

Bloomberg Silver Economy Index Methodology

March 2024

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Introduction

The Bloomberg Silver Economy Index is constructed to track the performance of companies within the healthcare sector with strong pricing power, as measured through historically stable gross profit margins. The index is free float tilted market cap weighted and is rebalanced and reconstituted quarterly.

Section 1: Overview

| Name | Bloomberg Silver Economy Index |
|----------------|--|
| Base date | 2007-03-26 |
| Inception Date | 2024-03-13 |
| Rebalance | Quarterly |
| Publication | Weekdays |
| Currency | USD |
| Tickers | BSLVR (Price Return) BSLVRT (Total Return) BSLVRN (Net Return) |

Section 2: Index Eligibility Process

Parent Universe

To be selected for the Bloomberg Silver Economy Index, a security must be a member of the Bloomberg US Large & Mid Cap universe. Please refer to the Bloomberg Global Equity Index methodology through the link below for additional details.

[Bloomberg Global Equity Indices Methodology](#)

Sector Eligibility

A security must belong to the Healthcare (16) sector, according to Bloomberg Industry Classification Standard (BICS) level 1 sectors.

Market Cap Eligibility

A security must have a minimum free float market capitalization of \$500 million.

Liquidity Eligibility

A security must have a minimum 90-day average daily value traded of \$30 million.

Multiple Classes of Securities

One security per issuer is permitted. If an issuer has multiple securities, then the security currently in the Index will take precedence if it has met all other criteria for eligibility. Otherwise, the security with the highest 90-day average daily value traded is eligible for inclusion in the Index.

Section 3: Index Construction Process

Index Selection Process

All securities that satisfy the Index Eligibility Process in Section 2 are eligible for inclusion in the Index.

Profitability History Screening

A security must have 5 years of trailing 12 months gross profit margin data.

Pricing Power Screening

Of the securities that remain after applying the Profitability History Screening, the standard deviation measure of 5 years of trailing 12-month gross profit margins is calculated for each security. Next, the z-score of the standard deviation of 5 years of trailing 12-month gross profit margin is determined.

Smaller gross profit margin standard deviation means greater pricing power. In order to emphasize the Pricing Power Signal, there is a multiplier assigned to the Z-score of -1 so that the larger Z-scores correspond to greater pricing power.

Silver Economy Screening

All securities are grouped according to their Bloomberg Industry Classification Standard (BICS) Level 4 classification, as shown in the table below.

| BICS Level 4 Name | BICS Level 4 Code |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Large Pharma | 16101010 |
| Biotech | 16101011 |
| Specialty & Generic Pharma | 16101012 |
| Health Care Facilities | 16101110 |
| Health Care Services | 16101111 |
| Health Care Supply Chain | 16101112 |
| Managed Care | 16101113 |
| Health Care Supplies | 16101210 |
| Life Science & Diagnostics | 16101211 |
| Medical Devices | 16101212 |
| Medical Equipment | 16101213 |

A Pricing Power Score is assigned to each security by calculating a sector defined percentile from the adjusted Z-score. Within each sector, securities will have a score from 1% to 100% indicating the securities with the highest Pricing Power Score to the lowest Pricing Power Score, respectively.

Securities that have a Pricing Power Score in the top 50%, within each group, are selected for inclusion in the Index.

In the event that the count of the members within their corresponding BICS Level 4 group equals one, the security will be admitted into the index regardless to that fact that the Percentile value for the security is 100%.

Index Weighting

The Z-score determined in the Index Selection Process above is tilted to emphasize the Pricing Power Score as follows:

$$Zscore_{Tilt} = \begin{cases} 1 + Zscore_i, & Zscore_i > 0 \\ \frac{1}{1 - Zscore_i}, & Zscore_i < 0 \end{cases}$$

Where:

$Zscore_i$ Z-score of standard deviation of 5 years of trailing 12-month gross profit margin of security i.

