



MFS[®] Research Series

MFS[®] Variable Insurance Trust

Beginning on January 1, 2021, as permitted by regulations adopted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the insurance company that offers your contract may determine that it will no longer send you paper copies of the fund's annual and semiannual shareholder reports unless you specifically request paper copies from the insurance company or from your financial intermediary. Instead, the shareholder reports will be made available on a Web site (insurancefunds.mfs.com or other Web site of which you will be notified), and the insurance company will notify you by mail each time a report is posted and provide you with a Web site link to access the report. Instructions for requesting paper copies will be provided by your insurance company or financial intermediary.

If you already elected to receive shareholder reports by email, you will not be affected by this change and you need not take any action. If your insurance company or financial intermediary offers electronic delivery, you may elect to receive shareholder reports and other communications from the insurance company or financial intermediary by email by following the instructions provided by the insurance company or financial intermediary.

Beginning on January 1, 2019, you may elect to receive all future reports in paper free of charge from the insurance company or financial intermediary. You can inform the insurance company or financial intermediary that you wish to continue receiving paper copies of your shareholder reports by contacting your insurance company or financial intermediary. Your election to receive reports in paper will apply to all funds held in your account with your insurance company or financial intermediary.

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The report is prepared for the general information of contract owners. It is authorized for distribution to prospective investors only when preceded or accompanied by a current prospectus.

**NOT FDIC INSURED • MAY LOSE VALUE • NO BANK OR CREDIT UNION GUARANTEE •
NOT A DEPOSIT • NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR NCUA/NCUSIF**

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIR



Dear Contract Owners:

Markets experienced dramatic swings in early 2020, as the coronavirus pandemic brought the global economy to a standstill for several months. Optimism over the development of vaccines and therapeutics, along with a decline in cases in countries that had been affected by the outbreak early on, brightened the economic and market outlook during the second quarter, as did the phased reopening of US states. However, a great deal of uncertainty remains, including the possibility of a second wave of cases later this year, as many countries continue to experience COVID-19 flare-ups.

Global central banks have taken aggressive steps to cushion the economic and market fallout related to the virus, and governments are deploying unprecedented levels of fiscal support. As uncertainty recedes, these measures can help build a supportive environment and encourage economic recovery; however, if markets disconnect from fundamentals, they can also sow the seeds of instability. In the aftermath of the crisis, societal changes may be likely, as households, businesses, and governments adjust to a new reality, and these alterations could affect the investment landscape. For investors, events, such as the COVID-19 outbreak, demonstrate the importance of having a deep understanding of company fundamentals, and we have built our global research platform to do just that.

Here at MFS®, we aim to help our clients navigate the growing complexity of the markets and world economies. Our long-term investment philosophy and commitment to the responsible allocation of capital allow us to tune out the noise and uncover what we believe are the best, most durable investment opportunities in the market. Through our unique global investment platform, we combine collective expertise, thoughtful risk management, and long-term discipline to create sustainable value for investors.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Manning". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

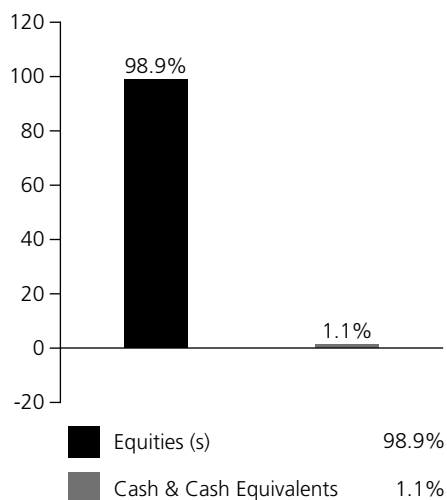
Robert J. Manning
Executive Chair
MFS Investment Management

August 17, 2020

The opinions expressed in this letter are subject to change, may not be relied upon for investment advice, and no forecasts can be guaranteed.

PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION

Portfolio structure



Global equity sectors (k)

| | |
|---|-------|
| Technology | 30.7% |
| Health Care (s) | 14.3% |
| Consumer Cyclicals | 14.0% |
| Financial Services | 13.6% |
| Capital Goods | 11.3% |
| Energy | 5.6% |
| Consumer Staples | 5.3% |
| Telecommunications/Cable Television (s) | 4.1% |

Top ten holdings

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Microsoft Corp. | 7.1% |
| Amazon.com, Inc. | 5.6% |
| Alphabet, Inc., "A" | 3.7% |
| Visa, Inc., "A" | 2.7% |
| Apple, Inc. | 2.7% |
| Facebook, Inc., "A" | 2.7% |
| Adobe Systems, Inc. | 2.0% |
| Johnson & Johnson | 1.8% |
| Intel Corp. | 1.8% |
| Salesforce.com, Inc. | 1.7% |

(k) The sectors set forth above and the associated portfolio composition are based on MFS' own custom sector classification methodology.

(s) Includes securities sold short.

Cash & Cash Equivalents includes any cash, investments in money market funds, short-term securities, and other assets less liabilities. Please see the Statement of Assets and Liabilities for additional information related to the fund's cash position and other assets and liabilities.

Percentages are based on net assets as of June 30, 2020.

The portfolio is actively managed and current holdings may be different.

EXPENSE TABLE

Fund Expenses Borne by the Contract Holders during the Period, January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020

As a contract holder of the fund, you incur ongoing costs, including management fees; distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees; and other fund expenses. This example is intended to help you understand your ongoing costs (in dollars) of investing in the fund and to compare these costs with the ongoing costs of investing in other mutual funds.

The example is based on an investment of \$1,000 invested at the beginning of the period and held for the entire period January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

Actual Expenses

The first line for each share class in the following table provides information about actual account values and actual expenses. You may use the information in this line, together with the amount you invested, to estimate the expenses that you paid over the period. Simply divide your account value by \$1,000 (for example, an \$8,600 account value divided by \$1,000 = 8.6), then multiply the result by the number in the first line under the heading entitled "Expenses Paid During Period" to estimate the expenses you paid on your account during this period.

Hypothetical Example for Comparison Purposes

The second line for each share class in the following table provides information about hypothetical account values and hypothetical expenses based on the fund's actual expense ratio and an assumed rate of return of 5% per year before expenses, which is not the fund's actual return. The hypothetical account values and expenses may not be used to estimate the actual ending account balance or expenses you paid for the period. You may use this information to compare the ongoing costs of investing in the fund and other funds. To do so, compare this 5% hypothetical example with the 5% hypothetical examples that appear in the shareholder reports of the other funds.

