

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC  
Form N-30D  
September 06, 2001

[GRAPHIC OMITTED OF AMERICAN FLAG]

[GRAPHIC OMITTED OF GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC. LOGO]  
GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.

[MOUNTAIN GRAPHIC OMITTED]

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT  
JUNE 30, 2001

[GRAPHIC OMITTED OF GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC. LOGO]

Our cover icon represents the underpinnings of Gabelli. The Teton mountains in Wyoming represent what we believe in America -- that creativity, ingenuity, hard work and a global uniqueness provide enduring values. They also stand out in an increasingly complex, interconnected and interdependent economic world.

[GRAPHIC OMITTED OF STATE FLAGS]

ALABAMA ALASKA ARIZONA ARKANSAS CALIFORNIA COLORADO CONNECTICUT  
DELAWARE FLORIDA GEORGIA

[GRAPHIC OMITTED OF STATE FLAGS]

HAWAII IDAHO ILLINOIS INDIANA IOWA KANSAS KENTUCKY  
LOUISIANA MAINE MARYLAND

[GRAPHIC OMITTED OF STATE FLAGS]

MASSACHUSETTS MICHIGAN MINNESOTA MISSISSIPPI MISSOURI MONTANA NEBRASKA  
NEVADA NEW HAMPSHIRE NEW JERSEY

[GRAPHIC OMITTED OF STATE FLAGS]

NEW MEXICO NEW YORK N. CAROLINA N. DAKOTA OHIO OKLAHOMA OREGON  
PENNSYLVANIA RHODE ISLAND S. CAROLINA

[GRAPHIC OMITTED OF STATE FLAGS]

S. DAKOTA TENNESSEE TEXAS UTAH VERMONT VIRGINIA WEST VIRGINIA  
WASHINGTON WISCONSIN WYOMING

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE:

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company whose primary objective is long-term growth of capital, with income as a secondary objective.

THIS REPORT IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

[PHOTO OF MARIO J. GABELLI OMITTED]

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

MARIO J. GABELLI

[GRAPHIC OMITTED]  
THE GABELLI  
EQUITY TRUST INC.

TO OUR SHAREHOLDERS,

After rallying in April and early May, stocks reversed course in June as corporate America began pre-announcing second quarter earnings shortfalls and warning that third quarter earnings may also disappoint. Despite the June swoon, the leading market indices closed the second quarter with respectable gains.

### INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

For the second quarter ended June 30, 2001, The Gabelli Equity Trust's (the "Trust") net asset value ("NAV") total return rose 5.23% after adjusting for the reinvestment of the \$0.27 per share distribution paid on June 25, 2001. The Standard & Poor's ("S&P") 500 Index, Nasdaq Composite Index, and Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 5.85%, 17.43%, and 6.75%, respectively, over the same period. Each index is an unmanaged indicator of stock market performance. The Trust fell 2.42% over the trailing twelve-month period after adjusting for the reinvestment of the \$1.31 per share in distributions and an adjustment of \$0.56 per share attributable to the rights offering. The S&P 500 Index and Nasdaq Composite Index declined 14.82% and 45.51%, respectively, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 2.21%, over the same twelve-month period.

For the two-year period ended June 30, 2001, the Trust's total return averaged 4.29% annually, including reinvestments of \$2.48 per share in distributions, an adjustment of \$0.56 per share attributable to the rights offering, and an adjustment of \$0.75 per share attributable to the spin-off of The Gabelli Utility Trust. The S&P 500 Index, Nasdaq Composite Index, and Dow Jones Industrial Average had average annual declines of 4.42%, 10.31%, and 0.57%, respectively, over the same two-year period. For the five-year period ended June 30, 2001, the Trust's total return averaged 12.70% annually, including reinvestments of \$5.73 per share in distributions, an adjustment of \$0.56 per share attributable to the rights offering, and an adjustment of \$0.75 per share attributable to the spin-off of The Gabelli Utility Trust, versus average annual total returns of 14.48%, 12.77%, and 15.19% for the S&P 500, Nasdaq Composite Index, and Dow Jones Industrial Average, respectively.

For the ten-year period ended June 30, 2001, the Trust's total return averaged 13.41% annually, including reinvestments of \$11.07 per share in distributions, adjustments of \$2.21 per share attributable to rights offerings, and adjustments of \$1.50 per share attributable to the spin-off of The Gabelli Utility Trust and The Gabelli Global Multimedia Trust, versus average annual total returns of 15.09%, 16.34%, and 16.32% for the S&P 500, Nasdaq Composite Index, and Dow Jones Industrial Average, respectively. Since inception on August 21, 1986 through June 30, 2001, the Trust had a cumulative total return of 537.48%, including adjustments of \$19.70 per share for distributions, rights offerings, spin-offs and taxes paid on undistributed long term capital gains, which equates to an average annual total return of 13.26%.

The Trust's common shares ended the second quarter at \$11.48 per share on the New York Stock Exchange, a premium to the net asset value of 15.96% and a total return of 10.04% for the second quarter. The Trust's common shares rose 11.78% over the trailing twelve-month period after adjusting for all distributions and the rights offering.

INVESTMENT RESULTS (a)

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

### AVERAGE ANNUAL RETURNS - JUNE 30, 2001

	NAV AVERAGE ANNUAL RETURN (A)	AVERAGE ANNUAL INVESTMENT RETURN (C)
1 Year .....	(2.67)%	11.78%
5 Year .....	12.70%	17.21%
10 Year .....	13.41%	15.14%
Life of Fund (b) .....	13.26%	13.87%

(a) Life of Fund return based on initial net asset value of \$9.34. Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in net asset value, reinvestment of distributions, adjustments for rights offerings, spin-offs and taxes paid on undistributed long term capital gains, and are net of expenses. Of course, the returns noted represent past performance and do not guarantee future results. Investment returns and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate. When shares are sold they may be worth more or less than their original cost.

(b) From commencement of investment operations on August 21, 1986.

(c) Life of Fund return based on initial offering price of \$10.00. Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in closing market values on the New York Stock Exchange, reinvestment of distributions, adjustments for rights offerings, spin-offs and taxes paid on undistributed long-term capital gains.

#### 7.20% TAX ADVANTAGED SERIES B CUMULATIVE PREFERRED STOCK

On June 20, 2001, the Trust successfully completed its offering of 7.20% Tax Advantaged Series B Cumulative Preferred Stock ("Preferred Shares") which was rated 'Aaa' by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. Shareholder response has been positive and we appreciate the efforts of Salomon Smith Barney Inc., Merrill Lynch & Co. and Gabelli & Company, Inc. the underwriters, and wish to thank and welcome all those investors who participated.

The Trust issued 6,600,000 Preferred Shares at \$25.00 per share (\$165 million) with an annual dividend rate of \$1.80 per share paying quarterly starting in September 2001. The Preferred Shares are trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "GAB PrB". Consistent with our conservative approach, the Trust issued the Preferred Shares in a cost effective manner at less than an estimated \$0.044 per share.

How would the Preferred Shares benefit Common Shareholders? The Trust has earned a 13.26% average annual total return from inception on August 21, 1986 through June 30, 2001. The Preferred Shares were issued with a dividend rate of 7.20%. Any return earned in excess of the stated dividend rate would directly benefit Common Shareholders; however, any shortfall from the stated rate would impact the Common Shareholder in the opposite fashion. Therefore, by taking advantage of the current relatively low interest rate environment and achieving our long-term investment objectives, the Preferred Share issuance offers what we believe is a method of potentially adding wealth for our Common Shareholders. With the completion of the preferred offerings, the Adviser will not earn the management fee on the incremental assets during any year in which the net asset value total return on the Trust does not exceed the stated dividend rate on the Preferred Shares.

Furthermore, Common Shareholders stand to receive certain tax benefits as a result of the Preferred Stock offering. As taxable income is allocated to the

[PYRAMID GRAPHIC OMITTED]  
TEXT AS FOLLOWS:

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

EPS  
PMV  
MANAGEMENT  
CASHFLOW  
RESEARCH

2

Preferred Shareholders before Common Shareholders, taxable distributions to Common Shareholders would not be required to the extent they would be if the Preferred Shares were not outstanding. Long-term capital gains are passed through to shareholders. In 2000, 85.06% of the common and preferred distributions was classified as long-term capital gains, taxable at a maximum rate of 20%. As a result, the ordinary income equivalent yield on the preferred stock, for a shareholder in the 39% tax bracket, was 9.12%.

### COMMENTARY

Mario Gabelli, our Chief Investment Officer, has appeared in the prestigious BARRON'S Roundtable discussion annually since 1980. Many of our readers have enjoyed the inclusion of selected and edited comments from BARRON'S Roundtable in previous reports to shareholders. As is our custom, we are including selected comments of Mario Gabelli from BARRON'S 2001 Midyear Roundtable.

---

June 25, 2001                      BARRON'S [BULLET] Midyear Roundtable 2001

---

BARRON'S  
MIDYEAR ROUNDTABLE

=====

MARIO GABELLI  
Chairman, Gabelli Asset Management Inc., Rye, New York

...My conclusion is we will have a consumer-led economic recovery starting in October, November, December. That assumes we don't have accidents in the oil pipeline, the dollar and places like Argentina. By the middle of July the overall stock market will have absorbed the very ugly results in second-quarter earnings. You'll start thinking about better comparisons in the first half of 2002.

Q: IS YOUR BOTTOM LINE SUNNY SKIES IN 2002?

A: In the short term we're setting up for a fairly large speed bump. Earnings are uglier than we thought. Interest rates went up instead of down at the long end. But once you get past the short term you'll see a nice old-fashioned rally in non-Nasdaq-type stocks and particularly consumer cyclicals. For the rest of 2001 the overall market is not going to do very much, but consumer cyclicals will do well. You will have a lot of opportunity to make money in specific stocks because the environment for transactions is as good as I have ever seen.

Q: DEALS, DEALS, DEALS.

A: With this Administration you're seeing a less hostile environment at the Department of Justice, at the Federal Trade Commission and clearly at the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC, as I've noted before, will change the rules of the road on a whole bunch of issues. Large corporations will want to grow the top line and diversify through deals. So even though the Honeywell-GE deal blew up, on balance the background is very right for all sorts

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

of transactions. To sum up, our model for the next 12 months is that economic policy works, monetary policy works, tax cuts work. Also, the elimination of goodwill creates a powerful propensity for deal activity. The consumer will lead the recovery and there will be the absence of incremental drag from inventory, starting in the third quarter. We see very little headway for the stock market indexes for the next six to nine months, but it is a good environment in which to own companies that will be the subject of financial engineering.

---

### THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

As evidenced by a record number of pre-announced earnings shortfalls in the second quarter, six Federal Reserve Board ("Fed") interest rate cuts this year totaling 275 basis points (2.75%) have yet to revive the sagging U.S. economy. This should not come as a surprise. It takes time for Fed rate cuts to work their magic, but the rabbit eventually emerges from the hat. The \$300-\$600 federal income tax rebate many Americans will be receiving in

3

August/September should provide a modest boost for the economy. Granted, higher utilities bills and expensive gasoline will soak up some of this cash. However, the tax rebate should put consumers in a better mood and provide part of the underpinning for a consumer led economic recovery beginning in the fourth quarter. We also believe inventory in all but telecommunications/technology will have largely worked through the system at that point. Energy prices have abated providing further relief.

When will the stock market begin anticipating an economic recovery? In a sense, it already has. The April/early-May rally demonstrated that investors were at least temporarily willing to look past poor short-term earnings prospects and forward to better times in 2002. Unfortunately, when confronted with second quarter earnings "confessions" and warnings that profits were not likely to improve in the third quarter, investors abandoned the "long view" and once again focused on the short-term earnings negatives. We may see this pattern hold for the balance of the year, as market rallies are cut short by bad earnings news. So, we think it will be difficult for the broad market indices to make much progress this year.

In the interim, we think our portfolio will continue to benefit from companies buying each other. The folks now in charge of the Department of Justice, Federal Trade Commission, and Federal Communications Committee ("FCC") are more "deal friendly" and once the accounting profession irons out the details that will free acquiring companies from writing off "goodwill" (the price they pay for a company in excess of book value) against future earnings, we should see merger and acquisition activity accelerate.

### DEAL ACTIVITY

A component of our investment methodology is to identify industry and sector trends and themes ahead of the curve and position ourselves to take advantage of these developments. Consolidation in a particular industry is one such dynamic. As we have shared with you in previous quarterly letters, the continued high level of activity in mergers and acquisitions contributed significantly to the solid performance of the Trust. The accompanying table illustrates how deal activity surfaced value in a small sample of the portfolio holdings.

---

2001 COMPLETED DEALS

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

TRUST HOLDING	NUMBER OF SHARES (a)	AVERAGE COST PER SHARE (b)	CLOSING PRICE (c)	CLOSING DATE	%
-----					
FIRST QUARTER 2001 ANNOUNCED DEALS					
-----					
Time Warner Inc.	285,000	\$30.67	\$71.19	01/12/01	
Telefonos de Mexico SA, Cl. L, ADR	36,000	10.82	32.66	02/08/01	
FIRST QUARTER 2001 FINANCIAL ENGINEERING					
-----					
Cablevision Systems Corp., Cl. A	420,000	11.28	83.36	03/30/01	
SECOND QUARTER 2001 ANNOUNCED DEALS					
-----					
Litton Industries Inc.	100,000	78.92	80.33	04/02/01	
MCN Energy Group Inc.	30,000	24.24	27.22	05/30/01	

4

### THE WILD CARDS

What could happen to disrupt this scenario? California, here we come. Despite the demise of the dotcoms and massive layoffs in other California based technology companies, the California economy has managed to keep its head above water. Whether it will continue to do so with high electricity prices and rolling blackouts is subject to debate. With the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") instituting price caps for wholesale electricity sold in California, the worst of the crisis may have passed. However, if the lights continue to go out and California (the sixth largest economy in the world) slides into recession, national economic progress may be restrained.

