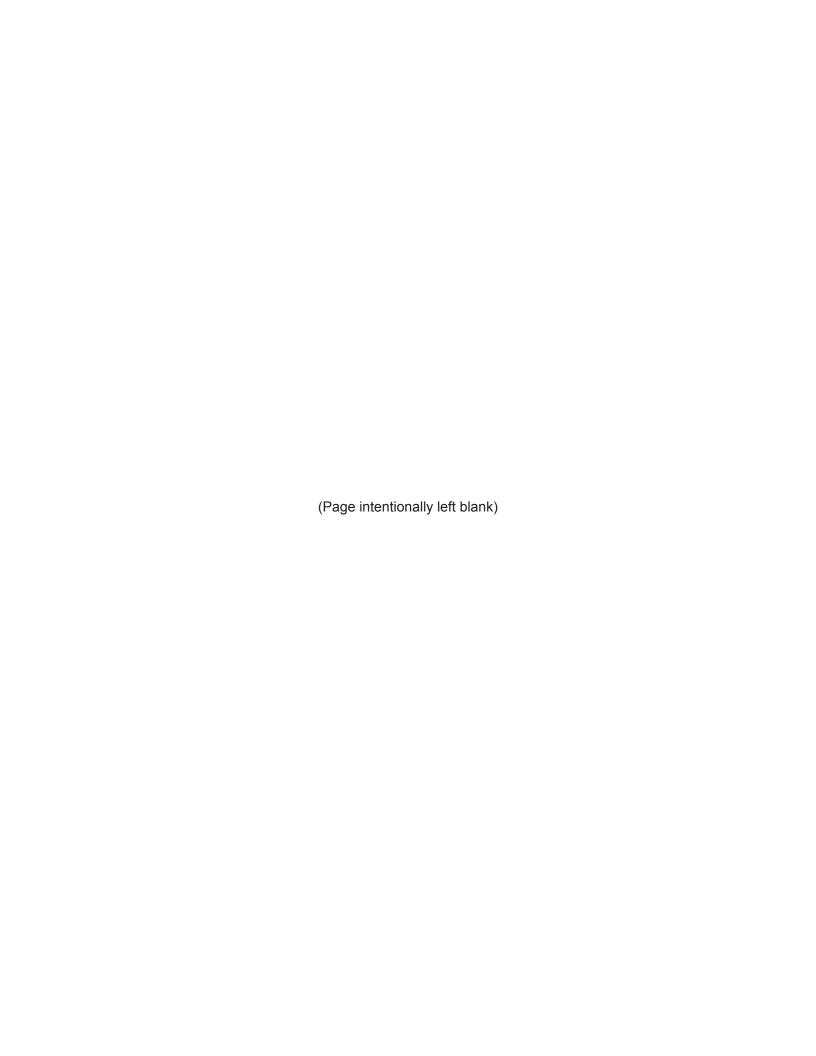


First Trust Senior Loan ETF (CAD-Hedged)

Annual Management Report of Fund Performance December 31, 2017



ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE December 31, 2017

First Trust Senior Loan ETF (CAD-Hedged) (the "First Trust ETF")

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the First Trust ETF. All references to dollars contained herein are to Canadian dollars.

Securityholders may also contact us to request a copy of the First Trust ETF's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosures relating to the First Trust ETF 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.sedar.com.

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 Senior Loan ETF (CAD-Hedged)** (the "First Trust ETF") is to provide unitholders with a high level of current income by investing primarily in a diversified portfolio of senior floating rate loans and debt securities, with capital appreciation as a secondary objective. The First Trust ETF invests primarily in senior loans, which are generally rated below investment grade debt. Settlement periods for senior secured loans may be longer than for other types of debt securities, such as corporate bonds. The First Trust ETF is not a substitute for holding cash or money market securities.

To achieve its investment objectives, the First Trust ETF will primarily invest in a portfolio of senior floating rate loans which are generally rated at or below BB+ by Standard & Poor's, or Ba1 or less by Moody's Investor Services, Inc., or a similar rating by a designated credit rating organization (as defined in NI 81-102) and debt securities. Under normal market conditions, the First Trust ETF will invest at least 80% of its net assets in senior loans, which may include loans that are not secured by any specific collateral of the borrower, loans that have a lower than first lien priority on collateral of the borrower, loans to foreign borrowers, loans in foreign currencies and other loans with characteristics that the portfolio advisor believes qualify as senior loans. The senior loans included in portfolio often maintain an interest rate duration of less than 90 days; however, the inclusion of LIBOR floors on certain senior loans or other factors may cause interest rate duration to exceed 90 days.

