

Janus Henderson Research Portfolio

Ticker: JAGRX Institutional Shares

SUMMARY PROSPECTUS DATED APRIL 30, 2021

Before you invest, you may want to review the Portfolio's Prospectus, which contains more information about the Portfolio and its risks. You can find the Portfolio's Prospectus, reports to shareholders, and other information about the Portfolio online at janushenderson.com/VIT. You can also get this information at no cost by calling a Janus Henderson representative at 1-877-335-2687 or by sending an email request to prospectusrequest@janushenderson.com.

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

Janus Henderson Research Portfolio ("Research Portfolio") seeks long-term growth of capital.

FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE PORTFOLIO

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold Shares of the Portfolio. Owners of variable insurance contracts that invest in the Shares should refer to the variable insurance contract prospectus for a description of fees and expenses, as the following table and examples do not reflect deductions at the separate account level or contract level for any charges that may be incurred under a contract. Inclusion of these charges would increase the fees and expenses described below.

ANNUAL FUND OPERATING EXPENSES

(expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

Management Fees ⁽¹⁾	0.50%
Other Expenses	0.10%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses	0.60%

(1) This fee may adjust up or down monthly based on the Portfolio's performance relative to its benchmark index over the performance measurement period. For more information regarding performance-based advisory fees, refer to "Management Expenses" in the Portfolio's Prospectus.

EXAMPLE:

The Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Portfolio with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Portfolio for the time periods indicated, reinvest all dividends and distributions, and then redeem all of your Shares at the end of each period. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Portfolio's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Institutional Shares	\$ 61	\$ 192	\$ 335	\$ 750

Portfolio Turnover: The Portfolio pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Portfolio's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Portfolio's turnover rate was 33% of the average value of its portfolio.

PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

The Portfolio pursues its investment objective by investing primarily in common stocks selected for their growth potential. The Portfolio may invest in companies of any size, from larger, well-established companies to smaller, emerging growth companies.

Janus Capital's equity research analysts, overseen by the Portfolio Oversight Team led by Janus Capital's Director of Research Matthew Peron (the "Central Research Team"), select investments for the Portfolio that represent the Central Research Team's high-conviction investment ideas in all market capitalizations and styles. The Central Research Team, comprised of sector specialists, conducts fundamental analysis with a focus on "bottom-up" research, quantitative modeling, and valuation analysis. Using this research process, analysts rate their stocks based upon attractiveness. Stocks considered to be attractive may have all or some of the following characteristics: (i) good and preferably growing free cash flow, (ii) strong and defensible market position, (iii) healthy risk/return profile, (iv) exemplary governance, and (v) attractive valuation. Analysts bring their high-conviction ideas to their respective sector teams. Sector teams compare the appreciation and risk potential of

each of the team's high-conviction ideas and construct a sector portfolio that is intended to maximize the best risk-reward opportunities. Although the Central Research Team may find high-conviction investment ideas anywhere in the world, the Central Research Team emphasizes investments in securities of U.S.-based issuers.

Positions may be sold when, among other things, there is no longer high conviction in the return potential of the investment, if the risk characteristics have caused a re-evaluation of the opportunity, or if the investment thesis for owning a position has changed. This may occur if the stock has appreciated and reflects the anticipated value, if another company represents a better risk-reward opportunity, or if the investment's fundamental characteristics deteriorate. Securities may also be sold from the portfolio to rebalance sector weightings.

Mr. Peron oversees the investment process and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Portfolio. It is expected that the Portfolio will be broadly diversified among a variety of industry sectors. The Portfolio intends to be fully invested under normal circumstances. However, under unusual circumstances, if the Central Research Team does not have high conviction in enough investment opportunities, the Portfolio's uninvested assets may be held in cash or similar instruments.

The Portfolio may lend portfolio securities on a short-term or long-term basis, in an amount equal to up to one-third of its total assets as determined at the time of the loan origination.

PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT RISKS

The biggest risk is that the Portfolio's returns will vary, and you could lose money. The Portfolio is designed for long-term investors seeking an equity portfolio, including common stocks. Common stocks tend to be more volatile than many other investment choices.

