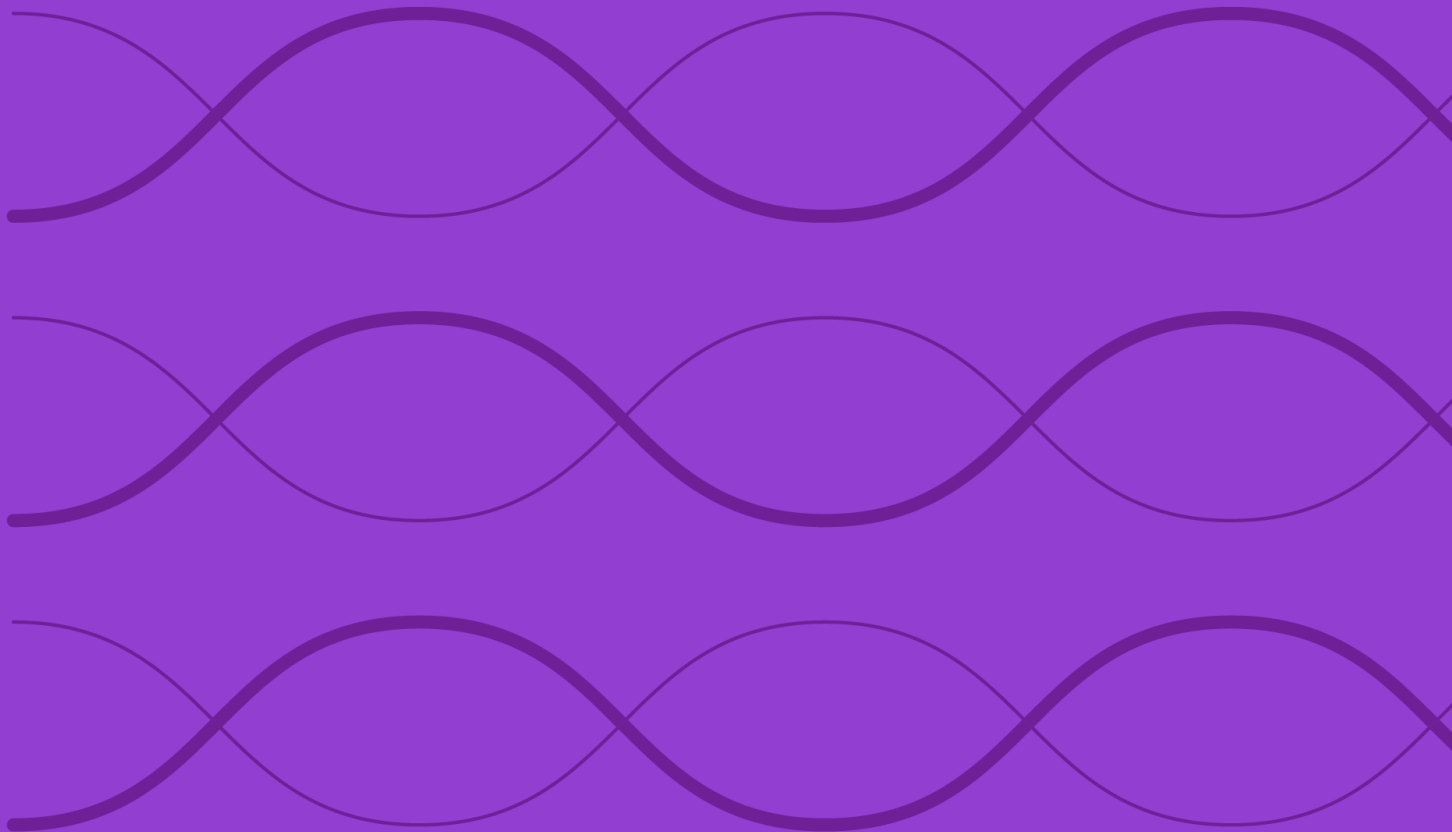


# Construction Rules for the Morningstar Multi-Asset High Income Index



<b>Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Index Construction</b>	<b>3</b>
Assigning ETFs to the Index	3
Portfolio Weight Calculation	5
<b>Index Maintenance and Calculation</b>	<b>6</b>
Scheduled Maintenance	6
Index Calculation and Price Data	6
<b>Methodology Review and Index Cessation Policy</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Data Correction and Precision</b>	<b>8</b>
Intraday Index Data Corrections	8
Index-Related Data and Divisor Corrections	8
Computational and Reporting Precision	8
<b>Exceptions</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Appendixes</b>	<b>9</b>
Appendix 1: Modifications to the Rulebook	9
<b>About Morningstar Indexes</b>	<b>9</b>

## Overview

The Morningstar Multi-Asset High Income Index is a broadly diversified index that seeks to deliver a high level of current income while maintaining long-term capital appreciation. The index consists of a comprehensive set of exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that collectively target equity, fixed income, and alternative asset classes. The asset allocation provides an optimal portfolio of equity, fixed income, and cash and is driven Morningstar Investment Management’s asset-allocation methodology.