High energy prices are a problem for the rest of the U.S. as well. Eventually, free market forces--increased production to take advantage of higher prices and conservation to save money--will work their magic and energy prices will come down. In the interim, high electric bills and prices at the pump will pinch consumers. Over the longer term, we should benefit from a national energy policy focused on increasing domestic production, conservation, and perhaps most importantly, building more efficient energy distribution systems. The U.S. dollar has been too strong. This has created an imbalance in certain countries, notably Argentina.

### NOBODY LIKES WHAT BRUSSELS SPROUTS

As we prepare this letter, the Brussels, Belgium-based European Union Commission ("EUC") has just blocked the proposed merger between General Electric and Honeywell International. In our opinion, this is a major step in the wrong direction. The EUC's hard line on the deal (both U.S. and Canadian regulators blessed the marriage and GE made significant concessions in attempting to gain EUC approval) does not appear to be based on antitrust issues, but rather on potential advantages GE/Honeywell might have over European competitors. In short, the EUC is throwing its considerable weight behind economic protectionism.

While it is easy to paint the EUC or other nations' trade authorities as villains, the U.S. is not guilt free on the protectionist front. Currently, the U.S. has trade disputes with Canada over steel, lumber, wheat, pork, beef and chicken; with the European Union ("EU") over textiles, steel, bananas, wine,

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

cheese, batteries, and paper; and with Asia over steel, apples, video games, autos, and technology transfer. No one seems willing to back down and let the free market forces work their magic.

Economic protectionism simply doesn't work. The U.S.'s ill-advised Smoot-Hawley tariffs, which helped cause and then prolong the Great Depression, are a classic example. Competition created through free trade periodically causes painful economic dislocation. However, it also promotes economic efficiency and growth. Competition from Japan forced the U.S. auto industry to build better cars, and the Motor City is now running on all cylinders. Lower labor costs in emerging market nations provided great incentive for the development of productivity enhancing industrial technology in the U.S., and the Rust Belt has once again become a thriving manufacturing region. Europe has knocked down its internal economic boundaries, promoting a free flow of capital, goods, and services across the continent. Even Japan now appears willing to open some of its markets to foreign goods. Economic Darwinism has short-term social and political costs. Longer term, however, survival of the fittest will result in a stronger global economy. It is our hope that today's trade skirmishes do not escalate into trade wars that will undo all the progress made in creating a truly global economy.

### INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

A portion of the Trust's portfolio continues to be managed by Caesar Bryan. Caesar is the portfolio manager of the Gabelli International Growth Fund and the co-portfolio manager of The Gabelli Global Opportunity Fund. Caesar's thoughts on international markets and global economies are provided below:

5

We are in the middle of a global economic slowdown. A few months ago there was some doubt as to whether the U.S. slowdown would spread to Europe. The European Central Bank ("ECB") took the position that as trade between Europe and the U.S. was small relative to the size of the European economy the impact of a U.S. slowdown on Europe's economy would be limited. Instead they argue that the greater threat to economic stability in Europe is inflation. As a consequence they have not, apart from a nominal 25 basis point reduction in May, made any meaningful interest rate reductions.

Recent evidence suggests that the ECB has been overconfident. The U.S. slowdown appears to have traveled across the Atlantic. The ease at which this happened can probably be laid at the doorstep of multinational companies. During the past decade there has been an unprecedented amount of investment in the U.S. made by European companies. Of course, the European activities of major U.S. companies are well known. Ford, Microsoft, Intel, and IBM are household names in Europe. As the slowdown unfolded in the U.S., both American and European multinationals have cut spending in Europe.

The current slowdown seems to be different from previous periods of slow growth. Typically, since the Second World War, periods of slow growth have been caused by the central banks raising interest rates to slow demand as prices have risen beyond acceptable levels. This time companies have sharply reduced spending in response to overcapacity in many sectors of the economy. Inflation does not appear to be a problem. Indeed, Mr. Greenspan, chairman of the Fed, has said that inflation does not pose any threat at the current time. In response to sharp reductions in capital expenditures and lower corporate profits, the Fed has aggressively reduced interest rates.

The U.S. consumer, so often the hero of the global economy, refuses to capitulate. Obviously lower interest rates and the tax rebate will support consumer spending, but it is unlikely that the U.S. consumer can continue to

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

carry the economy on his heavily indebted back. Help is needed from Europe and Japan. As the inflation threat wanes in Europe over the next few months, we believe that the ECB will follow the Fed and reduce interest rates more aggressively. This should act to spur demand in Europe.

The Japanese economy is the slowest growing of the three major economic entities. Their new Prime Minister, Mr. Koizumi, has a wonderful opportunity to implement significant policy reform. This opportunity is based in his popular appeal among voters, which allows him to bypass the Liberal Democratic Party ("LDP") old guard. His challenge is to push through both economic and political reforms. One without the other is probably not sufficient. Will he succeed? We will not know for some time, but if we observe compromise with the senior figures within the LDP then the chances of success will be greatly diminished. He must seize the opportunity.

The current investment environment is challenging. In the plus column we have accommodative central bank policy, low and falling inflation, and in the case of Europe and Japan the prospects for significant reform. Valuations have now corrected to much more attractive levels.

We believe that one of the keys to the current environment is to identify companies that have pricing power and therefore some control over profitability. Most of our international holdings are in companies that have a product or service that is hard to duplicate and where there is a high barrier to entry. We have not abandoned quality businesses which are economically sensitive such as entertainment and broadcasting. To do so would mean taking a stand that economies will not recover in the medium term, and that is not a bet we are willing to take at the current time.

### A MEDIA STOCK TRIFECTA

In last quarter's shareholder letter, we detailed a landmark federal court decision striking down FCC regulations preventing companies from serving more than 30% of the nation's total cable television or satellite television markets.

6

The court also struck down rules barring cable television companies from controlling more than 40% of the channels and programming assets they offer to the public. We observed that the court's decision might be the death knell for other restrictive FCC regulations such as rules preventing broadcasters from owning TV stations reaching more than 35% of the total population and barring companies from owning television stations and newspapers in the same market. Finally, we opined that the appointment of free market oriented Republican Michael Powell as the head of the FCC would foreshadow more relaxed regulatory policy. Our conclusion was that we would see increased merger and acquisition activity in media industries. In the year ahead, favorable earnings comparisons for advertising-supported media companies should result in a trifecta for media stocks.

The 2002 Winter Olympics are being held in Salt Lake City, enabling prime time "live action" broadcasts of popular events like figure skating and ice hockey. This virtually guarantees a much larger domestic television audience and higher advertising rates for broadcasters and cable television operators than when Olympic Games are staged halfway around the globe. This profit windfall will show up in first quarter 2002 earnings. Political fund raising reform notwithstanding, with control of the House and the Senate up for grabs at next year's mid-term elections, massive political advertising spending will be another bonanza for broadcasters, cable television operators and newspaper companies. This should make for some very attractive earnings comparisons in the third and fourth quarters of 2002. If, as we anticipate, there will be more



## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

mergers and acquisitions in the year ahead, better operating results should boost stock prices and takeover premiums.

### INVESTMENT SCORECARD

Small group broadcasters Gray Communications, Young Broadcasting and Paxson Communications made the first page of our leader board this quarter. Multimedia giants AOL Time Warner and Viacom also posted excellent returns. The balance of our top performers came from a wide range of industry groups and featured many beaten down stocks that began attracting bargain hunters.

Telecommunications stocks (particularly our European telecommunications holdings) and telecommunications equipment manufacturers continued to get pounded in the market. We believe these depressed sectors will gradually recover as strong demand eventually soaks up excess capacity and prices for telecommunications services begin to firm.

### LET'S TALK STOCKS

The following are stock specifics on selected holdings of our Trust. Favorable earnings prospects do not necessarily translate into higher stock prices, but they do express a positive trend which we believe will develop over time.

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY INC. (BRK'A - \$69,400 - NYSE) is Warren Buffett. The company has interests in insurance (notably GEICO and General Re), publishing, aviation, retailing, and manufacturing. Its investment portfolio includes over \$37 billion of marketable equity securities. Berkshire has grown rapidly through acquisitions over the past 15 years, including Kirby vacuum cleaners; World Book encyclopedias; H. H. Brown, Dexter and Justin footwear; Executive Jet aviation; Dairy Queen restaurants and snack treats; Johns Manville building products; Benjamin Moore paints; Shaw Industries carpets; GEICO insurance; and General Re reinsurance. GEICO, the sixth largest auto insurer in the U.S., contributes 19% of revenues while General Re, the fourth largest reinsurer globally, contributes 30% of revenues.

BP PLC (BP - \$49.85 - NYSE) is Britain's largest company and one of the world's top three oil companies on the basis of market capitalization and proved reserves. The company's main businesses are Exploration and Production, Refining and Marketing, and Chemicals, whose activities include petrochemicals manufacturing and marketing. The company provides high quality technological support for all its businesses through its research and engineering activities.

7

CABLEVISION SYSTEMS CORP. (CVC - \$58.50 - NYSE) is one of the nation's leading communications and entertainment companies, with a portfolio of operations that spans state-of-the-art cable television services, championship professional sports teams and national cable television networks. Headquartered in Bethpage, N.Y., Cablevision serves nearly 3 million cable customers in the most important cable TV market -- New York. Cablevision also owns and operates New York City's famed Madison Square Garden (MSG), which includes the arena complex, the N.Y. Knicks, the N.Y. Rangers and the MSG network. MSG operates Radio City Entertainment and holds a long-term lease for Radio City Music Hall, home of the world-famous Rockettes. On March 30, 2001, shares that track the performance of the firm's national cable programming subsidiary, Rainbow Media Group (RMG - \$25.80 - NYSE), began trading on the NYSE. Rainbow manages growing content offerings such as American Movie Classics, Bravo and The Independent Film Channel.

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

CHRIS-CRAFT INDUSTRIES INC. (CCN - \$71.40 - NYSE), through its 80% ownership of BHC Communications (BHC -\$138.99 - AMEX), is primarily a television broadcaster. BHC owns and operates UPN affiliated stations in New York (WWOR), Los Angeles (KCOP) and Portland, Oregon (KPTV). BHC also owns 58% of United Television Inc. (UTVI - \$126.00 - Nasdaq), which operates an NBC affiliate, an ABC affiliate and five UPN affiliates. Chris-Craft's television stations constitute one of the nation's largest television station groups, reaching approximately 22% of U.S. households. Chris-Craft is a major beneficiary of the recent FCC ruling allowing television duopoly, or ownership of two stations in a single market. The Chris-Craft complex is debt free, with roughly \$1.5 billion in cash and marketable securities. On July 31, 2001, News Corp. (NWS - \$37.15 - NYSE) announced that it had completed its acquisition of Chris-Craft (along with BHC and United Television). According to the terms of the deal, CCN shareholders can elect to receive a package of cash, shares of News Corp. Preferred ADSs, or both.

CRANE CO. (CR - \$31.00 - NYSE) is a diversified industrial company that focuses on proprietary engineered products in aerospace, fiberboard panels, vending machines, pumps and valves and industrial controls. In April 2001, Eric Fast became CEO of Crane. He previously served as Co-Head of Global Investment Banking at Salomon Smith Barney and brings to Crane important skills in deal-making, finance and public markets. We believe his appointment is timely, as the company plans to use its free cash flow to augment internal revenue and earnings growth with acquisitions. The combination of higher top line growth, strong balance sheet with a 26% net debt-to-capital ratio, an estimated \$700 million (\$12 per share) of free cash flow over the next five years and an active stock repurchase and debt reduction program underscore our enthusiasm for the stock.

GAYLORD ENTERTAINMENT CO. (GET - \$28.80 - NYSE) is a diversified entertainment company operating principally in two segments: hospitality and media. The company's hospitality group consists of an interrelated group of businesses including the Opryland Hotel Nashville, the Inn at Opryland, the General Jackson (an entertainment showboat), and other related businesses. The media group consists primarily of the Grand Ole Opry, the Ryman Auditorium, the Wildhorse Saloon, Acuff-Rose Music Publishing, Word Entertainment, three Nashville radio stations, and other related businesses. Gaylord has a new management team that is focusing on unlocking shareholder value.

GENUINE PARTS CO. (GPC - \$31.50 - NYSE), a Georgia corporation incorporated in 1928, is a service organization engaged in the distribution of automotive replacement parts, industrial replacement parts, office products and electrical/electronic materials. The Company's NAPA automotive parts distribution centers distribute replacement parts (other than body parts) for substantially all motor vehicle makes and models in service in the United States, including imported vehicles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, recreational vehicles and farm vehicles. The Industrial Parts Group distributes a wide variety of products to its customers, primarily industrial concerns, to maintain and operate plants, machinery and equipment. The Office Products Group, operated through S. P. Richards Company, is engaged in the wholesale distribution of a broad line of office and other products that are used in the daily operation of

businesses, schools, offices and institutions. The Electrical/Electronic Materials Group ("EIS") distributes materials for the manufacture and repair of electrical and electronic apparatus. With branch locations in 38 cities nationwide and in Mexico, this Group stocks over 100,000 items, from insulating and conductive materials to assembly tools and test equipment.

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

LIBERTY MEDIA GROUP (LMG'A - \$17.49 - NYSE), run by savvy media investor John Malone, is engaged in businesses that provide programming services (including production, acquisition and distribution through all media formats) as well as businesses engaged in electronic retailing, direct marketing and other services. LMG holds interests in globally-branded entertainment networks such as Discovery Channel, USA Network, QVC, Encore and STARZ! Liberty's investment portfolio also includes interests in international video distribution businesses, international telephony and domestic wireless companies, plant and equipment manufacturers, and other businesses related to broadband services. Liberty Media Group Class A and Class B common stock are tracking stocks of AT&T, though they are scheduled to be spun off to the tracking stock shareholders in August 2001.

