

**S&P Dow Jones
Indices**

A Division of **S&P Global**

S&P High Yield Dividend Aristocrats *Methodology*

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Introduction

Index Objective

The S&P High Yield Dividend Aristocrats measures the performance of companies within the S&P Composite 1500 that have followed a managed-dividends policy of consistently increasing dividends every year for at least 20 years.

For information on the S&P Composite 1500, please refer to the please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' U.S. Indices Methodology document located on our Web site, www.spdji.com.

Highlights

The index is reviewed once per year in January. Additionally, constituent weights are updated quarterly. The index is weighted by indicated annual dividend yield, subject to modifications to ensure no stock represents more than 4% of the index weight and to enhance index basket liquidity. The index methodology incorporates minimum market capitalization and liquidity criteria, as well as buffers to reduce turnover at each rebalancing.

Supporting Documents

This methodology is meant to be read in conjunction with supporting documents providing greater detail with respect to the policies, procedures and calculations described herein. References throughout the methodology direct the reader to the relevant supporting document for further information on a specific topic. The list of the main supplemental documents for this methodology and the hyperlinks to those documents is as follows:

Supporting Document	URL
S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices Methodology	Equity Indices Policies & Practices
S&P Dow Jones Indices' Index Mathematics Methodology	Index Mathematics Methodology
S&P Dow Jones Indices' Float Adjustment Methodology	Float Adjustment Methodology

This methodology was created by S&P Dow Jones Indices to achieve the aforementioned objective of measuring the underlying interest of each index governed by this methodology document. Any changes to or deviations from this methodology are made in the sole judgment and discretion of S&P Dow Jones Indices so that the index continues to achieve its objective.

Eligibility Criteria

Index Eligibility

To qualify for membership in the index, at each annual reconstitution, a stock must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Be a member of the S&P Composite 1500.
2. Have increased total dividend per share amount every year for at least 20 consecutive years.
3. Have a float-adjusted market capitalization (FMC) greater than or equal to US\$ 2 billion as of the rebalancing reference date (current constituents US\$ 1.5 billion).
4. Have an average daily value traded (ADVT) greater than or equal to US\$ 5 million for the three-months prior to the rebalancing reference date (current constituents US\$ 4 million).

Calendar years and ex-dates are used for the dividend analysis, with the data being reviewed every January. In situations where dividend payments deviate from the company's standard dividend payment cycle, S&P Dow Jones Indices will, at its discretion, allocate payments to the appropriate year in order to take a full cycle into account.

A dividend initiation or re-initiation does not count as a dividend increase. The initiation calendar year may include payment of all four quarterly dividends, or only one, two or three quarterly payments. Evaluations are made on a best-effort basis.

S&P Dow Jones Indices only considers cash dividend payments declared as regular by the paying company for index eligibility, selection, and weighting purposes. Cash dividend payments declared as special by the paying company, including recurring special cash dividends, are not considered. Gross cash dividend amounts, before any withholding tax, are used.

For spin-offs occurring after January 1, 2013, the yearly dividend increase history of the parent company is assigned to both the parent and spun-off company on the spin-off effective date. To determine annual dividend payments, the dividends of the parent and spun-off companies are combined until a full annual cycle of dividend payments is available for both post-spin-off companies. Subsequent dividend comparisons are based on the annual dividend amounts of each respective company.

Index Construction

Approaches

The index is calculated based on an indicated annual dividend yield weighting scheme.

Constituent Weightings

At each quarterly rebalancing, stocks are weighted based on indicated annual dividend yield, subject to modifications made to stock weights, if required, to reduce single stock concentration and enhance index basket liquidity, as follows:

- No stock can have a weight of more than 4% in the Index.
- The minimum initial portfolio size that can be turned over in a single day (based on recent trading volumes) cannot be lower than US\$ 2 billion.

Basket liquidity capping sets a minimum portfolio size of US\$ 2 billion that must be turned over in a single day, based on the historical average value-traded pattern. The maximum weight parameter is the maximum weight of each stock at the rebalancing. These parameters can be changed depending upon market circumstances.

1. With data reflected on the rebalancing reference date, each company is weighted by indicated annual dividend yield.
2. If any company has a weight greater than 4% (where 4% is the maximum weight allowed in the index), that company has its weight capped at 4%.
3. All excess weight is proportionally redistributed to all uncapped stocks within the index.
4. After this redistribution, if the weight of any other stock(s), then, breaches 4%, the process is iterated until there are no stocks breaching the 4% weight limit.
5. A basket liquidity maximum weight (*BL*) for each company is, then, determined by dividing the US\$ three-month ADVT by the basket liquidity amount (US\$ 2 billion). This weight is the maximum weight allowed for each stock in the index.
6. If any company has a weight greater than its *BL* maximum weight, that company will have its weight reduced to its *BL* maximum weight.
7. All excess weight is proportionally redistributed to all uncapped stocks within the index.
8. If, after this redistribution, the weight of any other stock(s) in the index exceeds its *BL* maximum weight, the process is iterated until no stock breaches its *BL* maximum weight.

