

William Blair SICAV – U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund

Class JWI (GBP)

William Blair

Portfolio Review

June 2021

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ISIN: LU1897332919

Market Overview

The U.S. equity market remained strong through the first half of 2021 as the U.S. economy continued to demonstrate improvement following disruption in 2020. First quarter market performance was supported by positive economic data, robust job growth and massive stimulus distributed to U.S. households and businesses. Improvements in corporate earnings growth also buoyed equities as corporations reported fourth quarter profits that broadly exceeded Wall Street's expectations.

While the rate of vaccinations accelerated faster than anticipated across the country during the first quarter, the pace of vaccinations slowed through the second quarter despite an abundant supply of vaccines in the U.S. However, new cases of COVID-19, along with hospitalizations and deaths, significantly declined through the first half of the year, allowing the economy to recover as restrictions were eased across the country.

In the second quarter, manufacturing activity, gross domestic product (GDP), and job growth increased, further supporting the continued economic rebound. Notably, as U.S. employers increased hiring, the number of job openings outpaced the number of potential workers available to claim them, resulting in a sharp increase in wages. While the source of funding is yet to be determined, President Biden reached a bipartisan deal to boost infrastructure spending by \$600 billion late in the second quarter. The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) reiterated its commitment to maintain a low target federal funds rate as the economy continues to recover. However, Fed policymakers announced that they expect an increase in the fed funds rate by the end of 2023, an accelerated

timeline relative to prior expectations. U.S. Treasury yields declined during the second quarter, facilitating a rotation that benefited growth-oriented segments of the market. With a largely positive fundamental backdrop and healthy corporate earnings reports, U.S. equity indices advanced in the second quarter.

Portfolio Performance

The SMID Growth portfolio trailed its benchmark during the second quarter, primarily driven by stock-specific factors. Stock selection in Information Technology, including our position in Pure Storage, and Consumer Discretionary, including our positions in Grand Canyon Education and Bright Horizons, detracted from relative returns. Education service provider Grand Canyon Education reported lower-than-expected new enrollment growth during the quarter and lowered full-year revenue guidance. Other top detractors included Veracyte (Health Care) and BWX Technologies (Industrials). Veracyte, a leading genomic diagnostics company, reported its pulmonary business is recovering from COVID-19 related headwinds at a slower pace than expected, putting pressure on shares. Conversely, our top individual contributors during the period included Generac Holdings (Industrials), Axon Enterprise (Industrials), Celsius Holdings (Consumer Staples), Charles River (Health Care) and Stem (Industrials). Generac, a leading global designer and manufacturer of a wide range of energy technology solutions, reported earnings and revenue results above expectations during the quarter due to a further acceleration in demand. Axon, a leading provider of law enforcement technology, reported broad-based strength across all product lines. From a style perspective, our typical larger market cap profile relative to the Russell

2500 Growth benchmark was a tailwind as the largest stocks in our universe outperformed in the second quarter. Stock specific contributors and detractors for the second quarter are discussed in greater detail at the end of this quarterly review.

The portfolio performed in-line with its benchmark in the year-to-date period, driven by a combination of style factors and stock-specific dynamics. From a style perspective, our bias toward companies with higher returns on invested capital and our underweight to the most expensive stocks in the benchmark were tailwinds as stocks with higher returns on invested capital and more attractive valuations generally outperformed during the period – a contrast to 2020. Partly offsetting this tailwind was our typical larger market cap profile relative to the Russell 2500 Growth benchmark as the smallest stocks in our universe outperformed. From a stock-specific standpoint, selection in Health Care, including our positions in Penumbra and Ligand Pharmaceuticals, was a standout contributor to relative returns. Penumbra, the market leader in mechanical stroke treatment, reported revenue results that exceeded expectations, led by strength in the peripheral vascular segment of the business and encouraging stability in the neuro segment. Additionally, our typical underweight to speculative Biotechnology, which consists of companies without approved products, was a tailwind during the period. Other top contributors included Generac Holdings (Industrials) and Axon Enterprise (Industrials), for the reasons outlined above, as well as Brooks Automation (Information Technology). Conversely, our top detractors during the period included Mercury Systems (Industrials), LiveRamp Holdings (Information Technology), NICE (Information Technology), Ritchie Bros Auctioneers (Industrials) and Pure Storage

