

Media Information

FTSE Group adds Bond indices to product portfolio

London, 17 October, 2002: - FTSE Group, the global index company, today unveils a new index family, the FTSE Global Bond Index Series. FTSE has acquired the Reuters BONDTOP index family presently provided by Reuters, the global information, news and technology group. From Monday 21 October, these indices will form the basis of the new FTSE series. Newly created tradable indices will be added soon, allowing the series to support Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), index-linked funds and derivative products.

The FTSE Global Bond Index Series will provide access to a full range of independently produced bond indices using a wide range of pricing sources.

Over the coming months, FTSE will create new indices to add to the series, providing an extensive range of narrow tradable government bond indices and broader benchmark bond indices for use by global investors. The new indices will include country and regional government bond indices, as well as corporate bond indices. FTSE is confident that ETFs will be launched on the FTSE Global Bond Index Series soon.

Mark Makepeace, Chief Executive of FTSE Group said: "Today's announcement and the ongoing development of the FTSE Global Bond Index Series means that FTSE can now meet both the equity and fixed income index needs of our global investment clients. For the first time, investors will have access to a global range of bond indices using liquid prices from a wide range of sources."

Through the creation of the FTSE Global Bond Index Series, FTSE expands its scope to include a comprehensive set of indices measuring the bond markets and now offers an enhanced service to clients who manage bond portfolios. The FTSE Global Bond Index Series will complement the FTSE All-World global equity index series currently used by investors worldwide.

Reuters will continue to distribute the FTSE Global Bond Index series via its global market data product portfolio.

Bill Goldy, Managing Director of Fixed Income, Reuters said: "Reuters and FTSE share a vision that financial professionals, now more than ever, have a pressing need for independent and standardised benchmarks and indices. This agreement brings together FTSE's experience in the creation and management of indices and Reuters' vast data network. The existing indices, and the new indices planned, are aligned with Reuters' commitment to the global fixed income market and our objective to supply the most comprehensive and reliable data in the field."

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Notes to Editors

About FTSE

FTSE Group is a world-leader in the creation and management of indices. With offices in London, Paris, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Madrid, New York and San Francisco, FTSE Group services clients in 77 countries worldwide. It manages and develops globally recognised indices ranging from the FTSE All-World Index to the FTSE 100, the FTSE4Good indices and the recently launched Global Style index series. The company has collaborative arrangements with the Athens, Cyprus, Euronext, Johannesburg, London, Luxembourg, and Madrid exchanges, as well as with Nikkei of Japan (Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc) and Xinhua Financial Network of China.

FTSE indices are used extensively by investors world-wide for investment analysis, performance measurement, asset allocation, portfolio hedging and for creating a wide range of index tracking funds. Independent committees of senior fund managers, derivatives experts, actuaries and other experienced practitioners review all changes to the indices to ensure that they are made objectively and without bias. Real-time FTSE indices are calculated on systems managed by Reuters. Prices and FX rates used are supplied by Reuters.

About Reuters

Reuters (www.about.reuters.com) is the leading global provider of financial information, news and technology solutions to financial institutions, the media, businesses and individuals. Reuters strength is our unique ability to offer customers a combination of content, technology and connectivity. Our premier position is founded on continuous technological innovation and a reputation for speed, accuracy, integrity and impartiality. We have over 18,140 staff in 97 countries, including some 2,498 editorial staff in 198 bureaux serving approximately 150 countries, making it the world's largest international multimedia news agency. In 2001, Reuters had revenues of £3.9 billion.

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