

Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund: Appreciation Portfolio



Prospectus

May 1, 2018

Initial Shares

Service Shares

DREYFUS INVESTMENT PORTFOLIOS
DREYFUS VARIABLE INVESTMENT FUND
DREYFUS STOCK INDEX FUND, INC.
THE DREYFUS SUSTAINABLE U.S. EQUITY PORTFOLIO, INC.

Supplement to Current Summary Prospectus and Prospectus

Effective on or about June 3, 2019 (the "Effective Date"), The Dreyfus Corporation, the primary mutual fund business of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation and the fund's investment adviser, will change its name to "BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc." As of the Effective Date, all information in the fund's summary prospectus and prospectus relating to "The Dreyfus Corporation" or "Dreyfus" will relate to "BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc."

On the Effective Date, MBSC Securities Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dreyfus and the fund's distributor, will change its name to "BNY Mellon Securities Corporation." As of the Effective Date, all information in the fund's prospectus relating to "MBSC Securities Corporation" or "MBSC" will relate to "BNY Mellon Securities Corporation."

As of the Effective Date, references to the "Dreyfus Family of Funds" and "Dreyfus funds" in the fund's prospectus will refer to the "BNY Mellon Family of Funds" and "funds in the BNY Mellon Family of Funds," respectively. In addition, as of the Effective Date, references to "1-800-DREYFUS" and "dreyfus.com" in the fund's summary prospectus, as applicable, and prospectus will be replaced with "1-800-373-9387" and "bnymellonim.com/us," respectively. Reference, however, to "Dreyfus money market funds" on the back cover page of the fund's prospectus will be retained.

As of the Effective Date, the address of Dreyfus (BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc.) is 240 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10286.

In addition, on the Effective Date, the funds will change their names as follows:

<u>Current Fund Name</u>	<u>New Fund Name</u>
Dreyfus Investment Portfolios	BNY Mellon Investment Portfolios <i>(no change to the Portfolios' names)</i>
Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund	BNY Mellon Variable Investment Fund <i>(no change to the Portfolios' names)</i>
Dreyfus Stock Index Fund, Inc.	BNY Mellon Stock Index Fund, Inc.
The Dreyfus Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc.	BNY Mellon Sustainable U.S. Equity Portfolio, Inc.

The changes to the names of the funds, as well as the other changes described above, will have no effect on policy owners owning fund shares or their accounts with respect thereto, other than to reflect the new names.

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Fund Summary

Investment Objective

The fund seeks long-term capital growth consistent with the preservation of capital. Its secondary goal is current income.

Fees and Expenses

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the fund. These figures do not reflect any fees or charges imposed by participating insurance companies under their Variable Annuity contracts (VA contracts) or Variable Life Insurance policies (VLI policies), and if such fees and/or charges were included, the fees and expenses would be higher.

Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)		
	Initial Shares	Service Shares
Management fees	.75	.75
Distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees	none	.25
Other expenses	.06	.06
Total annual fund operating expenses	.81	1.06

Example

The 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 hold or 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 fees and expenses incurred under VA contracts and VLI policies; if they were reflected, the figures in the Example would be higher. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Initial Shares	\$83	\$259	\$450	\$1,002
Service Shares	\$108	\$337	\$585	\$1,294

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 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 3.97% of the average value of its portfolio.

Principal Investment Strategy

To pursue its goals, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes, in common stocks. The fund focuses on "blue chip" companies with total market capitalizations of more than \$5 billion at the time of purchase, including multinational companies. These are established companies that have demonstrated sustained patterns of profitability, strong balance sheets, an expanding global presence and the potential to achieve predictable, above-average earnings growth. This potential is assessed based on an analysis of historical performance and the portfolio managers' assessment of the companies' financial statements, industry, business model and management. These companies frequently pay dividends that provide the fund with income. Multinational companies may be subject to certain of the risks involved in investing in foreign securities.

In choosing stocks, the fund's portfolio managers first identify economic sectors they believe will expand over the next three to five years or longer. Using fundamental analysis, the fund's portfolio managers then seek companies within

these sectors that have proven track records and dominant positions in their industries. The fund also may invest in companies which the portfolio managers consider undervalued in terms of earnings, assets or growth prospects.

The fund typically sells a stock when the fund's portfolio managers believe there is a significant adverse change in the company's business fundamentals that may lead to a sustained impairment in earnings power.

In addition to direct investments, the fund may invest in securities of foreign companies in the form of U.S. dollar-denominated American Depositary Receipts (ADRs).

The fund employs a "buy-and-hold" investment strategy, which generally has resulted in an annual portfolio turnover rate below 15%. A low portfolio turnover rate helps reduce the fund's trading costs.

