

# The Growth Fund of America®

Click here to view the fund's [statutory prospectus](#) or [statement of additional information](#).

Class	Ticker	F-1 .....	GFAFX	529-C .....	CGFCX
A .....	AGTHX	F-2 .....	GFFFX	529-E.....	CGFEX
B .....	AGRBX	529-A .....	CGFAX	529-F-1.....	CGFFX
C .....	GFACX	529-B.....	CGFBX		

## Summary prospectus

November 1, 2009

Before you invest, you may want to review the fund's prospectus and statement of additional information, which contain more information about the fund and its risks. You can find the fund's prospectus, statement of additional information and other information about the fund online at [www.americanfunds.com/prospectus](http://www.americanfunds.com/prospectus). You can also get this information at no cost by calling 800/421-0180 or by sending an e-mail request to [prospectus@americanfunds.com](mailto:prospectus@americanfunds.com). The current prospectus and statement of additional information, dated November 1, 2009, are incorporated by reference into this summary prospectus.

# Investment objective

The fund's investment objective is to provide you with growth of capital.

## Fees and expenses of the fund

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the fund. You may qualify for sales charge discounts if you and your family invest, or agree to invest in the future, at least \$25,000 in American Funds. More information about these and other discounts is available from your financial professional and in the "Sales charge reductions and waivers" section on page 31 of the prospectus and on page 56 of the fund's statement of additional information.

<b>Shareholder fees</b> (fees paid directly from your investment)					
	<b>Share classes</b>				
	<b>A and 529-A</b>	<b>B and 529-B</b>	<b>C and 529-C</b>	<b>529-E</b>	<b>F-1, F-2 and 529-F-1</b>
Maximum sales charge (load) imposed on purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	5.75%	none	none	none	none
Maximum deferred sales charge (load) (as a percentage of the amount redeemed)	none	5.00%	1.00%	none	none
Maximum sales charge (load) imposed on reinvested dividends	none	none	none	none	none
Redemption or exchange fees	none	none	none	none	none
Maximum annual account fee (529 share classes only)	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10

<b>Annual fund operating expenses</b> (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)					
	<b>Share classes</b>				
	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>F-1</b>	<b>F-2</b>
Management fees	0.28%	0.28%	0.28%	0.28%	0.28%
Distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees	0.24	1.00	1.00	0.25	none
Other expenses	0.24	0.22	0.22	0.16	0.18
Total annual fund operating expenses	0.76	1.50	1.50	0.69	0.46
	<b>529-A</b>	<b>529-B</b>	<b>529-C</b>	<b>529-E</b>	<b>529-F-1</b>
Management fees	0.28%	0.28%	0.28%	0.28%	0.28%
Distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees	0.20	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.00
Other expenses	0.29	0.30	0.30	0.29	0.29
Total annual fund operating expenses	0.77	1.58	1.58	1.07	0.57

## 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, that all dividends and capital gain distributions are reinvested, that you pay the maximum initial or contingent deferred sales charge, and that the fund's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, your costs would be:

Share classes	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
A	\$648	\$804	\$ 973	\$1,463
B	653	874	1,018	1,590
C	253	474	818	1,791
F-1	70	221	384	859
F-2	47	148	258	579
529-A	669	846	1,037	1,579
529-B	680	938	1,117	1,762
529-C	280	538	917	1,978
529-E	129	380	648	1,408
529-F-1	78	222	377	820

For the share classes listed below, you would pay the following if you did not redeem your shares:

Share classes	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
B	\$153	\$474	\$818	\$1,590
C	153	474	818	1,791
529-B	180	538	917	1,762
529-C	180	538	917	1,978

## 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 rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the example, affect the fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the fund's portfolio turnover rate was 38% of the average value of its portfolio.

## Principal investment strategies

The fund invests primarily in common stocks and seeks to invest in companies that appear to offer superior opportunities for growth of capital.

