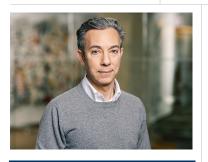
# **BARON ASSET FUND®**



March 31, 2024

# Institutional Shares (BARIX)

# CUSIP 068278605



# Portfolio Manager

Andrew Peck joined Baron Capital in 1998 as a research analyst and was named portfolio manager of Baron Asset Fund in 2003. In 2020, he was named co-chief investment officer. He has 28 years of research experience.

| Portfolio Facts and Characteristics      | S               |
|--|-----------------|
| Inception Date                           | June 12, 1987   |
| Net Assets                               | \$4.57 billion  |
| # of Issuers / % of Net Assets           | 53 / 99.8%      |
| Turnover (3 Year Average)                | 4.92%           |
| Active Share                             | 82.0%           |
| Median Market Cap <sup>2</sup>           | \$24.56 billion |
| Weighted Average Market Cap <sup>2</sup> | \$36.43 billion |
| As of FYE 9/30/2023                      |                 |
| Expense Ratio                            | 1.05%           |
| Retail: BARAX<br>R6: BARUX               |                 |

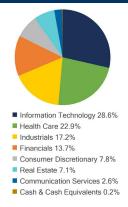
| Top 10 Holdings⁵                  |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
|                                   | % of Net Assets |
| Gartner, Inc.                     | 9.8             |
| IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.          | 6.5             |
| CoStar Group, Inc.                | 4.8             |
| Mettler-Toledo International Inc. | 4.6             |
| Verisk Analytics, Inc.            | 4.5             |
| Arch Capital Group Ltd.           | 4.1             |
| FactSet Research Systems Inc.     | 3.4             |
| Guidewire Software, Inc.          | 3.3             |
| Fair Isaac Corporation            | 3.3             |
| Roper Technologies, Inc.          | 2.9             |
| Total                             | 47.2            |

### Investment Strategy

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



### GICS Sector Breakdown<sup>1, 5</sup>



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



Colors of Sub-Industry bars correspond to the GICS sector chart.

#### Performance Total Return (%) Annualized Returns (%) Since Inception<sup>4</sup> QTD YTD 1 Year 3 Years 5 Years 10 Years 6/12/1987 **BARIX-Institutional Shares** 6.00 6.00 18.08 2.10 9.98 11.06 11.47 Russell Midcap Growth Index 9.50 9.50 26.28 4.62 11.82 11.35 10.40 12.96 10.56 S&P 500 Index 10.56 11 49 15.05 10.43 29.88 Morningstar Mid-Cap Growth Category Average 9.42 9.42 23.04 1.14 10.63 10.12 9.75

| Historical Performance (Calendar Year %) |       |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | 2023  | 2022   | 2021  | 2020  | 2019  | 2018  | 2017  | 2016  | 2015  |
| BARIX-Institutional Shares               | 17.35 | -25.87 | 14.22 | 33.33 | 37.96 | 0.14  | 26.49 | 6.51  | 0.20  |
| Russell Midcap Growth Index              | 25.87 | -26.72 | 12.73 | 35.59 | 35.47 | -4.75 | 25.27 | 7.33  | -0.20 |
| S&P 500 Index                            | 26.29 | -18.11 | 28.71 | 18.40 | 31.49 | -4.38 | 21.83 | 11.96 | 1.38  |

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 baronfunds.com or call 1-800-99-BARON.

| Performance Based Characteristics <sup>3</sup> |                               |              |                           |      |               |                    |                      |                       |                         |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
|  | Std. Dev. (%) -<br>Annualized | Sharpe Ratio | Alpha (%) -<br>Annualized | Beta | R-Squared (%) | Tracking Error (%) | Information<br>Ratio | Upside Capture<br>(%) | Downside<br>Capture (%) |
| 3 Years  | 21.10                         | -0.03        | -2.15                     | 0.94 | 94.43         | 5.13               | -0.49                | 96.59                 | 104.67                  |
| 5 Years  | 20.91                         | 0.38         | -0.89                     | 0.93 | 94.50         | 5.16               | -0.36                | 96.13                 | 101.33                  |
| 10 Years                                       | 17.52                         | 0.55         | 0.41                      | 0.94 | 93.47         | 4.61               | -0.06                | 98.97                 | 99.83                   |

