

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Review & Commentary

The Convergence Long/Short Equity ETF, (CLSE or the “fund”) returned 3.84% at NAV for the third quarter of 2024. The fund’s benchmark Russell 3000 Index was up 6.23% over the same three-month period. Year to date, CLSE meaningfully outperformed its Russell benchmark, up 30.44% versus 20.63%. During the twelve months ended September 30, 2024, CLSE was up 39.08% while the Russell 3000 Index benchmark was up 35.19%. During this twelve-month period the strategy had an average net long exposure of 66.8% of total invested assets, with long positions averaging 115.6% while short positions averaged 48.7%.

The stock market’s returns during the first six months of 2024 were primarily driven by investor preference for the better growth prospects of firms with strong fundamentals and changing expectations for a decrease in interest rates. While in some part a continuation of the unwind of the “unfundamental” rally of 2020, the results stand in contrast to some of the irrationality that built up during the massive monetary and fiscal influences from the COVID period. Although we still see investor preference in the resurgence of fundamentals, it seems risks and worries for the next few months have become top of mind for investors recently. Specifically around mid-year, investors started to be concerned with the size and timing of interest rate moves and the upcoming presidential election. Any fears were augmented by the Yen carry trade unwind and a rapid drop in bond yields during the start of the quarter (of which both have since normalized). These risks caused the market to bounce a few times during the quarter, although the stock market ended the quarter with a strong move up.

As our longer-term investors know, our process looks for signals specific to each industry group to assist us in choosing investments. In listless market environments the fund’s portfolio can seem to simply mark time looking for direction in fundamental signals. The flatter second quarter gave way to more volatility when Jerome Powell announced the Fed’s stronger than expected 0.5% rate cut. With a more accommodative Federal Reserve stance, we see some events in the near term providing the market support by removing uncertainty, such as the presidential election result and expectations for legislative gridlock. If this support were potentially paired with huge amounts of idle cash coming back into the stock market, we become quite bullish for fundamentally focused investors that employ a portfolio of long and short positions, like the Convergence Long/Short Equity ETF.

### OVERALL MORNINGSTAR RATING™



As of 09/30/2024, 145 funds in the Long/Short Equity category. The Overall Morningstar Rating is based on risk adjusted gross returns, derived from a weighted average of the three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar metrics.

### Performance

Fund	1-Year	5-Year	10-Year
CLSE @ Market Price	39.26%	12.91%	10.65%
CLSE @ NAV	39.08%	12.89%	10.64%
Russell 3000 Index	35.19%	15.26%	12.83%

As of 09/30/2024

### Risk Statistics

Fund/Index	Beta	Std Dev	Return	Sharpe
CLSE @ NAV	0.54	12.30%	15.67%	0.98
Russell 3000 Index	1.00	17.80%	10.29%	0.37

Trailing 3-years. Monthly Data. As of 09/30/2024

**Performance data quoted represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor’s shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. For the most recent month-end performance, please call 877-677-9414 or visit the Fund’s website at [investcip.com/etfstrategies.html](http://investcip.com/etfstrategies.html).**

### Performance Discussion

Over the past twelve months, the fund’s long portfolio outperformed the short portfolio in 9 of 12 months, generating a positive long/short “spread”. For YTD 2024, the longs have beaten the shorts in 8 of 9 months. Thanks in part to these strong return spreads, the fund was able to deliver solid returns for its investors as mentioned above.

In the trailing twelve months, CLSE benefited from investments on both the long and short sides of the portfolio. The long portfolio outperformed the fund’s benchmark over the period. Additionally, our short portfolio holdings added to performance by underperforming (good for shorts) the Russell 3000 Index. Looking at the 3-month and YTD periods, we had positive spreads (longs > shorts) in both periods. So far in 2024, both longs and shorts added to performance. For the most recent quarter, longs trailed the benchmark while short positions trailed the benchmark (good for shorts).

## Signal Attribution

To guide portfolio construction, Convergence builds and maintains our own suite of factors that we use as signals of what the market is rewarding and punishing. More generally, these signals are robust enough to drive decision making regarding stock selection for all the portfolios managed for clients. Please note that the following attribution commentary compares the fund's performance to a particular signals' performance. These are computed relative to the fund's selection universe, defined as an equally weighted composite of the top half of the Russell 3000 Index when stocks are ranked by market capitalization.

For the long holdings during the third quarter, our Size, Price Momentum, and Accelerated Growth signal composites were the largest contributors to our relative returns. The largest detractors from the long side of the portfolio were our Profitability, Earnings Momentum, and Traditional Value composites. Interestingly, Size and Price Momentum were also strong contributors in the trailing twelve months. The notable overweights to the Price Momentum and Size signal composites, carried over from the second quarter, generated solid returns in the period. Additionally, the Accelerated Growth signal had a more modest relative weight but a very strong return.

Looking at the short portfolio during the quarter, there was positive contribution from the Price Momentum, Accruals (Quality) and Capital Discipline signals. The short signal composites that detracted the most were Earnings Risk, Price Reversal and Expected Growth. There is notable overlap when comparing the Contributors/Detractors over the past twelve months to the most recent quarter. Contributions from Price Momentum and Accruals have remained quite consistent, and the detraction from Earnings Risk and Price Reversal have persisted. These are summarized in the tables below.

3 month	Contributors	Detractors
<b>Long</b>	Size Price Momentum Accelerated Growth	Profitability Earning Momentum Traditional Value
<b>Short</b>	Price Momentum Accruals Capital Discipline	Earnings Risk Price Reversal Expected Growth

For Q3-2024, As of 09/30/2024, Source: Wilshire Analytics.

