

Federated Hermes Kaufmann Small Cap Fund

12/31/25

Fund facts

Performance inception date

12/18/02

Benchmark

Russell 2000® Growth Index

Morningstar category

Small Growth

Lipper classification

Small-Cap Growth Funds

Fund assets

\$3.0 billion

Ticker symbols

R6 Shares - FKALX

Institutional Shares - FKAIX

A Shares - FKASX

C Shares - FKCSX

R Shares - FKKSX

Key investment team

John Ettinger, CFA

Hans Utsch

Stephen DeNichilo, CFA

Barbara Miller

Tom Brakel, M.D.

Steven Abrahamson

Aditi Singhania, Ph.D.

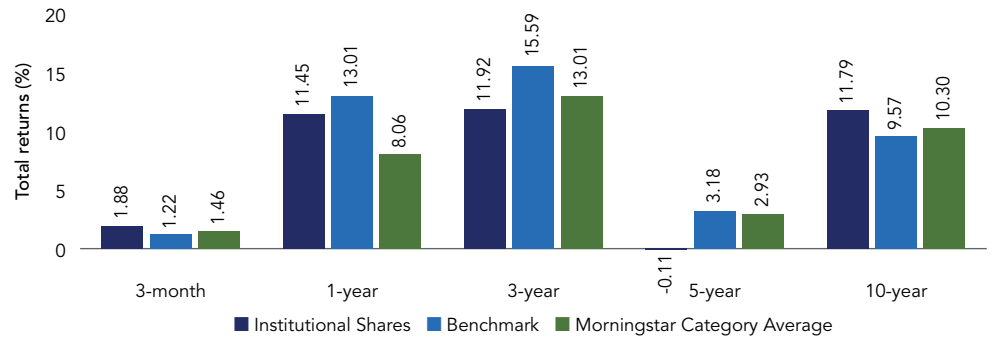
Fund description

The fund seeks to provide capital appreciation by investing primarily in securities of small companies. Utilizing an intensive, bottom-up security selection process, the fund focuses on companies that exhibit positive growth characteristics.

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	1.90	11.45	11.45	11.93	-0.09	11.71	12.53	0.93	0.89
Institutional Shares	1.88	11.45	11.45	11.92	-0.11	11.79	12.54	1.02	0.90
A Shares (NAV)	1.75	10.92	10.92	11.40	-0.57	11.28	12.33	1.51	1.36
A Shares (MOP)	-3.84	4.81	4.81	9.32	-1.69	10.65	12.06	1.51	1.36
Benchmark	1.22	13.01	13.01	15.59	3.18	9.57	-	-	-



Calendar year total returns (%)

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Institutional Shares	11.45	9.35	15.03	-31.09	2.97	44.06	34.58	7.40	38.46	6.27
Benchmark	13.01	15.15	18.66	-26.36	2.83	34.63	28.48	-9.31	22.17	11.32
Morningstar Category Average	8.06	14.98	16.68	-27.77	11.89	38.62	27.68	-5.76	21.50	11.20

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 1/1/27 or the date of the fund's next effective prospectus.

Distinguishing characteristics

Transparent and accountable process

- Capital efficiency and transparency are built into the compensation structure
- Bonus pool is allocated according to individual's contribution to results
- Incentivized to optimize capital

Tenured team, differentiated portfolio

Team follows same 35-year philosophy and process used since inception of the Kaufmann strategy

- Distinguished professionals with specialized industry ties; organized for full accountability
- Continuity of team allows for constructive problem solving
- Seeking a differentiated, small-cap portfolio

Extensive research, long-term results

Independent, proprietary research focuses on:

- Exceptional business models
- Positive inflections of business momentum
- Clear pathway to free cash flow growth

