

INVESTORS REAL ESTATE TRUST
 Form 424B2
 January 28, 2002

Filed pursuant to Rule 424B(2)
 Registration No. 333-76034

Prospectus dated January 25, 2002

600,000 COMMON SHARES
INVESTORS REAL ESTATE TRUST (IRET)
Common Shares of Beneficial Interest
Minimum Purchase of 100 Shares

The Company is a self-advised real estate investment trust (REIT) that, through its operating partnership, IRET Properties, is engaged in acquiring, owning, and leasing multi-family and commercial real estate. IRET is listed on the Nasdaq Small Cap Market under the symbol "IRETS."

We intend to use the proceeds of this offering to increase our capital for real estate additions or acquisitions.

The shares of beneficial interest being offered are the functional equivalent of common stock and hold the rights and preferences normally associated with common stock.

	<u>Per Share</u>	<u>Total if all shares sold</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Public Offering Price	\$8.75	\$ 5,250,000	100%
Less Selling Commission	<u>\$.70</u>	<u>\$ 420,000</u>	<u>8%</u>
Proceeds to us before expenses	\$8.05	\$ 4,830,000	92%

After the payment of all fees and expenses associated with this offering and assuming all the shares are sold, IRET will receive approximately \$4,787,000 or 91.18% of the sale proceeds.

Investing involves certain risks. See page 4. Some, but not all of the risks to consider are:

The fixed \$8.75 price of shares under this offering may be priced higher than the current Nasdaq price. You may be paying more for your IRET shares than necessary.

This is a best efforts offering. Even if we do not sell enough shares to acquire additional real estate, we will not return any portion of your investment.

The book value of the shares available under this offering is substantially less than the purchase price of \$8.75 per share.

To preserve our status as a REIT, IRET may redeem its shares from any shareholder at anytime for the fair value of the shares at the time of redemption or IRET may refuse to transfer shares to any person.

The shares will be offered on a best efforts basis by broker/dealers who have signed a sales agreement and are registered with the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD). The broker/dealers are not required to sell a specific number or dollar amount of shares. The broker/dealers will be paid an 8% commission on each share sold. Any money received from investors will go immediately to IRET and will not be placed in escrow or trust. This offering will end on the earlier of one year from the date of this prospectus or when all shares have been sold. Broker/dealers who have agreed to sell the shares are listed on page 19.

These securities have not been approved or disapproved by the Securities and Exchange Commission or any State Securities Commission nor has the Commission or any State Securities Commission passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

January 25, 2002

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Prospectus Summary

This summary may not contain all of the information that may be important to you. You should read this prospectus summary and the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated and deemed to be incorporated by reference into the prospectus, including the financial data and the related notes, in their entirety before making an investment decision. When used in this prospectus supplement, the terms "we," "our," "us" and "IRET" refer to Investors Real Estate Trust.

IRET

Investors Real Estate Trust is a self-administered, self-managed equity real estate investment trust. Our business consists of the ownership and operation of income-producing real properties. We conduct our day-to-day business operations through our operating partnership IRET Properties, a North Dakota Limited Partnership. We have a fundamental strategy of focusing our real estate investments in the upper Midwest consisting primarily of the states of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Nebraska, of seeking diversification by property type. While we have historically focused most of our investments in the five states listed above, in order to maximize acquisition opportunities, we consider and undertake investments outside of our targeted region. We own a diversified portfolio consisting of 62 multi-family communities, and 61 total commercial properties.

We concentrate on increasing our income from operations per share and funds from operations per share to achieve our objective of paying increasing dividends to our shareholders. Our dividends have increased every year for 31 consecutive years

Our principal office is located at 12 South Main Street Suite 100 Minot, North Dakota 58701; our telephone number there is (701) 837-4738.