The basket liquidity and maximum weight constraints are subject to change based on market conditions. If the basket liquidity rule cannot be satisfied for all index constituents after all possible iterations are completed, one or more of these constraints may be changed to ensure that the constraint is satisfied for all constituents.

Multiple Share Classes

Each company is represented once by the Designated Listing. For more information regarding the treatment of multiple share classes, please refer to Approach B within the Multiple Share Classes section of the S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices document.

Index Calculations

The index is calculated by means of the divisor methodology used for all S&P Dow Jones equity indices.

For more information on the index calculation methodology, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Index Mathematics Methodology.

Index Maintenance

Rebalancing Frequency

The index undergoes a major reconstitution once a year in January, coinciding with the annual review of the qualifying universe. The reference date for such additions and deletions is after the closing of the last trading date of December. Index constituent changes occur after the closing of the last business day of January. Minor quarterly rebalancings occur in April, July and October. Index constituent weight adjustments occur after the closing of the last business days of January, April, July and October, based on indicated yield as defined in the *Constituent Weightings* section of the methodology.

The rebalancing effective date is after the close of the last business day of the rebalancing month. The reference date for indicated yield, float-adjusted market capitalization and ADVT is the close of the month prior to the rebalancing month.

At each rebalancing, stocks are weighted and assigned index shares using the closing prices as of five business days prior to the last business day of the rebalancing month as the reference price. Since index shares are assigned based on prices prior to the rebalancing, the actual weight of each stock at the rebalancing differs from the target equal weights due to market movements.

Additions. No additions are made to the index between annual reconstitutions, except in the case of a spin-off, as detailed below.

Deletions. Constituents removed from the qualifying universe between annual reconstitutions are removed from the index simultaneously. In addition, at the discretion of S&P Dow Jones Indices, a company may be removed at a quarterly rebalancing if S&P Dow Jones Indices determines the company has reduced its calendar year dividend amount and will no longer qualify for the index at the subsequent annual rebalancing.

Index Adjustments

Corporate Action	Adjustment Made to Index	Divisor Adjustment?
Spin-Off	Spin-offs are added to the index on the ex-date. If the spin-off remains in the underlying index (S&P Composite 1500), both the parent company and spin-off remain in the index until the next index rebalancing, provided that each gives an indication it will continue and/or initiate a consistent dividend paying policy. If the spin-off does not indicate it will continue and/or initiate a consistent dividend paying policy, it is removed from the index after the first day of regular way trading.	Ex-date: No Removal date: Yes
Rights Offering	The price is adjusted to the Price of the Parent Company minus (the Price of the Rights Offering/Rights Ratio). Index shares change so that the company's weight remains the same as its weight before the rights offering.	No
Stock Split	Index shares are multiplied by and price is divided by the split factor.	No
Share Issuance or Share Repurchase	None. Actual shares outstanding of the company play no role in the daily index calculation.	No
Special Dividends	The price of the stock making the special dividend payment is reduced by the per share special dividend amount after the close of trading on the day before the dividend ex-date.	Yes
Delisting, acquisition or any other corporate action resulting in the deletion of the stock from the underlying index.	The stock is dropped from the index. This causes the weights of the rest of the stocks in the index to change proportionately.	Yes

For more information, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices document.

Currency, Currency Hedged, and Risk Control Indices

Currency, currency hedged, and risk control versions of the indices may be available. For a list of available currency, currency hedged, and risk control indices, please contact Client Services at index_services@spglobal.com.

For more information on currency, currency hedged, and risk control indices, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Index Mathematics Methodology.

Base Date

Daily returns are available from December 7, 1999. The base value for both the price return and total return series starting on that date is 1000.

Index Data

Calculation Return Types

S&P Dow Jones Indices calculates multiple return types which vary based on the treatment of regular cash dividends. The classification of regular cash dividends is determined by S&P Dow Jones Indices.

- Price Return (PR) versions are calculated without adjustments for regular cash dividends.
- Gross Total Return (TR) versions reinvest regular cash dividends at the close on the ex-date without consideration for withholding taxes.
- Net Total Return (NTR) versions, if available, reinvest regular cash dividends at the close on the ex-date after the deduction of applicable withholding taxes.

