

NATIXIS BENCHMARK STATEMENT:	EQUITY BENCHMARK FAMILY
General Information	
Date of publication and last update	Date of publication: August 06, 2024 First published: February 03, 2022
Introduction	<p>This document is the Natixis Benchmarks Statement for the members of the family of Indices administered by Natixis which are classified herein as Equity Indices (the Benchmark Family) which are benchmarks (Benchmarks) for the purpose of Benchmarks Regulation.</p> <p>This document is intended by Natixis to provide an overview of certain key information relating to the Benchmarks comprised in the Benchmark Family only, as required by the Benchmarks Regulation. Details of the full and definitive rules for each Benchmark are set out in the "General Index Rules For Indices Administered By Natixis" published on the Index Administrator Website and in the Specific Index Rules which may be published on the Index Administrator Website or made available upon request via the Index Administrator Website on a case-by-case basis, subject to confidentiality requirements, if applicable.</p> <p>Unless otherwise defined herein, defined terms this Natixis Benchmarks Statement shall have the meaning set out either in the Benchmarks Regulation or in the "General Index Rules For Indices Administered By Natixis" published on the Index Administrator Website.</p>
Use of ISIN	Natixis does not currently assign ISINs to the Indices for which it acts as Index Administrator. Where ISINs have been assigned, they will be set out in the relevant Specific Index Rules and can be obtained upon request via the Index Administrator Website.
Benchmarks qualification disclosure	The Benchmark Family includes non-significant Benchmarks in the sense of the Benchmarks Regulation.
Market/economic reality	
Market reality description	<p>The Benchmark Family contains Benchmarks that are intended to measure the performance of eligible underlyings that trade on global equity markets. These underlyings may include, inter alia, listed equities or financial instruments (as listed in Section C of Annex 1 to Directive 2014/65/EU) referencing such as futures and options, indices linked to and/or representative of equity markets and exchange traded funds linked to such indices. The eligibility criteria for constituents are set out in the Specific Index Rules. The constituents of each Index within the Benchmark Family are drawn from the corresponding underlying Index universe in respect of the applicable algorithmic process as defined in the Index Rules. The base currency of the Benchmark Family is Euro, US dollars, Swiss Franc, Japanese Yen, British Pound, New Taiwan dollar, Hong Kong dollar. The Indices within the Benchmark Family include Benchmarks as defined Article 3(1)(3) of the Benchmarks Regulation that measure the performance of various market segments. The Benchmarks may use various criterias for selection: market capitalisation size (for stocks); dividend yield level (for stocks); price volatility level; geographical zone (Country, Developed or Emerging markets). Supplementary criterias may be sourced at independent agencies: environmental & social governance scorings, growth potential scorings, market risk perception scorings. Allocation of an Index may be "actively managed" and a dedicated Index Service Provider may advise on the components' allocation.</p> <p>The geographical boundaries of the market measured by the Benchmark Family are determined by the eligibility criteria for the Indices within the family as set out in the Specific Index Rules.</p> <p>Benchmarks may also be calculated using different calculation rules. Where relevant, the type of return that each Index Level reflects will be specified in the Specific Index Rules and may be either Excess Return, Price Return, Gross Total Return or Net Total Return. Excess Return: Applies when the Index Level reflects a performance of the Index in excess of a specified funding rate or another Index, or when the Components are otherwise self-financed. Price Return: The Index Level reflects a performance of the Index excluding revenues and distributions (dividends, coupons, etc.). Gross Total Return: unabridged revenues and distributions are reinvested in the Components of the Index without deduction of any Withholding Tax. Net Total Return: revenues and distributions are reinvested in the Components of the Index after deduction of the relevant Withholding Tax.</p> <p>Benchmarks may reflect the performance of their Components in a currency that may differ from their Components' ones.</p> <p>Benchmarks may be fully or partially invested in eligible underlyings. In the latter case, Benchmark may be both invested in eligible underlyings and other underlyings deemed to be non-risky (financial instruments as listed in Section C of Annex 1 to Directive 2014/65/EU such as transferable underlyings, monetary instruments, etc.). The rationale is to benefit from cycles favourable to equity markets and to lower exposure in cycles unfavourable to equity markets. Details of the calculation methodologies employed are set out in the Index Rules. The Benchmark Family uses as input data official prices sourced via vendors from the eligible stock exchanges. The measurement of the underlying economic reality might become unreliable if one or more of the related stock exchanges ceased to operate but the constituent underlyings continued to trade elsewhere, either over-the-counter or on other venues.</p>
Benchmark methodology	