Principal Risks

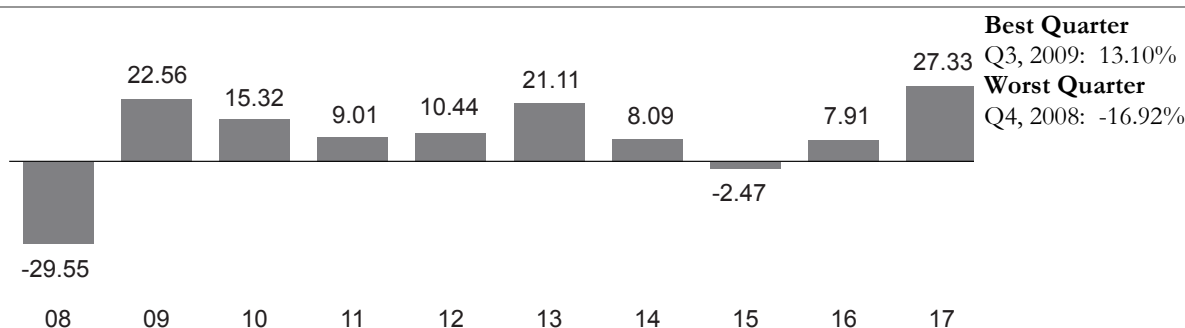
An investment in the fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. The fund's share price fluctuates, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- *Risks of stock investing.* Stocks generally fluctuate more in value than bonds and may decline significantly over short time periods. There is the chance that stock prices overall will decline because stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising prices and falling prices. The market value of a stock may decline due to general market conditions or because of factors that affect the particular company or the company's industry.
- *Blue chip risk.* By focusing on large capitalization, high quality stocks, the fund may underperform funds that invest in the stocks of lower quality, smaller capitalization companies during periods when the stocks of such companies are in favor.
- *Value stock risk.* Value stocks involve the risk that they may never reach their expected full market value, either because the market fails to recognize the stock's intrinsic worth or the expected value was misgauged.
- *Market sector risk.* The fund may significantly overweight or underweight certain countries, companies, industries or market sectors, which may cause the fund's performance to be more or less sensitive to developments affecting those countries, companies, industries or sectors.
- *Foreign investment risk.* To the extent the fund invests in foreign securities, the fund's performance will be influenced by political, social and economic factors affecting investments in foreign issuers. Special risks associated with investments in foreign issuers include exposure to currency fluctuations, less liquidity, less developed or less efficient trading markets, lack of comprehensive company information, political and economic instability and differing auditing and legal standards.
- *ADR risk.* ADRs may be subject to certain of the risks associated with direct investments in the securities of foreign companies, such as currency risk, political and economic risk and market risk, because their values depend on the performance of the non-dollar denominated underlying foreign securities. Certain countries may limit the ability to convert ADRs into the underlying foreign securities and vice versa, which may cause the securities of the foreign company to trade at a discount or premium to the market price of the related ADR.

Performance

The following bar chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the fund. The bar chart shows changes in the performance of the fund's Initial shares from year to year. The table compares the average annual total returns of the fund's shares to those of a broad measure of market performance. The fund's past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the fund will perform in the future. More recent performance information may be available at www.dreyfus.com.

Performance information reflects the fund's expenses only and does not reflect the fees and charges imposed by participating insurance companies under their VA contracts or VLI policies. Because these fees and charges will reduce total return, policyowners should consider them when evaluating and comparing the fund's performance. Policyowners should consult the prospectus for their contract or policy for more information.

Year-by-Year Total Returns as of 12/31 each year (%)**Initial Shares**

Average Annual Total Returns (as of 12/31/17)

	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
Initial Shares	27.33%	11.90%	7.72%
Service Shares	27.00%	11.62%	7.45%
S&P 500® Index reflects no deductions for fees, expenses or taxes	21.82%	15.78%	8.49%

Portfolio Management

The fund's investment adviser is The Dreyfus Corporation, and the fund's sub-investment adviser is Fayez Sarofim & Co. (Sarofim & Co.).

The fund is managed by a team of portfolio managers employed by Sarofim & Co., consisting of Fayez Sarofim, Catherine Crain, Gentry Lee, Christopher Sarofim and Charles Sheedy. The team is supported by Sarofim & Co.'s Investment Committee, all the members of which are senior investment professionals at Sarofim & Co. The team members hold the following positions at Sarofim & Co.: Mr. Fayez Sarofim is Chairman of the Board and Co-Chief Investment Officer, Mr. Christopher Sarofim is Vice Chairman, Mr. Lee is Chief Executive Officer and Co-Chief Investment Officer, Mr. Sheedy is a Senior Vice President and Ms. Crain is a Vice President. Mr. Fayez Sarofim has been a portfolio manager of the fund since its inception in 1993. Messrs. Christopher Sarofim and Sheedy have been portfolio managers of the fund since October 2000. Ms. Crain has been a portfolio manager of the fund since March 1998. Mr. Lee has been a portfolio manager of the fund since December 2010.

Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

Fund shares are offered only to separate accounts established by insurance companies to fund VA contracts and VLI policies. Individuals may not purchase shares directly from, or place sell orders directly with, the fund. The VA contracts and the VLI policies are described in the separate prospectuses issued by the participating insurance companies, over which the fund assumes no responsibility. Policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company for more information about buying, selling (redeeming), or exchanging fund shares.

Tax Information

The fund's distributions are taxable as ordinary income or capital gains. Since the fund's shareholders are the participating insurance companies and their separate accounts, the tax treatment of dividends and distributions will depend on the tax status of the participating insurance company. Accordingly, no discussion is included as to the federal personal income tax consequences to policyowners. For this information, policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company or their tax advisers.

Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries

If you purchase shares through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as an insurance company), the fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of fund shares and related services. To the extent that the intermediary may receive lesser or no payments in connection with the sale of other investments, the payments from the fund and its related companies may create a potential conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your financial representative to recommend the fund over the other investments. This potential conflict of interest may be addressed by policies, procedures or practices adopted by the financial intermediary. As there

may be many different policies, procedures or practices adopted by different intermediaries to address the manner in which compensation is earned through the sale of investments or the provision of related services, the compensation rates and other payment arrangements that may apply to a financial intermediary and its representatives may vary by intermediary. Ask your financial representative or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

Fund Details

Introduction

Fund shares are offered only to separate accounts established by insurance companies to fund VA contracts and VLI policies. Individuals may not purchase shares directly from, or place sell orders directly with, the fund. The VA contracts and the VLI policies are described in the separate prospectuses issued by the participating insurance companies, over which the fund assumes no responsibility. Conflicts may arise between the interests of VA contract holders and VLI policyholders (collectively, policyowners). The board will monitor events to identify any material conflicts and, if such conflicts arise, determine what action, if any, should be taken.

The fund currently offers two classes of shares: Initial shares and Service shares. Policyowners should consult the applicable prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company to determine which class of fund shares may be purchased by the separate account.

While the fund's investment objectives and policies may be similar to those of other funds managed by the investment adviser(s), the fund's investment results may be higher or lower than, and may not be comparable to, those of the other funds.

Goal and Approach

The fund seeks long-term capital growth consistent with the preservation of capital. Its secondary goal is current income. To pursue its goals, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes, in common stocks. The fund focuses on "blue chip" companies with total market capitalizations of more than \$5 billion at the time of purchase, including multinational companies. These are established companies that have demonstrated sustained patterns of profitability, strong balance sheets, an expanding global presence and the potential to achieve predictable, above-average earnings growth. This potential is assessed based on an analysis of historical performance and the portfolio managers' assessment of the companies' financial statements, industry, business model and management. These companies frequently pay dividends that provide the fund with income. Multinational companies may be subject to certain of the risks involved in investing in foreign securities (i.e., securities issued by companies organized under the laws of countries other than the U.S.).

In choosing stocks, the fund's portfolio managers first identify economic sectors they believe will expand over the next three to five years or longer. Using fundamental analysis, the fund's portfolio managers then seek companies within these sectors that have proven track records and dominant positions in their industries. The fund also may invest in companies which the portfolio managers consider undervalued in terms of earnings, assets or growth prospects.

In addition to direct investments, the fund may invest in securities of foreign companies in the form of U.S. dollar-denominated American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), which are considered common stock for purposes of the fund's policy with respect to the investment of 80% of its assets. ADRs typically are issued by U.S. banks or trust companies and represent indirect ownership interest in securities of non-U.S. issuers that are publicly-traded in overseas markets. ADRs are traded in the United States on national securities exchanges and in the over-the-counter market, and may be converted into the underlying foreign securities. The fund may purchase ADRs through "sponsored" or "unsponsored" facilities. A sponsored facility is established jointly by the issuer of the underlying security and a depository. A depository may establish an unsponsored facility without participation by the issuer of the deposited security.

The fund employs a "buy-and-hold" investment strategy, which generally has resulted in an annual portfolio turnover rate below 15%. A low portfolio turnover rate helps reduce the fund's trading costs.

The fund typically sells a stock when the fund's portfolio managers believe there is a significant adverse change in the company's business fundamentals that may lead to a sustained impairment in earnings power.

The fund may lend its portfolio securities to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions needing to borrow securities to complete certain transactions. Loans of portfolio securities may not exceed 33-1/3% of the value of the fund's total assets.

