



---

---

**Merk Stagflation ETF**

---

---

**SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

**October 31, 2023  
(Unaudited)**



# **Merk Stagflation ETF**

## Table of Contents

(Unaudited)

---

---

Shareholder Expense Example .....	2
Consolidated Schedule of Investments .....	3
Consolidated Statement of Assets and Liabilities .....	4
Consolidated Statement of Operations .....	5
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Net Assets .....	6
Consolidated Financial Highlights .....	7
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements .....	9
Supplemental Information .....	17

# Merk Stagflation ETF

## Shareholder Expense Example

(Unaudited)

As a shareholder of the Fund you incur two types of costs: (1) transaction costs for purchasing and selling shares, and (2) ongoing costs, including management fees and other fund expenses. The following example is intended to help you understand your ongoing costs (in dollars and cents) of investing in the Fund and to compare these costs with the ongoing costs of investing in other funds. The examples are based on an investment of \$1,000 invested at the beginning of the period and held throughout the entire period (May 1, 2023, to October 31, 2023).

### ACTUAL EXPENSES

The first line under the Fund in the table below provides information about actual account values and actual expenses. You may use the information in this line, together with the amount you invested, to estimate the expenses that you paid over the period. Simply divide your account value by \$1,000 (for example, an \$8,600 account value divided by \$1,000 = 8.6), then multiply the result by the number in the first line for your Fund under the heading entitled “Expenses Paid During Period” to estimate the expenses you paid on your account during this period.

### HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES

The second line in the table provides information about hypothetical account values and hypothetical expenses based on the Fund’s actual expense ratio and an assumed rate of return of 5% per year before expenses, which is not the Fund’s actual return. The hypothetical account values and expenses may not be used to estimate the actual ending account balance or expenses you paid for the period. You may use this information to compare the ongoing costs of investing in the Fund and other funds. To do so, compare this 5% hypothetical example with the 5% hypothetical examples that appear in the shareholder reports of the other funds. Please note that the expenses shown in the table are meant to highlight your ongoing costs only and do not reflect any transactional costs, such as brokerage commissions paid on purchases and sales of Fund shares. Therefore, the second line in the table is useful in comparing ongoing Fund costs only and will not help you determine the relative total costs of owning different funds. In addition, if these transactional costs were included, your costs would have been higher.

	<b>Beginning Account Value 05/01/23</b>	<b>Ending Account Value 10/31/23</b>	<b>Annualized Expense Ratios</b>	<b>Expenses Paid During the Period<sup>(1)</sup></b>
<b>Merk Stagflation ETF</b>				
Actual .....	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 968.20	0.39%	\$1.93
Hypothetical (5% return before expenses) .....	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,023.18	0.39%	\$1.98

<sup>(1)</sup> Expenses are calculated using the Fund’s annualized expense ratio, multiplied by the average account value during the period, multiplied by 184/366 days (to reflect the six-month period).

# Merk Stagflation ETF

## Consolidated Schedule of Investments

October 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

Industry Diversification \*

████████████████████ 100.0% Exchange Traded Products  
 | 0.0% Money Market Funds and Other Assets and Liabilities, net

\*Percentages are stated as a percent of net assets.

	Shares	Value
<b>EXCHANGE TRADED PRODUCTS — 100.0%</b>		
<b>Exchange Traded Products — 100.0%</b>		
Invesco DB Oil Fund .....	7,724	\$ 127,755
Schwab U.S. TIPS ETF <sup>(b)</sup> .....	15,143	757,453
VanEck Merk Gold Trust <sup>(a)(c)(d)</sup> .....	6,538	125,628
Vanguard Real Estate ETF .....	1,001	<u>72,993</u>
<b>TOTAL EXCHANGE TRADED PRODUCTS</b>		
(COST \$1,169,676) .....		<u>1,083,829</u>
 <b>SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS — 0.0% <sup>(f)</sup></b>		
<b>Money Market Funds — 0.0% <sup>(f)</sup></b>		
First American Treasury Obligations Fund - Class X, 5.27% <sup>(e)</sup> .....	255	<u>255</u>
<b>TOTAL SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS</b>		
(Cost \$255)		
 <b>Total Investments</b>		
(Cost \$1,169,931) — 100.0% .....		1,084,084
<b>Other assets and liabilities, net — (0.0)% <sup>(f)</sup></b>		<u>(357)</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS — 100.0%</b> .....		<u>\$ 1,083,727</u>

<sup>(a)</sup> Non-income producing security.

<sup>(b)</sup> Fair value of this security exceeds 25% of the Fund's net assets. Additional information for this security, including the financial statements, is available from the SEC's EDGAR database at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

<sup>(c)</sup> All or a portion of this security is held by Merk Stagflation ETF (Cayman).

