

Annual report

John Hancock Small Cap Growth Fund

U.S. equity

August 31, 2021

A message to shareholders



Dear shareholder,

The U.S. stock market performed very well during the 12 months ended August 31, 2021, as improved economic growth and healthy corporate earnings propelled gains. The passage of a substantial fiscal stimulus package, together with hopes for further stimulus later in the year, was an additional tailwind. However, market volatility increased as the period wore on, due to concerns over a more contagious variant of COVID-19, rising inflation, and the pace of economic growth.

In these uncertain times, your financial professional can assist with positioning your portfolio so that it's sufficiently diversified to help meet your long-term objectives and to withstand the inevitable bouts of market volatility along the way.

On behalf of everyone at John Hancock Investment Management, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome new shareholders and thank existing shareholders for the continued trust you've placed in us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Arnott". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrew G. Arnott

President and CEO,
John Hancock Investment Management
Head of Wealth and Asset Management,
United States and Europe

This commentary reflects the CEO's views as of this report's period end and are subject to change at any time. Diversification does not guarantee investment returns and does not eliminate risk of loss. All investments entail risks, including the possible loss of principal. For more up-to-date information, you can visit our website at jhinvestments.com.

John Hancock Small Cap Growth Fund

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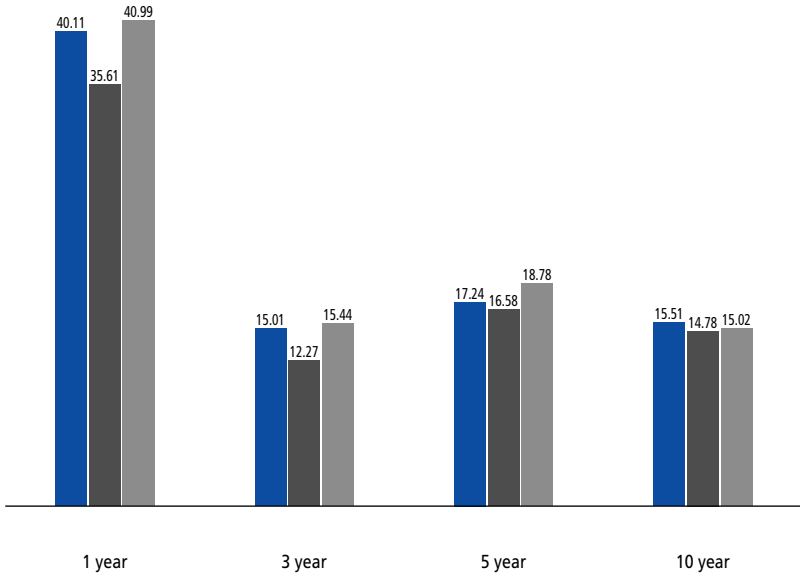
Your fund at a glance

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS AS OF 8/31/2021 (%)

- Class A shares (without sales charge)¹
- Russell 2000 Growth Index
- Morningstar small growth fund category average



The Russell 2000 Growth Index is an unmanaged index that measures the performance of the Russell 2000 Index companies with greater than average growth orientation.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Index figures do not reflect expenses or sales charges, which would result in lower returns.

The fund's Morningstar category average is a group of funds with similar investment objectives and strategies and is the equal-weighted return of all funds per category. Morningstar places funds in certain categories based on their historical portfolio holdings. Figures from Morningstar, Inc. include reinvested distributions and do not take into account sales charges. Actual load-adjusted performance is lower.

¹ Class A shares were first offered on 3-27-18. Returns prior to this date are those of Class NAV shares that have not been adjusted for class-specific expenses; otherwise, returns would vary.

The past performance shown here reflects reinvested distributions and the beneficial effect of any expense reductions, and does not guarantee future results. Performance of the other share classes will vary based on the difference in the fees and expenses of those classes. Shares will fluctuate in value and, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current month-end performance may be lower or higher than the performance cited, and can be found at jhinvestments.com or by calling 800-225-5291. For further information on the fund's objectives, risks, and strategy, see the fund's prospectus.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS

U.S. stocks surged thanks to a burgeoning economic recovery

The U.S. stock market rallied sharply as the easing of COVID-19 restrictions led to a reopening of the U.S. economy and better-than-anticipated corporate earnings.

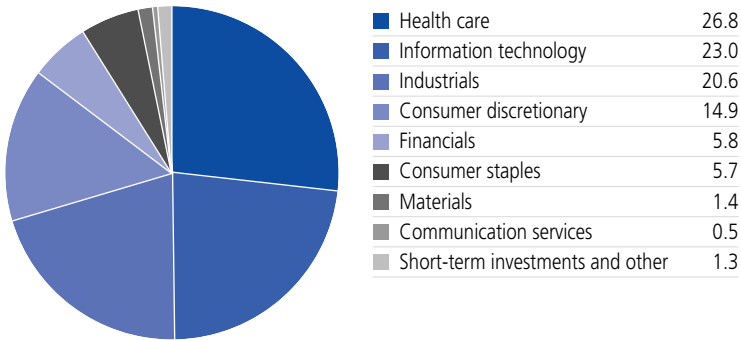
Growth underperformed value

While small-cap growth stocks posted very strong absolute returns, they trailed small-cap value stocks as investors shifted into cyclical companies poised to benefit from the nascent economic recovery.

The fund outpaced its benchmark

The fund's outperformance of its benchmark, the Russell 2000 Growth Index, was driven primarily by stock selection in the information technology and healthcare sectors.

SECTOR COMPOSITION AS OF 8/31/2021 (% of net assets)



Notes about risk

The fund is subject to various risks as described in the fund's prospectus. The novel COVID-19 disease has resulted in significant disruptions to global business activity. A widespread health crisis such as a global pandemic could cause substantial market volatility, exchange trading suspensions and closures, which may lead to less liquidity in certain instruments, industries, sectors or the markets generally, and may ultimately affect fund performance. For more information, please refer to the "Principal risks" section of the prospectus.

Manager's discussion of fund performance

How did the U.S. equity market perform during the 12 months ended August 31, 2021?

It was an exceptionally strong period of U.S. equity market performance, reflecting the U.S. economy's recovery from its pandemic-related downturn in 2020. Fueled by massive fiscal and monetary stimulus, economic growth rebounded as the widespread distribution of COVID-19 vaccines led to an easing of restrictions around the country and a broad reopening of the economy. The improving economic environment helped corporate profits exceed expectations during the period.

While growth stocks enjoyed robust returns, they underperformed value stocks during the period, particularly in the small-cap segment of the market. Value shares benefited from a shift toward more economically sensitive sectors of the market, which drove a sharp rally in value issues during the first half of 2021. However, growth stocks regained market leadership late in the period as a resurgence in coronavirus cases, primarily the more-contagious Delta variant, led to some economic uncertainty.

How did the fund perform?

The fund posted a very strong return and outperformed its benchmark, the Russell 2000 Growth Index. From a stock selection perspective, holdings in the healthcare

TOP 10 HOLDINGS AS OF 8/31/2021 (% of net assets)

Synaptics, Inc.	4.1
Workiva, Inc.	3.6
Everbridge, Inc.	3.4
Calix, Inc.	3.2
Medpace Holdings, Inc.	2.9
Simpson Manufacturing Company, Inc.	2.8
Kornit Digital, Ltd.	2.8
Boyd Gaming Corp.	2.8
Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc.	2.7
Fox Factory Holding Corp.	2.6
TOTAL	30.9

Cash and cash equivalents are not included.

and information technology sectors contributed the most to the fund's outperformance of the index.

Among individual holdings, leading contributors included technology hardware developer Synaptics, Inc. and regulatory compliance software maker Workiva, Inc. Synaptics, which makes human interface technology products such as touchpads and biometrics, benefited from strong demand as its touchscreen controllers were used in the latest iteration of the iPhone. Workiva consistently surpassed earnings expectations thanks to accelerating adoption of its cloud-based platform, which is used by the vast majority of Fortune 500 companies.

Detractors included debt recovery firm Encore Capital Group, Inc. and pharmaceutical company PTC Therapeutics, Inc. Encore reported disappointing earnings early in the reporting period, leading us to eliminate the stock from the portfolio. PTC, which focuses on rare disease treatments, also declined earlier this year on earnings concerns.

What changes did you make to the portfolio during the period?

As of the end of the period, the fund's largest overweights relative to the benchmark were in the industrials and consumer staples sectors, with primary underweights in cyclical sectors such as energy, materials, and real estate.

Can you tell us about a manager change?

Effective January 15, 2021, Valerie B. Klaiman is no longer part of the portfolio management team.

MANAGED BY

Jennifer K. Silver, CFA
Michael J. Mufson, CFA
Anthony E. Sutton
Ezra S. Samet, CFA
Alexi Makkas



REDWOOD INVESTMENTS, LLC

The views expressed in this report are exclusively those of the portfolio management team at Redwood Investments, LLC, and are subject to change. They are not meant as investment advice. Please note that the holdings discussed in this report may not have been held by the fund for the entire period. Portfolio composition is subject to review in accordance with the fund's investment strategy and may vary in the future. Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk.

A look at performance

TOTAL RETURNS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED AUGUST 31, 2021

	Average annual total returns (%) with maximum sales charge			Cumulative total returns (%) with maximum sales charge	
	1-year	5-year	10-year	5-year	10-year
Class A ¹	33.10	16.04	14.92	110.43	301.70
Class C ¹	38.06	16.64	15.21	115.85	312.17
Class I ^{1,2}	40.49	17.43	15.61	123.31	326.41
Class R6 ^{1,2}	40.60	17.53	15.65	124.24	328.19
Class NAV ²	40.58	17.54	15.66	124.32	328.34
Index [†]	35.61	16.58	14.78	115.29	297.02

Performance figures assume all distributions have been reinvested. Figures reflect maximum sales charges on Class A shares of 5.0%, and the applicable contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC) on Class C shares. Class C shares sold within one year of purchase are subject to a 1% CDSC. Sales charges are not applicable to Class I, Class R6, and Class NAV shares.

The expense ratios of the fund, both net (including any fee waivers and/or expense limitations) and gross (excluding any fee waivers and/or expense limitations), are set forth according to the most recent publicly available prospectuses for the fund and may differ from those disclosed in the Financial highlights tables in this report. Net expenses reflect contractual fee waivers and expense limitations in effect until July 31, 2023 and are subject to change. Had the contractual fee waivers and expense limitations not been in place, gross expenses would apply. The expense ratios are as follows:

	Class A	Class C	Class I	Class R6	Class NAV
Gross (%)	1.31	2.06	1.06	0.94	0.93
Net (%)	1.30	2.05	1.05	0.93	0.92

Please refer to the most recent prospectus and annual or semiannual report for more information on expenses and any expense limitation arrangements for each class.

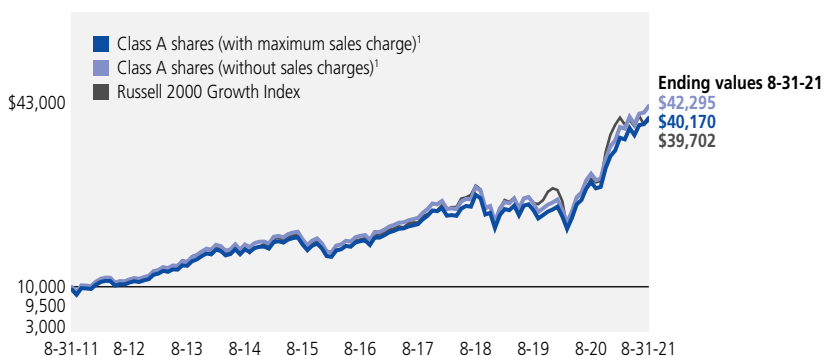
The returns reflect past results and should not be considered indicative of future performance. The return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Due to market volatility and other factors, the fund's current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown. For current to the most recent month-end performance data, please call 800-225-5291 or visit the fund's website at jhinvestments.com.