Benchmark methodology	<p>Each member of the Benchmark Family has been constructed with the objective of measuring the market/economic reality relating to the performance of a particular market segment, theme or investment strategy.</p> <p>The approval of each new Benchmark is under the responsibility of the Natixis Index Committee, which is also in charge of approving any Index cessation or methodology change. The Natixis Index Committee assesses various aspects regarding the creation of a new Index, including, among others, the adequacy between the objective of the Index and its methodology, its implementation and maintenance capacity, compliance with regulatory and legal requirements.</p> <p>Main topics contemplated which are part of the assessment are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adequacy of the economic reality of the underlying market to achieve the objectives of the Index; - clarity of the methodology (formulae, mechanisms, fees) of the Index; - liquidity of the underlying market to ensure the reliability of the Index level daily determination process; - accuracy of the back-testing of the Index; - analysis of any outsourcing by third parties providers; - capacity to perform the daily calculation of the Index; - compliance of the Index with respect to internal policies and regulations. <p>The Specific Index Rules related to each Index are subject to regular review (at least once a year) by Natixis, via its governance process, to ensure that it continues to meet the current and future requirements of investors and other Index users.</p>
Input Data	
Input data	<p>Input data for the Benchmark Family consists of official prices sourced via vendors from the eligible exchanges as set out in the Natixis Indices Input Data Source Guide. Natixis considers this to be readily available data.</p> <p>In certain cases (ie when Indices include FX forwards instruments, input data may be determined by Natixis in the ordinary course of its business as a dealer (i.e. as a market maker in relevant instruments) for its own valuation purposes and/or for the purposes of its own audited books and records.</p> <p>The criteria and procedures used to determine and rebalance the Benchmarks within the Benchmark Family can be found in the Specific Index Rules for each Index.</p>
Errors in input data	<p>As described in the General Index Rules, the Benchmark Family is recalculated whenever errors or distortions occur that are deemed to be significant. The restatement of a past Index Level may be required in the case of a correction of a past Index Component level or price.</p> <p>Restatements of past Index Level shall be made only where reasonably practicable and when a significant impact on the performance of the Index may be observed.</p> <p>Any decision regarding such case is subject to the approval of the Index Calculation Agent.</p> <p>The Index Level as determined by the Index Calculation Agent on any Valuation Date, is published on the relevant Publication Date on the Index Administrator Website and/or on another official publication website (e.g. Bloomberg), or on another resource approved by the Index Administrator, as specified in the applicable Specific Index Rules.</p>
Contributions of input data	<p>The Benchmark Family does not use contributions of input data.</p>
Use of discretion	
Use of discretion	<p>The Index Rules, policies and methodology documents listed in the appendix underpin the Benchmark Family and are written with the intent of removing, as far as possible, the need for judgement or discretion to be exercised as far as possible.</p> <p>Natixis acting as Index Administrator through the Natixis Index Committee or the Natixis Supervisory Committee or as Index Calculation Agent or as Index Publication Agent may exercise discretion in the process of the Index determination or in relation to any other decision in relation to such Index.</p> <p>However, the exercise of discretion relates essentially to the daily Index determination.</p> <p>The circumstances under which discretion may be exercised by Natixis include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the occurrence of a Disrupted Day or an Extraordinary Events as described in the Index Rules; - decisions regarding the treatment of a certain corporate action; - timing of the treatment of a certain corporate action; - possible cases of input data anomalies, for example in case of price discrepancies between different input data sources; - periods of market stress or other disruptions; - any other case on which an interpretation of data may be necessary; - where a market event is not fully anticipated or addressed in the Index Rules; - where any input data is unavailable or considered by the Index Calculation Agent to be unreliable for any reason; and - where Index Rules do not provide unambiguous guidance on the remedy to be performed should an error in an Index calculation be identified.

Where Natixis exercises any discretion in the process of the Index determination, in relation to any other decision in relation to such Index, it should take in account all circumstances of the individual case, and in particular it should take into consideration the following aspects (non-exhaustive listing):

- discretion should be applied to reflect the commercial objectives of the Index and the market practice of such event;
- discretion should be exercised to the extent practicable, in a manner to insure consistency, i.e. Natixis should endeavour to treat comparable cases similarly;
- discretion should be exercised in good faith;
- discretion should be exercised in a commercially reasonable manner;
- discretion should be exercised by personnel who are sufficiently qualified and possess the requisite experience and skill;
- the replicability and representativeness of the Index should be warranted;
- the respective Index determinations must not be influenced by any kind of conflicts of interest, whether internal or external;
- the interests of all stakeholders should be taken into account and decisions should be made independently of any single interest group. More details about the exercise of discretion by the administrator are set out in the Natixis Indices Expert Judgment Policy which are available upon request.

