



*William Blair*

December 31, 2020

# William Blair Funds Annual Report



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The views expressed in the commentary for each Fund reflect those of the portfolio management team only through the end of the period of the report as stated on the cover. The portfolio management team's views are subject to change at any time based on market and other conditions and should not be construed as a recommendation. Statements involving predictions, assessments, analyses, or outlook for individual securities, industries, market sectors, and/or markets involve risks and uncertainties, and there is no guarantee they will come to pass.

This report is submitted for the general information of the shareholders of William Blair Funds. It is not authorized for distribution to prospective Fund investors unless accompanied or preceded by the Fund's prospectus. Please carefully consider a Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses before investing. This and other information is contained in the Fund's prospectus, which you may obtain by calling 1-800-742-7272. Read it carefully before you invest or send money.

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## U.S. Growth Market Review and Outlook

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In a volatile yet robust year for U.S. equities, COVID-19 was the dominant force affecting the economy and stock market during 2020.

During the first quarter, equities declined rapidly due to stay-at-home directives, which effectively shut down many segments of the economy. After bottoming in late March, equity returns rebounded rapidly during the second quarter. This was predominately the result of massive amounts of fiscal and monetary stimulus, coupled with improving COVID-19 trends and apparent progress toward re-opening the economy.

Continued economic improvement, including positive trends in employment and increases in consumer spending, coupled with incremental progress towards the development of a vaccine, supported the market rise into the third quarter. Within the market, there was a pronounced bifurcation between the performance of “COVID-19 beneficiaries” and those disrupted by COVID-19, as select companies across different sectors saw a strengthening of demand for their products (e.g., e-commerce), while others saw a complete collapse in demand (e.g., travel-related), though this divergence began to narrow somewhat late in the third quarter.

Gains for U.S. equities accelerated in the fourth quarter, most notably as the market digested U.S. election results and several announcements of highly efficacious COVID-19 vaccine candidates. From a political standpoint, while the Democratic Party claimed the presidency, it did not achieve overwhelming congressional victories. We believe this effectively removed the most extreme agenda items from either party as likely outcomes and suggested a more centrist approach from President Elect Biden. On the vaccine front, strong clinical trial results, FDA approvals and the commencement of vaccinations gave investors some visibility in terms of a path to return to more normal lifestyles and economic activity. These developments, together with resilient corporate earnings, overshadowed the recent surge in virus cases and hospitalizations, which could lead to further limitations on business activity.

With significant COVID-19-related business disruption throughout 2020, the Federal Reserve (Fed) committed to keep the Federal Funds rate low for an extended period. This support, coupled with lower 10-year U.S. Treasury yields and a focus on longer-term corporate profit potential, drove valuation multiple expansion and resulted in several U.S. equity indices ending the year at all-time highs.

Looking past the current surge in COVID-19 cases, we believe that there is a sense of optimism around U.S. economic potential when a sufficiently large portion of the population is vaccinated. COVID-19 has had materially negative impacts on many households while others have experienced little-to-no financial hardship. Acknowledging that dispersion, in aggregate the U.S. personal savings rate is up dramatically and mortgage rates are near historic lows. When combined with the recently passed stimulus measures, we believe that there is likely pent-up demand to be unlocked as the economy re-opens.

Tempering that optimism is the potential for slower than expected vaccine distribution and the prospect of inflation. While the unemployment rate in the U.S. has fallen since earlier in the year, we believe that there remains slack in the employment market, which could mitigate the potential inflationary impact of continued Fed asset purchases and possible additional fiscal stimulus.

As equity investors, we must also weigh what expectations are embedded in stock prices. We believe it matters what you pay for an asset and have long focused on investing in stocks of quality companies where we believe the future risk/reward potential is skewed in our favor. While having this sensitivity to valuation has generally not benefited relative returns in 2020, we believe our portfolio is well-positioned for an eventual normalization of more extreme (relative to history) valuations in certain segments of the market. Furthermore, we believe that better visibility for a return to a more normal economic environment (relative to history) creates a supportive backdrop for the attractively valued stocks of durable businesses in which we invest.

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**U.S. Value Market Review and Outlook**

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This past year has been an interesting year to say the least and has presented everyone with a variety of challenges as COVID-19 was the dominant force affecting both the economy and equities in a volatile year overall. Even in the face of such adversity, domestic equity benchmark returns were robust in the fourth quarter, finishing the year in positive territory.

The abrupt halt of economic activity due to COVID-19-related stay-at-home directives contributed to the dramatic decline in U.S. equities in the first quarter. Essentially shutting down a large percentage of the economy resulted in a spike in the unemployment rate to almost 15% and a precipitous decline in GDP. Extraordinary and aggressive stimulus measures, improving virus-related case trends, apparent progress toward economic re-opening, and vaccine development optimism triggered a risk-on rally off its mid-March lows with robust equity market returns in the second quarter. Market returns continued higher, supported by progress towards the development of a vaccine, solid corporate earnings, and continued positive trends in economic data, highlighted by a drop in the unemployment rate to 8.4%. Political brinksmanship and dampened prospects for further fiscal stimulus ahead of the U.S. Presidential election muted these positive market returns.

U.S. equity returns reaccelerated in the fourth quarter with some benchmarks delivering their best monthly returns ever in November. The robust returns in the quarter were driven by positive vaccine developments, resilient corporate earnings, positive economic trends, U.S. election results, continued central bank support, and the anticipation of additional fiscal stimulus measures. All of these overshadowed the recent surge in virus cases nationally and the potential for restrictions being reinstated. On the vaccine front, multiple companies published better than expected efficacy data for their vaccines. The increased optimism around the vaccines and the potential for a faster “return to normal” led investors to favor value and cyclical stocks periodically during the quarter.

Investors appear to be looking through the recent surge in COVID-19 cases and the potential for renewed restrictions as the widespread vaccination process begins. This vaccine-related optimism is somewhat offset by the potential for slower than expected vaccine distribution.

The pandemic has impacted us all in a variety of ways, some more than others, and while it appears that a return to more normal times is on the horizon, we are constantly evaluating what this new normal will look like, potential changes in consumer behavior, and the impact this may have on future business activity. Although Joe Biden won the U.S. Presidential election, the political landscape remains relatively balanced, which, in our view, is generally preferred and should allow for a continued favorable tax environment for businesses.

We continue to maintain our higher quality portfolio positioning due to concerns about corporate debt levels and continued market volatility as a result of potential economic implications associated with recent virus trends. We believe that companies in which we invest will be able to endure and emerge from this crisis stronger and with increased market share, regardless of the trajectory of the broader economic recovery. Said differently, while the portfolio is defensively positioned and has been impacted by the initial market response to recent vaccine news, we believe we will participate in a variety of different market environments. We remain steadfast in our foundational belief that long-term value creation and stock performance is driven by superior capital stewardship, as characterized by strong cash flows and improving or sustainable return on invested capital.

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**Growth Fund**


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The Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGER**


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*David C. Fording*

The William Blair Growth Fund (Class N shares) posted a 35.97% increase, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the Russell 3000<sup>®</sup> Growth Index (the "Index"), increased 38.26%.

While posting strong absolute performance during 2020, the Fund trailed the return of the Index, primarily driven by stock specific dynamics. The largest source of underperformance as compared to our benchmark came from not owning Apple (Information Technology) and Tesla (Consumer Discretionary) as both stocks have benefited from significant valuation multiple expansion during the year. In the case of Apple, given the maturity of the high-end smart phone, tablet and PC markets, and the recent revaluation of its services business, we believe the long-term growth and return prospects for our other Information Technology holdings are more attractive. As it relates to Tesla, while we share the market's view that electric vehicle penetration is likely to accelerate, resulting in better forward growth than was expected a year ago, we believe the stock is embedding unrealistic expectations as to Tesla's ultimate market share and margin profile. Within the portfolio, stock selection in Information Technology, including our positions in Fidelity National Information Services and Sabre, detracted from relative performance. Other notable laggards included Coca-Cola (Consumer Staples), BWX Technologies (Industrials) and Laureate Education (Consumer Discretionary). Beverage company Coca-Cola faced revenue headwinds that resulted from COVID-19-related store and restaurant closures, as roughly 40% of its beverages are consumed "away from home." Outside of Information Technology, and the impact of not owning Apple or Tesla, stock selection was generally favorable across the portfolio and most notably in Health Care and Industrials. Top individual stock contributors for the year-to-date period included Horizon Therapeutics (Health Care), Amazon.com (Consumer Discretionary), Etsy (Consumer Discretionary), Advanced Micro Devices (Information Technology) and Rush Street Interactive (Consumer Discretionary). Horizon Therapeutics was a standout as sales of Tepezza, a recently launched drug that treats Thyroid Eye Disease, handily exceeded expectations for much of the year. Amazon benefited from COVID-19 related tailwinds in its retail business, including increased consumer demand and the rapid shift to e-commerce, and in its cloud computing business AWS, including accelerating migration to, and use of, cloud-based services.

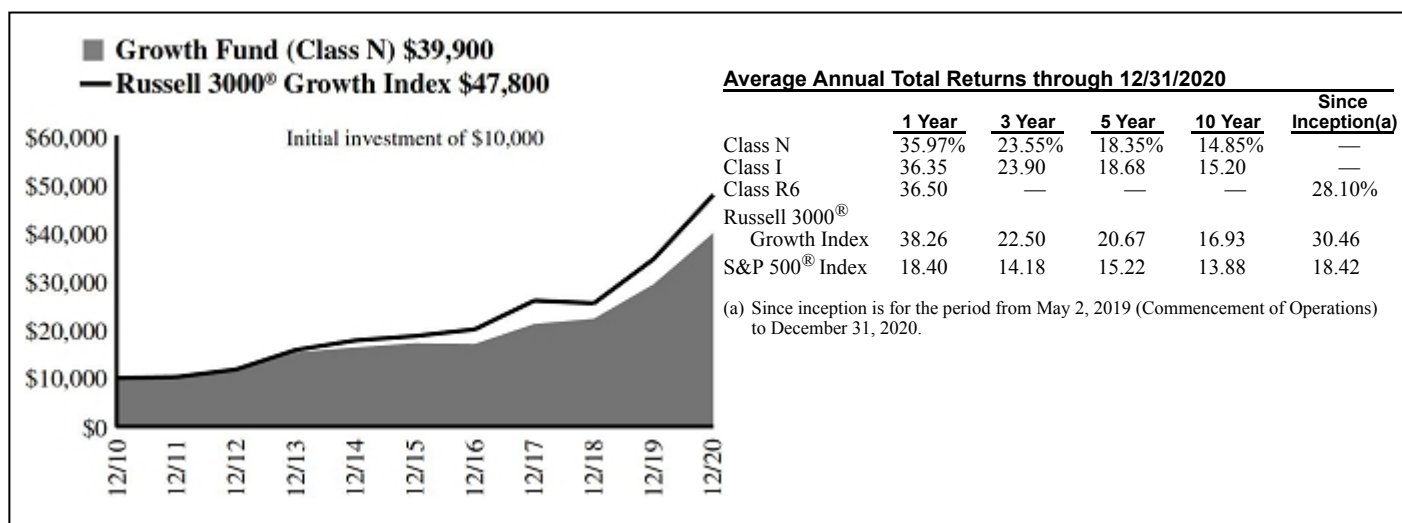
Please refer to the U.S. Growth Market Review and Outlook relating to the Fund on page 3.

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## Growth Fund

### Performance Highlights (Unaudited)



Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.

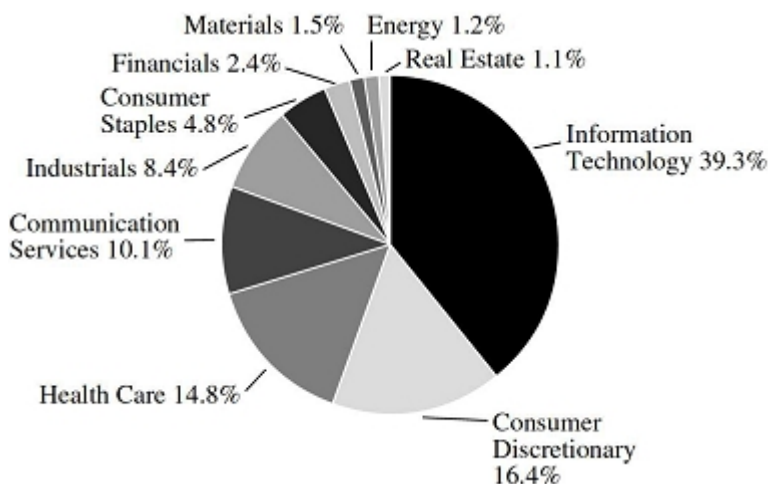
The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.

The Russell 3000® Growth Index consists of large, medium, and small capitalization companies with above average price-to-book ratios and forecasted growth rates. The index is weighted by market capitalization and large/medium/small companies make up approximately 80%/15%/5% of the index.

The S&P 500® Index indicates broad larger capitalization equity market performance.

This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all stocks in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these stocks will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.

### Sector Diversification (Unaudited)



The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.

## Growth Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares or Principal Amount	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Information Technology—39.4%</b>			<b>Industrials—(continued)</b>		
*Adobe, Inc.	16,741	\$ 8,373	Fortive Corporation	54,019	\$ 3,826
*Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.	79,224	7,266	The Brink's Co.	62,740	4,517
*Alarm.com Holdings, Inc.	14,748	1,526	*Trex Co., Inc.	22,829	1,911
*Arista Networks, Inc.	19,221	5,585			<u>24,887</u>
Brooks Automation, Inc.	31,750	2,154			
Fidelity National Information Services, Inc.	45,548	6,443	<b>Consumer Staples—4.7%</b>		
*GoDaddy, Inc.	45,089	3,740	*BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings, Inc.	95,388	3,556
*Grid Dynamics Holdings, Inc.	189,874	2,392	The Coca-Cola Co.	117,763	6,458
Mastercard, Inc.	33,313	11,891	The Estee Lauder Cos., Inc.	15,388	4,096
Microsoft Corporation	124,037	27,588			<u>14,110</u>
*MongoDB, Inc.	7,863	2,823			
National Instruments Corporation	89,588	3,937	<b>Financials—2.4%</b>		
*Nice, Ltd.—ADR	15,247	4,323	Aon plc†	19,109	4,037
*PayPal Holdings, Inc.	48,279	11,307	Ares Management Corporation	64,456	3,033
*Pure Storage, Inc.	194,620	4,400			<u>7,070</u>
Texas Instruments, Inc.	41,261	6,772	<b>Materials—1.5%</b>		
*Verra Mobility Corporation	180,072	2,417	Ball Corporation	47,320	4,409
*Workday, Inc.	17,925	4,295	<b>Energy—1.2%</b>		
		<u>117,232</u>	Cameco Corporation†	255,023	3,417
<b>Consumer Discretionary—16.3%</b>			<b>Real Estate—1.1%</b>		
Advance Auto Parts, Inc.	22,434	3,534	SBA Communications Corporation	11,161	3,149
*Amazon.com, Inc.	7,130	23,222	<b>Total Common Stocks—99.8%</b>		
*Bright Horizons Family Solutions, Inc.	16,516	2,857	(cost \$156,101)		<u>296,558</u>
*Burlington Stores, Inc.	10,597	2,772			
*Etsy, Inc.	11,242	2,000	<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
*Grand Canyon Education, Inc.	28,573	2,661	Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000%		
*Revolve Group, Inc.	85,763	2,673	dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price		
*Rush Street Interactive, Inc.	172,625	3,737	\$1,067, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note,		
*Skyline Champion Corporation	60,933	1,885	0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$1,088	\$1,067	1,067
*Ulta Beauty, Inc.	11,161	3,205	<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—0.3%</b>		
		<u>48,546</u>	(cost \$1,067)		<u>1,067</u>
<b>Health Care—14.7%</b>			<b>Total Investments—100.1%</b>		
Abbott Laboratories	36,808	4,030	(cost \$157,168)		297,625
Agilent Technologies, Inc.	39,119	4,635	<b>Liabilities, plus cash and other assets—(0.1)%</b>		
*Certa, Inc.	75,190	2,536			(374)
*Horizon Therapeutics plc†	70,845	5,182	<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		
*Ligand Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	16,685	1,659			<u>\$297,251</u>
*Penumbra, Inc.	14,317	2,506			
STERIS plc†	15,417	2,922			
Stryker Corporation	26,380	6,464			
UnitedHealth Group, Inc.	25,732	9,024			
*Veracyte, Inc.	28,550	1,397			
Zoetis, Inc.	20,715	3,428			
		<u>43,783</u>			
<b>Communication Services—10.1%</b>					
Activision Blizzard, Inc.	57,946	5,380			
*Alphabet, Inc. Class "A"	11,135	19,516			
*Live Nation Entertainment, Inc.	37,456	2,752			
*Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc.	11,104	2,307			
		<u>29,955</u>			
<b>Industrials—8.4%</b>					
BWX Technologies, Inc.	73,867	4,453			
*Copart, Inc.	45,235	5,756			
*CoStar Group, Inc.	4,786	4,424			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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**Large Cap Growth Fund**


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The Large Cap Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*James S. Golan*



*David P. Ricci*

The William Blair Large Cap Growth Fund (Class N shares) posted a 36.30% increase, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the Russell 1000® Growth Index (the "Index"), increased 38.49%.

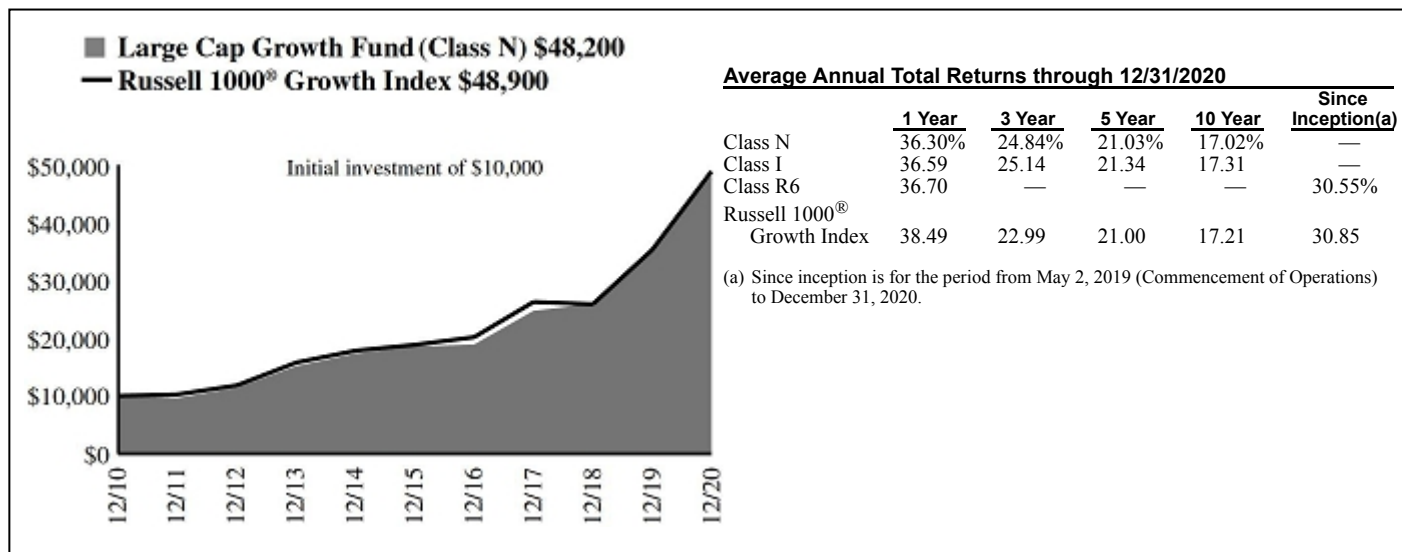
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Please refer to the U.S. Growth Market Review and Outlook relating to the Fund on page 3.



## Large Cap Growth Fund

### Performance Highlights (Unaudited)



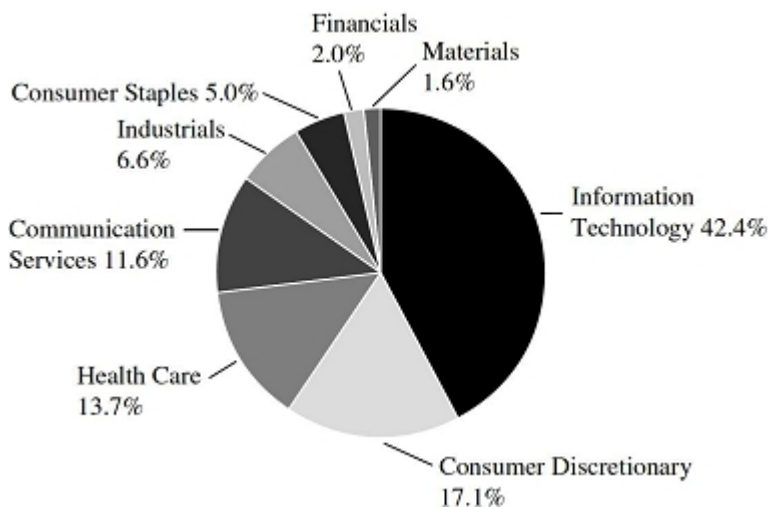
Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.

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### Sector Diversification (Unaudited)



The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.

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## Large Cap Growth Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Principal Amount	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
<b>Information Technology—42.0%</b>			Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$5,155, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$5,258		
Accenture plc†	88,620	\$ 23,148		\$5,155	\$ 5,155
*Adobe, Inc.	46,290	23,150	<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—0.7%</b>		5,155
*Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.	234,928	21,545	(cost \$5,155)		
Fidelity National Information Services, Inc.	88,400	12,505	<b>Total Investments—99.8%</b>		711,377
*Guidewire Software, Inc.	61,950	7,975	(cost \$479,731)		
Intuit, Inc.	50,630	19,232	<b>Cash and other assets, less liabilities—0.2%</b>		1,492
Lam Research Corporation	40,710	19,226	<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		\$712,869
Mastercard, Inc.	86,710	30,950			
Microsoft Corporation	318,910	70,932			
*PayPal Holdings, Inc.	146,160	34,231			
*salesforce.com, Inc.	63,640	14,162			
Texas Instruments, Inc.	137,270	22,530			
		<u>299,586</u>			
<b>Consumer Discretionary—17.0%</b>					
*Amazon.com, Inc.	20,065	65,350			
Marriott International, Inc.	66,350	8,753			
NIKE, Inc.	191,720	27,123			
Starbucks Corporation	185,910	19,889			
		<u>121,115</u>			
<b>Health Care—13.5%</b>					
Abbott Laboratories	141,820	15,528			
*ABIOMED, Inc.	33,658	10,912			
*Illumina, Inc.	28,440	10,523			
Stryker Corporation	76,050	18,635			
UnitedHealth Group, Inc.	73,480	25,768			
Zoetis, Inc.	91,410	15,128			
		<u>96,494</u>			
<b>Communication Services—11.5%</b>					
Activision Blizzard, Inc.	190,320	17,671			
*Alphabet, Inc. Class "A"	21,820	38,243			
*Alphabet, Inc. Class "C"	5,950	10,424			
*Live Nation Entertainment, Inc.	209,200	15,372			
		<u>81,710</u>			
<b>Industrials—6.6%</b>					
*Copart, Inc.	156,150	19,870			
Equifax, Inc.	77,160	14,879			
Fortive Corporation	169,300	11,990			
		<u>46,739</u>			
<b>Consumer Staples—4.9%</b>					
Costco Wholesale Corporation	51,810	19,521			
The Estee Lauder Cos., Inc.	58,790	15,649			
		<u>35,170</u>			
<b>Financials—2.0%</b>					
Apollo Global Management, Inc.	288,640	14,138			
<b>Materials—1.6%</b>					
Linde plc†	42,770	11,270			
<b>Total Common Stocks—99.1%</b>					
(cost \$474,576)		<u>706,222</u>			

† = U.S. listed foreign security

\* = Non-income producing security

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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**Mid Cap Growth Fund**


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The Mid Cap Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*Daniel Crowe*



*James E. Jones*

The William Blair Mid Cap Growth Fund (Class N shares) posted a 26.80% increase, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the Russell Midcap<sup>®</sup> Growth Index (the "Index"), increased 35.59%.

Despite outperforming during the downturn earlier in the year, the Fund lagged the Index in the full-year period due to a combination of style headwinds and stock-specific factors. From a style perspective, our typical lower beta profile and bias toward companies with more consistent business models were headwinds during the period as the most volatile and highest beta quintiles of the benchmark were the best performers. From a sector perspective, Information Technology was the primary source of the Fund's underperformance for the year. This was a result of some stock-specific factors and the Fund's valuation discipline, as the most expensive stocks in the sector (e.g., Software) dramatically outperformed. Given our underweight to certain parts of the market where valuations are at what we believe to be extreme levels, relative to history, most notably in Information Technology, we believe that any normalization in valuations could prove to be beneficial to the Fund's relative performance in the future. From a stock-specific standpoint, WEX (Information Technology) and BWX Technologies (Industrials) were among the top detractors during the period. COVID-19 related headwinds, including a decline in fuel prices and a broad slowdown in travel, weighed on shares of WEX, a leading provider of payment solutions to the global fuel card market and online travel agents. BWX Technologies, the sole-source provider of propulsion systems for the U.S. Navy, experienced weakness due to concerns surrounding the extended timeline of the rollout of its medical radioisotope product as well as uncertainty around future government military spending under a Democratic U.S. Presidential administration. Stock selection in Consumer Discretionary, including our positions in Ross Stores, Advance Auto Parts and Wayfair, also detracted from relative returns. Conversely, stock selection in Industrials contributed positively to relative returns. Top individual contributors included Horizon Therapeutics (Health Care), Align Technology (Health Care), MongoDB (Information Technology), Take-Two Interactive Software (Communication Services) and EPAM Systems (Information Technology). We believe that medical device company Align Technology reported very strong earnings results, with case volumes, revenues and operating margins all significantly exceeding expectations. Horizon Therapeutics benefitted from continued robust growth of the company's recently launched drug Tepezza, a drug that treats Thyroid Eye Disease.

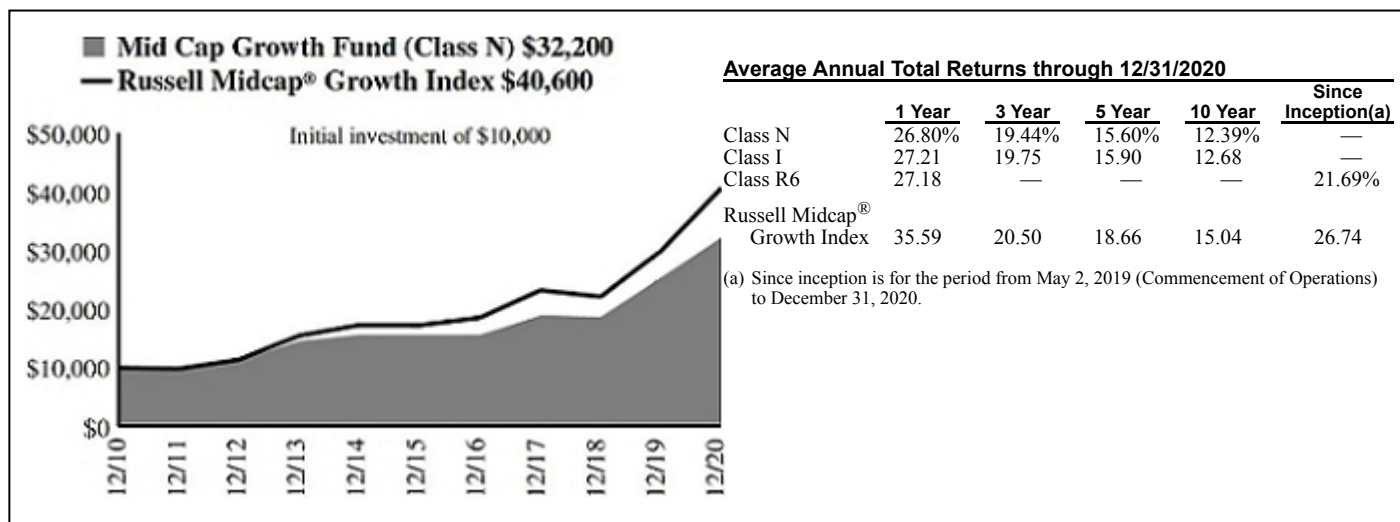
Please refer to the U.S. Growth Market Review and Outlook relating to the Fund on page 3.

*December 31, 2020*

*William Blair Funds* **11**

## Mid Cap Growth Fund

### Performance Highlights (Unaudited)



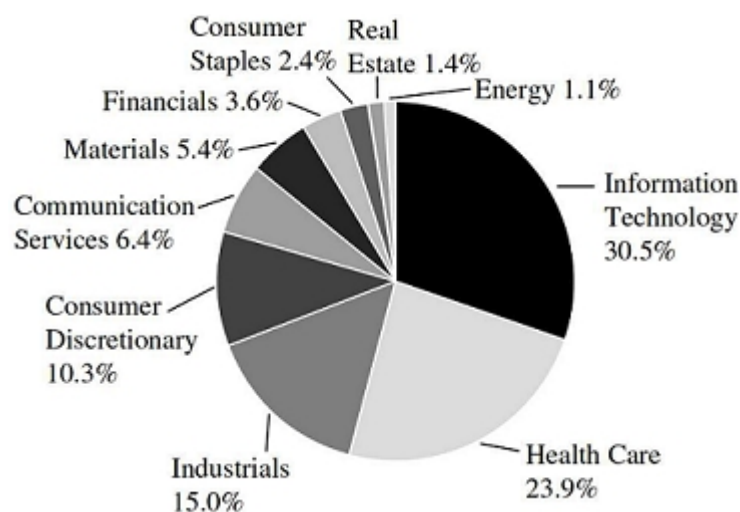
Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). Investing in medium capitalization companies involves special risks, including higher volatility and lower liquidity. Medium capitalization stocks are also more sensitive to purchase/sale transactions and changes in the issuer's financial condition. From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.

The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.

The Russell Midcap® Growth Index is an index that is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer of the mid-cap growth market.

This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all stocks in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these stocks will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.

### Sector Diversification (Unaudited)



The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.

## Mid Cap Growth Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares or Principal Amount	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Information Technology—29.4%</b>			<b>Communication Services—6.2%</b>		
*Arista Networks, Inc.	7,365	\$ 2,140	Cable One, Inc.	310	\$ 690
*Aspen Technology, Inc.	6,560	854	*Live Nation Entertainment, Inc.	12,984	954
Booz Allen Hamilton Holding Corporation	16,779	1,463	*Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc.	11,760	2,444
*Cadence Design Systems, Inc.	18,935	2,583	*Zillow Group, Inc.	8,680	1,127
*Coupa Software, Inc.	3,585	1,215			<u>5,215</u>
Dolby Laboratories, Inc.	11,790	1,145	<b>Materials—5.2%</b>		
*EPAM Systems, Inc.	2,990	1,072	Ball Corporation	14,935	1,391
*Euronet Worldwide, Inc.	11,410	1,654	FMC Corporation	8,605	989
*GoDaddy, Inc.	17,920	1,486	Vulcan Materials Co.	13,450	1,995
*Guidewire Software, Inc.	6,982	899			<u>4,375</u>
Microchip Technology, Inc.	11,250	1,554	<b>Financials—3.5%</b>		
*MongoDB, Inc.	4,945	1,775	Arthur J Gallagher & Co.	15,150	1,874
*Nice, Ltd.—ADR	4,905	1,391	East West Bancorp, Inc.	21,165	1,074
*Pure Storage, Inc.	71,285	1,612			<u>2,948</u>
*RingCentral, Inc.	4,845	1,836	<b>Consumer Staples—2.3%</b>		
*SolarEdge Technologies, Inc.	2,695	860	*BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings, Inc.	24,554	916
*Zendesk, Inc.	7,965	1,140	Conagra Brands, Inc.	27,995	1,015
		<u>24,679</u>			<u>1,931</u>
<b>Health Care—23.1%</b>			<b>Real Estate—1.4%</b>		
*10X Genomics, Inc.	5,860	830	SBA Communications Corporation	4,140	1,168
*ABIOMED, Inc.	3,723	1,207	<b>Energy—1.1%</b>		
Agilent Technologies, Inc.	20,630	2,444	New Fortress Energy, Inc.	16,703	895
*Align Technology, Inc.	4,275	2,285	<b>Total Common Stocks—96.7%</b>		
Bio-Techne Corporation	2,762	877	(cost \$52,994)		<u>81,175</u>
*Centene Corporation	12,180	731	<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
Encompass Health Corporation	19,078	1,578	Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000%		
*Exact Sciences Corporation	12,125	1,606	dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price		
*Horizon Therapeutics plc†	28,520	2,086	\$2,803, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note,		
*Insulet Corporation	6,335	1,619	0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$2,859	\$2,803	2,803
*Mettler-Toledo International, Inc.	950	1,083	<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—3.3%</b>		
STERIS plc†	6,515	1,235	(cost \$2,803)		<u>2,803</u>
Teleflex, Inc.	4,510	1,856	<b>Total Investments—100.0%</b>		
		<u>19,437</u>	(cost \$55,797)		83,978
<b>Industrials—14.5%</b>			<b>Liabilities, plus cash and other assets—(0.0)%</b>		
BWX Technologies, Inc.	35,969	2,168	<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		
*Clarivate plc†	33,590	998			<u>\$ 83,970</u>
*Copart, Inc.	22,192	2,824	ADR = American Depositary Receipt		
*CoStar Group, Inc.	2,999	2,772	* = Non-income producing security		
Equifax, Inc.	4,575	882	† = U.S. listed foreign security		
Fortive Corporation	10,530	746			
Rockwell Automation, Inc.	4,050	1,016			
*Teledyne Technologies, Inc.	1,915	750			
		<u>12,156</u>			
<b>Consumer Discretionary—10.0%</b>					
Advance Auto Parts, Inc.	8,098	1,275			
Aptiv plc†	9,485	1,236			
*Bright Horizons Family Solutions, Inc.	5,165	893			
*Burlington Stores, Inc.	3,830	1,002			
Domino's Pizza, Inc.	2,438	935			
*Floor & Decor Holdings, Inc.	12,445	1,156			
Service Corporation International	17,850	876			
*Ulta Beauty, Inc.	3,475	998			
		<u>8,371</u>			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 13

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**Small-Mid Cap Core Fund**


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The Small-Mid Cap Core Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*Daniel Crowe*



*Ward D. Sexton*

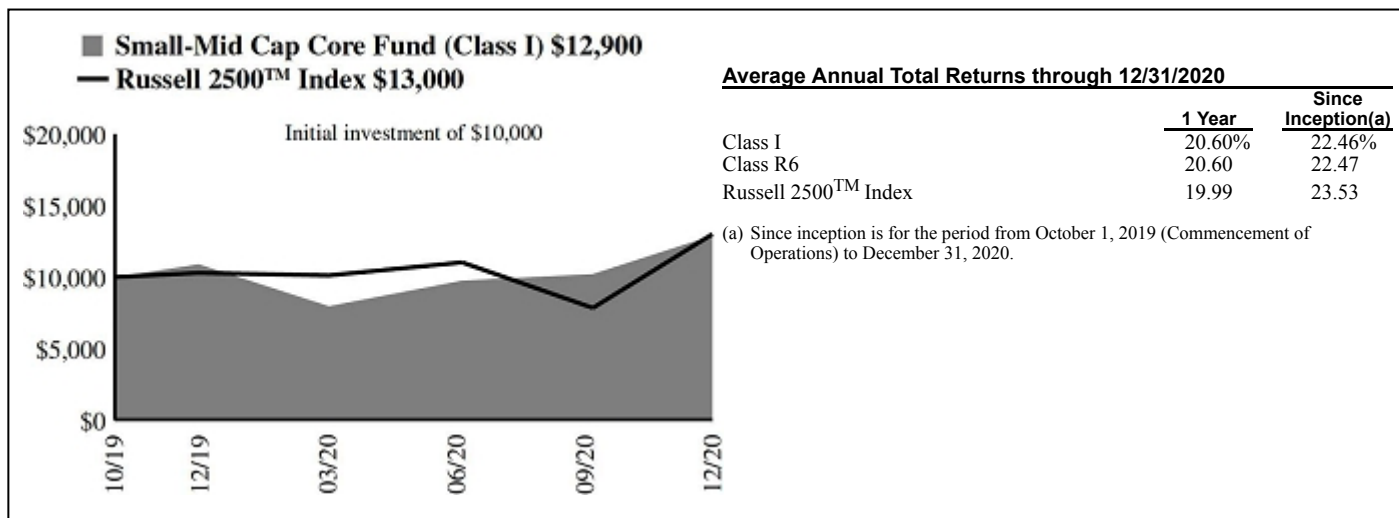
The William Blair Small-Mid Cap Core Fund (Class I shares) posted a 20.60% increase, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the Russell 2500™ Index (the "Index"), increased 19.99%.

As a result of adding value during the downturn earlier in the year, the Fund outperformed its benchmark in the full-year period, primarily driven by stock-specific factors. Stock selection in Financials, including our position in Virtu Financial, was a standout contributor during the period. The top individual contributors were Horizon Therapeutics (Health Care), SolarEdge Technologies (Information Technology), NICE (Information Technology) and BJ's Wholesale Clubs (Consumer Staples). Horizon Therapeutics benefitted from continued robust growth of the company's recently launched drug Tepezza, a drug that treats Thyroid Eye Disease. Solar inverter manufacturer SolarEdge Technologies experienced strong demand and continued to expand into the large and growing international markets. Conversely, from a style perspective, our biases toward companies with high returns on invested capital and more consistent business models were headwinds during the period as the lowest return on invested capital and most volatile quintiles of the benchmark were the best performers. From a sector perspective, Information Technology was the largest detractor for the year. This was a result of some stock-specific factors and the Fund's valuation discipline, as the most expensive stocks in the sector (e.g., Software) dramatically outperformed. Given our underweight to certain parts of the market where valuations are at extreme levels, relative to history, most notably in Information Technology, any normalization in valuations could prove to be beneficial to the Fund's relative performance in the future. Stock selection in Health Care, including our typical underweight to Biotechnology, also detracted from relative returns. Our top individual detractors included Brink's Co (Industrials), Douglas Emmett (Real Estate), Hanger (Health Care), BWX Technologies (Industrials) and Blue Bird Corp (Industrials). COVID-19 related closures weighed on cash management services provider Brink's Company, most notably as it relates to revenues derived from retail locations that were either temporarily closed or operating on a limited basis. Real estate investment trust Douglas Emmett experienced weakness driven by write-offs resulting from COVID-19 related office closures.

Please refer to the U.S. Growth Market Review and Outlook relating to the Fund on page 3.

## Small-Mid Cap Core Fund

### Performance Highlights (Unaudited)



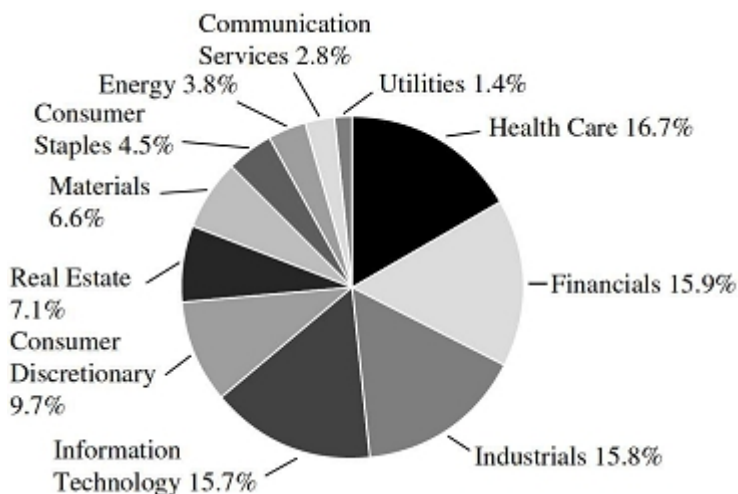
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*The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.*

*The Russell 2500™ Index measures the performance of those Russell 2500 companies with above average price-to-book ratios and forecasted growth rates.*

*This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all stocks in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these stocks will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.*

### Sector Diversification (Unaudited)



The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 15

## Small-Mid Cap Core Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Health Care—16.3%</b>			<b>Information Technology—(continued)</b>		
*Codexis, Inc.	18,669	\$ 408	*Nice, Ltd.—ADR	1,772	\$ 502
Encompass Health Corporation	4,686	388	*Pure Storage, Inc.	15,788	357
*Hanger, Inc.	16,779	369	*SolarEdge Technologies, Inc.	1,162	371
*HealthEquity, Inc.	3,849	268	*Verra Mobility Corporation	23,071	310
*Horizon Therapeutics plc†	5,855	428	*Vertex, Inc.	4,840	169
*LHC Group, Inc.	1,935	413			<u>4,615</u>
*Ligand Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	1,762	175	<b>Consumer Discretionary—9.5%</b>		
*Mednax, Inc.	23,308	572	Advance Auto Parts, Inc.	2,032	320
*Merit Medical Systems, Inc.	10,249	569	*Boot Barn Holdings, Inc.	10,252	445
Owens & Minor, Inc.	10,271	278	*Burlington Stores, Inc.	1,286	336
*Penumbra, Inc.	1,303	228	*Grand Canyon Education, Inc.	5,594	521
STERIS plc†	1,658	314	*National Vision Holdings, Inc.	6,742	305
*Tabula Rasa HealthCare, Inc.	5,612	240	Service Corporation International	6,537	321
*Veracyte, Inc.	4,852	237	*Skyline Champion Corporation	10,303	319
		<u>4,887</u>	*Terminix Global Holdings, Inc.	5,537	282
<b>Financials—15.6%</b>					<u>2,849</u>
Ares Management Corporation	7,647	360	<b>Real Estate—7.0%</b>		
Columbia Banking System, Inc.	8,227	295	Americold Realty Trust	8,207	306
East West Bancorp, Inc.	9,518	483	CoreSite Realty Corporation	1,560	195
*Encore Capital Group, Inc.	6,664	259	Douglas Emmett, Inc.	8,383	245
FirstCash, Inc.	4,449	312	Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc.	7,255	460
Glacier Bancorp, Inc.	7,648	352	Healthcare Realty Trust, Inc.	8,910	264
Hannon Armstrong Sustainable Infrastructure Capital, Inc.	4,104	260	Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc.	1,541	229
LPL Financial Holdings, Inc.	2,925	305	Sunstone Hotel Investors, Inc.	35,054	397
Prog Holdings, Inc.	4,240	228			<u>2,096</u>
*Star Peak Energy Transition Corporation	13,328	273	<b>Materials—6.4%</b>		
Virtu Financial, Inc.	14,133	356	Avery Dennison Corporation	1,943	301
Voya Financial, Inc.	4,637	273	*Crown Holdings, Inc.	4,616	463
Western Alliance Bancorp	9,703	582	Eagle Materials, Inc.	3,211	325
Wintrust Financial Corporation	5,730	350	FMC Corporation	1,702	196
		<u>4,688</u>	Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.	1,007	286
<b>Industrials—15.5%</b>			Orion Engineered Carbons S.A.†	20,715	355
*Axon Enterprise, Inc.	2,271	278			<u>1,926</u>
*Builders FirstSource, Inc.	13,052	533	<b>Consumer Staples—4.5%</b>		
BWX Technologies, Inc.	9,617	580	*BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings, Inc.	6,973	260
*Casella Waste Systems, Inc.	3,018	187	Inter Parfums, Inc.	4,517	273
Douglas Dynamics, Inc.	5,386	230	*Performance Food Group Co.	4,143	197
*Generac Holdings, Inc.	1,219	277	Primo Water Corporation†	15,550	244
*IAA, Inc.	3,755	244	Spectrum Brands Holdings, Inc.	4,593	363
Lincoln Electric Holdings, Inc.	3,153	367			<u>1,337</u>
Luxfer Holdings plc†	10,707	176	<b>Energy—3.7%</b>		
Owens Corning	5,127	388	Cameco Corporation†	33,988	455
*Teledyne Technologies, Inc.	418	164	*ChampionX Corporation	9,864	151
The Brink's Co.	9,381	676	New Fortress Energy, Inc.	4,003	215
*Trex Co., Inc.	3,898	326	Parsley Energy, Inc.	21,515	305
*WillScot Mobile Mini Holdings Corporation	10,074	233			<u>1,126</u>
		<u>4,659</u>	<b>Communication Services—2.7%</b>		
<b>Information Technology—15.4%</b>			Cable One, Inc.	137	305
*Alarm.com Holdings, Inc.	3,952	409	*Live Nation Entertainment, Inc.	3,455	254
Booz Allen Hamilton Holding Corporation	2,379	207	*Zynga, Inc.	26,189	259
Brooks Automation, Inc.	4,752	322			<u>818</u>
CMC Materials, Inc.	1,483	224	<b>Utilities—1.3%</b>		
*Cree, Inc.	2,857	302	IDACORP, Inc.	4,194	403
Dolby Laboratories, Inc.	3,620	352	<b>Total Common Stocks—97.9%</b>		
Entegris, Inc.	2,276	219	(cost \$21,771)		<u>29,404</u>
*Euronet Worldwide, Inc.	2,816	408			
*j2 Global, Inc.	2,956	289			
*Knowles Corporation	9,438	174			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.



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**Small-Mid Cap Core Fund**


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**Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020** *(all dollar amounts in thousands)*

<u>Issuer</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Value</u>
<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$747, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$762	\$747	\$ 747
<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—2.5%</b> (cost \$747)		<u>747</u>
<b>Total Investments—100.4%</b> (cost \$22,518)		<u>30,151</u>
<b>Liabilities, plus cash and other assets—(0.4)%</b>		<u>(106)</u>
<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		<u><u>\$ 30,045</u></u>

ADR = American Depositary Receipt

\* = Non-income producing security

† = U.S. listed foreign security

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds **17**

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**Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund**


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The Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*Daniel Crowe*



*James E. Jones*

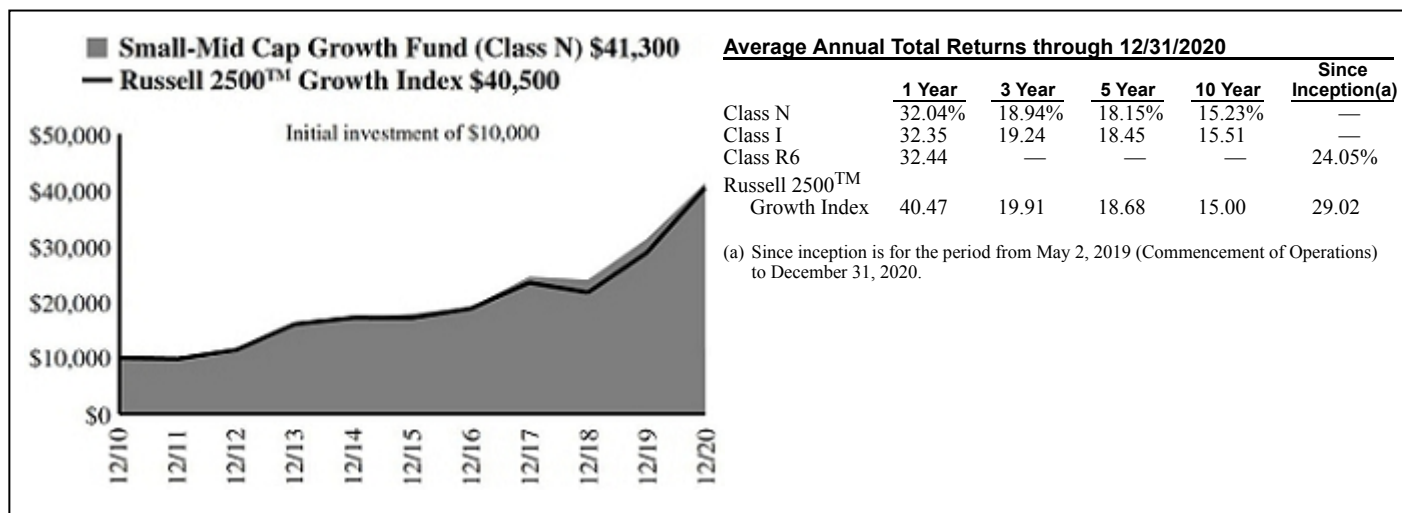
The William Blair Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund (Class N shares) posted a 32.04% increase, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the Russell 2500™ Growth Index (the "Index"), increased 40.47%.

Despite outperforming during the downturn earlier in the year, the Fund trailed the Index in the full-year period. Relative performance was driven by a combination of style headwinds and stock-specific factors. From a style perspective, our biases toward companies with high returns on invested capital and more consistent business models, as well as our typical lower beta profile, were headwinds during the period as the lowest returns on invested capital, most volatile and highest beta quintiles of the benchmark were the best performers. Partly offsetting this headwind was our typical larger market cap profile relative to the Index as the largest stocks in our universe outperformed. From a sector perspective, Information Technology was the primary source of the Fund's underperformance for the year. This was a result of some stock-specific factors and the Fund's valuation discipline, as the most expensive stocks in the sector (e.g., Software) dramatically outperformed. Given our underweight to certain parts of the market where we believe that valuations are at extreme levels, most notably in Information Technology, we believe any normalization in valuations could prove to be beneficial to the Fund's relative performance in the future. Top individual stock detractors included BWX Technologies (Industrials), Grand Canyon Education (Consumer Discretionary), Brink's Co (Industrials), Martin Marietta (Materials) and Live Nation Entertainment (Communication Services). BWX Technologies, the sole-source provider of propulsion systems for the U.S. Navy, experienced weakness due to concerns surrounding the extended timeline of the rollout of its medical radioisotope product as well as uncertainty around future government military spending under a Democratic U.S. Presidential administration. Online education services provider Grand Canyon lagged as the U.S. Presidential election and the company's pending non-profit status with the Department of Education weighed on the stock. Conversely, stock selection in Industrials, including our position in Trex Co, contributed positively to relative returns. Top individual contributors included Etsy (Consumer Discretionary), Horizon Therapeutics (Health Care), SolarEdge Technologies (Information Technology) and iRhythm Technologies (Health Care). E-commerce marketplace Etsy added new buyers to its platform amid COVID-19 retail disruption, which we believe could sustainably increase longer-term sales potential for the company. Horizon Therapeutics benefitted from continued robust growth of the company's recently launched drug Tepezza, a drug that treats Thyroid Eye Disease.

Please refer to the U.S. Growth Market Review and Outlook relating to the Fund on page 3.

## Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund

### Performance Highlights (Unaudited)



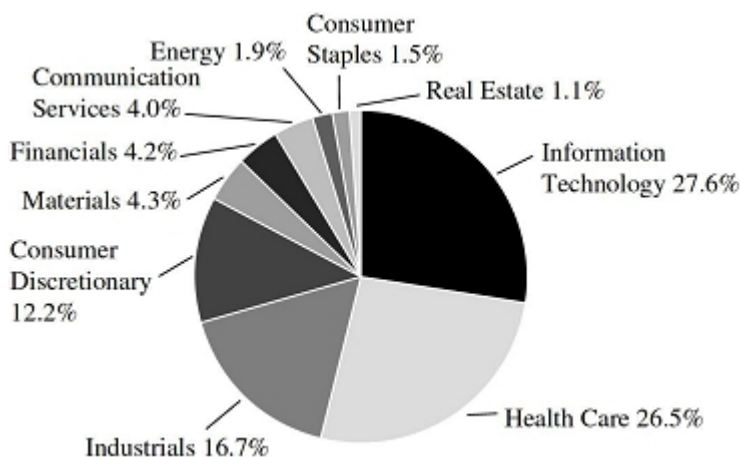
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### Sector Diversification (Unaudited)



The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 19

## Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares or Principal Amount	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Information Technology—27.4%</b>			<b>Consumer Discretionary—12.1%</b>		
*Alarm.com Holdings, Inc.	594,031	\$ 61,453	Advance Auto Parts, Inc.	265,616	\$ 41,837
*Aspen Technology, Inc.	365,246	47,573	*Bright Horizons Family Solutions, Inc.	280,971	48,605
*Avalara, Inc.	324,048	53,432	*Burlington Stores, Inc.	120,525	31,523
Booz Allen Hamilton Holding Corporation	296,877	25,882	*Etsy, Inc.	493,939	87,877
Brooks Automation, Inc.	785,020	53,264	*Grand Canyon Education, Inc.	863,402	80,391
*Cree, Inc.	383,869	40,652	*Helen of Troy, Ltd.†	228,708	50,817
Entegris, Inc.	362,640	34,850	*National Vision Holdings, Inc.	779,816	35,318
*Euronet Worldwide, Inc.	390,003	56,519	*Terminix Global Holdings, Inc.	653,795	33,350
*GoDaddy, Inc.	551,874	45,778	*Ulta Beauty, Inc.	84,494	24,263
*Guidewire Software, Inc.	227,970	29,347			<u>433,981</u>
*j2 Global, Inc.	381,876	37,305	<b>Materials—4.3%</b>		
*LiveRamp Holdings, Inc.	623,095	45,604	*Crown Holdings, Inc.	730,716	73,218
MAXIMUS, Inc.	267,652	19,589	Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.	281,833	80,032
*MongoDB, Inc.	123,314	44,275			<u>153,250</u>
National Instruments Corporation	851,937	37,434	<b>Financials—4.2%</b>		
*Nice, Ltd.—ADR	278,216	78,885	Ares Management Corporation	806,512	37,946
*Novanta, Inc.†	223,976	26,478	FirstCash, Inc.	421,043	29,490
*Proofpoint, Inc.	235,834	32,170	*Star Peak Energy Transition Corporation	977,639	20,003
*Pure Storage, Inc.	2,998,259	67,791	Virtu Financial, Inc.	1,399,607	35,228
*SolarEdge Technologies, Inc.	188,013	59,999	Western Alliance Bancorp	450,800	27,026
*Varonis Systems, Inc.	270,412	44,242			<u>149,693</u>
*Zendesk, Inc.	252,400	36,123	<b>Communication Services—3.9%</b>		
		<u>978,645</u>	Cable One, Inc.	25,080	55,871
<b>Health Care—26.3%</b>			*Live Nation Entertainment, Inc.	522,452	38,390
*10X Genomics, Inc.	303,655	42,998	*Zynga, Inc.	4,660,235	45,996
*ABIOMED, Inc.	101,688	32,967			<u>140,257</u>
*Acadia Healthcare Co., Inc.	556,514	27,970	<b>Energy—1.9%</b>		
*Amedisys, Inc.	188,792	55,378	Cameco Corporation†	2,865,567	38,399
Bio-Techne Corporation	174,883	55,534	New Fortress Energy, Inc.	555,048	29,745
*Blueprint Medicines Corporation	220,000	24,673			<u>68,144</u>
Encompass Health Corporation	951,833	78,707	<b>Consumer Staples—1.4%</b>		
*Halozyne Therapeutics, Inc.	1,382,903	59,064	*BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings, Inc.	1,397,012	52,081
*HealthEquity, Inc.	799,091	55,705	<b>Real Estate—1.1%</b>		
*Horizon Therapeutics plc†	1,125,488	82,330	FirstService Corporation†	283,101	38,717
*Insmed, Inc.	726,438	24,183	<b>Total Common Stocks—99.1%</b>		
*Inspire Medical Systems, Inc.	132,900	24,997	(cost \$2,349,292)		<u>3,544,888</u>
*Insulet Corporation	206,256	52,725	<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
*Ligand Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	392,440	39,028	Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000%		
*Masimo Corporation	110,590	29,680	dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price		
*Merit Medical Systems, Inc.	604,458	33,554	\$29,355, collateralized by U.S. Treasury		
*Penumbra, Inc.	293,275	51,323	Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at		
STERIS plc†	255,885	48,500	\$29,942	\$29,355	29,355
Teleflex, Inc.	109,577	45,099	<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—0.8%</b>		
*Twist Bioscience Corporation	145,687	20,584	(cost \$29,355)		<u>29,355</u>
*Veracyte, Inc.	1,116,120	54,623	<b>Total Investments—99.9%</b>		
		<u>939,622</u>	(cost \$2,378,647)		<u>3,574,243</u>
<b>Industrials—16.5%</b>			<b>Cash and other assets, less liabilities—0.1%</b>		
*Axon Enterprise, Inc.	431,771	52,905			<u>2,839</u>
*Builders FirstSource, Inc.	1,128,954	46,072	<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		
BWX Technologies, Inc.	1,453,595	87,623			<u>\$3,577,082</u>
*Generac Holdings, Inc.	196,076	44,590			
HEICO Corporation	238,343	27,900			
Lincoln Electric Holdings, Inc.	232,608	27,041			
*Mercury Systems, Inc.	754,895	66,476			
Ritchie Bros Auctioneers, Inc.†	893,677	62,155			
*Teledyne Technologies, Inc.	103,344	40,509			
The Brink's Co.	1,017,753	73,278			
*Trex Co., Inc.	739,954	61,949			
		<u>590,498</u>			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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**Small-Mid Cap Value Fund**


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The Small-Mid Cap Value Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*Mark T. Leslie*



*David S. Mitchell*

The William Blair Small-Mid Cap Value Fund (Class N shares) posted a 5.09% decrease, net of fees, for year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the Russell 2500™ Value Index (the "Index"), increased 4.88%.

The Fund trailed the Index in 2020 due to the combination of stock selection and style headwinds during the period given its larger market cap and higher quality biases. We believe that 2020 was a unique year from a style perspective. Stocks were highly correlated with little differentiation between larger and smaller caps or between higher and lower quality stocks during the market sell-off in the first quarter. In contrast, as the market rebounded dramatically and finished the year over 80% higher off its mid-March low, there was significant dispersion across the size and quality quintiles as smaller caps and lower quality stocks dramatically outperformed. At the sector level, Consumer Discretionary was the largest detractor during the period due to stock selection within Specialty Retail, Diversified Consumer Services and Distributors. Within Energy, stock selection within Consumable Fuels and Equipment & Services, impacted by the drop in oil prices during the year, drove relative returns within the sector. The relative returns within Industrials was the result of stock selection within Building Products, Aerospace & Defense, Machinery, and Construction & Engineering. The relative outperformance within Financials was largely due to a lack of exposure to Mortgage real estate investment trusts. Looking specifically at stock selection, the strategy's largest detractors during the period were EPR Properties (Real Estate), Parsley Energy (Energy), and Patterson-UIT Energy (Energy). Offsetting these detractors were our investments in Dunkin' Brands (Consumer Staples), Cadence Design Systems (Information Technology), TopBuild (Consumer Discretionary).

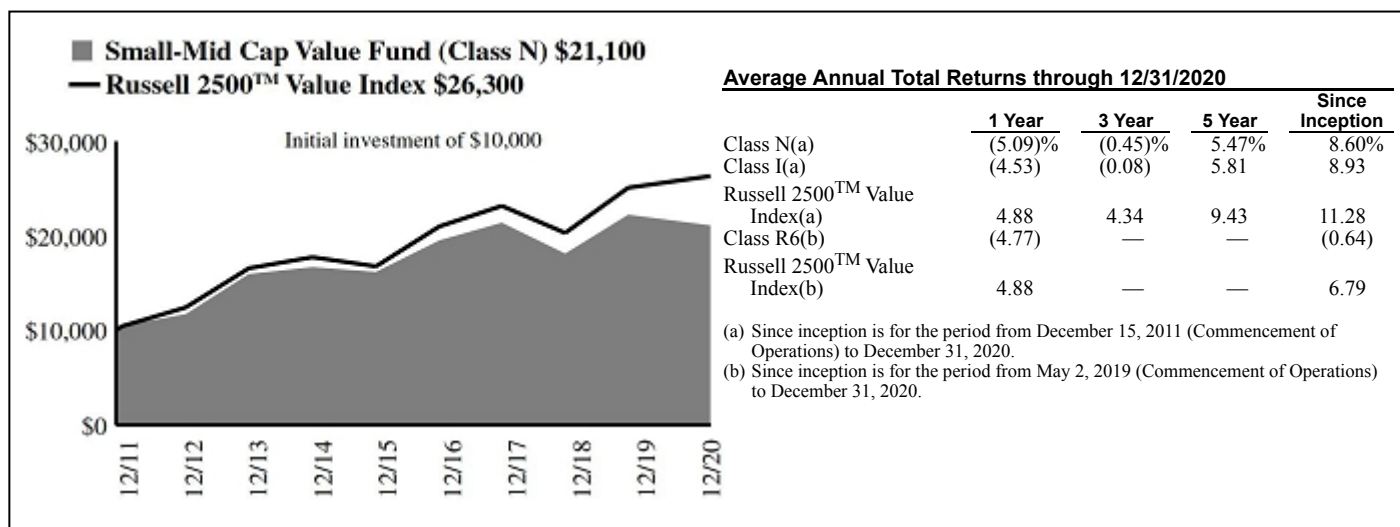
Please refer to the U.S. Value Market Review and Outlook relating to the Fund on page 4.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds **21**

## Small-Mid Cap Value Fund

### Performance Highlights (Unaudited)



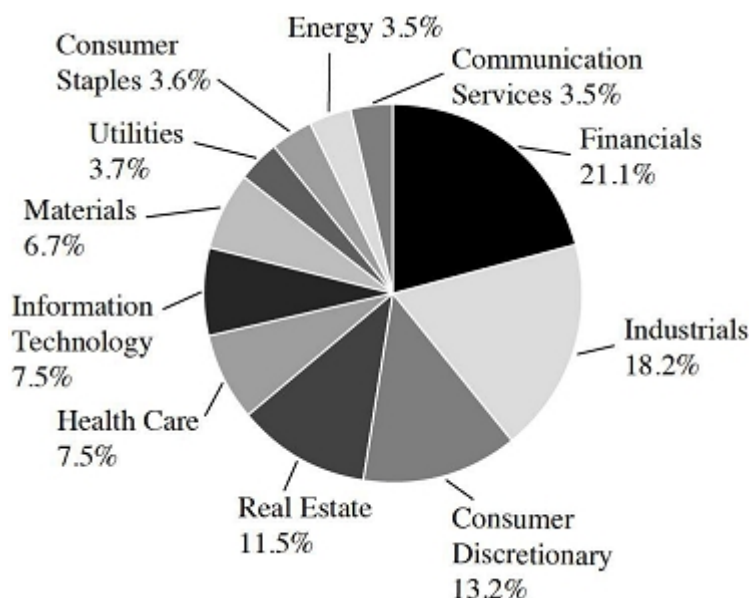
Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). Investing in smaller and medium capitalization companies involves special risks, including higher volatility and lower liquidity. Smaller and medium capitalization stocks are also more sensitive to purchase/sale transactions and changes in the issuer's financial condition. From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.

