

**BLACKROCK VARIABLE SERIES FUNDS, INC.**

BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Core V.I. Fund  
BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Value V.I. Fund  
BlackRock Advantage U.S. Total Market V.I. Fund  
BlackRock Basic Value V.I. Fund  
BlackRock Capital Appreciation V.I. Fund  
BlackRock Equity Dividend V.I. Fund  
BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund  
BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund  
BlackRock High Yield V.I. Fund  
BlackRock International V.I. Fund  
BlackRock iShares® Dynamic Allocation V.I. Fund  
BlackRock Large Cap Focus Growth V.I. Fund  
BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund  
BlackRock S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund  
BlackRock Total Return V.I. Fund  
BlackRock U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund

(each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”)

**Supplement dated September 17, 2018  
to the Prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information of each Fund,  
each dated May 1, 2018, as supplemented to date**

On September 17, 2018 (the “Closing Date”), each series of BlackRock Variable Series Funds II, Inc. listed below (each, an “Acquiring Fund”) acquired the assets, subject to the liabilities, of the corresponding series of BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc. (each, a “Target Fund”) set forth in the table below through a tax-free reorganization (each, a “Reorganization”):

<b>Acquiring Fund, each a series of BlackRock Variable Series Funds II, Inc.</b>	<b>Corresponding Target Fund, each a series of BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc.</b>
BlackRock High Yield V.I. Fund	BlackRock High Yield V.I. Fund
BlackRock Total Return V.I. Fund	BlackRock Total Return V.I. Fund
BlackRock U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund	BlackRock U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund

As a result of each Reorganization, shareholders of the applicable Target Fund became shareholders of the corresponding Acquiring Fund as of the Closing Date. Each Acquiring Fund is currently offered pursuant to the Prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information dated July 17, 2018. All references to the Target Funds are hereby deleted from the Prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information of the Funds dated May 1, 2018.

**Shareholders should retain this Supplement for future reference.**

PRSAI-VAR-0918SUP2

PROSPECTUS

BLACKROCK®

BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc.

▶ BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund (Class III)

*This Prospectus contains information you should know before investing, including information about risks. Please read it before you invest and keep it for future reference.*

*The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.*

**Not FDIC Insured • No Bank Guarantee • May Lose Value**

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# Fund Overview

## Key Facts About BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund

### Investment Objective

The investment objective of the BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund (the “Fund”) is to seek high total investment return.

### Fees and Expenses of the Fund

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. The expenses below do not include separate account fees and expenses, and would be higher if these fees and expenses were included. Please refer to your variable annuity or insurance contract (the “Contract”) prospectus for information on the separate account fees and expenses associated with your Contract.

#### Shareholder Fees (fees paid directly from your investment)

The Fund is not subject to any shareholder fees.

Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)	Class I Shares	Class II Shares	Class III Shares
Management Fees <sup>1</sup>	0.63%	0.63%	0.63%
Distribution and/or Service (12b-1) Fees	None	0.15%	0.25%
Other Expenses	0.09%	0.22%	0.25%
Dividend Expense	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%
Miscellaneous Other Expenses	0.07%	0.20%	0.23%
Other Expenses of the Subsidiary <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—
Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses <sup>3</sup>	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses <sup>3</sup>	0.73%	1.01%	1.14%
Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements <sup>1,4</sup>	—	(0.13)%	(0.13)%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements <sup>1,4</sup>	0.73%	0.88%	1.01%

<sup>1</sup> As described in the “Management of the Funds” section of the Fund’s prospectus, BlackRock Advisors, LLC (“BlackRock”) has contractually agreed to waive the management fee with respect to any portion of the Fund’s assets estimated to be attributable to investments in other equity and fixed-income mutual funds and exchange-traded funds managed by BlackRock or its affiliates that have a contractual management fee, through April 30, 2019. The contractual agreement may be terminated upon 90 days’ notice by a majority of the non-interested directors of BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc. (the “Company”) or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

<sup>2</sup> Other Expenses of BlackRock Cayman Global Allocation V.I. Fund I, Ltd. were less than 0.01% for the Fund’s most recent fiscal year.

<sup>3</sup> The Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses do not correlate to the ratios of expenses to average net assets given in the Fund’s most recent annual report, which do not include Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses.

<sup>4</sup> As described in the “Management of the Funds” section of the Fund’s prospectus, BlackRock has contractually agreed to waive and/or reimburse fees or expenses in order to limit Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements (excluding Dividend Expense, Interest Expense, Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses and certain other Fund expenses) to 1.25% (for Class I Shares), 1.40% (for Class II Shares), and 1.50% (for Class III Shares) of average daily net assets through April 30, 2019. BlackRock has also contractually agreed to reimburse fees in order to limit certain operational and recordkeeping fees to 0.07% (for Class I Shares), 0.07% (for Class II Shares), and 0.07% (for Class III Shares) of average daily net assets through April 30, 2019. Each of these contractual agreements may be terminated upon 90 days’ notice by a majority of the non-interested directors of the Company or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

**Example:**

This Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain the same. The Example does not reflect charges imposed by the Contract. See the Contract prospectus for information on such charges. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions and the net expenses shown in the fee table, your costs would be:

	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>3 Years</b>	<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
Class I Shares	\$ 75	\$233	\$406	\$ 906
Class II Shares	\$ 90	\$309	\$545	\$1,224
Class III Shares	\$103	\$349	\$615	\$1,374

**Portfolio Turnover:**

The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 118% of the average value of its portfolio.

**Principal Investment Strategies of the Fund**

The Fund invests in a portfolio of equity, debt and money market securities. Generally, the Fund's portfolio will include both equity and debt securities. Equity securities include common stock, preferred stock, securities convertible into common stock, rights and warrants, or securities or other instruments whose price is linked to the value of common stock. At any given time, however, the Fund may emphasize either debt securities or equity securities. In selecting equity investments, the Fund mainly seeks securities that Fund management believes are undervalued. The Fund may buy debt securities of varying maturities, debt securities paying a fixed or fluctuating rate of interest, and debt securities of any kind, including, by way of example, securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities, by foreign governments or international agencies or supranational entities, or by domestic or foreign private issuers, debt securities convertible into equity securities, inflation-indexed bonds, structured notes, credit-linked notes, loan assignments and loan participations. In addition, the Fund may invest up to 35% of its total assets in "junk bonds," corporate loans and distressed securities. The Fund may also invest in Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs") and securities related to real assets (like real estate- or precious metals-related securities) such as stock, bonds or convertible bonds issued by REITs or companies that mine precious metals.

When choosing investments, Fund management considers various factors, including opportunities for equity or debt investments to increase in value, expected dividends and interest rates. The Fund generally seeks diversification across markets, industries and issuers as one of its strategies to reduce volatility. The Fund has no geographic limits on where it may invest. This flexibility allows Fund management to look for investments in markets around the world, including emerging markets, that it believes will provide the best asset allocation to meet the Fund's objective. The Fund may invest in the securities of companies of any market capitalization.

Generally, the Fund may invest in the securities of corporate and governmental issuers located anywhere in the world. The Fund may emphasize foreign securities when Fund management expects these investments to outperform U.S. securities. When choosing investment markets, Fund management considers various factors, including economic and political conditions, potential for economic growth and possible changes in currency exchange rates. In addition to investing in foreign securities, the Fund actively manages its exposure to foreign currencies through the use of forward currency contracts and other currency derivatives. The Fund may own foreign cash equivalents or foreign bank deposits as part of the Fund's investment strategy. The Fund will also invest in non-U.S. currencies. The Fund may underweight or overweight a currency based on the Fund management team's outlook.

The Fund's composite Reference Benchmark has at all times since the Fund's formation included a 40% weighting in non-U.S. securities. The Reference Benchmark is an unmanaged weighted index comprised as follows: 36% of the S&P 500® Index; 24% FTSE World (ex U.S.) Index; 24% BofA Merrill Lynch Current 5-Year U.S. Treasury Index; and 16% FTSE Non-U.S. Dollar World Government Bond Index. Throughout its history, the Fund has maintained a weighting in non-U.S. securities, often exceeding the 40% Reference Benchmark weighting and rarely falling below this allocation. Under normal circumstances, the Fund will continue to allocate a substantial amount (approximately 40% or more — unless market conditions are not deemed favorable by BlackRock, in which case the Fund would invest at least 30%) of its total assets in securities of (i) foreign government issuers, (ii) issuers organized or located outside the U.S., (iii) issuers which primarily trade in a market located outside the U.S., or (iv) issuers doing a substantial amount of

business outside the U.S., which the Fund considers to be companies that derive at least 50% of their revenue or profits from business outside the U.S., or have at least 50% of their sales or assets outside the U.S. The Fund will allocate its assets among various regions and countries, including the United States (but in no less than three different countries). For temporary defensive purposes, the Fund may deviate very substantially from the allocation described above.

The Fund may use derivatives, including options, futures, indexed securities, inverse securities, swaps and forward contracts both to seek to increase the return of the Fund and to hedge (or protect) the value of its assets against adverse movements in currency exchange rates, interest rates and movements in the securities markets. The Fund may seek to provide exposure to the investment returns of real assets that trade in the commodity markets through investment in commodity-linked derivative instruments and investment vehicles such as exchange-traded funds that invest exclusively in commodities and are designed to provide this exposure without direct investment in physical commodities. The Fund may also gain exposure to commodity markets by investing up to 25% of its total assets in BlackRock Cayman Global Allocation V.I. Fund I, Ltd. (the "Subsidiary"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fund formed in the Cayman Islands, which invests primarily in commodity-related instruments. The Subsidiary may also hold cash and invest in other instruments, including fixed-income securities, either as investments or to serve as margin or collateral for the Subsidiary's derivative positions. The Subsidiary (unlike the Fund) may invest without limitation in commodity-related instruments.

### ***Principal Risks of Investing in the Fund***

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Risk is inherent in all investing. The value of your investment in the Fund, as well as the amount of return you receive on your investment, may fluctuate significantly from day to day and over time. You may lose part or all of your investment in the Fund or your investment may not perform as well as other similar investments. The following is a summary description of principal risks of investing in the Fund.

- ***Commodities Related Investments Risks*** — Exposure to the commodities markets may subject the Fund to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities. The value of commodity-linked derivative investments may be affected by changes in overall market movements, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates, or factors affecting a particular industry or commodity, such as drought, floods, weather, embargoes, tariffs and international economic, political and regulatory developments.
- ***Convertible Securities Risk*** — The market value of a convertible security performs like that of a regular debt security; that is, if market interest rates rise, the value of a convertible security usually falls. In addition, convertible securities are subject to the risk that the issuer will not be able to pay interest or dividends when due, and their market value may change based on changes in the issuer's credit rating or the market's perception of the issuer's creditworthiness. Since it derives a portion of its value from the common stock into which it may be converted, a convertible security is also subject to the same types of market and issuer risks that apply to the underlying common stock.
- ***Corporate Loans Risk*** — Commercial banks and other financial institutions or institutional investors make corporate loans to companies that need capital to grow or restructure. Borrowers generally pay interest on corporate loans at rates that change in response to changes in market interest rates such as the London Interbank Offered Rate or the prime rates of U.S. banks. As a result, the value of corporate loan investments is generally less exposed to the adverse effects of shifts in market interest rates than investments that pay a fixed rate of interest. The market for corporate loans may be subject to irregular trading activity and wide bid/ask spreads. In addition, transactions in corporate loans may settle on a delayed basis. As a result, the proceeds from the sale of corporate loans may not be readily available to make additional investments or to meet the Fund's redemption obligations. To the extent the extended settlement process gives rise to short-term liquidity needs, the Fund may hold additional cash, sell investments or temporarily borrow from banks and other lenders.
- ***Debt Securities Risk*** — Debt securities, such as bonds, involve interest rate risk, credit risk, extension risk, and prepayment risk, among other things.

*Interest Rate Risk* — The market value of bonds and other fixed-income securities changes in response to interest rate changes and other factors. Interest rate risk is the risk that prices of bonds and other fixed-income securities will increase as interest rates fall and decrease as interest rates rise. The Fund may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates due to the current period of historically low rates. For example, if interest rates increase by 1%, assuming a current portfolio duration of ten years, and all other factors being equal, the value of the Fund's investments would be expected to decrease by 10%. The magnitude of these fluctuations in the market price of bonds and other fixed-income securities is generally greater for those securities with longer maturities. Fluctuations



in the market price of the Fund's investments will not affect interest income derived from instruments already owned by the Fund, but will be reflected in the Fund's net asset value. The Fund may lose money if short-term or long-term interest rates rise sharply in a manner not anticipated by Fund management. To the extent the Fund invests in debt securities that may be prepaid at the option of the obligor (such as mortgage-backed securities), the sensitivity of such securities to changes in interest rates may increase (to the detriment of the Fund) when interest rates rise. Moreover, because rates on certain floating rate debt securities typically reset only periodically, changes in prevailing interest rates (and particularly sudden and significant changes) can be expected to cause some fluctuations in the net asset value of the Fund to the extent that it invests in floating rate debt securities. These basic principles of bond prices also apply to U.S. Government securities. A security backed by the "full faith and credit" of the U.S. Government is guaranteed only as to its stated interest rate and face value at maturity, not its current market price. Just like other fixed-income securities, government-guaranteed securities will fluctuate in value when interest rates change. A general rise in interest rates has the potential to cause investors to move out of fixed-income securities on a large scale, which may increase redemptions from funds that hold large amounts of fixed-income securities. Heavy redemptions could cause the Fund to sell assets at inopportune times or at a loss or depressed value and could hurt the Fund's performance.

*Credit Risk* — Credit risk refers to the possibility that the issuer of a debt security (*i.e.*, the borrower) will not be able to make payments of interest and principal when due. Changes in an issuer's credit rating or the market's perception of an issuer's creditworthiness may also affect the value of the Fund's investment in that issuer. The degree of credit risk depends on both the financial condition of the issuer and the terms of the obligation.

*Extension Risk* — When interest rates rise, certain obligations will be paid off by the obligor more slowly than anticipated, causing the value of these obligations to fall.

*Prepayment Risk* — When interest rates fall, certain obligations will be paid off by the obligor more quickly than originally anticipated, and the Fund may have to invest the proceeds in securities with lower yields.

■ **Derivatives Risk** — The Fund's use of derivatives may increase its costs, reduce the Fund's returns and/or increase volatility. Derivatives involve significant risks, including:

*Volatility Risk* — Volatility is defined as the characteristic of a security, an index or a market to fluctuate significantly in price within a short time period. A risk of the Fund's use of derivatives is that the fluctuations in their values may not correlate with the overall securities markets.

*Counterparty Risk* — Derivatives are also subject to counterparty risk, which is the risk that the other party in the transaction will not fulfill its contractual obligation.

*Market and Liquidity Risk* — The possible lack of a liquid secondary market for derivatives and the resulting inability of the Fund to sell or otherwise close a derivatives position could expose the Fund to losses and could make derivatives more difficult for the Fund to value accurately.

*Valuation Risk* — Valuation may be more difficult in times of market turmoil since many investors and market makers may be reluctant to purchase complex instruments or quote prices for them.

*Hedging Risk* — Hedges are sometimes subject to imperfect matching between the derivative and the underlying security, and there can be no assurance that the Fund's hedging transactions will be effective. The use of hedging may result in certain adverse tax consequences.

*Tax Risk* — Certain aspects of the tax treatment of derivative instruments, including swap agreements and commodity-linked derivative instruments, are currently unclear and may be affected by changes in legislation, regulations or other legally binding authority. Such treatment may be less favorable than that given to a direct investment in an underlying asset and may adversely affect the timing, character and amount of income the Fund realizes from its investments.

*Regulatory Risk* — Derivative contracts, including, without limitation, swaps, currency forwards and non-deliverable forwards, are subject to regulation under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank Act") in the United States and under comparable regimes in Europe, Asia and other non-U.S. jurisdictions. Under the Dodd-Frank Act, certain derivatives are subject to margin requirements and swap dealers are required to collect margin from the Fund with respect to such derivatives. Specifically, regulations are now in effect that require swap dealers to post and collect variation margin (comprised of specified liquid instruments and subject to a required haircut) in connection with trading of over-the-counter ("OTC") swaps with the Fund. Shares of investment companies (other than certain money market funds) may not be posted as collateral under these regulations. Requirements for posting of initial margin in connection with OTC swaps will be phased-in through 2020. In addition, regulations adopted by prudential regulators that will begin to take effect in 2019 will require certain bank-regulated counterparties and certain of their affiliates to include in certain financial contracts, including many derivatives contracts, terms that delay or restrict the rights of counterparties, such as the Fund, to terminate such contracts, foreclose upon collateral, exercise other default rights or restrict transfers of credit support in the event that the counterparty and/or its affiliates are subject to certain types of resolution or insolvency proceedings. The implementation of these requirements with respect to derivatives, as

well as regulations under the Dodd-Frank Act regarding clearing, mandatory trading and margining of other derivatives, may increase the costs and risks to the Fund of trading in these instruments and, as a result, may affect returns to investors in the Fund.

- **Distressed Securities Risk** — Distressed securities are speculative and involve substantial risks in addition to the risks of investing in junk bonds. The Fund will generally not receive interest payments on the distressed securities and may incur costs to protect its investment. In addition, distressed securities involve the substantial risk that principal will not be repaid. These securities may present a substantial risk of default or may be in default at the time of investment. The Fund may incur additional expenses to the extent it is required to seek recovery upon a default in the payment of principal or interest on its portfolio holdings. In any reorganization or liquidation proceeding relating to a portfolio company, the Fund may lose its entire investment or may be required to accept cash or securities with a value less than its original investment. Distressed securities and any securities received in an exchange for such securities may be subject to restrictions on resale.
- **Emerging Markets Risk** — Emerging markets are riskier than more developed markets because they tend to develop unevenly and may never fully develop. Investments in emerging markets may be considered speculative. Emerging markets are more likely to experience hyperinflation and currency devaluations, which adversely affect returns to U.S. investors. In addition, many emerging securities markets have far lower trading volumes and less liquidity than developed markets.
- **Equity Securities Risk** — Stock markets are volatile. The price of equity securities fluctuates based on changes in a company's financial condition and overall market and economic conditions.
- **Foreign Securities Risk** — Foreign investments often involve special risks not present in U.S. investments that can increase the chances that the Fund will lose money. These risks include:
  - The Fund generally holds its foreign securities and cash in foreign banks and securities depositories, which may be recently organized or new to the foreign custody business and may be subject to only limited or no regulatory oversight.
  - Changes in foreign currency exchange rates can affect the value of the Fund's portfolio.
  - The economies of certain foreign markets may not compare favorably with the economy of the United States with respect to such issues as growth of gross national product, reinvestment of capital, resources and balance of payments position.
  - The governments of certain countries may prohibit or impose substantial restrictions on foreign investments in their capital markets or in certain industries.
  - Many foreign governments do not supervise and regulate stock exchanges, brokers and the sale of securities to the same extent as does the United States and may not have laws to protect investors that are comparable to U.S. securities laws.
  - Settlement and clearance procedures in certain foreign markets may result in delays in payment for or delivery of securities not typically associated with settlement and clearance of U.S. investments.
  - The European financial markets have recently experienced volatility and adverse trends due to concerns about economic downturns in, or rising government debt levels of, several European countries. These events may spread to other countries in Europe. These events may affect the value and liquidity of certain of the Fund's investments.
- **High Portfolio Turnover Risk** — The Fund may engage in active and frequent trading of its portfolio securities. High portfolio turnover (more than 100%) may result in increased transaction costs to the Fund, including brokerage commissions, dealer mark-ups and other transaction costs on the sale of the securities and on reinvestment in other securities. The sale of Fund portfolio securities may result in the realization and/or distribution to shareholders of higher capital gains or losses as compared to a fund with less active trading policies. These effects of higher than normal portfolio turnover may adversely affect Fund performance.
- **Junk Bonds Risk** — Although junk bonds generally pay higher rates of interest than investment grade bonds, junk bonds are high risk investments that are considered speculative and may cause income and principal losses for the Fund.
- **Leverage Risk** — Some transactions may give rise to a form of economic leverage. These transactions may include, among others, derivatives, and may expose the Fund to greater risk and increase its costs. The use of leverage may cause the Fund to liquidate portfolio positions when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations or to meet any required asset segregation requirements. Increases and decreases in the value of the Fund's portfolio will be magnified when the Fund uses leverage.



