

**The Growth Fund  
of America®**

Summary prospectus  
October 30, 2020



**CAPITAL  
GROUP®** | **AMERICAN  
FUNDS®**

Class	A	C	T	F-1	F-2	F-3	529-A	529-C	529-E	529-T	529-F-1
	AGTHX	GFACX	TFGAX	GFAFX	GFFFX	GAFFX	CGFAX	CGFCX	CGFEX	TAFFX	CGFFX
Class	529-F-2	529-F-3	R-1	R-2	R-2E	R-3	R-4	R-5E	R-5	R-6	
	FAFGX	FFAFX	RGAAX	RGABX	RGBEX	RGACX	RGAEX	RGAHX	RGAFX	RGAGX	

Beginning January 1, 2021, as permitted by regulations adopted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, we intend to no longer mail paper copies of the fund's shareholder reports, unless specifically requested from American Funds or your financial intermediary, such as a broker-dealer or bank. Instead, the reports will be made available on the Capital Group website ([capitalgroup.com](http://capitalgroup.com)); you will be notified by mail and provided with a website link to access the report each time a report is posted. If you have already elected to receive shareholder reports electronically, you will not be affected by this change and do not need to take any action. If you prefer to receive shareholder reports and other communications electronically, you may update your mailing preferences with your financial intermediary, or enroll in e-delivery at [capitalgroup.com](http://capitalgroup.com) (for accounts held directly with the fund).

You may elect to receive paper copies of all future reports free of charge. If you invest through a financial intermediary, you may contact your financial intermediary to request that you continue to receive paper copies of your shareholder reports. If you invest directly with the fund, you may inform American Funds that you wish to continue receiving paper copies of your shareholder reports by contacting us at (800) 421-4225. Your election to receive paper reports will apply to all funds held with American Funds or through your financial intermediary.

Before you invest, you may want to review the fund's [prospectus](#) and [statement of additional information](#), which contain more information about the fund and its risks. You can find the fund's prospectus, statement of additional information, reports to shareholders and other information about the fund online at [capitalgroup.com/prospectus](http://capitalgroup.com/prospectus). You can also get this information at no cost by calling (800) 421-4225 or by sending an email request to [prospectus@americanfunds.com](mailto:prospectus@americanfunds.com). The current prospectus and statement of additional information, dated October 30, 2020, are incorporated by reference into this summary prospectus.



**Investment objective** The fund's investment objective is to provide you with growth of capital.

**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. In addition to the fees and expenses described below, you may also be required to pay brokerage commissions on purchases and sales of Class F-2, F-3, 529-F-2 or 529-F-3 shares of the fund. You may qualify for sales charge discounts if you and your family invest, or agree to invest in the future, at least \$25,000 in American Funds. More information about these and other discounts is available from your financial professional, in the "Sales charge reductions and waivers" sections on page 31 of the prospectus and on page 68 of the fund's statement of additional information, and in the sales charge waiver appendix to this prospectus.

**Shareholder fees** (fees paid directly from your investment)

	Share class:		C and 529-C	529-E	T and 529-T	All F and 529-F share classes	All R share classes
	A	529-A					
Maximum sales charge (load) imposed on purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	5.75%	3.50%	none	none	2.50%	none	none
Maximum deferred sales charge (load) (as a percentage of the amount redeemed)	1.00 <sup>1</sup>	1.00 <sup>1</sup>	1.00%	none	none	none	none
Maximum sales charge (load) imposed on reinvested dividends	none	none	none	none	none	none	none
Redemption or exchange fees	none	none	none	none	none	none	none

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

	Share class:							
	A	C	T	F-1	F-2	F-3	529-A	
Management fees	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	
Distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees	0.25	1.00	0.25	0.25	none	none	0.23	
Other expenses	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.16	0.15	0.04	0.18	
Total annual fund operating expenses	0.64	1.39	0.64	0.67	0.41	0.30	0.67	

	Share class:							
	529-C	529-E	529-T	529-F-1	529-F-2	529-F-3	R-1	
Management fees	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	
Distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees	1.00	0.50	0.25	0.25 <sup>2</sup>	none	none	1.00	
Other expenses	0.18	0.15	0.18	0.18	0.17 <sup>3</sup>	0.10 <sup>3</sup>	0.14	
Total annual fund operating expenses	1.44	0.91	0.69	0.69	0.43	0.36	1.40	

	Share class:							
	R-2	R-2E	R-3	R-4	R-5E	R-5	R-6	
Management fees	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	0.26%	
Distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees	0.75	0.60	0.50	0.25	none	none	none	
Other expenses	0.39	0.24	0.19	0.14	0.18	0.09	0.04	
Total annual fund operating expenses	1.40	1.10	0.95	0.65	0.44	0.35	0.30	

<sup>1</sup> A contingent deferred sales charge of 1.00% applies on certain redemptions made within 18 months following purchases of \$1 million or more made without an initial sales charge. Contingent deferred sales charge is calculated based on the lesser of the offering price and market value of shares being sold.