Investment Risks

An investment in the fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. The value of your investment in the fund will fluctuate, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- *Risks of stock investing.* Stocks generally fluctuate more in value than bonds and may decline significantly over short time periods. There is the chance that stock prices overall will decline because stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising prices and falling prices. The market value of a stock may decline due to general market conditions that are not related to the particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the general outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment generally. A security's market value also may decline because of factors that affect the particular company, such as management performance, financial leverage and reduced demand for the company's products or services, or factors that affect the company's industry, such as labor shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry.
- *Blue chip risk.* By focusing on large capitalization, high quality stocks, the fund may underperform funds that invest in the stocks of lower quality, smaller capitalization companies during periods when the stocks of such companies are in favor.
- *Value stock risk.* Value stocks involve the risk that they may never reach their expected full market value, either because the market fails to recognize the stock's intrinsic worth or the expected value was misgauged. They also may decline in price even though in theory they are already undervalued.
- *Market sector risk.* The fund may significantly overweight or underweight certain countries, companies, industries or market sectors, which may cause the fund's performance to be more or less sensitive to developments affecting those countries, companies, industries or sectors.
- *Foreign investment risk.* To the extent the fund invests in foreign securities, the fund's performance will be influenced by political, social and economic factors affecting investments in foreign issuers. Special risks associated with investments in foreign issuers include exposure to currency fluctuations, less liquidity, less developed or less efficient trading markets, lack of comprehensive company information, political and economic instability and differing auditing and legal standards. Investments denominated in foreign currencies are subject to the risk that such currencies will decline in value relative to the U.S. dollar and affect the value of these investments held by the fund.
- *ADR risk.* ADRs may be subject to certain of the risks associated with direct investments in the securities of foreign companies, such as currency risk, political and economic risk and market risk, because their values depend on the performance of the non-dollar denominated underlying foreign securities. Certain countries may limit the ability to convert ADRs into the underlying foreign securities and vice versa, which may cause the securities of the foreign company to trade at a discount or premium to the market price of the related ADR. The fund may invest in ADRs through an unsponsored facility where the depositary issues the depositary receipts without an agreement with the company that issues the underlying securities. Holders of unsponsored ADRs generally bear all the costs of such facilities, and the depositary of an unsponsored facility frequently is under no obligation to distribute shareholder communications received from the issuer of the deposited security or to pass through voting rights to the holders of the ADRs with respect to the deposited securities. As a result, available information concerning the issuer may not be as current as for sponsored ADRs, and the prices of unsponsored ADRs may be more volatile than if such instruments were sponsored by the issuer.

In addition to the principal risks described above, the fund is subject to the following additional risks that are not anticipated to be principal risks of investing in the fund:

- *Securities lending risk.* The fund may lend its portfolio securities to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions. In connection with such loans, the fund will receive collateral from the borrower equal to at least 100% of the value of the loaned securities. If the borrower of the securities fails financially, there could be delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising rights to the collateral.
- *Other potential risks.* Under adverse market conditions, the fund could invest some or all of its assets in U.S. Treasury securities and money market securities. Although the fund would do this for temporary defensive purposes, it could reduce the benefit from any upswing in the market. During such periods, the fund's investments may not be consistent with its principal investment strategies, and the fund may not achieve its investment objectives.

The participating insurance companies and their separate accounts are the shareholders of the fund. From time to time, a shareholder may own a substantial number of fund shares. The sale of a large number of shares could impact the fund's net asset value and adversely affect remaining fund shareholders.

Management

The investment adviser for the fund is The Dreyfus Corporation, 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166. Founded in 1947, Dreyfus manages approximately \$253 billion in 149 mutual fund portfolios. For the past fiscal year, the fund paid Dreyfus and Sarofim & Co., the fund's sub-investment adviser, an aggregate investment advisory fee at the annual rate of .75% of the fund's average daily net assets. A discussion regarding the basis for the board's approving the fund's investment advisory agreement with Dreyfus and sub-investment advisory agreement with Sarofim & Co. is available in the fund's annual report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. Dreyfus is the primary mutual fund business of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation (BNY Mellon), a global financial services company focused on helping clients manage and service their financial assets, operating in 35 countries and serving more than 100 markets. BNY Mellon is a leading investment management and investment services company, uniquely focused to help clients manage and move their financial assets in the rapidly changing global marketplace. BNY Mellon has \$33.3 trillion in assets under custody and administration and \$1.9 trillion in assets under management. BNY Mellon is the corporate brand of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation. BNY Mellon Investment Management is one of the world's leading investment management organizations, and one of the top U.S. wealth managers, encompassing BNY Mellon's affiliated investment management firms, wealth management services and global distribution companies. Additional information is available at www.bnymellon.com.

The Dreyfus asset management philosophy is based on the belief that discipline and consistency are important to investment success. For each fund, Dreyfus seeks to establish clear guidelines for portfolio management and to be systematic in making decisions. This approach is designed to provide each fund with a distinct, stable identity.

Fayez Sarofim & Co., located at Two Houston Center, Suite 2907, 909 Fannin Street, Houston, Texas 77010, serves as the fund's sub-investment adviser. Sarofim & Co., subject to Dreyfus' supervision and approval, provides investment advisory assistance and research and the day-to-day management of the fund's investments. Sarofim & Co. managed approximately \$21.5 billion in assets, which include investment advisory services for 5 other registered investment companies having aggregate assets of approximately \$3.1 billion as of February 28, 2018.

