

DEAR BARON FINTECH FUND SHAREHOLDER:

PERFORMANCE

In the quarter ended September 30, 2021, Baron FinTech Fund (the "Fund") rose 2.65% (Institutional Shares) compared with a 0.58% gain for the S&P 500 Index (the "Benchmark") and a 3.72% decline for the FactSet Global FinTech Index. Year-to-date, the Fund has risen 18.34% compared with a 15.92% gain for the Benchmark and a 4.30% gain for the FactSet Global FinTech Index. Since inception (December 31, 2019), the Fund has risen 37.32% on an annualized basis compared with a 19.83% gain for the Benchmark and a 21.48% gain for the FactSet Global FinTech Index.

Table I.  
Performance†  
For period ended September 30, 2021

	Baron FinTech Fund Retail Shares <sup>1,2</sup>	Baron FinTech Fund Institutional Shares <sup>1,2</sup>	S&P 500 Index <sup>1</sup>	FactSet Global FinTech Index <sup>1</sup>
Three Months <sup>3</sup>	2.66%	2.65%	0.58%	(3.72)%
Nine Months <sup>3</sup>	18.18%	18.34%	15.92%	4.30%
One Year	34.26%	34.52%	30.00%	26.56%
Since Inception (December 31, 2019)	37.05%	37.32%	19.83%	21.48%

U.S. equity indexes rose modestly in the third quarter as initial investor enthusiasm about strong corporate earnings, robust macroeconomic data, and the FDA's full approval of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine was offset late in the quarter by risk-off sentiment related to higher inflation, looming Fed tapering, debt ceiling drama, and persistent supply chain disruptions. Emerging market equities trailed their developed market peers, with China's ongoing regulatory crackdown and Evergrande's liquidity crisis accounting for most of the weakness. Financials led the way during the quarter with banks benefiting from rising Treasury yields. Growth stocks outperformed value stocks, particularly for large caps. Smaller-cap stocks underperformed their large-cap counterparts after performing well earlier this year.



JOSH SALTMAN

PORTFOLIO MANAGER

Retail Shares: BFINX  
Institutional Shares: BFIIX  
R6 Shares: BFIUX

During the quarter, the Fund outperformed the Benchmark by 2.07% due to stock selection and, to a lesser extent, differences in sector weights. Four of the Fund's seven investment themes outperformed the Benchmark in the period: Digital IT Services, E-commerce, Enterprise Software, and Tech-Enabled Financials.

Favorable stock selection in Information Technology ("IT") and Industrials was responsible for the outperformance in the quarter. Strength in IT was largely due to sharp gains from payment processor **Nuvei Technologies Corp.** and money transfer company **Wise Plc.** Nuvei was the top contributor after reporting strong revenue growth during the quarter and raising long-term growth and margin targets. Wise went public via a direct listing in mid-July, and its shares subsequently rose due to strong investor

*Performance listed in the above table is net of annual operating expenses. Annual expense ratio for the Retail Shares and Institutional Shares as of December 31, 2020 was 3.09% and 2.43%, respectively, but the net annual estimated expense ratio was 1.20% and 0.95% (net of the Adviser's fee waivers), respectively. 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 Adviser reimburses certain Baron Fund expenses pursuant to a contract expiring on August 29, 2032, unless renewed for another 11-year term and 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.*

† The Fund's Q3 2021 and YTD historical performance was impacted by gains from IPOs and there is no guarantee that these results can be repeated or that the Fund's level of participation in IPOs will be the same.

<sup>1</sup> The **S&P 500 Index** measures the performance of 500 widely held large cap U.S. companies. The **FactSet Global FinTech Index™** is an unmanaged and equal-weighted index that measures the equity market performance of companies engaged in Financial Technologies, primarily in the areas of software and consulting, data, and analytics, digital payment processing, money transfer, and payment transactional-related hardware across 30 developed and emerging markets. The indexes and the Fund include reinvestment of dividends, net of withholding taxes, which positively impact the performance results. The indexes are unmanaged. Index performance is not Fund performance; one cannot invest directly into an index.

<sup>2</sup> The performance data in the table does not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or redemptions of Fund shares.

<sup>3</sup> Not annualized.



# Baron FinTech Fund

interest and a low supply of shares floated. Digital IT services businesses **Endava plc**, **Grid Dynamics Holdings Inc.**, and **EPAM Systems, Inc.** also performed well after delivering strong earnings growth as business clients continue to invest in technology and digital transformation. The Fund's Industrials holdings outperformed after appreciating 4.5% as a group, with data and analytics vendor **Verisk Analytics, Inc.** leading the way. Verisk reported solid quarterly earnings with strength in its Insurance segment and ongoing improvement in its Energy segment.