Please note that the expenses shown in the table are meant to highlight the fund's ongoing costs only and do not take into account the fees and expenses imposed under the variable contracts through which your investment in the fund is made. Therefore, the second line for each share class in the table is useful in comparing ongoing costs associated with an investment in vehicles (such as the fund) which fund benefits under variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts and to qualified pension and retirement plans only, and will not help you determine the relative total costs of investing in the fund through variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts. If the fees and expenses imposed under the variable contracts were included, your costs would have been higher.

| Share Class | | Annualized Expense Ratio | Beginning Account Value 1/01/20 | Ending Account Value 6/30/20 | Expenses Paid During Period (p) 1/01/20-6/30/20 |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Initial Class | Actual | 0.80% | \$1,000.00 | \$973.89 | \$3.93 |
| | Hypothetical (h) | 0.80% | \$1,000.00 | \$1,020.89 | \$4.02 |
| Service Class | Actual | 1.05% | \$1,000.00 | \$972.81 | \$5.15 |
| | Hypothetical (h) | 1.05% | \$1,000.00 | \$1,019.64 | \$5.27 |

(h) 5% class return per year before expenses.

(p) "Expenses Paid During Period" are equal to each class's annualized expense ratio, as shown above, multiplied by the average account value over the period, multiplied by 182/366 (to reflect the one-half year period).

Notes to Expense Table

Expense ratios include 0.03% of investment related expenses from short sales (See Note 2 of the Notes to Financial Statements) that are outside of the expense limitation arrangement (See Note 3 of the Notes to Financial Statements).

PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS – 6/30/20 (unaudited)

The Portfolio of Investments is a complete list of all securities owned by your fund. It is categorized by broad-based asset classes.

| Issuer | Shares/Par | Value (\$) | Issuer | Shares/Par | Value (\$) |
|--|------------|---------------|--|------------|---------------|
| COMMON STOCKS – 99.4% | | | COMMON STOCKS – continued | | |
| Aerospace – 2.3% | | | Consumer Products – 1.6% | | |
| Honeywell International, Inc. | 48,428 | \$ 7,002,204 | Colgate-Palmolive Co. | 77,850 | \$ 5,703,291 |
| L3Harris Technologies, Inc. | 25,246 | 4,283,489 | Kimberly-Clark Corp. | 34,672 | 4,900,887 |
| Northrop Grumman Corp. | 12,245 | 3,764,603 | | | \$ 10,604,178 |
| | | \$ 15,050,296 | Electrical Equipment – 1.2% | | |
| Alcoholic Beverages – 0.5% | | | HD Supply Holdings, Inc. (a) | 87,269 | \$ 3,023,871 |
| Constellation Brands, Inc., "A" | 18,103 | \$ 3,167,120 | Sensata Technologies Holding PLC (a) | 71,313 | 2,654,983 |
| Apparel Manufacturers – 1.3% | | | TE Connectivity Ltd. | 27,399 | 2,234,388 |
| NIKE, Inc., "B" | 86,398 | \$ 8,471,324 | | | \$ 7,913,242 |
| Biotechnology – 0.9% | | | Electronics – 2.7% | | |
| Illumina, Inc. (a) | 15,839 | \$ 5,865,974 | Intel Corp. | 196,665 | \$ 11,766,467 |
| Brokerage & Asset Managers – 1.8% | | | NXP Semiconductors N.V. | 55,440 | 6,322,378 |
| Charles Schwab Corp. | 217,599 | \$ 7,341,790 | | | \$ 18,088,845 |
| NASDAQ, Inc. | 39,078 | 4,668,649 | Energy – Independent – 1.4% | | |
| | | \$ 12,010,439 | ConocoPhillips | 79,865 | \$ 3,355,927 |
| Business Services – 5.0% | | | Diamondback Energy, Inc. | 26,358 | 1,102,291 |
| Accenture PLC, "A" | 27,263 | \$ 5,853,912 | Pioneer Natural Resources Co. | 24,661 | 2,409,380 |
| Fidelity National Information Services, Inc. | 70,478 | 9,450,395 | Valero Energy Corp. | 39,012 | 2,294,686 |
| Fiserv, Inc. (a) | 79,307 | 7,741,949 | | | \$ 9,162,284 |
| Global Payments, Inc. | 36,534 | 6,196,897 | Energy – Integrated – 0.7% | | |
| Verisk Analytics, Inc., "A" | 23,746 | 4,041,569 | BP PLC, ADR | 211,507 | \$ 4,932,343 |
| | | \$ 33,284,722 | Food & Beverages – 2.6% | | |
| Cable TV – 2.2% | | | Hostess Brands, Inc. (a) | 90,572 | \$ 1,106,790 |
| Charter Communications, Inc., "A" (a) | 12,920 | \$ 6,589,717 | J.M. Smucker Co. | 14,697 | 1,555,090 |
| Comcast Corp., "A" | 205,886 | 8,025,436 | Mondelez International, Inc. | 120,247 | 6,148,229 |
| | | \$ 14,615,153 | PepsiCo, Inc. | 65,524 | 8,666,204 |
| | | | | | \$ 17,476,313 |
| Chemicals – 0.5% | | | Food & Drug Stores – 1.3% | | |
| FMC Corp. | 37,196 | \$ 3,705,466 | Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. | 70,827 | \$ 8,483,658 |
| Computer Software – 12.1% | | | Gaming & Lodging – 0.4% | | |
| Adobe Systems, Inc. (a) | 31,078 | \$ 13,528,564 | Marriott International, Inc., "A" | 9,564 | \$ 819,922 |
| Atlassian Corp. PLC, "A" (a) | 13,593 | 2,450,410 | Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, Inc. | 45,184 | 1,925,742 |
| Cadence Design Systems, Inc. (a) | 60,235 | 5,780,151 | | | \$ 2,745,664 |
| Microsoft Corp. (s) | 232,813 | 47,379,774 | General Merchandise – 1.1% | | |
| Salesforce.com, Inc. (a) | 59,823 | 11,206,642 | Dollar General Corp. | 38,327 | \$ 7,301,677 |
| | | \$ 80,345,541 | Health Maintenance Organizations – 1.9% | | |
| Computer Software – Systems – 3.9% | | | Cigna Corp. | 36,851 | \$ 6,915,090 |
| Apple, Inc. | 48,948 | \$ 17,856,230 | Humana, Inc. | 14,404 | 5,585,151 |
| Constellation Software, Inc. | 4,192 | 4,733,261 | | | \$ 12,500,241 |
| EPAM Systems, Inc. (a) | 13,274 | 3,345,181 | Insurance – 2.8% | | |
| | | \$ 25,934,672 | AON PLC | 52,904 | \$ 10,189,310 |
| Construction – 3.2% | | | Chubb Ltd. | 47,398 | 6,001,535 |
| AZEK Co. LLC (a) | 51,472 | \$ 1,639,898 | Reinsurance Group of America, Inc. | 35,524 | 2,786,503 |
| D.R. Horton, Inc. | 52,743 | 2,924,599 | | | \$ 18,977,348 |
| Masco Corp. | 125,089 | 6,280,719 | | | |
| Otis Worldwide Corp. | 52,393 | 2,979,066 | | | |
| Sherwin-Williams Co. | 7,912 | 4,571,949 | | | |
| Vulcan Materials Co. | 24,751 | 2,867,403 | | | |
| | | \$ 21,263,634 | | | |

