



VERITAS ABSOLUTE RETURN FUND

Management Report of Fund Performance

The annual Management Report of Fund Performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the Investment Fund.

For the year ended December 31, 2023



VERITAS
Asset Management

VERITAS ABSOLUTE RETURN FUND

MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

Management Discussion of Fund Performance for the year ended December 31, 2023

Forward-Looking Statements (“FLS”)

The annual Management Report of Fund Performance may contain forward-looking statements (“FLS”). FLS means disclosure regarding possible events, conditions or results of operations that is based on assumptions about future economic conditions and courses of action and includes any future-oriented financial information (“FOFI”) with respect to prospective results of operations, financial position or cash flows that is presented either as a forecast or a projection. FOFI is FLS about prospective results of operations, financial position or cash flows, based on assumptions about future economic conditions and courses of action.

FLS can be identified using forward-looking terminology such as “may”, “will”, “should”, “expect”, “anticipate”, “target”, “project”, “estimate”, “intend”, “continue” or “believe”, or the negatives thereof or other variations thereon or comparable terminology. Due to various risks and uncertainties, actual events or results or the actual performance of the Fund may differ materially from those reflected or contemplated in such forward-looking information and statements. Material risk factors that could affect actual results are identified under the heading “What are the Risks of Investing in the Fund?” in the Fund’s Simplified Prospectus. Investors are also cautioned that FLS is based on several factors and assumptions, including a Fund’s current plans, estimates, opinions and analysis made considering its experience, current conditions and expectations of future developments, as well as other relevant factors. Before making any investment decisions, we encourage you to consider these and other factors carefully. All opinions contained in forward-looking statements are subject to change without notice and are provided in good faith but without legal responsibility.

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Management Discussion of Fund Performance for the year ended December 31, 2023

This Management Report of Fund Performance represents the portfolio management team's view of the significant factors and developments affecting the investment fund's performance and outlook for the year ended December 31, 2023, the investment fund's annual year end. Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this Management Report of Fund Performance is accurate and complete, however, the investment fund cannot guarantee the accuracy or the completeness of this material. For more information, please refer to the Funds' Simplified Prospectus ("Prospectus"). In this report, "Manager", refers to Veritas Asset Management Inc., the Manager of the Fund. The "Fund" refers to the Veritas Absolute Return Fund. In addition, "net asset value" or "NAV" refers to the value of the Fund as calculated for transaction purposes, on which the Fund performance is based. All dollar figures are reported in Canadian dollars and are expressed in millions, unless otherwise indicated.

Investment Objective and Strategies

The investment objective of the Fund is to achieve attractive risk adjusted rates of return that deliver long-term capital appreciation to unitholders. The Fund will invest primarily in the securities of publicly traded Canadian companies that the Manager identifies as mispriced. Long and short positions will be based in part on recommendations provided by Veritas Investment Research Corporation (an affiliate of the Manager). The Manager may also invest in securities that are not formally covered by Veritas Investment Research Corporation. The Fund will manage its long and short positions to reduce the impact of market volatility on the Fund's investment portfolio.

Risk

The risks associated with investing in the Fund remain as discussed in the Prospectus. The Fund is suitable for investors looking for a medium level of risk that is based on a research-driven, concentrated portfolio of Canadian Companies with a medium to longer term investment horizon.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, there were no changes affecting the overall level of risk associated with an investment in the Fund. Therefore, the overall level of Fund risk and investor risk tolerance remains as stated in the Prospectus.

Results of Operations

For the year ended December 31, 2023, Series A units were down 1.53%, from \$11.42 on December 31, 2022, to \$11.25. There were no distributions for the Series A units for the year.

Series F units, representing the largest series of the Fund by asset value, ended \$11.52, down 0.56% from \$11.58 on December 31, 2022. There were no distributions for the Series F units for the year.

Series I units closed the year at \$11.43, up from \$11.31 on December 31, 2022, resulting in a gain of 1.11%. There were no distributions for the Series I units for the year.

By comparison, the S&P/TSX Composite Total Return Index ("S&P/TSX TR") returned 11.75% over the year of 2023. It is important to note that the Fund's return is net of fees and expenses for professional management, while the benchmark does not have such costs.

