

# INDEX GUIDELINE

*APTUS MULTI-FACTOR MINIMUM VOLATILITY  
INDEX*

*Version 1.0*

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## INTRODUCTION

This document (the "**GUIDELINE**") is to be used as a guideline with regard to the composition, calculation and maintenance of the APTUS MULTI-FACTOR MINIMUM VOLATILITY INDEX (the "**INDEX**"). Any amendments to the rules made to the GUIDELINE are approved by the INDEX COMMITTEE specified in Section 5.5. The INDEX is calculated, administered and published by Solactive AG ("**SOLACTIVE**") assuming the role as administrator (the "**INDEX ADMINISTRATOR**") under the Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 (the "**BENCHMARK REGULATION**" or "**BMR**"). The name "Solactive" is trademarked.

*The text uses defined terms which are formatted with "SMALL CAPS". Such Terms shall have the meaning assigned to them as specified in Section 6 (Definitions).*

The GUIDELINE and the policies and methodology documents referenced herein contain the underlying principles and rules regarding the structure and operation of the INDEX. SOLACTIVE does not offer any explicit or tacit guarantee or assurance, neither pertaining to the results from the use of the INDEX nor the level of the INDEX at any certain point in time nor in any other respect. SOLACTIVE strives to the best of its ability to ensure the correctness of the calculation. There is no obligation for SOLACTIVE – irrespective of possible obligations to issuers – to advise third parties, including investors and/or financial intermediaries, of any errors in the INDEX. The publication of the INDEX by SOLACTIVE does not constitute a recommendation for capital investment and does not contain any assurance or opinion of SOLACTIVE regarding a possible investment in a financial instrument based on this INDEX.



# 1. INDEX SPECIFICATIONS

## 1.1. SCOPE OF THE INDEX

Category	Description
Asset Class	Equity
Strategy	This index is designed to provide broad exposure to the US mid-large cap universe while tilting towards factors that have historically contributed to enhanced returns and improved risk-adjusted performance. By strategically increasing exposure to these key factors and employing a volatility-minimizing weighting approach, the index aims to capture the majority of market returns with significantly reduced risk, offering a balanced and stable investment option through various market conditions.
Regional Allocation	United States
Rebalancing Fee	-
Rebalancing Frequency	Quarterly

## 1.2. IDENTIFIERS AND PUBLICATION

The INDEX is published under the following identifiers:

Name	ISIN	Currency	Type	RIC	BBG ticker
Aptus Multi-Factor Minimum Volatility Index PR	DE000SL0JJ79	USD	PR*	.APMFMVP	
Aptus Multi-Factor Minimum Volatility Index NTR	DE000SL0JJ87	USD	NTR*	.APMFMVN	
Aptus Multi-Factor Minimum Volatility Index TR	DE000SL0JJ95	USD	GTR*	.APMFMVT	APMFMVT

\*PR, NTR, GTR means that the INDEX is calculated as price return, net total return, gross total return. INDEX as described in the Equity Index Methodology, which is available on the SOLACTIVE website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/equity-index-methodology/>.

The INDEX is published on the website of the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR ([www.solactive.com](https://www.solactive.com)) and is, in addition, available via the price marketing services of Boerse Stuttgart GmbH and may be distributed to all of its affiliated vendors. Each vendor decides on an individual basis as to whether it will distribute or display the INDEX via its information systems.

Any publication in relation to the INDEX (e.g. notices, amendments to the GUIDELINE) will be available at the website of the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR: <https://www.solactive.com/news/announcements/>.



### 1.3. INITIAL LEVEL OF THE INDEX

The initial level of the INDEX on the 2006-05-08, the START DATE, is 1000. Historical values from the 2024-09-30 the LIVE DATE, will be recorded in accordance with Article 8 of the BMR. Levels of the INDEX published for a period prior to the LIVE DATE have been back-tested.

### 1.4. PRICES AND CALCULATION FREQUENCY

The level of the INDEX is calculated on each CALCULATION DAY from 3:30 p.m. to 10:50 p.m. CET based on the TRADING PRICES on the EXCHANGES on which the INDEX COMPONENTS are listed. TRADING PRICES of INDEX COMPONENTS not listed in the INDEX CURRENCY are converted using the current Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) spot foreign exchange rate. Should there be no current TRADING PRICE for an INDEX COMPONENT, the later of: (i) the most recent CLOSING PRICE; or (ii) the last available TRADING PRICE for the preceding TRADING DAY is used in the calculation.