- **Market Risk and Selection Risk** — Market risk is the risk that one or more markets in which the Fund invests will go down in value, including the possibility that the markets will go down sharply and unpredictably. Selection risk is the risk that the securities selected by Fund management will underperform the markets, the relevant indices or the securities selected by other funds with similar investment objectives and investment strategies. This means you may lose money.
- **Mid Cap Securities Risk** — The securities of mid cap companies generally trade in lower volumes and are generally subject to greater and less predictable price changes than the securities of larger capitalization companies.
- **Mortgage- and Asset-Backed Securities Risks** — Mortgage- and asset-backed securities represent interests in “pools” of mortgages or other assets, including consumer loans or receivables held in trust. Mortgage- and asset-backed securities are subject to credit, interest rate, prepayment and extension risks. These securities also are subject to risk of default on the underlying mortgage or asset, particularly during periods of economic downturn. Small movements in interest rates (both increases and decreases) may quickly and significantly reduce the value of certain mortgage-backed securities.
- **Precious Metal Related Securities Risk** — Prices of precious metals and of precious metal related securities historically have been very volatile. The high volatility of precious metal prices may adversely affect the financial condition of companies involved with precious metals. The production and sale of precious metals by governments or central banks or other larger holders can be affected by various economic, financial, social and political factors, which may be unpredictable and may have a significant impact on the prices of precious metals. Other factors that may affect the prices of precious metals and securities related to them include changes in inflation, the outlook for inflation and changes in industrial and commercial demand for precious metals.
- **Real Estate Related Securities Risk** — The main risk of real estate related securities is that the value of the underlying real estate may go down. Many factors may affect real estate values. These factors include both the general and local economies, the amount of new construction in a particular area, the laws and regulations (including zoning and tax laws) affecting real estate and the costs of owning, maintaining and improving real estate. The availability of mortgages and changes in interest rates may also affect real estate values. If the Fund’s real estate related investments are concentrated in one geographic area or in one property type, the Fund will be particularly subject to the risks associated with that area or property type.
- **REIT Investment Risk** — Investments in REITs involve unique risks. REITs may have limited financial resources, may trade less frequently and in limited volume and may be more volatile than other securities.
- **Small Cap and Emerging Growth Securities Risk** — Small cap or emerging growth companies may have limited product lines or markets. They may be less financially secure than larger, more established companies. They may depend on a more limited management group than larger capitalized companies.
- **Sovereign Debt Risk** — Sovereign debt instruments are subject to the risk that a governmental entity may delay or refuse to pay interest or repay principal on its sovereign debt, due, for example, to cash flow problems, insufficient foreign currency reserves, political considerations, the relative size of the governmental entity’s debt position in relation to the economy or the failure to put in place economic reforms required by the International Monetary Fund or other multilateral agencies.
- **Structured Notes Risk** — Structured notes and other related instruments purchased by the Fund are generally privately negotiated debt obligations where the principal and/or interest is determined by reference to the performance of a specific asset, benchmark asset, market or interest rate (“reference measure”). The purchase of structured notes exposes the Fund to the credit risk of the issuer of the structured product. Structured notes may be leveraged, increasing the volatility of each structured note’s value relative to the change in the reference measure. Structured notes may also be less liquid and more difficult to price accurately than less complex securities and instruments or more traditional debt securities.
- **Subsidiary Risk** — By investing in the Subsidiary, the Fund is indirectly exposed to the risks associated with the Subsidiary’s investments. The commodity-related instruments held by the Subsidiary are generally similar to those that are permitted to be held by the Fund and are subject to the same risks that apply to similar investments if held directly by the Fund (see “Commodities Related Investments Risks” above). There can be no assurance that the investment objective of the Subsidiary will be achieved. The Subsidiary is not registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Investment Company Act”), and, unless otherwise noted in this prospectus, is not subject to all the investor protections of the Investment Company Act. However, the Fund wholly owns and controls the Subsidiary, and the Fund and the Subsidiary are both managed by BlackRock, making it unlikely that the Subsidiary will take action contrary to the interests of the Fund and its shareholders. The Board has oversight responsibility for the investment activities of the Fund, including its investment in the Subsidiary, and the Fund’s role as sole shareholder of the Subsidiary. The Subsidiary is subject to the same investment restrictions

and limitations, and follows the same compliance policies and procedures, as the Fund. Changes in the laws of the United States and/or the Cayman Islands could result in the inability of the Fund and/or the Subsidiary to operate as described in this prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information and could adversely affect the Fund.

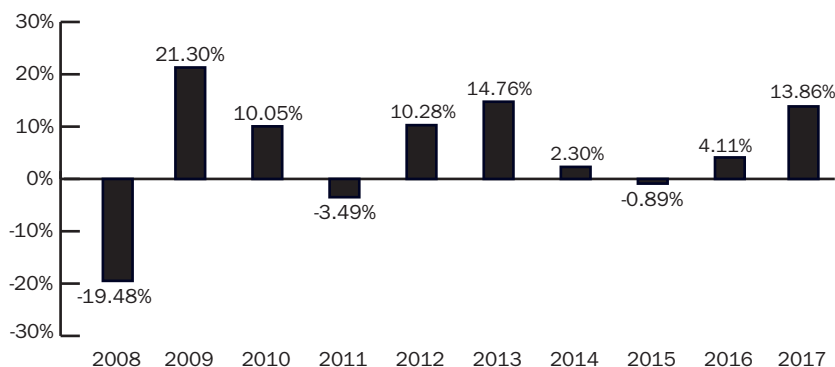
In order to qualify as a regulated investment company, at least 90% of the Fund’s gross income for the taxable year must be “qualifying income.” The Fund anticipates treating the income and gain generated from investments in controlled foreign subsidiaries that invest in physical commodities and/or commodity-linked derivative instruments as “qualifying income” for regulated investment company qualification purposes. However, there can be no assurance that the IRS will agree with treating such income and gain as “qualifying income.” If the IRS makes an adverse determination relating to the treatment of such income and gain, the Fund would likely need to change its investment strategies, which could adversely affect the Fund. The IRS has proposed regulations that, if finalized in current form, would specify that a subpart F income inclusion for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be treated as qualifying income only to the extent that the Subsidiary makes distributions out of its earnings and profits in the same taxable year.

■ **Warrants Risk** — If the price of the underlying stock does not rise above the exercise price before the warrant expires, the warrant generally expires without any value and the Fund will lose any amount it paid for the warrant. Thus, investments in warrants may involve substantially more risk than investments in common stock. Warrants may trade in the same markets as their underlying stock; however, the price of the warrant does not necessarily move with the price of the underlying stock.

## Performance Information

The information shows you how the Fund’s performance has varied year by year and provides some indication of the risks of investing in the Fund. The table compares the Fund’s performance to that of the FTSE World Index, the S&P 500® Index, the FTSE World (ex U.S.) Index, the ICE BofAML Current 5-Year U.S. Treasury Index, the FTSE Non-U.S. Dollar World Government Bond Index and the Reference Benchmark, which are relevant to the Fund because they have characteristics similar to the Fund’s investment strategies. The bar chart and table do not reflect separate account fees and expenses. If they did, returns would be less than those shown. To the extent that dividends and distributions have been paid by the Fund, the performance information for the Fund in the chart and table assumes reinvestment of the dividends and distributions. As with all such investments, past performance is not an indication of future results. If the Fund’s investment manager and its affiliates had not waived or reimbursed certain Fund expenses during these periods, the Fund’s returns would have been lower.

**Class I Shares**  
**ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS**  
**BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund**  
**As of 12/31**



During the ten-year period shown in the bar chart, the highest return for a quarter was 11.71% (quarter ended June 30, 2009) and the lowest return for a quarter was -11.39% (quarter ended September 30, 2008).

<b>As of 12/31/17</b> <b>Average Annual Total Returns</b>	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund: Class I Shares	13.86%	6.64%	4.67%
BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund: Class II Shares	13.74%	6.49%	4.51%
BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund: Class III Shares	13.71%	6.39%	4.41%
FTSE World Index (Reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	24.09%	11.67%	5.45%
S&P 500® Index (Reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	21.83%	15.79%	8.50%
FTSE World (ex U.S.) Index (Reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	26.57%	7.52%	2.52%
ICE BofAML Current 5-Year U.S. Treasury Index (Reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	0.72%	0.64%	3.23%
FTSE Non-U.S. Dollar World Government Bond Index (Reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	10.33%	(0.29)%	2.44%
Reference Benchmark (Reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	15.69%	7.59%	5.23%

### ***Investment Manager***

The Fund's investment manager is BlackRock Advisors, LLC (previously defined as "BlackRock").

### ***Portfolio Managers***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Portfolio Manager of the Fund Since</b>	<b>Title</b>
Dan Chamby, CFA	2003	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc.
Russ Koesterich, CFA, JD	2017	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc.
David Clayton, CFA, JD	2017	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc.
Kent Hogshire, CFA	2017	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc.

### ***Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares***

Shares of the Fund currently are sold either directly or indirectly (through other variable insurance funds) to separate accounts of insurance companies (the "Insurance Companies") and certain accounts administered by the Insurance Companies (the "Accounts") to fund benefits under the Contracts issued by the Insurance Companies. Shares of the Fund may be purchased or sold each day the New York Stock Exchange is open.

The Fund does not have any initial or subsequent investment minimums. However, your Contract may require certain investment minimums. See your Contract prospectus for more information.

### ***Tax Information***

Distributions made by the Fund to an Account, and exchanges and redemptions of Fund shares made by an Account, ordinarily do not cause the corresponding Contract holder to recognize income or gain for U.S. federal income tax purposes. See the Contract prospectus for information regarding the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the distributions to Accounts and the holders of the Contracts.

### ***Payments to Broker/Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries***

BlackRock and its affiliates may make payments relating to distribution and sales support activities to the Insurance Companies and other financial intermediaries for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the Insurance Company or other financial intermediary and your individual financial professional to recommend the Fund over another investment. Visit your Insurance Company's website, which may have more information.

# Details About the Fund

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Included in this prospectus are sections that tell you about buying and selling shares, management information, shareholder features of the BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund (the “Fund”) and your rights as a shareholder.

## ***How the Fund Invests***

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### **Investment Objective**

The investment objective of the Fund is to seek high total investment return.

This investment objective is a fundamental policy of the Fund and may not be changed without approval of a majority of the Fund’s outstanding voting securities, as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Investment Company Act”).

### **Investment Process**

In making investment decisions, Fund management tries to identify the long term trends and changes that could benefit particular markets and/or industries relative to other markets and industries. Fund management will consider a variety of factors when selecting the markets, such as the rate of economic growth, natural resources, capital reinvestment and the social and political environment. In deciding between equity and debt investments, Fund management looks at a number of factors, such as the relative opportunity for capital appreciation, capital recovery risk, dividend yields and the level of interest rates paid on debt securities of different maturities. The Fund may invest in individual securities, baskets of securities or particular measurements of value or rate, and may consider a variety of factors and systematic inputs. Fund management may employ derivatives for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to, adjusting its exposures to markets, sectors, asset classes and securities. As a result, the economic exposure of the Fund to any particular market, sector, or asset class may vary relative to the market value of any particular exposure.

Fund management will invest in “junk” bonds, corporate loans and distressed securities only when it believes that they will provide an attractive total return, relative to their risk, as compared to higher quality debt securities.

Fund management will invest in distressed securities when Fund management believes they offer significant potential for higher returns or can be exchanged for other securities that offer this potential. However, there can be no assurance that the Fund will generally achieve these returns or that the issuer will make an exchange offer or adopt a plan of reorganization.

### **Principal Investment Strategies**

The Fund seeks to achieve its objective by investing in both equity and debt securities, including money market securities and other short-term securities or instruments, of issuers located around the world. There is no limit on the percentage of assets the Fund can invest in a particular type of security. Generally, the Fund seeks diversification across markets, industries and issuers as one of its strategies to reduce volatility. Except as described below, the Fund has no geographic limits on where its investments may be located. This flexibility allows Fund management to look for investments in markets around the world that it believes will provide the best relative asset allocation to meet the Fund’s objective.

Fund management uses the Fund’s investment flexibility to create a portfolio of assets that, over time, tends to be relatively balanced between equity and debt securities and that is widely diversified among many individual investments. The Fund may invest in both developed and emerging markets. In addition to investing in foreign securities, the Fund actively manages its exposure to foreign currencies through the use of forward currency contracts and other currency derivatives. From time to time, the Fund may own foreign cash equivalents or foreign bank deposits as part of the Fund’s investment strategy. The Fund will also invest in non-U.S. currencies, however, the Fund may underweight or overweight a currency based on the Fund management team’s outlook.

The Fund may also invest in real estate investment trusts (“REITs”). REITs are companies that own interests in real estate or in real estate related loans or other interests, and have revenue primarily consisting of rent derived from owned, income producing real estate properties and capital gains from the sale of such properties. REITs can generally be classified as equity REITs, mortgage REITs and hybrid REITs. Equity REITs invest the majority of their

assets directly in real property and derive their income primarily from rents. Equity REITs can also realize capital gains by selling properties that have appreciated in value. Mortgage REITs invest the majority of their assets in real estate mortgages and derive their income primarily from interest payments. Hybrid REITs combine the characteristics of both equity REITs and mortgage REITs. REITs are not taxed on income distributed to shareholders provided they comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Internal Revenue Code”).

The Fund’s composite Reference Benchmark has at all times since the Fund’s formation included a 40% weighting in non-U.S. securities. Throughout its history, the Fund has maintained a weighting in non-U.S. securities, often exceeding the 40% Reference Benchmark weighting and rarely falling below this allocation. Under normal circumstances, the Fund will continue to allocate a substantial amount (approximately 40% or more — unless market conditions are not deemed favorable by BlackRock Advisors, LLC (“BlackRock”), in which case the Fund would invest at least 30%) of its total assets in securities of (i) foreign government issuers, (ii) issuers organized or located outside the U.S., (iii) issuers which primarily trade in a market located outside the U.S., or (iv) issuers doing a substantial amount of business outside the U.S., which the Fund considers to be companies that derive at least 50% of their revenue or profits from business outside the U.S., or have at least 50% of their sales or assets outside the U.S. The Fund will allocate its assets among various regions and countries, including the United States (but in no less than three different countries). For temporary defensive purposes, the Fund may deviate very substantially from the allocation described above.

The Fund may invest a portion of its assets in securities related to real assets (like real estate- or precious metals-related securities) such as stock, bonds or convertible bonds issued by real estate investment trusts or companies that mine precious metals. The Fund may hold a portion of its assets in cash or cash equivalents.

The Fund may seek to provide exposure to the investment returns of real assets that trade in the commodity markets through investment in commodity-linked derivative instruments and investment vehicles such as exchange-traded funds that invest exclusively in commodities and are designed to provide this exposure without direct investment in physical commodities. The Fund may also gain exposure to commodity markets by investing in BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund I, Ltd. (the “Subsidiary”). The Subsidiary invests primarily in commodity-related instruments. The Subsidiary may also hold cash and invest in other instruments, including fixed-income securities, either as investments or to serve as margin or collateral for the Subsidiary’s derivative positions. BlackRock is the manager of the Subsidiary. The Subsidiary (unlike the Fund) may invest without limitation in commodity-related instruments. However, the Subsidiary is otherwise subject to the same fundamental, non-fundamental and certain other investment restrictions as the Fund. The Fund will limit its investments in the Subsidiary to 25% of its total assets.

The Subsidiary is managed pursuant to compliance policies and procedures that are the same, in all material respects, as the policies and procedures adopted by the Fund. As a result, BlackRock, in managing the Subsidiary’s portfolio, is subject to the same investment policies and restrictions that apply to the management of the Fund, and, in particular, to the requirements relating to portfolio leverage, liquidity, brokerage, and the timing and method of the valuation of the Subsidiary’s portfolio investments and shares of the Subsidiary. These policies and restrictions are described in detail in the Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”). The Fund’s Chief Compliance Officer oversees implementation of the Subsidiary’s policies and procedures, and makes periodic reports to the Board regarding the Subsidiary’s compliance with its policies and procedures. The Fund and Subsidiary test for compliance with certain investment restrictions on a consolidated basis, except that with respect to its investments in certain securities that may involve leverage, the Subsidiary complies with asset segregation requirements to the same extent as the Fund.

BlackRock provides investment management and other services to the Subsidiary. BlackRock does not receive separate compensation from the Subsidiary for providing it with investment management or administrative services. However, the Fund pays BlackRock based on the Fund’s assets, including the assets invested in the Subsidiary. The Subsidiary will also enter into separate contracts for the provision of custody and audit services with the same or with affiliates of the same service providers that provide those services to the Fund.

The financial statements of the Subsidiary will be consolidated with the Fund’s financial statements in the Fund’s Annual and Semi-Annual Reports. The Fund’s Annual and Semi-Annual Reports are distributed to shareholders, and copies of the reports are provided without charge upon request as indicated on the back cover of this prospectus. Please refer to the SAI for additional information about the organization and management of the Subsidiary.

■ **Equity Securities** — The Fund can invest in all types of equity securities, including common stock, preferred stock, warrants, convertible securities and stock purchase rights of companies of any market capitalization. A warrant gives the Fund the right to buy stock. The warrant specifies the amount of underlying stock, the purchase (or “exercise”) price, and the date the warrant expires. The Fund has no obligation to exercise the warrant and buy the



stock. Fund management may seek to invest in the stock of smaller or emerging growth companies that it expects will provide a higher total return than other equity investments. Investing in smaller or emerging growth companies involves greater risk than investing in more established companies.

- **Debt Securities** — The Fund can invest in all types of debt securities, including U.S. and foreign government bonds, corporate bonds and convertible bonds, structured notes, credit-linked notes, loan assignments and participations, mortgage- and asset-backed securities, and securities issued or guaranteed by certain international organizations such as the World Bank.

