

# Mawer U.S. Mid Cap Equity Fund

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## Annual Management Report of Fund Performance

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

This Annual Management Report of Fund Performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the investment fund. You may obtain a copy of the annual financial statements at no cost by calling 1-844-395-0747, by writing us at Suite 600, 517 – 10th Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 0A8, or by visiting our website at [www.mawer.com](http://www.mawer.com) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Unitholders may also contact us using one of the above noted methods to request a copy of the investment fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, interim financial reports, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

This Annual Management Report of Fund Performance includes certain statements that are "forward looking statements". All statements, other than statements of historical fact, included in this report that address activities, events or developments that the portfolio advisor, Mawer Investment Management Ltd. (the "Manager"), expects or anticipates will or may occur in the future, including such things as anticipated financial performance, are forward looking statements. The words "may", "could", "would", "should", "believe", "plan", "anticipate", "expect", "intend", "forecast", "objective" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward looking statements. These forward looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, including the risks described in the Simplified Prospectus of the Fund, uncertainties and assumptions about the Fund, capital markets and economic factors, which could cause actual financial performance and expectations to differ materially from the anticipated performance or other expectations expressed. Economic factors include, but are not limited to, general economic, political and market factors in North America and internationally, interest and foreign exchange rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition, technological change, changes in government regulations, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings, and catastrophic events.

All opinions contained in forward looking statements are subject to change without notice and are provided in good faith but without legal responsibility. The portfolio advisor has no specific intention of updating any forward looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by securities legislation. Certain research and information about specific holdings in the Fund, including any opinion, is based upon various sources believed to be reliable, but it cannot be guaranteed to be current, accurate or complete. It is for information only, and is subject to change without notice.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Investment Objectives and Strategies

The investment objective of the Mawer U.S. Mid Cap Equity Fund (the "Fund") is to provide above-average long-term, risk-adjusted returns by investing primarily in equities and equity-related securities of U.S. mid-capitalization entities. Treasury bills or short-term investments, not exceeding three years to maturity, may also be used from time to time.

### Risk

This Fund is suitable for investors seeking long-term growth and who have a medium to high tolerance for risk. General risks of investing in this Fund are outlined in the Prospectus and include the possibility of reduction in value of any given investment, liquidity risk, interest rate risk, and currency risk amongst others.

The Manager reduces the exposure to these risks by not concentrating more than 20% of the net assets of the Fund in a particular Industry as defined by the Global Industry Classification Standards (GICS). It is also the Manager's policy to have no more than 10% of the net assets in any one common share of a corporation, at the time of purchase. The Fund owns positions in U.S. companies and is generally fully invested (less than 5% in cash).

### Results of Operations

The Fund was made available to investors on September 27, 2021. The Fund's net assets increased 17.3% to \$46.1 million from \$39.3 million at December 31, 2022. Of this change, -\$5.8 million is attributable to investment performance and \$12.6 million was due to net contributions to the Fund.

The Manager assesses the Fund's underlying securities for liquidity on a quarterly basis. During the period the Fund has remained in compliance with National Instrument 81-102 and has maintained an illiquid concentration of less than 10% of the Funds Net Asset Value. During the period there were no notable redemptions to the Fund that affected its liquidity.

Over the past twelve months, the Fund's Series A units return was -14.5% versus -11.3% for the Russell Mid Cap Index. The Fund's return is after management fees.

Equity markets attempted to add a bit of polish in the fourth quarter to an otherwise brutal year, the worst calendar year for equity markets since 2008. In Q4, markets were bolstered by signs that inflation may finally be peaking and the hope that central banks may not need to be as aggressive as feared in tightening monetary policy, potentially softening the negative impact on the global economy. European stocks, which had been hardest hit through the first nine months of the year, led the advance globally in Q4, outpacing both emerging markets and U.S. equities. U.S. equities also performed well, though, led by economically sensitive sectors such as industrials, materials, financials, and energy.

The Fund's relative performance was primarily due to negative sector allocation, with the main drivers being the lack of exposure to Energy and the overweight to Information Technology. Security selection added value, driven by the outperformance in the Fund's Consumer Discretionary, Industrials, and Information Technology holdings over their benchmark peers.

The top contributors to the Fund's performance were O'Reilly Automotive, LHC Group, and Kinsale Capital Group. Conversely, TaskUS Inc, Roku Inc, and Charles River Laboratories International were the largest detractors from performance.

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## Mawer U.S. Mid Cap Equity Fund

Looking ahead to 2023, given the delay between the implementation of monetary policy and the ultimate impact on the broader economy, hotly debated topics will be the path forward for inflation, central bank resolve in continuing to tighten policy, and the associated earnings and economic impacts. All signs point to a global recession, with higher real rates, inverted yield curves, and PMIs contracting in many of the world's major economies. However, the consensus view—reinforced late in the year by moderating inflation data—currently anticipates a softer landing and a milder recession.

