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First Trust Global Risk Managed Income Index ETF  
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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 Global Risk Managed Income Index 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 Global Risk Managed Income Index 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 Global Risk Managed Income Index ETF** (the "First Trust ETF") is to replicate, to the extent possible, the performance of the NASDAQ Global Risk Managed Income Index<sup>SM</sup> (the "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 First Trust ETF may also hold cash and cash equivalents or other money market instruments to fund current liabilities.

The Index seeks to provide exposure to a risk managed, globally diversified income portfolio which generates a high yield for the risk taken and consists of liquid, income-bearing ETFs and other exchange traded products across various asset classes.

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.

#### **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 year that affected the overall level of risk associated with the First Trust ETF.

#### **Results of Operations**

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

The First Trust ETF's total net asset value as of December 31, 2023 was \$16,469,377 or \$16.46 per unit. The First Trust ETF's total net asset value as of December 31, 2022 was \$18,670,188 or \$16.22 per unit.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the First Trust ETF paid total cash distributions of \$0.6750 per unit. In addition, the First Trust ETF declared cash distributions of \$0.0500 per unit for record date of December 29, 2023 with payment date of January 8, 2024.

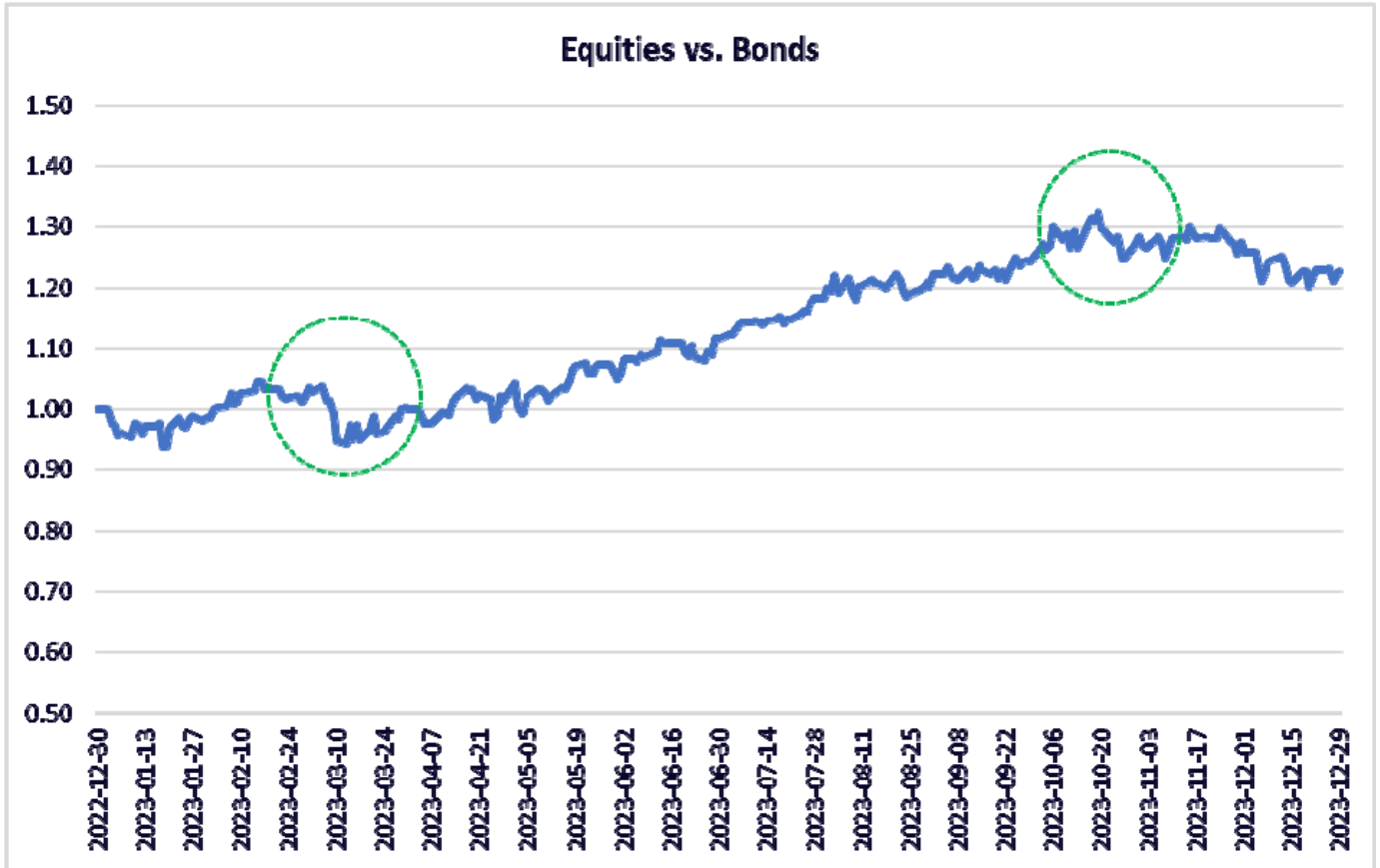
##### ***Investment Performance***

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the First Trust ETF returned 5.82% compared to the Index return of 6.38%. Unlike the Index, the First Trust ETF's returns are net of fees and expenses.

The return was positive for the first half of the year. Performance for the First Trust ETF was mixed month-to-month in the first half of 2023 and did not exhibit a material trend in either direction for any extended period of time. During the second half of 2023 returns were better overall, though the second half of the year started out slowly, with the fund returning negative performance in August, September, and October, before rebounding with fairly robust positive performance in November and December.

The First Trust ETF began 2023 with a 25% exposure to equity and ended the year 1% lower at 24%. This equity exposure is unique to the Index and differentiates the First Trust ETF from a more typical bond fund. In the chart below, we can see that the relative strength of equities (using the SPY ETF as a proxy) versus government bonds (using the TLT ETF as a proxy) was positive for much of the year. The strong decrease in March, and the stumble in October (both circled in green), were the months that accounted for most of the First Trust ETF performance divergence from a more standard Bond fund. This equity exposure can also provide benefits, as we can see from the differentiated returns in the monthly return chart.

