

Submitted via electronic filing: www.regulations.gov

July 30, 2020

Employee Benefits Security Administration Department of Labor Room N-5655, 200 Construction Avenue NW Washington, DC 20210

Attention: Financial Factors in Selecting Plan Investments Proposed Regulation

Re: Financial Factors in Selecting Plan Investments (RIN 1210-AB95)

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter responds to the Department of Labor's ("DOL") proposed rule entitled "Financial Factors in Selecting Plan Investments" (RIN 1210-AB95). Our comment relates to the increasing evidence and research supporting the suitability of ESG integration in the investment process as a financial or pecuniary factor.

MSCI respectfully directs the DOL to a substantial and growing body of detailed empirical research into the ESG investment marketplace that has identified meaningful links between a company's ESG characteristics and financial performance. This research demonstrates that ESG considerations consistently have affected the valuation and performance of companies over sustained durations, including with respect to their cost of capital and profitability. Given the significant and increasing impact that ESG factors are expected to exert on the pricing of assets and the allocation of capital in the coming decades, ESG considerations will continue to be integrated throughout the investment process to achieve long-term, risk adjusted returns.

In January 2020, MSCI published *The MSCI Principles of Sustainable Investing* (the "Principles"), in which we note that there are three general approaches to ESG investing (values, impact and ESG integration) which have different objectives. **ESG integration means assessing the long-term financial risks and opportunities related to ESG issues for the specific purpose of enhancing long-term risk-adjusted returns.** Such integration requires that ESG risk and opportunity assessment are a core component of the portfolio construction process. When ESG considerations are so aimed at enhancing long-term risk-adjusted returns, evidence from both research studies and real-world performance shows that the investor may be able to achieve above-benchmark, risk-adjusted returns. This can be achieved while also incorporating impact or values criteria. As we also observe in the Principles, companies have varying exposures to a broad range of ESG issues, many of which can be significant and financially material. The proliferation of ESG data that is now available provides significant insights that have not previously been possible, which is affecting investor behavior and impacting the pricing of financial assets.

There is ample published research from numerous industry researchers who have found with precision that portfolios composed of companies with higher MSCI ESG Ratings (which are designed to measure companies' long-term resilience to ESG issues with financial relevance) historically have shown lower risk and/or higher risk-adjusted returns over time in a variety of quantitative tests.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, our own research of over 1,600 securities has shown that, over the period between December 2006 and December 2019<sup>2</sup>, companies with the highest MSCI ESG Ratings showed greater gross profitability, paid more dividends and were multiple times less likely to experience significant drawdown than companies with the lowest ESG Ratings.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, new analytics tools have allowed investors to isolate with precision the contribution of ESG Ratings as a distinct factor to portfolio risk and return, over and above the set of other financial factors broadly used by investors.<sup>4</sup>

The performance of ESG indexes provides further evidence for consideration. For example, the MSCI World ESG Leaders Index, which is designed to target approximately the top rated 50% of companies in each sector<sup>5</sup>, was up 5.21% on an annualized basis over the period from its inception on September 28, 2007 through June 30, 2020, versus 5.08% for the MSCI World Index. As another example, the MSCI KLD 400 Social Index is the oldest index that incorporates both an ESG integration approach that aims to reduce financial risk and a values-based approach. Over the 30 years since its inception in 1990, the MSCI KLD 400 Social index of 400 US securities has sustained an average annual return of 10.43% compared to 10.07% for the MSCI USA Index.<sup>6</sup>

Appendix 1 contains additional comparisons of the performance of a range of ESG indexes against their parent market capitalization indexes over short term (during the COVID pandemic – from January 2020 to June 2020), medium term (3 years), and longer term (10 years) periods. Appendix 2 contains factsheets for each of these indexes, which provide additional index characteristics in comparison to the parent index including tracking error, Sharpe ratio and factor exposures. The selected MSCI ESG indexes were chosen because they have the longest "live history" (i.e., actual index performance, not back-tested or simulated historical performance). Although there have been periods of outperformance and underperformance across these ESG indexes, the overall track record has demonstrated comparable or better returns since inception.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Lodh, A. 2020. "ESG and the Cost of Capital." MSCI Blog.; Giese, G., Lee, L.-E., Melas, D., Nagy, Z., and Nishikawa, L. 2019. "Foundations of ESG Investing: How ESG Affects Equity Valuation, Risk and Performance." Journal of Portfolio Management 45 (5): 69–83; Giese, G., Lee, L.-E., Melas, D., Nagy, Z., and Nishikawa, L. 2019. "Performance and Risk Analysis of Index-Based ESG Portfolios." The Journal of Index Investing Spring 9 (4): 46–57; Serafeim, G., 2018. "Public Sentiment and the Price of Corporate Sustainability" Harvard Business School Working Paper; AQR 2017, 'Assessing Risk Through Environmental Social and Governance Exposures'; Nordea 2017, 'Cracking the ESG Code'; JP Morgan 2016, 'A Quantitative Perspective of how ESG can Enhance your Portfolio'; Barclays 2016, 'The positive impact of ESG investing on bond performance'; Credit Suisse 2015, 'Finding Alpha in ESG; MSCI 2015, 'Can ESG Add Alpha'; Harvard Business School 2015, 'Corporate Sustainability: First Evidence on Materiality' Journal of Sustainable Finance and Investment 2015; Friede, Gunnar, Timo Busch, and Alexander Bassen. 2015. "ESG and Financial Performance: Aggregated Evidence from More Than 2000 Empirical Studies." Journal of Sustainable Finance and Investment, vol. 5, no. 4:210–233 'The Opportunity Cost of Negative Screening in Socially Responsible Investing' Deutsche Bank 2013, 'The Socially Responsible Quant'.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The MSCI ESG Ratings historical data starts in December 2006.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Giese, G. and Lee, L.-E., 2020. "Deconstructing ESG Ratings Performance," MSCI. Giese, G., Lee, L.-E., Melas, D., Nagy, Z., and Nishikawa, L. 2019. "Foundations of ESG Investing: How ESG Affects Equity Valuation, Risk and Performance." Journal of Portfolio Management 45 (5): 69–83.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Nagy, Z., and Giese, G., 2020. "MSCI ESG Indexes during the coronavirus crisis" MSCI Blog.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> MSCI ESG Leaders Indexes Methodology

