
World Financial Split Corp.
Annual Report 2018

Management Report of Fund Performance

This annual management report of fund performance contains the financial highlights for the year ended December 31, 2018 of World Financial Split Corp. (the “Fund”). The annual financial statements of the Fund are attached.

Copies of the Fund’s proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record and quarterly portfolio disclosure may be obtained by calling 1-800-725-7172 toll free, by writing to the Fund at Investor Relations, 121 King Street West, Suite 2600, P.O. Box 113, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 3T9, by email at info@strathbridge.com or by visiting our website at www.strathbridge.com. You can also request semi-annual or annual reports at no cost by using one of the above methods.

Investment Objectives and Strategies

The Fund’s investment objectives are to:

- (1) provide holders of Preferred shares with fixed cumulative preferential quarterly cash distributions in the amount of \$0.131250 per Preferred share representing a yield on the issue price of the Preferred shares of 5.25 percent per annum,
- (2) provide holders of Class A shares with regular quarterly cash distributions targeted to be 8.0 percent per annum, and
- (3) return the original issue price to holders of both Preferred shares and Class A shares at the time of redemption of such shares on the termination date.

The Fund suspended payment of distributions to holders of Class A shares effective December 2008 in accordance with terms of the prospectus which states: “No distribution will be paid to the Class A shares if: (i) the distributions payable on the Preferred shares are in arrears; or (ii) after the payment of the distribution by the Fund, the net asset value per Unit would be less than \$15.00”.

To achieve its objectives, the Fund invests in a portfolio which includes common equity securities selected from the ten largest financial services or real estate companies by market capitalization in each of Canada, the United States and the Rest of the World (the “Portfolio Universe”). The issuers of securities in the Portfolio Universe, other than Canadian issuers, must have a minimum credit rating of “A” from Standard & Poor’s Rating Services or a comparable rating from an equivalent rating agency. In addition, up to 25 percent of the net asset value of the Fund may be invested in common equity securities of financial services or real estate companies not included in the Portfolio Universe as long as such companies have a market capitalization at the time of investment of at least US\$10 billion and for non-Canadian issuers, a minimum credit rating of “A-” from Standard & Poor’s Rating Services or a comparable rating from an equivalent rating agency. The Fund may also invest in public investment funds including exchange-traded funds or other Strathbridge Funds provided that no more than 15 percent of the net asset value of the Fund may be invested in securities of other Strathbridge Funds) that provide exposure to such securities.

The Fund employs a proprietary investment strategy, Strathbridge Selective Overwriting (“SSO”), to enhance the income generated by the portfolio and to reduce volatility. In addition, the Fund may write cash covered put options in respect of securities in which it is permitted to invest.

The SSO strategy is a quantitative, technical based methodology that identifies appropriate times to write and/or close out option positions compared to writing continuously and rolling options every thirty days. This proprietary process has been developed over many years through various market cycles. The Manager believes the primary benefit to investors is to maximize the total return of the Fund while reducing the level of volatility of the portfolio, thereby increasing the risk-adjusted return.

Risk

Risks associated with an investment in the securities of the Fund are discussed in the Fund’s 2018 annual information form, which is available on the Fund’s website at www.strathbridge.com or on SEDAR at www.sedar.com. There were no changes to the Fund over the year that materially affected the risks associated with an investment in the securities of the Fund.

Results of Operations

Distributions

For the year ended December 31, 2018, cash distributions of \$0.53 per Preferred share were paid to Preferred shareholders which were unchanged from the prior year. Distributions to Class A shareholders remained suspended in accordance with the terms of the prospectus which states: “No distribution will be paid to the Class A shares if: (i) the distributions payable on the Preferred shares are in arrears; or (ii) after the payment of the distribution by the Fund, the net asset value per Unit would be less than \$15.00”.

Since the inception of the Fund in February 2004, the Fund has paid total cash distributions of \$7.81 per Preferred share and \$5.54 per Class A share.

Revenue and Expenses

The Fund's total revenue for the year ended December 31, 2018 was \$0.37 per Unit, down from \$0.49 per Unit from the prior year. Total expenses in 2018 were \$0.41 per Unit, up from \$0.38 per Unit last year. The Fund had a net realized and unrealized loss of \$1.55 per Unit in 2018 as compared to a net realized and unrealized gain of \$1.51 per Unit a year ago.

