

EXHIBIT A

(Short-Form Notice)

If you participated in the AutoZone, Inc. 401(k) Plan between November 11, 2013 and [DATE] you could be entitled to a payment under a proposed class action settlement.

THIS NOTICE MAY AFFECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

This is an official court notice from the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee
Case No. 2:19-cv-02779-MSN-tmp

Northern Trust ERISA Litigation Settlement
Settlement Administrator
P.O. Box _____
CITY, ST ZIP

«Barcode»

Postal Service: Please do not mark barcode

«ClaimID» «MailRec»

«First1» «Last1»

«CO»

«Addr2»

«Addr1»

«City», «ST» «Zip» «Country»

This notice has been delivered to you to notify you of a proposed cash settlement of an ERISA class action.

Records show that you or someone in your family is or may have been a participant in or a beneficiary of the AutoZone, Inc. 401(k) plan (the "Plan") at some time between November 11, 2013, and [DATE]. As a result, you may be entitled to a payment pursuant to a proposed class action settlement in *Iannone, et al., v. Autozone, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 2:19-cv-02779-MSN-tmp (W.D. Tenn.) (the "Settlement").

The action claims that Northern Trust Corporation and Northern Trust Investments ("Northern Trust") was a fiduciary to the Plan, and allegedly violated fiduciary duties under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA") that it owed to the Plan's participants and beneficiaries, as the Plan's former investment advisor. In their complaint, plaintiffs have asserted causes of action for losses they believe were suffered by the Plan as the result of the alleged breaches of fiduciary duty by Northern Trust. Northern Trust denies the allegations. Plaintiffs and Northern Trust now have reached an agreement to settle the the claims against Northern Trust, and the proposed settlement has been preliminarily approved by the Court. As part of the proposed Settlement, payments funded by defendant will be made to all class members who are allocated a Settlement share under the proposed Plan of Allocation. ***You do not need to do anything to receive a payment under the Settlement if you are entitled to one, but your rights will be affected. The Settlement includes a release of claims related to Northern Trust's administration and management of the Plan. AutoZone is not a party to this Settlement.***

The Court will hold a hearing on [MONTH & DAY], 2024, at XX:XX to consider whether to finally approve the Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, class counsel's application for attorneys' fees and certain other matters. You cannot exclude yourself from the Settlement. You can, however, file written comments or objections with the Court and appear and speak at the hearing at your own expense. To do so, you must submit your comments no later than [MONTH & DAY], 2024. Detailed instructions can be found on the Settlement Website at www._____.com, where you can also obtain more detailed information about the terms of the Settlement and how the payments will be calculated, as well as the settlement agreement and related materials. You may also write to Northern Trust ERISA Litigation Settlement, P.O. Box _____, CITY, ST ZIP to request copies of these materials. This notice is only a summary.

(Long-Form Notice for Website)

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT, SETTLEMENT FAIRNESS HEARING, AND MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS’ FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF ATTORNEY EXPENSES

This notice advises you of the Settlement of *Iannone, et al., v. Autozone, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 2:19-cv-02779-MSN-tmp (W.D. TN.) (the “Action”), a class action lawsuit brought by Michael Iannone and Nicole James (“Plaintiffs”) on behalf of themselves, the AutoZone, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the “Plan”), and the Members of the Settlement Class described below against Defendants Northern Trust Coproation and Northern Trust Investments, Inc. (“Northern Trust”) (collectively with Plaintiffs, the “Settling Parties”). Plaintiffs sued other Defendants in this lawsuit but have not reached a settlement with them. Thus Northern Trust and the Plaintiffs are deemed the “Settling Parties”. The Action was brought under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”). The Settlement releases Northern Trust and related parties from any claims filed against it in the Action. AutoZone is not a party to the Settlement. The terms and conditions of the Settlement are set forth in a Settlement Agreement (the “Settlement Agreement”). Capitalized terms used in this notice but not defined in this notice have the meanings assigned to them in the Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Agreement and additional information with respect to the Action and the Settlement are available [[here/at hyperlink](#)] or by contacting Class Counsel as described below.

