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Registration No. 333-158385
September 1, 2011
FREE WRITING PROSPECTUS
(To Prospectus dated April 2, 2009,
Prospectus Supplement dated April 9, 2009,
and Product Supplement dated April 9, 2009)

HSBC Structured Investments

# HSBC USA Inc.
# $
# Buffered Return Enhanced Notes Linked to the S&P 500® Index due September 13, 2012 (the "Notes")

## General

- Terms used in this free writing prospectus are described or defined herein, in the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus. The Notes offered will have the terms described herein and in the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus. **The Notes are not principal protected, and you may lose up to 100.00% of your initial investment.**
- All references to "Enhanced Market Participation Notes" in the product supplement shall refer to these Buffered Return Enhanced Notes.
- This free writing prospectus relates to a single note offering. The purchaser of a Note will acquire a security linked to a single Reference Asset described below.
- Although the offering relates to a Reference Asset, you should not construe that fact as a recommendation as to the merits of acquiring an investment linked to the Reference Asset or any component security included in the Reference Asset or as to the suitability of an investment in the related Notes.
- Senior unsecured debt obligations of HSBC USA Inc. maturing September 13, 2012.
- Minimum denominations of $10,000 and integral multiples of $1,000 in excess thereof.
- **If the terms of the Notes set forth below are inconsistent with those described in the accompanying product supplement, the terms set forth below will supersede.**

## Key Terms

| | |
|---|---|
| Issuer: | HSBC USA Inc. |
| Issuer Rating: | AA- (S&P), A1 (Moody's), AA (Fitch)* |
| Reference Asset: | The S&P 500® Index ("SPX") |
| Principal Amount: | $1,000 per Note. |
| Trade Date: | September 1, 2011 |
| Pricing Date: | September 1, 2011 |
| Original Issue Date: | September 9, 2011 |
| Ending Averaging Dates: | September 4, 2012, September 5, 2012, September 6, 2012, September 7, 2012 and September 10, 2012 (the Final Valuation Date), subject to adjustment as described herein and in the accompanying product supplement. |
| Final Valuation Date: | September 10, 2012, subject to adjustment as described herein and in the accompanying product supplement. |
| Maturity Date: | 3 business days after the Final Valuation Date and is expected to be September 13, 2012. The Maturity Date is subject to further adjustment as described under "Market Disruption Events" herein and under "Specific Terms of the Notes — Market Disruption Events" in the accompanying product supplement. |
| Payment at Maturity: | For each Note, the Cash Settlement Value. |
| Cash Settlement Value: | For each Note, you will receive a cash payment on the Maturity Date that is based on the Reference Return (as described below):<br>**If the Reference Return is greater than or equal to 0.00%**, you will receive an amount equal to 100.00% of the Principal Amount plus the lesser of:<br>(i) the product of (a) the Principal Amount multiplied by (b) the Reference Return multiplied by the Upside Participation Rate; and<br>(ii) the product of (a) the Principal Amount multiplied by (b) the Maximum Return.<br>**If the Reference Return is less than 0.00% but greater than or equal to -10.00%**, meaning that the level of the Reference Asset declines by no more than the 10.00% Buffer Amount, at maturity, you will receive 100.00% of the Principal Amount.<br>**If the Reference Return is less than -10.00%**, meaning that the level of the Reference Asset declines by more than the 10.00% Buffer Amount, at maturity, you will lose 1.11111% of the Principal Amount for each percentage point that the Reference Return is below -10.00%. **This means that if the Reference Return is -100.00%, you will lose your entire investment.** |
| Upside Participation Rate: | 200.00% |
| Maximum Return: | 15.00% |
| Buffer Amount: | 10.00% |
| Downside Leverage Factor: | 1.11111 |
| Reference Return: | The quotient, expressed as a percentage, calculated as follows:<br>$\frac{\text{Final Level} - \text{Initial Level}}{\text{Initial Level}}$ |
| Initial Level: | The Official Closing Level of the Reference Asset on the Pricing Date. |
| Final Level: | The arithmetic average of the Official Closing Levels of the Reference Asset on the five Ending Averaging Dates, as determined by the calculation agent. |
| Official Closing Level: | The Official Closing Level of the Reference Asset on any scheduled trading day as determined by the calculation agent based upon the value displayed on Bloomberg Professional® service page "SPX <INDEX>" or any successor page on Bloomberg Professional® service or any successor service, as applicable. |
| Calculation Agent: | HSBC USA Inc. or one of its affiliates |
| CUSIP/ISIN: | 4042K1NF6 / |
| Form of Notes: | Book-Entry |
| Listing: | The Notes will not be listed on any U.S. securities exchange or quotation system. |

* A credit rating reflects the creditworthiness of HSBC USA Inc. and is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities, and it may be subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating organization. The Notes themselves have not been independently rated. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating.