This index does not incorporate Environmental, Social, or Governance (ESG) criteria.

## Index Inception and Performance Start Date

The index inception date is January 15, 2013, and the performance start date, when the first back-tested index value was calculated, is February 20, 2009.

## Index Construction

### Methodology Summary

#### Starting Universe

- ETFs sponsored by BlackRock iShares that are listed on a US Exchange

#### Fund Selection

- Trading history > one year
- AUM ≥ \$250 million
- Must have a history of dividend payment
- Minimum liquidity
  - 3-month avg vol > 25k shares/day
  - Must have no more than 10 non-trading days in the previous quarter

#### Portfolio Construction

- Asset class exposure set to the following to balance risk exposure:
  - Equity: 20%
  - Fixed Income: 60%
  - Alternatives: 20%

Morningstar Multi-Asset High Income Index

## Assigning ETFs to the Index

### Starting Universe

At each reconstitution, securities for the Morningstar Multi-Asset High Income Index are derived from US listed passive ETFs with fund sponsor, iShares, a subsidiary of BlackRock Inc. The ETFs classified in the following asset and sub asset classes and listed on a US exchange are considered eligible for inclusion in the index:

- Equity
  - US style and size
  - International style and size
  - Emerging markets

- Dividend focused
  - Global infrastructure
- Fixed Income
  - Broad market
  - Credit
  - Government (US and non-US)
  - Mortgages
  - International
- Alternative
  - Preferred
  - REITs Fund Selection

To be eligible for inclusion in the index, all constituents must meet the following criteria:

- ETFs must have at least one year of trading history
- ETFs must have at least \$250 million in assets under management
- ETFs must have a history of dividend payment
- ETFs must have a 3-month average trading volume greater than 25,000 shares per day
- ETFs with more than 10 non-trading days in the previous quarter are excluded

To avoid redundancy in categories where there are multiple ETF choices available, the fund with the broadest exposure and sufficient liquidity is selected.<sup>1</sup>

The following ETF categories are not eligible:

- Country specific
- Sector specific
- Industry specific
- Commodity
- Managed futures
- Municipal bonds
- Inflation-linked strategies
- Allocation funds (ETF fund of funds or target date/ risk)
- Bank loans
- Convertible bonds
- Master limited partnerships

---

<sup>1</sup> Broadest exposure is determined by the number of holdings for each eligible ETF within its assigned Morningstar Category.

In addition, any ETFs which are on BlackRock's publicly posted [RULE 12D1-4 LIST](#) are not eligible.

### *Number of Funds*

The number of ETFs in the index is subject to the selection and eligibility criteria at the time of reconstitution.

### *Index Weighting*

To maintain broad exposure and diversification, the index will maintain a weight allocation at each rebalance of:

- Equity: 20%
- Fixed Income: 60%
- Alternatives: 20%

### **Portfolio Weight Calculation**

Securities that meet the investable universe standards are selected and assigned a weight according to a variant of the mean-variance optimization equation developed by Morningstar Investment Management. The equation creates an optimal portfolio based on the return, standard deviation, correlation, and yield of the eligible securities. The weight of each constituent of the portfolio is given by maximizing:

$$\max f(w) = \lambda w'y - \sqrt{w'Vw}$$

Where:

$w$	=	index weight
$y$	=	12-month yield for equities and current yield-to-maturity for fixed income (less management fees)
$V$	=	variance-covariance matrix of last 36 months of total market returns
$\lambda$	=	Optimizer scale factor set to 3.5

As noted above, covariance used in the optimizer are calculated using the past 36 months of total returns. When the number of return periods is less than the number of assets (as is the case for this index) there may be occasions where a covariance matrix may not work well in an optimization. For this reason, we shrink the covariance matrix partially towards zero using a blend of 75% of the full correlation and 25% zero.

