

# Vanguard Variable Insurance Funds High Yield Bond Portfolio

April 28, 2023

Prospectus

This prospectus contains financial data for the Portfolio through the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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# Principal Investment Strategies

Vanguard Variable Insurance Funds High Yield Bond Portfolio (the High Yield Bond Portfolio) invests primarily in a diversified group of high-yielding, higher-risk corporate bonds—commonly known as "junk bonds"—with medium- and lower-range credit quality ratings. Under normal circumstances, the Portfolio invests at least 80% of its assets in corporate bonds that are rated below Baa by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. (Moody's); have an equivalent rating by any other independent bond rating agency; or, if unrated, are determined to be of comparable quality by the Portfolio's advisors.

The Portfolio may not invest more than 20% of its assets in any of the following, in the aggregate: bonds with credit ratings lower than B or the equivalent, convertible securities, preferred stocks, and fixed- and floating-rate loans of medium- to lower-range credit quality. The loans in which the Portfolio may invest will be rated Baa or below by Moody's; have an equivalent rating by any other independent bond rating agency; or, if unrated, are determined to be of comparable quality by the Portfolio's advisors. The Portfolio's high-yield bonds and loans mostly have short- and intermediate-term maturities.

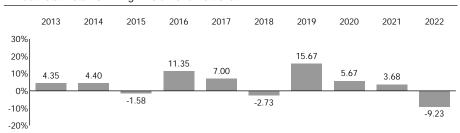
## Principal Risks

An investment in the Portfolio could lose money over short or long periods of time. You should expect the Portfolio's share price and total return to fluctuate within a wide range. The Portfolio is subject to the following risks, which could affect the Portfolio's performance, and the level of risk may vary based on market conditions:

- *C edil i k*, which is the chance that a bond or loan issuer will fail to pay interest or principal in a timely manner or that negative perceptions of the issuer's ability to make such payments will cause the price of that bond or loan to decline. Credit risk should be high for the Portfolio because it invests primarily in junk bonds.
- *Inc me i k*, which is the chance that the Portfolio's income will decline because of falling interest rates. Income risk should be moderate to high for the Portfolio, so investors should expect the Portfolio's monthly income to fluctuate accordingly.
- *Call i k*, which is the chance that during periods of falling interest rates, issuers of callable bonds may call (redeem) securities with higher coupon rates or interest rates before their maturity dates. The Portfolio would then lose any price appreciation above the bond's call price and would be forced to reinvest the unanticipated proceeds at lower interest rates, resulting in a decline in the Portfolio's income. Such redemptions and subsequent reinvestments would also

will perform in the future. Updated performance information is available on our website for Financial Advisors at  $ad\ i$  .  $ang\ a\ d.c\ m$  or by calling Vanguard toll-free at 800-522-5555.

## Annual Total Returns — High Yield Bond Portfolio



During the periods shown in the bar chart, the highest and lowest returns for a calendar quarter were:

	Total Return	Quarter
Highest	8.45%	June 30, 2020
Lowest	-10.73%	March 31, 2020

#### Average Annual Total Returns for Periods Ended December 31, 2022

	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
High Yield Bond Portfolio	-9.23%	2.27%	3.64%
Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield Bond Index			
(reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)	-11.19%	2.31%	4.03%
High-Yield Corporate Composite Index			
(reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)	-10.32	2.54	3.87

#### Investment Advisors

Wellington Management Company LLP (Wellington Management)

The Vanguard Group, Inc. (Vanguard)

### Portfolio Managers

Michael L. Hong, CFA, Senior Managing Director, Partner, and Fixed Income Portfolio Manager of Wellington Management. He has managed the Portfolio since 2008, and has co-managed the Portfolio since 2022.

Elizabeth H. Shortsleeve, Senior Managing Director and Fixed Income Portfolio Manager of Wellington Management. She has co-managed a portion of the Portfolio since 2022.

Michael Chang, CFA, Portfolio Manager at Vanguard. He has managed the Portfolio since 2008 and co-managed a portion of the Portfolio since 2022.

