

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

**FORM 485BPOS**

Post-effective amendments [Rule 485(b)]

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**FILER**

**DEFINED ASSET FUNDS MUNICIPAL INVT TR FD MON PYMT SER 172**

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Business Address  
450 LEXINGTON AVENUE  
C/O DAVIS POLK &  
WARDWELL  
NEW YORK NY 10017

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 10  
TO  
FORM S-6

FOR REGISTRATION UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT  
OF 1933 OF SECURITIES OF UNIT INVESTMENT  
TRUSTS REGISTERED ON FORM N-8B-2

A. EXACT NAME OF TRUST:

DEFINED ASSET FUNDS--  
MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT TRUST FUND  
MONTHLY PAYMENT SERIES--172

B. NAMES OF DEPOSITORS:

MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED  
SMITH BARNEY SHEARSON INC.  
PRUDENTIAL SECURITIES INCORPORATED  
DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS INC.

C. COMPLETE ADDRESSES OF DEPOSITORS' PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES:

MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH  
INCORPORATED  
UNIT INVESTMENT TRUSTS  
POST OFFICE BOX 9051  
PRINCETON, N.J. 08543-9051

SMITH BARNEY SHEARSON INC.  
TWO WORLD TRADE CENTER  
101ST FLOOR  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10048

PRUDENTIAL SECURITIES INCORPORATED  
ONE SEAPORT PLAZA  
199 WATER STREET

DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS INC.  
TWO WORLD TRADE CENTER--69TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10048

D. NAMES AND COMPLETE ADDRESSES OF AGENTS FOR SERVICE:

TERESA KONCICK, ESQ.  
P.O. BOX 9051  
PRINCETON, N.J.  
08543-9051

THOMAS D. HARMAN, ESQ.  
388 GREENWICH ST.  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013

LEE B. SPENCER, JR.  
ONE SEAPORT PLAZA  
199 WATER STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10292

PHILIP BECKER  
130 LIBERTY STREET--29TH  
FLOOR  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10006

COPIES TO:  
PIERRE DE SAINT PHALLE,  
ESQ.  
450 LEXINGTON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

The issuer hereby revokes its registration of an indefinite number of Units under the Securities Act of 1933 pursuant to Rule 24f-2.

Check box if it is proposed that this filing will become effective immediately upon filing pursuant to paragraph (b) of Rule 485. R

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DEFINED ASSET FUNDS--  
MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT TRUST FUND  
CONTENTS OF REGISTRATION STATEMENT

This Post-Effective Amendment to the Registration Statement on Form S-6 comprises the following papers and documents:

The facing sheet of Form S-6.

The cross-reference sheet (incorporated by reference to the Cross-Reference Sheet to Post-Effective Amendment No. 4 to the Registration Statement on Form S-6 of Municipal Investment Trust Fund, One Hundred Sixty-Sixth Monthly Payment Series, 1933 Act File No. 2-70983).

The Signatures.

R-1

DEFINED ASSET FUNDS--  
MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT TRUST FUND  
MONTHLY PAYMENT SERIES--172

SIGNATURES

PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, THE REGISTRANT, DEFINED ASSET FUNDS--MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT TRUST FUND, MONTHLY PAYMENT SERIES--172, CERTIFIES THAT IT MEETS ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO RULE 485(B) UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 AND HAS DULY CAUSED THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT OR AMENDMENT TO THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT TO BE SIGNED ON ITS BEHALF BY THE UNDERSIGNED THEREUNTO DULY AUTHORIZED IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK AND STATE OF NEW YORK ON THE 2ND DAY OF MARCH, 1994.

SIGNATURES APPEAR ON PAGES R-3, R-4, R-5 AND R-6.

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated has signed this Registration Statement or Amendment to the Registration Statement pursuant to Powers of Attorney authorizing the person signing this Registration Statement or Amendment to the Registration Statement to do so on behalf of such members.

