

# SWISS RESPONSIBLE INDICES

SWISS EQUITIES AND CHF BONDS ESG INDICES "POWERED BY ETHOS", CALCULATED BY SIX





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- 2. Ethos indices
- 3. Swiss Responsible Equity Index (SREI) 3a) Methodology 3b) Composition
  - 3c) Performance
- 4. Swiss Responsible Bond Index (SRBI)
  - 3a) Methodology
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  - 3c) Performance



# 1. Ethos today

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# THE ETHOS GROUP - PIONEER OF SRI\* IN SWITZERLAND SINCE 1997 WWW.ETHOSFUND.CH



## **OUR RAISON D'ÊTRE**

- Promotion of Socially Responsible Investments (SRI)
- Fostering of a stable and prosperous socio-economic environment



#### OUR SERVICES

- Exercise of voting rights
- Shareholder dialogue
- ESG analyses
- Investment solutions (funds & indices)
- Reporting solutions
- Further training



### OUR MEMBERS

- Over 250 pension schemes
- Represents approx. 2 million insured persons
- Approx. one third of 2nd pillar assets in Switzerland



## WHAT CHARACTERISES ETHOS

#### **INDEPENDENCE**

- Non-profit organisation, founded by and for pension funds
- Financed exclusively by the clients of Ethos Services
- Independent of the analysed companies

#### PROFESSIONALISM

- High quality standard based on more than 25 years of experience (1997)
- Excellent knowledge of the companies, in particular through the exercise of voting rights and shareholder dialogue
- Approx. 40 employees in Geneva and Zurich, including more than 20 analysts
- Collaboration with internationally recognised institutional partners

#### TRANSPARENCY

- Own corporate governance (charter, annual report and accounts,...)
- Publicly accessible guidelines for exercising voting rights and public announcement of voting recommendations 5 days before the Annual General Meetings
- Engagement topics with the companies

# ethos

# SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE ACTIVITIES

### ETHOS INVESTMENT SOLUTIONS

#### approx. CHF 4.8 billion as of 31 December 2023

Ethos investment funds 3.5 billion - Ethos index-based mandates 0.9 billion - Advisory mandates 0.4 billion

SUSTINABILITY ANALYSIS	PROXY VOTING	SHAREHOLDER DIALOGUE
Covered universe SPI SBI AAA-BBB	<b>Covered universe</b> SPI MSCI Europe (ex CH) top 200	<b>EEP Switzerland</b> 186 members
MSCI EM Top 250	MSCI Luiope (ex Cri) top 200 MSCI NAM top 200 MSCI Asia Pacific top 100 and more	<b>EEP International</b> 116 members
	> 230 clients (approx. CHF 55 billion)	<b>Engagement Services</b> Various banks and asset manager
Analysis of over 2,000 companies		

Α and issuers

Analysis of over 800 companies

Universe of 2,000 companies

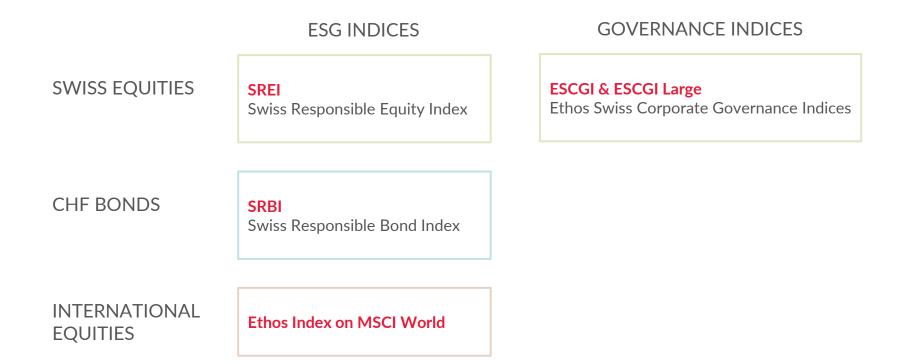


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## A FAMILY OF SUSTAINABLE INDICES FROM SIX AND MSCI CALCULATED





# **EXPERTISE IN INDEX CREATION SINCE 2015**



Annualised outperformance since inception as at  $29.02.2024^*$ 



\*Historical performance is not an indication of future performance.

