



First Trust Vest U.S. Equity Buffer ETF – November
• NOVB.F

Interim Management Report of Fund Performance
June 30, 2025

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INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

June 30, 2025

First Trust Vest U.S. Equity Buffer ETF – November (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.

First Trust Vest U.S. Equity Buffer ETF – November

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For the six-month period ended June 30, 2025

Investment Objective and Strategy

The fundamental investment objective of **First Trust Vest U.S. Equity Buffer ETF - November** (the “First Trust ETF”) is to provide unitholders with returns (before fees, expenses and taxes) that match the price return of the SPDR® S&P 500® ETF Trust (the “Reference ETF”) up to a predetermined upside cap (before fees, expenses and taxes), while providing a buffer against the first 10% (before fees, expenses and taxes) of the decrease in market price of the Reference ETF, over a period of approximately one year from the Monday following the third Friday of November of each year (each, a “Target Outcome Period”) to on or about the third Friday of November of the following year. At the end of a Target Outcome Period a new cap will be established for the next Target Outcome Period. The buffer stays constant at 10% (before fees, expenses, and taxes) for the next Target Outcome Period.

To achieve its investment objectives, the First Trust ETF will under normal market conditions invest substantially all of its assets in FLEXible EXchange® Options (“FLEX Options”) that reference the price return of the Reference ETF. FLEX Options are customized equity or index option contracts that trade on an exchange but provide investors with the ability to customize key contract terms like exercise prices, styles and expiration dates.

The First Trust ETF will generally seek to hedge substantially all of its U.S. dollar currency exposure associated with its portfolio investments in respect of the hedged units back to the Canadian dollar.

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.

Results of Operations

General

The First Trust ETF’s net asset value as of June 30, 2025, was \$35,904,501 or \$44.88 per unit. The First Trust ETF’s net asset value as of December 31, 2024, was \$30,385,498 or \$43.41 per unit.

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, the First Trust ETF returned 3.39% compared to S&P 500® CAD-Hedged Index (the “benchmark”) total return of 4.68%. Unlike the benchmark, the First Trust ETF’s return is net of fees and expenses.

The First Trust ETF holds a combination of four FLEX option positions on the Reference ETF, as well as a currency forward position. The currency forward is short the U.S Dollar and long the Canadian Dollar and is intended to minimize the impact of changes in the Canadian/U.S. dollar exchange rate on the First Trust ETF’s performance.

The combined performance of the option positions is dependent, in large part, on a) the performance of the Reference ETF, b) the change in the amount of time remaining to the options expiration date (annual reset date), and c) changes in the market’s view on future volatility of the Reference ETF. We estimate that for the reporting period, the impact of holding the options on the First Trust ETF performance was approximately 4.64%.

The cost (or benefit) to the First Trust ETF of holding the currency forwards is dependent, in part, on the interest rate differences between the U.S. and Canada. We estimate that for the reporting period, the impact of holding the currency forwards on the First Trust ETF performance was approximately -0.77%.

Finally, we estimate that for the reporting period, the impact of expenses and taxes (HST) on the First Trust ETF performance was approximately -0.48%.

First Trust Vest U.S. Equity Buffer ETF – November Management Report of Fund Performance For the six-month period ended June 30, 2025

Recent Developments

The First Trust ETF performance is dependent on the price performance of Reference ETF (the “SPY”), as well as the cost of the currency forward position, which is based on interest rate differentials between the U.S. and Canada.

For the six-month period ended June 30, 2025, U.S. stock indices were largely positive, following a period of increased volatility.

The S&P 500® Index, the well-known measure of U.S. large-cap stocks, ended the reporting period (“Period”) up 6.2%. Mid-and small capitalization stocks, as measured by the S&P MidCap 400® Index and the Russell 2000® Index, rose 0.2% and declined 1.8%, respectively. The Nasdaq-100® Index, a tech-heavy market measure, rose 8.4% over the Period. Non-U.S. stock markets had positive returns: MSCI EAFE (a broad measure of stocks in developed markets, excluding the U.S.) rose by 19.5%, while the MSCI Emerging Markets Index rose 19.9% over the Period.

U.S. economic data showed the first quarterly decline in gross domestic product (“GDP”) since March of 2022. U.S. GDP growth in the three most recent quarterly reports (third quarter 2024 through first quarter 2025) came in at seasonally adjusted annualized rates of 3.1%, 2.4%, and -0.5%, sequentially. A current Bloomberg survey of economists shows a consensus projection of 1.5% GDP growth in 2025 (versus 2.3% in 2024).

Unemployment in the U.S. remains historically low but trended higher throughout the current Period. The rate was 4.1% in December 2024 and increased to 4.2% in June 2025.

After a series of rate cuts in 2024, the Federal Open Market Committee left the Fed Funds Target Rate steady in the first six months of 2025 in a range of 4.25%-4.50%.

U.S. inflation levels fell in 1H25. As the year began, inflation (as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI - Year over Year) registered at 2.9%. Inflation came down to a low of 2.3% at the end of April, rose slightly to 2.4% at the end of May, and is estimated to reflect 2.4% again once the June reading is released.

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. Also, First Trust Capital Partners, LLC, an affiliate of the Manager, owns a 44.3% ownership interest (49.3% voting) in VestGroup Inc., the holding company of Vest Financial LLC, the sub-advisor to 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.

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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, for the four years ended December 31, and for the period from commencement of operations to December 31, 2020. This information is derived from the First Trust ETF's unaudited interim and audited annual financial statements.