The Fund may invest up to 35% of its total assets in “junk” bonds, corporate loans and distressed securities. Junk bonds are bonds that are rated below investment grade by independent rating agencies or are bonds that are not rated but which Fund management considers to be of comparable quality. Corporate loans are direct obligations of U.S. or foreign companies, which may include corporations, partnerships, trusts or other corporate-like entities. Distressed securities are securities, including loans purchased in the secondary market, that are the subject of bankruptcy proceedings or otherwise in default or in risk of being in default as to the repayment of principal and/or interest at the time of acquisition by the Fund or that are rated in the lower rating categories by one or more nationally recognized statistical rating organizations (for example, Ca or lower by Moody’s Investors Service, Inc. and CC or lower by S&P Global Ratings (“S&P”) or Fitch Ratings, Inc.) or, if unrated, are in the judgment of BlackRock of equivalent quality (“Distressed Securities”). These securities offer the possibility of relatively higher returns but are significantly riskier than higher rated debt securities.

- **Derivatives** — The Fund may use derivatives, including options, futures, indexed securities, inverse securities, swaps and forward contracts both to seek to increase the return of the Fund and to hedge (or protect) the value of its assets against adverse movements in currency exchange rates, interest rates and movements in the securities markets. Derivatives are financial instruments whose value is derived from another security, a commodity (such as oil or gas), a currency or an index, including but not limited to the S&P 500® Index and the VIX. The use of options, futures, indexed securities, inverse securities, swaps and forward contracts can be effective in protecting or enhancing the value of the Fund’s assets.

## Other Strategies

In addition to the principal strategies discussed above, the Fund may also invest or engage in the following investments/strategies:

- **Borrowing** — The Fund may borrow for temporary or emergency purposes, including to meet redemptions, for the payment of dividends, for share repurchases or for the clearance of transactions, subject to the limits set forth under the Investment Company Act, the rules and regulations thereunder and any applicable exemptive relief.
- **Contracts for Difference** — The Fund may enter into contracts for difference (“CFD”), a type of derivative. A CFD is a contract between two parties, typically described as “buyer” and “seller,” stipulating that the seller will pay to the buyer the difference between the current value of an asset and its value in the future. (If the difference is negative, then the buyer instead pays the seller.) In effect, CFDs are financial derivatives that allow a fund to take advantage of values moving up (long positions) or values moving down (short positions) on underlying assets. For example, when applied to equities, a CFD is an equity derivative that allows a fund to obtain investment exposure to share price movements, without the need for ownership of the underlying shares.
- **Depository Receipts** — The Fund may invest in securities of foreign issuers in the form of depository receipts or other securities that are convertible into securities of foreign issuers. American Depository Receipts are receipts typically issued by an American bank or trust company that evidence underlying securities issued by a foreign corporation. European Depository Receipts (issued in Europe) and Global Depository Receipts (issued throughout the world) each evidence a similar ownership arrangement. The Fund may invest in unsponsored depository receipts.
- **Illiquid/Restricted Securities** — The Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities that it cannot sell within seven days at approximately current value. The Subsidiary will also limit its investment in illiquid securities to 15% of its net assets. In applying the illiquid securities restriction to the Fund, the Fund’s investment in the Subsidiary is considered to be liquid. Restricted securities are securities that cannot be offered for public resale unless registered under the applicable securities laws or that have a contractual restriction that prohibits or limits their resale, such as certain Rule 144A securities. They may include private placement securities that have not been registered under the applicable securities laws. Restricted securities may not be listed on an exchange and may have no active trading market. Rule 144A securities are restricted securities that can be resold to qualified institutional buyers but not to the general public, and will be considered liquid if they can be sold within seven days at approximately current value.



- **Investment Companies and Trusts** — The Fund has the ability to invest in other investment companies, such as exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), unit investment trusts, and open-end and closed-end funds. The Fund may invest in affiliated investment companies, including affiliated money market funds, affiliated ETFs and affiliated trusts.
- **Repurchase Agreements and Purchase and Sale Contracts** — The Fund may enter into certain types of repurchase agreements or purchase and sale contracts. Under a repurchase agreement, the seller agrees to repurchase a security at a mutually agreed-upon time and price. A purchase and sale contract is similar to a repurchase agreement, but purchase and sale contracts also provide that the purchaser receives any interest on the security paid during the period.
- **Securities Lending** — The Fund may lend securities with a value up to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % of its total assets to financial institutions that provide cash or securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government as collateral.
- **Short Sales** — The Fund may engage in short sales, which are transactions in which the Fund sells securities borrowed from others with the expectation that the price of the security will fall before the Fund must purchase the security to return it to the lender. The Fund may make short sales of securities, either as a hedge against potential declines in value of a portfolio security or to realize appreciation when a security that the Fund does not own declines in value. The Fund will not make a short sale if, after giving effect to such sale, the market value of all securities sold short exceeds 20% of the value of its total assets. However, the Fund may make short sales “against the box” without being subject to this limitation. In this type of short sale, at the time of the sale, the Fund owns or has the immediate and unconditional right to acquire the identical securities at no additional cost.
- **Short-Term Securities or Instruments** — The Fund can invest in high quality short-term U.S. dollar or non-U.S. dollar denominated fixed-income securities or other instruments, such as U.S. or foreign government securities, commercial paper and money market instruments issued by U.S. or foreign commercial banks or depository institutions. Fund management may increase the Fund’s investment in these instruments in times of market volatility or when it believes that it is prudent or timely to be invested in lower yielding but less risky securities. Large investments in such securities or instruments may prevent the Fund from achieving its investment objective.
- **Standby Commitment Agreements** — Standby commitment agreements commit the Fund, for a stated period of time, to purchase a stated amount of securities that may be issued and sold to the Fund at the option of the issuer.
- **Temporary Defensive Strategies** — For temporary defensive purposes, the Fund may restrict the markets in which it invests and may invest without limitation in cash, cash equivalents, money market securities, such as U.S. Treasury and agency obligations, other U.S. Government securities, short-term debt obligations of corporate issuers, certificates of deposit, bankers acceptances, commercial paper (short term, unsecured, negotiable promissory notes of a domestic or foreign issuer) or other high quality fixed-income securities. Temporary defensive positions may affect the Fund’s ability to achieve its investment objective.
- **When-Issued and Delayed Delivery Securities and Forward Commitments** — The purchase or sale of securities on a when-issued basis, on a delayed delivery basis or through a forward commitment involves the purchase or sale of securities by the Fund at an established price with payment and delivery taking place in the future. The Fund enters into these transactions to obtain what is considered an advantageous price to the Fund at the time of entering into the transaction.

#### **ABOUT THE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND**

The Fund is managed by a team of financial professionals. Dan Chamby, CFA, Russ Koesterich, CFA, JD, David Clayton, CFA, JD, and Kent Hogshire, CFA are the Fund’s portfolio managers and are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund. Please see “Management of the Funds — Portfolio Manager Information” for additional information about the portfolio management team.

## **Investment Risks**

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This section contains a discussion of the general risks of investing in the Fund. The “Investment Objectives and Policies” section in the SAI also includes more information about the Fund, its investments and the related risks. As with any fund, there can be no guarantee that the Fund will meet its investment objective or that the Fund’s performance will be positive for any period of time. An investment in the Fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or by any bank or governmental agency.

### **Principal Risks of Investing in the Fund:**

**Commodities Related Investments Risks** — Exposure to the commodities markets may subject the Fund to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities. The value of commodity-linked derivative investments may be affected by changes in overall market movements, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates, or factors affecting a particular industry or commodity, such as drought, floods, weather, embargoes, tariffs and international economic, political and regulatory developments.

**Convertible Securities Risk** — The market value of a convertible security performs like that of a regular debt security; that is, if market interest rates rise, the value of a convertible security usually falls. In addition, convertible securities are subject to the risk that the issuer will not be able to pay interest or dividends when due, and their market value may change based on changes in the issuer’s credit rating or the market’s perception of the issuer’s creditworthiness. Since it derives a portion of its value from the common stock into which it may be converted, a convertible security is also subject to the same types of market and issuer risks that apply to the underlying common stock.

**Corporate Loans Risk** — Commercial banks and other financial institutions or institutional investors make corporate loans to companies that need capital to grow or restructure. Borrowers generally pay interest on corporate loans at rates that change in response to changes in market interest rates such as the London Interbank Offered Rate or the prime rates of U.S. banks. As a result, the value of corporate loan investments is generally less exposed to the adverse effects of shifts in market interest rates than investments that pay a fixed rate of interest. However, because the trading market for certain corporate loans may be less developed than the secondary market for bonds and notes, the Fund may experience difficulties in selling its corporate loans. Transactions in corporate loans may settle on a delayed basis. As a result, the proceeds from the sale of corporate loans may not be readily available to make additional investments or to meet the Fund’s redemption obligations. To the extent the extended settlement process gives rise to short-term liquidity needs, the Fund may hold additional cash, sell investments or temporarily borrow from banks and other lenders. Leading financial institutions often act as agent for a broader group of lenders, generally referred to as a syndicate. The syndicate’s agent arranges the corporate loans, holds collateral and accepts payments of principal and interest. If the agent develops financial problems, the Fund may not recover its investment or recovery may be delayed. By investing in a corporate loan, the Fund may become a member of the syndicate.

The market for corporate loans may be subject to irregular trading activity and wide bid/ask spreads.

The corporate loans in which the Fund invests are subject to the risk of loss of principal and income. Although borrowers frequently provide collateral to secure repayment of these obligations they do not always do so. If they do provide collateral, the value of the collateral may not completely cover the borrower’s obligations at the time of a default. If a borrower files for protection from its creditors under the U.S. bankruptcy laws, these laws may limit the Fund’s rights to its collateral. In addition, the value of collateral may erode during a bankruptcy case. In the event of a bankruptcy, the holder of a corporate loan may not recover its principal, may experience a long delay in recovering its investment and may not receive interest during the delay.

**Debt Securities Risk** — Debt securities, such as bonds, involve interest rate risk, credit risk, extension risk, and prepayment risk, among other things.

**Interest Rate Risk** — The market value of bonds and other fixed-income securities changes in response to interest rate changes and other factors. Interest rate risk is the risk that prices of bonds and other fixed-income securities will increase as interest rates fall and decrease as interest rates rise. The Fund may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates due to the current period of historically low rates. For example, if interest rates increase by 1%, assuming a current portfolio duration of ten years, and all other factors being equal, the value of the Fund’s investments would be expected to decrease by 10%. The magnitude of these fluctuations in the market price of bonds and other fixed-income securities is generally greater for those securities with longer maturities. Fluctuations in the market price of the Fund’s investments will not affect interest income derived from instruments already owned by the Fund, but will be reflected in the Fund’s net asset value. The Fund may lose money if short-term or long-term interest rates rise sharply in a manner not anticipated by Fund management. To the extent the Fund invests in debt securities that may be prepaid at the option of the obligor (such as mortgage-backed securities), the sensitivity of such securities to changes in interest rates may increase (to the detriment of the Fund) when interest rates rise. Moreover, because

rates on certain floating rate debt securities typically reset only periodically, changes in prevailing interest rates (and particularly sudden and significant changes) can be expected to cause some fluctuations in the net asset value of the Fund to the extent that it invests in floating rate debt securities. These basic principles of bond prices also apply to U.S. Government securities. A security backed by the “full faith and credit” of the U.S. Government is guaranteed only as to its stated interest rate and face value at maturity, not its current market price. Just like other fixed-income securities, government-guaranteed securities will fluctuate in value when interest rates change.

Following the financial crisis that began in 2007, the Federal Reserve has attempted to stabilize the economy and support the economic recovery by keeping the federal funds rate (the interest rate at which depository institutions lend reserve balances to other depository institutions overnight) at or near zero percent. In addition, as part of its monetary stimulus program known as quantitative easing, the Federal Reserve has purchased on the open market large quantities of securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities. As the Federal Reserve “tapers” or reduces the amount of securities it purchases pursuant to quantitative easing, and/or if the Federal Reserve raises the federal funds rate, there is a risk that interest rates will rise. A general rise in interest rates has the potential to cause investors to move out of fixed-income securities on a large scale, which may increase redemptions from mutual funds that hold large amounts of fixed-income securities. Heavy redemptions could cause the Fund to sell assets at inopportune times or at a loss or depressed value and could hurt the Fund’s performance.

During periods of very low or negative interest rates, the Fund may be unable to maintain positive returns. Certain countries have recently experienced negative interest rates on certain fixed-income instruments. Very low or negative interest rates may magnify interest rate risk. Changing interest rates, including rates that fall below zero, may have unpredictable effects on markets, may result in heightened market volatility and may detract from Fund performance to the extent the Fund is exposed to such interest rates.

**Credit Risk** — Credit risk refers to the possibility that the issuer of a debt security (*i.e.*, the borrower) will not be able to make payments of interest and principal when due. Changes in an issuer’s credit rating or the market’s perception of an issuer’s creditworthiness may also affect the value of the Fund’s investment in that issuer. The degree of credit risk depends on both the financial condition of the issuer and the terms of the obligation.

**Extension Risk** — When interest rates rise, certain obligations will be paid off by the obligor more slowly than anticipated, causing the value of these obligations to fall. Rising interest rates tend to extend the duration of securities, making them more sensitive to changes in interest rates. The value of longer-term securities generally changes more in response to changes in interest rates than shorter-term securities. As a result, in a period of rising interest rates, securities may exhibit additional volatility and may lose value.

**Prepayment Risk** — When interest rates fall, certain obligations will be paid off by the obligor more quickly than originally anticipated, and the Fund may have to invest the proceeds in securities with lower yields. In periods of falling interest rates, the rate of prepayments tends to increase (as does price fluctuation) as borrowers are motivated to pay off debt and refinance at new lower rates. During such periods, reinvestment of the prepayment proceeds by the management team will generally be at lower rates of return than the return on the assets that were prepaid. Prepayment reduces the yield to maturity and the average life of the security.

**Derivatives Risk** — The Fund’s use of derivatives may increase its costs, reduce the Fund’s returns and/or increase volatility. Derivatives involve significant risks, including:

**Volatility Risk** — The Fund’s use of derivatives may reduce the Fund’s returns and/or increase volatility. Volatility is defined as the characteristic of a security, an index or a market to fluctuate significantly in price within a short time period. A risk of the Fund’s use of derivatives is that the fluctuations in their values may not correlate with the overall securities markets.

**Counterparty Risk** — Derivatives are also subject to counterparty risk, which is the risk that the other party in the transaction will not fulfill its contractual obligation.

**Market and Liquidity Risk** — Some derivatives are more sensitive to interest rate changes and market price fluctuations than other securities. The possible lack of a liquid secondary market for derivatives and the resulting inability of the Fund to sell or otherwise close a derivatives position could expose the Fund to losses and could make derivatives more difficult for the Fund to value accurately. The Fund could also suffer losses related to its derivatives positions as a result of unanticipated market movements, which losses are potentially unlimited. Finally, BlackRock may not be able to predict correctly the direction of securities prices, interest rates and other economic factors, which could cause the Fund’s derivatives positions to lose value.

*Valuation Risk* — Valuation may be more difficult in times of market turmoil since many investors and market makers may be reluctant to purchase complex instruments or quote prices for them. Derivatives may also expose the Fund to greater risk and increase its costs. Certain transactions in derivatives involve substantial leverage risk and may expose the Fund to potential losses that exceed the amount originally invested by the Fund.

*Hedging Risk* — When a derivative is used as a hedge against a position that the Fund holds, any loss generated by the derivative generally should be substantially offset by gains on the hedged investment, and vice versa. While hedging can reduce or eliminate losses, it can also reduce or eliminate gains. Hedges are sometimes subject to imperfect matching between the derivative and the underlying security, and there can be no assurance that the Fund's hedging transactions will be effective. The use of hedging may result in certain adverse tax consequences noted below.

*Tax Risk* — The federal income tax treatment of a derivative may not be as favorable as a direct investment in an underlying asset and may adversely affect the timing, character and amount of income the Fund realizes from its investments. As a result, a larger portion of the Fund's distributions may be treated as ordinary income rather than capital gains. In addition, certain derivatives are subject to mark-to-market or straddle provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. If such provisions are applicable, there could be an increase (or decrease) in the amount of taxable dividends paid by the Fund. In addition, the tax treatment of certain derivatives, such as swaps, is unsettled and may be subject to future legislation, regulation or administrative pronouncements issued by the Internal Revenue Service.

*Regulatory Risk* — Derivative contracts, including, without limitation, swaps, currency forwards and non-deliverable forwards, are subject to regulation under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank Act") in the United States and under comparable regimes in Europe, Asia and other non-U.S. jurisdictions. Under the Dodd-Frank Act, certain derivatives are subject to margin requirements and swap dealers are required to collect margin from the Fund with respect to such derivatives. Specifically, regulations are now in effect that require swap dealers to post and collect variation margin (comprised of specified liquid instruments and subject to a required haircut) in connection with trading of over-the-counter ("OTC") swaps with the Fund. Shares of investment companies (other than certain money market funds) may not be posted as collateral under these regulations. Requirements for posting of initial margin in connection with OTC swaps will be phased-in through 2020. In addition, regulations adopted by prudential regulators that will begin to take effect in 2019 will require certain bank-regulated counterparties and certain of their affiliates to include in certain financial contracts, including many derivatives contracts, terms that delay or restrict the rights of counterparties, such as the Fund, to terminate such contracts, foreclose upon collateral, exercise other default rights or restrict transfers of credit support in the event that the counterparty and/or its affiliates are subject to certain types of resolution or insolvency proceedings. The implementation of these requirements with respect to derivatives, as well as regulations under the Dodd-Frank Act regarding clearing, mandatory trading and margining of other derivatives, may increase the costs and risks to the Fund of trading in these instruments and, as a result, may affect returns to investors in the Fund.

Future regulatory developments may impact the Fund's ability to invest or remain invested in certain derivatives. Legislation or regulation may also change the way in which the Fund itself is regulated. BlackRock cannot predict the effects of any new governmental regulation that may be implemented on the ability of the Fund to use swaps or any other financial derivative product, and there can be no assurance that any new governmental regulation will not adversely affect the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective.

#### *Risks Specific to Certain Derivatives Used by the Fund*

Swaps — Swap agreements, including total return swaps that may be referred to as contracts for difference, are two-party contracts entered into for periods ranging from a few weeks to more than one year. In a standard "swap" transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of return) earned or realized on particular predetermined investments or instruments, which can be adjusted for an interest factor. Swap agreements involve the risk that the party with whom the Fund has entered into the swap will default on its obligation to pay the Fund and the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its obligations to pay the other party to the agreement. Swap agreements may also involve the risk that there is an imperfect correlation between the return on the Fund's obligation to its counterparty and the return on referenced asset. In addition, swap agreements are subject to market and liquidity risk, leverage risk and hedging risk.

Credit Default Swaps — Credit default swaps may have as reference obligations one or more securities that are not currently held by the Fund. The protection "buyer" may be obligated to pay the protection "seller" an up-front payment or a periodic stream of payments over the term of the contract, provided generally that no credit event on a reference obligation has occurred. Credit default swaps involve special risks in addition to those mentioned above because they are difficult to value, are highly susceptible to liquidity and credit risk, and generally pay a return to the party that has paid the premium only in the event of an actual default by the issuer of the underlying obligation (as opposed to a credit downgrade or other indication of financial difficulty).