**Investment in the Notes involves certain risks. You should refer to "Selected Risk Considerations" beginning on page 4 of this document and "Risk Factors" on page PS-4 of the product supplement and page S-3 of the prospectus supplement.**

Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the Notes or determined that this free writing prospectus, or the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus, is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The Notes are not deposit liabilities or other obligations of a bank and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency of the United States or any other jurisdiction, and involve investment risks including possible loss of the Principal Amount invested due to the credit risk of HSBC. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. or another of our affiliates or agents may use the pricing supplement to which this free writing prospectus relates in market-making transactions in any Notes after their initial sale. **Unless we or our agent informs you otherwise in the confirmation of sale, the pricing supplement to which this free writing prospectus relates is being used in a market-making transaction.** HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., an affiliate of ours, will purchase the Notes from us for distribution to the placement agent. See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)" on the last page of this free writing prospectus.

We have appointed J.P. Morgan Securities LLC as placement agent for the sale of the Notes. J.P. Morgan Securities LLC will offer the Notes to investors directly or through other registered broker dealers.

| | Price to Public[1] | Fees and Commissions | Proceeds to Issuer |
|---|---|---|---|
| Per Note | $1,000 | $10 | $990 |
| Total | | | |

[1] Certain fiduciary accounts purchasing the Notes will pay a purchase price of $990 per Note, and the placement agents with respect to sales made to such accounts will forgo any fees.

**JPMorgan**
**Placement Agent**
**September 1, 2011**

## Additional Terms Specific to the Notes

This free writing prospectus relates to a single note offering linked to the Reference Asset identified on the cover page. The purchaser of a Note will acquire a senior unsecured debt security linked to the Reference Asset. We reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify any offering and to reject orders in whole or in part. Although the Note offering relates only to a single Reference Asset identified on the cover page, you should not construe that fact as a recommendation as to the merits of acquiring an investment linked to the Reference Asset or any securities comprising the Reference Asset or as to the suitability of an investment in the Notes.

You should read this document together with the prospectus dated April 2, 2009, the prospectus supplement dated April 9, 2009 and the product supplement dated April 9, 2009. If the terms of the Notes offered hereby are inconsistent with those described in the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement or prospectus, the terms described in this free writing prospectus shall control. You should carefully consider, among other things, the matters set forth in "Selected Risk Considerations" beginning on page 4 of this free writing prospectus and "Risk Factors" on page PS-4 of the product supplement and page S-3 of the prospectus supplement, as the Notes involve risks not associated with conventional debt securities. All references to "Enhanced Market Participation Notes" in the product supplement shall refer to these Buffered Return Enhanced Notes. We urge you to consult your investment, legal, tax, accounting and other advisors before you invest in the Notes. As used herein, references to the "Issuer", "HSBC", "we", "us" and "our" are to HSBC USA Inc.

HSBC has filed a registration statement (including a prospectus, a prospectus supplement and a product supplement) with the SEC for the offering to which this free writing prospectus relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus, prospectus supplement and product supplement in that registration statement and other documents HSBC has filed with the SEC for more complete information about HSBC and this offering. You may get these documents for free by visiting EDGAR on the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov. Alternatively, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. or any dealer participating in this offering will arrange to send you the prospectus, prospectus supplement and product supplement if you request them by calling toll-free 1-866-811-8049.

You may also obtain:

- the product supplement at www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420409019791/v145840_424b2.htm
- the prospectus supplement at www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420409019785/v145824_424b2.htm
- the prospectus at www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000104746909003736/a2192100zs-3asr.htm

We are using this free writing prospectus to solicit from you an offer to purchase the Notes. You may revoke your offer to purchase the Notes at any time prior to the time at which we accept your offer by notifying HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. We reserve the right to change the terms of, or reject any offer to purchase, the Notes prior to their issuance. In the event of any material changes to the terms of the Notes, we will notify you.

### Supplemental Information Relating to the Terms of the Notes

Notwithstanding anything contained in the accompanying prospectus supplement or product supplement to the contrary, the Notes will be issued under the senior indenture dated March 31, 2009, between HSBC, as Issuer, and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee. Such indenture has substantially the same terms as the indenture described in the accompanying prospectus supplement and product supplement. HSBC Bank USA, N.A. will act as paying agent with respect to the Notes pursuant to a Paying Agent and Securities Registrar Agreement dated June 1, 2009, between HSBC and HSBC Bank USA, N.A.