Investment Risks

If you purchase our shares offered pursuant to this offering you will be exposed to a number of risks that may result in a loss of all or a significant portion of your investment. For a complete discussion of the risks please see pages 4 through 16 of the full prospectus which follows this summary. A summary of the more significant risks that your investment with us may be exposed to are

- * The fixed \$8.75 price of shares under this offering may be priced higher than the current Nasdaq price, which may result in you paying more for your IRET shares than necessary.

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- * As of October 31, 2001, total liabilities were 220% in relation to our net assets. The ratio of total liabilities to total assets was 69.58%, and the ratio of real estate assets to total real estate debt was 62.9%. We intend to borrow 70% of the cost of any real estate constructed or purchased which may result in us becoming too highly leveraged and losing the real estate through foreclosure.
- * This is a best efforts offering. Even if we do not sell enough shares to acquire additional real estate, we will not return any portion of your investment.
- * The low trading volume of IRET shares on the Nasdaq small cap market may prevent the timely resale of any shares you purchase.
- * The management of IRET operates under a number of conflicts of interest that may prevent the company from receiving the benefit of management's undivided effort and time
- * The book value of the shares available under this offering is substantially less than the purchase price of \$8.75 per share.

Business

We have a fundamental strategy of focusing on the upper Midwest with a primary emphasis on the states of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Nebraska. For the six months ended October 31, 2001, IRET's investments in these states account for 71% of IRET's total gross revenue of \$44,445,900. We also seek diversification by property type with approximately 60% being multi-family apartment communities and the remaining 40% being commercial buildings. We attempt to concentrate our multi-family holdings in cities with populations from 35,000 to 500,000 in the 25-mile radius. As it applies to commercial real estate, we seek to acquire properties that are fully leased to quality tenants and located in medium to large population centers containing from 50,000 to 1,000,000 people or more within a 25-mile radius. Under certain circumstances, we seek to diversify our real estate portfolio by investing in assets located through out the United States and in smaller or larger metropolitan areas.

Based upon our ability to raise equity capital and exchange limited partnership units in IRET Properties, we anticipate acquiring \$50,000,000 to \$150,000,000 of real estate assets on an annual basis going forward.

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IRET contracts with a locally based third party management company to handle all onsite management duties necessary for the proper operation of a particular property. All management contracts may be terminated on 30 days written notice and provide for compensation ranging from 2.75% to no more than 5% of gross rent collections. The use of local management companies allows us to enjoy the benefits of local knowledge of the applicable real estate market while avoiding the cost and difficulty associated with maintaining management personnel in every city in which we operate. Based upon our ability to raise equity capital, we plan to acquire \$100,000,000 of real estate assets on an annual basis going forward applying the investment focus outlined in the previous paragraph of approximately two-thirds apartments and one-third commercial primarily located in the upper Midwestern states of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Nebraska.

We operate in a manner intended to enable us to qualify as a real estate investment trust under the Internal Revenue Code. In accordance with the Code, a real estate investment trust which distributes its capital gains and at least 90% of its taxable income to its shareholders each year, and which meets certain other conditions, will not be taxed on that portion of its taxable income which is distributed to its shareholders.

We generally use available cash or incur short-term floating rate debt in connection with the acquisition of real estate. We replace the cash used or the floating rate debt with fixed-rate secured debt. In appropriate circumstances, we also may acquire one or more properties in exchange for our equity securities or operating partnership units that are convertible into our shares.

IRET's Real Estate Portfolio

As of April 30, 2001, our real estate portfolio consisted of 61% multi-family apartment complexes and 39% commercial buildings based on the dollar amount of our original investment plus capital improvements to date. The dollar amount and percentage of total real estate rental revenue by property group for the Fiscal years ending April 30, 2001, 2000 and 1999 was as follows:

	<u>Apartment</u> <u>Gross Revenue</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Commercial</u> <u>Gross Revenue</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Total Revenue</u>
2001	\$55,806,712	75%	\$18,994,010	25%	\$74,800,722
2000	\$42,379,855	78%	\$11,878,026	22%	\$54,257,881
1999	\$33,010,126	85%	\$ 5,775,161	15%	\$38,785,287

