

# Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS)<sup>®</sup>

The Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) was developed by MSCI Barra and Standard & Poor's in 1999 to provide an efficient, detailed and flexible investment tool.

## GICS Structure and Methodology

- The GICS methodology has been widely accepted as an industry analysis framework for investment research, portfolio management and asset allocation. The GICS classification system consists of: 10 sectors, 24 industry groups, 68 industries and 154 sub-industries. The GICS sectors are: Energy, Materials, Industrials, Consumer Discretionary, Consumer Staples, Health Care, Financials, Information Technology, Telecommunication Services and Utilities.
- A company is assigned a GICS classification at the sub-industry level according to its principal business activity. To make this determination, Standard & Poor's and MSCI Barra use revenues as a key measure of a company's business activity. Earnings and market perception, however, are also recognized as important and relevant information for classification purposes and are taken into account during the review process.

## Key Features of GICS

**Universal** — the classification applies to companies globally;

**Reliable** — the structure precisely reflects the state of the industries in the investment markets;

**Flexible** — the classification consists of four levels of analysis, ranging from the most general sector to the most specific sub-industry;

**Evolutionary** — annual reviews are conducted to ensure that the classification remains fully representative of the investment markets.

## GICS—The Industry Standard

- The GICS classifications are used throughout Standard & Poor's and MSCI Barra's products and are distributed by a large number of vendors.
- Hundreds of clients use the GICS and over 200 global institutions utilize GICS Direct, including nine of the top ten buy-side firms and sell-side firms.
- There has been significant adoption of the GICS standard across all major groups involved in the investment process, including:
  - Asset managers
  - Brokers (institutional and retail)
  - Custodians
  - Consultants
  - Research
  - Stock exchanges (Toronto Stock Exchange, Australian Stock Exchange, and the NOREX Alliance)

## CONTACT US

Americas  
1.888.588.4567  
Amsterdam  
+ 31.20.462.1382  
Atlanta  
+ 1.404.551.3212  
Boston  
+ 1.617.532.0920  
Cape Town  
+ 27.21.673.0100  
China Netcom  
10800.852.1032  
China Telecom  
10800.152.1032  
Chicago  
+ 1.312.675.0545  
Frankfurt  
+ 49.69.133.859.00  
Geneva  
+ 41.22.817.9777  
Hong Kong  
+ 852.2844.9333  
London  
+ 44.20.7618.2222  
Madrid  
+ 34.91.700.7275  
Milan  
+ 39.02.5849.0415  
Montreal  
+ 1.514.847.7506  
New York  
+ 1.212.804.3901  
Paris  
0800.91.59.17  
San Francisco  
+ 1.415.576.2323  
São Paulo  
+ 55.11.3706.1360  
Singapore  
+ 65.6834.6777  
Stamford  
+ 1.203.325.5630  
Sydney  
+ 61.2.9033.9333  
Tokyo  
+ 813.5226.8222  
Toronto  
+ 1.416.628.1007  
Zurich  
+ 41.44.220.9300

[www.msribarra.com](http://www.msribarra.com)

[www.standardpoors.com](http://www.standardpoors.com)



## GICS Direct<sup>SM</sup>

- MSCI Barra and Standard & Poor's estimate that GICS Direct covers approximately 95% of the world's equity market capitalization.
- GICS Direct, a joint product of MSCI Barra and Standard & Poor's, maintains classifications for more than 37,000 active companies and 40,000 securities.
- Geographic coverage of more than 90 markets.

## About MSCI Barra

MSCI Barra is a leading provider of investment decision support tools to investment institutions worldwide. MSCI Barra products include indices and portfolio risk and performance analytics for use in managing equity, fixed income and multi-asset class portfolios. The company's flagship products are the MSCI International Equity Indices, which include over 120,000 indices calculated daily across more than 70 countries, and the Barra risk models and portfolio analytics, which cover 56 equity and 46 fixed income markets. MSCI Barra is headquartered in New York, with research and commercial offices around the world.

The information contained herein (the "Information") may not be reproduced or disseminated in whole or in part without prior written permission from MSCI Barra. The Information may not be used to verify or correct other data, to create indices, risk models, or analytics, or in connection with issuing, offering, sponsoring, managing or marketing any securities, portfolios, financial products or other investment vehicles. Historical data and analysis should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance, analysis, forecast or prediction. None of the Information or MSCI index or other product or service constitutes an offer to buy or sell, or a promotion or recommendation of, any security, financial instrument or product or trading strategy. Further, none of the Information or MSCI index or other product or service is intended to constitute investment advice or a recommendation to make (or refrain from making) any kind of investment decision and may not be relied on as such. The information is provided "as is" and the user of the Information assumes the entire risk of any use it may make or permit to be made of the Information. NONE OF MSCI, BARRA, FEA, ANY OF THEIR AFFILIATES OR THEIR DIRECT OR INDIRECT SUPPLIERS OR ANY THIRD PARTY INVOLVED IN THE MAKING OR COMPILING OF THE INFORMATION (EACH, AN "MSCI BARRA PARTY") MAKES ANY WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATIONS AND, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, EACH MSCI BARRA PARTY HEREBY EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. The foregoing shall not exclude or limit any liability that may not be applicable law be excluded or limited, including without limitation (as applicable), any liability to the other party for death or personal injury to the extent that such injury results from the negligence or wilful default of itself, its servants, agents or sub-contractors.