FTSE Canada 1-10 Year Laddered Bond Index Series
v2.6
Section 1

Introduction

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The FTSE Canada 1-10 Year Laddered Bond Index Series

1.1.1 The following indexes are included in this series:
- FTSE Canada 1-10 Year Laddered Government Bond Index
- FTSE Canada 1-10 Year Laddered Corporate Bond Index

1.2 The FTSE Canada 1-10 Year Laddered Bond Index Series does not take account of ESG factors in its index design.

1.3 IOSCO

1.3.1 FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Inc. and FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Limited (together “FTSE Canada”) considers that the FTSE Canada 1-10 Year Laddered Bond Index Series meets the IOSCO Principles for Financial Benchmarks as published in July 2013.

Full details can be accessed at [www.iosco.org](http://www.iosco.org).

Details of FTSE Russell’s Statement of Compliance with respect to the IOSCO Principles can be accessed using the following link:

[IOSCO Statement of Compliance](http://www.iosco.org).

1.4 FTSE hereby notifies users of the index series that it is possible that circumstances, including external events beyond the control of FTSE, may necessitate changes to, or the cessation, of the index series and therefore, any financial contracts or other financial instruments that reference the index series or investment funds which use the index series to measure their performance should be able to withstand, or otherwise address the possibility of changes to, or cessation of, the index series.

1.5 Index users who choose to follow this index or to buy products that claim to follow this index should assess the merits of the index’s rules-based methodology and take independent investment advice before investing their own or client funds. No liability whether as a result of negligence or otherwise is accepted by FTSE nor its subsidiary undertakings (or any person concerned with the preparation or publication of these Ground Rules) for any losses, damages, claims and expenses suffered by any person as a result of:
1.6 These Ground Rules

1.6.1 This document sets out the Ground Rules for the construction and management of the FTSE Canada 1-10 Year Laddered Bond Index Series.

1.7 FTSE Russell


1.8 Index Series Objectives

1.8.1 This index measures the return of a 1-10 year bond ladder in either Government or Corporate bonds. Selected securities are placed into 10 maturity buckets: 0-0.99 years, 1-1.99 years, 2-2.99 years, 3-3.99 years, 4-4.99 years, 5-5.99 years, 6-6.99 years, 7-7.99 years, 8-8.99 years, and 9-9.99 years. On each annual rebalancing, the bonds from each maturity roll out to the next lower bucket.

1.9 Index Ratings

1.9.1 Bonds in the index are classified based on information from Dominion Bond Rating Service, Standard and Poor’s, Moody’s Investors Service and Fitch. The index does not distinguish between minor ratings notches, such as plus or minus signs or their equivalent within a broad letter category. Thus, the ratings A+, A-, and A are viewed as equivalent for the purposes of the index. Additionally, the index does not take into account a rating agency's outlook for a credit rating, or whether a particular rating may be under review by an agency.

In cases where the agencies do not agree on the credit rating, the bond will be classified according to the following rules:

- If two agencies rate a security, use the lower of the two ratings;
- If three agencies rate a security, use the middle of the three ratings;
- If four agencies rate a security, use the middle of the three lowest ratings

1.9.2 An issuer rating may be applied for bonds classified as Government or Financial if security-level ratings are not available.

1.10 Capital Index (also known as the Price Index or the Clean Price Index)

1.10.1 The capital index tracks the notional weighted average change in the prices of the index constituents and is calculated every business day.

1.11 Total Return Index (also known as the Performance Index)

1.11.1 A total return index is calculated for all the indexes. A total return index takes into account the price changes and interest accrual and payments of each index constituent.
1.11.2 In addition to the Capital Index and Total Return Index, the following index analytics are also calculated:

- Average Coupon
- Average Yield to Maturity
- Average Time to Maturity
- Value of 01
- Average Macaulay Duration
- Average Modified Duration
- Average Convexity
- The sum of the nominal value of all bonds in each index
- The number of bonds in each Index, and
- The weight of the index in relation to its relevant aggregated index (when applicable)

1.12 The base currency of the benchmark is Canadian Dollars (CAD).
Section 2

Management Responsibilities

2.0 Management Responsibilities

2.1 FTSE International Limited (FTSE)

2.1.1 FTSE is the benchmark administrator of the index series.¹

2.1.2 FTSE is responsible for the daily calculation, production and operation of the FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index Series and will:

- maintain records of all the constituents;
- be responsible for the addition and deletion of bonds and changes of nominal amounts, in accordance with the Ground Rules.