The total NAV of the Fund as of December 31, 2023 was \$46.4 million. It began the year at \$54.9 million and saw net redemptions totalling \$8.0 million.

The net assets of the Series A units decreased 18.9% from \$6.4 million to \$5.2 million, reflecting a combination of returns and net redemptions. The net assets of the Series F units decreased 16.2% from \$45.8 million to \$38.4 million as a result of net redemptions over the year. The net assets of Series I units increased 2.1% from \$2.7 million to \$2.8 million, reflecting a combination of returns and net subscriptions.

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The Fund's performance versus the benchmark in 2023, for each of the Series A, F and I units, respectively, reflects bottom-up stock picking, both long and short, combined with active management of net market exposures and daily volatility. For 2023, our fund performance was negatively impacted by our underweight position in Information Technology stocks, which accounted for roughly 40% of the total S&P/TSX return, and our overweight positions in Utilities, REITs and Staples, which underperformed. In addition, our short holdings kept pace with the index and were a net detractor.

The investment performance of the Fund included income and expenses which may vary year over year. The Fund's income and expenses changed over the period, mainly because of fluctuations in average net assets, portfolio activity and changes in the Fund's investments.

Recent Developments

Entering 2023, we adjusted our long and short holdings in anticipation of slowing inflation and an eventual pause in central bank rate hikes. We remained defensively positioned on the view that the negative effects of higher interest rates would take time to work their way through the global economy.

Global indices were up sharply during the year as market sentiment improved with slowing inflation, strong labour markets and sustained consumer spending.

We would argue that much of the expansion traces back to extreme levels of deficit spending in the U.S. which spurred consumer activity and the overall economy. The risk remains that debt-funded spending complicates the fight against inflation and drives long term rates higher.

We think caution is warranted in 2024. In our view, current economic conditions and the narrow breadth of the market increase the risk of a material draw down. The late stages of a business cycle are often characterized by low unemployment, above trend inflation and rising long-term bond rates. We may be near a turning point.

As always, we remain focused on managing market volatility, preserving capital and seeking out the best opportunities to drive returns.

The Absolute Return Fund, through its use of alternative strategies that include short positions and options writing, remains well-positioned to deliver low market correlations and minimize volatility in 2024.

Related Party Transactions

The Manager receives a management fee payable by the Fund for providing its services to the Fund. The management fee varies for each series of units. The management fee is calculated and accrued daily based on a percentage of the net asset value of the series of units of the Fund, plus applicable taxes, and is payable on the last day of each calendar month. The management fee for each of the applicable series of Units is as follows:

- Series A: 2.50% per annum of the net asset value of Series A Units of the Fund calculated daily and payable on the last business day of the month.
- Series F: 1.50% per annum of the net asset value of Series F Units of the Fund calculated daily and payable on the last business day of the month.
- Series I: Negotiated between the investor and the Manager and paid directly by the investor. The management fee rate on the Series I units will not exceed the management fee payable on Series F units of the Fund.

Expense reimbursement

Expense reimbursement by the Manager during the year ended December 31, 2023 amounted to \$nil (2022: \$5,259), out of which \$nil was receivable as of December 31, 2023 (2022: \$nil).

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Ownership

As at December 31, 2023, 115,313 units (2022: 113,897) of Series F were owned by parties related to the Manager. As at December 31, 2023, 231,109 units (2022: 233,027) of Series I were owned by parties related to the Manager.

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Series A, Series F and Series I units of the Fund, respectively, and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the year ended December 31, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019. The information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the year shown were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund and does not consider sales, redemptions, distributions or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future.

