



MSCI Indicative ESG Score: FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

MSCI SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESEARCH

July 2025

Contents

1	What is the MSCI Indicative ESG Score?	3
2	How is the Indicative ESG Score different from a full MSCI ESG Rating?	3
3	Does the Indicative ESG Score produce a letter rating (e.g., AAA to CCC)?	3
4	What types of companies can I analyze using this tool?	4
5	What inputs are required to generate the Indicative ESG Score?	4
6	Can I upload data for multiple companies at once?	4
7	How long does it take to generate results?	4
8	Where can I find and download my results?	4
9	Can the Indicative ESG Score be used for reporting or regulatory purposes?	5
10	How is the Indicative ESG Score calculated?	5
10.1	Model Foundation.....	5
10.2	Inputs Used.....	5
10.3	Scoring Mechanism	5
10.4	Governance pillar – no proxy score on sub-pillar level.....	6
11	What does the Indicative ESG Score mean	6
12	Will this score be updated over time?	6
13	Where can I find information on the error codes in the excel output files?	6
14	Where can I find the methodology document?	6

Please note that this FAQs document is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal advice.

We encourage you to discuss any questions that you may have about the regulations themselves and how they apply to your firm, with your respective legal and compliance departments. Also, please note that the timeframes in this document may be subject to the EU legislative process and may be subject to change.

1 What is the MSCI Indicative ESG Score?

Indicative ESG Scores are a quantitative assessment of companies' management of financially relevant ESG risks and opportunities based on the ESG scores of similar companies. Indicative ESG Scores are calculated as industry-relative scores and are determined at the legal-entity level. Indicative ESG Scores are based on MSCI ESG Ratings, taking into consideration the company's exposure to potentially material ESG risks and the company's expected level of risk management based on the level of risk management observed in similar companies with an MSCI ESG Rating.

The MSCI Indicative ESG Score is part of MSCI's Sustainability and Climate On-demand solutions offering.

2 How is the Indicative ESG Score different from a full MSCI ESG Rating?

The Indicative ESG Scores calculated by the Indicative ESG Scores model use the same model structure as the MSCI ESG Rating model and are thus comparable to the Industry Adjusted Scores (IAS) of the MSCI ESG Rating model. However, it is important to note that while the Indicative ESG Scores may offer a valuable indication of companies' management of financially relevant ESG risks and opportunities, they are inherently less precise than IAS from the MSCI ESG Rating model. This is because the MSCI ESG Rating model incorporates a comprehensive set of company-specific data, including detailed risk exposure assessments based on business and geographic segment information and other company-specific factors; detailed management practices; controversy history; and potential analyst adjustments; which are not used in the Indicative ESG Scores model. As a result, while the Indicative ESG Scores provide a useful benchmark for broad ESG assessment, the MSCI ESG Rating model's scores are more accurate and reliable for making nuanced evaluations and comparisons between companies.

3 Does the Indicative ESG Score produce a letter rating (e.g., AAA to CCC)?

No. The Indicative Score is **numerical only** and does **not provide a letter-based ESG rating**. It is meant to offer a directional view of a company's sustainability profile based on simplified inputs. For a formal MSCI ESG Rating with a letter output, a comprehensive, analyst-driven assessment is required.

Please note that this FAQs document is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal advice.

We encourage you to discuss any questions that you may have about the regulations themselves and how they apply to your firm, with your respective legal and compliance departments. Also, please note that the timeframes in this document may be subject to the EU legislative process and may be subject to change.

4 What types of companies can I analyze using this tool?

The indicative ESG scores are calculated as industry relative scores and are determined at the legal entity level. You can use the model to analyze any public or private company where you can supply the relevant model inputs.

Entities categorized as Public Authority/State/Government or Mutual and Pension Fund/Nominee/Trust/Trustee are not eligible for coverage under the MSCI ESG Indicatives OnDemand Scores model. The model is not designed to evaluate these entity types, and hence any output generated for such entities should not be considered valid.

5 What inputs are required to generate the Indicative ESG Score?

Inputs include:

- Industry classification (e.g., NAICS, NACE, SIC code)
- Revenue data in USD
- Location of Headquarters – 2-digit ISO Code

A downloadable template is provided to guide your input for bulk uploads.

6 Can I upload data for multiple companies at once?

Yes, the **bulk request** feature allows you to submit data for multiple issuers using a standardized input template.

7 How long does it take to generate results?

The on-demand model processes requests in real time or within minutes, depending on volume and server load.

8 Where can I find and download my results?

Once processed, your requests will appear in the “**submitted requests**” panel, where you can track status and download output files for each issuer.

Please note that this FAQs document is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal advice.

We encourage you to discuss any questions that you may have about the regulations themselves and how they apply to your firm, with your respective legal and compliance departments. Also, please note that the timeframes in this document may be subject to the EU legislative process and may be subject to change.

