

December 31, 2017

Needham Growth Fund NEEGX | NEEIX

## Portfolio Managers



### Chris Retzler

Manager since 1/2009  
 Experience: 1994 - 2002: Merrill Lynch Investment Banking  
 Education: 2002 - 2005: Winterkorn Orthopedic  
 Bucknell University 2005 - present: Needham Investment Management, LLC  
*Fulbright Scholar*  
 Columbia Business School



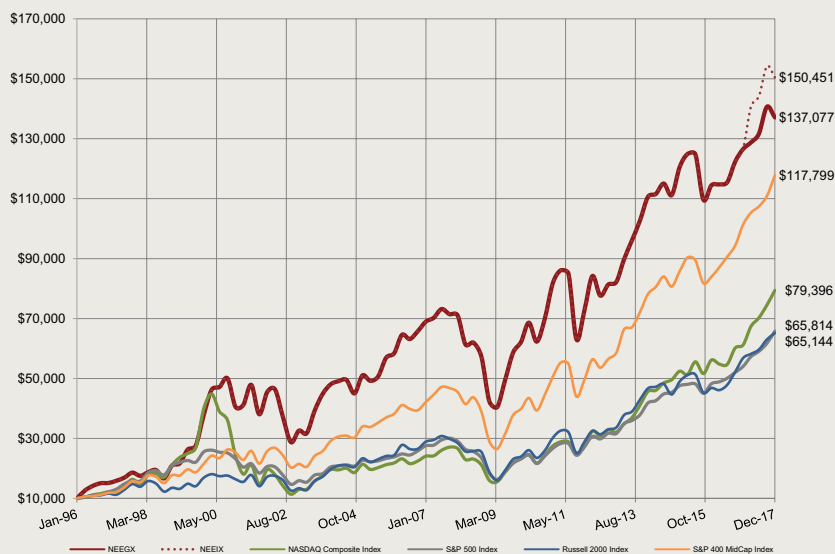
### John O. Barr

Manager since 1/2010  
 Experience: 1980 - 1995: Technology industry experience  
 Education: 1995 - 2000: Needham & Company, LLC  
 Colgate University 2000 - 2002: Robertson Stephens & Co.  
 Harvard Business School 2002 - 2008: Buckingham Capital Management, Inc.  
 2008 - 2009: Oliver Investment Management, LLC  
 2009 - present: Needham Investment Management, LLC

## Fund Highlights

- Seeks to create long-term, tax-efficient capital appreciation
- Focus on domestic growth equities in sectors including technology, healthcare, energy, specialty retail, media and business and consumer services
- Sound valuation discipline of buying growth companies at a reasonable price
- Seeks to invest in companies with focused, incentivized management teams
- Seeks investments with unrecognized product or operating margin expansion opportunities
- The Fund may engage in short sales and hold cash
- Invests in venture-backed post-IPO opportunities

## Growth of \$10,000 Investment as of December 31, 2017



The chart illustrates the performance of a hypothetical \$10,000 investment made in the Fund since the fund's inception. Assumes reinvestment of dividends and capital gains, but does not reflect the effect of any redemption fees. This chart does not imply any future performance.

## Risk/Reward Metrics\*

	Fund	S&P 500
Average Annual Return	13.11	8.94
Active Share	107.4	0.00
Alpha	2.33	0.00
Beta	1.11	1.00
Maximum Drawdown	-49.15	-50.95
Downside Capture Ratio	109.96	100.00
Standard Deviation	20.95	14.52
R-Squared	59.63	100.00
Sharpe Ratio	0.28	0.26

\*Risk/Reward metrics based on the Fund's retail share class. Metrics are since inception of the Fund, 1/1/96 to 12/31/17. Active Share is as of 12/31/17.

## Top Ten Holdings

	% of Net Assets
Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.	7.73%
Gilead Sciences, Inc.	5.67%
ViaSat, Inc.	5.66%
CarMax, Inc.	5.19%
FormFactor, Inc.	5.03%
PDF Solutions, Inc.	4.97%
KVH Industries, Inc.	4.96%
Becton Dickinson and Co.	4.84%
Entegris, Inc.	4.27%
Comcast Corp.	4.17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>52.49%</b>

## Market Capitalization Exposure

> \$8 billion	41.83%
\$2 - 8 billion	18.34%
\$250 million - \$2 billion	27.28%
< \$250 million	12.55%

**Active Share:** Represents the proportion of portfolio holdings that differ from those in the benchmark index.

**Alpha:** A statistic that measures the difference between the Fund's actual returns and its benchmark, given its level of risk as measured by beta. The difference is expressed as an annual percentage.

**Beta:** A statistic that measures the volatility of the fund, as compared to that of the overall market.

**Maximum Drawdown:** Measures the largest single drop from peak to trough in the value of a portfolio (before a new peak is achieved).

**Downside Capture Ratio:** Measures a fund's performance versus a benchmark during periods where the benchmark had a negative return.

**Standard Deviation:** A statistical measure of portfolio risk used to measure variability of total return around an average, over a specified period of time. The greater the standard deviation over the period, the wider the variability or range of returns and hence, the greater the fund's volatility.

**R-Squared:** Measures the percentage of a fund's returns that can be explained by the returns of the benchmark.

**Sharpe Ratio:** The sharpe ratio is calculated by subtracting the risk-free rate, such as that of the 10-year U.S. Treasury bond from the rate of return for a portfolio and dividing the result by the standard deviation of the portfolio returns.

