

# Why this was not a “lost decade”

The past decade has been one of the most challenging on record for investors. But even during this volatile period, all of our equity funds with at least 10 years of history have added value. While past returns are not predictive of future results, they illustrate that American Funds’ proven investment approach, which is based on fundamental research and careful security selection, has helped investors pursue their long-term goals.

Figures shown are past results for Class A shares and are not predictive of results in future periods. Current and future results may be lower or higher than those shown. Share prices and returns will vary, so investors may lose money. Investing for short periods makes losses more likely. Results shown are at net asset value with all distributions reinvested. For current information and month-end results, visit [americanfunds.com](http://americanfunds.com).

	Average annual total returns for the 10 years ended September 30, 2009	Hypothetical \$10,000 investment
<b>Standard &amp; Poor’s 500 Composite Index*</b>	-0.15%	\$ 9,848
<b>AMCAP Fund<sup>®</sup></b>	3.36%	13,911
<b>EuroPacific Growth Fund<sup>®</sup></b>	6.04%	17,983
<b>The Growth Fund of America<sup>®</sup></b>	4.06%	14,894
<b>The New Economy Fund<sup>®</sup></b>	1.71%	11,849
<b>New Perspective Fund<sup>®</sup></b>	5.52%	17,111
<b>New World Fund<sup>®</sup></b>	10.18%	26,376
<b>SMALLCAP World Fund<sup>®</sup></b>	4.87%	16,090
<b>American Mutual Fund<sup>®</sup></b>	3.64%	14,291
<b>Capital World Growth and Income Fund<sup>SM</sup></b>	8.37%	22,347
<b>Fundamental Investors<sup>SM</sup></b>	4.18%	15,055
<b>The Investment Company of America<sup>®</sup></b>	2.91%	13,329
<b>Washington Mutual Investors Fund<sup>SM</sup></b>	2.25%	12,491
<b>Capital Income Builder<sup>®</sup></b>	6.98%	19,719
<b>The Income Fund of America<sup>®</sup></b>	5.53%	17,127
<b>American Balanced Fund<sup>®</sup></b>	5.21%	16,610

\*The unmanaged Standard & Poor’s 500 Composite Index is a widely used measure of stocks issued by relatively large U.S. companies.

**Investments are not FDIC-insured, nor are they deposits of or guaranteed by a bank or any other entity, so they may lose value.**

Figures shown are past results for Class A shares and are not predictive of results in future periods. Current and future results may be lower or higher than those shown. Share prices and returns will vary, so investors may lose money. Investing for short periods makes losses more likely. Results shown below reflect the deduction of the 5.75% maximum sales charge with all distributions reinvested. For current information and month-end results, visit [americanfunds.com](http://americanfunds.com).

**Results as of September 30, 2009**

Fund	Inception date	Average annual total returns for Class A shares				Expense ratio
		1 year	5 years	10 years	Lifetime	
<b>Growth funds</b>						
AMCAP Fund	5/1/67	-4.42%	0.81%	2.75%	11.00%	0.74%
EuroPacific Growth Fund	4/16/84	2.34	8.51	5.42	12.01	0.83
The Growth Fund of America	12/1/73	-7.92	2.37	3.45	13.50	0.76
The New Economy Fund	12/1/83	3.18	4.34	1.11	10.44	0.83
New Perspective Fund	3/13/73	-1.34	5.85	4.90	12.42	0.85
New World Fund	6/17/99	-0.07	12.19	9.53	8.89	1.01
SMALLCAP World Fund	4/30/90	0.20	5.84	4.25	8.84	1.25
<b>Growth-and-income funds</b>						
American Mutual Fund	2/21/50	-9.10	0.76	3.02	11.44	0.60
Capital World Growth and Income Fund	3/26/93	-3.32	6.62	7.73	11.19	0.75
Fundamental Investors	8/1/78	-9.17	3.47	3.56	12.16	0.63
The Investment Company of America	1/1/34	-8.86	0.73	2.31	12.04	0.59
Washington Mutual Investors Fund	7/31/52	-16.79	-1.16	1.65	11.54	0.67
<b>Equity-income funds</b>						
Capital Income Builder	7/30/87	-6.01	3.65	6.35	9.56	0.58
The Income Fund of America	12/1/73	-6.05	1.89	4.90	11.12	0.64
<b>Balanced fund</b>						
American Balanced Fund	7/26/75	-6.83	1.05	4.58	10.50	0.61
<b>Index</b>						
Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Index		-6.91	1.01	-0.15		

Capital Research and Management Company manages equity assets through two investment divisions. These divisions make investment decisions independently.

Investment results assume all distributions are reinvested and reflect applicable fees and expenses. Expense ratios are as of each fund's current prospectus as of December 1, 2009. From September 1, 2004, through December 31, 2008, the investment adviser to the American Funds and the business manager for Washington Mutual Investors Fund waived a portion of their management fees. The investment adviser has also reimbursed expenses for some funds and share classes. These reimbursements may be adjusted or discontinued by the investment adviser at any time. Investment results reflect the waiver, without which the results would have been lower. Please see each fund's most recent shareholder report or prospectus for details.

**Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the American Funds. This and other important information is contained in each fund's summary prospectus and/or prospectus, which can be obtained from a financial professional and should be read carefully before investing.** Investments outside the United States involves additional risks — as does investing in smaller companies — such as currency fluctuations, political instability, differing securities regulations and periods of illiquidity. Equity investments are subject to market fluctuations. If used after December 31, 2009, this sheet must be accompanied by the most recent American Funds quarterly statistical update.

**The Capital Group Companies**

American Funds    Capital Research and Management    Capital International    Capital Guardian    Capital Bank and Trust