The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.

The Russell 2500™ Value Index consists of small to mid-capitalization companies with below average price-to-book ratios and forecasted growth rates.

This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all stocks in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these stocks will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.

### Sector Diversification (Unaudited)



The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.

## Small-Mid Cap Value Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Financials—20.3%</b>			<b>Health Care—7.3%</b>		
American Financial Group, Inc.	193	\$ 17	*Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.	26	\$ 15
CNO Financial Group, Inc.	687	15	CONMED Corporation	139	16
East West Bancorp, Inc.	368	19	Encompass Health Corporation	275	23
First American Financial Corporation	324	17	*Hologic, Inc.	310	23
FNB Corporation	1,422	14	PerkinElmer, Inc.	199	28
Hancock Whitney Corporation	463	16			<u>105</u>
Home BancShares, Inc.	792	15	<b>Information Technology—7.3%</b>		
National Bank Holdings Corporation	398	13	*Arista Networks, Inc.	69	20
PacWest Bancorp	718	18	Booz Allen Hamilton Holding Corporation	198	17
Radian Group, Inc.	751	15	*Cadence Design Systems, Inc.	165	22
Selective Insurance Group, Inc.	308	21	*Ciena Corporation	469	25
*SVB Financial Group	64	25	MAXIMUS, Inc.	271	20
The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc.	166	19			<u>104</u>
Umpqua Holdings Corporation	1,286	19	<b>Materials—6.5%</b>		
Voya Financial, Inc.	392	23	Avient Corporation	475	19
Western Alliance Bancorp	419	25	FMC Corporation	247	29
		<u>291</u>	Sensient Technologies Corporation	194	14
<b>Industrials—17.5%</b>			Silgan Holdings, Inc.	328	12
Brady Corporation	475	25	Steel Dynamics, Inc.	519	19
*Chart Industries, Inc.	209	25			<u>93</u>
Curtiss-Wright Corporation	196	23	<b>Utilities—3.6%</b>		
Fortune Brands Home & Security, Inc.	291	25	Alliant Energy Corporation	312	16
*FTI Consulting, Inc.	181	20	Atmos Energy Corporation	178	17
Kansas City Southern	152	31	IDACORP, Inc.	194	19
Rexnord Corporation	541	21			<u>52</u>
Simpson Manufacturing Co., Inc.	204	19	<b>Consumer Staples—3.5%</b>		
The Toro Co.	339	32	*BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings, Inc.	303	11
Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corporation	417	31	Casey's General Stores, Inc.	53	10
		<u>252</u>	J&J Snack Foods Corporation	93	14
<b>Consumer Discretionary—12.8%</b>			Lamb Weston Holdings, Inc.	192	15
Churchill Downs, Inc.	109	21			<u>50</u>
*Deckers Outdoor Corporation	84	24	<b>Energy—3.4%</b>		
*Helen of Troy, Ltd.†	118	26	*CNX Resources Corporation	1,256	14
*LKQ Corporation	582	21	Diamondback Energy, Inc.	329	16
Murphy USA, Inc.	141	19	Helmerich & Payne, Inc.	381	9
PulteGroup, Inc.	561	24	Valero Energy Corporation	183	10
Service Corporation International	415	20			<u>49</u>
*TopBuild Corporation	155	29	<b>Communication Services—3.3%</b>		
		<u>184</u>	The Interpublic Group of Cos., Inc.	1,222	29
<b>Real Estate—11.1%</b>			*Zynga, Inc.	1,971	19
American Assets Trust, Inc.	577	17			<u>48</u>
American Campus Communities, Inc.	347	15	<b>Total Common Stocks—96.6%</b>		
Americold Realty Trust	553	21	(cost \$985)		<u>1,387</u>
CoreSite Realty Corporation	93	12			
Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc.	407	26			
Healthcare Realty Trust, Inc.	729	21			
Highwoods Properties, Inc.	343	13			
Life Storage, Inc.	154	18			
Terreno Realty Corporation	278	16			
		<u>159</u>			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds **23**



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**Small-Mid Cap Value Fund**


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Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 *(all dollar amounts in thousands)*

<u>Issuer</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Value</u>
<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$107, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$109	\$107	\$ 107
<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—7.4%</b> (cost \$107)		<u>107</u>
<b>Total Investments—104.0%</b> (cost \$1,092)		1,494
<b>Liabilities, plus cash and other assets—(4.0)%</b>		<u>(57)</u>
<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		<u><u>\$ 1,437</u></u>

\* = Non-income producing security

† = U.S. listed foreign security

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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**Small Cap Growth Fund**


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The Small Cap Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*Ward D. Sexton*



*Mark C. Thompson*

The William Blair Small Cap Growth Fund (Class N shares) posted a 38.32% increase, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the Russell 2000® Growth Index (the "Index"), increased 34.63%.

Outperformance for the year was the result of strong stock selection, which more than offset a headwind to our investment style. The portfolio benefited from stock selection across several sectors, most notably in Health Care. Top contributors in the sector included our positions in Twist Bioscience, Horizon Therapeutics and Simulations Plus. Through its innovation and execution amid the pandemic, synthetic biology company Twist Bioscience has attracted new customers, which we believe creates a sustainable benefit for the business into the future. Other top contributors were SiTime Corp (Information Technology) and Etsy (Consumer Discretionary). Semiconductor company SiTime reported numerous design wins during the year, which drove stock performance. Stock selection in Industrials, including our positions in Brink's Co, BWX Technologies and Douglas Dynamics, detracted from relative performance. Despite improving fundamentals and stock performance late in the year, cash management services provider Brink's Company suffered from COVID-19 related closures, most notably from retail customers. Other notable laggards included Health Care holdings Hanger and Aerie Pharmaceuticals. Hanger is a provider of orthotic and prosthetic services that experienced a transitory demand reduction as individuals delayed office visits amid the pandemic. From a style perspective, the most expensive segments of our benchmark outperformed. Because of our valuation sensitivity, our typical underweight to the most expensive stocks in the benchmark was a headwind.

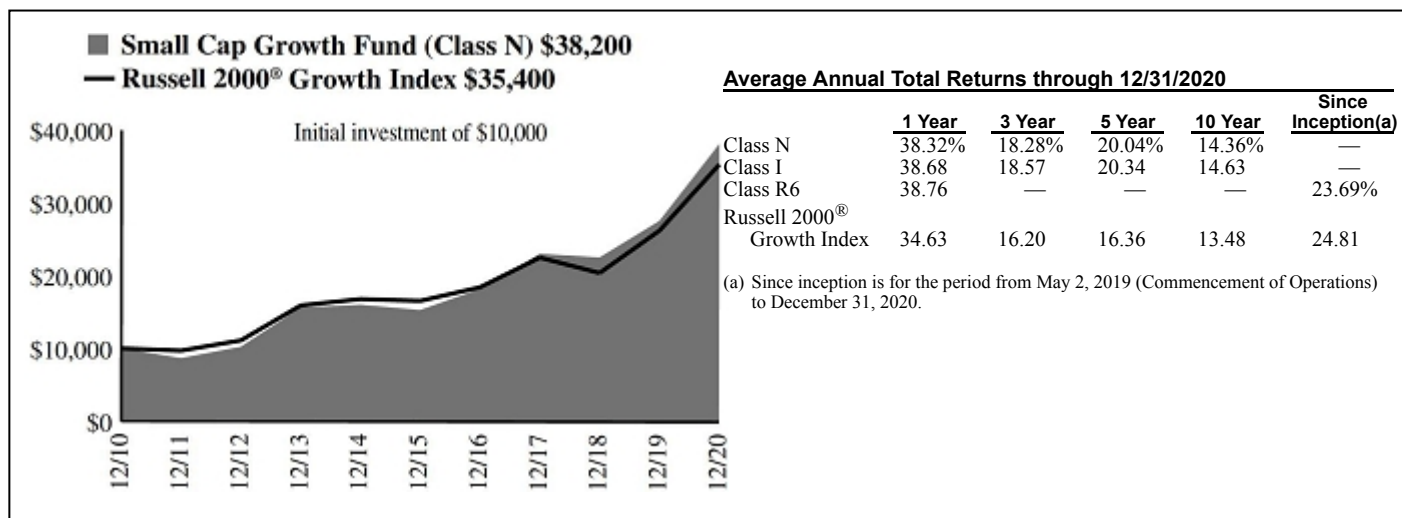
Please refer to the U.S. Growth Market Review and Outlook relating to the Fund on page 3.

*December 31, 2020*

*William Blair Funds* **25**

## Small Cap Growth Fund

### Performance Highlights (Unaudited)



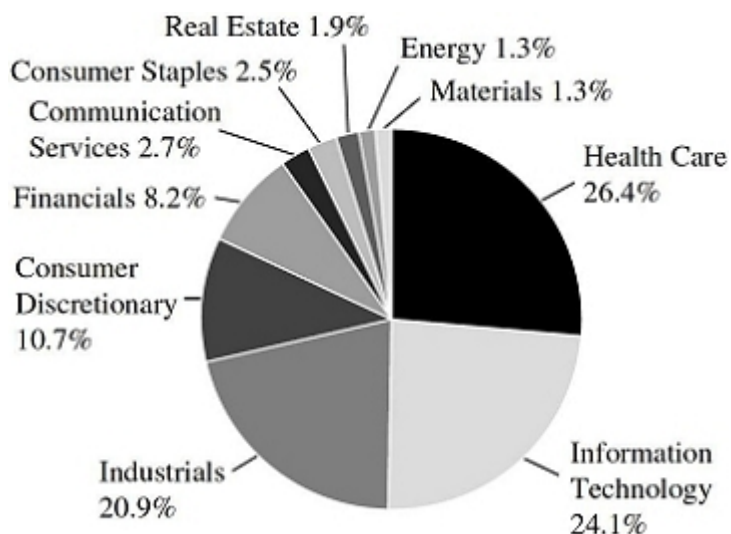
Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). Investing in smaller companies involves special risks, including higher volatility and lower liquidity. Smaller capitalization stocks are also more sensitive to purchase/sale transactions and changes in the issuer's financial condition. From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.

The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.

The Russell 2000® Growth Index is an unmanaged composite of the smallest 2000 stocks of the Russell 3000® Growth Index.

This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all stocks in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these stocks will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.

### Sector Diversification (Unaudited)



The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.

## Small Cap Growth Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Health Care—26.1%</b>			<b>Industrials—20.6%</b>		
*Acadia Healthcare Co., Inc.	145,199	\$ 7,298	Albany International Corporation	97,785	\$ 7,179
*Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	444,841	6,010	*Builders FirstSource, Inc.	130,800	5,338
*Amicus Therapeutics, Inc.	315,280	7,280	BWX Technologies, Inc.	223,539	13,475
*AxoGen, Inc.	397,690	7,119	*Casella Waste Systems, Inc.	178,930	11,085
*Blueprint Medicines Corporation	31,390	3,520	Douglas Dynamics, Inc.	162,323	6,943
*CareDx, Inc.	123,197	8,926	*Ducommun, Inc.	255,499	13,720
*Codexis, Inc.	385,298	8,411	*Energy Recovery, Inc.	279,256	3,809
*CryoLife, Inc.	258,442	6,102	ESCO Technologies, Inc.	51,156	5,280
Encompass Health Corporation	75,781	6,266	*Forrester Research, Inc.	142,843	5,985
*GenMark Diagnostics, Inc.	431,634	6,302	*IAA, Inc.	96,520	6,272
*Halozyne Therapeutics, Inc.	250,510	10,699	Lincoln Electric Holdings, Inc.	48,390	5,625
*Hanger, Inc.	412,230	9,065	Luxfer Holdings plc†	403,685	6,628
*Harmony Biosciences Holdings, Inc.	45,007	1,627	*Mercury Systems, Inc.	90,376	7,959
*Health Catalyst, Inc.	221,958	9,662	*Montrose Environmental Group, Inc.	220,166	6,816
*HealthEquity, Inc.	94,655	6,598	*PAE, Inc.	950,968	8,730
*Insmmed, Inc.	240,170	7,995	Ritchie Bros Auctioneers, Inc.†	136,845	9,518
*LHC Group, Inc.	37,223	7,940	The Brink's Co.	199,216	14,344
*Ligand Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	108,058	10,746			<u>138,706</u>
*Merit Medical Systems, Inc.	167,090	9,275	<b>Consumer Discretionary—10.5%</b>		
*Penumbra, Inc.	25,148	4,401	*Boot Barn Holdings, Inc.	243,094	10,541
Simulations Plus, Inc.	62,200	4,474	*Grand Canyon Education, Inc.	104,742	9,753
*Tabula Rasa HealthCare, Inc.	151,106	6,473	*Laureate Education, Inc.	349,672	5,091
*Twist Bioscience Corporation	50,306	7,108	Lithia Motors, Inc.	29,239	8,557
US Physical Therapy, Inc.	50,807	6,110	*National Vision Holdings, Inc.	152,218	6,894
*Veracyte, Inc.	141,320	6,916	*Revolve Group, Inc.	285,464	8,898
		<u>176,323</u>	*Rush Street Interactive, Inc.	443,050	9,592
<b>Information Technology—23.7%</b>			*Skyline Champion Corporation	209,680	6,487
*Agilysys, Inc.	86,772	3,330	Winmark Corporation	26,970	5,011
*Alarm.com Holdings, Inc.	90,950	9,409			<u>70,824</u>
American Software, Inc.	258,320	4,435	<b>Financials—8.1%</b>		
Brooks Automation, Inc.	133,245	9,041	*Encore Capital Group, Inc.	196,723	7,662
CMC Materials, Inc.	37,050	5,606	FirstCash, Inc.	143,778	10,070
Computer Services, Inc.	105,369	6,259	Home BancShares, Inc.	314,518	6,127
*Euronet Worldwide, Inc.	56,960	8,255	LPL Financial Holdings, Inc.	58,470	6,094
*Grid Dynamics Holdings, Inc.	930,729	11,727	*Open Lending Corporation	164,137	5,738
*j2 Global, Inc.	80,933	7,906	Prog Holdings, Inc.	172,937	9,316
*Knowles Corporation	276,970	5,105	*South Mountain Merger Corporation	198,309	3,199
Littelfuse, Inc.	26,863	6,841	*Star Peak Energy Transition Corporation	303,809	6,216
*LivePerson, Inc.	102,647	6,388			<u>54,422</u>
*LiveRamp Holdings, Inc.	147,430	10,790	<b>Communication Services—2.7%</b>		
*Novanta, Inc.†	36,790	4,349	*Porch Group, Inc.	415,958	5,936
*PAR Technology Corporation	62,750	3,940	*QuinStreet, Inc.	559,665	11,999
*PDF Solutions, Inc.	206,932	4,470			<u>17,935</u>
*PROS Holdings, Inc.	46,761	2,374	<b>Consumer Staples—2.4%</b>		
*Pure Storage, Inc.	501,496	11,339	*BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings, Inc.	157,510	5,872
*SiTime Corporation	38,765	4,339	*Darling Ingredients, Inc.	182,820	10,545
*Upland Software, Inc.	164,140	7,532			<u>16,417</u>
*Varonis Systems, Inc.	44,080	7,212	<b>Real Estate—1.8%</b>		
*Verra Mobility Corporation	539,699	7,243	Colliers International Group, Inc.†	65,098	5,802
*Vertex, Inc.	82,477	2,874	FirstService Corporation†	48,767	6,670
*WNS Holdings, Ltd.—ADR	131,052	9,442			<u>12,472</u>
		<u>160,206</u>			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 27

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**Small Cap Growth Fund**


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Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares or Principal Amount	Value
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Energy—1.3%</b>		
Cameco Corporation†	653,740	\$ 8,760
<b>Materials—1.3%</b>		
Orion Engineered Carbons S.A.†	496,777	8,515
<b>Total Common Stocks—98.5%</b> (cost \$450,622)		<u>664,580</u>
<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$10,756, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$10,972	\$10,756	10,756
<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—1.6%</b> (cost \$10,756)		<u>10,756</u>
<b>Total Investments—100.1%</b> (cost \$461,378)		<u>675,336</u>
<b>Liabilities, plus cash and other assets—(0.1)%</b>		<u>(728)</u>
<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		<u>\$674,608</u>

ADR = American Depositary Receipt

\* = Non-income producing security

† = U.S. listed foreign security

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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**Small Cap Value Fund**


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The Small Cap Value Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*Mark T. Leslie*



*David S. Mitchell*

The William Blair Small Cap Value Fund (Class N shares) posted a 5.76% decrease, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Value Index (the "Index"), increased 4.63%.

The Fund's relative performance was impacted by the combination of stock selection and style headwinds during the year given its larger market cap and higher quality biases. We believe that 2020 was a unique year from a style perspective. Stocks were highly correlated with little differentiation between larger and smaller caps or between higher and lower quality stocks during the market sell-off in the first quarter of 2020. In contrast, as the market rebounded dramatically and finished the year over 85% higher off its mid-March low, there was significant dispersion across the size and quality quintiles as smaller caps and lower quality stocks dramatically outperformed. At the sector level, Consumer Discretionary was the largest detractor during the period due to a lack of exposure to Internet & Direct Marketing Retail and Leisure Products and stock selection within Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure, Specialty Retail, and Auto Components. Within Energy, stock selection within Consumable Fuels and Equipment & Services, impacted by the drop in oil prices during the year, drove relative returns within the sector. The relative returns within Real Estate was primarily driven by stock selection within Specialized real estate investment trusts ("REITs"). The relative outperformance within Financials was due to a lack of exposure to Mortgage REITs and stock selection within Banks. Communication Services was another contributor to relative returns during the period mainly due to an underweight to Media stocks. Looking specifically at stock selection, the strategy's largest detractors during the period were EPR Properties (Real Estate), Pebblebrook Hotel Trust (Real Estate), and Helix Energy Solutions (Energy). Offsetting these detractors were our investments in Inphi (Information Technology), Darling Ingredients (Consumer Staples), and Dunkin' Brands (Consumer Discretionary).

Please refer to the U.S. Value Market Review and Outlook relating to the Fund on page 4.

*December 31, 2020*

*William Blair Funds* **29**

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**Small Cap Value Fund**

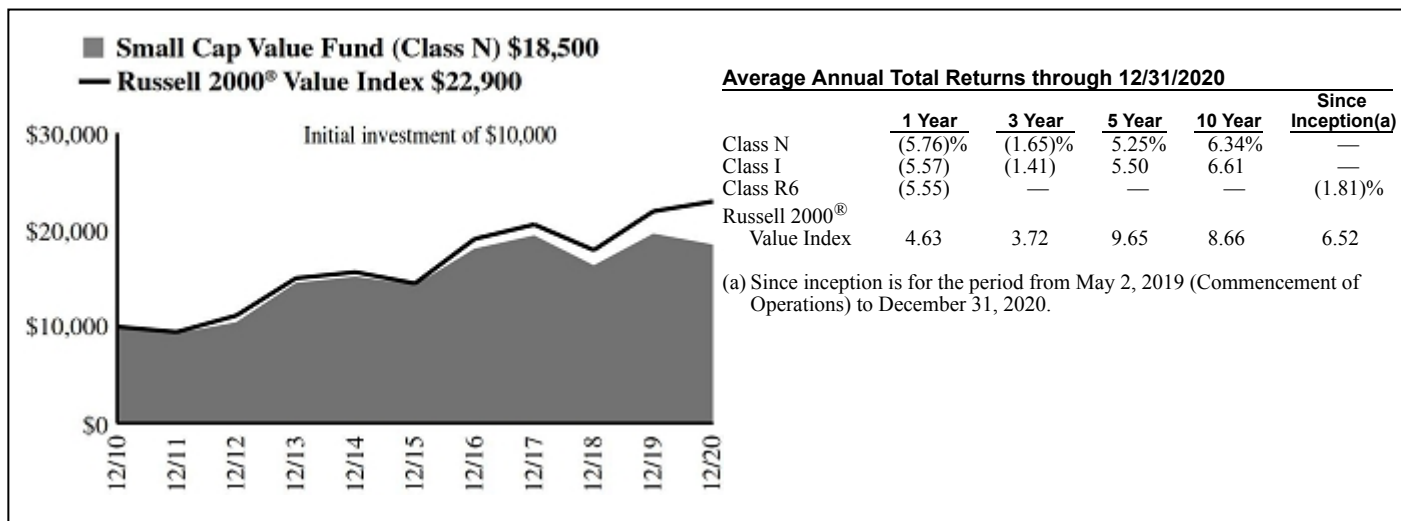

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**Performance Highlights (Unaudited)**


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The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.

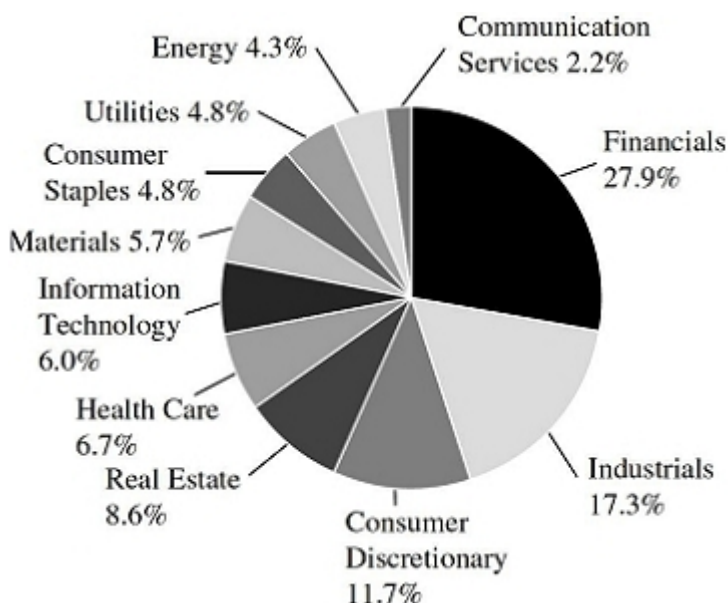
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**Sector Diversification (Unaudited)**


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The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.





## Small Cap Value Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Financials—27.4%</b>			<b>Real Estate—(continued)</b>		
Banc of California, Inc.	27,198	\$ 400	Life Storage, Inc.	5,808	\$ 693
Banner Corporation	12,874	600	Terreno Realty Corporation	11,930	698
Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc.	79,032	668			<u>5,073</u>
Cadence Bancorp	39,091	642	<b>Health Care—6.6%</b>		
CNO Financial Group, Inc.	38,339	852	CONMED Corporation	11,447	1,282
First American Financial Corporation	10,706	553	Encompass Health Corporation	14,443	1,195
FNB Corporation	68,394	650	*Integer Holdings Corporation	10,976	891
Glacier Bancorp, Inc.	17,834	821	*Magellan Health, Inc.	7,089	587
Hancock Whitney Corporation	30,289	1,030			<u>3,955</u>
Home BancShares, Inc.	46,402	904	<b>Information Technology—5.9%</b>		
Horace Mann Educators Corporation	16,636	699	*J2 Global, Inc.	6,451	630
National Bank Holdings Corporation	19,625	643	*LiveRamp Holdings, Inc.	10,487	768
OceanFirst Financial Corporation	28,319	528	MAXIMUS, Inc.	8,694	636
PacWest Bancorp	24,869	632	Perspecta, Inc.	18,211	439
Radian Group, Inc.	47,639	965	*Semtech Corporation	4,090	295
Renasant Corporation	19,137	644	*Viavi Solutions, Inc.	51,779	775
Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc.	19,862	639			<u>3,543</u>
*Seacoast Banking Corporation of Florida	28,427	837	<b>Materials—5.7%</b>		
Selective Insurance Group, Inc.	15,590	1,044	Avient Corporation	18,472	744
The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc.	6,850	801	Carpenter Technology Corporation	17,560	511
Umpqua Holdings Corporation	47,901	725	Minerals Technologies, Inc.	11,495	714
Western Alliance Bancorp	19,253	1,154	Sensient Technologies Corporation	9,087	671
		<u>16,431</u>	Silgan Holdings, Inc.	20,172	748
<b>Industrials—17.1%</b>					<u>3,388</u>
Alamo Group, Inc.	2,040	282	<b>Utilities—4.7%</b>		
Brady Corporation	25,684	1,357	Black Hills Corporation	11,737	721
*Chart Industries, Inc.	7,285	858	Chesapeake Utilities Corporation	5,625	609
Curtiss-Wright Corporation	9,203	1,071	IDACORP, Inc.	6,893	662
ESCO Technologies, Inc.	5,875	606	ONE Gas, Inc.	10,869	834
Federal Signal Corporation	12,656	420			<u>2,826</u>
*FTI Consulting, Inc.	6,705	749	<b>Consumer Staples—4.7%</b>		
*Gibraltar Industries, Inc.	14,420	1,037	*BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings, Inc.	11,113	414
Rexnord Corporation	15,330	605	Casey's General Stores, Inc.	2,722	486
*Saia, Inc.	3,334	603	*Darling Ingredients, Inc.	21,901	1,263
Simpson Manufacturing Co., Inc.	7,007	655	J&J Snack Foods Corporation	4,218	656
UniFirst Corporation	4,295	909			<u>2,819</u>
Watts Water Technologies, Inc.	8,869	1,079	<b>Energy—4.2%</b>		
		<u>10,231</u>	Archrock, Inc.	54,148	469
<b>Consumer Discretionary—11.6%</b>			Brigham Minerals, Inc.	35,819	394
Carter's, Inc.	8,007	753	Cactus, Inc.	10,622	277
*Cavco Industries, Inc.	2,187	384	*CNX Resources Corporation	48,087	519
Churchill Downs, Inc.	3,345	652	HollyFrontier Corporation	11,709	303
*Deckers Outdoor Corporation	3,591	1,030	*PDC Energy, Inc.	27,387	562
*Helen of Troy, Ltd.†	4,357	968			<u>2,524</u>
KB Home	13,930	467	<b>Communication Services—2.1%</b>		
*Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc.	13,068	800	John Wiley & Sons, Inc.	6,570	300
Murphy USA, Inc.	6,390	836	Nexstar Media Group, Inc.	3,485	381
*TopBuild Corporation	5,651	1,040	*QuinStreet, Inc.	16,463	353
		<u>6,930</u>	The Interpublic Group of Cos., Inc.	10,346	243
<b>Real Estate—8.5%</b>					<u>1,277</u>
Agree Realty Corporation	11,198	746	<b>Total Common Stocks—98.5%</b>		
American Assets Trust, Inc.	21,499	621	(cost \$43,146)		<u>58,997</u>
Americold Realty Trust	10,368	387			
CoreSite Realty Corporation	3,426	429			
Healthcare Realty Trust, Inc.	27,121	803			
Highwoods Properties, Inc.	17,575	696			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 31

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**Small Cap Value Fund**


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**Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020** *(all dollar amounts in thousands)*

<b>Issuer</b>	<b>Principal Amount</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$1,066, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$1,087	\$1,066	\$ 1,066
<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—1.8%</b> (cost \$1,066)		<u>1,066</u>
<b>Total Investments—100.3%</b> (cost \$44,212)		<u>60,063</u>
<b>Liabilities, plus cash and other assets—(0.3)%</b>		<u>(162)</u>
<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		<u><u>\$ 59,901</u></u>

\* = Non-income producing security

† = U.S. listed foreign security

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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**Global Markets Review and Outlook**


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Global equities surged in the fourth quarter on promising news of multiple vaccines having high rates of effectiveness against the coronavirus (the MSCI ACWI IMI advanced +15.70% for the quarter and +16.25% for the year). The prospect of a return to normality drove a sharp style rotation out of defensive technology names in favor of value-oriented stocks which had underperformed for most of the year.

US equities advanced (+14.56% for the quarter and +20.46% for the year, as measured by the MSCI US IMI) on the vaccine news which overshadowed the presidential election results and transition of power to President-elect Joe Biden. Investor sentiment was further bolstered in the final days of December as Congress passed a \$900 billion relief package which included direct payments to qualified individuals and an expanded loan program for small businesses.

European equities gained (+16.40% for the quarter and +6.46% for the year as measured by the MSCI Europe IMI) despite a resurgence in new coronavirus cases and newly imposed lockdown measures. The long-awaited trade agreement between the UK and the European Union was settled in late December signaling the UK's official transition period out of the EU. UK equities gained +18.60% in US dollar terms during the fourth quarter (as measured by the MSCI UK IMI), bolstered by a stronger British Pound, which advanced nearly 6% against the dollar. Despite the fourth quarter rally, UK equities ended the year down 8.97% in dollar terms (-11.78% in British Pound terms).

Emerging markets (+19.95% for the quarter and +18.39% for the year, as measured by the MSCI EM IMI) outpaced developed markets primarily due to strength within Latin America and South Korea. China underperformed on a relative basis (+11.38% for the quarter and +29.42% for the year) as tension between China and the US weighed on investor sentiment.

While reviewing the prior year and forming an outlook for the market, it is impossible not to take greater stock of the world events and think more broadly about lessons learned during this time, which has been unlike any other we have experienced in our lifetimes.

As we consider these lessons, it is informative to draw comparisons to what we believe are critical factors for companies and their stocks, and our own experience as investors and businesspeople.

First, in our view, there is no substitute for world-class culture. This means organizations that attract great talent and provide an environment where individuals can flourish. Great management teams lead and empower people to help achieve success for their clients.

During the pandemic we saw increased differentiation among those companies who are innovative, forward looking and agile, who have adapted to overcome multiple challenges in order to stay relevant to their customers. It's too simple to point to the alleged "COVID-19 beneficiaries" who saw a boon to their business due to forced changes in consumption and business practices. In our view, it is more about those companies that have invested in leading data-driven, digital support to their businesses in order to pivot or take advantage of the demand disruption. These companies form the core of each of our investment strategies.

What we are seeing from what we view to be the best companies is their preparedness and their ability to navigate through the crisis in terms of protecting client relationships, managing resources effectively, and executing around their strategy. As in all crises, we expect the best will not only survive but emerge stronger, with improved competitive positioning and more enduring growth prospects. This is where we are continuing to focus.

This relates to our own experience working on your behalf this past year. Our team demonstrated great resilience, commitment, and adaptability. Once again we saw that outstanding people and a committed team culture can overcome a lot of obstacles. The collaborative, engaged nature of our investment process has prepared us remarkably well for this more decentralized, virtual form of work and connectedness. We believe that the content of our research has never been richer and that the engagement and the commitment of the team have never been stronger. Our long-term growth research projects this year were not just a triage for the current crisis, but an opportunity for deeper, reflective work on its longer-term growth implications. This has provided cohesion and consistency to our process.

We believe the second lesson is the importance of growth. Growth is a critical business imperative as it applies to people, products, and ideas. We are attracted to growth companies because we feel that they will add the most value to the future global economy and generate Sustainable Value Creation in the form of cash flows that are underappreciated today. These are three very specific and important words: create, meaning that companies are in control of their destiny; value, referring to positive economic outcomes; and sustainable, referencing durability over a long period of time. This is of particular importance because

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**Global Markets Review and Outlook (continued)**


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in recent years the shares of companies classified as having higher long-term growth have substantially outperformed those of companies classified as value investments.

This stock market recovery has been unique in that it has been driven by the same types of companies that have led the market for several years: highly innovative “digital winners”, those with high and persistent investment for future growth, and companies that have been able to scale at an unprecedented pace. This has fueled the performance of “Growth versus Value” and the ensuing debate around future equity investing style performance.

While these market leaders (Growth stocks) may have high current multiples (i.e., not equating to Value classification), we believe that their earnings power has proven to be undervalued. In our view, the market is still trying to reconcile the digital transformation of business models and the resulting scalability at higher than expected profit levels. Or, put differently, the durability of that growth and profit profile is underappreciated in our view. We believe that the style performance differential therefore reflects a realization that the corporate performance gap is widening.

As a firm and as a team, we often reflect on the fact that we should run our own business and hold ourselves accountable to the same sustainable value creation standards as our portfolio companies. Our firm is 85 years old and our team is 25 years old. Growth is an imperative to a successful long-term franchise, including our own. That means people and people development. Hiring bright minds with diverse perspectives and giving them an opportunity to grow and flourish. They demand growth. It means challenging our investment philosophy and process with new ideas and evolving (growing) our investment skills and tools so that we are as relevant today as we were 10 and 25 years ago. It also means innovating and creating new investment products that meet our clients’ current and future needs. This in turn creates an energized, positive environment that allows us to maximize the contribution of all of our teammates in order to generate long-term returns for our clients.

This leads to the next lesson, which is our belief that “ESG” and sustainable business practices are here to stay. Society at large and (more recently) the investment community appear to have woken up to the fact that long-term thinking is the foundation of business success and investment returns. Building durable, sustainable, enduring businesses and societies is the goal, and the stock market is increasingly recognizing these factors as being important organizational values. We have long seen the obvious connection between long-term corporate value creation and “ESG” practices. The best companies that we referred to previously are increasingly focused on their business activity’s impact on all stakeholders.

As for the market outlook, we expect the economic recovery in 2021 to be extremely robust and surprise to the upside. In our view, consumer spending is likely to grow smartly across developed markets, as pent up demand and high aggregate savings rates work in tandem. Indeed, retail sales volumes already have surpassed their prior peak. At the same time, industrial production, which enables the consumption of these goods, remains some 7-10% below pre-COVID-19 recession levels. So, even in the absence of further fiscal support—already approved in Europe and quite likely in the US—we believe that major developed market economies may be firing on all cylinders by the spring.

In short, we believe that high aggregate personal savings rates and strong acceleration in consumer spending, especially on services, together with still-depressed levels of industrial production suggest that economic growth in 2021 is likely to be the strongest in many decades and exceed current forecasts. In our view, corporate profit growth is therefore likely to be underestimated as well.

If economic growth is to trend higher this year, then so is inflation in our view. For now, an inflation “spike” beyond a 3% annual rate in 2021—if that can even be considered a spike—looks likely to be transitory. Even if growth surprises to the upside and developed markets grow at well above current consensus forecasts, we believe that major economies (excluding China) are unlikely to regain their pre-crisis trajectory of output until 2022 at the earliest.

Thus, we believe we will see corporate profit growth ahead of general expectations, with a broadening out to include many of the industries that were left behind in the second half of 2020. At the same time, we expect rising interest rates will prove to be manageable, creating a positive backdrop for equities.

The aforementioned performance gap between growth and value stocks may even have a chance of moderating this year, as the broadening of growth may support the performance of stocks in value-oriented industries that stand to benefit from increased economic activity. We still believe the long-term investment potential of creators of long-term value (growth stocks) will prove to be superior to that of companies or industries in competitive decline.

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**Global Leaders Fund**


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The Global Leaders Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*Andrew G. Flynn*



*Kenneth J. McAtamney*

The William Blair Global Leaders Fund (Class N shares) posted a 31.50% increase, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the MSCI All Country World IMI (net) (the "Index"), increased 16.25%.

Outperformance versus the Index was driven by a combination of allocation and stock selection effects. An underweight allocation to Energy and an overweight allocation to Consumer Discretionary, coupled with above average stock selection within the Health Care sector, were the largest drivers of relative performance.

Within the Health Care sector, Lonza and IDEXX Laboratories propelled relative performance. Lonza is a leader in custom manufacturing of biopharmaceuticals and specialty ingredients. Business trends remain strong, particularly in its pharma biotech segment amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Lonza offers highly visible growth, and given the strong market demand for outsourced biopharma production and related services, we remain confident it can deliver on growth in the future. IDEXX is the world leader in veterinary diagnostic testing, with three primary business segments: companion animals, livestock and poultry, and water. The company's growth is tied to the animal health market which has attractive structural growth characteristics. Moreover, IDEXX is a compelling growth compounder that we believe should continue to deliver double-digit top and bottom-line growth for the foreseeable future.

Partially offsetting these effects was negative stock selection within the Consumer Discretionary sector and an overweight allocation to the Asia Ex-Japan region. Within Consumer Discretionary, Compass Group weighed on relative returns. Compass is the global leader in outsourced foodservice and other support services to private businesses, schools and colleges, hospitals, and in remote environments. It is benefiting from the ongoing trend toward outsourcing foodservice and hospitality services globally. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the narrative around contract caterers is fairly negative due to work from home dynamics, social distancing, and a challenging macro backdrop. However, as volumes recover and people gain comfort that the business model remains intact, we expect the stock will reflect the long-term earnings power of the business. Current estimates do not account for an acceleration of market share gains as business shifts away from competitors with weaker offerings, the demand for outsourcing increases due to health and safety concerns, or any upside from M&A, which we anticipate the company will take an active role in. Unowned Tesla also hindered relative results as the stock was up over 700% in 2020, well above our view of intrinsic value.

Please refer to the Global Markets Review and Outlook relating to the Fund beginning on page 33.

*December 31, 2020*

*William Blair Funds* **35**

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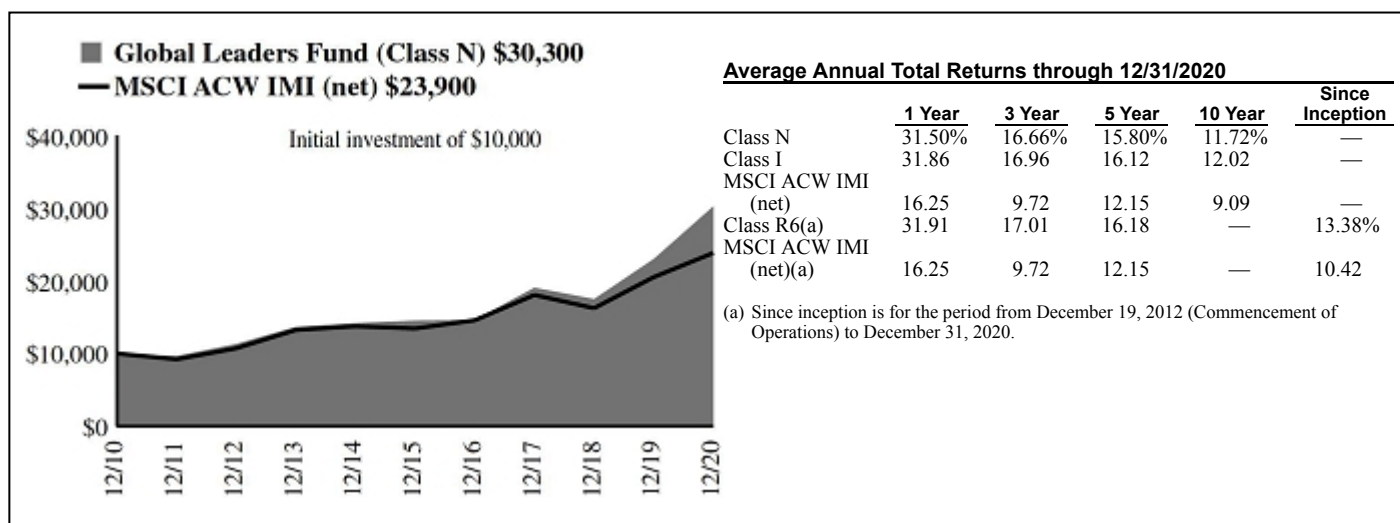
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**Global Leaders Fund**


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**Performance Highlights (Unaudited)**


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*Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). Investing in smaller and medium capitalization companies involves special risks, including higher volatility and lower liquidity. Smaller and medium capitalization stocks are also more sensitive to purchase/sale transactions and changes in the issuer's financial condition. International investing involves special risk considerations, including currency fluctuations, lower liquidity, economic and political risk. From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.*

*The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.*

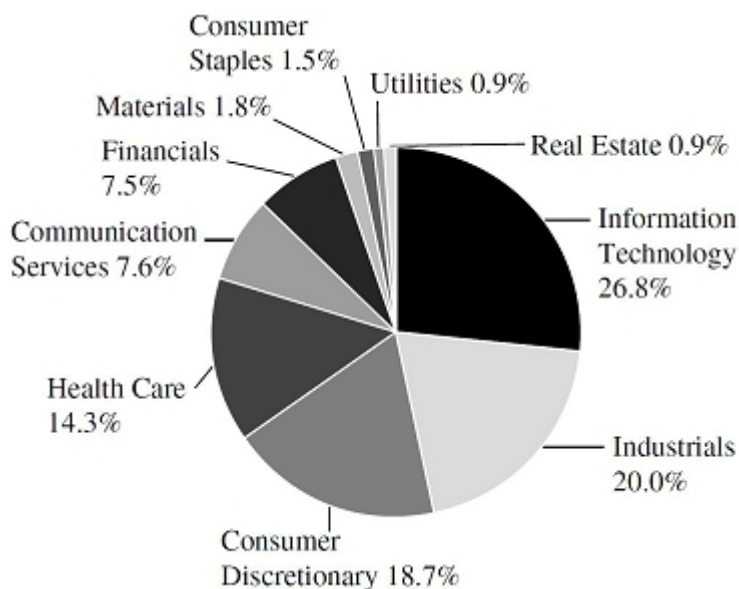
*The Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) All Country World (ACW) Investable Market Index (IMI) (net) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market of developed and emerging markets. This index approximates the minimum possible dividend reinvestment by deducting for the highest possible withholding tax rates of those markets.*

*This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all stocks in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these stocks will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.*

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**Sector Diversification (Unaudited)**


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The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.

## Global Leaders Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Western Hemisphere—48.2%</b>			<b>Europe—23.9%</b>		
<b>Canada—1.4%</b>			<b>Denmark—3.6%</b>		
*Lululemon Athletica, Inc. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	4,883	\$ 1,700	*Chr Hansen Holding A/S (Chemicals)	10,097	\$ 1,038
<b>United States—46.8%</b>			DSV PANALPINA A/S (Air freight & logistics)	11,140	1,865
*Adobe, Inc. (Software)	3,623	1,812	Novo Nordisk A/S Class “B” (Pharmaceuticals)	20,725	1,452
*Alphabet, Inc. Class “A” (Interactive Media & Services)	2,056	3,603			<u>4,355</u>
*Amazon.com, Inc. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	1,325	4,315	<b>France—3.7%</b>		
BlackRock, Inc. (Capital markets)	2,574	1,857	*Airbus SE (Aerospace & defense)	20,438	2,242
*Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. (Life sciences tools & services)	4,784	1,195	LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	3,618	2,258
*CoStar Group, Inc. (Professional services)	1,463	1,352			<u>4,500</u>
Ecolab, Inc. (Chemicals)	5,366	1,161	<b>Germany—4.6%</b>		
*Edwards Lifesciences Corporation (Health care equipment & supplies)	14,973	1,366	Infineon Technologies AG (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	80,513	3,087
*Facebook, Inc. Class “A” (Interactive Media & Services)	10,449	2,854	MTU Aero Engines AG (Aerospace & defense)	6,642	1,732
Fidelity National Information Services, Inc. (IT services)	11,833	1,674	Rational AG (Machinery)	869	808
*IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. (Health care equipment & supplies)	3,625	1,812			<u>5,627</u>
Intercontinental Exchange, Inc. (Capital markets)	14,533	1,676	<b>Ireland—2.6%</b>		
*Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (Health care equipment & supplies)	1,612	1,319	Allegion plc (Building products)†	7,497	872
Lockheed Martin Corporation (Aerospace & defense)	3,294	1,169	Aptiv plc (Auto components)†	17,918	2,335
Mastercard, Inc. Class “A” (IT services)	7,859	2,805			<u>3,207</u>
Microsoft Corporation (Software)	10,395	2,312	<b>Netherlands—1.2%</b>		
NextEra Energy, Inc. (Electric utilities)	14,361	1,108	*Adyen N.V. (IT services)	650	1,513
NIKE, Inc. Class “B” (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	13,919	1,969	<b>Sweden—5.1%</b>		
*PayPal Holdings, Inc. (IT services)	10,365	2,428	Atlas Copco AB Class “A” (Machinery)	39,429	2,018
Prologis, Inc. (Equity REIT)	10,858	1,082	Evolution Gaming Group AB (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	7,020	712
Roper Technologies, Inc. (Industrial conglomerates)	3,877	1,671	Hexagon AB Class “B” (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	28,602	2,607
*salesforce.com, Inc. (Software)	14,082	3,134	*Indutrade AB (Trading companies & distributors)	41,640	892
The Estée Lauder Cos., Inc. Class “A” (Personal products)	6,924	1,843			<u>6,229</u>
Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc. (Life sciences tools & services)	3,793	1,767	<b>Switzerland—3.1%</b>		
*Ulta Beauty, Inc. (Specialty retail)	5,497	1,579	Lonza Group AG (Life sciences tools & services)	2,733	1,756
Union Pacific Corporation (Road & rail)	8,355	1,740	Partners Group Holding AG (Capital markets)	1,668	1,959
UnitedHealth Group, Inc. (Health care providers & services)	6,230	2,185			<u>3,715</u>
*Veeva Systems, Inc. Class “A” (Health care technology)	2,951	803	<b>Emerging Asia—9.1%</b>		
*Workday, Inc. Class “A” (Software)	8,360	2,003	<b>China—5.1%</b>		
Zoetis, Inc. (Pharmaceuticals)	9,690	1,604	*Alibaba Group Holding, Ltd. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	88,944	2,669
		<u>57,198</u>	Shenzhou International Group Holdings, Ltd. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	48,300	947
			Tencent Holdings, Ltd. (Interactive Media & Services)	36,800	2,677
					<u>6,293</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

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## Global Leaders Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Principal Amount	Value
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>			<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
<b>Emerging Asia—(continued)</b>			Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$2,070, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$2,111		
*HDFC Bank, Ltd.—ADR (Banks)	20,827	\$ 1,505		\$2,070	\$ 2,070
<b>Taiwan—2.8%</b>			<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—1.7%</b>		
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.—ADR (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	31,039	3,384	(cost \$2,070)		2,070
<b>Japan—6.7%</b>			<b>Total Investments—99.9%</b>		
Daikin Industries, Ltd. (Building products)	9,400	2,087	(cost \$65,647)		122,090
Keyence Corporation (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	4,200	2,359	<b>Cash and other assets, less liabilities—0.1%</b>		
Nihon M&A Center, Inc. (Professional services)	34,800	2,325			92
SMC Corporation (Machinery)	2,400	1,463	<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		
		<u>8,234</u>			<u>\$122,182</u>
<b>Asia—5.2%</b>			ADR = American Depositary Receipt		
<b>Australia—3.1%</b>			REIT = Real Estate Investment Trust		
Aristocrat Leisure, Ltd. (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	52,657	1,258	* = Non-income producing security		
*Atlassian Corporation plc Class "A" (Software)†	4,846	1,133	† = U.S. listed foreign security		
CSL, Ltd. (Biotechnology)	6,250	1,365	At December 31, 2020, the Fund's Portfolio of Investments includes the following industry categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):		
		<u>3,756</u>			
<b>Hong Kong—1.6%</b>			Information Technology		26.8%
AIA Group, Ltd. (Insurance)	164,800	2,020	Industrials		20.0%
<b>New Zealand—0.5%</b>			Consumer Discretionary		18.7%
Fisher & Paykel Healthcare Corp., Ltd. (Health care equipment & supplies)	23,501	557	Health Care		14.3%
<b>United Kingdom—3.1%</b>			Communication Services		7.6%
Compass Group plc (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	78,923	1,471	Financials		7.5%
Experian plc (Professional services)	26,747	1,016	Materials		1.8%
Halma plc (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	15,243	510	Consumer Staples		1.5%
*Rentokil Initial plc (Commercial services & supplies)	113,161	789	Utilities		0.9%
		<u>3,786</u>	Real Estate		0.9%
<b>Emerging Latin America—2.0%</b>			Total		<u>100.0%</u>
<b>Argentina—2.0%</b>			At December 31, 2020, the Fund's Portfolio of Investments includes the following currency categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):		
*Globant S.A. (IT services)†	5,605	1,220	U.S. Dollar		58.8%
*MercadoLibre, Inc. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	729	1,221	Euro		9.7%
		<u>2,441</u>	Hong Kong Dollar		6.9%
<b>Total Common Stocks—98.2%</b>			Japanese Yen		6.9%
(cost \$63,577)		<u>120,020</u>	Swedish Krona		5.2%
			Danish Krone		3.6%
			British Pound Sterling		3.1%
			Swiss Franc		3.1%
			Australian Dollar		2.2%
			All Other Currencies		0.5%
			Total		<u>100.0%</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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**International Leaders Fund**


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The International Leaders Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*Simon Fennell*



*Kenneth J. McAtamney*

The William Blair International Leaders Fund (Class N shares) posted a 26.45% increase, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the MSCI All Country World ex-U.S. IMI (net) (the "Index"), increased 11.12%.

Outperformance versus the Index was primarily driven by positive stock selection across most sectors. The Financials, Energy and Health Care sectors were the most notable sources of relative return. Within Financials, Partners Group propelled relative results as the company's share price rebounded off the COVID-19-induced lows earlier in the year. The company's most recent financial results highlighted better than expected first half results with performance fees, EBIT and net profit all ahead of consensus. The company's strong structural growth outlook is supported by increasing allocations to private markets given low interest rates and low growth. It continues to be a key beneficiary of this environment given its global scale in distribution, investment performance and breadth of private market investment solutions and management. The company continues to see solid demand for its range of private market programs and mandates. Neste, within the Energy sector, was an additional source of outperformance. Neste is the world's largest producer of renewable diesel and jet fuel refined from waste and residues. It offers a superior product compared to petroleum diesel as it not only helps meet renewable/carbon reduction targets, but also burns cleaner in internal combustion engines, resulting in lower emissions and engine maintenance costs. Within Health Care, Lonza Group was the strongest contributor to relative results. Lonza is a leader in custom manufacturing of biopharmaceuticals and specialty ingredients. Business trends remain strong, particularly in its pharma biotech segment amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Lonza offers highly visible growth, and given the strong market demand for outsourced biopharma production and related services, we remain confident it can deliver on growth in the future.

Partially offsetting these effects were the underweight allocation to the Materials sector and an overweight allocation to the Developed Europe region, coupled with below average stock selection within the Information Technology sector. Within Information Technology, Temenos was the largest detractor to relative performance. Temenos is a leading software provider to the financial services industry. We believe its offering is superior to its competitors, but the key difference today vs. the past is its brand recognition. Upgrading to Temenos software is synonymous with upgrading your core technology in the right way, and this change in mindset by customers is changing its ability to sign new deals at attractive prices. At the same time, management has delivered more consistent execution. While the company continues to win new clients, some contracts were delayed. We believe this should be a positive tailwind to the company once the economy approaches normalcy (relative to history). Despite the lumpiness quarter-to-quarter, the structural drivers of digital transformation, regulation, cost pressures and the move to open banking are likely to accelerate post-crisis.

Please refer to the Global Markets Review and Outlook relating to the Fund beginning on page 33.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds **39**

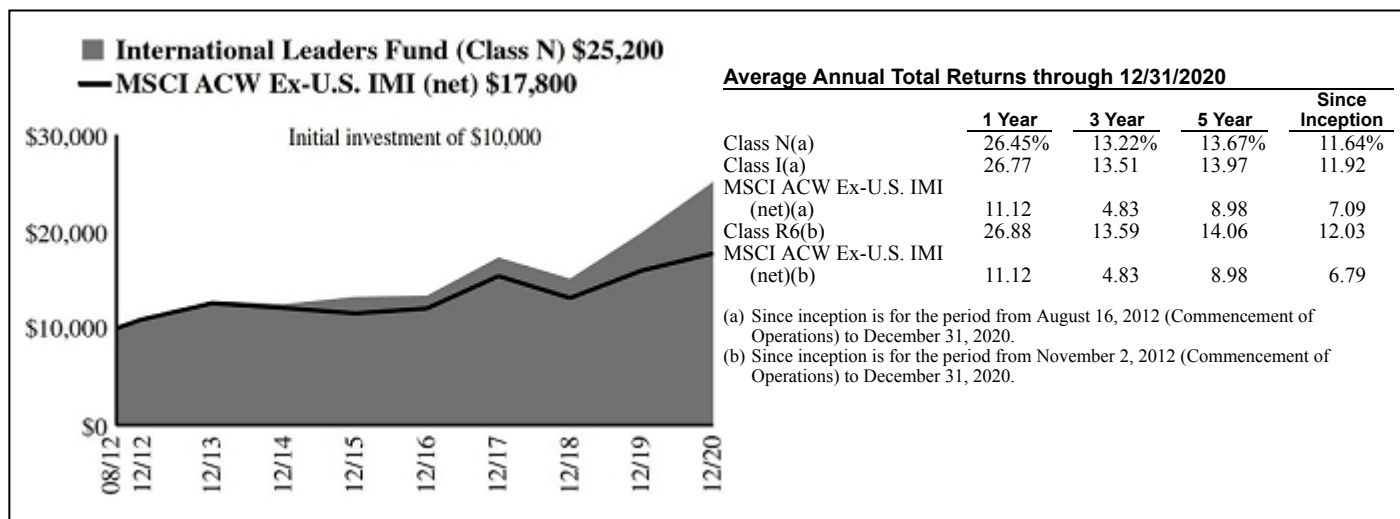
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**International Leaders Fund**


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**Performance Highlights (Unaudited)**


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*Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). Investing in smaller and medium capitalization companies involves special risks, including higher volatility and lower liquidity. Smaller and medium capitalization stocks are also more sensitive to purchase/sale transactions and changes in the issuer's financial condition. International investing involves special risk considerations, including currency fluctuations, lower liquidity, economic and political risk. From time to time the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.*

*The performance highlights presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.*

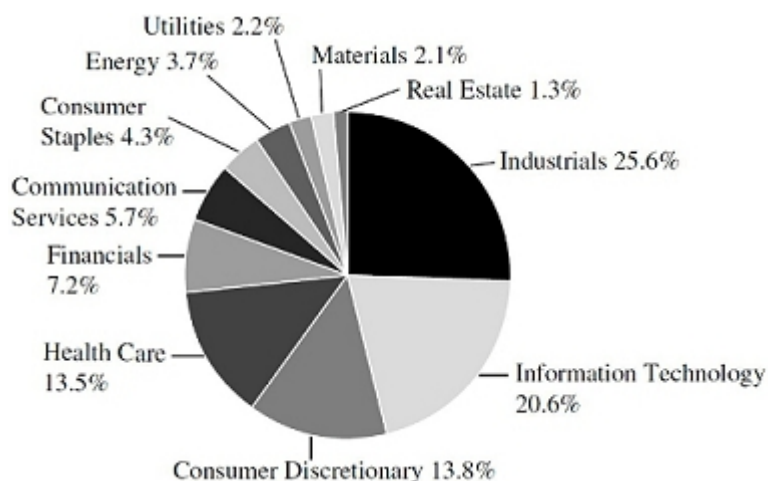
*The Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) All Country World (ACW) Ex-U.S. Investable Market Index (IMI) (net) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets, excluding the United States. This index approximates the minimum possible dividend reinvestment by deducting for the highest possible withholding tax rates of those markets.*

*This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all stocks in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these stocks will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.*

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**Sector Diversification (Unaudited)**


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The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.



## International Leaders Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Europe—45.5%</b>			<b>Europe—(continued)</b>		
<b>Denmark—6.7%</b>			<b>Switzerland—8.4%</b>		
*Chr Hansen Holding A/S (Chemicals)	41,337	\$ 4,250	Lonza Group AG (Life sciences tools & services)	37,660	\$ 24,196
Coloplast A/S Class “B” (Health care equipment & supplies)	102,436	15,630	Partners Group Holding AG (Capital markets)	15,534	18,248
DSV PANALPINA A/S (Air freight & logistics)	73,365	12,283	Sika AG (Chemicals)	67,518	18,441
Novo Nordisk A/S Class “B” (Pharmaceuticals)	245,934	17,223	Straumann Holding AG (Health care equipment & supplies)	16,603	19,345
Orsted A/S (Electric utilities)	117,571	23,997	Temenos AG (Software)	91,384	12,764
		<u>73,383</u>			<u>92,994</u>
<b>Finland—2.0%</b>			<b>Emerging Asia—19.2%</b>		
Neste Oyj (Oil, gas & consumable fuels)	304,017	21,972	<b>China—11.5%</b>		
<b>France—10.3%</b>			*Alibaba Group Holding, Ltd. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	943,856	28,319
*Airbus SE (Aerospace & defense)	174,624	19,153	Foshan Haitian Flavouring & Food Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food products)	425,287	13,041
L’Oreal S.A. (Personal products)	42,714	16,218	Kweichow Moutai Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Beverages)	57,100	17,445
LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	56,206	35,081	NetEase, Inc. (Entertainment)	952,175	18,129
*Safran S.A. (Aerospace & defense)	160,532	22,739	*TAL Education Group—ADR (Diversified consumer services)	280,563	20,063
Sartorius Stedim Biotech (Life sciences tools & services)	26,958	9,590	Tencent Holdings, Ltd. (Interactive Media & Services)	413,100	30,053
Teleperformance (Professional services)	31,543	10,454			<u>127,050</u>
		<u>113,235</u>	<b>India—3.5%</b>		
<b>Germany—4.7%</b>			Housing Development Finance Corporation, Ltd. (Thriffs & mortgage finance)	566,668	19,776
Infineon Technologies AG (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	763,560	29,281	Reliance Industries, Ltd. (Oil, gas & consumable fuels)	697,432	18,396
Rational AG (Machinery)	16,120	14,996			<u>38,172</u>
*TeamViewer AG (Software)	150,574	8,063	<b>Taiwan—3.0%</b>		
		<u>52,340</u>	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	1,762,000	33,236
<b>Ireland—1.4%</b>			<b>Thailand—1.2%</b>		
*Kingspan Group plc (Building products)	216,125	15,155	*Sea, Ltd.—ADR (Entertainment)	66,703	13,277
<b>Netherlands—4.1%</b>			<b>United Kingdom—11.4%</b>		
*Adyen N.V. (IT services)	12,335	28,707	Ashtead Group plc (Trading companies & distributors)	451,408	21,223
ASML Holding N.V. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	34,668	16,837	Compass Group plc (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	659,984	12,302
		<u>45,544</u>	Experian plc (Professional services)	503,600	19,124
<b>Norway—1.0%</b>			Halma plc (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	306,876	10,277
TOMRA Systems ASA (Commercial services & supplies)	215,681	10,630	London Stock Exchange Group plc (Capital markets)	153,031	18,851
<b>Spain—1.3%</b>			*Rentokil Initial plc (Commercial services & supplies)	1,627,203	11,340
Amadeus IT Group S.A. (IT services)	191,728	13,951	Segro plc (Equity REIT)	1,096,708	14,212
<b>Sweden—5.6%</b>			Spirax-Sarco Engineering plc (Machinery)	73,925	11,418
Atlas Copco AB Class “A” (Machinery)	398,302	20,386	*Trainline plc (Internet & direct marketing retail)	1,124,179	7,133
Hexagon AB Class “B” (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	314,710	28,680			<u>125,880</u>
Nibe Industrier AB Class “B” (Building products)	369,814	12,122			
		<u>61,188</u>			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

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## International Leaders Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares or Principal Amount	Value	
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>			<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>
			<b>\$1,100,353</b>
<b>Japan—10.8%</b>			
Asahi Intecc Co., Ltd. (Health care equipment & supplies)	224,900	\$ 8,200	ADR = American Depositary Receipt
Daikin Industries, Ltd. (Building products)	97,700	21,687	REIT = Real Estate Investment Trust
Hoya Corporation (Health care equipment & supplies)	144,600	19,984	* = Non-income producing security
Keyence Corporation (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	55,400	31,119	† = U.S. listed foreign security
M3, Inc. (Health care technology)	66,100	6,237	
Nihon M&A Center, Inc. (Professional services)	186,900	12,490	At December 31, 2020, the Fund's Portfolio of Investments includes the following industry categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):
SMC Corporation (Machinery)	31,100	18,960	Industrials 25.6%
		<u>118,677</u>	Information Technology 20.6%
			Consumer Discretionary 13.8%
			Health Care 13.5%
			Financials 7.2%
			Communication Services 5.7%
			Consumer Staples 4.3%
			Energy 3.7%
			Utilities 2.2%
			Materials 2.1%
			Real Estate 1.3%
			<u>Total 100.0%</u>
<b>Asia—6.1%</b>			
<b>Australia—3.4%</b>			
Aristocrat Leisure, Ltd. (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	447,326	10,691	At December 31, 2020, the Fund's Portfolio of Investments includes the following currency categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):
*Atlassian Corporation plc Class "A" (Software)†	40,885	9,562	Euro 24.3%
CSL, Ltd. (Biotechnology)	75,006	16,375	British Pound Sterling 11.7%
		<u>36,628</u>	Japanese Yen 11.0%
			Hong Kong Dollar 9.1%
			Swiss Franc 8.6%
			U.S. Dollar 7.2%
			Danish Krone 6.8%
			Swedish Krona 5.7%
			Indian Rupee 3.5%
			New Taiwan Dollar 3.1%
			Chinese Yuan Renminbi 2.8%
			Australian Dollar 2.5%
			Canadian Dollar 1.9%
			All Other Currencies 1.8%
			<u>Total 100.0%</u>
<b>Hong Kong—1.9%</b>			
AIA Group, Ltd. (Insurance)	1,718,400	21,057	
<b>New Zealand—0.8%</b>			
Fisher & Paykel Healthcare Corp., Ltd. (Health care equipment & supplies)	379,176	8,995	
<b>Canada—3.0%</b>			
Canadian National Railway Co. (Road & rail)	187,111	20,571	
*Lululemon Athletica, Inc. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	37,557	13,071	
		<u>33,642</u>	
<b>Emerging Latin America—2.0%</b>			
<b>Argentina—2.0%</b>			
*MercadoLibre, Inc. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	12,929	21,659	
<b>Total Common Stocks—98.0%</b>			
(cost \$732,420)		<u>1,078,665</u>	
<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>			
Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$27,934, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$28,493	\$27,934	27,934	
<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—2.6%</b>			
(cost \$27,934)		<u>27,934</u>	
<b>Total Investments—100.6%</b>			
(cost \$760,354)		1,106,599	
<b>Liabilities, plus cash and other assets—(0.6)%</b>			
		<u>(6,246)</u>	

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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**International Growth Fund**


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The International Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*Simon Fennell*



*Kenneth J. McAtamney*

The William Blair International Growth Fund (Class N shares) posted a 31.64% increase, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the MSCI All Country World ex-U.S. IMI (net) (the "Index"), increased 11.12%.