Net Asset Value

The net asset value per Unit of the Fund decreased 14.3 percent from \$14.85 per Unit at December 31, 2017 to \$12.72 per Unit at December 31, 2018. The aggregate net asset value of the Fund decreased \$15.5 million, from \$30.6 million at December 31, 2017 to \$15.1 million at December 31, 2018, reflecting an operating loss of \$2.6 million and annual concurrent (both Class A and Preferred shares) redemptions of \$12.0 million and Preferred share distributions of \$0.9 million.

Recent Developments

On May 28, 2018, World Financial Split Corp. announced the automatic extension of the maturity date of the Class A and Preferred shares of the Fund for an additional seven year period beyond June 30, 2018 to June 30, 2025 as provided for in its articles of incorporation. The term extension allows holders of Class A shares to continue to receive ongoing leveraged exposure to a high-quality portfolio consisting principally of common equity securities selected from the ten largest (by market capitalization) Financial Services companies in each of Canada, the United States and the Rest of the World. Holders of the Preferred shares are expected to continue to benefit from fixed cumulative preferential quarterly distributions in the amount of \$0.13125 (\$0.525 per annum) per Preferred share representing a yield of 5.25 percent on the original issue price of \$10.00. Pursuant to the special retraction right granted to shareholders in connection with the extension of the Fund, 444,251 Preferred shares and 872,864 Class A shares were surrendered for retraction. In order to maintain an equal number of Preferred shares and Class A shares, the Fund redeemed 428,613 Preferred shares on a pro rata basis from all holders of Preferred shares. Each Preferred share redeemed pursuant to the partial redemption was redeemed at a price equal to \$10.00, being the original issue price per Preferred share, plus declared and unpaid distributions thereon (the "Repayment Price"). The Repayment Price was paid to holders whose Preferred shares were redeemed by the Fund on July 13, 2018.

Related Party Transactions

Strathbridge Asset Management Inc. ("Strathbridge"), as the Investment Manager of the Fund, manages the Fund's investment portfolio in a manner consistent with the investment objectives, strategy and criteria of the Fund pursuant to an Investment Management Agreement made between the Fund and Strathbridge dated January 27, 2004 and amended as of November 6, 2009.

Strathbridge is the Manager of the Fund pursuant to a Management Agreement made between the Fund and Strathbridge dated January 27, 2004. As such, Strathbridge is responsible for providing or arranging for required administrative services to the Fund.

Strathbridge is paid the fees described under the Management Fees section of this report.

During the year, no recommendations or approvals were required to be sought from the Independent Review Committee ("IRC") concerning related party transactions.

Independent Review Committee

National Instrument 81-107 - Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds ("NI 81-107") requires all publicly offered investment funds to establish an IRC to whom the Manager must refer conflict of interest matters for review or approval. NI 81-107 also imposes obligations upon the Manager to establish written policies and procedures for dealing with conflict of interest matters, maintaining records in respect of these matters and providing assistance to the IRC in carrying out its functions. The Chief Compliance Officer, designated by the Manager, is in charge of facilitating the fulfillment of these obligations.

The IRC will prepare, for each financial year, a report to securityholders that describes the IRC and its activities during such financial year and includes, if known, a description of each instance when the Manager acted in a conflict of interest matter for which the IRC did not give a positive recommendation or for which a condition, imposed by the IRC, was not met in its recommendation or approval. Members of the IRC are Robert W. Korthals, Michael M. Koerner and Robert G. Bertram.

Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the past five years. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

Years ended December 31	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
NET ASSETS PER UNIT					
Net Assets, beginning of year ⁽¹⁾	\$ 14.85	\$ 13.74	\$ 13.37	\$ 13.92	\$ 12.94
INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM OPERATIONS					
Total revenue	0.37	0.49	0.37	0.36	0.33
Total expenses	(0.41)	(0.38)	(0.34)	(0.37)	(0.33)
Realized gain (loss) for the period	0.20	2.20	(0.63)	1.25	1.64
Unrealized gain (loss) for the period	(1.75)	(0.69)	1.43	(1.20)	(0.17)
Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations⁽²⁾	(1.59)	1.62	0.83	0.04	1.47
DISTRIBUTIONS					
Preferred Share					
Non-taxable distributions	(0.53)	(0.53)	(0.53)	(0.53)	(0.53)
Total Annual Distributions⁽³⁾	(0.53)	(0.53)	(0.53)	(0.53)	(0.53)
Net Assets, end of year ⁽¹⁾	\$ 12.72	\$ 14.85	\$ 13.74	\$ 13.37	\$ 13.92

