

1290 VT GAMCO Mergers & Acquisitions Portfolio – Class IA and IB Shares

Summary Prospectus dated May 1, 2019

Before you invest, you may want to review the Portfolio’s Prospectus, which contains more information about the Portfolio and its risks. The Portfolio’s current Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”), dated May 1, 2019, as may be amended or supplemented from time to time, and the Portfolio’s audited financial statements included in its annual report to shareholders dated December 31, 2018, are incorporated by reference into this Summary Prospectus. You can find the Portfolio’s Prospectus, SAI, reports to shareholders and other information about the Portfolio online at www.axa-equitablefunds.com/allportfolios.aspx. You can also get this information at no cost by calling 1-877-222-2144 or by sending an e-mail request to service@axa.us.com. This Summary Prospectus is intended for use in connection with a variable contract as defined in Section 817(d) of the Internal Revenue Code (“Contracts”) and certain other eligible investors and is not intended for use by other investors.

Beginning on January 1, 2021, as permitted by regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, you may not be receiving paper copies of the Portfolio’s annual and semi-annual shareholder reports unless you specifically request paper copies from the insurance company that offers your Contract, from your financial intermediary, or from the Portfolio. Instead, the shareholder reports will be made available on a website, and you will be notified by mail each time a shareholder report is posted and provided with a website link to access the shareholder report.

If you already elected to receive shareholder reports electronically, you will not be affected by this change and you need not take any action. If you are a Contractholder, you may elect to receive the Portfolio’s shareholder reports and other communications electronically from the insurance company by following the instructions provided by the insurance company. For other shareholders, you may elect to receive the Portfolio’s shareholder reports and other communications electronically by calling 1-877-222-2144 or by sending an e-mail request to service@axa.us.com.

Beginning on January 1, 2019, you may elect to receive all future shareholder reports in paper free of charge. If you are a Contractholder, you can inform the insurance company that you wish to continue receiving paper copies of shareholder reports by following the instructions provided by the insurance company. For other shareholders, you can inform the Portfolio that you wish to continue receiving paper copies of shareholder reports by calling 1-877-522-5035 or by sending an e-mail request to EquitableFunds@dfinsolutions.com. Your election to receive shareholder reports in paper will apply to all portfolio companies available under your Contract (if you are a Contractholder) or all Portfolios held with the fund complex (for other shareholders).

Investment Objective: Seeks to achieve capital appreciation.

FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE PORTFOLIO

The following table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Portfolio. The table below does not reflect any fees and expenses associated with variable life insurance contracts and variable annuity certificates and contracts (“Contracts”), which would increase overall fees and expenses. See the Contract prospectus for a description of those fees and expenses.

Shareholder Fees (fees paid directly from your investment)
Not applicable.

Annual Portfolio Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)		
1290 VT GAMCO Mergers & Acquisitions Portfolio	Class IA Shares	Class IB Shares
Management Fee	0.90%	0.90%
Distribution and/or Service Fees (12b-1 fees)	0.25%	0.25%
Other Expenses	0.16%	0.16%
Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses	0.03%	0.03%
Total Annual Portfolio Operating Expenses	1.34%	1.34%

Example

This Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Portfolio with the cost of investing in other portfolios. The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Portfolio for the periods

indicated, that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Portfolio’s operating expenses remain the same. This Example does not reflect any Contract-related fees and expenses including redemption fees (if any) at the Contract level. If such fees and expenses were reflected, the total expenses would be higher. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, whether you redeem or hold your shares, your costs would be:

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Class IA Shares	\$136	\$425	\$734	\$1,613
Class IB Shares	\$136	\$425	\$734	\$1,613

PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

The Portfolio 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. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Portfolio’s performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Portfolio’s portfolio turnover rate was 175% of the average value of the Portfolio.

INVESTMENTS, RISKS, AND PERFORMANCE

Principal Investment Strategy: Under normal circumstances, the Portfolio invests primarily in arbitrage opportunities by investing in equity securities of companies that are involved in publicly announced mergers, takeovers, tender offers, leveraged buyouts, spin-offs, liquidations and other corporate re-organizations and in equity securities of companies that the Sub-Adviser believes are likely acquisition targets within 12 to 18 months. When a company agrees

to be acquired by another company, its stock price often quickly rises to just below the stated acquisition price. If the Sub-Adviser determines that the acquisition is likely to be consummated on schedule at the stated acquisition price, then the Portfolio may purchase (if it does not already hold) or increase its investment in the selling company's securities, offering the Portfolio the possibility of generous returns in excess of the return on cash equivalents with a limited risk of excessive loss of capital. At times, the stock of the acquiring company may also be purchased or shorted. The Portfolio may hold a significant portion of its assets in cash or cash equivalents in anticipation of arbitrage opportunities.

