

The Xtrackers S&P 500 Diversified Sector Weight ETF: A Quantitative Approach to Reduce Portfolio Concentration Risks

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IN A NUTSHELL

- As the Technology and Tech-adjacent stocks continue to dominate the S&P 500, the potential for investors tracking this Index to experience single stock and sector concentration risks also increases.
- A common strategy to mitigate this overexposure has been to apply an equal weight investment strategy. However, this approach creates other potential issues, including concentrated sector tilts, higher turnover, and greater exposure to smaller, more volatile stocks.
- The Xtrackers S&P 500 Diversified Sector Weight ETF (SPXD) takes a rules-based approach designed to mitigate the risks associated with single-stock concentration and address sector imbalances within the S&P 500.

The S&P 500: Now Dominated by a Few Mega-Cap Stocks

The S&P 500, the standard for measuring U.S. market performance, continues to be dominated by a handful of Technology and Technology-related companies, known as the “Magnificent Seven” or the “Great Eight.”

Today’s S&P 500 sector allocations are also exceptionally skewed, as over one-third of the Index is classified in the Information Technology sector.¹ This figure does not include Tech-adjacent companies such as Amazon, Tesla, Alphabet, or Meta. Looking at just the Magnificent Seven’s proportion in the Index, it accounts for about 35% of total market capitalization² and 46% of its overall risk contribution.³

Let’s take a deeper dive into some potential solutions to both single stock and sector concentration risks and introduce the Xtrackers S&P 500 Diversified Sector Weight ETF (SPXD), which can address the problems inherent in cap-weighted strategies.

Consider Using Sector ETFs to Rebalance

A number of providers offer sector-specific ETFs that align with the 11 Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) sectors: Communication Services, Consumer Discretionary, Consumer Staples, Energy, Financials, Health Care, Industrials, Information Technology, Materials, Real Estate, and Utilities.

If so inclined, investors can create their own sector-neutral portfolio, equal-weighting each sector and allocating approximately 9.1% to each sector. This approach helps reduce concentration, preventing any

one sector from dominating the portfolio as in a cap-weighted strategy. However, since all the constituents in each ETF are cap-weighted, the largest stocks still have the greatest weight in each sector.

Additionally, the effort to rebalance 11 portfolios quarterly and incur the associated trading costs (think bid/ask spreads, commissions, and market impact) can certainly negatively impact returns.

While constructing a balanced, sector-neutral S&P portfolio is possible, it is an inefficient approach to mitigate sector concentration risk.

Why Not an Equal-Weight Approach?

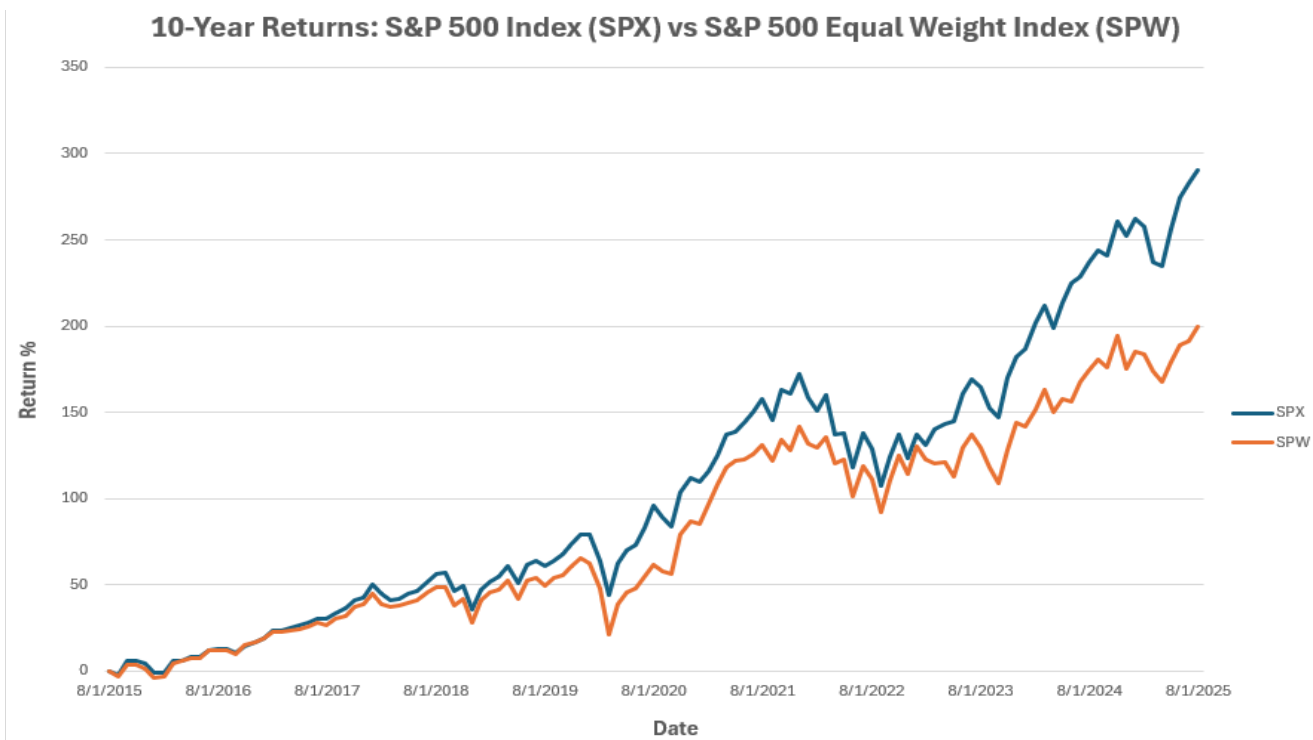
Another common method to reduce single stock concentration risk is to employ an equal-weight strategy to the S&P 500. This approach allocates a 0.2% position to each stock in the Index, regardless of its market size. This means that the largest company in the index (NVIDIA at 7.75%)⁴ is weighted the same as the smallest (News Corp. Class B at 0.01%).⁵