The First Trust ETF will pursue its objectives by seeking senior loans that portfolio advisor believes exhibit the best combination of attractive fundamental credit characteristics and relative value within the senior loan market. The portfolio advisor seeks to assemble a well-diversified portfolio that includes loans of issuers with strong credit metrics, including strong cash flows and effective management teams. The First Trust ETF may invest in floating rate loans of companies whose financial condition is troubled or uncertain and that may be involved in bankruptcy proceedings, reorganizations or financial restructurings.

The First Trust ETF may invest up to 20% of its net assets in other floating rate debt instruments (including floating rate bonds, floating rate notes, money market instruments, floating rate debentures and tranches of floating rate asset-backed securities, structured notes, made to, or issued by, U.S. and non-U.S. corporations or other business entities), other fixed-rate income producing securities (including, without limitations, U.S. government debt securities, investment grade and below-investment grade corporate debt securities), securities of other investment funds, warrants and equity securities and derivatives. The First Trust ETF will generally seek to hedge substantially all of its U.S. dollar currency exposure back to the Canadian dollar.

There are two classes of units offered by the First Trust ETF:

- Common Class (TSX symbol: FSL)
- Advisor Class (TSX symbol: FSL.A)

The inception date of the First Trust ETF was August 28, 2013.

Risk

The overall risk for the First Trust ETF during the period remains as discussed in the prospectus for the First Trust ETF.

The ability of a company/issuer to pay interest and repay principal are not factors controlled by First Trust ETF management. A company may default on their obligation to repay interest and principal which could impact the value of the holdings in the First Trust ETF or the ability to pay a dividend at or above the current level. Companies may also refinance their existing debt (the First Trust ETF's holdings) which would also impact the level of income available to pay to shareholders.

The First Trust ETF is suitable for investors seeking a high level of current income and potential for capital gains through exposure to a diversified portfolio of below investment grade debt securities.

Results of Operations

The First Trust ETF's total net asset value as of December 31, 2017 was \$139,852,846 or \$19.29 per Common Class unit and \$19.32 per Advisor Class unit. The First Trust ETF's total net asset value as of December 31, 2016 was \$150,937,558 or \$19.60 per Common Class unit and \$19.59 per Advisor Class unit.

For the year ended December 31, 2017, the First Trust ETF paid total cash distributions per unit of \$0.7820 for FSL and \$0.6262 for FSL.A.

For the year ended December 31, 2017, the First Trust ETF declared cash distributions per unit of \$0.0600 for FSL and \$0.0420 for FSL.A with payment date of January 8, 2018.

The First Trust ETF held 131 individual positions diversified across 27 industries at the end of the reporting period. The top 10 holdings by issuer accounted for 30.87% of the portfolio. Health Care Providers & Services (20.58%), Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure (12.10%) and Software (10.86%) were the top three industries. By comparison, the First Trust ETF held 177 individual positions across 34 industries with the top 10 holdings by issuer comprising 20.73% at December 30, 2016. The Leveraged Finance Investment Team's investment process combines a balance of rigorous bottom-up fundamental credit analysis and disciplined portfolio construction to select securities for the First Trust ETF.

Investment Performance

The First Trust ETF's Common Class units returned 2.58% and the Advisor Class units returned 1.94% for the year ending December 31, 2017, versus a return of 2.81% for the S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan 100 Index (CAD-Hedged) ("Index"). Unlike the Index, the First Trust ETF's returns are net of fees and expenses.

The First Trust ETF marginally underperformed the benchmark during the year ended December 31, 2017. This was predominantly driven by the First Trust ETF's above average cash position over the course of the year. Additionally, modest exposure to the underperforming retail industry detracted from returns relative to the Index. Nearly offsetting these and other headwinds was the First Trust ETF's allocation to high-yield bonds as high-yield bonds outperformed senior loans during the year. Moreover, the First Trust ETF's overweight position and selection within the drug and healthcare industries which outperformed the overall return of the Index during the year contributed favorably. Finally, the First Trust ETF was underweight the highest credit quality issuers, namely BBB and BB rated issuers, which was beneficial to performance as returns of higher credit quality issuers underperformed the returns of lower credit quality issuers in 2017.

