

4Q 2017 Update William Blair Global Leaders Fund

OBJECTIVE

Capital Appreciation

CHARACTERISTICS

The Fund seeks to invest in companies around the world with above-average returns on equity, strong balance sheets and consistent, above-average earnings growth, resulting in a focused portfolio of leading companies.

WHY CONSIDER THIS FUND?

- Seeks alpha by investing without constraints in William Blair's highest conviction ideas
- Focuses on high quality companies, emphasizing those with the strongest corporate performance that the team believes will be the long-term category winners
- Applies comprehensive research systematically in a global peer context

EXPENSE RATIOS (%)

	Gross Expense	Net Expense
Class I	1.31	1.15
Class N	1.62	1.40

Expenses shown are as of the most recent prospectus. The Fund's Adviser has contractually agreed to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses to limit fund operating expenses until 4/30/18.

FUND FACTS AND STATISTICS ¹

Total Net Assets (\$MM)	\$211
Number of Holdings	67
Wgt'd Avg Mkt Cap (\$BB)	\$106.3
Unwgt'd Median Mkt Cap (\$BB)	\$46.2
P/E Ratio (Next 12 Months)	21.4
EPS Growth (Long-Term Projected)	15.7
Trailing 1-Year Turnover (%)	41.4
Cash (%)**	1.3
Standard Deviation (% 10YR)	
Fund - Class I	17.67
Index ²	16.92

** Cash represents cash and any short-term or overnight investments held by the Fund.

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE % (as of 12/31/17)

	QTR	YTD	1Y	3Y	5Y	10Y
Class I (SI: 10/15/07)	7.25	30.69	30.69	10.69	11.31	5.29
Class N (SI: 10/15/07)	7.13	30.31	30.31	10.35	11.00	5.01
MSCI All Country World IMI Index (net) ²	5.72	23.95	23.95	9.52	11.00	4.97
Morningstar World Large Stock Category ³	4.98	23.61	23.61	8.89	10.76	4.80

CALENDAR YEAR PERFORMANCE %

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Class I (SI: 10/15/07)	30.69	0.98	2.77	4.08	21.05	17.64	-3.26	20.73	40.90	-49.41
Class N (SI: 10/15/07)	30.31	0.62	2.49	3.76	20.86	17.25	-3.47	20.52	40.52	-49.52
MSCI All Country World IMI Index (net) ²	23.95	8.36	-2.19	3.84	23.55	16.38	-7.89	14.35	36.41	-42.34

Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Returns shown assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate with market and economic conditions and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call +1 800 742 7272, or visit our Web site at www.williamblairfunds.com. Class N shares are available to the general public without a sales load. Class I shares are available only to investors who meet certain eligibility requirements.

MORNINGSTAR RATINGS AND RANKINGS*

	Overall	1Y	3Y	5Y	10Y
Class I Rating	★★★	—	★★★★	★★★	★★★★
Class N Rating	★★★	—	★★★★	★★★	★★★★
Class I Percentile Ranking		14	19	44	—
Class N Percentile Ranking		15	22	50	—
# of Funds in Category		860	720	589	—

***Morningstar Rating**^{*}: The Morningstar Rating for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. **Morningstar Ranking**: Morningstar Percentile Rankings are based on the Fund's total return (excluding sales charge) relative to all the funds in the same Morningstar category, where 1 is the highest and 100 is the lowest percentile rank. Ratings and rankings are one measure of performance. Some of our Funds have experienced negative performance for the time periods shown. For the most current performance, please visit williamblairfunds.com.

TOP TEN HOLDINGS (%)^{4,5}

Company	Industry	Country	% of Fund
Amazon.com, Inc.	Internet & Direct Marketing Retail	United States	2.6
Alphabet Inc.	Internet Software & Services	United States	2.6
BlackRock, Inc.	Capital Markets	United States	2.5
The Home Depot, Inc.	Specialty Retail	United States	2.3
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	Commercial Banks	United States	2.3
The Boeing Company	Aerospace & Defense	United States	2.3
Unitedhealth Group Incorporated	Health Care Providers & Services	United States	2.2
Valeo SA	Auto Components	France	2.1
Novo Nordisk A/S	Pharmaceuticals	Denmark	2.0
AIA Group Limited	Insurance	Hong Kong	1.9
Total Top 10			22.8

SECTOR DIVERSIFICATION (%)^{4,5}

Sector Type	Fund	Index ²
Information Technology	22.5	17.5
Financials	20.5	18.0
Consumer Discretionary	18.1	12.3
Industrials	15.3	11.7
Health Care	12.1	10.6
Energy	5.0	6.0
Consumer Staples	2.8	8.3
Materials	1.5	6.0
Utilities	1.2	2.9
Real Estate	1.0	4.0
Telecommunication Services	0.0	2.7

GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSIFICATION (%)^{4,5}

Region	Fund	Index ²
Asia Ex-Japan	5.8	3.9
Japan	7.2	8.3
Europe Ex-U.K., Middle East	14.8	16.0
United Kingdom	4.6	5.8
Western Hemisphere	59.6	54.2
Emerging Markets Totals	8.0	11.8
Asia	8.0	8.7
Europe, Mid-East, Africa	0.0	1.7
Latin America	0.0	1.4

MARKET CAP DIVERSIFICATION (%)^{4,5*}

Market Cap	Fund	Index ²
> \$15.0B	88.7	66.0
\$4.0B - \$15.0B	11.3	20.1
< \$4.0B	0.0	13.9

* These amounts are calculated using float-adjusted market capitalizations

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT



Andy Flynn, CFA
Started in Industry: 1990
Education: M.B.A., Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; B.A., Univ. of Kansas



Ken McAtamney
Started in Industry: 1990
Education: M.B.A., Indiana Univ.; B.A., Michigan State Univ.

- 1 Weighted Average Market Capitalization:** The Weighted Average Market Capitalization for a portfolio is calculated as the average market capitalization of the stocks within the portfolio, weighted by the amount of each stock owned. **Unweighted Median Market Capitalization:** This calculation represents the median market capitalization of the stocks in the portfolio, regardless of the amount of each stock owned. **P/E (Price/Earnings) Ratio:** A stock with a higher P/E ratio would be considered more expensive relative to another stock with a lower P/E. An investor may pay a higher P/E for a stock for several reasons including, but not limited to, an expectation that the company possesses higher returns on invested capital, less economic sensitivity, higher consistency of earnings and/or higher earnings growth potential. **EPS Growth (Long-Term Projected):** This measure represents the weighted average of forecasted growth in earnings expected to be experienced by stocks within the portfolio over the next 3-5 years. This projected earnings growth should not be considered an indication of future fund performance. **Trailing 1-Year Turnover:** This figure reflects the portfolio's trading activity by calculating the amount of the portfolio's holdings bought or sold over the prior year, expressed as a percentage of the portfolio's average market value. Turnover figures may be related to the amount of trading costs experienced by the portfolio. **Standard Deviation:** A higher standard deviation represents a greater dispersion of returns, and thus, a greater amount of risk. Standard deviation returns shown are annualized and calculated using monthly returns. Funds without a 10-year history are reported against the Fund's inception date. If the Fund's inception date does not fall on the first day of a given month, the annualized standard deviation is calculated based on the first day of the month following the Fund's inception date.
- 2** The Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) All Country World IMI Index (net) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets. This series approximates the minimum possible dividend reinvestment. It is not possible to directly invest in an unmanaged index.
- 3** The Morningstar World Large Stock Category represents the average annual composite performance of all mutual funds listed in the Morningstar World Large Stock Category by Morningstar.
- 4** Top ten holdings are shown as % of total net assets. Sector, Market Cap, and Geographic Diversification charts show % of investments for the Fund and its benchmark Index and exclude cash equivalents.
- 5** Information about the Fund's holdings should not be considered investment advice. There is no guarantee that the Fund will continue to hold any one particular security or stay invested in any one particular sector. Holdings are subject to change at any time.

Risks: The Fund involves a high level of risk and may not be appropriate for everyone. You should only consider it for the aggressive portion of your portfolio. The Fund's returns will vary, and you could lose money by investing in the Fund. The Fund holds equities which may decline in value due to both real and perceived general market, economic, and industry conditions. International investing involves special risk considerations, including currency fluctuations, higher volatility, lower liquidity, economic and political risk. Investing in emerging markets can increase these risks. The securities of emerging market companies may be subject to greater volatility and less liquidity than companies in more developed markets. Investing in securities of smaller companies tends to be more volatile and less liquid than securities of larger companies. Individual securities may not perform as expected or a strategy used by the Adviser may fail to produce its intended result. Convertible securities may be called before intended, which may have an adverse effect on investment objectives. Investing in smaller companies involves special risks, including higher volatility and lower liquidity. Diversification does not ensure against loss.

Please carefully consider the Fund's investment objective, risks, charges, and expenses before investing. This and other information is contained in the Fund's prospectus, which you may obtain by calling +1 800 742 7272. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. Investing includes the risk of loss.

This content is for informational and educational purposes only and not intended as investment advice or a recommendation to buy or sell any security. Investment advice and recommendations can be provided only after careful consideration of an investor's objectives, guidelines, and restrictions.

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