

**May 31, 2015**

Equity Index

**NORTHERN TRUST QUALITY DIVIDEND DEFENSIVE INDEX****PARENT INDEX**

Northern Trust 1250

**INDEX IDENTIFIER**

Bloomberg: NTUQDDF(Price Return) / NTUQDDFT (Total Return)

FactSet: NTUQDDF(Price Return) / NTUQDDFTR (Total Return)

Reuters: NTUQDDF(Price Return) / NTUQDDFT (Total Return)

**INDEX OVERVIEW**

The Northern Trust Quality Dividend Defensive Index is designed to provide exposure to a high-quality income-oriented universe of long-only U.S. equity securities, with an emphasis on long-term capital growth and a targeted overall beta<sup>1</sup> that is generally between 0.5 to 1.0 times that of the Northern Trust 1250 Index (the parent index). Companies included in the index are selected based on expected dividend payment and fundamental factors such as profitability, management expertise, and cash flow.

**INDEX METHODOLOGY**

Index construction begins with a universe of eligible securities<sup>2</sup>. Securities ranking in the lowest quintile of quality<sup>3</sup> based on our proprietary scoring model<sup>4</sup>, as well as those which do not pay a dividend, are removed prior to optimization<sup>5</sup>. All remaining eligible securities are then optimized based on their exposure to quantitative factors such as:

- Quality, as defined by our proprietary scoring model
- Dividend yield
- Beta

The objectives of optimization are to maximize the index's exposure to the quality factor, realize a dividend yield above the benchmark index, and achieve the desired beta target while minimizing the overall risk of the portfolio versus its benchmark as measured by standard risk models<sup>6</sup>.

For more details on this methodology, please visit the Northern Trust Index Services [webpage](#)

**INDEX CHARACTERISTICS**

	Index	NT 1250 Index
Number of Holdings	168	1,223
Anticipated Annual Turnover	40-75%	N/A
P/E	16.74x	19.09x
P/B	2.88x	2.88x
P/CF	9.73x	12.40x
Annualized Dividend Yield	3.35%	1.94%
ROE	12.12	10.84
5yr Beta <sup>1</sup>	0.82	1.03
Wtd Avg Mkt Cap (\$ millions)	\$123,093	\$112,864

\*Rounded to nearest hundredth

**SECTOR WEIGHTINGS**

	% Index	% NT 1250 Index
Consumer Discretionary	10.79	13.24
Consumer Staples	11.71	8.76
Energy	9.15	7.49
Financials	18.92	17.42
Health Care	11.36	14.34
Industrials	7.44	10.32
Information Technology	16.59	19.68
Materials	4.02	3.66
Telecommunication Services	3.93	2.06
Utilities	6.08	3.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

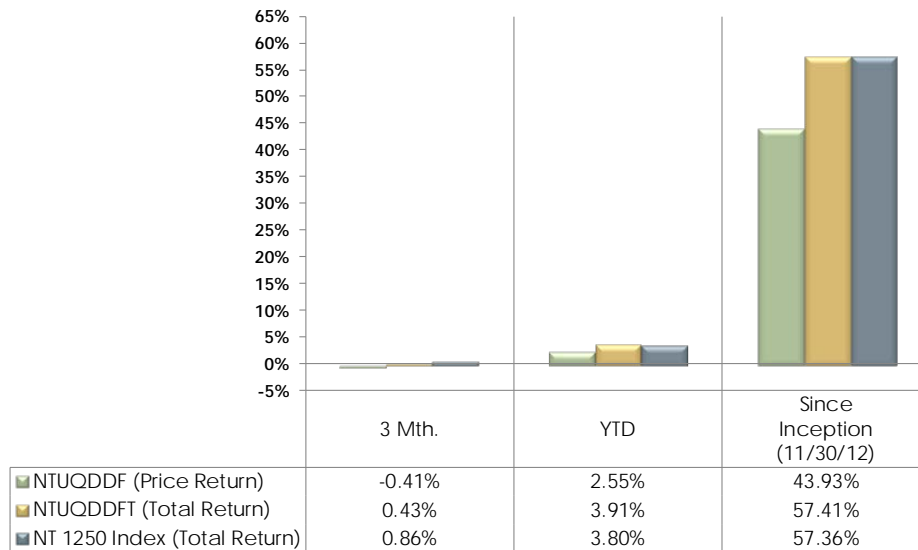
\*Sector weights may not add to 100% due to rounding

**TOP TEN CONSTITUENTS (BY WEIGHT)**

	% Index	Sector
Exxon Mobil Corporation	4.15	Energy
Wells Fargo & Company	3.82	Financials
Merck & Co., Inc.	3.37	Health Care
Int'l Business Machines Corp	3.23	Information Technology
PepsiCo, Inc.	3.14	Consumer Staples
Apple Inc.	3.09	Information Technology
Philip Morris International Inc.	2.20	Consumer Staples
Microsoft Corporation	2.10	Information Technology
Altria Group, Inc.	2.06	Consumer Staples
Home Depot, Inc.	1.98	Consumer Discretionary
<b>Total</b>	<b>29.14%</b>	

The index holdings, characteristics and sector allocations are for illustrative purposes only and are shown post all rebalancing activity at quarter end. Source: FactSet

## INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE COMPARISON



## CALENDAR YEAR RETURNS AND ASSETS

	QUARTERLY RETURNS (GROSS)				YEAR-TO-DATE		SINCE INCEPTION	
	Feb.	May	Aug.	Nov.	Quality Dvd. Defensive Index	NT 1250 Index	Quality Dvd. Defensive Index	NT 1250 Index
2015	3.48	0.43			3.91	3.80	57.41	57.36

<sup>1</sup> Beta is the coefficient term of the regression of a security versus the market, and is also a measure of the systematic, non-diversifiable risk of a security or basket of securities. Beta represents the market sensitivity, relative to a given market index and time period. For example, a security exhibiting a beta of 1.0 indicates that the security has the same sensitivity as the market index it is being compared to, while a security with a beta of 1.5 would indicate that the security has 1.5 times the sensitivity of the market index.

<sup>2</sup> In order to be eligible for inclusion in the Northern Trust Quality Dividend Indices, a security must be a constituent of the Northern Trust 1250 Index.

<sup>3</sup> This factor seeks to identify companies that exhibit stable returns relative to the market, a characteristic which we define as quality.

<sup>4</sup> The core components of the proprietary quality scoring model are based on quantitative ranking of various metrics obtained from company filings. These scores have three components: Management Rankings (e.g. corporate finance activities), Profitability Rankings (e.g. assess the reliability and the sustainability of financial performance), and Cash Factors (e.g. cash flow generation).

<sup>5</sup> An optimization is an algorithmic approach to minimize or maximize an objective function. An algorithm is able to achieve its objective by changing input variables sets until an optimal set has been found. For example, we may want to find index weights that minimize a quantitative measure of total risk but meet certain requirements or constraints. The optimization being performed during our index construction utilizes a multi-dimensional mean variance approach, which seeks to find the best available outcome given the constraint hierarchy set provided.

<sup>6</sup> Risk models are a statistical application which helps provide predictive risk estimates, by quantitatively de-constructing individual equity price movements and attributing those movements to common factors (e.g. Sector, industry, style, etc). The use of standard risk models in our process provides an additional layer of constraints on our optimization outcome, and assists in reducing the index's overall active risk exposure to any one single factor.

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