(Information Technology). Shares of Mercury Systems, a provider of sensor processing subsystems, were pressured, along with other defense-oriented companies, following the Democratic Senate victories in early January. Shares of technology company LiveRamp Holdings were pressured in the period as Google announced that it would cease the usage of cookies based on individuals' web browsing history and shift to a cohort approach, which may inhibit LiveRamp's and other industry participants' ability to facilitate targeted advertising in the same way they have historically. Stock selection in Consumer Discretionary and Information Technology also detracted from relative returns.

Outlook

Despite strong equity market performance and a continued sense of optimism around U.S. economic potential, some uncertainty remains surrounding the spread of new COVID-19 variants that have the potential to slow down the reopening of the economy. More specifically, the spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant coupled with vaccine hesitancy among some portions of the population may pose a challenge to the U.S. achieving herd immunity. While bolstering the economy, the surge in government spending and recovery in consumer spending activity has fueled inflation concerns among some investors, though the bond market does not appear to share those concerns, at least for the time being.

We continue to monitor economic developments and navigate through the business model implications of COVID-19 disruption and the subsequent economic recovery. Our focus remains on identifying companies with long-term durability, independent of the economic

backdrop, whose stocks present compelling risk/reward opportunities. Through bottom-up, fundamental analysis, we seek to identify quality companies with superior management, high barriers to entry and differentiated products or services that we believe can outperform over a market cycle.

	Value	Core	Growth
Month to Date			
Russell 3000	-1.11	2.47	6.17
Russell 1000	-1.15	2.51	6.27
Russell Midcap	-1.16	1.47	6.80
Russell 2500	-1.32	1.18	5.37
Russell 2000	-0.61	1.94	4.69
Quarter to Date			
Russell 3000	5.16	8.24	11.38
Russell 1000	5.21	8.54	11.93
Russell Midcap	5.66	7.50	11.07
Russell 2500	5.00	5.44	6.04
Russell 2000	4.56	4.29	3.92
Year to Date			
Russell 3000	17.67	15.11	12.71
Russell 1000	17.05	14.95	12.99
Russell Midcap	19.45	16.25	10.44
Russell 2500	22.68	16.97	8.67
Russell 2000	26.69	17.54	8.98

Market Performance

- In the second quarter, manufacturing activity, gross domestic product (GDP), and job growth increased, supporting the continued U.S. economic rebound.
- U.S. Treasury yields declined during the second quarter, facilitating a rotation that benefited growth-oriented segments of the market.
- With a largely positive fundamental backdrop and healthy corporate earnings reports, U.S. equity indices advanced in the second quarter.