Of course, the world could evolve in different ways. Inflation may prove to be more stubborn, or central banks misjudge those policy lags prompting a deeper recession. Geopolitical flare-ups are always a risk. On the other hand, inflation might temper more quickly than anticipated: incredibly, natural gas prices in Europe are currently lower than prior to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Overall, we were pleased that the portfolio exhibited strong characteristics both in upside participation and downside protection. We believe our focus on buying wealth-creating companies trading at a discount to intrinsic value has allowed us to create a portfolio with similar valuation metrics as the index but with superior compounding potential as the competitive advantages come to the fore. While 2022's equity returns were largely driven by the spectre of a recession, should one actually occur in 2023, we believe that a portfolio of competitively-advantaged companies should provide a high degree of resilience.

### Recent Developments

There are no recent developments to report related to the strategic positioning of the Fund, the Manager, or the policies of the Independent Review Committee.

### Related Party Transactions – Management Fees

The Portfolio Advisor receives management fees, which are calculated for Series A Units as 1.30% per annum of the net asset value of the Fund calculated on a daily basis. Management fees for Series O Units are payable directly to the Manager by Series O investors and not by the Fund.

The terms of the Management Agreement were amended January 4, 1994, to grant the Manager of the Fund the ability, at their discretion, to reduce the management fees for large investors. This reduction is effected by means of a management fee distribution and will be automatically reinvested in additional units of the Fund at the net asset value of the Fund on the date of distribution. Mawer also receives fees for performing administrative services. As at December 31, 2022 the Fund owes Mawer \$0 related to these administrative services.

## Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance since inception. The Fund was launched on September 16, 2021 and opened to investors on September 27, 2021. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements which are prepared in accordance with IFRS.

### The Fund's Net Asset Value (NAV) per Unit<sup>1</sup>

SERIES A	2022	2021
Net Assets, beginning of year	10.32	10.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>		
Total revenue	0.07	0.04
Total expenses	(0.14)	(0.04)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	(0.51)	0.03
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(0.79)	0.41
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(1.37)</b>	<b>0.44</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>		
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	-	-
From dividends	-	-
From capital gains	-	-
Return of capital	-	-
Total Annual Distributions <sup>3</sup>	-	-
<b>Net Assets, end of year</b>	<b>8.83</b>	<b>10.32</b>

SERIES O	2022	2021
Net Assets, beginning of year	10.34	10.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>		
Total revenue	0.08	0.04
Total expenses	(0.02)	(0.01)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	(0.51)	(0.01)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(0.62)	0.48
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(1.07)</b>	<b>0.50</b>
<b>Distributions:</b>		
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	(0.03)	(0.01)
From dividends	-	-
From capital gains	-	-
Return of capital	-	-
Total Annual Distributions <sup>3</sup>	(0.03)	(0.01)
<b>Net Assets, end of year</b>	<b>8.93</b>	<b>10.34</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is derived from the Fund's audited financial statements.

<sup>(2)</sup> Net asset value and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial year.

<sup>(3)</sup> Distributions were reinvested in additional units of the Fund and/or paid in cash.

### Ratios and Supplemental Data

SERIES A	2022	2021
Total net asset value (000's) <sup>1</sup>	10,060	9,961
Number of units outstanding (000's) <sup>1</sup>	1,139	965
Management expense ratio <sup>2</sup>	1.45%	1.45%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	1.70%	1.53%
Trading expense ratio <sup>3</sup>	0.03%	0.12%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>4</sup>	45.11%	7.97%
<b>Net asset value per unit<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>8.83</b>	<b>10.32</b>

## Mawer U.S. Mid Cap Equity Fund

SERIES O	2022	2021
Total net asset value (000's) <sup>1</sup>	36,036	29,310
Number of units outstanding (000's) <sup>1</sup>	4,033	2,834
Management expense ratio <sup>2</sup>	0.10%	0.10%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions	0.19%	0.10%
Trading expense ratio <sup>3</sup>	0.03%	0.12%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>4</sup>	45.11%	7.97%
<b>Net asset value per unit<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>8.93</b>	<b>10.34</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is provided as at December 31 of the year shown, as applicable.

<sup>(2)</sup> Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated year and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the year. The Manager, at its discretion, absorbed certain expenses otherwise payable by each Series. The Manager may change the amount absorbed or discontinue absorbing these expenses at any time without notice.

<sup>(3)</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net assets during the year.

<sup>(4)</sup> The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's Portfolio Advisors manage its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund.