In the event there are no regular cash dividends on the ex-date, the daily performance of all three indices will be identical.

For a complete list of indices available, please refer to the daily index levels file (“.SDL”).

For more information on the classification of regular versus special cash dividends as well as the tax rates used in the calculation of net return, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices’ Equity Indices Policies & Practices document.

For more information on the calculation of return types, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices’ Index Mathematics Methodology.

Index Governance

Index Committee

The Americas Thematic and Strategy Index Committee maintains the index. At each meeting, the Index Committee reviews pending corporate actions that may affect index constituents, statistics comparing the composition of the indices to the market, companies that are being considered as candidates for addition to an index, and any significant market events. In addition, the Index Committee may revise index policy covering rules for selecting companies, treatment of dividends, share counts or other matters.

S&P Dow Jones Indices considers information about changes to its indices and related matters to be potentially market moving and material. Therefore, all Index Committee discussions are confidential.

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 information on Quality Assurance and Internal Reviews of Methodology, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices document.

Index Policy

Announcements

All index constituents are evaluated daily for data needed to calculate index levels and returns. All events affecting the daily index calculation are typically announced in advance via the Index Corporate Events report (.SDE), delivered daily via ftp to all clients. Any unusual treatment of a corporate action or short notice of an event may be communicated via email to clients.

All methodology changes are posted to the S&P Dow Jones Indices' Web site and announced via email to all clients. The latest available version is posted on the Web site at www.spdji.com.

For more information, please refer to the Announcements section of S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices document.

Pro-forma Files

In addition to the corporate events file (.SDE), S&P Dow Jones Indices provides constituent pro-forma files each time the index rebalances. The pro-forma file is typically provided daily in advance of the rebalancing date and contains all constituents and their corresponding weights and index shares effective for the upcoming rebalancing. Since index shares are assigned based on prices one week prior to the rebalancing, the actual weight of each stock at the rebalancing differs from these weights due to market movements.

Please visit www.spdji.com for a complete schedule of rebalancing timelines and pro-forma delivery times.

Holiday Schedule

The index is calculated on all business days of the year when the U.S. equity market is open.

A complete holiday schedule for the year is available at www.spdji.com.

Rebalancing

The Index Committee may change the date of a given rebalancing for reasons including market holidays occurring on or around the scheduled rebalancing date. Any such change will be announced with proper advance notice where possible.

Unexpected Exchange Closures

For information on Unexpected Exchange Closures, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices document.

Recalculation Policy

For information on the recalculation policy, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices document.

Real-Time Calculation

Real-time, intra-day, index calculations are executed for the index, whenever any of its primary exchanges are open. Real-time indices are not restated.

For information on Calculations and Pricing Disruptions, Expert Judgment and Data Hierarchy, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices document.

Contact Information

For questions regarding an index, please contact: index_services@spglobal.com.

Index Dissemination

Index levels are available through S&P Dow Jones Indices' Web site, www.spdji.com.

FTP

Daily constituent and index level data are available via FTP subscription.

For product information, please contact S&P Dow Jones Indices, www.spdji.com/contact-us.

Web site

For further information, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Web site at www.spdji.com.

Index Alert

Comprehensive index data is available through S&P Dow Jones Indices' fee-based service, SPICE, at www.spice-indices.com.

Appendix

Methodology Changes

Change	Effective Date (After Close)	Methodology	
		Previous	Updated
Treatment of Spin-offs	09/30/2015	If the spin-off is not added to the underlying index (S&P Composite 1500), the weight of the parent company will not change. The price is adjusted to the Price of the Parent Company minus (the Price of the Spun-off Company/Share Exchange Ratio). Index shares change so that the company's weight remains the same as its weight before the spin-off.	Spin-offs are added to the index on the ex-date. If the spin-off remains in the underlying index (S&P Composite 1500), both the parent company and spin-off remain in the index until the next index rebalancing, provided that each gives an indication it will continue and/or initiate a consistent dividend paying policy. If the spin-off does not indicate it will continue and/or initiate a consistent dividend paying policy, it is removed from the index after the first day of regular way trading.
Rebalance Effective Date	12/31/2014	After close of the Third Friday of rebalancing month	After close of the last business day of rebalancing month
Minor Rebalancing Deletions	07/22/2013	None	At the discretion of S&P Dow Jones Indices, a company may be removed at a quarterly rebalancing if S&P Dow Jones Indices determines the company has reduced its calendar year dividend amount and will no longer qualify for the index at the subsequent annual rebalancing.
Treatment of Spin-offs	01/01/2013	Spun-off companies are not added to the index. For future reconstitution purposes, the spun-off company does not have any dividend history prior to the spin-off effective date.	Spin-offs are added to the index if the spin-off is added to the underlying index (S&P Composite 1500), provided that the company gives an indication it will continue and/or initiate a consistent dividend paying policy. If the spin-off is not added to the underlying index or does not indicate it will continue and/or initiate a consistent dividend paying policy, it is not added. The yearly dividend increase history of the parent company is assigned to both the parent and spun-off company on the spin-off effective date. To determine annual dividend payments, the dividends of the parent and spun-off companies are combined until a full annual cycle of dividend payments is available for both post-spin-off companies. Subsequent dividend comparisons are based on the annual dividend amounts of each respective company.
Rebalance	07/02/2012	March, June, September, December	January, April, July, October

