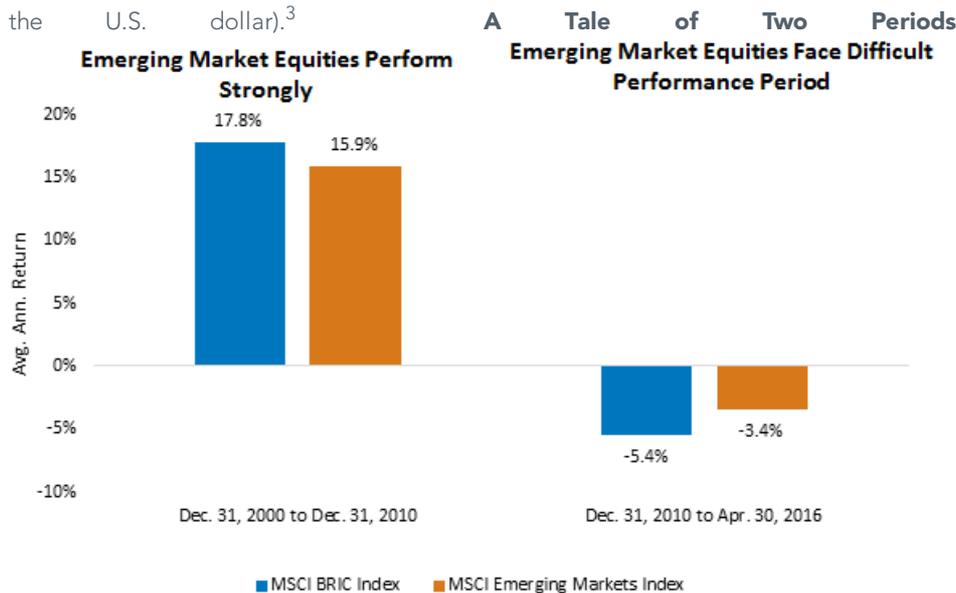


# “THE BRICS ARE DEAD; LONG LIVE THE TICKS,” SAYS FINANCIAL TIMES

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We saw this phenomenal title in an online article from the *Financial Times* in January.<sup>1</sup> The term “BRIC” (Brazil, Russia, India and China), coined by Jim O’Neill during his time at Goldman Sachs, didn’t come about because of these markets’ ongoing underperformance—quite the opposite. As illustrated below, from December 31, 2000, to December 31, 2010—a 10-year period that includes the global financial crisis—the [MSCI BRIC Index](#) outperformed the [MSCI Emerging Markets Index](#) (which was enjoying mid-double-digit returns for a decade) by almost 2% per year.<sup>2</sup> During that period, the currency impact on both the MSCI BRIC Index and the MSCI Emerging Markets Index was negligible—appreciation of approximately 1% per year. But shifting the period to December 31, 2010 - April 29, 2016, provides a completely different picture. The MSCI BRIC Index underperformed the MSCI Emerging Markets Index by 2% per year, and the currency decline on these indexes against the U.S. dollar was roughly the full magnitude of the negative returns (i.e., the stocks did not contribute to the negative performance anywhere near as much as their currencies did, measured against the U.S. dollar).<sup>3</sup>



Source: Bloomberg, with data measured for specified periods. Past performance is not indicative of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index.

**The [WisdomTree Strong Dollar Emerging Markets Equity Index \(WTEMSD\)](#) Finds the TICKs (Taiwan, India, China & [South] Korea), not the BRICs**

As we describe the process below, our strategy syncs up with the *Financial Times*’ conclusion: WTEMSD has country exposure focused on the TICKs, not the BRICs, with the following top three most heavily weighted countries<sup>4</sup>:

- Taiwan: 37%
- South Korea: 34%
- India: 10%

China is the one TICKs country not getting significant exposure currently.

**WTEMSD Sector Exposure** The process for inclusion in WTEMSD starts by more restrictive exposure to various sectors. WisdomTree’s approach places emphasis on the following sectors<sup>5</sup>:

- Information Technology: 36%
- Consumer Discretionary: 25%
- Industrials: 17%
- Health Care: 13%
- Consumer Staples: 9%

By design, WTEMSD avoids the more [leveraged](#) sectors (Financials, Telecommunication Services and Utilities)—which are at risk of a stronger U.S. dollar if they

have debt denominated in U.S. dollars that is becoming harder to pay back with weakening currencies—as well as commodity sectors (Energy and Materials), which also tend to be most impacted by a rising dollar. **Proof in the Performance** Since its inception, the WisdomTree Strong Dollar Emerging Markets Equity Index has delivered a performance experience distinctly different from that of either the MSCI BRIC or MSCI Emerging Markets indexes.

**WisdomTree Strong Dollar Emerging Markets Strategy Performance**



Source: Bloomberg, for period 6/1/2006 (inception date for WTEMSD) to 4/29/2016. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Index performance does not represent actual fund or portfolio performance. A fund or portfolio may differ significantly from the securities included in the index. Index performance assumes reinvestment of dividends but does not reflect any management fees, transaction costs or other expenses that would be incurred by a portfolio or fund, or brokerage commissions on transactions in fund shares. Such fees, expenses and commissions could reduce returns.

<sup>1</sup>Published on 1/28/16.

<sup>2</sup>Source: Bloomberg, with data from 12/31/00 to 12/31/10. <sup>3</sup>Source: Bloomberg, with data from 12/31/10 to 4/29/16.

<sup>4</sup>Source: Bloomberg, with data measured as of 4/29/16. <sup>5</sup>Source: Bloomberg, with data measured as of 4/29/16.

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Investments in emerging, offshore or frontier markets are generally less liquid and less efficient than investments in developed markets and are subject to additional risks, such as risks of adverse governmental regulation and intervention or political developments.

Investments in currency involve additional special risks, such as credit risk and interest rate fluctuations.

For standardized performance and the most recent month-end performance click [here](#) NOTE, this material is intended for electronic use only. Individuals who intend to print and physically deliver to an investor must print the monthly performance report to accompany this blog.

For more investing insights, check out our [Economic & Market Outlook](#)

View the online version of this article [here](#).

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You cannot invest directly in an index.

## DEFINITIONS

**BRICS** : An acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

**MSCI Emerging Markets Index** : a broad market cap-weighted Index showing performance of equities across 23 emerging market countries defined as “emerging markets” by MSCI.

**Leverage** : Total assets divided by equity. Higher numbers indicate greater borrowing to finance asset purchases; leverage can tend to make positive performance more positive and negative performance more negative.