The Portfolio may invest in companies of any size and from time to time may invest in companies with small, mid, and large market capitalizations. The Portfolio generally invests in securities of U.S. companies, but also may invest up to 20% of its assets in foreign securities, including those in emerging markets.

The Portfolio intends to invest primarily in common stocks, but it may also invest in other securities that the Sub-Adviser believes provide opportunities for capital appreciation, such as preferred stocks and warrants. It is expected that the Portfolio will engage in active or frequent trading of portfolio securities to achieve its investment objective. In this connection, it is expected that the Portfolio may have a portfolio turnover rate of 150% or more.

In choosing investments, the Sub-Adviser searches for the best values on securities that it believes have the potential to achieve the Portfolio's investment objective of capital appreciation. In seeking to identify companies that are likely to be acquisition targets, the Sub-Adviser considers, among other things, consolidation trends within particular industries, whether a particular industry or company is undergoing a fundamental change or restructuring, the Sub-Adviser's assessment of the "private market value" of individual companies and the potential for an event or catalyst to occur that enhances a company's underlying value. The "private market value" of a company is the value that the Sub-Adviser believes informed investors would be willing to pay to acquire the entire company. The Sub-Adviser seeks to limit excessive risk of capital loss by utilizing various investment strategies, including investing in value oriented equity securities that should trade at a significant discount to the Sub-Adviser's assessment of their private market value.

In evaluating arbitrage opportunities with respect to companies involved in publicly announced mergers or other corporate restructurings, the Sub-Adviser seeks to acquire target companies at a rate of return that provides compensation for assuming deal completion risk. Since such investments are ordinarily short-term in nature, they will tend to increase the turnover rate of the Portfolio, thereby increasing its brokerage and other transaction expenses. The Sub-Adviser may sell a security for a variety of reasons, such as when the security is selling in the public market at or near the Sub-Adviser's estimate of its private market value or if the catalyst expected to happen fails to materialize.

The Portfolio may invest its uninvested cash in high-quality, short-term debt securities, including repurchase agreements and high-quality money market instruments, and also may invest uninvested cash in money market funds, including money market funds managed by the Adviser. Generally, these securities offer less potential for gains than other types of securities.

The Portfolio also may lend its portfolio securities to earn additional income.

Principal Risks: An investment in the Portfolio is not a deposit of a bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. The value of your investment may fall, sometimes sharply, and you could lose money by investing in the Portfolio. There can be no assurance that the Portfolio will achieve its investment objective.

The following risks, which are described in alphabetical order and not in order of importance or potential exposure, can negatively affect the Portfolio's performance.

Cash Management Risk: The Portfolio may maintain cash and cash equivalent positions as part of the Portfolio's strategy in order to take advantage of investment opportunities as they arise, to manage the Portfolio's market exposure and for other portfolio management purposes. As such, the Portfolio may maintain cash balances, which may be significant, with counterparties such as the Trust's custodian or its affiliates. Maintaining larger cash and cash equivalent positions could negatively affect the Portfolio's performance due to missed investment opportunities and may also subject the Portfolio to additional risks, such as increased credit risk with respect to the custodian bank holding the assets and the risk that a counterparty may be unable or unwilling to honor its obligations.

Credit Risk: The Portfolio is subject to the risk that the issuer or the guarantor (or other obligor, such as a party providing insurance or other credit enhancement) of a fixed income security, or the counterparty to a derivatives contract, repurchase agreement, loan of portfolio securities or other transaction, is unable or unwilling, or is perceived (whether by market participants, ratings agencies, pricing services or otherwise) as unable or unwilling, to make timely principal and/or interest payments, or otherwise honor its obligations, which may cause the Portfolio's holdings to lose value. Securities are subject to varying degrees of credit risk, which are often reflected in their credit ratings. However, rating agencies may fail to make timely changes to credit ratings in response to subsequent events and a credit rating may become stale in that it fails to reflect changes in an issuer's financial condition. The downgrade of the credit rating of a security may decrease its value. Lower credit quality also may lead to greater volatility in the price of a security and may negatively affect a security's liquidity.

Equity Risk: In general, the values of stocks and other equity securities fluctuate, and sometimes widely fluctuate, in response to changes in a company's financial condition as well as general market, economic and political conditions and other factors.

