

# MSCI World Private Equity Return Tracker Index

July 2025





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# 1 Introduction

The MSCI World Private Equity Return Tracker Index (the "Index"<sup>1</sup>) seeks to approximate the returns of private equity investments by replicating region, sector and style exposures through publicly listed equities. These exposures are informed by private company fundamental data sourced from the MSCI Private Capital Universe. The MSCI Private Capital Universe is a comprehensive proprietary database of private investments which encompasses a vast collection of data on private capital funds and their underlying holdings, including private equity.

The historical performance of private equity investments has been characterized by limited liquidity, uneven market access, potentially long lock-up periods, and infrequent valuation updates given the significantly different market structure and transparency requirements to public equity. The MSCI World Private Equity Return Tracker Index offers the transparency, liquidity and investability of public equity markets. The Index is a long/short index and uses constituents of the MSCI World Investable Market Index (IMI) as its universe of eligible securities. MSCI applies its proprietary private equity analytics, including private equity fund data and a specialized risk model<sup>2</sup> to construct the Index.

The Index itself does not include any privately held companies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Index is governed by a set of methodology and policy documents ("Methodology Set"), including the present index methodology document. Please refer to Appendix IV for more details.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Please refer to Appendix III for more details.



# 2 Constructing the Index

#### 2.1 Applicable universe

The applicable universe includes all the constituents of MSCI World IMI ("Parent Index"). Constituents of the Index are selected from the applicable universe.

#### 2.2 Index structure

The MSCI World Private Equity Return Tracker Index is a combination of indexes that represent broad regional private equity categories (the "Component Indexes") as listed below and as further described in Appendix I:

- 1. MSCI North America Buyout Return Tracker Index
- 2. MSCI North America VC<sup>3</sup> Return Tracker Index
- 3. MSCI Europe and Middle East Buyout Return Tracker Index
- 4. MSCI Europe and Middle East VC Return Tracker Index
- 5. MSCI Pacific Buyout Return Tracker Index
- 6. MSCI Pacific VC Return Tracker Index

The Component Indexes of MSCI World Private Equity Return Tracker Index are weighted in proportion of their respective regional private equity category weights within the MSCI Private Capital Universe. The weights allocated to the Component Indexes are reset at each quarterly Index Review.

The weights of the constituents of the Index are determined as follows:

$$CW_{k,PERT} = \sum_{j=1}^{6} w_{CI,j} * CW_{k,CI,j}$$

Where,

 $CW_{k,PERT}$  = Weight of constituent k in the Index  $CW_{k,CI,j}$  = Weight of constituent k in the Component Index j  $w_{CI,j}$  = Weight assigned to the Component Index j

The Index is divided into two portfolios, one representing the long positions in constituents (the "Long Portfolio") and one representing the short positions in constituents (the "Short Portfolio").

### 2.3 Capping of constituent weights in the Index

Constituents and their weights are adjusted with the aim of ensuring investability of the Index, in the following order:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> VC : Venture Capital



- Gross leverage<sup>4</sup> of the Index is capped at 300%. Excess weights after capping are reduced proportionally across all constituents in the Index to bring the gross leverage within the specified limit.
- Constituents that have a 3-month average daily trading value (3M ADTV) <= USD 500K or shorting cost >= 200 bps are excluded
- Weight multiplier<sup>5</sup> of constituents is capped at 25x
- Constituents with a weight in the Index <= 0.005% are excluded
- Absolute weight of issuers is capped at 5%

Any excess weights after applying these criteria are redistributed among the rest of the constituents within the corresponding portfolio (i.e., Long Portfolio or Short Portfolio) of the Index in proportion to their uncapped weights prior to the capping step.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Gross leverage = absolute weight of the long positions + absolute weight of the short positions. The long/short positions result from the combination of the building blocks. The details of construction of building blocks are provided in Appendix II.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Weight multiplier is the ratio of constituent weight in the Index with its corresponding weight in the Parent Index



# 3 Maintaining the indexes

#### 3.1 Quarterly index review

The Index is reviewed on a quarterly basis to coincide with the regular Index Reviews of the Parent Index. The changes are implemented as of the close of the last business day of February, May, August and November. The pro forma index is generally announced nine business days before the effective date.

MSCI uses the regional private equity category weights as of Q3 and Q4 of the previous year for the rebalancing of the Index in February and May, respectively, and uses the regional private equity category weights as of Q1 and Q2 of the same year for the rebalancing of the Index in August and November, respectively. If, at any Index Review, the regional private equity category weights are not available, then the latest available weights will be used for that Index Review.