The occupancy for each property group for the last three fiscal years ending April 30 was as follows:

	<u>Apartment Occupancy</u>	<u>Commercial Occupancy</u>
2001	93.96%	98.59%
2000	93.24%	97.77%
1999	94.79%	96.54%

During the past three fiscal years ending April 30, 2001, we acquired 31 apartment communities consisting of 2,686 units for a total cost of \$176,679,134 and 39 commercial properties containing 1,805,669 square feet of space for a total cost of \$184,103,411. During the past three fiscal years ending April 30, 2001, we sold 16 properties realizing net gain of \$4,303,285. No single tenant accounted for more than 10% of revenues during any of the past three fiscal years. As of April 30, 2001, our three largest commercial tenants as a percentage of total commercial rents were: Edgewood Vista 9.7%, HealthEast Medical 7.8%, Microsoft Corporation 7.7% and all other tenants combined 74.8%.

This Offering and Plan of Distribution

Shares offered by IRET	600,000 shares
Shares outstanding after the offering	27,601,404
Use of proceeds	To increase capital for other real estate additions or acquisitions.
NASDAQ Small Cap symbol	IRETS

The number of shares outstanding after the offering assumes that all 600,000 shares offered will be sold. Since the offering is being handled on a best efforts basis there is no guarantee that any shares will be sold.

We intend to offer the shares on a best efforts basis through broker/dealers who are licensed by the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD). Under a best efforts offering there is no guarantee that any share will be sold nor is there any requirement that a participating broker dealer actually sell any shares. We will not sell any shares directly to the public. All shares must be sold through a participating broker/dealer. For any shares sold by a participating broker dealer and paid for by the investor, we will pay a commission of 8% to the selling broker/dealer.

All shares will be sold on a first come first serve basis. Each participating broker/dealer may sell all or any part of the offering assuming that sales by all participating broker/dealers does not exceed the 600,000 shares registered for sale.

Only residents of **Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington** may purchase shares available under this offering. There is a minimum purchase of 100 shares.

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The offering will terminate one year from the date on the front of this prospectus or when all shares have been sold, whichever occurs first.

Use of Proceeds

We estimate that the net proceeds from the sale of the shares we are offering will be approximately \$4,787,000. "Net proceeds" is what we expect to receive after paying expenses of the offering, which we estimate will be approximately \$463,000 or about 8.82% of the total offering.

We plan to use the proceeds to increase our capital for other real estate additions or acquisitions. The money raised by this offering will be used to purchase real estate which generally meets the following standards:

- * Located in the states of Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Colorado, Montana or North Dakota.
- * Either a multi-family apartment complex with historical occupancy for the previous 24 months of 85% or better or a commercial office, warehouse or retail building currently leased to tenants occupying at least 90% or more of the space.
- * The property is not a hotel/motel or undeveloped raw land.
- * The appraised value of the property is equal to or greater than the purchase price.

As of the date of this prospectus, we have not identified any specific properties which satisfy the criteria listed above. Even in the event we do not identify a particular property or do not raise enough money under this offering to buy any additional real estate, we will not return your money.

The Board of Trustees will have broad discretion on how to invest the proceeds and may change the investment criteria at any time without notice to or approval of the shareholders.

Pending any real estate purchases, the net proceeds will be invested in United States Treasury Bonds with terms of six (6) months or less.

Unaudited Quarterly Financial Data For Quarter Ending October 31, 2001

Summary Operating Data - Three Months and Six Months Ended October 31, 2001

We have provided in the table below our summary financial and operating data. In the opinion of the company, the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments (of a normal recurring nature) necessary for a fair presentation of the financial statements. The results of operations for the three months and six months ended October 31, 2001, are not necessarily indicative of operating results for the entire year.

