



# Prospectus

May 1, 2021

DEUTSCHE DWS VARIABLE SERIES II  
CLASS B

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**DWS Alternative Asset Allocation VIP**  
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This prospectus should be read in conjunction with the variable life insurance or variable annuity contract prospectus and plan documents for tax-qualified plans. These shares are available and are being marketed exclusively as a pooled funding vehicle for life insurance companies writing all types of variable life insurance policies and variable annuity contracts.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) does not approve or disapprove these shares or determine whether the information in this prospectus is truthful or complete. It is a criminal offense for anyone to inform you otherwise.



## SUPPLEMENT TO THE CURRENTLY EFFECTIVE PROSPECTUSES AND SUMMARY PROSPECTUSES

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Cash Account Trust	DWS High Income Fund	DWS Total Return Bond Fund
DWS Government & Agency Securities Portfolio	DWS Intermediate Tax-Free Fund	Investors Cash Trust
DWS Tax-Exempt Portfolio	DWS International Growth Fund	DWS Treasury Portfolio
DWS California Tax-Free Income Fund	DWS Large Cap Focus Growth Fund	<b>Deutsche DWS Variable Series I:</b>
DWS Capital Growth Fund	DWS Managed Municipal Bond Fund	DWS Capital Growth VIP
DWS Communications Fund	DWS Massachusetts Tax-Free Fund	DWS Core Equity VIP
DWS Core Equity Fund	DWS Money Market Prime Series	DWS CROCI <sup>®</sup> International VIP
DWS CROCI <sup>®</sup> International Fund	DWS Multi-Asset Conservative Allocation Fund	DWS Global Small Cap VIP
DWS CROCI <sup>®</sup> U.S. Fund	DWS Multi-Asset Moderate Allocation Fund	<b>Deutsche DWS Variable Series II:</b>
DWS Enhanced Commodity Strategy Fund	DWS New York Tax-Free Income Fund	DWS Alternative Asset Allocation VIP
DWS Equity 500 Index Fund	DWS RREEF Global Infrastructure Fund	DWS CROCI <sup>®</sup> U.S. VIP
DWS Equity Sector Strategy Fund	DWS RREEF Global Real Estate Securities Fund	DWS Global Income Builder VIP
DWS ESG International Core Equity Fund	DWS RREEF Real Assets Fund	DWS Government Money Market VIP
DWS ESG Liquidity Fund	DWS RREEF Real Estate Securities Fund	DWS High Income VIP
DWS Floating Rate Fund	DWS S&P 500 Index Fund	DWS International Growth VIP
DWS Global High Income Fund	DWS Short Duration Fund	DWS Small Mid Cap Growth VIP
DWS GNMA Fund	DWS Short-Term Municipal Bond Fund	DWS Small Mid Cap Value VIP
DWS Government Cash Management Fund	DWS Small Cap Core Fund	<b>Deutsche DWS Investments VIT Funds:</b>
DWS Government Money Market Series	DWS Small Cap Growth Fund	DWS Equity 500 Index VIP
DWS Health and Wellness Fund	DWS Strategic High Yield Tax-Free Fund	DWS Small Cap Index VIP

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*The following replaces similar disclosure under the "MAIN RISKS" section of the summary prospectus, and within the summary section and the "FUND DETAILS" section of each fund's prospectus:*

**Market disruption risk.** Geopolitical and other events, including war, terrorism, economic uncertainty, trade disputes, public health crises and related geopolitical events have led, and in the future may lead, to disruptions in the US and world economies and markets, which may increase financial market volatility and have significant adverse direct or indirect effects on the fund and its investments. Market disruptions could cause the fund to lose money, experience significant redemptions, and encounter operational difficulties. Although multiple asset classes may be affected by a market disruption, the duration and effects may not be the same for all types of assets.

Russia's recent military incursions in Ukraine have led to, and may lead to additional sanctions being levied by the United States, European Union and other countries against Russia. Russia's military incursion and the resulting sanctions could adversely affect global energy and financial markets and thus could affect the value of the fund's investments, even beyond any direct exposure the fund may have to Russian issuers or the adjoining geographic regions. The extent and duration of the military action, sanctions and resulting market disruptions are impossible to predict, but could be substantial. Any such disruptions caused by Russian military action or resulting sanctions may magnify the impact of other risks described in this "MAIN RISKS" section.

Other recent market disruption events include the pandemic spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, and the significant uncertainty, market volatility, decreased economic and other activity, increased government activity, including economic stimulus measures, and supply chain disruptions that it has caused. The full effects, duration and costs of the COVID-19 pandemic are impossible to predict, and the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to evolve, including the risk of future increased rates of infection due to low vaccination rates and/or the lack of effectiveness of current vaccines against new variants. The pandemic has affected and may continue to affect certain countries, industries, economic sectors, companies and investment products more than others, may exacerbate existing economic, political, or social tensions and may increase the probability of an economic recession or depression. The fund and its investments may be adversely affected by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the pandemic may result in the fund and its service

providers experiencing operational difficulties in coordinating a remote workforce and implementing their business continuity plans, among others. The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic may magnify the impact of each of the other risks described in this “MAIN RISKS” section and may increase volatility in one or more markets in which the fund invests leading to the potential for greater losses for the fund.

*Please Retain This Supplement for Future Reference*

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE CURRENTLY EFFECTIVE SUMMARY PROSPECTUSES**

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**DWS Alternative Asset Allocation VIP**

*The following information replaces the existing disclosure contained under the "Portfolio Manager(s)" sub-heading under the "MANAGEMENT" heading of the fund's summary prospectuses.*

**Dokyoung Lee, CFA, Regional Head of Multi Asset & Solutions.** Portfolio Manager of the fund. Began managing the fund in 2018.

**Darwei Kung, Head of Investment Strategy Liquid Real Assets.** Portfolio Manager of the fund. Began managing the fund in 2013.

**Fabian Degen, CFA, Portfolio Manager Multi Asset & Solutions.** Portfolio Manager of the fund. Began managing the fund in 2021.

*Please Retain This Supplement for Future Reference*



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YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE FUND IS NOT A BANK DEPOSIT AND IS NOT INSURED OR GUARANTEED BY THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY, ENTITY OR PERSON.



## DWS Alternative Asset Allocation VIP

### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The fund seeks capital appreciation.

### FEES AND EXPENSES

This table describes the fees and expenses you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the fund. This information does not reflect fees associated with the separate account that invests in the fund or any variable life insurance policy or variable annuity contract for which the fund is an investment option. These fees will increase expenses.

#### SHAREHOLDER FEES

(paid directly from your investment) None

#### ANNUAL FUND OPERATING EXPENSES

(expenses that you pay each year as a % of the value of your investment)

Management fee	0.10
Distribution/service (12b-1) fees	0.25
Other expenses	0.26
Acquired funds fees and expenses	0.57
<b>Total annual fund operating expenses</b>	<b>1.18</b>

#### EXAMPLE

This Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the fund's operating expenses (including one year of capped expenses in each period) remain the same. This example does not reflect any fees or sales charges imposed by a variable contract for which the fund is an investment option. If they were included, your costs would be higher.

Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
\$120	\$375	\$649	\$1,432

#### PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

The fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the expense example, and can affect the fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the fund's portfolio turnover rate was 18% of the average value of its portfolio.

#### PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

**Main Investments.** The fund seeks to achieve its objective by investing in alternative (or non-traditional) investment strategies. Investments may be made in other DWS funds (i.e., mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and other pooled investment vehicles managed by DWS Investment Management Americas, Inc., the fund's investment advisor, or one of its affiliates), or directly in the securities and derivative instruments in which such DWS fund could invest. The fund may also invest in securities of unaffiliated mutual funds, ETFs or exchange-traded notes (ETNs) (DWS funds and unaffiliated mutual funds, ETFs and ETNs are collectively referred to as "underlying funds"). The fund's allocations among direct investments and underlying funds may vary over time.

**Management process.** Portfolio management utilizes a strategic asset allocation process to determine the non-traditional or alternative investment strategies that should be represented in the fund's portfolio. Investment strategies generally will fall into the following categories: Real Assets, Alternative Fixed Income, Alternative Equity, Absolute Return and Opportunistic. Real Assets investments have a tangible or physical aspect such as real

estate or commodities. Alternative Fixed Income investments seek to offer exposure to categories generally not included in investors' allocations, such as bank loans and high yield debt securities (i.e. "junk bonds"), and to foreign investments, many of which are not denominated in US dollars. Alternative Equity investments are investments primarily in convertible and preferred instruments that offer equity exposure. Absolute Return investments include: (1) strategies that seek positive returns in all market environments and (2) cash or cash-like investments.

Opportunistic investments are investments outside the other categories that may be identified by portfolio management as representing an opportunity to utilize a new alternative investment strategy. Portfolio management also utilizes a tactical asset allocation process to adjust allocations in response to short-term market changes. Tactical allocations reflect views from DWS's Chief Investment Officer and global research platform. Tactical allocations, which may include derivative instruments, have shorter investment horizons as positions reflect short-term views and are implemented by appropriately changing the existing allocations.

As of December 31, 2020, the fund's allocation among investment strategies and underlying funds was:

<b>Real Assets</b>	<b>41%</b>
DWS Enhanced Commodity Strategy Fund	12%
DWS RREEF Global Infrastructure Fund	11%
DWS RREEF Real Estate Securities Fund	10%
iShares Global Infrastructure ETF	5%
SPDR S&P Global Natural Resources ETF	2%
DWS RREEF Global Real Estate Securities Fund	1%
<b>Alternative Fixed Income</b>	<b>19%</b>
DWS Floating Rate Fund	9%
DWS Emerging Markets Fixed Income Fund	5%
iShares JPMorgan USD Emerging Markets Bond ETF	5%
<b>Alternative Equity</b>	<b>30%</b>
SPDR Bloomberg Barclays Convertible Securities ETF	21%
iShares U.S. Preferred Stock ETF	9%
<b>Absolute Return</b>	<b>5%</b>
DWS Global Macro Fund	5%
Invesco DB U.S. Dollar Index Bullish Fund	—
<b>Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>5%</b>
DWS Central Cash Management Government Fund	5%
DWS ESG Liquidity Fund	—

It is possible that the fund's allocations may be focused in particular industries, asset classes, or sectors of the economy. The fund's allocations among investment strategies and underlying funds will change over time and there should be no expectation that current or past positions will be maintained in the future.

**Currency and interest rate strategies.** In addition to the fund's or an underlying fund's main investment strategy, portfolio management of the fund or certain underlying funds may, from time to time, seek to enhance returns by employing proprietary quantitative currency strategies across developed and emerging market currencies using derivatives (contracts whose values are based on, for example, indices, currencies or securities), in particular forward currency contracts. Three main strategies may be employed: a carry strategy, a momentum strategy and a valuation strategy. In implementing the carry strategy, portfolio management of the fund or certain underlying funds will use a "relative value" analysis, seeking to systematically sell low interest rate currencies and buy high interest rate currencies. In implementing the momentum strategy, portfolio management of the fund or certain underlying funds will use multi-year exchange rate trends, seeking to systematically sell lower returning currencies and buy higher returning currencies. In implementing the valuation strategy, portfolio management of the fund or certain underlying funds will use a "fair value" analysis, seeking to systematically buy "undervalued" currencies and sell "overvalued" currencies.

Portfolio management of the fund or certain underlying funds also may, from time to time, seek to enhance returns by employing various strategies to identify interest rate trends across developed markets using derivatives, in particular buying and selling interest rate futures contracts. In implementing these strategies, portfolio management of the fund or certain underlying funds may utilize proprietary rules-based interest rate indices.

The notional amount of the fund's or an underlying fund's aggregate currency and interest rate exposure resulting from these strategies may significantly exceed the net assets of the fund or an underlying fund (and at times may exceed two times the fund's or an underlying fund's net assets).

**Securities lending.** The fund may lend securities (up to one-third of total assets) to approved institutions, such as registered broker-dealers, banks and pooled investment vehicles.

## MAIN RISKS

There are several risk factors that could hurt the fund's performance, cause you to lose money or cause the fund's performance to trail that of other investments. The fund may not achieve its investment objective, and is not intended to be a complete investment program. An investment in the fund is not a deposit of a bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

Because the fund invests in one or more underlying funds, the risks listed here include those of the underlying funds as well as those of the fund itself. Therefore, in these risk descriptions the term "the fund" may refer to the fund itself, one or more underlying funds, or both.

**Asset allocation risk.** Portfolio management may favor one or more types of investments or assets that underperform other investments, assets, or securities markets as a whole. Anytime portfolio management buys or sells securities in order to adjust the fund's asset allocation this will increase portfolio turnover and generate transaction costs.

**Security selection risk.** The securities in the fund's portfolio may decline in value. Portfolio management could be wrong in its analysis of industries, companies, economic trends, the relative attractiveness of different securities or other matters.

**Stock market risk.** When stock prices fall, you should expect the value of your investment to fall as well. Stock prices can be hurt by poor management on the part of the stock's issuer, shrinking product demand and other business risks. These may affect single companies as well as groups of companies. The market as a whole may not favor the types of investments the fund makes, which could adversely affect a stock's price, regardless of how well the company performs, or the fund's ability to sell a stock at an attractive price. There is a chance that stock prices overall will decline because stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising and falling prices. Events in the US and global financial markets, including actions taken by the US Federal Reserve or foreign central banks to stimulate or stabilize economic growth, may at times result in unusually high market volatility which could negatively affect performance. High market volatility may also result from significant shifts in momentum of one or more specific stocks due to unusual increases or decreases in trading activity. Momentum can change quickly, and securities subject to shifts in momentum may be more volatile than the market as a whole and returns on such securities may drop precipitously. To the extent that the fund invests in a particular geographic region, capitalization or sector, the fund's performance may be affected by the general performance of that region, capitalization or sector.

**Market disruption risk.** Geopolitical and other events, including war, terrorism, economic uncertainty, trade disputes, public health crises and related geopolitical events have led, and in the future may lead, to disruptions in the US and world economies and markets, which may increase financial market volatility and have significant adverse direct or indirect effects on the fund and its investments. Market disruptions could cause the fund to lose money, experience significant redemptions, and encounter operational difficulties. Although multiple asset classes may be affected by a market disruption, the duration and effects may not be the same for all types of assets.

Recent market disruption events include the pandemic spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, and the significant uncertainty, market volatility, decreased economic and other activity and increased government activity that it has caused. Specifically, COVID-19 has led to significant death and morbidity, and concerns about its further spread have resulted in the closing of schools

and non-essential businesses, cancellations, shelter-in-place orders, lower consumer spending in certain sectors, social distancing, bans on large social gatherings and travel, quarantines, government economic stimulus measures, reduced productivity, rapid increases in unemployment, increased demand for and strain on government and medical resources, border closings and global trade and supply chain interruptions, among others. The full effects, duration and costs of the COVID-19 pandemic are impossible to predict, and the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to evolve. The pandemic may affect certain countries, industries, economic sectors, companies and investment products more than others, may exacerbate existing economic, political, or social tensions and may increase the probability of an economic recession or depression. The fund and its investments may be adversely affected by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a prolonged pandemic may result in the fund and its service providers experiencing operational difficulties in coordinating a remote workforce and implementing their business continuity plans, among others.

The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic may magnify the impact of each of the other risks described in this "MAIN RISKS" section and may increase volatility in one or more markets in which the fund invests leading to the potential for greater losses for the fund.

**Underlying funds risk.** Because the fund may invest in underlying funds, the fund's performance will be directly related to the performance of the underlying funds. To the extent that a given underlying fund underperforms its benchmark or its fund peer group, it may contribute to underperformance by the fund.

In addition, the fund indirectly pays a portion of the expenses incurred by the underlying funds, which lowers the fund's returns. To the extent that the fund's allocations favor underlying funds with higher expenses, the overall cost of investing paid by the fund will be higher.

