

Federated Hermes MDT Small Cap Core Fund

12/31/23

Fund facts

Performance inception date

9/15/05

Benchmark

Russell 2000® Index

Morningstar category

Small Blend

Lipper classification

Small-Cap Core Funds

Fund assets

\$1.2 billion

Ticker symbols

R6 Shares - QLSCX

Institutional Shares - QISCX

A Shares - QASCX

C Shares - QCSCX

Key investment team

Daniel Mahr, CFA

Damien Zhang, CFA

Frederick Konopka, CFA

John Paul Lewicke

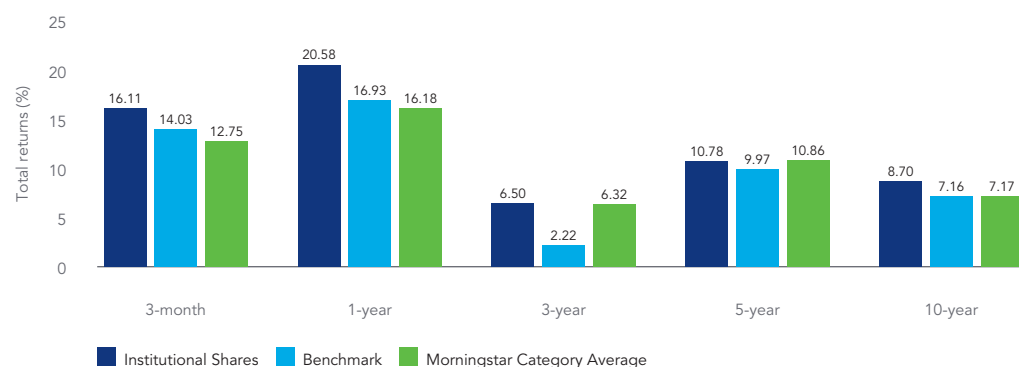
Fund description

The fund pursues long-term capital appreciation by investing in a diversified portfolio of U.S. small-cap companies from the Russell 2000® Index. Through a fundamentally based, 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	After waivers
R6 Shares	16.12	20.58	20.58	6.51	10.78	8.63	5.69	0.94	0.88
Institutional Shares	16.11	20.58	20.58	6.50	10.78	8.70	7.73	1.04	0.89
A Shares (NAV)	16.08	20.26	20.26	6.22	10.50	8.42	7.47	1.39	1.14
A Shares (MOP)	9.70	13.66	13.66	4.24	9.25	7.81	7.14	1.39	1.14
Benchmark	14.03	16.93	16.93	2.22	9.97	7.16	-	-	-



Calendar year total returns (%)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Institutional Shares	20.58	-23.11	30.27	16.99	18.06	-11.58	15.58	35.23	-3.20	3.15
Benchmark	16.93	-20.44	14.82	19.96	25.53	-11.01	14.65	21.31	-4.41	4.89
Morningstar Category Average	16.18	-16.24	24.19	10.99	23.75	-12.72	12.28	20.78	-5.38	3.79

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, are in effect up to but not including the later of 10/1/24 or the date of the fund's next effective prospectus.

Investment process

Fundamentally based research

Research identifies powerful combinations of fundamental and technical factors which can capture behavioral signals that work across market environments.

Stock selection

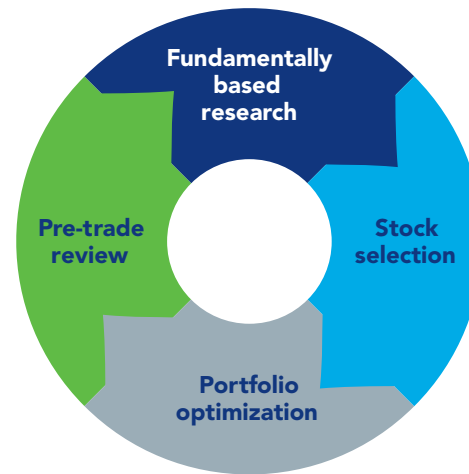
Stock alphas are forecasted based on each company's characteristics.

Portfolio optimization

Proprietary software is used to maximize portfolio alpha, net of trading costs, while managing risk.

Pre-trade review

All trades are reviewed to ensure they are based on the most recent and accurate information. Insights from pre-trade review provide important feedback to the team and inspire further research.