MEDIA GENERAL INC. (MEG'A - \$46.00 - AMEX) is a Richmond, Virginia-based communications company that is primarily focused on the Southeast. Its newspaper publishing operations include the RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, the WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, THE TAMPA TRIBUNE, and 22 other daily newspapers. This includes 5 daily newspapers, clustered in Alabama and South Carolina, which the company bought from Thomson Corp. for \$237 million in August 2000. The company also owns a 20 percent interest in the DENVER POST. Media General also operates twenty-six television stations primarily located in Southeastern markets, including eight purchased from Spartan Communications on March 27, 2000 for \$605 million. The company sold its Garden State Paper Co. to Enron Corp. (ENE - \$49.10 - NYSE) for \$72 million in August 2000, but still owns 33% of SP Newsprint Company.

NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING INC. (NNS - \$61.25 - NYSE) agreed to be acquired by General Dynamics Corp. (GD - \$77.81 - NYSE), the U.S. Navy's largest shipbuilder, for \$2.6 billion in cash, betting the Pentagon will reverse a 1999 decision to reject the combination. Northrop Grumman Corp. (NOC - \$80.10 - NYSE) matched General Dynamics' \$2.6 billion offer for NNS, seeking to keep its rival from dominating sales of nuclear-powered ships to the U.S. Navy. Northrop would pay \$67.50 per share for the defense contractor, with 75% of the bid being paid in stock and 25% in cash. General Dynamics countered Northrop's bid by agreeing to pay all cash. The acquisition proposals from General Dynamics and Northrop are under regulatory review.

RALSTON PURINA CO. (RAL - \$30.02 - NYSE), based in St. Louis, MO, completed the tax-free spin-off of Energizer Holdings, Inc. on April 1, 2000. Ralston Purina now operates in a single business segment, pet products, and is the world's largest manufacturer of dry pet food. The company is also a leading manufacturer of cat litter products in North America. Ralston's brands include DOG CHOW, CAT CHOW, MEOW MIX, PRO PLAN, and TIDY CATS. In January 2001, Nestle S.A. announced a definitive merger agreement with Ralston to acquire all shares for \$33.50 per share in cash.

SPS TECHNOLOGIES INC. (ST - \$47.40 - NYSE) is a leading manufacturer of fasteners, superalloys and magnetic materials for the aerospace, automotive and industrial markets. The Precision Fasteners and Components group produces high strength fasteners for the aerospace, automotive and machinery markets. The Specialty Materials and Alloys group makes superalloys for the aerospace and industrial gas turbine markets and the Magnetic Products group produces magnetic materials used in automotive, electronics and other specialty applications. Under the leadership of CEO Charlie Grigg, SPS has made 18 acquisitions since 1996 and has positioned the nearly \$1 billion company to be a strategic global supplier in the fastener and component industry. We believe the company will continue to use its strong cash flow to augment internal revenue and earnings growth with acquisitions.

STANDARD MOTOR PRODUCTS INC. (SMP - \$13.30 - NYSE), headquartered in Long Island

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

City, New York, supplies functional replacement parts for the engine management, electrical and climate control systems of cars, trucks and buses. The company services all makes and models, both new and old cars, imported and domestic. SMP has two primary divisions--engine management and temperature control--and believes it is the number one supplier to the North American aftermarket in each of these lines.

TELEPHONE & DATA SYSTEMS INC. (TDS - \$108.75 - AMEX) provides mobile and local phone services to 3.6 million customers in 35 states. TDS conducts its cellular operations through an 81% owned United States Cellular (USM - \$57.65 - AMEX) and its wireline telephone operations through its wholly owned TDS Telecommunications Corp. ("TDS Telecom") subsidiary, a full-service local exchange carrier. Having completed a merger of its 82%-owned PCS subsidiary Aerial Communications with VoiceStream Wireless, which has recently been acquired by Deutsche Telecom (DT - \$22.45 - NYSE), a former German phone monopoly, TDS now owns 131.6 million shares of Deutsche Telecom valued at over \$2.7 billion. As part of the VoiceStream/Deutsche Telecom deal, TDS also received \$570 million in cash.

VIACOM INC. (VIA - \$53.04 - NYSE) is a diversified media company with businesses across many media platforms. The firm operates cable networks (including VH1, MTV, Showtime and Nickelodeon), television networks and stations (including the CBS and UPN Television networks and numerous affiliated TV stations in major markets), major market radio stations and outdoor advertising (through Infinity Broadcasting), a movie studio (Paramount), a publishing house (Simon and Schuster), amusement parks (Paramount Parks) and video rental operations (Blockbuster Inc). The company focuses on high growth businesses and aims to deliver cash flow growth that is above the industry average.

VIVENDI UNIVERSAL SA (V - \$58.00 - NYSE) recently completed its merger with Canal Plus, of France, and Seagram, of Canada, thus creating a global communications and entertainment powerhouse. Vivendi now owns wireless and wireline communications companies, European cable and satellite assets, Havas Publishing, Seagram's former Universal Film, Music, and Entertainment divisions and a varied assortment of internet investments. Moreover, the firm owns large stakes in USA Networks and British Sky Broadcasting. Vivendi has announced plans to eventually spin-off Vivendi Environment, its utility subsidiary, in the next few years. At that time, Vivendi will have completed its transition from France's largest environmental services company to a global communications company.

WASTE MANAGEMENT INC. (WMI - \$30.82 - NYSE) merged with USA Waste in 1998, and is now the largest solid waste company in North America. The company provides a number of services, including collection, transfer, landfill, and recycling services for a diverse customer base, notably the municipal, residential, commercial, and industrial markets. Services are provided throughout the United States as well as in Canada, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. Internationally, the company operates in Europe, the Pacific Rim, and in South America. In addition, Waste Management is a leading developer, operator, and owner of waste-to-energy facilities in the U.S.

### SHAREHOLDER MEETING - MAY 14, 2001 - FINAL RESULTS

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders was held on May 14, 2001 at the Greenwich Library in Greenwich, Connecticut. At that meeting, common and preferred shareholders voting as a single class elected Mario J. Gabelli and Thomas E. Bratter as Directors of the Trust. A total of 119,609,233 votes and 119,550,865 votes were cast in favor of each Director and 880,558 votes and 938,927 votes were withheld for each Director, respectively. Preferred shareholders voting as a separate class elected Felix J. Christiana as a Director of the Trust. A total of 4,914,531 votes were cast in favor of this Director and 40,448 votes were withheld for this Director, respectively.

# Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

10

Anthony J. Colavita, James P. Conn, Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr., Karl Otto Pohl, Anthony R. Pustorino and Salvatore J. Zizza continue to serve in their capacities as Directors of the Equity Trust.

We thank you for your participation and appreciate your continued support.

## SPECIAL NOTE

It is with deep sorrow that we report the passing of our valued friend and Director, Felix J. Christiana. The Board of Directors acknowledges with great appreciation the passionate contributions, guidance and friendship given by Mr. Christiana during his long association with The Gabelli Equity Trust. The Board of Directors and Officers of the Trust will greatly miss Mr. Christiana.

## COMMON STOCK 10% DISTRIBUTION POLICY

The Equity Trust continues to maintain its 10% Distribution Policy whereby The Equity Trust pays out to common stock shareholders 10% of its average net assets each year. Pursuant to this policy, The Equity Trust distributed \$0.27 per share on June 25, 2001. The next distribution is scheduled for September 2001.

## 7.25% TAX ADVANTAGED CUMULATIVE PREFERRED STOCK - DIVIDENDS

The Trust's 7.25% Tax Advantaged Cumulative Preferred Stock paid a cash distribution on June 25, 2001 of \$0.453125 per share. For the twelve-months ended June 30, 2001, Preferred Stock shareholders received distributions totaling \$1.8125, the annual dividend rate per share of Preferred Stock. The next distribution is scheduled for September 2001.

## WWW.GABELLI.COM

Please visit us on the Internet. Our homepage at <http://www.gabelli.com> contains information about Gabelli Asset Management Inc., the Gabelli Mutual Funds, IRAs, 401(k)s, quarterly reports, closing prices and other current news. You can send us e-mail at [info@gabelli.com](mailto:info@gabelli.com).

In our efforts to bring our shareholders more timely portfolio information, Gabelli Fund's portfolio managers regularly participate in chat sessions at [www.gabelli.com](http://www.gabelli.com) as reflected below.

	WHO	WHEN
	---	---
Special Chats:	Mario J. Gabelli Howard Ward	First Monday of each month First Tuesday of each month

In addition, every Wednesday will feature a different portfolio manager. The upcoming Wednesday chat schedule is as follows:

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
-----	-----	-----

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

1st Wednesday	Caesar Bryan	Walter Walsh	Ivan Arteaga
2nd Wednesday	Ivan Arteaga	Caesar Bryan	Tim O'Brien
3rd Wednesday	Linda Caulkin	Hart Woodson	Susan Byrne
4th Wednesday	Tim O'Brien	Barbara Marciniak	Caesar Bryan
5th Wednesday	Barbara Marciniak		Barbara Marciniak

All chat sessions start at 4:15 ET. Please arrive early, as participation is limited.

You may sign up for our HIGHLIGHTS email newsletter at [www.gabelli.com](http://www.gabelli.com) and receive early notice of chat sessions, closing mutual fund prices, news events and media sightings.

11

### IN CONCLUSION

The second quarter of 2001 got off to a good start with investors recognizing that Federal Reserve easing and tax reform should help the economy begin recovering in early 2002. But, yet another round of earnings warnings shortened investors' focus and stocks gave back much of their gains. The economy should bounce back in early 2002 and relatively easy earnings comparisons should help the market trend higher. In the interim, we remain focused on those industry groups and individual companies representing excellent long-term value.

Sincerely,  
/S/MARIO J. GABELLI  
MARIO J. GABELLI, CFA  
Portfolio Manager and Chief Investment Officer

August 8, 2001

### SELECTED HOLDINGS JUNE 30, 2001 -----

Berkshire Hathaway Inc.  
Cablevision Systems Corp.  
Chris-Craft Industries Inc.  
Crane Co.  
Genuine Parts Co.

Liberty Media Group  
Media General Inc.  
Ralston Purina Co.  
Telephone & Data Systems Inc.  
Viacom Inc.

NOTE: The views expressed in this report reflect those of the portfolio managers only through the end of the period stated in this report. The managers' views are subject to change at any time based on market and other conditions.

12

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.  
PORTFOLIO CHANGES  
QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2001  
(UNAUDITED)

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

	SHARES	OWNERSHIP AT JUNE 30, 2001
	-----	-----
NET PURCHASES		
COMMON STOCKS		
America Movil, SA de CV, Cl. L, ADR .....	10,000	55,000
American Express Co. ....	85,000	270,000
Apogent Technologies Inc. ....	6,000	40,000
AT&T Canada Inc., Cl. B .....	10,000	20,000
AT&T Corp. ....	10,000	650,000
AT&T Wireless Group .....	5,000	65,000
AutoNation Inc. ....	34,000	320,000
Burlington Resources Inc. ....	5,000	135,000
Cable & Wireless plc, ADR .....	5,000	150,000
Carter-Wallace Inc. ....	5,000	520,000
Citizens Communications Co. ....	25,000	50,000
Corning Inc. ....	30,000	60,000
Dana Corp. ....	50,000	84,161
Delhaize Le Lion SA, ADR (a) .....	16,000	16,000
Deutsche Telekom AG, ADR (b) (c) .....	24,278	24,278
Diageo plc, ADR .....	20,000	140,000
Dow Jones & Co. Inc. ....	1,000	12,000
DQE Inc. ....	20,000	20,000
DTE Energy Co. (d) .....	10,366	10,366
Dun and Bradstreet Corp. ....	5,000	20,000
EMC Corp. ....	20,000	30,000
Fujitsu Ltd. ....	3,000	41,000
General Chemical Group Inc. ....	200,200	330,200
Gillette Co. ....	25,000	275,000
Givaudan SA .....	2,000	2,000
Gray Communications		
Systems Inc., Cl. B .....	3,000	10,000
Gulf Canada Resources Ltd.,		
New York .....	100,000	100,000
Gulf Canada Resources Ltd.,		
Toronto .....	100,000	100,000
Harmony Gold Mining Co. Ltd., ADR .....	2,500	15,000
Hercules Inc. ....	30,000	100,000
Honeywell Inc. ....	225,000	225,000
HS Resources Inc. ....	50,000	50,000
IBP Inc. ....	52,500	52,500
Jafco Co. Ltd. ....	6,000	6,000
Japan Telecom Co. Ltd. ....	14	46
Kerry Group plc, Cl. A .....	75,000	75,000
National Service Industries Inc. ....	5,000	130,000
NEC Corp., ADR (e) .....	6,000	7,500
Neiman Marcus Group Inc., Cl. A .....	50,000	50,000
Newport News Shipbuilding Inc. ....	108,000	108,000
Nikko Securities Co. Ltd. ....	25,000	141,500
Northeast Utilities .....	10,000	75,000
Novartis AG (f) .....	44,850	46,000
NTL Inc. ....	10,000	52,625
Olympus Optical Co. Ltd. ....	25,000	25,000
PepsiAmericas Inc. ....	99,000	590,595
Phoenix Companies Inc. ....	80,000	80,000
PRIMEDIA Inc. ....	50,000	100,000
Procter & Gamble Co. ....	2,000	112,000
Publishing & Broadcasting Ltd. ....	20,000	165,000

