NEUBERGER | BERMAN

Neuberger Berman Genesis Fund

TICKER: Institutional Class: NBGIX, Class R6: NRGSX, Investor Class: NBGNX, Trust Class: NBGEX, Advisor Class: NBGAX

PORTFOLIO MANAGERS: Robert D'Alelio, Brett Reiner and Gregory Spiegel

Performance Highlights

Small-cap stocks, as measured by the Russell 2000 Index[1], rebounded sharply during the second quarter, up +8.50%. The Neuberger Berman Genesis Fund also posted a positive return during the period but underperformed its Russell 2000 Index benchmark.

At the start of April, President Trump revealed his list of reciprocal trade tariffs, which were broader and more punitive than expected. This announcement sent shock waves around the globe, caused equity markets to sell off, and spiked the VIX to 60, the highest level since the pandemic. On April 9th, the Trump Administration announced a 90-day pause on most tariff rates above 10%. The delay in tariffs reduced fears of a global recession and the equity markets appreciated strongly through the end of June.

Portfolio Strategy

During the quarter, economic data was decent, but there were signs of slowing US growth and moderating consumer sentiment. Inflation has remained subdued and the Federal Reserve, while keeping rates steady, has signaled potential rate cuts later this year. Business investment, particularly in hot areas of technology, such as Artificial Intelligence, stayed strong, and easing trade tensions with China lifted market confidence.

Within the Russell 2000 Index, lower quality (non-earners), speculative (smallest market caps), heavily shorted (10% or higher), and volatile (high Beta) stocks outperformed. In this risk-on market environment, our high-quality portfolio underperformed due to negative stock selection (in nine of the eleven sectors in which we invest). Stock selection was particularly weak in the Industrials, Information Technology, and Financials sectors.

Within Industrials, our underperformance in the Construction & Engineering industry was due to our lack of data center names. In the Aerospace & Defense industry, our underperformance was due to the lack of meme and disruptive technology companies, that do not meet our investment criteria (non-earners, rich valuations). In contrast, our outperformance in the Machinery industry was broad-based, with companies that serve both short and long cycle end markets performing well.

In the Technology sector, the lowest quality stocks outperformed meaningfully in the quarter; over half the names in this sector are unprofitable. The strong performance of these low-quality, highly speculative companies has been driven by excitement around quantum computing and artificial intelligence. Within the Financial sector, our Property & Casualty insurance stocks underperformed.

Sector allocation was positive during the period, with our overweight in Industrials and Technology adding the most value. Our overweight in Industrials and Technology is a biproduct of our investment philosophy.

We have discovered many companies in these sectors that have attractive long-term demand opportunities and highly differentiated and durable business models. In contrast, we are underweight healthcare, particularly in biotechnology, due to limited opportunities that fit our investment criteria, most small-cap biotechnology companies are unprofitable and burn cash, thereby needing continuous access to the capital markets (debt, equity) to fund their operations and grow. Our lack of exposure to Biotechnology companies in Health Care and Real Estate Investment Trusts was rewarded during the period.

1. The Russell 2000 Index is an unmanaged index consisting of the securities of the 2,000 issuers having the smallest capitalization in the Russell 3000 Index, representing approximately 8% of the Russell 3000 total market capitalization. The smallest company's market capitalization is roughly $147 million.

BEST AND WORST PERFORMERS FOR SECOND QUARTER 2025[2]

Best Performers	Worst Performers
SPX Technologies, Inc.	Chemed Corporation
Federal Signal Corporation	Watsco, Inc.
RBC Bearings, Inc.	Bio-Techne Corporation
Tetra Tech, Inc.	RLI Corporation
Advanced Energy Industries, Inc.	Eagle Materials, Inc.

2. Reflects the best and worst performers, in descending order, to the Fund's, based on individual security performance and portfolio weighting and are determined by their contribution to the Fund's overall performance. Specific securities identified and described do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for the Fund. Positions listed may include securities that are not held in the Fund as of 6/30/2025. It should not be assumed that any investments in securities identified and described were or will be profitable.