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Statement of Operations

For Three Months and Six Months Ended October 31, 2001 and 2000 (unaudited)

	3 Months Ended <u>10/31/01</u>	3 Months Ended <u>10/31/00</u>	6 Months Ended <u>10/31/01</u>	6 Months Ended <u>10/31/00</u>
REVENUE				
Real Estate Rentals	\$ 22,877,520	\$ 18,216,163	\$ 44,445,900	\$ 35,508,138
Interest, Discounts and Fees	\$ <u>297,521</u>	\$ <u>188,097</u>	\$ <u>509,235</u>	\$ <u>327,766</u>

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Total Revenue	\$ <u>23,175,041</u>	\$ <u>18,404,260</u>	\$ <u>44,955,135</u>	\$ <u>35,835,904</u>
OPERATING EXPENSE				
Interest	\$ 7,597,039	\$ 6,087,438	\$ 14,795,417	\$ 11,778,403
Depreciation	3,718,328	3,042,137	7,375,090	5,698,346
Utilities and Maintenance	3,190,626	2,775,648	6,162,434	5,388,844
Taxes	2,234,148	1,712,556	4,349,779	3,400,798
Insurance	313,713	174,471	628,398	341,752
Property Management Expenses	1,730,144	1,369,059	3,360,223	2,779,561
Administrative Expense & Trustee Services	394,240	295,827	780,546	759,789
Operating Expenses	118,672	124,078	245,295	204,555
Amortization	\$ <u>134,716</u>	\$ <u>115,235</u>	\$ <u>263,672</u>	\$ <u>210,914</u>
Total Expenses	\$ <u>19,431,626</u>	\$ <u>15,696,449</u>	\$ <u>37,960,854</u>	\$ <u>30,562,962</u>
INCOME BEFORE GAIN/LOSS ON PROPERTIES AND MINORITY INTEREST	3,743,415	2,707,811	6,994,281	5,272,942
GAIN ON SALE OF INVESTMENT	16,398	0	324,332	0
MINORITY INTEREST OTHER PARTNERSHIP	-86,554	0	-143,309	0
MINORITY INTEREST PORTION OF OPERATING PARTNERSHIP INCOME	\$ <u>-727,344</u>	\$ <u>-538,618</u>	\$ <u>-1,453,661</u>	\$ <u>-964,285</u>
NET INCOME	\$ <u>2,945,915</u>	\$ <u>2,169,193</u>	\$ <u>5,721,643</u>	\$ <u>4,308,657</u>
PER SHARE				
Net Income Per Share	\$ 0.1200	\$ 0.0900	\$ 0.2400	\$ 0.1900
Dividends Paid Per Share	\$ 0.1475	\$ 0.1350	\$ 0.2925	\$ 0.2675
Average Number of Shares Outstanding	<u>24,362,151</u>	<u>22,972,664</u>	<u>24,252,467</u>	<u>22,790,637</u>

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Summary Operating Data Last Three Fiscal Years

We have provided in the table below our summary financial and operating data. The financial information for each of the years in the three-year period ended April 30, has been derived from our audited financial statements. You should read the following financial information in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the related notes that we have included in the accompanying prospectus on pages F-1 through F-57.

Selected Financial Data for IRET for the Three Years Ended April 30

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Consolidated Income Statement Data			
Revenue	\$ 75,767,150	\$ 55,445,193	\$ 39,927,262
Income before gain/loss on properties and minority interest	\$ 10,187,812	\$ 8,548,558	\$ 6,401,676
Gain on repossession/ Sale of properties	\$ 601,605	\$ 1,754,496	\$ 1,947,184
Minority interest of portion of operating partnership income	\$ <u>-2,095,177</u>	\$ <u>-1,495,209</u>	\$ <u>-744,725</u>