The performance table above and the chart on the next page do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares. The fund's performance results reflect any applicable fee waivers or expense reductions, without which the expenses would increase and results would have been less favorable.

[†] Index is the Russell 2000 Growth Index.

See the following page for footnotes.

This chart and table show what happened to a hypothetical \$10,000 investment in John Hancock Small Cap Growth Fund for the share classes and periods indicated, assuming all distributions were reinvested. For comparison, we've shown the same investment in the Russell 2000 Growth Index.



	Start date	With maximum sales charge (\$)	Without sales charge (\$)	Index (\$)
Class C ^{1,3}	8-31-11	41,217	41,217	39,702
Class I ^{1,2}	8-31-11	42,641	42,641	39,702
Class R6 ^{1,2}	8-31-11	42,819	42,819	39,702
Class NAV ²	8-31-11	42,834	42,834	39,702

The Russell 2000 Growth Index is an unmanaged index that measures the performance of the Russell 2000 Index companies with greater than average growth orientation.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Index figures do not reflect expenses or sales charges, which would result in lower returns.

Footnotes related to performance pages

¹ Class A, Class C, Class I, and Class R6 shares were first offered on 3-27-18. Returns prior to this date are those of Class NAV shares that have not been adjusted for class-specific expenses; otherwise, returns would vary.

² For certain types of investors, as described in the fund's prospectuses.

³ The contingent deferred sales charge is not applicable.

Your expenses

These examples are intended to help you understand your ongoing operating expenses of investing in the fund so you can compare these costs with the ongoing costs of investing in other mutual funds.

Understanding fund expenses

As a shareholder of the fund, you incur two types of costs:

- **Transaction costs**, which include sales charges (loads) on purchases or redemptions (varies by share class), minimum account fee charge, etc.
- **Ongoing operating expenses**, including management fees, distribution and service fees (if applicable), and other fund expenses.

We are presenting only your ongoing operating expenses here.

Actual expenses/actual returns

The first line of each share class in the table on the following page is intended to provide information about the fund's actual ongoing operating expenses, and is based on the fund's actual return. It assumes an account value of \$1,000.00 on March 1, 2021, with the same investment held until August 31, 2021.

Together with the value of your account, you may use this information to estimate the operating expenses that you paid over the period. Simply divide your account value at August 31, 2021, by \$1,000.00, then multiply it by the "expenses paid" for your share class from the table. For example, for an account value of \$8,600.00, the operating expenses should be calculated as follows:

Example

$$\left[\frac{\text{My account value}}{\$8,600.00} / \$1,000.00 = 8.6 \right] \times \$ \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{"expenses paid"} \\ \text{from table} \end{array} \right] = \text{My actual expenses}$$

Hypothetical example for comparison purposes

The second line of each share class in the table on the following page allows you to compare the fund's ongoing operating expenses with those of any other fund. It provides an example of the fund's hypothetical account values and hypothetical expenses based on each class's actual expense ratio and an assumed 5% annualized return before expenses (which is not the class's actual return). It assumes an account value of \$1,000.00 on March 1, 2021, with the same investment held until August 31, 2021. Look in any other fund shareholder report to find its hypothetical example and you will be able to compare these expenses. Please remember that these hypothetical account values and expenses may not be used to estimate the actual ending account balance or expenses you paid for the period.

Remember, these examples do not include any transaction costs, therefore, these examples will not help you to determine the relative total costs of owning different funds. If transaction costs were included, your expenses would have been higher. See the prospectuses for details regarding transaction costs.

SHAREHOLDER EXPENSE EXAMPLE CHART

		Account value on 3-1-2021	Ending value on 8-31-2021	Expenses paid during period ended 8-31-2021 ¹	Annualized expense ratio
Class A	Actual expenses/actual returns	\$1,000.00	\$1,097.70	\$ 6.77	1.28%
	Hypothetical example	1,000.00	1,018.80	6.51	1.28%
Class C	Actual expenses/actual returns	1,000.00	1,093.80	10.71	2.03%
	Hypothetical example	1,000.00	1,015.00	10.31	2.03%
Class I	Actual expenses/actual returns	1,000.00	1,099.40	5.45	1.03%
	Hypothetical example	1,000.00	1,020.00	5.24	1.03%
Class R6	Actual expenses/actual returns	1,000.00	1,100.20	4.87	0.92%
	Hypothetical example	1,000.00	1,020.60	4.69	0.92%
Class NAV	Actual expenses/actual returns	1,000.00	1,099.80	4.82	0.91%
	Hypothetical example	1,000.00	1,020.60	4.63	0.91%

¹ Expenses are equal to the annualized expense ratio, multiplied by the average account value over the period, multiplied by 184/365 (to reflect the one-half year period).

Fund's investments

AS OF 8-31-21

	Shares	Value
Common stocks 98.7%		\$670,576,203
(Cost \$454,240,442)		
Communication services 0.5%		3,679,907
Media 0.5%		
TechTarget, Inc. (A)	43,508	3,679,907
Consumer discretionary 14.9%		101,093,033
Auto components 2.6%		
Fox Factory Holding Corp. (A)	116,989	17,977,700
Hotels, restaurants and leisure 6.1%		
Boyd Gaming Corp. (A)	304,450	18,684,097
Chuy's Holdings, Inc. (A)	234,447	7,563,260
Texas Roadhouse, Inc.	158,177	15,026,815
Internet and direct marketing retail 1.6%		
Overstock.com, Inc. (A)	146,836	10,594,217
Specialty retail 3.5%		
Leslie's, Inc. (A)	555,173	13,390,773
Lithia Motors, Inc.	32,318	10,706,953
Textiles, apparel and luxury goods 1.1%		
Deckers Outdoor Corp. (A)	17,085	7,149,218
Consumer staples 5.7%		38,506,177
Food and staples retailing 4.1%		
BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings, Inc. (A)	291,466	16,514,464
Performance Food Group Company (A)	217,028	10,899,146
Food products 1.6%		
Freshpet, Inc. (A)	86,566	11,092,567
Financials 5.8%		39,157,976
Banks 1.4%		
First Financial Bankshares, Inc.	191,226	9,106,182
Capital markets 2.6%		
PJT Partners, Inc., Class A	222,913	17,605,669
Thriffs and mortgage finance 1.8%		
Axos Financial, Inc. (A)	256,727	12,446,125
Health care 26.8%		182,233,557
Biotechnology 7.2%		
CareDx, Inc. (A)	153,397	11,240,932
Coherus Biosciences, Inc. (A)	506,946	8,100,997
Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc. (A)	439,006	18,433,862
PTC Therapeutics, Inc. (A)	253,350	11,058,728

	Shares	Value
Health care (continued)		
Health care equipment and supplies 6.3%		
CryoPort, Inc. (A)	224,575	\$14,276,233
Inmode, Ltd. (A)	123,240	16,129,651
Tandem Diabetes Care, Inc. (A)	110,929	12,442,906
Health care providers and services 6.1%		
Addus HomeCare Corp. (A)	108,185	9,727,995
AMN Healthcare Services, Inc. (A)	105,592	11,986,804
Castle Biosciences, Inc. (A)	123,128	9,447,611
LHC Group, Inc. (A)	53,173	9,930,589
Health care technology 2.6%		
Omniceil, Inc. (A)	115,729	17,969,242
Life sciences tools and services 4.6%		
Medpace Holdings, Inc. (A)	108,632	19,809,045
NeoGenomics, Inc. (A)	240,209	11,678,962
Industrials 20.6%		139,922,536
Aerospace and defense 3.1%		
AeroVironment, Inc. (A)	121,541	12,440,937
RADA Electronic Industries, Ltd. (A)	726,393	8,288,144
Air freight and logistics 1.7%		
Air Transport Services Group, Inc. (A)	431,883	11,829,275
Building products 2.8%		
Simpson Manufacturing Company, Inc.	167,823	18,989,172
Commercial services and supplies 4.4%		
Tetra Tech, Inc.	108,231	15,567,947
The Brink's Company	186,614	14,585,750
Machinery 4.6%		
Astec Industries, Inc.	199,181	12,177,926
Kornit Digital, Ltd. (A)	144,285	18,810,435
Professional services 2.7%		
Exponent, Inc.	95,808	11,199,955
FTI Consulting, Inc. (A)	52,521	7,337,709
Trading companies and distributors 1.3%		
McGrath RentCorp	124,610	8,695,286
Information technology 23.0%		156,465,035
Communications equipment 3.2%		
Calix, Inc. (A)	468,134	21,815,044
Electronic equipment, instruments and components 1.3%		
nLight, Inc. (A)	318,539	8,794,862
Semiconductors and semiconductor equipment 6.6%		
Onto Innovation, Inc. (A)	231,556	17,165,246

	Shares	Value
Information technology (continued)		
Semiconductors and semiconductor equipment (continued)		
Synaptics, Inc. (A)	146,320	\$27,768,612
Software 11.9%		
Domo, Inc., Class B (A)	90,592	8,107,984
Everbridge, Inc. (A)	145,921	22,905,219
LivePerson, Inc. (A)	192,476	12,337,712
Rapid7, Inc. (A)	104,719	12,725,453
Workiva, Inc. (A)	177,122	24,844,903
Materials 1.4%		9,517,982
Containers and packaging 1.4%		
Ranpak Holdings Corp. (A)	310,032	9,517,982
	Yield (%)	Shares
Short-term investments 2.6%		\$17,665,463
(Cost \$17,665,463)		
Short-term funds 2.6%		17,665,463
State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund, Premier Class	0.0250(B)	17,665,463
Total investments (Cost \$471,905,905) 101.3%		\$688,241,666
Other assets and liabilities, net (1.3%)		(8,684,523)
Total net assets 100.0%		\$679,557,143

The percentage shown for each investment category is the total value of the category as a percentage of the net assets of the fund.

Security Abbreviations and Legend

(A) Non-income producing security.

(B) The rate shown is the annualized seven-day yield as of 8-31-21.

At 8-31-21, the aggregate cost of investments for federal income tax purposes was \$473,787,729. Net unrealized appreciation aggregated to \$214,453,937, of which \$223,602,128 related to gross unrealized appreciation and \$9,148,191 related to gross unrealized depreciation.

Financial statements

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES 8-31-21

Assets	
Unaffiliated investments, at value (Cost \$471,905,905)	\$688,241,666
Dividends and interest receivable	60,253
Receivable for fund shares sold	77,524
Other assets	49,581
Total assets	688,429,024
Liabilities	
Payable for investments purchased	3,631,080
Payable for fund shares repurchased	5,076,683
Payable to affiliates	
Accounting and legal services fees	26,164
Transfer agent fees	2,044
Trustees' fees	175
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	135,735
Total liabilities	8,871,881
Net assets	\$679,557,143
Net assets consist of	
Paid-in capital	\$330,588,248
Total distributable earnings (loss)	348,968,895
Net assets	\$679,557,143
Net asset value per share	
Based on net asset value and shares outstanding - the fund has an unlimited number of shares authorized with no par value	
Class A (\$21,150,349 ÷ 777,424 shares) ¹	\$27.21
Class C (\$292,001 ÷ 11,027 shares) ¹	\$26.48
Class I (\$687,693 ÷ 25,072 shares)	\$27.43
Class R6 (\$83,074 ÷ 3,015 shares)	\$27.55
Class NAV (\$657,344,026 ÷ 23,847,504 shares)	\$27.56
Maximum offering price per share	
Class A (net asset value per share ÷ 95%) ²	\$28.64

¹ Redemption price per share is equal to net asset value less any applicable contingent deferred sales charge.