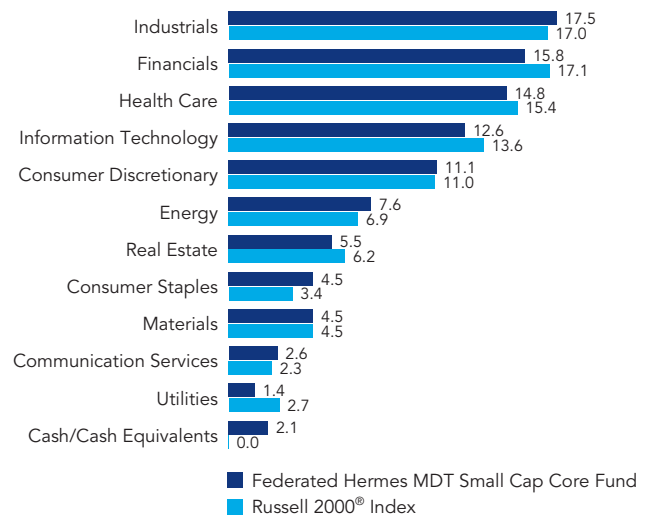
Portfolio statistics

Weighted median P/E (LTM)	18.8x
Weighted median P/E (NTM)	14.1x
Weighted median market cap	\$2.2 b
Weighted median price/book	2.5x
Number of securities	294

Top holdings (%)

GMS, Inc.	2.0
Weatherford International Public Limited Company	2.0
Murphy USA, Inc.	1.7
Parsons Corp.	1.7
Abercrombie & Fitch Co., Class A	1.5
Jackson Financial Inc.	1.3
Brandywine Realty Trust	1.2
SkyWest, Inc.	1.2
Boise Cascade Co.	1.1
Knife River Corp.	1.0
Total % of portfolio	14.7

Sector weightings (%)



Portfolio composition is based on net assets at the close of business on 12/31/23 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

- Small cap growth stocks underperformed small cap value stocks
- Outperformance was driven by favorable stock selection among stocks with strong 1-year returns and neutral to high analyst conviction
- Fund ended the quarter roughly sector-neutral to benchmark

Looking back

To start the last stanza of 2023, U.S. equities slid for the third consecutive month as expectations of persistently high interest rates continued to weigh on market sentiment. Markets rallied over the balance of the quarter, however, as the U.S. Federal Reserve signaled an end to rate hikes alongside an increased probability of rate cuts in 2024. Nearly all segments of the U.S. equity market delivered strong returns for the fourth quarter, with higher-risk and growth-oriented segments outperforming. The broad-market Russell 3000 Index jumped 12.07% for the quarter, led by smaller-cap stocks. The small-cap Russell 2000 surged 14.03% for the period, outperforming the Russell Midcap (+12.82%) and mega-cap Russell Top 200 (+11.70%) indexes. The Russell 3000 Growth Index (+14.09%) outpaced the Russell 3000 Value Index (+9.83%) during the quarter.

Performance

Federated Hermes MDT Small Cap Core Fund (Institutional Shares) returned 16.11% in the fourth quarter of 2023, outperforming the 14.03% return of its benchmark, the Russell 2000 Index.

Performance contributors

- Favorable stock selection among stocks with strong 1-year returns and neutral to high analyst conviction
- Stock selection in the Health Care and Industrials sectors
- Strong performers overweighted by the fund: Hawaiian Holdings Inc., EyePoint Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Abercrombie & Fitch Co. (Class A)

Performance detractors

- Overweighting younger stocks with strong 1-year returns and positive analyst conviction
- Stock selection in Financials sector
- Weak performers overweighted by the fund: Green Dot Corporation (Class A), Kinsale Capital Group, Inc., and PMV Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

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How we are positioned

The fund ended the fourth quarter roughly sector-neutral to the benchmark, as intended by our multi-layered risk management. Within the sectors there were overweight positions of the Software and Services industry and the Insurance industry. There were underweight positions of the Banks industry and the Semiconductors and Semiconductor Equipment industry. At the end of the period, the fund was slightly overweight value stocks.