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Net income	\$ <u>8,694,240</u>	\$ <u>8,807,845</u>	\$ <u>7,604,135</u>
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data			
Total real estate investments	\$ 548,580,418	\$ 418,216,516	\$ 280,311,442
Total assets	\$ 570,322,124	\$ 432,978,299	\$ 291,493,311
Shareholders' equity	\$ 118,945,160	\$ 109,920,591	\$ 85,783,294
Per Share			
Net Income	\$.38	\$.42	\$.44
Dividends	\$.55	\$.51	\$.47
Calendar Year	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Tax status of dividend			
Capital gain	.7%	30.3%	6.3%
Ordinary income	86.8%	69.7%	76.0%
Return of capital	12.5%	0.0%	17.7%

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Recent Developments

Revenues

Total IRET revenues for the second quarter of Fiscal 2002 ended October 31, 2001, were \$23,175,041 compared to \$18,404,260 received in the second quarter of the prior fiscal year ended October 31, 2000. This is an increase of \$4,770,781 or 25.9%.

Total revenues for the first six months of Fiscal 2002 ended October 31, 2001, were \$44,955,135 compared to \$35,835,904, an increase of 25.4% for the first six months of the prior fiscal year ended October 31, 2000. These increases are primarily attributable to the addition of new properties to IRET's investment portfolio.

Funds From Operations

IRET considers Funds From Operations ("FFO") a useful measure of performance for an equity REIT. FFO is defined as net income available to shareholders determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), excluding gains (or losses) from debt restructuring and sales of property, plus depreciation of real estate assets, and after adjustment for unconsolidated partnerships and joint ventures. IRET uses the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts ("NAREIT") definition of FFO as amended by NAREIT to be effective January 1, 2000. FFO for any period means the net income of the company for such period, excluding gains or losses from debt restructuring and sales of property, and plus depreciation and amortization of real estate assets in IRET's investment portfolio, and after adjustment for unconsolidated partnerships and joint ventures, all determined on a consistent basis in accordance with GAAP.

FFO presented herein is not necessarily comparable to FFO presented by other real estate companies because not all real estate companies use the same definition.

FFO should not be considered as an alternative to net income as determined in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as a measure of IRET's liquidity, nor is it necessarily indicative of sufficient cash flow to fund all of IRET's needs or its ability to service indebtedness or make distributions.

Funds from Operations for IRET for the three months ended October 31, 2001, increased to \$7,436,176 compared

to \$5,749,948 for the three months ended October 31, 2000, an increase of 29.4%.

Funds from Operations for IRET for the six months ended October 31, 2001, increased to \$14,335,235 compared to \$10,971,288 for the six months ended Fiscal 2000, an increase of 30.7%.

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Capital Gain Income

IRET realized capital gain income of \$16,398 during the second quarter of Fiscal 2002 ended October 31, 2001. This resulted from the sale of the Lester Chiropractic building in Bismarck, North Dakota, at a gain of \$85,279, and the sale of marketable securities available for sale at a loss of \$68,881.

Total capital gain income for the first six months of Fiscal 2002 ended October 31, 2001, was \$324,332. In addition to the two items listed in the previous paragraph, capital gain income for the first six months for Fiscal 2002 included a gain of \$296,409 from the sale of the Sunchase Apartments, a 36-unit apartment complex in Fargo, North Dakota, and a gain of \$11,525 from the sale of marketable securities held to maturity. Both events occurred in the first quarter of Fiscal 2002. No capital gain income was realized in the first six months of the prior fiscal year ended October 31, 2000.

Acquisition of Interlachen Corporate Center - Edina, Minnesota

On August 13, 2001, we acquired Interlachen Corporate Center a 105,084 square foot office building located in Edina, Minnesota for \$16,500,000 in cash.

Interlachen Corporate Center is a four-story building containing four levels of office space and one level of underground parking containing 36 stalls located at 5050 Lincoln Drive Edina Minnesota. The building was completed in April of 2001 and is currently 95% leased to five tenants. The primary tenant occupying 75% of the space is Alliant Techsystems, Inc. (NYSE symbol ATK). Alliant Techsystems is an aerospace and defense company with leading market positions in propulsion, composite structures, munitions, and precision capabilities. The company, which is headquartered at the Interlachen Corporate Center, employs approximately 9,600 people worldwide and has two business segments: Aerospace and Defense.