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

	SHARES	OWNERSHIP AT JUNE 30, 2001
	-----	-----
Rainbow Media Group (g) .....	210,000	210,000
Roche Holding AG (h) .....	17,760	17,900
Rogers Wireless Communications Inc., Cl. B .....	7,000	80,000
Sara Lee Corp. ....	10,000	10,000
Schering-Plough Corp. ....	10,000	10,000
Sensient Technologies Corp. ....	100,000	100,000
Shimano Inc. ....	12,000	32,000
SJW Corp. ....	1,000	4,000
Sprint FON Group .....	20,000	350,000
State Street Corp. (i) .....	40,000	80,000
Sulzer AG .....	3,000	6,000
UnitedGlobalCom Inc., Cl. A .....	30,000	160,000
Westvaco Corp. ....	3,000	105,000
Willamette Industries Inc. ....	80,000	260,000
WorldCom Inc.--MCI Group .....	10,000	10,000
Young Broadcasting Inc., Cl. A .....	50,000	50,000
 PREFERRED STOCKS		
Northrop Grumman Corp., 7.00% Cv. Pfd., Ser. B (j) .....	14,021	14,021
	PRINCIPAL AMOUNT	
	-----	
 CORPORATE BONDS		
Waste Management Inc. ....		
Sub. Deb. Cv. 4.00%, 02/01/02 .....	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
	SHARES	
	-----	
 WARRANTS		
Harmony Gold Mining Co. Ltd., ADR, expire 06/29/03 .....	5,000	5,000
 NET SALES		
COMMON STOCKS		
Albertson's Inc. ....	(15,000)	140,000
Allstate Corp. ....	(10,000)	90,000
Amphenol Corp., Cl. A .....	(45,000)	80,000
AOL Time Warner Inc. ....	(15,000)	365,000
Block (H&R) Inc. ....	(15,000)	10,000
Cablevision Systems Corp., Cl. A .....	(5,000)	415,000
Cendant Corp. ....	(45,000)	155,000
Chris-Craft Industries Inc., Cl. B .....	(2)	592,895
Church & Dwight Co. Inc. ....	(20,000)	25,000
Delhaize America Inc., Cl. A .....	(45,000)	--
Disney (Walt) Co. ....	(10,000)	140,000
First Union Corp. ....	(13,000)	112,000
GC Companies Inc. ....	(50,000)	--
General Mills Inc. ....	(15,000)	120,000
ITT Industries Inc. ....	(2,500)	140,000
Johnson Controls Inc. ....	(3,000)	114,000
Litton Industries Inc. ....	(100,000)	--
Loral Space & Communications Ltd. ....	(10,000)	150,000
Lucent Technologies Inc. ....	(10,000)	60,000

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

13

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.  
 PORTFOLIO CHANGES (CONTINUED)  
 QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2001  
 (UNAUDITED)

	SHARES	OWNERSHIP AT JUNE 30, 2001
	-----	-----
NET SALES (CONTINUED)		
COMMON STOCKS (CONTINUED)		
MCN Energy Group Inc. (d) .....	(30,000)	--
Midland Co. ....	(10,000)	100,000
Newmont Mining Corp. ....	(5,000)	100,000
Nintendo Co. Ltd. ....	(1,000)	9,500
Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd., ADR .....	(5,000)	5,000
Parmalat Finanziaria SpA (k) .....	(481,000)	169,000
PepsiCo Inc. ....	(15,000)	265,000
Powertel Inc. (c) .....	(5,038)	--
Rohm & Haas Co. ....	(5,000)	195,000
Sodexo Marriott Services Inc. ....	(1,000)	--
Stanley Electric Co. Ltd. ....	(72,000)	--
Tyler Technologies Inc. ....	(15,000)	20,000
USA Networks Inc. ....	(5,000)	570,000
UtiliCorp United Inc. ....	(5,000)	--
Viacom Inc., Cl. A .....	(35,000)	865,000
VoiceStream Wireless Corp. (b) .....	(4,992)	--
Wrigley (Wm.) Jr. Co. ....	(2,000)	150,000
XO Communications Inc., Cl. A .....	(5,000)	10,000
RIGHTS		
Rogers Wireless Communications Inc. (l) .....	(73,000)	--

- 
- (a) Merger--0.4 shares of Delhaize Le Lion SA, ADR for every 1 share of Delhaize America Inc., Cl. A
  - (b) Merger--3.6683 shares of Deutsche Telekom AG, ADR for every 1 share of VoiceStream Wireless Corp.
  - (c) Merger--2.6353 shares of Deutsche Telekom AG, ADR for every 1 share of Powertel Inc.
  - (d) Merger--0.3455 shares of DTE Energy Co. for every 1 share of MCN Energy Group Inc.
  - (e) 5 for 1 stock split
  - (f) 40 for 1 stock split
  - (g) Spinoff--1 share of Rainbow Media Group for every 2 shares of Cablevision Systems Corp., Cl. A
  - (h) 100 for 1 stock split
  - (i) 2 for 1 stock split
  - (j) Merger--0.14021 shares of Northrop Grumman Corp., 7.00% Cv. Pfd., Ser. B for every 1 share of Litton Industries Inc.
  - (k) 13 for 25 stock split
  - (l) Rights expired 04/18/01

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

14

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.  
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS  
 JUNE 30, 2001 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES -----		COST -----	MARKET VALUE -----
	COMMON STOCKS -- 81.0%		
	ENTERTAINMENT -- 7.8%		
365,000	AOL Time Warner Inc.+ .....	\$ 7,636,356	\$ 19,345,000
160,000	Canal Plus, ADR+ .....	34,010	95,632
140,000	Disney (Walt) Co. ....	2,670,882	4,044,600
100,000	EMI Group plc, ADR .....	1,189,467	1,125,820
25,000	Fox Entertainment		
	Group Inc., Cl. A+ .....	556,125	697,500
18,432	Gemstar-TV Guide		
	International Inc.+ .....	754,976	785,203
150,940	Granada Compass plc+ .....	477,001	316,833
138,000	Grupo Televisa SA, GDR+ .....	3,048,195	5,521,380
24,000	Liberty Livewire Corp.,		
	Cl. A+ .....	93,109	210,000
1,550,000	Liberty Media Group,		
	Cl. A+ .....	5,490,808	27,109,500
165,000	Publishing &		
	Broadcasting Ltd. ....	915,408	761,250
10,000	Six Flags Inc. ....	140,273	210,400
570,000	USA Networks Inc.+ .....	5,581,655	15,960,000
865,000	Viacom Inc., Cl. A+ .....	9,459,276	45,879,600
		-----	-----
		38,047,541	122,062,718
		-----	-----
	BROADCASTING -- 7.2%		
50,000	Ackerley Group Inc. ....	544,975	560,500
336,192	Chris-Craft Industries Inc.+ .....	4,285,059	24,004,109
592,895	Chris-Craft Industries Inc.,		
	Cl. B+ (a) .....	8,836,175	42,332,703
16,666	Corus Entertainment Inc.,		
	Cl. B+ .....	62,036	381,079
33,000	Gray Communications		
	Systems Inc. ....	438,347	628,320
10,000	Gray Communications		
	Systems Inc., Cl. B .....	168,265	151,000
200,000	Liberty Corp. ....	8,528,905	8,000,000
4,000	Nippon Broadcasting		
	System Inc. ....	161,709	141,121
50,375	NRJ Groupe+ .....	483,579	759,096
120,700	Paxson Communications		
	Corp., Cl. A+ .....	1,213,574	1,629,450
17,700	RTL Group (New York) .....	775,136	1,076,619
100,000	Television Broadcasting Ltd. ....	396,239	420,533
245,009	United Television Inc. ....	24,632,336	30,871,134
50,000	Young Broadcasting Inc.,		
	Cl. A+ .....	1,766,245	1,679,000
		-----	-----
		52,292,580	112,634,664
		-----	-----

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

SHARES		COST	MARKET VALUE
-----		-----	-----
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS -- 6.9%		
8,132	Aliant Inc. ....	72,479	184,068
7,500	Allegiance Telecom Inc.+ ....	74,063	112,425
30,000	ALLTEL Corp. ....	\$ 617,209	\$ 1,837,800
20,000	AT&T Canada Inc., Cl. B+ ....	612,750	602,600
650,000	AT&T Corp. ....	13,153,550	14,300,000
3,333	Avaya Inc.+ ....	26,540	45,662
230,000	BCE Inc. ....	6,590,343	6,049,000
33,400	Brasil Telecom Participacoes SA, ADR ....	1,940,826	1,403,134
25,000	BroadWing Inc.+ ....	548,915	611,250
2,893,090	Cable & Wireless Jamaica Ltd. ....	101,642	150,462
95,000	Cable & Wireless plc ....	1,170,181	558,819
150,000	Cable & Wireless plc, ADR ....	4,070,895	2,700,000
60,000	CenturyTel Inc. ....	430,644	1,818,000
50,000	Citizens Communications Co. ....	679,358	601,500
255,466	Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises Inc.+ ....	4,424,217	10,793,439
20,000	Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises Inc., Cl. B+ ....	128,902	880,000
35,000	Compania de Telecomunicaciones de Chile SA, ADR ....	592,324	492,800
24,278	Deutsche Telekom AG, ADR ....	507,923	545,041
21,600	Elisa Communications Oyj, Cl. A ....	1,175,397	353,100
167,000	Embratel Participacoes SA, ADR+ ....	3,517,106	1,249,160
46	Japan Telecom Co. Ltd. ....	797,468	955,294
5,000	Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd., ADR+ ....	126,772	14,350
155,000	RCN Corp.+ ....	1,100,476	850,950
9,655	Rogers Communications Inc., Cl. B+ ....	137,424	144,167
110,345	Rogers Communications Inc., Cl. B, ADR+ ....	1,537,198	1,671,727
115,000	SBC Communications Inc. ....	4,106,783	4,606,900
350,000	Sprint FON Group ....	8,833,016	7,476,000
186,554	Tele Norte Leste Participacoes SA, ADR ....	2,554,387	2,846,814
8,000	Telecom Argentina Stet France Telecom SA, ADR ....	164,771	123,600
400,040	Telecom Italia SpA ....	839,903	3,589,807
123,000	Telecom Italia SpA, ADR ....	2,585,208	10,824,000
265,249	Telefonica SA, ADR ....	9,757,403	9,877,873
16,256	Telefonica SA, BDR+ ....	206,528	201,314
36,000	Telefonos de Mexico SA, Cl. L, ADR ....	389,422	1,263,240
12,750	TELUS Corp. ....	222,542	287,336
52,500	TELUS Corp., ADR ....	950,397	1,183,906
4,250	TELUS Corp., Non-Voting ....	74,181	92,306
27,500	TELUS Corp., Non-Voting, ADR ....	557,547	597,657

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

15

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.  
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)  
 JUNE 30, 2001 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES		COST	MARKET VALUE
-----		-----	-----
	COMMON STOCKS (CONTINUED)		
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS (CONTINUED)		
295,000	Verizon Communications .....	\$10,947,457	\$ 15,782,500
10,000	WorldCom Inc. - MCI Group ....	163,100	161,000
10,000	XO Communications Inc.,		
	Cl. A+ .....	91,700	19,200
		-----	-----
		86,578,947	107,858,201
		-----	-----
	FINANCIAL SERVICES -- 6.0%		
26,000	Aegon NV .....	931,905	731,858
4,100	Allianz AG .....	1,413,422	1,203,371
90,000	Allstate Corp. ....	2,406,026	3,959,100
270,000	American Express Co. ....	10,472,948	10,476,000
30,000	Argonaut Group Inc. ....	855,370	603,000
175,000	Banca Intesa SpA .....	702,532	617,783
90,000	Banco Santander Central		
	Hispano SA, ADR .....	322,130	827,100
84,000	Bank of Ireland, Dublin .....	427,242	832,007
15,000	Bank of Ireland, London .....	98,369	148,573
56,000	Bank of Scotland .....	350,184	632,434
105,000	Bank One Corp. ....	3,677,074	3,759,000
282,000	Bankgesellschaft Berlin AG ...	5,606,801	2,267,956
260	Berkshire Hathaway Inc.,		
	Cl. A+ .....	824,299	18,044,000
10,000	Block (H&R) Inc. ....	390,250	645,500
50,000	Commerzbank AG, ADR .....	1,189,067	1,263,505
150,000	Deutsche Bank AG, ADR .....	6,224,445	10,717,545
20,000	Dun and Bradstreet Corp.+ ....	333,130	564,000
112,000	First Union Corp. ....	3,505,201	3,913,280
25,000	Hibernia Corp., Cl. A .....	198,750	445,000
20,000	Invik & Co. AB, Cl. B .....	936,800	1,433,162
100,000	Irish Life &		
	Permanent plc, .....	781,432	1,168,264
48,100	J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. ....	1,257,712	2,145,260
6,000	Jafco Co. Ltd. ....	694,322	572,984
64,000	Leucadia National Corp. ....	2,040,082	2,076,800
60,000	Mellon Financial Corp. ....	1,898,845	2,760,000
100,000	Midland Co. ....	1,117,752	4,450,000
30,000	Moody's Corp. ....	666,995	1,005,000
141,500	Nikko Securities Co. Ltd. ....	1,157,257	1,133,447
80,000	Phoenix Companies Inc.+ .....	1,383,200	1,488,000
50,000	Prudential plc .....	754,035	605,459
50,000	RAS SpA .....	534,750	614,608
60,000	Riggs National Corp. ....	552,538	1,019,400
80,000	State Street Corp. ....	1,417,370	3,959,200
30,000	Stilwell Financial Inc.+ .....	470,955	1,006,800
20,000	SunTrust Banks Inc. ....	419,333	1,295,600
510	Swiss Re .....	977,697	1,019,234

