Federated Hermes MDT Large Cap Growth Fund

6/30/24

Fund facts

Performance inception date
9/15/05

Benchmark
Russell 1000® Growth Index

Morningstar category
Large Growth

Lipper classification
Multi-Cap Growth Funds

Fund assets
$1.5 billion

Ticker symbols
R6 Shares - QRLGX
Institutional Shares - QILGX
A Shares - QALGX
C Shares - QCLGX

Key investment team
Daniel Mahr, CFA
Damien Zhang, CFA
Frederick Konopka, CFA
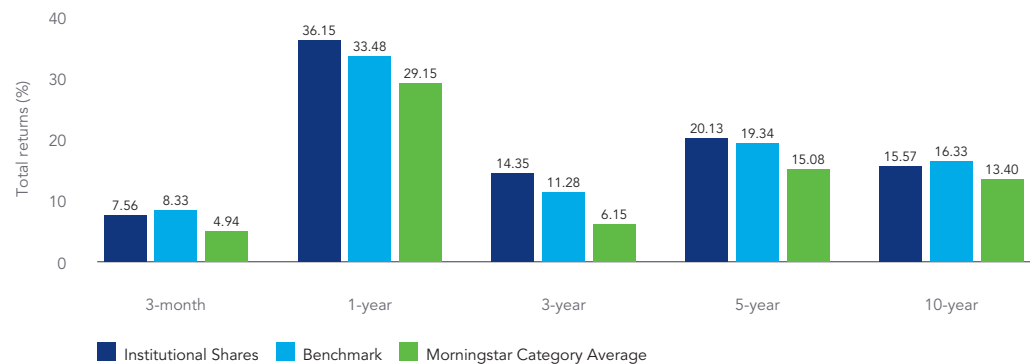John Paul Lewicke

Fund description

The fund pursues capital appreciation by investing in a diversified portfolio of U.S. large-cap companies from the Russell 1000® Growth Index. Through a bottom-up, systematic approach, it seeks to remove subjective and emotional influences from the stock selection process.

Average annual total returns (%)

Performance shown is before tax.

	3-month	YTD	1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year	Since inception	Expense ratio* Before waivers	Expense ratio* After waivers
R6 Shares	7.56	23.32	36.15	14.35	20.13	15.57	11.75	0.98	0.72
Institutional Shares	7.56	23.32	36.15	14.35	20.13	15.57	11.75	1.03	0.75
A Shares (NAV)	7.46	23.13	35.77	14.05	19.83	15.29	11.46	1.29	1.00
A Shares (MOP)	1.55	16.38	28.29	11.91	18.48	14.63	11.12	1.29	1.00
Benchmark	8.33	20.70	33.48	11.28	19.34	16.33	–	–	–

Chart data:

	3-month	1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year
Institutional Shares	7.56	36.15	14.35	20.13	15.57
Benchmark	8.33	33.48	11.28	19.34	16.33
Morningstar Category Average	4.94	29.15	6.15	15.08	13.40

Calendar year total returns (%)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Institutional Shares	39.62	-24.69	30.38	38.32	32.01	1.74	25.32	6.59	-3.80	12.50
Benchmark	42.68	-29.14	27.60	38.49	36.39	-1.51	30.21	7.08	5.67	13.05
Morningstar Category Average	36.74	-29.91	20.45	35.86	31.90	-2.09	27.67	3.23	3.60	10.00

Performance quoted represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than what is stated. To view performance current to the most recent month-end, and for after-tax returns, contact us or visit FederatedHermes.com/us. Maximum offering price figures reflect the maximum sales charge of 5.5% for A Shares. See the prospectus for other fees and expenses that apply to a continued investment in the fund. Total returns for periods of less than one year are cumulative.

* The fund's expense ratio is from the most recent prospectus. The expense ratio may reflect voluntary fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements determined by the fund's Advisor and its affiliates. The voluntary waivers and/or reimbursements, if applicable, for A, C and IS Shares are in effect up to but not including the later of 10/1/24 and 6/1/25 for R6 Shares or the date of the fund's next effective prospectus.

