



BROAD COMMODITY INDEX

COMMENTARY
+ PROFILE

FEBRUARY 2024

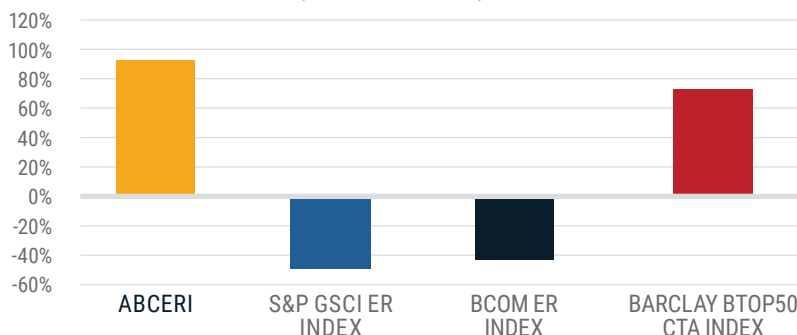
All performance data, portfolio information
and pricing contained herein is as of
February 29th, 2024.

AUSPICE Capital Advisors

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CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE (SINCE JANUARY 2007)



Correlation	0.64	0.75	0.35
ABCERI	S&P GSCI ER INDEX	BCOM ER INDEX	BARCLAY BTOP50 CTA INDEX

Source: Bloomberg and Auspice Investment Operations. The performance of Auspice Broad Commodity Index prior to 9/30/2010 is simulated and hypothetical as published by the NYSE. See Important Disclaimers and Notes on last page. You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

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3 Year Morningstar Rating™ for Direxion Auspice Broad Commodity Strategy Fund ETF (COM), which tracks ABCERI. Overall Morningstar Rating™ out of 100 US Fund Commodities Broad Basket funds based on risk adjusted returns as of 12/31/2023¹

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SUMMARY

Source of data is Bloomberg unless otherwise indicated.

The broad commodity market is producing results that are as mixed as it is diversified. While some energies rallied led by Gasoline up 4.2%, others fell alongside natural gas, down 14.1%. Metals and Grains mostly weakened while Soft Commodities had strength in Cotton gaining 15.9%.

The long-only commodity benchmarks remain mixed with the Bloomberg Commodity Index (BCOM ER) down 1.9% while the energy tilted Goldman Sachs Commodity Index (GSCI ER) made a small gain of 0.5%. Despite the correction in 2023 and to start 2024, the results are positive for the last 3 and 5 years per Table 1.

Global stock indices continued to rally. The S&P500 and Nasdaq added 5.2% and 6.1% respectively while Asian markets found a base and bounced - the Hang Seng added 6.6% while the China FTSE A50 and Japanese Nikkei added 7.8% and 7.9%. As we look away from the tech dominated US benchmarks, the returns are more moderate. Canada's TSX60 was a laggard up 1.8% while global benchmark MSCI ACWI added 4.3%.

Lingering optimism around rate cuts in the early part of 2024 has all but been extinguished as continued higher than expected inflation prints abound. While year-over-year inflation as measured by CPI dropped to 3.1% (for the January reading see Chart 2), it was higher than expected.

Rates continued to rise in February with the benchmark US 10-year Note moving from 3.91% to 4.25%. The US Dollar rallied another 1% vis-à-vis global currencies with the Yen falling 2.9% while Canadian Dollar and Euro fell 1.3% and 0.5% respectively.