### What Is the Total Return on the Notes at Maturity Assuming a Range of Performance for the Reference Asset?

The following table illustrates the hypothetical total return at maturity on the Notes. The "total return" as used in this free writing prospectus is the number, expressed as a percentage, that results from comparing the Payment at Maturity per $1,000 Principal Amount of Notes to $1,000. The hypothetical total returns set forth below assume an Initial Level of 1,200.00 and reflect the Upside Participation Rate of 200.00%, the Buffer Amount of 10.00%, the Downside Leverage Factor of 1.11111 and the Maximum Return on the Notes of 15.00%. The hypothetical total returns set forth below are for illustrative purposes only and may not be the actual total returns applicable to a purchaser of the Notes. The numbers appearing in the following table and examples have been rounded for ease of analysis.

| Hypothetical Final Level | Hypothetical Reference Return | Hypothetical Total Return on the Notes |
|---|---|---|
| 2,400.00 | 100.00% | 15.000% |
| 2,160.00 | 80.00% | 15.000% |
| 2,040.00 | 70.00% | 15.000% |
| 1,920.00 | 60.00% | 15.000% |
| 1,800.00 | 50.00% | 15.000% |
| 1,680.00 | 40.00% | 15.000% |
| 1,560.00 | 30.00% | 15.000% |
| 1,440.00 | 20.00% | 15.000% |
| 1,320.00 | 10.00% | 15.000% |
| **1,290.00** | **7.50%** | **15.000%** |
| 1,260.00 | 5.00% | 10.000% |
| 1,230.00 | 2.50% | 5.000% |
| 1,212.00 | 1.00% | 2.000% |
| **1,200.00** | **0.00%** | **0.000%** |
| 1,188.00 | -1.00% | 0.000% |
| 1,140.00 | -5.00% | 0.000% |
| **1,080.00** | **-10.00%** | **0.000%** |
| 960.00 | -20.00% | -11.111% |
| 840.00 | -30.00% | -22.222% |
| 720.00 | -40.00% | -33.333% |
| 600.00 | -50.00% | -44.444% |
| 480.00 | -60.00% | -55.555% |
| 360.00 | -70.00% | -66.666% |
| 240.00 | -80.00% | -77.777% |
| 120.00 | -90.00% | -88.888% |
| 0.00 | -100.00% | -100.000% |

### Hypothetical Examples of Amounts Payable at Maturity

The following examples illustrate how the total returns set forth in the table above are calculated.

**Example 1: The level of the Reference Asset increases from the Initial Level of 1,200.00 to a Final Level of 1,260.00.** Because the Final Level of 1,260.00 is greater than the Initial Level of 1,200.00 and the Reference Return of 5.00% multiplied by the Upside Participation Rate of 200.00% does not exceed the Maximum Return of 15.00%, the investor receives a Payment at Maturity of $1,100.00 per $1,000 Principal Amount of Notes, calculated as follows:

$$\$1,000 + [\$1,000 \times (5.00\% \times 200.00\%)] = \$1,100.00$$

**Example 2: The level of the Reference Asset increases from the Initial Level of 1,200.00 to a Final Level of 1,440.00.** Because the Final Level of 1,440.00 is greater than the Initial Level of 1,200.00 and the Reference Return of 20.00% multiplied by the Upside Participation Rate of 200.00% exceeds the Maximum Return of 15.00%, the investor receives a Payment at Maturity of $1,150.00 per $1,000 Principal Amount of Notes, the maximum payment on the Notes, calculated as follows:

$$\$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times 15.00\%) = \$1,150.00$$

**Example 3: The level of the Reference Asset decreases from the Initial Level of 1,200.00 to a Final Level of 1,140.00.** Because the Reference Return is -5.00% and the Final Level of 1,140.00 is less than the Initial Level of 1,200.00 but not by more than the Buffer Amount of 10.00%, the investor receives a Payment at Maturity of 100.00% of the principal amount, which equals $1,000.00 per $1,000 Principal Amount of Notes.

