

# BNY Mellon Variable Investment Fund, Appreciation Portfolio

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
December 31, 2020



**BNY MELLON**  
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

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## DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE (Unaudited)

*For the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, as provided by portfolio managers Alan Christensen, Catherine Crain, Gentry Lee, Christopher Sarofim, Charles Sbeedy and Fayeż Sarofim of Fayeż Sarofim & Co., Sub-Investment Adviser*

### **Market and Fund Performance Overview**

For the 12-month period ended December 31, 2020, BNY Mellon Variable Investment Fund, Appreciation Portfolio's Initial shares achieved a total return of 23.69%, and its Service shares achieved a total return of 23.38%.<sup>1</sup> In comparison, the fund's benchmark, the S&P 500® Index (the "Index"), produced a total return of 18.40% for the same period.<sup>2</sup>

The reporting period was characterized by market volatility, as the world confronted the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced a global shutdown to contain the spread. The fund outperformed its benchmark largely due to favorable stock selection in the financials sector as well as favorable asset allocation and stock selection in the information technology, health care, consumer discretionary and industrials sectors.

### **The Fund's Investment Approach**

The fund seeks long-term capital growth consistent with the preservation of capital. Its secondary goal is current income. To pursue these goals, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its net assets 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.

In choosing stocks, we identify economic sectors we believe will expand over the next three to five years or longer. Using fundamental analysis, we then seek companies within these sectors that have proven track records and dominant positions in their industries. The fund employs a "buy-and-hold" investment strategy, which generally has resulted in an annual portfolio turnover rate of below 15%. A low portfolio turnover rate helps reduce the fund's trading costs and can help limit the distribution of capital gains generated due to portfolio turnover.<sup>3</sup>

### **Stocks Recover in Response to Policy Measures and Vaccine Progress**

The 12-month period ended December 31, 2020 was characterized by market volatility as the world confronted the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced a global shutdown to contain the spread. The S&P 500® Index peaked on February 19, 2020 at 3,386 and then entered a bear market, as shares dropped precipitously to bottom at 2,237 on March 23, 2020 and the dominant market narrative shifted from steady economic growth to worldwide economic shutdown by first quarter's end. The U.S. government implemented travel restrictions, business closures and stay-at-home mandates. Congress passed the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, Economic Security (CARES) Act, a \$2 trillion stimulus package that includes direct payments of up to \$1,200 to individuals and emergency lending facilities for small businesses, corporations and states. The Federal Reserve (the "Fed") cut the federal funds rate twice to 0-25 basis points, increased bond purchases, and formed lending facilities to

maintain liquidity in the markets. The Index finished the first quarter down -19.6%, as uncertainty around the economic impact of the pandemic weighed on investors.

From April through the end of October 2020, the Index recovered its losses, as a combination of accommodative Fed policy, positive vaccine development news and successful social distancing measures turned sentiment positive. As the year progressed, the U.S. began to report improved virus statistics as a result of social distancing and shelter-in-place mandates. Throughout the country, states began the phased reopening of businesses, and oil prices recovered as driving and flight activity picked up.

The Index concluded the year on a positive note, driven by the conclusion of a contentious presidential election in the U.S. and multiple positive vaccine development headlines. The U.S. election concluded with former Vice President Joseph Biden defeating incumbent Donald Trump after winning a number of battleground states. Markets remained volatile over the course of the month as Mr. Trump did not concede, but official recounts and certifications reaffirmed Mr. Biden's victory. Markets reacted positively to Mr. Biden's more moderate policy stances on international trade and foreign policy, along with the prospect for a divided government that limits major tax or regulatory changes. Shifting to COVID-19 headlines, Pfizer-BioNTech announced a 90% efficacy rate for its successful vaccine trial. Further boosting positive sentiment, AstraZeneca and Moderna announced their own successful vaccine trial data shortly afterwards. Positive sentiment took hold as investors began to think about a timeline for vaccine distribution and a path to normalization.

The Index's strong performance in 2020 is attributed to technology companies that benefited from citizens staying at home, including social media, e-commerce and software, while energy, airlines and retailers felt the negative impact of reduced travel demand. The best performing sectors of the Index included information technology, consumer discretionary and communication services. The laggards for the period included the financials and real estate sectors along with the energy sector, which bore the brunt of the travel restriction impacts.

### **Asset Allocation and Stock Selection Drove Performance**

The fund outperformed the Index in 2020, driven by the dual impact of strong stock selection and strategic sector allocation. Within the financials sector, the fund benefited from overweighting the capital markets subsector and underweighting the challenged banking subsector. The fund's overweight allocation in the information technology sector coupled with an advantageous stock selection contributed positively to results for the period. The dual impact of a positive allocation and positive selection effect across the portfolio's holdings in the health care, consumer discretionary and industrials sectors added value to the fund for the period. Strategic underweighting of both real estate and utilities sectors benefited the fund, as the sectors were significant laggards in the period. The fund's holdings benefited from the shift in consumer spending towards productivity software, social media and e-commerce as a result of the work-from-home and shelter-in-place mandates. The top contributors to relative returns included Apple, Amazon.com, Microsoft, Facebook and ASML Holding.

Conversely, the fund's overweight allocation and inopportune stock selection in the consumer staples sector detracted from results for the period. The top detractors from

## DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE (Unaudited) (continued)

relative performance included Exxon Mobil, *American Express*, JP Morgan Chase & Co., Raytheon Technologies and *Linde*.

### **Focused on Companies with Strong Cash Flows, Solid Balance Sheets and Diversified Revenue Streams**

Rather than try to predict the sentiment shifts that will continue to characterize this unusual time in the financial markets, the fund's investment approach remains focused on the long-term. While COVID-19 remains a significant threat to economic activity and corporate profits in the shorter term, the portfolio emphasizes companies that we believe possess resilient cash flows, solid balance sheets, and geographically diverse revenue streams. We believe that those characteristics offer protection against uncertainty associated with additional waves of infections, high unemployment and rising geopolitical tensions. We expect continued volatility as certain industries face impacts from the virus or a slowdown in economic activity. At the same time, the portfolio's simultaneous focus on quality businesses operating in attractive, growing industries and led by management teams whom we consider to be excellent allocators of capital, position the portfolio to consistently deliver revenue and earnings growth over the long term.

January 15, 2021

- <sup>1</sup> *Total return includes reinvestment of dividends and any capital gains paid. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Share price and investment return fluctuate such that upon redemption, fund shares may be worth more or less than their original cost. The fund's performance does not reflect the deduction of additional charges and expenses imposed in connection with investing in variable insurance contracts, which will reduce returns.*
- <sup>2</sup> *Source: Lipper Inc. — The S&P 500® Index is widely regarded as the best single gauge of large-cap U.S. equities. The index includes 500 leading companies and captures approximately 80% coverage of available market capitalization. Investors cannot invest directly in any index.*
- <sup>3</sup> *Achieving tax efficiency is not a part of the fund's investment objective, and there can be no guarantee that the fund will achieve any particular level of taxable distributions in future years. In periods when the manager has to sell significant amounts of securities (e.g., during periods of significant net redemptions or changes in index components), the fund can be expected to be less tax efficient than during periods of more stable market conditions and asset flows.*

*Please note: the position in any security highlighted with italicized typeface was sold during the reporting period.*