Net Asset Value per Unit

NOVB.F	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020 ^(a)
Net asset value, beginning of period/year ⁽¹⁾	\$43.41	\$38.75	\$32.81	\$36.41	\$32.95	\$30.00 ^(b)
Increase (Decrease) from operations:						
Total revenue	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.02	-	-
Total expenses	(0.20)	(0.41)	(0.34)	(0.33)	(0.34)	(0.29)
Realized gains (losses) for the period/year	0.76	5.78	4.80	(2.86)	4.39	4.23
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period/year	0.63	(0.69)	1.59	(0.65)	(0.54)	1.37
Total increase (decrease) from operations ⁽²⁾	\$1.20	\$4.71	\$6.07	\$(3.82)	\$3.51	\$5.31
Distributions:						
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	(1.71)	-	-	(2.12)	(4.19)
Return of capital	-	(0.31)	-	-	-	-
Total annual distributions ⁽³⁾	\$ -	\$(2.02)	\$ -	\$ -	\$(2.12)	\$(4.19)
Net asset value, end of period/year ⁽⁴⁾	\$44.88	\$43.41	\$38.75	\$32.81	\$36.41	\$32.95

(a) December 31, 2020 does not relate to the full year as the First Trust ETF commenced operations on February 4, 2020.

(b) Seed capital

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

(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 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

NOVB.F	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Net asset value (000's)	\$35,905	\$30,385	\$27,127	\$24,610	\$14,563	\$23,066
Number of units outstanding	800,000	700,000	700,000	750,000	400,000	700,000
Management expense ratio ⁽¹⁾	0.94%	0.95%	0.92%	0.95%	0.93%	0.94%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption	0.95%	0.96%	0.93%	0.96%	0.95%	0.96%
Trading expense ratio ⁽²⁾	0.01%	0.04%	0.03%	0.05%	0.04%	0.12%
Portfolio turnover rate ⁽³⁾	6.50%	179.33%	244.95%	148.01%	10.34%	170.02%

(1) 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.

(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.

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Management Fees

The First Trust ETF will pay the Manager a management fee of 0.85% 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.

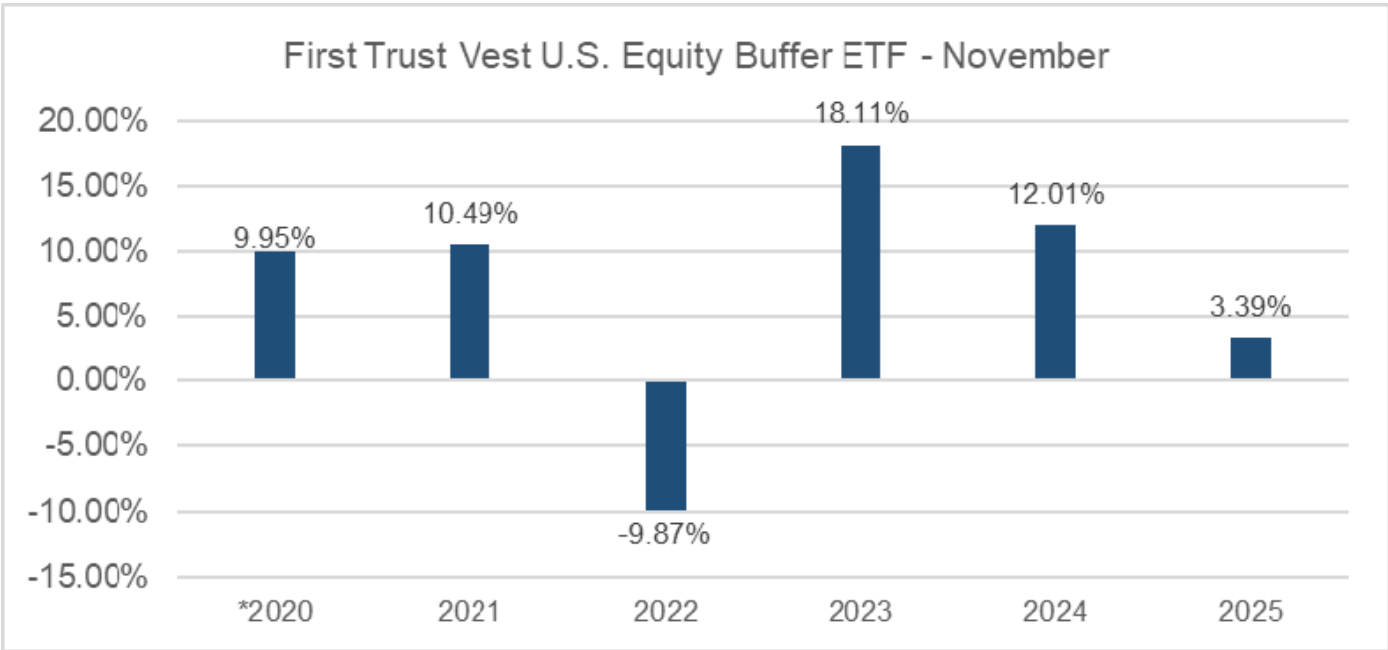
Past Performance

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 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, 2020 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: February 4, 2020

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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 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 www.firsttrust.ca.

Holdings	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
2025-11-21 SPDR® S&P 500® ETF Trust C 5.83	98.46%
2025-11-21 SPDR® S&P 500® ETF Trust P 585.72	2.04%
2025-11-21 SPDR® S&P 500® ETF Trust P 527.15	-0.90%
2025-11-21 SPDR® S&P 500® ETF Trust C 669.72	-0.91%
Other Assets, Less Liabilities	0.67%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.64%
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 June 30, 2025.

Breakdown	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
Options	98.69%
Other Assets, Less Liabilities	0.67%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.64%
Total	100.00%

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FT Portfolios Canada Co.

40 King Street West, Suite 5102
Scotia Plaza, Box 312
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3Y2

www.firsttrust.ca