QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW

U.S. Quality ETF

Performance returns (USD)

ANNUALIZED RETURNS (QUARTER-END)	Quarter-End	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
NAV	-1.52	21.12	21.12	-	-	-	25.34
S&P 500	2.41	25.02	25.02	-	-	-	30.75
Market Price	-1.67	21.02	21.02	-		-	24.12
S&P 500	2.41	25.02	25.02	-		-	28.64

NAV Inception Date: 13-Nov-23
Market Price Inception Date: 14-Nov-23
Performance data quoted represents past performance and is not indicative 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 cost. Current performance data may be lower or higher than the performance data provided herein. To obtain performance information to the most recent month-end, visit www.gmo.com. Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) are bought and sold through exchange trading at market price (not NAV), and are not individually redeemed from the fund. Shares may trade at a premium or discount to their NAV in the secondary market. Brokerage commissions will reduce returns.

MAJOR PERFORMANCE DRIVERS

2024 was another vintage year for equity investors. Absolute returns were generally positive across global markets, and the U.S. Quality portfolio had a net return slightly ahead of the MSCI World Index but trailing the S&P 500.

The portfolio generated its returns in the first three quarters of the year, remaining ahead of the U.S. market through the dying days of September. Absolute returns for the portfolio were negative in the final quarter, in contrast to the broader markets' gains. Although we didn't appreciate it immediately, the portfolio's relative return began to move early in the third quarter with the betting odds on Trump's chances of winning the presidency. Much of the relative sector performance in Q4 could be interpreted as responses to the Trump policy platform (for example, with respect to the potential inflationary impact of tariffs, deportations, some aspects of deregulation etc., alongside a preference for lower interest rates).

As bond yield rose, users of leverage (Real Estate and Utilities) and bond proxies (Consumer Staples and Health Care) were weak. Payers of rates (Financials that borrow short and lend long) and "friends of Donald" (Technology and Consumer Discretionary, e.g. Tesla/Musk, Nvidia, Broadcom) did well. The relatively defensive orientation of your portfolio was an uncomfortable place to be. Overweights in Consumer Staples and Health Care were a drag, and owning the less racy plays in Technology hurt too. Non-U.S. markets generated lower returns as the initial implications of MAGA and the potential for tariff hardball was priced in and the dollar strengthened.

Disappointing as the quarter was, the silver lining is that we have seen this movie, or one quite like it, before. In the last quarter of 2016, when Trump was elected for the first time, we saw a similar pattern of beneficiaries in terms of sectors and so on, and we also saw our flagship Quality strategy's YTD gain against the broader markets evaporate over a short period. That time around, most of the relative market moves were reversed as markets saw that Trump's aspirations would be hard to implement in practice. By the end of Q1, the strategy was back on track. The Trump team appears to be somewhat more cohesive in 2025, but we suspect that the path ahead will have its twists and turns. We do not presume to make a specific short-term forecast, but believe that investing in well-managed, competitively advantaged businesses with an eye on valuation will generate attractive returns going forward.

Performance for the year of inception is less than a full calendar year. Returns shown for periods greater than one year are on an annualized basis.
Risks: Risks associated with investing in the Fund may include: (1) Market Risk - Equities: The market price of equities may decline due to factors affecting the issuer, its industries, or the economy and equity markets generally. Declines in stock market prices generally are likely to reduce the net asset value of the Fund's shares. (2) Management and Operational Risk: The risk that GMO's investment techniques will fail to produce desired results, including annualized returns and annualized volatility. (3) Focused Investment Risk: The Fund invests its assets in the securities of a limited number of issuers, and a decline in the market price of a particular security held by the Fund may affect the Fund's performance more than if the Fund invested in the securities of a larger number of issuers.For a more complete discussion of these risks and others, please consult the Fund's Prospectus. **Performance Returns:** Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) are bought and sold through exchange trading at market price (not NAV), and are not individually redeemed from the fund. Shares may trade at a premium or discount to their NAV in the secondary market. Brokerage commissions will reduce returns. The GMO ETFs are distributed in the United States by Foreside Fund Services LLC. GMO and Foreside Fund Services LLC are not affiliated. **Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses: 0.50% Expense Ratio is equal to the Fund's Total Annual Operating Expenses set forth in the Fund's most recent prospectus dated November 1, 2024.**

QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW

MAJOR PERFORMANCE DRIVERS CONT.

Health Care is an attractive sector for us in terms of quality and valuation and is our second largest exposure behind Information Technology. However, 2024 presented a challenging environment. Particularly notable was the Managed Care industry that provides health insurance and other services supporting the U.S. health care system. This industry was cast tragically into the spotlight this quarter with the murder of UnitedHealth Group executive Brian Thompson. While we empathize with those wrestling with the strain of health issues, all health systems must make difficult trade-offs as funding is finite. This terrible event unleashed a torrent of often misplaced vitriol against U.S. health insurers; individuals interact directly with insurers, but often people do not realize that health insurers act under the instruction of the ultimate payer – typically private corporations or the government. Looking through all the complexity, their profit margins are not excessive and the utilization management programs they implement on behalf of their clients are an essential lever to manage the growth in U.S. health care spend. Many of the other health care players have incentives to maximize the amount of spend, no matter what the benefits. We see this negative sentiment as a buying opportunity – one that is a repeated motif in the political cycle - and, we have added to our positions in UnitedHealth as well as our other holdings, Elevance and Cigna.

Where do we go from here? We read the same newspapers as you do and, as usual, the future seems much more unpredictable than the past. Indeed, there is plenty to worry about from geopolitics, debt levels, fractious domestic politics, technological change, etc. We try not to spend too much time forecasting a precise shape of things to come. We prefer to lean against detailed shorter-term views that are priced in by the market with confidence. We suspect the consensus that emerged toward the end of last year around developments in U.S. politics is one of those cases. Whether we're right or wrong on that, we believe that your portfolio of well-managed, competitively advantaged businesses trading on valuations that make sense will likely generate compelling returns in the coming quarters and years. In addition, we note that the shares in quality businesses tend to hold up better than the broader market should times turn tougher.

Portfolio weights, as a percent of equity, for the positions mentioned were: Nvidia (0.0%), Broadcom (3.1%), Tesla (0.0%), United Health (3.8%), Elevance (2.6%), and Cigna (1.3%)

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PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The GMO U.S. Quality ETF seeks to generate total return by investing in U.S. equities the Focused Equity team believes to be of high quality.

The team believes that companies with established track records of historical profitability and strong fundamentals – high quality companies – are able to outgrow the average company over time and are therefore worth a premium price. The GMO U.S. Quality ETF's disciplined approach uses both quantitative and fundamental techniques to assess the relative quality and valuation of U.S.-domiciled companies and aims to exploit a long-term investment horizon while withstanding short-term volatility in an actively managed ETF format.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Benchmark(s): The S&P 500 Index is an independently maintained and widely published index comprised of U.S. large capitalization stocks. S&P does not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy, completeness or availability of any data or information and is not responsible for any errors or omissions from the use of such data or information. Reproduction of the data or information in any form is prohibited except with the prior written permission of S&P or its third party licensors.

An investor should consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. This and other important information can be found in the funds prospectus. To obtain a prospectus please visit www.gmo.com. Read the prospectus carefully before investing.

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