

NEWS RELEASE

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New ETFs provide access to world's top telco, health and consumer brands

Barclays Global Investors today added three exchange traded funds (ETFs) representing globally defensive investment sectors to the 16 iShares already trading on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX).

The new ETFs enable Australians to buy portfolios of iconic global brands in the healthcare, telecommunication and consumer staples industry sectors.

Simply by buying an iShares ETF on the ASX, investors can own a share of major international food and household products companies like Nestle, pharmaceutical giants such as Pfizer, or telecommunication providers such as AT&T.

The three new iShares that lift the number trading on the ASX to 19 are:

FUND NAME	ASX CODE	COMPOSITION	MANAGEMENT EXPENSES & FEES (MEF) RATIO
iShares S&P Global Consumer Staples	IXI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 97 leading food and household products companies in 17 countries. Holdings include Proctor & Gamble, Nestle, Wal-Mart and Coca-Cola. 	0.48%
iShares S&P Global Healthcare	IXJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 81 global healthcare stocks from 11 countries. Holdings include Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche and GlaxoSmithKline. 	0.48%
iShares S&P Global Telecommunications	IXP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46 global telecommunication sector companies from 24 countries. Holdings include AT&T, Vodafone, Verizon and France Telecom. 	0.48%

Co-head of iShares Australia, Tim Bradbury, said the additional ETFs give investors more choice, more control and more diversification.

"It is a globally interconnected world, but most Australian investors are heavily overweight in Australian stocks; they don't enjoy the benefits of wider international diversification. We've brought these three funds here to expand global sector choice.

"iShares S&P Global 100, which gives local access to the world's top 100 companies in one ASX trade, has been an investor favourite since we introduced it as part of our initial offerings in October 2007. The latest additions give investors similar access to global industry sectors that are considered highly defensive during a recession," he said.

iShares exchange traded funds are an evolutionary advance on the traditional index fund and offer diversification and cost benefits over investments in individual stocks and unlisted managed funds.

ETFs combine the advantages of shares with the benefits of index funds. Like shares, ETFs are liquid, flexible and easy to use. Like index funds, they offer the benefits of diversification, market tracking and cost efficiency.

These benefits prompted a massive switch to ETFs in international equities markets in 2008. Net inflows into ETFs worldwide totalled an estimated US\$214.8 billion last year. In contrast, net funds outflow from traditional managed funds totalled US\$204.7 billion.

“The Australian share market makes up only 2 per cent of the world’s total market capitalisation, so we are opening access to the other 98 per cent of investment opportunities,” Mr Bradbury said.

ENDS

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Background information

iShares Exchange Traded Funds from Barclays Global Investors, are the world’s leading family of exchange traded funds (ETFs). Over 361 iShares are traded on major stock exchanges around the world. iShares account for close to half of the ETF market worldwide.¹ Barclays Global Investors has launched 19 iShares ETFs in four tranches on the ASX, the first in October 2007:

International Exchange Traded Funds listed on the ASX	ASX code	Fees (%)	Description
Global sector funds			
iShares S&P Global Consumer Staples	IXI	0.48	97 food and household product stocks
iShares S&P Global Healthcare	IXJ	0.48	81 global healthcare stocks
iShares S&P Global Telecommunications	IXP	0.48	46 major telecommunication groups
iShares S&P Global 100	I00	0.40	100 multinational companies
Regions – developed economies			
iShares MSCI EAFE	IVE	0.34	Europe, Australasia, Far East
iShares S&P Europe 350	IEU	0.60	350 shares across Europe
Regions – emerging economies			
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets	IEM	0.72	More than 20 emerging economies
iShares MSCI BRIC	IBK	0.72	Brazil, Russia, India, China
iShares S&P Asia 50	IAA	0.50	50 shares across Asia
Country indices – developed economies			
iShares S&P 500	IVV	0.09	US large caps
iShares S&P MidCap 400	IJH	0.20	US shares US\$1b – US\$4b
iShares S&P SmallCap 600	IJR	0.20	US shares US\$300m – US\$1b
iShares Russell 2000	IRU	0.20	US small caps
iShares MSCI Japan	IJP	0.52	Japanese shares
iShares MSCI Hong Kong	IHK	0.52	Hong Kong shares
iShares MSCI Singapore	ISG	0.52	Singaporean shares
Country indices – emerging economies			
iShares MSCI Taiwan	ITW	0.73	Taiwanese shares
iShares MSCI South Korea	IKO	0.63	South Korean shares
iShares FTSE/Xinhua China 25	IZZ	0.74	25 leading Chinese shares

¹ Source: ETF Industry Preview from Barclays Global Investors, December 2008.