Style Performance

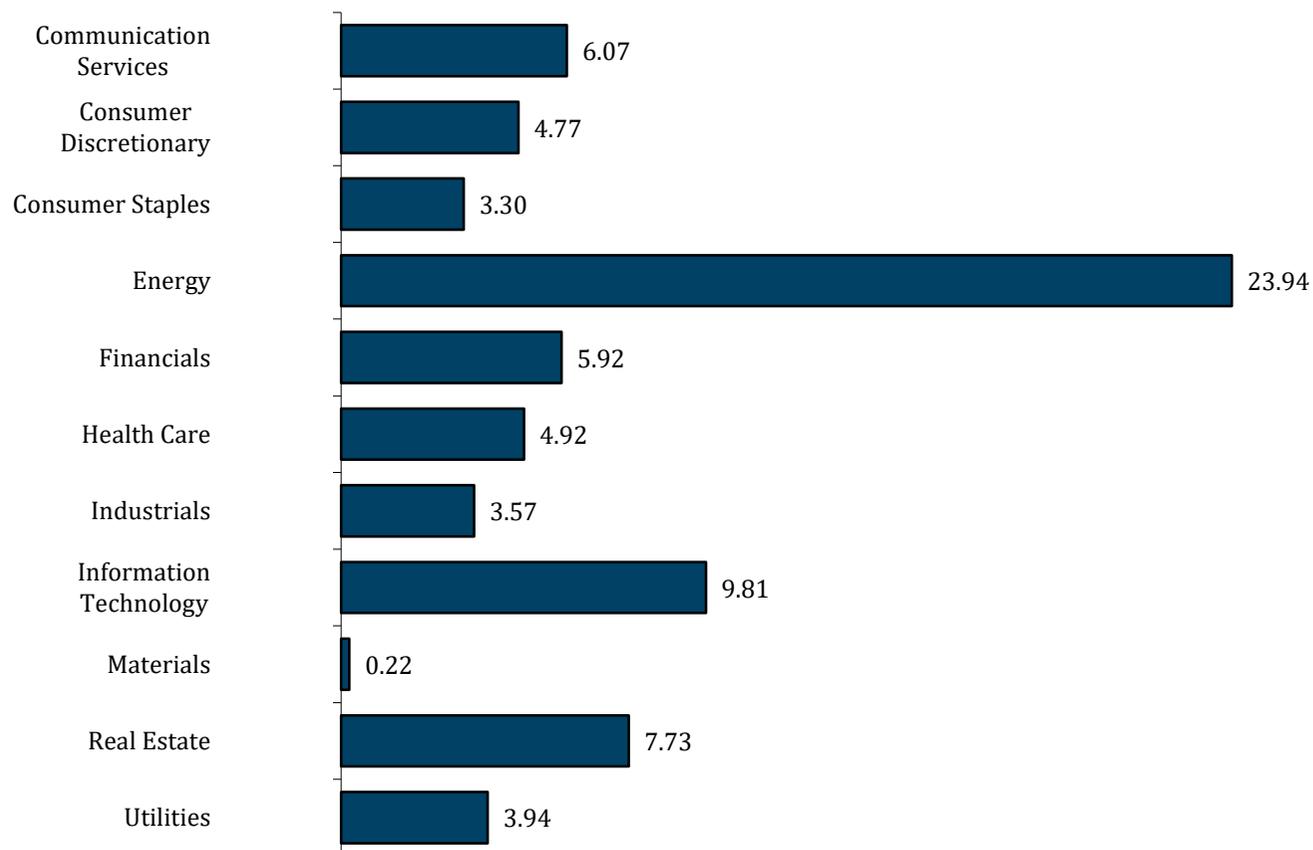
- After trailing value benchmarks in the first two months of the quarter, growth benchmarks strongly outperformed in the month of June, resulting in outperformance of growth benchmarks across most size segments for the second quarter.
- Year-to-date, value benchmarks outperformed growth benchmarks with the dispersion between the style benchmarks considerably wider in small cap.

Market Cap Performance

- Among growth benchmarks, large and mid caps outperformed small caps for the month and quarter, with wider dispersion of returns for the full quarter period. Performance dispersion across the size spectrum was narrow among value benchmarks for both time periods.
- Year-to-date, smaller caps outperformed larger caps in value benchmarks, but larger caps outperformed smaller caps in growth benchmarks.

The Russell 3000 Index measures the performance of the all-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. The Russell 1000 Index measures the performance of the large-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes approximately 1000 of the largest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell Midcap Index measures the performance of the mid cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes approximately 800 of the smallest securities in the Russell 1000 Index based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell 2500 Index measures the performance of the small to mid-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes approximately 2500 of the smallest securities in the Russell 3000 Index based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell 2000 Index measures the performance of the small cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes approximately 2000 of the smallest securities in the Russell 3000 Index based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. Core returns represent the Total Return indices. The value segments of these indices include companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values. The growth segments of these indices include companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.

