

**INVESTMENT OVERVIEW**

The Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation through a combination of three distinct small-cap strategies -- quantitative core, quantitative growth, and managed volatility -- in one portfolio. This structure provides investors with access to a diverse range of actively managed investment strategies focused on rapidly growing U.S. small-cap companies.

**KEY FEATURES**

**Complementary Small-Cap Exposure** — Combines investment expertise and styles across three distinct small-cap strategies

**Upside Potential with Risk Mitigation** — Strives to deliver a balance of upside exposure with downside mitigation and lower volatility relative to the benchmark

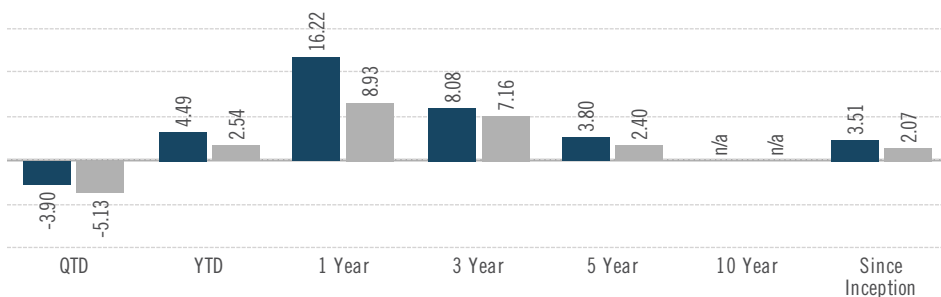
**Diversified, Active Approach** — All three allocations apply active, bottom-up portfolio management tailored to their unique investment styles, resulting in broadly diversified holdings

**FUND INFORMATION**

	<b>Ticker</b>	<b>CUSIP</b>
A Shares	AZBAX	92837N196
C Shares	AZBCX	92837N188
Institutional Shares	AZBIX	92837N147
P Shares	AZBPX	92837N154
R6 Shares	ASCFX	92837N162

Inception Date	08/22/18
AUM (\$ millions)	92.2
Number of Holdings	184
Dividends	Semi-Annually
Morningstar Category	Small Blend
Lipper Category	Small-Cap Growth Funds
Index	Russell 2000® Index

**AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS (%) as of 09/30/2023** ■ Fund Class R6 ■ Index



Performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Please visit [virtus.com](http://virtus.com) for performance data current to the most recent month end. This share class has no sales charges and is not available to all investors. Other share classes have sales charges. See [virtus.com](http://virtus.com) for details.

The fund class gross expense ratio is 0.95%. The net expense ratio is 0.84%, which reflects a contractual expense reimbursement in effect through 10/31/2024. This ratio reflects the direct and indirect expenses paid by the Fund.

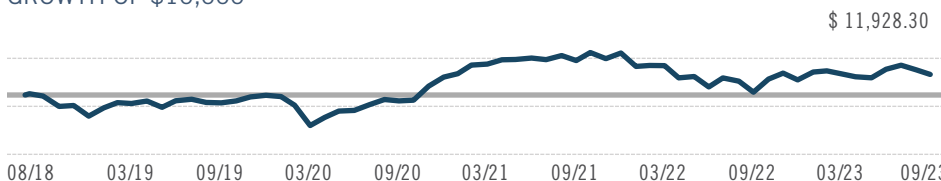
The net expense ratio minus the indirect expenses incurred by the underlying funds in which the Fund invests is 0.77%.

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.

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE (%)**

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Fund</b>	-18.08	19.35	17.09	24.38	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Index</b>	-20.44	14.82	19.96	25.52	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

**GROWTH OF \$10,000**



This chart assumes an initial investment of \$10,000 made on 8/22/2018. As of 9/30/2023 the fund value would have been \$11,928.30. Fund performance assumes reinvestment of dividends and capital gain distributions. This growth reflects no front end sales charges.

**MORNINGSTAR RATINGS**

Time Period	# of Stars	# of Funds
Overall	★★★	595
3 Year	★★	595
5 Year	★★★★	556
10 Year	Not Rated	n/a

Morningstar ratings are based on risk-adjusted returns. Strong ratings are not indicative of positive fund performance.

**INVESTMENT ADVISERS**

Virtus Investment Advisers, Inc.

**INVESTMENT SUBADVISER**



The Virtus Systematic team of Virtus Investment Advisers, Inc. specializes in differentiated investment solutions, strategies, and outcomes across asset classes, regions, and securities.

**PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**

**Kunal Ghosh**

Industry start date: 2003  
Start date as Fund Portfolio Manager: 2013

**Lu Yu, CFA, CIPM**

Industry start date: 2002  
Start date as Fund Portfolio Manager: 2018

**Jie Wei, CFA**

Industry start date: 2005  
Start date as Fund Portfolio Manager: 2022

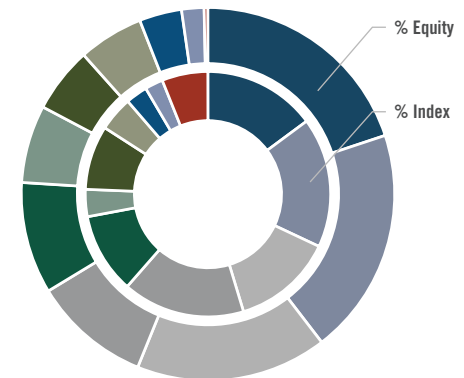
CHARACTERISTICS	Fund	Index
Avg. Weighted Market Cap (bn)	3.97	2.80
Median Market Cap (bn)	2.83	0.83
Trailing P/E Ex-Negative Earnings	11.35	12.44
Price-to-Cash Flow	11.97	11.50
Price-to-Book Value	2.96	2.53
3-Year Earnings Growth Rate	18.66	16.56
5-Year Earnings Growth Rate	19.03	14.90
Active Share	88.00	n/a

RISK STATISTICS (3 YEAR)	Fund	Index
Alpha	1.51	n/a
Beta	0.84	1.00
R <sup>2</sup>	0.94	1.00
Sharpe Ratio	0.33	0.24
Standard Deviation	19.08	22.07

TOP TEN HOLDINGS	% Fund
Applied Industrial Technologies Inc	2.39
Belden Inc	2.05
Axcelis Technologies Inc	1.91
Coca-Cola Consolidated Inc	1.88
Atkore Inc	1.78
Prestige Consumer Healthcare Inc	1.77
Boise Cascade Co	1.70
NextGen Healthcare Inc	1.59
Ryder System Inc	1.58
Alkermes PLC	1.56

Holdings and sector weightings are subject to change.

### SECTOR ALLOCATIONS



SECTOR	% Equity	% Index
Health Care	19.91	14.86
Industrials	19.67	17.15
Information Technology	16.57	13.32
Financials	10.19	16.13
Consumer Discretionary	9.67	10.61
Consumer Staples	6.74	3.59
Energy	5.66	8.47
Materials	5.66	4.56
Utilities	3.68	2.86
Communication Services	1.93	2.40
Real Estate	0.33	6.07

### IMPORTANT RISK CONSIDERATIONS

**Market Volatility:** The value of the securities in the portfolio may go up or down in response to the prospects of individual companies and/or general economic conditions. Local, regional, or global events such as war or military conflict, terrorism, pandemic, or recession could impact the portfolio, including hampering the ability of the portfolio's manager(s) to invest its assets as intended. **Issuer Risk:** The portfolio will be affected by factors specific to the issuers of securities and other instruments in which the portfolio invests, including actual or perceived changes in the financial condition or business prospects of such issuers. **Equity Securities:** The market price of equity securities may be adversely affected by financial market, industry, or issuer-specific events. Focus on a particular style or on small, medium, or large-sized companies may enhance that risk. **Foreign Investing:** Investing in foreign securities subjects the portfolio to additional risks such as increased volatility; currency fluctuations; less liquidity; less publicly available information about the foreign investment; and political, regulatory, economic, and market risk. **Prospectus:** For additional information on risks, please see the fund's prospectus.

### GLOSSARY

**Avg. Weighted Market Cap (bn):** The sum of each security's weight within the fund (or index) multiplied by the security's market capitalization. **Trailing P/E Ex-Negative Earnings:** Per share stock price divided by the latest 12-months earnings per share. **Price-to-Cash Flow:** Per-share stock price divided by the per-share operating cash flow. **Price-to-Book Value:** A ratio used to compare a stock's market value to its book value. **3-Year Earnings Growth Rate:** Average of earnings per share growth for latest 3-year period. **5-Year Earnings Growth Rate:** Average of earnings per share growth for latest 5-year period. **Active Share:** A measure of the percentage of stock holdings in a manager's portfolio that differ from the benchmark index. **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. **R<sup>2</sup>:** 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 Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index is a market capitalization-weighted index of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell Universe, which comprises the 3,000 largest U.S. companies. The index is calculated on a total return basis with dividends reinvested.

Morningstar Rating<sup>™</sup> 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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