<sup>(d)</sup> Affiliated security. Please refer to Note 8 of the Notes to Financial Statements.

<sup>(e)</sup> The rate shown is the annualized seven day yield at period end.

<sup>(f)</sup> Amount is less than 0.05%.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

# Merk Stagflation ETF

## Consolidated Statement of Assets and Liabilities

October 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

### Assets

Unaffiliated Investments, at value (cost \$1,058,549) .....	\$	958,456
Affiliated Investments, at value (cost \$111,382) .....		125,628
Dividend and interest receivable .....		<u>2</u>
<b>Total assets</b> .....		<b><u>1,084,086</u></b>

### Liabilities

Payable to Adviser, net .....		<u>359</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b> .....		<b><u>359</u></b>

**Net Assets** ..... **\$ 1,083,727**

### Net Assets Consists of:

Paid-in capital .....		1,258,119
Total distributable earnings (accumulated losses) .....		<u>(174,392)</u>

**Net Assets** ..... **\$ 1,083,727**

Shares of beneficial interest outstanding (unlimited number of shares authorized, no par value) ..... 50,000

**Net Asset Value, redemption price and offering price per share** ..... **\$ 21.67**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

**Merk Stagflation ETF**  
**Consolidated Statement of Operations**  
For the Six Months Ended October 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

<b>Investment Income</b>	
Dividend income .....	\$ 17,356
Interest Income .....	14
Total investment income .....	17,370
 <b>Expenses</b>	
Investment advisory fees .....	2,506
Expense reimbursement/fee waiver by Adviser .....	(310)
Total expenses .....	2,196
<b>Net investment income</b> .....	<b>15,174</b>
 <b>Realized and Unrealized Loss on Investments</b>	
Net realized loss on unaffiliated investments .....	(34,143)
Net realized gain on affiliated investments .....	4,775
Net realized loss .....	(29,368)
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on unaffiliated investments .....	(16,655)
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on affiliated investments .....	(5,921)
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation .....	(22,576)
<b>Net realized and unrealized loss</b> .....	<b>(51,944)</b>
 <b>Net decrease in net assets from operations.</b> .....	 <b>\$ (36,770)</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

# Merk Stagflation ETF

## Consolidated Statements of Changes in Net Assets

	<b>Six Months Ended October 31, 2023 (Unaudited)</b>	<b>Period Ended April 30, 2023<sup>(1)</sup></b>
<b>From Operations</b>		
Net investment income .....	\$ 15,174	\$ 68,551
Net realized loss on investments .....	(29,368)	(138,210)
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investments .....	(22,576)	(63,271)
Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations .....	<u>(36,770)</u>	<u>(132,930)</u>
<b>From Distributions</b>		
Distributable earnings .....	(13,000)	(70,125)
Total distributions .....	<u>(13,000)</u>	<u>(70,125)</u>
<b>From Capital Share Transactions</b>		
Proceeds from shares sold .....	—	2,236,908
Cost of shares redeemed .....	(225,657)	(674,825)
Transactions fees (Note 4) .....	14	112
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from capital share transactions .....	<u>(225,643)</u>	<u>1,562,195</u>
<b>Total Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b> .....	<b><u>(275,413)</u></b>	<b><u>1,359,140</u></b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Beginning of period .....	1,359,140	—
End of period .....	<b><u>\$ 1,083,727</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,359,140</u></b>
<b>Changes in Shares Outstanding</b>		
Shares outstanding, beginning of period .....	60,000	—
Shares sold .....	—	90,000
Shares redeemed .....	(10,000)	(30,000)
Shares outstanding, end of period .....	<u>50,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> The Fund commenced operations on May 3, 2022.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.