The fund is also subject to the risk that an underlying fund may pay a redemption request made by the fund, wholly or partly, by an in-kind distribution of portfolio securities rather than in cash. The fund may hold such portfolio securities until the Advisor determines to dispose of them, and the fund will bear the market risk of the securities received in the redemption until their disposition. Upon disposing of such portfolio securities, the fund may experience increased brokerage commissions.

**Concentration risk – underlying funds.** Any underlying fund that concentrates in a particular segment of the market (such as commodities, infrastructure-related companies and real estate securities) will generally be more volatile than a fund that invests more broadly. Any market price movements, regulatory or technological changes, or economic conditions affecting the particular

market segment in which the underlying fund concentrates will have a significant impact on the underlying fund's performance.

While the fund does not concentrate in a particular industry, it may concentrate in an underlying DWS fund, and there is risk for the fund with respect to the aggregation of holdings of underlying funds. The aggregation of holdings of underlying funds may result in the fund having increased exposure to a particular industry or group of industries, or to a single issuer. Such increased exposure to industries or issuers may have the effect of increasing the volatility of the fund's returns. The fund does not control the investments of the underlying funds, and any increased exposure to industries or issuers occurs as a result of the underlying funds following their own investment objectives and strategies. However, to the extent practicable, the fund will consider whether an underlying fund's investments may create significant exposure to a particular industry or group of industries.

**Non-diversification risk – underlying funds.** While the fund is diversified, certain underlying funds may be classified as non-diversified under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. This means that the underlying fund may invest in securities of relatively few issuers. Thus, the performance of one or a small number of portfolio holdings can affect overall performance of the underlying fund.

**ETF risk.** Because ETFs trade on a securities exchange, their shares may trade at a premium or discount to their net asset value. An ETF is subject to the risks of the assets in which it invests as well as those of the investment strategy it follows. The fund may incur brokerage costs when it buys and sells shares of an ETF and also bears its proportionate share of the ETF's fees and expenses, which are passed through to ETF shareholders.

**ETN risk.** Because ETNs are senior, unsecured, unsubordinated debt securities of an issuer (typically a bank or bank holding company), ETNs are subject to the credit risk of the issuer and may lose value due to a downgrade in the issuer's credit rating. The returns of an ETN are linked to the performance of an underlying instrument (typically an index), minus applicable fees. ETNs typically do not make periodic interest payments and principal typically is not protected. The value of an ETN may fluctuate based on factors such as time to maturity, level of supply and demand for the ETN, volatility and lack of liquidity in the underlying assets, changes in the applicable interest rates, and economic, legal, political or geographic events that affect the underlying assets. The fund bears its proportionate share of any fees and expenses borne by the ETN. Because ETNs trade on a securities exchange, their shares may trade at a premium or discount to their net asset value.

**Foreign investment risk.** The fund faces the risks inherent in foreign investing. Adverse political, economic or social developments, as well as US and foreign government actions such as the imposition of tariffs, economic and trade sanctions or embargoes, could undermine the value of the fund's investments, prevent the fund from realizing the full value of its investments or prevent the fund from selling securities it holds. In June 2016, citizens of the United Kingdom approved a referendum to leave the European Union (EU) and in March 2017, the United Kingdom initiated the formal process of withdrawing from the EU. On January 31, 2020, the United Kingdom officially withdrew from the EU pursuant to a withdrawal agreement, providing for a transition period in which the United Kingdom negotiated and finalized a trade deal with the EU, the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (the Trade Agreement), provisionally applied effective January 1, 2021. As a result, as of January 1, 2021 the United Kingdom is no longer part of the EU customs union and single market, nor is it subject to EU policies and international agreements. Among other things, the Trade Agreement provides for zero tariffs and zero quotas on all goods that comply with appropriate rules of origin and establishes the treatment and level of access the United Kingdom and EU have agreed to grant each other's service suppliers and investors. In addition to trade in goods and services and investment, the Trade Agreement also covers digital trade, intellectual property, public procurement, aviation and road transport, energy, fisheries, social security coordination, law enforcement and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, thematic cooperation and participation in EU programs. Even with the Trade Agreement in place, the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU may create new barriers to trade in goods and services and to cross-border mobility and exchanges, including with respect to trade in financial services which is not comprehensively addressed in the Trade Agreement and remains subject to negotiation between the United Kingdom and the EU. The long-term impact of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU is still unknown and could have adverse economic and political effects on the United Kingdom, the EU and its member countries, and the global economy, including financial markets and asset valuations.

Financial reporting standards for companies based in foreign markets differ from those in the US. Additionally, foreign securities markets generally are smaller and less liquid than US markets. To the extent that the fund invests in non-US dollar denominated foreign securities, changes in currency exchange rates may affect the US dollar value of foreign securities or the income or gain received on these securities. In addition, because non-US markets may be open on days when the fund does not price its shares, the value of the securities in the fund's portfolio may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or sell the fund's shares.

**Emerging markets risk.** Foreign investment risks are greater in emerging markets than in developed markets. Investments in emerging markets are often considered speculative.

**Currency risk.** Changes in currency exchange rates may affect the value of the fund's investments and the fund's share price. The value of currencies are influenced by a variety of factors, that include: interest rates, national debt levels and trade deficits, changes in balances of payments and trade, domestic and foreign interest and inflation rates, global or regional political, economic or financial events, monetary policies of governments, actual or potential government intervention, global energy prices, political instability and government monetary policies and the buying or selling of currency by a country's government. Investments in foreign currencies are subject to the risk that those currencies will decline in value relative to the US dollar or, in the case of hedged positions, that the US dollar will decline relative to the currency being hedged. Currency exchange rates can be volatile and can change quickly and unpredictably, thereby impacting the value of the fund's investments.

**Interest rate strategies risk.** The success of the interest rate futures strategies depends, in part, on the effectiveness and implementation of portfolio management's proprietary strategies. If portfolio management's analysis proves to be incorrect, losses to the fund may be significant. The risk of loss is heightened during periods of rapid rises in interest rates.

**Currency strategies risk.** The success of the currency strategies depends, in part, on the effectiveness and implementation of portfolio management's proprietary strategies. If portfolio management's analysis proves to be incorrect, losses to the fund may be significant and may substantially exceed the intended level of market exposure for the currency strategies.

As part of the currency strategies, the fund could have substantial exposure to the risks of non-US currency markets. Foreign currency rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time for a number of reasons, including changes in interest rates and economic or political developments in the US or abroad. As a result, the fund's exposure to foreign currencies could cause lower returns or even losses to the fund. Although portfolio management seeks to limit these risks through the aggregation of various long and short positions, there can be no assurance that it will be able to do so.

**Interest rate risk.** When interest rates rise, prices of debt securities generally decline. The longer the duration of the fund's debt securities, the more sensitive the fund will be to interest rate changes. (As a general rule, a 1% rise in interest rates means a 1% fall in value for every year of duration.) Recent and potential future changes in monetary policy made by central banks or governments are likely to affect the level of interest rates. Rising interest rates may prompt redemptions from the fund, which may force the

fund to sell investments at a time when it is not advantageous to do so, which could result in losses. The fund may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates following periods of low rates, including the current low rate period. In addition, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as with other serious economic disruptions, governmental authorities and regulators are enacting significant fiscal and monetary policy changes, including providing direct capital infusions into companies, creating new monetary programs and lowering interest rates considerably. If these actions are unexpectedly or suddenly reversed or are ineffective in achieving their desired outcomes, the fund could be adversely affected by periods of heightened volatility and uncertainty.

London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), the benchmark rate for certain floating rate securities, is expected to be phased out by the end of 2021, although the US Dollar LIBOR phase out may extend past 2021 for certain existing contracts. The fund or the instruments in which the fund invests may be adversely affected by the phase out by, among other things, increased volatility or illiquidity. There remains uncertainty regarding the future use of LIBOR and the nature of any replacement reference rate and, accordingly, it is difficult to predict the impact to the fund of the transition away from LIBOR.

**Inflation-indexed bond risk.** Any rise in interest rates may cause inflation-indexed bonds to decline in price, hurting fund performance. If interest rates rise due to reasons other than inflation, the fund's investment in these securities may not be fully protected from the effects of rising interest rates. The fund may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates following periods of low rates, including the current low rate period. The performance of any bonds that are indexed to non-US rates of inflation may be higher or lower than those indexed to US inflation rates. The fund's actual returns could fail to match the real rate of inflation.

**Credit risk.** The fund's performance could be hurt if an issuer of a debt security suffers an adverse change in financial condition that results in the issuer not making timely payments of interest or principal, a security downgrade or an inability to meet a financial obligation. Credit risk is greater for lower-rated securities.

Because the issuers of high-yield debt securities, or junk bonds (debt securities rated below the fourth highest credit rating category), may be in uncertain financial health, the prices of their debt securities can be more vulnerable to bad economic news, or even the expectation of bad news, than investment-grade debt securities. Credit risk for high-yield securities is greater than for higher-rated securities.

**High yield debt securities risk.** High yield debt securities, or junk bonds, are generally regarded as speculative with respect to the issuer's continuing ability to meet principal and interest payments. High yield debt securities' total return and yield may generally be expected to fluctuate

more than the total return and yield of investment-grade debt securities. A real or perceived economic downturn or an increase in market interest rates could cause a decline in the value of high yield debt securities, result in increased redemptions and/or result in increased portfolio turnover, which could result in a decline in net asset value of the fund, reduce liquidity for certain investments and/or increase costs. High yield debt securities are often thinly traded and can be more difficult to sell and value accurately than investment-grade debt securities as there may be no established secondary market. Investments in high yield debt securities could increase liquidity risk for the fund. In addition, the market for high yield debt securities can experience sudden and sharp volatility which is generally associated more with investments in stocks.

**Market risk.** The market value of the securities in which the fund invests may be impacted by the prospects of individual issuers, particular sectors or governments and/or general economic conditions throughout the world due to increasingly interconnected global economies and financial markets.

**Senior loans risk.** The fund invests in senior loans that may not be rated by a rating agency, registered with the SEC or any state securities commission or listed on any national securities exchange. Therefore, there may be less publicly available information about them than for registered or exchange-listed securities. The Advisor relies on its own evaluation of the creditworthiness of borrowers, but will consider, and may rely in part on, analyses performed by others. As a result, the fund is particularly dependent on the analytical abilities of the Advisor.

Senior loans may not be considered “securities,” and purchasers, such as the fund, therefore may not be entitled to rely on the anti-fraud and misrepresentation protections of the federal securities laws. Senior loans involve other risks, including credit risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk, and prepayment and extension risk.

Because affiliates of the Advisor may participate in the primary and secondary market for senior loans, limitations under applicable law may restrict the fund’s ability to participate in a restructuring of a senior loan or to acquire some senior loans, or affect the timing or price of such acquisition. The fund also may be in possession of material non-public information about a borrower as a result of its ownership of a senior loan. Because of prohibitions on trading in securities of issuers while in possession of such information, the fund might be unable to enter into a transaction in a publicly-traded security of that borrower when it would otherwise be advantageous to do so. If the Advisor wishes to invest in the publicly traded securities of a borrower, it may not have access to material non-public information regarding the borrower to which other lenders have access.

**Prepayment and extension risk.** When interest rates fall, issuers of high interest debt obligations may pay off the debts earlier than expected (prepayment risk), and the

fund may have to reinvest the proceeds at lower yields. When interest rates rise, issuers of lower interest debt obligations may pay off the debts later than expected (extension risk), thus keeping the fund’s assets tied up in lower interest debt obligations. Ultimately, any unexpected behavior in interest rates could increase the volatility of the fund’s share price and yield and could hurt fund performance.

**Commodities-related investments risk.** The commodities-linked derivative instruments in which the fund invests tend to be more volatile than many other types of securities and may subject the fund to special risks that do not apply to all derivatives transactions. For example, the value of commodity-linked derivative instruments may be affected by changes in overall market movements, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates, or factors affecting a particular industry or commodity, such as drought, floods, weather, livestock disease, changes in storage costs, embargoes, tariffs, policies of commodity cartels and international economic, political and regulatory developments.

**Real estate securities risk.** Real estate companies, including REITs, can be affected by the risks associated with direct ownership of real estate, such as general or local economic conditions, decreases in real estate value, increases in property taxes and operating expenses, liabilities or losses due to environmental problems, delays in completion of construction, falling rents (whether due to poor demand, increased competition, overbuilding, or limitations on rents), zoning changes, rising interest rates, lack of credit, failure of borrowers to repay loans and losses from casualty or condemnation. Real estate companies may be adversely affected by the recent pandemic spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, which has led to decreased economic activity, widespread business and other closures and rapid increases in unemployment that may cause increased defaults on rent, loans or other obligations and increase the probability of an economic recession or depression. In addition, many real estate companies, including REITs, utilize leverage which increases investment risk. Highly leveraged real estate companies are particularly vulnerable to the effects of an economic downturn (including an economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic). Further, REITs are dependent upon management skills, may not be diversified and may have relatively small market capitalizations, which can increase volatility. REITs must satisfy certain requirements in order to qualify for favorable tax treatment under applicable tax laws, and a failure to qualify could adversely affect the value of the REIT. By investing in REITs through a fund, a shareholder will bear expenses of the REITs in addition to expenses of the fund and will not be entitled to the federal income tax deduction for qualified REIT dividends available to noncorporate investors that own REITs directly unless certain holding period and other requirements are satisfied.

**Infrastructure-related companies risk.** Infrastructure-related companies can be affected by various factors, including general or local economic conditions and political developments, general changes in market sentiment towards infrastructure assets, high interest costs in connection with capital construction and improvement programs, difficulty in raising capital, costs associated with compliance with changes in regulations, regulation or intervention by various government authorities, including government regulation of rates, inexperience with and potential losses resulting from the deregulation of a particular industry or sector, changes in tax laws, environmental problems, commodities markets disruptions (e.g., significant decreases over short time periods in the price of oil), technological changes, surplus capacity, casualty losses, threat of terrorist attacks and changes in interest rates. Infrastructure-related companies may be adversely affected by the recent pandemic spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, which may cause decreased demand for infrastructure projects and increased delays or cancellations of infrastructure projects. The pandemic may affect certain types of infrastructure assets more than others (e.g., airports, toll roads, ports and midstream oil infrastructure companies). A company is considered to be an infrastructure-related company if at least 50% of its non-cash assets are infrastructure assets or 50% of its gross income or net profits are derived, directly or indirectly, from the ownership, management, construction, operation, utilization or financing of infrastructure assets.

**Focus risk.** To the extent that the fund focuses its investments in particular industries, asset classes or sectors of the economy, any market price movements, regulatory or technological changes, or economic conditions affecting companies in those industries, asset classes or sectors may have a significant impact on the fund's performance.

**Regional focus risk.** Focusing investments in a single country or few countries, or regions, involves increased currency, political, regulatory and other risks. Market swings in such a targeted country, countries or regions are likely to have a greater effect on fund performance than they would in a more geographically diversified fund.

**Dividend-paying stock risk.** As a category, dividend-paying stocks may underperform non-dividend paying stocks (and the stock market as a whole) over any period of time. In addition, issuers of dividend-paying stocks may have discretion to defer or stop paying dividends for a stated period of time, or an anticipated acceleration of dividends may not occur as a result of, among other things, a sharp rise in interest rates or an economic downturn. In response to the outbreak of COVID-19, the US Government passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act in March 2020, which established loan programs for certain issuers impacted by COVID-19. Among other conditions, borrowers under these loan programs are generally restricted from paying dividends. If

the dividend-paying stocks held by the fund reduce or stop paying dividends, the fund's ability to generate income may be adversely affected.

**Small company risk.** Small company stocks tend to be more volatile than medium-sized or large company stocks. Because stock analysts are less likely to follow small companies, less information about them is available to investors. Industry-wide reversals may have a greater impact on small companies, since they may lack the financial resources of larger companies. Small company stocks are typically less liquid than large company stocks.

