

# **iBoxx South Africa Government Index Methodology**

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# Table of Contents

Introduction	2
<b>Index Publication</b>	<b>2</b>
Bond Selection	3
<b>Bond Classification</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Bond Type</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Credit Rating</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Expected Remaining Life</b>	<b>4</b>
Index Calculation	5
<b>Bond Prices</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Rebalancings</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Index Data</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Index Calculus</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Maturity Extension</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Maturity Extension for Perpetual Bonds without a Reset Date</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Maturity Extension for Perpetuals &amp; Dated Fixed-to-Fixed Bonds with a Reset Date</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Index and Analytics Weights</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Data Publication and Access</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>FX Rates</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Calendar</b>	<b>6</b>
Index Governance	7
Further Information	8
Methodology Changes	9
Disclaimer	10
<b>Performance Disclosure/Back-Tested Data</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Intellectual Property Notices/Disclaimer</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ESG Indices Disclaimer</b>	<b>13</b>

# Introduction

The iBoxx South Africa Government Index is designed to reflect the performance of South African Rand denominated sovereign debt. The index rules aim to offer a broad coverage of the South African sovereign bond universe whilst upholding minimum standards of investability and liquidity. The index is an integral part of the global iBoxx index family, which provides the marketplace with accurate and objective indices by which to assess the performance of bond markets and investments. The index is market-value weighted.

All iBoxx indices are priced based on multiple data inputs. The iBoxx South Africa Government Index uses multi-source pricing as described in the iBoxx Pricing Methodology, available at [www.spglobal.com/spdji](http://www.spglobal.com/spdji).

## Index Publication

The index is calculated as end-of-day and distributed once daily after 4pm EST. The index is calculated on the basis of end-of-day prices every Monday to Friday. In addition, the index is calculated with the previous trading day's close on the last calendar day of each month if that day is not a trading day.

Bond and index analytical values are calculated each day using that day's closing prices. In addition, bond and index analytical values are calculated using the previous trading day's closing prices on the last calendar day of each month if that day is not a regular trading day as well as on common bank holidays as published in the iBoxx index calculation calendar. This index calculation calendar is available on [www.spglobal.com/spdji](http://www.spglobal.com/spdji) under *iBoxx Indices Calendars*.

# Bond Selection

The following selection criteria are used to determine the index constituents for the iBoxx South Africa Government Index:

- Bond Classification
- Bond Type
- Credit Rating
- Expected remaining life
- Amount Outstanding

## **Bond Classification**

The iBoxx South Africa Government Index is a sovereign bond index. All bonds are classified accordingly as Sovereigns and therefore must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Issued by the central government
- Denominated in the local currency

## **Bond Type**

All the bonds must be denominated in ZAR.

In particular, bonds with the following characteristics are included:

- Fixed coupon bonds (“plain vanilla bonds”)
- Zero coupon bonds
- Sinking funds
- Amortizing bonds

The following bond types are specifically excluded from the index:

- Floating rate notes
- Fixed-to-floater bonds
- Inflation-linked bonds
- Perpetual bonds
- Callable bonds
- Dual currency bonds
- Retail bonds
- Extended bonds as defined under section ‘Maturity extension’ in this document

In instances where a new bond type is not specifically excluded or included according to the published index rules, S&P DJI will analyze the features of such securities in line with the principles set out in section 2 of this guide. S&P DJI may consult the specific Index Committees. Any decision as to the

eligibility or ineligibility of a new bond type will be published and the index rules will be updated accordingly.

### **Credit Rating**

All bonds in the index must have an iBoxx Rating of investment grade or sub-investment grade. Ratings from the following three credit rating agencies are considered for the calculation of the iBoxx Rating:

- Fitch Ratings
- Moody's Investor Service
- S&P Global Ratings

Investment grade is defined as BBB- or higher from Fitch Ratings and S&P Global Ratings and Baa3 or higher from Moody's Investor Service.

Sub-investment grade is defined as BB+ or lower from Fitch Ratings or S&P Global Ratings and Ba1 or lower from Moody's Investor Service, but not in default.

If an issuer is rated by more than one of the above agencies, then the iBoxx rating is the average of the provided ratings. The rating is consolidated to the nearest rating grade. Rating notches are not used. For more information on how the average rating is determined, please refer to the *iBoxx Rating Methodology*, available at [www.spglobal.com/spdji](http://www.spglobal.com/spdji).

### **Expected Remaining Life**

All bonds must have at the rebalancing day an expected remaining life:

- of at least one year, and
- all new bonds issued must have an initial expected remaining life of at least one year and 6 months.

The expected remaining life is expressed in years and calculated as follows:

- The expected remaining life of the bond is its time to maturity, calculated as the number of days between the last calendar day of the current month and its maturity.

### **Amount Outstanding**

All bonds must have a minimum amount outstanding of ZAR 10 billion.

# Index Calculation

## Bond Prices

For more details please refer to the *iBoxx Pricing Methodology*, available at [www.spglobal.com/spdji](http://www.spglobal.com/spdji).

