

Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund: Appreciation Portfolio



Prospectus

May 1, 2011

Initial Shares

Service Shares

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Fund Summary

Investment Objective

The fund seeks long-term capital growth consistent with the preservation of capital. Its secondary goal is current income.

Fees and Expenses

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the fund. These figures do not reflect any fees or charges imposed by participating insurance companies under their Variable Annuity contracts (VA contracts) or Variable Life Insurance policies (VLI policies).

Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)		
	Initial Shares	Service Shares
Management fees	.75	.75
Distribution and/or Service (Rule 12b-1) fees	none	.25
Other expenses	.06	.06
Total annual fund operating expenses	.81	1.06

Example

The Example below 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. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the fund's operating expenses remain the same. The Example does not reflect fees and expenses incurred under VA contracts and VLI policies; if they were reflected, the figures in the Example 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
Initial Shares	\$83	\$259	\$450	\$1,002
Service Shares	\$108	\$337	\$585	\$1,294

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, 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 11.90% of the average value of its portfolio.

Principal Investment Strategy

To pursue its goals, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes, in common stocks. The fund focuses on "blue chip" companies with total market capitalizations of more than \$5 billion at the time of purchase, including multinational companies. These are established companies that have demonstrated sustained patterns of profitability, strong balance sheets, an expanding global presence and the potential to achieve predictable, above-average earnings growth.

In choosing stocks, the fund first identifies economic sectors it believes will expand over the next three to five years or longer. Using fundamental analysis, the fund then seeks companies within these sectors that have proven track records and dominant positions in their industries. The fund also may invest in companies which it considers undervalued in terms of earnings, assets or growth prospects.

The fund employs a "buy-and-hold" investment strategy, which generally has resulted in an annual portfolio turnover of below 15%. A low portfolio turnover rate helps reduce the fund's trading costs and minimizes tax liability by limiting the distribution of capital gains.

Principal Risks

An investment in the fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. The fund's share price fluctuates, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- *Risks of stock investing.* Stocks generally fluctuate more in value than bonds and may decline significantly over short time periods. There is the chance that stock prices overall will decline because stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising prices and falling prices. The market value of a stock may decline due to general weakness in the stock market or because of factors that affect the company or its particular industry.
- *Blue chip risk.* By focusing on large capitalization, high quality stocks, the fund may underperform funds that invest in the stocks of lower quality, smaller capitalization companies during periods when the stocks of such companies are in favor.
- *Market sector risk.* The fund may significantly overweight or underweight certain companies, industries or market sectors, which may cause the fund's performance to be more or less sensitive to developments affecting those companies, industries or sectors.

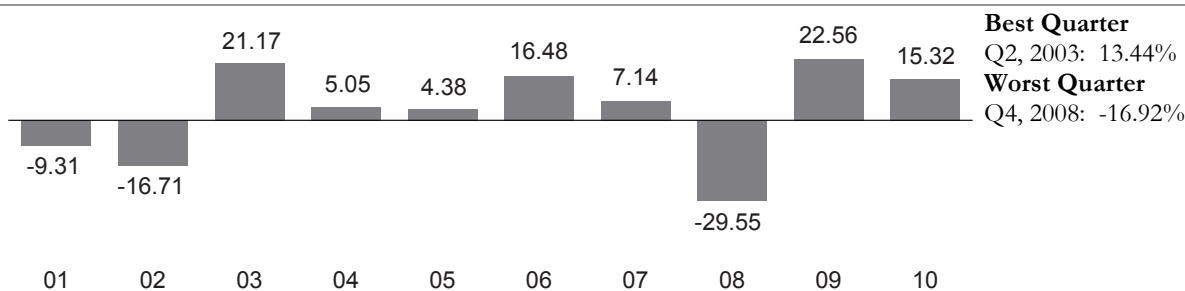
Performance

The following bar chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the fund. The bar chart shows changes in the performance of the fund's Initial shares from year to year. The table compares the average annual total returns of the fund's shares to those of a broad measure of market performance. The fund's past performance is no guarantee of future results. More recent performance information may be available at www.dreyfus.com.