First Trust Global Risk Managed Income Index ETF  
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Source: Bloomberg and Nasdaq

# First Trust Global Risk Managed Income Index ETF Management Report of Fund Performance For the year ended December 31, 2023

Index Positions and Sector Performances as of December 29, 2023:

Nasdaq Global Risk Managed Income CAD Index (NQGRMIC) - 2023																	
		BY ASSET CLASS		BY CREDIT RATING				BY GEOGRAPHY				As Of 12/29/2023		As of 12/30/2022		One Year Changes	
Symbol	Company Name	Equity	Bond	Rate	Credit	HY	Equity	Canada	U.S.	Int'l	Global	Weight	Yield	Weight	Yield	Wgt Chg	Yld Chg
CPD	iShares S&P/TSX Canadian Preferred Share Index ETF		Y			Y		Y				13.23%	5.9%	10.9%	5.6%	2.28%	0.28%
ZPR	BMO Laddered Preferred Share Index ETF		Y			Y		Y				0.00%	5.9%	1.8%	6.0%	-1.78%	-0.05%
XCB	iShares DEX All Corporate Bond Index ETF		Y		Y			Y				3.68%	3.7%	6.7%	3.6%	-3.03%	0.09%
XGB	iShares DEX all Government Bond Index ETF		Y	Y				Y				2.28%	2.7%	3.7%	2.8%	-1.43%	-0.06%
CVD	iShares Convertible Bond Index ETF Trust Units		Y			Y		Y				7.06%	5.4%	13.0%	5.2%	-5.89%	0.19%
XLB	iShares Core Canadian Long Term Bond Index ETF		Y	Y				Y				1.59%	3.8%	2.8%	3.9%	-1.24%	-0.16%
HBB	Horizons CDN Select Universe Bond ETF		Y	Y				Y				2.61%	3.1%	1.5%	2.9%	1.13%	0.19%
VSB	Vanguard Canadian Short-Term Bond Index ETF		Y	Y				Y				10.19%	2.7%	3.2%	1.6%	6.97%	1.04%
ZFM	BMO Mid Federal Bond Index ETF		Y	Y				Y				0.00%	2.3%	1.0%	2.4%	-0.99%	-0.05%
ZHY	BMO High Yield US Corporate Bond Hedged to CAD ETF		Y		Y				Y			19.54%	6.5%	8.6%	6.7%	10.94%	-0.19%
ZIC	BMO Mid-Term US IG Corporate Bond Index ETF CAD		Y		Y				Y			2.90%	3.8%	7.5%	3.9%	-4.58%	-0.11%
ZCM	BMO Mid Corporate Bond Index ETF		Y		Y			Y				0.00%	4.0%	1.0%	3.8%	-1.00%	0.14%
CLF	iShares 1-5 Year Laddered Government Bond Index ETF CAD		Y	Y				Y				1.54%	2.2%	4.7%	2.2%	-3.19%	0.01%
ZEF	BMO Emerging Markets Bond Hedged to CAD Index ETF		Y			Y				Y		11.44%	4.5%	8.3%	4.6%	3.10%	-0.13%
ZUT	BMO Equal Weight Utilities Index ETF	Y					Y	Y				1.90%	4.5%	2.5%	4.0%	-0.57%	0.44%
ZRE	BMO Equal Weight REIT's Index ETF	Y					Y	Y				2.50%	5.2%	1.7%	5.5%	0.79%	-0.28%
XFN	iShares S&P/TSX Capped Financials Index ETF	Y					Y	Y				2.72%	3.6%	2.4%	3.5%	0.31%	0.12%
XEI	iShares Core S&P/TSX Composite High Dividend Index ETF	Y					Y	Y				3.42%	5.1%	2.4%	6.7%	0.98%	-1.61%
VDY	Vanguard FTSE Canadian High Dividend Yield Index ETF	Y					Y	Y				3.31%	4.6%	4.3%	4.3%	-1.02%	0.32%
VGG	Vanguard US Dividend Appreciation Index ETF	Y					Y		Y			4.97%	1.4%	3.3%	1.7%	1.68%	-0.37%
CGR	iShares Global Real Estate Index ETF	Y					Y				Y	1.62%	2.6%	1.0%	1.3%	0.60%	1.27%
CYH	iShares Global Monthly Dividend Index ETF	Y					Y				Y	3.48%	4.7%	7.5%	7.7%	-4.06%	-3.01%
NQGRMIC	NASDAQ Global Risk Managed Income CAD Index	24%	76%	18%	26%	32%	24%	56%	27%	11%	5%	100%	4.62%		4.65%		-0.03%
XBB	iShare Core Canadian Universe Bond Index ETF		Y	Y	Y			Y				100%	3.03%		2.95%		0.08%

