and client type at December 31, 2020 is presented below.

<i>(in millions)</i>	Retail	iShares ETFs	Institutional	Total
Active	\$ 726,424	\$ —	\$ 1,524,462	\$ 2,250,886
Non-ETF Index	119,493	—	2,948,683	3,068,176
iShares ETFs	—	2,669,007	—	2,669,007
<b>Long-term</b>	<b>845,917</b>	<b>2,669,007</b>	<b>4,473,145</b>	<b>7,988,069</b>
Cash management	11,702	—	654,550	666,252
Advisory	—	—	22,359	22,359
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 857,619</b>	<b>\$ 2,669,007</b>	<b>\$ 5,150,054</b>	<b>\$ 8,676,680</b>

#### Retail

BlackRock serves retail investors globally through a wide array of vehicles across the investment spectrum, including separate accounts, open-end and closed-end funds, unit trusts and private investment funds. Retail investors are served principally through intermediaries, including broker-dealers, banks, trust companies, insurance companies and independent financial advisors. Technology solutions, digital distribution tools and a shift toward portfolio construction are increasing the number of financial advisors and end-retail clients using BlackRock products.

Retail represented 11% of long-term AUM at December 31, 2020 and 31% of long-term investment

Component changes in retail long-term AUM for 2020 are presented below.

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2019	Net inflows (outflows)	Market change	FX impact	December 31, 2020
Equity	\$ 252,413	\$ 39,341	\$ 42,545	\$ 4,135	<b>\$ 338,434</b>
Fixed income	305,265	22,784	9,725	2,694	<b>340,468</b>
Multi-asset	120,439	(481)	12,262	404	<b>132,624</b>
Alternatives	25,180	7,912	929	370	<b>34,391</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 703,297</b>	<b>\$ 69,556</b>	<b>\$ 65,461</b>	<b>\$ 7,603</b>	<b>\$ 845,917</b>

The retail client base is diversified geographically, with 66% of long-term AUM managed for investors based in the Americas, 29% in EMEA and 5% in Asia-Pacific at year-end 2020.

- *US retail* long-term net inflows of \$24.6 billion were led by fixed income net inflows of \$10.1 billion. Fixed income net inflows were diversified across exposures and products, with strong flows into high yield, total return and core bond offerings. Equity net inflows of \$7.5 billion were led by flows into high-performing technology, health sciences and US growth equities franchises. Alternatives net inflows of \$4.2 billion were driven by flows into the BlackRock Alternative Capital Strategies and Global Event Driven funds. Multi-asset net inflows of \$2.8 billion included the successful close of the \$2.2 billion BlackRock Capital Allocation Trust.

In the fourth quarter of 2020, BlackRock announced the acquisition of Aperio, a pioneer in customizing tax-optimized index equity separately managed accounts (“SMA”), to enhance our wealth platform and provide whole-portfolio solutions to ultra-high

advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue (collectively “base fees”) for 2020.

iShares ETFs have a significant retail component but is shown separately below. With the exclusion of iShares ETFs, retail AUM is predominantly comprised of active mutual funds. Mutual funds totaled \$694.9 billion, or 82%, of retail long-term AUM at year-end, with the remainder invested in private investment funds and separately managed accounts. 86% of retail long-term AUM is invested in active products.

net worth advisors. By combining Aperio with BlackRock’s existing SMA franchise the Company plans to expand the breadth of personalization capabilities available to wealth managers from BlackRock via tax-managed strategies across factors, broad market indexing, and investor Environmental, Social, and Governance preferences across all asset classes. The transaction closed in February of 2021 and Aperio will operate as part of BlackRock’s US Wealth Advisory business.

- *International retail* long-term net inflows of \$45.0 billion were led by equity net inflows of \$31.9 billion, reflecting strong flows into index equity mutual funds, and high-performing technology and health sciences active equity franchises. Fixed income net inflows of \$12.6 billion were driven by flows into index fixed income mutual funds and Asian bond strategies. Alternatives net inflows of \$3.7 billion reflected demand for European Absolute Alpha and Global Event Driven funds. Multi-asset net outflows of \$3.2 billion were primarily due to outflows from world allocation strategies.

#### iShares ETFs

iShares is the leading ETF provider in the world with \$2.7 trillion of AUM at December 31, 2020, and generated net inflows of \$184.9 billion in 2020. iShares fixed income net inflows of \$88.9 billion were diversified across exposures, led by flows into US investment grade corporate, core and high yield bond funds. The resilience and performance of iShares fixed income ETFs in periods of market disruption during the year drove increased confidence among investors that ETFs are valuable tools for liquidity, price transparency and market exposure, leading to strong inflows throughout 2020. iShares equity net inflows of \$76.3 billion were driven by flows into sustainable and core equity ETFs. iShares Sustainable ETFs saw net inflows of \$43.8 billion in 2020, primarily into equities, with AUM tripling to nearly \$80 billion. iShares multi-asset and alternative ETFs contributed a combined \$19.7 billion of net inflows, primarily into commodities funds.

iShares ETFs represented 33% of long-term AUM at December 31, 2020 and 40% of long-term base fees for 2020.

Component changes in iShares ETFs AUM for 2020 are presented below.

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2019	Net inflows (outflows)	Market change	FX impact	December 31, 2020
Equity	\$ 1,632,972	\$ 76,307	\$ 186,918	\$ 8,904	<b>\$ 1,905,101</b>
Fixed income	565,790	88,894	28,009	7,340	<b>690,033</b>
Multi-asset	5,210	646	388	24	<b>6,268</b>
Alternatives <sup>(1)</sup>	36,093	19,038	12,331	143	<b>67,605</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,240,065</b>	<b>\$ 184,885</b>	<b>\$ 227,646</b>	<b>\$ 16,411</b>	<b>\$ 2,669,007</b>

(1) Amounts include commodity iShares ETFs.

Our broad iShares ETF product range offers investors a precise, transparent and efficient way to gain exposure to a full range of asset classes and global markets that have been difficult for many investors to access, as well as the liquidity required to make adjustments to their exposures quickly and cost-efficiently.

- *US iShares ETF*<sup>1</sup> AUM ended 2020 at \$2.0 trillion with \$114.8 billion of net inflows driven by strong demand

1 Regional iShares ETF amounts based on jurisdiction of product, not underlying client.

for a diverse range of fixed income, sustainable, core equity and commodities ETFs.

- *International iShares ETF*<sup>1</sup> AUM ended 2020 at \$678.8 billion with net inflows of \$70.1 billion, similarly reflecting strong flows into fixed income, sustainable and core equity ETFs.

#### Institutional

BlackRock serves institutional investors on six continents in sub-categories including: pensions, endowments and foundations, official institutions, and financial institutions; institutional AUM is diversified across product and region.

Component changes in institutional long-term AUM for 2020 are presented below.

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2019	Net inflows (outflows)	Market change	FX impact	December 31, 2020
Active:					
Equity	\$ 141,118	\$ 1,890	\$ 24,045	\$ 2,469	<b>\$ 169,522</b>
Fixed income	651,368	6,598	49,712	8,591	<b>716,269</b>
Multi-asset	434,233	13,639	52,365	11,005	<b>511,242</b>
Alternatives	111,951	9,497	3,861	2,120	<b>127,429</b>
Active subtotal	1,338,670	31,624	129,983	24,185	<b>1,524,462</b>
Index:					
Equity	1,793,826	(68,543)	254,475	26,991	<b>2,006,749</b>
Fixed income	792,969	39,685	67,623	27,441	<b>927,718</b>
Multi-asset	8,239	(591)	749	202	<b>8,599</b>
Alternatives	4,848	732	(50)	87	<b>5,617</b>
Index subtotal	2,599,882	(28,717)	322,797	54,721	<b>2,948,683</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,938,552</b>	<b>\$ 2,907</b>	<b>\$ 452,780</b>	<b>\$ 78,906</b>	<b>\$ 4,473,145</b>

*Institutional active* AUM ended 2020 at \$1.5 trillion, reflecting \$31.6 billion of net inflows, positive across all asset classes. Multi-asset strategies saw continued growth, with net inflows of \$13.6 billion reflecting ongoing demand for solutions offerings and the *LifePath*® target-date suite.

Alternatives net inflows of \$9.5 billion were led by inflows into infrastructure, private equity and private credit. Excluding return of capital and investment of \$7.5 billion, alternatives net inflows were \$17.0 billion. In addition, 2020 was another strong fundraising year for illiquid alternatives, and at year-end 2020 BlackRock had approximately \$24 billion of non-fee-earning committed capital to deploy for institutional clients, which is not included in AUM.

Institutional active represented 19% of long-term AUM and 20% of long-term base fees for 2020.

*Institutional index* AUM totaled \$2.9 trillion at December 31, 2020, reflecting \$28.7 billion of net outflows. Equity net outflows of \$68.5 billion partially resulted from clients rebalancing portfolios after significant equity market gains, or tactically shifting assets to fixed income and cash. Fixed income net inflows of \$39.7 billion were driven by demand for liability-driven investment solutions.

Institutional index represented 37% of long-term AUM and 9% of long-term base fees for 2020.

The Company's institutional clients consist of the following:

- **Pensions, Foundations and Endowments.** BlackRock is among the world's largest managers of pension plan assets with \$3.0 trillion, or 66%, of long-term institutional AUM managed for defined benefit, defined contribution and other pension plans for corporations, governments and unions at December 31, 2020. The market landscape continues to shift from defined benefit to defined contribution, and our defined contribution channel represented \$1.2 trillion of total pension AUM. BlackRock remains well positioned to capitalize on the on-going evolution of the defined contribution market and demand for outcome-oriented investments. An additional \$76.9 billion, or 2%, of long-term institutional AUM was managed for other tax-exempt investors, including charities, foundations and endowments.
- **Official Institutions.** BlackRock managed \$275.4 billion, or 6%, of long-term institutional AUM for official institutions, including central banks, sovereign wealth funds, supranationals, multilateral entities and government ministries and agencies at year-end 2020. These clients often require specialized investment advice, the use of customized benchmarks and training support.
- **Financial and Other Institutions.** BlackRock is a top independent manager of assets for insurance companies, which accounted for \$450.3 billion, or 10%, of long-term institutional AUM at year-end 2020. Assets managed for other taxable institutions, including corporations, banks and third-party fund sponsors for which the Company provides sub-advisory services, totaled \$696.6 billion, or 16%, of long-term institutional AUM at year-end.

## CLIENT TYPE AND PRODUCT TYPE

Component changes in AUM by client type and product type for 2020 are presented below.

(in millions)	December 31, 2019	Net inflows (outflows)	Market change	FX impact	December 31, 2020
Retail:					
Equity	\$ 252,413	\$ 39,341	\$ 42,545	\$ 4,135	\$ 338,434
Fixed income	305,265	22,784	9,725	2,694	340,468
Multi-asset	120,439	(481)	12,262	404	132,624
Alternatives	25,180	7,912	929	370	34,391
Retail subtotal	703,297	69,556	65,461	7,603	845,917
iShares ETFs:					
Equity	1,632,972	76,307	186,918	8,904	1,905,101
Fixed income	565,790	88,894	28,009	7,340	690,033
Multi-asset	5,210	646	388	24	6,268
Alternatives	36,093	19,038	12,331	143	67,605
iShares ETFs subtotal	2,240,065	184,885	227,646	16,411	2,669,007
Institutional:					
Active:					
Equity	141,118	1,890	24,045	2,469	169,522
Fixed income	651,368	6,598	49,712	8,591	716,269
Multi-asset	434,233	13,639	52,365	11,005	511,242
Alternatives	111,951	9,497	3,861	2,120	127,429
Active subtotal	1,338,670	31,624	129,983	24,185	1,524,462
Index:					
Equity	1,793,826	(68,543)	254,475	26,991	2,006,749
Fixed income	792,969	39,685	67,623	27,441	927,718
Multi-asset	8,239	(591)	749	202	8,599
Alternatives	4,848	732	(50)	87	5,617
Index subtotal	2,599,882	(28,717)	322,797	54,721	2,948,683
Institutional subtotal	3,938,552	2,907	452,780	78,906	4,473,145
<b>Long-term</b>	<b>6,881,914</b>	<b>257,348</b>	<b>745,887</b>	<b>102,920</b>	<b>7,988,069</b>
Cash management	545,949	113,349	(63)	7,017	666,252
Advisory	1,770	20,141	445	3	22,359
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,429,633</b>	<b>\$ 390,838</b>	<b>\$ 746,269</b>	<b>\$ 109,940</b>	<b>\$ 8,676,680</b>

Long-term product offerings include alpha-seeking active and index strategies. Our alpha-seeking active strategies seek to earn attractive returns in excess of a market benchmark or performance hurdle while maintaining an appropriate risk profile and leverage fundamental research and quantitative models to drive portfolio construction. In contrast, index strategies seek to closely track the returns of a corresponding index, generally by investing in substantially the same underlying securities within the index or in a subset of those securities selected to approximate a similar risk and return profile of the index. Index strategies include both our non-ETF index products and *iShares* ETFs.

Although many clients use both alpha-seeking active and index strategies, the application of these strategies may differ. For example, clients may use index products to gain exposure to a market or asset class or may use a combination of index strategies to target active returns. In addition, institutional non-ETF index assignments tend to be very large (multi-billion dollars) and typically reflect low fee rates. Net flows in institutional index products generally have a small impact on BlackRock's revenues and earnings.

### Equity

Year-end 2020 equity AUM totaled \$4.4 trillion, reflecting net inflows of \$49.0 billion. Net inflows included \$76.3 billion and \$30.2 billion into *iShares* ETFs and active, respectively, partially offset by non-ETF index net outflows

of \$57.5 billion. Record active equity net inflows were driven by flows into high-performing technology, health sciences and US growth fundamental equities franchises, as well as flows into quantitative strategies.

BlackRock's effective fee rates fluctuate due to changes in AUM mix. Approximately half of BlackRock's equity AUM is tied to international markets, including emerging markets, which tend to have higher fee rates than US equity strategies. Accordingly, fluctuations in international equity markets, which may not consistently move in tandem with US markets, have a greater impact on BlackRock's equity revenues and effective fee rate.

Equity represented 55% of long-term AUM and 50% of long-term base fees for 2020.

### Fixed Income

Fixed income AUM ended 2020 at \$2.7 trillion, reflecting net inflows of \$158.0 billion. *iShares* ETFs net inflows of \$89.0 billion were led by flows into US investment grade corporate, core and high yield bond funds. Non-ETF index net inflows of \$42.1 billion were driven by demand for liability-driven investment solutions and index mutual funds. Active net inflows of \$26.9 billion reflected strong flows in high yield, Asian, total return and core bond offerings.

Fixed income represented 34% of long-term AUM and 30% of long-term base fees for 2020.



## Multi-Asset

BlackRock manages a variety of multi-asset balanced funds and bespoke mandates for a diversified client base that leverages our broad investment expertise in global equities, bonds, currencies and commodities, and our extensive risk management capabilities. Investment

solutions might include a combination of long-only portfolios and alternative investments as well as tactical asset allocation overlays.

Multi-asset represented 8% of long-term AUM and 10% of long-term base fees for 2020.

Component changes in multi-asset AUM for 2020 are presented below.

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2019	Net inflows (outflows)	Market change	FX impact	December 31, 2020
Target date/risk	\$ 277,078	\$ 21,261	\$ 39,143	\$ 1,236	<b>\$ 338,718</b>
Asset allocation and balanced	185,454	(9,578)	12,693	2,632	<b>191,201</b>
Fiduciary	105,589	1,530	13,928	7,767	<b>128,814</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 568,121</b>	<b>\$ 13,213</b>	<b>\$ 65,764</b>	<b>\$ 11,635</b>	<b>\$ 658,733</b>

Multi-asset net inflows reflected ongoing institutional demand for our solutions-based advice with \$13.0 billion of net inflows coming from institutional clients. Defined contribution plans of institutional clients remained a significant driver of flows and contributed \$14.8 billion to institutional multi-asset net inflows in 2020, primarily into target date and target risk product offerings.

The Company's multi-asset strategies include the following:

- Target date and target risk products generated net inflows of \$21.3 billion. Institutional investors represented 90% of target date and target risk AUM, with defined contribution plans representing 84% of AUM. Flows were driven by defined contribution investments in our *LifePath* offerings. *LifePath* products utilize a proprietary active asset allocation overlay model that seeks to balance risk and return over an investment horizon based on the investor's expected retirement timing. Underlying investments are primarily index products.
- Asset allocation and balanced products represented 29% of multi-asset AUM at year-end. These strategies combine equity, fixed income and alternative components for investors seeking a tailored solution relative to a specific benchmark and within a risk budget. In certain cases, these strategies seek to minimize downside risk through diversification, derivatives strategies and tactical asset allocation decisions. Flagship products include our Global Allocation and Multi-Asset Income fund families. This category also includes *FutureAdvisor*, a digital wealth management platform that provides financial institutions with technology-enabled investment advisory capabilities to manage their clients' investments.
- Fiduciary management services are complex mandates in which pension plan sponsors or endowments and foundations retain BlackRock to assume responsibility for some or all aspects of investment management, often with BlackRock acting as outsourced chief investment officer. These

customized services require strong partnership with the clients' investment staff and trustees in order to tailor investment strategies to meet client-specific risk budgets and return objectives.

## Alternatives

BlackRock alternatives focus on sourcing and managing high-alpha investments with lower correlation to public markets and developing a holistic approach to address client needs in alternatives investing. Our alternatives products fall into three main categories — 1) illiquid alternatives, 2) liquid alternatives, and 3) currency and commodities. Illiquid alternatives include offerings in alternative solutions, private equity, opportunistic and credit, real estate and infrastructure. Liquid alternatives include offerings in direct hedge funds and hedge fund solutions (funds of funds).

In 2020, liquid and illiquid alternatives generated a combined \$17.4 billion of net inflows, or \$25.7 billion excluding return of capital/investment of \$8.3 billion. The largest contributors to return of capital/investment were private equity solutions, infrastructure and opportunistic and credit strategies. Net inflows were driven by direct hedge funds, infrastructure, private equity and opportunistic and credit strategies. At year-end, BlackRock had approximately \$24 billion of non-fee paying, unfunded, uninvested commitments, which are expected to be deployed in future years; these commitments are not included in AUM or flows until they are fee-paying. Currency and commodities saw \$19.8 billion of net inflows, primarily into commodities *iShares* ETFs.

BlackRock believes that as alternatives become more conventional and investors adapt their asset allocation strategies, investors will further increase their use of alternative investments to complement core holdings. BlackRock's highly diversified alternatives franchise is well positioned to continue to meet growing demand from both institutional and retail investors.

Alternatives represented 3% of long-term AUM and 10% of long-term base fees for 2020.

Component changes in alternatives AUM for 2020 are presented in the table below.

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2019	Net inflows (outflows)	Market change	FX impact	December 31, 2020	Memo: return of capital/investment <sup>(1)</sup>	Memo: committed capital <sup>(2)</sup>
Illiquid alternatives:							
Alternative solutions	\$ 3,980	\$ 179	\$ 72	\$ 37	<b>\$ 4,268</b>	\$ (623)	\$ 3,919
Private equity and opportunistic:							
Private equity solutions	14,374	2,644	(171)	98	<b>16,945</b>	(2,960)	4,975
Opportunistic and credit strategies	11,109	1,750	47	144	<b>13,050</b>	(1,727)	4,965
Long Term Private Capital	2,430	1,029	—	—	<b>3,459</b>	—	—
Private equity and opportunistic subtotal	27,913	5,423	(124)	242	<b>33,454</b>	(4,687)	9,940
Real assets:							
Real estate	24,430	691	(1,140)	469	<b>24,450</b>	(696)	1,029
Infrastructure	19,026	4,590	(320)	302	<b>23,598</b>	(1,849)	9,066
Real assets subtotal	43,456	5,281	(1,460)	771	<b>48,048</b>	(2,545)	10,095
Total illiquid alternatives	75,349	10,883	(1,512)	1,050	<b>85,770</b>	(7,855)	23,954
Liquid alternatives:							
Direct hedge fund strategies	36,234	5,734	4,570	1,275	<b>47,813</b>	—	—
Hedge fund solutions	22,814	811	1,725	55	<b>25,405</b>	(415)	431
Total Liquid alternatives	59,048	6,545	6,295	1,330	<b>73,218</b>	(415)	431
Currency and commodities	43,675	19,751	12,288	340	<b>76,054</b>	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 178,072</b>	<b>\$ 37,179</b>	<b>\$ 17,071</b>	<b>\$ 2,720</b>	<b>\$ 235,042</b>	<b>\$ (8,270)</b>	<b>\$ 24,385</b>

(1) Return of capital/investment is included in outflows.

(2) Amount represents client assets that are uninvested commitments, which are currently non-fee paying and are not included in AUM. These commitments are expected to generate fees and will be counted in AUM and flows as the capital is deployed over time.

## Illiquid Alternatives

The Company's illiquid alternatives strategies include the following:

- Alternative Solutions represents highly customized portfolios of alternative investments. In 2020, alternative solutions portfolios had \$4.3 billion in AUM.
- Private Equity and Opportunistic included AUM of \$16.9 billion in private equity solutions, \$13.0 billion in opportunistic and credit offerings, and \$3.5 billion in Long Term Private Capital ("LTPC"). Net inflows of \$5.4 billion into private equity and opportunistic strategies included \$2.6 billion of net inflows into private equity solutions, \$1.8 billion of net inflows into opportunistic and credit offerings and \$1.0 billion of net inflows into LTPC.
- Real Assets, which includes infrastructure and real estate, totaled \$48.0 billion in AUM, reflecting net inflows of \$5.3 billion, led by infrastructure deployments.

## Liquid Alternatives

The Company's liquid alternatives products' net inflows of \$6.5 billion reflected net inflows of \$5.7 billion and \$0.8 billion from direct hedge funds and hedge fund solutions, respectively. Direct hedge fund AUM includes a variety of single- and multi-strategy offerings.

## Currency and Commodities

The Company's currency and commodities products include a range of active and index products.

Currency and commodities products had \$19.8 billion of net inflows, primarily driven by *iShares* ETFs. *iShares* ETFs commodities products represented \$67.6 billion of AUM and are not eligible for performance fees.

## Cash Management

Cash management AUM totaled \$666.3 billion at December 31, 2020, reflecting a record \$113.3 billion of net inflows. Cash management products include taxable and tax-exempt money market funds, short term investment funds and customized separate accounts. Portfolios are denominated in US dollars, Canadian dollars, Australian dollars, Euros, Swiss Francs, New Taiwan Dollars or British pounds. Strong growth in cash management reflects BlackRock's success in leveraging scale for clients and delivering innovative digital distribution and risk management solutions.

BlackRock is currently voluntarily waiving a portion of its management fees on certain money market funds to ensure that they maintain a minimum level of daily net investment income. During 2020, these waivers resulted in a reduction of management fees of approximately \$35 million, which was partially offset by a reduction of BlackRock's distribution and servicing costs paid to financial intermediaries. BlackRock has provided voluntary yield support waivers in prior periods and may increase or decrease the level of yield support waivers in future periods. For more information see Note 2, *Significant Accounting Policies*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in Part II, Item 8 of this filing.

## CLIENT REGION

Our footprints in the Americas, EMEA and Asia-Pacific regions reflect strong relationships with intermediaries and an established ability to deliver our global investment expertise in funds and other products tailored to local regulations and requirements.

AUM by product type and client region at December 31, 2020 is presented below.

<i>(in millions)</i>	Americas	EMEA	Asia-Pacific	Total
Equity	\$ 3,068,910	\$ 1,089,684	\$ 261,212	\$ 4,419,806
Fixed income	1,491,874	866,455	316,159	2,674,488
Multi-asset	451,374	182,119	25,240	658,733
Alternatives	125,271	80,114	29,657	235,042
<b>Long-term</b>	<b>5,137,429</b>	<b>2,218,372</b>	<b>632,268</b>	<b>7,988,069</b>
Cash management	484,751	172,191	9,310	666,252
Advisory	22,359	—	—	22,359
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,644,539</b>	<b>\$ 2,390,563</b>	<b>\$ 641,578</b>	<b>\$ 8,676,680</b>

Component changes in AUM by client region for 2020 are presented below.

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2019	Net inflows (outflows)	Market change	FX impact	December 31, 2020
Americas	\$ 4,910,954	\$ 196,608	\$ 535,633	\$ 1,344	<b>\$ 5,644,539</b>
EMEA	2,001,917	128,581	173,104	86,961	<b>2,390,563</b>
Asia-Pacific	516,762	65,650	37,531	21,635	<b>641,578</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,429,633</b>	<b>\$ 390,839</b>	<b>\$ 746,268</b>	<b>\$ 109,940</b>	<b>\$ 8,676,680</b>

### Americas

Net inflows of \$196.6 billion reflected net inflows into fixed income, cash, equity, alternatives, advisory and multi-asset of \$88.2 billion, \$80.4 billion, \$22.5 billion, \$20.4 billion and \$13.3 billion, respectively. Equity net outflows of \$28.2 billion were primarily due to low-fee institutional index outflows. Advisory net inflows were primarily linked to asset purchases managed by our Financial Markets Advisory group. Revenue linked to these assignments is primarily reflected in the “Advisory and other revenue” line item of the Income Statement. During the year, BlackRock served clients through offices in 35 states in the United States as well as Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Chile and the Dominican Republic.

The Americas represented 65% of total AUM and 66% of total base fees for 2020.

### EMEA

EMEA net inflows of \$128.6 billion were led by equity, cash and alternatives net inflows of \$81.3 billion, \$32.2 billion and \$11.5 billion, respectively. Offerings include fund families in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Dublin and *iShares* ETFs listed on stock exchanges throughout Europe, as well as separate accounts and pooled investment products.

EMEA represented 28% of total AUM and base fees for 2020.

### Asia-Pacific

Asia-Pacific net inflows of \$65.7 billion were primarily due to fixed income net inflows of \$68.5 billion. Clients in the Asia-Pacific region are served through offices in Japan, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Korea, China, and India.

Asia-Pacific represented 7% of total AUM and 6% of total base fees for 2020.

## INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

Investment performance across active and index products as of December 31, 2020 was as follows:

	One-year period	Three-year period	Five-year period
<b>Fixed income:</b>			
<i>Actively managed AUM above benchmark or peer median</i>			
<i>Taxable</i>	86%	87%	88%
<i>Tax-exempt</i>	36%	56%	78%
<i>Index AUM within or above applicable tolerance</i>	87%	96%	95%
<b>Equity:</b>			
<i>Actively managed AUM above benchmark or peer median</i>			
<i>Fundamental</i>	78%	85%	85%
<i>Systematic</i>	61%	46%	88%
<i>Index AUM within or above applicable tolerance</i>	92%	98%	99%

*Performance Notes.* Past performance is not indicative of future results. Except as specified, the performance information shown is as of December 31, 2020 and is based on preliminary data available at that time. The performance data shown reflects information for all actively and passively managed equity and fixed income accounts, including US registered investment companies, European-domiciled retail funds and separate accounts for which performance data is available, including performance data for high net worth accounts available as of November 30, 2020.

The performance data does not include accounts terminated prior to December 31, 2020 and accounts for which data has not yet been verified. If such accounts had been included, the performance data provided may have substantially differed from that shown.

Performance comparisons shown are gross-of-fees for institutional and high net worth separate accounts, and net-of-fees for retail funds. The performance tracking shown for index accounts is based on gross-of-fees performance and includes all institutional accounts and all *iShares* funds globally using an index strategy. AUM information is based on AUM available as of December 31, 2020 for each account or fund in the asset class shown without adjustment for overlapping management of the same account or fund. Fund performance reflects the reinvestment of dividends and distributions.

Performance shown is derived from applicable benchmarks or peer median information, as selected by BlackRock, Inc. Peer medians are based in part on data either from Lipper, Inc. or Morningstar, Inc. for each included product.

## TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

BlackRock offers investment management technology systems, risk management services, wealth management and digital distribution tools on a fee basis. *Aladdin* is our proprietary technology platform, which serves as the investment and risk management system for both BlackRock and a growing number of institutional investors around the world. BlackRock offers risk reporting capabilities via Aladdin Risk, as well as investment accounting capabilities. Aladdin Provider is a tool used by BlackRock’s custodial partners, connecting them to the platform to add operational efficiency. In 2020, BlackRock launched Aladdin Climate, a software application offering investors measures of both the physical risk of climate change and the transition risk to a low-carbon economy on portfolios with climate-adjusted security valuations and risk metrics. In 2019, BlackRock acquired eFront, a leading end-to-end alternative investment management software and solutions provider to enable clients to manage portfolios and risk across public and private asset classes on a single platform. Through our Cachematrix platform, BlackRock is also a leading provider of financial technology which simplifies the cash management process for banks and their corporate clients in a streamlined, open-architecture platform.

BlackRock offers a number of wealth management technology tools offering digital advice, portfolio construction capabilities and risk analytics for retail distributors. These tools include Aladdin Wealth, which provides wealth management firms and their financial professionals with institutional-quality business management, portfolio construction, modeling and risk analytics capabilities, and FutureAdvisor, a digital wealth management platform that provides financial institutions with technology-enabled investment advisory capabilities to manage their clients’ investments.

Technology services revenue of \$1.1 billion was up 17% year-over-year, reflecting the impact of the eFront acquisition and continued growth in *Aladdin*. *Aladdin*, which represented the majority of technology services revenue for the year, continues to benefit from trends favoring global investment platform consolidation and

multi-asset risk solutions. *Aladdin* assignments are typically long-term contracts that provide recurring revenue.

At year-end, BlackRock technology services clients included banks, insurance companies, official institutions, pension funds, asset managers, asset servicers, retail distributors and other investors across North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Australia.

In addition, BlackRock has made minority investments in the digital distribution companies Envestnet, Scalable Capital, iCapital, Acorns and Embark. In January 2021, BlackRock also announced a minority investment in Clarity AI, a sustainability analytics and data science platform. BlackRock records its share of income related to minority investments accounted for under the equity method in other revenue and records gains and losses related to changes in value of other minority investments in nonoperating income (expense).

## SECURITIES LENDING

Securities lending is managed by a dedicated team, supported by quantitative analysis, proprietary technology and disciplined risk management. BlackRock receives both cash (primarily for US domiciled portfolios) and noncash collateral under securities lending arrangements. The cash management team invests the cash received as collateral for securities on loan in other portfolios. Fees for securities lending for US domiciled portfolios can be structured as a share of earnings, or as a management fee based on a percentage of the value of the cash collateral or both. The value of the securities on loan and the revenue earned are captured in the corresponding asset class being managed. The value of the collateral is not included in AUM.

Outstanding loan balances ended the year at approximately \$352 billion, up from \$290 billion at year-end 2019. Continued asset gathering in lending products and strong market performance resulted in higher balances compared to 2019. On average, relative to 2019, intrinsic lending spreads were lower, while average cash reinvestment spreads increased. Cash reinvestment spreads increased significantly in the second quarter, primarily as a result of cuts to the Federal Funds Target rate band in March and market dislocations during the period.

BlackRock employs a conservative investment style for cash and securities lending collateral that emphasizes quality, liquidity and interest rate risk management. Disciplined risk management, including a rigorous credit surveillance process, is an integral part of the investment process. BlackRock’s Cash Management Credit Committee has established risk limits, such as aggregate issuer exposure limits and maturity limits, across many of the products BlackRock manages, including over all of its cash management products. In the ordinary course of our business, there may be instances when a portfolio may exceed an internal risk limit or when an internal risk limit may be changed. No such instances, individually or in the aggregate, have been material to the Company. To the extent that daily evaluation and reporting of the profile of the portfolios identify that a limit has been exceeded, the relevant portfolio will be adjusted. To the extent a portfolio manager would like to obtain a temporary waiver of a risk



limit, the portfolio manager must obtain approval from the credit research team, which is independent from the cash management portfolio managers. While a risk limit may be waived temporarily, such waivers are infrequent.

## RISK & QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

Across all asset classes, in addition to the efforts of the portfolio management teams, the Risk & Quantitative Analysis (“RQA”) group at BlackRock draws on extensive analytical systems and proprietary and third-party data to identify, measure and manage a wide range of risks. RQA provides risk management advice and independent risk oversight of the investment management processes, identifies and helps manage counterparty and enterprise risks, coordinates standards for firm wide investment performance measurement and determines risk management-related analytical and information requirements. Where appropriate, RQA will work with portfolio managers and developers to facilitate the development or improvement of risk models and analytics.

## COMPETITION

BlackRock competes with investment management firms, mutual fund complexes, insurance companies, banks, brokerage firms and other financial institutions that offer products that are similar to, or alternatives to, those offered by BlackRock. In order to grow its business, BlackRock must be able to compete effectively for AUM. Key competitive factors include investment performance track records, the efficient delivery of beta for index products, investment style and discipline, price, client service and brand name recognition. Historically, the Company has competed principally on the basis of its long-term investment performance track record, its investment process, its risk management and analytic capabilities and the quality of its client service.

## HUMAN CAPITAL

With approximately 16,500 employees in more than 30 countries, BlackRock provides a broad range of investment and technology services to institutional and retail clients in more than 100 countries across the globe. As an asset manager, BlackRock’s long-term sustainability depends on its people and how it manages its workforce.

### *Culture and Principles*

BlackRock believes that developing a strong corporate culture is an important component of its human capital management practices and critical to the firm’s long-term success. BlackRock’s culture is underpinned by five core principles that unify its workforce: (1) We are a fiduciary to our clients; (2) We are One BlackRock; (3) We are passionate about performance; (4) We take emotional ownership; and (5) We are committed to a better future.

### *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (“DEI”)*

BlackRock believes a diverse workforce and an equitable and inclusive working environment are key factors in achieving better outcomes across all levels of its business. BlackRock has made a long-term commitment to cultivating diversity in its workforce and leadership team,

through its hiring, retention, promotion and development practices. As part of its long-term commitment, BlackRock has instituted a multi-year DEI strategy that it believes is actionable, measurable and designed to apply across the many countries in which the firm operates. The Company has aligned its DEI strategy with the firm’s business priorities and long-term objectives and expects that it will evolve as the firm learns and adapts to a changing macro environment.

A key goal of BlackRock’s DEI strategy is developing a diverse talent pipeline through ongoing investment in recruiting, retention and engagement. In connection with this goal, the Company has: (1) expanded partnerships with external organizations and developed strategies to increase the diversity of its applicant pool; (2) strengthened talent acquisition and management processes in an effort to eliminate bias; and (3) implemented leadership development, sponsorship and coaching initiatives to engage and develop diverse talent. Another focus of BlackRock’s DEI strategy is to cultivate an inclusive work environment in which employees feel connected to BlackRock’s culture and supported in pursuit of their goals. To this end, BlackRock has committed to raising awareness of racial equity issues and resetting behavioral expectations for employees, as well as to holding firm leaders and managers accountable for continued progress against the firm’s goals.

BlackRock views transparency and accountability as a critical part of its DEI strategy, including as a means to inform, measure and improve its human capital management practices. To that end, in 2020 the firm published its first SASB-aligned disclosure, which includes information regarding workforce diversity that BlackRock plans to update annually. During 2020, it also set goals for increasing the overall workplace representation of Black and Latinx employees and growing the number of female, and US Black and Latinx, leaders (Director and above).

### *Board Oversight of Human Capital Management*

BlackRock’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) plays an important role in the oversight of human capital management at BlackRock and devotes one full Board meeting annually to an in-depth review of BlackRock’s culture, talent development, retention and recruiting initiatives, DEI strategy, leadership and succession planning and employee feedback. Moreover, year-end business assessments, which include a review of the progress that is being made against the firm’s DEI goals, influence individual compensation outcomes that are reviewed and approved by the Board’s Management Development and Compensation Committee.

Succession planning for BlackRock’s Chief Executive Officer and other senior executives is a key part of the Board’s annual review of human capital management issues. As part of this review, the Board focuses on whether BlackRock has the right people in place to execute the Company’s long-term strategic plans, and on BlackRock’s ability to identify, attract, develop and retain future senior executives. An important element of the succession planning across the organization is a commitment to building leadership from within and increasing diversity in leadership roles.

### *Employee Engagement*

BlackRock prioritizes continuous dialogue with its employees about their experiences at the firm in order to understand employee expectations and assess the efficacy of its human capital management practices. The Company uses several employee feedback mechanisms, including: (i) employee opinion surveys; (ii) interactive townhalls and communications; and (iii) the sponsorship of employee, professional and social impact networks. These employee engagement mechanisms provide BlackRock with actionable feedback for each team and for BlackRock as a whole. BlackRock’s employee, professional and social impact networks also provide additional forums and opportunities for employees with diverse backgrounds to connect with one another and shape the firm’s culture. More recently, these networks played an active role in BlackRock’s response to COVID-19, including by instituting programs to combat isolation and more deeply understand the employee experience during the pandemic. The networks, which continue to grow in number, are sponsored by senior leaders and designed by employees, for employees.

### *Compensation, Wellness and Benefits*

BlackRock is committed to responsible business practices and believes that investing in the physical, emotional, mental and financial well-being of its employees is a critical component of the firm’s human capital management strategy. To that end, the Company designs its compensation and benefits practices to: (i) attract and retain employees; (ii) align employee incentives and risk taking with that of the firm’s and the interests of its clients; and (iii) support employees across many aspects of their lives. The Company has a strong pay-for-performance culture and an annual compensation process that takes into consideration firmwide results, individual business results and employee performance, as well as market benchmarks. BlackRock also offers a wide range of benefits that it regularly reviews in accordance with industry best practices and the local requirements of its offices, including retirement savings plans, a Flexible Time Off (“FTO”) policy and flexible working arrangements, and parental leave and family support benefits, including fertility benefits, adoption and surrogacy assistance, and backup elder and childcare benefits. The Company provides comprehensive healthcare and mental-health benefits to eligible employees, including medical, dental and vision coverage, health savings and spending accounts, counseling services, an employee assistance program and access to telemedicine services.

BlackRock prioritizes protecting the rights of its workforce and the equitable treatment of its employees. The Company has implemented policies related to harassment prevention and compliance with equal employment opportunity and overtime regulations. BlackRock is also committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment for its workforce. To do this, it designs global programs, including environmental and occupational health and safety programs, to meet or exceed local requirements. Moreover, BlackRock encourages all of its employees to raise issues of concern and assures employees that they may do so without fear of retaliation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of keeping employees safe and healthy and, following its onset, BlackRock implemented several

initiatives to support employees. The Company prioritized communication about the telemedicine and digital health resources it makes available, including mental, emotional and physical health offerings. In addition, BlackRock extended cross-border healthcare coverage and support to employees and their dependents temporarily working, or on FTO, outside of their home country as a result of the pandemic.

### *Training, Innovation and Development*

BlackRock is committed to innovation, learning and reinvention in all areas of its business and believes that developing the capabilities of its employees is integral to delivering long-term value. To that end, the Company’s human capital management practices are designed to provide opportunities for employees to learn, innovate and enhance their skillsets at every stage of their career. These opportunities, which include the firm’s comprehensive online suite of interactive resources and courses (*BlackRock Academies*), play an important role in engaging BlackRock’s employees.

In addition, BlackRock believes that developing strong leaders is a driver of the firm’s success. Select employees are invited to participate in leadership programs to help accelerate their growth, which include executive coaching, in-person and virtual learning, and senior management sponsorship.

## REGULATION

Virtually all aspects of BlackRock’s business are subject to various laws and regulations around the world, some of which are summarized below. These laws and regulations are primarily intended to protect investment advisory clients, investors in registered and unregistered investment companies, and trust and other fiduciary clients of BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A. (“BTC”). Under these laws and regulations, agencies that regulate investment advisers, investment funds and trust banks and other individuals and entities have broad administrative powers, including the power to limit, restrict or prohibit the regulated entity or person from carrying on business if it fails to comply with such laws and regulations. Possible sanctions for significant compliance failures include the suspension of individual employees, limitations on engaging in certain lines of business for specified periods of time, revocation of investment adviser and other registrations or bank charters, censures and fines both for individuals and BlackRock.

The rules governing the regulation of financial institutions and their holding companies and subsidiaries are very detailed and technical. Accordingly, the discussion below is general in nature, does not purport to be complete and is current only as of the date of this report.

## GLOBAL REGULATORY REFORM

BlackRock’s business may be impacted by numerous regulatory reform initiatives occurring around the world. Any such initiative, or any new laws or regulations or changes to, or in the enforcement of, existing laws or regulations, could materially and adversely impact the scope or profitability of BlackRock’s business activities, lead to business disruptions, require BlackRock to alter its

business or operating activities and expose BlackRock to additional costs (including compliance and legal costs) as well as reputational harm. BlackRock's profitability also could be materially and adversely affected by modification of the rules and regulations that impact the business and financial communities in general, including changes to the laws governing banking, taxation, antitrust regulation and electronic commerce.

#### *Systemically Important Financial Institution ("SIFI") Review*

The Financial Stability Oversight Council ("FSOC") has the authority to designate nonbank financial institutions as SIFIs in the United States under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 ("Dodd-Frank"). In July 2014, the FSOC pivoted from its previous entity-specific approach to designation and indicated that it would focus on a products and activities-based approach to designation in connection with addressing potential risks in the financial system related to asset management. In December 2019, the FSOC re-affirmed this approach when it voted to change its methodology for assessing financial stability to a products and activities-based approach. This reduces the risk of entity-level designation, however it remains too early to predict the direction of the forthcoming regulatory environment and the FSOC retains the authority to designate an entity if an activities-based approach does not adequately address potential risks. In the event that BlackRock is designated as a SIFI, it could become subject to enhanced regulatory requirements and direct supervision by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve (the "Federal Reserve").

#### *Federal Trade Commission Proposal*

In September 2020, the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing updates to premerger notification rules enacted under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 ("HSR") that require parties to certain transactions to provide the FTC and the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice prior notice and observe a waiting period before consummation of such transactions. The proposals would: (i) require that investors aggregate holdings in an issuer across all associated funds when assessing HSR filing and exemption thresholds and (ii) create a new exemption for acquisitions resulting in aggregate holdings of up to 10% of an issuer, which would be unavailable to investors holding interests of more than 1% in competing firms. If enacted as drafted, the proposal requiring aggregation across associated funds could, absent exemptions for index-funds or certain types of registered funds, substantially increase BlackRock's pre-merger notification obligations, which may be costly, impair funds' ability to trade freely, require the implementation of monitoring tools and introduce additional compliance burdens for both BlackRock and the companies in which it invests. In instances where making a pre-merger notification may not be practicable, the proposed changes may serve to limit the size of BlackRock's aggregate position in certain issuers.

#### *Taxation*

BlackRock's businesses may be directly or indirectly affected by tax legislation and regulation, or the modification of existing tax laws, by US or non-US tax

authorities. In the US, legislation at both the federal and state level has been previously proposed to enact a financial transaction tax ("FTT") on stocks, bonds and a broad range of financial instruments and derivative transactions. In the European Union ("EU"), certain Member States have also enacted similar FTTs and the European Commission ("EC") has proposed legislation to harmonize these taxes and provide for the adoption of EU-level legislation applicable to some (but not all) EU Member States. If enacted as proposed, FTTs could have an adverse effect on BlackRock's financial results and clients' performance results.

The application of tax regulations involves numerous uncertainties and, in the normal course of business, US and non-US tax authorities may review and challenge tax positions adopted by BlackRock. These challenges may result in adjustments to, or impact the timing or amount of, taxable income, deductions or other tax allocations, which may adversely affect BlackRock's effective tax rate and overall financial condition. Similarly, the Company manages assets in products and accounts that have investment objectives which may conform to tax positions adopted by BlackRock or to specific tax rules. To the extent there are changes in tax law or policy, or regulatory challenges to tax positions adopted by BlackRock, the value or attractiveness of such investments may be diminished and BlackRock may suffer financial or reputational harm.

#### *Regulation of Swaps and Derivatives*

The Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), Federal Reserve, the Internal Revenue Service and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") each continue to review practices and regulations relating to the use of futures, swaps and other derivatives. Such reviews could result in regulations that restrict or limit the use of such products by funds or accounts. If adopted, any such limitations or restrictions could require BlackRock to change certain business practices or implement new compliance processes, which could result in additional costs and/or restrictions.

In October 2020, the SEC adopted new regulations governing the use of derivatives by registered investment companies ("RICs"), including mutual funds (other than money market funds), ETFs and closed-end funds, as well as business development companies. RICs will be required to implement and comply with the new rule by the third quarter of 2022. Once implemented, the rule will, among other things, impose limits on the amount of derivatives transactions a RIC can enter into, eliminate the current asset segregation compliance framework and introduce new compliance requirements for funds, including the establishment of comprehensive risk management programs. The rule may impact certain RICs' usage of derivatives and investment strategy.

Jurisdictions outside the US in which BlackRock operates have adopted and implemented, or are in the process of considering, adopting or implementing, more pervasive regulation of many elements of the financial services industry, which could further impact BlackRock and the broader markets. For example, various global rules and regulations applicable to the use of financial products by funds, accounts and counterparties that have been adopted or proposed will require BlackRock to build and

implement new compliance monitoring procedures to address the enhanced level of oversight to which it and its clients will be subject. These rules impose requirements such as mandatory central clearing of certain swaps transactions, requiring execution of certain swaps transactions on or through registered electronic trading venues (as opposed to over the phone or other execution methods), reporting transactions to central data repositories, mandating certain documentation standards, requiring the posting and collection of initial and/or variation margin for bilateral swap transactions and subjecting certain types of listed and/or over-the-counter transactions to position limit or position reporting requirements.

In the US, certain interest rate swaps and certain index credit default swaps are subject to Dodd-Frank central clearing and trading venue execution requirements, with additional products and asset classes potentially becoming subject to these requirements in the future. In the EU, central clearing and trading venue requirements for certain swap transactions have become effective for certain types of BlackRock funds and accounts. On March 1, 2017, most derivatives transactions that are not centrally cleared, including non-deliverable foreign exchange forward transactions and currency option transactions, became subject to requirements in the US, EU and numerous other jurisdictions to post or collect mark-to-market margin payments. For certain BlackRock funds and accounts, initial margin requirements may apply in the future in addition to such mark-to-market margin payments. These rules and regulations have the potential to increase the complexity and cost of trading non-cleared derivatives for BlackRock's clients, and may produce regulatory inconsistencies in global derivatives trading rules and increase BlackRock's operational and legal risks.

#### *Regulation of Exchange-Traded Funds*

As part of a focus on financial stability issues and due to the significant growth of this product class over the last few years, regulators globally are examining the implications of an increased presence of ETFs in the markets, including those related to transparency, liquidity and structural resiliency. BlackRock and other sponsors of ETFs are working with market participants and regulators to address certain of these issues but there can be no assurance that structural or regulatory reforms will be implemented in a manner favorable to BlackRock, or at all. Depending on the outcome of this renewed regulatory analysis, or any associated structural reforms, ETF products may become subject to increased regulatory scrutiny or restrictions, which may require BlackRock to incur additional compliance and reporting expenses and adversely affect the Company's business.

#### *Regulation of Money Market Funds*

In October 2016, rules were implemented to reform the regulatory structure governing US money market funds to address perceived systemic risks of money market funds. The rules require institutional prime and institutional municipal money market funds to employ a floating net asset value per share method of pricing, which allows the daily share prices of these funds to fluctuate along with changes in the market-based value of fund assets. Retail money market funds continue operating with a constant

net asset value per share. The rules additionally provide for tools for institutional and retail money market funds' boards designed to address market shocks, including the ability to impose liquidity fees and redemption gates under certain circumstances.

In addition, following market liquidity issues that arose in March 2020 in connection with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, regulatory authorities are focused on the need for further regulation for certain money market funds. In December 2020, the President's Working Group on Financial Markets issued a report outlining ten potential policy measures for consideration to improve the resiliency of money market funds and the broader short-term funding markets. Although it remains too early to accurately predict the forthcoming regulatory environment, including with respect to regulation of money market funds, certain of these reforms, if ever adopted, could significantly impact money market funds and the money market fund industry.

#### *Standards of Conduct Rulemaking*

In June 2019, the SEC adopted a package of rulemakings and interpretations addressing investment adviser and broker-dealer standards of conduct. The package includes new rules requiring registered advisers and registered broker-dealers to provide a relationship summary to retail investors, a new rule establishing a standard of conduct for broker-dealers when making recommendations to retail customers and two new interpretations under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (the "Advisers Act"). These rulemakings and interpretations could increase BlackRock's disclosure obligations, impact distribution arrangements between BlackRock and its distribution partners, create compliance and operational challenges for BlackRock's distribution partners and limit BlackRock's ability to provide certain other services to its clients.

#### *Securities and Exchange Commission Rulemakings for US Registered Funds and Investment Advisers*

BlackRock's business may also be impacted by SEC regulatory initiatives. The SEC and its staff recently have engaged in various initiatives and reviews that seek to improve and modernize the regulatory structure governing the asset management industry, and registered investment companies in particular. These efforts relate to, among other things, embedded leverage through the use of derivatives and other trading practices, cybersecurity, liquidity, enhanced regulatory and public reporting requirements and the evaluation of systemic risks. Over the past year, the SEC has adopted rules that include among other things: (i) a new regulatory framework for fund of funds structures; and (ii) updated eligibility requirements for submitting shareholder proposals under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). These rules, and any additional rules or regulatory initiatives resulting from the SEC's efforts, may increase BlackRock's regulatory compliance requirements as well as disclosure requirements, which could be costly and may impede BlackRock's growth.