The Natixis Indices Expert Judgement Policy provides for the Index Administrator team to exercise expert judgement in certain circumstances. The policy further sets out the requirements of the record keeping of the exercise of expert judgement, as well as the principles governing the exercise of discretion. Such exercise of discretion will be reviewed by the Natixis Supervisory Committee against the aforementioned principles.

Potential limitations

Potential limitations

The potential limitations of the Benchmark Family include circumstances affecting the Elements where input data may be permanently or temporarily unavailable or unreliable, such as following the occurrence of a Disrupted Day (unless specified otherwise in the Specific Index Rules, with respect to a share, a market index or a listed derivatives : the failure of the Exchange or Related Exchange (if any) to open for trading during its regular trading session, or with respect to a monetary index : the failure of the sponsor of the monetary index to publish the level of such monetary index) which may constitute a Market Disruption Event (i.e. Trading Disruption, an Exchange Disruption, and an Early Closure). In addition, the Elements may also be subject to various Extraordinary Events defined in the Index Rules. Such events as described in the Index Rules may have consequences on the calculation and the publication of the Benchmarks. The Index Rules set out the contingency plans and actions that will be performed by Natixis in such circumstances.

External factors

Natixis hereby provides notice to users of the Benchmark Family that it is possible that circumstances, including external events beyond the control of Natixis such as a Force Majeure Event, may necessitate changes to, or cessation of the Benchmark Family. More details may be found in the General Index Rules.

Changes to/ cessation of Benchmark

Any proposal for amendments to the methodology of the Benchmark Family will be subject to approval in conformity with the governance framework described in the Natixis Indices Cessation or Change Procedure which is published on the Index Administrator Website.

Possible impacts on financial contracts or financial instruments of changes to, or the cessation of, the Benchmark include requirements for the contracts or instruments to be renegotiated or cancelled.

If a Benchmark within the Benchmark Family that is used for the measurement of the performance of an investment fund is terminated, or changed such that it is no longer suited to that purpose, firms using the Benchmark will need to identify and use an alternative, either from Natixis or from another Benchmark administrator. A change in Benchmark will likely incur turnover, and hence additional transaction costs, for an investment fund. A change in the fund's documentation might also be required.

Further information about such factors is detailed in the Natixis Indices Cessation or Change Procedure.

Review and update of Benchmark statements

Review and update of Benchmark statement

The Natixis Benchmarks Statement is subject to regular review (at least once every two years) or whenever there are material changes to the methodology by the Natixis Index Committee to ensure that the Natixis Benchmarks Statement is correct, sufficiently precise and continues to meet the current and future requirements of investors and other Index users.

ANNEX I CLIMATE-RELATED DISCLOSURES IN THE BENCHMARK STATEMENT	
CLIMATE-RELATED DISCLOSURES	

SECTION 1 – CONSIDERATION OF ESG FACTORS	
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Item 1. Name of the benchmark administrator.	Natixis SA
Item 2. Type of benchmark or family of Benchmark	Equity
Item 3. Name of the benchmark or family of benchmarks.	Not Applicable (Benchmark Statement by Benchmark Family)
Item 4. Are there in the portfolio of the benchmark administrator any EU Climate Transition Benchmarks, EU Paris-aligned Benchmarks, benchmarks that pursue ESG objectives or benchmarks that take into account ESG factors?	No
Item 5. Does the benchmark or family of benchmarks pursue ESG objectives?	No
Item 6. Where the response to Item 5 is positive, provide below the details (score) in relation to the ESG factors listed in Annex II for each family of benchmarks at aggregated level. The ESG factors shall be disclosed at an aggregated weighted average value at the level of the family of benchmarks.	Not Applicable
a) List of combined ESG factors:	
b) List of environmental factors:	Not Applicable
c) List of social factors:	Not Applicable
d) List of governance factors:	Not Applicable
for each benchmark, in relation to the ESG factors listed in Annex II, depending on the relevant underlying asset concerned. Alternatively, all of this information may be provided in the form of a hyperlink to a website of the benchmark administrator included in the benchmark statement. The information on the website shall be easily available and accessible. Benchmark administrators shall ensure that information published on their website remains available for five years. The score of the ESG factors shall not be disclosed for each constituent of the benchmark, but shall be disclosed at an aggregated weighted average value of the benchmark.	Not Applicable
Item 8. Data and standards used	Not Applicable
a) Description of data sources used to provide information on the ESG factors in the benchmark statement. Describe how the data used to provide information on the ESG factors in the benchmark statement are sourced and whether, and to what extent, data are estimated or reported.	Not Applicable
b) Reference standards. List the supporting standards used for the reporting under item 6 and/or item 7.	Not Applicable.