Source: Bloomberg and Nasdaq

Nasdaq Global Risk Managed Income CAD Index (NQGRMIC) - Full Year Allocation Changes										
NQGRMIC (ETP) Allocation	BY ASSET CLASS		BY CREDIT RATING				BY GEOGRAPHY			
	Equity	Bond	Rate	Credit	HY	Equity	Canada	U.S.	EM	Global
12/30/2022	25%	75%	17%	24%	34%	25%	64%	19%	8%	9%
12/29/2023	24%	76%	18%	26%	32%	24%	56%	27%	11%	5%
Allocation Change	-1%	1%	1%	2%	-2%	-1%	-8%	8%	3%	-3%

Source: Nasdaq

Rate: a fixed income product that is dominated by the government bond holdings

Credit: corporate bond focused that are usually for those rated as investment graded

HY: High Yield (junk) bonds, which also include preferred and emerging market bonds.

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# First Trust Global Risk Managed Income Index ETF

## Management Report of Fund Performance

### For the year ended December 31, 2023

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The security weights of the First Trust ETF are determined by Newfound Research using their proprietary model. Index Securities with a higher yield-to-risk profile and positive price momentum are weighted more heavily within the Index. Over this year, the model added exposure to Bonds vs. Equities, High Yield vs Equity and Government Bonds, and Emerging Markets vs Canada and Global.

As of December 31, 2023, the First Trust ETF held 76% in fixed income, an increase of 1% since year-end 2022, which corresponded to a decrease in equity exposure from 25% to 24%.

The First Trust ETF portfolio did not experience large changes to its allocations across credit categories during the year. Government bonds ("Rate"), increased by 2% and Equity decreased by 1%, with investment grade corporate bonds ("Credit") increasing by 2%.

The largest change was relative to Geography, with an 8% reduction in exposure to Canada and an increase of 8% to the U.S., yielding an exposure of 56% to Canada and 27% to the U.S. at year end.

On the individual security level, the BMO High Yield US Corporate Bond (Hedged to CAD) ETF had the largest increase, rising from 8.6% to 19.54% at year end. The second largest increase was to the iShares S&P/TSX Canadian Preferred Share Index ETF, which rose from 10.9% to 13.23% over the course of the year. The two largest reductions in weight were for the iShares Convertible Bond Index ETF Trust Units and BMO Mid-Term US IG Corporate Bond Index ETF CAD, which were reduced by 5.89% and 4.58%, respectively.

