



MAIRS & POWER

BALANCED *fund*

Third Quarter Results

September 30, 2018

FOCUSED INVESTING FOR THE LONG-TERM

## BALANCED *fund* (MAPOX)

### Third Quarter Market Overview - September 30, 2018

Economic fundamentals remain strong with second quarter gross domestic product (GDP) growth above 4% and the third quarter come in at 3.5%. Both business and consumer confidence remain near all-time highs and solid job growth has pushed the unemployment rate down to a historically low 3.7%.

Even though the market recently backed off of its all-time highs, stock market fundamentals remain strong as well. Annual revenue growth for S&P 500 companies has continued to accelerate, likely reaching 9% in the third quarter. Year-over-year earnings growth was 25% for the first two quarters of 2018 and is estimated to stay in the high teens in the third quarter. The stock market in the U.S. has transitioned from a focus on a handful of fast growing technology stocks to broader market participation. With healthcare and industrials leading the way, every market sector in the third quarter had a positive return, with the exception of energy stocks.

For the third quarter, the S&P 500 Total Return (TR) was 7.71% and was 10.56% for the first nine months of the year. The Dow

Jones Industrial Average TR was 9.63% and 8.83%, respectively and the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index return was 0.06% and -1.85% over the same periods.

Please note that we expect to report our estimate of capital gains for the year in mid-November for all three Funds. Please check our website for these estimates, [www.mairsandpower.com](http://www.mairsandpower.com).

Past Performance is not a guarantee of future results.

Dow Jones Industrial Average TR Index is a price-weighted average of 30 significant stocks traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the NASDAQ. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index is a broad-based flagship benchmark that measures the non-securitized component of the U.S. Aggregate Index. It includes investment-grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate treasuries, government-related and corporate securities. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

The S&P 500 TR Index is an unmanaged index of 500 common stocks that is generally considered representative of the U.S. stock market. It tracks both the capital gains of a group of stocks over time and assumes that any cash distributions, such as dividends, are reinvested back into the index. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

## Future Outlook

While economic and market fundamentals are strong, we remain cautious in our outlook for the near-term. We calculate that about half of the growth in earnings this year is due to lower corporate tax rates. We believe this tax benefit tail wind will disappear in 2019. Wage growth has been gradually accelerating, putting pressure on corporate profits. Inflation is slowly moving higher and now stands above the Federal Reserve (Fed) target rate of 2%. This is an important factor behind the Fed's plans to continue moving interest rates higher. We have seen three hikes so far this year, expect a fourth before year-end and at least two more next year. Higher interest rates put equity valuations at risk and disproportionately impact small and mid-sized companies, which are the primary drivers of job growth.

We also watch the housing and auto sectors, important drivers in our consumer-led economy. As home prices and mortgage rates continue to move higher, the housing affordability index has fallen significantly. Thirty-year fixed rates are now above 4.5% and sales of existing homes have declined over the past six months. Auto sales are also affected by interest rates and have been in decline for the past year. The continuations of these two trends could single pressure on economic growth.

We are seeing transitions on the international front as well. The period of synchronized global growth we had seen for several quarters has stalled with emerging markets running into trouble. High debt levels and declining currencies, exacerbated by uncertainties caused by U.S. tariffs, have pushed several emerging markets into bear market territory. Interest rates are rising in most developed economies and the era of negative rates appears to have come to an end. Finally, while we think we are seeing more of a trade "tiff," tariff hikes are a potential threat to industrial sector stocks if a real trade war does break out.

The bull market and economic expansion are setting longevity records as they approach the ten year mark. While we are not calling a turn here, we may be in the autumn of the current cycle.

## Balanced Fund Performance Review

The Balanced Fund finished the quarter up 7.08% compared to its benchmark composite index (60% S&P 500 TR Index and 40% Bloomberg Barclays Government/Credit Bond Index) which gained 4.61%. For the nine months year-to-date, the Fund is up 4.22% and the benchmark is up 5.53%.

***Performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. For the most recent month-end performance figures visit [www.mairsandpower.com](http://www.mairsandpower.com) or call Shareholder Services at (800)304-7404. Expense Ratio 0.71%.***

The stock market in the U.S. seems to be transitioning from a focus on a handful of fast growing technology stocks that had characterized the past several quarters and had negatively impacted the Fund's relative performance, since we are underweight in the sector. Market interest is now broadening and in the third quarter all sectors, with the exceptions of energy, showed positive returns. Tech and consumer discretionary still leads the way year-to-date, but healthcare was the top performing sector in Q3.

Stock selection was the most significant positive contributor to relative performance in the quarter, aided somewhat by sector allocation. For the first nine months, however, sector allocation was the larger factor in relative underperformance.

Both healthcare and communication services sectors were top contributors in both periods, with industrials also a positive contributor in the third quarter but not for the full year. With an aging population globally and rising wealth in emerging economies, we regard healthcare as a growth market. We remain overweight in the sector and benefited from the strong move. Our holdings in Abbott Laboratories (ABT), Eli Lilly and Company (LLY), Pfizer Inc. (PFE) and Bio-Techne Corp (TECH) have been significant contributors, outperforming both the healthcare sector and the broader market in both the quarter and year-to-date. Abbott led the sector with improving fundamentals built on solid execution and good news from recent FDA approvals for new medical devices. The industrial sector, which has been under pressure this year, enjoyed a bit of a bounce-back in Q3. In that sector, Honeywell International Inc. (HON), Donaldson Company (DCI) and CH Robinson Worldwide Inc. (CHRW) all were positive contributors in the third quarter, as was the Walt Disney Company (DIS) in the newly carved out communication services sector.

Donaldson Company, a Twin Cities-based industrial filter supplier, illustrates the value of our disciplined approach of investing, at reasonable prices, in solid companies with durable competitive advantages. The company has been making substantial investments in technology, new products, and international marketing, which had caused some investors concerns. We looked past those worries, viewing the negative sentiment as an opportunity to add to our position recognizing the company was implementing a strategy that strengthens its competitive advantage. The benefits of that strategy became evident in the quarter and the stock was rewarded.

On the fixed income side of the portfolio, the bond market remains under pressure. As noted above, the FED continues to raise rates following an historic period of low interest rates. We are also seeing rates rise around the globe accompanied by an upward tilt to inflation and increasing concerns over the impact of both interest rates and inflation on economic growth. The much-watched yield curve continues to flatten, with short-term rates rising and long-term rates remaining relatively stable. And we are seeing the spread widen between investment grade and high yield debt, both signals of a potential economic slowdown.

With these caution signs, we remain conservative in our fixed income posture, leaning toward shorter maturity, high quality instruments, allowing us to potentially capture excess yield over both treasuries and the longer duration corporate debt index. We remain convinced that a portfolio of high-quality bonds still provides a good counterbalance should we experience a difficult equity market environment.

Kevin V. Earley  
Lead Manager

Ronald L. Kaliebe  
Co-Manager

Robert W. Thompson  
Co-Manager

## Mairs & Power Balanced Fund Performers

### TOP RELATIVE PERFORMERS

THIRD QUARTER (6/30/18 - 9/30/18)		YEAR-TO-DATE (12/31/17 - 9/30/18)	
Eli Lilly and Company	18.74%	Abbott Laboratories	19.78%
Abbott Laboratories	13.11%	Medtronic PLC	13.32%
Pfizer Inc.	14.80%	Eli Lilly and Company	19.01%
Medtronic PLC	8.45%	Pfizer Inc.	14.49%
Corning Inc.	21.30%	Bio-Techne Corporation	47.96%

### WEAK RELATIVE PERFORMERS

THIRD QUARTER (6/30/18 - 9/30/18)		YEAR-TO-DATE (12/31/17 - 9/30/18)	
Schlumberger NV	-16.09%	Principal Financial Group, Inc.	-25.26%
Wells Fargo & Company	-12.21%	3M Company	-19.30%
Chevron Corporation	-10.07%	General Mills, Inc.	-35.96%
H.B. Fuller Company	-11.19%	U.S. Bancorp	-10.11%
Graco Inc.	-4.94%	Wells Fargo & Company	-22.11%

Performance shown is relative to the S&P 500 TR Index as of September 30, 2018. Relative return is the difference between the absolute return and the performance of the market, in which the position is held. Relative contribution is used for ranking, which considers average daily weightings for each holding. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

