



## **Methodology Guide**

### **Prime Junior Silver Miners & Explorers Index**

Version 1.91 dated February 1, 2023

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This document contains the underlying principles regarding the structure and the operation of the Prime Junior Silver Miners & Explorers Index (the “Index”). Prime Indexes shall make every effort to implement these principles. Prime Indexes does not offer any explicit or tacit guarantee or assurance, neither pertaining to the results from the use of the Index nor the Index value at any certain point in time nor in any other respect. The Index is calculated and disseminated by Solactive AG and it strives to the best of its ability to ensure the correctness of the calculation. There is no obligation for Prime Indexes irrespective of possible obligations to issuers – to advise third parties, including investors and/or financial intermediaries, of any errors in the Index. The publication of the Index by Prime Indexes is not a recommendation for capital investment and does not contain any assurance or opinion of Prime Indexes regarding a possible investment in a financial instrument based on this Index.

### **Introduction**

This document is to be used as a guideline with regard to the composition, calculation and management of the Index. Any changes made to the guideline are initiated by the Committee specified in section 1.6. The Index is calculated and published by Solactive AG, on behalf of Prime Indexes. The name “Prime Indexes” is trademarked.

## 1 Index specifications

The Prime Junior Silver Miners & Explorers Index (the “Index”) is an Index of Prime Indexes and is calculated and distributed by Solactive AG.

The index is designed to measure the performance of small capitalization companies engaged in silver mining and exploration that have satisfied the remaining eligibility requirements described herein (the “Index Components”).

There are three different versions of the index calculated and published by Solactive AG:

- Gross Total Return
- Net Total Return
- Price Return

The Index is published in US Dollars.

### 1.1 Short name and ISIN

The Index is distributed under the following codes and symbols:

Name	Bloomberg	Reuters	ISIN	WKN
Prime Junior Silver Miners & Explorers Index GTR	PJRSILV Index	.PJRSILV	DE000SLA3UJ6	SLA3UJ
Prime Junior Silver Miners & Explorers Index NTR	NA	.PJRSILVN	DE000SLA3UL2	SLA3UL
Prime Junior Silver Miners & Explorers Index PR	NA	.PJRSILVP	DE000SLA3UM0	SLA3UM

### 1.2 Initial value

The Index is based on 100 at the close of trading on the Base Date, 16<sup>th</sup> of June, 2017

### 1.3 Distribution

The Index is published via the price marketing services of Boerse Stuttgart AG and is distributed to all affiliated vendors. Each vendor decides on an individual basis as to whether it will distribute/display the Index via its information systems.

### 1.4 Prices and calculation frequency

The price of the Index is calculated on each Business Day based on the prices on the respective Exchanges on which the Index Components are listed. The most recent prices of all Index Components are used. Should there be no current price available on Reuters, the most recent price or the Trading Price on Reuters for the preceding Trading Day is used in the calculation.

The Index is calculated every Business Day from 9:00am to 10:30pm, CET. In the event that data cannot be provided to Reuters or to the pricing services of Boerse Stuttgart AG, then the Index cannot be distributed. Incorrect calculations or errors may be adjusted on a retrospective basis.

## 1.5 Weighting

On each Selection Day each Index Component is weighted based on the process described below.

Each eligible component is categorized as either a pure-play silver mining/exploration company or as a diversified mining/exploration company based on whether the company has earned or is expected to earn more or less than 50% of its revenue from silver mining/exploration activities, respectively. For purposes of calculating component weights within the Index, all Index Components that are categorized as pure-play will have their market capitalizations increased by a factor of 3 while Index Components categorized as diversified will not have their market capitalizations increased (together, "Adjusted Market Capitalization").