Not FDIC Insured • May Lose Value • No Bank Guarantee

Federated Hermes

Investment process

Alpha forecasting
Utilizes a combination of fundamental and technical factors to predict each stock's potential performance relative to the benchmark based on each company's characteristics.

Portfolio construction
Incorporates multiple benchmark-relative risk controls in an attempt to maximize excess return, net of trading costs.

Trading review
Proposed trades are reviewed daily to help ensure they reflect accurate, up-to-date information.

Ongoing research
Continuous research is conducted to look for opportunities that can strengthen the investment process and ensure strategies remain robust.
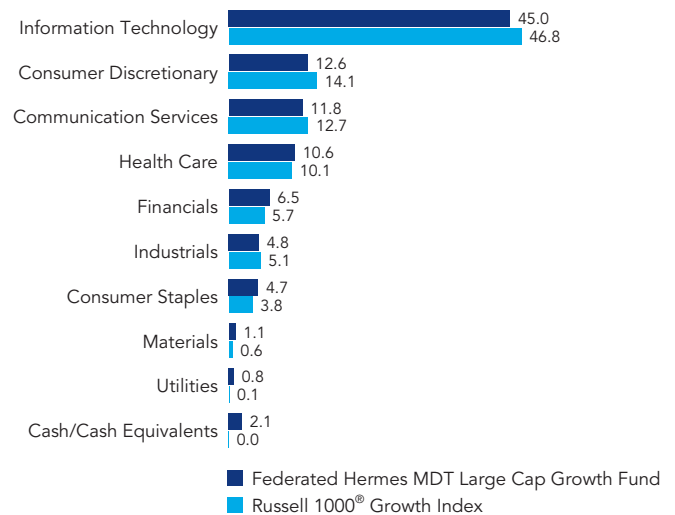

Portfolio statistics

Weighted median P/E (LTM)	38.7x
Weighted median P/E (NTM)	29.7x
Weighted median market cap	$249.4 b
Weighted median price/book	13.1x
Number of securities	100

Top holdings (%)

Microsoft Corp.	7.8
NVIDIA Corporation	6.8
Apple Inc.	5.9
Amazon.com, Inc.	4.7
Alphabet Inc.	4.5
Meta Platforms, Inc.	3.4
AbbVie Inc.	3.0
Qualcomm, Inc.	3.0
GoDaddy, Inc.	2.5
Costco Wholesale Corporation	2.2
Total % of portfolio	43.8

Sector weightings (%)

Sector	Federated Hermes MDT Large Cap Growth Fund	Russell 1000® Growth Index
Information Technology	45.0	46.8
Consumer Discretionary	12.6	14.1
Communication Services	11.8	12.7
Health Care	10.6	10.1
Financials	6.5	5.7
Industrials	4.8	5.1
Consumer Staples	4.7	3.8
Materials	1.1	0.6
Utilities	0.8	0.1
Cash/Cash Equivalents	2.1	0.0

■ Federated Hermes MDT Large Cap Growth Fund
■ Russell 1000® Growth Index

Portfolio composition is based on net assets at the close of business on 6/30/24 and may not necessarily reflect adjustments that are routinely made when presenting net assets for formal financial statement purposes. Because this is a managed portfolio, the investment mix will change.

Highlights

- Value stocks underperformed growth stocks in the Russell 1000 this quarter
- Underweighting stocks with high volatility and positive analyst conviction contributed the most to underperformance
- Fund ended the quarter roughly sector-neutral to benchmark

Looking back

After two consecutive quarters of a relatively broad U.S. equity market rally, narrow market leadership returned in the second quarter of 2024. Similar to what was observed for much of 2023, large-cap growth companies, particularly shares of tech businesses related to AI, materially outpaced the rest of the market. Growth and quality were the best performing styles, while value, smaller cap, and lower volatility segments were the clear laggards. The whole market Russell 3000 Index advanced 3.22% during the period, led by the mega-cap Russell Top 200 Index (+5.73%). The small-cap Russell 2000 Index (-3.28%) marginally beat the Russell Midcap Index (-3.35%). The Russell 3000 Growth Index (+7.80%) trounced the Russell 3000 Value Index (-2.25%) for the quarter; this style return differential was largely concentrated among the mega-cap segment of the market.

