

## NOTES ON FUND COSTS

**General** The charges you pay as an investor in the fund go to cover fund operating costs, including marketing and distribution costs. These ongoing charges reduce the performance of your investment.

For A, I, J, Q and S shares, the NAV of each class reflects its portion of the ongoing expenses attributable to that class, except that for J shares,

the investment manager pays the shares' portion of the administration agent's fees. The investment manager pays all ongoing expenses attributable to Z shares.

For entry charges, you might be eligible to pay less than the maximum amounts shown. Consult a financial advisor.

## RISK DESCRIPTIONS

The risk descriptions below correspond to the risk factors named in the information about the funds. To permit the risks to be read properly in connection with any fund's named risks, each risk is described as for an individual fund.

While the risk information in this prospectus is intended to give an idea of the main risks associated with each fund, any fund could be affected by other risks in this section as well as risks not named here, and the risk descriptions themselves are not intended as exhaustive.

Any of these risks could cause a fund to lose money, to perform less well than similar investments, to experience high volatility (ups and downs in NAV), or to fail to meet its objective over any period of time.

### **Asset-backed securities (ABS) and mortgage-backed securities (MBS) risks**

Asset-backed securities are bonds that represent an ownership interest in an underlying pool of mortgage-related and/or consumer receivables. Amortizing assets such as home equity loans, credit card debt, car loans, student loans, equipment leases, collateralised repo loans and EETCs (Enhanced Equipment Trust Certificates) typically pass principal and interest payments directly to investors, while revolving assets (such as credit card receivables and home equity lines of credit) typically reinvest principal and interest payments in new collateral for a specified period of time. Mortgage-backed securities are securities representing an interest in a pool of mortgages and may include collateralised mortgage obligations, which are debt securities that are fully collateralised by a portfolio of mortgages or mortgage-backed securities, commercial mortgage-backed securities and stripped mortgage securities.

These securities may be subject to greater liquidity, credit, default and interest rate risk compared to other bonds. They are often exposed to extension and prepayment risk.

### **Changes resulting from the United Kingdom's exit from the EU**

Following the results of the referendum of June 23, 2016, on March 29, 2017, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom officially invoked Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, in order to start the negotiation for the exit of the United Kingdom from the EU, triggering political, economic and legal uncertainty. While such uncertainty most directly affects the United Kingdom and the EU, global markets suffered immediate and significant disruption. Market disruption can negatively impact funds such as the SICAV. The United Kingdom and EU are also entering a period of regulatory uncertainty, as new trade and other agreements are negotiated during a two-year transition period. This will impact the SICAV and its portfolio companies in a variety of ways, not all of which are readily apparent immediately following the exit vote. The SICAV may have portfolio companies with significant operations and/or assets in the United Kingdom, any of which could be adversely impacted by the new legal and regulatory environment, whether by increased costs or impediments to the implementation of its business plan. The uncertainty resulting from any further exits from the EU, or the possibility of such exits, would also be likely to cause market disruption in the EU and more broadly across the global economy, as well as introduce further legal and regulatory uncertainty in the EU.

**China Interbank Bond Market** Market volatility and potential lack of liquidity due to low trading volumes of certain debt securities in the China Interbank Bond Market may result in prices of certain debt securities traded on such market fluctuating significantly. The funds investing in the China Interbank Bond Market are therefore subject to

liquidity and volatility risks. The bid and offer spreads of the prices of such securities may be large, and the funds may therefore incur significant trading and realisation costs and may even suffer losses when selling such investments.

To the extent that the funds transact in the China Interbank Bond Market, the funds may also be exposed to risks associated with settlement procedures and default of counterparties. The counterparty which has entered into a transaction with the funds may default in its obligation to settle the transaction by delivery of the relevant security or by payment for value.

Since the relevant filings and account opening for investment in the China Interbank Bond Market have to be carried out via an onshore settlement agent, the funds are subject to the risks of default or errors on the part of the onshore settlement agent.

The China Interbank Bond Market is also subject to regulatory risks. The relevant rules and regulations on investment in the China Interbank Bond Market is subject to change which may have potential retrospective effect. In the event that the relevant mainland Chinese authorities suspend account opening or trading on the China Interbank Bond Market, the fund's ability to invest in the China Interbank Bond Market will be limited and, after exhausting other trading alternatives, the funds may suffer substantial losses as a result.

