



HFR Women Access Index

Defined Formulaic Methodology

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	3
METHODOLOGY	4
Eligibility Criteria.....	4
Definitions	6
Annual Index Rebalance.....	6
Additional Rebalance Considerations.....	7
Index NAV Calculation	8
Index Disruption Event.....	10



Introduction

The HFR Women Access Index is a benchmark designed to reflect hedge fund industry performance of the women managers in the industry by constructing equally weighted composites of index constituents.

Hedge Fund Research, Inc. (HFR) is a research firm specializing in the collection, aggregation, and analysis of alternative investment information. HFR produces the HFR Hedge Fund Database, one of the industry's most widely used commercial databases of hedge fund performance, as well as a variety of other research products for the alternative investment industry, including the HFR Industry Report.

The HFR Hedge Fund Database is currently comprised of over 6900 funds and fund of funds worldwide. Information on the hedge fund universe of established and emerging managers is collected directly from the fund managers and/or their respective administrators, while other pertinent information is pulled from offering memoranda, onsite visits, and due diligence interviews. It also directly integrates the fund managers with the HFR Hedge Fund Database by providing them with their own website for updating their fund profile. In this manner HFR ensures current and accurate fund data that flows seamlessly from fund managers.

Methodology

The HFR Women Access Index consists of the women-managed funds that are open to new investments and offer quarterly liquidity or better without imposing lock-ups or gates. The HFRI Women Access Index is equal-weighted at rebalance time; rebalance is performed on a quarterly basis.

The HFRI Women Access Hedge Fund Index is utilized by numerous hedge fund managers as a benchmark for their own hedge funds. Funds are classified into 4 main strategies following the hedge fund strategy classification of Hedge Fund Research, Inc.

Eligibility Criteria

Constituents included in the HFR Women Access Index must:

- Be managed by a woman
- Report monthly returns in USD
- Report Net of All Fees Returns
- Report assets
- Be open to new investments
- Provide quarterly liquidity or better
- Manage at least \$80 mm USD in the fund
- Do not impose lock-ups or gates.
- Be registered with a financial regulatory authority such as the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) or similar in the country where the fund is domiciled

The following formula is used to define the representative Hedge Fund Strategy Universe (“Strategy Universe”) derived from the Global Hedge Fund Universe. The Global Hedge Fund Universe is expressed as:

$$HFU = \bigcup HFS$$

where *HFS* is the set of funds classified by strategy according to the strategy structure of the HFR Hedge Fund Database.

The funds comprising the HFS are filtered using the following formula to create the Strategy Universe.

$$\delta(Woman) \cdot \delta(freq - 12) \cdot H(AUM - 80) \cdot \delta(fees) \cdot \delta(open) \cdot \delta(liq) \cdot \delta(l\&g) \cdot \delta(reg) \cdot \delta(ISO - USD) \neq 0$$

where $H(x)$ is the step function defined as

$$H(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

$\delta(x)$ is the delta function defined as

$$\delta(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x = 0 \\ 0 & x \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

and

- *Woman* means the fund is managed by a woman (0=yes, 1=no)
- *AUM* is the assets under management in USD \$MM
- *freq* is the reporting frequency (12=monthly, 4=quarterly)
- *fees* is the returns net of all fees (0=yes, 1=no)
- *open* corresponds to the fund being open to new investments (0=yes, 1=no)
- *reg* means fund is registered with a financial authority (0=yes, 1=no)
- *liq* is the liquidity offered by the fund (0=quarterly or better, 1=otherwise)
- *l&g* is the lock-up or gates imposed by the fund (0=none, 1=otherwise)
- *ISO* is the reporting currency

In cases where a manager lists multiple funds with the same or similar investment profile, HFR chooses only the most representative fund for HFR Women Access Index inclusion.

Definitions

For the clarity of the rebalance process we define:

- **Index Manager:** Hedge Fund Research, Inc., responsible for the calculation of the Index.
- **Rebalance Date:** the first business date of the calendar quarter.
- **Evaluation Date:** the month starting 1 quarter prior to the Rebalance Date.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** performance and assets under management reported monthly in USD, net of all fees, and with the required liquidity.
- **Estimated Index Value:** the index will first be published on the fifth business day of the month with a value for the prior month based on the index constituents initial reporting. Updated values of the index value for the prior month will continue to be published for the next 3 months as additional constituent funds report their performance to HFR.
- **Final Index Value:** the index value for a given month will become final on the first business day of third month following its initial publication, after which it will not be subject to change.

Quarterly Index Rebalance

The following rebalance methodology is applied on HFR Women Access Index:

- The eligible universe of constituents is determined at the Evaluation Date.
- The constituents are selected based on their liquidity and asset under management as of the Evaluation Date.
- Each constituent is assigned with the same weight on each Rebalance Date.
- A maximum number of constituents from each firm may be limited for optimal Index diversification purposes.
- The Index is rebalanced on a quarterly basis.