**Borrowing risk.** Borrowing creates leverage. It also adds to fund expenses and at times could effectively force the fund to sell securities when it otherwise might not want to.

**Counterparty risk.** A financial institution or other counterparty with whom the fund does business, or that underwrites, distributes or guarantees any investments or contracts that the fund owns or is otherwise exposed to, may decline in financial health and become unable to honor its commitments. This could cause losses for the fund or could delay the return or delivery of collateral or other assets to the fund.

**Convertible securities risk.** The market value of a convertible security performs like that of a regular debt security; that is, when interest rates rise, the price of a convertible security generally declines. In addition, convertible securities are subject to the risk that the issuer will not be able to pay interest or dividends when due, and their price may change based on changes in the issuer's financial condition. Because a convertible security derives a portion of its value from the common stock into which it may be converted, market and issuer risks that apply to the underlying common stock could impact the price of the convertible security.

**Preferred stock risk.** Preferred stock generally has a preference as to dividends and liquidation over an issuer's common stock but ranks junior to debt securities in an issuer's capital structure. Preferred stock is subject to many of the risks associated with debt securities, including interest rate risk. In addition, preferred stock may not pay a dividend, an issuer may suspend payment of dividends on preferred stock at any time, and in certain situations an issuer may call or redeem its preferred stock or convert it to common stock.

**Liquidity risk.** In certain situations, it may be difficult or impossible to sell an investment and/or the fund may sell certain investments at a price or time that is not advantageous in order to meet redemption requests or other cash needs. Unusual market conditions, such as an unusually high volume of redemptions or other similar conditions could increase liquidity risk for the fund.

**Pricing risk.** If market conditions make it difficult to value some investments, the fund may value these investments using more subjective methods, such as fair value pricing.

In such cases, the value determined for an investment could be different from the value realized upon such investment's sale. As a result, you could pay more than the market value when buying fund shares or receive less than the market value when selling fund shares.

**Tax status risk.** Income and gains from commodities or certain commodity-linked derivatives do not constitute "qualifying income" to the fund for purposes of qualification as a "regulated investment company" for federal income tax purposes. If the fund's nonqualifying income exceeds 10% of the fund's gross income, the fund may fail to qualify as a regulated investment company and be subject to a tax at the fund level.

**Securities lending risk.** Any decline in the value of a portfolio security that occurs while the security is out on loan is borne by the fund and will adversely affect performance. Also, there may be delays in recovery of securities loaned or even a loss of rights in the collateral should the borrower of the securities fail financially while holding the security.

**Subsidiary risk.** Certain underlying funds may invest in a wholly-owned subsidiary of the underlying fund formed under the laws of the Cayman Islands (the Subsidiary) that is not registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and therefore it is not subject to all of the investor protections of the Investment Company Act of 1940. A regulatory change in the US or the Cayman Islands that impacts the Subsidiary or how the underlying fund invests in the Subsidiary, such as a change in tax law, could adversely affect the underlying fund and the fund. By investing in the Subsidiary, the underlying funds and the fund are exposed to the risks associated with the Subsidiary's investments, which generally include the risks of investing in derivatives and commodities-related investments.

**Operational and technology risk.** Cyber-attacks, disruptions or failures that affect the fund's service providers or counterparties, issuers of securities held by the fund, or other market participants may adversely affect the fund and its shareholders, including by causing losses for the fund or impairing fund operations. For example, the fund's or its service providers' assets or sensitive or confidential information may be misappropriated, data may be corrupted and operations may be disrupted (e.g., cyber-attacks, operational failures or broader disruptions may cause the release of private shareholder information or confidential fund information, interfere with the processing of shareholder transactions, impact the ability to calculate the fund's net asset value and impede trading). Market events and disruptions also may trigger a volume of transactions that overloads current information technology and communication systems and processes, impacting the ability to conduct the fund's operations.

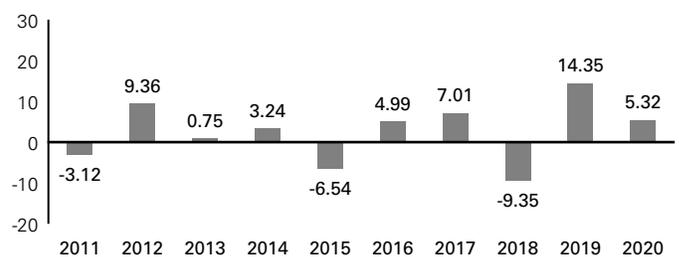
While the fund and its service providers may establish business continuity and other plans and processes that seek to address the possibility of and fallout from cyber-attacks, disruptions or failures, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems, including that they do not apply to third parties, such as fund counterparties, issuers of securities held by the fund or other market participants, as well as the possibility that certain risks have not been identified or that unknown threats may emerge in the future and there is no assurance that such plans and processes will be effective. Among other situations, disruptions (for example, pandemics or health crises) that cause prolonged periods of remote work or significant employee absences at the fund's service providers could impact the ability to conduct the fund's operations. In addition, the fund cannot directly control any cybersecurity plans and systems put in place by its service providers, fund counterparties, issuers of securities held by the fund or other market participants.

## PAST PERFORMANCE

How a fund's returns vary from year to year can give an idea of its risk; so can comparing fund performance to overall market performance (as measured by an appropriate market index). Past performance may not indicate future results. All performance figures below assume that dividends and distributions were reinvested. For more recent performance figures, go to [dws.com](http://dws.com) (the Web site does not form a part of this prospectus) or call the telephone number included in this prospectus. This information does not reflect fees associated with the separate account that invests in the fund or any variable life insurance policy or variable annuity contract for which the fund is an investment option. These fees will reduce returns.

Prior to July 12, 2013, the fund had a subadvisor and a different investment management team that operated with a different investment strategy. Performance would have been different if the fund's current investment strategy had been in effect.

### CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL RETURNS (%) (Class B)



	Returns	Period ending
<b>Best Quarter</b>	9.79%	December 31, 2020
<b>Worst Quarter</b>	-14.24%	March 31, 2020
<b>Year-to-Date</b>	2.78%	March 31, 2021

## AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS

(For periods ended 12/31/2020 expressed as a %)

	<b>Class Inception</b>	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
<b>Class B</b> before tax	5/18/2009	5.32	4.17	2.36
<b>MSCI World Index</b> (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)		15.90	12.19	9.87
<b>Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index</b> (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)		7.51	4.44	3.84
<b>Blended Index</b> (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)		14.02	10.08	8.29

**Blended Index** consists of 70% MSCI World Index and 30% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index.

The Advisor believes that the MSCI World Index, Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, and the blend of each of these indexes, reflect the different components of the fund's typical asset allocations.

## MANAGEMENT

### Investment Advisor

DWS Investment Management Americas, Inc.

### Subadvisor

RREEF America L.L.C.

### Portfolio Manager(s)

**Dokyoung Lee, CFA, Regional Head of Multi Asset & Solutions.** Portfolio Manager of the fund. Began managing the fund in 2018.

**Darwei Kung, Head of Investment Strategy Liquid Real Assets.** Portfolio Manager of the fund. Began managing the fund in 2013.

**Sophia Noisten, Portfolio Manager Multi Asset & Solutions.** Portfolio Manager of the fund. Began managing the fund in 2020.

## PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

**The fund is intended for use in a variable insurance product.** You should contact the sponsoring insurance company for information on how to purchase and sell shares of the fund.

## TAX INFORMATION

The fund normally distributes its net investment income and realized capital gains, if any, to its shareholders, the separate accounts of participating insurance companies. These distributions may not be taxable to the holders of variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies. For information concerning the federal income tax

consequences for the holders of such contracts or policies, holders should consult the prospectus used in connection with the issuance of their particular contracts or policies.

## PAYMENTS TO FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

If you purchase shares of the fund through selected affiliated and unaffiliated brokers, dealers, participating insurance companies or other financial intermediaries, the fund, the Advisor, and/or the Advisor's affiliates, may pay the financial intermediary for the sale of fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the financial intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your insurance company's Web site for more information.

## Fund Details

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT FUND STRATEGIES AND RISKS

#### DWS Alternative Asset Allocation VIP

#### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The fund seeks capital appreciation.

#### PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

**Main Investments.** The fund seeks to achieve its objective by investing in alternative (or non-traditional) investment strategies. Investments may be made in other DWS funds (i.e., mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and other pooled investment vehicles managed by DWS Investment Management Americas, Inc., the fund's investment advisor, or one of its affiliates), or directly in the securities and derivative instruments in which such DWS fund could invest. The fund may also invest in securities of unaffiliated mutual funds, ETFs or exchange-traded notes (ETNs) (DWS funds and unaffiliated mutual funds, ETFs and ETNs are collectively referred to as "underlying funds"). The fund's allocations among direct investments and underlying funds may vary over time.

**Management process.** Portfolio management utilizes a strategic asset allocation process to determine the non-traditional or alternative investment strategies that should be represented in the fund's portfolio. Investment strategies generally will fall into the following categories: Real Assets, Alternative Fixed Income, Alternative Equity, Absolute Return and Opportunistic. Real Asset investments have a tangible or physical aspect such as real estate or commodities. Alternative Fixed Income investments seek to offer exposure to categories generally not included in investors' allocations, such as bank loans and high-yield debt securities (i.e. "junk bonds"), and to foreign investments, many of which are not denominated in US dollars. Alternative Equity investments are investments primarily in convertible and preferred instruments that offer equity exposure. Absolute Return investments include: (1) strategies that seek positive returns in all market environments and (2) cash or cash-like investments. Opportunistic investments are investments outside the other categories that may be identified by portfolio management as representing an opportunity to utilize a new

alternative investment strategy. Portfolio management also utilizes a tactical asset allocation process to adjust allocations in response to short-term market changes. Tactical allocations reflect views from DWS's Chief Investment Officer and global research platform. Tactical allocations, which may include derivative instruments, have shorter investment horizons as positions reflect short-term views and are implemented by appropriately changing the existing allocations.

Portfolio management may make allocations ranging from 0% to 30% of the fund's assets (exclusive of assets allocated to the currency and interest rate strategies described below) in a particular strategy or asset category, including the following DWS mutual funds or directly in such securities and derivative instruments in which the DWS fund can invest:

- *DWS Emerging Markets Equity Fund.* The fund seeks long-term growth of capital. Under normal circumstances, the fund invests at least 80% of net assets, plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes, in emerging market equities (equities traded mainly in emerging markets or issued by companies that are organized in emerging markets or have more than half of their business there). The fund invests primarily in common stocks, but may also invest in preferred stocks or convertible securities.
- *DWS Emerging Markets Fixed Income Fund.* The fund seeks to provide high current income and, secondarily, long-term capital appreciation. Under normal circumstances, the fund invests at least 80% of net assets, plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes, in high yield bonds (also known as "junk bonds") and other debt securities issued by governments and corporations in emerging market countries (i.e., the issuer is traded mainly in an emerging market, the issuer is organized under the laws of an emerging market country or is a company with more than half of its business in emerging markets) or the return on which is derived primarily from emerging markets. The fund may invest without limit in investment-grade debt securities and in junk bonds, which are those below the fourth credit grade (grade BB/Ba and below) and may include debt securities not currently paying interest and debt securities in default. The fund invests at least 50% of total assets in US dollar denominated securities.

- **DWS Enhanced Commodity Strategy Fund.** The fund's investment objective is total return. Under normal circumstances, the fund invests in commodity-linked derivative instruments (a contract whose value is based on a particular commodity) backed by a portfolio of fixed income instruments. The fund may gain exposure to the commodity markets by investing in a wholly-owned subsidiary formed under the laws of the Cayman Islands, which shares the same portfolio management team as the fund and is expected to invest mainly in commodity-linked derivative instruments and fixed-income instruments, some of which may serve as margin or collateral for the subsidiary's derivatives positions. The fund concentrates its investments in commodities-related industries. The fund and its wholly-owned subsidiary are each a "commodity pool" and are subject to the requirements of the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended (CEA) and the rules of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) promulgated thereunder.
- **DWS ESG Liquidity Fund.** The fund's investment objective is to seek to provide a high level of current income consistent with liquidity and the preservation of capital. The fund is a money market fund that is managed in accordance with federal regulations which govern the quality, maturity, diversity and liquidity of instruments in which a money market fund may invest. The fund does not seek to maintain a stable share price. As a result, the fund's share price will fluctuate and reflect the effects of unrealized appreciation and depreciation and realized losses and gains. Under normal circumstances, the fund invests at least 80% of total assets, determined at the time of purchase, in securities that meet the Advisor's sustainability criteria. The fund may invest without limit in US treasury securities under adverse market conditions. The fund invests in high quality, short-term, US dollar denominated money market instruments, including obligations of US and foreign banks, corporate obligations, US government securities, municipal securities, repurchase agreements and asset-backed securities, paying a fixed, variable or floating interest rate.
- **DWS Floating Rate Fund.** The fund seeks to provide high current income. Under normal market conditions, the fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in adjustable rate loans that have a senior right to payment ("senior loans") and other floating rate debt securities. The fund may also borrow money in an amount up to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % of the fund's total assets for a range of purposes, including to create investment leverage.
- **DWS Global High Income Fund.** The fund seeks high current income and, as a secondary objective, capital appreciation. Under normal conditions, the fund invests at least 65% of total assets in domestic and foreign below investment grade debt securities (rated below the fourth highest credit rating category, junk bonds), including those whose issuers are located in countries with new or emerging securities markets. The fund will generally invest in at least three different countries and will normally invest at least 40% of net assets in securities of foreign issuers. The fund invests in securities of varying maturities and intends to maintain a dollar-weighted effective average portfolio maturity that will not exceed ten years. Subject to its portfolio maturity policy, the fund may purchase individual securities with any stated maturity. The fund may invest in securities of any credit quality, and may include debt securities not paying interest currently and securities in default. The fund may invest up to 15% of total assets in credit default swaps to buy or sell protection on credit exposure, and up to 20% of net assets in common stocks, preferred shares and other equity securities. The fund may invest up to 35% of total assets in cash or money market instruments to maintain liquidity or in the event portfolio management determines that securities meeting the fund's investment objectives are not readily available for purchase. The fund may also purchase convertible securities, securities on a when-issued basis and engage in short sales.
- **DWS RREEF Global Infrastructure Fund.** The fund seeks total return from both capital appreciation and current income. Under normal circumstances, the fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in the securities of US and non-US infrastructure-related companies. Under normal circumstances, the fund invests mainly in equity securities, though the fund may also invest in fixed-income securities without limitation. The fund will invest 25% or more of its total assets in securities of companies engaged principally in infrastructure-related companies. The fund may invest in companies of any market capitalization.
- **DWS RREEF Global Real Estate Securities Fund.** The fund's investment objective is to seek total return through a combination of current income and long-term capital appreciation. Under normal circumstances, the fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets, plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes, in equity and debt securities issued by real estate companies, such as real estate investment trusts (REITs), REIT-like structures or real estate operating companies. The fund may invest without limitation in companies engaged principally in the real estate industry.
- **DWS High Income Fund.** The fund seeks the highest level of current income obtainable from a diversified portfolio of fixed-income securities which portfolio management considers consistent with reasonable risk. As a secondary objective, the fund will seek capital gain where consistent with its primary objective. Under normal circumstances, the fund generally invests at least 65% of net assets, plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes, in junk bonds, which are those rated below the fourth highest credit rating category (that is, grade BB/Ba and below). The fund may

invest up to 50% of total assets in bonds denominated in US dollars or foreign currencies from foreign issuers, including issuers in emerging markets. The fund invests in securities of varying maturities and intends to maintain a dollar-weighted effective average portfolio maturity that will not exceed ten years. Subject to its portfolio maturity policy, the fund may purchase individual securities with any stated maturity.

