



Global X Russell 2000 Covered Call ETF (RYLD)

Important Information

Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Concentration in a particular industry or sector will subject RYLD to loss due to adverse occurrences that may affect that industry or sector. Investors in RYLD should be willing to accept a high degree of volatility in the price of the fund's shares and the possibility of significant losses.

RYLD engages in options trading. An option is a contract sold by one party to another that gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy (call) or sell (put) a stock at an agreed upon price within a certain period or on a specific date. A covered call option involves holding a long position in a particular asset, in this case U.S. common equities, and writing a call option on that same asset with the goal of realizing additional income from the option premium. RYLD writes covered call index options on the Russell 2000 Index. By selling covered call options, the fund limits its opportunity to profit from an increase in the price of the underlying index above the exercise price, but continues to bear the risk of a decline in the index. A liquid market may not exist for options held by the fund. While the fund receives premiums for writing the call options, the price it realizes from the exercise of an option could be substantially below the indices current market price.

Shares of ETFs are bought and sold at market price (not NAV) and are not individually redeemed from the Fund. Brokerage commissions will reduce returns. Beginning October 15, 2020, market price returns are based on the official closing price of an ETF share or, if the official closing price isn't available, the midpoint between the national best bid and national best offer ("NBBO") as of the time the ETF calculates current NAV per share. Prior to October 15, 2020, market price returns were based on the midpoint between the Bid and Ask price. NAVs are calculated using prices as of 4:00 PM Eastern Time. The returns shown do not represent the returns you would receive if you traded shares at other times. Indices are unmanaged and do not include the effect of fees, expenses or sales charges. One cannot invest directly in an index.

This material must be preceded or accompanied by the fund's prospectus. Please read it carefully before investing.

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Bonds and bond funds will decrease in value as interest rates rise. High yield bonds involve greater risks of default or downgrade and are more volatile than investment grade securities, due to the speculative nature of their investments. Emerging markets involve heightened risks related to the same factors as well as increased volatility and lower trading volume. Real estate and REIT investments are subject to changes in economic conditions, credit risk and interest rate fluctuations. Preferred stock is subject to many of the risks associated with debt securities, including interest rate risk. Companies may not pay a dividend, an issuer may suspend payment of dividends at any time, and in certain situations an issuer may call or redeem its preferred stock or convert it to common stock. Investments in securities of MLPs involve risk that differ from investments in common stock including risks related to limited control and limited rights to vote on matters affecting the MLP. MLP common units and other equity securities can be affected by macro economic and other factors affecting the stock market in general, expectations of interest rates, investor sentiment towards MLPs or the energy sector, changes in a particular issuer's financial condition, or unfavorable or unanticipated poor performance of a particular issuer (in the case of MLPs, generally measured in terms of distributable cash flow).

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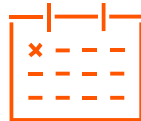
RYLD: Global X Russell 2000 Covered Call ETF

Tracking the Cboe Russell 2000 BuyWrite Index, RYLD buys the stocks in the Russell 2000 Index (at times by exposure to the Vanguard Russell 2000 ETF) and sells “at-the-money” covered calls on the same index.



High Income Potential

RYLD seeks to generate income through covered call writing, which historically produces higher yields in periods of volatility.¹



Monthly Distributions

RYLD makes distributions on a monthly basis.



Efficient Options Execution

RYLD writes call options on the Russell 2000 Index, saving investors the time and potential expense of doing so individually.

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Key Facts | Ticker: RYLD | Tracking Index: Cboe Russell 2000 BuyWrite Index | Stats & Fees | Net Expense Ratio: 0.60% ⁴ | 30-Day SEC Yield: 1.14% ² |
| | Inception Date: 04/17/2019 | Bloomberg Index Ticker: BXR | | Gross Expense Ratio: 0.66% | Unsubsidized 30-Day SEC Yield: 1.11% ² |
| | | | | Number of Holdings: 1987 ² | 12-Month Yield: 13.69 ² |

| Key Characteristics | SECTOR BREAKDOWN ³ | | PERFORMANCE ^{2,3} | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|----------------------------|--|--|--|---------|----------|--------|---------|----------------------------|------|-----|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|--|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| | | | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>1-Month</th> <th>3-Months</th> <th>1-Year</th> <th>3-Years</th> <th>Annualized Since Inception</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">RYLD</td> <td>NAV</td> <td>-1.82%</td> <td>-2.78%</td> <td>4.28%</td> <td>5.95%</td> <td>3.04%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Market Price</td> <td>-1.94%</td> <td>-2.84%</td> <td>4.33%</td> <td>5.88%</td> <td>3.01%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Russell 2000 Index</td> <td></td> <td>-5.89%</td> <td>-5.14%</td> <td>8.87%</td> <td>7.13%</td> <td>4.31%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Performance represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when sold or redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost and current performance may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. Performance current to the most recent month-end available at globalxetfs.com.</p> | | | | | | | 1-Month | 3-Months | 1-Year | 3-Years | Annualized Since Inception | RYLD | NAV | -1.82% | -2.78% | 4.28% | 5.95% | 3.04% | Market Price | -1.94% | -2.84% | 4.33% | 5.88% | 3.01% | Russell 2000 Index | | -5.89% | -5.14% | 8.87% | 7.13% |
| | | 1-Month | 3-Months | 1-Year | 3-Years | Annualized Since Inception | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RYLD | NAV | -1.82% | -2.78% | 4.28% | 5.95% | 3.04% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Market Price | -1.94% | -2.84% | 4.33% | 5.88% | 3.01% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Russell 2000 Index | | -5.89% | -5.14% | 8.87% | 7.13% | 4.31% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

¹ Covered call writing can limit the upside potential of the underlying security. ² Source: Global X ETFs, as of 09/30/2023. ³ Bloomberg, as of 09/30/2023. ⁴ Net Expense Ratio: Reflects fees incurred by the Fund after waivers and reimbursements – fee waivers are contractual and in effect until at least March 1, 2024 for RYLD.