Performance

Federated Hermes MDT Large Cap Growth Fund (Institutional Shares) returned 7.56% in the second quarter of 2024, underperforming the 8.33% return of its benchmark, the Russell 1000 Growth Index.

Performance contributors

- Underweighting stocks with negative analyst conviction and flat or worsening earnings to price
- Favorable stock selection in Consumer Discretionary and Consumer Staples sectors
- Strong performers overweighted by the fund: QUALCOMM Incorporated and Vistra Corp.
- Weak performer underweighted by the fund: Home Depot, Inc.

Performance detractors

- Underweighting stocks with high volatility and positive analyst conviction
- Unfavorable stock selection in the Information Technology and Health Care sectors
- Strong performers underweighted by the fund: NVIDIA Corporation, Apple Inc., and Broadcom Inc.

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How we are positioned

The fund ended the second quarter roughly sector-neutral to the benchmark, as intended by our multi-layered risk management. Within the sectors there was an overweight position in the software & services industry and underweight positions in the technology hardware & equipment industry and the semiconductors & semiconductor equipment industry.

See disclosure section for important disclosures and definitions.

Risk statistics

	3-year	5-year	7-year	10-year
Standard deviation	20.99	20.32	19.24	17.30
Alpha	2.90	1.01	1.40	-0.49
Beta	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.99
Correlation	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.98
R²	97.71	97.85	97.71	96.62
Up capture ratio	103.34	99.28	100.86	97.66
Down capture ratio	94.40	95.77	95.56	99.54
Sharpe ratio	0.50	0.86	0.91	0.68
Tracking error	3.19	3.01	2.92	3.18

Sources: Federated Hermes, Morningstar, Inc.
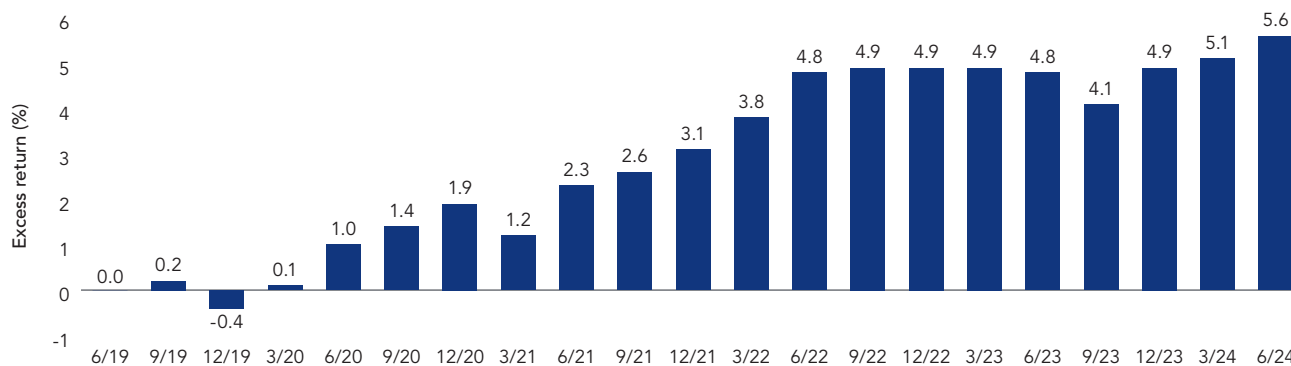
Fund vs. Russell 1000® Growth Index

See disclosure section for important definitions.

