

# FTSE Goldman Sachs Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index

v1.9



**FTSE  
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An LSEG Business

# Contents

Section 1 Introduction .....	3
Section 2 Management responsibilities .....	5
Section 3 FTSE Russell index policies .....	6
Section 4 Composition and design criteria .....	8
Appendix A Further information .....	11

## Section 1

# Introduction

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 FTSE Goldman Sachs Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index

1.2 The FTSE Goldman Sachs Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index tracks the performance of US Dollar-denominated investment-grade corporate debt. The index provides a broad representation of the US investment grade corporate bond market while reducing the weight of issuers with the lowest operating margin and highest leverage.

1.2.1 The index is created from the FTSE US Broad Investment-Grade Corporate Index (Base Index), which includes US and non-US corporate securities issued in registered form and bonds issued under rule 144A with registration rights. The bond universe is screened for larger issuers based on minimum bonds outstanding representing the more liquid portion of the market. The bonds are then ranked within their respective industries based on fundamental indicators. Bonds from the lowest ranked 10% of issuers are reweighted where their initial market capitalization are reduced by half. The market capitalization of the remaining 90% of issuers with high operating margin and low leverage, along with bonds of issuers that satisfy the liquidity criteria but have neither fundamental indicator available, are left unchanged<sup>1</sup>. The bonds are then divided into two maturity buckets determined by the weighted average life of the Base Index, after which the weights of the maturity buckets are adjusted to match the weighted average effective duration of the Base Index. Within each maturity bucket, constituents are assigned weights in proportion to adjusted market capitalization<sup>2</sup>. Issuer weights are then capped at 5% for issuers with fundamental indicators and 3% for issuers where fundamental indicators are not observable<sup>3</sup>.

1.3 The FTSE Goldman Sachs Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index does not take account of ESG factors in its design.

### 1.4 FTSE Russell

FTSE Russell is a trading name of FTSE International Limited, Frank Russell Company, FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Limited (and its subsidiaries FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Inc. and FTSE Fixed Income Europe Limited), FTSE Fixed Income LLC, FTSE (Beijing) Consulting Limited, Refinitiv Benchmark Services (UK) Limited, Refinitiv Limited and Beyond Ratings.

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<sup>1</sup> Issuers with neither fundamental indicator available first include in the 1 June 2018 index.

<sup>2</sup> Duration matching methodology first implemented in the 1 June 2018 index.

<sup>3</sup> Dual tier capping first implemented in the 1 July 2018 index.

- 1.5 FTSE Russell hereby notifies users of the index that it is possible that factors, including external factors beyond the control of FTSE Russell, may necessitate changes to, or the cessation, of the index and therefore, any financial contracts or other financial instruments that reference the index or investment funds which use the index to measure their performance should be able to withstand, or otherwise address the possibility of changes to, or cessation of, the index.
- 1.5.1 Index users who choose to follow this index or to buy products that claim to follow this index should assess the merits of the index's rules-based methodology and take independent investment advice before investing their own or client funds. No liability whether as a result of negligence or otherwise is accepted by FTSE Russell or any members of the FTSE Russell Policy Advisory Board (or any person concerned with the preparation or publication of these Ground Rules) for any losses, damages, claims and expenses suffered by any person as a result of:
- any reliance on these Ground Rules;
  - any inaccuracies in these Ground Rules;
  - any non-application or misapplication of the policies or procedures described in these Ground Rules; and/or
  - any inaccuracies in the compilation of the Index or any constituent data.

## Section 2

# Management responsibilities

## 2. Management responsibilities

### 2.1 FTSE International Limited (FTSE)

2.1.1 FTSE is the benchmark administrator of the index<sup>4</sup>.

2.1.2 FTSE is responsible for the daily calculation, production and operation of the index series, and will:

- maintain records of all the constituents;
- be responsible for the addition and deletion of bonds and changes of nominal amounts, in accordance with the Ground Rules; and
- disseminate the indices.

### 2.2 Amendments to these Ground Rules

2.2.1 These Ground Rules shall be subject to regular review (at least once a year) by FTSE Russell to ensure that they best reflect the aim of the index series. Any proposals for significant amendments to these Ground Rules will be subject to consultation with FTSE Russell advisory committees and other stakeholders if appropriate. The feedback from these consultations will be considered by the FTSE Russell Index Governance Board before approval is granted.