Outperformance versus the Index was primarily driven by positive stock selection across all sectors. The Health Care, Communication Services and Industrials sectors were the most notable contributors to relative return.

Within Health Care, Lonza contributed to relative results as the company posted positive financial results throughout the year. Lonza is a leader in custom manufacturing of biopharmaceuticals and specialty ingredients. Business trends remain strong, particularly in its pharma biotech segment amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Lonza offers highly visible growth, and given the strong market demand for outsourced biopharma production and related services, we remain confident it can deliver on growth in the future. Sea Ltd, a South East Asian mobile gaming and e-commerce company within Communication Services, was an additional source of outperformance. Sea primarily operates in seven South East Asian markets, including Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan and Vietnam. More recently, it has expanded its gaming operations to include India, Russia and Latin America. The company is the market leader in both gaming revenues and e-commerce, and current game success coupled with a robust pipeline are driving higher revenue growth and profitability expectations, and e-commerce operating metrics continue to be strong. Within the Industrials, DSV Panalpina propelled relative performance. DSV is a leading logistics company within Industrials. Following a path of steady organic growth and regular M&A, DSV is now one of the largest air and sea freight forwarders in the world. Its asset light business model allows it to generate high levels of return on invested capital with minimal ongoing capex needs that in turn powers market share gains and rising free cash flow. The stock made new highs in the fourth quarter after its share price completely recovered from its significant first quarter decline driven by the global COVID-19 pandemic, but failed to keep pace with the overall market.

Partially offsetting these effects was the underweight allocation to the Materials sector coupled with negative effects from owning travel-related companies such as Airbus, Safran and Amadeus during the COVID-19 pandemic. We added to these positions post their sell-off to take advantage of attractive valuations and to prepare the portfolio for what we believe will be the inevitable recovery once economies begin to fully reopen. We believe that recent performance of these securities has begun to reflect increasing confidence of a strong economic snap back in 2021.

Please refer to the Global Markets Review and Outlook relating to the Fund beginning on page 33.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds **43**

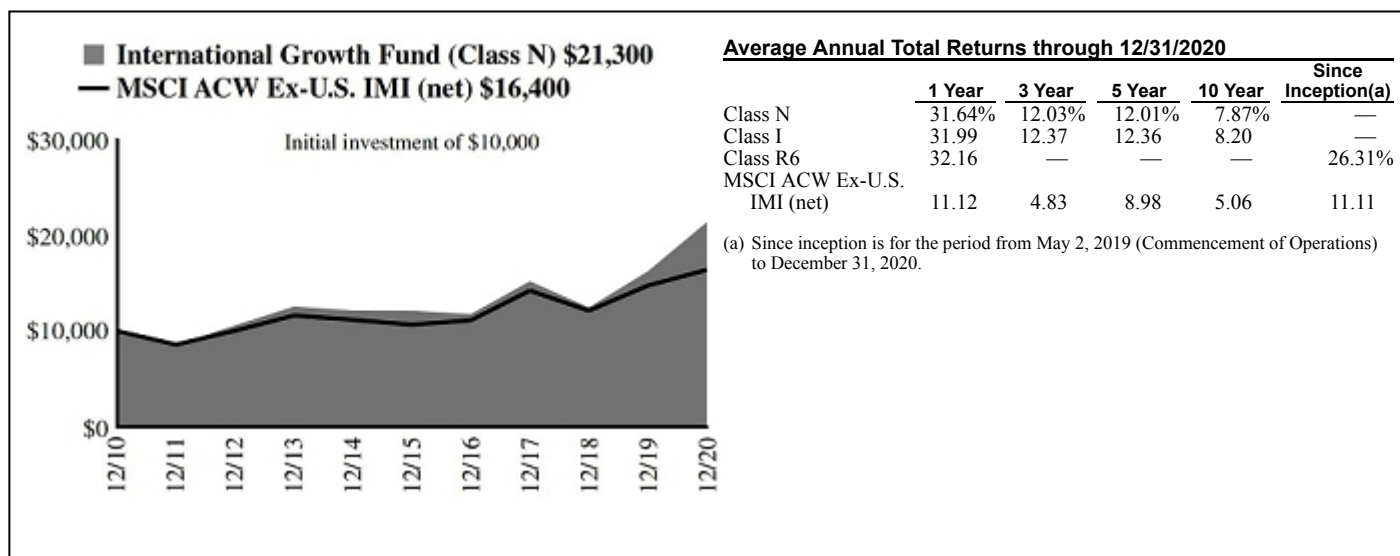
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**International Growth Fund**


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**Performance Highlights (Unaudited)**


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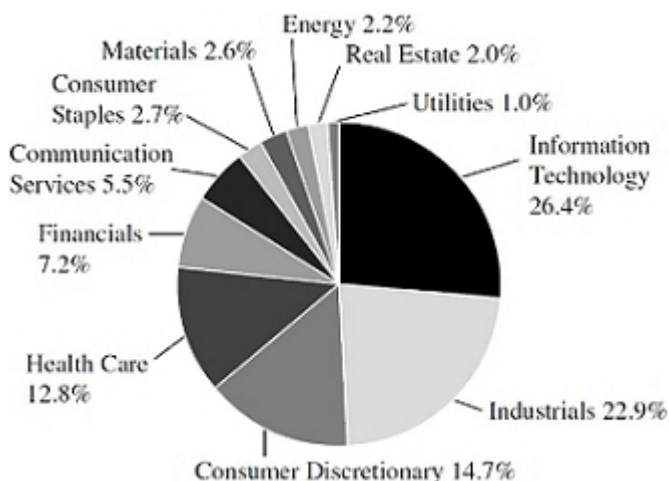
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**Sector Diversification (Unaudited)**


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The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.





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**International Growth Fund**


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**Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020** (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Europe, Mid-East—42.1%</b>			<b>Europe, Mid-East—(continued)</b>		
<b>Belgium—0.3%</b>			<b>Germany—(continued)</b>		
Melexis N.V. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	29,106	\$ 2,841	*TeamViewer AG (Software)	172,101	\$ 9,215
Warehouses De Pauw CVA (Equity REIT)	128,219	4,427	Vonovia SE (Real estate management & development)	199,873	14,592
		<u>7,268</u>			<u>135,812</u>
<b>Denmark—4.9%</b>			<b>Ireland—1.2%</b>		
*Chr Hansen Holding A/S (Chemicals)	72,101	7,413	*ICON plc (Life sciences tools & services)†	70,008	13,650
Coloplast A/S Class “B” (Health care equipment & supplies)	62,812	9,584	*Kingspan Group plc (Building products)	190,332	13,347
DSV PANALPINA A/S (Air freight & logistics)	210,734	35,282			<u>26,997</u>
*Genmab A/S (Biotechnology)	39,667	16,036	<b>Israel—0.6%</b>		
*Netcompany Group A/S (Software)	55,048	5,625	*CyberArk Software, Ltd. (Software)†	37,222	6,015
Novo Nordisk A/S Class “B” (Pharmaceuticals)	223,304	15,638	*Wix.com, Ltd. (IT services)†	34,919	8,728
Orsted A/S (Electric utilities)	90,688	18,510			<u>14,743</u>
Royal Unibrew A/S (Beverages)	41,715	4,838	<b>Italy—0.6%</b>		
		<u>112,926</u>	*Amplifon SpA (Health care providers & services)	135,106	5,618
<b>Finland—1.2%</b>			*Brunello Cucinelli SpA (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	79,436	3,464
Neste Oyj (Oil, gas & consumable fuels)	378,776	27,375	*Moncler SpA (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	72,398	4,435
<b>France—8.7%</b>					<u>13,517</u>
*Airbus SE (Aerospace & defense)	281,209	30,843	<b>Luxembourg—0.4%</b>		
Dassault Systemes SE (Software)	82,940	16,835	*Eurofins Scientific SE (Life sciences tools & services)	105,137	8,815
Hermes International (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	8,668	9,314	<b>Netherlands—4.0%</b>		
Kering S.A. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	22,296	16,190	*Adyen N.V. (IT services)	13,518	31,460
L’Oreal S.A. (Personal products)	58,013	22,027	ASML Holding N.V. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	93,592	45,454
LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	53,390	33,323	BE Semiconductor Industries N.V. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	81,812	4,955
*Orpea SA (Health care providers & services)	37,526	4,931	Euronext N.V. (Capital markets)	42,232	4,651
*Safran S.A. (Aerospace & defense)	203,239	28,789	IMCD N.V. (Trading companies & distributors)	42,297	5,387
Sartorius Stedim Biotech (Life sciences tools & services)	24,300	8,645			<u>91,907</u>
Teleperformance (Professional services)	50,979	16,896	<b>Norway—0.4%</b>		
*Worldline S.A. (IT services)	146,849	14,190	TOMRA Systems ASA (Commercial services & supplies)	190,913	9,409
		<u>201,983</u>	<b>Spain—1.2%</b>		
<b>Germany—5.9%</b>			Amadeus IT Group S.A. (IT services)	328,243	23,883
Carl Zeiss Meditec AG (Health care equipment & supplies)	40,003	5,322	*Solaria Energia y Medio Ambiente S.A. (Independent power & renewable electricity producers)	149,935	4,330
CompuGroup Medical SE & Co. KgaA (Health care technology)	62,568	6,008			<u>28,213</u>
*HelloFresh SE (Internet & direct marketing retail)	88,752	6,852	<b>Sweden—5.7%</b>		
*Hypoport SE (Diversified financial services)	2,343	1,474	AddTech AB Class “B” (Trading companies & distributors)	238,184	3,155
Infineon Technologies AG (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	872,282	33,450	Atlas Copco AB Class “A” (Machinery)	700,714	35,864
KION Group AG (Machinery)	91,355	7,942	Beijer Ref AB (Trading companies & distributors)	117,021	5,354
MTU Aero Engines AG (Aerospace & defense)	111,587	29,091	Evolution Gaming Group AB (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	168,546	17,101
Nemetschek SE (Software)	53,137	3,921			
*Puma SE (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	159,182	17,945			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds **45**

## International Growth Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Europe, Mid-East—(continued)</b>			<b>Emerging Asia—(continued)</b>		
<b>Sweden—(continued)</b>			<b>China—(continued)</b>		
Hexagon AB Class “B” (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	341,790	\$ 31,148	Chacha Food Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food products)	446,842	\$ 3,679
*Indutrade AB (Trading companies & distributors)	383,709	8,217	Country Garden Services Holdings Co., Ltd. (Commercial services & supplies)	1,612,000	10,906
Investment AB Latour Class “B” (Industrial conglomerates)	233,738	5,673	Foshan Haitian Flavouring & Food Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food products)	316,259	9,698
Lifco AB Class “B” (Industrial conglomerates)	59,342	5,691	Hangzhou Tigermed Consulting Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Life sciences tools & services)	470,870	11,636
Nibe Industrier AB Class “B” (Building products)	234,157	7,676	*JD.com, Inc. Class “A” (Internet & direct marketing retail)	414,300	18,277
*Nolato AB Class “B” (Industrial conglomerates)	52,486	5,308	Kweichow Moutai Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Beverages)	50,253	15,353
Sweco AB Class “B” (Construction & engineering)	236,954	4,349	Li Ning Co., Ltd. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	3,342,000	22,977
*Vitrolife AB (Biotechnology)	97,275	2,551	*Meituan Class “B” (Internet & direct marketing retail)	463,700	17,621
		<u>132,087</u>	NAURA Technology Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	170,413	4,710
<b>Switzerland—7.0%</b>			NetEase, Inc. (Entertainment)	922,025	17,555
Belimo Holding AG (Building products)	500	4,338	Offcn Education Technology Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Diversified consumer services)	907,421	4,874
Logitech International S.A. (Technology hardware, storage & peripherals)	127,373	12,362	Ping An Insurance Group Co. of China, Ltd. Class “H” (Insurance)	1,933,000	23,687
Lonza Group AG (Life sciences tools & services)	43,822	28,155	Shenzhen Mindray Bio-Medical Electronics Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Health care equipment & supplies)	95,150	6,198
Partners Group Holding AG (Capital markets)	14,029	16,480	Shenzhou International Group Holdings, Ltd. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	434,000	8,509
*SIG Combibloc Group AG (Containers & packaging)	297,531	6,903	Silergy Corporation (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	142,000	12,180
Sika AG (Chemicals)	108,753	29,703	*TAL Education Group—ADR (Diversified consumer services)	289,891	20,730
*Softwareone Holding AG (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	147,059	4,352	Tencent Holdings, Ltd. (Interactive Media & Services)	688,200	50,067
STMicroelectronics N.V. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	512,294	19,120	*Tencent Music Entertainment Group—ADR (Entertainment)	237,657	4,573
Straumann Holding AG (Health care equipment & supplies)	13,629	15,880	*Topchoice Medical Corporation Class “A” (Health care providers & services)	195,739	8,276
Tecan Group AG (Life sciences tools & services)	13,663	6,695	*Venus MedTech Hangzhou, Inc. Class “H” (Health care equipment & supplies)	277,000	2,825
Temenos AG (Software)	65,332	9,125	Will Semiconductor Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	79,177	2,798
VAT Group AG (Machinery)	25,188	6,282	WuXi AppTec Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Life sciences tools & services)	278,714	5,742
*Zur Rose Group AG (Food & staples retailing)	10,101	3,229	*Wuxi Biologics Cayman, Inc. (Life sciences tools & services)	1,658,000	21,986
		<u>162,624</u>			<u>370,311</u>
<b>Emerging Asia—25.6%</b>			<b>India—2.0%</b>		
<b>China—16.0%</b>			*HDFC Bank, Ltd. (Banks)	766,791	15,095
A-Living Smart City Services Co., Ltd. Class “H” (Commercial services & supplies)	688,500	3,055	Ipca Laboratories, Ltd. (Pharmaceuticals)	114,663	3,445
Aier Eye Hospital Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Health care providers & services)	967,516	11,079	Pidilite Industries, Ltd. (Chemicals)	153,159	3,698
AK Medical Holdings, Ltd. (Health care equipment & supplies)	802,000	1,393			
*Alibaba Group Holding, Ltd. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	1,362,884	40,891			
Centre Testing International Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Professional services)	2,159,100	9,036			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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**International Growth Fund**


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**Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020** (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Emerging Asia—(continued)</b>			<b>Japan—(continued)</b>		
<b>India—(continued)</b>			Olympus Corporation (Health care equipment & supplies)	487,200	\$ 10,647
Reliance Industries, Ltd. (Oil, gas & consumable fuels)	885,369	\$ 23,473 45,711	Omron Corporation (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	278,600	24,823
<b>Indonesia—0.9%</b>			Rakus Co., Ltd. (Software)	209,500	4,853
Bank Central Asia Tbk PT (Banks)	8,442,600	20,340	*SHIFT, Inc. (IT services)	31,400	4,352
<b>South Korea—1.2%</b>			SMC Corporation (Machinery)	49,000	29,873
Kakao Corporation (Interactive Media & Services)	35,163	12,608	Sushiro Global Holdings, Ltd. (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	140,900	5,390
Samsung SDI Co., Ltd. (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	28,978	16,752 29,360	TechnoPro Holdings, Inc. (Professional services)	68,800	5,697
<b>Taiwan—4.1%</b>			TIS, Inc. (IT services)	335,400	6,867 288,584
Airtac International Group (Machinery)	135,000	4,324	<b>United Kingdom—9.7%</b>		
Globalwafers Co., Ltd. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	249,000	6,274	3i Group plc (Capital markets)	511,054	8,093
MediaTek, Inc. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	1,123,000	29,856	Abcam plc (Biotechnology)	130,155	2,759
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.—ADR (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	497,573	54,255 94,709	Ashtead Group plc (Trading companies & distributors)	431,291	20,277
<b>Thailand—1.4%</b>			Avast plc (Software)	874,529	6,428
Airports of Thailand PCL (Transportation infrastructure)	1,355,900	2,817	AVEVA Group plc (Software)	177,850	7,788
Carabao Group PCL Class “F” (Beverages)	764,500	2,922	Big Yellow Group plc (Equity REIT)	274,616	4,120
*Sea, Ltd.—ADR (Entertainment)	135,069	26,886 32,625	*boohoo Group plc (Internet & direct marketing retail)	927,267	4,349
<b>Japan—12.5%</b>			Compass Group plc (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	1,038,500	19,357
Asahi Intecc Co., Ltd. (Health care equipment & supplies)	273,100	9,958	Croda International plc (Chemicals)	138,859	12,525
*BASE, Inc. (IT services)	50,800	4,802	Diploma plc (Trading companies & distributors)	137,177	4,112
Benefit One, Inc. (Professional services)	184,900	5,462	Experian plc (Professional services)	513,617	19,505
*Bengo4.com, Inc. (Interactive Media & Services)	32,100	3,184	Halma plc (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	496,070	16,613
Daikin Industries, Ltd. (Building products)	118,600	26,326	Intermediate Capital Group plc (Capital markets)	395,470	9,334
Disco Corporation (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	42,000	14,135	Intertek Group plc (Professional services)	118,957	9,188
GMO Payment Gateway, Inc. (IT services)	47,300	6,340	London Stock Exchange Group plc (Capital markets)	169,962	20,937
Harmonic Drive Systems, Inc. (Machinery)	78,500	7,010	*Renishaw plc (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	58,615	4,617
Hoya Corporation (Health care equipment & supplies)	130,500	18,035	*Rentokil Initial plc (Commercial services & supplies)	1,971,235	13,737
Keyence Corporation (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	80,000	44,937	Rotork plc (Machinery)	1,391,713	6,052
M3, Inc. (Health care technology)	146,000	13,776	Segro plc (Equity REIT)	1,001,196	12,974
MISUMI Group, Inc. (Machinery)	201,300	6,599	Softcat plc (IT services)	200,087	3,759
MonotaRO Co., Ltd. (Trading companies & distributors)	179,800	9,142	Spirax-Sarco Engineering plc (Machinery)	89,617	13,842
Nihon M&A Center, Inc. (Professional services)	204,600	13,672	*Trainline plc (Internet & direct marketing retail)	698,810	4,434 224,800
Nomura Research Institute, Ltd. (IT services)	355,000	12,704	<b>Asia—3.7%</b>		
			<b>Australia—2.2%</b>		
			Aristocrat Leisure, Ltd. (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	531,095	12,693

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 47

## International Growth Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Principal Amount	Value
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>			<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
<b>Asia—(continued)</b>			Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$11,737, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$11,972		
<b>Australia—(continued)</b>			<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—0.5%</b>		
*Atlasian Corporation plc Class “A” (Software)†	61,976	\$ 14,494	(cost \$11,737)		
CSL, Ltd. (Biotechnology)	60,937	13,304	<b>Total Investments—99.9%</b>		
Goodman Group (Equity REIT)	629,330	9,175	(cost \$1,274,420)		
		49,666	<b>Cash and other assets, less liabilities—0.1%</b>		
<b>Hong Kong—1.5%</b>			<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		
AIA Group, Ltd. (Insurance)	2,882,800	35,326			
<b>Canada—2.6%</b>					
Canadian National Railway Co. (Road & rail)	265,879	29,230	ADR = American Depository Receipt		
Enghouse Systems, Ltd. (Software)	63,911	3,096	REIT = Real Estate Investment Trust		
*Kinaxis, Inc. (Software)	33,260	4,712	* = Non-income producing security		
*Lululemon Athletica, Inc. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	53,588	18,650	† = U.S. listed foreign security		
Toromont Industries, Ltd. (Trading companies & distributors)	48,393	3,391	At December 31, 2020, the Fund's Portfolio of Investments includes the following industry categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):		
		59,079			
<b>Emerging Latin America—2.4%</b>			Information Technology		
<b>Argentina—1.0%</b>			Industrials		
*Globant S.A. (IT services)†	29,956	6,519	Consumer Discretionary		
*MercadoLibre, Inc. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	9,625	16,124	Health Care		
		22,643	Financials		
<b>Brazil—1.3%</b>			Communication Services		
B3 S.A. - Brasil Bolsa Balcao (Capital markets)	832,500	9,934	Consumer Staples		
Locaweb Servicos de Internet S.A. (IT services)	352,100	5,455	Materials		
Magazine Luiza S.A. (Multiline retail)	1,853,100	8,901	Energy		
Notre Dame Intermedica Participacoes S.A. (Health care providers & services)	354,000	5,339	Real Estate		
		29,629	Utilities		
<b>Mexico—0.1%</b>			Total		
*Grupo Aeroportuario del Sureste S.A.B. de C.V. —ADR (Transportation infrastructure)	24,821	4,094	At December 31, 2020, the Fund's Portfolio of Investments includes the following currency categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):		
<b>Emerging Europe—0.8%</b>					
<b>Poland—0.3%</b>			Euro		
*Allegro.eu S.A. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	281,256	6,377	Japanese Yen		
<b>Russia—0.5%</b>			Hong Kong Dollar		
*Yandex N.V. Class “A” (Interactive Media & Services)†	176,114	12,254	British Pound Sterling		
<b>Total Common Stocks—99.4%</b>			U.S. Dollar		
(cost \$1,262,683)		2,299,184	Swiss Franc		
			Svedish Krona		
			Danish Krone		
			Chinese Yuan Renminbi		
			New Taiwan Dollar		
			Indian Rupee		
			Canadian Dollar		
			Australian Dollar		
			Brazilian Real		
			South Korean Won		
			All Other Currencies		
			Total		

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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**Institutional International Growth Fund**


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The Institutional International Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*Simon Fennell*



*Kenneth J. McAtamney*

The William Blair Institutional International Growth Fund posted a 32.47% increase, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the MSCI All Country World ex-U.S. IMI (net) (the "Index"), increased 11.12%.

Outperformance versus the Index was primarily driven by positive stock selection across all sectors. The Health Care, Communication Services and Industrials sectors were the most notable contributors to relative return.

Within Health Care, Lonza contributed to relative results as the company posted positive financial results throughout the year. Lonza is a leader in custom manufacturing of biopharmaceuticals and specialty ingredients. Business trends remain strong, particularly in its pharma biotech segment amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Lonza offers highly visible growth, and given the strong market demand for outsourced biopharma production and related services, we remain confident it can deliver on growth in the future. Sea Ltd, a South East Asian mobile gaming and e-commerce company within Communication Services, was an additional source of outperformance. Sea primarily operates in seven South East Asian markets, including Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan and Vietnam. More recently, it has expanded its gaming operations to include India, Russia and Latin America. The company is the market leader in both gaming revenues and e-commerce, and current game success coupled with a robust pipeline are driving higher revenue growth and profitability expectations, and e-commerce operating metrics continue to be strong. Within the Industrials, DSV Panalpina propelled relative performance. DSV is a leading logistics company within Industrials. Following a path of steady organic growth and regular M&A, DSV is now one of the largest air and sea freight forwarders in the world. Its asset light business model allows it to generate high levels of return on invested capital with minimal ongoing capex needs that in turn powers market share gains and rising free cash flow. The stock made new highs in the fourth quarter after its share price completely recovered from its significant first quarter decline driven by the global COVID-19 pandemic, but failed to keep pace with the overall market.

Partially offsetting these effects was the underweight allocation to the Materials sector coupled with negative effects from owning travel-related companies such as Airbus, Safran and Amadeus during the COVID-19 pandemic. We added to these positions post their sell-off to take advantage of attractive valuations and to prepare the portfolio for what we believe will be the inevitable recovery once economies begin to fully reopen. Recent performance of these securities has begun to reflect increasing confidence of a strong economic snap back in 2021.

Please refer to the Global Markets Review and Outlook relating to the Fund beginning on page 33.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds **49**

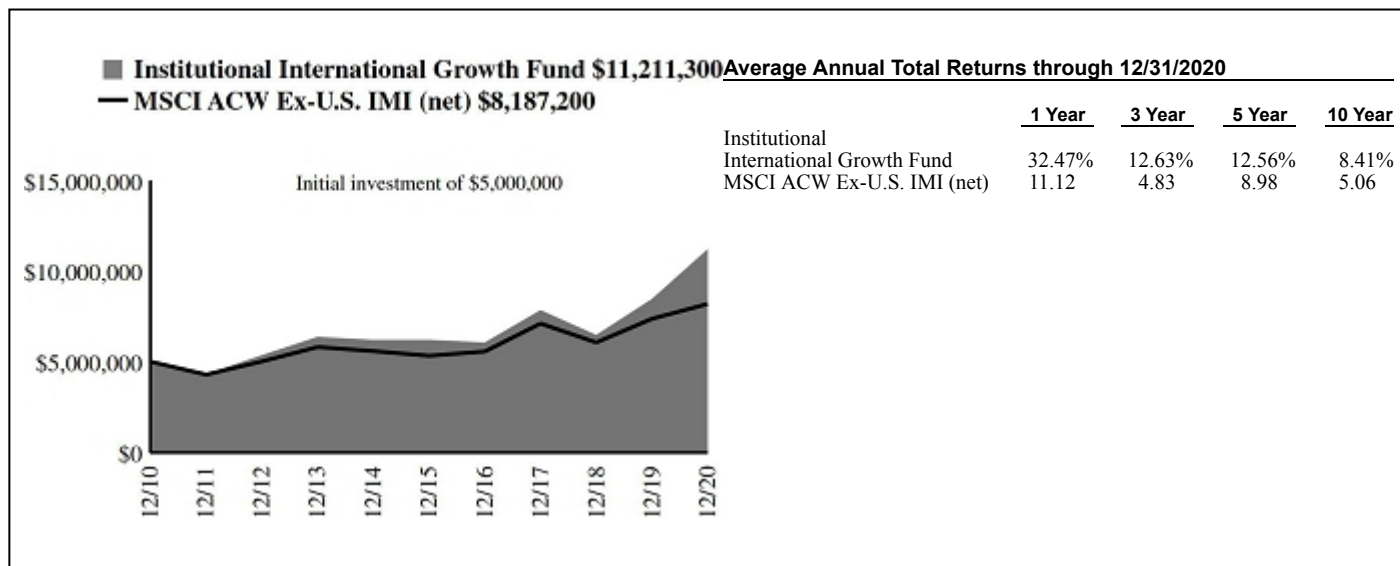
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**Institutional International Growth Fund**


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**Performance Highlights (Unaudited)**


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*Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. Investing in smaller and medium capitalization companies involves special risks, including higher volatility and lower liquidity. Smaller and medium capitalization stocks are also more sensitive to purchase/sale transactions and changes in the issuer's financial condition. International investing involves special risk considerations, including currency fluctuations, lower liquidity, economic and political risk. Shares of the Fund are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.*

*The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.*

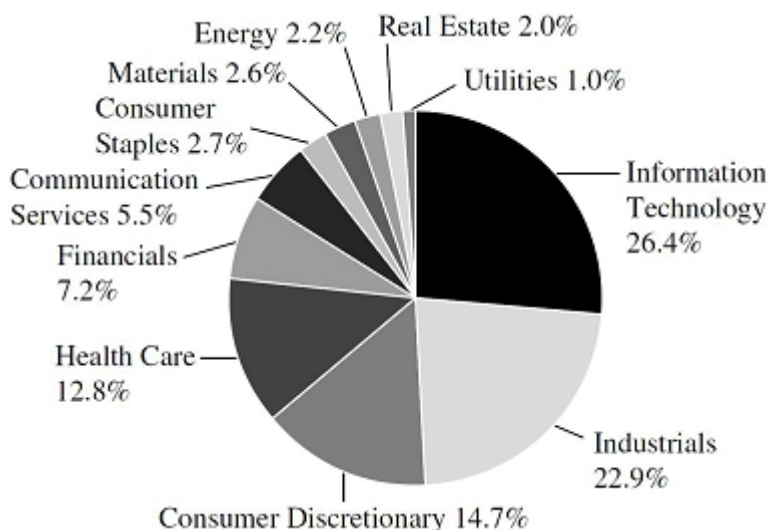
*The Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) All Country World (ACW) Ex-U.S. Investable Market Index (IMI) (net) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets, excluding the United States. This index approximates the minimum possible dividend reinvestment by deducting for the highest possible withholding tax rates of those markets.*

*This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all stocks in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these stocks will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.*

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**Sector Diversification (Unaudited)**


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The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.



## Institutional International Growth Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Europe, Mid-East—42.0%</b>			<b>Europe, Mid-East—(continued)</b>		
<b>Belgium—0.3%</b>			<b>Germany—(continued)</b>		
Melexis N.V. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	16,633	\$ 1,623	*Puma SE (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	91,340	\$ 10,297
Warehouses De Pauw CVA (Equity REIT)	73,272	2,530	*TeamViewer AG (Software)	98,754	5,288
		<u>4,153</u>	Vonovia SE (Real estate management & development)	114,690	<u>8,373</u>
<b>Denmark—4.9%</b>					<u>77,942</u>
*Chr Hansen Holding A/S (Chemicals)	41,373	4,254	<b>Ireland—1.2%</b>		
Coloplast A/S Class “B” (Health care equipment & supplies)	36,042	5,499	*ICON plc (Life sciences tools & services)†	40,007	7,801
DSV PANALPINA A/S (Air freight & logistics)	120,922	20,245	*Kingspan Group plc (Building products)	108,767	<u>7,627</u>
*Genmab A/S (Biotechnology)	22,761	9,202			<u>15,428</u>
*Netcompany Group A/S (Software)	31,587	3,228	<b>Israel—0.6%</b>		
Novo Nordisk A/S Class “B” (Pharmaceuticals)	128,135	8,973	*CyberArk Software, Ltd. (Software)†	21,271	3,437
Orsted A/S (Electric utilities)	52,038	10,621	*Wix.com, Ltd. (IT services)†	19,955	<u>4,988</u>
Royal Unibrew A/S (Beverages)	23,937	<u>2,776</u>			<u>8,425</u>
		<u>64,798</u>	<b>Italy—0.6%</b>		
<b>Finland—1.2%</b>			*Amplifon SpA (Health care providers & services)	77,526	3,224
Neste Oyj (Oil, gas & consumable fuels)	217,347	<u>15,708</u>	*Brunello Cucinelli SpA (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	45,581	1,988
<b>France—8.7%</b>			*Moncler SpA (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	41,543	<u>2,545</u>
*Airbus SE (Aerospace & defense)	160,701	17,626			<u>7,757</u>
Dassault Systemes SE (Software)	47,397	9,621	<b>Luxembourg—0.4%</b>		
Hermes International (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	4,954	5,323	*Eurofins Scientific SE (Life sciences tools & services)	60,082	<u>5,038</u>
Kering S.A. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	12,741	9,252	<b>Netherlands—3.9%</b>		
L’Oreal S.A. (Personal products)	33,152	12,587	*Adyen N.V. (IT services)	7,725	17,978
LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	30,510	19,043	ASML Holding N.V. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	53,484	25,975
*Orpea SA (Health care providers & services)	21,444	2,817	BE Semiconductor Industries N.V. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	46,752	2,832
*Safran S.A. (Aerospace & defense)	116,144	16,452	Euronext N.V. (Capital markets)	24,134	2,658
Sartorius Stedim Biotech (Life sciences tools & services)	13,887	4,940	IMCD N.V. (Trading companies & distributors)	24,171	<u>3,078</u>
Teleperformance (Professional services)	29,133	9,656			<u>52,521</u>
*Worldline S.A. (IT services)	83,919	<u>8,109</u>	<b>Norway—0.4%</b>		
		<u>115,426</u>	TOMRA Systems ASA (Commercial services & supplies)	109,549	<u>5,399</u>
<b>Germany—5.9%</b>			<b>Spain—1.2%</b>		
Carl Zeiss Meditec AG (Health care equipment & supplies)	22,954	3,054	Amadeus IT Group S.A. (IT services)	187,578	13,648
CompuGroup Medical SE & Co. KgaA (Health care technology)	35,902	3,447	*Solaria Energia y Medio Ambiente S.A. (Independent power & renewable electricity producers)	85,682	<u>2,475</u>
*HelloFresh SE (Internet & direct marketing retail)	50,927	3,932			<u>16,123</u>
*Hypoport SE (Diversified financial services)	1,363	857	<b>Sweden—5.7%</b>		
Infineon Technologies AG (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	500,527	19,194	AddTech AB Class “B” (Trading companies & distributors)	136,673	1,811
KION Group AG (Machinery)	52,421	4,557	Atlas Copco AB Class “A” (Machinery)	402,078	20,579
MTU Aero Engines AG (Aerospace & defense)	64,030	16,693	Beijer Ref AB (Trading companies & distributors)	67,148	3,072
Nemetschek SE (Software)	30,491	2,250			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 51

## Institutional International Growth Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Europe, Mid-East—(continued)</b>			<b>Emerging Asia—(continued)</b>		
<b>Sweden—(continued)</b>			<b>China—(continued)</b>		
Evolution Gaming Group AB (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	96,714	\$ 9,813	Centre Testing International Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Professional services)	1,233,900	\$ 5,164
Hexagon AB Class “B” (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	196,124	17,873	Chacha Food Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food products)	255,300	2,102
*Indutrade AB (Trading companies & distributors)	218,457	4,679	Country Garden Services Holdings Co., Ltd. (Commercial services & supplies)	921,000	6,231
Investment AB Latour Class “B” (Industrial conglomerates)	134,122	3,255	Foshan Haitian Flavouring & Food Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food products)	180,740	5,542
Lifco AB Class “B” (Industrial conglomerates)	34,051	3,265	Hangzhou Tigermed Consulting Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Life sciences tools & services)	269,100	6,650
Nibe Industrier AB Class “B” (Building products)	134,363	4,404	*JD.com, Inc. Class “A” (Internet & direct marketing retail)	236,750	10,444
*Nolato AB Class “B” (Industrial conglomerates)	30,117	3,046	Kweichow Moutai Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Beverages)	28,717	8,773
Sweco AB Class “B” (Construction & engineering)	135,967	2,495	Li Ning Co., Ltd. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	1,910,000	13,132
*Vitrolife AB (Biotechnology)	55,818	1,464	*Meituan Class “B” (Internet & direct marketing retail)	265,000	10,070
		<u>75,756</u>	NAURA Technology Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	97,400	2,692
<b>Switzerland—7.0%</b>			NetEase, Inc. (Entertainment)	526,900	10,032
Belimo Holding AG (Building products)	287	2,490	Offcn Education Technology Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Diversified consumer services)	518,600	2,786
Logitech International S.A. (Technology hardware, storage & peripherals)	73,088	7,093	Ping An Insurance Group Co. of China, Ltd. Class “H” (Insurance)	1,104,500	13,535
Lonza Group AG (Life sciences tools & services)	25,146	16,156	Shenzhen Mindray Bio-Medical Electronics Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Health care equipment & supplies)	54,400	3,544
Partners Group Holding AG (Capital markets)	8,050	9,457	Shenzhen International Group Holdings, Ltd. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	248,400	4,870
*SIG Combibloc Group AG (Containers & packaging)	170,727	3,961	Silergy Corporation (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	81,000	6,947
Sika AG (Chemicals)	62,404	17,044	*TAL Education Group—ADR (Diversified consumer services)	165,662	11,847
*Softwareone Holding AG (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	84,384	2,497	Tencent Holdings, Ltd. (Interactive Media & Services)	393,300	28,613
STMicroelectronics N.V. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	293,961	10,971	*Tencent Music Entertainment Group—ADR (Entertainment)	135,812	2,613
Straumann Holding AG (Health care equipment & supplies)	7,821	9,112	*Topchoice Medical Corporation Class “A” (Health care providers & services)	111,800	4,727
Tecan Group AG (Life sciences tools & services)	7,840	3,842	*Venus MedTech Hangzhou, Inc. Class “H” (Health care equipment & supplies)	158,500	1,616
Temenos AG (Software)	37,488	5,236	Will Semiconductor Co., Ltd. Shanghai Class “A” (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	45,270	1,600
VAT Group AG (Machinery)	14,453	3,605	WuXi AppTec Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Life sciences tools & services)	159,264	3,281
*Zur Rose Group AG (Food & staples retailing)	5,796	1,853	*Wuxi Biologics Cayman, Inc. (Life sciences tools & services)	947,500	12,564
		<u>93,317</u>			<u>211,618</u>
<b>Emerging Asia—25.6%</b>					
<b>China—15.9%</b>					
A-Living Smart City Services Co., Ltd. Class “H” (Commercial services & supplies)	393,500	1,746			
Aier Eye Hospital Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Health care providers & services)	552,930	6,332			
AK Medical Holdings, Ltd. (Health care equipment & supplies)	458,000	795			
*Alibaba Group Holding, Ltd. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	778,900	23,370			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

## Institutional International Growth Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Emerging Asia—(continued)</b>			<b>Japan—(continued)</b>		
<b>India—2.0%</b>			Nihon M&A Center, Inc. (Professional services)	117,400	\$ 7,845
*HDFC Bank, Ltd. (Banks)	438,192	\$ 8,627	Nomura Research Institute, Ltd. (IT services)	203,700	7,290
Ipsa Laboratories, Ltd. (Pharmaceuticals)	65,526	1,968	Olympus Corporation (Health care equipment & supplies)	279,600	6,110
Pidilite Industries, Ltd. (Chemicals)	87,525	2,113	Omron Corporation (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	159,900	14,247
Reliance Industries, Ltd. (Oil, gas & consumable fuels)	505,955	13,414	Rakus Co., Ltd. (Software)	120,200	2,785
		<u>26,122</u>	*SHIFT, Inc. (IT services)	18,000	2,495
<b>Indonesia—0.9%</b>			SMC Corporation (Machinery)	28,100	17,131
Bank Central Asia Tbk PT (Banks)	4,844,406	11,672	Sushiro Global Holdings, Ltd. (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	80,900	3,095
<b>South Korea—1.3%</b>			TechnoPro Holdings, Inc. (Professional services)	39,500	3,271
*Kakao Corporation (Interactive Media & Services)	20,177	7,234	TIS, Inc. (IT services)	192,500	3,941
*Samsung SDI Co., Ltd. (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	16,628	9,613			<u>165,667</u>
		<u>16,847</u>			
<b>Taiwan—4.1%</b>			<b>United Kingdom—9.7%</b>		
Airtac International Group (Machinery)	77,000	2,467	3i Group plc (Capital markets)	292,048	4,625
Globalwafers Co., Ltd. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	142,000	3,578	Abcam plc (Biotechnology)	74,379	1,577
MediaTek, Inc. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	641,000	17,041	Ashtead Group plc (Trading companies & distributors)	246,467	11,588
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.—ADR (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	284,344	31,005	Avast plc (Software)	499,761	3,673
		<u>54,091</u>	AVEVA Group plc (Software)	101,635	4,450
<b>Thailand—1.4%</b>			Big Yellow Group plc (Equity REIT)	156,933	2,354
Airports of Thailand PCL (Transportation infrastructure)	778,100	1,617	*boohoo Group plc (Internet & direct marketing retail)	529,898	2,486
Carabao Group PCL Class “F” (Beverages)	438,700	1,676	Compass Group plc (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	593,463	11,062
*Sea, Ltd.—ADR (Entertainment)	77,187	15,364	Croda International plc (Chemicals)	79,353	7,158
		<u>18,657</u>	Diploma plc (Trading companies & distributors)	78,392	2,350
<b>Japan—12.5%</b>			Experian plc (Professional services)	293,513	11,146
Asahi Intecc Co., Ltd. (Health care equipment & supplies)	156,700	5,714	Halma plc (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	283,485	9,494
*BASE, Inc. (IT services)	29,200	2,760	Intermediate Capital Group plc (Capital markets)	225,996	5,334
Benefit One, Inc. (Professional services)	106,100	3,134	Intertek Group plc (Professional services)	67,979	5,250
*Bengo4.com, Inc. (Interactive Media & Services)	18,400	1,825	London Stock Exchange Group plc (Capital markets)	97,127	11,965
Daikin Industries, Ltd. (Building products)	68,000	15,094	*Renishaw plc (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	33,496	2,638
Disco Corporation (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	24,100	8,111	*Rentokil Initial plc (Commercial services & supplies)	1,126,487	7,850
GMO Payment Gateway, Inc. (IT services)	27,100	3,632	Rotork plc (Machinery)	795,312	3,459
Harmonic Drive Systems, Inc. (Machinery)	45,000	4,018	Segro plc (Equity REIT)	572,146	7,414
Hoya Corporation (Health care equipment & supplies)	74,900	10,351	Softcat plc (IT services)	114,342	2,148
Keyence Corporation (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	45,900	25,783	Spirax-Sarco Engineering plc (Machinery)	51,213	7,910
M3, Inc. (Health care technology)	84,800	8,002	*Trainline plc (Internet & direct marketing retail)	405,147	2,571
MISUMI Group, Inc. (Machinery)	115,500	3,786			<u>128,502</u>
MonotaRO Co., Ltd. (Trading companies & distributors)	103,200	5,247			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds **53**

## Institutional International Growth Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Value
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>			<b>Total Investments—99.2%</b> (cost \$713,438)	
<b>Asia—3.7%</b>			<b>Cash and other assets, less liabilities—0.8%</b>	
<b>Australia—2.2%</b>			<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>	
Aristocrat Leisure, Ltd. (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	303,501	\$ 7,254		\$1,316,241
*Atlantia Corporation plc Class “A” (Software)†	35,417	8,283		10,241
CSL, Ltd. (Biotechnology)	34,823	7,602		<u>\$1,326,482</u>
Goodman Group (Equity REIT)	359,639	5,243		
		<u>28,382</u>		
<b>Hong Kong—1.5%</b>			ADR = American Depositary Receipt	
AIA Group, Ltd. (Insurance)	1,647,463	20,188	REIT = Real Estate Investment Trust	
			* = Non-income producing security	
			† = U.S. listed foreign security	
<b>Canada—2.5%</b>			At December 31, 2020, the Fund’s Portfolio of Investments includes the following industry categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):	
Canadian National Railway Co. (Road & rail)	151,940	16,704	Information Technology	26.4%
Enghouse Systems, Ltd. (Software)	36,523	1,769	Industrials	22.9%
*Kinaxis, Inc. (Software)	19,007	2,693	Consumer Discretionary	14.7%
*Lululemon Athletica, Inc. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	30,623	10,658	Health Care	12.8%
Toromont Industries, Ltd. (Trading companies & distributors)	27,655	1,938	Financials	7.2%
		<u>33,762</u>	Communication Services	5.5%
			Consumer Staples	2.7%
			Materials	2.6%
			Energy	2.2%
			Real Estate	2.0%
			Utilities	1.0%
			Total	<u>100.0%</u>
<b>Emerging Latin America—2.4%</b>			At December 31, 2020, the Fund’s Portfolio of Investments includes the following currency categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):	
<b>Argentina—0.9%</b>			Euro	23.8%
*Globant S.A. (IT services)†	17,119	3,725	Japanese Yen	12.6%
*MercadoLibre, Inc. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	5,501	9,216	Hong Kong Dollar	11.9%
		<u>12,941</u>	British Pound Sterling	9.8%
<b>Brazil—1.3%</b>			U.S. Dollar	9.0%
B3 S.A. - Brasil Bolsa Balcao (Capital markets)	477,700	5,700	Swiss Franc	6.3%
Locaweb Servicos de Internet S.A. (IT services)	202,100	3,131	Swedish Krona	5.8%
Magazine Luiza S.A. (Multiline retail)	1,063,300	5,108	Danish Krone	4.9%
Notre Dame Intermedica Participacoes S.A. (Health care providers & services)	203,100	3,063	Chinese Yuan Renminbi	4.0%
		<u>17,002</u>	New Taiwan Dollar	2.3%
<b>Mexico—0.2%</b>			Indian Rupee	2.0%
*Grupo Aeroportuario del Sureste S.A.B. de C.V. —ADR (Transportation infrastructure)	14,184	2,339	Canadian Dollar	1.7%
			Australian Dollar	1.5%
<b>Emerging Europe —0.8%</b>			Brazilian Real	1.3%
<b>Poland—0.3%</b>			South Korean Won	1.3%
*Allegro.eu S.A. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	161,311	3,657	All Other Currencies	1.8%
			Total	<u>100.0%</u>
<b>Russia—0.5%</b>				
*Yandex N.V. Class “A” (Interactive Media & Services)†	100,642	7,003		
<b>Total Common Stocks—99.2%</b> (cost \$713,438)				
		1,316,241		

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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**International Small Cap Growth Fund**


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The International Small Cap Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*Simon Fennell*

The William Blair International Small Cap Growth Fund (Class N shares) posted a 28.68% increase, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the MSCI All Country World ex-U.S. Small Cap Index (net) (the "Index"), increased 14.24%.

Calendar year outperformance was driven primarily by strong selection within the Industrials sector, combined with the overweight and positive stock selection within Information Technology. Within Industrials, Nihon M&A Center and Indutrade were the top contributors to performance. Nihon M&A Center is a high-quality Japanese growth company that provides advisory services to small- and mid-sized enterprises facing succession-oriented challenges. It is led by an entrepreneurial management team that has built an attractive network of national relationships aimed at identifying buyers and sellers and sourcing transactions. Share price performance was driven by record high revenue growth in the first half of the year, as the company continued to benefit from structural tailwinds and its strong network, less volatile average deal size, and diverse industry exposure. Indutrade is a leader in the Northern European market for industrial component distribution. The company is differentiated by its high proportion of proprietary products (38% of sales), a range of product offerings from high-quality suppliers, and a technically-savvy sales team, all of which help to reinforce close relationships with customers. Indutrade experienced a relatively limited impact on its business from the pandemic, bolstered by its healthy balance sheet and diversified end markets.



*Andrew G. Flynn*

Partially offsetting these positive effects were Healthcare stock selection and the underweight to Materials. Within Healthcare, China-based AK Medical Holdings was the largest performance detractor. AK Medical is the leading domestic orthopedic joints manufacturer in China. The company's key competitive advantages are its product quality, first-mover advantage and R&D capabilities. China's orthopedics market is growing 15%-20% per year, supported by an aging population, increased patient awareness, rising incomes and favorable government policy. The share price weakened in the second half of the year following strong first half performance, reflecting profit taking and investor concerns about price cuts associated with Chinese bulk purchases of high-value medical goods.

Please refer to the Global Markets Review and Outlook relating to the Fund on beginning page 33.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds **55**

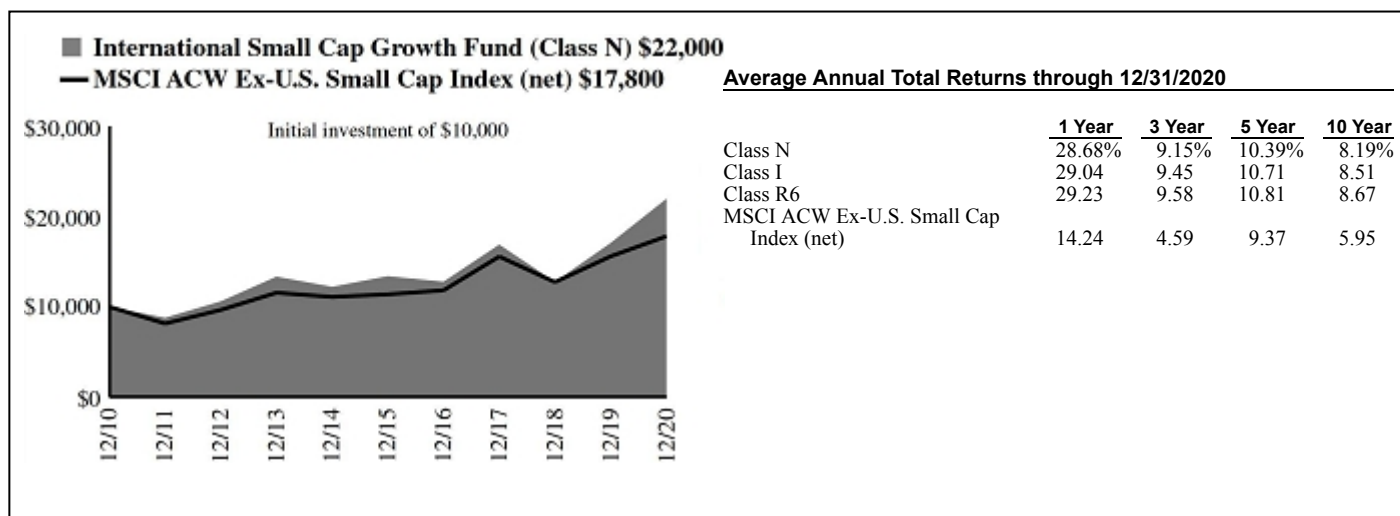
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**International Small Cap Growth Fund**


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**Performance Highlights (Unaudited)**


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*Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. Investing in smaller companies involves special risks, including higher volatility and lower liquidity. Smaller capitalization stocks are also more sensitive to purchase/sale transactions and changes in the issuer's financial condition. International investing involves special risk considerations, including currency fluctuations, lower liquidity, economic and political risk. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.*

*The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.*

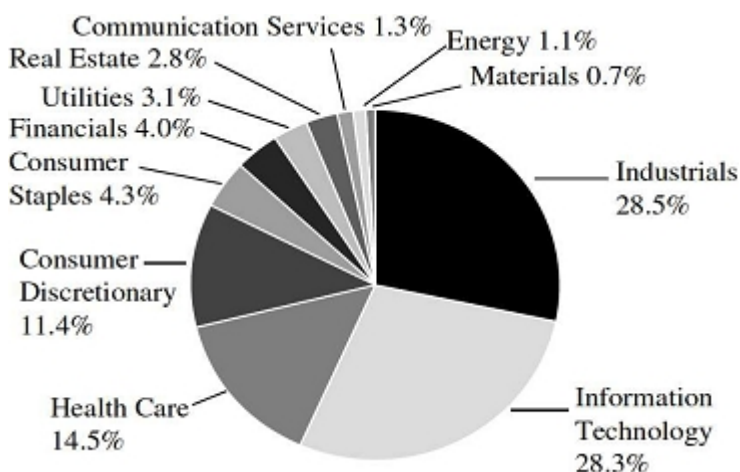
*The Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) All Country World (ACW) Ex-U.S. Small Cap Index (net) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of small capitalization developed and emerging markets, excluding the United States. This index approximates the minimum possible dividend reinvestment by deducting for the highest possible withholding tax rates of those markets.*

*This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all stocks in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these stocks will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.*

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**Sector Diversification (Unaudited)**


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The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.



## International Small Cap Growth Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Europe, Mid-East—43.5%</b>			<b>Europe, Mid-East—(continued)</b>		
<b>Belgium—1.7%</b>			<b>Sweden—(continued)</b>		
Melexis N.V. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	33,342	\$ 3,254	Beijer Ref AB (Trading companies & distributors)	135,604	\$ 6,204
Warehouses De Pauw CVA (Equity REIT)	76,778	2,651	BioGaia AB Class “B” (Biotechnology)	24,266	1,584
		<u>5,905</u>	*Biotage AB (Life sciences tools & services)	115,063	1,944
<b>Denmark—4.1%</b>			*Indutrade AB (Trading companies & distributors)	322,947	6,916
*Netcompany Group A/S (Software)	67,824	6,930	Investment AB Latour Class “B” (Industrial conglomerates)	201,118	4,882
Royal Unibrew A/S (Beverages)	35,597	4,129	Lifco AB Class “B” (Industrial conglomerates)	58,253	5,586
SimCorp A/S (Software)	18,609	2,766	MIPS AB (Leisure products)	82,268	5,149
		<u>13,825</u>	*Nolato AB Class “B” (Industrial conglomerates)	37,631	3,805
<b>Germany—4.4%</b>			Sweco AB Class “B” (Construction & engineering)	144,338	2,649
Carl Zeiss Meditec AG (Health care equipment & supplies)	37,014	4,924	*Vitrolife AB (Biotechnology)	79,126	2,075
CompuGroup Medical SE & Co. KgaA (Health care technology)	25,679	2,466			<u>47,375</u>
*Hypoport SE (Diversified financial services)	1,779	1,119	<b>Switzerland—9.0%</b>		
Siltronic AG (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	40,370	6,318	Belimo Holding AG (Building products)	353	3,062
		<u>14,827</u>	Galenica AG (Health care providers & services)	22,516	1,501
<b>Israel—2.0%</b>			Kardex Holding AG (Machinery)	15,337	3,354
*CyberArk Software, Ltd. (Software)†	27,936	4,514	*Siegfried Holding AG (Life sciences tools & services)	4,485	3,300
Strauss Group, Ltd. (Food products)	72,658	2,179	*SIG Combibloc Group AG (Containers & packaging)	34,475	800
		<u>6,693</u>	*Softwareone Holding AG (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	146,136	4,325
<b>Italy—2.1%</b>			Tecan Group AG (Life sciences tools & services)	6,680	3,273
*Amplifon SpA (Health care providers & services)	126,644	5,266	VAT Group AG (Machinery)	28,604	7,134
*Brunello Cucinelli SpA (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	38,012	1,658	*Zur Rose Group AG (Food & staples retailing)	11,392	3,642
		<u>6,924</u>			<u>30,391</u>
<b>Netherlands—1.8%</b>			<b>United Kingdom—15.3%</b>		
BE Semiconductor Industries N.V. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	83,846	5,079	Abcam plc (Biotechnology)	81,246	1,722
IMCD N.V. (Trading companies & distributors)	6,920	881	Avast plc (Software)	379,302	2,788
		<u>5,960</u>	AVEVA Group plc (Software)	132,704	5,811
<b>Norway—1.3%</b>			Beazley plc (Insurance)	528,385	2,634
TOMRA Systems ASA (Commercial services & supplies)	89,069	4,390	Big Yellow Group plc (Equity REIT)	207,638	3,115
<b>Spain—3.0%</b>			*boohoo Group plc (Internet & direct marketing retail)	857,089	4,020
EDP Renovaveis S.A. (Independent power & renewable electricity producers)	212,847	5,928	Burford Capital, Ltd. (Diversified financial services)	76,111	740
*Solaria Energia y Medio Ambiente S.A. (Independent power & renewable electricity producers)	144,933	4,186	Diploma plc (Trading companies & distributors)	186,786	5,599
		<u>10,114</u>	Hill & Smith Holdings plc (Metals & mining)	86,350	1,665
<b>Sweden—14.1%</b>			Intermediate Capital Group plc (Capital markets)	265,888	6,276
AddTech AB Class “B” (Trading companies & distributors)	240,407	3,185	*Renishaw plc (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	58,431	4,602
Arjo AB Class “B” (Health care equipment & supplies)	444,542	3,396	Rotork plc (Machinery)	679,368	2,954

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 57



## International Small Cap Growth Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>United Kingdom—(continued)</b>			<b>Japan—(continued)</b>		
Safestore Holdings plc (Equity REIT)	341,549	\$ 3,643	Harmonic Drive Systems, Inc. (Machinery)	57,400	\$ 5,125
Softcat plc (IT services)	147,453	2,771	JINS Holdings, Inc. (Specialty retail)	46,300	3,040
*Trainline plc (Internet & direct marketing retail)	515,750	3,273	MonotaRO Co., Ltd. (Trading companies & distributors)	4,300	219
		<u>51,613</u>	Nihon Unisys, Ltd. (IT services)	123,700	4,840
<b>Emerging Asia—15.0%</b>			Rakus Co., Ltd. (Software)	114,300	2,648
<b>Cambodia—1.1%</b>			*SHIFT, Inc. (IT services)	19,200	2,661
NagaCorp, Ltd. (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	2,786,000	3,651	SMS Co., Ltd. (Professional services)	70,200	2,685
<b>China—4.2%</b>			Sushiro Global Holdings, Ltd. (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	106,800	4,086
A-Living Smart City Services Co., Ltd. Class “H” (Commercial services & supplies)	466,500	2,070	TechnoPro Holdings, Inc. (Professional services)	55,600	4,604
AK Medical Holdings, Ltd. (Health care equipment & supplies)	1,168,000	2,028	TIS, Inc. (IT services)	93,400	1,912
Centre Testing International Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Professional services)	502,790	2,104			<u>46,348</u>
Chacha Food Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food products)	220,800	1,818	<b>Canada—4.6%</b>		
Silergy Corporation (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	41,000	3,517	Enghouse Systems, Ltd. (Software)	67,853	3,286
*Venus MedTech Hangzhou, Inc. Class “H” (Health care equipment & supplies)	268,500	2,738	*Kinaxis, Inc. (Software)	29,545	4,186
		<u>14,275</u>	Parkland Corporation (Oil, gas & consumable fuels)	109,726	3,482
<b>India—4.6%</b>			Toromont Industries, Ltd. (Trading companies & distributors)	66,508	4,660
*AU Small Finance Bank, Ltd. (Banks)	217,475	2,534			<u>15,614</u>
Info Edge India, Ltd. (Interactive Media & Services)	43,049	2,822	<b>Emerging Latin America—2.3%</b>		
Ipsa Laboratories, Ltd. (Pharmaceuticals)	141,424	4,248	<b>Brazil—1.0%</b>		
Motherson Sumi Systems, Ltd. (Auto components)	2,636,444	5,954	Arezzo Industria e Comercio S.A. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	203,900	2,676
		<u>15,558</u>	Pet Center Comercio e Participacoes S.A. (Specialty retail)	223,500	822
<b>South Korea—0.6%</b>					<u>3,498</u>
*Koh Young Technology, Inc. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	21,363	2,065	<b>Mexico—1.3%</b>		
<b>Taiwan—4.5%</b>			*Grupo Aeroportuario del Centro Norte S.A.B. de C.V. (Transportation infrastructure)	669,800	4,321
ASPEED Technology, Inc. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	35,000	2,136	<b>Asia—2.3%</b>		
Feng TAY Enterprise Co., Ltd. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	481,680	3,420	<b>Australia—1.4%</b>		
Globalwafers Co., Ltd. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	262,000	6,602	*Nanosonics, Ltd. (Health care equipment & supplies)	399,283	2,472
Voltronic Power Technology Corporation (Electrical equipment)	70,451	2,808	Pro Medicus, Ltd. (Health care technology)	89,717	2,363
		<u>14,966</u>			<u>4,835</u>
<b>Japan—13.8%</b>			<b>New Zealand—0.9%</b>		
*BASE, Inc. (IT services)	37,500	3,545	Ryman Healthcare, Ltd. (Health care providers & services)	259,479	2,836
Benefit One, Inc. (Professional services)	179,400	5,299	<b>Emerging Mid-East, Africa—1.6%</b>		
*Bengo4.com, Inc. (Interactive Media & Services)	14,600	1,448	<b>South Africa—0.7%</b>		
GMO Payment Gateway, Inc. (IT services)	31,600	4,236	Clicks Group, Ltd. (Food & staples retailing)	149,994	2,579
			<b>United Arab Emirates—0.9%</b>		
			*Network International Holdings plc (IT services)	654,645	2,924
			<b>Total Common Stocks—98.4%</b>		
			(cost \$229,419)		<u>331,487</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

## International Small Cap Growth Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Principal Amount	Value
<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$2,805, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$2,861	\$2,805	\$ 2,805
<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—0.8%</b> (cost \$2,805)		<u>2,805</u>
<b>Total Investments—99.2%</b> (cost \$232,224)		<u>334,292</u>
<b>Cash and other assets, less liabilities—0.8%</b>		<u>2,589</u>
<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		<u><u>\$336,881</u></u>

REIT = Real Estate Investment Trust

\* = Non-income producing security

† = U.S. listed foreign security

At December 31, 2020, the Fund's Portfolio of Investments includes the following industry categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):

Industrials	28.5%
Information Technology	28.3%
Health Care	14.5%
Consumer Discretionary	11.4%
Consumer Staples	4.3%
Financials	4.0%
Utilities	3.1%
Real Estate	2.8%
Communication Services	1.3%
Energy	1.1%
Materials	0.7%
Total	<u>100.0%</u>

At December 31, 2020, the Fund's Portfolio of Investments includes the following currency categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):

British Pound Sterling	16.4%
Swedish Krona	14.3%
Japanese Yen	14.0%
Euro	13.2%
Swiss Franc	9.2%
New Taiwan Dollar	5.6%
Canadian Dollar	4.7%
Indian Rupee	4.7%
Danish Krone	4.2%
Hong Kong Dollar	3.2%
Australian Dollar	1.4%
U.S. Dollar	1.4%
Norwegian Krone	1.3%
Mexican Peso	1.3%
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	1.2%
Brazilian Real	1.0%
All Other Currencies	2.9%
Total	<u>100.0%</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 59

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**Emerging Markets Leaders Fund**


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The Emerging Markets Leaders Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*Todd M. McClone*

The William Blair Emerging Markets Leaders Fund (Class N shares) posted a 27.23% increase, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (net) (the "Index") increased 18.31%.