RESULTS

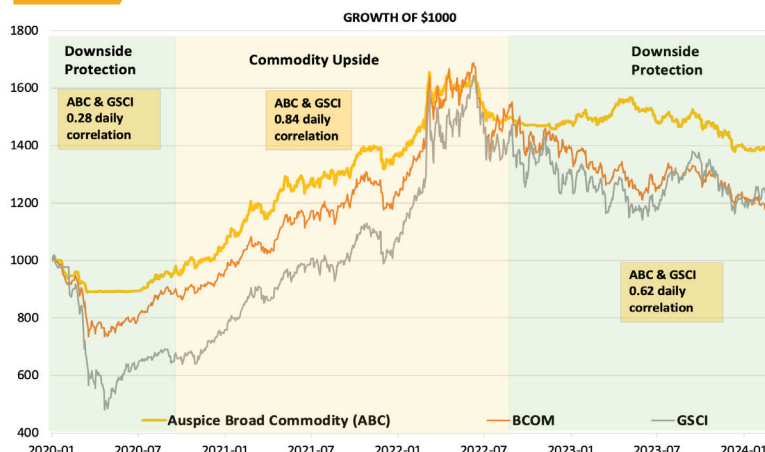
Per Table 1, Auspice Broad Commodity lost 0.57%, outperforming the BCOM while lagging the GSCI benchmarks indices for the month. ABCERI has outperformed benchmarks on most timeframes in absolute and risk-adjusted terms, even though the strategy operates at a fraction of the risk in terms of volatility and drawdown. Long-term, on a 10- and 15-year basis representing a full cycle exposure, Auspice Broad Commodity is positive to the negative benchmark results. Since 2007, the annualized gain is positive versus benchmarks negative, and a spread of 7-8%.

The benefits of the active Auspice Broad Commodity strategy are clearly illustrated in Chart 1: adding a layer of tactical trend-following and risk management has produced favorable results since the onset of COVID in 2020 in comparison to the passive commodity benchmarks. The chart shows a clear visual of the ABCERI index strategy protecting the downside in weakness yet participating on the upside.

ETFs that track ABCERI (NYSE "COM" and TSX "CCOM") have benefited by earning a cash return on over 90% of the ETF AUM. In 2023 this added over 30% of additional gains over the underlying ABCERI index (which does not include collateral cash return). COM and CCOM ended down 0.1% and 0.2% in February and are both positive year-to-date.

For portfolio managers and asset allocators, the Auspice Broad Commodity strategy not only has provided better absolute and risk-adjusted results to benchmarks and related products but has resulted in a more accretive addition and experience for client portfolios.

CHART 1 COMMODITY & CRISIS ALPHA



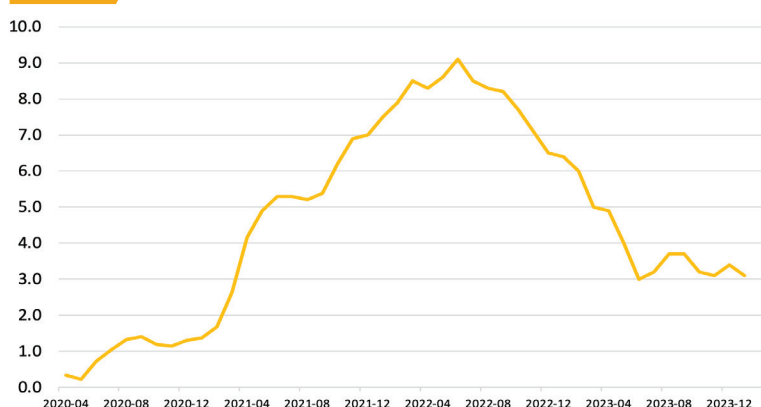
Source: Bloomberg and Auspice Investment Operations. Past performance is not indicative of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index.

TABLE 1 ABSOLUTE PERFORMANCE

	ABCERI	BCOM ER INDEX	S&P GSCI ER INDEX	MSCI ACWI INDEX
1 Month	-0.57%	-1.89%	0.45%	4.29%
2024 YTD	-0.54%	-1.97%	4.43%	4.90%
1 yr (Mar 23)	-6.37%	-8.91%	-0.44%	23.15%
3 yr (Mar 21)	17.97%	13.39%	41.69%	21.80%
5 yr (Mar 19)	32.86%	18.81%	27.65%	64.80%
10 yr (Mar 14)	4.60%	-27.82%	-38.25%	123.48%
15 yr (Mar 09)	41.01%	-8.76%	-10.69%	446.35%
Ann. Return (Jan 07)	3.89%	-3.12%	-3.84%	6.42%
Std Deviation	10.37%	16.44%	23.20%	16.56%
Sharpe Ratio	0.44	-0.10	-0.04	0.50
MAR Ratio	0.09	-0.04	-0.04	0.12
Worst Drawdown	-42.90%	-73.87%	-88.06%	-54.92%

Source: Bloomberg and Auspice Investment Operations. The performance of Auspice Broad Commodity Index prior to 9/30/2010 is simulated and hypothetical as published by the NYSE. See Important Disclaimers and Notes on last page. You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

CHART 2 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) YOY% CHANGE



Source: Bloomberg and Auspice Investment Operations.

