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## First Trust Indxx NextG ETF • NXTG

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Annual Management Report of Fund Performance  
December 31, 2023

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# **ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE**

## **December 31, 2023**

### **First Trust Indxx NextG ETF (the “First Trust ETF”)**

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete audited 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 website at [www.firsttrust.ca](http://www.firsttrust.ca) or SEDAR at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca).

### **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.

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# First Trust Indxx NextG ETF

## Management Report of Fund Performance

### For the year ended December 31, 2023

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#### **Investment Objective and Strategy**

The fundamental investment objective of **First Trust Indxx NextG ETF** (the “First Trust ETF”) is to replicate, to the extent possible, the performance of an index of U.S. companies that have devoted or have committed to devote, material resources to the research, development and application of fifth generation and next generation digital cellular technologies as they emerge, initially the Indxx 5G & NextG Thematic Index<sup>SM</sup>.

The Indxx 5G & NextG Thematic Index<sup>SM</sup> is designed to track the performance of companies that have devoted, or have committed to devote, material resources to the research, development and application of fifth generation and next generation digital cellular technologies as they emerge. Eligible securities must have a minimum market capitalization of US\$500 million, six-month average daily trading volume of at least US\$2 million (US\$1 million for emerging market companies), traded for at least 90% of the total trading days in the last six months or for a security recently issued in an initial public offering over the prior three months, a minimum free float of 10% of shares outstanding and a share price of less than US\$10,000 for new index constituents.

#### **Risk**

The First Trust ETF provides exposure to its index by investing all or substantially all of its assets in an underlying U.S. index fund known as First Trust Indxx NextG ETF (the “Underlying Fund”), which is managed by the First Trust ETF’s portfolio advisor.

The risks associated with an investment in the First Trust ETF is discussed in the First Trust ETF’s most recent prospectus.

#### **Results of Operations**

##### ***General***

The First Trust ETF’s net asset value as of December 31, 2023 was \$1,374,595 or \$9.82 per unit. The First Trust ETF’s net asset value as of December 31, 2022 was \$1,410,088 or \$7.83 per unit.

There were no cash distributions paid nor declared for the year ended December 31, 2023.

##### ***Investment Performance***

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the First Trust ETF returned 25.33% compared to the MSCI ACWI Information Technology Index (the “benchmark”) return of 47.42%. Unlike the benchmark, the First Trust ETF’s return is net of fees and expenses.

The First Trust ETF’s only holding, the Underlying Fund, held 100 equity securities as of December 31, 2023. The top ten equity holdings for the Underlying Fund accounted for 16.54% of the portfolio within the Underlying Fund.

The Underlying Fund underperformed the benchmark during the year mostly due to an overweight allocation to Communication Services and Real Estate, as well as stock selection within Information Technology. An overweight allocation to IT Services helped to mitigate the underperformance.

The Underlying Fund’s top five stocks by contribution to return were NVIDIA Corporation, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc., Renesas Electronics Corporation, Broadcom Inc., and Arista Networks, Inc. The Underlying Fund’s bottom five stocks by contribution to return were Nokia Oyj, Ciena Corporation, Crown Castle Inc., Keysight Technologies, Inc., and Elisa Oyj.

The First Trust’s ETF’s exposure to the U.S. dollar contributed negatively to its absolute performance during the year as the U.S. dollar depreciated 2.39% against the Canadian dollar from December 31, 2022, to December 31, 2023.

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**Recent Developments**

The proliferation of 5G, the next-generation wireless network, is underway and offers investors attractive investment opportunities. Where previous generations of networks enabled the advent of modern applications used in consumer-facing smart phones, the power of 5G will cast across multiple end markets including industrial automation, health care, and smart cities. Increased penetration of next generation networks, such as 5G, require substantial capital expenditures on the part of communication service providers (CSPs) and enterprises. We expect these investments to drive a strong secular demand environment for enabling communications technologies, while new applications such as the expanded use of artificial intelligence (AI) increase data consumption and the performance requirements for data networks. 5G networking and the industries that support new connected devices remain an attractive theme as 5G investments, devices, and applications remain important enablers of the consumption and interpretation of real time data.

