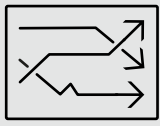


Fund performance



The Fund gained (gross of fees) but underperformed the Russell 2000 Index.

At the stock level, Corcept Therapeutics detracted from performance. The company's shares dropped sharply after its hypercortisolism drug failed to secure FDA approval, raising concerns about pipeline strength and future growth prospects. e.l.f. Beauty was also unfavourable. Its shares fell after the company reported a decline in organic sales and guided for slower growth, reflecting tough comparisons against last year's significant distribution gains. Stride's shares fell as technology implementation issues fuelled customer churn and pressured full-year projections.

Conversely, Alphatec's shares rose and contributed to performance after a strong earnings report highlighted accelerating sales, market share gains in the spine segment and improved profitability. Aritzia was also positive. Its shares gained as demand accelerated through the quarter, with new store openings and a mobile application launch reinforcing prospects for sustained growth. Viavi Solutions' shares rose after the company reported strong third-quarter results and successfully completed the acquisition of a high-speed Ethernet testing business, expanding its exposure to data-centre end markets.

Market review

US small caps rose over the quarter, but lagged the broader US equities asset class.

The US Federal Reserve (Fed) delivered two 25-basis-point cuts during the quarter, first in October and again in December, lowering the federal funds target range to 3.50%–3.75% as it maintained its data-dependent approach.

Total Returns (as of 12/31/25)

	Class A w/o sales charges	Class A with sales charges	Institutional Class	Russell 2000 Index
10 Years (p.a.)	9.72	9.07	10.10	9.62
5 Years (p.a.)	6.13	4.89	6.54	6.09
3 Years (p.a.)	11.77	9.58	12.22	13.73
1 Year	8.75	2.49	9.15	12.81
Year to Date	8.75	2.49	9.15	12.81
3 Months	0.46	-5.31	0.57	2.19
1 month	-2.40	-8.01	-2.37	-0.58

PAST PERFORMANCE DOES NOT GUARANTEE FUTURE RESULTS.

The performance data quoted represents past performance and current returns may be lower or higher. Class A shares have up to a 5.75% front-end sales charge and a 0.25% 12b-1 fee.

The investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than the original cost. To obtain performance information current to the most recent month-end, which may be higher or lower than the performance shown above, please call 866-667-9231 or go to aberdeeninvestments.com/us/literature.

Total returns assume the reinvestment of all distributions. Total returns may reflect a waiver of part of the Fund's fees for certain periods since inception, without which returns would have been lower. Indexes are unmanaged and provided for comparison purposes only. No fees or expenses are reflected. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Expense ratios (%)

	Class A	Class C	Institutional Class
Gross/Net Expense Ratio	1.48/1.36	2.19/1.95	1.14/0.95

Expenses stated as of the Fund's most recent prospectus. All classes of the Fund have contractual waivers in place and may not be terminated before February 28, 2026 without approval of the Independent Trustees.

For current holdings information, please visit [abrdn U.S. Small Cap Equity Fund - Portfolio Holdings](#)



At the December meeting, the Fed also unexpectedly announced that it would expand its balance sheet by purchasing short-term Treasuries to support market liquidity. Throughout the period, policymakers continued to emphasise the importance of returning inflation, as measured by the core Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index, to 2% while placing greater weight on signs of labour market softening. The decisions occurred amid some internal dissent and, earlier in the quarter, political pressure for faster easing. Even so, the Fed's 'dot plot' – the chart showing each policymakers' projected path for interest rates – indicated that the central bank expects to cut rates only once in 2026, whereas investors are pricing in another two reductions.

A partial US government shutdown began at the start of October after lawmakers failed to reach a funding agreement and persisted for 43 days, the longest in US history, before a temporary deal was approved. The prolonged stand-off furloughed hundreds of thousands of federal workers, disrupted key government services and delayed the release of important economic data, weighing on near-term growth and investor confidence. Although the shutdown ended in November, its effects continued into December as several releases were postponed or cancelled, limiting visibility on underlying economic momentum.

The third-quarter earnings season concluded with results broadly exceeding expectations.

