ASTORIA REAL ASSETS ETF (PPI)

Q2 2026 Commentary
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Quarterly Performance Overview

The Astoria Real Assets ETF (PPI) returned 2.91% during the three months ending June 2026, while its benchmark (70% MSCI All Country World Index, 20% Bloomberg Commodity Index, and 10% Bloomberg US TIPS 1-3 Year) Index returned 8.63%.

Fund	1 Mo	3 Mo	6 Mo	YTD	1 Yr	2 Yr*	3 Yr*	SI*	Inception
Price Return	-1.00%	2.91%	15.24%	15.24%	32.05%	21.23%	20.47%	14.84%	12/29/2021
NAV Return	-1.13%	3.51%	15.36%	15.36%	31.96%	21.09%	20.46%	14.83%	12/29/2021
Benchmark[1]	-2.31%	8.63%	11.39%	11.39%	22.45%	17.75%	16.92%	10.13%	

**Returns are average annualized total returns, except those for periods of less than one year, which are cumulative. (1) Benchmark: 70% MSCI All Country World Index, 20% Bloomberg Commodity Index, and 10% Bloomberg US TIPS (1-3 Y) Index. The performance data quoted represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. For the most recent month-end performance, please call 833.AXS.ALTS. One cannot invest in an index.*

Relevant Indicators

- The S&P 500 Index returned 15.20% during the three months ending June 2026 and the MSCI All Country World Index rose 15.06%.
- The Bloomberg Composite Crude Oil Index fell 18.24%, the S&P Energy Select Sector Index was down 12.54%, and the Bloomberg Commodity Index declined 8.08%.
- Longer duration assets such as the growth heavy NASDAQ-100 Index gained 27.74% while the S&P U.S. Government Bond 20+ Year Index was up 0.84%.
- The bond market rose modestly as the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index returned 0.67%.
- The yield on the US 10-year Treasury increased from 4.32% on 3/31/2026, to 4.44% on 6/30/2026, and the Bloomberg US Corporate Investment Grade Index was up 1.40%.
- The VIX Index decreased by 34.85% over the period.
- The Personal Consumption Expenditure Index (commonly referred to as "PCE") increased 4.1% year over year in May, matching the 4.1% forecast and accelerating from April's 3.8% measure. Month over month, May PCE rose 0.45%, slightly below the 0.50% expectation but above the prior month's 0.41% increase.
- Core PCE (excluding food and energy) was up 3.4% year over year in May, slightly above the 3.3% consensus and accelerating from April's 3.3% gain. The May number was up 0.32% month over month, below the 0.37% estimate but above the previous month's revised 0.25% gain.

- The CPI (Consumer Price Index) gained 4.2% year over year in May, matching the 4.2% consensus and accelerating from April's 3.8% measure. It rose 0.50% month over month, also in line with the forecast but below the prior month's rise of 0.60%.

- Core CPI (excluding food and energy) rose 2.9% year over year in May, in line with the 2.9% estimate and just above April's 2.8% print. Month over month, the May figure was up 0.20%, slightly below the expected 0.30% and cooler than the previous month's 0.40% measure.

Fed Actions

The Federal Reserve held the federal funds rate steady at the June FOMC meeting, keeping the target range at 3.50–3.75%. This marks the 4th consecutive hold in 2026 and was the first meeting chaired by Kevin Warsh, who succeeded Jerome Powell as Chair. While the decision to hold was widely expected, the accompanying communication shifted in a more hawkish direction. The policy statement was shortened to roughly 130 words from 341 in April, removed prior language signaling a bias toward future cuts, and emphasized that the Committee “will deliver price stability.” Consistent with his prior skepticism of forward guidance, Chair Warsh also declined to submit his own projection in the dot plot. The economic backdrop offered little reason to ease, as May PCE rose 4.1% year-over-year, its highest reading since April 2023, while Nonfarm Payrolls remained firm at 172,000 and the unemployment rate held at 4.3%. The updated Summary of Economic Projections reflected the shift, with nine of eighteen officials now penciling in at least one 25 bps hike in 2026 and six projecting at least two, lifting the median year-end funds rate forecast to 3.8% from 3.4% in March and reversing the cut previously expected. Looking ahead, market pricing via the CME FedWatch Tool implies another hold at the July meeting, with the next move now priced as a hike rather than a cut.