Portfolio of Investments (unaudited) – continued

| Issuer | Shares/Par | Value (\$) | Issuer | Shares/Par | Value (\$) |
|--|------------|---------------|---|------------|----------------------|
| COMMON STOCKS – continued | | | COMMON STOCKS – continued | | |
| Internet – 6.3% | | | Pharmaceuticals – continued | | |
| Alphabet, Inc., "A" (a)(s) | 17,252 | \$ 24,464,198 | Zoetis, Inc. | 42,555 | \$ 5,831,737 |
| Facebook, Inc., "A" (a) | 78,309 | 17,781,625 | | | \$ 33,405,599 |
| | | \$ 42,245,823 | Railroad & Shipping – 1.5% | | |
| Leisure & Toys – 1.2% | | | Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. | 21,350 | \$ 5,451,509 |
| Electronic Arts, Inc. (a) | 59,836 | \$ 7,901,344 | Kansas City Southern Co. | 30,842 | 4,604,402 |
| Machinery & Tools – 1.5% | | | | | \$ 10,055,911 |
| Ingersoll Rand, Inc. (a) | 112,013 | \$ 3,149,805 | Real Estate – 1.2% | | |
| Roper Technologies, Inc. | 14,064 | 5,460,489 | Public Storage, Inc., REIT | 21,300 | \$ 4,087,257 |
| Trane Technologies PLC | 16,062 | 1,429,197 | STORE Capital Corp., REIT | 161,942 | 3,855,839 |
| | | \$ 10,039,491 | | | \$ 7,943,096 |
| Major Banks – 2.7% | | | Restaurants – 1.4% | | |
| Bank of America Corp. | 274,698 | \$ 6,524,077 | Starbucks Corp. | 105,368 | \$ 7,754,031 |
| Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. | 46,909 | 9,270,157 | Texas Roadhouse, Inc. | 35,520 | 1,867,287 |
| PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. | 22,027 | 2,317,461 | | | \$ 9,621,318 |
| | | \$ 18,111,695 | Specialty Chemicals – 1.1% | | |
| Medical & Health Technology & Services – 1.8% | | | Air Products & Chemicals, Inc. | 8,645 | \$ 2,087,421 |
| ICON PLC (a) | 23,528 | \$ 3,963,527 | DuPont de Nemours, Inc. | 97,929 | 5,202,968 |
| McKesson Corp. | 26,902 | 4,127,305 | | | \$ 7,290,389 |
| PRA Health Sciences, Inc. (a) | 17,089 | 1,662,589 | Specialty Stores – 7.3% | | |
| Quest Diagnostics, Inc. | 18,835 | 2,146,436 | Amazon.com, Inc. (a)(s) | 13,428 | \$ 37,045,435 |
| | | \$ 11,899,857 | Ross Stores, Inc. | 56,193 | 4,789,891 |
| Medical Equipment – 4.9% | | | Target Corp. | 59,114 | 7,089,542 |
| Becton, Dickinson and Co. | 28,333 | \$ 6,779,237 | | | \$ 48,924,868 |
| Boston Scientific Corp. (a) | 152,366 | 5,349,570 | Telecommunications – Wireless – 2.2% | | |
| Danaher Corp. | 54,819 | 9,693,644 | American Tower Corp., REIT | 37,725 | \$ 9,753,421 |
| Medtronic PLC | 82,843 | 7,596,703 | T-Mobile USA, Inc. (a) | 48,570 | 5,058,566 |
| STERIS PLC | 22,604 | 3,468,358 | | | \$ 14,811,987 |
| | | \$ 32,887,512 | Tobacco – 0.6% | | |
| Natural Gas – Distribution – 0.4% | | | Philip Morris International, Inc. | 57,976 | \$ 4,061,799 |
| Sempra Energy | 21,512 | \$ 2,521,852 | Utilities – Electric Power – 2.7% | | |
| Natural Gas – Pipeline – 0.4% | | | American Electric Power Co., Inc. | 40,610 | \$ 3,234,180 |
| Enterprise Products Partners LP | 140,526 | \$ 2,553,357 | CMS Energy Corp. | 51,300 | 2,996,946 |
| Network & Telecom – 0.7% | | | Duke Energy Corp. | 44,735 | 3,573,879 |
| Equinix, Inc., REIT | 6,229 | \$ 4,374,627 | FirstEnergy Corp. | 92,200 | 3,575,516 |
| Oil Services – 0.1% | | | NextEra Energy, Inc. | 18,332 | 4,402,797 |
| Core Laboratories N.V. | 23,884 | \$ 485,323 | | | \$ 17,783,318 |
| Other Banks & Diversified Financials – 5.0% | | | Total Common Stocks | | |
| Northern Trust Corp. | 56,674 | \$ 4,496,515 | (Identified Cost, \$459,358,974) | | |
| Truist Financial Corp. | 185,680 | 6,972,284 | | | \$661,939,459 |
| U.S. Bancorp | 98,812 | 3,638,258 | | | |
| Visa, Inc., "A" | 93,250 | 18,013,102 | | | |
| | | \$ 33,120,159 | | | |
| Pharmaceuticals – 5.0% | | | | | |
| Eli Lilly & Co. | 45,116 | \$ 7,407,145 | | | |
| Johnson & Johnson | 86,310 | 12,137,775 | | | |
| Merck & Co., Inc. | 103,827 | 8,028,942 | | | |

MFS Research Series

Portfolio of Investments (unaudited) – continued

| Issuer | Shares/Par | Value (\$) |
|---|------------|------------------------------|
| INVESTMENT COMPANIES (h) – 1.0% | | |
| Money Market Funds – 1.0% | | |
| MFS Institutional Money Market Portfolio, 0.17% (v) (Identified Cost, \$6,850,731) | 6,850,235 | <u>\$ 6,850,920</u> |
| SECURITIES SOLD SHORT – (0.5)% | | |
| Medical & Health Technology & Services – (0.2)% | | |
| Healthcare Services Group, Inc. | (44,372) | <u>\$ (1,085,339)</u> |
| Telecommunications – Wireless – (0.3)% | | |
| Crown Castle International Corp., REIT | (12,776) | <u>\$ (2,138,063)</u> |
| Total Securities Sold Short | | <u>\$ (3,223,402)</u> |
| (Proceeds Received, \$2,490,023) | | |
| OTHER ASSETS, LESS | | |
| LIABILITIES – 0.1% | | <u>486,359</u> |
| NET ASSETS – 100.0% | | <u>\$666,056,787</u> |

- (a) Non-income producing security.
- (h) An affiliated issuer, which may be considered one in which the fund owns 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities, or a company which is under common control. At period end, the aggregate values of the fund's investments in affiliated issuers and in unaffiliated issuers were \$6,850,920 and \$661,942,910, respectively.
- (s) Security or a portion of the security was pledged to cover collateral requirements for securities sold short.
- (v) Affiliated issuer that is available only to investment companies managed by MFS. The rate quoted for the MFS Institutional Money Market Portfolio is the annualized seven-day yield of the fund at period end.