The Index is modified market cap weighted. An issuer's initial weight, W_i , is set, as shown below, according to its Issuer Tilted Free Float Market Capitalization, TMC_i , as defined below.

$$TMC_i = \text{Free Float Market Capitalization} * Zscore_{Tilt}$$

$$W_i = \frac{TMC_i}{\sum_1^M TMC_i}$$

Where:

TMC_i Issuer Tilted Free Float Market Capitalization of security i as of the Selection Date

W_i Initial weight of security i

M Number of Index members

Issuers' weights are then capped such that:

- No issuer's weight shall exceed 8%
- The top 5 issuers by Issuer Tilted Free Float Market Capitalization may have a weight exceeding 4%

- Issuers outside of the top 5 by Issuer Tilted Free Float Market Capitalization with weight greater than 4% have their weight capped at 4%

Any excess weight from capping is distributed proportionally to all the remaining uncapped issuers until all the above conditions are satisfied.

Index Rebalance and Reconstitution

The Index is reconstituted and rebalanced quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

Selection Date

The Index Eligibility Process and Index Selection Process are applied using data as of the last Wednesday in January, April, July, and October.

Index Share Determination Date

Float Shares are determined using Shares Outstanding and Free Float as of the last Wednesday in January, April, July, and October. Index Weighting is determined using prices as of 3 weeks prior to the Index Effective Date.

Index Announcement Date

An Index reconstitution and rebalance announcement date shall be the last Wednesday in February, May, August, and November.

Index Effective Date

The Index reconstitutions and rebalances go effective after the close of trading on the 2nd Wednesday in March, June, September, and December, respectively.

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Selection Date (Eligibility) | Last Wednesday | X | | | X | | | X | | | X | | |
| Selection Date (Weighting) | 3 Weeks Prior to Effective Date | | X | | | X | | | X | | | X | |
| Announcement Date | Last Wednesday | | X | | | X | | | X | | | X | |
| Effective Date | 2 nd Wednesday | | | X | | | X | | | X | | | X |

Section 4: Index Maintenance

Index Calculation

Refer to the [Bloomberg Global Equity Indices Methodology](#) for index calculation details.

Deletion Policy

Index securities are not deleted outside Index Rebalance and Reconstitution window except in the case of a delisting.

Addition Policy

Index securities are not added outside of the Index reconstitution.

Replacement Policy

Index securities are not replaced outside of the Index reconstitution.

Corporate Actions

Refer to [Bloomberg Global Equity Indices Non-Market Cap Corporate Action Methodology](#) for the treatment of corporate actions.

Section 5: Risks and Limitations

Risks

The following is a summary of certain risks associated with the Index but is not meant to be an exhaustive list of all risks associated with the Index. Although the Index is designed to be representative of the markets it is measuring, it may not be representative of every use case. There is also inherent, though transparent, judgment in its construction, as outlined in this Methodology. The Index is designed for general applicability and not to address the individual circumstances and needs of users. BISL does not advise about the usefulness of the Index to a particular circumstance; users are therefore encouraged to seek their own counsel for such matters. This Methodology is subject to change, which may impact its usefulness to users. Although efforts will be made to alert users of any change, every individual user may not be aware of them. Such changes may also significantly impact the usefulness of the Index. BISL may also decide to cease publication of this Index. BISL maintains internal policies regarding user transitions, but no guarantee is given that an adequate alternative is available generally or for a particular use case. Markets for stocks, as with all markets, can be volatile. As the Index is designed to measure this market, it could be materially impacted by market movements, thus significantly affecting the use or usefulness of the Index for some or all users. Also, certain equity markets are less liquid than others – even the most liquid markets may suffer periods of illiquidity. Illiquidity can have an impact on the quality or amount of data available to BISL for calculation and may cause the Index to produce unpredictable results.

Limitations of the index

Though the Index is designed to be representative of the markets it measures or otherwise aligns with its stated objective, it may not be representative in every case or achieve its stated objective in all instances. It is designed and calculated strictly to follow the rules of this Methodology, and any Index level or other output is limited in its usefulness to such design and calculation.

Markets can be volatile, including those market interests that the Index measures or upon which the Index is dependent to achieve its stated objective. For example, illiquidity can have an impact on the quality or amount of data available to the administrator for calculation and may cause the Index to produce unpredictable or unanticipated results.

