

This Covered Call Index Tends To Beat The Broader Market In Low Return And Negative Return Climates

S&P 500 TR Index vs. CBOE S&P 500 BuyWrite Index
(Annual & YTD Total Returns)

Year	S&P 500 TR Index	CBOE S&P BuyWrite Index	Winner
2017 (11/24)	18.36%	11.95%	?
2016	11.96%	7.07%	S&P 500
2015	1.38%	5.24%	BuyWrite
2014	13.69%	5.64%	S&P 500
2013	32.39%	13.26%	S&P 500
2012	16.00%	5.20%	S&P 500
2011	2.11%	5.72%	BuyWrite
2010	15.06%	5.86%	S&P 500
2009	26.46%	25.91%	S&P 500
2008	-37.00%	-28.65%	BuyWrite
2007	5.49%	6.59%	BuyWrite
2006	15.79%	13.33%	S&P 500
2005	4.91%	4.25%	S&P 500
2004	10.88%	8.30%	S&P 500
2003	28.68%	19.37%	S&P 500
2002	-22.10%	-7.64%	BuyWrite
2001	-11.89%	-10.92%	BuyWrite

Source: Bloomberg. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

View from the Observation Deck

1. From 2001-2016, the CBOE S&P 500 BuyWrite Index (an index designed to measure a covered call strategy) outperformed the S&P 500 Index in six of the 16 calendar years. It has lagged year-to-date thru 11/24/17 (see table).
2. While covered call options can generate an attractive level of current income, they also can cap the potential for capital appreciation.
3. The use of a covered call portfolio tends to be most beneficial to investors when the stock market posts down years (2001, 2002 & 2008) and when returns range from 0% to 10% (2007, 2011 and 2015), though the BuyWrite Index did not outperform the S&P 500 Index in 2005.
4. Covered call writing tends to be less beneficial when stock market returns are well above their normal range, such as in 2012, 2013 and 2014 (see table). While the BuyWrite Index has performed well so far in 2017, its total return significantly lags that of the S&P 500 Index.
5. As of 11/24/17, the S&P 500 Index stood at its all-time high of 2,602.42. We believe that corporate earnings growth determines the direction of stock prices over time, though we concede that corporate and individual tax reform could potentially provide a boost to the stock market should Congress pass legislation. The Republicans are working to get legislation passed by the end of 2017.
6. Bloomberg's 2018 and 2019 consensus earnings growth rate estimates for the S&P 500 Index was 10.04% for both years as of 11/27/17. That target is just above the 0% to 10% range.
7. From 1926-2016, the S&P 500 posted an average annual total return of 10.04%, according to Ibbotson & Associates/Morningstar.

This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The illustration excludes the effects of taxes and brokerage commissions or other expenses incurred when investing. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. The S&P 500 is a capitalization-weighted index comprised of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. The CBOE S&P 500 BuyWrite Index (BXM) is designed to track a hypothetical buy-write strategy on the S&P 500. It is a passive total return index based on (1) buying an S&P 500 stock index portfolio, and (2) "writing" (or selling) the near-term S&P 500 Index (SPXSM) "covered" call option.

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