The fund is managed by a team of portfolio managers employed by Sarofim & Co., consisting of Fayez Sarofim, Catherine Crain, Gentry Lee, Christopher Sarofim and Charles Sheedy. The team is supported by Sarofim & Co.'s Investment Committee, all the members of which are senior investment professionals at Sarofim & Co. The Investment Committee directs and monitors Sarofim & Co.'s internal, fundamental research efforts. The team of portfolio managers operates within the guidelines set by the Investment Committee. Mr. Fayez Sarofim, Chairman of the Board and Co-Chief Investment Officer, founded Sarofim & Co. in 1958 and has been a portfolio manager of the fund since its inception in 1993. Mr. Christopher Sarofim is the Vice Chairman of Sarofim & Co., where he has been employed since 1988. He has been a portfolio manager of the fund since October 2000. Mr. Lee is the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Chief Investment Officer of Sarofim & Co., where he has been employed since 1998, and is responsible for overseeing investment, client services and business operations. He has been a portfolio manager of the fund since December 2010. Mr. Sheedy is a Senior Vice President at Sarofim & Co., where he has been employed since 1971. He has been a portfolio manager of the fund since October 2000. Ms. Crain is a Vice President at Sarofim & Co., where she has been employed since 1993. She has been a portfolio manager of the fund since March 1998.

The fund's Statement of Additional Information (SAI) provides additional portfolio manager information, including compensation, other accounts managed and ownership of fund shares.

MBSC Securities Corporation (MBSC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dreyfus, serves as distributor of the fund and of the other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds. Any Rule 12b-1 fees and shareholder services fees, as applicable, are paid to MBSC for financing the sale and distribution of fund shares and for providing shareholder account service and maintenance, respectively. Dreyfus or MBSC may provide cash payments out of its own resources to financial intermediaries that sell shares of funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds or provide other services. Such payments are separate from any sales charges, 12b-1 fees and/or shareholder services fees or other expenses that may be paid by a fund to those financial intermediaries. Because those payments are not made by fund shareholders or the fund, the fund's total expense ratio will not be affected by any such payments. These payments may be made to financial intermediaries, including affiliates, that provide shareholder servicing, sub-administration, recordkeeping and/or sub-transfer agency services, marketing support and/or access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the financial intermediary. Cash compensation also may be paid from Dreyfus' or MBSC's own resources to financial intermediaries for inclusion of a fund on a sales list, including a preferred or select sales list or in other sales programs. These payments sometimes are referred to as "revenue sharing." From time to time, Dreyfus or MBSC also may provide cash or non-cash compensation to financial intermediaries or their representatives in the form of occasional gifts; occasional meals, tickets or other entertainment; support for due diligence trips; educational conference sponsorships; support for recognition programs; technology or infrastructure support; and other forms of cash or non-cash compensation permissible under broker-dealer regulations. In some cases, these payments or

compensation may create an incentive for a financial intermediary or its employees to recommend or sell shares of the fund to you. This potential conflict of interest may be addressed by policies, procedures or practices that are adopted by the financial intermediary. As there may be many different policies, procedures or practices adopted by different intermediaries to address the manner in which compensation is earned through the sale of investments or the provision of related services, the compensation rates and other payment arrangements that may apply to a financial intermediary and its representatives may vary by intermediary. Please contact your financial representative for details about any payments they or their firm may receive in connection with the sale of fund shares or the provision of services to the fund.

The fund, Dreyfus, Sarofim & Co. and MBSC have each adopted a code of ethics that permits its personnel, subject to such code, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the fund. Each code of ethics restricts the personal securities transactions of employees, and requires portfolio managers and other investment personnel to comply with the code's preclearance and disclosure procedures. The primary purpose of the respective codes is to ensure that personal trading by employees does not disadvantage management of client assets.

Shareholder Guide

Your Investment

Fund shares may be purchased or sold (redeemed) by separate accounts of participating insurance companies. Policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company for more information about buying or selling fund shares.

Service shares are subject to an annual Rule 12b-1 fee of 0.25% paid to the fund's distributor for distribution, advertising and marketing, and servicing and/or maintaining accounts of holders of Service shares. Because the Rule 12b-1 fee is paid out of the fund's assets on an ongoing basis, over time it will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more than paying other types of sales charges.