Underperformance of our investments in Communication Services and Financials detracted the most from relative results. Weakness in Communication Services again came from **Zillow Group, Inc.**, which operates real estate websites, a mortgage marketplace, and a home-buying business. Zillow was the third largest detractor due to concerns about negative impacts on the housing market from higher interest rates as well as execution risks in the company's home-buying business. Adverse stock selection in Financials, owing largely to share price declines for Brazilian digital bank **Banco Inter S.A.** and online personal finance company **SoFi Technologies, Inc.**, was partly offset by the Fund's high exposure to this top-performing sector. Banco Inter's shares fell after the company reported higher loan delinquencies and rising customer acquisition costs. Despite reporting solid quarterly results, SoFi's stock pulled back after management failed to raise guidance.

**Table II.**

**Top contributors to performance for the quarter ended September 30, 2021**

	Percent Impact
Nuvei Technologies Corp.	0.97%
Endava plc	0.83
Grid Dynamics Holdings Inc.	0.65
Bill.com Holdings, Inc.	0.50
Wise Plc	0.50

**Nuvei Technologies Corp.** is a Canadian-based payment processor that serves online merchants around the world. Shares increased after the company reported strong quarterly results with 68% pro forma revenue growth, a meaningful acceleration from the prior quarter. Management raised its medium-term growth targets, which now call for over 30% annual growth in payment volumes and revenues with expanding margins. We continue to own the stock due to Nuvei's numerous growth opportunities and strong execution.

**Endava plc** provides outsourced software development for business customers. Shares increased on quarterly results and guidance that exceeded Street expectations. Following a brief slowdown in the early months of the pandemic, business has fully rebounded and accelerated as clients recognize the need for greater investment in digital transformation. Management expects organic revenue growth to exceed 20%, with upside from accretive acquisitions. We believe Endava will continue gaining share in a large global market for IT services.

**Grid Dynamics Holdings Inc.** provides outsourced software development to business customers. Shares increased after the company reported strong quarterly results with 72% organic revenue growth and raised annual guidance. Grid is benefiting from robust demand as clients across industries invest in digital transformation. The company issued new shares in late June, which temporarily depressed the share price but provided dry powder for M&A. We continue to own the stock because we believe the company has unique capabilities and a long runway for growth.

**Bill.com Holdings, Inc.**, a leading provider of cloud-based software that simplifies, digitizes, and automates back office financial operations, contributed to performance. The company reported strong quarterly results, closed its acquisition of Divvy, and provided fiscal year 2022 guidance that was well above investor expectations. We retain conviction as we believe the digitization of B2B payments is a powerful secular trend with a long runway for continued growth, and Bill.com is positioned to be a winner in the small-to-medium-sized business market.

**Wise Plc** provides international money transfers for individuals and businesses. Wise completed its IPO in July, and its shares subsequently rose due to strong investor interest and a low supply of shares floated. We believe Wise's proprietary infrastructure, which bypasses traditional correspondent banks, provides a structural cost advantage that should lead to continued market share gains and attractive margins over time.

**Table III.**

**Top detractors from performance for the quarter ended September 30, 2021**

	Percent Impact
Fair Isaac Corporation	-0.51%
PayPal Holdings, Inc.	-0.40
Zillow Group, Inc.	-0.36
Fidelity National Information Services, Inc.	-0.34
Banco Inter S.A.	-0.31

Shares of **Fair Isaac Corporation**, a data and analytics company focused on predicting consumer behavior, detracted from performance. Fair Isaac reported solid earnings, but the stock pulled back following some press reports about a client abandoning the company's FICO Score. Management believes this was a one-off customer loss, which happened over a year ago with no perceptible impact on revenue. We believe Fair Isaac will be a steady earnings grower, which should drive solid returns for the stock over a multi-year period.

**PayPal Holdings, Inc.** enables digital payments for consumers and merchants worldwide. Shares fell on quarterly financial results and guidance that were below investor expectations due to a faster roll-off of eBay business, which should only be a temporary headwind. PayPal also announced the acquisition of Paidy, the leading buy-now-pay-later provider in Japan, which expands PayPal's addressable market into a fast-growing category. We remain investors because we believe PayPal is a prime beneficiary of the secular growth of e-commerce and digital financial services.

