

Virtus KAR Small-Cap Core Fund

A: PKSAX

C: PKSCX

I: PKSFX

R6: VSCRX

Before you invest, you may want to review the fund's prospectus, which contains more information about the fund and its risks. You can find the fund's prospectus, statement of additional information (SAI), annual report and other information about the fund online at virtus.com/tools-resources/mutual-fund-documents.

You can also get this information at no cost by calling 800-243-1574 or by sending an e-mail to: virtus.investment.partners@virtus.com. If you purchase shares of the fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary such as a bank, the prospectus and other information will also be available from your financial intermediary.

The fund's prospectus and SAI, both dated January 28, 2019, are incorporated by reference into this Summary Prospectus.

Beginning on January 1, 2021, as permitted by regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, paper copies of the fund's shareholder reports will no longer be sent by mail, unless specifically requested from the fund or from your broker-dealer or financial intermediary. Instead, the reports will be made available on a website, and you will be notified by mail each time a report is posted and provided with a website link to access the report.

You may elect at any time to receive not only shareholder reports but also certain other communications such as prospectuses from the fund electronically, or you may elect to receive all future shareholder reports in paper free of charge. If you own your shares directly with the fund, you may make such elections by calling the fund at 1-800-243-1574 or, with respect to requesting electronic delivery, by visiting www.virtus.com. An election made directly with the fund will apply to all Virtus Mutual Funds in which you own shares directly. If you own your shares through a financial intermediary, please contact your financial intermediary to make your request and to determine whether your election will apply to all funds in which you own shares through that intermediary.

Investment Objective

The fund has an investment objective of long-term capital appreciation, with dividend income a secondary consideration.

Fees and Expenses

The tables below illustrate all fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the fund. You may qualify for sales charge discounts in Class A Shares if you and your family invest, or agree to invest in the future, at least \$50,000 in Virtus Funds. More information on these and other discounts is available: (i) from your financial advisor or other financial intermediary; (ii) under "Sales Charges" on page 81 of the fund's prospectus; (iii) with respect to purchase of shares through specific intermediaries, in Appendix A to the fund's prospectus, entitled "Intermediary Sales Charge Discounts and Waivers;" and (iv) under "Alternative Purchase Arrangements" on page 94 of the fund's statement of additional information ("SAI").

| Shareholder Fees (fees paid directly from your investment) | Class A | Class C | Class I | Class R6 |
|---|---------|----------------------|---------|----------|
| Maximum Sales Charge (load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price) | 5.75% | None | None | None |
| Maximum Deferred Sales Charge (load) (as a percentage of the lesser of purchase price or redemption proceeds) | None | 1.00% ^(a) | None | None |

| Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment) | Class A | Class C | Class I | Class R6 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Management Fees | 0.75% | 0.75% | 0.75% | 0.75% |
| Distribution and Shareholder Servicing (12b-1) Fees | 0.25% | 1.00% | None | None |
| Other Expenses | 0.29% | 0.27% | 0.26% | 0.19% |
| Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses | 0.02% | 0.02% | 0.02% | 0.02% |
| Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses ^(b) | 1.31% | 2.04% | 1.03% | 0.96% |

(a) The deferred sales charge is imposed on Class C Shares redeemed during the first year only.

(b) The Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses do not correlate to the ratio of expenses to average net assets appearing in the Financial Highlights tables, which tables reflect only the operating expenses of the fund and do not include acquired fund fees and expenses.

Example

This example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example assumes an investment of \$10,000 in the fund for the time periods indicated. It shows your costs if you sold your shares at the end of the period or continued to hold them. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the fund's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

| | Share Status | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years | 10 Years |
|----------|--------------|--------|---------|---------|----------|
| Class A | Sold or Held | \$701 | \$966 | \$1,252 | \$2,063 |
| Class C | Sold | \$307 | \$640 | \$1,098 | \$2,369 |
| | Held | \$207 | \$640 | \$1,098 | \$2,369 |
| Class I | Sold or Held | \$105 | \$328 | \$569 | \$1,259 |
| Class R6 | Sold or Held | \$98 | \$306 | \$531 | \$1,178 |

Portfolio Turnover

The fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or “turns over” its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the example, affect the fund’s performance. During the most recent fiscal period, the fund’s portfolio turnover rate was 13% of the average value of its portfolio.