# Merk Stagflation ETF

## Consolidated Financial Highlights

For a Share Outstanding Throughout each Period

	Six Months Ended October 31, 2023 (Unaudited)	Period Ended April 30, 2023 <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Period</b> .....	\$ 22.65	\$ 25.00
<b>Income (Loss) from investment operations:</b>		
Net investment income <sup>(2)</sup> .....	0.30	0.91
Net realized and unrealized loss .....	(1.02)	(2.39)
Total from investment operations .....	<u>(0.72)</u>	<u>(1.48)</u>
<b>Less distributions paid:</b>		
From net investment income .....	(0.26)	(0.87)
Total distributions paid .....	<u>(0.26)</u>	<u>(0.87)</u>
<b>Capital share transactions:</b>		
Transaction fees (see Note 4) .....	0.00 <sup>(10)</sup>	0.00 <sup>(10)</sup>
<b>Net Asset Value, End of Period</b> .....	<u>\$ 21.67</u>	<u>\$ 22.65</u>
<b>Total return, at NAV<sup>(3)(5)</sup></b> .....	-3.18%	-5.82%
<b>Total return, at Market<sup>(4)(5)</sup></b> .....	-3.11%	-5.83%
<b>Supplemental Data and Ratios:</b>		
Net assets, end of period (000's) .....	\$ 1,084	\$ 1,359
Ratio of expenses to average net assets before waivers <sup>(6)(8)(9)</sup> .....	0.44%	0.44%
Ratio of expenses to average net assets after waivers <sup>(6)(8)(9)</sup> .....	0.39%	0.39%
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets before waivers <sup>(6)(8)(9)</sup> .....	2.63%	3.90%
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets after waivers <sup>(6)(8)(9)</sup> .....	2.68%	3.95%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(5)(7)</sup> .....	26%	84%

<sup>(1)</sup> The Fund commenced operations on May 3, 2022.

<sup>(2)</sup> Per share net investment income was calculated using average shares outstanding.

<sup>(3)</sup> Net asset value total return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at the net asset value at the beginning of the period, reinvestment of all dividends and distributions at net asset value during the period, if any, and redemption on the last day of the period at net asset value. This percentage is not an indication of the performance of a shareholder's investment in the Fund based on market value due to the differences between the market price of the shares and the net asset value per share of the Fund.

<sup>(4)</sup> Market value total return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at market value at the beginning of the period, reinvestment of all dividends and distributions at market value during the period, if any, and redemption on the last day of the period at market value. Market value is determined by the composite closing price. Composite closing security price is defined as the last reported sale price on the NYSE Arca. The composite closing price is the last reported sale, regardless of volume, and not an average price, and may have occurred on a date prior to the close of the reporting period. Market value may be greater or less than net asset value, depending on the Fund's closing price on the NYSE Arca.

<sup>(5)</sup> Not annualized for periods less than one year.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

# **Merk Stagflation ETF**

## Consolidated Financial Highlights

For a Share Outstanding Throughout the Period (Continued)

---

<sup>(6)</sup> Annualized for periods less than one year.

<sup>(7)</sup> Excludes in-kind transactions associated with creations and redemptions of the Fund.

<sup>(8)</sup> Expenses waived or reimbursed reflect reductions to total expenses, as discussed in the notes to the consolidated financial statements. These amounts would increase the net investment loss ratio or decrease the net investment income ratio, as applicable, had such reductions not occurred.

<sup>(9)</sup> Ratio does not include income and expenses of the investment companies in which the Fund invests.

<sup>(10)</sup> Amount is less than \$0.005

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

# Merk Stagflation ETF

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

October 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

---

### 1. ORGANIZATION

Merk Stagflation ETF (the “Fund”) is a non-diversified series of Listed Funds Trust (the “Trust”), formerly Active Weighting Funds ETF Trust. The Trust was organized as a Delaware statutory trust on August 26, 2016, under a Declaration of Trust amended on December 21, 2018 and is registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) as an open-end management investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”).

The Fund is a passively-managed exchange-traded fund (“ETF”) that seeks to track the performance, before fees and expenses, of the Solactive Stagflation™ Index (the “Index”) which, in turn, seeks to track the performance of components that are expected to benefit, either directly or indirectly, from persistent inflation, including in an environment of weak economic growth (stagflation). The Index is owned and maintained by Solactive AG.

Costs incurred by the Fund in connection with the organization, registration and the initial public offering of shares were paid by Merk Investments LLC (the “Adviser”), the Fund’s Investment Adviser.

### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Fund is an investment company and accordingly follows the investment company accounting and reporting guidance of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) Topic 946, *Financial Services – Investment Companies*. The Fund prepares its financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”) and follows the significant accounting policies described below.

#### Consolidation of Subsidiary

The Fund expects to gain exposure to commodities by investing in Merk Stagflation ETF (Cayman), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fund organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands (the “Subsidiary”). The Adviser also serves as the investment adviser to the Subsidiary. The Fund’s investment in the Subsidiary is intended to provide the Fund with indirect exposure to commodities within the limits of current federal income tax laws applicable to investment companies such as the Fund, which limit the ability of investment companies to invest directly in commodities. The Subsidiary has the same investment objective as the Fund, but it may invest in commodities to a greater extent than the Fund. The Fund will invest, through the Subsidiary, in the VanEck Merk Gold Trust (“OUNZ”), a physical gold ETF sponsored by the Adviser. Except as otherwise noted, for purposes of this report, references to the Fund’s investments include the Fund’s indirect investments through the Subsidiary. Because the Fund intends to elect to be treated as a regulated investment company under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the size of the Fund’s investment in the Subsidiary generally will be limited to 25% of the Fund’s total assets, tested at the end of each fiscal quarter. Information regarding the Fund and its subsidiary has been consolidated in the Consolidated Schedule of Investments, Consolidated Statement of Assets and Liabilities, Consolidated Statement of Operations, Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets and Consolidated Financial Highlights. At period end October 31, 2023, the Subsidiary’s net assets were \$125,600, or 11.59% of the Fund. All inter-company accounts and transactions have been eliminated in the consolidation of the Fund.

#### Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of increases and decreases in net assets from operations during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

#### Share Transactions

The net asset value (“NAV”) per share of the Fund is equal to the Fund’s total assets minus the Fund’s total liabilities divided by the total number of shares outstanding. The NAV that is published will be rounded to the nearest cent. The NAV is determined as of the close of trading (generally, 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on each day the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) is open for trading.

# Merk Stagflation ETF

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

October 31, 2023 (Unaudited) (Continued)

---

### Fair Value Measurement

In calculating the NAV, the Fund's exchange-traded equity securities will be valued at fair value, which will generally be determined using the last reported official closing or last trading price on the exchange or market on which the security is primarily traded at the time of valuation. Such valuations are typically categorized as Level 1 in the fair value hierarchy described below.

Securities listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc. are generally valued at the NASDAQ official closing price.

If market quotations are not readily available, or if it is determined that a quotation of a security does not represent fair value, then the security is valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the Adviser using procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Trust (the "Board"). The valuation of the Fund's investments is performed in accordance with the principles found in Rule 2a-5 of the 1940 Act. The Board has designated the Adviser as the valuation designee of the Fund. The circumstances in which a security may be fair valued include, among others: the occurrence of events that are significant to a particular issuer, such as mergers, restructurings or defaults; the occurrence of events that are significant to an entire market, such as natural disasters in a particular region or government actions; trading restrictions on securities; thinly traded securities; and market events such as trading halts and early market closings. Due to the inherent uncertainty of valuations, fair values may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had an active market existed. Fair valuation could result in a different NAV than a NAV determined by using market quotations. Such valuations are typically categorized as Level 2 or Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy described below.

Money market funds are valued at NAV. If NAV is not readily available the securities will be valued at fair value.

An amortized cost method of valuation may be used with respect to debt obligations with sixty days or less remaining to maturity, unless the Adviser determines in good faith that such method does not represent fair value.

FASB ASC Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures ("ASC 820") defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and requires disclosure about fair value measurements. It also provides guidance on determining when there has been a significant decrease in the volume and level of activity for an asset or liability, when a transaction is not orderly, and how that information must be incorporated into fair value measurements. Under ASC 820, various inputs are used in determining the value of the Fund's investments. These inputs are summarized in the following hierarchy:

- Level 1 — Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Fund has the ability to access.
- Level 2 — Observable inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These inputs may include quoted prices for the identical instrument on an inactive market, prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, yield curves, default rates and similar data.
- Level 3 — Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability, to the extent relevant observable inputs are not available; representing the Fund's own assumptions about the assumptions a market participant would use in valuing the asset or liability and would be based on the best information available.

The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3).

The availability of observable inputs can vary from security to security and is affected by a wide variety of factors, including, for example, the type of security, whether the security is new and not yet established in the marketplace, the liquidity of markets, and other characteristics particular to the security. To the extent that valuation is based on models or inputs that are less observable or unobservable in the market, the determination of fair value requires more judgment. Accordingly, the degree of judgment exercised in determining fair value is greatest for instruments categorized in Level 3.

# Merk Stagflation ETF

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

October 31, 2023 (Unaudited) (Continued)

All other securities and investments for which market values are not readily available, including restricted securities, and those securities for which it is inappropriate to determine prices in accordance with the aforementioned procedures, are valued at fair value as determined in good faith under procedures adopted by the Board, although the actual calculations may be done by others. Factors considered in making this determination may include, but are not limited to, information obtained by contacting the issuer, analysts, or the appropriate stock exchange (for exchange-traded securities), analysis of the issuer's financial statements or other available documents and, if necessary, available information concerning other securities in similar circumstances.

The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities. The hierarchy classification of inputs used to value the Fund's investments at October 31, 2023, are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
<b>Investments - Assets:</b>				
Exchange Traded Products .....	\$ 1,083,829	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 1,083,829
Money Market Funds .....	255	—	—	255
Total Investments - Assets .....	\$ 1,084,084	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 1,084,084

### Security Transactions

Investment transactions are recorded as of the date that the securities are purchased or sold (trade date). Realized gains and losses from the sale or disposition of securities are calculated based on the specific identification basis.