## ethos

# SWISS RESPONSIBLE INDICES NEW INDICES ESG «POWERED BY ETHOS», CALCULATED BY SIX

- In 2024, Ethos is launching two new sustainability indices, a Swiss equity index and a CHF bond index, both calculated by the SIX.
- Ethos aims to promote investment in and financing of issuers whose extra-financial performance is more sustainable than that of their peers.
- These sustainable indices are based on the SPI and SBI AAA-BBB indices and exclude companies/issuers whose ESG practices are deemed insufficient by Ethos.
- These indices allow investors to reduce the ESG risks of their allocations while maintaining a diversified exposure to the Swiss equity and CHF bond markets (low tracking error compared to the base indices).
- More information
  - > Swiss Responsible Equity Index (SREI)
  - > Swiss Responsible Bond Index (SRBI)



## NEW ESG INDICES "POWERED BY ETHOS", CALCULATED BY SIX

	SREI	SRBI
BASIS UNIVERSE	SPI	SBI AAA-BBB
MIN. ESG RATING	B+	B+
EXCLUSIONS	According to the Ethos Charter*	According to the Ethos Charter <sup>*</sup> & asset-backed securities
WEIGHTING	Market capitalisation**	Market value
REBALANCING	Annual (September)	Monthly
LAUNCH DATE	29.12.2023	28.03.2024
PERFORMANCE START DATE***	24.09.2018	01.01.2019
NUMBER OF ISSUERS IN THE INDEX (BASIS UNIVERSE)	143 companies (SPI: 208)	266 issuers (SBI AAA-BBB: 333)
WEIGHT OF EXCLUDED ISSUERS	1.6%	7.8%

\* This includes companies that do not fulfil the criteria of the Swiss Association for Responsible Investment (SVVK-ASIR) and/or the principles of the UN Global Compact (UNGC).

\*\* Free float adjusted. Maximum weight per security (cap): 20%.

\*\*\* The performance of the index from performance start date until launch date is a backtested performance calculated by SIX.



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## 3a) Methodology

3b) Composition 3c) Performance

4. Swiss Responsible Bond Index (SRBI)

3a) Methodology

- 3b) Composition
- 3c) Performance





## **CONSTRUCTION PROCESS OF THE SREI**

BASIS UNIVERSE

SPI (208 companies)

#### NEGATIVE SCREENING

Product and conductbased exclusions

Excluded companies (5): in sensitive sectors and / or serious controversy (rating C)

#### **POSITIVE SCREENING**

Extra-financial sustainability requirement : Rating min. B+

Excluded companies (62): with a rating of B-

#### **FINAL UNIVERSE**

SREI (143 companies)



## **PRODUCT-SPECIFIC EXCLUSIONS**

# CRITERION: TURNOVER FROM THE FOLLOWING SECTORS > 5%

A	Conventional weapons
<b>8</b> 1	Non-conventional weapons (systematically excluded)
•	Gambling
бмо	Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agrochemical industry
	Nuclear energy
(18)	Adult entertainment

<u>\$</u>	Tobacco
	Thermal coal
	Oil sands
	Fossil fuels extracted by hydraulic fracturing
<b>+</b>	Arctic oil and gas
i.	Transport in oil and gas pipelines and storage of unconventional fossil fuels



# CONDUCT-BASED EXCLUSIONS CRITERION: AT LEAST ONE MAJOR CONTROVERSY

# MAJOR CONTROVERSIES REGARDING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF COMPANIES

- ENVIRONMENT: violation of environmental standards; serious and irreversible environmental damage (pollution, deforestation, etc.), use of hazardous substances; ...
- **SOCIAL**: Child labour; human rights; working conditions; corruption; ...
- **GOVERNANCE:** Malfunctioning of the Board of Directors; egregious remuneration; financial scandals, etc.