Plaintiffs and Northern Trust have agreed to settle this case for \$2,500,000 (the “Settlement Amount”). The Court has preliminarily approved the Settlement, which provides for allocation of Settlement funds to Members of the Settlement Class. Each Class Member shall receive an equal payment of the Settlement Amount, after deducting all Court awarded fees and costs.

The Court has scheduled a hearing concerning final approval of the Settlement and Class Counsel’s motion for attorneys’ fees and expenses and for compensation to the Plaintiffs. That hearing, before the Honorable Mark S. Norris, is scheduled on _____, 2024, at _____ in Courtroom _____ at the Odell Horton Federal Building, 167 North Main Street, Memphis, TN 38103. If final approval is granted, the Settlement will bind you as a Member of the Settlement Class. You may appear at this hearing and/or object to the Settlement. Any objections to the Settlement or the motion for attorneys’ fees and expenses must be served in writing on the Court and the Parties’ counsel. More information about the hearing and how to object is explained below.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS WILL BE AFFECTED WHETHER OR NOT YOU TAKE ANY ACTION. READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT NORTHERN TRUST, AUTOZONE, OR THE COURT. THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT	
You can do nothing. (No action is necessary to receive an allocated payment.)	If the Settlement is approved by the Court and you are a Member of the Settlement Class entitled to a payment under the Plan of Allocation, you do not need to do anything to receive a payment.
You can submit an objection. (It must be mailed and postmarked by _____, 2024.)	If you wish to object to any part of the Settlement, you may write to the Court and the Parties’ counsel and explain why, as described below.
You can appear and speak at the Fairness Hearing on _____, 2024.	If you submit a written objection to the Settlement before the Court-approved deadline and a notice of intent to appear (as described below), you may (but do not have to) speak in Court about the fairness of the Settlement.

- Your rights and options—and the deadlines to exercise them—are explained in this notice.
- Information concerning your individual share of the Net Settlement Fund, if any, will not be available for several months after the Court grants final approval of the Settlement and any appeals are resolved. Thank you for your patience.

24703
SUMMARY OF CASE

As described in more detail below and in Plaintiffs' Amended Complaint, this Action alleges that Northern Trust breached fiduciary duties owed under ERISA to participants in and beneficiaries of the Plan during the Class Period. Northern Trust denies the allegations. A copy of the Settlement Agreement is available [\[here/hyperlink\]](#).

SUMMARY OF SETTLEMENT

The Settlement Agreement provides that Defendant will pay \$2,500,000 in cash, which will be deposited into an account called the Settlement Fund. After payment of attorneys' fees and expenses, costs of notice, payments to the Plaintiffs, if any, and any excess fees and expenses related to administration of the Settlement, the amount remaining in the account shall constitute the Net Settlement Fund. The Net Settlement Fund will be allocated among Members of the Settlement Class according to a Plan of Allocation to be approved by the Court. AutoZone is not a party to this Settlement.

STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL OUTCOME OF THE ACTION

The Court has not reached a final decision as to the Plaintiffs' claims. Instead, the Plaintiffs and Northern Trust have agreed to the Settlement. The Settlement is the product of extensive negotiations between Class Counsel and Northern Trust's counsel. The parties have taken into account the uncertainty and risks of litigation and have concluded that it is desirable to settle on the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement. The Plaintiffs and Class Counsel, who are highly experienced in this kind of matter, believe that the Settlement is best for all Class Members. Without a settlement, there would be a substantial risk that, after trial, the Class would receive less than the settlement amount, or nothing at all. Settling now also avoids the cost of trial.

STATEMENT OF FEES AND EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE INDEPENDENT FIDUCIARY AND THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR

An Independent Fiduciary is evaluating the Settlement and will be asked to authorize the Settlement on behalf of the Plan. The fees and expenses incurred by the Independent Fiduciary (including fees and expenses incurred by consultants, attorneys, and other professionals retained or employed by the Independent Fiduciary) in the course of evaluating and authorizing the Settlement on behalf of the Plan will be paid by Northern Trust.

