

# Value manager John Rogers is beating the market this year. Here are his top holdings

By Jesse Pound  
August 21, 2021

---



John Rogers Jr., Ariel Investments Chairman & CIO  
*Adam Jeffery | CNBC*

---

This year has been a big opportunity for value investors, and Ariel Investment's John Rogers has taken advantage.

The investor class shares of the Ariel Fund have gained over 25% this year, according to Morningstar, easily outperforming both the broader market and the fund's mid-value peers. He also outperformed his style counterparts in 2020, though the success of growth stocks overshadowed even the best value funds.

Even as the stock market has climbed steadily since its pandemic-low in March 2020, Rogers has told CNBC several times that he still sees value in parts of the market. Here are his flagship fund's top holdings as of the end of June.

---

## Ariel Fund's Top Holdings

TICKER ↕	COMPANY ↕	VALUE (M) ↕	% OF ASSETS ↕
LAZ	Lazard	\$149.2	4.7
MHK	Mohawk Industries	\$115.6	3.6
FAF	First American Financial	\$111.3	3.5
KKR	KKR & Co	\$106.3	3.3
VIAC	ViacomCBS	\$104.8	3.3
MSGE	MSG Entertainment	\$103.3	3.2
IPG	Interpublic Group	\$103.1	3.2
JLL	JLL	\$97.8	3.1
SRCL	Stericycle	\$97.6	3.1
NTRS	Northern Trust	\$97.1	3

---

The holdings show that Ariel is betting big on the financial sector. The fund has large positions in Lazard and KKR, signaling that Rogers and his team may expect investment bankers to be quite busy in the months ahead.

KKR has been a big winner for the fund this year, rising roughly 56%.

Another financial stock that makes the fund's top 10 is First American Financial, a title insurance company. Rogers told CNBC in March that the company had "gotten really cheap," and the stock has jumped about 30% since then.

Ariel also has several media plays, including ViacomCBS and MSG Entertainment.

Advertising company Interpublic Group has been a top performer in the sector so far this year, rising nearly 55%. The ad market has rebounded strongly in 2021 as companies weathered the worst of the economic shutdowns in the U.S. and also live sports returned to television.