**Russell 2500 Growth Total Return
Q2 2021**



Data calculated in our proprietary attribution system. Past returns are no guarantee of future performance. A direct investment in an index is not possible. The Russell 2500 Growth Index measures the performance of the Russell 2500 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.

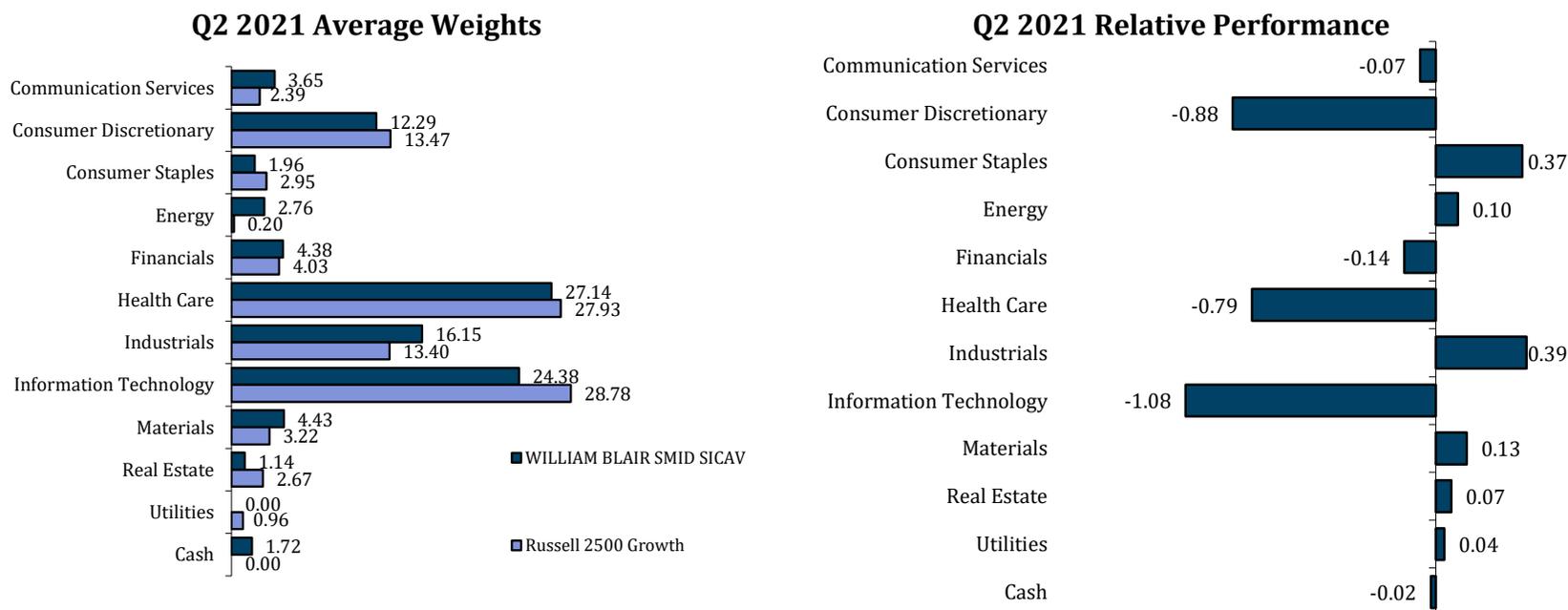
Periods ended 30/06/2021	Quarter	YTD	1 Year	Since Inception*
William Blair SICAV – U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund (Class JW I GBP)	3.63%	7.08%	27.47%	24.35%
Russell 2500 Growth (GBP)	5.90%	7.53%	33.83%	27.84%

*Inception 04/01/2019

The Russell 2500 Growth Index measures the performance of the Russell 2500 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.

Periods greater than one year are annualized. All charges and fees have been included within the performance figures. For the most current month-end performance information, please visit the SICAV website at sicav.williamblair.com. Please refer to the 'Important Disclosures' section at the end of this document for further information on investment risks and returns.

The charts below show the average sector weights and relative performance, by sector, for the portfolio vs. its benchmark.