² On single retail sales of less than \$50,000. On sales of \$50,000 or more and on group sales the offering price is reduced.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS For the year ended 8-31-21

Investment income	
Dividends	\$1,600,918
Securities lending	59,186
Interest	3,013
Total investment income	1,663,117
Expenses	
Investment management fees	5,652,893
Distribution and service fees	37,680
Accounting and legal services fees	94,359
Transfer agent fees	17,079
Trustees' fees	11,843
Custodian fees	82,876
State registration fees	65,823
Printing and postage	22,777
Professional fees	66,377
Other	30,093
Total expenses	6,081,800
Less expense reductions	(55,359)
Net expenses	6,026,441
Net investment loss	(4,363,324)
Realized and unrealized gain (loss)	
Net realized gain (loss) on	
Unaffiliated investments	182,505,562
Affiliated investments	25,576
	182,531,138
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of	
Unaffiliated investments	49,802,186
Affiliated investments	(38,588)
	49,763,598
Net realized and unrealized gain	232,294,736
Increase in net assets from operations	\$227,931,412

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Year ended 8-31-21	Year ended 8-31-20
Increase (decrease) in net assets		
From operations		
Net investment loss	\$(4,363,324)	\$(2,873,289)
Net realized gain	182,531,138	29,618,474
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	49,763,598	94,873,198
Increase in net assets resulting from operations	227,931,412	121,618,383
Distributions to shareholders		
From earnings		
Class A	(372,190)	—
Class C	(9,899)	—
Class I	(22,483)	—
Class R6	(2,498)	—
Class NAV	(23,547,407)	—
Total distributions	(23,954,477)	—
From fund share transactions	(147,296,422)	(61,838,416)
Total increase	56,680,513	59,779,967
Net assets		
Beginning of year	622,876,630	563,096,663
End of year	\$679,557,143	\$622,876,630

Financial highlights

CLASS A SHARES Period ended	8-31-21	8-31-20	8-31-19	8-31-18 ¹
Per share operating performance				
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$20.14	\$16.62	\$19.27	\$17.03
Net investment loss ²	(0.26)	(0.15)	(0.18)	(0.10)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	8.17	3.67	(1.93)	2.34
Total from investment operations	7.91	3.52	(2.11)	2.24
From net realized gain	(0.84)	—	(0.54)	—
Net asset value, end of period	\$27.21	\$20.14	\$16.62	\$19.27
Total return (%)^{3,4}	40.11	21.18	(10.41)	13.15⁵
Ratios and supplemental data				
Net assets, end of period (in millions)	\$21	\$7	\$3	\$1
Ratios (as a percentage of average net assets):				
Expenses before reductions	1.28	1.31	1.32	1.36 ⁶
Expenses including reductions	1.28	1.30	1.31	1.35 ⁶
Net investment loss	(1.05)	(0.91)	(1.07)	(1.26) ⁶
Portfolio turnover (%)	66	98	101	165 ⁷

¹ The inception date for Class A shares is 3-27-18.

² Based on average daily shares outstanding.

³ Total returns would have been lower had certain expenses not been reduced during the applicable periods.

⁴ Does not reflect the effect of sales charges, if any.

⁵ Not annualized.

⁶ Annualized.

⁷ Portfolio turnover is shown for the period from 9-1-17 to 8-31-18.

CLASS C SHARES Period ended	8-31-21	8-31-20	8-31-19	8-31-18 ¹
Per share operating performance				
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$19.77	\$16.44	\$19.21	\$17.03
Net investment loss ²	(0.42)	(0.27)	(0.30)	(0.16)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	7.97	3.60	(1.93)	2.34
Total from investment operations	7.55	3.33	(2.23)	2.18
From net realized gain	(0.84)	—	(0.54)	—
Net asset value, end of period	\$26.48	\$19.77	\$16.44	\$19.21
Total return (%)^{3,4}	39.06	20.26	(11.08)	12.80⁵
Ratios and supplemental data				
Net assets, end of period (in millions)	\$— ⁶	\$— ⁶	\$— ⁶	\$— ⁶
Ratios (as a percentage of average net assets):				
Expenses before reductions	2.03	2.06	2.07	2.11 ⁷
Expenses including reductions	2.03	2.05	2.06	2.10 ⁷
Net investment loss	(1.79)	(1.67)	(1.81)	(2.01) ⁷
Portfolio turnover (%)	66	98	101	165 ⁸

¹ The inception date for Class C shares is 3-27-18.

² Based on average daily shares outstanding.

³ Total returns would have been lower had certain expenses not been reduced during the applicable periods.

⁴ Does not reflect the effect of sales charges, if any.

⁵ Not annualized.

⁶ Less than \$500,000.

⁷ Annualized.

⁸ Portfolio turnover is shown for the period from 9-1-17 to 8-31-18.

CLASS I SHARES Period ended	8-31-21	8-31-20	8-31-19	8-31-18¹
Per share operating performance				
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$20.25	\$16.67	\$19.29	\$17.03
Net investment loss ²	(0.19)	(0.11)	(0.14)	(0.08)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	8.21	3.69	(1.94)	2.34
Total from investment operations	8.02	3.58	(2.08)	2.26
From net realized gain	(0.84)	—	(0.54)	—
Net asset value, end of period	\$27.43	\$20.25	\$16.67	\$19.29
Total return (%)³	40.49	21.48	(10.23)	13.27⁴
Ratios and supplemental data				
Net assets, end of period (in millions)	\$1	\$— ⁵	\$— ⁵	\$— ⁵
Ratios (as a percentage of average net assets):				
Expenses before reductions	1.03	1.06	1.08	1.12 ⁶
Expenses including reductions	1.03	1.05	1.07	1.11 ⁶
Net investment loss	(0.78)	(0.65)	(0.80)	(0.99) ⁶
Portfolio turnover (%)	66	98	101	165 ⁷

¹ The inception date for Class I shares is 3-27-18.

² Based on average daily shares outstanding.

³ Total returns would have been lower had certain expenses not been reduced during the applicable periods.

⁴ Not annualized.

⁵ Less than \$500,000.

⁶ Annualized.

⁷ Portfolio turnover is shown for the period from 9-1-17 to 8-31-18.

CLASS R6 SHARES Period ended	8-31-21	8-31-20	8-31-19	8-31-18¹
Per share operating performance				
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$20.32	\$16.70	\$19.30	\$17.03
Net investment loss ²	(0.16)	(0.09)	(0.12)	(0.07)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	8.23	3.71	(1.94)	2.34
Total from investment operations	8.07	3.62	(2.06)	2.27
From net realized gain	(0.84)	—	(0.54)	—
Net asset value, end of period	\$27.55	\$20.32	\$16.70	\$19.30
Total return (%)³	40.60	21.68	(10.12)	13.33⁴
Ratios and supplemental data				
Net assets, end of period (in millions)	\$— ⁵	\$— ⁵	\$— ⁵	\$— ⁵
Ratios (as a percentage of average net assets):				
Expenses before reductions	0.93	0.94	0.97	1.01 ⁶
Expenses including reductions	0.92	0.94	0.96	1.01 ⁶
Net investment loss	(0.67)	(0.54)	(0.70)	(0.92) ⁶
Portfolio turnover (%)	66	98	101	165 ⁷

¹ The inception date for Class R6 shares is 3-27-18.

² Based on average daily shares outstanding.

³ Total returns would have been lower had certain expenses not been reduced during the applicable periods.

⁴ Not annualized.

⁵ Less than \$500,000.

⁶ Annualized.

⁷ Portfolio turnover is shown for the period from 9-1-17 to 8-31-18.

CLASS NAV SHARES Period ended	8-31-21	8-31-20	8-31-19	8-31-18	8-31-17
Per share operating performance					
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$20.33	\$16.71	\$19.30	\$20.31	\$18.44
Net investment loss ¹	(0.16)	(0.09)	(0.12)	(0.11)	(0.05)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	8.23	3.71	(1.93)	4.54	3.01
Total from investment operations	8.07	3.62	(2.05)	4.43	2.96
From net realized gain	(0.84)	—	(0.54)	(5.44)	(1.09)
Net asset value, end of period	\$27.56	\$20.33	\$16.71	\$19.30	\$20.31
Total return (%)²	40.58	21.66	(10.07)	24.87	16.79
Ratios and supplemental data					
Net assets, end of period (in millions)	\$657	\$615	\$560	\$360	\$229
Ratios (as a percentage of average net assets):					
Expenses before reductions	0.92	0.93	0.96	1.00	1.06
Expenses including reductions	0.91	0.93	0.95	0.99	1.05
Net investment loss	(0.66)	(0.53)	(0.70)	(0.57)	(0.29)
Portfolio turnover (%)	66	98	101	165 ³	39

¹ Based on average daily shares outstanding.

² Total returns would have been lower had certain expenses not been reduced during the applicable periods.

³ Excludes in-kind transactions.

Notes to financial statements

Note 1 — Organization

John Hancock Small Cap Growth Fund (the fund) is a series of John Hancock Funds II (the Trust), an open-end management investment company organized as a Massachusetts business trust and registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act). The investment objective of the fund is to seek long-term capital appreciation.

The fund may offer multiple classes of shares. The shares currently outstanding are detailed in the Statement of assets and liabilities. Class A and Class C shares are offered to all investors. Class I shares are offered to institutions and certain investors. Class R6 shares are only available to certain retirement plans, institutions and other investors. Class NAV shares are offered to John Hancock affiliated funds of funds, retirement plans for employees of John Hancock and/or Manulife Financial Corporation, and certain 529 plans. Class C shares convert to Class A shares eight years after purchase (certain exclusions may apply). Shareholders of each class have exclusive voting rights to matters that affect that class. The distribution and service fees, if any, and transfer agent fees for each class may differ.

Note 2 — Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAP), which require management to make certain estimates and assumptions as of the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates and those differences could be significant. The fund qualifies as an investment company under Topic 946 of Accounting Standards Codification of US GAAP.

Events or transactions occurring after the end of the fiscal period through the date that the financial statements were issued have been evaluated in the preparation of the financial statements. The following summarizes the significant accounting policies of the fund:

Security valuation. Investments are stated at value as of the scheduled close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), normally at 4:00 P.M., Eastern Time. In case of emergency or other disruption resulting in the NYSE not opening for trading or the NYSE closing at a time other than the regularly scheduled close, the net asset value (NAV) may be determined as of the regularly scheduled close of the NYSE pursuant to the fund's Valuation Policies and Procedures.

In order to value the securities, the fund uses the following valuation techniques: Equity securities, including exchange-traded or closed-end funds, are typically valued at the last sale price or official closing price on the exchange or principal market where the security trades. In the event there were no sales during the day or closing prices are not available, the securities are valued using the last available bid price. Investments by the fund in open-end mutual funds are valued at their respective NAVs each business day.

In certain instances, the Pricing Committee may determine to value equity securities using prices obtained from another exchange or market if trading on the exchange or market on which prices are typically obtained did not open for trading as scheduled, or if trading closed earlier than scheduled, and trading occurred as normal on another exchange or market.