## MAJOR CONTROVERSIES IN BUSINESS ETHICS AND CORPORATE PRODUCTS

- BUSINESS ETHICS: Cartel agreements; market manipulation; corruption;...
- **PRODUCTS**: Product safety; controversial financing and investments; controversial weapons; products with a negative impact on the environment; ...



# ETHOS ESG RATING (I) QUANTITATIVE ESG-SCORE

#### GOVERNANCE 30 - 40%

- Board of Directors
- Capital structure and shareholder rights
- Remuneration system
- Auditors
- Business ethics

#### STRATEGY & REPORTING 10 - 20%

- Sustainability Strategy
- E&S Reporting

#### STAKEHOLDERS 50 - 60%

- Employees
- Customers
- Society and community
- Suppliers
- Environment

ESG-SCORE



## **ETHOS ESG RATING (II)**

## CONSIDERATION OF THE ESG SCORE AND CONTROVERSIES

				<b>CORE</b> to the mean)			
		Below -1 standard deviationBelow meanAbove meanAbove standard of					
εL	none / minor	B-	B+	A-	A+		
MAXIMUM LEVEL DF CONTROVERS <sup>V</sup>	moderate	B-	B+	A-	A-		
1UM NTRO	serious	B-	B-	B+	B+		
AXIN	severe	B-	B-	B-	B-		
ΣЧ	major	С	С	С	С		





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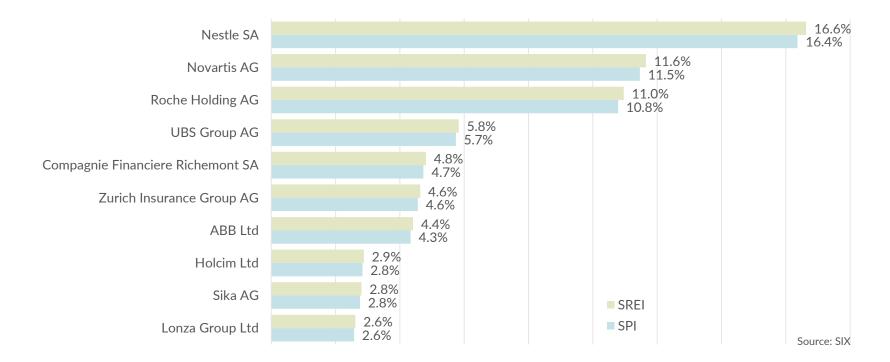
3a) Methodology

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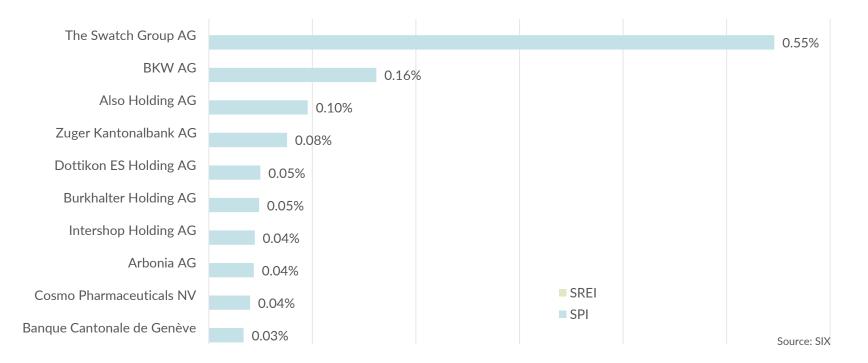