Recent Developments

U.S. Equity markets continued their march higher in 2017 with the S&P 500 Index posting a robust 21.83% return through December 31, 2017. The 2017 calendar year marked the first year in history that the S&P 500 Index produced positive monthly total returns for every single month. Interest rates, as measured by the 10-yr U.S. Treasury, were basically unchanged over the course of the year, closing out at 2.41% having begun the year at 2.44%. With the introduction of new tax legislation that is expected to boost corporate earnings, a weaker U.S. dollar which tends to benefit multinational companies and relatively low interest rates, markets have experienced very little volatility. Overall, the general tone from equities and low volatility provided a firm tailwind for senior loans and high-yield bonds over the course of the year, with senior loans up 4.11% and high-yield bonds up 7.47%.

Senior loan spreads over 3-month LIBOR declined 60 bps during the year to end the period at L+405 bps. This compares favorably to the pre-credit crisis average spread of L+372 (December 1997 – June 2007) but is inside the long-term average spread of L+521 (December 1997 – December 2017). While gross new issue volume in the loan market set a new record in 2017 at \$974 billion, surpassing 2013's previous record-high of \$670 billion, over 73% of the volume was either a repricing (coupon reduction) or refinancing. We believe that with the potential for additional interest rate hikes on the horizon, LIBOR should continue to migrate higher throughout 2018, and we further believe that we've finally reached the inflection point where the spread declines on senior loans should be offset by the LIBOR increases. Said differently, we believe that as LIBOR increases, investors may begin to see some benefit from the rising interest rate. Importantly, the default rate for senior loans remains low, at 2.05% and we believe it is likely

to remain low given the overall health of the U.S. economy. This is below the long-term average default rate of 3.03% (March 1999 – December 2017).

Similarly, high-yield bond spreads over U.S. Treasuries tightened by 59 bps during the year to end the period at T+363 bps. While spreads are in fact tight to the historic average (the long-term average spread over U.S. Treasuries is T+582, December 1997 – December 2017), we believe there is room for further tightening throughout the remaining cycle given that spreads remain wide of the tight spreads experienced in the previous cycle (May 2007 of T+245). Moreover, the high-yield default rate has fallen from 3.32% a year ago to 1.27% within the JP Morgan High-Yield Bond Universe. This is well inside the long-term average default rate of 3.23% (March 1999 – December 2017). We believe the low default rate is reflective of the relatively sound financial condition of most companies and the strong backdrop of a healthy macroeconomic environment.

As we enter 2018, we continue to be mindful of the fact that the U.S. Federal Reserve ("the Fed") is now embarking on a first-of-its kind balance sheet reduction program. Said differently, after a decade of easing via interest rate reductions and quantitative easing, the Fed is tightening monetary policy. The less accommodating stance may not only increase interest rate volatility, it may also push interest rates directionally higher, and such a move would be expected to push long-duration (the most interest rate sensitive) bond prices lower. While this may also result in credit market volatility, we remain confident that the favorable backdrop for the macro economy will persist for the near to intermediate term while corporations gain a tailwind from new U.S. tax reform and that we are in a healthy part of the economic cycle to own high-yield bonds and senior loans. Specifically, we believe senior loans, given their senior secured position in the capital structure, floating interest rate, attractive income and low default rate are well positioned as we move through 2018. We also believe that high-yield bonds should continue to perform well given their mid-cycle valuations and declining default rate.

As we evaluate new investment opportunities, decisions will continue to be rooted in our rigorous bottom-up credit analysis and our focus will remain on identifying the opportunities that we believe offer the best risk and reward balance.

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 past five years. The date of inception of the First Trust ETF was August 28, 2013. The information are derived from the First Trust ETF's audited annual financial statements for the years ending December 31, and for the period from since inception to December 31, 2013.

Net Asset Value per Unit - FSL

	Dec. 31, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016	Dec. 31, 2015	Dec. 31, 2014	Dec. 31, 2013 ^(a)
Net asset value, beginning of period/year ⁽¹⁾	\$19.60	\$19.02	\$19.89	\$20.12	\$20.00 ^(b)
Increase (Decrease) from operations:					
Total revenue	0.91	0.96	1.10	0.96	0.32
Total expenses	(0.19)	(0.18)	(0.19)	(0.19)	(0.07)
Realized gains (losses) for the period/year	1.10	0.60	(2.22)	(1.14)	(0.71)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period/year	(1.38)	0.09	1.16	0.82	0.81
Total increase (decrease) from operations ⁽²⁾	\$0.44	\$1.47	\$(0.15)	\$0.45	\$0.35
Distributions:					
From income (excluding dividends)	(0.73)	(0.75)	(0.90)	(0.74)	(0.17)
From dividends	-	· -	-	_	-
From capital gains	-	-	-	_	-
Return of capital	(0.05)	(0.12)	-	(0.02)	(0.02)
Total annual distributions ⁽³⁾	\$(0.78)	\$(0.87)	\$(0.90)	\$(0.76)	\$(0.19)
Net asset value, end of period/year ⁽⁴⁾	\$19.29	\$19.60	\$19.02	\$19.89	\$20.12