### **Recent Developments**

After peaking in late 2022, measures of inflation such as the U.S. Consumer Price Index flattened and started to drift downward in the first half of 2023, and continued to fall as the year progressed, with the CPI year over year change (YoY) breaking below 4% in June. The U.S. Federal Reserve took a 'pause' in its series of target rate hikes in June, then made one additional increase in July. As inflation continued to fall, market participants began to expect that the Fed is done hiking and may start cutting rates as soon as March of 2024. The U.S. and Canadian 10-Year Government bonds saw rates fall during the first half of the year, then rise in the second half of the year. The yield on the U.S. 10-Year Government bond finished the year near where it started at just under 4%, while the Canadian 10-Year Government bond yield finished the year roughly 50 basis points higher.

These factors appear to have contributed to market enthusiasm and spurred a return to bull market conditions for equities. Investors increasingly expect that there will not be a recession, and many expect the Fed to start cutting rates in the first or second quarter of 2024, which should stimulate asset prices. If this is the case, the Index can maintain a healthy allocation to equities while attempting to generate balanced income for long-term investors. If a recession does occur, then the Index can rotate into assets with lower risk to attempt to cushion the losses from a bear market.

### **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 Global Risk Managed Income Index 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**

ETP	2023	2022 <sup>(a)</sup>	2021	2020	2019
Net asset value, beginning of year <sup>(1)</sup>	\$16.22	\$19.05	\$18.24	\$19.11	\$17.90
Increase (Decrease) from operations:					
Total revenue	0.72	0.61	0.61	0.68	0.79
Total expenses	(0.09)	(0.12)	(0.09)	(0.10)	(0.09)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	(0.80)	(0.18)	0.20	(1.08)	(0.11)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	1.03	(2.64)	0.64	0.14	1.34
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>	\$0.86	\$(2.33)	\$1.36	\$(0.36)	\$1.93
Distributions:					
From income (excluding dividends)	(0.44)	(0.33)	(0.35)	(0.42)	(0.49)
From dividends	(0.22)	(0.18)	(0.18)	(0.17)	(0.16)
From capital gains	-	-	(0.02)	-	-
Return of capital	(0.02)	(0.02)	-	(0.10)	(0.07)
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	\$(0.68)	\$(0.53)	\$(0.55)	\$(0.69)	\$(0.72)
Net asset value, end of year <sup>(4)</sup>	\$16.46	\$16.22	\$19.05	\$18.24	\$19.11

(a) As of February 28, 2022, the First Trust ETF no longer offered ETP.A and the Manager successfully redesignated ETP.A to ETP of the First Trust ETF.

(1) This information is provided as at December 31 of the 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.



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**Ratios and Supplemental Data**

ETP	2023	2022 <sup>(a)</sup>	2021	2020	2019
Net asset value (000's)	\$16,469	\$18,670	\$25,458	\$22,552	\$26,486
Number of units outstanding	1,000,811	1,150,811	1,336,214	1,236,214	1,386,214
Management expense ratio <sup>(1)</sup>	0.87%	1.01%	0.93%	0.94%	0.91%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption	1.07%	1.21%	1.14%	1.15%	1.12%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	0.13%	0.14%	0.07%	0.12%	0.08%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(3)</sup>	88.00%	106.67%	36.93%	108.97%	75.07%

(a) As of February 28, 2022, the First Trust ETF no longer offered ETP.A and the Manager successfully redesignated ETP.A to ETP of the First Trust ETF.

(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 any 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 any 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.

**Management Fees**

The First Trust ETF will pay the Manager a management fee of 0.60% 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 currently pays the Manager a management fee equal to 0.41%.