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

38,000	T. Rowe Price Group Inc. ....	1,273,500	1,420,820
50,000	Unitrin Inc. ....	817,863	1,920,000
30,000	Waddell & Reed		
	Financial Inc., Cl. A .....	\$ 426,563	\$ 952,500
		59,508,146	93,697,550
		-----	-----
	EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES -- 5.5%		
100,000	AMETEK Inc. ....	1,394,214	3,055,000
80,000	Amphenol Corp., Cl. A+ .....	1,040,625	3,204,000
10,000	Caterpillar Inc. ....	136,559	500,500
95,000	CIRCOR International Inc.+ ...	981,440	1,714,750
107,000	CLARCOR Inc. ....	1,347,205	2,872,950
320,000	Deere & Co. ....	3,134,721	12,112,000
255,000	Donaldson Co. Inc. ....	1,676,029	7,943,250
130,000	Flowserve Corp.+ .....	2,065,746	3,997,500
6,500	Franklin Electric Co. ....	210,022	493,350
110,000	Gerber Scientific Inc. ....	1,200,356	1,204,500
298,000	IDEX Corp. ....	1,935,965	10,132,000
20,000	Ingersoll-Rand Co. ....	713,378	824,000
60,000	Lufkin Industries Inc. ....	1,105,223	1,656,000
1,000	Manitowoc Co. Inc. ....	25,450	29,500
430,000	Navistar International Corp.+	6,528,284	12,095,900
25,000	Olympus Optical Co. Ltd. ....	375,255	400,511
20,000	PACCAR Inc. ....	450,000	1,028,400
84,500	Sequa Corp., Cl. A+ .....	3,371,578	3,844,750
75,000	Sequa Corp., Cl. B+ .....	3,888,160	4,443,750
170,000	SPS Technologies Inc.+ .....	2,963,443	8,058,000
10,000	Sybron Dental		
	Specialties Inc .....	179,033	204,900
35,000	THK Co. Ltd. ....	919,565	658,097
70,000	UCAR International Inc.+ .....	971,360	836,500
250,000	Watts Industries Inc., Cl. A .	3,331,739	4,237,500
100,000	Weir Group plc .....	420,789	391,685
		40,366,139	85,939,293
		-----	-----
	CONSUMER PRODUCTS -- 5.5%		
70,000	Altadis SA .....	1,030,995	997,934
520,000	Carter-Wallace Inc. ....	7,309,269	10,062,000
43,000	Christian Dior SA .....	1,514,055	1,547,103
25,000	Church & Dwight Co. Inc. ....	253,220	636,250
1,100	Compagnie Financiere		
	Richemont AG, Cl. A .....	1,550,184	2,815,256
35,000	Department 56 Inc.+ .....	394,267	267,750
285,601	Energizer Holdings Inc.+ .....	4,325,114	6,554,543
90,000	Fortune Brands Inc. ....	2,401,342	3,452,400
250,000	Gallaher Group plc, ADR .....	4,342,521	6,225,000
275,000	Gillette Co. ....	8,887,126	7,972,250
2,000	Givaudan SA+ .....	550,742	554,706
100,000	Harley Davidson Inc. ....	251,225	4,708,000
15,000	Matsushita Electric Industrial		
	Co. Ltd., ADR .....	178,325	237,000
65,000	Mattel Inc. ....	919,565	1,229,800
25,000	Maytag Corp. ....	768,336	731,500

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.  
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)  
 JUNE 30, 2001 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES -----		COST ----	MARKET VALUE -----
	COMMON STOCKS (CONTINUED)		
	CONSUMER PRODUCTS (CONTINUED)		
42,000	National Presto Industries Inc. ....	\$ 1,543,512	\$ 1,247,400
9,500	Nintendo Co. Ltd. ....	784,763	1,729,134
20,000	Philip Morris Companies Inc. ....	600,935	1,015,000
112,000	Procter & Gamble Co. ....	7,809,242	7,145,600
800,000	Ralston Purina Co. ....	13,189,221	24,016,000
32,000	Shimano Inc. ....	521,107	471,601
1,500	Swatch Group AG ....	892,765	1,502,212
10,425	Syratech Corp.+ ....	333,704	74,278
		-----	-----
		60,351,535	85,192,717
		-----	-----
	WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS -- 4.6%		
55,000	America Movil, SA de CV, Cl. L, ADR+ .....	607,553	1,147,300
65,000	AT&T Wireless Group+ .....	1,473,068	1,062,750
12,500	Leap Wireless International Inc.+ .....	364,116	378,750
100,000	Nextel Communications Inc., Cl. A+ .....	1,763,612	1,750,000
80,000	Rogers Wireless Communications Inc., Cl. B+ .....	1,619,676	1,381,600
220,000	Sprint PCS Group+ .....	287,077	5,313,000
16,700	Tele Celular Sul Participacoes SA, ADR .....	266,992	337,340
55,666	Tele Centro Oeste Celular Participacoes SA, ADR .....	166,868	481,511
3,340	Tele Leste Celular Participacoes SA, ADR .....	89,340	134,268
8,350	Tele Nordeste Celular Participacoes SA, ADR .....	123,227	272,210
3,340	Tele Norte Celular Participacoes SA, ADR .....	51,601	90,180
1,200,000	Telecom Italia Mobile SpA .....	1,113,354	6,115,607
8,350	Telemig Celular Participacoes SA, ADR .....	241,320	344,855
450,000	Telephone & Data Systems Inc. ....	11,087,191	48,937,500
66,800	Telesp Celular Participacoes SA, ADR .....	2,135,936	1,012,020
553,888	Vodafone Group plc .....	915,040	1,226,915
100,000	Vodafone Group plc, ADR .....	927,768	2,235,000
		-----	-----
		23,233,739	72,220,806
		-----	-----
	FOOD AND BEVERAGE -- 4.4%		
10,108	Advantica Restaurant Group Inc.+ .....	14,358	6,570
1,000	Cadbury Schweppes plc, ADR .....	28,008	27,200
15,000	Coca-Cola Co. ....	682,313	675,000
50,000	Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. ....	816,250	817,500

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

SHARES -----		COST ----	MARKET VALUE -----
150,940	Compass Group plc+ .....	\$ 1,090,534	\$ 1,207,893
90,000	Corn Products International Inc. ....	2,608,387	2,880,000
140,000	Diageo plc, ADR .....	5,174,844	6,153,000
120,000	General Mills Inc. ....	3,501,155	5,253,600
20,000	Hain Celestial Group Inc.+ .....	267,663	440,000
22,000	Heinz (H.J.) Co. ....	861,241	899,580
52,500	IBP Inc. ....	1,317,519	1,325,625
25,000	Interbrew SA+ .....	719,153	668,789
270,000	Kellogg Co. ....	7,515,822	7,830,000
75,000	Kerry Group plc, Cl. A .....	860,877	864,942
60,500	LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, ADR .....	416,625	620,125
169,000	Parmalat Finanziaria SpA .....	373,278	450,670
590,595	PepsiAmericas Inc. ....	7,935,964	7,854,914
265,000	PepsiCo Inc. ....	8,132,461	11,713,000
70,000	Quaker Oats Co. ....	3,044,803	6,387,500
60,000	Ralcorp Holdings Inc.+ .....	940,903	1,124,400
10,000	Sara Lee Corp. ....	188,640	189,400
100,830	Tootsie Roll Industries Inc. ....	1,580,969	3,885,988
150,000	Wrigley (Wm.) Jr. Co. ....	3,610,220	7,027,500
		-----	-----
		51,681,987	68,303,196
		-----	-----
	PUBLISHING -- 4.4%		
12,000	Dow Jones & Co. Inc. ....	600,392	716,520
150,000	Harcourt General Inc. ....	6,684,706	8,728,500
646,000	Independent News & Media plc, Dublin .....	1,428,821	1,285,175
97,000	McGraw-Hill Companies Inc. ....	2,192,694	6,416,550
400,000	Media General Inc., Cl. A .....	9,832,031	18,400,000
125,000	Meredith Corp. ....	2,091,314	4,476,250
115,000	New York Times Co., Cl. A .....	790,115	4,830,000
145,000	News Corp. Ltd. ....	796,385	1,327,567
5,000	News Corp. Ltd., ADR .....	54,120	185,750
57,727	Pearson plc .....	809,395	951,521
400,000	Penton Media Inc. ....	4,849,118	7,000,000
100,000	PRIMEDIA Inc.+ .....	988,793	679,000
27,000	Pulitzer Inc. ....	1,189,663	1,425,600
160,000	Reader's Digest Association Inc., Cl. B .....	4,110,972	4,160,000
91,842	Seat-Pagine Gialle SpA .....	204,007	94,467
400,000	South China Morning Post Holdings .....	273,726	264,115
75,000	Thomas Nelson Inc. ....	908,325	527,250
160,000	Tribune Co. ....	5,390,834	6,401,600
		-----	-----
		43,195,411	67,869,865
		-----	-----
	ENERGY AND UTILITIES -- 3.1%		
73,400	AGL Resources Inc. ....	1,322,958	1,743,250
34,000	Apache Corp. ....	844,013	1,725,500

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.  
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)  
 JUNE 30, 2001 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES -----		COST ----	MARKET VALUE -----
	COMMON STOCKS (CONTINUED)		
	ENERGY AND UTILITIES (CONTINUED)		
120,000	BP plc .....	\$ 725,215	\$ 986,456
248,800	BP plc, ADR .....	5,313,984	12,402,680
135,000	Burlington Resources Inc. ....	5,842,869	5,393,250
155,000	Conoco Inc., Cl. A .....	3,544,449	4,371,000
20,000	DQE Inc. ....	424,076	450,000
10,366	DTE Energy Co. ....	462,525	481,397
400,000	El Paso Electric Co.+ .....	3,236,625	6,396,000
20,000	Energy East Corp. ....	429,788	418,200
100,000	Gulf Canada Resources Ltd., Toronto .....	792,060	809,194
100,000	Gulf Canada Resources Ltd., New York+ .....	791,000	810,000
55,000	Halliburton Co. ....	1,201,188	1,958,000
50,000	HS Resources Inc.+ .....	3,234,912	3,240,000
210,000	Niagara Mohawk Holdings Inc.+ .....	3,101,421	3,714,900
100,000	NiSource Inc.+ .....	200,000	237,000
75,000	Northeast Utilities .....	1,479,575	1,556,250
75,000	Pennzoil-Quaker State Co.+ .....	1,373,582	840,000
100,000	Progress Energy Inc. ....	52,000	50,500
4,000	SJW Corp. ....	400,061	342,000
14,000	Southwest Gas Corp. ....	289,625	331,520
4,907	Total Fina Elf SA .....	655,890	687,090
		----- 35,717,816	----- 48,944,187
	DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIAL -- 2.9%		
195,000	Ampco-Pittsburgh Corp. ....	2,627,873	2,203,500
50,000	Cooper Industries Inc. ....	1,799,362	1,979,500
270,000	Crane Co. ....	5,062,737	8,370,000
102,000	GATX Corp. ....	1,533,375	4,090,200
150,000	GenTek Inc. ....	1,491,896	795,000
225,000	Honeywell Inc. ....	8,871,100	7,872,750
140,000	ITT Industries Inc.+ .....	4,301,122	6,195,000
390,000	Lamson & Sessions Co.+ .....	2,415,785	2,613,000
130,000	National Service Industries Inc. ....	2,957,029	2,934,100
78,715	Park-Ohio Holdings Corp.+ .....	993,487	377,832
100,000	Sensient Technologies Corp. ....	1,835,688	2,052,000
12,420	Smith Industries plc .....	223,040	144,108
6,000	Sulzer AG .....	3,258,451	1,909,478
82,000	Swire Pacific Ltd., Cl. A .....	553,597	424,738
75,000	Thomas Industries Inc. ....	769,882	2,212,500
50,000	Trinity Industries Inc. ....	945,000	1,025,000
		----- 39,639,424	----- 45,198,706
	CABLE -- 2.5%		
415,000	Cablevision Systems Corp., Cl. A+ .....	3,990,027	24,277,500





Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

18

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.  
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)  
 JUNE 30, 2001 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES -----		COST -----	MARKET VALUE -----
COMMON STOCKS (CONTINUED)			
HEALTH CARE (CONTINUED)			
26,000	Biogen Inc.+ .....	\$ 181,025	\$ 1,413,360
75,036	GlaxoSmithKline plc+ .....	1,817,378	2,110,628
4,000	GlaxoSmithKline plc, ADR .....	216,096	224,800
56,011	Invitrogen Corp.+ .....	2,678,982	4,021,590
46,000	Novartis AG .....	1,431,247	1,664,840
108,000	Novartis AG, Registered .....	948,510	3,904,200
45,000	Pfizer Inc. ....	240,750	1,802,250
17,900	Roche Holding AG .....	1,644,702	1,289,704
20,000	Sanofi-Synthelabo SA .....	967,750	1,312,180
10,000	Schering-Plough Corp. ....	354,700	362,400
18,000	Takeda Chemical Industries Ltd. ....	1,013,551	837,105
		-----	-----
		16,874,459	28,793,822
		-----	-----
HOTELS AND GAMING -- 1.6%			
120,000	Aztar Corp.+ .....	843,207	1,452,000
90,000	Boca Resorts Inc., Cl. A+ .....	787,000	1,325,700
234,500	Gaylord Entertainment Co. ....	6,082,795	6,753,600
5,000	GTECH Holdings Corp.+ .....	86,269	177,550
1,045,000	Hilton Group plc .....	3,273,996	3,512,579
550,000	Hilton Hotels Corp. ....	6,002,739	6,380,000
20,000	MGM Mirage Inc.+ .....	516,903	599,200
430,000	Park Place Entertainment Corp.+ .....	2,424,893	5,203,000
		-----	-----
		20,017,802	25,403,629
		-----	-----
BUSINESS SERVICES -- 1.4%			
60,000	ANC Rental Corp.+ .....	578,273	180,000
155,000	Cendant Corp.+ .....	2,382,422	3,022,500
1,000	CheckFree Corp.+ .....	9,040	35,070
100,000	Landauer Inc. ....	647,252	3,000,000
58,500	Nashua Corp.+ .....	548,437	406,575
10,833	Reuters Group plc, ADR .....	815,788	842,266
13,000	Secom Co. Ltd. ....	813,097	725,491
250,000	Securicor Group plc .....	0	574,870
3,500	SYNAVANT Inc.+ .....	27,506	24,885
30,900	Vivendi Universal SA .....	2,117,043	1,801,044
205,000	Vivendi Universal SA, ADR .....	8,281,893	11,890,000
		-----	-----
		16,220,751	22,502,701
		-----	-----
RETAIL -- 1.3%			
140,000	Albertson's Inc. ....	3,704,724	4,198,600
320,000	AutoNation Inc.+ .....	3,605,501	3,712,000
14,000	Coldwater Creek Inc.+ .....	259,128	364,000



Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

13,812,773 13,098,250

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

19

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.  
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)  
 JUNE 30, 2001 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES		COST	MARKET VALUE
-----		----	-----
	COMMON STOCKS (CONTINUED)		
	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES -- 0.8%		
60,000	Republic Services Inc.+ .....	\$ 783,447	\$ 1,191,000
350,000	Waste Management Inc. ....	6,492,192	10,787,000
		-----	-----
		7,275,639	11,978,000
		-----	-----
	ELECTRONICS -- 0.7%		
41,000	Fujitsu Ltd. ....	1,199,088	430,660
3,000	Hitachi Ltd., ADR .....	218,796	296,970
9,000	Molex Inc., Cl. A .....	315,766	268,380
7,500	NEC Corp., ADR .....	43,625	102,825
26,640	Philips Electronics NV .....	1,041,219	706,121
38,800	Philips Electronics NV, ADR .....	53,456	1,025,484
5,100	Rohm Co. Ltd. ....	1,151,127	792,507
11,000	Sony Corp. ....	898,956	723,246
34,000	Sony Corp., ADR .....	973,924	2,237,200
200,000	Thomas & Betts Corp. ....	3,514,300	4,414,000
		-----	-----
		9,410,257	10,997,393
		-----	-----
	AUTOMOTIVE -- 0.7%		
10,000	Ford Motor Co. ....	309,640	245,500
157,942	General Motors Corp. ....	4,799,093	10,163,568
		-----	-----
		5,108,733	10,409,068
		-----	-----
	AEROSPACE -- 0.7%		
125,000	BAE Systems plc .....	754,039	598,603
100,000	Lockheed Martin Corp. ....	2,641,248	3,705,000
75,000	Northrop Grumman Corp. ....	4,812,089	6,007,500
		-----	-----
		8,207,376	10,311,103
		-----	-----
	CONSUMER SERVICES -- 0.7%		
40,000	Loewen Group Inc. ....	48,700	5,200
510,000	Rollins Inc. ....	5,737,037	10,154,100
		-----	-----
		5,785,737	10,159,300
		-----	-----
	COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT -- 0.6%		
68,000	Acterna Corp.+ .....	245,121	748,000
290,000	Allen Telecom Inc.+ .....	2,191,166	4,350,000
60,000	Corning Inc. ....	1,305,700	1,002,600
60,000	Lucent Technologies Inc. ....	691,358	372,000



Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

72,500	Harmony Gold Mining Co. ....		
	Ltd. ....	347,738	421,808
15,000	Harmony Gold Mining Co. ....		
	Ltd., ADR ....	79,800	85,350
100,000	Newmont Mining Corp. ....	1,911,924	1,861,000
50,000	Placer Dome Inc. ....	487,169	490,000
		-----	-----
		2,826,631	2,858,158
		-----	-----

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

20

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.  
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)  
 JUNE 30, 2001 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES		COST	MARKET VALUE
-----		----	-----
	COMMON STOCKS (CONTINUED)		
	COMPUTER HARDWARE -- 0.1%		
44,000	Hewlett-Packard Co. ....	\$ 1,792,291	\$ 1,258,400
15,000	Xerox Corp. ....	183,562	143,550
		-----	-----
		1,975,853	1,401,950
		-----	-----
	EDUCATIONAL SERVICES -- 0.0%		
10,000	Benesse Corp. ....	1,029,239	313,513
		-----	-----
	TOTAL COMMON STOCKS .....	779,066,692	1,266,618,891
		-----	-----
	PREFERRED STOCKS -- 0.2%		
	AEROSPACE -- 0.2%		
14,021	Northrop Grumman Corp., 7.00% Cv. Pfd., Ser. B .....	1,633,727	1,500,247
		-----	-----
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS-- 0.0%		
15,000	Citizens Communications Co., 5.00% Cv. Pfd. ....	772,625	750,000
		-----	-----
	BROADCASTING -- 0.0%		
40,000	ProSieben Sat.1 Media AG, Pfd. ....	568,909	568,894
		-----	-----
	PUBLISHING -- 0.0%		
10,000	News Corp. Ltd., Pfd., ADR .....	157,103	324,000
		-----	-----
	WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS -- 0.0%		
10,760,547	Telesp Celular Participacoes SA, Pfd.+ .....	82,623	65,697
		-----	-----
	TOTAL PREFERRED STOCKS .....	3,214,987	3,208,838
		-----	-----
PRINCIPAL AMOUNT			

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

-----			
	CORPORATE BONDS -- 0.3%		
	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES -- 0.1%		
\$2,000,000	Waste Management Inc.		
	Sub. Deb. Cv.		
	4.00%, 02/01/02 .....	1,975,000	1,982,500
		-----	-----
	AUTOMOTIVE: PARTS AND ACCESSORIES -- 0.1%		
1,500,000	Standard Motor Products Inc.,		
	Sub. Deb. Cv.		
	6.75%, 07/15/09 .....	1,428,251	1,055,625
		-----	-----
	AVIATION: PARTS AND SERVICES -- 0.1%		
1,000,000	Kaman Corp.,		
	Sub. Deb. Cv.		
	6.00%, 03/15/12 .....	941,337	955,000
		-----	-----
PRINCIPAL			
AMOUNT			
-----			
	PUBLISHING-- 0.0%		
\$ 200,000	News America Holdings Inc.,		
	Sub. Deb. Cv.		
	Zero Coupon, 03/31/02 .....	\$ 185,424	\$ 321,250
		-----	-----
	HOTELS AND GAMING-- 0.0%		
230,000	Hilton Hotels Corp.,		
	Sub. Deb. Cv.		
	5.00%, 05/15/06 .....	187,145	208,150
		-----	-----
	CONSUMER PRODUCTS-- 0.0%		
1,000,000	Pillowtex Corp.,		
	Sub. Deb. Cv.		
	6.00%, 03/15/12+ .....	406,180	156
		-----	-----
	TOTAL CORPORATE		
	BONDS .....	5,123,337	4,522,681
		-----	-----
SHARES			
-----			
	WARRANTS -- 0.0%		
	METALS AND MINING -- 0.0%		
5,000	Harmony Gold Mining Co.		
	Ltd., ADR,		
	expire 06/29/03 .....	0	9,450
		-----	-----
	FOOD AND BEVERAGE -- 0.0%		
62,463	Advantica Restaurant		
	Group Inc.,		
	expire 01/07/05+ .....	105,603	1,874
		-----	-----
	TOTAL WARRANTS .....	105,603	11,324
		-----	-----
PRINCIPAL			
AMOUNT			
-----			
	U.S. GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS -- 17.3%		
\$273,000,000	U.S. Treasury Bills,		
	3.42% to 3.74%+,		
	due 07/12/01 to 12/13/01(c)	271,040,110	270,988,344

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

30,513,000	REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS -- 2.0% Agreement with State State Bank & Trust Co., 3.96%, dated 06/29/01, due 07/02/01, proceeds at maturity \$30,155,344 (d)	30,513,000	30,513,000
------------	--	------------	------------

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

21

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.  
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)  
 JUNE 30, 2001 (UNAUDITED)

	COST	MARKET VALUE
TOTAL INVESTMENTS -- 100.8% .....	\$ 1,089,063,729	\$ 1,575,863,078
OTHER ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND LIQUIDATION VALUE OF CUMULATIVE PREFERRED STOCK -- (19.9)% .....		(311,948,917)
NET ASSETS - COMMON STOCK -- 80.9% (127,620,323 common shares outstanding) .....		1,263,914,161
NET ASSETS - PREFERRED STOCK -- 19.1% (11,967,900 preferred shares outstanding) .....		299,197,500
TOTAL NET ASSETS -- 100.0% .....		\$ 1,563,111,661
NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE (\$1,263,914,161 [DIVIDE] 127,620,323 shares outstanding)		\$9.90

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT	SETTLEMENT DATE	NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION	
FORWARD FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTRACTS			
6,627,723 (e)	Deliver Hong Kong Dollars in exchange for USD 849,804 .....	08/03/01	\$ 4,196
NUMBER OF CONTRACTS			NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION
FUTURES CONTRACTS -- SHORT POSITION			
150	S&P 500 Index Futures 09/20/01 .....		\$ 1,931,250



Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

For Federal tax purposes:	
Aggregate cost .....	\$ 1,089,063,729
=====	
Gross unrealized appreciation .....	\$ 528,412,749
Gross unrealized depreciation .....	(41,613,400)
=====	
Net unrealized appreciation .....	\$ 486,799,349
=====	

- (a) Security fair valued under procedures established by the Board of Directors.
- (b) Security exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. These securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers. At June 30, 2001, the market value of Rule 144A securities amounted to \$159,560 or 0.0% of total net assets.
- (c) At June 30, 2001, \$6,500,000 of the principal amount was pledged as collateral for futures contracts.
- (d) Collateralized by U.S. Treasury Bond, 8.50%, due 02/15/20, market value \$45,643,487.
- (e) Principal amount denoted in Hong Kong Dollars.
- + Non-income producing security.
- ++ Represents annualized yield at date of purchase.

ADR - American Depositary Receipt  
 BDR - Brazilian Depositary Receipt  
 USD - United States Dollars  
 GDR - Global Depositary Receipt

	% of Market Value	Market Value
	-----	-----
GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSIFICATION		
United States .....	87.3%	\$1,375,015,401
Europe .....	9.2	145,088,695
Asia/Pacific Rim .....	1.3	21,254,213
Canada .....	1.1	17,061,640
Latin America .....	1.1	16,935,971
South Africa .....	0.0	507,158
-----		
Total Investments .....	100.0%	\$1,575,863,078
		=====

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.  
 STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
 JUNE 30, 2001 (UNAUDITED)

ASSETS:	
Investments, at value (Cost \$1,089,063,729) .....	\$1,575,863,078
Cash and foreign currency, at value (Cost \$23,990) .....	23,457
Dividends and interest receivable .....	1,561,855

**Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D**

Receivable for investments sold .....	92,130
Unrealized appreciation on forward foreign exchange contracts .....	4,196
Other assets .....	41,038
	-----
TOTAL ASSETS .....	1,577,585,754
	-----
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>	
Payable for investments purchased .....	3,626,424
Dividends payable .....	9,095,003
Variation margin .....	176,250
Payable for investment advisory fee .....	1,038,616
Other accrued expenses and liabilities .....	537,800
	-----
TOTAL LIABILITIES .....	14,474,093
	-----
NET ASSETS .....	\$1,563,111,661
	=====
<b>NET ASSETS CONSIST OF:</b>	
Cumulative Preferred Stock (7.25%, \$25.00 liquidation value, \$0.001 par value, 8,000,000 shares authorized with 5,367,900 shares issued and outstanding) .....	\$ 134,197,500
Cumulative Preferred Stock (7.20%, \$25.00 liquidation value, \$0.001 par value, 8,000,000 shares authorized with 6,600,000 shares issued and outstanding) .....	165,000,000
Capital stock, at par value .....	127,620
Additional paid-in capital .....	806,359,006
Distributions in excess of net realized gain on investments, futures contracts and foreign currency transactions .....	(31,282,956)
Net unrealized appreciation on investments, futures contracts and foreign currency transactions .....	488,710,491
	-----
TOTAL NET ASSETS .....	\$1,563,111,661
	=====
<b>NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE</b>	
(\$1,263,914,161 [DIVIDE] 127,620,323 shares outstanding; 184,000,000 shares authorized of \$0.001 par value) .....	\$9.90
	=====

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2001 (UNAUDITED)**

<b>INVESTMENT INCOME:</b>	
Dividends (net of foreign taxes of \$516,128) .....	\$ 7,756,939
Interest .....	3,853,938
	-----
TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME .....	11,610,877
	-----
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
Investment advisory fees .....	6,259,704
Shareholder communications expenses .....	208,749
Shareholder services fees .....	174,944
Directors' fees .....	70,956
Custodian fees .....	70,945
Legal and audit fees .....	70,568
Payroll .....	70,014
Miscellaneous expenses .....	66,986
	-----

Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

TOTAL EXPENSES .....	6,992,866
	-----
LESS: CUSTODIAL FEE CREDIT .....	(28,552)
	-----
NET EXPENSES .....	6,964,314
	-----
NET INVESTMENT INCOME .....	4,646,563
	-----
NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS, FUTURES CONTRACTS AND FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS:	
Net realized gain on investments .....	24,870,057
Net realized loss on foreign currency transactions .....	(108,048)
Net realized gain on futures contracts .....	14,800,465
	-----
Net realized gain on investments, futures contracts and foreign currency transactions .....	39,562,474
	-----
Net change in net unrealized appreciation/ depreciation on investments, futures contracts and foreign currency transactions .....	(19,698,012)
	-----
NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS, FUTURES CONTRACTS AND FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS .....	19,864,462
	-----
NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS .....	\$ 24,511,025
	=====

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

23

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2001 (UNAUDITED)
	-----
OPERATIONS:	
Net investment income .....	\$ 4,646,563
Net realized gain on investments, futures contracts and foreign currency transactions .....	39,562,474
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investments, futures contracts and foreign currency transactions .....	(19,698,012)
	-----
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS .....	24,511,025
	-----
DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON STOCK SHAREHOLDERS:	
Net investment income .....	(4,340,463)
Net realized gain on investments, futures contracts and foreign currency transactions .....	(35,003,008)
In excess of net realized gains on investments, futures contracts and foreign currency transactions .....	(29,649,749)

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON STOCK SHAREHOLDERS .....	(68,993,220)
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>	
DISTRIBUTIONS TO PREFERRED STOCK SHAREHOLDERS:	
Net investment income .....	(306,100)
Net realized gain on investments, futures contracts and foreign currency transactions .....	(4,559,466)
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS TO PREFERRED STOCK SHAREHOLDERS .....	(4,865,566)
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>	
TRUST SHARE TRANSACTIONS:	
Net increase in net assets from Equity Trust share transactions .....	8,588,558
Shares issued in rights offering .....	126,303,145
Net increase from issuance of preferred stock .....	159,329,175
Net decrease from repurchase of preferred stock .....	(24,870)
NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM EQUITY TRUST SHARE TRANSACTIONS .....	294,196,008
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS .....	244,848,247
NET ASSETS:	
Beginning of period .....	1,318,263,414
End of period .....	\$1,563,111,661

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

24

### THE GABELLI EQUITYTRUST INC. NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

1. ORGANIZATION. The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. ("Equity Trust") is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company organized as a Maryland corporation on May 20, 1986 and registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), whose primary objective is long-term growth of capital. The Equity Trust had no operations until August 11, 1986, when it sold 10,696 shares of common stock to Gabelli Funds, LLC (the "Adviser") for \$100,008. Investment operations commenced on August 21, 1986.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES. The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The following is a summary of significant accounting policies followed by the Equity Trust in the preparation of its financial statements.