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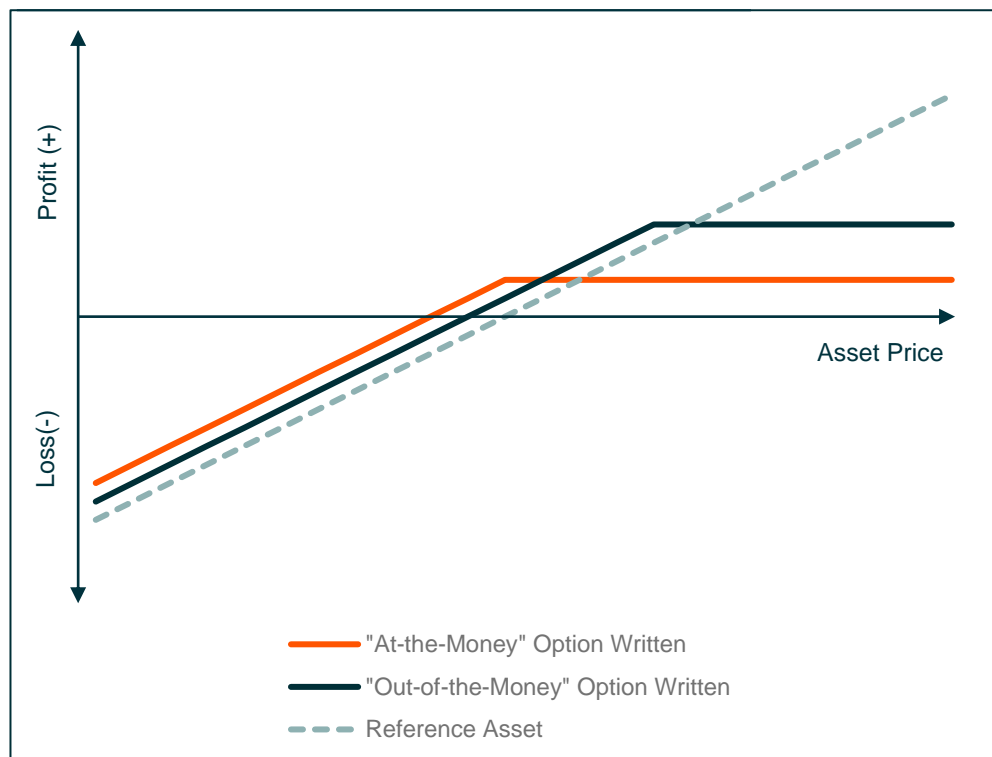
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Covered Call Strategy Summary

A covered call is an option strategy in which an investor writes (sells) a call option on an asset he/she already owns

Covered call strategy payoff



Covered Call Features

- Generates higher income versus the underlying security itself due to the premiums received from selling call options.
- Upside potential is capped in the event that the stock appreciates beyond the strike price.
- Option premiums tend to increase during volatile markets, offering a potential risk management component.
- No additional downside protection beyond the premiums received.

How This Works: Covered Call Strategy In Practice (RYLD)

RYLD is an ETF that implements a covered call strategy on the Russell 2000.

Owens the Russell 2000 Index Components and may invest in the Vanguard Russell 2000 ETF



Writes monthly Call Options on the Russell 2000

Additional Info

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| Components: | As per Russell 2000 Index |
| Weighting: | As per Russell 2000 Index |

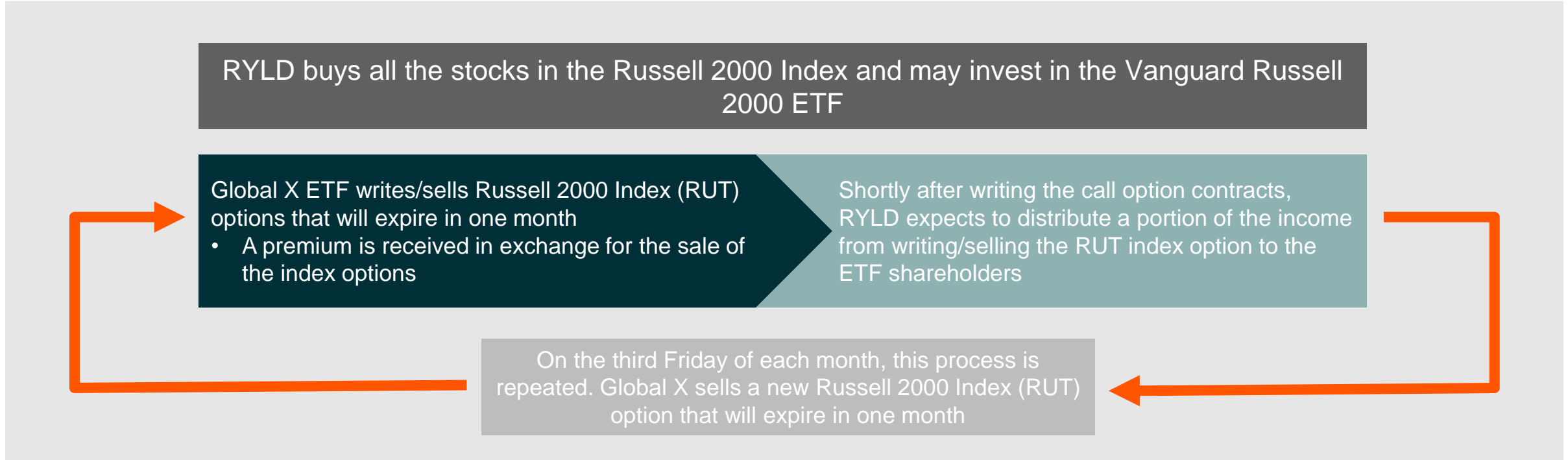
| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Style: | European |
| Strike Price (SP): | Closest listed SP above last value |
| Options Strategy: | Written monthly |

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Ticker: | RYLD |
| Inception Date: | 04/17/2019 |
| Net Expense Ratio: | 0.60% |
| Gross Expense Ratio: | 0.66% |
| Distributions: | Paid Monthly |

The Global X Russell 2000 Covered Call ETF (RYLD) seeks to provide investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the Cboe Russell 2000 BuyWrite Index. Fee waivers are contractual and in effect until at least March 1, 2024

Covered Call Process Explained

As an example of how an ETF can implement a covered call strategy, the Global X Russell 2000 Covered Call ETF (RYLD) maintains exposure to the stocks in the Russell 2000, while writing call options on the index each month.