The fund relies on the professional judgment of its investment adviser to make decisions about the fund's portfolio investments. The basic investment philosophy of the investment adviser is to seek to invest in attractively valued companies that, in its opinion, represent good, long-term investment opportunities. The investment adviser believes that an important way to accomplish this is through fundamental analysis, which may include meeting with company executives and employees, suppliers, customers and competitors. Securities may be sold when the investment adviser believes that they no longer represent relatively attractive investment opportunities. The investment adviser uses a system of multiple portfolio counselors in managing the fund's assets. Under this approach, the portfolio of the fund is divided into segments managed by individual counselors who decide how their respective segments will be invested.

## Principal risks

**You may lose money by investing in the fund. The likelihood of loss may be greater if you invest for a shorter period of time.**

Investors in the fund should have a long-term perspective and, for example, be able to tolerate potentially sharp declines in value.

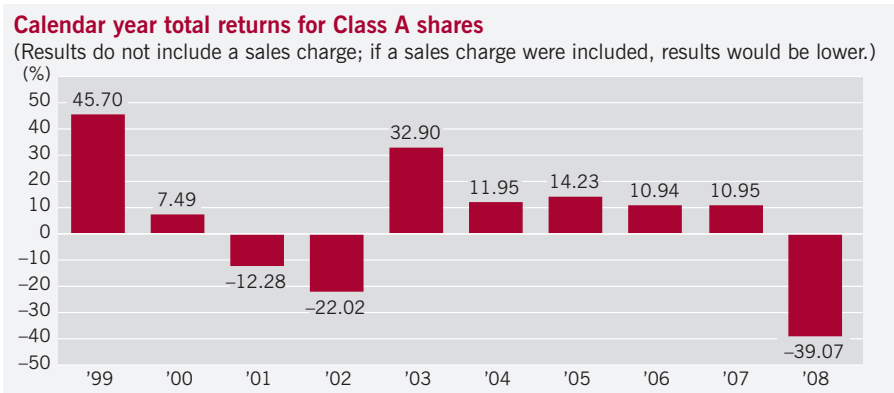
The prices of the common stocks and other securities held by the fund may decline in response to certain events taking place around the world, including those directly involving the issuers whose securities are owned by the fund; conditions affecting the general economy; overall market changes; local, regional or global political, social or economic instability; governmental or governmental agency responses to economic conditions; and currency, interest rate and commodity price fluctuations. The growth-oriented common stocks and other equity-type securities, such as preferred stocks, convertible preferred stocks and convertible bonds, generally purchased by the fund may involve large price swings and potential for loss.

Investments in securities issued by entities based outside the United States may also be affected by currency controls; different accounting, auditing, financial reporting, and legal standards and practices; expropriation; changes in tax policy; greater market volatility; different securities market structures; higher transaction costs; and various administrative difficulties, such as delays in clearing and settling portfolio transactions or in receiving payment of dividends. Investments in securities issued by entities domiciled in the United States may also be subject to many of these risks.

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.

# Investment results

The bar chart below shows how the fund's investment results have varied from year to year, and the table on page 5 shows how the fund's average annual total returns for various periods compare with a broad measure of market performance. This information provides some indication of the risks of investing in the fund. Past results (before and after taxes) are not predictive of future results. Updated information on the fund's results can be obtained by visiting [americanfunds.com](http://americanfunds.com).



Highest/Lowest quarterly results during this time period were:

**Highest** 25.10% (quarter ended December 31, 1999)

**Lowest** -23.11% (quarter ended December 31, 2008)

The fund's total return for the nine months ended September 30, 2009, was 27.05%.