OUTLOOK

We believe the narrative from central banks, market participants and media will start to change as it is recognized that the average inflation reading since 1970 is 4%, not 2%, as the currently discussed goal states.

Per Bloomberg, "Fed officials have repeatedly said they have yet to reach a level of confidence that inflation is sustainably cooling..." and "...policymakers insist it's too soon to start cutting interest rates"¹.

From a commodity perspective, there has been a pause over the last 18 plus months as measured by broad commodity indices like GSCI or Bloomberg Commodity. Yet simply ask yourself, is life cheaper? Oil is near \$80. Ag commodities that affect our daily lives such as cattle, coffee, sugar, orange juice remain strong.

On top of this, for much of the world, shipping costs have again exploded higher making things more expensive from food, energy to consumer goods. Higher shipping costs have yet to be priced into many goods.

Having commodities exposure is one way to hedge our pocketbooks and the benefit in your investment portfolio is recognized as one of the best ways to hedge and add diversification. You don't need to simply take our word for it, the seminal paper "The Best Strategies for Inflationary Times"² illustrates that both commodity and trend following are the leading tools for this challenge.

See this month's Auspice Blog for more.

ATTRIBUTIONS AND TRADES

The Auspice Broad Commodity Index portfolio added one exposure in February. The portfolio holds exposures across all diverse sub-sectors including Energy, Metals and Ags. Per Chart 4, the attribution was slightly negative across sub-sectors.

The strategy is now holding 4 of the 12 components or 33% of available components (see Chart 5) and remains able to add commodity markets broadly as individual market merit develops.

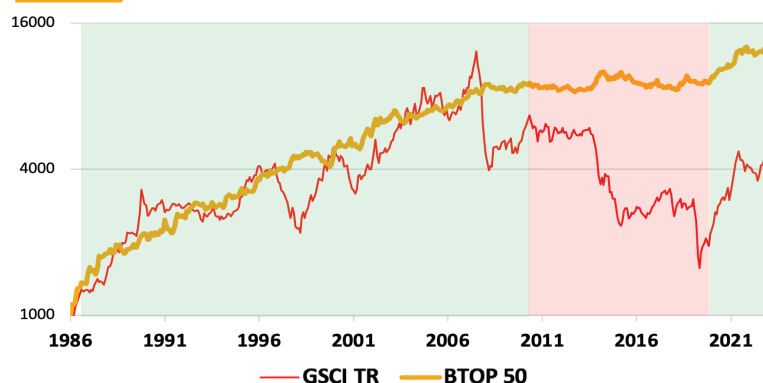
SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

ENERGY The petroleum energy markets were bifurcated with WTI Crude Oil adding 3.3% alongside Gasoline while Heating Oil corrected 2.8% after sector leading gains last month. We remain on the sidelines in Gasoline and Crude Oil along with Natural Gas which dropped over 14% for the month. The sector had a small negative attribution to the portfolio.

METALS With few exceptions, both base industrial and precious metals continued to soften to start the year and had a negative attribution. Gold and Silver corrected 0.6% and 2.2% yet remain in long-term up-trends per our strategy. We do not hold Copper at this time.

AGRICULTURE The highly diverse Ags sector was volatile with Grains weak and some Soft Commodities rallying sharply. Soybeans, which was exited early last month fell 7.0% alongside Wheat and Corn at 2.6% and 9.9% lower. In Softs, Sugar fell 7.4% while Cotton added 15.9% and was added early in the month.

CHART 3 GSCI COMMODITY & BTOP 50 CTA INDEXES



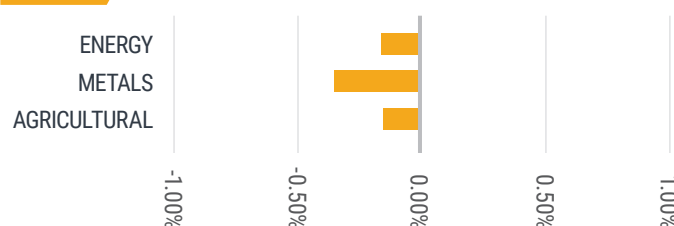
Source: Bloomberg and Auspice Investment Operations.
You cannot invest directly in an index.

