

# Federated Hermes MDT Small Cap Core Fund

9/30/20

## Fund facts

### Performance inception date

9/15/05

### Benchmark

Russell 2000® Index

### Morningstar category

Small Blend

### Lipper classification

Small-Cap Core Funds

### Fund assets

\$664.6 million

### Ticker symbols

R6 Shares - QLSCX

Institutional Shares - QISCX

A Shares - QASCX

C Shares - QCSCX

### Key investment team

Daniel Mahr, CFA®

Frederick Konopka, CFA®

John Paul Lewicke

Damien Zhang, CFA®

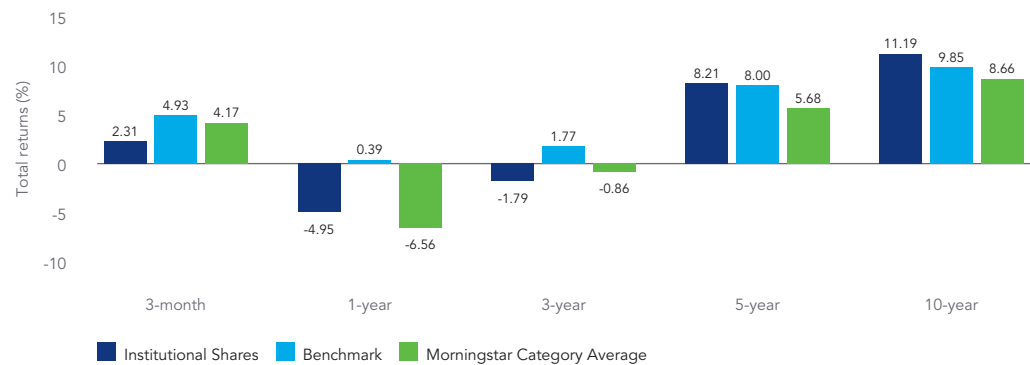
## Fund description

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
<b>R6 Shares</b>	2.31	-11.85	-4.95	-1.77	8.17	10.43	3.66	0.96	0.88
<b>Institutional Shares</b>	2.31	-11.85	-4.95	-1.79	8.21	11.19	6.09	1.06	0.89
<b>A Shares (NAV)</b>	2.28	-11.99	-5.19	-2.03	7.94	10.92	5.84	1.45	1.14
<b>A Shares (MOP)</b>	-3.35	-16.85	-10.41	-3.85	6.72	10.29	5.45	1.45	1.14
<b>Benchmark</b>	4.93	-8.69	0.39	1.77	8.00	9.85	-	-	-



## Calendar year returns (%)

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
<b>Institutional Shares</b>	18.06	-11.58	15.58	35.23	-3.20	3.15	46.16	20.35	-1.84	24.97
<b>Benchmark</b>	25.53	-11.01	14.65	21.31	-4.41	4.89	38.82	16.35	-4.18	26.85
<b>Morningstar Category Average</b>	23.75	-12.72	12.28	20.78	-5.38	3.79	37.39	15.46	-4.07	25.61

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 [FederatedInvestors.com](http://FederatedInvestors.com). 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 10/1/21 or the date of the fund's next effective prospectus.

## Investment process

### Fundamentally based research

Research identifies powerful combinations of classic fundamentals enhanced with behavioral signals that work across market environments.

### Stock selection

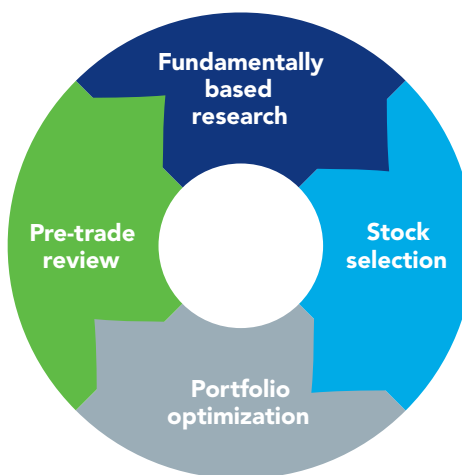
Stock alphas are forecasted based on each company's characteristics.

