

BROAD COMMODITY INDEX

COMMENTARY + STRATEGY FACTS

SEPTEMBER 2020





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3 Year Morningstar Rating™ for Direxion Auspice Broad Commodity Strategy Fund ETF (COM), which tracks ABCERI

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SUMMARY

Although commodity benchmarks fell, there were pockets of exceptional strength in commodities. While energies and metals sold off, Ags led by Grains marched higher. As such while the Bloomberg Commodity index lost 3.36% and the energy weighted GSCI fell 3.65%, the tactical Auspice Broad Commodity Index added 0.65%.

Global stock markets corrected led by the buoyant US benchmarks for the first time since the initial COVID sell-off in Q1. This caused a general "risk-off" and corrective effect across many asset classes. The S&P500 lost 3.92% while the NASDAQ lost 5.16% yet both remain positive for the year, +4.09% and 24.46% respectively. The Canadian TSX/S&P60 softened 2.35% and remains negative in 2020.

Bond futures were slightly higher in line with central banks stating "lower for longer" on rates. The US dollar gained back some ground while global currencies pulled back against recent trends.

RESULTS

Auspice Broad Commodity program gained 0.65% from existing and new positions. The results are a significant outperformance for month as the benchmarks pulled back as indicated in Table 1. The YTD results illustrate more controlled downside during extended commodity weakness as well as tactical gains as experienced this month. The ABCERI long-term results (13 year and annualized returns since 2007) are the only positive results amongst comparables. The positive spread to the GSCI benchmark is now over 30% year-to-date alongside an 11.0% annualized spread since 2007 illustrating the value of the strategy for disciplined commodity exposure.

OUTLOOK

This month showed us that being tactical works. While it has significantly limited the downside versus long-only approaches in the elongated commodity downtrend over recent years, as the trend has shifted the method, agility and capital allocation discipline has demonstrated the ability to outperform.

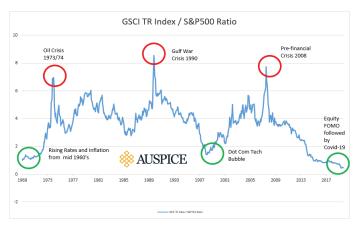
Despite the correction in the overall asset class in September, this does not change our thinking. Commodities have made a shift and this has momentum. The portfolio has moved from only long Gold to long almost all of the candidate components. This is not based on opinion or a discretionary fundamental viewpoint, this is based on trend and momentum alone. It is physics and math with no bias. The markets included are included solely because the individual trends have moved from down to up. September has not changed this.



Table 1 ABSOLUTE PERFORMANCE

	ABCERI	BCOM ER	S&P GSCI ER	S&P 500
1 Month	0.65%	-3.36%	-3.65%	-3.92%
2020 YTD	-3.18%	-12.41%	-33.62%	4.09%
1 yr (Oct 19)	-1.04%	-8.91%	-28.40%	12.98%
3 yr (Oct 17)	-2.41%	-16.11%	-29.23%	33.49%
5 yr (Oct 15)	-6.74%	-19.32%	-37.40%	75.15%
10 yr (Oct 10)	-16.23%	-49.50%	-62.72%	194.69%
13 yr (Oct 07)	18.05%	-60.25%	-76.35%	120.27%
Annualized (Jan 07)				
Return	2.17%	-6.03%	-9.06%	6.48%
Std Deviation	10.31%	16.58%	23.82%	15.44%
Sharpe Ratio	0.27	-0.28	-0.26	0.52
MAR Ratio	0.05	-0.08	-0.10	0.12
Worst Drawdown	-42.90%	-73.87%	-88.06%	-52.56%

GSCI TR INDEX / S&P500 RATIO



Source: Dr. Torsten Dennin, Incrementum AG



ATTRIBUTIONS AND TRADES

The Broad Commodity portfolio added two new markets moving 75% exposure last month to 92%, a significant tactical change from holding the single long-term exposure to Gold only a couple months ago (see Chart 3). The positive attribution came exclusively from Ags with both Energy and Metals correcting (see Chart 2). The top performing position was Soybeans.

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

ENERGY

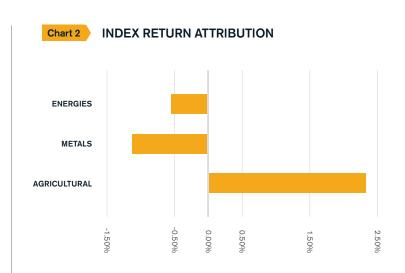
The petroleum side of energy sector weakened led by WTI Oil off over 6%. Gasoline softened more modestly as did Natural Gas. Heating Oil remains without an exposure at this time.

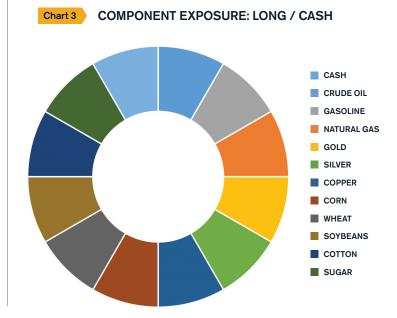
METALS

After an explosive move last month, Silver led the Metals correction dropping over 17%. Gold was also weaker, softening 4% and Copper was modestly lower for an overall sector loss while remaining long all components.

AGRICULTURE

Ags had a great month with the existing long exposure to Soybeans leading the attribution while complimented by new long exposures in Corn and Wheat. Cotton also added upside value while Sugar was neutral.







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.

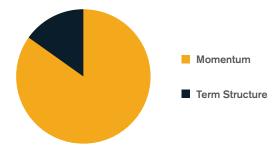
The index is tactical long strategy that focuses on Momentum and Term Structure to track either long or flat positions in a diversified portfolio of commodity futures which cover the energy, metal, and agricultural sectors. The index incorporates dynamic risk management and contract rolling methods.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

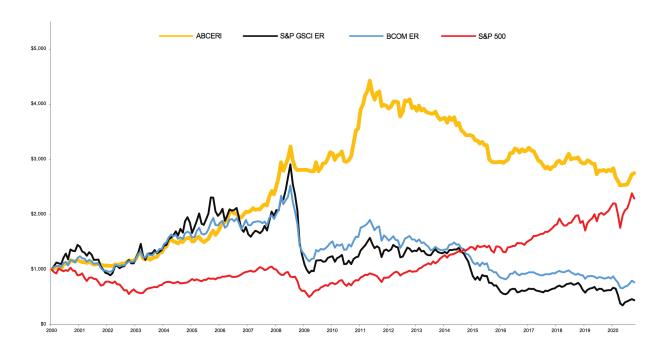
Calculated and published by NYSE since 2010. Tickers: Bloomberg ABCERI, Reuters ABCERI

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
2020	-5.36%	-3.02%	-2.89%	0.07%	0.20%	0.19%	3.67%	3.62%	0.65%				-3.18%
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%



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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.

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