Focused Portfolio Risk: The Portfolio employs a strategy of investing in the securities of a limited number of companies. As a result, the Portfolio may incur more risk because changes in the value of a single security may have a more significant effect, either positive or negative, on the Portfolio's net asset value. To the extent that the Portfolio concentrates, or invests a higher percentage of its assets, in the securities of a particular issuer or issuers in a particular country, group of countries, region, market, industry, group of industries, sector or asset class, the Portfolio may be adversely affected by the performance of those securities, and may be more susceptible to adverse

economic, market, political or regulatory occurrences affecting that issuer or issuers, country, group of countries, region, market, industry, group of industries, sector or asset class. A portfolio using such a focused or concentrated investment strategy may experience greater performance volatility than a portfolio that is more broadly invested.

Foreign Securities Risk: Investments in foreign securities, including depositary receipts, involve risks not associated with investments in U.S. securities. Foreign markets may be less liquid, more volatile and subject to less government supervision and regulation than U.S. markets. Security values also may be negatively affected by changes in the exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and foreign currencies. Differences between U.S. and foreign legal, political and economic systems, regulatory regimes and market practices also may impact security values, and it may take more time to clear and settle trades involving foreign securities. In addition, securities issued by U.S. entities with substantial foreign operations or holdings can involve risks relating to conditions in foreign countries.

Currency Risk: Investments in foreign currencies and in securities that trade in, or receive revenues in, or in derivatives that provide exposure to foreign currencies are subject to the risk that those currencies will decline in value relative to the U.S. dollar. Any such decline may erode or reverse any potential gains from an investment in securities denominated in foreign currency or may widen existing loss. In the case of hedging positions, there is the risk that the U.S. dollar will decline in value relative to the currency being hedged. Currency rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time for a number of reasons, including changes in interest rates, intervention (or the failure to intervene) by governments, central banks or supranational entities, or by the imposition of currency controls or other political developments in the U.S. or abroad.

Emerging Markets Risk: There are greater risks involved in investing in emerging market countries and/or their securities markets, and investments in these countries and/or markets are more susceptible to loss than investments in developed countries and/or markets. Investments in these countries and/or markets may present market, credit, currency, liquidity, legal, political, technical and other risks different from, or greater than, the risks of investing in developed countries. In addition, the risks associated with investing in a narrowly defined geographic area are generally more pronounced with respect to investments in emerging market countries.

Regulatory Risk: Less information may be available about foreign companies. In general, foreign companies are not subject to uniform accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards or to other regulatory practices and requirements as are U.S. companies. Many foreign governments do not supervise and regulate stock exchanges, brokers and the sale of securities to the same extent as does the United States and may not have laws to protect investors that are comparable to U.S. securities laws. In addition, some countries may have legal systems that may make it difficult for the Portfolio to vote proxies, exercise shareholder rights, and pursue legal remedies with respect to its foreign investments.

Large-Cap Company Risk: Larger, more established companies may be unable to respond quickly to new competitive challenges such as changes in technology and consumer tastes, which may lead to a decline in their market price. Many larger companies also may not be able to attain the high growth rate of successful smaller companies, especially during extended periods of economic expansion.

Market Risk: The Portfolio is subject to the risk that the securities markets will move down, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably, based on overall economic conditions and other factors, which may negatively affect Portfolio performance. Changes in the financial condition of a single issuer can impact the market as a whole. Geo-political risks, including terrorism, tensions or open conflict between nations, or political or economic dysfunction within some nations that are major players on the world stage, may lead to instability in world economies and markets, may lead to increased market volatility, and may have adverse long-term effects. In addition, markets and market-participants are increasingly reliant on information data systems. Inaccurate data, software or other technology malfunctions, programming inaccuracies, unauthorized use or access, and similar circumstances may impair the performance of these systems and may have an adverse impact upon a single issuer, a group of issuers, or the market at-large.

Mid-Cap and Small-Cap Company Risk: The Portfolio's investments in mid- and small-cap companies may involve greater risks than investments in larger, more established issuers because they generally are more vulnerable than larger companies to adverse business or economic developments, which can negatively affect their value. Such companies generally have narrower product lines, more limited financial and management resources and more limited markets for their securities as compared with larger companies. As a result, the value of such securities may be more volatile than the value of securities of larger companies, and the Portfolio may experience difficulty in purchasing or selling such securities at the desired time and price or in the desired amount. In general, these risks are greater for small-cap companies than for mid-cap companies.

