

Ground Rules



FTSE Saudi Arabian Government Bond Index

v1.3

Section 1

Introduction

1.0 Introduction

1.1 FTSE Saudi Arabian Government Bond Index

- 1.1.1 The FTSE Saudi Arabian Government Bond Index (SAGBI) measures the performance of fixed-rate, local-currency Saudi Arabian government bonds.
- 1.1.2 The FTSE Saudi Arabian Government Bond Index does not take account of ESG factors in its design.
- 1.1.3 The base currency of the FTSE Saudi Arabian Government Bond Index is Saudi Riyal (SAR).
- 1.1.4 Sub-indices are available by maturity, and for Sukuk and non-Sukuk.

1.2 FTSE Russell

FTSE Russell is a trading name of FTSE International Limited, Frank Russell Company, FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Limited (and its subsidiaries FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Inc. and FTSE Fixed Income Europe Limited), FTSE Fixed Income LLC, The Yield Book Inc. and Beyond Ratings.

- 1.2.1 FTSE Russell hereby notifies users of the index that it is possible that factors, including external factors beyond the control of FTSE Russell, may necessitate changes to, or the cessation, of the index and therefore, any financial contracts or other financial instruments that reference the index or investment funds which use the index to measure their performance should be able to withstand, or otherwise address the possibility of changes to, or cessation of, the index.
- 1.2.2 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 Russell for any losses, damages, claims and expenses suffered by any person as a result of:
 - any reliance on these Ground Rules, and/or
 - any errors or inaccuracies in these Ground Rules, and/or
 - any non-application or misapplication of the policies or procedures described in these Ground Rules, and/or
 - any errors or inaccuracies in the compilation of the Index or any constituent data.

Section 2

Management Responsibilities

2.0 Management Responsibilities

2.1 FTSE Fixed Income LLC (FTSE)

2.1.1 FTSE is the benchmark administrator of the index¹.

2.1.2 FTSE is responsible for the daily calculation, production and operation of the index series and will:

- maintain records of the index weightings of all constituents;
- make changes to the constituents and their weightings in accordance with the Ground Rules;
- carry out the periodic index reviews of the index series and apply the changes resulting from the reviews as required by the Ground Rules;
- disseminate the indices.

2.2 Amendments to these Ground Rules

2.2.1 These Ground Rules shall be subject to regular review (at least once a year) by FTSE Russell to ensure that they best reflect the aim 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 Index Governance Board before approval is granted.

2.2.2 As provided for in the Statement of Principles for FTSE Russell Fixed Income Indices, 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 Ground Rules should subsequently be updated to provide greater clarity.

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) and [The Benchmarks \(Amendment and Transitional Provision\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#) (the UK Benchmark Regulation). FTSE Fixed Income LLC administers the Index Series in line with the third country transitional provisions contained within Article 51(5) of the European Benchmark Regulation and the third country transitional provisions as amended by Article 42(5) of the UK Benchmark Regulation.

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 or by contacting fi.index@lseg.com. These policies are reviewed annually and any changes are approved by the FTSE Russell Product Governance Board.

3.1 Statement of Principles for FTSE Fixed Income Indices (the Statement of Principles)

Indices 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 Indices 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 Index Advisory Board for discussion before approval by the FTSE Russell Product Governance Board.

The Statement of Principles for Fixed Income Indices can be accessed using the following link:
[Statement of Principles Fixed Income Indices.pdf](#)

3.1 Queries and Complaints

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

[Benchmark Determination Complaints Handling Policy.pdf](#)

3.2 Recalculation Policy and Guidelines

The Recalculation Policy and Guidelines for Fixed Income Indices document is available from the FTSE Russell website using the link below or by contacting fi.index@lseg.com.

[Fixed Income Recalculation Policy and Guidelines.pdf](#)

3.3 Policy for Benchmark Methodology Changes

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

[Policy for Benchmark Methodology Changes.pdf](#)

3.4 FTSE Russell Governance Framework

3.4.1 To oversee its indices, FTSE Russell employs a governance framework that encompasses product, service and technology governance. The framework incorporates the London Stock Exchange Group's three lines of defence risk management framework and is designed to meet the requirements of the IOSCO Principles for Financial Benchmarks², the European benchmark regulation³ and the UK benchmark regulation⁴. The FTSE Russell Governance Framework can be accessed using the following link:

[FTSE_Russell_Governance_Framework.pdf](#)