All Index Components are then ranked by Adjusted Market Capitalization. The index component with the highest Adjusted Market Capitalization is ranked one (1), the next highest ranked two (2), and so on. The five components with the highest Adjusted Market Capitalization will be assigned a weight based on their respective rank, as described in the table below:

Adjusted Market Capitalization Rank	Assigned Weight
1	13%
2	11%
3	9%
4	7%
5	5%

The remainder of the Index Components will be weighted pro rata based on Adjusted Market Capitalization, with a maximum weight of 4.5% each. Any component that is not one of the five (5) highest ranked Index Components by Adjusted Market Capitalization, and that has a calculated weight greater than 4.5%, will have the difference between its calculated weight and 4.5% redistributed to all the remaining Index Components that have a calculated weight below 4.5% on a pro rata basis determined by their respective Adjusted Market Capitalization.

The cumulative weight of all components with an individual weight of 5% or greater will not in the aggregate account for more than 50% of the weight of the index at the time of an Ordinary Adjustment. In addition, the cumulative weight of all components with a market capitalization of less than \$100mln will not in the aggregate account for more than 10% of the weight of the index at the time of an Ordinary Adjustment.

Any financial product that references the Index can not hold more than fifteen percent (15%) of its portfolio in Illiquid Securities, which is defined as a security that cannot be liquidated in under seven (7) calendar days, assuming a ten percent (10%) reduction in the financial product's assets, while trading no more than twenty percent (20%) of the component security's 30-Day Average Daily Volume. Therefore, if the cumulative weight of Illiquid Securities in a financial product that references the Index is greater than fifteen percent (15%) on the Selection Day, then the cumulative weights in the illiquid securities will be reduced on a pro rata basis such that the

cumulative weight of Illiquid Securities is reduced to ten percent (10%). The excess weight amount is redistributed to the non-Illiquid Securities on a pro rata basis based on Market Capitalization (not “Adjusted Market Capitalization.”)

Prime Indexes may, at its own discretion, and in response to industry best practices and/or changing regulatory requirements, modify any part of this index methodology.

## 1.6 Decision-making bodies

A Committee composed of staff from Prime Indexes is responsible for decisions regarding the composition of the Index as well as any amendments to the rules (in this document referred to as the “Committee” or the “Index Committee”). The future composition of the Index is determined by the Committee on the Selection Days according to the procedure outlined in 2.1 of this document. The Committee shall also decide about the future composition of the Index, if any Extraordinary Events should occur and the implementation of any necessary adjustments. Members of the Committee can recommend changes to the guideline and submit them to the Committee staff for approval.

## 1.7 Publication

All specifications and information relevant for calculating the Index are made available on <http://www.primeindexes.com> and sub-pages.

## 1.8 Historical data

Historical data will be maintained from the Base Date.

## 1.9 Licensing

Licences to use the Index as the underlying value for derivative instruments or investment products are issued to stock exchanges, banks, financial services providers and investment houses by Prime Indexes.

## 2 Composition of the Index

### 2.1 Selection of the Index Components

The initial composition of the Index as well as any ongoing adjustment is based on the following rules:

On the Selection Days, Prime Indexes defines the junior silver mining and exploration universe. To be considered as part of the junior silver mining and exploration universe a company must engage in silver refining, mining or exploration.

The junior silver mining and exploration universe is then further refined to identify a selection pool that satisfies the following eligibility requirements:

**Component Security Type Requirement:** An equity security of an operating company and not a closed-end fund, exchange-traded fund (ETF), investment vehicle or royalty trust

**Exchange Listing Requirement:** The component security must not be listed on an exchange in a country which employs restrictions on foreign capital investment such as those restrictions render the component effectively non-investable for a US based fund.

**Market Capitalization Requirement:** The market capitalization must be between \$20 million and \$3 billion at the time of addition to the index. The ongoing *minimum* market capitalization for continued inclusion in the index is \$10 million. There is no ongoing *maximum* market capitalization requirement for inclusion in the index.

**Liquidity Requirement:** Each new component must have a USD equivalent Average Daily Value Traded greater than \$10,000

**Share Price Requirement:** Each new component must have a USD equivalent share price greater than \$0.20

Prime Indexes may determine that certain components, that would otherwise satisfy eligibility requirements, be excluded from the Index. Likewise, Prime Indexes may determine that certain components that do not satisfy eligibility requirements be included in the Index.