Source: Proprietary attribution system.

The Russell 2500 Growth Index measures the performance of those Russell 2500 companies with higher price-to book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. It is a capitalization-weighted index as calculated by Russell on a total return basis with dividends reinvested. This benchmark is a comparable market proxy. Performance shown assumes reinvestment of dividends and capital gains and is gross of investment management fees. Deduction of fees would reduce the returns shown. Please refer to the 'Important Disclosures' section at the end of this document for further information on investment risks and returns.

The securities listed below are significant contributors to performance for the quarter ended 30/06/2021.

Generac (GNRC) is a leading global designer and manufacturer of a wide range of energy technology solutions. The company provides power generation equipment, energy storage systems, and other power products serving the residential, light commercial and industrial markets. The company reported earnings and revenue results above expectations during the quarter due to a further acceleration in demand, driven in part by significantly higher power outage activity caused by unusually cold weather. We maintained our position and believe the stock remains attractively valued relative to an accelerating growth profile and strong incremental margins.

Axon (AXON) is a leading provider of law enforcement technology including conducted energy devices (branded TASER), on-officer and in-car cameras, as well as cloud-based digital evidence management software. Axon's overarching goal is to protect life through its stated mission to obsolete the bullet, reduce social conflict and enable a fair and effective justice system. The company reported robust revenue results and raised full-year guidance during the quarter, driven by broad-based strength across all product lines. Axon continues to see strong demand, both domestically and internationally, and the management team is in the process of building additional capacity. We maintained our position and continue to believe the company is well positioned to benefit from a healthy demand environment for all of its product offerings given the secular shift toward use of non-lethal force in the U.S. and internationally.

Celsius Holdings (CELH) makes Celsius branded functional energy drinks that feature a clean label and a unique calorie-burning formula. Celsius reported sales growth that was well ahead of expectations both in the U.S. and internationally, as Celsius continues to bring new customers into the energy drink space, accelerating consumption. In addition, the company has made progress on building out its distribution infrastructure. We maintained our position and continue to believe that Celsius is building unique brand equity, attracting new users to the energy drink category and has a long runway to grow its market share.

The securities listed below are significant detractors to performance for the quarter ended 30/06/2021.

Grand Canyon Education (LOPE) is an education services provider focusing on online and on campus program management for graduate and undergraduate degrees. The company report lower-than-expected new enrollment growth during the quarter and lowered full-year revenue guidance. Additionally, the company's pending non-profit status with the Department of Education in regard to Title IV eligibility remains uncertain. We trimmed our position as we assess the risk/reward profile of the company relative to the overall opportunity set.

Veracyte (VCYT) is a leading genomic diagnostics company that engages in the research, development and commercialization of diagnostic products. While the company reported earnings results in-line with expectations during the quarter, the pulmonary business is recovering from COVID-19 related headwinds at a slower pace than expected, putting pressure on shares. The company also announced plans to acquire HalioDx, an immuno-oncology diagnostics company, which should enhance Veracyte's manufacturing capabilities, add a differentiated immuno-oncology platform and pipeline to the company's expertise in cancer genomics, as well as broaden the company's cancer diagnostics offering into eight of the top ten cancers in the United States. We trimmed our position and believe Veracyte will continue to be a leader in the diagnostics market as the company focuses on the advancement of early detection of disease and improving diagnostic clarity.

BWX Technologies (BWXT) is the sole-source provider of propulsion systems for the U.S. Navy. During the quarter, the company reported revenue and earnings that exceeded expectations despite tough comparables from the prior year. However, shares of the stock lagged during the quarter, in part due to the relative insulation of the business from overall economic cyclicality, which has no bearing on orders from the U.S. Navy. We maintained our position and continue to believe the durability and visibility of BWX Technologies' runway is underappreciated by the market.

