

# Interim Management Report of Fund Performance

---

For the period ended June 30, 2024

# INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

For the period ended June 30, 2024

NBI Exchange-Traded Funds

## NBI Liquid Alternatives ETF

### Notes on forward-looking statements

This report may contain forward-looking statements concerning the ETF, its future performance, its strategies or prospects or about future events or circumstances. Such forward-looking statements include, among others, statements with respect to our beliefs, plans, expectations, estimates and intentions. The use of the expressions "foresee", "intend", "anticipate", "estimate", "assume", "believe" and "expect" and other similar terms and expressions indicate forward-looking statements.

By their very nature, forward-looking statements imply the use of assumptions and necessarily involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Consequently, there is a significant risk that the explicit or implicit forecasts contained in these forward-looking statements might not materialize or that they may not prove to be accurate in the future. A number of factors could cause future results, conditions or events to differ materially from the objectives, expectations, estimates or intentions expressed in such forward-looking statements. Such differences might be caused by several factors, including changes in Canadian and worldwide economic and financial conditions (in particular interest and exchange rates and the prices of other financial instruments), market trends, new regulatory provisions, competition, changes in technology and the potential impact of conflicts and other international events.

The foregoing list of factors is not exhaustive. Before making any investment decision, investors and others relying on our forward-looking statements should carefully consider the foregoing factors and other factors. We caution readers not to rely unduly on these forward-looking statements. We assume no obligation to update forward-looking statements in the light of new information, future events or other circumstances unless applicable legislation so provides.

---

This interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain the complete interim financial statements of the ETF. You can get a copy of the interim financial statements of the ETF at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-866-603-3601, by emailing us at [investments@nbc.ca](mailto:investments@nbc.ca), by visiting our website at [www.nbinvestments.ca](http://www.nbinvestments.ca), by visiting SEDAR+'s website at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca), or by contacting your advisor. You may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the ETF's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

### Results of Operations

For the six-month period ended June 30, 2024, the NBI Liquid Alternatives ETF's units returned 4.18% compared to 2.55% for the ETF's benchmark, the FTSE Canada T Bill 91 Days Index. Unlike the benchmark, the ETF's performance is calculated after fees and expenses. Please see the *Past Performance* section for the ETF's returns, which may vary mainly because of fees and expenses.

The Fund's net asset value rose by 5.40% over the period, from \$402.56 million as at December 31, 2023 to \$424.29 million as at June 30, 2024.

The first half of 2024 was characterized by a bull market for stocks, with marked outperformance by the S&P 500 driven by technology giants which sparked optimism regarding advances in artificial intelligence. On the other hand, the period proved less buoyant for bonds which ended little changed.

Specifically, U.S. equities (S&P 500) posted a total return of +15.3% over the period, a performance largely attributable to technology stocks (Technology, +28.2%. Communication Services, +26.7%). Internationally, emerging markets rebounded (+7.7%), while the EAFE developed countries equity index grew by 5.7%, a similar performance to that of Canadian equities, with the S&P/TSX up by 6.1%.

Within fixed income, inflation volatility has proven constraining for the asset class, with markets revising downward their outlook for interest rate cuts by the influential U.S. Federal Reserve. Thus, after a more difficult start to the year, Canadian bonds finally recovered thanks to a first rate cut by the Bank of Canada, ending the half-year almost unchanged (-0.3%).

Among commodities, oil experienced a rebound in recent months with a price increase of 15.2% for the WTI, while gold was volatile but also ended the first half higher (+12.6% in USD). Finally, on the currency side, the U.S. dollar appreciated against the Canadian dollar (+3.3% for the CAD/USD) and the euro (-3% for the DXY) driven by a Federal Reserve that is increasingly on its own with a monetary policy that has yet to be eased.

In this context, the Fund outperformed its benchmark.