#### *Financial Crimes Enforcement Network Proposed Rulemaking for Registered Investment Advisers*

In 2015, the Financial Crime Enforcement Network ("FinCEN") issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking



“Proposed Rule”) that would extend to a number of BlackRock’s subsidiaries, which are registered or required to be registered as investment advisers with the SEC under the Advisers Act, the requirement to establish written risk-based anti-money laundering programs and report suspicious activity to FinCEN under the Bank Secrecy Act of 1970 (the “Bank Secrecy Act”). The Proposed Rule would include investment advisers within the Bank Secrecy Act’s definition of “financial institutions”, which would require them to comply with the Bank Secrecy Act reporting and recordkeeping requirements. If adopted in its current form, the Proposed Rule would expose BlackRock to additional compliance costs.

#### *British Exit from the EU*

On December 31, 2020, the United Kingdom (“UK”) left the EU, and the UK and EU reverted to being distinct regulatory, legal and customs territories. Although an “EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement” was agreed to in connection with the UK’s departure from the EU, it does not include any substantive provisions with respect to financial services. As a result, from January 1, 2021, cross-border financial services trade between the UK and the EU will be governed by their respective financial services regulations and market access regimes. BlackRock has implemented a number of steps to prepare for this outcome. These steps, which are and have been time consuming and costly and may add complexity to BlackRock’s future European operations, include effecting organizational, governance and operational changes, applying for and receiving additional licenses and permissions in the EU, and engaging in client communications. In addition, depending on how the future relationship between the UK and the EU develops, BlackRock may experience further organizational and operational challenges and incur additional costs in connection with its European operations, particularly with regards to delegation and outsourcing, which may impede the Company’s growth or impact its financial performance.

#### *UK Overseas Funds Regime*

As part of its post-EU membership regulatory review, the Financial Conduct Authority (“FCA”) is reviewing the requirements it will impose on EU-domiciled funds offered into the UK. Any new requirements could introduce cost and complexity to BlackRock’s cross-border business model.

#### *Enhanced Regulatory Scrutiny of Technology Service Providers to Financial Services Firms*

There has been growing regulatory scrutiny of technology service providers on which financial services firms are reliant, including the Digital Operational Resilience Act (“DORA”), which was proposed by the EC in September 2020 and focuses on direct regulation of providers and users of technology- and data services. If enacted as proposed, DORA may, among other things: (i) introduce additional governance, risk management, incident reporting, testing and information sharing requirements to a number of BlackRock’s European entities and certain *Aladdin* clients; and (ii) subject *Aladdin* to broad additional oversight. Separately, in November 2020, the Financial Stability Board (“FSB”) released a Consultation on Regulatory and Supervisory Issues Relating to

Outsourcing and Third-Party Relationships, which explores direct supervision of technology service providers to financial services firms, in addition to detailing concerns around the potential for systemic risk in the provision of such services.

#### *Reform of Investment Markets*

BlackRock is subject to numerous regulatory reform initiatives that may affect the Company’s provision of investment services globally. In Europe, the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (“MiFID”) governing the provision of investment services has been revised and is accompanied by an associated Regulation (together with certain secondary regulation, “MiFID II”). The Regulation’s requirements generally apply consistently across the EU. The MiFID II reforms, which came into force in January 2018, were substantive, materially changing market transparency requirements, enhancing protections afforded to investors, and increasing operational complexity for the Company. Forthcoming proposals to review the operation of MiFID II and to develop a new EU Retail Investment Strategy may affect the European market structure and impact BlackRock’s ability to operate in European markets. The broad nature of the MiFID II means future reforms could also affect product development, client servicing and distribution models. Similar reforms have been introduced in Switzerland and Australia.

#### *Macroprudential Policies for Asset Managers*

Certain policymakers continue to raise long-standing concerns about liquidity and leverage risks in the asset management industry and wider market-based finance sector. The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened concerns and prompted a broad review of existing financial market regulations by international standard setters and regulators across the Americas, Europe and Asia, including an assessment of the adequacy of certain structural components of current markets in mitigating risks. In the event that either the longer-standing concerns or recent broad review result in regulatory or policy action, macroprudential tools may begin to apply to open-ended investment funds broadly. BlackRock may also be required to make changes to structural features of certain open-ended investment funds. Either eventuality could limit BlackRock’s ability to offer products to certain clients and/or result in clients altering their investment strategies or allocations in a manner that is adverse to BlackRock.

#### *Revised Capital Requirements for Investment Firms*

In December 2017, the EC published a proposal for a new Directive and Regulation on prudential requirements for MiFID investment firms. The proposal passed the EU legislative process and the final texts of the Regulation and Directive were published in December 2019. The new legislative package, which comes into effect in 2021, will result in changes to the amount of regulatory capital BlackRock is required to hold in the EU and how such capital is calculated, as well as introduce revised disclosure obligations for large investment firms. The UK is also proposing the adoption of comparable rules, which will apply to UK-based investment firms from 2022.

#### *EU Market Access*

The EC and certain EU Member States have recently advanced a more restrictive approach to the need for a third country (i.e. non-EU country) to obtain “equivalence,” which is the process by which the legal, regulatory, and/or supervisory system in non-EU Member States is recognised by the EC as comparably effective to that in the EU, thereby allowing firms established in such non-EU Member States a degree of access to the EU single market in financial services. In addition, in 2019, the EC commenced a review of the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (“AIFMD”) to assess, among other things, the conditions for delegating portfolio management mandates to third countries, the effectiveness of regulation on third country fund marketing passports and the continuation of national private placement regimes. To the extent the review results in formal legislation that limits the scope of existing permitted activities and EU market access rights for asset management firms with non-EU operations, or extends more stringent rules to the Directive on Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (“UCITS”), BlackRock’s ability to offer collective investment funds and certain investment services to EU-based clients may be adversely affected.

#### *Senior Managers and Certification Regime (“SMCR”)*

In the UK, the FCA extended the SMCR to all financial services firms in December 2019. The regime imposes greater accountability and responsibility across the senior management of UK financial services firms by making individuals in impacted firms more accountable for conduct and competence. SMCR impacts nearly all staff of the Company in the UK, and requires extensive documentation to support senior managers and evidence the discharge of their responsibilities.

#### *UK Asset Management Market Study*

The FCA has adopted requirements for UK fund managers to assess whether the retail collective investments they manage offer “value” to investors. In 2020, the Company initiated the provision of an annual assessment based upon various factors including cost, performance and comparable services. If “value” has not been provided to consumers, the Company will need to address any identified deficiencies. The FCA also requested that the UK’s Competition and Markets Authority (“CMA”) assess the investment consultant and fiduciary markets. The CMA’s final report identified a number of competition issues in such markets and the UK regulatory regime was revised in 2020 to introduce mandatory tendering of investment consultancy and fiduciary management services, and new standards of disclosure of fees and performance. The CMA’s remedies could have a significant impact on the Company’s ability to enter into fiduciary and investment management mandates with UK pension fund clients.

#### *Sustainability Regulation*

In 2018, EC introduced a number of regulatory proposals to underpin sustainable investment products; require disclosure of sustainability-related information by market participants, investments products, and issuers; and

require the integration of sustainability considerations into the investment and risk management processes of asset managers and other institutional investors. Rules arising from the reform proposals will take effect in March 2021. Regulators in Asia have been similarly focused on sustainability reform initiatives. In December 2020, the Monetary Authority of Singapore finalized its Guidelines on Environmental Risk Management for the asset management industry. The guidelines set forth enhanced environmental risk assessment, monitoring and oversight practices that certain funds registered or licensed in Singapore will be required to implement over an 18-month transition period. The Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission proposed similar enhancements to sustainability risk management practices and disclosure requirements for funds in a Consultation Paper it issued in October 2020.

#### *Securities Financing Transaction Regulation (“SFTR”)*

In November 2015, the EU introduced a regulation on the reporting and transparency of securities financing transactions and total return swaps. The SFTR aims to improve the transparency surrounding securities financing transactions and total return swaps by, among other things, requiring reporting of securities financing transactions to a trade repository and requiring disclosure of the use of securities financing transactions and total return swaps to investors. During 2020, additional obligations became effective under the SFTR that require BlackRock to submit additional transaction reports with substantive details of trading activity to authorities. Compliance with the SFTR may subject BlackRock to additional expenses and could lead to modifications in BlackRock’s securities financing transaction activities.

#### *Central Securities Depository Regulation (“CSDR”)*

A settlement discipline regime introduced by the CSDR will become effective in February 2022. The regime includes measures to address settlement failures including rules for trade allocation and confirmation processing, along with cash penalties for failed transactions and mandatory buy-in requirements. To the extent left unchanged by a review that is scheduled to take place during 2021, the regime will require BlackRock to introduce operational mechanisms to facilitate the mandatory buy-in of securities in instances where the seller fails to deliver securities in a timely manner which, if not complied with, may subject BlackRock to penalty.

#### *Cessation of LIBOR*

The FCA, which regulates the administrator of the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) has announced that it will no longer compel panel banks to submit rates for LIBOR after year-end 2021. As a result, sterling LIBOR and certain other indices which are utilized as benchmarks may no longer be published. The disappearance, or change in the manner of administration, of these benchmarks could result in adverse consequences to the return on, value of and market for any BlackRock investments in instruments and securities linked to such benchmarks. BlackRock may also face operational challenges adopting successor benchmarks.

## EXISTING US REGULATION – OVERVIEW

BlackRock and certain of its US subsidiaries are currently subject to extensive regulation, primarily at the federal level, by the SEC, the Department of Labor (“DoL”), the Federal Reserve, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (“OCC”), the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”), the National Futures Association (“NFA”), the FTC, the Department of Justice, the CFTC and other federal government agencies and regulatory bodies.

Certain of BlackRock’s US subsidiaries are also subject to various anti-terrorist financing, privacy, anti-money laundering and economic sanctions laws and regulations established by various agencies. In addition, the Advisers Act imposes numerous obligations on registered investment advisers such as BlackRock, including record-keeping, operational and marketing requirements, disclosure obligations and prohibitions on fraudulent activities. State level regulation through Attorneys General, Insurance Commissioners and other state level agencies also applies to certain BlackRock activities.

The Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “Investment Company Act”) imposes stringent governance, compliance, operational, disclosure and related obligations on registered investment companies and their investment advisers and distributors, such as BlackRock and its affiliates. The SEC is authorized to institute proceedings and impose sanctions for violations of the Advisers Act and the Investment Company Act, ranging from fines and censure to termination of an investment adviser’s registration. Investment advisers also are subject to certain state securities laws and regulations. Non-compliance with the Advisers Act, the Investment Company Act or other federal and state securities laws and regulations could result in investigations, sanctions, disgorgement, fines and reputational damage.

BlackRock’s trading and investment activities for client accounts are regulated under the Exchange Act, as well as the rules of various securities exchanges and self-regulatory organizations, including laws governing trading on inside information, market manipulation and a broad number of technical requirements (e.g., short sale limits, volume limitations and reporting obligations) and market regulation policies. Violation of any of these laws and regulations could result in fines or sanctions, as well as restrictions on BlackRock’s activities and damage to its reputation. Furthermore, Dodd-Frank requires one of BlackRock’s subsidiaries, BTC, to register as a municipal advisor (as that term is defined in the Exchange Act) with the SEC and Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (“MSRB”). The rules subject BTC to additional regulation by the SEC and MSRB.

BlackRock manages a variety of private pools of capital, including hedge funds, funds of hedge funds, private equity funds, collateralized debt obligations, collateralized loan obligations, real estate funds, collective trust funds, managed futures funds and hybrid funds. Congress, regulators, tax authorities and others continue to explore, on their own and in response to demands from the investment community and the public, increased regulation related to private pools of capital, including changes with respect to investor eligibility, certain limitations on trading activities, record-keeping and reporting, the scope of anti-fraud protections, safekeeping of client assets and a variety of other matters. BlackRock may be materially and adversely affected by new legislation, rule-making or changes in the

interpretation or enforcement of existing rules and regulations imposed by various regulators in this area.

Certain BlackRock subsidiaries are subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”), and to regulations promulgated thereunder by the DoL, insofar as they act as a “fiduciary” under ERISA with respect to benefit plan clients that are subject to ERISA. ERISA and applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code impose certain duties on persons who are fiduciaries under ERISA, prohibit certain transactions involving ERISA plan clients and impose excise taxes for violations of these prohibitions, mandate certain required periodic reporting and disclosures and require certain BlackRock entities to carry bonds insuring against losses caused by fraud or dishonesty. ERISA also imposes additional compliance, reporting and operational requirements on BlackRock that otherwise are not applicable to clients that are not subject to ERISA.

BlackRock has seven subsidiaries that are registered as commodity pool operators and/or commodity trading advisors with the CFTC and are members of the NFA. The CFTC and NFA each administer a comparable regulatory system covering futures contracts and various other financial instruments, including swaps as a result of Dodd-Frank, in which certain BlackRock clients may invest. In addition, two of BlackRock’s subsidiaries are registered with the SEC as broker-dealers and are member-firms of FINRA. Each broker-dealer has a membership agreement with FINRA that limits the scope of such broker-dealer’s permitted activities. One of the broker-dealers is also a member of the MSRB and is subject to MSRB rules.

In July 2020, BlackRock’s business activity in California that involves the processing of personal information became subject to the California Consumer Privacy Act (“CCPA”), which provides for enhanced consumer protections for California residents. The CCPA imposes obligations on BlackRock for the handling, disclosure and deletion of personal information for California residents. Any failure by BlackRock to comply with the CCPA may result in fines, heightened regulatory scrutiny and/or reputational harm.

### *US Banking Regulation*

One of BlackRock’s subsidiaries, BTC, is organized as a nationally-chartered limited purpose trust company that does not accept deposits or make commercial loans. Accordingly, BTC is examined and supervised by the OCC and is subject to various banking laws and regulations enforced by the OCC, such as laws and regulations governing capital adequacy, fiduciary activities, conflicts of interest, self-dealing, and the prevention of financial crime, including money laundering. BTC is also a member of the Federal Reserve System and is subject to various Federal Reserve regulations applicable to member institutions, such as regulations restricting transactions with affiliates. Many of these laws and regulations are meant for the protection of BTC and/or BTC’s customers rather than BlackRock, its affiliates or stockholders.

### *US Regulation of Securities Financing Transactions*

In its 2014 Annual Report, FSOC identified securities lending indemnification by asset managers who act as lending agents as a potential systemic risk that required further review and monitoring. The Federal Reserve is also considering whether to impose specific margin or minimum haircut requirements for securities financing transactions.

## EXISTING INTERNATIONAL REGULATION – OVERVIEW

BlackRock’s international operations are subject to the laws and regulations of a number of international jurisdictions, as well as oversight by numerous regulatory agencies and bodies in those jurisdictions. In some instances, these operations are also affected by US laws and regulations that have extra-territorial application.

Below is a summary of certain international regulatory standards to which BlackRock is subject. It is not meant to be comprehensive as there are parallel legal and regulatory arrangements in force in many jurisdictions where BlackRock’s subsidiaries conduct business.

Of note among the various other international regulations to which BlackRock is subject, are the extensive and complex regulatory reporting requirements that necessitate the monitoring and reporting of issuer exposure levels (thresholds) across the holdings of managed funds and accounts and those of the Company.

### *European Regulation*

The FCA currently regulates certain BlackRock subsidiaries in the UK. It is also responsible for the conduct of business regulation of the UK branches of certain of BlackRock’s US subsidiaries. In addition, the Prudential Regulation Authority (“PRA”) regulates one BlackRock UK insurance subsidiary. Authorization by the FCA and (where relevant) the PRA is required to conduct certain financial services-related business in the UK under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (the “FSMA”). The FCA’s rules adopted under the FSMA govern the majority of a firm’s capital resources requirements, senior management arrangements, conduct of business requirements, interaction with clients, and systems and controls, whereas the rules of the PRA focus solely on the prudential requirements that apply to BlackRock’s UK-based insurance subsidiary. The FCA supervises BlackRock’s UK-regulated subsidiaries through a combination of proactive engagement, event-driven and reactive supervision and theme-based reviews in order to monitor BlackRock’s compliance with regulatory requirements. Breaches of the FCA’s rules may result in a wide range of disciplinary actions against BlackRock’s UK-regulated subsidiaries and/or its employees.

In addition, BlackRock has regulated entities in France, Germany, Ireland, Jersey, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Each of these entities is required to comply with regulatory rules in the country in which it has been established, including the branches of the Netherlands entity which operate across the EU.

BlackRock’s EU-subsidiaries and branches must comply with the pan-European regulatory regime established by MiFID and its accompanying Regulation. BlackRock’s UK-regulated subsidiaries must comply with the UK version of MiFID II, which regulates the provision of investment services and activities in the UK. MiFID II, and the UK equivalent of MiFID II, sets out detailed requirements governing the organization and conduct of business of investment firms and regulated markets. The legislation also includes pre- and post-trade transparency requirements for equity and non-equity markets and extensive transaction reporting requirements. Certain BlackRock UK subsidiaries must also comply with the UK

regulation which implements the Consolidated Life Directive and Insurance Distribution Directive. In addition, relevant entities must comply with revised obligations on capital resources for banks and certain investment firms. These include requirements on capital, as well as matters of governance and remuneration. Relevant BlackRock entities must also comply with the requirements of the UCITS Directive and the AIFMD, as implemented in the relevant EU jurisdictions or in the UK, which impose obligations on the authorization and capital, conduct of business, organization, transparency and marketing of retail and alternative investment funds respectively that are sold in, or marketed to, the EU. The obligations introduced through these regulations and directives will affect certain of BlackRock’s European operations. Compliance with the UCITS Directives and the AIFMD may subject BlackRock to additional expenses associated with depositary oversight and other organizational requirements.

BlackRock’s European-regulated subsidiaries are also subject to the European Market Infrastructure Regulation (or the UK equivalent regulation in the case of BlackRock’s UK-regulated subsidiaries), an EU regulation governing derivatives, central counterparties and trade repositories, which requires (i) the central clearing of certain over-the-counter (“OTC”) derivatives; (ii) the application of risk-mitigation techniques to non-centrally cleared OTC derivatives (including the exchange of collateral with certain counterparties); and (iii) the reporting of all derivative contracts to an European Securities and Markets Authority (“ESMA”) registered or recognized derivatives trade repository (or a UK authorized trade repository in the case of the UK version of EMIR).

The EU has seen an increase in Common Supervisory Actions by ESMA to coordinate supervisory action by national EU regulators, most notably in areas such as product governance, liquidity management and fund costs and charges. BlackRock’s European operations may be affected to the extent this initiative results in formal legislation or action.

EU Member States and many other non-US jurisdictions have adopted statutes and/or regulations concerning privacy and data protection and requiring notification of data breaches. For example, in May 2018, the EU Data Protection Directive was replaced by a more extensive General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”). In addition, the UK incorporated GDPR into an equivalent UK law (“UK GDPR”) that became effective when it left the EU on January 1, 2021. GDPR and UK GDPR, as well as other statutes and/or regulations concerning data privacy and security, increase compliance obligations, affect BlackRock’s collection, processing and retention of personal data and reporting of data breaches, and provide for increased penalties for non-compliance.

### *Regulation in the Asia-Pacific Region*

In Japan, a BlackRock subsidiary is subject to the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act (“FIEA”) and the Act on Investment Trusts and Investment Corporations. These laws are administered and enforced by the Japanese Financial Services Agency (“JFSA”), which establishes standards for compliance, including capital adequacy and financial soundness requirements, customer protection requirements and conduct of business rules. The JFSA is empowered to conduct



administrative proceedings that can result in censure, fines, cease and desist orders or the suspension or revocation of registrations and licenses granted under the FIEA. This Japanese subsidiary also holds a license for real estate brokerage activities which subjects it to the regulations set forth in the Real Estate Brokerage Act.

In Australia, BlackRock’s subsidiaries are subject to various Australian federal and state laws, and certain subsidiaries are regulated by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (“ASIC”). ASIC regulates companies and financial services activities in Australia and is responsible for promoting investor, creditor and consumer protection.

The activities of certain BlackRock subsidiaries in Hong Kong are subject to the Securities and Futures Ordinance (“SFO”), which governs the securities and futures markets and regulates, among others, offers of investments to the public and provides for the licensing of intermediaries. The SFO is administered by the Securities and Futures Commission (“SFC”). The SFC is also empowered to establish standards for compliance as well as codes and guidelines. The relevant BlackRock subsidiaries and the employees conducting any of the regulated activities specified in the SFO are required to be licensed with the SFC, and are subject to the rules, codes and guidelines issued by the SFC. BlackRock’s operations in Taiwan are regulated by the Taiwan Financial Supervisory Commission, which is responsible for regulating securities markets (including the Taiwan Stock Exchange and the Taiwan Futures Exchange), the banking industry and the insurance sector.

BlackRock has obtained the approval from the China Securities Regulatory Commission for setting up a Fund Management Company (“FMC”) and approval from the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission for setting up a Wealth Management Joint Venture Company (“WMC”) with Temasek Holdings (Pte) Ltd and China Construction Bank Corp in China. BlackRock is preparing for the next stages of the regulatory license applications process prior to being issued with final regulatory approvals and the launch of its first investment products for both the FMC and WMC.

Other financial regulators oversee BlackRock subsidiaries, branches and representative offices across the Asia-Pacific region, including in Singapore and South Korea. Regulators in all of these jurisdictions have authority with respect to financial services including, among other things, the authority to grant, suspend or cancel required licenses or registrations. In addition, these regulators may subject certain BlackRock subsidiaries to net capital requirements.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

BlackRock files annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and all amendments to these reports and other information with the SEC. BlackRock makes available free-of-charge, on or through its website at <http://www.blackrock.com>, the Company’s Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, proxy statements and all amendments to those filings, as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with

or furnished to the SEC. The Company also makes available on its website the charters for the Audit Committee, Management Development and Compensation Committee, Nominating and Governance Committee and Risk Committee of the Board of Directors, its Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, its Code of Ethics for Chief Executive and Senior Financial Officers and its Corporate Governance Guidelines. Further, BlackRock will provide, without charge, upon written request, a copy of the Company’s Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, proxy statements and all amendments to those filings as well as the committee charters, its Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, its Code of Ethics for Chief Executive and Senior Financial Officers and its Corporate Governance Guidelines. Requests for copies should be addressed to Investor Relations, BlackRock, Inc., 55 East 52nd Street, New York, New York 10055. Reports, proxy statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC, including BlackRock’s filings, are also available to the public from the SEC’s website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

As a global investment management firm, risk is an inherent part of BlackRock’s business. Global markets, by their nature, are prone to uncertainty and subject participants to a variety of risks. While BlackRock devotes significant resources across all of its operations to identify, measure, monitor, manage and analyze market, operating, legal, compliance, reputational, fiduciary and investment risks, BlackRock’s business, financial condition, operating results and nonoperating results could be materially adversely affected and the Company’s stock price could decline as a result of any of these risks and uncertainties, including the ones discussed below.

MARKET AND COMPETITION RISKS

**Changes in the value levels of equity, debt, real assets, commodities, foreign exchange or other asset markets, as well as the impact of global trade policies and tariffs, may cause assets under management (“AUM”), revenue and earnings to decline.**

BlackRock’s investment management revenue is primarily comprised of fees based on a percentage of the value of AUM and, in some cases, performance fees which are normally expressed as a percentage of returns to the client. Numerous factors, including price movements in the equity, debt or currency markets, or in the price of real assets, commodities or alternative investments in which BlackRock invests, as well as the impact of global trade policies and tariffs, could cause:

- the value of AUM, or the returns BlackRock realizes on AUM, to decrease;
- the withdrawal of funds from BlackRock’s products in favor of products offered by competitors;
- the rebalancing or reallocating of assets into BlackRock products that yield lower fees;
- an impairment to the value of intangible assets and goodwill; or
- a decrease in the value of seed or co-investment capital.

The occurrence of any of these events may cause the Company’s AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

**Changes in interest or foreign exchange rates and/or divergent beta may cause BlackRock’s AUM and base fees to fluctuate and introduce volatility to the Company’s net income and operating cash flows.**

In recent years, there have been prolonged periods of historically low interest rates, interspersed with periods in which certain central banks globally began increasing rates. BlackRock’s business is directly and indirectly affected by changes in global interest rates. Similarly, due to the global nature of BlackRock’s operations, a portion of its business is conducted in currencies other than the US dollar. Any failure by BlackRock to manage movements in foreign exchange rates relative to the US dollar or its exposure to interest rates may cause BlackRock’s AUM to fluctuate and introduce volatility to the Company’s base fees, net income and operating cash flows.

In addition, beta divergence between equity markets, where certain markets perform differently than others, may lead to an increase in the proportion of BlackRock AUM weighted toward lower fee equity products, resulting in a decline in BlackRock’s effective fee rate. Divergent market factors may also erode the correlation between the growth rates of AUM and base fees.

**BlackRock’s investment advisory contracts may be terminated or may not be renewed by clients or fund boards on favorable terms and the liquidation of certain funds may be accelerated at the option of investors.**

BlackRock derives a substantial portion of its revenue from providing investment advisory services. The advisory or management contracts BlackRock has entered into with its clients, including the agreements that govern many of BlackRock’s investment funds, provide investors or, in some cases, the independent directors of applicable investment funds, with significant latitude to terminate such contracts, withdraw funds or liquidate funds by simple majority vote with limited notice or penalty, or to remove BlackRock as a fund’s investment advisor (or equivalent). BlackRock also manages its US mutual funds, closed-end and exchange-traded funds under management contracts that must be renewed and approved annually by the funds’ respective boards of directors, a majority of whom are independent from the Company. BlackRock’s fee arrangements under any of its advisory or management contracts may be reduced (including at the behest of a fund’s board of directors). In addition, if a number of BlackRock’s clients terminate their contracts, or otherwise remove BlackRock from its advisory roles, liquidate funds or fail to renew management contracts on favorable terms, the fees or carried interest BlackRock earns could be reduced, which may cause BlackRock’s AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

**The failure or negative performance of products offered by competitors may cause AUM in similar BlackRock products to decline irrespective of BlackRock’s performance.**

Many competitors offer similar products to those offered by BlackRock and the failure or negative performance of competitors’ products could lead to a loss of confidence in similar BlackRock products, irrespective of the performance of such products. Any loss of confidence in a product type could lead to withdrawals, redemptions and liquidity issues in such products, which may cause the Company’s AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

**Increased competition may cause BlackRock’s AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.**

The investment management industry is highly competitive and BlackRock competes based on a number of factors including: investment performance, its technology and portfolio construction offerings, the level of fees charged, the quality and breadth of services and products provided, name recognition and reputation, and its ability to develop new investment strategies and products to meet the changing needs of investors. In addition, over the past several years there has been significant consolidation in the asset management and financial services industries as investors increasingly seek out firms that have the capacity to deliver broad multi-asset investment capabilities and technological expertise, including in a manner that is responsive to ever more localized needs. This consolidation, together with the introduction of new technologies, as well as regulatory changes, continues to alter the competitive landscape for investment managers, which may lead to additional fee compression or require BlackRock to invest more to modify or adapt its product offerings to attract and retain customers and remain competitive with the products, services and geographic diversity offered by other financial institutions, technology companies, trading, advisory or asset management firms. Increased competition on the basis of any of these factors, including competition leading to fee reductions on existing or new business, may cause the Company’s AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

**Failure to maintain Aladdin’s competitive position in a dynamic market could lead to a loss of clients and could impede BlackRock’s productivity and growth.**

The sophisticated risk analytics, portfolio management, trade execution and investment operations that BlackRock provides via its technology platform to support investment advisory and *Aladdin* clients are important elements of BlackRock’s competitive success. *Aladdin*’s competitive position is based in part on its ability to combine risk analytics with portfolio management, trading and operations tools on a single platform. Increased competition from risk analytics and investment management technology providers, including as a result of growing industry consolidation giving rise to competitors with increasingly sophisticated and comprehensive product offerings, or a shift in client demand away to standalone or internally developed solutions, whether due to price competition, perceived client market share, platform flexibility or market-based or regulatory factors, may weaken *Aladdin*’s competitive position and may cause the Company’s revenue and earnings to decline. In addition, to the extent that *Aladdin* competitors are able to innovate more effectively than BlackRock or leverage delivery models that provide clients faster time to market, lower costs or the ability to more seamlessly combine or bundle with other service offerings, BlackRock may lose existing clients or fail to capture future market share, which may impede its productivity and growth. Moreover, although BlackRock takes steps to safeguard against infringements of its intellectual property, there can be no assurance that the Company will be able to effectively protect and enforce its intellectual property rights in *Aladdin*.

**BlackRock may be unable to develop new products and services and the development of new products and services may expose BlackRock to reputational harm, additional costs or operational risk.**

BlackRock's financial performance depends, in part, on its ability to react to changes in the asset management industry, respond to evolving client demands and develop, market and manage new investment products and services. Conversely, the development and introduction of new products and services, including the creation of products with a focus on environmental, social and governance matters, requires continued innovative effort on the part of BlackRock and may require significant time and resources as well as ongoing support and investment. Substantial risk and uncertainties are associated with the introduction of new products and services, including the implementation of new and appropriate operational controls and procedures, shifting client and market preferences, the introduction of competing products or services and compliance with regulatory requirements. There can be no assurance that BlackRock will be able to innovate effectively in order to develop new products or services that address the needs of its clients on the timescale they require. Any failure to develop new products and services, or successfully manage associated operational risks, could harm BlackRock's reputation and expose the Company to additional costs, which may cause its AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

**Changes in the value of seed and co-investments that BlackRock owns could affect its income and could increase the volatility of its earnings.**

At December 31, 2020, BlackRock's net economic investment exposure of approximately \$2.9 billion in its investments (see Item 7, *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Investments*) primarily resulted from co-investments and seed investments in its sponsored investment funds. Movements in the equity, debt or currency markets, or in the price of real assets, commodities or other alternative investments, could lower the value of these investments as well as other minority investments, increase the volatility of BlackRock's earnings and cause earnings to decline.

**BlackRock indemnifies certain securities lending clients for specified losses as a result of a borrower default.**

BlackRock provides borrower default indemnification to certain of its securities lending clients. In the event of a borrower default, BlackRock would use the collateral pledged by the borrower to repurchase securities out on loan in order to replace them in a client's account. Borrower default indemnification is limited to the shortfall that occurs in the event the collateral available at the time of the borrower's default is insufficient to repurchase those securities out on loan. BlackRock requires all borrowers to mark to market their pledged collateral daily to levels in excess of the value of the securities out on loan to mitigate the likelihood of the indemnity being triggered. Where the collateral is in the form of cash, the indemnities BlackRock provides do not guarantee, assume or otherwise insure the investment performance or return of any cash collateral vehicle into which that cash collateral is invested. The amount of securities on loan as of December 31, 2020 and subject to this type of

indemnification was \$270 billion. In the Company's capacity as lending agent, cash and securities totaling \$289 billion was held as collateral for indemnified securities on loan at December 31, 2020. Significant borrower defaults occurring simultaneously with rapid declines in the value of collateral pledged and/or increases in the value of the securities loaned may create collateral shortfalls, which could result in material liabilities under these indemnities and may cause the Company's revenue and earnings to decline.

**BlackRock's decision to provide support to particular products from time to time, or the inability to provide support, may cause AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.**

While not legally mandated, BlackRock may, at its option, from time to time choose to support investment products through capital or credit support for commercial or other reasons. Any decision by BlackRock to support products may utilize capital and liquidity that would otherwise be available for other corporate purposes. BlackRock's ability to support certain products may be restricted by regulation or by the Company's failure to have or make available sufficient capital or liquidity. Moreover, inherent constraints arising from the business models of certain asset managers, including BlackRock, may during periods of market volatility result in BlackRock having fewer options for accessing liquidity than asset managers with alternate business models, which may adversely impact its ability to support certain products. Any decision by BlackRock to support particular products, or the inability to provide such support, may result in losses, which may cause AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

**Increased geopolitical unrest and other events outside of BlackRock's control could adversely affect the global economy or specific international, regional and domestic markets, which may cause BlackRock's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.**

Geopolitical risks, including those arising from trade tension and/or the imposition of trade tariffs, European fragmentation, unrest in the Middle East and terrorist activity, as well as acts of civil or international hostility, are increasing. Similarly, other events outside of BlackRock's control, including natural disasters, pandemics (such as the COVID-19 pandemic) or health crises may arise from time to time and be accompanied by governmental actions that may increase international tension. Any such events, and responses thereto, may cause significant volatility and declines in the global markets, disruptions to commerce (including to economic activity, travel and supply chains), loss of life and property damage, and may adversely affect the global economy or capital markets, as well as the Company's products, clients, vendors and employees, which may cause BlackRock's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline. BlackRock's exposure to geopolitical risks may be heightened to the extent such risks arise in countries in which BlackRock currently operates or is seeking to expand its presence.

## RISKS RELATED TO INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

**Poor investment performance could lead to the loss of clients and may cause AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.**

The Company's management believes that investment performance, including the efficient delivery of beta, is one of the most important factors for the growth and retention of AUM. Poor investment performance relative to applicable portfolio benchmarks, aggregate fee levels or competitors may cause AUM, revenue and earnings to decline as a result of:

- client withdrawals in favor of better performing products offered by competitors;
- client shifts to products that charge lower fees;
- the diminishing ability to attract additional funds from existing and new clients;
- reduced, minimal or no performance fees;
- an impairment to the value of intangible assets and goodwill; or
- a decrease in the valuations of seed and co-investment capital.

**Performance fees may increase volatility of both revenue and earnings.**

A portion of BlackRock's revenue is derived from performance fees on investment advisory assignments. Performance fees represented \$1.1 billion, or 7%, of total revenue for the year ended December 31, 2020. Generally, the Company is entitled to a performance fee only if the agreement under which it is managing the assets provides for one and if returns on the related portfolio exceed agreed-upon periodic or cumulative return targets. If these targets are not exceeded, a performance fee for that period will not be earned and, if targets are based on cumulative returns, the Company may not earn performance fees in future periods. The volatility of the Company's future revenue and earnings may also be affected due to illiquid alternatives becoming an increasing component of the overall composition of the Company's performance fee generating assets. In particular, as BlackRock takes on more advisory assignments for illiquid investments, performance fees will generally be recognized over substantially longer multi-year periods than those associated with more liquid products.

**Failure to identify errors in the quantitative models BlackRock utilizes to manage its business could adversely affect product performance and client relationships.**

BlackRock employs various quantitative models to support its investment processes, including those related to risk assessment, portfolio management, trading and hedging activities and product valuations. Any errors in the underlying models or model assumptions, as well as any failure of BlackRock's governance, approval, testing and validation standards in respect of such models or model assumptions, could have unanticipated and adverse consequences on BlackRock's business and reputation.

## RISKS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**The COVID-19 pandemic may adversely affect BlackRock's business, operations and financial condition which may cause its AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused and is causing significant harm to the global economy and may adversely affect BlackRock's business, including its operations and financial condition, and may cause the Company's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to result in governmental authorities taking numerous measures to contain the spread and impact of COVID-19, such as travel bans and restrictions, quarantines, shelter in place orders, and limitations on business activity, including closures. These measures may continue to, among other things, severely restrict global economic activity, which can disrupt supply chains, lower asset valuations, significantly increase unemployment and underemployment levels, decrease liquidity in markets for certain securities and cause significant volatility and disruption in the financial markets.

Towards the end of the first quarter of 2020 the pandemic began to impact BlackRock's business. While global markets have significantly recovered since then, the effects of the pandemic are ongoing, and such impact may continue in future quarters if conditions persist or worsen. Should current economic conditions persist or deteriorate, there may be an ongoing adverse effect on BlackRock's business, including its operations and financial condition, as a result of, among other things:

- reduced AUM, resulting in lower base fees, as well as a reduction in the value of BlackRock's investment portfolio, including its coinvestments and seed investments in sponsored investment funds;
- lower alpha generation which may adversely affect future organic growth and BlackRock's ability to generate performance fees;
- reduced client and prospective client demand for BlackRock products and services and/or changing client risk preferences which may adversely affect future organic growth;
- a decline in technology revenue growth as a result of extended sales cycles and longer implementation periods as clients work remotely;
- negative impact of the pandemic on BlackRock's clients, and key vendors (such as pricing providers), market participants and other third-parties with whom it does business;
- the negative operational effects of an extended remote working environment, including strain on *Aladdin* and/or BlackRock's other internal and external technology resources leveraged at the firm, as well as the potential for heightened operational risks, such as cybersecurity and fraud risks;
- the possibility that prolonged periods away from physical office locations and daily in-person interactions with colleagues may cause members of BlackRock's workforce to become disconnected with corporate culture and policies, which may increase operational issues arising from human error and/or individual attempts to circumvent controls due to distractions, fatigue or a lack of oversight; and



- the disruption to BlackRock’s workforce due to illness and health concerns, potential limitations of its remote work environment (including any complications associated with hiring and onboarding new employees remotely), and government-imposed restrictions, laws and regulations.

The aggregate extent to which COVID-19, and the related global economic crisis, affect BlackRock’s business, results of operations and financial condition, will depend on future developments that are highly uncertain and cannot be predicted, including the scope and duration of the pandemic and any recovery period, future actions taken by governmental authorities, central banks and other third parties (including new financial regulation and other regulatory reform) in response to the pandemic, and the effects on BlackRock’s products, clients, vendors and employees and may exacerbate the other risks described herein.

## TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATIONAL RISKS

***A failure in, or disruption to, BlackRock’s operational systems or infrastructure, including business continuity plans, could adversely affect operations, damage the Company’s reputation and cause BlackRock’s AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.***

BlackRock’s infrastructure, including its technological capacity, data centers and office space, is vital to the competitiveness of its business. Moreover, a significant portion of BlackRock’s critical business operations are concentrated in a limited number of geographic areas, including San Francisco, New York, London, Budapest, Atlanta and Gurgaon. The failure to maintain an infrastructure commensurate with the size and scope of BlackRock’s business, or the occurrence of a business outage or event outside BlackRock’s control, including a major earthquake, hurricane, fire, terrorist act, pandemic (such as the COVID-19 pandemic), health crisis or other catastrophic event, or the actions of individuals or groups seeking to disrupt BlackRock’s operations in any location at which BlackRock maintains a major presence, could materially impact operations, result in disruption to the business or impede its growth.

In addition, despite BlackRock’s efforts to ensure business continuity, if it fails to keep business continuity plans up-to-date or if such plans, including secure back-up facilities and systems and the availability of back-up employees, are improperly implemented or deployed during a disruption, the Company’s ability to operate could be adversely impacted which may cause AUM, revenue and earnings to decline or impact the Company’s ability to comply with regulatory obligations leading to reputational harm, regulatory fines and/or sanctions.

***A cyber-attack or a failure to implement effective information and cybersecurity policies, procedures and capabilities could disrupt operations and lead to financial losses and reputational harm, which may cause BlackRock’s AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.***

BlackRock is dependent on the effectiveness of the information and cybersecurity policies, procedures and capabilities it maintains to protect its computer and telecommunications systems and the data that resides on or is transmitted through them. An externally caused information security incident, such as a cyber-attack

including a phishing scam, business email compromise, malware, or denial-of-service or ransomware attack, or an internally caused incident, such as failure to control access to sensitive systems, could materially interrupt business operations or cause disclosure or modification of sensitive or confidential client or competitive information. Moreover, developments in BlackRock’s use of process automation, as well as the increased use of remote access by employees and mobile and cloud technologies, could heighten these and other operational risks, as certain aspects of the security of such technologies may be complex, unpredictable or beyond BlackRock’s control. BlackRock’s growing exposure to the public Internet, as well as reliance on mobile or cloud technology or any failure by mobile technology and cloud service providers to adequately safeguard their systems and prevent cyber-attacks, could disrupt BlackRock’s operations and result in misappropriation, corruption or loss of personal, confidential or proprietary information. In addition, there is a risk that encryption and other protective measures may be circumvented, particularly to the extent that new computing technologies increase the speed and computing power available.

There have been a number of recent highly publicized cases involving financial services and consumer-based companies reporting the unauthorized disclosure of client or customer information and the unauthorized transfer of customer funds, as well as cyber-attacks involving the dissemination, theft and destruction of corporate information or other assets, as a result of failure to follow procedures by employees or contractors or as a result of actions by third parties, including nation state actors and terrorist organizations. BlackRock has been the target of attempted cyber-attacks, as well as the co-opting of its brand, and must monitor and develop its systems to protect its technology infrastructure and data from misappropriation or corruption, as the failure to do so could disrupt BlackRock’s operations and cause financial losses. Although BlackRock has implemented policies and controls, and takes protective measures involving significant expense, to strengthen its computer systems, processes, software, technology assets and networks to prevent and address potential data breaches, inadvertent disclosures, increasingly sophisticated cyber-attacks and cyber-related fraud, there can be no assurance that any of these measures prove effective. Moreover, due to the complexity and interconnectedness of BlackRock’s systems, the process of upgrading or patching the Company’s protective measures could itself create a risk of security issues or system disruptions for the Company, as well as for clients who rely upon, or have exposure to, BlackRock’s systems.

In addition, due to BlackRock’s interconnectivity with third-party vendors, advisors, central agents, exchanges, clearing houses and other financial institutions, BlackRock may be adversely affected if any of them is subject to a successful cyber-attack or other information security event, including those arising due to the use of mobile technology or a third-party cloud environment. BlackRock also routinely transmits and receives personal, confidential or proprietary information by email and other electronic means. The Company collaborates with clients, vendors and other third parties to develop secure transmission capabilities and protect against cyber-attacks. However, BlackRock cannot ensure that it or such third parties have all appropriate controls in place to protect the confidentiality of such information.

Any information security incident or cyber-attack against BlackRock or third parties with whom it is connected, including any interception, mishandling or misuse of personal, confidential or proprietary information, could result in material financial loss, loss of competitive position, regulatory fines and/or sanctions, breach of client contracts, reputational harm or legal liability, which, in turn, may cause BlackRock’s AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

***Failure or unavailability of third-party dependencies may adversely affect Aladdin operations, which could cause reputational harm, lead to a loss of clients and impede BlackRock’s productivity and growth.***

BlackRock must maintain effective infrastructure, including a robust and secure technological framework, in order to maximize the benefit of the *Aladdin* platform. In so doing, it relies in part on certain third-party service providers. For example, *Aladdin*’s data architecture depends on third-party providers of technology solutions, including the ability of such parties to scale and perform in response to *Aladdin*’s growth. In addition, the analytical capabilities of *Aladdin* depend on the ability of a number of third parties to provide data and other information as inputs into *Aladdin*’s analytical calculations. Although BlackRock has implemented internal controls and procedures, and maintains a robust vendor management program designed to perform diligence and monitor third parties that support the *Aladdin* platform, there can be no assurance that these measures will prove effective. Any failure by third parties to maintain infrastructure that is commensurate with *Aladdin*’s size and growth, or provide the data or information required to support its varying capabilities, could compromise *Aladdin*’s resilience, result in operational difficulties, cause reputational harm and adversely impact BlackRock’s ability to provide services to its investment advisory and *Aladdin* clients.

***Continuing enhancements to Aladdin’s capabilities, as well as the expansion of the Aladdin platform into new markets and geographies, have led to significant growth in Aladdin’s processing scale, which may expose BlackRock to reputational harm, increased regulatory scrutiny and heightened operational, data management, cyber- and information-security risks.***

The operation of BlackRock’s *Aladdin* platform routinely involves updating existing capabilities, configuration change management, developing, testing and rolling out new functionalities and expanding coverage into new markets and geographies, including in connection with inorganic transactions or to address client or regulatory requirements. These updates and expansion initiatives, which have led to significant growth in *Aladdin*’s processing scale, frequently occur on accelerated time frames and may expose BlackRock to additional cyber- and information-security risks, as well as increased execution, operational and data management risks. If BlackRock is unable to manage the pace of, or provide the operational resiliency and stability for, the expansion of *Aladdin* and associated growth of its processing scale, BlackRock may experience client attrition, reduced business, reputational harm or regulatory fines and/or sanctions, which may cause BlackRock’s AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

In addition, the highly regulated business activities of many *Aladdin* clients may expose BlackRock to heightened

regulatory scrutiny. For example, the changing political and regulatory environment in certain jurisdictions in which *Aladdin* clients are based has required BlackRock to open new data centers in those jurisdictions in order to host client data in the client’s home location. Operating new data centers in foreign jurisdictions may expose BlackRock to increased operational complexity, as well as additional regulatory risks associated with the compliance requirements of such jurisdictions.

***Failure to maintain adequate corporate and contingent liquidity may cause BlackRock’s AUM, liquidity and earnings to decline, as well as harm its prospects for growth.***

BlackRock’s ability to meet anticipated cash needs depends upon a number of factors, including its creditworthiness and ability to generate operating cash flows. In addition, while BlackRock, Inc. is not subject to regulatory capital or liquidity requirements, certain of its subsidiaries are subject to regulatory capital and liquidity frameworks as well as certain other prudential requirements and standards, which require them to maintain certain levels of capital and liquidity. Failure to maintain adequate liquidity could lead to unanticipated costs and force BlackRock to revise existing strategic and business initiatives. BlackRock’s access to equity and debt markets and its ability to issue public or private debt, or secure lines of credit or commercial paper back-up lines, on reasonable terms may be limited by adverse market conditions, a reduction in its long- or short-term credit ratings, or changes in government regulations, including tax and interest rates. Failure to obtain funds and/or financing, or any adverse change to the cost of obtaining such funds and/or financing, may cause BlackRock’s AUM, liquidity and earnings to decline, curtail its operations and limit or impede its prospects for growth.

***Operating risks associated with BlackRock’s securities lending program may result in client losses.***

BlackRock lends securities to banks and broker-dealers on behalf of certain of its clients. In these securities lending transactions, the borrower is required to provide and maintain collateral at or above regulatory minimums. Securities on loan are marked to market daily to determine if the borrower is required to pledge additional collateral. BlackRock must manage this process and is charged with mitigating the associated operational risks. The failure of BlackRock’s controls to mitigate such operational risks could result in financial losses for the Company’s clients that participate in its securities lending programs (separate from the risks of collateral investments), and BlackRock may be held liable for any failure to manage such risks.

***Inorganic transactions may harm the Company’s competitive or financial position if they are not successful.***

BlackRock employs a variety of organic and inorganic strategies intended to enhance earnings, increase product offerings, deliver whole-portfolio solutions, access new clients, leverage advances in technology and expand into new geographies. Inorganic strategies have included hiring smaller-sized investment teams, making minority investments in early- to mid-stage technological and other ventures, entering into strategic joint ventures and acquiring investment management and technology

businesses. Inorganic transactions involve a number of financial, accounting, tax, regulatory, geographical and operational challenges and uncertainties, including in some cases the assumption of pre-existing liabilities, which must be managed in order for BlackRock to realize the benefit of such transactions. The success of BlackRock's inorganic strategy also depends in large part on its ability to integrate the workforce, operations, strategies, technologies and other components of a target business following the completion of an acquisition. BlackRock may be required to commit significant management time, as well as create new, or grow existing, operational and support functions, to facilitate the integration of acquired businesses, manage combined future growth and maintain a cohesive corporate culture. There can be no assurance that BlackRock will be able to successfully integrate acquired businesses, retain associated talent, scale support functions or realize other intended benefits of its inorganic strategy. Moreover, the challenges associated with BlackRock's inorganic strategy may be heightened when inorganic transactions are in new geographic locations, involve new markets, products or business lines or are delivered via technology that differs from that employed by BlackRock. In addition, in the case of minority investments and joint ventures, BlackRock may be subject to risks due to reputational harm, liability or loss resulting from, or relating to operating systems, risk management controls, and employees that are outside of BlackRock's control. Any failure to identify and mitigate the risks associated with acquisitions, joint ventures or minority investments through due diligence, indemnification provisions and/or operational expertise, or to manage the integration of acquisitions effectively, could have an adverse effect on BlackRock's reputation or cause its AUM, revenue and earnings to decline, which may harm the Company's competitive position in the investment management industry.

***Client investments in real assets, such as real estate, infrastructure and energy assets, may expose BlackRock and its funds and accounts to new or increased risks and liabilities, as well as reputational harm.***

BlackRock makes investments on behalf of its clients in real assets, including real estate, infrastructure and energy assets, that may expose BlackRock and its funds and accounts to increased risks and liabilities that are inherent in the ownership and management of such assets. These may include:

- construction risks, including as a result of force majeure, labor disputes or work stoppages, shortages of material or interruptions to the availability of necessary equipment;
- accidents, pandemics (such as the COVID-19 pandemic), health crises or catastrophic events, such as explosions, fires or terrorist activity beyond BlackRock's control;
- risks associated with global climate change, including the greater frequency or intensity of adverse weather and natural disasters;
- personal injury or property damage;
- failures on the part of third-party managers or sub-contractors appointed in connection with

investments or projects to adequately perform their contractual duties or operate in accordance with applicable laws;

- exposure to stringent and complex foreign, federal, state and local laws, ordinances and regulations, including those related to financial crime, permits, government contracting, conservation, exploration and production, tenancy, occupational health and safety, foreign investment and environmental protection;
- environmental hazards, such as natural gas leaks, product and waste spills, pipeline and tank ruptures, and unauthorized discharges of products, wastes and other pollutants;
- changes to the supply and demand for properties and/or tenancies or fluctuations in the price of commodities;
- the financial resources of tenants; and
- contingent liabilities on disposition of assets.