Performance information reflects the fund's expenses only and does not reflect the fees and charges imposed by participating insurance companies under their VA contracts or VLI policies. Because these fees and charges will reduce total return, policyowners should consider them when evaluating and comparing the fund's performance. Policyowners should consult the prospectus for their contract or policy for more information.

Year-by-Year Total Returns as of 12/31 each year (%)

Initial Shares



Average Annual Total Returns (as of 12/31/10)

	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
Initial Shares	15.32%	4.44%	2.23%
Service Shares	15.04%	4.18%	1.97%
S&P 500® Index reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes	15.08%	2.29%	1.42%

Portfolio Management

The fund's investment adviser is The Dreyfus Corporation and the fund's sub-investment adviser is Fayez Sarofim & Co. (Sarofim & Co.). The fund is managed by a team of portfolio managers employed by Sarofim & Co., consisting of Fayez Sarofim, Catherine Crain, Jeff Jacobe, Gentry Lee, Christopher Sarofim and Charles Sheedy. The team is supported by Sarofim & Co.'s Investment Committee, all the members of which are senior investment professionals at Sarofim & Co. The team members hold the following positions at Sarofim & Co.: Mr. Fayez Sarofim is the Chief Executive Officer, Chairman of the Board and Chief Investment Officer; Ms. Crain is a Vice President and Director of Marketing & Client Services; Mr. Jacobe is a Director of Investments and a Senior Vice President; Mr. Lee is a President, Mr. Christopher Sarofim is a Vice Chairman; and Mr. Sheedy is a Senior Vice President.

Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

Fund shares are offered only to separate accounts established by insurance companies to fund VA contracts and VLI policies. Individuals may not purchase shares directly from, or place sell orders directly with, the fund. The VA contracts and the VLI policies are described in the separate prospectuses issued by the participating insurance companies, over which the fund assumes no responsibility. Policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company for more information about buying, selling, or exchanging fund shares.

Tax Information

The fund's distributions are taxable as ordinary income or capital gains. Since the fund's shareholders are the participating insurance companies and their separate accounts, the tax treatment of dividends and distributions will depend on the tax status of the participating insurance company. Accordingly, no discussion is included as to the federal personal income tax consequences to policyowners. For this information, policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company or their tax advisers.

Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries

If you purchase shares through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as an insurance company), the fund and its related companies 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 salesperson to recommend the fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

Fund Details

Introduction

Fund shares are offered only to separate accounts established by insurance companies to fund VA contracts and VLI policies. Individuals may not purchase shares directly from, or place sell orders directly with, the fund. The VA contracts and the VLI policies are described in the separate prospectuses issued by the participating insurance companies, over which the fund assumes no responsibility. Conflicts may arise between the interests of VA contract holders and VLI policyholders (collectively, policyowners). The board will monitor events to identify any material conflicts and, if such conflicts arise, determine what action, if any, should be taken.

The fund currently offers two classes of shares: Initial shares and Service shares. Policyowners should consult the applicable prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company to determine which class of fund shares may be purchased by the separate account.

While the fund's investment objectives and policies may be similar to those of other funds managed by the investment adviser(s), the fund's investment results may be higher or lower than, and may not be comparable to, those of the other funds.

Goal and Approach

The fund seeks long-term capital growth consistent with the preservation of capital. Its secondary goal is current income. To pursue these goals, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes, in common stocks. The fund focuses on "blue chip" companies with total market capitalizations of more than \$5 billion at the time of purchase, including multinational companies. These are established companies that have demonstrated sustained patterns of profitability, strong balance sheets, an expanding global presence and the potential to achieve predictable, above-average earnings growth.

In choosing stocks, the fund first identifies economic sectors it believes will expand over the next three to five years or longer. Using fundamental analysis, the fund then seeks companies within these sectors that have proven track records and dominant positions in their industries. The fund also may invest in companies which it considers undervalued in terms of earnings, assets or growth prospects.