9 Can the Indicative ESG Score be used for reporting or regulatory purposes?

No. This score is intended for internal analysis, screening, and exploratory use. It is not an official MSCI ESG Rating and should not be used for external disclosures or regulatory reporting. You may share the counterparty's score with the counterparty itself. The limitation applies to broader distribution — sharing is restricted to a maximum of 10 external parties.

10 How is the Indicative ESG Score calculated?

The Indicative ESG Score is generated using a streamlined, model-based approach that estimates a company's sustainability performance based on a limited set of inputs and proxy assumptions. It is designed to provide a directional, data-light assessment of sustainability risk and opportunity exposure — particularly for companies that lack full disclosure or are not covered by MSCI's standard ESG Ratings framework.

10.1 Model Foundation

The score draws from the core pillars and key issues used in **MSCI's flagship ESG Ratings model** but adapts them to work with simplified, user-submitted data. These inputs are mapped to sector- and size-specific peer benchmarks and fed into a rules-based scoring algorithm.

10.2 Inputs Used

To calculate the Indicative ESG Score, the model uses a subset of fundamental company data, including:

- Industry classification (e.g., NAICS, NACE, SIC code)
- Revenue data in USD
- Location of Headquarters – 2-digit ISO Code

10.3 Scoring Mechanism

- Each input is mapped to key ESG issues (e.g., carbon emissions, human capital, product safety).
- The model applies issue-level weights based on industry relevance — similar to the full MSCI ESG Ratings framework.
- A numerical score (typically on a 0–10 or 0–100 scale) is generated based on exposure and management factors, using adjusted peer benchmarks where applicable
- What does the scoring mean

Please note that this FAQs document is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal advice.

We encourage you to discuss any questions that you may have about the regulations themselves and how they apply to your firm, with your respective legal and compliance departments. Also, please note that the timeframes in this document may be subject to the EU legislative process and may be subject to change.

10.4 Governance pillar – no proxy score on sub-pillar level

There is no proxy score displayed at the sub-pillar level for the Governance Pillar of the Indicative ESG Score because MSCI ESG Research infers the Governance Pillar Score directly using input data. This means that Governance Key Issue Scores are not assessed in the Indicative ESG Scores model. All inferred scores are calculated using a “random forest” model calibrated to the coverage universe of the MSCI ESG Rating model. For more details, please refer to the methodology document.

11 What does the Indicative ESG Score mean

The final industry adjusted indicative ESG Score is measured on a 0.0 to 10.0 scale, where 10 represents the best performance and 0 represents the worst. The score output represents how well companies of similar size, sector and location are managing their exposure to financially material ESG risks.

12 Will this score be updated over time?

The Indicative ESG Scores are generated in real time using client-provided inputs, incorporating the most current available data. However, in practice, these scores often remain unchanged over time. This is because the underlying input data, such as sector and country of operation, is stable, while available company revenue data tends to be updated annually. MSCI may periodically update the model methodology, which will be communicated in advance.

13 Where can I find information on the error codes in the excel output files?

If there are error codes in your generated excel output file, you can find the explanation of each code in the “error codes” section of the [User Guide for Sustainability and Climate On-Demand solutions](#).

14 Where can I find the methodology document?

You can view or download the methodology document [here](#).

Please note that this FAQs document is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal advice.

We encourage you to discuss any questions that you may have about the regulations themselves and how they apply to your firm, with your respective legal and compliance departments. Also, please note that the timeframes in this document may be subject to the EU legislative process and may be subject to change.

Contact Us

About MSCI

MSCI is a leading provider of critical decision support tools and services for the global investment community. With over 50 years of expertise in research, data and technology, we power better investment decisions by enabling clients to understand and analyze key drivers of risk and return and confidently build more effective portfolios. We create industry-leading research-enhanced solutions that clients use to gain insight into and improve transparency across the investment process.

About MSCI ESG Research Products and Services

MSCI ESG Research products and services are provided by MSCI ESG Research LLC, and are designed to provide in-depth research, ratings and analysis of environmental, social and governance-related business practices to companies worldwide. ESG ratings, data and analysis from MSCI ESG Research LLC are also used in the construction of the MSCI ESG Indexes. MSCI ESG Research LLC is a Registered Investment Adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and a subsidiary of MSCI Inc.

To learn more, please visit www.msci.com.

msci.com/contact-us

AMERICA

United States	+ 1 888 588 4567 *
Canada	+ 1 416 687 6270
Brazil	+ 55 11 4040 7830
Mexico	+ 52 81 1253 4020

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

South Africa	+ 27 21 673 0103
Germany	+ 49 69 133 859 00
Switzerland	+ 41 22 817 9777
United Kingdom	+ 44 20 7618 2222
Italy	+ 39 02 5849 0415
France	+ 33 17 6769 810

ASIA PACIFIC

China	+ 86 21 61326611
Hong Kong	+ 852 2844 9333
India	+ 91 22 6784 9160
Malaysia	1800818185 *
South Korea	+ 82 70 4769 4231
Singapore	+ 65 67011177
Australia	+ 612 9033 9333
Taiwan	008 0112 7513 *
Thailand	0018 0015 6207 7181 *
Japan	+ 81 3 4579 0333
* toll-free	

Please note that this FAQs document is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal advice.

