

**Global Industry Classification
Standard (GICS®)
*Methodology***

October 2021

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
GICS Methodology	2
GICS Classification	2
GICS Structure	2
GICS Maintenance	4
GICS Review	4
GICS Structure Review	4
Changes to the GICS Structure	5
Chronology of Events	5
GICS Governance	6
GICS Methodology Committee	6
Disclaimer	7

Introduction

The Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS®) is specifically designed to consistently classify companies globally, in both developed and developing economies.

In 1999, S&P Dow Jones Indices and MSCI, two leading global index providers, jointly developed GICS to establish a global standard for categorizing companies into sectors and industries. GICS was developed in response to the global financial community's need for one complete, consistent set of global sector and industry definitions that enable comparisons by company, sector, and industry across countries, regions, and globally.

The GICS classification system consists of 11 sectors, 24 industry groups, 69 industries, and 158 sub-industries. The current GICS sectors are:

- Energy
- Materials
- Industrials
- Consumer Discretionary
- Consumer Staples
- Health Care
- Financials
- Information Technology
- Communication Services
- Utilities
- Real Estate

GICS Methodology

GICS Classification

GICS classifies a company according to its principal business activity. To make this determination, S&P Dow Jones Indices and MSCI use revenue as the key measure identifying a company's principal business activity. However, earnings and market perception are also recognized as important and relevant for classification purposes and are taken into account during the review process.

A company is classified into the sub-industry whose definition most closely describes the business activities that generate the majority of the company's revenues. However, a company engaged in two or more substantially different business activities, none of which contributes 60% or more of revenues, is classified into the sub-industry that provides the majority of both the company's revenues and earnings. When a company has business activities in three or more sectors, none of which contributes a majority of revenues, the company is classified either into the Industrial Conglomerates sub-industry (Industrials Sector) or the Multi-Sector Holdings sub-industry (Financials Sector).

Publicly available information is used when assigning a company's classification, including Annual Reports, 10-Ks, company websites, and other official filings.

In the case of a new company, the initial classification is based primarily on the description of the company's activities and pro-forma results as given in the prospectus.

If a company's subsidiary files separate financials to its reporting government agency, that subsidiary is considered a separate entity and classified independently under the GICS methodology. Equity securities directly linked to a company have the same classification as the company.

GICS classifications are not assigned to mutual funds, closed-end funds, bonds, or Exchange Traded Funds.

GICS Structure

GICS assigns each company to a sub-industry, and to a corresponding industry, industry group, and sector, according to the definition of its principal business activity. Since the classification is strictly hierarchical, at each of the four levels a company can only belong to one grouping.

- 11 Sectors
- 24 Industry Groups
- 69 Industries
- 158 Sub-Industries

GICS classifications can be presented in either text or numeric formats. The complete GICS classification for each company is an 8-digit code with text description. The hierarchical design of the 8-digit coding system allows for easy transition between GICS tiers.

Examples:

Sector: Consumer Discretionary (GICS code: 25)
Industry Group: Consumer Services (GICS code: 2530)
Industry: Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure (GICS code: 253010)
Sub-industry: Casinos & Gaming (GICS code: 25301010)

Sector: Financials (GICS code: 40)
Industry Group: Diversified Financials (GICS code: 4020)
Industry: Capital Markets (GICS code: 402030)
Sub-industry: Investment Banking & Brokerage (GICS code: 40203020)

For the most recent GICS map and definitions, please visit our Web site at www.spdji.com.

GICS Maintenance

GICS Review

A company's GICS classification is reviewed at least annually and is also under constant surveillance for corporate actions potentially impacting classification.

In general, a company's GICS classification changes whenever there is a major corporate action that redefines a company's primary business activity. At a minimum, annual reviews are conducted to ensure that a company has not redefined its primary business activity through a series of smaller events. To provide a stable industry classification, changes to a company's classification are minimized by disregarding temporary fluctuations in the results of a company's different business activities.

GICS reviews also occur upon client request.

GICS Structure Review

S&P Dow Jones Indices and MSCI review the GICS structure on an annual basis, which can include an Advisory Panels or open consultations with market participants. The objective is to ensure that the GICS structure continues to accurately represent global equity markets, enabling seamless global comparisons by industry.