Maximum allocations to each constituent are capped according to the following AUM-based schedule:

- \$250 million ≤ AUM < \$500 million = 5% maximum allocation
- \$500 million ≤ AUM < \$1 billion = 10% maximum allocation
- AUM ≥ \$1 billion = 15% maximum allocation
- Aggregate high yield bond exposure is capped at 20%
- No more than 25% of assets can be invested in funds that have significant non-US currency exposure.

## Index Maintenance and Calculation

### Scheduled Maintenance

#### *Quarterly Reconstitution and Rebalance*

The index is reconstituted and rebalanced quarterly and is implemented after the close of business on the last business day of February, May, August and November and is effective the following business day. The market data used for reconstitution and rebalance is as of previous month end.

Index files are published according to the US calendar schedule. For more information, please refer to the [Morningstar Indexes Holiday Calendar](#).

### Index Calculation and Price Data

#### *Index Calculation*

The value (price) and total return of the index is calculated using a Laspeyres' formula. The only difference between the price return and total return index is the divisor  $D_t$  is different for the total return and price return indexes:

$$Index(t) = \left( \frac{M(t)}{B(t)} \right) * BaseIndexValue$$

$$M(t) = \sum_{i=1}^n (p_{i(t)} * q_{i(t)})$$

$$B(t) = C(t) \sum_{i=1}^n (p_{i(0)} * q_{i(0)})$$

The above formula can be simplified as:  $Index(t) = \frac{M(t)}{D(t)}$

Where:

D(t)	=	divisor at time (t)=B(t)/Base Index Value
n	=	number of constituents in the index
pi(0)	=	closing price of constituent i at the base date
qi(0)	=	number of shares held in index of constituent i at the base
pi(t)	=	price of constituent i at time (t)
qi(t)	=	number of shares in index of constituent i at time (t)
C(t)	=	adjustment factor for the base date market capitalization
t	=	time the index is calculated
M(t)	=	market capitalization of the index at time (t)
B(t)	=	adjusted base date market capitalization of the index at time (t)

Distributions are reinvested proportionally in the index sample of the total return index variant. Any dividend larger than 10% of the equity price is considered a special cash dividend, which requires a divisor adjustment to the price-return variant.

### Divisor Adjustments

To avoid distortions caused by corporate actions that affect the share capital of index constituents, the divisor of the index is adjusted accordingly.

Note: No divisor adjustments are necessary for constituent splits, since market capitalization does not change and the share number price are adjusted prior to the opening of trading on the split's ex-date.

The following formula will be used for divisor adjustments due to corporate action:

$$D(t + 1) = D(t) * \frac{(\sum_i^n P_i(t) * Q_i(t)) + \Delta MV(t + 1)}{(\sum_i^n P_i(t) * Q_i(t))}$$

Where:

D(t)	=	divisor at time (t)
D(t+1)	=	divisor at time (t+1)
Pi(t)	=	price of constituent i at time (t)
qi(t)	=	number of shares of constituent i at time (t)
ΔMC(t+1)	=	add new components' market capitalization and adjusted market capitalization

Calculated with adjusted closing prices and shares effective at time t+1 and/or minus market capitalization of constituents to be deleted

Note: If the current trading price of a constituent is unavailable, the previous trading session's closing price is used. However, if the constituent is affected by any corporate action that requires an adjustment, then the adjusted price is used.

The following events would require a divisor adjustment due to a deletion in the index:

#### Delisting

If the constituent is delisted by its principal exchange the ETF is removed from the index and is not replaced in between rebalancing periods. Exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis.

#### Change of Principal Exchange

A security is removed from the index if its principal exchange ceases to be in the US.

#### Dividend Reinvestment

Dividends are reinvested proportionally into the index sample on the ex-date. The ex-date rather than the pay date is used because the marketplace price adjustment for the dividend occurs on the ex-date. A divisor adjustment for the Total Return index is performed to reflect dividend reinvestment. The total dividends paid by all stocks in the index on the ex-date are considered a market value change and the divisor is adjusted accordingly.

#### Price data

Price data is the end of day total return index level of index constituents calculated by third parties for index level calculation.

## Methodology Review and Index Cessation Policy

The index methodology is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it achieves all stated objectives. These reviews consider corporate action treatment, eligibility requirements, and maintenance procedures. Subscribers to the index will be notified before any methodology changes are made. For more details, refer to the [Morningstar Index Methodology Change Policy](#).