<sup>2</sup> Restated to reflect current fees.

<sup>3</sup> Based on estimated amounts for the current fiscal year.

**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. You may be required to pay brokerage commissions on your purchases and sales of Class F-2, F-3, 529-F-2 or 529-F-3 shares of the fund, which are not reflected in the example. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

Share class:	A	C	T	F-1	F-2	F-3	529-A	529-C	529-E	529-T	529-F-1	529-F-2	529-F-3	R-1
1 year	\$637	\$242	\$314	\$68	\$42	\$31	\$416	\$247	\$93	\$319	\$70	\$44	\$37	\$143
3 years	768	440	450	214	132	97	557	456	290	465	221	138	116	443
5 years	911	761	598	373	230	169	710	787	504	625	384	241	202	766
10 years	1,327	1,463	1,028	835	518	381	1,155	1,231	1,120	1,087	859	542	456	1,680
Share class:	R-2	R-2E	R-3	R-4	R-5E	R-5	R-6	For the share classes listed to the right, you would pay the following if you did not redeem your shares:				Share class:	C	529-C
1 year	\$143	\$112	\$97	\$66	\$45	\$36	\$31					1 year	\$142	\$147
3 years	443	350	303	208	141	113	97					3 years	440	456
5 years	766	606	525	362	246	197	169					5 years	761	787
10 years	1,680	1,340	1,166	810	555	443	381					10 years	1,463	1,231

**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 and may result in higher taxes when fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the example, affect the fund's investment results. During the most recent fiscal year, the fund's portfolio turnover rate was 28% of the average value of its portfolio.

**Principal investment strategies** The fund invests primarily in common stocks and seeks to invest in companies that appear to offer superior opportunities for growth of capital. The fund invests primarily in common stocks of large and mid-capitalization issuers. The fund may invest up to 25% of its assets in securities of issuers domiciled outside the United States.

The investment adviser uses a system of multiple portfolio managers in managing the fund's assets. Under this approach, the portfolio of the fund is divided into segments managed by individual managers.

The fund relies on the professional judgment of its investment adviser to make decisions about the fund's portfolio investments. The basic investment philosophy of the investment adviser is to seek to invest in attractively valued companies that, in its opinion, represent good, long-term investment opportunities. Securities may be sold when the investment adviser believes that they no longer represent relatively attractive investment opportunities.

**Principal risks** This section describes the principal risks associated with investing in the fund. You may lose money by investing in the fund. The likelihood of loss may be greater if you invest for a shorter period of time. Investors in the fund should have a long-term perspective and be able to tolerate potentially sharp declines in value.

*Market conditions* – The prices of, and the income generated by, the common stocks and other securities held by the fund may decline – sometimes rapidly or unpredictably – due to various factors, including events or conditions affecting the general economy or particular industries; overall market changes; local, regional or global political, social or economic instability; governmental, governmental agency or central bank responses to economic conditions; and currency exchange rate, interest rate and commodity price fluctuations.

Economies and financial markets throughout the world are highly interconnected. Economic, financial or political events, trading and tariff arrangements, wars, terrorism, cybersecurity events, natural disasters, public health emergencies (such as the spread of infectious disease) and other circumstances in one country or region, including actions taken by governmental or quasi-governmental authorities in response to any of the foregoing, could have impacts on global economies or markets. As a result, whether or not the fund invests in securities of issuers located in or with significant exposure to the countries affected, the value and liquidity of the fund's investments may be negatively affected by developments in other countries and regions.

*Issuer risks* – The prices of, and the income generated by, securities held by the fund may decline in response to various factors directly related to the issuers of such securities, including reduced demand for an issuer's goods or services, poor management performance, major litigation related to the issuer, changes in government regulations affecting the issuer or its competitive environment and strategic initiatives such as mergers, acquisitions or dispositions and the market response to any such initiatives.