Top 10 Holdings by Weight		
	William Blair SICAV – U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund % in Portfolio	Russell 2500 Growth % in Index
Horizon Therapeutics Plc	2.26	0.00
BWX Technologies Inc	2.18	0.15
Martin Marietta Materials	2.15	0.00
Crown Holdings Inc	2.12	0.06
Generac Holdings Inc	2.10	0.00
Dynatrace Inc	2.03	0.36
Brink's Co/The	2.02	0.13
Axon Enterprise Inc	1.97	0.41
Trex Company Inc	1.95	0.43
Brooks Automation Inc	1.93	0.21
Total:	20.72	1.75

Source: Eagle.

As of Date: 30/06/2021

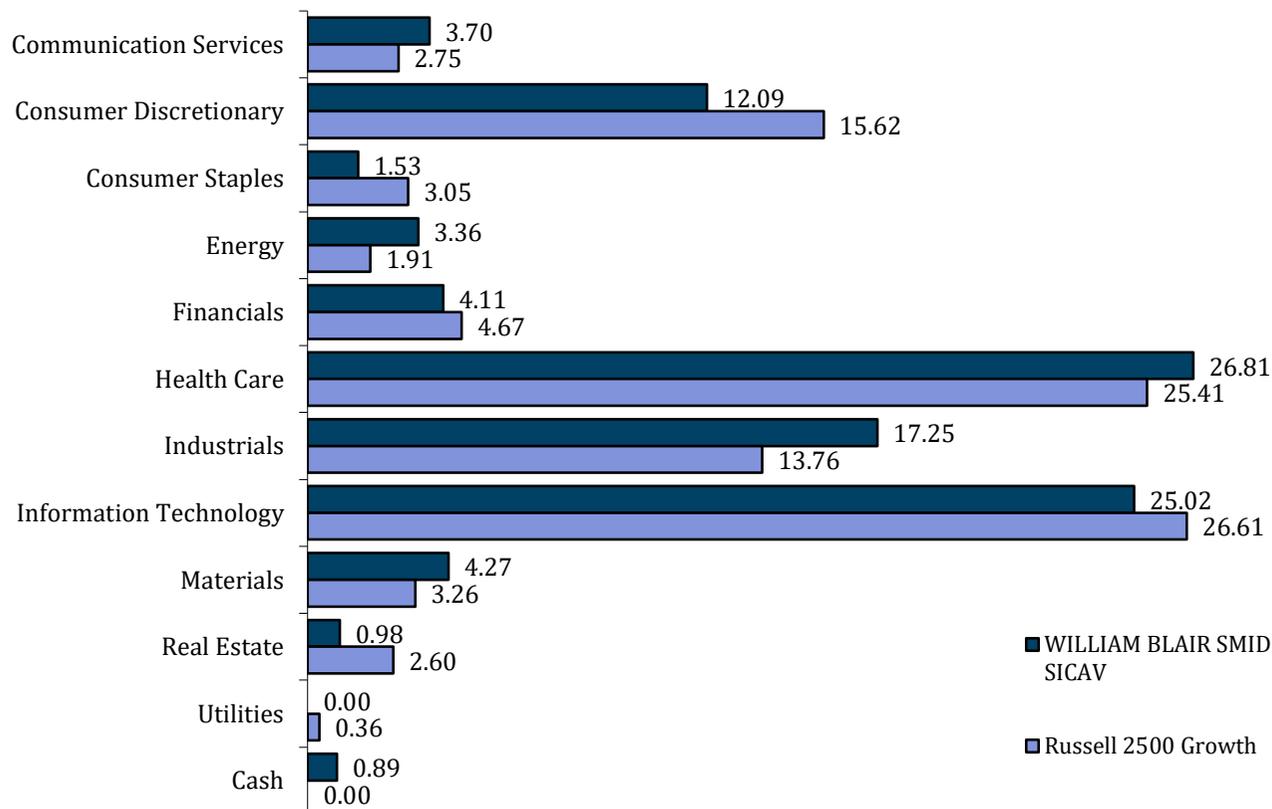
Holdings are shown as a percentage of total gross assets. Please refer to the 'Important Disclosures' section at the end of this document for further information on investment risks and returns.