Market Risk. The value of the Portfolio's holdings may decrease if the value of an individual company or security, or multiple companies or securities, in the Portfolio decreases or if the investment personnel's belief about a company's intrinsic worth is incorrect. Further, regardless of how well individual companies or securities perform, the value of the Portfolio's holdings could also decrease if there are deteriorating economic or market conditions. It is important to understand that the value of your investment may fall, sometimes sharply, in response to changes in the market, and you could lose money. Market risk may affect a single issuer, industry, economic sector, or the market as a whole. Market risk may be magnified if certain social, political, economic, and other conditions and events (such as terrorism, conflicts, social unrest, natural disasters, epidemics and pandemics, including COVID-19) adversely interrupt the global economy and financial markets.

Growth Securities Risk. The Portfolio invests in companies that the investment personnel believe have growth potential. Securities of companies perceived to be "growth" companies may be more volatile than other stocks and may involve special risks. If the investment personnel's perception of a company's growth potential is not realized, the securities purchased may not perform as expected, reducing the Portfolio's returns. In addition, because different types of stocks tend to shift in and out of favor depending on market and economic conditions, "growth" stocks may perform differently from the market as a whole and other types of securities. The Portfolio's Central Research Team compares and broadly matches the Portfolio's sector weights to those of a growth-based index. If growth stocks are out of favor, sectors that are larger in a growth index may underperform, leading to Portfolio underperformance relative to indices less biased toward growth stocks.

Mid-Sized Companies Risk. The Portfolio's investments in securities issued by mid-sized companies may involve greater risks than are customarily associated with larger, more established companies. Securities issued by mid-sized companies tend to be more volatile than securities issued by larger or more established companies and may underperform as compared to the securities of larger or more established companies.

Industry and Sector Risk. Although the Portfolio does not concentrate its investments in specific industries or industry sectors, it may have a significant portion of its assets invested in securities of companies conducting similar business, or business within the same economic sector. Companies in the same industry or economic sector may be similarly affected by economic or market events, making the Portfolio more vulnerable to unfavorable developments than funds that invest more broadly. As the Portfolio's holdings become more concentrated, the Portfolio is less able to spread risk and potentially reduce the risk of loss and volatility. In addition, the Portfolio may be overweight or underweight in certain industries or sectors relative to its benchmark index, which may cause the Portfolio's performance to be more or less sensitive to developments affecting those sectors.

Management Risk. The Portfolio is an actively managed investment portfolio and is therefore subject to the risk that the investment strategies employed for the Portfolio may fail to produce the intended results. The Portfolio may underperform its benchmark index or other mutual funds with similar investment objectives.

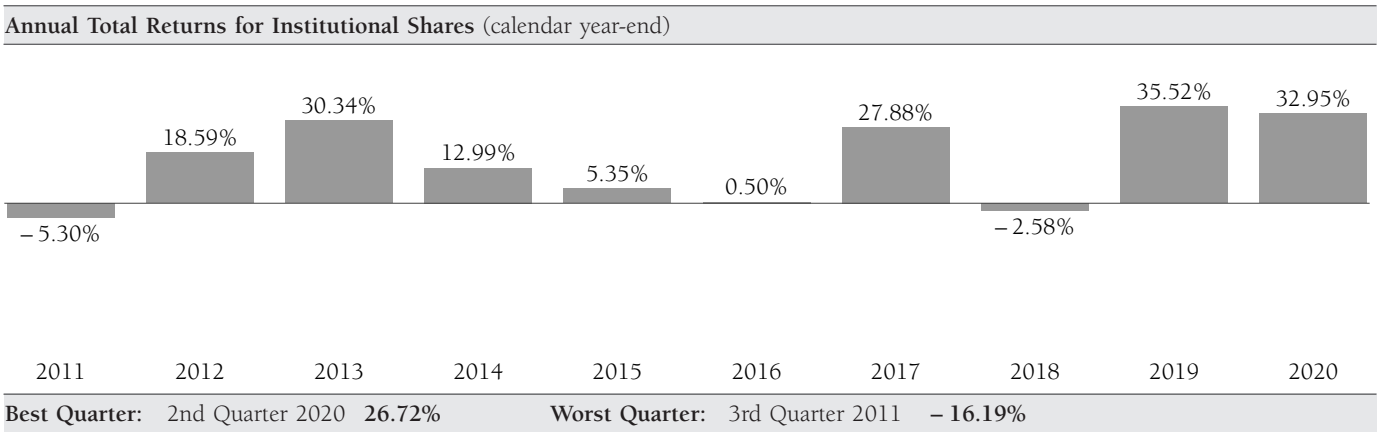
Securities Lending Risk. The Portfolio may seek to earn additional income through lending its securities to certain qualified broker-dealers and institutions. There is the risk that when portfolio securities are lent, the securities may not be returned on a timely basis, and the Portfolio may experience delays and costs in recovering the security or gaining access to the collateral provided to the Portfolio to collateralize the loan. If the Portfolio is unable to recover a security on loan, the Portfolio may use the collateral to purchase replacement securities in the market. There is a risk that the value of the collateral could decrease below the cost of the replacement security by the time the replacement investment is made, resulting in a loss to the Portfolio.

