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MSCI

Index Methodology

# MSCI Short and Leveraged Daily Indices Methodology

February 2013

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The MSCI Short and Leveraged Daily Indices aim to replicate the payoff to daily shorting and leveraged investment strategies, respectively. These indices can serve as benchmarks for the creation of exchange traded funds or other passive investment products that enable investors to gain short or leveraged exposure to certain segments of the equity market or hedge existing portfolio exposures without the need to short individual stocks or use derivative instruments.

# 2. SHORT DAILY INDEX METHODOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS

The objective of the MSCI Short Daily Indices is to replicate the payoff to daily shorting investment strategies. The MSCI Short Daily Indices take into account four main components of the payoff to daily shorting investment strategies:

- (1) Capital gains associated with the underlying equity securities.
- (2) Cash dividends paid by the underlying equity securities.
- (3) Interest earned on the initial capital as well as on the proceeds of the short sale.
- (4) Stock borrowing costs, typically fees paid to the beneficial owners of the borrowed stocks.

The formula used in the daily return calculation of the MSCI Short Daily Indices is as follows:

$$R_s = -R + 2 \cdot r_f \cdot \frac{T}{360} - r_c \cdot \frac{T}{360}$$

The terms in this formula correspond to the different components of daily shorting investment strategies. Assuming that  $t$  denotes the day of calculation and  $t-1$  denotes the previous business day, the terms in the above calculation formula can be interpreted as follows:

$R_s$  is the short daily index total return, including gross dividends, between dates  $t-1$  and  $t$

$R$  is the underlying index total return, including gross dividends, between dates  $t-1$  and  $t$

$r_f$  is the annual overnight risk-free rate (EONIA for EUR, LIBOR for other currencies)

$r_c$  is the annual stock borrowing cost (estimated from various sources including OTC swap data)

$T$  is the number of actual calendar days between dates  $t-1$  and  $t$

The MSCI Short Daily Indices are derived from existing underlying MSCI Indices. As a result, corporate events are reflected in the MSCI Short Daily Indices as they occur and as they are captured in the underlying MSCI Indices.

The MSCI Short Daily Indices are calculated daily using the formula presented and discussed above. The daily accrual of interest income and daily amortization of stock borrowing costs implied by this formula

means that using the same formula to calculate short index returns over a horizon other than daily would result in different calculated index returns.

The source for LIBOR rates is the British Banker's Association (BBA). The source for Eonia is the Euribor FBE (European Banking Federation). Eonia is a registered trademark of Euribor FBE.

Stock borrowing costs used in the calculation of the MSCI Short Daily Indices will be updated periodically using data from various sources including the OTC total return equity swap market. Initially, stock borrowing cost data will be updated at least annually; however, the update frequency of stock borrowing cost data may be reviewed in the future, depending on data availability. Please see Appendix 1 for the stock borrowing costs used.

## 2.1 Rationale for Including Borrowing Costs in Short Daily Indices

Investors pay stock borrowing fees to borrow securities and return them at a later date in the same way that they pay interest when they borrow cash and repay it at a future date. Therefore, stock borrowing costs, unlike transaction costs, are an inventory cost, more akin to interest and dividend payments. Given that MSCI includes interest and dividend payments in the calculation of short daily indices, it is also appropriate to reflect stock borrowing costs in these indices.

MSCI held extensive consultations with market participants during the development of the methodology used to construct the MSCI Short Daily Indices. In these consultations, the majority of market participants commented that it is appropriate to take stock borrowing costs into account. Also, market participants felt that even though there is no single universal stock borrowing cost rate applicable to all stocks and all investors, using proxies for stock borrowing costs such as total return equity swap repo rates or average stock borrowing fees would be acceptable and preferable to ignoring them completely.

# 3. LEVERAGED DAILY INDEX METHODOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS

The objective of the MSCI Leveraged Daily Indices is to replicate the payoff to daily leveraged investment strategies. The MSCI Leveraged Daily Indices take into account three main components of the payoff to daily leveraged investment strategies:

- (1) Capital gains associated with the underlying equity securities.
- (2) Cash dividends paid by the underlying equity securities.
- (3) Interest paid to the lender of the capital that is used to lever the portfolio.

The formula that computes the daily return of the MSCI Leveraged Daily Indices is as follows:

$$R_L = g \cdot R + (1 - g) \cdot r_f \cdot \frac{T}{360}$$

The terms in this formula correspond to the different components of daily leveraged investment strategies. Assuming that  $t$  denotes the day of calculation and  $t-1$  denotes the previous business day, the terms in the above calculation formula can be interpreted as follows:

$R_L$  is the leveraged daily index total return, including gross dividends, between dates  $t-1$  and  $t$

$R$  is the underlying index total return, including gross dividends, between dates  $t-1$  and  $t$

$r_f$  is the annual overnight risk-free rate (EONIA for EUR, LIBOR for other currencies)

$g$  is the strictly higher than one leverage ratio, defined as total capital over initial capital

$T$  is the number of actual calendar days between dates  $t-1$  and  $t$

The MSCI Leveraged Daily Indices are derived from existing underlying MSCI Indices. As a result, corporate events are reflected in the MSCI Leveraged Daily Indices as they occur and as they are captured in the underlying MSCI Indices. With respect to calculation frequency, the MSCI Leveraged Daily Indices are calculated daily using the above formula. The daily amortisation of interest expense implied by this formula means that using the same formula to calculate leveraged index returns over a horizon other than daily would result in different calculated index returns.

The source for LIBOR rates is the British Banker's Association (BBA). The source for Eonia is the Euribor FBE (European Banking Federation). Eonia is a registered trademark of Euribor FBE.