Money Market Risk: Although a money market fund is designed to be a relatively low risk investment, it is not free of risk. Despite the short maturities and high credit quality of a money market fund's investments, increases in interest rates and deteriorations in the credit quality of the instruments the money market fund has purchased may reduce the money market fund's yield and can cause the price of a money market security to decrease. In addition, a money market fund is subject to the risk that the value of an investment may be eroded over time by inflation. Money market funds are subject to specific rules governing money market funds. These rules affect the manner in which money market funds are structured and operated and may significantly affect the money market fund industry generally and, therefore, may impact a money market fund's expenses, operations, returns and liquidity.

Portfolio Management Risk: The Portfolio is subject to the risk that strategies used by an investment manager and its securities selections fail to produce the intended results. An investment manager's judgments or decisions about the quality, relative yield or value of, or market trends affecting, a particular security or issuer, industry, sector, region or market segment, or about the economy or interest rates, may be incorrect or otherwise may not produce the intended results, which

may result in losses to the Portfolio. In addition, many processes used in Portfolio management, including security selection, rely, in whole or in part, on the use of various technologies. The Portfolio may suffer losses if there are imperfections, errors or limitations in the quantitative, analytic or other tools, resources, information and data used, or the analyses employed or relied on, by an investment manager, or if such tools, resources, information or data are used incorrectly, fail to produce the desired results, or otherwise do not work as intended. There can be no assurance that the use of these technologies will result in effective investment decisions for the Portfolio.

Portfolio Turnover Risk: High portfolio turnover (generally, turnover, in excess of 100% in any given fiscal year) may result in increased transaction costs to the Portfolio, which may result in higher fund expenses and lower total return.

Preferred Stock Risk: Preferred stock is subject to many of the risks associated with debt securities, including interest rate risk. Unlike interest payments on debt securities, dividends on preferred stock are generally payable at the discretion of the issuer's board of directors. Preferred shareholders may have certain rights if dividends are not paid but generally have no legal recourse against the issuer. Shareholders may suffer a loss of value if dividends are not paid. In certain situations an issuer may call or redeem its preferred stock or convert it to common stock. The market prices of preferred stocks are generally more sensitive to actual or perceived changes in the issuer's financial condition or prospects than are the prices of debt securities.

Sector Risk: From time to time, based on market or economic conditions, the Portfolio may have significant positions in one or more sectors of the market. To the extent the Portfolio invests more heavily in particular sectors, its performance will be especially sensitive to developments that significantly affect those sectors. Individual sectors may be more volatile, and may perform differently, than the broader market. The industries that constitute a sector may all react in the same way to economic, political or regulatory events.

Securities Lending Risk: The Portfolio may lend its portfolio securities to seek income. There is a risk that a borrower may default on its obligations to return loaned securities, however, the Portfolio's securities lending agent may indemnify the Portfolio against that risk. The Portfolio will be responsible for the risks associated with the investment of cash collateral, including any collateral invested in an affiliated money market fund. The Portfolio may lose money on its investment of cash collateral or may fail to earn sufficient income on its investment to meet obligations to the borrower. In addition, delays may occur in the recovery of securities from borrowers, which could interfere with the Portfolio's ability to vote proxies or to settle transactions.

Special Situations Risk: The Portfolio may seek to benefit from "special situations," such as mergers, consolidations, bankruptcies, liquidations, reorganizations, restructurings, tender or exchange offers or other unusual events expected to affect a particular issuer. In general, securities of companies which are the subject of a tender or exchange offer or a merger, consolidation, bankruptcy, liquidation, reorganization or restructuring proposal sell at a premium to their historic market price immediately prior to the announcement of the transaction. However, it is possible that the value of securities of a company involved in such a

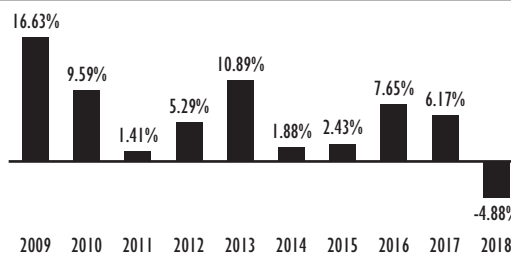
transaction will not rise and in fact may fall, in which case the Portfolio would lose money. It is also possible that the transaction may not be completed as anticipated or may take an excessive amount of time to be completed, in which case the Portfolio may not realize any premium on its investment and could lose money if the value of the securities declines during the Portfolio's holding period. In some circumstances, the securities purchased may be illiquid making it difficult for the Portfolio to dispose of them at an advantageous price.