The following abbreviations are used in this report and are defined:

ADR American Depositary Receipt
REIT Real Estate Investment Trust

At June 30, 2020, the fund had cash collateral of \$83,671 and other liquid securities with an aggregate value of \$7,696,033 to cover any collateral or margin obligations for securities sold short. Restricted cash and/or deposits with brokers in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities are comprised of cash collateral.

See Notes to Financial Statements

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (unaudited)

This statement represents your fund's balance sheet, which details the assets and liabilities comprising the total value of the fund.

At 6/30/20

Assets

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Investments in unaffiliated issuers, at value (identified cost, \$459,366,575) | \$661,942,910 |
| Investments in affiliated issuers, at value (identified cost, \$6,850,731) | 6,850,920 |
| Deposits with brokers for | |
| Securities sold short | 83,671 |
| Receivables for | |
| Fund shares sold | 491,794 |
| Interest and dividends | 683,141 |
| Other assets | 1,657 |
| Total assets | \$670,054,093 |

Liabilities

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Payables for | |
| Securities sold short, at value (proceeds received, \$2,490,023) | \$3,223,402 |
| Fund shares reacquired | 644,013 |
| Payable to affiliates | |
| Investment adviser | 11,556 |
| Administrative services fee | 553 |
| Shareholder servicing costs | 913 |
| Distribution and/or service fees | 4,433 |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities | 112,436 |
| Total liabilities | \$3,997,306 |
| Net assets | \$666,056,787 |

Net assets consist of

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Paid-in capital | \$409,978,407 |
| Total distributable earnings (loss) | 256,078,380 |
| Net assets | \$666,056,787 |
| Shares of beneficial interest outstanding | 23,378,824 |

| | Net assets | Shares outstanding | Net asset value per share |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Initial Class | \$333,985,209 | 11,628,686 | \$28.72 |
| Service Class | 332,071,578 | 11,750,138 | 28.26 |

See Notes to Financial Statements

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (unaudited)

This statement describes how much your fund earned in investment income and accrued in expenses. It also describes any gains and/or losses generated by fund operations.

Six months ended 6/30/20

Net investment income (loss)

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Income | |
| Dividends | \$5,010,687 |
| Dividends from affiliated issuers | 37,848 |
| Other | 32,176 |
| Income on securities loaned | 30,684 |
| Foreign taxes withheld | (12,681) |
| Total investment income | \$5,098,714 |
| Expenses | |
| Management fee | \$2,410,645 |
| Distribution and/or service fees | 388,795 |
| Shareholder servicing costs | 13,835 |
| Administrative services fee | 49,135 |
| Independent Trustees' compensation | 7,584 |
| Custodian fee | 16,684 |
| Shareholder communications | 24,922 |
| Audit and tax fees | 30,044 |
| Legal fees | 2,879 |
| Dividend and interest expense on securities sold short | 80,933 |
| Interest expense and fees | 1,659 |
| Miscellaneous | 15,997 |
| Total expenses | \$3,043,112 |
| Reduction of expenses by investment adviser | (97,833) |
| Net expenses | \$2,945,279 |
| Net investment income (loss) | \$2,153,435 |
| Realized and unrealized gain (loss) | |
| Realized gain (loss) (identified cost basis) | |
| Unaffiliated issuers | \$20,538,506 |
| Affiliated issuers | (208) |
| Foreign currency | (813) |
| Net realized gain (loss) | \$20,537,485 |
| Change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation | |
| Unaffiliated issuers | \$(37,083,885) |
| Affiliated issuers | 132 |
| Securities sold short | (97,702) |
| Translation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies | (69) |
| Net unrealized gain (loss) | \$(37,181,524) |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) | \$(16,644,039) |
| Change in net assets from operations | \$(14,490,604) |

See Notes to Financial Statements

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

These statements describe the increases and/or decreases in net assets resulting from operations, any distributions, and any shareholder transactions.

| | Six months ended 6/30/20 (unaudited) | Year ended 12/31/19 |
|---|--|------------------------|
| Change in net assets | | |
| From operations | | |
| Net investment income (loss) | \$2,153,435 | \$4,427,864 |
| Net realized gain (loss) | 20,537,485 | 27,940,886 |
| Net unrealized gain (loss) | (37,181,524) | 141,393,667 |
| Change in net assets from operations | \$(14,490,604) | \$173,762,417 |
| Total distributions to shareholders | \$— | \$(69,043,322) |
| Change in net assets from fund share transactions | \$(1,137,086) | \$41,645,153 |
| Total change in net assets | \$(15,627,690) | \$146,364,248 |
| Net assets | | |
| At beginning of period | 681,684,477 | 535,320,229 |
| At end of period | \$666,056,787 | \$681,684,477 |

See Notes to Financial Statements

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The financial highlights table is intended to help you understand the fund's financial performance for the semiannual period and the past 5 fiscal years. Certain information reflects financial results for a single fund share. The total returns in the table represent the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost) on an investment in the fund share class (assuming reinvestment of all distributions) held for the entire period.

| Initial Class | Six months ended 6/30/20 (unaudited) | Year ended | | | | |
|--|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | 12/31/19 | 12/31/18 | 12/31/17 | 12/31/16 | 12/31/15 |
| Net asset value, beginning of period | \$29.49 | \$24.93 | \$29.50 | \$26.00 | \$26.68 | \$29.11 |
| Income (loss) from investment operations | | | | | | |
| Net investment income (loss) (d) | \$0.11 | \$0.23 | \$0.26 | \$0.20 | \$0.36(c) | \$0.21 |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) | (0.88) | 7.66 | (1.04) | 5.67 | 1.98 | (0.17)(g) |
| Total from investment operations | \$(0.77) | \$7.89 | \$(0.78) | \$5.87 | \$2.34 | \$0.04 |
| Less distributions declared to shareholders | | | | | | |
| From net investment income | \$— | \$(0.24) | \$(0.22) | \$(0.40) | \$(0.22) | \$(0.22) |
| From net realized gain | — | (3.09) | (3.57) | (1.97) | (2.80) | (2.25) |
| Total distributions declared to shareholders | \$— | \$(3.33) | \$(3.79) | \$(2.37) | \$(3.02) | \$(2.47) |
| Net asset value, end of period (x) | \$28.72 | \$29.49 | \$24.93 | \$29.50 | \$26.00 | \$26.68 |
| Total return (%) (k)(r)(s)(x) | (2.61)(n) | 32.95 | (4.37) | 23.37 | 8.74(c) | 0.80 |
| Ratios (%) (to average net assets) and Supplemental data: | | | | | | |
| Expenses before expense reductions (f) | 0.83(a) | 0.83 | 0.82 | 0.83 | 0.80(c) | 0.82 |
| Expenses after expense reductions (f) | 0.80(a) | 0.81 | 0.81 | 0.81 | 0.79(c) | 0.81 |
| Net investment income (loss) | 0.79(a) | 0.82 | 0.88 | 0.70 | 1.36(c) | 0.72 |
| Portfolio turnover | 25(n) | 35 | 31 | 37 | 45 | 43 |
| Net assets at end of period (000 omitted) | \$333,985 | \$361,842 | \$319,422 | \$394,867 | \$386,256 | \$410,178 |
| Supplemental Ratios (%): | | | | | | |
| Ratios of expenses to average net assets after expense reductions excluding short sale expenses and interest expense and fees (f) | 0.77(a) | 0.78 | 0.79 | 0.79 | 0.78(c) | 0.80 |

