

Morningstar Sector Moat Focus Indexes

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Sector investing can offer a means of expressing a short-term market view or can serve as an effective tool for strategic asset allocation. While a company's economic sector can be a key return driver, there is often considerable dispersion of performance among stocks within each sector. The Morningstar Global Sector Moat Focus Indexes are designed to provide exposure to companies with Morningstar Economic Moat Ratings of wide or narrow that are trading at the lowest current market price/fair value ratios within their respective Morningstar sector benchmark. Moat ratings and fair value estimates are determined through independent research conducted by the Morningstar Equity Research team. The indexes offer broad, diversified exposure to the most competitively advantaged and attractively priced companies in distinct sectors.

Morningstar Equity Research

Morningstar's equity analysts assign each company a Morningstar® Economic Moat Rating™ which reflects the strength and durability of its competitive position. Analysts also create fair value estimates for companies based on a three-staged discounted cash flow model that incorporates their in-depth knowledge and expectations for future growth. This forward-looking valuation assessment reflects long-term cash flow forecasts, which many traditional valuation metrics, like price/earnings, may not be as well-equipped to capture.

What is an economic moat?

An economic moat is a durable competitive advantage that allows a firm to keep competitors at bay and generate economic profits over an extended period. To help investors identify companies that possess an economic moat, Morningstar's equity research team assigns one of three economic moat ratings: "wide", "narrow", and "none". There are two major criteria that must be satisfied for a company to earn a moat rating of "narrow" or "wide": 1) it must be likely to generate returns on invested capital above its weighted average cost of capital for at least the next ten years; and 2) it must enjoy one of the

following economic moat sources, each of which is a driver of structural competitive advantage:

- **Network effect** Present when the value of a network increases for new and existing users as the network grows.
- **Cost advantage** Allows a firm to sell at the same price as competition but still enjoy economic profits thanks to lower unit costs of production.
- **Efficient scale** When a company serves a market limited in size, new competitors may not have an incentive to enter, particularly when the cost of market entry is high. New entrants would cause returns for all players to fall well below the cost of capital.
- **Intangible assets** Brands, patents, and regulatory licenses that block competition and/or convey meaningful pricing power.
- **Switching costs** Whether in time or money, the expenses that a customer would incur to change from one producer/provider to another.

Index eligibility and portfolio construction

The Morningstar Global Sector Moat Focus Indexes derive their constituents from their parent sector benchmark from the Morningstar Global Markets Indexes. To be eligible for inclusion, Morningstar's analysts must assign constituents from the parent index a fair value estimate and an economic moat rating of "narrow" or "wide". A liquidity screen is applied to improve investment capacity. Stocks must also pass a negative momentum screen to mitigate exposure to securities that may continue to underperform in the near term.

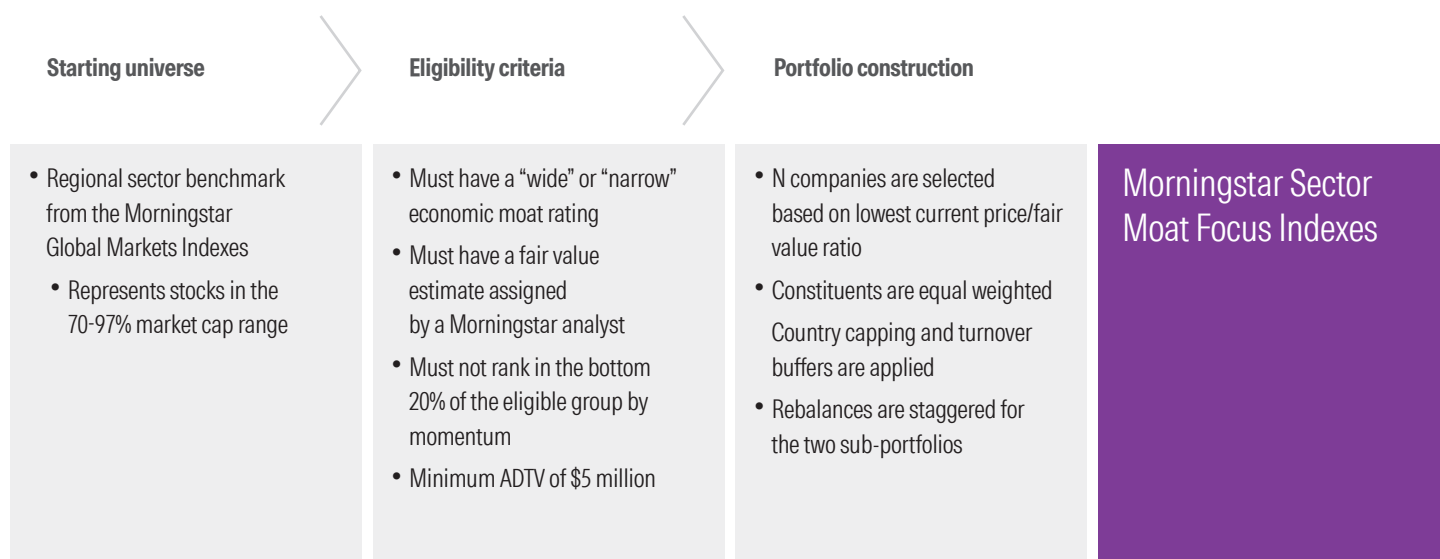
The remaining stocks are ranked based on their price/fair value ratios. Those trading at the lowest multiple of fair value are selected until the index reaches its target constituent count, subject to regional constraints to limit concentration. There are buffers in place to favor existing index constituents and mitigate unnecessary turnover. The indexes are equal weighted, mitigating concentration relative to market cap-weighted sector index alternatives.

Reconstitution

The Morningstar Global Sector Moat Focus Indexes reconstitute semi-annually on a staggered quarterly schedule. Therefore, half of each index reconstitutes quarterly. This allows for the inclusion of undervalued stocks on a more frequent cadence than a traditional semi-annual reconstitution schedule would provide. Additionally, this

approach reduces turnover by approximately 50% when compared to alternative reconstitution approaches. Because of the staggered reconstitution schedule, the overall number of constituents can deviate from the target count, and the weightings at the portfolio level may not always be equal. The two sub-portfolios are brought back to equal weight in the overall index portfolio every December and June.

Construction process



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.

Please visit indexes.morningstar.com for more information.