

# A more complete index

Franklin Global Trends Index<sup>SM</sup>



# What is the Franklin Global Trends Index?

Driven by Franklin Templeton's quantitative insights, the Franklin Global Trends Index is designed to provide broad diversification by investing across geographies and asset classes based on compelling market trends, all while managing risk. By expanding the available universe beyond just the US, it seeks to uncover improved risk-adjusted returns compared with a strategy focused on a single market segment. This dynamic, multi-asset approach offers a more complete index and enhances the potential for long-term success.



With its sophisticated construction, the index provides exposure to three key benefits:



### **Expanding opportunities**

The index offers broad diversification by allocating to a universe of 10 asset classes spread across the US and abroad, helping to overcome home-country bias and provide a more complete investment picture.



### Harnessing momentum

Using a proprietary methodology that tracks recent momentum, the index invests in positive trending asset classes—an innovative process designed to uncover opportunities while minimizing risk.



### **Powering results**

Global markets aren't static and neither is the index. Its ongoing allocation process monitors momentum shifts and dynamically rebalances, keeping it well positioned to capture the potential for strong risk-adjusted returns.



## **Expanding opportunities**

Most investors keep their assets close to home. But limiting investments to the US may also limit the potential for returns—and increase exposure to risk.

Beyond borders: The Franklin Global Trends Index was designed to help overcome this home-country bias. Leveraging Franklin Templeton's expertise as one of the world's largest asset managers, the index allocates to a wide universe of global asset classes. By looking beyond borders, it seeks to provide broad diversification and expanded opportunities.



Across asset classes<sup>4</sup>: Diversification across asset classes is also crucial, as various market segments lead in cycles and it is often difficult to predict performance. That's why the Franklin Global Trends Index allocates to equities, fixed income and alternatives as it seeks to uncover improved risk-adjusted returns.

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
REIT	US Equity	REIT	REIT	US HY	US Equity	US Govt	US Equity	US Equity	REIT
20.14%	32.39%	27.15%	2.29%	18.26%	21.83%	0.01%	31.49%	18.40%	39.88%
EM Govt	DM Equity	US Equity	US Equity	EM Equity	EM Equity	US HY	REIT	DM Equity	US Equity
18.54%	12.04%	13.69%	1.38%	12.06%	14.90%	-2.37%	28.07%	15.53%	28.71%
US Equity	US HY	S&P MARC 5%	EM Govt	US Equity	S&P MARC 5%	S&P MARC 5%	EM Govt	EM Equity	Commodities 27.11%
16.00%	7.53%	6.48%	1.23%	11.96%	10.71%	-3.30%	14.42%	14.69%	
US HY	EM Equity	US Govt	US Govt	Commodities	EM Govt	DM Equity	US HY	S&P MARC 5%	DM Equity
14.71%	3.59%	5.97%	0.55%	11.77%	9.32%	-3.34%	14.00%	8.28%	15.43%
EM Equity	REIT	EM Govt	DM Equity	EM Govt	REIT	REIT	S&P MARC 5%	US Govt	US HY
13.97%	3.21%	5.53%	-0.59%	10.19%	9.27%	-4.10%	13.70%	7.51%	5.49%
DM Equity	US Govt	DM Equity	EM Equity	REIT	US HY	US Equity	EM Equity	EM Govt	EM Equity
6.98%	-2.02%	5.42%	-2.62%	9.28%	7.03%	-4.38%	13.31%	5.88%	3.81%
S&P MARC 5%	S&P MARC 5%	US HY	S&P MARC 5%	DM Equity	DM Equity	EM Govt	DM Equity	US HY	S&P MARC 5%
5.95%	-3.08%	1.86%	-2.92%	6.72%	5.44%	-4.61%	12.60%	5.48%	0.28%
US Govt	EM Govt	EM Equity	US HY	S&P MARC 5%	US Govt	EM Equity	US Govt	Commodities	EM Govt
4.21%	-6.58%	-1.10%	-4.93%	4.32%	3.54%	-8.45%	8.72%	-3.12%	-1.51%
Commodities	Commodities	Commodities	Commodities	US Govt	Commodities	Commodities	Commodities	REIT	US Govt
-1.06%	-9.52%	-17.01%	-24.66%	2.65%	1.70%	-11.25%	7.69%	-5.86%	-1.54%

A concentrated index may miss out on specific growth opportunities and leave investors vulnerable to volatility:



US Government bonds were the top performers in 2018 but the worst in 2021

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REITs topped the chart in 2021 but had the lowest returns in 2020

As of December 31, 2021 unless otherwise noted.

1. Source: ICI. Based on total net assets of equity mutual funds invested in world equity funds.

2. Source: IMF World Economic Outlook (October 2021), GDP in Current Prices (2020).

3. Source: Bloomberg.

4. Source: Morningstar. Performance data quoted represents past performance, which does not guarantee future results. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. US Government Bonds represented by Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond TR Index; Emerging Markets Government Bonds represented by JPM EMBI Global TR Index; Developed Markets Equity represented by Morningstar MSCI Developed Markets Index; US High Yield represented by Credit Suisse HY Index; Emerging Market Equity represented by Morningstar MSCI Emerging Markets Index; Commodities represented by Bloomberg Commodity TR Index; US Equity represented by S&P 500 TR Index; REIT represented by FTSE Nareit All REITs TR Index.



