

# ***BlueStar Fintech Index***

## **Index Methodology Guide 1.1**

### **Issue Date:**

December 21, 2017

### **Produced by:**

BlueStar Global Investors, LLC d/b/a BlueStar Indexes  
1350 Avenue of the Americas, Fourth Floor, New York, NY 1009  
[www.bluestarindexes.com](http://www.bluestarindexes.com)

The information contained in this document is current as of the publication date and is subject to change without notice. BlueStar Indexes will not accept responsibility for damages, direct or indirect, caused by any error or omission in this document.

The BlueStar Indexes logo is a service mark of BlueStar Global Investors LLC. The BlueStar Israel Global Index® is a trademark of BlueStar Global Investors LLC.

©2017 BlueStar Global Investors LLC. All Rights Reserved.

## Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction and Index Description .....	4
Chapter 2: Index Construction .....	5
2.1 Base Date and Value .....	5
2.2 Component Eligibility Requirements .....	5
2.3 Initial Component Selection .....	6
2.4 Dividend Treatment .....	6
2.5 Index Equations .....	7
Chapter 3: Index Maintenance .....	9
3.1 Divisor Changes .....	9
3.2 Details of Share Changes .....	9
3.3 Scheduled Component Changes and Review .....	9
3.4 Interim Component Changes .....	10
3.5 Unscheduled Component Weight Adjustments .....	10
Chapter 4: Index Calculation and Dissemination .....	12
4.1 Price Calculation .....	12
4.2 Calculation Frequency and Dissemination .....	12
4.3 Input Data .....	12
4.4 Data Corrections .....	13
Appendices .....	14
Appendix A. BlueStar Fintech Index Constituents .....	15
Appendix B. Index Stats and Allocations .....	16
Appendix C. Document Change History .....	16

## Chapter 1: Introduction and Index Description

This document summarizes the methodology and rules used to construct, calculate, and maintain the BlueStar Fintech Index (“BFNQ”).

BFNQ is a rules-based index that tracks the performance of a group of globally-listed stocks of companies involved in a range of industries, collectively defined, by BlueStar Indexes, as Financial Technology or “Fintech” companies. Index components are reviewed semi-annually for eligibility, and the weights are re-set accordingly.

Companies may not apply, and may not be nominated for inclusion in the Index. Companies are added or removed by BlueStar based on the methodology described herein. The BlueStar Index Advisory Committee advises on index methodology and decisions related to the definition of which companies shall be considered Fintech companies. Whenever possible, BlueStar will publicly announce changes to the index on its website at least five trading days in advance of the actual change. The Index is calculated and maintained by Standard & Poor’s based on a methodology developed by BlueStar.

BFNQ is calculated on a price, total return and net total return basis in real-time. The net total return index is disseminated in real-time via the CME Group, Inc (CME) and market data vendors every day the exchange of at least one index component is open. Real-time index values for the net total return index are available on Bloomberg by entering “BFNQNTR INDEX <GO>”, and end-of-day values are freely available on BlueStar’s website, [www.bluestarindexes.com](http://www.bluestarindexes.com), and/or through market data vendors.

## Chapter 2: Index Construction

This chapter outlines and defines the key steps in constructing and calculating the index, including: eligibility requirements, formulas, initial component selection, and special adjustments

### 2.1 Base Date and Value

BFNQ has the following variants, base dates and values:

Name	Index Symbol	Base Date	Base Value
BlueStar Fintech Index (Price Index)	BFNQ	June 29, 2012	100
BlueStar Fintech Index Total Return	BFNQTR	June 29, 2012	100
BlueStar Fintech Index Net Total Return	BFNQNTR	June 29, 2012	100

### 2.2 Component Eligibility Requirements

All the following requirements must be met for a company's security to be included in BFNQ:

1. BlueStar screens a universe of roughly 10,000 global securities for companies whose primary business activity is related to one of the following industries: banking and credit card software, bitcoin and blockchain technology, enterprise transaction and accounting technology, payment processing software and point-of-sale systems, or securities and asset trading technology. Collectively, companies involved in those industries are referred to as Fintech companies. BlueStar screens company descriptions on bona-fide sources such as Bloomberg LP, as well as company annual filings and websites to identify the global universe of Fintech companies.
2. Companies included in the global universe of Fintech companies are then screened to meet Index market capitalization and liquidity criteria. Only those companies included in the global universe of Fintech companies which have a free-float percentage greater than 10%, market capitalization of at least \$150 million USD equivalent and a six-month average daily value traded of at least \$500,000 USD equivalent will be selected for inclusion in the index. For securities that do not have six months of average daily value traded data available, three months of data will be used and their eligibility for inclusion will be reviewed by the BlueStar Index Advisory Committee, which will consider factors such as liquidity over the time frame for which data is available and market capitalization.
3. Securities denominated only in the following currencies may be included in the index:

Currencies			
US Dollar	Australian Dollar	Israeli Shekel	Japanese Yen
Euro	Canadian Dollar	British Pound	Swiss Franc

BlueStar will, in most cases, use the quantitative ranking and screening system described herein. However, subjective screening based on fundamental analysis or other factors may be used if, in the opinion of BlueStar Indexes, certain components should be included or excluded.