In addition to the intraday calculation a closing level of the INDEX for each CALCULATION DAY is also calculated. This closing level is based on the CLOSING PRICES for the INDEX COMPONENTS on the respective EXCHANGES on which the INDEX COMPONENTS are listed. The CLOSING PRICES of INDEX COMPONENTS not listed in the INDEX CURRENCY are converted using the 04:00 p.m. London time rates provided by WM/ Refinitiv (the "WM/ Refinitiv Rate"). If there is no 04:00 p.m. London time WM/ Refinitiv Rate for the relevant CALCULATION DAY, the last available 04:00 p.m. London time WM/ Refinitiv Rate will be used for the closing level calculation.

### 1.5. LICENSING

Licenses to use the INDEX as the underlying value for financial instruments, investment funds and financial contracts may be issued to stock exchanges, banks, financial services providers and investment houses by the CLIENT.



## 2. INDEX SELECTION

On each SELECTION DAY, the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR will revise the composition of the INDEX.

In a first step, the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR determines the INDEX UNIVERSE in accordance with Section 2.1. The INDEX UNIVERSE comprises all those financial instruments which fulfill the INDEX UNIVERSE REQUIREMENTS (as specified in Section 2.1) and will constitute a starting pool from which the components of the INDEX will be selected. Based on this INDEX UNIVERSE, the new composition of the INDEX will be determined by applying the rules outlined in Section 2.2.

Each new INDEX COMPONENT will be assigned a weight as described in Section 2.3.

### 2.1. INDEX UNIVERSE REQUIREMENTS

The INDEX UNIVERSE is comprised of all financial instruments which fulfill the below requirements

(the "**INDEX UNIVERSE REQUIREMENTS**"):

- Part/ Component of the **GBS INDEX UNIVERSE** of the of the Solactive GBS United States Large & Mid Cap Index (ISIN: DE000SLA4YD9), on a SELECTION DAY.

The determination of the INDEX UNIVERSE is fully rule-based and the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR cannot make any discretionary decisions.

### 2.2. SELECTION OF THE INDEX COMPONENTS

Based on the INDEX UNIVERSE, the initial composition of the INDEX as well as any selection for an ordinary rebalance is determined on the SELECTION DAY in accordance with the following rules:

(the "**INDEX COMPONENT REQUIREMENTS**")

INDEX COMPONENTS are selected based on an optimization algorithm to determine the composition with the minimum portfolio volatility as defined below.

### 2.3. WEIGHTING OF THE INDEX COMPONENTS

On each SELECTION DAY each INDEX COMPONENT is assigned a weight following a two steps process.

In a first step, INDEX COMPONENTS are weighted based on an optimization algorithm to determine the composition in order to minimize volatility.

The process is performed using the following formulas:

$$Objective = \min \sqrt{\mathbf{w}_i' * \Sigma * \mathbf{w}_i}$$

Where:



$w_i$  = vector of index weights

$\Sigma$  = n-by-n-dimensional variance-covariance matrix (using 180 daily returns)

Subject to the following constraints:

- a. Compared to the INDEX UNIVERSE, absolute deviation of the SECTOR weights is capped at 10% of the weight of the sector in the INDEX UNIVERSE
- b. Two-way turnover at each SELECTION DATE is capped at 30%
- c. HHI is capped at 0.0125, where  $HHI = \sum_{i=1}^N w_i^2$ .
- d. Maximum absolute weight deviation from the weight in the INDEX UNIVERSE of 2%. Individual weights are also capped at 5%
- e. Value, Growth and Momentum Factor exposure of the Index must always be greater or equal compared to the INDEX UNIVERSE
- f. Quality Style Factor exposure of the Index must always be at least 20% higher compared to the INDEX UNIVERSE
- g. Low Volatility Factor exposure of the Index must always be at least 20% lower compared to the INDEX UNIVERSE

If no solution can be found, the constraints below are relaxed at each iteration, until a solution is found:

- a. SECTOR constraint: Compared to the INDEX UNIVERSE, the deviation of the SECTOR weights is increased by 1% in each direction
- b. Turnover constraint: The turnover constraint is relaxed by 5%

In a second step, top 100 securities ranked by their optimized weights are selected as eligible.

Weights of the non-eligible securities are set to 0. Additionally, securities with optimized weights below 0.05% are also considered non-eligible and their weights are set to 0.

The missing weight is then redistributed amongst all remaining eligible INDEX COMPONENTS.

Factors are defined in Appendix 7.1.