### Investment Income

Dividend income is recognized on the ex-dividend date. Interest income is accrued daily.

### Tax Information, Dividends and Distributions to Shareholders and Uncertain Tax Positions

The Fund is treated as a separate entity for Federal income tax purposes. The Fund intends to qualify as a regulated investment company ("RIC") under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Internal Revenue Code"). To qualify and remain eligible for the special tax treatment accorded to RICs, the Fund must meet certain annual income and quarterly asset diversification requirements and must distribute annually at least 90% of the sum of (i) its investment company taxable income (which includes dividends, interest and net short-term capital gains) and (ii) certain net tax-exempt income, if any. If so qualified, the Fund will not be subject to Federal income tax.

Distributions to shareholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. The Fund generally pays out dividends from net investment income, if any, quarterly, and distributes its net capital gains, if any, to shareholders at least annually. The Fund may also pay a special distribution at the end of the calendar year to comply with Federal tax requirements. The amount of dividends and distributions from net investment income and net realized capital gains are determined in accordance with Federal income tax regulations, which may differ from U.S. GAAP. These "book/tax" differences are either considered temporary or permanent in nature. To the extent these differences are permanent in nature, such amounts are reclassified within the components of net assets based on their Federal tax basis treatment; temporary differences do not require reclassification. Dividends and distributions which exceed earnings and profit for tax purposes are reported as a tax return of capital.

Management evaluates the Fund's tax positions to determine if the tax positions taken meet the minimum recognition threshold in connection with accounting for uncertainties in income tax positions taken or expected to be taken for the purposes of measuring and recognizing tax liabilities in the financial statements. Recognition of tax benefits of an uncertain tax position is required only when the position is "more likely than not" to be sustained assuming examination by taxing authorities. Interest and penalties related to income taxes would be recorded as income tax expense. The Fund's Federal income tax returns are subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") for a period of three fiscal years after they are filed. State and local tax returns may be subject to examination for an additional fiscal year depending on the jurisdiction. As of April 30, 2023, the Fund's fiscal year end, the Fund had no material uncertain tax positions and did not have a liability for any unrecognized

# **Merk Stagflation ETF**

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

October 31, 2023 (Unaudited) (Continued)

---

tax benefits. As of April 30, 2023, the Fund's fiscal year end, the Fund had no examination in progress and management is not aware of any tax positions for which it is reasonably possible that the amounts of unrecognized tax benefits will significantly change in the next twelve months.

The Fund recognized no interest or penalties related to uncertain tax benefits in the 2023 fiscal year. At April 30, 2023, the Fund's fiscal period end, the tax periods since the commencement of operations are open to examination in the Fund's major tax jurisdictions.

### **Indemnification**

In the normal course of business, the Fund expects to enter into contracts that contain a variety of representations and warranties and which provide general indemnifications. The Fund's maximum exposure under these anticipated arrangements is unknown, as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Fund that have not yet occurred. However, based on experience, the Fund expects the risk of loss to be remote.

### **Commodities**

The Fund will invest indirectly, via the Subsidiary, in commodities, such as gold, which are exchange traded vehicles subject to regulation by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. The commodities which underlie commodity instruments may be subject to additional economic and noneconomic variables, such as drought, floods, weather, livestock disease, embargoes, tariffs, and international economic, political and regulatory developments. These factors may have a larger impact on commodity prices and commodity-linked instruments than on traditional securities. Certain commodities are also subject to limited pricing flexibility because of supply and demand factors. Others are subject to broad price fluctuations as a result of the volatility of the prices for certain raw materials and the instability of supplies of other materials. These additional variables may create additional investment risks which subject the Fund's investments to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities. Also, unlike the financial instruments markets, in the commodity instruments markets there are costs of physical storage associated with purchasing the underlying commodity. The price of the commodity instruments contract will reflect the storage costs of purchasing the physical commodity, including the time value of money invested in the physical commodity. To the extent that the storage costs for an underlying commodity change while the Fund is invested in instruments on that commodity, the value of the commodity instrument may change proportionately.

The Fund may be sensitive to changes in the price of gold. Competitive pressures may have a significant effect on the financial condition of companies in such industry. Also, such companies are highly dependent on the price of certain precious metals. These prices may fluctuate substantially over short periods of time, so the Fund's share price may be more volatile than other types of investments. The price of gold rises and falls in response to many factors, including: economic cycles; changes in inflation or expectations about inflation in various countries; interest rates; currency fluctuations; metal sales by governments, central banks, or international agencies; investment speculation; resource availability; fluctuations in industrial and commercial supply and demand; government regulation of the metals and materials industries; and government prohibitions or restrictions on the private ownership of certain precious and rare metals.