## 2.3 Initial Component Selection

The following steps are taken to select the initial components for BFNQ at each semi-annual rebalance period:

1. Establish the list of index components according to Chapter 2.2
2. Determine the index weight of each security in the list of index components:
  - a. If the number of non-US-listed securities is 25% or less of the total number of components in the index, then the individual security weights will be determined as follows. Otherwise the individual security weights will be determined as described in Chapter 3.b, below

$$W_i = \frac{1}{N}$$

Where:

$W_i$  = Weight for component  $i$   
 $N$  = Total number of index components

- b. If the number of non-US-listed securities is greater than 25% of the total number of components in the index, then the individual security weights will be determined as follows.

$$W_{US_i} = 0.75 * \left( \frac{1}{N_{US}} \right) \quad \text{AND} \quad W_{XUS_i} = 0.25 * \left( \frac{1}{N_{XUS}} \right)$$

Where:

$W_{US_i}$  = Weight for US-listed component  $i$   
 $W_{XUS_i}$  = Weight for non-US-listed component  $i$   
 $N_{US}$  = Total number of US-listed index components  
 $N_{XUS}$  = Total number of non-US-listed index components

## 2.4 Dividend Treatment

The price index does not take normal dividend payments into account. Dividends are accounted for by reinvesting them daily. BFNQ uses the ex-dividend date to determine the total daily dividends for each day. Special dividends require an index advisor adjustment, as described in Chapter 3, to prevent such distributions from distorting the price index.

## 2.5 Index Equations

- The price index is calculated using the following basic equations:

$$I_{(t)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n P_{i(t)} * S_{i(t)}}{D_{(t)}}$$

Where:

$I_{(t)}$  = Index value at time  $(t)$   
 $D_{(t)}$  = Divisor at time  $(t)$   
 $n$  = Number of stocks in the index  
 $t$  = The time that the index is calculated  
 $P_{i(t)}$  = Price of stock  $i$  at time  $t$  in USD terms  
 $S_{i(t)}$  = Number of assigned shares of stock  $i$  at time  $t$

Where:

$$D_{(t)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n P_{i(t-1)} * S_{i(t-1)}}{I_{(t-1)}}$$

Where:

$I_{(t-1)}$  = Index value at time  $t-1$   
 $D_{(t)}$  = Divisor at time  $t$   
 $n$  = Number of stocks in the index  
 $P_{i(t-1)}$  = Closing price of stock  $i$  at time  $t-1$  in USD terms  
 $S_{i(t-1)}$  = Number of assigned shares of stock  $i$  at time  $t-1$

Where:

$$D_{(0)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n P_{i(0)} * S_{i(0)}}{I_{(0)}}$$

Where:

$I_{(0)}$  = Index value at time  $0$  100  
 $D_{(0)}$  = Divisor at time  $0$   
 $n$  = Number of stocks in the index  
 $P_{i(t-1)}$  = Closing price of stock  $i$  at time  $0$  in USD terms  
 $S_{i(t-1)}$  = Number of assigned shares of stock  $i$  at time  $0$

- Assigned shares are the number of shares needed for each component such that the component conforms to the weighting distribution outlined in Chapter 2.3.2
- Changes to the index composition require divisor adjustments to retain index continuity before and after specific events, as outlined in Chapter 3. Divisor changes are made according to the following equation:

$$D_{(t+1)} = D_{(t)} * \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n P_{i(t+1)} * S_{i(t+1)}}{\sum_{i=1}^n P_{i(t)} * S_{i(t)}}$$

Where:

$D_{(t+1)}$  = Initial Divisor after changes are made to the index



## Chapter 3: Index Maintenance

This chapter describes the circumstances that require index changes, as well as the details on performing those changes

### 3.1 Divisor Changes

Changes to the index composition due to corporate actions or component eligibility changes will require adjustments to the index divisor, as follows:

#### *Spinoff\**

1. Subtract the following from the price of the parent company:

$$\frac{\text{Spinoff stock price}}{\text{Share exchange ratio}}$$

2. Adjust the component's assigned shares such that its weighting is not changed because of the spinoff

#### *Special Cash Dividend*

1. Subtract special dividend from share price

#### *Rights Offering*

1. Subtract the following from the price of the parent company:

$$\frac{\text{Price of rights}}{\text{Rights ratio}}$$

2. Adjust the component's assigned shares such that its weighting is not changed because of the rights offering

Divisor changes are usually made on the date the corporate action becomes effective. For example, BFNQ uses the ex-dividend date rather than the payment date to determine when making divisor adjustments.