5-year risk/return
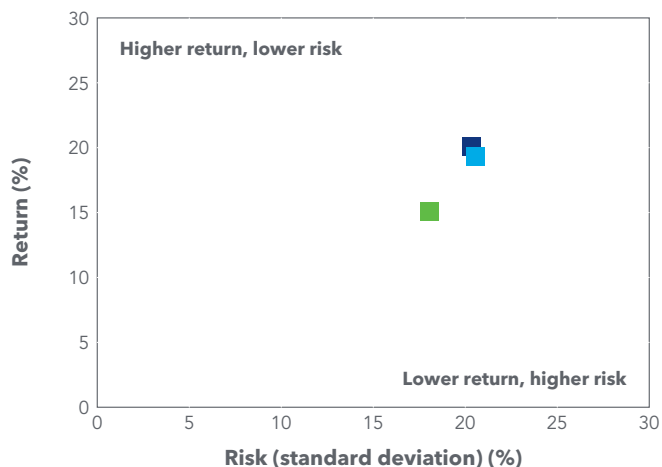
	Risk (%)	Return (%)
■ Federated Hermes MDT Large Cap Growth Fund (IS)	20.32	20.13
■ Russell 1000® Growth Index	20.57	19.34
■ S&P 500® Index	18.08	15.05

5-year rolling excess performance vs. Morningstar Large Cap Growth Category Average
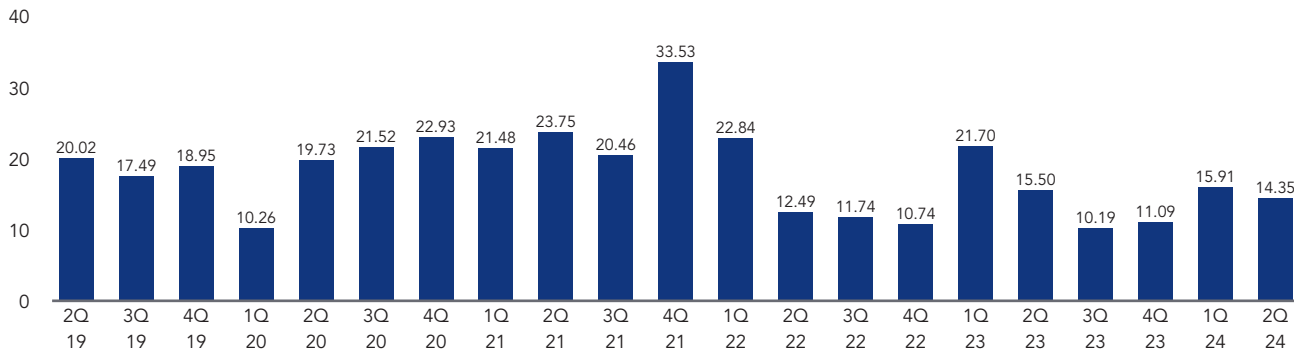

Source: Morningstar, Inc. Performance represents 5-year periods (3-month step).

Returns are for Institutional Shares. Other classes of shares are available whose performance will vary due to different charges and expenses.

3-year rolling returns - IS (%)

Quarter	Return
2Q 19	20.02
3Q 19	17.49
4Q 19	18.95
1Q 20	10.26
2Q 20	19.73
3Q 20	21.52
4Q 20	22.93
1Q 21	21.48
2Q 21	23.75
3Q 21	20.46
4Q 21	33.53
1Q 22	22.84
2Q 22	12.49
3Q 22	11.74
4Q 22	10.74
1Q 23	21.70
2Q 23	15.50
3Q 23	10.19
4Q 23	11.09
1Q 24	15.91
2Q 24	14.35

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Category rankings

Morningstar Large Growth Category		1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year
IS Shares	Morningstar Category % Rank	17	1	6	16
	Morningstar Category Rank	184 of 1,162 funds	3 of 1,092 funds	38 of 1,019 funds	104 of 794 funds
A Shares	Morningstar Category % Rank	20	1	8	19
	Morningstar Category Rank	214 of 1,162 funds	4 of 1,092 funds	52 of 1,019 funds	133 of 794 funds
R6 Shares	Morningstar Category % Rank	–	–	–	–
	Morningstar Category Rank	–	–	–	–

Lipper Multi-Cap Growth Funds		1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year
IS Shares	Lipper Classification % Rank	8	1	3	11
	Lipper Classification Rank	28 of 379 funds	3 of 355 funds	9 of 327 funds	26 of 242 funds
A Shares	Lipper Classification % Rank	9	2	5	12
	Lipper Classification Rank	34 of 379 funds	4 of 355 funds	16 of 327 funds	29 of 242 funds
R6 Shares	Lipper Classification % Rank	–	–	–	–
	Lipper Classification Rank	–	–	–	–

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Rankings are based on total return and do not take sales charges into account.