Index Options Details:

- Cannot be called/exercised early
- Settlement is in Cash

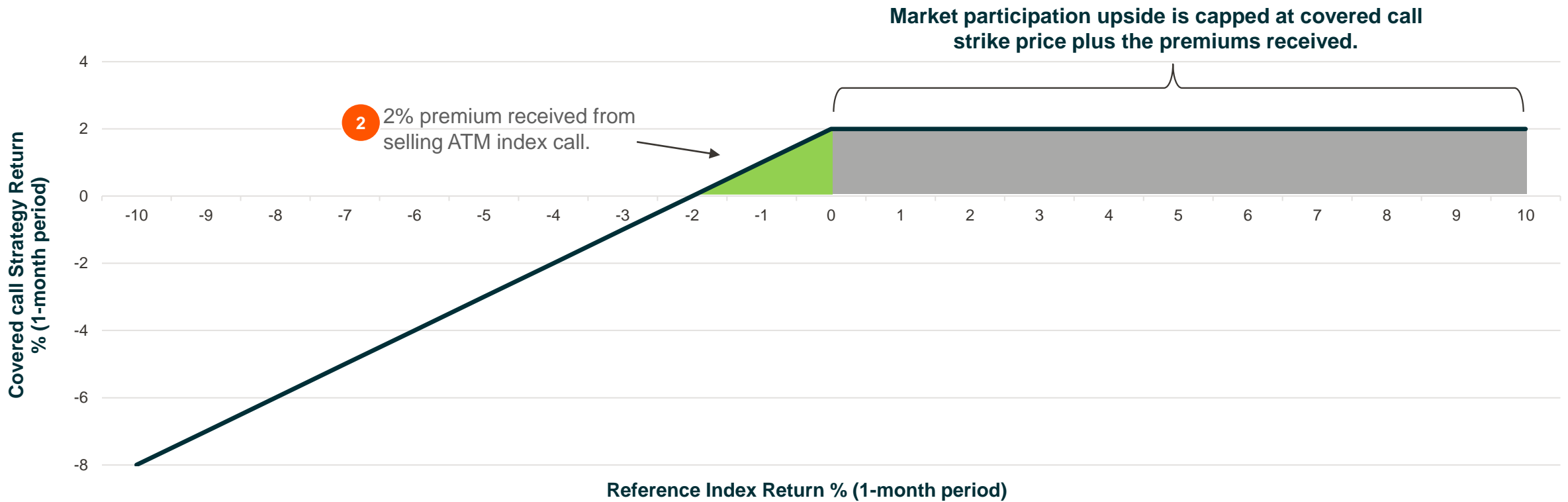
For Illustration Purposes Only



Global X Covered Call ETFs: How it Works (with premiums)

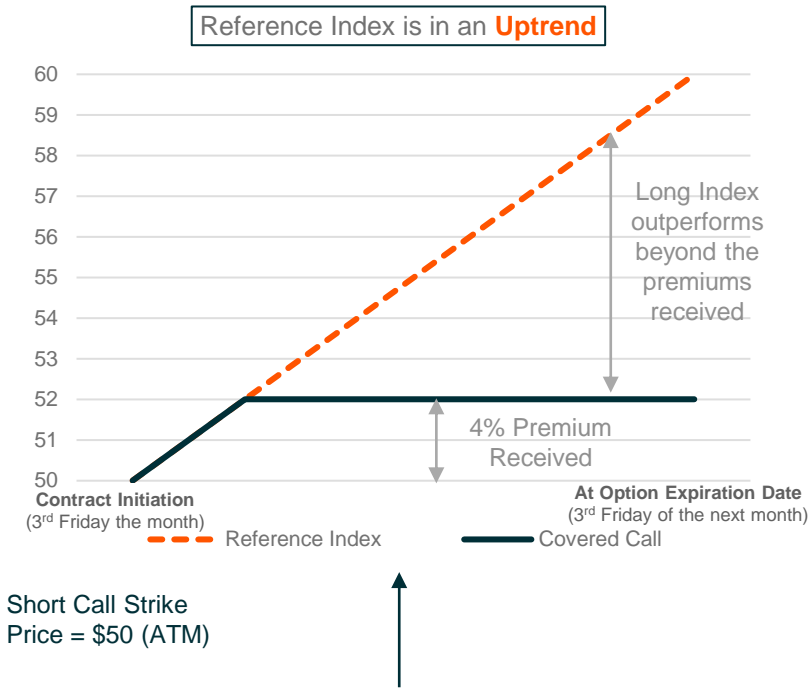
Assuming a 2% premium is received, we can visualize how Global X's Covered Call ETFs are expected to perform.

- 1 Purchase the underlying index securities
- 2 Sell an "at-the-money" index covered call option on 100% of its stock portfolio.
- 3 Not Pictured: Distribute half of the premiums received up to 1% of NAV to shareholders.