Activity

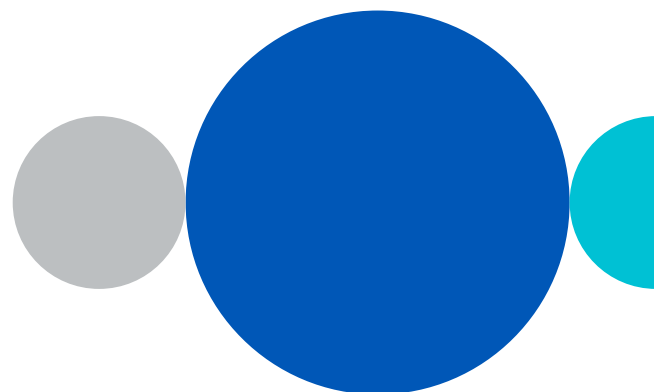
We initiated several positions. Helios Technologies is an industrial technology company specialising in highly engineered motion control solutions. We believe the company's improved execution could continue to drive margin expansion, well-positioning it to benefit from a cyclical recovery across major industrial end-markets. AZZ is a leading provider of metal coating solutions for construction, infrastructure and industrial end markets. We believe AZZ is well positioned to benefit from secular demand tied to grid modernisation, domestic manufacturing reshoring and accelerating data-centre development. Impinj is a leading semiconductor manufacturer specialising in radio frequency identification (RFID) technology. While RFID adoption is accelerating, it is still in the early stages of replacing legacy identification solutions, and we believe Impinj is well positioned to capitalise on this technological shift. CarGurus is a multinational automotive platform that connects consumers and dealers. With a leading digital marketplace, expanding product suite and increasing dealer engagement, we believe CarGurus is well positioned to deepen customer relationships and drive sustained growth. ArcBest is a transportation and logistics company. Based on our view, its diversified operations and strategic investments position it to benefit from a freight cycle recovery.

Arcutis Biotherapeutics is a pharmaceutical company specialising in the treatment of common dermatological conditions. We believe that the company's product differentiation, expanding market access and commercial execution create durable advantages to drive sales growth and profitability. Supernus Pharmaceuticals is a specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the treatment of diseases in the central nervous system. We believe the company could benefit from its differentiated products in attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and Parkinson's disease. OneSpaWorld is the leading provider of health and wellness services to cruise operators. We believe the company's strong labour management, logistics capabilities and continuous operational improvement can drive sustained growth.

Conversely, we sold our positions in REV Group, La-Z-Boy, Terreno Realty, Integer and Stride.

Outlook & strategy

Despite the recent market turbulence, we remain optimistic about the long-term outlook for domestic small-cap stocks. Secular trends such as increased infrastructure investment, accelerating technological innovation and the reshoring of supply chains present compelling opportunities for smaller companies. At the same time, the strategy's emphasis on higher-quality businesses offers a level of resilience that helps mitigate macroeconomic headwinds. By combining structural tailwinds with a disciplined focus on quality, we are confident in the strategy's ability to identify companies capable of navigating volatile markets and growing sustainably through economic cycles.



Important Information

Potential losses that may arise from changes in the market conditions which in turn affect the market prices of the investments of the Fund.

The value of a security may decline for reasons directly related to the issuer, such as management performance, financial leverage and reduced demand for the issuer's goods or services.

The stock or other security of a company may not perform as well as expected, and may decrease in value, because of factors related to the company, to the industry in which the company is engaged, or to the market as a whole.

The Fund is subject to the risk that the Adviser or Subadviser may make poor security selections.

Securities of smaller companies are usually less stable in price and less liquid than those of larger, more established companies. Therefore, they generally involve greater risk.

Investing in mutual funds involves risk, including possible loss of principal. There is no assurance that the investment objective of any fund will be achieved.

Investors should carefully consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, fees, charges and expenses before investing any money. To obtain this and other fund information, please call 866-667-9231 to request a summary prospectus and/or prospectus, or download at <https://www.aberdeeninvestments.com/en-us>. Please read the summary prospectus and/or prospectus carefully before investing any money.

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