Dreyfus calculates fund NAVs as of the scheduled close of trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) (usually 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on days the NYSE is scheduled to be open for regular business. Your order will be priced at the next NAV calculated after your order is received in proper form by the fund's transfer agent or other authorized entity. "Proper form" refers to completion of an account application (if applicable), satisfaction of requirements in this section (subject to "Shareholder Guide—General Policies") and any applicable conditions in "Additional Information About How to Redeem Shares" in the SAI. Authorized entities other than the fund's transfer agent may apply different conditions for the satisfaction of "proper form" requirements. For more information, consult a representative of your financial intermediary. When calculating NAVs, Dreyfus values equity investments on the basis of market quotations or official closing prices. Dreyfus generally values fixed-income investments based on values supplied by an independent pricing service approved by the fund's board. The pricing service's procedures are reviewed under the general supervision of the board. If market quotations or official closing prices or valuations from a pricing service are not readily available, or are determined not to reflect accurately fair value, the fund may value those investments at fair value as determined in accordance with procedures approved by the fund's board. Fair value of investments may be determined by the fund's board, its pricing committee or its valuation committee in good faith using such information as it deems appropriate under the circumstances. Under certain circumstances, the fair value of foreign equity securities will be provided by an independent pricing service. Using fair value to price investments may result in a value that is different from a security's most recent closing price and from the prices used by other mutual funds to calculate their net asset values. Foreign securities held by the fund may trade on days when the fund does not calculate its NAV and thus may affect the fund's NAV on days when investors will not be able to purchase or sell (redeem) fund shares.

Investments in certain types of thinly traded securities may provide short-term traders arbitrage opportunities with respect to the fund's shares. For example, arbitrage opportunities may exist when trading in a portfolio security or securities is halted and does not resume, or the market on which such securities are traded closes before the fund calculates its NAV. If short-term investors in the fund were able to take advantage of these arbitrage opportunities, they could dilute the NAV of fund shares held by long-term investors. Portfolio valuation policies can serve to reduce arbitrage opportunities available to short-term traders, but there is no assurance that such valuation policies will prevent dilution of the fund's NAV by short-term traders. While the fund has a policy regarding frequent trading, it too may not be completely effective to prevent short-term NAV arbitrage trading, particularly in regard to omnibus accounts. Please see "Shareholder Guide — General Policies" for further information about the fund's frequent trading policy.

Redemption proceeds normally will be wired to the participating insurance company within one business day after the request is received in proper form. Payment of redemption proceeds may take longer and may take up to seven days after the order is received in proper form, particularly during periods of stressed market conditions or very large redemptions or excessive trading.

The processing of redemptions may be suspended, and the delivery of redemption proceeds may be delayed beyond seven days, depending on the circumstances, for any period: (i) during which the NYSE is closed (other than on holidays or weekends), or during which trading on the NYSE is restricted, (ii) when an emergency exists that makes the disposal of securities owned by the fund or the determination of the fair value of the fund's net assets not reasonably practicable, or (iii) as permitted by order of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the protection of fund shareholders. For these purposes, the Securities and Exchange Commission determines the conditions under which trading shall be deemed to be restricted and an emergency shall be deemed to exist.

Under normal circumstances, the fund expects to meet redemption requests by using cash it holds in its portfolio or selling portfolio securities to generate cash. In addition, the fund, and certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds, may draw upon an unsecured credit facility for temporary or emergency purposes to meet redemption requests. The fund also reserves the right to pay redemption proceeds in securities rather than cash (i.e., "redeem in kind"), to the extent the composition of the fund's investment portfolio enables it to do so, if the amount redeemed is large enough to affect fund operations (for example, if it exceeds 1% of the fund's assets) or the redemption request is during stressed market conditions. Securities distributed in connection with any such redemption in-kind are expected to generally represent a pro rata portion of assets held by the fund immediately prior to the redemption in an amount equal to the value of the shares redeemed, with adjustments as may be necessary in connection with, for example, certain derivatives, restricted securities, odd lots or fractional shares. Any securities distributed in-kind will remain exposed to market risk until sold, and transaction costs may be incurred when selling the securities.

Participating insurance companies will provide pass-through voting privileges to all policyowners so long as the SEC continues to interpret the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, as requiring pass-through voting privileges for policyowners. Participating insurance companies will vote by proxy, in the same proportions as the voting instructions received from policyowners: (1) fund shares as to which no timely instructions are received; (2) fund shares owned exclusively by the relevant participating insurance company or its affiliates; and (3) fund shares held in a separate account representing charges imposed by the relevant participating insurance company. As a result of this proportionate voting policy, the voting of a small number of policyowners may determine whether a proposal is approved, depending on the number of shares attributable to policyowners that provide instructions and to policyowners that do not. Additional information regarding voting instruction rights is provided in the prospectus or statement of additional information for the VA contracts or VLI policies.

General Policies

The fund is designed for long-term investors. Frequent purchases, redemptions and exchanges may disrupt portfolio management strategies and harm fund performance by diluting the value of fund shares and increasing brokerage and administrative costs. As a result, Dreyfus and the fund's board have adopted a policy of discouraging excessive trading, short-term market timing and other abusive trading practices (frequent trading) that could adversely affect the fund or its operations. Dreyfus and the fund will not enter into arrangements with any person or group to permit frequent trading. The fund also reserves the right to refuse any purchase or exchange request, including those from any participating insurance company, individual or group who, in Dreyfus' view, is likely to engage in frequent trading.

