

# Aptus Drawdown-Managed Equity ETF (ADME)

The Aptus Drawdown-Managed Equity ETF (“ADME”) is a risk-mitigating equity strategy designed to protect capital in a left-tail event, like the market selloff experienced during the COVID pandemic. By efficiently owning volatility as an asset class, this fund can help empower allocators to own more equity exposure without introducing additional factors or style risk. It serves as a crucial portfolio airbag during a crisis. We believe that this objective can help transform and enhance an overall allocation.

## Quarterly Fund Update

After a blockbuster 2024, markets reversed course in Q1 2025. The S&P 500 declined 4.27% for the quarter, offering a reminder that left-tail risks can re-emerge quickly after periods of strength. While volatility rose modestly, the pullback wasn’t sharp enough to trigger substantial gains from deep out-of-the-money puts. As a result, hedges had limited impact, and ADME returned -4.84% for the quarter.

Despite the drawdown, we view Q1 as a reaffirmation of ADME’s purpose, serving as a portfolio airbag when risk resurfaces. Although this specific pullback didn’t meet the threshold for hedges to add meaningfully, the positioning remains intact for more severe or prolonged market stress.

**The Equity Book:** Stock selection modestly detracted from Q1 performance (-14 bps), but remains additive over longer periods. The equity basket continues to be managed with a high correlation to the S&P 500 to ensure hedges stay effective when needed most.

**The Hedge (Left-Tail Mitigation):** While the S&P 500 declined in Q1, the nature of the drawdown (moderate and spread over weeks) wasn’t severe enough for long volatility positions to kick in meaningfully. That story did change after the end of the quarter. That said, we continue to view these positions as essential, providing asymmetric upside when true market stress emerges. The foundation remains: protect against large shocks, stay cost-aware, and lean into volatility as a diversifier.

### Fund Performance as of 3/31/2025 Inception Date - 06/08/2016

	as of 3/31/2025		*Annualized as of 3/31/2025			
	Q1 2025	YTD	1 Year*	3 Year*	5 Year*	Inception*
ADME: NAV	-4.84%	-4.84%	6.24%	3.47%	10.16%	7.40%
ADME: Market Price	-4.82%	-4.82%	6.23%	3.56%	10.15%	7.41%

ADME Gross Expense Ratio 0.79%

### Risk Characteristics since 10/31/19

	ADME	S&P 500
Beta	0.71	1.00
Standard Deviation	13.33	17.83
Sharpe Ratio	0.44	0.67
Sortino Ratio	0.67	1.04
Max Drawdown	-23.43	-33.79

### Top Ten Holdings (%) as of 3/31/2025

Security Description	Weight
Apple Inc	7.03
Microsoft Corp	5.84
Nvidia Corp	5.56
Amazon Inc	3.73
Alphabet Inc	3.44
Meta Platforms Class A	2.66
Visa Inc Class A	2.16
Berkshire Hathaway Inc Class B	2.08
Chevron Corp	2.00
Progressive Corp	1.93

The performance data represents past performance & does not guarantee future results. Investment return & principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares may be worth more or less than their original cost when sold or redeemed. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance quoted. Returns for periods greater than one year are annualized. Short term performance in particular is not a good indication of the fund's future performance and an investment should not be made based solely on returns. For performance data current to the most recent month end, please call (251) 517-7198, or visit [aptusetfs.com](http://aptusetfs.com).



## Goal

The Aptus Drawdown-Managed Equity ETF seeks capital appreciation with a focus on managing drawdown risk through hedges. Equity holdings are selected using a Yield + Growth framework, favoring companies who pass our requirements for growth, momentum, value, and yield.

## How

Convex hedges allow the strategy to pursue upside, knowing asymmetric payouts can reduce downside in a crisis. Since these crises generally result in lower equity prices, the freshly created capital from the hedges can be a nice source of opportunity.

## Result

Naturally, we expect the Aptus Drawdown-Managed Equity ETF to trail during rip-roaring markets. But what we sacrifice in short term upside, we believe we make up for by what our risk management allows us to do at the asset allocation level, along with potential to create cash when opportunities look better.

# Aptus Quarterly Funds Update Disclosure

Fund holdings are subject to change and should not be considered a recommendation to buy or sell any security.

Investing in ETFs are subject to additional risks that do not apply to conventional mutual funds, including the risks that the market price of the shares may trade at a discount to its net asset value ("NAV"), an active secondary trading market may not develop or be maintained, or trading may be halted by the exchange in which they trade, which may impact a Fund's ability to sell its shares.

Shares of any ETF are bought and sold at Market Price (not NAV) and are not individually redeemed from the fund. Brokerage commissions will reduce returns. Market returns are based upon the midpoint of the bid/ask spread at 4:00pm Eastern Time (when NAV is normally determined for most ETFs), and do not represent the returns you would receive if you traded shares at other times.

Aptus Capital Advisors, LLC serves as the investment advisor to the Aptus Funds. Aptus Capital Advisors, LLC is a Registered Investment Advisor (RIA) registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is headquartered in Fairhope, Alabama. The Funds are distributed by Quasar Distributors LLC, which is not affiliated with Aptus Capital Advisors, LLC. The information provided is not intended for trading purposes, and should not be considered investment advice.

