

J.P. Morgan Global Government ESG Liquid Bond Index (JESG GBI Liquid)

Methodology and Factsheet

Highlights

The J.P. Morgan Global Government ESG Liquid Bond Index (JESG GBI Liquid) is a comprehensive local currency benchmark which includes all liquid government bonds. The index applies the J.P. Morgan JESG methodology to tilt toward issuers ranked higher on ESG criteria and underweight those that rank lower. Returns and statistics are available from January 2013.

Index Criteria

Minimum Issue Size:	\$1 billion
Instrument Type:	Includes: Fixed-rate and zero-coupon bonds Excludes: Floating-rate bonds, capitalization/amortizing bonds, bonds with callable, puttable, or convertible features
Remaining Maturity:	> 6 months
Currency Denomination:	Denominated in onshore, floating currency regimes
Issuers:	Central governments
Country of Domicile:	All countries
Instrument Registration:	Registration with local supervisory authority not required
Taxability:	Taxable and tax exempt are eligible
Capital Controls:	Excludes countries with explicit capital controls or where foreign investors face constraints in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holdings or transacting in bonds • Purchase or sale of spot FX

Index Characteristics and Methodology

Pricing:	Mid prices are taken from a third-party pricing source, PricingDirect
Aggregate Return:	Weighted average of bond returns using mid side prices
Rebalancing:	Rebalances on the last weekday of the month. If FX rates from WM Reuters are unavailable on the last weekday of the month (i.e., Good Friday), indices are rebalanced on the previous business day.
Coupon Reinvestment:	Immediately reinvested into the respective local market returns
FX Rates:	All FX rates used for hedged/unhedged returns are as of 4pm London time provided by WM/Reuters
Hedging Strategy:	Assume a 1-month currency forward position that begins on rebalance day and ends on next rebalance day
Weighting:	Market capitalization-based weighting, subject to adjustments based on JESG scores.
Price Timing:	As of the local market close
Settlement Convention:	Local market country convention
Holiday Calendar:	Local market calendar

JESG Overlay Criteria

The J.P. Morgan Global Government ESG Liquid Bond Index (JESG GBI Liquid) applies the J.P. Morgan JESG methodology as an overlay to the flagship J.P. Morgan Global Government Bond Index-Aggregate.

For details on the ESG providers, scoring methodology and exclusions, please refer to the sovereign methodology detailed within the [J.P. Morgan ESG Index Suite \(JESG\) Rules and Methodology](#).

ESG providers	Sustainalytics Verisk Maplecroft
JESG Scoring methodology	JESG issuer scores are a simple average of each country's Verisk Maplecroft and Sustainalytics score
JESG Integration methodology	<p>The JESG scores are divided into 10 bands that are used to scale each issue's baseline index market value, see <i>ESG Methodology</i> for scalar details. Issuers in Band 6 or below, as of December month-end, will be excluded from the index at the end of January and reviewed on a yearly basis thereafter.</p> <p>Please note that the 10 bands are a custom version of the JESG 5 band approach captured in the JESG rules and methodology. This 10-band custom does not include the green bond upgrade methodology noted within the JESG flagship methodology.</p>
Custom Exclusion Criteria	If a country is classified as Not Free by Freedom House , it will be excluded from the index.

Source: JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Defining the universe of eligible countries

The JESG GBI Liquid is a local currency, global government bond index which includes liquid and investable bonds that are freely accessible by the institutional investor base.

As a base requirement for the benchmark, markets must be open to foreign investors. The index excludes countries with explicit capital controls or countries where significant constraints exist on:

- The amount of holdings of government bonds by a foreign investor, or
- The purchase or sale of government bonds by a foreign investor, or
- The purchase or sale of spot FX by a foreign investor

This index does not exclude countries based on credit ratings and therefore includes both investment grade and sub-investment grade local currency government bond markets.

Instrument type

Only fixed-rate and zero-coupon instruments are included. Floating rate and capitalization, amortizing bonds, or bonds with callable, puttable, or convertible features are not part of the indices.

Liquidity

A key feature that distinguishes our indices from other index products is the strict enforcement of liquidity criteria in the selection of instruments. Yet, while the notion of liquidity differs from market to market, J.P. Morgan indices include only securities, subject to several considerations including but not limited to:

- *Pricing*: Bonds must trade with enough frequency to prevent stale price quotations
- *Availability*: Bonds must be regularly traded in size at acceptable bid-offer spreads and readily redeemable for cash. A reasonable two-way market must exist for the instrument to be included in the index portfolio.

- *Replication costs:* Investors should be able to replicate the index without incurring excessive transaction costs.

ESG Methodology

The JESG GBI Liquid bond index applies the J.P. Morgan ESG (JESG) issuer scores to adjust the weights of index constituents from the respective baseline indices.

Additionally, the index excludes Emerging Market countries that have less than 0.25% weight in the J.P. Morgan GBI-Aggregate index on a yearly basis.

JESG Score Bands	Scalar
Band 1: 90 < Score <= 100	1.00
Band 2: 80 < Score <= 90	0.80
Band 3: 70 < Score <= 80	0.60
Band 4: 60 < Score <= 70	0.40
Band 5: 50 < Score <= 60	0.30
Band 6: 40 < Score <= 50	0.00
Band 7: 30 < Score <= 40	0.00
Band 8: 20 < Score <= 30	0.00
Band 9: 10 < Score <= 20	0.00
Band 10: Score <= 10	0.00

Please note, that prior to October 2023 the Index's JESG score bands reflected an alternative scalar as shown below and had an annual exclusion threshold at Band 5 or below.