**Convertible bond risk** Convertible bonds are debt instruments which embed an option to convert the bond to stock of the issuer. They are most often issued by companies with a lower credit rating and higher growth potential. Until conversion, they have similar characteristics to bonds with the exception that their price will normally be also influenced by the underlying security market fluctuations and dividend changes. The market for convertible bonds is usually less liquid than it is for non-convertible debt securities.

**Contingent convertible bond risk** Contingent Convertible Bonds, also known as CoCos, are typically issued by financial institutions and have similar characteristics to convertible bonds with the main exception that their conversion is subject to predetermined conditions referred to as trigger events usually set to capital ratio and which vary from one issue to the other. As an example, when the capital ratio of the CoCo issuer falls under a certain level, which depends on the accounting rules currently applicable, the issuer needs to convert debt to equity and the CoCo holders receive common shares in exchange of the CoCo. This may happen at a time which is not ideal to buy the common shares and investors may also suffer a loss depending on the conversion ratio. The issuer's supervisory authority may intervene at any time in the conversion or written down process. Depending on the scenario, the principal amount invested may be lost permanently or temporarily, fully or partially. CoCos may be held for longer than expected and thus also expose investors to higher Interest Rate risk. Investments in CoCos can also be subject to additional risks such as: capital structure inversion risk (contrary to the classic capital hierarchy, it represents the risk for CoCo investors to suffer a loss of capital when equity holders do not or at an earlier stage); trigger level risk (the risk of incurring a trigger event. The trigger could be activated either through a material loss in capital or an increase in risk weighted assets of the issuer of the CoCos. Changes in accounting rules may also impact the calculation of the trigger event); coupon cancellation risk (coupon payments are entirely discretionary and it represents the risk of having the coupon cancelled

by the issuer of the CoCos at any point, for any reason, and for any period of time); call extension risk (CoCos are issued as perpetual instruments and may not be called on the call date. It represents the risk that CoCos' principal will neither be returned at the call date nor at any given date); unknown risk (the structure of CoCos is innovative and additional risks, yet unknown, may appear in the future); yield/valuation risk (CoCos offer comparatively high yield for quality bank issuers but all their associated risks may be difficult to factor into their valuation); conversion risk (it represents the risk of having CoCos converted into equity at a non-favourable time with the investors that may suffer a loss depending on the conversion rate); write down risk (it represents the risk of incurring in a total loss of principal); industry concentration risk (this risk is related to the fact that CoCos are issued by bank institutions); liquidity risk (it represents the risk that CoCos may become difficult to sell and it is uncertain how the market will react in a stressed environment).

**Counterparty risk** An entity with which the fund does business could become unwilling or unable to meet its obligations to the fund.

**Country risk – China** All investments in China are subject to the risks described under “Emerging market risk” below. In addition, investments that are purchased or held in connection with a QFII licence or the Stock Connect program may be subject to additional risks, as follows.

**QFII Licence** Some funds may invest in local Chinese securities (“China A securities”) using a qualified foreign institutional investor (“QFII”) licence. Chinese regulators require that the name of the QFII licence holder be used in connection with assets held on behalf of the relevant funds. The regulators acknowledge that the assets in a fund’s account belong to that fund and not to the investment manager or a sub-manager, and the depository has set up a sub-account in the name of each relevant fund (which is allowed under Chinese law). However, should creditors of the QFII assert that the assets in the accounts are owned by the QFII and not the relevant fund, and if a court should uphold this assertion, creditors of the QFII could seek payment from the assets of the relevant fund.

**Stock Connect** The funds may invest in certain Shanghai-listed and Shenzhen-listed securities (“Stock Connect Securities”) through the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect or the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect respectively (“Stock Connect”), a joint securities trading and clearing program designed to permit mutual stock market access between mainland China and Hong Kong. Stock Connect is a joint project of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (“HKEX”), China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited (“ChinaClear”), the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange. Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company Limited (“HKSCC”), a clearing house that in turn is operated by HKEX, acts as nominee for investors accessing Stock Connect Securities.