2.2.2 As provided for in the Statement of Principles for FTSE Russell Fixed Income Indices, where FTSE Russell determines that the Ground Rules are silent or do not specifically and unambiguously apply to the subject matter of any decision, any decision shall be based as far as practical on the Statement of Principles. After making any such determination, FTSE Russell shall advise the market of its decision at the earliest opportunity. Any such treatment will not be considered as an exception or change to the Ground Rules, or to set a precedent for future action, but FTSE Russell will consider whether the Ground Rules should subsequently be updated to provide greater clarity.

<sup>4</sup> The term administrator is used in this document in the same sense as it is defined in [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/1011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on indices used as benchmarks in financial instruments and financial contracts or to measure the performance of investment funds](#) (the European Benchmark Regulation) and [The Benchmarks \(Amendment and Transitional Provision\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#) (the UK Benchmark Regulation).

## Section 3

# FTSE Russell index policies

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## 3. FTSE Russell index policies

These Ground Rules should be read in conjunction with the following policy documents, which can be accessed using the links below or by contacting [fi.index@lseg.com](mailto:fi.index@lseg.com). These policies are reviewed annually and any changes are approved by the FTSE Russell Index Governance Board.

### 3.1 Statement of Principles for FTSE Fixed Income Indices (the Statement of Principles)

Indices need to keep abreast of changing markets and the Ground Rules cannot anticipate every eventuality. Where the Ground Rules do not fully cover a specific event or development, FTSE Russell will determine the appropriate treatment by reference to the Statement of Principles for FTSE Fixed Income Indices, which summarises the ethos underlying FTSE Russell's approach to index construction. The Statement of Principles is reviewed annually and any changes proposed by FTSE Russell are presented to the FTSE Russell Policy advisory board for discussion before approval by the FTSE Russell Index Governance Board.

The Statement of Principles for Fixed Income Indices can be accessed using the following link:

[Statement of Principles Fixed Income Indices.pdf](#)

### 3.2 Queries and Complaints

FTSE Russell's complaints procedure can be accessed using the following link:

[Benchmark Determination Complaints Handling Policy.pdf](#)

### 3.3 Recalculation Policy and Guidelines

The Recalculation Policy and Guidelines for Fixed Income Indices document is available from the FTSE Russell website using the link below or by contacting [fi.index@lseg.com](mailto:fi.index@lseg.com).

[Fixed Income Recalculation Policy and Guidelines.pdf](#)

### 3.4 Index Policy in the Event Clients are Unable to Trade a Market or a Security

3.4.1 Details of FTSE Russell's treatment can be accessed using the following link:

[Index Policy in the Event Clients are Unable to Trade a Market or a Security.pdf](#)

### 3.5 Policy for Benchmark Methodology Changes

Details of FTSE Russell's policy for making benchmark methodology changes can be accessed using the following link:

[Policy for Benchmark Methodology Changes.pdf](#)

### **3.6 FTSE Russell Governance Framework**

- 3.6.1 To oversee its indices, FTSE Russell employs a governance framework that encompasses product, service and technology governance. The framework incorporates the London Stock Exchange Group's three lines of defence risk management framework and is designed to meet the requirements of the IOSCO Principles for Financial Benchmarks<sup>5</sup>, the European benchmark regulation<sup>6</sup> and the UK benchmark regulation<sup>7</sup>. The FTSE Russell Governance Framework can be accessed using the following link:

[FTSE Russell Governance Framework.pdf](#)

### **3.7 Real Time Status Definitions**

- 3.7.1 Please refer to the following guide for details of real time status definitions for indices that are calculated in real time.

[Real Time Status Definitions.pdf](#)

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<sup>5</sup> IOSCO Principles for Financial Benchmarks Final Report, FR07/13 July 2013.

<sup>6</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on indices used as benchmarks in financial instruments and financial contracts or to measure the performance of investment funds.