Performance Analysis

The Fund produced a positive return for the period. Equities accounted for the lion's share of the ETF's return, while our commodity exposures detracted from the Fund's performance.

Equities

Below are the largest contributors and detractors to Fund performance from equities. GE Vernova Inc. gained 34.66% for the period overall and accounted for 0.91% of the ETF's performance.

Holdings Percent Contribution	
GE Vernova Inc.	0.91%
ABB Ltd.	0.77%
Sterling Infrastructure, Inc.	0.56%
Vertiv Holdings Co. Class A	0.54%
Cummins Inc.	0.53%

The largest detractor was Exxon Mobil Corporation, which was down 18.89% for the period overall and detracted 0.50% from the ETF's performance.

Holdings Percent Contribution	
Exxon Mobil Corporation	-0.50%
Shell Plc	-0.46%
Lockheed Martin Corporation	-0.34%
Rheinmetall AG	-0.30%
Canadian Natural Resources Limited	-0.28%

Commodities

For the period, the SPDR Gold MiniShares Trust fell 14.32% and detracted 1.00% from the ETF's performance.

Portfolio Changes

On June 15-16, 2026, we executed a rebalance in which our stock selection and screening process was reviewed. We sold completely out of stocks whose quantitative ranking scores meaningfully declined and with the proceeds from the sales, we purchased companies whose quantitative ranking scores were superior.

Within equities, we trimmed our energy exposure following strong year-to-date performance across the sector. With the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz serving as a potential catalyst for energy prices to retrace, we elected to take profits and reduce the portfolio's exposure to a historically volatile sector. The proceeds, together with available cash, were redeployed into industrials names that continued to rank highly within our screening process and remain a core ballast of the portfolio, as well as into utilities and real estate, which we view as offering more defensive characteristics and lower sensitivity to broad market volatility.

Current and Prospective Economic Outlook

The US economy has remained resilient despite tariffs, elevated inflation, and the recent conflict involving Iran, with business activity and the labor market both holding firm. Importantly, market breadth has returned, supported by strong earnings. Equal-weight and small-cap stocks have regained leadership, driven by double-digit median earnings-per-share growth across the S&P 1500, while earnings revisions breadth for the S&P 500 reached its highest level since 2021. The market rotation we have discussed for some time appears to be underway, with the Magnificent 7 down slightly this year on an equal-weighted basis while equal-weighted strategies, emerging markets, and cyclical and many real asset sectors have outperformed the S&P 500.

That said, crosscurrents warrant attention. The Fed's tone has become more hawkish under new Chair Kevin Warsh, with the median 2026 projection now pointing to a rate hike rather than a cut. Concentration among mega-cap technology stocks remains near historic levels, and hyperscalers are funding significant AI capital expenditures through debt and equity issuance, which could pressure free cash flow and reduce capacity for buybacks. Earnings growth, while exceptional, may be approaching a cyclical peak, and liquidity conditions have tightened. Against this backdrop, we believe diversification across market segments remains prudent. Broadening earnings growth may continue to support cyclicals, small-caps, and mid-caps, while real assets, including commodities and inflation-sensitive sectors such as energy, materials, and industrials, may offer potential benefits should inflationary pressures remain structurally elevated. Within technology, selectivity may matter more going forward as markets weigh near-term AI monetization against longer-dated investment.

Commentary provided by Astoria Investment Management, who serves as the Sub-Adviser for the Astoria Real Assets ETF and is not affiliated with AXS Investments. Holdings are subject to change and should not be considered investment advice.

DEFINITIONS INDICES

Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based flagship benchmark that measures the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. The index includes Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, MBS (agency fixed-rate pass-throughs), ABS and CMBS (agency and non-agency).

Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index is composed of futures contracts and reflects the returns on a fully collateralized investment in the BCOM.

Bloomberg Composite Crude Oil Index, formerly known as Dow Jones-UBS Composite Crude Oil Subindex (DJUBSCR), the index is composed of futures contracts on WTI and Brent Crude Oil.

Bloomberg U.S. TIPS 1-3 Year (USD) Index measures the performance of the U.S. Treasury inflation-linked bond market.