Other portfolio securities and assets, for which reliable market quotations are not readily available, are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the fund's Pricing Committee following procedures established by the Board of Trustees. The frequency with which these fair valuation procedures are used cannot be predicted and fair value of securities may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a ready market for such securities existed.

The fund uses a three-tier hierarchy to prioritize the pricing assumptions, referred to as inputs, used in valuation techniques to measure fair value. Level 1 includes securities valued using quoted prices in active markets for identical securities, including registered investment companies. Level 2 includes securities valued using other significant observable inputs. Observable inputs may include quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates,

prepayment speeds and credit risk. Prices for securities valued using these inputs are received from independent pricing vendors and brokers and are based on an evaluation of the inputs described. Level 3 includes securities valued using significant unobservable inputs when market prices are not readily available or reliable, including the fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments. Factors used in determining value may include market or issuer specific events or trends, changes in interest rates and credit quality. The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risks associated with investing in those securities. Changes in valuation techniques and related inputs may result in transfers into or out of an assigned level within the disclosure hierarchy.

As of August 31, 2021, all investments are categorized as Level 1 under the hierarchy described above.

Real estate investment trusts. The fund may invest in real estate investment trusts (REITs). Distributions from REITs may be recorded as income and subsequently characterized by the REIT at the end of their fiscal year as a reduction of cost of investments and/or as a realized gain. As a result, the fund will estimate the components of distributions from these securities. Such estimates are revised when the actual components of the distributions are known.

Security transactions and related investment income. Investment security transactions are accounted for on a trade date plus one basis for daily NAV calculations. However, for financial reporting purposes, investment transactions are reported on trade date. Interest income is accrued as earned. Dividend income is recorded on ex-date, except for dividends of certain foreign securities where the dividend may not be known until after the ex-date. In those cases, dividend income, net of withholding taxes, is recorded when the fund becomes aware of the dividends. Non-cash dividends, if any, are recorded at the fair market value of the securities received. Gains and losses on securities sold are determined on the basis of identified cost and may include proceeds from litigation.

Securities lending. The fund may lend its securities to earn additional income. The fund receives collateral from the borrower in an amount not less than the market value of the loaned securities. The fund will invest its cash collateral in John Hancock Collateral Trust (JHCT), an affiliate of the fund, which has a floating NAV and is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as an investment company. JHCT invests in short-term money market investments. The fund will receive the benefit of any gains and bear any losses generated by JHCT with respect to the cash collateral.

The fund has the right to recall loaned securities on demand. If a borrower fails to return loaned securities when due, then the lending agent is responsible and indemnifies the fund for the lent securities. The lending agent uses the collateral received from the borrower to purchase replacement securities of the same issue, type, class and series of the loaned securities. If the value of the collateral is less than the purchase cost of replacement securities, the lending agent is responsible for satisfying the shortfall but only to the extent that the shortfall is not due to any decrease in the value of JHCT.

Although the risk of loss on securities lent is mitigated by receiving collateral from the borrower and through lending agent indemnification, the fund could experience a delay in recovering securities or could experience a lower than expected return if the borrower fails to return the securities on a timely basis. The fund receives compensation for lending its securities by retaining a portion of the return on the investment of the collateral and compensation from fees earned from borrowers of the securities. Securities lending income received by the fund is net of fees retained by the securities lending agent. Net income received from JHCT is a component of securities lending income as recorded on the Statement of operations. As of August 31, 2021, there were no securities on loan.

Overdraft. The fund may have the ability to borrow from banks for temporary or emergency purposes, including meeting redemption requests that otherwise might require the untimely sale of securities. Pursuant to the fund's custodian agreement, the custodian may loan money to the fund to make properly authorized payments. The fund

is obligated to repay the custodian for any overdraft, including any related costs or expenses. The custodian may have a lien, security interest or security entitlement in any fund property that is not otherwise segregated or pledged, to the extent of any overdraft, and to the maximum extent permitted by law.

Line of credit. The fund and other affiliated funds have entered into a syndicated line of credit agreement with Citibank, N.A. as the administrative agent that enables them to participate in a \$1 billion unsecured committed line of credit. Excluding commitments designated for a certain fund and subject to the needs of all other affiliated funds, the fund can borrow up to an aggregate commitment amount of \$750 million, subject to asset coverage and other limitations as specified in the agreement. Prior to June 24, 2021, the fund could borrow up to an aggregate commitment amount of \$850 million. A commitment fee payable at the end of each calendar quarter, based on the average daily unused portion of the line of credit, is charged to each participating fund based on a combination of fixed and asset-based allocations and is reflected in Other expenses on the Statement of operations. For the year ended August 31, 2021, the fund had no borrowings under the line of credit. Commitment fees for the year ended August 31, 2021 were \$8,586.

Expenses. Within the John Hancock group of funds complex, expenses that are directly attributable to an individual fund are allocated to such fund. Expenses that are not readily attributable to a specific fund are allocated among all funds in an equitable manner, taking into consideration, among other things, the nature and type of expense and the fund's relative net assets. Expense estimates are accrued in the period to which they relate and adjustments are made when actual amounts are known.

Class allocations. Income, common expenses and realized and unrealized gains (losses) are determined at the fund level and allocated daily to each class of shares based on the net assets of the class. Class-specific expenses, such as distribution and service fees, if any, and transfer agent fees, for all classes, are charged daily at the class level based on the net assets of each class and the specific expense rates applicable to each class.

Federal income taxes. The fund intends to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company by complying with the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and will not be subject to federal income tax on taxable income that is distributed to shareholders. Therefore, no federal income tax provision is required.

As of August 31, 2021, the fund had no uncertain tax positions that would require financial statement recognition, derecognition or disclosure. The fund's federal tax returns are subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service for a period of three years.

Distribution of income and gains. Distributions to shareholders from net investment income and net realized gains, if any, are recorded on the ex-date. The fund generally declares and pays dividends annually. Capital gain distributions, if any, are typically distributed annually.

The tax character of distributions for the years ended August 31, 2021 and 2020 was as follows:

	August 31, 2021	August 31, 2020
Long-term capital gains	\$23,954,477	—

Distributions paid by the fund with respect to each class of shares are calculated in the same manner, at the same time and in the same amount, except for the effect of class level expenses that may be applied differently to each class. As of August 31, 2021, the components of distributable earnings on a tax basis consisted of \$16,783,094 of undistributed ordinary income and \$117,731,864 of undistributed long-term capital gains.

Such distributions and distributable earnings, on a tax basis, are determined in conformity with income tax regulations, which may differ from US GAAP. Distributions in excess of tax basis earnings and profits, if any, are reported in the fund's financial statements as a return of capital.

Capital accounts within the financial statements are adjusted for permanent book-tax differences. These adjustments have no impact on net assets or the results of operations. Temporary book-tax differences, if any, will reverse in a subsequent period. Book-tax differences are primarily attributable to net operating losses and wash sale loss deferrals.

Note 3 — Guarantees and indemnifications

Under the Trust's organizational documents, its Officers and Trustees are indemnified against certain liabilities arising out of the performance of their duties to the Trust, including the fund. Additionally, in the normal course of business, the fund enters into contracts with service providers that contain general indemnification clauses. The fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown, as this would involve future claims that may be made against the fund that have not yet occurred. The risk of material loss from such claims is considered remote.

Note 4 — Fees and transactions with affiliates

John Hancock Investment Management LLC (the Advisor) serves as investment advisor for the fund. John Hancock Investment Management Distributors LLC (the Distributor), an affiliate of the Advisor, serves as principal underwriter of the fund. The Advisor and the Distributor are indirect, principally owned subsidiaries of Manulife Financial Corporation.

Management fee. The fund has an investment management agreement with the Advisor under which the fund pays a management fee to the Advisor equivalent on an annual basis to the sum of: a) 0.880% of the first \$300 million of the fund's average daily net assets; b) 0.850% of the next \$300 million of average daily net assets; c) 0.830% of the next \$300 million of average daily net assets; and d) 0.800% of the excess over \$900 million of average daily net assets. The Advisor has a subadvisory agreement with Redwood Investments, LLC. The fund is not responsible for payment of the subadvisory fees.

The Advisor has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fee and/or reimburse expenses for certain funds of the John Hancock group of funds complex, including the fund (the participating portfolios). This waiver is based upon aggregate net assets of all the participating portfolios. The amount of the reimbursement is calculated daily and allocated among all the participating portfolios in proportion to the daily net assets of each fund. During the year ended August 31, 2021, this waiver amounted to 0.01% of the fund's average daily net assets. This arrangement expires on July 31, 2023, unless renewed by mutual agreement of the fund and the Advisor based upon a determination that this is appropriate under the circumstances at that time.

For the year ended August 31, 2021, the expense reductions described above amounted to the following:

Class	Expense reduction	Class	Expense reduction
Class A	\$1,211	Class R6	\$6
Class C	24	Class NAV	54,068
Class I	50	Total	\$55,359

Expenses waived or reimbursed in the current fiscal period are not subject to recapture in future fiscal periods.

The investment management fees, including the impact of the waivers and reimbursements as described above, incurred for the year ended August 31, 2021, were equivalent to a net annual effective rate of 0.85% of the fund's average daily net assets.

Accounting and legal services. Pursuant to a service agreement, the fund reimburses the Advisor for all expenses associated with providing the administrative, financial, legal, compliance, accounting and recordkeeping services to the fund, including the preparation of all tax returns, periodic reports to shareholders and regulatory reports, among other services. These expenses are allocated to each share class based on its relative net assets at the time the expense was incurred. These accounting and legal services fees incurred, for the year ended August 31, 2021, amounted to an annual rate of 0.01% of the fund's average daily net assets.

Distribution and service plans. The fund has a distribution agreement with the Distributor. The fund has adopted distribution and service plans for certain classes as detailed below pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act, to pay the Distributor for services provided as the distributor of shares of the fund. The fund may pay up to the following contractual rates of distribution and service fees under these arrangements, expressed as an annual percentage of average daily net assets for each class of the fund's shares:

Class	Rule 12b-1 Fee
Class A	0.25%
Class C	1.00%

Sales charges. Class A shares are assessed up-front sales charges, which resulted in payments to the Distributor amounting to \$16,958 for the year ended August 31, 2021. Of this amount, \$2,619 was retained and used for printing prospectuses, advertising, sales literature and other purposes and \$14,339 was paid as sales commissions to broker-dealers.

Class A and Class C shares may be subject to contingent deferred sales charges (CDSCs). Certain Class A shares purchased, including those that are acquired through purchases of \$1 million or more, and redeemed within one year of purchase are subject to a 1.00% sales charge. Class C shares that are redeemed within one year of purchase are subject to a 1.00% CDSC. CDSCs are applied to the lesser of the current market value at the time of redemption or the original purchase cost of the shares being redeemed. Proceeds from CDSCs are used to compensate the Distributor for providing distribution-related services in connection with the sale of these shares. During the year ended August 31, 2021, there were no CDSCs received by the Distributor for Class A and Class C shares.

Transfer agent fees. The John Hancock group of funds has a complex-wide transfer agent agreement with John Hancock Signature Services, Inc. (Signature Services), an affiliate of the Advisor. The transfer agent fees paid to Signature Services are determined based on the cost to Signature Services (Signature Services Cost) of providing recordkeeping services. It also includes out-of-pocket expenses, including payments made to third-parties for recordkeeping services provided to their clients who invest in one or more John Hancock funds. In addition, Signature Services Cost may be reduced by certain fees that Signature Services receives in connection with retirement and small accounts. Signature Services Cost is calculated monthly and allocated, as applicable, to five categories of share classes: Retail Share and Institutional Share Classes of Non-Municipal Bond Funds, Class R6 Shares, Retirement Share Classes and Municipal Bond Share Classes. Within each of these categories, the applicable costs are allocated to the affected John Hancock affiliated funds and/or classes, based on the relative average daily net assets.