Forward Foreign Currency Exchange Contracts — Forward foreign currency exchange transactions are OTC contracts to purchase or sell a specified amount of a specified currency or multinational currency unit at a price and future date set at the time of the contract. Forward foreign currency exchange contracts do not eliminate fluctuations in the value of non-U.S. securities but rather allow the Fund to establish a fixed rate of exchange for a future point in time. This strategy can have the effect of reducing returns and minimizing opportunities for gain.

Indexed and Inverse Securities — Indexed and inverse securities provide a potential return based on a particular index of value or interest rates. The Fund's return on these securities will be subject to risk with respect to the value of the particular index. These securities are subject to leverage risk and correlation risk. Certain indexed and inverse securities have greater sensitivity to changes in interest rates or index levels than other securities, and the Fund's investment in such instruments may decline significantly in value if interest rates or index levels move in a way Fund management does not anticipate.

Futures — Futures are standardized, exchange-traded contracts that obligate a purchaser to take delivery, and a seller to make delivery, of a specific amount of an asset at a specified future date at a specified price. The primary risks associated with the use of futures contracts and options are: (a) the imperfect correlation between the change in market value of the instruments held by the Fund and the price of the futures contract or option; (b) the possible lack of a liquid secondary market for a futures contract and the resulting inability to close a futures contract when desired; (c) losses caused by unanticipated market movements, which are potentially unlimited; (d) the investment adviser's inability to predict correctly the direction of securities prices, interest rates, currency exchange rates and other economic factors; and (e) the possibility that the counterparty will default in the performance of its obligations.

Options — An option is an agreement that, for a premium payment or fee, gives the option holder (the purchaser) the right but not the obligation to buy (a "call option") or sell (a "put option") the underlying asset (or settle for cash in an amount based on an underlying asset, rate, or index) at a specified price (the "exercise price") during a period of time or on a specified date. Investments in options are considered speculative. When the Fund purchases an option, it may lose the total premium paid for it if the price of the underlying security or other assets decreased, remained the same or failed to increase to a level at or beyond the exercise price (in the case of a call option) or increased, remained the same or failed to decrease to a level at or below the exercise price (in the case of a put option). If a put or call option purchased by the Fund were permitted to expire without being sold or exercised, its premium would represent a loss to the Fund. To the extent that the Fund writes or sells an option, if the decline or increase in the underlying asset is significantly below or above the exercise price of the written option, the Fund could experience a substantial loss.

Commodity-Linked Derivatives — The value of a commodity-linked derivative investment typically is based upon the price movements of a commodity, a commodity futures contract or commodity index, or some other readily measurable economic variable. The value of commodity-linked derivative instruments may be affected by changes in overall market movements, volatility of the underlying benchmark, changes in interest rates, or factors affecting a particular industry or commodity, such as drought, floods, weather, livestock disease, embargoes, tariffs and international economic, political and regulatory developments. The value of commodity-linked derivatives will rise or fall in response to changes in the underlying commodity or related index. Investments in commodity-linked derivatives may be subject to greater volatility than non-derivative based investments. A highly liquid secondary market may not exist for certain commodity-linked derivatives, and there can be no assurance that one will develop.

Commodity-linked derivatives also may be subject to credit and interest rate risks that in general affect the values of fixed-income securities. Therefore, at maturity, the Fund may receive more or less principal than it originally invested. The Fund might receive interest payments that are more or less than the stated coupon interest payments.

In connection with the Fund's direct and indirect investments in commodity-linked derivatives, the Fund will attempt to manage its counterparty exposure so as to limit its exposure to any one counterparty. However, due to the limited number of entities that may serve as counterparties (and which the Fund believes are creditworthy) at any one time the Fund may enter into swap agreements with a limited number of counterparties and may invest in commodity-linked notes issued by a limited number of issuers that will act as counterparties, which may increase the Fund's exposure to counterparty credit risk. There can be no assurance that the Fund will be able to limit exposure to any one counterparty at all times.

***Distressed Securities Risk*** — Distressed securities are speculative and involve substantial risks in addition to the risks of investing in junk bonds. The Fund will generally not receive interest payments on the distressed securities and may incur costs to protect its investment. In addition, distressed securities involve the substantial risk that principal will not be repaid. These securities may present a substantial risk of default or may be in default at the time of investment. The Fund may incur additional expenses to the extent it is required to seek recovery upon a default in the payment of principal of or interest on its portfolio holdings. In any reorganization or liquidation proceeding relating to a

portfolio company, the Fund may lose its entire investment or may be required to accept cash or securities with a value less than its original investment. Distressed securities and any securities received in an exchange for such securities may be subject to restrictions on resale.

**Emerging Markets Risk** — The risks of foreign investments are usually much greater for emerging markets. Investments in emerging markets may be considered speculative. Emerging markets may include those in countries considered emerging or developing by the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation or the United Nations. Emerging markets are riskier than more developed markets because they tend to develop unevenly and may never fully develop. They are more likely to experience hyperinflation and currency devaluations, which adversely affect returns to U.S. investors. In addition, many emerging markets have far lower trading volumes and less liquidity than developed markets. Since these markets are often small, they may be more likely to suffer sharp and frequent price changes or long-term price depression because of adverse publicity, investor perceptions or the actions of a few large investors. In addition, traditional measures of investment value used in the United States, such as price to earnings ratios, may not apply to certain small markets. Also, there may be less publicly available information about issuers in emerging markets than would be available about issuers in more developed capital markets, and such issuers may not be subject to accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and requirements comparable to those to which U.S. companies are subject.

Many emerging markets have histories of political instability and abrupt changes in policies. As a result, their governments are more likely to take actions that are hostile or detrimental to private enterprise or foreign investment than those of more developed countries, including expropriation of assets, confiscatory taxation, high rates of inflation or unfavorable diplomatic developments. In the past, governments of such nations have expropriated substantial amounts of private property, and most claims of the property owners have never been fully settled. There is no assurance that such expropriations will not reoccur. In such an event, it is possible that the Fund could lose the entire value of its investments in the affected market. Some countries have pervasive corruption and crime that may hinder investments. Certain emerging markets may also face other significant internal or external risks, including the risk of war, and ethnic, religious and racial conflicts. In addition, governments in many emerging market countries participate to a significant degree in their economies and securities markets, which may impair investment and economic growth. National policies that may limit the Fund's investment opportunities include restrictions on investment in issuers or industries deemed sensitive to national interests.

Emerging markets may also have differing legal systems and the existence or possible imposition of exchange controls, custodial restrictions or other foreign or U.S. governmental laws or restrictions applicable to such investments. Sometimes, they may lack or be in the relatively early development of legal structures governing private and foreign investments and private property. Many emerging markets do not have income tax treaties with the United States, and as a result, investments by the Fund may be subject to higher withholding taxes in such countries. In addition, some countries with emerging markets may impose differential capital gains taxes on foreign investors.

Practices in relation to settlement of securities transactions in emerging markets involve higher risks than those in developed markets, in part because the Fund will need to use brokers and counterparties that are less well capitalized, and custody and registration of assets in some countries may be unreliable. The possibility of fraud, negligence, undue influence being exerted by the issuer or refusal to recognize ownership exists in some emerging markets, and, along with other factors, could result in ownership registration being completely lost. The Fund would absorb any loss resulting from such registration problems and may have no successful claim for compensation. In addition, communications between the United States and emerging market countries may be unreliable, increasing the risk of delayed settlements or losses of security certificates.

**Equity Securities Risk** — Common and preferred stocks represent equity ownership in a company. Stock markets are volatile. The price of equity securities will fluctuate and can decline and reduce the value of a portfolio investing in equities. The value of equity securities purchased by the Fund could decline if the financial condition of the companies the Fund invests in declines or if overall market and economic conditions deteriorate. The value of equity securities may also decline due to factors that affect a particular industry or industries, such as labor shortages or an increase in production costs and competitive conditions within an industry. In addition, the value may decline due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a company or industry, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the general outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or generally adverse investor sentiment.

**Foreign Securities Risk** — Securities traded in foreign markets have often (though not always) performed differently from securities traded in the United States. However, such investments often involve special risks not present in U.S. investments that can increase the chances that the Fund will lose money. In particular, the Fund is subject to the risk



that because there may be fewer investors on foreign exchanges and a smaller number of securities traded each day, it may be more difficult for the Fund to buy and sell securities on those exchanges. In addition, prices of foreign securities may go up and down more than prices of securities traded in the United States.

*Certain Risks of Holding Fund Assets Outside the United States* — The Fund generally holds its foreign securities and cash in foreign banks and securities depositories. Some foreign banks and securities depositories may be recently organized or new to the foreign custody business. In addition, there may be limited or no regulatory oversight of their operations. Also, the laws of certain countries limit the Fund's ability to recover its assets if a foreign bank, depository or issuer of a security, or any of their agents, goes bankrupt. In addition, it is often more expensive for the Fund to buy, sell and hold securities in certain foreign markets than in the United States. The increased expense of investing in foreign markets reduces the amount the Fund can earn on its investments and typically results in a higher operating expense ratio for the Fund than for investment companies invested only in the United States.

*Currency Risk* — Securities and other instruments in which the Fund invests may be denominated or quoted in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. For this reason, changes in foreign currency exchange rates can affect the value of the Fund's portfolio.

Generally, when the U.S. dollar rises in value against a foreign currency, a security denominated in that currency loses value because the currency is worth fewer U.S. dollars. Conversely, when the U.S. dollar decreases in value against a foreign currency, a security denominated in that currency gains value because the currency is worth more U.S. dollars. This risk, generally known as "currency risk," means that a strong U.S. dollar will reduce returns for U.S. investors while a weak U.S. dollar will increase those returns.

*Foreign Economy Risk* — The economies of certain foreign markets may not compare favorably with the economy of the United States with respect to such issues as growth of gross national product, reinvestment of capital, resources and balance of payments position. Certain foreign economies may rely heavily on particular industries or foreign capital and are more vulnerable to diplomatic developments, the imposition of economic sanctions against a particular country or countries, changes in international trading patterns, trade barriers and other protectionist or retaliatory measures. Investments in foreign markets may also be adversely affected by governmental actions such as the imposition of capital controls, nationalization of companies or industries, expropriation of assets or the imposition of punitive taxes. In addition, the governments of certain countries may prohibit or impose substantial restrictions on foreign investments in their capital markets or in certain industries. Any of these actions could severely affect securities prices or impair the Fund's ability to purchase or sell foreign securities or transfer the Fund's assets or income back into the United States, or otherwise adversely affect the Fund's operations.

Other potential foreign market risks include foreign exchange controls, difficulties in pricing securities, defaults on foreign government securities, difficulties in enforcing legal judgments in foreign courts and political and social instability. Diplomatic and political developments, including rapid and adverse political changes, social instability, regional conflicts, terrorism and war, could affect the economies, industries and securities and currency markets, and the value of the Fund's investments, in non-U.S. countries. These factors are extremely difficult, if not impossible, to predict and take into account with respect to the Fund's investments.

*Governmental Supervision and Regulation/Accounting Standards* — Many foreign governments do not supervise and regulate stock exchanges, brokers and the sale of securities to the same extent as such regulations exist in the United States. They also may not have laws to protect investors that are comparable to U.S. securities laws. For example, some foreign countries may have no laws or rules against insider trading. Insider trading occurs when a person buys or sells a company's securities based on material non-public information about that company. In addition, some countries may have legal systems that may make it difficult for the Fund to vote proxies, exercise shareholder rights, and pursue legal remedies with respect to its foreign investments. Accounting standards in other countries are not necessarily the same as in the United States. If the accounting standards in another country do not require as much detail as U.S. accounting standards, it may be harder for Fund management to completely and accurately determine a company's financial condition.

*Settlement Risk* — Settlement and clearance procedures in certain foreign markets differ significantly from those in the United States. Foreign settlement and clearance procedures and trade regulations also may involve certain risks (such as delays in payment for or delivery of securities) not typically associated with the settlement of U.S. investments.

At times, settlements in certain foreign countries have not kept pace with the number of securities transactions. These problems may make it difficult for the Fund to carry out transactions. If the Fund cannot settle or is delayed in settling a purchase of securities, it may miss attractive investment opportunities and certain of its assets may be uninvested

with no return earned thereon for some period. If the Fund cannot settle or is delayed in settling a sale of securities, it may lose money if the value of the security then declines or, if it has contracted to sell the security to another party, the Fund could be liable for any losses incurred.

**European Economic Risk** — The European financial markets have recently experienced volatility and adverse trends due to concerns about economic downturns in, or rising government debt levels of, several European countries. These events may spread to other countries in Europe. These events may affect the value and liquidity of certain of the Fund's investments.

Responses to the financial problems by European governments, central banks and others, including austerity measures and reforms, may not work, may result in social unrest and may limit future growth and economic recovery or have other unintended consequences. Further defaults or restructurings by governments and others of their debt could have additional adverse effects on economies, financial markets and asset valuations around the world. In addition, the United Kingdom has voted to withdraw from the European Union, and one or more other countries may withdraw from the European Union and/or abandon the Euro, the common currency of the European Union. The impact of these actions, especially if they occur in a disorderly fashion, is not clear but could be significant and far reaching.

**High Portfolio Turnover Risk** — The Fund may engage in active and frequent trading of its portfolio securities. High portfolio turnover (more than 100%) may result in increased transaction costs to the Fund, including brokerage commissions, dealer mark-ups and other transaction costs on the sale of the securities and on reinvestment in other securities. The sale of Fund portfolio securities may result in the realization and/or distribution to shareholders of higher capital gains or losses as compared to a fund with less active trading policies. These effects of higher than normal portfolio turnover may adversely affect Fund performance.

**Junk Bonds Risk** — Although junk bonds generally pay higher rates of interest than investment grade bonds, junk bonds are high risk investments that are considered speculative and may cause income and principal losses for the Fund. The major risks of junk bond investments include:

- Junk bonds may be issued by less creditworthy issuers. Issuers of junk bonds may have a larger amount of outstanding debt relative to their assets than issuers of investment grade bonds. In the event of an issuer's bankruptcy, claims of other creditors may have priority over the claims of junk bond holders, leaving few or no assets available to repay junk bond holders.
- Prices of junk bonds are subject to extreme price fluctuations. Adverse changes in an issuer's industry and general economic conditions may have a greater impact on the prices of junk bonds than on other higher rated fixed-income securities.
- Issuers of junk bonds may be unable to meet their interest or principal payment obligations because of an economic downturn, specific issuer developments, or the unavailability of additional financing.
- Junk bonds frequently have redemption features that permit an issuer to repurchase the security from the Fund before it matures. If the issuer redeems junk bonds, the Fund may have to invest the proceeds in bonds with lower yields and may lose income.
- Junk bonds may be less liquid than higher rated fixed-income securities, even under normal economic conditions. There are fewer dealers in the junk bond market, and there may be significant differences in the prices quoted for junk bonds by the dealers. Because they are less liquid, judgment may play a greater role in valuing certain of the Fund's securities than is the case with securities trading in a more liquid market.
- The Fund may incur expenses to the extent necessary to seek recovery upon default or to negotiate new terms with a defaulting issuer.

The credit rating of a high yield security does not necessarily address its market value risk. Ratings and market value may change from time to time, positively or negatively, to reflect new developments regarding the issuer.

**Leverage Risk** — Some transactions may give rise to a form of economic leverage. These transactions may include, among others, derivatives, and may expose the Fund to greater risk and increase its costs. As an open-end investment company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), the Fund is subject to the federal securities laws, including the Investment Company Act, the rules thereunder, and various SEC and SEC staff interpretive positions. In accordance with these laws, rules and positions, the Fund must "set aside" liquid assets (often referred to as "asset segregation"), or engage in other SEC- or staff-approved measures, to "cover" open positions with respect to certain kinds of instruments. The use of leverage may cause the Fund to liquidate portfolio positions when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations or to meet any required asset segregation requirements. Increases and decreases in the value of the Fund's portfolio will be magnified when the Fund uses leverage.

**Market Risk and Selection Risk** — Market risk is the risk that one or more markets in which the Fund invests will go down in value, including the possibility that the markets will go down sharply and unpredictably. Selection risk is the risk that the securities selected by Fund management will underperform the markets, the relevant indices or the securities selected by other funds with similar investment objectives and investment strategies. This means you may lose money.

**Mid Cap Securities Risk** — The securities of mid cap companies generally trade in lower volumes and are generally subject to greater and less predictable price changes than the securities of larger capitalization companies.

**Mortgage- and Asset-Backed Securities Risks** — Mortgage-backed securities (residential and commercial) and asset-backed securities represent interests in “pools” of mortgages or other assets, including consumer loans or receivables held in trust. Although asset-backed and commercial mortgage-backed securities (“CMBS”) generally experience less prepayment than residential mortgage-backed securities, mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities, like traditional fixed-income securities, are subject to credit, interest rate, prepayment and extension risks.

Small movements in interest rates (both increases and decreases) may quickly and significantly reduce the value of certain mortgage-backed securities. The Fund’s investments in asset-backed securities are subject to risks similar to those associated with mortgage-related securities, as well as additional risks associated with the nature of the assets and the servicing of those assets. These securities also are subject to the risk of default on the underlying mortgage or assets, particularly during periods of economic downturn. Certain CMBS are issued in several classes with different levels of yield and credit protection. The Fund’s investments in CMBS with several classes may be in the lower classes that have greater risks than the higher classes, including greater interest rate, credit and prepayment risks.

Mortgage-backed securities may be either pass-through securities or collateralized mortgage obligations (“CMOs”). Pass-through securities represent a right to receive principal and interest payments collected on a pool of mortgages, which are passed through to security holders. CMOs are created by dividing the principal and interest payments collected on a pool of mortgages into several revenue streams (tranches) with different priority rights to portions of the underlying mortgage payments. Certain CMO tranches may represent a right to receive interest only, principal only or an amount that remains after floating-rate tranches are paid (an inverse floater). These securities are frequently referred to as “mortgage derivatives” and may be extremely sensitive to changes in interest rates. Interest rates on inverse floaters, for example, vary inversely with a short-term floating rate (which may be reset periodically). Interest rates on inverse floaters will decrease when short-term rates increase, and will increase when short-term rates decrease. These securities have the effect of providing a degree of investment leverage. In response to changes in market interest rates or other market conditions, the value of an inverse floater may increase or decrease at a multiple of the increase or decrease in the value of the underlying securities. If the Fund invests in CMO tranches (including CMO tranches issued by government agencies) and interest rates move in a manner not anticipated by Fund management, it is possible that the Fund could lose all or substantially all of its investment. Certain mortgage-backed securities in which the Fund may invest may also provide a degree of investment leverage, which could cause the Fund to lose all or substantially all of its investment.

The mortgage market in the United States has experienced difficulties that may adversely affect the performance and market value of certain of the Fund’s mortgage-related investments. Delinquencies and losses on mortgage loans (including subprime and second-lien mortgage loans) generally have increased and may continue to increase, and a decline in or flattening of real-estate values (as has been experienced and may continue to be experienced in many housing markets) may exacerbate such delinquencies and losses. Also, a number of mortgage loan originators have experienced serious financial difficulties or bankruptcy. Reduced investor demand for mortgage loans and mortgage-related securities and increased investor yield requirements have caused limited liquidity in the secondary market for mortgage-related securities, which can adversely affect the market value of mortgage-related securities. It is possible that such limited liquidity in such secondary markets could continue or worsen.