Calendar year outperformance versus the Index was primarily driven by positive stock selection across most sectors. Stock selection within the Communication Services and Consumer Discretionary sectors was particularly strong, bolstered by Yandex and NetEase within the former, and China Tourism Group Duty Free and MercadoLibre within the latter. Yandex, the Russian search and internet platform, continues to execute well on its growth strategy, which is predicated on the sustained growth in its portal business allowing the company to fund early stage and new growth areas like food delivery, ride-hailing, autonomous driving and entertainment. NetEase, the leading developer of self-developed PC and mobile games in China, outperformed amid increased online customer engagement in gaming and rapid growth in its online education business. China Tourism Group Duty Free rallied amid easing travel restrictions and policy support. MercadoLibre's strong share price performance was underpinned by accelerating online sales, with the pandemic serving as a catalyst for faster e-commerce adoption, as well as the company's best-in-class services ecosystem (wallet, merchant services, managed fulfillment, etc.).



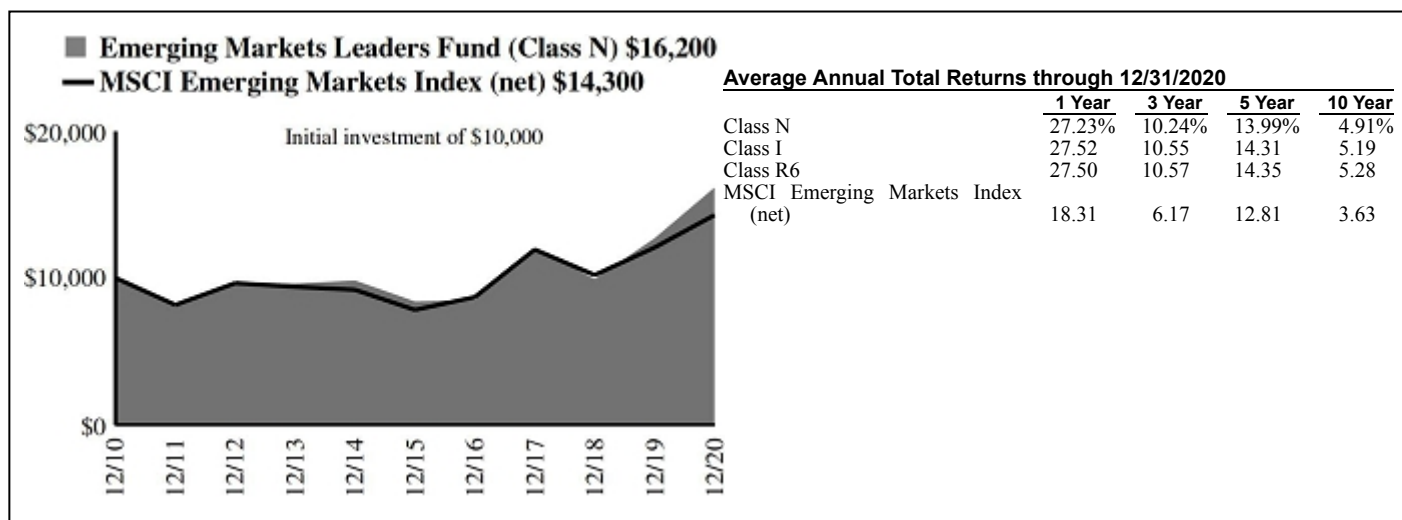
*John C. Murphy*

Partially offsetting these effects was negative stock selection within the Industrials and Financials sectors. Within Industrials, Rumo SA, the largest independent railroad logistics operator in Latin America, hurt relative performance. Rumo underperformance was driven by lower corn exports and increased trucking competition in the near term. Rumo's investment thesis remains predicated on accelerating agricultural exports, increasing market share gains from trucking and network expansion projects. Within the Financials sector, IRB Brasil Resseguros, the dominant reinsurance company in Brazil, weighed on performance as the stock fell amid a short seller report and corporate governance issues, which led us to exit the position.

Please refer to the Global Markets Review and Outlook relating to the Fund beginning on page 33.

## Emerging Markets Leaders Fund

### Performance Highlights (Unaudited)



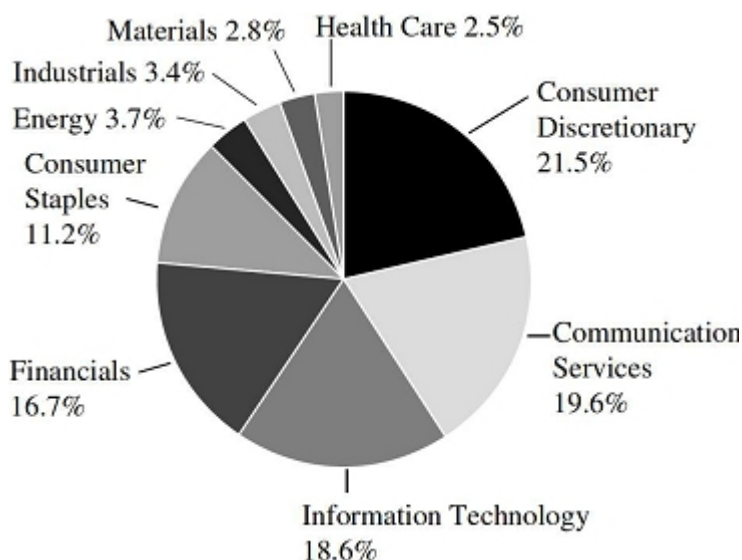
Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). International investing involves special risk considerations, including currency fluctuations, lower liquidity, economic and political risk. These risks may be magnified when investing in emerging markets. From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.

The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.

The Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) Emerging Markets Index (net) is a free float-adjusted market-capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure equity market performance of emerging markets. This index approximates the minimum possible dividend reinvestment by deducting for the highest possible withholding tax rates of those markets.

This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all stocks in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these stocks will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.

### Sector Diversification (Unaudited)



The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.



## Emerging Markets Leaders Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Emerging Asia—77.3%</b>			<b>Emerging Asia—(continued)</b>		
<b>China—37.8%</b>			<b>Taiwan—12.7%</b>		
*Alibaba Group Holding, Ltd. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	650,328	\$ 19,512	E.Sun Financial Holding Co., Ltd. (Banks)	2,703,301	\$ 2,458
China Tourism Group Duty Free Corporation, Ltd. Class “A” (Specialty retail)	164,156	7,090	MediaTek, Inc. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	260,000	6,912
Foshan Haitian Flavouring & Food Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food products)	96,800	2,968	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.—ADR (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	189,567	20,670
Jiangsu Hengrui Medicine Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Pharmaceuticals)	137,870	2,350	Uni-President Enterprises Corporation (Food products)	1,321,000	3,174
Kweichow Moutai Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Beverages)	15,659	4,784			<u>33,214</u>
Midea Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Household durables)	439,400	6,614	<b>Thailand—1.5%</b>		
NetEase, Inc. (Entertainment)	438,950	8,357	*Sea, Ltd.—ADR (Entertainment)	20,261	4,033
Ping An Insurance Group Co. of China, Ltd. Class “H” (Insurance)	749,500	9,185	<b>Emerging Latin America—14.8%</b>		
Shenzhen International Group Holdings, Ltd. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	142,200	2,788	<b>Argentina—4.3%</b>		
*TAL Education Group—ADR (Diversified consumer services)	46,702	3,340	*Globant S.A. (Software)†	20,432	4,446
Tencent Holdings, Ltd. (Interactive Media & Services)	260,100	18,923	*MercadoLibre, Inc. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	4,051	6,787
*Tencent Music Entertainment Group—ADR (Entertainment)	316,236	6,084			<u>11,233</u>
Travelsky Technology, Ltd. Class “H” (IT services)	1,447,000	3,490	<b>Brazil—5.5%</b>		
Zhangzhou Pientzhuang Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Pharmaceuticals)	87,300	3,571	B3 S.A. - Brasil Bolsa Balcao (Capital markets)	417,400	4,981
		<u>99,056</u>	Odontoprev S.A. (Health care providers & services)	221,853	621
<b>India—17.0%</b>			Raia Drogasil S.A. (Food & staples retailing)	378,900	1,827
Asian Paints, Ltd. (Chemicals)	74,384	2,810	*Rumo S.A. (Road & rail)	1,097,200	4,064
Bajaj Finance, Ltd. (Consumer finance)	34,195	2,475	TOTVS S.A. (Software)	531,200	2,937
Britannia Industries, Ltd. (Food products)	47,820	2,338			<u>14,430</u>
*HDFC Bank, Ltd. (Banks)	322,404	6,347	<b>Mexico—3.1%</b>		
Housing Development Finance Corporation, Ltd. (Thriffs & mortgage finance)	112,711	3,934	*Grupo Aeroportuario del Pacifico S.A.B. de C.V. Class “B” (Transportation infrastructure)	426,600	4,759
Infosys, Ltd. (IT services)	334,369	5,736	Wal-Mart de Mexico S.A.B. de C.V. (Food & staples retailing)	1,154,200	3,242
Maruti Suzuki India, Ltd. (Automobiles)	20,479	2,145			<u>8,001</u>
Motherson Sumi Systems, Ltd. (Auto components)	2,111,059	4,767	<b>Peru—1.9%</b>		
Reliance Industries, Ltd. (Oil, gas & consumable fuels)	364,695	9,660	Credicorp, Ltd. (Banks)†	30,644	5,026
UPL, Ltd. (Chemicals)	687,746	4,393	<b>Emerging Europe, Mid-East, Africa—7.5%</b>		
		<u>44,605</u>	<b>Poland—1.2%</b>		
<b>Indonesia—1.8%</b>			*Allegro.eu S.A. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	140,378	3,183
PT Bank Central Asia Tbk (Banks)	1,919,400	4,624	<b>Russia—2.2%</b>		
<b>South Korea—6.5%</b>			*Yandex N.V. Class “A” (Interactive Media & Services)†	84,659	5,891
Douzone Bizon Co., Ltd. (Software)	31,870	3,051	<b>South Africa—3.6%</b>		
*Kakao Corporation (Interactive Media & Services)	7,306	2,620	Bid Corporation, Ltd. (Food & staples retailing)	102,062	1,827
*LG Household & Health Care, Ltd. (Personal products)	4,029	6,009	*Capitec Bank Holdings, Ltd. (Banks)	46,453	4,528
*NAVER Corporation (Interactive Media & Services)	19,629	5,285	Clicks Group, Ltd. (Food & staples retailing)	175,806	3,023
		<u>16,965</u>			<u>9,378</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

## Emerging Markets Leaders Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares or Principal Amount	Value
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Emerging Europe, Mid-East, Africa— (continued)</b>		
United Arab Emirates—0.5%		
*Network International Holdings plc (IT services)	291,443	\$ 1,302
<b>Total Common Stocks—99.6%</b> (cost \$163,738)		<u>260,941</u>
<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$2,667, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$2,721	\$2,667	<u>2,667</u>
<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—1.0%</b> (cost \$2,667)		<u>2,667</u>
<b>Total Investments—100.6%</b> (cost \$166,405)		263,608
<b>Liabilities, plus cash and other assets—(0.6)%</b>		(1,471)
<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		<u>\$262,137</u>

ADR = American Depositary Receipt

\* = Non-income producing security

† = U.S. listed foreign security

At December 31, 2020, the Fund's Portfolio of Investments includes the following industry categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):

Consumer Discretionary	21.5%
Communication Services	19.6%
Information Technology	18.6%
Financials	16.7%
Consumer Staples	11.2%
Energy	3.7%
Industrials	3.4%
Materials	2.8%
Health Care	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<u>100.0%</u>

At December 31, 2020, the Fund's Portfolio of Investments includes the following currency categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):

Hong Kong Dollar	23.8%
U.S. Dollar	21.6%
Indian Rupee	17.1%
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	10.5%
South Korean Won	6.5%
Brazilian Real	5.5%
New Taiwan Dollar	4.8%
South African Rand	3.6%
Mexican Peso	3.1%
Indonesian Rupiah	1.8%
Polish Zloty	1.2%
All Other Currencies	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	<u>100.0%</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

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## Emerging Markets Growth Fund

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The Emerging Markets Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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### AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

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*Todd M. McClone*



*Casey K. Preyss*

The William Blair Emerging Markets Growth Fund (Class N shares) posted a 40.43% increase, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the MSCI Emerging Markets IMI (net) (the "Index"), increased 18.39%.

Calendar year outperformance versus the Index was primarily driven by positive stock selection across most sectors. The Communication Services, Health Care and Consumer Staples sectors were the most notable sources of relative return. Within Communication Services, Sea Ltd, the leading online game publisher and e-commerce platform in Southeast Asia, enhanced relative performance as the company delivered significant growth in gaming and acceleration of e-commerce penetration and market share gains. Top Glove Corp Bhd, the world's largest rubber glove manufacturer, within Health Care was an additional source of outperformance in the first part of the year. The company's stock price accelerated on the back of the COVID-19-induced strong volume growth, higher ASP and production efficiency. Within Consumer Staples, Wuliangye Yibin Co Ltd, the second-largest premium baijiu player in China, helped relative returns. The company continued to deliver on the investment thesis which is predicated on management's reform efforts, including increasing the focus on high-end products, improving brand support and channel management infrastructure.

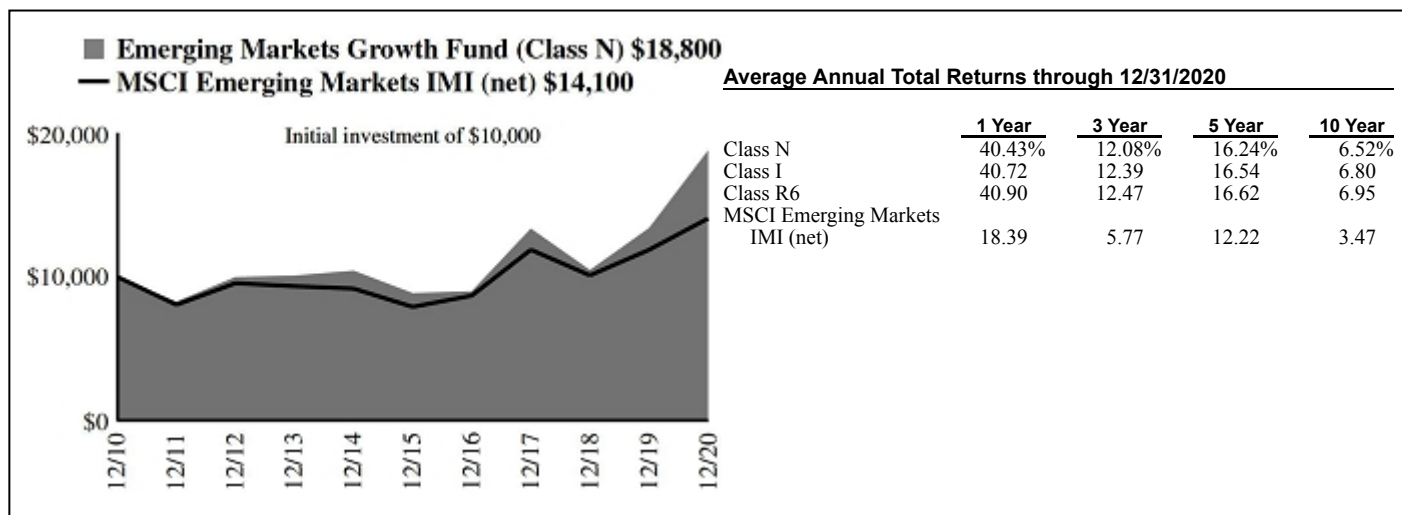
Partially offsetting these effects were the overweight allocation to Brazil and underweight allocation to the Communication Services sector in the first part of the year, coupled with below average stock selection within the Financials sector. Indian financials, especially Bajaj Finance, weighed on relative results due to investor concerns about increased funding costs and deteriorating asset quality as a result of the economic disruption in India. Brazilian financials also detracted from relative performance. Banco BTG Pactual, a leading investment bank and wealth manager in Brazil and Latin America, weakened due to deteriorated business sentiment amid COVID-19's disruption of the economic recovery.

Please refer to the Global Markets Review and Outlook relating to the Fund beginning on page 33.



## Emerging Markets Growth Fund

### Performance Highlights (Unaudited)



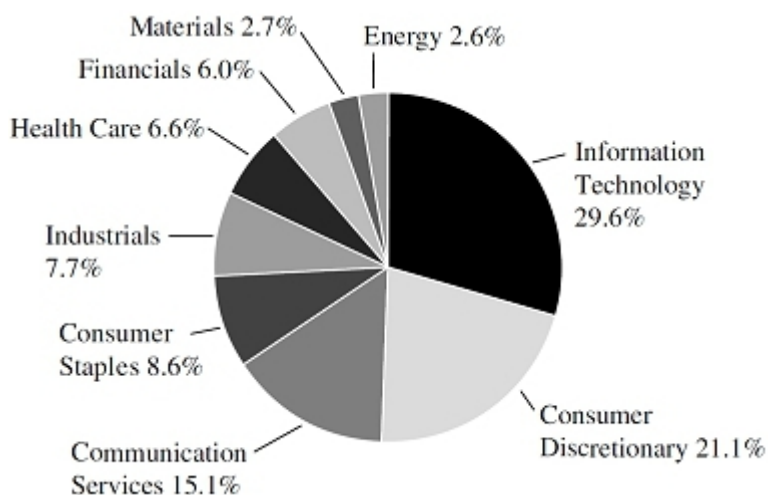
Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. International investing involves special risk considerations, including currency fluctuations, lower liquidity, economic and political risk. These risks may be magnified when investing in emerging markets. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.

The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.

The Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) Emerging Markets Investable Market Index (IMI) (net) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of emerging markets. This index approximates the minimum possible dividend reinvestment by deducting for the highest possible withholding tax rates of those markets.

This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all stocks in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these stocks will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.

### Sector Diversification (Unaudited)



The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.

December 31, 2020

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## Emerging Markets Growth Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Emerging Asia—84.4%</b>			<b>Emerging Asia—(continued)</b>		
<b>China—38.4%</b>			<b>China—(continued)</b>		
A-Living Smart City Services Co., Ltd. Class “H” (Commercial services & supplies)	285,250	\$ 1,266	Kweichow Moutai Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Beverages)	32,542	\$ 9,942
Aier Eye Hospital Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Health care providers & services)	353,209	4,045	Li Ning Co., Ltd. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	1,170,500	8,047
*Alibaba Group Holding, Ltd. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	2,136,832	64,112	Luxshare Precision Industry Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	1,032,540	8,861
*Alibaba Health Information Technology, Ltd. (Health care technology)	1,430,000	4,224	*Meituan Class “B” (Internet & direct marketing retail)	582,300	22,128
Autobio Diagnostics Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Health care equipment & supplies)	100,300	2,227	Midea Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Household durables)	586,033	8,821
Beijing Oriental Yuhong Waterproof Technology Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Construction materials)	595,250	3,532	NetEase, Inc. (Entertainment)	787,100	14,986
Centre Testing International Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Professional services)	1,429,900	5,984	Offcn Education Technology Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Diversified consumer services)	1,126,090	6,049
Chacha Food Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food products)	386,697	3,184	*Ping An Healthcare and Technology Co., Ltd. (Health care technology)	99,200	1,203
Changzhou Xingyu Automotive Lighting Systems Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Auto components)	102,800	3,152	SG Micro Corporation Class “A” (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	77,200	3,114
China Education Group Holdings, Ltd. (Diversified consumer services)	1,315,000	2,534	Shanghai M&G Stationery, Inc. Class “A” (Commercial services & supplies)	277,877	3,763
China Meidong Auto Holdings, Ltd. (Specialty retail)	1,132,000	4,600	Shenzhen Inovance Technology Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Machinery)	456,143	6,508
China Merchants Bank Co., Ltd. Class “H” (Banks)	895,500	5,660	Shenzhen Mindray Bio-Medical Electronics Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Health care equipment & supplies)	112,768	7,346
China Tourism Group Duty Free Corporation, Ltd. Class “A” (Specialty retail)	179,858	7,768	Sichuan Teway Food Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food products)	306,200	3,851
Chongqing Zhifei Biological Products Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Biotechnology)	142,400	3,221	Silergy Corporation (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	143,000	12,265
Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Electrical equipment)	96,800	5,197	Tencent Holdings, Ltd. (Interactive Media & Services)	952,260	69,278
Country Garden Services Holdings Co., Ltd. (Commercial services & supplies)	959,000	6,488	*Topchoice Medical Corporation Class “A” (Health care providers & services)	108,700	4,596
Foshan Haitian Flavouring & Food Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food products)	325,281	9,975	Topsports International Holdings, Ltd. (Specialty retail)	1,987,000	2,973
Guangdong Haid Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food products)	288,233	2,887	*Weimob, Inc. (Software)	2,065,000	3,713
Hangzhou Tigermed Consulting Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Life sciences tools & services)	224,266	5,542	Wuliangye Yibin Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Beverages)	303,394	13,539
Hundsun Technologies, Inc. Class “A” (Software)	269,581	4,324	WuXi AppTec Co., Ltd. Class “H” (Life sciences tools & services)	378,400	7,409
Jafron Biomedical Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Health care equipment & supplies)	225,621	2,340	*Wuxi Biologics Cayman, Inc. (Life sciences tools & services)	1,146,000	15,196
*JD.com, Inc. Class “A” (Internet & direct marketing retail)	446,750	19,708	Yifeng Pharmacy Chain Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food & staples retailing)	199,660	2,754
Jiangsu Hengli Hydraulic Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Machinery)	920,865	15,911	*Yihai International Holding, Ltd. (Food products)	291,000	4,317
Jiangsu Hengrui Medicine Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Pharmaceuticals)	339,151	5,780	Zhangzhou Pientzhuang Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Pharmaceuticals)	152,729	6,247
*Jiumaojiu International Holdings, Ltd. (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	1,037,000	3,157	Zhongsheng Group Holdings, Ltd. (Specialty retail)	1,371,500	9,774
*Kingdee International Software Group Co., Ltd. (Software)	1,448,000	5,902			<u>459,400</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

## Emerging Markets Growth Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Emerging Asia—(continued)</b>			<b>Emerging Asia—(continued)</b>		
<b>India—11.8%</b>			<b>South Korea—(continued)</b>		
Amber Enterprises India, Ltd. (Household durables)	41,567	\$ 1,339	*Samsung SDI Co., Ltd. (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	11,732	\$ 6,782
Asian Paints, Ltd. (Chemicals)	177,631	6,711	*SK Hynix, Inc. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	111,677	12,182
Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals, Ltd. (Household durables)	690,961	3,593	*WONIK IPS Co., Ltd. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	72,836	2,967
Dabur India, Ltd. (Personal products)	761,278	5,553			<u>154,040</u>
Divi's Laboratories, Ltd. (Life sciences tools & services)	106,361	5,587	<b>Taiwan—18.6%</b>		
Dixon Technologies India, Ltd. (Household durables)	9,613	1,767	Accton Technology Corporation (Communications equipment)	381,000	4,285
Dr. Lal PathLabs, Ltd. (Health care providers & services)	71,313	2,247	Advantech Co., Ltd. (Technology hardware, storage & peripherals)	368,766	4,594
Escorts, Ltd. (Machinery)	160,789	2,793	Airtac International Group (Machinery)	428,000	13,709
Havells India, Ltd. (Electrical equipment)	303,006	3,801	ASMedia Technology, Inc. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	132,000	7,376
*HDFC Bank, Ltd. (Banks)	947,523	18,654	ASPEED Technology, Inc. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	118,000	7,202
*HDFC Life Insurance Co., Ltd. (Insurance)	287,610	2,661	Chailease Holding Co., Ltd. (Diversified financial services)	683,000	4,084
Hindustan Unilever, Ltd. (Household products)	155,453	5,093	E.Sun Financial Holding Co., Ltd. (Banks)	4,464,313	4,060
Housing Development Finance Corporation, Ltd. (Thriffs & mortgage finance)	286,214	9,988	Elite Material Co., Ltd. (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	513,000	2,866
Info Edge India, Ltd. (Interactive Media & Services)	87,263	5,719	Hiwin Technologies Corporation (Machinery)	211,000	2,887
Nestle India, Ltd. (Food products)	21,835	5,492	Lotes Co., Ltd. (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	220,000	3,715
PI Industries, Ltd. (Chemicals)	109,902	3,300	MediaTek, Inc. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	896,000	23,821
Pidilite Industries, Ltd. (Chemicals)	226,973	5,480	momo.com, Inc. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	158,000	3,582
Reliance Industries, Ltd. (Oil, gas & consumable fuels)	1,173,118	30,934	Parade Technologies, Ltd. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	147,000	5,807
SRF, Ltd. (Chemicals)	57,662	4,386	Poya International Co., Ltd. (Multiline retail)	103,000	2,111
Tata Consultancy Services, Ltd. (IT services)	223,876	8,778	Realtek Semiconductor Corporation (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	394,000	5,476
Tata Consumer Products, Ltd. (Food products)	476,303	3,849	Sinbon Electronics Co., Ltd. (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	573,000	4,405
Varun Beverages, Ltd. (Beverages)	229,595	2,859	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	1,711,000	32,274
		<u>140,584</u>	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd. —ADR (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	702,552	76,606
<b>Indonesia—0.9%</b>			Voltronic Power Technology Corporation (Electrical equipment)	125,586	5,006
Bank Central Asia Tbk PT (Banks)	4,392,299	10,582	Win Semiconductors Corporation (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	417,000	5,135
<b>South Korea—12.9%</b>			Wiwynn Corporation (Technology hardware, storage & peripherals)	135,000	3,382
*Hansol Chemical Co., Ltd. (Chemicals)	24,633	4,456			<u>222,383</u>
*JYP Entertainment Corporation (Entertainment)	64,988	2,297			
s Kakao Corporation (Interactive Media & Services)	62,266	22,326			
LEENO Industrial, Inc. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	33,162	4,121			
*LG Household & Health Care, Ltd. (Personal products)	6,354	9,476			
*NAVER Corporation (Interactive Media & Services)	62,531	16,837			
*NCSoft Corporation (Entertainment)	7,493	6,422			
*NHN KCP Corporation (IT services)	59,752	3,768			
*NICE Information Service Co., Ltd. (Professional services)	139,926	3,195			
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (Technology hardware, storage & peripherals)	794,079	59,211			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds **67**

## Emerging Markets Growth Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Principal Amount	Value
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>			<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
<b>Emerging Asia—(continued)</b>			Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$15,886, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$16,204		
<b>Thailand—1.5%</b>				\$15,886	\$ 15,886
*Sea, Ltd.—ADR (Entertainment)	92,406	\$ 18,393	<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—1.3%</b>		15,886
<b>Vietnam—0.3%</b>			<b>Total Investments—99.9%</b>		1,194,110
Hoa Phat Group JSC (Metals & mining)	2,117,260	3,802	(cost \$748,608)		1,626
<b>Emerging Latin America—8.3%</b>			<b>Cash and other assets, less liabilities—0.1%</b>		1,626
<b>Argentina—2.9%</b>			<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		<u>\$1,195,736</u>
*Globant S.A. (IT services)†	30,702	6,681			
*MercadoLibre, Inc. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	16,812	28,164			
		<u>34,845</u>			
<b>Brazil—5.0%</b>			ADR = American Depositary Receipt		
B3 S.A. - Brasil Bolsa Balcao (Capital markets)	790,900	9,438	GDR = Global Depositary Receipt		
Localiza Rent a Car S.A. (Road & rail)	458,000	6,080	* = Non-income producing security		
Locaweb Servicos de Internet S.A. (IT services)	299,200	4,635	† = U.S. listed foreign security		
Magazine Luiza S.A. (Multiline retail)	3,093,900	14,861			
*StoneCo, Ltd. Class "A" (IT services)†	148,691	12,478	At December 31, 2020, the Fund's Portfolio of Investments includes the following industry categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):		
TOTVS S.A. (Software)	763,800	4,223	Information Technology		29.6%
WEG S.A. (Electrical equipment)	529,020	7,714	Consumer Discretionary		21.1%
		<u>59,429</u>	Communication Services		15.1%
<b>Mexico—0.4%</b>			Consumer Staples		8.6%
Wal-Mart de Mexico S.A.B. de C.V. (Food & staples retailing)	1,545,200	4,341	Industrials		7.7%
<b>Emerging Europe, Africa—5.9%</b>			Health Care		6.6%
<b>Kenya—0.2%</b>			Financials		6.0%
Safaricom plc (Wireless telecommunication services)	9,304,554	2,910	Materials		2.7%
<b>Poland—1.9%</b>			Energy		2.6%
*Allegro.eu S.A. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	561,958	12,741	Total		<u>100.0%</u>
*Dino Polska S.A. (Food & staples retailing)	123,035	9,532			
		<u>22,273</u>	At December 31, 2020, the Fund's Portfolio of Investments includes the following currency categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):		
<b>Russia—2.0%</b>			Hong Kong Dollar		23.5%
TCS Group Holding plc—GDR (Banks)	156,224	5,140	Chinese Yuan Renminbi		14.5%
*Yandex N.V. Class "A" (Interactive Media & Services)†	269,412	18,745	U.S. Dollar		14.1%
		<u>23,885</u>	New Taiwan Dollar		13.4%
<b>South Africa—1.8%</b>			South Korean Won		13.1%
Clicks Group, Ltd. (Food & staples retailing)	240,548	4,136	Indian Rupee		11.9%
Naspers, Ltd. Class "N" (Internet & direct marketing retail)	83,816	17,221	Brazilian Real		4.0%
		<u>21,357</u>	Polish Zloty		1.9%
<b>Total Common Stocks—98.6%</b>			South African Rand		1.8%
(cost \$732,722)		<u>1,178,224</u>	All Other Currencies		1.8%
			Total		<u>100.0%</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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## Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund

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The Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

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### AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

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*Todd M. McClone*



*Casey K. Preyss*

The William Blair Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund (Class N shares) posted a 32.26% increase, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap Index (net) (the "Index"), increased 19.29%.

Calendar year outperformance versus the Index was primarily driven by positive stock selection across most sectors. Stock selection within the Industrials sector was particularly positive, with Jiangsu Hengli Hydraulic Co, Country Garden Services Holding and Airtac International Group adding to relative returns. Jiangsu Hengli Hydraulic and Airtac's stock performance accelerated in the second half of the year amid strong operating performance coupled with improved investor sentiment, reflecting the robust industry backdrop. The property management company Country Garden Services Holding boosted performance in the first half of the year. The company posted robust growth in the gross floor area under management and increased revenue from value-added services, benefiting from heightened demand for extra services and local government subsidies on the back of the COVID-19 outbreak. Consumer Staples also aided returns, bolstered by the strong performance of Dino Polska. The leading Polish proximity supermarket chain's investment thesis is predicated on its ability to deliver strong growth and investment returns on the back of competitive pricing, strong cost control, vertical integration and an efficient logistics network.

Partially offsetting these effects was negative stock selection within the Financials and Real Estate sectors. Within Financials, Bank BTPN Syariah Tbk PT (BTPS) and AU Small Finance Bank Ltd hindered relative performance. BTPS is a highly-profitable Shariah bank in Indonesia with a leading position in the ultra-micro segment. AU Small Finance Bank Ltd is a unique Indian bank specializing in small ticket retail loans on income-generating products targeting the unserved and underserved customer segments. Both stocks were hit in the first quarter by investor concerns over the banks' unsecure credit business coupled with deteriorated growth and credit quality outlooks. Within the Real Estate sector, China Overseas Property Holding detracted from performance amid disappointing growth despite the stability and a strong backing from third-party development companies. We exited the position due to a weaker fundamental outlook.

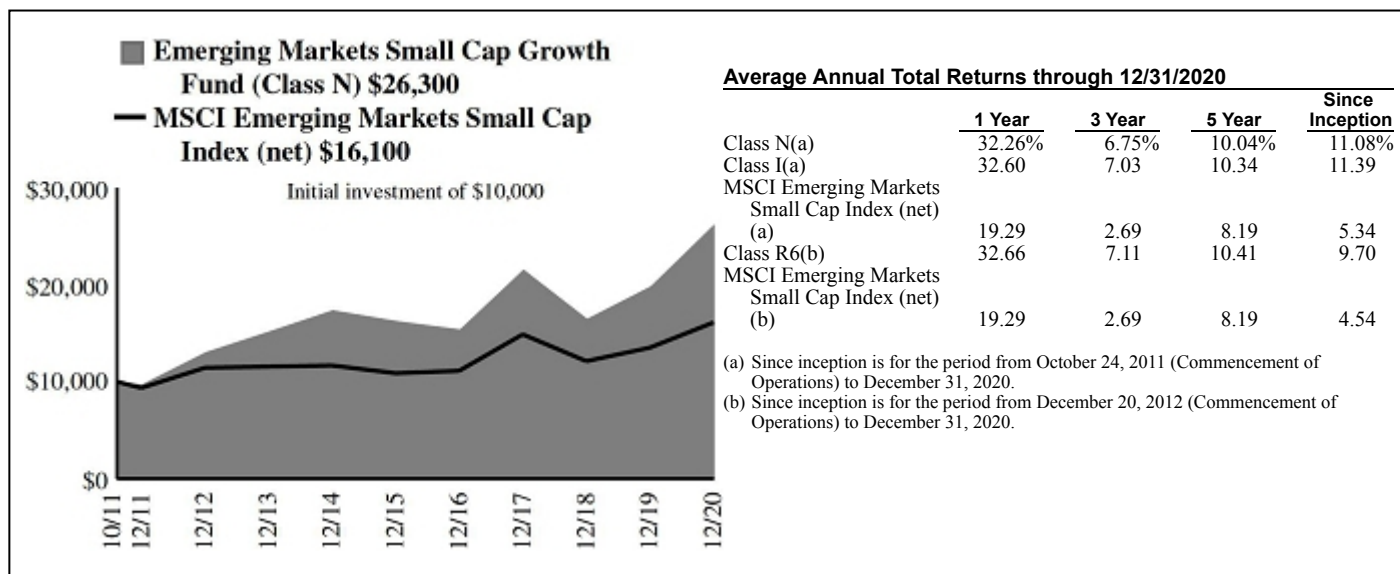
Please refer to the Global Markets Review and Outlook relating to the Fund beginning on page 33.

December 31, 2020

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## Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund

### Performance Highlights (Unaudited)



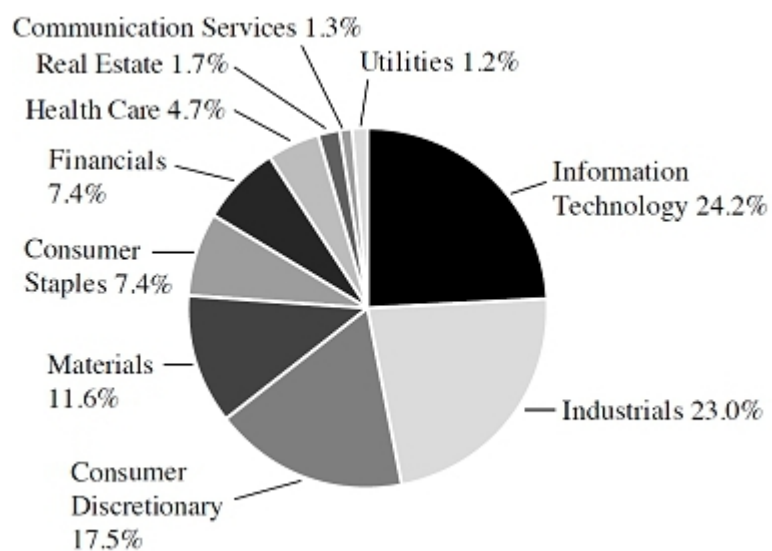
*Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. International investing involves special risk considerations, including currency fluctuations, lower liquidity, economic and political risk. These risks may be magnified when investing in emerging markets. Smaller capitalization stocks are also more sensitive to purchase/sale transactions and changes in the issuer's financial condition. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.*

*The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.*

*The Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) Emerging Markets Small Cap Index (net) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of emerging markets. This index approximates the minimum possible dividend reinvestment by deducting for the highest possible withholding tax rates of those markets.*

*This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all stocks in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these stocks will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.*

### Sector Diversification (Unaudited)



The sector diversification shown is based on the total long-term securities.



## Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Emerging Asia—79.3%</b>			<b>Emerging Asia—(continued)</b>		
<b>Cambodia—0.5%</b>			<b>India—(continued)</b>		
NagaCorp, Ltd. (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	1,234,000	\$ 1,617	Astral Poly Technik, Ltd. (Building products)	232,956	\$ 5,420
<b>China—16.8%</b>			Atul, Ltd. (Chemicals)	47,791	4,202
A-Living Smart City Services Co., Ltd. Class “H” (Commercial services & supplies)	102,500	455	*AU Small Finance Bank Ltd. (Banks)	416,870	4,858
Autobio Diagnostics Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Health care equipment & supplies)	31,700	704	Balkrishna Industries, Ltd. (Auto components)	223,662	5,048
By-health Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Personal products)	371,400	1,371	*Bandhan Bank, Ltd. (Banks)	265,975	1,463
Centre Testing International Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Professional services)	1,521,605	6,368	Berger Paints India, Ltd. (Chemicals)	410,721	4,261
Chacha Food Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food products)	157,473	1,297	*Biocon, Ltd. (Biotechnology)	163,638	1,041
Changzhou Xingyu Automotive Lighting Systems Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Auto components)	111,447	3,417	Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co., Ltd. (Consumer finance)	394,274	2,088
China Lesso Group Holdings, Ltd. (Building products)	549,000	860	City Union Bank, Ltd. (Banks)	519,378	1,284
China Meidong Auto Holdings, Ltd. (Specialty retail)	846,000	3,437	Coforge, Ltd. (IT services)	57,898	2,140
Ever Sunshine Lifestyle Services Group, Ltd. (Commercial services & supplies)	1,292,000	2,836	Computer Age Management Services, Ltd. (IT services)	66,112	1,645
Hefei Meiya Optoelectronic Technology, Inc. Class “A” (Machinery)	35,695	242	Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals, Ltd. (Household durables)	850,437	4,423
Jiangsu Hengli Hydraulic Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Machinery)	413,613	7,147	Dixon Technologies India, Ltd. (Household durables)	7,221	1,327
Jiangsu Hengshun Vinegar Industry Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food products)	320,600	1,085	Dr. Lal PathLabs, Ltd. (Health care providers & services)	54,617	1,721
*Jiumaojiu International Holdings, Ltd. (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	869,000	2,645	Endurance Technologies, Ltd. (Auto components)	7,529	138
*Kingsoft Cloud Holdings, Ltd.—ADR (IT services)	77,498	3,375	Escorts, Ltd. (Machinery)	247,296	4,296
Ovctek China, Inc. Class “A” (Health care equipment & supplies)	139,377	1,746	*Godrej Properties, Ltd. (Real estate management & development)	195,350	3,823
Proya Cosmetics Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Personal products)	31,124	847	Havells India, Ltd. (Electrical equipment)	122,692	1,539
Shanghai M&G Stationery, Inc. Class “A” (Commercial services & supplies)	125,319	1,697	HDFC Asset Management Co., Ltd. (Capital markets)	45,232	1,810
Sichuan Teway Food Group Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Food products)	232,100	2,919	Info Edge India, Ltd. (Interactive Media & Services)	14,402	944
Silergy Corporation (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	37,000	3,173	Ipca Laboratories, Ltd. (Pharmaceuticals)	113,837	3,420
Topsports International Holdings, Ltd. (Specialty retail)	493,000	738	Kansai Nerolac Paints, Ltd. (Chemicals)	152,707	1,265
*Weimob, Inc. (Software)	1,585,000	2,850	KEC International, Ltd. (Construction & engineering)	195,085	969
Zhejiang Dingli Machinery Co., Ltd. Class “A” (Machinery)	147,971	2,290	Larsen & Toubro Infotech Ltd. (IT services)	63,851	3,196
		51,499	*Metropolis Healthcare, Ltd. (Health care providers & services)	53,032	1,422
<b>India—33.6%</b>			Motherhood Sumi Systems, Ltd. (Auto components)	872,129	1,969
Aarti Industries, Ltd. (Chemicals)	159,937	2,699	Navin Fluorine International, Ltd. (Chemicals)	83,186	2,981
Amber Enterprises India, Ltd. (Household durables)	72,163	2,324	*Oberoi Realty, Ltd. (Real estate management & development)	185,054	1,467
Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, Ltd. (Health care providers & services)	39,444	1,299	PI Industries, Ltd. (Chemicals)	164,504	4,940
			Pidilite Industries, Ltd. (Chemicals)	68,162	1,646
			RBL Bank, Ltd. (Banks)	364,037	1,149
			*Relaxo Footwears, Ltd. (Textiles, apparel & luxury goods)	226,942	2,508
			SRF, Ltd. (Chemicals)	67,655	5,146
			Tata Consumer Products, Ltd. (Food products)	168,835	1,365
			Tata Elxsi, Ltd. (Software)	153,279	3,868
			Torrent Pharmaceuticals, Ltd. (Pharmaceuticals)	22,216	851

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

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## Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares	Value
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Emerging Asia—(continued)</b>			<b>Emerging Asia—(continued)</b>		
<b>India—(continued)</b>			<b>Taiwan — (continued)</b>		
Trent, Ltd. (Multiline retail)	219,637	\$ 2,062	Voltronic Power Technology Corporation	83,507	\$ 3,329
Varun Beverages, Ltd. (Beverages)	258,628	3,221	(Electrical equipment)		48,430
		103,238			
<b>Indonesia—1.2%</b>			<b>Thailand—1.6%</b>		
PT Bank Tabungan Pensiunan Nasional Syariah Tbk (Banks)	13,752,300	3,671	Carabao Group PCL Class “F” (Beverages)	631,800	2,414
<b>Malaysia—0.5%</b>			Com7 PCL Class “F” (Specialty retail)	1,995,600	2,598
Inari Amertron Bhd (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	2,096,300	1,438			5,012
<b>Philippines—0.6%</b>			<b>Vietnam—1.9%</b>		
Wilcon Depot, Inc. (Specialty retail)	5,472,600	1,926	Hoa Phat Group JSC (Metals & mining)	3,236,126	5,811
<b>South Korea—6.8%</b>			<b>Emerging Latin America—11.3%</b>		
Douzone Bizon Co., Ltd. (Software)	47,623	4,559	<b>Brazil—9.5%</b>		
*Hansol Chemical Co., Ltd. (Chemicals)	13,027	2,356	*B2W Cia Digital (Internet & direct marketing retail)	20,700	301
*JYP Entertainment Corporation (Entertainment)	35,608	1,259	Banco BTG Pactual S.A. (Capital markets)	90,900	1,645
LEENO Industrial, Inc. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	32,482	4,037	Construtora Tenda S.A. (Household durables)	199,600	1,160
*NHN KCP Corporation (IT services)	73,881	4,659	Cyrela Brazil Realty S.A. Empreendimentos e Participacoes (Household durables)	605,700	3,438
*NICE Information Service Co., Ltd. (Professional services)	136,603	3,119	Ez Tec Empreendimentos e Participacoes S.A. (Household durables)	321,000	2,651
*WONIK IPS Co., Ltd. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	24,486	997	*Grupo SBF S.A. (Specialty retail)	208,392	1,192
		20,986	Hapvida Participacoes e Investimentos S.A. (Health care providers & services)	707,100	2,077
<b>Taiwan—15.8%</b>			Locaweb Servicos de Internet S.A. (IT services)	410,500	6,360
Accton Technology Corporation (Communications equipment)	164,000	1,844	Pet Center Comercio e Participacoes S.A. (Specialty retail)	871,300	3,204
Airtac International Group (Machinery)	327,000	10,474	Tegma Gestao Logistica S.A. (Road & rail)	616,200	3,200
ASMedia Technology, Inc. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	33,000	1,844	TOTVS S.A. (Software)	721,200	3,988
ASPEED Technology, Inc. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	87,000	5,310			29,216
Bizlink Holding, Inc. (Electrical equipment)	69,000	598	<b>Mexico—1.8%</b>		
Elite Material Co., Ltd. (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	244,000	1,363	*Grupo Aeroportuario del Centro Norte S.A.B. de C.V. (Transportation infrastructure)	646,000	4,167
Hiwin Technologies Corporation (Machinery)	173,106	2,369	*Grupo Aeroportuario del Sureste S.A.B. de C.V. (Transportation infrastructure)	72,440	1,201
Lotes Co., Ltd. (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	266,000	4,492			5,368
momo.com, Inc. (Internet & direct marketing retail)	28,000	635	<b>Emerging Europe, Mid-East, Africa—6.8%</b>		
Parade Technologies, Ltd. (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	79,000	3,121	<b>Greece—1.6%</b>		
Poya International Co., Ltd. (Multiline retail)	99,000	2,030	JUMBO S.A. (Specialty retail)	67,425	1,171
RichWave Technology Corporation (Semiconductors & semiconductor equipment)	225,000	3,159	Terna Energy S.A. (Independent power & renewable electricity producers)	226,187	3,647
Sinbon Electronics Co., Ltd. (Electronic equipment, instruments & components)	792,000	6,088			4,818
Sporton International, Inc. (Professional services)	186,000	1,774	<b>Kenya—0.5%</b>		
			Safaricom plc (Wireless telecommunication services)	5,205,900	1,628
			<b>Poland—2.3%</b>		
			*Dino Polska S.A. (Food & staples retailing)	91,968	7,125

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

## Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares or Principal Amount	Value
<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Emerging Europe, Mid-East, Africa—(continued)</b>		
<b>Russia—1.1%</b>		
HeadHunter Group plc—ADR (Professional services)	36,380	\$ 1,101
TCS Group Holding plc—GDR (Banks)	68,252	2,245
		<u>3,346</u>
<b>South Africa—1.0%</b>		
Clicks Group, Ltd. (Food & staples retailing)	49,836	857
Transaction Capital, Ltd. (Consumer finance)	1,305,145	2,210
		<u>3,067</u>
<b>United Arab Emirates—0.3%</b>		
Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. for Distribution PJSC (Specialty retail)	1,050,508	1,072
<b>Total Common Stocks—97.4%</b> (cost \$209,841)		<u>299,268</u>
<b>Preferred Stock</b>		
<b>Brazil—1.4%</b>		
Randon S.A. Implementos e Participacoes (Machinery)	1,400,850	4,337
<b>Total Preferred Stock—1.4%</b> (cost \$3,197)		<u>4,337</u>
<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$3,667, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$3,741	\$3,667	3,667
<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—1.2%</b> (cost \$3,667)		<u>3,667</u>
<b>Total Investments—100.0%</b> (cost \$216,705)		307,272
<b>Cash and other assets, less liabilities—0.0%</b>		137
<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		<u>\$307,409</u>

At December 31, 2020, the Fund's Portfolio of Investments includes the following industry categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):

Information Technology	24.2%
Industrials	23.0%
Consumer Discretionary	17.5%
Materials	11.6%
Consumer Staples	7.4%
Financials	7.4%
Health Care	4.7%
Real Estate	1.7%
Communication Services	1.3%
Utilities	1.2%
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>

At December 31, 2020, the Fund's Portfolio of Investments includes the following currency categories (as a percentage of long-term investments):

Indian Rupee	34.0%
New Taiwan Dollar	17.0%
Brazilian Real	11.1%
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	10.3%
South Korean Won	6.9%
Hong Kong Dollar	5.1%
Polish Zloty	2.3%
U.S. Dollar	2.2%
Vietnamese Dong	1.9%
Mexican Peso	1.8%
Thai Baht	1.7%
Euro	1.6%
Indonesian Rupiah	1.1%
South African Rand	1.0%
All Other Currencies	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>

ADR = American Depositary Receipt

GDR = Global Depositary Receipt

\* = Non-income producing security

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

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**Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook**

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The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index earned a robust 7.51% rate of return for the year ended December 31, 2020. The market benefitted by the quick response of policy makers in providing monetary and fiscal stimulus in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the year started with an extreme (relative to history) rally in U.S. Treasuries, spread sectors led the market during the remainder of the year as investors yearned for yield and policy makers continued to support market liquidity. The spread sector rally that started at the end of March continued through 2020 and was enough to offset the impact of interest rates which started increasing from the lows during the last five months of the year.

The Corporate Bond sector led the broad market with a return of 9.89% as measured by the Bloomberg Barclays Corporate Bond Index. Strong demand for corporates was met with record new issuance. For the full year, new corporate bond issuance was approximately \$2.1 trillion, more than 40% higher than the previous record (2017 = \$1.47 trillion).

U.S. Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS) performed well as the economic rebound resulted in increasing inflation expectations. During the year, TIPS earned a 10.99% return as measured by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS) Index, compared with 8.00% for the nominal Treasury Index as measured by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Treasury Index. At year end, the breakeven rate for inflation expectations was close to the Federal Reserve's lower band of their target inflation range of 2.00-2.50%.

We believe that the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) will be patient in moving away from the Zero Lower Bound as FOMC Chairman Powell continues to reiterate no plans to raise rates. With market expectations for inflation increasing we continue to see TIPS as an attractive alternative to fixed-rate Treasuries to mitigate the effects of rising rates.

We believe that spread sectors remain attractive to Treasuries over the intermediate-to-long term.

Within corporate bonds, we believe that security selection will be critical as certain industries and business models are more adapted to successfully navigating the post-pandemic environment than others. Additionally overall valuations are back to pre-pandemic levels.

Overall liquidity for corporate issuers continues to be relatively strong as it appears that most were able to prefund financing needs with low all-in yields during 2020. Going forward we expect issuance to be less than the record levels seen in 2020. Risks remain in corporates as debt levels are high. We believe that as we emerge from the pandemic, companies will look to utilize excess cash on their balance sheets.

We believe that higher-coupon segments (30-year mortgage-backed securities (MBS) coupon rates of 5.0% and above) of the U.S. Government Agency MBS market offer compelling value. These segments of the MBS market offer a defensive duration profile with relatively stable cash flows. Prepayment protection is critical in this interest rate environment.

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**Bond Fund**


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The Bond Fund seeks to outperform the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index by maximizing total return through a combination of income and capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*Paul J. Sularz*



*Ruta Ziverte*

The William Blair Bond Fund (Class N shares) returned 7.63%, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark, the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index (the "Index"), returned 7.51%.

The first quarter of the year was dominated by the market's reaction to the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. In early March the bond market experienced an extreme flight (relative to history) to quality with U.S. Treasuries outperforming all other sectors. By the end of the first quarter, however, the Federal Reserve (Fed) stepped in to support market liquidity with numerous programs that continued through year end.

Because of the flight to quality in the first quarter, the Fund underperformed due to its significant underweight to U.S. Treasuries. In the second half of the year we increased our treasury exposure within the Fund, but continued to be underweight. Additionally, we maintained exposure to Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS) which benefitted from the economic rebound and increasing inflation expectations in the second half of the year.

After the first quarter, risk premiums in the spread sectors rebounded for most of the year as investors sought out incremental yield. The Fund's performance benefitted from our security selection strategies within spread sectors which offset the negative impact of our underweight to U.S. Treasuries in March.

Within mortgage-backed securities, we emphasize securities with higher-than-market coupons and pools with seasoned, low-loan balance mortgages. These securities historically have tended to have more stable, predictable cash flows than the current coupon mortgages that are in the index.

Our strategy in corporate bonds involved shifting away from cyclical sectors and favoring work-from-home beneficiaries such as technology, telecom, and consumer staples. This proved beneficial as the pandemic lasted longer than some initially anticipated. Performance was augmented by increasing our overall corporate bond exposure and by select holdings in below investment grade and USD-denominated emerging market corporate bonds.

With the Fed holding overnight rates at the zero lower bound, we were able to add incremental value with our active cash management strategy in the commercial paper market.

Please refer to the Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook relating to the Fund on page 74.

*December 31, 2020*

*William Blair Funds* **75**

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**Bond Fund**

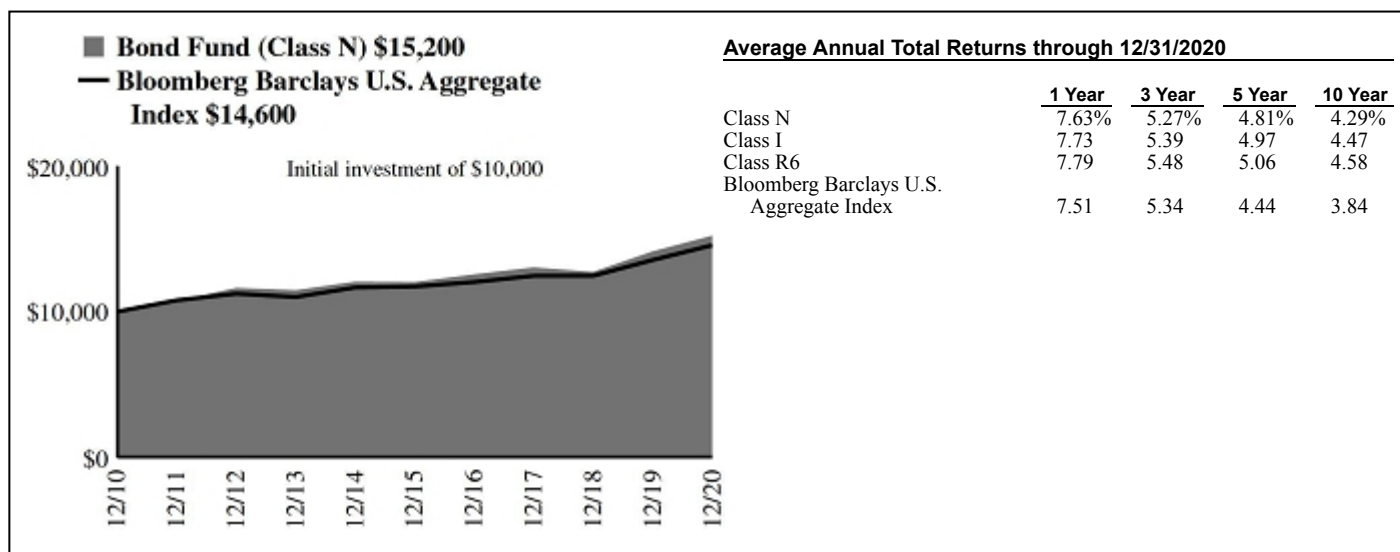

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**Performance Highlights (Unaudited)**


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*Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.*

*The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.*

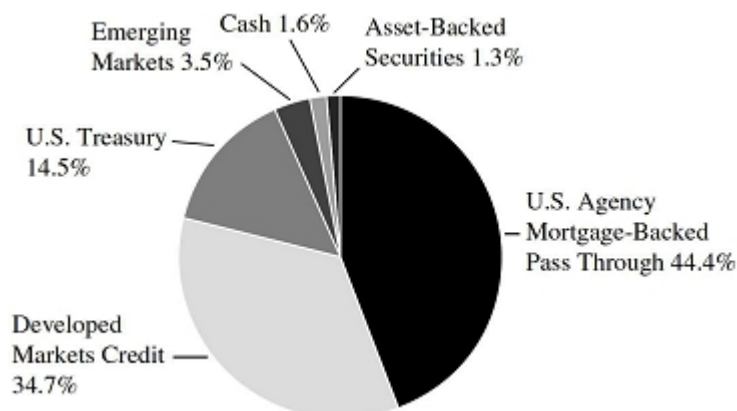
*The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index indicates broad intermediate government/corporate bond market performance.*

*This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all investments in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these investments will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.*

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**Sector Diversification (Unaudited)**


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The sector diversification shown is based on the total investments.

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**Bond Fund**


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**Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020** (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Principal Amount	Value	Issuer	Principal Amount	Value
<b>U.S. Government and U.S. Government Agency—58.9%</b>			<b>U.S. Government and U.S. Government Agency—(continued)</b>		
<b>U.S. Treasury Inflation Indexed Notes/Bonds—4.5%</b>			<b>Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA)—(continued)</b>		
U.S. Treasury Inflation Indexed Bond, 3.875%, due 4/15/29	\$9,899	\$ 14,273	#252925, 7.500%, due 12/1/29	\$ 1	\$ 1
<b>U.S. Treasury—10.0%</b>			#AD0729, 7.500%, due 12/1/30	2,280	2,672
U.S. Treasury Bill, 0.107%, due 4/22/21	1,500	1,500	#535977, 6.500%, due 4/1/31	4	4
U.S. Treasury Bill, 0.108%, due 7/15/21(a)	1,000	1,000	#253907, 7.000%, due 7/1/31	1	1
U.S. Treasury Bill, 0.123%, due 10/7/21	3,000	2,998	#587849, 6.500%, due 11/1/31	4	4
U.S. Treasury Note, 0.395%, due 10/31/21	7,500	7,516	#545437, 7.000%, due 2/1/32	25	29
U.S. Treasury Note, 1.125%, due 2/28/27	2,250	2,334	#545759, 6.500%, due 7/1/32	212	248
U.S. Treasury Strip Principal, 0.000%, due 8/15/27	4,750	4,581	#545869, 6.500%, due 7/1/32	717	835
U.S. Treasury Note, 0.625%, due 5/15/30	2,100	2,053	#670385, 6.500%, due 9/1/32	319	377
U.S. Treasury Note, 0.625%, due 8/15/30	4,300	4,193	#254548, 5.500%, due 12/1/32	20	24
U.S. Treasury Bond, 1.125%, due 5/15/40	2,000	1,900	#AD0725, 7.000%, due 12/1/32	1,076	1,273
U.S. Treasury Bond, 2.375%, due 11/15/49	2,267	2,664	#555340, 5.500%, due 4/1/33	163	191
U.S. Treasury Note, 1.250%, due 5/15/50	1,500	1,361	#741850, 5.500%, due 9/1/33	243	284
Total U.S. Treasury		<u>32,100</u>	#555800, 5.500%, due 10/1/33	23	27
<b>Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. (FHLMC)—10.6%</b>			#CA2754, 4.500%, due 11/1/33	619	688
#J02986, 6.500%, due 7/1/21	1	1	#AL3455, 5.500%, due 11/1/33	3,506	4,115
#G30255, 7.000%, due 7/1/21	—	—(b)	#756153, 5.500%, due 11/1/33	246	287
#G02210, 7.000%, due 12/1/28	28	31	#AL3401, 5.500%, due 2/1/34	687	805
#G02183, 6.500%, due 3/1/30	3	4	#763798, 5.500%, due 3/1/34	45	52
#G01400, 7.000%, due 4/1/32	333	390	#725228, 6.000%, due 3/1/34	2,258	2,703
#G01728, 7.500%, due 7/1/32	55	66	#725611, 5.500%, due 6/1/34	51	60
#C01385, 6.500%, due 8/1/32	42	48	#745563, 5.500%, due 8/1/34	301	352
#ZT1221, 5.500%, due 1/1/33	469	546	#AL6413, 8.000%, due 8/1/34	288	330
#C01623, 5.500%, due 9/1/33	48	56	#794474, 6.000%, due 10/1/34	26	32
#A15039, 5.500%, due 10/1/33	2	2	#745092, 6.500%, due 7/1/35	168	196
#A17603, 5.500%, due 1/1/34	1,206	1,416	#357944, 6.000%, due 9/1/35	7	8
#G01843, 6.000%, due 6/1/35	10	12	#AL6412, 7.500%, due 9/1/35	471	540
#A62858, 6.500%, due 7/1/37	56	64	#AD0979, 7.500%, due 10/1/35	33	39
#G03170, 6.500%, due 8/1/37	102	118	#CA8368, 2.000%, due 12/1/35	5,000	5,276
#A78138, 5.500%, due 6/1/38	140	163	#888305, 7.000%, due 3/1/36	5	6
#G04466, 5.500%, due 7/1/38	8,775	10,392	#895637, 6.500%, due 5/1/36	32	38
#G60366, 6.000%, due 10/1/39	8,420	9,923	#831540, 6.000%, due 6/1/36	13	15
#G61450, 6.000%, due 4/1/40	8,898	10,708	#893318, 6.500%, due 8/1/36	7	8
#C03665, 9.000%, due 4/1/41	172	212	#902974, 6.000%, due 12/1/36	93	110
Total FHLMC Mortgage Obligations		<u>34,152</u>	#831926, 6.000%, due 12/1/36	370	441
<b>Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA)—33.8%</b>			#AB0265, 6.000%, due 2/1/37	6,957	8,351
#900725, 6.000%, due 8/1/21	2	2	#938440, 6.000%, due 7/1/37	54	64
#893325, 7.000%, due 9/1/21	1	1	#948689, 6.000%, due 8/1/37	65	75
#735104, 7.000%, due 5/1/22	—	—(b)	#AL6411, 7.000%, due 12/1/37	1,140	1,304
#255956, 5.500%, due 10/1/25	5	6	#AL0904, 5.500%, due 1/1/38	62	73
#AL2853, 4.500%, due 6/1/26	2,047	2,174	#986856, 6.500%, due 9/1/38	67	79
			#FM1735, 6.500%, due 10/1/38	4,020	4,872
			#995076, 6.000%, due 11/1/38	3,139	3,801
			#991911, 7.000%, due 11/1/38	72	83
			#FM2467, 6.000%, due 1/1/39	3,865	4,598
			#AD0752, 7.000%, due 1/1/39	339	428
			#AC1619, 5.500%, due 8/1/39	167	192
			#FM1736, 6.500%, due 10/1/39	6,551	7,863
			#BM5204, 6.500%, due 6/1/40	4,073	5,033
			#AD7137, 5.500%, due 7/1/40	2,352	2,771
			#BM1689, 5.500%, due 8/1/40	1,937	2,267
			#AL5815, 5.500%, due 4/1/41	2,311	2,720
			#BM3525, 6.000%, due 4/1/41	8,382	10,085
			#AL9226, 5.500%, due 12/1/41	9,899	11,697
			#AL9225, 6.000%, due 1/1/42	4,396	5,286
			#BM5121, 5.500%, due 12/1/48	10,289	12,411
			Total FNMA Mortgage Obligations		<u>108,307</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 77

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**Bond Fund**


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**Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020** (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Principal Amount	Value	Issuer	Principal Amount	Value
<b>Asset-Backed Securities—1.3%</b>			<b>Corporate Obligations—(continued)</b>		
Tesla Auto Lease Trust—144A, 2019-A, Tranche E, 5.480%, 5/22/23	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,057	Abbott Laboratories, 1.400%, due 6/30/30	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,032
GM Financial Automobile Leasing Trust, 2020-1, Tranche D, 2.280%, 6/20/24	3,050	3,106	Intuit, Inc., 1.650%, due 7/15/30	1,200	1,234
Total Asset-Backed Securities		<u>4,163</u>	FLIR Systems, Inc., 2.500%, due 8/1/30	2,500	2,627
<b>Corporate Obligations—37.9%</b>			Alphabet, Inc., 1.100%, due 8/15/30	2,620	2,587
Fresenius Medical Care US Finance II, Inc.—144A, 5.875%, due 1/31/22	1,000	1,054	Johnson Controls International plc, 1.750%, due 9/15/30	2,100	2,137
Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc., 4.400%, due 11/15/22	2,500	2,650	Fresenius Medical Care U.S. Finance III, Inc.—144A, 2.375%, due 2/16/31	1,800	1,832
Toll Brothers Finance Corporation, 4.375%, due 4/15/23	2,750	2,925	Costco Wholesale Corporation, 1.750%, due 4/20/32	2,500	2,602
CNH Industrial Capital LLC, 1.950%, due 7/2/23	2,500	2,575	Owens Corning, 7.000%, due 12/1/36	2,250	3,215
Wells Fargo & Co., 4.480%, due 1/16/24	1,500	1,670	Yum! Brands, Inc., 6.875%, due 11/15/37	1,250	1,612
Lennar Corporation, 4.500%, due 4/30/24	2,450	2,712	ConocoPhillips, 6.500%, due 2/1/39	2,000	3,097
Banco Inbursa S.A. Institucion de Banca Multiple—144A, 4.125%, due 6/6/24	2,000	2,151	Citigroup, Inc., 5.875%, due 1/30/42	2,000	3,046
Grupo Bimbo S.A.B. de C.V.—144A, 3.875%, due 6/27/24	2,000	2,191	Bank of America Corporation, 5.875%, due 2/7/42	2,000	3,047
JPMorgan Chase & Co., SOFR + 3.125%, 4.600%, due 2/1/25, VRN	3,000	3,101	Orbia Advance Corp S.A.B. de C.V. —144A, 5.875%, due 9/17/44	2,250	2,795
Ford Motor Co., 9.000%, due 4/22/25	700	859	AbbVie, Inc., 4.700%, due 5/14/45	2,250	2,948
American Tower Corporation, 4.000%, due 6/1/25	2,500	2,825	ERP Operating L.P., 4.500%, due 6/1/45	2,500	3,312
Simon Property Group L.P., 3.300%, due 1/15/26	2,750	3,022	Apple, Inc., 4.650%, due 2/23/46	2,250	3,204
Republic Services, Inc., 2.900%, due 7/1/26	2,500	2,764	PepsiCo, Inc., 4.450%, due 4/14/46	2,250	3,147
Xylem, Inc., 3.250%, due 11/1/26	2,225	2,505	Activision Blizzard, Inc., 2.500%, due 9/15/50	2,600	2,547
Fibria Overseas Finance, Ltd., 5.500%, due 1/17/27	2,000	2,279	Microsoft Corporation, 4.750%, due 11/3/55	2,000	3,049
Gilead Sciences, Inc., 1.200%, due 10/1/27	1,600	1,614	AT&T, Inc., 5.700%, due 3/1/57	2,000	2,799
Motorola Solutions, Inc., 4.600%, due 2/23/28	2,750	3,320	Comcast Corporation, 4.950%, due 10/15/58	2,000	3,043
TreeHouse Foods, Inc., 4.000%, due 9/1/28	1,400	1,451	Altria Group, Inc., 6.200%, due 2/14/59	2,250	3,170
Roper Technologies, Inc., 4.200%, due 9/15/28	2,500	2,985	Amazon.com, Inc., 2.700%, due 6/3/60	2,500	2,683
The Kroger Co., 8.000%, due 9/15/29	2,000	2,900	Verizon Communications, Inc., 3.000%, due 11/20/60	3,000	3,037
United Rentals North America, Inc., 5.250%, due 1/15/30	1,250	1,390	Corning, Inc., 5.850%, due 11/15/68	2,150	3,175
Omnicom Group, Inc., 2.450%, due 4/30/30	2,800	2,977	Petrobras Global Finance BV, 6.850%, due 6/5/15	1,250	<u>1,553</u>
			Total Corporate Obligations		<u>121,450</u>
			<b>Total Long-Term Investments—98.1%</b> (cost \$291,611)		<u>314,445</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.