Class level expenses. Class level expenses for the year ended August 31, 2021 were as follows:

Class	Distribution and service fees	Transfer agent fees
Class A	\$34,894	\$16,068
Class C	2,786	322
Class I	—	682
Class R6	—	7
Total	\$37,680	\$17,079

Trustee expenses. The fund compensates each Trustee who is not an employee of the Advisor or its affiliates. The costs of paying Trustee compensation and expenses are allocated to the fund based on its net assets relative to other funds within the John Hancock group of funds complex.

Note 5 — Fund share transactions

Transactions in fund shares for the years ended August 31, 2021 and 2020 were as follows:

	Year Ended 8-31-21		Year Ended 8-31-20	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Class A shares				
Sold	783,748	\$18,904,291	363,753	\$6,008,130
Distributions reinvested	16,638	372,190	—	—
Repurchased	(350,959)	(8,640,787)	(196,390)	(3,182,425)
Net increase	449,427	\$10,635,694	167,363	\$2,825,705
Class C shares				
Sold	7,261	\$169,169	3,419	\$59,494
Distributions reinvested	340	7,442	—	—
Repurchased	(8,182)	(197,218)	(11,976)	(187,133)
Net decrease	(581)	\$(20,607)	(8,557)	\$(127,639)
Class I shares				
Sold	7,393	\$176,197	10,830	\$176,435
Distributions reinvested	999	22,483	—	—
Repurchased	(7,978)	(191,405)	(2,344)	(43,500)
Net increase	414	\$7,275	8,486	\$132,935
Class R6 shares				
Sold	94	\$2,339	39	\$650
Distributions reinvested	2	41	—	—
Repurchased	(56)	(1,412)	—	—
Net increase	40	\$968	39	\$650
Class NAV shares				
Sold	1,341,431	\$32,650,406	7,252,898	\$116,941,749
Distributions reinvested	1,041,460	23,547,407	—	—
Repurchased	(8,814,095)	(214,117,565)	(10,473,362)	(181,611,816)
Net decrease	(6,431,204)	\$(157,919,752)	(3,220,464)	\$(64,670,067)
Total net decrease	(5,981,904)	\$(147,296,422)	(3,053,133)	\$(61,838,416)

Affiliates of the fund owned 27%, 97% and 100% of shares of Class C, Class R6 and Class NAV, respectively, on August 31, 2021. Such concentration of shareholders' capital could have a material effect on the fund if such shareholders redeem from the fund.

Note 6 — Purchase and sale of securities

Purchases and sales of securities, other than short-term investments, amounted to \$419,076,253 and \$575,509,825, respectively, for the year ended August 31, 2021.

Note 7 — Industry or sector risk

The fund generally invests a large percentage of its assets in one or more particular industries or sectors of the economy. If a large percentage of the fund's assets are economically tied to a single or small number of industries or sectors of the economy, the fund will be less diversified than a more broadly diversified fund, and it may cause the fund to underperform if that industry or sector underperforms. In addition, focusing on a particular industry or sector may make the fund's NAV more volatile. Further, a fund that invests in particular industries or sectors is particularly susceptible to the impact of market, economic, regulatory and other factors affecting those industries or sectors.

Note 8 — Investment by affiliated funds

Certain investors in the fund are affiliated funds that are managed by the Advisor and its affiliates. The affiliated funds do not invest in the fund for the purpose of exercising management or control; however, this investment may represent a significant portion of the fund's net assets. At August 31, 2021, funds within the John Hancock group of funds complex held 96.7% of the fund's net assets. The following fund(s) had an affiliate ownership of 5% or more of the fund's net assets:

Portfolio	Affiliated Concentration
John Hancock Funds II Multimanager Lifestyle Growth Portfolio	29.0%
John Hancock Funds II Multimanager Lifestyle Balanced Portfolio	20.1%
John Hancock Funds II Multimanager Lifestyle Aggressive Portfolio	14.7%
John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust Managed Volatility Growth Portfolio	8.7%
John Hancock Funds II Multimanager Lifestyle Moderate Portfolio	5.0%

Note 9 — Investment in affiliated underlying funds

The fund may invest in affiliated underlying funds that are managed by the Advisor and its affiliates. Information regarding the fund's fiscal year to date purchases and sales of the affiliated underlying funds as well as income and capital gains earned by the fund, if any, is as follows:

Affiliate	Ending share amount	Beginning value	Cost of purchases	Proceeds from shares sold	Realized gain (loss)	Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	Dividends and distributions		Ending value
							Income distributions received	Capital gain distributions received	
John Hancock Collateral Trust*	—	\$32,357,257	\$94,731,635	\$(127,075,880)	\$25,576	\$(38,588)	\$59,186	—	—

* Refer to the Securities lending note within Note 2 for details regarding this investment.

Note 10 — Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

The novel COVID-19 disease has resulted in significant disruptions to global business activity. A widespread health crisis such as a global pandemic could cause substantial market volatility, exchange trading suspensions and closures, which may lead to less liquidity in certain instruments, industries, sectors or the markets generally, and may ultimately affect fund performance.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Trustees of John Hancock Funds II and Shareholders of John Hancock Small Cap Growth Fund

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the fund's investments, of John Hancock Small Cap Growth Fund (one of the funds constituting John Hancock Funds II, referred to hereafter as the "Fund") as of August 31, 2021, the related statement of operations for the year ended August 31, 2021, the statements of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period ended August 31, 2021, including the related notes, and the financial highlights for each of the periods indicated therein (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as of August 31, 2021, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period ended August 31, 2021 and the financial highlights for each of the periods indicated therein in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Fund's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Fund in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits of these financial statements in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of August 31, 2021 by correspondence with the custodian, transfer agent and brokers; when replies were not received from brokers, we performed other auditing procedures. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Boston, Massachusetts

October 12, 2021

We have served as the auditor of one or more investment companies in the John Hancock group of funds since 1988.

Tax information

(Unaudited)

For federal income tax purposes, the following information is furnished with respect to the distributions of the fund, if any, paid during its taxable year ended August 31, 2021.

The fund reports the maximum amount allowable of its net taxable income as eligible for the corporate dividends-received deduction.

The fund reports the maximum amount allowable of its net taxable income as qualified dividend income as provided in the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.

The fund reports the maximum amount allowable as Section 163(j) Interest Dividends.

The fund paid \$23,954,477 in long term capital gain dividends.

The fund reports the maximum amount allowable of its Section 199A dividends as defined in Proposed Treasury Regulation §1.199A-3(d).

Eligible shareholders will be mailed a 2021 Form 1099-DIV in early 2022. This will reflect the tax character of all distributions paid in calendar year 2021.

Please consult a tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of your investment in the fund.

EVALUATION OF ADVISORY AND SUBADVISORY AGREEMENTS BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This section describes the evaluation by the Board of Trustees (the Board) of John Hancock Funds II (the Trust) of the Advisory Agreement (the Advisory Agreement) with John Hancock Investment Management LLC (the Advisor) and the Subadvisory Agreement (the Subadvisory Agreement) with Redwood Investments, LLC (the Subadvisor), for John Hancock Small Cap Growth Fund (the fund). The Advisory Agreement and Subadvisory Agreement are collectively referred to as the Agreements. Prior to the June 22-24, 2021 telephonic¹ meeting at which the continuation of the Agreements were approved, the Board also discussed and considered information regarding the proposed continuation of the Agreements at the telephonic meeting held on May 25-26, 2021. The Trustees who are not “interested persons” of the Trust as defined by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”) (the “Independent Trustees”) also met separately to evaluate and discuss the information presented, including with counsel to the Independent Trustees and a third-party consulting firm.

Approval of Advisory and Subadvisory Agreements

At telephonic meetings held on June 22-24, 2021, the Board, including the Trustees who are not parties to any Agreement or considered to be interested persons of the Trust under the 1940 Act, reapproved for an annual period the continuation of the Advisory Agreement between the Trust and the Advisor and the Subadvisory Agreement between the Advisor and the Subadvisor with respect to the fund.

In considering the Advisory Agreement and the Subadvisory Agreement, the Board received in advance of the meetings a variety of materials relating to the fund, the Advisor and the Subadvisor, including comparative performance, fee and expense information for a peer group of similar funds prepared by an independent third-party provider of fund data, performance information for an applicable benchmark index; and, with respect to the Subadvisor, comparative performance information for comparably managed accounts, as applicable, and other information provided by the Advisor and the Subadvisor regarding the nature, extent and quality of services provided by the Advisor and the Subadvisor under their respective Agreements, as well as information regarding the Advisor’s revenues and costs of providing services to the fund and any compensation paid to affiliates of the Advisor. At the meetings at which the renewal of the Advisory Agreement and Subadvisory Agreement are considered, particular focus is given to information concerning fund performance, comparability of fees and total expenses, and profitability. However, the Board notes that the evaluation process with respect to the Advisor and the Subadvisor is an ongoing one. In this regard, the Board also took into account discussions with management and information provided to the Board (including its various committees) at prior meetings with respect to the services provided by the Advisor and the Subadvisor to the fund, including quarterly performance reports prepared by management containing reviews of investment results and prior presentations from the Subadvisor with respect to the fund. The information received and considered by the Board in connection with the May and June meetings and throughout the year was both written and oral. The Board also considered the nature, quality, and extent of non-advisory services, if any, to be provided to the fund by the Advisor’s affiliates, including distribution services. The Board considered the Advisory Agreement and the Subadvisory Agreement separately in the course of its review. In doing so, the Board noted the respective roles of the Advisor and Subadvisor in providing services to the fund.

¹ On June 19, 2020, as a result of health and safety measures put in place to combat the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) issued an exemptive order (the “Order”) pursuant to Sections 6(c) and 38(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), that temporarily exempts registered investment management companies from the in-person voting requirements under the 1940 Act, subject to certain requirements, including that votes taken pursuant to the Order are ratified at the next in-person meeting. The Board determined that reliance on the Order was necessary or appropriate due to the circumstances related to current or potential effects of COVID-19, and therefore the Board’s May and June meetings were held telephonically in reliance on the Order. This exemptive order supersedes, in part, a similar, earlier exemptive order issued by the SEC.

Throughout the process, the Board asked questions of and requested additional information from management. The Board is assisted by counsel for the Trust and the Independent Trustees are also separately assisted by independent legal counsel throughout the process. The Independent Trustees also received a memorandum from their independent legal counsel discussing the legal standards for their consideration of the proposed continuation of the Agreements and discussed the proposed continuation of the Agreements in private sessions with their independent legal counsel at which no representatives of management were present.

Approval of Advisory Agreement

In approving the Advisory Agreement with respect to the fund, the Board, including the Independent Trustees, considered a variety of factors, including those discussed below. The Board also considered other factors (including conditions and trends prevailing generally in the economy, the securities markets, and the industry) and did not treat any single factor as determinative, and each Trustee may have attributed different weights to different factors. The Board's conclusions may be based in part on its consideration of the advisory and subadvisory arrangements in prior years and on the Board's ongoing regular review of fund performance and operations throughout the year.

