

# FTMIX | FTMAX | FTMCX | First Trust Multi-Strategy Fund

#### **FUND OBJECTIVE**

The First Trust Multi-Strategy Fund (the "Fund") seeks long-term capital appreciation by pursuing positive absolute returns across market cycles. In pursuing its objective, the Fund seeks to generate attractive long-term returns with low sensitivity to traditional equity and fixed-income indices.

### **INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

The Fund allocates its assets among a carefully chosen group of alternative investment strategies operated by portfolio managers with deep backgrounds in their respective disciplines. These strategies may include, without limitation, relative value, arbitrage, and structured debt that invest in different asset classes, securities, and derivative instruments. This mix of strategies seeks to generate an uncorrelated return stream using fundamentally and technically driven approaches.

# **FUND PERFORMANCE (%) AS OF 12/31/24**

Net Asset Value (NAV)*	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Fund Inception
FTMIX - Class I Shares	1.12	8.22	8.22	3.73	4.17	4.21	3.72
FTMAX - Class A Shares	1.03	7.86	7.86	3.41	3.87	3.90	3.40
FTMCX - Class C Shares**	0.78	7.06	7.06	2.63	3.07	3.11	2.63
Index Performance***							
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	-3.06	1.25	1.25	-2.41	-0.33	1.35	1.58
ICE BofA 3-Month US Treasury Index	1.18	5.28	5.28	3.92	2.48	1.75	1.39

Performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results and current performance may be higher or lower than performance quoted. Investment returns and principal value will fluctuate and shares when sold or redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. You can obtain performance information which is current through the most recent month-end by visiting www.firsttrustcapital.com.

FTMIX Total Expense Ratio: 1.89%; Net Expense Ratio: 1.67%. FTMAX Total Expense Ratio: 2.18%; Net Expense Ratio: 1.96%. FTMCX Total Expense Ratio: 2.92%. FTMCX Net Expense Ratio: 2.70%. Pursuant to contract, First Trust Capital Management has agreed to waive fees and/or pay Fund expenses to prevent the annual net expense ratio from exceeding 1.55%, 1.85% and 2.60% of the average daily net assets of Class I, Class A and Class C shares, respectively, excluding 12b-1 distribution and service fees and certain other expenses as described in the prospectus. Currently, the net expense ratio is the amount applied to each share's NAV. Expense limitations may be terminated or modified prior to their expiration only with the approval of the Board of Trustees of the First Trust Series Fund. Unless it is terminated, the Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Agreement automatically renews for consecutive one-year terms.

\*NAV represent the Fund's net assets (assets less liabilities) divided by the Fund's outstanding shares. Returns are average annualized total returns, except those for periods of less than one year, which are cumulative. The funds' performance reflects fee waivers and expense reimbursements, absent which performance would have been lower.

The Fund commenced operations and acquired the assets and liabilities of the Vivaldi Orinda Macro Opportunities Fund (the "Predecessor Fund"), a series of Advisors Series Trust, on December 16, 2016. As a result of the acquisition, the Fund is the accounting successor of the Predecessor Fund. Performance results shown in the performance table for periods prior to December 16, 2016 reflect the performance of the Predecessor Fund. The Fund's past performance, before and after taxes, is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

\*\*Class C shares commenced operations on November 14, 2022. The performance figures for Class C shares include the performance for the Class I shares for the periods prior to the inception date of Class C shares, adjusted for the difference in Class C shares and Class I shares expenses. Class C shares impose higher expenses than Class I shares.

\*\*\*Performance information for the indexes is for illustrative purposes only and does not represent actual fund performance. Indexes do not charge management fees or brokerage expenses, and no such fees or expenses were deducted from the performance shown. All Index returns assume that dividends are reinvested when they are received. Indexes are unmanaged and an investor cannot invest directly into an index.

## FTMAX SALES CHARGE (%)

Investment	Front-End Sales Charge As a % of Offering Price <sup>1</sup>	Front-End Sales Charge As a % of Net Investment	Dealer Reallowance As a % of Offering Price
Less than \$24,999	4.50	4.71	3.75
\$25,000 - \$49,999	3.50	3.63	2.75
\$50,000 - \$99,999	2.50	2.56	2.00
\$100,000 - \$249,999	2.00	2.04	1.50
\$250,000 and above	See Below <sup>2</sup>	See Below <sup>2</sup>	See Below <sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The offering price includes the sales charge.

