

## INVESTMENT OVERVIEW

The Fund seeks to generate attractive risk-adjusted long-term returns by investing in the stocks of U.S. small-cap companies with durable competitive advantages, excellent management, lower financial risk, and strong growth trajectories. A disciplined investment process is employed to identify businesses that are differentiated by above-average returns on capital and trading at attractive valuations.

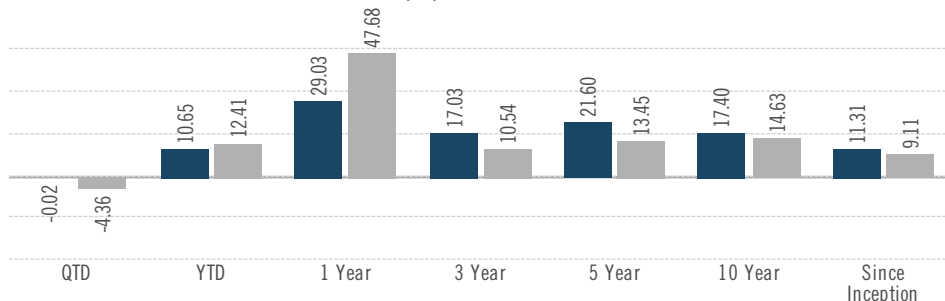
## KEY FEATURES

**High-Quality Businesses** — Searches for quality small-cap core stocks with solid balance sheets, consistent growth, profitability, and market dominant business models

**Lower Volatility Approach** — Extensive fundamental research favors companies with less business risk, as defined by lower earnings variability, consistent and profitable growth, high returns on capital, strong free cash flow, and a low organic need for external financing, all of which can help to protect profits in difficult markets

**High-Conviction Portfolio** — Focused on the portfolio team's 20-40 strongest investment opportunities, with a long-term, low-turnover approach to realize full stock value potential

## AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS (%) as of 09/30/2021



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

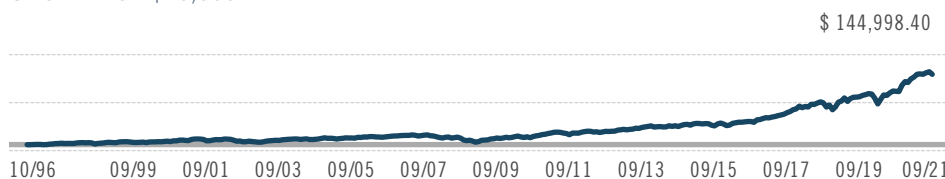
The fund class gross expense ratio is 1.00%.

Average annual total return is the annual compound return for the indicated period and reflects the change in share price and the reinvestment of all dividends and capital gains. Returns for periods of one year or less are cumulative returns.

## ANNUAL PERFORMANCE (%)

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Fund	21.35	40.19	-1.92	34.98	17.37	1.07	6.35	27.81	12.23	9.36
Index	19.96	25.52	-11.01	14.65	21.31	-4.41	4.89	38.82	16.35	-4.18

## GROWTH OF \$10,000



This chart assumes an initial investment of \$10,000 made on 10/18/1996. As of 9/30/2021 the fund value would have been \$144,998.40. Fund performance assumes reinvestment of dividends and capital gain distributions. This growth reflects no front end sales charges.

## FUND INFORMATION

	Ticker	CUSIP
A Shares	PKSAX	92828N551
C Shares	PKSCX	92828N536
I Shares	PKSFX	92828N528
R6 Shares	VSCRX	92828N429

Inception Date	10/18/96
AUM (\$ millions)	1,930.5
Number of Holdings	29
Dividends	Semi-Annually
Morningstar Category	Mid-Cap Growth
Lipper Category	Small-Cap Growth Funds
Index	Russell 2000® Index

## MORNINGSTAR RATINGS

Time Period	# of Stars	# of Funds
Overall	★★★★	549
3 Year	★★★★	549
5 Year	★★★★	495
10 Year	★★★★	386

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

## INVESTMENT ADVISER

Virtus Investment Advisers, Inc.

## INVESTMENT SUBADVISER



Kayne Anderson Rudnick

A VIRTUS INVESTMENT PARTNER

Kayne Anderson Rudnick believes that superior risk-adjusted returns may be achieved through investment in high-quality companies with market dominance, excellent management, financial strength, and consistent growth, purchased at reasonable prices.

## PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

### Jon Christensen, CFA

Industry start date: 1995

Start date as Fund Portfolio Manager: 2008

### Todd Bailey, CFA

Industry start date: 1999

Start date as Fund Portfolio Manager: 2009

## CHARACTERISTICS

	Fund	Index
Avg. Weighted Market Cap (bn)	7.04	3.32
Median Market Cap (bn)	5.98	1.19
Trailing P/E Ex-Negative Earnings	23.04	16.32
Price-to-Cash Flow	28.86	19.30
Price-to-Book Value	4.88	3.61
3-Year EPS Growth Rate	12.23	5.32
5-Year EPS Growth Rate	12.74	8.01
Active Share	98.56	n/a

## RISK STATISTICS (3 YEAR)

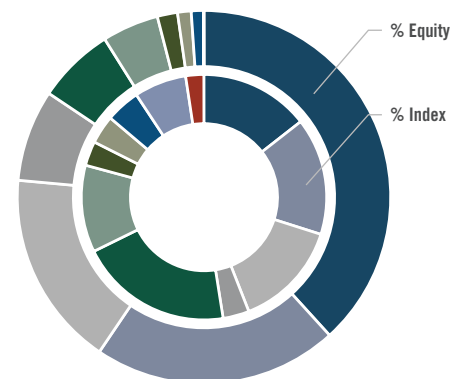
	Fund	Index
Alpha	8.43	n/a
Beta	0.66	1.00
R <sup>2</sup>	0.79	1.00
Sharpe Ratio	0.85	0.37
Standard Deviation	18.77	25.33

## TOP TEN HOLDINGS

	% Fund
FTI Consulting Inc	5.73
Rightmove PLC	5.07
EMCOR Group Inc	4.86
Manhattan Associates Inc	4.85
First Hawaiian Inc	4.64
Teledyne Technologies Inc	4.64
CorVel Corp	4.64
Primerica Inc	4.59
Watts Water Technologies Inc	4.56
Acushnet Holdings Corp	4.51

Holdings and sector weightings are subject to change.

## SECTOR ALLOCATIONS



	% Equity	% Index
Industrials	38.25	14.44
Financials	21.23	15.46
Information Technology	16.98	14.14
Communication Services	7.93	3.46
Health Care	6.69	20.24
Consumer Discretionary	4.91	11.47
Consumer Staples	1.75	3.22
Materials	1.17	3.75
Energy	1.09	4.54
Real Estate	0.00	6.89
Utilities	0.00	2.40

## IMPORTANT RISK CONSIDERATIONS

**Equity Securities:** The market price of equity securities may be adversely affected by financial market, industry, or issuer-specific events. Focus on a particular style or on small or medium-sized companies may enhance that risk. **Limited Number of Investments:** Because the portfolio has a limited number of securities, it may be more susceptible to factors adversely affecting its securities than a portfolio with a greater number of securities. **Market Volatility:** Local, regional, or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, the spread of infectious illness or other public health issues, recessions, or other events could have a significant impact on the portfolio and its investments, including hampering the ability of the portfolio manager(s) to invest the portfolio's assets as intended. **Prospectus:** For additional information on risks, please see the fund's prospectus.

## GLOSSARY

**Avg. Weighted Market Cap (bn):** The total dollar market value of all of a company's outstanding shares. **Trailing P/E Ex-Negative Earnings:** Per share stock price divided by the latest 12-months earnings per share. **Price-to-Cash Flow:** Per-share stock price divided by the per-share operating cash flow. **Price-to-Book Value:** A ratio used to compare a stock's market value to its book value. **3-Year EPS Growth Rate:** Average of earnings per share growth for latest 3-year period. **5-Year EPS Growth Rate:** Average of earnings per share growth for latest 5-year period. **Active Share:** A measure of the percentage of stock holdings in a manager's portfolio that differ from the benchmark index. **Alpha:** A risk-adjusted measure of an investment's excess return relative to a benchmark. **Beta:** A quantitative measure of the volatility, or systematic risk, of a security or a portfolio in comparison to the market as a whole. **R<sup>2</sup>:** A measure that represents the percentage of a fund or security's movements that can be explained by movements in a benchmark index. **Sharpe Ratio:** A risk-adjusted measure calculated using standard deviation and excess return to determine reward per unit of risk. **Standard Deviation:** Measures variability of returns around the average return for an investment portfolio. Higher standard deviation suggests greater risk.

## INDEX DEFINITION

**Index:** The Russell 2000® Index is a market capitalization-weighted index of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell Universe, which comprises the 3,000 largest U.S. companies. The index is calculated on a total return basis with dividends reinvested. The index is unmanaged, its returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges, and is not available for direct investment.

**Morningstar Rating™** for funds, or 'star rating,' is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. Ratings do not take into account the effect of sales charges and loads.

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