*Equities are subject generally to market, market sector, market liquidity, issuer and investment style risks, among other factors, to varying degrees, all of which are more fully described in the fund's prospectus.*

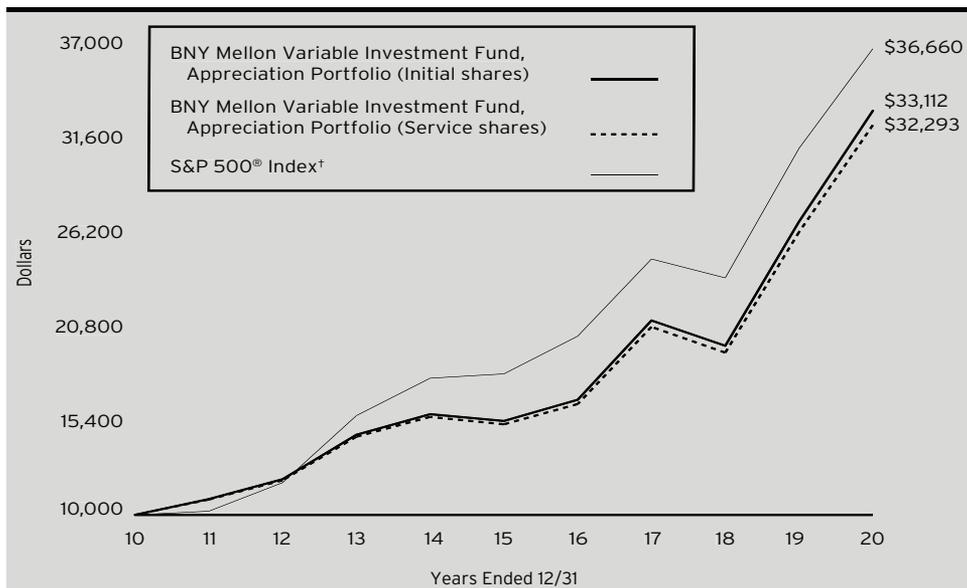
*The fund is only available as a funding vehicle under variable life insurance policies or variable annuity contracts issued by insurance companies. Individuals may not purchase shares of the fund directly. A variable annuity is an insurance contract issued by an insurance company that enables investors to accumulate assets on a tax-deferred basis for retirement or other long-term goals. The investment objective and policies of BNY Mellon Variable Investment Fund, Appreciation Portfolio made available through insurance products may be similar to those of other funds managed by BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc.. However, the investment results of the fund may be higher or lower than, and may not be comparable to, those of any other BNY Mellon fund.*

*Recent market risks include pandemic risks related to COVID-19. The effects of COVID-19 have contributed to increased volatility in global markets and will likely affect certain countries, companies, industries and market sectors more dramatically than others. To the extent the fund may overweight its investments in certain countries, companies, industries or market sectors, such positions will increase the fund's exposure to risk of loss from adverse developments affecting those countries, companies, industries or sectors.*

*The fund may, but is not required to, use derivative instruments. A small investment in derivatives could have a potentially large impact on the fund's performance. The use of derivatives involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the underlying assets.*

*Investing in foreign denominated and/or domiciled securities involves special risks, including changes in currency exchange rates, political, economic, and social instability, limited company information, differing auditing and legal standards, and less market liquidity. These risks generally are greater with emerging market countries.*

## FUND PERFORMANCE (Unaudited)



Comparison of change in value of a \$10,000 investment in Initial shares and Service shares of BNY Mellon Variable Investment Fund, Appreciation Portfolio with a hypothetical investment of \$10,000 in the S&P 500® Index (the “Index”)

† Source: Lipper Inc.

Past performance is not predictive of future performance. The fund’s performance does not reflect the deduction of additional charges and expenses imposed in connection with investing in variable insurance contracts which will reduce returns.

The above graph compares a hypothetical investment of \$10,000 made in each Initial shares and Service shares of BNY Mellon Variable Investment Fund, Appreciation Portfolio on 12/31/10 to a hypothetical investment of \$10,000 made in the Index on that date.

The fund’s performance shown in the line graph above takes into account all applicable fund fees and expenses for Initial shares and Service shares. The Index is widely regarded as the best single gauge of large-cap U.S. equities. The Index includes 500 leading companies and captures approximately 80% coverage of available market capitalization. Unlike a mutual fund, the Index is not subject to charges, fees and other expenses. Investors cannot invest directly in any index. Further information relating to fund performance, including expense reimbursements, if applicable, is contained in the Financial Highlights section of the prospectus and elsewhere in this report.

### Average Annual Total Returns as of 12/31/2020

	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
<b>Initial shares</b>	<b>23.69%</b>	<b>16.59%</b>	<b>12.72%</b>
<b>Service shares</b>	<b>23.38%</b>	<b>16.30%</b>	<b>12.44%</b>
<b>S&amp;P 500® Index</b>	<b>18.40%</b>	<b>15.21%</b>	<b>13.87%</b>

The performance data quoted represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. Share price and investment return fluctuate and an investor’s shares may be worth more or less than original cost upon redemption. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. Go to [www.im.bnymellon.com](http://www.im.bnymellon.com) for the fund’s most recent month-end returns.

The fund’s Initial shares are not subject to a Rule 12b-1 fee. The fund’s Service shares are subject to a 0.25% annual Rule 12b-1 fee. All dividends and capital gain distributions are reinvested.

The fund’s performance shown in the graph and table does not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR FUND'S EXPENSES (Unaudited)

As a mutual fund investor, you pay ongoing expenses, such as management fees and other expenses. Using the information below, you can estimate how these expenses affect your investment and compare them with the expenses of other funds. You also may pay one-time transaction expenses, including sales charges (loads), redemption fees and expenses associated with variable annuity or insurance contracts, which are not shown in this section and would have resulted in higher total expenses. For more information, see your fund's prospectus or talk to your financial adviser.

### Review your fund's expenses

The table below shows the expenses you would have paid on a \$1,000 investment in BNY Mellon Variable Investment Fund, Appreciation Portfolio from July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. It also shows how much a \$1,000 investment would be worth at the close of the period, assuming actual returns and expenses.

<b>Expenses and Value of a \$1,000 Investment</b>		
Assume actual returns for the six months ended December 31, 2020		
	<b>Initial Shares</b>	<b>Service Shares</b>
Expense paid per \$1,000 <sup>†</sup>	\$4.52	\$5.91
Ending value (after expenses)	\$1,220.60	\$1,219.20

## COMPARING YOUR FUND'S EXPENSES WITH THOSE OF OTHER FUNDS (Unaudited)

### Using the SEC's method to compare expenses

The Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") has established guidelines to help investors assess fund expenses. Per these guidelines, the table below shows your fund's expenses based on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a hypothetical 5% annualized return. You can use this information to compare the ongoing expenses (but not transaction expenses or total cost) of investing in the fund with those of other funds. All mutual fund shareholder reports will provide this information to help you make this comparison. Please note that you cannot use this information to estimate your actual ending account balance and expenses paid during the period.

<b>Expenses and Value of a \$1,000 Investment</b>		
Assuming a hypothetical 5% annualized return for the six months ended December 31, 2020		
	<b>Initial Shares</b>	<b>Service Shares</b>
Expense paid per \$1,000 <sup>†</sup>	\$4.12	\$5.38
Ending value (after expenses)	\$1,021.06	\$1,019.81

<sup>†</sup> Expenses are equal to the fund's annualized expense ratio of .81% for Initial Shares and 1.06% for Service Shares, multiplied by the average account value over the period, multiplied by 184/366 (to reflect the one-half year period).

# STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS

December 31, 2020

Description	Shares	Value (\$)
<b>Common Stocks - 99.5%</b>		
<b>Banks - 2.2%</b>		
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	74,925	<b>9,520,719</b>
<b>Capital Goods - 1.0%</b>		
Otis Worldwide	22,225	1,501,299
Raytheon Technologies	40,075	2,865,763
		<b>4,367,062</b>
<b>Commercial &amp; Professional Services - 1.7%</b>		
IHS Markit	32,500	2,919,475
Verisk Analytics	21,490	4,461,109
		<b>7,380,584</b>
<b>Consumer Durables &amp; Apparel - 4.3%</b>		
Hermes International	2,677	2,878,726
LVMH	14,200	8,872,595
NIKE, Cl. B	48,440	6,852,807
		<b>18,604,128</b>
<b>Consumer Services - 1.6%</b>		
McDonald's	32,475	<b>6,968,486</b>
<b>Diversified Financials - 6.6%</b>		
BlackRock	15,850	11,436,409
Intercontinental Exchange	72,025	8,303,762
S&P Global	27,650	9,089,384
		<b>28,829,555</b>
<b>Energy - 1.3%</b>		
Chevron	67,750	5,721,488
Exxon Mobil	1	41
		<b>5,721,529</b>
<b>Food, Beverage &amp; Tobacco - 8.2%</b>		
Altria Group	94,950	3,892,950
Nestle, ADR	62,200	7,327,160
PepsiCo	50,300	7,459,490
Philip Morris International	98,450	8,150,675
The Coca-Cola Company	157,125	8,616,735
		<b>35,447,010</b>
<b>Health Care Equipment &amp; Services - 6.8%</b>		
Abbott Laboratories	83,950	9,191,685
Intuitive Surgical	7,400 <sup>a</sup>	6,053,940
Masimo	13,425 <sup>a</sup>	3,603,002
UnitedHealth Group	30,050	10,537,934
		<b>29,386,561</b>
<b>Household &amp; Personal Products - 3.3%</b>		
The Estee Lauder Companies, Cl. A	54,450	<b>14,494,045</b>

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (continued)

Description	Shares	Value (\$)
<b>Common Stocks - 99.5% (continued)</b>		
<b>Insurance - 3.3%</b>		
Chubb	34,300	5,279,456
The Progressive	90,750	8,973,360
		<b>14,252,816</b>
<b>Materials - 4.0%</b>		
Air Products & Chemicals	41,200	11,256,664
The Sherwin-Williams Company	8,175	6,007,889
		<b>17,264,553</b>
<b>Media &amp; Entertainment - 12.3%</b>		
Alphabet, Cl. C	11,094 <sup>a</sup>	19,435,357
Comcast, Cl. A	181,165	9,493,046
Facebook, Cl. A	82,085 <sup>a</sup>	22,422,339
The Walt Disney Company	12,755 <sup>a</sup>	2,310,951
		<b>53,661,693</b>
<b>Pharmaceuticals Biotechnology &amp; Life Sciences - 3.7%</b>		
AbbVie	29,350	3,144,853
Novo Nordisk, ADR	106,250 <sup>b</sup>	7,421,563
Roche Holding, ADR	127,050	5,569,872
		<b>16,136,288</b>
<b>Retailing - 6.0%</b>		
Amazon.com	7,950 <sup>a</sup>	<b>25,892,593</b>
<b>Semiconductors &amp; Semiconductor Equipment - 5.5%</b>		
ASML Holding	18,800	9,169,136
Texas Instruments	90,750	14,894,797
		<b>24,063,933</b>
<b>Software &amp; Services - 16.8%</b>		
Adobe	12,800 <sup>a</sup>	6,401,536
Automatic Data Processing	14,290	2,517,898
Broadridge Financial Solutions	15,775	2,416,730
Intuit	16,350	6,210,548
Mastercard, Cl. A	13,925	4,970,390
Microsoft	149,985	33,359,664
Visa, Cl. A	78,850 <sup>b</sup>	17,246,860
		<b>73,123,626</b>
<b>Technology Hardware &amp; Equipment - 7.6%</b>		
Apple	249,850	<b>33,152,596</b>
<b>Transportation - 3.3%</b>		
Canadian Pacific Railway	18,150	6,292,424
Union Pacific	38,400	7,995,648
		<b>14,288,072</b>
<b>Total Common Stocks</b> (cost \$145,793,453)		<b>432,555,849</b>

Description	1-Day Yield (%)	Shares	Value (\$)
<b>Investment Companies - .4%</b>			
<b>Registered Investment Companies - .4%</b>			
Dreyfus Institutional Preferred Government Plus Money Market Fund, Institutional Shares (cost \$1,537,249)	0.09	1,537,249 <sup>c</sup>	<b>1,537,249</b>
<b>Total Investments</b> (cost \$147,330,702)		<b>99.9%</b>	<b>434,093,098</b>
<b>Cash and Receivables (Net)</b>		<b>.1%</b>	<b>482,431</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>100.0%</b>	<b>434,575,529</b>

ADR—American Depository Receipt

<sup>a</sup> Non-income producing security.

<sup>b</sup> Security, or portion thereof, on loan. At December 31, 2020, the value of the fund's securities on loan was \$23,249,722 and the value of the collateral was \$23,723,820, consisting of U.S. Government & Agency securities.

<sup>c</sup> Investment in affiliated issuer. The investment objective of this investment company is publicly available and can be found within the investment company's prospectus.

Portfolio Summary (Unaudited) †	Value (%)
Information Technology	30.0
Communication Services	12.3
Financials	12.1
Consumer Discretionary	11.8
Consumer Staples	11.5
Health Care	10.5
Industrials	6.0
Materials	4.0
Energy	1.3
Investment Companies	.4
	<b>99.9</b>

† Based on net assets.

See notes to financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS IN AFFILIATED ISSUERS

Investment Companies	Value 12/31/19(\$)	Purchases(\$) <sup>†</sup>	Sales (\$)	Value 12/31/20(\$)	Net Assets(%)	Dividends/ Distributions(\$)
<b>Registered Investment Companies;</b>						
Dreyfus Institutional Preferred Government Plus Money Market Fund, Institutional Shares	-	42,683,017	(41,145,768)	1,537,249	.4	4,759
<b>Investment of Cash Collateral for Securities Loaned;</b>						
Dreyfus Institutional Preferred Government Plus Money Market Fund, Institutional Shares	-	14,506,220	(14,506,220)	-	-	21,869 <sup>††</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,189,237</b>	<b>(55,651,988)</b>	<b>1,537,249</b>	<b>.4</b>	<b>26,628</b>

<sup>†</sup> Inclusive reinvested dividends/ distributions.

<sup>††</sup> Represents securities lending income earned from the reinvestment of cash collateral from loaned securities, net of fees and collateral investment expenses, and other payments to and from borrowers of securities.

