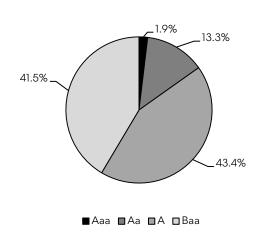
# **Bloomberg Barclays MSCI US Corporate 1-5 year ESG Focus Index**

The Bloomberg Barclays MSCI US Corporate 1-5 year ESG Focus Index measures investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bonds, and is optimized to maximize exposure to positive environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors. The index aims to preserve the overall risk characteristics of the Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate 1-5 year Index, while targeting issuers with the highest MSCI ESG Ratings in each sector. Bond in the index must have a maturity greater than or equal to 1 year and less than, but not equal to, 5 years. The index was launched in May 2017, with history available back to February 2013.

# Historical Index Values -US Corporate 1-5 year vs US Corporate 1-5 year ESG Focus



# Composition by Quality (MV %) - April 30, 2020



# **Rules for Inclusion**

Sector

Corporate (industrial, utility and financial institutions) issuers only.

**ESG Rating** 

Only issuers with MSCI ESG Ratings are eligible.

**ESG** Controversies

Excludes all issuers involved in one or more very severe ESG Controversies (MSCI ESG Controversy Score < 1).

Business Involvement Screening

- Excludes all companies that manufacture tobacco products, such as cigars, blunts, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, inhalers, beedis, kreteks, smokeless tobacco, snuff, snus, dissolvable and chewing tobacco. It includes companies that grow or process raw tobacco leaves.
- Excludes all companies deriving 15% or more aggregate revenue from the manufacture, distribution, retailing, licensing, and supply of tobacco products.
- Excludes all companies that manufacture cluster munitions whole weapons systems, components, or delivery platforms.
- Excludes all companies that manufacture landmines whole systems or components.
- Excludes all companies involved in the production of depleted uranium (DU) weapons, ammunition, and armor.
- Excludes all companies that manufacture biological and chemical weapons or components.
- Excludes all companies that manufacture firearms and small arms ammunitions for civilian markets. It does not include companies that cater to the military, government, and law enforcement markets.
- Excludes all companies deriving 5% or more aggregate revenue from the production and distribution (wholesale or retail) of firearms or small arms ammunition intended for civilian use.
- Excludes all companies deriving USD 20 million or more revenue from the production and distribution (wholesale or retail) of firearms or small arms ammunition intended for civilian use.
- Excludes all companies deriving 5% or more revenue (either reported or estimated) from the mining of







# **Rules for Inclusion**

thermal coal (including lignite, bituminous, anthracite and steam coal) and its sale to external parties. It excludes: revenue from metallurgical coal; coal mined for internal power generation (e.g. in the case of vertically integrated power producers); intra-company sales of mined thermal coal; and revenue from coal trading.

- Excludes all companies deriving 5% or more revenue (either reported or estimated) from the thermal coal based power generation.
- Excludes all companies deriving 5% or more revenue from oil sands extraction for a set of companies that own oil sands reserves and disclose evidence of deriving revenue from oil sands extraction. This factor does not include revenue from non-extraction activities (e.g. exploration, surveying, processing, refining); ownership of oil sands reserves with no associated extraction revenues; revenue from intra-company sales.

### **Eligible Currencies**

Principal and interest must be denominated in USD.

### Quality

Securities must be rated investment grade (Baa3/BBB-/BBB- or higher) using the middle rating of Moody's, S&P and Fitch; when a rating from only two agencies is available, the lower is used; when only one agency rates a bond, that rating is used. In cases where explicit bond level ratings may not be available, other sources may be used to classify securities by credit quality:

- Expected ratings at issuance may be used to ensure timely index inclusion or to properly classify split-rated issuers.
- Unrated securities may use an issuer rating for index classification purposes if available. Unrated subordinated securities are included if a subordinated issuer rating is available.

## **Amount Outstanding**

USD300mn minimum par amount outstanding.