### 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.



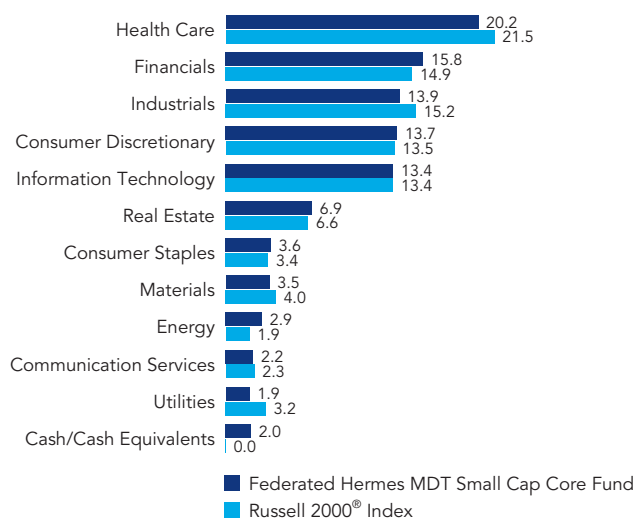
## Portfolio statistics

Weighted median P/E (LTM)	19.3x
Weighted median P/E (NTM)	16.4x
Weighted median market cap	\$1.8 b
Weighted median price/book	2.5x
Number of securities	297

## Top holdings (%)

Selective Insurance Group, Inc.	1.7
Albany International Corp., Class A	1.4
Wingstop, Inc.	1.4
YETI Holdings, Inc.	1.4
Portland General Electric Co	1.3
Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.	1.2
Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc.	1.2
Inphi Corp.	1.2
Installed Building Products, Inc.	1.2
Apogee Enterprises, Inc.	1.1
Total % of portfolio	13.1

## Sector weightings (%)



Portfolio composition is based on net assets at the close of business on 9/30/20 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 gained more than small-cap value stocks
- Overweight of and unfavorable stock selection among stocks at prices not near 52-week highs but without a need for external financing contributed most to underperformance
- Fund ended quarter roughly sector-neutral to benchmark

## Looking back

The first two months of 2020's third quarter were positive for the domestic stock market, led by large-cap and growth stocks. September brought a correction, with mid-caps leading large caps while value led growth. But the overall direction of the market for the quarter was unchanged. The Russell 3000 Index returned 9.21% during the period. Large caps beat small caps, with the mega-cap Russell Top 200 Index returning 10.16%, the Russell Midcap Index returning 7.46% and the small-cap Russell 2000 Index returning 4.93%. Growth stocks beat value stocks, with the Russell 3000 Growth Index returning 12.86% and the Russell 3000 Value Index returning 5.42%. The growth advantage was widest in the mega-cap range where growth led value by 8.84%. It was narrowest in the mid-cap range where growth led value by 2.97%.

So while September was a short-term change of pattern, the large-cap-and-growth orientation of the market has persisted the last three years. From October 2017 through September 2020, the mega-cap Russell Top 200 has an annualized return of 14.34% while the small-cap Russell 2000 has returned 1.77%; the Russell Midcap return lies between the two, at 7.13% annualized. Comparing the growth and value styles, the Russell 3000 Growth Index has returned 20.73% while the Russell 3000 Value Index has returned 2.11%.

## Performance

Federated Hermes MDT Small Cap Core Fund Institutional Shares returned 2.31% in the third quarter of 2020, underperforming the 4.93% return of its benchmark, the Russell 2000 Index.

### Performance contributors

- Overweight of young, growth-oriented stocks with neutral to high analyst conviction and prices near 52-week highs
- Security selection in Financials and Information Technology sectors
- Strong performers overweighted by the fund: Tupperware Brands Corporation, National General Holdings Corp. and Cars.com, Inc.

### Performance detractors

- Overweight of and unfavorable stock selection among stocks with prices not near 52-week highs but no need for high external financing
- Security selection in Industrials, Health Care and Consumer Discretionary sectors
- Weak performer overweighted by the fund: AnaptysBio, Inc.
- Strong performers not held by the fund: Sunrun Inc. and Penn National Gaming, Inc.