#### 3.2 Ongoing event related changes

The general treatment of corporate events in the Index aims to minimize turnover outside of Index Reviews. The methodology aims to appropriately represent an investor's participation in an event based on relevant deal terms and pre-event weighting of the index constituents that are involved. Further, changes in index market capitalization that occur as a result of corporate event implementation will be offset by a corresponding change in the Variable Weighting Factor (VWF) of the constituent.

The following section briefly describes the treatment of common corporate events within the Index.

No new securities will be added (except where noted below) to the Index between Index Reviews. Parent Index deletions will be reflected simultaneously

EVENT TYPE	EVENT DETAILS
New additions to the Parent Index	A new security added to the Parent Index (such as IPO and other early inclusions) will not be added to the Index.
Spin-Offs	All securities created as a result of the spin-off of an existing Index constituent will be added to the Index at the time of event implementation. Reevaluation for continued inclusion in the Index will occur at the subsequent Index Review.
Merger/Acquisition	For Mergers and Acquisitions, the acquirer's post event weight will account for the proportionate amount of shares involved in



deal consideration, while cash proceeds will be invested across the corresponding Long Portfolio or Short Portfolio of the Index.

If an existing Index constituent is acquired by a non-Index constituent, the existing constituent will be deleted from the Index and the acquiring non-constituent will not be added to the Index.

Changes in SecurityA security will continue to be an Index constituent if there are<br/>changes in characteristics (country, sector, size segment, etc.)<br/>Reevaluation for continued inclusion in the Index will occur at the<br/>subsequent Index Review.

Further details and illustrations regarding specific treatment of corporate events relevant to this Index can be found in the MSCI Corporate Events Methodology. The MSCI Corporate Events methodology book is available at: <u>https://www.msci.com/index-methodology</u>.



## **Appendix I: Construction of Component Indexes**

The configuration of the MSCI World Private Equity Return Tracker Index is illustrated as below:



Constituents of a Component Index are determined from the combination of the corresponding constituents of building blocks categorized as "Core Factor" and "Non-core Factor" indexes as set out in Appendix II.

To illustrate, the MSCI North America Buyout Return Tracker Index will be constructed from the corresponding North America building blocks listed below:

Core Factor: Each Core Factor is constructed by reweighting the constituents of MSCI North America IMI Index to reflect country-sector group weights within the universe of the corresponding North America Buyout category of the MSCI Private Capital Universe. Constituent weights are capped such that the weight multiplier is limited to 25x. The excess weights after capping are redistributed among the rest of the constituents in proportion to their uncapped weights prior to the capping step.<sup>6</sup>

Non-core Factors: Each Non-core Factor is constructed to represent various style factors as follows:

- a. MSCI North America Buyout Leverage Index
- b. MSCI North America Buyout Value Index
- c. MSCI North America Buyout Momentum Index

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The capping may impact the country-sector weights of the Core Factor.



- d. MSCI North America Buyout Growth Index
- e. MSCI North America Buyout Low Size Index
- f. MSCI North America Buyout Low Volatility Index

The weights of the constituents in each Component Index are calculated as,

$$CW_{k,CI,j} = w_{cf,j}CW_{k,cf,j} + \sum_{i=1}^{6} w_{ncf,i,j} * CW_{k,ncf,i,j}$$

Where,

*CW*<sub>*k*,*CI,j*</sub> = Weight of constituent k in Component Index *j* 

 $CW_{k,cf,j}$  = Weight of constituent k in the core factor building block corresponding to Component Index *j* 

 $CW_{k,ncf,i,j}$  = Weight of constituent k in the non-core factor building block *i* corresponding to Component Index *j* 

 $w_{cf,j}$  = Weight assigned to the core factor building block corresponding to Component Index j

 $w_{ncf,i,j}$  = Weight assigned to the non-core factor building block *i* corresponding to Component Index *j* 

The weights are estimated at each quarterly Index Review of the Index, and they may drift between the two successive Index Reviews. If, at any Index Review, weights for the building blocks are not available, then the latest available weights from a proceeding Index Review will be used for that Index Review. Please refer to Appendix III for details on the estimation of weights.



# Appendix II: Core Factor and Non-core Factor building blocks

<u>Core Factor</u>: Each Component Index will have a corresponding Core Factor building block. The Core Factor will include the constituents from the corresponding MSCI GIMI regional index (e.g., MSCI North America IMI). At each Index Review, constituents will be reweighted such that their country-sector group weights will match that of the regional private equity category universe. Constituent weights are capped in the Core Factor by applying a maximum weight multiplier of 25x.

<u>Non-core Factors</u>: Each Component Index will have six corresponding Non-core Factor building blocks that represent different style factors. Every Non-core Factor will be a Long/Short index where the long leg will correspond to the style factor index and the short leg will be the same as the Core Factor. Constituent weights are capped in the Non-core Factor by applying a maximum weight multiplier of 25x relative to the corresponding MSCI GIMI regional index (e.g., MSCI North America IMI).