TABLE 2 CTA REGIME ANALYSIS

	1987-2010	2011-2019	2020-2024
Average CPI	2.9	1.8	4.5
Average VIX ¹	20.4	16.2	22.5
Ann. CTA Return	9.2%	0.8%	7.1%

1 - VIX Data commences in 1990. Source: Bloomberg and Auspice Investment Operations. You cannot invest directly in an index.

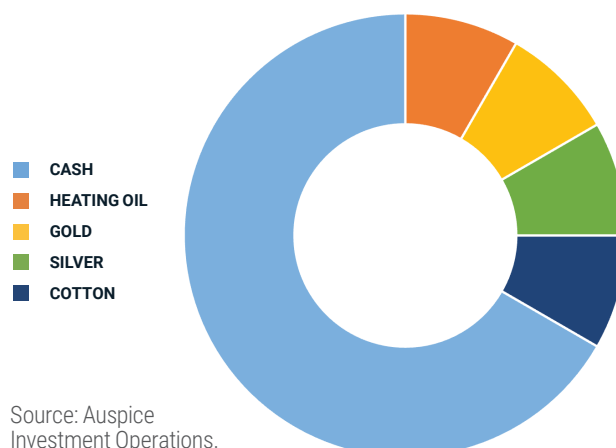
CHART 4 INDEX RETURN ATTRIBUTION



Source: Bloomberg and Auspice Investment Operations.

CHART 5 COMPONENT EXPOSURE: LONG / FLAT

ETFs that track ABCERI historically >90% invested in cash and earn a cash return, regardless of the number of active (long) positions.



Source: Auspice Investment Operations.

¹ Reference Link ² Reference Link

WHY AUSPICE INDICES

The Auspice Indices are designed to meet the needs of investors that are looking to participate in liquid alternatives through a disciplined approach without sacrificing performance, diversification, and transparency. We believe Auspice Indices encompass everything from alpha to beta, across a return continuum. The indices blend elements of active management and indexing into a transparent, published, single strategy rules-based approach.

WHY AUSPICE INDICES

The Auspice Broad Commodity Index aims to capture upward trends in the commodity markets while minimizing risk during downtrends.

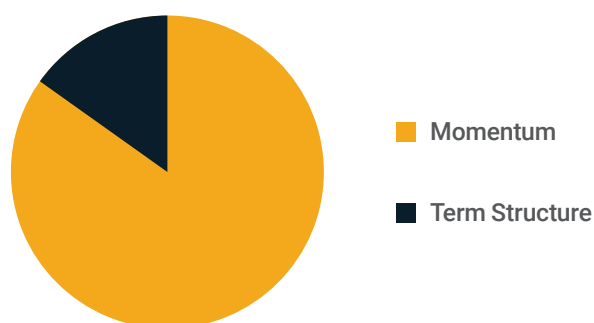
The index is tactical long strategy that focuses on Momentum and Term Structure to track either long or flat positions in a diversified portfolio of commodity futures which cover the energy, metal, and agricultural sectors. The index incorporates dynamic risk management and contract rolling methods. The index is available in total return (collateralized) and excess return (non-collateralized) versions.

THE MAIN POINTS OF DIFFERENTIATION INCLUDE:

Auspice Broad Commodity combines tactical commodity exposure with capital preservation. We believe that traditional passive long-only commodity indices do not provide investors with an optimal long term investment solution.

- Seeks to capture upward trends in the commodity markets while minimizing risk during downtrends
- Tactical exposure to a diversified basket of commodities that can individually position long or flat (no position)
- Rules-based quantitative methodology combined with dynamic risk management and contract roll optimization to deliver superior returns

RETURN DRIVERS



Source: Auspice Investment Operations.

