

# NASDAQ US Buyback Achievers™ Index Methodology

## Index Description

The NASDAQ US Buyback Achievers Index is comprised of United States (US) securities issued by corporations that have effected a net reduction in shares outstanding of 5% or more in the trailing 12 months.

## Index Calculation

The NASDAQ US Buyback Achievers Index is a modified market capitalization weighted index. The value of the Index equals the aggregate value of the Index share weights, also known as the Index Shares, of each of the Index Securities multiplied by each security's Last Sale Price<sup>1</sup>, and divided by the divisor of the Index. The divisor serves the purpose of scaling such aggregate value to a lower order of magnitude which is more desirable for Index reporting purposes. The Index began on December 20, 2006 at a base value of 4694.05.

The formula for index value is as follows:

$$\text{Aggregate Adjusted Market Value/Divisor}$$

The formula for the divisor is as follows:

$$(\text{Market Value after Adjustments/Market Value before Adjustments}) \times \text{Divisor before Adjustments}$$

Four versions of the Index are calculated – a price return index, a total return index, a net total return and a notional net total return.

- The price return index (Nasdaq: DRB) is ordinarily calculated without regard to cash dividends on Index Securities.
- The total return index (Nasdaq: DRBTR) reinvests cash dividends on the ex-date.
- The net total return index (Nasdaq: DRBN) reinvests cash dividends on the ex-date and adjusts for an Index Security's country of incorporation withholding rate. The net total return index began on May 19, 2014 at a base value of 1000.00.
- The notional net total return index (Nasdaq: DRBNNR) is designed to reflect a net total return index reinvesting 70% of cash dividends, and factors in a deduction based on an indicative 30% tax rate. The notional net total return index began on May 19, 2014 at a base value of 1000.00.

All Indexes reflect extraordinary cash distributions.

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this document, Last Sale Price refers to the last regular way trade reported on such security's Index Market. The Index Market is the listing market for which prices are received and used by Nasdaq in the Index calculation and generally will represent the most liquid trading market of the Index Security. If a security does not trade on its Index Market on a given day or the Index Market has not opened for trading, the most recent last sale price from the Index Market (adjusted for corporate actions, if any) is used. For securities where Nasdaq is the Index Market, the Last Sale Price may be the Nasdaq Official Closing Price (NOCP) when Nasdaq is closed.

The Indexes are calculated and disseminated once per second from 9:30:01 to 17:16:00 Eastern Time (ET) in USD. The closing value of the Index(es) may change up until 17:15:00 ET due to corrections to the Last Sale Price of the Index Securities.

## **Eligibility**

Index eligibility is limited to specific security types only. The security types eligible for the Index include common stocks, limited partnership interests, shares or units of beneficial interest and shares of limited liability companies.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for inclusion in the Index a security must meet the following criteria:

- be listed on The Nasdaq Stock Market® (Nasdaq®), the New York Stock Exchange, NYSE American, or the CBOE Exchange;
- the issuer of the security must be incorporated in the United States or certain benefit driven countries;
- the security must have a minimum average daily cash volume of \$500 thousand in October, November and December;
- the issuer of the security must have effected a net reduction in shares outstanding of 5% or more in the trailing 12 months;
- one security per issuer is permitted;
- the issuer of the security may not have entered into a definitive agreement or other arrangement which would likely result in the security no longer being Index eligible; and
- the issuer of the security may not be issued by an issuer currently in bankruptcy proceedings.

## **Index Evaluation**

The Index Securities are evaluated annually in January. The above Eligibility Criteria are applied by Ford Equity Research with the exception of the last 2 bullets which are applied by Nasdaq, using market data through the end of December. Securities meeting the criteria are included in the Index. Security additions and deletions are made effective after the close of trading on the last trade day in January.

Additionally, if at any time during the year other than the Evaluation, an Index Security no longer meets the last two Eligibility Criteria, or is otherwise determined to have become ineligible for inclusion in the Index, the security is removed from the Index and is not replaced. In all cases, a security is removed from the Index at its Last Sale Price. If, however, at the time of its removal the Index Security is halted from trading on its primary listing market and an official closing price cannot readily be determined, the Index Security may, in Nasdaq's discretion, be removed at a zero price. The zero price will be applied to the Index Security after the close of the market but prior to the time the official closing value of the Index is disseminated, which is ordinarily 17:16:00 ET.

## **Index Maintenance**

Changes in the price and/or Index Shares driven by corporate events such as stock dividends, stock splits and certain spin-offs and rights issuances are adjusted on the ex-date. If the change in total shares outstanding arising from other corporate actions is greater than or equal to 10.0%, the change is made as soon as practicable. Otherwise, if the change in total shares outstanding is less than 10.0%, then all such changes are

accumulated and made effective at one time on a quarterly basis after the close of trading on the last trading day in January, April, July and October, respectively. Intraquarter, the Index Shares are adjusted by the same percentage amount by which the total shares outstanding have changed.

A special cash dividend announced by the listing exchange, will result in an adjustment to the Last Sale Price of an Index Security prior to market open on the ex-date for the special amount distributed. A special dividend may also be referred to as extra, extraordinary, non-recurring, one-time, unusual, etc.

Ordinarily, whenever there is a change in Index Shares, a change in an Index Security or a change to the price of an Index Security due to spin-offs, rights issuances or special cash dividends as mentioned above, the divisor is adjusted to ensure that there is no discontinuity in the value of the Index which might otherwise be caused by any such change. All changes are announced in advance and are reflected in the Index prior to market open on the Index effective date.

### **Index Rebalancing**

The Index employs a modified market capitalization weighted methodology. At each quarter, the Index is rebalanced such that the maximum weight of any Index Security does not exceed 5%. The excess weight of any capped security is distributed proportionally across the remaining Index Securities.

The modified market capitalization weighted methodology is applied to the capitalization of each Index Security, using the Last Sale Price of the security at the close of trading on the last trading day in December, March, June and September and after applying quarterly changes to the total shares outstanding. Index Shares are then calculated by multiplying the weight of the security derived above by the new market value of the Index and dividing the modified market capitalization for each Index Security by its corresponding Last Sale Price. The changes are effective after the close of trading on the last day in January, April, July and October.

Nasdaq may, from time to time, exercise reasonable discretion as it deems appropriate in order to ensure Index integrity.