

# Annual Management Report of Fund Performance

for the year ended December 31, 2017



## First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF

**Fund:**

First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF

**Securities:**

Common Units - Listed Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSX"): CES

Advisor Class Units - Listed TSX: CES.A (On July 14, 2017, the Advisor Class Units were converted into Common Units.)

Unhedged Common Units - Listed TSX: CES.B

Unhedged Advisor Class Units - Listed TSX: CES.D (On July 14, 2017, the Unhedged Advisor Class Units were converted into Unhedged Common Units.)

US\$ Common Units - Listed TSX: CES.U

US\$ Advisor Class Units - Listed TSX: CES.V (On July 14, 2017, the US\$ Advisor Class Units were converted into US\$ Common Units.)

**Manager, Trustee & Investment Advisor:**

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# First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF

Management Report of Fund Performance for the year ended December 31, 2017

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-877-642-1289, by writing to us at First Asset Investment Management Inc., 2 Queen Street East, Suite 1200, Toronto, ON, M5C 3G7 or by visiting our website at [www.firstasset.com](http://www.firstasset.com) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Securityholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the investment fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

The investment objective of the First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF (the "Fund") is to seek to provide securityholders with: (i) long term capital appreciation with an attractive risk-adjusted rate of return; and (ii) consistent dividend income; through investing the Fund's portfolio to gain exposure to equity securities of primarily large and mid-capitalization U.S. issuers. The Fund uses a multi-factor portfolio optimization strategy to allocate the Fund's assets to gain exposure to equity securities of primarily large and mid-capitalization U.S. issuers in order to try to create a well-diversified portfolio with strong fundamentals, attractive levels of dividend income and a historical risk adjusted rate of return greater than a broad capitalization weighted U.S. equity fund. In order to achieve the investment objectives, the Fund may invest directly in equity securities and/or indirectly in such securities through other exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), including those managed by First Asset.

## RISKS

There were no changes to the Fund over the period of this report that materially affected the overall level of risk associated with an investment in the Fund. Holders should still refer to the prospectus of the Fund as it contains a detailed discussion of risk and other considerations relating to an investment in the Fund. The prospectus is available free of charge on our website at [www.firstasset.com](http://www.firstasset.com) and on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The Fund's net assets increased by \$10.3 million to \$44.6 million from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2017. The Fund had net sales of \$9.1 million for the year. The Fund paid distributions totalling \$1.6 million while the portfolio's performance increased assets by \$2.8 million. Common Units returned 13.9% after fees and expenses for the one-year period ended December 31, 2017. Over the same time period, the Fund's benchmark returned 21.8%. The Fund's benchmark is the S&P 500 Total Return Index. Please refer to the "Past Performance" section which outlines the performance of the Fund's other classes of securities.

Despite an unpredictable start to the current U.S. administration, U.S. and global stock markets enjoyed a strong 2017, with the S&P 500 Index up approximately 22% and the MSCI World Index up just over 23%. Volatility was low, as investors appeared to shrug off potential concerns. The Canadian equity market, while still a decent performer, particularly in the second half of the year, underperformed, with a total return of 9%. Despite a rise in crude oil prices in the latter part of the year, the energy sector was down over 10%, which impacted the rest of the Canadian market.

Emmanuel Macron's victory in the French presidential election seemed to put an end to the nationalistic movement that has been trending since June 2016, when the U.K. voted to exit the European Union ("EU"). In the U.K., Prime Minister Theresa May called a snap election to solidify her mandate, but ended up losing her majority government. Despite that, the U.K. triggered Article 50, starting the exit process from the EU. In December,

after failing to pass any substantive legislative changes during the year, the U.S. administration pushed through legislation to overhaul the U.S. tax system that is expected to lower corporate and personal taxes. Speculation regarding these tax changes seemed to propel U.S. markets in the last few months of the year.

The U.S. Federal Reserve Board ("Fed") raised the federal funds rate by 25 basis points ("bps") three times in 2017. With the U.S. economy performing well, the market anticipates two more increases in 2018. The Fed indicated that it will begin decreasing the size of its balance sheet.

Despite the Fed's three interest rate increases, U.S. 10-year bond yields ended 2017 at 2.4%, which is close to where they started the year, and up from their September lows of 2.1%. In Canada, strong economic data moved the Bank of Canada ("BoC") to raise interest rates twice in the second half of the year. Government of Canada ("GoC") bond yields rose, with the 10-year GoC bond yield ending the year at 2.1%, up 1.7% from the beginning of the year.