The fund employs a "buy-and-hold" investment strategy, which generally has resulted in an annual portfolio turnover of below 15%. A low portfolio turnover rate helps reduce the fund's trading costs and minimizes tax liability by limiting the distribution of capital gains.

The fund typically sells a stock when the portfolio manager believes there is a significant adverse change in a company's business fundamentals that may lead to a sustained impairment in earnings prospects.

Investment Risks

An investment in the fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. The value of your investment in the fund will fluctuate, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- *Risks of stock investing.* Stocks generally fluctuate more in value than bonds and may decline significantly over short time periods. There is the chance that stock prices overall will decline because stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising prices and falling prices. The market value of a stock may decline due to general market conditions that are not related to the particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates, or adverse investor sentiment generally. A security's market value also may decline because of factors that affect a particular industry, such as labor shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry, or factors that affect a particular company, such as management performance, financial leverage, and reduced demand for the company's products or services.

- *Market sector risk.* The fund may significantly overweight or underweight certain companies, industries or market sectors, which may cause the fund's performance to be more or less sensitive to developments affecting those companies, industries or sectors.
- *Blue chip risk.* By focusing on large capitalization, high quality stocks, the fund may underperform funds that invest in the stocks of lower quality, smaller capitalization companies during periods when the stocks of such companies are in favor.

In addition to the principal risks described above, the fund is subject to the following additional risks.

- *Other potential risks.* The fund may lend its portfolio securities to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions. In connection with such loans, the fund will receive collateral from the borrower equal to at least 100% of the value of loaned securities. If the borrower of the securities fails financially, there could be delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising rights to the collateral.

Under adverse market conditions, the fund could invest some or all of its assets in U.S. Treasury securities and money market securities. Although the fund would do this for temporary defensive purposes, it could reduce the benefit from any upswing in the market. During such periods, the fund may not achieve its investment objectives.

The participating insurance companies and their separate accounts are the shareholders of the fund. From time to time, a shareholder may own a substantial number of fund shares. The sale of a large number of shares could hurt the fund's net asset value.

Management

The investment adviser for the fund is The Dreyfus Corporation (Dreyfus), 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166. Founded in 1947, Dreyfus manages approximately \$297 billion in 196 mutual fund portfolios. For the past fiscal year, the fund paid Dreyfus and Faye Sarofim & Co. (Sarofim & Co.), the fund's sub-investment adviser, an aggregate investment advisory fee at the annual rate of 0.75% of the fund's average daily net assets. A discussion regarding the basis for the board's approving the fund's investment advisory agreement with Dreyfus and sub-investment advisory agreement with Sarofim & Co. is available in the fund's semi-annual report for the period ended June 30, 2010. Dreyfus is the primary mutual fund business of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation (BNY Mellon), a global financial services company focused on helping clients move and manage their financial assets, operating in 36 countries and serving more than 100 markets. BNY Mellon is a leading provider of financial services for institutions, corporations and high-net-worth individuals, providing asset and wealth management, asset servicing, issuer services, and treasury services through a worldwide client-focused team. BNY Mellon has more than \$25.0 trillion in assets under custody and administration and \$1.17 trillion in assets under management, and it services more than \$12.0 trillion in outstanding debt. Additional information is available at www.bnymellon.com.

The Dreyfus asset management philosophy is based on the belief that discipline and consistency are important to investment success. For each fund, Dreyfus seeks to establish clear guidelines for portfolio management and to be systematic in making decisions. This approach is designed to provide each fund with a distinct, stable identity.

Dreyfus has engaged Sarofim & Co., located at 2907 Two Houston Center, 909 Fannin Street, Houston, Texas 77010, to serve as the fund's sub-investment adviser. Sarofim & Co., subject to Dreyfus' supervision and approval, provides investment advisory assistance and research and the day-to-day management of the fund's investments. Sarofim & Co. managed approximately \$19.7 billion in assets, which include investment advisory services for four other registered investment companies having aggregate assets of approximately \$4.3 billion as of December 31, 2010.

