

# **MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes Methodology**

November 2023

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## 1. Introduction

The MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes, based on the MSCI ACWI Investable Market Indexes (IMI) Real Estate (the “Parent Index”), are designed to reflect the performance of stocks in the Parent Index engaged in the ownership, development and management of specific core property real estate. Specifically, these indexes exclude companies that do not own properties. For example, companies active in real estate services and real estate financing are not included in the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes.

The MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes are segmented by country and region, property type, REIT status and rental income.

In addition, the new MSCI Core Real Estate Factor Indexes seek to reflect the performance characteristics of a range of investment styles and strategies in the listed real estate space (such as small size, volatility and high yield) using transparent and rules-based methodologies. These indexes often use weighting methods other than market capitalization.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Indexes are governed by a set of methodology and policy documents (“Methodology Set”), including the present index methodology document. The Methodology Set for the Indexes can be accessed from MSCI’s webpage <https://www.msci.com/index-methodology> in the section ‘Search Methodology by Index Name or Index Code’.

## 2. Eligible Securities for the MSCI Core real Estate Indexes

The MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes are derived from the MSCI ACWI IMI Real Estate Index, a global index consisting of developed and emerging market countries across the large, mid and small cap size segments. MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes seek to reflect a narrower definition of the real estate universe compared to the broader GICS®<sup>2</sup> based real estate classification to more closely reflect the public market of real estate investors. The MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes are weighted by free float adjusted market capitalization.

Constituents of the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes are a sub-set of the Real Estate Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS®) sector.

To be included in the index, a company needs to derive at least 75% of its revenues from real estate related to a combination of the following property types:

- Industrial
- Office
- Retail
- Residential
- Health Care
- Hotel & Resort
- Storage
- Data Centers
- Restaurants
- Education and Childcare<sup>3</sup>

In addition, the following types of companies are not eligible for the index:

- Companies classified in the Real Estate Services GICS sub-industry
- Companies classified in the Mortgage REITs GICS industry
- Real Estate holdings defined as companies having the majority of its assets invested in other listed real estate companies
- Specialized REITs that are not involved in core real estate property types listed above

For some regional indexes, eligible securities may be subject to liquidity screening as explained in Appendix I.

<sup>2</sup> GICS®, the global industry classification standard jointly developed by MSCI and S&P Global. For more information visit <https://www.msci.com/our-solutions/indexes/gics>

<sup>3</sup> Effective starting from the November 2016 Semi-Annual Index Review

## 3. Index Construction Methodology

Each company included in the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes is classified into a country, attributed a property type, and has a REIT and rental status. These attributes aim to allow the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes to be divided into segments meaningful to real estate investors. As an example, the MSCI USA IMI Core REIT Residential Index includes securities of companies from the MSCI ACWI IMI Core Real Estate Index that are classified in the US, as REITs and are classified in the Residential property type.

### 3.1 Country Classification

Companies are classified into countries and regions as per the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes (GIMI) methodology. Consequently, the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes are compatible and consistent with the MSCI ACWI IMI used as a policy benchmark by many asset owners.

### 3.2 Property Type Classification

Each core real estate index company is attributed one of the following property types:

- Industrial
- Office
- Retail
- Residential
- Health Care
- Hotel & Resort
- Storage
- Data Centers
- Restaurants
- Education and Childcare<sup>4</sup>
- Diversified

To be included in a property type, the security needs to derive at least 60% of its revenues from real estate of that type. If no specific property type accounts for at least 60% of revenues, the company is classified as “Diversified”.

### 3.3 REIT Status

Securities that are part of the Equity REITs GICS Industry Group are attributed a REIT status.

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<sup>4</sup> Effective starting from the November 2016 Semi-Annual Index Review

### 3.4 Rental Status

Companies deriving at least 75% of their revenues from rental activities are attributed a rental status. This allows the creation of indexes focusing on companies with rental revenue stream.

## 4. Maintenance of the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes

The maintenance of the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes includes:

- Quarterly Index Reviews coinciding with the Parent Index reviews in February, May, August and November
- Semi-Annual Liquidity Review in May and November
- Annual Eligibility Review in May
- Ongoing event-related changes

### 4.1 Quarterly Index Reviews of the Parent Index

During Quarterly Index Reviews, the Parent Index is reviewed under the guidelines of the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes methodology. Changes in the Parent Index during Index Reviews impact the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes as follows:

- Existing constituents of the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes that are deleted from the Parent Index are also deleted from the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes
- Eligible securities as per Sections 1, 2 and Appendix I that are added to the Parent Index as part of the Quarterly Index Review or that have been added to the Parent index since the previous Quarterly Index Review are also added to the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes
- Changes in the Foreign Inclusion Factors (FIF) and Number of Shares (NOS) for securities in the Parent Index are also applied to the securities included in the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes
- Existing constituents of the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes are subject to liquidity screening during semi-annual review in May and November every year, as explained in Appendix I.

For more information on Index Reviews for the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes, please refer to Section 3.1 of the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes methodology book available at <https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/GIMI>.

The impact of the Quarterly Index Reviews of the Parent Index on the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes is announced nine business days before the effective date.

### 4.2 Annual Eligibility Review

In addition to changes from the reviews of the Parent Index, the eligibility of all constituents is reassessed once per year, coinciding with the May Index Review of the Parent Index. Current constituents of the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes remain eligible as long as the proportion of revenues derived from eligible property types as described in section 1 does not fall below 50%. Current constituents with a rental status remain eligible for the rental status as long as the proportion of revenues derived from rental activities as described in section 2.4 does not fall below 50%. The impact of the Annual Eligibility Review is announced nine business days before the effective date.

