

Beta Advantage Emerging Markets Quality Dividend Index

INDEX METHODOLOGY

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Index Description

The **Beta Advantage[®] Emerging Markets Quality Dividend Index** is designed to represent a portfolio of approximately 50 companies that each has a trailing one-year dividend yield of between 2% and 10% in the developing markets universe as defined by Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC (Columbia Management). The index seeks to address dividend quality by screening companies for such factors as return on equity, positive earnings growth, a minimum and maximum dividend yield, and three consecutive years with a dividend, including a dividend yield of between 2% and 10% in its last (trailing) year.

Index Eligibility Criteria

Universe

The developing markets universe as defined by Columbia Management includes all publicly traded companies with a total market capitalization of at least USD\$100 million that are domiciled within countries defined by Columbia Management as a developing market. Subject to periodic review and change, Columbia Management currently classifies the following countries as developing markets:

- Bangladesh
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Czech Republic
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- India
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Kuwait
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Nigeria
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Qatar
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Sri Lanka
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates

Selection Date

The Selection Date is the day index eligibility criteria are assessed. All company data and calculations used in the screens are as of the Selection Date.

Index Creation Process

Selection List

The selection list is composed of stocks in the index universe that meet the following screens:

- Minimum free float market cap: \$1.5Billion
- Minimum Average Daily Trading Value: \$.2MM
- Dividends paid each of the past three years
- Minimum trailing one year dividend yield of 2%
- Maximum trailing one year dividend yield of 10.00%
- Minimum trailing one year earnings growth rate: .01%
- Minimum trailing one year positive earnings per share
- ROE greater than 10%

Portfolio Construction

The final portfolio is constructed using the following process:

- The selection list is ranked by full market cap
- The top 50 companies are selected as index components, subject to availability

Capping and Restrictions:

- First restriction: Maximum company count per country – 10 (20%)
- Second restriction: Maximum company count per sector – 10 (20%)

Weighting

Positions are equally weighted.

Index Rebalancing and Reconstitution

- Annual Review for index reconstitution occurs on the first business day of September.
- Quarterly Review for index rebalance occurs on the first business day of March, June, September and December.
- Rebalancing is complete on the second to last Friday of each quarter.

- If the scheduled day for a rebalancing falls on a market holiday, rebalancing occurs on the prior business day.
- Announcement of the new index constituents will be published one week prior to the rebalance.

Corporate Actions

Corporate actions (such as stock splits, dividends, spin-offs and rights offerings) are applied on the ex-date. The impact and adjustment of various corporate actions are discussed below.

Adjustment in the Index

Any corporate action that necessitates an adjustment to the index will occur according to the following formula:

New Index Divisor = Previous Index Divisor – [(Total Dividends /Exchange Rate)/Previous Index Value]

Where:

- Previous Index Divisor: Index divisor prior to the ex-dividend date
- Total Dividends: Sum of all dividends for all the stocks
- Previous Index Value: Dollar market value of the Index prior to the ex-dividend date/Previous Index Divisor

Dividends

Meaning

Dividends are payments made by a corporation to its stockholders. It is the portion of corporate profits paid out to stockholders. When a corporation earns a profit or surplus, that money can be put to two uses: it can either be re-invested in the business (called retained earnings) or it can be paid to the stockholders as a dividend. Many corporations retain a portion of their earnings and pay the remainder as a dividend. Dividends must be "declared" (approved) by a company's board of directors each time they are paid. For public companies, there are four important dates to remember regarding dividends:

- Declaration Date: The day the board of directors announces its intention to pay a dividend. On the declaration date, the Board will also announce Record Date and Payment Date.
- In-dividend Date: The last day, which is one trading day before the ex-dividend date, where the stock is said to be cum dividend ("with dividend").

- **Ex-dividend Date:** The day on which all shares bought and sold no longer include the right to be paid the most recently declared dividend. Typically, the ex-dividend date is two trading days before the record date for U.S. securities.
- **Payment Date:** The day when the dividend checks will actually be mailed to the stockholders of a company or credited to brokerage accounts.

Impact on Index

Dividends payments impact the total return index calculation. The price return index calculations as well as the number of shares remain unaffected.

Adjustment in the Index

Dividend payments will be reinvested in the total return index on the ex-dividend date. This means that going forward this additional money will be used to buy additional shares in the future. This adjustment of reinvesting dividends will in turn affect the calculation of the index divisor post dividend adjustment.