#### FTMCX SALES CHARGE (%)

Class C shares of the Fund are sold at NAV and are subject to a CDSC of 1.00% on any shares you sell within 12 months of purchasing them.

# FTMIX CORRELATION TO THE BLOOMBERG U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX

	FTMIX	Aggregate Bond Index^
FTMIX	1.00	0.04
Aggregate Bond Index^		1.00

 $Source: UMB\ Bank.\ Data\ from\ 5/01/2012-12/31/2024.\ ^Aggregate\ Bond\ Index\ refers\ to\ the\ Bloomberg\ U.S.\ Aggregate\ Bond\ Index.$ 

# Overall Morningstar Rating™



Among 114 funds in the Multi-Strategy category. This fund was rated 3 stars/114 funds (3 years), 3 stars/105 funds (5 years), and 5 stars/59 funds (10 years) based on risk-adjusted returns as of 12/31/24.

Morningstar Rating is for the I Share Class only; other classes may have different performance characteristics.

#### **KEY FEATURES**

- Investment Company Act of 1940 mutual fund: transparency, accessibility and daily liquidity
- Multi-strategy mandate that is highly diversified via strategies, sectors, capitalization and style
- Differentiated return profile with fundamental underpinnings and a low correlation to traditional equity or fixed-income benchmarks
- Investment Manager: First Trust Capital Management L.P.

# **FUND FACTS**

Inception Date	April 30, 2012
CUSIP I Shares	46141T679
CUSIP A Shares	46141T687
CUSIP C Shares	461445X11
Minimum Investment I Shares	\$100,000
Minimum Investment A Shares	\$5,000
Minimum Investment C Shares	\$1,000
Minimum is waived in fee based accounts.	

# STRATEGY ALLOCATION (AS OF 12/31/2024)



Arbitrage	31%
Structured Debt	37%
Secured Put/Option Writing	29%
Cash & Overlay	3%

#### First Trust Multi-Strategy Fund

#### Advisor

First Trust Capital Management L.P.

## **Sub-Advisors**

Palmer Square Capital Management Vest Financial

You should consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses carefully before investing. Contact First Trust Capital Management at 1-800-988-5196 or visit www.firsttrustcapital.com to obtain a prospectus or summary prospectus which contains this and other information about a fund. The prospectus or summary prospectus should be read carefully before investing.

There is no initial sales charge on purchases of Class A shares in an account or accounts with an accumulated value of \$250,000 or more, but to the extent a finder's fee was paid, a contingent deferred sales charge ("CDSC") of 0.50% will be imposed in the event of certain redemptions within 12 months of the date of purchase.



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# **CORE STRATEGIES**

### **Arbitrage**

- Seeks to take advantage of the return opportunity presented by the natural deal spread that emerges after the announcement of a merger or acquisition
- The manager employs a research-driven process focusing on North American transactions with more well-defined regulatory or financing risk
- The primary objective is to look for the best risk-adjusted merger deals for the portfolio, focusing on strategic combinations of solidly performing targets by well-financed acquirers
- The strategy is focused on running concentrated in the best ideas with a preference for shorter-dated transactions

# **Option** Writing

- Intends to dampen volatility, while working to capture the Volatility Risk Premium (VRP) efficiently
- The strategy combines fundamental analysis to balance upside participation with a downside cushion, allowing the potential to improve long-term total returns by capturing premium income through option writing
- The managers will look to assess current levels of implied volatility to compare different strike combinations and expiration dates, and then actively replace those options at or before their expiration dates

# Structured Debt

- Seeks the best risk-adjusted opportunities, predominantly targeting high-quality structured credit investments that offer the potential for attractive coupon/interest payments and capital appreciation
- The manager will invest the Fund's capital across a range of rated CLO tranches based on relative value and strong underlying credit fundamentals to potentially withstand downward pricing pressure Within each securitization includes exposure to a diversified set of over 300+ underlying companies across a range of industries, sectors, and regions, seeking to enhance the overall risk profile and eliminate concentrated sector exposure

#### **Risk Considerations**

You could lose money by investing in a fund. An investment in a fund is not a deposit of a bank and is not insured or guaranteed. There can be no assurance that a fund's objective(s) will be achieved. Please refer to each fund's prospectus and Statement of Additional Information for additional details on a fund's risks. The order of the below risk factors does not indicate the significance of any particular risk factor.