Changes to the GICS Structure

The four-tier GICS structure accurately reflects equities in today's global investment environment yet is flexible enough to capture tomorrow's developments. The eight-digit GICS coding system is designed to adapt easily to the changing investment world. As the global economy changes, sectors, industry group, industries, and sub-industries can be added or divided.

Chronology of Events

Date	GICS Event
August 1999	GICS introduced. GICS comprised of 10 sectors, 23 industry groups, 59 industries and 123 sub-industries.
March 2002	The total number of sub-industries in the GICS structure reduced to 122 from 123. Name and description changes to other GICS categories. GICS comprised of 10 sectors, 23 industry groups, 59 industries and 122 sub-industries.
April 2003	Changes included the creation of new industry groups, industries and sub-industries, the merger of some existing sub-industries and significant name and definition changes to others. GICS comprised of 10 sectors, 24 industry groups, 62 industries and 132 sub-industries.
April 2004	Changes limited to definition changes for some of the GICS sub-industries. GICS comprised of 10 sectors, 24 industry groups, 62 industries and 132 sub-industries.
April 2005	Changes included renaming and redefining one industry group, creating two industries and seven sub-industries, and making significant name and definition changes to others. GICS comprised of 10 sectors, 24 industry groups, 64 industries and 139 sub-industries.
April 2006	Changes included renaming one industry group, creating four new industries and ten new sub-industries. Changes also included discontinuing one industry and two sub-industries, and making name and definition changes to others. GICS comprised of 10 sectors, 24 industry groups, 67 industries and 147 sub-industries.
August 2008	Changes included renaming one industry group, creating one new industry and eight new sub-industries. Changes also included discontinuing one sub-industry, and making name and definition changes to others. GICS comprised of 10 sectors, 24 industry groups, 68 industries and 154 sub-industries.
June 2010	Changes were made to definitions only. GICS comprised of 10 sectors, 24 industry groups, 68 industries and 154 sub-industries.
February 2014	Changes included renaming four industries and discontinuing one, adding six new sub-industries and discontinuing 4, and making name and definition changes to others. GICS comprised of 10 sectors, 24 industry groups, 67 industries, and 156 sub-industries.
September 2016	Changes included the creation of a Real Estate sector, as well as adding one industry group, three industries, and 15 sub-industries. One industry group was discontinued, along with two industries and 14 sub-industries. One industry and one sub-industry were renamed, and there were two definition changes. GICS comprised of 11 sectors, 24 industry groups, 68 industries, and 157 sub-industries.
September 2018	Changes included the renaming of the Telecommunication Services Sector to Communication Services, removing the Media Industry Group from Consumer Discretionary and adding the Media Industry Group to the Communication Services Sector under the name Media & Entertainment. Under the Media & Entertainment Industry Group, three industries were created, with seven Sub-Industries. Two Sub-Industries from Information Technology were discontinued and one was created. Several definitions were updated. GICS comprised of 11 sectors, 24 industry groups, 69 industries, and 158 sub-industries.

Detailed information on changes to the GICS structure can be found on S&P Dow Jones Indices' Web site at www.spdji.com.

GICS Governance

GICS Methodology Committee

The GICS methodology and structure fall under the overall supervision of the GICS Operations Committee, with committee members from both S&P Dow Jones Indices and MSCI.

S&P Dow Jones Indices and MSCI consider information about changes to the GICS structure and related matters to be potentially market moving and material. Therefore, all Committee discussions are confidential.

For more information on GICS, please contact index_services@spglobal.com.