Risks of investing through Stock Connect include:

- The regulations governing the Stock Connect are untested, subject to change and may have potential retrospective effect. It is uncertain how they will be applied, and they could be changed.
- The Stock Connect Securities in respect of the funds are held by the depository/ sub-custodian in accounts in the Hong Kong Central Clearing and Settlement System (“CCASS”) maintained by the HKSCC as central securities depository in Hong Kong. HKSCC in turn holds the Stock Connect Securities, as the nominee holder, through an omnibus securities account in its name registered with ChinaClear for the Stock Connect. The precise nature and rights of the funds as the beneficial owners of the Stock Connect Securities through HKSCC as nominee is not well defined under Chinese law. Therefore, the exact nature and methods of enforcement of the rights and interests of the funds under Chinese law is uncertain.
- Should ChinaClear default, HKSCC’s contractual liabilities will be limited to assisting participants with claims against ChinaClear. A fund’s attempts to recover lost assets could involve considerable delays and expenses and may not be successful.

- The Stock Connect is subject to quota limitations. In particular, the Stock Connect is subject to a daily quota which does not belong to the SICAV or the funds and can only be utilised on a first-come-first-serve basis. Once the daily quota is exceeded, buy orders will be rejected (although investors will be permitted to sell their cross-boundary securities regardless of the quota balance). Therefore, quota limitations may restrict the relevant fund’s ability to invest in the Stock Connect Securities on a timely basis, and the relevant fund may not be able to effectively pursue its investment strategy.
- When a stock is recalled from the scope of eligible stocks for trading via the Stock Connect, the stock can only be sold but restricted from being bought. This may affect the investment portfolio or strategies of the funds.
- Each of the HKEX, the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange reserves the right to suspend trading. Where a suspension is effected, the relevant fund’s ability to access the Chinese market will be adversely affected.
- Investment in Stock Connect Securities is conducted through brokers, and is subject to the risks of default by such brokers’ in their obligations.
- The relevant rules and regulations on the Stock Connect are subject to change which may have potential retrospective effect. The Stock Connect is subject to quota limitations. Where a suspension in the trading through the programme is effected, the fund’s ability to invest in China A-shares or access the PRC market through the programme will be adversely affected. In such event, the fund’s ability to achieve its investment objective could be negatively affected.

**Onshore and offshore renminbi** In China, the government maintains two separate currencies: internal renminbi (CNY), which must remain within China and generally cannot be owned by foreigners, and external renminbi (CNH), which can be owned by any investor. The exchange rate between the two, and the extent to which currency exchanges involving CNH are allowed, are managed by the government, based on a combination of market and policy considerations. This effectively creates currency risk within a single nation’s currency, as well as liquidity risk, since the conversion of CNY to CNH, and of CNH to other currencies, can be restricted, as can the removal of any currency from China or Hong Kong.

**Country risk – Russia and Ukraine** In these countries, risks associated with custody and counterparties are higher than in developed countries. Russian custodial institutions observe their own rules, have significantly less responsibilities to investors, may be poorly regulated, or may otherwise be susceptible to fraud, negligence or error. The Russian securities market may also suffer from impaired efficiency and liquidity, which may worsen price volatility and market disruptions.

Direct investment in Russian securities that are not traded through Moscow Exchange is limited to 10% of fund assets. However, as the Russian Trading System and the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange are recognised as regulated markets, securities that are listed or traded on those markets are not subject to that 10% limit. This does not mean these securities are free from the risks mentioned in the previous paragraph, or from a generally higher degree of risk than, for example, comparable European or US securities.

Russia and Ukraine also can be subject to strong or sudden political risks, such as sanctions or military actions.

**Country risk – Saudi Arabia** It is necessary in Saudi Arabia to use a trading account to buy and sell securities. This trading account can be held directly with a broker or held with a custodian. Where the trading account is held at the custodian, this is known as the Independent Custody Model (ICM). The ICM approach is preferable because securities are under the safe keeping and control of the custodian and would be recoverable in the event of the bankruptcy of the custodian. Where investments are held in Saudi Arabia through the ICM, a broker Standing Instruction letter is in place to authorise the fund’s sub-custodian to move securities to a trading account for settlement, based on the details supplied by the broker. At this stage an

authorised broker could potentially either fraudulently or erroneously sell the securities (and whether the securities were held through the ICM or direct broker approach). Opportunities for a local broker to conduct fraudulent transactions on the market are limited due to short trading hours (e.g. trading hours are 10am to 3pm). This risk is further mitigated by a manual pre-matching process, which validates client settlement instructions with the local broker contract note and the transaction report from the depository. Similar risks also apply to using a broker trading account. In addition, where a broker trading account is used, the account is set up directly with the broker, in the fund's name, but in the event of the broker defaulting, although it is believed assets are ring-fenced, there may be a delay to recovering them and legal proceedings may need to be initiated in order to do so. All investments in Saudi Arabia are subject to the risks described under the section "Emerging market risk" below.

