

## **QUARTERLY FUND REVIEW**

# SPUC | Simplify US Equity PLUS Upside Convexity ETF

## **FUND OVERVIEW**

The **Simplify US Equity PLUS Upside Convexity ETF (SPUC)** seeks to provide capital appreciation by offering US Large Cap exposure while aiming to boost performance during extreme market moves up via a systematic options overlay.

The fund's core holding gives investors a low-cost, index-based exposure to US large caps. A modest option overlay budget is then deployed into a series of options positions that help create upside convexity in the fund.

## PERFORMANCE REVIEW

SPUC delivered a -2.59% total return for the quarter, underperforming its benchmark, S&P 500 Index, by 4.98%.

At the beginning of the quarter, the fund implemented an enhancement to the strategy to increase the upside exposure by moving the long calls closer in expiry and moneyness and partially covering their cost by selling shortdated puts on major equity indices and a diversifying basket of assets.

The main driver behind the fund underperformance was the equity volatility spike and sudden market sell-off on December 18, following the Fed's updated outlook for fewer interest rate cuts in 2025 amid persistent inflationary pressures and uncertainties surrounding policy changes under the incoming administration. In this scenario, the options overlay (short equity puts and long equity calls) is expected to underperform.

## Performance as of 12/31/24 | Inception Date: 09/03/20

	CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN				ANNUALIZED TOTAL RETURN	
	3 Mo	6 Mo	YTD	Since Inception	1 Year	Since Inception
NAV	-2.59%	2.07%	25.34%	75.30%	25.34%	13.85%
Market Price	-2.65%	2.01%	25.40%	76.24%	25.40%	14.01%
S&P 500 Index	2.39%	8.42%	25.00%	81.67%	25.00%	14.80%

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>.

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## FUND DETAILS as of 12/31/24

### **TOP TEN HOLDINGS\***

POSITION	ALLOCATION
IVV	100.43%
NDXP US 01/08/25 P19450	0.01%
NDXP US 01/08/25 P20725	-0.26%
NDXP US 01/10/25 P19300	0.02%
NDXP US 01/10/25 P20600	-0.25%
NDXP US 01/15/25 P18900	0.02%
NDXP US 01/15/25 P19875	-0.08%
RUTW US 01/08/25 P2010	0.01%
RUTW US 01/08/25 P2135	-0.06%
RUTW US 01/10/25 P1975	0.01%
Cash	0.66%

Gross Expense Ratio	0.53%
SEC 30-Day Yield	0.83%

\*Holdings are subject to change without notice.

## DEFINITIONS

**Expiry:** The time until an option expires. In the context here expiry is used to describe the length of time from when an option position is initiated to when it will expire.

**Moneyness:** Describes the intrinsic value of an option's premium in the market. A contract is either "in the money", "out of the money", or "at the money". A call option is said to be "in the money" when the future contract price is above the strike price. A call option is "out of the money" when the future contract price is below the strike price.

**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.

**Option:** 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 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.

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