SECTION 2 – ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR EU CLIMATE TRANSITION AND EU PARIS-ALIGNED BENCHMARKS	
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Item 9. Where a benchmark is labelled as 'EU Climate Transition Benchmark' or 'EU Paris-aligned Benchmark', benchmark administrators shall also disclose the following information:	
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(a) forward-looking year-on-year decarbonisation trajectory;	Not Applicable.
(b) degree to which the IPCC decarbonisation trajectory (1,5 °C with no or limited overshoot) has been achieved on average per year since creation	Not Applicable.
(c) overlap between those benchmarks and their investable universe, as defined in Article 1, point (e), of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/1818(1), using the active share at asset level.	Not Applicable.

SECTION 3 – DISCLOSURE OF THE ALIGNMENT WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Item 10. By the date of application of this Regulation, for significant equity and bond benchmarks, EU Climate Transition Benchmarks and EU Paris-aligned Benchmarks, benchmark administrators shall also disclose the following information. By 31 December 2021, benchmark administrators shall, for each benchmark or, where applicable, each family of benchmarks, disclose the following information:	
(a) Does the benchmark align with the target of reducing carbon emissions or the attainment of the objectives of the Paris Agreement;	No
(b) the temperature scenario, in accordance with international standards, used for the alignment with the target of reducing GHG emissions or attaining of the objectives of the Paris Agreement;	Carbon4 Finance uses an internal scenario to assess the temperature alignment of portfolios, based on the latest IPCC report (Source: IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) estimating that the range of global warming by 2100 is between 2°C and 5°C with a probability of ~90%. Based on recent emissions trends, we maintain the upper limit at 5°C, but have chosen to set the lower limit at 1.5°C because we believe that a reduction in GHG emissions consistent with a 1.5°C increase is still possible. The business-as-usual (BAU) scenario is based on the IPCC's SSP3 - 7.0 scenario, which projects a long-term increase in global average temperature of between 2.8°C and 4.6°C by 2100 compared to pre-industrial levels - an average value of 3.5°C is used. We use the World Large Cap Index as a proxy for the global economy - currently aligned with the BAU scenario - and measure the carbon performance of this index to set the baseline for BAU. To represent an economy aligned with the Paris Agreement (2°C), we use the Euronext Low-carbon 100 Index (LC100), a low-carbon index optimised by the CIA methodology. The carbon performance of this index corresponds to a portfolio aligned with a low-carbon economy, compatible with the "2°C" objective of the Paris Agreement.
(c) the name of the provider of the temperature scenario used for the alignment with the target of reducing GHG emissions or the attainment of the objectives of the Paris Agreement;	Carbon 4 Finance, a simplified joint stock company with a single shareholder, with a capital of 458,265 euros, registered in the Paris Trade and Companies Register under number B 814 626 511 - SIRET 814 626 511 00012 - APE 7219Z, whose registered office is located at 54 rue de Clichy, 75009 Paris.
(d) the methodology used for the measurement of the alignment with the temperature scenario;	The methodology used, Carbon Impact Analytics (CIA), was developed in 2015 by Carbon4 to understand the degree of alignment of a given entity with the transition to a low-carbon economy. This methodology is used by Carbon4 Finance to measure the contribution of companies (both public and private equity and debt instruments, including green bonds) and sovereign entities to the transition to a low-carbon economy. The CIA methodology is characterised by its "bottom-up" approach, which means that each underlying asset is analysed by a specialised analyst, and is based on operational, company-specific data (i.e. physical data, such as production volumes, production or sales locations, process energy efficiency or supply sources). Operational data is collected from various reports published by the company. This data is part of the company audit and is therefore considered reliable. In cases where physical data is not available, estimates based on financial data are used. This approach allows the carbon performance of assets in the same sector to be compared, unlike methodologies that calculate the scope 3 carbon footprint on the basis of sectoral ratios. The results are then consolidated at the portfolio level.
(e) the hyperlink to the website of the temperature scenario used.	The CIA methodology, describing in more detail the scenario used, can be found on the Carbon4 Finance website or directly via this hyperlink: http://www.carbon4finance.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Carbon4-Finance-CIA-methodological-guide.pdf
Date on which information has last been updated and reason for the update:	03/02/2022 technical update