**Credit risk** A bond or money market security could lose value if the issuer's financial health deteriorates.

If the financial health of the issuer of a bond or money market security weakens, the value of the bond or money market security may fall. In extreme cases, the issuer may delay scheduled payments to investors, or may become unable to make its payments at all. The lower the credit quality of the debt, the greater the credit risk.

**Cybersecurity risks** The funds may be subject to operational and information security risks resulting from breaches in cybersecurity. Cybersecurity breaches may involve unauthorized access to the digital information systems (e.g., through "hacking" or malicious software coding) of the funds or their third-party service providers, but may also result from outside attacks such as denial-of-service attacks. These breaches may, among other things, result in financial losses to the funds and their shareholders, cause the funds to lose proprietary information, disrupt business operations, or result in the unauthorized release of confidential information. Further, cybersecurity breaches involving third-party service providers, trading counterparties, or issuers in which the funds invests could subject the funds to many of the same risks associated with direct breaches.

**Currency risk** Changes in currency exchange rates could reduce investment gains or increase investment losses. Exchange rates can change rapidly and unpredictably.

**Default risk** The issuers of certain bonds could become unable to make payments on their bonds.

If a bond is downgraded to a default credit rating, the manager will assess whether it should be sold or kept in the portfolio, in accordance with the investment strategy of the respective fund.

**Derivatives risk** Certain derivatives could behave unexpectedly or could expose the fund to losses that are significantly greater than the cost of the derivative, in other words, they provide leverage.

Through derivatives, the fund may take long or short position in the underlying asset(s). Long positions are generally taken to gain exposure. Short positions may be taken to hedge long positions but may also be fully or partially uncovered thus creating a synthetic short position.

Derivatives in general are highly volatile and do not carry any voting rights. The pricing and volatility of many derivatives (especially credit default swaps (CDS)) may diverge from strictly reflecting the pricing or volatility of their underlying reference(s). In difficult market conditions, it may be impossible or unfeasible to place orders that would limit or offset the market exposure or financial losses created by certain derivatives.

#### **OTC derivatives**

Because OTC derivatives are in essence private agreements between a fund and one or more counterparties, they are less highly regulated than market-traded securities. OTC derivatives carry greater counterparty risk and liquidity risk, and it may be more difficult to force a counterparty to honour its obligations to a fund. If a counterparty

ceases to offer a derivative that a fund had been planning on using, the fund may not be able to find a comparable derivative elsewhere and may miss an opportunity for gain or find itself unexpectedly exposed to risks or losses, including losses from a derivative position for which it was unable to buy an offsetting derivative.

Because it is generally impractical for the SICAV to divide its OTC derivative transactions among a wide variety of counterparties, a decline in the financial health of any one counterparty could cause significant losses. Conversely, if any fund experiences any financial weakness or fails to meet an obligation, counterparties could become unwilling to do business with the SICAV, which could leave the SICAV unable to operate efficiently and competitively.

#### **Exchange-traded derivatives**

While exchange-traded derivatives are generally considered lower-risk than OTC derivatives, there is still the risk that a suspension of trading in derivatives or in their underlying assets could make it impossible for a fund to realize gains or avoid losses, which in turn could cause a delay in handling redemptions of shares. There is also a risk that settlement of exchange-traded derivatives through a transfer system may not happen when or as expected.

#### **Derivatives synthetic short positions**

Some funds may take synthetic short positions in the expectation to realise gains when the position underperforms. This is not guaranteed. The possible loss from using derivatives to create synthetic short positions is theoretically unlimited, for some asset types, since there is no restriction on the price to which a position may rise. Unlike short sales of equities or other instruments, the potential for the price of certain fixed-income securities to rise may be limited as the fixed-income security will not exceed par at maturity.