## 2.2 Ordinary adjustment

The composition of the Index and the constituent weights is determined two Thursdays before the second Friday in March, June, September and December or the next Business Day if this happens to be a non-Business Day (the “Selection Day”). The Index Shares will be fixed on the Selection Day and the component weights will float with the price of the components from the Selection Day forward.

The adjustments are made on the third Friday of March, June, September and December or the next Business Day if this happens to be a non-Business Day (the “Adjustment Day”) based on the Trading Prices of the Index Components on the Adjustment Day.

## 2.3 Extraordinary adjustment

The Committee may, but is under no obligation to, substitute an Index Component with a successor Index Component upon the occurrence of an Extraordinary Event as determined by Prime Indexes. Any such successor Index Component shall be included in the Index after the close of business on the day when an Extraordinary Event has been determined by Prime Indexes.

## 3 Calculation of the Index

### 3.1 Index formula

The Index Value on a Business Day at the relevant time is calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$Index_t = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_{i,t} * p_{i,t} * f_{i,t}}{D_t}$$

with:

$x_{i,t}$  = Number of Index Shares of the Index Component i on Trading Day t

$P_{i,t}$  = Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t

$f_{i,t}$  = Foreign exchange rate to convert the Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t into the Index Currency

$D_t$  = Divisor on Trading Day t

The initial Divisor on the Base Date is calculated according to the following formula:

$$D_t = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (p_{i,t} * f_{i,t} * x_{i,t})}{100}$$

After the close of trading on each Adjustment Day t the new Divisor is calculated as follows:

$$D_t = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (p_{i,t} * f_{i,t} * x_{i,t})}{Index_t}$$

This Divisor is valid starting the immediately following Business Day.

### 3.2 Adjustments

Indices need to be adjusted for systematic changes in prices once these become effective. This requires the new Number of Index Shares of the affected Index Component and the Divisor to be calculated on an ex-ante basis.

Following the Committee's decision, the Index is adjusted for distributions, capital increases and stock splits.

This procedure ensures that the first ex quote can be properly reflected in the calculation of the Index. This ex-ante procedure assumes the general acceptance of the Index calculation formula as well as open access to the parameter values used. The calculation parameters are provided by the Index Calculator.

### 3.3 Dividends and other distributions

Dividend payments and other distributions are included in the Gross Total Return Index and Net Total Return Index. They cause an adjustment of the Divisor. The new Divisor is calculated as follows:

$$D_{t+1} = D_t * \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (p_{i,t} * f_{i,t} * x_{i,t}) - (x_{i,t} * y_{i,t} * g_{i,t})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (p_{i,t} * f_{i,t} * x_{i,t})}$$

with

$P_{i,t}$  = Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t

$f_{i,t}$  = Foreign exchange rate to convert the Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t into the Index Currency

$x_{i,t}$  = Number of Index Shares of the Index Component i on Trading Day t

$y_{i,t}$  = Distribution of Index Component i with ex date t+1 multiplied by the Dividend Correction Factor

$g_{i,t}$  = Foreign exchange rate to convert the amount of the distribution of Index Component i on Trading Day t into the Index Currency

$D_t$  = Divisor on Trading Day t

$D_{t+1}$  = Divisor on Trading Day t+1

### 3.4 Corporate actions

#### 3.4.1 Principles

Following the announcement by an issuer of Index Components of the terms and conditions of a corporate action the Index Calculator determines whether such corporate action has a dilutive, concentrative or similar effect on the price of the respective Index Component.

If this should be the case the Index Calculator shall make the necessary adjustments that are deemed appropriate in order to take into account the dilutive, concentrative or similar effect and shall determine the date on which this adjustment shall come into effect.

Amongst other things the Index Calculator can take into account is an adjustment made by an Affiliated Exchange as a result of the corporate action with regard to option and futures contracts on the respective share traded on this Affiliated Exchange.