See notes to financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

December 31, 2020

	Cost	Value
<b>Assets (\$):</b>		
Investments in securities—See Statement of Investments (including securities on loan, valued at \$23,249,722)—Note 1(c):		
Unaffiliated issuers	145,793,453	432,555,849
Affiliated issuers	1,537,249	1,537,249
Receivable for investment securities sold		418,522
Dividends and securities lending income receivable		370,691
Tax reclaim receivable		148,184
Receivable for shares of Beneficial Interest subscribed		40,933
Prepaid expenses		6,150
		<b>435,077,578</b>
<b>Liabilities (\$):</b>		
Due to BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc. and affiliates—Note 3(b)		229,679
Due to Fayez Sarofim & Co.		78,855
Payable for shares of Beneficial Interest redeemed		122,510
Trustees' fees and expenses payable		2,470
Other accrued expenses		68,535
		<b>502,049</b>
<b>Net Assets (\$)</b>		<b>434,575,529</b>
<b>Composition of Net Assets (\$):</b>		
Paid-in capital		103,280,475
Total distributable earnings (loss)		331,295,054
<b>Net Assets (\$)</b>		<b>434,575,529</b>
<b>Net Asset Value Per Share</b>		
	Initial Shares	Service Shares
Net Assets (\$)	298,456,284	136,119,245
Shares Outstanding	6,325,359	2,920,823
<b>Net Asset Value Per Share (\$)</b>	<b>47.18</b>	<b>46.60</b>

See notes to financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year Ended December 31, 2020

<b>Investment Income (\$):</b>	
<b>Income:</b>	
Cash dividends (net of \$136,108 foreign taxes withheld at source):	
Unaffiliated issuers	6,300,978
Affiliated issuers	4,636
Income from securities lending—Note 1(c)	21,869
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,327,483</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Investment advisory fee—Note 3(a)	2,090,969
Sub-investment advisory fee—Note 3(a)	854,057
Distribution fees—Note 3(b)	311,391
Professional fees	90,741
Prospectus and shareholders' reports	41,933
Trustees' fees and expenses—Note 3(c)	34,115
Loan commitment fees—Note 2	15,244
Chief Compliance Officer fees—Note 3(b)	13,982
Custodian fees—Note 3(b)	13,144
Shareholder servicing costs—Note 3(b)	2,299
Interest expense—Note 2	370
Miscellaneous	18,890
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,487,135</b>
<b>Investment Income—Net</b>	<b>2,840,348</b>
<b>Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments—Note 4 (\$):</b>	
Net realized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency transactions	44,313,889
Net realized gain (loss) on forward foreign currency exchange contracts	(675)
Capital gain distributions from affiliated issuers	123
<b>Net Realized Gain (Loss)</b>	<b>44,313,337</b>
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments and foreign currency transactions	39,126,298
<b>Net Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments</b>	<b>83,439,635</b>
<b>Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations</b>	<b>86,279,983</b>

See notes to financial statements.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2020	2019
<b>Operations (\$):</b>		
Investment income—net	2,840,348	3,846,953
Net realized gain (loss) on investments	44,313,337	32,180,579
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments	39,126,298	78,909,309
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Resulting from Operations</b>	<b>86,279,983</b>	<b>114,936,841</b>
<b>Distributions (\$):</b>		
Distributions to shareholders:		
Initial Shares	(24,163,384)	(31,343,479)
Service Shares	(10,803,682)	(15,388,567)
<b>Total Distributions</b>	<b>(34,967,066)</b>	<b>(46,732,046)</b>
<b>Beneficial Interest Transactions (\$):</b>		
Net proceeds from shares sold:		
Initial Shares	8,597,229	5,039,499
Service Shares	15,542,813	8,181,769
Distributions reinvested:		
Initial Shares	24,163,384	31,343,479
Service Shares	10,803,682	15,388,567
Cost of shares redeemed:		
Initial Shares	(42,643,713)	(34,228,478)
Service Shares	(35,436,301)	(29,712,974)
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets from Beneficial Interest Transactions</b>	<b>(18,972,906)</b>	<b>(3,988,138)</b>
<b>Total Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>32,340,011</b>	<b>64,216,657</b>
<b>Net Assets (\$):</b>		
Beginning of Period	402,235,518	338,018,861
<b>End of Period</b>	<b>434,575,529</b>	<b>402,235,518</b>
<b>Capital Share Transactions (Shares):</b>		
<b>Initial Shares</b>		
Shares sold	212,187	129,829
Shares issued for distributions reinvested	746,129	858,978
Shares redeemed	(1,036,750)	(880,695)
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Shares Outstanding</b>	<b>(78,434)</b>	<b>108,112</b>
<b>Service Shares</b>		
Shares sold	412,412	216,261
Shares issued for distributions reinvested	339,325	427,087
Shares redeemed	(867,172)	(773,381)
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Shares Outstanding</b>	<b>(115,435)</b>	<b>(130,033)</b>

See notes to financial statements.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following tables describe the performance for each share class for the fiscal periods indicated. All information (except portfolio turnover rate) reflects financial results for a single fund share. Net asset value total return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at the net asset value at the beginning of the period, reinvestment of all dividends and distributions at net asset value during the period, and redemption at net asset value on the last day of the period. Net asset value total return includes adjustments in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and as such, the net asset value for financial reporting purposes and the returns based upon those net asset values may differ from the net asset value and returns for shareholder transactions. The fund's total returns do not reflect expenses associated with variable annuity or insurance contracts. These figures have been derived from the fund's financial statements.

Initial Shares	Year Ended December 31,				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Per Share Data (\$):</b>					
Net asset value, beginning of period	42.76	35.84	44.71	41.01	45.23
Investment Operations:					
Investment income—net <sup>a</sup>	.33	.43	.53	.56	.68
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	7.99	11.58	(3.27)	9.55	2.48
Total from Investment Operations	8.32	12.01	(2.74)	10.11	3.16
Distributions:					
Dividends from investment income—net	(.33)	(.46)	(.52)	(.57)	(.69)
Dividends from net realized gain on investments	(3.57)	(4.63)	(5.61)	(5.84)	(6.69)
Total Distributions	(3.90)	(5.09)	(6.13)	(6.41)	(7.38)
Net asset value, end of period	47.18	42.76	35.84	44.71	41.01
<b>Total Return (%)</b>	<b>23.69</b>	<b>36.10</b>	<b>(6.86)</b>	<b>27.33</b>	<b>7.91</b>
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	.81	.81	.81	.81	.82
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	.80	1.10	1.30	1.35	1.64
Portfolio Turnover Rate	8.82	6.71	6.50	3.97	4.19
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	298,456	273,832	225,631	271,790	238,340

<sup>a</sup> Based on average shares outstanding.  
See notes to financial statements.

<b>Service Shares</b>	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Per Share Data (\$):</b>					
Net asset value, beginning of period	42.29	35.49	44.34	40.72	44.96
Investment Operations:					
Investment income—net <sup>a</sup>	.22	.33	.42	.46	.57
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	7.89	11.46	(3.25)	9.46	2.46
Total from Investment Operations	8.11	11.79	(2.83)	9.92	3.03
Distributions:					
Dividends from investment income—net	(.23)	(.36)	(.41)	(.46)	(.58)
Dividends from net realized gain on investments	(3.57)	(4.63)	(5.61)	(5.84)	(6.69)
Total Distributions	(3.80)	(4.99)	(6.02)	(6.30)	(7.27)
Net asset value, end of period	46.60	42.29	35.49	44.34	40.72
<b>Total Return (%)</b>	<b>23.38</b>	<b>35.78</b>	<b>(7.10)</b>	<b>27.00</b>	<b>7.64</b>
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.07
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	.55	.85	1.05	1.11	1.41
Portfolio Turnover Rate	8.82	6.71	6.50	3.97	4.19
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	136,119	128,404	112,387	145,485	161,440

<sup>a</sup> Based on average shares outstanding.  
See notes to financial statements.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### **NOTE 1—Significant Accounting Policies:**

Appreciation Portfolio (the “fund”) is a separate diversified series of BNY Mellon Variable Investment Fund (the “Company”), which is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Act”), as an open-end management investment company and operates as a series company currently offering four series, including the fund. The fund is only offered to separate accounts established by insurance companies to fund variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies. The fund’s investment objective is to seek long-term capital growth consistent with the preservation of capital. BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc. (the “Adviser”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation (“BNY Mellon”), serves as the fund’s investment adviser. Fayez Sarofim & Co. (the “Sub-Adviser”), serves as the fund’s sub-investment adviser.

