

First Trust Dow Jones Internet ETF • FDN, FDN.F

Interim Management Report of Fund Performance June 30, 2024



### INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE June 30, 2024

First Trust Dow Jones Internet ETF (the "First Trust ETF")

This interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete unaudited interim 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 or SEDAR at 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.

#### Investment Objective and Strategy

The fundamental investment objective of **First Trust Dow Jones Internet ETF** (the "First Trust ETF") is to replicate, to the extent possible, the performance of an index of U.S. companies involved in the internet industry, initially the Dow Jones Internet Composite Index<sup>SM</sup>.

The Dow Jones Internet Composite Index<sup>SM</sup>, is a float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to represent the largest and most actively traded stocks of U.S. companies in the Internet industry.

#### 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 Dow Jones Internet Index Fund (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 total net asset value as of June 30, 2024, was \$7,455,396 or \$22.77 per Unit ("FDN") and \$15.58 per Hedged Unit ("FDN.F"). The First Trust ETF's total net asset value as of December 31, 2023, was \$6,445,991 or \$20.10 per FDN and \$14.23 per FDN.F.

There were no cash distributions paid nor declared for the six-month period ended June 30, 2024.

#### Investment Performance

For the six-month period ended June 30, 2024, FDN returned 13.32% compared to the S&P 500® Index (the "benchmark") return of 19.64% while FDN.F returned 9.50% compared to the S&P 500® Index (CAD-Hedged) (the "hedged benchmark") total return of 14.99%. Unlike the benchmark and the hedged benchmark, the First Trust ETF's returns are net of fees and expenses.

The First Trust ETF's only holding, the Underlying Fund, held 41 equity securities as of June 30, 2024. The top ten equity holdings for the Underlying Fund accounted for 58.91% of the portfolio within the Underlying Fund.

The Underlying Fund underperformed the benchmark during the period primarily due to stock selection within the Information Technology sector and a large underweight position in NVIDIA Corporation. Stock selection within the Consumer Discretionary sector and sector allocation overall mitigated the underperformance.

The Underlying Fund's top five stocks by contribution to return were Meta Platforms, Inc., Amazon.com, Inc., Netflix, Inc., Alphabet Inc., and Arista Networks, Inc. The Underlying Fund's bottom five stocks by contribution to return were Snowflake Inc., Atlassian Corporation, Workday, Inc., Teladoc Health, Inc., and Fastly, Inc.

The U.S. dollar appreciated 3.54% against the Canadian dollar from December 31, 2023, to June 30, 2024. FDN.F hedges its exposure to the U.S. dollar.

#### **Recent Developments**

Internet companies continued their climb in the first half of the year after a strong 2023. In the front half of 2024, share prices of mega-cap companies, such as Amazon.com, Meta, and Alphabet continued to be a catalyst of overall internet performance, but the market has been narrow as Nvidia Corp. (NVDA) accounted for more than a quarter of the S&P 500®'s total return. The boom in artificial intelligence (AI) continued, with existing applications like ChatGPT and Gemini leading companies to favorably expose themselves to said trends. The strong first-half performance for internet companies can be attributed to multiple expansion and investors' beliefs of a soft landing in the U.S. economy. With tech+ stocks (i.e., stocks within or with significant exposure to the information technology sector)

driving equity market performance in the first half of the year based in large part on Al-related news and macro beliefs, investors might realize gains and rebalance more towards non-mega cap equities with relative growth stories in the second half of the year. If investors remain confident in the current macroeconomic environment, participants broadening into smaller market capitalization stocks — such as internet-related companies trading below historical valuation levels — could be a catalyst for the remainder of the year.

#### **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.

#### **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, 2024, and for the five years ended December 31. This information is derived from the First Trust ETF's unaudited interim and audited annual financial statements.

#### Net Asset Value per Unit

FDN	2024	2023	2022	2021 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020	2019
Net asset value, beginning of period/year <sup>(1)</sup>	\$20.10	\$13.58	\$23.33	\$24.76	\$25.71	\$22.80
Increase (Decrease) from operations:						
Total revenue	-	-	-	0.07	0.49	0.56
Total expenses	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(80.0)	(0.28)	(0.28)
Realized gains (losses) for the period/year	0.53	(1.66)	(1.61)	1.86	1.05	0.73
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period/year	2.15	8.42	(6.54)	(2.47)	0.19	3.02
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>	\$2.66	\$6.73	\$(8.18)	\$(0.62)	\$1.45	\$4.03
Distributions:						
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	(0.36)	(1.95)	(0.38)
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	(0.31)	-
Return of capital	-	-	-	(0.04)	-	-
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$(0.40)	\$(2.26)	\$(0.38)
Net asset value, end of period/year <sup>(4)</sup>	\$22.77	\$20.10	\$13.58	\$23.33	\$24.76	\$25.71
FDN.F	2024	2023	2022	2021 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020	2019
Net asset value, beginning of period/year (1)	\$14.23	\$9.51	\$17.87	\$19.34	\$20.24	\$17.31
Increase (Decrease) from operations:						
Total revenue	-	-	-	0.08	0.39	0.43
Total expenses	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.07)	(0.22)	(0.22)
Realized gains (losses) for the period/year	0.28	(1.16)	(2.12)	1.84	0.80	0.10
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period/year	1.03	6.17	(7.09)	(1.99)	(0.38)	2.37
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>	\$1.30	\$4.99	\$(9.23)	\$(0.14)	\$0.59	\$2.68
Distributions:						
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	(0.72)	(2.00)	(0.29)
From dividends	-	-	-	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	-	-
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$(0.72)	\$(2.00)	\$(0.29)
Net asset value, end of period/year (4)	\$15.58	\$14.23	\$9.51	\$17.87	\$19.34	\$20.24