**Example 4: The level of the Reference Asset decreases from the Initial Level of 1,200.00 to a Final Level of 840.00.** Because the Reference Return is -30.00% and the Final Level of 840.00 is less than the Initial Level of 1,200.00 by more than the Buffer Amount of 10.00%, the investor receives a Payment at Maturity of $777.78 per $1,000 Principal Amount of Notes, calculated as follows:

$$\$1,000 + [\$1,000 \times (-30.00\% + 10.00\%) \times 1.11111] = \$777.78$$

## Selected Purchase Considerations

- **APPRECIATION POTENTIAL** — The Notes provide the opportunity for enhanced returns at maturity by multiplying a positive Reference Return by 200.00%, up to the Maximum Return on the Notes of 15.00%, or a maximum Payment at Maturity of $1,150.00 for every $1,000 Principal Amount of Notes. Because the Notes are our senior unsecured obligations, payment of any amount at maturity is subject to our ability to pay our obligations as they become due.

- **LIMITED BUFFER AGAINST LOSS** — We will pay you your principal back at maturity if the Final Level is not less than the Initial Level by more than the Buffer Amount of 10.00%. If the level of the Reference Asset declines by more than 10.00%, you will lose 1.11111% of the Principal Amount for every 1.00% decline of the level of the Reference Asset over the term of the Notes beyond 10.00%. **If the Reference Return is -100.00%, you will lose your entire investment.**

- **DIVERSIFICATION OF THE S&P 500® INDEX** — The return on the Notes is linked to the S&P 500® Index. The S&P 500® Index consists of 500 component stocks selected to provide a performance benchmark for the U.S. equity markets. For additional information about the Reference Asset, see the information set forth under "Description of the Reference Asset" herein.

- **TAX TREATMENT** — There is no direct legal authority as to the proper tax treatment of the Notes, and therefore significant aspects of the tax treatment of the Notes are uncertain as to both the timing and character of any inclusion in income in respect of the Notes. Under one approach, the Notes should be treated as pre-paid forward or other executory contracts with respect to the Reference Asset. We intend to treat the Notes consistent with this approach. Pursuant to the terms of the Notes, you agree to treat the Notes under this approach for all U.S. federal income tax purposes. Notwithstanding any disclosure in the accompanying product supplement to the contrary, our special U.S. tax counsel in this transaction is Sidley Austin LLP. Subject to the limitations described therein, and based on certain factual representations received from us, in the opinion of our special U.S. tax counsel, Sidley Austin LLP, it is reasonable to treat the Notes as pre-paid forward or other executory contracts with respect to the Reference Asset. Pursuant to this approach, we do not intend to report any income or gain with respect to the Notes prior to their maturity or an earlier sale or exchange and we generally intend to treat any gain or loss upon maturity or an earlier sale or exchange as long-term capital gain or loss, provided that you have held the Note for more than one year at such time for U.S. federal income tax purposes. For a further discussion of U.S. federal income tax consequences related to the Notes, see the section "Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations" in the accompanying product supplement.

## Selected Risk Considerations

An investment in the Notes involves significant risks. Investing in the Notes is not equivalent to investing directly in any of the component securities of the Reference Asset. These risks are explained in more detail in the "Risk Factors" sections of the accompanying product supplement and prospectus supplement.

- **YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE NOTES MAY RESULT IN A LOSS** — The Notes do not guarantee any return of principal if the Reference Return is less than -10.00%. The return on the Notes at maturity is linked to the performance of the Reference Asset and will depend on whether, and the extent to which, the Reference Return is positive or negative. Your investment will be exposed on a leveraged basis to any decline in the Final Level of the Reference Asset beyond the Buffer Amount as compared to the Initial Level. **You may lose up to 100.00% of your investment**.

- **CREDIT RISK OF HSBC USA INC.** — The Notes are senior unsecured debt obligations of the issuer, HSBC, and are not, either directly or indirectly, an obligation of any third party. As further described in the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus, the Notes will rank on par with all of the other unsecured and unsubordinated debt obligations of HSBC, except such obligations as may be preferred by operation of law. Any payment to be made on the Notes, including any return of principal at maturity, depends on the ability of HSBC to satisfy its obligations as they come due. As a result, the actual and perceived creditworthiness of HSBC may affect the market value of the Notes and, in the event HSBC were to default on its obligations, you may not receive the amounts owed to you under the terms of the Notes.

- **YOUR MAXIMUM GAIN ON THE NOTES IS LIMITED TO THE MAXIMUM RETURN** — If the Final Level is greater than the Initial Level, for each $1,000 Principal Amount of Notes you hold, you will receive at maturity $1,000 plus an additional amount that will not exceed the Maximum Return of 15.00% of the Principal Amount, regardless of the appreciation in the Reference Asset, which may be significantly greater than the Maximum Return. **You will not receive a return on the Notes greater than the Maximum Return.**

- **SUITABILITY OF NOTES FOR INVESTMENT** – A person should reach a decision to invest in the Notes after carefully considering, with his or her advisors, the suitability of the Notes in light of his or her investment objectives and the information set out in this free writing prospectus. Neither the Issuer nor any dealer participating in the offering makes any recommendation as to the suitability of the Notes for investment.