Additional Rebalance Considerations

- Additional changes to the pool of funds or their weights may be taken on a more frequent basis to address specific concerns of any fund such as risk, liquidity, due diligence, minimum investment size, subscription or redemption fees, concentration or other issues which may materially affect the Index, including regulatory issues. If a fund ceases to satisfy any of the Eligibility Criteria required for inclusion into the Index between rebalancing dates, HFR may decide to remove the fund from the Index. If a fund is removed, HFR will either replace it with another fund within the same strategy provided it satisfies the criteria for inclusion, or may re-weight the remaining funds in the same strategy.
- An Index constituent may be removed from the Index if it fails to meet the Eligibility Criteria on or before the Rebalance Date. In such a case, the weight of the constituent would be allocated to the remaining constituents of the Index or allocated to a replacement prospective constituent. An Index constituent may be replaced or removed with another qualifying prospective constituent between rebalance dates as required. Such events would include without limitation, due diligence concerns, inability to maintain a constituent weight due to lockups, gates or other circumstances.
- If an Index constituent's weight cannot be maintained between Rebalance Dates, the constituent may remain in the Index at a reduced weight, its weight may be reallocated equally to the remaining constituents or it may be replaced with a similar qualifying prospective constituent as available.
- Under certain special circumstances certain constituents may remain in the Index on a limited or temporary basis. Examples of these include, but are not limited to, constituents subject to liquidation, closure to new investments, regulatory matters, or suspension of redemptions. The specific treatment of constituents under special circumstances includes:

- Index Constituent enters liquidation process.

Index Constituents subject to liquidation are kept in the Index until liquidation is completed. The weighting of the constituents is adjusted in the Index to reflect its liquidity and redemption schedule. The weight of the constituent that becomes available through this process is then allocated to the remaining constituents of the Index within the same strategy or replaced by a qualifying fund.

- Index Constituent becomes closed to new investments.

Index Constituents that become closed to new investment before the Rebalance Date may remain in the Index with a weight that can only increase due to the performance of the constituent and does not increase during the Index rebalance.

- Index Constituents that undergo significant adverse circumstances.

Index Constituents that undergo significant adverse circumstances or due diligence concerns such as: large investor redemptions, critical personnel loss, an audit holdback, a side pocket implemented, redemptions suspended / gate activated, reduced liquidity of liquidating constituent, money laundering charges, cyber security breach / damaging client info leaked or stolen, fraud, breach of any law, regulation or rule, major reputation hurting story or any similar intervening circumstance, may be subject to removal from the Index before the Rebalance Date. The removal from the Index will follow the liquidity and redemption terms of the constituent whereby the constituent weight will be reduced until its full Index removal. The weight of the constituent that becomes available through this process is then allocated to the remaining constituents of the Index within the same strategy.

Index NAV Calculation

The HFR Women Access Index (the “Index” and collectively, “Indices”) is a total return index and is published by HFR at www.hedgefundresearch.com and on Bloomberg. Computation of the Index NAV uses actual performance of constituent funds as reported to Hedge Fund Research, Inc. Performance reflects constituent fund management fees, incentive fees, dividends and other distributions.

The Index NAV is 1000 at inception where “t=0”. The NAV changes are driven by the Index performance, which is defined as the percentage change in the value of the Index from a previous date “t-1” to current date “t”.

At rebalance time “t₀”, constituents are equal weighted so the NAV of the HFR Women Access Index is defined as

$$NAV_{t_0} = NAV_{t_0-1} \times (1 + ROR_{t_0})$$

where ROR_{t_0} is the percentage change in the total value of the Index from “t₀-1” to “t₀” computed as:

$$ROR_{t_0} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n ROR_{t_0}^i$$

where $ROR_{t_0}^i$ is the rate of return of constituent i at time “ t_0 ” and n is the number of constituents in the Index.

The NAV of the HFR Women Access Index at any other times “ t ” is computed as

$$NAV_t = NAV_{t-1} \times (1 + ROR_t)$$

where ROR_t is the percentage change in the total value of the Index from “ $t-1$ ” to “ t ” as follows:

$$ROR_t = \sum_{i=1}^n w_t^i \times ROR_t^i$$

where ROR_t^i is the total return of constituent i at time “ t ”, n is the number of constituents in the Index and w_t^i is the weight of constituent i at the beginning of month “ t ” computed as

$$w_t^i = \frac{(1 + R_{t-1}^i)}{\sum_{j=1}^n (1 + R_{t-1}^j)}$$

where R_{t-1}^i is the cumulative total return of constituent i between the rebalance date “ t_0 ” and time “ $t-1$ ”:

$$1 + R_{t-1}^i = \prod_{t'=t_0}^{t-1} (1 + ROR_{t'}^i).$$

If a constituent k ceases to be a constituent of the Index at given time t' before the rebalance date, its weight is then equally distributed to the remaining constituents in the Index; the new constituent weights are given by

$$w_{t'}^i = w_{t'}^i + \frac{1}{n-1} \cdot w_{t'}^k, \quad \text{with } i \neq k.$$

with $i \neq k$.

