



# Morningstar Japan ex-REIT Gender Diversity Tilt Index

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The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals state, "Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but also a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world." Societies that tap into the full potential of their populations are more competitive, and in the corporate sphere, the same principles hold. Research has shown that companies committed to robust gender diversity policy and practice can achieve superior financial results.

Built with the data and scoring methodology of Equileap,<sup>1</sup> the Morningstar Japan ex-REIT Gender Diversity Tilt Index is designed to emphasize the stocks of companies that have strong gender diversity policies embedded in their corporate culture and that ensure equal opportunities to employees, irrespective of their gender.

#### Measuring gender diversity

Equileap assigns companies a Gender Equality Score based on 19 criteria across four broad categories, which are weighted differently.

- · Category A: Gender Balance in Leadership and Workforce
- · Category B: Equal Compensation and Work-Life Balance
- · Category C: Policies Promoting Gender Equality
- Category D: Commitment, Transparency, and Accountability

Examples of the 19 criteria driving category scoring include the gender balance of senior management, the gender pay gap, and policies around parental leave and sexual harassment. Equileap also examines a company's legal record, placing companies embroiled in legal cases involving gender-based violence and discrimination on the Alarm Bell List.

## Index eligibility

The Morningstar Japan ex-REIT Gender Diversity Tilt Index derives its constituents from the Morningstar Japan ex-REIT Domestic Index. All companies from the parent index are eligible for inclusion in the index. The companies that are part of Equileap's Alarm Bell List (companies embroiled in legal cases involving gender-based violence) are assigned to the lowest scoring group. The Alarm Bell securities will remain on the controversy list for 12 months from the date it was flagged by Equileap.

#### **Portfolio construction**

Companies are ranked in descending order by their Equileap Gender Equality Score and divided into five equally sized groups by count. The top group (Group 1) includes companies with the highest scores, and the bottom group (Group 5) includes companies with the lowest scores. The tilt factors listed below are then applied by multiplying the weight of each company in the parent index by the tilt factor to determine its weight in the Morningstar Japan ex-REIT Gender Diversity Tilt Index. The sector weights in the index are ensured to be equal to sector weights in the benchmark index during quarterly rebalance.

Group	Tilt factor %	
1	1.50	
2	1.25	
3	1.00	
4	0.75	
5	0.50	

In cases where companies have an equal Gender Equality Score, additional data points such as promotion and career development are used to determine which company will receive the higher tilt factor. Security active weights are capped at 2.5%, relative to the weight of the security in the parent index

## **Index maintenance**

The index is reconstituted semi-annually in June and December and rebalanced quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Visit https://equileap.com to learn more about Equileap

#### **Construction process**

#### Starting universe

- Morningstar Japan ex-REIT Domestic Index
  - Includes stocks representing the top 97% of the investable equity market by market cap

## **Security selection**

 All benchmark securities are eligible for inclusion in the index. Securities that are part of the Alarm Bell controversy list as assigned by Equileap, are assigned to the lowest scoring group.

#### Portfolio construction

- Companies are ranked in descending order by their Equileap Gender Equality Score and divided into five equally sized group
- Assign sector neutral weight with respect to the benchmark
- Security active weights are capped at 2.5%

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# **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 <u>indexes.morningstar.com</u> for more information.

# **About Equileap**

Equileap is the leading provider of data & insights on gender equality for investors. Launched in 2016, the company's mission is to close the equality gap in the workforce. Equileap evaluates thousands of companies based on a broad set of gender equality criteria, which include 19 criteria on gender balance in leadership and workforce, gender pay gap and work-life balance, paid parental leave and more. Please visit equileap.com for more information.