**Zillow Group, Inc.** operates leading U.S. real estate sites, a mortgage marketplace, and a home-buying business. Shares were down due to concerns around rising interest rates and the potential knock-on effects to the housing market. Our channel checks have indicated that the housing market remains robust. Even if demand were to soften, Zillow's offering could become even more valuable as it delivers high-quality buyer and seller leads. Longer term, we believe Zillow has an ample runway for growth given its strong management team and large customer base.

**Fidelity National Information Services, Inc.** provides software to financial institutions and enables merchants to accept electronic payments. The company reported solid quarterly financial results that exceeded expectations and raised annual guidance for revenue and earnings. However, the stock fell due to concerns that Fidelity National's legacy technology is losing market share to newer competitors with more modern technology. We believe these concerns are overblown and that Fidelity National remains well positioned to grow revenues organically at a high single-digit rate and earnings at a double-digit rate over time.

**Banco Inter S.A.** is a Brazilian digital bank that provides checking accounts, loans, credit and debit cards, e-commerce, investments, and insurance products to over 14 million users through its mobile App. Shares declined during the quarter after the company posted higher loan delinquencies and rising customer acquisition costs. We view these trends as in line with the company's strategy and growth ambitions and regard Banco Inter as one of Brazil's preeminent digital banks disrupting the financial services industry.

## PORTFOLIO STRUCTURE

The Fund seeks to invest in competitively advantaged, growing fintech companies that we can own for years. We conduct independent, fundamental research and take a long-term perspective. The Fund invests in companies across all market capitalizations and geographies. The quality of the ideas and level of conviction determine the position size of each investment. We do not try to mimic an index, and we expect the Fund will look very different from the Benchmark.

As of September 30, 2021, the Fund held 53 positions. International stocks represented 26.5% of the Fund's net assets. The Fund's 10 largest holdings represented 35.6% of net assets, and the 20 largest holdings represented 63.0% of net assets. The market capitalization range of the investments in the Fund was \$1.4 billion to \$489.4 billion with a median of \$18.3 billion and an asset-weighted average of \$88.5 billion. The Fund's active share was 94.6%.

We segment the Fund's holdings into seven investment themes. Some companies have characteristics that span more than one theme, but we classify each company by a single theme that we believe is most representative.

1. **Payments:** The world is migrating to electronic payments, but \$18 trillion of consumer payments each year are still made with cash or check. **Visa, Inc.** and **Mastercard Incorporated** operate the leading global networks that facilitate electronic payments for consumers, merchants, and banks. We own several companies that facilitate electronic payments, including **Square, Inc.**, **Marqeta, Inc.**, **Global Payments Inc.**, and **Bill.com Holdings, Inc.**
2. **E-commerce:** We have several investments that benefit from the secular growth of e-commerce. Online sales are growing much faster than in-store sales, but e-commerce penetration is still low at only around 15% of total U.S. retail sales. As payment processors for mostly online merchants, **PayPal Holdings, Inc.**, **Adyen N.V.**, **Nuvei Technologies Corp.**, and **DLocal Limited** benefit from the rapid growth of e-commerce around the world. **MercadoLibre, Inc.** operates a leading online marketplace and payment service in Latin America, while **Shopify Inc.** provides software and services that make it easier for merchants to sell online.
3. **Enterprise Software:** We have several investments in software companies that help businesses manage their financial processes and operations. **Fidelity National Information Services, Inc.**, **Jack Henry & Associates, Inc.**, and **nCino Inc.** provide software that enables banks to manage account and transaction data. **Intuit Inc.** provides accounting and payroll solutions for small businesses as well as tax preparation software for consumers and tax professionals. **Guidewire Software, Inc.** and **Duck Creek Technologies, Inc.** are leading providers of core systems software for the global insurance industry.
4. **Information Services:** Financial institutions increasingly rely on information and insights to improve loan pricing, insurance underwriting, marketing efficiency, and investment returns. We have several investments in companies that provide critical data to help financial institutions improve performance and fulfill regulatory requirements. Rating agencies **S&P Global Inc.** and **Moody's Corporation** provide credit ratings that are deeply embedded into the financial ecosystem. **TransUnion** provides the data and **Fair Isaac Corporation** provides the rating methodology used by lenders for consumer credit decisions. The insurance industry relies on **Verisk Analytics, Inc.** for underwriting data, and the real estate industry relies on **CoStar Group, Inc.** and **Zillow Group, Inc.** for property data.
5. **Digital IT Services:** Many banks, insurers, and other businesses have decades-old technology that is difficult to maintain. Disruption from new tech-enabled entrants is forcing incumbents to either upgrade their legacy systems or risk losing customers. **EPAM Systems, Inc.**, **Endava plc**, **Accenture plc**, and **Grid Dynamics Holdings Inc.** provide consulting and outsourced software development for business customers to help them modernize their systems and navigate complex digital transformations.
6. **Capital Markets:** Investing decisions and trade execution increasingly rely on digital solutions to improve performance and reduce costs. **MarketAxess Holdings Inc.** and **Tradeweb Markets Inc.** operate the leading electronic trading platforms for fixed income markets and benefit from the secular shift from voice-based trading to electronic trading. **CME Group, Inc.** is the world's largest and most diversified derivatives marketplace whose electronic exchanges are used by traders around the world to manage risk.
7. **Tech-Enabled Financials:** Forward thinking financial institutions are using technology in particularly innovative ways to better serve their customers and operate more efficiently. **BlackRock Inc.** uses technology to evaluate risk for institutional investors and manage trillions of dollars' worth of ETF assets at very low cost. **Kinsale Capital Group, Inc.** is an insurance company that uses proprietary technology to enable faster underwriting and create meaningful cost advantages over the competition. **Wise Plc** provides international money transfers that are cheaper, faster, and more convenient than bank transfers. **TCS Group Holding PLC** and **SoFi Technologies, Inc.** offer banking and brokerage services through mobile Apps and are gaining market share from traditional banks.