BNY Mellon Securities Corporation (the “Distributor”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Adviser, is the distributor of the fund’s shares, which are sold without a sales charge. The fund is authorized to issue an unlimited number of \$.001 par value shares of Beneficial Interest in each of the following classes of shares: Initial and Service. Each class of shares has identical rights and privileges, except with respect to the Distribution Plan, and the expenses borne by each class, the allocation of certain transfer agency costs, and certain voting rights. Income, expenses (other than expenses attributable to a specific class), and realized and unrealized gains or losses on investments are allocated to each class of shares based on its relative net assets.

The Company accounts separately for the assets, liabilities and operations of each series. Expenses directly attributable to each series are charged to that series’ operations; expenses which are applicable to all series are allocated among them on a pro rata basis.

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) is the exclusive reference of authoritative U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) recognized by the FASB to be applied by nongovernmental entities. Rules and interpretive releases of the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) under authority of federal laws are also sources of authoritative GAAP for SEC registrants. The fund is an investment company and applies the accounting and reporting guidance of the FASB ASC Topic 946 Financial Services-Investment Companies. The fund’s financial statements are prepared in accordance with GAAP, which may require the use of management

estimates and assumptions. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The Company enters into contracts that contain a variety of indemnifications. The fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown. The fund does not anticipate recognizing any loss related to these arrangements.

**(a) Portfolio valuation:** The fair value of a financial instrument is the amount that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e., the exit price). GAAP establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs of valuation techniques used to measure fair value. This hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements).

Additionally, GAAP provides guidance on determining whether the volume and activity in a market has decreased significantly and whether such a decrease in activity results in transactions that are not orderly. GAAP requires enhanced disclosures around valuation inputs and techniques used during annual and interim periods.

Various inputs are used in determining the value of the fund's investments relating to fair value measurements. These inputs are summarized in the three broad levels listed below:

**Level 1**—unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical investments.

**Level 2**—other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar investments, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.).

**Level 3**—significant unobservable inputs (including the fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments).

The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities.

Changes in valuation techniques may result in transfers in or out of an assigned level within the disclosure hierarchy. Valuation techniques used to value the fund's investments are as follows:

Investments in equity securities are valued at the last sales price on the securities exchange or national securities market on which such securities are primarily traded. Securities listed on the National Market System for which market quotations are available are valued at the official closing

price or, if there is no official closing price that day, at the last sales price. For open short positions, asked prices are used for valuation purposes. Bid price is used when no asked price is available. Registered investment companies that are not traded on an exchange are valued at their net asset value. All of the preceding securities are generally categorized within Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

Securities not listed on an exchange or the national securities market, or securities for which there were no transactions, are valued at the average of the most recent bid and asked prices. These securities are generally categorized within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

Fair valuing of securities may be determined with the assistance of a pricing service using calculations based on indices of domestic securities and other appropriate indicators, such as prices of relevant ADRs and futures. Utilizing these techniques may result in transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

When market quotations or official closing prices are not readily available, or are determined not to accurately reflect fair value, such as when the value of a security has been significantly affected by events after the close of the exchange or market on which the security is principally traded (for example, a foreign exchange or market), but before the fund calculates its net asset value, the fund may value these investments at fair value as determined in accordance with the procedures approved by the Company's Board of Trustees (the "Board"). Certain factors may be considered when fair valuing investments such as: fundamental analytical data, the nature and duration of restrictions on disposition, an evaluation of the forces that influence the market in which the securities are purchased and sold, and public trading in similar securities of the issuer or comparable issuers. These securities are either categorized within Level 2 or 3 of the fair value hierarchy depending on the relevant inputs used.

For securities where observable inputs are limited, assumptions about market activity and risk are used and such securities are generally categorized within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy.

Investments denominated in foreign currencies are translated to U.S. dollars at the prevailing rates of exchange.

The following is a summary of the inputs used as of December 31, 2020 in valuing the fund's investments:

	Level 1 - Unadjusted Quoted Prices	Level 2 - Other Significant Observable Inputs	Level 3 - Significant Unobservable Inputs	Total
<b>Assets (\$)</b>				
Investments in Securities: <sup>†</sup>				
Equity Securities -				
Common Stocks	420,804,528	11,751,321 <sup>††</sup>	-	<b>432,555,849</b>
Investment				
Companies	1,537,249	-	-	<b>1,537,249</b>

<sup>†</sup> See Statement of Investments for additional detailed categorizations, if any.

<sup>††</sup> Securities classified within Level 2 at period end as the values were determined pursuant to the fund's fair valuation procedures.

**(b) Foreign currency transactions:** The fund does not isolate that portion of the results of operations resulting from changes in foreign exchange rates on investments from the fluctuations arising from changes in the market prices of securities held. Such fluctuations are included with the net realized and unrealized gain or loss on investments.

Net realized foreign exchange gains or losses arise from sales of foreign currencies, currency gains or losses realized on securities transactions between trade and settlement date, and the difference between the amounts of dividends, interest and foreign withholding taxes recorded on the fund's books and the U.S. dollar equivalent of the amounts actually received or paid. Net unrealized foreign exchange gains and losses arise from changes in the value of assets and liabilities other than investments resulting from changes in exchange rates. Foreign currency gains and losses on foreign currency transactions are also included with net realized and unrealized gain or loss on investments.

**Foreign Taxes:** The fund may be subject to foreign taxes (a portion of which may be reclaimable) on income, stock dividends, realized and unrealized capital gains on investments or certain foreign currency transactions. Foreign taxes are recorded in accordance with the applicable foreign tax regulations and rates that exist in the foreign jurisdictions in which the fund invests. These foreign taxes, if any, are paid by the fund and are reflected in the Statement of Operations, if applicable. Foreign taxes payable or deferred or those subject to reclaims as of December 31, 2020, if any, are disclosed in the fund's Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

**(c) Securities transactions and investment income:** Securities transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. Realized gains and losses from securities transactions are recorded on the identified cost basis. Dividend income is recognized on the ex-dividend date and interest income, including, where applicable, accretion of discount and

amortization of premium on investments, is recognized on the accrual basis.

