

# BARON ASSET FUND

December 31, 2020

Institutional Shares (BARIX)



## Portfolio Manager

Andrew Peck joined Baron in 1998 as a research analyst and was named portfolio manager of Baron Asset Fund in 2003 and Baron All Cap Growth Strategy in 2004. In 2020, he was named co-chief investment officer. He has 25 years of research experience. From 1992 to 1994, he worked as an analyst in Salomon Brothers' Equity Capital Markets group. Andrew graduated *magna cum laude* from Yale College with a B.A. in History in 1991 and from Stanford Law School and Graduate School of Business with a J.D. and M.B.A. in 1998.

## Investment Principles

- Long-term perspective allows us to think like an owner of a business
- Independent and exhaustive research is essential to understanding the long-term fundamental growth prospects of a business
- We seek open-ended growth opportunities, exceptional leadership, and sustainable competitive advantages
- Purchase price and risk management are integral to our investment process

## Investment Strategy

The Fund invests mainly in mid-sized U.S. companies that have matured beyond their start-up phase and have significant secular growth opportunities. Diversified.

Value	Blend	Growth	
			Large
			Medium
			Small

## Portfolio Facts and Characteristics

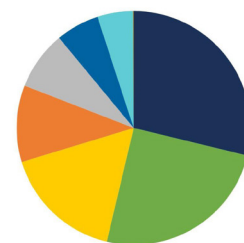
Inception Date	June 12, 1987
Net Assets	\$5.91 billion
# of Equity Securities / % of Net Assets	65 / 99.9%
Turnover (3 Year Average)	10.27%
Active Share	82.7%
Median Market Cap <sup>2</sup>	\$21.04 billion
Weighted Average Market Cap <sup>2</sup>	\$28.65 billion
<b>As of FYE 9/30/2020</b>	<b>Institutional Shares</b>
CUSIP	068278605
Expense Ratio	1.05%

Retail and R6 Shares are also available for this Fund.

## Top 10 Holdings

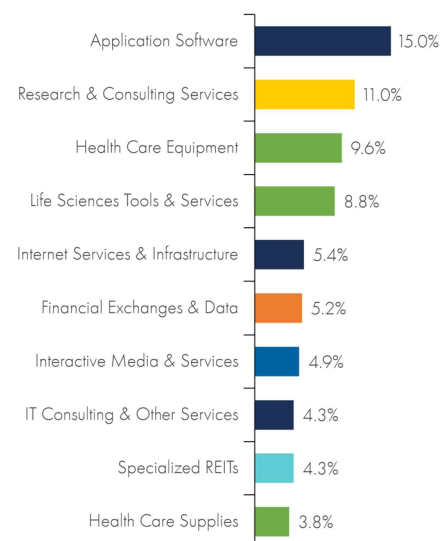
	% of Net Assets
IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.	7.2
Gartner, Inc.	4.3
Verisk Analytics, Inc.	4.0
Mettler-Toledo International, Inc.	3.8
ANSYS, Inc.	3.6
CoStar Group, Inc.	3.4
Guidewire Software, Inc.	3.1
Ceridian HCM Holding Inc.	3.0
Vail Resorts, Inc.	2.9
Zillow Group, Inc.	2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>38.1</b>

## GICS Sector Breakdown<sup>1</sup>



- Information Technology 28.8%
- Health Care 24.9%
- Industrials 16.6%
- Financials 10.6%
- Consumer Discretionary 8.1%
- Communication Services 6.0%
- Real Estate 4.9%
- Cash & Cash Equivalents 0.1%

## Top GICS Sub-Industry Breakdown<sup>1</sup>



Colors of Sub-Industry bars correspond to sector chart above.

## Risks

**Risks:** Securities issued by medium sized companies may be thinly traded and may be more difficult to sell during market downturns. Even though the Fund is diversified, it may establish significant positions where the Adviser has the greatest conviction. This could increase volatility of the Fund's returns.



## Historical Performance (Calendar Year %)

Year	BARIX	Russell Midcap Growth Index	S&P 500 Index
2011	-2.68	-1.65	2.11
2012	15.63	15.81	16.00
2013	39.25	35.74	32.39
2014	9.77	11.90	13.69
2015	0.20	-0.20	1.38
2016	6.51	7.33	11.96
2017	26.49	25.27	21.83
2018	0.14	-4.75	-4.38
2019	37.96	35.47	31.49
2020	33.33	35.59	18.40

## Performance Based Characteristics<sup>3</sup>

	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Std. Dev. (%) - Annualized	20.31	17.07	15.45
Sharpe Ratio	1.04	1.10	0.97
Alpha (%) - Annualized	3.32	2.38	1.39
Beta	0.91	0.93	0.94
R-Squared (%)	95.84	94.10	93.76
Tracking Error (%)	4.55	4.36	3.98
Information Ratio	0.46	0.29	0.15
Upside Capture (%)	98.04	98.03	99.10
Downside Capture (%)	87.68	88.38	94.53

## Performance

	Total Return (%)				Annualized Returns (%)					Cumulative Returns (%)
	4th Q 2020	3rd Q 2020	2nd Q 2020	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception <sup>4</sup> 6/12/1987	Since Inception <sup>4</sup> 6/12/1987
BARIX-Institutional Shares	15.21	8.43	28.02	33.33	33.33	22.58	19.93	15.64	12.47	5054.98
Russell Midcap Growth Index	19.02	9.37	30.26	35.59	35.59	20.50	18.66	15.04	11.03	3231.96
S&P 500 Index	12.15	8.93	20.54	18.40	18.40	14.18	15.22	13.88	10.22	2516.87
Morningstar Mid-Cap Growth Category Average	21.03	10.20	30.27	39.26	39.26	19.77	17.80	13.83	N/A	N/A