The above risks may expose BlackRock's funds and accounts to additional expenses and liabilities, including costs associated with delays or remediation costs, and increased legal or regulatory costs, all of which could impact the returns earned by BlackRock's clients. These risks could also result in direct liability for BlackRock by exposing BlackRock to losses, regulatory sanction or litigation, including claims for compensatory or punitive damages. Similarly, market conditions may change during the course of developments or projects in which BlackRock invests that make such development or project less attractive than at the time it was commenced and potentially harm the investment returns of BlackRock's clients. The occurrence of any such events may expose BlackRock to reputational harm, divert management's attention away from BlackRock's other business activities or cause its AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

***Operating in international markets increases BlackRock's operational, political, regulatory and other risks.***

As a result of BlackRock's extensive international operations, the Company faces associated operational, regulatory, reputational, political and foreign exchange rate risks, many of which are outside of the Company's control. Operating outside the United States ("US") may also expose BlackRock to increased compliance risks, as well as higher compliance costs to comply with US and non-US anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and sanctions laws and regulations. Similarly, certain jurisdictions in which BlackRock operates may not have comparable levels of protection for corporate assets, such as intellectual property, and client information and records, as the US. As a result, there may also be heightened information security or privacy risks in those jurisdictions. Any theft of data, technology or intellectual property may negatively impact BlackRock's business operations and reputation. The failure of the Company's systems of internal control to mitigate such risks, or of its operating infrastructure to support its global activities, could result in operational failures and regulatory fines and/or sanctions, which may cause the Company's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

## RISKS RELATED TO HUMAN CAPITAL

***The potential for human error in connection with BlackRock's operational systems could disrupt operations, cause losses, lead to regulatory fines or damage the Company's reputation and may cause BlackRock's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.***

Many of BlackRock's operations are highly complex and are dependent on the Company's ability to process and monitor a large number of transactions, many of which occur across numerous markets and currencies at high volumes and frequencies. Although BlackRock expends considerable resources on systemic controls, supervision, technology and training in an effort to ensure that such transactions do not violate client guidelines and applicable rules and regulations or adversely affect clients, counterparties or the Company, BlackRock's operations are dependent on its employees. From time-to-time, employees make mistakes that are not always immediately detected by systems, controls, policies and procedures intended to prevent and detect such errors. These can include calculation errors, errors in software implementation or development, failure to ensure data security, follow processes, patch systems or report issues, or errors in judgment. Human errors, even if promptly discovered and remediated, may disrupt operations or result in regulatory fines and/or sanctions, breach of client contracts, reputational harm or legal liability, which, in turn, may cause BlackRock's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

***Fraud, the circumvention of controls or the violation of risk management and workplace policies could have an adverse effect on BlackRock's reputation, which may cause the Company's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.***

BlackRock seeks to foster a positive workplace culture, has adopted a comprehensive risk management process and continues to enhance various controls, procedures, policies and systems to monitor and manage risks. Notwithstanding these measures, BlackRock cannot ensure that its workplace culture or such controls, procedures, policies and systems will successfully identify and manage internal and external risks and BlackRock employees have in the past engaged in improper conduct. In addition, BlackRock is subject to the risk that its employees, contractors or other third parties may in the future deliberately or recklessly seek to circumvent established controls to commit fraud, pay or solicit bribes or otherwise act in ways that are inconsistent with the Company's controls, policies, procedures, workplace culture or principles. This risk may be heightened as BlackRock expands into new markets and increases the breadth of its business offerings, both of which introduce additional complexity to its risk management program. Persistent attempts to circumvent policies and controls or repeated incidents involving fraud, conflicts of interests or transgressions of policies and controls could have an adverse effect on BlackRock's reputation, cause adverse publicity, and result in litigation, regulatory inquiries, fines and/or sanctions, which may cause the Company's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

***The failure to recruit and retain employees and develop and implement effective executive succession could lead to the loss of clients and may cause AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.***

BlackRock's success is largely dependent on the talents and efforts of its highly skilled workforce and the Company's ability to plan for the future long-term growth of the business by identifying and developing those employees who can ultimately transition into key roles within BlackRock. The global market for qualified fund managers, investment analysts, technology and risk specialists and other professionals is competitive, and factors that affect BlackRock's ability to attract and retain such employees include the Company's reputation and workplace culture, the immigration policies in the jurisdictions in which BlackRock has offices, the compensation and benefits it provides, and its commitment to effectively managing executive succession, including the development and training of qualified individuals.

In addition, a percentage of the deferred compensation that BlackRock pays to its employees is tied to the Company's share price. As such, if BlackRock's share price were to decrease, the retention value of such deferred compensation would decrease. There can be no assurance that the Company will continue to be successful in its efforts to recruit and retain employees and effectively manage executive succession. If BlackRock is unable to offer competitive compensation or otherwise attract and retain talented individuals, or if it fails to effectively manage executive succession, the Company's ability to compete effectively and retain its existing clients may be materially impacted.

## RISKS RELATED TO KEY THIRD-PARTY RELATIONSHIPS

***The impairment or failure of third parties may negatively impact the performance of products and accounts that BlackRock manages, which may cause BlackRock's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.***

BlackRock's investment management activities expose the products and accounts it manages for its clients to many different industries and counterparties, including distributors, brokers and dealers, commercial and investment banks, clearing organizations, mutual and hedge funds, and other institutional clients. Transactions with counterparties expose BlackRock's clients to credit risk in the event the applicable counterparty defaults. Although BlackRock maintains a robust vendor management program and regularly assesses risks posed by its counterparties, such counterparties may be subject to sudden swings in the financial and credit markets that may impair their ability to perform or they may fail to meet their obligations. Counterparties may also experience lapses in their internal controls or risk management systems or expose BlackRock and/or its clients to losses on account of employee malfeasance, negligence or human error. In addition, the concentration of certain financial institutions that BlackRock uses to facilitate securities and derivatives transactions for its clients, including clearing organizations, exchanges and central agents, increases the risk that a technical or operational issue at, or default by, one such institution could introduce operational issues or delays impacting multiple BlackRock clients. Any such operational issue, impairment or failure



could negatively impact the performance of products or accounts that BlackRock manages for its clients, which may lead to client attrition and, in turn, cause BlackRock's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

***The failure of a key vendor to BlackRock to fulfill its obligations or a failure by BlackRock to maintain its relationships with key vendors could have a material adverse effect on BlackRock's growth, reputation or business, which may cause the Company's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.***

BlackRock depends on a number of key vendors for various fund administration, accounting, custody, market data, market indices, technology and transfer agent roles and other distribution and operational needs. BlackRock relies upon a relatively concentrated group of third-party index providers to deliver services that are integral to its clients' investment decisions. The index provider industry is characterized by large vendors and the use of long-term contracts remains the market standard. This industry structure may limit BlackRock's ability to renegotiate its index provider contracts on favorable terms or at all. While BlackRock performs focused diligence on its vendors in an effort to ensure they operate in accordance with expectations, to the extent any significant deficiencies are uncovered, there may be few, or no, alternative vendors available. Moreover, in situations where BlackRock has limited access to alternative vendors, or where the nature of BlackRock's arrangement with a vendor requires a long term-commitment, BlackRock may be dependent on such vendor for continuous operational reliability and may be unable to avoid incurring costs if such vendor introduces required upgrades to its services.

BlackRock may from time to time transfer key contracts from one vendor to another. Key contract transfers may be costly and complex, and expose BlackRock to heightened operational risks. Any failure to mitigate such risks could result in reputational harm, as well as financial losses to BlackRock and its clients. The failure or inability of BlackRock to diversify its sources for key services or the failure of any key vendor to fulfill its obligations could result in activities inconsistent with clients' investment management or other agreements, have an adverse financial impact on BlackRock products or lead to operational and regulatory issues for the Company, which could result in reputational harm or legal liability, fines and/or sanctions and may cause BlackRock's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

***Any disruption to the Company's distribution channels may cause BlackRock's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.***

BlackRock relies on a number of third parties to provide distribution, portfolio administration and servicing for certain BlackRock investment management products and services through their various distribution channels. BlackRock's ability to maintain strong relationships with its distributors may impact the Company's future performance, and its relationships with distributors are subject to periodic renegotiation that may result in increased distribution costs and/or reductions in the amount of BlackRock products and services being marketed or distributed. Moreover, new fiduciary regulations could lead to significant shifts in distributors' business models and more limited product offerings,

potentially resulting in reduced distribution and/or marketing of certain of the Company's products and services and fee compression. If BlackRock is unable to distribute its products and services successfully or if it is unable to replace or renew existing distribution arrangements, BlackRock's AUM, revenue and earnings may decline. In addition, improper activities, as well as inadequate anti-money laundering diligence conducted by third-party distributors, could create reputational and regulatory harm to BlackRock.

***Key technology partnerships may expose BlackRock to increased regulatory oversight, as well as migration, execution, technology and operational risks.***

In April 2020, BlackRock announced a strategic partnership to host *Aladdin* infrastructure on the Microsoft Azure cloud and commenced a multi-year plan to migrate the *Aladdin* environments for BlackRock and its external *Aladdin* clients to the cloud. The benefits of a cloud-based platform are significant and BlackRock has adopted a robust risk-based approach to its migration strategy; however the partnership also introduces new risks, including: (i) risks associated with relying on a third-party for aspects of the reliability and stability of *Aladdin's* infrastructure; (ii) software and information security risks arising from the use of cloud technology; (iii) operational and execution risks, including those related to migration; and (iv) risks related to increased regulatory oversight and new compliance obligations. Any failure by BlackRock to manage these risks, and/or risks associated with future potential technology partnerships, may result in escalating costs, financial loss, client dissatisfaction or attrition, regulatory fines and/or sanctions, reputational harm or legal liability, which, in turn, may cause BlackRock's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

***Disruption to the operations of third parties whose functions are integral to BlackRock's Exchange-Traded Fund ("ETF") platform may adversely affect the prices at which ETFs trade, particularly during periods of market volatility.***

BlackRock is the largest provider of ETFs globally. Shares of ETFs trade on stock exchanges at prices at, above or below the ETF's most recent net asset value ("NAV"). The NAV of an ETF is calculated at the end of each business day and fluctuates with changes in the market value of the ETF's holdings. The trading price of the ETF's shares fluctuates continuously throughout trading hours. The creation/redemption feature and arbitrage mechanism of an ETF are designed to make it more likely that the ETF's shares normally will trade at prices close to the NAV. Notwithstanding these features, exchange prices have in the past deviated measurably from the NAV of certain ETFs and may under certain circumstances do so in the future. ETF market prices are subject to numerous potential risks, including trading halts invoked by a stock exchange, and the inability or unwillingness of market makers, authorized participants, settlement systems or other market participants to perform functions necessary for an ETF's arbitrage mechanism to function effectively. These risks may be heightened as a result of significant market volatility, the accelerating growth of the ETF industry combined with increased market activity, as well as the complexity associated with the growing demand for product customization. Although certain structural improvements have contributed to the increasing

resilience, stability and transparency of ETF markets, including during periods of volatility, and despite BlackRock's continuing work with regulators and other third parties to implement additional ETF reforms, there can be no assurance that any such reforms will be implemented in a timely or effective fashion, or at all. Moreover, if market events lead to incidences where ETFs trade at prices that deviate meaningfully from an ETF's NAV, or trading halts are invoked by the relevant stock exchange or market, investors may lose confidence in ETF products and redeem their holdings, which may cause BlackRock's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

## LEGAL, REGULATORY AND REPUTATIONAL RISKS

***BlackRock is subject to extensive regulation around the world.***

BlackRock's business is subject to extensive regulation around the world. These regulations subject BlackRock's business activities to an array of increasingly detailed operational requirements, compliance with which is costly and complex. In addition, many of BlackRock's legal entities may be subject to laws and regulations aimed at preventing corruption, money laundering, inappropriate employment practices, illegal payments and engaging in business activities with certain individuals, countries or groups, including but not limited to the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the USA PATRIOT Act, the Bank Secrecy Act, the UK Bribery Act, sanctions imposed by the US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, the United Nations and the European Union ("EU") and its member states, as well as those imposed by other countries in which BlackRock operates, such as Her Majesty's Treasury's Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation. BlackRock is also subject to certain risk retention rules and regulation, as well as regulatory capital requirements, which require the Company to maintain capital to support certain of its businesses. Furthermore, many jurisdictions in which BlackRock operates have laws and regulations relating to data privacy, cybersecurity and protection of personal information, including the General Data Protection Regulation, which expands data protection rules for individuals within the EU and for personal data exported outside the EU. BlackRock is additionally subject to scrutiny from various government agencies that focus on antitrust and competition laws and regulations within the US and internationally, including in connection with merger control proceedings and proposed investments. Any determination of a failure to comply with any such laws or regulations could result in fines and/or sanctions against the Company, as well as reputational harm. Moreover, to the extent that these laws and regulations become more stringent, or if BlackRock is required to hold increased levels of capital to support its businesses, the Company's financial performance or plans for growth may be adversely impacted.

BlackRock may also be adversely affected by a failure to comply with existing laws and regulations or by changes in the interpretation or enforcement of such laws and regulations, including those discussed above. Challenges associated with interpreting regulations issued in numerous countries in a globally consistent manner may add to such risks, if regulators in different jurisdictions have inconsistent views or provide only limited regulatory guidance. In particular, violation of applicable laws or

regulations could result in fines and/or sanctions, temporary or permanent prohibition of certain activities, reputational harm and related client terminations, suspensions of employees or revocation of their licenses, suspension or termination of investment adviser, broker-dealer or other registrations, or suspension or termination of BlackRock's bank charter or other sanctions, which could have a material adverse effect on BlackRock's reputation or business and may cause the Company's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline. For a more extensive discussion of the laws, regulations and regulators to which BlackRock is subject and regulated by, see Item 1, *Business – Regulation*.

***Regulatory reforms in the United States expose BlackRock to increasing regulatory scrutiny, as well as regulatory uncertainty.***

In recent years a number of regulatory reforms have been proposed or fully or partially implemented in the United States, and the level of regulatory scrutiny to which BlackRock is subject has increased. BlackRock, as well as its clients, vendors and distributors, have expended resources and altered certain of their business or operating activities to prepare for, address and meet the requirements that such regulatory reforms impose. While BlackRock is, or may become, subject to numerous reform initiatives in the United States, see Item 1, *Business – Regulation*, key regulatory reforms that may impact the Company include:

- ***Designation as a systemically important financial institution ("SIFI"):*** The Financial Stability Oversight Council ("FSOC") has the authority to designate nonbank financial institutions as SIFIs in the United States under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. In July 2014, the FSOC pivoted from its previous entity-specific approach to designation and indicated that it would focus on a products and activities-based approach to designation in connection with addressing potential risks in the financial system related to asset management. In December 2019, the FSOC re-affirmed this approach when it voted to change its methodology for assessing financial stability to a products and activities-based approach. This reduces the risk of an entity-level designation, however it remains too early to predict the direction of the forthcoming regulatory environment and the FSOC retains the authority to designate an entity if an activities-based approach does not adequately address potential risks. In the event that BlackRock is designated as a SIFI, it could become subject to enhanced regulatory requirements and direct supervision by the Federal Reserve.
- ***Federal Trade Commission Proposal:*** In September 2020, the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing updates to premerger notification rules enacted under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 ("HSR") that require parties to certain transactions to provide the FTC and the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice prior notice and observe a waiting period before consummation of such transactions. The proposals would: (i) require that investors aggregate holdings in an issuer across all associated funds when assessing HSR filing and exemption thresholds and (ii) create a new exemption

for acquisitions resulting in aggregate holdings of up to 10% of an issuer, which would be unavailable to investors holding interests of more than 1% in competing firms. If enacted as drafted, the proposal requiring aggregation across associated funds could, absent exemptions for index-funds or certain types of registered funds, substantially increase BlackRock's pre-merger notification obligations, which may be costly, impair funds' ability to trade freely, require the implementation of monitoring tools and introduce additional compliance burdens for both BlackRock and the companies in which it invests. In instances where making a pre-merger notification may not be practicable, the proposed changes may serve to limit the size of BlackRock's aggregate position in certain issuers.

- **Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") Rulemakings for US Registered Funds and Investment Advisers:** The SEC and its staff recently have engaged in various initiatives and reviews that seek to improve and modernize the regulatory structure governing the asset management industry, and registered investment companies in particular. These efforts relate to, among other things, embedded leverage through the use of derivatives and other trading practices, cybersecurity, liquidity, enhanced regulatory and public reporting requirements and the evaluation of systemic risks. Over the past year, the SEC has adopted rules that include among other things: (i) the regulation of the use of derivatives; (ii) a new regulatory framework for fund of funds structures; and (iii) updated eligibility requirements for submitting shareholder proposals under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These rules, and any additional rules or regulatory initiatives resulting from the SEC's efforts, may increase BlackRock's regulatory compliance requirements as well as disclosure requirements, which could be costly and may impede BlackRock's growth.
- **Standards of Conduct Rulemaking:** In June 2019, the SEC adopted a package of rulemakings and interpretations addressing investment adviser and broker-dealer standards of conduct. The package included new rules requiring registered advisers and registered broker-dealers to provide a relationship summary to retail investors, a new rule establishing a standard of conduct for broker-dealers when making recommendations to retail customers, and two new interpretations under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. These rulemakings and interpretations could increase BlackRock's disclosure obligations, impact distribution arrangements between BlackRock and its distribution partners, create compliance and operational challenges for BlackRock's distribution partners and limit BlackRock's ability to provide certain other services to its clients.
- **Money Market Reform:** Following market liquidity issues that arose in March 2020 in connection with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, regulatory authorities are focused on the need for further regulation for certain money market funds. In December 2020, the President's Working Group on Financial Markets issued a report outlining ten potential policy measures for consideration to improve the resiliency of money market funds and the broader short-term funding markets. Although it

remains too early to accurately predict the forthcoming regulatory environment, including with respect to regulation of money market funds, certain of these reforms, if ever adopted, could significantly impact money market funds and the money market fund industry.

Regulatory reforms in the United States could require BlackRock to alter its future business or operating activities, which could be costly, impede the Company's growth and cause its AUM, revenue and earnings to decline. Regulatory reform may also impact BlackRock's banking, insurance company and pension fund clients, which could cause them to change their investment strategies or allocations in manners that may be adverse to BlackRock.

***International regulatory reforms expose BlackRock and its clients to increasing regulatory scrutiny, as well as regulatory uncertainty.***

BlackRock's business and operating activities are subject to increasing regulatory oversight outside of the United States and the Company may be affected by a number of proposed or fully or partially implemented reform initiatives in EMEA and the Asia-Pacific region, as well as volatility associated with international regulatory uncertainty, including:

- **British Exit from the EU:** On December 31, 2020, the United Kingdom ("UK") left the EU, and the UK and EU reverted to being distinct regulatory, legal and customs territories. Although an "EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement" was agreed to in connection with the UK's departure from the EU, it does not include any substantive provisions with respect to financial services. As a result, from January 1, 2021, cross-border financial services trade between the UK and the EU will be governed by their respective financial services regulations and market access regimes. BlackRock has implemented a number of steps to prepare for this outcome. These steps, which are and have been time consuming and costly and may add complexity to BlackRock's future European operations, include effecting organizational, governance and operational changes, applying for and receiving additional licenses and permissions in the EU, and engaging in client communications. In addition, depending on how the future relationship between the UK and the EU develops, BlackRock may experience further organizational and operational challenges and incur additional costs in connection with its European operations, particularly with regards to delegation and outsourcing, which may impede the Company's growth or impact its financial performance.
- **UK Overseas Funds Regime:** As part of its post-EU membership regulatory review, the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") is reviewing the requirements it will impose on EU-domiciled funds offered into the UK. Any new requirements could introduce cost and complexity to BlackRock's cross-border business model.
- **Enhanced regulatory scrutiny of technology service providers to financial services firms:** There has been growing regulatory scrutiny of technology service providers on which financial services firms are reliant, including the Digital Operational Resilience Act

("DORA"), which was proposed by the EC in September 2020 and focuses on direct regulation of providers and users of technology and data services. If enacted as proposed, DORA may, among other things: (i) introduce additional governance, risk management, incident reporting, testing and information sharing requirements to a number of BlackRock's European entities and certain *Aladdin* clients; and (ii) subject *Aladdin* to broad additional oversight. Separately, in November 2020, the Financial Stability Board released a Consultation on Regulatory and Supervisory Issues Relating to Outsourcing and Third-Party Relationships, which explores direct supervision of technology service providers to financial services firms, in addition to detailing concerns around the potential for systemic risk in the provision of such services.

- **Macroprudential policies for asset managers:** Certain policymakers continue to raise long-standing concerns about liquidity and leverage risks in the asset management industry and wider market-based finance sector. The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened concerns and prompted a broad review of existing financial market regulations by international standard setters and regulators across the Americas, Europe and Asia, including an assessment of the adequacy of certain structural components of current markets in mitigating risks. In the event that either the longer-standing concerns or recent broad review result in regulatory or policy action, macroprudential tools may begin to apply to open-ended investment funds broadly. BlackRock may also be required to make changes to structural features of certain open-ended investment funds. Either eventuality could limit BlackRock's ability to offer products to certain clients and/or result in clients altering their investment strategies or allocations in a manner that is adverse to BlackRock.
- **Revised capital requirements for investment firms:** In December 2017, the European Commission ("EC") published a proposal for a new Directive and Regulation on prudential requirements for Markets in Financial Instruments Directive investment firms. The proposal passed the EU legislative process and the final texts of the Regulation and Directive were published in December 2019. The new legislative package, which comes into effect in 2021, will result in changes to the amount of regulatory capital BlackRock is required to hold in the EU and how such capital is calculated, as well as introduce revised disclosure obligations for large investment firms. The UK is also proposing the adoption of comparable rules, which will apply to UK-based investment firms from 2022.
- **EU market access:** In 2019, the EC commenced a review of the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive to assess, among other things, the conditions for delegating portfolio management mandates to third countries, the effectiveness of regulation on third country fund marketing passports and the continuation of national private placement regimes. To the extent the review results in formal legislation that limits the scope of existing permitted activities and EU market access rights for asset management firms with non-EU operations, or extends more stringent rules to the Directive on

Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities ("UCITS"), BlackRock's ability to offer collective investment funds and certain investment services to EU-based clients may be adversely affected.

- **Senior Managers and Certification Regime:** In the UK, the FCA extended the Senior Managers and Certification Regime ("SMCR") to all financial services firms in December 2019. The regime imposes greater accountability and responsibility across the senior management of UK financial services firms by making individuals in impacted firms more accountable for conduct and competence. SMCR impacts nearly all staff of the Company in the UK, and requires extensive documentation to support senior managers and evidence the discharge of their responsibilities.
- **UK asset management market study:** The FCA has adopted requirements for UK fund managers to assess whether the retail collective investments they manage offer "value" to investors. In 2020, the Company initiated the provision of an annual assessment based upon various factors including cost, performance and comparable services. If "value" has not been provided to consumers, the Company will need to address any identified deficiencies. The FCA also requested that the UK's Competition and Markets Authority ("CMA") assess the investment consultant and fiduciary markets. The CMA's final report identified a number of competition issues in such markets and the UK regulatory regime was revised in 2020 to introduce mandatory tendering of investment consultancy and fiduciary management services, and new standards of disclosure of fees and performance. The CMA's remedies could have a significant impact on the Company's ability to enter into fiduciary and investment management mandates with UK pension fund clients.
- **Sustainability Regulation:** In 2018, the EC introduced a number of regulatory proposals to underpin sustainable investment products; require disclosure of sustainability-related information by market participants, investments products, and issuers; and require the integration of sustainability considerations into the investment and risk management processes of asset managers and other institutional investors. Rules arising from the reform proposals will take effect in March 2021. Regulators in Asia have been similarly focused on sustainability reform initiatives. In December 2020, the Monetary Authority of Singapore finalized its Guidelines on Environmental Risk Management for the asset management industry. The guidelines set forth enhanced environmental risk assessment, monitoring and oversight practices that certain funds registered or licensed in Singapore will be required to implement over an 18-month transition period. The Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission proposed similar enhancements to sustainability risk management practices and disclosure requirements for funds in a Consultation Paper it issued in October 2020.
- **Securities Financing Transaction Regulation ("SFTFTR"):** In November 2015, the EU introduced a regulation on the reporting and transparency of securities financing transactions and total return swaps. The SFTFTR aims to improve the transparency surrounding securities financing transactions and total return swaps by,



among other things, requiring reporting of securities financing transactions to a trade repository and requiring disclosure of the use of securities financing transactions and total return swaps to investors. During 2020, additional obligations became effective under the SFTR that require BlackRock to submit additional transaction reports with substantive details of trading activity to authorities. Compliance with the SFTR may subject BlackRock to additional expenses and could lead to modifications in BlackRock's securities financing transaction activities.

- **Central Securities Depository Regulation:** A settlement discipline regime introduced by the Central Securities Depository Regulation will become effective in February 2022. The regime includes measures to address settlement failures including rules for trade allocation and confirmation processing, along with cash penalties for failed transactions and mandatory buy-in requirements. To the extent left unchanged by a review that is scheduled to take place during 2021, the regime will require BlackRock to introduce operational mechanisms to facilitate the mandatory buy-in of securities in instances where the seller fails to deliver securities in a timely manner which, if not complied with, may subject BlackRock to penalty.

International regulatory reforms could require BlackRock to alter its future business or operating activities, which could be time-consuming and costly, impede the Company's growth and cause its AUM, revenue and earnings to decline. Regulatory reform may also impact BlackRock's internationally-based clients, which could cause them to change their investment strategies or allocations in manners that may be adverse to BlackRock.

**Legal proceedings may cause the Company's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.**

BlackRock is subject to a number of sources of potential legal liability and the Company, certain of the investment funds it manages and certain of its subsidiaries and employees have been named as defendants in various legal actions, including arbitrations, class actions and other litigation arising in connection with BlackRock's activities. Certain of BlackRock's subsidiaries and employees are also subject to periodic examination, special inquiries and potential proceedings by regulatory authorities, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency ("OCC"), Department of Labor, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Financial Conduct Authority, Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier and Federal Reserve. Similarly, from time to time, BlackRock receives subpoenas or other requests for information from various US and non-US governmental and regulatory authorities in connection with certain industry-wide, company-specific or other investigations, proceedings or litigations. These examinations, inquiries and proceedings have in the past and could in the future, if compliance failures or other violations are found, cause the relevant governmental or regulatory authority to institute proceedings and/or impose sanctions for violations. Any such action may also result in litigation by investors in BlackRock's funds, other BlackRock clients or BlackRock's shareholders, which could harm the Company's reputation and may cause its AUM, revenue and earnings to decline, potentially harm the investment returns of the applicable fund, or result in the Company being liable for damages.

In addition, when clients retain BlackRock to manage their assets or provide them with products or services, they typically specify contractual requirements or guidelines that BlackRock must observe in the provision of its services. A failure to comply with these guidelines or requirements could expose BlackRock to lawsuits, harm its reputation or cause clients to withdraw assets or terminate contracts.

**Damage to BlackRock's reputation may harm its business.**

BlackRock's reputation is critical to its relationships with its clients, employees, shareholders and business partners. BlackRock's reputation may be harmed by, among other factors, regulatory or enforcement actions, technology or operational failures, poor investment performance, ineffective management or monitoring of key third-party relationships, cyber-security or other privacy incidents, employee errors or misconduct, a failure to manage environmental, social, and governance risks, or a failure to manage conflicts of interest. In addition, BlackRock's business, scale and investments subject it to significant media coverage and increasing attention from a broad range of stakeholders. This heightened scrutiny has resulted in negative publicity for BlackRock in the past and may do so in the future. In addition, the increasing popularity of social media and non-mainstream Internet news sources may lead to faster and wider dissemination of any adverse publicity or inaccurate information about BlackRock, making effective remediation more difficult. Damage to BlackRock's reputation may impact BlackRock's ability to attract and retain clients, employees, shareholders and business partners, which may cause its AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

**A failure to effectively manage potential conflicts of interest could result in litigation or enforcement actions and/or adversely affect BlackRock's business and reputation, which may cause BlackRock's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.**

As a global investment management firm that provides investment and technology services to a diverse range of clients, the Company must routinely address and manage conflicts of interest, as well as the perception of conflicts of interest, between itself and its clients, employees or vendors. While BlackRock has policies, controls and disclosure protocols in place to manage and address potential conflicts of interest, identifying and mitigating conflicts of interest can be complex and is the subject of increasing regulatory and media scrutiny. It is possible that actual, potential or perceived conflicts could give rise to investor or client dissatisfaction, adverse publicity, litigation or enforcement actions. In particular, BlackRock's broad range of investment, advisory and technology offerings, and its focus on providing clients with whole portfolio solutions, may result in clients working with multiple BlackRock businesses and/or BlackRock being engaged by institutions that have a nexus to industries or jurisdictions in which BlackRock operates, which may increase the potential for actual or perceived conflicts of interest and improper information sharing. To the extent that BlackRock fails, or appears to fail, to deal appropriately with any conflict of interest, it may face adverse publicity, reputational damage, litigation, regulatory proceedings, client attrition, penalties, fines and/or sanctions, any of which may cause BlackRock's AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

**BlackRock is subject to US banking regulations that may limit its business activities.**

BlackRock's trust bank subsidiary, which is a national banking association chartered by the OCC, is subject to OCC regulation and capital requirements. The OCC has broad supervisory and enforcement authority over BlackRock's trust bank. Being subject to banking regulation may put BlackRock at a competitive disadvantage because certain of its competitors are not subject to these limitations.

**The implications of complying with threshold limits and/or any failure to comply with ownership reporting requirements could result in harm to BlackRock's reputation, impact the performance of certain BlackRock funds and may cause its AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.**

Of note among the various international regulations to which BlackRock is subject are the extensive and increasingly stringent regulatory reporting requirements that necessitate the monitoring and reporting of issuer exposure levels (thresholds) across the holdings of managed funds and accounts and those of the Company. The specific triggers and the reporting methods that these threshold filings entail vary significantly by regulator and across jurisdictions. BlackRock continues to invest in technology, training and its employees to further enhance its monitoring and reporting functions. Despite these investments, the complexity of the various threshold reporting requirements combined with the breadth of the assets managed by the Company and high volume of securities trading have caused errors and omissions to occur in the past, and pose a risk that errors or omissions may occur in the future. Any such errors may expose BlackRock to monetary penalties or other sanctions, which could have an adverse effect on BlackRock's reputation and may cause its AUM, revenue and earnings to decline.

Moreover, as BlackRock's business grows it is becoming subject to a greater number of regulatory, industry-level or issuer-specific threshold limits that may prevent BlackRock from holding positions in certain equity securities, securities convertible into equity securities or futures contracts in excess of certain thresholds. Although BlackRock is actively engaged in regulatory, issuer-specific and structural initiatives to create additional investment capacity, threshold limits may nonetheless prevent the purchase of certain securities which may, in turn, impact the performance of certain BlackRock index funds by increasing tracking error relative to the funds' benchmarks and impact the performance of certain BlackRock actively managed funds by preventing them from taking advantage of alpha generating opportunities.

**BlackRock has been the subject of commentary citing concerns about index investing and common ownership.**

As a leader in the index investing and asset management industry, BlackRock has been the subject of commentary citing concerns about the growth of index investing, as well as perceived competition issues associated with asset managers managing stakes in multiple companies within certain industries, known as "common ownership". The commentators argue that index funds have the potential to distort investment flows, create stock price bubbles, or conversely, exacerbate a decline in market prices. Additional commentary focuses on competition issues

associated with common ownership and purports to link aggregated equity positions in certain concentrated industries with higher consumer prices and executive compensation, among other things. In the US, the FTC during 2018 held hearings on Competition and Consumer Protection in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, which included a discussion of common ownership, and in 2020, common ownership was cited as a disqualifying factor in a newly proposed exemption from the FTC's pre-merger notification rules. Common ownership was also cited as a consideration underlying the FTC's consultation on the rules that apply to acquisitions of voting securities by investment entities. Although the FTC acknowledged that the common ownership debate remains unsettled, it is expected that common ownership may be given greater consideration in connection with FTC rule proposals, policy decisions and/or the scrutiny of mergers. In the EU, both the EC and the European Parliament released reports in 2020 on common ownership. Neither report took a position that common ownership had an adverse impact on competition. It is expected that common ownership will continue to be a focus for the EC, among others, including in the assessment of mergers and investigations. There is substantial literature highlighting the benefits of index investing, as well as casting doubt on the assumptions, data, methodology and conclusions associated with common ownership arguments. Nevertheless, some commentators have proposed remedies, including limits on stakes managed by asset managers that, if enacted into policy, could have a negative impact on the capital markets, increase transaction costs and limit the availability of products for investors. This may, in turn, adversely affect BlackRock.

**New tax legislation or changes to existing US and non-US tax laws, treaties and regulations or challenges to BlackRock's historical taxation practices may adversely affect BlackRock's effective tax rate, business and overall financial condition.**

BlackRock's businesses may be directly or indirectly affected by tax legislation and regulation, or the modification of existing tax laws, by US or non-US tax authorities. In the US, legislation at both the federal and state level has been previously proposed to enact a financial transaction tax ("FTT") on stocks, bonds and a broad range of financial instruments and derivative transactions. In the EU, certain Member States have also enacted similar FTTs and the EC has proposed legislation to harmonize these taxes and provide for the adoption of EU-level legislation applicable to some (but not all) EU Member States. If enacted as proposed, FTTs could have an adverse effect on BlackRock's financial results and clients' performance results.

The application of tax regulations involves numerous uncertainties, and in the normal course of business US and non-US tax authorities may review and challenge tax positions adopted by BlackRock. These challenges may result in adjustments to, or impact the timing or amount of, taxable income, deductions or other tax allocations, which may adversely affect BlackRock's effective tax rate and overall financial condition. Similarly, the Company manages assets in products and accounts that have investment objectives which may conform to tax positions adopted by BlackRock or to specific tax rules. To the extent there are changes in tax law or policy, or regulatory challenges to tax positions adopted by BlackRock, the value or attractiveness of such investments may be diminished and BlackRock may suffer financial or reputational harm.

## Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

The Company has no unresolved comments from the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) staff relating to BlackRock’s periodic or current reports filed with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act.

## Item 2. Properties

BlackRock’s principal office, which is leased, is located at 55 East 52nd Street, New York, New York. BlackRock leases additional office space in New York City at 40 East 52nd Street and 49 East 52nd Street, and throughout the world, including Atlanta, Belgrade (Serbia), Boston,

Edinburgh, Mumbai (India), Gurgaon (India), Hong Kong, London, Melbourne (Australia), Mexico City, Munich, Paris, Princeton (New Jersey), San Francisco, Seattle, Frankfurt (Germany), Santa Monica, Budapest, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei and Tokyo. The Company also owns an 84,500 square foot office building in Wilmington (Delaware) and a 43,000 square foot data center in Amherst (New York).

## Item 3. Legal Proceedings

For a discussion of the Company’s legal proceedings, see Note 16, *Commitments and Contingencies*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements contained in Part II, Item 8.

## Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

# PART II

## Item 5. Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

BlackRock’s common stock is listed on the NYSE and is traded under the symbol “BLK”. At the close of business on January 31, 2021, there were 209 common stockholders of record. Common stockholders include institutional or omnibus accounts that hold common stock for many underlying investors.

The following table sets forth for the periods indicated the dividends declared per share for the common stock as reported on the NYSE:

	Cash Dividend Declared
<b>2020</b>	
First Quarter	<b>\$ 3.63</b>
Second Quarter	<b>\$ 3.63</b>
Third Quarter	<b>\$ 3.63</b>
Fourth Quarter	<b>\$ 3.63</b>
<b>2019</b>	
First Quarter	\$ 3.30
Second Quarter	\$ 3.30
Third Quarter	\$ 3.30
Fourth Quarter	\$ 3.30

BlackRock’s closing common stock price as of February 24, 2021 was \$712.10.

### DIVIDENDS

On January 21, 2021, the Board of Directors approved BlackRock’s quarterly dividend of \$4.13 per share to be paid on March 23, 2021 to stockholders of record at the close of business on March 5, 2021.

### ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

During the three months ended December 31, 2020, the Company made the following purchases of its common stock, which is registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act.

	Total Number of Shares Purchased <sup>(1)</sup>	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
October 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020	<b>4,031</b>	<b>\$ 554.85</b>	—	<b>5,041,968</b>
November 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020	<b>3,697</b>	<b>\$ 599.21</b>	—	<b>5,041,968</b>
December 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020	<b>16,713</b>	<b>\$ 709.12</b>	—	<b>5,041,968</b>
Total	<b>24,441</b>	<b>\$ 667.05</b>	—	

(1) Consists of purchases made by the Company primarily to satisfy income tax withholding obligations of employees and members of the Company’s Board of Directors related to the vesting of certain restricted stock or restricted stock unit awards.

## Item 6. Removed and Reserved



## Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

### FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report, and other statements that BlackRock may make, may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act, with respect to BlackRock’s future financial or business performance, strategies or expectations. Forward-looking statements are typically identified by words or phrases such as “trend,” “potential,” “opportunity,” “pipeline,” “believe,” “comfortable,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “current,” “intention,” “estimate,” “position,” “assume,” “outlook,” “continue,” “remain,” “maintain,” “sustain,” “seek,” “achieve,” and similar expressions, or future or conditional verbs such as “will,” “would,” “should,” “could,” “may” and similar expressions.

BlackRock cautions that forward-looking statements are subject to numerous assumptions, risks and uncertainties, which change over time. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and BlackRock assumes no duty to and does not undertake to update forward-looking statements. Actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in forward-looking statements and future results could differ materially from historical performance.

BlackRock has previously disclosed risk factors in its Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) reports. These risk factors and those identified elsewhere in this report, among others, could cause actual results to differ materially from forward-looking statements or historical performance and include: (1) a pandemic or health crisis, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and its continued impact on financial institutions, the global economy or capital markets, as well as BlackRock’s products, clients, vendors and employees, and BlackRock’s results of operations, the full extent of which may be unknown; (2) the introduction, withdrawal, success and timing of business initiatives and strategies; (3) changes and volatility in political, economic or industry conditions, the interest rate environment, foreign exchange rates or financial and capital markets, which could result in changes in demand for products or services or in the value of assets under management (“AUM”); (4) the relative and absolute investment performance of BlackRock’s investment products; (5) BlackRock’s ability to develop new products and services that address client preferences; (6) the impact of increased competition; (7) the impact of future acquisitions or divestitures; (8) BlackRock’s ability to integrate acquired businesses successfully; (9) the unfavorable resolution of legal proceedings; (10) the extent and timing of any share repurchases; (11) the impact, extent and timing of technological changes and the adequacy of intellectual property, information and cyber security protection; (12) attempts to circumvent BlackRock’s operational control environment or the potential for human error in connection with BlackRock’s operational systems; (13) the impact of legislative and regulatory actions and reforms and regulatory, supervisory or enforcement actions of government agencies relating to BlackRock; (14) changes in law and policy and

uncertainty pending any such changes; (15) any failure to effectively manage conflicts of interest; (16) damage to BlackRock’s reputation; (17) terrorist activities, civil unrest, international hostilities and natural disasters, which may adversely affect the general economy, domestic and local financial and capital markets, specific industries or BlackRock; (18) the ability to attract and retain highly talented professionals; (19) fluctuations in the carrying value of BlackRock’s economic investments; (20) the impact of changes to tax legislation, including income, payroll and transaction taxes, and taxation on products or transactions, which could affect the value proposition to clients and, generally, the tax position of the Company; (21) BlackRock’s success in negotiating distribution arrangements and maintaining distribution channels for its products; (22) the failure by a key vendor of BlackRock to fulfill its obligations to the Company; (23) operational, technological and regulatory risks associated with BlackRock’s major technology partnerships; (24) any disruption to the operations of third parties whose functions are integral to BlackRock’s exchange-traded funds (“ETF”) platform; (25) the impact of BlackRock electing to provide support to its products from time to time and any potential liabilities related to securities lending or other indemnification obligations; and (26) the impact of problems at other financial institutions or the failure or negative performance of products at other financial institutions.

### OVERVIEW

BlackRock, Inc. (together, with its subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise indicates, “BlackRock” or the “Company”) is a leading publicly traded investment management firm with \$8.68 trillion of AUM at December 31, 2020. With approximately 16,500 employees in more than 30 countries, BlackRock provides a broad range of investment and technology services to institutional and retail clients in more than 100 countries across the globe. For further information see Note 1, *Business Overview*, and Note 27, *Segment Information*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements contained in Part II, Item 8.

The following discussion includes a comparison of BlackRock’s results for 2020 and 2019. For a discussion of BlackRock’s results for 2018 and a comparison of results for 2019 and 2018, see Item 7, *Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*, of the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2019, which was filed with the SEC on February 28, 2020.

On May 15, 2020, a subsidiary of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (“PNC”) completed the secondary offering of 31,628,573 shares of the Company’s common stock at a price of \$420 per share, which included 823,188 shares of common stock issued upon the conversion of the Company’s Series B Convertible Participating Preferred Stock and 2,875,325 shares of common stock under the fully exercised underwriters’ option to purchase additional shares. Also on May 15, 2020, PNC completed the sale of 2,650,857 shares to the Company at a price of \$414.96 per share. The shares repurchased by the Company were in addition to the share repurchase authorization under the Company’s existing share

repurchase program. The secondary offering and the Company’s share repurchase resulted in PNC’s exit of its entire ownership position in the Company.

Certain prior period presentations and disclosures, while not required to be recast, were reclassified to ensure comparability with current period classifications.

### United Kingdom Exit from European Union

On December 31, 2020, the United Kingdom (“UK”) left the European Union (“EU”), and the UK and EU reverted to being distinct regulatory, legal and customs territories. Although an “EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement” was agreed to in connection with the UK’s departure from the EU, it does not include any substantive provisions with respect to financial services. As a result, from January 1, 2021, cross-border financial services trade between the UK and the EU will be governed by their respective financial services regulations and market access regimes. BlackRock has implemented a number of steps to prepare for this outcome. These steps, which are and have been time consuming and costly and may add complexity to BlackRock’s future European operations, include effecting organizational, governance and operational changes, applying for and receiving additional licenses and permissions in the EU, and engaging in client communications. In addition, depending on how the future relationship between the UK and the EU develops, BlackRock may experience further organizational and operational challenges and incur additional costs in connection with its European operations, particularly with regards to delegation and outsourcing, which may impede the Company’s growth or impact its financial performance.

### Other Development

On February 13, 2020, BlackRock announced the establishment of The BlackRock Foundation (the “Foundation”) and the contribution of its remaining 20% stake in PennyMac Financial Services, Inc. (“PennyMac”) to the Foundation and the BlackRock Charitable Fund, which BlackRock established in 2013 (together, the “Charitable Contribution”). The Charitable Contribution resulted in an operating expense of \$589 million, which was offset by a \$122 million noncash, nonoperating pre-tax gain on the contributed shares and a tax benefit of \$241 million in the consolidated statement of income for the year ended December 31, 2020. The Charitable Contribution provides long-term funding for BlackRock’s philanthropic investments and partnerships. The general and administration expense, nonoperating gain and associated tax benefit related to the Charitable Contribution have been excluded from as adjusted results.

### Business Outlook

BlackRock’s framework for long-term value creation is predicated on generating differentiated organic growth, leveraging scale to increase operating margins over time, and returning capital to shareholders on a consistent basis. BlackRock’s diversified platform, in terms of style, product, client and geography, enables it to generate more stable cash flows through market cycles, positioning BlackRock to invest for the long-term by striking an appropriate balance between investing for future growth and prudent discretionary expense management.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to result in governmental authorities taking numerous measures to contain the spread and impact of COVID-19, such as travel bans and restrictions, quarantines, shelter in place orders, and limitations on business activity, including closures. These measures may continue to, among other things, severely restrict global economic activity, which can disrupt supply chains, lower asset valuations, significantly increase unemployment and underemployment levels, decrease liquidity in markets for certain securities and cause significant volatility and disruption in the financial markets.

Towards the end of the first quarter of 2020 the pandemic began to impact BlackRock’s business. While global markets have significantly recovered since then, the effects of the pandemic are ongoing, and such impact may continue in future quarters if conditions persist or worsen.

The aggregate extent to which COVID-19, and the related global economic crisis, affect BlackRock’s business, results of operations and financial condition, will depend on future developments that are highly uncertain and cannot be predicted, including the scope and duration of the pandemic and any recovery period, future actions taken by governmental authorities, central banks and other third parties (including new financial regulation and other regulatory reform) in response to the pandemic, and the effects on BlackRock’s products, clients, vendors and employees. See Part I, Item 1A—*Risk Factors* herein for information on the possible future effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our results.

In addition, although the forthcoming environment remains uncertain, BlackRock’s business may be impacted by governmental changes, as well as potential regulations, foreign and trade policies and fiscal spending that may arise as a result of such changes.

BlackRock’s investment management revenue is primarily comprised of fees earned as a percentage of AUM and, in some cases, performance fees, which are normally expressed as a percentage of fund returns to the client. Numerous factors, including price movements in the equity, debt or currency markets, or in the price of real assets, commodities or alternative investments in which BlackRock invests on behalf of clients, could impact BlackRock’s AUM, revenue and earnings.

BlackRock is currently voluntarily waiving a portion of its management fees on certain money market funds to ensure that they maintain a minimum level of daily net investment income. These waivers result in a reduction of management fees, a portion of which is partially offset by a reduction of BlackRock’s distribution and servicing costs paid to financial intermediaries. BlackRock has provided voluntary yield support waivers in prior periods and may increase or decrease the level of fee waivers in future periods.

BlackRock manages \$4.4 trillion of equity assets across markets globally. Beta divergence between equity markets, where certain markets perform differently than others, may lead to an increase in the proportion of BlackRock AUM weighted toward lower fee equity products, resulting in a decline in BlackRock’s effective fee rate. Divergent market factors may also erode the correlation between the

growth rates of AUM and investment advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue (collectively “base fees”).

BlackRock’s highly diversified multi-product platform was created to meet client needs in all market environments. BlackRock is positioned to provide alpha-seeking active, index and cash management investment strategies across asset classes and geographies. In addition, BlackRock leverages its world-class risk management, analytics and technology capabilities, including the *Aladdin* platform, on behalf of clients. BlackRock serves a diverse mix of institutional and retail clients across the globe, including investors in *iShares* ETFs, maintaining differentiated client relationships and a fiduciary focus. The diversity of BlackRock’s platform facilitates the generation of organic growth in various market environments, and as client preferences evolve. Client demand continues for ETFs and illiquid alternatives, which are two areas of focus for BlackRock.

The index investing industry has been growing rapidly — with ETFs as a major beneficiary — driven by structural tailwinds including the migration from commission-based to fee-based wealth management, clients’ focus on value for money, the use of ETFs as alpha tools and the growth of all-to-all networked trading. *iShares* ETFs’ growth strategy is centered on increasing scale and pursuing global growth themes in client and product segments, including Core, Strategic, which includes Fixed Income, Factors, Sustainable and Megatrends ETFs, and Precision Exposures.

As the wealth management landscape shifts globally from individual product selection to a whole-portfolio approach, BlackRock’s retail strategy is focused on creating outcome-oriented client solutions. This includes having a diverse platform of alpha-seeking active, index and alternative products, as well as enhanced distribution and portfolio construction technology offerings. Digital wealth tools are an important component of BlackRock’s retail

strategy, as BlackRock scales and customizes model portfolios, extends Aladdin Wealth and digital wealth partnerships globally, and helps advisors build better portfolios through portfolio construction and risk management, powered by *Aladdin*. In February 2021, BlackRock acquired Aperio, a pioneer in customizing tax-optimized index equity SMAs, to enhance our wealth platform and provide whole-portfolio solutions to ultra-high net worth advisors. By combining Aperio with BlackRock’s existing SMA franchise, the Company plans to expand the breadth of personalization capabilities available to wealth managers from BlackRock via tax-managed strategies across factors, broad market indexing, and investor Environmental, Social, and Governance preferences across all asset classes.

BlackRock continues to invest in technology services offerings, which enhance the ability to manage portfolios and risk, effectively serve clients and operate efficiently. Anticipated industry consolidation and regulatory requirements should continue to drive demand for holistic and flexible technology solutions. BlackRock’s *Aladdin* platform provides clients with an ability to manage portfolios and risk across public and private asset classes on a single platform.

Across BlackRock, more clients are focusing on the impact of sustainability on their portfolios. This shift has been driven by an increased understanding of how sustainability-related factors can affect economic growth, asset values, and financial markets as a whole. As a fiduciary, BlackRock is committed to helping clients build more resilient portfolios. Since sustainable investment options have the potential to offer clients better outcomes, the Company is making sustainability integral to the way BlackRock manages risk, constructs portfolios, designs products, and engages with companies. Over the past several years, BlackRock has been deepening the integration of sustainability into technology, risk management, and product choice across BlackRock, and plans to accelerate those efforts.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

	2020	2019
<i>(in millions, except shares and per share data)</i>		
<b>GAAP basis:</b>		
Total revenue	\$ 16,205	\$ 14,539
Total expense	10,510	8,988
Operating income	\$ 5,695	\$ 5,551
Operating margin	35.1%	38.2%
Nonoperating income (expense), less net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	475	186
Income tax expense	(1,238)	(1,261)
Net income attributable to BlackRock	\$ 4,932	\$ 4,476
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 31.85	\$ 28.43
Effective tax rate	20.1%	22.0%
<b>As adjusted<sup>(1)</sup>:</b>		
Operating income	\$ 6,284	\$ 5,551
Operating margin	44.9%	43.7%
Nonoperating income (expense), less net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	\$ 353	\$ 186
Net income attributable to BlackRock	\$ 5,237	\$ 4,484
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 33.82	\$ 28.48
Effective tax rate	21.1%	21.9%
<b>Other:</b>		
Assets under management (end of period)	\$ 8,676,680	\$ 7,429,633
Diluted weighted-average common shares outstanding <sup>(2)</sup>	154,840,582	157,459,546
Shares outstanding (end of period)	152,532,885	155,198,968
Book value per share <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 231.31	\$ 216.15
Cash dividends declared and paid per share	\$ 14.52	\$ 13.20

(1) As adjusted items are described in more detail in *Non-GAAP Financial Measures*.

(2) Nonvoting participating preferred shares are considered to be common stock equivalents for purposes of determining basic and diluted earnings per share calculations. As of December 31, 2020, there were no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

(3) Total BlackRock stockholders’ equity, divided by total shares outstanding at December 31 of the respective year-end.