Nature, extent, and quality of services. Among the information received by the Board from the Advisor relating to the nature, extent, and quality of services provided to the fund, the Board reviewed information provided by the Advisor relating to its operations and personnel, descriptions of its organizational and management structure, and information regarding the Advisor's compliance and regulatory history, including its Form ADV. The Board also noted that on a regular basis it receives and reviews information from the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) regarding the fund's compliance policies and procedures established pursuant to Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act. The Board observed that the scope of services provided by the Advisor, and of the undertakings required of the Advisor in connection with those services, including maintaining and monitoring its own and the fund's compliance programs, risk management programs, liquidity management programs and cybersecurity programs, had expanded over time as a result of regulatory, market and other developments. The Board considered that the Advisor is responsible for the management of the day-to-day operations of the fund, including, but not limited to, general supervision of and coordination of the services provided by the Subadvisor, and is also responsible for monitoring and reviewing the activities of the Subadvisor and other third-party service providers. The Board also considered the significant risks assumed by the Advisor in connection with the services provided to the fund including entrepreneurial risk in sponsoring new funds and ongoing risks including investment, operational, enterprise, litigation, regulatory and compliance risks with respect to all funds.

In considering the nature, extent, and quality of the services provided by the Advisor, the Trustees also took into account their knowledge of the Advisor's management and the quality of the performance of the Advisor's duties, through Board meetings, discussions and reports during the preceding year and through each Trustee's experience as a Trustee of the Trust and of the other trusts in the John Hancock group of funds complex (the John Hancock Fund Complex).

In the course of their deliberations regarding the Advisory Agreement, the Board considered, among other things:

- (a) the skills and competency with which the Advisor has in the past managed the Trust's affairs and its subadvisory relationship, the Advisor's oversight and monitoring of the Subadvisor's investment performance and compliance programs, such as the Subadvisor's compliance with fund policies and objectives, review of brokerage matters, including with respect to trade allocation and best execution and the Advisor's timeliness in responding to performance issues;
- (b) the background, qualifications and skills of the Advisor's personnel;
- (c) the Advisor's compliance policies and procedures and its responsiveness to regulatory changes and fund industry developments;

- (d) the Advisor's administrative capabilities, including its ability to supervise the other service providers for the fund, as well as the Advisor's oversight of any securities lending activity, its monitoring of class action litigation and collection of class action settlements on behalf of the fund, and bringing loss recovery actions on behalf of the fund;
- (e) the financial condition of the Advisor and whether it has the financial wherewithal to provide a high level and quality of services to the fund;
- (f) the advisor's initiatives intended to improve various aspects of the Trust's operations and investor experience with the fund; and
- (g) the Advisor's reputation and experience in serving as an investment advisor to the Trust and the benefit to shareholders of investing in funds that are part of a family of funds offering a variety of investments.

The Board concluded that the Advisor may reasonably be expected to continue to provide a high quality of services under the Advisory Agreement with respect to the fund.

Investment performance. In considering the fund's performance, the Board noted that it reviews at its regularly scheduled meetings information about the fund's performance results. In connection with the consideration of the Advisory Agreement, the Board:

- (a) reviewed information prepared by management regarding the fund's performance;
- (b) considered the comparative performance of an applicable benchmark index;
- (c) considered the performance of comparable funds, if any, as included in the report prepared by an independent third-party provider of fund data; and
- (d) took into account the Advisor's analysis of the fund's performance and its plans and recommendations regarding the Trust's subadvisory arrangements generally.

The Board noted that while it found the data provided by the independent third-party generally useful it recognized its limitations, including in particular that the data may vary depending on the end date selected and the results of the performance comparisons may vary depending on the selection of the peer group. The Board noted that the fund outperformed its benchmark index and peer group median for the one-year period ending December 31, 2020 and underperformed its benchmark index and peer group median for the one-, three-, five-, and ten-year periods ended December 31, 2020. The Board took into account management's discussion of the factors that contributed to the fund's performance for the three-, five- and ten-year periods including the impact of past and current market conditions on the fund's strategy and management's outlook for the fund. The Board concluded that the fund's performance in part reflects that of the previous subadvisor. The Board noted that the fund's longer term performance in part reflects that of the previous subadvisor. The Board concluded that the fund's performance is being monitored and reasonably addressed, where appropriate.

Fees and expenses. The Board reviewed comparative information prepared by an independent third-party provider of mutual fund data, including, among other data, the fund's contractual and net management fees (and subadvisory fees, to the extent available) and total expenses as compared to similarly situated investment companies deemed to be comparable to the fund in light of the nature, extent and quality of the management and advisory and subadvisory services provided by the Advisor and the Subadvisor. The Board considered the fund's ranking within a smaller group of peer funds chosen by the independent third-party provider, as well as the fund's ranking within a broader group of funds. In comparing the fund's contractual and net management fees to those of comparable funds, the Board noted that such fees include both advisory and administrative costs. The Board noted that net management fees for the fund are higher than the peer group median and net total expenses are equal to the peer group median.

The Board took into account management's discussion of the fund's expenses, including the year-over-year decline in the fund's net expenses. The Board also took into account management's discussion with respect to the overall management fee and the fees of the Subadvisor, including the amount of the advisory fee retained by the Advisor after payment of the subadvisory fee, in each case in light of the services rendered for those amounts and the risks undertaken by the Advisor. The Board also noted that the Advisor pays the subadvisory fee, and that such fees are negotiated at arm's length with respect to the Subadvisor. In addition, the Board took into account that management had agreed to implement an overall fee waiver across the complex, including the fund, which is discussed further below. The Board also noted actions taken over the past several years to reduce the fund's operating expenses. The Board also noted that, in addition, the Advisor is currently waiving fees and/or reimbursing expenses with respect to the fund and that the fund has breakpoints in its contractual management fee schedule that reduces management fees as assets increase. The Board reviewed information provided by the Advisor concerning the investment advisory fee charged by the Advisor or one of its advisory affiliates to other clients (including other funds in the John Hancock Fund Complex) having similar investment mandates, if any. The Board considered any differences between the Advisor's and Subadvisor's services to the fund and the services they provide to other comparable clients or funds. The Board concluded that the advisory fee paid with respect to the fund is reasonable in light of the nature, extent and quality of the services provided to the fund under the Advisory Agreement.

Profitability/indirect benefits. In considering the costs of the services to be provided and the profits to be realized by the Advisor and its affiliates from the Advisor's relationship with the Trust, the Board:

- (a) reviewed financial information of the Advisor;
- (b) reviewed and considered information presented by the Advisor regarding the net profitability to the Advisor and its affiliates with respect to the fund;
- (c) received and reviewed profitability information with respect to the John Hancock Fund Complex as a whole and with respect to the fund;
- (d) received information with respect to the Advisor's allocation methodologies used in preparing the profitability data and considered that the Advisor hired an independent third-party consultant to provide an analysis of the Advisor's allocation methodologies;
- (e) considered that the John Hancock insurance companies that are affiliates of the Advisor, as shareholders of the Trust directly or through their separate accounts, receive certain tax credits or deductions relating to foreign taxes paid and dividends received by certain funds of the Trust and noted that these tax benefits, which are not available to participants in qualified retirement plans under applicable income tax law, are reflected in the profitability information reviewed by the Board;
- (f) considered that the Advisor also provides administrative services to the fund on a cost basis pursuant to an administrative services agreement;
- (g) noted that affiliates of the Advisor provide transfer agency services and distribution services to the fund, and that the fund's distributor also receives Rule 12b-1 payments to support distribution of the fund;
- (h) noted that the Advisor also derives reputational and other indirect benefits from providing advisory services to the fund;
- (i) noted that the subadvisory fee for the fund is paid by the Advisor and is negotiated at arm's length;
- (j) considered the Advisor's ongoing costs and expenditures necessary to improve services, meet new regulatory and compliance requirements, and adapt to other challenges impacting the fund industry; and

- (k) considered that the Advisor should be entitled to earn a reasonable level of profits in exchange for the level of services it provides to the fund and the risks that it assumes as Advisor, including entrepreneurial, operational, reputational, litigation and regulatory risk.

Based upon its review, the Board concluded that the level of profitability, if any, of the Advisor and its affiliates (including the Subadvisor) from their relationship with the fund was reasonable and not excessive.

Economies of scale. In considering the extent to which economies of scale would be realized as the fund grows and whether fee levels reflect these economies of scale for the benefit of fund shareholders, the Board:

- (a) considered that the Advisor has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fee for certain funds of the John Hancock Fund Complex, including the fund (the participating portfolios) or otherwise reimburse the expenses of the participating portfolios (the reimbursement). This waiver is based upon aggregate net assets of all the participating portfolios. The amount of the reimbursement is calculated daily and allocated among all the participating portfolios in proportion to the daily net assets of each fund;
- (b) reviewed the fund's advisory fee structure and concluded that: (i) the fund's fee structure contains breakpoints at the subadvisory fee level and that such breakpoints are reflected as breakpoints in the advisory fees for the fund; and (ii) although economies of scale cannot be measured with precision, these arrangements permit shareholders of the fund to benefit from economies of scale if the fund grows. The Board also took into account management's discussion of the fund's advisory fee structure; and the Board also considered the effect of the fund's growth in size on its performance and fees. The Board also noted that if the fund's assets increase over time, the fund may realize other economies of scale. The Board also considered the effect of the fund's growth in size on its performance and fees. The Board also noted that if the fund's assets increase over time, the fund may realize other economies of scale; and
- (c) the Board also considered the effect of the fund's growth in size on its performance and fees. The Board also noted that if the fund's assets increase over time, the fund may realize other economies of scale.

Approval of Subadvisory Agreement

In making its determination with respect to approval of the Subadvisory Agreement, the Board reviewed:

- (1) information relating to the Subadvisor's business, including current subadvisory services to the Trust (and other funds in the John Hancock Fund Complex);
- (2) the historical and current performance of the fund and comparative performance information relating to an applicable benchmark index and comparable funds;
- (3) the subadvisory fee for the fund, including any breakpoints, and to the extent available, comparable fee information prepared by an independent third party provider of fund data; and
- (4) information relating to the nature and scope of any material relationships and their significance to the Trust's Advisor and Subadvisor.

Nature, extent, and quality of services. With respect to the services provided by the Subadvisor, the Board received information provided to the Board by the Subadvisor, including the Subadvisor's Form ADV, as well as took into account information presented throughout the past year. The Board considered the Subadvisor's current level of staffing and its overall resources, as well as received information relating to the Subadvisor's compensation program. The Board reviewed the Subadvisor's history and investment experience, as well as information regarding the qualifications, background, and responsibilities of the Subadvisor's investment and compliance personnel who provide services to the fund. The Board also considered, among other things, the Subadvisor's compliance program

and any disciplinary history. The Board also considered the Subadvisor's risk assessment and monitoring process. The Board reviewed the Subadvisor's regulatory history, including whether it was involved in any regulatory actions or investigations as well as material litigation, and any settlements and amelioratory actions undertaken, as appropriate. The Board noted that the Advisor conducts regular, periodic reviews of the Subadvisor and its operations, including regarding investment processes and organizational and staffing matters. The Board also noted that the Trust's CCO and his staff conduct regular, periodic compliance reviews with the Subadvisor and present reports to the Independent Trustees regarding the same, which includes evaluating the regulatory compliance systems of the Subadvisor and procedures reasonably designed to assure compliance with the federal securities laws. The Board also took into account the financial condition of the Subadvisor.

The Board considered the Subadvisor's investment process and philosophy. The Board took into account that the Subadvisor's responsibilities include the development and maintenance of an investment program for the fund that is consistent with the fund's investment objective, the selection of investment securities and the placement of orders for the purchase and sale of such securities, as well as the implementation of compliance controls related to performance of these services. The Board also received information with respect to the Subadvisor's brokerage policies and practices, including with respect to best execution and soft dollars.