# **10 LARGEST SREI COMPANIES** AS OF 31.03.2024



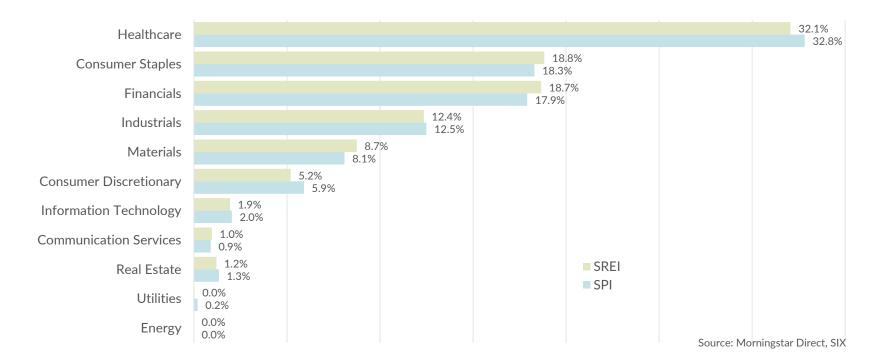


# **10 LARGEST SPI COMPANIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE SREI** AS OF 31.03.2024



# ethos

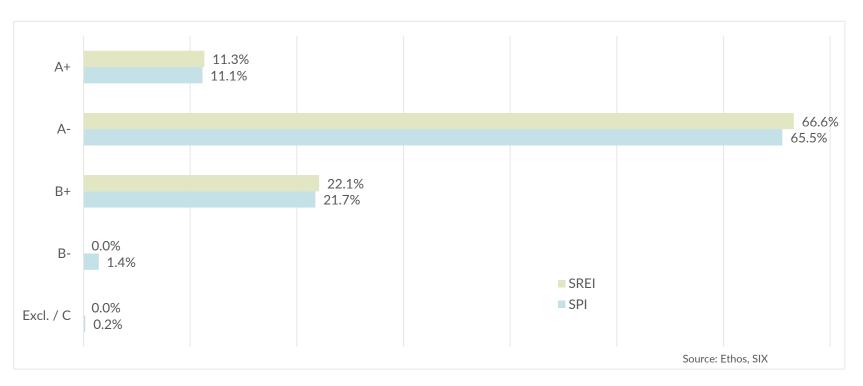
# SREI VS SPI SECTOR-RELATED BREAKDOWN (GICS) AS OF 31.03.2024





# ETHOS ESG RATING BREAKDOWN

AS OF 31.03.2024





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## ethos

## PERFORMANCE SREI\* VS SPI PERIOD: 24.09.2018 - 31.03.2024



\* The performance of the index between 24 September 2018 and 29 December 2023 is a backtest calculated by SIX. Historical performance is not indicative of future performance.



# PERFORMANCE SREI\* TO 31.03.2024 OVER DIFFERENT PERIODS



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## ethos

# PERFORMANCE ATTRIBUTION SREI\* VS SPI PERIOD: 24.09.2018 - 31.03.2024

- Stock selection accounts for almost 80% of SREI's outperformance since 24 September 2018.
- The largest contributors to outperformance were stocks excluded from the index, in particular Credit Suisse and Swatch Group.

	Best Selections	GICS Sector	Weight +/-	Return +/-	Effect		Worst Selections	GICS Sector	Weight +/-	Return +/-	Effect
1	Credit Suisse Group AG	Financials	-1.23	-138.64	3.49	1	Panalpina Welttransport (Holding) AG	Industrials	-0.02	13.64	-0.10
2	The Swatch Group AG Bearer Shares	Consumer Discretionary	-0.44	-86.78	0.55	2	Also Holding AG	Information Technology	-0.08	110.73	-0.07
3	Zurich Insurance Group AG	Financials	0.45	56.11	0.35	3	Temenos AG	Information Technology	0.04	-49.94	-0.05
4	Compagnie Financiere Richemont SA Class	s Consumer Discretionary	0.68	50.12	0.32	4	SIG Group AG Ordinary Shares	Materials	-0.03	8.96	-0.03
5	Vifor Pharma AG	Health Care	-0.27	-33.79	0.30	5	Accelleron Industries AG Ordinary Shares	Industrials	-0.02	30.92	-0.03
6	The Swatch Group AG	Consumer Discretionary	-0.16	-86.45	0.21	6	Swissquote Group Holding SA	Financials	-0.04	212.90	-0.02
7	Sika AG Registered Shares	Materials	-0.03	-76.39	0.14	7	EFG International AG	Financials	-0.04	63.24	-0.02
8	DocMorris AG	Consumer Staples	-0.07	-64.77	0.12	8	GAM Holding AG	Financials	0.00	-139.85	-0.02
9	ABB Ltd	Industrials	0.20	69.86	0.09	9	Romande Energie Holding SA	Utilities	0.02	-72.13	-0.02
10	Swiss Life Holding AG	Financials	0.12	73.03	0.08	10	SoftwareONE Holding AG Ordinary Shares	Information Technology	-0.01	6.01	-0.01

