

FTSE World Government Bond Index (FTSE WGBI)

A global standard for the sovereign debt markets

The FTSE World Government Bond Index (WGBI)

Launched in 1986 by Salomon Brothers (with an index history dating from December 1984), the World Government Bond Index (WGBI) soon became a standard for the performance of the global sovereign debt markets. Since 2017, FTSE Russell has been the owner and administrator of the WGBI, which is now called the FTSE World Government Bond Index.

As at September 2025, the FTSE WGBI includes 24 fixed-income markets, with bonds denominated in 16 currencies. It continues to help the world's largest sovereign wealth funds, asset owners, asset managers, investors and analysts measure the risks and returns of global government bonds.

How the FTSE WGBI works

The FTSE WGBI is built using a transparent, logical and rigorous set of rules:

Define the universe

- Investment-grade, liquid, core government bond markets
- Fixed-rate, local currency bonds >1 year to maturity

Classify and select countries

- Minimum [market accessibility level of 2](#)
- Semi-annual review in March and September
- Published watchlist for changes in market accessibility level

Screen for size

- Minimum amount outstanding required for each local currency bond market
- Minimum issue size for individual bonds

Screen for minimum credit rating

- Minimum level for index entry: A- by S&P and A3 by Moody's
- Index exit: below BBB- by S&P and Baa3 by Moody's

Key features and benefits



Rigorous construction methodology

The FTSE WGBI is built using a transparent, logical and rigorous set of rules, designed to ensure the index reflects the global sovereign bond markets as investors experience them.



Rich history

The FTSE WGBI has over forty years of index history and the associated bond market analytics and data. It has mapped the global bond markets across multiple interest rate and credit cycles.



Vibrant ecosystem

The FTSE WGBI sits at the centre of a vibrant ecosystem of government bond indices, differentiated by maturity profile, regional focus, debt capacity, credit rating and sustainability.



Market-based pricing

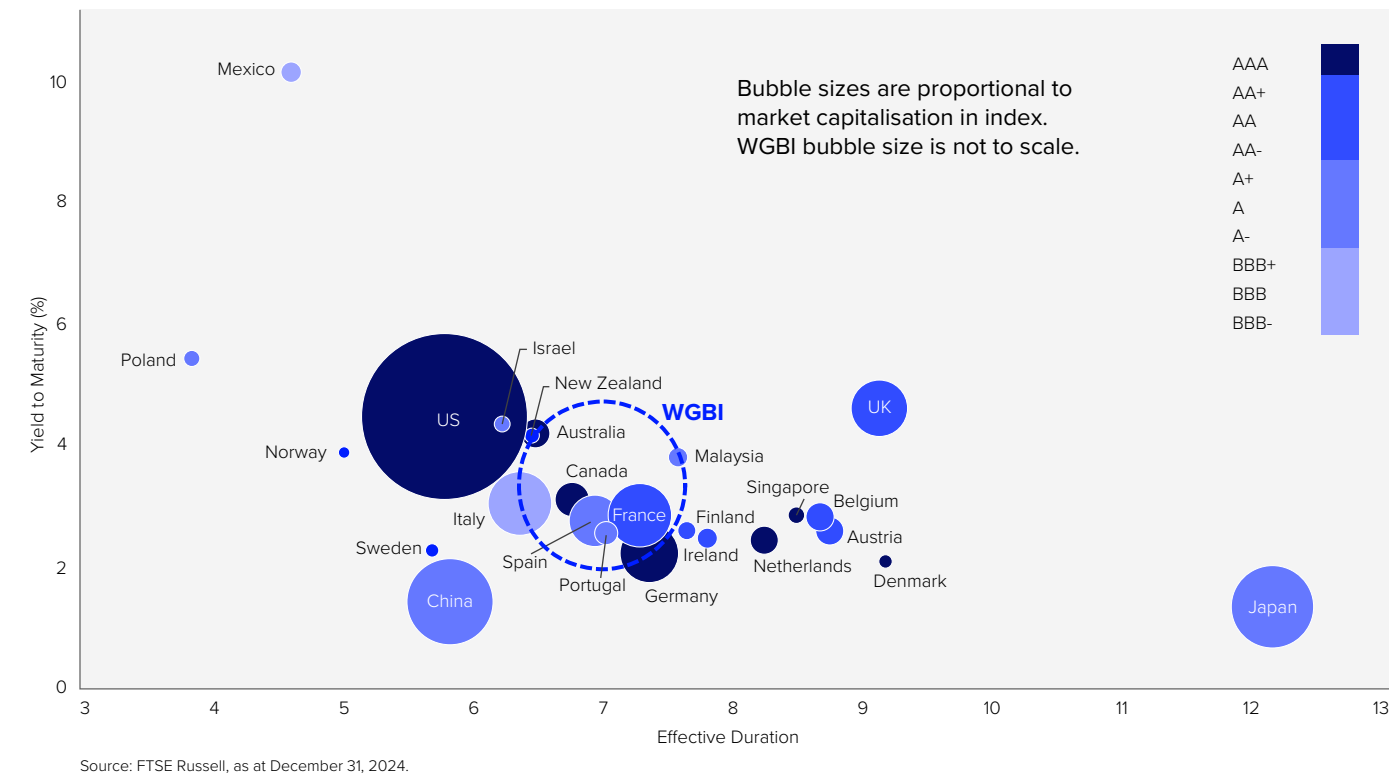
The index is calculated using benchmark closing prices from Tradeweb, the leading global operator of electronic marketplaces for rates, credit, equities and money markets.



