

INVESTMENT OVERVIEW

The Fund seeks high current income and total return by investing primarily in high yield corporate bonds and other U.S. dollar denominated debt instruments of U.S. and non-U.S. issuers, with up to 100% of assets invested in securities rated below investment grade. A sound, transparent, and repeatable process leverages competitive advantages and aims to capture upside potential while limiting downside risk.

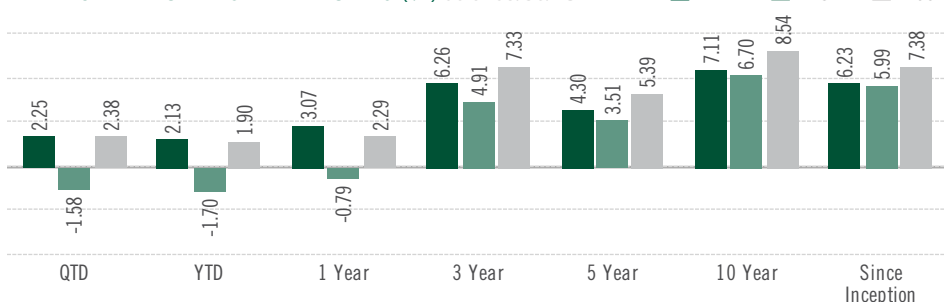
KEY FEATURES

Higher Quality High Yield — Emphasizes BB- and B-rated corporate bonds; seeks to invest in what are believed to be the healthiest and most undervalued credits in the non-investment grade space, identified through extensive bottom-up fundamental credit research

Diversification — High yield bonds may offer minimal correlation to investment grade fixed income sectors and only modest correlation to equities

Risk Management — Strict focus on bottom-up credit research, controls around portfolio construction, sell discipline, and trading strategy in an effort to mitigate downside exposure

AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS (%) as of 09/30/18



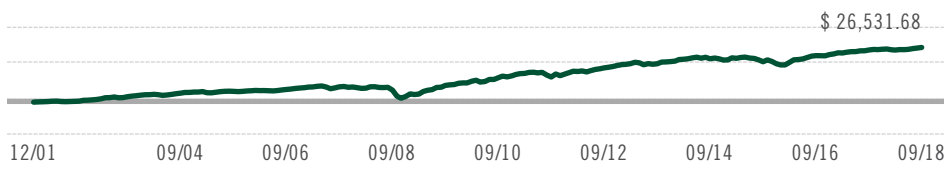
Performance data quoted represents past results. Past performance is no guarantee of future results and current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate, so your shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Please visit Virtus.com for performance data current to the most recent month-end.

The fund class gross expense ratio is 1.00%. The net expense ratio is 0.83%, which reflects a contractual expense reimbursement in effect through 7/31/2019. This ratio reflects the direct and indirect expenses paid by the Fund. The net expense ratio minus the indirect expenses incurred by the underlying funds in which the Fund invests is 0.82%. Average annual total return is the annual compound return for the indicated period and reflects the change in share price and the reinvestment of all dividends and capital gains. Returns for periods of one year or less are cumulative returns. Class A shares have a maximum sales charge of 3.75%. A contingent deferred sales charge of 0.50% may be imposed on certain redemptions within 18 months on purchases on which a finder's fee has been paid. POP (Public Offering Price) performance reflects the deduction of the maximum sales charge.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE (%)

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Fund	6.84	13.10	-5.04	2.14	5.55	14.95	2.91	14.72	35.66	-20.32
Index	6.98	14.72	-2.79	3.49	6.31	14.58	5.40	14.26	46.06	-23.31

GROWTH OF \$10,000



This chart assumes an initial investment of \$10,000 made on 12/21/2001. As of 9/28/2018 the fund value would have been \$26,531.68. Fund performance assumes reinvestment of dividends and capital gain distributions and reflects a front end sales charge of 3.75%.

FUND INFORMATION

	Ticker	CUSIP
A Shares	HYPSX	92837F698
I Shares	SAMHX	92837F672
R Shares	HYLSX	92837F680
R6 Shares	HYIZX	92837F664

Inception Date	12/21/01
AUM (\$ millions)	340.5
Number of Holdings	284
Dividends	Daily
Morningstar Category	High Yield Bond
Lipper Category	High Yield Funds
Index	ICE BofAML US High Yield BB-B Constrained Index

MORNINGSTAR RATINGS

Time Period	# of Stars	# of Funds
Overall	★★★	592
3 Year	★★★	592
5 Year	★★★	502
10 Year	★★★	331

Strong ratings are not indicative of positive fund performance.

INVESTMENT ADVISER

Virtus Fund Advisers, LLC

INVESTMENT SUBADVISER



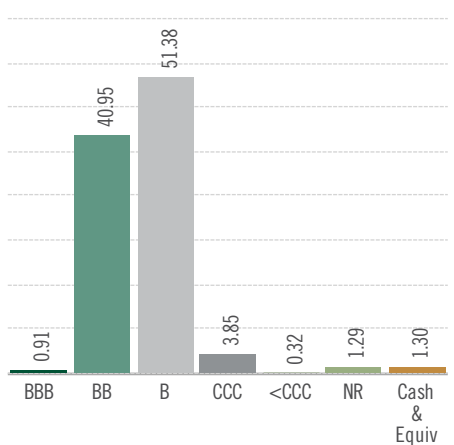
Seix Investment Advisors is an investment management boutique focused exclusively on managing fixed income securities since 1992. Seix seeks to generate competitive absolute and relative risk-adjusted returns over the full market cycle through a bottom-up focused, top-down aware process. Seix employs multi-dimensional approaches based on strict portfolio construction methodology, sell disciplines and trading strategies with prudent risk management as a cornerstone.

PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

Michael Kirkpatrick
Industry start date: 1991
Start date with Fund: 2007

James FitzPatrick, CFA
Industry start date: 1996
Start date with Fund: 2013

RATINGS DISTRIBUTION



CHARACTERISTICS

	Fund
Effective Duration	3.60
Weighted Average Maturity	6.27
SEC Yield ¹	5.10

¹ SEC Yield (Class A share only) represents net investment income earned by a fund over a 30-day period, expressed as an annual percentage rate based on the fund's share price at the end of the 30-day period. Performance figures represent a partial waiver/reimbursement of fees where applicable. Without the partial waiver/reimbursement of fees, performance figures would be lower and the SEC Yield would have been: 4.89%.

TOP TEN HOLDINGS

	% Fund
Chesapeake Energy Corp, 8.0000% 12/15/2022	1.14
Rowan Cos Inc, 4.8750% 06/01/2022	1.11
Hilcorp Energy I LP / Hilcorp Finance Co, 5.7500% 10/01/2025	1.08
CSC Holdings LLC, 10.8750% 10/15/2025	1.08
Quicken Loans Inc, 5.7500% 05/01/2025	0.97
Howard Hughes Corp/The, 5.3750% 03/15/2025	0.94
1011778 BC ULC / New Red Finance Inc, 5.0000% 10/15/2025	0.85
CCO Holdings LLC / CCO Holdings Capital Corp, 5.7500% 02/15/2026	0.82
Nationstar Mortgage Holdings Inc, 9.1250% 07/15/2026	0.79
Range Resources Corp, 5.7500% 06/01/2021	0.77

DISTRIBUTIONS

Month		NAV at Month-End
July 2018	\$0.035427	8.03
August 2018	\$0.041692	8.04
September 2018	\$0.032087	8.06

RISK STATISTICS (3 YEAR)

	Fund	Index
Alpha	-1.20	n/a
Beta	1.03	1.00
R ²	0.95	1.00
Sharpe Ratio	1.20	1.51
Standard Deviation	4.55	4.31

SECTOR ALLOCATIONS

	% Fund
Energy	17.70
Telecom	9.93
Healthcare	9.86
Bank/Finance/Insurance	9.75
Cable & Satellite TV	9.53
Building/Home	5.77
Broadcasting/Diversified Media/Publishing	5.28
Supermarkets/Restaurants/Food/Drug	4.86
Gaming/Leisure/Entertainment	3.60
Steel/Metals	3.12
Environmental/Services	2.94
Automotive/Airlines/Shipping/Rail	2.72
Technology	2.67
Dept Stores/Spec Retail	2.66
Hotels/Lodging/REITs	2.46
Chemicals	1.79
Utilities	1.56
Cash	1.30
Personal & Household Products	0.98
Capital Goods/Aerospace	0.85
Containers/Paper	0.67

Holdings and sector weightings are subject to change.

IMPORTANT RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Credit & Interest: Debt securities are subject to various risks, the most prominent of which are credit and interest rate risk. The issuer of a debt security may fail to make interest and/or principal payments. Values of debt securities may rise or fall in response to changes in interest rates, and this risk may be enhanced with longer-term maturities. **High Yield-High Risk Fixed Income Securities:** There is a greater level of credit risk and price volatility involved with high yield securities than investment grade securities. **Prospectus:** For additional information on risks, please see the fund's prospectus.

GLOSSARY

Effective Duration: The change in the value of a fixed income security that will result from a 1% change in interest rates while taking into account the way changes in rates will affect the expected cash flows of any bond with an embedded option such as call or prepayment option. This measure assigns a probability to the exercise of a call option, where applicable, based on specified shifts in the yield curve. Duration is expressed as a number of years, and generally, the larger the duration, the greater the interest rate risk or reward for a portfolio's underlying bond prices. **Weighted Average Maturity:** The length of time until the average security in a fund will mature, be redeemed by its issuer, or paid down over time, which is the case with most securitized assets. **Alpha:** A risk-adjusted measure of an investment's excess return relative to a benchmark. **Beta:** A quantitative measure of the volatility, or systematic risk, of a security or a portfolio in comparison to the market as a whole. **R²:** A measure that represents the percentage of a fund or security's movements that can be explained by movements in a benchmark index. **Sharpe Ratio:** A risk-adjusted measure calculated using standard deviation and excess return to determine reward per unit of risk. **Standard Deviation:** Measures variability of returns around the average return for an investment portfolio. Higher standard deviation suggests greater risk.

INDEX DEFINITION

Index: The ICE BofAML US High Yield BB-B Constrained Index measures performance of BB/B U.S. dollar denominated corporate bonds publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market, and is restricted to a maximum of 2% per issuer. The index is calculated on a total return basis. The index is unmanaged, its returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges, and is not available for direct investment.

RATINGS DISTRIBUTION METHODOLOGY

The ratings issued by Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations assess the credit worthiness of a corporation's or government's debt issues. The ratings apply to the fund's holdings and not the fund itself. Standard & Poor's, Moody's, and Fitch ratings are used. If all three agencies have rated the security, then the median rating based on numerical equivalents is used. If only two agencies have rated the security, then the lower of the two ratings is used. If only one agency has rated the security, the rating from that agency is used. Credit ratings are subject to change. AAA, AA, A, and BBB are investment grade ratings; BB, B, CCC, CC, C, and D are below-investment grade ratings.

Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or 'star rating,' is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. Ratings do not take into account the effect of sales charges and loads.

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