The Fund's performance is driven by its exposure to U.S. large- and mid-capitalization stocks, achieved through holding a basket of First Asset exchange traded funds ("ETFs"). The Fund's performance tracks that of the underlying ETFs:

- First Asset Morningstar U.S. Momentum Index ETF
- First Asset Morningstar U.S. Value Index ETF
- First Asset Morningstar U.S. Dividend Target 50 Index ETF
- First Asset MSCI USA Low Risk Weighted ETF

For more detailed performance and information regarding the underlying ETFs, please see their respective Management Reports of Fund Performance.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Global expansion is expected to continue in 2018, though at a more gradual pace. North American earnings are expected to remain robust, as the corporate reporting season begins in January. Economic data in North America remains strong, particularly with respect to job growth. With a low rate of inflation, tax cuts in the U.S. may stimulate further economic expansion. This optimism, however, is tempered by concerns around growing levels of household debt. Investors will be watching to see if China's fourth quarter gross domestic product ("GDP") figures indicate that a slowdown is coming, which will impact both developed and emerging economies. Commodities have begun to recover, with both energy and metals trading upwards.

Further interest rate increases are expected for the coming year, with the market anticipating three more increases in Canada and two more in the U.S. This should result in higher bond yields, which would put negative pressure on bond prices. These increases could also further flatten the yield curve (plots the interest rates of bonds with equal

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*Management Report of Fund Performance for the year ended December 31, 2017*

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credit quality but differing maturities). This could possibly lead to an inverted yield curve (an interest rate environment in which long-term debt instruments have a lower yield than short-term ones with the same credit quality), which has historically been a strong leading indicator of recession. This would be beneficial for government bonds, but could result in the underperformance of provincial issues. If current fiscal policies are maintained, it is possible that Canada may not have a balanced federal budget for quite some time. However, expectations are for Canada's debt-to-GDP ratio to decline.

On July 14, 2017, the Advisor Class Units, Unhedged Advisor Class Units and US\$ Advisor Class Units were converted into the corresponding Common Units, Unhedged Common Units and US\$ Common Units of the Fund based on the respective net asset values of the classes as of July 13, 2017. As a result of the conversion, each securityholder of the Advisor Class Units, Unhedged Advisor Class Units and US\$ Advisor Class Units received 0.9995 Common Units, 1.0008 Unhedged Common Units and 0.9998 US\$ Common Units of the Fund, respectively.

## **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

First Asset is deemed to be a related party to the Fund. Please refer to the "Management Fee" section below which outlines fees paid to First Asset. F.A. Administration Services Inc., an affiliate of First Asset, administers the Fund's relationship with the Fund's Independent Review Committee ("IRC") on behalf of First Asset, however, it receives no compensation for doing so.

The Fund has received standing instructions from its IRC with respect to the certain related party transactions: (a) trades in securities of CI Financial Corp. (referred to as "Related Issuer Trades"), which indirectly owns and controls First Asset; (b) purchases or sales of securities of an issuer from or to another investment fund managed by First Asset (referred to as "Inter-Fund Trades"); (c) purchases or sales by the Fund of securities of another investment fund managed by First Asset (referred to as "Related Fund Trades"); and (d) mergers of funds with another fund that is subject to National Instrument 81-102 ("Fund Mergers").

The applicable standing instructions require that related party transactions be conducted in accordance with First Asset's policies and procedures. First Asset is required to advise the IRC of any material breach of a condition of the standing instructions. The standing instructions require, among other things, that the investment decision in respect to related party transactions (a) are made by First Asset free from any influence by any entities related to First Asset and without taking into account any consideration to any affiliate of First Asset; (b) represent the business judgment of First Asset uninfluenced by considerations other than the best interests of the Fund; and (c) are made in compliance with First Asset's policies and procedures. Transactions made by First Asset in respect of the Fund under the standing instructions are subsequently reviewed by the IRC on a semi-annual basis to monitor compliance.

Except as otherwise noted below, First Asset and the Fund were not party to any related party transactions during the year ended December 31, 2017.

*Related Fund Trades* – During the year, the Fund engaged in Related Fund Trades or held positions in Related Funds at the end of the year. The Related Fund Trades were executed by an unrelated broker and through the facilities of the TSX at prevailing market prices on the days of the transactions. No related parties received any fees in connection with the trades. The trades were executed in reliance on a standing instruction issued by both funds' IRC.