Asset-backed securities entail certain risks not presented by mortgage-backed securities, including the risk that in certain states it may be difficult to perfect the liens securing the collateral backing certain asset-backed securities. In addition, certain asset-backed securities are based on loans that are unsecured, which means that there is no collateral to seize if the underlying borrower defaults.

**Precious Metal Related Securities Risk** — Prices of precious metals and of precious metal related securities historically have been very volatile. The high volatility of precious metal prices may adversely affect the financial condition of companies involved with precious metals. The production and sale of precious metals by governments or central banks or other larger holders can be affected by various economic, financial, social and political factors, which may be unpredictable and may have a significant impact on the prices of precious metals. Other factors that may affect the prices of precious metals and securities related to them include changes in inflation, the outlook for inflation and changes in industrial and commercial demand for precious metals.

Other factors that may affect the prices of precious metals and securities related to them include changes in inflation, the outlook for inflation and changes in industrial and commercial demand for precious metals. Additionally, increased environmental or labor costs may depress the value of mining and metal investments.

**Real Estate Related Securities Risk** — The main risk of real estate related securities is that the value of the underlying real estate may go down. Many factors may affect real estate values. These factors include both the general and local economies, the amount of new construction in a particular area, the laws and regulations (including zoning and tax laws) affecting real estate and the costs of owning, maintaining and improving real estate. The availability of mortgages and changes in interest rates may also affect real estate values. If the Fund's real estate related investments are concentrated in one geographic area or in one property type, the Fund will be particularly subject to the risks associated with that area or property type.

**REIT Investment Risk** — In addition to the risks facing real estate-related securities, such as a decline in property values due to increasing vacancies, a decline in rents resulting from unanticipated economic, legal or technological developments or a decline in the price of securities of real estate companies due to a failure of borrowers to pay their loans or poor management, investments in REITs involve unique risks. REITs may have limited financial resources, may trade less frequently and in limited volume and may be more volatile than other securities.

**Small Cap and Emerging Growth Securities Risk** — Small cap or emerging growth companies may have limited product lines or markets. They may be less financially secure than larger, more established companies. They may depend on a small number of key personnel. If a product fails or there are other adverse developments, or if management changes, the Fund's investment in a small cap or emerging growth company may lose substantial value. In addition, it is more difficult to get information on smaller companies, which tend to be less well known, have shorter operating histories, do not have significant ownership by large investors and are followed by relatively few securities analysts.

The securities of small cap and emerging growth companies generally trade in lower volumes and are subject to greater and more unpredictable price changes than larger cap securities or the market as a whole. In addition, small cap and emerging growth securities may be particularly sensitive to changes in interest rates, borrowing costs and earnings. Investing in small cap and emerging growth securities requires a longer term view.

**Sovereign Debt Risk** — Sovereign debt instruments are subject to the risk that a governmental entity may delay or refuse to pay interest or repay principal on its sovereign debt, due, for example, to cash flow problems, insufficient foreign currency reserves, political considerations, the relative size of the governmental entity's debt position in relation to the economy or the failure to put in place economic reforms required by the International Monetary Fund or other multilateral agencies. If a governmental entity defaults, it may ask for more time in which to pay or for further loans. There is no legal process for collecting sovereign debt that a government does not pay nor are there bankruptcy proceedings through which all or part of the sovereign debt that a governmental entity has not repaid may be collected.

**Structured Notes Risk** — Structured notes and other related instruments purchased by the Fund are generally privately negotiated debt obligations where the principal and/or interest is determined by reference to the performance of a specific asset, benchmark asset, market or interest rate ("reference measure"). The interest rate or the principal amount payable upon maturity or redemption may increase or decrease, depending upon changes in the value of the reference measure. The terms of a structured note may provide that, in certain circumstances, no principal is due at maturity and, therefore, may result in a loss of invested capital by the Fund. The interest and/or principal payments that may be made on a structured product may vary widely, depending on a variety of factors, including the volatility of the reference measure.

Structured notes may be positively or negatively indexed, so the appreciation of the reference measure may produce an increase or a decrease in the interest rate or the value of the principal at maturity. The rate of return on structured notes may be determined by applying a multiplier to the performance or differential performance of reference measures. Application of a multiplier involves leverage that will serve to magnify the potential for gain and the risk of loss.

The purchase of structured notes exposes the Fund to the credit risk of the issuer of the structured product. Structured notes may also be more volatile, less liquid, and more difficult to price accurately than less complex securities and instruments or more traditional debt securities.

**Subsidiary Risk** — By investing in the Subsidiary, the Fund is indirectly exposed to the risks associated with the Subsidiary's investments. The commodity-related instruments held by the Subsidiary are generally similar to those that are permitted to be held by the Fund and are subject to the same risks that apply to similar investments if held directly by the Fund (see "Commodities Related Investments Risks" above). There can be no assurance that the investment objective of the Subsidiary will be achieved. The Subsidiary is not registered under the Investment Company Act, and, unless otherwise noted in this prospectus, is not subject to all the investor protections of the Investment Company Act. However, the Fund wholly owns and controls the Subsidiary, and the Fund and the Subsidiary are both managed by



BlackRock, making it unlikely that the Subsidiary will take action contrary to the interests of the Fund and its shareholders. The Board has oversight responsibility for the investment activities of the Fund, including its investment in the Subsidiary, and the Fund's role as sole shareholder of the Subsidiary. The Subsidiary is subject to the same investment restrictions and limitations, and follows the same compliance policies and procedures, as the Fund. Changes in the laws of the United States and/or the Cayman Islands could result in the inability of the Fund and/or the Subsidiary to operate as described in this prospectus and the SAI and could adversely affect the Fund.

In order to qualify as a regulated investment company, at least 90% of the Fund's gross income for the taxable year must be "qualifying income." The Fund anticipates treating the income and gain generated from investments in controlled foreign subsidiaries that invest in physical commodities and/or commodity-linked derivative instruments as "qualifying income" for regulated investment company qualification purposes. However, there can be no assurance that the IRS will agree with treating such income and gain as "qualifying income." If the IRS makes an adverse determination relating to the treatment of such income and gain, the Fund would likely need to change its investment strategies, which could adversely affect the Fund. The IRS has proposed regulations that, if finalized in current form, would specify that a subpart F income inclusion for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be treated as qualifying income only to the extent that the Subsidiary makes distributions out of its earnings and profits in the same taxable year.

**Warrants Risk** — If the price of the underlying stock does not rise above the exercise price before the warrant expires, the warrant generally expires without any value and the Fund will lose any amount it paid for the warrant. Thus, investments in warrants may involve substantially more risk than investments in common stock. Warrants may trade in the same markets as their underlying stock; however, the price of the warrant does not necessarily move with the price of the underlying stock.

**The Fund may also be subject to certain other risks associated with its investments and investment strategies, including:**

**Borrowing Risk** — Borrowing may exaggerate changes in the net asset value of Fund shares and in the return on the Fund's portfolio. Borrowing will cost the Fund interest expense and other fees. The costs of borrowing may reduce the Fund's return. Borrowing may cause the Fund to liquidate positions when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations.

**Contracts for Difference Risk** — CFDs are subject to liquidity risk because the liquidity of CFDs is based on the liquidity of the underlying instrument, and are subject to counterparty risk, *i.e.*, the risk that the counterparty to the CFD transaction may be unable or unwilling to make payments or to otherwise honor its financial obligations under the terms of the contract. To the extent that there is an imperfect correlation between the return on the Fund's obligation to its counterparty under the CFD and the return on related assets in its portfolio, the CFD transaction may increase the Fund's financial risk. CFDs, like many other derivative instruments, involve the risk that, if the derivative security declines in value, additional margin would be required to maintain the margin level. The seller may require the Fund to deposit additional sums to cover this, and this may be at short notice. If additional margin is not provided in time, the seller may liquidate the positions at a loss for which the Fund is liable. CFDs are not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission or any U.S. regulator, and are not subject to U.S. regulation.

**Depository Receipts Risk** — Depository receipts are generally subject to the same risks as the foreign securities that they evidence or into which they may be converted. In addition to investment risks associated with the underlying issuer, depository receipts expose the Fund to additional risks associated with the non-uniform terms that apply to depository receipt programs, credit exposure to the depository bank and to the sponsors and other parties with whom the depository bank establishes the programs, currency risk and liquidity risk. The issuers of unsponsored depository receipts are not obligated to disclose information that is, in the United States, considered material. Therefore, there may be less information available regarding these issuers and there may not be a correlation between such information and the market value of the depository receipts.

**Expense Risk** — Fund expenses are subject to a variety of factors, including fluctuations in the Fund's net assets. Accordingly, actual expenses may be greater or less than those indicated. For example, to the extent that the Fund's net assets decrease due to market declines or redemptions, the Fund's expenses will increase as a percentage of Fund net assets. During periods of high market volatility, these increases in the Fund's expense ratio could be significant.

**Investment in Other Investment Companies Risk** — As with other investments, investments in other investment companies, including ETFs, are subject to market and selection risk. In addition, if the Fund acquires shares of investment companies, including ones affiliated with the Fund, shareholders bear both their proportionate share of

expenses in the Fund (including management and advisory fees) and, indirectly, the expenses of the investment companies (to the extent not offset by BlackRock through waivers to the Fund's management fees). To the extent the Fund is held by an affiliated fund, the ability of the Fund itself to hold other investment companies may be limited.

**Liquidity Risk** — Liquidity risk exists when particular investments are difficult to purchase or sell. The Fund's investments in illiquid securities may reduce the returns of the Fund because it may be difficult to sell the illiquid securities at an advantageous time or price. To the extent that the Fund's principal investment strategies involve derivatives or securities with substantial market and/or credit risk, the Fund will tend to have the greatest exposure to liquidity risk. Liquidity risk may be the result of, among other things, the reduced number and capacity of traditional market participants to make a market in fixed-income securities or the lack of an active market. Liquid investments may become illiquid or less liquid after purchase by the Fund, particularly during periods of market turmoil. Illiquid and relatively less liquid investments may be harder to value, especially in changing markets, and if the Fund is forced to sell these investments to meet redemption requests or for other cash needs, the Fund may suffer a loss. This may be magnified in a rising interest rate environment or other circumstances where investor redemptions from fixed-income mutual funds may be higher than normal. In addition, when there is illiquidity in the market for certain securities, the Fund, due to limitations on illiquid investments, may be subject to purchase and sale restrictions.

**Repurchase Agreements and Purchase and Sale Contracts Risk** — If the other party to a repurchase agreement or purchase and sale contract defaults on its obligation under the agreement, the Fund may suffer delays and incur costs or lose money in exercising its rights under the agreement. If the seller fails to repurchase the security in either situation and the market value of the security declines, the Fund may lose money.

**Securities Lending Risk** — Securities lending involves the risk that the borrower may fail to return the securities in a timely manner or at all. As a result, the Fund may lose money and there may be a delay in recovering the loaned securities. The Fund could also lose money if it does not recover the securities and/or the value of the collateral falls, including the value of investments made with cash collateral. These events could trigger adverse tax consequences for the Fund.

**Short Sales Risk** — Because making short sales in securities that it does not own exposes the Fund to the risks associated with those securities, such short sales involve speculative exposure risk. The Fund will incur a loss as a result of a short sale if the price of the security increases between the date of the short sale and the date on which the Fund replaces the security sold short. The Fund will realize a gain if the security declines in price between those dates. As a result, if the Fund makes short sales in securities that increase in value, it will likely underperform similar funds that do not make short sales in securities they do not own. There can be no assurance that the Fund will be able to close out a short sale position at any particular time or at an acceptable price. Although the Fund's gain is limited to the amount at which it sold a security short, its potential loss is limited only by the maximum attainable price of the security, less the price at which the security was sold. The Fund may also pay transaction costs and borrowing fees in connection with short sales.

**Standby Commitment Agreements Risk** — Standby commitment agreements involve the risk that the security the Fund buys will lose value prior to its delivery to the Fund and will no longer be worth what the Fund has agreed to pay for it. These agreements also involve the risk that if the security goes up in value, the counterparty will decide not to issue the security. In this case, the Fund loses both the investment opportunity for the assets it set aside to pay for the security and any gain in the security's price.

**Valuation Risk** — The price the Fund could receive upon the sale of any particular portfolio investment may differ from the Fund's valuation of the investment, particularly for securities that trade in thin or volatile markets or that are valued using a fair valuation methodology or a price provided by an independent pricing service. As a result, the price received upon the sale of an investment may be less than the value ascribed by the Fund, and the Fund could realize a greater than expected loss or lesser than expected gain upon the sale of the investment. Pricing services that value fixed-income securities generally utilize a range of market-based and security-specific inputs and assumptions, as well as considerations about general market conditions, to establish a price. Pricing services generally value fixed-income securities assuming orderly transactions of an institutional round lot size, but may be held or transactions may be conducted in such securities in smaller, odd lot sizes. Odd lots may trade at lower prices than institutional round lots. The Fund's ability to value its investments may also be impacted by technological issues and/or errors by pricing services or other third-party service providers.

**When-Issued and Delayed Delivery Securities and Forward Commitments Risk** — When-issued and delayed delivery securities and forward commitments involve the risk that the security the Fund buys will lose value prior to its delivery. There also is the risk that the security will not be issued or that the other party to the transaction will not meet its obligation. If this occurs, the Fund may lose both the investment opportunity for the assets it set aside to pay for the security and any gain in the security's price.



## Financial Highlights

The Financial Highlights table is intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the periods shown. Certain information reflects the financial results for a single Fund share. The total returns in the table represent the rate that an investor would have earned or lost on an investment in the Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and/or distributions). The information has been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, whose report, along with the Fund's financial statements, is included in the Fund's Annual Report, which is available upon request.

Consolidated Financial Highlights (For a share outstanding throughout each period)	Class I				
	Year Ended December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Per Share Operating Performance</b>					
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 15.51	\$ 15.09	\$ 16.26	\$ 17.61	\$ 16.10
Net investment income <sup>1</sup>	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.29	0.22
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	1.92	0.40	(0.35)	0.12	2.14
Net increase (decrease) from investment operations	2.14	0.62	(0.13)	0.41	2.36
Distributions: <sup>2</sup>					
From net investment income	(0.22)	(0.20)	(0.19)	(0.39)	(0.20)
From net realized gain	(0.17)	—	(0.84)	(1.37)	(0.65)
From return of capital	—	—	(0.01)	—	—
Total distributions	(0.39)	(0.20)	(1.04)	(1.76)	(0.85)
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 17.26	\$ 15.51	\$ 15.09	\$ 16.26	\$ 17.61
<b>Total Return<sup>3</sup></b>					
Based on net asset value	13.86%	4.11%	(0.89)%	2.30%	14.76%
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets</b>					
Total expenses	0.72% <sup>4</sup>	0.74%	0.75%	0.74%	0.72%
Total expenses after fees waived and/or reimbursed	0.72% <sup>4</sup>	0.74%	0.73%	0.72%	0.72%
Total expenses after fees waived and/or reimbursed and excluding dividend expense, interest expense and stock loan fees	0.70% <sup>4</sup>	0.73%	0.73%	0.72%	0.72%
Net investment income	1.32% <sup>4</sup>	1.47%	1.32%	1.64%	1.26%
<b>Supplemental Data</b>					
Net assets, end of year (000)	\$2,306,034	\$2,107,145	\$1,994,371	\$1,708,903	\$2,426,154
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>5</sup>	118%	135%	90%	72%	53%

<sup>1</sup> Based on average shares outstanding.

<sup>2</sup> Distributions for annual periods determined in accordance with federal income tax regulations.

<sup>3</sup> Where applicable, excludes insurance-related fees and expenses and assumes the reinvestment of distributions.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes expenses incurred indirectly as a result of investments in underlying funds of 0.01%.

<sup>5</sup> Includes mortgage dollar roll transactions ("MDRs"). Additional information regarding portfolio turnover is as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Portfolio turnover rate (excluding MDRs)	118%	135%	88%	72%	53%

**Financial Highlights** (continued)

Consolidated Financial Highlights (For a share outstanding throughout each period)	Class II				
	Year Ended December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Per Share Operating Performance</b>					
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 15.46	\$ 15.04	\$ 16.21	\$ 17.56	\$ 16.07
Net investment income <sup>1</sup>	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.25	0.19
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	1.93	0.40	(0.35)	0.14	2.14
Net increase (decrease) from investment operations	2.12	0.60	(0.16)	0.39	2.33
Distributions: <sup>2</sup>					
From net investment income	(0.20)	(0.18)	(0.16)	(0.37)	(0.19)
From net realized gain	(0.17)	—	(0.84)	(1.37)	(0.65)
From return of capital	—	—	(0.01)	—	—
Total distributions	(0.37)	(0.18)	(1.01)	(1.74)	(0.84)
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 17.21	\$ 15.46	\$ 15.04	\$ 16.21	\$ 17.56
<b>Total Return<sup>3</sup></b>					
Based on net asset value	13.74%	3.96%	(1.05)%	2.16%	14.55%
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets</b>					
Total expenses	1.00% <sup>4</sup>	1.02%	1.02%	1.01%	1.00%
Total expenses after fees waived and/or reimbursed	0.87% <sup>4</sup>	0.89%	0.88%	0.88%	0.87%
Total expenses after fees waived and/or reimbursed and excluding dividend expense, interest expense and stock loan fees	0.85% <sup>4</sup>	0.88%	0.88%	0.87%	0.87%
Net investment income	1.17% <sup>4</sup>	1.33%	1.17%	1.39%	1.07%
<b>Supplemental Data</b>					
Net assets, end of year (000)	\$258,564	\$229,492	\$256,964	\$260,312	\$216,395
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>5</sup>	118%	135%	90%	72%	53%

<sup>1</sup> Based on average shares outstanding.

<sup>2</sup> Distributions for annual periods determined in accordance with federal income tax regulations.

<sup>3</sup> Where applicable, excludes insurance-related fees and expenses and assumes the reinvestment of distributions.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes expenses incurred indirectly as a result of investments in underlying funds of 0.01%.

<sup>5</sup> Includes mortgage dollar roll transactions ("MDRs"). Additional information regarding portfolio turnover is as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Portfolio turnover rate (excluding MDRs)	118%	135%	88%	72%	53%

**Financial Highlights** (concluded)

Consolidated Financial Highlights (For a share outstanding throughout each period)	Class III				
	Year Ended December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Per Share Operating Performance</b>					
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 13.37	\$ 13.04	\$ 14.19	\$ 15.58	\$ 14.34
Net investment income <sup>1</sup>	0.17	0.16	0.15	0.21	0.16
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	1.66	0.34	(0.30)	0.12	1.89
Net increase (decrease) from investment operations	1.83	0.50	(0.15)	0.33	2.05
Distributions: <sup>2</sup>					
From net investment income	(0.19)	(0.17)	(0.15)	(0.35)	(0.16)
From net realized gain	(0.17)	—	(0.84)	(1.37)	(0.65)
From return of capital	—	—	(0.01)	—	—
Total distributions	(0.36)	(0.17)	(1.00)	(1.72)	(0.81)
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 14.84	\$ 13.37	\$ 13.04	\$ 14.19	\$ 15.58
<b>Total Return<sup>3</sup></b>					
Based on net asset value	13.71%	3.81%	(1.14)%	2.08%	14.42%
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets</b>					
Total expenses	1.13% <sup>4</sup>	1.12%	1.12%	1.11%	1.11%
Total expenses after fees waived and/or reimbursed	1.00% <sup>4</sup>	0.99%	0.98%	0.98%	0.97%
Total expenses after fees waived and/or reimbursed and excluding dividend expense, interest expense and stock loan fees	0.98% <sup>4</sup>	0.98%	0.98%	0.97%	0.97%
Net investment income	1.15% <sup>4</sup>	1.22%	1.07%	1.32%	1.02%
<b>Supplemental Data</b>					
Net assets, end of year (000)	\$8,233,615	\$8,139,218	\$8,869,288	\$9,780,007	\$10,014,301
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>5</sup>	118%	135%	90%	72%	53%

<sup>1</sup> Based on average shares outstanding.