Effective Months			
Reconstitution Effective Month	07/02/2012	December	January
Rebalance Effective Date	07/02/2012	Close of the Fifth Business Day	Close of the Third Friday
Years of Dividend Increases to Qualify	07/02/2012	25	20
Number of Constituents at Rebalance	07/02/2012	60	All Qualifying Constituents
Market Value Criteria	07/02/2012	Float Market Cap > US \$500 Million	Float Market Cap > US \$2 Billion
Constituent Capping	07/02/2012	The basket liquidity maximum weight for each company is determined by dividing the three-month ADVT by US\$ 1 Billion.	The basket liquidity maximum weight for each company is determined by dividing the three-month ADVT by US\$ 2 Billion.
Rebalance Index Shares	07/02/2012	Index shares are calculated based on the close prices as of the month end date prior to rebalance month.	Index shares are calculated based on the close prices as of the second Friday of the rebalance month.
Dividend Payment Types	12/01/2011	All payment types considered.	For index eligibility purposes, only regular dividend payments will be considered when determining the calendar year total dividend payments of a company. Special cash dividends will not be considered for eligibility purposes on a historical and on-going basis when determining the S&P High Yield Dividend Aristocrat Index universe.
Number of Index Constituents at Rebalance	12/01/2010	50	60
Market Value Criteria	12/01/2010	Market Cap > US \$500 Million	Float Market Cap > US \$500 Million
Universe	12/01/2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Universe is reviewed annually in December. 2) Must be a member of the S&P Composite 1500. 3) Minimum universe size is 75 stocks with 25 years of increasing dividend payments. 4) If the December review produces a list of fewer than 75 stocks in the qualifying universe, then S&P Composite 1500 constituents that have increased dividends every year for 20 years shall supplement the universe. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Universe is reviewed annually in December. 2) Must be a member of the S&P Composite 1500. 3) Minimum universe size is 80 stocks with 25 years of increasing dividend payments. 4) If the December review produces a universe of less than 80 qualifying stocks, the S&P Composite 1500 constituents with the longest period of consecutive increasing dividend payments, with preference based on indicated dividend yield, are added until there are 80 eligible companies.
Liquidity Criteria	12/01/2010	Twelve-month average trading volume greater than 1,500,000 shares.	Three-month ADVT above US\$ 5 million.
Major	12/01/2010	Top 50 yielding companies in the	Top 60 yielding companies in the

Rebalance (December)		universe that meet all eligibility requirements are selected as the index members.	universe that meet all eligibility requirements are selected as the index members.
Minor Rebalances (March, June, September)	12/01/2010	Index constituents that rank lower than 60 based on indicated yield retain membership. If the remaining index members do not add up to 50 then qualifying stocks from the universe are added in order of decreasing dividend yield until the number of constituents reaches 50.	Index constituents that rank lower than 70 based on indicated yield retain membership. If the remaining index members do not add up to 60 then qualifying stocks from the universe are added in order of decreasing dividend yield until the number of constituents reaches 60.
Capping	12/01/2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Stocks are weighted according to their indicated yield. 2) No single stock will have a weight in the index of more than 4%. 3) No single stock will have its weight in the index greater than 5% of the stock's market cap in billions. <p>If either of these criteria is violated, the indicated yield used to evaluate the stock's weight is reduced by a fourth.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Stocks are weighted according to their indicated yield. 2) No single stock will have a weight in the index of more than 4%. 3) A basket liquidity maximum weight (BL) for each company is determined by dividing the US\$ three-month ADVT by the basket liquidity criteria (US\$ 1 billion). 4) If any company has a weight greater than its BL maximum weight, that company will have its weight reduced to its BL maximum weight.
Rebalance Index Shares	12/01/2010	Index shares are calculated based on the reference weights and close prices as of the rebalance date.	Index shares are calculated based on the close prices and reference weights as of the reference date (month end prior to rebalance).

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