

# BARON SMALL CAP FUND

December 31, 2022

Institutional Shares (BSFIX)



## Portfolio Manager

Cliff Greenberg joined Baron in 1997 as a portfolio manager and was named co-chief investment officer in 2020. He has 39 years of research experience. From 1984 to 1996, he worked at HPB Associates as a securities analyst and fund manager; he was named general partner in 1991. Cliff graduated from Cornell University with a B.A. in Government in 1981 and from Columbia Law School with a J.D. in 1984.

## 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 durable competitive advantages
- Purchase price and risk management are integral to our investment process

## Investment Strategy

The Fund invests for the long term, predominantly in high-quality small-sized U.S. companies that are market leaders with significant growth potential. Diversified.

Value	Blend	Growth	
			Large
			Medium
			Small

## Portfolio Facts and Characteristics

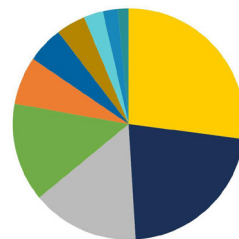
Inception Date	September 30, 1997
Net Assets	\$3.93 billion
# of Issuers / % of Net Assets	66 / 95.9%
Turnover (3 Year Average)	15.23%
Active Share	94.5%
Median Market Cap <sup>2</sup>	\$4.52 billion
Weighted Average Market Cap <sup>2</sup>	\$9.68 billion
<b>As of FYE 9/30/2022</b>	<b>Institutional Shares</b>
CUSIP	068278803
Expense Ratio	1.04%

Retail and R6 Shares are also available for this Fund.

## Top 10 Holdings<sup>4</sup>

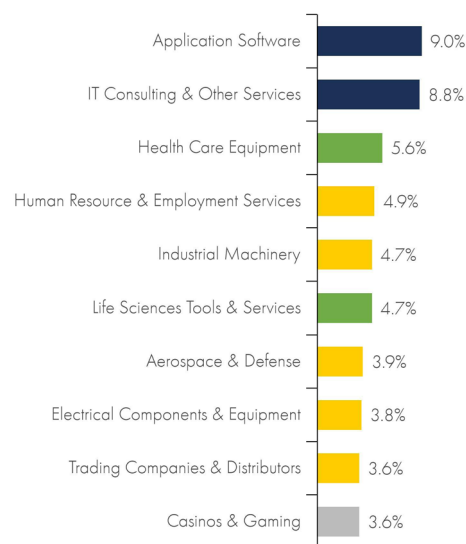
	% of Net Assets
Gartner, Inc.	6.4
ASGN Incorporated	3.6
ICON Plc	3.5
Kinsale Capital Group, Inc.	3.3
SiteOne Landscape Supply, Inc.	3.1
Red Rock Resorts, Inc.	2.8
Installed Building Products, Inc.	2.7
Vertiv Holdings, LLC	2.7
Floor & Decor Holdings, Inc.	2.5
Planet Fitness, Inc.	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>32.6</b>

## GICS Sector Breakdown<sup>1,4</sup>



- Industrials 27.1%
- Information Technology 22.0%
- Consumer Discretionary 15.0%
- Health Care 13.8%
- Financials 6.7%
- Communication Services 5.1%
- Cash & Cash Equivalents 4.1%
- Real Estate 2.7%
- Consumer Staples 2.1%
- Materials 1.5%

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



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

## Risks

**Risks:** Specific risks associated with investing in smaller companies include that the securities may be thinly traded and 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.



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## Historical Performance (Calendar Year %)

Year	BSFIX	Russell 2000 Growth Index	S&P 500 Index
2013	38.10	43.30	32.39
2014	1.95	5.60	13.69
2015	-5.01	-1.38	1.38
2016	10.26	11.32	11.96
2017	27.45	22.17	21.83
2018	-7.13	-9.31	-4.38
2019	34.87	28.48	31.49
2020	40.68	34.63	18.40
2021	15.84	2.83	28.71
2022	-31.05	-26.36	-18.11

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

	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Std. Dev. (%) - Annualized	27.10	24.39	19.13
Sharpe Ratio	0.12	0.24	0.49
Alpha (%) - Annualized	3.62	3.77	1.77
Beta	0.96	0.97	0.91
R-Squared (%)	88.81	90.73	89.22
Tracking Error (%)	9.12	7.46	6.51
Information Ratio	0.36	0.48	0.16
Upside Capture (%)	100.65	101.41	92.64
Downside Capture (%)	91.53	90.44	85.94

## Performance

	Total Return (%)				Annualized Returns (%)					Cumulative Returns (%)
	4th Q 2022	3rd Q 2022	2nd Q 2022	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception 9/30/1997	Since Inception 9/30/1997
BSFIX-Institutional Shares	4.24	-3.64	-18.60	-31.05	-31.05	3.96	7.07	10.21	9.55	900.94
Russell 2000 Growth Index	4.13	0.24	-19.25	-26.36	-26.36	0.65	3.51	9.20	5.65	300.99
S&P 500 Index	7.56	-4.88	-16.10	-18.11	-18.11	7.66	9.42	12.56	7.68	547.73
Morningstar Small Growth Category Average	4.18	-1.35	-19.80	-27.77	-27.77	4.05	6.60	10.20	6.99	450.42

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

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

Top Contributors	Average Weight(%)	Contribution(%)
Health Care Equipment	5.31	0.97
Electrical Components & Equipment	3.52	0.93
IT Consulting & Other Services	8.61	0.58
Leisure Facilities	1.69	0.49
Aerospace & Defense	3.77	0.47

Top Detractors	Average Weight(%)	Contribution(%)
Specialized Consumer Services	0.92	-0.38
Industrial Machinery	4.24	-0.35
Human Resource & Employment Services	5.01	-0.33
Advertising	0.93	-0.28
Personal Products	0.92	-0.23

### BY HOLDINGS

Top Contributors	Average Weight(%)	Contribution(%)
Gartner, Inc.	6.35	1.17
Vertiv Holdings, LLC	2.46	0.81
DexCom, Inc.	1.70	0.56
Planet Fitness, Inc.	1.69	0.49
Inspire Medical Systems, Inc.	1.42	0.48

Top Detractors	Average Weight(%)	Contribution(%)
Chart Industries, Inc.	1.36	-0.50
Grid Dynamics Holdings, Inc.	0.85	-0.48
European Wax Center, Inc.	0.92	-0.38
ASGN Incorporated	3.74	-0.35
The Trade Desk	0.93	-0.28

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 - Individual weights may not sum to the total due to rounding.

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

The Fund's 3-year 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 in the future.

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.

Definitions (provided by BAMCO, Inc.): The **Russell 2000® Growth Index** measures the performance of small-sized U.S. companies that are classified as growth and the **S&P 500 Index** of 500 widely held large-cap U.S. companies. All rights in the FTSE Russell Index (the "Index") vest in the relevant LSE Group company which owns the Index. Russell® is a trade mark of the relevant LSE Group company and is used by any other LSE Group company under license. Neither LSE Group nor its licensors accept any liability for any errors or omissions in the indexes or data and no party may rely on any indexes or data contained in this communication. 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. Morningstar calculates the **Morningstar Small Growth Category Average** performance and rankings using its Fractional Weighting methodology. © 2023 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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