<sup>2</sup> Distributions for annual periods determined in accordance with federal income tax regulations.

<sup>3</sup> Where applicable, excludes insurance-related fees and expenses and assumes the reinvestment of distributions.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes expenses incurred directly as a result of investments in underlying funds of 0.01%.

<sup>5</sup> Includes mortgage dollar roll transactions ("MDRs"). Additional information regarding portfolio turnover is as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Portfolio turnover rate (excluding MDRs)	118%	135%	88%	72%	53%

# Other Important Information

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## **BlackRock Variable Series Funds Class III Shares**

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# Account Information

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## ***The Insurance Companies***

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Shares of the BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Core V.I. Fund, the BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Value V.I. Fund, the BlackRock Advantage U.S. Total Market V.I. Fund, the BlackRock Basic Value V.I. Fund, the BlackRock Capital Appreciation V.I. Fund, the BlackRock Equity Dividend V.I. Fund, the BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund, the BlackRock High Yield V.I. Fund, the BlackRock iShares® Alternative Strategies V.I. Fund, the BlackRock iShares® Dynamic Allocation V.I. Fund, the BlackRock Large Cap Focus Growth V.I. Fund, the BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund, the BlackRock S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund, the BlackRock Total Return V.I. Fund and the BlackRock U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund (each a “Fund” and collectively the “Funds”) are sold to separate accounts of insurance companies (the “Insurance Companies”) either directly or indirectly (through other variable insurance funds) to fund certain variable life insurance contracts and/or variable annuities (the “Contracts”) issued by the Insurance Companies.

Shares of the Funds are owned by the Insurance Companies, not Contract owners. A Contract owner has no direct interest in the shares of a Fund, but only in the Contract. A Contract is described in the prospectus for that Contract. That prospectus describes the relationship between changes in the value of shares of a Fund, and the benefits provided under a Contract. The prospectus for a Contract also describes various fees payable to the Insurance Company and charges to the separate account made by the Insurance Company with respect to the Contract. While this prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information (the “SAI”) are intended for use by Contract owners, because shares of the Funds will be sold only to the Insurance Companies for the separate accounts, the terms “you,” “your,” “shareholder” and “shareholders” in this prospectus may refer to the Insurance Companies.

More than one Insurance Company may invest in each Fund. It is possible that a difference may arise among the interests of Insurance Companies that invest in a Fund or the holders of different types of Contracts — for example, if applicable state insurance law or Contract owner instructions prevent an Insurance Company from continuing to invest in a Fund following a change in the Fund’s investment policies, or if different tax laws apply to variable life insurance contracts and variable annuities. The Funds and the Insurance Companies will attempt to monitor events to prevent such differences from arising. If a conflict between Insurance Companies occurs, or between life insurance policies and annuity contracts, however, a Fund may be required to take actions that are adverse to the interests of a particular Insurance Company and its Contract owners, or to the interests of holders of a particular type of Contract.

## ***How to Buy and Sell Shares***

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The BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc. (the “Company”) is offering through this prospectus Class III Shares in certain Funds to the Insurance Companies. The price of shares purchased by the Insurance Companies is based on the next calculation of the per share net asset value of a Fund after an order is placed. The Company may reject any order to buy shares and may suspend the sale of shares at any time. The Company will redeem all full and fractional shares of the Funds for cash. The price of redeemed shares is based on the next calculation of net asset value after a redemption order is placed. The value of shares at the time of redemption may be more or less than the shareholder’s cost, depending in part on the net asset value of such shares at such time.

## ***Short-Term Trading Policy***

The Company’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) has determined that the interests of long-term shareholders and a Fund’s ability to manage its investments may be adversely affected when shares are repeatedly bought, sold or exchanged in response to short-term market fluctuations — also known as “market timing.” The Funds are not designed for market timing organizations or other entities using programmed or frequent purchases and sales or exchanges. The exchange privilege is not intended as a vehicle for short-term trading. Excessive purchase and sale or exchange activity may interfere with portfolio management, increase expenses and taxes and may have an adverse effect on the performance of a Fund and its returns to shareholders. For example, large flows of cash into and out of a Fund may require the management team to allocate a significant amount of assets to cash or other short-term investments or sell securities, rather than maintaining such assets in securities selected to achieve a Fund’s investment objective. Frequent trading may cause a Fund to sell securities at less favorable prices, and transaction costs, such as brokerage commissions, can reduce a Fund’s performance.



A fund's investment in non-U.S. securities is subject to the risk that an investor may seek to take advantage of a delay between the change in value of such fund's portfolio securities and the determination of the fund's net asset value as a result of different closing times of U.S. and non-U.S. markets by buying or selling fund shares at a price that does not reflect their true value. A similar risk exists for funds that invest in securities of small capitalization companies, securities of issuers located in emerging markets or high yield securities ("junk bonds") that are thinly traded and therefore may have actual values that differ from their market prices. This short-term arbitrage activity can reduce the return received by long-term shareholders. Each Fund will seek to eliminate these opportunities by using fair value pricing, as described in "Management of the Funds — Valuation of Fund Investments" below.

The Funds discourage market timing and seek to prevent frequent purchases and sales or exchanges of Fund shares that they determine may be detrimental to a Fund or long-term shareholders. The Board has approved the policies discussed below to seek to deter market timing activity. The Board has not adopted any specific numerical restrictions on purchases, sales and exchanges of Fund shares because certain legitimate strategies will not result in harm to a Fund or its shareholders.

If as a result of its own investigation, information provided by a financial intermediary or other third party, or otherwise, a Fund believes, in its sole discretion, that your short-term trading is excessive or that you are engaging in market timing activity, it reserves the right to reject any specific purchase or exchange order. If a Fund rejects your purchase or exchange order, you will not be able to execute that transaction, and such Fund will not be responsible for any losses you therefore may suffer. For transactions placed directly with a Fund, such Fund may consider the trading history of accounts under common ownership or control for the purpose of enforcing these policies. Transactions placed through the same financial intermediary on an omnibus basis may be deemed part of a group for the purpose of this policy and may be rejected in whole or in part by a Fund. Certain accounts, such as omnibus accounts and accounts at financial intermediaries, however, include multiple investors and such accounts typically provide a Fund with net purchase or redemption and exchange requests on any given day where purchases, redemptions and exchanges of shares are netted against one another and the identity of individual purchasers, redeemers and exchangers whose orders are aggregated may not be known by a Fund. While the Funds monitor for market timing activity, the Funds may be unable to identify such activities because the netting effect in omnibus accounts often makes it more difficult to locate and eliminate market timers from the Funds. BlackRock Investments, LLC (the "Distributor") has entered into agreements with respect to financial professionals, and other financial intermediaries that maintain omnibus accounts with the transfer agent pursuant to which such financial professionals and other financial intermediaries undertake to cooperate with the Distributor in monitoring purchase, exchange and redemption orders by their customers in order to detect and prevent short-term or excessive trading in the Funds' shares through such accounts. Identification of market timers may also be limited by operational systems and technical limitations. In the event that a financial intermediary is determined by a Fund to be engaged in market timing or other improper trading activity, the Fund's Distributor may terminate such financial intermediary's agreement with the Distributor, suspend such financial intermediary's trading privileges or take other appropriate actions.

There is no assurance that the methods described above will prevent market timing or other trading that may be deemed abusive.

The Funds may from time to time use other methods that they believe are appropriate to deter market timing or other trading activity that may be detrimental to the Funds or long-term shareholders.

### ***Rule 12b-1 Fees for Class III Shares***

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The Company has adopted a plan under Rule 12b-1 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "Plan"), that allows a Fund to pay distribution fees to each of the participating Insurance Companies or broker-dealer affiliates thereof ("Insurance Company Affiliates") for the sale and distribution of its Class III Shares. Because these fees are paid out of a Fund's assets on an on-going basis, over time these fees will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more than paying other types of sales charges. Class III shareholders have no other purchase option. The amount of the distribution fee payable under the plan equals 0.25% of the average daily net asset value of the Class III Shares of a Fund held by the participating Insurance Company.

The distribution fee may be used to pay the participating Insurance Companies or Insurance Company Affiliates for distribution-related and/or shareholder services provided in connection with the sale of Class III Shares. The distribution fee may also be used to pay Insurance Companies, Insurance Company Affiliates and other financial intermediaries ("Service Organizations") for sales support services and related expenses.

In addition to, rather than in lieu of, distribution fees that a Fund may pay to a Service Organization pursuant to a Plan and fees a Fund pays to its transfer agent, if approved by the Board, BlackRock, on behalf of the Funds, may enter into non-Plan agreements with a Service Organization pursuant to which a Fund will pay a Service Organization for

administrative, networking, recordkeeping, subtransfer agency and shareholder services. These non-Plan payments are based on a percentage of the average daily net assets of Fund shareholders serviced by a Service Organization. The aggregate amount of these payments may be substantial.

From time to time, BlackRock, the Distributor and their affiliates may compensate affiliated and unaffiliated Service Organizations for the sale and distribution of shares of the Funds. These payments would be in addition to the Fund payments described above, if approved by the Board, and may be a fixed dollar amount, may be based on the number of customer accounts maintained by the Service Organization, may be based on a percentage of the value of shares sold to, or held by, customers of the Service Organization or may be calculated on another basis. The aggregate amount of these payments by BlackRock, the Distributor and their affiliates may be substantial and, in some circumstances, these revenue sharing payments may create an incentive for a Service Organization, its employees or associated persons to recommend or sell shares of the Funds to you. Please contact your Service Organization for details about payments it may receive from the Funds or from BlackRock, the Distributor or their affiliates. For more information, see the SAI.

# Management of the Funds

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## **BlackRock**

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BlackRock, each Fund's investment adviser, manages each Fund's investments and its business operations subject to the oversight of the Board of each of the Funds. While BlackRock is ultimately responsible for the management of the Funds, it is able to draw upon the trading, research and expertise of its asset management affiliates for portfolio decisions and management with respect to certain portfolio securities. BlackRock is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of BlackRock, Inc.

BlackRock, a registered investment adviser, was organized in 1994 to perform advisory services for investment companies. BlackRock International Limited ("BIL"), BlackRock (Singapore) Limited ("BRS") and BlackRock Asset Management North Asia Limited ("BNA") are registered investment advisers organized in 1995, 2000 and 1998, respectively. BlackRock and its affiliates had approximately \$6.317 trillion in investment company and other portfolio assets under management as of March 31, 2018.

Each Fund has entered into a management agreement (the "Management Agreement") with BlackRock. Under the Management Agreement, BlackRock receives for its services to each Fund a fee at an annual rate described below. The fee is computed daily on a Fund-by-Fund basis and payable monthly.

### **BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Core V.I. Fund**

<b>Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets</b>	<b>Rate of Management Fee</b>
Not exceeding \$250 million	0.500%
In excess of \$250 million but not exceeding \$300 million	0.450%
In excess of \$300 million but not exceeding \$400 million	0.425%
In excess of \$400 million	0.400%

### **BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Value V.I. Fund**

<b>Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets</b>	<b>Rate of Management Fee</b>
Not exceeding \$1 billion	0.75%
In excess of \$1 billion but not more than \$3 billion	0.71%
In excess of \$3 billion but not more than \$5 billion	0.68%
In excess of \$5 billion but not more than \$10 billion	0.65%
In excess of \$10 billion	0.64%

For BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Value V.I. Fund, BlackRock has agreed to voluntarily waive 0.05% of its management fee payable by the Fund. This voluntary waiver may be reduced or discontinued at any time without notice.

## BlackRock Advantage U.S. Total Market V.I. Fund

Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets	Rate of Management Fee
Not exceeding \$1 billion	0.75%
In excess of \$1 billion but not more than \$3 billion	0.71%
In excess of \$3 billion but not more than \$5 billion	0.68%
In excess of \$5 billion but not more than \$10 billion	0.65%
In excess of \$10 billion	0.64%

## BlackRock Basic Value V.I. Fund

Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets	Rate of Management Fee
Not exceeding \$1 billion	0.60%
In excess of \$1 billion but not more than \$3 billion	0.56%
In excess of \$3 billion but not more than \$5 billion	0.54%
In excess of \$5 billion but not more than \$10 billion	0.52%
In excess of \$10 billion	0.51%

## BlackRock Capital Appreciation V.I. Fund

Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets	Rate of Management Fee
Not exceeding \$1 billion	0.65%
In excess of \$1 billion but not more than \$3 billion	0.61%
In excess of \$3 billion but not more than \$5 billion	0.59%
In excess of \$5 billion but not more than \$10 billion	0.57%
In excess of \$10 billion	0.55%

## BlackRock Equity Dividend V.I. Fund

Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets	Rate of Management Fee
Not exceeding \$1 billion	0.60%
In excess of \$1 billion but not more than \$3 billion	0.56%
In excess of \$3 billion but not more than \$5 billion	0.54%
In excess of \$5 billion but not more than \$10 billion	0.52%
In excess of \$10 billion	0.51%

## BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund

Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets	Rate of Management Fee
Not exceeding \$6 billion	0.65%
In excess of \$6 billion but not more than \$8 billion	0.61%
In excess of \$8 billion but not more than \$10 billion	0.59%
In excess of \$10 billion but not more than \$15 billion	0.57%
In excess of \$15 billion	0.55%

## BlackRock iShares® Alternative Strategies V.I. Fund

Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets	Rate of Management Fee
Not exceeding \$1 billion	0.250%
In excess of \$1 billion but not more than \$3 billion	0.240%
In excess of \$3 billion but not more than \$5 billion	0.225%
In excess of \$5 billion but not more than \$10 billion	0.220%
In excess of \$10 billion	0.210%

## BlackRock iShares® Dynamic Allocation V.I. Fund

Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets	Rate of Management Fee
Not exceeding \$1 billion	0.150%
In excess of \$1 billion but not more than \$3 billion	0.140%
In excess of \$3 billion but not more than \$5 billion	0.135%
In excess of \$5 billion	0.130%

## BlackRock Large Cap Focus Growth V.I. Fund

Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets	Rate of Management Fee
Not exceeding \$1 billion	0.65%
In excess of \$1 billion but not more than \$3 billion	0.61%
In excess of \$3 billion but not more than \$5 billion	0.59%
In excess of \$5 billion but not more than \$10 billion	0.57%
In excess of \$10 billion	0.55%

## BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund

Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets	Rate of Management Fee
Not exceeding \$1 billion	0.55%
In excess of \$1 billion but not more than \$3 billion	0.52%
In excess of \$3 billion but not more than \$5 billion	0.50%
In excess of \$5 billion but not more than \$10 billion	0.48%
In excess of \$10 billion	0.47%

## BlackRock S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund

Effective April 23, 2018, with respect to the BlackRock S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund, the annual management fees payable to BlackRock (as a percentage of average daily net assets) are calculated as follows:

	Rate of Management Fee
	0.07%

Prior to April 23, 2018, with respect to the BlackRock S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund, the annual management fees payable to BlackRock (as a percentage of average daily net assets) were calculated as follows:

	Rate of Management Fee
	0.300%



Prior to April 23, 2018, for BlackRock S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund, BlackRock had contractually agreed to waive 0.10% of its management fee. The contractual agreement terminated effective April 23, 2018 in connection with the above reduction in the Fund's contractual management fee rate.

### **BlackRock U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund**

<b>Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets</b>	<b>Rate of Management Fee</b>
Not exceeding \$1 billion	0.50%
In excess of \$1 billion but not more than \$3 billion	0.47%
In excess of \$3 billion but not more than \$5 billion	0.45%
In excess of \$5 billion but not more than \$10 billion	0.44%
In excess of \$10 billion	0.43%

For BlackRock U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund, BlackRock has agreed to voluntarily waive 0.10% of its management fee payable by the Fund. This voluntary waiver may be reduced or discontinued at any time without notice.

### **BlackRock High Yield V.I. Fund and BlackRock Total Return V.I. Fund**

<b>Portion of Aggregate Average Daily Value of Net Assets of Both Funds:</b>	<b>Rate of Management Fee</b>	
	<b>BlackRock High Yield V.I. Fund</b>	<b>BlackRock Total Return V.I. Fund</b>
Not exceeding \$250 million	0.55%	0.50%
In excess of \$250 million but not exceeding \$500 million	0.50%	0.45%
In excess of \$500 million but not exceeding \$750 million	0.45%	0.40%
In excess of \$750 million	0.40%	0.35%

The fee rates for the BlackRock High Yield V.I. Fund and BlackRock Total Return V.I. Fund are applied to the average daily net assets of each Fund, with the reduced rates shown below applicable to portions of the assets of each Fund to the extent that the aggregate average daily net assets of the BlackRock High Yield V.I. Fund and the BlackRock Total Return V.I. Fund combined exceed \$250 million, \$500 million and \$750 million (each such amount being a "breakpoint level"). The portion of the assets of a Fund to which the rate at each breakpoint level applies will be determined on a "uniform percentage" basis. The uniform percentage applicable to a breakpoint level is determined by dividing the amount of the aggregate average daily net assets of the combined Funds that falls within that breakpoint level by the aggregate average daily net assets of the combined Funds. The amount of the fee for a Fund at each breakpoint level is determined by multiplying the average daily net assets of that Fund by the uniform percentage applicable to that breakpoint level and multiplying the product by the advisory fee rate.