AUSPICE BROAD COMMODITY INDEX

Long / Flat Approach

Positions can be changed on an intra-month basis

Accounts for Short-term Price Trends

Practices a Smart Roll-Yield to minimize impact of contango and backwardation

Broadly diversified (when exposed) and less concentrated in any one commodity sector

Rebalanced monthly based on volatility of each underlying commodity

LONG-ONLY COMMODITY INDICES

Long-Only Approach

Positions are always 100% long

Doesn't take into account downward price trends

Contracts typically roll into next contract month

Poorly diversified amongst single sectors

Most rebalance annually based on predetermined weightings for commodity sector

OTHER DETAILS

Calculated and published by NYSE since 2010.

Tickers: Bloomberg ABCERI, Reuters ABCERI

PRODUCT AVAILABILITY

Licensing and/or sub-advisory of the strategy

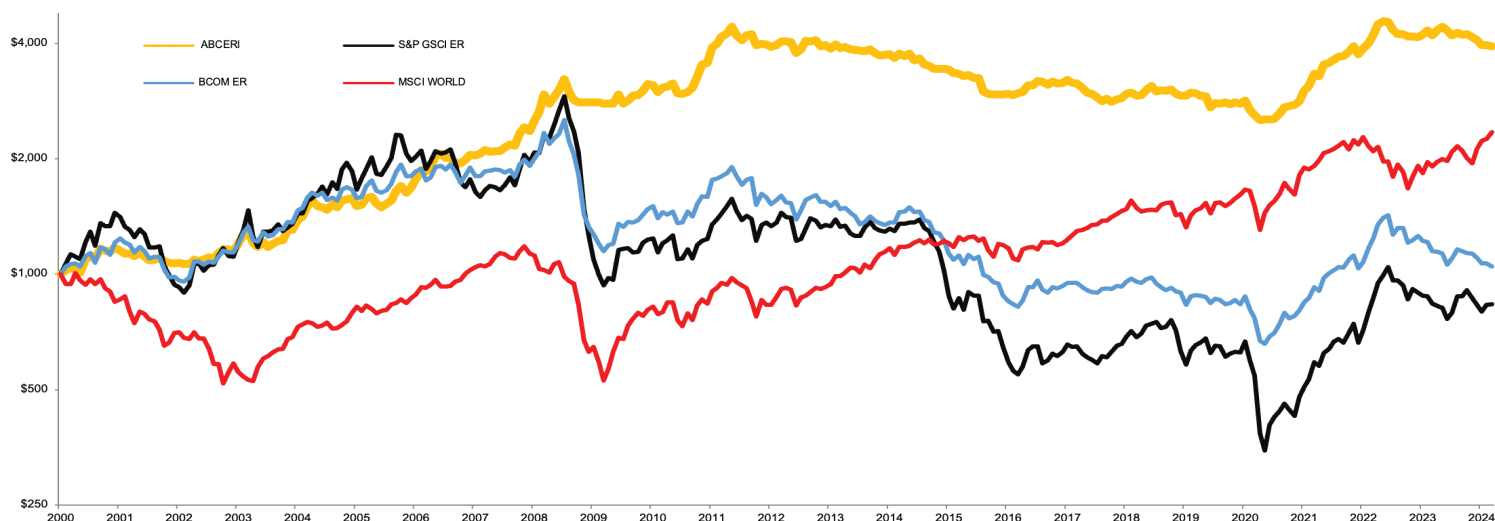
Bespoke product design

ETFs: through partner firms

40 Act Mutual Funds: US investors through partner firms

Separately Managed Accounts

COMPARATIVE BROAD COMMODITY INDEX PERFORMANCE



Source: Bloomberg and Auspice Investment Operations. The performance of Auspice Broad Commodity Index prior to 9/30/2010 is simulated and hypothetical as published by the NYSE. See Important Disclaimers and Notes on last page. You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