Morningstar Indexes notifies all users of the index that circumstances might arise that require a material change to or a possible cessation of the index. Circumstances that could lead to an index cessation include, but are not limited to, market structure change, product definition change, inadequate supply of data, insufficient revenue associated with the index, insufficient number of clients using the index, and/or other external factors beyond the control of the Morningstar Index Committee.

Because the cessation of the index or benchmark index could disrupt subscriber products that reference this index, all subscribers are encouraged to have robust fallback procedures if an index is terminated. For more details, refer to the [Morningstar Index Cessation Process](#).

## Data Correction and Precision

### Intraday Index Data Corrections

If a real-time value or end-of-day values are restated for indexes that publish intraday values, Morningstar Indexes will not recalculate real-time values. Only the end-of-day values will be restated.

### Index-Related Data and Divisor Corrections

In general, index calculation data input defects—such as price, dividends, or foreign-exchange rates, that do not affect the index weighting factor—if discovered within two trading days, are corrected, and the index is recalculated regardless of the performance impact. Such errors discovered after two trading days typically only result in an index restatement if the impact on performance is material; otherwise, they are corrected prospectively. Errors involving mandatory corporate actions will generally be corrected with a restatement, regardless of the performance impact.

For more details, refer to the [Recalculation Guidelines](#).

### Computational and Reporting Precision

For reporting purposes, index values are rounded to two decimal places and divisors are rounded to appropriate decimal places.

## Exceptions

While Morningstar will seek to apply the methodology as described within this document, the market environment, supervisory, legal, financial, or tax reasons may require an alternative approach to be adopted. A decision to take an alternative approach will be made by the Morningstar Index Methodology Committee, and in all instances, the exception will be reported to the Morningstar Index Oversight Committee.



## Appendixes

### Appendix 1: Modifications to the Rulebook

Section	Description of Change	Update Date
Entire rulebook	Moved to a new brand template and included clarifications regarding security eligibility and selection	May 2024
Index maintenance and calculation	Clarified description of holiday calendar according to updated guidance from calculation agent	February 2025

### About Morningstar Indexes

Morningstar Indexes was built to keep up with the evolving needs of investors—and to be a leading-edge advocate for them. Our rich heritage as a transparent, investor-focused leader in data and research uniquely equips us to support individuals, institutions, wealth managers, and advisors in navigating investment opportunities across major asset classes, styles, and strategies. From traditional benchmarks and unique IP-driven indexes to index design, calculation, and distribution services, our solutions span an investment landscape as diverse as investors themselves.

### Morningstar Index Methodology Committee

The Morningstar Index Methodology Committee oversees all new index development, index methodology changes, and cessation of indexes for any indexes where Morningstar owns the intellectual property. This committee is also charged with ensuring that indexes align with Morningstar Research principles and values. The group comprises members of the index team with index research, product development, product management, client service, index implementation, and operation expertise who provide the first layer of governance over index design and methodology.

### Morningstar Indexes Operations Committee

The Morningstar Index Operations Committee governs the processes, systems, and exception handling of the day-to-day management of all live indexes, including index rebalancing and reconstitution, restatements, market classification, and contingency management. The committee oversees the annual review of index methodology (as required by U.K. and EU benchmark regulations, or BMR), ensuring that methodologies remain fit for purpose and continue to achieve their stated investment objectives. The group comprises members of the index team with data, operations, corporate actions, product development, index launch, client service, and index management experience who provide the first layer of governance over index operations.

### Morningstar Index Oversight Committee

The Morningstar Index Oversight Committee is responsible for the index oversight function as per the requirements of the U.K. and European BMR, providing independent oversight of all aspects of the governance of benchmark administration as required by the relevant BMR. Its remit extends to all calculation and administration-related business activities of Morningstar Indexes, including administration of Morningstar-owned benchmarks as well as client-owned benchmarks and index calculation. The oversight function is part of the organizational structure of Morningstar but is separate and independent from the index business, index management, and the other index committees.

[www.indexes.morningstar.com](http://www.indexes.morningstar.com)

## Contact Us

[indexes@morningstar.com](mailto:indexes@morningstar.com)

The information in this document is the property of Morningstar, Inc. Reproduction or transcription by any means, in whole or part, without the prior written consent of Morningstar, Inc., is prohibited. While data contained in this report are gathered from reliable sources, accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. All data, information, and opinions are subject to change without notice. This document may contain back-tested or simulated performances, and the subsequent results achieved by the investment strategy may be materially different.