

MSCI Global Digital Assets Smart Contract Index Methodology

February 2024

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1. Introduction

The MSCI Global Digital Assets Smart Contract Index (“the Index”) aims to represent the performance of a digital assets investment strategy that focuses on digital assets that are associated with technology platforms supporting “Smart Contracts” features¹. A Smart Contract is a digital program that runs on a blockchain; moreover, it is a collection of programs and data that resides at a specific address on the underlying blockchain. Digital assets that support Smart Contracts functionality are capable of being used by a wide range of decentralized applications across industries.

The Index is constructed by selecting and weighting underlying Indexes that represent individual digital assets².

¹ The Index is governed by a set of methodology and policy documents (“Methodology Set”), including the present index methodology document. Please refer to Appendix II for more details.

² As provided by Compass Financial Technologies. Please refer to **2.1 Applicable Universe** for further details.

2. Constructing the MSCI Global Digital Assets Smart Contract Index

2.1 Applicable Universe

All³ individual digital assets benchmarks (herein, “Crypto Reference Indexes”) published by Compass Financial Technologies⁴ (herein, “Component Index Administrator”).

2.2 Eligible Universe

2.2.1 Datonomy™ Selection

Crypto Reference Indexes representing digital assets classified in the Blockchain Infrastructure class as per the datonomy⁵ are eligible for inclusion in the Index.

2.2.2 Smart Contracts Selection

Crypto Reference Indexes from 2.2.1 that are classified in the Smart Contracts category are eligible for inclusion in the Index.

Digital assets are classified⁶ in the Smart Contracts category if,

- The blockchain network to which the asset belongs supports Smart Contracts and offers the functionality capable of building decentralized applications
- The network ecosystem of the digital asset (including the main chain and any side chains or parachains) supports Smart Contracts and offers the functionality capable of building decentralized applications
- The digital asset exists on top of a non-native network and allows for the execution of Smart Contracts

2.2.3 Exclusions

Crypto Reference Indexes from the Applicable Universe satisfying following criteria are not eligible for selection in the Index,

- Indexes representing digital assets identified as Stable coins/Pegged coins/Privacy coins

³ Crypto Reference Indexes published by Compass Financial Technologies at least 60 days prior to the Index Review date. Refer to “Compass Crypto Reference Indices - Codes - Rounding” section for a detailed list of available Indexes.

Indexes do not incorporate the value of staking rewards in the calculation. Refer to “Indices Calculation” section for further details, at https://www.compassft.com/wp-content/uploads/CCBI_Methodology.pdf

⁴ Refer to Compass Crypto Reference Indexes methodology for details on the index construction, at https://www.compassft.com/wp-content/uploads/CCRI_Methodology.pdf

⁵ For more details refer to <https://www.msci.com/documents/1296102/33887102/Datonomy+Methodology.pdf>

⁶ Data provided by CryptoCompare (<https://data.cryptocompare.com/>)

- Indexes representing digital assets placed in the bottom 5% of the Applicable Universe when ranked in the descending order of volume⁷ in US Dollar at the time of rebalance.

2.3 Final Universe

At each Quarterly Index Review, digital assets corresponding to Crypto Reference Indexes in the Eligible Universe are ranked in the descending order of their full market capitalization⁸ and the top 10 digital assets are identified. Crypto Reference Indexes representing these 10 digital assets are included in the Final Universe. If the Eligible Universe consists of fewer than 10 Crypto Reference Indexes, all constituents of the Eligible Universe are included in the Final Universe.

2.4 Index Weighting Scheme

The Crypto Reference Indexes included in the Final Universe (herein, “Component Indexes”) are assigned weights in proportion of the full market capitalization of their corresponding digital assets. The maximum weight to a Component Index will be capped at 30% at each Index Review.

2.5 Index Calculation

The Index daily price returns are calculated as weighted-average daily price returns in US Dollar (USD) of the Component Indexes. The latest available daily index returns of the Component Indexes will be used for calculation of the returns of the Index. The Index is available in price variant calculated as per the MSCI Index Calculation Methodology⁹.

⁷ Amount in US Dollar of a digital asset traded over the course of a day for a set of exchanges as defined by CryptoCompare (<https://data.cryptocompare.com/>). If volume is not available as of rebalance date, the data as of the previous trading day is used.

⁸ Calculated as the product of the price of the digital asset, represented by the corresponding Crypto Reference Index level, and Circulating Supply. Prices as of the rebalancing date and Circulating Supply as of end of previous month prior to the rebalancing date are used for the calculation.

⁹ MSCI Index Calculation Methodology available at <https://www.msci.com/index-methodology>

3. Maintaining the MSCI Global Digital Assets Smart Contract Index

3.1 Quarterly Index Reviews

The MSCI Index follows a quarterly rebalance schedule, effective as of the first business day of March, June, September, and December.

The weights of Component Indexes constituting Index will be announced five business days prior to the effective date of each Quarterly Index Review. In between the quarterly reviews, the weights of the Component Indexes in the Index will evolve based on the relative daily return performance in USD of the Component Indexes.

3.2 Ongoing Event-Related Maintenance

There will be no addition to the Component Indexes between two successive Index Reviews. If any Component Index is terminated¹⁰ by the Component Index Administrator, it will be deleted from the Index on the day of termination with an advance notification of two days.

¹⁰ Please refer to Compass Crypto Reference Indexes methodology (specifically, "Index Calculation" and "Methodology Changes - Maintenance" sections) for details on component index termination, at https://www.compassft.com/wp-content/uploads/CCRI_Methodology.pdf



Appendix I – Digital Assets Terminology

- **Circulating Supply:** Quantity of a digital asset that is publicly available for trading and circulating on the market.
- **Full Market Capitalization:** Calculated as the product of the price of the digital asset, represented by the corresponding Crypto Reference Index level and Circulating Supply.
- **Pegged Coins:** Digital assets that are linked to the specific value of an asset or commodity, not necessarily a stable reserve one, as is the case for Stable Coins (see definition below).
- **Privacy Coins:** Digital assets that preserve anonymity by obscuring the flow of money across their networks.
- **Smart Contracts:** Digital program that runs on a blockchain; moreover, it is a collection of programs and data that resides at a specific address on the underlying blockchain.
- **Stable Coins:** Digital asset that is pegged to a stable reserve asset like the U.S. dollar. Are designed to reduce volatility relative to unpegged digital assets.

Appendix II - Methodology Set

The indexes are 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 – <https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/CE>
- MSCI Fundamental Data Methodology – <https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/FundData>
- MSCI Index Calculation Methodology – <https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/IndexCalc>
- MSCI Index Glossary of Terms – <https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/IndexGlossary>
- MSCI Index Policies – <https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/IndexPolicy>

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



Appendix III – Changes to this Document

First version reviewed and published in July 2022.

The following modifications are effective from November 2022:

Section 2.1: Applicable Universe

- Clarification regarding the treatment of staking rewards added as footnote

Section 2.2 – Eligible Universe

- Section has been updated to reflect the incorporation of datonomy in the selection process

The following modifications are effective from February 2024:

Section 2.2: Eligible Universe

- Clarification regarding the treatment of volume is added as footnote

Section 2.3: Final Universe

- Updated footnote regarding the pricing date used

Appendix 1 – Digital Assets Terminology

- Updated definition for Full Market Capitalization

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