	William Blair SICAV – U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	Russell 2500 Growth
Growth		
EPS Growth Rate (3 Years)	22.7%	18.5%
EPS Growth Rate (5 Years)	20.7%	18.4%
EPS Growth Rate (LT forecast)	18.9%	22.5%
Quality		
Return on Investment Capital	1.6%	-1.4%
Free Cash Flow Margin	7.5%	5.1%
Debt to Total Capital Ratio	41.2%	43.3%
Valuation		
P/E Ratio (1-year forecast)	35.2x	44.9x
Capitalization (\$B)		
Weighted Average Market Cap	\$10.4	\$7.5
Weighted Median Market Cap	\$7.8	\$6.0
Portfolio Positions		
Number of Securities	78	1,398

Characteristics have been calculated by William Blair.

Please refer to the 'Important Disclosures' section of this document for further information on investment risks and returns.

Sector Weights as of 30/06/2021



Source: William Blair; Eagle

Based on Global Industry Classification Sectors (GICS). Concentration of assets in one or a few sectors may entail greater risk than a fully diversified stock portfolio and should be considered as only part of a diversified portfolio. Please refer to the 'Important Disclosures' section at the end of this document for further information on investment risks and returns.

	Portfolio Weight	Benchmark Weight		Portfolio Weight	Benchmark Weight		Portfolio Weight	Benchmark Weight
COMMUNICATION SERVICES	3.70	2.75	HEALTH CARE (continued)			INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (continued)		
Zynga Inc - Cl A	1.28	0.18	Abiomed Inc	1.52	0.00	Pure Storage Inc - Class A	1.51	0.18
Cable One Inc	1.24	0.20	10x Genomics Inc-Class A	1.37	0.59	Avalara Inc	1.35	0.49
Live Nation Entertainment In	1.18	0.00	Halozyme Therapeutics Inc	1.31	0.23	Aspen Technology Inc	1.30	0.34
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	12.09	15.62	Insulet Corp	1.27	0.00	Godaddy Inc - Class A	1.24	0.00
Bright Horizons Family Solut	1.71	0.26	Penumbra Inc	1.24	0.33	Guidewire Software Inc	1.23	0.00
Fox Factory Holding Corp	1.54	0.24	Amedisys Inc	1.19	0.25	Zendesk Inc	1.21	0.61
Wyndham Hotels & Resorts Inc	1.33	0.15	Merit Medical Systems Inc	1.01	0.11	Varonis Systems Inc	1.21	0.22
Burlington Stores Inc	1.25	0.00	Veracyte Inc	0.93	0.00	Alarm.Com Holdings Inc	1.16	0.14
Helen Of Troy Ltd	1.15	0.20	Teleflex Inc	0.91	0.00	Entegris Inc	1.15	0.60
Leslie's Inc	1.07	0.10	Ligand Pharmaceuticals	0.86	0.01	National Instruments Corp	1.11	0.00
Terminix Global Holdings Inc	1.06	0.00	Inspire Medical Systems Inc	0.81	0.19	J2 Global Inc	1.04	0.21
Grand Canyon Education Inc	1.06	0.00	Insmed Inc	0.79	0.11	Pegasystems Inc	1.04	0.19
National Vision Holdings Inc	1.03	0.15	Masimo Corp	0.69	0.32	Workiva Inc	0.85	0.17
Revolve Group Inc	0.89	0.06	Certara Inc	0.54	0.02	Cree Inc	0.84	0.00
CONSUMER STAPLES	1.53	3.05	Twist Bioscience Corp	0.50	0.22	Novanta Inc	0.78	0.17
Celsius Holdings Inc	0.79	0.12	Blueprint Medicines Corp	0.50	0.17	Q2 Holdings Inc	0.58	0.20
Bj's Wholesale Club Holdings	0.74	0.17	INDUSTRIALS	17.25	13.76	MATERIALS	4.27	3.26
ENERGY	3.36	1.91	Bwx Technologies Inc	2.18	0.15	Martin Marietta Materials	2.15	0.00
Cameco Corp	1.42	0.00	Generac Holdings Inc	2.10	0.00	Crown Holdings Inc	2.12	0.06
Denbury Inc	1.26	0.14	Brink's Co/The	2.02	0.13	REAL ESTATE	0.98	2.60
New Fortress Energy Inc	0.68	0.04	Axon Enterprise Inc	1.97	0.41	Firstservice Corp	0.98	0.00
FINANCIALS	4.11	4.67	Trex Company Inc	1.95	0.43	UTILITIES	0.00	0.36
Virtu Financial Inc-Class A	1.16	0.00	Builders Firstsource Inc	1.89	0.00	Cash	0.89	0.00
Ares Management Corp - A	1.15	0.28	Ritchie Bros Auctioneers	1.37	0.00	Total	100.00	100.00
Western Alliance Bancorp	1.08	0.18	Mercury Systems Inc	1.29	0.00			
Firstcash Inc	0.71	0.01	Stem Inc	0.91	0.08			
HEALTH CARE	26.81	25.41	Lincoln Electric Holdings	0.79	0.27			
Horizon Therapeutics PLC	2.26	0.00	Heico Corp-Class A	0.76	0.00			
Charles River Laboratories	1.93	0.62	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	25.02	26.61			
Bio-Techne Corp	1.92	0.63	Dynatrace Inc	2.03	0.36			
Encompass Health Corp	1.92	0.16	Brooks Automation Inc	1.93	0.21			
Healthequity Inc	1.73	0.24	Euronet Worldwide Inc	1.82	0.17			
Acadia Healthcare Co Inc	1.59	0.00	Nice Ltd - Spon Adr	1.63	0.00			