Federated Hermes MDT Large Cap Growth Fund

Investors should carefully consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. To obtain a summary prospectus or a prospectus containing this and other information, contact us or visit FederatedHermes.com/us. Please carefully read the summary prospectus or the prospectus before investing.

The fund is the successor to MDT Large Cap Growth Fund pursuant to a reorganization that took place on December 8, 2006. Prior to that date, the fund had no investment operations. Accordingly, the performance information shown for periods prior to that date is that of MDT Large Cap Growth Fund.

The fund's R6 Shares commenced operations on May 29, 2024. For the periods prior to the commencement of operations of the R6 Shares, the performance information shown is for the Institutional Shares. The performance of the Institutional Shares has not been adjusted to reflect the expenses applicable to the R6 Shares since the R6 Shares have a lower expense ratio than the expense ratio of the Institutional Shares.

A word about risk

Mutual funds are subject to risks and fluctuate in value.

The quantitative models and analysis used by the fund may perform differently than expected and negatively affect fund performance.

Definitions

Alpha shows how much or how little return is generated, given the risk a portfolio takes. A portfolio with an alpha greater than 0 has earned more than expected given its beta—meaning the portfolio has generated excess return without increasing risk. A portfolio with a negative alpha is producing a lower return than would be expected given its risk.

Beta measures a portfolio's volatility relative to the market. A beta greater than 1.00 suggests the portfolio has historically been more volatile than the market as measured by the fund's benchmark. A beta less than 1.00 suggests the portfolio has historically had less volatility relative to the market.

Correlation is the degree to which one variable (here, the fund's returns) fluctuates relative to another (the returns of the fund's benchmark). Correlation ranges from 1.00, when two variables move identically in the same direction, to -1.00, when two variables move identically in the opposite direction.

R-squared indicates what percentage of a portfolio's movement in performance is explained by movement in performance of the market. R-squared ranges from 0 to 100, and a score of 100 suggests that all movements of a portfolio's performance are completely explained by movements in the market as measured by the fund's benchmark.

Sharpe ratio is calculated by dividing a fund's annualized excess return by the fund's annualized standard deviation. The higher the Sharpe ratio, the better the fund's historical risk adjusted performance.

Standard deviation is a historical measure of the variability of returns relative to the average annual return. A higher number indicates higher overall volatility.

Tracking error is the difference between a portfolio's returns and the benchmark or index it was meant to mimic or beat.

Up capture ratio/down capture ratio is a measure of how well a manager was able to replicate or improve on periods of positive benchmark returns and how badly the manager was affected by periods of negative benchmark returns. The up-market capture ratio is a measure of a manager's performance in up markets relative to the index during the same period. For example, a ratio value of 115 indicates that the manager has outperformed the market index by 15% in periods when the index has risen. The down-market capture ratio is the direct opposite of the up-market capture ratio, gauging performance of the manager relative to the index in down markets. A ratio value of 80 would indicate the manager had declined on 80% as much as the declining overall market, indicating relative outperformance.

Weighted median P/E (LTM—latest 12 months) is a ratio comparing share price to earnings per share using data from the previous 12 months.

Weighted median P/E (NTM—next 12 months) is a ratio comparing share price to earnings-per-share using estimated data for the next 12 months.

Weighted median market cap is the calculation representing the median market capitalization of the stocks in the portfolio, weighted by the amount of each stock.

Weighted median price/book is a ratio comparing share price to book value or assets minus liabilities.

Russell 1000® Growth Index measures the performance of the large-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000® Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The Russell 1000® Growth Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer for the large-cap growth segment. The Index is completely reconstituted annually to ensure new and growing equities are included and that the represented companies continue to reflect growth characteristics.

S&P 500® Index is an unmanaged capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks designated to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

Indexes are unmanaged and cannot be invested in directly.

Ratings and rating agencies

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