# First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF

Management Report of Fund Performance for the year ended December 31, 2017

## Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance since inception.

### THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER SECURITY <sup>(1) \*</sup>

Common Units	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2017	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2016	Period from Inception to Dec. 31, 2015
	\$	\$	\$
Commencement of operations January 12, 2015			
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	21.52	19.96	20.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations</b>			
Total revenue	0.81	0.69	0.32
Total expenses	(0.09)	(0.07)	(0.07)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	2.19	0.02	0.61
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(0.05)	1.94	(1.27)
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>2.86</b>	<b>2.58</b>	<b>(0.41)</b>
<b>Distributions</b>			
From income (excluding dividends)	(0.31)	(0.41)	(0.08)
From dividends	-	-	-
From capital gains	(1.51)	-	-
Return of capital	-	-	(0.16)
<b>Total distributions <sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>(1.82)</b>	<b>(0.41)</b>	<b>(0.24)</b>
<b>Net assets, end of the year <sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>24.26</b>	<b>21.52</b>	<b>19.96</b>

### RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Total net asset value (\$000's) <sup>(5)</sup>	6,186	7,807	5,389
Number of securities outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>	254,983	362,853	270,000
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	1.10	1.02	0.93
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	1.36	1.34	1.24
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(7)</sup>	68.57	72.14	41.75
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	0.16	0.25	0.32
Net asset value per security (\$)	24.26	21.52	19.96
Closing market price (\$) <sup>(9)</sup>	24.45	21.56	20.17

\*Footnotes for the tables are found at the end of the Financial Highlights section.

# First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF

Management Report of Fund Performance for the year ended December 31, 2017

## Financial Highlights (cont'd)

### THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER SECURITY <sup>(1) \*</sup>

Advisor Class Units	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2017 <sup>^</sup>	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2016	Period from Inception to Dec. 31, 2015
Commencement of operations January 12, 2015	\$	\$	\$
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	21.51	19.96	20.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations</b>			
Total revenue	2.17	0.64	0.29
Total expenses	(0.13)	(0.24)	(0.24)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	(1.34)	0.06	0.53
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	0.19	0.89	(1.15)
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>(0.57)</b>
<b>Distributions</b>			
From income (excluding dividends)	-	(0.30)	-
From dividends	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-
Return of capital	(0.02)	-	(0.08)
<b>Total distributions <sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>(0.02)</b>	<b>(0.30)</b>	<b>(0.08)</b>
<b>Net assets, end of the year <sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21.51</b>	<b>19.96</b>

### RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Total net asset value (\$000's) <sup>(5)</sup>	-	584	1,397
Number of securities outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>	-	27,145	70,000
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	2.38	1.87	1.78
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	2.86	2.21	2.08
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(7)</sup>	68.57	72.14	41.75
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	0.16	0.25	0.32
Net asset value per security (\$)	-	21.51	19.96
Closing market price (\$) <sup>(9)</sup>	-	20.80	19.57

<sup>^</sup>There were no Advisor Class units outstanding as at December 31, 2017.

\*Footnotes for the tables are found at the end of the Financial Highlights section.

# First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF

Management Report of Fund Performance for the year ended December 31, 2017

## Financial Highlights (cont'd)

### THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER SECURITY <sup>(1) \*</sup>

Unhedged Common Units Commencement of operations January 12, 2015	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2017 \$	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2016 \$	Period from Inception to Dec. 31, 2015 \$
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	24.26	23.03	20.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations</b>			
Total revenue	0.71	0.87	0.36
Total expenses	(0.10)	(0.07)	(0.07)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	1.51	(0.01)	0.72
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(0.43)	1.39	2.16
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>1.69</b>	<b>2.18</b>	<b>3.17</b>
<b>Distributions</b>			
From income (excluding dividends)	(0.31)	(0.48)	(0.10)
From dividends	-	-	-
From capital gains	(0.68)	-	-
Return of capital	(0.01)	-	(0.16)
<b>Total distributions <sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>(1.00)</b>	<b>(0.48)</b>	<b>(0.26)</b>
<b>Net assets, end of the year <sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>25.88</b>	<b>24.26</b>	<b>23.03</b>

### RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Total net asset value (\$000's) <sup>(5)</sup>	23,681	24,506	12,208
Number of securities outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>	915,007	1,010,000	530,000
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	1.10	1.02	0.93
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	1.36	1.34	1.23
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(7)</sup>	68.57	72.14	41.75
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	0.16	0.25	0.32
Net asset value per security (\$)	25.88	24.26	23.03
Closing market price (\$) <sup>(9)</sup>	26.23	24.50	22.98

\*Footnotes for the tables are found at the end of the Financial Highlights section.