A Settlement Administrator has been engaged to mail the notice to the Members of the Settlement Class, administer the Settlement and allocate the Net Settlement Fund among Members of the Settlement Class. The fees and expenses for the Settlement Administrator will be paid from the Settlement Fund.

STATEMENT OF ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES SOUGHT IN THE ACTION

Class Counsel will submit a fee petition to the Court in which they will ask the Court to award them attorneys' fees, plus reimbursement of costs and expenses.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why did I receive a notice in the mail?

You received a notice because you or someone in your family is or may have been a participant in or beneficiary of the AutoZone, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the “Plan”) at some time between November 11, 2013 and [DATE].

The Court ordered this notice to be sent to you because you have a right to know about the Settlement and all of the options available to you regarding the Settlement before the Court decides whether to approve the Settlement. If the Court approves the Settlement, and after any objections and appeals are resolved, the Net Settlement Fund will be allocated among Members of the Settlement Class according to a Court-approved Plan of Allocation.

The Court In charge of this case is the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. The individuals who sued are called “Plaintiffs,” and the entities and individuals they sued are called the “Defendants.” The legal action that is the subject of this notice and the Settlement is titled *Iannone, et al., v. Autozone, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 2:19-cv-02779-MSN-tmp (W.D. Tenn.)

What is the Action about?

The Action claims that Northern Trust was a fiduciary to the Plan and violated fiduciary duties under ERISA that it owed to the Plan’s participants and beneficiaries as the Plan’s former investment advisor. Plaintiffs allege Northern Trust breached its fiduciary duties by failing to monitor certain investment fees related to the investment options offered through the GoalMaker service, failing to monitor the recordkeeping fees, and failing to monitor the Plan’s stable value option. In the Amended Complaint, Plaintiffs have asserted causes of action for losses they contend were suffered by the Plan as the result of these alleged breaches of fiduciary duty by Northern Trust.

Northern Trust denies each and every allegation of wrongdoing made in the Amended Complaint and contends that it has no liability in the Action. Northern Trust specifically denies the allegations that Northern Trust breached any fiduciary duty or any other provisions of ERISA in connection with its role as an investment advisor to the Plan.

Why is this case a class action?

In a class action, one or more plaintiffs called “Class Representatives” sue on behalf of a large number of people who have similar claims. All of the individuals on whose behalf the Class Representatives are suing are “Class Members.” One court resolves the issues for all Class Members. In its order setting the Fairness Hearing, the Court preliminarily certified the Settlement Class in the Action.

The Class Representatives in this Action, Michael Iannone and Nicole James, were participants in the Plan during the Class Period and are referred to as the “Plaintiffs.”

Why is there a settlement?

The Court has not reached any final decision in connection with Plaintiffs’ claims against Northern Trust. Instead, Plaintiffs and Northern Trust have agreed to a Settlement. In reaching the Settlement, they have avoided the cost, risks, time, and disruption of prolonged litigation and trial.

Class Counsel believe that the Settlement is the best option for the Settlement Class Members, as described above in the section entitled “Statement of Potential Outcome of the Action.” Northern Trust has denied and continues to deny the claims and contentions alleged by Plaintiffs. Nevertheless, Northern Trust has concluded that it is desirable for the Action to be fully and finally settled as to it and the other Released Parties on the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement and to avoid the cost and risk of further litigation.

How do I know whether I am part of the Settlement?

The Court has certified the following Class shall proceed on behalf of everyone who fits the following description:

All persons, other than AutoZone or Individual Defendants, who were participants as of November 11, 2013 in Plan, and invested in any of the GoalMaker Funds¹ including (i) beneficiaries of deceased participants who, as of November 11, 2013, were receiving benefit payments or will be entitled to receive benefit payments in the future, and (ii) alternate payees under a Qualified Domestic Relations Order who, as of November 11, 2013, were receiving benefit payments or will be entitled to receive benefit payments in the future; and (b) all persons, other than AutoZone, who have been participants or beneficiaries in either the Plan and had account balances in the Plan at any time between November 11, 2013 through [DATE].