(1) All per Unit figures are derived from the Fund's audited financial statements for the years ended December 31. Net assets per Unit is the difference between the aggregate value of the assets and the aggregate value of the liabilities, excluding the Redeemable Preferred share liability, divided by the number of Units then outstanding.

(2) Total increase (decrease) from operations consists of interest and dividend revenue, realized and unrealized gain (loss), less expenses, excluding Preferred share distributions, and is calculated based on the weighted average number of Units outstanding during the year. The schedule is not intended to total to the ending net assets as calculations are based on the weighted average number of Units outstanding during the year.

(3) Distributions to shareholders are based on the number of shares outstanding on the record date for each distribution.

Years ended December 31	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
RATIOS/SUPPLEMENTAL DATA					
Net Asset Value, excluding the Redeemable Preferred Share liability (\$millions) ⁽¹⁾					
Preferred Share liability (\$millions) ⁽¹⁾	\$ 15.10	\$ 30.60	\$ 28.92	\$ 29.24	\$ 32.78
Net Asset Value (\$millions) ⁽¹⁾	\$ 3.23	\$ 9.99	\$ 7.87	\$ 7.37	\$ 9.24
Number of Units outstanding ⁽¹⁾	1,187,743	2,060,607	2,105,115	2,186,907	2,354,556
Management expense ratio ⁽²⁾	2.38%	2.29%	2.27%	2.19%	2.20%
Portfolio turnover rate ⁽³⁾	213.51%	259.88%	307.48%	259.37%	245.31%
Trading expense ratio ⁽⁴⁾	0.44%	0.39%	0.43%	0.46%	0.32%
Net Asset Value per Unit ⁽⁵⁾	\$ 12.72	\$ 14.85	\$ 13.74	\$ 13.37	\$ 13.92
Closing market price - Preferred	\$ 9.58	\$ 10.23	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.90	\$ 9.85
Closing market price - Class A	\$ 2.07	\$ 4.30	\$ 3.76	\$ 3.05	\$ 3.45

(1) This information is provided as at December 31. One Unit consists of one Class A share and one Preferred share.

(2) The management expense ratio ("MER") is the sum of all fees and expenses for the stated period, including harmonized sales tax and withholding taxes but excluding transaction fees, income taxes and Preferred share distributions, divided by the average net asset value, excluding the Redeemable Preferred Share liability. Generally, the MER increases when the Fund becomes smaller in size due to redemptions. The MER for 2015 and 2014 includes the special resolution expense. The MER for 2015 and 2014 excluding the special resolution expense is 2.18% and 2.14% respectively. The MER, including Preferred share distributions, is 5.98%, 6.00%, 6.44%, 5.91% and 6.19%, for 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014 respectively. The MER for 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014 includes withholding taxes. The MER for 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014, excluding withholding taxes, is 2.21%, 2.07%, 2.09%, 2.01% and 2.06% respectively.

(3) Portfolio turnover rate is calculated based on the lesser of purchases or sales of investments, excluding short-term investments, divided by the average value of the portfolio securities. The Fund employs an option overlay strategy which can result in higher portfolio turnover by virtue of option exercises, when compared to a conventional equity mutual fund.

(4) Trading expense ratio represents total commissions expressed as a percentage of the daily average net asset value during the year.

(5) Net Asset Value per Unit is the difference between the aggregate value of the assets including the valuation of securities at closing prices and the aggregate value of the liabilities, excluding the Redeemable Preferred share liability, divided by the number of Units then outstanding.

Management Fees

Strathbridge, as the Investment Manager of the Fund, is entitled to fees under the Investment Management Agreement calculated monthly as 1/12 of 1.00 percent of the net asset value of the Fund, excluding the Redeemable Preferred Share liability, at each month end. Services received under the Investment Management Agreement include the making of all investment decisions and writing of covered call options in accordance with the investment objectives, strategy and criteria of the Fund. Strathbridge also makes all decisions as to the purchase and sale of securities in the Fund’s portfolio and as to the execution of all portfolio and other transactions.