#### Tax Information

The Portfolio normally distributes its net investment income and net realized capital gains, if any, to its shareholders, which are the insurance company separate accounts that sponsor your variable annuity or variable life insurance contract. The tax consequences to you of your investment in the Portfolio depend on the provisions of the annuity or life insurance contract through which you invest. For more information on taxes, please refer to the prospectus of the annuity or life insurance contract through which Portfolio shares are offered.

## Payments to Financial Intermediaries

The Portfolio and its investment advisors do not pay financial intermediaries for sales of Portfolio shares.

# More on the Portfolio

This prospectus describes the principal risks you would face as an investor in this Portfolio. It is important to keep in mind one of the main principles of investing: generally, the higher the risk of losing money, the higher the potential

In general, interest rate fluctuations widen as a bond portfolio's average maturity lengthens. The Portfolio is expected to have a moderate level of interest rate risk because its holdings have short- and intermediate-term average maturity.

Although fixed income securities (commonly referred to as bonds) are often thought to be less risky than stocks, there have been periods when bond prices have fallen significantly because of rising interest rates. For instance, prices of long-term bonds fell by almost 48% between December 1976 and September 1981.

To illustrate the relationship between bond prices and interest rates, the following table shows the effect of a 1% and a 2% change (both up and down) in interest rates on the values of three noncallable bonds (i.e., bonds that cannot be redeemed by the issuer) of different maturities, each with a face value of \$1,000.

How Interest Rate Changes Affect the Value of a \$1,000 Bond

Type of Bond (Maturity)	After a 1% Increa e	After a 1% Decrea e	After a 2% Increa e	After a 2% Decrea e
Short-Term (2.5 years)	\$977	\$1,024	\$954	\$1,049
Intermediate-Term (10 years)	922	1,086	851	1,180
Long-Term (20 years)	874	1,150	769	1,328

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These figures are for illustration only; you should not regard them as an indication of future performance of the bond market as a whole or the Portfolio in particular.

### Plain Talk About Bonds and Interest Rates

As a rule, when interest rates rise, bond prices fall. The opposite is also true: Bond prices go up when interest rates fall. Why do bond prices and interest rates move in opposite directions? Let's assume that you hold a bond offering a 4% yield. A year later, interest rates are on the rise and bonds of comparable quality and maturity are offered ware

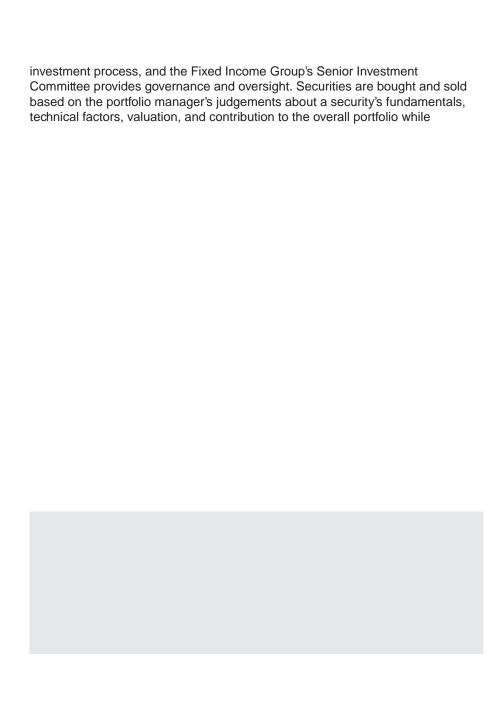
## Plain Talk About Bond Maturities

A bond is issued with a specific maturity date—the date when the issuer must pay back the bond's principal (face value). Bond maturities range from less than 1 year to more than 30 years. Typically, the longer a bond's maturity, the more price risk you, as a bond investor, will face as interest rates rise—but also the higher the potential yield you could receive. Longer-term bonds are generally more suitable for investors willing to take a greater risk of price fluctuations to get higher and more stable interest income. Shorter-term bond investors should be willing to accept lower yields and greater income variability in return for less fluctuation in the value of their investment. The stated maturity of a bond may differ from the effective maturity of a bond, which takes into consideration that an action such as a call or refunding may cause bonds to be repaid before their stated maturity dates.

Although falling interest rates tend to strengthen bond prices, they can cause other problems for bond investors—bond calls and prepayments.