# First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF

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## Financial Highlights (cont'd)

### THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER SECURITY <sup>(1) \*</sup>

Unhedged Advisor Class Units Commencement of operations January 12, 2015	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2017 <sup>^</sup>	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2016	Period from Inception to Dec. 31, 2015
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	24.27	23.04	20.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations</b>			
Total revenue	2.33	0.79	0.29
Total expenses	(0.14)	(0.25)	(0.24)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	(1.20)	0.03	0.54
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(1.29)	0.75	2.53
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>(0.30)</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>3.12</b>
<b>Distributions</b>			
From income (excluding dividends)	-	(0.32)	-
From dividends	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-
Return of capital	(0.02)	-	(0.09)
<b>Total distributions <sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>(0.02)</b>	<b>(0.32)</b>	<b>(0.09)</b>
<b>Net assets, end of the year <sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24.27</b>	<b>23.04</b>

### RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Total net asset value (\$000's) <sup>(5)</sup>	-	243	230
Number of securities outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>	-	10,000	10,000
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	2.36	1.87	1.78
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	2.84	2.19	2.07
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(7)</sup>	68.57	72.14	41.75
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	0.16	0.25	0.32
Net asset value per security (\$)	-	24.27	23.04
Closing market price (\$) <sup>(9)</sup>	-	24.71	21.80

<sup>^</sup>There were no Advisor Class units outstanding as at December 31, 2017.

\*Footnotes for the tables are found at the end of the Financial Highlights section.

# First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF

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## Financial Highlights (cont'd)

### THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER SECURITY <sup>(1) \*</sup>

US\$ Common Units	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2017	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2016	Period from Inception to Dec. 31, 2015
Commencement of operations January 12, 2015	\$	\$	\$
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	US\$ 21.61	US\$ 19.91	US\$ 20.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations</b>			
Total revenue	US\$ 0.18	US\$ 0.60	US\$ 0.31
Total expenses	(0.07)	(0.06)	(0.06)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	3.95	0.04	0.59
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(0.93)	(0.61)	1.96
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>US\$ 3.13</b>	<b>US\$ (0.03)</b>	<b>US\$ 2.80</b>
<b>Distributions</b>			
From income (excluding dividends)	US\$ (0.38)	US\$ (0.52)	US\$ (0.09)
From dividends	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-
Return of capital	(0.06)	-	(0.15)
<b>Total distributions <sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>US\$ (0.44)</b>	<b>US\$ (0.52)</b>	<b>US\$ (0.24)</b>
<b>Net assets, end of the year <sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>US\$ 24.73</b>	<b>US\$ 21.61</b>	<b>US\$ 19.91</b>

### RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Total net asset value (\$000's) <sup>(5)</sup>	14,719	870	1,929
Number of securities outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>	474,997	30,000	70,000
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	1.00	1.02	0.93
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	1.26	1.34	1.24
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(7)</sup>	68.57	72.14	41.75
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	0.16	0.25	0.32
Net asset value per security (\$)	US\$ 24.73	US\$ 21.61	US\$ 19.91
Closing market price (\$) <sup>(9)</sup>	US\$ 24.61	US\$ 21.89	US\$ 19.71

\*Footnotes for the tables are found at the end of the Financial Highlights section.