**Distressed or defaulted debt securities risk** Distressed or defaulted debt securities are the result of their issuer's inability to meet its financial obligations. This will be the case for issuers experiencing significant financial stress, including potentially defaulting and filing for bankruptcy protection or other reorganisation proceedings. These securities may bear substantially higher degree of risks and can be more difficult to price. An investment in such securities may lead to unrealised capital losses and/or losses that can adversely impact the net asset value of the Fund. In some cases, the recovery of investments in Distressed or Defaulted Securities is subject to uncertainty related to court orderings and corporate reorganisations among other things. Because of the issuer's bankruptcy, reorganisation or liquidation process, the securities may lose their entire value, may be difficult to dispose of and may have to be held for an extended period of time with a high degree of uncertainty in the final level of recovery.

**Emerging markets risk** Emerging markets are less established than developed markets and therefore involve higher risks.

Reasons for this higher risk include:

- political, economic, or social instability
- unfavourable changes in regulations and laws
- failure to enforce laws or regulations, or to recognise the rights of investors as understood in developed markets
- excessive fees, trading costs or taxation, or outright seizure of assets
- rules or practices that place outside investors at a disadvantage
- incomplete, misleading, or inaccurate information about securities issuers
- lack of uniform accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards
- manipulation of market prices by large investors
- arbitrary delays and market closures
- fraud, corruption and error

For purposes of risk, the category of emerging markets includes markets that are less developed, such as most countries in Asia, Africa, South America and Eastern Europe, as well as countries that have

successful economies but whose investor protections are questionable, such as Russia, Ukraine and China.

Examples of developed markets are those of Western Europe, the US, and Japan.

**Equity risk** In general, equities involve higher risks than bonds or money market instruments. Equities can lose value rapidly and can remain at low prices indefinitely. Equities of rapidly growing companies can be highly sensitive to bad news, because much of their value is based on high expectations for the future. Equities of companies that appear to be priced below their true value may continue to be undervalued. If a company goes through bankruptcy or a similar financial restructuring, its equities may lose most or all of their value.

**Frontier markets risk** The securities markets of small nations that are at an earlier stage of economic and political development relative to more mature emerging markets typically have limited investability and liquidity.

**Geographic concentration risk** To the extent that a fund invests a large portion of its assets in a particular geographic area, its performance will be more strongly affected by any social, political, economic, environmental or market conditions within that area. This can mean higher volatility and risk of loss as compared to a fund that invests more broadly.

**Hedging risk** A fund's attempts to reduce or eliminate certain risks may not work as intended.

To the extent that a fund takes measures that are designed to offset specific risks (such as seeking to eliminate currency risks in a share class that is denominated in a different currency than the fund's portfolio), these measures may work imperfectly, may not be feasible at times, or may fail completely. Hedging involves costs, which reduce investment performance. To the extent that a hedge is successful, it generally eliminates opportunities for gain as well as risks of loss.

**High yield bond risk** A bond or debt security rated below BBB- by Standard & Poor's or an equivalent rating, also termed 'below investment grade', is generally subject to higher yields but to greater risks too.

The higher yield is offered to compensate for the reduced creditworthiness and the increased risk of default of the issuer to meet its payments obligations of income and principal. In some cases, the debt may be called by its issuer before maturity or it may be subject to the issuer's debt restructuring by which the fund will become the owner of another debt or a common stock with, potentially, a partial or total loss of the invested capital and generated income. As a consequence of issuers being in bankruptcy, reorganisation or liquidation processes, a fund may hold distressed or defaulted bonds.

In addition, high yield bonds are usually more sensitive to market conditions and fluctuations. Their market is typically thinner and less active, creating a higher liquidity risk than for higher-rated bonds. This implies they may become hard to value or to sell at a desired price and/or time.

**Interest rate risk** When interest rates rise, bond values generally fall. This risk is generally greater the longer the maturity of a bond investment and the higher its credit quality.

**Investment fund risk** As with any investment fund, investing in any of these funds involves certain risks an investor would not face if investing in markets directly:

- the actions of other investors, in particular sudden large outflows of cash, could interfere with orderly management of a fund and cause the fund's NAV to fall
- the investor cannot direct or influence how money is invested while it is in a fund
- a fund's buying and selling of investments may not be optimal for the tax efficiency of any given investor

- the funds are subject to various investment laws and regulations that limit the use of certain securities and investment techniques that might improve performance; to the extent that the funds decide to register in jurisdictions that impose narrower limits, this decision could further limit the fund's investment activities
- because the funds are based in Luxembourg, any protections that would have been provided by other regulators (including, for investors outside Luxembourg, those of their home regulator) may not apply
- because fund shares are not publicly traded, the only option for liquidation of shares is generally redemption, which could be subject to delays and any other redemption policies set by the fund