2020 COMPARED WITH 2019

GAAP. Operating income of \$5,695 million increased \$144 million and operating margin of 35.1% decreased 310 bps from 2019. Operating income and operating margin reflected higher base fees, performance fees and technology services revenue, which were more than offset by higher expense, including the impact of \$589 million related to the Charitable Contribution, higher compensation and benefits expense, and higher product launch costs in 2020. Product launch costs in 2020 included \$87 million and \$83 million associated with the close of the \$2.3 billion BlackRock Health Sciences Trust II and the \$2 billion BlackRock Capital Allocation Trust, respectively. Product launch costs for 2019 included \$61 million associated with the close of the \$1.4 billion BlackRock Science and Technology Trust II.

Nonoperating income (expense), less net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests (“NCI”), increased \$289 million from 2019 driven by the impact of a pre-tax gain of approximately \$240 million in connection with a recapitalization of iCapital Network, Inc. (“iCapital”) and \$122 million pre-tax gain related to the Charitable Contribution, partially offset by lower mark-to-market gains on un-hedged seed capital investments and lower interest income.

Income tax expense for 2020 included a discrete tax benefit of \$241 million recognized in connection with the Charitable Contribution, partially offset by a noncash net expense of approximately \$79 million associated with the revaluation of certain deferred income tax assets and liabilities related to

the legislation enacted in the United Kingdom increasing its corporate tax rate and state and local income tax changes. Income tax expense for 2020 also included \$139 million of net discrete tax benefits, including benefits related to changes in the Company’s organizational entity structure and stock-based compensation awards. Income tax expense for 2019 included \$28 million of discrete tax benefits, primarily related to stock-based compensation awards.

Diluted earnings per common share increased \$3.42, or 12%, from 2019, reflecting higher revenue and nonoperating income and a lower diluted share count, partially offset by the impact of the Charitable Contribution and higher product launch costs for 2020.

As *Adjusted*. Operating income of \$6,284 million increased \$733 million and operating margin of 44.9% increased 120 bps from 2019. Diluted earnings per common share increased \$5.34, or 19%, from 2019, primarily due to higher operating and nonoperating income and a lower diluted share count in 2020. The financial impact related to the Charitable Contribution and the noncash net tax expense associated with the revaluation of certain deferred income tax assets and liabilities described above has been excluded from as adjusted results.

See *Non-GAAP Financial Measures* for further information on as adjusted items.

For further discussion of BlackRock’s revenue, expense, nonoperating results and income tax expense, see *Discussion of Financial Results* herein.



NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

BlackRock reports its financial results in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (“GAAP”); however, management believes evaluating the Company’s ongoing operating results may be enhanced if investors have additional non-GAAP financial measures. Management reviews non-GAAP financial measures to assess ongoing operations and considers them to be helpful, for both management and investors, in evaluating BlackRock’s financial performance over time. Management also uses non-GAAP financial measures as a benchmark to compare its performance with other companies and to enhance the comparability of this information for the reporting periods presented. Non-GAAP measures may pose limitations because they

do not include all of BlackRock’s revenue and expense. BlackRock’s management does not advocate that investors consider such non-GAAP financial measures in isolation from, or as a substitute for, financial information prepared in accordance with GAAP. Non-GAAP measures may not be comparable to other similarly titled measures of other companies.

Management uses both GAAP and non-GAAP financial measures in evaluating BlackRock’s financial performance. Adjustments to GAAP financial measures (“non-GAAP adjustments”) include certain items management deems nonrecurring or that occur infrequently, transactions that ultimately will not impact BlackRock’s book value or certain tax items that do not impact cash flow.

Computations for all periods are derived from the consolidated statements of income as follows:

(1) Operating income, as adjusted, and operating margin, as adjusted:

(in millions)	2020	2019
Operating income, GAAP basis	\$ 5,695	\$ 5,551
Non-GAAP expense adjustments:		
Charitable Contribution	589	—
Operating income, as adjusted	6,284	5,551
Product launch costs and commissions	172	61
Operating income used for operating 10margin measurement	\$ 6,456	\$ 5,612
Revenue, GAAP basis	\$ 16,205	\$ 14,539
Non-GAAP adjustments:		
Distribution fees	(1,131)	(1,069)
Investment advisory fees	(704)	(616)
Revenue used for operating margin measurement	\$ 14,370	\$ 12,854
Operating margin, GAAP basis	35.1%	38.2%
Operating margin, as adjusted	44.9%	43.7%

Management believes operating income, as adjusted, and operating margin, as adjusted, are effective indicators of BlackRock’s financial performance over time and, therefore, provide useful disclosure to investors. Management believes that operating margin, as adjusted, reflects the Company’s long-term ability to manage ongoing costs in relation to its revenues. The Company uses operating margin, as adjusted, to assess the Company’s financial performance and to determine the long-term and annual compensation of the Company’s senior-level employees. Furthermore, this metric is used to evaluate the Company’s relative performance against industry peers, as it eliminates margin variability arising from the accounting of revenues and expenses related to distributing different product structures in multiple distribution channels utilized by asset managers.

- **Operating income, as adjusted**, includes non-GAAP expense adjustments. In 2020, the Charitable Contribution expense of \$589 million has been excluded from operating income, as adjusted, due to its nonrecurring nature.
- Operating income used for measuring operating margin, as adjusted, is equal to operating income, as adjusted, excluding the impact of product launch costs (e.g. closed-end fund launch costs) and related commissions. Management believes the exclusion of such costs and related commissions is useful because these costs can fluctuate considerably and

revenue associated with the expenditure of these costs will not fully impact BlackRock’s results until future periods.

- Revenue used for calculating operating margin, as adjusted, is reduced to exclude all of the Company’s distribution fees, which are recorded as a separate line item on the consolidated statements of income, as well as a portion of investment advisory fees received that is used to pay distribution and servicing costs. For certain products, based on distinct arrangements, distribution fees are collected by the Company and then passed-through to third-party client intermediaries. For other products, investment advisory fees are collected by the Company and a portion is passed-through to third-party client intermediaries. However, in both structures, the third-party client intermediary similarly owns the relationship with the retail client and is responsible for distributing the product and servicing the client. The amount of distribution and investment advisory fees fluctuates each period primarily based on a predetermined percentage of the value of AUM during the period. These fees also vary based on the type of investment product sold and the geographic location where it is sold. In addition, the Company may waive fees on certain products that could result in the reduction of payments to the third-party intermediaries.

(2) Nonoperating income (expense), less net income (loss) attributable to NCI, as adjusted:

(in millions)	2020	2019
Nonoperating income (expense), GAAP basis	\$ 829	\$ 236
Less: Net income (loss) attributable to NCI	354	50
Nonoperating income (expense), net of NCI	475	186
Less: Gain related to the Charitable Contribution	122	—
Nonoperating income (expense), less net income (loss) attributable to NCI, as adjusted	\$ 353	\$ 186

Management believes nonoperating income (expense), less net income (loss) attributable to NCI, as adjusted, is an effective measure for reviewing BlackRock’s nonoperating contribution to its results and provides comparability of this information among reporting periods. Management believes nonoperating income (expense), less net income (loss) attributable to NCI, as adjusted, provides a useful measure, for both management and

investors, of BlackRock’s nonoperating results, which ultimately impact BlackRock’s book value. In 2020, the noncash, nonoperating pre-tax gain of \$122 million related to the Charitable Contribution has been excluded from nonoperating income (expense), less net income (loss) attributable to NCI, as adjusted, due to its nonrecurring nature.

(3) Net income attributable to BlackRock, Inc., as adjusted:

(in millions, except per share data)	2020	2019
Net income attributable to BlackRock, Inc., GAAP basis	\$ 4,932	\$ 4,476
Non-GAAP adjustments:		
Charitable Contribution, net of tax	226	—
Income tax matters	79	8
Net income attributable to BlackRock, Inc., as adjusted	\$ 5,237	\$ 4,484
Diluted weighted-average common shares outstanding(4)	154.8	157.5
Diluted earnings per common share, GAAP basis(4)	\$ 31.85	\$ 28.43
Diluted earnings per common share, as adjusted(4)	\$ 33.82	\$ 28.48

Management believes net income attributable to BlackRock, Inc., as adjusted, and diluted earnings per common share, as adjusted, are useful measures of BlackRock’s profitability and financial performance. Net income attributable to BlackRock, Inc., as adjusted, equals net income attributable to BlackRock, Inc., GAAP basis, adjusted for significant nonrecurring items, charges that ultimately will not impact BlackRock’s book value or certain tax items that do not impact cash flow.

See aforementioned discussion regarding operating income, as adjusted, operating margin, as adjusted, and nonoperating income (expense), less net income (loss) attributable to NCI, as adjusted for information on the Charitable Contribution.

In 2020, a discrete tax benefit of \$241 million was recognized in connection with the Charitable Contribution. The discrete tax benefit has been excluded from as adjusted results due to the non-recurring nature of the

Charitable Contribution. Amounts for income tax matters represent net noncash (benefits) expense primarily associated with the revaluation of certain deferred tax liabilities related to intangible assets and goodwill as a result of tax rate changes. The amount for 2020 included a \$79 million net noncash expense related to the impact of legislation enacted in the United Kingdom increasing its corporate tax rate and state and local income tax changes. These amounts have been excluded from the as adjusted results as these items will not have a cash flow impact and to ensure comparability among periods presented.

Per share amounts reflect net income attributable to BlackRock, Inc., as adjusted divided by diluted weighted-average common shares outstanding.

(4) Nonvoting participating preferred stock is considered to be a common stock equivalent for purposes of determining basic and diluted earnings per share calculations. As of December 31, 2020, there were no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

Assets Under Management

AUM for reporting purposes generally is based upon how investment advisory and administration fees are calculated for each portfolio. Net asset values, total assets, committed assets or other measures may be used to determine portfolio AUM.

AUM and Net Inflows (Outflows) by Client Type and Product Type

	AUM		Net inflows (outflows)	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
(in millions)				
Retail	\$ 845,917	\$ 703,297	\$ 69,556	\$ 15,810
iShares ETFs	2,669,007	2,240,065	184,885	183,492
Institutional:				
Active	1,524,462	1,338,670	31,624	99,456
Index	2,948,683	2,599,882	(28,717)	36,902
Institutional subtotal	4,473,145	3,938,552	2,907	136,358
Long-term	7,988,069	6,881,914	257,348	335,660
Cash management	666,252	545,949	113,349	93,074
Advisory <sup>(1)</sup>	22,359	1,770	20,141	2
Total	\$ 8,676,680	\$ 7,429,633	\$ 390,838	\$ 428,736

AUM and Net Inflows (Outflows) by Investment Style and Product Type

	AUM		Net inflows (outflows)	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
(in millions)				
Active	\$ 2,250,887	\$ 1,947,222	\$ 87,737	\$ 109,892
Index and iShares ETFs	5,737,182	4,934,692	169,611	225,768
Long-term	7,988,069	6,881,914	257,348	335,660
Cash management	666,252	545,949	113,349	93,074
Advisory <sup>(1)</sup>	22,359	1,770	20,141	2
Total	\$ 8,676,680	\$ 7,429,633	\$ 390,838	\$ 428,736

AUM and Net Inflows (Outflows) by Product Type

	AUM		Net inflows (outflows)	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
(in millions)				
Equity	\$ 4,419,806	\$ 3,820,329	\$ 48,995	\$ 28,353
Fixed income	2,674,488	2,315,392	157,961	263,579
Multi-asset	658,733	568,121	13,213	18,889
Alternatives:				
Illiquid alternatives	85,770	75,349	10,883	14,103
Liquid alternatives	73,218	59,048	6,545	3,957
Currency and commodities <sup>(2)</sup>	76,054	43,675	19,751	6,779
Alternatives subtotal	235,042	178,072	37,179	24,839
Long-term	7,988,069	6,881,914	257,348	335,660
Cash management	666,252	545,949	113,349	93,074
Advisory <sup>(1)</sup>	22,359	1,770	20,141	2
Total	\$ 8,676,680	\$ 7,429,633	\$ 390,838	\$ 428,736

(1) Advisory AUM represents mandates linked to purchases and disposition of assets and portfolios on behalf of official institutions and long-term portfolio liquidation assignments. Approximately \$4.3 billion of iShares ETFs AUM held in advisory accounts associated with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York ("FRBNY") assignment as of December 31, 2020 (disclosed via FRBNY reporting as of January 11, 2021) are included within Fixed Income iShares ETFs AUM or Fixed Income AUM above. These holdings are excluded from Advisory AUM.

(2) Amounts include commodity iShares ETFs.

The following table presents the component changes in BlackRock's AUM for 2020 and 2019.

	2020	2019
(in millions)		
Beginning AUM	\$ 7,429,633	\$ 5,975,818
Net inflows (outflows):		
Long-term	257,348	335,660
Cash management	113,349	93,074
Advisory <sup>(1)</sup>	20,141	2
Total net inflows (outflows)	390,838	428,736
Market change	746,269	994,076
FX impact <sup>(2)</sup>	109,940	31,003
Total change	1,247,047	1,453,815
Ending AUM	\$ 8,676,680	\$ 7,429,633

(1) Advisory AUM represents mandates linked to purchases and disposition of assets and portfolios on behalf of official institutions and long-term portfolio liquidation assignments. Approximately \$4.3 billion of iShares ETFs AUM held in advisory accounts associated with the FRBNY assignment as of December 31, 2020 (disclosed via FRBNY reporting as of January 11, 2021) are included within Fixed Income iShares ETFs AUM or Fixed Income AUM above. These holdings are excluded from Advisory AUM.

(2) Foreign exchange reflects the impact of translating non-US dollar denominated AUM into US dollars for reporting purposes.

BlackRock has historically grown AUM through organic growth and acquisitions. Management believes that the Company will be able to continue to grow AUM organically by focusing on strong investment performance, efficient delivery of beta for index products, client service, developing new products and optimizing distribution capabilities.

Component Changes in AUM for 2020

The following table presents the component changes in AUM by client type and product type for 2020.

	December 31, 2019	Net inflows (outflows)	Market change	FX impact <sup>(1)</sup>	December 31, 2020	Full year average AUM <sup>(2)</sup>
(in millions)						
Retail:						
Equity	\$ 252,413	\$ 39,341	\$ 42,545	\$ 4,135	\$ 338,434	\$ 265,433
Fixed income	305,265	22,784	9,725	2,694	340,468	309,723
Multi-asset	120,439	(481)	12,262	404	132,624	117,195
Alternatives	25,180	7,912	929	370	34,391	28,839
Retail subtotal	703,297	69,556	65,461	7,603	845,917	721,190
iShares ETFs:						
Equity	1,632,972	76,307	186,918	8,904	1,905,101	1,561,970
Fixed income	565,790	88,894	28,009	7,340	690,033	627,039
Multi-asset	5,210	646	388	24	6,268	5,287
Alternatives	36,093	19,038	12,331	143	67,605	53,845
iShares ETFs subtotal	2,240,065	184,885	227,646	16,411	2,669,007	2,248,141
Institutional:						
Active:						
Equity	141,118	1,890	24,045	2,469	169,522	141,059
Fixed income	651,368	6,598	49,712	8,591	716,269	673,043
Multi-asset	434,233	13,639	52,365	11,005	511,242	443,913
Alternatives	111,951	9,497	3,861	2,120	127,429	116,557
Active subtotal	1,338,670	31,624	129,983	24,185	1,524,462	1,374,572
Index:						
Equity	1,793,826	(68,543)	254,475	26,991	2,006,749	1,723,674
Fixed income	792,969	39,685	67,623	27,441	927,718	837,469
Multi-asset	8,239	(591)	749	202	8,599	8,157
Alternatives	4,848	732	(50)	87	5,617	4,675
Index subtotal	2,599,882	(28,717)	322,797	54,721	2,948,683	2,573,975
Institutional subtotal	3,938,552	2,907	452,780	78,906	4,473,145	3,948,547
Long-term	6,881,914	257,348	745,887	102,920	7,988,069	6,917,878
Cash management	545,949	113,349	(63)	7,017	666,252	617,989
Advisory <sup>(3)</sup>	1,770	20,141	445	3	22,359	13,236
Total	\$ 7,429,633	\$ 390,838	\$ 746,269	\$ 109,940	\$ 8,676,680	\$ 7,549,103

(1) Foreign exchange reflects the impact of translating non-US dollar denominated AUM into US dollars for reporting purposes.

(2) Average AUM is calculated as the average of the month-end spot AUM amounts for the trailing thirteen months.

(3) Advisory AUM represents mandates linked to purchases and disposition of assets and portfolios on behalf of official institutions and long-term portfolio liquidation assignments. Approximately \$4.3 billion of iShares ETFs AUM held in advisory accounts associated with the FRBNY assignment as of December 31, 2020 (disclosed via FRBNY reporting as of January 11, 2021) are included within Fixed Income iShares ETFs AUM or Fixed Income AUM above. These holdings are excluded from Advisory AUM.



<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2019	Net inflows (outflows)	Market change	FX impact <sup>(1)</sup>	December 31, 2020	Full year average AUM <sup>(2)</sup>
Active:						
Equity	\$ 316,145	\$ 30,241	\$ 58,922	\$ 4,881	<b>\$ 410,189</b>	\$ 327,403
Fixed income	939,275	26,934	58,153	10,653	<b>1,035,015</b>	964,153
Multi-asset	554,672	13,154	64,629	11,409	<b>643,864</b>	561,107
Alternatives	137,130	17,408	4,791	2,490	<b>161,819</b>	145,395
Active subtotal	1,947,222	87,737	186,495	29,433	<b>2,250,887</b>	1,998,058
Index and <i>iShares</i> ETFs:						
<i>iShares</i> ETFs:						
Equity	1,632,972	76,307	186,918	8,904	<b>1,905,101</b>	1,561,970
Fixed income	565,790	88,894	28,009	7,340	<b>690,033</b>	627,039
Multi-asset	5,210	646	388	24	<b>6,268</b>	5,287
Alternatives	36,093	19,038	12,331	143	<b>67,605</b>	53,845
<i>iShares</i> ETFs subtotal	2,240,065	184,885	227,646	16,411	<b>2,669,007</b>	2,248,141
Non-ETF Index:						
Equity	1,871,212	(57,553)	262,143	28,714	<b>2,104,516</b>	1,802,763
Fixed income	810,327	42,133	68,907	28,073	<b>949,440</b>	856,082
Multi-asset	8,239	(587)	747	202	<b>8,601</b>	8,158
Alternatives	4,849	733	(51)	87	<b>5,618</b>	4,676
Non-ETF Index subtotal	2,694,627	(15,274)	331,746	57,076	<b>3,068,175</b>	2,671,679
Index & <i>iShares</i> ETFs subtotal	4,934,692	169,611	559,392	73,487	<b>5,737,182</b>	4,919,820
<b>Long-term</b>	<b>6,881,914</b>	<b>257,348</b>	<b>745,887</b>	<b>102,920</b>	<b>7,988,069</b>	<b>6,917,878</b>
Cash management	545,949	113,349	(63)	7,017	<b>666,252</b>	617,989
Advisory <sup>(3)</sup>	1,770	20,141	445	3	<b>22,359</b>	13,236
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,429,633</b>	<b>\$ 390,838</b>	<b>\$ 746,269</b>	<b>\$ 109,940</b>	<b>\$ 8,676,680</b>	<b>\$ 7,549,103</b>

The following table presents component changes in AUM by product type for 2020.

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2019	Net inflows (outflows)	Market change	FX impact <sup>(1)</sup>	December 31, 2020	Full year average AUM <sup>(2)</sup>
Equity	\$ 3,820,329	\$ 48,995	\$ 507,983	\$ 42,499	<b>\$ 4,419,806</b>	\$ 3,692,136
Fixed income	2,315,392	157,961	155,069	46,066	<b>2,674,488</b>	2,447,274
Multi-asset	568,121	13,213	65,764	11,635	<b>658,733</b>	574,552
Alternatives:						
Illiquid alternatives	75,349	10,883	(1,512)	1,050	<b>85,770</b>	78,166
Liquid alternatives	59,048	6,545	6,295	1,330	<b>73,218</b>	64,522
Currency and commodities <sup>(4)</sup>	43,675	19,751	12,288	340	<b>76,054</b>	61,228
Alternatives subtotal	178,072	37,179	17,071	2,720	<b>235,042</b>	203,916
<b>Long-term</b>	<b>6,881,914</b>	<b>257,348</b>	<b>745,887</b>	<b>102,920</b>	<b>7,988,069</b>	<b>6,917,878</b>
Cash management	545,949	113,349	(63)	7,017	<b>666,252</b>	617,989
Advisory <sup>(3)</sup>	1,770	20,141	445	3	<b>22,359</b>	13,236
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,429,633</b>	<b>\$ 390,838</b>	<b>\$ 746,269</b>	<b>\$ 109,940</b>	<b>\$ 8,676,680</b>	<b>\$ 7,549,103</b>

(1) Foreign exchange reflects the impact of translating non-US dollar denominated AUM into US dollars for reporting purposes.

(2) Average AUM is calculated as the average of the month-end spot AUM amounts for the trailing thirteen months.

(3) Advisory AUM represents mandates linked to purchases and disposition of assets and portfolios on behalf of official institutions and long-term portfolio liquidation assignments. Approximately \$4.3 billion of *iShares* ETFs AUM held in advisory accounts associated with the FRBNY assignment as of December 31, 2020 (disclosed via FRBNY reporting as of January 11, 2021) are included within Fixed Income *iShares* ETFs AUM or Fixed Income AUM above. These holdings are excluded from Advisory AUM.

(4) Amounts include commodity *iShares* ETFs.

AUM increased \$1.25 trillion to \$8.68 trillion at December 31, 2020 from \$7.43 trillion at December 31, 2019 driven primarily by net market appreciation and positive net flows across all investment styles and product types.

Net market appreciation of \$746.3 billion was driven primarily by higher global equity and fixed income markets.

AUM increased \$109.9 billion due to the impact of foreign exchange movements, primarily due to the weakening of the US dollar, largely against the Euro, the British pound and the Japanese yen.

For further discussion on AUM, see Part I, Item 1 – *Business – Assets Under Management*.

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2018	Net inflows (outflows)	Market change	FX impact <sup>(1)</sup>	December 31, 2019	Full year average AUM <sup>(2)</sup>
Retail:						
Equity	\$ 205,714	\$ (652)	\$ 45,820	\$ 1,531	\$ 252,413	\$ 229,688
Fixed income	271,588	21,222	11,882	573	305,265	289,632
Multi-asset	113,417	(9,291)	16,138	175	120,439	117,366
Alternatives	20,131	4,531	506	12	25,180	22,384
Retail subtotal	610,850	15,810	74,346	2,291	703,297	659,070
<i>iShares</i> ETFs:						
Equity	1,274,262	64,705	292,840	1,165	1,632,972	1,453,395
Fixed income	427,596	112,345	25,878	(29)	565,790	503,266
Multi-asset	4,485	113	601	11	5,210	4,489
Alternatives	25,082	6,329	4,664	18	36,093	29,767
<i>iShares</i> ETFs subtotal	1,731,425	183,492	323,983	1,165	2,240,065	1,990,917
Institutional:						
Active:						
Equity	110,976	1,852	27,547	743	141,118	124,722
Fixed income	538,961	55,006	55,358	2,043	651,368	611,383
Multi-asset	336,237	28,785	68,410	801	434,233	385,495
Alternatives	93,805	13,813	3,852	481	111,951	103,369
Active subtotal	1,079,979	99,456	155,167	4,068	1,338,670	1,224,969
Index:						
Equity	1,444,873	(37,552)	380,101	6,404	1,793,826	1,640,715
Fixed income	646,272	75,006	55,969	15,722	792,969	733,371
Multi-asset	7,745	(718)	1,203	9	8,239	8,095
Alternatives	4,340	166	272	70	4,848	4,580
Index subtotal	2,103,230	36,902	437,545	22,205	2,599,882	2,386,761
Institutional subtotal	3,183,209	136,358	592,712	26,273	3,938,552	3,611,730
<b>Long-term</b>	<b>5,525,484</b>	<b>335,660</b>	<b>991,041</b>	<b>29,729</b>	<b>6,881,914</b>	<b>6,261,717</b>
Cash management	448,565	93,074	3,054	1,256	545,949	486,636
Advisory <sup>(3)</sup>	1,769	2	(19)	18	1,770	1,766
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,975,818</b>	<b>\$ 428,736</b>	<b>\$ 994,076</b>	<b>\$ 31,003</b>	<b>\$ 7,429,633</b>	<b>\$ 6,750,119</b>

(1) Foreign exchange reflects the impact of translating non-US dollar denominated AUM into US dollars for reporting purposes.

(2) Average AUM is calculated as the average of the month-end spot AUM amounts for the trailing thirteen months.

(3) Advisory AUM represents long-term portfolio liquidation assignments.

The following table presents component changes in AUM by investment style and product type for 2019.

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2018	Net inflows (outflows)	Market change	FX impact <sup>(1)</sup>	December 31, 2019	Full year average AUM <sup>(2)</sup>
Active:						
Equity	\$ 258,205	\$ (2,918)	\$ 59,701	\$ 1,157	\$ 316,145	\$ 286,461
Fixed income	795,985	74,972	66,150	2,168	939,275	885,170
Multi-asset	449,654	19,494	84,549	975	554,672	502,860
Alternatives	113,936	18,344	4,357	493	137,130	125,753
Active subtotal	1,617,780	109,892	214,757	4,793	1,947,222	1,800,244
Index and <i>iShares</i> ETFs:						
<i>iShares</i> ETFs:						
Equity	1,274,262	64,705	292,840	1,165	1,632,972	1,453,395
Fixed income	427,596	112,345	25,878	(29)	565,790	503,266
Multi-asset	4,485	113	601	11	5,210	4,489
Alternatives	25,082	6,329	4,664	18	36,093	29,767
<i>iShares</i> ETFs subtotal	1,731,425	183,492	323,983	1,165	2,240,065	1,990,917
Non-ETF Index:						
Equity	1,503,358	(33,434)	393,767	7,521	1,871,212	1,708,664
Fixed income	660,836	76,262	57,059	16,170	810,327	749,216
Multi-asset	7,745	(718)	1,202	10	8,239	8,096
Alternatives	4,340	166	273	70	4,849	4,580
Non-ETF Index subtotal	2,176,279	42,276	452,301	23,771	2,694,627	2,470,556
Index & <i>iShares</i> ETFs subtotal	3,907,704	225,768	776,284	24,936	4,934,692	4,461,473
<b>Long-term</b>	<b>5,525,484</b>	<b>335,660</b>	<b>991,041</b>	<b>29,729</b>	<b>6,881,914</b>	<b>6,261,717</b>
Cash management	448,565	93,074	3,054	1,256	545,949	486,636
Advisory <sup>(3)</sup>	1,769	2	(19)	18	1,770	1,766
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,975,818</b>	<b>\$ 428,736</b>	<b>\$ 994,076</b>	<b>\$ 31,003</b>	<b>\$ 7,429,633</b>	<b>\$ 6,750,119</b>

The following table presents component changes in AUM by product type for 2019.

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2018	Net inflows (outflows)	Market change	FX impact <sup>(1)</sup>	December 31, 2019	Full year average AUM <sup>(2)</sup>
Equity	\$ 3,035,825	\$ 28,353	\$ 746,308	\$ 9,843	\$ 3,820,329	\$ 3,448,520
Fixed income	1,884,417	263,579	149,087	18,309	2,315,392	2,137,652
Multi-asset	461,884	18,889	86,352	996	568,121	515,445
Alternatives:						
Illiquid alternatives	59,827	14,103	1,101	318	75,349	68,030
Liquid alternatives	51,718	3,957	3,224	149	59,048	55,088
Currency and commodities <sup>(4)</sup>	31,813	6,779	4,969	114	43,675	36,982
Alternatives subtotal	143,358	24,839	9,294	581	178,072	160,100
<b>Long-term</b>	<b>5,525,484</b>	<b>335,660</b>	<b>991,041</b>	<b>29,729</b>	<b>6,881,914</b>	<b>6,261,717</b>
Cash management	448,565	93,074	3,054	1,256	545,949	486,636
Advisory <sup>(3)</sup>	1,769	2	(19)	18	1,770	1,766
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,975,818</b>	<b>\$ 428,736</b>	<b>\$ 994,076</b>	<b>\$ 31,003</b>	<b>\$ 7,429,633</b>	<b>\$ 6,750,119</b>

(1) Foreign exchange reflects the impact of translating non-US dollar denominated AUM into US dollars for reporting purposes.

(2) Average AUM is calculated as the average of the month-end spot AUM amounts for the trailing thirteen months.

(3) Advisory AUM represents long-term portfolio liquidation assignments.

(4) Amounts include commodity *iShares* ETFs.

AUM increased \$1.5 trillion to \$7.43 trillion at December 31, 2019 from \$5.98 trillion at December 31, 2018 driven primarily by net market appreciation and positive net flows across all investment styles and product types.

Net market appreciation of \$994.1 billion was driven primarily by higher global equity and fixed income markets.

AUM increased \$31 billion due to the impact of foreign exchange movements, primarily due to the weakening of the US dollar, largely against the British pound.

## DISCUSSION OF FINANCIAL RESULTS

### Introduction

The Company derives a substantial portion of its revenue from investment advisory and administration fees, which are recognized as the services are performed over time because the customer is receiving and consuming the benefits as they are provided by the Company. Fees are primarily based on agreed-upon percentages of AUM and recognized for services provided during the period, which are distinct from services provided in other periods. Such fees are affected by changes in AUM, including market appreciation or depreciation, foreign exchange translation and net inflows or outflows. Net inflows or outflows represent the sum of new client assets, additional fundings from existing clients (including dividend reinvestment), withdrawals of assets from, and termination of, client accounts and distributions to investors representing return of capital and return on investments to investors. Market appreciation or depreciation includes current income earned on, and changes in the fair value of, securities held in client accounts. Foreign exchange translation reflects the impact of translating non-US dollar denominated AUM into US dollars for reporting purposes.

The Company also earns revenue by lending securities on behalf of clients, primarily to highly rated banks and broker-dealers. The securities loaned are secured by collateral in the form of cash or securities, with minimum collateral generally ranging from approximately 102% to 112% of the value of the loaned securities. Generally, the revenue earned is shared between the Company and the funds or accounts managed by the Company from which the securities are borrowed.

Investment advisory agreements for certain separate accounts and investment funds provide for performance fees based upon relative and/or absolute investment performance, in addition to base fees based on AUM. Investment advisory performance fees generally are earned after a given period of time and when investment performance exceeds a contractual threshold. As such, the timing of recognition of performance fees may increase the volatility of the Company’s revenue and earnings. The magnitude of performance fees can fluctuate quarterly due to the timing of carried interest recognition on alternative products; however, the third and fourth quarters have a greater number of nonalternative products with performance measurement periods that end on either September 30 or December 31.

The Company offers investment management technology systems, risk management services, wealth management and digital distribution tools, all on a fee basis. Clients include banks, insurance companies, official institutions, pension funds, asset managers, retail distributors and other investors. Fees earned for technology services are primarily recorded as services are performed over time and are generally determined using the value of positions on the *Aladdin* platform, or on a fixed-rate basis. Revenue derived from the sale of software licenses is recognized upon the granting of access rights.

The Company earns distribution and service fees for distributing investment products and providing support services to investments portfolios. The fees are based on AUM and are recognized when the amount of fees is known.

The Company advises global financial institutions, regulators, and government entities across a range of risk, regulatory, capital markets and strategic services. Fees earned for advisory services, which are included in advisory and other revenue, are determined using fixed-rate fees and are recognized over time as the related services are completed.

The Company earns fees for transition management services primarily comprised of commissions recognized in connection with buying and selling securities on behalf of its customers. Commissions related to transition management services, which are included in advisory and other revenue, are recorded on a trade-date basis as transactions occur.

The Company also earns revenue related to certain minority investments accounted for as equity method investments.

Operating expense reflects employee compensation and benefits, distribution and servicing costs, direct fund expense, general and administration expense and amortization of finite-lived intangible assets.

- Employee compensation and benefits expense includes salaries, commissions, temporary help, deferred and incentive compensation, employer payroll taxes, severance and related benefit costs.
- Distribution and servicing costs, which are primarily AUM driven, include payments to third parties, primarily associated with distribution and servicing of client investments in certain Company products.
- Direct fund expense primarily consists of third-party nonadvisory expenses incurred by the Company related to certain funds for the use of index trademarks, reference data for indices, custodial services, fund administration, fund accounting, transfer agent services, shareholder reporting services, legal expense, and audit and tax services as well as other fund-related expenses directly attributable to the nonadvisory operations of the fund. These expenses may vary over time with fluctuations in AUM, number of shareholder accounts, or other attributes directly related to volume of business.
- General and administration expense includes marketing and promotional, occupancy and office-related costs, portfolio services (including clearing expense related to transition management services), technology, professional services, communications, contingent consideration fair value adjustments, product launch costs, the impact of foreign currency remeasurement, and other general and administration expense. Foreign currency remeasurement losses were \$6 million and \$31 million for 2020 and 2019, respectively.

Approximately 75% of the Company’s revenue is generated in US dollars. The Company’s revenue and expense generated in foreign currencies (primarily the Euro and British pound) are impacted by foreign exchange rates. Any effect of foreign exchange rate change on revenue is partially offset by a change in expense driven by the Company’s considerable non-dollar expense base related to its operations outside the United States.



Nonoperating income (expense) includes the effect of changes in the valuations on investments and earnings on equity method investments as well as interest and dividend income and interest expense. The Company primarily holds seed and co-investments in sponsored investment products that invest in a variety of asset classes, including private equity, hedge funds and real assets. Investments generally are made for co-investment purposes, to establish a performance track record or for regulatory purposes, including Federal Reserve Bank

Revenue

The following table presents detail of revenue for 2020 and 2019 and includes the product type mix of base fees and performance fees.

	2020	2019
<i>(in millions)</i>		
<b>Investment advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue:</b>		
Equity:		
Active	\$ 1,737	\$ 1,554
<i>iShares</i> ETFs	3,499	3,495
Non-ETF index	664	667
Equity subtotal	5,900	5,716
Fixed income:		
Active	1,957	1,918
<i>iShares</i> ETFs	1,119	963
Non-ETF index	463	405
Fixed income subtotal	3,539	3,286
Multi-asset	1,163	1,148
Alternatives:		
Illiquid alternatives	577	488
Liquid alternatives	502	413
Currency and commodities <sup>(1)</sup>	168	108
Alternatives subtotal	1,247	1,009
Long-term	11,849	11,159
Cash management	790	618
<b>Total investment advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue</b>	<b>12,639</b>	<b>11,777</b>
<b>Investment advisory performance fees:</b>		
Equity	91	36
Fixed income	35	10
Multi-asset	35	19
Alternatives:		
Illiquid alternatives	83	136
Liquid alternatives	860	249
Alternatives subtotal	943	385
<b>Total performance fees</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>450</b>
<b>Technology services revenue</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>974</b>
Distribution fees:		
Retrocessions	736	658
12b-1 fees (US mutual fund distribution fees)	337	358
Other	58	53
<b>Total distribution fees</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>1,069</b>
Advisory and other revenue:		
Advisory	68	99
Other	124	170
<b>Total advisory and other revenue</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>269</b>
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$ 16,205</b>	<b>\$ 14,539</b>

(1) Amounts include commodity *iShares* ETFs.

stock. The Company does not engage in proprietary trading activities that could conflict with the interests of its clients.

In addition, nonoperating income (expense) includes the impact of changes in the valuations of consolidated sponsored investment funds. The portion of nonoperating income (expense) not attributable to the Company is allocated to NCI on the consolidated statements of income.

The table below lists base fees and mix of average AUM by product type:

	Mix of Base Fees		Mix of Average AUM <sup>(1)</sup>	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Equity:				
Active	14%	13%	4%	4%
<i>iShares</i> ETFs	28%	30%	21%	22%
Non-ETF index	5%	6%	24%	25%
<b>Equity subtotal</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>51%</b>
Fixed income:				
Active	15%	16%	13%	13%
<i>iShares</i> ETFs	9%	8%	8%	7%
Non-ETF index	4%	3%	11%	11%
<b>Fixed income subtotal</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>31%</b>
Multi-asset	9%	10%	8%	8%
Alternatives:				
Illiquid alternatives	5%	4%	1%	1%
Liquid alternatives	4%	4%	1%	1%
Currency and commodities <sup>(2)</sup>	1%	1%	1%	1%
<b>Alternatives subtotal</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Long-term	94%	95%	92%	93%
Cash management	6%	5%	8%	7%
<b>Total excluding Advisory AUM</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

(1) Average AUM is calculated as the average of the month-end spot AUM amounts for the trailing thirteen months.

(2) Amounts include commodity *iShares* ETFs.

Revenue increased \$1,666 million, or 11%, from 2019, primarily driven by higher base and performance fees and 17% growth in technology services revenue.

Base fees of \$12,639 million in 2020 increased \$862 million from \$11,777 million in 2019, primarily driven by organic growth, the positive impact of market beta and foreign exchange movements on average AUM and higher securities lending revenue, partially offset by the impact of fee reductions on certain products. Securities lending revenue of \$652 million increased \$35 million from \$617 million in 2019, primarily reflecting higher average balances of securities on loan and higher cash reinvestment spreads, partially offset by lower asset spreads.

Investment advisory performance fees of \$1,104 million in 2020 increased \$654 million from \$450 million in 2019,

primarily reflecting higher revenue from liquid alternative and long-only equity products. Approximately 60% of the full year increase in performance fees was attributable to a single hedge fund strategy that delivered strong performance during the year.

Technology services revenue of \$1,139 million for 2020 increased \$165 million from \$974 million in 2019, primarily reflecting higher revenue from *Aladdin* and the impact of the eFront acquisition, which closed in May of 2019.

Advisory and other revenue of \$192 million in 2020 decreased \$77 million from \$269 million in 2019, primarily reflecting the impact of the Charitable Contribution of BlackRock’s remaining 20% stake in PennyMac in 2020 and lower advisory assignments.

Expense

The following table presents expense for 2020 and 2019.

(in millions)	2020	2019
Expense:		
Employee compensation and benefits	\$ 5,041	\$ 4,470
Distribution and servicing costs:		
Retrocessions	736	658
12b-1 costs	328	354
Other	771	673
Total distribution and servicing costs	1,835	1,685
Direct fund expense	1,063	978
General and administration:		
Marketing and promotional	229	350
Occupancy and office related	319	307
Portfolio services	283	261
Technology	397	289
Professional services	170	161
Communications	54	39
Foreign exchange remeasurement	6	31
Contingent consideration fair value adjustments	23	53
Product launch costs	166	59
Charitable Contribution	589	—
Other general and administration	229	208
Total general and administration expense	2,465	1,758
Amortization of intangible assets	106	97
Total expense	\$ 10,510	\$ 8,988

Expense increased \$1,522 million, or 17%, from 2019, primarily driven by higher general and administration expense, including the impact of the Charitable Contribution and higher product launch costs, higher employee compensation and benefits expense, and higher volume-related expense in 2020.

Employee compensation and benefits expense increased \$571 million, or 13%, to \$5,041 million in 2020 from \$4,470 million in 2019, primarily reflecting higher base and incentive compensation, driven in part by higher performance fees and operating income.

Direct fund expense increased \$85 million from 2019, reflecting higher average AUM.

General and administration expense increased \$707 million from 2019, primarily driven by \$589 million of expense related to the Charitable Contribution, higher product launch costs, higher portfolio services and

technology expense, including certain costs related to COVID-19, costs related to certain legal matters, including Aviron Capital, LLC., and a \$12 million impairment of a fixed asset. The increase was partially offset by lower marketing and promotional expense, lower contingent consideration fair value adjustments and lower foreign exchange remeasurement expense for 2020.

NONOPERATING RESULTS

The summary of nonoperating income (expense), less net income (loss) attributable to NCI for 2020 and 2019 was as follows:

(in millions)	2020	2019
Nonoperating income (expense), GAAP basis <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 829	\$ 236
Less: Net income (loss) attributable to NCI	354	50
Nonoperating income (expense), as adjusted, net of NCI <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	\$ 475	\$ 186

(in millions)	2020	2019
Net gain (loss) on investments <sup>(1)(2)</sup>		
Private equity	\$ 44	\$ 47
Real assets	8	21
Other alternatives <sup>(3)</sup>	32	19
Other investments <sup>(4)</sup>	120	144
Subtotal	204	231
Gain related to the Charitable Contribution	122	—
Other gains (losses) <sup>(5)</sup>	292	61
Total net gain (loss) on investments <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	618	292
Interest and dividend income	62	97
Interest expense	(205)	(203)
Net interest expense	(143)	(106)
Nonoperating income (expense) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 475	\$ 186

- (1) Net of net income (loss) attributable to NCI.
- (2) Management believes nonoperating income (expense), less net income (loss) attributable to NCI, is an effective measure for reviewing BlackRock’s nonoperating results, which ultimately impacts BlackRock’s book value. See *Non-GAAP Financial Measures* for further information on non-GAAP financial measures.
- (3) Amounts primarily include net gains (losses) related to direct hedge fund strategies and hedge fund solutions.
- (4) Amounts primarily include net gains (losses) related to unhedged equity and fixed income investments.
- (5) Amount for 2020 includes a nonoperating pre-tax gain of approximately \$240 million in connection with a recapitalization of iCapital. Additional amounts include noncash pre-tax gains (losses) related to the revaluation of certain other corporate minority investments.

Income Tax Expense

(in millions)	GAAP		As adjusted	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Operating income <sup>(1)</sup>	\$5,695	\$5,551	\$6,284	\$5,551
Total nonoperating income (expense) <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	\$ 475	\$ 186	\$ 353	\$ 186
Income before income taxes <sup>(2)</sup>	\$6,170	\$5,737	\$6,637	\$5,737
Income tax expense	\$1,238	\$1,261	\$1,400	\$1,253
Effective tax rate	20.1%	22.0%	21.1%	21.9%

- (1) As adjusted items are described in more detail in Non-GAAP Financial Measures.
- (2) Net of net income (loss) attributable to NCI.

The Company’s tax rate is affected by tax rates in foreign jurisdictions and the relative amount of income earned in those jurisdictions, which the Company expects to be fairly consistent in the near term. The significant foreign jurisdictions that have different statutory tax rates than the US federal statutory rate of 21% include the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and Germany.

2020 Income tax expense (GAAP) reflected:

- a discrete tax benefit of \$241 million recognized in connection with the Charitable Contribution;
- a discrete tax benefit of \$139 million, including benefits related to changes in the Company’s organizational entity structure and stock-based compensation awards that vested in 2020; and
- a \$79 million net noncash expense associated with the revaluation of certain deferred income tax assets and liabilities related to legislation enacted in the United Kingdom increasing its corporate tax rate and state and local income tax changes.

The as adjusted effective tax rate of 21.1% for 2020 excluded the \$241 million discrete tax benefit in connection with the Charitable contribution due to its non-recurring nature and the \$79 million noncash

deferred tax revaluation noncash expense mentioned above as it will not have a cash flow impact and to ensure comparability among periods presented.

2019 Income tax expense (GAAP) reflected:

- a discrete tax benefit of \$28 million primarily related to stock-based compensation awards that vested in 2020.

BALANCE SHEET OVERVIEW

The following table presents a reconciliation of the consolidated statement of financial condition presented on a GAAP basis to the consolidated statement of financial condition, excluding the impact of separate account assets and separate account collateral held under securities lending agreements (directly related to lending separate account securities) and separate account liabilities and separate account collateral liabilities under securities lending agreements and consolidated sponsored investment products.

The Company presents the as adjusted balance sheet as additional information to enable investors to exclude certain assets that have equal and offsetting liabilities or noncontrolling interests that ultimately do not have an



impact on stockholders’ equity or cash flows. Management views the as adjusted balance sheet, which contains non-GAAP financial measures, as an economic presentation of the Company’s total assets and liabilities; however, it does not advocate that investors consider such non-GAAP financial measures in isolation from, or as a substitute for, financial information prepared in accordance with GAAP.

Separate Account Assets and Liabilities and Separate Account Collateral Held under Securities Lending Agreements

Separate account assets are maintained by BlackRock Life Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company that is a registered life insurance company in the United Kingdom, and represent segregated assets held for purposes of funding individual and group pension contracts. The Company records equal and offsetting separate account liabilities. The separate account assets are not available to creditors of the Company and the holders of the pension contracts have no recourse to the Company’s assets. The net investment income attributable to separate account assets accrues directly to the contract owners and is not reported on the consolidated statements of income. While BlackRock has no economic interest in these assets or liabilities, BlackRock earns an investment advisory fee for the service of managing these assets on behalf of its clients.

In addition, the Company records on its consolidated statements of financial condition the separate account collateral received under BlackRock Life Limited securities lending arrangements as its own asset in addition to an equal and offsetting separate account collateral liability for the obligation to return the collateral. The collateral is not available to creditors of the Company, and the borrowers under the securities lending arrangements have no recourse to the Company’s assets.

Consolidated Sponsored Investment Products

The Company consolidates certain sponsored investment products accounted for as variable interest entities (“VIEs”) and voting rights entities (“VREs”), (collectively, “consolidated sponsored investment products”). See Note 2, *Significant Accounting Policies*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements contained in Part II, Item 8 of this filing for more information on the Company’s consolidation policy.

The Company cannot readily access cash and cash equivalents or other assets held by consolidated sponsored investment products to use in its operating activities. In addition, the Company cannot readily sell investments held by consolidated sponsored investment products in order to obtain cash for use in the Company’s operations.

	December 31, 2020			
	GAAP Basis	Separate Account Assets/ Collateral <sup>(1)</sup>	Consolidated Sponsored Investment Products <sup>(2)</sup>	As Adjusted
(in millions)				
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,664	\$ —	\$ 206	\$ 8,458
Accounts receivable	3,535	—	—	3,535
Investments	6,919	—	2,486	4,433
Separate account assets and collateral held under securities lending agreements	121,170	121,170	—	—
Other assets <sup>(3)</sup>	3,880	—	81	3,799
Subtotal	144,168	121,170	2,773	20,225
Goodwill and intangible assets, net	32,814	—	—	32,814
Total assets	\$ 176,982	\$ 121,170	\$ 2,773	\$ 53,039
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accrued compensation and benefits	\$ 2,499	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,499
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,028	—	—	1,028
Borrowings	7,264	—	—	7,264
Separate account liabilities and collateral liabilities under securities lending agreements	121,170	121,170	—	—
Deferred income tax liabilities <sup>(4)</sup>	3,673	—	—	3,673
Other liabilities	3,692	—	400	3,292
Total liabilities	139,326	121,170	400	17,756
<b>Equity</b>				
Total BlackRock, Inc. stockholders’ equity	35,283	—	—	35,283
Noncontrolling interests	2,373	—	2,373	—
Total equity	37,656	—	2,373	35,283
Total liabilities and equity	\$ 176,982	\$ 121,170	\$ 2,773	\$ 53,039

(1) Amounts represent segregated client assets and related liabilities, in which BlackRock has no economic interest. BlackRock earns an investment advisory fee for the service of managing these assets on behalf of its clients.

(2) Amounts represent the portion of assets and liabilities of Consolidated Sponsored Investment Products attributable to NCI.

(3) Amount includes property and equipment and other assets.

(4) Amount includes approximately \$4.3 billion of deferred income tax liabilities related to goodwill and intangibles. See Note 25, *Income Taxes*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements contained in Part II, Item 8 of this filing for more information.

The following discussion summarizes the significant changes in assets and liabilities on a GAAP basis. Please see the consolidated statements of financial condition as of December 31, 2020 and 2019 contained in Part II, Item 8 of this filing. The discussion does not include changes related to assets and liabilities that are equal and offsetting and have no impact on BlackRock’s stockholders’ equity.

**Assets.** Cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2020 and 2019 included \$206 million and \$141 million, respectively, of cash held by consolidated sponsored investment products (see *Liquidity and Capital Resources* for details on the change in cash and cash equivalents during 2020).

Accounts receivable at December 31, 2020 increased \$356 million from December 31, 2019, primarily due to higher performance and base fees receivables. Investments, including the impact of consolidated sponsored investment products increased \$1,430 million from December 31, 2019 (for more information see *Investments* herein). Goodwill and intangible assets decreased \$117 million from December 31, 2019, primarily due to amortization of intangible assets. Other assets (including operating lease right-of-use (“ROU”) assets and property and equipment) decreased \$4 million from December 31, 2019, primarily due to a net decrease in certain corporate minority investments, primarily related to the previously discussed Charitable Contribution of BlackRock’s remaining 20% stake in PennyMac, partially offset by an increase in unit trust receivables (substantially offset by an increase in unit trust payables recorded within other liabilities).

**Liabilities.** Accrued compensation and benefits at December 31, 2020 increased \$442 million from December 31, 2019, primarily due to higher 2020 incentive compensation accruals. Other liabilities increased \$222 million from December 31, 2019, primarily due to higher other liabilities of consolidated sponsored investment products and higher unit trust payables (substantially offset by an increase in unit trust receivables recorded within other assets), partially offset by lower contingent liabilities related to certain acquisitions. Net deferred income tax liabilities at

December 31, 2020 decreased \$61 million from December 31, 2019, primarily due to the effects of temporary differences associated with stock-based compensation, investment income and the income tax benefit related to the Charitable Contribution, partially offset by the effects of temporary differences associated with the revaluation of certain deferred income tax liabilities due to tax legislation enacted in the United Kingdom and state and local income tax changes.

