

## INVESTMENT OVERVIEW

The Fund seeks attractive long-term competitive returns and to have a positive societal benefit by considering environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) criteria. A disciplined investment process is used to identify high-quality companies considered best-in-class in both ESG practices and financial fundamentals.

## KEY FEATURES

**Sustainability and Robust Growth Potential** — Assessing the quality of a corporation's ESG practices can help identify information not reflected in its stock price, and provide insights into how the company manages its business risk

**Innovative Focus on Fundamentals** — A disciplined, fundamental research process that uses big data and data analytics to uncover differentiated insights into valuations quickly and efficiently helps identify companies with attractive quality characteristics, shareholder yield, and consistent financials

**ESG Expertise** — The Fund's managers assign proprietary ESG scores and sort companies into custom peer groups, utilizing fundamental research to produce an ESG-driven portfolio of 40-60 stocks with attractive valuations and high-quality characteristics

## AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS (%) as of 03/31/2024

	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception
Class INST	1.20	1.20	9.15	4.20	9.61	n/a	8.53
Class A NAV	1.13	1.13	8.83	3.92	9.35	n/a	8.27
Class A POP	-4.43	-4.43	2.85	1.98	8.12	n/a	7.61
Index 1	8.20	8.20	23.22	6.96	10.92	n/a	8.91
Index 2	6.51	6.51	21.24	7.89	11.69	n/a	9.12

## ANNUAL PERFORMANCE (%)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Class INST	19.81	-22.92	23.44	18.87	31.50	-8.27	24.52	4.06	2.08	n/a
Index 1	22.20	-18.36	18.54	16.25	26.60	-9.41	23.97	7.86	-2.36	n/a
Index 2	22.56	-16.04	20.22	14.77	27.11	-8.64	27.17	7.48	-4.40	n/a

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.

**Class INST Shares have no sales charges and are not available to all investors.** The fund class gross expense ratio is 1.11%. The net expense ratio is 0.69%, which reflects a contractual expense reimbursement in effect through 2/1/2025.

**Class A shares have a maximum sales charge of 5.50%. A contingent deferred sales charge of 1% may be imposed on certain redemptions within 18 months on purchases on which a finder's fee has been paid.** The fund class gross expense ratio is 1.45%. The net expense ratio is 0.94%, which reflects a contractual expense reimbursement in effect through 2/1/2025.

**Other share classes may have sales charges. See [virtus.com](http://virtus.com) for details.**

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.

Index 1: The MSCI AC World Index (net) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that measures equity performance of developed and emerging markets. The index is calculated on a total return basis with net dividends reinvested. The index is unmanaged, its returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges, and is not available for direct investment.

Index 2: The Dow Jones Sustainability World Index (net) tracks the performance of the top 10% of the 2,500 largest companies in the S&P Global Broad Market Index that are the world's sustainability leaders based on economic, environmental and social criteria. The index is calculated on a total return basis with net dividends reinvested. The index is unmanaged, its returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges, and is not available for direct investment.

Since inception performance for the indexes reflect a start date of 12/9/2014, the same date as the inception of the Fund's Class INST and Class A Shares.

SHARE CLASSES	Ticker	CUSIP
INST Shares	ASTNX	92838V627
A Shares	ASUAX	92838V650
P Shares	ASTPX	92838V635

## FUND INFORMATION

Inception Date (Class INST)	12/09/14
AUM (\$ millions)	53.0
Number of Holdings	53
Dividends	Semi-Annually
Morningstar Category	Global Large-Stock Blend
Index 1	MSCI AC World Index (net)
Index 2	Dow Jones Sustainability World Index (net)

The Indexes shown represent the Fund's performance indexes, which may differ from the Fund's regulatory index included in its Prospectus.

## MORNINGSTAR RATINGS (CLASS INST)

Time Period	# of Stars	# of Funds
Overall	★★	338
3 Year	★★	338
5 Year	★★	300
10 Year	Not Rated	n/a

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

## INVESTMENT ADVISER

Virtus Investment Advisers, Inc.