Strathbridge, as the Manager of the Fund, is entitled to fees under the Management Agreement calculated monthly as 1/12 of 0.10 percent of the net asset value of the Fund at each month end. Services received under the Management Agreement include providing or arranging for required administrative services to the Fund.

Past Performance

The following chart sets out the Fund’s year-by-year past performance. It is important to note that the:

- (1) information shown assumes that all distributions (including deemed distributions based on the intrinsic value of the warrants exercised prior to the expiry date of the warrants) made by the Fund during these periods were reinvested in Units of the Fund,
- (2) information does not take into account sales, redemptions, distributions or other optional charges that would have reduced returns, and
- (3) past performance of the Fund does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

Year-By-Year Returns

The following bar chart illustrates how the Fund’s annual total return varied from year to year for each of the past ten years. The chart also shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on January 1 in each year would have increased or decreased by the end of the fiscal year.

Annual Total Return



(1) The Class A annual total return was infinite as the net asset value per Class A share increased from nil at December 31, 2011 to \$1.02 at December 31, 2012.

Annual Compound Returns

The following table shows the Fund's historical annual compound return (net of expenses) for the periods ended December 31, 2018 as compared to the performance of the MSCI World/Financials Index.

(In Canadian Dollars unless otherwise noted)	One Year	Three Years	Five Years	Ten Years
World Financial Split Corp.	(11.00)%	2.25 %	3.59 %	3.97 %
World Financial Split Corp. - Preferred Share	5.35 %	5.35 %	5.35 %	5.36 %
World Financial Split Corp. - Class A	(43.97)%	(6.93)%	(1.60)%	(4.41)%
MSCI World/Financials Index ⁽¹⁾	(9.15)%	4.75 %	8.53 %	9.53 %
MSCI World/Financials Index ⁽¹⁾ (US\$)	(16.46)%	5.27 %	3.28 %	8.30 %

⁽¹⁾ The MSCI World/Financials Index is a capitalization-weighted index that monitors the performance of financial stocks from around the world.

The equity performance benchmarks shown here provide an approximate indication of how the Fund's returns compare to a public market index for similar securities. It is important to note that the Fund is not managed in order to match or exceed this index; rather, its objectives are to pay out quarterly distributions and return the original invested amount at the termination date. As a result, the Fund has, from time to time, maintained cash balances in an effort to provide greater net asset value stability and employs a covered option writing strategy to enhance the income generated by the portfolio and reduce volatility.

The Manager believes that in a flat or downward trending market, a portfolio that is subject to covered call option writing will generally provide higher relative returns and lower volatility than one on which no options are written. However, in a rising market, the use of options may have the effect of limiting or reducing the total returns of the Fund since the premiums associated with writing covered call options may be outweighed by the foregone opportunity of remaining fully invested in the securities comprising the portfolio.

Portfolio Manager Report

2018 was a challenging year across asset classes as investors weighed the implications of tighter global monetary policy, trade wars, soaring valuations along with heightened geopolitical risks involving such countries as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Korea and Russia. In the end, the bears ultimately prevailed as the S&P 500 Index had its first annual decline since the financial crisis returning negative 4.4 percent. Closer to home, the S&P/TSX Composite Index lagged its U.S. counterpart returning negative 8.9 percent. Bonds offered little in the way of protection returning negative 1.2 percent, as measured by the Bloomberg Barclays Global-Aggregate Total Return Index while the Bloomberg Commodities Index sank 11.3 percent. Cyclical sectors led the declines in the S&P 500 Index with Energy, Materials and Industrial sectors off 18.1 percent, 14.7 percent and 13.3 percent respectively. Health Care, Utilities and Consumer Discretionary were the only sectors with positive returns in 2018, according to GICS classification. In Canada, Technology was the best performing sector, up 13.0 percent, while Energy, Consumer Discretionary and Health Care declined sharply. The Bank of Canada continued to raise the overnight lending rate in 2018, hiking three times to 1.75 percent, while the U.S. Federal Reserve raised the Federal Funds rate 25 basis points on four separate occasions to now sit at 2.5 percent. The Canadian dollar declined 8.0 percent versus the U.S. dollar, partly weighed down by oil prices which declined nearly 25 percent for the year.