Investments

The Company’s investments were \$6,919 million and \$5,489 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. Investments include consolidated investments held by sponsored investment products accounted for as VIEs and VREs. Management reviews BlackRock’s investments on an “economic” basis, which eliminates the portion of investments that does not impact BlackRock’s book value or net income attributable to BlackRock. BlackRock’s management does not advocate that investors consider such non-GAAP financial measures in isolation from, or as a substitute for, financial information prepared in accordance with GAAP.

The Company presents investments, as adjusted, to enable investors to understand the portion of investments that is owned by the Company, net of NCI, as a gauge to measure the impact of changes in net nonoperating income (expense) on investments to net income (loss) attributable to BlackRock.

The Company further presents net “economic” investment exposure, net of deferred compensation investments and hedged investments, to reflect another helpful measure for investors. The economic impact of investments held pursuant to deferred compensation arrangements is offset by a change in compensation expense. The impact of certain investments is substantially mitigated by swap hedges. Carried interest capital allocations are excluded as there is no impact to BlackRock’s stockholders’ equity until such amounts are realized as performance fees. Finally, the Company’s regulatory investment in Federal Reserve Bank stock, which is not subject to market or interest rate risk, is excluded from the Company’s net economic investment exposure.

	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
(in millions)		
Investments, GAAP	\$ 6,919	\$ 5,489
Investments held by consolidated sponsored investment products	(4,976)	(3,784)
Net interest in consolidated sponsored investment products <sup>(1)</sup>	2,490	2,290
Investments, as adjusted	4,433	3,995
Federal Reserve Bank stock	(94)	(93)
Deferred compensation investments	(6)	(23)
Hedged investments	(833)	(644)
Carried interest	(627)	(528)
Total “economic” investment exposure <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 2,873	\$ 2,707

(1) Amount included \$604 million and \$514 million of carried interest (VIEs) as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, which has no impact on the Company’s “economic” investment exposure.

(2) Amounts exclude investments in corporate minority investments included in other assets on the consolidated statements of financial condition

The following table represents the carrying value of the Company’s economic investment exposure, by asset type, at December 31, 2020 and 2019:

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
Equity <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 835	\$ 609
Fixed income <sup>(2)</sup>	958	1,008
Multi-asset <sup>(3)</sup>	127	178
Alternatives:		
Private equity	418	355
Real assets	251	322
Other alternatives <sup>(4)</sup>	284	235
Alternatives subtotal	953	912
Total “economic” investment exposure	\$ 2,873	\$ 2,707

- (1) Equity includes unhedged seed investments in equity mutual funds/strategies and equity securities.
- (2) Fixed income includes unhedged seed investments in fixed income mutual funds/strategies, bank loans and UK government securities, primarily held for regulatory purposes.
- (3) Multi-asset includes unhedged seed investments in multi-asset mutual funds/strategies.
- (4) Other alternatives primarily include hedge funds/funds of hedge funds.

As adjusted investment activity for 2020 and 2019 was as follows:

<i>(in millions)</i>	2020	2019
Total Investments, as adjusted, beginning balance	\$ 3,995	\$ 3,381
Purchases/capital contributions	1,117	975
Sales/maturities	(909)	(617)
Distributions <sup>(1)</sup>	(237)	(226)
Market appreciation(depreciation)/earnings from equity method investments	309	333
Carried interest capital allocations/(distributions)	99	141
Other <sup>(2)</sup>	59	8
Total Investments, as adjusted, ending balance	\$ 4,433	\$ 3,995

- (1) Amount includes distributions representing return of capital and return on investments.
- (2) Amount includes the impact of foreign exchange movements.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

BlackRock Cash Flows Excluding the Impact of Consolidated Sponsored Investment Products

The consolidated statements of cash flows include the cash flows of the consolidated sponsored investment products. The Company uses an adjusted cash flow statement, which excludes the impact of Consolidated Sponsored Investment Products, as a supplemental

non-GAAP measure to assess liquidity and capital requirements. The Company believes that its cash flows, excluding the impact of the consolidated sponsored investment products, provide investors with useful information on the cash flows of BlackRock relating to its ability to fund additional operating, investing and financing activities. BlackRock’s management does not advocate that investors consider such non-GAAP measures in isolation from, or as a substitute for, its cash flows presented in accordance with GAAP.

The following table presents a reconciliation of the consolidated statements of cash flows presented on a GAAP basis to the consolidated statements of cash flows, excluding the impact of the cash flows of consolidated sponsored investment products:

<i>(in millions)</i>	GAAP Basis	Impact on Cash Flows of Consolidated Sponsored Investment Products	Cash Flows Excluding Impact of Consolidated Sponsored Investment Products
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash, December 31, 2018	\$ 6,505	\$ 245	\$ 6,260
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	2,884	(1,563)	4,447
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(2,014)	(110)	(1,904)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	(2,583)	1,569	(4,152)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash	54	—	54
Net increase/(decrease) in cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash	(1,659)	(104)	(1,555)
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash, December 31, 2019	\$ 4,846	\$ 141	\$ 4,705
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	3,743	(1,966)	5,709
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(254)	(71)	(183)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	244	2,102	(1,858)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash	102	—	102
Net increase/(decrease) in cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash	3,835	65	3,770
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash, December 31, 2020	\$ 8,681	\$ 206	\$ 8,475

Sources of BlackRock’s operating cash primarily include investment advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue, performance fees, technology services revenue, advisory revenue and distribution fees. BlackRock uses its cash to pay for all operating expense, interest and principal on borrowings, income taxes, dividends on BlackRock’s capital stock, repurchases of the Company’s stock, acquisitions, capital expenditures and purchases of co-investments and seed investments.

For details of the Company’s GAAP cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities, see the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows contained in Part II, Item 8 of this filing.

Cash flows provided by/(used in) operating activities, excluding the impact of consolidated sponsored investment products, primarily include the receipt of investment advisory and administration fees, securities lending revenue and performance fees offset by the payment of operating expenses incurred in the normal course of business, including year-end incentive compensation accrued for in the prior year.

Cash flows used in investing activities, excluding the impact of consolidated sponsored investment products, for 2020 were \$183 million and reflected \$194 million of purchases of property and equipment and \$172 million of net investment purchases, partially offset by \$183 million of distributions of capital from equity method investees.

Cash flows used in financing activities, excluding the impact of consolidated sponsored investment products, for 2020 were \$1.9 billion, primarily resulting from \$1.8 billion of share repurchases, including \$1.1 billion from PNC, \$412 million in open market transactions and \$297 million of employee tax withholdings related to employee stock transactions, and \$2.3 billion of cash dividend payments, partially offset by \$2.2 billion of proceeds from long-term borrowings.

The Company manages its financial condition and funding to maintain appropriate liquidity for the business. Liquidity resources at December 31, 2020 and 2019 were as follows:

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
Cash and cash equivalents <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 8,664	\$ 4,829
Cash and cash equivalents held by consolidated sponsored investment products <sup>(2)</sup>	(206)	(141)
Subtotal	8,458	4,688
Credit facility — undrawn	4,000	4,000
Total liquidity resources <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 12,458	\$ 8,688

- (1) The percentage of cash and cash equivalents held by the Company’s US subsidiaries was approximately 55% and 45% at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. See *Net Capital Requirements* herein for more information on net capital requirements in certain regulated subsidiaries.
- (2) The Company cannot readily access such cash and cash equivalents to use in its operating activities.
- (3) Amounts do not reflect year-end incentive compensation accruals, which are paid in the first quarter.

Total liquidity resources increased \$3,770 million during 2020, primarily reflecting \$2.2 billion of proceeds from long-term borrowings and cash flows from other operating

activities, partially offset by cash dividend payments of \$2.3 billion and share repurchases of \$1.8 billion.

A significant portion of the Company’s \$4,433 million of investments, as adjusted, is illiquid in nature and, as such, cannot be readily convertible to cash.

The Company’s liquidity and capital resources were not materially impacted by COVID-19 and related economic conditions during 2020. The Company will continue to monitor its liquidity and capital resources due to the current pandemic.

**Share Repurchases.** During 2020, the Company repurchased an aggregate of approximately \$1.5 billion of common shares, including the repurchase from PNC and 0.8 million common shares under the Company’s existing share repurchase program for approximately \$412 million. At December 31, 2020, there were 5.1 million shares still authorized to be repurchased under the program.

**Net Capital Requirements.** The Company is required to maintain net capital in certain regulated subsidiaries within a number of jurisdictions, which is partially maintained by retaining cash and cash equivalent investments in those subsidiaries or jurisdictions. As a result, such subsidiaries of the Company may be restricted in their ability to transfer cash between different jurisdictions and to their parents. Additionally, transfers of cash between international jurisdictions may have adverse tax consequences that could discourage such transfers.

BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A. (“BTC”) is chartered as a national bank that does not accept deposits or make commercial loans and whose powers are limited to trust and other fiduciary activities. BTC provides investment management and other fiduciary services, including investment advisory and securities lending agency services, to institutional clients. BTC is subject to regulatory capital and liquid asset requirements administered by the US Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Company was required to maintain approximately \$2.2 billion and \$1.9 billion, respectively, in net capital in certain regulated subsidiaries, including BTC, entities regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority in the United Kingdom, and the Company’s broker-dealers. The Company was in compliance with all applicable regulatory net capital requirements.

**Undistributed Earnings of Foreign Subsidiaries.** As a result of The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and the one-time mandatory deemed repatriation tax on untaxed accumulated foreign earnings, US income taxes were provided on the Company’s undistributed foreign earnings. The financial statement basis in excess of tax basis of its foreign subsidiaries remains indefinitely reinvested in foreign operations. The Company will continue to evaluate its capital management plans.

Short-Term Borrowings

**2020 Revolving Credit Facility.** The Company’s credit facility has an aggregate commitment amount of \$4 billion and was amended in March 2020 to extend the maturity date to March 2025 (the “2020 credit facility”). The 2020 credit facility permits the Company to request



up to an additional \$1 billion of borrowing capacity, subject to lender credit approval, increasing the overall size of the 2020 credit facility to an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$5 billion. Interest on borrowings outstanding accrues at a rate based on the applicable London Interbank Offered Rate plus a spread. The 2020 credit facility requires the Company not to exceed a maximum leverage ratio (ratio of net debt to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, where net debt equals total debt less unrestricted cash) of 3 to 1, which was satisfied with a ratio of less than 1 to 1 at December 31, 2020. The 2020 credit facility provides

Long-Term Borrowings

The carrying value of long-term borrowings at December 31, 2020 included the following:

<i>(in millions)</i>	Maturity Amount	Carrying Value	Maturity
4.25% Notes	\$ 750	\$ 750	May 2021
3.375% Notes	750	748	June 2022
3.50% Notes	1,000	997	March 2024
1.25% Notes <sup>(1)</sup>	856	853	May 2025
3.20% Notes	700	695	March 2027
3.25% Notes	1,000	989	April 2029
2.40% Notes	1,000	993	April 2030
1.90% Notes	1,250	1,239	January 2031
<b>Total Long-term Borrowings</b>	<b>\$ 7,306</b>	<b>\$ 7,264</b>	

(1) The carrying value of the 1.25% Notes is calculated using the EUR/USD foreign exchange rate as of December 31, 2020.

In January 2020, the Company issued \$1 billion in aggregate principal amount of 2.40% senior unsecured and unsubordinated notes maturing on April 30, 2030 (the “2030 Notes”). The net proceeds of the 2030 Notes were used for general corporate purposes. Interest of approximately \$24 million per year is payable semi-annually on April 30 and October 30 of each year, which commenced on April 30, 2020. The 2030 Notes may be redeemed prior to January 30, 2030 in whole or in part at any time, at the option of the Company, at a “make-whole” redemption price or at 100% of the principal amount of the 2030 Notes thereafter. The unamortized discount and debt issuance costs are being amortized over the remaining term of the 2030 Notes.

In April 2020, the Company issued \$1.25 billion in aggregate principal amount of 1.90% senior unsecured and unsubordinated notes maturing on January 28, 2031

back-up liquidity to fund ongoing working capital for general corporate purposes and various investment opportunities. At December 31, 2020, the Company had no amount outstanding under the 2020 credit facility.

*Commercial Paper Program.* The Company can issue unsecured commercial paper notes (the “CP Notes”) on a private-placement basis up to a maximum aggregate amount outstanding at any time of \$4 billion. The commercial paper program is currently supported by the 2020 credit facility. At December 31, 2020, BlackRock had no CP Notes outstanding.

(the “2031 Notes”). The net proceeds of the 2031 Notes are being used for general corporate purposes, which may include the future repayment of all or a portion of the \$750 million 4.25% Notes due May 2021. Interest of approximately \$24 million per year is payable semi-annually on January 28 and July 28 of each year, which commenced on July 28, 2020. The 2031 Notes may be redeemed prior to October 28, 2030 in whole or in part at any time, at the option of the Company, at a “make-whole” redemption price or at 100% of the principal amount of the 2031 Notes thereafter. The unamortized discount and debt issuance costs are being amortized over the remaining term of the 2031 Notes.

For more information on Company’s borrowings, see Note 15, *Borrowings*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements contained in Part II, Item 8 of this filing.

Contractual Obligations, Commitments and Contingencies

The following table sets forth contractual obligations, commitments and contingencies by year of payment at December 31, 2020:

<i>(in millions)</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Thereafter	Total
<b>Contractual obligations and commitments:</b>							
Long-term borrowings <sup>(1)</sup> :							
Principal	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ —	\$ 1,000	\$ 856	\$ 3,950	\$ 7,306
Interest	190	161	148	131	113	386	1,129
Operating leases	169	163	149	135	119	1,605	2,340
Purchase obligations	198	140	64	38	5	—	445
Investment commitments	789	—	—	—	—	—	789
<b>Total contractual obligations and commitments</b>	<b>2,096</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>5,941</b>	<b>12,009</b>
<b>Contingent obligations:</b>							
Contingent payments related to business acquisitions <sup>(2)</sup>	26	—	—	—	—	—	26
<b>Total contractual obligations, commitments and contingent obligations<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>\$ 2,122</b>	<b>\$ 1,214</b>	<b>\$ 361</b>	<b>\$ 1,304</b>	<b>\$ 1,093</b>	<b>\$ 5,941</b>	<b>\$ 12,035</b>

(1) The amount of principal and interest payments for the 1.25% Notes (issued in Euros) represents the expected payment amounts using the EUR/USD foreign exchange rate as of December 31, 2020.

(2) The amount of contingent payments reflected for any year represents the expected payments using foreign currency exchange rates as of December 31, 2020. The fair value of the remaining aggregate contingent payments at December 31, 2020 totaled \$26 million and is included in other liabilities on the consolidated statements of financial condition.

(3) At December 31, 2020, the Company had approximately \$691 million of net unrecognized tax benefits. Due to the uncertainty of timing and amounts that will ultimately be paid, this amount has been excluded from the table above.

*Operating Leases.* The Company leases its primary office locations under agreements that expire on varying dates through 2043. In connection with certain lease agreements, the Company is responsible for escalation payments. The contractual obligations table above includes only guaranteed minimum lease payments for such leases and does not project potential escalation or other lease-related payments.

In May 2017, the Company entered into an agreement with 50 HYMC Owner LLC, for the lease of approximately 847,000 square feet of office space located at 50 Hudson Yards, New York, New York. The term of the lease includes 20 years of cash rental payments expected to begin in May 2023, with the option to renew for a specified term. The lease requires annual base rental payments of approximately \$51 million per year during the first five years of the lease term, increasing every five years to \$58 million, \$66 million and \$74 million per year (or approximately \$1.2 billion in base rent over a 20-year period). In November 2019, the Company exercised its initial expansion option with respect to two additional floors aggregating approximately 122,000 square feet of office space. The additional space requires approximately \$185 million in base rent over the 20-year period.

For more information on the Company’s operating leases, see Note 13, *Leases*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements contained in Part II, Item 8 of this filing.

*Purchase Obligations.* In the ordinary course of business, BlackRock enters into contracts or purchase obligations with third parties whereby the third parties provide services to or on behalf of BlackRock. Purchase obligations included in the contractual obligations table above represent executory contracts, which are either noncancelable or cancelable with a penalty. At December 31, 2020, the Company’s obligations primarily reflected standard service contracts for portfolio services,

market data, office-related services and third-party marketing and promotional services, and obligations for equipment. Purchase obligations are recorded on the consolidated financial statements when services are provided and, as such, obligations for services and equipment not received are not included in the consolidated statement of financial condition at December 31, 2020.

*Investment Commitments.* At December 31, 2020, the Company had \$789 million of various capital commitments to fund sponsored investment products, including consolidated sponsored investment products. These products include private equity funds, real assets funds and opportunistic funds. This amount excludes additional commitments made by consolidated funds of funds to underlying third-party funds as third-party noncontrolling interest holders have the legal obligation to fund the respective commitments of such funds of funds. Generally, the timing of the funding of these commitments is unknown and the commitments are callable on demand at any time prior to the expiration of the commitment. These unfunded commitments are not recorded on the consolidated statements of financial condition. These commitments do not include potential future commitments approved by the Company that are not yet legally binding. The Company intends to make additional capital commitments from time to time to fund additional investment products for, and with, its clients.

*Contingent Payments Related to Business Acquisitions.* In connection with certain acquisitions, BlackRock is required to make contingent payments, subject to achieving specified performance targets, which may include revenue related to acquired contracts or new capital commitments for certain products. The fair value of the remaining aggregate contingent payments at December 31, 2020 totaled \$26 million and is included in other liabilities on the consolidated statements of financial condition.

The following items have not been included in the contractual obligations, commitments and contingencies table:

**Carried Interest Clawback.** As a general partner in certain investment products, including private equity partnerships and certain hedge funds, the Company may receive carried interest cash distributions from the partnerships in accordance with distribution provisions of the partnership agreements. The Company may, from time to time, be required to return all or a portion of such distributions to the limited partners in the event the limited partners do not achieve a return as specified in the various partnership agreements. Therefore, BlackRock records carried interest subject to such clawback provisions in investments, or cash and cash equivalents to the extent that it is distributed, and as a deferred carried interest liability on its consolidated statements of financial condition. Carried interest is recorded as performance fees on BlackRock's consolidated statements of income when fees are no longer probable of significant reversal.

**Indemnifications.** In the ordinary course of business or in connection with certain acquisition agreements, BlackRock enters into contracts pursuant to which it may agree to indemnify third parties in certain circumstances. The terms of these indemnities vary from contract to contract and the amount of indemnification liability, if any, cannot be determined or the likelihood of any liability is considered remote and, therefore, has not been included in the table above or recorded in the consolidated statement of financial condition at December 31, 2020. See further discussion in Note 16, *Commitments and Contingencies*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements contained in Part II, Item 8 of this filing.

On behalf of certain clients, the Company lends securities to highly rated banks and broker-dealers. In these securities lending transactions, the borrower is required to provide and maintain collateral at or above regulatory minimums. Securities on loan are marked to market daily to determine if the borrower is required to pledge additional collateral. In connection with securities lending transactions, BlackRock has agreed to indemnify certain securities lending clients against potential loss resulting from a borrower's failure to fulfill its obligations under the securities lending agreement should the value of the collateral pledged by the borrower at the time of default be insufficient to cover the borrower's obligation under the securities lending agreement. The amount of securities on loan as of December 31, 2020 and subject to this type of indemnification was \$270 billion. In the Company's capacity as lending agent, cash and securities totaling \$289 billion was held as collateral for indemnified securities on loan at December 31, 2020. The fair value of these indemnifications was not material at December 31, 2020.

While the collateral pledged by a borrower is intended to be sufficient to offset the borrower's obligations to return securities borrowed and any other amounts owing to the lender under the relevant securities lending agreement, in the event of a borrower default, the Company can give no assurance that the collateral pledged by the borrower will be sufficient to fulfill such obligations. If the amount of such pledged collateral is not sufficient to fulfill such obligations to a client for whom the Company has provided indemnification, BlackRock would be responsible for the amount of the shortfall. These indemnifications

cover only the collateral shortfall described above, and do not in any way guarantee, assume or otherwise insure the investment performance or return of any cash collateral vehicle into which securities lending cash collateral is invested.

**Compensation and Benefit Obligations.** The Company has various compensation and benefit obligations, including bonuses, commissions and incentive payments payable, defined contribution plan matching contribution obligations, and deferred compensation arrangements, that are excluded from the contractual obligations and commitments table above. Accrued compensation and benefits at December 31, 2020 totaled \$2,500 million and included annual incentive compensation of \$1,685 million, deferred compensation of \$428 million and other compensation and benefits related obligations of \$387 million. Substantially all of the incentive compensation liability was paid in the first quarter of 2021, while the deferred compensation obligations are payable over various periods, with the majority payable over periods of up to three years.

**Acquisition.** On February 1, 2021, the Company completed the acquisition of 100% of the equity interests of Aperio, a pioneer in customizing tax-optimized index equity separately managed accounts ("SMAs") for approximately \$1.1 billion in cash, using existing cash resources. The acquisition of Aperio increased BlackRock's SMA assets and is expected to expand the breadth of the Company's capabilities via tax-managed strategies across factors, broad market indexing, and investor Environmental, Social, and Governance preferences across all asset classes. In connection with the acquisition, the Company recorded an initial estimate of purchase price allocation at the date of the transaction primarily related to goodwill of approximately \$0.8 billion and \$0.3 billion of finite-lived intangible assets (mainly customer relationships), which will be amortized over their estimated lives, which range from 10 to 12 years, with a weighted-average estimated life of approximately 10 years. The goodwill recognized in connection with the acquisition is primarily attributable to anticipated synergies from the transaction. The amount of goodwill expected to be deductible for tax purposes is approximately \$0.5 billion.

## CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expense during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ significantly from those estimates. Management considers the following critical accounting policies important to understanding the consolidated financial statements. For a summary of these and additional accounting policies see Note 2, *Significant Accounting Policies*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in Part II, Item 8 of this filing.

### Consolidation

In the normal course of business, the Company is the manager of various types of sponsored investment vehicles. The Company performs an analysis for

investment products to determine if the product is a VIE or a VRE. Assessing whether an entity is a VIE or a VRE involves judgment and analysis. Factors considered in this assessment include the entity's legal organization, the entity's capital structure and equity ownership, and any related party or de facto agent implications of the Company's involvement with the entity. Investments that are determined to be VREs are consolidated if the Company can exert control over the financial and operating policies of the investee, which generally exists if there is greater than 50% voting interest. Investments that are determined to be VIEs are consolidated if the Company is the primary beneficiary ("PB") of the entity. BlackRock is deemed to be the PB of a VIE if it has the power to direct the activities that most significantly impact the entities' economic performance and has the obligation to absorb losses or the right to receive benefits that potentially could be significant to the VIE. The Company generally consolidates VIEs in which it holds an economic interest of 10% or greater and deconsolidates such VIEs once equity ownership falls below 10%. See Note 6, *Consolidated Sponsored Investment Products*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements contained in Part II, Item 8 of this filing for more information.

### Investments

**Equity Method Investments.** For equity investments where BlackRock does not control the investee, and where it is not the PB of a VIE, but can exert significant influence over the financial and operating policies of the investee, the Company follows the equity method of accounting. The evaluation of whether the Company exerts control or significant influence over the financial and operational policies of its investees requires significant judgment based on the facts and circumstances surrounding each individual investment. Factors considered in these evaluations may include the type of investment, the legal structure of the investee, the terms and structure of the investment agreement, including investor voting or other rights, the terms of BlackRock's advisory agreement or other agreements with the investee, any influence BlackRock may have on the governing board of the investee, the legal rights of other investors in the entity pursuant to the fund's operating documents and the relationship between BlackRock and other investors in the entity.

BlackRock's equity method investees that are investment companies record their underlying investments at fair value. Therefore, under the equity method of accounting, BlackRock's share of the investee's underlying net income predominantly represents fair value adjustments in the investments held by the equity method investees. BlackRock's share of the investee's underlying net income or loss is based upon the most currently available information and is recorded as nonoperating income (expense) for investments in investment companies, or as advisory and other revenue for certain corporate minority investments, which are recorded in other assets, since such investees are considered to be an extension of BlackRock's core business.

At December 31, 2020, the Company had \$1,081 million and \$399 million of equity method investments, included in investments and other assets, respectively, and at December 31, 2019, the Company had \$943 million and \$531 million of equity method investments included in investments and other assets, respectively.

**Other nonequity method corporate minority investments.** Other nonequity method corporate minority investments are recorded within other assets on the consolidated statements of financial condition. At December 31, 2020 and 2019, these investments totaled \$272 million and \$282 million, respectively, and included investments in equity securities, which are generally measured at fair value or under the measurement alternative to fair value for nonmarketable securities. Changes in value of these securities are recorded in nonoperating income (expense) on the consolidated statements of income. See Note 2, *Significant Accounting Policies*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements contained in Part II, Item 8 of this filing for more information.

**Impairments of Investments.** Evaluation of impairments involves significant assumptions and management judgments, which could differ from actual results, and these differences could have a material impact on the consolidated statements of income. See Note 2, *Significant Accounting Policies*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements contained in Part II, Item 8 of this filing for more information.

### Fair Value Measurements

The Company's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement according to the fair value hierarchy (i.e., Level 1, 2 and 3 inputs, as defined) in its entirety requires judgment and considers factors specific to the financial instrument. See Note 2, *Significant Accounting Policies*, in the consolidated financial statements contained in Part II, Item 8 of this filing for more information on fair value measurements.

**Changes in Valuation.** Changes in value on \$6,919 million of investments will impact the Company's nonoperating income (expense), \$404 million are held at cost or amortized cost and the remaining \$627 million relates to carried interest, which will not impact nonoperating income (expense). At December 31, 2020, changes in fair value of \$4,372 million of consolidated sponsored investment products will impact BlackRock's net income (loss) attributable to NCI on the consolidated statements of income. BlackRock's net exposure to changes in fair value of consolidated sponsored investment products was \$1,886 million.

### Leases

The Company determines if a contract is a lease or contains a lease at inception. The identification of whether a contract contains a lease requires judgment, including determining whether there are identified assets in the contract that the Company has control over for a specified period of time in exchange for consideration.

Fixed lease payments are included in the measurement of ROU assets and lease liabilities on the consolidated statement of financial condition. The Company recognizes ROU assets and lease liabilities based on the present value of these future lease payments over the lease term at the commencement date discounted using the Company's incremental borrowing rate ("IBR"). Management judgment is required in determining the Company's IBR, including assessing the Company's credit rating using various financial metrics, such as revenue, operating margin and revenue growth, and, as



appropriate, performing market analysis of yields on publicly traded bonds (secured or unsecured) of comparable companies. See Note 2, *Significant Accounting Policies*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements contained in Part II, Item 8 of this filing for more information on leases.

#### Goodwill and Intangible Assets

The value of advisory contracts acquired in business acquisitions to manage AUM in proprietary open-end investment funds as well as collective trust funds without a specified termination date are classified as indefinite-lived intangible assets. The assignment of indefinite lives to such investment fund contracts is based upon the assumption that there is no foreseeable limit on the contract period to manage these funds due to the likelihood of continued renewal at little or no cost. In addition, trade names/trademarks are considered indefinite-lived intangibles if they are expected to generate cash flows indefinitely. Goodwill represents the cost of a business acquisition in excess of the fair value of the net assets acquired. Indefinite-lived intangible assets and goodwill are not amortized.

Finite-lived management contracts, which relate to acquired separate accounts and funds, investor/customer relationships, and technology related assets that are expected to contribute to the future cash flows of the Company for a specified period of time are amortized over their remaining expected useful lives, which, at December 31, 2020 ranged from 1 to 10 years with a weighted-average remaining estimated useful life of seven years.

*Goodwill.* The Company assesses its goodwill for impairment at least annually, considering such factors as the book value and the market capitalization of the Company. The impairment assessment performed as of July 31, 2020 indicated no impairment charge was required. The Company continues to monitor its book value per share compared with closing prices of its common stock for potential indicators of impairment. At December 31, 2020, the Company's common stock closed at \$721.54, which exceeded its book value of approximately \$231.31 per share.

*Indefinite-lived and finite-lived intangibles.* The Company performs assessments to determine if any intangible assets are impaired and whether the indefinite-life and finite-life classifications are still appropriate.

In evaluating whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of indefinite-lived intangibles is less than carrying value, BlackRock performed certain quantitative assessments and assessed various significant qualitative factors including AUM, revenue basis points, projected AUM growth rates, operating margins, tax rates and discount rates. In addition, the Company considered other factors including: (i) macroeconomic conditions such as a deterioration in general economic conditions, limitations on accessing capital, fluctuations in foreign exchange rates, or other developments in equity and credit markets; (ii) industry and market considerations such as a deterioration in the environment in which the Company operates, an increased competitive environment, a decline in market-dependent multiples or metrics, a change in the

market for an entity's services, or regulatory, legal or political developments; and (iii) the Company-specific events, such as a change in management or key personnel, overall financial performance and litigation that could affect significant inputs used to determine the fair value of the indefinite-lived intangible asset. If an indefinite-lived intangible is determined to be more likely than not impaired, then the fair value of the asset is compared with its carrying value and any excess of the carrying value over the fair value would be recognized as an expense in the period in which the impairment occurs.

For finite-lived intangible assets, if potential impairment circumstances are considered to exist, the Company will perform a recoverability test, using an undiscounted cash flow analysis. Actual results could differ from these cash flow estimates, which could materially impact the impairment conclusion. If the carrying value of the asset is determined not to be recoverable based on the undiscounted cash flow test, the difference between the book value of the asset and its current fair value would be recognized as an expense in the period in which the impairment occurs.

In addition, management judgment is required to estimate the period over which finite-lived intangible assets will contribute to the Company's cash flows and the pattern in which these assets will be consumed. A change in the remaining useful life of any of these assets, or the reclassification of an indefinite-lived intangible asset to a finite-lived intangible asset, could have a significant impact on the Company's amortization expense, which was \$106 million, \$97 million and \$50 million for 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

In 2020, 2019 and 2018, the Company performed impairment tests, including evaluating various qualitative factors and performing certain quantitative assessments. The Company determined that no impairment charges were required and that the classification of indefinite-lived versus finite-lived intangibles was still appropriate and no changes were required to the expected lives of the finite-lived intangibles. The Company continuously monitors various factors, including AUM, for potential indicators of impairment.

#### Contingent Consideration Liabilities

In connection with certain acquisitions, BlackRock is required to make contingent payments, subject to achieving specified performance targets. The fair value of this contingent consideration is estimated at the time of acquisition closing and is included in other liabilities on the consolidated statements of financial condition. As the fair value of the expected payments amount subsequently changes, the contingent consideration liability is adjusted, resulting in contingent consideration fair value adjustments recorded within general and administration expense of the consolidated statements of income. Cash payments up to the acquisition date fair value amount of the contingent consideration liability are reflected as financing activities with excess (if any) cash payments classified in operating activities. Any cash payments made soon after the acquisition date will be classified in investing activities.

#### Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognized upon transfer of control of promised services to customers in an amount to which the Company expects to be entitled in exchange for those services. The Company enters into contracts that can include multiple services, which are accounted for separately if they are determined to be distinct. Management judgment is required to identify distinct services and involves assessing such factors as whether the promised services significantly modify or customize one another or are highly interdependent or interrelated. Management judgment may be also required when determining the following: when variable consideration is no longer probable of significant reversal (and hence can be included in revenue); whether certain revenue should be presented gross or net of certain related costs; when a promised service transfers to the customer; and the applicable method of measuring progress for services transferred to the customer over time. Many of BlackRock's promised services represent a series of distinct services (e.g., investment advisory services) in which the associated variable consideration (e.g., management fees) is allocated to specific days of service as opposed to over the entire contract term.

Investment advisory and administration fees are recognized as the services are performed over time because the customer is receiving and consuming the benefits as they are provided by the Company. Fees are primarily based on agreed-upon percentages of AUM and recognized for services provided during the period, which are distinct from services provided in other periods. Such fees are affected by changes in AUM, including market appreciation or depreciation, foreign exchange translation and net inflows or outflows. AUM represents the broad range of financial assets the Company manages for clients on a discretionary basis pursuant to investment management and trust agreements that are expected to continue for at least 12 months. In general, reported AUM reflects the valuation methodology that corresponds to the basis used for determining revenue (for example, net asset values).

The Company earns revenue by lending securities on behalf of clients, primarily to highly rated banks and broker-dealers. The securities loaned are secured by collateral, generally ranging from 102% to 112% of the value of the loaned securities. For 2020, 2019 and 2018, securities lending revenue earned by the Company totaled \$652 million, \$617 million and \$627 million, respectively, and is recorded in investment advisory, administration and securities lending revenue on the consolidated statements of income. Investment advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue are reported together as the fees for these services often are agreed upon with clients as a bundled fee.

The Company receives investment advisory performance fees, including incentive allocations (carried interest) from certain actively managed investment funds and certain separately managed accounts. These performance fees are dependent upon exceeding specified relative or absolute investment return thresholds, which may vary by product or account, and include monthly, quarterly, annual or longer measurement periods.

Performance fees, including carried interest, are recognized when it is determined that they are no longer probable of significant reversal (such as upon the sale of a

fund's investment or when the amount of AUM becomes known as of the end of a specified measurement period). Given the unique nature of each fee arrangement, contracts with customers are evaluated on an individual basis to determine the timing of revenue recognition. Significant judgement is involved in making such determination. Performance fees typically arise from investment management services that began in prior reporting periods. Consequently, a portion of the fees the Company recognizes may be partially related to the services performed in prior periods that meet the recognition criteria in the current period. At each reporting date, the Company considers various factors in estimating performance fees to be recognized, including carried interest. These factors include but are not limited to whether: (1) the fees are dependent on the market and thus are highly susceptible to factors outside the Company's influence; (2) the fees have a large number and a broad range of possible amounts; and (3) the funds or separately managed accounts have the ability to invest or reinvest their sales proceeds.

The Company is allocated carried interest from certain alternative investment products upon exceeding performance thresholds. The Company may be required to reverse/return all, or part, of such carried interest allocations/distributions depending upon future performance of these products. Carried interest subject to such clawback provisions is recorded in investments or cash and cash equivalents to the extent that it is distributed, on its consolidated statements of financial condition.

The Company records a liability for deferred carried interest to the extent it receives cash or capital allocations related to carried interest prior to meeting the revenue recognition criteria. At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Company had \$584 million and \$483 million, respectively, of deferred carried interest recorded in other liabilities on the consolidated statements of financial condition. A portion of the deferred carried interest may also be paid to certain employees. The ultimate timing of the recognition of performance fee revenue and related compensation expense, if any, for these products is unknown. See Note 17, *Revenue*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements for detailed changes in the deferred carried interest liability balance for 2020 and 2019.

Fees earned for technology services are primarily recorded as services are performed and are generally determined using the value of positions on the *Aladdin* platform or on a fixed-rate basis. Revenue derived from the sale of software licenses is recognized upon the granting of access rights.

Distribution and service fees earned for distributing investment products and providing support services to investment portfolios, are based on AUM, and are recognized when the amount of fees is known.

Adjustments to revenue arising from initial estimates recorded historically have been immaterial since the majority of BlackRock's investment advisory and administration revenue is calculated based on AUM and since the Company does not record performance fee revenue until: (1) performance thresholds have been exceeded and (2) management determines the fees are no longer probable of significant reversal.

## Income Taxes

Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are recognized for future tax consequences attributable to temporary differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases using currently enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to reverse. The effect of a change in tax rates on deferred tax assets and liabilities is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date.

Significant management judgment is required in estimating the ranges of possible outcomes and determining the probability of favorable or unfavorable tax outcomes and potential interest and penalties related to such unfavorable outcomes. Actual future tax consequences relating to uncertain tax positions may be materially different than the Company's current estimates. At December 31, 2020, BlackRock had \$940 million of gross unrecognized tax benefits, of which \$565 million, if recognized, would affect the effective tax rate.

Management is required to estimate the timing of the recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities, make assumptions about the future deductibility of deferred income tax assets and assess deferred income tax liabilities based on enacted tax rates for the appropriate tax jurisdictions to determine the amount of such deferred income tax assets and liabilities. At December 31, 2020, the Company had deferred income tax assets of \$304 million and deferred income tax liabilities of \$3,673 million on the consolidated statement of financial condition. Changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities may occur in certain circumstances, including statutory income tax rate changes, statutory tax law changes, changes in the anticipated timing of recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities or changes in the structure or tax status of the Company.

The Company assesses whether a valuation allowance should be established against its deferred income tax assets based on consideration of all available evidence, both positive and negative, using a more likely than not standard. The assessment considers, among other matters, the nature, frequency and severity of recent losses, forecast of future profitability, the duration of statutory carry back and carry forward periods, the Company's experience with tax attributes expiring unused, and tax planning alternatives.

The Company records income taxes based upon its estimated income tax liability or benefit. The Company's actual tax liability or benefit may differ from the estimated income tax liability or benefit. The Company had current income taxes receivables of approximately \$175 million and current income taxes payables of \$131 million at December 31, 2020.

## Accounting Developments

For accounting pronouncements that the Company adopted during the year ended December 31, 2020, see Note 2, *Significant Accounting Policies*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements contained in Part II, Item 8 of this filing.

## Item 7a. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

**AUM Market Price Risk.** BlackRock's investment advisory and administration fees are primarily comprised of fees based on a percentage of the value of AUM and, in some cases, performance fees expressed as a percentage of the returns realized on AUM. At December 31, 2020, the majority of the Company's investment advisory and administration fees were based on average or period end AUM of the applicable investment funds or separate accounts. Movements in equity market prices, interest rates/credit spreads, foreign exchange rates or all three could cause the value of AUM to decline, which would result in lower investment advisory and administration fees.

**Corporate Investments Portfolio Risks.** As a leading investment management firm, BlackRock devotes significant resources across all of its operations to identifying, measuring, monitoring, managing and analyzing market and operating risks, including the management and oversight of its own investment portfolio. The Board of Directors of the Company has adopted guidelines for the review of investments to be made by the Company, requiring, among other things, that investments be reviewed by certain senior officers of the Company, and that certain investments may be referred to the Audit Committee or the Board of Directors, depending on the circumstances, for approval.

In the normal course of its business, BlackRock is exposed to equity market price risk, interest rate/credit spread risk and foreign exchange rate risk associated with its corporate investments.

BlackRock has investments primarily in sponsored investment products that invest in a variety of asset classes, including real assets, private equity and hedge funds. Investments generally are made for co-investment purposes, to establish a performance track record, to hedge exposure to certain deferred compensation plans or for regulatory purposes. Currently, the Company has a seed capital hedging program in which it enters into swaps to hedge market and interest rate exposure to certain investments. At December 31, 2020, the Company had outstanding total return swaps with an aggregate notional value of approximately \$833 million. At December 31, 2020, there were no outstanding interest rate swaps.

At December 31, 2020, approximately \$5.0 billion of BlackRock's investments were maintained in consolidated sponsored investment products accounted for as variable interest entities and voting rights entities. Excluding the impact of the Federal Reserve Bank stock, carried interest, investments made to hedge exposure to certain deferred compensation plans and certain investments that are hedged via the seed capital hedging program, the Company's economic exposure to its investment portfolio is \$2.9 billion. See Item 7, *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations-Balance Sheet Overview-Investments* for further information on the Company's investments.

**Equity Market Price Risk.** At December 31, 2020, the Company's net exposure to equity market price risk in its investment portfolio was approximately \$1,048 million of the Company's total economic investment exposure. Investments subject to market price risk include private equity and real assets investments, hedge funds and funds of funds as well as mutual funds. The Company estimates that a hypothetical 10% adverse change in market prices would result in a decrease of approximately \$105 million in the carrying value of such investments.

**Interest-Rate/Credit Spread Risk.** At December 31, 2020, the Company was exposed to interest rate risk and credit spread risk as a result of approximately \$1,825 million of investments in debt securities and sponsored investment products that invest primarily in debt securities. Management considered a hypothetical 100 basis point fluctuation in interest rates or credit spreads and estimates that the impact of such a fluctuation on these investments, in the aggregate, would result in a decrease, or increase, of approximately \$38 million in the carrying value of such investments.

**Foreign Exchange Rate Risk.** As discussed above, the Company invests in sponsored investment products that invest in a variety of asset classes. The carrying value of the total economic investment exposure denominated in foreign currencies, primarily the British pound and Euro, was \$947 million at December 31, 2020. A 10% adverse change in the applicable foreign exchange rates would result in approximately a \$95 million decline in the carrying value of such investments.

**Other Market Risks.** The Company executes forward foreign currency exchange contracts to mitigate the risk of certain foreign exchange risk movements. At December 31, 2020, the Company had outstanding forward foreign currency exchange contracts with an aggregate notional value of approximately \$2.8 billion.

## Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplemental Data

The report of the independent registered public accounting firm and financial statements listed in the accompanying index are included in Item 15 of this report. See Index to the consolidated financial statements on page F-1 of this Form 10-K.

## Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

There have been no disagreements on accounting and financial disclosure matters. BlackRock has not changed accountants in the two most recent fiscal years.

## Item 9a. Controls and Procedures

**Disclosure Controls and Procedures.** Under the direction of BlackRock's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, BlackRock evaluated the effectiveness of its disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this annual report on Form 10-K. Based on this evaluation, BlackRock's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that BlackRock's disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting.** There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020 that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect our internal control over financial reporting. In addition, there was no material impact to our internal control over financial reporting while most of our employees are working remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Company is continually monitoring and assessing the COVID-19 situation to determine any potential impact on the design and operating effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting.



## Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management of BlackRock, Inc. (the “Company”) is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. Internal control over financial reporting is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the Company’s principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the Company’s board of directors, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and includes those policies and procedures that:

- pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Company;
- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and that receipts and expenditures of the Company are being made only in accordance with the authorizations of management and directors of the Company; and
- provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Company’s assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risks that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Management assessed the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020 based on the criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this assessment, management concluded that, as of December 31, 2020, the Company’s internal control over financial reporting is effective.

The Company’s independent registered public accounting firm has issued an attestation report on the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

February 25, 2021

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of BlackRock, Inc.:

### Opinion on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of BlackRock, Inc. and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2020, based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020, based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by COSO.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the consolidated statement of financial condition as of December 31, 2020 and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended of the Company and our report dated February 25, 2021, expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

### Basis for Opinion

The Company’s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

### Definition and Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

A company’s internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company’s internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company’s assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche, LLP

New York, New York  
February 25, 2021

Item 9b. Other Information

The Company is furnishing no other information in this Form 10-K.

PART III

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

The information regarding directors and executive officers set forth under the captions “Item 1: Election of Directors — Director Nominee Biographies” and “Corporate Governance — Other Executive Officers” of the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

Information regarding compliance with Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act required by Item 10, if any, is set forth under the caption “Delinquent Section 16(a) Reports” of the Proxy Statement and incorporated herein by reference.

The information regarding BlackRock’s Code of Ethics for Chief Executive and Senior Financial Officers under the caption “Corporate Governance — Our Corporate Governance Framework” of the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

The information regarding BlackRock’s Audit Committee under the caption “Corporate Governance — Board Committees” of the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 11. Executive Compensation

The information contained in the sections captioned “Management Development & Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation,” “Executive Compensation — Compensation Discussion and Analysis” and “Corporate Governance — 2020 Director Compensation” of the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters

The information contained in the sections captioned “Ownership of BlackRock Common Stock” and “Executive Compensation — Compensation Discussion and Analysis — 6. Executive Compensation Tables — Equity Compensation Plan Information” of the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence

The information contained in the sections captioned “Certain Relationships and Related Transactions” and “Item 1: Election of Directors — Criteria for Board Membership — Director Independence” of the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The information regarding BlackRock’s independent auditor fees and services in the section captioned “Item 3: Ratification of the Appointment of the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm” of the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

1. Financial Statements

The Company’s consolidated financial statements are included beginning on page F-1.

2. Financial Statement Schedules

Financial statement schedules have been omitted because they are not applicable, not required or the information required is included in the Company’s consolidated financial statements or notes thereto.

3. Exhibit Index

As used in this exhibit list, “BlackRock” refers to BlackRock, Inc. (formerly named New BlackRock, Inc. and previously, New Boise, Inc.) (Commission File No. 001-33099) and “Old BlackRock” refers to BlackRock Holdco 2, Inc. (formerly named BlackRock, Inc.) (Commission File No. 001-15305), which is the predecessor of BlackRock. The following exhibits are filed as part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K:

Please note that the agreements included as exhibits to this Form 10-K are included to provide information regarding their terms and are not intended to provide any other factual or disclosure information about BlackRock or the other parties to the agreements. The agreements contain representations and warranties by each of the parties to the applicable agreement that have been made solely for the benefit of the other parties to the applicable agreement and may not describe the actual state of affairs as of the date they were made or at any other time.

Exhibit No.	Description	
3.1	(1)	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of BlackRock.
3.2	(2)	Certificate of Amendment to the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of BlackRock, Inc.
3.3	(3)	Amended and Restated Bylaws of BlackRock.
3.4	(5)	Certificate of Elimination relating to the Preferred Stock, dated October 6, 2020.
4.1	(6)	Specimen of Common Stock Certificate.
4.2	(7)	Indenture, dated September 17, 2007, between BlackRock and The Bank of New York, as trustee, relating to senior debt securities.
4.3	(8)	Form of 4.25% Notes due 2021.
4.4	(8)	Form of 3.375% Notes due 2022.
4.5	(10)	Form of 3.500% Notes due 2024.
4.6	(11)	Form of 1.250% Notes due 2025.
4.7	(12)	Form of 3.200% Notes due 2027.
4.8	(13)	Form of 3.250% Notes due 2029.
4.9	(14)	Form of 2.400% Notes due 2030.
4.10	(15)	Form of 1.900% Notes due 2031.
4.11	(11)	Officers’ Certificate, dated May 6, 2015, for the 1.250% Notes due 2025 issued pursuant to the Indenture.
4.12		Description of Securities.
10.1	(16)	BlackRock, Inc. Second Amended and Restated 1999 Stock Award and Incentive Plan.+
10.2	(17)	Amendment to the BlackRock, Inc. Second Amended and Restated 1999 Stock Award and Incentive Plan.+
10.3	(18)	Amended and Restated BlackRock, Inc. 1999 Annual Incentive Performance Plan.+
10.4	(19)	Amendment No. 1 to the BlackRock, Inc. Amended and Restated 1999 Annual Incentive Performance Plan.+
10.5	(20)	Form of Restricted Stock Unit Agreement under the BlackRock, Inc. Second Amended and Restated 1999 Stock Award and Incentive Plan.+
10.6	(21)	Form of Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Agreement (BPIP) under the BlackRock, Inc. Second Amended and Restated 1999 Stock Award and Incentive Plan.+
10.7	(1)	Form of Stock Option Agreement expected to be used in connection with future grants of Stock Options under the BlackRock, Inc. Second Amended and Restated 1999 Stock Award and Incentive Plan.+
10.8	(1)	Form of Restricted Stock Agreement expected to be used in connection with future grants of Restricted Stock under the BlackRock, Inc. Second Amended and Restated 1999 Stock Award and Incentive Plan.+
10.9	(1)	Form of Directors’ Restricted Stock Unit Agreement expected to be used in connection with future grants of Restricted Stock Units under the BlackRock, Inc. Second Amended and Restated 1999 Stock Award and Incentive Plan.+
10.10	(21)	Form of Performance-Based Stock Option Agreement under the BlackRock, Inc. Second Amended and Restated 1999 Stock Award and Incentive Plan. +
10.11	(16)	BlackRock, Inc. Amended and Restated Voluntary Deferred Compensation Plan, as amended and restated as of November 16, 2015.+
10.12	(22)	Share Surrender Agreement, dated October 10, 2002 (the “Share Surrender Agreement”), among Old BlackRock, PNC Asset Management, Inc. and The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.+
10.13	(23)	First Amendment, dated as of February 15, 2006, to the Share Surrender Agreement.+
10.14	(24)	Second Amendment, dated as of June 11, 2007, to the Share Surrender Agreement.+
10.15	(4)	Third Amendment, dated as of February 27, 2009, to the Share Surrender Agreement.+
10.16	(25)	Fourth Amendment, dated as of August 7, 2012, to the Share Surrender Agreement.+
10.17	(26)	Five-Year Revolving Credit Agreement, dated as of March 10, 2011, by and among BlackRock, Inc., certain of its subsidiaries, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, swingline lender, issuing lender and L/C agent, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, as Japanese Yen lender, a group of lenders, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Barclays Capital, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Morgan Stanley Senior Funding, Inc., as joint lead arrangers and joint bookrunners, Citibank, N.A., as syndication agent and Bank of America, N.A., Barclays Bank PLC, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. and Morgan Stanley Senior Funding, Inc., as documentation agents.
10.18	(27)	Amendment No. 1, dated as of March 30, 2012, by and among BlackRock, Inc., certain of its subsidiaries, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, swingline lender, issuing lender, L/C agent and a lender, and the banks and other financial institutions referred to therein.
10.19	(28)	Amendment No. 2, dated as of March 28, 2013, by and among BlackRock, Inc., certain of its subsidiaries, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, swingline lender, issuing lender, L/C agent and a lender, and the banks and other financial institutions referred to therein.