<sup>6</sup> https://www.msci.com/esg/30-years-of-esg

In conclusion, while investors can express a range of objectives in their approach to ESG investing, the objective of ESG integration in an investment strategy specifically targets enhancing long-term risk-adjusted returns. We respectfully point the DOL to the foregoing substantial and growing body of empirical evidence that ESG integration is a financial or pecuniary factor in portfolio construction that asset managers can use to consistently reduce risk and enhance returns over periods of time.

Sincerely,

/s/ Remy Briand Managing Director, Global ESG Products MSCI Inc.

Appendix 1

MSCI ESG Indexes v Associated MSCI Market Cap Indexes

Company Universe	Index type	Index name	Gross % Returns (USD) As of June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2020						
			Short- term (Jan to Jun 2020)	Medium- term (3 years) - annualiz ed	Long-term (10 years) - annualized	Since Inception date of related ESG Leaders Index- annualized			
USA Large, Midcap, and	ESG	MSCI KLD 400 Social	-0.75	11.88	10.85	10.02 <sup>12</sup>			
Smallcap <sup>7</sup>	Market -cap	MSCI USA IMI	-3.34	10.15	13.80	9.77 <sup>12</sup>			
USA Large and Midcap <sup>8</sup>	ESG	MSCI USA ESG Leaders	-1.81	11.64	13.33	6.26 <sup>13</sup>			
	Market -cap	MSCI USA	-2.16	11.03	14.09	6.63 <sup>13</sup>			
Developed Markets Large and	ESG	MSCI World ESG Leaders	-4.39	8.08	10.54	5.21 <sup>14</sup>			
Midcap <sup>9</sup>	Market -cap	MSCI World	-5.48	7.29	10.57	5.08 <sup>14</sup>			
Developed Markets excluding US	ESG	MSCI EAFE ESG Leaders	-8.53	2.64	7.12	2.02 <sup>14</sup>			
and Canada Large and Midcap <sup>10</sup>	Market -cap	MSCI EAFE	-11.07	1.30	6.22	1.31 <sup>14</sup>			
Emerging Markets Large and Midcap <sup>11</sup>	ESG	MSCI Emerging Markets ESG Leaders	-7.15	4.16	6.97 <sup>15</sup>	5.48 <sup>16</sup>			
	Market -cap	MSCI Emerging Markets	-9.67	2.27	3.63	2.85 <sup>16</sup>			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Performance of MSCI KLD 400 Social and MSCI USA IMI Indexes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Performance of MSCI USA ESG Leaders and MSCI USA Indexes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Performance of MSCI World ESG Leaders and MSCI World Indexes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Performance of MSCI EAFE ESG Leaders and MSCI EAFE Indexes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Performance of MSCI Emerging Markets ESG Leaders and MSCI Emerging Markets Indexes

 $<sup>^{12}</sup>$  Since May 31, 1994, first date of available history for both MSCI KLD 400 Social and MSCI USA IMI Indexes; MSCI KLD 400 Social Index's inception date was May 1, 1990, while MSCI USA IMI history includes back-tested data (e.g. calculations of how the index might have performed over that time period had the index existed) prior to its inception date of June 5, 2007

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Since December 29, 2000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Since September 28, 2007

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Prior to June 6, 2013 (Inception date of MSCI Emerging Markets ESG Leaders Index), includes back-tested data (e.g. calculations of how the index might have performed over that time period had the index existed)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Since June 5, 2013

#### Appendix 2

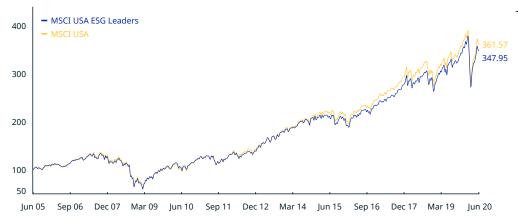
- 1. MSCI USA ESG Leaders Fact Sheet https://www.msci.com/documents/10199/8cfbc6c0-b4c1-4ddf-a8f2-3c0ec1f38dd5
- 2. MSCI World ESG Leaders Fact Sheet https://www.msci.com/documents/10199/db88cb95-3bf3-424c-b776-bfdcca67d460
- 3. MSCI EAFE ESG Leaders Fact Sheet https://www.msci.com/documents/10199/c8a8efd5-0bfb-44ae-9d5c-89e29fa8b9c6
- 4. MSCI EM ESG Leaders Fact Sheet https://www.msci.com/documents/10199/c341baf6-e515-4015-af5e-c1d864cae53e
- 5. MSCI KLD 400 Social Index<sup>17</sup> https://www.msci.com/documents/10199/904492e6-527e-4d64-9904-c710bf1533c6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Please note that due technical limitations, factsheets' performance graphs can only display up to 15 years of index level history even if the available index history may be longer such as that of the MSCI KLD 400 Social Index.

# **MSCI USA ESG Leaders Index (USD)**

The MSCI USA ESG Leaders Index is a capitalization weighted index that provides exposure to companies with high Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance relative to their sector peers. MSCI USA ESG Leaders Index consists of large and mid cap companies in the US market. The Index is designed for investors seeking a broad, diversified sustainability benchmark with relatively low tracking error to the underlying equity market. The index is a member of the MSCI ESG Leaders Index series. Constituent selection is based on data from MSCI ESG Research.