<sup>(</sup>a) For the years prior to February 17, 2021, represent returns for the First Trust ETF based on the First Trust ETF's investment objective prior to the change in investment objective which occurred on February 17, 2021.

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is provided as at June 30, 2024 and December 31 of the period/years shown and is prepared under IFRS.

<sup>(2)</sup> 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.

<sup>(3)</sup> 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.

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

#### Ratios and Supplemental Data

FDN	2024	2023	2022	2021 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020	2019
Net asset value (000's)	\$6,832	\$6,029	\$4,210	\$3,500	\$3,713	\$1,285
Number of units outstanding	300,000	300,000	310,000	150,000	150,000	50,000
Management expense ratio (1)	0.68%	0.69%	0.67%	0.68%	0.77%	0.77%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption	0.69%	0.70%	0.69%	0.70%	0.79%	0.79%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.04%	0.05%	0.05%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(3)</sup>	18.25%	71.79%	50.58%	281.48%	113.57%	122.70%

FDN.F	2024	2023	2022	2021 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020	2019
Net asset value (000's)	\$623	\$427	\$190	\$536	\$967	\$1,012
Number of units outstanding	40,000	30,000	20,000	30,000	50,000	50,000
Management expense ratio (1)	0.67%	0.68%	0.67%	0.71%	0.79%	0.79%
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption	0.69%	0.70%	0.69%	0.72%	0.81%	0.81%
Trading expense ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.04%	0.05%	0.05%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(3)</sup>	18.25%	71.79%	50.58%	281.48%	113.57%	122.70%

<sup>(</sup>a) For the years prior to February 17, 2021, represent returns for the First Trust ETF based on the First Trust ETF's investment objective prior to the change in investment objective which occurred on February 17, 2021.

#### **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 0.39% 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 0.54% per annum of NAV of the First Trust ETF plus applicable taxes.

<sup>(1)</sup> Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated period/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 period/year.

<sup>(2)</sup> 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. This includes the First Trust ETF's proportionate share of the commissions of Underlying Fund in which the First Trust ETF has invested.

<sup>(3)</sup> 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.

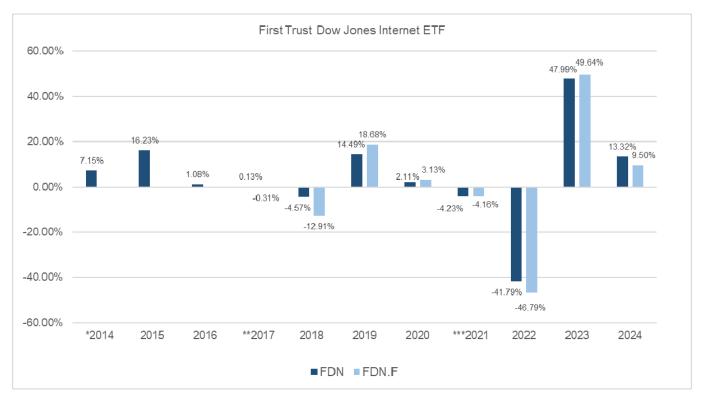
#### **Past Performance**

#### 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, per class, for the six-month period ended June 30, 2024, for the years ended December 31, for the period from commencement of operations to December 31, 2014 for FDN, and for the period from commencement of operations to December 31, 2017 for FDN.F 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.



<sup>\*</sup>FDN Commencement: October 30, 2014

<sup>\*\*</sup>FDN.F Commencement: December 8, 2017

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>For the years prior to February 17, 2021, represent returns for the First Trust ETF based on the First Trust ETF's investment objective prior to the change in investment objective which occurred on February 17, 2021.

#### **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, 2024. This summary of portfolio holdings may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the First Trust ETF. Daily and quarterly updates are available at <a href="https://www.firsttrust.ca">www.firsttrust.ca</a>.

Holdings	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
First Trust Dow Jones Internet Index Fund	100.04%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	-0.02%
Other Assets, Less Liabilities	0.02%_
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, 2024.

Breakdown	% of ETF Total Net Asset Value
Exchange-Traded Fund	100.04%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	-0.02%
Other Assets, Less Liabilities	0.02%
Total	100.00%





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