⁽a) December 31, 2013 does not relate to the full year as the date of inception of the First Trust ETF was August 28, 2013.

Ratios and Supplemental Data - FSL

	Dec. 31, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016	Dec. 31, 2015	Dec. 31, 2014	Dec. 31, 2013
Net asset value (000's)	\$138,694	\$149,762	\$90,331	\$74,589	\$37,217
Number of units outstanding	7,190,010	7,640,000	4,750,000	3,750,000	1,850,000
Management expense ratio (1)	0.95%	0.95%	0.94%	0.95%	0.95%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption	0.97%	0.97%	0.96%	0.98%	0.95%
Trading expense ratio ⁽²⁾	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Portfolio turnover rate ⁽³⁾	310.12%	184.19%	134.45%	217.85%	173.72%
Net asset value per unit	\$19.29	\$19.60	\$19.02	\$19.89	\$20.12

⁽¹⁾ Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period/year.

⁽b) Initial offering price

⁽¹⁾ This information is provided as at December of the years/period shown and is prepared under IFRS.

⁽²⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ Distributions were either paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the First Trust ETF.

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

⁽²⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ 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.

Net Asset Value per Unit - FSL.A

	Dec. 31, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016	Dec. 31, 2015	Dec. 31, 2014	Dec. 31, 2013 ^(a)
Net asset value, beginning of period/year ⁽¹⁾	\$19.59	\$19.01	\$19.88	\$20.10	\$20.00 ^(b)
Increase (Decrease) from operations:					
Total revenue	0.89	1.42	1.12	1.32	0.12
Total expenses	(0.31)	(0.29)	(0.30)	(0.30)	(0.11)
Realized gains (losses) for the period/year	1.10	0.57	(2.21)	(1.14)	(0.27)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period/year	(1.35)	(0.27)	1.43	0.56	0.53
Total increase (decrease) from operations ⁽²⁾	\$0.33	\$1.43	\$0.04	\$0.44	\$0.27
Distributions: From income (excluding dividends) From dividends	(0.61)	(0.65)	(0.78)	(0.63)	(0.09)
From capital gains	-	-	_	_	_
Return of capital	-	(0.11)	_	(0.02)	(0.07)
Total annual distributions ⁽³⁾	\$(0.61)	\$(0.76)	\$(0.78)	\$(0.65)	\$(0.16)
Net asset value, end of period/year ⁽⁴⁾	\$19.32	\$19.59	\$19.01	\$19.88	\$20.10

⁽a) December 31, 2013 does not relate to the full year as the date of inception of the First Trust ETF was August 28, 2013.

(b) Initial offering price

Ratios and Supplemental Data - FSL.A

	Dec. 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Net asset value (000's)	\$1,159	\$1,175	\$1,901	\$1,988	\$2,010
Number of units outstanding	59,990	60,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Management expense ratio (1)	1.58%	1.52%	1.50%	1.51%	1.55%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption	1.60%	1.54%	1.52%	1.54%	1.55%
Trading expense ratio ⁽²⁾	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Portfolio turnover rate ⁽³⁾	310.12%	184.19%	134.35%	217.85%	173.72%
Net asset value per unit	\$19.32	\$19.59	\$19.01	\$19.88	\$20.10

⁽¹⁾ Management expense ratio is based on total expenses for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period/year.

⁽¹⁾ This information is provided as at December 31 of the years/period shown and is prepared under IFRS.

⁽²⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ Distributions were either paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the First Trust ETF.

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

⁽²⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ 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.

Management Fees

The First Trust ETF will pay the Manager a management fee up to 0.85% and, in respect of the FSL.A, an additional amount for a service fee (see "FSL.A Service Fee" below) 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.

