

# Allspring Special Mid Cap Value Fund

GENERAL FUND INFORMATION

**Ticker:** WFMIX

**Portfolio managers:**  
James Tringas, CFA®;  
Bryant VanCronkhite, CFA®, CPA;  
and Shane Zweck, CFA®

**Subadvisor:** Allspring Global Investments, LLC

**Category:** Mid-cap value

FUND STRATEGY

- Combine rigorous fundamental research with CPA-based financial statement analysis
- Calculate valuation target using a financial buyer model
- Identify the most favorable investment opportunities using a reward/risk framework
- Use risk-based portfolio construction that seeks to limit overall risk and targets stock selection-based outcomes

## Quarterly review

- The fund underperformed the Russell Midcap Value Index benchmark during the third quarter.
- Stock selection in consumer discretionary and real estate contributed the most, while stock selection in industrials and consumer staples detracted the most from relative performance.
- The more speculative, risk-on rotation that began in April continued this quarter and has created some headwinds for our process.

## Market review

The U.S. equity market saw a bifurcation in leadership between the large-cap artificial intelligence (AI) momentum trade continuing and a swift, risk-on rotation in the small- and mid-cap universe driven by Federal Reserve (Fed) rate cuts, easing inflation, diminishing tariff fears, and risk appetites increasing.

The Russell Midcap Value Index returned 6.18% for the quarter. Within the index, the information technology (IT) (+12.80%) and consumer discretionary (+10.65%) sectors were the top performers. Meanwhile, the more defensive consumer staples (-3.16%) and real estate (+2.81%) sectors were the worst performers within the index.

The portfolio underperformed its benchmark for the quarter, as the risk-on rotation has created some headwinds for our process that focuses on companies with competitively advantaged asset bases, sustainable free cash flow, and flexible balance sheets. We have seen this in the early innings of past rotations, and we believe our portfolio is well positioned to benefit as investors begin to focus on company fundamentals and valuations in the next stage of the cycle.

## AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS (%) AS OF 9/30/2025\*

	3 MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	1 YEAR	3 YEAR	5 YEAR	10 YEAR	SINCE FUND INCEPTION (12/31/98)^
Special Mid Cap Value Fund-Inst	4.46	5.53	1.58	13.84	13.75	10.32	11.44
Russell Midcap® Value Index	6.18	9.50	7.58	15.51	13.66	9.96	—

\*Returns for periods less than one year are not annualized.

*Figures quoted represent past performance, which is no guarantee of future results, and do not reflect taxes a shareholder may pay on an investment in a fund. Investment return and principal value of an investment 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 the performance data quoted and assumes the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Current month-end performance is available at the fund's website, [allspringglobal.com](https://allspringglobal.com). Institutional Class shares are sold without a front-end sales charge or contingent deferred sales charge.*

*The fund's gross expense ratio is 0.80%. The fund's net expense ratio is 0.80%. The manager has contractually committed, through January 31, 2026, to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses to the extent necessary to cap the fund's total annual fund operating expenses after fee waivers at 0.83% for the Institutional Class. Brokerage commissions, stamp duty fees, interest, taxes, acquired fund fees and expenses (if any), and extraordinary expenses are excluded from the expense cap. Prior to or after the commitment expiration date, the cap may be increased or the commitment to maintain the cap may be terminated only with the approval of the Board of Trustees. Without this cap, the fund's returns would have been lower. The expense ratio paid by an investor is the net expense ratio (the total annual fund operating expenses after fee waivers) as stated in the prospectus.*