**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.

# First Trust Indxx NextG ETF

## Management Report of Fund Performance

### For the year ended December 31, 2023

#### 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 five years ended December 31. This information is derived from the First Trust ETF's audited annual financial statements.

#### Net Asset Value per Unit

NXTG	2023	2022	2021 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020	2019
Net asset value, beginning of year <sup>(1)</sup>	\$7.83	\$9.75	\$7.20	\$9.28	\$10.58
Increase (Decrease) from operations:					
Total revenue	0.20	0.15	0.22	0.21	0.15
Total expenses	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.06)	(0.12)	(0.13)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	(0.07)	(0.30)	1.41	(3.26)	0.83
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	1.98	(1.90)	0.50	1.14	1.26
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>	\$2.07	\$(2.08)	\$2.07	\$(2.03)	\$2.11
Distributions:					
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	-
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	(0.04)
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$(0.04)
Net asset value, end of year <sup>(4)</sup>	\$9.82	\$7.83	\$9.75	\$7.20	\$9.28

(a) Effective February 17, 2021, the First Trust ETF is fully invested in the Underlying Fund.

(1) This information is provided as at December 31 of the period/years 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 year.

(3) 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.

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

#### Ratios and Supplemental Data

NXTG	2023	2022	2021 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020	2019
Net asset value (000's)	\$1,375	\$1,410	\$2,438	\$1,080	\$1,392
Number of units outstanding	140,000	180,000	250,000	150,000	150,000
Management expense ratio <sup>(1)</sup>	0.87%	0.87%	0.86%	0.78%	0.77%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption	0.88%	0.89%	0.87%	0.81%	0.79%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	0.00%	0.00%	0.05%	0.22%	0.18%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(3)</sup>	0.96%	20.56%	223.39%	220.30%	728.61%

(a) Effective February 17, 2021, the First Trust ETF is fully invested in the Underlying Fund.

(1) Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated year, including the First Trust ETF's proportionate share of the MER of the Underlying Fund in which the First Trust ETF has invested, and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the year.

(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 year. This includes the First Trust ETF's proportionate share of the commissions of Underlying Fund in which the First Trust ETF has invested.

(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 year. The higher a First Trust ETF's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading cost payable by the First Trust ETF in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between high turnover rate and the performance of a First Trust ETF.

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**Management Fees**

The First Trust ETF will pay the Manager a management fee of 0.15% 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.

*The First Trust ETF will bear the Underlying Fund's management fee of 0.70% per annum on average daily net assets on the First Trust ETF's portfolio assets invested in the Underlying Fund. Accordingly, the management fee cost to unitholders of their investment will be 0.85% per annum of NAV of the First Trust ETF plus applicable taxes.*