In the first half of 2024, NALT's three biggest return contributors were the Japanese Yen, Gold, and Copper futures positions, while its three biggest return detractors were the U.S. Long Bonds, Natural Gas, and Wheat futures positions.

In the first quarter, the three biggest contributors were the Japanese Yen, Gold, and Brent Crude futures positions, while the three biggest detractors were the Copper, Australian Dollar, and Silver futures positions.

In the second quarter, the three biggest contributors were the Japanese Yen, Copper, and Gold futures positions, while the three biggest detractors were Natural Gas, U.S. Long Bonds, and Gasoline futures positions.

### Recent Developments

NALT follows a quantitative approach to determine the weekly portfolio weights. Transactions are thus applied systematically every week. Below are some of the major changes over the 6-month period.

The most notable change in positioning was in the Fixed Income asset class. The strategy on the 2-year, 5-year, and 10-year bond futures went from a long position in the first quarter to a short position in the second quarter. The strategy kept a long position in the U.S. Long Bond futures throughout the 6-month period, which was the biggest detractor of value over the semester.

As of 2024-06-30, NALT had short positions in Fixed Income (except for the SOFR and U.S. Long Bond futures), long positions in the GBP and AUD and short positions in the CAD and YEN, long positions in Energy (except for Natural Gas futures), a mix of marginal long and short positions in Agriculture futures (less than 2% in any single futures contract), and long positions in Metals. The effective duration of the portfolio was -0.065.

Since the start of the year, economic news has generally been better than expected, with, among other things, a recovery in global manufacturing activity and sustained consumer spending in the United States. And while the fog is still dense on the inflation front, the latest news has been more encouraging, prompting the Bank of Canada to cut its benchmark interest rate for the first time since 2020, and the Federal Reserve to maintain its intention to do the same later in the year.

Consequently, with inflation closing in on the landing strip, the next 6 to 12 months are likely to be a moment of truth in terms of the U.S. economy's ability to continue to demonstrate such resilience. As such, we'll need to keep a close eye on the evolution of consumer spending and, ultimately, the resilience of the job market, which could be challenged later this year. Nevertheless, in the shorter term, the fact that the Fed Chairman is keeping the door open to rate cuts could continue to generate optimism in the stock markets for a few months yet. Moreover, it suggests that the Fed will not hesitate to act quickly—as it did last year during the regional bank debacle—in the event of a significant deterioration in economic activity, thereby reducing the risk of a financial accident.

That being said, it is important to note that NALT's underlying models are purely quantitative. These models try to capture market trends to favourably direct weekly allocations. It is thus hard to predict the ETF's strategy for the coming months as well as any infrequent punctual discretionary decisions. Nonetheless, the strategy is strictly bound to respect diverse constraints which keep it in line with NALT's three main objectives: a sustained absolute positive performance, a moderate volatility, and a decorrelation to equity markets.

The Fund's risk level was modified from "medium" to "low to medium" during the year. This change aims to more accurately reflect the Fund's actual risk level.

## Related Party Transactions

National Bank Investments Inc. (the "manager") is the manager and promoter of the ETF. Accordingly, it is entitled to receive, in exchange for the services that it provides to the ETF, management fees paid to it by the ETF (see "Management Fees" below).

From time to time, the manager may, on behalf of the ETF, carry out transactions or sign agreements to involve certain persons or companies related to it, to the extent that these transactions or agreements are, in its opinion, in the interest of the ETF. The description of the transactions or agreements between the ETF and a related party is provided in this section.

Members of the manager's group may earn fees or spreads in connection with services provided to, or transactions with, the NBI ETF, including in connection with brokerage and derivatives transactions.

### Trustee

The manager has retained the services of Natcan Trust Company to serve as trustee for the ETF and has retained the services of National Bank Trust to serve as portfolio manager.

### Designated Broker

The manager has signed an agreement with National Bank Financial Inc. ("NBF"), a company affiliated with NBI, under which NBF will serve as a designated broker for the ETF. The designated broker agreement signed with NBF is in keeping with market conditions.