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

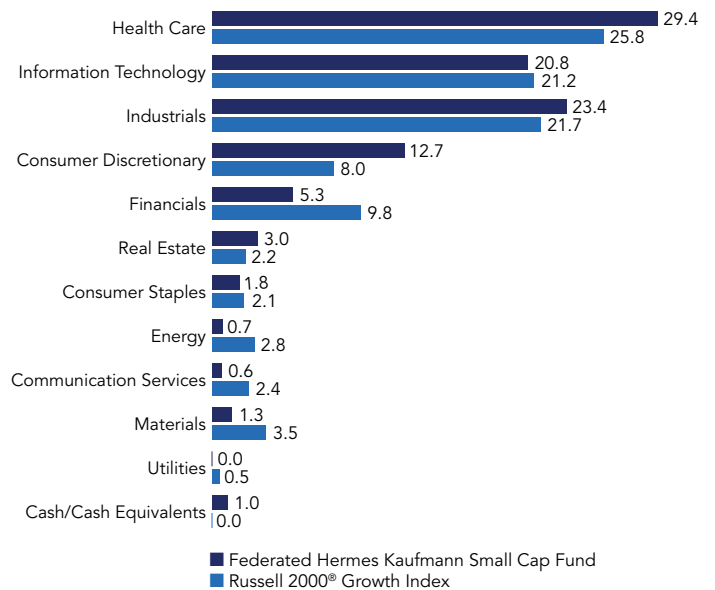
Portfolio statistics

Weighted median P/E (LTM)	39.5x
Weighted median P/E (NTM)	30.3x
Weighted median market cap	\$9.6 b
Number of securities	136

Top holdings (%)

argenx SE	5.1
Comfort Systems USA, Inc.	3.6
Rhythm Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	2.4
Guardant Health, Inc.	2.2
Camtek Ltd/Israel	2.1
MongoDB, Inc.	2.1
ATI, Inc.	2.0
Applied Industrial Technologies, Inc.	1.8
Rubrik Inc	1.8
SHOPIFY INC - CLASS A	1.8
Total % of portfolio	24.9

Sector weightings (%)



Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

The index position were small hedges we invested in given macro uncertainty.

Portfolio composition is based on net assets at the close of business on 12/31/25 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

- Global equity markets continued higher on lower inflation and a lower rate environment
- Growth stocks underperformed value stocks during the quarter
- Stock selection and sector weightings drove relative outperformance
- The Industrials and Technology sectors both helped relative performance

Looking back

During the fourth quarter of 2025, the US economy and most significant westernized economies saw economic growth maintain its upward trajectory. Inflation has continued to moderate, albeit at a tepid pace, as fiscal stimuli slowed and geopolitical issues seem contained. During the quarter, fading concerns related to economic global trading policy enabled positive returns in equities. This led to stocks performing exceptionally well during the quarter led by the Biotech stocks represented by the XBI index up 22.08%, followed by the Technology-heavy Nasdaq index up 2.72%, followed by the S&P 500 up 2.65%, followed by large cap stocks represented by the Russell 1000 Index up 2.41%, followed by small cap stocks represented by the Russell 2000 Index up 2.19%, followed by mid cap stocks represented by the Russell Mid-Cap Index up 0.15%. Small-cap growth stocks underperformed small-cap value stocks during the quarter.

During the quarter, the portfolio team added new positions of the following equity positions to the portfolio: Cytokinetics, Inc (new), Dyne Therapeutics (new), Evommune Inc. (IPO), Lumexa Imaging Holdings (IPO), Ovid Therapeutics (new), Sail Biomedicines (new), Vaxcyte Inc. (new), Zenas Biopharma Inc. (new), Beta Technologies (IPO), Cardinal Infrastructure (IPO), Construction Partners Inc (new), Karman Holdings (new), RBC Bearings (new), and Westlake Corp. (new).

Also, during the quarter, the portfolio exited or reduced the following equity positions in pursuit of better opportunities: Merus NV, Argenx SE, Standard Aero Inc., Braze Inc., and Ares Management Corp.