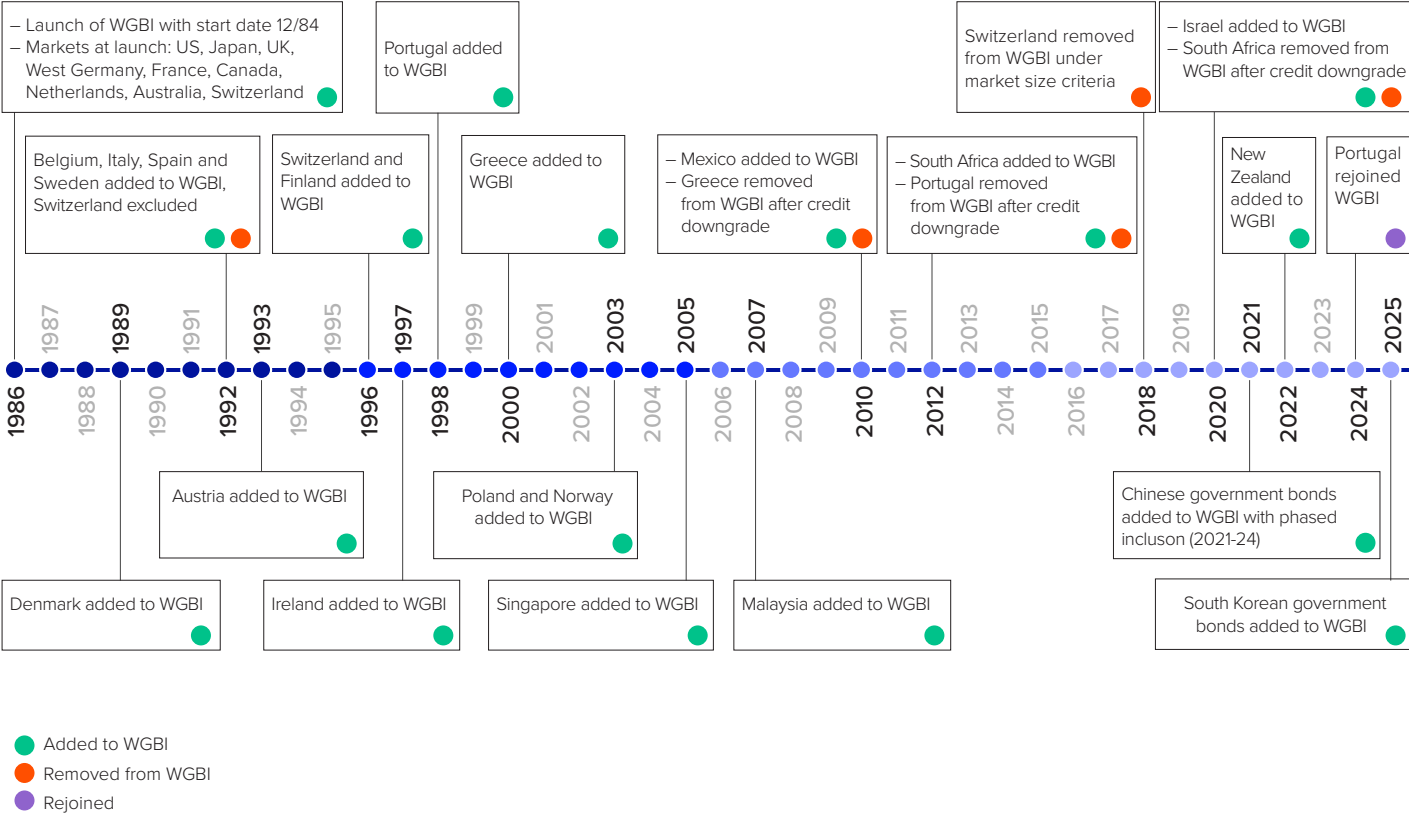
Sophisticated analytics

The FTSE WGBI is supported by a range of sophisticated fixed income analytics, such as LSEG Yield Book, which enables investors, analysts and traders to perform complex and accurate portfolio analysis and risk management.