Transactions in fund shares are processed by the participating insurance companies using omnibus accounts that aggregate the trades of multiple policyowners. Dreyfus' ability to monitor the trading activity of these policyowners is limited because their individual transactions in fund shares are not disclosed to the fund. Accordingly, Dreyfus relies to a significant degree on the participating insurance company to detect and deter frequent trading. The agreement with the participating insurance company includes obligations to comply with all applicable federal and state laws. All participating insurance companies have been sent written reminders of their obligations under the agreements, specifically highlighting rules relating to trading fund shares. Further, all participating insurance companies have been requested in writing to notify Dreyfus immediately if, for any reason, they cannot meet their commitment to make fund shares available in accordance with the terms of the prospectus and relevant rules and regulations.

Dreyfus supplements the surveillance processes in place at participating insurance companies by monitoring total purchases and redemptions of fund shares on a periodic basis. If Dreyfus identifies patterns that may be indicative of frequent trading of large amounts, Dreyfus contacts the participating insurance company for assistance in disaggregating selected omnibus trades into their component parts. When this process identifies multiple roundtrips (i.e., an investment that is substantially liquidated within 60 days), Dreyfus instructs the participating insurance company to temporarily or permanently bar such policyowner's future purchases of fund shares if Dreyfus concludes the policyowner is likely to engage in frequent trading. Dreyfus also may instruct the participating insurance company to apply these restrictions across all accounts under common ownership, control or perceived affiliation. In all instances, Dreyfus seeks to make these determinations to the best of its abilities in a manner that it believes is consistent with shareholder interests.

In addition to applying restrictions on future purchases or exchanges, Dreyfus or the participating insurance company may cancel or reverse the purchase or exchange on the business day following the transaction if the participating insurance company's surveillance system identifies the account as one that is likely to engage in frequent trading. Dreyfus may also instruct the participating insurance company to cancel or reverse the purchase or exchange on the following business day if the trade represents a significant amount of the fund's assets and Dreyfus has concluded that the account is likely to engage in frequent trading.

To the extent the fund significantly invests in foreign securities traded on markets that close before the fund calculates its NAV, events that influence the value of these foreign securities may occur after the close of these foreign markets and before the fund calculates its NAV. As a result, certain policyowners may seek to trade fund shares in an effort to benefit from their understanding of the value of these foreign securities at the time the fund calculates its NAV (referred to as price arbitrage). This type of frequent trading may dilute the value of fund shares held by other policyowners. The fund has adopted procedures designed to adjust closing market prices of foreign equity securities under certain circumstances to reflect what it believes to be their fair value.

To the extent the fund significantly invests in thinly traded securities, certain policyowners may seek to trade fund shares in an effort to benefit from their understanding of the value of these securities (referred to as price arbitrage). Any such frequent trading strategies may interfere with efficient management of the fund's portfolio to a greater degree than funds that invest in highly liquid securities, in part because the fund may have difficulty selling these portfolio securities at advantageous times or prices to satisfy large and/or frequent redemption requests. Any successful price arbitrage may also cause dilution in the value of fund shares held by other policyowners.

Although the fund's frequent trading and fair valuation policies and procedures are designed to discourage market timing and excessive trading, none of these tools alone, nor all of them together, completely eliminates the potential for frequent trading.

Distributions and Taxes

Each share class will generate a different dividend because each has different expenses. The fund earns dividends, interest and other income from its investments, and distributes this income (less expenses) to shareholders as dividends. The fund also realizes capital gains from its investments, and distributes these gains (less any losses) to shareholders as capital gain distributions. The fund normally pays dividends quarterly and capital gain distributions, if any, annually. Fund dividends and capital gain distributions will be reinvested in the fund unless the participating insurance company instructs otherwise.

Since the fund's shareholders are the participating insurance companies and their separate accounts, the tax treatment of dividends and distributions will depend on the tax status of the participating insurance company. Accordingly, no discussion is included as to the federal personal income tax consequences to policyowners. For this information, policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company or their tax advisers.

Participating insurance companies should consult their tax advisers about federal, state and local tax consequences.

Exchange Privilege

Policyowners may exchange shares of a class for shares of other funds offered by the VA contracts or VLI policies through the insurance company separate accounts subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the prospectuses of such VA contracts or VLI policies. Policyowners should refer to the applicable insurance company prospectus for more information on exchanging fund shares.

Financial Highlights

These financial highlights describe the performance of the fund's shares for the fiscal periods indicated. "Total return" shows how much your investment in the fund would have increased (or decreased) during each period, assuming you had reinvested all dividends and distributions. These financial highlights have been derived from the fund's financial statements, which have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, along with the fund's financial statements, is included in the annual report, which is available upon request. Keep in mind that fees and charges imposed by participating insurance companies, which are not reflected in the tables, would reduce the investment returns that are shown.