Index Disruption Event

“Index Disruption Event” means:

- (1) where, in the determination of Hedge Fund Research, Inc., it is not possible or it is not reasonably practicable for it to determine the price or value of a constituent; or
- (2) a value for a constituent is not announced or is otherwise unavailable when such announcement or availability would normally be scheduled; or
- (3) the occurrence of an event or circumstance (including, without limitation, a major market disruption, a systems failure, natural or man-made disaster, act of God, armed conflict, act of terrorism, riot or labor disruption or any similar intervening circumstance) that Hedge Fund Research Inc. determines affects the Index.
- (4) the occurrence of other event or circumstance (including, without limitation, a personnel loss, a significant client(s) redemption, an audit holdback, a side pocket implemented, redemptions suspended / Gate activated, reduced liquidity of liquidating constituent, money laundering charges, Cyber security breach / Client info leaked or stolen, Fraud, breach of any law, regulation or rule, Market specific short bans or suspensions, Major reputation hurting story or any similar intervening circumstance) that Hedge Fund Research Inc. determines affects the Index.

If, in the determination of Hedge Fund Research, Inc., any of the foregoing is material.

Upon the occurrence of an Index Disruption Event on any day on which the official closing level of the Index is scheduled to be published, Hedge Fund Research, Inc. (i) shall not calculate and publish the Index Level and/or (ii) if relevant, may make such adjustments to the provisions of the Index to account for such Index Disruption Event as it determines appropriate, including, without limitation, delaying the application of any procedures or requirements of the Index.

Appendix 1.

Strategy Descriptions

Hedge Fund Research, Inc. has constructed an accurate, relevant, robust and contemporaneous Strategy Classification System for all investment managers present in the HFR Database. The classifications reflect the evolution of strategic trends in the hedge fund industry, cognizant of the reality that over market cycles the classification system is likely to continue to evolve, as new opportunities attract investor capital.

Primary Strategy Descriptions

Strategy: In completing a fund profile for inclusion in HFR subscriber database, an investment manager qualitatively chooses one of four primary strategies, as defined below:

Equity Hedge: Equity Hedge strategies maintain positions both long and short in primarily equity and equity derivative securities. A wide variety of investment processes can be employed to arrive at an investment decision, including both quantitative and fundamental techniques; strategies can be broadly diversified or narrowly focused on specific sectors and can range broadly in terms of levels of net exposure, leverage employed, holding period, concentrations of market capitalizations and valuation ranges of typical portfolios. Equity Hedge managers would typically maintain at least 50%, and may in some cases be substantially entirely invested in equities, both long and short.

Event-Driven: Investment Managers who maintain positions in securities of companies currently or prospectively involved in corporate transactions of a wide variety, including but not limited to: mergers, restructurings, financial distress, tender offers, shareholder buybacks, debt exchanges, security issuance or other capital structure adjustments. Security types can range from most senior in the capital structure to most junior or subordinated, and frequently involve additional derivative securities. ED exposure contains a combination of sensitivities to equity markets, credit markets and idiosyncratic, company specific developments. Investment theses are typically predicated on fundamental characteristics (as opposed to quantitative), with the realization of the thesis predicated on a specific development exogenous to the existing capital structure.

Macro: Investment Managers which execute a broad range of strategies in which the investment process is predicated on movements in underlying economic variables and the impact these have on equity, fixed income, currency and commodity markets. Managers employ a variety of techniques, both discretionary and systematic analysis, combinations of top down

and bottom up theses, quantitative and fundamental approaches and long and short term holding periods. Although some strategies employ RV techniques, Macro strategies are distinct from RV strategies in that the primary investment thesis is predicated on future movements in the underlying instruments, rather than realization of a valuation discrepancy between securities. In a similar way, while both Macro and equity hedge managers may hold equity securities, the overriding investment thesis is predicated on the impact movements in underlying macroeconomic variables may have on security prices, as opposed to EH, in which the fundamental characteristics of the company are the most significant and integral to investment thesis.

Relative Value: Investment Managers who maintain positions in which the investment thesis is predicated on realization of a valuation discrepancy in the relationship between multiple securities. Managers employ a variety of fundamental and quantitative techniques to establish investment theses, and security types range broadly across equity, fixed income, derivative or other security types. RVA positions may be involved in corporate transactions also, but as opposed to ED exposures, the investment thesis is predicated on realization of a pricing discrepancy between related securities, as opposed to the outcome of the corporate transaction.



Accompanying Notes

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Hedge Fund Research, Inc.
10 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 658-0955
indices@hfr.com
www.hedgefundresearch.com



Addendum – Revisions to the Methodology

Date	Revision	Process