

First Trust AlphaDEX<sup>™</sup> U.S. Technology Sector Index ETF • FHQ, FHQ.F

Interim Management Report of Fund Performance June 30, 2025



# INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE June 30, 2025

First Trust AlphaDEX<sup>™</sup> U.S. Technology Sector Index ETF (the "First Trust ETF")

This interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain either the interim financial report or annual financial statements of the First Trust ETF. You can get a copy of the interim financial report or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-877-622-5552, by writing to us at FT Portfolios Canada Co., 40 King Street West, Suite 5102, Scotia Plaza, Box 312, Toronto, Ontario M5H 3Y2 or by visiting our web site at www.firsttrust.ca or SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.com.

Securityholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the investment fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

#### **Forward-looking Statements**

This document may contain forward-looking statements relating to anticipated future events, results, circumstances, performance or expectations that are not historical facts but instead represent beliefs regarding future events. By their nature, forward-looking statements are based on assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. There is significant risk that forward-looking statements will not prove to be accurate. Readers of this document should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements as a number of factors could cause actual future results, conditions, actions or events to differ materially from the expectations, estimates or intentions expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. These factors include but are not limited to market and general economic conditions, interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, the extent of industry sector exposure, the performance of the securities of the issuers held in the portfolio and regulatory developments and the risks detailed in the First Trust ETF's prospectus. The Manager does not undertake and specifically disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

### Investment Objective and Strategy

The fundamental investment objective of **First Trust AlphaDEX™ U.S. Technology Sector Index ETF** (the "First Trust ETF") is to replicate, to the extent possible, the performance of the StrataQuant® Technology Index ("Index"), net of expenses.

The investment strategy of the First Trust ETF is to invest in and hold the constituent securities of the Index in the same proportion as they are reflected in the Index or securities intended to replicate the performance of such Index. The Index results from applying the AlphaDEX<sup>TM</sup> methodology to the Russell 1000® Index, a market index representing the large and mid-capitalization segment of the U.S. equity universe, and then selecting the constituent securities for the Index from those qualifying stocks included in the Technology Sector.

The Manager may use a sampling methodology in selecting investments for the First Trust ETF. As an alternative or in conjunction with investing in and holding constituent securities, the First Trust ETF may also invest in other securities to obtain exposure to the constituent securities of the applicable Index in a manner that is consistent with the investment objective and investment strategy of the First Trust ETF.

In this case, the First Trust ETF may also obtain exposure to the applicable Index by holding securities of a US-listed index ETF, First Trust Technology AlphaDEX® Fund (NYSE Arca ticker: FXL), of an affiliate of the Manager, which replicates or substantially replicates the applicable Index.

#### Risk

The risks associated with an investment in the First Trust ETF remain as discussed in the First Trust ETF's most recent prospectus. There have been no significant changes during the reporting period that affected the overall level of risk associated with the First Trust ETF. The First Trust ETF provides exposure to the technology sector of the U.S. equity market in either a non-U.S. currency hedged and U.S. currency hedged manner.

### **Results of Operations**

#### General

The First Trust ETF's total net asset value as of June 30, 2025, was \$35,976,423 or \$101.63 per Unit ("FHQ") and \$54.88 per Hedged Unit ("FHQ.F"). The First Trust ETF's total net asset value as of December 31, 2024, was \$30,598,224 or \$101.41 per FHQ and \$52.45 per FHQ.F.

There were no cash distributions paid nor declared for the six-month period ended June 30, 2025.

#### Investment Performance

For the six-month period ended June 30, 2025, FHQ returned 0.21% compared to the Russell 1000® Technology Index total return of 2.26% while FHQ.F returned 4.63% compared to the Russell 1000® Technology Index (USD) total return of 7.99%. Unlike the indices, the First Trust ETF's returns are net of fees and expenses.

As of June 30, 2025, the Technology sector accounted for 36.59% of the weight of the Russell 1000® Index. The Russell 1000® Technology Index outperformed the Russell 1000® Index, which returned 0.68%. The Russell 1000® Technology Index (USD) outperformed the Russell 1000® Index (USD), which returned 6.12%.

As of June 30, 2025, the portfolio held 99 equity securities. The top ten equity holdings accounted for 20.91% of the total NAV. The AlphaDEX<sup>™</sup> stock selection process is a rules-based process and can result in industry weightings that differ from that of the indices.

The First Trust ETF underperformed the benchmark during the period due to stock selection, particularly within the Software and Computer Services sector. Notably, large underweight positions in Microsoft Corporation and Meta Platforms, Inc. weighed on relative performance. An overweight position in the Software and Computer Services sector relative to the benchmark partially offset the underperformance.

The U.S. dollar depreciated 5.31% against the Canadian dollar from December 31, 2024, to June 30, 2025. FHQ.F hedges its exposure to the U.S. dollar.

