

The BofA Merrill Lynch B & Lower Emerging Markets Corporate Plus Index (EM4B)

The BofA Merrill Lynch B & Lower Emerging Markets Corporate Plus Index is a subset of The BofA Merrill Lynch Emerging Markets Corporate Plus Index including all securities rated B1 or lower.

Inception date: December 31, 1998

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The BofA Merrill Lynch Emerging Markets Corporate Plus Index tracks the performance of U.S. dollar and euro denominated emerging markets non-sovereign debt publicly issued in the major domestic and eurobond markets. In order to qualify for inclusion in the Index an issuer must have risk exposure to countries other than members of the FX G10, all Western European countries, and territories of the U.S. and Western European countries. Individual securities of qualifying issuers must be denominated in U.S. dollars or euro, must have at least one year remaining term to final maturity and a fixed coupon. In addition, investment grade rated bonds of qualifying issuers must have at least 250 million (EUR or USD) in outstanding face value, while below investment grade rated bonds must have at least 100 million (EUR/USD) in outstanding face value. The index includes corporate and quasi-government debt of qualifying countries, but excludes sovereign and supranational debt. Original issue zero coupon bonds, "global" securities (debt issued simultaneously in the eurobond and US domestic bond markets), 144a securities and pay-in-kind securities, including toggle notes, qualify for inclusion in the Index. Callable perpetual securities qualify provided they are at least one year from the first call date. Fixed-to-floating rate securities also qualify provided they are callable within the fixed rate period and are at least one year from the last call prior to the date the bond transitions from a fixed to a floating rate security. Defaulted securities are excluded from the Index.

Inception date: December 31, 1998

The above rules take into account all revisions up to and including December 31, 2010

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