\*If a company being spun-off is only trading on a "when-issued" basis, the "when-issued" price will be used to adjust the parent company's closing price.

### 3.2 Details of Share Changes

Stock splits and reverse splits do not require index divisor adjustments because the corresponding change to the stock price equally offsets the number of assigned shares, therefore not affecting the component's influence in the index.

### 3.3 Scheduled Component Changes and Review

BFNQ has a semi-annual review in June and December of each year. Fundamental data, prices and trading volumes are captured on the Tuesday before the second Friday of June and December. The new number of assigned shares for each component is determined based on the component's weight as

determined in 2.3 and the closing price of that component on the Tuesday before the second Friday of June and December. Component changes are announced and made available after the close on the second Friday of June and December. Component changes are made after the close on the third Friday of June and December and are effective at the opening on the Monday following the third Friday of June and December.

### 3.4 Interim Component Changes

1. Component changes may occur between regularly-scheduled review periods if a specific corporate event makes an existing component ineligible. The following events may require a component's removal or replacement:

#### *Merger or Acquisition*

If a merger or acquisition results in one component absorbing another, the resulting company will remain a component and the absorbed company will be removed or replaced. If a non-component company absorbs a component company, the original component will be removed, unless the non-component company, after absorbing the assets of the component company, would be considered a Fintech company as described in Chapter 2.2. If a component is the target of an acquisition BlueStar may decide to remove or reduce the weight of that component after the "go-shop" period concludes in order to reduce potential volatility or liquidity risk in the index.

#### *Spin-Off*

If a company splits or spins off a portion of its business to form one or more new companies, the resulting company with the highest market value will remain a component if it meets the eligibility requirement. The remaining companies will be evaluated for eligibility and possible addition to the index.

#### *Bankruptcy*

A component company will be removed and replaced immediately after bankruptcy filing. Exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis. For example, a security may not be removed immediately if bankruptcy filing is not the result of operating or financial difficulties.

#### *Delisting*

A component company will be removed or replaced immediately after being delisted from its primary market.

Whenever possible, interim component changes are announced on BlueStar's publicly-available website at least three trading days prior to component changes becoming effective.

### 3.5 Unscheduled Component Weight Adjustments

Unscheduled component weight adjustments may occur between review periods if any component's weight increases by more than 300% from the component's weight at the most recent Index rebalance date. The weight of any such component will be reduced to the weight of the next-highest-weighted component. The absolute weight limit for any component between rebalance periods shall be 25%

December 21, 2017



If the aggregate weight of non-US-listed securities rises above 29% between regularly-scheduled rebalance periods, the index components will be rebalanced such that the aggregate weight of all non-US-listed securities will be 25% or less of the total index.

Whenever possible, unscheduled component weight adjustments are announced on BlueStar's publicly available website at least three trading days prior to the adjustments becoming effective.

## Chapter 4: Index Calculation and Dissemination

This chapter summarizes calculation and dissemination practices, quality assurance practices, and the circumstances requiring calculation corrections.

### 4.1 Price Calculation

Price, total return, and net total return indexes for BFNQ are calculated by Standard & Poor's on both an end-of-day and real-time basis. The BFNQ is calculated using the last traded price for each company in the Index from the relevant exchanges and markets.

Index values are rounded to two decimal places and divisors are rounded to 14 decimal places.

### 4.2 Calculation Frequency and Dissemination

BFNQ is calculated on a real-time basis beginning when the first traded price of any of the Index components is received by Standard & Poor's. Prices are delivered to CME every 15 seconds and subsequently published at that frequency. Net total return index values are available on a real-time basis through the Bloomberg information system under the index symbol "BFNQNTR INDEX". End-of-day net total return index values are posted on BlueStar's publicly available website, [www.ise.com](http://www.ise.com).

If the exchange a stock is listed on is closed or if trading in a stock is suspended prior to the market opening, the stock's adjusted closing price from the previous day will be used in the Index calculation until trading commences. If trading in a stock is suspended while the relevant market is open, the last traded price for that stock will be used for all subsequent Index calculations until trading resumes.

### 4.3 Input Data

Standard & Poor's uses various quality assurance tools to audit, monitor, and maintain the accuracy of its input data. While every reasonable effort is taken to ensure high standards of data integrity, there is no guarantee against errors. Please refer to the Data Correction section for more detail.

The index closing price is calculated using the closing prices issued by the primary exchange for each component stock in the index. If the primary exchange changes the closing price of a component stock, the new price will be used to calculate the index closing price. A final check of closing prices is done between one hour and one and one-half hours after the close of markets. This timeframe may be expanded at S&P's discretion on days where trading volume is unusually large at the close. For example, futures and options expiration dates, and large index rebalancing dates often result in unusually large volume. Only changes received prior to this final check are used in the closing price calculation.