## 3. REBALANCE

### 3.1. ORDINARY REBALANCE

In order to reflect the new selection of the INDEX COMPONENTS determined on the SELECTION DAY (in accordance with Section 2.1 and 2.2) the INDEX is adjusted on the REBALANCE DAY after CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

This is carried out by implementing the shares as determined on the FIXING DAY based on the weights calculated on the SELECTION DAY.

For more information on the rebalance procedure please refer to the Equity Index Methodology, which is incorporated by reference and available on the Solactive website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/equity-index-methodology/>.

SOLACTIVE will publish any changes made to the INDEX COMPONENTS with sufficient notice before the REBALANCE DAY on the SOLACTIVE website under the section "News", which is available at <https://www.solactive.com/news/announcements/>.

### 3.2. EXTRAORDINARY REBALANCE

The INDEX is not rebalanced extraordinarily.



## 4. CALCULATION OF THE INDEX

### 4.1. INDEX FORMULA

The INDEX is calculated as a price return, net total return, gross total return Index.

The calculation is performed according to the Equity Index Methodology, which is available on the SOLACTIVE website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/equity-index-methodology/>. The divisor index formula stipulates that the level of the INDEX changes based on the change of the prices of its INDEX COMPONENTS taking into account their weight in the INDEX and any currency conversion in case the price of an INDEX COMPONENT is quoted in a currency other than the INDEX CURRENCY.

Any dividends or other distributions are reinvested across the entire basket of INDEX COMPONENTS by means of a divisor at the opening of the effective date (the so-called ex-date) of the payment of such dividend or other distribution.

A more detailed description of the mechanics of the index calculation formula can be found in the Equity Index Methodology under Section 1.2.

### 4.2. ACCURACY

The level of the INDEX will be rounded to 2 decimal places. Divisors will be rounded to six decimal places. TRADING PRICES and foreign exchange rates will be rounded to six decimal places.

### 4.3. ADJUSTMENTS

Under certain circumstances, an adjustment of the INDEX may be necessary between two regular REBALANCE DAYS. Such adjustment has to be made if a corporate action (as specified in Section 4.4 below) in relation of an INDEX COMPONENT occurs. Such adjustment may have to be done in relation to an INDEX COMPONENT and/or may also affect the number of INDEX COMPONENTS and/or the weighting of certain INDEX COMPONENTS and will be made in compliance with the Solactive Equity Index Methodology, which is incorporated by reference and available on the SOLACTIVE website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/equity-index-methodology/>.

SOLACTIVE will announce the INDEX adjustment giving a notice period of at least two TRADING DAYS (with respect to the affected INDEX COMPONENT) on the SOLACTIVE website under the section "News", which is available at <https://www.solactive.com/news/announcements/>. The INDEX adjustments will be implemented on the effective day specified in the respective notice.

### 4.4. CORPORATE ACTIONS

As part of the INDEX maintenance SOLACTIVE will consider various events – also referred to as corporate actions – which result in an adjustment to the INDEX between two regular REBALANCE DAYS. Such events have a material impact on the price, weighting or overall integrity of INDEX COMPONENTS. Therefore, they need to



be accounted for in the calculation of the INDEX. Corporate actions will be implemented from the cum-day to the ex-day of the corporate action, so that the adjustment to the INDEX coincides with the occurrence of the price effect of the respective corporate action.

Adjustments to the INDEX to account for corporate actions will be made in compliance with the Equity Index Methodology, which is available on the SOLACTIVE website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/equity-index-methodology/>. This document contains for each corporate action a brief definition and specifies the relevant adjustment to the INDEX variables.

While SOLACTIVE aims at creating and maintaining its methodology for treatment of corporate actions as generic and transparent as possible and in line with regulatory requirements, it retains the right in accordance with the Equity Index Methodology to deviate from these standard procedures in case of any unusual or complex corporate action or if such a deviation is made to preserve the comparability and representativeness of the INDEX over time.