The Fund's Net Asset Value (NAV) per Series A Unit (1)	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$11.42	\$12.17	\$10.55	\$10.33	\$9.62
Increase from operations:					
Total revenue	0.33	0.27	0.21	0.33	0.28
Total expenses	(0.40)	(0.42)	(0.47)	(0.41)	(0.45)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	0.36	(0.88)	1.43	0.04	0.57
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(0.51)	0.14	0.98	0.60	0.33
Total increase (decrease) from operations (2)	(0.22)	(0.88)	2.16	0.56	0.73
Distributions:					
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	(0.88)	-	-
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Total distributions (2) (3)	\$-	\$-	\$(0.88)	\$-	\$-
Net asset value, end of year (4)	\$11.25	\$11.42	\$12.17	\$10.55	\$10.33
Ratios and Supplemental Data					
Total net asset value (4)	\$5,173,770	\$6,375,788	\$7,137,349	\$1,480,350	\$244,842
Number of units outstanding (4)	460,048	558,247	586,402	140,348	23,702
Management expense ratio (5)	3.43%	3.40%	3.69%	3.95%	2.17%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	3.43%	3.40%	3.69%	3.95%	2.17%
Trading expense ratio (6)	0.26%	0.43%	0.21%	0.07%	0.26%
Portfolio turnover rate (7)	424.40%	597.32%	474.67%	610.18%	1,419.68%
Net asset value per unit	\$11.25	\$11.42	\$12.17	\$10.55	\$10.33

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MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

Management Discussion of Fund Performance for the year ended December 31, 2023

The Fund's Net Asset Value (NAV) per Series F Unit (1)	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$11.58	\$12.22	\$10.46	\$10.13	\$9.37
Increase from operations:					
Total revenue	0.33	0.28	0.22	0.32	0.25
Total expenses	(0.29)	(0.31)	(0.34)	(0.31)	(0.34)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	0.37	(1.02)	1.47	0.14	0.69
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(0.54)	0.17	1.01	0.34	0.15
Total increase (decrease) from operations (2)	(0.13)	(0.87)	2.35	0.50	0.75
Distributions:					
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	(0.97)	-	-
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Total distributions (2) (3)	\$-	\$-	\$(0.97)	\$-	\$-
Net asset value, end of year (4)	\$11.52	\$11.58	\$12.22	\$10.46	\$10.13
Ratios and Supplemental Data					
Total net asset value (4)	\$38,401,357	\$45,825,281	\$36,884,739	\$14,665,073	\$10,676,674
Number of units outstanding (4)	3,334,085	3,956,326	3,017,959	1,402,047	1,054,129
Management expense ratio (5)	2.45%	2.42%	2.65%	2.95%	2.01%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	2.45%	2.42%	2.65%	2.95%	2.01%
Trading expense ratio (6)	0.26%	0.43%	0.21%	0.07%	0.26%
Portfolio turnover rate (7)	424.40%	597.32%	474.67%	610.18%	1,419.68%
Net asset value per unit	\$11.52	\$11.58	\$12.22	\$10.46	\$10.13

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Management Discussion of Fund Performance for the year ended December 31, 2023

The Fund's Net Asset Value (NAV) per Series I Unit (1)	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$11.31	\$11.73	\$10.13	\$9.75	\$8.97
Increase from operations:					
Total revenue	0.31	0.27	0.20	0.31	0.24
Total expenses	(0.10)	(0.10)	(0.16)	(0.24)	(0.28)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	0.37	(0.83)	1.36	0.21	0.65
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(0.45)	0.23	1.09	0.21	0.17
Total increase (decrease) from operations (2)	0.13	(0.43)	2.48	0.49	0.78
Distributions:					
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	(0.89)	-	-
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Total distributions (2) (3)	\$-	\$-	\$(0.89)	\$-	\$-
Net asset value, end of year (4)	\$11.43	\$11.31	\$11.73	\$10.13	\$9.75
Ratios and Supplemental Data					
Total net asset value (4)	\$2,793,029	\$2,736,229	\$2,787,285	\$2,040,851	\$1,994,662
Number of units outstanding (4)	244,254	241,955	237,538	201,530	204,554
Management expense ratio (5)	0.78%	0.74%	1.13%	2.43%	1.70%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	0.78%	0.74%	1.13%	2.43%	1.70%
Trading expense ratio (6)	0.26%	0.43%	0.21%	1.77%	0.26%
Portfolio cash turnover rate (7)	424.40%	597.32%	474.67%	610.18%	1,419.68%
Net asset value per unit	\$11.43	\$11.31	\$11.73	\$10.13	\$9.75

Notes:

- (1) This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements for December 31, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019 and is not a reconciliation of beginning and ending net assets per unit.
- (2) Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial year.
- (3) Distributions were paid in cash or automatically reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both.
- (4) This information is provided as at December 31, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019.
- (5) Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding distributions, commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated year and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average NAV during the year.
- (6) The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average NAV during the year. Included in the trading expense ratio are the forward fees.
- (7) The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the units in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a funds' portfolio turnover rate in the year, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund.