12 month	Contributors	Detractors
<b>Long</b>	Price Momentum Size Historic Growth	Relative Value Capital Discipline Risk
<b>Short</b>	Price Momentum Accruals Historic Growth	Earnings Risk Accelerated Growth Price Reversal

For Q3-2024, As of 09/30/2024, Source: Wilshire Analytics.

These findings lead us to believe that there has been considerable momentum among both winners AND losers. Specifically, massive cashflow generators that have been moving up in price continued to do so over the past 3- and 12-month periods. Conversely, companies that are burning cash or have paltry cashflow and have fallen in price continued to do so over the same periods. It also seems that investors have been more focused on sales and sales growth than on profitability and analyst's earnings forecasts.

Successful short sellers in these periods were betting on losers continuing to lose (negative price momentum), as opposed to hoping for recent "pops" to reverse (price reversal). Finally, these short sellers have not helped themselves if they were focusing on companies that have volatile quarterly earnings. This is shown by the fact that Earnings Risk has been our number one detractor in both the trailing 3- and 12-month periods.

## The Convergence Perspective

Convergence's proprietary fundamental ranking process is utilized with the aim of generating alpha (that is, outperformance) from both the long and short sides of the portfolio by selecting favorably ranked holdings. Shorting stocks provides the potential for an extra alpha source that is not available to long-only managers. We believe the combination of positions in both attractively ranked long and short holdings gives the opportunity for a diversified alpha source, which in turn would help to deliver strong risk-adjusted returns over the long run. The core tenants of providing competitive, long-term returns, while pursuing a below market level of volatility remain steadfast to our entire investment process.

Given current macro-economic conditions, including a more normalized regime of interest rate levels, we remain optimistic for stocks with superior fundamentals that see the market continuing to grind higher in the long term. We remain quite bullish for fundamentally focused investors that employ a portfolio of long and short positions, like the Convergence Long/Short Equity ETF.

**Disclosures:**

ETF investing involves risk. Principal loss is possible.

Prior to listing on February 22, 2022, the ETF operated as a mutual fund. The NAVs of the predecessor mutual fund are used for both NAV and market price performance from inception to listing. Performance includes reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. Returns for periods shorter than one year are not annualized. The market price return is calculated from closing prices as determined by the fund's listing exchange. If you trade your shares at another time, your return may differ. For ETFs, the market price return is calculated from closing prices as determined by the Fund's listing exchange. If you trade your shares at another time, your return may differ. For the period from inception date to listing date, the NAV of the Fund is used as a proxy for the market price to calculate returns.

Total Expense Ratio on the fund is applicable to investors is 1.55%, comprised of the Management Fee of 0.95%, and dividends and interest on short positions of 0.60%.

ETFs trade like stocks, fluctuate in market value and may trade either at a premium or discount to their net asset value. ETF shares trade at market price and are not individually redeemable with the issuing fund, other than in large share amounts called creation units. ETFs are subject to risk similar to those of stocks, including those regarding short-selling and margin account maintenance. Brokerage commissions and expenses will reduce returns. Certain fund investments may be subject to restrictions on resale, trade over-the-counter or in limited volume, or lack an active trading market. Illiquid securities may trade at a discount and may be subject to wide fluctuations in market value. The portfolio managers of an actively managed portfolio will apply investment techniques and risk analyses that may not have the desired result.

The Russell 3000 Index measures the performance of the 3,000 largest publicly traded US companies based on total market capitalization. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. Indices are not available for direct investment.

*The Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses must be considered carefully before investing. The summary prospectus and statutory prospectus contain this and other important information about the investment company, and may be obtained by calling 877-677-9414, or visiting [investcip.com/etfstrategies.html](http://investcip.com/etfstrategies.html). Read it carefully before investing.*

Not FDIC Insured | Not Bank Guaranteed | May Lose Value

The Fund may use derivatives which may involve risks different from, or greater than, those associated with more traditional investments. Short sales by the fund is subject to the risk of when the value of a security sold short may increase and because the market price of the security sold short could increase without limit, the fund could be subject in theory to unlimited loss. Fund holdings and sector allocations are subject to change. The Fund may lend securities from its portfolio to brokers, dealers, and financial institutions in order to increase the return on its portfolio, primarily through the receipt of borrowing fees and earnings on invested collateral. The Fund may invest in foreign companies, typically through the sale and purchase of American Depositary Receipts ('ADRs'). Exposures to foreign securities entail special risks, including political, diplomatic, economic, foreign market and trading risks. In addition, a Fund's investments in securities denominated in other currencies could decline due to changes in local currency relative to the value of the U.S. dollar, which may affect the Fund's returns.

Investments in midcap companies involve additional risk such as limited liquidity and greater volatility than larger capitalization companies. The Fund invests in foreign securities which involve greater volatility and political, economic and currency risks and differences in accounting methods. The Fund regularly makes short sales of securities, which involves unlimited risk including the possibility that losses may exceed the original amount invested. However, a mutual fund investor's risk is limited to one's amount of investment in a mutual fund.

Standard Deviation is a measure of price variability (risk). Alpha is an indication of how much an investment outperforms or underperforms on a risk-adjusted basis relative to its benchmark. Beta is a measure of price variability relative to the market. Sharpe Ratio is a measure of excess reward per unit of volatility.

Convergence Investment Partners is the advisor to the Convergence Long/Short Equity ETF, which is distributed by Foreside Fund Services, LLC. Convergence Investment Partners is not affiliated with Foreside Fund Services, LLC.

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