Investments, Risks and Performance

Principal Investment Strategies

The fund pursues long-term capital appreciation in the small capitalization market while seeking to incur less risk than the small capitalization market. The fund invests in a select group of small market capitalization companies believed by the fund’s subadviser to possess sustainable competitive advantages at prices the subadviser deems attractive. Although the fund invests primarily in U.S. companies, it may invest in foreign securities and depositary receipts.

Under normal circumstances, the fund invests at least 80% of its assets in common stocks of small market capitalization companies. As of the date of this Prospectus, the fund’s subadviser considers small market capitalization companies for this purpose to be those companies that, at the time of initial purchase, have market capitalizations generally within the range of companies included in the Russell 2000[®] Index on a rolling three-year basis. On this basis, as of September 30, 2018, the total market capitalization range of companies included in the Russell 2000[®] Index over the past three years was \$1.7 million to \$16 billion. Generally, the fund invests in approximately 20 to 40 securities at any given time.

Principal Risks

The fund may not achieve its objective(s), and it is not intended to be a complete investment program. The value of the fund’s investments that supports your share value may decrease. If between the time you purchase shares and the time you sell shares the value of the fund’s investments decreases, you will lose money. Investment values can decrease for a number of reasons. Conditions affecting the overall economy, specific industries or companies in which the fund invests can be worse than expected, and investments may fail to perform as the subadviser expects. As a result, the value of your shares may decrease. Purchase and redemption activities by fund shareholders may impact the management of the fund and its ability to achieve its investment objective(s). The principal risks of investing in the fund are:

- > **Depositary Receipts Risk.** The risk that investments in foreign companies through depositary receipts will expose the fund to the same risks as direct investments in securities of foreign issuers.
- > **Equity Securities Risk.** The risk that events negatively affecting issuers, industries or financial markets in which the fund invests will impact the value of the stocks held by the fund and, thus, the value of the fund’s shares over short or extended periods. Investments in a particular style or in small or medium-sized companies may enhance that risk.
- > **Foreign Investing Risk.** The risk that the prices of foreign securities in the fund’s portfolio will be more volatile than those of domestic securities, or will be negatively affected by currency fluctuations, less regulated or liquid securities markets, or economic, political or other developments.
- > **Limited Number of Investments Risk.** The risk that the fund’s portfolio will be more susceptible to factors adversely affecting issuers of securities in the fund’s portfolio than would a fund holding a greater number of securities.
- > **Market Volatility Risk.** The risk that the value of the securities in which the fund invests may go up or down in response to the prospects of individual issuers and/or general economic conditions. Such price changes may be temporary or may last for extended periods.
- > **Redemption Risk.** The risk that redemption by one or more large shareholders or groups of shareholders of their holdings in the fund has an adverse impact on the remaining shareholders in the fund by causing the fund to take actions it would not otherwise take at a given time.
- > **Small Market Capitalization Companies Risk.** The risk that the fund’s investments in small market capitalization companies may be less liquid and more vulnerable to adverse business or economic developments, which may increase the volatility and risk of loss to the fund, as compared with investments in larger, more established companies.

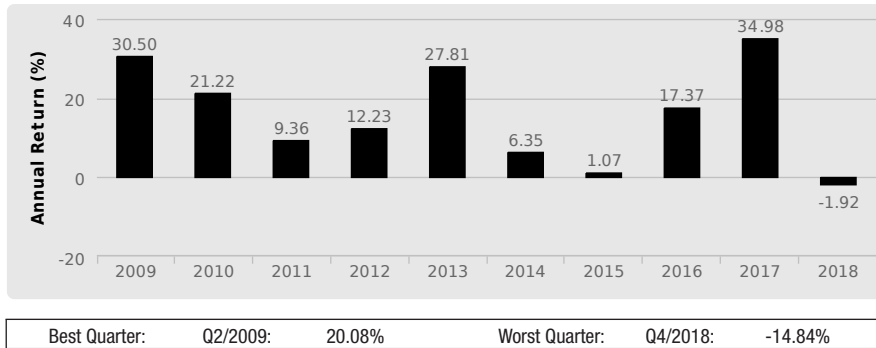
Performance Information

The bar chart and table below provide some indication of the potential risks of investing in the fund. The fund’s past performance, before and after taxes, is not necessarily an indication of how the fund will perform in the future.