See *disclosure section for important disclosures and definitions.*

Risk statistics

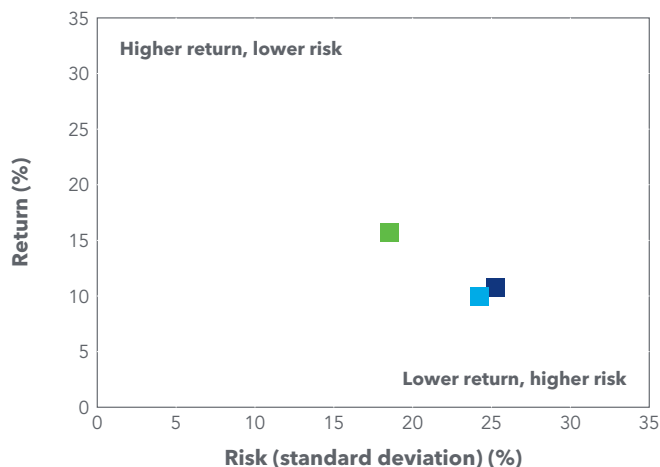
	3-year	5-year	7-year	10-year
Standard deviation	21.87	25.26	23.00	21.33
Alpha	4.22	0.74	0.55	1.42
Beta	0.99	1.03	1.03	1.03
Correlation	0.97	0.98	0.98	0.98
R²	94.49	96.56	96.79	95.79
Up capture ratio	107.64	103.07	103.96	104.79
Down capture ratio	93.97	101.38	102.71	99.98
Sharpe ratio	0.18	0.34	0.26	0.34
Tracking error	5.13	4.73	4.19	4.43

Sources: Federated Hermes, Morningstar, Inc.

Fund vs. Russell 2000[®] Index

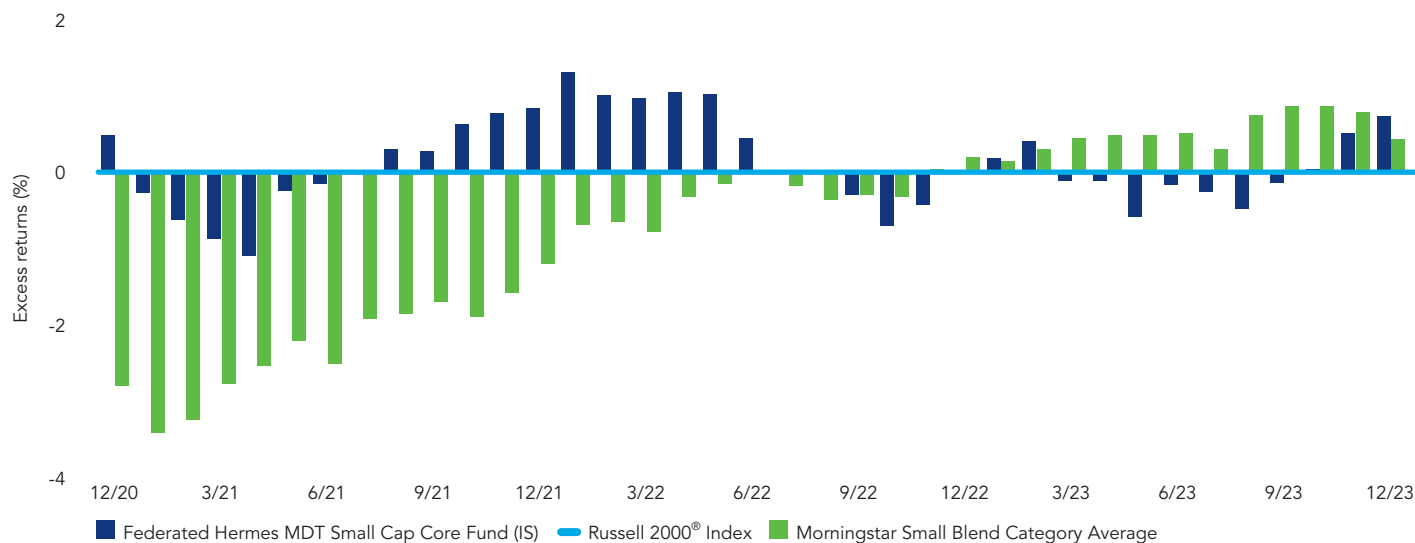
See disclosure section for important definitions.