Disclaimer

© 2021 S&P Dow Jones Indices. All rights reserved. S&P, S&P 500, S&P 500 LOW VOLATILITY INDEX, S&P 100, S&P COMPOSITE 1500, S&P 400, S&P MIDCAP 400, S&P 600, S&P SMALLCAP 600, S&P GIVI, GLOBAL TITANS, DIVIDEND ARISTOCRATS, S&P TARGET DATE INDICES, S&P PRISM, S&P STRIDE, GICS, SPIVA, SPDR and INDEXOLOGY are registered trademarks of S&P Global, Inc. (“S&P Global”) or its affiliates. DOW JONES, DJ, DJIA, THE DOW and DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE are registered trademarks of Dow Jones Trademark Holdings LLC (“Dow Jones”). These trademarks together with others have been licensed to S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. Redistribution or reproduction in whole or in part are prohibited without written permission of S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. This document does not constitute an offer of services in jurisdictions where S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, S&P Global, Dow Jones or their respective affiliates (collectively “S&P Dow Jones Indices”) do not have the necessary licenses. Except for certain custom index calculation services, all information provided by S&P Dow Jones Indices is impersonal and not tailored to the needs of any person, entity, or group of persons. S&P Dow Jones Indices receives compensation in connection with licensing its indices to third parties and providing custom calculation services. Past performance of an index is not an indication or guarantee of future results.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Exposure to an asset class represented by an index may be available through investable instruments based on that index. S&P Dow Jones Indices does not sponsor, endorse, sell, promote or manage any investment fund or other investment vehicle that is offered by third parties and that seeks to provide an investment return based on the performance of any index. S&P Dow Jones Indices makes no assurance that investment products based on the index will accurately track index performance or provide positive investment returns. S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC is not an investment advisor, and S&P Dow Jones Indices makes no representation regarding the advisability of investing in any such investment fund or other investment vehicle. A decision to invest in any such investment fund or other investment vehicle should not be made in reliance on any of the statements set forth in this document. Prospective investors are advised to make an investment in any such fund or other vehicle only after carefully considering the risks associated with investing in such funds, as detailed in an offering memorandum or similar document that is prepared by or on behalf of the issuer of the investment fund or other investment product or vehicle. S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC is not a tax advisor. A tax advisor should be consulted to evaluate the impact of any tax-exempt securities on portfolios and the tax consequences of making any particular investment decision. Inclusion of a security within an index is not a recommendation by S&P Dow Jones Indices to buy, sell, or hold such security, nor is it considered to be investment advice.

These materials have been prepared solely for informational purposes based upon information generally available to the public and from sources believed to be reliable. No content contained in these materials (including index data, ratings, credit-related analyses and data, research, valuations, model, software or other application or output therefrom) or any part thereof (“Content”) may be modified, reverse-engineered, reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of S&P Dow Jones Indices. The Content shall not be used for any unlawful or unauthorized purposes. S&P Dow Jones Indices and its third-party data providers and licensors (collectively “S&P Dow Jones Indices Parties”) do not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness or availability of the Content. S&P Dow Jones Indices Parties are not responsible for any errors or omissions, regardless of the cause, for the results obtained from the use of the Content. **THE CONTENT IS PROVIDED ON AN “AS IS” BASIS. S&P DOW JONES INDICES PARTIES DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE, FREEDOM FROM BUGS, SOFTWARE ERRORS OR DEFECTS, THAT THE CONTENT’S FUNCTIONING WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED OR THAT THE CONTENT WILL OPERATE WITH ANY**

SOFTWARE OR HARDWARE CONFIGURATION. In no event shall S&P Dow Jones Indices Parties be liable to any party for any direct, indirect, incidental, exemplary, compensatory, punitive, special or consequential damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including, without limitation, lost income or lost profits and opportunity costs) in connection with any use of the Content even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

S&P Global keeps certain activities of its various divisions and business units separate from each other in order to preserve the independence and objectivity of their respective activities. As a result, certain divisions and business units of S&P Global may have information that is not available to other business units. S&P Global has established policies and procedures to maintain the confidentiality of certain non-public information received in connection with each analytical process.

In addition, S&P Dow Jones Indices provides a wide range of services to, or relating to, many organizations, including issuers of securities, investment advisers, broker-dealers, investment banks, other financial institutions and financial intermediaries, and accordingly may receive fees or other economic benefits from those organizations, including organizations whose securities or services they may recommend, rate, include in model portfolios, evaluate or otherwise address.

The Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS[®]) was developed by and is the exclusive property and a trademark of S&P and MSCI. Neither MSCI, S&P nor any other party involved in making or compiling any GICS classifications makes any express or implied warranties or representations with respect to such standard or classification (or the results to be obtained by the use thereof), and all such parties hereby expressly disclaim all warranties of originality, accuracy, completeness, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any of such standard or classification. Without limiting any of the foregoing, in no event shall MSCI, S&P, any of their affiliates or any third party involved in making or compiling any GICS classifications have any liability for any direct, indirect, special, punitive, consequential or any other damages (including lost profits) even if notified of the possibility of such damages.