MONTHLY PERFORMANCE TABLE*

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	RETURN
2024	0.03%	-0.57%											-0.54%
2023	2.78%	-2.85%	3.23%	2.07%	-2.31%	-2.87%	1.34%	-1.09%	0.61%	-2.04%	-1.85%	-2.89%	-6.00%
2022	3.57%	5.21%	6.42%	1.60%	-0.19%	-4.61%	-2.46%	-0.26%	-1.18%	-0.14%	-0.25%	1.16%	8.68%
2021	3.09%	7.65%	-1.44%	7.25%	1.13%	1.90%	1.55%	0.38%	2.64%	3.41%	-4.62%	3.28%	28.83%
2020	-5.36%	-3.02%	-2.89%	0.07%	0.20%	0.19%	3.67%	3.62%	0.65%	0.67%	2.41%	6.13%	5.93%
2019	1.74%	-0.55%	-1.44%	-0.18%	-6.28%	2.52%	-0.27%	0.51%	-1.08%	1.17%	-0.71%	1.75%	-3.06%
2018	0.58%	-1.63%	0.40%	2.80%	2.68%	-3.16%	0.60%	-0.20%	0.72%	-2.60%	-1.09%	0.10%	-0.98%
2017	-1.59%	-0.44%	-2.38%	-3.08%	-0.56%	-2.35%	-2.06%	1.31%	-1.82%	1.74%	0.43%	2.78%	-7.92%
2016	-0.69%	1.01%	0.92%	4.00%	0.00%	2.64%	-0.61%	-1.75%	1.94%	-1.15%	0.49%	1.59%	8.55%
2015	-2.13%	-0.18%	-1.64%	0.99%	-1.78%	-0.08%	-7.77%	-1.59%	-0.27%	-0.01%	0.13%	0.29%	-13.45%
2014	-2.41%	2.68%	-1.23%	1.27%	-3.79%	1.03%	-3.57%	-0.96%	-1.64%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.54%	-8.97%
2013	2.45%	-2.32%	0.87%	-1.42%	-0.55%	-0.27%	-0.11%	1.03%	-2.26%	-1.57%	0.55%	0.39%	-3.27%
2012	0.90%	2.28%	0.09%	-0.38%	-6.43%	2.24%	5.41%	-0.37%	0.82%	-3.79%	0.64%	-1.92%	-1.02%
2011	2.44%	4.23%	-1.96%	4.32%	-5.11%	-2.84%	2.88%	0.73%	-6.28%	0.59%	-0.46%	-1.25%	0.54%
2010	-3.81%	2.61%	0.53%	1.87%	-5.57%	-0.40%	1.03%	2.64%	6.99%	7.35%	1.02%	9.66%	25.43%
2009	0.00%	-0.66%	-0.24%	0.01%	5.78%	-5.49%	2.20%	2.80%	0.39%	2.52%	4.00%	-0.66%	10.69%
2008	5.89%	10.60%	-5.20%	3.98%	4.05%	6.96%	-7.48%	-4.78%	-1.31%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.71%
2007	0.90%	2.39%	-1.25%	0.33%	0.13%	2.44%	1.74%	-0.83%	7.48%	4.05%	-2.42%	6.42%	23.04%
2006	5.59%	-0.45%	2.39%	6.87%	1.40%	-2.41%	0.07%	-2.92%	-0.44%	2.39%	2.74%	-0.23%	15.54%
2005	0.40%	4.37%	0.75%	-3.87%	-2.18%	2.07%	1.75%	5.95%	3.24%	-4.19%	2.93%	5.32%	17.16%
2004	2.18%	6.32%	3.54%	-3.42%	-0.70%	-1.49%	3.30%	-1.53%	3.98%	0.57%	0.77%	-4.43%	8.87%
2003	6.32%	2.27%	-7.68%	-1.86%	2.82%	-2.92%	1.80%	2.04%	0.32%	6.34%	0.16%	5.95%	15.63%
2002	-0.62%	-0.17%	2.53%	-0.50%	0.61%	1.42%	-0.78%	3.42%	2.43%	-0.20%	-1.02%	4.31%	11.85%
2001	-1.78%	-0.07%	-1.33%	2.07%	-2.34%	2.22%	0.48%	0.77%	-1.53%	-1.11%	-0.33%	0.21%	-7.04%
2000	2.41%	1.08%	-0.62%	-1.93%	8.62%	1.29%	-0.71%	5.78%	-0.97%	-0.86%	2.49%	-1.77%	15.24%

Represents index data simulated prior to third party publishing as calculated by the NYSE.