The “Class Period” is defined as November 11, 2013 through [DATE].

THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS

What does the Settlement provide?

The Settlement provides that Northern Trust will deposit \$2,500,000 (the “Settlement Amount”) into an account at a financial institution identified by Class Counsel, which shall constitute the Settlement Fund. The net amount of the Settlement Fund, after payment of Court-approved attorneys’ fees and expenses, awards to the Plaintiffs, if any, and any fees and expenses incurred by the Settlement Administrator, (the “Net Proceeds”) will be allocated to the Members of the Settlement Class according to a Plan of Allocation to be approved by the Court if and when the Court enters an order finally approving the Settlement.

How much will my payment be?

If you qualify, you will receive a share of the Net Settlement Fund divided equally amongst all Class Members. The Settlement payment is a compromise. It does not compensate participants for 100% of the losses alleged in the Action.

Class Counsel will file a detailed Plan of Allocation in advance of the Fairness Hearing. The Plan of Allocation will describe the manner in which the Net Settlement Fund will be distributed to Members of the Settlement Class.

The Settlement Administrator will perform all calculations and determine your settlement amount. The Settlement Administrator will have access to all available records, so you do not need to be concerned if you no longer have your account statements. The Court will be asked to approve the Plan of Allocation, a copy of which will be available along with other settlement documents [here/ at hyperlink](#) after it has been filed.

How can I get a payment?

If the Settlement is given final approval, you will **not** have to do anything to get a payment from the Settlement if you are entitled to one under the Plan of Allocation.

When will I get my payment?

The balance of the Net Settlement Fund will be allocated to Members of the Settlement Class pursuant to the Plan of Allocation as soon as possible after final approval has been obtained for the Settlement, including any appeals. Final approval of the settlement may take months and any appeal of the final approval may take a year or more. Please be patient.

There will be no payments if the Settlement is terminated.

The Settlement may be terminated on several grounds, which are described in the Settlement Agreement. In the event any of these conditions occur, there will be no settlement payment made, and the litigation will resume.

Can I opt out of the Settlement?

No. In some class actions, class members have the opportunity to exclude themselves from the Settlement. This is sometimes referred to as “opting out” of the Settlement. Because of the legal issues involved in the Action, however, the class of participants affected by this Settlement has been preliminarily certified as a mandatory class. This means you cannot opt out of the benefits of the Settlement in order to pursue you own claims or for any other reason. **Therefore, you will be bound by any judgments or orders that are entered in this Action, and if the Settlement is approved, you will be deemed to have released Northern Trust and the Released Parties from any and all claims that were or could have been asserted in this case on your behalf or on behalf of the Plans or that are otherwise included in the Release in the Settlement, other than your right to obtain the relief provided to you, if any, by the Settlement.**

Although you cannot opt out of the Settlement, you can object to the Settlement and ask the Court not to approve the Settlement, as described below.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

Do I have a lawyer in the Action?

The Court has designated Wiggins, Childs, Pantazis, Fisher & Goldfarb, LLC, the Law Office of Lange Clark, P.C., and the James White Firm, LLC as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense. Please keep in mind the value of your settlement will likely not exceed the cost of hiring your own lawyer.

How will the lawyers be paid?

Class Counsel will file a petition for the award of attorneys’ fees and expenses by _____, 2024, after which a copy will be posted *here*. This petition will be considered at the Fairness Hearing. Defendant has agreed not to oppose the amount of attorneys’ fees, costs, or expenses or any award to the Plaintiffs to the extent such fees, costs, expenses, and awards are consistent with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

Plaintiffs will also request an incentive award from the Settlement Fund to compensate them for the risk and time and effort they spent assisting with the investigation and prosecution of the case.

Class Counsel will request that the Court approve incentive awards of \$10,000 for each of the two Plaintiffs.