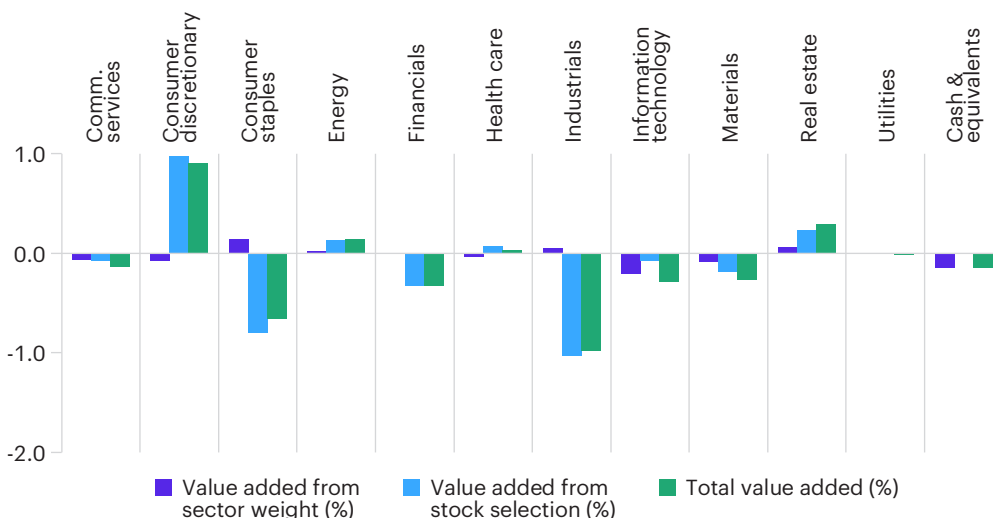
# Allspring Special Mid Cap Value Fund

## Portfolio positioning

### QUARTERLY ATTRIBUTION AND ANALYSIS

- Stock selection in consumer discretionary and real estate contributed the most to relative performance versus the Russell Midcap Value Index. The largest contributor was Teradyne, Inc., a leading provider of semiconductor testing equipment and industrial automation robotics. Early signs of Teradyne's success from its strategic investments into AI graphics processing unit testing began to materialize. Sentiment improved on the back of better-than-expected results and growing visibility into AI-driven demand, despite management maintaining conservative guidance. With Teradyne's strong balance sheet enabling ongoing investments, we remain constructive and attracted to its reward/risk valuation.
- Stock selection in industrials and consumer staples detracted against the index. The largest relative detractor was Keurig Dr Pepper Inc. (KDP), which is a leading beverage company in North America. Shares performed poorly as KDP announced that it entered an agreement to acquire JDE Peet's and a subsequent plan to split into two companies shortly after close. While the deal is structured as an all-cash deal and should materially increase leverage, we see an opportunity for KDP to change the capital structure of the companies at split through a potential IPO of the coffee business, which would meaningfully reduce leverage and help alleviate these concerns. We find shares trading at an attractive reward/risk valuation and look forward to management providing an update on the planned capital structure for the two companies in October.

## SPECIAL MID CAP VALUE FUND VERSUS RUSSELL MIDCAP® VALUE INDEX



	COMM. SERVICES	CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	CONSUMER STAPLES	ENERGY	FINANCIALS	HEALTH CARE	INDUSTRIALS	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	MATERIALS	REAL ESTATE	UTILITIES	CASH & EQUIVALENTS
SECTOR WEIGHTS (AVERAGE % WEIGHT DURING THE QUARTER)												
Special Mid Cap Value Fund	0.21	6.68	4.95	6.15	15.43	10.11	23.09	6.14	9.59	7.58	6.93	3.13
Russell Midcap® Value Index	3.30	8.73	6.31	6.62	17.18	7.58	17.71	9.43	6.69	9.35	7.10	0.00
Over/underweight	-3.09	-2.05	-1.36	-0.47	-1.75	2.53	5.38	-3.29	2.90	-1.77	-0.17	3.13

SECTOR RETURNS (%)												
Fund sector return	-17.41	26.46	-17.46	9.73	4.10	4.07	1.80	10.85	1.46	5.62	8.89	0.00
Index sector return	8.58	10.65	-3.16	7.49	6.05	3.00	6.15	12.80	3.19	2.81	9.13	0.00
Relative return	-25.99	15.81	-14.30	2.24	-1.95	1.07	-4.35	-1.95	-1.73	2.81	-0.24	0.00

Sources: FactSet and Allspring Global Investments

**Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

Sector weights are subject to change and may have changed since the date specified.

When reviewing the performance attribution of our portfolio, it is vital to remember that we construct our portfolio from the bottom up, one stock at a time. Each stock is included in the portfolio based on its own investment thesis. To help manage risk, we are aware of our sector and security weights, but we do not include a holding to obtain a sector distribution to resemble an index. Our exposure to any given sector is a result of our security selection process.



# Allspring Special Mid Cap Value Fund

## Portfolio positioning

### OUTLOOK

- The fund made minor changes to positioning during the three-month period. The fund increased its weight in the IT and health care sectors while reducing its weight in the industrials and real estate sectors as reward/risk ratios dictated.
- The lower-quality rally that began in early April following the "90-day China tariff pause" continued through the third quarter. This is not uncommon for the first phase following a market correction. We expect the traditional cycle dynamics to continue as we move past phase one of the recovery and into phase two, which is characterized with a return to quality factors such as earnings predictability, low financial leverage, and higher return-on-equity companies performing strongly.
- Since COVID, the market has followed the oscillations of fiscal, monetary, and geopolitical changes by rapidly moving from risk-on to risk-off behavior. The "normal" middle that traditionally makes up the longest part of the market and economic cycle has largely been lost. We believe that "normal" is simply a matter of knowing the direction of travel (fiscal and monetary) and the rules of the game (political and regulatory). With these questions being largely answered as we wrap up the third quarter of 2025, we expect "normal" is around the corner and the merits of owning competitively advantaged businesses that produce strong and growing free cash flow should become in vogue and the beta-chasing phase of this cycle will be behind us.