Source: Morningstar Direct, SIX



# KEY RISK-RETURN FIGURES SREI\* VS SPI AS OF 31.03.2024

10.2018 - 03.2024	SREI	SPI
RETURN P.A.	7.55%	6.95%
EXCESS RETURN P.A.	0.55%	
VOLATILITY (ST DEV)	12.96%	12.90%
SHARPE RATIO	0.63	0.59
TRACKING ERROR	0.40%	
INFORMATION RATIO	1.39	
BETA	1.00	1.00
MAXIMUM DRAWDOWN	-19.48%	-19.93%

Source: Morningstar Direct, SIX



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## **CONSTRUCTION PROCESS OF THE SRBI**

BASIS UNIVERSE

SBI AAA-BBB (333 issuers)

#### NEGATIVE SCREENING

Product and conductbased exclusions

Exclusion of assetbacked securities

Excluded issuers (20): in sensitive sectors and / or serious controversy (rating C)

#### **POSITIVE SCREENING**

Extra-financial sustainability requirement : Rating min. B+

Excluded issuers (47): with a rating of B-

#### **FINAL UNIVERSE**

SRBI (266 issuers)



# ESG ETHOS RATING DIFFERENT ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH APPROACH DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF ISSUER

Listed issuers

Non listed issuers

Sovereign issuers



# PRODUCT-SPECIFIC EXCLUSIONS: TURNOVER FROM THE FOLLOWING SECTORS > 5% LISTED ISSUERS

K	Conventional weapons
<b>8</b>	Non-conventional weapons (systematically excluded)
•	Gambling
GMO	Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agrochemical industry
	Nuclear energy
(18)	Adult entertainment

<u>\$</u> \$	Tobacco
	Thermal coal
<b>*</b>	Oil sands
	Fossil fuels extracted by hydraulic fracturing
<b>*</b>	Arctic oil and gas
i.	Transport in oil and gas pipelines and storage of unconventional fossil fuels



# CONDUCT-BASED EXCLUSIONS: AT LEAST ONE SIGNIFICANT CONTROVERSY LISTED ISSUERS

# SERIOUS CONTROVERSIES REGARDING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF COMPANIES

- ENVIRONMENT: violation of environmental standards; serious and irreversible environmental damage (pollution, deforestation, etc.), use of hazardous substances; ...
- **SOCIAL**: Child labour; human rights; working conditions; corruption; ...
- **GOVERNANCE:** Malfunctioning of the Board of Directors; egregious remuneration; financial scandals, etc.

## SERIOUS CONTROVERSIES IN BUSINESS ETHICS AND CORPORATE PRODUCTS

- BUSINESS ETHICS: Cartel agreements; market manipulation; corruption;...
- **PRODUCTS**: Product safety; controversial financing and investments; controversial weapons; products with a negative impact on the environment; ...