Best Performers

SPX Technologies, Inc.

SPX Technologies manufactures and sells highly engineered products and technologies under two segments, HVAC and Detection & Measurement. The company operates a portfolio of highly engineered and mission-critical products that serve niche applications and create high switching costs. This results in a leading market position, a large installed base and consistently high gross margins. The stock outperformed due to balanced growth across both business units, continued margin progression and an improving fiscal year outlook.

Federal Signal Corporation

Federal Signal is a leading manufacturer of specialized vehicles for maintenance infrastructure and safety and security systems. The company is differentiated by its leading market share, product reliability, manufacturing experience, scaled infrastructure to support field equipment, intellectual property and brand. The company has used its strong free cash flow generation to self-fund M&A, reinvest in the business, and return capital to shareholders. The stock outperformed due to strong earnings results driven by increased orders and margin expansion.

RBC Bearings, Inc.

RBC Bearings manufactures and markets highly engineered precision bearings, components and essential systems for the industrial, defense and aerospace industries. RBC's competitive advantage is based on intangible assets, high switching costs and scale. The stock outperformed due to favorable quarterly results across each business segment and the resumption of M&A following a period of debt repayment.

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Tetra Tech provides high-end consulting and engineering services that focus on water, the environment and sustainable infrastructure for government, commercial and international clients. Tetra Tech's competitive advantage is based on their deep institutional knowledge and a strong reputation for providing high-end services, both of which result in superior project management. The stock outperformed as the company demonstrated resilience despite concerns about slower government spending and an increased pace of share repurchases.

Advanced Energy Industries, Inc.

Advanced Energy sells power conversion products into semiconductors, data centers, networking and industrial/medical end-markets. The company typically has a leading market share in its applications and is often sole sourced by its customers. Its market position is supported by ongoing R&D investment and deep customer relationships. The stock performed well on the back of very strong quarterly results on both the top and bottom lines.

Worst Performers

Chemed Corporation

Chemed operates two business segments – VITAS (hospice) and Roto-Rooter (plumbing to residential and commercial customers). Both VITAS and Roto-Rooter are market share leaders in fragmented industries. The stock underperformed after the company pre-announced negative earnings revisions based on increased costs due to admission trends in VITAS and a return to sales declines in Roto Rooters' residential business.

Watsco, Inc.

Watsco is the largest HVAC distributor in the U.S. The company has a track record of consistent growth and strong free cash flow generation as a significant portion of its profits are recurring in nature arising from maintenance and repair. The company has a differentiated business model due to its technology investments, scale advantages and exclusive relationships with OEMs. The stock underperformed due to softness in its international and new housing markets, as well as a transitory impact from timing related to an industry-wide refrigerant transition.

Bio-Techne Corporation

Bio-Techne is a leading producer of proteins and antibodies for medical research. The company enjoys high barriers due to the purity and consistency of its products, scale benefits, and the large breadth of offerings. The stock underperformed despite solid results, as uncertainty around the academic funding environment with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) introducing budget cuts weighed on the sector.

RLI Corporation

RLI is a specialty Property & Casualty insurer focused on hard-to-write niches. RLI is known for its experience in underserved niches, consistently strong underwriting with aligned interested and highly disciplined capital allocation strategy. The stock underperformed as the outlook worsened due to property market competitive and pricing headwinds, and higher losses expectations across certain casualty lines.

Eagle Materials, Inc.

Eagle Materials is a leading supplier of heavy construction materials and light building materials used for infrastructure and residential/non-residential construction projects. Eagle's cost advantage is supported by its vertical integration and plant network. The stock underperformed due to slowing demand for single-family homes and higher than normal maintenance costs that pressured margins.