The First Trust ETF's top five stocks by contribution to return were Western Digital Corporation, Cloudflare, Inc., Palantir Technologies Inc., Zscaler, Inc., and DoorDash, Inc. The First Trust ETF's bottom five stocks by contribution to return were Marvell Technology, Inc., Vertiv Holdings Co, Globant S.A., Pure Storage, Inc., and ServiceNow, Inc.

### **Recent Developments**

U.S. stocks finished the period at all-time highs following a volatile first half amid optimism the U.S. will reach trade deals with its largest trading partners and the U.S. Federal Reserve will cut interest rates in the year's second half. The Russell 1000® Index returned 6.12% during the period, including dividends. However, the U.S. dollar depreciated sharply relative to the Canadian dollar, meaning the index gained just 0.68% over the same period measured in Canadian dollars. The market sold off sharply in April after U.S. President Donald Trump announced wide-ranging tariffs, igniting a global trade war. The selloff nearly sent U.S. large-cap stocks into a bear market. However, the market reversed as tariff tensions eased and inflation trended lower, helping to sustain expectations for rate cuts in the year's second half. So far, the U.S. Federal Reserve has held off on cutting interest rates this year on concerns that tariffs will rekindle inflation. A recovery in the artificial-intelligence trade also propelled the rebound in large-cap stocks. Overall, the Russell 1000® Index finished the period trading at a 24.3 P/E multiple with a 1.23% dividend yield, similar to where it stood at the end of 2024. Corporate earnings growth also held up well during the period, helping to fuel the gains despite a lack of multiple expansion.

## **Related Party Transactions**

FT Portfolios Canada Co. is the Manager of the First Trust ETF and is a Canadian affiliate of First Trust Advisors L.P., the investment advisor (the "Advisor") of the First Trust ETF.

Pursuant to terms of the declaration of trust of the First Trust ETF, the Manager provides or arranges for all management, administrative and other services required by the First Trust ETF. The Manager receives a management fee from the First Trust ETF. For further details, please see "Management Fees".

The Manager has retained the Advisor to provide certain services to the First Trust ETF pursuant to an investment advisory agreement. The Advisor receives advisory fees from the Manager out of the management fee.

## **Financial Highlights**

The following tables show selected key financial information about the First Trust ETF and are intended to help you understand the First Trust ETF's financial performance for the six-month period ended June 30, 2025, and for the five years ended December 31. This information is derived from the First Trust ETF's unaudited interim and audited annual financial statements.

### Net Asset Value per Unit

FHQ	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Net asset value, beginning of period/year <sup>(1)</sup>	\$101.41	\$80.75	\$59.13	\$79.66	\$68.80	\$45.91
Increase (Decrease) from operations:						
Total revenue	0.56	0.55	0.61	0.54	1.64	0.74
Total expenses	(0.43)	(0.80)	(0.64)	(0.66)	(0.68)	(0.49)
Realized gains (losses) for the period/year	4.95	16.70	1.05	(8.54)	23.42	10.80
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period/year	(1.52)	4.53	18.94	(11.82)	(12.56)	13.65
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>	\$3.56	\$20.98	\$19.96	\$(20.48)	\$11.82	\$24.70
Distributions:						
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	(0.97)	(0.31)
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	(0.02)	-	-	(15.67)	(5.56)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ -	\$ (0.02)	\$ -	\$ -	\$(16.64)	\$(5.87)
Net asset value, end of period/year <sup>(4)</sup>	\$101.63	\$101.41	\$80.75	\$59.13	\$79.66	\$68.80

FHQ.F	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Net asset value, beginning of period/year (1)	\$52.45	\$45.76	\$33.16	\$48.62	\$41.97	\$27.90
Increase (Decrease) from operations:						_
Total revenue	0.30	0.29	0.42	0.33	0.98	0.49
Total expenses	(0.23)	(0.44)	(0.36)	(0.38)	(0.42)	(0.29)
Realized gains (losses) for the period/year	3.62	6.46	0.30	(7.26)	15.75	7.81
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period/year	(1.26)	0.39	12.24	(9.52)	(7.93)	7.71
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>	\$2.43	\$6.70	\$12.60	\$(16.83)	\$8.38	\$15.72
Distributions:						_
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	(0.56)	(0.17)
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	(0.01)	-	-	(5.02)	(2.67)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ -	\$(0.01)	\$ -	\$ -	\$(5.58)	\$(2.84)
Net asset value, end of period/year (4)	\$54.88	\$52.45	\$45.76	\$33.16	\$48.62	\$41.97

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is provided as at June 30, 2025 and December 31 of the years shown and is prepared under IFRS® Accounting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB").

<sup>(2)</sup> Net asset value and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the period/year.

<sup>(3)</sup> Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the First Trust ETF, or both. Non-cash distributions are reinvested in additional units of the First Trust ETF and subsequently consolidated. Neither the number of units held by the unitholder, nor the net asset per unit of the First Trust ETF change as a result of any non-cash distributions.

<sup>(4)</sup> This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net asset value per unit.

