



# Appreciation Portfolio

A Series of Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund

**Summary Prospectus**  
May 1, 2017

**Initial Shares**  
**Service Shares**

Before you invest, you may want to review the fund's prospectus, which contains more information about the fund and its risks. You can find the fund's prospectus and other information about the fund, including the statement of additional information and most recent reports to shareholders, online at [www.dreyfus.com/vifunddocuments](http://www.dreyfus.com/vifunddocuments). You can also get this information at no cost by calling 1-800-DREYFUS (inside the U.S. only) or by sending an e-mail request to [info@dreyfus.com](mailto:info@dreyfus.com). The fund's prospectus and statement of additional information, dated May 1, 2017 (each as revised or supplemented), are incorporated by reference into this summary prospectus.

## Investment Objective

The fund seeks long-term capital growth consistent with the preservation of capital. Its secondary goal is current income.

## Fees and Expenses

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the fund. These figures do not reflect any fees or charges imposed by participating insurance companies under their Variable Annuity contracts (VA contracts) or Variable Life Insurance policies (VLI policies), and if such fees and/or charges were included, the fees and expenses would be higher.

<b>Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b> (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)		
	<b>Initial Shares</b>	<b>Service Shares</b>
Management fees	.75	.75
Distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees	none	.25
Other expenses	.07	.07
Total annual fund operating expenses	.82	1.07

## Example

The Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the fund for the time periods indicated and then hold or redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the fund's operating expenses remain the same. The Example does not reflect fees and expenses incurred under VA contracts and VLI policies; if they were reflected, the figures in the Example would be higher. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>3 Years</b>	<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
Initial Shares	\$84	\$262	\$455	\$1,014
Service Shares	\$109	\$340	\$590	\$1,306

## Portfolio Turnover

The fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the Example, affect the fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the fund's portfolio turnover rate was 4.19% of the average value of its portfolio.

## Principal Investment Strategy

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To pursue its goals, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes, in common stocks. The fund focuses on "blue chip" companies with total market capitalizations of more than \$5 billion at the time of purchase, including multinational companies. These are established companies that have demonstrated sustained patterns of profitability, strong balance sheets, an expanding global presence and the potential to achieve predictable, above-average earnings growth. This potential is assessed based on an analysis of historical performance and the portfolio managers' assessment of the companies' financial statements, industry, business model and management. These companies frequently pay dividends that provide the fund with income. Multinational companies may be subject to certain of the risks involved in investing in foreign securities.

In choosing stocks, the fund's portfolio managers first identify economic sectors they believe will expand over the next three to five years or longer. Using fundamental analysis, the fund's portfolio managers then seek companies within these sectors that have proven track records and dominant positions in their industries. The fund also may invest in companies which the portfolio managers consider undervalued in terms of earnings, assets or growth prospects.

The fund typically sells a stock when the fund's portfolio managers believe there is a significant adverse change in the company's business fundamentals that may lead to a sustained impairment in earnings power.

In addition to direct investments, the fund may invest in securities of foreign companies in the form of U.S. dollar-denominated American Depositary Receipts (ADRs).

The fund employs a "buy-and-hold" investment strategy, which generally has resulted in an annual portfolio turnover rate below 15%. A low portfolio turnover rate helps reduce the fund's trading costs and minimizes tax liability by limiting the distribution of capital gains.

## Principal Risks

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An investment in the fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. The fund's share price fluctuates, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- *Risks of stock investing.* Stocks generally fluctuate more in value than bonds and may decline significantly over short time periods. There is the chance that stock prices overall will decline because stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising prices and falling prices. The market value of a stock may decline due to general market conditions or because of factors that affect the particular company or the company's industry.
- *Blue chip risk.* By focusing on large capitalization, high quality stocks, the fund may underperform funds that invest in the stocks of lower quality, smaller capitalization companies during periods when the stocks of such companies are in favor.
- *Value stock risk.* Value stocks involve the risk that they may never reach their expected full market value, either because the market fails to recognize the stock's intrinsic worth or the expected value was misgauged.
- *Market sector risk.* The fund may significantly overweight or underweight certain countries, companies, industries or market sectors, which may cause the fund's performance to be more or less sensitive to developments affecting those countries, companies, industries or sectors.
- *Foreign investment risk.* To the extent the fund invests in foreign securities, the fund's performance will be influenced by political, social and economic factors affecting investments in foreign issuers. Special risks associated with investments in foreign issuers include exposure to currency fluctuations, less liquidity, less developed or less efficient trading markets, lack of comprehensive company information, political and economic instability and differing auditing and legal standards.
- *ADR risk.* ADRs may be subject to certain of the risks associated with direct investments in the securities of foreign companies, such as currency risk, political and economic risk and market risk, because their values depend on the performance of the non-dollar denominated underlying foreign securities. Certain countries may limit the ability to convert ADRs into the underlying foreign securities and vice versa, which may cause the securities of the foreign company to trade at a discount or premium to the market price of the related ADR.