# CUMULATIVE INDEX PERFORMANCE — GROSS RETURNS (USD) (JUN 2005 – JUN 2020)



#### **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE (%)**

Year	MSCI USA ESG Leaders	MSCI USA
2019	31.66	31.64
2018	-3.11	-4.50
2017	20.56	21.90
2016	11.74	11.61
2015	-1.33	1.32
2014	12.84	13.36
2013	33.54	32.61
2012	13.39	16.13
2011	1.19	1.99
2010	14.33	15.45
2009	35.50	27.14
2008	-38.43	-37.14
2007	4.36	6.03
2006	13.14	15.32

#### INDEX PERFORMANCE - GROSS RETURNS (%) (JUN 30, 2020)

#### **FUNDAMENTALS (JUN 30, 2020)**

						ANNU.	ALIZED					
	1 Mo	3 Мо	1 Yr	YTD	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr <sub>D</sub>	Since ec 29, 2000	Div Yld (%)	P/E	P/E Fwd	P/BV
MSCI USA ESG Leaders	1.67	20.37	9.44	-1.81	11.64	10.84	13.33	6.26	1.87	22.92	21.83	4.36
MSCI USA	2.28	21.76	8.42	-2.16	11.03	10.76	14.09	6.63	1.80	24.33	22.28	3.69

#### INDEX RISK AND RETURN CHARACTERISTICS (DEC 29, 2000 – JUN 30, 2020)

				ANNUALIZED STD DEV (%) 2		SHARPE RATIO 2,3					MAXIMUM DRAWDOWN		
	Beta	Tracking Error (%)	Turnover (%) <sup>1</sup>	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Since Dec 29, 2000	(%)	Period YYYY-MM-DD	
MSCI USA ESG Leaders	na	na	6.70	16.48	14.44	13.20	0.64	0.70	0.96	na	34.33	2020-02-19-2020-03-23	
MSCI USA	1.00	0.00	3.12	17.18	14.94	13.56	0.59	0.67	0.99	0.39	34.12	2020-02-19-2020-03-23	
			1 Last 12	months	<sup>2</sup> Base	d on month	ly gross r	eturns data	<sup>3</sup> Ba	ased on ICE	LIBOR 1M		

The MSCI ESG Indexes use ratings and other data supplied by MSCI ESG Research Inc, a subsidiary of MSCI Inc.

The MSCI USA ESG Leaders Index was launched on Jan 01, 2001. Data prior to the launch date is back-tested data (i.e. calculations of how the index might have performed over that time period had the index existed). There are frequently material differences between back-tested performance and actual results. Past performance — whether actual or back-tested — is no indication or guarantee of future performance.

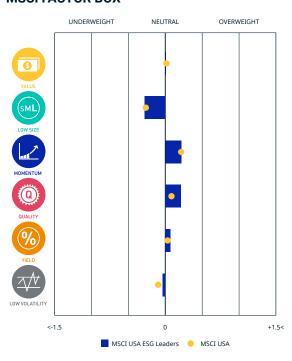


	MSCI USA ESG Leaders	MSCI USA					
Number of	289	616					
Constituents							
	Weight (%)						
Largest	10.65	5.82					
Smallest	0.02	0.01					
Average	0.35	0.16					
Median	0.14	0.06					

#### **TOP 10 CONSTITUENTS**

	Index Wt. (%)	Parent Index Wt. (%)	Sector
MICROSOFT CORP	10.65	5.37	Info Tech
ALPHABET C	3.14	1.58	Comm Srvcs
ALPHABET A	3.08	1.55	Comm Srvcs
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	2.68	1.35	Health Care
VISA A	2.39	1.20	Info Tech
PROCTER & GAMBLE CO	2.14	1.08	Cons Staples
HOME DEPOT	1.98	1.00	Cons Discr
MASTERCARD A	1.92	0.97	Info Tech
INTEL CORP	1.85	0.93	Info Tech
NVIDIA	1.68	0.85	Info Tech
Total	31.50	15.88	

# FACTORS - KEY EXPOSURES THAT DRIVE RISK AND RETURN MSCI FACTOR BOX



#### **MSCI FaCS**



VALUE
Relatively Inexpensive Stocks



LOW SIZE Smaller Companies



**MOMENTUM Rising Stocks** 



QUALITY
Sound Balance Sheet Stocks



YIELD
Cash Flow Paid Out



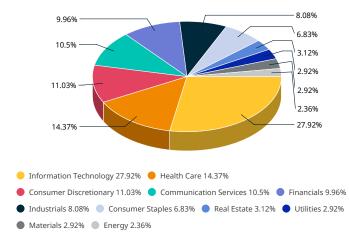
LOW VOLATILITY
Lower Risk Stocks

MSCI FaCS provides absolute factor exposures relative to a

broad global index - MSCI ACWI IMI.

Neutral factor exposure (FaCS = 0) represents MSCI ACWI IMI.

#### **SECTOR WEIGHTS**





The MSCI ESG Leaders Indexes are constructed by applying a Best-in-Class selection process to companies in the regional indexes that make up MSCI ACWI, a global equity index consisting of developed and emerging market countries.

The ESG Leaders Indexes target sector and region weights consistent with those of the underlying indexes to limit the systematic risk introduced by the ESG selection process. The methodology aims to include securities of companies with the highest ESG ratings representing 50% of the market capitalization in each sector and region of the parent Index. Companies that are not existing constituents of the ESG Leaders Indexes must have an MSCI ESG Rating of 'BB' or above and the MSCI ESG Controversies Score of 3 or above to be eligible. In addition, companies showing involvement in alcohol, gambling, tobacco, nuclear power and weapons are excluded from the Indexes. The selection universe for The ESG Leaders Indexes is the constituents of the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes.