While this method does help reduce concentration in individual companies, it does not fully solve the issue of sector imbalances. Equal weighting simply resets each stock back to its 0.2% position on a quarterly basis. As a result, sector tilts are reduced but not eliminated. For example, in the cap-weighted S&P 500, Information Technology makes up 33.48% of the Index.⁶ Under an equal-weight approach, Technology remains the largest sector, though its portion drops to 13.71% - less than half of its original weight.⁷

While equal weighting helps reduce concentration risk, it also comes with distinct disadvantages. A market-cap strategy enables successful companies to grow naturally within the index, reflecting their long-term outperformance. By contrast, an equal-weight approach resets each stock to a 0.2% allocation every quarter, effectively trimming back the winners and limiting the ability to capture their sustained growth.

From a risk perspective, the S&P 500 equal-weighted portfolio's annualized five-year volatility is higher (17.02%)⁸ than its cap-weighted counterpart (15.96%).⁹ Additionally, the costs of managing an equal-weight strategy, with its large turnover created by its quarterly rebalancing, could be considerable and negatively impact portfolio performance.

Finally, over the past 10 years, the equal-weighted S&P 500 Index has materially underperformed its cap-weighted counterpart.



Source: Bloomberg as of 8/29/2025

Past performance does not guarantee future results. You cannot invest directly in an index.

The Xtrackers S&P 500 Diversified Sector Weight ETF (SPXD): A Strategic Approach to Sector and Single-Stock Concentration Risk

What is a diversified sector weight strategy?

The diversified sector weight strategy is a unique, rules-based approach designed to mitigate the risk associated with single-stock concentration and address sector imbalances within the S&P 500.

Why does this matter?

This methodology sector weights companies based on their diverse business models and product lines, in contrast to traditional weighting systems that limit companies to a single sector. This process allows for alignment with all market business opportunities, not only the largest ones.

How does SPXD work?

SPXD tracks the S&P 500 Diversified Sector Weight Index, which aims to reduce concentration risk and address sector imbalances by reweighting companies within the S&P 500. SPXD utilizes an equal-weight sector methodology developed by S&P Global, powered by Syntax's FIS sector taxonomy.

The FIS classification system employs only eight sectors and is equally rebalanced quarterly, as opposed to the MSCI/S&P GICS classification system which only reviews its allocation annually.

