



iShares ESG Advanced MSCI Canada Index ETF



iShares ESG Advanced MSCI USA Index ETF



iShares ESG Advanced MSCI EAFE Index ETF

### Key benefits:

- Potential for better long-term investment outcomes
- Extensive screening allows for ESG risk mitigation
- Quality products at low cost

### Advanced integration of sustainability-related insights

The iShares ESG Advanced MSCI Index ETFs (“ESG Advanced ETFs”) are designed for investors with high conviction in sustainable investing. The funds prioritize access to higher-rated ESG companies while extensively screen out controversial industries that may pose elevated ESG risks.

Key Facts	iShares ESG Advanced MSCI Canada Index ETF	iShares ESG Advanced MSCI USA Index ETF	iShares ESG Advanced MSCI EAFE Index ETF
<b>ETF Ticker</b>	XCSR	XUSR	XDSR
<b>Management Fee</b>	0.15%	0.20%	0.25%
<b>Number of underlying holdings</b>	127	287	521
<b>Inception Date</b>	Apr 15, 2020	Apr 15, 2020	Apr 15, 2020
<b>Index Name</b>	MSCI Canada IMI Choice ESG Screened 10% Issuer Capped Index	MSCI USA Choice ESG Screened Index	MSCI EAFE Choice ESG Screened Index

Source: BlackRock; Data as of Jul 7, 2020



### 1. Potential for better long-term investment outcomes

The ESG Advanced suite considers environmental, social, and governance (ESG) related risks, both by selecting higher-rated ESG companies (with MSCI ESG Rating of “BBB” or above ) and by screening out controversial businesses.

We think a transformative shift is taking place in financial markets as investors grow increasingly wary about allocating capital to companies that fail to demonstrate a commitment to sustainability. Our view is that material ESG risks have not been fully priced into asset values by the market. By integrating ESG considerations into investment decision-making processes, investors are better able to assess a company’s long-term risk and enhance their portfolio’s long-term returns.

## 2. Extensive screening allows for ESG risk mitigation

The ESG Advanced suite applies extensive ESG screens to exclude controversial industries with elevated ESG risks and to exclude companies that are involved in severe ESG controversies.

- **Controversies:** the funds exclude companies that are involved in very serious ESG controversies. The controversy evaluation framework is designed to be consistent with international norms represented by the United Nations (“UN”) Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labor Organization (“ILO”) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and the UN Global Compact.
- **Fossil fuels:** the funds incorporate strong screenings to fossil fuels-related companies by excluding all businesses with an industry tie to fossil fuels (thermal coal, oil and gas). An exception is provided to companies with over 50% revenue from renewable energy and alternative fuels.
- **Business involvement:** the funds exclude 13 industries that are potentially subject to elevated ESG risks and headline risks. These industries include Adult Entertainment, Alcohol, Civilian Firearms, Controversial Weapons, Conventional Weapons, For-Profit Prisons, Gambling, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), Nuclear Power, Nuclear Weapons, Palm Oil, Predatory Lending and Tobacco.

As illustrated below, the resulting ESG Advanced portfolios have significantly higher ESG scores, larger portfolio weights to ESG Leaders, lower carbon intensities, and fewer controversies compared with the broad market portfolios.

### ESG Characteristics

Asset Class	Category	Fund name & ticker	ESG Overall Quality Score	% of ESG Leaders	Weighted Avg Carbon Intensity	Very Severe Controversy (%)
Canada	ESG Advanced	iShares ESG Advanced MSCI Canada Index ETF (XUSR)	6.9	42.9	156.1	0.0
	Broad Market	iShares Core S&P/TSX Capped Composite Index ETF (XIC)	6.2	28.7	233.6	1.9
U.S.	ESG Advanced	iShares ESG Advanced MSCI USA Index ETF (XUSR)	7.8	42.2	74.3	0.0
	Broad Market	iShares Core S&P 500 Index ETF (XUS)	5.7	22.9	179.2	1.9
International Developed	ESG Advanced	iShares ESG Advanced MSCI EAFE Index ETF (XDSR)	7.9	51.1	79.2	0.0
	Broad Market	iShares MSCI EAFE Index ETF (CAD-Hedged) (XIN)	7.0	39.9	198.6	4.7

Source: BlackRock, MSCI; Based on holding data as of May 31, 2020

## 3. Quality products at low cost

The iShares ESG Advanced ETFs take into consideration multiple aspects of ESG risks and opportunities, and integrate a deep and rich data set from MSCI ESG Research, a leading ESG rating company. The ESG Advanced ETFs consider ESG quality ratings, controversies, and material business involvements.

At the same time, these ETFs are offered at very low management fees, ranging from 0.15% - 0.25%. This lowers the hurdle for those who want to act, and ensures accessibility to these important investment strategies.

## Index Methodology

	MSCI Canada IMI Choice ESG Screened 10% Issuer Capped Index	MSCI USA Choice ESG Screened Index	MSCI EAFE Choice ESG Screened Index
<b>1. Screening</b>			
<b>ESG Ratings</b>	ESG Rating >= BBB		
<b>Controversies</b>	Exclude companies with a Controversy Score of 0 (i.e. Very Severe Controversy)	Exclude companies with a Controversy Score less than 3	Exclude companies with a Controversy Score less than 3
<b>Fossil Fuels</b>	Exclude all businesses with an industry tie to fossil fuels (thermal coal, oil and gas). An exception is provided to companies with over 50% revenue from renewable energy and alternative fuels.		
<b>Other screens</b>	Exclude businesses with business involvement in: Adult Entertainment, Alcohol, Civilian Firearms, Controversial Weapons, Conventional Weapons, For Profit Prisons, Gambling, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), Nuclear Power, Nuclear Weapons, Palm Oil, Predatory Lending, Tobacco		
	Exclude Cannabis	-	-
<b>2. Weighting</b>			
	Market cap weighted, with 10% issuer cap	Market cap weighted	Market cap weighted
<b>3. Rebalancing</b>			
	Quarterly		

## Definitions

- **ESG Leaders:** Companies leading their industry in managing the most material ESG risks and opportunities. i.e. companies with an 'AAA' & 'AA' MSCI ESG Rating. Leading companies may be more resilient to disruptions arising from ESG events.
- **MSCI ESG Controversy Score:** The score signals whether a company has a notable controversy related to the company's operations and/or products, and signals the severity of the social or environmental impact of the controversy. The score is on a 0-10 scale, with 0 meaning having the most severe controversy and 10 meaning having no notable controversy.
- **MSCI ESG Quality Score:** The score is calculated as the weighted average of the underlying holdings' ESG Scores. It is provided on a 0-10 scale, with 0 and 10 being the respective lowest and highest possible fund scores. MSCI rates underlying holdings according to their exposure to 37 industry specific ESG risks and their ability to manage those risks relative to peers. These issuer-level ESG ratings correspond to an issuer-level ESG Score.

MSCI ESG Quality Score Range			Description
Min.	Max		
7.0	10.0	→	Very High
6.0	6.9	→	High
5.0	5.9	→	Average
4.0	4.9	→	Low
0.0	3.9	→	Very Low

- **Very Severe Controversy (%):** represents the percentage of a portfolio's market value coming from holdings involved in very severe controversial events (i.e. an MSCI ESG Controversy Score of 0). An ESG controversy is an event reported by verifiable sources detailing a negative environmental, social, or governance-related impact linked to a company or multiple companies.
- **Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (tCO<sub>2</sub>e / \$M sales)** which is a measure of the fund's exposure to carbon intensive companies. The figure is the sum of security weight (normalized for corporate positions only) multiplied by the security Carbon Intensity.

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