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<http://seekingalpha.com/article/315571-10-worst-performing-etfs-of-2011?source=yahoo>

10 Worst-Performing ETFs Of 2011

Odds are that 2011 is a year many investors will be eager to forget. Ongoing uncertainty over Europe, combined with a frustrating employment situation stateside and even weakness among emerging markets has put many core asset classes in the red for the year. Most equity ETFs have struggled on the year, with major benchmarks having given back any gains that were generated in the early parts of the year.

Any declines in value is always tough to swallow, but the pain obviously increases with the magnitude of the loss. Unfortunately for some, a rather large chunk of [the ETF universe](#) has experienced big declines in 2011; through December 19, more than 350 non-leveraged ETPs had lost 10% of more year-to-date.

Some of the biggest losers on the list are likely long-term dogs, focusing on asset classes that could see further declines in the future. But the list of the biggest declines could also include some opportunities to snap up asset classes with attractive long-term potential at a discounted price. Below, we profile ten ETFs that have struggled mightily in 2011:

10. ... Shipping ETF ...: Down 46%

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9. ... Volatility Index ...: Down 48%

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8. ... Egypt Index...: Down 48%

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7. ... Natural Gas...: Down 49%

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6. ... Platinum...: Down 49%

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5. WilderHill Clean Energy Portfolio (PBW): Down 52%

The track records of [alternative energy ETFs](#) are anything but clean. Once assumed to be "can't miss" investment opportunities that were poised to thrive as oil dependence was eliminated, alternative energy is yet to deliver the returns many had hoped for. No corner of the market has been spared, as solar, wind, and nuclear power stocks have all been hammered in a brutal sell-off in the alternative energy space.

4. ... India Small Cap...: Down 53%

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3. ... Global Carbon...: Down 56%

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2. ... Uranium...: Down 60%

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1. ... Solar Energy...: Down 67%

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