



## GLOBAL X INSIGHTS

# Introducing the Global X Covered Call & Growth ETFs (QYLG & XYLG)

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Date: September 21, 2020  
Topic: **Income Strategies**

On September 21st, we launched the **Global X Nasdaq 100 Covered Call & Growth ETF (QYLG)** & the **Global X S&P 500 Covered Call & Growth ETF (XYLG)**. QYLG & XYLG, the latest additions to Global X's covered call ETF suite, are designed to offer investors both option premiums and upside potential.

For the last decade, income investors have struggled to find diversified sources of meaningful income for their portfolios. Amid a historically low interest rate environment, traditional sources of income, like bonds, often failed to meet investors' income needs. At the same time, lengthening life expectancies and desires for preserving multi-generational wealth have tilted investors' preferences towards more growth-oriented solutions. In turn, investors have increasingly sought alternative asset classes and strategies that offer long-term growth opportunities.

We launched QYLG & XYLG to help investors effectively balance these goals.

## QYLG & XYLG: Covered Call ETFs Designed for Option Premiums and Growth Potential

QYLG & XYLG employ covered call writing strategies in an attempt to achieve positive premiums and growth potential. Below are a few key characteristics of QYLG & XYLG:

- The ETFs buy the securities represented in the Nasdaq 100 (QYLG) and S&P 500 (XYLG) at the respective weights in those indexes
- Each month, the ETFs write at-the-money (ATM) index call options on the Nasdaq 100 (QYLG), and S&P 500 (XYLG) in an attempt to generate option premiums
- The options written cover 50% of the value of the stocks held in each fund. This means each fund retains roughly half of the upside potential of the index they track

The QYLG & XYLG share similarities with other covered call strategies in our suite, **QYLD** and **XYLD**, respectively. The primary difference is that QYLG and XYLG write options that cover 50% of their stock holdings, whereas QYLD and XYLD cover 100%. This means that QYLG and XYLG have exposure to approximately 50% of the upside of their underlying indexes, but can generate half of the premiums of QYLD or XYLD.

FUND	QYLD	QYLG	XYLD	XYLG
SECURITIES INVESTED IN	Nasdaq 100	Nasdaq 100	S&P 500	S&P 500
CALL OPTION DURATION	1 month	1 month	1 month	1 month
OPTION MONEYNESS	At-the-money	At-the-money	At-the-money	At-the-money
CALL OPTION COVERAGE	100%	50%	100%	50%

Source: Global X. Call option duration defined as length of the call option contract. Option moneyness defined as exercise price relative to security price the call option contract is written at.

## Coverage Percentage: The Tradeoff Between Growth & Income

There are numerous decisions that can go into constructing a covered call strategy, including which indexes or assets to hold, the moneyness of the options written, and the amount of the portfolio covered by call options, to name a few. With the last example, typically an investor will either fully cover or under-cover their underlying positions. If there was a 1% gain on the index, a full covered investor would not partake in the gains, but a 50% covered investor would take part in 0.5% of the upside. If there was a 1% decline on the index, a fully covered investor would still take part in the equity decline, but the decline may be partially offset by the options premium received. A 50% covered investor would also take part in the equity decline, but the decline would be greater than the 100% fully covered investor's decline because the 50% covered investor only received half the options premiums.



Full coverage entails writing calls on 100% of the value of the underlying securities owned in the portfolio. If the portfolio owns \$100million worth of stocks in the Nasdaq 100, then a fully covered strategy would write call options on the Nasdaq 100 with a notional value, or an investor's portfolio value, of \$100m. Because the notional value of the written call options is equal to the value of the stocks in the portfolio, when the options are in-the-money, they fully cancel out any gains in the underlying portfolio. A 1% gain in the index is offset by a 1% loss in the written calls. This means that with 100% coverage, the investor has little or no upside potential, particularly when the options are written at-the-money, as they are in QYLD and XYLD. Compared to an under covered strategy, however, a fully covered strategy will typically generate higher premiums because it is selling more call options.

Under covering a portfolio means the notional value of the written call options is less than the value of the stocks held in the portfolio. For example, if a portfolio holds \$100m worth of stocks in the Nasdaq 100, a 50% covered strategy would write call options on the Nasdaq 100 with a notional value of \$50m. Such an approach means that if the value of the stocks held by the portfolio increases by 1%, the losses of the options position will reduce gains by -0.5%. In other words, the portfolio participates in 50% of the upside of the underlying securities. QYLG & XYLG use this type of strategy. The tradeoff for more participation in the upside compared to fully covered strategies is lower premium potential. Therefore, this strategy can be well-suited for investors looking for both premium distributions and growth potential.

