# **Reimagined Indexing** *Can the "Gold Standard" of Cap-Weighting be Improved?*





#### The Genesis of Indexation

- The first index fund strategies appeared in 1972 and 1973.
- The Efficient Market Hypothesis and CAPM support indexing.
- As indexing gained adherents, performance that differed from the benchmark has been viewed as an unwelcome (and usually uncompensated) source of risk.
- As indexers crowd their trading into the "effective date" for any index change, they move share prices... a lot.
- Any indexer who wants to beat the benchmark, can do so with some surprisingly simple expedients, but with some challenges.
  - To win, we must accept modest tracking error, hence periods of modest underperformance.
  - Any indexer who pursues these expedients will need patience from time to time, as will their clients.



#### "Gold-Standard" Cap-Weighted Indexing has Two Achilles' Heels

#### Two Weaknesses of "Gold standard" Cap-Weighted Indices

- 1. Inherently overweight overvalued companies and underweights undervalued companies relative to an (unknowable!) fair-value–weighted portfolio, and
- 2. Typically add high-flying growth stocks after a recent period of outperformance and drops feared deep-discount value stocks after a recent period of underperformance.



### Quantifying the Cost of a "Buy High and Sell Low" Approach





## Quantifying the Cost of a "Buy High and Sell Low" Approach



Source: Research Affiliates, LLC, based on data from Siblis Research, Wikipedia, and CRSP

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#### **Choosing Index Constituents by Fundamentals**

RACWI US (484 Names)				S&P500 (502 Names)			
	RACWI Weight	-	Top Hol	ldings	5	Cap-Weight	
Large	6.94%	Apple		6.59%	Large Cap-Weight/ Small Fundamentals		
Small Cap-Weight	6.34%	Microsoft		6.02%			
	4.07%	Alphabet		3.95%			
	2.96%	Amazon		2.91%			
			- T	1			
Largest in RACWI and Not S&P						Largest Stocks i and Not RAC	n S&P WI
0.21%	Blackstone	0.0%			0.0%	Medtronic	0.38%
0.12% N	larvell Technology	0.0%			0.0%	ServiceNow	/ 0.30%
0.11% V	aste Connections	0.0%			0.0%	Moderna	0.15%
0.10%	Uber	0.0%			0.0%	AutoZone	0.13%



#### **RACWI Selects Stocks on Fundamentals and Cap-Weights Them**





Source: Research Affiliates, LLC, using data from Compustat and CRSP for True CW and RACWI simulations. S&P 500 and Russell 1000 indices' returns are from Factset. For definitions on each cap-weighted indices' methodology, please see the paper "Reimagining Index Funds" https://www.researchaffiliates.com/publications/articles/979-reimagining-index-funds



## **Outperformance Entails Risk in the Form of Tracking Error**

Tracking Error	S&P 500	Russell 1000	True CW 500	RACWI 500	RACWI 1000
S&P 500		1.05%	0.97%	0.97%	1.00%
Russell 1000	1.05%		0.85%	1.52%	1.05%





Source: Research Affiliates, LLC, based on data from Compustat and CRSP for True CW and RACWI simulations. S&P 500 and Russell 1000 indices' returns are from

Factset. July 1991-Dec 2022.

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Source: Research Affiliates, LLC, based on data from Compustat and CRSP for True CW and RACWI simulations. S&P 500 and Russell 1000 indices' returns are from

Factset. July 1991-Dec 2022.

#### **RACWI** Shines in High Tracking Error Regimes

**Relative Performance of Four Cap Weighted Indexes by Tracking Error Regime, Jul 1991 – Dec 2022** 





Note: All numbers are annualized. Returns are geometric returns. Excess return is calculated as the difference between the index return and the S&P 500. High TE period is 9/99-3/02; Medium TE period is 6/96-8/99, 10/07-1/10, 9/19-10/21. Low TE period is 7/91-5/96, 4/02-9/07, 2/10-8/19, 11/21-12/22. Source: Research Affiliates, LLC, using data from Compustat and CRSP for True CW and RACWI simulations. S&P 500 and Russell 1000 indices' returns are from Factset. See disclosures on the use of simulated data