Stock Split

Meaning

All publicly-traded companies have a set number of shares that are outstanding on the stock market. A stock split is a decision by the company's board of directors to increase the number of shares that are outstanding by issuing more shares to current stockholders. For example, in a 2-for-1 stock split, every stockholder with one stock is given an additional share. So, if a company had 10 million shares outstanding before the split, it will have 20 million shares outstanding after a 2-for-1 split.

A stock's price is also affected by a stock split. After a split, the stock price will be reduced since the number of shares outstanding has increased. In the example of a 2-for-1 split, the share price will be halved. Thus, although the number of outstanding shares and the stock price change, the market capitalization remains constant. A stock split is usually done by companies that have seen their share price increase to levels that are either too high or are beyond the price levels of similar companies in their sector. The primary motive is to make shares seem more affordable to small investors even though the underlying value of the company has not changed.

Impact on Index

Stock splits impact the number of shares in both the total and price return indices. There is no impact on the index divisor.

Adjustment in the Index

Stock splits will be adjusted for in the total and price return indices on the ex-date. The number of shares will increase times the adjustment factor for the split. For example if a company has announced a 2-for-1 stock split, the adjustment factor for the same will be $1 = 2$. Alternatively, this adjustment factor can be seen from Bloomberg as well. The number of shares in this case will be multiplied by 2.

Bonus Issue of Shares

Meaning

A bonus share is a free share of stock given to current/existing stockholders in a company, based upon the number of shares that the stockholder already owns at the time of announcement of the bonus. While the issue of bonus shares increases the total number of shares issued and outstanding, it does not increase the value of the company. Although the total number of issued shares increases, the ratio of number of shares held by each stockholder remains constant. New shares are issued to outstanding holders in proportion to their holdings. For example, the company may give one bonus share for every five shares held.

Impact on Index

Bonus issue of shares impacts the number of shares in both the total and price return indices. There is no impact on the index divisor.

Adjustment in the Index

Bonus issue of shares will be adjusted for in the total and price return indices on the ex-date. The number of shares will increase times the adjustment factor for the bonus issue. For example, if a company has announced a 100% bonus, the adjustment factor for the same will be 2 (i.e., one bonus share for every one share held). This adjustment factor can be seen from Bloomberg as well. The number of shares in this case will be multiplied by 2.

Rights Issue

Meaning

Rights issue is an invitation to existing stockholders to purchase additional new shares in the company. More specifically, this type of issue gives existing stockholders securities called "rights", which will give the stockholders the right to purchase new shares at a discount to the market price on a stated future date. The company is giving stockholders a chance to increase their exposure to the stock at a discount price. Until the date at which the new shares can be purchased, stockholders may trade the rights on the market the same way they would trade ordinary shares. The rights issued to a stockholder have a value, thus compensating current stockholders for the future dilution of their existing shares' value.

Impact on Index

Rights issue impacts the number of shares in both the total and price return indices. There will be an impact on the divisors in both the total and price return indices.

Adjustment in the Index

Rights issue will be adjusted in the total and price return indices on the ex-date. However the adjustment for rights issue will take place only when the subscription price is less than the stock price on ex-date. The subscription price is the price at which the company gives its existing stockholders the right to purchase new shares.

Spin-Off

Meaning

A spin-off is the creation of an independent company through the sale or distribution of new shares of an existing business/division of a parent company. A spin-off is a type of divestiture. Businesses wishing to 'streamline' their operations often sell less productive or unrelated subsidiary businesses as spin-offs. The spun-off companies are expected to be worth more as independent entities than as parts of a larger business. In most cases, the parent company or organization offers support doing one or more of the following:

- Investing equity in the new firm,
- Being the first customer of the spin-out (helps to create cash flow),
- Providing incubation space (desk, chairs, phones, internet access, etc.) or
- Providing services such as legal, finance, technology, etc.

Impact on Index

Spin-offs impact the divisors in both the total and price return indices.

Adjustment in the Index

The adjustment for a spin-off is done on a case-by-case basis. The Index Committee will decide on one of the following options based on internal research:

- The parent company remains in the index and the spun off entity is deemed ineligible for inclusion
- The parent company is deemed ineligible to remain in the index; however, the spun off entity is deemed eligible for inclusion
- Neither the parent company nor the spun off entity are eligible to be in the index. In this case, the Index Committee will decide whether to eliminate the parent company from the index or replace it with the next best constituent according to the index methodology

Delisting

Meaning

Delisting refers to the practice of removing the stock of a company from a stock exchange so that investors can no longer trade shares of the stock on that exchange. This typically occurs when a company goes out of business, declares bankruptcy, no longer satisfies the listing rules of its stock exchange, has become a private company after a merger or acquisition, wants to reduce regulatory reporting complexities and overhead, or if the stock trading volumes on the exchange does not meet exchange criteria.