- **CERTAIN BUILT-IN COSTS ARE LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT THE VALUE OF THE NOTES PRIOR TO MATURITY** — While the Payment at Maturity described in this free writing prospectus is based on the full Principal Amount of your Notes, the original issue price of the Notes includes the placement agent's commission and the estimated cost of hedging our obligations under the Notes through one or more of our affiliates. As a result, the price, if any, at which HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. will be willing to purchase Notes from you in secondary market transactions, if at all, will likely be lower than the original issue price, and any sale of Notes by you prior to the Maturity Date could result in a substantial loss to you. The Notes are not designed to be short-term trading instruments. Accordingly, you should be able and willing to hold your Notes to maturity.

- **NO INTEREST OR DIVIDEND PAYMENTS OR VOTING RIGHTS** — As a holder of the Notes, you will not receive interest payments, and you will not have voting rights or rights to receive cash dividends or other distributions or other rights that holders of securities composing the Reference Asset would have.

- **LACK OF LIQUIDITY** — The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. may offer to purchase the Notes in the secondary market but is not required to do so and may cease making such offers at any time. Because other dealers are not likely to make a secondary market for the Notes, the price at which you may be able to trade your Notes is likely to depend on the price, if any, at which HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. is willing to buy the Notes. Even if there is a secondary market, it may not provide enough liquidity to allow you to trade or sell the Notes easily.

- **POTENTIAL CONFLICTS** — We and our affiliates play a variety of roles in connection with the issuance of the Notes, including acting as calculation agent and hedging our obligations under the Notes. In performing these duties, the economic interests of the calculation agent and other affiliates of ours are potentially adverse to your interests as an investor in the Notes. We will not have any obligation to consider your interests as a holder of the Notes in taking any corporate action that might affect the level of the Reference Asset and the value of the Notes. The calculation agent is under no obligation to consider your interests as a holder of the Notes in taking any actions that might affect the value of your Notes.

- **THE NOTES ARE NOT INSURED BY ANY GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES OR ANY OTHER JURISDICTION** — The Notes are not deposit liabilities or other obligations of a bank and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency or program of the United States or any other jurisdiction. An investment in the Notes is subject to the credit risk of the Issuer, and in the event that we are unable to pay our obligations as they become due, you may not receive the full Payment at Maturity of the Notes.

- **MANY ECONOMIC AND MARKET FACTORS WILL IMPACT THE VALUE OF THE NOTES** — In addition to the level of the Reference Asset on any day, the value of the Notes will be affected by a number of economic and market factors that may either offset or magnify each other, including:
    - the expected volatility of the Reference Asset;
    - the time to maturity of the Notes;
    - the dividend rate on the equity securities underlying the Reference Asset;
    - interest and yield rates in the market generally;
    - a variety of economic, financial, political, regulatory or judicial events that affect the Reference Asset or the stock markets generally; and
    - our creditworthiness, including actual or anticipated downgrades in our credit ratings.

## Description of the Reference Asset

### General

*This free writing prospectus is not an offer to sell and it is not an offer to buy interests in the Reference Asset or any of the securities comprising the Reference Asset. All disclosures contained in this free writing prospectus regarding the Reference Asset, including its make-up, performance, method of calculation and changes in its components, where applicable, are derived from publicly available information. Neither HSBC nor any of its affiliates assumes any responsibilities for the adequacy or accuracy of information about the Reference Asset or any constituent included in the Reference Asset contained in this free writing prospectus. You should make your own investigation into each Reference Asset.*

We urge you to read the section "Sponsors or Issuers and Reference Asset" on page S-37 in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

### The S&P 500® Index

HSBC has derived all information relating to the Reference Asset, including, without limitation, its make-up, performance, method of calculation and changes in its components, from publicly available sources. That information reflects the policies of and is subject to change by, Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC ("S&P"). S&P is under no obligation to continue to publish, and may discontinue or suspend the publication of the Reference Asset at any time.

*S&P publishes the Reference Asset*

The Reference Asset is intended to provide an indication of the pattern of common stock price movement. The calculation of the level of the Reference Asset, discussed below in further detail, is based on the relative value of the aggregate Market Value (as defined below) of the common stocks of 500 companies as of a particular time compared to the aggregate average Market Value of the common stocks of 500 similar companies during the base period of the years 1941 through 1943. S&P chooses companies for inclusion in the Reference Asset with the aim of achieving a distribution by broad industry groupings that approximates the distribution of these groupings in the common stock population of the Standard & Poor's Stock Guide Database, which S&P uses as an assumed model for the composition of the total market. S&P may from time to time in its sole discretion, add companies to or delete companies from, the Reference Asset to achieve these objectives.