Pursuant to a securities lending agreement with The Bank of New York Mellon, a subsidiary of BNY Mellon and an affiliate of the Adviser, the fund may lend securities to qualified institutions. It is the fund's policy that, at origination, all loans are secured by collateral of at least 102% of the value of U.S. securities loaned and 105% of the value of foreign securities loaned. Collateral equivalent to at least 100% of the market value of securities on loan is maintained at all times. Collateral is either in the form of cash, which can be invested in certain money market mutual funds managed by the Adviser, or U.S. Government and Agency securities. The fund is entitled to receive all dividends, interest and distributions on securities loaned, in addition to income earned as a result of the lending transaction. Should a borrower fail to return the securities in a timely manner, The Bank of New York Mellon is required to replace the securities for the benefit of the fund or credit the fund with the market value of the unreturned securities and is subrogated to the fund's rights against the borrower and the collateral. Additionally, the contractual maturity of security lending transactions are on an overnight and continuous basis. During the period ended December 31, 2020, The Bank of New York Mellon earned \$4,153 from the lending of the fund's portfolio securities, pursuant to the securities lending agreement.

**(d) Affiliated issuers:** Investments in other investment companies advised by the Adviser are considered "affiliated" under the Act.

**(e) Risk:** Certain events particular to the industries in which the fund's investments conduct their operations, as well as general economic, political and public health conditions, may have a significant negative impact on the investee's operations and profitability. In addition, turbulence in financial markets and reduced liquidity in equity, credit and/or fixed income markets may negatively affect many issuers, which could adversely affect the fund. Global economies and financial markets are becoming increasingly interconnected, and conditions and events in one country, region or financial market may adversely impact issuers in a different country, region or financial market. These risks may be magnified if certain events or developments adversely interrupt the global supply chain; in these and other circumstances, such risks might affect companies world-wide. Recent examples include pandemic risks related to COVID-19 and aggressive measures taken world-wide in response by governments, including closing borders, restricting international and domestic travel, and the imposition of prolonged quarantines of large populations, and by businesses, including changes to operations and reducing staff. To the

extent the fund may overweight its investments in certain countries, companies, industries or market sectors, such positions will increase the fund's exposure to risk of loss from adverse developments affecting those countries, companies, industries or sectors.

**(f) Dividends and distributions to shareholders:** Dividends and distributions are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Dividends from investment income-net are normally declared and paid quarterly. Dividends from net realized capital gains, if any, are normally declared and paid annually, but the fund may make distributions on a more frequent basis to comply with the distribution requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). To the extent that net realized capital gains can be offset by capital loss carryovers, it is the policy of the fund not to distribute such gains. Income and capital gain distributions are determined in accordance with income tax regulations, which may differ from GAAP.

**(g) Federal income taxes:** It is the policy of the fund to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company, if such qualification is in the best interests of its shareholders, by complying with the applicable provisions of the Code, and to make distributions of taxable income and net realized capital gain sufficient to relieve it from substantially all federal income and excise taxes.

As of and during the period ended December 31, 2020, the fund did not have any liabilities for any uncertain tax positions. The fund recognizes interest and penalties, if any, related to uncertain tax positions as income tax expense in the Statement of Operations. During the period ended December 31, 2020, the fund did not incur any interest or penalties.

Each tax year in the four-year period ended December 31, 2020 remains subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service and state taxing authorities.

At December 31, 2020, the components of accumulated earnings on a tax basis were as follows: undistributed ordinary income \$281,098, undistributed capital gains \$44,251,560 and unrealized appreciation \$286,762,396.

The tax character of distributions paid to shareholders during the fiscal periods ended December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019 were as follows: ordinary income \$2,791,417 and \$4,291,330, and long-term capital gains \$32,175,649 and \$42,440,716, respectively.

**NOTE 2—Bank Lines of Credit:**

The fund participates with other long-term open-end funds managed by the Adviser in a \$823.5 million unsecured credit facility led by Citibank, N.A. (the “Citibank Credit Facility”) and a \$300 million unsecured credit facility provided by The Bank of New York Mellon (the “BNYM Credit Facility”), each to be utilized primarily for temporary or emergency purposes, including the financing of redemptions (each, a “Facility”). The Citibank Credit Facility is available in two tranches: (i) Tranche A is in an amount equal to \$688.5 million and is available to all long-term open-ended funds, including the fund, and (ii) Tranche B is an amount equal to \$135 million and is available only to BNY Mellon Floating Rate Income Fund, a series of BNY Mellon Investment Funds IV, Inc. Prior to September 30, 2020, the Citibank Credit Facility was \$927 million with Tranche A available in an amount equal to \$747 million and Tranche B available in an amount equal to \$180 million. Prior to March 11, 2020, the Citibank Credit Facility was \$1.030 billion with Tranche A available in an amount equal to \$830 million and Tranche B available in an amount equal to \$200 million. In connection therewith, the fund has agreed to pay its pro rata portion of commitment fees for Tranche A of the Citibank Credit Facility and the BNYM Credit Facility. Interest is charged to the fund based on rates determined pursuant to the terms of the respective Facility at the time of borrowing.

The average amount of borrowings outstanding under the Facilities during the period ended December 31, 2020 was approximately \$14,208 with a related weighted average annualized interest rate of 2.60%.

**NOTE 3—Investment Advisory Fee, Sub-Investment Advisory Fee and Other Transactions with Affiliates:**

(a) Pursuant to an investment advisory agreement with the Adviser, the investment advisory fee is computed at the annual rate of .5325% of the value of the fund’s average daily net assets. Pursuant to a sub-investment advisory agreement with the Sub-Adviser, the fund pays the Sub-Adviser a monthly sub-investment advisory fee at the annual rate of .2175% of the value of the fund’s average daily net assets. Both fees are payable monthly.

(b) Under the Distribution Plan adopted pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the Act, Service shares pay the Distributor for distributing its shares, for servicing and/or maintaining Service shares’ shareholder accounts and for advertising and marketing for Service shares. The Distribution Plan provides for payments to be made at an annual rate of .25% of the value of the Service shares’ average daily net assets. The Distributor may make payments to Participating Insurance Companies and to brokers and dealers

acting as principal underwriter for their variable insurance products. The fees payable under the Distribution Plan are payable without regard to actual expenses incurred. During the period ended December 31, 2020, Service shares were charged \$311,391 pursuant to the Distribution Plan.

The fund has an arrangement with the transfer agent whereby the fund may receive earnings credits when positive cash balances are maintained, which are used to offset transfer agency fees. For financial reporting purposes, the fund includes net earnings credits, if any, as shareholder servicing costs in the Statement of Operations.

The fund has an arrangement with the custodian whereby the fund will receive interest income or be charged an overdraft fees when cash balances are maintained. For financial reporting purposes, the fund includes this interest income and overdraft fees, if any, as interest income in the Statement of Operations.

The fund compensates BNY Mellon Transfer, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Adviser, under a transfer agency agreement for providing transfer agency and cash management services inclusive of earnings credits, if any, for the fund. The majority of transfer agency fees are comprised of amounts paid on a per account basis, while cash management fees are related to fund subscriptions and redemptions. During the period ended December 31, 2020, the fund was charged \$2,000 for transfer agency services, inclusive of earnings credit, if any. These fees are included in Shareholder servicing costs in the Statement of Operations.

The fund compensates The Bank of New York Mellon under a custody agreement for providing custodial services for the fund. These fees are determined based on net assets, geographic region and transaction activity. During the period ended December 31, 2020, the fund was charged \$13,144 pursuant to the custody agreement.

During the period ended December 31, 2020, the fund was charged \$13,982 for services performed by the Chief Compliance Officer and his staff. These fees are included in Chief Compliance Officer fees in the Statement of Operations.