The Index is float-adjusted market capitalization weighted. The Annual Review of the MSCI ESG Leaders Indexes takes place in May, and they are rebalanced in August, November and February.

#### FACTOR BOX AND FaCS METHODOLOGY

MSCI FaCS is a standard method (MSCI FaCS Methodology) for evaluating and reporting the Factor characteristics of equity portfolios. MSCI FaCS consists of Factor Groups (e.g. Value, Size, Momentum, Quality, Yield, and Volatility) that have been extensively documented in academic literature and validated by MSCI Research as key drivers of risk and return in equity portfolios. These Factor Groups are constructed by aggregating 16 factors (e.g. Book-to-Price, Earnings/Dividend Yields, LT Reversal, Leverage, Earnings Variability/Quality, Beta) from the latest Barra global equity factor risk model, GEMLT, designed to make fund comparisons transparent and intuitive for use. The MSCI Factor Box, which is powered by MSCI FaCS, provides a visualization designed to easily compare absolute exposures of funds/indexes and their benchmarks along 6 Factor Groups that have historically demonstrated excess market returns over the long run.

#### **ABOUT MSCI**

MSCI is a leading provider of critical decision support tools and services for the global investment community. With over 45 years of expertise in research, data and technology, we power better investment decisions by enabling clients to understand and analyze key drivers of risk and return and confidently build more effective portfolios. We create industry-leading research-enhanced solutions that clients use to gain insight into and improve transparency across the investment process. To learn more, please visit <a href="https://www.msci.com">www.msci.com</a>.

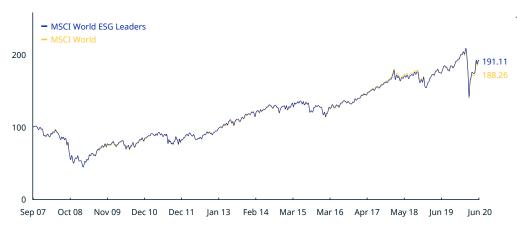
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# **MSCI World ESG Leaders Index (USD)**

The MSCI World ESG Leaders Index is a capitalization weighted index that provides exposure to companies with high Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance relative to their sector peers. MSCI World ESG Leaders Index is constructed by aggregating the following regional Index MSCI Pacific ESG Leaders Index, MSCI Europe & Middle East ESG Leaders Index, MSCI Canada ESG Leaders Index and MSCI USA ESG Leaders Index. The parent index is MSCI World Index, which consists of large and mid-cap companies in 23 Developed Markets Countries\*. The Index is designed for investors seeking a broad, diversified sustainability benchmark with relatively low tracking error to the underlying equity market. The index is a member of the MSCI ESG Leaders Index series. Constituent selection is based on data from MSCI ESG Research.

# CUMULATIVE INDEX PERFORMANCE — GROSS RETURNS (USD) (SEP 2007 – JUN 2020)



#### **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE (%)**

Year	MSCI World ESG Leaders	MSCI World
2019	28.91	28.40
2018	-7.22	-8.20
2017	21.69	23.07
2016	7.93	8.15
2015	-0.55	-0.32
2014	5.42	5.50
2013	28.22	27.37
2012	15.18	16.54
2011	-4.90	-5.02
2010	11.22	12.34
2009	33.20	30.79
2008	-40.22	-40.33

#### INDEX PERFORMANCE — GROSS RETURNS (%) (JUN 30, 2020)

#### **FUNDAMENTALS (JUN 30, 2020)**

					ANNUALIZED								
	1 Mo	3 Мо	1 Yr	YTD	3 Yr	5 Yr	<sup>10 Yr</sup> S	Since ep 28, 2007	Div Yld (%)	P/E	P/E Fwd	P/BV	
MSCI World ESG Leaders	2.37	18.87	5.34	-4.39	8.08	7.88	10.54	5.21	2.21	20.27	20.25	2.87	
MSCI World	2.69	19.54	3.40	-5.48	7.29	7.50	10.57	5.08	2.17	20.61	20.18	2.49	

#### INDEX RISK AND RETURN CHARACTERISTICS (SEP 28, 2007 – JUN 30, 2020)

				ANNUAL	ANNUALIZED STD DEV (%) 2							MAXIMUM DRAWDOWN	
	Beta	Tracking Error (%)	Turnover (%) <sup>1</sup>	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Since Sep 28, 2007	(%)	Period YYYY-MM-DD	
MSCI World ESG Leaders	0.99	1.14	7.36	15.68	14.02	13.53	0.46	0.52	0.76	0.33	33.84	2020-02-19-2020-03-23	
MSCI World	1.00	0.00	3.06	16.25	14.44	13.85	0.40	0.48	0.74	0.33	33.99	2020-02-12-2020-03-23	
			1 Last 12	months	<sup>2</sup> Base	d on month	ly gross re	eturns data	з Ва	ased on ICE	LIBOR 1M		

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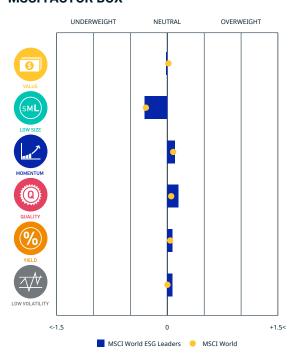
<sup>\*</sup> Developed Markets countries include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the US.