Relevant criteria employed by S&P include the viability of the particular company, the extent to which that company represents the industry group to which it is assigned, the extent to which the market price of that company's common stock is generally responsive to changes in the affairs of the respective industry and the market value and trading activity of the common stock of that company. Ten main industry groups comprise the Reference Asset: Information Technology, Financials, Consumer Staples, Health Care, Energy, Industrials, Consumer Discretionary, Utilities, Materials and Telecommunication Services. Changes in the Reference Asset are reported daily in the financial pages of many major newspapers, on Bloomberg Professional® service under the symbol "SPX" and on the S&P website. Information contained in the S&P website is not incorporated by reference in, and should not be considered a part of, this document.

The Reference Asset does not reflect the payment of dividends on the stocks included in the Reference Asset and therefore the payment on the Notes will not produce the same return you would receive if you were able to purchase such underlying stocks and hold them until the Maturity Date.

*Computation of the Reference Asset*

Prior to March 2005, the Market Value of a component stock was calculated as the product of the market price per share and the total number of outstanding shares of the component stock. In March 2004, S&P announced that it would transition the Reference Asset to float-adjusted market capitalization weights. The transition began in March 2005 and was completed in September 2005. S&P's criteria for selecting stock for the Reference Asset was not changed by the shift to float adjustment. However, the adjustment affects each company's weight in the Reference Asset (i.e., its Market Value). Currently, S&P calculates the Reference Asset based on the total float-adjusted market capitalization of each component stock, where each stock's weight in the Reference Asset is proportional to its float-adjusted Market Value.

Under float adjustment, the share counts used in calculating the Reference Asset reflect only those shares that are available to investors, not all of a company's outstanding shares. S&P defines three groups of shareholders whose holdings are subject to float adjustment:

- holdings by other publicly traded corporations, venture capital firms, private equity firms, strategic partners, or leveraged buyout groups;
- holdings by government entities, including all levels of government in the U.S. or foreign countries; and
- holdings by current or former officers and directors of the company, founders of the company, or family trusts of officers, directors, or founders, as well as holdings of trusts, foundations, pension funds, employee stock ownership plans or other investment vehicles associated with and controlled by the company.

However, treasury stock, stock options, restricted shares, equity participation units, warrants, preferred stock, convertible stock, and rights are not part of the float. In cases where holdings in a group exceed 10% of the outstanding shares of a company, the holdings of that group are excluded from the float-adjusted count of shares to be used in the index calculation. Mutual funds, investment advisory firms, pension funds, or foundations not associated with the company and investment funds

in insurance companies, shares of a U.S. company traded in Canada as “exchangeable shares,” shares that trust beneficiaries may buy or sell without difficulty or significant additional expense beyond typical brokerage fees, and, if a company has multiple classes of stock outstanding, shares in an unlisted or non-traded class if such shares are convertible by shareholders without undue delay and cost, are also part of the float.

For each stock, an investable weight factor (“IWF”) is calculated by dividing the available float shares, defined as the total shares outstanding less shares held in one or more of the three groups listed above where the group holdings exceed 10% of the outstanding shares, by the total shares outstanding. The float-adjusted index is then calculated by dividing the sum of the IWF multiplied by both the price and the total shares outstanding for each stock by an Index divisor (the “Divisor”). For companies with multiple classes of stock, S&P calculates the weighted average IWF for each stock using the proportion of the total company market capitalization of each share class as weights.

As of the date of this document, the Reference Asset is also calculated using a base-weighted aggregate methodology: the level of the Reference Asset reflects the total Market Value of all the component stocks relative to the Reference Asset base period of 1941-43. The daily calculation of the Reference Asset is computed by dividing the Market Value of the Reference Asset component stocks by a Divisor, which is adjusted from time to time as discussed below.

The simplest capitalization weighted index can be thought of as a portfolio consisting of all available shares of the stocks in the index. While this might track this portfolio’s value in dollar terms, it would probably yield an unwieldy number in the trillions. Therefore, the actual number used in the Reference Asset is scaled to a more easily handled number, currently in the thousands, by dividing the portfolio Market Value by the Divisor.