Exhibit No.	Description
10.20 (29)	Amendment No. 3, dated as of March 28, 2014, by and among BlackRock, Inc., certain of its subsidiaries, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, swingline lender, issuing lender, L/C agent and a lender, and the banks and other financial institutions referred to therein.
10.21 (30)	Amendment No. 4, dated as of April 2, 2015, by and among BlackRock, Inc., certain of its subsidiaries, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, swingline lender, issuing lender, L/C agent and a lender, and the banks and other financial institutions referred to therein.
10.22 (31)	Amendment No. 5, dated as of April 8, 2016, by and among BlackRock, Inc., certain of its subsidiaries, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, swingline lender, issuing lender, L/C agent and a lender, and the banks and other financial institutions referred to therein.
10.23 (32)	Amendment No. 6, dated as of April 6, 2017, by and among BlackRock, Inc., certain of its subsidiaries, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, swingline lender, issuing lender, L/C agent and a lender, and the banks and other financial institutions referred to therein.
10.24 (33)	Amendment No. 7, dated as of April 3, 2018, by and among BlackRock, Inc., certain of its subsidiaries, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, swingline lender, issuing lender, L/C agent and a lender, and the banks and other financial institutions referred to therein.
10.25 (35)	Amendment No. 8, dated as of March 29, 2019, by and among BlackRock, Inc., certain of its subsidiaries, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, swingline lender, issuing lender, L/C agent and a lender, and the banks and other financial institutions referred to therein.
10.26 (36)	Amendment No. 9, dated as of March 31, 2020, by and among BlackRock, Inc., certain of its subsidiaries, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as administrative agent, swingline lender, issuing lender, L/C agent and a lender, and the banks and other financial institutions referred to therein.
10.27 (4)	Amended and Restated Implementation and Stockholder Agreement, dated as of February 27, 2009, between The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. and BlackRock.
10.28 (34)	Amendment No. 1, dated as of June 11, 2009, to the Amended and Restated Implementation and Stockholder Agreement between The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. and BlackRock.
10.29 (37)	Lease Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2010, among BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited and Mourant & Co Trustees Limited and Mourant Property Trustees Limited as Trustees of the Drapers Gardens Unit Trust for the lease of Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London, EC2, United Kingdom.
10.30 (38)	Lease, by and between BlackRock, Inc. and 50 HYMC Holdings LLC.*
10.31 (39)	Letter Agreement, dated February 12, 2013, between Gary S. Shedlin and BlackRock.+
10.32 (40)	Amended and Restated Commercial Paper Dealer Agreement between BlackRock and Barclays Capital Inc., dated as of December 23, 2014.
10.33 (40)	Amended and Restated Commercial Paper Dealer Agreement between BlackRock and Citigroup Global Markets Inc., dated as of December 23, 2014.
10.34 (40)	Amended and Restated Commercial Paper Dealer Agreement between BlackRock and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, dated as of January 6, 2015.
10.35 (40)	Amended and Restated Commercial Paper Dealer Agreement between BlackRock and Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC dated as of January 6, 2015.
10.36 (42)	BlackRock, Inc. Leadership Retention Carry Plan.+
10.37 (41)	Form of Percentage Points Award Agreement pursuant to the BlackRock, Inc. Leadership Retention Carry Plan.+
10.38 (43)	Stock Repurchase Agreement, dated May 11, 2020, between BlackRock, Inc. and PNC Bancorp, Inc.
21.1	Subsidiaries of Registrant.
23.1	Deloitte & Touche LLP Consent.
31.1	Section 302 Certification of Chief Executive Officer.
31.2	Section 302 Certification of Chief Financial Officer.
32.1	Section 906 Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer.
101.INS	Inline XBRL Instance Document – the instance document does not appear in the Interactive Data File because its XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document
101.SCH	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.
101.CAL	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document.
101.DEF	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.
101.LAB	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document.
101.PRE	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document.
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted as Inline XBRL and contained in Exhibit 101).

- (1) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 5, 2006.
- (2) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 25, 2012.
- (3) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 22, 2016.
- (4) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 27, 2009.
- (5) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 6, 2020.
- (6) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration No. 333-137708) filed on September 29, 2006.
- (7) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.
- (8) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 25, 2011.
- (9) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 31, 2012.

- (10) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 18, 2014.
- (11) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 6, 2015.
- (12) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 28, 2017.
- (13) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 29, 2019.
- (14) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 27, 2020.
- (15) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 6, 2020.
- (16) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015.
- (17) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Definitive Proxy Statement on Form DEF 14A filed on April 13, 2018
- (18) Incorporated by reference to Old BlackRock’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002.
- (19) Incorporated by reference to Old BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 24, 2006.
- (20) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2015
- (21) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2018
- (22) Incorporated by reference to Old BlackRock’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2002.
- (23) Incorporated by reference to Old BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 22, 2006.
- (24) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 15, 2007.
- (25) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012.
- (26) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed on August 24, 2012.
- (27) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 4, 2012.
- (28) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 3, 2013.
- (29) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 28, 2014.
- (30) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 3, 2015.
- (31) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 14, 2016.
- (32) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 11, 2017.
- (33) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 6, 2018.
- (34) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 17, 2009.
- (35) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 29, 2019.
- (36) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 31, 2020.
- (37) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.
- (38) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017.
- (39) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 19, 2013.
- (40) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.
- (41) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2019.
- (42) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2019.
- (43) Incorporated by reference to BlackRock’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 15, 2020.

- + Denotes compensatory plans or arrangements.
- \* Portions of this exhibit have been omitted pursuant to a confidential treatment order from the SEC.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BLACKROCK, INC.

By:                   /s/ LAURENCE D. FINK                    
**Laurence D. Fink**  
**Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Director**

February 25, 2021

Each of the officers and directors of BlackRock, Inc. whose signature appears below, in so signing, also makes, constitutes and appoints Laurence D. Fink, Gary S. Shedlin, Christopher J. Meade, Laura Hildner and R. Andrew Dickson III, his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact, with full power and substitution, for him or her in any and all capacities, to execute and cause to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission any and all amendments to the Annual Report on Form 10-K, with exhibits thereto and other documents connected therewith and to perform any acts necessary to be done in order to file such documents, and hereby ratifies and confirms all that said attorney-in-fact or his or her substitute or substitutes may do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

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

Signature	Title	Date
<u>                  /s/ LAURENCE D. FINK                  </u> <b>Laurence D. Fink</b>	Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ GARY S. SHEDLIN                  </u> <b>Gary S. Shedlin</b>	Senior Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ MARC D. COMERCHERO                  </u> <b>Marc D. Comerchero</b>	Managing Director and Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ BADER M. ALSAAD                  </u> <b>Bader M. Alsaad</b>	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ MATHIS CABIALLAVETTA                  </u> <b>Mathis Cabiallavetta</b>	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ PAMELA DALEY                  </u> <b>Pamela Daley</b>	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ JESSICA P. EINHORN                  </u> <b>Jessica P. Einhorn</b>	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ WILLIAM E. FORD                  </u> <b>William E. Ford</b>	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ FABRIZIO FREDA                  </u> <b>Fabrizio Freda</b>	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ MURRY S. GERBER                  </u> <b>Murry S. Gerber</b>	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ MARGARET L. JOHNSON                  </u> <b>Margaret L. Johnson</b>	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ ROBERT S. KAPITO                  </u> <b>Robert S. Kapito</b>	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ CHERYL D. MILLS                  </u> <b>Cheryl D. Mills</b>	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ GORDON M. NIXON                  </u> <b>Gordon M. Nixon</b>	Director	February 25, 2021

Signature	Title	Date
<u>                  /s/ CHARLES H. ROBBINS                  </u> <b>Charles H. Robbins</b>	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ MARCO ANTONIO SLIM DOMIT                  </u> <b>Marco Antonio Slim Domit</b>	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ SUSAN L. WAGNER                  </u> <b>Susan L. Wagner</b>	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>                  /s/ MARK WILSON                  </u> <b>Mark Wilson</b>	Director	February 25, 2021



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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of BlackRock, Inc.:

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statements of financial condition of BlackRock, Inc. and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, changes in equity, and cash flows, for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the “financial statements”). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2020, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020, based on criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 25, 2021, expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Critical Audit Matter

The critical audit matter communicated below is a matter arising from the current-period audit of the financial statements that was communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that (1) relates to accounts or disclosures that are material to the financial statements and (2) involved our especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. The communication of critical audit matters does not alter in any way our opinion on the financial statements, taken as a whole, and we are not, by communicating the critical audit matter below, providing a separate opinion on the critical audit matter or on the accounts or disclosures to which it relates.

Impairment of indefinite-lived intangible assets — Refer to Notes 2 and 12 to the financial statements

Critical Audit Matter Description

The Company’s indefinite-lived intangible assets are comprised of management contracts and trade names/trademarks acquired in business acquisitions. The Company performs its impairment assessment of its indefinite-lived intangible assets at least annually, as of July 31st. In evaluating whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of indefinite-lived intangibles is less than carrying value, the Company performs certain quantitative assessments and assesses various significant qualitative factors. If an indefinite-lived intangible asset is determined to be more likely than not impaired, the fair value of the asset is then compared with its carrying value and any excess of the carrying value over the fair value would be recognized as an expense in the period in which the impairment occurs. The determination of fair value requires management to make estimates and assumptions related to projected assets under management (“AUM”) growth rates, revenue basis points, operating margins, tax rates, and discount rates.

Given the significant judgments made by management to estimate the fair value of its indefinite-lived intangible assets, performing audit procedures to evaluate the reasonableness of management’s estimates and assumptions related to projected AUM growth rates, revenue basis points, operating margins, tax rates, and discount rates, required a high degree of auditor judgment and an increased extent of effort, including the need to involve our fair value specialists.

How the Critical Audit Matter Was Addressed in the Audit

Our audit procedures related to the determination of fair value of indefinite-lived intangible assets included the following, among others:

- We tested the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of controls over the Company’s indefinite-lived intangible asset impairment analysis, including those related to management’s determination of fair value for the

indefinite-lived intangible asset. This includes controls related to management's projected AUM growth rates, operating margins, tax rates, and the selection of the discount rates.

- We evaluated the reasonableness of management's projected AUM growth rates, revenue basis points, operating margins, and tax rates by comparing management's projections to:
  - historical amounts,
  - internal communications to management and the Board of Directors, and
  - forecasted information included in analyst and industry reports for the Company and certain of its peer companies.
- We evaluated management's ability to accurately project AUM growth rates, operating margins, and tax rates by comparing actual results to management's historical forecasts.
- With the assistance of our fair value specialists, we evaluated the reasonableness of the Company's valuation methodology and assumptions, including the selection of the discount rate by: (1) testing the source information underlying the determination of the discount rate and the mathematical accuracy of the evaluation and (2) developing a range of independent estimates and compared those to the discount rate selected by management.
- We evaluated the impact of changes in management's forecasts from July 31, 2020, the annual impairment assessment date, to December 31, 2020.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche, LLP

New York, New York  
February 25, 2021

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2002.

## BlackRock, Inc. Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition

(in millions, except shares and per share data)

	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 8,664	\$ 4,829
Accounts receivable	3,535	3,179
Investments <sup>(1)</sup>	6,919	5,489
Separate account assets	104,663	102,844
Separate account collateral held under securities lending agreements	16,507	15,466
Property and equipment (net of accumulated depreciation of \$1,098 and \$880 at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively)	681	715
Intangible assets (net of accumulated amortization of \$291 and \$185 at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively)	18,263	18,369
Goodwill	14,551	14,562
Other assets <sup>(1)</sup>	3,199	3,169
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 176,982</b>	<b>\$ 168,622</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accrued compensation and benefits	\$ 2,499	\$ 2,057
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,028	1,167
Borrowings	7,264	4,955
Separate account liabilities	104,663	102,844
Separate account collateral liabilities under securities lending agreements	16,507	15,466
Deferred income tax liabilities	3,673	3,734
Other liabilities <sup>(1)</sup>	3,692	3,470
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>139,326</b>	<b>133,693</b>
<b>Commitments and contingencies (Note 16)</b>		
<b>Temporary equity</b>		
Redeemable noncontrolling interests	2,322	1,316
<b>Permanent equity</b>		
BlackRock, Inc. stockholders' equity		
Common stock, \$0.01 par value;	2	2
Shares authorized: 500,000,000 at December 31, 2020 and 2019; Shares issued: 172,075,373 and 171,252,185 at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively; Shares outstanding: 152,532,885 and 154,375,780 at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively		
Series B nonvoting participating preferred stock, \$0.01 par value;	—	—
Shares authorized: 0 and 150,000,000 at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively; Shares issued and outstanding: 0 and 823,188 at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively		
Additional paid-in capital	19,293	19,186
Retained earnings	24,334	21,662
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(337)	(571)
Treasury stock, common, at cost (19,542,488 and 16,876,405 shares held at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively)	(8,009)	(6,732)
<b>Total BlackRock, Inc. stockholders' equity</b>	<b>35,283</b>	<b>33,547</b>
Nonredeemable noncontrolling interests	51	66
<b>Total permanent equity</b>	<b>35,334</b>	<b>33,613</b>
<b>Total liabilities, temporary equity and permanent equity</b>	<b>\$ 176,982</b>	<b>\$ 168,622</b>

(1) At December 31, 2020, cash and cash equivalents, investments, other assets and other liabilities include \$155 million, \$4,253 million, \$90 million and \$952 million, respectively, related to consolidated variable interest entities ("VIEs"). At December 31, 2019, cash and cash equivalents, investments, other assets and other liabilities include \$131 million, \$3,301 million, \$68 million and \$820 million, respectively, related to consolidated VIEs.

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



## BlackRock, Inc. Consolidated Statements of Income

(in millions, except shares and per share data)

	2020	2019	2018
<b>Revenue</b>			
Investment advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue:			
Related parties	\$ 9,079	\$ 8,323	\$ 8,226
Other third parties	3,560	3,454	3,327
Total investment advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue	12,639	11,777	11,553
Investment advisory performance fees	1,104	450	412
Technology services revenue	1,139	974	785
Distribution fees	1,131	1,069	1,155
Advisory and other revenue	192	269	293
Total revenue	16,205	14,539	14,198
<b>Expense</b>			
Employee compensation and benefits	5,041	4,470	4,320
Distribution and servicing costs	1,835	1,685	1,675
Direct fund expense	1,063	978	998
General and administration	2,465	1,758	1,638
Restructuring charge	—	—	60
Amortization of intangible assets	106	97	50
Total expense	10,510	8,988	8,741
Operating income	5,695	5,551	5,457
<b>Nonoperating income (expense)</b>			
Net gain (loss) on investments	972	342	1
Interest and dividend income	62	97	104
Interest expense	(205)	(203)	(184)
Total nonoperating income (expense)	829	236	(79)
Income before income taxes	6,524	5,787	5,378
Income tax expense	1,238	1,261	1,076
Net income	5,286	4,526	4,302
Less:			
Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	354	50	(3)
Net income attributable to BlackRock, Inc.	\$ 4,932	\$ 4,476	\$ 4,305
<b>Earnings per share attributable to BlackRock, Inc. common stockholders:</b>			
Basic	\$ 32.13	\$ 28.69	\$ 26.86
Diluted	\$ 31.85	\$ 28.43	\$ 26.58
<b>Weighted-average common shares outstanding:</b>			
Basic	153,489,422	156,014,343	160,301,116
Diluted	154,840,582	157,459,546	161,948,732

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

## BlackRock, Inc. Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

(in millions)

	2020	2019	2018
<b>Net income</b>	<b>\$ 5,286</b>	<b>\$ 4,526</b>	<b>\$ 4,302</b>
Other comprehensive income (loss):			
Foreign currency translation adjustments <sup>(1)</sup>	234	120	(253)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	234	120	(253)
Comprehensive income	5,520	4,646	4,049
Less: Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests	354	50	(3)
<b>Comprehensive income attributable to BlackRock, Inc.</b>	<b>\$ 5,166</b>	<b>\$ 4,596</b>	<b>\$ 4,052</b>

(1) Amount for 2020 includes a loss from a net investment hedge of \$54 million (net of tax benefit of \$17 million). Amounts for 2019 and 2018 include gains from a net investment hedge of \$11 million (net of tax expense of \$3 million) and \$30 million (net of tax expense of \$10 million), respectively.

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

## BlackRock, Inc. Consolidated Statements of Changes in Equity

	Additional Paid-in Capital <sup>(1)</sup>	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Treasury Stock Common	Total BlackRock Stockholders' Equity	Nonredeemable Noncontrolling Interests	Total Permanent Equity	Redeemable Noncontrolling Interests / Temporary Equity
<i>(in millions)</i>								
December 31, 2017	\$19,258	\$16,939	\$(432)	\$(3,967)	\$31,798	\$ 50	\$31,848	\$ 416
Net income	—	4,305	—	—	4,305	—	4,305	(3)
Dividends declared (\$12.02 per share)	—	(1,968)	—	—	(1,968)	—	(1,968)	—
Stock-based compensation	564	—	—	—	564	—	564	—
PNC preferred stock capital contribution	58	—	—	—	58	—	58	—
Retirement of preferred stock	(58)	—	—	—	(58)	—	(58)	—
Issuance of common shares related to employee stock transactions	(652)	—	—	667	15	—	15	—
Employee tax withholdings related to employee stock transactions	—	—	—	(427)	(427)	—	(427)	—
Shares repurchased	—	—	—	(1,660)	(1,660)	—	(1,660)	—
Subscriptions (redemptions/distributions) — noncontrolling interest holders	—	—	—	—	—	9	9	1,254
Net consolidations (deconsolidations) of sponsored investment funds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(560)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	—	—	(253)	—	(253)	—	(253)	—
Adoption of new accounting pronouncement	—	6	(6)	—	—	—	—	—
December 31, 2018	\$19,170	\$19,282	\$(691)	\$(5,387)	\$32,374	\$ 59	\$32,433	\$ 1,107
Net income	—	4,476	—	—	4,476	7	4,483	43
Dividends declared (\$13.20 per share)	—	(2,096)	—	—	(2,096)	—	(2,096)	—
Stock-based compensation	567	—	—	—	567	—	567	—
PNC preferred stock capital contribution	60	—	—	—	60	—	60	—
Retirement of preferred stock	(60)	—	—	—	(60)	—	(60)	—
Issuance of common shares related to employee stock transactions	(549)	—	—	566	17	—	17	—
Employee tax withholdings related to employee stock transactions	—	—	—	(245)	(245)	—	(245)	—
Shares repurchased	—	—	—	(1,666)	(1,666)	—	(1,666)	—
Subscriptions (redemptions/distributions) — noncontrolling interest holders	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1,456
Net consolidations (deconsolidations) of sponsored investment funds	—	—	—	—	—	(2)	(2)	(1,290)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	—	—	120	—	120	—	120	—
December 31, 2019	\$19,188	\$21,662	\$(571)	\$(6,732)	\$33,547	\$ 66	\$33,613	\$ 1,316
Net income	—	4,932	—	—	4,932	(1)	4,931	355
Dividends declared (\$14.52 per share)	—	(2,260)	—	—	(2,260)	—	(2,260)	—
Stock-based compensation	622	—	—	—	622	—	622	—
Issuance of common shares related to employee stock transactions	(515)	—	—	532	17	—	17	—
Employee tax withholdings related to employee stock transactions	—	—	—	(297)	(297)	—	(297)	—
Shares repurchased	—	—	—	(1,512)	(1,512)	—	(1,512)	—
Subscriptions (redemptions/distributions) — noncontrolling interest holders	—	—	—	—	—	(14)	(14)	2,065
Net consolidations (deconsolidations) of sponsored investment funds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1,414)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	—	—	234	—	234	—	234	—
<b>December 31, 2020</b>	<b>\$19,295</b>	<b>\$24,334</b>	<b>\$(337)</b>	<b>\$(8,009)</b>	<b>\$35,283</b>	<b>\$ 51</b>	<b>\$35,334</b>	<b>\$ 2,322</b>

(1) Amounts include \$2 million of common stock at December 31, 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017.

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

## BlackRock, Inc. Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

	2020	2019	2018
<i>(in millions)</i>			
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Net income	<b>\$ 5,286</b>	\$ 4,526	\$ 4,302
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	<b>358</b>	296	220
Noncash lease expense	<b>118</b>	109	—
Stock-based compensation	<b>622</b>	567	564
Deferred income tax expense (benefit)	<b>(157)</b>	17	(226)
Charitable Contribution	<b>589</b>	—	—
Gain related to the Charitable Contribution	<b>(122)</b>	—	—
Contingent consideration fair value adjustments	<b>23</b>	53	65
Other investment gains	<b>(244)</b>	(30)	(50)
Net (gains) losses within consolidated sponsored investment products	<b>(501)</b>	(254)	149
Net (purchases) proceeds within consolidated sponsored investment products	<b>(2,282)</b>	(1,746)	(1,938)
(Earnings) losses from equity method investees	<b>(148)</b>	(116)	(94)
Distributions of earnings from equity method investees	<b>32</b>	70	30
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	<b>(313)</b>	(433)	4
Investments, trading	<b>160</b>	(21)	179
Other assets	<b>(60)</b>	141	(223)
Accrued compensation and benefits	<b>487</b>	58	(230)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	<b>(115)</b>	(111)	43
Other liabilities	<b>10</b>	(242)	280
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<b>3,743</b>	2,884	3,075
<b>Investing activities</b>			
Purchases of investments	<b>(359)</b>	(693)	(327)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments	<b>187</b>	417	449
Distributions of capital from equity method investees	<b>183</b>	136	24
Net consolidations (deconsolidations) of sponsored investment funds	<b>(71)</b>	(110)	(51)
Acquisitions, net of cash acquired	<b>—</b>	(1,510)	(699)
Purchases of property and equipment	<b>(194)</b>	(254)	(204)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<b>(254)</b>	(2,014)	(808)
<b>Financing activities</b>			
Proceeds from long-term borrowings	<b>2,245</b>	992	—
Repayments of long-term borrowings	<b>—</b>	(1,000)	—
Cash dividends paid	<b>(2,260)</b>	(2,096)	(1,968)
Repurchases of common stock	<b>(1,809)</b>	(1,911)	(2,087)
Net proceeds from (repayments of) borrowings by consolidated sponsored investment products	<b>51</b>	111	40
Net (redemptions/distributions paid)/subscriptions received from noncontrolling interest holders	<b>2,051</b>	1,458	1,263
Other financing activities	<b>(34)</b>	(137)	(13)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	<b>244</b>	(2,583)	(2,765)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash	<b>102</b>	54	(93)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash	<b>3,835</b>	(1,659)	(591)
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash, beginning of year	<b>4,846</b>	6,505	7,096
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash, end of year	<b>\$ 8,681</b>	<b>\$ 4,846</b>	<b>\$ 6,505</b>
<b>Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:</b>			
Cash paid for:			
Interest	<b>\$ 183</b>	\$ 193	\$ 177
Income taxes (net of refunds)	<b>\$ 1,308</b>	\$ 1,168	\$ 1,159
<b>Supplemental schedule of noncash investing and financing transactions:</b>			
Issuance of common stock	<b>\$ 515</b>	\$ 549	\$ 652
PNC preferred stock capital contribution	<b>\$ —</b>	\$ 60	\$ 58
Charitable Contribution of an investment	<b>\$ (589)</b>	\$ —	\$ —
Increase/(decrease) in noncontrolling interests due to net consolidation (deconsolidation) of sponsored investment funds	<b>\$ (1,414)</b>	\$ (1,292)	\$ (560)

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



# BlackRock, Inc.

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

### 1. Business Overview

BlackRock, Inc. (together, with its subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise indicates, “BlackRock” or the “Company”) is a leading publicly traded investment management firm providing a broad range of investment and technology services to institutional and retail clients worldwide.

BlackRock’s diverse platform of alpha-seeking active, index and cash management investment strategies across asset classes enables the Company to tailor investment outcomes and asset allocation solutions for clients. Product offerings include single- and multi-asset portfolios investing in equities, fixed income, alternatives and money market instruments. Products are offered directly and through intermediaries in a variety of vehicles, including open-end and closed-end mutual funds, *iShares*® exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), separate accounts, collective trust funds (“CTFs”) and other pooled investment vehicles. BlackRock also offers technology services, including the investment and risk management technology platform, *Aladdin*®, Aladdin Wealth, eFront, Cachematrix and FutureAdvisor, as well as advisory services and solutions to a broad base of institutional and wealth management clients.

### 2. Significant Accounting Policies

#### Basis of Presentation

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (“GAAP”) and include the accounts of the Company and its controlled subsidiaries. Noncontrolling interests (“NCI”) on the consolidated statements of financial condition represents the portion of consolidated sponsored investment funds in which the Company does not have direct equity ownership. Accounts and transactions between consolidated entities have been eliminated.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expense during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Certain prior period presentations and disclosures, while not required to be recast, were reclassified to ensure comparability with current period classifications.

#### Accounting Pronouncements Adopted in 2020

*Measurement of Credit Losses.* In June 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) 2016-13, *Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments* (“ASU 2016-13”), which significantly changes the accounting and disclosures for credit losses for most financial assets. The new guidance requires an estimate of expected lifetime credit losses and eliminates the existing recognition thresholds under current guidance. The adoption of ASU 2016-13, which was

effective for the Company on January 1, 2020, did not have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents.** Cash and cash equivalents primarily consists of cash, money market funds and short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less in which the Company is exposed to market and credit risk. Cash and cash equivalent balances that are legally restricted from use by the Company are recorded in other assets on the consolidated statements of financial condition. Cash balances maintained by consolidated VIEs and voting rights entities (“VREs”) are not considered legally restricted and are included in cash and cash equivalents on the consolidated statements of financial condition.

#### Investments

*Investments in Debt Securities.* The Company classifies debt investments as held-to-maturity or trading based on the Company’s intent and ability to hold the debt security to maturity or, its intent to sell the security.

Held-to-maturity securities are purchased with the positive intent and ability to be held to maturity and are recorded at amortized cost on the consolidated statements of financial condition.

Trading securities are those investments that are purchased principally for the purpose of selling them in the near term. Trading securities are carried at fair value on the consolidated statements of financial condition with changes in fair value recorded in nonoperating income (expense) on the consolidated statements of income. Trading securities include certain investments in collateralized loan obligations (“CLOs”) for which the fair value option is elected in order to reduce operational complexity of bifurcating embedded derivatives.

*Investments in Equity Securities.* Equity securities are generally carried at fair value on the consolidated statements of financial condition with changes in the fair value recorded through net income (“FVTNI”) within nonoperating income (expense). For nonmarketable equity securities, the Company generally elects to apply the practicality exception to fair value measurement, under which such securities will be measured at cost, less impairment, plus or minus observable price changes for identical or similar securities of the same issuer with such changes recorded in the consolidated statements of income. Dividends received are recorded as dividend income within nonoperating income (expense).

*Equity Method.* The Company applies the equity method of accounting for equity investments where the Company does not consolidate the investee, but can exert significant influence over the financial and operating policies of the investee. The Company’s share of the investee’s underlying net income or loss is recorded as net gain (loss) on investments within nonoperating income (expense) and as other revenue for certain corporate minority investments since such investees are considered to be an extension of the Company’s core business. The Company’s share of net income of the investee is recorded based upon the most current information available at the time, which may precede the date of the consolidated statement of financial condition. Distributions received reduce the Company’s carrying value of the investee and the cost basis if deemed to be a return of capital.

*Impairments of Investments.* Management periodically assesses equity method and held-to-maturity investments for other-than-temporary impairment (“OTTI”). If an OTTI exists, an impairment charge would be recorded for the excess of the carrying amount of the investment over its estimated fair value in the consolidated statements of income.

For equity method investments and held-to-maturity investments, if circumstances indicate that an OTTI may exist, the investments are evaluated using market values, where available, or the expected future cash flows of the investment.

For the Company’s investments in CLOs, the Company reviews cash flow estimates over the life of each CLO investment. On a quarterly basis, if the present value of the estimated future cash flows is lower than the carrying value of the investment and there is an adverse change in estimated cash flows, an impairment is considered to be other-than-temporary.

In addition, for nonmarketable equity securities that are accounted for under the measurement alternative to fair value, the Company applies the impairment model that does not require the Company to consider whether the impairment is other-than-temporary.

**Consolidation.** The Company performs an analysis for investment products to determine if the product is a VIE or a VRE. Assessing whether an entity is a VIE or a VRE involves judgment and analysis. Factors considered in this assessment include the entity’s legal organization, the entity’s capital structure and equity ownership, and any related party or de facto agent implications of the Company’s involvement with the entity. Investments that are determined to be VIEs are consolidated if the Company is the primary beneficiary (“PB”) of the entity. VREs are typically consolidated if the Company holds the majority voting interest. Upon the occurrence of certain events (such as contributions and redemptions, either by the Company, or third parties, or amendments to the governing documents of the Company’s investment products), management reviews and reconsiders its previous conclusion regarding the status of an entity as a VIE or a VRE. Additionally, management continually reconsiders whether the Company is deemed to be a VIE’s PB that consolidates such entity.

*Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities.* Certain investment products for which a controlling financial interest is achieved through arrangements that do not involve or are not directly linked to voting interests are deemed VIEs. BlackRock reviews factors, including whether or not i) the entity has equity at risk that is sufficient to permit the entity to finance its activities without additional subordinated support from other parties and ii) the equity holders at risk have the obligation to absorb losses, the right to receive residual returns, and the right to direct the activities of the entity that most significantly impact the entity’s economic performance, to determine if the investment product is a VIE. BlackRock re-evaluates such factors as facts and circumstances change.

The PB of a VIE is defined as the variable interest holder that has a controlling financial interest in the VIE. A controlling financial interest is defined as (i) the power to direct the activities of the VIE that most significantly

impact its economic performance and (ii) the obligation to absorb losses of the entity or the right to receive benefits from the entity that potentially could be significant to the VIE. The Company generally consolidates VIEs in which it holds an economic interest of 10% or greater and deconsolidates such VIEs once equity ownership falls below 10%.

*Consolidation of Voting Rights Entities.* BlackRock is required to consolidate an investee to the extent that BlackRock can exert control over the financial and operating policies of the investee, which generally exists if there is a greater than 50% voting equity interest.

*Retention of Specialized Investment Company Accounting Principles.* Upon consolidation of sponsored investment funds, the Company retains the specialized investment company accounting principles of the underlying funds. All of the underlying investments held by such consolidated sponsored investment funds are carried at fair value with corresponding changes in the investments’ fair values reflected in nonoperating income (expense) on the consolidated statements of income. When the Company no longer controls these funds due to reduced ownership percentage or other reasons, the funds are deconsolidated and accounted for as an equity method investment or equity securities FVTNI if the Company still maintains an investment.

**Separate Account Assets and Liabilities.** Separate account assets are maintained by BlackRock Life Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, which is a registered life insurance company in the United Kingdom, and represent segregated assets held for purposes of funding individual and group pension contracts. The life insurance company does not underwrite any insurance contracts that involve any insurance risk transfer from the insured to the life insurance company. The separate account assets primarily include equity securities, debt securities, money market funds and derivatives. The separate account assets are not subject to general claims of the creditors of BlackRock. These separate account assets and the related equal and offsetting liabilities are recorded as separate account assets and separate account liabilities on the consolidated statements of financial condition.

The net investment income attributable to separate account assets supporting individual and group pension contracts accrues directly to the contract owner and is not reported on the consolidated statements of income. While BlackRock has no economic interest in these separate account assets and liabilities, BlackRock earns policy administration and management fees associated with these products, which are included in investment advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue on the consolidated statements of income.

**Separate Account Collateral Assets Held and Liabilities Under Securities Lending Agreements.** The Company facilitates securities lending arrangements whereby securities held by separate accounts maintained by BlackRock Life Limited are lent to third parties under global master securities lending agreements. In exchange, the Company receives legal title to the collateral with minimum values generally ranging from approximately 102% to 112% of the value of the securities lent in order to reduce counterparty risk. The required collateral value is calculated on a daily basis. The global master securities

lending agreements provide the Company the right to request additional collateral or, in the event of borrower default, the right to liquidate collateral. The securities lending transactions entered into by the Company are accompanied by an agreement that entitles the Company to request the borrower to return the securities at any time; therefore, these transactions are not reported as sales.

The Company records on the consolidated statements of financial condition the cash and noncash collateral received under these BlackRock Life Limited securities lending arrangements as its own asset in addition to an equal and offsetting collateral liability for the obligation to return the collateral. The securities lending revenue earned from lending securities held by the separate accounts is included in investment advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue on the consolidated statements of income. During 2020 and 2019, the Company had not resold or repledged any of the collateral received under these arrangements. At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the fair value of loaned securities held by separate accounts was approximately \$15.2 billion and \$14.4 billion, respectively, and the fair value of the collateral held under these securities lending agreements was approximately \$16.5 billion and \$15.5 billion, respectively.

**Property and Equipment.** Property and equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is generally determined by cost less any estimated residual value using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the various classes of property and equipment. Leasehold improvements are amortized using the straight-line method over the shorter of the estimated useful life or the remaining lease term.

The Company capitalizes certain costs incurred in connection with developing or obtaining software within property and equipment. Capitalized software costs are amortized, beginning when the software product is ready for its intended use, over the estimated useful life of the software of approximately three years.

**Goodwill and Intangible Assets.** Goodwill represents the cost of a business acquisition in excess of the fair value of the net assets acquired. The Company has determined that it has one reporting unit for goodwill impairment testing purposes, the consolidated BlackRock single operating segment, which is consistent with internal management reporting and management's oversight of operations. In its assessment of goodwill for impairment, the Company considers such factors as the book value and market capitalization of the Company.

On a quarterly basis, the Company considers if triggering events have occurred that may indicate a potential goodwill impairment. If a triggering event has occurred, the Company performs assessments, which may include reviews of significant valuation assumptions, to determine if goodwill may be impaired. The Company performs an impairment assessment of its goodwill at least annually, as of July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Intangible assets are comprised of indefinite-lived intangible assets and finite-lived intangible assets acquired in a business acquisition. The value of contracts to manage assets in proprietary open-end funds and collective trust funds and certain other commingled

products without a specified termination date is generally classified as indefinite-lived intangible assets. The assignment of indefinite lives to such contracts primarily is based upon the following: (i) the assumption that there is no foreseeable limit on the contract period to manage these products; (ii) the Company expects to, and has the ability to, continue to operate these products indefinitely; (iii) the products have multiple investors and are not reliant on a single investor or small group of investors for their continued operation; (iv) current competitive factors and economic conditions do not indicate a finite life; and (v) there is a high likelihood of continued renewal based on historical experience. In addition, trade names/ trademarks are considered indefinite-lived intangible assets when they are expected to generate cash flows indefinitely.

Indefinite-lived intangible assets and goodwill are not amortized. Finite-lived management contracts, which relate to acquired separate accounts and funds and investor/customer relationships, and technology-related assets that are expected to contribute to the future cash flows of the Company for a specified period of time, are amortized over their remaining useful lives.

The Company performs assessments to determine if any intangible assets are potentially impaired and whether the indefinite-lived and finite-lived classifications are still appropriate at least annually, as of July 31<sup>st</sup>. The carrying value of finite-lived assets and their remaining useful lives are reviewed at least annually to determine if circumstances exist which may indicate a potential impairment or revisions to the amortization period.

In evaluating whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of indefinite-lived intangibles is less than its carrying value, BlackRock assesses various significant qualitative factors, including assets under management ("AUM"), revenue basis points, projected AUM growth rates, operating margins, tax rates and discount rates. In addition, the Company considers other factors, including (i) macroeconomic conditions such as a deterioration in general economic conditions, limitations on accessing capital, fluctuations in foreign exchange rates, or other developments in equity and credit markets; (ii) industry and market considerations such as a deterioration in the environment in which the entity operates, an increased competitive environment, a decline in market-dependent multiples or metrics, a change in the market for an entity's services, or regulatory, legal or political developments; and (iii) entity-specific events, such as a change in management or key personnel, overall financial performance and litigation that could affect significant inputs used to determine the fair value of the indefinite-lived intangible asset. If an indefinite-lived intangible is determined to be more likely than not impaired, then the fair value of the asset is compared with its carrying value and any excess of the carrying value over the fair value would be recognized as an expense in the period in which the impairment occurs.

For finite-lived intangible assets, if potential impairment circumstances are considered to exist, the Company will perform a recoverability test using an undiscounted cash flow analysis. Actual results could differ from these cash flow estimates, which could materially impact the impairment conclusion. If the carrying value of the asset is determined not to be recoverable based on the

undiscounted cash flow test, the difference between the carrying value of the asset and its current fair value would be recognized as an expense in the period in which the impairment occurs.

**Noncontrolling Interests.** The Company reports noncontrolling interests as equity, separate from the parent's equity, on the consolidated statements of financial condition. In addition, the Company's consolidated net income on the consolidated statements of income includes the income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interest holders of the Company's consolidated sponsored investment products. Income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests is not adjusted for income taxes for consolidated sponsored investment products that are treated as pass-through entities for tax purposes.

**Classification and Measurement of Redeemable Securities.** The Company includes redeemable noncontrolling interests related to certain consolidated sponsored investment products in temporary equity on the consolidated statements of financial condition.

**Treasury Stock.** The Company records common stock purchased for treasury at cost. At the date of subsequent reissuance, the treasury stock account is reduced by the cost of such stock using the average cost method.

**Revenue Recognition.** Revenue is recognized upon transfer of control of promised services to customers in an amount to which the Company expects to be entitled in exchange for those services. The Company enters into contracts that can include multiple services, which are accounted for separately if they are determined to be distinct. Consideration for the Company's services is generally in the form of variable consideration because the amount of fees is subject to market conditions that are outside of the Company's influence. The Company includes variable consideration in revenue when it is no longer probable of significant reversal, i.e. when the associated uncertainty is resolved. For some contracts with customers, the Company has discretion to involve a third party in providing services to the customer. Generally, the Company is deemed to be the principal in these arrangements because the Company controls the promised services before they are transferred to customers, and accordingly presents the revenue gross of related costs.

**Investment Advisory, Administration Fees and Securities Lending Revenue.** Investment advisory and administration fees are recognized as the services are performed over time because the customer is receiving and consuming the benefits as they are provided by the Company. Fees are primarily based on agreed-upon percentages of AUM and recognized for services provided during the period, which are distinct from services provided in other periods. Such fees are affected by changes in AUM, including market appreciation or depreciation, foreign exchange translation and net inflows or outflows. Investment advisory and administration fees for investment funds are shown net of fee waivers. In addition, the Company may contract with third parties to provide sub-advisory services on its behalf. The Company presents the investment advisory fees and associated costs to such third-party advisors on a gross basis where it is deemed to be the principal and on a net basis where it is deemed to be the agent. Management judgment involved in making these

assessments is focused on ascertaining whether the Company is primarily responsible for fulfilling the promised service.

The Company earns revenue by lending securities on behalf of clients, primarily to highly rated banks and broker-dealers. Revenue is recognized over time as services are performed. Generally, the securities lending fees are shared between the Company and the funds or other third-party accounts managed by the Company from which the securities are borrowed.

**Money Market Fee Waivers.** The Company may voluntarily waive a portion of its management fees on certain money market funds to ensure that they maintain a targeted level of daily net investment income (the "Yield Support waivers"). During 2020, these waivers resulted in a reduction of management fees of approximately \$35 million, which was partially offset by a reduction of BlackRock's distribution and servicing costs paid to financial intermediaries. There were no Yield Support waivers in 2019 and 2018. The Company may increase or decrease the level of Yield Support waivers in future periods.

**Investment Advisory Performance Fees / Carried Interest.** The Company receives investment advisory performance fees, including incentive allocations (carried interest) from certain actively managed investment funds and certain separately managed accounts. These performance fees are dependent upon exceeding specified relative or absolute investment return thresholds, which may vary by product or account, and include monthly, quarterly, annual or longer measurement periods.

Performance fees, including carried interest, are recognized when it is determined that they are no longer probable of significant reversal (such as upon the sale of a fund's investment or when the amount of AUM becomes known as of the end of a specified measurement period). Given the unique nature of each fee arrangement, contracts with customers are evaluated on an individual basis to determine the timing of revenue recognition. Significant judgement is involved in making such determination. Performance fees typically arise from investment management services that began in prior reporting periods. Consequently, a portion of the fees the Company recognizes may be partially related to the services performed in prior periods that meet the recognition criteria in the current period. At each reporting date, the Company considers various factors in estimating performance fees to be recognized, including carried interest. These factors include but are not limited to whether: (1) the fees are dependent on the market and thus are highly susceptible to factors outside the Company's influence; (2) the fees have a large number and a broad range of possible amounts; and (3) the funds or separately managed accounts have the ability to invest or reinvest their sales proceeds.

The Company is allocated carried interest from certain alternative investment products upon exceeding performance thresholds. The Company may be required to reverse/return all, or part, of such carried interest allocations/distributions depending upon future performance of these funds. Carried interest subject to such clawback provisions is recorded in investments or cash and cash equivalents to the extent that it is distributed, on its consolidated statements of financial condition.



The Company records a liability for deferred carried interest to the extent it receives cash or capital allocations related to carried interest prior to meeting the revenue recognition criteria. A portion of the deferred carried interest may also be paid to certain employees. The ultimate timing of the recognition of performance fee revenue and related compensation expense, if any, for these products is unknown.

**Technology services revenue.** The Company offers investment management technology systems, risk management services, wealth management and digital distribution tools, all on a fee basis. Clients include banks, insurance companies, official institutions, pension funds, asset managers, retail distributors and other investors. Fees earned for technology services are primarily recorded as services are performed over time and are generally determined using the value of positions on the *Aladdin* platform, or on a fixed-rate basis. Revenue derived from the sale of software licenses is recognized upon the granting of access rights.

**Distribution Fees.** The Company earns distribution and service fees for distributing investment products and providing ongoing shareholder support services to investment portfolios. Distribution fees are passed-through to third-party distributors, which perform various fund distribution services and shareholder servicing of certain funds on the Company's behalf, and are recognized as distribution and servicing costs. The Company presents distribution fees and related distribution and servicing costs incurred on a gross basis.

Distribution fees primarily consist of ongoing distribution fees, shareholder servicing fees and upfront sales commissions for serving as the principal underwriter and/or distributor for certain managed mutual funds. The service of distribution is satisfied at the point in time when an investor makes an investment in a share class of the managed mutual funds. Fees are generally considered variable consideration because they are based on the value of AUM and are uncertain on trade date. Accordingly, the Company recognizes distribution fees over the investment period as the amounts become known and the portion recognized in the current period may relate to distribution services performed in prior periods. Upfront sales commissions are recognized on a trade date basis. Shareholder servicing fees are based on AUM and recognized in revenue as the services are performed.

**Advisory and other revenue.** Advisory and other revenue primarily includes fees earned for advisory services, fees earned for transition management services primarily comprised of commissions recognized in connection with buying and selling securities on behalf of customers, and equity method investment earnings related to certain corporate minority investments.

Advisory services fees are determined using fixed-rate fees and are recognized over time as the related services are completed.

Commissions related to transition management services are recorded on a trade-date basis as transactions occur.

**Stock-based Compensation.** The Company recognizes compensation cost for equity classified awards based on the grant-date fair value of the award. The compensation cost is recognized over the period during which an

employee is required to provide service (usually the vesting period) in exchange for the stock-based award.

The Company measures the grant-date fair value of restricted stock units ("RSUs") using the Company's stock price on the date of grant. For employee stock options and instruments with market conditions, the Company uses pricing models. Stock option awards may have performance, market and/or service conditions. If a stock-based award is modified after the grant-date, incremental compensation cost is recognized for an amount equal to the excess of the fair value of the modified award over the fair value of the original award immediately before the modification. Awards under the Company's stock-based compensation plans vest over various periods. Compensation cost is recorded by the Company on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period for each separate vesting portion of the award as if the award is, in-substance, multiple awards and is adjusted for actual forfeitures as they occur.

The Company amortizes the grant-date fair value of stock-based compensation awards made to retirement-eligible employees over the requisite service period. Upon notification of retirement, the Company accelerates the unamortized portion of the award over the contractually required retirement notification period.

The Company recognizes all excess tax benefits and deficiencies in income tax expense on the consolidated statements of income, which results in volatility of income tax expense as a result of fluctuations in the Company's stock price. Accordingly, the Company recorded a discrete income tax benefit of \$36 million, \$23 million and \$64 million during 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively, for vested RSUs where the grant date stock price was lower than the vesting date stock price.

**Distribution and Servicing Costs.** Distribution and servicing costs include payments to third parties, primarily associated with distribution and servicing of client investments in certain BlackRock products. Distribution and servicing costs are expensed when incurred.

**Direct Fund Expense.** Direct fund expense, which is expensed as incurred, primarily consists of third-party nonadvisory expense incurred by BlackRock related to certain funds for the use of certain index trademarks, reference data for certain indices, custodial services, fund administration, fund accounting, transfer agent services, shareholder reporting services, audit and tax services as well as other fund-related expense directly attributable to the nonadvisory operations of the fund.

**Leases.** The Company determines if a contract is a lease or contains a lease at inception. The Company accounts for its office facility leases as operating leases, which may include escalation clauses that are based on an index or market rate. The Company accounts for lease and non-lease components, including common areas maintenance charges, as a single component for its leases. The Company elected the short-term lease exception for leases with an initial term of 12 months or less. Consequently, such leases are not recorded on the consolidated statements of financial condition. The Company's lease terms include options to extend or terminate the lease when it is reasonably certain they will be exercised or not, respectively.

Fixed lease payments are included in right-of-use ("ROU") assets and lease liabilities within other assets and other liabilities, respectively, on the consolidated statements of financial condition. The Company recognizes ROU assets and lease liabilities based on the present value of these future lease payments over the lease term at the commencement date discounted using the Company's incremental borrowing rate ("IBR"). The Company determines its IBR, by assessing the Company's credit rating using various financial metrics, such as revenue, operating margin and revenue growth, and, as appropriate, performing market analysis of yields on publicly traded bonds (secured or unsecured) with similar terms of comparable companies in a similar economic environment. Fixed lease payments made over the lease term are recorded as lease expense on a straight-line basis. Variable lease payments based on usage, changes in an index or market rate are expensed as incurred.

Upon adoption of ASU 2016-02, *Leases* and several amendments (collectively, "ASU 2016-02"), for existing leases, the Company elected to determine the discount rate based on the remaining lease term as of January 1, 2019 and for lease payments based on an index or rate to apply the rate at commencement date. For new leases, the discount rates are based on the entire noncancelable lease term.

**Foreign Exchange.** Foreign currency transactions are recorded at the exchange rates prevailing on the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities that are denominated in foreign currencies are subsequently remeasured into the functional currencies of the Company's subsidiaries at the rates prevailing at each balance sheet date. Gains and losses arising on remeasurement are included in general and administration expense on the consolidated statements of income. Revenue and expenses are translated at average exchange rates during the period. Gains or losses resulting from translating foreign currency financial statements into US dollars are included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) ("AOCI"), a separate component of stockholders' equity, on the consolidated statements of financial condition.

**Income Taxes.** Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to temporary differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases using currently enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to reverse. The effect of a change in tax rates on deferred income tax assets and liabilities is recognized on the consolidated statements of income in the period that includes the enactment date.

Management periodically assesses the recoverability of its deferred income tax assets based upon expected future earnings, taxable income in prior carryback years, future deductibility of the asset, changes in applicable tax laws and other factors. If management determines that it is not more likely than not that the deferred tax asset will be fully recoverable in the future, a valuation allowance will be established for the difference between the asset balance and the amount expected to be recoverable in the future. This allowance will result in additional income tax expense. Further, the Company records its income taxes receivable and payable based upon its estimated income tax position.

Excess tax benefits related to stock-based compensation are recognized as an income tax benefit on the consolidated statements of income and are reflected as operating cash flows on the consolidated statements of cash flows.

**Earnings per Share ("EPS").** Basic EPS is calculated by dividing net income applicable to common shareholders by the weighted-average number of shares outstanding during the period. Diluted EPS includes the determinants of basic EPS and common stock equivalents outstanding during the period. Diluted EPS is computed using the treasury stock method.

Due to the similarities in terms between BlackRock's nonvoting participating preferred stock and the Company's common stock, the Company considered its nonvoting participating preferred stock to be a common stock equivalent for purposes of EPS calculations. As such, the Company has included the outstanding nonvoting participating preferred stock in the calculation of average basic and diluted shares outstanding. As of December 31, 2020, there were no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

**Business Segments.** The Company's management directs BlackRock's operations as one business, the asset management business. The Company utilizes a consolidated approach to assess performance and allocate resources. As such, the Company operates in one business segment.

#### **Fair Value Measurements**

**Hierarchy of Fair Value Inputs.** The Company uses a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes inputs to valuation approaches used to measure fair value. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs. Assets and liabilities measured and reported at fair value are classified and disclosed in one of the following categories:

##### Level 1 Inputs:

Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities at the reporting date.

- Level 1 assets may include listed mutual funds, ETFs, listed equities and certain exchange-traded derivatives.

##### Level 2 Inputs:

Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities that are not active; quotes from pricing services or brokers for which the Company can determine that orderly transactions took place at the quoted price or that the inputs used to arrive at the price are observable; and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable, such as models or other valuation methodologies.

- Level 2 assets may include debt securities, investments in CLOs, bank loans, short-term floating-rate notes, asset-backed securities, securities held within consolidated hedge funds, restricted public securities valued at a discount, as well as over-the-counter derivatives, including interest and

inflation rate swaps and foreign currency exchange contracts that have inputs to the valuations that generally can be corroborated by observable market data.

Level 3 Inputs:

Unobservable inputs for the valuation of the asset or liability, which may include nonbinding broker quotes. Level 3 assets include investments for which there is little, if any, market activity. These inputs require significant management judgment or estimation.

- Level 3 assets may include direct private equity investments held within consolidated funds, investments in CLOs and bank loans held within consolidated CLOs.
- Level 3 liabilities may include contingent liabilities related to borrowings of consolidated CLOs and acquisitions valued based upon discounted cash flow analyses using unobservable market data.

**Significance of Inputs.** The Company’s assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment and considers factors specific to the financial instrument.

**Valuation Approaches.** The fair values of certain Level 3 assets and liabilities were determined using various valuation approaches as appropriate, including third-party pricing vendors, broker quotes and market and income approaches.