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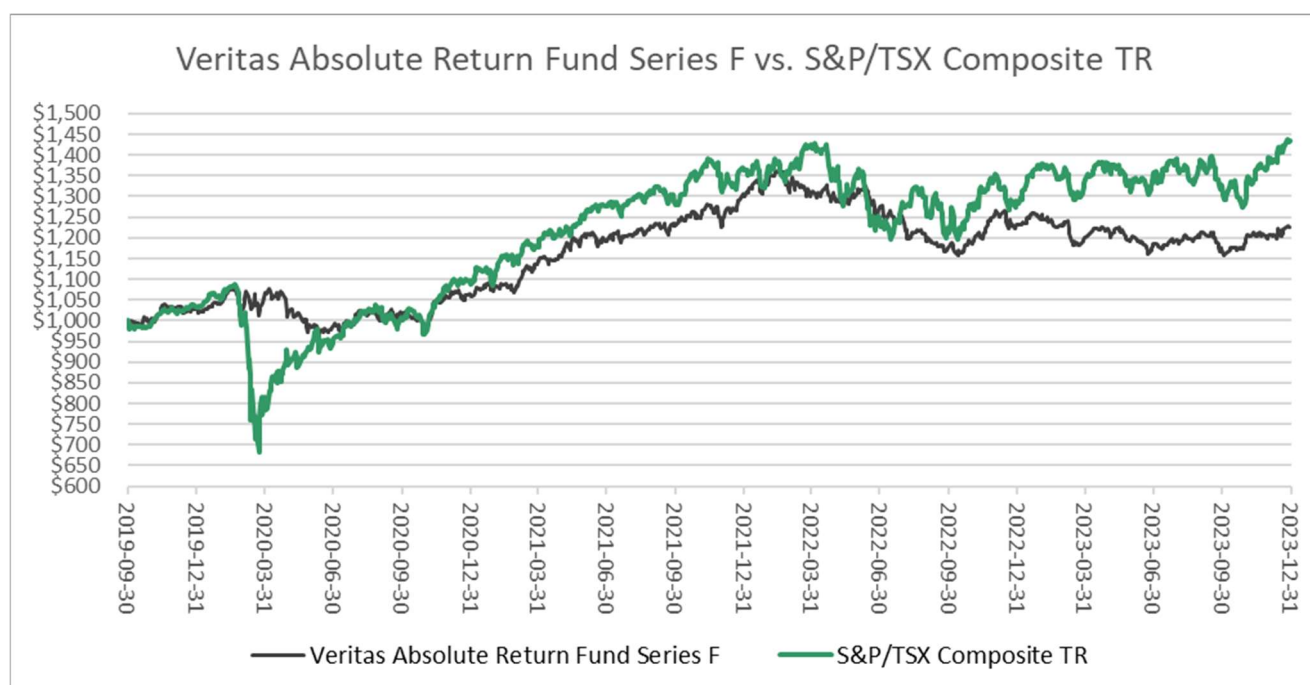