<sup>7</sup> The Benchmarks (Amendment and Transitional Provision) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

## Section 4

# Composition and design criteria

## 4. Composition and design criteria

4.1 Figure one details the design criteria and calculation assumptions for the FTSE US Broad Investment-Grade Corporate Bond Index. Additional design criteria and calculation assumptions for the FTSE Goldman Sachs Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index are outlined in figure two.

**Figure one: design criteria and calculation assumptions for the FTSE US Broad Investment-Grade Corporate Index**

Coupon	Fixed rate, fixed-to-floating rate and zero coupon
Currency	USD
Minimum maturity	At least one year Fixed-to-floating rate bonds are removed one year prior to the fixed-to-floating rate start date.
Minimum credit quality	BBB- by S&P or Baa3 by Moody's
Composition	Corporate securities issued in registered form and bonds issued under rule 144A with registration rights (excludes convertibles).
Redemption features	Bullet, sinking fund, putable, extendable or callable
Weighting	Market capitalization
Rebalancing	Once a month at the end of the month.
Reinvestment of cash flows	Intra-month cash flows from interest and principal payments are not reinvested as part of monthly index total return calculations <sup>8</sup> .
Calculation frequency	Daily
Settlement date	Monthly: settlement is on the last calendar day of the month. Daily: same-day settlement except if the last business day of the month is not the last calendar day of the month; then, settlement is on the last calendar day of the month.
Fixing date	Each month, the upcoming month's index constituents are fixed on the profile fixing date <sup>9</sup> . Each year's scheduled fixing dates are published on the website.

<sup>8</sup> Prior to 1 November 2023, reinvestment income was included in the total return calculation.

<sup>9</sup> Fixing dates provide a clear reference point for index users to know in advance of any changes to the composition of the index for the upcoming month. On each fixing date, publicly available securities information is used to determine index eligibility and indicative values for the following month's index profile.



**Figure two: additional design criteria and calculation assumptions for the FTSE Goldman Sachs Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index**

<b>Minimum issue size and bond count<sup>10</sup></b>	USD 250 million amount outstanding per issue Minimum two bonds per issuer
<b>Pricing</b>	LSEG Pricing Service 16:00 E.T. mid-market price FTSE prices used for historical calculations (from 28 February 2007 to 30 April 2017)
<b>Reconstitution</b>	<p>Each month, after filtering for issuer size based on minimum bonds outstanding, representing the more liquid portion of the market, securities are ranked, capped and weighted through an iterative process to make sure all criteria are met.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fundamental ranking and reweighting</b> – the bond universe reweight is determined by two fundamental indicators reported by the issuers: improvement over the past year in (1) operating margin and (2) leverage, both determined quarterly at the end of February, May, August and November. Operating margin is measured by earnings before interest and taxes margin (EBIT margin), while leverage is measured by debt to enterprise value (debt to EV)<sup>11</sup>. The issuers are ranked within their respective industry (finance, industrial, and utility) positively by operating margin and negatively by leverage, accounting for market capitalization to determine the percentile ranking. The percentile rankings of individual indicators are combined to calculate each issuer's composite rank. When only a single indicator is available, that single indicator will be used to calculate the issuer's composite rank. The issuers within the lowest 10% composite rank are reweighted such that their market capitalizations are reduced by half<sup>12</sup>, while issuers in the remaining 90%, along with bonds of issuers that satisfy the liquidity criteria but have neither fundamental indicator available, are left unchanged<sup>13</sup>.</li> <li><b>Duration adjustment</b> – bonds are divided into two maturity buckets based on weighted average life of the Base Index, after which weights of each maturity bucket are adjusted to match the weighted average effective duration of the Base Index. Within each maturity bucket, constituents are assigned weights in proportion to their market capitalization.</li> <li><b>Issuer capping</b> – issuer weights are capped at 5% for issuers with fundamental indicators and 3% for issuers where fundamental indicators are not observable.</li> <li>An iterative process of steps 2 and 3 are repeated until both criteria are met.</li> <li>For the non-quarter-end months, bonds that no longer meet the liquidity, rating or maturity requirements are removed from the index. Newly issued bonds from the qualified issuers of the most recent quarterly rebalancing are included. The monthly profiles will reflect the latest par amount and market value of all included bonds.</li> </ol> <p>Reweighting utilizes pricing and amounts outstanding of the Base Index in order to reconstruct index holdings and weights.</p>
<b>Capping</b>	5% for issuers with fundamental indicators. 3% for issuers where fundamental indicators are not observable.
<b>Index base date<sup>14</sup></b>	28 February 2007

## 4.2 Timing

- 4.2.1 Indices are calculated Monday through Friday except Christmas Day (observed) and New Year's Day (observed). When a market observes a holiday, the closing prices from the previous available day are used as the closing prices for index calculations on such holiday for that market.