From April 1, 2017 the minimum amount outstanding for the US Aggregate is 300mn. Previously, the minimum amount outstanding was 250mn.

### Coupon

- Fixed-rate coupon.
- Callable fixed-to-floating rate bonds are eligible during their fixed-rate term only.
- Bonds with a step-up coupon that changes according to a predetermined schedule are eligible.

### Maturity

- At least one year until final maturity and less than, but not equal to, 5 years, regardless of optionality.
- Bonds that convert from fixed to floating rate, including fixed-to-float perpetual, will exit the index one year prior to conversion to floating-rate. Fixed-rate perpetual bonds are not included.

# Taxability

- Only fully taxable issues are eligible.
- Dividend Received Deduction (DRD) and Qualified Dividend Income (QDI) eligible securities are excluded.

# Market of Issue

- SEC-registered securities, bonds exempt from registration at the time of issuance and SEC Rule 144A securities with registration rights are eligible. A security with both SEC Regulation-S (Reg-S) and SEC Rule 144A tranches is treated as one security for index purposes. The 144A tranche is used to prevent double-counting and represents the combined amount outstanding of the 144A and Reg-S tranches.
- Global bonds are included.
- Bonds that were previously SEC-registered or 144A with registration rights but later deregistered by the issuer remain index eligible.

# **Security Types**

# Included

- Corporate bonds
- Fixed-rate bullet, putable, sinkable/amortizing and callable bonds
- Original issue zero coupon bonds
- Underwritten MTN
- Enhanced equipment trust certificates (EETC)
- Certificates of deposit
- Fixed-rate and fixed-to-float (including fixed-to-

# Excluded

- Bonds with no MSCI ESG Rating
- Bonds with very severe ESG Controversies
- Tobacco producers or companies with 15% or more of their revenue derived from tobacco products
- Civilian firearms producers or retailers that derive 5% or more of their revenue, or more than \$20 million in revenue, from civilian firearms-related products
- Cluster bomb, landmine, depleted uranium, or chemical/biological weapon systems or components

# **Rules for Inclusion**

variable) capital securities

#### manufactures

- Companies deriving 5% or more revenue from Thermal Coal or Oil Sands.
- Contingent capital securities, including traditional CoCos and contingent write-down securities, with explicit capital ratio or solvency/balance sheet-based triggers
- Bonds with equity type features (e.g., warrants, convertibles, preferreds, DRD/QDI-eligible issues)
- Inflation-linked bonds, floating-rate issues
- Fixed-rate perpetuals
- Taxable and tax-exempt municipal securities
- Securitized bonds (MBS, ABS, CMBS, covered)
- Private placements, retail bonds
- USD25/USD50 par bonds
- Structured notes, pass-through certificates
- Formosa Bonds
- Illiquid securities with no available internal or thirdparty pricing source

# **Optimization Constraints and Calculations**

#### Overview

- The Bloomberg PORT Optimizer is used to select and weight each security in the index.
  - All bonds are selected from the Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate 1-5 year Index, also known as the parent index.
  - The optimizer runs once per month, selecting securities and calculating notional positions.
  - This process will not impact bond prices and other security-level analytics.
- The optimizer has three main objectives:
  - Maximize the overall MSCI ESG Score.
  - Minimize Active Total Risk versus the Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate 1-5 year Index. This is the exante (or predicted) tracking error based on the Bloomberg Fixed Income multi-factor risk model.
  - Minimize month-to-month index turnover.
- Each of these objectives is assigned a weight (trade-off) in order to make these goals directly comparable.
   Active Total Risk is assigned the highest weight, followed by ESG Score, and finally by Turnover.
- By default, only securities eligible for the Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate 1-5 year Index are included.

# **Optimization Constraints**

Each of these constraints, with the exception of turnover, is a hard constraint. This means that the optimizer will only consider solutions within these bounds. Parent Index refers to the Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate 1–5 year Index.