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**Bond Fund**


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**Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020** (all dollar amounts in thousands)

<u>Issuer</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Value</u>
<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>		
Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$4,615, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$4,707	\$4,615	\$ 4,615
<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—1.4%</b> (cost \$4,615)		<u>4,615</u>
<b>Total Investments—99.5%</b> (cost \$296,226)		<u>319,060</u>
<b>Securities Sold, Not Yet Purchased</b>		
<b>U.S. Government Agency—(3.3)%</b>		
<b>Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA)—(3.3)%</b> TBA, 4.000%, due 1/1/51	(10,000)	<u>(10,680)</u>
<b>Total Securities Sold, Not Yet Purchased—(3.3)%</b> (proceeds \$10,680)		<u>(10,680)</u>
<b>Cash and other assets, less liabilities—3.8%</b>		<u>12,340</u>
<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		<u><u>\$320,720</u></u>

144A = Security exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. These securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers.

SOFR = Secured Overnight Financing Rate

TBA = To Be Announced—TBAs are mortgage-backed securities traded under delayed delivery commitments, settling after December 31, 2020. The term TBA comes from the fact that the specific mortgage-backed security that will be delivered to fulfill a TBA trade is not designated at the time the trade is made.

VRN = Variable Rate Note

(a) Security, or a portion of security, is segregated as collateral for the centrally cleared credit default swaps, aggregating a total of \$870.

(b) Amount is less than the minimum amount disclosed.

The obligations of certain U.S. Government-sponsored securities are neither issued nor guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury.

**Centrally Cleared Credit Default Swaps**

<u>Reference Entity</u>	<u>Buy/Sell Protection</u>	<u>Fixed Deal Pay Rate</u>	<u>Payment Frequency</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Cleared Exchange</u>	<u>Notional Amount (in thousands)</u>	<u>Upfront Payment Paid (Received)</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)</u>
CDX.NA.HY-34	Buy	5.000%	3M	June 2025	ICE	\$9,200	\$(221)	\$ (867)	\$ (646)
CDX.NA.HY-35	Buy	5.000%	3M	December 2025	ICE	5,000	(241)	(473)	(232)
<b>Total net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on swaps</b>									<u><u>\$ (878)</u></u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds **79**

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**Income Fund**

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The Income Fund seeks a high level of current income with relative stability of principal.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGER**

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*Ruta Ziverte*

The William Blair Income Fund (Class N shares) returned 4.34%, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark, the Bloomberg Barclays Intermediate Government/Credit Bond Index (the "Index"), returned 6.43%.

Because of the flight to quality in the first quarter, the Fund underperformed due to its significant underweight to U.S. Treasuries. In the second half of the year we increased our treasury exposure within the Fund, but continued to be underweight.

The Fund's emphasis of shorter-maturity corporates as well as its structural underweight to BBB-rated names detracted from performance as corporate spreads rallied during most of the year, with BBB-rated and longer-maturity corporates leading the sector.

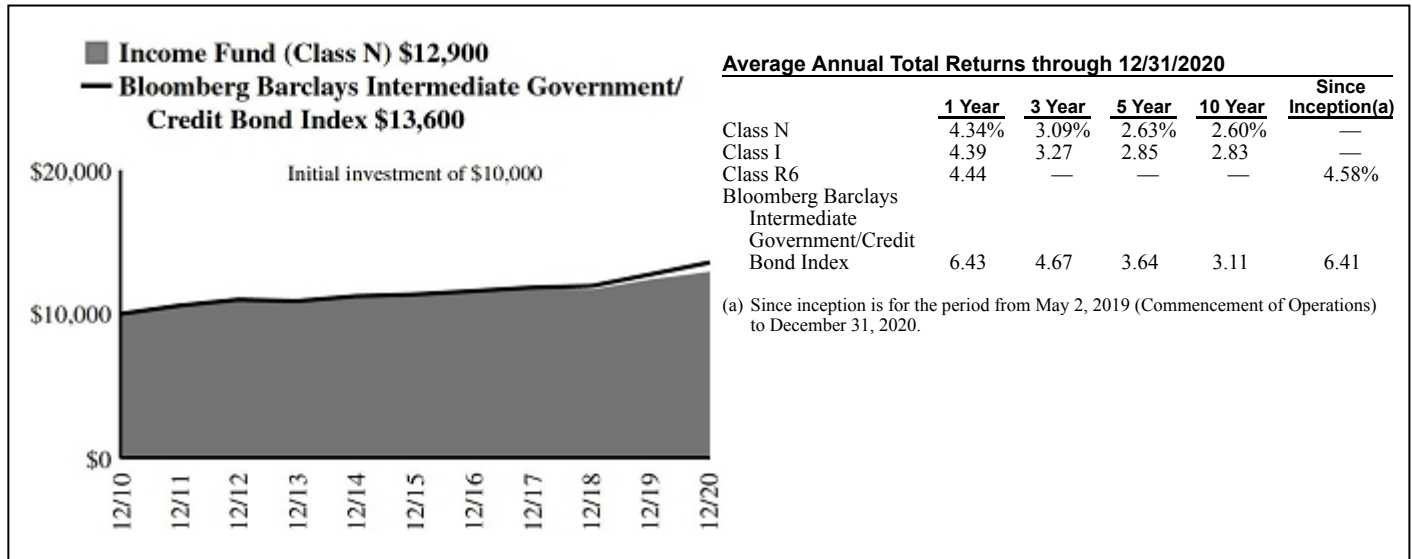
Our emphasis of mortgage-backed securities, in which we focus on securities with higher-than-market coupons and pools with seasoned, low-loan balance mortgages benefitted the Fund's return and helped to offset some of the Fund's underperformance. These securities historically have tended to have more stable, predictable cash flows than the current coupon mortgages that are in the index.

Exposure to Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS) which comprised slightly less than half of our treasury exposure at year end was beneficial as TIPS outperformed with inflation expectations increasing in the second half of the year.

Please refer to the Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook relating to the Fund on page 74.

## Income Fund

### Performance Highlights (Unaudited)



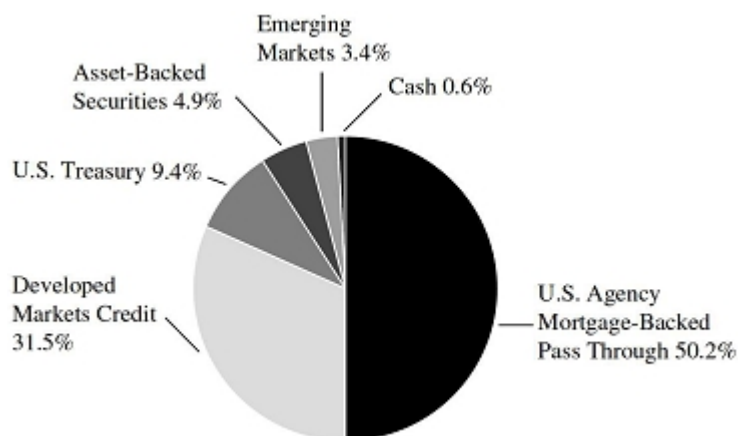
Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.

The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.

The Bloomberg Barclays Intermediate Government/Credit Bond Index indicates broad intermediate government/corporate bond market performance.

This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all investments in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these investments will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.

### Sector Diversification (Unaudited)



The sector diversification shown is based on the total investments.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds **81**

## Income Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Principal Amount	Value	Issuer	Principal Amount	Value
<b>U.S. Government and U.S. Government Agency—59.5%</b>			<b>U.S. Government and U.S. Government Agency—(continued)</b>		
<b>U.S. Treasury Inflation Indexed Notes/Bonds—2.5%</b>			<b>Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA)—(continued)</b>		
U.S. Treasury Inflation Indexed Bond, 3.875%, due 4/15/29	\$ 1,188	\$ 1,713	#254693, 5.500%, due 4/1/33	\$ 4	\$ 4
<b>U.S. Treasury—6.9%</b>			#555531, 5.500%, due 6/1/33	33	39
U.S. Treasury Note, 0.315%, due 7/31/21	175	175	#711736, 5.500%, due 6/1/33	53	62
U.S. Treasury Note, 0.395%, due 10/31/21	1,000	1,002	#555591, 5.500%, due 7/1/33	6	6
U.S. Treasury Note, 2.500%, due 2/15/22(a)	470	483	#CA2754, 4.500%, due 11/1/33	339	376
U.S. Treasury Note, 0.250%, due 7/31/25	1,000	997	#AL3455, 5.500%, due 11/1/33	1,030	1,209
U.S. Treasury Note, 1.125%, due 2/28/27	600	622	#725424, 5.500%, due 4/1/34	36	41
U.S. Treasury Note, 0.625%, due 8/15/30	700	683	#AL6413, 8.000%, due 8/1/34	140	161
U.S. Treasury Strip Principal, 0.000%, due 8/15/27	775	747	#CA5931, 4.000%, due 5/1/35	4,195	4,684
Total U.S. Treasury Obligations		4,709	#AL6412, 7.500%, due 9/1/35	353	405
<b>Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. (FHLMC)—6.4%</b>			#888884, 5.500%, due 12/1/35	83	97
#E02490, 6.000%, due 4/1/23	13	14	#CA8368, 2.000%, due 12/1/35	1,000	1,055
#J13022, 4.000%, due 9/1/25	159	169	#928658, 6.500%, due 9/1/37	13	14
#G14150, 4.500%, due 4/1/26	49	53	#889371, 6.000%, due 1/1/38	1,538	1,828
#J16051, 4.500%, due 7/1/26	376	410	#FM1735, 6.500%, due 10/1/38	1,137	1,378
#G15030, 4.000%, due 3/1/29	273	299	#991911, 7.000%, due 11/1/38	46	53
#A17603, 5.500%, due 1/1/34	349	410	#995076, 6.000%, due 11/1/38	419	507
#G01705, 5.500%, due 6/1/34	635	747	#FM2467, 6.000%, due 1/1/39	429	511
#A45790, 7.500%, due 5/1/35	62	71	#FM1736, 6.500%, due 10/1/39	1,084	1,301
#G04126, 6.000%, due 6/1/37	147	176	#BM5204, 6.500%, due 6/1/40	119	147
#G04564, 6.000%, due 12/1/37	113	134	#BM1689, 5.500%, due 8/1/40	262	306
#G05566, 5.500%, due 12/1/38	83	97	#AL5815, 5.500%, due 4/1/41	330	389
#G05875, 5.500%, due 2/1/40	59	69	#BM3525, 6.000%, due 4/1/41	744	895
#G61450, 6.000%, due 4/1/40	1,334	1,605	#AL9226, 5.500%, due 12/1/41	3,129	3,697
#C03665, 9.000%, due 4/1/41	83	103	#BM1328, 6.000%, due 1/1/42	1,284	1,535
Total FHLMC Mortgage Obligations		4,357	#AL9225, 6.000%, due 1/1/42	1,209	1,454
<b>Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA)—43.7%</b>			#BM5121, 5.500%, due 12/1/48	1,692	2,041
#735574, 8.000%, due 3/1/22	1	1	Total FNMA Mortgage Obligations		29,893
FNR G93-19 SH, 1M USD LIBOR + 56.169%, 11.234%, due 4/25/23, VRN	6	7	<b>Asset-Backed Securities—4.9%</b>		
#982885, 5.000%, due 5/1/23	78	82	Verizon Owner Trust 2018-1—144A, 2018-1A, Tranche A1A, 2.820%, 9/20/22	117	118
#933985, 5.500%, due 8/1/23	42	44	GMF Floorplan Owner Revolving Trust—144A, 2018-2, Tranche A2, 1M USD LIBOR + 0.380%, 3/15/23, VRN	1,000	1,001
#255956, 5.500%, due 10/1/25	16	18	Citibank Credit Card Issuance Trust, 2016-A3, Tranche A3, 1M LIBOR + 0.490%, 0.643%, 12/7/23, VRN	800	803
#AH0971, 4.000%, due 12/1/25	180	191	GM Financial Automobile Leasing Trust, 2020-1, Tranche C, 2.040%, 12/20/23	950	967
#AL2853, 4.500%, due 6/1/26	265	281	Verizon Owner Trust, 2020-A, Tranche C, 2.060%, 7/22/24	425	439
#AJ6954, 4.000%, due 11/1/26	84	90	Total Asset-Backed Securities		3,328
#256639, 5.000%, due 2/1/27	4	4			
#AL9730, 4.500%, due 2/1/27	551	592			
#806458, 8.000%, due 6/1/28	57	64			
#AL9857, 4.000%, due 2/1/29	3,377	3,594			
#880155, 8.500%, due 7/1/29	89	102			
#797846, 7.000%, due 3/1/32	12	12			
#745519, 8.500%, due 5/1/32	39	43			
#654674, 6.500%, due 9/1/32	26	30			
#AD0725, 7.000%, due 12/1/32	459	543			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

## Income Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Principal Amount	Value	Issuer	Principal Amount	Value
<b>Corporate Obligations—34.7%</b>			<b>Corporate Obligations—(continued)</b>		
HSBC Holdings plc, 3M USD LIBOR + 2.240%, 2.466%, due 3/8/21, VRN	\$500	\$502	Capital One Financial Corporation, 4.200%, due 10/29/25	\$500	\$571
Banco Santander Mexico S.A. Institucion de Banca Multiple Grupo Financiero Santand—144A, 4.125%, due 11/9/22	475	501	Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., 3.750%, due 12/1/25	450	511
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, SOFR + 0.800%, 0.889%, due 3/17/23, VRN	750	756	Simon Property Group L.P., 3.300%, due 1/15/26	550	604
Toll Brothers Finance Corporation, 4.375%, due 4/15/23	500	532	Tencent Holdings Ltd.—144A, 1.810%, due 1/26/26	700	716
CNH Industrial Capital LLC, 1.950%, due 7/2/23	350	360	AT&T, Inc., 4.125%, due 2/17/26	600	695
Shell International Finance BV, 0.375%, due 9/15/23	500	501	Merck & Co., Inc., 0.750%, due 2/24/26	700	708
GlaxoSmithKline Capital plc, 0.534%, due 10/1/23	300	301	ConocoPhillips Co., 4.950%, due 3/15/26	600	721
Ally Financial, Inc., 1.450%, due 10/2/23	525	536	Brookfield Finance, Inc., 4.250%, due 6/2/26	550	643
Royal Bank of Canada, SOFR + 0.450%, 0.535%, due 10/26/23, VRN	350	351	Fibria Overseas Finance, Ltd., 5.500%, due 1/17/27	500	570
KeyBank NA, SOFR + 0.340%, 0.430%, due 1/3/24, VRN	700	700	Costco Wholesale Corporation, 1.375%, due 6/20/27	500	516
Wells Fargo & Co., 4.480%, due 1/16/24	650	724	Gilead Sciences, Inc., 1.200%, due 10/1/27	400	403
The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., 4.000%, due 3/3/24	550	608	Abbott Laboratories, 1.150%, due 1/30/28	700	711
Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc., 3.407%, due 3/7/24	550	597	Motorola Solutions, Inc., 4.600%, due 2/23/28	600	724
Citigroup, Inc., SOFR + 1.667%, 1.678%, due 5/15/24, VRN	500	515	Roper Technologies, Inc., 4.200%, due 9/15/28	375	448
Grupo Bimbo S.A.B. de C.V.—144A, 3.875%, due 6/27/24	500	548	The Kroger Co., 8.000%, due 9/15/29	450	653
JPMorgan Chase & Co., 3.875%, due 9/10/24	625	700	Omnicom Group, Inc., 2.450%, due 4/30/30	500	532
United Parcel Service, Inc., 3.900%, due 4/1/25	500	565	Amazon.com, Inc., 1.500%, due 6/3/30	450	458
The Hershey Co., 0.900%, due 6/1/25	525	533	Johnson Controls International plc, 1.750%, due 9/15/30	350	356
American Honda Finance Corporation, 1.200%, due 7/8/25	450	461	Total Corporate Obligations		23,741
Intuit, Inc., 0.950%, due 7/15/25	450	456	<b>Total Investments—99.1%</b>		<b>67,741</b>
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB—144A, 0.850%, due 9/2/25	500	501			
Bank of America Corporation, SOFR + 0.910%, 0.981%, due 9/25/25, VRN	700	708	<b>Securities Sold, Not Yet Purchased</b>		
Comcast Corporation, 3.950%, due 10/15/25	600	690	<b>U.S. Government Agency—(3.1)%</b>		
Morgan Stanley, SOFR + 0.745%, 0.864%, due 10/21/25, VRN	550	555	<b>Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA)—(3.1)%</b>		
			TBA, 4.000%, due 1/1/51	(2,000)	(2,136)
			<b>Total Securities Sold, Not Yet Purchased—(3.1)%</b>		
			(proceeds \$2,136)		(2,136)
			<b>Cash and other assets, less liabilities—4.0%</b>		2,717
			<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		<b>\$68,322</b>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

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## Income Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 *(all dollar amounts in thousands)*

The obligations of certain U.S. Government-sponsored securities are neither issued nor guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury.

144A = Security exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. These securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers.

SOFR = Secured Overnight Financing Rate

TBA = To Be Announced — TBAs are mortgage-backed securities traded under delayed delivery commitments, settling after December 31, 2020. The term TBA comes from the fact that the specific mortgage-backed security that will be delivered to fulfill a TBA trade is not designated at the time the trade is made.

VRN = Variable Rate Note

(a) Security, or a portion of security, is segregated as collateral for the centrally cleared credit default swaps, aggregating a total of \$359.

#### Centrally Cleared Credit Default Swap

Reference Entity	Buy/Sell Protection	Fixed Deal Pay Rate	Payment Frequency	Maturity Date	Cleared Exchange	Notional Amount (in thousands)	Upfront Payment Paid (Received)	Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
CDX.NA.HY- 34	Buy	5.000%	3M	June 2025	ICE	\$4,600	\$(110)	\$(434)	\$(324)

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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**Low Duration Fund**

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The Low Duration Fund seeks to maximize total return. Total return includes both income and capital appreciation.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**

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*Kathleen M. Lynch*

The William Blair Low Duration Fund (Class N shares) returned 2.56%, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark, the ICE BofAML 1-Year US Treasury Note Index (the "Index"), returned 1.82%.

The Fund's mortgage-backed securities drove overall performance with relatively high levels of monthly income and stable cash flows. We focused on investment in agency mortgage-backed securities with higher-than-market coupons and pools with seasoned, low-loan balance mortgages.

Our holdings in the asset-backed securities (ABS) sector augmented the Fund's return throughout the year. We tend to favor high quality and liquid ABS backed by credit card and auto loan receivables.

Corporate bond exposure was a mix of fixed- and floating-rate securities which also added incremental income to the Fund's return.

Please refer to the Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook relating to the Fund on page 74.



*Paul J. Sularz*

*December 31, 2020*

*William Blair Funds* **85**

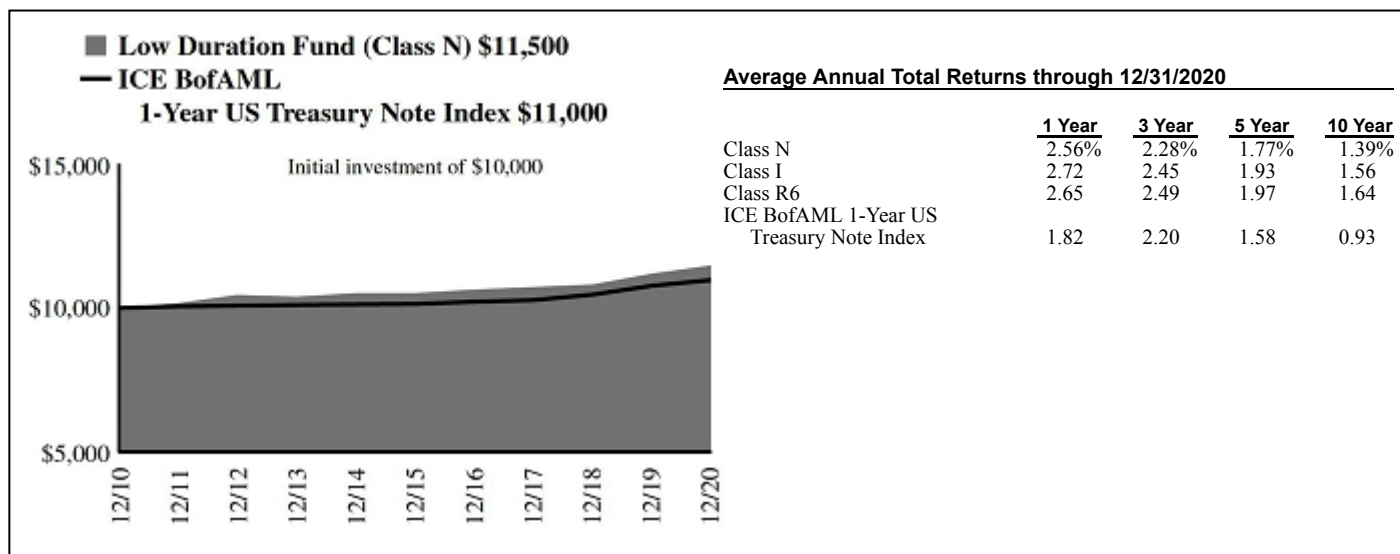
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**Low Duration Fund**


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**Performance Highlights (Unaudited)**


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*Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.*

*The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.*

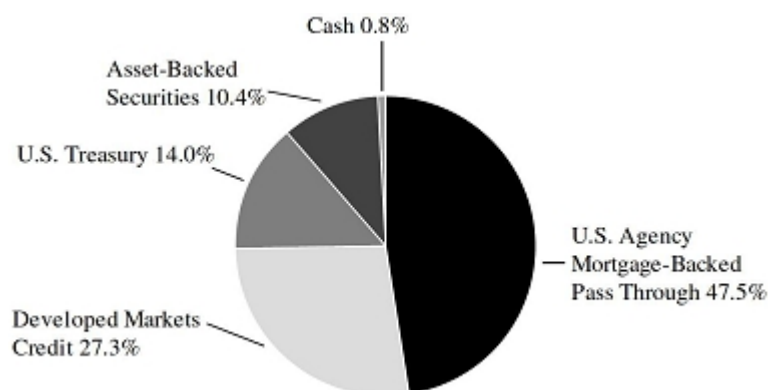
*The ICE BofAML 1-Year US Treasury Note Index is comprised of a single U.S. Treasury Note issue purchased at the beginning of the month and held for a full month. Each month the index is rebalanced and the issue selected is the outstanding U.S. Treasury Note that matures closest to, but not beyond one year from the rebalancing date.*

*This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all investments in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these investments will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.*

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**Sector Diversification (Unaudited)**


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The sector diversification shown is based on the total investments.



## Low Duration Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Principal Amount	Value	Issuer	Principal Amount	Value
<b>U.S. Government and U.S. Government Agency—61.3%</b>			<b>U.S. Government and U.S. Government Agency—(continued)</b>		
<b>U.S. Treasury—14.0%</b>			<b>Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA)—(continued)</b>		
U.S. Treasury Note, 0.395%, due 10/31/21	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,011	#A14748, 4.000%, due 7/1/26	\$ 172	\$ 183
U.S. Treasury Note, 0.249%, due 1/31/22	5,000	5,005	#AL9730, 4.500%, due 2/1/27	1,378	1,479
U.S. Treasury Note, 2.500%, due 1/15/22	4,000	4,098	#BM3382, 5.000%, due 3/1/27	902	947
U.S. Treasury Note, 0.209%, due 4/30/22	5,000	5,004	#AL3388, 4.000%, due 9/1/27	290	309
U.S. Treasury Strip Principal, 0.000%, due 8/15/21	3,000	2,998	#AL9870, 6.500%, due 2/1/28	730	819
Total U.S. Treasury Obligations		<u>22,116</u>	#AL4502, 4.000%, due 11/1/28	360	395
<b>Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. (FHLMC)—11.0%</b>			#AL9857, 4.000%, due 2/1/29	3,450	3,672
#E02322, 5.500%, due 5/1/22	3	3	#323933, 7.000%, due 9/1/29	219	259
#G12725, 6.000%, due 6/1/22	17	17	#555933, 7.000%, due 6/1/32	293	339
#G13225, 5.000%, due 6/1/23	369	388	#555866, 7.500%, due 3/1/33	168	199
#J08450, 5.500%, due 7/1/23	6	6	#745409, 7.000%, due 4/1/33	420	485
#J08703, 5.500%, due 9/1/23	4	4	#CA2408, 4.000%, due 10/1/33	165	183
#C00351, 8.000%, due 7/1/24	16	17	#CA2754, 4.500%, due 11/1/33	102	113
#J11208, 5.000%, due 11/1/24	17	18	#725228, 6.000%, due 3/1/34	724	866
#G00363, 8.000%, due 6/1/25	29	31	#AL6413, 8.000%, due 8/1/34	163	187
#C80329, 8.000%, due 8/1/25	6	6	#AD0720, 5.500%, due 12/1/34	203	237
#G14643, 4.000%, due 8/1/26	74	79	#CA5298, 4.000%, due 2/1/35	4,386	4,898
#G14550, 4.500%, due 9/1/26	476	504	#AL6412, 7.500%, due 9/1/35	588	675
#G15360, 4.500%, due 11/1/26	170	181	#CA8368, 2.000%, due 12/1/35	1,500	1,583
#G14402, 4.000%, due 2/1/27	121	129	#886762, 7.000%, due 9/1/36	178	217
#G04821, 8.500%, due 7/1/31	1,131	1,367	#888530, 7.500%, due 8/1/37	1,501	1,899
#G02454, 6.500%, due 7/1/32	519	583	#AD0731, 7.500%, due 8/1/37	4,073	4,984
#ZT1221, 5.500%, due 1/1/33	466	542	#AL6411, 7.000%, due 12/1/37	1,140	1,304
#A81372, 6.000%, due 8/1/38	126	146	#889219, 6.000%, due 3/1/38	1,069	1,313
#G04687, 6.000%, due 9/1/38	38	45	#FM1735, 6.500%, due 10/1/38	2,031	2,461
#G04745, 6.000%, due 9/1/38	126	145	#995076, 6.000%, due 11/1/38	1,910	2,313
#G06085, 6.500%, due 9/1/38	36	41	#AD0100, 7.000%, due 12/1/38	416	502
#G60681, 7.000%, due 2/1/39	4,703	5,910	#FM2467, 6.000%, due 1/1/39	1,718	2,044
#G07480, 6.000%, due 5/1/39	600	712	#FM1736, 6.500%, due 10/1/39	2,617	3,141
#G60680, 6.500%, due 9/1/39	573	687	#BM5204, 6.500%, due 6/1/40	2,308	2,852
#G07058, 6.000%, due 9/1/39	588	718	#AL0515, 6.000%, due 7/1/40	495	606
#G61450, 6.000%, due 4/1/40	4,001	4,815	#BM3525, 6.000%, due 4/1/41	2,380	2,864
#G61050, 5.500%, due 3/1/41	284	336	#AL9226, 5.500%, due 12/1/41	2,195	2,593
Total FHLMC Mortgage Obligations		<u>17,430</u>	#AL9225, 6.000%, due 1/1/42	1,978	2,379
<b>Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA)—36.3%</b>			#BM1328, 6.000%, due 1/1/42	1,235	1,476
#879607, 5.500%, due 4/1/21	1	— <sup>(a)</sup>	#AL6276, 5.500%, due 10/1/43	160	187
#831497, 6.000%, due 4/1/21	4	4	#BM5121, 5.500%, due 12/1/48	1,116	1,346
#831525, 5.500%, due 6/1/21	1	1	#CA5837, 6.000%, due 7/1/49	1,358	1,633
#880993, 6.000%, due 1/1/22	1	1	Total FNMA Mortgage Obligations		<u>57,578</u>
#888982, 6.000%, due 12/1/22	20	21	<b>Asset-Backed Securities—10.4%</b>		
#972934, 5.500%, due 2/1/23	26	27	Tesla Auto Lease Trust		
#889670, 5.500%, due 6/1/23	5	5	2018-B—144A, 2018-B, Tranche A, 3.710%, 8/20/21		
#AE0011, 5.500%, due 9/1/23	3	4		355	357
#995253, 5.500%, due 12/1/23	225	230	Honda Auto Receivables Owner Trust, 2019-3, Tranche A2, 1.900%, 4/15/22		
#995395, 6.000%, due 12/1/23	11	11		397	398
#190988, 9.000%, due 6/1/24	2	2	Ford Credit Auto Lease Trust 2019-B, 2019-B, Tranche A4, 2.270%, 11/15/22		
#AL8529, 6.000%, due 11/1/24	2,341	2,439		329	335
#AL2853, 4.500%, due 6/1/26	839	891	Toyota Auto Receivables 2020-B Owner Trust, 2020-B, Tranche A2, 1.380%, 12/15/22		
				1,027	1,032

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

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## Low Duration Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Principal Amount	Value	Issuer	Principal Amount	Value
<b>Asset-Backed Securities—(continued)</b>			<b>Asset-Backed Securities—(continued)</b>		
Tesla Auto Lease Trust—144A, 2019-A, Tranche C, 2.680%, 1/20/23	\$ 675	\$ 695	CarMax Auto Owner Trust, 2020-1, Tranche C, 2.340%, 11/17/25	\$ 600	\$ 622
Mercedes-Benz Auto Lease Trust 2020-B, 2020-B, Tranche A2, 0.310%, 2/15/23	500	500	Navigent Private Education Refi Loan Trust 2020-F—144A, 2020-FA, Tranche A, 1.220%, 7/15/69	225	228
GM Financial Automobile Leasing Trust, 2019-2, Tranche C, 3.120%, 3/20/23	425	434	Total Asset-Backed Securities		<u>16,535</u>
Verizon Owner Trust 2018-A, 2018-A, Tranche A1A, 3.230%, 4/20/23	781	791	<b>Corporate Obligations—27.2%</b>		
Kubota Credit Owner Trust—144A, 2020-2A, Tranche A2, 0.410%, 6/15/23	1,500	1,502	Apple, Inc., 3M USD LIBOR + 1.130%, 1.343%, due 2/23/21, VRN	550	551
BA Credit Card Trust, 2018-A1, Tranche A1, 2.700%, 7/17/23	450	451	Philip Morris International, Inc., 1.875%, due 2/25/21	119	119
BA Credit Card Trust, 2018-A2, Tranche A2, 3.000%, 9/15/23	1,000	1,008	JPMorgan Chase & Co., 3M USD LIBOR + 1.480%, 1.705%, due 3/1/21, VRN	1,500	1,502
GM Financial Consumer Automobile Receivables Trust, 2018-4, Tranche A3, 3.210%, 10/16/23	568	579	Wells Fargo & Co., 3M USD LIBOR + 1.340%, 1.571%, due 3/4/21, VRN	2,000	2,004
Nissan Auto Lease Trust 2020-B, 2020-B, Tranche A3, 0.430%, 10/16/23	550	551	HSBC Holdings plc, 3M USD LIBOR + 2.240%, 2.466%, due 3/8/21, VRN	2,000	2,007
Citibank Credit Card Issuance Trust, 2016-A3, Tranche A3, 1M LIBOR + 0.490%, 0.643%, 12/7/23, VRN	1,150	1,155	The Toronto-Dominion Bank, 3M USD LIBOR + 0.270%, 0.499%, due 3/17/21, VRN	2,150	2,151
Discover Card Execution Note Trust, 2019-A2, Tranche A, 1M USD LIBOR + 0.270%, 0.429%, 12/15/23, VRN	647	649	Citigroup, Inc., 3M USD LIBOR + 1.380%, 1.620%, due 3/30/21, VRN	1,500	1,505
GM Financial Automobile Leasing Trust, 2020-1, Tranche C, 2.040%, 12/20/23	1,400	1,425	Bank of America Corporation, 3M USD LIBOR + 1.420%, 1.638%, due 4/19/21, VRN	1,200	1,205
Verizon Owner Trust 2019-C, 2019-C, Tranche C, 2.160%, 4/22/24	60	62	The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., 3M USD LIBOR + 1.360%, 1.575%, due 4/23/21, VRN	1,150	1,153
Canadian Pacer Auto Receivables Trust—144A, 2020-1A, Tranche A3, 1.830%, 7/19/24	500	509	American Express Credit Corporation, 2.250%, due 5/5/21	1,500	1,508
Verizon Owner Trust, 2020-A, Tranche C, 2.060%, 7/22/24	1,250	1,290	Chevron Corporation, 3M USD LIBOR + 0.950%, 1.171%, due 5/16/21, VRN	500	502
Nissan Auto Receivables 2020-A Owner Trust, 2020-A, Tranche A3, 1.380%, 12/16/24	1,126	1,147	American Express Co., 3M USD LIBOR + 0.525%, 0.747%, due 5/17/21, VRN	1,225	1,227
CNH Equipment Trust 2020-A, 2020-A, Tranche A3, 1.160%, 6/16/25	300	305	Citibank NA, 3.400%, due 7/23/21	525	533
Canadian Pacer Auto Receivables Trust—144A, 2020-1A, Tranche B, 2.000%, 7/21/25	500	510	The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., 5.250%, due 7/27/21	1,000	1,028
			Gilead Sciences, Inc., 3M USD LIBOR + 0.150%, 0.379%, due 9/17/21, VRN	1,000	1,001
			Credit Suisse AG, 3.000%, due 10/29/21	1,000	1,022
			Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., 2.600%, due 5/16/22	1,000	1,032
			Toyota Motor Credit Corporation, 1.150%, due 5/26/22	2,225	2,254
			AT&T, Inc., 3.000%, due 6/30/22	1,500	1,553

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

## Low Duration Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Principal Amount	Value	Issuer	Principal Amount	Value
<b>Corporate Obligations—(continued)</b>			<b>Securities Sold, Not Yet Purchased U.S. Government Agency—(3.3)%</b>		
John Deere Capital Corporation, 0.550%, due 7/5/22	\$1,200	\$ 1,206	<b>Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA)—(3.3)%</b>		
Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc., 2.623%, due 7/18/22	2,000	2,067	TBA, 4.000%, due 1/1/51	\$ (5,000)	\$ (5,340)
Philip Morris International, Inc., 2.375%, due 8/17/22	1,500	1,548	<b>Total Securities Sold, Not Yet Purchased—(3.3)%</b>		
Toyota Motor Credit Corporation, SOFR + 0.340%, 0.425%, due 10/14/22, VRN	200	200	(proceeds \$5,340)		(5,340)
Morgan Stanley, SOFR + 0.700%, 0.785%, due 1/20/23, VRN	400	402	<b>Cash and other assets, less liabilities—3.8%</b>		6,079
Capital One Bank USA NA, SOFR + 0.616%, 2.014%, due 1/27/23, VRN	1,400	1,424	<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		<u>\$158,380</u>
Morgan Stanley, 3.750%, due 2/25/23	2,003	2,148	<p>The obligations of certain U.S. Government-sponsored securities are neither issued nor guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury.</p> <p>144A = Security exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. These securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers.</p> <p>SOFR = Secured Overnight Financing Rate</p> <p>TBA = To Be Announced—TBAs are mortgage-backed securities traded under delayed delivery commitments, settling after December 31, 2020. The term TBA comes from the fact that the specific mortgage-backed security that will be delivered to fulfill a TBA trade is not designated at the time the trade is made.</p> <p>VRN = Variable Rate Note</p> <p>(a) Amount is less than the minimum amount disclosed.</p>		
Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation, 2.625%, due 3/1/23	1,579	1,657			
Bank of Montreal, SOFR + 0.680%, 0.768%, due 3/10/23, VRN	1,250	1,261			
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, SOFR + 0.800%, 0.889%, due 3/17/23, VRN	1,000	1,009			
Intuit, Inc., 0.650%, due 7/15/23	1,300	1,312			
GlaxoSmithKline Capital plc, 0.534%, due 10/1/23	1,000	1,005			
Royal Bank of Canada, SOFR + 0.450%, 0.535%, due 10/26/23, VRN	1,500	1,505			
KeyBank NA, SOFR + 0.340%, 0.430%, due 1/3/24, VRN	2,500	2,501			
Total Corporate Obligations		<u>43,102</u>			
<b>Total Long-Term Investments—98.9%</b> (cost \$155,547)		<u>156,761</u>			
<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>					
Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$880, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$898	880	880			
<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—0.6%</b> (cost \$880)		<u>880</u>			
<b>Total Investments—99.5%</b> (cost \$156,427)		<u>157,641</u>			

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 89

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**Macro Allocation Fund**


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The Macro Allocation Fund seeks to maximize long-term risk-adjusted total return.

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**AN OVERVIEW FROM THE PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**


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*Thomas Clarke*

The William Blair Macro Allocation Fund (Class N shares) posted a 3.49% decrease, net of fees, for the year ended December 31, 2020. By comparison, the Fund's benchmark index, the ICE BofAML US 3-Month Treasury Bill Index (the "Index"), increased 0.67%.

The Fund had negative performance from both the market segment (i.e., equity and fixed income) and the currency segment. The largest detractors within the Fund's market-oriented exposures included long exposures to U.K., Greece, Brazil, Spain, and India equities. Contributors within the market segment included long exposure to U.S. Treasuries, as well as to U.S. and Vietnam equities. Within the Fund's currency segment, the largest detractors were short exposures to the Swiss franc, Australian dollar, and Chinese yuan. Contributing positive performance within currencies were long exposures to the South African rand, Turkish lira, and Swedish krona.



*Brian D. Singer*

We believe that calendar year 2020 was an unprecedented year for macro investing and navigating its challenges involved dynamic shifts in our portfolio exposures that were more sizable than in any prior year since inception. At the start of the fourth quarter of 2020, however, we concluded that the prevailing medium-term valuation opportunities across the macro space mostly required patience—and that there were reasons for optimism in respect of these opportunities being rewarded. We therefore did not make significant navigational alterations to our strategy during that quarter. We eliminated two Macro Themes that were integrated into our investment process and had previously contributed to a higher risk assessment and valuation headwinds; these Themes dealt with global protectionism and Chinese growth. In addition, we believe that the macro influence of European populism (which we retain as a Theme) is no longer a significant headwind to valuation opportunities. With fewer headwinds, there may be a less obstructed path for price to gravitate toward value, which we believe justifies retaining positions—or even increasing them—as we have done. As of year-end, we have an aggregate equity exposure that is close to the anticipated long-term average level in our strategies, and this aligns with fundamental opportunities to a greater extent than earlier in the year.

The Fund is net long of equities, with long exposures primarily within the U.S., U.K., and emerging markets. The Fund is also slightly net long of fixed income securities, mostly in U.S. and China government bonds.

Within currencies, as of the end of the period, the Fund maintained long exposure to emerging currencies such as the Turkish lira, Mexican peso, and Brazilian real, with the largest short exposures in the U.S. dollar and New Zealand dollar.

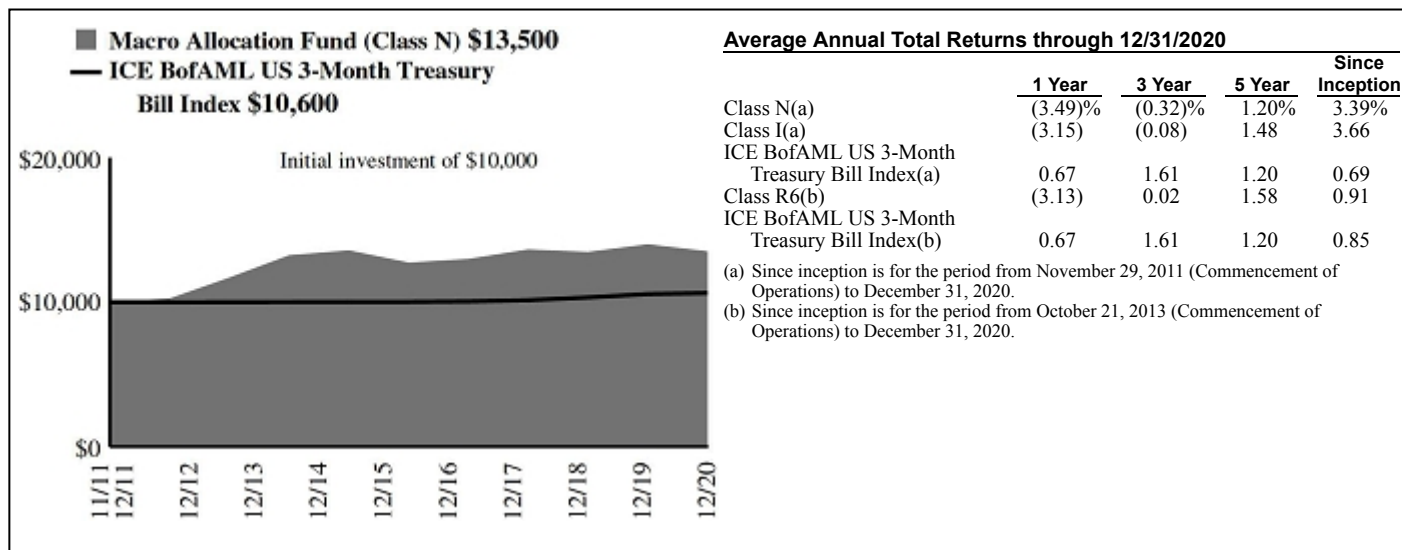
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**Macro Allocation Fund**


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**Performance Highlights (Unaudited)**


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*Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual total returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call 1-800-742-7272, or visit our Web site at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com). The Fund involves a high level of risk and may not be appropriate for everyone. You could lose money by investing in the Fund. There can be no assurance that the Fund's investment objective will be achieved or that the Fund's investment strategies will be successful. The Fund is not a complete investment program. From time to time, the investment adviser may waive fees or reimburse expenses for the Fund. Without these waivers/reimbursements, performance would be lower. Class N shares are not subject to a sales load. Class I shares are not subject to a sales load or distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees. Class R6 shares are not subject to a sales load, distribution (Rule 12b-1) fees, or sub-transfer agent fees.*

*The performance highlights and graph presented above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.*

*The ICE BofAML US 3-Month Treasury Bill Index measures total return on cash, including price and interest income, based on short-term government Treasury Bills of about 90-day maturity. The Index is unmanaged, does not incur fees or expenses, and cannot be invested in directly.*

*This report identifies the Fund's investments on December 31, 2020. These holdings are subject to change. Not all investments in the Fund performed the same, nor is there any guarantee that these investments will perform as well in the future. Market forecasts provided in this report may not necessarily come to pass.*

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**Portfolio Allocation (Unaudited)**


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The table below provides the allocation of the Fund's holdings as a percent of net assets as of December 31, 2020.

Category	% of net assets
Equity Exchange-Traded Funds	61.6
Fixed Income Exchange-Traded Funds	9.3
Common Stocks	3.4
Foreign Government Bonds	5.4
Preferred Stocks	0.4
Repurchase Agreement	3.9
U.S. Government	16.2
Liabilities, plus cash and other assets	(0.2)
Total	<u>100.0%</u>

December 31, 2020

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## Macro Allocation Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Shares	Value	Issuer	Shares or Principal Amount	Value
<b>Exchange-Traded Funds—70.9%</b>			<b>Common Stocks—(continued)</b>		
<b>Equity Exchange-Traded Funds—61.6%</b>			<b>Emerging Asia—(continued)</b>		
iShares MSCI Brazil ETF	17,400	\$ 645	<b>Philippines—(continued)</b>		
iShares MSCI Chile ETF	82,000	2,477	SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (Real estate management & development)		
iShares MSCI China ETF	45,300	3,668		824,474	\$ 661
SPDR S&P 500 ETF Trust	542,300	202,755	Universal Robina Corporation (Food products)		
Utilities Select Sector SPDR Fund	14,100	884		78,434	249
Vietnam Enterprise Investments, Ltd. Class “C”	1,015,765	7,571			<u>4,940</u>
Total Equity Exchange-Traded Funds		<u>218,000</u>	<b>Emerging Latin America—2.0%</b>		
<b>Fixed Income Exchange-Traded Funds—9.3%</b>			<b>Chile—2.0%</b>		
iShares iBoxx \$ Investment Grade Corporate Bond ETF	82,100	11,340	Aguas Andinas S.A. Class “A” (Water utilities)		
iShares MBS ETF	159,600	17,577		571,244	184
SPDR Bloomberg Barclays High Yield Bond ETF	35,100	3,824	Banco de Chile (Banks)		
Total Fixed Income Exchange-Traded Funds		<u>32,741</u>		8,648,503	883
<b>Total Exchange-Traded Funds—70.9%</b>			Banco de Credito e Inversiones S.A. (Banks)		
(cost \$196,114)		<u>250,741</u>		10,111	397
<b>Common Stocks—3.4%</b>			Banco Santander Chile (Banks)		
<b>Emerging Asia—1.4%</b>				12,392,049	595
<b>Philippines—1.4%</b>			Cencosud S.A. (Food & staples retailing)		
Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. (Industrial conglomerates)	185,163	182		313,755	559
Aboitiz Power Corporation (Independent power & renewable electricity producers)	132,126	73	Cencosud Shopping S.A.		
Ayala Corporation (Industrial conglomerates)	24,300	419		102,518	164
Ayala Land, Inc. (Real estate management & development)	666,910	568	Cia Cervecerias Unidas S.A. (Beverages)		
Bank of the Philippine Islands (Banks)	73,549	125		32,976	244
BDO Unibank, Inc. (Banks)	165,123	367	Colbun S.A. (Independent power & renewable electricity producers)		
Globe Telecom, Inc. (Wireless telecommunication services)	3,163	134		1,677,888	296
GT Capital Holdings, Inc. (Diversified financial services)	7,975	97	Empresas CMPC S.A. (Paper & forest products)		
International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (Transportation infrastructure)	88,154	227		225,122	592
JG Summit Holdings, Inc. (Industrial conglomerates)	260,594	389	Empresas COPEC S.A. (Oil, gas & consumable fuels)		
Jollibee Foods Corporation (Hotels, restaurants & leisure)	35,005	142		73,462	745
Manila Electric Co. (Electric utilities)	19,247	117	Enel Americas S.A. (Electric utilities)		
Megaworld Corporation (Real estate management & development)	1,002,038	85		6,760,566	1,104
Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (Diversified financial services)	1,146,973	102	Enel Chile S.A. (Electric utilities)		
Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. (Banks)	152,967	156		5,867,452	456
PLDT, Inc. (Wireless telecommunication services)	8,056	225	ENTEL Chile S.A. (Wireless telecommunication services)		
Puregold Price Club, Inc. (Food & staples retailing)	107,530	92		31,161	193
Robinsons Land Corporation (Real estate management & development)	169,669	75	Falabella S.A. (Multiline retail)		
SM Investments Corporation (Industrial conglomerates)	20,851	455		158,200	586
					<u>6,998</u>
			<b>Total Common Stocks—3.4%</b>		
			(cost \$10,144)		
					<u>11,938</u>
			<b>Foreign Government Bonds—5.4%</b>		
			<b>Malaysia—3.9%</b>		
			Malaysia Government Bond, 4.160%, due 7/15/21		
			MYR	54,850	<u>13,798</u>
			<b>South Africa—1.5%</b>		
			Republic of South Africa Government Bond, 8.000%, due 1/31/30		
			ZAR	83,895	<u>5,443</u>
			<b>Total Foreign Government Bonds—5.4%</b>		
			(cost \$17,961)		
					<u>19,241</u>
			<b>Preferred Stocks—0.4%</b>		
			<b>Emerging Latin America —0.4%</b>		
			<b>Chile—0.4%</b>		
			Embotelladora Andina S.A.		
				79,237	204
			Sociedad Quimica y Minera de Chile S.A.		
				21,441	<u>1,044</u>
					<u>1,248</u>
			<b>Total Preferred Stocks—0.4%</b>		
			(cost \$936)		
					<u>1,248</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

## Macro Allocation Fund

### Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

Issuer	Principal Amount	Value
<b>Repurchase Agreement—3.9%</b>		
Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, 0.000% dated 12/31/20, due 1/4/21, repurchase price \$13,901, collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note, 0.500%, due 6/30/27, valued at \$14,179	\$13,901	\$ 13,901
<b>Total Repurchase Agreement—3.9%</b> (cost \$13,901)		<u>13,901</u>
<b>U.S. Government—16.2%</b>		
U.S. Treasury Bill, 1.248%, due 1/28/21	2,500	2,500
U.S. Treasury Bill, 1.255%, due 2/25/21 (a)	2,500	2,500
U.S. Treasury Bill, 0.211%, due 3/25/21 (a)	2,500	2,500
U.S. Treasury Bill, 0.161%, due 4/22/21 (a)(b)	7,500	7,498
U.S. Treasury Bill, 0.156%, due 5/20/21 (a)	7,500	7,498
U.S. Treasury Bill, 0.192%, due 6/17/21 (a)	7,500	7,498
U.S. Treasury Bill, 0.154%, due 7/15/21 (a)(b)	7,500	7,497
U.S. Treasury Bill, 0.141%, due 8/12/21 (a)(b)	5,000	4,998
U.S. Treasury Bill, 0.137%, due 9/9/21	5,000	4,997
U.S. Treasury Bill, 0.132%, due 10/7/21	2,500	2,498
U.S. Treasury Bill, 0.119%, due 11/4/21	2,500	2,498
U.S. Treasury Bill, 0.109%, due 12/2/21	2,500	2,498
U.S. Treasury Bill, 0.109%, due 12/30/21	2,500	2,498
<b>Total U.S. Government—16.2%</b> (cost \$57,451)		<u>57,478</u>
<b>Total Investments in Securities—100.2%</b> (cost \$296,507)		<u>354,547</u>
<b>Liabilities, plus cash and other assets—(0.2)%</b>		<u>(832)</u>
<b>Net assets—100.0%</b>		<u>\$353,715</u>

(a) Security, or portion of security, is segregated as collateral for centrally cleared swaps and to cover initial margin requirements on open futures contracts aggregating a total value of \$23,424 (in thousands).

(b) Security, or portion of security, is pledged as collateral for OTC swap contracts aggregating a total value of \$1,146 (in thousands).

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

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## Macro Allocation Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

### Forward Foreign Currency Contracts

Settlement Date	Deliver/Receive	Counterparty	Local Currency (in thousands)	USD (Base) Purchased or Sold	Current Value	Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
<b>Purchased</b>						
1/13/21	New Turkish Lira	Citibank N.A. London	382,754	\$48,354	\$51,359	\$ 3,005
1/20/21	Australian Dollar	Citibank N.A. London	17,277	13,044	13,322	278
1/20/21	Brazilian Real	Citibank N.A. London	157,098	30,529	30,244	(285)
1/20/21	British Pound Sterling	Citibank N.A. London	11,622	15,574	15,896	322
1/20/21	Canadian Dollar	Citibank N.A. London	465	363	365	2
1/20/21	Chilean Peso	Citibank N.A. London	300,746	422	423	1
1/20/21	Chinese Yuan Renminbi	Citibank N.A. London	7,599	1,164	1,168	4
1/20/21	Colombian Peso	Citibank N.A. London	77,168,911	22,243	22,594	351
1/20/21	Czech Koruna	Citibank N.A. London	13,238	617	616	(1)
1/20/21	Euro	Citibank N.A. London	678	831	829	(2)
1/20/21	Hong Kong Dollar	Citibank N.A. London	7,016	905	905	—
1/20/21	Indian Rupee	Citibank N.A. London	696,177	9,412	9,518	106
1/20/21	Indonesian Rupiah	Citibank N.A. London	8,208,119	580	589	9
1/20/21	Israeli Shekel	Citibank N.A. London	3,470	1,079	1,080	1
1/20/21	Japanese Yen	Citibank N.A. London	2,283,732	21,931	22,122	191
1/20/21	Mexican Peso	Citibank N.A. London	608,817	30,529	30,541	12
1/20/21	New Zealand Dollar	Citibank N.A. London	2,033	1,456	1,463	7
1/20/21	Philippine Peso	Citibank N.A. London	1,008,365	20,907	20,978	71
1/20/21	Russian Ruble	Citibank N.A. London	1,974,466	26,768	26,671	(97)
1/20/21	Singapore Dollar	Citibank N.A. London	47,322	35,397	35,807	410
1/20/21	South African Rand	Citibank N.A. London	118,050	7,873	8,015	142
1/20/21	Swedish Krona	Citibank N.A. London	74,518	8,797	9,059	262
1/20/21	Swiss Franc	Citibank N.A. London	951	1,076	1,075	(1)
1/20/21	Taiwan Dollar	Citibank N.A. London	30,713	1,099	1,095	(4)
1/20/21	Thai Baht	Citibank N.A. London	22,644	755	756	1
						<u>\$ 4,785</u>
<b>Sold</b>						
1/13/21	New Turkish Lira	Citibank N.A. London	30,474	4,118	4,089	29
1/20/21	Australian Dollar	Citibank N.A. London	54,353	40,617	41,911	(1,294)
1/20/21	Brazilian Real	Citibank N.A. London	4,985	960	960	—
1/20/21	British Pound Sterling	Citibank N.A. London	388	524	531	(7)
1/20/21	Canadian Dollar	Citibank N.A. London	13,407	10,478	10,533	(55)
1/20/21	Chilean Peso	Citibank N.A. London	8,404,054	11,336	11,827	(491)
1/20/21	Chinese Yuan Renminbi	Citibank N.A. London	174,598	26,710	26,823	(113)
1/20/21	Colombian Peso	Citibank N.A. London	2,662,242	765	779	(14)
1/20/21	Czech Koruna	Citibank N.A. London	384,421	17,715	17,900	(185)
1/20/21	Euro	Citibank N.A. London	19,491	23,589	23,821	(232)
1/20/21	Hong Kong Dollar	Citibank N.A. London	140,514	18,125	18,126	(1)
1/20/21	Indonesian Rupiah	Citibank N.A. London	222,528,449	15,732	15,978	(246)
1/20/21	Israeli Shekel	Citibank N.A. London	100,723	31,000	31,352	(352)
1/20/21	Japanese Yen	Citibank N.A. London	78,806	761	763	(2)
1/20/21	Mexican Peso	Citibank N.A. London	21,658	1,086	1,086	—
1/20/21	New Zealand Dollar	Citibank N.A. London	62,025	43,812	44,632	(820)
1/20/21	Philippine Peso	Citibank N.A. London	35,229	733	733	—
1/20/21	Russian Ruble	Citibank N.A. London	66,002	893	892	1
1/20/21	Singapore Dollar	Citibank N.A. London	1,619	1,219	1,225	(6)
1/20/21	South Korean Won	Citibank N.A. London	8,572,512	7,886	7,879	7
1/20/21	Swiss Franc	Citibank N.A. London	27,517	30,975	31,096	(121)
1/20/21	Thai Baht	Citibank N.A. London	658,827	21,919	21,990	(71)
						<u>\$ (3,973)</u>
<b>Total net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on forward foreign currency contracts</b>						<u><u>\$ 812</u></u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.