We encourage you to discuss any questions that you may have about the regulations themselves and how they apply to your firm, with your respective legal and compliance departments. Also, please note that the timeframes in this document may be subject to the EU legislative process and may be subject to change.

Notice and Disclaimer

This document is research for informational purposes only and is intended for institutional professionals with the analytical resources and tools necessary to interpret any performance information. Nothing herein is intended to promote or recommend any product, tool or service.

This document and all of the information contained in it, including without limitation all text, data, graphs, charts (collectively, the "Information") is the property of MSCI Inc. or its subsidiaries (collectively, "MSCI"), or MSCI's licensors, direct or indirect suppliers or any third party involved in making or compiling any Information (collectively, with MSCI, the "Information Providers") and is provided for informational purposes only. The Information may not be modified, reverse-engineered, reproduced or disseminated in whole or in part without prior written permission from MSCI. All rights in the Information are reserved by MSCI and/or its Information Providers.

The Information may not be used to create derivative works or to verify or correct other data or information. For example (but without limitation), the Information may not be used to create indexes, databases, risk models, analytics, software, or in connection with the issuing, offering, sponsoring, managing or marketing of any securities, portfolios, financial products or other investment vehicles utilizing or based on, linked to, tracking or otherwise derived from the Information or any other MSCI data, information, products or services.

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 THE INFORMATION PROVIDERS MAKES ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE INFORMATION (OR THE RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED BY THE USE THEREOF), AND TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, EACH INFORMATION PROVIDER EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF ORIGINALITY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, NON-INFRINGEMENT, COMPLETENESS, MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE) WITH RESPECT TO ANY OF THE INFORMATION.

Without limiting any of the foregoing and to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, in no event shall any Information Provider have any liability regarding any of the Information for any direct, indirect, special, punitive, consequential (including lost profits) or any other damages even if notified of the possibility of such damages. The foregoing shall not exclude or limit any liability that may not by applicable law be excluded or limited, including without limitation (as applicable), any liability for death or personal injury to the extent that such injury results from the negligence or willful default of itself, its servants, agents or sub-contractors.

Information containing any historical information, data or analysis should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance, analysis, forecast or prediction. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

The Information may include "Signals," defined as quantitative attributes or the product of methods or formulas that describe or are derived from calculations using historical data. Neither these Signals nor any description of historical data are intended to provide investment advice or a recommendation to make (or refrain from making) any investment decision or asset allocation and should not be relied upon as such. Signals are inherently backward-looking because of their use of historical data, and they are not intended to predict the future. The relevance, correlations and accuracy of Signals frequently will change materially.

The Information should not be relied on and is not a substitute for the skill, judgment and experience of the user, its management, employees, advisors and/or clients when making investment and other business decisions. All Information is impersonal and not tailored to the needs of any person, entity or group of persons.

None of the Information constitutes an offer to sell (or a solicitation of an offer to buy), any security, financial product or other investment vehicle or any trading strategy.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Exposure to an asset class or trading strategy or other category represented by an index is only available through third party investable instruments (if any) based on that index. MSCI does not issue, sponsor, endorse, market, offer, review or otherwise express any opinion regarding any fund, ETF, derivative or other security, investment, financial product or trading strategy that is based on, linked to or seeks to provide an investment return related to the performance of any MSCI index (collectively, "Index Linked Investments"). MSCI makes no assurance that any Index Linked Investments will accurately track index performance or provide positive investment returns. MSCI Inc. is not an investment adviser or fiduciary and MSCI makes no representation regarding the advisability of investing in any Index Linked Investments.

Index returns do not represent the results of actual trading of investable assets/securities. MSCI maintains and calculates indexes, but does not manage actual assets. The calculation of indexes and index returns may deviate from the stated methodology. Index returns do not reflect payment of any sales charges or fees an investor may pay to purchase the securities underlying the index or Index Linked Investments. The imposition of these fees and charges would cause the performance of an Index Linked Investment to be different than the MSCI index performance.

The Information may contain back tested data. Back-tested performance is not actual performance, but is hypothetical. There are frequently material differences between back tested performance results and actual results subsequently achieved by any investment strategy.

Constituents of MSCI equity indexes are listed companies, which are included in or excluded from the indexes according to the application of the relevant index methodologies. Accordingly, constituents in MSCI equity indexes may include MSCI Inc., clients of MSCI or suppliers to MSCI. Inclusion of a security within an MSCI index is not a recommendation by MSCI to buy, sell, or hold such security, nor is it considered to be investment advice.

Data and information produced by various affiliates of MSCI Inc., including MSCI ESG Research LLC and Barra LLC, may be used in calculating certain MSCI indexes. More information can be found in the relevant index methodologies on www.msci.com.

MSCI receives compensation in connection with licensing its indexes to third parties. MSCI Inc.'s revenue includes fees based on assets in Index Linked Investments. Information can be found in MSCI Inc.'s company filings on the Investor Relations section of msci.com.