

# INVESTMENT OVERVIEW

The Fund seeks total return by investing in stocks of dividend-paying U.S. smallcap companies that appear undervalued. Securities are in the market capitalization range of the Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index and selected through a disciplined investment process focused on dividend policy, attractive valuations, and improving company fundamentals.

## **KEY FEATURES**

Low Valuation Levels — Searches for small-cap stocks trading at the lower end of historical valuation ranges relative to peers, industry, market, and company history The Power of Dividends — Dividend-paying stocks offer insights into company earnings potential and provide an added total return source that can help lower overall volatility

**Extensive Fundamental Research** — Bottom-up analysis strives to identify catalysts that could drive meaningful price gains, such as new management, restructurings, or product innovations



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 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 for details.

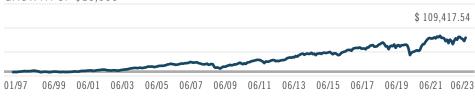
The fund class gross expense ratio is 1.23%. The net expense ratio is 1.15%, which reflects a contractual expense reimbursement in effect through 4/30/2024.

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 (%)

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Fund	-10.09	27.20	0.91	17.58	-12.42	10.29	29.16	-5.86	2.12	35.05
Index	-14.48	28.27	4.63	22.39	-12.86	7.84	31.74	-7.47	4.22	34.52

### GROWTH OF \$10,000



This chart assumes an initial investment of \$10,000 made on 1/31/1997. As of 6/30/2023 the fund value would have been \$109,417.54. Fund performance assumes reinvestment of dividends and capital gain distributions. This growth reflects no front end sales charges.

# FUND INFORMATION

	Ticker	CUSIP		
A Shares	SASVX	92837F433		
C Shares	STCEX	92837F425		
I Shares	SCETX	92837F417		
R6 Shares	VVERX	92837X665		
Inception Dat	te	01/31/97		
AUM (\$ millio	ons)	203.5		
Number of H	oldings	72		
Dividends		Semi-Annually		
Morningstar	Category	Small Blend		

Small-Cap Core Funds

Russell 2000® Value

Index

### MORNINGSTAR RATINGS

Lipper Category

Index

Time Period	# of Stars	# of Funds
Overall	**	596
3 Year	****	596
5 Year	**	551
10 Year	**	380

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

# INVESTMENT ADVISER

Virtus Fund Advisers, LLC

# INVESTMENT SUBADVISER

VALUE ADVISORS

Ceredex Value Advisors is a value equity boutique that has managed money for institutions, endowments, foundations and high-net-worth investors since 1995. Portfolio managers and analysts collaborate to execute on bottom-up, company-by-company research, seeking to identify catalysts in undervalued, dividend-paying stocks when constructing valueoriented portfolios.

# PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

Charles E. Carter, CFA Industry start date: 2001 Start date as Fund Portfolio Manager: 2023

#### Don Wordell, CFA

Industry start date: 1996 Start date as Fund Portfolio Manager: 2023 Fund

Fund

2.84

0.84

0.89

0.76

19.88 22.34

Index

Index

n/a

1.00

1.00

0.63

#### CHARACTERISTICS

**RISK STATISTICS** 

(3 YEAR)

Sharpe Ratio

Standard Deviation

Alpha

Beta

 $\mathbb{R}^2$ 

Average Weighted Market Cap (bn)	4.97	2.36
Median Market Cap (bn)	4.52	0.79
Forward Price/Earnings	13.70	10.90
Price-to-Cash Flow	11.32	8.31
Price-to-Book Value	2.26	1.49
3-Year Earnings Growth Rate	17.83	14.43
5-Year Earnings Growth Rate	10.31	12.60
Active Share	96.23	n/a

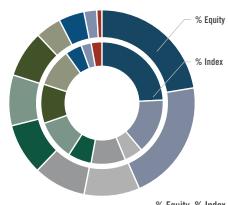
#### TOP TEN HOLDINGS

RB GLOBAL INC	2.49
Power Integrations Inc	1.96
Dolby Laboratories Inc	1.96
Perrigo Co PLC	1.80
DENTSPLY SIRONA Inc	1.77
Colliers International Group Inc	1.75
Curtiss-Wright Corp	1.74
Herc Holdings Inc	1.67
Belden Inc	1.67
Wintrust Financial Corp	1.63

Holdings and sector weightings are subject to change.

## SECTOR ALLOCATIONS

% Fund



	% Equity	% Index
Financials	22.39	24.21
Industrials	21.06	14.66
Materials	9.66	4.90
Energy	9.09	9.09
Information Technology	8.89	6.23
Real Estate	8.80	10.57
Consumer Discretionary	8.08	10.34
Health Care	4.47	10.08
Utilities	4.45	4.41
Consumer Staples	2.22	2.65
Communication Services	0.89	2.86

# 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, medium, or large-sized companies may enhance that risk. Value Stocks: Value stocks are subject to the risk that the broad market may not recognize their intrinsic value. Sector Focused Investing: Events negatively affecting a particular industry or market sector in which the portfolio focuses its investments may cause the value of the portfolio to decrease. Market Volatility: The value of the securities in the portfolio may go up or down in response to the prospects of individual companies and/or general economic conditions. Local, regional, or global events such as war, terrorism, pandemic, or recession could impact the portfolio, including hampering the ability of the portfolio's manager(s) to invest its assets as intended. Prospectus: For additional information on risks, please see the fund's prospectus.

#### GLOSSARY

Avg. Weighted Market Cap (bn): The sum of each security's weight within the fund (or index) multiplied by the security's market capitalization. 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 Earnings Growth Rate: Average of earnings per share growth for latest 3-year period. 5-Year Earnings Growth Rate: Average of earnings per share growth for latest 3-year period. Active Share: A measure of the percentage of stock holdings in a manager's portfolio that differ from the benchmark index. Alpha: A risk-adjusted measure of an investment's excess return relative to a benchmark. Beta: A quantitative measure of the volatility, or systematic risk, of a security or a portfolio in comparison to the market as a whole. R<sup>2</sup>: A measure that represents the percentage of a fund or security's movements that can be explained by movements in a benchmark index. Sharpe Ratio: A risk-adjusted measure calculated using standard deviation and excess return to determine reward per unit of risk. Standard Deviation: Measures variability of returns around the average return for an investment portfolio. Higher standard deviation suggests greater risk.

#### INDEX DEFINITION

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

Morningstar Rating<sup>™</sup> 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/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year verail 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.

© 2023 Morningstar, Inc. All rights reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete, or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Lipper Category Classifications © 2023 Lipper. All rights reserved.

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

Not insured by FDIC/NCUSIF or any federal government agency. No bank guarantee. Not a deposit. May lose value.

Mutual funds distributed by VP Distributors, LLC, member FINRA and subsidiary of Virtus Investment Partners, Inc. 1127 07-23 © 2023 Virtus Mutual Funds