As of September 30, 2021, Information Services represented 20.7% of net assets, E-commerce represented 19.9%, Payments represented 16.5%, Enterprise Software represented 14.6%, Digital IT Services represented 11.3%, Tech-Enabled Financials represented 10.7%, and Capital Markets represented 4.5%, with the remainder in cash.

# Baron FinTech Fund

**Table IV.**  
Top 10 holdings as of September 30, 2021

	Year Acquired	Market Cap When Acquired (billions)	Quarter End Market Cap (billions)	Quarter End Investment Value (millions)	Percent of Net Assets
Endava plc	2020	\$ 2.6	\$ 7.6	\$3.3	4.2%
Intuit Inc.	2020	69.3	147.3	3.0	3.9
PayPal Holdings, Inc.	2020	130.0	305.8	2.9	3.7
Square, Inc.	2020	73.9	110.3	2.8	3.6
Visa, Inc.	2020	411.0	489.4	2.8	3.6
S&P Global Inc.	2020	67.9	102.4	2.8	3.6
EPAM Systems, Inc.	2020	11.9	32.3	2.6	3.3
Shopify Inc.	2020	118.7	169.2	2.5	3.3
Mastercard Incorporated	2020	306.1	343.1	2.5	3.2
MSCI, Inc.	2020	22.5	50.2	2.5	3.2

**Table V.**  
Fund investments in GICS sub-industries as of September 30, 2021

	Percent of Net Assets
Data Processing & Outsourced Services	33.9%
Application Software	15.6
Financial Exchanges & Data	11.9
IT Consulting & Other Services	11.3
Research & Consulting Services	7.5
Internet Services & Infrastructure	3.3
Internet & Direct Marketing Retail	3.0
Diversified Banks	2.8
Asset Management & Custody Banks	2.8
Interactive Media & Services	2.0
Investment Banking & Brokerage	1.6
Consumer Finance	1.0
Insurance Brokers	0.8
Property & Casualty Insurance	0.7
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1.8
Total	100.0%

## RECENT ACTIVITY

During the quarter, the Fund initiated four new positions and exited two positions. Below we discuss some of our top net purchases and sales.

**Table VI.**  
Top net purchases for the quarter ended September 30, 2021

	Quarter End Market Cap (billions)	Amount Purchased (millions)
Wise Plc	\$ 14.6	\$1.7
nCino Inc.	6.8	1.1
Shopify Inc.	169.2	1.0
Square, Inc.	110.3	0.7
Ceridian HCM Holding Inc.	16.9	0.7

We participated in the IPO of U.K.-based **Wise Plc**, an international money transfer service that is disrupting traditional banks. Formerly known as TransferWise, Wise was founded 10 years by CEO Kristo Käärmann and Chairman Taavet Hinrikus to reduce the time and expense of moving money

across borders. Banks control two-thirds of the \$25 trillion global cross-border payments market and rely on legacy infrastructure and a complex web of intermediaries, resulting in high fees, opaque pricing, and slow delivery times. Wise bypasses the traditional correspondent banking network by using direct connections with local payment systems, partnerships with 85 financial institutions, and in-country group accounts to net two-way currency flows. This proprietary infrastructure eliminates intermediary costs and improves delivery times, creating a unique cost advantage over peers. Wise passes on the benefits of lower unit costs to its 6 million customers in the form of lower fees, which are up to eight times cheaper than banks.

