

# Zacks Small-Cap Core Fund



★★★ Overall Morningstar Rating™

Institutional Shares and Investor Shares for the period ended 6/30/2025, among 575 Small Blend Funds. The Overall Morningstar Rating for the fund is derived from a weighted average of the risk-adjusted performance figure associated with its 3-, 5-, and 10-Year Morningstar Rating metrics. These ratings were awarded by Morningstar on 7/1/2025. We do not compensate Morningstar to obtain this rating. However, we pay compensation to Morningstar to use their logo in connection with advertising this rating. Please see full disclosure at end of this document.

**Objective:** The investment objective of the Zacks Small-Cap Core Fund is capital appreciation.

**Portfolio Manager**  
**Mitch Zacks**

- 25 years with Zacks Investment Management
- B.A. Economics - Yale University
- MBA Analytic Finance - University of Chicago

**Portfolio Analyst**  
**Prasanth Sankar**

- 15 years with Zacks Investment Management
- B.A. Indian Institute of Technology
- Ph.D University of Illinois

**Fund Benchmark**

Russell 2000 measures performance of the smallest 2000 U.S. companies

**Maximum Sales Charge**

No Load

**Fund Symbol and CUSIP**

Institutional ZSCIX 46141P313  
Investor ZSCCX 461418428

Portfolio characteristics data are based on the equivalent exposure of unaudited net assets as of 6/30/25. Equivalent exposure measures how a portfolio's value may change due to price changes in an asset held either directly or, in the case of a derivative contract, indirectly. The market value of the holding may differ. The portfolio is actively managed, and current holdings may be different.

- NOT FDIC INSURED
- MAY LOSE VALUE
- NO BANK GUARANTEE

**Annual Returns**  
as of 6/30/25

	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception
ZSCIX	-0.32%	3.40%	10.93%	14.16%	7.55%	9.99%
ZSCCX	-0.46%	3.21%	10.01%	13.47%	6.89%	9.41%
Russell 2000 Index	-2.47%	6.22%	8.39%	8.58%	5.66%	7.15%

**Annualized Return Since Inception (6/30/2011)**

	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception (6/30/2011)
ZSCIX	-0.32%	3.40%	10.93%	14.16%	7.55%	9.99%
ZSCCX	-0.46%	3.21%	10.01%	13.47%	6.89%	9.41%
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Performance data shown represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value fluctuate so your shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than the original cost; current performance may be lower or higher than quoted. Investors may obtain performance information current to the most recent month-end by calling 1-888-453-4003.

The performance returns reflect a fee waiver in effect (see below) and without the fee waiver, returns would have been reduced. Shares redeemed within 30 days of purchase may be subject to a 2.00% redemption fee. Please see the Fund's prospectus for more information.

**Zacks Small-Cap Core Methodology**

```
graph TD; A[Universe Selection  
• Russell 2000 Universe] --> B[Quantitative Screen  
• Apply Zacks Performance Rank Model]; B --> C[Quality Selection  
• Removal of Riskiest Positions]; C --> D[Portfolio Construction  
• 80 to 100 positions]; D --> E[Daily Portfolio Review];
```

**Cumulative Returns**  
as of 6/30/25

	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception
ZSCIX	-0.32%	3.40%	10.93%	14.16%	7.55%	9.99%
ZSCCX	-0.46%	3.21%	10.01%	13.47%	6.89%	9.41%
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## Glossary

**Alpha** is a measure of the portfolio's risk adjusted performance. When compared to the portfolio's beta, a positive alpha indicates better-than-expected portfolio performance and a negative alpha worse than-expected portfolio performance.

**Beta** is a measure of the volatility of a portfolio relative to the overall market. A beta less than 1.0 indicates lower risk than the market; a beta greater than 1.0 indicates higher risk than the market. It is most reliable as a risk measure when the return fluctuations of the portfolio are highly correlated with the return fluctuations of the index chosen to represent the market.

**Standard deviation** is an indicator of the portfolio's total return volatility, which is based on a minimum of 36 monthly returns. The larger the portfolio's standard deviation, the greater the portfolio's volatility.

**Sharpe Ratio** is calculated by subtracting the risk-free rate of return (10-year U.S. Treasury bond) from the portfolio's return and dividing this value by the portfolio's standard deviation. Put simply, the Sharpe ratio tells us if the portfolio returns are due to investment decisions or a result of excess risk. The greater the Sharpe ratio, the better risk-adjusted performance has been.

**Market capitalization** is the value of a corporation as determined by the market price of its issued and outstanding common stock. It is calculated by multiplying the number of outstanding shares by the current market price of a share.

**Price/book ratio (P/B)** is the ratio of a stock's price to its book value per share. **Price/earnings ratio (P/E)** is the price of a stock divided by its earnings per share.

**Turnover ratio** is the percentage of a portfolio's assets that have changed over the course of a year. It is calculated by dividing the average assets during the period by the lesser of the value of purchases and the value of sales during the same period.