Real time index prices are calculated using spot prices for foreign exchange rates throughout each trading day. Official end-of-day index values are calculated using Reuters spot rates which are captured at 12:00 GMT.

#### **4.4 Data Corrections**

Incorrect index component data, corporate action data, or Index Divisors will be corrected upon detection. If such errors are discovered within five days of occurrence, they will be corrected that same day. If discovered after five days, adjustments will be handled on a case-by-case basis depending on the significance of the error and the feasibility of a correction.

Incorrect intraday index tick data will not be corrected. However, incorrect opening and closing values will be corrected as soon as possible after detection.

## **Appendices**

This section provides additional information related to BFNQ as well as changes to this document.

## Appendix A. BlueStar Fintech Index Constituents

As of June 30, 2017

Company Name	Ticker	Exchange	Weight
Aci Worldwide Inc	ACIW	Nasdaq	2.04%
Atos Se	ATO	EN Paris	2.04%
Bancorp Inc/The	TBBK	Nasdaq	2.04%
Blackline Inc	BL	Nasdaq	2.04%
Bottomline Technologies (De)	EPAY	Nasdaq	2.04%
Btl Group Ltd	BTL	Venture	2.04%
Cass Information Systems Inc	CASS	Nasdaq	2.04%
Dh Corp	DH	Toronto	2.04%
Dst Systems Inc	DST	NYSE	2.04%
Investnet Inc	ENV	NYSE	2.04%
Euronet Worldwide Inc	EEFT	Nasdaq	2.04%
Evertec Inc	EVTC	NYSE	2.04%
Fidelity National Info Serv	FIS	NYSE	2.04%
Fintech Group Ag	FTK	Xetra	2.04%
First Data Corp- Class A	FDC	NYSE	2.04%
Fiserv Inc	FISV	Nasdaq	2.04%
Gft Technologies Se	GFT	Xetra	2.04%
Global Payments Inc	GPN	NYSE	2.04%
Green Dot Corp-class A	GDOT	NYSE	2.04%
Guidewire Software Inc	GWRE	NYSE	2.04%
Healthequity Inc	HQY	Nasdaq	2.04%
Hypoport Ag	HYQ	Xetra	2.04%
Ingenico Group	ING	EN Paris	2.04%
Intuit Inc	INTU	Nasdaq	2.04%
Lendingclub Corp	LC	NYSE	2.04%
Net 1 Ueps Technologies Inc	UEPS	Nasdaq	2.04%
Nic Inc	EGOV	Nasdaq	2.04%
Nice Ltd - Spon Adr	NICE	Nasdaq	2.04%
On Deck Capital Inc	ONDK	NYSE	2.04%
Paypal Holdings Inc	PYPL	Nasdaq	2.04%
Paypoint Plc	PAY	London	2.04%
Paysafe Group Plc	PAYS	London	2.04%
Pegasystems Inc	PEGA	Nasdaq	2.04%
Q2 Holdings Inc	QTwo	NYSE	2.04%
QIWI Plc-sponsored Adr	QIWI	Nasdaq	2.04%
Safecharge International Gro	SCH	London	2.04%
Square Inc - A	SQ	NYSE	2.04%
Ss&c Technologies Holdings	SSNC	Nasdaq	2.04%
Syntel Inc	SYNT	Nasdaq	2.04%
Temenos Group Ag-reg	TEMN	SIX Swiss	2.04%
Total System Services Inc	TSS	NYSE	2.04%
Usa Technologies Inc	USAT	Nasdaq	2.04%
Vantiv Inc - Cl A	VNTV	NYSE	2.04%
Verifone Systems Inc	PAY	NYSE	2.04%
Verisk Analytics Inc	VRSK	Nasdaq	2.04%
Wex Inc	WEX	NYSE	2.04%
Wirecard Ag	WDI	Xetra	2.04%
Worldline Sa	WLN	EN Paris	2.04%
Yirendai Ltd - Adr	YRD	NYSE	2.04%

## Appendix B. Index Stats and Allocations

*As of June 30, 2017*

Geographic Breakdown		
Geographic Breakdown	Number	Weight
US	36	73%
Europe	8	16%
London	3	6%
Toronto	1	2%
Switzerland	1	2%
Sector Breakdown		
Sector Breakdown	Number	Weight
Information Technology	40	82%
Financials	6	12%
Industrials	2	4%
Health Care	1	2%
Totals		
Totals	Number	Weight
Total	49	100%

## Appendix C. Document Change History

A history of significant changes to this document is shown in the table below

Issue	Date	Change
1.0	October 26, 2017	Initial publication
1.1	December 21, 2017	Specification of FX rate used for end of day values