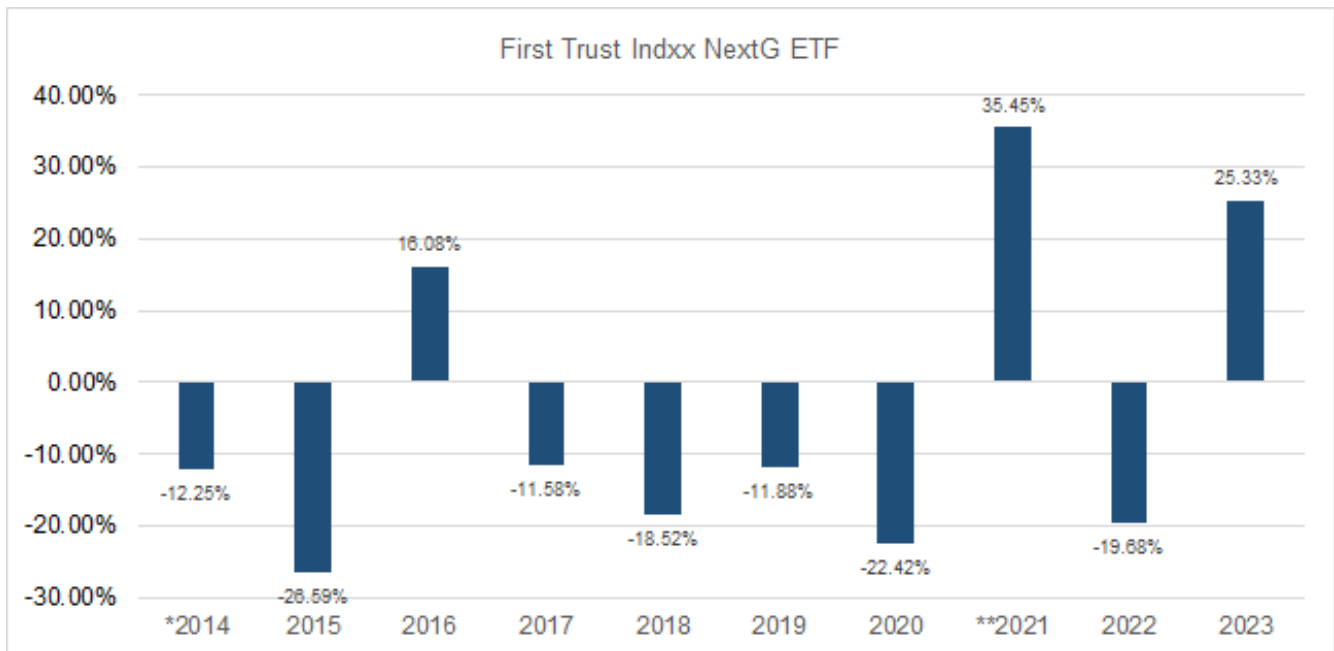
**Past Performance**

**General**

The past performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the First Trust ETF in the period/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 for the years ended December 31, and for the period from commencement of operations to December 31, 2014 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.



\*First Trust ETF Commencement: October 30, 2014

\*\*Effective February 17, 2021, the First Trust ETF is fully invested in the Underlying Fund.

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#### Annual Compound Returns

The table below shows the First Trust ETF's annual compound total return since inception and for the year ended December 31, 2023. The annual compound return is compared to the returns of the relevant benchmark; however, the First Trust ETF's return is net of fees and expenses. See Results of Operations section of this report for further information regarding the current year performance of the First Trust ETF relative to the benchmark.

Returns	1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year	Since Inception
First Trust Indxx NextG ETF	25.33%	10.89%	-1.40%	-	-7.23%
MSCI ACWI Index CAD	19.28%	6.95%	11.03%	-	10.33%

*MSCI ACWI Index - MSCI's flagship global equity index, is designed to represent performance of the full opportunity set of large- and mid-cap stocks across 23 developed and 27 emerging markets. It covers more than 2,900 constituents across 11 sectors and approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each market. The index is built using MSCI's Global Investable Market Index (GIMI) methodology, which is designed to take into account variations reflecting conditions across regions, marketcap sizes, sectors, style segments and combinations. Returns are shown in CAD.*

#### Summary of Investment Portfolio

The table below sets out the percentage (based on total net asset value) of the First Trust ETF's holdings as at December 31, 2023. This summary of portfolio holdings may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the First Trust ETF. Daily and quarterly updates are available at [www.firsttrust.ca](http://www.firsttrust.ca).

Holdings	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
First Trust Indxx NextG ETF	99.19%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.82%
Other Assets, Less Liabilities	-0.01%
Total	100.00%

#### Portfolio Breakdown

The table below sets out the percentage (based on total net asset value) of the First Trust ETF's portfolio as at December 31, 2023.

Breakdown	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
Exchange-Traded Fund	99.19%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.82%
Other Assets, Less Liabilities	-0.01%
Total	100.00%



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