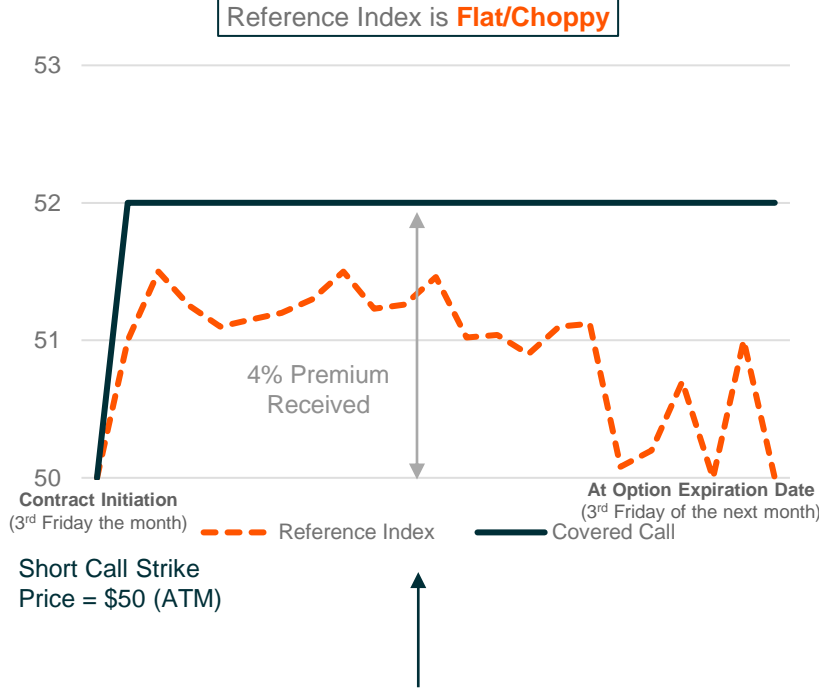


For Illustrative Purposes Only to demonstrate mathematical principal. This is not a guarantee of future results. Covered call Strategy does not reflect fund fees, which would further reduce returns. Fund market price returns may vary from NAV total returns.

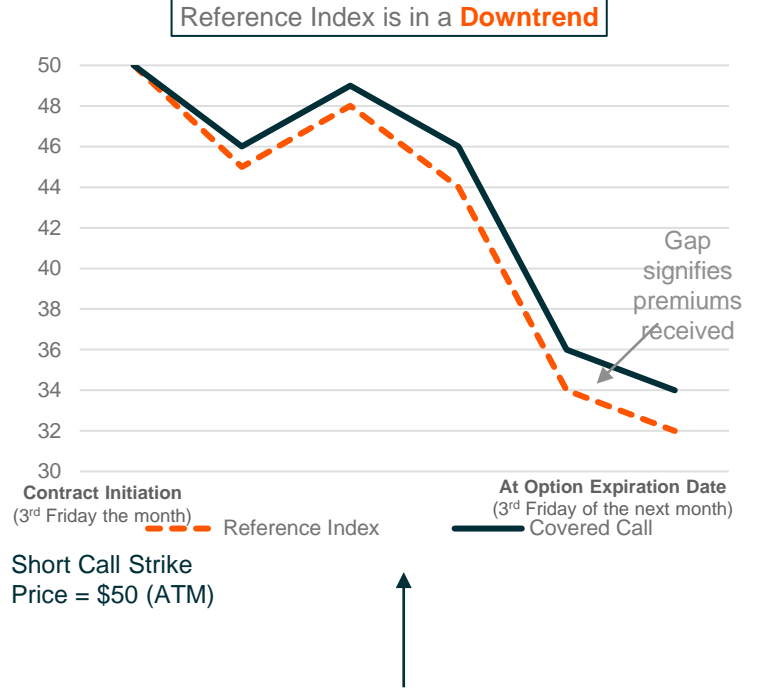
Covered Call Performance Scenarios



Covered call would be expected to **underperform** since its potential gain will be limited to the premiums received.



Covered call would be expected to **outperform** if the reference index price at contract initiation ends at the same price upon contract expiration since its performance will be supported by the premium income collected from selling monthly index calls.



Covered call would be expected to **outperform** if the reference index falls throughout the life of the options contract due to the covered calls potentially offsetting some losses.

For illustrative purposes only. Flat/Choppy market assumes no fluctuations below the strike price.

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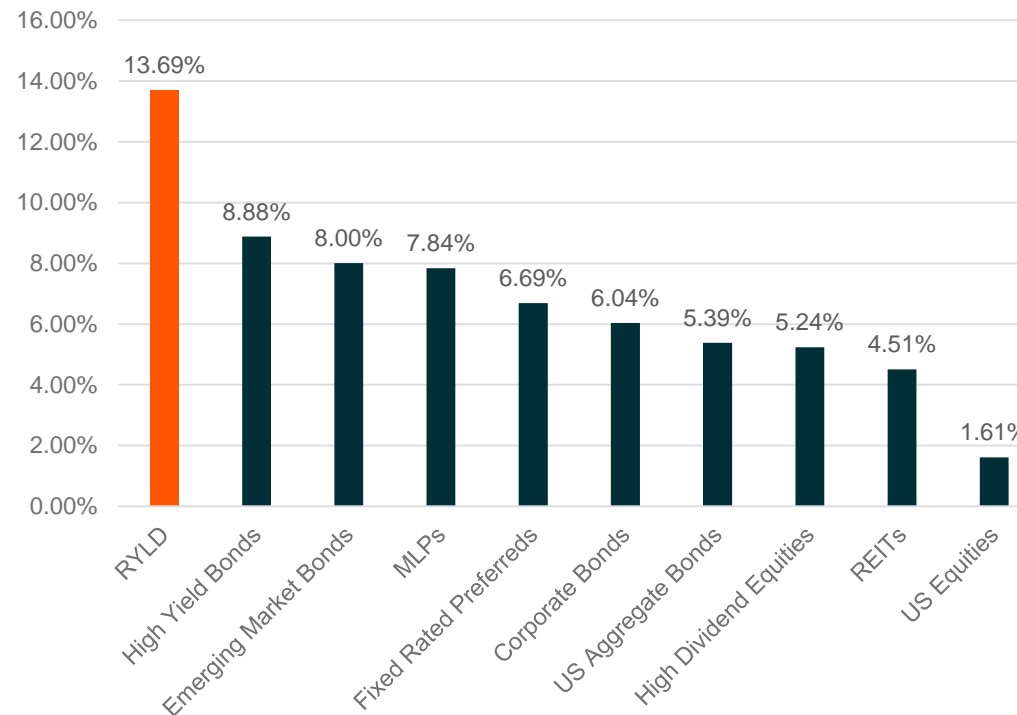
Investment Case for RYLD

What can an income-oriented investor potentially do to increase their portfolio's yield?

