

# BROAD COMMODITY INDEX

COMMENTARY + STRATEGY FACTS

**FEBRUARY 2019** 



Call us

888 792 9291

Visit us online to find out more auspicecapital.com



5 Star 5 Year Morningstar Rating for Direxion Indexed Commodity Strategy Fund, which tracks ABCERI

Futures trading is speculative and is not suitable for all customers. Past results are not necessarily indicative of future results. This document is for information purposes only and should not be too construed as an offer, recommendation or solicitation to conclude a transaction and should not be treated as giving investment advice. Auspice Capital Advisors Ltd. makes no representation or warranty relating to any information herein, which is derived from independent sources. No securities regulatory authority has expressed an opinion about the securities offered herein and it is an offence to claim otherwise. "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.

#### **CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE**

(SINCE JANUARY 2007\*)



### **AUSPICE** Capital Advisors

SUITE 510 - 1000 7TH AVE SW CALGARY, ALBERTA CANADA T2P 5L5

#### **SUMMARY**

Commodities moved higher during February led by energies and base metals. Commodity benchmarks added to January gains with the energy weighted GSCI gaining 3.62% while the more diverse Bloomberg Commodity index added 0.82%.

The "risk-on" environment buoyed global equity markets which continued to rise after the strong bounce in January now eclipsing the sharp sell-off since early December. The S&P added 2.97%, Nasdaq gained 3.44% while the MSCI World added 2.83%. The resource tilted Canadian TSX/S&P60 added 2.65% on the back of oil strength.

After a strong rally in bond futures ending 2018 and sell-off to start the new year, futures and rates consolidated in February. The US dollar resumed its ascent and currencies weakened while the Pound remains volatile softening before rallying sharply on a Brexit delay. Commodity currencies such as Aussie and Canadian dollars were mixed after bottoming to start the year.

#### **RESULTS**

While the Auspice Broad Commodity program softened by 0.55% in February and has lagged the 2019 bounce back of the long-only benchmarks, it remains ahead over the last three months (see Table 1). ABCERI has gained 1.29% since December 1st with a 1% pullback while the benchmarks pulled back 8-11%. More importantly, the path has been far less risky with capital preservation highlighted. Per the Historical Growth chart, the strategy exhibits better performance and stability with far less drawdown than both commodity and equity benchmarks (BCOM and S&P500).

The ABCERI annualized returns (since 2007) are the only positive results amongst comparables and in line with equity benchmarks long term (Chart 1).

#### **OUTLOOK**

We remain steadfast in our belief that the asset class holds significant opportunity. While the recent volatility may give pause, the recent three month results demonstrate clearly that if approached in a tactical way with diligent risk management, the path can be far less bumpy. We will reiterate four core reasons to consider the asset class:

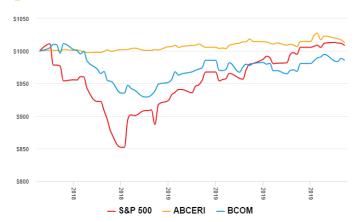
- 1) One of best ways to hedge inflation.
- 2) We are in a historical low price part of the commodity cycle.
- 3) Growing global demand from a developing world (China, India).
- 4) Portfolio diversification value given commodities are noncorrelated long term and if managed tactically.



### Table 1 ABSOLUTE PERFORMANCE

	ABCERI	BCOM ER	S&P GSCI ER	S&P 500
1 Month	-0.55%	0.82%	3.62%	2.97%
3 Month (Dec 18)	1.29%	-1.42%	3.75%	0.88%
1 yr (Mar 18)	1.27%	-7.66%	-4.50%	2.60%
3 yr (Mar16)	-0.17%	-7.17%	19.23%	44.11%
5 yr (Mar 14)	-21.27%	-39.25%	-51.62%	49.75%
10 yr (Mar 09)	6.14%	-23.21%	-30.03%	278.80%
12 yr (Feb 07)	40.27%	-52.41%	-60.44%	97.93%
Annualized (Jan 07)				
Return	3.10%	-5.71%	-7.26%	5.70%
Std Deviation	10.45%	16.62%	22.30%	14.75%
Sharpe Ratio	0.36	-0.25	-0.20	0.49
MAR Ratio	0.09	-0.09	-0.09	0.11
Worst Drawdown	-36.44%	-67.41%	-81.12%	-52.56%

### HISTORICAL GROWTH OF A \$1,000 INVESTMENT





#### **OUTLOOK** (CONTINUED)

We encourage you to read a recent paper we published on the diversification benefits of tactical commodity allocations versus resource equity – please reach out or check the Auspice website under Research

#### ATTRIBUTIONS AND TRADES

There was one change to the long exposures in the portfolio for February as the portfolio added Copper. The portfolio is now long only 5 of 12 commodity components (or 42%) and includes all 3 sectors, Energies, Ags and Metals (see Chart 3). This allows for significant growth of position as the tactical opportunity develops.