The Portfolio is subject to prepayment risk on fixed- and floating-rate loans, which is the chance that during periods of falling interest rates, issuers of loans

Plain Talk About Callable Bonds	



Credit quality in the high-yield bond market can change suddenly and unexpectedly, and even recently issued credit ratings may not fully reflect the actual risks posed by a particular high-yield bond. For these reasons, it is the Portfolio's policy not to rely primarily on ratings issued by established credit rating agencies but to use these ratings in conjunction with the advisors' own independent and ongoing review of credit quality.

The Portfolio's advisors select bonds on a company-by-company basis, emphasizing fundamental research and a long-term investment horizon. The analysis focuses on the nature of a company's business, its strategy, and the quality of its management. Based on this analysis, the advisors look for companies whose prospects are stable or improving and whose bonds offer an attractive yield. Companies with improving prospects are normally more attractive because they offer better assurance of debt repayment and greater potential for capital appreciation.



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As of December 31, 2022, the Portfolio's holdings had the following credit quality characteristics:

Credit Quality	Percentage of Portfolio's Net Assets 1
Aaa	7.8%
Aa	0.0
A	0.1
Baa	5.9
Ва	44.0
В	35.6
Caa	3.5
Ca	0.0
С	0.0
Not Rated	3.3

<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding and/or temporary cash investments, the total percentage may not be equal to 100%.

Bonds that are rated below Baa by Moody's or have an equivalent rating, such as those held by the Portfolio, are classified as non-investment-grade. These bonds carry a high degree of risk and are considered speculative by

The Portfolio may invest in international U.S. dollar-denominated bonds issued by foreign governments, government agencies, and companies. To the extent that the Portfolio owns foreign bonds, it is subject to c nl i k, which is the chance that world events—such as political upheaval, financial troubles, or natural disasters—will adversely affect the value and/or liquidity of securities issued by governments, government agencies, and companies in foreign countries. Because the bond's value is designated in dollars rather than in the currency of the issuer's country, the Portfolio is not exposed to currency risk; rather, the issuer assumes the risk, usually to attract U.S. investors.

The Portfolio may invest in foreign currency bonds, which are bonds denominated in the local currency of a non-U.S. country and issued by foreign governments, government agencies, and companies. To the extent that the Portfolio owns foreign currency bonds, it intends to hedge its foreign currency exposure to those bonds back to the U.S. dollar. In addition to country risk, the Portfolio is subject to *c* enc hedging *i k*. Currency hedging risk is the chance that theCurrency hedging tnstraitiO(s)-277.e(intated)-277.8(8(to)-277.8(b)19.7(y)-277.[(

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- Invest in eligible asset classes with greater efficiency and lower cost than is possible through direct investment.
- Add value when these instruments are attractively priced.
- Hedge foreign currency exposure or hedge foreign interest rate exposure, adjust the overall credit risk of the Portfolio, or actively overweight or underweight credit risk to specific bond issuers.
- · Adjust sensitivity to changes in interest rates.

The Portfolio will not use derivatives for speculation or for the purpose of leveraging (magnifying) investment returns.

#### Plain Talk About Derivatives

Derivatives can take many forms. Some forms of derivatives—such as exchange-traded futures and options on securities, commodities, or indexes—have been trading on regulated exchanges for decades. These types of derivatives are standardized contracts that can easily be bought and sold and whose market values are determined and published daily. On the other hand, non-exchange-traded derivatives—such as certain swap agreements and foreign currency exchange forward contracts—tend to be more specialized or complex and may be more difficult to accurately value.

# Cash Management

The Portfolio's daily cash balance may be invested in Vanguard Market Liquidity Fund and/or Vanguard Municipal Cash Management Fund (each, a CMT Fund), which are low-cost money market funds. When investing in a CMT Fund, the Portfolio bears its proportionate share of the expenses of the CMT Fund in which it invests. Vanguard receives no additional revenue from Portfolio assets invested in a CMT Fund

# **Temporary Investment Measures**

The Portfolio may temporarily depart from its normal investment policies and strategies when an advisor believes that doing so is in the Portfolio's best interest, so long as the strategy or policy employed is consistent with the Portfolio's investment objective. For instance, the Portfolio may invest beyond its normal limits in derivatives or exchange-traded funds that are consistent with the Portfolio's investment objective when those instruments are more favorably priced or provide needed liquidity, as might be the case if the Portfolio is transitioning assets from one advisor to another or receives large cash flows that it cannot prudently invest immediately.

