

### **QUARTERLY FUND REVIEW**

# SPQ | Simplify US Equity PLUS QIS ETF

#### **FUND OVERVIEW**

The **Simplify US Equity PLUS QIS ETF (SPQ)** seeks to achieve long-term capital appreciation by overlaying a diversified basket of Quantitative Investment Strategies (QIS) on top of a core US equity exposure. The goal of the 100% equity + 50% QIS portfolio is to enhance both absolute and risk-adjusted returns of a core equity investment. The fund is also a simple way to gain exposure to an alternative return source without reducing equity exposure.

#### PERFORMANCE REVIEW

SPQ returned 1.29% over the quarter, underperforming the benchmark, the S&P 500 Index, by 1.10%, driven by the QIS overlay which saw slightly negative returns.

U.S. equities moved higher over the period as markets saw a post-election rally in November, which was stymied by volatility mid-December from Fed comments which spoke to fewer rate cuts in 2025. The QIS overlay had a negative absolute return of -0.24% for the quarter driven by absolute return (absolute return, commodity, rates, and foreign exchange alpha) and trend strategies. These detractors were somewhat offset by volatility carry strategies which contributed positively to return.

The Simplify QIS Team successfully completed the enhancement of the QIS ETF in mid-October, a significant milestone for the portfolio. The enhancement process involved substantial portfolio restructuring, with approximately 90% turnover of the QIS strategies at the start of the quarter. This transition incurred notable costs early in the quarter but was essential to align the portfolio with its long-term objectives.

	CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN				ANNUALIZED TOTAL RETURN	
	3 Mo	6 Mo	YTD	Since Inception	1 Year	Since Inception
NAV	1.29%	5.08%	20.41%	29.22%	20.41%	25.42%
Market Price	1.26%	4.97%	20.31%	26.89%	20.31%	23.49%
S&P 500 Index	2.39%	8.42%	25.00%	35.47%	25.00%	30.77%

#### Performance as of 12/31/24 | Inception Date: 11/13/23

The performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. In addition, investment returns and the 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. For performance data current to the most recent month-end, please call (855) 772-8488 or go to <a href="https://www.simplify.us/etfs">https://www.simplify.us/etfs</a>.

## 

#### FUND DETAILS as of 12/31/24

#### **CURRENT HOLDINGS\***

POSITION	ALLOCATION
ESH5 IND	65.60%
QIS	50.72%
IVV	38.08%
T Bills	5.48%
Cash	7.86%

Gross Expense Ratio	0.57%
SEC 30-Day Yield	0.89%

\*Holdings are subject to change without notice.

#### DEFINITIONS

**Alpha:** An investment strategy's ability to beat the market, or its "edge." Alpha is thus also often referred to as "excess return" or the "abnormal rate of return" in relation to a benchmark, when adjusted for risk.

**Carry Trade:** A carry trade involves borrowing at a low interest rate and investing in an asset that provides a higher rate of return.

**Foreign Exchange (FX):** The global marketplace for the trading of one nation's currency for another.

**Market Price:** The current price at which shares are bought and sold. Market returns are based upon the last trade price.

**NAV**: The dollar value of a single share, based on the value of the underlying assets of the fund minus its liabilities, divided by the number of shares outstanding. Calculated at the end of each business day. **Options:** An option is a contract that gives the buyer the right to either buy (in the case of a call option) or sell (in the case of a put option) an underlying asset at a predetermined price ("strike") by a specific date ("expiry"). An "outright" is another name for a single option leg. A "spread" is when options are bought at one strike and an equal amount of options are sold at a different strike, all at the same expiry.

**SEC 30-Day Yield:** The yield is calculated with a standardized formula and represents net investment income earned by a fund over a 30-day period, expressed as an annual percentage rate based on the fund's share price. The yield includes the effect of any fee waivers and/or reimbursements. Without waivers, yields would be reduced. This is also referred to as the "standardized yield", "30-Day Yield" and "Current Yield". The unsubsidized SEC 30-Day Yield does not reflect the effect of any fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements.

**S&P 500 Index:** The index includes 500 leading U.S. large cap companies and captures approximately 80% coverage of the available market.

**Volatility:** A measure of how much and how quickly prices move over a given span of time.



#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) before investing. To obtain an ETF's prospectus or Summary prospectus containing this and other important information, please call (855) 772-8488, or visit SimplifyETFs.com. Please read the prospectus carefully before you invest.

#### An investment in the fund involves risk, including possible loss of principal.

The fund is actively-managed is subject to the risk that the strategy may not produce the intended results. The fund is new and has a limited operating history to evaluate.

The use of derivative instruments involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities and other traditional investments. These risks include (i) the risk that the counterparty to a derivative transaction may not fulfill its contractual obligations; (ii) risk of mispricing or improper valuation; and (iii) the risk that changes in the value of the derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying asset, rate, or index. Derivative prices are highly volatile and may fluctuate substantially during a short period of time. The use of leverage by the Fund, such as borrowing money to purchase securities or the use of options, will cause the Fund to incur additional expenses and magnify the Fund's gains or losses. The earnings and prospects of small and medium sized companies are more volatile than larger companies and may experience higher failure rates than larger companies. Small and medium sized companies normally have a lower trading volume than larger companies, which may tend to make their market price fall more disproportionately than larger companies in response to selling pressures and may have limited markets, product lines, or financial resources and lack management experience.

The Fund invests in ETFs (Exchange-Traded Funds) and is therefore subject to the same risks as the underlying securities in which the ETF invests as well as entails higher expenses than if invested into the underlying ETF directly.

While the option overlay is intended to improve the Fund's performance, there is no guarantee that it will do so. Utilizing an option overlay strategy involves the risk that as the buyer of a put or call option, the Fund risks losing the entire premium invested in the option if the Fund does not exercise the option. Also, securities and options traded in over-the-counter markets may trade less frequently and in limited volumes and thus exhibit more volatility and liquidity risk.

Simplify ETFs are distributed by Foreside Financial Services, LLC. Simplify and Foreside are not related.

© 2025 Simplify ETFs. All rights reserved.