*All Funds (except BlackRock Government Money Market V.I. Fund, BlackRock iShares® Alternative Strategies V.I. Fund and BlackRock iShares® Dynamic Allocation V.I. Fund)*

BlackRock has contractually agreed to waive the management fee with respect to any portion of each Fund's assets estimated to be attributable to investments in other equity and fixed-income mutual funds and exchange-traded funds managed by BlackRock or its affiliates that have a contractual management fee. The contractual waiver is in effect through April 30, 2019 for each Fund other than the BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund and the BlackRock S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund (for which the contractual waiver is in effect through April 30, 2021). The contractual agreement may be terminated upon 90 days' notice by a majority of the Independent Directors or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

*BlackRock iShares® Alternative Strategies V.I. Fund and BlackRock iShares® Dynamic Allocation V.I. Fund*

BlackRock has contractually agreed to waive the management fee with respect to any portion of each Fund's assets estimated to be attributable to investments in other equity and fixed-income mutual funds managed by BlackRock or its affiliates that have a contractual management fee, through April 30, 2019. The contractual agreement may be terminated upon 90 days' notice by a majority of the Independent Directors or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

BlackRock has agreed to cap net expenses (excluding (i) interest, taxes, dividends tied to short sales, brokerage commissions, and other expenditures which are capitalized in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; (ii) expenses incurred directly or indirectly by a Fund as a result of investments in other investment companies and pooled investment vehicles; (iii) other expenses attributable to, and incurred as a result of, a Fund's investments; and (iv) extraordinary expenses (including litigation expenses) not incurred in the ordinary course of a Fund's business, if any) of each share class of certain Funds at the levels shown below and, in the case of contractual caps, in a Fund's fees and expenses table in the Fund Overview section of this prospectus. Items (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) in the preceding sentence are referred to in this prospectus as "Dividend Expense, Interest Expense, Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses and certain other Fund expenses." To achieve these expense caps, BlackRock has agreed to waive and/or reimburse fees or expenses if these operating expenses exceed a certain limit.

With respect to Class III shares of each Fund, as set forth in the table below, BlackRock has contractually agreed to waive and/or reimburse fees or expenses in order to limit Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements. With respect to Class III shares of certain Funds, BlackRock has contractually agreed to reimburse fees in order to limit operational and recordkeeping fees to the amounts noted in the table below.

	<b>Contractual Caps<sup>1</sup> on Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses<sup>2</sup> (excluding Dividend Expense, Interest Expense, Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses and certain other Fund expenses)</b>	<b>Contractual Caps<sup>1</sup> on fees paid by Fund for Operational and Recordkeeping Services</b>
Advantage Large Cap Core V.I. Fund	1.50%	0.08%
Advantage Large Cap Value V.I. Fund	0.85%	0.11%
Advantage U.S. Total Market V.I. Fund	0.80%	0.01%
Basic Value V.I. Fund	1.50%	0.09%
Capital Appreciation V.I. Fund	1.50%	0.08%
Equity Dividend V.I. Fund	1.50%	0.00%
Global Allocation V.I. Fund	1.50%	0.07%
High Yield V.I. Fund	1.50%	0.05%
iShares® Alternative Strategies V.I. Fund	0.90%	—
iShares® Dynamic Allocation V.I. Fund	0.78%	—
Large Cap Focus Growth V.I. Fund	1.50%	0.07%
Managed Volatility V.I. Fund <sup>3</sup>	0.84%	0.00%
S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund <sup>3</sup>	0.40%	0.05%
Total Return V.I. Fund	1.50%	0.06%
U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund	1.50%	0.06%

<sup>1</sup> The contractual caps for each Fund (other than the BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund and the BlackRock S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund) are in effect through April 30, 2019. The contractual caps for the BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund and the BlackRock S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund are in effect through April 30, 2021. The contractual agreement may be terminated, with respect to each Fund, upon 90 days notice by a majority of the non-interested directors of the Fund or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

<sup>2</sup> As a percentage of average daily net assets and based on current fees.

<sup>3</sup> For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, there were no Class III Shares outstanding.

With respect to the contractual agreements to cap net expenses described above for the BlackRock iShares® Alternative Strategies V.I. Fund and the BlackRock iShares® Dynamic Allocation V.I. Fund, if during a Fund's fiscal year the operating expenses of a share class, that at any time during the prior two fiscal years received a waiver and/or reimbursement from BlackRock, are less than the current expense limit for that share class, the share class is required to repay BlackRock up to the lesser of (a) the amount of fees waived or expenses reimbursed during those prior two fiscal years under the agreement and (b) an amount not to exceed either (x) the current expense limit of that share class or (y) the expense limit of the share class in effect at the time that the share class received the applicable waiver and/or reimbursement, provided that: (1) the Fund of which the share class is a part has more than \$50 million in assets and (2) BlackRock or an affiliate serves as the Fund's manager or administrator. This repayment applies only to the contractual caps on net expenses and does not apply to the contractual management fee waiver described above or any voluntary waivers that may be in effect from time to time.

With respect to each Fund, BlackRock has voluntarily agreed to waive its management fees by the amount of advisory fees the Fund pays to BlackRock indirectly through its investment in affiliated money market funds (the “affiliated money market fund waiver”).

The amount of the contractual waivers and/or reimbursements of fees and expenses made pursuant to the contractual cap on net expenses will be reduced by the amount of the affiliated money market fund waiver.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, the aggregate management fees, net of any applicable waivers, paid by each Fund to BlackRock as a percentage of each Fund’s average daily net assets were:

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Management Fee</b>
Advantage Large Cap Core V.I. Fund	0.46%
Advantage Large Cap Value V.I. Fund	0.45%
Advantage U.S. Total Market V.I. Fund	0.52%
Basic Value V.I. Fund	0.60%
Capital Appreciation V.I. Fund	0.65%
Equity Dividend V.I. Fund	0.60%
Global Allocation V.I. Fund	0.62%
High Yield V.I. Fund	0.49%
iShares® Alternative Strategies V.I. Fund	0.05%
iShares® Dynamic Allocation V.I. Fund	0.00%
Large Cap Focus Growth V.I. Fund	0.65%
Managed Volatility V.I. Fund	0.12% <sup>1</sup>
S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund	0.20% <sup>1</sup>
Total Return V.I. Fund	0.45%
U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund	0.40%

<sup>1</sup> For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, there were no Class III Shares outstanding.

BlackRock has entered into a sub-advisory agreement with BIL, an affiliate of BlackRock with respect to the BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund. Under the sub-advisory agreement, BlackRock pays BIL a monthly fee for services it provides for that portion of the BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund for which BIL acts as sub-adviser at an annual rate equal to a percentage of the management fee paid to BlackRock under the Management Agreement.

BlackRock has entered into a sub-advisory agreement with BNA, an affiliate of BlackRock with respect to the BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund. Under the sub-advisory agreement, BlackRock pays BNA a monthly fee for services it provides for that portion of the Managed Volatility V.I. Fund for which BNA acts as sub-adviser at an annual rate equal to a percentage of the management fee paid to BlackRock under the Management Agreement.

BlackRock has entered into a sub-advisory agreement with BRS, an affiliate of BlackRock with respect to the BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund. Under the sub-advisory agreement, BlackRock pays BRS a monthly fee for services it provides for that portion of the BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund for which BRS acts as sub-adviser at an annual rate equal to a percentage of the management fee paid to BlackRock under the Management Agreement.

A discussion of the basis for the Board’s approval of the Management Agreement with BlackRock and each sub-advisory agreement between BlackRock and each sub-adviser is included in each Fund’s semi-annual shareholder report for the fiscal period ended June 30, 2017.

From time to time, a manager, analyst, or other employee of BlackRock or its affiliates may express views regarding a particular asset class, company, security, industry, or market sector. The views expressed by any such person are the views of only that individual as of the time expressed and do not necessarily represent the views of BlackRock or any other person within the BlackRock organization. Any such views are subject to change at any time based upon market or other conditions and BlackRock disclaims any responsibility to update such views. These views may not be relied on as investment advice and, because investment decisions for a Fund are based on numerous factors, may not be relied on as an indication of trading intent on behalf of a Fund.

**Legal Proceedings.** On May 27, 2014, certain purported investors in the BlackRock Global Allocation Fund, Inc. (“Global Allocation”) and the BlackRock Equity Dividend Fund (“Equity Dividend”) filed a consolidated complaint (the “Consolidated Complaint”) in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey against BlackRock, BlackRock Investment Management, LLC and BlackRock International Limited (collectively, the “Defendants”) under the caption *In re BlackRock Mutual Funds Advisory Fee Litigation*. The Consolidated Complaint, which purports to be brought derivatively on behalf of Global Allocation and Equity Dividend, alleges that the Defendants violated Section 36(b) of the Investment Company Act by receiving allegedly excessive investment advisory fees from Global Allocation and Equity Dividend. The Consolidated Complaint seeks, among other things, to recover on behalf of Global Allocation and Equity Dividend all allegedly excessive advisory fees received by the Defendants in the period beginning one year prior to the filing of the lawsuit and ending on the date of judgment, along with purported lost investment returns on those amounts, plus interest. The Defendants believe the claims in the Consolidated Complaint are without merit and intend to vigorously defend the action.

### **Portfolio Manager Information**

Information regarding the portfolio managers of each Fund is set forth below. Further information regarding the portfolio managers, including other accounts managed, compensation, ownership of Fund shares, and possible conflicts of interest, is available in the Funds’ SAI.

#### **BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Core V.I. Fund, BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Value V.I. Fund and BlackRock Advantage U.S. Total Market V.I. Fund**

Each Fund is managed by Raffaele Savi, Travis Cooke, CFA, and Richard Mathieson who are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Primary Role</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Title and Recent Biography</b>
Raffaele Savi	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of each Fund’s portfolio, including setting each Fund’s overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Funds.	2017	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2009; Managing Director at Barclays Global Investors from 2007 to 2009; Principal at Barclays Global Investors from 2006 to 2007.
Travis Cooke, CFA	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of each Fund’s portfolio, including setting each Fund’s overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Funds.	2017	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2012; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2009 to 2011, Principal of Barclays Global Investors from 2002 to 2009.
Richard Mathieson	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of each Fund’s portfolio, including setting each Fund’s overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Funds.	2017	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2011; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2009 to 2011; Principal at BGI from 2008 to 2009; Equity Analyst for Exista UK from 2007 to 2008; Principal at BGI from 2005 to 2007; Associate of BGI from 2001 to 2005.

### **BlackRock Basic Value V.I. Fund**

The Fund is managed by Carrie King and Joseph Wolfe, who are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Primary Role</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Title and Recent Biography</b>
Carrie King	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2009	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2010; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2007 to 2010; Vice President of BlackRock, Inc. in 2006.
Joseph Wolfe	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2017	Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2012; Head of Quantitative Active Research at Northern Trust from 2005 to 2012.

### **BlackRock Capital Appreciation V.I. Fund**

The Fund is managed by Lawrence Kemp, who is primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Primary Role</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Title and Recent Biography</b>
Lawrence Kemp	Primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2013	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2012; Prior to joining BlackRock, Inc., Mr. Kemp was a Managing Director at UBS Global Asset Management.

### **BlackRock Equity Dividend V.I. Fund**

The Fund is managed by Tony DeSpirito, David Zhao and Franco Tapia, who are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Primary Role</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Title and Recent Biography</b>
Tony DeSpirito	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2014	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2014; Managing Principal, Portfolio Manager and Member of the Executive Committee of Pzena Investment Management from 2009 to 2014.
David Zhao	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2017	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2016; Global Equity Senior Research Analyst and Principal at Pzena Investment Management from 2006 to 2016.
Franco Tapia	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2017	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2016; Senior Equity Research Analyst and Portfolio Manager at Pzena Investment Management from 2006 to 2016.



### **BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund**

The Fund is managed by Dan Chamby, CFA, Russ Koesterich, CFA, JD, David Clayton, CFA, JD, and Kent Hogshire, CFA, who are jointly and primarily responsible for the management of the Fund.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Primary Role</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Title and Recent Biography</b>
Dan Chamby, CFA	Jointly and primarily responsible for the management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2003	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2007; Director of BlackRock, Inc. in 2006.
Russ Koesterich, CFA, JD	Jointly and primarily responsible for the management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2017	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2009.
David Clayton, CFA, JD	Jointly and primarily responsible for the management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2017	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2012; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2010 to 2011.
Kent Hogshire, CFA	Jointly and primarily responsible for the management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2017	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2017; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2008 to 2016.

### **BlackRock High Yield V.I. Fund**

The Fund is managed by James Keenan, CFA, Mitchell Garfin, CFA, David Delbos and Derek Schoenhofen. Mr. Keenan is jointly and primarily responsible for setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the Fund's investment process and performance. Messrs. Garfin, Delbos and Schoenhofen are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Primary Role</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Title and Recent Biography</b>
James Keenan, CFA	Jointly and primarily responsible for setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the Fund's investment process and performance.	2007	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2008 and Head of the Leveraged Finance Portfolio team; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2006 to 2007.
Mitchell Garfin, CFA	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2009	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2009; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2005 to 2008.
David Delbos	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2014	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2012; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2007 to 2011; Vice President of BlackRock, Inc. from 2005 to 2006.
Derek Schoenhofen	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2009	Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2006; Vice President of BlackRock, Inc. from 2000 to 2005.

## **BlackRock iShares® Alternative Strategies V.I. Fund and BlackRock iShares® Dynamic Allocation V.I. Fund**

Each Fund is managed by Amy Whitelaw, Greg Savage, CFA, and Michael Gates, CFA, who are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Primary Role</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Title and Recent Biography</b>
Amy Whitelaw	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2014	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2013; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2009 to 2012; Principal of Barclays Global Investors ("BGI") from 2000 to 2009.
Greg Savage, CFA	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2018	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2010; Director of BlackRock, Inc. in 2009; Principal of BGI from 2007 to 2009; Associate of BGI from 1999 to 2007.
Michael Gates, CFA	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2016	Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2009.

## **BlackRock Large Cap Focus Growth V.I. Fund**

The Fund is managed by Lawrence Kemp, who is primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Primary Role</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Title and Recent Biography</b>
Lawrence Kemp	Primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2017	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2012; Prior to joining BlackRock, Inc., Mr. Kemp was a Managing Director at UBS Global Asset Management.

## **BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. Fund**

The Fund is managed by Philip Green and Michael Pensky, who are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Primary Role</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Title and Recent Biography</b>
Philip Green	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2008	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2006.
Michael Pensky	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2013	Director of BlackRock Inc. since 2018; Vice President of BlackRock, Inc. from 2016 to 2017; Associate of BlackRock, Inc. from 2012 to 2015.

## BlackRock S&P 500 Index V.I. Fund

The Fund is managed by Greg Savage, CFA, Alan Mason, Jennifer Hsui, CFA, Creighton Jue, CFA and Rachel Aguirre, who are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund.

Portfolio Manager	Primary Role	Since	Title and Recent Biography
Greg Savage, CFA	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2011	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2010; Director of BlackRock, Inc. in 2009; Principal of BGI from 2007 to 2009; Associate of BGI from 1999 to 2007.
Alan Mason	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2014	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2009; Managing Director of BGI from 2008 to 2009; Principal of BGI from 1996 to 2009.
Jennifer Hsui, CFA	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2016	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2011; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2009 to 2011; Principal of BGI from 2006 to 2009.
Creighton Jue, CFA	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2016	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2011; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2009 to 2011; Principal of BGI from 2000 to 2009.
Rachel Aguirre	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2016	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2018; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2012 to 2017; Vice President of BlackRock, Inc. from 2009 to 2011; Principal and Portfolio Manager of BGI from 2005 to 2009.

## BlackRock Total Return V.I. Fund

The Fund is managed by Rick Rieder, Bob Miller and David Rogal, who are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund.

Portfolio Manager	Primary Role	Since	Title and Recent Biography
Rick Rieder	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2010	Global Chief Investment Officer of Fixed Income, Co-head of BlackRock's Global Fixed Income platform, member of Global Operating Committee and Chairman of the BlackRock firm-wide Investment Council; Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2009; President and Chief Executive Officer of R3 Capital Partners from 2008 to 2009; Managing Director of Lehman Brothers from 1994 to 2008.
Bob Miller	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2011	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2011; Co-Founder and Partner of Round Table Investment Management Company from 2007 to 2009; Managing Director of Bank of America from 1999 to 2007.
David Rogal	Responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2017	Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2014; Vice President of BlackRock, Inc. from 2011 to 2013.

## BlackRock U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund

The Fund is managed by Bob Miller, Matthew Kraeger and Siddharth Mehta, who are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund.

Portfolio Manager	Primary Role	Since	Title and Recent Biography
Bob Miller	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2012	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2011; Co-Founder and Partner of Round Table Investment Management Company from 2007 to 2009; Managing Director of Bank of America from 1999 to 2007.
Matthew Kraeger	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2012	Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2015; Director of BlackRock, Inc. from 2009 to 2014; Vice President of BlackRock, Inc. from 2006 to 2008; Associate of BlackRock, Inc. from 2002 to 2005.
Siddharth Mehta	Jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio, including setting the Fund's overall investment strategy and overseeing the management of the Fund.	2017	Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2017; Vice President of BlackRock, Inc. from 2011 to 2016.

## Conflicts of Interest

The investment activities of BlackRock and its affiliates (including BlackRock, Inc. and The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. and their affiliates, directors, partners, trustees, managing members, officers and employees (collectively, the "Affiliates")) in the management of, or their interest in, their own accounts and other accounts they manage, may present conflicts of interest that could disadvantage the Funds and their shareholders.

BlackRock and its Affiliates provide investment management services to other funds and discretionary managed accounts that follow investment programs similar to that of the Funds. BlackRock and its Affiliates are involved worldwide with a broad spectrum of financial services and asset management activities and may engage in the ordinary course of business in activities in which their interests or the interests of their clients may conflict with those of a Fund. One or more Affiliates act or may act as an investor, investment banker, research provider, investment manager, commodity pool operator, commodity trading advisor, financier, underwriter, adviser, market maker, trader, prime broker, lender, index provider, agent and principal, and have other direct and indirect interests, in securities, currencies, commodities, derivatives and other instruments in which a Fund may directly or indirectly invest. Thus, it is likely that a Fund will have multiple business relationships with and will invest in, engage in transactions with, make voting decisions with respect to, or obtain services from entities for which an Affiliate performs or seeks to perform investment banking or other services. Specifically, a Fund may invest in securities of, or engage in other transactions with, companies with which an Affiliate has developed or is trying to develop investment banking relationships or in which an Affiliate has significant debt or equity investments or other interests. A Fund also may invest in securities of, or engage in other transactions with, companies for which an Affiliate provides or may in the future provide research coverage. An Affiliate may have business relationships with, and purchase, or distribute or sell services or products from or to, distributors, consultants or others who recommend a Fund or who engage in transactions with or for a Fund, and may receive compensation for such services. A Fund may also make brokerage and other payments to Affiliates in connection with the Fund's portfolio investment transactions. An Affiliate may engage in proprietary trading and advise accounts and funds that have investment objectives similar to those of a Fund and/or that engage in and compete for transactions in the same types of securities, currencies and other instruments as the Fund. This may include transactions in securities issued by other open-end and closed-end investment companies (which may include investment companies that are affiliated with the Fund and BlackRock, to the extent permitted under the Investment Company Act). The trading activities of these Affiliates are carried out without reference to positions held directly or indirectly by a Fund and may result in an Affiliate having positions in certain securities that are senior or junior to, or have interests different from or adverse to, the securities that are owned by the Fund.

No Affiliate is under any obligation to share any investment opportunity, idea or strategy with a Fund. As a result, an Affiliate may compete with a Fund for appropriate investment opportunities. The results of a Fund's investment activities, therefore, may differ from those of an Affiliate and of other accounts managed by an Affiliate, and it is possible that a Fund could sustain losses during periods in which one or more Affiliates and other accounts achieve profits on their trading for proprietary or other accounts. The opposite result is also possible.