² IOSCO Principles for Financial Benchmarks Final Report, FR07/13 July 2013

³ 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

⁴ The Benchmarks (Amendment and Transitional Provision) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

Section 4

Composition and Design Criteria

4.0 Composition and Design Criteria

Figure 1. Design criteria and calculation assumptions for the FTSE Saudi Arabian Government Bond Index

Coupon	Fixed-rate
Currency	Saudi Riyal (SAR)
Minimum maturity	One year
Minimum issue size	SAR 1 billion
Composition	Sukuk and non-Sukuk government bonds
Weighting	Market Capitalization
Rebalancing	Once a month at the end of the month
Reinvestment Rate	At daily average of the local-currency one-month Eurodeposit rate calculated from the actual scheduled payment date of the cash flow through the end of the reporting period
Pricing	Refinitiv 12 pm (London) / 3 pm (Riyadh)
Calculation frequency	Daily
Settlement date	Monthly: Settlement is on the last calendar day of the month. Daily: Same day settlement except if the last business day of the month is not the last calendar day of the month; then, settlement is on the last calendar day of the month.
Fixing date	Each month, the upcoming month's index constituents are "fixed" on the profile fixing date. The profile fixing dates for each year are available on the website at www.yieldbook.com/m/indices/ .
Base date	February 28, 2020

4.1 Holiday calendar

4.1.1 The index is calculated Monday through Friday except Christmas Day (observed) and New Year's Day (observed). The trading calendar for Saudi Arabia is Sunday through Thursday. Since index performance is calculated based on a Monday-Friday calendar, Friday's prices will be rolled from Thursday. If Saudi Arabia's last trading day of the month is a Sunday, the end-of-month pricing will be rolled from Thursday. Each local market will observe its own holiday calendar; if a local market is on holiday, the closing prices used for that day will be the closing prices from the previous day.

4.2 Index quality

4.2.1 An index quality is assigned to each index bond as of profile fixing. The quality is first mapped to the Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC ("S&P") rating. If a bond is not rated by S&P but it is rated by Moody's Investors Service, Inc ("Moody's"), the S&P equivalent of the Moody's rating is assigned to the index quality. If a bond is rated by neither S&P nor Moody's, the bond is not assigned an index quality. If a bond is rated as investment-grade by one rating agency and high-yield by the other, the S&P equivalent of the investment-grade rating is assigned to the index quality. These ratings remain unchanged for the entire performance month.

4.3 Return computation

4.3.1 Total returns are computed on the assumption that each security is purchased at the beginning of the period and sold at the end of the period. An issue's total rate of return is the percentage change in its total value over the measurement period (see Figure 1). The components of total return are price change, principal payments, coupon payments, accrued interest, and reinvestment income on intra-month cash flows. The total returns use each individual security's beginning-of-period market value.

Figure 2. Total rate of return calculation methodology

Beginning-of-period value	-	(Beginning price + Beginning accrued) x Beginning par amount outstanding
End-of-period value	-	[(Ending price + Ending accrued) x (Beginning par amount outstanding – Principal payments)] + Coupon payments + Principal payments + Reinvestment income
Total rate of return (%)	-	[(End-of-period value / Beginning-of-period value) – 1] x 100

A note on precision: Returns are computed to at least six decimal places but reported to a maximum of four. In addition, owing to rounding errors inherent in computer floating-point arithmetic, the last digit in any reported value may sometimes be off by one from its true value.

4.4 Exchange rates

4.4.1 The closing WM/Refinitiv Spot Rates and the WM/Refinitiv Forward Rates, provided by Refinitiv, are used. WM takes several snapshots at regular intervals centered on the fixing time of 4:00 p.m. London time and selects the median rate for each currency. All rates are mid-market quotations.

4.5 Data availability and accessibility

4.5.1 Index information, including index profiles, analytics and returns, and historical data, for the FTSE Saudi Arabian Government Bond Index is available on <https://www.yieldbook.com/m/indices>. FTSE Russell also makes data for its indices available through a number of data and analytic vendors.

Chronological summary of events

Figure 3. FTSE Saudi Arabian Government Bond Index Event Summary

Year	Highlight
2020	July: FTSE Saudi Arabian Government Bond Index is introduced.

Appendix A: Further Information

For contact details please visit the FTSE Russell website or contact FTSE Russell client services at fi.index@lseg.com.

Website: www.ftserussell.com

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