- OAD (option-adjusted duration) must be within 0.1 years of the parent index.
- DTS (duration times spread) must be within 0.2 years of the parent index. DTS is calculated by multiplying spread duration by Libor option-adjusted spread. DTS measures sensitivity to relative spread change as opposed to absolute spread change like modified duration.
- Active total risk, as calculated by the Bloomberg multi-factor fixed income risk model, must be within 0.1 or 10bps of the parent index. This is an annualized measure. If market conditions do not allow for the active total risk target to be met, this constraint will be relaxed until a solution is achieved.
- Yield to worst must be greater than or equal to the parent index.
- Bloomberg Barclays Class 3 sector weights must be within 2% of the parent index.
- Individual security weights must be within 1% of their weight in the parent index.
- Small issues, those with less than or equal to \$500MM par amount outstanding, are capped at 25 times their weight in the parent index.

# **Optimization Constraints and Calculations**

- Corporate ticker weights are limited to 1.5% plus their weight in the parent index.
- Only long positions are allowed.

### Turnover

Unlike standard rules-based indices, past index holdings will directly impact which securities are chosen for index inclusion in the present and future. This is because one of the constraints and objectives of the optimization process is to limit monthly index turnover. The optimizer sets a 5% turnover soft constraint each month. This means that if a solution cannot be found satisfying the hard constraints defined above, the 5% upper bound will be breached.

# **Rebalancing Rules**

#### Frequency

The composition of the index is rebalanced at each month-end and represents the fixed set of bonds on which index returns are calculated for the next month.

# **Index Changes**

During the month, indicative changes to securities (credit rating change, sector reclassification, amount outstanding changes, corporate actions, and ticker changes) are reflected daily. These changes will affect the composition of the index on month-end only, when the index is next rebalanced.

### Reinvestment of Cash Flows

Intra-month cash flows from interest and principal payments contribute to monthly index returns but are not reinvested at a short-term reinvestment rate between rebalance dates. At each rebalancing, cash is effectively reinvested into the returns universe for the following month so that index results over two or more months reflect monthly compounding.

#### New Issues

Qualifying securities issued, but not necessarily settled on or before the month-end rebalancing date, qualify for inclusion in the following month's index if the required security reference information and pricing are readily available.

# **Pricing and Related Issues**

# **Sources & Frequency**

All bonds in the index are priced daily using Bloomberg's evaluated pricing service, BVAL.

# Timing

- 3pm (New York time).
- On early market closes, prices are taken as of 1pm (New York time), unless otherwise noted. If the last business day of the month is a public holiday, prices from the previous business day are used.

# Bid or Offer Side

Bonds in the index are priced on the bid side. The initial price for new corporate issues entering the index is the offer side; after the first month, the bid price is used.

# **Settlement Assumptions**

T+1 calendar day settlement basis for all bonds. At month-end, settlement is assumed to be the first calendar day of the following month, even if the last business day is not the last day of the month, to allow for one full month of accrued interest to be calculated.

### Verification

Daily price moves for each security are analyzed by the index pricing team to identify outliers. Index users may also challenge price levels, which are then reviewed and updated as needed using input from various sources.

# Calendar

The US Corporate 1–5 year ESG Focus Index follows the US bond market holiday schedule.

# **Accessing Index Data**

Accessing index Data		
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# Bloomberg Total Return Index Value Tickers: US Corporate 1-5 year ESG Focus Index and Related Indices

• Index data is also available via authorized redistributors

Ticker (USD Unhedged)	Index	Ticker (USD Unhedged)	Index
B15FTRUU	US Corporate 1-5 year ESG Focus Index	BUC1TRUU	US Corporate 1-5 year Index
BESFTRUU	US Corporate ESG Focus Index	UCEWTRUU	US Corporate ESG-Weighted Index
134100US	US Aggregate ESG Focus Index	135573US	US Universal Choice ESG Screened Index

Total Return Index Values are available in other currencies and on a hedged basis. Attributes such as yield and duration, are also available. Please refer to Accessing Bloomberg Barclays Index Data Using Bloomberg Tickers for a full list of tickers and attributes that are available.

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