## 4.3 Index quality

- 4.3.1 An index quality is assigned to each index bond as of profile fixing. The quality is first mapped to the Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC (S&P) rating. If a bond is not rated by S&P but it is rated by Moody's Investors Service, Inc (Moody's), the S&P equivalent of the Moody's rating is assigned to the index quality. If a bond is rated by neither S&P nor Moody's, the bond is not assigned an index quality.

<sup>10</sup> Prior to 1 February 2025, minimum issue and issuer sizes were USD 750 million and USD 2 billion, respectively.

<sup>11</sup> Effective 30 May 2020 rebalance, the source data for fundamental indicators use Worldscope from Refinitiv.

<sup>12</sup> Prior to 1 February 2025, issuers with the lowest 10% composite rank were screened from the index.

<sup>13</sup> Issuers with neither fundamental indicator available, first included in the 1 June 2018 index.

<sup>14</sup> Back-tested data from 28 February 2007 through 26 August 2018. Live data from 27 August 2018 through present.

If a bond is rated as investment grade by one rating agency and high yield by the other, the S&P equivalent of the investment-grade rating is assigned to the index quality. These ratings remain unchanged for the entire performance month.

#### 4.4 Defaults

- 4.4.1 When an issuer defaults, is assigned a D rating by S&P regardless of whether that issuer has filed for bankruptcy protection or enters into chapter 7 or chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the US (or equivalent in its local market), its bonds remain in the index until the end of the month. The bonds will be included in the calculation of the current month's average profile statistics of the index. The returns are calculated without coupon payment or accrued interest, where applicable.

#### 4.5 Return computation

- 4.5.1 Total returns are computed on the assumption that each security is purchased at the beginning of the period and sold at the end of the period. An issue's total rate of return is the percentage change in its total value over the measurement period. The components of total return are price change, principal payments, coupon payments and accrued interest. The total returns are market capitalization weighted using the security's beginning-of-period market value (see figure four).

**Figure three: total rate of return calculation methodology**

##### Beginning-of-period value

(Beginning Price + Beginning Accrued) x Beginning Par Amount Outstanding

##### End-of-period value

[(Ending Price + Ending Accrued) x (Beginning Par Amount Outstanding - Principal Payments)] + Coupon Payments + Principal Payments

##### Total rate of return (%)

$$\left[ \left( \frac{\text{End-of-Period Value}}{\text{Beginning-of-Period Value}} \right) - 1 \right] \times 100$$

A note on precision: returns are computed to at least six decimal places but reported to a maximum of five. In addition, owing to rounding errors inherent in computer floating-point arithmetic, the last digit in any reported value may sometimes be off by one from its true value.

#### Ticker for the FTSE Goldman Sachs Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index

Ticker	Index
CFIIGIB	FTSE Goldman Sachs Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index, in USD terms

#### 4.6 Chronological summary of events

##### FTSE Goldman Sachs Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index summary of event

Year	Monthly highlights
2025	<b>January:</b> bonds subject to a fundamental screen are now subject to a 50% reweight.
2022	<b>November:</b> intra-month cash flows from interest and principal payments are not reinvested as part of monthly index total return calculations.
2021	<b>June:</b> change in timing of pricing used in index.

## Appendix A

# Further information

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A Glossary of Terms used in FTSE Russell's ground rule documents can be found using the following link:

[Fixed Income Glossary of Terms.pdf](#)

For contact details, please visit the FTSE Russell website or contact FTSE Russell client services at [fi.index@lseg.com](mailto:fi.index@lseg.com).

**Website:** [www.lseg.com/en/ftse-russell/](http://www.lseg.com/en/ftse-russell/)

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