An investment in the Portfolio is not a bank deposit and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The following information provides some indication of the risks of investing in the Portfolio by showing how the Portfolio's performance has varied over time. The bar chart depicts the change in performance from year to year during the periods indicated, but does not include charges or expenses attributable to any insurance product, which would lower the performance illustrated. The Portfolio does not impose any sales or other charges that would affect total return computations. Total return figures include the effect of the Portfolio's expenses. The table compares the average annual returns for the Institutional Shares of the Portfolio for the periods indicated to broad-based securities market indices. All figures assume reinvestment of dividends and distributions.

The Portfolio's past performance does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future. Updated performance information is available at janushenderson.com/VITperformance or by calling 1-877-335-2687.



Average Annual Total Returns (periods ended 12/31/20)

	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception (9/13/93)
Research Portfolio				
Institutional Shares	32.95%	17.67%	14.67%	9.74%
Russell 1000® Growth Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)	38.49%	21.00%	17.21%	10.83%
S&P 500® Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)	18.40%	15.22%	13.88%	10.12%

The Portfolio's primary benchmark index is the Russell 1000 Growth Index. The Portfolio also compares its performance to the S&P 500 Index. The Russell 1000 Growth Index is used to calculate the Portfolio's performance fee adjustment. The indices are described below.

- The Russell 1000 Growth Index measures the performance of those Russell 1000 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.
- The S&P 500 Index is a commonly recognized, market capitalization-weighted index of 500 widely held equity securities, designed to measure broad U.S. equity performance.

MANAGEMENT

Investment Adviser: Janus Capital Management LLC

Portfolio Management: **Matthew Peron** is Janus Capital's Director of Research and Executive Vice President of the Portfolio, and has provided general oversight of the Central Research Team since April 2020.

PURCHASE AND SALE OF PORTFOLIO SHARES

Purchases of Shares may be made only by the separate accounts of insurance companies for the purpose of funding variable insurance contracts or by certain qualified retirement plans. Redemptions, like purchases, may be effected only through the separate accounts of participating insurance companies or through qualified retirement plans. Requests are duly processed at the NAV next calculated after your order is received in good order by the Portfolio or its agents. Refer to the appropriate separate account prospectus or plan documents for details.

TAX INFORMATION

Because Shares of the Portfolio may be purchased only through variable insurance contracts and certain qualified retirement plans, it is anticipated that any income dividends or net capital gains distributions made by the Portfolio will be exempt from current federal income taxation if left to accumulate within the variable insurance contract or qualified retirement plan. The federal income tax status of your investment depends on the features of your qualified retirement plan or variable insurance contract.

PAYMENTS TO INSURERS, BROKER-DEALERS, AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Portfolio shares are generally available only through an insurer's variable contracts, or through certain employer or other retirement plans (Retirement Products). Retirement Products are generally purchased through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary. The Portfolio or its distributor (and/or their related companies) may make payments to the insurer and/or its related companies for distribution and/or other services; some of the payments may go to broker-dealers and other financial intermediaries. These payments may create a conflict of interest for an intermediary, or be a factor in the insurer's decision to include the Portfolio as an underlying investment option in a variable contract. Ask your financial advisor, visit your intermediary's website, or consult your insurance contract prospectus for more information.