## Average annual total returns

For the periods ended December 31, 2008 (with maximum sales charge):

Share class	Inception date	1 year	5 years	10 years	Lifetime
<b>A</b> – Before taxes	12/1/73	-42.57%	-2.00%	2.55%	13.03%
– After taxes on distributions		-42.67	-2.40	1.82	N/A
– After taxes on distributions and sale of fund shares		-27.54	-1.53	2.16	N/A
Share class (before taxes)	Inception date	1 year	5 years	10 years	Lifetime
<b>B</b>	3/15/00	-42.55%	-1.93%	-2.61%	
<b>C</b>	3/15/01	-40.17	-1.63	-0.98	
<b>F-1</b>	3/15/01	-39.07	-0.83	-0.18	
<b>529-A</b>	2/15/02	-42.60	-2.04	-0.29	
<b>529-B</b>	2/15/02	-42.61	-2.06	-0.29	
<b>529-C</b>	2/15/02	-40.21	-1.70	-0.29	
<b>529-E</b>	3/1/02	-39.28	-1.19	0.03	
<b>529-F-1</b>	9/16/02	-38.98	-0.77	4.05	
Indexes (before taxes)		1 year	5 years	10 years	Lifetime <sup>2</sup>
S&P 500 <sup>1</sup>		-36.99%	-2.19%	-1.38%	10.05%

<sup>1</sup> Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Index (S&P 500) reflects the market sectors in which the fund primarily invests. See the fund's prospectus for more information on the index listed above.

<sup>2</sup> Lifetime results for the index(es) shown are measured from the date Capital Research and Management Company became the fund's investment adviser.

After-tax returns are shown only for Class A shares; after-tax returns for other share classes will vary. After-tax returns are calculated using the highest individual federal income tax rates in effect during each year of the periods shown and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Your actual after-tax returns depend on your individual tax situation and likely will differ from the results shown above. In addition, after-tax returns are not relevant if you hold your fund shares through a tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan, individual retirement account (IRA) or 529 college savings plan.

# Management

## Investment adviser

Capital Research and Management Company, the investment adviser to the fund, uses a system of multiple portfolio counselors in managing mutual fund assets.

## Portfolio counselors

The primary individual portfolio counselors for the fund are:

<b>Portfolio counselor/ Fund title (if applicable)</b>	<b>Portfolio counselor experience in this fund</b>	<b>Primary title with investment adviser (or one of its divisions)</b>
<b>Donnalisa Barnum</b>	8 years	Senior Vice President - Capital World Investors
<b>Gordon Crawford</b> Senior Vice President	18 years	Senior Vice President - Capital Research Global Investors
<b>James E. Drasdo</b>	24 years	Senior Vice President - Capital World Investors
<b>J. Blair Frank</b>	8 years	Senior Vice President - Capital Research Global Investors
<b>Gregg E. Ireland</b> Senior Vice President	5 years	Senior Vice President - Capital World Investors
<b>Michael T. Kerr</b> Senior Vice President	11 years	Senior Vice President - Capital World Investors
<b>Ronald B. Morrow</b>	5 years	Senior Vice President - Capital World Investors
<b>Donald D. O'Neal</b> President	16 years	Senior Vice President - Capital Research Global Investors
<b>James F. Rothenberg</b> Vice Chairman of the Board	21 years	Chairman of the Board, Capital Research and Management Company

# Purchase and sale of fund shares

## Purchase minimums (for all share classes)

<b>To establish an account</b> (including retirement plan and 529 accounts)	<b>\$250</b>
For a payroll deduction retirement plan account, payroll deduction savings plan account or employer-sponsored 529 account	<b>25</b>
<b>To add to an account</b>	<b>50</b>
For a payroll deduction retirement plan account, payroll deduction savings plan account or employer-sponsored 529 account	<b>25</b>

You may sell (redeem) shares through your dealer or financial adviser or by writing to American Funds Service Company at P.O. Box 6007, Indianapolis, IN 46206-6007; telephoning (800/421-0180); faxing (317/735-6636) American Funds Service Company; or accessing our website (americanfunds.com).

## Tax information

Dividends and capital gain distributions you receive from the fund are subject to federal income taxes and may also be subject to state and local taxes.

## Payments to broker-dealers and other financial intermediaries

If you purchase shares of the fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the fund and the fund's distributor or its affiliates may pay the intermediary for the sale of fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your individual financial adviser to recommend the fund over another investment. Ask your individual financial adviser or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

Click here to view the fund's [statutory prospectus](#) or [statement of additional information](#).

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### The Capital Group Companies

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