Year-to-Date

Over the past six months the small cap market has been quite volatile with investors reacting strongly to a series of policy announcements, macroeconomic data points, and geopolitical events. On a year-to-date basis, the Russell 2000 Index was down -1.79%. During this time period, our Fund performed largely as we would expect (underperforming in the strong up markets characterized by investor speculation and outperforming in the down markets characterized by investor fear and uncertainty). We underperformed our benchmark over the full six-month period due to weak stock selection, which was partially offset by positive sector allocation.

Stock selection was negative in seven of the eleven sectors in which we invest and weakest in the Information Technology, Financials and Health Care sectors. Within Information Technology, our Software, Semiconductors, and Electronic Equipment holdings underperformed. During the period thematically driven and money-losing companies outperformed, and we also had some company-specific weakness in both the software and semiconductor industries. Within Financials, our Insurance names were a drag on relative results. In Health Care, our Providers & Services and Life Science Tools & Service names underperformed.

Sector allocation was positive during the period. The lack of speculative and lower-quality biotechnology names added significant value, as the Trump administration implemented notable policy changes creating additional uncertainty for both companies and investors. In addition, the Fund's overweight to Industrials added to performance during the period.

Outlook

In the quarter, enthusiasm around artificial-intelligence and its resulting beneficiaries helped to drive broader markets higher despite the backdrop of continued trade policy uncertainty. On April 2nd, President Trump announced a universal 10% tariff on all U.S. imports and "reciprocal" tariffs, which in aggregate often exceeded 50%. Since then, there has been a gradual cooling of trade tensions globally but the continued lack of formal agreements with major trading partners has kept this concern on the forefront. Despite this, markets moved higher in the period under the backdrop of decent economic data.

In addition to "AI," we believe that part of this strength was driven by anticipation of the Republican led tax bill that has largely positive implications for the small-cap asset class principally driven by lower tax rates, growth-oriented tax deductions and select credits for industries that are deemed strategic. More specifically, one aspect of the bill that we are particularly encouraged to see is accelerated bonus depreciation. This provision broadly incentivizes capital investment for machinery and other long-lived assets.

This, combined with an energy cost advantage, protectionist trade policy and a broader deregulatory push continues to drive our positive view on the industrial sector where we remain overweight. The impacts to other parts of the portfolio are more nuanced. From a consumer perspective, the bill selectively provides tax relief in areas such as tips, overtime, the childcare tax credit and state and local taxes but it also introduces headwinds in areas such as student loans.

For the consumer, we believe that lower interest rates would be more directly beneficial and stimulative to demand. Research and development tax credits should be supportive of the technology sector while cuts to Medicaid funding introduces a new headwind to the healthcare sector that is already under pressure from recent policy actions.

We remain overweight technology and underweight healthcare. The bill does not directly address the financial sector, but we believe that deregulation is an intent focus of this administration with an aim toward helping regulated financial institutions such as banks, innovate and compete.

In general, we believe that the current administration is generally business friendly but willing to introduce short-term pain for what it sees as long-term objectives. We continue to see pockets of exuberance and speculation in some corners of the market driven by themes such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing. This dynamic has created a bid for low-quality and unprofitable businesses which dragged on recent relative performance in the short-term.

We can look to prior periods to observe that these stretches of outperformance of money-losing companies are typically short-lived. By design, we remain intently focused on balance sheet quality, pricing power, free cash flow generation, and businesses that can compound shareholder value through a market cycle.

We remain confident that our high-quality portfolio is well-positioned to deliver above-average, risk-adjusted returns over the long-term.