# ethos

# ETHOS ESG RATING (I): QUANTITATIVE ESG-SCORE LISTED ISSUERS

#### GOVERNANCE 30 - 40%

- Board of Directors
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- Remuneration system
- Auditors
- Business ethics

#### STRATEGY & REPORTING 10 - 20%

- Sustainability Strategy
- E&S Reporting

#### STAKEHOLDERS 50 - 60%

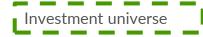
- Employees
- Customers
- Society and community
- Suppliers
- Environment

ESG-SCORE



# ETHOS ESG RATING (II): CONSIDERATION OF THE ESG SCORE AND CONTROVERSIES LISTED ISSUERS

				<b>CORE</b> to the mean)			
		Below -1 standard deviation Below mean Above mean Above standard deviation					
εL	none / minor	B-	B+	A-	A+		
MAXIMUM LEVEL DF CONTROVERSY	moderate	B-	B+	A-	A-		
1UM NTRO	serious	B-	B-	B+	B+		
AXIN	severe	B-	B-	B-	B-		
ΣЧ	major	С	С	С	С		





# ETHOS ESG RESEARCH AND ANALISYS NON LISTED ISSUERS

SECTOR ASSESS	MENT	COMPANY-LEVEL ASSESSMENT							
CONTRIBUTION TO THE ASSESSMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	ESG RATING	IMPACT OF PRODUCTS & SERVICES	ENVIRONME NTAL AND SOCIAL STRATEGY	STAKE- HOLDERS	GOVER- NANCE	ESG CONTRO- VERSIES	RATINGS		
Exceptional /Long term	A+	impact on the se	The qualitative assessment of a company's extra-financial performance can have an mpact on the sector rating of products and services. Positive: if the company significantly outperforms its peers Negative: if the company significantly lags its peers, is exposed to ESG controversies and/or has poor governance practices.						
Positive/ transitional	A-	Negative: if the second s							
Neutral / not	B+		and/or has poor governance practices.						
significant									
Negative	B-	Exposure to majo	Exposure to major ESG controversies						
		>5% of sales in sensitive sectors					EXCL.		

35



# ETHOS ESG RESEARCH AND ANALISYS (I) SOVEREIGN ISSUERS

#### ENVIRONNEMENTAL PERFORMANCE

- GHG emissions per Capita
- Ecological footprint per Capita
- Level of Water Stress
- Access to Clean and Affordable
  Energy
- Vulnerability to Climate Change

SOCIAL PERFORMANCE

- Human Rights Performance
- Voice and Accountability
- Income Inequality
- Human Development Index
- Gender Inequality Index

### GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE

- Control of Corruption
- Political Stability
- Government Effectiveness
- Rule of Law
- Regulatory Quality

### ETHOS ESG COUNTRY RATING (A+, A-, B+, B-)

Various and independent data sources ensuring a robust approach with a large coverage while limiting the lag of data availability. For example, Sustainable Development Goals Index, UNDP, Human Development Report, The World Bank's Sovereign ESG data portal, Notre-Dame Global Adaptation Initiative, World Inequality Database, etc.



#### ETHOS ESG RESEARCH AND ANALISYS (II) SOVEREIGN ISSUERS

	ESG SCORE (difference to the mean)			
	Below -1 standard deviation	Below mean	Above mean	Above +1 standard deviation
Automatic ESG Country Rating	B-	B+	A-	A+
Downgrade if amongst worst ESG scores	B-	B-	B+	B+
Exclusion	С	С	С	С

NOTE: Local issuers (such as cantons, provinces and states) are classified one level lower than the country in question.