2.1.3 These Ground Rules set out the methodology and provide information about the publication of the FTSE Canada 1-10 Year Laddered Bond Index Series.

2.2 FTSE Canada Fixed Income Advisory Committee

2.2.1 The FTSE Canada Fixed Income Advisory Committee is established by FTSE Russell.

2.2.2 The purpose of the Committee is to provide a forum for FTSE Russell to interact with index users and other stakeholders with a view to enhancing the underlying methodologies of FTSE Russell indexes.

2.2.3 The Terms of Reference of the FTSE Canada Fixed Income Advisory Committee are set out on the FTSE Russell website and can be accessed using the following link:

FTSE_Canada_Fixed_Income_Advisory_Committee.pdf

2.3 Amendments to these Ground Rules

2.3.1 These Ground Rules shall be subject to regular review (at least once a year) by FTSE Russell to ensure that they continue to best reflect the aims of the index series. Any proposals for significant amendments to these Ground Rules will be subject to consultation with FTSE Russell advisory committees and other stakeholders if appropriate. The feedback from these consultations will be considered by the FTSE Russell Governance Board before approval is granted.

¹ The term administrator is used in this document in the same sense as it is defined in Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on indices used as benchmarks in financial instruments and financial contracts or to measure the performance of investment funds (the European Benchmark Regulation).
2.3.2 As provided for in the Statement of Principles for FTSE Fixed Income Indexes, where FTSE Russell
determines that the Ground Rules are silent or do not specifically and unambiguously apply to the
subject matter of any decision, any decision shall be based as far as practical on the Statement of
Principles. After making any such determination, FTSE Russell shall advise the market of its decision
at the earliest opportunity. Any such treatment will not be considered as an exception or change to the
Ground Rules, or to set a precedent for future action, but FTSE Russell will consider whether the
Rules should subsequently be updated to provide greater clarity.
Section 3

FTSE Russell Index Policies

3.0 FTSE Russell Index Policies

These Ground Rules should be read in conjunction with the following policy documents which can be accessed using the links below:

3.1 Queries and Complaints

FTSE Russell’s complaints procedure can be accessed using the following link:

FTSE_Russell_Benchmark_Determination_Complaints_Handling_Policy.pdf

3.2 Statement of Principles for FTSE Fixed Income Indexes (the Statement of Principles)

Indexes need to keep abreast of changing markets and the Ground Rules cannot anticipate every eventuality. Where the Ground Rules do not fully cover a specific event or development, FTSE Russell will determine the appropriate treatment by reference to the Statement of Principles for FTSE Fixed Income Indexes which summarises the ethos underlying FTSE Russell’s approach to index construction. The Statement of Principles is reviewed annually and any changes proposed by FTSE Russell are presented to the FTSE Russell Policy Advisory Board for discussion before approval by FTSE Russell’s Governance Board.

The Statement of Principles for Fixed Income Indexes can be accessed using the following link:


3.3 Price Sources

3.3.1 For further information, please see the FTSE Canada Multi Dealer Pricing Methodology Guide which can be accessed using the following link:

FTSE_Canada_Multi_Dealer_Pricing_Methodology_Guide.pdf

3.4 Recalculation Policy and Guidelines

The Recalculation Policy and Guidelines for Fixed Income Indexes document is available from the FTSE Russell website using the link below or by contacting info@ftserussell.com.

Fixed_Income_Recalculation_Policy_and_Guidelines.pdf

3.5 Policy for Benchmark Methodology Changes

3.5.1 Details of FTSE Russell’s policy for making benchmark methodology changes can be accessed using the following link:

Policy_for_Benchmark_Methodology_Changes.pdf
Section 4

Eligibility Criteria

4.0 Eligibility Criteria

4.1 Eligible Bonds

4.1.1 The 1-10 Year Laddered Government Bond Index consists of Government Bonds rated A or higher, selected according to maturity date.

4.1.2 The 1-10 Year Laddered Corporate Bond Index consists of Corporate Bonds rated A or higher, selected according to maturity date.

4.1.3 In order to be eligible for the indexes bonds must have a price assigned from a price source as specified in Section 5 of these Ground Rules.