The fund is managed by a team of portfolio managers employed by Sarofim & Co., consisting of Faye Sarofim, Catherine Crain, Jeff Jacobs, Gentry Lee, Christopher Sarofim and Charles Sheedy. The team is supported by Sarofim & Co.'s Investment Committee, all the members of which are senior investment professionals at Sarofim & Co. The Investment Committee directs and monitors Sarofim & Co.'s internal, fundamental research efforts. The team of portfolio managers operates within the guidelines set by the Investment Committee. Mr. Faye Sarofim, Chief Executive Officer, Chairman of the Board and Chief Investment Officer, founded Sarofim & Co. in 1958 and has been a portfolio manager of the fund since its inception. Ms. Crain is a Vice President and Director of Marketing & Client Services at Sarofim & Co., where she has been employed since 1993. She is responsible for overseeing marketing efforts and client service activities and has been a portfolio manager of the fund since March 1998. Mr. Jacobs is Director of Investments and a Senior Vice President at Sarofim & Co., where he has been employed since 2000. He is responsible for organizing and overseeing investment research efforts and has been a portfolio manager of the fund since December 2010. Mr. Lee is President of Sarofim & Co., where he has been employed since 1998. He is responsible for overseeing investment, client services and business operations and has been a portfolio manager of the fund since December 2010. Mr. Christopher Sarofim is a Vice Chairman of Sarofim & Co., where he has been employed since 1988. He has been a portfolio manager of the fund since October 2000. Mr. Sheedy is a Senior Vice President at Sarofim & Co., where he has been employed since 1971. He has been a portfolio manager of the fund since October 2000.

The fund's Statement of Additional Information (SAI) provides additional portfolio manager information including compensation, other accounts managed and ownership of fund shares.

MBSC Securities Corporation (MBSC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Dreyfus, serves as distributor of the fund and of the other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds. Rule 12b-1 fees and shareholder services fees, as applicable, are paid to MBSC for financing the sale and distribution of fund share and for providing shareholder account service and maintenance, respectively. Dreyfus or MBSC may provide cash payments out of its own resources to financial intermediaries that sell shares of funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds or provide other services. Such payments are separate from any sales charges, 12b-1 fees and/or shareholder services fees or other expenses that may be paid by a fund to those intermediaries. Because those payments are not made by fund shareholders or the fund, the fund's total expense ratio will not be affected by any such payments. These payments may be made to intermediaries, including affiliates, that provide shareholder servicing, sub-administration, recordkeeping and/or sub-transfer agency services, marketing support and/or access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the financial intermediary. Cash compensation also may be paid from Dreyfus' or MBSC's own resources to intermediaries for inclusion of a fund on a sales list, including a preferred or select sales list or in other sales programs. These payments sometimes are referred to as "revenue sharing." From time to time, Dreyfus or MBSC also may provide cash or non-cash compensation to financial intermediaries or their representatives in the form of occasional gifts; occasional meals, tickets or other entertainment; support for due diligence trips; educational conference sponsorships; support for recognition programs; and other forms of cash or non-cash compensation permissible under broker-dealer regulations. In some cases, these payments or compensation may create an incentive for a financial intermediary or its employees to recommend or sell shares of the fund to you. Please contact your financial representative for details about any payments they or their firm may receive in connection with the sale of fund shares or the provision of services to the fund.

The fund, Dreyfus, Sarofim & Co. and MBSC have each adopted a code of ethics that permits its personnel, subject to such code, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the fund. Each code of ethics restricts the personal securities transactions of employees, and requires portfolio managers and other investment personnel to comply with the code's preclearance and disclosure procedures. The primary purpose of the respective codes is to ensure that personal trading by employees does not disadvantage any fund managed by Dreyfus or its affiliates.