## Rebalancings

The iBoxx South Africa Government Index is rebalanced monthly on the last business day of the month after the close of business. Changes to outstanding amounts are only taken into account if they are publicly known three business days before the end of the month. Changes in ratings are only taken into account if they are publicly known two business days before the end of the month. New bonds issued are taken into account if they are publicly known to settle until the last calendar day of the month, inclusive, and if their rating has become known at least three trading days before the end of the month.

Three business days before the end of each month, a membership list with final amount outstanding for each bond is published.

Two business days before the end of each month, the rating information for the constituents is updated and the list is adjusted for all rating changes which are known to have taken place two trading days before the end of the month.

On the last business day of each month, S&P DJI publishes the final membership with closing prices for the bonds, and various bonds analytics based on the index prices of the bonds.

## Index Data

The calculation of the index is based on bid prices. New securities are included in the index at their respective ask prices. In the event that no price can be established for a particular security, the index continues to be calculated based on the last available price. This might be the case in periods of market stress, or disruption as well as in illiquid or fragmented markets. If the required inputs become impossible to obtain, S&P DJI may consult market participants prior to the next rebalancing date. Decisions are made publicly available on a timely basis and S&P DJI may refer back to previous cases.

The index is calculated if at least one bond matches all inclusion criteria. If no more bonds qualify for an index, then its level remains constant. If at least one bond becomes available again, the index calculation resumes and is chained to the last calculated level. The assignment of a bond to a certain maturity bucket is based on its expected remaining life. All bonds remain in their maturity bucket for the entire month.

The rebalancing takes place after close of market on the last trading day of a rebalancing month.

## Index Calculus

For specific index formulas please refer to the *iBoxx Bond Index Calculus Methodology*, available at [www.spglobal.com/spdji/en/](http://www.spglobal.com/spdji/en/).

## Maturity Extension

### Maturity Extension for Perpetual Bonds without a Reset Date

Maturity	Coupon/call structure	Workout date at issuance	Updated Workout date if not called
Perpetual	Fixed/ Callable	Assume first call date as	Extend workout date until the

Maturity	Coupon/call structure	Workout date at issuance	Updated Workout date if not called
		workout date	assumed next call date - 5 years from first call date*.

\*Assumes the terms allow for a redemption at the new assumed maturity date.

### Maturity Extension for Perpetuals & Dated Fixed-to-Fixed Bonds with a Reset Date

Maturity	Coupon/Call structure	Workout Date at issuance	Updated Workout date if not called
Perpetual	Reset*/Callable	Assume first call date as workout date	Extend workout date until the end of the next reset date*
Dated	Reset/Callable	Assume reset date as workout date	Extend workout date until the end of the next reset date or final maturity date*

\*Assumes the bond terms allow for a redemption at the new assumed maturity date.

### Index and Analytics Weights

The iBoxx South Africa Government Index is market-value-weighted. The amount outstanding of a bond is only adjusted within the rebalancing process.

All calculations are based on the adjusted amount outstanding that reflects the outstanding bond notional at the last rebalancing. The bond prices relate to the nominal value of 100.

### Index History

The Index history starts on 29 Feb 2008. The index has a base value of 100 on that date.

### Settlement Conventions

All iBoxx indices calculate using the assumption of T+0 settlement days.

### Data Publication and Access

The table below summarizes the publication of iBoxx South Africa Government Index on the SFTP server.

Frequency	File Type	Access
Daily	Underlying file – Bond level	SFTP Server
	Indices file – Index level	SFTP Server
Daily from the 6th calendar day of the month (or the next index publication day if the 6th calendar day falls on a nonbusiness day)	Forwards	SFTP Server
Monthly	End of Month Components	SFTP Server
	XREF files	SFTP Server

### FX Rates

FX spot rates are sourced from WMR. The index calculation uses the FX rates from 4:00 PM London Time. If the rebalancing day is a non-business day, the index calculation uses the 4:00 PM London Time FX rates from the previous business day.

### Calendar

S&P DJI publishes an index calculation calendar, under *iBoxx Indices Calendars*, available on [www.spglobal.com/spdji](http://www.spglobal.com/spdji). This calendar provides an overview of the index calculation holidays of the iBoxx bond index families each year.

# Index Governance

## Index Committee

An Index Committee maintains the indices. All committee members are full-time professionals at S&P Dow Jones Indices. Meetings are held regularly. The Index Committee oversees the management of the indices, including determinations of intra-rebalancing changes, maintenance and inclusion policies, and other matters affecting the maintenance and calculation of the indices.

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Index Committee has full and complete discretion to (i) amend, apply, or exempt the application of index rules and policies as circumstances may require and (ii) add, remove, or by-pass any bond in determining the composition of an index.