- A** Take more duration or credit risk in the bond markets, like high yield and Emerging Market bonds
- B** Look for alternative sources of income, such as high dividend stocks, MLPs, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) or preferred.
- C** Consider an options-based, income-generating strategy, such as the **Global X Russell 2000 Covered Call ETF (RYLD)**

The Global X Russell 2000 Covered Call ETF (RYLD) follows a “covered call” or “buy-write” strategy, in which the Fund buys the stocks in the Russell 2000 Index (at times by exposure to the Vanguard Russell 2000 ETF) and “writes” or “sells” corresponding call options on the Russell 2000 Index.

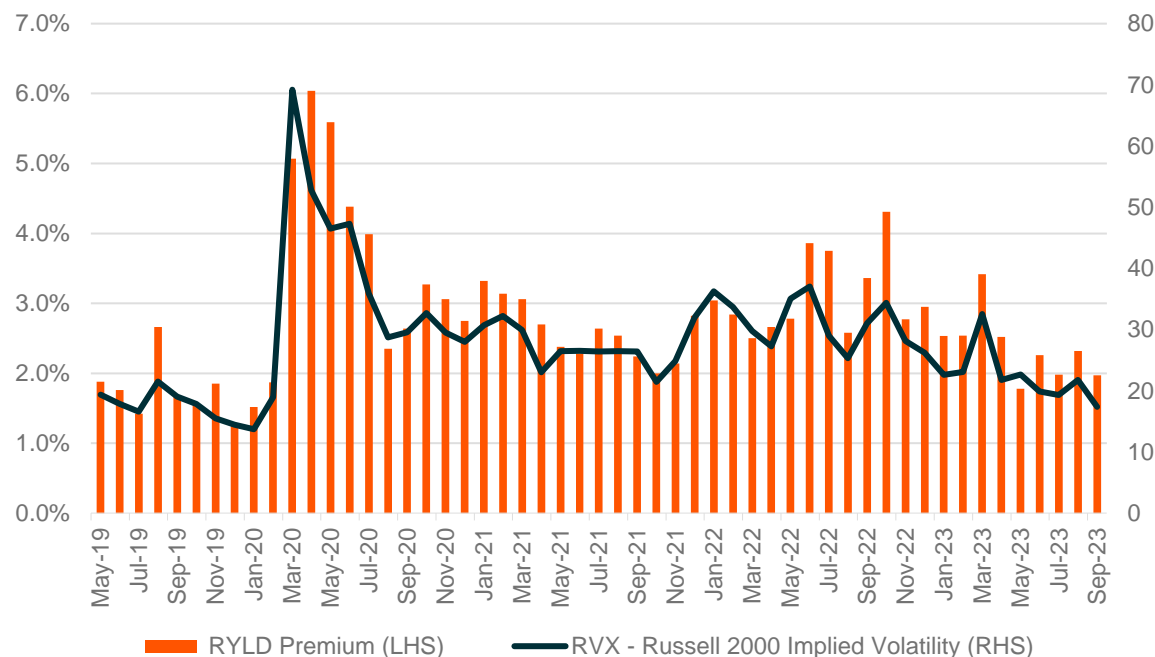
Yields by Asset Class vs. RYLD 12-Month Yield¹ (%)



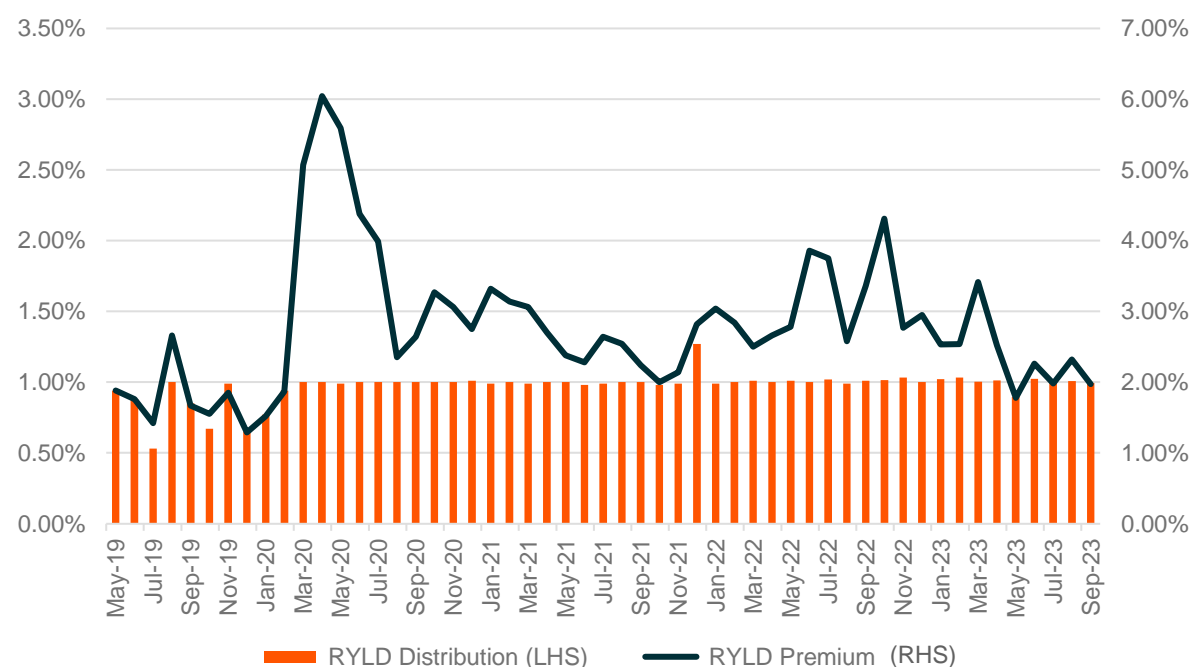
Source: Global X ETFs & Bloomberg as of 09/30/2023. Asset class representations are as follows, MLPs, S&P MLP Index; High Yield Bonds, Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Total Return Index; Fixed-Rate preferreds, ICE BofA Fixed Rate Preferred Securities Index; Emerging Market (EM) Bonds, Bloomberg EM USD Aggregate Total Return Index; Corporate Bonds, Bloomberg US Corporate Total Return Index; High Dividend Equities, S&P 500 High Dividend Total Return Index; REITs, FTSE NAREIT All Equity REITs Total Return Index; U.S. Equities, S&P 500 Total Return Index; US Aggregate Bonds, Bloomberg US Aggregate Index. ¹RYLD's yield is indicated by its 12 month yield. RYLD typically earns income dividends from stocks and options premiums. These amounts, net of expenses, are typically passed along to RYLD shareholders as dividends from net investment income. The Fund realizes capital gains from writing options and capital gains or losses whenever it sells securities. Any net realized long-term capital gains are distributed to shareholders as “capital gain distributions.” RYLD collect dividends from the Russell 2000 Index companies and monthly options premium from selling Russell 2000 (RUT) Index options in which portions have been passed to shareholders as monthly distributions. A portion of the distribution may include a return of capital. These do not imply rates for any future distributions.