Shareholder Guide

Your Investment

Fund shares may be purchased or sold (redeemed) by separate accounts of participating insurance companies. Policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company for more information about buying or selling fund shares.

Service shares are subject to an ongoing Rule 12b-1 fee of 0.25% for distribution, advertising and marketing, and servicing and/or maintaining accounts of Service shares. Because these fees are paid out of the fund's assets on an ongoing basis, over time these fees will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more than paying other types of sales charges.

Dreyfus generally calculates fund NAVs as of the close of trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) (usually 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on days the NYSE is open for regular business. Your order will be priced at the next NAV calculated after your order is received in proper form by the fund's transfer agent or other authorized entity. When calculating NAVs, Dreyfus values equity investments on the basis of market quotations or official closing prices. Dreyfus generally values fixed income investments based on values supplied by an independent pricing service approved by the fund's board. The pricing service's procedures are reviewed under the general supervision of the board. If market quotations or prices from a pricing service are not readily available, or are determined not to reflect accurately fair value, the fund may value those investments at fair value as determined in accordance with procedures approved by the fund's board. Fair value of investments may be determined by the fund's board, its pricing committee or its valuation committee in good faith using such information as it deems appropriate under the circumstances. Under certain circumstances, the fair value of foreign equity securities will be provided by an independent pricing service. Using fair value to price investments may result in a value that is different from a security's most recent closing price and from the prices used by other mutual funds to calculate their net asset values. Funds that seek tax-exempt income are not recommended for purchase in IRAs or other qualified retirement plans. Foreign securities held by a fund may trade on days when the fund does not calculate its NAV and thus may affect the fund's NAV on days when investors have no access to the fund.

Investments in certain types of thinly traded securities may provide short-term traders arbitrage opportunities with respect to the fund's shares. For example, arbitrage opportunities may exist when trading in a portfolio security or securities is halted and does not resume, or the market on which such securities are traded closes before the fund calculates its NAV. If short-term investors of the fund were able to take advantage of these arbitrage opportunities, they could dilute the NAV of fund shares held by long-term investors. Portfolio valuation policies can serve to reduce arbitrage opportunities available to short-term traders, but there is no assurance that such valuation policies will prevent dilution of the fund's NAV by short-term traders. While the fund has a policy regarding frequent trading, it too may not be completely effective to prevent short-term NAV arbitrage trading, particularly in regard to omnibus accounts. Please see "Shareholder Guide — General Policies" for further information about the fund's frequent trading policy.

General Policies

The fund is designed for long-term investors. Frequent purchases, redemptions and exchanges may disrupt portfolio management strategies and harm fund performance by diluting the value of fund shares and increasing brokerage and administrative costs. As a result, Dreyfus and the fund's board have adopted a policy of discouraging excessive trading, short-term market timing and other abusive trading practices (frequent trading) that could adversely affect the fund or its operations. Dreyfus and the fund will not enter into arrangements with any person or group to permit frequent trading.

The fund also reserves the right to:

- change its minimum or maximum investment amounts
- delay sending out redemption proceeds for up to seven days (generally applies only during unusual market conditions or in cases of very large redemptions or excessive trading)

- "redeem in kind," or make payments in securities rather than cash, if the amount redeemed is large enough to affect fund operations (for example, if it exceeds 1% of the fund's assets)
- refuse any purchase or exchange request, including those from any participating insurance company, individual or group who, in Dreyfus' view, is likely to engage in frequent trading

Transactions in fund shares are processed by the participating insurance companies using omnibus accounts that aggregate the trades of multiple policyowners. Dreyfus' ability to monitor the trading activity of these policyowners is limited because their individual transactions in fund shares are not disclosed to the fund. Accordingly, Dreyfus relies to a significant degree on the participating insurance company to detect and deter frequent trading. The agreement with the participating insurance company includes obligations to comply with all applicable federal and state laws. All participating insurance companies have been sent written reminders of their obligations under the agreements, specifically highlighting rules relating to trading fund shares. Further, all participating insurance companies have been requested in writing to notify Dreyfus immediately if, for any reason, they cannot meet their commitment to make fund shares available in accordance with the terms of the prospectus and relevant rules and regulations.