## Brokerage Fees

The ETF may pay broker's commissions at market rates to a corporation affiliated with National Bank Investments Inc. The brokerage fees paid by the ETF for the period are as follows:

	Period ended June 30, 2024
Total brokerage fees	242,004.77
Brokerage fees paid to National Bank Financial	-

## Holdings

As at June 30, 2024, ownership of the redeemable units outstanding of the ETF was held by the following NBI Funds as indicated below:

NBI Funds	Ownership of the redeemable units outstanding of the ETF %
NBI Presumed Sound Investments Fund	1.0000
NBI Multiple Asset Class Private Portfolio	1.3800
Meritage Tactical ETF Moderate Portfolio	0.5700
Meritage Tactical ETF Balanced Portfolio	1.0000
Meritage Tactical ETF Growth Portfolio	0.7300

Transactions between the NBI Funds and the ETF were carried out in the normal course of business. The portfolio manager for these Funds is National Bank Trust Inc.

As at June 30, 2024, the Multi Asset Class Basket Private Pool held approximately 1.38% ownership of the redeemable units outstanding of the ETF. Transactions between the Multi Asset Class Basket Private Pool and the ETF were carried out in the normal course of business. The portfolio manager for this Fund is National Bank Trust Inc.

As at June 30, 2024, the NBI Exclusive Income Pooled Fund held approximately 2.02% ownership of the redeemable units outstanding of the ETF. Transactions between the NBI Exclusive Income Pooled Fund and the ETF were carried out in the normal course of business. The portfolio manager for this Fund is National Bank Trust Inc.

## Management Fees

The management fee is payable to the ETF manager in consideration of the services that the manager provides to the ETF in its capacity as manager, such as managing the day-to-day business and affairs of the ETF.

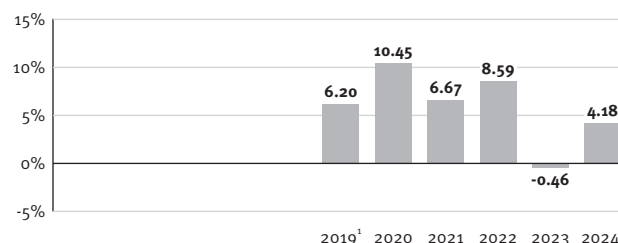
The ETF pays an annual management fee of 0.60% to the ETF manager for its management services. The fees are calculated based on a percentage of the ETF's daily net asset value before applicable taxes and are paid on a monthly basis. The management fees primarily covers investment management and general administration services.

## Past Performance

The performance of the ETF, presented below and calculated as at December 31 of each year, is based on the net asset value of the ETF. It assumes that all distributions made in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the ETF. These returns do not take into account sales, redemption charges, distributions, or optional charges that would have reduced returns. Past performance of an ETF does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

## Year-by-Year Returns

The bar chart indicates the performance of the ETF for each of the years shown and illustrates how the performance has changed from year to year. It shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on January 1 (or made commencing from the start of the ETF) would have grown or decreased by December 31 of that year, in the case of the Annual management report of fund performance, or by June 30, in the case of the Interim management report of fund performance.



<sup>(1)</sup> Returns for the period from February 8, 2019 (commencement of operations) to December 31, 2019.

<sup>(2)</sup> Returns for the period from January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024.

## Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the ETF and are intended to help you understand the ETF's financial performance for the accounting periods shown.