4.2 Minimum Issue Size

The following minimum issue sizes are required:

- Government Bonds $300 Million
- Corporate Bonds $200 Million

4.3 Exclusions

4.3.1 Issues that are either callable or amortizing are excluded.

4.3.2 Bonds classified as Corporate Securitization (mainly ABS) issues are excluded.

4.3.3 Effective 15 August 2017, the non-viability contingent capital bonds (NVCC) are excluded.
Section 5

Price Sources

5.0 Price Sources

5.1 The securities are priced using inputs from leading fixed income broker / dealers in Canada at 4:00pm Eastern Time. Further details are available in the FTSE Canada Multi Dealer Pricing Methodology Guide. Normal settlement rules apply (e.g. 2 day settlement for Canada bonds under three years to maturity, 3 day settlement for most other bonds) and the derived single quote per issue, or data, (Multi Dealer quote) is devised using proprietary filters that first remove any severe outliers, followed by a Standard Deviation Mean calculation. This Multi Dealer data best represents the marketplace by removing the ability of any one dealer to have undue influence upon the final calculated price / yield. The index is constructed using mid-market prices.

Valuation at the 4:00pm close is based on the trader's judgment of where a security should be priced, taking into account such factors as where the security previously traded, liquidity, and any market-wide as well as security-specific developments that can be expected to affect the price. This policy is intended to reflect changing market conditions, even in cases where a security may not frequently trade.

For securities that trade actively, the closing price will generally be close to where the security last traded, if not the same. For securities that trade less frequently, however, there could be a larger difference between the closing price and the price where the security last traded. Consider the extreme case of a security that trades in the morning, is subsequently and unexpectedly downgraded, and does not trade for the rest of the day. When setting the 4:00pm price, it is more accurate and conservative for the trader to reflect the expected impact of the credit rating downgrade, rather than simply rely on the latest available transaction.

For further information, please see the FTSE Canada Multi Dealer Pricing Methodology Guide which can be accessed using the following link:

FTSE_Canada_Multi_Dealer_Pricing_Methodology_Guide.pdf
Section 6

Periodic Change to the Portfolios

6.0 Periodic Change to the Portfolios

6.1 Rebalancing the Indexes

6.1.1 The FTSE Canada 1-10 Year Laddered Bond Index Series is reviewed annually on 30 June.

6.2 Rolling Buckets

Bonds will roll out to the next lower bucket on the review date.

6.3 Addition of Constituents

6.3.1 New bonds will be added to the longest maturity bucket by selecting the 10 most liquid securities, as identified by the amount outstanding, and then the longest maturities within the range. Bonds will be selected to best fit the following proportion:

6.3.2 Government Bonds

- 40% Government of Canada (Non Agency) Bonds
- 20% Government of Canada (Agency) Bond
- 40% Provincial Bond (excluding provincial guarantees)
- Substitutions may be required where no Government of Canada or Agency Bond exists.

6.3.3 Corporate Bonds

- No more than 60% Corporate Financial Bonds with no more than 40% identified as Bank
- Supplemented with Corporate Energy and Corporate Infrastructure Bonds

6.4 Removal of Constituents

6.4.1 Bonds in the 0 – 0.99 (under 1 year) bucket will mature prior to, or on, the rebalance date and will have their full principal proceeds reinvested in Canada Treasury Bills until the rebalance date, at which time the index will reinvest the full market value of all roll out securities into the longest bucket (9 – 9.99 years) at full units. Any remaining cash and any coupon payments will be transferred to a Cash account (cash will be carried at an interest level equivalent to the 90 day BA and will be distributed on a monthly basis)

6.4.2 For the 1-10 Year Laddered Government Bond Index, when a bond is downgraded below A it is removed from the index as of the first day of the next month.
6.4.3 For the 1-10 Year Laddered Corporate Bond Index, when a bond is downgraded to BBB it is removed from the index on the next review date, but when a bond is downgraded to a rating lower than BBB, it will be removed on the first day of the next month.
Appendix A: Index Calculations

The following notation is used in the following calculations:

\( P_{i,t} \)  
| clean price of a constituent bond \( i \) on valuation day \( t \)

\( A_{i,t} \)  
| accrued interest of a constituent bond \( i \) as of valuation day \( t \)

\( N_{i,t} \)  
| nominal value of a constituent bond \( i \) on valuation day \( t \)

