

E&S Disclosure QualityScore

ISS STOXX's Environmental and Social Disclosure QualityScore provides a measure of corporate disclosure practices and the degree of transparency provided by a covered company to shareholders and other stakeholders.

The Environmental and Social Disclosure QualityScore framework covers 368 individual factors. For each covered company, only factors deemed relevant to the company's Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) industry group (around 250 per industry group) are reviewed and scored, and are designed to capture good practice, established standards, and recognized challenges by industry group. The selection of factors and their allocation to industry groups is informed by developments in disclosure standards and frameworks, such as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) standards, and the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations.

Outputs

Environmental and Social Disclosure QualityScore provides two top-level scores, one for each pillar. Additionally, each category under the two pillars, such as Carbon and Climate, Natural Resources, Human Rights, or Labor, Health and Safety, has a score.

The scores are decile scores, 1 – 10, which represent a relative measure based on the raw score calculations of the other companies in their specific industry group. A score in the 1st decile indicates relatively higher quality disclosure and transparency practices, and conversely, a score in the 10th decile indicates relatively lower quality.

The Environmental and Social Disclosure Quality Score issuer reports include qualitative data output only. Quantitative data underlying the issuer reports, such as total energy use or total water consumed, can be accessed via the DataDesk client platform which is accessible to subscribers to the Environment and Social Disclosure Quality Score.

Research Process

The Environmental and Social Disclosure QualityScore is updated annually based on the timing of a covered company's annual general meeting which is the typical time of filing annual reports and sustainability reports, issuing updates on company policies, and introducing other significant changes to corporate disclosures. Updates may occur on an ad-hoc basis in case of relevant corporate actions (e.g., mergers, acquisitions).

The research process can be broken down as follows:

- **Data collection:** Environmental and Social Disclosure QualityScore focuses on a company's disclosure practices. Data is collected from company publications including public filings, sustainability and CSR reports, integrated reports, publicly available company policies, and information on company websites. Both quantitative and qualitative data are collected. Assessments are predominantly based on qualitative data and disclosures.
- **Quality assurance:** Experienced analysts review the accuracy of collected data.
- **Data verification:** Companies can review, verify, and provide feedback on the data used to determine their scores via a complementary Data Verification tool accessed through ISS Corporate Solutions' Governance Analytics platform.
- **Final report:** An Environmental and Social Disclosure QualityScore final report is published on ISS customer platforms.

Use of Estimated Data

Environmental and Social Disclosure QualityScore does not incorporate estimated data as input is based purely on disclosed data.

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