#### 3.4.2 Capital increases

In the case of capital increases with ex date t+1 the Index is adjusted as follows:

$$x_{i,t+1} = x_i * \frac{1+B}{1} \quad \text{with:}$$

$x_{i,t+1}$  = Number of Index Shares of Index Component i on Trading Day t+1

$x_{i,t}$  = Number of Index Shares of Index Component i on Trading Day t

B = Shares received for every share held

$$P_{i,t+1} = \frac{P_{i,t} + S * B}{1+B} \quad \text{with:}$$



- $p_{i,t}$  = Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t
- $p_{i,t+1}$  = Hypothetical Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t+1
- $s$  = Subscription Price in the Index Component currency

$$D_{t+1} = D_t * \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (p_{i,t} * f_{i,t} * x_{i,t}) + \sum_{i=1}^n [(x_{i,t+1} * p_{i,t+1} * f_{i,t}) - (x_{i,t} * p_{i,t} * f_{i,t})]}{\sum_{i=1}^n (p_{i,t} * f_{i,t} * x_{i,t})}$$

with

- $p_{i,t}$  = Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t
- $f_{i,t}$  = Foreign exchange rate to convert the Price of Index Component i on Trading Day t into the Index Currency
- $x_{i,t}$  = Number of Index Shares of the Index Component i on Trading Day t
- $p_{i,t+1}$  = Hypothetical price of Index Component i on Trading Day t+1
- $x_{i,t+1}$  = Number of Index Shares of the Index Component i on Trading Day t+1
- $D_t$  = Divisor on Trading Day t
- $D_{t+1}$  = Divisor on Trading Day t+1

### 3.4.3 Share splits

In the case of share splits with ex date on Trading Day t+1 it is assumed that the prices change in ratio of the terms of the split. The new Number of Index Shares is calculated as follows:

$$x_{i,t+1} = x_{i,t} * B$$

- $x_{i,t}$  = Number of Index Shares of the affected Index Component on Trading Day t
- $x_{i,t+1}$  = Number of Index Shares of the affected Index Component on Trading Day t+1
- $B$  = Shares after the share split for every share held before the split

### 3.4.4 Component distributions

In the case of component distributions with ex date on Trading Day t+1 it is assumed that the prices change according to the terms of the distribution. The new Number of Index Shares is calculated as follows:

$$x_{i,t+1} = x_{i,t} * (1 + B)$$

- $x_{i,t}$  = Number of Index Shares of the affected Index Component on Trading Day t  
 $x_{i,t+1}$  = Number of Index Shares of the affected Index Component on Trading Day t+1  
B = Shares received for every share held

### 3.5 Calculation of the Index in the event of a Market Disruption Event

The Index is not calculated in the event of a Market Disruption Event or Force Majeure Event. If the Market Disruption Event or Force Majeure Event continues over a period of eight Trading Days, then the Committee will determine the necessary action (including but not limited to taking into account the market conditions prevailing at this point in time, the last quoted Trading Price for each of the Index Components as well as any other conditions that it deems relevant for calculating the Index value) such that the affected securities resulting from the Market Disruption Event are no longer causing such disruption to occur.

## 4. Definitions

“**Number of Shares**” is in respect of an Index Component and any given Business Day the number or fraction of shares included in the Index. It is calculated for any Index Component as the ratio of (A) the Percentage Weight of an Index Component multiplied by the Index value and (B) its Trading Price.

“**Percentage Weight**” of an Index Component is the ratio of its Trading Price multiplied by its Number of Shares divided by the Index value.

“**Dividend Correction Factor**” is calculated as 1 minus the applicable withholding tax rate and/or other applicable tax rate currently prevalent in the respective country.

In particular an “**Extraordinary Event**” is

- a Merger
- a Takeover bid
- a delisting
- the Nationalisation of a company
- Insolvency.