### 4.3 Cutoff Date for Market Capitalization and Prices used for the Rebalancing

The cutoff date for market capitalization and prices used for the rebalancing of the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes is nine business days before the end of February, May, August and November.

### 4.4 Announcement Policy

The pro forma results of the rebalancing of the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes are announced nine business days before the effective date of each Index Review.

### 4.5 Ongoing Event-Related Changes

The Parent Index is updated to reflect ongoing event-related changes in accordance with the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes methodology. Ongoing event-related changes in the Parent Index are reflected in the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes at the time of the implementation of the event in the Parent Index:

- Existing constituents of the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes that are deleted from the Parent Index are also deleted from the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes
- Eligible securities not currently constituents of the MSCI Core Real Estate Index that are added to the Parent Index are reviewed for inclusion at the subsequent Index Review, with the exception of spun-off and converted securities that are added to the MSCI Core Real Estate Index at the time of the event.
- Changes in the Foreign Inclusion Factors (FIF) and Number of Shares (NOS) for securities in the Parent Index are also applied to the securities included in the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes

The impact of other ongoing event-related or GICS-related changes to the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes are typically deferred to the next Index Review with the exception of changes in REIT status that are implemented simultaneously with the GICS classification change.

With the exception of the treatment as described herein, the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes follow the event maintenance of the Parent Index. Details regarding the treatment of corporate events not covered below can be found in the MSCI Corporate Events Methodology Book, available at:

<https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/CE>.

## 5. MSCI Core Real Estate Factor Indexes

The MSCI Core Real Estate Factor Indexes seek to reflect the performance characteristics of a range of investment styles and strategies in the real estate industry group using transparent and rules-based methodologies. MSCI calculates the following factor indexes which are based on the MSCI Core Real Estate Index:

- Equal weighted, aimed at capturing the size factor
- Volatility Tilt, aimed to reflect the performance of the Volatility factor by tilting the market capitalization weights of all the constituents in the parent index towards low volatility stocks
- Minimum Volatility, aimed to reflect the performance of a minimum variance strategy on listed real estate
- High Dividend Yield, aimed to represent the high dividend yield opportunity within listed real estate
- Liquid Real Estate Indexes, multi-asset class indexes aimed to achieve a risk/return profile similar to direct real estate indexes

The index methodologies for the MSCI Equal Weighted, Volatility Tilt, Minimum Volatility and High Dividend Yield Factor Indexes can be found on MSCI's website at the following link:

<http://www.msci.com/products/indexes/strategy/factor/>

The High Dividend Yield methodology has been adjusted to better fit the specifics of listed real estate as follows:

- The payout screen is defined relative to cash earnings instead of earnings given the typical high depreciation and amortization expenses included in earnings of listed real estate companies.

The MSCI Liquid Real Estate Indexes methodology can be found on MSCI's website at the following link: <https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/LiquidRE>

## Appendix I: Liquidity Screen

In order to balance the demands of representativeness and replicability for the index, eligible securities as defined in section 2 may be subject to additional liquidity screening.

As of July 2015, the liquidity screen is applied to the following index

- Europe ex UK IMI Core Real Estate Index

Liquidity Measure – Liquidity of an eligible security is measured by its last 12-month ATVR.

ATVR – Annual Traded Value Ratio, calculated as below (for latest description of ATVR please refer to MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes Methodology on <https://www.msci.com/index-methodology>)

### Liquidity Screen

Securities that are not currently constituents of the index are included only if their 12-month ATVR is more than 30%, while existing constituents can remain in the index as long as their 12-month ATVR is more than 20%.

## Appendix II: Changes to this Document

**The following sections have been modified since March 2015:**

Section 4.3: Ongoing Event-Related Changes

- Update to this section.

**The following sections have been modified since June 2015:**

Section 1: Introduction

- Change of the Parent Index

Section 2: Defining Eligible Securities for the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes

- Update to the list of eligible property types

Section 3.2: Property Type Classification

- Update in this section

**The following sections have been modified since July 2015:**

Section 2 : Eligible Securities For The MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes

- Update in the section – Added reference to liquidity screen.

Section 4.1: Quarterly and Semi-Annual Index Reviews of the Parent Index

- Update in the section – Added reference to liquidity screen.

Section 5 : MSCI Liquid Real Estate Indexes

- Update in section – Added reference to MSCI Europe ex UK Liquid Index and Markit iBoxx EUR Government Inflation-Linked Euro-Inflation Short TRI\_Nominal Index

Appendix I :

- Added Appendix I

**The following sections have been modified since December 2015:**

Section 2: Defining Eligible Securities for the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes

- Update to the list of eligible property types

Section 3.2: Property Type Classification

- Update in this section

**The following sections have been modified since July 2016:**

Section 2: Defining Eligible Securities for the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes

- Update to the list of eligible property types

Section 3.2: Property Type Classification

- Update in this section

**The following sections have been modified since August 2016:**

Section 2: Defining Eligible Securities for the MSCI Core Real Estate Indexes

- Updated to reflect revised GICS structure effective September 1, 2016

**The following sections have been modified since September 2017:**

Section 4.3 Cutoff Date for Market Capitalization and Prices Used for the Rebalancing

- Added new section

Section 4.4 Announcement policy

- Added new section

Section 5: MSCI Core Real Estate Factor Indexes

- Moved the MSCI Liquid Real Estate Indexes methodology to a separate methodology book

**The following sections have been modified as of November 2023:**

Methodology book was updated to reflect the transition of the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes (GIMI) to Quarterly Comprehensive Index Reviews.

All references to “Semi-Annual Index Reviews” and “Quarterly Index Reviews” of the MSCI GIMI were replaced with “Index Reviews.”

Replace Equity REITs GICS Industry with Equity REITs GICS Industry Group

Section 1. Introduction

- Added footnote for methodology set

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