*Investing in growth-oriented stocks* – Growth-oriented common stocks and other equity-type securities (such as preferred stocks, convertible preferred stocks and convertible bonds) may involve larger price swings and greater potential for loss than other types of investments.

*Investing outside the United States* – Securities of issuers domiciled outside the United States, or with significant operations or revenues outside the United States, may lose value because of adverse political, social, economic or market developments (including social instability, regional conflicts, terrorism and war) in the countries or regions in which the issuers operate or generate revenue. These securities may also lose value due to changes in foreign currency exchange rates against the U.S. dollar and/or currencies of other countries. Issuers of these securities may be more susceptible to actions of foreign governments, such as nationalization, currency blockage or the imposition of price controls or punitive taxes, each of which could adversely impact the value of these securities. Securities markets in certain countries may be more volatile and/or less liquid than those in the United States. Investments outside the United States may also be subject to different accounting practices and different regulatory, legal and reporting standards and practices, and may be more difficult to value, than those in the United States. In addition, the value of investments outside the United States may be reduced by foreign taxes, including foreign withholding taxes on interest and dividends. Further, there may be increased risks of delayed settlement of securities purchased or sold by the fund. The risks of investing outside the United States may be heightened in connection with investments in emerging markets.

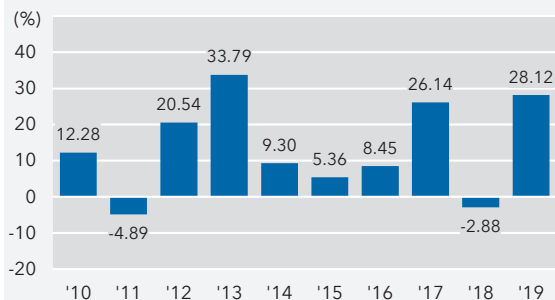
*Management* – The investment adviser to the fund actively manages the fund's investments. Consequently, the fund is subject to the risk that the methods and analyses, including models, tools and data, employed by the investment adviser in this process may be flawed or incorrect and may not produce the desired results. This could cause the fund to lose value or its investment results to lag relevant benchmarks or other funds with similar objectives.

Your investment in the fund is not a bank deposit and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, entity or person. You should consider how this fund fits into your overall investment program.

**Investment results** The following bar chart shows how the fund's investment results have varied from year to year, and the following table shows how the fund's average annual total returns for various periods compare with a broad measure of securities market results. This information provides some indication of the risks of investing in the fund. Past investment results (before and after taxes) are not predictive of future investment results. Prior to October 30, 2020, certain fees, such as 12b-1 fees, were not charged on Class 529-F-1 shares. If these expenses had been deducted, results would have been lower. Investment results for Class 529-F-2 and Class 529-F-3 shares will be shown after these share classes have had annual returns for at least one calendar year. Class 529-F-2 and Class 529-F-3 shares will invest in the same securities as the other share classes of the fund but their results may vary from that of other share classes based on their respective fees and expenses. If expenses of the Class 529-F-2 and Class 529-F-3 are higher, then results would be lower. Updated information on the fund's investment results can be obtained by visiting [capitalgroup.com](http://capitalgroup.com).

### Calendar year total returns for Class A shares

(Results do not include a sales charge; if a sales charge were included, results would be lower.)



Highest/Lowest quarterly results during this period were:

**Highest** 14.58% (quarter ended March 31, 2012)

**Lowest** -16.21% (quarter ended September 30, 2011)

The fund's total return for the nine months ended September 30, 2020, was 18.78%.



**Average annual total returns** For the periods ended December 31, 2019 (with maximum sales charge):

Share class	Inception date	1 year	5 years	10 years	Lifetime
A – Before taxes	12/1/1973	20.75%	11.07%	12.27%	13.44%
– After taxes on distributions		18.84	9.03	10.78	N/A
– After taxes on distributions and sale of fund shares		13.66	8.41	9.88	N/A