- *DWS RREEF Real Estate Securities Fund.* The fund's investment objective is long-term capital appreciation and current income. Under normal circumstances, the fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets, plus the amount of any borrowing for investment purposes (calculated at the time of any investment), in equity securities of real estate investment trusts (REITs) and real estate companies. The fund may invest without limitation in securities of companies engaged principally in the real estate industry. The fund may also invest a portion of its assets in other types of securities. These securities may include short term securities, bonds, notes, securities of companies not principally engaged in the real estate industry and other similar securities.
- *DWS Government Money Market Series.* The fund seeks maximum current income to the extent consistent with stability of principal. The fund is a money market fund that is managed in accordance with federal regulations which govern the quality, maturity, diversity and liquidity of instruments in which a money market fund may invest. The fund operates as a "government money market fund," as such term is defined under federal regulations. As a government money market fund, the fund is required to invest at least 99.5% of its total assets at the time of investment in cash, US government securities, and/or repurchase agreements that are collateralized by these instruments.
- *DWS Global Macro Fund.* The fund seeks to achieve total return. The fund invests in equities (common and preferred), bonds, structured notes, money market instruments, exchange traded funds (ETFs), and cash. The fund may also invest in alternative asset classes (such as real estate, REITs, infrastructure, convertibles, commodities and currencies). The fund may achieve exposure to commodities by investing in commodities-linked derivatives. In addition, the fund may invest in ETFs, other registered investment companies or exchange-traded notes (ETNs) to gain exposure to certain asset classes, including commodities. The fund may also invest in asset backed securities, short-term securities and cash equivalents. The fund can invest in securities of any size, investment style category, maturity, duration or credit quality (including junk bonds,

which are those rated below the fourth highest credit rating category (that is, grade BB/Ba and below)), and from any country (including emerging markets). Under normal conditions, the fund will have investment exposure to at least three countries and combined direct and indirect exposure to foreign securities, foreign currencies and other foreign investments (measured on a gross basis) equal to at least 40% of the fund's net assets.

- *DWS Central Cash Management Government Fund.* The fund seeks maximum current income to the extent consistent with stability of principal. The fund operates as a "government money market fund," as such term is defined under federal regulations. The fund is a money market fund that is managed in accordance with federal regulations which govern the quality, maturity, diversity and liquidity of instruments in which a money market fund may invest. As a government money market fund, the fund is required to invest at least 99.5% of its total assets at the time of investment in cash, US government securities, and/or repurchase agreements that are collateralized by these instruments.

Portfolio management monitors the list of DWS funds in which the fund may invest, and may periodically add or remove DWS funds from the list to obtain exposure to new investment strategies, to replace underperforming DWS funds or to enhance returns. Based on portfolio management's assessment of market conditions, the fund is rebalanced periodically to maintain the desired asset allocation. In addition, the fund may seek exposure to hedge funds through warrants, swaps and similar derivative instruments.

Other DWS funds in which the fund may invest from time to time may include series of DBX ETF Trust, which are managed by DBX Advisors LLC. DWS Investment Management Americas, Inc. and DBX Advisors LLC are subsidiaries of DWS Group.

As of December 31, 2020, the fund's allocation among investment strategies and underlying funds was:

<b>Real Assets</b>	<b>41%</b>
DWS Enhanced Commodity Strategy Fund	12%
DWS RREEF Global Infrastructure Fund	11%
DWS RREEF Real Estate Securities Fund	10%
iShares Global Infrastructure ETF	5%
SPDR S&P Global Natural Resources ETF	2%
DWS RREEF Global Real Estate Securities Fund	1%
<b>Alternative Fixed Income</b>	<b>19%</b>
DWS Floating Rate Fund	9%
DWS Emerging Markets Fixed Income Fund	5%
iShares JPMorgan USD Emerging Markets Bond ETF	5%
<b>Alternative Equity</b>	<b>30%</b>
SPDR Bloomberg Barclays Convertible Securities ETF	21%
iShares U.S. Preferred Stock ETF	9%
<b>Absolute Return</b>	<b>5%</b>
DWS Global Macro Fund	5%
Invesco DB U.S. Dollar Index Bullish Fund	—
<b>Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>5%</b>
DWS Central Cash Management Government Fund	5%
DWS ESG Liquidity Fund	—

It is possible that the fund's allocations may be focused in particular industries, asset classes, or sectors of the economy. The fund's allocations among investment strategies and underlying funds will change over time and there should be no expectation that current or past positions will be maintained in the future.

**Currency and interest rate strategies.** In addition to the fund's or an underlying fund's main investment strategy, portfolio management of the fund or certain underlying funds may, from time to time, seek to enhance returns by employing proprietary quantitative currency strategies across developed and emerging market currencies using derivatives (contracts whose values are based on, for example, indices, currencies or securities), in particular forward currency contracts. Three main strategies may be employed: a carry strategy, a momentum strategy and a valuation strategy. In implementing the carry strategy, portfolio management of the fund or certain underlying funds will use a "relative value" analysis, seeking to systematically sell low interest rate currencies and buy high interest rate currencies. In implementing the momentum strategy, portfolio management of the fund or certain underlying funds will use multi-year exchange rate trends, seeking to systematically sell lower returning currencies and buy higher returning currencies. In implementing the valuation strategy, portfolio management of the fund or certain underlying funds will use a "fair value" analysis, seeking to systematically buy "undervalued" currencies and sell "overvalued" currencies.

Portfolio management of the fund or certain underlying funds also may, from time to time, seek to enhance returns by employing various strategies to identify interest rate trends across developed markets using derivatives, in particular buying and selling interest rate futures contracts. In implementing these strategies, portfolio management of the fund or certain underlying funds may utilize proprietary rules-based interest rate indices.

The notional amount of the fund's or an underlying fund's aggregate currency and interest rate exposure resulting from these strategies may significantly exceed the net assets of the fund or an underlying fund (and at times may exceed two times the fund's or an underlying fund's net assets).

**Securities lending.** The fund may lend securities (up to one-third of total assets) to approved institutions, such as registered broker-dealers, banks and pooled investment vehicles.

## OTHER INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

**Derivatives.** Outside of the currency and interest rate strategies, the fund and the underlying funds in which the fund invests, may also use other types of derivatives (e.g., options, futures, forward currency contracts, commodity-linked derivatives, interest rate swaps and total return swaps) (i) for hedging purposes; (ii) for risk management; (iii) for non-hedging purposes to seek to enhance potential gains; or (iv) as a substitute for direct investment in a particular asset class or to keep cash on hand to meet shareholder redemptions.

## MAIN RISKS

There are several risk factors that could hurt the fund's performance, cause you to lose money or cause the fund's performance to trail that of other investments. The fund may not achieve its investment objective, and is not intended to be a complete investment program. An investment in the fund is not a deposit of a bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

Because the fund invests in one or more underlying funds, the risks listed here include those of the underlying funds as well as those of the fund itself. Therefore, in these risk descriptions the term "the fund" may refer to the fund itself, one or more underlying funds, or both.

**Asset allocation risk.** Portfolio management may favor one or more types of investments or assets that underperform other investments, assets, or securities markets as a whole. Anytime portfolio management buys or sells securities in order to adjust the fund's asset allocation this will increase portfolio turnover and generate transaction costs.

**Security selection risk.** The securities in the fund's portfolio may decline in value. Portfolio management could be wrong in its analysis of industries, companies, economic trends, the relative attractiveness of different securities or other matters.

**Stock market risk.** When stock prices fall, you should expect the value of your investment to fall as well. Stock prices can be hurt by poor management on the part of the stock's issuer, shrinking product demand and other business risks. These may affect single companies as well as groups of companies. The market as a whole may not favor the types of investments the fund makes, which could adversely affect a stock's price, regardless of how well the company performs, or the fund's ability to sell a stock at an attractive price. There is a chance that stock prices overall will decline because stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising and falling prices. Events in the US and global financial markets, including actions taken by the US Federal Reserve or foreign central banks to stimulate or stabilize economic growth, may at times result in unusually high market volatility which could negatively affect performance. High market volatility may also result from significant shifts in momentum of one or more specific stocks due to unusual increases or decreases in trading activity. Momentum can change quickly, and securities subject to shifts in momentum may be more volatile than the market as a whole and returns on such securities may drop precipitously. To the extent that the fund invests in a particular geographic region, capitalization or sector, the fund's performance may be affected by the general performance of that region, capitalization or sector.

**Market disruption risk.** Geopolitical and other events, including war, terrorism, economic uncertainty, trade disputes, public health crises and related geopolitical events have led, and in the future may lead, to disruptions in the US and world economies and markets, which may increase financial market volatility and have significant adverse direct or indirect effects on the fund and its investments. Market disruptions could cause the fund to lose money, experience significant redemptions, and encounter operational difficulties. Although multiple asset classes may be affected by a market disruption, the duration and effects may not be the same for all types of assets.

Recent market disruption events include the pandemic spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, and the significant uncertainty, market volatility, decreased economic and other activity and increased government activity that it has caused. Specifically, COVID-19 has led to significant death and morbidity, and concerns about its further spread have resulted in the closing of schools and non-essential businesses, cancellations, shelter-in-place orders, lower consumer spending in certain sectors, social distancing, bans on large social gatherings and travel, quarantines, government economic stimulus measures, reduced productivity, rapid increases in unemployment, increased demand for and strain on government

and medical resources, border closings and global trade and supply chain interruptions, among others. The full effects, duration and costs of the COVID-19 pandemic are impossible to predict, and the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to evolve. The pandemic may affect certain countries, industries, economic sectors, companies and investment products more than others, may exacerbate existing economic, political, or social tensions and may increase the probability of an economic recession or depression. The fund and its investments may be adversely affected by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a prolonged pandemic may result in the fund and its service providers experiencing operational difficulties in coordinating a remote workforce and implementing their business continuity plans, among others.

The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic may magnify the impact of each of the other risks described in this "MAIN RISKS" section and may increase volatility in one or more markets in which the fund invests leading to the potential for greater losses for the fund.

**Underlying funds risk.** Because the fund may invest in underlying funds, the fund's performance will be directly related to the performance of the underlying funds. To the extent that a given underlying fund underperforms its benchmark or its fund peer group, it may contribute to underperformance by the fund.

In addition, the fund indirectly pays a portion of the expenses incurred by the underlying funds, which lowers the fund's returns. To the extent that the fund's allocations favor underlying funds with higher expenses, the overall cost of investing paid by the fund will be higher.

The fund is also subject to the risk that an underlying fund may pay a redemption request made by the fund, wholly or partly, by an in-kind distribution of portfolio securities rather than in cash. The fund may hold such portfolio securities until the Advisor determines to dispose of them, and the fund will bear the market risk of the securities received in the redemption until their disposition. Upon disposing of such portfolio securities, the fund may experience increased brokerage commissions.

**Concentration risk – underlying funds.** Any underlying fund that concentrates in a particular segment of the market (such as commodities, infrastructure-related companies and real estate securities) will generally be more volatile than a fund that invests more broadly. Any market price movements, regulatory or technological changes, or economic conditions affecting the particular market segment in which the underlying fund concentrates will have a significant impact on the underlying fund's performance.

While the fund does not concentrate in a particular industry, it may concentrate in an underlying DWS fund, and there is risk for the fund with respect to the aggregation of holdings of underlying funds. The aggregation of

holdings of underlying funds may result in the fund having increased exposure to a particular industry or group of industries, or to a single issuer. Such increased exposure to industries or issuers may have the effect of increasing the volatility of the fund's returns. The fund does not control the investments of the underlying funds, and any increased exposure to industries or issuers occurs as a result of the underlying funds following their own investment objectives and strategies. However, to the extent practicable, the fund will consider whether an underlying fund's investments may create significant exposure to a particular industry or group of industries.

**Non-diversification risk – underlying funds.** While the fund is diversified, certain underlying funds may be classified as non-diversified under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. This means that the underlying fund may invest in securities of relatively few issuers. Thus, the performance of one or a small number of portfolio holdings can affect overall performance of the underlying fund.

**ETF risk.** Because ETFs trade on a securities exchange, their shares may trade at a premium or discount to their net asset value. An ETF is subject to the risks of the assets in which it invests as well as those of the investment strategy it follows. The fund may incur brokerage costs when it buys and sells shares of an ETF and also bears its proportionate share of the ETF's fees and expenses, which are passed through to ETF shareholders.

Fees and expenses incurred by an ETF may include trading costs, operating expenses, licensing fees, trustee fees and marketing expenses. With an index ETF, these costs may contribute to the ETF not fully matching the performance of the index it is designed to track.

**ETN risk.** Because ETNs are senior, unsecured, unsubordinated debt securities of an issuer (typically a bank or bank holding company), ETNs are subject to the credit risk of the issuer and may lose value due to a downgrade in the issuer's credit rating. The returns of an ETN are linked to the performance of an underlying instrument (typically an index), minus applicable fees. ETNs typically do not make periodic interest payments and principal typically is not protected. The value of an ETN may fluctuate based on factors such as time to maturity, level of supply and demand for the ETN, volatility and lack of liquidity in the underlying assets, changes in the applicable interest rates, and economic, legal, political or geographic events that affect the underlying assets. The fund bears its proportionate share of any fees and expenses borne by the ETN. Because ETNs trade on a securities exchange, their shares may trade at a premium or discount to their net asset value.

**Foreign investment risk.** The fund faces the risks inherent in foreign investing. Adverse political, economic or social developments, as well as US and foreign government actions such as the imposition of tariffs, economic and trade sanctions or embargoes, could undermine the

value of the fund's investments, prevent the fund from realizing the full value of its investments or prevent the fund from selling securities it holds. In June 2016, citizens of the United Kingdom approved a referendum to leave the European Union (EU) and in March 2017, the United Kingdom initiated the formal process of withdrawing from the EU. On January 31, 2020, the United Kingdom officially withdrew from the EU pursuant to a withdrawal agreement, providing for a transition period in which the United Kingdom negotiated and finalized a trade deal with the EU, the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (the Trade Agreement), provisionally applied effective January 1, 2021. As a result, as of January 1, 2021 the United Kingdom is no longer part of the EU customs union and single market, nor is it subject to EU policies and international agreements. Among other things, the Trade Agreement provides for zero tariffs and zero quotas on all goods that comply with appropriate rules of origin and establishes the treatment and level of access the United Kingdom and EU have agreed to grant each other's service suppliers and investors. In addition to trade in goods and services and investment, the Trade Agreement also covers digital trade, intellectual property, public procurement, aviation and road transport, energy, fisheries, social security coordination, law enforcement and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, thematic cooperation and participation in EU programs. Even with the Trade Agreement in place, the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU may create new barriers to trade in goods and services and to cross-border mobility and exchanges, including with respect to trade in financial services which is not comprehensively addressed in the Trade Agreement and remains subject to negotiation between the United Kingdom and the EU. The long-term impact of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU is still unknown and could have adverse economic and political effects on the United Kingdom, the EU and its member countries, and the global economy, including financial markets and asset valuations.

Financial reporting standards for companies based in foreign markets differ from those in the US. Additionally, foreign securities markets generally are smaller and less liquid than US markets. To the extent that the fund invests in non-US dollar denominated foreign securities, changes in currency exchange rates may affect the US dollar value of foreign securities or the income or gain received on these securities. In addition, because non-US markets may be open on days when the fund does not price its shares, the value of the securities in the fund's portfolio may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or sell the fund's shares.

Foreign governments may restrict investment by foreigners, limit withdrawal of trading profit or currency from the country, restrict currency exchange or seize foreign investments. The investments of the fund may also be subject to foreign withholding or other taxes. Foreign brokerage commissions and other fees are generally

higher than those for US investments, and the transactions and custody of foreign assets may involve delays in payment, delivery or recovery of money or investments.