	MSCI World ESG Leaders	MSCI World						
Number of	763	1,603						
Constituents								
	Weight (%)							
Largest	6.89	3.82						
Smallest	0.01	0.00						
Average	0.13	0.06						
Median	0.05	0.02						

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	Country	Index Wt. (%)	Parent Index Wt. (%)	Sector
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PROCTER & GAMBLE CO	US	1.38	0.71	Cons Staples
HOME DEPOT	US	1.28	0.65	Cons Discr
MASTERCARD A	US	1.24	0.63	Info Tech
INTEL CORP	US	1.20	0.61	Info Tech
ROCHE HOLDING GENUSS	CH	1.14	0.58	Health Care
Total		20.45	10.43	

# FACTORS - KEY EXPOSURES THAT DRIVE RISK AND RETURN MSCI FACTOR BOX



#### **MSCI FaCS**



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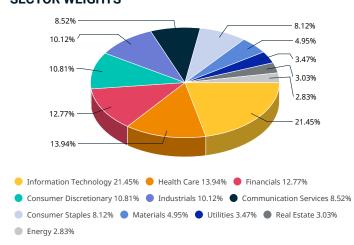
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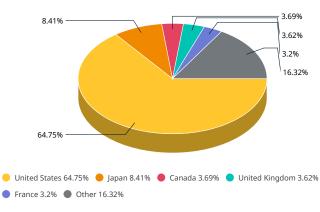
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#### **ABOUT MSCI**

MSCI is a leading provider of critical decision support tools and services for the global investment community. With over 45 years of expertise in research, data and technology, we power better investment decisions by enabling clients to understand and analyze key drivers of risk and return and confidently build more effective portfolios. We create industry-leading research-enhanced solutions that clients use to gain insight into and improve transparency across the investment process. To learn more, please visit <a href="https://www.msci.com">www.msci.com</a>.

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# **MSCI EAFE ESG Leaders Index (USD)**

The MSCI EAFE ESG Leaders Index is a capitalization weighted index that provides exposure to companies with high Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance relative to their sector peers. MSCI EAFE ESG Leaders Index consists of large and mid cap companies across Developed Markets countries\* around the world, excluding the US and Canada. The Index is designed for investors seeking a broad, diversified sustainability benchmark with relatively low tracking error to the underlying equity market. The index is a member of the MSCI Global Sustainability Index series. Constituent selection is based on data from MSCI ESG Research.

# CUMULATIVE INDEX PERFORMANCE — GROSS RETURNS (USD) (SEP 2007 – JUN 2020)

# - MSCI EAFE ESG Leaders - MSCI EAFE 150 50 Sep 07 Oct 08 Nov 09 Dec 10 Dec 11 Jan 13 Feb 14 Mar 15 Mar 16 Apr 17 May 18 Jun 19 Jun 20

#### **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE (%)**

MSCI EAFE ESG Leaders	MSCI EAFE					
24.58	22.66					
-12.91	-13.36					
24.02	25.62					
0.07	1.51					
2.74	-0.39					
-3.97	-4.48					
24.75	23.29					
17.63	17.90					
-10.25	-11.73					
8.09	8.21					
34.57	32.46					
-43.23	-43.06					
	24.58 -12.91 24.02 0.07 2.74 -3.97 24.75 17.63 -10.25 8.09 34.57					

#### INDEX PERFORMANCE – GROSS RETURNS (%) (JUN 30, 2020)

#### **FUNDAMENTALS (JUN 30, 2020)**

						ANNU.	ALIZED						
	1 Mo	3 Мо	1 Yr	YTD	3 Yr	5 Yr	<sup>10 Yr</sup> S	Since Sep 28, 2007	Div Yld (%)	P/E	P/E Fwd	P/BV	
MSCI EAFE ESG Leaders	3.62	15.61	-0.71	-8.53	2.64	3.37	7.12	2.02	2.76	16.60	17.89	1.78	
MSCI EAFE	3.44	15.08	-4.73	-11.07	1.30	2.54	6.22	1.31	2.80	15.82	17.07	1.53	

#### INDEX RISK AND RETURN CHARACTERISTICS (SEP 28, 2007 - JUN 30, 2020)

				ANNUALIZED STD DEV (%) 2			SHARPE RATIO 2,3					MAXIMUM DRAWDOWN		
	Beta	Tracking Error (%)	Turnover (%) <sup>1</sup>	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Since Sep 28, 2007	(%)	Period YYYY-MM-DD		
MSCI EAFE ESG Leaders	0.99	1.43	9.02	14.71	14.02	14.68	0.13	0.21	0.49	0.15	60.93	2007-10-31-2009-03-09		
MSCI EAFE	1.00	0.00	2.77	15.15	14.42	15.05	0.04	0.16	0.43	0.11	60.15	2007-10-31-2009-03-09		
			1 Last 12	months	<sup>2</sup> Base	d on month	ly gross re	eturns data	<sup>3</sup> Ba	sed on ICE	LIBOR 1M			

The MSCI ESG Indexes use ratings and other data supplied by MSCI ESG Research Inc, a subsidiary of MSCI Inc.

The MSCI EAFE ESG Leaders Index was launched on Oct 01, 2007. Data prior to the launch date is back-tested data (i.e. calculations of how the index might have performed over that time period had the index existed). There are frequently material differences between back-tested performance and actual results. Past performance – whether actual or back-tested – is no indication or guarantee of future performance.