Average Annual Returns as of 12/31/17

	3 Month	YTD	1YR	3YR	5YR	10YR	Since Inception
Needham Growth Fund Retail Class	-2.55%	8.32%	8.32%	4.37%	10.79%	6.78%	12.64%
After Taxes on Distributions	-4.57%	6.07%	6.07%	2.79%	9.41%	5.79%	11.36%
After Taxes on Distributions & Redemptions	0.27%	6.61%	6.61%	3.29%	8.49%	5.41%	10.78%
Needham Growth Fund Inst Class**	-2.40%	8.89%	8.89%	4.85%	11.27%	7.24%	13.11%
After Taxes on Distributions	-4.42%	6.63%	6.63%	3.26%	9.89%	6.25%	11.83%
After Taxes on Distributions & Redemptions	0.34%	6.92%	6.92%	3.65%	8.88%	5.79%	11.22%
S&P 500 TR Index	6.64%	21.83%	21.83%	11.41%	15.79%	8.50%	8.94%
S&P 400 Index	6.25%	16.24%	16.24%	11.14%	15.01%	9.97%	11.86%
NASDAQ Composite Index	6.57%	29.73%	29.73%	14.81%	19.49%	11.35%	9.87%
Russell 2000 Total Return Index	3.34%	14.65%	14.65%	9.96%	14.12%	8.71%	8.89%

The Needham Growth Fund inception date is 1/1/96. Performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Figures include changes in principal value, reinvested dividends and capital gains distributions. Investment return and principal value will vary, and shares may be worth more or less at redemption than at original purchase. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Please visit [www.needhamfunds.com](http://www.needhamfunds.com) or call 1-800-625-7071 for the most current month-end performance data.

\*\*Performance for any periods prior to the inception date of Institutional Class Shares are based on the historical performance of the Retail Class Shares adjusted to assume the expenses associated with Institutional Class Shares.

### Sector Weightings\*\*\*

	Long	(Short)	Net
Airlines	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%
Auto Components	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Biotechnology	6.1%	(0.1)%	6.0%
Capital Markets	1.4%	(0.9)%	0.5%
Commercial Services & Supplies/Professional Services	1.4%	0.0%	1.4%
Communications Equipment	11.4%	(4.3)%	7.1%
Electrical Equipment/Electronic Equipment, Instruments	5.8%	0.0%	5.8%
Energy Equipment & Services	1.2%	0.0%	1.2%
Exchange Traded Funds	0.0%	(0.3)%	(0.3)%
Health Care Equipment & Supplies/Health Care	8.6%	(0.2)%	8.4%
Health Care Providers & Services/Insurance	0.9%	(0.2)%	0.7%
Household Products/Household Durables	0.8%	0.0%	0.8%
Industrial Conglomerates	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%
Internet Software & Services/Software	13.5%	0.0%	13.5%
Life Sciences Tools & Services	8.4%	0.0%	8.4%
Media	4.7%	0.0%	4.7%
Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%
Pharmaceuticals	2.1%	0.0%	2.1%
Real Estate Management & Development	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	21.8%	0.0%	21.8%
Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals	7.0%	0.0%	7.0%
Specialty Retail/Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods	6.2%	0.0%	6.2%
Trading Companies & Distributors	2.2%	0.0%	2.2%
Money Market Fund	1.2%	0.0%	1.2%

### Fund Statistics

Net Assets	\$111 million
12-month Trailing Turnover	9%

### Class Statistics

	Retail	Institutional
Share Class	No-Load	No-Load
NASDAQ Symbol	NEEGX	NEEIX
NAV	\$42.91	\$43.15
Minimum Initial Investment	\$2,000/\$1,000 for IRA	\$100,000
Minimum Subsequent Investment	\$100/No min for IRA	None
12b-1 Fees	0.25%	None
Gross Expense Ratio	2.18%	1.93%
Net Expense Ratio*	2.18%	1.74%
Inception Date	1/1/1996	12/30/2016

\*Reflects a contractual agreement by the Fund's investment adviser to waive its fee and/or reimburse the Fund through May 1, 2018 to the extent the Gross Expense Ratio exceeds 1.95% and 1.40% of the average daily net assets of Retail Class Shares and Institutional Class Shares (Expense Cap). The Expense Cap excludes taxes, interest, brokerage, dividends on short positions, fees and expenses of "acquired funds," extraordinary items and shareholder redemption fees but includes the management fee.

### Definitions and Disclosures

This report is not an offer of the Needham Growth Fund. Shares are sold only through the currently effective prospectus, which must precede or accompany this report. To obtain a copy of the Fund's current prospectus, please visit [www.needhamfunds.com](http://www.needhamfunds.com) or contact the Fund's transfer agent, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC at 1-800-625-7071. Funds holding smaller capitalized companies are subject to greater price fluctuation than those of larger companies. Total return figures include reinvestment of all dividends and capital gains.

Please read the prospectus or summary prospectus and consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses of the Fund carefully before you invest. The prospectus and summary prospectus contain this and other information about the Fund. Short sales present the risk that the price of the security sold short will increase in value between the time of the short sale and the time the Fund must purchase the security to return it to the lender. The Fund may not be able to close a short position at a favorable price or time and the loss of value on a short sale is potentially unlimited. Investment returns and principal value will fluctuate, and when redeemed, shares may be worth more or less than their original cost. The results contained in this report represent past performance of the Fund. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be higher or lower than these results.

\*\*\*Percentage of total investments as of 12/31/17, which means all stocks held long plus cash minus all short positions.

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The S&P 500 Index and the S&P 400 Index are both broad unmanaged measures of the U.S. stock market. The NASDAQ Composite Index is a broad-based capitalization-weighted index of all NASDAQ Global Market and Small Cap stocks. The Russell 2000 Index is a broad unmanaged index composed of the smallest 2,000 companies in the Russell 3000 Index. An investor cannot invest directly in an index.

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