Foreign markets can have liquidity risks beyond those typical of US markets. Because foreign exchanges generally are smaller and less liquid than US exchanges, buying and selling foreign investments can be more difficult and costly. Relatively small transactions can sometimes materially affect the price and availability of securities. In certain situations, it may become virtually impossible to sell an investment in an orderly fashion at a price that approaches portfolio management's estimate of its value. For the same reason, it may at times be difficult to value the fund's foreign investments.

**Emerging markets risk.** Foreign investment risks are greater in emerging markets than in developed markets. Investments in emerging markets are often considered speculative.

Emerging markets countries typically have economic and political systems that are less developed, and can be expected to be less stable than developed markets. For example, the economies of such countries can be subject to rapid and unpredictable rates of inflation or deflation.

Applicable regulatory, accounting, auditing and financial reporting and recordkeeping standards may be less rigorous in emerging markets countries and there may be significant differences between financial statements prepared in accordance with emerging markets countries' accounting standards and practices and those prepared in accordance with international accounting standards. In particular, the assets and profits appearing on the financial statements of an emerging market country's issuer may not reflect its financial position or results of operations in the way they would be reflected had such financial statements been prepared in accordance with US Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The quality of audits in emerging markets countries may be unreliable. Consequently, the fund may not be provided the same degree of protection or information as would generally apply in developed countries and the fund may be exposed to significant losses.

There is also substantially less publicly available information about emerging market issuers than there is about issuers in developed countries. Therefore, disclosure of certain material information may not be made, and less information may be available to the fund and other investors than would be the case if the fund's investments were restricted to securities of issuers in developed countries.

**Currency risk.** Changes in currency exchange rates may affect the value of the fund's investments and the fund's share price. The value of currencies are influenced by a variety of factors, that include: interest rates, national debt levels and trade deficits, changes in balances of payments and trade, domestic and foreign interest and inflation rates, global or regional political, economic or financial

events, monetary policies of governments, actual or potential government intervention, global energy prices, political instability and government monetary policies and the buying or selling of currency by a country's government. Investments in foreign currencies are subject to the risk that those currencies will decline in value relative to the US dollar or, in the case of hedged positions, that the US dollar will decline relative to the currency being hedged. Currency exchange rates can be volatile and can change quickly and unpredictably, thereby impacting the value of the fund's investments.

**Interest rate strategies risk.** The success of the interest rate futures strategies depends, in part, on the effectiveness and implementation of portfolio management's proprietary strategies. If portfolio management's analysis proves to be incorrect, losses to the fund may be significant. The risk of loss is heightened during periods of rapid rises in interest rates.

**Currency strategies risk.** The success of the currency strategies depends, in part, on the effectiveness and implementation of portfolio management's proprietary strategies. If portfolio management's analysis proves to be incorrect, losses to the fund may be significant and may substantially exceed the intended level of market exposure for the currency strategies.

As part of the currency strategies, the fund could have substantial exposure to the risks of non-US currency markets. Foreign currency rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time for a number of reasons, including changes in interest rates and economic or political developments in the US or abroad. As a result, the fund's exposure to foreign currencies could cause lower returns or even losses to the fund. Although portfolio management seeks to limit these risks through the aggregation of various long and short positions, there can be no assurance that it will be able to do so.

**Interest rate risk.** When interest rates rise, prices of debt securities generally decline. The longer the duration of the fund's debt securities, the more sensitive the fund will be to interest rate changes. (As a general rule, a 1% rise in interest rates means a 1% fall in value for every year of duration.) Recent and potential future changes in monetary policy made by central banks or governments are likely to affect the level of interest rates. Rising interest rates may prompt redemptions from the fund, which may force the fund to sell investments at a time when it is not advantageous to do so, which could result in losses. The fund may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates following periods of low rates, including the current low rate period. In addition, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as with other serious economic disruptions, governmental authorities and regulators are enacting significant fiscal and monetary policy changes, including providing direct capital infusions into companies, creating new monetary programs and lowering interest rates considerably. If these actions are unexpectedly or suddenly

reversed or are ineffective in achieving their desired outcomes, the fund could be adversely affected by periods of heightened volatility and uncertainty.

London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), the benchmark rate for certain floating rate securities, is expected to be phased out by the end of 2021, although the US Dollar LIBOR phase out may extend past 2021 for certain existing contracts. The fund or the instruments in which the fund invests may be adversely affected by the phase out by, among other things, increased volatility or illiquidity. There remains uncertainty regarding the future use of LIBOR and the nature of any replacement reference rate and, accordingly, it is difficult to predict the impact to the fund of the transition away from LIBOR.

**Inflation-indexed bond risk.** Any rise in interest rates may cause inflation-indexed bonds to decline in price, hurting fund performance. If interest rates rise due to reasons other than inflation, the fund's investment in these securities may not be fully protected from the effects of rising interest rates. The fund may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates following periods of low rates, including the current low rate period. The performance of any bonds that are indexed to non-US rates of inflation may be higher or lower than those indexed to US inflation rates. The fund's actual returns could fail to match the real rate of inflation.

**Credit risk.** The fund's performance could be hurt if an issuer of a debt security suffers an adverse change in financial condition that results in the issuer not making timely payments of interest or principal, a security downgrade or an inability to meet a financial obligation. Credit risk is greater for lower-rated securities.

Because the issuers of high-yield debt securities, or junk bonds (debt securities rated below the fourth highest credit rating category), may be in uncertain financial health, the prices of their debt securities can be more vulnerable to bad economic news, or even the expectation of bad news, than investment-grade debt securities. Credit risk for high-yield securities is greater than for higher-rated securities.

For securities that rely on third-party guarantors to support their credit quality, the same risks may apply if the financial condition of the guarantor deteriorates or the guarantor ceases to insure securities. Because guarantors may insure many types of securities, including subprime mortgage bonds and other high-risk bonds, their financial condition could deteriorate as a result of events that have little or no connection to securities owned by the fund.

Some securities issued by US government agencies or instrumentalities are backed by the full faith and credit of the US government. Other securities that are supported only by the credit of the issuing agency or instrumentality are subject to greater credit risk than securities backed by the full faith and credit of the US government. This is because the US government might provide financial

support, but has no obligation to do so, if there is a potential or actual loss of principal or failure to make interest payments.

**High yield debt securities risk.** High yield debt securities, or junk bonds, are generally regarded as speculative with respect to the issuer's continuing ability to meet principal and interest payments. High yield debt securities' total return and yield may generally be expected to fluctuate more than the total return and yield of investment-grade debt securities. A real or perceived economic downturn or an increase in market interest rates could cause a decline in the value of high yield debt securities, result in increased redemptions and/or result in increased portfolio turnover, which could result in a decline in net asset value of the fund, reduce liquidity for certain investments and/or increase costs. High yield debt securities are often thinly traded and can be more difficult to sell and value accurately than investment-grade debt securities as there may be no established secondary market. Investments in high yield debt securities could increase liquidity risk for the fund. In addition, the market for high yield debt securities can experience sudden and sharp volatility which is generally associated more with investments in stocks.

**Market risk.** The market value of the securities in which the fund invests may be impacted by the prospects of individual issuers, particular sectors or governments and/or general economic conditions throughout the world due to increasingly interconnected global economies and financial markets.

**Senior loans risk.** The fund invests in senior loans that may not be rated by a rating agency, registered with the SEC or any state securities commission or listed on any national securities exchange. Therefore, there may be less publicly available information about them than for registered or exchange-listed securities. The Advisor relies on its own evaluation of the creditworthiness of borrowers, but will consider, and may rely in part on, analyses performed by others. As a result, the fund is particularly dependent on the analytical abilities of the Advisor.

Senior loans may not be considered "securities," and purchasers, such as the fund, therefore may not be entitled to rely on the anti-fraud and misrepresentation protections of the federal securities laws. Senior loans involve other risks, including credit risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk, and prepayment and extension risk.

Because affiliates of the Advisor may participate in the primary and secondary market for senior loans, limitations under applicable law may restrict the fund's ability to participate in a restructuring of a senior loan or to acquire some senior loans, or affect the timing or price of such acquisition. The fund also may be in possession of material non-public information about a borrower as a result of its ownership of a senior loan. Because of prohibitions on trading in securities of issuers while in possession of such information, the fund might be unable to enter into a transaction in a publicly-traded security of that borrower when it

would otherwise be advantageous to do so. If the Advisor wishes to invest in the publicly traded securities of a borrower, it may not have access to material non-public information regarding the borrower to which other lenders have access.

Senior loans may have longer trade settlement periods than other types of investments which could result in the fund not receiving the proceeds from a sale of a senior loan for an extended period after such sale. To the extent that other sources of liquidity are unavailable, the uncertainty of trade settlement periods could lead to shortfalls in cash needed to handle fund redemptions, especially during periods of heavy redemption activity.

**Prepayment and extension risk.** When interest rates fall, issuers of high interest debt obligations may pay off the debts earlier than expected (prepayment risk), and the fund may have to reinvest the proceeds at lower yields. When interest rates rise, issuers of lower interest debt obligations may pay off the debts later than expected (extension risk), thus keeping the fund's assets tied up in lower interest debt obligations. Ultimately, any unexpected behavior in interest rates could increase the volatility of the fund's share price and yield and could hurt fund performance.

**Commodities-related investments risk.** The commodities-linked derivative instruments in which the fund invests tend to be more volatile than many other types of securities and may subject the fund to special risks that do not apply to all derivatives transactions. For example, the value of commodity-linked derivative instruments may be affected by changes in overall market movements, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates, or factors affecting a particular industry or commodity, such as drought, floods, weather, livestock disease, changes in storage costs, embargoes, tariffs, policies of commodity cartels and international economic, political and regulatory developments.

The value of a commodity-linked derivative investment generally is based upon the price movements of a physical commodity (such as energy, minerals, or agricultural products), a futures contract, swap or commodity index, or other economic variables linked to changes in the value of commodities or the commodities markets. A liquid secondary market may not exist for the types of commodity-linked derivative instruments the fund buys, which may make it difficult for the fund to sell them at an acceptable price. To the extent the fund intends to qualify as a regulated investment company under the Internal Revenue Code, the fund's ability to gain exposure to commodity-linked instruments may be limited.

**Real estate securities risk.** Real estate companies, including REITs, can be affected by the risks associated with direct ownership of real estate, such as general or local economic conditions, decreases in real estate value, increases in property taxes and operating expenses, liabilities or losses due to environmental problems, delays in

completion of construction, falling rents (whether due to poor demand, increased competition, overbuilding, or limitations on rents), zoning changes, rising interest rates, lack of credit, failure of borrowers to repay loans and losses from casualty or condemnation. Real estate companies may be adversely affected by the recent pandemic spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, which has led to decreased economic activity, widespread business and other closures and rapid increases in unemployment that may cause increased defaults on rent, loans or other obligations and increase the probability of an economic recession or depression. In addition, many real estate companies, including REITs, utilize leverage which increases investment risk. Highly leveraged real estate companies are particularly vulnerable to the effects of an economic downturn (including an economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic). Further, REITs are dependent upon management skills, may not be diversified and may have relatively small market capitalizations, which can increase volatility. REITs must satisfy certain requirements in order to qualify for favorable tax treatment under applicable tax laws, and a failure to qualify could adversely affect the value of the REIT. By investing in REITs through a fund, a shareholder will bear expenses of the REITs in addition to expenses of the fund and will not be entitled to the federal income tax deduction for qualified REIT dividends available to noncorporate investors that own REITs directly unless certain holding period and other requirements are satisfied.

**Infrastructure-related companies risk.** Infrastructure-related companies can be affected by various factors, including general or local economic conditions and political developments, general changes in market sentiment towards infrastructure assets, high interest costs in connection with capital construction and improvement programs, difficulty in raising capital, costs associated with compliance with changes in regulations, regulation or intervention by various government authorities, including government regulation of rates, inexperience with and potential losses resulting from the deregulation of a particular industry or sector, changes in tax laws, environmental problems, commodities markets disruptions (e.g., significant decreases over short time periods in the price of oil), technological changes, surplus capacity, casualty losses, threat of terrorist attacks and changes in interest rates. Infrastructure-related companies may be adversely affected by the recent pandemic spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, which may cause decreased demand for infrastructure projects and increased delays or cancellations of infrastructure projects. The pandemic may affect certain types of infrastructure assets more than others (e.g., airports, toll roads, ports and midstream oil infrastructure companies). A company is considered to be an infrastructure-related company if at least 50% of its non-cash assets are infrastructure assets or 50% of its gross income or net profits are derived,

directly or indirectly, from the ownership, management, construction, operation, utilization or financing of infrastructure assets.

**Focus risk.** To the extent that the fund focuses its investments in particular industries, asset classes or sectors of the economy, any market price movements, regulatory or technological changes, or economic conditions affecting companies in those industries, asset classes or sectors may have a significant impact on the fund's performance.

**Regional focus risk.** Focusing investments in a single country or few countries, or regions, involves increased currency, political, regulatory and other risks. Market swings in such a targeted country, countries or regions are likely to have a greater effect on fund performance than they would in a more geographically diversified fund.

**Dividend-paying stock risk.** As a category, dividend-paying stocks may underperform non-dividend paying stocks (and the stock market as a whole) over any period of time. In addition, issuers of dividend-paying stocks may have discretion to defer or stop paying dividends for a stated period of time, or an anticipated acceleration of dividends may not occur as a result of, among other things, a sharp rise in interest rates or an economic downturn. In response to the outbreak of COVID-19, the US Government passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act in March 2020, which established loan programs for certain issuers impacted by COVID-19. Among other conditions, borrowers under these loan programs are generally restricted from paying dividends. If the dividend-paying stocks held by the fund reduce or stop paying dividends, the fund's ability to generate income may be adversely affected.

**Small company risk.** Small company stocks tend to be more volatile than medium-sized or large company stocks. Because stock analysts are less likely to follow small companies, less information about them is available to investors. Industry-wide reversals may have a greater impact on small companies, since they may lack the financial resources of larger companies. Small company stocks are typically less liquid than large company stocks.

**Borrowing risk.** Borrowing creates leverage. It also adds to fund expenses and at times could effectively force the fund to sell securities when it otherwise might not want to.

To the extent that the fund borrows money and then invests that money, it creates leverage, in that the fund is exposed to investment risks through the securities it has pledged for collateral as well as through the investments it purchases with the money borrowed against that collateral. This leverage means that changes in the prices of securities the fund owns will have a greater effect on the share price of the fund. The fund incurs interest expense and other costs when it borrows money; therefore, unless returns on assets acquired with borrowed funds are greater than the costs of borrowing, performance will be

lower than it would have been without any borrowing. When the fund borrows money it must comply with certain asset coverage requirements, which at times may require the fund to dispose of some of its portfolio holdings even though it may be disadvantageous to do so at that time.

**Counterparty risk.** A financial institution or other counterparty with whom the fund does business, or that underwrites, distributes or guarantees any investments or contracts that the fund owns or is otherwise exposed to, may decline in financial health and become unable to honor its commitments. This could cause losses for the fund or could delay the return or delivery of collateral or other assets to the fund.

**Convertible securities risk.** The market value of a convertible security performs like that of a regular debt security; that is, when interest rates rise, the price of a convertible security generally declines. In addition, convertible securities are subject to the risk that the issuer will not be able to pay interest or dividends when due, and their price may change based on changes in the issuer's financial condition. Because a convertible security derives a portion of its value from the common stock into which it may be converted, market and issuer risks that apply to the underlying common stock could impact the price of the convertible security.

**Preferred stock risk.** Preferred stock generally has a preference as to dividends and liquidation over an issuer's common stock but ranks junior to debt securities in an issuer's capital structure. Preferred stock is subject to many of the risks associated with debt securities, including interest rate risk. In addition, preferred stock may not pay a dividend, an issuer may suspend payment of dividends on preferred stock at any time, and in certain situations an issuer may call or redeem its preferred stock or convert it to common stock.

