
MSCI Barra Extends its Range of Multiple-horizon Risk Models to Cover Global Equity Portfolios

New Short-horizon Model Brings Improvements in Model Accuracy, Structure and Responsiveness to Market Events

New York - January 12, 2009 - MSCI Barra (NYSE: MXB), a leading provider of investment decision support tools worldwide, including indices and portfolio risk and performance analytics, announced today the extension of its multiple-horizon range of risk models with the introduction of a new short-horizon Global Equity Model (GEM2 S). GEM2 S is an investment decision support tool designed to help global equity managers better construct and manage risk-adjusted portfolios across developed and emerging markets.

"With the launch of GEM2 S, we are now able to offer global investors both a short- and long-horizon version of our new and enhanced global equity multi-factor model, GEM2," said Roveen Bhansali, Head of the Analytics Business at MSCI Barra. "In today's volatile markets, GEM2 S provides global fund managers with Barra's most accurate and responsive risk forecasts. The long-horizon model, GEM2 L, on the other hand, is intended for longer-term investors who value more stable risk forecasts and lower portfolio turnover."

GEM2 S, along with the long-horizon model version, GEM2 L, has been specifically designed for global equity portfolio management and construction across developed and emerging markets. Both model versions offer improved portfolio risk forecasts and higher explanatory power of global equity returns. These improvements are driven by the addition of four new global risk factors, the enhancement of existing factors, and the use of the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS®) as the basis of industry factor analysis to help fund managers to better understand the sources of return and risk in their global equity portfolios.

Both short- and long-horizon versions of GEM2 are available as Barra Models Direct products, and in the Barra Aegis System, MSCI Barra's flagship equity portfolio construction tool.

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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 are estimated to have over USD 3 trillion benchmarked to them, 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. Morgan Stanley, a global financial services firm, is the controlling shareholder of MSCI Barra.

In 2008 MSCI Barra was named Index Provider of the Year at the European Pensions Awards and Best Provider of Benchmark Indices in Asia Pacific at the AsianInvestor Service Provider Awards.

For further information on MSCI Barra, please visit our web site at www.mscibarra.com

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