## TOP CONTRIBUTORS AND DETRACTORS TO QUARTER-END FUND PERFORMANCE

CONTRIBUTORS	DETRACTORS
Teradyne, Inc.	Keurig Dr Pepper Inc.
D.R. Horton, Inc.	Brown & Brown, Inc.
Jefferies Financial Group Inc.	Carlisle Companies Inc.
Baker Hughes Co.	StandardAero, Inc.
Vulcan Materials Co.	Alcon AG

The holdings identified do not represent all of the securities purchased or sold during the time period shown and should not be construed as a recommendation to purchase or sell a particular security. Information on calculation methodology and a list showing the overall contribution of each holding in the account for the time period shown are available upon request.

## SHARE CLASS AVAILABILITY

SHARE CLASS	TICKER	GROSS EXPENSE RATIO (%)	NET EXPENSE RATIO (%)	CONTRACTUAL EXPENSE RATIO WAIVER DATE
A	WFPAX	1.12	1.12	1/31/2026
C	WFPCX	1.87	1.87	1/31/2026
Admin	WFMDX	1.05	1.05	1/31/2026
Inst	WFMIX	0.80	0.80	1/31/2026
R6	WFPRX	0.70	0.70	1/31/2026

The manager has contractually committed to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses to the extent necessary to cap the fund's total annual fund operating expenses after fee waivers at 1.15% (A), 1.90% (C), 1.08% (Admin), 0.83% (Inst), and 0.73% (R6). Brokerage commissions, stamp duty fees, interest, taxes, acquired fund fees and expenses (if any), and extraordinary expenses are excluded from the expense cap. Prior to or after the commitment expiration date, the cap may be increased or the commitment to maintain the cap may be terminated only with the approval of the Board of Trustees. Without this cap, the fund's returns would have been lower. The expense ratio paid by an investor is the net expense ratio (the total annual fund operating expenses after fee waivers) as stated in the prospectus.

"We expect "normal" is around the corner and the merits of owning competitively advantaged businesses that produce strong and growing free cash flow should become in vogue."



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## TOP HOLDINGS

STOCK	% OF NET ASSETS
American Electric Power Company, Inc.	2.99
Jefferies Financial Group Inc.	2.92
Teradyne, Inc.	2.90
Labcorp Holdings Inc.	2.89
Vulcan Materials Company	2.67
FirstEnergy Corp.	2.48
Jacobs Solutions Inc.	2.35
Fifth Third Bancorp	2.24
Keurig Dr Pepper Inc.	2.22
Baker Hughes Company Class A	2.21

## PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

	FUND	RUSSELL MIDCAP® VALUE INDEX
Weighted average market cap	\$26.58B	\$27.71B
Weighted median market cap	\$21.58B	\$23.72B
EPS Growth (3- to 5-year forecast)	9.63%	10.36%
P/E ratio (trailing 12-month)	19.46x	21.26x
Turnover <sup>1</sup>	37.62%	—
P/B ratio	2.23x	2.50x
P/S ratio	2.04x	2.10x
Number of equity holdings	72	718

Source: FactSet.  
1. Calculated based on a one-year period.

## FUND FACTS

Inception date	12/31/1998
Net expense ratio—Inst	0.80%
Assets—all share classes	\$13.67B

## PERFORMANCE

	1 YEAR	3 YEAR	5 YEAR	10 YEAR
Special Mid Cap Value Fund-Inst	1.58	13.84	13.75	10.32
Russell Midcap® Value Index	7.58	15.51	13.66	9.96
Lipper Mid-Cap Value Funds Average	5.38	14.76	14.78	9.50
Morningstar Mid-Cap Value Average	6.09	15.19	14.48	9.73

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

## RANKINGS AND RATINGS

Morningstar total return rankings—Institutional Class (as of 9/30/2025)

MORNINGSTAR CATEGORY	MID-CAP VALUE
1 year	330 out of 406
3 year	238 out of 378
5 year	198 out of 355
10 year	90 out of 285

Overall Morningstar Rating™ ★★★★★

The Overall Morningstar Rating, a weighted average of the 3-, 5-, and 10-year (if applicable) ratings, is out of 378 funds in the Mid-cap value category, based on risk-adjusted returns as of 9/30/2025.

## PERFORMANCE AND VOLATILITY MEASURES<sup>2</sup>

	FUND
Alpha	0.35
Beta	0.87
Sharpe ratio	0.60
Standard deviation	14.80%
R-squared	0.95
Information ratio	-0.42
Upside capture	81.05%
Downside capture	88.40%
Tracking error	3.95%

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

2. Calculated for the Institutional Class based on a three-year period. Relative measures are compared with the fund's benchmark.