In addition, a Fund may, from time to time, enter into transactions in which an Affiliate or its other clients have an adverse interest. Furthermore, transactions undertaken by Affiliate-advised clients may adversely impact a Fund. Transactions by one or more Affiliate-advised clients or BlackRock may have the effect of diluting or otherwise disadvantaging the values, prices or investment strategies of a Fund. A Fund's activities may be limited because of regulatory restrictions applicable to one or more Affiliates, and/or their internal policies designed to comply with such restrictions.

Under a securities lending program approved by the Board, the Funds have retained BlackRock Investment Management, LLC, an Affiliate of BlackRock, to serve as the securities lending agent for the Funds to the extent that the Funds participate in the securities lending program. For these services, the lending agent will receive a fee from the Funds, including a fee based on the returns earned on the Funds' investment of the cash received as collateral for the loaned securities. In addition, one or more Affiliates may be among the entities to which the Funds may lend their portfolio securities under the securities lending program.

The activities of Affiliates may give rise to other conflicts of interest that could disadvantage the Funds and their shareholders. BlackRock has adopted policies and procedures designed to address these potential conflicts of interest. See the SAI for further information.

## **Valuation of Fund Investments**

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When an Insurance Company purchases shares, the Insurance Company pays the net asset value. This is the offering price. Shares are also redeemed at their net asset value. Each Fund calculates its net asset value of each class of its shares each day the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") is open, generally as of the close of regular trading hours on the NYSE, based on prices at the time of closing. The NYSE generally closes at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time). The net asset value used in determining your share price is the next one calculated after your purchase or redemption order is received. Each business day, the Funds' net asset values are transmitted electronically to the Insurance Companies that use the Funds as underlying investment options for Contracts.

Equity securities and other instruments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at market value, which is generally determined using the last reported closing price or, if a reported closing price is not available, the last traded price on the exchange or market on which the security or instrument is primarily traded at the time of valuation. The Funds value fixed-income portfolio securities and non-exchange traded derivatives using last available bid prices or current market quotations provided by dealers or prices (including evaluated prices) supplied by the Funds' approved independent third-party pricing services, each in accordance with valuation procedures approved by the Board. Pricing services may use matrix pricing or valuation models that utilize certain inputs and assumptions to derive values. Pricing services generally value fixed-income securities assuming orderly transactions of institutional round lot size, but the Fund may hold or transact in such securities in smaller, odd lot sizes. Odd lots may trade at lower prices than institutional round lots. Short-term debt securities with remaining maturities of 60 days or less may be valued on the basis of amortized cost.

Foreign currency exchange rates are generally determined as of the close of business on the NYSE. Foreign securities owned by the Funds may trade on weekends or other days when a Fund does not price its shares. As a result, the Funds' net asset value may change on days when you will not be able to purchase or redeem a Fund's shares. Generally, trading in foreign securities, U.S. Government securities, money market instruments and certain fixed-income securities is substantially completed each day at various times prior to the close of business on the NYSE. The values of such securities used in computing the net asset value of a Fund's shares are determined as of such times.

When market quotations are not readily available or are not believed by BlackRock to be reliable, a Fund's investments are valued at fair value. Fair value determinations are made by BlackRock in accordance with procedures approved by the Board. BlackRock may conclude that a market quotation is not readily available or is unreliable if a security or other asset or liability does not have a price source due to its lack of liquidity, if BlackRock believes a market quotation from a broker-dealer or other source is unreliable, where the security or other asset or other liability is thinly traded (e.g., municipal securities, certain small cap and emerging growth companies and certain non-U.S. securities) or where there is a significant event subsequent to the most recent market quotation. For this purpose, a "significant event" is deemed to occur if BlackRock determines, in its business judgment prior to or at the time of pricing a Fund's assets or liabilities, that it is likely that the event will cause a material change to the last closing market price of one or more assets or liabilities held by the Fund. For instance, significant events may occur between the foreign market close and the close of business on the NYSE that may not be reflected in the computation of the Funds' net assets. If such event occurs, those instruments may be fair valued. Similarly, foreign securities whose values are affected by volatility that occurs in U.S. markets on a trading day after the close of foreign securities markets may be fair valued.



For certain foreign securities, a third-party vendor supplies evaluated, systematic fair value pricing based upon the movement of a proprietary multi-factor model after the relevant foreign markets have closed. This systematic fair value pricing methodology is designed to correlate the prices of foreign securities following the close of the local markets to the price that might have prevailed as of a Fund's pricing time.

Fair value represents a good faith approximation of the value of a security. The fair value of one or more securities may not, in retrospect, be the price at which those assets could have been sold during the period in which the particular fair values were used in determining a Fund's net asset value.

A Fund may accept orders from certain authorized financial intermediaries or their designees. A Fund will be deemed to receive an order when accepted by the financial intermediary or designee and the order will receive the net asset value next computed by the Fund after such acceptance. If the payment for a purchase order is not made by a designated later time, the order will be canceled and the financial intermediary could be held liable for any losses.

## ***Dividends and Taxes***

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The BlackRock High Yield V.I. Fund, BlackRock Total Return V.I. Fund and BlackRock U.S. Government Bond V.I. Fund declare dividends daily and reinvest dividends monthly in additional full and fractional shares of the respective Fund. The BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Core V.I., BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Value V.I., BlackRock Advantage U.S. Total Market V.I., BlackRock Basic Value V.I., BlackRock Capital Appreciation V.I., BlackRock Equity Dividend V.I., BlackRock Global Allocation V.I., BlackRock iShares® Alternative Strategies V.I., BlackRock iShares® Dynamic Allocation V.I., BlackRock Large Cap Focus Growth V.I., BlackRock Managed Volatility V.I. and BlackRock S&P 500 Index V.I. Funds declare dividends and reinvest dividends at least annually in additional shares of the respective Funds.

Each Fund has elected to be treated, and intends to qualify each year, as a regulated investment company under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). In order to qualify to be taxed as a regulated investment company, each Fund must meet certain income and asset diversification tests and distribution requirements. As regulated investment companies, the Funds will not be subject to federal income tax on their net investment income and net capital gains that they distribute to their shareholders.

Short-term capital gain earned by an underlying fund will be ordinary income when distributed to the Fund and will not be offset by the Fund's capital losses. Upon the sale or other disposition by the Fund of shares of an underlying fund, the Fund will realize a capital gain or loss which will be long-term or short-term, generally depending on the Fund's holding period for the shares. Losses realized upon such redemptions may result in a substantial number of "wash sales" and deferral, perhaps indefinitely, of realized losses to the Fund.

A Fund or an underlying fund, if invested in non-U.S. securities, may be subject to non-U.S. income taxes and non-U.S. financial transactions taxes. Each Fund and underlying fund that is permitted to do so may elect to "pass through" to its investors, including a Fund, the amount of non-U.S. income taxes paid by the Fund or underlying fund. A Fund itself will be eligible to elect to "pass through" such amounts to its stockholders and may do so, depending upon circumstances.

In addition, each Fund intends to meet certain diversification and investor control requirements applicable to regulated investment companies underlying variable insurance products. The requirements generally provide that, as of the end of each calendar quarter or within 30 days thereafter, no more than 55% of the total assets of a Fund may be represented by any one investment, no more than 70% by any two investments, no more than 80% by any three investments, and no more than 90% by any four investments. For this purpose, all securities of the same issuer are considered a single investment, but in the case of Government securities, each Government agency or instrumentality is considered to be a separate issuer. An alternative diversification test may be satisfied under certain circumstances.

If a Fund should fail to comply with the diversification or investor control requirements or were to otherwise fail to qualify for the special tax treatment afforded regulated investment companies under the Code, Contracts invested in the Fund would not be treated as annuity, endowment, or life insurance contracts for federal tax purposes and income and gain earned inside the Contracts in current and prior years would be taxed currently to the Contract holders and would remain taxable in future years as well, even if the Fund were to become adequately diversified.

*All Funds (except BlackRock iShares® Alternative Strategies V.I. Fund and BlackRock iShares® Dynamic Allocation V.I. Fund)*

Dividends paid by the Company may be included in an Insurance Company's gross income. The tax treatment of these dividends depends on the Insurance Company's tax status. A description of an Insurance Company's tax status is contained in the prospectus for the Contract.

# General Information

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## ***Shareholder Documents***

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Please contact your Insurance Company for a copy of the Funds' annual and semi-annual reports.

## ***Certain Fund Policies***

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### **Anti-Money Laundering Requirements**

The Funds are subject to the USA PATRIOT Act (the "Patriot Act"). The Patriot Act is intended to prevent the use of the U.S. financial system in furtherance of money laundering, terrorism or other illicit activities. Pursuant to requirements under the Patriot Act, the Funds are required to obtain sufficient information from shareholders to enable it to form a reasonable belief that it knows the true identity of its shareholders. This information will be used to verify the identity of investors or, in some cases, the status of financial intermediaries. Such information may be verified using third-party sources. This information will be used only for compliance with the Patriot Act or other applicable laws, regulations and rules in connection with money laundering, terrorism or economic sanctions.

The Funds reserve the right to reject purchase orders from persons who have not submitted information sufficient to allow the Funds to verify their identity. The Funds also reserve the right to redeem any amounts in the Funds from persons whose identity it is unable to verify on a timely basis. It is the Funds' policy to cooperate fully with appropriate regulators in any investigations conducted with respect to potential money laundering, terrorism or other illicit activities.

### **BlackRock Privacy Principles**

BlackRock is committed to maintaining the privacy of its current and former fund investors and individual clients (collectively, "Clients") and to safeguarding their non-public personal information. The following information is provided to help you understand what personal information BlackRock collects, how we protect that information and why in certain cases we share such information with select parties. If you are located in a jurisdiction where specific laws, rules or regulations require BlackRock to provide you with additional or different privacy-related rights beyond what is set forth below, then BlackRock will comply with those specific laws, rules or regulations.

BlackRock obtains or verifies personal non-public information from and about you from different sources, including the following: (i) information we receive from you or, if applicable, your financial intermediary, on applications, forms or other documents; (ii) information about your transactions with us, our affiliates, or others; (iii) information we receive from a consumer reporting agency; and (iv) from visits to our website.

BlackRock does not sell or disclose to non-affiliated third parties any non-public personal information about its Clients, except as permitted by law, or as is necessary to respond to regulatory requests or to service Client accounts. These non-affiliated third parties are required to protect the confidentiality and security of this information and to use it only for its intended purpose.

We may share information with our affiliates to service your account or to provide you with information about other BlackRock products or services that may be of interest to you. In addition, BlackRock restricts access to non-public personal information about its Clients to those BlackRock employees with a legitimate business need for the information. BlackRock maintains physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that are designed to protect the non-public personal information of its Clients, including procedures relating to the proper storage and disposal of such information.

## ***Statement of Additional Information***

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If you would like further information about the Funds, including how the Funds invest, please see the SAI.

For a discussion of the Funds' policies and procedures regarding the selective disclosure of their portfolio holdings, please see the SAI.

# Glossary

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This glossary contains an explanation of some of the common terms used in this prospectus. For additional information about the Funds, please see the SAI.

**60% MSCI All Country World Index/40% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index** — a customized weighted index comprised of 60% MSCI All Country World Index and 40% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index.

**Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses** — fees and expenses charged by other investment companies in which a Fund invests a portion of its assets.

**Annual Fund Operating Expenses** — expenses that cover the costs of operating a Fund.

**Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index** — a widely recognized unmanaged market-weighted index, comprised of investment-grade corporate bonds rated BBB or better, mortgages and U.S. Treasury and U.S. Government agency issues with at least one year to maturity.

**Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield 2% Issuer Capped Index** — an unmanaged index comprised of issues that meet the following criteria: at least \$150 million par value outstanding; maximum credit rating of Ba1; at least one year to maturity; and no issuer represents more than 2% of the index.

**Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government/Mortgage Index** — an index that measures debt issued by the U.S. Government, and its agencies, as well as mortgage-backed pass-through securities of Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

**Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Mortgage-Backed Securities Index** — an unmanaged index that includes the mortgage-backed pass-through securities of Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac that meet certain maturity and liquidity criteria.

**Contract** — the Funds offer their shares only to participating insurance companies. These insurance companies write variable annuity and/or variable life insurance contracts that allow the contract owner to choose a Fund as an investment option. The contract owner does not become a Fund shareholder.

**Distribution Fees** — fees used to support a Fund's marketing and distribution efforts, such as compensating financial professionals and other financial intermediaries, advertising and promotion.

**FTSE Non-U.S. Dollar World Government Bond Index** — an unmanaged market capitalization-weighted index that tracks 22 government bond indexes, excluding the United States.

**FTSE WGBI (hedged into USD)** — a market capitalization weighted bond index consisting of government bond markets of 23 countries, including the United States.

**FTSE World Index** — a market cap weighted index representing the performance of the large and mid-cap stocks from the developed and advanced emerging countries within the FTSE Global Equity Index Series.

**FTSE World (ex U.S.) Index** — a market cap weighted index representing the performance of the large and mid-cap stocks from the developed and advanced emerging countries excluding the U.S. within the FTSE Global Equity Index Series.

**ICE BofAML 3-Month U.S. Treasury Bill Index** — an unmanaged index that tracks 3-month U.S. Treasury securities.

**ICE BofAML Current 5-Year U.S. Treasury Index** — an unmanaged index designed to track the total return of the current coupon five-year U.S. Treasury bond.

**Management Fee** — a fee paid to BlackRock for managing a Fund.

**MSCI All Country World Index** — a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets. The index consists of 47 country indexes comprising 23 developed and 24 emerging market country indexes.

**Other Expenses** — include accounting, transfer agency, custody, professional fees and registration fees.

**Reference Benchmark** — an unmanaged weighted index comprised as follows: 36% of the S&P 500® Index; 24% FTSE World (ex U.S.) Index; 24% ICE BofAML Current 5-Year U.S. Treasury Index; and 16% FTSE Non-U.S. Dollar World Government Bond Index.

**Russell 1000® Index** — an index that measures the performance of the large cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. It is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index and includes approximately 1,000 of the largest securities based on a combination of their market capitalization and current index membership. The index represents approximately 92% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 3000® Index.

**Russell 1000® Growth Index** — an unmanaged index that measures the performance of the large cap growth segment of the U.S. equity universe and consists of those Russell 1000® securities with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.

**Russell 1000® Value Index** — an unmanaged index that is a subset of the Russell 1000® Index that consists of those Russell 1000® securities with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected growth values.

**Russell 2000® Index** — an unmanaged index that is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index representing approximately 10% of the total market capitalization of that index. It includes approximately 2000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership.

**Russell 3000® Index** — an index that measures the performance of the largest 3,000 U.S. companies representing approximately 98% of the investable U.S. equity market.

**S&P 500® Index** — an unmanaged index that covers 500 leading companies and captures approximately 80% coverage of available market capitalization.

**S&P SmallCap 600® Value Index** — an unmanaged index that is a subset of the S&P 600® Index that consists of those stocks in the S&P 600® Index exhibiting the strongest value characteristics.

**Service Fees** — fees used to compensate securities dealers and other financial intermediaries for certain shareholder servicing activities.

**Shareholder Fees** — these fees include sales charges that you may pay when you buy or sell shares of a Fund.

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# For More Information

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## **Funds and Service Providers**

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### **THE FUNDS**

BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc.  
100 Bellevue Parkway  
Wilmington, Delaware 19809

#### *Written Correspondence:*

P.O. Box 9819  
Providence, Rhode Island 02940-8019

#### *Overnight Mail:*

4400 Computer Drive  
Westborough, Massachusetts 01588  
(800) 441-7762

### **MANAGER**

BlackRock Advisors, LLC  
100 Bellevue Parkway  
Wilmington, Delaware 19809

### **SUB-ADVISERS**

BlackRock International Limited  
Exchange Place One  
1 Semple Street  
Edinburgh, EH3 8BL, United Kingdom

BlackRock Asset Management North Asia Limited  
16/F, 2 Queen's Road  
Cheung Kong Center  
Hong Kong

BlackRock (Singapore) Limited  
20 Anson Road #18-01  
079912 Singapore

### **TRANSFER AGENT**

BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc.  
301 Bellevue Parkway  
Wilmington, Delaware 19809

### **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Deloitte & Touche LLP  
200 Berkeley Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

### **ACCOUNTING SERVICES PROVIDER**

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.  
383 Madison Avenue, Floor 11  
New York, New York 10179

### **DISTRIBUTOR**

BlackRock Investments, LLC  
40 East 52nd Street  
New York, New York 10022

### **CUSTODIANS**

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.  
383 Madison Avenue, Floor 11  
New York, New York 10179

Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.<sup>1</sup>  
40 Water Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

### **COUNSEL**

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP  
787 Seventh Avenue  
New York, New York 10019-6099

<sup>1</sup> For BlackRock Global Allocation V.I. Fund.

## ***Additional Information***

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This prospectus contains important information you should know before investing, including information about risks. Please read it before you invest and keep it for future reference. More information about the Funds is available at no charge upon request. This information includes:

### **Annual/Semi-Annual Reports**

These reports contain additional information about each of the Fund's investments. The annual report describes each Fund's performance, lists portfolio holdings, and discusses recent market conditions, economic trends and Fund investment strategies that significantly affected a Fund's performance for the last fiscal year.

### **Statement of Additional Information ("SAI")**

A Statement of Additional Information, dated May 1, 2018, has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). The SAI, which includes additional information about each Fund, may be obtained free of charge, along with the Fund's annual and semi-annual reports, by calling (800) 441-7762 or visiting [www.blackrock.com/prospectus/insurance](http://www.blackrock.com/prospectus/insurance). The SAI, as supplemented from time to time, is incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

### **BlackRock Investor Services**

Representatives are available to discuss mutual fund prospectuses, literature, programs and services available. Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Eastern time), Monday-Friday. Call: (800) 441-7762.

### **Purchases and Redemptions**

Call your financial professional or BlackRock Investment Services at (800) 441-7762.

### **World Wide Web**

General Fund information and specific Fund performance, including the SAI and annual/semi-annual reports, mutual fund prospectuses and literature, can be accessed free of charge at [www.blackrock.com/prospectus](http://www.blackrock.com/prospectus). Mutual fund prospectuses can also be requested via this website.

### **Written Correspondence**

BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc.  
PO Box 9819  
Providence, Rhode Island 02940-8019

### **Overnight Mail**

BlackRock Variable Series Funds, Inc.  
4400 Computer Drive  
Westborough, Massachusetts 01588

### **Internal Wholesalers/Broker Dealer Support**

Available on any business day to support investment professionals. Call: (800) 882-0052

### **Portfolio Characteristics and Holdings**

A description of each Fund's policies and procedures related to disclosure of portfolio characteristics and holdings is available in the SAI.

For information about portfolio holdings and characteristics, BlackRock fund shareholders and prospective investors may call (800) 882-0052.

### **Securities and Exchange Commission**

You may also view and copy public information about each Fund, including the SAI, by visiting the EDGAR database on the SEC's website (<http://www.sec.gov>) or the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. Copies of this information can be obtained, for a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov), or by writing to the Public Reference Room of the SEC, Washington, D.C. 20549. Information about obtaining documents on the SEC's website without charge may be obtained by calling (800) SEC-0330.

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus. No one is authorized to provide you with information that is different from information contained in this prospectus.

The SEC and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission have not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

BLACKROCK VARIABLE SERIES FUNDS, INC.  
INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT FILE NO. 811-03290