

INTRODUCING THE NEW WISDOMTREE ENHANCED COMMODITY STRATEGY FUND

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Commodity strategies have significantly underperformed U.S. stocks and [bonds](#) over the last decade. But as markets look past the immediate effects of COVID-19, many commodity prices are rebounding. Calls for higher [inflation](#) on the re-opening of the market are coming from many strategists, including Wharton Professor Jeremy Siegel.

WisdomTree is excited to introduce an updated approach to broad-based commodity investing.

WisdomTree Enhanced Commodity Strategy Fund's (GCC) New Dynamic Maturity Selection

We recently restructured the WisdomTree Continuous Commodity Index Fund into the WisdomTree Enhanced Commodity Strategy Fund (GCC), with a focus on providing broad exposure to a [diversified](#) basket of commodities.

Key new Fund details:

- A new, lower [expense ratio](#) of 55 [basis points](#)
- A [40-act](#) investment structure, with no [K-1](#)

First-generation commodity indexes such as the [Bloomberg Commodity Index \(BCOM\)](#) often ignore an important element in constructing commodity strategies: the cost of maintaining those positions.

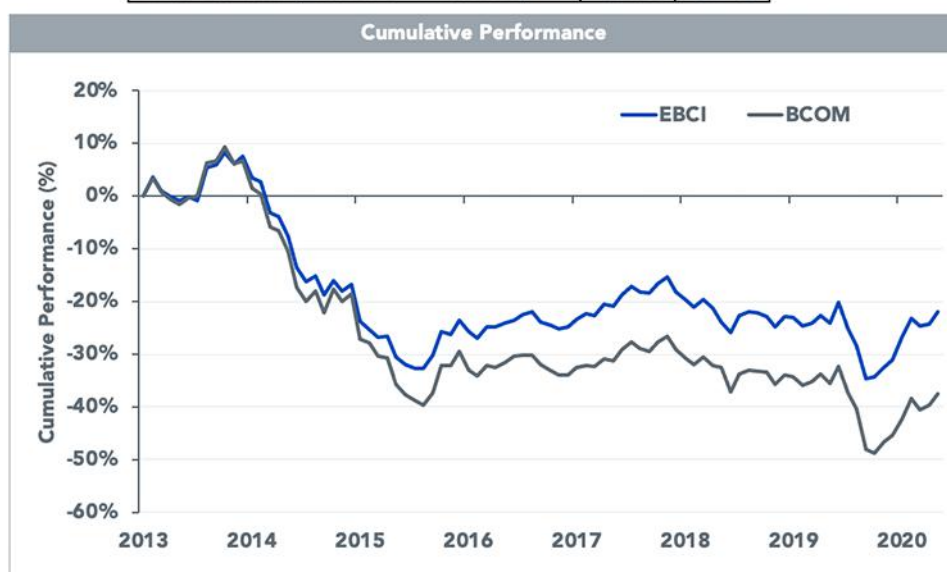
High [carry costs](#) can arise when a strategy invests in a single point on the [futures curve](#). When a futures curve is in [contango](#) (upward sloping prices over longer maturities), maintaining positions in the front-end futures contracts¹, where the curve is usually steeper, can significantly erode returns.²

Our enhanced roll strategy³ seeks to boost returns by dynamically selecting [maturities](#) in an effort to maximize carry, enhance return and reduce [volatility](#) compared to more standard, front-month commodity strategies.

The chart below illustrates the impact carry-agnostic strategies can have on returns compared to strategies that use a more dynamic, carry-based rolling strategy.