## **3. INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND OTHER AGREEMENTS**

### **Investment Advisory Agreement**

The Trust has entered into an Investment Advisory Agreement (the "Advisory Agreement") with the Adviser. Under the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser provides a continuous investment program for the Fund's assets in accordance with its investment objectives, policies and limitations, and oversees the day-to-day operations of the Fund subject to the supervision of the Board, including the Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the Trust as defined in the 1940 Act.

Pursuant to the Advisory Agreements between the Trust, on behalf of the Fund and Subsidiary, and the Adviser, the Fund and Subsidiary pay a unified management fee to the Adviser, which is calculated daily and paid monthly, at an annual rate of 0.40% of the Fund's and Subsidiary's average daily net assets. The Adviser has agreed to pay all expenses of the Fund and Subsidiary except the fees paid to the Adviser under the Advisory Agreements, interest charges on any borrowings, dividends

# **Merk Stagflation ETF**

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

October 31, 2023 (Unaudited) (Continued)

---

and other expenses on securities sold short, taxes, brokerage commissions and other expenses incurred in placing orders for the purchase and sale of securities and other investment instruments, acquired fund fees and expenses, accrued deferred tax liability, extraordinary expenses, and distribution (12b-1) fees and expenses (if any).

### **Fee Waiver Agreement**

The Adviser contractually agreed to waive the unitary management fee it receives from the Fund in an amount equal to the management fee of 0.40% paid by the Subsidiary. The waiver will remain in effect for a period of one year from the effective date of the Fund's prospectus, and therefore from year to year for successive one-year periods unless terminated sooner. The agreement may be terminated at any time, and without payment of any penalty, by the Board of Trustees of the Trust, on behalf of the Fund, upon 60 days' written notice to the Adviser. The Adviser also contractually agreed through August 31, 2024 to waive 0.10% of the fee it receives as sponsor to OUNZ in connection with the Subsidiary's investment in OUNZ. The Adviser waived \$310 during the period ended October 31, 2023. Pursuant to the Fee Waiver Agreement, waived fees are not subject to recoupment by the Adviser.

### **Distribution Agreement and 12b-1 Plan**

Forside Fund Services, LLC (the "Distributor"), serves as the Fund's distributor pursuant to a Distribution Services Agreement. The Distributor receives compensation for the statutory underwriting services it provides to the Fund. The Distributor enters into agreements with certain broker-dealers and others that will allow those parties to be "Authorized Participants" and to subscribe for and redeem shares of the Fund. The Distributor will not distribute shares in less than whole Creation Units and does not maintain a secondary market in shares.

The Board has adopted a Distribution and Service Plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act ("Rule 12b-1 Plan"). In accordance with the Rule 12b-1 Plan, the Fund is authorized to pay an amount up to 0.25% of the Fund's average daily net assets each year for certain distribution-related activities. As authorized by the Board, no Rule 12b-1 fees are currently paid by the Fund and there are no plans to impose these fees. However, in the event Rule 12b-1 fees are charged in the future, they will be paid out of the Fund's assets. The Adviser and its affiliates may, out of their own resources, pay amounts to third parties for distribution or marketing services on behalf of the Fund.

### **Administrator, Custodian and Transfer Agent**

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services ("Fund Services" or "Administrator") serves as administrator, transfer agent and fund accountant of the Fund pursuant to a Fund Servicing Agreement. U.S. Bank N.A. (the "Custodian"), an affiliate of Fund Services, serves as the Fund's custodian pursuant to a Custody Agreement. Under the terms of these agreements, the Adviser pays the Fund's administrative, custody and transfer agency fees.

A Trustee and all officers of the Trust are affiliated with the Administrator and the Custodian.

## **4. CREATION AND REDEMPTION TRANSACTIONS**

Shares of the Fund are listed and traded on the NYSE Arca, Inc. (the "Exchange"). The Fund issues and redeems shares on a continuous basis at NAV only in large blocks of shares called "Creation Units." Creation Units are to be issued and redeemed principally in kind for a basket of securities and a balancing cash amount. Shares generally will trade in the secondary market in amounts less than a Creation Unit at market prices that change throughout the day. Market prices for the shares may be different from their NAV. The NAV is determined as of the close of trading (generally, 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on each day the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") is open for trading. The NAV of the shares of the Fund will be equal to the Fund's total assets minus the Fund's total liabilities divided by the total number of shares outstanding. The NAV that is published will be rounded to the nearest cent; however, for purposes of determining the price of Creation Units, the NAV will be calculated to four decimal places.