JESG Score Bands	Scalar
Band 1: 90 < Score <= 100	1.00
Band 2: 80 < Score <= 90	0.80
Band 3: 70 < Score <= 80	0.60
Band 4: 60 < Score <= 70	0.40
Band 5: 50 < Score <= 60	0.20
Band 6: 40 < Score <= 50	0.00
Band 7: 30 < Score <= 40	0.00
Band 8: 20 < Score <= 30	0.00
Band 9: 10 < Score <= 20	0.00
Band 10: Score <= 10	0.00

Prior to October 2022 the Index's JESG score bands reflected an alternative scalar as shown below and had an annual exclusion threshold at Band 6 or below.

JESG Score Bands	Scalar
Band 1: 90 < Score <= 100	1.00

Band 2: 80 < Score <= 90	0.90
Band 3: 70 < Score <= 80	0.80
Band 4: 60 < Score <= 70	0.70
Band 5: 50 < Score <= 60	0.60
Band 6: 40 < Score <= 50	0.50
Band 7: 30 < Score <= 40	0.40
Band 8: 20 < Score <= 30	0.30
Band 9: 10 < Score <= 20	0.20
Band 10: Score <= 10	0.10

Bond calculations

Calculations are according to market convention: all calculations including accrued interest, duration, yield, etc., are done according to local market convention using parameters (ex-dividend rules, settlement conventions, etc.) relevant to each specific bond. All calculations are gross of tax and ignore transactions costs.

Bond pricing: Pricing for our underlying instruments is provided daily from Pricing Direct, a third-party valuation vendor. In the event the primary source for pricing is unable to provide a quote, the Index Group reserves the right to consider the use of an appropriate alternative source for index inputs. Please see <http://www.pricing-direct.com> for further details.

Ex-dividend rules: ex-dividend rules, when applicable, are incorporated into accrued interest calculations, as appropriate, by country. Ex-dividend rules define the last day a bondholder must own a bond to receive that bond's next coupon payment, otherwise known as the ex-dividend date.

- During the period between the ex-dividend date and the coupon date, the bond trades "ex-dividend"
- An investor who purchases a bond for settlement between the ex-dividend date and coupon date will not receive that bond's next coupon payment
- During this period, according to market convention, accrued interest becomes negative resulting in a total price at a discount to the clean price and in effect, compensating the investor for the time the bond will be held without interest
- On coupon date, interest will start to accrue for the subsequent coupon payment

Returns and return indices: return indices on individual bonds are calculated daily and measure bond performance over time:

- Principal return index is based on changes in clean price
- Interest return index is based on changes in accrued interest
- Total return index is based on changes in both clean price and accrued interest

At the individual bond level focus is on total return. The segregation of interest and principal return becomes relevant at the portfolio level.

Reinvestment of coupons: the J.P. Morgan indices are always fully invested. All coupons received are immediately reinvested back into the local market.

Interest accruals: interest is accrued starting from the bond's dated date up to the first coupon value date. Accrued interest is calculated according to market convention, on a settlement day basis. Interest is accrued by value or settlement date. Weekly, seven days of interest are accrued, including the weekend.

In markets with ex-dividend rules, if a bond is purchased after the ex-dividend date the purchaser will not receive the bond's next coupon. In order to compensate the buyer of the bond, the price paid for the bond must be less than the clean market price, thus, accrued interest will be negative.

Coupon value date: The coupon value date is the trade date associated with settlement on coupon date (the day the coupon is paid). Thus, the coupon value date is the last trade date which an investor may purchase a bond and have that bond settle prior to payment of the subsequent coupon. On coupon value date, accrued interest resets to zero, and accruals begin towards the next coupon.

Yield: effective annual rate of return, expressed as a percentage. For the J.P. Morgan Government Bond Index body of data, yields are all calculated as yield- to-maturity, which is the discount rate that the present value of future payments equals the price of the security.

Index calculations

The base for the index level is January 1, 2015 = 100.

The index rebalances on the last weekday of each month. Bonds comprising the indices are required to have more than 13 months remaining to maturity on rebalance day for inclusion in the index.

If FX rates from WM Reuters are unavailable on the last weekday of the month (i.e., Good Friday), indices are rebalanced on the previous business day.

The index is weighted by the component countries' aggregate normalized market capitalization (dirty price times par outstanding). The weights change monthly on each rebalance day, and those weights remain active for the remainder of that month.

Accrued interest is assigned to the bonds in the index according to the specific convention of each country's market, and this interest is settlement adjusted.

Daily indicative pricing for each security and FX rate is closely scrutinized and are reconciled using market movements and other pricing sources as guidance. As necessary, an established alternate source will be used to maintain the integrity of daily index calculations. On any given calculation day, if the primary source is unable to provide a quote, the Index Group reserves the right to consider the use of an appropriate alternate source for index inputs, such as pricing and FX. If a permanent switch for the primary third-party pricing source is necessary, clients will be notified in advance prior to any official switch.

For any questions or for additional information, please contact index.research@jpmorgan.com

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