To illustrate, the following will be the Non-core Factor indexes corresponding to the MSCI North America Buyout Return Tracker Index:

- MSCI North America Buyout Leverage Index
  - The starting universe for the long leg will be the same as Core Factor for this Component Index
  - The long leg will be constructed according to the MSCI Quality Indexes methodology where Quality Score will be determined only based on the Debt-to-Equity ratio of the securities<sup>7</sup>
- MSCI North America Buyout Value Index
  - The starting universe for the long leg will be the same as Core Factor for this Component Index
  - The long leg will be constructed according to the MSCI Enhanced Value Indexes methodology <sup>8</sup>
- MSCI North America Buyout Momentum Index
  - The starting universe for the long leg will be the same as Core Factor for this Component Index
  - The long leg will be constructed according to the MSCI Momentum Indexes methodology
- MSCI North America Buyout Growth Index
  - The starting universe for the long leg will be the same as Core Factor for this Component Index

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The long leg is rebalanced quarterly in line with the quarterly rebalancing of the Index.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The long leg is rebalanced quarterly in line with the quarterly rebalancing of the Index.



- The long leg will be constructed according to the MSCI Growth Target Indexes methodology<sup>9</sup>
- MSCI North America Buyout Low Size Index
  - The long leg will be constructed by selecting Small Cap securities from the MSCI North America IMI constituents and reweighing them to match country-sector weights of the corresponding regional private equity category universe
- MSCI North America Buyout Low Volatility Index
  - The starting universe for the long leg will be the same as Core Factor for this Component Index.
  - The long leg will be constructed according to the MSCI Minimum Volatility Indexes methodology<sup>10</sup>

The short leg for all the Non-core Factor building blocks above will be the Core Factor i.e., MSCI North America Buyout Core Index in the above illustration

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The long leg is rebalanced quarterly in line with the quarterly rebalancing of the Index. In case of infeasible solution, the limit on turnover can be relaxed to find a feasible solution in the optimization process. The weight multiplier capping described here is in place of the existing weight multiplier capping in Section 2.4 of the MSCI Growth Target Indexes methodology. The maximum weight multiplier is relaxed in steps of 1 up to a maximum of 5 iterations. The most recent available risk model data will be used for optimization.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> In case of infeasible solution, the limit on turnover/asset weight can be relaxed to find a feasible solution in the optimization process. The weight multiplier capping described here is in place of the existing weight multiplier capping in Section 3.2 of the MSCI Minimum Volatility Indexes methodology. The maximum weight of a constituent will be restricted to the lower of 10% or 25 times the weight of the security in the corresponding MSCI GIMI regional index.



# Appendix III: Estimation of weights for the building blocks

Weights assigned to Core Factor and Non-core Factor building blocks are estimated at the time of each Index Review. The estimation approach uses a Bayesian framework (the use of statistical methods that combine prior information with new data to continuously update and refine analysis) combining bottom-up fundamental data with sensitivities from the time-series regressions. The inputs to the model include:

Private Equity:

- Sector and Country weights
- Net-of fees returns of MSCI Private Capital Fund Indexes
- Corresponding fundamental data

Public Equity:

- Returns of Core Factor and Non-core Factor building blocks
- Corresponding fundamental data<sup>11</sup>

A detailed description of the methodology approach is available at, LINK

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Prior for 'Low Size' factor is capped at 0.4 to mitigate potential high exposure to 'Low Size' factor among the non-core factor building blocks described in Appendix II



# Appendix IV: Methodology set

The Index is governed by a set of methodology and policy documents ("Methodology Set"), including the present index methodology document as mentioned below:

- Description of methodology set https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/ReadMe
- MSCI Corporate Events Methodology <u>https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/CE</u>
- MSCI Index Calculation Methodology <u>https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/IndexCalc</u>
- MSCI Index Glossary of Terms <u>https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/IndexGlossary</u>
- MSCI Index Policies <a href="https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/IndexPolicy">https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/IndexPolicy</a>
- MSCI Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) Methodology https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/GICS
- MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes Methodology https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/GIMI
- MSCI Quality Indexes Methodology https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/Quality
- MSCI Growth Target Indexes Methodology https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/GrowthTarget
- MSCI Minimum Volatility Indexes Methodology https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/MinVol
- MSCI Momentum Indexes Methodology https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/Momentum
- MSCI Enhanced Value Indexes Methodology https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/EV

The Methodology Set for the Indexes can also be accessed from MSCI's webpage <a href="https://www.msci.com/index-methodology">https://www.msci.com/index-methodology</a> in the section 'Search Methodology by Index Name or Index Code'.





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