See Notes to Financial Statements

Financial Highlights – continued

| Service Class | Six months ended 6/30/20 (unaudited) | Year ended | | | | |
|--|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | 12/31/19 | 12/31/18 | 12/31/17 | 12/31/16 | 12/31/15 |
| Net asset value, beginning of period | \$29.05 | \$24.61 | \$29.17 | \$25.73 | \$26.42 | \$28.84 |
| Income (loss) from investment operations | | | | | | |
| Net investment income (loss) (d) | \$0.07 | \$0.16 | \$0.18 | \$0.13 | \$0.29(c) | \$0.13 |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) | (0.86) | 7.55 | (1.03) | 5.61 | 1.96 | (0.16)(g) |
| Total from investment operations | \$(0.79) | \$7.71 | \$(0.85) | \$5.74 | \$2.25 | \$(0.03) |
| Less distributions declared to shareholders | | | | | | |
| From net investment income | \$— | \$(0.18) | \$(0.14) | \$(0.33) | \$(0.14) | \$(0.14) |
| From net realized gain | — | (3.09) | (3.57) | (1.97) | (2.80) | (2.25) |
| Total distributions declared to shareholders | \$— | \$(3.27) | \$(3.71) | \$(2.30) | \$(2.94) | \$(2.39) |
| Net asset value, end of period (x) | \$28.26 | \$29.05 | \$24.61 | \$29.17 | \$25.73 | \$26.42 |
| Total return (%) (k)(r)(s)(x) | (2.72)(n) | 32.60 | (4.62) | 23.07 | 8.49(c) | 0.53 |
| Ratios (%) (to average net assets) and Supplemental data: | | | | | | |
| Expenses before expense reductions (f) | 1.08(a) | 1.08 | 1.07 | 1.08 | 1.05(c) | 1.07 |
| Expenses after expense reductions (f) | 1.05(a) | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.04(c) | 1.06 |
| Net investment income (loss) | 0.55(a) | 0.57 | 0.63 | 0.47 | 1.11(c) | 0.47 |
| Portfolio turnover | 25(n) | 35 | 31 | 37 | 45 | 43 |
| Net assets at end of period (000 omitted) | \$332,072 | \$319,842 | \$215,898 | \$228,102 | \$220,341 | \$226,704 |
| Supplemental Ratios (%): | | | | | | |
| Ratios of expenses to average net assets after expense reductions excluding short sale expenses and interest expense and fees (f) | 1.02(a) | 1.03 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.03(c) | 1.05 |

(a) Annualized.

(c) Amount reflects a one-time reimbursement of expenses by the custodian (or former custodian) without which net investment income and performance would be lower and expenses would be higher.

(d) Per share data is based on average shares outstanding.

(f) Ratios do not reflect reductions from fees paid indirectly, if applicable.

(g) The per share amount varies from the net realized and unrealized gain/loss for the period because of the timing of sales of fund shares and the per share amount of realized and unrealized gains and losses at such time.

(k) The total return does not reflect expenses that apply to separate accounts. Inclusion of these charges would reduce the total return figures for all periods shown.

(n) Not annualized.

(r) Certain expenses have been reduced without which performance would have been lower.

(s) From time to time the fund may receive proceeds from litigation settlements, without which performance would be lower.

(x) The net asset values and total returns have been calculated on net assets which include adjustments made in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles required at period end for financial reporting purposes.

See Notes to Financial Statements

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (unaudited)

(1) Business and Organization

MFS Research Series (the fund) is a diversified series of MFS Variable Insurance Trust (the trust). The trust is organized as a Massachusetts business trust and is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, as an open-end management investment company. The shareholders of each series of the trust are separate accounts of insurance companies, which offer variable annuity and/or life insurance products, and qualified retirement and pension plans.

The fund is an investment company and accordingly follows the investment company accounting and reporting guidance of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification Topic 946 Financial Services – Investment Companies.

(2) Significant Accounting Policies

General – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of increases and decreases in net assets from operations during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. In the preparation of these financial statements, management has evaluated subsequent events occurring after the date of the fund's Statement of Assets and Liabilities through the date that the financial statements were issued.

In March 2020, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update 2020-04, Reference Rate Reform (Topic 848) – Facilitation of the Effects of Reference Rate Reform on Financial Reporting ("ASU 2020-04"), which provides optional, temporary relief with respect to the financial reporting of contracts subject to certain types of modifications due to the planned discontinuation of the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) and other IBOR-based reference rates as of the end of 2021. The temporary relief provided by ASU 2020-04 is effective for certain reference rate-related contract modifications that occur during the period from March 12, 2020 through December 31, 2022. Management is evaluating the impact of ASU 2020-04 on the fund's investments, derivatives, debt and other contracts that will undergo reference rate-related modifications as a result of the reference rate reform.

Balance Sheet Offsetting – The fund's accounting policy with respect to balance sheet offsetting is that, absent an event of default by the counterparty or a termination of the agreement, the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) Master Agreement, or similar agreement, does not result in an offset of reported amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities across transactions between the fund and the applicable counterparty. The fund's right to setoff may be restricted or prohibited by the bankruptcy or insolvency laws of the particular jurisdiction to which a specific master netting agreement counterparty is subject. Balance sheet offsetting disclosures, to the extent applicable to the fund, have been included in the fund's Significant Accounting Policies note under the captions for each of the fund's in-scope financial instruments and transactions.

Investment Valuations – Equity securities, including restricted equity securities and equity securities sold short, are generally valued at the last sale or official closing price on their primary market or exchange as provided by a third-party pricing service. Equity securities, for which there were no sales reported that day, are generally valued at the last quoted daily bid quotation on their primary market or exchange as provided by a third-party pricing service. Equity securities sold short, for which there were no sales reported for that day, are generally valued at the last quoted daily ask quotation on their primary market or exchange as provided by a third-party pricing service. Short-term instruments with a maturity at issuance of 60 days or less may be valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value. Open-end investment companies are generally valued at net asset value per share. Securities and other assets generally valued on the basis of information from a third-party pricing service may also be valued at a broker/dealer bid quotation. In determining values, third-party pricing services can utilize both transaction data and market information such as yield, quality, coupon rate, maturity, type of issue, trading characteristics, and other market data. The values of foreign securities and other assets and liabilities expressed in foreign currencies are converted to U.S. dollars using the mean of bid and asked prices for rates provided by a third-party pricing service.