	<i>Year Ended December 31,</i>				
Initial Shares	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Per Share Data (\$):					
Net asset value, beginning of period	41.01	45.23	49.51	47.95	40.47
Investment Operations:					
Investment income--net ^a	.56	.68	.80	.89	.86
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	9.55	2.48	(1.97)	2.86	7.59
Total from Investment Operations	10.11	3.16	(1.17)	3.75	8.45
Distributions:					
Dividends from investment income--net	(.57)	(.69)	(.81)	(.90)	(.87)
Dividends from net realized gain on investments	(5.84)	(6.69)	(2.30)	(1.29)	(.10)
Total Distributions	(6.41)	(7.38)	(3.11)	(2.19)	(.97)
Net asset value, end of period	44.71	41.01	45.23	49.51	47.95
Total Return (%)	27.33	7.91	(2.47)	8.09	21.11
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	.81	.82	.80	.80	.81
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	.81	.82	.80	.80	.81
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	1.35	1.64	1.70	1.84	1.95
Portfolio Turnover Rate	3.97	4.19	11.97	3.65	7.71
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	271,790	238,340	256,828	329,802	360,197

^a Based on average shares outstanding.

	<i>Year Ended December 31,</i>				
Service Shares	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Per Share Data (\$):					
Net asset value, beginning of period	40.72	44.96	49.23	47.69	40.25
Investment Operations:					
Investment income--net ^a	.46	.57	.68	.76	.75
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	9.46	2.46	(1.96)	2.85	7.55
Total from Investment Operations	9.92	3.03	(1.28)	3.61	8.30
Distributions:					
Dividends from investment income--net	(.46)	(.58)	(.69)	(.78)	(.76)
Dividends from net realized gain on investments	(5.84)	(6.69)	(2.30)	(1.29)	(.10)
Total Distributions	(6.30)	(7.27)	(2.99)	(2.07)	(.86)
Net asset value, end of period	44.34	40.72	44.96	49.23	47.69
Total Return (%)	27.00	7.64	(2.72)	7.83	20.83
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.06	1.07	1.05	1.05	1.06
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	1.06	1.07	1.05	1.05	1.06
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	1.11	1.41	1.45	1.59	1.70
Portfolio Turnover Rate	3.97	4.19	11.97	3.65	7.71
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	145,485	161,440	231,421	264,795	254,928

^a Based on average shares outstanding.

NOTES

For More Information

Appreciation Portfolio

A series of Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund

More information on this fund is available free upon request, including the following:

Annual/Semiannual Report

The fund's annual and semiannual reports describe the fund's performance, list portfolio holdings and contain a letter from the fund's manager discussing recent market conditions, economic trends and fund strategies that significantly affected the fund's performance during the period covered by the report. The fund's most recent annual and semiannual reports are available at www.dreyfus.com.

Statement of Additional Information (SAI)

The SAI provides more details about the fund and its policies. A current SAI is available at www.dreyfus.com and is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The SAI is incorporated by reference (and is legally considered part of this prospectus).

Portfolio Holdings

Dreyfus funds generally disclose, at www.dreyfus.com under Products, (1) complete portfolio holdings as of each month-end with a one month lag and as of each calendar quarter end with a 15-day lag; (2) top 10 holdings as of each month-end with a 10-day lag; and (3) from time to time, certain security-specific performance attribution data as of a month end, with a 10-day lag. From time to time a fund may make available certain portfolio characteristics, such as allocations, performance- and risk-related statistics, portfolio-level statistics and non-security specific attribution analyses, on request. Dreyfus money market funds generally disclose, also at www.dreyfus.com under Products, their complete schedule of holdings daily. A fund's portfolio holdings and any security-specific performance attribution data will remain on the website at least until the fund files its Form N-Q or Form N-CSR for the period that includes the dates of the posted holdings.

A complete description of the fund's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the fund's portfolio securities is available in the fund's SAI and at www.dreyfus.com.

To Obtain Information

By telephone. Call 1-800-DREYFUS (inside the U.S. only)

By mail.

The Dreyfus Family of Funds
144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard
Uniondale, NY 11556-0144
Attn: Institutional Services Department

On the Internet. Certain fund documents can be viewed online or downloaded from:

SEC: <http://www.sec.gov>

Dreyfus: <http://www.dreyfus.com>

You can also obtain copies, after paying a duplicating fee, by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC (for information, call 1-202-551-8090) or by E-mail request to publicinfo@sec.gov, or by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, DC 20549-1520.

This prospectus does not constitute an offer or solicitation in any state or jurisdiction in which, or to any person to whom, such offering or solicitation may not lawfully be made.

SEC file number: 811-05125