As of Date: 30/06/2021

Please refer to the 'Important Disclosures' section at the end of this document for further information on investment risks and returns.

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Further specific risks may arise in relation to specific investments and you should review the risk factors very carefully before investing. Intended risk profile of the Fund may change overtime. The Fund is designed for long-term investors. The most current month-end performance information is available on sicav.williamblair.com.

FUND INFORMATION

The SICAV has appointed FUNDROCK MANAGEMENT COMPANY S.A., a "société anonyme" incorporated under the laws of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and having its registered office at 33, rue de Gasperich, L-5826 Hesperange as its management company (the "Management Company"). The Management Company is authorised and regulated by the Luxembourg Supervisory Authority of the Financial Sector (the "CSSF") as the management company of UCITS (defined below) under the EU directive 2009/65/EC, as amended.

The Management Company has been appointed as the management company of WILLIAM BLAIR SICAV, a "société d'investissement à capital variable", incorporated under the laws of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg having its registered office at 31, Z.A.I. Bourmicht, Bertrange, registered in the R.C.S. Luxembourg under n° 98806 and approved by the CSSF as an undertaking for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS) in accordance with the EU directive 2009/65/EC, as amended (the "Fund").

Important Disclosures

The Management Company has appointed WILLIAM BLAIR INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC, having its registered office at 150 North Riverside Plaza Chicago, IL 60606-1598, USA ("William Blair Group") as the investment manager for the Fund (the "Investment Manager").

The Articles of Incorporation, the Prospectus, the Key Investor Information Documents (KIID), the Annual and Half-yearly Reports of the Fund and the Subscription Form are available free of charge in English and German from our website SICAV.williamblair.com or at the registered office of the Management Company (33, rue de Gasperich, L-5826 Hesperange, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg), at the registered office of the Fund (William Blair SICAV, 31, Z.A. Bourmicht, L-8070 Bertrange, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg) or from the Swiss representative, First Independent Fund Services Limited, Klausstrasse 33, CH-8008 Zurich, and in German language at Marcard, Stein & Co., Ballindamm 36, 20095 Hamburg, Germany, and at Bank of Austria Creditanstalt AG, Am Hof 2, 1010 Vienna, Austria.

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