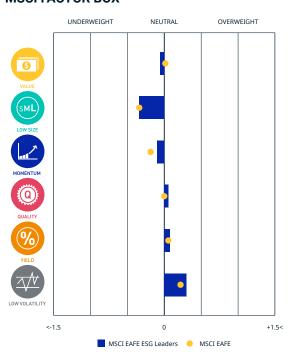
<sup>\*</sup> Developed Markets countries in the MSCI EAFE Index include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

	MSCI EAFE ESG Leaders	MSCI EAFE
Number of	432	902
Constituents		
	Weig	ght (%)
Largest	3.62	2.51
Smallest	0.02	0.01
Average	0.23	0.11
Median	0.12	0.05

#### **TOP 10 CONSTITUENTS**

	Country	Index Wt. (%)	Parent Index Wt. (%)	Sector
ROCHE HOLDING GENUSS	CH	3.62	1.86	Health Care
ASML HLDG	NL	2.32	1.19	Info Tech
SAP	DE	2.17	1.11	Info Tech
NOVO NORDISK B	DK	1.70	0.87	Health Care
GLAXOSMITHKLINE	GB	1.51	0.77	Health Care
TOTAL	FR	1.40	0.72	Energy
SIEMENS	DE	1.34	0.69	Industrials
SONY CORP	JP	1.29	0.66	Cons Discr
ALLIANZ	DE	1.27	0.65	Financials
COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUS	AU	1.26	0.65	Financials
Total		17.87	9.18	

#### FACTORS - KEY EXPOSURES THAT DRIVE RISK AND RETURN **MSCI FACTOR BOX**



#### **MSCI FaCS**



**Relatively Inexpensive Stocks** 



**LOW SIZE Smaller Companies** 



**MOMENTUM Rising Stocks** 



**QUALITY Sound Balance Sheet Stocks** 



**Cash Flow Paid Out** 



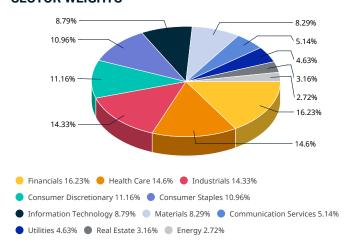
**LOW VOLATILITY Lower Risk Stocks** 

MSCI FaCS provides absolute factor exposures relative to a

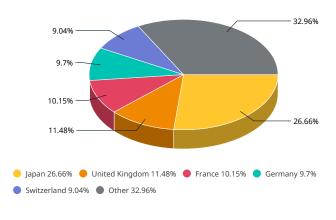
broad global index - MSCI ACWI IMI.

Neutral factor exposure (FaCS = 0) represents MSCI ACWI IMI.

#### **SECTOR WEIGHTS**



#### **COUNTRY WEIGHTS**





The MSCI ESG Leaders Indexes are constructed by applying a Best-in-Class selection process to companies in the regional indexes that make up MSCI ACWI, a global equity index consisting of developed and emerging market countries.

The ESG Leaders Indexes target sector and region weights consistent with those of the underlying indexes to limit the systematic risk introduced by the ESG selection process. The methodology aims to include securities of companies with the highest ESG ratings representing 50% of the market capitalization in each sector and region of the parent Index. Companies that are not existing constituents of the ESG Leaders Indexes must have an MSCI ESG Rating of 'BB' or above and the MSCI ESG Controversies Score of 3 or above to be eligible. In addition, companies showing involvement in alcohol, gambling, tobacco, nuclear power and weapons are excluded from the Indexes. The selection universe for The ESG Leaders Indexes is the constituents of the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes.

The Index is float-adjusted market capitalization weighted. The Annual Review of the MSCI ESG Leaders Indexes takes place in May, and they are rebalanced in August, November and February.

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# MSCI Emerging Markets ESG Leaders Index (USD)

The MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) ESG Leaders Index, is a capitalization weighted index that provides exposure to companies with high Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance relative to their sector peers. MSCI EM ESG Leaders Index consists of large and mid cap companies across 26 Emerging Markets (EM) countries\*. The Index is designed for investors seeking a broad, diversified sustainability benchmark with relatively low tracking error to the underlying equity market. The index is a member of the MSCI ESG Leaders Index series. Constituent selection is based on data from MSCI ESG Research.

# CUMULATIVE INDEX PERFORMANCE — GROSS RETURNS (USD) (SEP 2007 – JUN 2020)



#### **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE (%)**

Year	MSCI EM ESG Leaders	MSCI Emerging Markets
2019	20.18	18.88
2018	-14.64	-14.24
2017	40.90	37.75
2016	13.83	11.60
2015	-11.99	-14.60
2014	5.20	-1.82
2013	1.63	-2.27
2012	21.64	18.63
2011	-12.78	-18.17
2010	25.88	19.20
2009	76.07	79.02
2008	-48.32	-53.18

#### INDEX PERFORMANCE - GROSS RETURNS (%) (JUN 30, 2020)

					ANNUALIZED					
	1 Mo	3 Мо	1 Yr	YTD	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Since Sep 28, 2007		
MSCI EM ESG Leaders	8.50	19.98	0.95	-7.15	4.16	5.40	6.97	4.79		
MSCI Emerging Markets	7.40	18.18	-3.05	-9.67	2.27	3.24	3.63	1.21		

#### INDEX RISK AND RETURN CHARACTERISTICS (SEP 28, 2007 - JUN 30, 2020)

				ANNUAL	ANNUALIZED STD DEV (%) 2			SHARPE RATIO 2,3				MAXIMUM DRAWDOWN		
	Beta	Tracking Error (%)	Turnover (%) <sup>1</sup>	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Since Sep 28, 2007	(%)	Period YYYY-MM-DD		
MSCI EM ESG Leaders	0.95	3.43	15.56	18.72	17.65	17.18	0.21	0.31	0.44	0.28	35.08	2018-01-26-2020-03-23		
MSCI Emerging Markets	1.00	0.00	10.60	18.53	17.86	17.88	0.12	0.19	0.25	0.12	65.14	2007-10-29-2008-10-27		
			1 Last 12	months	<sup>2</sup> Based	d on month	y gross re	turns data	<sup>3</sup> Ba	sed on ICE	LIBOR 1M			

The MSCI ESG Indexes use ratings and other data supplied by MSCI ESG Research Inc, a subsidiary of MSCI Inc.

