



03.31.2021

**Overall Morningstar Rating™**



Overall rating based on risk-adjusted returns against 376 Morningstar U.S. Fund Mid-Cap Blend Funds as of 03.31.2021, derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five- and ten-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. (SMDOX)

**FUND FACTS**

**Investment Objective:**

Seeks long-term capital appreciation.

Total Net Assets	\$13,238,215
Number of Holdings	31
Weighted Harmonic Med. P/E	23.6x
Weighted Median P/B	4.1x
Weighted Average Market Cap	\$22.34B
Active Share	98.5%
Turnover	51%

**TOTAL EXPENSE RATIO**

	<b>Net</b>	<b>Gross</b>
A Shares (SMDPX)	1.05%	1.35%
C Shares (SMDQX)	1.80%	2.10%
Inst'l Shares (SMDOX)	0.80%	1.10%

The Advisor has contractually agreed to limit certain fees paid by the Fund from February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022. Performance would have been lower without limitations in effect.

**30-DAY SEC YIELD**

	<b>With Waivers</b>	<b>Without Waivers</b>
A Shares (SMDPX)	-0.33%	-0.50%
Inst'l Shares (SMDOX)	-0.11%	-0.29%

SEC Yield is an annualization of the fund's total net investment income per share for the 30-day period ended on the last day of the month.

**Philosophy and Process**

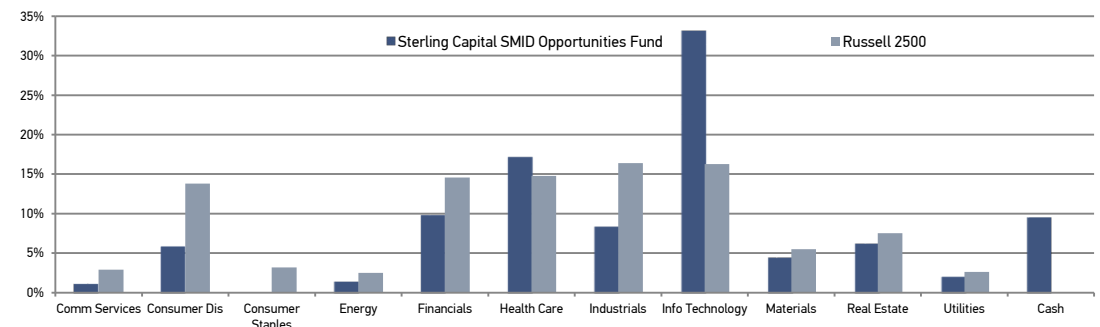
To pursue its investment objective of long-term capital appreciation, the Fund normally invests principally in equity securities and will invest, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets plus borrowings for investment purposes in the securities of small or middle capitalization companies (commonly referred to collectively as "SMID"). Small or middle capitalization companies are defined as companies with market capitalizations within the range of those companies in the Russell 2500<sup>TR</sup> Index at the time of purchase.

Fund Performance 03.31.2021	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	Since Inception
A Shares 5.75% Sales Charge	2.00%	2.00%	52.31%	11.44%	10.92%
A Shares without Sales Charge	8.21%	8.21%	61.66%	13.67%	12.39%
Institutional Shares	8.35%	8.35%	62.03%	13.95%	12.66%
Russell 2500 <sup>TR</sup> Index	10.93%	10.93%	89.40%	15.34%	15.29%
Russell Midcap <sup>®</sup> Index	8.14%	8.14%	73.64%	14.73%	14.50%
Lipper Mid-Cap Core Median	10.82%	10.82%	70.78%	11.71%	--

Year-End Returns	2017	2018	2019	2020
A Shares without Sales Charge	13.88%	-11.06%	36.41%	8.14%
Institutional Shares	14.06%	-10.81%	36.76%	8.31%
Russell 2500 <sup>TR</sup> Index*	16.81%	-10.00%	27.77%	19.99%
Russell Midcap <sup>®</sup> Index	18.52%	-9.06%	30.54%	17.10%

**Past performance does not guarantee future results. The performance data quoted represents past performance and current returns may be lower or higher. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than the original cost. To obtain performance information current to the most recent month end and information on other share classes, please visit [www.sterlingcapital.com](http://www.sterlingcapital.com). Performance for periods greater than one year is annualized.**

**Sector Allocation**



Allocations are based on the current weight to funds in the cited Sector. The composition of the fund's holdings is subject to change.

**Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. For a prospectus or summary prospectus with this and other information about the fund, please call 888.228.1872 or visit our website at [www.sterlingcapital.com](http://www.sterlingcapital.com). Read the prospectus carefully before investing.**



**SMID OPPORTUNITIES FUND**



**Portfolio Management**

**Joshua L. Haggerty, CFA®**  
Executive Director  
Lead Portfolio Manager

Josh joined the CHOICE Asset Management team of BB&T Scott & Stringfellow in 2005, which integrated with Sterling Capital Management in January 2013. He has investment experience since 1998. Josh is a graduate of James Madison University where he received his BBA in Finance. He holds the Chartered Financial Analyst® designation.

**Adam B. Bergman, CFA®**  
Executive Director  
Associate Portfolio Manager

Adam joined the CHOICE Asset Management team of Scott & Stringfellow in 2007, which integrated with Sterling Capital Management in January 2013. He has investment experience since 1996. Adam is a graduate of the University of Virginia's McIntire School of Commerce where he received his BS in Commerce. He holds the Chartered Financial Analyst® designation.

*The Chartered Financial Analyst® (CFA) charter is a graduate-level investment credential awarded by CFA Institute — the largest global association of investment professionals. To earn the CFA charter, candidates must: 1) pass three sequential, six-hour examinations; 2) have at least four years of qualified professional investment experience; 3) join CFA Institute as members; and 4) commit to abide by, and annually reaffirm, their adherence to the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct.*

Rankings would have been lower for Class A shares due to fees and expenses.

Lipper and Morningstar rankings are based on total return, including the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains but do not include sales charges for the periods indicated. Rankings shown are for Class I Shares and may be lower for Class A Shares due to higher fees and expenses. Mutual funds are assigned a rank within a universe of funds, relative to a peer group and similar in investment objective as determined by Lipper and Morningstar. The lower the number rank, the better the fund performed compared to other funds in the classification group. Lipper and Morningstar also calculate a percentile measure for each fund ranging from 1% (best) to 100% (worst).

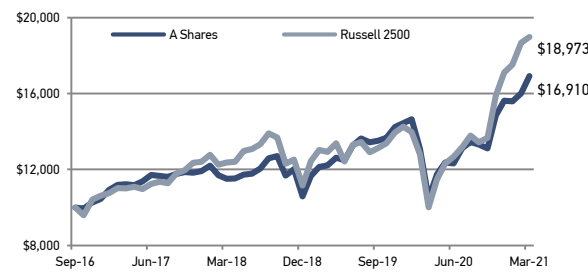
The Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual 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. ©2021 Morningstar. 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.