SOLACTIVE considers following, but not conclusive, list of corporate actions as relevant for INDEX maintenance:

- > Cash Distributions (e.g. payment of a dividend)
- > Stock distributions (e.g. payment of a dividend in form of additional shares)
- > Stock distributions of another company (e.g. payment of a dividend in form of additional shares of another company (e.g. of a subsidiary))
- > Share splits (company's present shares are divided and therefore multiplied by a given factor)
- > Reverse splits (company's present shares are effectively merged)
- > Capital increases (such as issuing additional shares)
- > Share repurchases (a company offer its shareholders the option to sell their shares to a fixed price)
- > Spin-offs (the company splits its business activities into two or more entities and distributes new equity shares in the created entities to the shareholders of the former entity)
- > Mergers & Acquisitions (transaction in which the ownership of a company (or other business organizations) are transferred or consolidated with other entities, e.g. fusion of two or more separate companies into one entity)
- > Delistings (company's shares are no longer publicly traded at a stock exchange)
- > Nationalization of a company (effective control of a legal entity is taken over by a state)
- > Insolvency



## 4.5. RECALCULATION

SOLACTIVE makes the greatest possible efforts to accurately calculate and maintain its indices. However, errors in the determination process may occur from time to time for variety reasons (internal or external) and therefore, cannot be completely ruled out. SOLACTIVE endeavors to correct all errors that have been identified within a reasonable period of time. The understanding of “a reasonable period of time” as well as the general measures to be taken are generally depending on the underlying and is specified in the Solactive Correction Policy, which is incorporated by reference and available on the SOLACTIVE website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/correction-policy/>.

## 4.6. MARKET DISRUPTION

In periods of market stress SOLACTIVE calculates its indices following predefined and exhaustive arrangements as described in the Solactive Disruption Policy, which is incorporated by reference and available on the SOLACTIVE website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/disruption-policy/>. Such market stress can arise due to a variety of reasons, but generally results in inaccurate or delayed prices for one or more INDEX COMPONENTS. The determination of the INDEX may be limited or impaired at times of illiquid or fragmented markets and market stress.



## 5. MISCELLANEOUS

### 5.1. DISCRETION

Any discretion which may need to be exercised in relation to the determination of the INDEX (for example the determination of the INDEX UNIVERSE (if applicable), the selection of the INDEX COMPONENTS (if applicable) or any other relevant decisions in relation to the INDEX) shall be made in accordance with strict rules regarding the exercise of discretion or expert judgement.

### 5.2. METHODOLOGY REVIEW

The methodology of the INDEX is subject to regular review, at least annually. In case a need of a change of the methodology has been identified within such review (e.g. if the underlying market or economic reality has changed since the launch of the INDEX, i.e. if the present methodology is based on obsolete assumptions and factors and no longer reflects the reality as accurately, reliably and appropriately as before), such change will be made in accordance with the Solactive Methodology Policy, which is incorporated by reference and available on the SOLACTIVE website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/methodology-policy/>.

Such change in the methodology will be announced on the SOLACTIVE website under the section "News", which is available at <https://www.solactive.com/news/announcements/>. The date of the last amendment of this INDEX is contained in this GUIDELINE.

### 5.3. CHANGES IN CALCULATION METHOD

The application by the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR of the method described in this document is final and binding. The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR shall apply the method described above for the composition and calculation of the INDEX. However, it cannot be excluded that the market environment, supervisory, legal and financial or tax reasons may require changes to be made to this method. The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR may also make changes to the terms and conditions of the INDEX and the method applied to calculate the INDEX that it deems to be necessary and desirable in order to prevent obvious or demonstrable error or to remedy, correct or supplement incorrect terms and conditions. The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR is not obliged to provide information on any such modifications or changes. Despite the modifications and changes, the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR will take the appropriate steps to ensure a calculation method is applied that is consistent with the method described above.

### 5.4. TERMINATION

SOLACTIVE makes the greatest possible efforts to ensure the resilience and continued integrity of its indices over time. Where necessary, SOLACTIVE follows a clearly defined and transparent procedure to adapt Index methodologies to changing underlying markets (see Section 5.2 "Methodology Review") in order to maintain



continued reliability and comparability of the indices. Nevertheless, if no other options are available the orderly cessation of the INDEX may be indicated. This is usually the case when the underlying market or economic reality, which an index is set to measure or to reflect, changes substantially and in a way not foreseeable at the time of inception of the index, the index rules, and particularly the selection criteria, can no longer be applied coherently or the index is no longer used as the underlying value for financial instruments, investment funds and financial contracts.

SOLACTIVE has established and maintains clear guidelines on how to identify situations in which the cessation of an index is unavoidable, how stakeholders are to be informed and consulted and the procedures to be followed for a termination or the transition to an alternative index. Details are specified in the Solactive Termination Policy, which is incorporated by reference and available on the SOLACTIVE website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/termination-policy/>.