Investing involves risk. Principal loss is possible. The Fund is non-diversified, meaning it may concentrate its assets in fewer individual holdings than diversified funds. Therefore, the Fund is more exposed to individual stock or ETF volatility than diversified funds.

The Aptus Collared Income Opportunity, Aptus Defined Risk, Aptus Drawdown-Managed Equity, Aptus Enhanced Yield, Aptus Large Cap Enhanced Yield, Aptus International Enhanced Yield, Opus Small Cap Value and Aptus Large Cap Upside ETFs are subject to the risk that the securities may be more volatile than the market as a whole. The Fund may invest in other investment companies and ETFs which may result in higher and duplicative expenses.

The Funds may invest in options, the Funds risk losing all or part of the cash paid (premium) for purchasing options. The Funds use of call and put options can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying security, which may be magnified by certain features of the options. The Funds use of options may reduce the Funds ability to profit from increases in the value of the underlying securities. Derivatives, such as the options in which the Funds invest, can be volatile and involve various types and degrees of risks. Derivatives may entail investment exposures that are greater than their cost would suggest, meaning that a small investment in a derivative could have a substantial impact on the performance of the Funds. The Funds could experience a loss if its derivatives do not perform as anticipated, the derivatives are not correlated with the performance of their underlying security, or if the Funds are unable to purchase or liquidate a position because of an illiquid secondary market.

Stocks are generally perceived to have more financial risk than bonds in that bond holders have a claim on firm operations or assets that is senior to that of equity holders. In addition, stock prices are generally more volatile than bond prices.

The Markit iBoxx USD Liquid Investment Grade Index is designed to reflect the performance of US Dollar (USD) denominated investment grade corporate debt. The index rules aim to offer a broad coverage of the USD investment grade liquid bond universe.

**DEFINITIONS:** Call options give the owner the right to buy the underlying security at the specified price within a specific time period. Put options give the owner the right to sell the underlying security at the specified price within a specific time period. A collar is an options strategy constructed by holding shares of the underlying stock while simultaneously buying put options and selling call options against that holding. Beta is a measure of the volatility of a security or portfolio compared to the market as a whole. Standard deviation measures the dispersion of a security's price history relevant to its mean. The Sharpe Ratio compares the return of an investment with its risk. Sortino Ratio measures the performance of an investment relative to its downward deviation. The S&P 500® is widely regarded as the best single gauge of large-cap U.S. equities, comprised of 500 leading companies and covering approximately 80% of available market capitalization. The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) is a real-time index that represents the market's expectations for the relative strength of near-term price changes of the S&P 500 Index (SPX). Basis points (bps or "bips,") are a unit of measure used in finance to describe the percentage change in the value of financial instruments or the rate change in an index or other benchmark. The ICE U.S. Treasury Short Bond Index is part of a series of indices intended to assess U.S. Treasury market. The Index is market-value weighted, and is designed to include U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate securities with minimum term to maturity greater than one month and less than or equal to one year. Out of the moneyness (OTM) is an expression used to describe an option contract that only contains extrinsic value. Duration can measure how long it takes, in years, for an investor to be repaid a bond's price by the bond's total cash flows. Duration can also measure the sensitivity of a bond's or fixed income portfolio's price to changes in interest rates. The MSCI ACWI Ex-U.S. is a market-capitalization-weighted index maintained by Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI). It is designed to provide a broad measure of stock performance throughout the world, with the exception of U.S.-based companies. It includes both developed and emerging markets. The S&P Small Cap 600 Value Index is a market capitalization weighted index. All the stocks in the underlying parent index are allocated into value or growth. Stocks that do not have pure value or pure growth characteristics have their market caps distributed between the value & growth indices. The Standard & Poor's Small Cap 600 Index is a capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of selected U.S. stocks with a small market capitalization. Price-to-Earnings Ratio = Market Value per Share/Earnings per Share. Return on Equity = Net Income/Average Shareholders Equity. Return on invested capital (ROIC) assesses a company's efficiency in allocating capital to profitable investments. The SEC yield is a standard yield calculation developed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that allows for fairer comparisons of bond funds. It is based on the most recent 30-day period covered by the fund's filings with the SEC. Leverage is an investment strategy of using borrowed money—specifically, the use of various financial instruments or borrowed capital—to increase the potential return of an investment. Leverage can also refer to the amount of debt a firm uses to finance assets.

The Funds are distributed by Quasar Distributors LLC, which is not affiliated with Aptus Capital Advisors, LLC. The information provided is not intended for trading purposes and should not be considered investment advice. Investing involves risk. Principal loss is possible. The Fund is non-diversified, meaning it may concentrate its assets in fewer individual holdings than diversified funds. Therefore, the Fund is more exposed to individual stock or ETF volatility than diversified funds.

**Please carefully consider the funds objectives, risks, charges, and expenses before investing. The statutory or summary prospectus contains this and other important information about the investment company. For more information, or a copy of the full or summary prospectus, visit [www.aptusETFs.com](http://www.aptusETFs.com), or call (251) 517-7198. Read carefully before investing.**