**Investment style risk.** To the extent that the fund maintains a style-neutral portfolio, either growth funds or value funds may outperform the fund during any time period when one or the other is in favor. To the extent that the fund's portfolio favors either growth or value stocks, it may perform less well than if it had remained style-neutral if the style it favors underperforms the overall market.

**Medium-sized company risk.** Medium-sized company stocks tend to be more volatile than large company stocks. Because stock analysts are less likely to follow medium-sized companies, less information about them is available to investors. Industry-wide reversals may have a greater impact on medium-sized companies, since they lack the financial resources of larger companies. Medium-sized company stocks are typically less liquid than large company stocks.

**IPO risk.** Prices of securities bought in an initial public offering (IPO) may rise and fall rapidly, often because of investor perceptions rather than economic reasons. To the

extent a mutual fund is small in size, its IPO investments may have a significant impact on its performance since they may represent a larger proportion of the fund's overall portfolio as compared to the portfolio of a larger fund.

**Liquidity risk.** In certain situations, it may be difficult or impossible to sell an investment and/or the fund may sell certain investments at a price or time that is not advantageous in order to meet redemption requests or other cash needs. Unusual market conditions, such as an unusually high volume of redemptions or other similar conditions could increase liquidity risk for the fund.

This risk can be ongoing for any security that does not trade actively or in large volumes, for any security that trades primarily on smaller markets, and for investments that typically trade only among a limited number of large investors (such as certain types of derivatives or restricted securities). In unusual market conditions, even normally liquid securities may be affected by a degree of liquidity risk (i.e., if the number and capacity of traditional market participants is reduced). This may affect only certain securities or an overall securities market.

**Pricing risk.** If market conditions make it difficult to value some investments, the fund may value these investments using more subjective methods, such as fair value pricing. In such cases, the value determined for an investment could be different from the value realized upon such investment's sale. As a result, you could pay more than the market value when buying fund shares or receive less than the market value when selling fund shares.

Secondary markets may be subject to irregular trading activity, wide bid/ask spreads and extended trade settlement periods, which may prevent the fund from being able to realize full value and thus sell a security for its full valuation. This could cause a material decline in the fund's net asset value.

**Tax status risk.** Income and gains from commodities or certain commodity-linked derivatives do not constitute "qualifying income" to the fund for purposes of qualification as a "regulated investment company" for federal income tax purposes. If the fund's nonqualifying income exceeds 10% of the fund's gross income, the fund may fail to qualify as a regulated investment company and be subject to a tax at the fund level.

In addition, if DWS Alternative Asset Allocation VIP fails to qualify as a RIC, a separate account underlying a variable life insurance or variable annuity contract that invests in shares of the fund will be required to treat the fund (or if an underlying fund fails to qualify as a RIC, the fund's investment in the underlying fund) as a single investment for purposes of the diversification requirements of section 817(h) of the Code. If a separate account fails to satisfy the diversification requirements of Code section 817(h), income allocable to the contracts associated with the separate account will be taxed currently for federal income

tax purposes to the holders of such contracts and income from prior periods with respect to such contracts also could be taxable, most likely in the year of the failure.

**Securities lending risk.** Any decline in the value of a portfolio security that occurs while the security is out on loan is borne by the fund and will adversely affect performance. Also, there may be delays in recovery of securities loaned or even a loss of rights in the collateral should the borrower of the securities fail financially while holding the security.

**Derivatives risk.** Risks associated with derivatives may include the risk that the derivative is not well correlated with the security, index or currency to which it relates; the risk that derivatives may result in losses or missed opportunities; the risk that the fund will be unable to sell the derivative because of an illiquid secondary market; the risk that a counterparty is unwilling or unable to meet its obligation; and the risk that the derivative transaction could expose the fund to the effects of leverage, which could increase the fund's exposure to the market and magnify potential losses.

There is no guarantee that derivatives, to the extent employed, will have the intended effect, and their use could cause lower returns or even losses to the fund. The use of derivatives by the fund to hedge risk may reduce the opportunity for gain by offsetting the positive effect of favorable price movements.

**Subsidiary risk.** Certain underlying funds may invest in a wholly-owned subsidiary of the underlying fund formed under the laws of the Cayman Islands (the Subsidiary) that is not registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and therefore it is not subject to all of the investor protections of the Investment Company Act of 1940. A regulatory change in the US or the Cayman Islands that impacts the Subsidiary or how the underlying fund invests in the Subsidiary, such as a change in tax law, could adversely affect the underlying fund and the fund. By investing in the Subsidiary, the underlying funds and the fund are exposed to the risks associated with the Subsidiary's investments, which generally include the risks of investing in derivatives and commodities-related investments.

**Operational and technology risk.** Cyber-attacks, disruptions or failures that affect the fund's service providers or counterparties, issuers of securities held by the fund, or other market participants may adversely affect the fund and its shareholders, including by causing losses for the fund or impairing fund operations. For example, the fund's or its service providers' assets or sensitive or confidential information may be misappropriated, data may be corrupted and operations may be disrupted (e.g., cyber-attacks, operational failures or broader disruptions may cause the release of private shareholder information or confidential fund information, interfere with the processing of shareholder transactions, impact the ability to calculate the fund's net asset value and impede trading). Market

events and disruptions also may trigger a volume of transactions that overloads current information technology and communication systems and processes, impacting the ability to conduct the fund's operations.

While the fund and its service providers may establish business continuity and other plans and processes that seek to address the possibility of and fallout from cyber-attacks, disruptions or failures, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems, including that they do not apply to third parties, such as fund counterparties, issuers of securities held by the fund or other market participants, as well as the possibility that certain risks have not been identified or that unknown threats may emerge in the future and there is no assurance that such plans and processes will be effective. Among other situations, disruptions (for example, pandemics or health crises) that cause prolonged periods of remote work or significant employee absences at the fund's service providers could impact the ability to conduct the fund's operations. In addition, the fund cannot directly control any cybersecurity plans and systems put in place by its service providers, fund counterparties, issuers of securities held by the fund or other market participants.

Cyber-attacks may include unauthorized attempts by third parties to improperly access, modify, disrupt the operations of, or prevent access to the systems of the fund's service providers or counterparties, issuers of securities held by the fund or other market participants or data within them. In addition, power or communications outages, acts of god, information technology equipment malfunctions, operational errors, and inaccuracies within software or data processing systems may also disrupt business operations or impact critical data.

Cyber-attacks, disruptions, or failures may adversely affect the fund and its shareholders or cause reputational damage and subject the fund to regulatory fines, litigation costs, penalties or financial losses, reimbursement or other compensation costs, and/or additional compliance costs. In addition, cyber-attacks, disruptions, or failures involving a fund counterparty could affect such counterparty's ability to meet its obligations to the fund, which may result in losses to the fund and its shareholders. Similar types of operational and technology risks are also present for issuers of securities held by the fund, which could have material adverse consequences for such issuers, and may cause the fund's investments to lose value. Furthermore, as a result of cyber-attacks, disruptions, or failures, an exchange or market may close or issue trading halts on specific securities or the entire market, which may result in the fund being, among other things, unable to buy or sell certain securities or financial instruments or unable to accurately price its investments.

For example, the fund relies on various sources to calculate its NAV. Therefore, the fund is subject to certain operational risks associated with reliance on third party service providers and data sources. NAV calculation may

be impacted by operational risks arising from factors such as failures in systems and technology. Such failures may result in delays in the calculation of the fund's NAV and/or the inability to calculate NAV over extended time periods. The fund may be unable to recover any losses associated with such failures.

## **OTHER POLICIES AND RISKS**

While the previous pages describe the main points of the fund's strategy and risks, there are a few other matters to know about:

- Although major changes tend to be infrequent, the fund's Board could change the fund's investment objective without seeking shareholder approval.
- When, in the Advisor's opinion, it is advisable to adopt a temporary defensive position because of unusual and adverse or other market conditions, up to 100% of the fund's assets may be held in cash or invested in money market securities or other short-term investments. Short-term investments consist of (1) foreign and domestic obligations of sovereign governments and their agencies and instrumentalities, authorities and political subdivisions; (2) other short-term rated debt securities or, if unrated, determined to be of comparable quality in the opinion of the Advisor; (3) commercial paper; (4) bank obligations, including negotiable certificates of deposit, time deposits and bankers' acceptances; and (5) repurchase agreements. Short-term investments may also include shares of money market mutual funds. To the extent the fund invests in such instruments, the fund will not be pursuing its investment objective. However, portfolio management may choose to not use these strategies for various reasons, even in volatile market conditions.
- Portfolio management measures credit quality at the time it buys securities, using independent rating agencies or, for unrated securities, its own judgment. All securities must meet the credit quality standards applied by portfolio management at the time they are purchased. If a security's credit quality changes, portfolio management will decide what to do with the security, based on its assessment of what would most benefit the fund.
- From time to time, the fund may have a concentration of shareholder accounts holding a significant percentage of shares outstanding. Investment activities of these shareholders could have a material impact on the fund.
- Your fund assets may be at risk of being transferred to the appropriate state if you fail to maintain a valid address and/or if certain activity does not occur in your account within the time specified by state abandoned property law. Contact your financial representative or the transfer agent for additional information.

■ Shareholders of the fund (which may include affiliated and/or non-affiliated registered investment companies that invest in the fund) may make relatively large redemptions or purchases of fund shares. These transactions may cause the fund to have to sell securities or invest additional cash, as the case may be. While it is impossible to predict the overall impact of these transactions over time, there could be adverse effects on the fund's performance to the extent that the fund may be required to sell securities or invest cash at times when it would not otherwise do so. These transactions could adversely impact the fund's liquidity, accelerate the realization of taxable income if sales of securities resulted in capital gains or other income and increase transaction costs, which may adversely affect the fund's performance. These transactions could also adversely impact the fund's ability to implement its investment strategies and pursue its investment objective, and, as a result, a larger portion of the fund's assets may be held in cash or cash equivalents. In addition, large redemptions could significantly reduce the fund's assets, which may result in an increase in the fund's expense ratio on account of expenses being spread over a smaller asset base and/or the loss of fee breakpoints.

### **For More Information**

This prospectus doesn't tell you about every policy or risk of investing in the fund. If you want more information on the fund's allowable securities and investment practices and the characteristics and risks of each one, you may want to request a copy of the Statement of Additional Information (the back cover tells you how to do this).

Keep in mind that there is no assurance that the fund will achieve its investment objective.

A complete list of the fund's portfolio holdings as of the month-end is posted on [dws.com](http://dws.com) on or after the last day of the following month. More frequent posting of portfolio holdings information may be made from time to time on [dws.com](http://dws.com). The posted portfolio holdings information is available by fund and generally remains accessible at least until the date on which the fund files its Form N-CSR or publicly available Form N-PORT with the SEC for the period that includes the date as of which the posted information is current. In addition, the fund's top ten equity holdings and other fund information is posted on [dws.com](http://dws.com) as of the calendar quarter-end on or after the 10th calendar day following quarter-end. The fund's Statement of Additional Information includes a description of the fund's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the fund's portfolio holdings.

## **WHO MANAGES AND OVERSEES THE FUND**

### **The Investment Advisor**

DWS Investment Management Americas, Inc. ("DIMA" or the "Advisor"), with headquarters at 875 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022, is the investment advisor for the

fund. Under the oversight of the Board, the Advisor, or the subadvisor, makes investment decisions, buys and sells securities for the fund and conducts research that leads to these purchase and sale decisions. The Advisor is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of DWS Group GmbH & Co. KGaA ("DWS Group"), a separate, publicly-listed financial services firm that is an indirect, majority-owned subsidiary of Deutsche Bank AG. The Advisor and its predecessors have more than 90 years of experience managing mutual funds and provide a full range of global investment advisory services to institutional and retail clients.

DWS represents the asset management activities conducted by DWS Group or any of its subsidiaries, including DIMA, other affiliated investment advisors and DWS Distributors, Inc. ("DDI" or the "Distributor"). DWS is a global organization that offers a wide range of investing expertise and resources, including hundreds of portfolio managers and analysts and an office network that reaches the world's major investment centers. This well-resourced global investment platform brings together a wide variety of experience and investment insight across industries, regions, asset classes and investing styles.

The Advisor may utilize the resources of its global investment platform to provide investment management services through branch offices or affiliates located outside the US. In some cases, the Advisor may also utilize its branch offices or affiliates located in the US or outside the US to perform certain services, such as trade execution, trade matching and settlement, or various administrative, back-office or other services. To the extent services are performed outside the US, such activity may be subject to both US and foreign regulation. It is possible that the jurisdiction in which the Advisor or its affiliate performs such services may impose restrictions or limitations on portfolio transactions that are different from, and in addition to, those that apply in the US.

The Advisor earns fees at varying rates for providing services to the underlying DWS funds. It may therefore have a conflict of interest in selecting the underlying DWS funds and in determining whether to invest in an unaffiliated mutual fund, ETF or a hedge fund, from which it will not receive any fees. However, the Advisor is a fiduciary to the fund and will select investments that it believes are appropriate to meet the fund's investment objective.

**Management Fee.** The Advisor receives a management fee from the fund. Below is the management rate paid by the fund for the most recent fiscal year, as a percentage of the fund's average daily net assets:

Fund Name	Fee Paid
DWS Alternative Asset Allocation VIP	0.10%*

\* Management fee has two components: (i) a fee on assets invested in exchange-traded funds and mutual funds; and (ii) a fee on assets not covered in (i) above ("Other Assets"). The Advisor currently intends to invest primarily in exchange-traded funds and mutual funds. However, in the future, the fund may invest a larger portion, or all, of its assets in Other Assets. If the fund's assets are entirely invested in Other Assets, the management fee would be 1.00% of average daily net assets. However, in such a situation, the Acquired Fund (Underlying Fund) Fees and Expenses are expected to decrease.

The following waivers are currently in effect:

The Advisor has contractually agreed to waive its fees and/or reimburse fund expenses through April 30, 2022 to the extent necessary to maintain the fund's total annual operating expenses (excluding certain expenses such as extraordinary expenses, taxes, brokerage and interest expenses) at 1.15% for Class B shares. The agreement may only be terminated with the consent of the fund's Board. Because acquired fund fees and expenses are presented as of the fund's most recent fiscal year end, individual shareholders may experience total operating expenses higher or lower than this expense cap depending upon when shares are redeemed and the fund's actual allocations to acquired funds.

A discussion regarding the basis for the Board renewal of the fund's investment management agreement and subadvisory agreement is contained in the most recent shareholder report for the annual period ended December 31 and the semi-annual period ended June 30 (see "Shareholder reports" on the back cover).

Under a separate administrative services agreement between the fund and the Advisor, the fund pays the Advisor a fee of 0.097% of the fund's average daily net assets for providing most of the fund's administrative services. The administrative services fee discussed above is included in the fees and expenses table under "Other expenses."

#### **Subadvisor for DWS Alternative Asset Allocation VIP**

RREEF America L.L.C. (RREEF), an investment advisor registered with the SEC, is located at 222 South Riverside Plaza, Chicago, Illinois 60606. RREEF is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of DWS Group. RREEF has provided real estate investment management services to institutional investors since 1975 across a diversified portfolio of industrial properties, office buildings, residential apartments and shopping centers. RREEF has also been an investment advisor of real estate securities since 1993.

To the extent that the fund invests directly in securities, RREEF provides investment advisory and management services to the portions of DWS Alternative Asset Allocation VIP's portfolio allocated to global real estate and global infrastructure securities. RREEF makes investment decisions, buys and sells securities for the fund and conducts research that leads to purchase and sale decisions. The Advisor pays a fee to RREEF pursuant to an investment subadvisory agreement between the Advisor and RREEF.