A significant number of inputs used to value equity, debt securities, investments in CLOs and bank loans is sourced from third-party pricing vendors. Generally, prices obtained from pricing vendors are categorized as Level 1 inputs for identical securities traded in active markets and as Level 2 for other similar securities if the vendor uses observable inputs in determining the price.

In addition, quotes obtained from brokers generally are nonbinding and categorized as Level 3 inputs. However, if the Company is able to determine that market participants have transacted for the asset in an orderly manner near the quoted price or if the Company can determine that the inputs used by the broker are observable, the quote is classified as a Level 2 input.

**Investments Measured at Net Asset Value.** As a practical expedient, the Company uses net asset value (“NAV”) as the fair value for certain investments. The inputs to value these investments may include the Company’s capital accounts for its partnership interests in various alternative investments, including hedge funds, real assets and private equity funds, which may be adjusted by using the returns of certain market indices. The various partnerships generally are investment companies, which record their underlying investments at fair value based on fair value policies established by management of the underlying fund. Fair value policies at the underlying fund generally require the fund to utilize pricing/valuation information from third-party sources, including independent appraisals. However, in some instances, current valuation information for illiquid securities or securities in markets that are not active may not be available from any third-party source or fund management may conclude that the valuations that are available from third-party sources are not reliable. In these instances, fund management may

perform model-based analytical valuations that could be used as an input to value these investments.

**Fair Value Assets and Liabilities of Consolidated CLO.** The Company applies the fair value option provisions for eligible assets, including bank loans, held by a consolidated CLO. As the fair value of the financial assets of the consolidated CLO is more observable than the fair value of the borrowings of the consolidated CLO, the Company measures the fair value of the borrowings of the consolidated CLO equal to the fair value of the assets of the consolidated CLO less the fair value of the Company’s economic interest in the CLO.

**Derivatives and Hedging Activities.** The Company does not use derivative financial instruments for trading or speculative purposes. The Company uses derivative financial instruments primarily for purposes of hedging exposures to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates of certain assets and liabilities, and market exposures for certain seed investments. However, certain consolidated sponsored investment funds may also utilize derivatives as a part of their investment strategy.

The Company records all derivative financial instruments as either assets or liabilities at fair value on a gross basis in the consolidated statements of financial condition. Credit risks are managed through master netting and collateral support agreements. The amounts related to the right to reclaim or the obligation to return cash collateral may not be used to offset amounts due under the derivative instruments in the normal course of settlement. Therefore, such amounts are not offset against fair value amounts recognized for derivative instruments with the same counterparty and are included in other assets and other liabilities. Changes in the fair value of the Company’s derivative financial instruments are recognized in earnings and, where applicable, are offset by the corresponding gain or loss on the related foreign-denominated assets or liabilities or hedged investments, on the consolidated statements of income.

The Company may also use financial instruments designated as net investment hedges for accounting purposes to hedge net investments in international subsidiaries whose functional currency is not US dollars. The gain or loss from revaluing net investment hedges at the spot rate is deferred and reported within AOCI on the consolidated statements of financial condition. Amounts excluded from the effectiveness assessment are reported in the consolidated statements of income using a systematic and rational method. The Company reassesses the effectiveness of its net investment hedge at least quarterly.

**3. Acquisition**

On May 10, 2019, the Company acquired 100% of the equity interests of eFront Holding SAS (“eFront Transaction” or “eFront”), a leading alternative investment management software and solutions provider for approximately \$1.3 billion, excluding the settlement of eFront’s outstanding debt. The acquisition of eFront expanded *Aladdin*’s illiquid alternative capabilities and enables BlackRock to provide individual alternative or whole-portfolio technology solutions to clients.

The purchase price was funded through a combination of existing cash and issuance of commercial paper (subsequently repaid with existing cash) and long-term

notes in April 2019. See Note 15, *Borrowings*, for information on the debt issuance in April 2019. A summary of the fair values of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in this acquisition is as follows:

<i>(in millions)</i>	Fair Value
Accounts receivable	\$ 61
Finite-lived intangible assets:	
Customer relationships	400
Technology-related	203
Trade name	14
Goodwill	1,044
Other assets	49
Deferred income tax liabilities	(146)
Other liabilities assumed	(125)
Total consideration, net of cash acquired	\$ 1,500
Summary of consideration, net of cash acquired:	
Cash paid including settlement of outstanding debt of approximately \$0.2 billion	\$ 1,555
Cash acquired	(55)
Total consideration, net of cash acquired	\$ 1,500

**4. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash**

The following table provides a reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents reported within the consolidated statements of financial condition to the cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash reported within the consolidated statements of cash flows.

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,664	\$ 4,829
Restricted cash included in other assets	17	17
Total cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash	\$ 8,681	\$ 4,846

**5. Investments**

A summary of the carrying value of total investments is as follows:

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
Debt securities:		
Held-to-maturity investments	\$ 310	\$ 249
Trading securities	1,964	1,249
Total debt securities	2,274	1,498
Equity securities at FVTNI	2,317	1,926
Equity method investments <sup>(1)</sup>	1,081	943
Bank loans	248	204
Federal Reserve Bank stock <sup>(2)</sup>	94	93
Carried interest <sup>(3)</sup>	627	528
Other investments <sup>(4)</sup>	278	297
Total investments	\$ 6,919	\$ 5,489

<sup>(1)</sup> Equity method investments primarily include BlackRock’s direct investments in certain BlackRock sponsored investment funds.

<sup>(2)</sup> At both December 31, 2020 and 2019, there were no indicators of impairment of Federal Reserve Bank stock, which is held for regulatory purposes and is restricted from sale.

<sup>(3)</sup> Carried interest represents allocations to BlackRock’s general partner capital accounts from certain sponsored investment funds. These balances are subject to change upon cash distributions, additional allocations or reallocations back to limited partners within the respective funds.

<sup>(4)</sup> Other investments include BlackRock’s investments in nonmarketable equity securities, which are measured at cost, adjusted for observable price changes and private equity and real asset investments of consolidated sponsored investment products measured at fair value.

**Available-for-Sale Investments**

A summary of sale activity of available-for-sale during 2020, 2019 and 2018 is shown below.

<i>(in millions)</i>	Year ended December 31,		
	2020	2019	2018
Sales proceeds	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 173
Net realized gain (loss):			
Gross realized gains	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Gross realized losses	—	—	—
Net realized gain (loss)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —

There were no available-for-sale investments at both December 31, 2020 and 2019.

**Held-to-Maturity Investments**

The carrying value of held-to-maturity investments was \$310 million and \$249 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. Held-to-maturity investments included certain investments in BlackRock sponsored CLOs and foreign government debt held primarily for regulatory purposes. The amortized cost (carrying value) of these investments approximated fair value (primarily a Level 2 input). At December 31, 2020, \$11 million of these investments mature between one year to five years, \$169 million of these investments mature between five years to ten years and \$130 million mature after ten years.



### Trading Debt Securities and Equity Securities at FVTNI

A summary of the cost and carrying value of trading debt securities and equity securities at FVTNI is as follows:

	December 31, 2020		December 31, 2019	
	Cost	Carrying Value	Cost	Carrying Value
(in millions)				
Trading debt securities:				
Corporate debt	\$ 1,591	\$ 1,641	\$ 822	\$ 844
Government debt	203	210	268	269
Asset/mortgage backed debt	132	113	141	136
Total trading debt securities	\$ 1,926	\$ 1,964	\$ 1,231	\$ 1,249
Equity securities at FVTNI:				
Equity securities/mutual funds	\$ 2,055	\$ 2,317	\$ 1,769	\$ 1,926
Total equity securities at FVTNI	\$ 2,055	\$ 2,317	\$ 1,769	\$ 1,926

### 6. Consolidated Sponsored Investment Products

The Company consolidates certain sponsored investment funds accounted for as VREs because it is deemed to control such funds.

In the normal course of business, the Company is the manager of various types of sponsored investment vehicles, which may be considered VIEs. The Company may from time to time own equity or debt securities or enter into derivatives with the vehicles, each of which are considered variable interests. The Company's involvement in financing the operations of the VIEs is generally limited

to its investments in the entity. The Company's consolidated VIEs include certain sponsored investment products in which BlackRock has an investment and as the investment manager, is deemed to have both the power to direct the most significant activities of the products and the right to receive benefits (or the obligation to absorb losses) that could potentially be significant to these sponsored investment products. The assets of these VIEs are not available to creditors of the Company. In addition, the investors in these VIEs have no recourse to the credit of the Company.

The following table presents the balances related to these consolidated sponsored investment products accounted for as VIEs and VREs that were recorded on the consolidated statements of financial condition, including BlackRock's net interest in these products:

	December 31, 2020			December 31, 2019		
	VIEs	VREs	Total	VIEs	VREs	Total
(in millions)						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 155	\$ 51	\$ 206	\$ 131	\$ 10	\$ 141
Investments:						
Trading debt securities	1,618	310	1,928	1,059	151	1,210
Equity securities at FVTNI	1,592	413	2,005	1,330	332	1,662
Bank loans	248	—	248	204	—	204
Other investments	191	—	191	194	—	194
Carried interest	604	—	604	514	—	514
Total investments	4,253	723	4,976	3,301	483	3,784
Other assets	90	9	99	68	5	73
Other liabilities <sup>(1)</sup>	(952)	(70)	(1,022)	(820)	(20)	(840)
Noncontrolling interests	(2,193)	(180)	(2,373)	(1,348)	(34)	(1,382)
BlackRock's net interest in consolidated investment products	\$ 1,353	\$ 533	\$ 1,886	\$ 1,332	\$ 444	\$ 1,776

(1) At December 31, 2020 and 2019, other liabilities of VIEs primarily include deferred carried interest liabilities and borrowings of a consolidated CLO.

BlackRock's total exposure to consolidated sponsored investment products represents the value of its economic ownership interest in these sponsored investment products. Valuation changes associated with investments held at fair value by these consolidated sponsored investment products are reflected in nonoperating income (expense) and partially offset in net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests for the portion not attributable to BlackRock.

Net gain (loss) related to consolidated VIEs is presented in the following table:

(in millions)	2020	2019	2018
Nonoperating net gain (loss) on consolidated VIEs	\$ 477	\$ 210	\$ (105)
Net income (loss) attributable to NCI on consolidated VIEs	\$ 348	\$ 42	\$ (6)

The Company cannot readily access cash and cash equivalents held by consolidated sponsored investment products to use in its operating activities.

### 7. Variable Interest Entities

**Nonconsolidated VIEs.** At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Company's carrying value of assets and liabilities included on the consolidated statements of financial condition pertaining to nonconsolidated VIEs and its maximum risk of loss related to VIEs for which it held a variable interest, but for which it was not the PB, was as follows:

	Investments	Advisory Fee Receivables	Other Net Assets (Liabilities)	Maximum Risk of Loss <sup>(1)</sup>
(in millions)				
<b>At December 31, 2020</b>				
Sponsored investment products	\$ 662	\$ 71	\$ (13)	\$ 750
<b>At December 31, 2019</b>				
Sponsored investment products	\$ 539	\$ 71	\$ (10)	\$ 627

(1) At both December 31, 2020 and 2019, BlackRock's maximum risk of loss associated with these VIEs primarily related to BlackRock's investments and the collection of advisory fee receivables.

The net assets of sponsored investment products that are nonconsolidated VIEs approximated \$16 billion and \$12 billion at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

### 8. Fair Value Disclosures

#### Fair Value Hierarchy

Assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis

	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Investments Measured at NAV <sup>(1)</sup>	Other <sup>(2)</sup>	December 31, 2020
December 31, 2020 (in millions)						
<b>Assets:</b>						
<u>Investments:</u>						
Debt securities:						
Held-to-maturity investments	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 310	\$ 310
Trading securities	—	1,953	11	—	—	1,964
Total debt securities	—	1,953	11	—	310	2,274
Equity securities at FVTNI:						
Equity securities/mutual funds	2,317	—	—	—	—	2,317
Equity method:						
Equity and fixed income mutual funds	235	—	—	—	—	235
Hedge funds/funds of hedge funds	—	—	—	309	—	309
Private equity funds	—	—	—	315	—	315
Real assets funds	—	—	—	218	—	218
Other	—	—	—	4	—	4
Total equity method	235	—	—	846	—	1,081
Bank loans	—	16	232	—	—	248
Federal Reserve Bank Stock	—	—	—	—	94	94
Carried interest	—	—	—	—	627	627
Other investments <sup>(3)</sup>	—	—	9	94	175	278
Total investments	2,552	1,969	252	940	1,206	6,919
Other assets <sup>(4)</sup>	205	13	—	—	—	218
Separate account assets	71,392	32,404	—	—	867	104,663
<u>Separate account collateral held under securities lending agreements:</u>						
Equity securities	13,126	—	—	—	—	13,126
Debt securities	—	3,381	—	—	—	3,381
Total separate account collateral held under securities lending agreements	13,126	3,381	—	—	—	16,507
<b>Total</b>	\$ 87,275	\$ 37,767	\$ 252	\$ 940	\$ 2,073	<b>128,307</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>						
Separate account collateral liabilities under securities lending agreements	\$ 13,126	\$ 3,381	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 16,507
Other liabilities <sup>(5)</sup>	—	68	272	—	—	340
<b>Total</b>	\$ 13,126	\$ 3,449	\$ 272	\$ —	\$ —	<b>\$ 16,847</b>

(1) Amounts are comprised of certain investments measured at fair value using NAV (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient.

(2) Amounts are comprised of investments held at amortized cost and cost, adjusted for observable price changes, carried interest and certain equity method investments, which include sponsored investment funds and other assets, which are not accounted for under a fair value measure. In accordance with GAAP, certain equity method investees do not account for both their financial assets and liabilities under fair value measures; therefore, the Company's investment in such equity method investees may not represent fair value.

(3) Level 3 amounts primarily include direct investments in private equity companies held by consolidated private equity funds.

(4) Level 1 amount includes a minority investment in a publicly traded company.

(5) Level 2 amount primarily includes fair value of derivatives (See Note 9, *Derivatives and Hedging*, for more information). Level 3 amounts primarily include borrowings of a consolidated CLO classified based on the significance of unobservable inputs used for calculating the fair value of consolidated CLO assets, and contingent liabilities related to certain acquisitions (see Note 16, *Commitments and Contingencies*, for more information).

Assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis

December 31, 2019 (in millions)	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Investments Measured at NAV <sup>(1)</sup>	Other <sup>(2)</sup>	December 31, 2019
<b>Assets:</b>						
<u>Investments:</u>						
Debt securities:						
Held-to-maturity investments	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 249	\$ 249
Trading securities	—	1,241	8	—	—	1,249
Total debt securities	—	1,241	8	—	249	1,498
Equity securities at FVTNI:						
Equity securities/mutual funds	1,926	—	—	—	—	1,926
Equity method:						
Equity and fixed income mutual funds	157	—	—	—	—	157
Hedge funds/funds of hedge funds	—	—	—	220	—	220
Private equity funds	—	—	—	248	—	248
Real assets funds	—	—	—	296	—	296
Other	12	—	—	10	—	22
Total equity method	169	—	—	774	—	943
Bank loans	—	27	177	—	—	204
Federal Reserve Bank Stock	—	—	—	—	93	93
Carried interest	—	—	—	—	528	528
Other investments <sup>(3)</sup>	—	—	9	98	190	297
Total investments	2,095	1,268	194	872	1,060	5,489
Other assets <sup>(4)</sup>	173	—	—	—	—	173
Separate account assets	72,515	29,582	—	—	747	102,844
<u>Separate account collateral held under securities lending agreements:</u>						
Equity securities	10,209	—	—	—	—	10,209
Debt securities	—	5,257	—	—	—	5,257
Total separate account collateral held under securities lending agreements	10,209	5,257	—	—	—	15,466
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 84,992</b>	<b>\$ 36,107</b>	<b>\$ 194</b>	<b>\$ 872</b>	<b>\$ 1,807</b>	<b>\$ 123,972</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>						
Separate account collateral liabilities under securities lending agreements	\$ 10,209	\$ 5,257	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 15,466
Other liabilities <sup>(5)</sup>	—	10	388	—	—	398
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,209</b>	<b>\$ 5,267</b>	<b>\$ 388</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 15,864</b>

(1) Amounts are comprised of certain investments measured at fair value using NAV (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient.

(2) Amounts are comprised of investments held at amortized cost and cost, adjusted for observable price changes, carried interest and certain equity method investments, which include sponsored investment funds and other assets, which are not accounted for under a fair value measure. In accordance with GAAP, certain equity method investees do not account for both their financial assets and liabilities under fair value measures; therefore, the Company's investment in such equity method investees may not represent fair value.

(3) Level 3 amounts include direct investments in private equity companies held by consolidated private equity funds.

(4) Level 1 amount includes a minority investment in a publicly traded company.

(5) Level 3 amount primarily includes contingent liabilities related to certain acquisitions (See Note 16, *Commitments and Contingencies*, for more information) and borrowings of a consolidated CLO classified based on the significance of unobservable inputs used for calculating the fair value of consolidated CLO assets.

**Level 3 Assets.** Level 3 assets may include investments in CLOs and bank loans of consolidated CLOs, which were valued based on single-broker nonbinding quotes and direct private equity investments, which were valued using the market or income approach.

Level 3 investments of \$252 million and \$194 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, primarily included bank loans of a consolidated CLO.

**Level 3 Liabilities.** Level 3 liabilities primarily include borrowings of a consolidated CLO, which were valued based on the fair value of the assets of the consolidated CLO less the fair value of the Company's economic interest in the CLO, and contingent liabilities related to certain acquisitions, which were valued based upon discounted cash flow analyses using unobservable market data inputs.

Changes in Level 3 Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis for 2020

(in millions)	December 31, 2019	Realized and Unrealized Gains (Losses)	Purchases	Sales and Maturities	Issuances and Other Settlements <sup>(1)</sup>	Transfers into Level 3	Transfers out of Level 3	December 31, 2020	Total Net Unrealized Gains (Losses) Included in Earnings <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>Assets:</b>									
<u>Investments:</u>									
Debt securities:									
Trading	\$ 8	\$ —	\$ 3	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 11	\$ —
Total debt securities	8	—	3	—	—	—	—	11	—
Private equity	9	—	8	(8)	—	—	—	9	—
Bank loans	177	—	75	(34)	—	20	(6)	232	—
Total investments	194	—	86	(42)	—	20	(6)	252	—
Total Level 3 assets	\$ 194	\$ —	\$ 86	\$(42)	\$ —	\$20	\$ (6)	\$ 252	\$ —
<b>Liabilities:</b>									
Other liabilities	\$ 388	\$(23)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (139)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 272	\$(5)
Total Level 3 liabilities	\$ 388	\$(23)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (139)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 272	\$(5)

(1) Amounts include contingent liability payments related to certain acquisitions and proceeds from borrowings of a consolidated CLO.

(2) Earnings attributable to the change in unrealized gains (losses) relating to assets and liabilities still held at the reporting date.

Changes in Level 3 Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis for 2019

(in millions)	December 31, 2018	Realized and Unrealized Gains (Losses)	Purchases	Sales and Maturities	Issuances and Other Settlements <sup>(1)</sup>	Transfers into Level 3	Transfers out of Level 3 <sup>(2)</sup>	December 31, 2019	Total Net Unrealized Gains (Losses) Included in Earnings <sup>(3)</sup>
<b>Assets:</b>									
<u>Investments:</u>									
Debt securities:									
Trading	\$ 4	\$ —	\$ 10	\$—	\$ —	\$—	\$ (6)	\$ 8	\$ —
Total debt securities	4	—	10	—	—	—	(6)	8	—
Private equity	82	—	—	—	—	—	(73)	9	—
Bank loans	70	—	107	—	—	—	—	177	—
Total investments	156	—	117	—	—	—	(79)	194	—
Total Level 3 assets	\$ 156	\$ —	\$ 117	\$—	\$ —	\$—	\$ (79)	\$ 194	\$ —
<b>Liabilities:</b>									
Other liabilities	\$ 371	\$(53)	\$ —	\$—	\$ (36)	\$—	\$ —	\$ 388	\$(53)
Total Level 3 liabilities	\$ 371	\$(53)	\$ —	\$—	\$ (36)	\$—	\$ —	\$ 388	\$(53)

(1) Amounts include proceeds from borrowings of a consolidated CLO and contingent liability payments, related to certain acquisitions.

(2) Amounts include an investment in a consolidated entity that no longer qualifies as an investment company and is no longer accounted for under a fair value measure.

(3) Earnings attributable to the change in unrealized gains (losses) relating to assets and liabilities still held at the reporting date.

**Realized and Unrealized Gains (Losses) for Level 3 Assets and Liabilities.** Realized and unrealized gains (losses) recorded for Level 3 assets and liabilities are reported in nonoperating income (expense) on the consolidated statements of income. A portion of net income (loss) for consolidated sponsored investment funds are allocated to noncontrolling interests to reflect net income (loss) not attributable to the Company.

**Transfers in and/or out of Levels.** Transfers in and/or out of levels are reflected when significant inputs, including market inputs or performance attributes, used for the fair value measurement become observable/unobservable, or when the carrying value of certain equity method investments no longer represents fair value as determined under valuation methodologies.



Disclosures of Fair Value for Financial Instruments Not Held at Fair Value. At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the fair value of the Company's financial instruments not held at fair value are categorized in the table below.

	December 31, 2020		December 31, 2019		Fair Value Hierarchy
	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value	
(in millions)					
Financial Assets <sup>(1)</sup> :					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,664	\$ 8,664	\$ 4,829	\$ 4,829	Level 1 <sup>(2)(3)</sup>
Other assets	69	69	68	68	Level 1 <sup>(2)(4)</sup>
Financial Liabilities:					
Long-term borrowings	7,264	7,883	4,955	5,254	Level 2 <sup>(5)</sup>

- (1) See Note 5, *Investments*, for further information on investments not held at fair value.
- (2) Cash and cash equivalents are carried at either cost or amortized cost, which approximates fair value due to their short-term maturities.
- (3) At December 31, 2020 and 2019, approximately \$1,249 million and \$674 million of money market funds were recorded within cash and cash equivalents on the consolidated statements of financial condition. Money market funds are valued based on quoted market prices, or \$1.00 per share, which generally is the NAV of the fund.
- (4) Other assets include restricted cash and cash collateral deposited with certain derivative counterparties. The carrying values of these assets approximate fair value due to their short-term maturities.
- (5) Long-term borrowings are recorded at amortized cost, net of debt issuance costs. The fair value of the long-term borrowings, including the current portion of long-term borrowings, is determined using market prices at the end of December 2020 and 2019, respectively. See Note 15, *Borrowings*, for the fair value of each of the Company's long-term borrowings.

Investments in Certain Entities that Calculate NAV Per Share

As a practical expedient to value certain investments that do not have a readily determinable fair value and have attributes of an investment company, the Company uses NAV as the fair value. The following tables list information regarding all investments that use a fair value measurement to account for both their financial assets and financial liabilities in their calculation of a NAV per share (or equivalent).

December 31, 2020

(in millions)	Ref	Fair Value	Total Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
Equity method: <sup>(1)</sup>					
Hedge funds/funds of hedge funds	(a)	\$ 309	\$ 96	Daily/Monthly (21%) Quarterly (21%) N/R (58%)	1 – 90 days
Private equity funds	(b)	315	372	N/R	N/R
Real assets funds	(c)	218	205	Quarterly (31%) N/R (69%)	60 days
Other		4	5	N/R	N/R
Consolidated sponsored investment products:					
Private equity funds of funds	(d)	16	7	N/R	N/R
Hedge fund	(a)	3	—	Quarterly	90 days
Real assets funds	(c)	75	94	NR	NR
Total		\$ 940	\$ 779		

December 31, 2019

(in millions)	Ref	Fair Value	Total Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
Equity method: <sup>(1)</sup>					
Hedge funds/funds of hedge funds	(a)	\$ 220	\$ 120	Daily/Monthly (27%) Quarterly (15%) N/R (58%)	1 – 90 days
Private equity funds	(b)	248	212	N/R	N/R
Real assets funds	(c)	296	120	Quarterly (57%) N/R (43%)	60 days
Other		10	9	N/R	N/R
Consolidated sponsored investment products:					
Private equity funds of funds	(d)	23	9	N/R	N/R
Hedge fund	(a)	3	—	Quarterly	90 days
Real assets funds	(c)	72	83	NR	NR
Total		\$ 872	\$ 553		

N/R – not redeemable

- (1) Comprised of equity method investments, which include investment companies that account for their financial assets and most financial liabilities under fair value measures; therefore, the Company's investment in such equity method investees approximates fair value.
- (a) This category includes hedge funds and funds of hedge funds that invest primarily in equities, fixed income securities, distressed credit, opportunistic and mortgage instruments and other third-party hedge funds. The fair values of the investments have been estimated using the NAV of the Company's ownership interest in partners' capital. The liquidation period for the investments in the funds that are not subject to redemption is unknown at both December 31, 2020 and 2019.
- (b) This category includes private equity funds that initially invest in nonmarketable securities of private companies, which ultimately may become public in the future. The fair values of these investments have been estimated using capital accounts representing the Company's ownership interest in the funds as well as other performance inputs. The Company's investment in each fund is not subject to redemption and is normally returned through distributions as a result of the liquidation of the underlying assets of the private equity funds. The liquidation period for the investments in these funds is unknown at both December 31, 2020 and 2019.
- (c) This category includes several real assets funds that invest directly and indirectly in real estate or infrastructure. The fair values of the investments have been estimated using capital accounts representing the Company's ownership interest in the funds. The Company's investments that are not subject to redemption or are not currently redeemable are normally returned through distributions and realizations of the underlying assets of the funds. The liquidation period for the investments in the funds that are not subject to redemptions is unknown at both December 31, 2020 and 2019. The total remaining unfunded commitments to real assets funds were \$299 million and \$203 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. The Company's portion of the total remaining unfunded commitments was \$267 million and \$172 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively.
- (d) This category includes the underlying third-party private equity funds within consolidated BlackRock sponsored private equity funds of funds. The fair values of the investments in the third-party funds have been estimated using capital accounts representing the Company's ownership interest in each fund in the portfolio as well as other performance inputs. These investments are not subject to redemption or are not currently redeemable; however, for certain funds, the Company may sell or transfer its interest, which may need approval by the general partner of the underlying funds. Due to the nature of the investments in this category, the Company reduces its investment by distributions that are received through the realization of the underlying assets of the funds. The liquidation period for the underlying assets of these funds is unknown at both December 31, 2020 and 2019. The total remaining unfunded commitments to other third-party funds were \$7 million and \$9 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. The Company had contractual obligations to the consolidated funds of \$17 million and \$22 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

Fair Value Option

At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Company elected the fair value option for certain investments in CLOs of approximately \$35 million and \$37 million, respectively, reported within investments.

In addition, the Company elected the fair value option for bank loans and borrowings of a consolidated CLO, recorded within investments and other liabilities, respectively. The following table summarizes the information related to these bank loans and borrowings at December 31, 2020 and 2019:

(in millions)	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
CLO Bank loans:		
Aggregate principal amounts outstanding	\$ 250	\$ 204
Fair value	248	204
Aggregate unpaid principal balance in excess of (less than) fair value	\$ 2	\$ —
CLO Borrowings:		
Aggregate principal amounts outstanding	\$ 244	\$ 195
Fair value	\$ 246	\$ 195

At December 31, 2020, the principal amounts outstanding of the borrowings issued by the CLOs mature in 2030.

During the year ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, the net gains (losses) from the change in fair value of the bank loans and borrowings held by the consolidated CLO were not material and were recorded in net gain (loss) on the consolidated statements of income. The change in fair value of the assets and liabilities included interest income and expense, respectively.

9. Derivatives and Hedging

The Company maintains a program to enter into swaps to hedge against market price and interest rate exposures with respect to certain seed investments in sponsored investment products. At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Company had outstanding total return swaps with aggregate notional values of approximately \$833 million and \$644 million, respectively.

The Company executes forward foreign currency exchange contracts to mitigate the risk of certain foreign exchange movements. At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Company had outstanding forward foreign currency exchange contracts with aggregate notional values of

approximately \$2.8 billion and \$3.4 billion, respectively and with expiration dates in January 2021 and January 2020, respectively.

At both December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Company had a derivative providing credit protection with a notional

The following table presents the fair values of derivative instruments recognized in the consolidated statements of financial condition at December 31, 2020:

(in millions)

	December 31, 2020			
	Assets		Liabilities	
	Statement of Financial Condition Classification	Fair Value	Statement of Financial Condition Classification	Fair Value
Derivative instruments				
Total return swaps	Other assets	\$ —	Other liabilities	\$ 50
Forward foreign currency exchange contracts	Other assets	13	Other liabilities	5
Total		\$ 13		\$ 55

The fair values of the outstanding total return swaps and forward foreign currency exchange contracts were not material to the consolidated statement of financial condition at December 31, 2019.

The following table presents realized and unrealized gains (losses) recognized in the consolidated statements of income on derivative instruments:

(in millions)

Derivative Instruments	Statement of Income Classification	Gains (Losses)		
		2020	2019	2018
Total return swaps	Nonoperating income (expense)	\$ (93)	\$ (106)	\$ 54
Forward foreign currency exchange contracts	General and administration expense	47	55	(124)
Total gain (loss) from derivative instruments		\$ (46)	\$ (51)	\$ (70)

The Company consolidates certain sponsored investment funds, which may utilize derivative instruments as a part of the funds' investment strategies. The change in fair value of such derivatives, which is recorded in nonoperating income (expense), was not material for 2020, 2019 and 2018.

See Note 15, *Borrowings*, for more information on the Company's net investment hedge.

10. Property and Equipment

Property and equipment consists of the following:

(in millions)

	Estimated useful life-in years	December 31,	
		2020	2019
Property and equipment:			
Land	N/A	\$ 6	\$ 6
Building	39	33	33
Building improvements	15	30	30
Leasehold improvements	1-15	593	565
Equipment and computer software	3	822	672
Other transportation equipment	10	179	136
Furniture and fixtures	7	70	70
Construction in progress	N/A	46	83
Total		1,779	1,595
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization		1,098	880
Property and equipment, net		\$ 681	\$ 715

N/A – Not Applicable

Qualifying software costs of approximately \$95 million, \$93 million and \$77 million have been capitalized within equipment and computer software during 2020, 2019 and

amount of approximately \$17 million to a counterparty, representing the Company's maximum risk of loss with respect to the derivative. The Company carries the derivative at fair value based on the expected discounted future cash outflows under the arrangement.

2018, respectively, and are being amortized over an estimated useful life of three years.

Depreciation and amortization expense was \$232 million, \$182 million and \$154 million for 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

11. Goodwill

Goodwill activity during 2020 and 2019 was as follows:

(in millions)

	2020	2019
Beginning of year balance	\$ 14,562	\$ 13,526
Acquisition <sup>(1)</sup>	—	1,044
Goodwill adjustments related to Quellos and other <sup>(2)</sup>	(11)	(8)
End of year balance	\$ 14,551	\$ 14,562

(1) In 2019, the \$1,044 million increase in goodwill resulted from the eFront Transaction. See Note 3, *Acquisition*, for information on the eFront Transaction.

(2) Amounts primarily resulted from a decline related to tax benefits realized from tax-deductible goodwill in excess of book goodwill from the acquisition of the fund-of-funds business of Quellos Group, LLC in October 2007 (the "Quellos Transaction"). Goodwill related to the Quellos Transaction will continue to be reduced in future periods by the amount of tax benefits realized from tax-deductible goodwill in excess of book goodwill from the Quellos Transaction. The balance of the Quellos tax-deductible goodwill in excess of book goodwill was approximately \$74 million and \$106 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

BlackRock assessed its goodwill for impairment as of July 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018 and considered such factors as the book value and the market capitalization of the Company. The impairment assessment indicated no impairment charges were required. The Company continues to monitor its book value per share compared

with closing prices of its common stock for potential indicators of impairment. At December 31, 2020, the Company's common stock closed at a market price of \$721.54, which exceeded its book value of approximately \$231.31 per share.

12. Intangible Assets

Intangible assets at December 31, 2020 and 2019 consisted of the following:

(in millions)

	Remaining Weighted-Average Estimated Useful Life	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Amount
At December 31, 2020				
Indefinite-lived intangible assets:				
Management contracts	N/A	\$ 16,169	\$ —	\$ 16,169
Trade names/trademarks	N/A	1,403	—	1,403
License	N/A	6	—	6
Total indefinite-lived intangible assets		17,578	—	17,578
Finite-lived intangible assets:				
Management contracts	4.0	283	172	111
Investor/customer relationships	8.2	476	88	388
Technology-related	6.4	203	25	178
Trade names/trademarks	2.3	14	6	8
Total finite-lived intangible assets	7.0	976	291	685
Total intangible assets		\$ 18,554	\$ 291	\$ 18,263

At December 31, 2019

Indefinite-lived intangible assets:				
Management contracts	N/A	\$ 16,169	\$ —	\$ 16,169
Trade names/trademarks	N/A	1,403	—	1,403
License	N/A	6	—	6
Total indefinite-lived intangible assets		17,578	—	17,578
Finite-lived intangible assets:				
Management contracts	4.8	283	135	148
Investor/customer relationships	9.2	476	39	437
Technology-related	7.4	203	9	194
Trade names/trademarks	3.3	14	2	12
Total finite-lived intangible assets	7.8	976	185	791
Total intangible assets		\$ 18,554	\$ 185	\$ 18,369

N/A – Not Applicable

The impairment tests performed for intangible assets as of July 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018 indicated no impairment charges were required.

Estimated amortization expense for finite-lived intangible assets for each of the five succeeding years is as follows:

(in millions)

Year	Amount
2021	\$ 107
2022	103
2023	97
2024	92
2025	87

In 2019, in connection with the eFront Transaction, the Company acquired \$400 million of finite-lived customer relationships, \$203 million of finite-lived technology-related intangible assets and \$14 million of a finite-lived trade name, with weighted-average estimated lives of approximately 10 years, eight years and four years,

respectively. See Note 3, *Acquisition*, for information on the eFront Transaction.

13. Leases

The following table presents components of lease cost included in general and administration expense on the consolidated statements of income:

(in millions)

	2020	2019
Lease cost <sup>(1)</sup> :		
Operating lease cost <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 147	\$ 141
Variable lease cost <sup>(3)</sup>	40	39
Total lease cost	\$ 187	\$ 180

(1) Rent expense and certain office equipment expense under lease agreements amounted to \$135 million in 2018.

(2) Amounts include short-term leases, which are immaterial for both 2020 and 2019.

(3) Amounts include operating lease payments, which may be adjusted based on usage, changes in an index or market rate, as well as common area maintenance charges and other variable costs not included in the measurement of ROU assets and operating lease liabilities.



The following table presents operating leases included on the consolidated statement of financial condition:

	Statement of Financial Condition Classification	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
(in millions)			
Statement of Financial Condition information:			
Operating lease ROU assets	Other assets	\$ 649	\$ 669
Operating lease liabilities	Other liabilities	\$ 755	\$ 776

Supplemental information related to operating leases is summarized below:

	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
(in millions)		
Supplemental cash flow information:		
Cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of operating lease liabilities	\$ 154	\$ 142
Supplemental noncash information:		
ROU assets in exchange for operating lease liabilities in connection with the adoption of ASU 2016-02, “Leases”	\$ —	\$ 661
ROU assets in exchange for operating lease liabilities	\$ 93	\$ 117

	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
Lease term and discount rate:		
Weighted-average remaining lease term	8 years	9 years
Weighted-average discount rate	3%	3%

(in millions)	
Maturity of operating lease liabilities at December 31, 2020	Amount <sup>(1)</sup>
2021	\$ 162
2022	159
2023	107
2024	74
2025	58
Thereafter	305
Total lease payments	\$ 865
Less: imputed interest	110
Present value of lease liabilities	\$ 755

(1) Amount excludes \$1.4 billion of legally binding minimum lease payments for leases signed but not yet commenced.

In May 2017, the Company entered into an agreement with 50 HYMC Owner LLC, for the lease of approximately 847,000 square feet of office space located at 50 Hudson Yards, New York, New York. The term of the lease includes 20 years of cash rental payments expected to begin in May 2023, with the option to renew for a specified term. The lease requires annual base rental payments of approximately \$51 million per year during the first five years of the lease term, increasing every five years to \$58 million, \$66 million and \$74 million per year (or approximately \$1.2 billion in base rent over a 20-year period). In November 2019, the Company exercised its initial expansion option with respect to two additional floors aggregating approximately 122,000 square feet of office space. The additional space requires approximately \$185 million in base rent over the 20-year period.

14. Other Assets

PennyMac

On February 13, 2020, BlackRock announced the establishment of The BlackRock Foundation (the “Foundation”) and the contribution of its remaining 20% stake in PennyMac Financial Services, Inc. (“PennyMac”) to the Foundation and the BlackRock Charitable Fund,

which BlackRock established in 2013 (together, the “Charitable Contribution”). The Charitable Contribution resulted in an operating expense of \$589 million, which was offset by a \$122 million noncash, nonoperating pre-tax gain on the contributed shares and a tax benefit of \$241 million in the consolidated statement of income for 2020.

The Company accounted for its interest in PennyMac as an equity method investment. At December 31, 2019, the Company’s investment in PennyMac was included in other assets on the consolidated statements of financial condition. The carrying value and market value of the Company’s interest (approximately 20% or 16 million shares) was approximately \$451 million and \$530 million, respectively, at December 31, 2019. The market value of the Company’s interest reflected the PennyMac stock price at December 31, 2019 (a Level 1 input). As a result of the Charitable Contribution, the Company no longer recorded an investment in PennyMac at December 31, 2020.

iCapital

On March 10, 2020, in connection with a recapitalization of iCapital Network, Inc. (“iCapital”), BlackRock received additional stock in exchange for certain securities it held, which resulted in a nonoperating pre-tax gain of approximately \$240 million in the consolidated statement of income for 2020. Following this transaction, the Company accounts for its interest in iCapital as an equity method investment, which is included in other assets on the consolidated statements of financial condition. At December 31, 2020, the carrying value of the Company’s interest in iCapital was approximately \$296 million.

15. Borrowings

Short-Term Borrowings

2020 Revolving Credit Facility. The Company’s credit facility has an aggregate commitment amount of \$4 billion and was amended in March 2020 to extend the maturity date to March 2025 (the “2020 credit facility”). The 2020 credit facility permits the Company to request up to an additional \$1 billion of borrowing capacity, subject to lender credit approval, increasing the overall size of the 2020 credit facility to an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$5 billion. Interest on borrowings outstanding accrues at a rate based on the applicable London Interbank Offered Rate plus a spread. The 2020 credit facility requires the Company not to exceed a maximum leverage ratio (ratio of net debt to earnings

Long-Term Borrowings

The carrying value and fair value of long-term borrowings determined using market prices and EUR/USD foreign exchange rate at December 31, 2020 included the following:

(in millions)	Unamortized Discount and Debt Issuance			
	Maturity Amount	Costs	Carrying Value	Fair Value
4.25% Notes due 2021	\$ 750	\$ —	\$ 750	\$ 761
3.375% Notes due 2022	750	(2)	748	782
3.50% Notes due 2024	1,000	(3)	997	1,098
1.25% Notes due 2025	856	(3)	853	911
3.20% Notes due 2027	700	(5)	695	790
3.25% Notes due 2029	1,000	(11)	989	1,146
2.40% Notes due 2030	1,000	(7)	993	1,090
1.90% Notes due 2031	1,250	(11)	1,239	1,305
Total Long-term Borrowings	\$ 7,306	\$ (42)	\$ 7,264	\$ 7,883

Long-term borrowings at December 31, 2019 had a carrying value of \$5.0 billion and a fair value of \$5.3 billion determined using market prices at the end of December 2019.

2031 Notes. In April 2020, the Company issued \$1.25 billion in aggregate principal amount of 1.90% senior unsecured and unsubordinated notes maturing on January 28, 2031 (the “2031 Notes”). The net proceeds of the 2031 Notes are being used for general corporate purposes, which may include the future repayment of all or a portion of the \$750 million 4.25% Notes due May 2021. Interest of approximately \$24 million per year is payable semi-annually on January 28 and July 28 of each year, which commenced on July 28, 2020. The 2031 Notes may be redeemed prior to October 28, 2030 in whole or in part at any time, at the option of the Company, at a “make-whole” redemption price or at 100% of the principal amount of the 2031 Notes thereafter. The unamortized discount and debt issuance costs are being amortized over the remaining term of the 2031 Notes.

2030 Notes. In January 2020, the Company issued \$1 billion in aggregate principal amount of 2.40% senior unsecured and unsubordinated notes maturing on April 30, 2030 (the “2030 Notes”). The net proceeds of the 2030 Notes were used for general corporate purposes. Interest of approximately \$24 million per year is payable semi-annually on April 30 and October 30 of each year, which commenced on April 30, 2020. The 2030 Notes may be redeemed prior to January 30, 2030 in whole or in part

before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, where net debt equals total debt less unrestricted cash) of 3 to 1, which was satisfied with a ratio of less than 1 to 1 at December 31, 2020. The 2020 credit facility provides back-up liquidity to fund ongoing working capital for general corporate purposes and various investment opportunities. At December 31, 2020, the Company had no amount outstanding under the 2020 credit facility.

Commercial Paper Program. The Company can issue unsecured commercial paper notes (the “CP Notes”) on a private-placement basis up to a maximum aggregate amount outstanding at any time of \$4 billion. The commercial paper program is currently supported by the 2020 credit facility. At December 31, 2020, BlackRock had no CP Notes outstanding.

at any time, at the option of the Company, at a “make-whole” redemption price or at 100% of the principal amount of the 2030 Notes thereafter. The unamortized discount and debt issuance costs are being amortized over the remaining term of the 2030 Notes.

2029 Notes. In April 2019, the Company issued \$1 billion in aggregate principal amount of 3.25% senior unsecured and unsubordinated notes maturing on April 30, 2029 (the “2029 Notes”). The net proceeds of the 2029 Notes were used for general corporate purposes, which included a portion of the purchase price of the eFront Transaction, repayment of a portion of the \$1 billion 5.00% notes in December 2019 and repayment of borrowings under its commercial paper program. Interest is payable semi-annually on April 30 and October 30 of each year, which commenced on October 30, 2019, and is approximately \$33 million per year. The 2029 Notes may be redeemed prior to January 30, 2029 in whole or in part at any time, at the option of the Company, at a “make-whole” redemption price or at par thereafter. The unamortized discount and debt issuance costs are being amortized over the remaining term of the 2029 Notes.

2027 Notes. In March 2017, the Company issued \$700 million in aggregate principal amount of 3.20% senior unsecured and unsubordinated notes maturing on March 15, 2027 (the “2027 Notes”). The net proceeds of the 2027 Notes were used to fully repay \$700 million in aggregate principal amount outstanding of 6.25% notes in April 2017 prior to their maturity in September 2017.

Interest is payable semi-annually on March 15 and September 15 of each year, and is approximately \$22 million per year. The 2027 Notes may be redeemed prior to maturity at any time in whole or in part at the option of the Company at a “make-whole” redemption price. The unamortized discount and debt issuance costs are being amortized over the remaining term of the 2027 Notes.

**2025 Notes.** In May 2015, the Company issued €700 million of 1.25% senior unsecured notes maturing on May 6, 2025 (the “2025 Notes”). The notes are listed on the New York Stock Exchange. The net proceeds of the 2025 Notes were used for general corporate purposes, including refinancing of outstanding indebtedness. Interest of approximately \$11 million per year based on current exchange rates is payable annually on May 6 of each year. The 2025 Notes may be redeemed in whole or in part prior to maturity at any time at the option of the Company at a “make-whole” redemption price. The unamortized discount and debt issuance costs are being amortized over the remaining term of the 2025 Notes.

Upon conversion to US dollars the Company designated the €700 million debt offering as a net investment hedge to offset its currency exposure relating to its net investment in certain euro functional currency operations. A loss of \$54 million (net of tax benefit of \$17 million), a gain of \$11 million (net of tax expense of \$3 million), and a gain of \$30 million (net of tax expense of \$10 million) were recognized in other comprehensive income for 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. No hedge ineffectiveness was recognized during 2020, 2019, and 2018.

**2024 Notes.** In March 2014, the Company issued \$1 billion in aggregate principal amount of 3.50% senior unsecured and unsubordinated notes maturing on March 18, 2024 (the “2024 Notes”). The net proceeds of the 2024 Notes were used to refinance certain indebtedness which matured in the fourth quarter of 2014. Interest is payable semi-annually in arrears on March 18 and September 18 of each year, or approximately \$35 million per year. The 2024 Notes may be redeemed prior to maturity at any time in whole or in part at the option of the Company at a “make-whole” redemption price. The unamortized discount and debt issuance costs are being amortized over the remaining term of the 2024 Notes.

**2022 Notes.** In May 2012, the Company issued \$1.5 billion in aggregate principal amount of unsecured unsubordinated obligations. These notes were issued as two separate series of senior debt securities, including \$750 million of 1.375% notes, which were repaid in June 2015 at maturity, and \$750 million of 3.375% notes maturing in June 2022 (the “2022 Notes”). Net proceeds were used to fund the repurchase of BlackRock’s common stock and Series B Preferred from Barclays and affiliates and for general corporate purposes. Interest on the 2022 Notes of approximately \$25 million per year is payable semi-annually on June 1 and December 1 of each year. The 2022 Notes may be redeemed prior to maturity at any time in whole or in part at the option of the Company at a “make-whole” redemption price. The “make-whole” redemption price represents a price, subject to the specific terms of the 2022 Notes and related indenture, that is the greater of (a) par value and (b) the present value of future payments that will not be paid because of an early

redemption, which is discounted at a fixed spread over a comparable Treasury security. The unamortized discount and debt issuance costs are being amortized over the remaining term of the 2022 Notes.

**2021 Notes.** In May 2011, the Company issued \$1.5 billion in aggregate principal amount of unsecured unsubordinated obligations. These notes were issued as two separate series of senior debt securities, including \$750 million of 4.25% notes maturing in May 2021 and \$750 million of floating rate notes, which were repaid in May 2013 at maturity. Net proceeds of this offering were used to fund the repurchase of BlackRock’s Series B Preferred from affiliates of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. Interest on the 4.25% notes due in 2021 (“2021 Notes”) is payable semi-annually on May 24 and November 24 of each year, and is approximately \$32 million per year. The 2021 Notes may be redeemed prior to maturity at any time in whole or in part at the option of the Company at a “make-whole” redemption price. The unamortized discount and debt issuance costs are being amortized over the remaining term of the 2021 Notes.

## 16. Commitments and Contingencies

**Investment Commitments.** At December 31, 2020, the Company had \$789 million of various capital commitments to fund sponsored investment products, including consolidated sponsored investment products. These products include private equity funds, real assets funds and opportunistic funds. This amount excludes additional commitments made by consolidated funds of funds to underlying third-party funds as third-party noncontrolling interest holders have the legal obligation to fund the respective commitments of such funds of funds. Generally, the timing of the funding of these commitments is unknown and the commitments are callable on demand at any time prior to the expiration of the commitment. These unfunded commitments are not recorded on the consolidated statements of financial condition. These commitments do not include potential future commitments approved by the Company that are not yet legally binding. The Company intends to make additional capital commitments from time to time to fund additional investment products for, and with, its clients.

### Contingencies

**Contingent Payments Related to Business Acquisitions.** In connection with certain acquisitions, BlackRock is required to make contingent payments, subject to achieving specified performance targets, which may include revenue related to acquired contracts or new capital commitments for certain products. The fair value of the remaining aggregate contingent payments at December 31, 2020 totaled \$26 million and is included in other liabilities on the consolidated statements of financial condition.

**Other Contingent Payments.** The Company acts as the portfolio manager in a series of derivative transactions and has a maximum potential exposure of \$17 million between the Company and counterparty. See Note 9, *Derivatives and Hedging*, for further discussion.

**Legal Proceedings.** From time to time, BlackRock receives subpoenas or other requests for information from various US federal and state governmental and regulatory authorities and international governmental and regulatory

authorities in connection with industry-wide or other investigations or proceedings. It is BlackRock’s policy to cooperate fully with such matters. The Company, certain of its subsidiaries and employees have been named as defendants in various legal actions, including arbitrations and other litigation arising in connection with BlackRock’s activities. Additionally, BlackRock-advised investment portfolios may be subject to lawsuits, any of which potentially could harm the investment returns of the applicable portfolio or result in the Company being liable to the portfolios for any resulting damages.

On April 5, 2017, BlackRock, Inc., BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A. (“BTC”), the BlackRock, Inc. Retirement Committee and various sub-committees, and a BlackRock employee were named as defendants in a purported class action lawsuit brought in the US District Court for the Northern District of California by a former employee on behalf of all participants and beneficiaries in the BlackRock employee 401(k) Plan (the “Plan”) from April 5, 2011 to the present. The lawsuit generally alleges that the defendants breached their duties towards Plan participants in violation of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 by, among other things, offering investment options that were overly expensive, underperformed unaffiliated peer funds, focused disproportionately on active versus passive strategies, and were unduly concentrated in investment options managed by BlackRock. On October 18, 2017, the plaintiffs filed an Amended Complaint, which, among other things, added as defendants certain current and former members of the BlackRock Retirement and Investment Committees. The Amended Complaint also included a new purported class claim on behalf of investors in certain CTFs managed by BTC. Specifically, the plaintiffs allege that BTC, as fiduciary to the CTFs, engaged in self-dealing by, most significantly, selecting itself as the securities lending agent on terms that the plaintiffs claim were excessive. The Amended Complaint also alleged that BlackRock took undue risks in its management of securities lending cash reinvestment vehicles during the financial crisis. On August 23, 2018, the court granted permission to the plaintiffs to file a Second Amended Complaint (“SAC”) which added as defendants the BlackRock, Inc. Management Development and Compensation Committee, the Plan’s independent investment consultant and the Plan’s Administrative Committee and its members. On October 22, 2018, BlackRock filed a motion to dismiss the SAC, and on June 3, 2019, the plaintiffs filed a motion seeking to certify both the Plan and the CTF classes. On September 3, 2019, the court granted BlackRock’s motion to dismiss part of the plaintiffs’ claim seeking to recover alleged losses in the securities lending vehicles but denied the motion to dismiss in all other respects. On February 11, 2020, the court denied the

plaintiffs’ motion to certify the CTF class and granted their motion to certify the Plan class. On April 27, 2020, the Ninth Circuit denied the plaintiffs’ request to immediately appeal the class certification ruling. On September 24, 2020, the parties cross-moved for summary judgment, both of which were denied on January 12, 2021. On February 5, 2021, the parties reached a settlement in principle that will resolve the lawsuit, and are negotiating final terms for presentation to the court, which must approve the settlement for it to be effective.

