

# US Small Cap ETF

DFAS

## PERFORMANCE As of March 31, 2025

	ANNUALIZED							
Returns (%)	Q1 2025	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	Since Inception December 15, 1998
US Small Cap ETF (NAV)	-7.97%	-3.12%	3.24%	16.82%	7.24%	10.07%	7.90%	8.91%
US Small Cap ETF (Market Price)	-7.99%	-3.18%	3.23%	16.81%	7.24%	10.06%	7.90%	8.91%
Russell 2000 Index	-9.48%	-4.01%	0.52%	13.27%	6.30%	8.98%	7.55%	7.88%

Performance data shown represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown. 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. To obtain the most current month-end performance data, visit [us.dimensional.com](https://us.dimensional.com). Performance includes reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. 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.

Prior to listing on June 14, 2021, 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. The portfolio's benchmark is the Russell 2000 Index. The following US Small Cap ETF after-tax returns are calculated using the assumed highest marginal tax rate for capital gains and ordinary income. Income from funds managed for tax efficiency may be subject to an alternative minimum tax and/or any applicable state and local taxes: **After Tax Pre-Liquidation** 1 Year: -3.39%, 5 Year: 16.41%, 10 Year: 6.59%; **After Tax Post-Liquidation** 1 Year: -1.70%, 5 Year: 13.60%, 10 Year: 5.69%.

## PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS Q1 2025

**The portfolio returned -8.0% for the quarter, leading the Russell 2000 Index by 1.5%.** The portfolio's exclusion of stocks with the lowest profitability and highest relative prices contributed to relative performance. Conversely, the portfolio's exclusion of REITs detracted from relative performance.

Equities were off to a challenging start in the first quarter of 2025, with the S&P 500 returning -4.3% and the so-called "Magnificent 7" trailing the market.<sup>1</sup> Weaker US returns contrasted with the country's recent stock market dominance, and the Russell 3000 lagged the MSCI All Country World ex USA IMI Index by 9.3%. A new administration in Washington commanded global investors' attention, and markets quickly reacted to ongoing threats of tariffs and retaliation. Energy stocks lead in the US while tech stocks like Nvidia and Tesla saw declines. US Inflation remained stubborn in January and February, and FOMC participants revised their 2025 target rate expectations higher. The US premium environment was mixed for the quarter with small caps underperforming large caps and high profitability stocks underperforming low profitability stocks, while value stocks outperformed their growth counterparts overall.

In the US, small cap growth stocks with the lowest profitability returned -19.2%, underperforming the index by over 9%. The portfolio held 8% less weight in these stocks, which contributed to relative performance. The portfolio's exclusion of small cap stocks with high asset growth also contributed to relative performance. Conversely, the portfolio's exclusion of REITs, which outperformed the index by over 7%, detracted from relative performance.

Market Returns by Relative Price and Profitability			Portfolio Weight Relative to Russell 2000 Index
Small 0-10%			
Small Caps Not Excluded	-7.5%		+15%
Small Caps Excluded 0-10%			
Growth Low Prof	-19.2%		-8%
REITs	2.9%		-6%

1. Magnificent 7 include Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia, Tesla. Named securities may be held in accounts managed by Dimensional.

Market Returns are computed from Russell 3000 Index published security weights and Dimensional computed security returns. Company size designations are based on total market capitalization in each country or region. Relative price (e.g. Value and Growth) designations are based on price-to-book ratios. Profitability ("Prof") designations are based on operating income before depreciation and amortization minus interest expense, scaled by book. Unless shown, underlying holdings in REITs and Utilities, identified by GICS code, and stocks without size, relative price, or profitability metrics, rights, warrants, cash, cash equivalents, ETFs, and bonds are excluded. Weights are based on month-end averages over the period.

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## PORTFOLIO STRUCTURE

Dimensional's US Small Cap ETF is designed to capture the returns associated with the small cap premium in the US by investing in the smallest 10% of stocks by market capitalization while also considering the impact of federal income taxes on returns. Within this universe, the portfolio is designed to target higher-expected-return securities by excluding stocks with both the highest relative prices and lowest profitability as well as stocks with high asset growth. Valuation theory says that stocks with such characteristics have lower expected returns than other small cap stocks. Consistent with valuation theory, empirical research shows that stocks with these characteristics have had particularly low average returns historically. Additionally, the portfolio excludes real estate investment trusts (REITs) from purchase to allow investors to customize their real estate exposure. The portfolio uses information in market prices every day to systematically pursue higher expected returns while managing risks and controlling costs.

## EQUITY MARKET OVERVIEW *US Market Returns (USD), Q1 2025*

	SIZE	RELATIVE PRICE		PROFITABILITY	
		VALUE	GROWTH	HIGH PROF	LOW PROF
Large	-5.3%	-1.4%	-9.1%	-6.0%	-4.7%
Small	-8.1%	-7.6%	-8.6%	-6.0%	-10.3%
	Small caps underperformed large caps	Value stocks outperformed growth stocks within both large and small caps		High profitability stocks underperformed low profitability stocks within large caps and outperformed within small caps	

### Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Market Returns are computed from Russell 3000 Index published security weights, Dimensional computed security returns and Dimensional classification of securities based on size, value, and profitability parameters. Within the US, Large Cap is defined as approximately the largest 90% of market capitalization in each country or region; Small Cap is approximately the smallest 10%. Within the non-US developed markets, Large Cap is defined as approximately the largest 87.5% of market capitalization in each country or region; Small Cap is approximately the smallest 12.5%. Within emerging markets, Large Cap is defined as approximately the largest 85% of market capitalization in each country or region; Small Cap is approximately the smallest 15%. Designations between value and growth are based on price to book ratios. Value is defined as the 50% of market cap with the lowest price to book ratios by size category and growth is the highest 50%. Profitability is measured as operating income before depreciation and amortization minus interest expense scaled by book. High profitability is defined as the 50% of market cap with the highest profitability by size category and low profitability is the lowest 50%. REITs and utilities, identified by GICS code, and stocks without size, relative price, or profitability metrics are excluded from this analysis. GICS was developed by and is the exclusive property of MSCI and S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global. Countries not in the Dimensional investable universe are excluded from the analysis. Indices are not available for direct investment. Their performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes.

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**Risks** include loss of principal and fluctuating value. Investment value will fluctuate, and shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than original cost. **Small and micro cap securities** are subject to greater volatility than those in other asset categories. **International and emerging markets** investing involves special risks, such as currency fluctuation and political instability. Investing in emerging markets may accentuate these risks. **Sector-specific investments** focus on a specific segment of the market, which can increase investment risks. **Sustainability funds** use environmental and social screens that may limit investment opportunities for the fund. **Diversification** neither assures a profit nor guarantees against loss in a declining market. **The fund prospectuses contain more information about investment risks.**

Any specific companies named are among the top 10 contributors or detractors to the fund's return relative to the stated index. They do not represent all of the fund's investments and may not be representative of the fund's current or future investments. References to specific company securities should not be construed as a recommendation or investment advice. A complete list of fund holdings and a list of the top 10 contributors and detractors is available on our website.