Source: Bloomberg and Auspice Investment Operations. The performance of Auspice Broad Commodity Index prior to 9/30/2010 is simulated and hypothetical as published by the NYSE. See Important Disclaimers and Notes on last page. You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

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Some of the assumptions and opinions contained herein are the view or opinion of the firm and are based on management's analysis of the portfolio performance.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The Equity benchmarks used in this material are intended to reflect the general equity market performance. They are shown to illustrate the non-correlated attributes versus other assets. Adding non-correlated assets within a portfolio has the potential to reduce portfolio volatility and drawdowns.

The performance of Auspice Broad Commodity Index prior to 9/30/2010 is simulated and hypothetical as published by the NYSE. All performance data for all indices assumes the reinvestment of all distributions. To the extent information for the index for the period prior to its initial calculation date is made available, any such information will be simulated (i.e., calculations of how the index might have performed during that time period if the index had existed). Any comparisons, assertions and conclusions regarding the performance of the index during the time period prior to the initial calculation date will be based on back-testing.

These results are based on simulated or hypothetical performance results that have certain inherent limitations. Unlike the results shown in an actual performance record, these results do not represent actual trading. Also, because these trades have not actually been executed, these results may have under- or over-compensated for the impact, if any, of certain market factors, such as lack of liquidity. Simulated or hypothetical trading programs in general are also subject to the fact that they are designed with the benefit of hindsight. No representation is being made that any account will or is likely to achieve profits or losses similar to these being shown. The index does not have commissions, management/incentive fees, or operating expenses.

COMPARABLE INDICES

*Returns for **Auspice Broad Commodity Excess Return Index (ABCERI)** represent returns calculated and published by the NYSE. The index does not have commissions, management/incentive fees, or operating expenses.

The Bloomberg Commodity (Excess Return) Index (**BCOMER**), is a broadly diversified index that allows investors to track 19 commodity futures through a single, simple measure.

The **S&P/TSX 60 Index** is designed to represent leading companies in leading industries. Its 60 stocks make it ideal for coverage of companies with large market capitalizations and a cost-efficient way to achieve Canadian equity exposure. Price Return data is used (not including dividends).

The **S&P 500** is an index of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity and industry grouping, among other factors. The S&P 500 is designed to be a leading indicator of U.S. equities and is meant to reflect the risk/return characteristics of the large cap universe. Price Return data is used (not including dividends).

The (**MSCI**) **World Index**, Morgan Stanley Capital International, is designed to measure equity market performance large and mid-cap equity performance across 23 developed markets countries, covering approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each. This index offers a broad global equity benchmark, without emerging markets exposure.

The **MSCI ACWI (Net) Index**, is designed to represent performance of the full opportunity set of large- and mid-cap stocks across 23 developed and 26 emerging markets.

Excess Return (ER) Indexes do not include collateral return. The S&P Goldman Sachs Commodity Excess Return Index (S&P GSCI ER), is a composite index of commodity sector returns representing an unleveraged, long-only investment in commodity futures that is broadly diversified across the spectrum of commodities.

The **Barclay BTOP50 CTA Index** seeks to replicate the overall composition of the managed futures industry with regard to trading style and overall market exposure. The BTOP50 employs a top-down approach in selecting its constituents. The largest investable trading advisor programs, as measured by assets under management, are selected for inclusion in the BTOP50.

The CTA indexes do not encompass the whole universe of CTAs. The CTAs that comprise the indices have submitted their information voluntarily and the performance has not been verified by the index publisher.

The **EURO STOXX 50** is a stock index of Eurozone stocks designed by STOXX, an index provider owned by Deutsche Börse Group. As of April 2021, the index is dominated by France and Germany.

The **Hang Seng Index** is a freefloat-adjusted market-capitalization-weighted equity market index in Hong Kong. It is used to record and monitor daily changes of the largest companies of the Hong Kong stock market and is the main indicator of the overall market performance in Hong Kong.

The **FTSE China A50 Index** is a stock market index by the FTSE Group. The components were chosen from the Shanghai Stock Exchange and Shenzhen Stock Exchange, which issue A-shares. B-shares (shares for foreigners) are not included.

The **DBIQ Diversified Agriculture Index Excess Return** is a rules-based index composed of futures contracts on some of the most liquid and widely traded agricultural commodities.

The **UN Food and Agriculture World Food Price Index (FAO Food Price Index)** is a food price index by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. It records the development of world market prices of 55 agricultural commodities and foodstuffs.

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