The combination of low costs, low prices, and a better customer experience has led to increasing market share and solid profitability. Over the last two years, Wise has achieved 35% customer growth, 42% volume growth, and 54% revenue growth on an annualized basis. Unlike many consumer-facing technology companies, Wise spends relatively little on marketing (only 5% of revenue) thanks to its high net promoter score of 76 with 67% of new customers coming from referrals. Low customer acquisition costs and a digital-only service with no need for physical branches resulted in an EBITDA margin over 25% and a cash conversion rate above 95% last year. With only a 2.5% share of consumer money transfers and less than a 1% share of small business money transfers, Wise has a long runway for growth, in our opinion. We expect Wise to achieve management's medium-term targets of over 20% revenue growth and over 20% EBITDA margins.

We participated in the IPO of **Clearwater Analytics Holdings, Inc.**, a modern investment accounting platform that is disrupting decades-old legacy systems. Every day, Clearwater's platform aggregates and standardizes data on over \$5.6 trillion of invested assets for over 1,000 clients to provide them with a comprehensive view of their investment portfolios. Asset managers, insurance companies, and large corporations require timely and accurate information about their investment portfolios to make decisions, manage risk, measure performance, comply with regulations, and communicate with stakeholders. These businesses have historically used multiple systems that require large teams of people to manually review and enter data, correct errors, and build custom reports. Clearwater enables its clients to replace these legacy systems with cloud-based software that helps them reduce cost, errors, and risk, and save time. The company enjoys economies of scale related to its single source of investment data where securities are only processed once and are accessed by all customers. Clearwater has achieved high levels of client satisfaction with a 98% retention rate and a strong net promoter score. The company is gaining market share with an 80% win rate for new clients.

With less than a 3% share of a \$10 billion addressable market, we believe Clearwater is well positioned to achieve consistent mid-20s organic revenue growth through a combination of growth from existing clients, winning new clients in core end markets, international expansion, and deeper penetration into new client types. The company has a highly recurring revenue model and attractive margins that should expand meaningfully over time. We believe that Clearwater will be a steady earnings grower, which should drive solid returns for the stock over a multi-year period.

We also participated in the IPO of **Toast, Inc.**, a provider of technology and payment services for the restaurant industry. The company's core offering is a point-of-sale hardware and software solution with integrated payment processing. Customers can add other features across operations including digital ordering and delivery, marketing and loyalty, team management, and back office. Toast powers 48,000 restaurant locations across 29,000 customers, most of which are small operators with under 10 locations. Toast

is the clear leader in the technology market for small restaurants with the best product offering and the only end-to-end platform. Customers love the product and recommend it to their friends in the industry, driving strong inbound and referral business. Toast differentiates itself from the competition through its large field-based sales team that is deeply embedded in local communities, helping retain and upsell existing customers and onboard new customers.

We believe that as restaurants invest more in technology, Toast will be a prime beneficiary given its leading market position and best-in-class product. With an under 6% share of the 860,000 restaurant locations in the U.S. and a 3% share of a \$15 billion addressable market, we believe Toast has a long runway for growth by adding customer locations and cross-selling additional products. Only 54% of Toast locations use four or more of Toast's 10-plus products, each of which provide significant customer value and are additive to revenue. Toast stays close to its customers and continues to add innovative new features. Over time, we expect Toast will migrate up-market to increasingly serve the enterprise segment of the restaurant industry (customers with over 50 locations) and will enter new countries (22 million locations outside the U.S.), further expanding the addressable market and growth opportunity.