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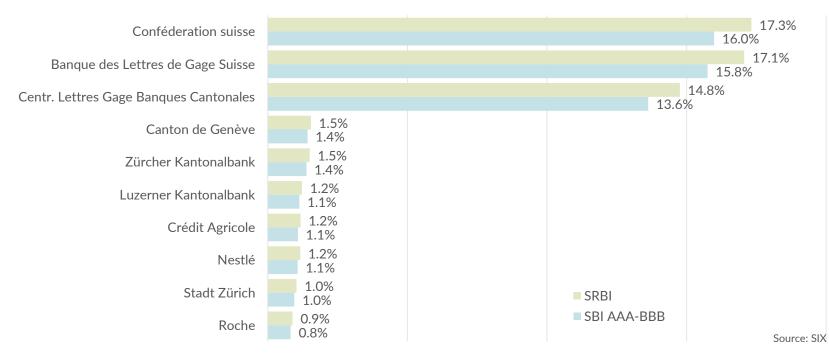
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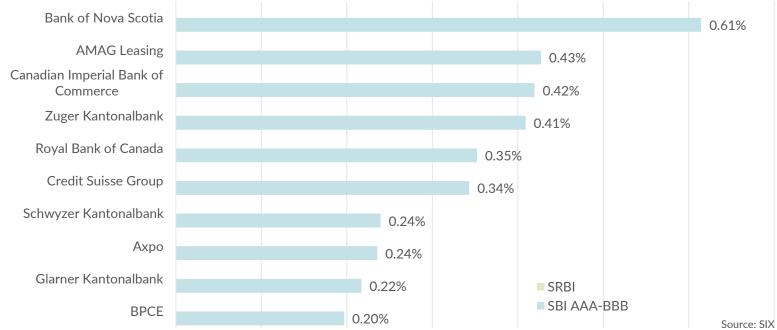
### **10 LARGEST SRBI ISSUERS** TO 31.03.2024



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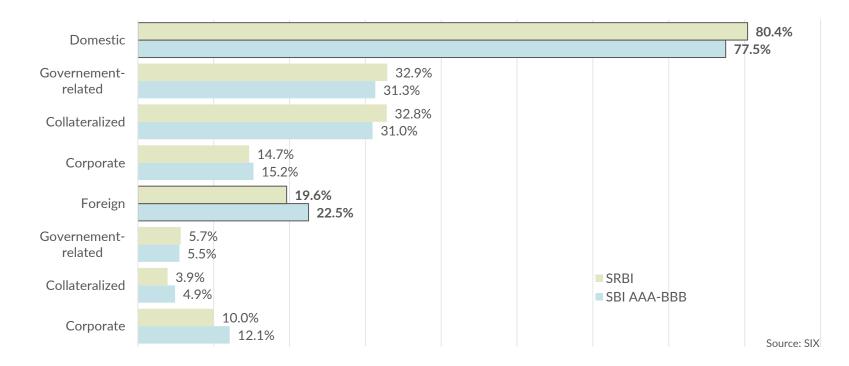
#### **10 LARGEST SBI AAA-BBB ISSUERS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SRBI** TO 31.03.2024



40

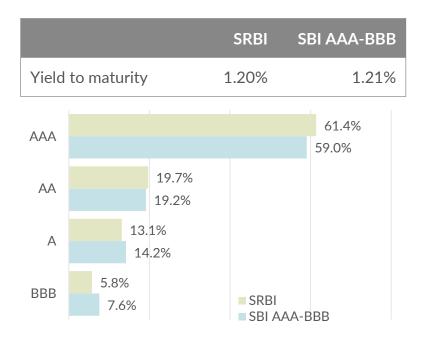
#### ethos

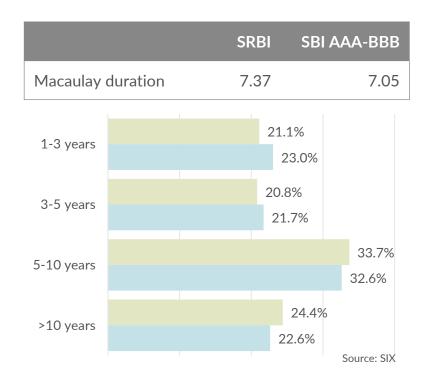
#### BREAKDOWN BY DOMICILE AND CATEGORY AS OF 31.03.2024