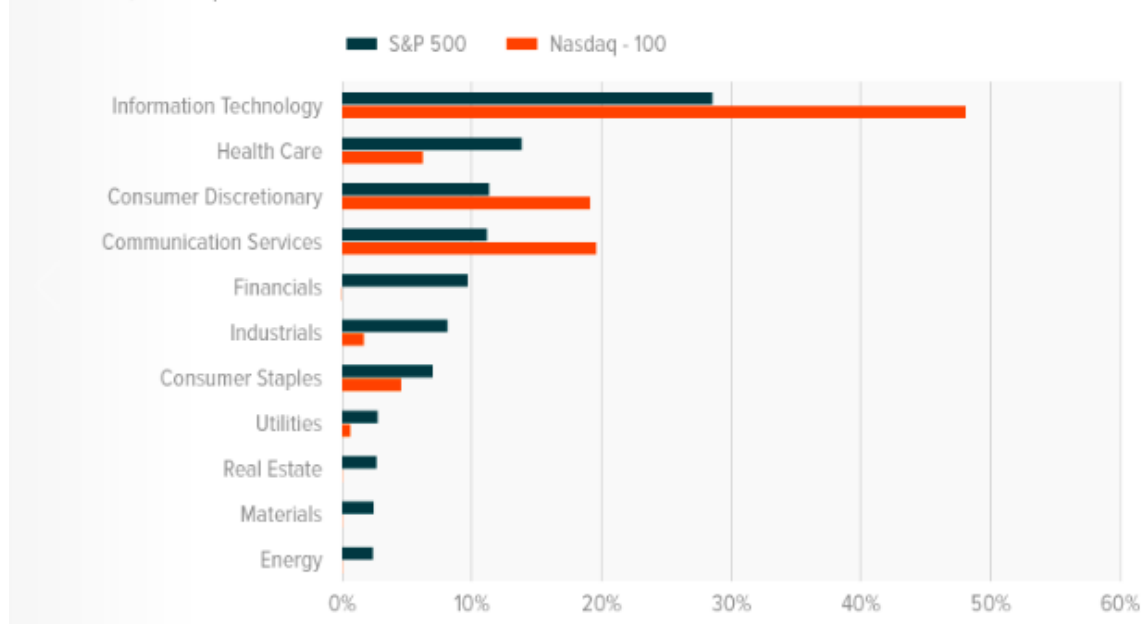
## Nasdaq 100 & S&P 500 Characteristics

While both QYLG & XYLG follow 50% covered strategies, they offer exposure to different indexes. QYLG buys the stocks held in the Nasdaq 100 Index and writes call options on the Nasdaq 100, while XYLG owns the stocks in the S&P 500 and writes index call options on the S&P 500. How should one choose between a covered call strategy involving the Nasdaq 100 versus the S&P 500? It depends on portfolio exposure, investor objectives, and market outlook.

The Nasdaq 100 is primarily an Information Technology sector-focused index and excludes Financials, whereas the S&P 500 Index is more sector-diverse. Because of these sector differences, the drivers of these two indexes, as well as performance, volatility, and correlation to other income strategies can vary significantly.

## NASDAQ 100 VS. S&P 500 SECTOR COMPARISON

Source: S&P, Nasdaq. Data as of 8/31/20

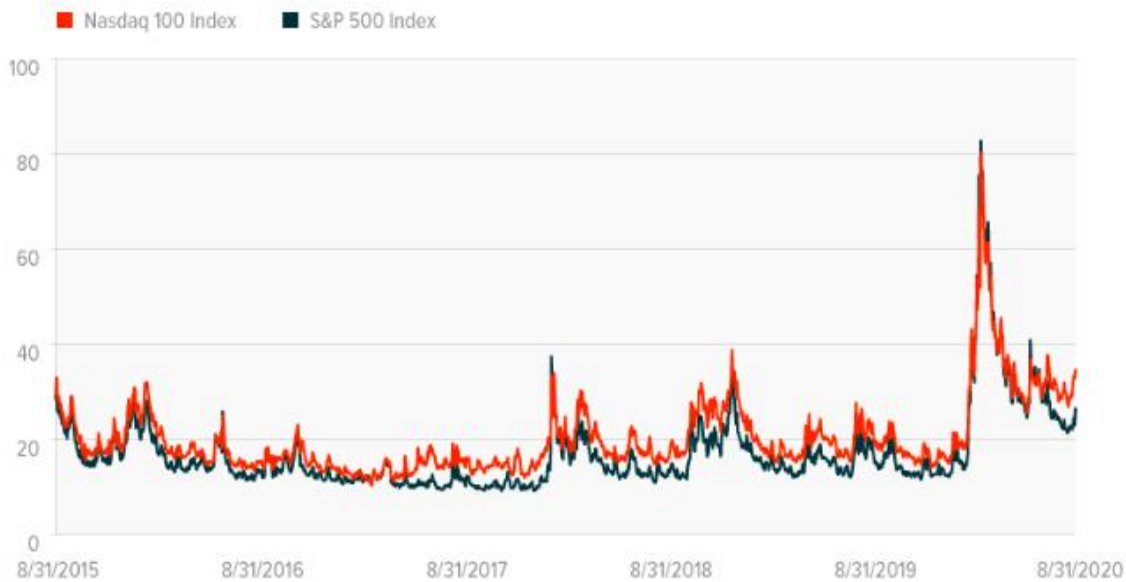


Historically, higher volatility is another distinctive component of the Nasdaq 100. In the past, the Nasdaq 100 has routinely exhibited higher volatility than S&P 500. Because option premiums are higher when volatility increases, investors may generate greater premiums from selling options on the Nasdaq 100 than the S&P 500.