The Trading Price for this Index Component on the day the event came into effect is the last available market price for this Index Component quoted on the Exchange on the day the event came into effect (or, if a market price is not available for the day the event came into effect, the last available market price quoted on the Exchange on a day specified as appropriate by the Index Calculator), as determined by the Index Calculator, and this price is used as the Trading Price of the particular Index Component until the end of the day on which the composition of the Index is next set.

In the event of the Insolvency of an issuer of an Index Component the Index Component shall remain in the Index until the next Adjustment Day. As long as a market price for the affected Index Component is available on a Business Day, this shall be applied as the Trading Price for this Index Component on the relevant Business Day, as determined in each case by the Index Calculator. If a market price is not available on a Business Day the Trading Price for this Index Component is set to zero. The Committee may also decide to eliminate the respective Index Component at an earlier point in time prior to the next Adjustment Day. The procedure in this case is identical to an elimination due to and Extraordinary Event.

An Index Component is “**delisted**” if the Exchange announces pursuant to the Exchange regulations that the listing of, the trading in or the issuing of public quotes on the Index Component at the Exchange has ceased immediately or will cease at a later date, for whatever reason (provided delisting is not because of a Merger or a Takeover bid), and the Index Component is not immediately listed, traded or quoted again on an exchange, trading or listing system, acceptable to the Index Calculator.

**“Insolvency”** occurs with regard to an Index Component if (A) all shares of the respective issuer must be transferred to a trustee, liquidator, insolvency administrator or a similar public officer as result of a voluntary or compulsory liquidation, insolvency or winding-up proceedings or comparable proceedings affecting the issuer of the Index Components or (B) the holders of the shares of this issuer are legally enjoined from transferring the shares.

A **“Takeover bid”** is a bid to acquire, an exchange offer or any other offer or act of a legal person that results in the related legal person acquiring as part of an exchange or otherwise more than 10% and less than 100% of the voting shares in circulation from the issuer of the Index Component or the right to acquire these shares, as determined by the Index Calculator based on notices submitted to public or self-regulatory authorities or other information considered by the Index Calculator to be relevant.

With regard to an Index Component a **“Merger”** is

- (i) a change in the security class or a conversion of this share class that results in a transfer or an ultimate definite obligation to transfer all the shares in circulation to another legal person,
- (ii) a merger (either by acquisition or through forming a new structure) or a binding obligation on the part of the issuer to exchange shares with another legal person (except in a merger or share exchange under which the issuer of this Index Component is the acquiring or remaining company and which does not involve a change in security class or a conversion of all the shares in circulation),
- (iii) a takeover offer, exchange offer, other offer or another act of a legal person for the purposes of acquiring or otherwise obtaining from the issuer 100% of the shares issued that entails a transfer or the irrevocable obligation to transfer all shares (with the exception of shares which are held and controlled by the legal person), or
- (iv) a merger (either by acquisition or through forming a new structure) or a binding obligation on the part of the issuer of the share or its subsidiaries to exchange shares with another legal person, whereby the issuer of the share is the acquiring or remaining company and it does not involve a change in the class or a conversion of the all shares issued, but the shares in circulation directly prior to such an event (except for shares held and controlled by the legal person) represent in total less than 50% of the shares in circulation directly subsequent to such an event.

The **“Merger Date”** is the date on which a Merger is concluded or the date specified by the Index Calculator if such a date cannot be determined under the law applicable to the Merger.

**“Nationalisation”** is a process whereby all shares or the majority of the assets of the issuer of the shares are nationalised or are expropriated or otherwise must be transferred to public bodies, authorities or institutions.

**“Exchange”** is, in respect of Index and every Index Component, the respective primary exchange where the Index Component has its primary listing. The Committee may decide to declare a different stock exchange the “Exchange” for trading reasons, even if the company is only listed there via a Stock Substitute.