Technical Terms: **Active Share:** a measure of the percentage of stock holdings in a manager's portfolio that differs from the benchmark index. **Alpha:** a measure of the performance of an investment as compared to a suitable benchmark index. An alpha of one (the baseline value is zero) shows that the return on the investment during a specified time frame outperformed the overall market average by 1%. A negative alpha number reflects an investment that is underperforming as compared to the market average. **Beta:** a measurement of volatility of returns relative to the entire market. It is used as a measure of risk and is an integral part of the capital asset pricing model. A company with a higher beta has greater risk and also greater expected returns. **Portfolio Turnover Rate:** a measurement to describe a fund's annual trading activity. It is a percentage used to demonstrate how many holdings in a mutual fund were replaced within the year. **R-Squared:** a statistical measure that represents what amount of a fund's movements can be explained by movements in its benchmark index. A high R-Squared (between 85 and 100) indicates the fund's performance patterns have been in line with the index. **Sharpe Ratio:** a measure that is commonly used to gauge the performance of an investment by adjusting for its risk. The higher the ratio, the greater the investment return relative to the amount of risk taken, and thus, the better the investment. The ratio can be used to evaluate a single stock or investment, or an entire portfolio. **Standard Deviation:** a measure of the magnitude of deviations between the values of the observations contained in the dataset. From a financial standpoint, the standard deviation can help investors quantify how risky an investment is and determine their minimum required return on the investment. **Upside/Downside Capture Ratio:** the measurement of a fund's cumulative return divided by its benchmark's cumulative return during positive and negative market periods. **Weighted Average P/B:** a weighted median ratio used to compare the book value of fund's stocks with their market value. The price to book ratio indicates how much an investor is paying for a company's assets based on historical valuations. It does not reflect current market value. **Weighted Median P/E:** a weighted median ratio used to compare the price of a fund's stocks with their per-share earnings, with a higher ratio indicating the market believes that a company has the ability to increase its earnings. (Technical definitions are sourced from Corporate Finance Institute and Investopedia.)

Sterling Capital Management LLC, a separate subsidiary of Truist Financial Corporation, serves as investment adviser to the Sterling Capital Funds and is paid a fee for its services. Shares of the Sterling Capital Funds are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed or endorsed by, Truist Bank or its affiliates. The Funds are not insured by the FDIC or any other government agency. The Funds are distributed by Sterling Capital Distributors LLC, which is not affiliated with Truist Bank or its affiliates.

Not a deposit • Not FDIC insured • May lose value • Not guaranteed by the bank • Not insured by any government agency

**Growth of \$10,000**



The Growth of \$10,000 chart is hypothetical based upon the performance of A Shares without sales charge for the period ended 03.31.2021. It includes the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains.

**Top Ten Equity Holdings**

1. Fiserv, Inc.	5.19%
2. Teleflex, Inc.	4.97%
3. Waste Connections, Inc.	4.74%
4. Slm Corp.	4.63%
5. Ball Corp.	4.52%
6. Global Payments, Inc.	4.51%
7. Centene Corp.	4.33%
8. Universal Health Services Inc	4.33%
9. F5 Networks, Inc.	3.91%
10. Genpact Limited	3.88%

Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to change and risk. Based on Market Value of securities.

**Lipper Mid Cap Core Category**

Based on Total Return as of 03.31.2021

	1 Year	3 Year
Lipper Ranking / Number of Funds in Category	262 / 320	59 / 296
Lipper Quartile (Percentile)	4th (82%)	1st (20%)

**Morningstar Mid-Cap Blend Category**

Based on Risk-Adjusted Returns as of 03.31.2021

	Overall Rating	1 Year	3 Year
Institutional Shares Morningstar Rating™	★★★★	--	★★★★
Morningstar Ranking / Number of Funds in Category	376	336 / 406	110 / 376
Morningstar Quartile (Percentile)		4th (80%)	2nd (30%)

**Firm Overview**

Sterling Capital Management LLC, founded in 1970, is the institutional investment management arm of Truist Financial Corporation. Headquartered in Charlotte, NC, Sterling provides investment advisory services through mutual funds, separately managed accounts, model portfolios, and other commingled vehicles offered through a variety of intermediary and managed account platforms. Sterling's six distinct investment teams provide a full complement of fixed income, concentrated active equity, and multi-asset solutions.

**Investment Considerations**

The newly formed fund has no operating history to evaluate and the risk that it may not attract sufficient assets to achieve or maximize investment and operational efficiencies. The Fund uses a multi-style approach and invests in both growth and value-oriented companies. A growth investment style may be particularly sensitive to market conditions. Value investing involves the risk that an investment made in undervalued securities may not appreciate in value as anticipated or remain undervalued for long periods of time.

The Fund invests in small and middle capitalization companies which may be riskier, more volatile and vulnerable to economic, market and industry changes than investments in larger more established companies. As a result, share price changes may be more erratic or trade less frequently in lesser quantities.