Market risk is the risk that a particular security, or shares of a fund in general may fall in value. Securities are subject to market fluctuations caused by such factors as general economic conditions, political events, regulatory or market developments, changes in interest rates and perceived trends in securities prices. Shares of a fund could decline in value or underperform other investments as a result. In addition, local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, spread of infectious disease or other public health issues, recessions, natural disasters or other events could have significant negative

The portfolio managers of an actively managed portfolio will apply investment techniques and risk analyses that may not have the desired result. The prices of options are volatile and the effective use of options depends on a fund's ability to terminate option positions at times deemed desirable to do so. There is no assurance that a fund will be able to effect closing transactions at any particular time or at an acceptable price.

Investments in companies that are the subject of a publicly announced transaction carry the risk the transaction is renegotiated, takes longer to complete than originally planned and that the transaction is never completed. Any such event could cause a fund to incur a loss. The risk/reward payout of rany such event could cause a fund to flictur a ross. The rank/reward payout of merger arbitrage strategies typically is asymmetric, with the losses in failed transactions often far exceeding the gains in successful transactions. Collateralized loan obligations ("CLOs") carry additional risks, including the possibility that distributions from collateral securities will not be adequate to

make interest or other payments, the quality of the collateral may decline in value or default, the possibility that the investments in CLOs are subordinate to other classes or tranches, and the complex structure of the security may not be fully understood at the time of investment and may produce disputes with the issuer or unexpected investment results.

Gertain structured products may be thinly traded or have a limited trading market and as a result may be characterized by the fund as illiquid securities. Special purpose acquisition companies ("SPÁCs"), have no operating history or ongoing business other than seeking acquisitions. The value of a SPAC's securities is particularly dependent on the ability of its management to identify

and complete a profitable acquisition. There is no guarantee that the SPACs in which a fund may invest will complete an acquisition or that any acquisitions completed by the SPACs will be profitable.

Leverage may result in losses that exceed the amount originally invested and

may accelerate the rates of losses. Leverage tends to magnify, sometimes significantly, the effect of any increase or decrease in a fund's exposure to an asset or class of assets and may cause the value of a fund's shares to be volatile and sensitive to market swings.

Equity securities may decline significantly in price over short or extended periods of time, and such declines may occur in the equity market as a whole, or they may occur in only a particular country, company, industry or sector of the market.

Short selling creates special risks which could result in increased gains or losses and volatility of returns. Because losses on short sales arise from increases in the value of the security sold short, such losses are theoretically unlimited.

Investments in debt securities subject the holder to the credit risk of the issuer and the value of debt securities will generally change inversely with changes in interest rates. In addition, debt securities generally do not trade on a securities exchange making them less liquid and more difficult to value.

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the debt securities in a fund's portfolio will decline because of rising interest rates. Interest rate risk is nerally lower for shorter term debt securities and higher for longer-term

An issuer or other obligated party of a debt security may be unable or unwilling to make dividend, interest and/or principal payments when due and the value of a security may decline as a result.

High yield securities, or "junk" bonds, are less liquid and are subject to greater market fluctuations and risk of loss than securities with higher ratings, and therefore, are considered to be highly speculative.

The use of derivatives instruments involves different and possibly greater risks than investing directly in securities including counterparty risk, valuation risk, volatility risk, and liquidity risk. Further, losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying asset, index or rate may be magnified by certain features of the derivatives. Securities of non-U.S. issuers are subject to additional risks, including currency fluctuations, political risks, withholding, lack of liquidity, lack of adequate financial information, and exchange control restrictions impacting

Investments in emerging market securities are generally considered speculative and involve additional risks relating to political, economic and regulatory

A fund with significant exposure to a single asset class, country, region, industry, or sector may be more affected by an adverse economic or political development than a broadly diversified fund.

High portfolio turnover may result in higher levels of transaction costs and may enerate greater tax liabilities for shareholders.

A fund may invest in the shares of ETFs, which involves additional expenses that would not be present in a direct investment in the underlying funds. In

addition, a fund's investment performance and risks may be related to the investment performance and risks may be related to the investment performance and risks of the underlying funds. The risk of a position in a futures contract may be very large compared to the relatively low level of margin a fund is required to deposit and a relatively small price movement in a futures contract may result in immediate and substantial loss relative to the size of margin deposit.