### Past Performance

Sales commissions, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses all may be associated with mutual fund investments. Please read the Prospectus before investing. The indicated rates of return are the historical annual compounded total returns including changes in unit value and reinvestment of all distributions and do not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or optional charges or income taxes payable by any investor that would have reduced returns. Mutual funds are not guaranteed. Their value changes frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

The Fund's performance numbers assume that all distributions are reinvested in additional units of the Fund. If you hold this Fund outside of a registered plan, income and capital gains distributions that are paid to you increase your income for tax purposes whether paid to you in cash or reinvested in additional units. The amount of the reinvested taxable distributions is added to the adjusted cost base of the units that you own. This would decrease your capital gains or increase your capital loss when you later redeem from the Fund, thereby ensuring that you are not taxed on this amount again. Please consult your tax advisor regarding your personal tax situation.

The past performance of the Fund is set out in the following charts.

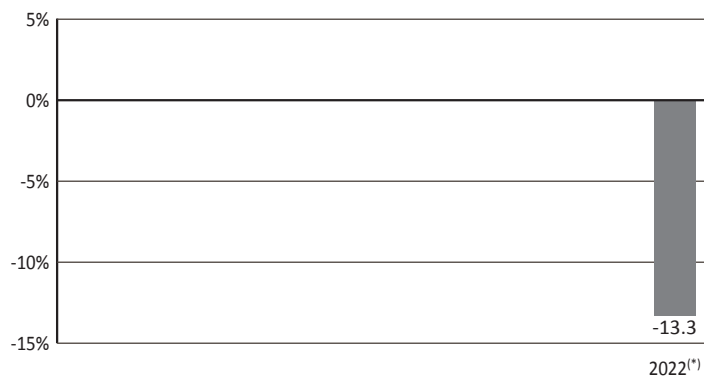
### Year-by-Year Returns

The bar charts below show the Fund's annual performance in each of the past 10 years, if applicable, to December 31. The charts show in percentage terms how an investment made on January 1 would have increased or decreased by December 31 of the fiscal year.

#### Series A



#### Series O



<sup>(\*)</sup> Series A start date was September 27, 2021; Series O start date was September 27, 2021.

### Annual Compound Returns

The following table shows the historical annual compound total return of the Fund for the periods shown ending on December 31, 2022. The annual compound total return is also compared to the Russell Midcap Index calculated on the same compound basis. The 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, as of the most recent reconstitution. All index returns are calculated in Canadian dollars on a total return basis, meaning that all distributions are reinvested.

## Mawer U.S. Mid Cap Equity Fund

All index returns are calculated in Canadian dollars on a total return basis, meaning that all distributions are reinvested.

	1 Year	Since Inception
Mawer U.S. Mid Cap Equity Fund – Series A	(14.5)%	(6.6)%
Russell Midcap Index	(11.3)%	(4.7)%
Mawer U.S. Mid Cap Equity Fund – Series O	(13.3)%	(5.3)%
Russell Midcap Index	(11.3)%	(4.7)%

(\*) Series A start date was September 27, 2021; Series O start date was September 27, 2021.

### Summary of Investment Portfolio

A summary of the Fund as at December 31, 2022 is as follows:

	% of Portfolio
Cash	0.3
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Treasury Bills	3.1
<b>Total Short-Term Investments</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Equities</b>	
Communication Services	4.9
Consumer Discretionary	9.7
Financials	10.9
Healthcare	17.7
Industrials	21.8
Information Technology	25.7
Materials	3.3
Real Estate	2.6
<b>Total Equities</b>	<b>96.6</b>
<b>Total Portfolio</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

The following table lists the 25 largest holdings of the Fund as at December 31, 2022.

Issuer	Percentage of Net Asset Value
Winmark Corporation	4.5%
FTI Consulting, Inc. Cl. A	4.3%
Charles River Laboratories International, Inc.	4.2%
Amphenol Corporation Cl. A	4.0%
Humana Inc.	3.8%
CDW Corporation	3.7%
Insperty, Inc.	3.6%
LHC Group, Inc.	3.4%
Valvoline Inc.	3.3%
Concentrix Corporation	3.1%
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	2.9%
Premier, Inc. Cl. A	2.8%
SS&C Technologies Holdings, Inc.	2.7%
Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. Cl. A	2.6%
CBRE Group, Inc. Cl. A	2.6%
NV5 Global, Inc.	2.5%
XPEL, Inc.	2.3%
PC Connection, Inc.	2.3%
AMETEK, Inc.	2.3%
CSW Industrials, Inc.	2.2%
KLA Corporation	2.2%
Donnelley Financial Solutions, Inc.	2.1%
FLEETCOR Technologies, Inc.	2.1%
Global Industrial Company	2.1%
Tradeweb Markets Inc. Cl. A	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>73.6%</b>

The investments and percentages may have changed by the time you purchase units of this fund. The top 25 holdings are made available quarterly, 60 days after quarter-end and may be obtained by contacting your registered representative or by contacting the Manager toll-free at 1-844-395-0747 or by e-mail at [info@mawer.com](mailto:info@mawer.com). The Prospectus and other information about the underlying mutual fund(s) are available online at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and [www.mawer.com](http://www.mawer.com).