# Merk Stagflation ETF

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

October 31, 2023 (Unaudited) (Continued)

### Creation Unit Transaction Fee

Authorized Participants may be required to pay to the Custodian a fixed transaction fee (the “Creation Transaction Fee”) in connection with the issuance or redemption of Creation Units. The standard Creation Transaction Fee will be the same regardless of the number of Creation Units purchased by an investor on the applicable business day. The Creation Transaction Fee charged by the Fund for each creation order is \$300.

An additional variable fee of up to a maximum of 2% of the value of the Creation Units subject to the transaction may be imposed for (1) creations effected outside the Clearing Process and (2) creations made in an all-cash amount (to offset the Trust’s brokerage and other transaction costs associated with using cash to purchase the requisite Deposit Securities). Investors are responsible for the costs of transferring the securities constituting the Deposit Securities to the account of the Trust. The Fund may determine to not charge a variable fee on certain orders when the Adviser has determined that doing so is in the best interests of Fund shareholders. Variable fees, if any, received by the Fund are displayed in the Capital Share Transactions section on the Statement of Changes in Net Assets.

Only “Authorized Participants” may purchase or redeem shares directly from the Fund. An Authorized Participant is either (i) a broker-dealer or other participant in the clearing process through the Continuous Net Settlement System of National Securities Clearing Corporation or (ii) a DTC participant and, in each case, must have executed a Participant Agreement with the Distributor. Most retail investors will not qualify as Authorized Participants or have the resources to buy and sell whole Creation Units. Therefore, they will be unable to purchase or redeem the shares directly from the Fund. Rather, most retail investors will purchase shares in the secondary market with the assistance of a broker and will be subject to customary brokerage commissions or fees. Securities received or delivered in connection with in-kind creations and redemptions are valued as of the close of business on the effective date of the creation or redemption.

A Creation Unit will generally not be issued until the transfer of good title of the deposit securities to the Fund and the payment of any cash amounts have been completed. To the extent contemplated by the applicable participant agreement, Creation Units of the Fund will be issued to such authorized participant notwithstanding the fact that the Fund’s deposits have not been received in part or in whole, in reliance on the undertaking of the authorized participant to deliver the missing deposit securities as soon as possible. If the Fund or its agents do not receive all of the deposit securities, or the required cash amounts, by such time, then the order may be deemed rejected and the authorized participant shall be liable to the Fund for losses, if any.

### 5. FEDERAL INCOME TAX

The tax character of distributions paid was as follows:

	Ordinary Income <sup>(1)</sup>	Long-Term Capital Gain
Period ended October 31, 2023 .....	\$ 13,000	\$ —
Period ended April 30, 2023 .....	70,125	—

<sup>(1)</sup> Ordinary income includes short-term capital gains.



# Merk Stagflation ETF

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

October 31, 2023 (Unaudited) (Continued)

At April 30, 2023, the Fund's most recent fiscal period end, the components of distributable earnings (accumulated losses) and cost of investments on a tax basis, including the adjustments for financial reporting purposes as of the most recently completed Federal income tax reporting year, were as follows:

Federal Tax Cost of Investments .....	\$ 1,393,613
Gross Tax Unrealized Appreciation .....	\$ 74,955
Gross Tax Unrealized Depreciation .....	(108,957)
Net Tax Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) .....	(34,002)
Undistributed Ordinary Income .....	—
Other Accumulated Gain (Loss) .....	(90,620)
Distributable Earnings/Accumulated Losses .....	\$ (124,622)

The difference between book-basis and tax-basis unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) is attributable primarily to the tax deferral of losses on wash sales and partnership basis adjustments. Under current tax law, net capital losses realized after October 31 and net ordinary losses incurred after December 31 may be deferred and treated as occurring on the first day of the following fiscal year. The Fund's carryforward losses and post-October losses are determined only at the end of each fiscal year.

The Fund did not defer any late year losses for the fiscal period ended April 30, 2023. At April 30, 2023, the Fund's most recent fiscal period end, the Fund had short-term capital losses of \$54,540 and long-term capital losses of \$36,080 remaining which will be carried forward indefinitely to offset future realized capital gains.

### 6. INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS

During the period ended October 31, 2023, the Fund realized net capital gains and losses resulting from in-kind redemptions, in which shareholders exchanged Fund shares for securities held by the Fund rather than for cash. Because such gains are not taxable to the Fund, and are not distributed to shareholders, they have been reclassified from distributable earnings (accumulated losses) to paid in-capital. The amount of realized gains and losses from in-kind redemptions included in realized gain/(loss) on investments in the Consolidated Statement of Operations is as follows:

	Realized Gains	Realized Losses
Merk Stagflation ETF .....	\$ —	\$ (8,452)

Purchases and sales of investments (excluding short-term investments), creations in-kind and redemptions in-kind for the period ended October 31, 2023, were as follows:

	Purchases	Sales	Creations In-Kind	Redemptions In-Kind
Merk Stagflation ETF .....	\$ 297,493	\$ 341,127	\$ —	\$ 196,874

### 7. PRINCIPAL RISKS

As with all ETFs, shareholders of the Fund are subject to the risk that their investment could lose money. The Fund is subject to the principal risks, any of which may adversely affect the Fund's NAV, trading price, yield, total return and ability to meet its investment objective.