NEUBERGER BERMAN GENESIS FUND RETURNS (%)

				(ANNUALIZED AS OF 6/30/25)				
	June 2025	**2Q25**	**YTD**	**1 Year**	**3 Years**	**5 Years**	**10 Years**	**Since Inception**
Institutional Class	2.22	4.32	-4.37	1.43	7.95	7.95	8.71	11.55
Class R6	2.24	4.34	-4.33	1.54	8.06	8.06	8.80	11.49
Investor Class	2.20	4.27	-4.47	1.26	7.78	7.78	8.53	11.39
Trust Class	2.21	4.26	-4.49	1.19	7.68	7.68	8.43	11.35
Advisor Class	2.19	4.20	-4.62	0.93	7.41	7.41	8.15	11.12
Russell 2000® Index	5.19	8.50	-1.79	7.68	10.00	10.04	7.12	9.15

Performance data quoted represent past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original costs. Results are shown on a "total return" basis and include reinvestment of all dividends and capital gain distributions. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. For current performance data, including current to the most recent month end, please visit www.nb.com/performance.

* The inception dates for Neuberger Berman Genesis Fund Class R6, Institutional, Investor, Trust, and Advisor Classes were 3/15/13, 7/1/99, 9/27/88, 8/26/93, and 4/2/97, respectively. The inception date used to calculate benchmark performance is that of the Investor Class, which has lower expenses and typically higher returns than the Trust and Advisor Classes.

** Shares of the Class R6, Institutional Class, Trust Class and Advisor Class may not be purchased directly from the Fund's Investment Manager (the "Manager"); they may only be purchased through certain institutions that have entered into administrative services contracts with the Manager. Some classes are not open to all investors. See the prospectuses for details.

*** The Russell 2000® Index is a float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity market. It includes approximately 2,000 of the smallest securities in the Russell 3000® Index (which measures the performance of the 3,000 largest U.S. public companies based on total market capitalization). The index is rebalanced annually in June.

Please note that the index does not take into account any fees, expenses or taxes of investing in the individual securities that it tracks, and that individuals cannot invest directly in any index. Data about the performance of this index are prepared or obtained by the Manager and include reinvestment of all dividends and capital gain distributions. The Fund may invest in many securities not included in the above-described index.

EXPENSE RATIOS (%)

	Gross Expense
Institutional Class	0.84
Investor Class	0.99
Class R6	0.74
Trust Class	1.09
Advisor Class	1.34

Gross expense represents the total annual operating expenses that shareholders pay (after the effect of fee waivers and/or expense reimbursement). The Fund's investment manager (the "Manager") has contractually undertaken to waive and/or reimburse certain fees and expenses of the Fund so that the total annual operating expenses are capped (excluding interest, brokerage commissions, acquired fund fees and expenses, taxes including any expenses relating to tax reclaims, dividend and interest expenses relating to short sales, and extraordinary expenses, if any) through 08/31/2028 for Class R6 at 0.74%, for Trust Class at 1.09%, for the Investor Class at 0.99%, for the Institutional Class at 0.84% and for Advisor Class at 1.34% (each as a percentage of average net assets). As of the Fund's most recent prospectuses, the Manager was not required to waive or reimburse any expenses pursuant to this arrangement. Absent such arrangements, which cannot be changed without Board approval, the returns may have been lower. Information as of the most recent prospectuses dated December 18, 2024, as amended, restated and supplemented.

An investor should consider the Fund's investment objectives, risks and fees and expenses carefully before investing. This and other important information can be found in the Fund's prospectus, and if available summary prospectus, which you can obtain by calling 877.628.2583. Please read the prospectus, and if available the summary prospectus, carefully before making an investment.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. This material is not intended to address every situation, nor is it intended as a substitute for the legal, tax, accounting or financial counsel of your professional advisors with respect to your individual circumstances. This material is based upon information that we consider reliable, but we do not represent that it is accurate or complete, and it should not be relied on as such. Portfolio holdings and opinions expressed are as of the date herein and are subject to change without notice. This material is not intended to be a formal research report and should not be construed as an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any security.

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Most of the Fund's performance depends on what happens in the stock market. The market's behavior can be unpredictable, particularly in the short term. There can be no guarantee that the Fund will achieve its goal. The Fund may take temporary defensive and cash management positions; to the extent it does, it will not be pursuing its principal investment strategies.