# First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF

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## Financial Highlights (cont'd)

### THE FUND'S NET ASSETS PER SECURITY <sup>(1)</sup>

US\$ Advisor Class Units	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2017 <sup>A</sup>	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2016	Period from Inception to Dec. 31, 2015
Commencement of operations January 12, 2015	\$	\$	\$
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	US\$ 21.60	US\$ 19.91	US\$ 20.00
<b>Increase (decrease) from operations</b>			
Total revenue	US\$ 2.23	US\$ 0.70	US\$ 0.27
Total expenses	(0.14)	(0.24)	(0.23)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	(1.14)	0.03	0.51
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	(1.25)	0.67	2.36
<b>Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup></b>	US\$ (0.30)	US\$ 1.16	US\$ 2.91
<b>Distributions</b>			
From income (excluding dividends)	US\$ -	US\$ (0.27)	US\$ -
From dividends	-	-	-
From capital gains	-	-	-
Return of capital	(0.02)	-	(0.08)
<b>Total distributions <sup>(3)</sup></b>	US\$ (0.02)	US\$ (0.27)	US\$ (0.08)
<b>Net assets, end of the year <sup>(4)</sup></b>	US\$ -	US\$ 21.60	US\$ 19.91

### RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Total net asset value (\$000's) <sup>(5)</sup>	-	290	275
Number of securities outstanding <sup>(5)</sup>	-	10,000	10,000
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	2.36	1.87	1.78
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%) <sup>(6)</sup>	2.85	2.20	2.07
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(7)</sup>	68.57	72.14	41.75
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	0.16	0.25	0.32
Net asset value per security (\$)	US\$ -	US\$ 21.60	US\$ 19.91
Closing market price (\$) <sup>(9)</sup>	US\$ -	US\$ 20.61	US\$ 20.61

#### Notes:

(1) This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements. The term "net assets" used in this report and the term "net assets attributable to holders of redeemable securities" used in the Fund's financial statements are interchangeable.

(2) Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of securities outstanding at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) from operations is based on the weighted average number of securities outstanding over the financial year.

(3) Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional securities of the Fund.

(4) This is not a reconciliation of the beginning and ending net assets per security.

(5) This information is provided as at December 31 of the year shown.

(6) Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated year, including the Fund's proportionate share of such expenses of any underlying fund in which the Fund has invested and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the year.

(7) The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively First Asset manages the Fund's portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between high turnover rate and the performance of a fund.

(8) 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 year, including the Fund's proportionate share of such expenses of any underlying fund in which the Fund has invested.

(9) Closing market price.

<sup>A</sup>There were no Advisor Class units outstanding as at December 31, 2017.

# First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF

Management Report of Fund Performance for the year ended December 31, 2017

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## Management Fee

First Asset manages and administers the business operations and affairs of the Fund, and is also responsible for providing all investment advisory and portfolio management services required by the Fund. As compensation for the services it provides to the Fund, the Fund pays First Asset an annual management fee on the Common Units, Unhedged Common Units and US\$ Common Units at the maximum annual rate set out below. The fee is based on the net asset value of the relevant class, and is calculated daily and paid monthly in arrears. In addition to investment advisory and portfolio management, the services provided by First Asset to the Fund include, without limitation, implementation of the Fund's investment strategies, negotiating contracts with certain third party service providers, authorizing the payment of operating expenses incurred on behalf of the Fund, maintaining certain accounting and financial records, calculating the amount and determining the frequency of distributions by the Fund, ensuring that securityholders are provided with financial statements and other reports as are required from time to time by applicable law, ensuring that the Fund complies with all other regulatory requirements including continuous disclosure obligations under applicable securities law and administering purchases, redemptions and other transactions in securities. Where the Fund invests in other investment funds, in accordance with the provisions of National Instrument 81-102, First Asset ensures that there is no duplication of management fees charged by the Fund and any other underlying investment fund for the same service.

	Maximum annual management fee rate	As a percentage of management fee	
		Dealer compensation	General administration and profit
Common Units	0.15%	-	100%
Unhedged Common Units	0.15%	-	100%
US\$ Common Units	0.15%	-	100%

On July 14, 2017, Advisor Class Units, Unhedged Advisor Class Units and US\$ Advisor Class Units converted into Common Units, Unhedged Common Units and US\$ Common Units, respectively. Prior to the conversion, Advisor Class Units, Unhedged Advisor Class Units and US\$ Advisor Class Units paid First Asset 0.90%, 0.90% and 0.90% in annual management fees, inclusive of dealer service fees, respectively.

For the year ended December 31, 2017, First Asset waived and absorbed expenses of the Fund totalling \$87,721.