A complete description of principal risks is included in the Fund's prospectus under the heading "Principal Investment Risks".

# Merk Stagflation ETF

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

October 31, 2023 (Unaudited) (Continued)

### 8. INVESTMENTS IN AFFILIATES

The Fund owned the following company during the period ended October 31, 2023. OUNZ is deemed to be an affiliate of the Fund as defined by the 1940 Act as of the period ended October 31, 2023. Transactions during the period in this security was as follows:

Security Name	Value at April 30, 2023	Purchases	Sales	Realized Gain (Loss) <sup>(1)</sup>	Change in Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)	Dividend Income	Value at October 31, 2023	Ending Shares
OUNZ . . . . .	\$ 166,078	\$ 52,902	\$ (92,206)	\$ 4,775	\$ (5,921)	\$ —	\$ 125,628	6,538

### 9. OTHER REGULATORY MATTERS

In October 2022, the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) adopted a final rule relating to Tailored Shareholder Reports for Mutual Funds and Exchange-Traded Funds; Fee Information in Investment Company Advertisements. The rule and form amendments will, among other things, require the Fund to transmit concise and visually engaging shareholder reports that highlight key information. The amendments will require that funds tag information in a structured data format and that certain more in-depth information be made available online and available for delivery free of charge to investors on request. The amendments became effective January 24, 2023. There is an 18-month transition period after the effective date of the amendment.

### 10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

On December 27, 2023, the Fund will liquidate according to the Plan of Liquidation.

Other than as disclosed, there were no other subsequent events requiring recognition or disclosure through the date the financial statements were issued.

# **Merk Stagflation ETF**

## **Supplemental Information**

(Unaudited)

---

Investors should consider the investment objective and policies, risk considerations, charges and ongoing expenses of an investment carefully before investing. The prospectus contains this and other information relevant to an investment in the Fund. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing. A copy of the prospectus for the Fund may be obtained without charge by writing to the Fund, c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services, P.O. Box 701, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-0701 or by calling 1-866-271-0093, or by visiting the Fund's website at [www.merkfunds.com](http://www.merkfunds.com).

### **QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO HOLDING INFORMATION**

The Fund files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings for its first and third fiscal quarters with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on Part F of Form N-PORT. The Fund's Part F of Form N-PORT is available without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free at 1-866-271-0093. Furthermore, you may obtain the Part F of Form N-PORT on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

### **PROXY VOTING INFORMATION**

The Fund is required to file a Form N-PX, with the Fund's complete proxy voting record for the 12 months ended June 30, no later than August 31 of each year. The Fund's proxy voting record will be available without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free 1-866-271-0093 and on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

### **FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF PREMIUMS AND DISCOUNTS**

Information regarding how often shares of the Fund trade on an exchange at a price above (i.e., at a premium) or below (i.e., at a discount) the NAV of the Fund is available without charge, on the Fund's website at [www.merkfunds.com](http://www.merkfunds.com).

### **TAX INFORMATION**

For the fiscal period ended April 30, 2023, certain dividends paid by the Fund may be subject to a maximum tax rate of 23.8%, as provided for by the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003. The percentage of dividends declared from ordinary income designated as qualified dividend income was 0.00%.

For corporate shareholders, the percent of ordinary income distributions qualifying for the corporate dividends received deduction for the fiscal period ended April 30, 2023, was 0.00%.

The percentage of taxable ordinary income distributions that are designated as short-term capital gain distributions under Internal Revenue Code Section 871(k)(2)(C) for the Fund was 0.00%.

**Investment Adviser:**

Merk Investments LLC  
1150 Chestnut Street  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

**Legal Counsel:**

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP  
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

**Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm:**

Cohen & Company, Ltd.  
1350 Euclid Avenue, Suite 800  
Cleveland, OH 44115

**Distributor:**

Foreside Fund Services, LLC  
Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100  
Portland, ME 04101

**Administrator, Fund Accountant & Transfer Agent:**

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC  
d/b/a U.S. Bank Global Fund Services  
615 E. Michigan St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

**Custodian:**

U.S. Bank N.A.  
1555 North RiverCenter Drive, Suite 302  
Milwaukee, WI 53212

This information must be preceded or accompanied by a current prospectus for the Fund.