***The Fund's investment objective, risks, charges and expenses must be considered carefully before investing. The summary prospectus or full prospectus contains this and other important information about the Fund and they may be obtained by calling Shareholder Services at (800) 304-7404 or by visiting [www.mairsandpower.com](http://www.mairsandpower.com). Read the summary prospectus or full prospectus carefully before investing.***

The stocks mentioned herein represent the following percentages of the total net assets of the Mairs & Power Balanced Fund as of September 30, 2018: 3M Company 4.14%, Abbott Laboratories 3.60%, Bio-Techne Corporation 1.37%, Chevron Corp. 1.64%, C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc. 2.58%, Corning Inc. 1.48%, Donaldson Company 1.78%, Eli Lilly and Company 2.48%, General Mills, Inc. 1.23%, Graco Inc. 2.93%, H.B. Fuller Company 1.21%, Honeywell International Inc. 4.56%, Medtronic plc 4.63%, Pfizer Inc. 2.03%, Principal Financial Group, Inc. 2.74%, Schlumberger NV 1.95%, U.S. Bancorp 4.80%, Walt Disney Company 2.52%, Wells Fargo & Company 1.51%.

All holdings in the portfolio are subject to change without notice and may or may not represent current or future portfolio composition. The mention of specific securities is not intended as a recommendation or an offer of a particular security, nor is it intended to be a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security.

## Average Annual Total Returns (%)

As of 9/30/2018	QTR <sup>(1)</sup>	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Mairs & Power Balanced Fund <sup>(2)</sup>	7.08	8.40	10.29	7.75	9.15
Morningstar Moderate Target Risk Index <sup>(3)</sup>	2.52	6.02	9.20	6.51	7.41
Composite Index <sup>(4)</sup>	4.61	9.92	10.83	9.25	8.99
S&P 500 TR Index <sup>(5)</sup>	7.71	17.91	17.31	13.95	11.97
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index <sup>(6)</sup>	0.06	-1.37	1.45	2.23	3.95

Expense ratio 0.71%

Inception: 11/10/1961

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<sup>(1)</sup> Periods less than one year are not annualized.

<sup>(2)</sup> Performance information shown includes the reinvestment of dividend and capital gain distributions, but does not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or the redemption of Fund shares.

<sup>(3)</sup> Morningstar Moderate Target Risk Index is designed to benchmark target-date and target-risk investment products. Index is based on well-established asset allocation methodology from Ibbotson Associates, a Morningstar company. Index has 60% global equity exposure and 40% global bond exposure. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

<sup>(4)</sup> The Composite Index reflects an unmanaged portfolio of 60% of the S&P 500 TR Index and 40% of the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

<sup>(5)</sup> The S&P 500 TR (Total Return) Index is an unmanaged index of 500 common stocks that is generally considered representative of the U.S. stock market. It tracks both the capital gains of a group of stocks over time and assumes that any cash distributions, such as dividends, are reinvested back into the index. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

<sup>(6)</sup> Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index is a broad-based flagship benchmark that measures the non-securitized component of the U.S. Aggregate Index. It includes investment-grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate treasuries, government-related and corporate securities. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

All investments have risks. Mairs & Power Balanced Fund is designed for long-term investors.

The Fund's share price can fall because of weakness in the broad market, a particular industry or specific holdings. Investments in small and midcap companies generally are more volatile. International investing risks include among others political, social or economic instability, difficulty in predicting international trade patterns, taxation and foreign trading practices and greater fluctuations in price than U.S. corporations. The Balanced Fund is subject to yield and share price variances with changes in interest rates and market conditions. Investors should note that if interest rates rise significantly from current levels, bond total returns will decline and may even turn negative in the short-term. There is also a chance that some of the Balanced Fund's holdings may have their credit rating downgraded or may default.

Investments in debt securities typically decrease in value when interest rates rise. This risk is usually greater for longer-term debt securities. Investments in lower rated and non-rated securities present a greater risk of loss to principal and interest than higher rated securities.

This commentary includes forward-looking statements such as economic predictions and portfolio manager opinions. The statements are subject to change at any time based on market and other conditions. No predictions, forecasts, outlooks, expectations or beliefs are guaranteed.

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MAIRS &amp; POWER

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