The MSCI Emerging Markets ESG Leaders Index was launched on Jun 06, 2013. Data prior to the launch date is back-tested data (i.e. calculations of how the index might have performed over that time period had the index existed). There are frequently material differences between back-tested performance and actual results. Past performance — whether actual or back-tested — is no indication or guarantee of future performance.



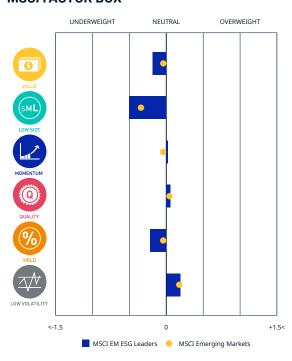
<sup>\*</sup> EM countries include: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

	MSCI EM ESG Leaders	MSCI Emerging Markets					
Number of	479	1,385					
Constituents							
	Wei	ght (%)					
Largest	12.89	7.00					
Largest Smallest	12.89 0.00	7.00 0.00					
•							

#### **TOP 10 CONSTITUENTS**

	Country	Index Wt. (%)	Parent Index Wt. (%)	Sector
ALIBABA GROUP HLDG ADR	CN	12.89	7.00	Cons Discr
TENCENT HOLDINGS LI (CN)	CN	11.73	6.37	Comm Srvcs
TAIWAN SEMICONDUCTOR MFG	TW	8.31	4.51	Info Tech
NASPERS N	ZA	2.58	1.40	Cons Discr
MEITUAN DIANPING B	CN	2.51	1.36	Cons Discr
CHINA CONSTRUCTION BK H	CN	2.47	1.34	Financials
RELIANCE INDUSTRIES	IN	2.05	1.11	Energy
HOUSING DEV FINANCE CORP	IN	1.22	0.66	Financials
INFOSYS	IN	1.06	0.57	Info Tech
GAZPROM (RUB)	RU	1.02	0.55	Energy
Total		45.83	24.89	

# FACTORS - KEY EXPOSURES THAT DRIVE RISK AND RETURN MSCI FACTOR BOX



#### **MSCI FaCS**



VALUE
Relatively Inexpensive Stocks



LOW SIZE Smaller Companies



**MOMENTUM Rising Stocks** 



QUALITY
Sound Balance Sheet Stocks



YIELD Cash Flow Paid Out



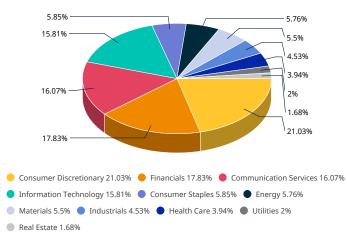
LOW VOLATILITY Lower Risk Stocks

MSCI FaCS provides absolute factor exposures relative to a broad global index - MSCI ACWI IMI.

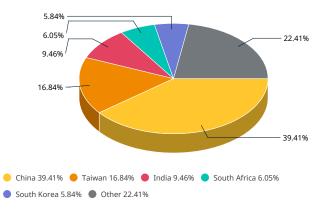
Neutral factor exposure (FaCS = 0) represents

MSCI ACWI IMI.

#### **SECTOR WEIGHTS**



#### **COUNTRY WEIGHTS**





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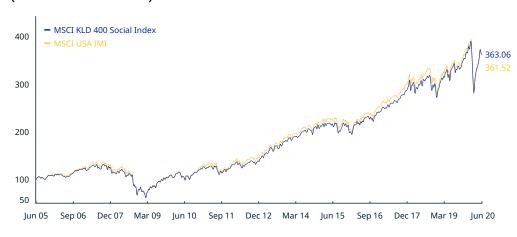
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# **MSCI KLD 400 Social Index (USD)**

The MSCI KLD 400 Social Index is a capitalization weighted index of 400 US securities that provides exposure to companies with outstanding Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) ratings and excludes companies whose products have negative social or environmental impacts. The parent index is MSCI USA IMI, an equity index of large, mid and small cap companies. The Index is designed for investors seeking a diversified benchmark comprised of companies with strong sustainability profiles while avoiding companies incompatible with values screens. Launched in May 1990 as the Domini 400 Social Index, it is one of the first SRI indexes. Constituent selection is based on data from MSCI ESG Research.

# CUMULATIVE INDEX PERFORMANCE — GROSS RETURNS (USD) (JUN 2005 – JUN 2020)



#### **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE (%)**

Year	MSCI KLD 400 Social Index	MSCI USA IMI
2019	31.63	31.14
2018	-3.50	-5.20
2017	21.61	21.28
2016	10.92	12.66
2015	0.94	0.64
2014	12.72	12.51
2013	36.20	33.39
2012	13.24	16.41
2011	1.60	1.23
2010	11.89	17.17
2009	31.73	28.72
2008	-34.94	-36.98
2007	3.72	5.78
2006	13.26	15.70

#### INDEX PERFORMANCE – GROSS RETURNS (%) (JUN 30, 2020)

#### **FUNDAMENTALS (JUN 30, 2020)**

						ANNU.	ALIZED					
	1 Mo	3 Мо	1 Yr	YTD	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr <sub>M</sub>	Since lay 31, 1994	Div Yld (%)	P/E	P/E Fwd	P/BV
MSCI KLD 400 Social Index	2.18	21.58	10.07	-0.75	11.88	11.34	13.85	10.02	1.71	24.08	22.38	4.57
MSCI USA IMI	2.38	22.27	6.73	-3.34	10.15	10.11	13.80	9.77	1.77	25.16	23.09	3.39