## Macro Allocation Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

### Futures Contracts

Number of Contracts	Description	Expiration Date	Local Currency	Notional Value (Local, in Thousands)	Notional Amount (USD)	Notional Value (USD)	Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Long							
79	CAC 40 Index	January 2021	Euro	4,378	\$ 5,341	\$ 5,349	\$ 8
77	IBEX 35 Index	January 2021	Euro	6,214	7,672	7,592	(80)
21	FTSE Taiwan Index	January 2021	U.S. Dollar	1,072	1,045	1,072	27
431	MSCI Singapore ETS Index	January 2021	Singapore Dollar	13,934	10,575	10,543	(32)
22	KOSPI 200 Index	March 2021	South Korean Won	2,140,325	1,850	1,970	120
3	NIKKEI 225 Index	March 2021	Japanese Yen	41,235	387	399	12
87	SPI 200 Index	March 2021	Australian Dollar	14,218	11,062	10,961	(101)
13	DAX Index	March 2021	Euro	4,467	5,262	5,458	196
354	FTSE 100 Index	March 2021	British Pound Sterling	22,727	31,508	31,079	(429)
26	FTSE MIB Index	March 2021	Euro	2,877	3,437	3,514	77
2	MSCI China Index	March 2021	U.S. Dollar	118	117	118	1
437	MSCI Indonesia Index	March 2021	U.S. Dollar	7,071	7,063	7,071	8
27	MSCI Philippines Index	March 2021	U.S. Dollar	678	683	678	(5)
489	MSCI World Energy Index	March 2021	U.S. Dollar	10,802	11,255	10,802	(453)
							<u>\$ (651)</u>
Short							
6	Amsterdam Index	January 2021	Euro	749	\$ 903	\$ 916	\$ (13)
27	OMXS 30 Index	January 2021	Swedish Krona	5,071	622	616	6
58	FTSE 40 Index	March 2021	South African Rand	31,681	2,165	2,156	9
1	S&P TSE 60 Index	March 2021	Canadian Dollar	206	164	162	2
421	EURO STOXX 50 Index	March 2021	Euro	14,946	18,038	18,258	(220)
115	MSCI Emerging Markets Index	March 2021	U.S. Dollar	7,407	7,190	7,407	(217)
170	MSCI Mexico Index	March 2021	U.S. Dollar	4,078	3,889	4,078	(189)
41	SWISS Markets Index	March 2021	Swiss Franc	4,364	4,743	4,930	(187)
921	S&P 500 E Mini Index	March 2021	U.S. Dollar	172,632	168,268	172,632	(4,364)
21	S&P E Mini Com Ser Index	March 2021	U.S. Dollar	1,855	1,840	1,855	(15)
13	XAK Technology	March 2021	U.S. Dollar	1,704	1,622	1,704	(82)
22	XAY Cons Discret	March 2021	U.S. Dollar	3,575	3,474	3,575	(101)
51	10YR Can Bond	March 2021	Canadian Dollar	7,604	5,957	5,974	(17)
							<u>\$ (5,388)</u>
<b>Total net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on futures contracts</b>							<u><u>\$ (6,039)</u></u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

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## Macro Allocation Fund

Portfolio of Investments, December 31, 2020 (all dollar amounts in thousands)

### Centrally Cleared Interest Rate Swap

Floating Rate Reference	Pay/Receive Floating Rate	Fixed Rate	Pay/Receive Payment Frequency	Maturity Date	Cleared Exchange	Notional Amount (in thousands)	Upfront Payment Paid (Received)	Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
China 1-Week Repo Rate	Pay	2.800%	3M	December 2025	LCH	CNY 180,090	\$1	\$194	\$ 193

### Total Return Swaps

Reference Entity	Pay/Receive Floating/Fixed Rate	Floating/Fixed Rates	Maturity Dates	Counterparty	Notional Amount (in thousands)	Market Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
10YR T-Note Future	Pay	0 bp	Mar 2021	Credit Suisse International	\$30,198	\$41	\$ 41
5YR T-Note Future	Pay	0 bp	Mar 2021	Credit Suisse International	13,093	28	28
CSI 500 Net Total Return Index	Pay	(1,305) bp	Sep 2021	Credit Suisse International	9,055	340	340
Euro-Bund Future	Receive	0 bp	Mar 2021	Credit Suisse International	EUR 1,419	(2)	(2)
RTS Index Future	Pay	0 bp	Mar 2021	Credit Suisse International	\$4,128	(71)	(71)
							\$ 336

### Centrally Cleared Credit Default Swap

Reference Entity	Buy/Sell Protection	Fixed Deal Pay Rate	Payment Frequency	Maturity Date	Cleared Exchange	Notional Amount (in thousands)	Upfront Payment Paid (Received)	Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
iTRAXX Europe S34	Sell	1.000%	3M	December 2025	ICE	EUR 6,167	\$155	\$198	\$ 43
Total net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on swaps									\$ 572

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

## Statements of Assets and Liabilities

As of December 31, 2020 (dollar amounts in thousands)

	Growth Fund	Large Cap Growth Fund	Mid Cap Growth Fund	Small-Mid Cap Core Fund
<b>Assets</b>				
Investments in securities, at cost	\$ 157,168	\$ 479,731	\$ 55,797	\$ 22,518
Investments in securities, at value	\$ 297,625	\$ 711,377	\$ 83,978	\$ 30,151
Receivable for fund shares sold	107	1,939	95	—
Receivable from Adviser	1	160	21	30
Dividend and interest receivable	22	101	11	15
Total assets	297,755	713,577	84,105	30,196
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Payable for fund shares redeemed	208	167	2	41
Management fee payable	186	351	62	22
Distribution fee payable	7	29	1	—
Other payables and accrued expenses	103	161	70	88
Total liabilities	504	708	135	151
Net assets	\$ 297,251	\$ 712,869	\$ 83,970	\$ 30,045
<b>Capital</b>				
Composition of net assets				
Paid in capital	\$ 147,602	\$ 478,108	\$ 54,356	\$ 35,956
Total distributable earnings (loss)	149,649	234,761	29,614	(5,911)
Net assets	\$ 297,251	\$ 712,869	\$ 83,970	\$ 30,045
Class N shares				
Net assets	\$ 35,494	\$ 138,152	\$ 6,074	—
Shares outstanding	3,182,417	6,898,011	471,133	—
Net asset value per share	\$ 11.15	\$ 20.03	\$ 12.89	—
Class I shares				
Net assets	\$ 249,716	\$ 397,370	\$ 77,273	\$ 22,958
Shares outstanding	18,302,003	18,662,917	5,469,001	1,782,845
Net asset value per share	\$ 13.64	\$ 21.29	\$ 14.13	\$ 12.88
Class R6 shares				
Net assets	\$ 12,041	\$ 177,347	\$ 623	\$ 7,087
Shares outstanding	880,517	8,338,144	44,075	550,189
Net asset value per share	\$ 13.67	\$ 21.27	\$ 14.14	\$ 12.88

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

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## Statements of Operations

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020 (all amounts in thousands)

	<b>Growth Fund</b>	<b>Large Cap Growth Fund</b>	<b>Mid Cap Growth Fund</b>	<b>Small-Mid Cap Core Fund</b>
<b>Investment income</b>				
Dividends	\$ 1,784	\$ 4,835	\$ 349	\$ 1,336
Less foreign tax withheld	(2)	—	(1)	(9)
Interest	1	1	—	1
Total income	1,783	4,836	348	1,328
<b>Expenses</b>				
Investment advisory fees	1,901	3,082	642	1,255
Distribution fees	79	289	13	—
Custodian fees	86	92	85	112
Transfer agent fees	63	91	12	10
Sub-transfer agent fees				
Class N	45	168	6	—
Class I	124	384	83	202
Professional fees	49	115	33	41
Registration fees	65	67	42	41
Shareholder reporting fees	18	89	3	2
Trustee fees	19	33	5	11
Other expenses	15	22	11	14
Total expenses before expense limitation	2,464	4,432	935	1,688
Expenses waived or reimbursed by the Adviser				
Class N	(21)	(224)	(17)	—
Class I	—	(567)	(227)	(357)
Class R6	—	(23)	(1)	(9)
Total expenses waived or reimbursed by the Adviser	(21)	(814)	(245)	(366)
Net expenses	2,443	3,618	690	1,322
Net investment income (loss)	(660)	1,218	(342)	6
<b>Realized and unrealized gain (loss)</b>				
Net realized gain (loss) on transactions from:				
Investments in securities	42,176	34,530	6,414	(13,038)
Futures contracts	—	—	—	(640)
Total net realized gain (loss)	42,176	34,530	6,414	(13,678)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of:				
Investments in securities	40,608	144,802	12,060	7,247
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	40,608	144,802	12,060	7,247
<b>Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<b>\$ 82,124</b>	<b>\$ 180,550</b>	<b>\$ 18,132</b>	<b>\$ (6,425)</b>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

# Statements of Changes in Net Assets

For the Years Ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 (all amounts in thousands)

	Growth Fund		Large Cap Growth Fund		Mid Cap Growth Fund		Small-Mid Cap Core Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019 (a)
<b>Operations</b>								
Net investment income (loss)	\$ (660)	\$ (175)	\$ 1,218	\$ 475	\$ (342)	\$ (171)	\$ 6	\$ 4
Net realized gain (loss) on investments, and other assets and liabilities	42,176	24,088	34,530	17,324	6,414	7,108	(13,678)	(16)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments, and other assets and liabilities	40,608	45,368	144,802	49,902	12,060	13,055	7,247	386
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	82,124	69,281	180,550	67,701	18,132	19,992	(6,425)	374
<b>Distributions to shareholders from</b>								
Class N	(4,769)	(3,190)	(5,187)	(3,981)	(466)	(480)	—	—
Class I	(27,747)	(17,880)	(14,681)	(12,030)	(5,249)	(5,507)	—	(1)
Class R6	(1,332)	(17)	(6,012)	(97)	(42)	(12)	—	(3)
Total distributions	(33,848)	(21,087)	(25,880)	(16,108)	(5,757)	(5,999)	—	(4)
<b>Capital stock transactions</b>								
Proceeds from sale of shares	28,188	21,672	494,318	122,974	11,489	10,314	266,207	6,238
Shares issued in reinvestment of income dividends and capital gain distributions	32,736	20,274	22,621	13,134	5,537	5,817	—	4
Less cost of shares redeemed	(65,536)	(62,229)	(262,574)	(62,827)	(18,977)	(12,695)	(236,325)	(24)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from capital share transactions	(4,612)	(20,283)	254,365	73,281	(1,951)	3,436	29,882	6,218
Increase (decrease) in net assets	43,664	27,911	409,035	124,874	10,424	17,429	23,457	6,588
<b>Net assets</b>								
Beginning of period	253,587	225,676	303,834	178,960	73,546	56,117	6,588	—
End of period	<u>\$297,251</u>	<u>\$253,587</u>	<u>\$ 712,869</u>	<u>\$303,834</u>	<u>\$ 83,970</u>	<u>\$ 73,546</u>	<u>\$ 30,045</u>	<u>\$ 6,588</u>

(a) For the period from October 1, 2019 (Commencement of Operations) to December 31, 2019.

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 99

## Statements of Assets and Liabilities

As of December 31, 2020 (dollar amounts in thousands)

	Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	Small- Mid Cap Value Fund	Small Cap Growth Fund	Small Cap Value Fund
<b>Assets</b>				
Investments in securities, at cost	\$ 2,378,647	\$ 1,092	\$ 461,378	\$ 44,212
Investments in securities, at value	\$ 3,574,243	\$ 1,494	\$ 675,336	\$ 60,063
Receivable for securities sold	—	—	551	16
Receivable for fund shares sold	9,646	—	605	49
Receivable from Adviser	179	7	2	15
Dividend and interest receivable	498	1	97	45
Total assets	3,584,566	1,502	676,591	60,188
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Payable for securities purchased	1,048	—	818	172
Payable for fund shares redeemed	2,792	2	339	6
Management fee payable	2,971	1	620	48
Distribution fee payable	67	—	38	2
Other payables and accrued expenses	606	62	168	59
Total liabilities	7,484	65	1,983	287
Net assets	\$ 3,577,082	\$ 1,437	\$ 674,608	\$ 59,901
<b>Capital</b>				
Composition of net assets				
Paid in capital	\$ 2,308,087	\$ 4,206	\$ 450,191	\$ 58,426
Total distributable earnings (loss)	1,268,995	(2,769)	224,417	1,475
Net assets	\$ 3,577,082	\$ 1,437	\$ 674,608	\$ 59,901
Class N shares				
Net assets	\$ 314,572	\$ 77	\$ 180,635	\$ 7,402
Shares outstanding	9,545,077	7,359	5,237,598	567,624
Net asset value per share	\$ 32.96	\$ 10.43	\$ 34.49	\$ 13.04
Class I shares				
Net assets	\$ 3,139,290	\$ 1,067	\$ 390,511	\$ 42,311
Shares outstanding	89,353,269	103,075	9,921,262	3,117,896
Net asset value per share	\$ 35.13	\$ 10.35	\$ 39.36	\$ 13.57
Class R6 shares				
Net assets	\$ 123,220	\$ 293	\$ 103,462	\$ 10,188
Shares outstanding	3,502,759	28,425	2,625,845	751,392
Net asset value per share	\$ 35.18	\$ 10.31	\$ 39.40	\$ 13.56

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

## Statements of Operations

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020 (all amounts in thousands)

	Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	Small- Mid Cap Value Fund	Small Cap Growth Fund	Small Cap Value Fund
<b>Investment income</b>				
Dividends	\$ 13,035	\$ 62	\$ 2,731	\$ 1,900
Less foreign tax withheld	(171)	—	(47)	—
Interest	18	—	3	1
Total income	12,882	62	2,687	1,901
<b>Expenses</b>				
Investment advisory fees	29,523	26	6,171	964
Distribution fees	724	—	381	20
Custodian fees	102	109	111	102
Transfer agent fees	361	1	102	32
Sub-transfer agent fees				
Class N	440	—	219	13
Class I	3,053	2	372	150
Professional fees	302	30	81	47
Registration fees	86	48	63	80
Shareholder reporting fees	228	2	67	11
Trustee fees	223	—	55	20
Other expenses	92	9	12	—
Total expenses before expense limitation	35,134	227	7,634	1,439
Expenses waived or reimbursed by the Adviser				
Class N	(288)	(10)	(124)	(30)
Class I	(1,688)	(174)	(159)	(334)
Class R6	—	(15)	—	(12)
Total expenses waived or reimbursed by the Adviser	(1,976)	(199)	(283)	(376)
Net expenses	33,158	28	7,351	1,063
Net investment income (loss)	(20,276)	34	(4,664)	838
<b>Realized and unrealized gain (loss)</b>				
Net realized gain (loss) on transactions from:				
Investments in securities	135,859	(3,109)	88,363	(12,303)
Redemptions in-kind	36,409	—	—	7,459
Foreign currency transactions	3	—	1	—
Total net realized gain (loss)	172,271	(3,109)	88,364	(4,844)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of:				
Investments in securities	703,070	(26)	88,533	(26,660)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	703,070	(26)	88,533	(26,660)
<b>Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<u>\$ 855,065</u>	<u>\$ (3,101)</u>	<u>\$ 172,233</u>	<u>\$ (30,666)</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 101

# Statements of Changes in Net Assets

For the Years Ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 (all amounts in thousands)

	Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund		Small-Mid Cap Value Fund		Small Cap Growth Fund		Small Cap Value Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
<b>Operations</b>								
Net investment income (loss)	\$ (20,276)	\$ (15,808)	\$ 34	\$ 40	\$ (4,664)	\$ (4,727)	\$ 838	\$ 3,710
Net realized gain (loss) on investments, and other assets and liabilities	172,271	293,543	(3,109)	109	88,364	10,576	(4,844)	73,420
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments, and other assets and liabilities	703,070	439,745	(26)	446	88,533	125,876	(26,660)	15,381
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	855,065	717,480	(3,101)	595	172,233	131,725	(30,666)	92,511
<b>Distributions to shareholders from</b>								
Class N	(5,612)	(24,075)	(1)	(6)	(18,482)	(4,188)	(2,130)	(498)
Class I	(51,667)	(172,835)	(27)	(131)	(35,006)	(8,605)	(26,640)	(14,700)
Class R6	(1,737)	(2,668)	(8)	(3)	(9,448)	(1,345)	(202)	(16)
Total distributions	(59,016)	(199,578)	(36)	(140)	(62,936)	(14,138)	(28,972)	(15,214)
<b>Capital stock transactions</b>								
Proceeds from sale of shares	829,348	835,740	3,271	7,068	113,709	265,349	22,998	49,983
Shares issued in reinvestment of income dividends and capital gain distributions	58,002	193,454	37	139	62,018	14,035	27,878	14,998
Less cost of shares redeemed	(1,012,131)	(1,045,252)	(6,262)	(1,813)	(280,953)	(305,741)	(106,615)	(458,515)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from capital share transactions	(124,781)	(16,058)	(2,954)	5,394	(105,226)	(26,357)	(55,739)	(393,534)
Increase (decrease) in net assets	671,268	501,844	(6,091)	5,849	4,071	91,230	(115,377)	(316,237)
<b>Net assets</b>								
Beginning of period	2,905,814	2,403,970	7,528	1,679	670,537	579,307	175,278	491,515
End of period	<u>\$ 3,577,082</u>	<u>\$ 2,905,814</u>	<u>\$ 1,437</u>	<u>\$ 7,528</u>	<u>\$ 674,608</u>	<u>\$ 670,537</u>	<u>\$ 59,901</u>	<u>\$ 175,278</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.



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**Statements of Assets and Liabilities**


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As of December 31, 2020 (dollar amounts in thousands)

	Global Leaders Fund	International Leaders Fund	International Growth Fund	Institutional International Growth Fund
<b>Assets</b>				
Investments in securities, at cost	\$ 65,647	\$ 760,354	\$ 1,274,420	\$ 713,438
Investments in securities, at value	\$ 122,090	\$ 1,106,599	\$ 2,310,921	\$ 1,316,241
Foreign currency, at value (cost \$— ; \$703; \$74; \$43)	—	703	74	42
Receivable for securities sold	—	—	—	10,374
Receivable for fund shares sold	152	17,378	1,260	142
Receivable from Adviser	18	70	—	—
Dividend and interest receivable	109	751	4,649	2,730
Total assets	122,369	1,125,501	2,316,904	1,329,529
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Payable for securities purchased	—	8,015	32	15
Payable for fund shares redeemed	—	15,217	1,112	371
Payable to custodian	—	—	—	843
Management fee payable	87	760	1,940	1,063
Distribution fee payable	2	4	59	—
Foreign capital gains tax liability	—	962	443	426
Other payables and accrued expenses	98	190	668	329
Total liabilities	187	25,148	4,254	3,047
Net assets	\$ 122,182	\$ 1,100,353	\$ 2,312,650	\$ 1,326,482
<b>Capital</b>				
Composition of net assets				
Paid in capital	\$ 65,060	\$ 757,814	\$ 1,246,702	\$ 703,037
Total distributable earnings (loss)	57,122	342,539	1,065,948	623,445
Net assets	\$ 122,182	\$ 1,100,353	\$ 2,312,650	\$ 1,326,482
Class N shares				
Net assets	\$ 11,861	\$ 19,586	\$ 288,976	—
Shares outstanding	681,176	863,136	7,456,585	—
Net asset value per share	\$ 17.41	\$ 22.69	\$ 38.75	—
Class I shares				
Net assets	\$ 107,375	\$ 393,596	\$ 1,914,460	—
Shares outstanding	6,146,661	17,266,278	48,278,055	—
Net asset value per share	\$ 17.47	\$ 22.80	\$ 39.65	—
Institutional/Class R6 shares				
Net assets	\$ 2,946	\$ 687,171	\$ 109,214	\$ 1,326,482
Shares outstanding	168,576	30,143,712	2,754,058	65,108,589
Net asset value per share	\$ 17.47	\$ 22.80	\$ 39.66	\$ 20.37

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 103

## Statements of Operations

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020 (all amounts in thousands)

	Global Leaders Fund	International Leaders Fund	International Growth Fund	Institutional International Growth Fund
<b>Investment income</b>				
Dividends	\$ 1,138	\$ 7,804	\$ 19,961	\$ 16,772
Less foreign tax withheld	(70)	(892)	(1,984)	(1,632)
Interest	1	3	4	10
Total income	1,069	6,915	17,981	15,150
<b>Expenses</b>				
Investment advisory fees	1,091	6,317	19,982	14,820
Distribution fees	24	29	751	—
Custodian fees	111	167	402	375
Transfer agent fees	9	56	138	57
Sub-transfer agent fees				
Class N	13	16	443	—
Class I	69	200	1,410	—
Professional fees	51	113	247	226
Registration fees	62	61	78	28
Shareholder reporting fees	6	23	97	16
Trustee fees	13	49	154	135
Other expenses	13	33	46	46
Total expenses before expense limitation	1,462	7,064	23,748	15,703
Expenses waived or reimbursed by the Adviser				
Class N	(28)	(18)	(55)	—
Class I	(227)	(239)	—	—
Institutional/Class R6	(37)	(341)	—	—
Total expenses waived or reimbursed by the Adviser	(292)	(598)	(55)	—
Net expenses	1,170	6,466	23,693	15,703
Net investment income (loss)	(101)	449	(5,712)	(553)
<b>Realized and unrealized gain (loss)</b>				
Net realized gain (loss) on transactions from:				
Investments in securities (net of foreign capital gains tax paid \$—; \$4; \$2; \$121)	16,304	9,168	75,319	251,393
Redemptions in-kind	7,974	—	—	7,699
Foreign currency transactions	(19)	(256)	(409)	(316)
Total net realized gain (loss)	24,259	8,912	74,910	258,776
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of:				
Investments in securities (net of foreign capital gains tax accrual \$—; \$725; \$443; \$417)	7,598	192,651	491,988	131,212
Foreign currency translations	7	(1,408)	(699)	(666)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	7,605	191,243	491,289	130,546
<b>Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<b>\$ 31,763</b>	<b>\$ 200,604</b>	<b>\$ 560,487</b>	<b>\$ 388,769</b>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

## Statements of Changes in Net Assets

For the Years Ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 (all amounts in thousands)

	Global Leaders Fund		International Leaders Fund		International Growth Fund		Institutional International Growth Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
<b>Operations</b>								
Net investment income (loss)	\$ (101)	\$ 690	\$ 449	\$ 4,360	\$ (5,712)	\$ 12,129	\$ (553)	\$ 14,030
Net realized gain (loss) on investments, and other assets and liabilities	24,259	21,561	8,912	138	74,910	31,125	258,776	4,333
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments, and other assets and liabilities	7,605	27,856	191,243	139,075	491,289	530,581	130,546	472,155
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	31,763	50,107	200,604	143,573	560,487	573,835	388,769	490,518
<b>Distributions to shareholders from</b>								
Class N	(1,323)	(99)	(140)	(37)	(2,350)	(5,328)	—	—
Class I	(12,213)	(1,500)	(2,856)	(981)	(21,253)	(19,998)	—	—
Institutional/Class R6	(323)	(656)	(5,774)	(2,772)	(1,273)	(819)	(151,353)	(17,917)
Total distributions	(13,859)	(2,255)	(8,770)	(3,790)	(24,876)	(26,145)	(151,353)	(17,917)
<b>Capital stock transactions</b>								
Proceeds from sale of shares	17,101	16,564	390,602	150,318	345,376	290,402	148,064	192,878
Shares issued in reinvestment of income dividends and capital gain distributions	13,852	2,241	8,654	3,249	23,253	24,177	150,369	17,852
Less cost of shares redeemed	(98,384)	(65,648)	(144,641)	(49,445)	(700,649)	(856,554)	(1,102,278)	(574,855)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from capital share transactions	(67,431)	(46,843)	254,615	104,122	(332,020)	(541,975)	(803,845)	(364,125)
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(49,527)	1,009	446,449	243,905	203,591	5,715	(566,429)	108,476
<b>Net assets</b>								
Beginning of period	171,709	170,700	653,904	409,999	2,109,059	2,103,344	1,892,911	1,784,435
End of period	<u>\$ 122,182</u>	<u>\$ 171,709</u>	<u>\$ 1,100,353</u>	<u>\$ 653,904</u>	<u>\$ 2,312,650</u>	<u>\$ 2,109,059</u>	<u>\$ 1,326,482</u>	<u>\$ 1,892,911</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 105

## Statements of Assets and Liabilities

As of December 31, 2020 (dollar amounts in thousands)

	International Small Cap Growth Fund	Emerging Markets Leaders Fund	Emerging Markets Growth Fund	Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund
<b>Assets</b>				
Investments in securities, at cost	\$ 232,224	\$ 166,405	\$ 748,608	\$ 216,705
Investments in securities, at value	\$ 334,292	\$ 263,608	\$ 1,194,110	\$ 307,272
Foreign currency, at value (cost \$917; \$135; \$861; \$1,101)	939	135	862	1,101
Receivable for securities sold	3,674	—	—	625
Receivable for fund shares sold	190	335	4,651	572
Receivable from Adviser	—	26	—	1
Dividend and interest receivable	1,134	109	1,065	333
Total assets	340,229	264,213	1,200,688	309,904
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Payable for securities purchased	2,342	—	29	1,178
Payable for fund shares redeemed	92	177	526	54
Payable to custodian	448	—	30	89
Management fee payable	275	258	1,049	279
Distribution fee payable	1	—	3	1
Foreign capital gains tax liability	—	1,468	2,890	522
Other payables and accrued expenses	190	173	425	372
Total liabilities	3,348	2,076	4,952	2,495
Net assets	\$ 336,881	\$ 262,137	\$ 1,195,736	\$ 307,409
<b>Capital</b>				
Composition of net assets				
Paid in capital	\$ 229,280	\$ 161,390	\$ 730,191	\$ 219,444
Total distributable earnings (loss)	107,601	100,747	465,545	87,965
Net assets	\$ 336,881	\$ 262,137	\$ 1,195,736	\$ 307,409
Class N shares				
Net assets	\$ 3,101	\$ 1,803	\$ 18,606	\$ 3,947
Shares outstanding	177,765	136,058	1,010,121	177,645
Net asset value per share	\$ 17.45	\$ 13.26	\$ 18.42	\$ 22.22
Class I shares				
Net assets	\$ 145,283	\$ 62,319	\$ 113,697	\$ 151,302
Shares outstanding	8,227,492	4,694,399	6,092,968	6,754,897
Net asset value per share	\$ 17.66	\$ 13.28	\$ 18.66	\$ 22.40
Class R6 shares				
Net assets	\$ 188,497	\$ 198,015	\$ 1,063,433	\$ 152,160
Shares outstanding	10,615,857	14,932,846	56,453,349	6,782,061
Net asset value per share	\$ 17.76	\$ 13.26	\$ 18.84	\$ 22.44

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

## Statements of Operations

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020 (all amounts in thousands)

	International Small Cap Growth Fund	Emerging Markets Leaders Fund	Emerging Markets Growth Fund	Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund
<b>Investment income</b>				
Dividends	\$ 3,651	\$ 3,042	\$ 9,938	\$ 3,658
Less foreign tax withheld	(413)	(411)	(1,399)	(410)
Interest	7	2	56	6
Total income	3,245	2,633	8,595	3,254
<b>Expenses</b>				
Investment advisory fees	2,747	2,528	9,681	2,963
Distribution fees	7	4	23	9
Custodian fees	168	178	481	375
Transfer agent fees	19	13	40	62
Sub-transfer agent fees				
Class N	3	2	9	6
Class I	139	36	82	124
Professional fees	84	81	181	144
Registration fees	56	50	57	46
Shareholder reporting fees	32	13	7	26
Trustee fees	24	18	61	21
Other expenses	12	15	30	15
Total expenses before expense limitation	3,291	2,938	10,652	3,791
Expenses waived or reimbursed by the Adviser				
Class N	—	(4)	—	(8)
Class I	—	(89)	—	(195)
Class R6	—	(287)	—	(146)
Total expenses waived or reimbursed by the Adviser	—	(380)	—	(349)
Net expenses	3,291	2,558	10,652	3,442
Net investment income (loss)	(46)	75	(2,057)	(188)
<b>Realized and unrealized gain (loss)</b>				
Net realized gain (loss) on transactions from:				
Investments in securities (net of foreign capital gains tax paid \$—; \$1; \$257; \$—)	32,909	8,069	75,991	46,960
Foreign currency transactions	(90)	(66)	(1,344)	(448)
Total net realized gain (loss)	32,819	8,003	74,647	46,512
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of:				
Investments in securities (net of foreign capital gains tax accrual \$—; \$584; \$924; \$522)	41,543	50,279	267,470	30,611
Foreign currency translations	58	(1,174)	(1,799)	(1,040)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	41,601	49,105	265,671	29,571
<b>Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<u>\$ 74,374</u>	<u>\$57,183</u>	<u>\$338,261</u>	<u>\$75,895</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds 107

## Statements of Changes in Net Assets

For the Years Ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 (all amounts in thousands)

	International Small Cap Growth Fund		Emerging Markets Leaders Fund		Emerging Markets Growth Fund		Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
<b>Operations</b>								
Net investment income (loss)	\$ (46)	\$ 2,537	\$ 75	\$ 1,416	\$ (2,057)	\$ 9,209	\$ (188)	\$ 848
Net realized gain (loss) on investments, and other assets and liabilities	32,819	(185)	8,003	5,825	74,647	42,250	46,512	(596)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments, and other assets and liabilities	41,601	92,376	49,105	48,207	265,671	143,459	29,571	51,198
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	74,374	94,728	57,183	55,448	338,261	194,918	75,895	51,450
<b>Distributions to shareholders from</b>								
Class N	(63)	(3)	(15)	(11)	(531)	(311)	—	—
Class I	(3,008)	(460)	(621)	(393)	(4,443)	(3,046)	(65)	(236)
Class R6	(4,066)	(597)	(2,293)	(1,820)	(42,354)	(28,573)	(129)	(286)
Total distributions	(7,137)	(1,060)	(2,929)	(2,224)	(47,328)	(31,930)	(194)	(522)
<b>Capital stock transactions</b>								
Proceeds from sale of shares	42,647	45,917	61,028	38,679	318,162	171,633	71,699	60,868
Shares issued in reinvestment of income dividends and capital gain distributions	6,416	969	2,899	2,206	44,146	26,669	191	465
Less cost of shares redeemed	(88,485)	(172,212)	(94,327)	(54,740)	(247,697)	(312,069)	(117,803)	(111,575)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from capital share transactions	(39,422)	(125,326)	(30,400)	(13,855)	114,611	(113,767)	(45,913)	(50,242)
Increase (decrease) in net assets	27,815	(31,658)	23,854	39,369	405,544	49,221	29,788	686
<b>Net assets</b>								
Beginning of period	309,066	340,724	238,283	198,914	790,192	740,971	277,621	276,935
End of period	<u>\$336,881</u>	<u>\$ 309,066</u>	<u>\$262,137</u>	<u>\$238,283</u>	<u>\$1,195,736</u>	<u>\$ 790,192</u>	<u>\$ 307,409</u>	<u>\$ 277,621</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

## Statements of Assets and Liabilities

As of December 31, 2020 (dollar amounts in thousands)

	Bond Fund	Income Fund	Low Duration Fund	Macro Allocation Fund
<b>Assets</b>				
Investments in securities, at cost	\$ 296,226	\$ 65,727	\$ 156,427	\$ 296,507
Investments in securities, at value	\$ 319,060	\$ 67,741	\$ 157,641	\$ 354,547
Cash	—	—	—	4
Foreign currency, at value (cost \$—; \$—; \$—; \$2)	—	—	—	2
Receivable for securities sold	10,680	2,656	5,340	325
Receivable for fund shares sold	465	84	11,407	269
Receivable for variation margin on centrally cleared swaps	—	—	—	7
Receivable from Adviser	42	2	37	—
Dividend and interest receivable	1,814	312	547	1,384
Unrealized appreciation on swap contracts	—	—	—	409
Unrealized appreciation on forward foreign currency contracts	—	—	—	5,212
Total assets	332,061	70,795	174,972	362,159
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Security sold, not yet purchased, at value (proceeds \$10,680; \$2,136; \$5,340; \$—)	10,680	2,136	5,340	—
Payable for futures variation margin	—	—	—	1,948
Payable for variation margin on centrally cleared swaps	19	6	—	—
Payable for securities purchased	—	—	10,920	—
Payable for fund shares redeemed	391	89	205	551
Payable to custodian	—	149	—	—
Cash received as collateral, due to broker	—	—	—	1,020
Unrealized depreciation on swap contracts	—	—	—	73
Unrealized depreciation on forward foreign currency contracts	—	—	—	4,400
Management fee payable	81	19	39	251
Distribution fee payable	5	3	2	2
Distributions payable to shareholders	46	—	3	—
Other payables and accrued expenses	119	71	83	199
Total liabilities	11,341	2,473	16,592	8,444
Net assets	\$ 320,720	\$ 68,322	\$ 158,380	\$ 353,715
<b>Capital</b>				
Composition of net assets				
Paid in capital	\$ 318,549	\$ 73,462	\$ 186,938	\$ 535,084
Total distributable earnings (loss)	2,171	(5,140)	(28,558)	(181,369)
Net assets	\$ 320,720	\$ 68,322	\$ 158,380	\$ 353,715
Class N shares				
Net assets	\$ 39,522	\$ 22,610	\$ 13,736	\$ 7,674
Shares outstanding	3,650,466	2,597,222	1,588,592	701,924
Net asset value per share	\$ 10.83	\$ 8.71	\$ 8.65	\$ 10.93
Class I shares				
Net assets	\$ 232,716	\$ 45,641	\$ 104,093	\$ 171,153
Shares outstanding	21,723,983	5,278,731	12,048,229	15,779,964
Net asset value per share	\$ 10.71	\$ 8.65	\$ 8.64	\$ 10.85
Class R6 shares				
Net assets	\$ 48,482	\$ 71	\$ 40,551	\$ 174,888
Shares outstanding	4,528,032	8,168	4,692,094	16,117,670
Net asset value per share	\$ 10.71	\$ 8.65	\$ 8.64	\$ 10.85

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

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## Statements of Operations

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020 (all amounts in thousands)

	Bond Fund	Income Fund	Low Duration Fund	Macro Allocation Fund
<b>Investment income</b>				
Dividends	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 6,156
Less foreign tax withheld	—	—	—	(15)
Interest	8,262	1,275	1,774	2,511
Total income	8,262	1,275	1,774	8,652
<b>Expenses</b>				
Investment advisory fees	870	210	329	4,269
Distribution fees	48	32	11	23
Custodian fees	137	98	104	159
Transfer agent fees	74	10	12	202
Sub-transfer agent fees				
Class N	56	31	11	16
Class I	181	18	36	252
Professional fees	161	43	71	103
Registration fees	56	49	54	59
Shareholder reporting fees	15	7	4	23
Trustee fees	23	5	7	77
Other expenses	11	10	10	110
Total expenses before expense limitation	1,632	513	649	5,293
Expenses waived or reimbursed by the Adviser				
Class N	(60)	(37)	(21)	(9)
Class I	(209)	(30)	(126)	(58)
Class R6	(29)	—	(71)	—
Total expenses waived or reimbursed by the Adviser	(298)	(67)	(218)	(67)
Net expenses	1,334	446	431	5,226
Net investment income (loss)	6,928	829	1,343	3,426
<b>Realized and unrealized gain (loss)</b>				
Net realized gain (loss) on transactions from:				
Investments in securities	3,454	187	(353)	20,575
Options	—	—	—	(6,041)
Futures contracts	—	—	—	(34,740)
Swaps	370	(26)	(56)	3,449
Forward foreign currency contracts	—	—	—	(12,975)
Foreign currency transactions	—	—	—	(1,282)
Total net realized gain (loss)	3,824	161	(409)	(31,014)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of:				
Investments in securities	10,135	1,605	1,479	(9,386)
Futures contracts	—	—	—	(1,059)
Swaps	(252)	(324)	—	(439)
Forward foreign currency contracts	—	—	—	3,624
Foreign currency translations	—	—	—	55
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	9,883	1,281	1,479	(7,205)
<b>Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<u>\$ 20,635</u>	<u>\$ 2,271</u>	<u>\$ 2,413</u>	<u>\$ (34,793)</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.



## Statements of Changes in Net Assets

For the Years Ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 (all amounts in thousands)

	Bond Fund		Income Fund		Low Duration Fund		Macro Allocation Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
<b>Operations</b>								
Net investment income (loss)	\$ 6,928	\$ 11,304	\$ 829	\$ 1,286	\$ 1,343	\$ 2,273	\$ 3,426	\$ 10,006
Net realized gain (loss) on investments, and other assets and liabilities	3,824	5,641	161	98	(409)	(575)	(31,014)	(33,187)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments, and other assets and liabilities	9,883	25,603	1,281	2,291	1,479	1,875	(7,205)	58,793
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	20,635	42,548	2,271	3,675	2,413	3,573	(34,793)	35,612
<b>Distributions to shareholders from</b>								
Class N	(1,089)	(2,191)	(546)	(699)	(189)	(60)	(79)	(503)
Class I	(7,496)	(10,482)	(1,009)	(1,385)	(1,833)	(1,999)	(2,289)	(15,861)
Class R6	(1,641)	(2,442)	(2)	(1)	(1,168)	(1,674)	(2,567)	(16,522)
Total distributions	(10,226)	(15,115)	(1,557)	(2,085)	(3,190)	(3,733)	(4,935)	(32,886)
<b>Capital stock transactions</b>								
Proceeds from sale of shares	95,911	80,419	33,540	17,977	166,102	14,009	75,968	222,795
Shares issued in reinvestment of income dividends and capital gain distributions	8,711	13,243	1,470	1,968	2,649	2,946	4,686	27,731
Less cost of shares redeemed	(76,446)	(261,506)	(18,745)	(27,407)	(86,109)	(45,646)	(438,011)	(424,270)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from capital share transactions	28,176	(167,844)	16,265	(7,462)	82,642	(28,691)	(357,357)	(173,744)
Increase (decrease) in net assets	38,585	(140,411)	16,979	(5,872)	81,865	(28,851)	(397,085)	(171,018)
<b>Net assets</b>								
Beginning of period	282,135	422,546	51,343	57,215	76,515	105,366	750,800	921,818
End of period	<u>\$320,720</u>	<u>\$ 282,135</u>	<u>\$ 68,322</u>	<u>\$ 51,343</u>	<u>\$158,380</u>	<u>\$ 76,515</u>	<u>\$ 353,715</u>	<u>\$ 750,800</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

December 31, 2020

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**Notes to Financial Statements**


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**(1) Organization***(a) Description of the Trust*

William Blair Funds (the “Trust”) is a Delaware statutory trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), as an open-end management investment company. As of the date of this report, the Trust has the following twenty funds (the “Funds”) available for sale, each with its own investment objective and policies. For each Fund, the number of shares authorized is unlimited.

**U.S. Equity Funds**

Growth  
Large Cap Growth  
Mid Cap Growth  
Small-Mid Cap Core  
Small-Mid Cap Growth  
Small-Mid Cap Value  
Small Cap Growth  
Small Cap Value

**Global Equity Fund**

Global Leaders

**International Equity Funds**

International Leaders  
International Growth  
Institutional International Growth  
International Small Cap Growth  
Emerging Markets Leaders  
Emerging Markets Growth  
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth

**Fixed Income Funds**

Bond  
Income  
Low Duration

**Multi-Asset and Alternative Fund**

Macro Allocation

William Blair Investment Management, LLC (the “Adviser”) serves as the Trust’s investment adviser. William Blair & Company, L.L.C. (“WBC” or the “Distributor”), an affiliate of the Adviser, serves as the Trust’s principal underwriter and distributor.

*(b) Share Classes*

Each Fund is comprised of Class N, Class I and Class R6 shares, except Small-Mid Cap Core Fund, which is comprised of Class I and Class R6 shares, and Institutional International Growth Fund, which does not offer multiple classes of shares.

**Class N** shares are available to the general public, either directly through the Trust’s distributor or through a select number of financial intermediaries. Class N shares are sold without any sales load and carry an annual 12b-1 distribution fee at a fixed rate (0.25% for the U.S. Equity, Global Equity, International Equity and Multi-Asset and Alternative Funds and 0.15% for the Fixed Income Funds as discussed in *Note 4(b) – Transactions with Affiliates – Underwriting Distribution Services and Shareholder Administration Agreements*) and a sub-transfer agent fee that is not a fixed rate and varies by Fund and class, as discussed below.

**Class I** shares are available to certain retirement and deferred compensation plans, clients of certain financial intermediaries, and asset-based fee advisory clients of William Blair. The minimum initial investment for a Class I account is \$500,000, subject to certain exceptions. Class I shares do not carry any sales load or distribution fees and generally have lower ongoing expenses than Class N shares. Class I shares have a sub-transfer agent fee that is not a fixed rate and varies by Fund and class, as discussed below.

**Class R6** shares are available to certain retirement and deferred compensation plans, clients of certain financial intermediaries, asset-based fee advisory clients of William Blair, and additional types of investors, provided that neither the investor nor the financial intermediary requires the Funds to make any type of servicing or administrative payment. The minimum initial investment for a Class R6 account is \$1 million, subject to certain exceptions.

Shares of the Institutional International Growth Fund require a minimum initial investment of \$5 million, subject to certain exceptions.

Class R6 shares and the Institutional International Growth Fund do not carry any sales load, distribution fees or sub-transfer agents fees. Class R6 shares of a Fund generally have lower ongoing expenses than the Fund’s Class N and Class I shares.

*Sub-transfer agent fees:* For Class N and Class I shares, the Funds may reimburse WBC for fees paid to intermediaries such as banks, broker-dealers, financial advisers or other financial institutions for sub-administration, sub-transfer agency and other services provided to investors whose shares of record are held in omnibus, other group accounts, retirement plans or accounts

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**Notes to Financial Statements**


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traded through registered securities clearing agents. These fees may vary based on, for example, the nature of services provided, but generally range up to 0.15% of the assets of the class serviced or maintained by the intermediary or up to \$15 per sub-account maintained by the intermediary, depending on the method by which the intermediary charges for the services.

*(c) Fund Objectives*

The investment objectives of the Funds are as follows:

U.S. Equity Funds	Long-term capital appreciation.
Global Equity Fund	Long-term capital appreciation.
International Equity Funds	Long-term capital appreciation.
Bond Fund	Outperform the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index by maximizing total return through a combination of income and capital appreciation.
Income Fund	High level of current income with relative stability of principal.
Low Duration Fund	Maximize total return. Total return includes both income and capital appreciation.
Macro Allocation Fund	Maximize long-term risk-adjusted total return.

**(2) Significant Accounting Policies**

The following is a summary of the Trust's significant accounting policies in effect during the periods covered by the financial statements, which are in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("US GAAP"), which includes the accounting and reporting guidelines under Accounting Standards Topic 946, *Financial Services—Investment Companies*.

*(a) Investment income and transactions*

Investment income, realized and unrealized gains and losses, and certain Fund level expenses and expense reductions, if any, are allocated based on the relative net assets of each class, except for certain class-specific expenses, which are charged directly to the appropriate class. Differences in class expenses may result in the payment of different per share dividends by class. All share classes of the Funds have equal rights with respect to voting, subject to class specific arrangements.

Dividend income and expenses are recorded on the ex-dividend date, except for those dividends from certain foreign securities that are recorded when the information is available.

Interest income is recorded on an accrual basis, adjusted for amortization of premium or accretion of discount. Variable rate bonds and floating rate notes earn interest at coupon rates that fluctuate at specific time intervals. The interest rates shown in the Portfolio of Investments for the Bond, Income, Low Duration and Macro Allocation Funds were the rates in effect on December 31, 2020. Put bonds may be redeemed at the discretion of the holder on specified dates prior to maturity.

Premiums and discounts are amortized and accreted, respectively, on a straight-line basis for short-term investments and on an effective interest method for long-term investments.

Paydown gains and losses on mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities are treated as an adjustment to interest income. For the year ended December 31, 2020, the Bond, Income and Low Duration Funds recognized a reduction of interest income and a corresponding increase in net realized gain of \$3,674, \$821 and \$1,844, respectively (in thousands). This reclassification had no effect on the net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations, net asset value or the net assets of the Funds.

The Funds do not isolate the portion of operations resulting from fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates on investments from the fluctuations arising from changes in the value of securities held. Such currency fluctuations are included with the net realized and unrealized gain or loss from investments.

Reported net realized foreign currency gains or losses arise from disposition of foreign currency, the difference in the foreign exchange rates between the trade and settlement dates on securities transactions, and the difference between the amounts of dividends, interest and foreign withholding taxes recorded on the ex-date or accrual date and the U.S. dollar equivalent of the amounts actually received or paid. Net unrealized foreign exchange gains and losses arise from changes (due to the changes in the exchange rate) in the value of foreign currency and other assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies held at period end.

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**Notes to Financial Statements**


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For financial reporting purposes, security and shareholder transactions are recorded on trade date in accordance with US GAAP. Realized gains and losses from securities transactions are recognized on a specifically identified cost basis.

Awards from class action litigation may be recorded as a reduction of cost. If the Funds no longer own the applicable securities, the proceeds are recorded as realized gains.

*(b) Share Valuation and Distributions to Shareholders*

Shares are sold and redeemed on a continuous basis at net asset value. The net asset value per share is determined separately for each class by dividing the Fund's net assets attributable to that class by the number of shares of the class outstanding as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE"), which is generally 4:00 p.m. Eastern time, on each day the NYSE is open.

Distributions from net investment income, if any, for all Equity and Multi-Asset and Alternative Funds are declared and paid at least annually. Distributions from net investment income for the Fixed Income Funds are declared daily and paid monthly. Capital gain distributions, if any, for all Funds, are declared and paid at least annually in December and/or January. The Small Cap Value Fund paid an additional distribution from capital gains in March 2020. Distributions payable to shareholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

*(c) Foreign Currency Translation*

The Funds may invest in securities denominated in foreign currencies. As such, assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollar amounts at the current exchange rate on the date of valuation. The values of foreign investments, open forward foreign currency contracts, and cash denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars using a spot market rate of exchange as of the time of the determination of each Fund's net asset value, typically 4:00 p.m. Eastern time on days when there is regular trading on the NYSE. Payables and receivables for securities transactions, dividends, interest income and tax reclaims are translated into U.S. dollars using a spot market rate of exchange as of 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. Settlement of purchases and sales and dividend and interest receipts are translated into U.S. dollars using a spot market rate of exchange as of 11:00 a.m. Eastern time.

*(d) Income Taxes*

Each Fund intends to comply with the provisions of Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), in order to qualify as regulated investment companies. Each Fund intends to make the requisite distributions of income and capital gains to its shareholders sufficient to relieve it from all, or substantially all, federal income and excise taxes. No provision for federal income and excise taxes has been made.

Certain Funds may be subject to foreign income taxes imposed on realized gains on securities of issuers from certain foreign countries. Such taxes, if applicable, are included within net realized gain (loss) on transactions from investments in securities in the Statement of Operations.

Management evaluates tax positions taken or expected to be taken in the course of preparing the Funds' tax returns to determine whether it is "more likely than not" that each tax position would be sustained upon examination by a taxing authority based on the technical merits of the positions. Tax positions not deemed to meet the "more likely than not" threshold would be recorded as a tax benefit or expense in the current year. Management has evaluated all of the uncertain tax positions of the Funds and has determined that no liability is required to be recorded in the financial statements.

The statute of limitations on the Funds' tax returns for the prior three years remains open and the returns are subject to examination.

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**Notes to Financial Statements**


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Adjustments to the cost of investments for tax purposes may be due to the deferred loss associated with current and prior year wash sales, income recognition from investments in real estate investment trusts, and the Funds' election to mark-to-market their investments in Passive Foreign Investment Companies ("PFICs"). The cost of investments, including derivatives, for federal income tax purposes and related gross unrealized appreciation (depreciation) and net unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) at December 31, 2020, were as follows (in thousands):

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Cost of Investments</b>	<b>Gross Unrealized Appreciation</b>	<b>Gross Unrealized Depreciation</b>	<b>Net Unrealized Appreciation/(Depreciation)</b>
Growth	\$ 157,894	\$ 139,968	\$ 237	\$ 139,731
Large Cap Growth	481,768	229,770	161	229,609
Mid Cap Growth	56,009	28,191	222	27,969
Small-Mid Cap Core	23,256	7,272	377	6,895
Small-Mid Cap Growth	2,394,499	1,189,614	9,870	1,179,744
Small-Mid Cap Value	1,363	131	—	131
Small Cap Growth	475,136	202,690	2,490	200,200
Small Cap Value	45,529	15,604	1,070	14,534
Global Leaders	66,339	55,822	71	55,751
International Leaders	764,825	342,316	542	341,774
International Growth	1,291,027	1,022,326	2,432	1,019,894
Institutional International Growth	728,004	589,548	1,301	588,247
International Small Cap Growth	236,063	101,563	3,332	98,231
Emerging Markets Leaders	170,276	94,410	1,078	93,332
Emerging Markets Growth	758,881	436,334	1,105	435,229
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth	219,231	88,793	748	88,045
Bond	296,276	23,477	715	22,762
Income	65,736	2,387	390	1,997
Low Duration	156,427	1,554	340	1,214
Macro Allocation	300,007	61,299	6,046	55,253

In addition, the Funds may periodically record reclassifications among certain capital accounts to reflect differences between financial reporting and income tax basis distributions. The reclassifications were reported in order to reflect the tax treatment for certain permanent differences that exist between income tax regulations and US GAAP. The reclassifications generally relate to the tax treatment of net operating losses, redemptions in-kind, and utilization of earnings and profits distributed to shareholders on redemption of shares. These reclassifications have no impact on the net asset values or the net assets of the Funds. Accordingly, at December 31, 2020, the following reclassifications were recorded (in thousands):

December 31, 2020

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**Notes to Financial Statements**


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<b>Fund</b>	<b>Paid in Capital</b>	<b>Total Distributable Earnings (Loss)</b>
Growth	\$ 4,621	\$ (4,621)
Large Cap Growth	8,484	(8,484)
Mid Cap Growth	914	(914)
Small-Mid Cap Core	(144)	144
Small-Mid Cap Growth	37,133	(37,133)
Small-Mid Cap Value	9	(9)
Small Cap Growth	5,048	(5,048)
Small Cap Value	6,656	(6,656)
Global Leaders	9,296	(9,296)
International Leaders	159	(159)
International Growth	(2,606)	2,606
Institutional International Growth	38,628	(38,628)
International Small Cap Growth	207	(207)
Emerging Markets Leaders	(5)	5
Emerging Markets Growth	2,826	(2,826)
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth	(534)	534
Bond	(38)	38
Income	(83)	83
Low Duration	(5)	5
Macro Allocation	(7,986)	7,986

The timing and characterization of certain income and capital gain distributions are determined annually in accordance with federal income tax regulations that may differ from US GAAP. As a result, net investment income or loss and net realized gain or loss for a reporting period may differ from the amount distributed during such period.

Distributions from net realized gains for book purposes may include short-term capital gains, which are included as ordinary income for tax purposes. The tax character of distributions paid during 2020 and 2019 was as follows (in thousands):

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Distributions Paid in 2020</b>					
	<b>Ordinary Income</b>			<b>Long-Term Capital Gains</b>		
	<b>Class N</b>	<b>Class I</b>	<b>Institutional/ Class R6</b>	<b>Class N</b>	<b>Class I</b>	<b>Institutional/ Class R6</b>
Growth	\$ 15	\$ 89	\$ 4	\$ 4,754	\$27,658	\$ 1,328
Large Cap Growth	258	1,349	612	4,929	13,332	5,400
Mid Cap Growth	86	967	8	380	4,282	34
Small-Mid Cap Core	N/A	—	—	N/A	—	—
Small-Mid Cap Growth	—	—	—	5,612	51,667	1,737
Small-Mid Cap Value	1	21	6	—	6	2
Small Cap Growth	4,713	8,926	2,409	13,769	26,080	7,039
Small Cap Value	30	273	70	2,100	26,367	132
Global Leaders	—	25	2	1,323	12,188	321
International Leaders	—	178	558	140	2,678	5,216
International Growth	431	8,798	572	1,919	12,455	701
Institutional International Growth	N/A	N/A	962	N/A	N/A	150,391
International Small Cap Growth	—	55	253	63	2,953	3,813
Emerging Markets Leaders	—	105	456	15	516	1,837
Emerging Markets Growth	—	61	1,303	531	4,382	41,051
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth	—	65	129	—	—	—
Bond	1,089	7,496	1,641	—	—	—
Income	546	1,009	2	—	—	—
Low Duration	189	1,833	1,168	—	—	—
Macro Allocation	79	2,289	2,567	—	—	—

## Notes to Financial Statements

Fund	Distributions Paid in 2019					
	Ordinary Income			Long-Term Capital Gains		
	Class N	Class I	Institutional/ Class R6	Class N	Class I	Institutional/ Class R6
Growth	\$ 133	\$ 742	\$ 1	\$ 3,057	\$ 17,138	\$ 16
Large Cap Growth	44	512	6	3,937	11,518	91
Mid Cap Growth	4	46	—	476	5,461	12
Small-Mid Cap Core	N/A	1	3	N/A	—	—
Small-Mid Cap Growth	—	—	—	24,075	172,835	2,668
Small-Mid Cap Value	1	34	1	5	97	2
Small Cap Growth	—	—	—	4,188	8,605	1,345
Small Cap Value	79	3,251	4	419	11,449	12
Global Leaders	17	470	220	82	1,030	436
International Leaders	37	981	2,772	—	—	—
International Growth	5,328	19,998	819	—	—	—
Institutional International Growth	N/A	N/A	17,917	N/A	N/A	—
International Small Cap Growth	3	460	597	—	—	—
Emerging Markets Leaders	8	323	1,511	3	70	309
Emerging Markets Growth	89	994	9,560	222	2,052	19,013
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth	—	236	286	—	—	—
Bond	2,191	10,482	2,442	—	—	—
Income	699	1,385	1	—	—	—
Low Duration	60	1,999	1,674	—	—	—
Macro Allocation	503	15,861	16,522	—	—	—

As of December 31, 2020, the components of distributable earnings on a tax basis were as follows (in thousands):

Fund	Undistributed Ordinary Income	Accumulated Capital and Other Losses	Undistributed Long-Term Capital Gains	Net Unrealized Appreciation/ (Depreciation)	Total
Growth	\$ 3,387	\$ —	\$ 6,531	\$ 139,731	\$ 149,649
Large Cap Growth	6	—	5,146	229,609	234,761
Mid Cap Growth	535	—	1,110	27,969	29,614
Small-Mid Cap Core	—	(12,806)	—	6,895	(5,911)
Small-Mid Cap Growth	—	—	89,251	1,179,744	1,268,995
Small-Mid Cap Value	—	(2,900)	—	131	(2,769)
Small Cap Growth	13,733	—	10,484	200,200	224,417
Small Cap Value	309	(13,368)	—	14,534	1,475
Global Leaders	—	—	1,364	55,758	57,122
International Leaders	194	—	1,490	340,855	342,539
International Growth	—	—	46,402	1,019,546	1,065,948
Institutional International Growth	—	—	35,490	587,955	623,445
International Small Cap Growth	1,093	—	8,230	98,278	107,601
Emerging Markets Leaders	306	—	8,577	91,864	100,747
Emerging Markets Growth	855	—	32,335	432,355	465,545
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth	—	(102)	543	87,524	87,965
Bond	—	(20,545)	—	22,762	2,217
Income	—	(7,137)	—	1,997	(5,140)
Low Duration	14	(29,783)	—	1,214	(28,555)
Macro Allocation	—	(236,646)	—	55,277	(181,369)

As of December 31, 2020, the Funds may have unused capital loss carryforwards available for federal income tax purposes to be applied against future capital gains, if any. Under current law, the Funds may carry forward net capital losses indefinitely to use to offset capital gains realized in future years. The following table details the Funds' available capital loss carryforwards as of December 31, 2020, and the capital loss carryforwards utilized by the Funds in 2020:

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<b>Fund</b>	<b>Available Capital Loss Carryforwards</b>			<b>Capital Loss Carryforwards</b>
	<b>Short Term</b>	<b>Long Term</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Utilized in 2020</b>
Small-Mid Cap Core	\$ 12,755	\$ 51	\$ 12,806	\$ —
Small-Mid Cap Value	2,627	273	2,900	—
Small Cap Value	13,368	—	13,368	—
International Growth	—	—	—	8,604
Institutional International Growth	—	—	—	33,252
International Small Cap Growth	—	—	—	15,355
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth	—	—	—	46,476
Bond	9,761	10,043	19,804	523
Income	2,596	4,313	6,909	—
Low Duration	13,806	15,977	29,783	—
Macro Allocation	224,668	11,978	236,646	—

In order to meet certain excise tax distribution requirements, the Funds are required to measure and distribute annually, net capital gains realized during a twelve month period ending October 31 and net investment income earned during a twelve month period ending December 31. In connection with this, the Funds are permitted for tax purposes to defer into their next fiscal year qualified late year losses. Qualified late year capital losses are any short term or long term capital losses incurred between November 1 and the end of their fiscal year, December 31, 2020. Qualified late year ordinary losses are comprised of losses related to swaps, foreign currency and PFICs incurred between November 1 and the end of their fiscal year, December 31, 2020.

As of December 31, 2020, the following Funds deferred, on a tax basis, qualified late year losses of (in thousands):

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Qualified Late Year Losses</b>	
	<b>Ordinary Income</b>	<b>Net Capital</b>
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth	\$102	\$—
Bond	741	—
Income	228	—

### (e) Repurchase Agreements

In a repurchase agreement, a Fund buys a security at one price and at the time of sale, the seller agrees to repurchase the security at a mutually agreed upon time and price (usually within seven days). The repurchase agreement thereby determines the yield during the purchaser's holding period, while the seller's obligation to repurchase is secured by the value of the underlying collateral. The Adviser monitors, on an ongoing basis, the value of the underlying collateral to ensure that the value always equals or exceeds the repurchase price plus accrued interest. Repurchase agreements may involve certain risks in the event of a default or insolvency of the other party to the agreement, including possible delays or restrictions upon a Fund's ability to dispose of the underlying collateral. The risk to a Fund is limited to the ability of the seller to pay the agreed upon sum on the delivery date. In the event of default, a repurchase agreement provides that a Fund is entitled to sell the underlying collateral. The loss, if any, to a Fund will be the difference between the proceeds from the sale and the repurchase price. However, if bankruptcy proceedings are commenced with respect to the seller of the security, disposition of the collateral by the Fund may be delayed or limited. The Funds have master repurchase agreements which allow the Funds to offset amounts owed to a counterparty with amounts owed from the same counterparty, including any collateral, in the event the counterparty defaults. Each Fund's outstanding repurchase agreements, if any, and related collateral, are shown on the Fund's Portfolio of Investments. Although no definitive creditworthiness criteria are used, the Adviser reviews the creditworthiness of the banks and non-bank dealers with which a Fund enters into repurchase agreements to evaluate those risks. A Fund may, for tax purposes, deem repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. Government securities to be investments in U.S. Government securities.

### (f) TBA Securities

The Fixed Income Funds may invest in mortgage pass-through securities eligible to be sold in the "to-be announced" market ("TBAs"). TBAs provide for the forward or delayed delivery of the underlying instrument with settlement in up to 180 days. The term TBA comes from the fact that the specific mortgage-backed security that will be delivered to fulfill a TBA trade is not designated at the time the trade is made, but rather is generally announced 48 hours before the settlement date. A Fund generally has the ability to close out a TBA obligation on or before the settlement date, rather than take delivery of the security. When a Fund sells TBAs, it incurs risks similar to those incurred in short sales. For example, when a Fund sells TBAs without owning



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**Notes to Financial Statements**


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or having the right to obtain the deliverable securities it incurs a risk of loss because it could have to purchase the securities at a price that is higher than the price at which it sold the securities.

*(g) Securities Sold, Not Yet Purchased*

A Fund may sell a security it does not own (known as selling a security short) in anticipation of a decline in the fair value of that security. When a Fund sells a security short, it must borrow the security sold short and deliver it to the broker through which it made the short sale. A gain, limited to the price at which the fund sold the security short, or a loss, unlimited in size, will be recognized upon the termination of the short sale. A Fund is also subject to the risk that it may be unable to acquire a security to terminate a short position except at a price substantially in excess of the price at which it sold the security short.

*(h) Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with US GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

*(i) Indemnification*

In the normal course of business, the Funds have entered into contracts in which the Funds agree to indemnify the other party or parties against various potential costs or liabilities. The Funds' maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown. No claim has been made for indemnification pursuant to any such agreement of the Funds.

*(j) Redemption In-Kind*

In accordance with the Trust's prospectus, the Funds may distribute portfolio securities rather than cash as payment for a redemption of Fund shares (in-kind redemption). For financial reporting purposes, the Fund recognizes a gain or loss on the transfer of securities depending on the value of those securities on the date of redemption. Gains and losses realized on in-kind redemptions may not be recognized for tax purposes and are reclassified from accumulated net realized gain (loss) to capital paid in excess of par value. During the year ended December 31, 2020, the Small-Mid Cap Growth, Small Cap Value, Global Leaders and Institutional International Growth Funds redeemed \$109,894, \$37,335, \$19,073 and \$37,257 (in thousands), respectively, of Fund shares in-kind rather than with cash and recognized net realized gains of \$36,409, \$7,459, \$7,974 and \$7,699 (in thousands), respectively, on the securities distributed to shareholders.

### **(3) Valuation**

*(a) Investment Valuation*

The value of U.S. equity securities, including exchange-traded funds, is determined by valuing securities traded on national securities markets or in the over-the-counter markets at the last sale price or, if applicable, the official closing price or, in the absence of a recent sale on the date of determination, at the mean between the last reported bid and ask prices.

The value of foreign equity securities is generally determined based upon the last sale price on the foreign exchange or market on which it is primarily traded and in the currency of that market as of the close of the appropriate exchange or, if there have been no sales during that day, at the mean between the last reported bid and ask prices. The Board of Trustees has determined that the passage of time between when the foreign exchanges or markets close and when the Funds compute their net asset values could cause the value of foreign equity securities to no longer be representative or accurate and, as a result, may necessitate that such securities be fair valued. Accordingly, for foreign equity securities, the Funds may use an independent pricing service to fair value price the security as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE. As a result, a Fund's value for a foreign security may be different from the last sale price (or the mean between the last reported bid and ask prices). As of December 31, 2020, fair valuation estimates for foreign equity securities were not obtained.

Fixed income securities are generally valued using evaluated prices provided by an independent pricing service. The evaluated prices are formed using various market inputs that the pricing service believes accurately represent the market value of a security at a particular point in time. The pricing service determines evaluated prices for fixed income securities using inputs including, but not limited to, recent transaction prices for such securities, dealer quotes, transaction prices for other securities with similar characteristics, collateral characteristics, credit quality, payment history, liquidity and market conditions.

Repurchase agreements are valued at cost, which approximates fair value.

Option contracts on securities, currencies and other financial instruments traded on one or more exchanges are valued at their most recent sale price on the exchange on which they are traded most extensively. Option contracts on foreign indices are valued at the settlement price. If there were no sales that day or if no settlement price is available, such option contracts are valued at

*December 31, 2020*

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**Notes to Financial Statements**


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the mean between the last reported bid and ask prices. Option contracts traded in the Over-the-Counter (“OTC”) market shall be valued by an independent pricing service. Futures contracts are valued at the most recent settlement price on the exchange on which they are traded most extensively, or if no settlement price is available, at the last sale price as of the close of the exchange. Forward foreign currency contracts are valued on the basis of the value of the underlying currencies at the prevailing currency exchange rate as supplied by an independent pricing service.

Swaps that are centrally cleared through an exchange are valued at the most recent settlement price provided by the exchange on which they are cleared. Total return swaps on equities, equity baskets, indices and other financial instruments are valued by an independent pricing service, or if unavailable, based on the security’s or instrument’s underlying reference asset. All other swap contracts are valued by an independent pricing service. Depending on the product and the terms of the transaction, the independent pricing service may use a series of techniques, including simulation pricing models. The pricing models use inputs that are observed from actively quoted markets such as issuer details, indices, spreads, interest rates, yield curves, dividends and exchange rates.