\( \text{Coupon}_i \)  
| coupon rate of a constituent bond \( i \)

\( y_{i,t} \)  
| yield to maturity of a constituent bond \( i \) as of valuation day \( t \)

\( \text{MacDur}_{i,t} \)  
| Macaulay duration of a constituent bond \( i \) as of valuation day \( t \)

\( \text{ModDur}_{i,t} \)  
| Modified duration of a constituent bond \( i \) as of valuation day \( t \)

\( \text{Dval01}_{i,t} \)  
| Dollar duration of a constituent bond \( i \) as of valuation day \( t \)

\( \text{Convexity}_{i,t} \)  
| Convexity of a constituent bond \( i \) as of valuation day \( t \)

\( C_{i,t} \)  
| value of any coupon payment received from the bond \( i \) for the assumed settlement date at time \( t \). If none the value = 0

\( \text{Cash}_{t-1} \)  
| This is the cash amount in the index on the previous valuation date.

\( pr_t \)  
| the price of T-bill on valuation day \( t-1 \)

\( R_{i,t} \)  
| the redemption proceeds from constituent bond \( i \) as of valuation day \( t \)

**Clean Price Index (Capital Index)**

The clean price (\( PI \)) or capital index is given by

\[
PI_{i,0} = 100 \\
PI_{i,t} = PI_{i,t-1} \times \frac{\sum_i P_{i,t} \times N_{i,t-1}}{\sum_i P_{i,t-1} \times N_{i,t-1}}
\]
Total Return Index

The total return index (TRI) is given by

\[
TRI_{t,0} = 100 + \frac{\sum_i (P_{i,t} + A_{i,t} + C_t) \times N_{i,t} + \text{Cash}_t}{\sum_i (P_{i,t-1} + A_{i,t-1} + C_{t-1}) \times N_{i,t-1} + \text{Cash}_{t-1}}
\]

And Cash_i is given by:

\[
\text{Cash}_i = \text{Cash}_{i-1} \left[ \frac{p_{r,t}}{p_{r,t-1}} \right] + \sum R_{i,t}
\]

If t-1 is a rebalance day, then Cash_{t-1} is set to 0.

Average Coupon

The index level average coupon (C) is given by

\[
C_t = \frac{\sum_i (P_{i,t} + A_{i,t}) \times N_{i,t} \times \text{Coupon}_{i,t}}{\sum_i (P_{i,t} + A_{i,t}) \times N_{i,t}}
\]

Average Yield to Maturity

The index level average yield to maturity (Y) is given by

\[
Y_t = \frac{\sum_i (P_{i,t} + A_{i,t}) \times N_{i,t} \times y_{i,t}}{\sum_i (P_{i,t} + A_{i,t}) \times N_{i,t}}
\]

Average Macaulay Duration

The index level average Macaulay duration (D) is given by

\[
D_t = \frac{\sum_i (P_{i,t} + A_{i,t}) \times N_{i,t} \times \text{MacDur}_{i,t}}{\sum_i (P_{i,t} + A_{i,t}) \times N_{i,t}}
\]

Average Modified Duration

The index level average Modified duration (MD) is given by

\[
MD_t = \frac{\sum_i (P_{i,t} + A_{i,t}) \times N_{i,t} \times \text{ModDur}_{i,t}}{\sum_i (P_{i,t} + A_{i,t}) \times N_{i,t}}
\]

Average Value of 01

The index level average value of Dval01 (DV01) is given by

\[
DV01_t = \frac{\sum_i (P_{i,t} + A_{i,t}) \times N_{i,t} \times \text{Dval01}_{i,t}}{\sum_i (P_{i,t} + A_{i,t}) \times N_{i,t}}
\]

Average Convexity

The index level average convexity (Convx) is given by

\[
\text{Convx}_t = \frac{\sum_i (P_{i,t} + A_{i,t}) \times N_{i,t} \times \text{Convexity}_{i,t}}{\sum_i (P_{i,t} + A_{i,t}) \times N_{i,t}}
\]
Appendix B: Further Information

A Glossary of Terms used in FTSE Russell's Ground Rule documents can be found using the following link: 
Fixed_Income_Glossary_of_Terms.pdf

For further information on the FTSE Canada 1-10 Year Laddered Bond Index Series Ground Rules please visit www.ftserussell.com or e-mail info@ftserussell.com. Contact details can also be found on this website.