#### BREAKDOWN BY COMPOSITE SIX RATING AND MATURITY AS OF 31.03.2024

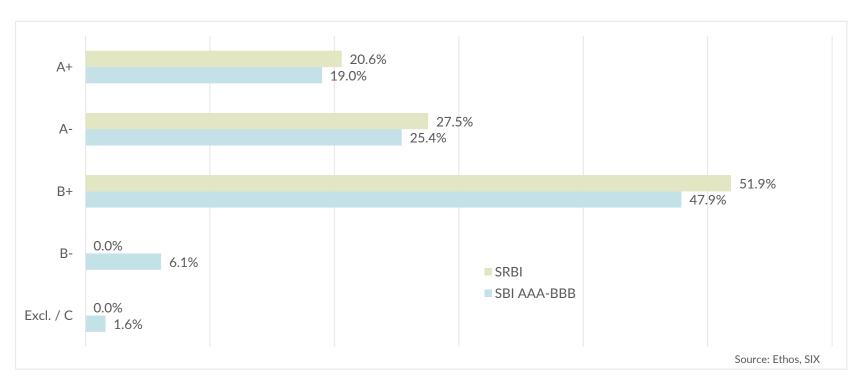






### **BREAKDOWN BY ETHOS ESG RATING**

AS OF 31.03.2024





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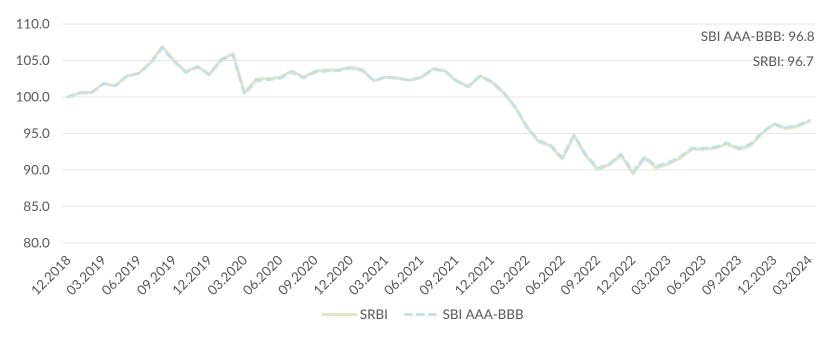
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#### PERFORMANCE SRBI\* VS SBI AAA-BBB

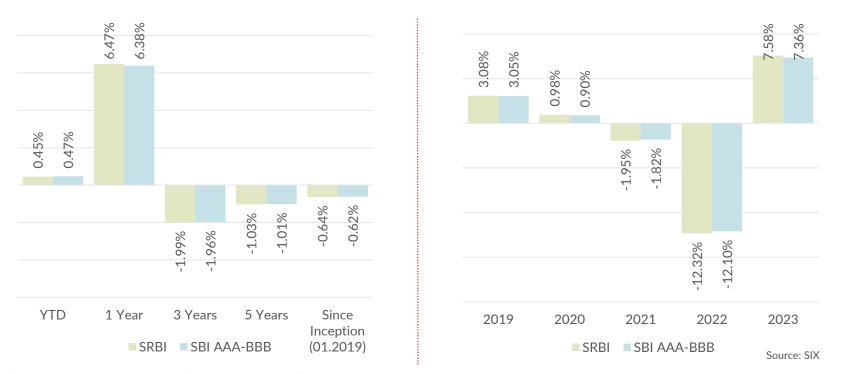
PERIOD: 01.01.2019 - 31.03.2024



Source: SIX



#### PERFORMANCE SRBI\* VS SBI AAA-BBB



\* The performance of the index between 1st September 2019 and 31st March 2024 is a backtest calculated by SIX. Historical performance is not indicative of future performance.



# KEY RISK-RETURN FIGURES SRBI\* VS SBI AAA-BBB

AS OF 31.03.2024

01.2019 - 03.2024	SRBI	SBI AAA-BBB
RETURN P.A.	-0.64%	-0.62%
EXCESS RETURN P.A.	-0.02%	
VOLATILITY (ST DEV)	5.19%	5.05%
SHARPE RATIO	-0.05	-0.05
TRACKING ERROR	0.20%	
INFORMATION RATIO	-0.08	
BETA	1.03	1.00
MAXIMUM DRAWDOWN	-16.29%	-15.91%

Source: Morningstar Direct, SIX

#### ethos

#### Ethos

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