Securities, and other assets, for which a market price is not available or is deemed unreliable (e.g., securities affected by unusual or extraordinary events, such as natural disasters or securities affected by market or economic events, such as bankruptcy filings), or the value of which is affected by a significant valuation event, are valued at a fair value as determined in good faith by, or under the direction of, the Board of Trustees and in accordance with the Valuation Procedures approved by the Board of Trustees. The value of these fair valued securities may be different from the last sale price (or the mean between the last reported bid and ask prices), and there is no guarantee that a fair valued security will be sold at the price at which a Fund is carrying the security.

*(b) Fair Value Measurements*

Fair value is defined as the price that a Fund would receive upon selling a security in an orderly transaction to an independent buyer in the principal or most advantageous market for the investment. Various inputs are used in determining the value of a Fund’s investments. A three-tier hierarchy of inputs is used to classify fair value measurements for disclosure purposes. The three-tier hierarchy of inputs is summarized in the three broad levels listed below:

- Level 1—Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for an identical security.
- Level 2—Prices determined using other significant observable inputs. Observable inputs are inputs that other market participants would use in pricing a security. These may include quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, and others. In addition, other observable inputs such as foreign exchange rates, benchmark securities indices and foreign futures contracts may be utilized in the valuation of certain foreign securities when significant events occur between the last sale on the foreign securities exchange and the time at which the net asset value of the Fund is calculated.
- Level 3—Prices determined using significant unobservable inputs. In situations where quoted prices or observable inputs are unavailable (for example, when there is little or no market activity for an investment), unobservable inputs may be used. Unobservable inputs reflect the Fund’s own assumptions about the factors market participants would use in pricing an investment, and are based on the best information available.

The inputs or methodology used for valuing an investment are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities.

A description of the valuation methodologies applied to the Funds’ major categories of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis is as follows:

*Exchange-Traded Securities*

Securities traded on a national securities exchange (or reported on the NASDAQ national market), including exchange-traded funds, are stated at the last reported sales price on the day of valuation. Other securities traded in the over-the-counter market and listed securities for which no sale was reported on that date are stated at the mean between the last reported bid and ask prices. To the extent these securities are actively traded and valuation adjustments are not applied, they are categorized as Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy. Securities traded on inactive markets or valued by reference to similar instruments are generally categorized as Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

*Fixed Income Securities*

Fixed income securities including corporate, convertible and municipal bonds and notes, U.S. government agency obligations, U.S. treasury obligations, sovereign issues, bank loans, convertible preferred securities, asset-backed securities, non-U.S. bonds and commercial paper are generally valued using evaluated prices provided by an independent pricing service. The evaluated



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**Notes to Financial Statements**

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prices are formed using various market inputs that the pricing service believes accurately represent the fair value of a security at a particular point in time. The pricing service determines evaluated prices for fixed income securities using inputs including, but not limited to, recent transaction prices for such securities, dealer quotes, transaction prices for other securities with similar characteristics, collateral characteristics, credit quality, payment history, liquidity and market conditions. Securities that use similar valuation techniques and observable inputs as described above are categorized as Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

*Repurchase Agreements*

Repurchase agreements are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. Repurchase agreements are categorized as Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

*Derivative Instruments*

Listed derivatives, such as certain options and futures contracts, that are actively traded are valued based on quoted prices from the exchange on which they are traded most extensively and are categorized as Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy. OTC derivative contracts include forward foreign currency contracts, swap and certain option contracts related to interest rates, foreign currencies, the credit standing of reference entities, equity prices, or commodity prices. Depending on the product and the terms of the transaction, the fair value of OTC derivative products can be modeled by independent pricing services taking into account the counterparties' creditworthiness and using a series of techniques, including simulation models. Many pricing models do not entail material subjectivity because the methodologies employed do not necessitate significant judgments and the pricing inputs are observed from actively quoted markets, as is the case of forward foreign currency contracts and interest rate swaps. A substantial majority of OTC derivative products valued by a Fund using pricing models fall into this category and are categorized as Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

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As of December 31, 2020, the value of investments in securities and other financial instruments, segregated by their hierarchical input levels used in determining fair value and by security class or other financial instruments, are shown below (in thousands).

<u>Investments in securities</u>	<u>Growth</u>	<u>Large Cap Growth</u>	<u>Mid Cap Growth</u>	<u>Small-Mid Cap Core</u>
Level 1—Quoted prices				
Common Stocks	\$ 296,558	\$ 706,222	\$ 81,175	\$ 29,404
Level 2—Other significant observable inputs				
Repurchase Agreements	1,067	5,155	2,803	747
Level 3—Significant unobservable inputs				
None	—	—	—	—
<b>Total investments in securities</b>	<u>\$ 297,625</u>	<u>\$ 711,377</u>	<u>\$ 83,978</u>	<u>\$ 30,151</u>
	<u>Small-Mid Cap Growth</u>	<u>Small-Mid Cap Value</u>	<u>Small Cap Growth</u>	<u>Small Cap Value</u>
Level 1—Quoted prices				
Common Stocks	\$3,544,888	\$ 1,387	\$ 664,580	\$ 58,997
Level 2—Other significant observable inputs				
Repurchase Agreements	29,355	107	10,756	1,066
Level 3—Significant unobservable inputs				
None	—	—	—	—
<b>Total investments in securities</b>	<u>\$3,574,243</u>	<u>\$ 1,494</u>	<u>\$ 675,336</u>	<u>\$ 60,063</u>
	<u>Global Leaders</u>	<u>International Leaders</u>	<u>International Growth</u>	<u>Institutional International Growth</u>
Level 1—Quoted prices				
Common Stocks	\$ 120,020	\$1,078,665	\$2,293,445	\$1,312,948
Level 2—Other significant observable inputs				
Common Stocks	—	—	5,739	3,293
Repurchase Agreements	2,070	27,934	11,737	—
Level 3—Significant unobservable inputs				
None	—	—	—	—
<b>Total investments in securities</b>	<u>\$ 122,090</u>	<u>\$1,106,599</u>	<u>\$2,310,921</u>	<u>\$1,316,241</u>
	<u>International Small Cap Growth</u>	<u>Emerging Markets Leaders</u>	<u>Emerging Markets Growth</u>	<u>Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth</u>
Level 1—Quoted prices				
Common Stocks	\$ 331,487	\$ 260,941	\$1,178,224	\$ 294,256
Preferred Stocks	—	—	—	4,337
Level 2—Other significant observable inputs				
Common Stocks	—	—	—	5,012
Repurchase Agreements	2,805	2,667	15,886	3,667
Level 3—Significant unobservable inputs				
None	—	—	—	—
<b>Total investments in securities</b>	<u>\$ 334,292</u>	<u>\$ 263,608</u>	<u>\$1,194,110</u>	<u>\$ 307,272</u>

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**Notes to Financial Statements**


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<u>Investments in securities</u>	<u>Bond</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Low Duration</u>	<u>Macro Allocation</u>
Level 1—Quoted prices				
Exchange-Traded Funds	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 250,741
Common Stocks	—	—	—	11,938
Preferred Stocks	—	—	—	1,248
Level 2—Other significant observable inputs				
Asset-Backed Securities	4,163	3,328	16,535	—
Corporate Obligations	121,450	23,741	43,102	—
Foreign Government Bonds	—	—	—	19,241
Repurchase Agreements	4,615	—	880	13,901
U.S. Government and U.S. Government Agency	188,832	40,672	97,124	57,478
Level 3—Significant unobservable inputs				
None	—	—	—	—
<b>Total investments in securities</b>	<u><u>\$ 319,060</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 67,741</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 157,641</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 354,547</u></u>
<b>Other financial instruments</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
Level 1—Quoted prices				
Futures Contracts	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 466
Level 2—Other significant observable inputs				
Forward Foreign Currency Contracts	—	—	—	5,212
Swaps	—	—	—	645
Level 3—Significant unobservable inputs				
None	—	—	—	—
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Level 1—Quoted prices				
Futures Contracts	—	—	—	(6,505)
Level 2—Other significant observable inputs				
Forward Foreign Currency Contracts	—	—	—	(4,400)
Swaps	(878)	(324)	—	(73)
U.S. Government Agency	(10,680)	(2,136)	(5,340)	—
Level 3—Significant unobservable inputs				
None	—	—	—	—
<b>Total other financial instruments</b>	<u><u>\$ (11,558)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (2,460)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (5,340)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (4,655)</u></u>

See Portfolio of Investments for Sector Classification.

December 31, 2020

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**(4) Transactions with Affiliates***(a) Management and Expense Limitation Agreements*

Each Fund has a management agreement with the Adviser for investment management, clerical, bookkeeping and administrative services. Each Fund pays the Adviser an annual management fee, which is accrued daily and paid monthly, based on a specified percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets. Each Fund's annual management fee rate is as follows:

<b><u>U.S. Equity Funds</u></b>		<b><u>International Equity Funds</u></b>	
Growth	0.75%	International Leaders	0.85%
Large Cap Growth	0.60%	International Growth:	
Mid Cap Growth	0.90%	First \$250 million	1.10%
Small-Mid Cap Core	0.90%	Next \$2.25 billion	1.00%
Small-Mid Cap Growth	1.00%	Next \$2.5 billion	0.975%
Small-Mid Cap Value <sup>2</sup>	0.85%	Next \$5 billion	0.95%
Small Cap Growth	1.10%	Next \$5 billion	0.925%
Small Cap Value <sup>3</sup>	0.95%	In excess of \$15 billion	0.90%
		Institutional International Growth:	
		First \$500 million	1.00%
		Next \$500 million	0.95%
		Next \$1.5 billion	0.90%
		Next \$2.5 billion	0.875%
		Next \$5 billion	0.85%
		Next \$5 billion	0.825%
		In excess of \$15 billion	0.80%
		International Small Cap Growth	1.00%
		Emerging Markets Leaders	1.10%
		Emerging Markets Growth	1.10%
		Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth	1.10%
<b><u>Fixed Income Funds</u></b>			
Bond	0.30%		
Income <sup>1</sup> :			
First \$250 million	0.25%		
In excess of \$250 million	0.20%		
Low Duration	0.30%		
<b><u>Multi-Asset and Alternative Fund</u></b>			
Macro Allocation	0.80%		
<b><u>Global Equity Fund</u></b>			
Global Leaders	0.85%		

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<sup>1</sup> Management fee also includes a charge of 5% of gross income.

<sup>2</sup> Prior to May 1, 2020, the Small-Mid Cap Value Fund paid a management fee at a rate of 0.95% of the Fund's average daily net assets. Effective May 1, 2020, the management fee paid to the Adviser was reduced to 0.85%.

<sup>3</sup> Prior to May 1, 2020, the Small Cap Value Fund paid a management fee at a rate of 1.10% of the Fund's average daily net assets. Effective May 1, 2020, the management fee paid to the Adviser was reduced to 0.95%.



## Notes to Financial Statements

The Funds have also entered into an Amended and Restated Expense Limitation Agreement with the Adviser. Under the terms of the agreement, the Adviser will waive its management fee and/or reimburse a Fund for certain operating expenses, subject to certain excluded expenses, in excess of the agreed upon rate through April 30, 2021. The amount the Adviser owes a Fund as of the reporting date is recorded as Receivable from Adviser in the Statements of Assets and Liabilities. The Adviser reimburses the Funds on a monthly basis. The Adviser will waive fees and/or reimburse expenses to the extent that the total operating expenses for the stated class of the Funds, subject to certain excluded expenses, exceed the following rates (as a percentage of average daily net assets):

Fund	Class N		Class I		Institutional/Class R6	
	Effective May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021	Effective May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020	Effective May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021	Effective May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020	Effective May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021	Effective May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020
Growth	1.20%	1.20%	0.95%	0.95%	0.90%	0.90%
Large Cap Growth	0.90%	0.90%	0.65%	0.65%	0.60%	0.60%
Mid Cap Growth	1.20%	1.20%	0.95%	0.95%	0.90%	0.90%
Small-Mid Cap Core	N/A	N/A	0.95%	0.95% <sup>1</sup>	0.90%	0.90% <sup>1</sup>
Small-Mid Cap Growth	1.35%	1.35%	1.10%	1.10%	1.05%	1.05%
Small-Mid Cap Value	1.15%	1.25%	0.90%	1.00%	0.85%	0.95%
Small Cap Growth	1.50%	1.50%	1.25%	1.25%	1.20%	1.20%
Small Cap Value	1.25%	1.50%	1.00%	1.25%	0.95%	1.20%
Global Leaders	1.15%	1.15%	0.90%	0.90%	0.85%	0.85%
International Leaders	1.15%	1.15%	0.90%	0.90%	0.85%	0.85%
International Growth	1.45%	1.45%	1.20%	1.20%	1.15%	1.15%
Institutional International Growth	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.05%	1.05%
International Small Cap Growth	1.55%	1.55%	1.30%	1.30%	1.25%	1.25%
Emerging Markets Leaders	1.40%	1.40%	1.15%	1.15%	1.10%	1.10%
Emerging Markets Growth	1.60%	1.60%	1.35%	1.35%	1.30%	1.30%
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth	1.55%	1.55%	1.30%	1.30%	1.25%	1.25%
Bond	0.60%	0.60%	0.45%	0.45%	0.40%	0.40%
Income	0.85%	0.85%	0.70%	0.70%	0.65%	0.65%
Low Duration	0.55%	0.55%	0.40%	0.40%	0.35%	0.35%
Macro Allocation	1.25%	1.25%	1.00%	1.00%	0.95%	0.95%

<sup>1</sup> Effective October 1, 2019 (Commencement of Operations).

The fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements received by each class are reported in the Statements of Operations.

With respect to the Small-Mid Cap Core Fund, the Adviser is entitled to recoupment of previously waived fees and reimbursed expenses for a period of three years subsequent to October 1, 2019 (Commencement of Operations) to the extent that such recoupment does not cause the fund's annual operating expenses (after the recoupment is taken into account) to exceed both (1) the expense limit in place when such amounts were waived or reimbursed and (2) the fund's current expense limitation. The total amount available for recoupment as of December 31, 2020 is \$407 (in thousands).

### (b) Underwriting and Distribution Services Agreements

Pursuant to separate Underwriting and Distribution Agreements, WBC is the principal underwriter and distributor for the continuous offering of shares of the Trust and acts as agent of the Trust in the sale of its shares. The Underwriting Agreement provides that the Distributor will use its best efforts to distribute the Trust's shares. The Distributor is not compensated under the Underwriting Agreement.

Each Fund, except the Small-Mid Cap Core and Institutional International Growth Funds, has a Distribution Agreement with WBC for distribution services to the Funds' Class N shares. Each Fund pays WBC an annual fee, payable monthly, based on a specified percentage of its average daily net assets of Class N shares. The annual rate expressed as a percentage of average daily net assets for Class N is 0.25% for all Funds except the Bond, Income and Low Duration Funds, which is 0.15%. Pursuant to

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**Notes to Financial Statements**


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the Distribution Agreement, WBC enters into related selling group agreements with various firms at various rates for sales of the Funds' Class N shares.

**(5) Investment Transactions**

Investment transactions, excluding U.S. government securities and short-term securities, for the year ended December 31, 2020, were as follows (in thousands):

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Purchases</u>	<u>Sales</u>
Growth	\$ 116,745	\$ 155,562
Large Cap Growth	401,176	176,225
Mid Cap Growth	31,545	40,611
Small-Mid Cap Core	324,633	295,925
Small-Mid Cap Growth	1,600,068	1,691,732
Small-Mid Cap Value	7,100	9,975
Small Cap Growth	391,189	560,740
Small Cap Value	61,588	102,136
Global Leaders	34,793	97,095
International Leaders	492,663	247,422
International Growth	536,264	889,405
Institutional International Growth	479,595	1,381,725
International Small Cap Growth	171,661	221,305
Emerging Markets Leaders	106,152	136,668
Emerging Markets Growth	724,514	668,389
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth	317,810	365,681
Bond	231,469	202,890
Income	46,420	31,168
Low Duration	129,498	71,539
Macro Allocation	112,601	378,164

Investment transactions in U.S. government securities, excluding short-term securities, for the year ended December 31, 2020, were as follows (in thousands):

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Purchases</u>	<u>Sales</u>
Bond	\$ 30,788	\$ 6,465
Income	7,177	2,725
Low Duration	25,340	3,210
Macro Allocation	—	—

**(6) Financial Derivative Instruments**

Each Fund may use derivative instruments to maintain liquidity, to provide hedging, or in anticipation of changes in the composition of its portfolio holdings or as otherwise provided in each Fund's prospectus. Macro Allocation Fund may also use derivative instruments to obtain investment exposures. The derivative instruments held as of December 31, 2020, as disclosed in each Fund's Portfolios of Investments, are representative of each Fund's derivative instrument trading activity during the year ended December 31, 2020.

Derivative transactions carry counterparty risk as they are based on contracts between a Fund and the applicable counterparty. For exchange-traded or cleared derivative contracts, such counterparty risk is limited due to the role of the exchange or clearinghouse. OTC derivative contracts, however, are exposed to counterparty risk in the amount of unrealized gains, net of collateral held, for the duration of the contract.

Macro Allocation Fund is subject to certain netting arrangements through International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. Master Agreements and Credit Support Annexes ("ISDAs"). The ISDAs maintain provisions for general obligations, representations, agreements, collateral and events of default or termination. The ISDAs cover certain OTC derivative securities entered into by Macro Allocation Fund with various counterparties and allow Macro Allocation Fund to close out and net its total exposure to a counterparty in the event of a default.

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**Notes to Financial Statements**


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*Futures Contracts*

A futures contract provides for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified amount of a specific financial instrument for a specified price at a designated date, time and place. An index futures contract is an agreement pursuant to which the parties agree to take or make delivery of an amount of cash equal to the difference between the value of the index at the close of the last trading day of the contract and the price at which the index futures contract was originally written. A futures contract can be closed out prior to delivery by entering into an offsetting transaction in a matching futures contract. Although the value of an index might be a function of the value of certain specified securities, no physical delivery of those securities is made. If the offsetting purchase price is less than the original sale price, a Fund realizes a gain; if it is more, a Fund realizes a loss. Conversely, if the offsetting sale price is more than the original purchase price, a Fund realizes a gain; if it is less, a Fund realizes a loss. The transaction costs must also be included in these calculations. There can be no assurance, however, that a Fund will be able to enter into an offsetting transaction with respect to a particular futures contract at a particular time. If a Fund is not able to enter into an offsetting transaction, a Fund will continue to be required to maintain the margin deposits on the futures contract.

Upon entering into a futures contract, a Fund is required to pledge to the broker an amount of cash, U.S. government securities, or other liquid assets equal to a certain percentage of the contract amount ("initial margin deposit"). Futures contracts are marked to market daily and an appropriate payable or receivable for the change in value ("variation margin") is recorded by a Fund and a cash payment is either made to or received from the broker each day. Gains or losses on futures contracts are recognized but not considered realized until the contracts expire or are closed and are included in the Statement of Operations.

*Options*

The purchase or sale of an option by a Fund involves the payment or receipt of a premium by the investor and the corresponding right or obligation, as the case may be, either to purchase or sell the underlying security, commodity, or other instrument for a specific price at a certain time or during a certain period. Purchasing options involves the risk that the underlying instrument will not change price in the manner expected, so the investor loses its premium. Writing options involves potentially greater risk because the investor is exposed to the extent of the actual price movement in the underlying security rather than only the amount of the premium paid (which could result in a potentially unlimited loss). OTC options also involve counterparty credit risk. Purchased options are shown as an asset in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and are included in Investments in securities. Premiums received for written options are shown as a liability in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Realized gains and losses on the sale, expiration or assignment of an option are disclosed in the Statement of Operations.

*Forward Foreign Currency Contracts*

The Global Equity, International Equity and Multi-Asset and Alternative Funds may enter into forward foreign currency contracts. When entering into a forward foreign currency contract, a Fund agrees to receive or deliver a fixed quantity of foreign currency for an agreed-upon price on an agreed future date. A Fund's net equity therein, representing unrealized gain or loss on the contracts as measured by the difference between the forward foreign exchange rates at the dates of entry into the contracts and the forward rates at the reporting date, is included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as unrealized appreciation/depreciation on forward foreign currency contracts. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are included in the Statement of Operations. These instruments may involve market risk, credit risk, or both kinds of risks in excess of the amount recognized in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Risks arise from the possible inability of counterparties to meet the terms of their contracts and from the price movements in currencies.

*Swap Contracts*

Swap agreements may include total return, interest rate, securities index, commodity, security, currency exchange rate, credit default index, volatility and variance swaps. Cleared swaps are transacted through futures commission merchants that are members of central clearing houses with the clearing house serving as a central counterparty similar to transactions in futures contracts. In a standard "swap" transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of return) earned or realized on particular predetermined investments or instruments. The gross returns to be exchanged or "swapped" between the parties are calculated with respect to a "notional amount" (i.e., the change in the value of a particular dollar amount invested, for example, at a particular interest rate, in a particular foreign currency, or in a "basket" of securities representing a particular index). Swap agreements are subject to the risk that the counterparty to the swap will default on its obligation to pay a Fund and the risk that a Fund will not be able to meet its obligations to pay the counterparty to the swap. Swap agreements may also

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**Notes to Financial Statements**


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involve fees, commissions or other costs that may reduce a Fund's gains from a swap agreement or may cause a Fund to lose money. To the extent permitted by its investment policies and restrictions, a Fund may invest in the following types of swaps:

**Credit Default Swaps**—A Fund may invest in credit default swaps as a means of “buying” credit protection (i.e., attempting to mitigate the risk of default or credit quality deterioration in some portion of a Fund's holdings) or “selling” credit protection (i.e., attempting to gain exposure to an underlying issuer's credit quality characteristics without directly investing in that issuer). A credit default swap is a contract between a buyer and a seller of protection against a pre-defined credit event (e.g., a ratings downgrade or default) on an underlying reference obligation, which may be a single debt instrument or baskets or indices of securities. Under current regulatory requirements, a Fund may be a buyer or seller of a credit default swap. As a seller of protection on credit default swap agreements, a Fund will generally receive from the buyer of protection a fixed rate of income throughout the term of the swap provided that there is no credit event. A Fund adds leverage to its portfolio because the Fund is subject to investment exposure on the notional amount of the swap. The maximum potential amount of future payments that a Fund as a seller of protection could be required to make under a credit default swap agreement equals the notional amount of the agreement. Notional amounts of each individual credit default swap agreement outstanding as of the period end for which a Fund is the seller of protection are disclosed in the Fund's Portfolio of Investments. These potential amounts would be partially offset by any recovery values of the respective referenced obligations, upfront payments received upon entering into the agreement, or net amounts received from the settlement of buy protection credit default swap agreements entered into by the same Fund for the same referenced entity or entities. For credit default swap contracts on credit indices, the quoted market prices and resulting values serve as an indicator of the payment performance risk. Increasing market values, in absolute terms when compared to the notional amount of the swap, typically represent deterioration of the referenced entities' credit soundness and a greater likelihood or risk of default or other credit event occurring as defined under the terms of the swap.

**Interest Rate Swap**—A Fund may invest in interest rate swaps to gain or mitigate exposure to changes in interest rates. Interest rate swap agreements involve a commitment between parties to pay either a fixed interest rate or a floating interest rate based on a notional amount of principal. The parties make payments at predetermined intervals throughout the life of the swap. As a payer, a Fund would make the fixed payment and receive the floating payment. As a receiver, a Fund would make the floating payment and receive the fixed payment.

**Total Return Swap**—A Fund may invest in total return swaps to gain or mitigate exposure to an underlying security, or securities. Total return swap agreements may involve commitments to pay interest in exchange for the return on the underlying security, or securities. At maturity, a net cash flow is exchanged between the parties based on the total return of the underlying security, or securities, less a financing rate. As a receiver in the transaction, a Fund would receive a payment for a positive return and would make a payment for a negative return. As a payer in the transaction, a Fund would make a payment for a positive return and would receive a payment for a negative return.

**Variance Swap**—A Fund may invest in variance swaps in order to gain or mitigate its exposure to an underlying reference entity such as a broad based index. A variance swap is an agreement between two parties to exchange cash flows based on the measured variance of a reference entity. The payer agrees to exchange the fixed rate, which is the variance strike price of the reference entity, to the receiver for the floating rate, which is the realized variance price of the reference entity. At the time the trade is originated, the agreed upon variance strike price is generally set so that the fair value of the swap is near zero. At maturity, a net cash flow is exchanged between the parties based on the difference between the final realized variance price of the swap and the variance strike price multiplied by the notional, or vega amount. As a receiver of the floating rate, a Fund would receive a payment if the final realized variance price is greater than the variance strike price and would make a payment if the final realized variance price is less than the variance strike price. As a payer of the floating rate, a Fund would receive a payment if the final realized variance price is less than the variance strike price and would make a payment if the final realized variance price is greater than the variance strike price.

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**Notes to Financial Statements**


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The following table presents the value of financial derivative instruments, by Fund and primary risk exposure, as of December 31, 2020, and their respective location in the Statements of Assets and Liabilities (in thousands):

Fund and Primary Risk Exposure	Assets		Liabilities	
	Statements of Assets and Liabilities	Value	Statements of Assets and Liabilities	Value
<b>Bond</b>				
Credit	Receivable for variation margin on centrally cleared swaps <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ —	Payable for variation margin on centrally cleared swaps <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 878
<b>Income</b>				
Credit	Receivable for variation margin on centrally cleared swaps <sup>(1)</sup>	—	Payable for variation margin on centrally cleared swaps <sup>(1)</sup>	324
<b>Macro Allocation</b>				
Credit	Receivable for variation margin on centrally cleared swaps <sup>(1)</sup>	43	Payable for variation margin on centrally cleared swaps <sup>(1)</sup>	—
Currency	Unrealized appreciation on forward foreign currency contracts	5,212	Unrealized depreciation on forward foreign currency contracts	4,400
Equity	Receivable for futures variation margin <sup>(1)</sup>	466	Payable for futures variation margin <sup>(1)</sup>	6,488
Equity	Unrealized appreciation on swap contracts	340	Unrealized depreciation on swap contracts	71
Interest rate	Unrealized appreciation on swap contracts	69	Unrealized depreciation on swap contracts	2
Interest rate	Receivable for futures variation margin <sup>(1)</sup>	—	Payable for futures variation margin <sup>(1)</sup>	17
Interest rate	Receivable for variation margin on centrally cleared swaps <sup>(1)</sup>	193	Payable for variation margin on centrally cleared swaps <sup>(1)</sup>	—

(1) The table above includes cumulative appreciation/(depreciation) on futures contracts and centrally cleared swaps as reported in the applicable Fund's Portfolio of Investments. Receivable/payable for variation margin on futures contracts and centrally cleared swaps as reported in the applicable Fund's Statement of Assets and Liabilities represents the current day's variation margin.

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## Notes to Financial Statements

The following table indicates the effect of derivatives, by Fund and primary risk exposure, in the Statements of Operations for the year ended December 31, 2020 (in thousands):

Fund and Primary Risk Exposure	Net Realized Gain (Loss)		Change in Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)	
	Statements of Operations	Value	Statements of Operations	Value
<b>Small-Mid Cap Core</b>				
Equity	Futures contracts	\$ (640)	Futures contracts	\$ —
<b>Bond</b>				
Credit	Swaps	370	Swaps	(252)
<b>Income</b>				
Credit	Swaps	(26)	Swaps	(324)
<b>Low Duration</b>				
Credit	Swaps	(56)	Swaps	—
<b>Macro Allocation</b>				
Credit	Swaps	37	Swaps	(67)
Currency	Forward foreign currency contracts	(12,975)	Forward foreign currency contracts	3,624
Equity	Futures contracts	(35,796)	Futures contracts	(1,834)
Equity	Options	(6,041)	Options	—
Equity	Swaps	631	Swaps	(712)
Interest rate	Futures contracts	1,056	Futures contracts	775
Interest rate	Swaps	2,781	Swaps	340

The following table is a summary by counterparty of the derivative instruments and collateral pledged/(received) included in the Macro Allocation Fund's Statement of Assets and Liabilities at December 31, 2020 (in thousands):

Counterparty	Financial Derivative Assets			Financial Derivative Liabilities			Net Market Value	Collateral Pledged (Received)	Net Exposure
	Forward Foreign Currency Contracts	Swaps	Total	Forward Foreign Currency Contracts	Swaps	Total			
Citibank N.A.	\$5,212	\$ —	\$5,212	\$(4,400)	\$ —	\$(4,400)	\$812	\$(812)	\$ —
Credit Suisse	—	409	409	—	(73)	(73)	336	—	336
	<u>\$5,212</u>	<u>\$409</u>	<u>\$5,621</u>	<u>\$(4,400)</u>	<u>\$ (73)</u>	<u>\$(4,473)</u>			

The net exposure represents the amount due from/(due to) the counterparty in the event of default. Any net exposure is generally due to changes in market value of the underlying derivative instruments on the last day of the period as timing of collateral movement occurs the following day. For Citibank N.A., the table does not include additional collateral received in the amount of \$208 (in thousands). For Credit Suisse, the table does not include collateral pledged in the amount of \$1,146 (in thousands) that is necessary to cover initial margin requirements on OTC swap contracts.

## Notes to Financial Statements

### (7) Fund Share Transactions

The following tables summarize the activity in capital shares of each Fund for the year ended December 31, 2020 (in thousands):

Fund	Dollars				Class N Shares			
	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total
Growth	\$ 2,054	\$ 4,719	\$ 9,133	\$ (2,360)	199	428	907	(280)
Large Cap Growth	103,916	5,098	72,994	36,020	6,564	257	4,199	2,622
Mid Cap Growth	580	436	1,290	(274)	58	34	118	(26)
Small-Mid Cap Growth	52,389	5,571	146,798	(88,838)	2,096	172	5,868	(3,600)
Small-Mid Cap Value	34	2	222	(186)	5	—	26	(21)
Small Cap Growth	33,285	18,183	79,823	(28,355)	1,253	536	3,063	(1,274)
Small Cap Value	1,442	2,112	5,248	(1,694)	132	176	465	(157)
Global Leaders	1,294	1,318	1,082	1,530	79	76	71	84
International Leaders	13,189	140	7,585	5,744	660	6	420	246
International Growth	35,689	2,302	270,854	(232,863)	1,431	60	10,703	(9,212)
International Small Cap								
Growth	156	57	1,156	(943)	12	3	101	(86)
Emerging Markets Leaders	4,442	16	4,880	(422)	432	1	474	(41)
Emerging Markets Growth	11,134	382	3,715	7,801	677	21	259	439
Emerging Markets Small Cap								
Growth	97	—	1,036	(939)	5	—	67	(62)
Bond	17,987	1,085	12,752	6,320	1,685	102	1,228	559
Income	9,681	538	7,582	2,637	1,117	62	875	304
Low Duration	21,451	185	9,322	12,314	2,468	21	1,074	1,415
Macro Allocation	1,054	78	6,566	(5,434)	97	7	602	(498)

Fund	Dollars				Class I Shares			
	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total
Growth	\$ 14,750	\$26,685	\$ 54,977	\$ (13,542)	1,235	1,980	4,530	(1,315)
Large Cap Growth	219,016	11,860	185,086	45,790	12,682	563	9,216	4,029
Mid Cap Growth	10,548	5,059	17,687	(2,080)	885	363	1,472	(224)
Small-Mid Cap Core	265,306	—	236,282	29,024	24,899	—	23,271	1,628
Small-Mid Cap Growth	704,716	50,709	850,114	(94,689)	25,299	1,466	31,213	(4,448)
Small-Mid Cap Value	3,110	27	6,035	(2,898)	300	3	833	(530)
Small Cap Growth	53,293	34,928	185,988	(97,767)	1,750	902	6,319	(3,667)
Small Cap Value	13,215	25,566	100,768	(61,987)	1,144	2,043	9,063	(5,876)
Global Leaders	12,040	12,211	46,586	(22,335)	853	705	3,092	(1,534)
International Leaders	216,096	2,810	68,924	149,982	10,917	125	3,796	7,246
International Growth	272,612	19,944	417,516	(124,960)	10,406	512	13,740	(2,822)
International Small Cap								
Growth	23,282	2,718	51,685	(25,685)	1,680	158	3,837	(1,999)
Emerging Markets Leaders	15,739	590	10,915	5,414	1,480	45	1,115	410
Emerging Markets Growth	28,566	4,194	18,435	14,325	1,793	230	1,249	774
Emerging Markets Small Cap								
Growth	17,451	62	44,837	(27,324)	1,057	3	2,759	(1,699)
Bond	71,936	5,973	59,078	18,831	6,799	567	5,669	1,697
Income	23,843	930	11,163	13,610	2,754	108	1,297	1,565
Low Duration	111,572	1,820	46,902	66,490	12,854	210	5,414	7,650
Macro Allocation	46,704	2,087	218,856	(170,065)	4,300	192	20,335	(15,843)

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## Notes to Financial Statements

Fund	Institutional/Class R6							
	Dollars				Shares			
	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total
Growth	\$ 11,384	\$ 1,332	\$ 1,426	\$ 11,290	868	99	105	862
Large Cap Growth	171,386	5,663	4,494	172,555	8,196	269	225	8,240
Mid Cap Growth	361	42	—	403	29	3	—	32
Small-Mid Cap Core	901	—	43	858	93	—	5	88
Small-Mid Cap Growth	72,243	1,722	15,219	58,746	2,470	50	497	2,023
Small-Mid Cap Value	127	8	5	130	12	1	—	13
Small Cap Growth	27,131	8,907	15,142	20,896	748	230	466	512
Small Cap Value	8,341	200	599	7,942	758	16	51	723
Global Leaders	3,767	323	50,716	(46,626)	263	19	3,336	(3,054)
International Leaders	161,317	5,704	68,132	98,889	8,186	253	3,738	4,701
International Growth	37,075	1,007	12,279	25,803	1,104	26	414	716
Institutional International								
Growth	148,064	150,369	1,102,278	(803,845)	8,792	7,511	60,324	(44,021)
International Small Cap								
Growth	19,209	3,641	35,644	(12,794)	1,297	210	2,453	(946)
Emerging Markets Leaders	40,847	2,293	78,532	(35,392)	3,598	175	7,041	(3,268)
Emerging Markets Growth	278,462	39,570	225,547	92,485	18,092	2,152	14,653	5,591
Emerging Markets Small Cap								
Growth	54,151	129	71,930	(17,650)	3,232	6	4,178	(940)
Bond	5,988	1,653	4,616	3,025	568	157	437	288
Income	16	2	—	18	2	—	—	2
Low Duration	33,079	644	29,885	3,838	3,815	74	3,442	447
Macro Allocation	28,210	2,521	212,589	(181,858)	2,528	232	19,934	(17,174)

### Net Change in Net Assets Relating to Fund Share Activity

Fund	Dollars				Shares			
	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total
Growth	\$ 28,188	\$ 32,736	\$ 65,536	\$ (4,612)	2,302	2,507	5,542	(733)
Large Cap Growth	494,318	22,621	262,574	254,365	27,442	1,089	13,640	14,891
Mid Cap Growth	11,489	5,537	18,977	(1,951)	972	400	1,590	(218)
Small-Mid Cap Core	266,207	—	236,325	29,882	24,992	—	23,276	1,716
Small-Mid Cap Growth	829,348	58,002	1,012,131	(124,781)	29,865	1,688	37,578	(6,025)
Small-Mid Cap Value	3,271	37	6,262	(2,954)	317	4	859	(538)
Small Cap Growth	113,709	62,018	280,953	(105,226)	3,751	1,668	9,848	(4,429)
Small Cap Value	22,998	27,878	106,615	(55,739)	2,034	2,235	9,579	(5,310)
Global Leaders	17,101	13,852	98,384	(67,431)	1,195	800	6,499	(4,504)
International Leaders	390,602	8,654	144,641	254,615	19,763	384	7,954	12,193
International Growth	345,376	23,253	700,649	(332,020)	12,941	598	24,857	(11,318)
Institutional International								
Growth	148,064	150,369	1,102,278	(803,845)	8,792	7,511	60,324	(44,021)
International Small Cap								
Growth	42,647	6,416	88,485	(39,422)	2,989	371	6,391	(3,031)
Emerging Markets Leaders	61,028	2,899	94,327	(30,400)	5,510	221	8,630	(2,899)
Emerging Markets Growth	318,162	44,146	247,697	114,611	20,562	2,403	16,161	6,804
Emerging Markets Small Cap								
Growth	71,699	191	117,803	(45,913)	4,294	9	7,004	(2,701)
Bond	95,911	8,711	76,446	28,176	9,052	826	7,334	2,544
Income	33,540	1,470	18,745	16,265	3,873	170	2,172	1,871
Low Duration	166,102	2,649	86,109	82,642	19,137	305	9,930	9,512
Macro Allocation	75,968	4,686	438,011	(357,357)	6,925	431	40,871	(33,515)



## Notes to Financial Statements

The following tables summarize the activity in capital shares of each Fund for the year ended December 31, 2019 (in thousands):

Fund	Dollars				Class N Shares			
	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total
Growth	\$ 4,699	\$ 3,142	\$ 21,051	\$ (13,210)	512	339	2,242	(1,391)
Large Cap Growth	33,843	3,913	25,920	11,836	2,320	263	1,756	827
Mid Cap Growth	476	431	1,578	(671)	43	40	143	(60)
Small-Mid Cap Growth	74,019	23,898	268,742	(170,825)	2,970	946	11,034	(7,118)
Small-Mid Cap Value	102	6	76	32	10	—	7	3
Small Cap Growth	57,125	4,113	83,288	(22,050)	2,151	150	3,066	(765)
Small Cap Value	2,377	495	9,131	(6,259)	138	29	531	(364)
Global Leaders	953	98	1,463	(412)	72	7	112	(33)
International Leaders	2,342	37	2,610	(231)	145	2	161	(14)
International Growth	44,662	5,263	133,868	(83,943)	1,723	183	5,050	(3,144)
International Small Cap Growth	76	3	908	(829)	7	—	75	(68)
Emerging Markets Leaders	3,645	11	4,555	(899)	388	1	483	(94)
Emerging Markets Growth	1,739	300	2,909	(870)	142	23	231	(66)
Emerging Markets Small Cap								
Growth	561	—	6,536	(5,975)	37	—	440	(403)
Bond	13,853	2,166	58,587	(42,568)	1,355	212	5,682	(4,115)
Income	2,090	686	6,085	(3,309)	245	80	714	(389)
Low Duration	613	53	809	(143)	70	6	93	(17)
Macro Allocation	6,932	489	37,706	(30,285)	607	43	3,261	(2,611)

Fund	Dollars				Class I Shares			
	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total
Growth	\$ 16,720	\$ 17,115	\$ 41,128	\$ (7,293)	1,519	1,552	3,712	(641)
Large Cap Growth	87,517	9,125	36,804	59,838	5,611	578	2,424	3,765
Mid Cap Growth	9,653	5,374	11,067	3,960	818	460	945	333
Small-Mid Cap Core (a)	1,600	1	1	1,600	155	—	—	155
Small-Mid Cap Growth	722,356	166,901	775,495	113,762	27,182	6,225	29,057	4,350
Small-Mid Cap Value	6,397	130	1,342	5,185	589	12	125	476
Small Cap Growth	137,860	8,577	216,223	(69,786)	4,617	278	7,091	(2,196)
Small Cap Value	47,012	14,487	449,289	(387,790)	2,655	811	25,120	(21,654)
Global Leaders	13,378	1,486	9,732	5,132	983	102	710	375
International Leaders	93,939	938	21,157	73,720	5,758	53	1,312	4,499
International Growth	187,914	18,095	720,429	(514,420)	7,104	614	26,516	(18,798)
International Small Cap Growth	37,548	370	104,497	(66,579)	3,181	27	8,815	(5,607)
Emerging Markets Leaders	11,138	376	10,689	825	1,144	37	1,102	79
Emerging Markets Growth	6,749	2,839	31,465	(21,877)	529	211	2,480	(1,740)
Emerging Markets Small Cap								
Growth	34,235	217	89,550	(55,098)	2,330	13	5,987	(3,644)
Bond	63,530	8,645	165,844	(93,669)	6,285	855	16,289	(9,149)
Income	15,837	1,281	21,322	(4,204)	1,889	151	2,517	(477)
Low Duration	5,864	1,972	25,726	(17,890)	673	226	2,953	(2,054)
Macro Allocation	95,661	13,901	238,819	(129,257)	8,287	1,233	20,648	(11,128)

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## Notes to Financial Statements

Fund	Institutional/Class R6							
	Dollars				Shares			
	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total
Growth (b)	\$ 253	\$ 17	\$ 50	\$ 220	21	2	4	19
Large Cap Growth (b)	1,614	96	103	1,607	98	6	6	98
Mid Cap Growth (b)	185	12	50	147	15	1	4	12
Small-Mid Cap Core (a)	4,638	3	23	4,618	464	—	2	462
Small-Mid Cap Growth (b)	39,365	2,655	1,015	41,005	1,417	99	36	1,480
Small-Mid Cap Value (b)	569	3	395	177	52	—	37	15
Small Cap Growth (b)	70,364	1,345	6,230	65,479	2,272	44	202	2,114
Small Cap Value (b)	594	16	95	515	32	1	5	28
Global Leaders	2,233	657	54,453	(51,563)	167	45	3,935	(3,723)
International Leaders	54,037	2,274	25,678	30,633	3,363	129	1,540	1,952
International Growth (b)	57,826	819	2,257	56,388	2,087	28	77	2,038
Institutional International								
Growth	192,878	17,852	574,855	(364,125)	12,482	1,060	37,590	(24,048)
International Small Cap								
Growth	8,293	596	66,807	(57,918)	690	44	5,534	(4,800)
Emerging Markets Leaders	23,896	1,819	39,496	(13,781)	2,519	179	4,094	(1,396)
Emerging Markets Growth	163,145	23,530	277,695	(91,020)	12,739	1,737	21,289	(6,813)
Emerging Markets Small Cap								
Growth	26,072	248	15,489	10,831	1,756	15	1,035	736
Bond	3,036	2,432	37,075	(31,607)	304	241	3,654	(3,109)
Income (b)	50	1	—	51	6	—	—	6
Low Duration	7,532	921	19,111	(10,658)	863	106	2,191	(1,222)
Macro Allocation	120,202	13,341	147,745	(14,202)	10,415	1,183	12,734	(1,136)

Fund	Net Change in Net Assets Relating to Fund Share Activity							
	Dollars				Shares			
	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total	Sales	Reinvest	Redemptions	Total
Growth	\$ 21,672	\$ 20,274	\$ 62,229	\$ (20,283)	2,052	1,893	5,958	(2,013)
Large Cap Growth	122,974	13,134	62,827	73,281	8,029	847	4,186	4,690
Mid Cap Growth	10,314	5,817	12,695	3,436	876	501	1,092	285
Small-Mid Cap Core (a)	6,238	4	24	6,218	619	—	2	617
Small-Mid Cap Growth	835,740	193,454	1,045,252	(16,058)	31,569	7,270	40,127	(1,288)
Small-Mid Cap Value	7,068	139	1,813	5,394	651	12	169	494
Small Cap Growth	265,349	14,035	305,741	(26,357)	9,040	472	10,359	(847)
Small Cap Value	49,983	14,998	458,515	(393,534)	2,825	841	25,656	(21,990)
Global Leaders	16,564	2,241	65,648	(46,843)	1,222	154	4,757	(3,381)
International Leaders	150,318	3,249	49,445	104,122	9,266	184	3,013	6,437
International Growth	290,402	24,177	856,554	(541,975)	10,914	825	31,643	(19,904)
Institutional International								
Growth	192,878	17,852	574,855	(364,125)	12,482	1,060	37,590	(24,048)
International Small Cap								
Growth	45,917	969	172,212	(125,326)	3,878	71	14,424	(10,475)
Emerging Markets Leaders	38,679	2,206	54,740	(13,855)	4,051	217	5,679	(1,411)
Emerging Markets Growth	171,633	26,669	312,069	(113,767)	13,410	1,971	24,000	(8,619)
Emerging Markets Small Cap								
Growth	60,868	465	111,575	(50,242)	4,123	28	7,462	(3,311)
Bond	80,419	13,243	261,506	(167,844)	7,944	1,308	25,625	(16,373)
Income	17,977	1,968	27,407	(7,462)	2,140	231	3,231	(860)
Low Duration	14,009	2,946	45,646	(28,691)	1,606	338	5,237	(3,293)
Macro Allocation	222,795	27,731	424,270	(173,744)	19,309	2,459	36,643	(14,875)

(a) For the period from October 1, 2019 (Commencement of Operations) to December 31, 2019.

(b) For the period from May 2, 2019 (Commencement of Operations) to December 31, 2019.

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**Notes to Financial Statements**

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**(8) Subsequent Events**

On February 23, 2021, upon the recommendation of the Adviser, the Funds' Board of Trustees determined that it was in the best interest of Small-Mid Cap Value Fund to redeem all shares of Small-Mid Cap Value Fund outstanding on or before April 15, 2021, and then to terminate Small-Mid Cap Value Fund.

The Funds have evaluated subsequent events through the date of issuance of the Funds' financial statements and have determined there are no other impacts to the Funds' financial statements.

*December 31, 2020*

*William Blair Funds* **135**

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Growth Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 9.45	\$ 7.91	\$ 10.27	\$ 11.41	\$ 12.52
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.05)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.02)	(0.02)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	3.43	2.54	0.75	2.78	(0.08)
Total from investment operations	3.38	2.51	0.71	2.76	(0.10)
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	—	—	—	—	—
Net realized gain	1.68	0.97	3.07	3.90	1.01
Total distributions	1.68	0.97	3.07	3.90	1.01
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 11.15	\$ 9.45	\$ 7.91	\$ 10.27	\$ 11.41
Total return (%)	35.97	31.97	5.10	24.35	(0.98)
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.26	1.24	1.22	1.20	1.21
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.21
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.55)	(0.35)	(0.36)	(0.14)	(0.15)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.49)	(0.31)	(0.34)	(0.14)	(0.15)
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 35,494	\$ 32,710	\$ 38,370	\$ 34,886	\$ 62,936
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	46	39	46	38	79

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 11.25	\$ 9.25	\$ 11.51	\$ 12.39	\$ 13.50
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.03)	(0.00) <sup>^</sup>	(0.01)	0.02	0.03
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	4.10	2.97	0.82	3.02	(0.10)
Total from investment operations	4.07	2.97	0.81	3.04	(0.07)
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	—	—	0.00 <sup>^</sup>	0.02	0.03
Net realized gain	1.68	0.97	3.07	3.90	1.01
Total distributions	1.68	0.97	3.07	3.92	1.04
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 13.64	\$ 11.25	\$ 9.25	\$ 11.51	\$ 12.39
Total return (%)	36.35	32.32	5.42	24.64	(0.69)
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses	0.93	0.92	0.91	0.92	0.90
Net investment income (loss)	(0.23)	(0.03)	(0.06)	0.12	0.20
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$249,716	\$220,660	\$187,306	\$318,848	\$514,870
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	46	39	46	38	79

<sup>^</sup> Amount is less than \$0.005 per share.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Growth Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>	
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019(a)</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 11.26	\$ 11.06
Income (loss) from investment operations:		
Net investment income (loss)	(0.03)	(0.00)^
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	4.12	1.17
Total from investment operations	4.09	1.17
Less distributions from:		
Net investment income	—	—
Net realized gain	1.68	0.97
Total distributions	1.68	0.97
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 13.67	\$ 11.26
Total return (%)*	36.50	10.75
Ratios to average daily net assets (%)**:		
Expenses	0.87	0.88
Net investment income (loss)	(0.23)	(0.06)
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 12,041	\$ 217
Portfolio turnover rate (%)*	46	39

(a) For the period from May 2, 2019 (Commencement of Operations) to December 31, 2019.

\* Rates are not annualized for periods less than a year.

\*\* Rates are annualized for periods less than a year.

^ Amount is less than \$0.005 per share.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Large Cap Growth Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 15.27	\$ 11.99	\$ 13.35	\$ 10.26	\$ 10.15
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.01	0.00 <sup>^</sup>	(0.02)	(0.02)	0.02
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.52	4.29	0.81	3.19	0.18
Total from investment operations	5.53	4.29	0.79	3.17	0.20
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.00 <sup>^</sup>	0.01	—	—	0.01
Net realized gain	0.77	1.00	2.15	0.08	0.08
Total distributions	0.77	1.01	2.15	0.08	0.09
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 20.03	\$ 15.27	\$ 11.99	\$ 13.35	\$ 10.26
Total return (%)	36.30	36.00	4.96	30.88	1.97
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.09	1.12	1.21	1.19	1.23
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.90	0.95	1.05	1.05	1.05
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.15)	(0.14)	(0.33)	(0.27)	(0.01)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.04	0.03	(0.17)	(0.13)	0.17
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 138,152	\$ 65,314	\$ 41,361	\$ 25,604	\$ 11,860
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	35	37	47	29	44

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 16.19	\$ 12.66	\$ 13.97	\$ 10.70	\$ 10.58
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.06	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.04
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.85	4.54	0.85	3.33	0.19
Total from investment operations	5.91	4.58	0.86	3.35	0.23
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.04	0.05	0.02	—	0.03
Net realized gain	0.77	1.00	2.15	0.08	0.08
Total distributions	0.81	1.05	2.17	0.08	0.11
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 21.29	\$ 16.19	\$ 12.66	\$ 13.97	\$ 10.70
Total return (%)	36.59	36.35	5.21	31.29	2.22
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	0.80	0.81	0.90	0.90	0.91
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.65	0.70	0.80	0.80	0.80
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	0.16	0.16	(0.01)	0.03	0.30
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.31	0.27	0.09	0.13	0.41
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 397,370	\$ 236,930	\$ 137,599	\$ 177,959	\$ 110,475
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	35	37	47	29	44

<sup>^</sup> Amount is less than \$0.005 per share.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Large Cap Growth Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>	
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019(a)</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 16.17	\$ 15.12
Income (loss) from investment operations:		
Net investment income (loss)	0.01	0.04
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.91	2.07
Total from investment operations	5.92	2.11
Less distributions from:		
Net investment income	0.05	0.06
Net realized gain	0.77	1.00
Total distributions	0.82	1.06
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 21.27	\$ 16.17
Total return (%)*	36.70	14.13
Ratios to average daily net assets (%)**:		
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	0.70	0.71
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.60	0.60
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.03)	0.22
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.07	0.33
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 177,347	\$ 1,590
Portfolio turnover rate (%)*	35	37

(a) For the period from May 2, 2019 (Commencement of Operations) to December 31, 2019.

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\*\* Rates are annualized for periods less than a year.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Mid Cap Growth Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 10.99	\$ 8.87	\$ 10.92	\$ 10.69	\$ 11.28
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.08)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.08)	(0.06)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	3.01	3.22	0.03	2.29	0.09
Total from investment operations	2.93	3.17	(0.03)	2.21	0.03
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	—	—	—	—	—
Net realized gain	1.03	1.05	2.02	1.98	0.62
Total distributions	1.03	1.05	2.02	1.98	0.62
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 12.89	\$ 10.99	\$ 8.87	\$ 10.92	\$ 10.69
Total return (%)	26.80	36.02	(1.20)	20.88	0.23
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.54	1.51	1.57	1.49	1.45
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.20	1.20	1.23	1.30	1.30
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(1.06)	(0.79)	(0.85)	(0.84)	(0.68)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.72)	(0.48)	(0.51)	(0.65)	(0.53)
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 6,074	\$ 5,465	\$ 4,944	\$ 6,166	\$ 16,234
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	45	43	58	59	60

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 11.93	\$ 9.55	\$ 11.57	\$ 11.20	\$ 11.76
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.06)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.05)	(0.03)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	3.29	3.46	0.03	2.40	0.09
Total from investment operations	3.23	3.43	—	2.35	0.06
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	—	—	—	—	—
Net realized gain	1.03	1.05	2.02	1.98	0.62
Total distributions	1.03	1.05	2.02	1.98	0.62
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 14.13	\$ 11.93	\$ 9.55	\$ 11.57	\$ 11.20
Total return (%)	27.21	36.17	(0.86)	21.18	0.48
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.29	1.28	1.31	1.23	1.18
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.95	0.95	0.98	1.05	1.05
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.80)	(0.56)	(0.58)	(0.58)	(0.39)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.46)	(0.23)	(0.25)	(0.40)	(0.26)
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$77,273	\$67,936	\$51,173	\$71,369	\$119,424
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	45	43	58	59	60

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Mid Cap Growth Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>	
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019(a)</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 11.94	\$ 11.93
Income (loss) from investment operations:		
Net investment income (loss)	(0.06)	(0.01)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	3.29	1.07
Total from investment operations	3.23	1.06
Less distributions from:		
Net investment income	—	—
Net realized gain	1.03	1.05
Total distributions	1.03	1.05
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 14.14	\$ 11.94
Total return (%)*	27.18	9.10
Ratios to average daily net assets (%)**:		
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.16	1.14
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.90	0.90
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.70)	(0.41)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.44)	(0.17)
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 623	\$ 145
Portfolio turnover rate (%)*	45	43

(a) For the period from May 2, 2019 (Commencement of Operations) to December 31, 2019.

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\*\* Rates are annualized for periods less than a year.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Small-Mid Cap Core Fund**

	<b>Class I</b>	
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019(a)</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 10.68	\$ 10.00
Income (loss) from investment operations:		
Net investment income (loss)	0.00 <sup>^</sup>	0.02
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	2.20	0.67
Total from investment operations	2.20	0.69
Less distributions from:		
Net investment income	—	0.01
Net realized gain	—	—
Total distributions	—	0.01
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 12.88	\$ 10.68
Total return (%) <sup>*</sup>	20.60	6.87
Ratios to average daily net assets (%) <sup>**</sup> :		
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.22	3.92
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.95	0.95
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.27)	(2.23)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.00	0.74
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$22,958	\$ 1,655
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>*</sup>	244	12

	<b>Class R6</b>	
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019(a)</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 10.68	\$ 10.00
Income (loss) from investment operations:		
Net investment income (loss)	0.01	0.01
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	2.19	0.68
Total from investment operations	2.20	0.69
Less distributions from:		
Net investment income	0.00 <sup>^</sup>	0.01
Net realized gain	—	—
Total distributions	0.00 <sup>^</sup>	0.01
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 12.88	\$ 10.68
Total return (%) <sup>*</sup>	20.60	6.88
Ratios to average daily net assets (%) <sup>**</sup> :		
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.07	3.92
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.90	0.90
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.11)	(2.71)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.06	0.31
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 7,087	\$ 4,933
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>*</sup>	244	12

(a) For the period from October 1, 2019 (Commencement of Operations) to December 31, 2019.

<sup>\*</sup> Rates are not annualized for periods less than a year.<sup>\*\*</sup> Rates are annualized for periods less than a year.<sup>^</sup> Amount is less than \$0.005 per share.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 25.41	\$ 20.97	\$ 23.36	\$ 19.20	\$ 18.53
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.24)	(0.20)	(0.18)	(0.16)	(0.09)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	8.37	6.56	(0.25)	5.62	1.29
Total from investment operations	8.13	6.36	(0.43)	5.46	1.20
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	—	—	—	—	—
Net realized gain	0.58	1.92	1.96	1.30	0.53
Total distributions	0.58	1.92	1.96	1.30	0.53
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 32.96	\$ 25.41	\$ 20.97	\$ 23.36	\$ 19.20
Total return (%)	32.04	30.41	(2.29)	28.57	6.45
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.45	1.43	1.44	1.43	1.43
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(1.01)	(0.88)	(0.81)	(0.82)	(0.59)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.91)	(0.80)	(0.72)	(0.74)	(0.51)
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 314,572	\$ 334,017	\$ 424,865	\$ 228,828	\$ 171,638
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	55	56	46	64	66

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 26.99	\$ 22.12	\$ 24.48	\$ 20.02	\$ 19.25
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.19)	(0.14)	(0.12)	(0.11)	(0.05)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	8.91	6.93	(0.28)	5.87	1.35
Total from investment operations	8.72	6.79	(0.40)	5.76	1.30
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	—	—	—	—	—
Net realized gain	0.58	1.92	1.96	1.30	0.53
Total distributions	0.58	1.92	1.96	1.30	0.53
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 35.13	\$ 26.99	\$ 22.12	\$ 24.48	\$ 20.02
Total return (%)	32.35	30.77	(2.06)	28.90	6.72
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.17	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.73)	(0.59)	(0.53)	(0.55)	(0.34)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.66)	(0.53)	(0.47)	(0.49)	(0.28)
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$3,139,290	\$2,531,823	\$1,979,105	\$1,576,180	\$1,090,939
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	55	56	46	64	66

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>	
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019(a)</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 27.01	\$ 26.76
Income (loss) from investment operations:		
Net investment income (loss)	(0.17)	(0.09)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	8.92	2.26
Total from investment operations	8.75	2.17
Less distributions from:		
Net investment income	—	—
Net realized gain	0.58	1.92
Total distributions	0.58	1.92
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 35.18	\$ 27.01
Total return (%)*	32.44	8.17
Ratios to average daily net assets (%)**:		
Expenses	1.05	1.05
Net investment income (loss)	(0.61)	(0.46)
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 123,220	\$ 39,974
Portfolio turnover rate (%)*	55	56

(a) For the period from May 2, 2019 (Commencement of Operations) to December 31, 2019.

\* Rates are not annualized for periods less than a year.

\*\* Rates are annualized for periods less than a year.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Small-Mid Cap Value Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 11.22	\$ 9.31	\$ 14.31	\$ 14.53	\$ 12.54
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.04	0.04
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(0.66)	2.00	(2.08)	1.33	2.55
Total from investment operations	(0.57)	2.10	(1.99)	1.37	2.59
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.16	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01
Net realized gain	0.06	0.16	2.98	1.57	0.59
Total distributions	0.22	0.19	3.01	1.59	0.60
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$ 10.43</u>	<u>\$ 11.22</u>	<u>\$ 9.31</u>	<u>\$ 14.31</u>	<u>\$ 14.53</u>
Total return (%)	(5.09)	22.77	(15.32)	9.59	20.69
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	7.94	6.76	6.88	4.83	4.15
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.18	1.25	1.28	1.35	1.35
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(5.84)	(4.59)	(4.97)	(3.21)	(2.51)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.92	0.92	0.63	0.27	0.29
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 77	\$ 315	\$ 234	\$ 284	\$ 267
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	225	107	104	70	45

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 11.13	\$ 9.23	\$ 14.24	\$ 14.47	\$ 12.54
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.11	0.14	0.11	0.07	0.08
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(0.62)	1.98	(2.06)	1.33	2.55
Total from investment operations	(0.51)	2.12	(1.95)	1.40	2.63
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.21	0.06	0.08	0.06	0.11
Net realized gain	0.06	0.16	2.98	1.57	0.59
Total distributions	0.27	0.22	3.06	1.63	0.70
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$ 10.35</u>	<u>\$ 11.13</u>	<u>\$ 9.23</u>	<u>\$ 14.24</u>	<u>\$ 14.47</u>
Total return (%)	(4.53)	23.00	(15.03)	9.84	21.00
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	7.62	6.45	6.54	4.55	3.92
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.93	1.00	1.03	1.10	1.10
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(5.55)	(4.13)	(4.69)	(2.94)	(2.20)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	1.14	1.32	0.82	0.51	0.62
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 1,067	\$ 7,042	\$ 1,445	\$ 3,359	\$ 3,186
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	225	107	104	70	45

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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William Blair Funds **145**

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Small-Mid Cap Value Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>	
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019(a)</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 11.13	\$ 10.93
Income (loss) from investment operations:		
Net investment income (loss)	0.10	0.11
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(0.63)	0.31
Total from investment operations	(0.53)	0.42
Less distributions from:		
Net investment income	0.23	0.06
Net realized gain	0.06	0.16
Total distributions	0.29	0.22
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 10.31	\$ 11.13
Total Return (%)*	(4.77)	3.89
Ratios to average daily net assets (%)**:		
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	7.54	4.85
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.88	0.95
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(5.57)	(2.41)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	1.09	1.49
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 293	\$ 171
Portfolio turnover rate (%)*	225	107

(a) For the period from May 2, 2019 (Commencement of Operations) to December 31, 2019.

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\*\* Rates are annualized for periods less than a year.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Small Cap Growth Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 27.75	\$ 23.23	\$ 26.87	\$ 25.24	\$ 22.47
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.29)	(0.24)	(0.27)	(0.25)	(0.18)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	10.86	5.40	(0.10)	6.88	4.43
Total from investment operations	10.57	5.16	(0.37)	6.63	4.25
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	—	—	—	—	—
Net realized gain	3.83	0.64	3.27	5.00	1.48
Total distributions	3.83	0.64	3.27	5.00	1.48
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 34.49	\$ 27.75	\$ 23.23	\$ 26.87	\$ 25.24
Total return (%)	38.32	22.26	(2.14)	26.70	18.89
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.58	1.54	1.55	1.54	1.55
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(1.10)	(0.92)	(0.94)	(0.93)	(0.84)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(1.02)	(0.88)	(0.89)	(0.89)	(0.79)
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 180,635	\$ 180,706	\$ 169,074	\$ 146,291	\$ 117,068
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	71	51	74	81	90

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 31.19	\$ 25.99	\$ 29.61	\$ 27.34	\$ 24.17
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.24)	(0.19)	(0.21)	(0.20)	(0.13)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	12.24	6.03	(0.14)	7.47	4.78
Total from investment operations	12.00	5.84	(0.35)	7.27	4.65
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	—	—	—	—	—
Net realized gain	3.83	0.64	3.27	5.00	1.48
Total distributions	3.83	0.64	3.27	5.00	1.48
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 39.36	\$ 31.19	\$ 25.99	\$ 29.61	\$ 27.34
Total return (%)	38.68	22.51	(1.88)	26.99	19.22
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.30	1.27	1.25	1.25	1.27
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.82)	(0.65)	(0.65)	(0.64)	(0.56)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.77)	(0.63)	(0.65)	(0.64)	(0.54)
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 390,511	\$ 423,881	\$ 410,233	\$ 343,119	\$ 271,830
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	71	51	74	81	90

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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William Blair Funds **147**

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Small Cap Growth Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>	
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019(a)</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 31.20	\$ 31.00
Income (loss) from investment operations:		
Net investment income (loss)	(0.23)	(0.11)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	12.26	0.95
Total from investment operations	12.03	0.84
Less distributions from:		
Net investment income	—	—
Net realized gain	3.83	0.64
Total distributions	3.83	0.64
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 39.40	\$ 31.20
Total Return (%)*	38.76	2.75
Ratios to average daily net assets (%)**:		
Expenses	1.19	1.18
Net investment income (loss)	(0.71)	(0.51)
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 103,462	\$ 65,950
Portfolio turnover rate (%)*	71	51

(a) For the period from May 2, 2019 (Commencement of Operations) to December 31, 2019.