SECURITY VALUATION. Portfolio securities listed or traded on a nationally recognized securities exchange, quoted by the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations, Inc. ("Nasdaq") or traded on foreign exchanges are valued at the last sale price on that exchange as of the close of business on the day the securities are being valued (if there were no sales that day, the security is valued at the average of the closing bid and asked prices or, if there were no asked prices quoted on that day, then the security is valued at the closing bid price on that day, except for open short positions, which are valued at the last asked price). All other portfolio securities for which over-the-counter market quotations are readily available are valued at the latest average of the bid and asked prices. If there were no asked prices quoted

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

on that day, then the security is valued at the closing bid price. Portfolio securities traded on more than one national securities exchange or market are valued according to the broadest and most representative market, as determined by Gabelli Funds, LLC (the "Adviser"). Securities and assets for which market quotations are not readily available are valued at their fair value as determined in good faith under procedures established by and under the general supervision of the Board of Directors. Short term debt securities with remaining maturities of 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost, unless the Directors determine such does not reflect the securities' fair value, in which case these securities will be valued at their fair value as determined by the Directors. Debt instruments having a maturity greater than 60 days are valued at the highest bid price obtained from a dealer maintaining an active market in those securities. Options are valued at the last sale price on the exchange on which they are listed. If no sales of such options have taken place that day, they will be valued at the mean between their closing bid and asked prices.

REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS. The Equity Trust may enter into repurchase agreements with primary government securities dealers recognized by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, with member banks of the Federal Reserve System or with other brokers or dealers that meet credit guidelines established by the Adviser and reviewed by the Board of Directors. Under the terms of a typical repurchase agreement, the Equity Trust takes possession of an underlying debt obligation subject to an obligation of the seller to repurchase, and the Equity Trust to resell, the obligation at an agreed-upon price and time, thereby determining the yield during the Equity Trust's holding period. The Equity Trust will always receive and maintain securities as collateral whose market value, including accrued interest, will be at least equal to 100% of the dollar amount invested by the Equity Trust in each agreement. The Equity Trust will make payment for such securities only upon physical delivery or upon evidence of book entry transfer of the collateral to the account of the custodian. To the extent that any repurchase transaction exceeds one business day, the value of the collateral is marked-to-market on a daily basis to maintain the adequacy of the collateral. If the seller defaults and the value of the collateral declines or if bankruptcy proceedings are commenced with respect to the seller of the security, realization of the collateral by the Equity Trust may be delayed or limited.

25

### THE GABELLI EQUITYTRUST INC. NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) (UNAUDITED)

OPTIONS. The Equity Trust may purchase or write call or put options on securities or indices. As a writer of call options, the Equity Trust receives a premium at the outset and then bears the risk of unfavorable changes in the price of the financial instrument underlying the option. The Equity Trust would incur a loss if the price of the underlying financial instrument increases between the date the option is written and the date on which the option is terminated. The Equity Trust would realize a gain, to the extent of the premium, if the price of the financial instrument decreases between those dates.

As a purchaser of put options, the Equity Trust pays a premium for the right to sell to the seller of the put option the underlying security at a specified price. The seller of the put has the obligation to purchase the underlying security upon exercise at the exercise price. If the price of the underlying security declines, the Equity Trust would realize a gain upon sale or exercise. If the price of the underlying security increases, the Equity Trust would realize a loss upon sale or at expiration date, but only to the extent of the premium paid.

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

The option activity for Equity Trust for the six months ended June 30, 2001 was as follows:

	NUMBER OF CONTRACTS	PREMIUMS
	-----	-----
Call options outstanding at December 31, 2000 .....	250	\$417,375
Call options written during the period .....	--	--
Call options expired during the period .....	--	--
Call options closed during the period .....	(250)	(417,375)
	----	-----
Call options outstanding at June 30, 2001 .....	--	\$ --
	====	=====

FUTURES CONTRACTS. The Equity Trust may engage in futures contracts for the purpose of hedging against changes in the value of its portfolio securities and in the value of securities it intends to purchase. Such investments will only be made if they are economically appropriate to the reduction of risks involved in the management of the Equity Trust's investments. Upon entering into a futures contract, the Equity Trust is required to deposit with the broker an amount of cash or cash equivalents equal to a certain percentage of the contract amount. This is known as the "initial margin." Subsequent payments ("variation margin") are made or received by the Equity Trust each day, depending on the daily fluctuation of the value of the \_\_\_ contract. \_\_\_ The daily \_\_\_ changes in the contract are included in \_\_\_ unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investments and futures contracts. The Equity Trust recognizes a realized gain or loss when the contract is closed.

There are several risks in connection with the use of futures contracts as a hedging device. The change in value of futures contracts primarily corresponds with the value of their underlying instruments, which may not correlate with the change in value of the hedged investments. In addition, there is the risk the Equity Trust may not be able to enter into a closing transaction because of an illiquid secondary market.

FORWARD FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTRACTS. The Equity Trust may engage in forward foreign exchange contracts for hedging a specific transaction with respect to either the currency in which the transaction is denominated or another currency as deemed appropriate by the Adviser. Forward foreign exchange contracts are valued at the forward rate and are marked-to-market daily. The change in market value is included in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investments and foreign currency transactions. When the contract is closed, the Equity Trust records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the value of the contract at the time it was opened and the value at the time it was closed.

26

THE GABELLI EQUITYTRUST INC.  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) (UNAUDITED)

The use of forward foreign exchange contracts does not eliminate fluctuations in the underlying prices of the Equity Trust's portfolio securities, but it does establish a rate of exchange that can be achieved in the future. Although forward foreign exchange contracts limit the risk of loss due to a decline in the value of the hedged currency, they also limit any potential gain/(loss) that might result should the value of the currency increase. In addition, the Equity Trust could be exposed to risks if the counterparties to the contracts are unable to meet the terms of their contracts.

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION. The books and records of the Equity Trust are maintained in United States (U.S.) dollars. Foreign currencies, investments and other assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rates prevailing at the end of the period, and purchases and sales of investment securities, income and expenses are translated at the exchange rate prevailing on the respective dates of such transactions. Unrealized gains and losses, which result from changes in foreign exchange rates and/or changes in market prices of securities, have been included in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investments and foreign currency transactions. Net realized foreign currency gains and losses resulting from changes in exchange rates include foreign currency gains and losses between trade date and settlement date on investment securities transactions, foreign currency transactions and the difference between the amounts of interest and dividends recorded on the books of the Equity Trust and the amounts actually received. The portion of foreign currency gains and losses related to fluctuation in exchange rates between the initial trade date and subsequent sale trade date is included in realized gain/(loss) on investments.

SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS AND INVESTMENT INCOME. Securities transactions are accounted for as of the trade date with realized gain or loss on investments determined by using the identified cost method. Interest income (including amortization of premium and accretion of discount) is recorded as earned. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date.

DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS TO SHAREHOLDERS. Distributions to shareholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Income distributions and capital gain distributions are determined in accordance with income tax regulations which may differ from generally accepted accounting principles. These differences are primarily due to differing treatments of income and gains on various investment securities held by the Equity Trust, timing differences and differing characterization of distributions made by the Equity Trust. Distributions to shareholders of the Equity Trust's 7.25% Tax Advantaged Cumulative Preferred Stock and 7.20% Tax Advantaged Series B Cumulative Preferred Stock ("Cumulative Preferred Stock") are accrued on a daily basis and are determined as described in Note 5.

PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES. The Equity Trust intends to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. As a result, a Federal income tax provision is not required.

Dividends and interest from non-U.S. sources received by the Equity Trust are generally subject to non-U.S. withholding taxes at rates ranging up to 30%. Such withholding taxes may be reduced or eliminated under the terms of applicable U.S. income tax treaties, and the Equity Trust intends to undertake any procedural steps required to claim the benefits of such treaties. If the value of more than 50% of the Equity Trust's total net assets at the close of any taxable year consists of stocks or securities of non-U.S. corporations, the Equity Trust is permitted and may elect to treat any non-U.S. taxes paid by it as paid by its shareholders.

3. AGREEMENTS AND TRANSACTIONS WITH AFFILIATES. The Equity Trust has entered into an investment advisory agreement (the "Advisory Agreement") with the Adviser which provides that the Equity Trust will pay the Adviser a fee, computed weekly and paid monthly, equal on an annual basis to 1.00% of the value of the Equity Trust's average weekly net assets.

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

### THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC. NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) (UNAUDITED)

In accordance with the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser provides a continuous investment program for the Equity Trust's portfolio and oversees the administration of all aspects of the Equity Trust's business and affairs. The Adviser has agreed to reduce the management fee on the incremental assets attributable to the Cumulative Preferred Stock if the total return of the net asset value of the common shares of the Equity Trust, including distributions and advisory fee subject to reduction, does not exceed the stated dividend rate of the Cumulative Preferred Stock. For the six months ended June 30, 2001, the Equity Trust's total return on the net asset value of the common shares did not exceed the stated dividend rate of the Cumulative Preferred Stock. Thus, such management fees were not earned on the incremental assets.

During the six months ended June 30, 2001, Gabelli & Company, Inc. and its affiliates received \$205,981 in brokerage commissions as a result of executing agency transactions in portfolio securities on behalf of the Equity Trust.

4. PORTFOLIO SECURITIES. Cost of purchases and proceeds from sales of securities, other than short-term securities, for the six months ended June 30, 2001 aggregated \$123,070,523 and \$104,931,950, respectively.

5. CAPITAL. The Articles of Incorporation, dated May 19, 1986, permit the Equity Trust to issue 184,000,000 shares of common stock (par value \$0.001). The Board of Directors of the Equity Trust has authorized the repurchase of its shares on the open market when the shares are trading at a discount of 10% or more (or such other percentage as the Board of Directors may determine from time to time) from the net asset value of the shares. During the six months ended June 30, 2001, the Equity Trust did not repurchase any shares of its common stock in the open market.

Transactions in capital stock were as follows:

	SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2001 (UNAUDITED)		
	Shares	Amount	Sh
Shares issued in rights offering .....	18,114,735	\$126,303,145	
Shares issued upon reinvestment of dividends and distributions .....	817,178	8,588,558	1,31
Net increase .....	18,931,913	\$134,891,703	1,31

The Equity Trust's Articles of Incorporation, as amended, authorize the issuance of up to 16,000,000 shares of \$0.001 par value Cumulative Preferred Stock. On June 20, 2001, the Equity Trust received net proceeds of \$159,329,175 (after underwriting discounts of \$5,197,500 and estimated offering expenses of \$473,325) from the public offering of 6,600,000 shares of 7.20% Cumulative Preferred Stock. The Cumulative Preferred Stock is senior to the common stock and results in the financial leveraging of the common stock. Such leveraging tends to magnify both the risks and opportunities to Common Shareholders. Dividends on shares of the Cumulative Preferred Stock are cumulative. The Equity Trust is required to meet certain asset coverage tests with respect to the



## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

Cumulative Preferred Stock. If the Equity Trust fails to meet these requirements and does not correct such failure, the Equity Trust may be required to redeem, in part or in full, the Cumulative Preferred Stock at a redemption price of \$25.00 per share plus an amount equal to the accumulated and unpaid dividends whether or not declared on such shares in order to meet these requirements. Additionally, failure to meet the foregoing asset requirements could restrict the Equity Trust's ability to pay dividends to Common Shareholders and could lead to sales of portfolio securities at inopportune times. Commencing June 9, 2003 and thereafter, the Equity Trust, at its option, may redeem the 7.25% Cumulative Preferred Stock in whole or in part at the redemption price. During the six

28

### THE GABELLI EQUITYTRUST INC. NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) (UNAUDITED)

months ended June 30, 2001, the Equity Trust repurchased 1,000 shares of 7.25% Cumulative Preferred Stock at a cost of \$24,870 and an average price of \$24.87 per share. During the year ended December 31, 2000, the Equity Trust repurchased 17,500 shares of 7.25% Cumulative Preferred Stock at a cost of \$394,388 and at an average price of \$22.54 per share. At June 30, 2001, 5,367,900 shares of the 7.25% Cumulative Preferred Stock were outstanding at the fixed dividend rate of 7.25 percent per share and accrued dividends amounted to \$135,129. Commencing June 20, 2006 and thereafter, the Equity Trust, at its option, may redeem the 7.20% Cumulative Preferred Stock in whole or in part at the redemption price. During the six months ended June 30, 2001, the Equity Trust did not repurchase any shares of 7.20% Cumulative Preferred Stock. At June 30, 2001, 6,600,000 shares of the 7.20% Cumulative Preferred Stock were outstanding at the fixed rate of 7.20 percent per share and accrued dividends amounted to \$330,000. The income received on the Equity Trust's assets may vary in a manner unrelated to the fixed rate, which could have either a beneficial or detrimental impact on net investment income and gains available to Common Shareholders.