**First Trust Global Risk Managed Income Index ETF  
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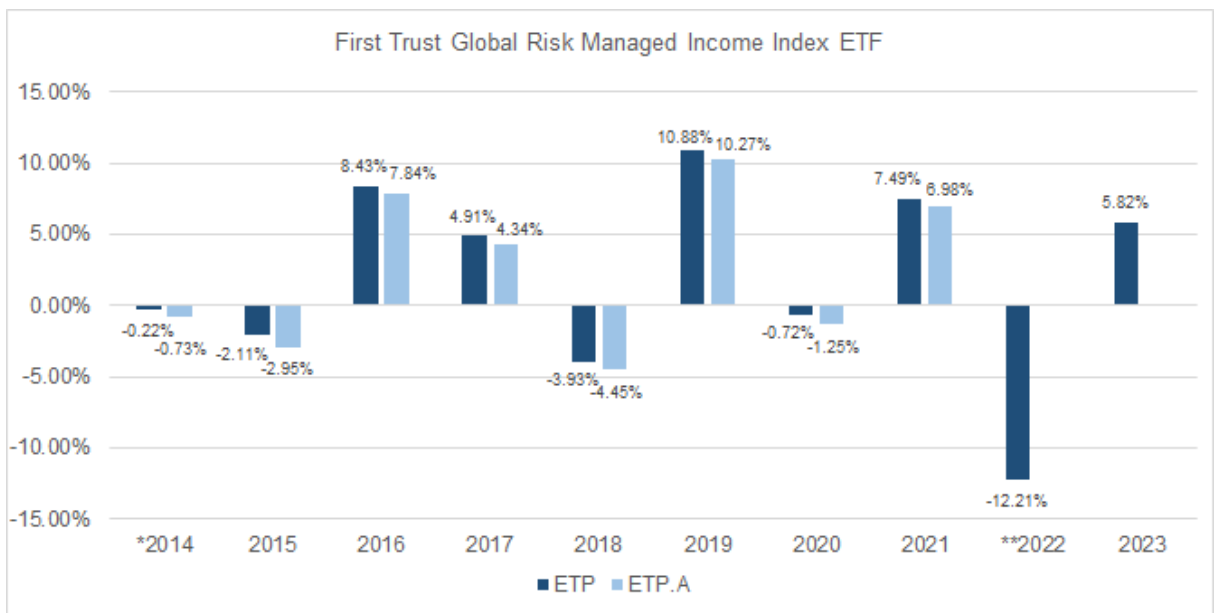
**Past Performance**

**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: July 23, 2014

\*\*As of February 28, 2022, the First Trust ETF no longer offered ETP.A and the Manager successfully redesignated ETP.A to ETP of the First Trust ETF.

# First Trust Global Risk Managed Income Index ETF

## Management Report of Fund Performance

### For the year ended December 31, 2023

#### 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 reference index; 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 index.

Returns	1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year	Since Inception
First Trust Global Risk Managed Income Index ETF	5.82%	-0.05%	1.91%	-	1.71%
NASDAQ Global Risk Managed Income Index <sup>SM</sup>	6.38%	0.59%	2.50%	-	2.28%

*NASDAQ Global Risk Managed Income Index<sup>SM</sup> is a rules-based, quantitatively enabled index which is designed to provide risk managed, globally diversified exposure to income generating asset classes to produce a high yield for the risk taken. The index consists of liquid, income-bearing exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") and other exchange traded products across various asset classes to gain the diversified, risk managed exposure.*

#### 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
BMO High Yield U.S. Corporate Bond Hedged to CAD Index ETF	19.47%
iShares S&P/TSX Canadian Preferred Share Index ETF	13.18%
BMO Emerging Markets Bond Hedged to CAD Index ETF	11.40%
Vanguard Canadian Short-Term Bond Index ETF	10.15%
iShares Convertible Bond Index ETF (CAD - Hedged)	7.13%
Vanguard U.S. Dividend Appreciation Index ETF	4.95%
iShares Canadian Corporate Bond Index ETF	3.66%
iShares Global Monthly Dividend Index ETF (CAD-Hedged)	3.47%
iShares Core S&P / TSX Composite High Dividend Index ETF	3.41%
Vanguard FTSE Canadian High Dividend Yield Index ETF	3.30%
BMO Mid-Term U.S. IG Corporate Bond Index ETF	2.89%
iShares S&P/TSX Capped Financials Index ETF	2.71%
Horizons Cdn Select Universe Bond ETF	2.60%
BMO Equal Weight REITs Index ETF	2.49%
iShares Canadian Government Bond Index ETF	2.27%
BMO Equal Weight Utilities Index ETF	1.89%
iShares Global Real Estate Index ETF	1.61%
iShares Core Canadian Long Term Bond Index ETF	1.59%
iShares 1-5 Year Laddered Government Bond Index ETF	1.54%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.01%
Other Assets, Less Liabilities	0.28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

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**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.

Sector Weightings	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
Exchange-Traded Funds	99.71%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.01%
Other Assets, Less Liabilities	0.28%
Total	100.00%

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