Subadvisor compensation. In considering the cost of services to be provided by the Subadvisor and the profitability to the Subadvisor of its relationship with the fund, the Board noted that the fees under the Subadvisory Agreement are paid by the Advisor and not the fund.

The Board also relied on the ability of the Advisor to negotiate the Subadvisory Agreement with the Subadvisor, which is not affiliated with the Advisor, and the fees thereunder at arm's length. As a result, the costs of the services to be provided and the profits to be realized by the Subadvisor from its relationship with the Trust were not a material factor in the Board's consideration of the Subadvisory Agreement.

The Board also received information regarding the nature and scope (including their significance to the Advisor and its affiliates and to the Subadvisor) of any material relationships with respect to the Subadvisor, which include arrangements in which the Subadvisor or its affiliates provide advisory, distribution, or management services in connection with financial products sponsored by the Advisor or its affiliates, and may include other registered investment companies, a 529 education savings plan, managed separate accounts and exempt group annuity contracts sold to qualified plans. The Board also received information and took into account any other potential conflicts of interest the Advisor might have in connection with the Subadvisory Agreement.

In addition, the Board considered other potential indirect benefits that the Subadvisor and its affiliates may receive from the Subadvisor's relationship with the fund, such as the opportunity to provide advisory services to additional funds in the John Hancock Fund Complex and reputational benefits.

Subadvisory fees. The Board considered that the fund pays an advisory fee to the Advisor and that, in turn, the Advisor pays a subadvisory fee to the Subadvisor. As noted above, the Board also considered the fund's subadvisory fees as compared to similarly situated investment companies deemed to be comparable to the fund as included in the report prepared by the independent third party provider of fund data, to the extent available. The Board noted that the limited size of the Lipper peer group was not sufficient for comparative purposes. The Board also took into account the subadvisory fees paid by the Advisor to the Subadvisor with respect to the fund and compared them to fees charged by the Subadvisor to manage other subadvised portfolios and portfolios not subject to regulation under the 1940 Act, as applicable.

Subadvisor performance. As noted above, the Board considered the fund's performance as compared to the fund's peer group median and the benchmark index and noted that the Board reviews information about the fund's performance results at its regularly scheduled meetings. The Board noted the Advisor's expertise and resources in monitoring the performance, investment style and risk-adjusted performance of the Subadvisor. The Board was mindful of the Advisor's focus on the Subadvisor's performance. The Board also noted the Subadvisor's long-term performance record for similar accounts, as applicable.

The Board's decision to approve the Subadvisory Agreement was based on a number of determinations, including the following:

- (1) the Subadvisor has extensive experience and demonstrated skills as a manager;
- (2) the performance of the fund is being monitored and reasonably addressed, where appropriate;
- (3) the subadvisory fee is reasonable in relation to the level and quality of services being provided under the Subadvisory Agreement; and
- (4) noted that the subadvisory fees are paid by the Advisor not the fund and that the subadvisory fee breakpoints are reflected as breakpoints in the advisory fees for the fund in order to permit shareholders to benefit from economies of scale if the fund grows.

Based on the Board's evaluation of all factors that the Board deemed to be material, including those factors described above, the Board, including the Independent Trustees, concluded that renewal of the Advisory Agreement and the Subadvisory Agreement would be in the best interest of the fund and its shareholders. Accordingly, the Board, and the Independent Trustees voting separately, approved the Advisory Agreement and Subadvisory Agreement for an additional one-year period.

STATEMENT REGARDING LIQUIDITY RISK MANAGEMENT

Operation of the Liquidity Risk Management Program

This section describes operation and effectiveness of the Liquidity Risk Management Program (LRMP) established in accordance with Rule 22e-4 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the Liquidity Rule). The Board of Trustees (the Board) of each Fund in the John Hancock Group of Funds (each a Fund and collectively, the Funds) that is subject to the requirements of the Liquidity Rule has appointed John Hancock Investment Management LLC and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (together, the Advisor) to serve as Administrator of the LRMP with respect to each of the Funds, including John Hancock Small Cap Growth Fund, subject to the oversight of the Board. In order to provide a mechanism and process to perform the functions necessary to administer the LRMP, the Advisor established the Liquidity Risk Management Committee (the Committee). The Fund's subadvisor, Redwood Investments, LLC (the Subadvisor) executes the day-to-day investment management and security-level activities of the Fund in accordance with the requirements of the LRMP, subject to the supervision of the Advisor and the Board.

The Committee holds monthly meetings to: (1) review the day-to-day operations of the LRMP; (2) review and approve month end liquidity classifications; (3) review quarterly testing and determinations, as applicable; and (4) review other LRMP related material. The Advisor also conducts daily, monthly, quarterly, and annual quantitative and qualitative assessments of each subadvisor to a Fund that is subject to the requirements of the Liquidity Rule and is a part of the LRMP to monitor investment performance issues, risks and trends. In addition, the Advisor may conduct ad-hoc reviews and meetings with subadvisors as issues and trends are identified, including potential liquidity and valuation issues. The Committee also monitors global events, such as the COVID-19 Coronavirus, that could impact the markets and liquidity of portfolio investments and their classifications.

The Committee provided the Board at a meeting held by videoconference on March 23-25, 2021 with a written report which addressed the Committee's assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the implementation and operation of the LRMP and any material changes to the LRMP. The report, which covered the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, included an assessment of important aspects of the LRMP including, but not limited to: (1) Highly Liquid Investment Minimum (HLIM) determination; (2) Compliance with the 15% limit on illiquid investments; (3) Reasonably Anticipated Trade Size (RATS) determination; (4) Security-level liquidity classifications; (5) Liquidity risk assessment; and (6) Operation of the Fund's Redemption-In-Kind Procedures. Additionally, the report included a discussion of notable changes and enhancements to the LRMP implemented during 2020.

The report also covered material liquidity matters which occurred or were reported during this period applicable to the Fund, if any, and the Committee's actions to address such matters.

The report stated, in relevant part, that during the period covered by the report:

- The Fund's investment strategy remained appropriate for an open-end fund structure;
- The Fund was able to meet requests for redemption without significant dilution of remaining investors' interests in the Fund;
- The Fund did not report any breaches of the 15% limit on illiquid investments that would require reporting to the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- The Fund continued to qualify as a Primarily Highly Liquid Fund under the Liquidity Rule and therefore is not required to establish a HLIM; and
- The Chief Compliance Officer's office performed audit testing of the LRMP which resulted in an assessment that the LRMP's control environment was deemed to be operating effectively and in compliance with the Board approved procedures.

Adequacy and Effectiveness

Based on the review and assessment conducted by the Committee, the Committee has determined that the LRMP has been implemented, and is operating in a manner that is adequate and effective at assessing and managing the liquidity risk of each Fund.

Trustees and Officers

This chart provides information about the Trustees and Officers who oversee your John Hancock fund. Officers elected by the Trustees manage the day-to-day operations of the fund and execute policies formulated by the Trustees.

Independent Trustees

Name, year of birth Position(s) held with Trust Principal occupation(s) and other directorships during past 5 years	Trustee of the Trust since¹	Number of John Hancock funds overseen by Trustee
Hassell H. McClellan, Born: 1945 <i>Trustee and Chairperson of the Board</i> Director/Trustee, Virtus Funds (2008-2020); Director, The Barnes Group (2010-2021); Associate Professor, The Wallace E. Carroll School of Management, Boston College (retired 2013). Trustee (since 2005) and Chairperson of the Board (since 2017) of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex.	2005	190
Charles L. Bardelis,² Born: 1941 <i>Trustee</i> Director, Island Commuter Corp. (marine transport). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 1988).	2005	190
James R. Boyle, Born: 1959 <i>Trustee</i> Chief Executive Officer, Foresters Financial (since 2018); Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Zillion Group, Inc. (formerly HealthFleet, Inc.) (healthcare) (2014-2018); Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Life Insurance Division of Genworth Financial, Inc. (insurance) (January 2014–July 2014); Senior Executive Vice President, Manulife Financial, President and Chief Executive Officer, John Hancock (1999–2012); Chairman and Director, John Hancock Investment Management LLC, John Hancock Investment Management Distributors LLC, and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (2005–2010). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (2005–2014 and since 2015).	2015	190
Peter S. Burgess,² Born: 1942 <i>Trustee</i> Consultant (financial, accounting, and auditing matters) (since 1999); Certified Public Accountant; Partner, Arthur Andersen (independent public accounting firm) (prior to 1999); Director, Lincoln Educational Services Corporation (2004-2021); Director, Symetra Financial Corporation (2010–2016); Director, PMA Capital Corporation (2004–2010). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2005).	2005	190
William H. Cunningham, Born: 1944 <i>Trustee</i> Professor, University of Texas, Austin, Texas (since 1971); former Chancellor, University of Texas System and former President of the University of Texas, Austin, Texas; Chairman (since 2009) and Director (since 2006), Lincoln National Corporation (insurance); Director, Southwest Airlines (since 2000); former Director, LIN Television (2009–2014). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 1986).	2012	190
Grace K. Fey, Born: 1946 <i>Trustee</i> Chief Executive Officer, Grace Fey Advisors (since 2007); Director and Executive Vice President, Frontier Capital Management Company (1988–2007); Director, Fiduciary Trust (since 2009). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2008).	2008	190

Independent Trustees (continued)

Name, year of birth Position(s) held with Trust Principal occupation(s) and other directorships during past 5 years	Trustee of the Trust since ¹	Number of John Hancock funds overseen by Trustee
Deborah C. Jackson, Born: 1952	2012	190
<i>Trustee</i>		
<p>President, Cambridge College, Cambridge, Massachusetts (since 2011); Board of Directors, Amwell Corporation (since 2020); Board of Directors, Massachusetts Women’s Forum (2018-2020); Board of Directors, National Association of Corporate Directors/New England (2015-2020); Board of Directors, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts (2014-2017); Chief Executive Officer, American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay (2002–2011); Board of Directors of Eastern Bank Corporation (since 2001); Board of Directors of Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation (since 2001); Board of Directors of American Student Assistance Corporation (1996–2009); Board of Directors of Boston Stock Exchange (2002–2008); Board of Directors of Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare (health benefits company) (2007–2011). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2008).</p>		
Steven R. Pruchansky, Born: 1944	2012	190
<i>Trustee and Vice Chairperson of the Board</i>		
<p>Managing Director, Pru Realty (since 2017); Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Greenscapes of Southwest Florida, Inc. (2014-2020); Director and President, Greenscapes of Southwest Florida, Inc. (until 2000); Member, Board of Advisors, First American Bank (until 2010); Managing Director, Jon James, LLC (real estate) (since 2000); Partner, Right Funding, LLC (2014-2017); Director, First Signature Bank & Trust Company (until 1991); Director, Mast Realty Trust (until 1994); President, Maxwell Building Corp. (until 1991). Trustee (since 1992), Chairperson of the Board (2011–2012), and Vice Chairperson of the Board (since 2012) of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex.</p>		
Frances G. Rathke,^{2,*} Born: 1960	2020	190
<i>Trustee</i>		
<p>Board Member, Oatly Group AB (plant-based drink company) (since 2021); Director, Northern New England Energy Corporation (since 2017); Director, Audit Committee Chair and Compensation Committee Member, Green Mountain Power Corporation (since 2016); Director, Treasurer and Finance & Audit Committee Chair, Flynn Center for Performing Arts (since 2016); Director, Audit Committee Chair and Compensation Committee Member, Planet Fitness (since 2016); Director, Citizen Cider, Inc. (high-end hard cider and hard seltzer company) (since 2016); Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Keurig Green Mountain, Inc. (2003-retired 2015); Independent Financial Consultant, Frances Rathke Consulting (strategic and financial consulting services) (2001-2003); Chief Financial Officer and Secretary, Ben & Jerry’s Homemade, Inc. (1989-2000, including prior positions); Senior Manager, Coopers & Lybrand, LLC (independent public accounting firm) (1982-1989). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2020).</p>		
Gregory A. Russo, Born: 1949	2012	190
<i>Trustee</i>		
<p>Director and Audit Committee Chairman (2012-2020), and Member, Audit Committee and Finance Committee (2011-2020), NCH Healthcare System, Inc. (holding company for multi-entity healthcare system); Director and Member (2012-2018) and Finance Committee Chairman (2014-2018), The Moorings, Inc. (nonprofit continuing care community); Vice Chairman, Risk & Regulatory Matters, KPMG LLP (KPMG) (2002–2006); Vice Chairman, Industrial Markets, KPMG (1998–2002); Chairman and Treasurer, Westchester County, New York, Chamber of Commerce (1986–1992); Director, Treasurer, and Chairman of Audit and Finance Committees, Putnam Hospital Center (1989–1995); Director and Chairman of Fundraising Campaign, United Way of Westchester and Putnam Counties, New York (1990–1995). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2008).</p>		