We added to existing positions in **nCino Inc.**, **Shopify Inc.**, **Square, Inc.**, and **Ceridian HCM Holding Inc.** We also added a new position, **Riskified Ltd.**

**Table VII.**  
Top net sales for the quarter ended September 30, 2021

	Amount Sold (millions)
Alibaba Group Holding Limited	\$0.6
London Stock Exchange Group PLC	0.3

We sold our position in **Alibaba Group Holding Limited** due to unfavorable regulatory developments. We had invested in Alibaba due its dominant e-commerce marketplace and its 33% ownership of Ant Financial, the leading fintech platform in China. While Alibaba remains China's leading online shopping destination, we believe that its moat is narrowing due to newer competitors and increasing government intervention. Mandated changes to Ant Financial's business model have likely impaired its earnings growth and market value. We also sold our small position in **London Stock Exchange Group PLC** due to slow progress on its integration of Refinitiv and, on reassessment, our more negative opinion of the value of this acquisition.

**OUTLOOK**

As we approach the end of the year, we are monitoring numerous crosscurrents that could impact near-term share prices. The potential for persistently high inflation, Fed tapering, rising interest rates, and capital gains tax changes could lead to further market volatility. A rising rate environment could cause a rotation back into banks and other cyclicals and away from fintech and growth stocks. Questions remain about the financial impacts of COVID variants, waning stimulus impacts, and a pull-forward of demand for some businesses due to COVID.

Nevertheless, we remain optimistic about the long-term prospects for our fintech investments. The Fund is diversified across companies, themes, and

geographies. The Fund is also balanced between lower-risk, steady growers with modest valuation multiples and higher-risk, fast growers with higher valuation multiples. The common element across all of our holdings remains our objective to invest in competitively advantaged growth companies that can double in value within five years. These companies benefit from a variety of durable themes that should persist regardless of the macroeconomic environment.

A key industry trend we observe is the convergence of software and financial services. Business software providers are increasingly integrating payment processing and other financial services with their core software platforms to increase customer engagement and monetization. These companies will often land new customers with business management software, embed payments to help customers get paid, and then use customer information to offer them loans. By monitoring transaction activity in real time, these software providers gain unique insights about their customers' creditworthiness, enabling them to make better lending decisions. The combination of software with financial services is a powerful business model that creates value for both companies and their customers. The software companies benefit from additional revenue through efficient cross-selling and higher customer retention rates from offering a broader suite of services. Customers also benefit from the simplicity and potentially lower costs from bundling services with a single provider. The Fund owns several companies that follow this playbook, including Square, Intuit, Shopify, and Toast. We expect more software companies to become fintech companies over time by embedding payments and financial services into their product offerings.

We also see an ongoing trend of industry consolidation. The third quarter was the best ever for fintech M&A with \$154 billion of announced volume across 381 transactions, according to FT Partners. Several companies in the Fund announced sizable acquisitions during the quarter, including Square's \$29 billion acquisition of Afterpay, TransUnion's \$3.1 billion acquisition of Neustar, PayPal's \$2.7 billion acquisition of Paidy, Moody's \$2.0 billion acquisition of RMS, Visa's \$960 million acquisition of Currencycloud, MSCI's \$950 million acquisition of Real Capital Analytics, Bill.com's \$625 million acquisition of Invoice2Go, and Global Payments' \$500 million acquisition of MineralTree. While every deal entails potential integration and valuation risks, fintech consolidation can create meaningful shareholder value through economies of scale and scope as acquirers leverage their vast distribution networks to increase their targets' sales. We expect additional consolidation with our portfolio companies either acquiring or being acquired.

Thank you for investing in Baron FinTech Fund. We are working hard to identify good investment ideas that we expect will generate attractive returns over the long term.

Sincerely,

Josh Saltman  
Portfolio Manager

# Baron FinTech Fund

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*Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses of the investment carefully before investing. The prospectus and summary prospectus contains this and other information about the Funds. You may obtain them from its distributor, Baron Capital, Inc., by calling 1-800-99BARON or visiting [www.BaronFunds.com](http://www.BaronFunds.com). Please read them carefully before investing.*

**Risks:** In addition to general market conditions, the value of the Fund will be affected by investments in fin tech companies which are subject to a number of risks, including the adverse impact of legislative actions and government regulations. The Fund is non-diversified, which means it may have a greater percentage of its assets in a single issuer than a diversified fund. The Fund invests in small and medium sized companies whose securities may be thinly traded and more difficult to sell during market downturns. Portfolio holdings are subject to change. Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk.

The discussions of the companies herein are not intended as advice to any person regarding the advisability of investing in any particular security. The views expressed in this report reflect those of the respective portfolio manager only through the end of the period stated in this report. The portfolio manager's views are not intended as recommendations or investment advice to any person reading this report and are subject to change at any time based on market and other conditions and Baron has no obligation to update them.

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