*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 [FederatedInvestors.com](http://FederatedInvestors.com).*

## How we are positioned

The fund ended the third quarter roughly sector-neutral to the benchmark, according to the GICS sectors. Within the sectors, there was a significant overweight position in the insurance industry and a smaller overweight in the software & services industry. There were small underweight positions in the technology hardware & equipment and banks industries. At the end of the period, the fund was tilted toward growth stocks.

*See disclosure section for important disclosures and definitions.*

## Risk statistics

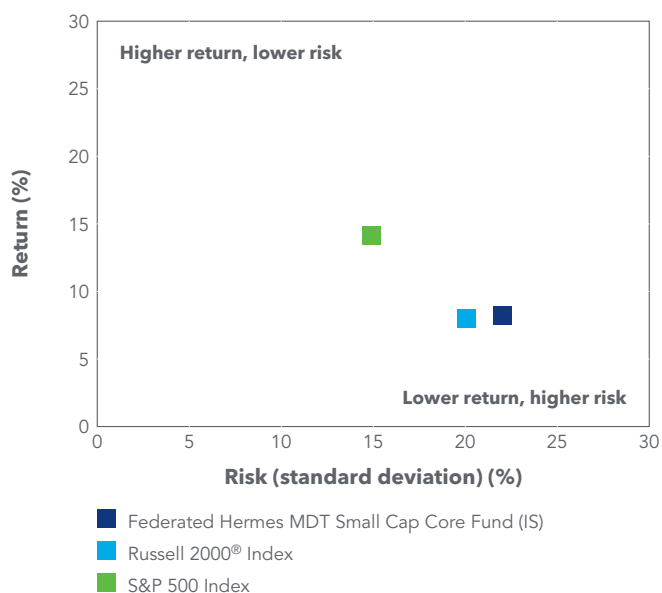
	3-year	5-year	7-year	10-year
<b>Standard deviation</b>	24.61	22.04	19.91	19.90
<b>Alpha</b>	-3.33	-0.08	0.40	0.74
<b>Beta</b>	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08
<b>Correlation</b>	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.98
<b>R<sup>2</sup></b>	98.54	96.83	96.06	95.97
<b>Up capture ratio</b>	98.31	106.16	104.76	107.04
<b>Down capture ratio</b>	110.22	107.08	103.50	103.90
<b>Sharpe ratio</b>	-0.14	0.32	0.31	0.53
<b>Tracking error</b>	3.30	4.25	4.10	4.25

Sources: Federated Hermes, Morningstar, Inc.

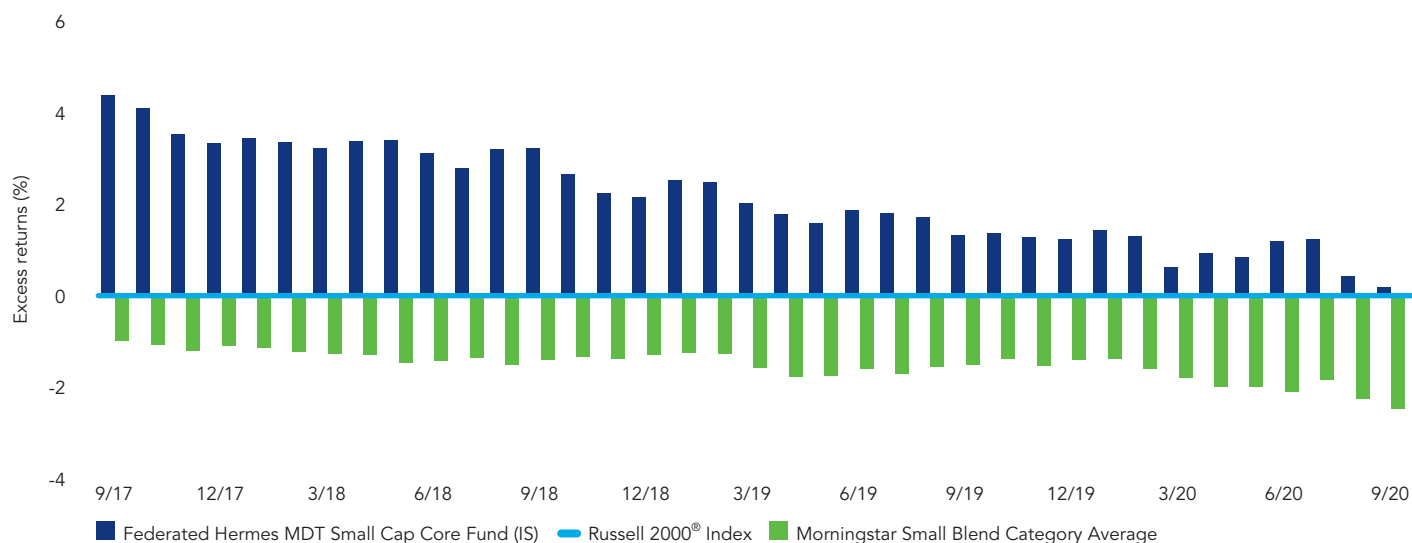
Fund vs. Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index