Capital Markets activities during the quarter:

The small cap fund participated in four IPOs in the quarter: Evommune Inc. (IPO), Lumexa Imaging Holdings (IPO), Beta Technologies (IPO), and Cardinal Infrastructure (IPO). The team was active in the secondary equity markets during the quarter. The fund participated in seven secondary offers during the quarter: Eyepoint Inc., Guardant Health Inc., First Watch Restaurant Group, Centessa Pharmaceuticals, Kestra Medical Technologies, Wave Life Sciences Ltd. and Kymera Therapeutics Inc.

Performance

Federated Hermes Kaufmann Small Cap Fund Institutional Shares gained 1.88% at NAV for the three months ended December 31, 2025. That compares with its benchmark the Russell 2000 Growth Index, which gained 1.22% during the same period.

Performance contributors

- Stocks that made a positive contribution to performance included argenx SE, Guardant Health Inc, ATI Inc, MongoDB Inc and Wave Life Sciences Ltd.

Performance detractors

- Stocks that detracted from performance included Arcturus Therapeutics Holdings, Rezolute Inc., Duolingo Inc and Wix.com

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How we are positioned

As the US economy finished 2025, dispersion amongst markets continue to increase, with central banks rotating from tightening monetary policy to easing depending on regional inflation rates. While there is some encouraging macro momentum, there are persistent worries such as trade policy escalation, geopolitical conflicts as well as inflation rates globally. These questions amongst others are likely to endure into 2026 which could cause market uncertainty. One indicator that investor caution is subsiding would be the recovering IPO activity since the peak in 2021. After a record-breaking year in 2021, in 2022 the US IPO issuance was quiet with 71 IPOs priced in 2022. However, in 2023 and 2024, the market showed some signs of recovering with 108 and 150 IPOs pricing respectively, according to Renaissance Capital. That IPO momentum continued throughout 2025 with 202 IPOs pricing, raising \$44 billion. Despite the macro, uncertainties the Kaufmann team continues to be focused on its goal of finding and investing in companies that have little dependence on the economy, good or bad, to generate significant sales and earnings growth.

This quarter the fund had approximately 84% of the portfolio invested in four sectors: Industrials, Health Care, Consumer Discretionary and Technology. The sector weightings of the portfolio are a byproduct of our bottom-up stock selection strategy with a team of sector-specialist portfolio managers. These sectors also have historically provided good opportunities for bottom-up growth investors. We seek to find companies that have company-specific catalysts for growth rather than develop macro themes to construct sector weightings. The strategy's consistent growth bias has allowed the portfolio to produce the following statistics: average sales growth last twelve months 26%, operating margins of 16% and median earnings growth for the last year of 11%. This compares to the Russell 2000 Growth Index of: average sales growth 21%, median operating margins 14% and median earnings growth of 10%.

Risk statistics

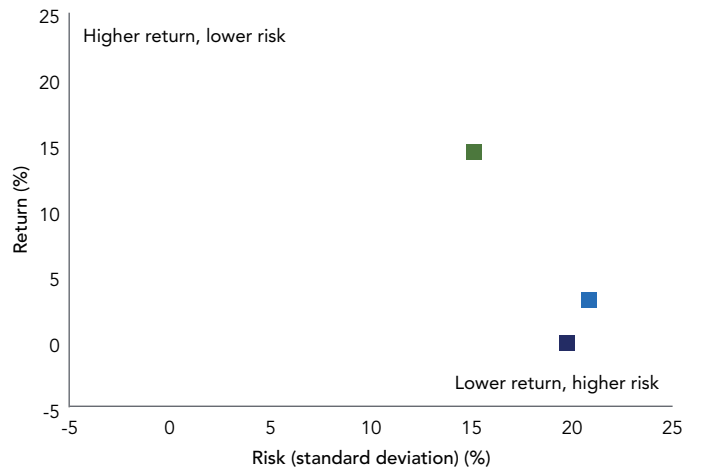
	3-year	5-year	7-year	10-year
Standard deviation	17.77	19.73	21.54	20.31
Alpha	-1.47	-3.22	0.06	2.70
Beta	0.81	0.89	0.90	0.91
R²	85.42	88.23	90.26	89.04

Sources: Federated Hermes, Inc., Morningstar, Inc.