The Board of Trustees has delegated primary responsibility for determining or causing to be determined the value of the fund's investments (including any fair valuation) to the adviser pursuant to valuation policies and procedures approved by the Board. If the adviser determines that reliable market quotations are not readily available, investments are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the adviser in accordance with such procedures under the oversight of the Board of Trustees. Under the fund's valuation policies and procedures, market quotations are not considered to be readily available for most types of debt instruments and floating rate loans and many types of derivatives. These investments are generally valued at fair value based on information from third-party pricing services. In addition, investments may be valued at fair value if the adviser determines that an investment's value has been materially affected by events occurring after the close of the exchange or market on which the investment is principally traded (such as foreign exchange or market) and prior to the determination of the fund's net asset value, or after the halt of trading of a specific security where trading does not resume prior to the close of the exchange or market on which the security is principally traded. Events that occur after foreign markets close (such as developments in foreign markets and significant movements in the U.S.

Notes to Financial Statements (unaudited) – continued

markets) and prior to the determination of the fund's net asset value may be deemed to have a material effect on the value of securities traded in foreign markets. Accordingly, the fund's foreign equity securities may often be valued at fair value. The adviser generally relies on third-party pricing services or other information (such as the correlation with price movements of similar securities in the same or other markets; the type, cost and investment characteristics of the security; the business and financial condition of the issuer; and trading and other market data) to assist in determining whether to fair value and at what value to fair value an investment. The value of an investment for purposes of calculating the fund's net asset value can differ depending on the source and method used to determine value. When fair valuation is used, the value of an investment used to determine the fund's net asset value may differ from quoted or published prices for the same investment. There can be no assurance that the fund could obtain the fair value assigned to an investment if it were to sell the investment at the same time at which the fund determines its net asset value per share.

Various inputs are used in determining the value of the fund's assets or liabilities. These inputs are categorized into three broad levels. In certain cases, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, an investment's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The fund's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment, and considers factors specific to the investment. Level 1 includes unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Level 2 includes other significant observable market-based inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speed, and credit risk). Level 3 includes unobservable inputs, which may include the adviser's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments. The following is a summary of the levels used as of June 30, 2020 in valuing the fund's assets or liabilities:

| Financial Instruments | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Equity Securities | \$661,942,910 | \$— | \$— | \$661,942,910 |
| Mutual Funds | 6,850,920 | — | — | 6,850,920 |
| Total | \$668,793,830 | \$— | \$— | \$668,793,830 |
| Securities Sold Short | \$(3,223,402) | \$— | \$— | \$(3,223,402) |

For further information regarding security characteristics, see the Portfolio of Investments.

Foreign Currency Translation – Purchases and sales of foreign investments, income, and expenses are converted into U.S. dollars based upon currency exchange rates prevailing on the respective dates of such transactions or on the reporting date for foreign denominated receivables and payables. Gains and losses attributable to foreign currency exchange rates on sales of securities are recorded for financial statement purposes as net realized gains and losses on investments. Gains and losses attributable to foreign exchange rate movements on receivables, payables, income and expenses are recorded for financial statement purposes as foreign currency transaction gains and losses. That portion of both realized and unrealized gains and losses on investments that results from fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates is not separately disclosed.

Short Sales – The fund entered into short sales whereby it sells a security it does not own in anticipation of a decline in the value of that security. The fund will realize a gain if the security price decreases and a loss if the security price increases between the date of the short sale and the date on which the fund replaces the borrowed security. Losses from short sales can exceed the proceeds of the security sold; and they can also exceed the potential loss from an ordinary buy and sell transaction. The amount of any premium, dividends, or interest the fund may be required to pay in connection with a short sale will be recognized as a fund expense. During the six months ended June 30, 2020, this expense amounted to \$80,933. The fund segregates cash or marketable securities in an amount that, when combined with the amount of proceeds from the short sale deposited with the broker, at least equals the current market value of the security sold short.

Security Loans – Under its Securities Lending Agency Agreement with the fund, State Street Bank and Trust Company, as lending agent, loans the securities of the fund to certain qualified institutions (the "Borrowers") approved by the fund. Security loans can be terminated at the discretion of either the lending agent or the fund and the related securities must be returned within the earlier of the standard trade settlement period for such securities or within three business days. The loans are collateralized by cash and/or U.S. Treasury and federal agency obligations in an amount typically at least equal to the market value of the securities loaned. On loans collateralized by cash, the cash collateral is invested in a money market fund. The market value of the loaned securities is determined at the close of business of the fund and any additional required collateral is delivered to the fund on the next business day. The lending agent provides the fund with indemnification against Borrower default. In the event of Borrower default, the lending agent will, for the benefit of the fund, either purchase securities identical to those loaned or, when such purchase is commercially impracticable, pay the fund the market value of the loaned securities. In return, the lending agent assumes the fund's rights to the related collateral. If the collateral value is less than the cost to purchase identical securities, the lending agent is responsible for the shortfall, but only to the extent that such shortfall is not due to a decline in collateral value resulting from collateral reinvestment for which the fund bears the risk of loss. A portion of the income generated upon investment of the collateral is remitted to the Borrowers, and the remainder is allocated between the fund and the lending agent. On loans collateralized by U.S. Treasury and/or

federal agency obligations, a fee is received from the Borrower, and is allocated between the fund and the lending agent. Income from securities lending is separately reported in the Statement of Operations. The dividend and interest income earned on the securities loaned is accounted for in the same manner as other dividend and interest income. At June 30, 2020, there were no securities on loan or collateral outstanding.

Indemnifications – Under the fund’s organizational documents, its officers and Trustees may be indemnified against certain liabilities and expenses arising out of the performance of their duties to the fund. Additionally, in the normal course of business, the fund enters into agreements with service providers that may contain indemnification clauses. The fund’s maximum exposure under these agreements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be made against the fund that have not yet occurred.

Investment Transactions and Income – Investment transactions are recorded on the trade date. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends received in cash are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Certain dividends from foreign securities will be recorded when the fund is informed of the dividend if such information is obtained subsequent to the ex-dividend date. Dividend payments received in additional securities are recorded on the ex-dividend date in an amount equal to the value of the security on such date.

The fund may receive proceeds from litigation settlements. Any proceeds received from litigation involving portfolio holdings are reflected in the Statement of Operations in realized gain/loss if the security has been disposed of by the fund or in unrealized gain/loss if the security is still held by the fund. Any other proceeds from litigation not related to portfolio holdings are reflected as other income in the Statement of Operations.

Tax Matters and Distributions – The fund intends to qualify as a regulated investment company, as defined under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code, and to distribute all of its taxable income, including realized capital gains. As a result, no provision for federal income tax is required. The fund’s federal tax returns, when filed, will remain subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service for a three year period. Management has analyzed the fund’s tax positions taken on federal and state tax returns for all open tax years and does not believe that there are any uncertain tax positions that require recognition of a tax liability. Foreign taxes, if any, have been accrued by the fund in the accompanying financial statements in accordance with the applicable foreign tax law. Foreign income taxes may be withheld by certain countries in which the fund invests. Additionally, capital gains realized by the fund on securities issued in or by certain foreign countries may be subject to capital gains tax imposed by those countries.