The net asset value ("NAV") of the Fund was \$12.72 per Unit as at December 31, 2018 compared to \$14.85 per Unit as at December 31, 2017. Preferred shareholders received cash distributions of \$0.53 per share during the year while the distributions for the Class A shares remained suspended in accordance with the terms of the prospectus as the net asset value per Unit was less than \$15.00. The Fund's Preferred shares and Class A shares, listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSX") as WFS.PR.A and WFS, closed on December 31, 2018 at \$9.58 per share and \$2.07 per share, respectively. When combined, this represents an 8.4 percent discount to the NAV of the Fund.

For the year ended December 31, 2018, the Fund's annual total return per Unit, including reinvestment of distributions, was negative 11.0 percent compared to the MSCI World Financials Index return of negative 16.5 percent. The best performing stock within the portfolio in 2018 was CME Group Inc. with a total return of 40.2 percent. Meanwhile, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. was the weakest performing stock which had a total return of negative 17.1 percent while being held by the Fund.

After one of the least volatile years on record in 2017, volatility in the equity market returned in 2018. The Chicago Board Options Exchange Volatility Index ("VIX"), peaked in February at a reading of over 50 before declining back towards 10 in August. The VIX reaccelerated into year-end closing above 25. The rise in volatility has created more opportunities to utilize the Strathbridge Selective Overwriting ("SSO") strategy. The Fund had on average 10.3 percent of the portfolio subject to covered calls over the year. The net realized gain on options attributable to the SSO strategy was \$0.08 per unit compared to \$0.05 per unit in 2017. The Fund ended 2018 with 1.5 percent of the portfolio subject to covered calls as well as a cash position of 25.4 percent.

The Fund's portfolio ended 2018 with a regional asset mix of 37 percent invested Canada, 51 percent in the United States and 12 percent in the Rest of the World. The Fund's U.S. dollar exposure was actively hedged back into Canadian dollars throughout the year and ended 2018 with 50 percent of the U.S. dollar exposure hedged.

Summary of Investment Portfolio

The composition of the portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. A quarterly portfolio summary, which includes the percentage of net asset value for each holding, and a monthly portfolio list are available on our website at www.strathbridge.com.

Asset Mix

December 31, 2018

	% OF NET ASSET VALUE*
United States	38.5 %
Canada	27.8 %
Cash	25.4 %
International	9.2 %
Other Assets (Liabilities)	(0.9)%
	100.0 %

*The Net Asset Value excludes the Redeemable Preferred Share liability.

Portfolio Holdings

December 31, 2018

	% OF NET ASSET VALUE*
Cash	25.4 %
U.S. Financials Income Fund	7.8 %
Berkshire Hathaway Inc.	7.0 %
Simon Property Group, Inc.	6.8 %
Brookfield Asset Management Inc.	6.8 %
U.S. Bancorp	6.4 %
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	6.2 %
Thomson Reuters Corporation	5.8 %
Aon plc	5.8 %
CME Group Inc.	4.8 %
Loews Corporation	4.1 %
Royal Bank of Canada	4.1 %
HSBC Holdings plc	3.4 %
The Toronto-Dominion Bank	3.3 %
Bank of America Corporation	3.2 %

*The Net Asset Value excludes the Redeemable Preferred Share liability.

Forward-Looking Statements

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund. Forward-looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as “expects”, “anticipates”, “intends”, “plans”, “believes”, “estimates” or negative versions thereof and similar expressions. In addition, any statement that may be made concerning future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund action, is also forward-looking. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and projections about future events and are inherently subject to, among other things, risks, uncertainties and assumptions about the Fund and economic factors.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual events and results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking statements made by the Fund. Any number of important factors could contribute to any divergence between what is anticipated and what actually occurs, including, but not limited to, general economic, political and market factors, interest and foreign exchange rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition, technology change, changes in government regulations, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings, and catastrophic events.

The above-mentioned list of important factors is not exhaustive. You should consider these and other factors carefully before making any investment decisions and you should avoid placing undue reliance on forward-looking statements. While the Fund currently anticipates that subsequent events and developments may cause the Fund’s views to change, the Fund does not undertake to update any forward-looking statements.