ETFs are index funds that are bought and sold like ordinary shares on a stock exchange. They provide instant exposure to an entire index through a single trade. ETFs combine the advantages of shares with the benefits of index funds. iShares ETFs are attractive to individual and institutional investors and financial intermediaries because of their trading flexibility, cost-effective diversification and transparency benefits. iShares ETFs can be used to achieve many investment strategies:

- Completing a portfolio's strategic asset allocation
- Core-satellite investing
- Reducing portfolio risk through diversification

For further information on iShares ETFs and strategies for using them, visit iShares.com.au.

Barclays Global Investors

Barclays Global Investors (BGI) is one of the world's largest asset managers and a leading global provider of investment management products and services. It has nearly 3,000 institutional clients and over AUD\$2.2 trillion of assets under management (November 2008). It transformed the investment industry by creating the first index strategy in 1971 and the first quantitative active strategy in 1979. BGI is the global product leader in exchange traded funds with over 361 iShares ETFs for institutions, intermediaries and individuals globally. BGI is a majority-owned subsidiary of Barclays PLC, one of the UK's largest companies and one of the world's foremost providers of financial services with operations in over 60 countries.

Barclays Global Investors Australia

Barclays Global Investors Australia (BGIA) has been one of the fastest growing investment managers in Australia with currently over AUD\$31 billion in funds under management (November 2008). BGIA offers a wide range of total return, risk-controlled active and index strategies across both developed and emerging markets. In addition to this, iShares, the world's leading family of exchange traded funds (ETFs), were launched in October 2007. BGIA serves a range of clients including Australian corporations; industry, public sector and superannuation funds; master funds; and wrap account distributors.

For further information about Barclays Global Investors, please visit our website www.barclaysglobal.com.

Important information

Before investing in an iShares fund, you should carefully consider the appropriateness of such products to your circumstances, read the applicable Australian prospectus and consult an investment adviser. Prepared by Barclays Global Investors Australia Ltd ABN 33 001 804 566, AFSL 225 398 ("BGIA") on behalf of iShares, Inc. ARBN 125 632 279 and iShares Trust ARBN 125 632 411. Barclays Global Fund Advisers ("BGFA") serves as an adviser to the iShares funds that are registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940. BGFA is a subsidiary of Barclays Global Investors, N.A. ("BGINA"). BGIA and BGINA are majority-owned subsidiaries of Barclays Bank PLC. Unless otherwise stated, any opinions expressed, analysis and assumptions made in this press release reflect BGIA's judgement as of the date of publication and are subject to change. The information in this document relates to iShares funds quoted on the Australian Securities Exchange ("ASX"). Trades on ASX in the shares on an iShares fund are settled using CHESS Depositary Interests ("CDI"s). International investments such as an iShares fund may have different risk characteristics compared to investments in other securities listed on the ASX that do not have international exposure.. The performance of an iShares fund is not guaranteed by ASX, any foreign or Australian regulatory or depositary institution or any Barclays or other entity. Use of the "ASX" abbreviation is not an endorsement by ASX. An iShares fund is not sponsored, endorsed, promoted, issued or sold by MSCI Inc, Standard & Poor's, the London Stock Exchange and The Financial Times Limited ("FTSE"), FTSE/Xinhua Index Limited ("FXI") or Frank Russell Group. © 2008 Barclays Global Investors Australia Limited. All rights reserved. iShares® is a registered trademark of Barclays Global Investors, N.A. All other trademarks, servicemarks, or registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.