Distributions to shareholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Income and capital gain distributions are determined in accordance with income tax regulations, which may differ from U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Certain capital accounts in the financial statements are periodically adjusted for permanent differences in order to reflect their tax character. These adjustments have no impact on net assets or net asset value per share. Temporary differences which arise from recognizing certain items of income, expense, gain or loss in different periods for financial statement and tax purposes will reverse at some time in the future.

Book/tax differences primarily relate to wash sale loss deferrals and partnership adjustments.

The tax character of distributions declared to shareholders for the last fiscal year is as follows:

| | Year ended 12/31/19 |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Ordinary income (including any short-term capital gains) | \$8,055,147 |
| Long-term capital gains | 60,988,175 |
| Total distributions | <u>\$69,043,322</u> |

The federal tax cost and the tax basis components of distributable earnings were as follows:

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| As of 6/30/20 | |
| Cost of investments | \$467,645,924 |
| Gross appreciation | 223,353,484 |
| Gross depreciation | <u>(22,205,578)</u> |
| Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) | \$201,147,906 |
| As of 12/31/19 | |
| Undistributed ordinary income | 6,993,168 |
| Undistributed long-term capital gain | 24,897,394 |
| Other temporary differences | 1,082,441 |
| Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) | <u>237,595,981</u> |

The aggregate cost above includes prior fiscal year end tax adjustments, if applicable.

Notes to Financial Statements (unaudited) – continued

Multiple Classes of Shares of Beneficial Interest – The fund offers multiple classes of shares, which differ in their respective distribution and/or service fees. The fund’s income, realized and unrealized gain (loss), and common expenses are allocated to shareholders based on the daily net assets of each class. Dividends are declared separately for each class. Differences in per share dividend rates are generally due to differences in separate class expenses. The fund’s distributions declared to shareholders as reported in the Statements of Changes in Net Assets are presented by class as follows:

| | <u>Six months ended 6/30/20</u> | <u>Year ended 12/31/19</u> |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Initial Class | \$— | \$38,326,191 |
| Service Class | — | 30,717,131 |
| Total | \$— | \$69,043,322 |

(3) Transactions with Affiliates

Investment Adviser – The fund has an investment advisory agreement with MFS to provide overall investment management and related administrative services and facilities to the fund. The management fee is computed daily and paid monthly at the following annual rates based on the fund’s average daily net assets:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Up to \$1 billion | 0.75% |
| In excess of \$1 billion | 0.65% |

MFS has agreed in writing to reduce its management fee by a specified amount if certain MFS mutual fund assets exceed thresholds agreed to by MFS and the fund’s Board of Trustees. For the six months ended June 30, 2020, this management fee reduction amounted to \$34,690, which is included in the reduction of total expenses in the Statement of Operations. The management fee incurred for the six months ended June 30, 2020 was equivalent to an annual effective rate of 0.74% of the fund’s average daily net assets.

The investment adviser has agreed in writing to pay a portion of the fund’s total annual operating expenses, excluding interest, taxes, extraordinary expenses, brokerage and transaction costs, and investment-related expenses (such as short sale dividend and interest expenses incurred in connection with the fund’s investment activity), such that total annual operating expenses do not exceed 0.77% of average daily net assets for the Initial Class shares and 1.02% of average daily net assets for the Service Class shares. This written agreement will continue until modified by the fund’s Board of Trustees, but such agreement will continue at least until April 30, 2022. For the six months ended June 30, 2020, this reduction amounted to \$63,143, which is included in the reduction of total expenses in the Statement of Operations.

Distributor – MFS Fund Distributors, Inc. (MFD), a wholly-owned subsidiary of MFS, is the distributor of shares of the fund. The Trustees have adopted a distribution plan for the Service Class shares pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

The fund’s distribution plan provides that the fund will pay MFD distribution and/or service fees equal to 0.25% per annum of its average daily net assets attributable to Service Class shares as partial consideration for services performed and expenses incurred by MFD and financial intermediaries (including participating insurance companies that invest in the fund to fund variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts, sponsors of qualified retirement and pension plans that invest in the fund, and affiliates of these participating insurance companies and plan sponsors) in connection with the sale and distribution of the Service Class shares. MFD may subsequently pay all, or a portion, of the distribution and/or service fees to financial intermediaries.

Shareholder Servicing Agent – MFS Service Center, Inc. (MFSC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of MFS, receives a fee from the fund for its services as shareholder servicing agent. For the six months ended June 30, 2020, the fee was \$12,990, which equated to 0.0040% annually of the fund’s average daily net assets. MFSC also receives payment from the fund for out-of-pocket expenses paid by MFSC on behalf of the fund. For the six months ended June 30, 2020, these costs amounted to \$845.

Administrator – MFS provides certain financial, legal, shareholder communications, compliance, and other administrative services to the fund. Under an administrative services agreement, the fund reimburses MFS the costs incurred to provide these services. The fund is charged an annual fixed amount of \$17,500 plus a fee based on average daily net assets. The administrative services fee incurred for the six months ended June 30, 2020 was equivalent to an annual effective rate of 0.0153% of the fund’s average daily net assets.

Trustees’ and Officers’ Compensation – The fund pays compensation to independent Trustees in the form of a retainer, attendance fees, and additional compensation to Board and Committee chairpersons. The fund does not pay compensation directly to Trustees or officers of the fund who are also officers of the investment adviser, all of whom receive remuneration from MFS for their services to the fund. Certain officers and Trustees of the fund are officers or directors of MFS, MFD, and MFSC.

Other – The fund invests in the MFS Institutional Money Market Portfolio which is managed by MFS and seeks current income consistent with preservation of capital and liquidity. This money market fund does not pay a management fee to MFS but does incur investment and operating costs.

The fund is permitted to engage in purchase and sale transactions with funds and accounts for which MFS serves as investment adviser or sub-adviser (“cross-trades”) pursuant to a policy adopted by the Board of Trustees. This policy has been designed to ensure that cross-trades conducted by the fund comply with Rule 17a-7 under the Investment Company Act of 1940. During the six months ended June 30, 2020, the fund engaged in purchase and sale transactions pursuant to this policy, which amounted to \$449,800 and \$361,301, respectively. The sales transactions resulted in net realized gains (losses) of \$(116,502).

The adviser has voluntarily undertaken to reimburse the fund from its own resources on a quarterly basis for the cost of investment research embedded in the cost of the fund’s securities trades. This agreement may be rescinded at any time. For the six months ended June 30, 2020, this reimbursement amounted to \$23,047, which is included in “Other” income in the Statement of Operations.

(4) Portfolio Securities

For the six months ended June 30, 2020, purchases and sales of investments, other than short sales and short-term obligations, aggregated \$159,682,438 and \$159,111,644, respectively.