Impact on Index

Delisting of a security impacts the divisors in both the total and price return indices.

Adjustment in the Index

In the event a company is delisted from the exchange, it will be removed from the index. The Index Committee will decide whether to replace it with the next best constituent according to the index methodology. Removal of the stock from the index will in turn affect the calculation of the index divisor post dividend adjustment.

Acquisition

Meaning

A corporate action in which a company buys most, if not all, of a target company's stock in order to assume control of the target firm. Acquisitions are often made as part of a company's growth strategy whereby it is more beneficial to take over an existing firm's operations and niche compared to expanding on its own. Acquisitions are often paid in cash, the acquiring company's stock or a combination of both. Acquisitions can be either friendly or hostile.

Impact on Index

Acquisition of a security impacts the divisors in both the total and price return indices.

Adjustment in the Index

In the event a company is acquired, it will be removed from the index. The Index Committee will decide whether to replace it with the next best constituent according to the index methodology. Removal of the stock from the index will in turn affect the calculation of the index divisor post dividend adjustment.

Merger

Meaning

Merger is when two or more companies combine together to form a new company. In other words, it is the combination of two or more companies, generally by offering the stockholders of one company securities in the acquiring company in exchange for the surrender of their stock.

Impact on Index

Merger impacts the divisors in both the total and price return indices.

Adjustment in the Index

In the event a company is merged, it will be removed from the index. The Index Committee will decide whether to replace it with the next best constituent according to the index methodology. Removal of the stock from the index will in turn affect the calculation of the index divisor post dividend adjustment.

Bankruptcy

Meaning

Bankruptcy is a legal proceeding involving a person or business that is unable to repay outstanding debts. The bankruptcy process begins with a petition filed by the debtor (most common) or on behalf of creditors (less common). All of the debtor's assets are measured and evaluated, whereupon the assets are used to repay a portion of outstanding debt. Upon the successful completion of bankruptcy proceedings, the debtor is relieved of the debt obligations incurred prior to filing for bankruptcy.

Impact on Index

Bankruptcy of a security impacts the divisors in both the total and price return indices.

Adjustment in the Index

In the event a company is bankrupt, it will be removed from the index. The Index Committee will decide whether to replace it with the next best constituent according to the index methodology. Removal of the stock from the index will in turn affect the calculation of the index divisor post dividend adjustment.

Temporary Delisting/Prolonged Trading Suspension

Meaning

A temporary delisting/prolonged trading suspension occurs when a security stops trading on the stock exchange for a certain time period. A trading suspension usually occurs when a publicly-traded company is going to release potentially material news about itself. The suspension in trading for the affected security gives investors time to review the news and assess its impact.

Impact on Index

A temporary delisting/prolonged trading suspension of a security impacts the divisors in both the total and price return indices.

Adjustment in the Index

In the event a company is temporarily delisted or prolonged trading suspension has taken place, it will be removed from the index. The Index Committee will decide whether to replace it with the next best constituent according to the index methodology. Removal of the stock from the index will in turn affect the calculation of the index divisor post dividend adjustment.

Index Data

Total Return Index

Ordinary cash dividends are applied on the ex-date for calculating the total return index. “Special dividends” are those dividends that are outside of the normal payment pattern established historically by the issuing corporation. These may be described by the corporation as “special”, “extra”, “year-end”, or “return of capital”. Whether a dividend is funded from operating earnings or from other sources of cash does not affect the determination of whether it is ordinary or special. “Special dividends” are treated as corporate actions with offsetting price and divisor adjustments; the total return index reflects both ordinary and special dividends.

Price Return Index

No dividends are applied to calculate the price return index.

Index Policy

Index Committee Policy

The Index Committee is responsible for setting policy, determining index composition, and administering the index in accordance with the index methodology. The Index Committee reserves the right to use qualitative judgment to include, exclude, adjust, or postpone the inclusion of a stock with in the index. Continued index membership of a constituent is not necessarily subject to the guidelines provided in the index methodology. A stock may be considered for exclusion by the Index Committee on the basis of corporate governance, accounting policies, lack of transparency and lack of representation, despite meeting all the criteria provided in the index methodology.

Announcements

Announcements of additions and deletions of constituents due to various corporate actions mentioned above in the middle of the year will be decided and communicated by the Index Committee.

Holiday Schedule and Unexpected Market Closures

The index is calculated when the U.S. equity markets are open. In situations where an exchange is forced to close early due to unforeseen events, the index will be calculated based on the closing prices published by the exchange, or if no closing price is available, the last regular trade reported for each stock before the exchange closed.

Disclosures

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