## Performance

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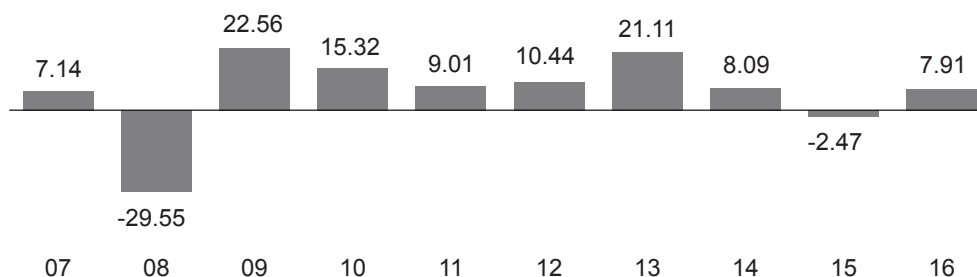
The following bar chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the fund. The bar chart shows changes in the performance of the fund's Initial shares from year to year. The table compares the average annual total returns of the fund's shares to those of a broad measure of market performance. The fund's past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the fund will perform in the future. More recent performance information may be available at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com).

Performance information reflects the fund's expenses only and does not reflect the fees and charges imposed by participating insurance companies under their VA contracts or VLI policies. Because these fees and charges will reduce total return, policyowners should consider them when evaluating and comparing the fund's performance. Policyowners should consult the prospectus for their contract or policy for more information.

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**Year-by-Year Total Returns** as of 12/31 each year (%)

**Initial Shares**



**Best Quarter**

Q3, 2009: 13.10%

**Worst Quarter**

Q4, 2008: -16.92%

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**Average Annual Total Returns** (as of 12/31/16)

	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
<b>Initial Shares</b>	7.91%	8.76%	5.87%
<b>Service Shares</b>	7.64%	8.48%	5.61%
<b>S&amp;P 500® Index</b> reflects no deductions for fees, expenses or taxes	11.94%	14.65%	6.94%

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**Portfolio Management**

The fund's investment adviser is The Dreyfus Corporation, and the fund's sub-investment adviser is Fayez Sarofim & Co. (Sarofim & Co.).

The fund is managed by a team of portfolio managers employed by Sarofim & Co., consisting of Fayez Sarofim, Catherine Crain, Gentry Lee, Christopher Sarofim and Charles Sheedy. The team is supported by Sarofim & Co.'s Investment Committee, all the members of which are senior investment professionals at Sarofim & Co. The team members hold the following positions at Sarofim & Co. Mr. Fayez Sarofim is Chairman of the Board and Co-Chief Investment Officer, Mr. Christopher Sarofim is Vice Chairman, Mr. Lee is Chief Executive Officer and Co-Chief Investment Officer, Mr. Sheedy is a Senior Vice President and Ms. Crain is a Vice President. Mr. Fayez Sarofim has been a portfolio manager of the fund since its inception in 1993. Messrs. Christopher Sarofim and Sheedy have been portfolio managers of the fund since October 2000. Ms. Crain has been a portfolio manager of the fund since March 1998. Mr. Lee has been a portfolio manager of the fund since December 2010.

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**Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares**

Fund shares are offered only to separate accounts established by insurance companies to fund VA contracts and VLI policies. Individuals may not purchase shares directly from, or place sell orders directly with, the fund. The VA contracts and the VLI policies are described in the separate prospectuses issued by the participating insurance companies, over which the fund assumes no responsibility. Policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company for more information about buying, selling (redeeming), or exchanging fund shares.

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**Tax Information**

The fund's distributions are taxable as ordinary income or capital gains. Since the fund's shareholders are the participating insurance companies and their separate accounts, the tax treatment of dividends and distributions will depend on the tax status of the participating insurance company. Accordingly, no discussion is included as to the federal personal income tax consequences to policyowners. For this information, policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company or their tax advisers.

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**Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries**

If you purchase shares through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as an insurance company), the fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of fund shares and related services. To the extent that the intermediary may receive lesser or no payments in connection with the sale of other investments, the payments from the fund and its related

companies may create a potential conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your financial representative to recommend the fund over the other investments. This potential conflict of interest may be addressed by policies, procedures or practices adopted by the financial intermediary. As there may be many different policies, procedures or practices adopted by different intermediaries to address the manner in which compensation is earned through the sale of investments or the provision of related services, the compensation rates and other payment arrangements that may apply to a financial intermediary and its representatives may vary by intermediary. Ask your financial representative or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

*This prospectus does not constitute an offer or solicitation in any state or jurisdiction in which, or to any person to whom, such offering or solicitation may not lawfully be made.*