Fund vs. Russell 2000® Growth Index

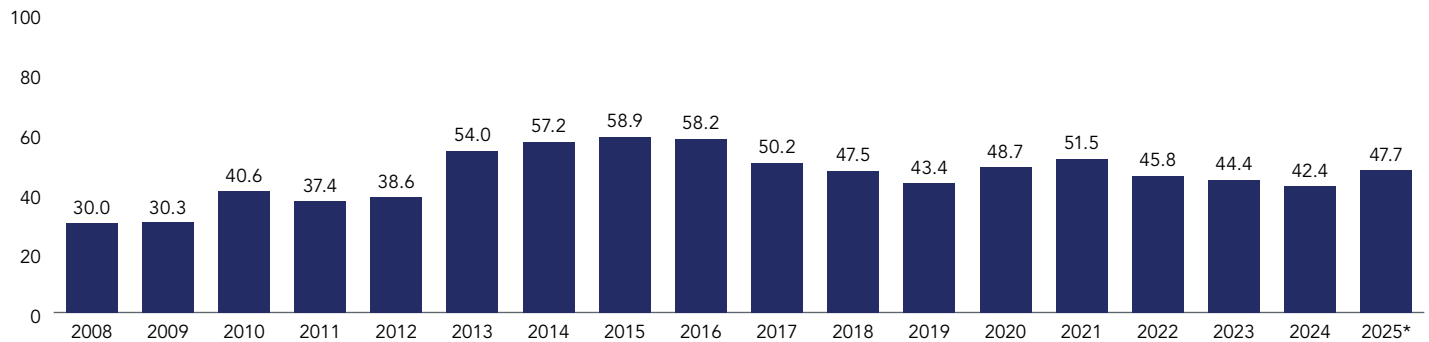
See disclosure section for important definitions.

5-year risk/return



	Risk (%)	Return (%)
Federated Hermes Kaufmann Small Cap Fund (IS)	19.73	-0.11
Russell 2000® Growth Index	20.82	3.18
S&P 500®	15.11	14.42

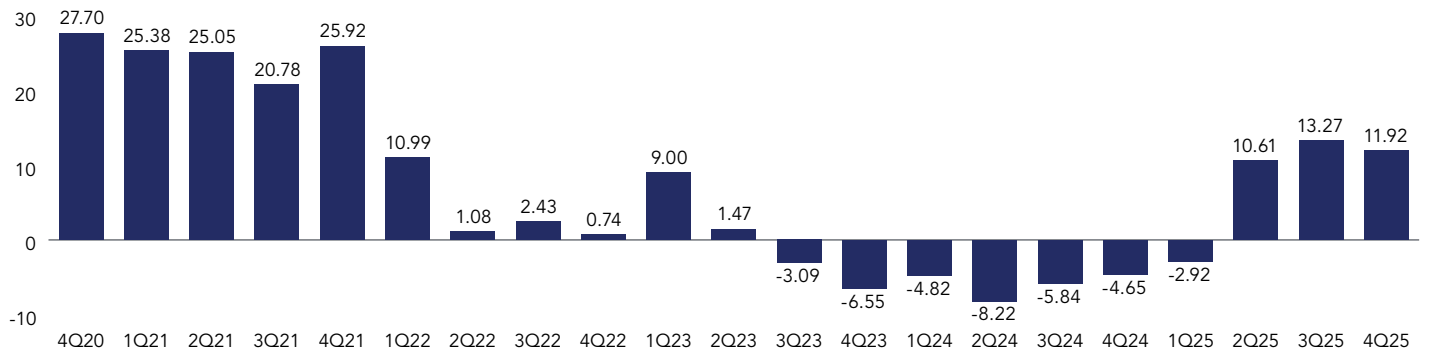
Percent of portfolio invested in IPOs (%)



* As of 12/31/25.