(5) Shares of Beneficial Interest

The fund’s Declaration of Trust permits the Trustees to issue an unlimited number of full and fractional shares of beneficial interest. Transactions in fund shares were as follows:

| | Six months ended 6/30/20 | | Year ended 12/31/19 | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount |
| Shares sold | | | | |
| Initial Class | 592,679 | \$14,572,445 | 633,043 | \$17,785,306 |
| Service Class | 1,713,747 | 45,335,984 | 2,518,541 | 70,524,436 |
| | 2,306,426 | \$59,908,429 | 3,151,584 | \$88,309,742 |
| Shares issued to shareholders in reinvestment of distributions | | | | |
| Initial Class | — | \$— | 1,429,548 | \$38,326,191 |
| Service Class | — | — | 1,161,767 | 30,717,131 |
| | — | \$— | 2,591,315 | \$69,043,322 |
| Shares reacquired | | | | |
| Initial Class | (1,234,459) | \$(34,850,007) | (2,606,676) | \$(74,894,897) |
| Service Class | (972,612) | (26,195,508) | (1,444,916) | (40,813,014) |
| | (2,207,071) | \$(61,045,515) | (4,051,592) | \$(115,707,911) |
| Net change | | | | |
| Initial Class | (641,780) | \$(20,277,562) | (544,085) | \$(18,783,400) |
| Service Class | 741,135 | 19,140,476 | 2,235,392 | 60,428,553 |
| | 99,355 | \$(1,137,086) | 1,691,307 | \$41,645,153 |

The fund is one of several mutual funds in which certain MFS funds may invest. The MFS funds do not invest in the underlying funds for the purpose of exercising management or control. At the end of the period, the MFS Moderate Allocation Portfolio, the MFS Growth Allocation Portfolio, and the MFS Conservative Allocation Portfolio were the owners of record of approximately 16%, 5%, and 4%, respectively, of the value of outstanding voting shares of the fund.

(6) Line of Credit

The fund and certain other funds managed by MFS participate in a \$1.25 billion unsecured committed line of credit, subject to a \$1 billion sublimit, provided by a syndicate of banks under a credit agreement. Borrowings may be made for temporary financing needs. Interest is charged to each fund, based on its borrowings, generally at a rate equal to the highest of one month LIBOR, the Federal Funds Effective Rate and the Overnight Bank Funding Rate, plus an agreed upon spread. A commitment fee, based on the average daily, unused portion of the committed line of credit, is allocated among the participating funds. In addition, the fund and other funds managed by MFS have established unsecured uncommitted borrowing arrangements with certain banks for temporary financing needs. Interest is charged to each fund, based on its borrowings, at rates equal to customary reference rates plus an agreed upon spread. For the six months ended June 30, 2020, the fund’s commitment fee and interest expense were \$1,659 and \$0, respectively, and are included in “Interest expense and fees” in the Statement of Operations.

Notes to Financial Statements (unaudited) – continued

(7) Investments in Affiliated Issuers

An affiliated issuer may be considered one in which the fund owns 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities, or a company which is under common control. For the purposes of this report, the following were affiliated issuers:

| Affiliated Issuers | Beginning Value | Purchases | Sales Proceeds | Realized Gain (Loss) | Change in Unrealized Appreciation or Depreciation | Ending Value | |
|--|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| MFS Institutional Money Market Portfolio | \$1,194,880 | \$60,968,045 | \$55,311,929 | \$(208) | \$132 | \$6,850,920 | |
| Affiliated Issuers | | | | | | Dividend Income | Capital Gain Distributions |
| MFS Institutional Money Market Portfolio | | | | | | \$37,848 | \$— |

(8) Impacts of COVID-19

The pandemic related to the global spread of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), which was first detected in December 2019, has resulted in significant disruptions to global business activity and the global economy, as well as the economies of individual countries, the financial performance of individual companies and sectors, and the securities and commodities markets in general. This pandemic, the full effects of which are still unknown, has resulted in substantial market volatility and may have adversely impacted the prices and liquidity of the fund's investments and the fund's performance.

STATEMENT REGARDING LIQUIDITY RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The fund has adopted and implemented a liquidity risk management program (the “Program”) as required by Rule 22e-4 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. The fund’s Board of Trustees (the “Board”) has designated MFS as the administrator of the Program. The Program is reasonably designed to assess and manage the liquidity risk of the fund. Liquidity risk is the risk that the fund could not meet requests to redeem shares issued by the fund without significant dilution of remaining investors’ interests.

MFS provided a written report to the Board for consideration at its April 2020 meeting that addressed the operation of the Program and provided an assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Program during the period from the adoption of the Program on December 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019 (the “Covered Period”). The report concluded that during the Covered Period the Program had operated effectively and had adequately and effectively been implemented to assess and manage the fund’s liquidity risk. MFS also reported that there were no liquidity events that impacted the fund or its ability to timely meet redemptions without dilution to existing shareholders during the Covered Period.

There can be no assurance that the Program will achieve its objectives in the future. Further information on liquidity risk, and other principal risks to which an investment in the fund may be subject, can be found in the prospectus.

PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND INFORMATION

MFS votes proxies on behalf of the fund pursuant to proxy voting policies and procedures that are available without charge, upon request, by calling 1-800-225-2606, by visiting mfs.com/proxyvoting, or by visiting the SEC's Web site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

Information regarding how the fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent twelve-month period ended June 30 is available by August 31 of each year without charge by visiting mfs.com/proxyvoting, or by visiting the SEC's Web site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO DISCLOSURE

The fund files a complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year as an exhibit to its reports on Form N-PORT. The fund's Form N-PORT reports are available on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. A shareholder can obtain the portfolio holdings report for the first and third quarters of the fund's fiscal year at mfs.com/vit1 by choosing the fund's name and then selecting the "Resources" tab and clicking on "Prospectus and Reports".

FURTHER INFORMATION

From time to time, MFS may post important information about the fund or the MFS funds on the MFS web site (mfs.com). This information is available at <https://www.mfs.com/announcements> or at mfs.com/vit1 by choosing the fund's name and then selecting the "Resources" tab and clicking on the "Announcements" tab, if any.

INFORMATION ABOUT FUND CONTRACTS AND LEGAL CLAIMS

The fund has entered into contractual arrangements with an investment adviser, administrator, distributor, shareholder servicing agent, 529 program manager (if applicable), and custodian who each provide services to the fund. Unless expressly stated otherwise, shareholders are not parties to, or intended beneficiaries of these contractual arrangements, and these contractual arrangements are not intended to create any shareholder right to enforce them against the service providers or to seek any remedy under them against the service providers, either directly or on behalf of the fund.

Under the Trust's By-Laws and Declaration of Trust, any claims asserted against or on behalf of the MFS Funds, including claims against Trustees and Officers, must be brought in state and federal courts located within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Variable Product Funds

70100 Ameriprise Financial Center
Minneapolis, MN 55474

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