The components of “Due to BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc. and affiliates” in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities consist of: investment advisory fees of \$193,059, Distribution Plan fees of \$28,473, custodian fees of \$4,794, Chief Compliance Officer fees of \$2,903 and transfer agency fees of \$450.

(c) Each Board member also serves as a Board member of other funds in the BNY Mellon Family of Funds complex. Annual retainer fees and attendance fees are allocated to each fund based on net assets.

**NOTE 4—Securities Transactions:**

The aggregate amount of purchases and sales of investment securities, excluding short-term securities and forward foreign currency exchange contracts (“forward contracts”), during the period ended December 31, 2020, amounted to \$34,436,179 and \$86,079,797, respectively.

**Derivatives:** A derivative is a financial instrument whose performance is derived from the performance of another asset. The fund enters into International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. Master Agreements or similar agreements (collectively, “Master Agreements”) with its over-the counter (“OTC”) derivative contract counterparties in order to, among other things, reduce its credit risk to counterparties. Master Agreements include provisions for general obligations, representations, collateral and events of default or termination. Under a Master Agreement, the fund may offset with the counterparty certain derivative financial instruments’ payables and/or receivables with collateral held and/or posted and create one single net payment in the event of default or termination.

Each type of derivative instrument that was held by the fund during the period ended December 31, 2020 is discussed below.

**Forward Foreign Currency Exchange Contracts:** The fund enters into forward contracts in order to hedge its exposure to changes in foreign currency exchange rates on its foreign portfolio holdings, to settle foreign currency transactions or as a part of its investment strategy. When executing forward contracts, the fund is obligated to buy or sell a foreign currency at a specified rate on a certain date in the future. With respect to sales of forward contracts, the fund incurs a loss if the value of the contract increases between the date the forward contract is opened and the date the forward contract is closed. The fund realizes a gain if the value of the contract decreases between those dates. With respect to purchases of forward contracts, the fund incurs a loss if the value of the contract decreases between the date the forward contract is opened and the date the forward contract is closed. The fund realizes a gain if the value of the contract increases between those dates. Any realized or unrealized gains or losses which occurred during the period are reflected in the Statement of Operations. The fund is exposed to foreign currency risk as a result of changes in value of underlying financial instruments. The fund is also exposed to credit risk associated with counterparty nonperformance on these forward contracts, which is generally limited to the unrealized gain

on each open contract. This risk may be mitigated by Master Agreements, if any, between the fund and the counterparty and the posting of collateral, if any, by the counterparty to the fund to cover the fund's exposure to the counterparty. At December 31, 2020, there were no forward contracts outstanding.

The following summarizes the average market value of derivatives outstanding during the period ended December 31, 2020:

	<u>Average Market Value (\$)</u>
Forward contracts	9,115

At December 31, 2020, the cost of investments inclusive of derivative contracts for federal income tax purposes was \$147,330,702; accordingly, accumulated net unrealized appreciation on investments was \$286,762,396, consisting of gross unrealized appreciation.

# REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Shareholders and the Board of Trustees of Appreciation Portfolio

## *Opinion on the Financial Statements*

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of Appreciation Portfolio (the “Fund”) (one of the funds constituting BNY Mellon Variable Investment Fund), including the statements of investments and investments in affiliated issuers, as of December 31, 2020, and the related statement of operations for the year then ended, the statements of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended and the related notes (collectively referred to as the “financial statements”). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund (one of the funds constituting BNY Mellon Variable Investment Fund) at December 31, 2020, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended and its financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

## *Basis for Opinion*

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Fund’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Fund’s financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”) and are required to be independent with respect to the Fund in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Fund is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of the Fund’s internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund’s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of December 31, 2020, by correspondence with the custodian and others or by other appropriate auditing procedures where replies from others were not received. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

*Ernst & Young LLP*

We have served as the auditor of one or more investment companies in the BNY Mellon Family of Funds since at least 1957, but we are unable to determine the specific year.

New York, New York

February 9, 2021

## IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION (Unaudited)

For federal tax purposes, the fund hereby reports 100% of the ordinary dividends paid during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020 as qualifying for the corporate dividends received deduction. Shareholders will receive notification in early 2021 of the percentage applicable to the preparation of their 2020 income tax returns. Also, the fund hereby reports \$3.5695 per share as a long-term capital gain distribution paid on March 31, 2020.

## BOARD MEMBERS INFORMATION (Unaudited)

### INDEPENDENT BOARD MEMBERS

#### **Joseph S. DiMartino (77)** **Chairman of the Board (1995)**

*Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years:*

- Director or Trustee of funds in the BNY Mellon Family of Funds and certain other entities (as described in the fund's Statement of Additional Information) (1995-Present)

*Other Public Company Board Memberships During Past 5 Years:*

- CBIZ, Inc., a public company providing professional business services, products and solutions, *Director* (1997-Present)

*No. of Portfolios for which Board Member Serves:* 109

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#### **Peggy C. Davis (77)** **Board Member (2006)**

*Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years:*

- Shad Professor of Law, New York University School of Law (1983-Present)

*No. of Portfolios for which Board Member Serves:* 39

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#### **Gina D. France (62)** **Board Member (2019)**

*Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years:*

- Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer, France Strategic Partners, a strategy and advisory firm serving corporate clients across the United States (2003-Present)
- Corporate Director and Baldwin Wallace University, Trustee (2013-Present)
- Dance Cleveland, non-profit, Trustee (2001-Present)

*Other Public Company Board Memberships During Past 5 Years:*

- Huntington Bancshares, a bank holding company headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, *Director* (2016-Present)
- Cedar Fair, L.P., a publicly-traded partnership that owns and operates amusement parks and hotels in the U.S. and Canada, *Director* (2011-Present)
- CBIZ, Inc., a public company providing professional business services, products and solutions, *Director* (2015-Present)
- FirstMerit Corporation, a diversified financial services company, *Director* (2004-2016)

*No. of Portfolios for which Board Member Serves:* 25

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**Joan Gulley (73)**  
**Board Member (2017)**

*Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years:*

- Director, Nantucket Library (2015-Present)
- Governor, Orchard Island Club (2016-Present)

*No. of Portfolios for which Board Member Serves:* 43

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**Robin A. Melvin (57)**  
**Board Member (2012)**

*Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years:*

- Co-chairman, Mentor Illinois, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the quality of mentoring services in Illinois (2014 – 2020); Board member, Mentor Illinois (2013-2020)
- Trustee, Westover School, a private girls' boarding school in Middlebury, Connecticut (2019-Present)

*No. of Portfolios for which Board Member Serves:* 87

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*Once elected all Board Members serve for an indefinite term, but achieve Emeritus status upon reaching age 80. The address of the Board Members and Officers is c/o BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc. 240 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10286. Additional information about the Board Members is available in the fund's Statement of Additional Information which can be obtained from the Adviser free of charge by calling this toll free number: 1-800-373-9387.*

*David P. Feldman, Emeritus Board Member*

*Ebud Houminer, Emeritus Board Member*

*Lynn Martin, Emeritus Board Member*

*Dr. Martin Peretz, Emeritus Board Member*

*Philip L. Toia, Emeritus Board Member*

## OFFICERS OF THE FUND (Unaudited)

### **DAVID DIPETRILLO, President since January 2021.**

Head of North America Product, BNY Mellon Investment Management since January 2018, Director of Product Strategy, BNY Mellon Investment Management from January 2016 to December 2017; Head of US Retail Product and Channel Marketing, BNY Mellon Investment Management from January 2014 to December 2015. He is an officer of 62 investment companies (comprised of 117 portfolios) managed by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. He is 42 years old and has been an employee of BNY Mellon since 2005.