FSL.A Service Fee

The Manager pays registered dealers a service fee equal to 0.50% per annum of the NAV of the Advisor Class Units held by clients of the registered dealer, plus any applicable taxes. The service fee will be calculated and accrued daily and paid quarterly at the end of each calendar quarter.

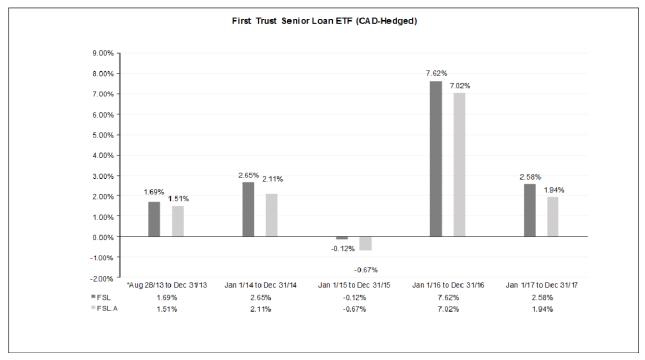
Past Performance

General

The past performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the First Trust ETF in the periods 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 years ended December 31, and for the period from since inception to December 31, 2013 and illustrate 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.



*Date of Inception

Annual Compound Returns

The First Trust ETF marginally underperformed the benchmark during the year ended December 31, 2017. This was predominantly driven by the First Trust ETF's above average cash position over the course of the year.

	1-year	3-year	Since Inception
First Trust Senior Loan ETF (CAD-Hedged) - FSL	2.58%	3.31%	3.36%
First Trust Senior Loan ETF (CAD-Hedged) - FSL.A	1.94%	2.71%	2.77%
S&P/LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan 100 index (CAD-Hedged)	2.81%	3.45%	3.36%

S&P/LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan 100 index— is a market value-weighted index designed to measure the performance of the U.S. leveraged loan market. It is designed to reflect the largest facilities in the leveraged loan market. It mirrors the market-weighted performance of the largest institutional leveraged loans based upon market weightings, spreads, and interest payments.

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, by issuer, as at December 31, 2017. This summary of portfolio holdings may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the First Trust ETF. A quarterly update is available at www.firsttrust.ca.

Top 25 Issuers	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
Amaya Holdings B.V.	3.68%
Energy Future Intermediate Holding Co.	3.67%
BMC Software Finance, Inc.	3.66%
MultiPlan, Inc. (MPH Acquisition Holdings LLC)	3.55%
CHS/Community Health Systems, Inc.	3.18%
Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc.	2.90%
Caesars Resort Collection	2.89%
BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc.	2.64%
Albertsons LLC	2.44%
Information Resources, Inc.	2.26%
Advantage Sales & Marketing, Inc.	1.95%
Kindred Healthcare, Inc.	1.83%
Portillo's Holdings LLC	1.81%
AlixPartners LLP	1.80%
USI, Inc. (Compass Investors, Inc.)	1.79%
Tenet Healthcare Corp.	1.77%
Sterigenics International (STHI Intermediate Holding Corp.)	1.76%
DJO Finance LLC (ReAble Therapeutics Finance LLC)	1.74%
ClubCorp Club Operations, Inc.	1.67%
Endo Pharmaceuticals Holdings, Inc.	1.53%
Compuware Corp.	1.51%
Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, Inc. (Crimson Merger Sub, Inc.)	1.47%
Vertafore, Inc.	1.42%
Amplify Snack Brands, Inc.	1.34%
Change Healthcare Holdings, Inc.	1.25%
Total	55.51%

Portfolio Breakdown

The table sets out the percentage (based on total net asset value) of the First Trust ETF's portfolio, by sector, as at December 31, 2017.

Sector Weightings	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
Health Care	32.73%
Consumer Discretionary	14.80%
Information Technology	13.05%
Consumer Staples	8.72%
Financials	8.04%
Industrials	5.55%
Energy	4.98%
Materials	1.98%
Telecommunication Services	1.53%
Cash	11.73%
Other assets, less liabilities	(3.11)%
Total	100.00%

The table sets out the percentage (based on total net asset value) of the First Trust ETF's portfolio, by credit rating, as at December 31, 2017.

S&P Rating	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
BBB	0.00%
BBB-	0.73%
BB+	3.52%
BB	6.45%
BB-	18.96%
B+	22.99%
В	22.76%
B-	12.22%
CCC+	0.44%
CCC	1.43%
CCC-	0.60%
CC	0.00%
C	0.00%
D	1.27%
NR	0.00%
Total	91.38%

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