You may purchase or sell Portfolio shares through a contract offered by an insurance company. When insurance companies establish omnibus accounts in the Portfolio for their clients, we cannot monitor the individual clients' trading activity. However, we review trading activity at the omnibus account level, and we look for activity that may indicate potential frequent trading or market-timing. If we detect suspicious trading activity, we will seek the assistance of the insurance company to investigate that trading activity and take appropriate action, including prohibiting additional purchases of Portfolio shares by a client. Insurance companies may apply frequent-trading policies that differ from one another. Please read the insurance company contract and program materials carefully to learn of any rules or fees that may apply.

See the accompanying prospectus for the annuity or insurance program through which Portfolio shares are offered for further details on transaction policies.

The Portfolio, in determining its net asset value, will use fair-value pricing when appropriate, as described in the *Sha e P ice* section. Fair-value pricing may reduce or eliminate the profitability of certain frequent-trading strategies.

Do not invest with Vanguard if you are a market-timer.

A precautionary note to investment companies: The Portfolio's shares are issued by a registered investment company, and therefore the acquisition of such shares by other investment companies and private funds is subject to the

# The Portfolio and Vanguard

The Portfolio is a member of The Vanguard Group, Inc. (Vanguard), a family of over 200 funds. All of the funds that are members of Vanguard (other than funds of funds) share in the expenses associated with administrative services and business operations, such as personnel, office space, and equipment.

Vanguard Marketing Corporation provides marketing services to the funds. Although fund shareholders do not pay sales commissions or 12b-1 distribution fees, each fund (other than a fund of funds) or each share class of a fund (in the case of a fund with multiple share classes) pays its allocated share of the Vanguard funds' marketing costs.

## Plain Talk About Vanguard's Unique Corporate Structure

Vanguard is owned jointly by the funds it oversees and thus indirectly by the shareholders in those funds. Most other mutual funds are operated by management companies that are owned by third parties—either public or private stockholders—and not by the funds they serve.

#### Investment Advisors

Wellington Management Company LLP, 280 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210, provides investment advisory services for the Portfolio. Wellington Management is a Delaware limited liability partnership and an investment counseling firm that provides investment services to investment companies, employee benefit plans, endowments, foundations, and other institutions. Wellington Management and its predecessor organizations have provided investment advisory services for over 80 years. Wellington Management is owned by the partners of Wellington Management Group LLP, a Massachusetts limited liability partnership. As of December 31, 2022, Wellington Management and its investment advisory affiliates had investment management authority with respect to approximately \$1.2 trillion in assets. The firm manages the Portfolio subject to the supervision and oversight of Vanguard and the Board.

The Vanguard Group, Inc., P.O. Box 2600, Valley Forge, PA 19482, which began operations in 1975, provides investment advisory services to the Portfolio through its Fixed Income Group. As of December 31, 2022, Vanguard served as advisor for approximately \$6 trillion in assets.

Wellington Management's advisory fee is paid quarterly and is a percentage of average daily net assets under management during the most recent fiscal quarter.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, the advisory fee paid to Wellington Management represented an effective annual rate of 0.05% of the Portfolio's average net assets.

Although the Portfolio is managed in part by Vanguard and in part by Wellington Management, the Portfolio reserves the right to utilize a different manager approach in the future pursuant to the Funds' Service Agreement and subject to the supervision and oversight of the trustees and officers of the Portfolio.

Under the terms of an SEC exemption, the board of trustees of Vanguard Variable Insurance Funds may, without prior approval from shareholders, change the terms of an advisory agreement with a third-party investment advisor or hire a new third-party investment advisor—either as a replacement for an existing advisor or as an additional advisor. Any significant change in the Portfolio's advisory arrangements will be communicated to shareholders in writing. As the Portfolio's sponsor and overall manager, Vanguard may provide investment advisory services to the Portfolio at any time. Vanguard may also recommend to the board of trustees that an advisor be hired, terminated, or replaced or that the terms of an existing advisory agreement be revised. Vanguard Variable Insurance Funds has filed an application seeking a similar SEC exemption with respect to investment advisors that are wholly owned subsidiaries of Vanguard. If the exemption is granted, the Portfolio may rely on the new SEC relief.