## NASDAQ 100 VS. S&P 500 VOLATILITY COMPARISON (%)

Source: Bloomberg. Data from 8/31/15 to 8/31/20



The Nasdaq 100 could offer higher growth potential by nature of its concentrated allocations in 'new economy' sectors like Information Technology and Communications Services. The S&P 500, on the other hand, has more exposure to Consumer Staples, Utilities, & Financials, which tend to exhibit lower growth characteristics. These sectors can dampen volatility and potentially serve as a buffer in falling markets, but they may also drag on the indexes long term growth.

### Using 50% Covered Call ETFs In a Portfolio

A 50% covered call approach is designed to balance growth potential with premium potential, and therefore aligns best with investors seeking both outcomes. For example, investors who recently retired and are looking to live off their savings for 20-30 years may want both premium distributions as well as growth to head off inflation. More tactically, an investor may see a more bullish view of the markets and shift from a fully covered strategy to a 50% covered strategy in an attempt to capture more upside potential in the near term.

Some investors may find that they already have substantial exposure to specific sectors and want to diversify their portfolio. For example, typical income-oriented portfolios tend to have greater weightings to dividend paying sectors like Financial, Utilities, and Real Estate, while being underweight Information Technology, Communications Services, and Health Care. Using 50% covered call strategies may offer investors greater exposure to these sectors, while still seeking to generate premiums.

A 50% covered call strategy still gives up half of the upside, so if an investor is bullish on the markets and doesn't have a strong preference for premium, then forgoing half the upside may be a challenge. There are also likely fewer premiums generated than an identically run 100% covered call strategy, but the decision on which type of strategy revolves around an investor's objectives and their market views.

While investors may be able implement covered call strategies on their own, investing in covered call ETFs could be a more efficient option. Rather than buying the 100 stocks in the Nasdaq 100 Index and selling call options on the index each month, one can buy a single ETF and outsource those responsibilities to a professional portfolio manager.

Today's environment appears particularly well-suited for the 50% covered call approach. Income is challenging to find in most asset classes, as central banks set rates at extremely low levels. At the same time, equity markets are exhibiting robust growth. Allowing half of one's exposure to participate in upside potential, while targeting premium generation from the other half, could be an attractive solution for addressing this unique environment.



## Related ETFs

[QYLG - Global X Nasdaq 100 Covered Call & Growth ETF](#)

[XYLG - Global X S&P 500 Covered Call & Growth ETF](#)

[QYLD - Global X Nasdaq 100 Covered Call ETF](#)

[XYLD - Global X S&P 500 Covered Call ETF](#)

*Click the fund name above to view current performance and holdings. Holdings are subject to change. Current and future holdings are subject to risk.*

## Glossary

**Option Premiums:** An option premium is the price that is paid to purchase an option, or the value that is received by the seller or writer of an option.

**Nasdaq 100:** The NASDAQ 100 index includes 100 of the largest non-financial companies listed on its stock market.

**S&P 500:** The index includes 500 leading U.S. companies and captures approximately 80% coverage of available market capitalization.

**Covered Call:** A covered call is a type of options trade that consists of buying or maintaining holdings of a specific asset and then proceeding to write call options on the same asset in an effort to acquire an option premium.

**Moneyness:** Moneyness illustrates the relationship between the strike price of an option and the market price of an underlying security. For a call option whose strike price is above the market price of its reference asset, the option is deemed to be “in the money”.

**Notional Value:** In the context of covered call option trading, notional value refers to the total value of the underlying asset that an options contract represents.

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SEI Investments Distribution Co. (1 Freedom Valley Drive, Oaks, PA, 19456) is the distributor for the Global X Funds.

Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Concentration in a particular industry or sector will subject the funds to loss due to adverse occurrences that may affect that industry or sector. Investors in the funds should be willing to accept a high degree of volatility in the price of the fund's shares and the possibility of significant losses.

The funds engage in options trading. An option is a contract sold by one party to another that gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy (call) or sell (put) a stock at an agreed upon price within a certain period or on a specific date. A covered call option involves holding a long position in a particular asset, in this case U.S. common equities, and writing a call option on that same asset with the goal of realizing additional income from the option premium. QYLG writes covered call index options on the Nasdaq 100 Index. XYLG writes covered call index options on the S&P 500 Index. By selling covered call options, the fund limits its opportunity to profit from an increase in the price of the underlying index above the exercise price, but continues to bear the risk of a decline in the index. A liquid market may not exist for options held by the fund. While the fund receives premiums for writing the call options, the price it realizes from the exercise of an option could be substantially below the indices current market price. QYLG is non-diversified.

Shares of ETFs are bought and sold at market price (not NAV) and are not individually redeemed from the Fund. Brokerage commissions will reduce returns. Indices are unmanaged and do not include the effect of fees, expenses or sales charges. One cannot invest directly in an index.

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