Over the last 7 years, BCOM has delivered -6.14% total returns. An index of the same commodities, but utilizing a dynamic and optimized roll strategy, mitigated the drag from rolling these positions and generated a return of -3.28% per year.⁴

	EBCI	BCOM
Annualized Return (7/30/2013 - 11/30/2020)	-3.28%	-6.14%



Source: WisdomTree, Bloomberg. From 7/30/2013 to 11/30/2020. EBCI refers to the Optimized Roll Commodity Total Return Index (EBCIWTT), BCOM refers to the Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index (BCOMTR). Past performance is not indicative of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Broader and More Diversified Exposure

In addition to updating GCC's roll methodology, we also updated and broadened its exposure to a more diversified basket of 25 commodities via futures contracts.

GCC Target Weights		
Contract	Code	Weight
Energy		20.0%
Brent Crude Oil	CO	7.0%
WTI Crude Oil	CL	7.0%
Low Sulphur Gas Oi	QS	2.0%
RBOB Gasoline	XB	2.0%
ULS Diesel	HO	2.0%
Grains (Agriculture)		18.0%
Corn	C	5.0%
Soybeans	S	5.0%
Soybean Meal	SM	3.0%
Wheat	W	2.0%
Soybean Oil	BO	1.5%
HRW Wheat	KW	1.5%
Softs (Agriculture)		7.0%
Sugar	SB	2.0%
Coffee	KC	2.0%
Cocoa	CC	2.0%
Cotton	CT	1.0%
Livestock (Agriculture)		5.0%
Live Cattle	LC	2.5%
Lean Hogs	LH	1.5%
Feeder Cattle	FC	1.0%
Precious Metals		28.0%
Gold	GC	18.0%
Silver	SI	8.0%
Platinum	PL	2.0%
Industrial Metals		22.0%
Copper	LP	8.5%
Aluminum	LA	6.0%
Zinc	LX	4.0%
Nickel	LN	3.5%

Source: WisdomTree. 2020 Rebalance Target Weights to be implemented on 12/21/2020. Target Weights represent the contract weights that become effective as we rebalance the strategy, actual weights on any business day may vary from target weights due to market price fluctuations.

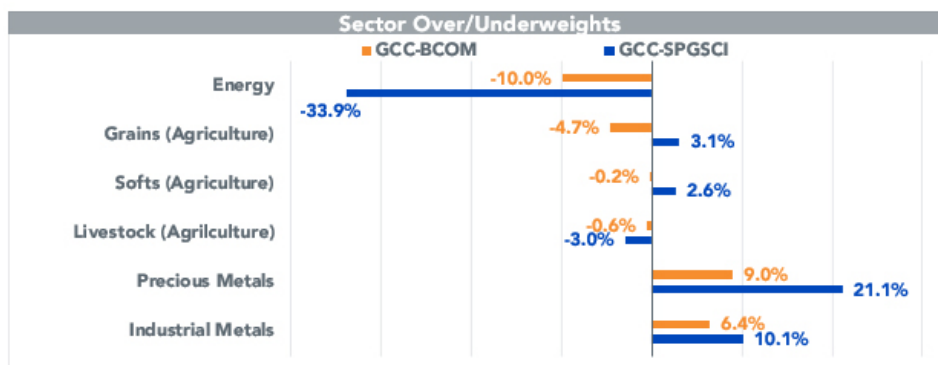
Of the 28 commodities reviewed for inclusion, we selected a comprehensive exposure across four major sectors: Energy, Agriculture (which includes Grains, Softs⁵ and Livestock), Precious Metals and Industrial Metals. The portfolio is not only broad but also diversified. [Correlations](#) among the four sectors are low (below 0.5), which reduces total portfolio risk.

Correlation of Sectors Proxied by SPGSCI Subindexes (12/31/04 - 11/30/20)						
	Precious Metals	Energy	Agriculture			Industrial Metals
			Grains	Softs	Livestock	
Precious Metals						
Energy	0.23					
Grains	0.29	0.21				
Softs	0.28	0.35	0.43			
Livestock	-0.03	0.25	-0.05	-0.01		
Industrial Metals	0.37	0.50	0.30	0.41	0.12	

Sources: WisdomTree, Bloomberg, as of 11/30/20. You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

Sector Allocations Focus on Hedging Inflation and Investing in Emerging Technologies

Comparing GCC with the well-established commodity indexes—[S&P GSCI Index \(SPGSCI\)](#) and BCOM—it is evident that our approach provides more weight to the Precious Metals and Industrial Metals sectors while underweighting the Energy sector.