# Allspring Special Mid Cap Value Fund

## BENCHMARK DESCRIPTIONS:

The Lipper averages are compiled by Lipper, Inc., an independent mutual fund research and rating service. Each Lipper average represents a universe of funds that are similar in investment objective. You cannot invest directly in a Lipper average.

The Morningstar Category average is the average return for the peer group based on the returns of each individual fund within the group. The total return of the Morningstar Category average does not include the effect of sales charges. You cannot invest directly in a Morningstar Category average.

The Russell Midcap Value Index measures the performance of those Russell Midcap companies with lower price/book ratios and lower forecasted growth values. The stocks are also members of the Russell 1000® Value Index. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Diversification does not ensure or guarantee better performance and cannot eliminate the risk of investment losses.

## ATTRIBUTION ANALYSIS:

**Performance attribution and sector returns** are calculated using the Brinson-Fachler attribution model. As such, performance attribution calculations may differ from the fund's actual investment results. Common sources of attribution dispersion from official returns include: the use of end of day holdings and prices, the exclusion of fees, and the use of myriad pricing sources to accommodate different benchmark providers.

## DEFINITION OF TERMS:

**Alpha** measures the difference between a fund's actual returns and its expected performance given its level of risk (as measured by beta).

**Beta** measures fund volatility relative to general market movements. It is a standardized measure of systematic risk in comparison with a specified index. The benchmark beta is 1.00 by definition.

**Downside capture** measures a fund's replication of its benchmark during periods of negative returns. During periods of negative benchmark returns, a downside capture ratio less than 100% reflects product performance greater than the benchmark and a downside capture ratio greater than 100% reflects performance less than the benchmark.

**Information ratio** measures the consistency of excess return (return in excess of a benchmark). This value is determined by taking the annualized excess return over a benchmark (style benchmark by default) and dividing it by the standard deviation of excess return.

**R-squared** is a measurement of how similar a fund's historical performance has been to that of the benchmark. The measure ranges from 0.0, which means that the fund's performance bears no relationship to the performance of the index, to 1.0, which means that the fund's performance was perfectly synchronized with the performance of the benchmark.

**Sharpe ratio** measures the potential reward offered by a mutual fund relative to its risk level. The ratio uses a fund's standard deviation and its excess return to determine reward per unit of risk. The higher the Sharpe ratio, the better the fund's historical risk-adjusted performance.

**Standard deviation** represents the degree to which an investment's performance has varied from its average performance over a particular time period.

**Tracking error** measures the extent to which a manager's performance mimics that of a benchmark. The value is the standard deviation of the difference between a fund's performance and a benchmark's performance.

**Upside capture** measures a fund's replication of its benchmark during periods of positive returns. During periods of positive benchmark returns, an upside capture ratio greater than 100% reflects product performance greater than the benchmark and an upside capture ratio less than 100% reflects performance less than the benchmark.



# Allspring Special Mid Cap Value Fund

**Risks:** Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Stock values fluctuate in response to the activities of individual companies and general market and economic conditions. Smaller company stocks tend to be more volatile and less liquid than those of larger companies. Consult the fund's prospectus for additional information on these and other risks.

The Morningstar Rating for funds, or star rating, is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar risk-adjusted return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The Morningstar Rating does not include any adjustment for sales loads. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its 3-, 5-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% 3-year rating for 36–59 months of total returns, 60% 5-year rating/40% 3-year rating for 60–119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% 5-year rating/20% 3-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent 3-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods.

Across U.S.-domiciled mid-cap value funds, the Special Mid Cap Value Fund received 3 stars among 378 funds, 3 stars among 355 funds, and 4 stars among 285 funds for the 3-, 5-, and 10-year periods, respectively. The Morningstar Rating is for the Institutional Class only; other classes may have different performance characteristics.

The Morningstar absolute ranking is based on the fund's total return rank relative to all funds that have the same category for the same time period. Morningstar rankings do not include the effect of sales charges. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

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<sup>^</sup>The inception date of the Institutional Class shares was April 8, 2005. Performance shown for the Institutional Class shares prior to their inception reflects the performance of the Investor Class shares and includes the higher expenses applicable to the Investor Class shares. If these expenses had not been included, returns would be higher. The Investor Class shares of the fund inception on December 31, 1998.

The views expressed and any forward-looking statements are as of September 30, 2025, and are those of the fund managers and/or Allspring Global Investments. Discussions of individual securities or the markets generally are not intended as individual recommendations. Future events or results may vary significantly from those expressed in any forward-looking statements. The views expressed are subject to change at any time in response to changing circumstances in the market. Allspring Global Investments disclaims any obligation to publicly update or revise any views expressed or any forward-looking statements.

*Carefully consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses before investing. For a current prospectus and, if available, a summary prospectus, containing this and other information, visit [allspringglobal.com](https://allspringglobal.com). Read it carefully before investing.*

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