Bloomberg US Corporate Investment Grade Index measures the performance of the long-dated, investment grade U.S. corporate bond market. Only bonds that have a maturity of more than ten years are included. Securities must be fixed rate, U.S. dollar denominated, taxable and rated investment grade as defined by the Index methodology.

CPI (Consumer Price Index) measures the average change in prices over time that consumers pay for a basket of goods and services.

MSCI All Country World Index is a stock index that tracks nearly 3,000 stocks in 48 developed and emerging market countries.

NASDAQ-100 Index is a basket of the 100 largest, most actively traded U.S companies listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange. The index includes companies from various industries except for the financial industry, like commercial and investment banks.

Personal Consumption Expenditure Index (PCE) is a measure of the prices that people pay for goods and services. The index is known for capturing inflation (or deflation) across a wide range of consumer expenses and reflecting changes in consumer behavior.

S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged, capitalization-weighted index designed to measure the performance of the broad US economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

S&P Energy Select Sector Index comprises those companies included in the S&P 500 that are classified as members of the GICS® energy sector.

S&P U.S. Government Bond 20+ Year Index is designed to measure the performance of U.S. Treasury bonds maturing in 20 or more years.

VIX Index measures the market's expectation of future volatility and is based on options of the S&P 500 Index. It is used as a barometer for market uncertainty, providing market participants and observers with a measure of constant, 30-day expected volatility of the broad U.S. stock market.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Basis points (bps) refer to a common unit of measure for interest rates and other percentages in finance. One basis point is equal to 1/100th of 1%, or 0.01%, or 0.0001, and is used to denote the percentage change in a financial instrument.

FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) refers to the branch of the Federal Reserve System that determines the direction of monetary policy in the United States by directing open market operations.

TIPS (Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities) is a Treasury bond that is indexed to an inflationary gauge to protect investors from the decline in the purchasing power of their money.

IMPORTANT RISK DISCLOSURE

ETFs involve risk including possible loss of principal. There is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective.

There is no guarantee the sectors or asset classes the advisor identifies will benefit from inflation. Fund may invest a larger portion of its assets in one or more sectors than many other funds and thus will be more susceptible to negative events affecting those sectors.

Equity Securities Risk: Equity securities may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, as the cost of capital rises and borrowing costs increase. Equity securities may decline significantly in price over short or extended periods of time, and such declines may occur in the equity market as a whole, or in only a particular country, company, industry or sector of the market.

Commodities Risk: Commodity prices can have significant volatility, and exposure to commodities can cause the value of the Fund's shares to decline or fluctuate in a rapid and unpredictable manner. The values of commodities may be affected by changes in overall market movements, real or perceived inflationary trends, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates or currency exchange rates, population growth and changing demographics, international economic, political and regulatory developments, and factors affecting a particular region, industry or commodity.

Futures Contracts Risk: The Fund expects that certain of the Underlying ETFs in which it invests will utilize futures contracts for its commodities investments. The risk of a position in a futures contract may be very large compared to the relatively low level of margin the underlying ETF is required to deposit. In many cases, a relatively small price movement in a futures contract may result in immediate and substantial loss or gain to the investor relative to the size of a required margin deposit. The prices of futures contracts may not correlate perfectly with movements in the securities or index underlying them.

TIPS Risk: Principal payments for Treasury Inflation-Protection Securities are adjusted according to changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). While this may provide a hedge against inflation, the returns may be relatively lower than those of other securities. Similar to other issuers, changes to the financial condition or credit rating of the U.S. government may cause the value of the Fund's exposure to U.S. Treasury obligations to decline.

Shares of ETFs are bought and sold at market price (not NAV) and are not individually redeemed from the ETF. Brokerage commissions will reduce returns. NAVs are calculated using prices as of 4:00 PM Eastern Time. The closing price is the midpoint between the bid and ask price as of the close of exchange. Closing price returns do not represent the returns you would receive if you traded shares at other times.

Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of AXS Astoria Inflation Sensitive ETF. This and other important information about the Fund is contained in the Prospectus, which can be obtained by visiting www.axsinvestments.com. The Prospectus should be read carefully before investing.

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