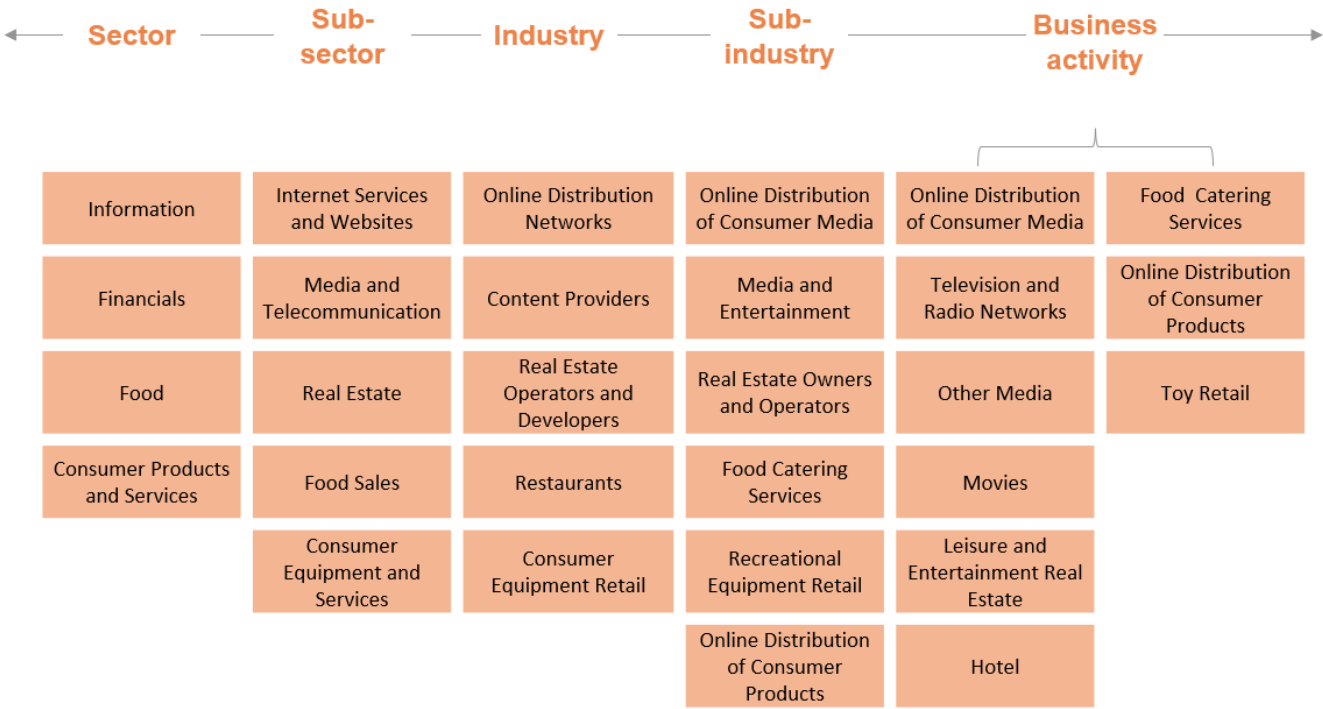
How is the FIS methodology different?

Unlike traditional classification systems, the FIS approach enables a company to be represented across multiple sectors and industries, and its final weight in the index is the sum of the weights from each of its business activities. Essentially, companies are categorized in multiple segments based on their revenue sources, as opposed to being placed in a single sector.

You can see the FIS sector taxonomy approach below in how it categorizes Disney (DIS), which is assigned weights in four of the eight FIS classification sectors (Information, Financials, Food, and Consumer Products and Services). It is then further classified into five Sub-Sectors, five Industries, six Sub-Industries, and nine Business Activities.



Disney Sector Allocation Chart



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, DWS, as of 3/31/2025

How does SPXD differ from the S&P 500?

Reduced Stock Concentration Risk

Besides being designed to equalize sector weights and balance business risks, the S&P 500 Diversified Sector Index does an effective job of reducing single-stock concentration risk. Compared to the S&P 500, it holds a broader effective number of stocks and caps maximum stock weights at lower levels – delivering a more diversified approach.

An examination of S&P Diversified Sector Weight Index’s holdings reveals how it mitigates the concentration risks inherent in many cap-weighted indices. For example, the largest position in the Diversified Index is Berkshire Hathaway at 3.85% and its top ten holdings represent only 15.63% of the total portfolio. Contrast this with S&P 500, where its largest holding – NVIDIA – has a 7.75% weighting and its top ten positions constitute 37.87% of the ETF.

Top 10 Holdings: S&P 500 Index and S&P 500 Diversified Sector Weight Index

S&P 500 Index			S&P 500 Diversified Sector Weight Index		
Name	Ticker	Weight	Name	Ticker	Weight
NVIDIA Corp.	NVDA	7.75%	Berkshire Hathaway CL B	BRK/B	3.85%
Microsoft Corp.	MSFT	6.88%	Abbott Laboratories	ABT	1.77%
Apple Inc.	AAPL	6.33%	Jabil Inc	JBL.N	1.53%
Amazon.com Corp.	AMZN	3.95%	Microsoft Corp	MSFT	1.37%
Meta Platforms Inc. Cl A	META	2.93%	Procter & Gamble Co	PG	1.36%
Broadcom Inc.	AVGO	2.55%	Costco Wholesale Corp	COST.O	1.19%
Alphabet Inc. Cl A	GOOGL	2.26%	Walt Disney Co	DIS	1.16%
Alphabet Inc. Cl C	GOOG	1.83%	Sysco Corp	SYN.N	1.15%
Tesla Inc.	TSLA	1.71%	Regeneron	REGN	1.14%
Berkshire Hathaway Cl B	BRK.B	1.68%	Pharmaceuticals	REGN	1.14%
			Apple Inc	AAPL	1.11%
Total Top 10 Holdings		37.87%	Total Top 10 Holdings		15.63%

Source: S&P Global, 8/29/2025
Subject to change.