Implied Volatility, A Key Determinant of Option Premiums

RYLD Premium % vs. RVX (1-Month RUT Implied Vol)



RYLD Premiums % vs. Distribution %



The monthly distribution of RYLD is capped at the lower of: a) half the premiums received, and b) 1% of the net asset value (NAV). The excess of options premiums received, if applicable, is reinvested into the fund.

Source: Global X, Bloomberg. Left-Hand chart data is from 05/17/19 to 09/15/23. Right-Hand chart is from 05/17/19 to 09/15/23. Implied Volatility is being measured by RVX, Cboe Russell 2000 Volatility IndexSM

Small-Caps May Offer Equity Income Portfolio Diversification

Historically, equity income portfolios have mainly utilized large-cap or mid-cap dividend strategies for income because income investors tend to be more risk averse and large-caps tend to exhibit less volatility than small-caps. However, the usage of covered calls overlaid on a small-cap index can provide a level of potential income and portfolio diversification.

Market Cap Breakdowns – Russell 2000 vs. S&P 500 High Dividend

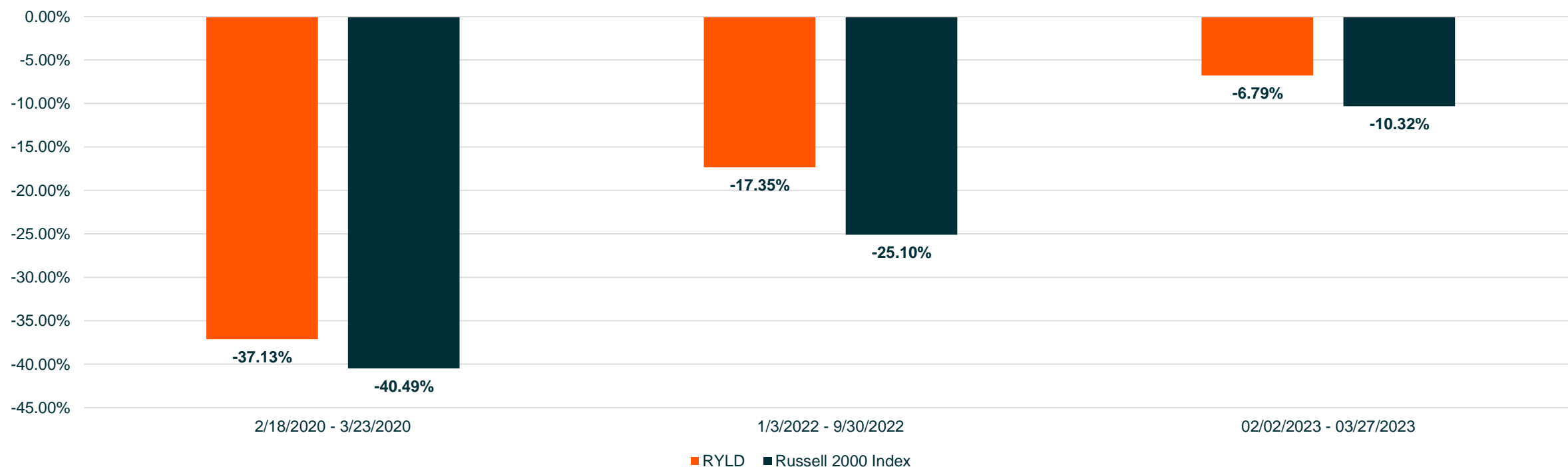


Source: Morningstar Direct. As of 09/30/2023

RYLD During Drawdowns¹

A covered call ETF offers the potential to outperform their equity indices during steep and gentle market declines. This is due to the short call component providing a level of downside risk mitigation.

RYLD vs. Russell 2000 – Drawdown History



Source: Bloomberg. As of 09/30/2023. Data presented represents past performance. RYLD returns signified by market price. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Performance data quoted represents past performance. Investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when sold or redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance quoted. ¹Market downturn of more than -10% for the equity index.