The Index Committee may rely on any information or documentation submitted to it or gathered by it that the Index Committee believes to be accurate. The Index Committee reserves the right to reinterpret publicly available information and to make changes to the indices based on a new interpretation of that information at its sole discretion. All Index Committee discussions are confidential.

The Index Committee is separate from and independent of other analytical groups at S&P Global. In particular, the Index Committee has no access to or influence on decisions by S&P Global Ratings analysts.

S&P Dow Jones Indices' Index Committees reserve the right to make exceptions when applying the methodology if the need arises. In any scenario where the treatment differs from the general rules stated in this document or supplemental documents, clients will receive sufficient notice, whenever possible.

In addition to the daily governance of indices and maintenance of index methodologies, at least once within any 12-month period, the Index Committee reviews the methodology to ensure the indices continue to achieve the stated objectives, and that the data and methodology remain effective. In certain instances, S&P Dow Jones Indices may publish a consultation inviting comments from external parties.

*For more information on index governance policies, please refer [here](#).*

# Further Information

## **Client Support**

For client support please contact [index\\_services@spglobal.com](mailto:index_services@spglobal.com).

## **Formal Complaints**

Formal complaints should be emailed to [spdji\\_compliance@spglobal.com](mailto:spdji_compliance@spglobal.com).

Please note: [spdji\\_compliance@spglobal.com](mailto:spdji_compliance@spglobal.com) should only be used to log formal complaints.

## **General Index Inquiries**

For general index inquiries, please contact [index\\_services@spglobal.com](mailto:index_services@spglobal.com).

# Methodology Changes

Date	Change
<b>30 Jun 2023</b>	<b>Annual Index Review 2022</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction of 'Maturity extension' section</li><li>• Index eligibility of bonds with extended workout dates</li></ul>
<b>15 Jun 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Launch of iBoxx South Africa Government Index</li></ul>
<b>31 Dec 2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sinking/Amortizing bonds allowed in the index from 31 December 2016</li></ul>

# Disclaimer

## Performance Disclosure/Back-Tested Data

Where applicable, S&P Dow Jones Indices and its index-related affiliates (“S&P DJI”) defines various dates to assist our clients by providing transparency. The First Value Date is the first day for which there is a calculated value (either live or back-tested) for a given index. The Base Date is the date at which the index is set to a fixed value for calculation purposes. The Launch Date designates the date when the values of an index are first considered live: index values provided for any date or time period prior to the index’s Launch Date are considered back-tested. S&P DJI defines the Launch Date as the date by which the values of an index are known to have been released to the public, for example via the company’s public website or its data feed to external parties. For Dow Jones-branded indices introduced prior to May 31, 2013, the Launch Date (which prior to May 31, 2013, was termed “Date of introduction”) is set at a date upon which no further changes were permitted to be made to the index methodology, but that may have been prior to the Index’s public release date.

Please refer to the methodology for the Index for more details about the index, including the manner in which it is rebalanced, the timing of such rebalancing, criteria for additions and deletions, as well as all index calculations.

Information presented prior to an index’s launch date is hypothetical back-tested performance, not actual performance, and is based on the index methodology in effect on the launch date. However, when creating back-tested history for periods of market anomalies or other periods that do not reflect the general current market environment, index methodology rules may be relaxed to capture a large enough universe of securities to simulate the target market the index is designed to measure or strategy the index is designed to capture. For example, market capitalization and liquidity thresholds may be reduced. In addition, forks have not been factored into the back-test data with respect to the S&P Cryptocurrency Indices. For the S&P Cryptocurrency Top 5 & 10 Equal Weight Indices, the custody element of the methodology was not considered; the back-test history is based on the index constituents that meet the custody element as of the Launch Date. Also, the treatment of corporate actions in back-tested performance may differ from treatment for live indices due to limitations in replicating index management decisions. Back-tested performance reflects application of an index methodology and selection of index constituents with the benefit of hindsight and knowledge of factors that may have positively affected its performance, cannot account for all financial risk that may affect results and may be considered to reflect survivor/look ahead bias. Actual returns may differ significantly from, and be lower than, back-tested returns. Past performance is not an indication or guarantee of future results.

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Index returns do not reflect payment of any sales charges or fees an investor may pay to purchase the securities underlying the Index or investment funds that are intended to track the performance of the Index. The imposition of these fees and charges would cause actual and back-tested performance of the securities/fund to be lower than the Index performance shown. As a simple example, if an index returned 10% on a US \$100,000 investment for a 12-month period (or US \$10,000) and an actual asset-based fee of 1.5% was imposed at the end of the period on the investment plus accrued interest (or US \$1,650), the net return would be 8.35% (or US \$8,350) for the year. Over a three-year period, an annual 1.5% fee taken at year end with an assumed 10% return per year would result in a cumulative gross return of 33.10%, a total fee of US \$5,375, and a cumulative net return of 27.2% (or US \$27,200).

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Prospective users of an S&P DJI ESG Index are encouraged to read the relevant index methodology and related disclosures carefully to determine whether the index is suitable for their potential use case or investment objective.