Non-Independent Trustees³

Name, year of birth Position(s) held with Trust Principal occupation(s) and other directorships during past 5 years	Trustee of the Trust since ¹	Number of John Hancock funds overseen by Trustee
Andrew G. Arnott, Born: 1971	2017	190

President and Non-Independent Trustee

Head of Wealth and Asset Management, United States and Europe, for John Hancock and Manulife (since 2018); Director and Executive Vice President, John Hancock Investment Management LLC (since 2005, including prior positions); Director and Executive Vice President, John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (since 2006, including prior positions); President, John Hancock Investment Management Distributors LLC (since 2004, including prior positions); President of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2007, including prior positions). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2017).

Marianne Harrison, Born: 1963	2018	190
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Non-Independent Trustee

President and CEO, John Hancock (since 2017); President and CEO, Manulife Canadian Division (2013–2017); Member, Board of Directors, Boston Medical Center (since 2021); Member, Board of Directors, CAE Inc. (since 2019); Member, Board of Directors, MA Competitive Partnership Board (since 2018); Member, Board of Directors, American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI) (since 2018); Member, Board of Directors, Communitech, an industry-led innovation center that fosters technology companies in Canada (2017–2019); Member, Board of Directors, Manulife Assurance Canada (2015–2017); Board Member, St. Mary's General Hospital Foundation (2014–2017); Member, Board of Directors, Manulife Bank of Canada (2013–2017); Member, Standing Committee of the Canadian Life & Health Assurance Association (2013–2017); Member, Board of Directors, John Hancock USA, John Hancock Life & Health, John Hancock New York (2012–2013). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2018).

Principal officers who are not Trustees

Name, year of birth Position(s) held with Trust Principal occupation(s) during past 5 years	Current Position(s) with the Trust since
Charles A. Rizzo, Born: 1957	2007

Chief Financial Officer

Vice President, John Hancock Financial Services (since 2008); Senior Vice President, John Hancock Investment Management LLC and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (since 2008); Chief Financial Officer of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2007).

Salvatore Schiavone, Born: 1965	2009
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Treasurer

Assistant Vice President, John Hancock Financial Services (since 2007); Vice President, John Hancock Investment Management LLC and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (since 2007); Treasurer of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2007, including prior positions).

Christopher (Kit) Sechler, Born: 1973	2018
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Secretary and Chief Legal Officer

Vice President and Deputy Chief Counsel, John Hancock Investment Management (since 2015); Assistant Vice President and Senior Counsel (2009–2015), John Hancock Investment Management; Assistant Secretary of John Hancock Investment Management LLC and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (since 2009); Chief Legal Officer and Secretary of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2009, including prior positions).

Principal officers who are not Trustees (continued)

Name, year of birth Position(s) held with Trust Principal occupation(s) during past 5 years	Current Position(s) with the Trust since
Trevor Swanberg, Born: 1979	2020

Chief Compliance Officer

Chief Compliance Officer, John Hancock Investment Management LLC and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (since 2020); Deputy Chief Compliance Officer, John Hancock Investment Management LLC and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (2019–2020); Assistant Chief Compliance Officer, John Hancock Investment Management LLC and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (2016–2019); Vice President, State Street Global Advisors (2015–2016); Chief Compliance Officer of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2016, including prior positions).

The business address for all Trustees and Officers is 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116-5023.

The Statement of Additional Information of the fund includes additional information about members of the Board of Trustees of the Trust and is available without charge, upon request, by calling 800-225-5291.

- ¹ Each Trustee holds office until his or her successor is elected and qualified, or until the Trustee's death, retirement, resignation, or removal. Mr. Boyle has served as Trustee at various times prior to the date listed in the table.
- ² Member of the Audit Committee.
- ³ The Trustee is a Non-Independent Trustee due to current or former positions with the Advisor and certain affiliates.
- ^{*} Appointed as Independent Trustee effective as of September 15, 2020.

More information

Trustees

Hassell H. McClellan, *Chairperson*
Steven R. Pruchansky, *Vice Chairperson*
Andrew G. Arnott[†]
Charles L. Bardelis*
James R. Boyle
Peter S. Burgess*
William H. Cunningham
Grace K. Fey
Marianne Harrison[†]
Deborah C. Jackson
Frances G. Rathke^{*,1}
Gregory A. Russo

Officers

Andrew G. Arnott
President
Charles A. Rizzo
Chief Financial Officer
Salvatore Schiavone
Treasurer
Christopher (Kit) Sechler
Secretary and Chief Legal Officer
Trevor Swanberg
Chief Compliance Officer

* Member of the Audit Committee

[†] Non-Independent Trustee

¹ Appointed as Independent Trustee effective as of September 15, 2020

The fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, as well as the fund proxy voting record for the most recent twelve-month period ended June 30, are available free of charge on the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) website at sec.gov or on our website.

All of the fund's holdings as of the end of the third month of every fiscal quarter are filed with the SEC on Form N-PORT within 60 days of the end of the fiscal quarter. The fund's Form N-PORT filings are available on our website and the SEC's website, sec.gov.

We make this information on your fund, as well as **monthly portfolio holdings**, and other fund details available on our website at jhinvestments.com or by calling 800-225-5291.

You can also contact us:

800-225-5291
jhinvestments.com

Regular mail:
John Hancock Signature Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 219909
Kansas City, MO 64121-9909

Express mail:
John Hancock Signature Services, Inc.
430 W 7th Street
Suite 219909
Kansas City, MO 64105-1407

Investment advisor

John Hancock Investment Management LLC

Subadvisor

Redwood Investments, LLC

Portfolio Managers

Alexi Makkas
Michael J. Mufson, CFA
Ezra S. Samet, CFA
Jennifer K. Silver, CFA
Anthony E. Sutton

Principal distributor

John Hancock Investment Management
Distributors LLC

Custodian

State Street Bank and Trust Company

Transfer agent

John Hancock Signature Services, Inc.

Legal counsel

K&L Gates LLP

Independent registered public accounting firm

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

John Hancock family of funds

U.S. EQUITY FUNDS

Blue Chip Growth
Classic Value
Disciplined Value
Disciplined Value Mid Cap
Equity Income
Financial Industries
Fundamental All Cap Core
Fundamental Large Cap Core
New Opportunities
Regional Bank
Small Cap Core
Small Cap Growth
Small Cap Value
U.S. Global Leaders Growth
U.S. Growth

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUNDS

Disciplined Value International
Emerging Markets
Emerging Markets Equity
Fundamental Global Franchise
Global Equity
Global Shareholder Yield
Global Thematic Opportunities
International Dynamic Growth
International Growth
International Small Company

FIXED-INCOME FUNDS

Bond
California Tax-Free Income
Emerging Markets Debt
Floating Rate Income
Government Income
High Yield
High Yield Municipal Bond
Income
Investment Grade Bond
Money Market
Opportunistic Fixed Income
Short Duration Bond
Short Duration Credit Opportunities
Strategic Income Opportunities
Tax-Free Bond

ALTERNATIVE FUNDS

Absolute Return Currency
Alternative Asset Allocation
Diversified Macro
Infrastructure
Multi-Asset Absolute Return
Real Estate Securities
Seaport Long/Short

A fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses should be considered carefully before investing. The prospectus contains this and other important information about the fund. To obtain a prospectus, contact your financial professional, call John Hancock Investments at 800-225-5291, or visit our website at jhinvestments.com. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing or sending money.

ASSET ALLOCATION/TARGET DATE FUNDS

Balanced

Multi-Asset High Income

Multi-Index Lifetime Portfolios

Multi-Index Preservation Portfolios

Multimanager Lifestyle Portfolios

Multimanager Lifetime Portfolios

Retirement Income 2040

EXCHANGE-TRADED FUNDS

John Hancock Corporate Bond ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Consumer Discretionary ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Consumer Staples ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Developed International ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Emerging Markets ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Energy ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Financials ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Healthcare ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Industrials ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Large Cap ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Materials ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Media and

Communications ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Mid Cap ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Small Cap ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Technology ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Utilities ETF

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE FUNDS

ESG Core Bond

ESG International Equity

ESG Large Cap Core

CLOSED-END FUNDS

Financial Opportunities

Hedged Equity & Income

Income Securities Trust

Investors Trust

Preferred Income

Preferred Income II

Preferred Income III

Premium Dividend

Tax-Advantaged Dividend Income

Tax-Advantaged Global Shareholder Yield

John Hancock ETF shares are bought and sold at market price (not NAV), and are not individually redeemed from the fund. Brokerage commissions will reduce returns.

John Hancock ETFs are distributed by Foreside Fund Services, LLC, and are subadvised by Manulife Investment Management (US) LLC or Dimensional Fund Advisors LP. Foreside is not affiliated with John Hancock Investment Management Distributors LLC, Manulife Investment Management (US) LLC or Dimensional Fund Advisors LP.

Dimensional Fund Advisors LP receives compensation from John Hancock in connection with licensing rights to the John Hancock Dimensional indexes. Dimensional Fund Advisors LP does not sponsor, endorse, or sell, and makes no representation as to the advisability of investing in, John Hancock Multifactor ETFs.

A trusted brand

John Hancock Investment Management is a premier asset manager with a heritage of financial stewardship dating back to 1862. Helping our shareholders pursue their financial goals is at the core of everything we do. It's why we support the role of professional financial advice and operate with the highest standards of conduct and integrity.

A better way to invest

We serve investors globally through a unique multimanager approach: We search the world to find proven portfolio teams with specialized expertise for every strategy we offer, then we apply robust investment oversight to ensure they continue to meet our uncompromising standards and serve the best interests of our shareholders.

Results for investors

Our unique approach to asset management enables us to provide a diverse set of investments backed by some of the world's best managers, along with strong risk-adjusted returns across asset classes.

"A trusted brand" is based on a survey of 6,651 respondents conducted by Medallia between 3/18/20 and 5/13/20.

 Investment Management

John Hancock Investment Management Distributors LLC, Member FINRA, SIPC
200 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116-5010, 800-225-5291,
jhinvestments.com

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This report is for the information of the shareholders of John Hancock Small Cap Growth Fund. It is not authorized for distribution to prospective investors unless preceded or accompanied by a prospectus.

A company of  Manulife Investment Management