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### **RACWI Alpha Survives Style Adjustments**

Cumulative Four-Factor Alpha of Four US Cap-Weighted Indices, Jul 1991 – Dec 2022

	Russell 1000	True CW 500	RACWI 500	RACWI 1000
alpha	-0.02%	0.07%	0.40%**	0.37%*
t-stat	-0.14	0.50	2.83	2.33
Market <sup>+</sup>	1.01**	1.01	0.98**	0.99
Size	0.06**	0.01	-0.02**	0.03**
Value	0.00	-0.04**	0.04**	0.04**
Momentum	0.00	0.01**	0.01*	0.00

#### Cumulative Four-Factor Alpha of Four US Cap-Weighted Indices, Jul 1991 – Dec 2022





Note: The S&P 500 (minus the **3-month** T-bill return) is used as the market<sup>+</sup> factor in the Fama-French-Carhart Four Factor regression, and the *t*-statistic for the market is calculated as the difference from 1.00. Alpha is annualized. \* indicates significance at the 5% level and \*\* indicates significance at the 1% level. Source: Research Affiliates, LLC, based on data from Compustat and CRSP for True CW and RACWI simulations. S&P 500 and Russell 1000 indices' returns are from Factset. Size, value, and momentum factor returns and risk-free returns are from the Kenneth R French Data Library. See disclosures on the use of simulated data

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### **RACWI Reduces Turnover**

Average Annual Turnover of Various US Cap Weighted Indices: 2013-2022





Source: Research Affiliates, LLC, based on data from Compustat and CRSP for True CW and RACWI simulations. Data for S&P 500 and Russell 1000 indices are from S&P Global, Inc., and London Stock Exchange Group, respectively. See disclosures on the use of simulated data. Time period reflects longest history available.

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#### **Benefits of RACWI Hold Outside the US**



For illustrative purposes only.

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Generic Cap-weight index is simulated. RACWI is simulated through 3/31/2023. RACWI returns through 3/31/2023 are generated from the region subset of the RACWI global index. Please see important information at the end of this presentation regarding simulated data. The graph showing \$1 growth over Dec 1996 through March 2023.



Source: Research Affiliates, LLC, based on data from Worldscope and Datastream. Data as of 3/31/2023.

#### **Benefits of RACWI Hold Outside the US**





For illustrative purposes only. Generic Cap-weight index is simulated. RACWI is simulated through 3/31/2023. RACWI returns through 3/31/2023 are generated from the region subset of the RACWI global index. Please see important information at the end of this presentation regarding simulated data. Source: Research Affiliates, LLC, based on data from Worldscope and Datastream. Data as of 3/31/2023.



#### Live Performance by Region

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<b>Live Performance</b>	and Statistics	, September	17, 2021 to	March 31, 2023
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Annualized Performance	Returns	Excess Returns	Tracking Error	Informatio n Ratio	Number of Constituents*		
Global							
RACWI Global	-3.53%	2.46%	1.21%	2.03	2762		
MSCI ACWI	-5.98%	-	-	-	2884		
		US					
RACWI US	-3.42%	0.42%	1.06%	0.39	483		
S&P 500	-3.84%	-	-	-	503		
Developed Europe							
RACWI Europe	-0.38%	1.83%	1.53%	1.19	402		
MSCI Europe	-2.21%	-	-	-	470		
UK							
RACWI UK	5.90%	4.01%	2.13%	1.88	70		
FTSE 100	1.88%	-	-	-	100		
Japan							
RACWI Japan	-10.70%	1.15%	1.00%	1.15	371		
MSCI Japan	-11.85%	-	-	-	237		
RACWI EM	-8.78%	3.95%	3.62%	1.09	1192		
MSCI EM	-12.73%	-	-	-	1377		

Source: Research Affiliates, LLC, using data from FactSet, FTSE Russell and MSCI.

Note: For Illustrative purpose only. Period from 9/17/2021 – 3/31/2023. Annualized Returns are in USD. Tracking Error annualized. RACWI inception date is 9/17/2021.



#### **Inception To Date Performance: Global**





# Thank you



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