Net Assets per Unit<sup>(1)</sup>

Commencement of operations: February 8, 2019

Accounting Period Ended	2024 June 30	2023 December 31	2022 December 31	2021 December 31	2020 December 31	2019 December 31
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Accounting Period Shown</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	23.17	23.64	22.04	21.81	21.14	25.00
<b>Increase (Decrease) from Operations (\$)</b>						
Total revenue	0.14	0.09	0.51	1.26	2.38	1.54
Total expenses	(0.09)	(0.16)	(0.17)	(0.16)	(0.15)	(0.13)
Realized gains (losses)	1.08	(0.04)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.03)	0.04
Unrealized gains (losses)	(0.18)	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations</b> <sup>(3)</sup>	0.95	(0.11)	0.27	1.05	2.20	1.37
<b>Distributions (\$)</b>						
From net investment income (excluding dividends)	0.34	—	0.22	1.26	1.53	0.11
From dividends	—	—	—	—	—	—
From capital gains	—	—	—	—	—	—
Return of capital	—	0.37	—	0.03	—	—
<b>Total Annual Distributions</b> <sup>(4)</sup>	0.34	0.37	0.22	1.29	1.53	0.11
<b>Net Assets, End of Accounting Period Shown</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	23.80	23.17	23.64	22.04	21.81	21.14

## Ratios and Supplemental Data

Accounting Period Ended	2024 June 30	2023 December 31	2022 December 31	2021 December 31	2020 December 31	2019 December 31
Total net asset value (000's of \$) <sup>(5)</sup>	424,197	402,562	332,146	84,853	39,801	32,765
Number of units outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>	17,825,000	17,375,000	14,050,000	3,850,000	1,825,000	1,550,000
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	0.66	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%)	0.66	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(7)</sup>	0.12	—	—	—	—	—
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	—	8.66	33.04	—	—	—
Net asset value per unit (\$)	23.80	23.17	23.64	22.04	21.81	21.14
Closing market price <sup>(9)</sup>	23.88	23.23	23.69	22.03	21.86	21.21

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is derived from the ETF's Annual Audited Financial Statements and Interim Unaudited Financial Statements. The net assets per unit presented in the financial statements might differ from the net asset value calculated for ETF pricing purposes. The differences are explained in the notes to the financial statements.

<sup>(2)</sup> The net assets are calculated in accordance with IFRS.

<sup>(3)</sup> Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase or decrease from operations is based on the average number of units outstanding over the accounting period.

<sup>(4)</sup> Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the ETF, or both.

<sup>(5)</sup> This information is provided as at the last day of the accounting period shown.

<sup>(6)</sup> Management expense ratio is based on total expenses including sales taxes for the accounting period indicated (excluding commission, other portfolio transaction costs and withholding taxes) and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net value during the accounting period. The management expense ratio includes, if necessary, the management expenses from its underlying funds, as described in Article 15.2 of Regulation 81-106.

<sup>(7)</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 accounting period. The trading expense ratio includes, if necessary, the trading expenses from its underlying funds, as described in Article 15.2 of Regulation 81-106.

<sup>(8)</sup> The ETF's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the ETF portfolio's manager manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the ETF buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the accounting period. The higher an ETF's portfolio turnover rate in an accounting period, the greater the trading costs payable by the ETF in the accounting period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the accounting period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of an ETF.

<sup>(9)</sup> Closing market price on the last trading day of the year as reported on the TSX.

## Summary of Investment Portfolio

As of June 30, 2024

### Portfolio Top Holdings

	% of Net Asset Value
Cash and Other Net Assets .....	93.1
Currency Futures .....	(25.2)
Interest Rate Futures .....	17.5
Commodity Futures .....	31.4
Counterparty on Futures .....	(19.0)
Government of Canada, 4.46%, due July 18, 2024 .....	2.2
	100.0

Net asset value .....\$424,294,878

### Asset Mix

	% of Net Asset Value
Canadian T-Bills .....	2.2
Derivative Products .....	4.7
Cash, Money Market and Other Net Assets .....	93.1

The above table shows the top 25 positions held by the ETF. In the case of an ETF with fewer than 25 positions, all positions are indicated.

The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the ETF. A quarterly update is available. Please consult our website at [www.nbinvestments.ca](http://www.nbinvestments.ca).



Open architecture.  
Endless opportunities.



**NATIONAL  
BANK**  

---

**INVESTMENTS**