| Top Contributors/Detractors to Performance <sup>2</sup> |                       |                  |                         |                       |                  |  |  |  |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--|--|--|
| BY SUB-INDUSTRIES <sup>1</sup>                          |                       |                  | BY HOLDINGS             |                       |                  |  |  |  |
| Top Contributors  | Average<br>Weight (%) | Contribution (%) | Top Contributors        | Average<br>Weight (%) | Contribution (%) |  |  |  |
| Property & Casualty Insurance                           | 3.85                  | 0.88             | Arch Capital Group Ltd. | 3.85                  | 0.88             |  |  |  |
| Life Sciences Tools & Services                          | 11.16                 | 0.73             | Gartner, Inc.           | 9.77                  | 0.57             |  |  |  |
| IT Consulting & Other Services                          | 9.77                  | 0.57             | CoStar Group, Inc.      | 4.36                  | 0.45             |  |  |  |

| Top Detractors                     | Average<br>Weight (%) | Contribution (%) | Top Detractors         | Average<br>Weight (%) | Contribution (%) |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Internet Services & Infrastructure | 1.93                  | -0.17            | Bio-Techne Corporation | 2.27                  | -0.24            |
| Financial Exchanges & Data         | 6.04                  | -0.10            | ANSYS, Inc.            | 2.74                  | -0.22            |
| Telecom Tower REITs                | 0.33                  | -0.06            | VeriSign, Inc.         | 1.93                  | -0.17            |

1 - The Global Industry Classification Standard ("GICS") was developed by and is the exclusive property and a service mark of MSCI Inc. ("MSCI") and S&P Global Market Intelligence ("S&P") and is licensed for use by BAMCO, Inc. and Baron Capital Management, Inc. (each an "Adviser" and collectively "Baron Capital" or the "Firm"). Neither MSCI, S&P, nor any other party involved in making or compiling the GICS or any GICS classification makes any express or implied warranties or representations with respect to such standard or classification (or the results to be obtained by the use thereof), and all such parties hereby expressly disclaim all warranties of originality, accuracy, completeness, merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any of such standard classification. Without limiting any of the foregoing, in no event shall MSCI, S&P, any of their affiliates or any third party involved in making or compiling the GICS or any GICS classifications have any liability for any direct, indirect, special, punitive, consequential or any other damages (including lost profits) even if notified of the possibility of such damages. All GICS structure changes that have occurred since 2016 have been applied retroactively in historical holdings-based analyses, including performance attribution. The Adviser may have reclassified certain securities in or out of a sub-industry within a sector. Such reclassifications are not supported by S&P or MSCI. 2 - Source: FactSet PA and Baron Capital. 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. 5 - Individual weights may not sum to the total due to rounding.

**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.

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

Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses of the investment carefully before investing. The prospectus and summary prospectuses contain this and other information about the Funds. You may obtain them from the Funds' distributor, Baron Capital, Inc., by calling 1-800-99-BARON or visiting baronfunds. com. Please read them carefully before investing.

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.

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 Midcap® Growth Index** measures the performance of medium-sized U.S. companies that are classified as growth. The **S&P 500 Index** measures the performanceof 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 Fund includes reinvestment of dividends, net of withholding taxes, while the Russell Midcap® Growth Index and S&P 500 Indexinclude reinvestment of dividends before taxes. Reinvestment of dividends positively impacts the performance results. The indexes are unmanaged. Index performance is not Fund performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. Morningstar calculates the **Morningstar Mid-Cap Growth Category Average** performance and rankings using its Fractional Weighting methodology. © **2024 Morningstar**. All Rights Reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its affiliates or content providers; (2) may not be copied, adapted or distributed; (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely; and (4) does not constitute advice of any kind, whether investment, tax, legal or otherwise. User is solely responsible for ensuring that any use of this information complies with all laws, regulations and restrictions applicable to it. 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. **MORNINGSTAR IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DELETION, DAMAGE, LOSS OR FAILURE TO STORE ANY PRODUCT OUTPUT, COMPANY CONTENT OR OTHER CONTENT. Standard Deviation (Std.)** 

FOR ANY DELETION, DAMAGE, LOSS OR FAILURE TO STORE ANY PRODUCT OUTPUT, COMPANY CONTENT OR OTHER CONTENT. 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 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.

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