FTSE WGBI constituent markets by yield, duration and credit rating



A WGBI Timeline



The FTSE WGBI ecosystem

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Market-cap WGBI | FTSE WGBI | Measures the performance of fixed-rate, local currency, investment-grade sovereign bonds from over 20 countries, denominated in a variety of currencies. |
| | FTSE World Government Bond 0-1 Year Index | Tracks 'roll-down' bonds from the FTSE WGBI (bonds with less than one year remaining until maturity), with a minimum maturity of one month. |
| | FTSE World Government 0-1 Year Index | Combines the FTSE World Government Bond 0-1 Year Index with the associated Treasury Bill indices from the FTSE Global Treasury Bill 0-1 Year Index Series. |
| | FTSE World Government Bond 0+ Years Index | Combines the FTSE WGBI with the FTSE World Government Bond 0-1 Year Index. |
| Sustainable investment WGBI | FTSE Climate Risk-Adjusted World Government Bond Index | Adjusts WGBI weights according to relative climate risk performance, assessed by three 'pillars' (physical risk, transition risk and resilience). |
| | FTSE Climate CaRD WGBI | Provides targeted exposure to the sovereign bonds in the FTSE Climate WGBI, using weights that aim to maximise the index's yield return (Carry) and its Roll Down return. |
| | FTSE Nomura Climate CaRD WGBI | Maximises the carry and roll down return of the Climate WGBI, while providing flexibility on optimising factor variants. |
| | FTSE ESG WGBI | Incorporates a tilting methodology that adjusts index weights according to each country's relative Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance. |
| Alternatively Weighted WGBI | FTSE Debt Capacity WGBI | Focuses on countries with lower debt issuance relative to their GDP and stronger debt servicing capabilities. |
| Bespoke WGBI | FTSE MPF WGBI | Designed to help users meet the regulatory requirements of Hong Kong Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) schemes. |
| | FTSE WGBI Japanese Investment Trust | Designed to serve as a benchmark for performance evaluation by Japanese investment trusts. The calculation methodology is based on the evaluation standards of the Investment Trusts Association of Japan. |

Market-based pricing

More and more trading in the global bond markets takes place on electronic trading venues, using execution algorithms. This has important implications for how we price and measure the fixed income markets. In some fixed income segments, electronification is now nearly as developed as in the equity and foreign exchange markets. Prices are formed on central trading venues like TradeWeb, rather than in bilateral trading.

The fixed income closing prices used to price FTSE Russell indices and benchmarks are derived from trading activity on Tradeweb's platform. Tying prices to central execution venues is helping drive the efficiency of all the fixed income markets. The London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), owner of FTSE Russell and majority owner of [Tradeweb](#), is at the forefront of that modernisation trend.

Customisation

There's rapidly rising demand for customisation in fixed income. When choosing a benchmark or index, people want finer and finer cuts of the bond market to express their individual views. For example, investors may want an index of the top 100 liquid bonds from a particular market segment. Or they may want an index that selects a particular credit risk category or duration exposure.

FTSE Russell helps clients develop custom solutions that are curated to clients' wishes. We have the capacity and the expertise to guide investors and asset owners along in that process. [FTSE Russell's Index Module](#) allows users to design a custom benchmark, research historical trends and perform in-depth analysis on the fixed income universe across the full suite of FTSE Fixed Income indices.

Analytics

The WGBI is supported by a full suite of fixed income analytics. [LSEG's Yield Book](#) is a trusted and authoritative source for fixed income analytics that enables market makers and institutional investors to perform complex and accurate portfolio analysis and risk management. Yield Book provides government yield and swap curves for a variety of fixed income markets, including those in the WGBI. These government yield and swap curves help investors perform relative value analysis for treasury securities. Yield Book also assists portfolio managers in analysing trade ideas and portfolio strategies.

Governance and oversight

The FTSE WGBI is subject to regular oversight by market experts and to a transparent governance framework.

Regional fixed income advisory committees for Asia, EMEA, the US and Canada, consisting of senior market practitioners, convene on a regular basis to provide feedback on our fixed income index methodologies.

These committees ensure that the criteria used to determine country classification, for example, meet the needs of global investors and are evaluated objectively. Feedback gathered through these channels is used to assess whether a local market's accessibility level warrants adjustment if there is a failure to meet the existing thresholds, or if there are material changes to the local investment conditions that merit a higher value.

[We publish the terms of reference for all four of our regional fixed income advisory committees on our website.](#) Any proposals for significant amendments to our fixed income index methodologies are also subject to consultation with the FTSE Russell advisory committees and with other stakeholders, as appropriate, including full market consultations. The involvement of external stakeholders in our indices' oversight and design is a crucial part of our approach to benchmarking the world's bond markets.

About FTSE Russell

FTSE Russell is a leading global provider of index and benchmark solutions, spanning diverse asset classes and investment objectives. As a trusted investment partner we help investors make better-informed investment decisions, manage risk, and seize opportunities.

Market participants look to us for our expertise in developing and managing global index solutions across asset classes. Asset owners, asset managers, ETF providers and investment banks choose FTSE Russell solutions to benchmark their investment performance and create investment funds, ETFs, structured products, and index-based derivatives. Our clients use our solutions for asset allocation, investment strategy analysis and risk management, and value us for our robust governance process and operational integrity.

For over 35 years we have been at the forefront of driving change for the investor, always innovating to shape the next generation of benchmarks and investment solutions that open up new opportunities for the global investment community.

Contact us

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