Management, after consultation with legal counsel, currently does not anticipate that the aggregate liability arising out of regulatory matters or lawsuits will have a material effect on BlackRock’s results of operations, financial position, or cash flows. However, there is no assurance as to whether any such pending or threatened matters will have a material effect on BlackRock’s results of operations, financial position or cash flows in any future reporting period. Due to uncertainties surrounding the outcome of these matters, management cannot reasonably estimate the possible loss or range of loss that may arise from these matters.

**Indemnifications.** In the ordinary course of business or in connection with certain acquisition agreements, BlackRock enters into contracts pursuant to which it may agree to indemnify third parties in certain circumstances. The terms of these indemnities vary from contract to contract and the amount of indemnification liability, if any, cannot be determined or the likelihood of any liability is considered remote. Consequently, no liability has been recorded on the consolidated statements of financial condition.

In connection with securities lending transactions, BlackRock has agreed to indemnify certain securities lending clients against potential loss resulting from a borrower’s failure to fulfill its obligations under the securities lending agreement should the value of the collateral pledged by the borrower at the time of default be insufficient to cover the borrower’s obligation under the securities lending agreement. The amount of securities on loan as of December 31, 2020 and subject to this type of indemnification was \$270 billion. In the Company’s capacity as lending agent, cash and securities totaling \$289 billion was held as collateral for indemnified securities on loan at December 31, 2020. The fair value of these indemnifications was not material at December 31, 2020.



## 17. Revenue

The table below presents detail of revenue for 2020, 2019 and 2018 and includes the product mix of investment advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue and performance fees.

<i>(in millions)</i>	2020	2019	2018
<b>Investment advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue:</b>			
Equity:			
Active	\$ 1,737	\$ 1,554	\$ 1,654
<i>iShares</i> ETFs	3,499	3,495	3,549
Non-ETF index	664	667	685
Equity subtotal	5,900	5,716	5,888
Fixed income:			
Active	1,957	1,918	1,840
<i>iShares</i> ETFs	1,119	963	825
Non-ETF index	463	405	387
Fixed income subtotal	3,539	3,286	3,052
Multi-asset	1,163	1,148	1,176
Alternatives:			
Illiquid alternatives	577	488	348
Liquid alternatives	502	413	384
Currency and commodities <sup>(1)</sup>	168	108	98
Alternatives subtotal	1,247	1,009	830
<b>Long-term</b>	11,849	11,159	10,946
Cash management	790	618	607
<b>Total investment advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue</b>	12,639	11,777	11,553
Investment advisory performance fees:			
Equity	91	36	91
Fixed income	35	10	8
Multi-asset	35	19	19
Alternatives:			
Illiquid alternatives	83	136	70
Liquid alternatives	860	249	224
Alternatives subtotal	943	385	294
<b>Total performance fees</b>	1,104	450	412
<b>Technology services revenue</b>	1,139	974	785
Distribution fees:			
Retrocessions	736	658	709
12b-1 fees (US mutual fund distribution fees)	337	358	406
Other	58	53	40
<b>Total distribution fees</b>	1,131	1,069	1,155
Advisory and other revenue:			
Advisory	68	99	113
Other	124	170	180
<b>Total advisory and other revenue</b>	192	269	293
<b>Total revenue</b>	\$ 16,205	\$ 14,539	\$ 14,198

(1) Amounts include commodity *iShares* ETFs.

The tables below present the investment advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue by client type and investment style:

<i>(in millions)</i>	2020	2019	2018
<b>By client type:</b>			
Retail	\$ 3,651	\$ 3,411	\$ 3,413
<i>iShares</i> ETFs	4,788	4,564	4,468
Institutional:			
Active	2,342	2,172	2,044
Index	1,068	1,012	1,021
Total institutional	3,410	3,184	3,065
<b>Long-term</b>	11,849	11,159	10,946
Cash management	790	618	607
<b>Total</b>	\$ 12,639	\$ 11,777	\$ 11,553
<b>By investment style:</b>			
Active	\$ 5,914	\$ 5,510	\$ 5,391
Index and <i>iShares</i> ETFs	5,935	5,649	5,555
<b>Long-term</b>	11,849	11,159	10,946
Cash management	790	618	607
<b>Total</b>	\$ 12,639	\$ 11,777	\$ 11,553

### Investment advisory and administration fees – remaining performance obligation

The tables below present estimated investment advisory and administration fees expected to be recognized in the future related to the unsatisfied portion of the performance obligations at December 31, 2020 and 2019:

#### December 31, 2020

<i>(in millions)</i>	2021	2022	2023	Thereafter	Total
Investment advisory and administration fees:					
Alternatives <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	\$148	\$144	\$112	\$107	\$511

#### December 31, 2019

<i>(in millions)</i>	2020	2021	2022	Thereafter	Total
Investment advisory and administration fees:					
Alternatives <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	\$98	\$88	\$74	\$107	\$367

(1) Investment advisory and administration fees include management fees related to certain alternative products, which are based on contractual committed capital outstanding at December 31, 2020 and 2019. Actual management fees could be higher to the extent additional committed capital is raised. These fees are generally billed on a quarterly basis in arrears.

(2) The Company elected the following practical expedients and therefore does not include amounts related to (1) performance obligations with an original duration of one year or less, and (2) variable consideration related to future service periods.

### Change in deferred carried interest liability

The table below presents changes in the deferred carried interest liability, which is included in other liabilities on the consolidated statements of financial condition, for the year ended December 31, 2020 and 2019:

<i>(in millions)</i>	2020	2019
Beginning balance	\$483	\$293
Net increase (decrease) in unrealized allocations	150	259
Performance fee revenue recognized	(49)	(75)
Other	—	6
Ending balance	\$584	\$483

### Technology services revenue – remaining performance obligation

The tables below present estimated technology services revenue expected to be recognized in the future related to the unsatisfied portion of the performance obligations at December 31, 2020 and 2019:

#### December 31, 2020

<i>(in millions)</i>	2021	2022	2023	Thereafter	Total
Technology services revenue <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	\$118	\$58	\$33	\$22	\$231

December 31, 2019

(in millions)	2020	2021	2022	Thereafter	Total
Technology services revenue <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	\$117	\$53	\$31	\$20	\$221

(1) Technology services revenue primarily includes upfront payments from customers, which the Company generally recognizes as services are performed.

(2) The Company elected the following practical expedients and therefore does not include amounts related to (1) performance obligations with an original duration of one year or less, and (2) variable consideration related to future service periods.

In addition to amounts disclosed in the table above, certain technology services contracts require fixed minimum fees, which are billed on a monthly or quarterly basis in arrears. The Company recognizes such revenue as services are performed. As of December 31, 2020, the estimated fixed minimum fees for 2021 for outstanding contracts approximated \$730 million. The term for these contracts, which are either in their initial or renewal period, ranges from one to five years.

The table below presents changes in the technology services deferred revenue liability for the year ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, which is included in other liabilities on the consolidated statements of financial condition:

(in millions)	2020	2019
Beginning balance	\$116	\$ 70
Additions <sup>(1)</sup>	89	86
Revenue recognized that was included in the beginning balance	(82)	(40)
Ending balance	\$123	\$116

(1) Amounts are net of revenue recognized.

18. Stock-Based Compensation

The components of stock-based compensation expense are as follows:

(in millions)	2020	2019	2018
Stock-based compensation:			
Restricted stock and RSUs	\$593	\$532	\$514
Long-term incentive plans to be funded by PNC <sup>(1)</sup>	—	—	14
Stock options	29	35	36
Total stock-based compensation	\$622	\$567	\$564

(1) The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. ("PNC")

**Stock Award and Incentive Plan.** Pursuant to the BlackRock, Inc. Second Amended and Restated 1999 Stock Award and Incentive Plan (the "Award Plan"), options to purchase shares of the Company's common stock at an exercise price not less than the market value of BlackRock's common stock on the date of grant in the form of stock options, restricted stock or RSUs may be granted to employees and nonemployee directors. A maximum of 41,500,000 shares of common stock were authorized for issuance under the Award Plan. Of this amount, 6,068,624 shares remain available for future awards at December 31, 2020. Upon exercise of employee stock options, the issuance of restricted stock or the vesting of RSUs, the Company issues shares out of treasury to the extent available.

**Restricted Stock and RSUs.** Pursuant to the Award Plan, restricted stock grants and RSUs may be granted to certain employees. Substantially all restricted stock and RSUs vest over periods ranging from one to three years and are expensed using the straight-line method over the requisite service period for each separately vesting portion of the award as if the award was, in-substance, multiple awards. Restricted stock and RSUs are not considered participating securities for purposes of calculating EPS as the dividend equivalents are subject to forfeiture prior to vesting of the award.

Restricted stock and RSU activity for 2020 is summarized below.

	Restricted Stock and RSUs	Weighted-Average Grant Date Fair Value
Outstanding at		
December 31, 2019	2,236,452	\$444.02
Granted	969,095	\$533.31
Converted	(981,385)	\$429.48
Forfeited	(84,232)	\$477.29
December 31, 2020	2,139,930	\$489.81

The Company values restricted stock and RSUs at their grant-date fair value as measured by BlackRock's common stock price. The total fair market value of RSUs/ restricted stock granted to employees during 2020, 2019 and 2018 was \$517 million, \$508 million and \$492 million, respectively. The total grant-date fair market value of RSUs/restricted stock converted to common stock during 2020, 2019 and 2018 was \$421 million, \$398 million and \$443 million, respectively.

RSUs/restricted stock granted in connection with annual incentive compensation under the Award Plan primarily related to the following:

	2020	2019	2018
Awards granted that vest ratably over three years from the date of grant	504,403	674,206	527,337
Awards granted that cliff vest 100% on:			
January 31, 2021	—	—	209,201
January 31, 2022	—	377,291	—
January 31, 2023	393,161	—	—
	897,564	1,051,497	736,538

In addition, the Company also granted RSUs of 71,531, 174,752 and 155,403 during 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively, with varying vesting periods.

At December 31, 2020, the intrinsic value of outstanding RSUs was \$1.5 billion, reflecting a closing stock price of \$721.54.

At December 31, 2020, total unrecognized stock-based compensation expense related to unvested RSUs was \$379 million. The unrecognized compensation cost is expected to be recognized over the remaining weighted-average period of 1.1 years.

In January 2021, the Company granted under the Award Plan:

- 470,253 RSUs or shares of restricted stock to employees as part of annual incentive compensation that vest ratably over three years from the date of grant; and
- 247,621 RSUs or shares of restricted stock to employees that cliff vest 100% on January 31, 2024.
- 55,994 RSUs or shares of restricted stock to employees with various vesting schedules.

**Performance-Based RSUs.** Pursuant to the Award Plan, performance-based RSUs may be granted to certain employees. Each performance-based award consists of a "base" number of RSUs granted to the employee. The number of shares that an employee ultimately receives at vesting will be equal to the base number of performance-based RSUs granted, multiplied by a predetermined percentage determined in accordance with the level of attainment of Company performance measures during the performance period and could be higher or lower than the original RSU grant. Performance-based RSUs are not considered participating securities as the dividend equivalents are subject to forfeiture prior to vesting of the award.

In the first quarter of 2020, 2019 and 2018, the Company granted 238,478, 283,014, and 199,068, respectively, performance-based RSUs to certain employees that cliff vest 100% on January 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 respectively. These awards are amortized over a service period of three years. The number of shares distributed at vesting could be higher or lower than the original grant based on the level of attainment of predetermined Company performance measures. In January 2020, the Company granted 30,600 additional RSUs to certain employees based on the attainment of Company performance measures during the performance period.

Performance-based RSU activity for 2020 is summarized below.

	Performance-Based RSUs	Weighted-Average Grant Date Fair Value
Outstanding at		
December 31, 2019	742,918	\$436.84
Granted	238,478	\$533.58
Additional shares granted due to attainment of performance measures	30,600	\$375.26
Converted	(311,779)	\$375.26
December 31, 2020	700,217	\$494.51

The Company initially values performance-based RSUs at their grant-date fair value as measured by BlackRock's common stock price. The total grant-date fair market value of performance-based RSUs granted to employees during 2020, 2019 and 2018 was \$139 million, \$117 million and \$121 million, respectively.

At December 31, 2020, the intrinsic value of outstanding performance-based RSUs was \$505 million reflecting a closing stock price of \$721.54.

At December 31, 2020, total unrecognized stock-based compensation expense related to unvested performance-based awards was \$132 million. The unrecognized compensation cost is expected to be recognized over the remaining weighted-average period of 1.2 years.

In January 2021, the Company granted 162,029 performance-based RSUs to certain employees that cliff vest 100% on January 31, 2024. These awards are amortized over a service period of three years. The number of shares distributed at vesting could be higher or lower than the original grant based on the level of attainment of predetermined Company performance measures.

**Performance-based Stock Options.** Pursuant to the Award Plan, performance-based stock options may be granted to certain employees. Vesting of the performance-based stock options is contingent upon the achievement of obtaining 125% of BlackRock's grant-date stock price within five years from the grant date and the attainment of Company performance measures during the four-year performance period. If both hurdles are achieved, the award will vest in three equal installments at the end of years five, six and seven. Vested options can then be exercised up to nine years following the grant date. At December 31, 2020, the weighted average remaining life of the awards is approximately 5.9 years. The awards are generally forfeited if the employee leaves the Company before the respective vesting date. The expense for each tranche is amortized over the respective requisite service period. The Company assumes the performance condition will be achieved. If such condition is not met, no compensation cost is recognized and any recognized compensation cost is reversed. Stock option activity for 2020 is summarized below.

	Shares Under Option	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Outstanding at		
December 31, 2019	1,941,145	\$513.50
Forfeited	(25,353)	\$513.50
December 31, 2020	1,915,792	\$513.50

The options have a strike price of \$513.50, which was the closing price of the shares on the grant date. The grant-date fair value of the awards issued in 2017 was \$208 million and was estimated using a Monte Carlo simulation with an embedded lattice model using the assumptions included in the following table:

Grant Year	Expected Term (Years)	Expected Stock Volatility	Expected Dividend Yield	Risk-Free Interest Rate
2017	6.56	22.23%	2.16%	2.33%

The expected term was derived using a Monte Carlo simulation with the embedded lattice model and represents the period of time that options granted are expected to be outstanding. The expected stock volatility was based upon an average of historical stock price fluctuations of BlackRock's common stock and an implied volatility at the grant date. The dividend yield was calculated as the most recent quarterly dividend divided by the average three-month stock price as of the grant



date. The risk-free interest rate is based on the US Treasury Constant Maturities yield curve at date of grant.

At December 31, 2020, total unrecognized stock-based compensation expense related to unvested performance-based stock options was \$82 million. The unrecognized compensation cost is expected to be recognized over the remaining weighted-average period of 2.9 years.

**Employee Stock Purchase Plan (“ESPP”).** The ESPP allows eligible employees to purchase the Company’s common stock at 95% of the fair market value on the last day of each three-month offering period. The Company does not record compensation expense related to employees purchasing shares under the ESPP.

19. Employee Benefit Plans  
Deferred Compensation Plans

**Voluntary Deferred Compensation Plan.** The Company adopted a Voluntary Deferred Compensation Plan (“VDCP”) that allows eligible employees in the United States to elect to defer between 1% and 100% of their annual cash incentive compensation. The participants must specify a deferral period of up to 10 years from the year of deferral and additionally, elect to receive distributions in the form of a lump sum or in up to 10 annual installments. The Company may fund the obligation through the rabbi trust on behalf of the plan’s participants.

The rabbi trust established for the VDCP, with assets totaling \$6 million and \$23 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, is reflected in investments on the consolidated statements of financial condition. Such investments are classified as trading investments. The liability balance of \$82 million and \$80 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, is reflected on the consolidated statements of financial condition as accrued compensation and benefits. Earnings in the rabbi trust, including unrealized appreciation or depreciation, are reflected as nonoperating income (expense) and changes in the liability are reflected as employee compensation and benefits expense on the consolidated statements of income.

**Leadership Retention Carry Plan.** In 2019, the Company adopted a carried interest retention incentive program referred to as the BlackRock Leadership Retention Carry Plan, pursuant to which senior-level employees (but not including the Chief Executive Officer), as may be determined by the Company from time to time, will be eligible to receive a portion of the cash payments, based on their percentage points, in the total carried interest distributions payable to the Company from participating carry funds. Cash payments, if any, with respect to these percentage points will be made following the recipient’s termination of employment due to qualified retirement, death or disability, subject to his or her execution of a release of claims and continued compliance with his or her restrictive covenant obligations following termination. There was no impact to the consolidated financial statements.

**Other Deferred Compensation Plans.** The Company has additional compensation plans for the purpose of providing deferred compensation and retention incentives to certain employees. For these plans, the final value of the deferred amount to be distributed in cash upon vesting is

associated with investment returns of certain investment funds. The liabilities for these plans were \$339 million and \$311 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, and are reflected in the consolidated statements of financial condition as accrued compensation and benefits. In January 2021, the Company granted approximately \$321 million of additional deferred compensation that will fluctuate with investment returns and will vest ratably over three years from the date of grant.

Defined Contribution Plans

The Company has several defined contribution plans primarily in the United States and United Kingdom.

Certain of the Company’s US employees participate in a defined contribution plan. Employee contributions of up to 8% of eligible compensation, as defined by the plan and subject to Internal Revenue Code limitations, are matched by the Company at 50% up to a maximum of \$5,000 annually. In addition, the Company makes an annual retirement contribution to eligible participants equal to 3-5% of eligible compensation. The Company’s contribution expense related to this plan was \$93 million in 2020, \$66 million in 2019, and \$63 million in 2018.

Certain United Kingdom (“UK”) wholly owned subsidiaries of the Company contribute to defined contribution plans for their employees. The contributions range between 6% and 15% of each employee’s eligible compensation. The Company’s contribution expense related to these plans was \$45 million in 2020, \$41 million in 2019, and \$35 million in 2018.

In addition, the contribution expense related to defined contribution plans in other regions was \$34 million in 2020, \$29 million in 2019 and \$22 million in 2018.

**Defined Benefit Plans.** The Company has several defined benefit pension plans with plan assets of approximately \$36 million and \$28 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. The underfunded obligations at December 31, 2020 and 2019 were not material. Benefit payments for the next five years and in aggregate for the five years thereafter are not expected to be material.

20. Related Party Transactions

Determination of Related Parties

**PNC.** The Company considered PNC, along with its affiliates, to be a related party based on its level of capital stock ownership prior to the secondary offering in May 2020 by PNC of shares of the Company’s stock. See Note 23, *Capital Stock*, for more information on PNC secondary offering. At December 31, 2020, PNC did not own any of the Company’s capital stock and is no longer considered a related party.

**Registered Investment Companies and Equity Method Investments.** The Company considers the registered investment companies that it manages, which include mutual funds and exchange-traded funds, to be related parties as a result of the Company’s advisory relationship. In addition, equity method investments are considered related parties, due to the Company’s influence over the financial and operating policies of the investee.

Revenue from Related Parties

Revenue for services provided by the Company to these and other related parties are as follows:

(in millions)	2020	2019	2018
Investment advisory, administration fees and securities lending revenue <sup>(1)</sup>	\$9,079	\$8,323	\$8,226
Investment advisory performance fees <sup>(1)</sup>	301	131	112
Technology services revenue <sup>(2)</sup>	4	9	9
Advisory and other revenue <sup>(3)</sup>	19	59	65
Total revenue from related parties	\$9,403	\$8,522	\$8,412

- (1) Amounts primarily include revenue from registered investment companies/and equity method investees.
- (2) Amounts primarily include revenue from PNC and affiliates.
- (3) Amounts primarily include revenue from equity method investees.

The Company provides investment advisory and administration services to its open- and closed-end funds and other commingled or pooled funds and separate accounts in which related parties invest.

**Receivables and Payables with Related Parties.** Due from related parties, which is included within other assets on the consolidated statements of financial condition was \$109 million and \$119 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, and primarily represented receivables from certain investment products managed by BlackRock. Accounts receivable at December 31, 2020 and 2019 included \$1.1 billion and \$995 million, respectively,

related to receivables from BlackRock mutual funds and *iShares* ETFs, for investment advisory and administration services.

Due to related parties, which is included within other liabilities on the consolidated statements of financial condition, was \$17 million and \$12 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, and primarily represented payables to certain investment products managed by BlackRock.

21. Net Capital Requirements

The Company is required to maintain net capital in certain regulated subsidiaries within a number of jurisdictions, which is partially maintained by retaining cash and cash equivalent investments in those subsidiaries or jurisdictions. As a result, such subsidiaries of the Company may be restricted in their ability to transfer cash between different jurisdictions and to their parents. Additionally, transfers of cash between international jurisdictions may have adverse tax consequences that could discourage such transfers.

**Banking Regulatory Requirements.** BTC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, is chartered as a national bank whose powers are limited to trust and other fiduciary activities and which is subject to regulatory capital requirements administered by the US Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Federal banking regulators would be required to take certain actions and permitted to take other actions in the event of BTC’s failure to meet minimum capital requirements that, if undertaken, could have a direct material effect on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

Quantitative measures established by regulators to ensure capital adequacy require BTC to maintain a minimum Common Equity Tier 1 capital and Tier 1 leverage ratio, as well as Tier 1 and total risk-based capital ratios. Based on BTC’s calculations as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, it exceeded the applicable capital adequacy requirements.

(in millions)	Actual		For Capital Adequacy Purposes		To Be Well Capitalized Under Prompt Corrective Action Provisions	
	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio
<b>December 31, 2020</b>						
Total capital (to risk weighted assets)	\$740	184.6%	\$32	8.0%	\$40	10.0%
Common Equity Tier 1 capital (to risk weighted assets)	\$740	184.6%	\$18	4.5%	\$26	6.5%
Tier 1 capital (to risk weighted assets)	\$740	184.6%	\$24	6.0%	\$32	8.0%
Tier 1 capital (to average assets)	\$740	71.3%	\$41	4.0%	\$52	5.0%
<b>December 31, 2019</b>						
Total capital (to risk weighted assets)	\$686	137.7%	\$40	8.0%	\$50	10.0%
Common Equity Tier 1 capital (to risk weighted assets)	\$686	137.7%	\$22	4.5%	\$32	6.5%
Tier 1 capital (to risk weighted assets)	\$686	137.7%	\$30	6.0%	\$40	8.0%
Tier 1 capital (to average assets)	\$686	72.8%	\$38	4.0%	\$47	5.0%

**Broker-dealers.** BlackRock Investments, LLC and BlackRock Execution Services are registered broker-dealers and wholly owned subsidiaries of BlackRock that are subject to the Uniform Net Capital requirements under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which requires maintenance of certain minimum net capital levels.

**Capital Requirements.** At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Company was required to maintain approximately

\$2.2 billion and \$1.9 billion, respectively, in net capital in certain regulated subsidiaries, including BTC, entities regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority in the United Kingdom, and the Company’s broker-dealers. The Company was in compliance with all applicable regulatory net capital requirements.

## 22. Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

The following table presents changes in AOCl by component for 2020, 2019 and 2018:

<i>(in millions)</i>	2020	2019	2018
Beginning balance	<b>\$(571)</b>	\$(691)	\$(432)
Foreign currency translation adjustments <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>234</b>	120	(253)
Reclassification as a result of adoption of accounting guidance	—	—	(6)
Ending balance	<b>\$(337)</b>	\$(571)	\$(691)

(1) Amount for 2020 includes a loss from a net investment hedge of \$54 million (net of tax benefit of \$17 million). Amounts for 2019 and 2018 include gains from a net investment hedge of \$11 million (net of tax expense of \$3 million) and \$30 million (net of tax expense of \$10 million), respectively.

## 23. Capital Stock

The Company's authorized common stock and nonvoting participating preferred stock, \$0.01 par value, ("Preferred") consisted of the following:

	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
<b>Common Stock</b>	<b>500,000,000</b>	500,000,000
<b>Nonvoting Participating Preferred Stock</b>		
Series A Preferred	—	20,000,000
Series B Preferred	—	150,000,000
Series C Preferred	—	6,000,000
Series D Preferred	—	20,000,000

**May 2020 PNC Secondary Offering and Share Repurchase.** On May 15, 2020, a subsidiary of PNC completed the secondary offering of 31,628,573 shares of the Company's common stock at a price of \$420 per share, which included 823,188 shares of common stock issued upon the conversion of the Company's Series B Convertible Participating Preferred Stock and 2,875,325 shares of common stock under the fully exercised underwriters' option to purchase additional shares. Also

on May 15, 2020, PNC completed the sale of 2,650,857 shares to the Company at a price of \$414.96 per share. The shares repurchased by the Company were in addition to the share repurchase authorization under the Company's existing share repurchase program. The secondary offering and the Company's share repurchase resulted in PNC's exit of its entire ownership position in the Company.

**Elimination of Preferred Stock.** As a result of PNC's exit of its entire ownership position in the Company, on October 6, 2020, the Company filed a Certificate of Elimination to its Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (the "Certificate of Incorporation") with the Secretary of State for the state of Delaware eliminating each of the Company's Series A, B and C Convertible Participating Preferred Stock and Series D Participating Preferred Stock (collectively, the "Preferred Stock"). As of October 6, 2020 (the date of filing the Certificate of Elimination), there were no outstanding shares of the Preferred Stock.

**PNC Capital Contribution.** During 2019, PNC surrendered to BlackRock 143,458 shares of BlackRock Series C Preferred to fund certain long-term incentive plans ("LTIP") awards and completed its share delivery obligation in connection with its share surrender agreement.

**Cash Dividends for Common and Preferred Shares / RSUs.** During 2020, 2019 and 2018, the Company paid cash dividends of \$14.52 per share (or \$2,260 million), \$13.20 per share (or \$2,096 million) and \$12.02 per share (or \$1,968 million), respectively.

**Share Repurchases.** During 2020, the Company repurchased an aggregate of approximately \$1.5 billion of common shares, including the repurchase from PNC described above and 0.8 million common shares under the Company's existing share repurchase program for \$412 million. At December 31, 2020, there were 5.1 million shares still authorized to be repurchased under the program.

The Company's common and preferred shares issued and outstanding and related activity consist of the following:

	Shares Issued				Shares Outstanding		
	Common Shares	Treasury Common Shares	Series B Preferred	Series C Preferred	Common Shares	Series B Preferred	Series C Preferred
December 31, 2017	171,252,185	(11,275,070)	823,188	246,522	159,977,115	823,188	246,522
Shares repurchased	—	(3,511,603)	—	—	(3,511,603)	—	—
Net issuance of common shares related to employee stock transactions	—	1,087,989	—	—	1,087,989	—	—
PNC LTIP capital contribution	—	—	—	(103,064)	—	—	(103,064)
December 31, 2018	171,252,185	(13,698,684)	823,188	143,458	157,553,501	823,188	143,458
Shares repurchased	—	(4,018,905)	—	—	(4,018,905)	—	—
Net issuance of common shares related to employee stock transactions	—	841,184	—	—	841,184	—	—
PNC LTIP capital contribution	—	—	—	(143,458)	—	—	(143,458)
December 31, 2019	171,252,185	(16,876,405)	823,188	—	154,375,780	823,188	—
Shares repurchased	—	(3,445,554)	—	—	(3,445,554)	—	—
Net issuance of common shares related to employee stock transactions	—	779,471	—	—	779,471	—	—
Exchange of preferred shares series B for common shares	823,188	—	(823,188)	—	823,188	(823,188)	—
<b>December 31, 2020</b>	<b>172,075,373</b>	<b>(19,542,488)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>152,532,885</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

## 24. Restructuring Charge

A restructuring charge of \$60 million (\$47 million after-tax), comprised of \$53 million of severance and \$7 million of expense related to the accelerated amortization of previously granted equity compensation awards, was recorded in the fourth quarter of 2018 in connection with an initiative to modify the size and shape of the workforce.

The table below presents a rollforward of the Company's restructuring liability for the year ended December 31, 2019, which is included in other liabilities on the consolidated statements of financial condition:

<i>(in millions)</i>	
Liability as of December 31, 2018	\$ 53
Cash payments	(53)
Liability as of December 31, 2019	\$ —

## 25. Income Taxes

The components of income tax expense for 2020, 2019 and 2018, are as follows:

<i>(in millions)</i>	2020	2019	2018
Current income tax expense:			
Federal	<b>\$ 720</b>	\$ 735	\$ 605
State and local	<b>86</b>	109	97
Foreign	<b>589</b>	400	600
Total net current income tax expense	<b>1,395</b>	1,244	1,302
Deferred income tax expense (benefit):			
Federal	<b>(66)</b>	15	(71)
State and local	<b>6</b>	7	(1)
Foreign	<b>(97)</b>	(5)	(154)
Total net deferred income tax expense (benefit)	<b>(157)</b>	17	(226)
Total income tax expense	<b>\$1,238</b>	\$1,261	\$1,076



Income tax expense has been based on the following components of income before taxes, less net income (loss) attributable to NCI:

<i>(in millions)</i>	2020	2019	2018
Domestic	<b>\$3,805</b>	\$3,766	\$3,536
Foreign	<b>2,365</b>	1,971	1,845
Total	<b>\$6,170</b>	\$5,737	\$5,381

A reconciliation of income tax expense with expected federal income tax expense computed at the applicable federal income tax rate of 21% for 2020, 2019 and 2018 is as follows:

<i>(in millions)</i>	2020		2019		2018	
Statutory income tax expense	<b>\$1,296</b>	<b>21%</b>	\$1,205	21%	\$1,130	21%
Increase (decrease) in income taxes resulting from:						
State and local taxes (net of federal benefit)	<b>81</b>	<b>1</b>	96	2	99	2
Impact of federal, foreign, state, and local tax rate changes on deferred taxes	<b>78</b>	<b>1</b>	5	—	—	—
Stock-based compensation awards	<b>(36)</b>	<b>—</b>	(23)	—	(64)	(1)
Charitable Contribution	<b>(128)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	—	—	—	—
Effect of foreign tax rates	<b>(100)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	(76)	(1)	(119)	(2)
Other	<b>47</b>	<b>1</b>	54	—	30	—
Income tax expense	<b>\$1,238</b>	<b>20%</b>	\$1,261	22%	\$1,076	20%

Deferred income taxes are provided for the effects of temporary differences between the tax basis of an asset or liability and its reported amount in the consolidated financial statements. These temporary differences result in taxable or deductible amounts in future years.

The components of deferred income tax assets and liabilities are shown below:

<i>(in millions)</i>	December 31,	
	2020	2019
Deferred income tax assets:		
Compensation and benefits	<b>\$ 295</b>	\$ 282
Unrealized investment losses	<b>20</b>	—
Loss carryforwards	<b>80</b>	84
Other	<b>659</b>	481
Gross deferred tax assets	<b>1,054</b>	847
Less: deferred tax valuation allowances	<b>(26)</b>	(51)
Deferred tax assets net of valuation allowances	<b>1,028</b>	796
Deferred income tax liabilities:		
Goodwill and acquired indefinite-lived intangibles	<b>4,096</b>	3,971
Acquired finite-lived intangibles	<b>159</b>	179
Unrealized investment gains	<b>—</b>	63
Other	<b>142</b>	142
Gross deferred tax liabilities	<b>4,397</b>	4,355
Net deferred tax (liabilities)	<b>\$(3,369)</b>	\$(3,559)

Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are recorded net when related to the same tax jurisdiction. At December 31, 2020, the Company recorded on the consolidated statement of financial condition deferred income tax assets, within other assets, and deferred income tax liabilities of \$304 million and \$3,673 million, respectively. At December 31, 2019, the Company recorded on the consolidated statement of financial condition deferred income tax assets, within other assets, and deferred income tax liabilities of \$175 million and \$3,734 million, respectively.

The foreign income before taxes includes countries that have statutory tax rates that are different than the US federal statutory tax rate of 21%, such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and Germany.

Income tax expense for 2020 included a discrete tax benefit of \$241 million recognized in connection with the Charitable Contribution, partially offset by a noncash net expense of approximately \$79 million associated with the revaluation of certain deferred income tax assets and liabilities related to the legislation enacted in the United Kingdom increasing its corporate tax rate and state and local income tax changes. Income tax expense for 2020 also included \$139 million of net discrete tax benefits, including benefits related to changes in the Company's organizational entity structure and stock-based compensation awards. Income tax expense for 2019 included \$28 million of discrete tax benefits, primarily related to stock-based compensation awards.

At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Company had available state net operating loss carryforwards of \$2.0 billion and \$1.9 billion, respectively, which will begin to expire in 2022. At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Company had foreign net operating loss carryforwards of \$102 million and \$110 million, respectively, of which \$2 million will begin to expire in 2021.

At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Company had \$26 million and \$51 million of valuation allowances for deferred income tax assets, respectively, recorded on the consolidated statements of financial condition.

Goodwill recorded in connection with the Quellos Transaction has been reduced during the period by the amount of tax benefit realized from tax-deductible goodwill. See Note 11, *Goodwill*, for further discussion.

Current income taxes are recorded net on the consolidated statements of financial condition when related to the same tax jurisdiction. At December 31, 2020, the Company had current income taxes receivable and payable of \$175 million and \$131 million, respectively, recorded in other assets and accounts payable and accrued liabilities, respectively. At December 31, 2019, the Company had current income taxes receivable and

payable of \$282 million and \$293 million, respectively, recorded in other assets and accounts payable and accrued liabilities, respectively.

The following tabular reconciliation presents the total amounts of gross unrecognized tax benefits:

<i>(in millions)</i>	2020	2019	2018
Balance at January 1	<b>\$ 900</b>	\$ 795	\$ 629
Additions for tax positions of prior years	<b>31</b>	99	82
Reductions for tax positions of prior years	<b>(8)</b>	(27)	(15)
Additions based on tax positions related to current year	<b>60</b>	47	102
Lapse of statute of limitations	<b>(3)</b>	(4)	(3)
Settlements	<b>(40)</b>	(10)	—
Balance at December 31	<b>\$ 940</b>	\$ 900	\$ 795

Included in the balance of unrecognized tax benefits at December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively, are \$565 million, \$513 million and \$462 million of tax benefits that, if recognized, would affect the effective tax rate.

The Company recognizes interest and penalties related to income tax matters as a component of income tax expense. Related to the unrecognized tax benefits noted above, the Company accrued interest and penalties of \$31 million during 2020 and in total, as of December 31, 2020, had recognized a liability for interest and penalties of \$164 million. The Company accrued interest and penalties of \$27 million during 2019 and in total, as of December 31, 2019, had recognized a liability for interest and penalties of \$133 million. The Company accrued interest and penalties of \$30 million during 2018 and in total, as of December 31, 2018, had recognized a liability for interest and penalties of \$106 million.

BlackRock is subject to US federal income tax, state and local income tax, and foreign income tax in multiple jurisdictions. Tax years after 2011 remain open to US federal income tax examination.

In June 2014, the Internal Revenue Service commenced its examination of BlackRock's 2010 through 2012 tax years of which 2010 – 2011 examination is closed. During 2019 and 2020, the Internal Revenue Service commenced its examination of BlackRock's 2013 through 2015 tax years and 2017 through 2018 tax years, respectively. While the examination impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements is undetermined, it is not expected to be material.

The Company is currently under audit in several state and local jurisdictions. The significant state and local income tax examinations are in New York State for tax years 2012 through 2014, New York City for tax years 2009 through 2011, and California for tax years 2015 through 2016. No state and local income tax audits cover years earlier than 2009. No state and local income tax audits are expected to result in an assessment material to BlackRock's consolidated financial statements.

Upon conclusion of its examination, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs ("HMRC") issued a closure notice during 2017 for various UK BlackRock subsidiaries for tax years 2009 and years after. At that time, the Company decided to pursue litigation for the tax matters included on such notice. During 2020, the Company received a favorable decision from the First Tier Tribunal, however, HMRC has received permission to appeal to the Upper Tribunal. BlackRock does not expect the ultimate resolution to result in a material impact to the consolidated financial statements.

From time to time, BlackRock may receive or be subject to tax authorities' assessments and challenges related to income taxes. BlackRock does not currently expect the ultimate resolution of any existing matters to be material to the consolidated financial statements.

At December 31, 2020, it is reasonably possible the total amounts of unrecognized tax benefits will change within the next twelve months due to completion of tax authorities' exams or the expiration of statutes of limitations. Management estimates that the existing liability for uncertain tax positions could decrease by approximately \$5 million to \$15 million within the next twelve months.

## 26. Earnings Per Share

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted EPS for 2020, 2019 and 2018:

<i>(in millions, except shares and per share data)</i>	2020	2019	2018
Net income attributable to BlackRock, Inc.	<b>\$ 4,932</b>	\$ 4,476	\$ 4,305
Basic weighted-average shares outstanding	<b>153,489,422</b>	156,014,343	160,301,116
Dilutive effect of:			
Nonparticipating RSUs	<b>1,275,733</b>	1,445,203	1,647,616
Stock options	<b>75,427</b>	—	—
Total diluted weighted-average shares outstanding	<b>154,840,582</b>	157,459,546	161,948,732
Basic earnings per share	<b>\$ 32.13</b>	\$ 28.69	\$ 26.86
Diluted earnings per share	<b>\$ 31.85</b>	\$ 28.43	\$ 26.58

Anti-dilutive RSUs and stock options for 2020, 2019 and 2018 were immaterial. Certain performance-based RSUs were excluded from diluted EPS calculation because the designated contingency was not met for 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. In addition, performance-based stock options were excluded from diluted EPS calculation for 2019 and 2018 because the designated contingency was not met.

27. Segment Information

The Company’s management directs BlackRock’s operations as one business, the asset management business. The Company utilizes a consolidated approach to assess performance and allocate resources. As such, the Company operates in one business segment.

The following table illustrates total revenue for 2020, 2019 and 2018 by geographic region. These amounts are aggregated on a legal entity basis and do not necessarily reflect where the customer resides or affiliated services are provided.

(in millions)

Revenue	2020	2019	2018
Americas	\$ 10,593	\$ 9,703	\$ 9,303
Europe	4,940	4,158	4,217
Asia-Pacific	672	678	678
Total revenue	\$ 16,205	\$ 14,539	\$ 14,198

See Note 17, *Revenue*, for further information on the Company’s sources of revenue.

The following table illustrates long-lived assets that consist of goodwill and property and equipment at December 31, 2020 and 2019 by geographic region. These amounts are aggregated on a legal entity basis and do not necessarily reflect where the asset is physically located.

(in millions)

Long-lived Assets	2020	2019
Americas	\$ 13,784	\$ 13,830
Europe	1,360	1,360
Asia-Pacific	88	87
Total long-lived assets	\$ 15,232	\$ 15,277

Americas is primarily comprised of the United States, Latin America and Canada, while Europe is primarily comprised of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France and Luxembourg. Asia-Pacific is primarily comprised of Hong Kong, Australia, Japan and Singapore.

28. Subsequent Events

On January 21, 2021, the Board of Directors approved BlackRock’s quarterly dividend of \$4.13 per share to be paid on March 23, 2021 to stockholders of record at the close of business on March 5, 2021.

On February 1, 2021, the Company completed the acquisition of 100% of the equity interests of Aperio, a pioneer in customizing tax-optimized index equity separately managed accounts (“SMAs”) for approximately \$1.1 billion in cash, using existing cash resources. The acquisition of Aperio increased BlackRock’s SMA assets and is expected to expand the breadth of the Company’s capabilities via tax-managed strategies across factors, broad market indexing, and investor Environmental, Social, and Governance preferences across all asset classes. In connection with the acquisition, the Company recorded an initial estimate of purchase price allocation at the date of the transaction primarily related to goodwill of approximately \$0.8 billion and \$0.3 billion of finite-lived intangible assets (mainly customer relationships), which will be amortized over their estimated lives, which range from 10 to 12 years, with a weighted-average estimated life of approximately 10 years. The goodwill recognized in connection with the acquisition is primarily attributable to anticipated synergies from the transaction. The amount of goodwill expected to be deductible for tax purposes is approximately \$0.5 billion.

The Company conducted a review for additional subsequent events and determined that no subsequent events had occurred that would require accrual or additional disclosures.

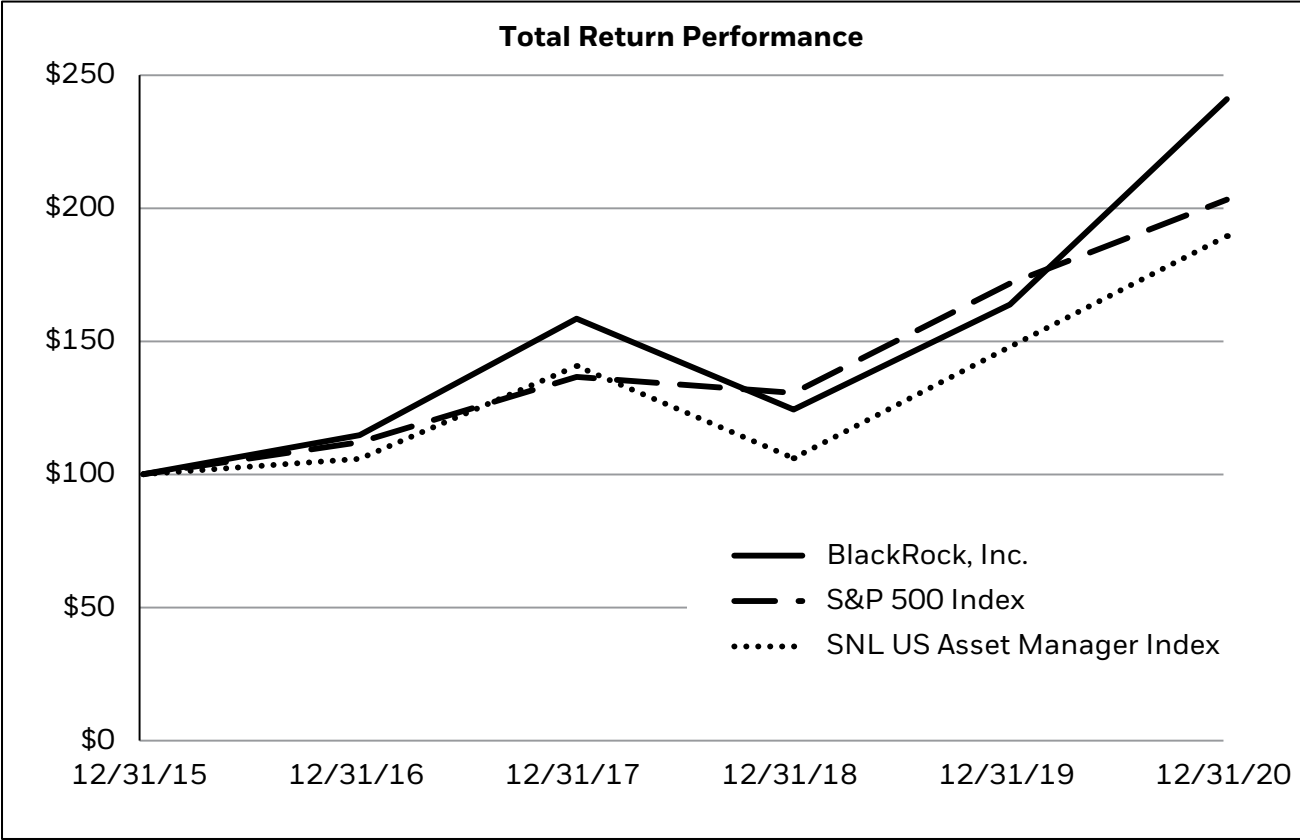
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COMMON STOCK INFORMATION

COMMON STOCK PERFORMANCE GRAPH

The following graph compares the cumulative total stockholder return on BlackRock’s common stock from December 31, 2015 through December 31, 2020, as compared with the cumulative total return of the S&P 500 Index and the SNL US Asset Manager Index\*. The graph assumes the investment of \$100 in BlackRock’s common stock and in each of the two indices on December 31, 2015 and the reinvestment of all dividends, if any. The following information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but neither its accuracy nor its completeness is guaranteed. The performance graph is not necessarily indicative of future investment performance.



	Period Ending					
	12/31/15	12/31/16	12/31/17	12/31/18	12/31/19	12/31/20
BlackRock, Inc.	\$100.00	\$114.62	\$158.38	\$124.16	\$163.68	\$240.94
S&P 500 Index	\$100.00	\$111.96	\$136.40	\$130.42	\$171.49	\$203.04
SNL US Asset Manager Index	\$100.00	\$105.79	\$140.48	\$105.98	\$147.70	\$189.47

\* As of December 31, 2020, the SNL US Asset Manager Index included: Affiliated Managers Group Inc.; AllianceBernstein Holding L.P.; Ameriprise Financial Inc.; Apollo Global Management Inc.; Ares Management Corporation; Artisan Partners Asset Management Inc.; Ashford Inc.; Associated Capital Group Inc.; BlackRock Inc.; Blackstone Group Inc.; BrightSphere Investment Group Inc.; Carlyle Group Inc.; Cohen & Steers Inc.; Diamond Hill Investment Group; Federated Hermes Inc.; Fifth Street Asset Management Inc.; Franklin Resources Inc.; GAMCO Investors Inc.; Great Elm Group; Hamilton Lane Inc.; Hennessy Advisors Inc.; Invesco Ltd.; Janus Henderson Group Plc.; KKR & Co; Manning & Napier Inc.; Medley Management Inc.; Pzena Investment Management Inc.; Safeguard Scientifics Inc.; Sculptor Capital Management Inc.; SEI Investments Co.; Silvercrest Asset Management Group; T. Rowe Price Group Inc.; The Gabelli Equity Trust; U.S. Global Investors Inc.; Victory Capital Holdings Inc.; Virtus Investment Partners Inc.; Waddell & Reed Financial Inc.; Westwood Holdings Group Inc.; WisdomTree Investments Inc.

Corporate Information

**BlackRock Offices Worldwide**

BlackRock has offices in more than 30 countries and a major presence in key global markets, including North and South America, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Middle East and Africa.

**Americas**

Atlanta  
Bloomfield Hills  
Boca Raton  
Bogotá  
Boston  
Buenos Aires  
Charlotte  
Chicago  
Dallas  
Denver  
Greenwich  
Houston  
Las Condes  
Lima  
Mexico City

Miami  
Montreal  
New York  
Newport Beach  
Palo Alto  
Philadelphia  
Pittsburgh  
Ponte Vedra Beach  
Princeton  
San Francisco  
Santa Monica  
Santiago de los Caballeros  
São Paulo  
Seattle

Toronto  
Washington, D.C.  
Wilmington

**EMEA**

Amsterdam  
Athens  
Belgrade  
Brussels  
Budapest  
Cape Town  
Copenhagen  
Dubai  
Dublin  
Edinburgh

Frankfurt  
Geneva  
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**Asia-Pacific**

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Gurgaon  
Hong Kong  
Melbourne  
Mumbai  
Seoul  
Shanghai  
Singapore  
Sydney  
Taipei City  
Tokyo

Corporate Headquarters

BlackRock, Inc.  
55 East 52nd Street  
New York, NY 10055  
(212) 810-5300

Stock Listing

BlackRock, Inc.’s common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol BLK. At the close of business on January 31, 2021, there were 209 common stockholders of record.

Internet Information

Information on BlackRock’s financial results and its products and services is available on the internet at [www.blackrock.com](http://www.blackrock.com).

Financial Information

BlackRock makes available, free of charge, through its website at [www.blackrock.com](http://www.blackrock.com), under the heading “Investor Relations,” its Annual Report to Stockholders, Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, its Proxy Statement and Form of Proxy and all amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is

electronically filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company has included as Exhibit 31 to its Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year ended December 31, 2020, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, certificates of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Company certifying the quality of the Company’s public disclosure, and the Company has submitted to the New York Stock Exchange a certificate of the Chief Executive Officer of the Company certifying that he is not aware of any violation by the Company of New York Stock Exchange corporate governance listing standards. Deloitte & Touche LLP has provided its consent to the inclusion of its reports dated February 25, 2021, relating to the consolidated financial statements of BlackRock, Inc., and the effectiveness of BlackRock, Inc.’s internal controls over financial reporting, in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020, which has been filed as Exhibit 23.1 to such report.

Inquiries

BlackRock will provide, free of charge to each stockholder upon written request, a copy of BlackRock’s Annual Report to Stockholders, Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, Proxy Statement and Form of Proxy and all amendments to those reports. Requests for copies should be addressed to Investor Relations, BlackRock, Inc., 55 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10055. Requests may also be directed to (212) 810-5300 or via email to [invrel@blackrock.com](mailto:invrel@blackrock.com). Copies may also be accessed electronically by means of the SEC’s home page on the internet at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Stockholders and analysts should contact Investor Relations at (212) 810-5300 or via email at [invrel@blackrock.com](mailto:invrel@blackrock.com).

Registrar and Transfer Agent

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**BlackRock**

2020 Annual Report