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Glossary - Option Terminology

| Term | Description | Term | Description |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Call Option | An option that gives the holder the right to buy an underlying asset from another party at a fixed price over a specific period of time. | Delta | The sensitivity of the price of an option to changes in the price of the underlying. Delta is a good approximation of how the option price will change for a small change in the value of the underlying. |
| Put Option | An option that gives the holder the right to sell an underlying asset to another party at a fixed price over a specific period of time. | Gamma | A numerical measure of how sensitive an option's delta (the sensitivity of the option's price) is to a change in the value of the underlying. |
| Long Call | A position in a call option contract in which one has the exercisable right under the contract. This position reflects bullish attitude. | Time (Theta) | The change in price of an option associated with a one-day reduction in its time to expiration; the rate at which an option's time value decays. |
| Short Call | A position in a call option contract one has in which the right under the contract can be exercised against oneself. This reflects bearish attitude. | Volatility (Vega) | A measure of the sensitivity of an option's price to changes in the underlying's volatility. |
| Long Put | A position in a put option contract in which one has the exercisable right under the contract. This reflects bearish attitude. | Premium | The amount of money a buyer pays and seller receives to engage in an option transaction. |
| Short Put | A position in a put option contract one has in which the right under the contract can be exercised against oneself. This reflects bullish attitude. | Covered Call | An option strategy involving the holding of an asset and sale of a call option on the same asset. |
| Market/Spot Price | The current price of the underlying asset of the option contract, such as a stock. | At-the-money | An option in which the underlying's price equals the strike price. |
| Strike Price | The fixed price at which an option holder can buy or sell the underlying asset. Also called exercise price. | In-the-money | Options that, if exercised, would result in the value received being worth more than the payment required to exercise. |
| Risk Free Rate | The theoretical rate of return on an investment with zero risk. Government bond yields are the most commonly used risk-free rates. | Out-of-the-money | Options that, if exercised, would require the payment of more money than the value received and therefore would not be currently exercised. |

Glossary

| Term | Description |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12-Month Yield | The distribution yield an investor would have received if they had held the Fund over the last twelve months, assuming the most recent NAV. The 12-Month Trailing Yield is calculated by summing any income, capital gains and return of capital distributions over the past twelve months and dividing by the sum of the most recent NAV and any capital gain distributions made over the same period. |
| Volatility | The annualized standard deviation of the daily returns of the security and index using the closing levels of the index during the 22 index-day period preceding that day. |
| Standard Deviation | A statistical measurement of dispersion about an average, which, for a mutual fund, depicts how widely the returns varied over a certain period of time. |
| Russell 2000 Index | The Russell 2000 Index is a U.S. small-cap stock market index of the bottom 2,000 stocks in the Russell 3000 Index. The index is maintained by FTSE Russell, a subsidiary of the London Stock Exchange Group. |
| Cboe Russell 2000 Volatility Index | The Chicago Board Options Exchange Russell 2000 Volatility Index commonly referred to as RVX, reflects a market estimate of future volatility of the Russell 2000 index options, based on the weighted average of the implied volatilities. |
| Cboe Russell 2000 BuyWrite Index | The Cboe Russell 2000 BuyWrite Index (BXR) is a benchmark index that measures the performance of a theoretical portfolio that “sells” Russell 2000 Index (RUT) call options and “holds” against a portfolio of the stocks included in the Russell 2000 Index. |
| ICE BofA Fixed Rate Preferred Securities Index | This index tracks the performance of fixed rate, U.S. dollar denominated, investment-grade exchange-traded preferred securities (\$25 par) with outstanding market values of at least \$100 million issued in the U.S. domestic market. |
| S&P MLP Index | The index tracks the price movements in shares of the largest entities that are structured as Master Limited Partnerships (MLP) or Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) and that are engaged in the transportation, storage, processing, refining, marketing, exploration, production, or mining of natural resources. |
| FTSA NAREIT All Equity REITs Total Return Index | A free-float adjusted, market capitalization-weighted index of U.S. Equity REITs. Constituents of the index include all tax-qualified REITs with more than 50 percent of total assets in qualifying real estate assets other than mortgages secured by real property. |
| Bloomberg EM USD Aggregate Bond Index | The Bloomberg EM USD Aggregate Bond Index is a flagship hard currency Emerging Markets debt benchmark that includes USD-denominated debt from sovereign, quasi-sovereign, and corporate EM issuers. |

Glossary (Continued)

| Term | Description |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index | The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index is a broad-based benchmark that measures the investment grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. The index includes Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, MBS (agency fixed-rate pass-throughs), ABS and CMBS (agency and non-agency). |
| Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Investment Grade Index | The Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Bond Index measures the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. It includes USD denominated securities publicly issued by US and non-US industrial, utility, and financial issuers. |
| Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield Index | The Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield Bond Index measures the USD-denominated, high yield, fixed-rate corporate bond market. Securities are classified as high yield if the middle rating of Moody's, Fitch, and S&P is Ba1/BB+/BB+ or below. Bonds from issuers with an emerging markets country of risk, based on Bloomberg EM country definition, are excluded. |
| S&P 500 Index | S&P 500 Index tracks the performance of 500 leading U.S. stocks and captures approximately 80% coverage of available U.S. market capitalization. It is widely regarded as the best single gauge of large-cap U.S. equities. |
| S&P 500 High Dividend Index | Serves as a benchmark for income seeking equity investors. The index is designed to measure the performance of 80 high yield companies within the S&P 500 and is equally weighted to best represent the performance of this group, regardless of constituent size. |

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[@GlobalXETFs](https://twitter.com/GlobalXETFs)

Quarterly Income Commentary: Covered Call Writing Strategies as an Attractive Income Solution

Introducing the Nasdaq 100 ESG Covered Call ETF (QYLE) and S&P 500 ESG Covered Call ETF (XYLE)

QDIV: A Quality Dividend Strategy for a Late Cycle Environment

GLOBAL X
By Mirae Asset

Authorized by: **GLOBAL X ETFs RESEARCH**

Quarterly Income Commentary: Covered Call Writing Strategies as an Attractive Income Solution

The Global X Income Outlook for Q3 2023 can be [viewed here](#). This report seeks to provide macro-level data and insights across several income-oriented asset classes and strategies.

Key Takeaways

- US equity markets were resilient in the first half of 2023, primarily led by a few key leaders. This is leaving some investors at a potential crossroads as to where markets will progress from here.
- Investors seeking to limit potential market volatility while being offered the chance to obtain a level of upside participation may find that writing equity index call options on a certain percentage of a long portfolio's assets while holding the securities within that index, sometimes known as a covered call & growth strategy, may look appealing from a total return potential standpoint.
- Even as equity markets have trended higher, income investors have still sought fully covered, buywrite strategies as a useful strategy due to the potential of income and buffer from the premiums received.