Alliant's lease commenced in May of 2001 and runs for a 7-year term.

Acquisition of Retail Strip Center Cottage Grove, Minnesota

On July 6, 2001, we acquired the Cottage Grove Strip Center which is a 15,217 square foot retail strip center located in Cottage Grove, Minnesota for an agreed value of \$1,100,000 which was paid partly in cash of \$823,594.00 and the balance of \$276,594 with 31,603.53 limited partnership units with a value of \$8.752 per unit.

The Cottage Grove Strip Center is a single story multi-tenant retail building built in 1986 and located at 7155 80th Street South Cottage Grove, Minnesota. It is currently 100% leased to eight tenants with remaining lease terms ranging from 2 to 6 years. All rents paid by the current tenants are at market rates. No one tenant occupies more than 35% of the leasable space.

Acquisition of Bloomington Business Plaza - Bloomington, Minnesota

On October 1, 2001, we acquired the Bloomington Business Plaza from a general partnership controlled by Steven B. Hoyt. The property was acquired pursuant to the terms of a contract dated January 8, 2001, as amended by an agreement dated September 27, 2001. At the time of acquisition, Mr. Hoyt was a member of the Board of Trustees for IRET. At the time the original acquisition contract was signed, Mr. Hoyt was not a member of the Board of Trustees for IRET.

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The property was purchased for an agreed value of \$7,201,680 of which \$215,000 was paid in cash and the balance of \$6,986,680 with 812,404.65 limited partnership units of IRET Properties with a value of \$8.60 per unit. In addition to the purchase price of \$7,201,680, IRET incurred acquisition costs of \$203,989 for commissions, loan costs and legal costs.

The acquisition was approved by a majority of the Board of Trustees and based on an independent appraisal of the property which determined the value to be \$6,975,000.

Bloomington Business Plaza is a multi-tenant office/warehouse building constructed in 1985. It consists of 121,063 square feet of leasable space and is currently 100% leased to 21 tenants with remaining lease terms ranging from five months to four years and 10 months. All rents paid by the current tenants are at market rates. No one tenant occupies more than 17.08% of the leasable space.

Acquisition of Canyon Lake Apartments - Rapid City, South Dakota

On September 27, 2001, we acquired the Canyon Lake Plaza Apartments which is a 109-unit multi-family apartment complex located in Rapid City, South Dakota, for an agreed value of \$4,270,607 which was paid for with 83,626.79 limited partnership units of IRET Properties with a value of \$8.60 per unit.

The Canyon Lake Plaza Apartments is a multi-building apartment complex consisting of four separate buildings. The complex was built in 1972. As of October 31, 2001, the property was 96.3% occupied.

Acquisition of Applewood on the Green Apartments - Omaha, Nebraska

On November 1, 2001, we acquired the Applewood on the Green Apartments located in Omaha, Nebraska, for an agreed value of \$10,364,745 which was paid partly in cash of \$2,643,611 and the balance by assumption of an existing debt secured by the property with an unpaid balance of \$7,721,134. The assumed debt bears interest at a fixed rate of 6.55% and is payable in monthly installments of \$51,334 amortized over a remaining term of seven years with a balloon payment of all remaining principal and interest due on October 8, 2008.

The Applewood Apartments is a multi-building apartment complex consisting of 13 individual buildings. The complex was built in 1971. As of October 31, 2001, the property was 70.5% occupied.

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Price Range of Common Shares and Distributions

The following sets forth the high and low sale prices for our common shares for the periods indicated as reported by the NASDAQ Small Cap Market and the distributions we paid with respect to each period.

	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Distribution Per Share</u>
Fiscal 1999			