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Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Small Cap Value Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 17.47	\$ 15.04	\$ 20.15	\$ 20.18	\$ 16.68
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.08	0.09	0.03	0.01	0.04
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(1.38)	2.92	(3.12)	1.50	4.34
Total from investment operations	(1.30)	3.01	(3.09)	1.51	4.38
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.05	0.09	—	—	0.04
Net realized gain	3.08	0.49	2.02	1.54	0.84
Total distributions	3.13	0.58	2.02	1.54	0.88
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$ 13.04</u>	<u>\$ 17.47</u>	<u>\$ 15.04</u>	<u>\$ 20.15</u>	<u>\$ 20.18</u>
Total return (%)	(5.76)	20.09	(15.93)	7.57	26.19
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.71	1.55	1.56	1.55	1.53
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.33	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	0.26	0.49	0.08	(0.01)	0.19
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.64	0.54	0.14	0.04	0.22
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 7,402	\$ 12,672	\$ 16,381	\$ 29,271	\$ 33,359
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	64	116	56	38	33

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 18.02	\$ 15.50	\$ 20.70	\$ 20.68	\$ 17.08
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.11	0.14	0.08	0.06	0.09
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(1.40)	3.01	(3.21)	1.54	4.44
Total from investment operations	(1.29)	3.15	(3.13)	1.60	4.53
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.08	0.14	0.05	0.04	0.09
Net realized gain	3.08	0.49	2.02	1.54	0.84
Total distributions	3.16	0.63	2.07	1.58	0.93
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$ 13.57</u>	<u>\$ 18.02</u>	<u>\$ 15.50</u>	<u>\$ 20.70</u>	<u>\$ 20.68</u>
Total return (%)	(5.57)	20.45	(15.74)	7.85	26.46
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.48	1.31	1.30	1.29	1.29
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.08	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	0.48	0.74	0.36	0.25	0.43
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.88	0.80	0.41	0.29	0.47
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 42,311	\$ 162,093	\$ 475,134	\$ 644,749	\$ 675,272
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	64	116	56	38	33

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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December 31, 2020

William Blair Funds **149**

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Small Cap Value Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>	
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019(a)</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 18.03	\$ 18.19
Income (loss) from investment operations:		
Net investment income (loss)	0.12	0.16
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(1.41)	0.32
Total from investment operations	(1.29)	0.48
Less distributions from:		
Net investment income	0.10	0.15
Net realized gain	3.08	0.49
Total distributions	3.18	0.64
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$ 13.56</u>	<u>\$ 18.03</u>
Total Return (%)*	(5.55)	2.69
Ratios to average daily net assets (%)**:		
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.30	1.17
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.03	1.17
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	0.75	1.28
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	1.02	1.28
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 10,188	\$ 513
Portfolio turnover rate (%)*	64	116

(a) For the period from May 2, 2019 (Commencement of Operations) to December 31, 2019.

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Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Global Leaders Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 14.92	\$ 11.47	\$ 14.53	\$ 11.60	\$ 11.58
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.06)	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.03
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	4.74	3.61	(1.12)	3.46	0.04
Total from investment operations	4.68	3.62	(1.10)	3.51	0.07
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	—	0.03	—	0.10	—
Net realized gain	2.19	0.14	1.96	0.48	0.05
Total distributions	2.19	0.17	1.96	0.58	0.05
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 17.41	\$ 14.92	\$ 11.47	\$ 14.53	\$ 11.60
Total return (%)	31.50	31.57	(8.23)	30.31	0.62
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.45	1.39	1.47	1.63	1.62
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.15	1.20	1.33	1.37	1.36
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.67)	(0.10)	(0.01)	0.09	(0.03)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.37)	0.09	0.13	0.35	0.23
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 11,861	\$ 8,910	\$ 7,225	\$ 7,761	\$ 5,760
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	27	27	49	41	75

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 14.93	\$ 11.47	\$ 14.56	\$ 11.62	\$ 11.59
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.01)	0.05	0.06	0.09	0.06
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	4.74	3.61	(1.13)	3.47	0.05
Total from investment operations	4.73	3.66	(1.07)	3.56	0.11
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.00 <sup>^</sup>	0.06	0.06	0.14	0.03
Net realized gain	2.19	0.14	1.96	0.48	0.05
Total distributions	2.19	0.20	2.02	0.62	0.08
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 17.47	\$ 14.93	\$ 11.47	\$ 14.56	\$ 11.62
Total return (%)	31.86	31.96	(8.06)	30.69	0.98
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.12	1.07	1.15	1.33	1.31
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.90	0.95	1.07	1.07	1.05
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.31)	0.22	0.31	0.39	0.28
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.09)	0.34	0.39	0.65	0.54
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$107,375	\$114,666	\$83,790	\$60,067	\$45,772
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	27	27	49	41	75

<sup>^</sup> Amount is less than \$0.005 per share.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Global Leaders Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 14.93	\$ 11.47	\$ 14.56	\$ 11.62	\$ 11.59
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.02	0.06	0.07	0.10	0.07
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	4.72	3.61	(1.13)	3.47	0.05
Total from investment operations	4.74	3.67	(1.06)	3.57	0.12
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.01	0.07	0.07	0.15	0.04
Net realized gain	2.19	0.14	1.96	0.48	0.05
Total distributions	2.20	0.21	2.03	0.63	0.09
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$ 17.47</u>	<u>\$ 14.93</u>	<u>\$ 11.47</u>	<u>\$ 14.56</u>	<u>\$ 11.62</u>
Total return (%)	31.91	32.02	(7.99)	30.78	1.03
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.06	1.01	1.08	1.10	1.11
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.85	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.10)	0.32	0.39	0.65	0.48
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.11	0.43	0.47	0.75	0.59
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 2,946	\$ 48,133	\$ 79,685	\$ 143,521	\$ 125,199
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	27	27	49	41	75

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**International Leaders Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 18.08	\$ 13.80	\$ 16.37	\$ 12.88	\$ 12.89
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.04)	0.09	0.13	0.11	0.03
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	4.82	4.25	(2.19)	3.70	0.08
Total from investment operations	4.78	4.34	(2.06)	3.81	0.11
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	—	0.06	0.06	0.20	0.12
Net realized gain	0.17	—	0.45	0.12	—
Total distributions	0.17	0.06	0.51	0.32	0.12
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 22.69	\$ 18.08	\$ 13.80	\$ 16.37	\$ 12.88
Total return (%)	26.45	31.46	(12.70)	29.65	0.88
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.31	1.32	1.39	1.59	1.56
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.15	1.18	1.28	1.35	1.30
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.39)	0.44	0.70	0.48	(0.02)
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.23)	0.58	0.81	0.72	0.24
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 19,586	\$ 11,163	\$ 8,715	\$ 9,651	\$ 2,922
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	34	20	33	41	59

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 18.13	\$ 13.84	\$ 16.44	\$ 12.92	\$ 12.91
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.00)^	0.12	0.17	0.16	0.10
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	4.85	4.27	(2.19)	3.71	0.04
Total from investment operations	4.85	4.39	(2.02)	3.87	0.14
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.01	0.10	0.13	0.23	0.13
Net realized gain	0.17	—	0.45	0.12	—
Total distributions	0.18	0.10	0.58	0.35	0.13
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 22.80	\$ 18.13	\$ 13.84	\$ 16.44	\$ 12.92
Total return (%)	26.77	31.76	(12.45)	30.05	1.10
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.01	1.01	1.07	1.28	1.30
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.90	0.93	1.03	1.05	1.04
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.11)	0.64	1.02	0.86	0.48
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.00)	0.72	1.06	1.09	0.74
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$393,596	\$181,617	\$76,382	\$60,279	\$30,944
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	34	20	33	41	59

^ Amount is less than \$0.005 per share.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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William Blair Funds **153**

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**International Leaders Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 18.12	\$ 13.83	\$ 16.43	\$ 12.92	\$ 12.90
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.02	0.14	0.18	0.18	0.12
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	4.85	4.26	(2.19)	3.70	0.04
Total from investment operations	4.87	4.40	(2.01)	3.88	0.16
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.02	0.11	0.14	0.25	0.14
Net realized gain	0.17	—	0.45	0.12	—
Total distributions	0.19	0.11	0.59	0.37	0.14
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 22.80	\$ 18.12	\$ 13.83	\$ 16.43	\$ 12.92
Total return (%)	26.88	31.83	(12.38)	30.08	1.25
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	0.92	0.93	0.99	1.03	1.06
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.85	0.88	0.95	0.95	0.95
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	0.03	0.80	1.07	1.10	0.81
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.10	0.85	1.11	1.18	0.92
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$687,171	\$461,124	\$324,902	\$308,898	\$221,356
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	34	20	33	41	59

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**International Growth Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 29.68	\$ 23.04	\$ 30.41	\$ 23.86	\$ 24.94
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.16)	0.09	0.16	0.21	0.20
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	9.55	6.87	(5.56)	6.73	(0.92)
Total from investment operations	9.39	6.96	(5.40)	6.94	(0.72)
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.06	0.32	0.12	0.39	0.36
Net realized gain	0.26	—	1.85	—	—
Total distributions	0.32	0.32	1.97	0.39	0.36
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 38.75	\$ 29.68	\$ 23.04	\$ 30.41	\$ 23.86
Total return (%)	31.64	30.24	(18.00)	29.11	(2.88)
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.47	1.45	1.46	1.47	1.43
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.43
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.56)	0.34	0.54	0.76	0.84
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.54)	0.34	0.55	0.78	0.84
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 288,976	\$ 494,788	\$ 456,533	\$ 763,740	\$ 729,544
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	27	34	78	82	101

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 30.38	\$ 23.56	\$ 31.13	\$ 24.42	\$ 25.51
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.08)	0.18	0.26	0.30	0.29
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	9.79	7.03	(5.70)	6.89	(0.94)
Total from investment operations	9.71	7.21	(5.44)	7.19	(0.65)
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.18	0.39	0.28	0.48	0.44
Net realized gain	0.26	—	1.85	—	—
Total distributions	0.44	0.39	2.13	0.48	0.44
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 39.65	\$ 30.38	\$ 23.56	\$ 31.13	\$ 24.42
Total return (%)	31.99	30.66	(17.73)	29.49	(2.54)
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses	1.16	1.14	1.13	1.14	1.13
Net investment income (loss)	(0.24)	0.65	0.86	1.08	1.16
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 1,914,460	\$ 1,552,355	\$ 1,646,811	\$ 2,375,326	\$ 2,251,701
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	27	34	78	82	101

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**International Growth Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>	
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019(a)</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 30.37	\$ 27.56
Income (loss) from investment operations:		
Net investment income (loss)	(0.07)	(0.05)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	9.83	3.27
Total from investment operations	9.76	3.22
Less distributions from:		
Net investment income	0.21	0.41
Net realized gain	0.26	—
Total distributions	0.47	0.41
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 39.66	\$ 30.37
Total Return (%)*	32.16	11.71
Ratios to average daily net assets (%)**:		
Expenses	1.07	1.06
Net investment income (loss)	(0.23)	(0.26)
Class R6 net assets at end of year (in thousands)	\$109,214	\$61,916
Portfolio turnover rate (%)*	27	34

(a) For the period from May 2, 2019 (Commencement of Operations) to December 31, 2019.

\* Rates are not annualized for periods less than a year.

\*\* Rates are annualized for periods less than a year.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Institutional International Growth Fund**

	<b>Institutional</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 17.35	\$ 13.40	\$ 18.08	\$ 14.55	\$ 15.08
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.01)	0.12	0.18	0.21	0.18
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.60	4.00	(3.29)	4.07	(0.54)
Total from investment operations	5.59	4.12	(3.11)	4.28	(0.36)
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.02	0.17	0.17	0.44	0.17
Net realized gain	2.55	—	1.40	0.31	—
Total distributions	2.57	0.17	1.57	0.75	0.17
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 20.37	\$ 17.35	\$ 13.40	\$ 18.08	\$ 14.55
Total return (%)	32.47	30.75	(17.50)	29.53	(2.40)
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses	1.00	0.99	0.97	0.97	0.98
Net investment income (loss)	(0.04)	0.77	1.01	1.22	1.25
Net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 1,326,482	\$ 1,892,911	\$ 1,784,435	\$ 2,330,299	\$ 2,093,971
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	31	35	82	84	105

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**International Small Cap Growth Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 13.85	\$ 10.36	\$ 15.49	\$ 12.87	\$ 13.50
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.05)	0.05	0.04	0.12	0.10
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	4.01	3.45	(3.78)	3.98	(0.72)
Total from investment operations	3.96	3.50	(3.74)	4.10	(0.62)
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	—	0.01	0.08	0.32	0.01
Net realized gain	0.36	—	1.31	1.16	0.00 <sup>^</sup>
Total distributions	0.36	0.01	1.39	1.48	0.01
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 17.45	\$ 13.85	\$ 10.36	\$ 15.49	\$ 12.87
Total return (%)	28.68	33.81	(24.48)	32.17	(4.60)
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.52	1.48	1.48	1.62	1.59
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.52	1.48	1.48	1.47	1.44
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.36)	0.45	0.29	0.70	0.62
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.36)	0.45	0.29	0.85	0.77
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 3,101	\$ 3,650	\$ 3,440	\$ 6,275	\$ 10,361
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	63	38	88	64	73

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 13.98	\$ 10.45	\$ 15.65	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.65
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.01)	0.09	0.09	0.14	0.14
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	4.06	3.48	(3.84)	4.07	(0.75)
Total from investment operations	4.05	3.57	(3.75)	4.21	(0.61)
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.01	0.04	0.14	0.40	0.04
Net realized gain	0.36	—	1.31	1.16	0.00 <sup>^</sup>
Total distributions	0.37	0.04	1.45	1.56	0.04
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 17.66	\$ 13.98	\$ 10.45	\$ 15.65	\$ 13.00
Total return (%)	29.04	34.22	(24.29)	32.70	(4.41)
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.25	1.21	1.18	1.31	1.30
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.25	1.21	1.18	1.16	1.15
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.05)	0.75	0.60	0.77	0.91
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.05)	0.75	0.60	0.92	1.06
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 145,283	\$ 142,951	\$ 165,451	\$ 338,920	\$ 306,526
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	63	38	88	64	73

<sup>^</sup> Amount is less than \$0.005 per share.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**International Small Cap Growth Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 14.05	\$ 10.50	\$ 15.73	\$ 13.07	\$ 13.72
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.00 <sup>^</sup>	0.11	0.10	0.15	0.15
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	4.09	3.49	(3.85)	4.08	(0.74)
Total from investment operations	4.09	3.60	(3.75)	4.23	(0.59)
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.02	0.05	0.17	0.41	0.06
Net realized gain	0.36	—	1.31	1.16	0.00 <sup>^</sup>
Total distributions	0.38	0.05	1.48	1.57	0.06
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$ 17.76</u>	<u>\$ 14.05</u>	<u>\$ 10.50</u>	<u>\$ 15.73</u>	<u>\$ 13.07</u>
Total return (%)	29.23	34.32	(24.19)	32.70	(4.31)
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses	1.14	1.12	1.08	1.08	1.07
Net investment income (loss)	0.02	0.86	0.67	0.99	1.13
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$188,497	\$162,465	\$171,833	\$256,558	\$199,746
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	63	38	88	64	73

<sup>^</sup> Amount is less than \$0.005 per share.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Emerging Markets Leaders Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 10.51	\$ 8.26	\$ 11.06	\$ 7.84	\$ 7.73
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.02)	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.02
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	2.88	2.28	(1.97)	3.26	0.09
Total from investment operations	2.86	2.31	(1.94)	3.27	0.11
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	—	0.04	0.07	0.05	—
Net realized gain	0.11	0.02	0.79	—	—
Total distributions	0.11	0.06	0.86	0.05	—
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 13.26	\$ 10.51	\$ 8.26	\$ 11.06	\$ 7.84
Total return (%)	27.23	27.98	(17.73)	41.68	1.42
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.63	1.62	1.60	1.62	1.81
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.40	1.45	1.58	1.47	1.57
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.45)	0.17	0.27	(0.01)	0.05
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.22)	0.34	0.29	0.14	0.29
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 1,803	\$ 1,856	\$ 2,239	\$ 2,766	\$ 2,479
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	47	33	52	59	135

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 10.52	\$ 8.27	\$ 11.09	\$ 7.87	\$ 7.74
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.00) <sup>^</sup>	0.06	0.06	0.02	0.04
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	2.89	2.29	(1.97)	3.27	0.10
Total from investment operations	2.89	2.35	(1.91)	3.29	0.14
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.02	0.08	0.12	0.07	0.01
Net realized gain	0.11	0.02	0.79	—	—
Total distributions	0.13	0.10	0.91	0.07	0.01
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 13.28	\$ 10.52	\$ 8.27	\$ 11.09	\$ 7.87
Total return (%)	27.52	28.36	(17.45)	41.89	1.82
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.33	1.29	1.27	1.40	1.54
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.15	1.20	1.27	1.25	1.30
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.21)	0.53	0.58	0.09	0.28
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.03)	0.62	0.58	0.24	0.52
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$62,319	\$45,090	\$34,786	\$47,666	\$30,346
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	47	33	52	59	135

<sup>^</sup> Amount is less than \$0.005 per share.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Emerging Markets Leaders Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 10.51	\$ 8.26	\$ 11.09	\$ 7.86	\$ 7.74
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.00 <sup>^</sup>	0.06	0.07	0.03	0.03
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	2.89	2.29	(1.98)	3.28	0.10
Total from investment operations	2.89	2.35	(1.91)	3.31	0.13
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.03	0.08	0.13	0.08	0.01
Net realized gain	0.11	0.02	0.79	—	—
Total distributions	0.14	0.10	0.92	0.08	0.01
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 13.26	\$ 10.51	\$ 8.26	\$ 11.09	\$ 7.86
Total return (%)	27.50	28.45	(17.46)	42.15	1.74
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.26	1.23	1.20	1.19	1.34
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.19	1.25
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.11)	0.57	0.71	0.33	0.30
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.05	0.65	0.71	0.33	0.39
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 198,015	\$ 191,337	\$ 161,889	\$ 427,480	\$ 272,678
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	47	33	52	59	135

<sup>^</sup> Amount is less than \$0.005 per share.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Emerging Markets Growth Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 13.67	\$ 11.14	\$ 16.20	\$ 10.99	\$ 10.85
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.09)	0.11	0.01	(0.02)	0.03
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.60	2.98	(3.49)	5.35	0.13
Total from investment operations	5.51	3.09	(3.48)	5.33	0.16
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	—	0.16	0.11	0.12	0.02
Net realized gain	0.76	0.40	1.47	—	—
Total distributions	0.76	0.56	1.58	0.12	0.02
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$ 18.42</u>	<u>\$ 13.67</u>	<u>\$ 11.14</u>	<u>\$ 16.20</u>	<u>\$ 10.99</u>
Total return (%)	40.43	27.89	(21.61)	48.53	1.49
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.55	1.51	1.52	1.65	1.65
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.55	1.51	1.52	1.50	1.50
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.60)	0.84	0.09	(0.29)	0.13
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.60)	0.84	0.09	(0.14)	0.28
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 18,606	\$ 7,804	\$ 7,103	\$ 10,479	\$ 8,488
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	77	79	113	91	105

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 13.82	\$ 11.25	\$ 16.36	\$ 11.10	\$ 10.96
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.05)	0.14	0.05	0.01	0.06
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.66	3.02	(3.52)	5.40	0.13
Total from investment operations	5.61	3.16	(3.47)	5.41	0.19
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.01	0.19	0.17	0.15	0.05
Net realized gain	0.76	0.40	1.47	—	—
Total distributions	0.77	0.59	1.64	0.15	0.05
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$ 18.66</u>	<u>\$ 13.82</u>	<u>\$ 11.25</u>	<u>\$ 16.36</u>	<u>\$ 11.10</u>
Total return (%)	40.72	28.29	(21.37)	48.83	1.73
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.30	1.26	1.27	1.42	1.41
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.30	1.26	1.27	1.27	1.26
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.33)	1.06	0.34	(0.07)	0.38
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.33)	1.06	0.34	0.08	0.53
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 113,697	\$ 73,496	\$ 79,427	\$ 129,481	\$ 93,668
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	77	79	113	91	105

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Emerging Markets Growth Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 13.94	\$ 11.35	\$ 16.49	\$ 11.18	\$ 11.05
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.03)	0.15	0.07	0.02	0.07
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.71	3.04	(3.56)	5.46	0.12
Total from investment operations	5.68	3.19	(3.49)	5.48	0.19
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.02	0.20	0.18	0.17	0.06
Net realized gain	0.76	0.40	1.47	—	—
Total distributions	0.78	0.60	1.65	0.17	0.06
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 18.84	\$ 13.94	\$ 11.35	\$ 16.49	\$11.18
Total return (%)	40.90	28.28	(21.29)	49.06	1.71
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses	1.20	1.19	1.19	1.17	1.19
Net investment income (loss)	(0.22)	1.17	0.46	0.17	0.60
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$1,063,433	\$708,892	\$654,441	\$1,178,853	\$831,587
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	77	79	113	91	105

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 16.80	\$ 13.96	\$ 18.66	\$ 13.73	\$ 14.84
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.06)	0.00 <sup>^</sup>	(0.02)	0.01	0.09
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.48	2.84	(4.38)	5.46	(0.88)
Total from investment operations	5.42	2.84	(4.40)	5.47	(0.79)
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	—	—	—	0.50	0.32
Net realized gain	—	—	0.30	0.04	—
Total distributions	—	—	0.30	0.54	0.32
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 22.22	\$ 16.80	\$ 13.96	\$ 18.66	\$ 13.73
Total return (%)	32.26	20.34	(23.57)	40.09	(5.33)
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.77	1.71	1.70	1.83	1.82
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.55	1.55	1.58	1.64	1.61
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.58)	(0.14)	(0.22)	(0.11)	0.41
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.36)	0.02	(0.10)	0.08	0.62
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 3,947	\$ 4,025	\$ 8,977	\$ 15,082	\$ 9,263
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	119	142	187	183	157

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 16.90	\$ 14.03	\$ 18.73	\$ 13.77	\$ 14.90
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.02)	0.04	0.03	0.08	0.13
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.53	2.86	(4.41)	5.47	(0.89)
Total from investment operations	5.51	2.90	(4.38)	5.55	(0.76)
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.55	0.37
Net realized gain	—	—	0.30	0.04	—
Total distributions	0.01	0.03	0.32	0.59	0.37
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 22.40	\$ 16.90	\$ 14.03	\$ 18.73	\$ 13.77
Total return (%)	32.60	20.58	(23.31)	40.53	(5.11)
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.45	1.40	1.38	1.50	1.51
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.30	1.30	1.33	1.31	1.30
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.25)	0.18	0.13	0.30	0.66
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.10)	0.28	0.18	0.49	0.87
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 151,302	\$ 142,885	\$ 169,770	\$ 282,620	\$ 147,949
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	119	142	187	183	157

<sup>^</sup> Amount is less than \$0.005 per share.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 16.93	\$ 14.06	\$ 18.76	\$ 13.79	\$ 14.92
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	(0.00)^	0.05	0.05	0.10	0.14
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5.53	2.86	(4.41)	5.47	(0.89)
Total from investment operations	5.53	2.91	(4.36)	5.57	(0.75)
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.56	0.38
Net realized gain	—	—	0.30	0.04	—
Total distributions	0.02	0.04	0.34	0.60	0.38
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 22.44	\$ 16.93	\$ 14.06	\$ 18.76	\$ 13.79
Total return (%)	32.66	20.69	(23.24)	40.62	(5.05)
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.36	1.33	1.30	1.29	1.31
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	(0.14)	0.27	0.22	0.53	0.88
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	(0.03)	0.35	0.27	0.57	0.94
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 152,160	\$ 130,711	\$ 98,188	\$ 166,927	\$ 125,650
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	119	142	187	183	157

^ Amount is less than \$0.005 per share.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Bond Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 10.41	\$ 9.75	\$ 10.41	\$ 10.41	\$ 10.34
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.24	0.30	0.31	0.27	0.27
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.54	0.77	(0.56)	0.12	0.18
Total from investment operations	0.78	1.07	(0.25)	0.39	0.45
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.36	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.38
Net realized gain	—	—	—	—	—
Total distributions	0.36	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.38
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$ 10.83</u>	<u>\$ 10.41</u>	<u>\$ 9.75</u>	<u>\$ 10.41</u>	<u>\$ 10.41</u>
Total return (%)	7.63	11.09	(2.42)	3.83	4.40
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	0.79	0.69	0.69	0.82	0.82
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.60	0.60	0.62	0.65	0.65
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	2.04	2.90	3.01	2.40	2.43
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	2.23	2.99	3.08	2.57	2.60
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 39,522	\$ 32,176	\$ 70,253	\$ 83,662	\$ 125,866
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	71	58	40	17	17

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 10.30	\$ 9.65	\$ 10.31	\$ 10.30	\$ 10.24
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.25	0.31	0.32	0.29	0.30
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.54	0.76	(0.56)	0.13	0.16
Total from investment operations	0.79	1.07	(0.24)	0.42	0.46
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.38	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.40
Net realized gain	—	—	—	—	—
Total distributions	0.38	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.40
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$ 10.71</u>	<u>\$ 10.30</u>	<u>\$ 9.65</u>	<u>\$ 10.31</u>	<u>\$ 10.30</u>
Total return (%)	7.73	11.22	(2.31)	4.16	4.55
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	0.55	0.47	0.46	0.60	0.58
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.45	0.45	0.46	0.43	0.41
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	2.29	3.10	3.24	2.62	2.66
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	2.39	3.12	3.24	2.79	2.83
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 232,716	\$ 206,304	\$ 281,442	\$ 384,464	\$ 322,174
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	71	58	40	17	17

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Bond Fund**

	Class R6				
	Years Ended December 31,				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 10.30	\$ 9.64	\$ 10.30	\$ 10.29	\$ 10.23
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.26	0.32	0.33	0.30	0.30
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.53	0.76	(0.56)	0.13	0.17
Total from investment operations	0.79	1.08	(0.23)	0.43	0.47
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.38	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.41
Net realized gain	—	—	—	—	—
Total distributions	0.38	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.41
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 10.71	\$ 10.30	\$ 9.64	\$ 10.30	\$ 10.29
Total return (%)	7.79	11.39	(2.26)	4.24	4.61
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	0.46	0.41	0.38	0.37	0.37
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.40	0.40	0.38	0.35	0.35
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	2.39	3.17	3.32	2.85	2.88
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	2.45	3.18	3.32	2.87	2.90
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$48,482	\$43,655	\$70,851	\$91,629	\$95,216
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	71	58	40	17	17

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Income Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 8.57	\$ 8.36	\$ 8.72	\$ 8.86	\$ 8.90
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.12	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.25	0.32	(0.25)	(0.03)	0.06
Total from investment operations	0.37	0.49	(0.08)	0.13	0.22
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.23	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.26
Net realized gain	—	—	—	—	—
Total distributions	0.23	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.26
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 8.71	\$ 8.57	\$ 8.36	\$ 8.72	\$ 8.86
Total return (%)	4.34	5.92	(0.86)	1.46	2.44
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.03	0.98	0.91	0.88	0.79
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.79
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	1.16	1.85	1.96	1.77	1.80
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	1.34	1.98	2.02	1.80	1.80
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$22,610	\$19,662	\$22,422	\$39,625	\$52,710
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	57	114	97	37	22

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 8.52	\$ 8.30	\$ 8.66	\$ 8.80	\$ 8.83
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.12	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.18
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.25	0.33	(0.25)	(0.03)	0.06
Total from investment operations	0.37	0.51	(0.06)	0.15	0.24
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.24	0.29	0.30	0.29	0.27
Net realized gain	—	—	—	—	—
Total distributions	0.24	0.29	0.30	0.29	0.27
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 8.65	\$ 8.52	\$ 8.30	\$ 8.66	\$ 8.80
Total return (%)	4.39	6.24	(0.69)	1.68	2.78
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	0.78	0.74	0.65	0.62	0.57
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.70	0.70	0.65	0.62	0.57
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	1.35	2.10	2.22	2.03	2.05
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	1.43	2.14	2.22	2.03	2.05
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$45,641	\$31,629	\$34,793	\$51,153	\$58,160
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	57	114	97	37	22

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Income Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>	
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019(a)</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$8.52	\$ 8.45
Income (loss) from investment operations:		
Net investment income (loss)	0.13	0.09
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.24	0.18
Total from investment operations	0.37	0.27
Less distributions from:		
Net investment income	0.24	0.20
Net realized gain	—	—
Total distributions	0.24	0.20
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$8.65</u>	<u>\$ 8.52</u>
Total Return (%)*	4.44	3.18
Ratios to average daily net assets (%)**:		
Expenses, before of waivers and reimbursements	0.73	0.71
Expenses, net waivers and reimbursements	0.65	0.65
Net investment income (loss), before of waivers and reimbursements	1.47	1.46
Net investment income (loss), net waivers and reimbursements	1.55	1.52
Class R6 net assets at end of year (in thousands)	\$ 71	\$ 52
Portfolio turnover rate (%)*	57	114

(a) For the period from May 2, 2019 (Commencement of Operations) to December 31, 2019.

\* Rates are not annualized for periods less than a year.

\*\* Rates are annualized for periods less than a year.

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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December 31, 2020

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Low Duration Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 8.68	\$ 8.70	\$ 8.92	\$ 9.07	\$ 9.16
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.08	0.19	0.17	0.11	0.09
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.14	0.11	(0.10)	(0.04)	0.02
Total from investment operations	0.22	0.30	0.07	0.07	0.11
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.25	0.32	0.29	0.22	0.20
Net realized gain	—	—	—	—	—
Total distributions	0.25	0.32	0.29	0.22	0.20
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 8.65	\$ 8.68	\$ 8.70	\$ 8.92	\$ 9.07
Total return (%)	2.56	3.48	0.80	0.84	1.16
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	0.84	0.75	0.72	0.79	0.83
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.55	0.55	0.58	0.61	0.68
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	0.60	1.96	1.83	1.04	0.83
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.89	2.16	1.97	1.22	0.98
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 13,736	\$ 1,513	\$ 1,661	\$ 1,979	\$ 7,237
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	72	183	122	109	81

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 8.67	\$ 8.70	\$ 8.91	\$ 9.07	\$ 9.16
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.10	0.20	0.19	0.13	0.11
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.13	0.10	(0.09)	(0.05)	0.02
Total from investment operations	0.23	0.30	0.10	0.08	0.13
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.26	0.33	0.31	0.24	0.22
Net realized gain	—	—	—	—	—
Total distributions	0.26	0.33	0.31	0.24	0.22
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 8.64	\$ 8.67	\$ 8.70	\$ 8.91	\$ 9.07
Total return (%)	2.72	3.52	1.12	0.91	1.40
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	0.60	0.53	0.46	0.59	0.59
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.40	0.40	0.39	0.41	0.44
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	0.98	2.19	2.05	1.27	1.05
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	1.18	2.32	2.12	1.45	1.20
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 104,093	\$ 38,156	\$ 56,120	\$ 131,186	\$ 219,714
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	72	183	122	109	81

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Low Duration Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 8.68	\$ 8.70	\$ 8.91	\$ 9.07	\$ 9.16
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.12	0.21	0.19	0.14	0.11
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.11	0.11	(0.09)	(0.05)	0.02
Total from investment operations	0.23	0.32	0.10	0.09	0.13
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.27	0.34	0.31	0.25	0.22
Net realized gain	—	—	—	—	—
Total distributions	0.27	0.34	0.31	0.25	0.22
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 8.64	\$ 8.68	\$ 8.70	\$ 8.91	\$ 9.07
Total return (%)	2.65	3.69	1.15	0.96	1.43
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	0.53	0.50	0.42	0.40	0.40
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.37	0.40
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	1.19	2.22	2.10	1.48	1.25
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	1.37	2.37	2.17	1.51	1.25
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$40,551	\$36,846	\$47,585	\$99,912	\$53,122
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	72	183	122	109	81

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Macro Allocation Fund**

	<b>Class N</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 11.44	\$ 11.41	\$ 11.84	\$ 11.34	\$ 11.32
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.04	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.04
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(0.44)	0.37	(0.24)	0.51	0.19
Total from investment operations	(0.40)	0.45	(0.16)	0.57	0.23
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.11	0.42	0.27	0.07	0.21
Net realized gain	—	—	—	—	—
Total distributions	0.11	0.42	0.27	0.07	0.21
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$ 10.93</u>	<u>\$ 11.44</u>	<u>\$ 11.41</u>	<u>\$ 11.84</u>	<u>\$ 11.34</u>
Total return (%)	(3.49)	3.97	(1.30)	5.06	2.01
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.36	1.22	1.30	1.52	1.38
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.26	1.22	1.30	1.37	1.23
Expenses (excluding interest or short dividend expense), net of waivers and reimbursements	1.25	1.21	1.28	1.31	1.23
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	0.26	0.70	0.66	0.35	0.17
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.36	0.70	0.66	0.50	0.32
Class N net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 7,674	\$ 13,717	\$ 43,463	\$ 41,483	\$ 61,376
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	29	31	36	43	50

	<b>Class I</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 11.35	\$ 11.38	\$ 11.88	\$ 11.38	\$ 11.38
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.06	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.08
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(0.42)	0.34	(0.24)	0.51	0.18
Total from investment operations	(0.36)	0.47	(0.13)	0.62	0.26
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.14	0.50	0.37	0.12	0.26
Net realized gain	—	—	—	—	—
Total distributions	0.14	0.50	0.37	0.12	0.26
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$ 10.85</u>	<u>\$ 11.35</u>	<u>\$ 11.38</u>	<u>\$ 11.88</u>	<u>\$ 11.38</u>
Total return (%)	(3.15)	4.14	(1.08)	5.50	2.26
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	1.04	0.97	0.99	1.17	1.12
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	1.01	0.97	0.99	1.02	0.97
Expenses (excluding interest or short dividend expense), net of waivers and reimbursements	1.00	0.96	0.97	0.96	0.97
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	0.56	1.09	0.95	0.75	0.52
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.59	1.09	0.95	0.90	0.67
Class I net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 171,153	\$ 358,935	\$ 486,543	\$ 780,075	\$ 937,244
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	29	31	36	43	50

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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**Financial Highlights** — For a share outstanding throughout each period
 

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**Macro Allocation Fund**

	<b>Class R6</b>				
	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 11.36	\$ 11.38	\$ 11.89	\$ 11.40	\$ 11.39
Income (loss) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	0.08	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.09
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(0.44)	0.34	(0.24)	0.51	0.19
Total from investment operations	(0.36)	0.48	(0.11)	0.63	0.28
Less distributions from:					
Net investment income	0.15	0.50	0.40	0.14	0.27
Net realized gain	—	—	—	—	—
Total distributions	0.15	0.50	0.40	0.14	0.27
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$ 10.85</u>	<u>\$ 11.36</u>	<u>\$ 11.38</u>	<u>\$ 11.89</u>	<u>\$ 11.40</u>
Total return (%)	(3.13)	4.29	(0.94)	5.51	2.44
Ratios to average daily net assets (%):					
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	0.93	0.89	0.91	0.92	0.89
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.93	0.89	0.91	0.92	0.89
Expenses (excluding interest or short dividend expense), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.92	0.88	0.89	0.86	0.89
Net investment income (loss), before waivers and reimbursements	0.70	1.23	1.10	1.04	0.81
Net investment income (loss), net of waivers and reimbursements	0.70	1.23	1.10	1.04	0.81
Class R6 net assets at the end of the year (in thousands)	\$ 174,888	\$ 378,148	\$ 391,812	\$ 487,082	\$ 582,298
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	29	31	36	43	50

Note: Net investment income (loss) per share is based on the average shares outstanding during the year.

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December 31, 2020

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Shareholders and the Board of Trustees of William Blair Funds

**Opinion on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying statements of assets and liabilities of the William Blair Funds (the “Trust”) (comprising the Growth Fund, Large Cap Growth Fund, Mid Cap Growth Fund, Small-Mid Cap Core Fund, Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund, Small-Mid Cap Value Fund, Small Cap Growth Fund, Small Cap Value Fund, Global Leaders Fund, International Leaders Fund, International Growth Fund, Institutional International Growth Fund, International Small Cap Growth Fund, Emerging Markets Leaders Fund, Emerging Markets Growth Fund, Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund, Bond Fund, Income Fund, Low Duration Fund, and Macro Allocation Fund (collectively referred to as the “Funds”)), including the portfolios of investments, as of December 31, 2020, and the related statements of operations and changes in net assets, and the financial highlights for each of the periods indicated in the table below and the related notes (collectively referred to as the “financial statements”). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of each of the Funds comprising the William Blair Funds at December 31, 2020, and the results of their operations, changes in net assets, and financial highlights for each of the periods indicated in the table below, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

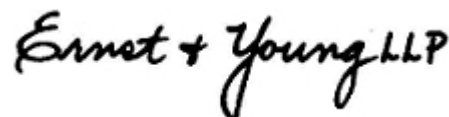
Funds comprising William Blair Funds	Statements of operations	Statements of changes in net assets	Financial highlights
Growth Fund Large Cap Growth Fund Mid Cap Growth Fund Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund Small-Mid Cap Value Fund Small Cap Growth Fund Small Cap Value Fund Global Leaders Fund International Leaders Fund International Growth Fund Institutional International Growth Fund International Small Cap Growth Fund Emerging Markets Leaders Fund Emerging Markets Growth Fund Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund Bond Fund Income Fund Low Duration Fund Macro Allocation Fund	For the year ended December 31, 2020	For each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2020	For each of the five years in the period ended December 31, 2020
Small-Mid Cap Core Fund	For the year ended December 31, 2020	For the year ended December 31, 2020 and the period from October 1, 2019 (commencement of operations) to December 31, 2019	

**Basis for Opinion**

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Trust's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on each of the Funds' financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Trust in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Trust is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of the Trust's internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of December 31, 2020, by correspondence with the custodian and brokers or by other appropriate auditing procedures where replies from brokers were not received. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

The signature of Ernst & Young LLP is written in a cursive, handwritten style in black ink.

We have served as the auditor of one or more William Blair investment companies since 1989.

Chicago, Illinois  
February 26, 2021

*December 31, 2020*

*William Blair Funds* **175**

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**Trustees and Officers (Unaudited).**<sup>†</sup> The trustees and officers of the William Blair Funds, their year of birth, their principal occupations during the last five years, their affiliations, if any, with William Blair, and other significant affiliations are set forth below. The address of each officer and trustee is 150 North Riverside Plaza, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

Name and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Trust	Term of Office <sup>(1)</sup> and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Trust Complex Overseen by Trustee*	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years**
<b><u>Interested Trustees</u></b>					
Stephanie G. Braming, 1970 <sup>(2)</sup>	Chairman of the Board and President, previously Senior Vice President	Chairman of the Board and President since 2018, and Senior Vice President 2014 to 2018	Global Head of Investment Management since 2017, portfolio manager (2014 to 2017) and Partner, William Blair	20	Chairman, William Blair SICAV
Arthur J. Simon, 1954 <sup>(2)</sup>	Trustee	Since 2018	General Counsel and Partner, William Blair	20	Director, William Blair SICAV
<b><u>Non-Interested Trustees</u></b>					
Vann A. Avedisian, 1964 <sup>(3)</sup>	Trustee	Since 2012	Principal, Highgate Holdings (hotel investments) (since 2009); formerly, co-founder and Managing Director, Oxford Capital Partners Inc. (1994 to 2006)	20	None
Kathleen T. Barr, 1955	Trustee	Since 2013	Retired; Chairman of the Governing Council, Independent Directors Council (since 2020); formerly, President, Productive Capital Management, Inc. (registered investment adviser to public entities) and Owner, KT Barr Consulting, LLC (mutual fund and investment management consulting) (2010 to 2013); prior thereto, Chief Administrative Officer, Senior Vice President and Senior Managing Director of Allegiant Asset Management Company (merged with PNC Capital Advisors, LLC in 2009) (2004 to 2010); Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and Senior Vice President of PNC Funds and PNC Advantage Funds (f/k/a Allegiant Funds) (2003 to 2010)	20	Muzinich BDC, Inc. (since 2019); Board of Governors, Investment Company Institute (since 2019); Professionally Managed Portfolios (since 2018); Council Member, Independent Directors Council; AmericaFirst Quantitative Funds (5 portfolios) (2012 to 2016)

<sup>†</sup> William Blair Investment Management, LLC and William Blair & Company, L.L.C. are collectively referred to in this section as “William Blair”, each of which is a wholly owned subsidiary of WBC Holdings, L.P., which is wholly owned by certain William Blair employees (employee owners are referred to as ‘partners’).

\* The number shown does not include three additional series of the Trust that are in existence, but not currently offered to the public.

\*\* Includes directorships of public companies and other registered investment companies held during the past five years.

<b>Name and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with Trust</b>	<b>Term of Office<sup>(1)</sup> and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Trust Complex Overseen by Trustee*</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years**</b>
Daniel N. Leib, 1966 <sup>(3)</sup>	Trustee	Since 2016	Chief Executive Officer, Donnelley Financial Solutions, Inc. (since 2016); formerly, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (2011 to 2016) and Group Chief Financial Officer (2009 to 2011), R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company	20	Donnelley Financial Solutions, Inc. (since 2016)
Dorri C. McWhorter, 1973	Trustee	Since 2019	Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago (since 2013); formerly Partner, Crowe LLP (2008 to 2013) <sup>(4)</sup>	20	Skyway Concession Company, LLC (since 2018); Illinois CPA Society (since 2017); Lifeway Foods, Inc. (since 2020); American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (2013 to 2016); Chicago Finance Exchange (2009 to 2017)
Thomas J. Skelly, 1951	Trustee	Since 2007	Advisory Board Member for various U.S. companies (since 2005); formerly, Managing Partner of various divisions at Accenture (1994 to 2004)	20	Mutual Trust Financial Group (provider of insurance and investment products)
Steven R. Zenz, 1954	Trustee	Since 2018	Consultant, Steven R. Zenz Consulting LLC (merger and acquisition transactions and SEC reporting and filings) (since 2011); formerly, Partner, KPMG LLP (1987 to 2010) <sup>(5)</sup>	20	Engine Media Holdings, Inc. (media group supporting esports, news streaming and gaming) (2020 to 2021); Frankly Inc. (technology products/services for media industry) (2016 to its 2020 acquisition by Engine Media Holdings); Insignia Systems, Inc. (in-store advertising services for consumer packaged goods manufacturers) (2013 to 2019)

(1) Each Trustee serves until the election and qualification of a successor, or until death, resignation or retirement, or removal as provided in the Trust's Declaration of Trust. Retirement for Independent Trustees occurs no later than at the conclusion of the calendar year that occurs after the earlier of (a) the Independent Trustee's 75th birthday or (b) the 17th anniversary of the date that the Independent Trustee became a member of the Board of Trustees.

(2) Ms. Braming and Mr. Simon are interested persons of the Trust because they are partners of William Blair, and with respect to Ms. Braming also due to her position as an officer of the Trust.

(3) The Trust and William Blair use Donnelley Financial Solutions, Inc. ("DFS") for financial printing and other services. DFS is a public company. The Trust and William Blair in the aggregate paid DFS approximately \$122,000 and \$188,000 in 2018 and 2019, respectively, for the services provided. DFS's revenue was approximately \$1 billion in 2018 and approximately \$900 million in 2019. Mr. Leib, as the Chief Executive Officer of DFS, is not directly involved in any of the services provided to the Trust or William Blair and his compensation is not materially affected by the fees DFS receives from the Trust and William Blair.

(4) As a former partner of the audit firm Crowe LLP (formerly, Crowe Horwath LLP), Ms. McWhorter receives distributions of her capital in the firm over time and those distributions are expected to be completed in March 2021. The Trust and William Blair made no payments to Crowe LLP over the past three years.

(5) The Trust engages KPMG to provide foreign tax services in Taiwan. KPMG does not provide audit or audit-related services to the Trust. Mr. Zenz is a former partner of KPMG and receives pension/retirement funds from KPMG.

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<u>Name and Year of Birth</u>	<u>Position(s) Held with Trust</u>	<u>Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</u>
<b><u>Officers</u></b>			
Marcelo Assalin, 1973	Senior Vice President	Since 2020	Associate, William Blair (since 2020); formerly, NN Investment Partners (2013-2020)
Thomas Clarke, 1968	Senior Vice President	Since 2011	Partner, William Blair
Daniel Crowe, 1972	Senior Vice President	Since 2016	Partner, William Blair
Robert J. Duwa, 1967	Senior Vice President	Since 2019	Partner, William Blair
Simon Fennell, 1969	Senior Vice President	Since 2013	Partner, William Blair
Andrew G. Flynn, 1961	Senior Vice President	Since 2013	Partner, William Blair
David C. Fording, 1967	Senior Vice President	Since 2006	Partner, William Blair
James S. Golan, 1961	Senior Vice President	Since 2005	Partner, William Blair
James E. Jones, 1977	Senior Vice President	Since 2019	Partner, William Blair
Mark T. Leslie, 1967	Senior Vice President	Since 2005	Partner, William Blair
Stephen Livingston, 1981	Senior Vice President	Since 2021	Partner, William Blair (since 2017); formerly, Associate, William Blair
Kenneth J. McAtamney, 1966	Senior Vice President	Since 2008	Partner, William Blair
Todd M. McClone, 1968	Senior Vice President	Since 2005	Partner, William Blair
David S. Mitchell, 1960	Senior Vice President	Since 2003	Partner, William Blair
John C. Murphy, 1969	Senior Vice President	Since 2014	Partner, William Blair
Casey K. Preyss, 1976	Senior Vice President	Since 2015	Partner, William Blair
David P. Ricci, 1958	Senior Vice President	Since 2006	Partner, William Blair
Lisa D. Rusch, 1970	Senior Vice President Vice President	Since 2020 2018-2020	Partner, William Blair (since 2020); formerly, Associate, William Blair
Ward D. Sexton, 1974	Senior Vice President	Since 2016	Partner, William Blair
Brian D. Singer, 1960	Senior Vice President	Since 2011	Partner, William Blair

<u>Name and Year of Birth</u>	<u>Position(s) Held with Trust</u>	<u>Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</u>
Mark C. Thompson, 1976	Senior Vice President	Since 2020	Partner, William Blair
Dan Zelazny, 1971	Senior Vice President	Since 2019	Associate, William Blair (since 2019); formerly, Managing Director, AQR Capital Management (2011-2019)
Ruta Ziverte, 1973	Senior Vice President	Since 2020	Partner, William Blair (since 2021); formerly, Associate, William Blair (2019-2021), Oppenheimer Funds (2015-2019)
Kathleen M. Lynch, 1971	Vice President	Since 2020	Associate, William Blair
Marco Ruijter, 1975	Vice President	Since 2020	Associate, William Blair (since 2020); formerly, NN Investment Partners (2013-2020)
Paul J. Sularz, 1971	Vice President	Since 2009	Associate, William Blair
John M. Raczek, 1970	Treasurer Assistant Treasurer	Since 2019 2010-2019	Associate, William Blair
Andrew T. Pfau, 1970	Secretary	Since 2009	Associate, William Blair
David M. Cihak, 1982	Assistant Treasurer	Since 2019	Associate, William Blair
Walter R. Randall, Jr., 1960	Chief Compliance Officer and Assistant Secretary	Since 2009	Associate, William Blair
Robert J. Toner, 1967	Assistant Secretary	Since 2016	Associate, William Blair

(1) The Trust's officers, except the Chief Compliance Officer, are elected annually by the Board of Trustees. The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer is designated by the Board of Trustees and may only be removed by action of the Board of Trustees, including a majority of independent trustees. Length of Time Served for all officers indicates the year the individual became an officer of the Trust.

The Statement of Additional Information for the William Blair Funds includes additional information about the trustees and is available without charge by calling 1-800-635-2886 (in Massachusetts 1-800-635-2840) or by writing the Fund.

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**(Unaudited)****Proxy Voting**

A description of the policies and procedures that the Funds use to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities and information regarding how the Funds voted proxies relating to portfolio securities for the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 are available without charge, upon request, by calling 1-800-635-2886 (in Massachusetts 1-800-635-2840), at [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com) and on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

**Quarterly Portfolio Schedules**

Each Fund files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third fiscal quarters of each fiscal year (quarters ended March 31 and September 30) on Form N-PORT. The Funds' Forms N-PORT are available on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

**Shareholder Meeting Results**

A Special Meeting of Shareholders (the "Meeting") of the William Blair Large Cap Growth Fund (the "Fund") was held virtually on November 12, 2020 via a live webcast. At the Meeting, shareholders voted to approve a change in the Fund's classification under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, from a "diversified" fund to a "non-diversified" fund.

Number of Votes:			
For	Against	Withheld	Abstentions
16,894,074.686	149,259.787	N/A	109,666.363

**Additional Federal Income Tax Information: (unaudited)**

Under Section 852(b)(3)(C) of the Code, the Funds hereby designate the following amounts as capital gain dividends for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020 (in thousands):

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Capital Gain Dividend</u>
Growth	\$ 38,359
Large Cap Growth	32,144
Mid Cap Growth	5,611
Small-Mid Cap Growth	64,284
Small-Mid Cap Value	9
Small Cap Growth	51,936
Small Cap Value	28,599
Global Leaders	15,321
International Leaders	8,192
International Growth.	17,392
Institutional International Growth	183,461
International Small Cap Growth	7,037
Emerging Markets Leaders.	2,367
Emerging Markets Growth	48,790



### Useful Information About Your Report (Unaudited)

Please refer to this information when reviewing the Expense Example for each Fund.

#### Expense Example

As a shareholder of a Fund, you incur two types of costs: (1) transaction costs and (2) ongoing costs, including management fees, distribution (12b-1) fees (for Class N shares, as applicable), and other Fund expenses. The example is intended to help you understand your ongoing costs (in dollars) of investing in the Fund and to compare these costs with the ongoing costs of investing in other mutual funds. To do so, compare the Fund's 5% hypothetical example with the 5% hypothetical examples that appear in the shareholder reports of other funds. The example is based on an investment of \$1,000 invested at the beginning of the period and held for the entire six-month period from July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

#### Actual Expenses

In each example, the first line for each share class in the table provides information about the *actual* account values and *actual* expenses. These expenses reflect the effect of any expense cap applicable to the share class during the period. Without this expense cap, the costs shown in the table would have been higher. You may use the information in this line, together with the amount you invested, to estimate the expenses that you paid over the period. Simply divide your account value by \$1,000 (example, an \$8,600 account value divided by \$1,000 = 8.6), then multiply the result by the number in the first line under the heading entitled "Expenses Paid During the Period" to estimate the expenses you paid on your account during the period.

#### Hypothetical Example for Comparison Purposes

In each example, the second line for each share class in the table provides information about *hypothetical* account values and *hypothetical* expenses based on the Fund's actual expense ratio and an assumed rate of return of 5% per year before expenses. This is not the Fund's actual return. The hypothetical account values and expenses may not be used to estimate your actual ending account balance or the expenses you paid for the period. You may use this information to compare the ongoing costs of investing in the Fund to the costs of investing in other funds. To do so, compare this 5% hypothetical example with the 5% hypothetical examples that appear in the shareholder reports of other funds.

Please note that the expenses shown in both examples are meant to highlight your ongoing costs only and do not reflect any transactional costs or account type fees, such as IRA administration fees. These fees are discussed in the prospectus. Therefore, the second line of each share class in the table is useful in comparing ongoing costs only and will not help you determine the relative costs of owning different funds. In addition, if these transactional costs or account fees were included, your costs would have been higher.

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**Fund Expenses (Unaudited)**


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<b>Expense Example</b>	<b>Beginning Account Value 7/1/2020</b>	<b>Ending Account Value 12/31/2020</b>	<b>Expenses Paid During the Period (a)</b>	<b>Annualized Expense Ratio</b>
<b>Growth Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,249.96	\$6.79	1.20%
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,043.97	\$6.17	1.20
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,251.20	\$5.26	0.93
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.32	\$4.78	0.93
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,251.60	\$4.92	0.87
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.63	\$4.47	0.87
<b>Large Cap Growth Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,229.37	\$5.04	0.90
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.48	\$4.63	0.90
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,230.61	\$3.64	0.65
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,046.73	\$3.34	0.65
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,231.44	\$3.37	0.60
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,046.98	\$3.09	0.60
<b>Mid Cap Growth Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,277.29	\$6.87	1.20
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,043.97	\$6.17	1.20
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,278.48	\$5.44	0.95
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.22	\$4.88	0.95
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,279.32	\$5.16	0.90
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.48	\$4.63	0.90
<b>Small-Mid Cap Core Fund</b>				
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,351.52	\$5.62	0.95
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.22	\$4.88	0.95
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,351.55	\$5.32	0.90
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.48	\$4.63	0.90
<b>Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,304.02	\$7.82	1.35
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,043.21	\$6.93	1.35
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,305.17	\$6.37	1.10
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.47	\$5.65	1.10
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,306.04	\$6.09	1.05
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.72	\$5.40	1.05
<b>Small-Mid Cap Value Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,255.79	\$6.52	1.15
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.22	\$5.91	1.15
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,258.93	\$5.11	0.90
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.48	\$4.63	0.90
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,258.79	\$4.83	0.85
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.73	\$4.37	0.85
<b>Small Cap Growth Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,423.20	\$9.14	1.50
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,042.46	\$7.70	1.50
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,425.17	\$7.62	1.25
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,043.72	\$6.42	1.25
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,425.55	\$7.26	1.19
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.02	\$6.11	1.19
<b>Small Cap Value Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,297.66	\$7.22	1.25
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,043.72	\$6.42	1.25
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,299.05	\$5.78	1.00
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.97	\$5.14	1.00
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,299.35	\$5.49	0.95
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.22	\$4.88	0.95

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**Fund Expenses (Unaudited)**


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<b>Expense Example</b>	<b>Beginning Account Value 7/1/2020</b>	<b>Ending Account Value 12/31/2020</b>	<b>Expenses Paid During the Period (a)</b>	<b>Annualized Expense Ratio</b>
<b>Global Leaders Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,275.71	\$6.58	1.15%
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.22	\$5.91	1.15
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,277.48	\$5.15	0.90
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.48	\$4.63	0.90
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,277.16	\$4.87	0.85
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.73	\$4.37	0.85
<b>International Leaders Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,272.97	\$6.57	1.15
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.22	\$5.91	1.15
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,275.48	\$5.15	0.90
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.48	\$4.63	0.90
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,275.16	\$4.86	0.85
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.73	\$4.37	0.85
<b>International Growth Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,305.44	\$8.40	1.45
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,042.71	\$7.45	1.45
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,307.42	\$6.73	1.16
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.17	\$5.96	1.16
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,308.27	\$6.21	1.07
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.62	\$5.50	1.07
<b>Institutional International Growth Fund</b>				
Institutional Class-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,308.13	\$5.80	1.00
Institutional Class-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.97	\$5.14	1.00
<b>International Small Cap Growth Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,317.22	\$8.85	1.52
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,042.36	\$7.80	1.52
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,319.61	\$7.29	1.25
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,043.72	\$6.42	1.25
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,320.49	\$6.65	1.14
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.27	\$5.86	1.14
<b>Emerging Markets Leaders Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,317.46	\$8.16	1.40
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,042.96	\$7.19	1.40
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,317.77	\$6.70	1.15
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.22	\$5.91	1.15
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,317.61	\$6.41	1.10
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.47	\$5.65	1.10
<b>Emerging Markets Growth Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,350.00	\$9.16	1.55
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,042.21	\$7.96	1.55
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,351.46	\$7.68	1.30
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,043.46	\$6.68	1.30
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,352.73	\$7.10	1.20
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,043.97	\$6.17	1.20
<b>Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,297.90	\$8.95	1.55
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,042.21	\$7.96	1.55
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,299.88	\$7.52	1.30
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,043.46	\$6.68	1.30
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,300.50	\$7.23	1.25
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,043.72	\$6.42	1.25
<b>Bond Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,030.95	\$3.06	0.60
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,046.98	\$3.09	0.60
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,030.92	\$2.30	0.45
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,047.74	\$2.32	0.45
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,031.17	\$2.04	0.40
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,047.99	\$2.06	0.40

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**Fund Expenses (Unaudited)**


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<u>Expense Example</u>	<u>Beginning Account Value 7/1/2020</u>	<u>Ending Account Value 12/31/2020</u>	<u>Expenses Paid During the Period (a)</u>	<u>Annualized Expense Ratio</u>
<b>Income Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,009.32	\$4.29	0.85%
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.73	\$4.37	0.85
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,010.05	\$3.54	0.70
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,046.48	\$3.60	0.70
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,010.31	\$3.28	0.65
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,046.73	\$3.34	0.65
<b>Low Duration Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,004.54	\$2.77	0.55
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,047.23	\$2.83	0.55
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,005.31	\$2.02	0.40
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,047.99	\$2.06	0.40
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,005.56	\$1.76	0.35
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,048.24	\$1.80	0.35
<b>Macro Allocation Fund</b>				
Class N-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,032.84	\$6.44	1.26
Class N-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,043.67	\$6.47	1.26
Class I-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,034.11	\$5.16	1.01
Class I-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.92	\$5.19	1.01
Class R6-actual return	\$1,000.00	\$1,034.28	\$4.76	0.93
Class R6-hypothetical 5% return	\$1,000.00	\$1,045.32	\$4.78	0.93

(a) Expenses are equal to the annualized expense ratio, multiplied by the average account value over the period, multiplied by the number of days in the period, 184 and divided by 366 (to reflect the one-half year period).

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** *(as of February 26, 2021)*


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**Vann A. Avedisian***Principal, Highgate Holdings***Kathleen T. Barr***Retired Senior Managing Director, PNC Capital Advisors, LLC***Stephanie G. Braming, Chairman and President***Partner, William Blair***Daniel N. Leib***Chief Executive Officer, Donnelley Financial Solutions, Inc.***Dorri C. McWhorter***Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago***Arthur J. Simon***Partner, William Blair***Thomas J. Skelly***Retired Managing Partner, Accenture***Steven R. Zenz***Retired Partner, KPMG LLP*


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**Officers**


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Marcelo Assalin, *Senior Vice President*Thomas Clarke, *Senior Vice President*Daniel Crowe, *Senior Vice President*Robert J. Duwa, *Senior Vice President*Simon Fennell, *Senior Vice President*Andrew G. Flynn, *Senior Vice President*David C. Fording, *Senior Vice President*James S. Golan, *Senior Vice President*James E. Jones, *Senior Vice President*Mark T. Leslie, *Senior Vice President*Stephen Livingston, *Senior Vice President*Kenneth J. McAtamney, *Senior Vice President*Todd M. McClone, *Senior Vice President*David S. Mitchell, *Senior Vice President*John C. Murphy, *Senior Vice President*Casey K. Preyss, *Senior Vice President*David P. Ricci, *Senior Vice President*Lisa D. Rusch, *Senior Vice President*Ward D. Sexton, *Senior Vice President*Brian D. Singer, *Senior Vice President*Mark C. Thompson, *Senior Vice President*Dan Zelazny, *Senior Vice President*Ruta Ziverte, *Senior Vice President*Kathleen M. Lynch, *Vice President*Marco Ruijter, *Vice President*Paul J. Sularz, *Vice President*John M. Raczek, *Treasurer*Andrew T. Pfau, *Secretary*David M. Cihak, *Assistant Treasurer*Walter R. Randall, Jr., *Chief Compliance Officer and Assistant Secretary*Robert J. Toner, *Assistant Secretary***Investment Adviser**

William Blair Investment Management, LLC

**Distributor**

William Blair &amp; Company, L.L.C.

**Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Ernst &amp; Young LLP

**Transfer Agent**

DST Asset Manager Solutions, Inc.

For customer assistance, call 1-800-635-2886

P.O. Box 219137

Kansas City, Missouri 64121-9137

# William Blair Funds

## U.S. EQUITY

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Growth Fund

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Large Cap Growth Fund

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Mid Cap Growth Fund

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Small-Mid Cap Core Fund

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Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund

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Small-Mid Cap Value Fund

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Small Cap Growth Fund

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Small Cap Value Fund

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## GLOBAL EQUITY

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Global Leaders Fund

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## INTERNATIONAL EQUITY

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International Leaders Fund

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International Growth Fund

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Institutional International Growth Fund

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International Small Cap Growth Fund

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Emerging Markets Leaders Fund

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Emerging Markets Growth Fund

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Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund

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## FIXED INCOME

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Bond Fund

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Income Fund

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Low Duration Fund

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## MULTI-ASSET AND ALTERNATIVE

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Macro Allocation Fund

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