For a discussion of why the Board approved the Portfolio's investment advisory agreement, see the most recent semiannual report to shareholders covering the fiscal period ended June 30.

The managers primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Portfolio are:

Michael L. Hong, CFA, Senior Managing Director, Partner, and Fixed Income Portfolio Manager of Wellington Management. He has worked in investment management with Wellington Management since 1997, and has co-managed the Portfolio since 2022. Education: A.B., Harvard College.

Elizabeth H. Shortsleeve , Senior Managing Director and Fixed Income Portfolio Manager of Wellington Management. She has worked in investment management since 2007 and has co-managed a portion of the Portfolio since 2022. Education: B.A., Georgetown University; M.B.A., Dartmouth College.

Michael Chang, CFA, Portfolio Manager at Vanguard. He has been with Vanguard since 2017, has worked in investment management since 2002, has managed investment portfolios since 2011, and he has co-managed a portion of the Portfolio since 2022. Education: B. Com., University of British Columbia.

The Portfolio's *Statement of Additi nal Inf mati n* provides information about each portfolio manager's compensation, other accounts under management, and ownership of shares of the Portfolio.

#### Taxes

The Portfolio normally distributes its net investment income and net realized short-term or long-term capital gains, if any, to its shareholders, which are the insurance company separate accounts that fund your variable annuity or variable life insurance contract. From time to time, the Portfolio may also make distributions that are treated as a return of capital. The tax consequences to you of your investment in the Portfolio depend on the provisions of the annuity or life insurance contract through which you invest; please refer to the prospectus of such contract for more information.

The Portfolio intends to operate in such a manner that a separate account investing only in Portfolio shares will result in the variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts supported by that account receiving favorable tax treatment. This favorable treatment means that you generally will not be taxed on Portfolio distributions or proceeds on dispositions of Portfolio shares received by the separate account funding your contract. In order to qualify for this favorable treatment, the insurance company separate accounts that invest in the Portfolio must satisfy certain requirements. If a Portfolio funding your contract does not meet such requirements, your contract could lose its favorable tax treatment and income and gain allocable to your contract could be taxable to you. Also, if the IRS were to determine that contract holders have an impermissible level of control over the investments funding their contracts, your contract could lose its favorable tax treatment and income and gain allocable to your contract could be taxable currently to you. Please see the Portfolio's *Statement f Additi nal Inf mali n* for more information.

#### Share Price

Share price, also known as *net a et al e* (NAV), is calculated as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), generally 4 p.m., Eastern time, on each day that the NYSE is open for business (a business day). In the rare event the NYSE experiences unanticipated disruptions and is unavailable at the close of the trading day, NAVs will be calculated as of the close of regular trading on the Nasdaq (or another alternate exchange if the Nasdaq is unavailable, as determined at Vanguard's discretion), generally 4 p.m., Eastern time. The NAV per share is computed by dividing the total assets, minus liabilities, of the Portfolio by the number of Portfolio shares outstanding. On U.S. holidays or other days when the NYSE is closed, the NAV is not calculated, and the Portfolio does not sell or redeem shares. However, on those days the value of the Portfolio's assets may be affected to the extent that the Portfolio holds securities that change in value on those days (such as foreign securities that trade on foreign markets that are open).

Debt securities held by a Vanguard portfolio are valued based on information furnished by an independent pricing service or market quotations. When a portfolio determines that pricing-service information or market quotations either are not readily available or do not accurately reflect the value of a security, the security is priced at its *fai* al e (the amount that the owner might reasonably expect to receive upon the current sale of the security).

The values of any foreign securities held by a portfolio are converted into U.S. dollars using an exchange rate obtained from an independent third party as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE. The values of any mutual fund shares, including institutional money market fund shares, held by a portfolio are based on the NAVs of the shares. The values of any ETF shares or closed-end fund shares held by a portfolio are based on the market value of the shares.