Source: WisdomTree. You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. 2020 Rebalance Target Weights to be implemented on 12/21/2020. Target Weights represents the contract weights that become effective as we rebalance the strategy, actual weights on any business day may vary from weights due to market price fluctuations.

Overweight in the Precious Metals Sector

There are three reasons behind our decision to overweight the Precious Metals sector: to help combat inflation, to hedge against U.S. dollar weakness and to help limit adverse drawdowns in a portfolio.

Precious metals historically have an inverse relationship to the U.S. dollar. Since 1996, the correlation of gold and silver with USD has been negative. Currently, it is around -0.5.⁶ With continuing low interest rates, loose [monetary policy](#) and rising [deficits](#), we believe the U.S. dollar could weaken further.

Frequently referred to as “[safe-haven](#) assets,” precious metals can reduce adverse portfolio drawdowns during periods of market uncertainty. Over the last 15 years, when the [S&P 500 Index](#) suffered extreme drawdowns, precious metals outperformed equities and even generated positive returns in some instances as investors sought safe havens.

Performance During Equity Drawdowns			
Start	End	Entity	Drawdown
2007-10-31	2009-02-27	S&P 500 Index	-50.95%
		Bloomberg Barclays US	6.08%
		Agg Index	7.21%
		Precious Metals	-13.52%
2018-09-28	2018-12-31	S&P 500 Index	1.64%
		Bloomberg Barclays US	6.21%
		Agg Index	-19.59%
		Precious Metals	3.15%
2019-12-31	2020-03-31	S&P 500 Index	-5.47%
		Bloomberg Barclays US	
		Agg Index	

Sources: WisdomTree, Bloomberg, as of 11/30/20. Drawdown periods are selected from the S&P 500 Index's three largest drawdowns from 12/31/04 to 11/30/20. Precious Metals performance is proxied by a blended portfolio of gold, silver and platinum based on our rescaled target weights. Past performance is not indicative of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index. The assets listed above are not guaranteed to maintain their values during periods of market volatility. Furthermore, what constitutes a safe-haven changes over time. Past performance is not indicative of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Overweight in the Industrial Metals Sector

Industrial metals such as copper and aluminum are key components in the global shift toward electric vehicles and decarbonization because of their light weight, conductivity and ductility. These industrial metals are becoming more widely used in electronic devices, electricity delivery and storage, transportation (including electric vehicles), communication and manufacturing. Investing in these industrial metals is a thematic approach to capturing the rapid growth potential of emerging technologies and progress towards a more environmentally friendly world.

Underweight in the Energy Sector

In contrast to our emphasis on clean and sustainable energy, traditional energy sources such as crude oil and natural gas may continue to languish as consumers seek out cleaner alternatives. The vulnerability of the Energy complex was particularly pronounced in 2020 as sharply decreased demand, combined with a lack of storage capacity, led to negative crude oil prices for the first time in history.

Most importantly, the Energy sector has suffered from carry cost in the past. In particular, natural gas has historically suffered so much from carry cost that a position in this commodity would have lost basically all its value over the past 20 years.

Conclusion

As we emerge from lockdowns later in 2021, the macroeconomic backdrop could bring higher inflation. We believe it may be a good time for investors to investigate commodities as hedges to traditional portfolios given very low interest rates and elevated equity [valuations](#).

GCC provides broad exposure across all commodity sectors with a focus on inflation hedges and future-oriented technologies. It moves away from the fixed rolling mechanism, seeking to maximize carry and enhance returns while lowering volatility.