Ongoing maintenance of the Reference Asset includes monitoring and completing the adjustments for additions and deletions of the constituent companies, share changes, stock splits, stock dividends and stock price adjustments due to company restructurings or spin-offs. Continuity in the level of the Reference Asset is maintained by adjusting the Divisor for all changes in the Reference Asset constituents’ share capital after the base period of 1941-43 with the level of the Reference Asset as of the base period set at 10. Some corporate actions, such as stock splits and stock dividends do not require Divisor adjustments because following a stock split or stock dividend, both the stock price and number of shares outstanding are adjusted by S&P so that there is no change in the Market Value of the component stock. All stock split and dividend adjustments are made after the close of trading on the day before the ex-date.

To prevent the level of the Reference Asset from changing due to corporate actions, all corporate actions which affect the total Market Value of the Reference Asset also require a Divisor adjustment. By adjusting the Divisor for the change in total Market Value, the level of the Reference Asset remains constant. This helps maintain the level of the Reference Asset as an accurate barometer of stock market performance and ensures that the movement of the Reference Asset does not reflect the corporate actions of individual companies in the Reference Asset. All Divisor adjustments are made after the close of trading and after the calculation of the closing levels of the Reference Asset. As noted in the preceding paragraph, some corporate actions, such as stock splits and stock dividends, require simple changes in the common shares outstanding and the stock prices of the companies in the Reference Asset and do not require Divisor adjustments.
The table below summarizes the types of Reference Asset maintenance adjustments and indicates whether or not an Divisor adjustment is required.

| **Type of Corporate Action** | **Comments** | **Divisor Adjustment** |
|---|---|---|
| Company added/deleted | Net change in market value determines Divisor adjustment. | Yes |
| Change in shares outstanding | Any combination of secondary issuance, share repurchase or buy back—share counts revised to reflect change. | Yes |
| Stock split | Share count revised to reflect new count. Divisor adjustment is not required since the share count and price changes are offsetting. | No |
| Spin-off | If spun-off company is not being added to the index, the divisor adjustment reflects the decline in Index Market Value (i.e., the value of the spun-off unit). | Yes |
| Spin-off | Spun-off company added to the Reference Asset, no company removed from the Reference Asset. | No |
| Spin-off | Spun-off company added to the Reference Asset, another company removed to keep number of names fixed. Divisor adjustment reflects deletion. | Yes |
| Change in IWF | Increasing (decreasing) the IWF increases (decreases) the total market value of the Reference Asset. The Divisor change reflects the change in market value caused by the change to an IWF. | Yes |
| Special dividend | When a company pays a special dividend the share price is assumed to drop by the amount of the dividend; the divisor adjustment reflects this drop in Index Market Value. | Yes |

| Type of Corporate Action | Comments | Divisor Adjustment |
|---|---|---|
| Rights offering | Each shareholder receives the right to buy a proportional number of additional shares at a set (often discounted) price. The calculation assumes that the offering is fully subscribed. Divisor adjustment reflects increase in market cap measured as the shares issued multiplied by the price paid. | Yes |

Each of the corporate events exemplified in the table requiring an adjustment to the Divisor has the effect of altering the Market Value of the component stock and consequently of altering the aggregate Market Value of the Reference Asset component stocks (the "Post-Event Aggregate Market Value"). In order that the level of the Reference Asset (the "Pre-Event Index Value") not be affected by the altered Market Value (whether increase or decrease) of the affected component stock, a new Divisor ("New Divisor") is derived as follows:

- $$\frac{\text{Post-Event Aggregate Market Value}}{\text{New Divisor}} = \text{Pre-Event Index Value}$$
- $$\text{New Divisor} = \frac{\text{Post-Event Aggregate Market Value}}{\text{Pre-Event Index Value}}$$

Another large part of the Reference Asset maintenance process involves tracking the changes in the number of shares outstanding of each of the companies whose stocks are included in the Reference Asset. Four times a year, on a Friday close to the end of each calendar quarter, the share totals of companies in the Reference Asset are updated as required by any changes in the number of shares outstanding and then the Index Divisor is adjusted accordingly. In addition, changes in a company's shares outstanding of 5% or more due to mergers, acquisitions, public offerings, private placements, tender offers, Dutch auctions or exchange offers are made as soon as reasonably possible. Other changes of 5% or more (due to, for example, company stock repurchases, redemptions, exercise of options, warrants, conversion of preferred stock, notes, debt, equity participations or other recapitalizations) are made weekly, and are announced on Wednesdays for implementation after the close of trading on the following Wednesday. If a 5% or more change causes a company's IWF to change by 5 percentage points or more (for example from 0.80 to 0.85), the IWF will be updated at the same time as the share change, except IWF changes resulting from partial tender offers will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Changes to an IWF of less than 5 percentage points are implemented at the next IWF review, which occurs annually. In the case of certain rights issuances, in which the number of rights issued and/or terms of their exercise are deemed substantial, a price adjustment and share increase may be implemented immediately.