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order when accepted by the financial intermediary, its designee, or one	of the

# Financial Highlights

Financial highlights information is intended to help you understand a fund's performance for the past five years (or, if shorter, its period of operations). Certain information reflects financial results for a single fund share. Total return

The Portfolio may suspend the redemption right or postpone payment at times when the NYSE is closed or during any emergency circumstances, as determined by the SEC.

The exchange privilege (your ability to redeem shares from one Portfolio to purchase shares of another Portfolio) may be available to you through your contract. Although we make every effort to maintain the exchange privilege, Vanguard reserves the right to revise or terminate this privilege, limit the amount of an exchange, or reject any exchange, at any time, without notice.

The Portfolio may pay redemption proceeds, in whole or in part, by an in-kind distribution of readily marketable securities if Vanguard determines that it would be detrimental to the best interests of the Portfolio's remaining shareholders to pay redemption proceeds in cash.

For certain categories of investors, the Portfolio has authorized one or more brokers to accept on its behalf purchase and redemption orders. The brokers are authorized to designate other intermediaries to accept purchase and redemption orders on the Portfolio's behalf. The Portfolio will be deemed to have received a purchase or redemption order when an authorized broker, or a broker's authorized designee, accepts the order in accordance with the Portfolio's instructions. In most cases, for these categories of investors, a contract owner's properly transmitted order will be priced at the Portfolio's next-determined NAV after the order is accepted by the authorized broker or the broker's designee. The contract owner should review the authorized broker's policies relating to trading in the Vanguard funds.

Please consult the Portfolio's *Statement of Additional Information* or our website for a description of the policies and procedures that govern disclosure of the Portfolio's portfolio holdings.

The Portfolio's Bylaws require, unless the Trust otherwise consents in writing, that the U.S. Federal District Courts be the sole and exclusive forum for the resolution of complaints under the Securities Act of 1933. This provision may limit a shareholder's ability to bring a claim in a different forum and may result in increased shareholder costs in pursuing such a claim.

## Shareholder Rights

The Portfolio's Agreement and Declaration of Trust, as amended, requires a shareholder bringing a derivative action on behalf of Vanguard Variable Insurance Funds (the Trust) that is subject to a pre-suit demand to collectively hold at least 10% of the outstanding shares of the Trust or at least 10% of the outstanding shares of the series or class to which the demand relates and to undertake to reimburse the Trust for the expense of any counsel or advisors used when considering the merits of the demand in the event that the board of trustees determines not to bring such action. In each case, these requirements do not apply to claims arising under the federal securities laws to the extent that any such federal securities laws, rules, or regulations do not permit such application.

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# Glossary of Investment Terms

Average Maturity. The average length of time until bonds held by a portfolio reach maturity and are repaid. In general, the longer the average maturity, the

Face Value. The amount to be paid at a bond's maturity; also known as the par value or principal.

Fixed Income Security. An investment, such as a bond, representing a debt that

Non-Investment-Grade Bond. A debt security whose credit quality is considered by independent bond rating agencies, or through independent analysis conducted by a portfolio's advisor, to be below investment-grade. These high-risk corporate bonds have a credit quality rating equivalent to or below Moody's Ba or Standard & Poor's BB and are commonly referred to as "junk bonds."

Principal. The face value of a debt instrument or the amount of money put into an investment.

Return of Capital. A return of capital occurs when a portfolio's distributions exceed its earnings in a fiscal year. A return of capital is a return of all or part of your original investment or amounts paid in excess of your original investment in a portfolio. In general, a return of capital reduces your cost basis in a portfolio's shares and is not taxable to you until your cost basis has been reduced to zero.

Securities. Stocks, bonds, money market instruments, and other investments.

Total Return. A percentage change, over a specified time period, in a portfolio's net asset value, assuming the reinvestment of all distributions of dividends and capital gains.

Volatility. The fluctuations in value of a mutual fund or other security. The greater a portfolio's volatility, the wider the fluctuations in its returns.

Yield. Income (interest or dividends) earned by an investment, expressed as a percentage of the investment's price.

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Statement of Additional Information (SAI)

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Information Provided by the SEC

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