You have the right to object to this aspect of the Settlement even if you approve of the other aspects of the Settlement.

OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT OR THE ATTORNEYS' FEES

You can tell the Court that you do not agree with the Settlement or some part of it.

How do I tell the Court that I object to the Settlement?

If you are a Member of the Settlement Class, you can object to the Settlement if you do not agree with any part of it. You must give reasons why you think the Court should not approve the Settlement. The Court will consider your views. To object, you must send a letter or other written filing saying that you object to the Settlement to Plaintiff's Counsel's address listed below. Be sure to include the following case caption and notation: "*Iannone, et al., v. Autozone, Inc., et al., Case No. 2:19-cv-02779-MSN-tmp (W.D. Tenn.) Objection to Class Action Settlement*". In addition, your objection must also include your name, address, telephone number, and physical signature and the reasons why you object to the Settlement. **Any objection must be physically signed by the Settlement Class member even if an attorney is retained by the Settlement Class member. Mail the objection the address listed below, postmarked no later than _____, 2024. You must mail your objection by this date. If you fail to do so, the Court will not consider your objections.** If you plan to speak at the Fairness Hearing, you must send a separate Notice of Intention to Appear along with your objection, as described below.

PLAINTIFFS' COUNSEL

D.G. Pantazis, Jr.
Wiggins Childs Pantazis Fisher &
Goldfarb LLC
301 19th Street North
Birmingham, AL 35203

THE COURT'S FAIRNESS HEARING

The Court will hold a hearing to decide whether to approve the Settlement. You may attend and you may ask to speak, but it is not necessary.

When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the Settlement?

The Court will hold a Fairness Hearing to decide whether to approve the Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate. You may attend the Fairness Hearing, and you may ask to speak by filing a "Notice of Intention to Appear" as described below, but you do not have to attend. The Court will hold the Fairness Hearing on _____, 2024 at ___ A.M. in Courtroom ___ at the Odell Horton Federal Building, 167 North Main Street, Memphis, TN 38103. If there are timely objections, the Court will consider them. After the Fairness Hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement. The Court will also rule on the motion for attorneys' fees and expenses.

Do I have to come to the hearing?

No, but you are welcome to come at your own expense. If you send an objection, you do not have to attend the Fairness Hearing to voice your objection in person. As long as you mail your written objection on time, the Court will consider it when determining whether to approve the Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate. You also may pay your own lawyer to attend the Fairness Hearing, but attendance is not necessary. Your recovery under this settlement may not be sufficient to justify the expense of hiring your own lawyer and attending the hearing.

May I speak at the hearing?

Only if you have previously timely filed an objection to the Settlement, as detailed above, may you ask the Court for permission to speak at the Fairness Hearing. To speak at the hearing, you must send a letter or other paper called a “Notice of Intention to Appear at Fairness Hearing in *Iannone, et al., v. Autozone, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 2:19-cv-02779-MSN-tmp (W.D. Tenn).” to Plaintiffs’ Counsel at the address listed above. Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, and physical signature. **Your Notice of Intention to Appear must be postmarked no later than [REDACTED], 2024.**

IF YOU DO NOTHING

What happens if I do nothing at all?

If you do nothing and you are a Member of the Settlement Class and the Settlement is approved, you will participate in the Settlement of the Action as described in this notice.

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

Are there more details about the Settlement?

This notice summarizes the proposed Settlement. The complete Settlement is set forth in the Settlement Agreement. You may obtain a copy of the Settlement Agreement [here](#).

How do I get more information?

Class Counsel may be reached at :
205-314-0500
D.G. Pantazis, Jr.
Wiggins Childs Pantazis Fisher & Goldfarb
301 19th Street North
Birmingham, AL 35205.

You may obtain a copy of the Settlement Agreement and other documents regarding the lawsuit and Settlement [here](#).

Documents are also available at the office of the Clerk located at the Odell Horton Federal Building, 167 Main Street, Memphis, TN 38103.