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VanEck FUNDS

Constant Maturity Commodity Index Strategy Overview

CM Commodity Index Fund

CMCAX / COMIX / CMCYX /

Understanding Commodities Futures

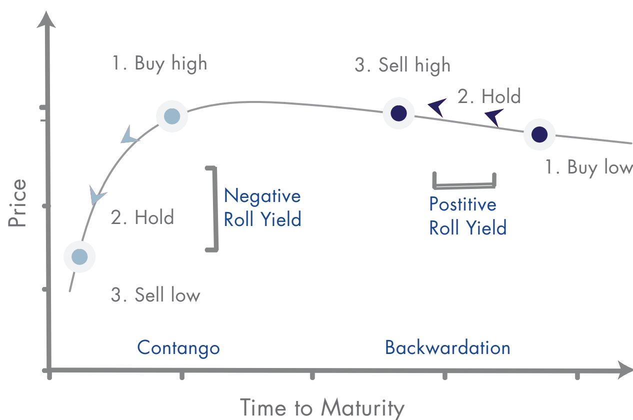
A commodity futures contract is an agreement to buy or sell a commodity at a specific date in the future, and at a specific price.

Why Invest in Commodities Futures?

Futures contracts are typically bought and sold in order to take advantage of anticipated changes in spot prices. Currently, most investors gain exposure to commodity futures through funds benchmarked to a traditional commodity index such as the Bloomberg Commodity Index or the S&P GSCI.

What Problems Can Arise with Traditional Commodities Indices?

When a traditional commodity index rolls its futures contracts from month to month, instances may occur where the next month's contract is purchased at a higher price than the expiring front-month contract was sold for, thus creating a roll loss, or "negative roll yield".[1] A futures curve (below) graphically represents the prices of futures with increasing maturity dates relative to the current spot price. An upward sloping futures curve, also known as contango, put investors in the costly position of "buying high, selling low" each time a futures contract is rolled (assuming the futures curve stays the same), thus resulting in roll loss. The steeper the futures curve, the larger the roll losses.



Contango vs. Backwardation

Contango

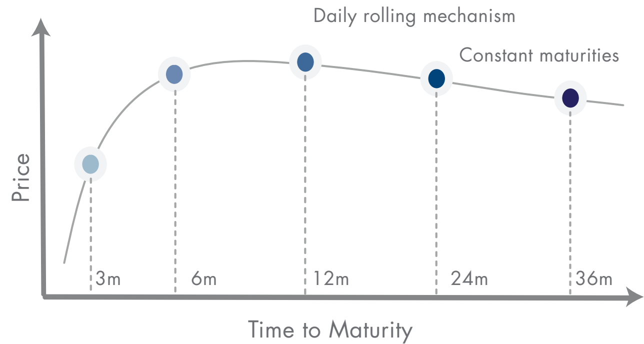
- Buy high, sell low
- Negative roll returns
- Results in a decreasing number of contracts in an index

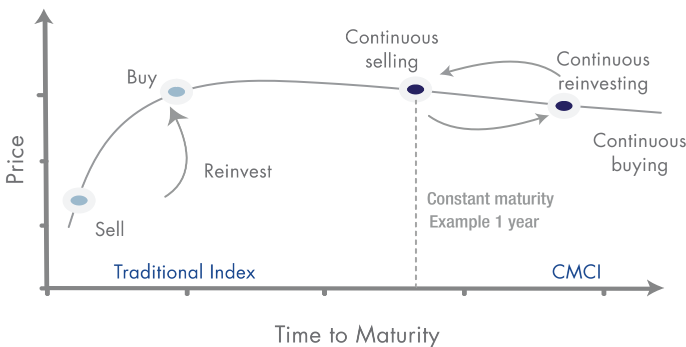
Backwardation

- Buy low, sell high
- Positive roll returns
- Results in an increasing number of contracts in an index

Why the Constant Maturity (CM) Commodity Index Fund?

The VanEck CM Commodity Index Fund (CMCAX) is a passively managed mutual fund that seeks to track, before fees and expenses, the performance of the USB Bloomberg Constant Maturity Commodity Total Return Index ("CMCI"). The CMCI is diversified across 29 commodity components and up to five maturities, and can effectively adapt to the changing economic environment. The Fund seeks to track the Index by investing in commodity-linked derivative instruments, backed by a portfolio of investment-grade fixed income instruments. The Fund may also invest in instruments linked to the value of a particular commodity or commodity futures contract through a wholly owned subsidiary of the Fund formed in the Cayman Islands.