5-year risk/return



	Risk (%)	Return (%)
■ Federated Hermes MDT Small Cap Core Fund (IS)	25.26	10.78
■ Russell 2000 [®] Index	24.22	9.97
■ S&P 500 [®] Index	18.52	15.69

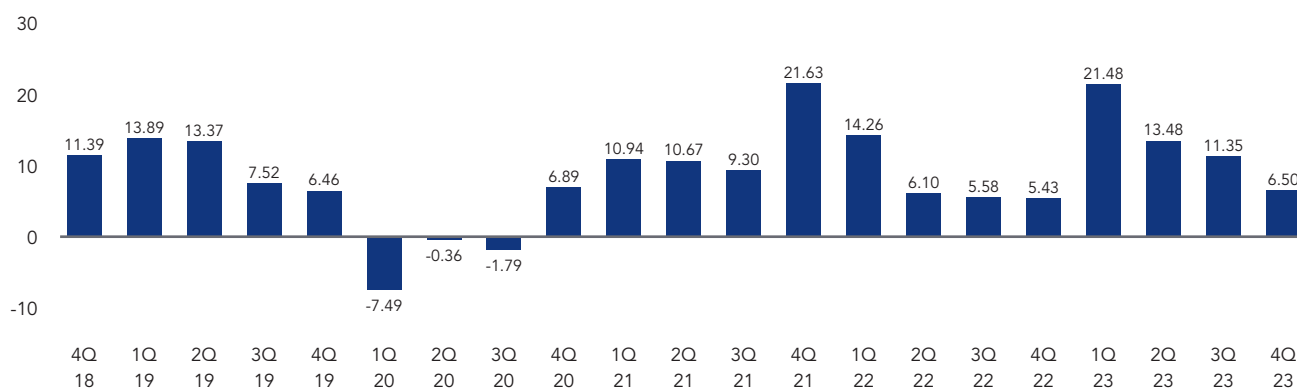
5-year rolling excess performance vs. Russell 2000[®] Index



Source: Morningstar, Inc. Performance represents 5-year periods (1-month step). Returns are for Institutional Shares. Other classes of shares are available whose performance will vary due to different charges and expenses.

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3-year rolling returns - IS (%)



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Category rankings

Morningstar Small Blend Category		1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year
R6 Shares	Morningstar Category % Rank	14	48	59	-
	Morningstar Category Rank	75 of 615 funds	247 of 593 funds	300 of 557 funds	-
IS Shares	Morningstar Category % Rank	14	48	59	8
	Morningstar Category Rank	76 of 615 funds	249 of 593 funds	301 of 557 funds	30 of 391 funds
A Shares	Morningstar Category % Rank	15	53	64	16
	Morningstar Category Rank	83 of 615 funds	277 of 593 funds	324 of 557 funds	58 of 391 funds

Lipper Small-Cap Core Funds		1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year
R6 Shares	Lipper Classification % Rank	12	59	53	-
	Lipper Classification Rank	130 of 1,182 funds	667 of 1,139 funds	559 of 1,073 funds	-
IS Shares	Lipper Classification % Rank	12	59	53	11
	Lipper Classification Rank	131 of 1,182 funds	668 of 1,139 funds	561 of 1,073 funds	85 of 826 funds
A Shares	Lipper Classification % Rank	12	62	58	16
	Lipper Classification Rank	141 of 1,182 funds	697 of 1,139 funds	617 of 1,073 funds	129 of 826 funds

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 Small Cap Core 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](https://www.federatedhermes.com/us). Please carefully read the summary prospectus or the prospectus before investing.

The fund is the successor to MDT Small Cap Core 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 Small Cap Core Fund.

The fund's R6 Shares commenced operations on June 30, 2016. For the period prior to the commencement of operations of the R6 Shares, the performance information shown is for the fund's 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. The performance of the Institutional Shares have been adjusted to remove any voluntary waiver of the fund expenses related to the Institutional Shares that may have occurred during the period prior to the commencement of operations of the R6 Shares.

A word about risk

Mutual funds are subject to risks and fluctuate in value.

The fund may invest in small capitalization (or "smallcap") companies. Small-cap companies may have less liquid stock, a more volatile share price, unproven track records, a limited product or service base and limited access to capital. The above factors could make small-cap companies more likely to fail than larger companies and increase the volatility of the fund's portfolio, performance and price. Suitable securities of small-cap companies also can have limited availability and cause capacity constraints on investment strategies for funds that invest in them.

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 2000® Index measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. The Russell 2000 is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index representing approximately 10% of the total market capitalization of that index. It includes approximately 2000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell 2000® Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased small-cap barometer and is completely reconstituted annually to ensure larger stocks do not distort the performance and characteristics of the true small-cap opportunity set.

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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