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors of Smith Barney Shearson Inc. has signed this Registration Statement or Amendment to the Registration Statement pursuant to Powers of Attorney authorizing the person signing this Registration Statement or Amendment to the Registration Statement to do so on behalf of such members.

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors of Prudential Securities Incorporated has signed this Registration Statement or Amendment to the Registration Statement pursuant to Powers of Attorney authorizing the person signing this Registration Statement or Amendment to the Registration Statement to do so on behalf of such members.

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors of Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. has signed this Registration Statement or Amendment to the Registration Statement pursuant to Powers of Attorney authorizing the person signing this Registration Statement or Amendment to the Registration Statement to do so on behalf of such members.

R-2

MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED  
DEPOSITOR

By the following persons, who constitute a majority of the Board of Directors of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated:

Powers of Attorney  
have been filed  
under  
Form SE and the  
following 1933 Act  
File  
Number: 33-43466

HERBERT M. ALLISON, JR.

BARRY S. FREIDBERG  
EDWARD L. GOLDBERG  
STEPHEN L. HAMMERMAN  
JEROME P. KENNEY  
DAVID H. KOMANSKY  
DANIEL T. NAPOLI  
THOMAS H. PATRICK  
JOHN L. STEFFENS  
DANIEL P. TULLY  
ROGER M. VASEY  
ARTHUR H. ZEIKEL  
By ERNEST V. FABIO

(As authorized signatory for Merrill Lynch, Pierce,  
Fenner & Smith Incorporated and  
Attorney-in-fact for the persons listed above)

R-3

PRUDENTIAL SECURITIES INCORPORATED  
DEPOSITOR

By the following persons, who constitute a majority of  
the Board of Directors of  
Prudential Securities Incorporated:

Powers of Attorney  
have been filed  
under Form SE and  
the following 1933  
Act File Number:  
33-41631

JAMES T. GAHAN  
ALAN D. HOGAN  
HOWARD A. KNIGHT  
GEORGE A. MURRAY  
LELAND B. PATON  
HARDWICK SIMMONS  
By RICHARD R. HOFFMANN

(As authorized signatory for Prudential Securities  
Incorporated and Attorney-in-fact for the persons listed above)

R-4

SMITH BARNEY SHEARSON INC.  
DEPOSITOR

By the following persons, who constitute a majority of  
the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of  
Smith Barney Shearson Inc.:

Powers of Attorney  
have been filed  
under Form SE and  
the following 1933  
Act File Number:  
33-49753

RONALD A. ARTINIAN  
STEVEN D. BLACK  
JAMES DIMON  
ROBERT DRUSKIN  
TONI ELLIOTT  
LEWIS GLUCKSMAN  
THOMAS GUBA  
JOHN B. HOFFMAN  
A. RICHARD JANIAK, JR.  
ROBERT Q. JONES  
JEFFREY LANE  
JACK H. LEHMAN III  
JOEL N. LEVY  
HOWARD D. MARSH  
WILLIAM J. MILLS II  
JOHN C. MORRIS  
A. GEORGE SAKS  
BRUCE D. SARGENT  
MELVIN B. TAUB  
JACQUES S. THERIOT  
STEPHEN J. TREADWAY  
PAUL UNDERWOOD

By GINA LEMON  
(As authorized signatory for  
Smith Barney Shearson Inc. and  
Attorney-in-fact for the persons listed above)

R-5

DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS INC.  
DEPOSITOR

By the following persons, who constitute a majority of  
the Board of Directors of Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.:

Powers of Attorney  
have been filed  
under Form SE and  
the following 1933  
Act File Number:  
33-17085

NANCY DONOVAN  
CHARLES A. FIUMEFREDDO  
JAMES F. HIGGINS  
STEPHEN R. MILLER  
PHILIP J. PURCELL  
THOMAS C. SCHNEIDER  
WILLIAM B. SMITH

By MICHAEL D. BROWNE  
(As authorized signatory for Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.  
and Attorney-in-fact for the persons listed above)