## Harnessing momentum

While it seeks to provide the benefits of diversification, the Franklin Global Trends Index invests broadly—yet selectively. Our proprietary methodology helps uncover global asset classes poised for growth. It's a strategic approach designed to help minimize risk while harnessing positive momentum trends around the world.

**Available universe:** The process begins with a menu of 10 investment options including global stocks, bonds and alternative asset classes. Starting from this broad opportunity set helps increase the potential for better risk-adjusted returns.



**Allocation process:** From its broad starting point, the index gets selective. Our quantitative research evaluates all 10 investment options based on recent performance and risk. It allocates only to the top asset classes trending in a positive direction—or to a safety asset in volatile markets. With this time-tested formula, the index positions investors to capture long-term success.



For illustrative and discussion purposes only. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. During times of extreme market volatility, the index will not be able to eliminate market losses or capture all market gains. Process is dynamic and subject to change.



## **Powering results**

Navigating market shifts requires a nimble approach. An asset class trending upward in one market cycle may change direction in the next—but the Franklin Global Trends Index is ready to change with it. The index's ongoing allocation process monitors momentum swings across asset classes and dynamically rebalances. While the index's allocation has changed often since 2004, its performance has remained consistent.

Franklin Global Trends Index<sup>™</sup> Allocation Changes





**Responsive allocation:** The index rebalances to help maximize growth amid different market conditions.

Asset Class	Average Weight	Historical Max Weight
7–10-Year US Treasuries	28.1%	150.0%
Emerging Market Government Debt	12.0%	52.8%
US Aggregate Bonds	11.4%	53.9%
US Investment Grade Corporates	10.1%	37.2%
High Yield	9.6%	40.4%
US Equities	6.5%	30.2%
US Real Estate	5.5%	19.2%
International Developed Equities	4.7%	22.7%
Gold	4.3%	17.4%
Cash	4.2%	74.2%
Emerging Market Equities	3.6%	13.6%

Franklin Global Trends Index<sup>™</sup> Performance

January 1, 2004–February 17, 2022



**Consistent returns:** 

The Franklin Global Trends Index has an impressive performance track record versus the S&P 500 Daily Risk Control 5% Index, since the inception of its backtest.

#### As of February 17, 2022.

Source: Franklin Templeton. Data represents backtested performance, which does not guarantee future results. The index was created on November 8, 2021. Performance and allocations for the index before November 8, 2021 represent hypothetical data determined by retroactive application of a back-tested model, itself designed with the benefit of hindsight. Actual performance of any portfolio may vary significantly due to assumptions regarding fees, transaction costs, liquidity or other market factors. Data does not reflect the deduction of any fees/charges and assumes reinvestment of interest or dividends. See Disclosure for additional information.



For more information about the Franklin Global Trends Index<sup>SM</sup>:

- **800) 481-8115**
- www.franklinglobaltrendsindex.com

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The Index is an excess return index. The Index levels represent performance in excess of the US Effective Fed Funds rate.

Back-testing and other statistical analysis material that is provided in connection with the Index use simulated analysis and hypothetical circumstances to estimate how it may have performed prior to its actual existence. The results obtained from "back-testing" information should not be considered indicative of the actual results that might be obtained from an investment or participation in a financial instrument or transaction referencing the Index. Neither Franklin nor Solactive provide assurance or guarantee that the products linked to the Index will operate or would have operated in the past in a manner consistent with these materials. The hypothetical historical levels have inherent limitations. Alternative simulations, techniques, modeling or assumptions might produce significantly different results and prove to be more appropriate. Actual results will vary, perhaps materially, from the simulated returns presented in this document.

The hypothetical performance information presented herein does not reflect the results of actual trading and calculation of the Index levels and performance do not reflect the fees and expenses that an investor would pay. These fees and expenses would cause the actual and back-tested performance of the Index to be lower. For example, if an investor invested \$100,000 in an investment product that returned 10% (\$10,000 in gains) over a 12-month period and was charged an asset-based fee of 1.5% at the end of the period on the investment plus gains (a \$1,650 fee), the investor's net return would be 8.35% (\$8,350). Over three years, an annual 1.5% fee taken at the end of each year with the same assumed 10% return per year would result in a cumulative gross return of 33.10% but a net return (after \$5,375 in fees) of 27.2%.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Stock prices fluctuate, sometimes rapidly and dramatically, due to factors affecting individual companies, particular industries or sectors, or general market conditions. Bond prices generally move in the opposite direction of interest rates. Thus, as the prices of bonds adjust to a rise in interest rates, the performance of the Index may decline. International investments are subject to special risks, including currency fluctuations and social, economic and political uncertainties, which could increase volatility. These risks are magnified in emerging markets. During times of extreme market volatility, the Index will not be able to eliminate market losses or capture all market gains.