Share classes (before taxes)	Inception date	1 year	5 years	10 years	Lifetime
C	3/15/2001	26.16%	11.51%	12.22%	7.94%
F-1	3/15/2001	28.06	12.33	12.91	8.29
F-2	8/1/2008	28.39	12.63	13.20	10.65
F-3	1/27/2017	28.53	N/A	N/A	14.88
529-A	2/15/2002	23.58	11.51	12.46	8.81
529-C	2/15/2002	26.09	11.46	12.42	8.76
529-E	3/1/2002	27.75	12.05	12.58	8.65
529-F-1	9/16/2002	28.32	12.55	13.10	10.84
R-1	6/6/2002	27.12	11.52	12.07	8.84
R-2	5/21/2002	27.11	11.54	12.11	8.55
R-2E	8/29/2014	27.52	11.88	N/A	11.23
R-3	5/21/2002	27.70	12.02	12.59	9.02
R-4	5/28/2002	28.09	12.35	12.92	9.39
R-5E	11/20/2015	28.37	N/A	N/A	13.52
R-5	5/15/2002	28.49	12.69	13.26	9.59
R-6	5/1/2009	28.54	12.75	13.31	15.01

Index	1 year	5 years	10 years	Lifetime (from Class A inception)
S&P 500 Index (reflects no deductions for sales charges, account fees, expenses or U.S. federal income taxes)	31.49%	11.70%	13.56%	11.14%

After-tax returns are shown only for Class A shares; after-tax returns for other share classes will vary. After-tax returns are calculated using the highest individual federal income tax rates in effect during each year of the periods shown and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Your actual after-tax returns depend on your individual tax situation and likely will differ from the results shown above. In addition, after-tax returns are not relevant if you hold your fund shares through a tax-favored arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan, individual retirement account (IRA) or 529 college savings plan.

## Management

**Investment adviser** Capital Research and Management Company<sup>SM</sup>

**Portfolio managers** The individuals primarily responsible for the portfolio management of the fund are:

Portfolio manager/ Fund title (if applicable)	Portfolio manager experience in this fund	Primary title with investment adviser
<b>Christopher D. Buchbinder</b> Co-President	7 years	Partner – Capital Research Global Investors
<b>Mark L. Casey</b> Senior Vice President	8 years	Partner – Capital International Investors
<b>Barry S. Crosthwaite</b> Senior Vice President	13 years	Partner – Capital International Investors
<b>J. Blair Frank</b> Senior Vice President	19 years	Partner – Capital Research Global Investors
<b>Joanna F. Jonsson</b> Senior Vice President	5 years	Partner – Capital World Investors
<b>Carl M. Kawaja</b> Senior Vice President	10 years	Partner – Capital World Investors
<b>Donald D. O’Neal</b> Co-President	27 years	Partner – Capital International Investors
<b>Anne-Marie Peterson</b> Co-President and Trustee	8 years	Partner – Capital World Investors
<b>Alex Popa</b> Senior Vice President	4 years	Partner – Capital World Investors
<b>Andraz Razen</b> Senior Vice President	2 years	Partner – Capital World Investors
<b>Martin Romo</b> Senior Vice President	10 years	Partner – Capital Research Global Investors
<b>Lawrence R. Solomon</b> Senior Vice President	10 years	Partner – Capital Research Global Investors
<b>Alan J. Wilson</b> Senior Vice President	8 years	Partner – Capital World Investors

**Purchase and sale of fund shares** The minimum amount to establish an account for all share classes is normally \$250 and the minimum to add to an account is \$50. For a payroll deduction retirement plan account, payroll deduction savings plan account or employer-sponsored 529 account, the minimum is \$25 to establish or add to an account. For accounts with Class F-3 shares held and serviced by the fund’s transfer agent, the minimum investment amount is \$1 million.

If you are a retail investor, you may sell (redeem) shares on any business day through your dealer or financial professional or by writing to American Funds Service Company® at P.O. Box 6007, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6007; telephoning American Funds Service Company at (800) 421-4225; faxing American Funds Service Company at (888) 421-4351; or accessing our website at capitalgroup.com. Please contact your plan administrator or recordkeeper to sell (redeem) shares from your retirement plan.

**Tax information** Dividends and capital gain distributions you receive from the fund are subject to federal income taxes and may also be subject to state and local taxes, unless you are tax-exempt or your account is tax-favored.

**Payments to broker-dealers and other financial intermediaries** If you purchase shares of the fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the fund and the fund’s distributor or its affiliates may pay the intermediary for the sale of fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your individual financial professional to recommend the fund over another investment. Ask your individual financial professional or visit your financial intermediary’s website for more information.



You can access the fund's [statutory prospectus](#) or [SAI](#) at [capitalgroup.com/prospectus](https://capitalgroup.com/prospectus).

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