## 5.5. INDEX COMMITTEE

An index committee composed of staff from SOLACTIVE and its subsidiaries (the “**INDEX COMMITTEE**”) is responsible for decisions regarding any amendments to the rules of the INDEX. Any such amendment, which may result in an amendment of the GUIDELINE, must be submitted to the INDEX COMMITTEE for prior approval and will be made in compliance with the Methodology Policy, which is available on the SOLACTIVE website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/methodology-policy/>.



## 6. DEFINITIONS

**“BENCHMARK REGULATION”** shall have the meaning as defined in Section “Introduction”.

**“BMR”** shall have the meaning as defined in Section “Introduction”.

**“BUSINESS DAY”** is each day from Monday to Friday.

**“CALCULATION DAY”** is every weekday from Monday to Friday.

**“CLIENT”** is Aptus Capital Advisors LLC.

**“CLOSE OF BUSINESS”** is the calculation time of the closing level of the INDEX as outlined in Section 1.4.

The **“CLOSING PRICE”** in respect of an INDEX COMPONENT and a TRADING DAY is a security's final regular-hours TRADING PRICE published by the EXCHANGE and determined in accordance with the EXCHANGE regulations. If the EXCHANGE has no or has not published a CLOSING PRICE in accordance with the EXCHANGE rules for an INDEX COMPONENT, the last TRADING PRICE will be used.

**“ELIGIBLE REBALANCING DAY”** is each day that is a TRADING DAY at the New York Stock Exchange, the London Stock Exchange, the EUREX Exchange, and the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

**“EXCHANGE”** is with respect to the INDEX and every INDEX COMPONENT, the respective exchange where the INDEX COMPONENT has its listing as determined in accordance with the rules in Section 2.

**“FIXING DAY”** is SELECTION DAY.

**“GBS INDEX UNIVERSE”** is the INDEX UNIVERSE as defined in the guideline of the Solactive Global Benchmark Series (<https://solactive.com/downloads/Guideline-Solactive-GBS-Benchmark-Series.pdf>) for the GBS Index specified in Section 2.1.

**“GUIDELINE”** shall have the meaning as defined in Section “Introduction”.

**“INDEX”** shall have the meaning as defined in Section “Introduction”.

**“INDEX ADMINISTRATOR”** shall have the meaning as defined in Section “Introduction”.

**“INDEX COMMITTEE”** shall have the meaning as defined in Section 5.5.

**“INDEX COMPONENT”** is each security reflected in the INDEX.

**“INDEX COMPONENT REQUIREMENTS”** shall have the meaning as defined in Section 2.2.

**“INDEX CURRENCY”** is the currency specified in the column “Currency” in the table in Section 1.2.

**“INDEX UNIVERSE REQUIREMENTS”** shall have the meaning as defined in Section 2.1.

**“INDEX UNIVERSE”** is the sum of all financial instruments which fulfill the INDEX UNIVERSE REQUIREMENTS.

**“LIVE DATE”** shall have the meaning as defined in Section 1.3.

**“REBALANCE DAY”** is the first Wednesday of February, May, August and November. If that day is not an ELIGIBLE REBALANCE DAY, the REBALANCE DAY will be the following ELIGIBLE REBALANCE DAY.



**"SELECTION DAY"** is 20 BUSINESS DAYS before the scheduled REBALANCE DAY, disregarding any potential change of the REBALANCE DAY.

**"SECTORS"** is defined as the first level of the FactSet Industries and Economic Sectors Classification.

**"SOLACTIVE"** shall have the meaning as defined in Section "Introduction".

**"START DATE"** shall have the meaning as defined in Section 1.3.

**"TRADING DAY"** is with respect to an INDEX COMPONENT included in the INDEX at the REBALANCE DAY and every INDEX COMPONENT included in the INDEX at the CALCULATION DAY immediately following the REBALANCE DAY (for clarification: this provision is intended to capture the TRADING DAYS for the securities to be included in the INDEX as new INDEX COMPONENTS with close of trading on the relevant EXCHANGE on the REBALANCE DAY) a day on which the relevant EXCHANGE is open for trading (or a day that would have been such a day if a market disruption had not occurred), excluding days on which trading may be ceased prior to the scheduled EXCHANGE closing time and days on which the EXCHANGE is open for a scheduled shortened period. The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR is ultimately responsible as to whether a certain day is a TRADING DAY.

The **"TRADING PRICE"** in respect of an INDEX COMPONENT and a TRADING DAY is the most recent published price at which the INDEX COMPONENT was traded on the respective EXCHANGE.