## Top Contributors/Detractors to Performance<sup>2</sup>

### BY SUB-INDUSTRIES<sup>1</sup>

Top Contributors	Average Weight(%)	Contribution(%)
Application Software	14.43	3.11
Health Care Equipment	9.43	1.85
Life Sciences Tools & Services	8.79	1.75
Research & Consulting Services	11.06	1.21
IT Consulting & Other Services	4.12	1.16

Top Detractors	Average Weight(%)	Contribution(%)
Specialized REITs	4.72	-0.35
Health Care Technology	2.71	-0.25
Insurance Brokers	1.01	-0.01

### BY HOLDINGS

Top Contributors	Average Weight(%)	Contribution(%)
IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.	7.02	1.82
Gartner, Inc.	4.12	1.16
Vail Resorts, Inc.	2.86	0.80
Ceridian HCM Holding Inc.	2.79	0.74
Mettler-Toledo International, Inc.	3.95	0.72

Top Detractors	Average Weight(%)	Contribution(%)
SBA Communications Corp.	2.37	-0.32
DexCom, Inc.	1.15	-0.20
GoodRx Holdings, Inc.	0.37	-0.15
Equinix, Inc.	1.72	-0.10
Veeva Systems Inc.	2.34	-0.10

The performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate; an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The Fund's transfer agency expenses may be reduced by expense offsets from an unaffiliated transfer agent, without which performance would have been lower. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. For performance information current to the most recent month end, visit [www.BaronFunds.com](http://www.BaronFunds.com) or call 1-800-99BARON.

Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of the Fund carefully before investing. The prospectus and summary prospectus contain this and other information about the Fund and can be obtained from the Fund's distributor, Baron Capital, Inc., by calling 1-800-99BARON or visiting [www.BaronFunds.com](http://www.BaronFunds.com). Please read them carefully before investing.

1 - Industry sector or sub-industry group levels are provided from the Global Industry Classification Standard ("GICS"), developed and exclusively owned by MSCI, Inc. ("MSCI") and Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC ("S&P"). All GICS data is provided "as is" with no warranties. The Adviser may have reclassified/classified certain securities in or out of a sub-industry. Such reclassifications are not supported by S&P or MSCI.

2 - Source: FactSet PA and BAMCO.

3 - Source: FactSet SPAR. Except for Standard Deviation and Sharpe Ratio, the performance based characteristics above were calculated relative to the Fund's benchmark.

4 - For this report, the Since Inception date for Russell Midcap Growth Index is 6/30/1987.

Performance for the Institutional Shares prior to 5/29/2009 is based on the performance of the Retail Shares, which have a distribution fee. The Institutional Shares do not have a distribution fee. If the annual returns for the Institutional Shares prior to 5/29/2009 did not reflect this fee, the returns would be higher.

The Fund may not achieve its objectives. Portfolio holdings may change over time.

Prior to February 15, 2007, the Fund's strategy was to invest primarily in small and mid-sized growth companies. Since then, the Fund's investment strategy has shifted to mid-sized companies.

Definitions (provided by BAMCO, Inc.): The indexes are unmanaged. The **Russell Midcap® Growth Index** measures the performance of medium-sized U.S. companies that are classified as growth, and the **S&P 500 Index** of 500 widely held large-cap U.S. companies. The indexes and the Fund are with dividends, which positively impact the performance results. Russell Investment Group is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. Russell is a trademark of Russell Investment Group. Morningstar calculates the **Morningstar Mid-Cap Growth Category Average** performance and rankings using its Fractional Weighting methodology. © 2021 Morningstar, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The Morningstar 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. **Standard Deviation (Std. Dev.):** measures the degree to which a fund's performance has varied from its average performance over a particular time period. The greater the standard deviation, the greater a fund's volatility (risk). **Sharpe Ratio:** is a risk-adjusted performance statistic that measures reward per unit of risk. The higher the Sharpe ratio, the better a fund's risk adjusted performance. **Alpha:** measures the difference between a fund's actual returns and its expected performance, given its level of risk as measured by beta. **Beta:** measures a fund's sensitivity to market movements. The beta of the market is 1.00 by definition. **R-Squared:** measures how closely a fund's performance correlates to the performance of the benchmark index, and thus is a measurement of what portion of its performance can be explained by the performance of the index. Values for R-Squared range from 0 to 100, where 0 indicates no correlation and 100 indicates perfect correlation. **Tracking Error:** measures how closely a fund's return follows the benchmark index returns. It is calculated as the annualized standard deviation of the difference between the fund and the index returns. **Information Ratio:** measures the excess return of a fund divided by the amount of risk the fund takes relative to the benchmark index. The higher the information ratio, the higher the excess return expected of the fund, given the amount of risk involved. **Upside Capture:** explains how well a fund performs in time periods where the benchmark's returns are greater than zero. **Downside Capture:** explains how well a fund performs in time periods where the benchmark's returns are less than zero. **Active Share:** a term used to describe the share of a portfolio's holdings that differ from that portfolio's benchmark index. It is calculated by comparing the weight of each holding in the Fund to that holding's weight in the benchmark. Positions with either a positive or negative weighting versus the benchmark have Active Share. An Active Share of 100% implies zero overlap with the benchmark. Active Share was introduced in 2006 in a study by Yale academics, M. Cremers and A. Petajisto, as a measure of active portfolio management.

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