Risk/Return Bar Chart and Table

The bar chart and table below provide some indication of the risks of investing in the Portfolio by showing changes in the Portfolio's performance from year to year and by showing how the Portfolio's average annual total returns for the past one, five and ten years (or since inception) through December 31, 2018 compared to the returns of a broad-based securities market index. The additional broad-based securities market index shows how the Portfolio's performance compared with the returns of another index that has characteristics relevant to the Portfolio's investment strategies. The return of the broad-based securities market index (and any additional comparative index) shown in the right hand column below is the return of the index for the last 10 years or, if shorter, since the inception of the share class with the longest history. Class IA shares did not pay 12b-1 fees prior to January 1, 2012. Past performance is not an indication of future performance.

The performance results do not reflect any Contract-related fees and expenses, which would reduce the performance results.

Calendar Year Annual Total Returns — Class IB



Best quarter (% and time period)	Worst quarter (% and time period)
9.57% (2009 2nd Quarter)	-6.07% (2018 4th Quarter)

Average Annual Total Returns

	One Year	Five Years	Ten Years/Since Inception
1290 VT GAMCO Mergers & Acquisitions Portfolio — Class IA Shares	-4.85%	2.56%	5.64%
1290 VT GAMCO Mergers & Acquisitions Portfolio — Class IB Shares	-4.88%	2.56%	5.55%
S&P Long-Only Merger Arbitrage Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)	2.61%	3.01%	4.64%
S&P 500® Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)	-4.38%	8.49%	13.12%

WHO MANAGES THE PORTFOLIO

Investment Adviser: FMG LLC

Portfolio Managers: The members of the team that are jointly and primarily responsible for the selection, monitoring and oversight of the Portfolio's Sub-Adviser are:

Name	Title	Date Began Managing the Portfolio
Kenneth T. Kozlowski, CFP®, CLU, ChFC	Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of FMG LLC	May 2011
Alwi Chan, CFA®	Senior Vice President and Deputy Chief Investment Officer of FMG LLC	May 2009

Sub-Adviser: GAMCO Asset Management, Inc. ("GAMCO" or the "Sub-Adviser")

Portfolio Manager: The individual primarily responsible for the securities selection, research and trading for the Portfolio is:

Name	Title	Date Began Managing the Portfolio
Mario J. Gabelli	Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer of Value Portfolios of GAMCO	May 2003

AXA Equitable Funds Management Group, LLC ("FMG LLC" or the "Adviser") has been granted relief by the Securities and Exchange Commission to hire, terminate and replace Sub-Advisers and amend sub-advisory agreements subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees and without obtaining shareholder approval. However, the Adviser may not enter into a sub-advisory agreement on behalf of the Portfolio with an "affiliated person" of the Adviser, such as AllianceBernstein L.P., unless the sub-advisory agreement is approved by the Portfolio's shareholders. The Adviser is responsible for overseeing Sub-Advisers and recommending their hiring, termination and replacement to the Board of Trustees.

PURCHASE AND REDEMPTION OF PORTFOLIO SHARES

The Portfolio's shares are currently sold only to insurance company separate accounts in connection with Contracts issued by AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company ("AXA Equitable"), AXA Life and Annuity Company, or other affiliated or unaffiliated insurance companies and to The AXA Equitable 401(k) Plan. Shares also may be sold to other portfolios managed by FMG LLC that currently sell their shares to such accounts and to other investors eligible under applicable federal income tax regulations.

The Portfolio does not have minimum initial or subsequent investment requirements. Shares of the Portfolio are redeemable on any business day (which typically is any day the New York Stock Exchange is open) upon receipt of a request. All redemption requests will be processed and payment with respect thereto will normally be made within seven days after tender. Please refer to your Contract prospectus for more information on purchasing and redeeming Portfolio shares.

TAX INFORMATION

The Portfolio's shareholders are (or may include) insurance company separate accounts and other investors eligible under applicable federal income tax regulations. Distributions made by the Portfolio to such an account, and exchanges and redemptions of Portfolio shares made by such an account, ordinarily do not cause the holders of underlying Contracts to recognize income or gain for federal income tax purposes at the time of the distributions, exchanges or redemptions; the holders generally are taxed only on amounts they withdraw from their Contract. See the prospectus for your Contract for further tax information.

PAYMENTS TO BROKER-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

This Portfolio is not sold directly to the general public but instead is offered as an underlying investment option for Contracts and to other eligible investors. The Portfolio and the Adviser and its affiliates may make payments to a sponsoring insurance company (or its affiliates) or other financial intermediary for distribution and/or other services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the insurance company or other financial intermediary and your financial adviser to recommend the Portfolio over another investment or by influencing an insurance company to include the Portfolio as an underlying investment option in the Contract. The prospectus (or other offering document) for your Contract may contain additional information about these payments. Ask your financial adviser or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.