

MSCI Constituent History

The historical data available for the constituents of the MSCI Global Equity Indexes is broad and deep, providing over 40 years of Developed Markets (DM) history and nearly 25 years of Emerging Markets (EM) history. This comprehensive history of the global investable universe is ideal for anyone wishing to back-test investment strategies.

Data Composition

The MSCI Constituent History datasets are primarily composed of data that has not been “backfilled.” MSCI Indexes have been used as global fund benchmarks since 1969. MSCI Constituent History therefore provides meaningful market performance that captures stock information as it happened. Index constituents are investable and treated with a consistent methodology over time—essential features for creating a reliable back-testing framework.

Data timeliness. MSCI Constituent History reflects information available to market participants at the time of index calculation; for example, the data adjusts for corporate events as they were reported to the market. In contrast, backfilled historical data may overlook the details of such events and the day on which they were effective. Similarly, MSCI Constituent History reflects financial restatements when they were made, retaining both the initial and the restated data.

MSCI has also maintained the index constituent fundamental data, so that valuation ratios are consistently in line with a stock’s pricing at the time.

Data Quality

Transparency and consistency since inception. The MSCI Constituent History datasets reflect the quality and accuracy that are applied to the calculation of the MSCI Indexes. The MSCI approach to capturing and maintaining complex corporate data is widely used and valued for its depth. This can help users interpret market information with more precision—for meaningful time series analyses, or for understanding company results in an historical context.

- » MSCI adjusts certain historical constituent data for accounting differences across countries and regions¹ to provide comparable data.
- » MSCI includes inflation accounting for certain emerging markets with high rates of inflation (Latin America in the 1970s and 80s, for example). Without such adjustments, comparing company sales or dividends year over year can be problematic.

Using MSCI Constituent History

The MSCI Constituent History datasets facilitate reliable back-testing. MSCI Constituent History enables institutional investors to simulate the past performance of an investment strategy, test an investment idea, or analyze what combination of factors, styles or sectors may have been drivers of market returns. This historical data helps avoid both look-ahead and survivorship bias when conducting back-testing research.



¹ For example, extraordinary items are netted out where possible; and MSCI makes every effort to adjust for after tax data.

The MSCI Constituent History Datasets

MSCI Constituent History is licensed through three datasets:

- » **Dataset 1** includes constituent data to simulate the composition of MSCI regional, country and sector indexes.
- » **Dataset 2** offers monthly fundamental data.
- » **Dataset 3** provides financial statement data (for Developed Markets constituents only).

The data is provided as available.

Key Data Points for Datasets 1, 2 and 3

Dataset 1: Index Simulation Data ²	Dataset 2: Valuation Ratios	Dataset 3: Financial Statement Data
Security Name	P/BV	Sales
Internal & External Security Identifiers	P/CE	Earnings
GICS Code	P/E	EPS
Number of Shares	P/Sales	Dividends/Share
Prices	Dividend Yield	Cash Earnings
Index Family Codes	ROE	Current, Fixed and Other Assets
Index Inclusion Flags and Factors		Investments

Start Dates for Developed and Emerging Markets Constituent Histories Vary

Dataset	Start Dates	
	Developed Markets (DM)	Emerging Markets (EM)
1: Index Simulation Data	1970 ³	1988 ³
2: Valuation Ratios	1970	1992
3: Financial Statement Data	1970	

Small Cap and Value/Growth modules are also available.

The MSCI Constituent History Datasets

- » The datasets are available through perpetual licenses that allow unlimited internal users at applicable locations through any available platform (e.g., direct delivery and/or the following vendors⁴: FactSet, Thomson Reuters/QAI, RIMES).
- » Licenses to corresponding ongoing MSCI Core modules are required at the time of licensing the MSCI Constituent History datasets.

² Note that perfect replication of index level histories using security level data is not always possible due to MSCI's correction policy. In addition, usage of monthly security level files for month-end to month-end index level calculation leads to approximate performance, due to changes in security weights that occur within a month.

³ Daily data is available from 1992 onwards.

⁴ Data availability and scope may vary by vendor.

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About MSCI

MSCI Inc. is a leading provider of investment decision support tools to investors globally, including asset managers, banks, hedge funds and pension funds. MSCI products and services include indexes, portfolio risk and performance analytics, and governance tools.

The company's flagship product offerings are: the MSCI indexes with approximately USD 8 trillion estimated to be benchmarked to them on a worldwide basis¹; Barra multi-asset class factor models, portfolio risk and performance analytics; RiskMetrics multi-asset class market and credit risk analytics; IPD real estate information, indexes and analytics; MSCI ESG (environmental, social and governance) Research screening, analysis and ratings; ISS corporate governance research, data and outsourced proxy voting and reporting services; and FEVA valuation models and risk management software for the energy and commodities markets. MSCI is headquartered in New York, with research and commercial offices around the world.

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¹ As of September 30, 2013, as reported on January 31, 2014 by eVestment, Lipper and Bloomberg.