In addition, market trends and changes to market structure may render the objective of the Index unachievable or to become impractical to replicate by investors.

In particular, the Index measures global equity markets. As with all equity investing, the Index is exposed to market risk. The value of equities fluctuate with the changes in economic forecasts, interest rate policies established by central banks and perceived geopolitical risk. The Index does not take into account the cost of replication and as a result a tracking portfolio's returns will underperform the Index with all else equal. As the Index is designed to measure those markets, it could be materially impacted by market movements, thus significantly impacting the use or usefulness of the fixings for some or all users.

In addition, certain sub-indices may be designed to measure smaller subsets of the Index such as specific styles, size, and sector. Some of these sub-indices have very few qualifying constituents and may have none for a period of time. During such period, the sub-index will continue to be published at its last value, effectively reporting a 0% return, until new constituents qualify. If no constituents are expected to qualify (due to changes in market structure and other factors), the sub-index may be discontinued. In such an event, this discontinuation will be announced to index users.

Section 6: Benchmark Oversight and Governance

Benchmark Governance Structure

Please refer to the BISL Benchmark Procedures Handbook available [here](#).

Index and data reviews

Please refer to the BISL Benchmark Procedures Handbook available [here](#).

Expert judgement

Please refer to the BISL Benchmark Procedures Handbook available [here](#).

Conflicts of interest

Please refer to the BISL Benchmark Procedures Handbook available [here](#).

Restatement policy

Please refer to the BISL Benchmark Procedures Handbook available [here](#).

Cessation policy

Please refer to the BISL Benchmark Procedures Handbook available [here](#).

Appendix A: ESG Disclosure

| EXPLANATION OF HOW ESG FACTORS ARE REFLECTED IN THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE BENCHMARK METHODOLOGY | |
|--|---|
| Item 1. Name of the benchmark administrator. | Bloomberg Index Services Limited ("BISL") |
| Item 2. Type of benchmark or family of benchmarks. <i>Choose the relevant underlying asset from the list provided in Annex II to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU)2020/1816.</i> | Equity |
| Item 3. Name of the benchmark or family of benchmarks. | Bloomberg Silver Economy Index |
| Item 4. Does the benchmark methodology for the benchmark or family of benchmarks take into account ESG factors? | No |
| <p>Item 5. Where the response to Item 4 is positive, please list below, for each family of benchmarks, those ESG factors that are taken into account in the benchmark methodology, taking into account the ESG factors listed in Annex II to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/1816.</p> <p>Please explain how those ESG factors are used for the selection, weighting or exclusion of underlying assets.</p> <p>The ESG factors shall be disclosed at an aggregated weighted average value at the level of the family of benchmarks.</p> | |
| (a) List of environmental factors considered: | Not applicable |
| (b) List of social factors considered: | Not applicable |
| (c) List of governance factors considered | Not applicable |
| <p>Item 6. Where the response to Item 4 is positive, please list below, for each benchmark, those ESG factors that are taken into account in the benchmark methodology, taking into account the ESG factors listed in Annex II to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/1816, depending on the relevant underlying asset concerned.</p> <p>Please explain how those ESG factors are used for the selection, weighting or exclusion of underlying assets.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Alternatively, all of this information may be provided in the form of a hyperlink to a website of the benchmark administrator included in this explanation. 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.</p> | |
| (a) List of environmental factors considered: | As above |
| (b) List of social factors considered: | As above |
| (c) List of governance factors considered: | As above |
| Item 7. Data and standards used | |
| (a) Data input. <i>(i) Describe whether the data are reported, modelled or sourced internally or externally.</i> <i>(ii) Where the data are reported, modelled or sourced externally, please name the third party data provider.</i> | Not Applicable |
| (b) Verification and quality of data. <i>Describe how data are verified and how the quality of those data is ensured.</i> | Not Applicable |
| (c) Reference standards <i>Describe the international standards used in the benchmark methodology.</i> | Not Applicable |
| Date on which information has been last updated and reason for the update: | February 2024 |

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