CMCI Benchmark: Methodology Highlights

- Maturities of three and six months, as well as one-, two- and three-year maturities for certain commodities
- Places exposure at more favorable (i.e., less sloping) sections of the futures curve and keeps it there
- Potential for higher risk-adjusted returns than traditional commodity indices
- Constant maturity approach: daily rolling of a small proportion of underlying contracts
- Monthly rebalancing: limited concentration risk in any one underlying commodity

Key Points to Remember About the VanEck CM Commodity Index Fund

- CMCI is diversified across maturities, minimizing its exposure to the front end of the futures curves
- By spreading its exposure across multiple maturities and maintaining a constant maturity per commodity, CMCI seeks to mitigate the impacts of negative roll yield in contango environments
- Diversified across 5 commodity sectors and 29 commodity components; energy allocation typically ~35%
- In contrast with many "enhanced" commodity funds, CMCI offers "pure" commodity exposure by investing in commodity linked derivative instruments and conservative fixed income securities, such as U.S. T-Bills

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[1]Negative roll yield can occur as an investor sells an expiring futures contract and simultaneously purchases a new contract. If the price of the new replacement contract is higher than the expiring contract, the transaction will yield a negative cash result, also known as negative roll yield.

Know Your Indices: The **Bloomberg Commodity Index (BCOM)** is composed of futures contracts on 22 physical commodities covering five sectors, specifically energy, precious metals, industrial metals, agriculture, and livestock. Energy exposure is limited to no more than 33%; manager cannot invest above that level no matter how favorable the energy market. The **S&P® Goldman Sachs Commodity Index (S&P GSCI)** is a composite index of commodity sector returns, representing an unleveraged, long-only investment in commodity futures. High energy concentration; limited diversification. The index benefits when energy is strong, and suffers when energy is weak. All indices are unmanaged and include the reinvestment of all dividends, but do not reflect the payment of transaction costs, advisory fees or expenses that are associated with an investment in the Fund. An index's performance is not illustrative of the Fund's performance. Indices are not securities in which investments can be made.

You can lose money by investing in the Fund. Any investment in the Fund should be part of an overall investment program, not a complete program. Commodities are assets that have tangible properties, such as oil, metals, and agriculture. Commodities and commodity-linked derivatives may be affected by overall market movements and other factors that affect the value of a particular industry or commodity such as weather, disease, embargoes or political or regulatory developments. The value of a commodity-linked derivative is generally based on price movements of a commodity, a commodity futures contract, a commodity index or other economic variables based on the commodity markets. Derivatives use leverage, which may exaggerate a loss. The Fund is subject to the risks associated with its investments in commodity-linked derivatives, risks of investing in wholly owned subsidiary, risk of tracking error, risks of aggressive investment techniques, leverage risk, derivatives risks, counterparty risks, non-diversification risk, credit risk, concentration risk and market risk. The use of commodity-linked derivatives such as swaps, commodity-linked structured notes and futures entails substantial risks, including risk of loss of a significant portion of their principal value, lack of a secondary market, increased volatility, correlation risk, liquidity risk, interest-rate risk, market risk, credit risk, valuation risk and tax risk. Gains and losses from speculative positions in derivatives may be much greater than the derivative's cost. At any time, the risk of loss of any individual security held by the Fund could be significantly higher than 50% of the security's value. Investment in commodity markets may not be suitable for all investors. The Fund's investment in commodity-linked derivative instruments may subject the fund to greater volatility than investment in traditional securities. For a description of these and other risk considerations, please refer to the Fund's prospectuses, which should be read carefully before you invest. The Fund offers investors exposure to the broad commodity markets, currently by investing in commodity-linked swaps.

Please call 800.826.2333 or visit vaneck.com for performance information current to the most recent month end and for a free prospectus and summary prospectus. An investor should consider the Fund's investment objective, risks, and charges and expenses carefully before investing. The prospectus and summary prospectus contain this and other information. Please

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