## Zacks Funds

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The Zacks Small-Cap Core Fund is distributed by Northern Lights Distributors, LLC. ("NLD")

## CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL RETURNS (%)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Institutional share class	6.03%	18.21%	-11.62%	32.97%	-1.16%	21.54%	-11.95%	14.39%	22.00%
Investor share class	5.85%	17.92%	-11.85%	32.62%	-1.42%	21.20%	-12.16%	14.15%	21.59%
Russell 2000 Index	10.02%	16.93%	-20.44%	14.82%	19.96%	25.53%	-11.01%	14.65%	21.31%

## TOP TEN HOLDINGS

Company Name	Ticker	Weight
Carpenter Tech	CRS	2.32%
Itron Inc	ITRI	2.25%
Fed Signal Cp	FSS	2.20%
Comfort Systems	FIX	2.19%
Spx Tech Inc	SPXC	2.14%
Hbt Financial	HBT	2.00%
First Source Cp	SRCE	1.93%
Bank Of Nt Butr	NTB	1.92%
Alexandr&Baldwn	ALEX	1.92%
Olo Inc	OLO	1.91%

## MARKET CAPITALIZATION

Small Cap	80.46%
Mid Cap	19.54%
Large Cap	0.00%

## FUND EXPENSES

<b>Institutional (ZSCIX)</b>	
Gross Expense Ratio	1.46%
Net Expense Ratio	1.14%*
<b>Investor (ZSCCX)</b>	
Gross Expense Ratio	1.71%
Net Expense Ratio	1.39%*

**Gross Expense Ratio** is the fund's total operating expense ratio from the fund's most recent prospectus.

**Net Expense Ratio** reflects the reduction of expenses from fee waivers and reimbursements. Elimination of these reductions will result in higher expenses and lower performance.

\* The Fund's advisor has contractually agreed to waive its fees and/or pay for operating expenses of the Fund to ensure that total annual fund operating expenses (excluding any taxes, leverage interest, brokerage commissions, dividend and interest expenses on short sales, acquired fund fees and expenses (as determined in accordance with Form N-1A), expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, and extraordinary expenses such as litigation expenses) do not exceed 1.39%, and 1.14% of the average daily net assets of the Investor Class Shares, and Institutional Class Shares of the Fund, respectively. This agreement is in effect until April 1, 2026 and it may be terminated before that date only by the Trust's Board of Trustees. The Fund's advisor is permitted to seek reimbursement from the Fund, subject to certain limitations, of fees waived or payments made to the Fund for a period ending three full fiscal years from the date of the waiver or payment. This reimbursement may be requested from the Fund if the reimbursement will not cause the Fund's annual expense ratio to exceed the lesser of (a) the expense limitation in effect at the time such fees were waived or payments made, or (b) the expense limitation in effect at the time of the reimbursement.

**You should consider the Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. For a Summary Prospectus and/or Statutory Prospectus which contains this and other information about the Fund, please visit [www.zacksfunds.com](http://www.zacksfunds.com) or call 1-888-453-4003. Please read the Summary Prospectus and/or Statutory Prospectus carefully before investing.**

## FUND DATA

Commencement Date	6/30/2011
Net Assets	28,525,406.06
Number of Issues	100
Market Cap (Avg)	3,137.08
Price/Book	2.12
Price/Earnings	23.87
Turnover	135.00%

## RISK MEASURES VS. BENCHMARK

	ZSCIX	ZSCCX	Russell 2000
Alpha	1.75%	1.53%	0.00%
Beta	0.91	0.91	1.00
Standard Deviation	18.85%	18.85%	19.71%
Sharpe Ratio	0.43	0.42	0.36

## IMPORTANT RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The value of the securities held by the Fund may fall due to general market and economic conditions. The securities of small-cap companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements and may have lower trading volumes than securities of larger-sized companies. Although the Fund will limit its investment in securities of foreign issuers to ADRs and Canadian issuers, the Fund's investments in non-U.S. issuers may involve unique risks compared to investing in securities of U.S. issuers. Adverse political, economic or social developments could undermine the value of the Fund's investments or prevent the Fund from realizing the full value of its investments. Dividend payments the Fund receives in respect of its portfolio securities can vary widely over the short and long term.

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

Investor and Institutional shares of the Zacks Small Cap Core Fund were rated against 398 U.S.-domiciled Small Cap Funds over the 10-year period, 554 for the 5-year period, and 575 for the 3-year period. Institutional Shares: The fund was rated 3 stars for the 3-year, 4 stars for the 5-year, and 3 stars for the 10-year period. Investor shares: The fund was rated 3 stars for the 3-year, 4 stars for the 5-year, and 3 stars for the 10-year period ending June 30, 2025. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Zacks Investment Management is not affiliated with Northern Lights Distributors, LLC.