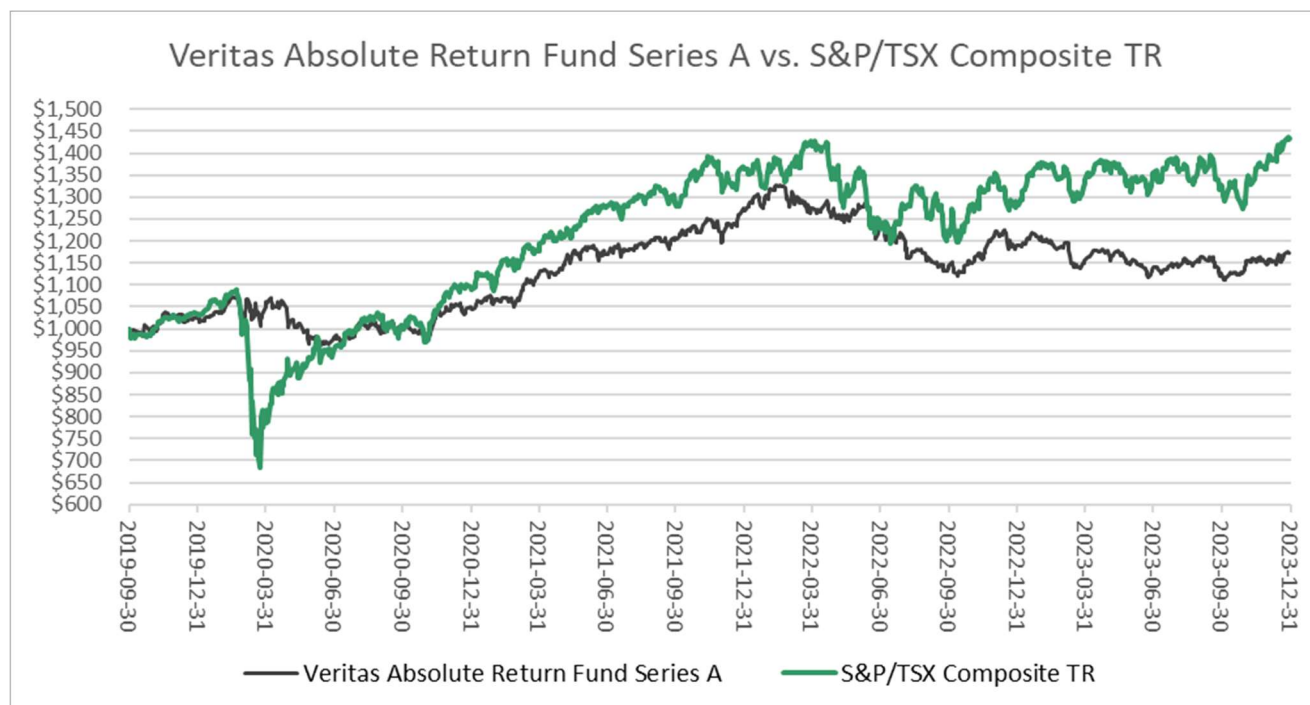
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Returns since October 1, 2019