### Ratios and Supplemental Data

FHQ	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Net asset value (000's)	\$30,489	\$25,353	\$24,226	\$29,566	\$59,748	\$58,481
Number of units outstanding	300,000	250,000	300,000	500,000	750,000	850,000
Management expense ratio (1)	0.77%	0.77%	0.78%	0.78%	0.78%	0.77%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption	0.78%	0.79%	0.79%	0.79%	0.79%	0.79%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.03%	0.04%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(3)</sup>	48.21%	108.17%	112.57%	122.39%	159.79%	146.18%

FHQ.F	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Net asset value (000's)	\$5,488	\$5,245	\$4,576	\$3,316	\$9,723	\$6,296
Number of units outstanding	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	200,000	150,000
Management expense ratio (1)	0.79%	0.79%	0.78%	0.76%	0.78%	0.77%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption	0.80%	0.80%	0.80%	0.77%	0.80%	0.79%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.03%	0.04%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(3)</sup>	48.21%	108.17%	112.57%	122.39%	159.79%	146.18%

<sup>(1)</sup> Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated period/year and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period/year.

#### **Management Fees**

The First Trust ETF will pay the Manager a management fee of 0.70% based on the average daily NAV of the First Trust ETF. The management fee, plus applicable taxes including HST, will be accrued daily and paid monthly in arrears. The Manager may, from time to time in its discretion, waive all or a portion of the management fee charged at any given time.

<sup>(2)</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period/year.

<sup>(3)</sup> The First Trust ETF's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the First Trust ETF's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the First Trust ETF buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period/year. The higher a First Trust ETF's portfolio turnover rate in a period/year, the greater the trading cost payable by the First Trust ETF in the period/year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the period/year. There is not necessarily a relationship between high turnover rate and the performance of a First Trust ETF.

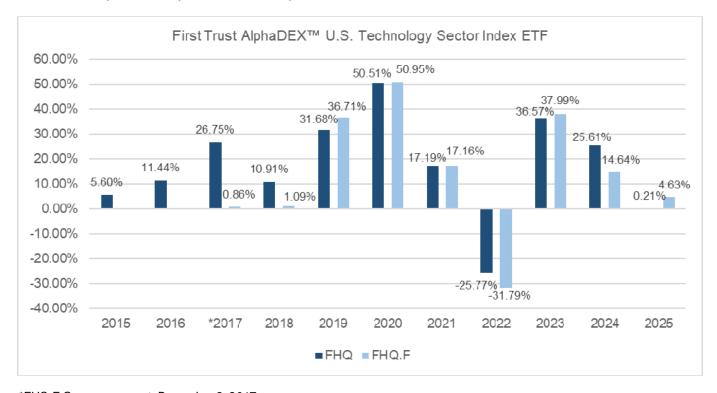
#### **Past Performance**

#### General

The past performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the First Trust ETF in the periods/years shown were reinvested in additional securities of the First Trust ETF. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. How the First Trust ETF has performed in the past does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

#### Year by Year Returns

The bar chart below shows the First Trust ETF's performance, per class, for the six-month period ended June 30, 2025, for the years ended December 31 and for the period from commencement of operations to December 31, 2017 for FHQ.F, and illustrates how the investment fund's performance has changed from year to year. The chart also shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial year.



\*FHQ.F Commencement: December 8, 2017

# **Summary of Investment Portfolio**

The table sets out the percentage (based on total net asset value) of the First Trust ETF's top 25 holdings as at June 30, 2025. This summary of portfolio holdings may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the First Trust ETF. Daily and quarterly updates are available at <a href="https://www.firsttrust.ca">www.firsttrust.ca</a>.

Top 25 Holdings	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
CloudFlare Inc., Class 'A'	2.52%
Palantir Technologies Inc.	2.39%
Western Digital Corp.	2.33%
Micron Technology Inc.	2.07%
DoorDash Inc., Class 'A'	2.01%
Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co.	1.95%
ON Semiconductor Corp.	1.94%
TD SYNNEX Corp.	1.94%
Toast Inc., Class 'A'	1.92%
Guidewire Software Inc.	1.84%
Zscaler Inc.	1.76%
Amkor Technology Inc.	1.72%
Skyworks Solutions Inc.	1.72%
Amphenol Corp., Class 'A'	1.69%
Avnet Inc.	1.66%
Fortinet Inc.	1.63%
Nutanix Inc., Class 'A'	1.63%
CrowdStrike Holdings Inc., Class 'A'	1.59%
Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp., Class 'A'	1.52%
CACI International Inc., Class 'A'	1.46%
Concentrix Corp.	1.46%
Meta Platforms Inc., Class 'A'	1.43%
Twilio Inc.	1.43%
Okta Inc.	1.42%
AppLovin Corp., Class 'A'	1.40%
Total	44.43%

#### Portfolio Breakdown

The table sets out the percentage (based on total net asset value) of the First Trust ETF's portfolio, by industry, as at June 30, 2025.

Industry Weightings	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
Software and Computer Services	64.79%
Technology Hardware and Equipment	34.98%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.14%
Other Assets, Less Liabilities	0.09%
Total	100.00%





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