

# FTSE US Government Bond Index

v1.7

# Contents

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| Section 1 Introduction .....                    | 3 |
| Section 2 Management responsibilities .....     | 4 |
| Section 3 FTSE Russell index policies .....     | 5 |
| Section 4 Composition and design criteria ..... | 7 |
| Appendix A Further information .....            | 9 |

## Section 1

# Introduction

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 FTSE US Government Bond Index

1.1.1 The FTSE US Government Bond Index measures the performance of fixed-rate US government bonds.

1.1.2 The FTSE US Government Bond Index does not take account of ESG factors in its design.

### 1.2 FTSE Russell

FTSE Russell is a trading name of FTSE International Limited, Frank Russell Company, FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Limited (and its subsidiary FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Inc.), FTSE Fixed Income LLC, FTSE (Beijing) Consulting Limited.

1.2.1 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.

1.2.2 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 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 series<sup>1</sup>.

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

- maintain records of the index weightings of all constituents;
- make changes to the constituents and their weightings in accordance with the Ground Rules;
- carry out the periodic index reviews of the index series and apply the changes resulting from the reviews as required by 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>1</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

## 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 Index 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 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](#)

### **3.5 FTSE Russell Governance Framework**

3.5.1 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>2</sup>, the European benchmark regulation<sup>3</sup> and the UK benchmark regulation<sup>4</sup>. The FTSE Russell Governance Framework can be accessed using the following link:

[FTSE Russell Governance Framework.pdf](#)

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<sup>2</sup> IOSCO Principles for Financial Benchmarks Final Report, FR07/13 July 2013.

<sup>3</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>4</sup> The Benchmarks (Amendment and Transitional Provision) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

## Section 4

# Composition and design criteria

## 4. Composition and design criteria

The FTSE US Government Bond Index is based on of the FTSE World Government Bond Index (WGBI). For more information on the WGBI, please see the [FTSE Fixed Income Index Guide](#).

### Design criteria and calculation assumptions for the FTSE US Government Bond Index

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Coupon</b>                     | Fixed rate  |
| <b>Minimum maturity</b>           | At least one year   |
| <b>Minimum issue size</b>         | USD 5 billion public amount outstanding (excludes Federal Reserve holdings).  |
| <b>Composition</b>                | Sovereign debt denominated in the domestic currency including callable bonds. Variable-rate, floating-rate, fixed-to-floating rate, index-linked, retail directed, bills, stripped zero coupon, convertibles, savings, private placements and dual-currency bonds are excluded. |
| <b>Weighting</b>                  | Market capitalisation   |
| <b>Rebalancing</b>                | Once a month at the end of the month.   |
| <b>Reinvestment of cash flows</b> | Intra-month cash flows from interest and principal payments are not reinvested as part of monthly index total return calculations <sup>5</sup> .  |
| <b>Pricing</b>                    | Tradeweb FTSE Benchmark Closing Prices  |
| <b>Calculation frequency</b>      | Daily   |
| <b>Settlement date</b>            | Monthly: settlement is on the last calendar day of the month.<br>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.                                  |
| <b>Fixing date</b>                | Each month, the upcoming month's index constituents are fixed on the profile fixing date. The profile fixing dates for each year are available on the website at <a href="http://www.ftserussell.com/index">www.ftserussell.com/index</a> .                                     |
| <b>Base date</b>                  | 31 December 1984  |

### 4.1 Holiday calendar

4.1.1 The index is calculated Monday through Friday except Christmas Day (observed) and New Year's Day (observed). Each local market will observe its own holiday calendar. If a local market is on holiday, the closing prices used for that day will be the closing prices from the previous day.

<sup>5</sup> Prior to 1 November 2022, reinvestment income was included in the total return calculation.

## 4.2 Index quality

4.2.1 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. 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.

## 4.3 Exchange rates

4.3.1 The WMR Closing Spot Rates and WMR Closing Forward Rates are used. Several snapshots are taken at regular intervals centred on the fixing time of 16:00 London time and the median rate for each currency is selected. All rates are mid-market quotations (see WMRSPOT01).

## 4.4 Return computation

4.4.1 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 (see figure one). The components of total return are price change, principal payments, coupon payments and accrued interest. The total returns use each individual security's beginning-of-period market value.

**Figure one: 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 (%)  | - | [(End-of-period value/Beginning-of-period value) - 1] x 100  |

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

**Figure two: total rate of return calculation methodology for base currency returns, unhedged**

### Total rate of return (%)

$$\left\{ \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{\text{Local Currency Return}}{100} \right) \right] \times \left( \frac{\text{End-of-Month Spot Rate}}{\text{Beginning-of-Month Spot Rate}} - 1 \right) \right\} \times 100$$

This equation holds true only if the spot rates are quoted as base currency per unit of foreign currency.

## Ticker for the FTSE US Government Bond Index

| Ticker | Index                                       |
|--------|---|
| SBUSL  | FTSE US Government Bond Index, in LCL terms |

## 4.5 Chronological summary of events

4.5.1 The construction of US Government Bond Index is driven by the same events that mark the WGBI. For more information, please see the FTSE Fixed Income Index Guide.

## Appendix A

# Further information

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

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

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