Negative attribution from Metals as precious metals faltered against long exposures while the top performing portfolio component was Copper.

#### **SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **ENERGY**

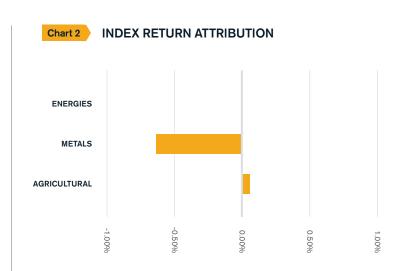
While the strategy remains on the sidelines in Energies with the exception of Natural Gas, the result was neutral for the month.

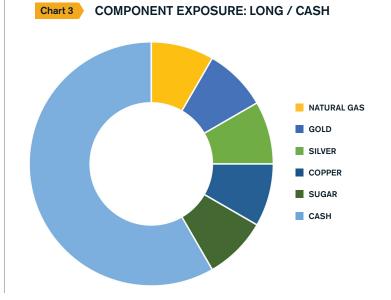
#### **METALS**

Precious metals struggled as Gold and Silver softened while base metals moved up led by Copper. The strategy shifted the exposure in Copper to have a full complement of long exposures in the sector.

#### **AGRICULTURE**

A strong sell-off in grains led Ags to be one of the weakest market sectors in February. We remain without exposure in Grains and Cotton while Sugar moved higher for a small sector gain.







#### 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.

#### STRATEGY DESCRIPTION

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

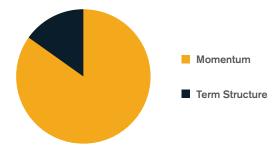
The index is tactical long strategy that focuses on Momentum and Term Structure to track either long or flat positions in a diversified portfolio of commodity futures which cover the energy, metal, and agricultural sectors. The index incorporates dynamic risk management and contract rolling methods.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



#### **AUSPICE BROAD COMMODITY INDEX**

Long / Flat Approach

Positions can be changed on an intra-month bases

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

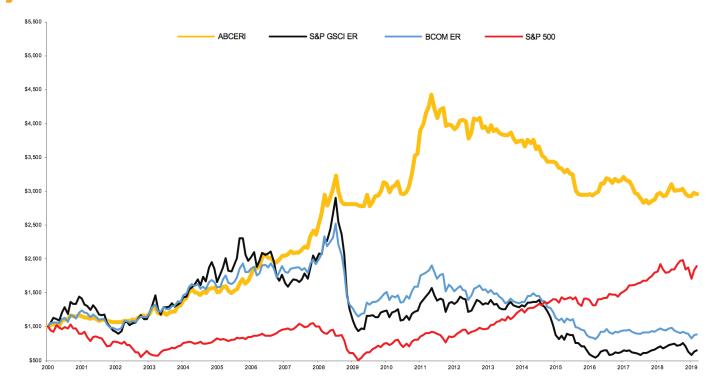
Calculated and published by NYSE since 2010. Tickers: Bloomberg ABCERI, Reuters ABCERI

#### 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



### MONTHLY PERFORMANCE TABLE\*

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	RETURN
2019	1.74%	-0.55%											1.19%
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%



#### IMPORTANT DISCLAIMERS AND NOTES

Futures trading is speculative and is not suitable for all customers. Past results is not necessarily indicative of future results. This document is for information purposes only and should not be construed as an offer, recommendation or solicitation to conclude a transaction and should not be treated as giving investment advice. Auspice Capital Advisors Ltd. makes no representation or warranty relating to any information herein, which is derived from independent sources. No securities regulatory authority has expressed an opinion about the securities offered herein and it is an offence to claim otherwise.

#### **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 (**BCOM ER**), 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.

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 **SG CTA Index** provides the market with a reliable daily performance benchmark of major commodity trading advisors (CTAs). The SG CTA Index calculates the daily rate of return for a pool of CTAs selected from the larger managers that are open to new investment.

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.

#### **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.

#### **INVEST WITH AUSPICE**

Call us

888 792 9291

Visit us online to find out more auspicecapital.com

### **AUSPICE** Capital Advisors

SUITE 510 - 1000 7TH AVE SW CALGARY, ALBERTA CANADA T2P 5L5