Reduced Sector Concentration Risk

Additionally, the FIS Syntax sector taxonomy delivers a much more balanced sector allocation, avoiding the concentration profile of its cap-weighted counterpart.

FIS Sector	S&P 500 Diversified Sector Weight Index	S&P 500 Index
Financials	12.93%	9.60%
Energy	12.49%	6.15%
Industrials	12.81%	9.80%
Information Tools	12.61%	30.18%
Information	12.55%	24.26%
Consumer Products and Services	12.56%	5.61%
Food	12.32%	5.00%
Healthcare	11.73%	9.40%

Source: S&P Global – August 29, 2025

Where Does SPXD fit into my portfolio?

Core Large-Cap Holding: SPXD offers a more balanced alternative to traditional S&P 500 funds, providing market exposure that better reflects the breadth of the U.S. economy.

Diversification Tool: For investors concerned about single stock or sector concentration risks, particularly in Technology, SPXD can serve as an effective solution to mitigate these potential exposures.

Tactical Application: When mega-cap valuations appear stretched or market momentum is overly concentrated, SPXD can serve as a timely complement to core equity allocations.

Conclusion

The Xtrackers S&P 500 Diversified Sector ETF (SPXD) provides investors with the ability to access U.S. large-cap equities while reducing single-stock and sector concentration risks common in cap-weighted index portfolios.

Built on the Syntax FIS sector taxonomy, SPXD uses a rules-based approach that equal weights its eight sectors, helping to avoid excessive over- or under exposure. Unlike traditional indices that classify each

company into just one sector, SPXD weights each company across multiple sectors to reflect the full scope of a company's business activities.

With a low expense ratio of just 0.09%, SPXD delivers this diversification in a cost-effective, transparent ETF structure.

Glossary

Concentration Risk: The potential for financial loss due to an overexposure to a single asset, sector or geographic region.

Cap-Weighted Index: An index whose individual components are assigned weights based on their market capitalization.

Concentrated Sector Tilt: An intentional shift in a portfolio's allocation to give additional weight to a specific sector than a broad-market index would.

Effective Number of Stocks: Measures how many stocks in an index are contributing to an index's performance. It describes how diversified an index is, not just by the number of companies, but by the amount each company's performance impacts the overall index value.

Equal-Weight Index: An index whose individual components are all assigned the same weight.

Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS): An industry analysis framework developed by MSCI and S&P Dow Jones Indices to provide investors with consistent industry definitions.

Great Eight: The Magnificent Seven group of stocks with the addition of Salesforce.

Mega-Cap Stocks: Refers to companies with a market capitalization above \$200 billion.

Magnificent Seven: A group of high-performing and influential companies in the U.S. stock market: Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Broadcom, Meta Platforms, Microsoft, and NVIDIA.

S&P 500 ETF (SPY): An ETF that aims to duplicate the performance of the S&P 500 Index.

S&P 500 Index: An index of U.S large-cap equities that includes 500 leading companies and covers approximately 80% of available market capitalization.

S&P 500 Diversified Sector Weight Index: An index that aims to enhance sector diversification and reduce individual stock concentration. By reweighting companies within the S&P 500, the index seeks to represent all business activities in the market, not just the largest ones.

S&P 500 Diversified Sector Weight ETF (SPXD): An ETF that aims to duplicate the performance of the S&P 500 Diversified Sector Weight Index.

Taxonomy: A structured classification system for categorizing economic activities, products, and companies.

1. Source: S&P Global as of 8/29/2025
2. Source: S&P Global, Bloomberg and DWS as of 8/29/2025
3. Source: S&P Global, Bloomberg and DWS as of 8/29/2025

4. Source: S&P Global as of 8/29/2025
5. Source: S&P Global as of 8/29/2025
6. Source: S&P Global as of 8/29/2025
7. Source: S&P Global as of 8/29/2025
8. Source: S&P Global as of 8/29/2025
9. Source: S&P Global as of 8/29/2025



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The top 10 holdings in SPXD as of 8/29/2025:

Name	Weight
Berkshire Hathaway Inc	3.83%
Abbott Laboratories	1.77%
Jabil Inc	1.54%
Microsoft Corp	1.38%
Procter & Gamble Co/The	1.36%
Costco Wholesale Corp	1.17%
Walt Disney Co/The	1.16%
Sysco Corp	1.15%
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc	1.14%
Apple Inc	1.10%

Source: Bloomberg

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