

# ALPS Active Equity Opportunity ETF

Commentary | September 30, 2023

## Performance as of 9/30/2023

Total Returns	Cumulative				Annualized			
	1 M	3 M	6 M	YTD	1 Y	3 Y	5 Y	SI <sup>1</sup>
NAV (Net Asset Value)	-4.03%	-2.85%	3.19%	7.25%	16.59%	8.27%	4.90%	8.87%
Market Price	-4.00%	-2.83%	3.33%	7.33%	16.49%	8.29%	4.90%	8.87%
S&P Composite 1500 Index - TR <sup>2</sup>	-4.82%	-3.36%	4.74%	12.24%	20.98%	10.31%	9.50%	11.89%

**Performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The investment return and principal value will fluctuate. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance quoted. For current month-end performance call 1-866-759-5679 or visit [www.alpsfunds.com](http://www.alpsfunds.com). Performance includes reinvested distributions and capital gains.**

Market Price is based on the midpoint of the bid/ask spread at 4 p.m. ET and does not represent the returns an investor would receive if shares were traded at other times.

<sup>1</sup> Fund inception date: 6/6/2016

Total Operating Expenses: **0.48%**

## Third Quarter Equity Review

After a robust first-half rebound in growth and quality stocks, markets faced headwinds during the third quarter, marked by the Energy sector reclaiming the top returns position. The S&P 500 Index concluded the quarter with a 3.27% decline, followed by the Nasdaq 100 Index with a 2.86% dip and the Dow Jones Industrial Average experiencing a 2.10% decline. Utilities and Real Estate bore the brunt of the sell-off, as increasing long rates sparked competition for investment and hampered return prospects in these sectors.

As the Federal Reserve (Fed) approaches the conclusion of its tightening campaign with the elevation of short rates, long rates have seemingly heeded the message and commenced an upward trajectory in the quarter. The shift seems to coincide with the end of a period during which over-levered companies traded at a historically elevated relative premium, while higher-quality companies traded at a historically discounted relative value.

## Third Quarter Fund Review

In the third quarter, the Fund returned -2.85% at NAV, outperforming the S&P Composite 1500 Index by 51 basis points. From an allocation standpoint, the Fund benefitted from its underweight positions in Information Technology and Utilities, as well as its overweight in Energy. Reflecting the portfolio team's defensive positioning, holding slightly higher cash levels also contributed.

Top contributors included:

- ConocoPhillips
- Alphabet, Inc.
- Caterpillar, Inc.
- NVIDIA Corp.

Top detractors included:

- Apple, Inc.
- Microsoft Corp.
- HCA Healthcare
- American Express Co.

## Outlook

The current trend of Fed tightening policy seems to be fostering a divergence in markets, delineating winners and losers based on leverage. While inflationary periods initially favor debtors, the simultaneous rise in interest rates coupled with diminishing inflation is now posing as a headwind. Conversely, companies with ample cash reserves are reaping the benefits of higher interest rates by capitalizing on short-term rates without incurring significant risks.

Moving forward, we anticipate the unfolding of this scenario in two potential directions:

- 1) In the event that inflation persists above the Federal Reserve's target and interest rates maintain an elevated status for an extended period, cash-rich companies are poised to consistently outshine their more leveraged counterparts. This reflationary scenario is likely to favor high-quality cyclicals, industrials and large-cap sectors.
- 2) If the delayed impacts of tightening lead to a credit cycle and subsequent recession, a defensive quality strategy is expected to outperform.

A shared element in these scenarios is the emphasis on a quality, dividend-centric foundation, irrespective of the sector. We perceive this positioning akin to a call option on growth; if growth remains robust or accelerates, these stocks stand to benefit. However, in the face of downside risks materializing, these stocks could prove defensive in nature.

## Top 10 Holdings

Microsoft Corp	4.62%	NVIDIA Corp	3.06%
ConocoPhillips	3.58%	Meta Platforms Inc	3.04%
JPMorgan Chase & Co	3.38%	UnitedHealth Group Inc	2.87%
Apple Inc	3.27%	Amazon.com Inc	2.29%
Alphabet Inc	3.26%	Mastercard Inc	2.27%

*As of 9/30/2023, subject to change*

## Important Disclosures & Definitions

**An investor should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. To obtain a prospectus containing this and other information, call 1-866-759-5679 or visit [www.alpsfunds.com](http://www.alpsfunds.com). Read the prospectus carefully before investing.**

Shares of ETFs are bought and sold at market price (not NAV) and are not individually redeemable.

Performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results; current performance may be higher or lower than performance quoted.

All investments are subject to risks, including the loss of money and the possible loss of the entire principal amount invested. Additional information regarding the risks of this investment is available in the prospectus.

Effective 6/1/2023, the RiverFront Dynamic US Flex-Cap ETF changed its name to the ALPS Active Equity Opportunity ETF. Additionally, RiverFront Investment Group, LLC ceased to serve as sub-adviser to the Fund and ALPS Advisors, Inc., the Fund's investment adviser, assumed all responsibility for selecting the Fund's investments.

Due to the nature of the securities in which the Fund invests, the Fund may have relatively high portfolio turnover compared to other funds.

The values of equity securities, such as common stocks and preferred stock, may decline due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, inflation (or expectations for inflation), changes in the general outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment generally. Equity securities generally have greater price volatility than fixed-income securities.

The Fund is considered nondiversified and as a result may experience greater volatility than a diversified fund.

Basis Point (bps): a unit that is equal to 1/100th of 1% and is used to denote the change in a financial instrument.

Dow Jones Industrial Average: a stock market index of 30 prominent companies listed on stock exchanges in the United States. The DJIA is one of the oldest and most commonly followed equity indexes.

NASDAQ 100 Index: one of the world's preeminent large-cap growth indexes. It includes 100 of the largest domestic and international non-financial companies listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market based on market capitalization.

S&P 500 Index: widely regarded as the best single gauge of large-cap US equities. The index includes 500 leading companies and covers approximately 80% of available market capitalization.

S&P Composite 1500 Index: combines three leading indices, the S&P 500, the S&P MidCap 400, and the S&P SmallCap 600, to cover approximately 90% of US market capitalization.

One may not invest directly in an index.

ALPS Advisors, Inc. is affiliated with ALPS Portfolio Solutions Distributor, Inc.

ALPS Portfolio Solutions Distributor, Inc. is the distributor for the Fund.

Not FDIC Insured • No Bank Guarantee • May Lose Value

RIG000363 2/29/2024