The following line charts present the Fund's periodic performance in dollar terms, showing how much a \$1,000 investment in Series A, F and I units, respectively, made on the fund's conversion date (October 1, 2019) would have grown or decreased to by December 31, 2023.

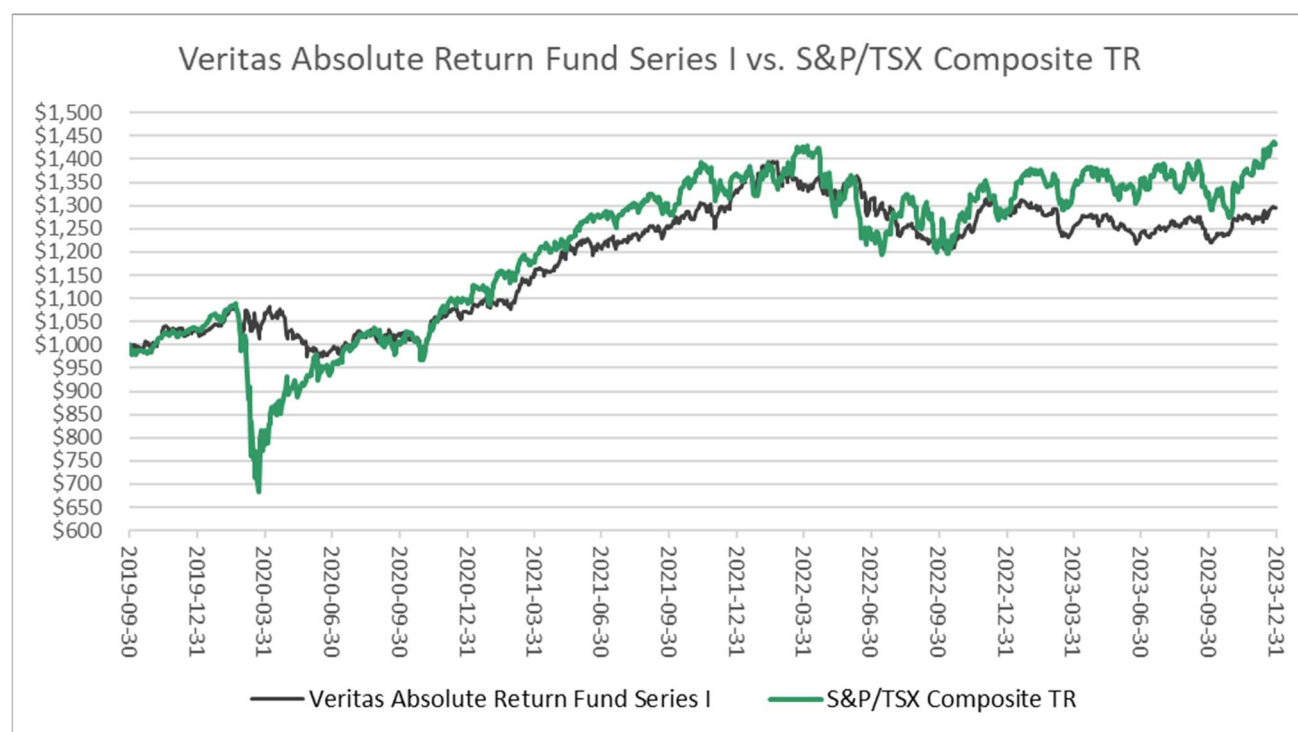
The returns through December 31, 2023 for the Series A, F and I units are as follows:



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Benchmark(s) Information

The benchmark of the Fund is the S&P/TSX Composite Total Return Index. The S&P/TSX Composite, with 225 constituents, is the benchmark Canadian index, representing approximately 78% coverage of stocks listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, as measured by market capitalization.

Annual and Year-to-Date Returns

Performance for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	From January 1, 2023	From January 1, 2022
Fund, Series A	-1.53%	-6.16%
Fund, Series F	-0.56%	-5.23%
Fund, Series I	1.11%	-3.62%
INDEX	11.75%	-5.84%

Management Discussion of Fund Performance for the year ended December 31, 2023

Portfolio Composition	
Sector Allocation	% of Net Asset Value
Cash at broker	23.0%
Financials	3.3%
Energy	16.4%
Consumer Staples	7.2%
Real Estate	4.2%
Communication Services	4.2%
Utilities	3.0%
Industrials	14.3%
Materials	7.6%
Consumer Discretionary	9.9%
Information Technology	6.8%
Other assets and liabilities	0.1%
Total Portfolio Allocation	100%
Total Net Asset Value	\$ 46,368,156

Top 25 Holdings	
Issuer	% of Net Asset Value
LONG POSITIONS	
Cash And Other Net Assets (Liabilities)	23.11%
Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd.	4.25%
RioCan Real Estate Investment Trust	4.18%
Wheaton Precious Metals Corp.	4.05%
Shopify Inc.	3.99%
Maple Leaf Foods Inc.	3.61%
TFI International Inc.	3.42%
goeasy Ltd.	3.42%
Bombardier Inc.	3.39%
Manulife Financial Corp.	3.35%
Air Canada	3.24%
Restaurant Brands International Inc.	3.20%
Rogers Communications Inc.	3.14%
AltaGas Ltd.	3.14%
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.	3.07%
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.	3.03%
Element Fleet Management Corp.	2.99%
Suncor Energy Inc.	2.96%
Cenovus Energy Inc.	2.95%
Constellation Software Inc.	2.87%
Great-West Lifeco Inc.	2.58%
TC Energy Corp.	2.58%
Enbridge Inc.	2.57%
Capital Power Corp.	2.56%
Tourmaline Oil Corp.	2.35%
Total % of Net Asset Value Represented by Holdings	100.0%

The Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. Quarterly updates of the Investment Portfolio are available within 60 days of each quarter end.