A fund normally pays its income as distributions and therefore, a fund may be required to reduce its distributions if it has insufficient income. Additionally at times, a fund may need to sell securities when it would not otherwise do so and could cause distributions from that sale to constitute return of capital. Because of this, a fund may not be an appropriate investment for investors who do not want their principal investment in a fund to decrease over time or who do not wish to receive return of capital in a given period.

Prepayment risk is the risk that the issuer of a debt security will repay principal prior to the scheduled maturity date. Debt securities allowing prepayment may offer less potential for gains during a period of declining interest rates, as a fund may be required to reinvest the proceeds of any prepayment at lower interest rates.

During periods of falling interest rates if an issuer calls higher-yielding debt instruments, a fund may be forced to invest the proceeds at lower interest rates, likely resulting in a decline in the fund's income

Subordinated debt has lower credit ratings and lower priority than other obligations of an issuer during bankruptcy, presenting a greater risk of

A fund may hold securities or other assets that may be valued on the basis of factors other than market quotations. This may occur because the asset or security does not trade on a centralized exchange, or in times of market turmoil or reduced liquidity. Portfolio holdings that are valued using techniques other than market quotations, including "fair valued" assets or securities, may be subject to greater fluctuation in their valuations from one day to the next than if market quotations were used. There is no assurance that a fund could sell or close out a portfolio position for the value established for it at any time.

Value characteristics of a stock may not be fully recognized for a long time or a stock judged to be undervalued may actually be appropriately priced

Securities of micro, small- and mid-capitalization companies may experience greater price volatility and be less liquid than larger, more established companies. Large capitalization companies may grow at a slower rate than the overall market. Stocks with growth characteristics tend to be more volatile than certain other stocks and their prices may fluctuate more dramatically than the overall stock

Securities issued or guaranteed by federal agencies and U.S. government sponsored instrumentalities may or may not be backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.

Extension risk is the risk that, when interest rates rise, certain obligations will be paid off by the issuer (or other obligated party) more slowly than anticipated causing the value of these debt securities to fall. Rising interest rates tend to extend the duration of debt securities, making their market value more sensitive to changes in interest rates.

Current market conditions risk is the risk that a particular investment, or shares of the fund in general, may fall in value due to current market conditions. For example, changes in governmental fiscal and regulatory policies, disruptions to banking and real estate markets, actual and threatened international armed conflicts and hostilities, and public health crises, among other significant events, could have a material impact on the value of the fund's investments. A fund is susceptible to operational risks through breaches in cyber security.

Such events could cause a fund to incur regulatory penalties, reputationa damage, additional compliance costs associated with corrective measures and/or financial loss. Changes in currency exchange rates and the relative value of non-US currencies may affect the value of a fund's investments and the value of a fund's shares. First Trust Capital Management L.P. (FTCM) is the adviser to the Fund. The Fund's distributor is FTCM's affiliate, First Trust Portfolios L.P.

The information presented is not intended to constitute an investment recommendation for, or advice to, any specific person. By providing this information, First Trust is not undertaking to give advice in any fiduciary capacity within the meaning of ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any other regulatory framework. Financial professionals are responsible for evaluating investment risks independently and for exercising independent judgment in determining underther insurtements are appropriate for their client.

determining whether investments are appropriate for their clients.

\*The Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Mornington Pick-full funds and the properties of the properties on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The Morningstar Rating does not include any adjustment for sales loads. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 stars. The Overall Morningstar Patrick for a managed product is devised from a first The Overall Morningstar Patrick for a managed product is devised from a star the Overall Morningstar Patrick for a managed product is devised from a first The Overall Morningstar Patrick for a managed product is devised from a first than the output of the overall Morningstar Patrick for a managed product is devised from a first than the output of the outpu 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. ©2025 Morningstar, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The Morningstar Rating™ information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar; (2) may not be copied or distributed and (3) is of warranted to be accurate, complete or timely holistor. distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Past performance is no guarantee of

#### **Definitions**

Correlation: Measure of the similarity of performance.

Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index: Covers the investment-grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market, including Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, MBS, ABS, and CMBS

ICE BofA 3-Month US Treasury Index: Measures the performance of U.S. Treasury securities maturing in 90 days and assumes reinvestment of all income. **CLO Tranche:** Portions of a CLO portfolio that are categorized by yield and risk. Each tranche within a CLO portfolio has a different level of risk and yield investors may choose from, as more senior tranches typically have lower risks and lower yields versus less senior tranches typically having higher risks and higher yields.