Related ETFs

YTD 2023 Equity Market Outperformance Has Been Concentrated

While we do believe we're at the tail end of the rate tightening cycle, the economic aftermath is still being felt. For a recent June report, the Institute for Supply Chain Management (ISM) Manufacturing Index recorded its eight consecutive month of contraction. 12 of the five sub-indices used to calculate Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI), all of them were in contractionary territory too. However, Real (inflation-adjusted) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased with its most recent estimate of 2% outpacing the Philadelphia Fed's survey. Q1 2023 median forecast of just 0.5% to 1% as we head into Q2 2023 earnings season, the number of S&P 500 companies issuing positive earnings guidance is at its highest level of 45 companies since Q3 of 2021 (50 companies) and potentially signifies the chance of a soft landing.

Peaking interest rates and recent breakthroughs within artificial intelligence technology were key catalysts for U.S. equity market performance in the first half of the year with S&P 500 total returns of 18.85% and 20.35% for the Nasdaq 100 index. Driven by large multi-national firms, the top 10 largest constituents within the S&P 500 (57%) and Nasdaq 100 (60%) drove 73% and 80% of YTD returns, respectively. Depicting a similar story, quarterly return spreads between these traditionally, market-cap weighted indices to their equal-weighted index counterparts have been at their highest levels over

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Introducing the Nasdaq 100 ESG Covered Call ETF (QYLE) and S&P 500 ESG Covered Call ETF (XYLE)

On February 22, 2023, we listed the **Nasdaq 100 ESG Covered Call ETF (QYLE)** and the **S&P 500 ESG Covered Call ETF (XYLE)**. QYLE and XYLE are the latest additions to Global X's covered call suite and are designed to offer investors the potential to achieve multiple goals. One goal an investor may have for their portfolio is to take Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) considerations into account in which both ETFs are designed to invest in the equities of large-cap companies who display positive ESG characteristics by tracking an index that employs an ESG screening process. The second goal is that of an income investor, seeking to increase income potential via a covered call strategy that sells call options. These two ETFs are our first covered call related ESG offerings whose portfolios implement this two-pronged ESG and income-oriented strategy.

Key Takeaways

- Investment mandates that make Environmental, Social, & Governance (ESG) the focal point of their component selection processes have increased in popularity over the past decade. This trend may continue as investor bases change over time.
- Investor influence has continued to grow in the U.S. over the past few decades. U.S.-based, passive ESG funds represent a \$70 billion opportunity to reduce shifts in corporate behavior due to the exclusion and weighting criteria based on ESG metrics.
- Covered call strategies utilizing index options are a powerful solution for investors to potentially generate income and maximize volatility in an effort to achieve an extra source of income.

The Growing Focus on ESG for Companies

The demand for ESG investing is being driven by investor interest globally and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) estimates that by 2030, ESG investing assets, globally, could reach \$33 trillion, representing over one-fifth of total assets under management. Within the United States, in particular, the growing popularity of ESG investing is no-hat, size and scope of the asset base as well as the number of strategies currently being offered amongst open-ended mutual funds and ETFs. This is even more pronounced amongst the universe of passive ESG index funds. In fact, at the end of December 2021, amongst all running U.S.-listed mutual funds & ETFs with ESG criteria as a central part of their investment strategy, only 3.33% sought to track an index. Fast forward to the end of December 2022 and this same segment now comprised 43.14% of the U.S.-Listed, ESG fund landscape.

Related ETFs

QYLE - Global X Nasdaq 100 ESG Covered Call ETF
XYLE - Global X S&P 500 ESG Covered Call ETF

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GLOBAL X
By Mirae Asset

Authorized by: **GLOBAL X ETFs RESEARCH**

QDIV: A Quality Dividend Strategy for a Late Cycle Environment

An increasingly popular approach to investing in asset classes is via passive portfolios with rules to tilt toward particular characteristics, known as factor investing. Factors like quality and dividend yield can be useful in explaining portfolio risk and return, and when used as a portfolio strategy can potentially provide for superior risk adjusted returns than the market (e.g., the S&P 500) at a lower annual expense than actively managed funds tend to charge based on a research from 2013. In this report, we explore the investment thesis of quality high dividend stocks that focuses on companies exhibiting a blend of both quality and high dividend yield factors.

There are some signals indicating the global economy is in the latter stages of the cycle, and in our view, quality dividend stocks could be a useful allocation for investors to re-position portfolios towards sectors and equities that may hold up better in this type of market environment. Given this backdrop, we believe an investment product like the Global X S&P 500 Quality Dividend ETF (QDIV) may be appropriate for certain income and total return-oriented investors.

Key Takeaways

- Individual factors can provide different portfolio characteristics for investors than broad equities (such as historically high dividend yield). However, these may perform optimally so using a combination of factors like quality and high dividend can potentially smooth a portfolio's performance.
- QDIV tracks the S&P 500 Quality High Dividend Index, which is designed to measure the performance of S&P 500 members that exhibit both high quality and high dividend yield characteristics. This results in different sector weights to the S&P 500 and more value characteristics.

How QDIV Invests

Quality can encompass a wide range of measures, and dividend yield as a factor can refer to high-yielding or dividend growth, so it is important to understand the attributes of a quality dividend strategy. Here, we seek to describe the contributors behind the Global X S&P 500 Quality Dividend ETF (QDIV). As the product name implies, QDIV invests in companies from the S&P 500 which consists of the largest (by market capitalization) U.S. listed companies. The S&P 500 Quality High Dividend Index, which QDIV is designed to track, identifies the top 200 companies from the S&P 500 by indicated annual dividend yield and the top 200 companies based on a quality score. The quality score is derived from:

- Return on equity: measured by company's net income divided by its shareholder's equity
- Accruals ratio: measured by changes in net operating assets over time
- Financial leverage: measured by debt to equity

The index comprises companies that fall into the top 200 of both factors (subject to a minimum of 50 stocks), and currently comprises 87 stocks. To reduce sector or company-specific concentrations, constituents are equal-weighted, subject to a single sector maximum weighting of 25%.

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