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3-year rolling returns - IS (%)



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Category rankings

Morningstar Small Growth Category		1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year
R6 Shares	Morningstar Category % Rank	31	56	78	–
	Morningstar Category Rank	170 of 531 funds	293 of 518 funds	372 of 496 funds	–
IS Shares	Morningstar Category % Rank	31	56	79	19
	Morningstar Category Rank	169 of 531 funds	295 of 518 funds	373 of 496 funds	67 of 389 funds
A Shares	Morningstar Category % Rank	35	60	82	25
	Morningstar Category Rank	195 of 531 funds	320 of 518 funds	394 of 496 funds	93 of 389 funds
Lipper Small-Cap Growth Funds		1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year
R6 Shares	Lipper Classification % Rank	32	62	76	–
	Lipper Classification Rank	165 of 524 funds	310 of 503 funds	368 of 486 funds	–
IS Shares	Lipper Classification % Rank	32	62	76	17
	Lipper Classification Rank	164 of 524 funds	311 of 503 funds	369 of 486 funds	64 of 383 funds
A Shares	Lipper Classification % Rank	37	66	80	24
	Lipper Classification Rank	192 of 524 funds	331 of 503 funds	389 of 486 funds	92 of 383 funds

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

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's R6 Shares commenced operations on September 1, 2017. For the period prior to the commencement of operations of the R6 Shares, the performance information shown is for the fund's A Shares adjusted to reflect the expenses of the fund's R6 Shares for each year for which the Fund's R6 Shares expenses would have exceeded the actual expenses paid by the fund's A Shares. The performance information has also been adjusted to reflect any applicable differences between the sales loads and charges imposed on the purchase and redemption of R6 Shares and A Shares, as well as the removal of any voluntary waivers/reimbursements of fund expenses that may have occurred during the periods prior to the commencement of operations of the R6 Shares.

The fund's Institutional Shares commenced operations on December 30, 2015. For the period prior to the commencement of operations for the Institutional Shares, the performance information shown is for the A Shares adjusted to reflect the expenses of the Institutional Shares for each year for which the expenses of the Institutional Shares would have exceeded the actual expenses paid by the fund's A Shares. The performance information has also been adjusted to reflect any applicable differences between the sales loads and charges imposed on the purchase and redemption of Institutional and A Shares, as well as the removal of any voluntary waivers/reimbursements of fund expenses that may have occurred during the periods prior to the commencement of operations of the Institutional Shares.

A word about risk

Mutual funds are subject to risks and fluctuate in value.

International investing involves special risks including currency risk, increased volatility, political risks, and differences in auditing and other financial standards.

Investing in IPOs involves special risks such as limited liquidity and increased volatility.

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 value of equity securities in the fund's portfolio will fluctuate and, as a result, the fund's share price may decline. Equity securities may decline in value because of an increase in interest rates or changes in the stock market.

Diversification does not assure a profit nor protect against a loss.

Growth stocks tend to have higher valuations and thus are typically more volatile than value stocks. Growth stocks also may not pay dividends or may pay lower dividends than value stocks.

The fund's use of derivative instruments involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities and other traditional instruments.

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.

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.

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

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.

Russell 1000® Index measures the performance of the large-cap segment of the US equity universe. It is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index and includes approximately 1000 of the largest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell 1000® represents approximately 92% of the US market. The Russell 1000® Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer for the large-cap segment and is completely reconstituted annually to ensure new and growing equities are reflected.

Russell 2000® Growth Index measures the performance of the small-cap growth segment of the US equity universe. It includes those Russell 2000® Index companies with higher price-to-value ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The Russell 2000® Growth Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer for the small-cap growth segment. The Index is completely reconstituted annually to ensure larger stocks do not distort the performance and characteristics of the true small-cap opportunity set and that the represented companies continue to reflect growth characteristics.

Russell 2000® Index measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the US 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.

Russell Midcap® Index measures the performance of the mid-cap segment of the US equity universe. The Russell Midcap® Index is a subset of the Russell 1000® Index. It includes approximately 800 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell Midcap® Index represents approximately 27% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 1000 companies.

S&P 500® 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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