**Multi-Manager Structure.** The Advisor, subject to the approval of the Board, has ultimate responsibility to oversee any subadvisor to the fund and to recommend the hiring, termination and replacement of subadvisors. The fund and the Advisor have received an order from the SEC that permits the Advisor to appoint or replace certain subadvisors, to manage all or a portion of the fund's assets and enter into, amend or terminate a subadvisory agreement with certain subadvisors, in each case subject to the approval of the fund's Board but without obtaining shareholder approval ("multi-manager structure"). The multi-manager structure applies to subadvisors that are not affiliated with the fund or the Advisor ("nonaffiliated subadvisors"), as well as subadvisors that are indirect or direct, wholly-owned subsidiaries of the Advisor or that are indirect or direct, wholly-owned subsidiaries of the same company that, indirectly or directly, wholly owns the Advisor ("wholly-owned subadvisors"). Pursuant to the SEC order, the Advisor, with the approval of the fund's Board, has the discretion to terminate any subadvisor and allocate and reallocate the fund's assets among any other nonaffiliated subadvisors or wholly-owned subadvisors (including terminating a nonaffiliated subadvisor and replacing it with a wholly-owned subadvisor). The fund and the Advisor are subject to the conditions imposed by the SEC order, including the condition that within 90 days of hiring a new subadvisor pursuant to the multi-manager structure, the fund will provide shareholders with an information statement containing information about the new subadvisor. The shareholders of the fund have approved the multi-manager structure described herein.

## **MANAGEMENT**

### **DWS Alternative Asset Allocation VIP**

The following Portfolio Managers are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the fund.

**Dokyoung Lee, CFA, Regional Head of Multi Asset & Solutions.** Portfolio Manager of the fund. Began managing the fund in 2018.

- Joined DWS in 2018 with 24 years of industry experience; previously, worked as Head of Research and Portfolio Manager in the Global Multi-Asset Group at Oppenheimer Funds, and in research and portfolio management roles at AllianceBernstein.
- Americas Multi-Asset Head: New York.
- BSE, Princeton University.

**Darwei Kung, Head of Investment Strategy Liquid Real**

**Assets.** Portfolio Manager of the fund. Began managing the fund in 2013.

- Joined DWS in 2006; previously has worked as a Director, Engineering and Business Development at Calpoint LLC from 2001-2004.
- Portfolio Manager: New York.
- BS and MS, University of Washington, Seattle; MS and MBA, Carnegie Mellon University.

**Sophia Noisten, Portfolio Manager Multi Asset & Solutions.**

Portfolio Manager of the fund. Began managing the fund in 2020.

- Joined DWS in 2016. Prior to her current role, she completed the graduate training program and interned with the Multi-Asset group.
- Associate Portfolio Manager for Multi-Asset: New York.
- BS in Finance and International Business, Georgetown University.

The fund's Statement of Additional Information provides additional information about a portfolio manager's investments in the fund, a description of the portfolio management compensation structure and information regarding other accounts managed.

## Investing in the Fund

### **YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE FUND**

The information in this section may affect anyone who selects the fund as an investment option in a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy that offers the fund. These contracts and policies are described in separate prospectuses issued by participating insurance companies. The fund assumes no responsibility for such prospectuses.

For an analysis of the fees associated with an investment in the fund or similar funds, please refer to the current and hypothetical expense calculators for Variable Insurance Products which can be found at [fundsus.dws.com/EN/resources/calculators.jsp](https://fundsus.dws.com/EN/resources/calculators.jsp) (the Web site does not form a part of this prospectus).

### **POLICIES ABOUT TRANSACTIONS**

The information in this prospectus applies to Class B shares of the fund. The fund offers two classes of shares. Class B shares are offered at net asset value and are subject to 12b-1 fees.

Technically, the shareholders of Deutsche DWS Variable Series II are the participating insurance companies (the "insurance companies") that offer the fund as choices for holders of certain variable annuity contracts or variable life insurance policies (the "contract(s)") issued or sponsored by the insurance companies. The insurance companies may pass through voting rights to the contract owners. The fund does not sell shares directly to the public. The fund sells shares only to separate accounts of insurance companies. As a contract owner, your premium payments are allocated to the fund by the insurance companies in accordance with your contract. Please see the contract prospectus that accompanies this prospectus for a detailed explanation of your contract. Depending on context in the prospectus, the terms "you" and "yours" refer to either a contract owner or to the insurance company that issues the contract. References to "buying," "purchasing" or "holding" fund shares refer only to the insurance company, not the contract owner.

Please bear in mind that there are important differences between DWS retail funds available to any investor (a "Retail Fund") and those that are only available through certain financial institutions, such as insurance companies. For example, Retail Funds, unlike the fund, are not sold

to insurance company separate accounts to fund investments in variable insurance contracts. In addition, the investment objective, policies and strategies of the fund, while similar to those of a Retail Fund, are not identical. Retail Funds may be smaller or larger than the fund and have different expense ratios than the fund. As a result, the performance of the fund and a Retail Fund will differ.

Should any conflict between contract owners arise that would require that a substantial amount of net assets be withdrawn from the fund, orderly portfolio management could be disrupted to the potential detriment of shareholders of the fund.

The fund currently does not foresee any disadvantages to the holders of variable annuity contracts or variable life insurance policies arising from the fact that the interests of the holders of such contracts and policies may differ. Nevertheless, the Board intends to monitor events in order to identify any material irreconcilable conflicts that may arise and to determine what action, if any, should be taken in any such event.

The fund has a verification process for new insurance company accounts to help the government fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities. Federal law requires all financial institutions to obtain, verify and record information that identifies each insurance company that opens an account. This means that when an insurance company opens an account, the fund will ask for its name, address and other information that will allow the fund to identify the company. This information will be verified to ensure the identity of all insurance companies opening an account.

For certain insurance companies, the fund might request additional information (for instance, the fund would ask for documents such as the insurance company's articles of incorporation) to help the fund verify the insurance company's identity.

The fund will not complete the purchase of any shares for an account until all information has been provided and the application has been submitted in "good order." Once the application is determined to be in good order, the purchase(s) will be effected at the net asset value per share next calculated.

The fund may reject a new account application if the insurance company doesn't provide any required or requested identifying information, or for other reasons.

## BUYING AND SELLING SHARES

**The fund is open for business** each day the New York Stock Exchange is open. The fund calculates its share price for each class every business day, as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange (typically 4:00 p.m. Eastern time, but sometimes earlier, as in the case of scheduled half-day trading, shortened trading hours due to emergency circumstances or unscheduled suspensions of trading).

The fund continuously sells shares to each insurance company separate account, without a sales charge, at the net asset value per share next determined after a proper purchase order is placed by the insurance company. The insurance company offers contract owners units in its separate accounts which correspond to shares in a fund. Each insurance company submits purchase and redemption orders to a fund based on allocation instructions for premium payments, transfer instructions and surrender or partial withdrawal requests for contract owners, as set forth in the accompanying prospectus for the contracts. These orders reflect the amount of premium payments to be invested, surrender and transfer requests, and other matters. Redemption orders are effected at the next net asset value per share determined after a proper redemption order is placed by the insurance company. Contract owners should look at their contract prospectuses for redemption procedures and fees.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BUYING AND SELLING SHARES

- After receiving a contract owner's order, the insurance company buys or sells shares at the net asset value next calculated on any day the fund is open for business. A temporary intraday suspension or disruption of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange will not be treated as the close of regular trading for that day if trading resumes and therefore will not impact the time at which the fund calculates its share price on that day. In the event of an early close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange, such as in the case of scheduled half-day trading, shortened trading hours due to emergency circumstances or unscheduled suspensions of trading, the fund will calculate its share price as of the early close on that day. In such event, an order received before the early close will generally be effected at the share price calculated that day and an order received after the early close will generally be effected at the share price calculated on the next business day.
- Unless otherwise instructed, the fund normally makes payment of the proceeds from the sale of shares the next business day but always within seven calendar days.

- Redemptions will generally be in the form of cash, though the fund reserves the right to redeem in kind as described below. The fund typically expects to satisfy redemption requests by using available cash or by selling portfolio securities if available cash is not sufficient to meet redemptions. The fund may also utilize interfund lending, though such use is expected to be rare. The fund may use any of these methods of satisfying redemption requests under normal or stressed market conditions. During periods of distressed market conditions, when a significant portion of the fund's portfolio may be comprised of less-liquid investments, the fund may be more likely to pay redemption proceeds by giving you securities.
- The fund does not issue share certificates.
- The fund reserves the right to reject purchases of shares for any reason.
- The fund reserves the right to withdraw or suspend the offering of shares at any time.
- The fund reserves the right to reject purchases of shares or to suspend or postpone redemptions at times when the New York Stock Exchange is closed (other than customary closings), trading is restricted or when an emergency exists that prevents a fund from disposing of its portfolio securities or pricing its shares.
- The fund may refuse, cancel or rescind any purchase order; freeze any account (meaning the insurance company will not be able to purchase shares in its account); suspend account services; and/or involuntarily redeem the account if we think that the account is being used for fraudulent or illegal purposes by the insurance company; one or more of these actions will be taken when, at the sole discretion of the fund, they are deemed to be in the fund's best interests or when the fund is requested or compelled to do so by governmental authority or by applicable law.
- The fund may close and liquidate an account if the fund is unable to verify provided information, or for other reasons; if the fund decides to close the account, the shares will be redeemed at the net asset value per share next calculated after we determine to close the account; the insurance company may be subject to gain or loss on the redemption of the fund shares and may incur tax liability.
- The fund may pay for shares sold by "redeeming in kind," that is, by distributing to you marketable securities (which typically will involve brokerage costs for you to liquidate) rather than cash, but which will be taxable to the same extent as a redemption for cash; the fund generally won't make a redemption in kind unless your requests over a 90-day period total more than \$250,000 or 1% of the value of the fund's net assets, whichever is less.

- A purchase order from an insurance company separate account may not be accepted if the sale of fund shares has been suspended or if it is determined that the purchase would be detrimental to the interests of the fund.
- Neither DWS nor the fund will be responsible for any losses resulting from fraud if we reasonably believe that any order or instruction was made by an individual authorized to act on the account. We will consider all transactions to be properly processed if discrepancies are not reported promptly.

**Market Timing Policies and Procedures.** Short-term and excessive trading of fund shares may present risks to the fund's long-term shareholders (as used herein, the term "shareholders" may refer to the contract owners), including potential dilution in the value of fund shares, interference with the efficient management of a fund (including losses on the sale of investments), realized gains to remaining shareholders and increased brokerage and administrative costs. These risks may be more pronounced if the fund invests in certain securities such as those that trade in foreign markets, are illiquid or do not otherwise have "readily available market quotations." Certain investors may seek to employ short-term trading strategies aimed at exploiting variations in fund valuation that arise from the nature of the securities held by the fund (e.g., "time zone arbitrage"). The fund discourages short-term and excessive trading and has adopted policies and procedures that are intended to detect and deter short-term and excessive trading.

The fund reserves the right to reject or cancel a purchase or exchange order for any reason without prior notice. For example, the fund may in its discretion reject or cancel a purchase or an exchange order even if the transaction is not subject to the specific roundtrip transaction limitation described below if the Advisor believes that there appears to be a pattern of short-term or excessive trading activity by a shareholder or deems any other trading activity harmful or disruptive to the fund. The fund, through its Advisor and transfer agent, will monitor changes in investment direction (CID) by a shareholder within a fund. A CID is a transaction opposite to the prior transaction, which can be a purchase, redemption or exchange. The fund may take other trading activity into account if the fund believes such activity is of an amount or frequency that may be harmful to long-term shareholders or disruptive to portfolio management.

Shareholders are limited to four roundtrip transactions in the same DWS fund (excluding money market funds) over a rolling 12-month period. A "roundtrip" transaction is defined as any combination of purchase and redemption activity (including exchanges) of the same fund's shares. Shareholders with four or more roundtrip transactions in the same DWS fund within a rolling 12-month period generally will be blocked from making additional purchases of, or exchanges into, that DWS fund for 12 months. The fund

reserves the right to extend or maintain a block beyond 12-months if it deems that the shareholder's activity was harmful to the fund, or that the pattern of activity suggests a pattern of abuse. The rights of a shareholder to redeem shares of a DWS fund are not affected by the four roundtrip transaction limitation.

The fund may make exceptions to the roundtrip transaction policy for certain types of transactions if in the opinion of the Advisor, the transactions do not represent short-term or excessive trading or are not abusive or harmful to the fund, such as, but not limited to, systematic transactions, required minimum retirement distributions, transactions initiated by the fund or administrator and transactions by certain qualified fund-of-funds.

In certain circumstances, the fund may rely upon the policy of the insurance company or other financial intermediary to deter short-term or excessive trading if the Advisor believes that the policy of such insurance company or other financial intermediary is reasonably designed to detect and deter transactions that are not in the best interests of the fund. An insurance company's or other financial intermediary's policy relating to short-term or excessive trading may be more or less restrictive than the DWS funds' policy, may permit certain transactions not permitted by DWS funds' policies, or prohibit transactions not subject to DWS funds' policies.

The Advisor may also accept undertakings from an insurance company or other financial intermediary to enforce short-term or excessive trading policies on behalf of the fund that provide a substantially similar level of protection for the fund against such transactions. For example, certain insurance companies may have contractual or legal restrictions, or operational constraints, that prevent them from blocking an account. In such instances, the Advisor may permit the insurance company to use alternate techniques that the Advisor considers to be a reasonable substitute for such a block.

In addition, to the extent that the fund invests some portion of its assets in foreign securities, that fund has adopted certain fair valuation practices intended to protect the fund from "time zone arbitrage" with respect to its foreign securities holdings and other trading practices that seek to exploit variations in portfolio valuation that arise from the nature of the securities held by the fund. (See "How the Fund Calculates Share Price.")

There is no assurance that these policies and procedures will be effective in limiting short-term and excessive trading in all cases. For example, the Advisor may not be able to effectively monitor, detect or limit short-term or excessive trading by underlying contract holders that occurs through separate accounts maintained by insurance companies or other financial intermediaries. The Advisor reviews trading activity at the separate account level to detect short-term or excessive trading. If the Advisor has reason to suspect that short-term or excessive trading is occurring at the separate account level, the

Advisor will contact the insurance company or other financial intermediary to request underlying contract holder activity. Depending on the amount of fund shares held in such separate account (which may represent most of the fund's shares), short-term and/or excessive trading of fund shares could adversely affect long-term shareholders in the fund. If short-term or excessive trading is identified, the Advisor will take appropriate action.

The fund's market timing policies and procedures may be modified or terminated at any time.

#### HOW TO RECEIVE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

If you are a contract owner, you should contact your insurance company or the organization that provides recordkeeping services for information about your account.

Please see the contract prospectus that accompanies this prospectus for the customer service telephone number.

#### HOW TO SELECT SHARES

Shares in the fund are available in connection with certain variable annuity and life insurance arrangements. Each insurance company has different provisions about how and when their contract owners may select fund shares. Each insurance company is responsible for communicating its contract owners' instructions to the fund. Contract owners should contact their insurance company to effect transactions in connection with the fund.

#### FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARY SUPPORT PAYMENTS

The Advisor, the Distributor and/or their affiliates may pay additional compensation, out of their own assets and not as an additional charge to the fund, to selected affiliated and unaffiliated brokers, dealers, participating insurance companies or other financial intermediaries ("financial representatives") in connection with the sale and/or distribution of fund shares or the retention and/or servicing of fund investors and fund shares ("revenue sharing"). Such revenue sharing payments are in addition to any distribution or service fees payable under any Rule 12b-1 or service plan of the fund, any recordkeeping/sub-transfer agency/networking fees payable by the fund (generally through the Distributor or an affiliate) and/or the Distributor or Advisor to certain financial representatives for performing such services and any sales charges, commissions, non-cash compensation arrangements expressly permitted under applicable rules of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority or other concessions described in the fee table or elsewhere in this prospectus or the Statement of Additional Information as payable to all financial representatives. For example, the Advisor, the Distributor and/or their affiliates may, using their legitimate profits, compensate financial representatives for providing the fund with "shelf space" or access to a third party platform or fund offering list or other marketing programs,

including, without limitation, inclusion of the fund on preferred or recommended sales lists, mutual fund "supermarket" platforms and other formal sales programs; granting the Distributor access to the financial representative's sales force; granting the Distributor access to the financial representative's conferences and meetings; assistance in training and educating the financial representative's personnel; and obtaining other forms of marketing support. In addition, revenue sharing payments may consist of the Distributor's and/or its affiliates' payment or reimbursement of ticket charges that would otherwise be assessed by a financial representative on an investor's fund transactions.

The level of revenue sharing payments made to financial representatives may be a fixed fee or based upon one or more of the following factors: gross sales, current assets and/or number of accounts of the fund attributable to the financial representative, the particular fund or fund type or other measures as agreed to by the Advisor, the Distributor and/or their affiliates and the financial representatives or any combination thereof. The amount of these payments is determined at the discretion of the Advisor, the Distributor and/or their affiliates from time to time, may be substantial, and may be different for different financial representatives based on, for example, the nature of the services provided by the financial representative.

The Advisor, the Distributor and/or their affiliates currently make revenue sharing payments from their own assets in connection with the sale and/or distribution of DWS fund shares or the retention and/or servicing of investors to financial representatives in amounts that generally range from 0.01% up to 0.52% of assets of the fund serviced and maintained by the financial representative, 0.05% to 0.25% of sales of the fund attributable to the financial representative, a flat fee of up to \$95,000, or any combination thereof. These amounts are annual figures typically paid on a quarterly basis and are subject to change at the discretion of the Advisor, the Distributor and/or their affiliates. Receipt of, or the prospect of receiving, this additional compensation may influence your financial representative's recommendation of the fund or of any particular share class of the fund. You should review your financial representative's compensation disclosure and/or talk to your financial representative to obtain more information on how this compensation may have influenced your financial representative's recommendation of the fund. Additional information regarding these revenue sharing payments is included in the fund's Statement of Additional Information, which is available to you on request at no charge (see the back cover of this prospectus for more information on how to request a copy of the Statement of Additional Information).

The Advisor, the Distributor and/or their affiliates may also make such revenue sharing payments to financial representatives under the terms discussed above in connection with the distribution of both DWS funds and non-DWS

funds by financial representatives to retirement plans that obtain recordkeeping services from ADP, Inc. or to 403(b) plans that obtain recordkeeping services from Ascensus, Inc. on the DWS-branded retirement plan platform (the "Platform"). The level of revenue sharing payments is based upon sales of both the DWS funds and the non-DWS funds by the financial representative on the Platform or current assets of both the DWS funds and the non-DWS funds serviced and maintained by the financial representative on the Platform.

It is likely that broker-dealers that execute portfolio transactions for the fund will include firms that also sell shares of the DWS funds to their customers. However, the Advisor will not consider sales of DWS fund shares as a factor in the selection of broker-dealers to execute portfolio transactions for the DWS funds. Accordingly, the Advisor has implemented policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent its traders from considering sales of DWS fund shares as a factor in the selection of broker-dealers to execute portfolio transactions for the fund. In addition, the Advisor, the Distributor and/or their affiliates will not use fund brokerage to pay for their obligation to provide additional compensation to financial representatives as described above.

## HOW THE FUND CALCULATES SHARE PRICE

To calculate net asset value per share, or NAV, the fund uses the following equation:

$$\left( \frac{\text{Total Assets} - \text{Total Liabilities}}{\text{Total Number of Shares Outstanding}} \right) = \text{NAV}$$

The price at which you buy and sell shares for the fund is the NAV. To obtain the fund's most recent share price, go to [dws.com](http://dws.com) (we have included our Web site address as an inactive textual reference and do not intend it to be an active link to our Web site; the Web site does not form a part of this prospectus) or call the telephone number included in this prospectus.

**For the underlying mutual funds in which the fund invests, we use the NAV of the underlying mutual funds. For other securities, including ETFs, we typically value securities using information furnished by an independent pricing service or market quotations, where appropriate.** However, we may use methods approved by the Board, such as a fair valuation model, which are intended to reflect fair value when pricing service information or market quotations are not readily available or when a security's value or a meaningful portion of the value of the fund's portfolio is believed to have been materially affected by a significant event, such as a natural disaster, an economic event like a bankruptcy filing, or a substantial fluctuation in domestic or foreign markets that has occurred between the close of the exchange or market on which the security is principally traded (for example, a foreign exchange or market) and the close of the New York

Stock Exchange. In such a case, the fund's value for a security is likely to be different from the last quoted market price or pricing service information. In addition, due to the subjective and variable nature of fair value pricing, it is possible that the value determined for a particular asset may be materially different from the value realized upon such asset's sale.

It is expected that the greater the percentage of fund assets that is invested in non-US securities, the more extensive will be the fund's use of fair value pricing. This is intended to reduce the fund's exposure to "time zone arbitrage" and other harmful trading practices. (See "Market timing policies and procedures.")

To the extent that the fund invests in securities that are traded primarily in foreign markets, the value of its holdings could change at a time when you aren't able to buy or sell fund shares through the contract. This is because some foreign markets are open on days and at times when the fund doesn't price the shares.

## DISTRIBUTIONS

The fund intends to declare and distribute dividends from its net investment income and capital gains, if any, annually. The fund may make additional distributions if necessary.

All distributions will be reinvested in shares of a fund unless we are informed by an insurance company that they should be paid out in cash. The insurance companies will be informed about the amount and character of distributions from the fund for federal income tax purposes.

## TAXES

The fund intends to qualify each year as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and intends to meet all requirements necessary to avoid paying any federal income or excise taxes.

Generally, owners of variable annuity and variable life contracts are not subject to current federal income taxation on income or gains realized with respect to such contracts. However, some distributions from such contracts, whether made prior to or during the annuity payment period, may be taxable at ordinary income tax rates. In addition, distributions made to an owner who is younger than 59½ may be subject to a 10% penalty tax. For further information concerning federal income tax consequences for the holders of variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies, such holders should consult the prospectus used in connection with the issuance of their particular contracts or policies.

In order for investors to receive the favorable federal income tax treatment available to holders of variable annuity and variable life contracts, the separate accounts underlying such contracts, as well as the funds in which such accounts invest, must meet certain diversification

requirements. The fund intends to diversify its assets such that a separate account investing in the fund will comply with these requirements with respect to the amounts invested in a fund. If a fund or separate account does not meet such requirements or if a fund were to fail to qualify as a regulated investment company for any taxable year and could not or did not cure such failure, income allocable to the contracts associated with the separate account may be taxable currently for federal income tax purposes to the holders of such contracts and income from prior periods with respect to such contracts also could be taxable, most likely in the year of the failure. In addition, if a fund were to fail to qualify and be eligible for treatment as a regulated investment company for any taxable year and could not or did not cure such failure, the fund would be subject to tax on its taxable income at corporate rates.

Under Treasury regulations, insurance companies holding the separate accounts may have to report to the IRS losses above a certain amount resulting from a sale or disposition of a fund's shares.

The discussion above is generally based on the assumption that shares of a fund will be respected as owned by insurance company separate accounts. If this is not the case (for example, because the IRS finds an impermissible level of "investor control" over the investment options underlying variable contracts), the advantageous federal income tax treatment provided in respect of insurance company separate accounts under the Code will no longer be available. In that situation, the person or persons determined to own the fund shares will be currently taxed for federal income tax purposes on fund distributions, and on the proceeds of any redemption of fund shares.

Participating insurance companies should consult their own tax advisors as to whether distributions from a fund are subject to federal income tax if they are retained as part of policy reserves.

Fund investments in securities of foreign issuers may be subject to withholding and other taxes at the source, including on dividend or interest payments, which will reduce a fund's return on such securities.

The fund's investments in certain debt obligations may cause the fund to recognize taxable income in excess of the cash generated by such investments. Thus, the fund could be required at times to liquidate other investments in order to satisfy its distribution requirements.

The preceding is a brief summary of certain of the relevant federal income tax considerations. Because each shareholder's and contract holder's tax situation is unique, ask your tax professional about the tax consequences of your investments, including possible federal, foreign, state or local taxes.

## **MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION FEES**

Deutsche DWS Variable Series II has adopted a 12b-1 plan for the fund's Class B shares. Under the plan, Deutsche DWS Variable Series II may make quarterly payments to the Distributor for distribution and shareholder servicing related expenses incurred or paid by the Distributor or a participating insurance company. No such payment shall be made with respect to any quarterly period in excess of an amount determined for such period at the annual rate of 0.25% of the average daily net assets of Class B shares during that quarterly period. Depending on the participating insurance company's corporate structure and applicable state law, the distributor may remit payments to the participating insurance company's affiliated broker-dealers or other affiliated company rather than to the participating insurance company itself.

Because 12b-1 fees for Class B shares are paid out of fund assets on an ongoing basis, they will, over time, increase the cost of investment in Class B shares and may cost more than other types of sales charges.

Examples of expenses payable under the plan include the costs of printing and mailing materials (such as fund prospectuses, shareholder reports, fund advertisements and sales literature), holding seminars and sales meetings, providing customer service to policyholders and sales compensation.

## Financial Highlights

The financial highlights are designed to help you understand recent financial performance. The figures in the first part of the table are for a single share. The total return figures represent the percentage that an investor in the fund would have earned (or lost), assuming all dividends and distributions were reinvested. This information has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, along with the

fund's financial statements, is included in the fund's annual report (see "Shareholder reports" on the back cover). This information does not reflect charges and fees associated with the separate account that invests in the fund or any variable life insurance policy or variable annuity contract for which the fund is an investment option. These charges and fees will reduce returns.

### DWS Alternative Asset Allocation VIP — Class B

	Years Ended December 31,				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Selected Per Share Data</b>					
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	<b>\$13.34</b>	<b>\$12.09</b>	<b>\$13.59</b>	<b>\$12.96</b>	<b>\$12.59</b>
<i>Income (loss) from investment operations:</i>					
Net investment income <sup>a</sup>	.24	.37	.62	.31	.31
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	.41	1.34	(1.88)	.59	.31
<b>Total from investment operations</b>	<b>.65</b>	<b>1.71</b>	<b>(1.26)</b>	<b>.90</b>	<b>.62</b>
<i>Less distributions from:</i>					
Net investment income	(.31)	(.46)	(.24)	(.27)	(.25)
Net realized gains	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total distributions</b>	<b>(.31)</b>	<b>(.46)</b>	<b>(.24)</b>	<b>(.27)</b>	<b>(.25)</b>
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	<b>\$13.68</b>	<b>\$13.34</b>	<b>\$12.09</b>	<b>\$13.59</b>	<b>\$12.96</b>
Total Return (%) <sup>b,c</sup>	5.32	14.35	(9.35)	7.01	4.99
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets and Supplemental Data</b>					
Net assets, end of period (\$ millions)	427	349	208	157	107
Ratio of expenses before expense reductions (%) <sup>d,e</sup>	.61	.92	1.08	.93	.85
Ratio of expenses after expense reductions (%) <sup>d,e</sup>	.59	.52	.45	.48	.57
Ratio of net investment income (%)	1.94	2.90	4.85	2.31	2.45
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	18	10	32	55	51

a Based on average shares outstanding during the period.

b Total return would have been lower had certain expenses not been reduced.

c Total return would have been lower if the Advisor had not reduced some Underlying DWS Funds' expenses.

d The Fund invests in other Funds and indirectly bears its proportionate share of fees and expenses incurred by the Underlying Funds in which the Fund is invested. This ratio does not include these indirect fees and expenses.

e Expense ratio does not reflect charges and fees associated with the separate account that invests in the Fund or any variable life insurance policy or variable annuity contract for which the Fund is an investment option.

## Appendix

### HYPOTHETICAL EXPENSE SUMMARY

Using the annual fund operating expense ratios presented in the fee tables in the fund's prospectus, the Hypothetical Expense Summary shows the estimated fees and expenses, in actual dollars, that would be charged on a hypothetical investment of \$10,000 in the fund held for the next 10 years and the impact of such fees and expenses on fund returns for each year and cumulatively, assuming a 5% return for each year. The historical rate of return for the fund may be higher or lower than 5% and, for money market funds, is typically less than 5%. The tables also assume that all dividends and distributions are reinvested. The annual fund expense ratios shown are net of any contractual fee waivers or expense reimbursements, if

any, for the period of the contractual commitment. Also, please note that if you are investing through a third party provider, that provider may have fees and expenses separate from those of the fund that are not reflected here. Mutual fund fees and expenses fluctuate over time and actual expenses may be higher or lower than those shown. The Hypothetical Expense Summary should not be used or construed as an offer to sell, a solicitation of an offer to buy or a recommendation or endorsement of any specific mutual fund. You should carefully review the fund's prospectus to consider the investment objective, risks, expenses and charges of the fund prior to investing.

### DWS Alternative Asset Allocation VIP — Class B

	Maximum Sales Charge: 0.00%	Initial Hypothetical Investment: \$10,000	Assumed Rate of Return: 5%		
Year	Cumulative Return Before Fees & Expenses	Annual Fund Expense Ratios	Cumulative Return After Fees & Expenses	Hypothetical Year-End Balance After Fees & Expenses	Annual Fees & Expenses
1	5.00%	1.18%	3.82%	\$10,382.00	\$ 120.25
2	10.25%	1.18%	7.79%	\$10,778.59	\$ 124.85
3	15.76%	1.18%	11.90%	\$11,190.33	\$ 129.62
4	21.55%	1.18%	16.18%	\$11,617.81	\$ 134.57
5	27.63%	1.18%	20.62%	\$12,061.61	\$ 139.71
6	34.01%	1.18%	25.22%	\$12,522.36	\$ 145.05
7	40.71%	1.18%	30.01%	\$13,000.71	\$ 150.59
8	47.75%	1.18%	34.97%	\$13,497.34	\$ 156.34
9	55.13%	1.18%	40.13%	\$14,012.94	\$ 162.31
10	62.89%	1.18%	45.48%	\$14,548.23	\$ 168.51
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$1,431.80</b>

### ADDITIONAL INDEX INFORMATION

**MSCI World Index** is an unmanaged index representing large and mid-cap equity performance across 23 developed markets countries. It covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

**Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index** is an unmanaged index representing domestic taxable investment-grade bonds, with index components for government and corporate securities, mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities with average maturities of one year or more.

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## TO GET MORE INFORMATION

**Shareholder reports.** Additional information about the fund's investments is available in the fund's annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders. In the annual report, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected fund performance during its last fiscal year.

**Statement of Additional Information (SAI).** This tells you more about the fund's features and policies, including additional risk information. The SAI is incorporated by reference into this document (meaning that it's legally part of this prospectus).

For a free copy of any of these documents or to request other information about the fund, contact DWS at the telephone number or address listed below. SAIs and shareholder reports are also available through the DWS Web site at [dws.com](http://dws.com). These documents and other information about the fund are available from the EDGAR

Database on the SEC's Internet site at [sec.gov](http://sec.gov). If you like, you may obtain copies of this information, after paying a duplicating fee, by e-mailing a request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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<b>DWS</b>	222 South Riverside Plaza Chicago, IL 60606-5808 <a href="http://dws.com">dws.com</a>  (800) 728-3337
<b>Distributor</b>	DWS Distributors, Inc. 222 South Riverside Plaza Chicago, IL 60606-5808 (800) 621-1148
<b>SEC File Number</b>	Deutsche DWS Variable Series II <b>811-05002</b>

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**Variable Product Funds**

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Minneapolis, MN 55474

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