The holders of Cumulative Preferred Stock have voting rights equivalent to those of the holders of common stock (one vote per share) and will vote together with holders of shares of common stock as a single class. In addition, the 1940 Act requires that along with approval of a majority of the holders of common stock, approval of a majority of the holders of any outstanding shares of Cumulative Preferred Stock, voting separately as a class, would be required to (a) adopt any plan of reorganization that would adversely affect the Cumulative Preferred Stock, and (b) take any action requiring a vote of security holders, including, among other things, changes in the Trust's subclassification as a closed-end investment company or changes in its fundamental investment restrictions.

6. RIGHTS OFFERING. On January 10, 2001, the Equity Trust distributed one transferable right for each of the 108,688,408 common shares outstanding to shareholders of record on that date. Six rights were required to purchase one additional common share at the subscription price of \$7.00 per share. The subscription period expired on February 13, 2001. The rights offering was fully subscribed resulting in the issuance of 18,114,735 common shares and proceeds of \$126,803,145 to the Equity Trust, prior to the deduction of estimated expenses of \$500,000. The net asset value per share of the Equity Trust common shareholders was reduced by approximately \$0.56 per share as a result of the issuance.

29

# Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

## THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC. FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

SELECTED DATA FOR AN EQUITY TRUST COMMON SHARE OUTSTANDING THROUGHOUT EACH PERIOD: OPERATING PERFORMANCE:	SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2001 (A) (UNAUDITED)	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER		
		2000 (A)	1999 (A)	1998 (A)
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$ 10.89	\$ 12.75	\$ 11.47	\$ 11.47
Net investment income	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.16	(0.51)	3.25	1.16
Total from investment operations	0.20	(0.46)	3.29	1.25
Decrease in net asset value from EquityTrust share transactions	(0.56)	--	--	--
Offering expenses charged to capital surplus	(0.05)	--	--	(0.05)
DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON STOCK SHAREHOLDERS:				
Net investment income	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.03) (b)	(0.03)
In excess of net investment income	--	--	--	--
Net realized gain on investments	(0.27)	(1.25)	(1.21) (b)	(1.21)
In excess of net realized gain on investments	(0.23)	(0.02)	--	--
Paid-in capital	--	--	(0.68) (b)	--
DISTRIBUTIONS TO PREFERRED STOCK SHAREHOLDERS:				
Net investment income	(0.00) (c)	(0.00) (c)	(0.00) (c)	(0.00)
Net realized gain on investments	(0.04)	(0.09)	(0.09)	(0.09)
Total distributions	(0.58)	(1.40)	(2.01)	(1.09)
NET ASSET VALUE, END OF PERIOD	\$ 9.90	\$ 10.89	\$ 12.75	\$ 11.47
Net asset value total return+	0.73%	(4.39)%	29.49%	9.91%
Market value, end of period	\$ 11.48	\$ 11.44	\$ 12.56	\$ 11.47
Total investment return++	11.21%	1.91%	26.57%	9.91%
RATIOS TO AVERAGE NET ASSETS AVAILABLE TO COMMON STOCK SHAREHOLDERS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:				
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$1,563,112	\$1,318,263	\$1,503,641	\$1,352,100
Net assets attributable to common shares, end of period (in 000's)	\$1,263,914	\$1,184,041	\$1,368,981	\$1,217,100
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets attributable to common stock	0.73% (f)	0.42%	0.34%	0.34%
Ratio of operating expenses to average net assets attributable to common stock	1.10% (f)	1.14%	1.27%	1.27%
Ratio of operating expenses to average total net assets (e)	0.99% (f)	1.03%	1.15%	1.15%
Portfolio turnover rate	8.3%	32.1%	38.0%	39.0%
7.25% CUMULATIVE PREFERRED STOCK:				
Liquidation value, end of period (in 000's)	\$ 134,198	\$ 134,223	\$ 134,660	\$ 135,000
Total shares outstanding (in 000's)	5,368	5,369	5,386	5,400
Asset coverage	523%	972%	1,117%	1,000%
Liquidation preference per share	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Average market value (d)	\$ 25.23	\$ 22.62	\$ 24.43	\$ 25.00

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

### 7.20% CUMULATIVE PREFERRED STOCK:

Liquidation value, end of period (in 000's)	\$ 165,000	--	--
Total shares outstanding (in 000's)	6,600	--	--
Asset coverage	523%	--	--
Liquidation preference per share	\$ 25.00	--	--
Average market value (d)	\$ 25.09	--	--

- 
- + Based on net asset value per share, adjusted for reinvestment of distributions, including the effect of shares issued pursuant to rights offering, assuming full subscription by shareholder. Total return for the period of less than one year is not annualized.
  - ++ Based on market value per share, adjusted for reinvestment of distributions, including the effect of shares issued pursuant to rights offering, assuming full subscription by shareholder. Total return for the period of less than one year is not annualized.
  - (a) Per share amounts have been calculated using the monthly average shares outstanding method.
  - (b) A distribution equivalent to \$0.75 per share for The Gabelli Utility Trust spin-off from net investment income, realized short-term gains, realized long-term gains, and paid-in-capital were \$0.01029, \$0.07453, \$0.34218 and \$0.32300, respectively.
  - (c) Amount represents less than \$0.005 per share.
  - (d) Based on weekly prices.
  - (e) Amounts are attributable to both common and preferred stock assets. Prior to 1998, there was no preferred stock outstanding.
  - (f) Annualized.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

30

### AUTOMATIC DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT AND VOLUNTARY CASH PURCHASE PLAN

#### ENROLLMENT IN THE PLAN

It is the policy of The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc. ("Equity Trust") to automatically reinvest dividends. As a "registered" shareholder you automatically become a participant in the Equity Trust's Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the "Plan"). The Plan authorizes the Equity Trust to issue shares to participants upon an income dividend or a capital gains distribution regardless of whether the shares are trading at a discount or a premium to net asset value. All distributions to shareholders whose shares are registered in their own names will be automatically reinvested pursuant to the Plan in additional shares of the Equity Trust. Plan participants may send their stock certificates to State Street Bank and Trust Company ("State Street") to be held in their dividend reinvestment account. Registered shareholders wishing to receive their distribution in cash must submit this request in writing to:

The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.  
c/o State Street Bank and Trust Company  
P.O. Box 8200  
Boston, MA 02266-8200

Shareholders requesting this cash election must include the shareholder's name and address as they appear on the share certificate. Shareholders with additional questions regarding the Plan may contact State Street at 1 (800) 336-6983.

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

SHAREHOLDERS WISHING TO LIQUIDATE REINVESTED SHARES held at State Street Bank must do so in writing or by telephone. Please submit your request to the above mentioned address or telephone number. Include in your request your name, address and account number. The cost to liquidate shares is \$2.50 per transaction as well as the brokerage commission incurred. Brokerage charges are expected to be less than the usual brokerage charge for such transactions.

If your shares are held in the name of a broker, bank or nominee, you should contact such institution. If such institution is not participating in the Plan, your account will be credited with a cash dividend. In order to participate in the Plan through such institution, it may be necessary for you to have your shares taken out of "street name" and re-registered in your own name. Once registered in your own name your dividends will be automatically reinvested. Certain brokers participate in the Plan. Shareholders holding shares in "street name" at participating institutions will have dividends automatically reinvested. Shareholders wishing a cash dividend at such institution must contact their broker to make this change.

The number of shares of Common Stock distributed to participants in the Plan in lieu of cash dividends is determined in the following manner. Under the Plan, whenever the market price of the Equity Trust's Common Stock is equal to or exceeds net asset value at the time shares are valued for purposes of determining the number of shares equivalent to the cash dividends or capital gains distribution, participants are issued shares of Common Stock valued at the greater of (i) the net asset value as most recently determined or (ii) 95% of the then current market price of the Equity Trust's Common Stock. The valuation date is the dividend or distribution payment date or, if that date is not a New York Stock Exchange trading day, the next trading day. If the net asset value of the Common Stock at the time of valuation exceeds the market price of the Common Stock, participants will receive shares from the Equity Trust valued at market price. If the Equity Trust should declare a dividend or capital gains distribution payable only in cash, State Street will buy Common Stock in the open market, or on the New York Stock Exchange or elsewhere, for the participants' accounts, except that State Street will endeavor to terminate purchases in the open market and cause the Equity Trust to issue shares at net asset value if, following the commencement of such purchases, the market value of the Common Stock exceeds the then current net asset value.

31

The automatic reinvestment of dividends and capital gains distributions will not relieve participants of any income tax which may be payable on such distributions. A participant in the Plan will be treated for Federal income tax purposes as having received, on a dividend payment date, a dividend or distribution in an amount equal to the cash the participant could have received instead of shares.

The Equity Trust reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan as applied to any voluntary cash payments made and any dividend or distribution paid subsequent to written notice of the change sent to the members of the Plan at least 90 days before the record date for such dividend or distribution. The Plan also may be amended or terminated by State Street on at least 90 days' written notice to participants in the Plan.

### VOLUNTARY CASH PURCHASE PLAN

The Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan is yet another vehicle for our shareholders to increase their investment in the Equity Trust. In order to

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

participate in the Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan, shareholders must have their shares registered in their own name.

Participants in the Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan have the option of making additional cash payments to State Street for investments in the Equity Trust's shares at the then current market price. Shareholders may send an amount from \$250 to \$10,000. State Street will use these funds to purchase shares in the open market on or about the 15th of each month. State Street will charge each shareholder who participates \$0.75, plus a pro rata share of the brokerage commissions. Brokerage charges for such purchases are expected to be less than the usual brokerage charge for such transactions. It is suggested that any voluntary cash payments be sent to State Street Bank and Trust Company, P.O. Box 8200, Boston, MA 02266-8200 such that State Street receives such payments approximately 10 days before the 15th of the month. Funds not received at least five days before the investment date shall be held for investment in the following month. A payment may be withdrawn without charge if notice is received by State Street at least 48 hours before such payment is to be invested.

For more information regarding the Dividend Reinvestment Plan and Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan, brochures are available by calling (914) 921-5070 or by writing directly to the Equity Trust.

32

### DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.  
ONE CORPORATE CENTER, RYE, NY 10580-1434

#### DIRECTORS

Mario J. Gabelli, CFA  
CHAIRMAN & CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER,  
GABELLI ASSET MANAGEMENT INC.

Dr. Thomas E. Bratter  
PRESIDENT, JOHN DEWEY ACADEMY

Anthony J. Colavita  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,  
ANTHONY J. COLAVITA, P.C.

James P. Conn  
FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER,  
FINANCIAL SECURITY ASSURANCE HOLDINGS LTD.

Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.  
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION

Karl Otto Pohl  
FORMER PRESIDENT, DEUTSCHE BUNDESBANK

Anthony R. Pustorino  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT,  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PACE UNIVERSITY

Salvatore J. Zizza  
CHAIRMAN, HALLMARK ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES CORP.

# Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

## OFFICERS

Mario J. Gabelli, CFA  
PRESIDENT & CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER

Bruce N. Alpert  
VICE PRESIDENT & TREASURER

Carter W. Austin  
VICE PRESIDENT

James E. McKee  
SECRETARY

## INVESTMENT ADVISOR

Gabelli Funds, LLC  
One Corporate Center  
Rye, New York 10580-1434

## CUSTODIAN

Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company

## COUNSEL

Willkie Farr & Gallagher

## TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

State Street Bank and Trust Company

## STOCK EXCHANGE LISTING

	COMMON	7.25% PREFERRED	7.20% PREFERRED
	-----	-----	-----
NYSE-			
Symbol:	GAB	GAB Pr	GAB PrB
Shares			
Outstanding:	127,620,323	5,367,900	6,600,000

The Net Asset Value appears in the Publicly Traded Funds column, under the heading "General Equity Funds," in Sunday's The New York Times and in Monday's The Wall Street Journal. It is also listed in Barron's Mutual Funds/Closed End Funds section under the heading "General Equity Funds".

The Net Asset Value may be obtained each day by calling (914) 921-5071.

For general information about the Gabelli Funds, call 1-800-GABELLI (1-800-422-3554), fax us at 914-921-5118, visit Gabelli Funds' Internet homepage at: [HTTP://WWW.GABELLI.COM](http://WWW.GABELLI.COM) or e-mail us at: [closedend@gabelli.com](mailto:closedend@gabelli.com)

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 23(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, that the Equity Trust may, from time to time,

## Edgar Filing: GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC - Form N-30D

purchase shares of its common stock in the open market when the Equity Trust shares are trading at a discount of 10% or more from the net asset value of the shares. The Equity Trust may also, from time to time, purchase shares of its Cumulative Preferred Stock in the open market when the shares are trading at a discount to the Liquidation Value of \$25.00.

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.  
ONE CORPORATE CENTER  
RYE, NY 10580-1434  
(914) 921-5070  
[HTTP://WWW.GABELLI.COM](http://www.gabelli.com)

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT  
JUNE 30, 2001

GBFCM 06/01