### **JAMES WINDELS, Treasurer since November 2001.**

Director-BNY Mellon Fund Administration, and an officer of 63 investment companies (comprised of 140 portfolios) managed by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. He is 62 years old and has been an employee of the Adviser since April 1985.

### **BENNETT A. MACDOUGALL, Chief Legal Officer since October 2015.**

Chief Legal Officer of the Adviser and Associate General Counsel and Managing Director of BNY Mellon since June 2015; Director and Associate General Counsel of Deutsche Bank–Asset & Wealth Management Division from June 2005 to June 2015, and as Chief Legal Officer of Deutsche Investment Management Americas Inc. from June 2012 to May 2015. He is an officer of 63 investment companies (comprised of 140 portfolios) managed by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. He is 49 years old and has been an employee of the Adviser since June 2015.

### **JAMES BITETTO, Vice President since August 2005 and Secretary since February 2018.**

Senior Managing Counsel of BNY Mellon since December 2019; Managing Counsel of BNY Mellon from April 2014 to December 2019; Secretary of the Adviser, and an officer of 63 investment companies (comprised of 140 portfolios) managed by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. He is 54 years old and has been an employee of the Adviser since December 1996.

### **DEIRDRE CUNNANE, Vice President and Assistant Secretary since March 2019.**

Counsel of BNY Mellon since August 2018; Senior Regulatory Specialist at BNY Mellon Investment Management Services from February 2016 to August 2018; Trustee Associate at BNY Mellon Trust Company (Ireland) Limited from August 2013 to February 2016. She is an officer of 63 investment companies (comprised of 140 portfolios) managed by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. She is 30 years old and has been an employee of the Adviser since August 2018.

### **SARAH S. KELLEHER, Vice President and Assistant Secretary since April 2014.**

Managing Counsel of BNY Mellon since December 2017, Senior Counsel of BNY Mellon from March 2013 to December 2017. She is an officer of 63 investment companies (comprised of 140 portfolios) managed by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. She is 45 years old and has been an employee of the Adviser since March 2013.

### **JEFF PRUSNOFSKY, Vice President and Assistant Secretary since August 2005.**

Senior Managing Counsel of BNY Mellon, and an officer of 63 investment companies (comprised of 140 portfolios) managed by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. He is 55 years old and has been an employee of the Adviser since October 1990.

### **AMANDA QUINN, Vice President and Assistant Secretary since March 2020.**

Counsel of BNY Mellon since June 2019; Regulatory Administration Manager at BNY Mellon Investment Management Services from September 2018 to May 2019; Senior Regulatory Specialist at BNY Mellon Investment Management Services from April 2015 to August 2018. She is an officer of 63 investment companies (comprised of 140 portfolios) managed by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. She is 35 years old and has been an employee of the Adviser since June 2019.

### **PETER M. SULLIVAN, Vice President and Assistant Secretary since March 2019.**

Senior Managing Counsel of BNY Mellon since December 2020; Managing Counsel of BNY Mellon from March 2009 to December 2020, and an officer of 63 investment companies (comprised of 140 portfolios) managed by the the Adviser or an affiliate of the the Adviser. He is 52 years old and has been an employee of the BNY Mellon since April 2004.

**NATALYA ZELENSKY, Vice President and Assistant Secretary since March 2017.**

Managing Counsel of BNY Mellon since December 2019; Counsel of BNY Mellon from May 2016 to December 2019; Assistant Secretary of the Adviser since 2018; Attorney at Wildermuth Endowment Strategy Fund/Wildermuth Advisory, LLC from November 2015 to May 2016 and Assistant General Counsel at RCS Advisory Services from July 2014 to November 2015. She is an officer of 63 investment companies (comprised of 140 portfolios) managed by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. She is 35 years old and has been an employee of the Adviser since May 2016.

**GAVIN C. REILLY, Assistant Treasurer since December 2005.**

Tax Manager-BNY Mellon Fund Administration, and an officer of 63 investment companies (comprised of 140 portfolios) managed by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. He is 52 years old and has been an employee of the Adviser since April 1991.

**ROBERT S. ROBOL, Assistant Treasurer since August 2005.**

Senior Accounting Manager-BNY Mellon Fund Administration, and an officer of 63 investment companies (comprised of 141 portfolios) managed by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. He is 56 years old and has been an employee of the Adviser since October 1988.

**ROBERT SALVIOLO, Assistant Treasurer since July 2007.**

Senior Accounting Manager-BNY Mellon Fund Administration, and an officer of 63 investment companies (comprised of 140 portfolios) managed by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. He is 53 years old and has been an employee of the Adviser since June 1989.

**ROBERT SVAGNA, Assistant Treasurer since December 2002.**

Senior Accounting Manager-BNY Mellon Fund Administration, and an officer of 63 investment companies (comprised of 140 portfolios) managed by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. He is 53 years old and has been an employee of the Adviser since November 1990.

**JOSEPH W. CONNOLLY, Chief Compliance Officer since October 2004.**

Chief Compliance Officer of the Adviser, the BNY Mellon Family of Funds and BNY Mellon Funds Trust (62 investment companies, comprised of 132 portfolios). He is 63 years old and has served in various capacities with the Adviser since 1980, including manager of the firm's Fund Accounting Department from 1997 through October 2001.

**CARIDAD M. CAROSELLA, Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer since January 2016.**

Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of the BNY Mellon Family of Funds and BNY Mellon Funds Trust since January 2016; from May 2015 to December 2015, Interim Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of the BNY Mellon Family of Funds and BNY Mellon Funds Trust and the Distributor; from January 2012 to May 2015, AML Surveillance Officer of the Distributor. She is an officer of 56 investment companies (comprised of 133 portfolios) managed by the Adviser or an affiliate of the Adviser. She is 52 years old and has been an employee of the Distributor since 1997.

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# For More Information

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## **BNY Mellon Variable Investment Fund, Appreciation Portfolio**

240 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10286

### **Adviser**

BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc.  
240 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10286

### **Sub-Adviser**

Fayez Sarofim & Co.  
Two Houston Center  
Suite 2907  
Houston, TX 77010

### **Custodian**

The Bank of New York Mellon  
240 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10286

### **Transfer Agent & Dividend Disbursing Agent**

BNY Mellon Transfer, Inc.  
240 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10286

### **Distributor**

BNY Mellon Securities Corporation  
240 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10286

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**Telephone** 1-800-258-4260 or 1-800-258-4261

**Mail** The BNY Mellon Family of Funds, 144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard, Uniondale, NY 11556-0144 Attn: Institutional Services Department

**E-mail** Send your request to [info@bnymellon.com](mailto:info@bnymellon.com)

**Internet** Information can be viewed online or downloaded at [www.im.bnymellon.com](http://www.im.bnymellon.com)

The fund files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-PORT. The fund's Forms N-PORT are available on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

A description of the policies and procedures that the fund uses to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities and information regarding how the fund voted these proxies for the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available at [www.im.bnymellon.com](http://www.im.bnymellon.com) and on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) and without charge, upon request, by calling 1-800-373-9387.