#### INDEX RISK AND RETURN CHARACTERISTICS (MAY 31, 1994 – JUN 30, 2020)

				ANNUALIZED STD DEV (%) 2			SHARPE RATIO 2,3					MAXIMUM DRAWDOWN		
	Beta	Tracking Error (%)	Turnover (%) 1	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Since May 31, 1994	(%)	Period YYYY-MM-DD		
MSCI KLD 400 Social Index	na	na	6.06	16.89	14.89	13.37	0.64	0.71	0.99	na	33.87	2020-02-19-2020-03-23		
MSCI USA IMI	1.00	0.00	2.61	17.73	15.38	13.99	0.53	0.62	0.94	0.51	35.00	2020-02-19-2020-03-23		
			1 Last 12	months	<sup>2</sup> Based	d on month	ly gross re	eturns data	<sup>3</sup> Ba	ased on ICE	LIBOR 1M			

On September 1, 2010 the FTSE KLD indexes transitioned to the MSCI ESG Indexes. The former KLD indexes had multiple third party index calculators over time. Consequently the MSCI ESG index histories have been aggregated and compiled to create a continuous time series from a variety of sources—sources which may have followed different index calculation methodologies in some instances. The MSCI ESG Indexes use ratings and other data supplied by MSCI ESG Research Inc, a subsidiary of MSCI Inc.

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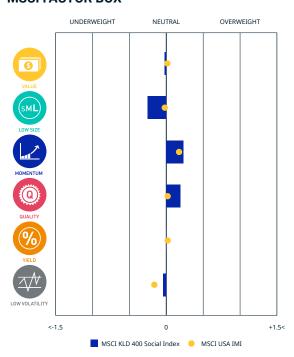


	MSCI KLD 400 Social Index	MSCI USA IMI	
Number of	402	2,344	
Constituents			
	Weight (%)		
Largest	10.11	5.22	
Smallest	0.00	0.00	
Average	0.25	0.04	
Median	0.08	0.01	

#### **TOP 10 CONSTITUENTS**

	Index Wt. (%)	Parent Index Wt. (%)	Sector
MICROSOFT CORP	10.11	4.81	Info Tech
FACEBOOK A	3.76	1.79	Comm Srvcs
ALPHABET C	2.98	1.42	Comm Srvcs
ALPHABET A	2.92	1.39	Comm Srvcs
VISA A	2.27	1.08	Info Tech
PROCTER & GAMBLE CO	2.03	0.97	Cons Staples
HOME DEPOT	1.88	0.89	Cons Discr
MASTERCARD A	1.82	0.87	Info Tech
INTEL CORP	1.76	0.84	Info Tech
NVIDIA	1.60	0.76	Info Tech
Total	31.13	14.82	

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Relatively Inexpensive Stocks



LOW SIZE Smaller Companies



**MOMENTUM Rising Stocks** 



QUALITY
Sound Balance Sheet Stocks



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Cash Flow Paid Out



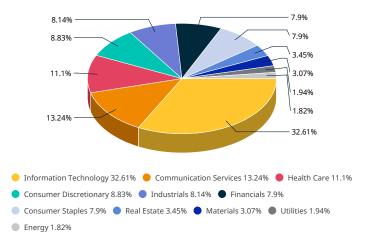
LOW VOLATILITY Lower Risk Stocks

MSCI FaCS provides absolute factor exposures relative to a broad global index - MSCI ACWI IMI.

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Neutral factor exposure (FaCS = 0) represents MSCI ACWI IMI.

#### **SECTOR WEIGHTS**





The MSCI KLD 400 Social Index is maintained in two stages. First, securities of companies involved in Nuclear Power, Tobacco, Alcohol, Gambling, Military Weapons, Civilian Firearms, GMOs and Adult Entertainment are excluded. Then additions are made from the list of eligible companies based on considerations of ESG performance, sector alignment and size representation. The MSCI KLD 400 Social Index is designed to maintain similar sector weights as the MSCI USA Index and targets a minimum of 200 large and mid-cap constituents. Companies that are not existing constituents of The MSCI KLD 400 Social Index must have an MSCI ESG Rating above 'BB' and the MSCI ESG Controversies Score greater than 2 to be eligible. At each quarterly Index Review, constituents are deleted if they are deleted from the MSCI USA IMI Index, fail the exclusion screens, or if their ESG ratings or scores fall below minimum standards. Additions are made to restore the number of constituents to 400. All eligible securities of each issuer are included in the index, so the index may have more than 400 securities. The selection universe for the MSCI KLD 400 Social Index are large, mid and small cap companies in the MSCI USA IMI Index. The Index is float-adjusted market capitalization weighted. It is rebalanced at the regular Semi-Annual and Quarterly Index Reviews in May, August, November and February.

#### FACTOR BOX AND FaCS METHODOLOGY

MSCI FaCS is a standard method (MSCI FaCS Methodology) for evaluating and reporting the Factor characteristics of equity portfolios. MSCI FaCS consists of Factor Groups (e.g. Value, Size, Momentum, Quality, Yield, and Volatility) that have been extensively documented in academic literature and validated by MSCI Research as key drivers of risk and return in equity portfolios. These Factor Groups are constructed by aggregating 16 factors (e.g. Book-to-Price, Earnings/Dividend Yields, LT Reversal, Leverage, Earnings Variability/Quality, Beta) from the latest Barra global equity factor risk model, GEMLT, designed to make fund comparisons transparent and intuitive for use. The MSCI Factor Box, which is powered by MSCI FaCS, provides a visualization designed to easily compare absolute exposures of funds/indexes and their benchmarks along 6 Factor Groups that have historically demonstrated excess market returns over the long run.

#### **ABOUT MSCI**

MSCI is a leading provider of critical decision support tools and services for the global investment community. With over 45 years of expertise in research, data and technology, we power better investment decisions by enabling clients to understand and analyze key drivers of risk and return and confidently build more effective portfolios. We create industry-leading research-enhanced solutions that clients use to gain insight into and improve transparency across the investment process. To learn more, please visit www.msci.com.

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