Dreyfus supplements the surveillance processes in place at participating insurance companies by monitoring total purchases and redemptions of fund shares on a periodic basis. If Dreyfus identifies patterns that may be indicative of frequent trading of large amounts, Dreyfus contacts the participating insurance company for assistance in disaggregating selected omnibus trades into their component parts. When this process identifies multiple roundtrips (i.e., an investment that is substantially liquidated within 60 days), Dreyfus instructs the participating insurance company to temporarily or permanently bar such policyowner's future purchases of fund shares if Dreyfus concludes the policyowner is likely to engage in frequent trading. Dreyfus also may instruct the participating insurance company to apply these restrictions across all accounts under common ownership, control or perceived affiliation. In all instances, Dreyfus seeks to make these determinations to the best of its abilities in a manner that it believes is consistent with shareholder interests.

In addition to applying restrictions on future purchases or exchanges, Dreyfus or the participating insurance company may cancel or reverse the purchase or exchange on the business day following the transaction if the participating insurance company's surveillance system identifies the account as one that is likely to engage in frequent trading. Dreyfus may also instruct the participating insurance company to cancel or reverse the purchase or exchange on the following business day if the trade represents a significant amount of the fund's assets and Dreyfus has concluded that the account is likely to engage in frequent trading.

To the extent the fund significantly invests in foreign securities traded on markets that close before the fund calculates its NAV, events that influence the value of these foreign securities may occur after the close of these foreign markets and before the fund calculates its NAV. As a result, certain policyowners may seek to trade fund shares in an effort to benefit from their understanding of the value of these foreign securities at the time the fund calculates its NAV (referred to as price arbitrage). This type of frequent trading may dilute the value of fund shares held by other policyowners. The fund has adopted procedures designed to adjust closing market prices of foreign equity securities under certain circumstances to reflect what it believes to be their fair value.

Although the fund's frequent trading and fair valuation policies and procedures are designed to discourage market timing and excessive trading, none of these tools alone, nor all of them together, completely eliminates the potential for frequent trading.

Distributions and Taxes

The fund earns dividends, interest and other income from its investments, and distributes this income (less expenses) to shareholders as dividends. The fund also realizes capital gains from its investments, and distributes these gains (less any losses) to shareholders as capital gain distributions. The fund normally pays dividends and capital gains distributions annually. Fund dividends and capital gain distributions will be reinvested in the fund unless the participating insurance company instructs otherwise.

Since the fund's shareholders are the participating insurance companies and their separate accounts, the tax treatment of dividends and distributions will depend on the tax status of the participating insurance company. Accordingly, no discussion is included as to the federal personal income tax consequences to policyowners. For this information, policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company or their tax advisers.

Participating insurance companies should consult their tax advisers about federal, state and local tax consequences.

Exchange Privilege

Policyowners may exchange shares of a class for shares of other funds offered by the VA contracts or VLI policies through the insurance company separate accounts subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the prospectuses of such VA contracts or VLI policies. Policyowners should refer to the applicable insurance company prospectus for more information on exchanging fund shares.

Financial Highlights

These financial highlights describe the performance of the fund's shares for the fiscal periods indicated. "Total return" shows how much your investment in the fund would have increased (or decreased) during each period, assuming you had reinvested all dividends and distributions. These financial highlights have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, along with the fund's financial statements, is included in the annual report, which is available upon request. Keep in mind that fees and charges imposed by participating insurance companies, which are not reflected in the tables, would reduce the investment returns that are shown.

