This ETF uses a physically-backed methodology, an idea that was popularized by ETFs, due to investors growing tired of the complexities of futures contracts and the dangers that are associated with them. By using this physically-backed strategy, this fund is able to eliminate the issues of contango and backwardation, as well as give investors a more realistic pricing of the metal it holds. Silver, along with other precious metals, is most often used as an inflationary hedge, or to protect against volatile equities. This fund doesn't work very well in the long term buy and hold scenario, but may be a good option for investor seeking to find a safe haven during times of market uncertainty. When it comes to physically-backed silver, SIVR and SLV are nearly identical, though SIVR does charge a slightly lower expense ratio.