

# QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW

## Systematic Investment Grade Credit ETF

### Performance returns (USD)

ANNUALIZED RETURNS (QUARTER-END)	Quarter-End	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
NAV	2.75	4.90	-	-	-	-	4.90
Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Index	2.60	4.68	-	-	-	-	4.68
Market Price	2.63	4.93	-	-		-	4.93
Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Index	2.60	4.68	-	-		-	4.68

NAV Inception Date: 3-Jun-25

Market Price Inception Date: 3-Jun-25

Performance data quoted represents past performance and is not indicative of future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance data may be lower or higher than the performance data provided herein. To obtain performance information to the most recent month-end, visit www.gmo.com. Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) are bought and sold through exchange trading at market price (not NAV), and are not individually redeemed from the fund. Shares may trade at a premium or discount to their NAV in the secondary market. Brokerage commissions will reduce returns.

### MAJOR PERFORMANCE DRIVERS

Corporate spreads had a strong third quarter as labor market data remained constructive without meaningful surprises on the downside, and inflation stayed well-contained despite tariff adjustments, creating a supportive backdrop for investment grade corporate bonds. The FED lowered the target rate by 25 bps in September, a move widely expected by the market.

The asset class delivered excess returns of 1.0%, further boosted by the move lower in yields, resulting in a total return of 2.6% for the quarter. The rally was most pronounced in the BBB-rated cohort, where credit spreads tightened 11 basis points. Across sectors, credit spreads within Financing companies narrowed the most, while Technology lagged. Credit curves flattened, and the 10+ year maturity segment generated notable excess returns.

The Systematic Investment Grade portfolio delivered positive alpha in the third quarter. Quality and momentum were the primary drivers of relative returns, followed by company fundamental indicators. Conversely, valuation-based signals detracted during the period. Credit selection was strongest among the Consumer Non-Cyclical, Capital Goods, Non-Cyclical, and Banking sectors; however, gains were partially offset by negative selection in the Financing companies sector. In terms of allocation, the relative underweight in Electric and overweight in Technology and Communication sectors had a small negative impact on relative returns.

Entering the fourth quarter, the portfolio has a relative overweight to the Capital Goods and Technology sectors and a relative underweight to the Banking and Insurance sectors.

Performance for the year of inception is less than a full calendar year. Returns shown for periods greater than one year are on an annualized basis.

Risks: Risks associated with investing in the Fund may include: (1) Credit Risk: the risk that the issuer or guarantor of a fixed income investment or the obligation underlying an asset-backed security will be unable or unwilling to satisfy its obligation to pay principal and interest or otherwise to honor its obligations in a timely manner; (2) Market Risk - Fixed Income Investments: the market price of a fixed income investment can decline due to a number of market-related factors, including rising interest rates and widening credit spreads or decreased liquidity stemming from the market's uncertainty about the value of a fixed income investment (or class of fixed income investments); and (3) Management and Operational Risk: the risk that GMO's investment techniques will fail to produce desired results, including annualized returns and annualized volatility. For a more complete discussion of these and other risks, please consult the Fund's Prospectus. Performance Returns: Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) are bought and sold through exchange trading at market price (not NAV), and are not individually redeemed from the fund. Shares may trade at a premium or discount to their NAV in the secondary market. Brokerage commissions will reduce returns. The GMO ETFs are distributed in the United States by Foreside Fund Services LLC. GMO and Foreside Fund Services LLC are not affiliated. Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses: 0.25% Expense Ratio is equal to the Fund's Total Annual Operating Expenses set forth in the Fund's most recent prospectus dated October 28, 2024.



# QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW

### PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The GMO Systematic Investment Grade Credit ETF seeks to generate total return in excess of its benchmark, the Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Index, by employing active security selection.

The GMO Systematic Investment Grade Credit ETF utilizes a systematic, factor-based approach that incorporates proprietary trading signals across value, quality, and momentum. The ETF aims to deliver similar fixed income exposures to that of the benchmark, while owning a more liquid set of corporate bonds.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

An investor should consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. This and other important information can be found in the funds prospectus. To obtain a prospectus please visit www.gmo.com. Read the prospectus carefully before investing.

Benchmark(s): The Bloomberg US Corporate Index measures the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. It includes USD denominated securities publicly issued by US and non-US industrial, utility, and financial issuers. The index includes securities with remaining maturity of at least one year.

The GMO ETFs are distributed in the United States by Foreside Fund Services LLC. GMO and Foreside Fund Services LLC are not affiliated.

### **ABOUT GMO**

Founded in 1977, GMO is a global asset manager committed to delivering superior performance and advice to our clients. We are privately owned, which allows us to singularly focus on our sole business – achieving outstanding long-term client investment outcomes. Offering multi-asset, equity, fixed income, and alternative strategies, we invest with a long-term, valuation-based philosophical approach.

AMSTERDAM BOSTON LONDON SAN FRANCISCO\* SINGAPORE SYDNEY TOKYO\*\*