The bar chart shows changes in the fund’s performance from year to year over a 10-year period. The table shows how the fund’s average annual returns compare to those of a broad-based securities market index. Updated performance information is available at virtus.com or by calling 800-243-1574.

Calendar year total returns for Class I Shares

Returns do not reflect sales charges applicable to other classes and would be lower if they did.



Average Annual Total Returns (for the periods ended 12/31/18)

Returns reflect deduction of maximum sales charges and full redemption at end of periods shown.

| | 1 Year | 5 Years | 10 Years | Since Inception Class R6 (11/12/14) |
|---|---------|---------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Class I Shares | | | | |
| Return Before Taxes | -1.92% | 10.80% | 15.28% | — |
| Return After Taxes on Distributions | -2.87% | 9.05% | 14.25% | — |
| Return After Taxes on Distributions and Sale of Fund Shares | -0.43% | 8.18% | 12.74% | — |
| Class A Shares | | | | |
| Return Before Taxes | -7.81% | 9.22% | 14.31% | — |
| Class C Shares | | | | |
| Return Before Taxes | -2.87% | 9.71% | 14.13% | — |
| Class R6 Shares | | | | |
| Return Before Taxes | -1.82% | — | — | 12.19% |
| Russell 2000® Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes) | -11.01% | 4.41% | 11.97% | 4.59% |

The Russell 2000® Index is a market capitalization-weighted index of the smallest 2,000 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. The index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment.

After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. After-tax returns are shown only for Class I Shares; after-tax returns for other classes will vary. Actual after-tax returns depend on the investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns are not relevant to investors who hold fund shares in tax-deferred accounts or to shares held by non-taxable entities. In certain cases, the Return After Taxes on Distributions and Sale of Fund Shares for a period may be higher than other return figures for the same period. This will occur when a capital loss is realized upon the sale of fund shares and provides an assumed tax benefit that increases the return.

Management

The fund's investment adviser is Virtus Investment Advisers, Inc. ("VIA").

The fund's subadviser is Kayne Anderson Rudnick Investment Management, LLC ("KAR"), an affiliate of VIA.

Portfolio Managers

- > **Todd Beiley, CFA**, Portfolio Manager and Senior Research Analyst at KAR. Mr. Beiley has served as a Portfolio Manager of the fund since 2009.
- > **Jon Christensen, CFA**, Portfolio Manager and Senior Research Analyst at KAR. Mr. Christensen has served as a Portfolio Manager of the fund since 2008.

Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

Minimum initial investments applicable to Class A and Class C Shares:

- \$2,500, generally
- \$100 for Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), systematic purchase or exchange accounts
- No minimum for defined contribution plans, asset-based fee programs, profit-sharing plans or employee benefit plans.

Minimum additional investments applicable to Class A and Class C Shares:

- \$100, generally
- No minimum for defined contribution plans, asset-based fee programs, profit-sharing plans or employee benefit plans.

For Class I Shares, the minimum initial purchase is \$100,000; there is no minimum for additional purchases.

Virtus Mutual Funds
P.O. Box 9874
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Class R6 Shares are available only to the following investors without a minimum initial investment or minimum additional purchases: certain employer-sponsored retirement plans, including Section 401(k), 403(b) and 457 plans, profit-sharing plans, money purchase pension and defined benefit plans, and non-qualified deferred compensation plans, in each case provided that plan level or omnibus accounts are held on the books of the fund. Other institutional investors may be permitted to purchase Class R6 Shares subject to the fund's determination of eligibility and may be subject to a \$2,500,000 minimum initial investment requirement.

In general, you may buy or sell shares of the fund by mail or telephone on any business day. You also may buy and sell shares through a financial advisor, broker-dealer or other financial intermediary.

Taxes

The fund's distributions are taxable to you as either ordinary income or capital gains, except when your investment is through a tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. Such tax-deferred arrangements may be taxed later upon withdrawal of monies from those arrangements.

Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries

If you purchase the fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your financial advisor to recommend the fund over another investment.

No compensation, administrative payments, sub-transfer agency payments or service payments are paid to brokers or other entities from fund assets or the Distributor's or an affiliate's resources on sales of or investments in Class R6 Shares. Class R6 Shares do not carry sales commissions or pay Rule 12b-1 fees, or make payments to brokers or other entities to assist in, or in connection with, the sale of the fund's shares.

Ask your financial advisor or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.