	<i>Year Ended December 31,</i>				
Initial Shares	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Per Share Data (\$):					
Net asset value, beginning of period	31.40	28.88	44.86	42.55	37.11
Investment Operations:					
Investment income--net ^a	.64	.63	.67	.66	.61
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	4.09	4.95	(13.01)	2.32	5.42
Total from Investment Operations	4.73	5.58	(12.34)	2.98	6.03
Distributions:					
Dividends from investment income--net	(.69)	(.78)	(.77)	(.67)	(.59)
Dividends from net realized gain on investments	-	(2.28)	(2.87)	-	-
Total Distributions	(.69)	(3.06)	(3.64)	(.67)	(.59)
Net asset value, end of period	35.44	31.40	28.88	44.86	42.55
Total Return (%)	15.32	22.56	(29.55)	7.14	16.48
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	.81	.80	.81	.80	.82
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	.81	.80	.81	.80	.82
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	2.01	2.31	1.82	1.52	1.58
Portfolio Turnover Rate	11.90	1.49	3.41	5.17	3.86
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	310,385	290,073	274,782	569,422	681,035

^aBased on average shares outstanding at each month end.

	<i>Year Ended December 31,</i>				
Service Shares	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Per Share Data (\$):					
Net asset value, beginning of period	31.21	28.70	44.59	42.32	36.92
Investment Operations:					
Investment income--net ^a	.58	.59	.58	.56	.51
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	4.05	4.89	(12.94)	2.30	5.41
Total from Investment Operations	4.63	5.48	(12.36)	2.86	5.92
Distributions:					
Dividends from investment income--net	(.61)	(.69)	(.66)	(.59)	(.52)
Dividends from net realized gain on investments	-	(2.28)	(2.87)	-	-
Total Distributions	(.61)	(2.97)	(3.53)	(.59)	(.52)
Net asset value, end of period	35.23	31.21	28.70	44.59	42.32
Total Return (%)	15.04	22.23	(29.72)	6.85	16.21
Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.06	1.05	1.06	1.05	1.07
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	1.06	1.05	1.06	1.05	1.07
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	1.74	2.15	1.61	1.27	1.33
Portfolio Turnover Rate	11.90	1.49	3.41	5.17	3.86
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	125,296	71,893	88,606	121,006	114,746

^aBased on average shares outstanding at each month end.

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For More Information

Appreciation Portfolio

A series of Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund
SEC file number: 811-5125

More information on this fund is available free upon request, including the following:

Annual/Semiannual Report

Describes the fund's performance, lists portfolio holdings and contains a letter from the fund's manager discussing recent market conditions, economic trends and fund strategies that significantly affected the fund's performance during the last fiscal year. The fund's most recent annual and semiannual reports are available at www.dreyfus.com.

Statement of Additional Information (SAI)

Provides more details about the fund and its policies. A current SAI is available at www.dreyfus.com and is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The SAI is incorporated by reference (is legally considered part of this prospectus).

Portfolio Holdings

Dreyfus funds generally disclose their complete schedule of portfolio holdings monthly with a 30-day lag at www.dreyfus.com under Mutual Fund Center – Dreyfus Mutual Funds – Mutual Fund Total Holdings. Complete holdings as of the end of the calendar quarter are disclosed 15 days after the end of such quarter. Dreyfus money market funds generally disclose their complete schedule of holdings daily. The schedule of holdings for a fund will remain on the website until the fund files its Form N-Q or Form N-CSR for the period that includes the dates of the posted holdings.

A complete description of the fund's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the fund's portfolio securities is available in the fund's SAI.

To obtain information:

By telephone. Call 1-800-554-4611 or 516-338-3300

By mail.

The Dreyfus Family of Funds
144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard
Uniondale, NY 11556-0144
Attn: Institutional Services Department

On the Internet. Certain fund documents can be viewed online or downloaded from:

SEC: <http://www.sec.gov>

Dreyfus: <http://www.dreyfus.com>

You can also obtain copies, after paying a duplicating fee, by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC (for information, call 1-202-551-8090) or by E-mail request to publicinfo@sec.gov, or by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, DC 20549-0102.