Foreign securities involve risks in addition to those associated with comparable U.S. securities.

An individual security may be more volatile, and may perform differently, than the market as a whole.

Markets may be volatile and values of individual securities and other investments, including those of a particular type, may decline significantly in response to adverse issuer, political, regulatory, market, economic or other developments that may cause broad changes in market value, public perceptions concerning these developments, and adverse investor sentiment or publicity.

High public debt in the U.S. and other countries creates ongoing systemic and market risks and policymaking uncertainty.

The Fund may experience periods of large or frequent redemptions that could cause the Fund to sell assets at inopportune times or at a loss or depressed value. Redemption risk is heightened during periods of declining or illiquid markets.

From time to time, based on market or economic conditions, the Fund may have significant positions in one or more sectors of the market.

Compared to larger companies, small- and mid-cap companies may depend on a more limited management group, may have a shorter history of operations, and may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources. The securities of small- and mid-cap companies are often more volatile and less liquid than the securities of larger companies and may be more affected than other types of securities by the underperformance of a sector or during market downturns.

Value stocks may remain undervalued or may decrease in value during a given period or may not ever realize what the portfolio management team believes to be their full value.

A decline in the Fund's average net assets during the current fiscal year due to market volatility or other factors could cause the Fund's expenses for the current fiscal year to be higher than the expense information presented.

The Fund and its service providers, and your ability to transact with the Fund, may be negatively impacted due to operational matters arising from, among other problems, human errors, systems and technology disruptions or failures, or cybersecurity incidents. It is not possible for the Manager or the other Fund service providers to identify all of the cybersecurity or other operational risks that may affect the Fund or to develop processes and controls to completely eliminate or mitigate their occurrence or effects.

There can be no guarantee that the Portfolio Managers will be successful in their attempts to manage the risk exposure of the Fund or will appropriately evaluate or weigh the multiple factors involved in investment decisions, including issuer, market and/or instrument-specific analysis, valuation and financially material environmental, social and governance factors.

No risk management program can eliminate the Fund's exposure to adverse events; at best, it may only reduce the possibility that the Fund will be affected by such events, and especially those risks that are not intrinsic to the Fund's investment program.

The Fund may not be able to sell an investment at the price at which the Fund has valued the investment.

The **S&P 500 Index** is widely regarded as the standard for measuring large cap U.S. stock market performance and includes a representative sample of leading companies in leading industries.

The **Russell 2000 Growth Index** is a float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of the small-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity market. It includes those Russell 2000® Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth rates. The index is rebalanced annually in June. Data about the performance of this index is prepared or obtained by the Manager and include reinvestment of all dividends and capital gain distributions. The Portfolio may invest in securities not included in the above-described index. Effective after the market close on March 21, 2025, FTSE Russell is implementing a capping methodology to all Russell U.S. Style Indices including this one. Any individual company weights in the index greater than 22.5% will be capped, and the sum of all individual companies that have an index weight greater than 4.5% will be capped to a 45% aggregate weight in the index. This will be applied quarterly going forward, but historical index returns will not be restated.

As of 6/30/25, the weightings of the Best and Worst Performers, as a percentage of Fund net assets were: SPX Technologies, Inc. 1.5%; Federal Signal Corporation 1.1%; RBC Bearings, Inc. 1.7%; Tetra Tech, Inc. 1.5%; Advanced Energy Industrials, Inc. 1.0%; Chemed Corporation 1.4%; Watsco, Inc. 1.2%; Bio-Techne Corporation 0.8%; RLI Corporation 1.0%; Eagle Materials, Inc. 1.0%.

The Global Industry Classification Standard ("GICS")SM is used to derive the component economic sectors of the benchmark and the fund. GICS was developed by and is the exclusive property of MSCI and Standard & Poor's. "Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS)," "GICS" and "GICS Direct" are service marks of MSCI and Standard & Poor's.

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