# First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF

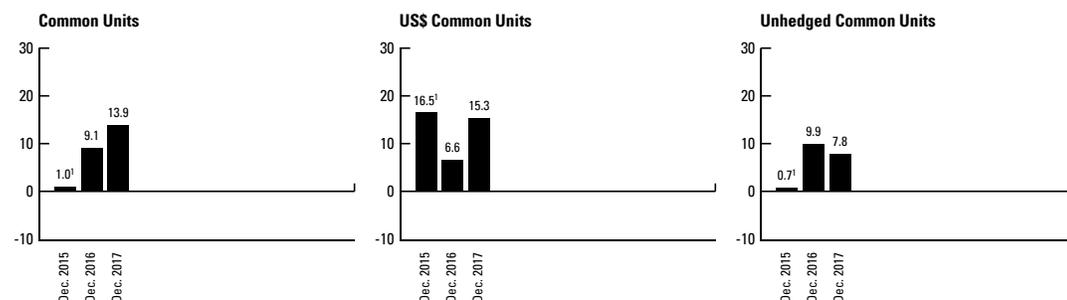
Management Report of Fund Performance for the year ended December 31, 2017

## Past Performance

Please note that the performance information shown in this section assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the years shown were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund. Also note that the performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that would have reduced returns on performance. The performance of the Fund in the past does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

## YEAR-BY-YEAR RETURNS <sup>(1)</sup>

The following bar charts show annual performance for each class of the Fund's securities for the financial years shown and illustrate how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year. The bar charts show, 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>1</sup> 2015 return is for the period from January 20, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

## ANNUAL COMPOUND RETURNS

The table below summarizes the Fund's annual compound total returns for the years ended December 31 as indicated. As a basis for comparison we have provided the performance of a broad-based index, the S&P 500 Index ("Index"). The S&P 500 Index tracks 500 large-cap U.S. stocks representing all major industries and is used as a benchmark to help you understand the Fund's performance relative to the general performance of the broader U.S. equity market. Note that the unhedged classes of the Fund are compared to the unhedged versions of these indices. As the criteria for determining the constituents of the Fund and the index differ, it is not expected that the Fund's performance will mirror that of the index. A discussion on the relative performance of the Fund as compared to its benchmark index can be found under the Results of Operations section of this report. Further, the return of the indices is calculated without the deduction of management fees and fund expenses whereas the performance of the Fund is calculated after deducting such fees and expenses.

	One Year (%)	Three Years (%)	Five Years (%)	Ten Years (%)	Since Inception (%)
<b>Common Units</b>	13.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.0
Index	21.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.8
<b>USS Common Units</b>	15.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.6
Index	21.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.8
<b>Unhedged Common Units</b>	7.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.4
Index	13.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	14.7

(1) Returns based on net asset value per security.

# First Asset Core U.S. Equity ETF

Management Report of Fund Performance for the year ended December 31, 2017

## Summary of Investment Portfolio as at December 31, 2017

Category	% of Net Asset Value	Category	% of Net Asset Value	Top Holdings	% of Net Asset Value
<b>Country allocation</b>		<b>Sector allocation</b>			
United States .....	99.7	Investment Fund.....	99.7	First Asset Morningstar US Momentum Index ETF.....	31.7
Cash and Cash Equivalents .....	0.1	Cash and Cash Equivalents .....	0.1	First Asset Morningstar US Dividend Target 50 Index ETF .....	26.2
Other assets, net of liabilities .....	0.2	Other assets, net of liabilities .....	0.2	First Asset Morningstar US Value Index ETF .....	21.4
				First Asset MSCI USA Low Risk Weighted ETF .....	20.5
				Cash and Cash Equivalents .....	0.1
				<b>Total Net Asset Value</b>	<b>\$44,586,331</b>

This is a summary only and will change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. A quarterly update is available on [www.firstasset.com](http://www.firstasset.com).

## A NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund, its future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund action. The words "may," "could," "should," "would," "suspect," "outlook," "believe," "plan," "anticipate," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "forecast," "objective," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, both about the Fund and general economic factors, so it is possible that predictions, forecasts, projections and other forward-looking statements will not be achieved. We caution you not to place undue reliance on these statements as a number of important factors could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in any

forward-looking statement made by the Fund. These factors include, but are not limited to, general economic, political and market factors in Canada, the United States and internationally, interest and foreign exchanges rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition, technological changes, changes in laws and regulations, judicial or regulatory judgments, legal proceedings and catastrophic events.

The above list of important factors that may affect future results is not exhaustive. Before making any investment decisions, we encourage you to consider these and other factors carefully. All opinions contained in forward-looking statements are subject to change without notice and are provided in good faith but without legal responsibility.