

## Global X Long-Term U.S. Treasury Premium Yield ETF (LPAY)

## **Market Overview**

The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) kept the Fed funds rate at its current range of 5.25% to 5.5% and continued to emphasize that a more dovish position will occur when it is confident that inflation is moving sustainably towards the Fed's 2% target.

Hotter-than-expected inflation data in April put pressure on markets, threatening the soft-landing narrative. In contrast with April, economic data released in May suggested that some progress is being made towards the Fed's goal of combatting inflation while the economy at large remains stable. Cooling inflation readings in both May and June were supported by easing labour markets and lower-than-anticipated GDP growth. This contributed to some of the dovish language in Fed Chair Jerome Powell's press conference in June, further driving equity markets upwards towards the end of the first half of 2024.

Markets currently price in 1.77 rate cuts for the remainder of the year but per the Fed's language, this may change depending on how price, labour, and spending data evolves towards the end of the year.

## **Quarter in Review**

During the second quarter of 2024, LPAY held the iShares 20+ Year Treasury Bond ETF (TLT), the Vanguard LT Treasury ETF and the Global X 0-3 Month U.S. T-Bill ETF (UBIL.U). The volatility in broad markets has contributed to the ETF's ability to generate sufficient yield as it manages the volatility of the underlying TLT position.

The combination of the call and put writing program places the ETFin a unique position to benefit from movements in either direction of the underlying by adjusting the put-call ratio based on market conditions. The strategy may underperform during sharp market moves, but may generally outperform in flat and or slow markets, particularly when there is high volatility due to the increased premiums that can be generated on the option writing program.

## **Outlook and Positioning**

For the remaining year, the covered call strategy is favourably positioned to potentially provide value from a yield, hedging and upside capture perspective in the current environment. Each month, call options are dynamically written on TLT. In the second quarter of the year, the fund wrote slightly out-of-the-money (OTM) options on the iShares 20+ Year Treasury Bond ETF, which yielded an average annual rate of 5.0%. The premiums generated from the option writing strategy have remained steady over the last 12 months and may remain at similar levels for the rest of the year.

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