The following section has been modified since November 2012:

#### *APPENDIX 1: ANNUAL STOCK BORROWING COSTS*

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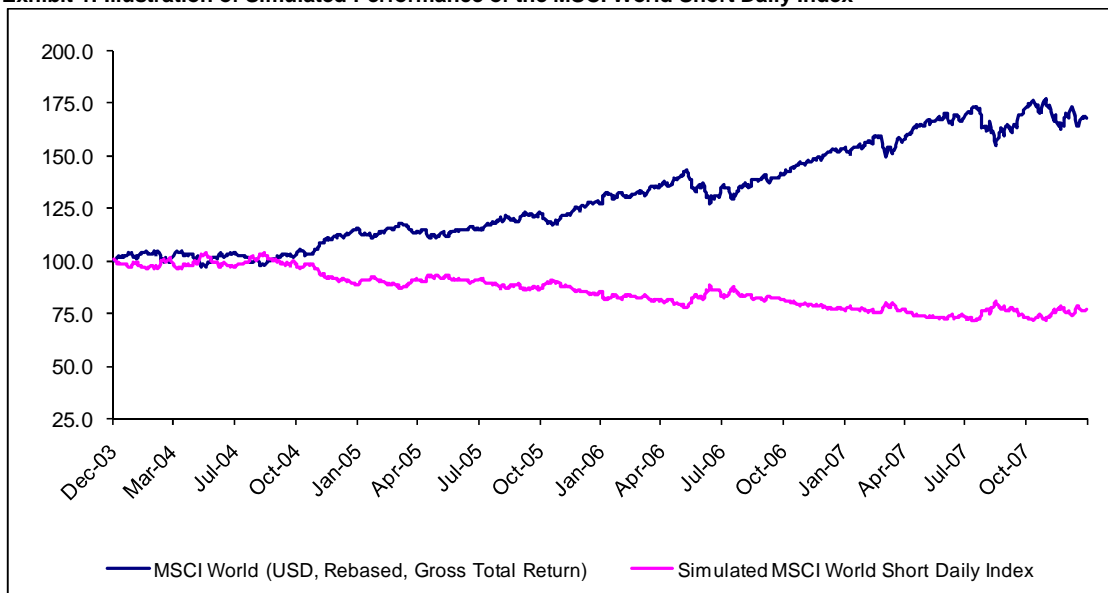
Country	Stock Borrowing Cost (bp annualized)
MSCI USA SHORT DAILY INDEX	5.00
MSCI JAPAN SHORT DAILY INDEX	20.00
Composite	
MSCI ACWI SHORT DAILY INDEX	25.00
MSCI WORLD SHORT DAILY INDEX	15.00
MSCI EUROPE SHORT DAILY INDEX	20.00
MSCI EAFE SHORT DAILY INDEX	20.00
MSCI EM SHORT DAILY INDEX	95.00

Data as of January 22, 2013

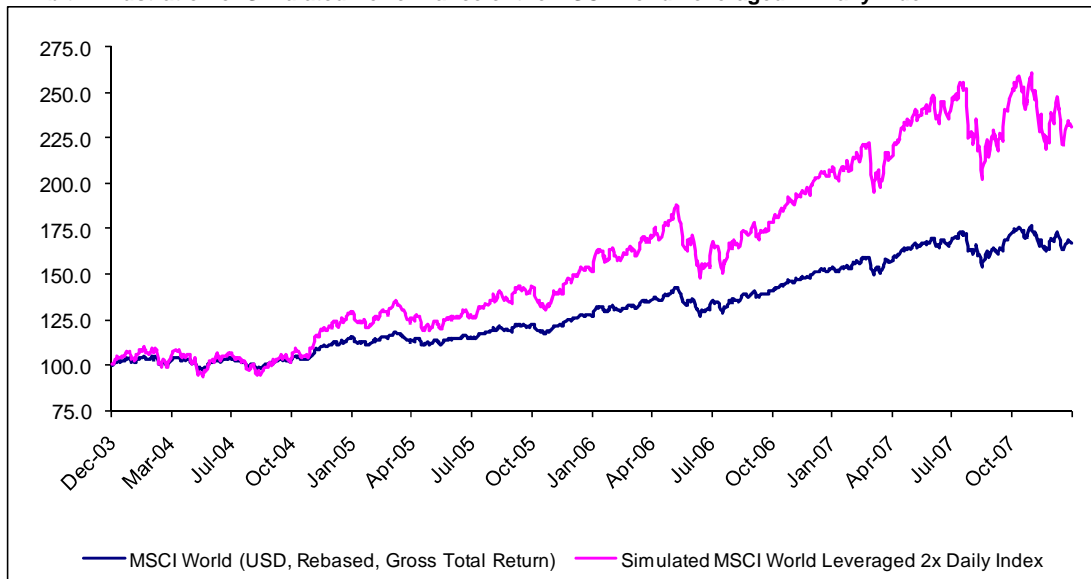
# APPENDIX 2: EXAMPLES OF SIMULATED SHORT AND LEVERAGED DAILY INDEX PERFORMANCE

The attached charts display examples of simulated performance for the MSCI World Short Daily Index and the MSCI World Leveraged Daily Index. Both simulations were carried out from a USD base currency perspective. Annual stock borrowing costs of 25 basis points were applied in the simulation of the MSCI World Short Daily Index and a leverage ratio of two was used in the simulation of the MSCI World Leveraged Daily Index. The USD overnight LIBOR interest rate was used to account for interest payments in both simulations.

**Exhibit 1: Illustration of Simulated Performance of the MSCI World Short Daily Index**



**Exhibit 2: Illustration of Simulated Performance of the MSCI World Leveraged 2x Daily Index**



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<sup>1</sup>As of March 31, 2012, as published by eVestment, Lipper and Bloomberg in September 2012