¹The futures curve is the graphical representation of the relationship between the price of futures contracts and the time to maturity of the contracts. The front-end futures contracts refer to futures contracts that have shorter maturities.

²Futures prices converge toward spot prices as they get closer to maturity. For contangoed commodities, this translates in a negative carry return. Contango tends to be more pronounced at the front of the curve, which implies that carry erodes return faster at the front.

³Rolling futures contracts refers to extending the expiration or maturity of a position forward by closing the initial contract and opening a new longer-term contract for the same underlying asset at the then-current market price.

⁴Returns are annualized from 7/30/2013 to 11/30/2020.

⁵"Softs" refers to commodities that are grown rather than extracted or mined.

⁶"Correlation" here refers to the five-year trailing correlation vs. USD. Data as of 11/30/20.

Important Risks Related to this Article

"Correlation" here refers to There are risks associated with investing, including the possible loss of principal. An investment in this Fund is speculative, involves a substantial degree of risk and should not constitute an investor's entire portfolio. One of the risks associated with the Fund is the complexity of the different factors that contribute to the Fund's performance. These factors include use of commodity futures contracts. Derivatives can be volatile and may be less liquid than other securities and more sensitive to the effects of varied economic conditions. The value of the shares of the Fund relate directly to the value of the futures contracts and other assets held by the Fund and any fluctuation in the value of these assets could adversely affect an investment in the Fund's shares.

Commodities and futures are generally volatile and are not suitable for all investors. Investments in commodities may be affected by overall market movements, changes in interest rates and other factors such as weather, disease, embargoes and international economic and political developments.
the five-year trailing correlation vs. USD. Data as of 11/30/20.

For standardized performance and the most recent month-end performance click [here](#) NOTE, this material is intended for electronic use only. Individuals who intend to print and physically deliver to an investor must print the monthly performance report to accompany this blog.

For more investing insights, check out our [Economic & Market Outlook](#)

View the online version of this article [here](#).

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You cannot invest directly in an index.

DEFINITIONS

U.S. Treasury Bond : a debt security issued by the United States government.

Inflation : Characterized by rising price levels.

Diversification : A risk management strategy that mixes a wide variety of investments within a portfolio.

Expense ratio : The annual fee that all funds or exchange-traded funds charge their shareholders

Basis point : 1/100th of 1 percent.

The Investment Company Act of 1940 : An act of Congress which regulates the organization of investment companies and the activities they engage in, and sets standards for the investment company industry.

K-1 : A tax document used to report the incomes, losses and dividends of a person's interest in an entity.

Bloomberg Commodity Index Total Return : formerly known as Dow Jones-UBS Commodity Index Total Return (DJUBSTR), tracks a broadly diversified basket of commodity futures contracts.

Carry : The amount of return that accrues from investing in fixed income or currency forward contracts.

Commodity Future Curve : A futures lcurve is a curve made by connecting prices of futures contracts of the same underlying, but different expiration dates. Commodity future curve is based on commodity future contract prices.

Contango : A scenario when the futures price is above the spot price. .

Maturity : The amount of time until a loan is repaid.

Volatility : A measure of the dispersion of actual returns around a particular average level. .

Correlation : Statistical measure of how two sets of returns move in relation to each other. Correlation coefficients range from -1 to 1. A correlation of 1 means the two subjects of analysis move in lockstep with each other. A correlation of -1 means the two subjects of analysis have moved in exactly the opposite direction.

Monetary policy : Actions of a central bank or other regulatory committee that determine the size and rate of growth of the money supply, which in turn affects interest rates.

Deficit Finance : Instead of raising taxes, government borrows money to finance public expenditure.

Safe-haven : Characterized by being a potentially desirable focal point of investment flows during periods of increased volatility and market risk. Safe-haven is not synonymous with risk-free.

Valuation : Refers to metrics that relate financial statistics for equities to their price levels to determine if certain attributes, such as earnings or dividends, are cheap or expensive.