**Investment in Participatory Notes** The fund may gain exposure to investments through Participatory Notes (P-notes), which are issued by banks, broker-dealers or other counterparties. P-notes may carry illiquid securities risk and may trade at prices that are below the value of their underlying securities. Owners of P-notes may lack some of the rights (such as voting rights) they would have if they owned the underlying securities directly. If the issuer of a P-note becomes unable or unwilling to honour its obligations to the fund, the fund will lose money, irrespective of the value of the underlying securities.

**Issuer concentration risk** To the extent that a fund invests a large portion of its assets in securities from a relatively small number of issuers, its performance will be more strongly affected by any business, industry, economic, financial or market conditions affecting those issuers. This can mean higher volatility and risk of loss as compared to a fund that invests more broadly.

**Liquidity risk** Any security could become hard to value or to sell at a desired time and price.

Additionally, certain securities may, by nature, be hard to value, or hard to sell at a reasonable price or in large volumes. This includes securities that are labelled as illiquid, such as Rule 144A securities, as well as stocks, bonds, and any other type of security that represents a small issue, trades infrequently, or is traded on markets that are comparatively small or that have long settlement times.

**Management risk** The investment manager or its designees may at times find their obligations to a fund to be in conflict with their obligations to other investment portfolios they manage (although in such cases, all portfolios will be dealt with equitably).

**Market risk** Prices of many securities change daily and can fall based on a wide variety of factors.

Examples of these factors include:

- political and economic news
- government policy
- changes in technology and business practices
- changes in demographics, cultures and populations
- natural or human-caused disasters
- weather and climate patterns
- scientific or investigative discoveries
- costs and availability of energy, commodities and natural resources

The effects of market risk can be immediate or gradual, short-term or long-term, narrow or broad.

**Operational risk** A fund may be subject to errors affecting valuation, pricing, accounting, tax reporting, financial reporting, and trading, among other things. In addition, in any market, but especially in emerging markets, there could be losses due to fraud, corruption, political or military actions, the seizure of assets, or other irregular events.

**Prepayment and extension risk** With asset-backed securities (ABS) and mortgage-backed securities (MBS), or any other securities whose market prices typically reflect the assumption that the securities will be paid off before maturity, any unexpected behaviour in interest rates could hurt fund performance.

Receiving increasing prepayments when interest rates are falling causes the average maturity of the portfolio to shorten, reducing its potential for price gains. It also requires a fund to reinvest proceeds at lower interest rates, reducing the portfolio's total return and yield, and could result in a loss.

Mortgage-backed securities are also subject to extension risk. When interest rates are rising, a lack of refinancing opportunities will cause a fund's average maturity to lengthen due to a drop in expected prepayments of mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities. This would increase a fund's sensitivity to rising rates and its potential for price declines.

**Real estate investments risk** Real estate and related investments can be hurt by any factor that makes an area or individual property less valuable.

Specifically, investments in real estate holdings or related businesses or securities (including interests in mortgages) can be hurt by natural disasters, economic declines, overbuilding, zoning changes, tax increases, population or lifestyle trends, environmental contamination, defaults on mortgages, failures of management, and other factors that may affect the market value or cash flow of the investment.

**Sector concentration risk** To the extent that a fund invests a large portion of its assets in a particular economic sector (or, for bond funds, a particular market segment), its performance will be more strongly affected by any business, industry, economic, financial or market conditions affecting that sector or segment of the fixed income market. This can mean higher volatility and risk of loss as compared to a fund that invests more broadly.

**Small and mid-cap stock risk** Stocks of small and mid-size companies can be more volatile than stocks of larger companies. Small and mid-size companies often have fewer financial resources, shorter operating histories, and less diverse business lines, and as a result can be at greater risk of long-term or permanent business setbacks. Initial public offerings (IPOs) can be highly volatile and can be hard to evaluate because of a lack of trading history and relative lack of public information.

**Style risk** Different investment styles typically go in and out of favour depending on market conditions and investor sentiment. At any given time, for instance, a growth-style portfolio may underperform a value-style portfolio, or vice-versa, and either may at any time underperform the market as a whole.