See disclosure section for important definitions.

## 5-year risk/return



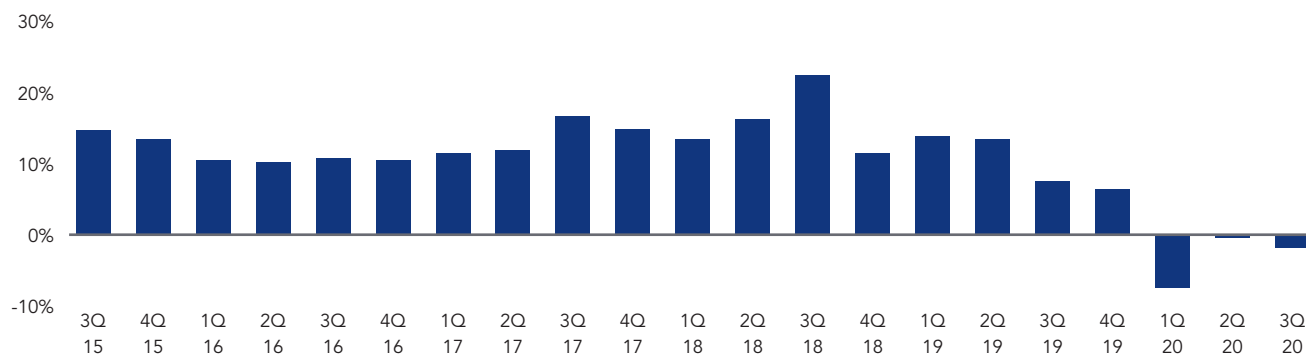
## 5-year rolling excess performance vs. Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index



Source: Morningstar, Inc. Performance for 5-year periods (1-month step) from 10/1/12 - 9/30/20. Returns are for IS 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
<b>R6 Shares</b>	Morningstar Category % Rank	43	65	11	2
	Morningstar Category Rank	289 of 658 funds	404 of 617 funds	–	–
<b>IS Shares</b>	Morningstar Category % Rank	43	65	11	2
	Morningstar Category Rank	290 of 658 funds	406 of 617 funds	55 of 503 funds	9 of 358 funds
<b>A Shares</b>	Morningstar Category % Rank	44	68	17	4
	Morningstar Category Rank	296 of 658 funds	423 of 617 funds	85 of 503 funds	21 of 358 funds

### Lipper Small-Cap Core Funds

		1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year
<b>R6 Shares</b>	Lipper Classification % Rank	35	51	–	–
	Lipper Classification Rank	303 of 882 funds	424 of 831 funds	–	–
<b>IS Shares</b>	Lipper Classification % Rank	35	52	9	3
	Lipper Classification Rank	303 of 882 funds	426 of 831 funds	62 of 704 funds	11 of 495 funds
<b>A Shares</b>	Lipper Classification % Rank	36	54	13	5
	Lipper Classification Rank	313 of 882 funds	449 of 831 funds	90 of 704 funds	21 of 495 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 [FederatedInvestors.com](http://FederatedInvestors.com). Please carefully read the summary prospectus or the prospectus before investing.**

As of June 29, 2020, the fund was renamed Federated Hermes MDT Small Cap Core Fund.

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.

Small company stocks may be less liquid and subject to greater price volatility than large capitalization stocks.

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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