## INVESTMENT SUBADVISER



A Virtus Investment Partner

NFJ Investment Group (NFJ) is a global value equity manager with a rich heritage and deep roots in Dallas, Texas, dating to 1989. NFJ is unwavering in its commitment to investing at the intersection of value, quality, and shareholder yield, seeking to identify companies with low market expectations and the strongest prospects for returning capital to shareholders.

## PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

**John R. Mowrey, CFA**  
Industry start date: 2007  
Start date as Fund Portfolio Manager: 2022

**R. Burns McKinney, CFA**  
Industry start date: 1996  
Start date as Fund Portfolio Manager: 2022

**Thomas Oliver, CFA, CPA**  
Industry start date: 1995  
Start date as Fund Portfolio Manager: 2022

**Jeff N. Reed, CFA, FDP**  
Industry start date: 2004  
Start date as Fund Portfolio Manager: 2022

**J. Garth Reilly**  
Industry start date: 2005  
Start date as Fund Portfolio Manager: 2022

CHARACTERISTICS	Fund	Index
Avg. Weighted Market Cap (bn)	86.30	466.67
Median Market Cap (bn)	21.84	6.43
Trailing P/E With Negative Earnings	24.42	21.68
3-Year Earnings Growth Rate	13.75	20.18
5-Year Earnings Growth Rate	13.48	13.76
3-Year Dividend Growth Rate	11.43	10.16
Active Share	95.58	n/a
30-day SEC Yield	1.30	
30-day SEC Yield (unsubsidized)	0.85	

Index: MSCI AC World Index (net)

30-day SEC Yield is a standardized yield calculated according to a formula set by the SEC, and is subject to change.

30-day SEC Yield (unsubsidized) is the 30 day SEC yield without the effect of applicable expense waivers.

RISK STATISTICS (3 YEAR)	Fund	Index
Alpha	-2.99	n/a
Beta	1.22	1.00
R <sup>2</sup>	0.92	1.00
Sharpe Ratio	0.07	0.26
Standard Deviation	20.82	16.39

Index: MSCI AC World Index (net)

TOP TEN HOLDINGS	% Fund
NextEra Energy Inc	4.43
MonotaRO Co Ltd	4.41
Autodesk Inc	3.95
ENN Energy Holdings Ltd	3.69
Edwards Lifesciences Corp	3.55
Alexandria Real Estate Equities Inc	3.34
Segro PLC	3.31
Veeva Systems Inc	3.02
BioMerieux	2.92
Eversource Energy	2.85

REGIONAL ALLOCATION	% Fund	% Index
North America	52.95	66.11
Europe ex-UK	18.96	12.49
EM Asia	10.78	7.93
United Kingdom	9.06	3.43
Japan	8.25	5.52
Pacific ex-Japan	0.00	2.47
EM Latin America	0.00	0.88
EM EU, Middle East and Africa	0.00	1.16

Index: MSCI AC World Index (net)

Holdings and sector weightings are subject to change.

SECTOR ALLOCATION	% Equity	% Index
Information Technology	22.01	23.68
Health Care	19.97	11.14
Utilities	12.08	2.46
Financials	11.66	16.06
Real Estate	10.91	2.20
Industrials	10.20	10.80
Consumer Discretionary	6.08	10.90
Consumer Staples	3.87	6.43
Materials	1.99	4.23
Energy	1.24	4.55
Communication Services	0.00	7.56

Index: MSCI AC World Index (net)

## 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. **Sustainable Investing:** Because the portfolio focuses on investments in companies that the Manager believes exhibit strong environmental, social, and corporate governance records, the portfolio's universe of investments may be smaller than that of other portfolios and broad equity benchmark indices. ESG factors may not be considered for every investment decision and there is no guarantee that the integration of ESG factors will result in better performance. **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 With Negative Earnings:** Per share stock price divided by the latest 12-months earnings per share, including companies that have negative earnings per share over the past 12-months. **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. **3-Year Dividend Growth Rate:** Average of dividends per share growth for latest 3-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.

## MORNINGSTAR

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. © 2024 Morningstar, Inc. All rights reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete, or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Please consider a Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses carefully before investing. For this and other information about any Virtus Fund, contact your financial professional, call 800-243-4361, or visit [virtus.com](http://virtus.com) for a prospectus or summary prospectus. Read it carefully before investing.

**Not FDIC Insured | May Lose Value | Not Bank Guaranteed**

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