**"WM/REFINITIV RATE"** shall have the meaning as defined in Section 1.4.





## 7. APPENDIX

### 7.1. FACTOR DEFINITION

#### Value

The value factor is calculated as follows:

$$Value = \frac{P/E_t}{Earnings\ per\ share\ Growth_t + Sales\ per\ share\ Growth_t}$$

Where:

$P/E_t$  = Price to earnings ratio as of SELECTION DAY t

$Earnings\ Growth_t$  = Earnings per share as of fiscal year three years prior to SELECTION DAY t

$Sales\ Growth_t$  = Sales per share as of fiscal year three years prior to SELECTION DAY t

#### Quality Style

The quality style factor is a combination of the low financial leverage, profitability and earnings stability factors. These are calculated as follows:

$$Financial\ Leverage = \frac{Debt_t}{Total\ Company\ Market\ Capitalization_t}$$

Where:

$Debt_t$  = Total debt of last fiscal year prior to SELECTION DAY t

$Total\ Company\ Market\ Capitalization_t$  = Total Company Market Capitalization in USD as of SELECTION DAY t

$$Profitability = \frac{Earnings_t}{Total\ Company\ Market\ Capitalization_t}$$

Where:

$Earnings_t$  = Earnings of the last 12-months prior to SELECTION DAY t

$Total\ Company\ Market\ Capitalization_t$  = Total Company Market Capitalization in USD as of last fiscal year prior to SELECTION DAY t

$Earnings\ Stability = - Earnings\ Volatility_t$

Where:



$$\text{Earnings Volatility}_t = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{t=1}^n (\text{EPSd}_t - \overline{\text{EPSd}})^2}{n-1}}$$

$$\text{EPSd}_t = (\text{EPS}_t - \text{EPS}_{t-1}) / \text{EPS}_{t-1}$$

$\overline{\text{EPSd}}$  = Average of the n growth datapoints  $\text{EPSd}_t$

$$n = 4$$

## Momentum

The momentum factor is calculated as the price change from 12-months ago to 1-month ago:

$$\text{Momentum} = \frac{\text{Price}_{t-1m}}{\text{Price}_{t-12m}} - 1$$

Where:

$\text{Price}_{t-1m}$  = Local price adjusted for splits and spinoffs as of 1-month prior to SELECTION DAY t

$\text{Price}_{t-12m}$  = Local price adjusted for splits and spinoffs as of 12-month prior to SELECTION DAY t

## Low Volatility

The volatility factor is calculated as the standard deviation of daily returns over the past 251 business days prior to the SELECTION DAY:

$$\text{Volatility} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{t=1}^n (r_t - \bar{r})^2}$$

Where:

$$n = 251$$

$r$  = Total return on day t

## Growth

The growth factor is a combination of the earnings per share growth and the sales per share growth factors. These are calculated as follows. In case earnings or sales are not available three years in the past or in the future, the growth metric is only calculated over two years or one year respectively. If no such values are available, the growth metric is set equal to 0.



$$\text{Earnings per share Growth} = \frac{\left[ \left( \frac{EPS_t}{EPS_{t-3y}} \right)^{1/3} - 1 \right] + \left[ \left( \frac{FEPS_{t+3y}}{EPS_t} \right)^{1/3} - 1 \right]}{2}$$

Where:

$EPS_t$  = Earnings per share as of last fiscal year prior to SELECTION DAY t

$EPS_{t-3y}$  = Earnings per share as of fiscal year three years prior to SELECTION DAY t

$FEPS_{t+3y}$  = Forecasted earnings per share for fiscal year three years after SELECTION DAY t

$$\text{Sales per share Growth} = \frac{\left[ \left( \frac{SPS_t}{SPS_{t-3y}} \right)^{1/3} - 1 \right] + \left[ \left( \frac{FSPS_{t+3y}}{SPS_t} \right)^{1/3} - 1 \right]}{2}$$

Where:

$SPS_t$  = Sales per share as of last fiscal year prior to SELECTION DAY t

$SPS_{t-3y}$  = Sales per share as of fiscal year three years prior to SELECTION DAY t

$FSPS_{t+3y}$  = Forecasted sales per share for fiscal year three years after SELECTION DAY t

Each raw factor score is winsorized at a 3% level. Z-scores are afterwards capped at a lower bound of -3 and an upper bound of 3.

## 8. HISTORY OF INDEX CHANGES

Version	Date	Description
1.0	30 September 2024	Index Guideline creation ( <i>initial version</i> )

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