**“Stock Substitute”** includes in particular American Depository Receipts (ADR) and Global Depository Receipts (GDR).

With regard to an Index component (subject to the provisions given above under “Extraordinary Events”) the **“Trading Price”** in respect of a Trading Day is the closing price on this Trading Day determined in accordance with the Exchange regulations. If the Exchange has no closing price for an Index Component, the Index Calculator shall determine the Trading Price and the time of the quote for the share in question in a manner that appears reasonable to him.

A **“Trading Day”** is in relation to the Index or an Index Component a Trading Day on the Exchange (or a day that would have been such a day if a market disruption had not occurred), excluding days on which trading may be ceased prior to the normal Exchange closing time. The Index Calculator is ultimately responsible as to whether a

certain day is a Trading Day with regard to the Index or an Index Component or in any other connection relating to this document.

A “**Business Day**” is a day on which the New York Stock Exchange is open for trading.

The “**Index Calculator**” is Solactive AG or any other appropriately appointed successor in this function.

The “**Index Currency**” is US Dollars.

“**Market Capitalization**” is with regard to each of the companies in the Index Universe on a Selection Day or Adjustment Day the value published as the Market Capitalization for this day.

As at the date of this document Market Capitalization is defined as the value of a company calculated by multiplying the number of shares outstanding of the company by its share price.

An “**Affiliated Exchange**” is with regard to an Index Component an exchange, a trading or quotation system on which options and futures contracts on the Index Component in question are traded, as specified by the Index Calculator.

A “**Market Disruption Event**” occurs if

1. one of the following events occurs or exists on a Trading Day prior to the opening quotation time for an Index Component:
  - A) trading is suspended or restricted (due to price movements that exceed the limits allowed by the Exchange or an Affiliated Exchange, or for other reasons):
    - 1.1. across the whole Exchange; or
    - 1.2. in options or futures contracts on or with regard to an Index Component or an Index Component that is quoted on an Affiliated Exchange; or
    - 1.3. on an Exchange or in a trading or quotation system (as determined by the Index Calculator) in which an Index Component is listed or quoted; or
  - B) an event that (in the assessment of the Index Calculator) generally disrupts and affects the opportunities of market participants to execute on the Exchange transactions in respect of a share included in the Index or to determine market values for a share included in the Index or to execute on an Affiliated Exchange transaction with regard to options and futures contracts on these shares or to determine market values for such options or futures contracts; or
2. trading on the Exchange or an Affiliated Exchange is ceased prior to the usual closing time (as defined below), unless the early cessation of trading is announced by the Exchange or Affiliated Exchange on this Trading Day at least one hour before
  - (aa) the actual closing time for normal trading on the Exchange or Affiliated Exchange on the Trading Day in question or, if earlier.
  - (bb) the closing time (if given) of the Exchange or Affiliated Exchange for the execution of orders at the time the quote is given.

“**Normal exchange closing time**” is the time at which the Exchange or an Affiliated Exchange is normally closed on working days without taking into account after-hours trading or other trading activities carried out outside the normal trading hours; or
3. a general moratorium is imposed on banking transactions in the country in which the Exchange is resident if the above-mentioned events are material in the assessment of the Index Calculator, whereby the Index Calculator makes his decision based on those circumstances that he considers reasonable and appropriate.

## 5 Appendix

## **5.1 Contact data**

### **Information regarding the Index concept**

[www.PrimeIndexes.com](http://www.PrimeIndexes.com)

indexsupport@leveletf.com

### **5.2 Calculation of the Index – change in calculation method**

The application by the Index Calculator of the method described in this document is final and binding. The Index Calculator shall apply the method described above for the composition and calculation of the Index. However, it cannot be excluded that the market environment, supervisory, legal, financial or tax reasons may require changes to be made to this method. The Index Calculator may also make changes to the terms and conditions of the Index and the method applied to calculate the Index, which he deems to be necessary and desirable in order to prevent obvious or demonstrable error or to remedy, correct or supplement incorrect terms and conditions. The Index Calculator is not obliged to provide information on any such modifications or changes. Despite the modifications and changes, the Index Calculator will take the appropriate steps to ensure a calculation method is applied that is consistent with the method described above.