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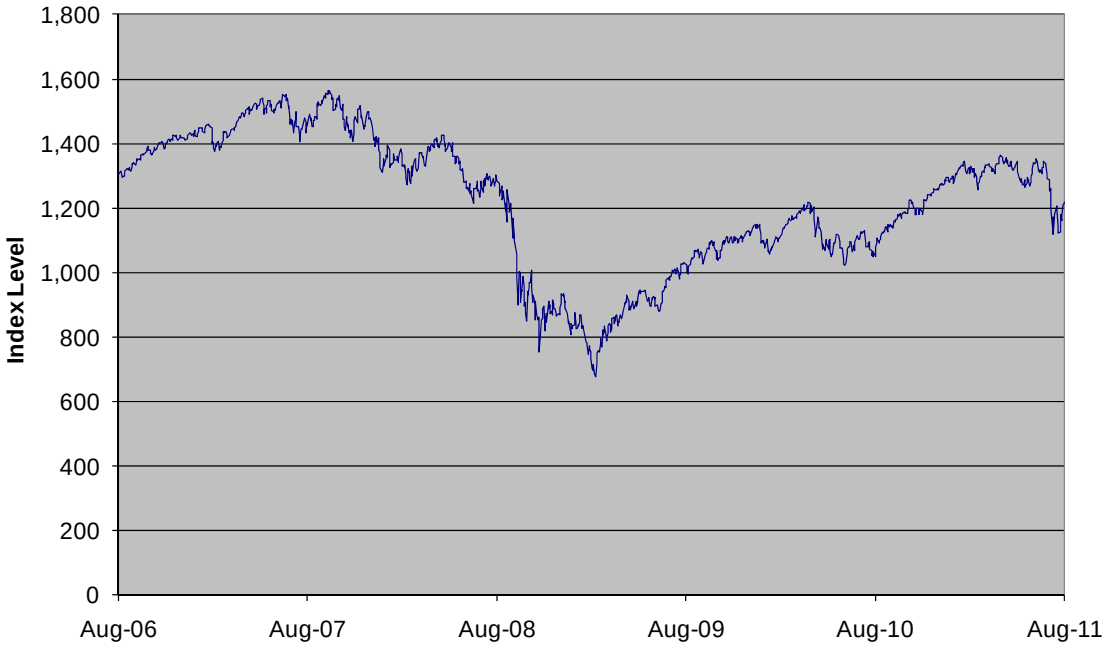
### Historical Performance of Reference Asset

The following graph sets forth the historical performance of the Reference Asset based on the daily historical closing levels from August 31, 2006 through August 31, 2011. The closing level for the Reference Asset on August 31, 2011 was 1,218.89. We obtained the closing levels below from Bloomberg Professional® service. We make no representation or warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of the information obtained from Bloomberg Professional® service.

The historical levels of the Reference Asset should not be taken as an indication of future performance, and no assurance can be given as to the Official Closing Level on the Final Valuation Date or any of the Ending Average Dates. We cannot give you assurance that the performance of the Reference Asset will result in the return of any of your initial investment.

**Historical Performance of the S&P 500® Index**




**Source: Bloomberg**

### Market Disruption Events

If an Ending Averaging Date or the Final Valuation Date is not a scheduled trading day, then such Ending Averaging Date or the Final Valuation Date will be the next day that is a scheduled trading day. If a market disruption event (as defined below) exists on an Ending Averaging Date or the Final Valuation Date, then such Ending Averaging Date or the Final Valuation Date, as applicable, will be the next scheduled trading day for which there is no market disruption event. If a market disruption event exists with respect to an Ending Averaging Date or the Final Valuation Date on five consecutive scheduled trading days, then that fifth scheduled trading day will be the Ending Averaging Date or the Final Valuation Date, as applicable, and the Official Closing Level of the Reference Asset will be determined by means of the formula for and method of calculating the Reference Asset which applied just prior to the market disruption event, using the relevant exchange traded or quoted price of each stock included in the Reference Asset (or a good faith estimate of the value of a security included in the Reference Asset which is itself the subject of a market disruption event). If an Ending Averaging Date is postponed, then each subsequent Ending Averaging Date and the Final Valuation Date will also be postponed by an equal number of scheduled trading days. If the Final Valuation Date is postponed, then the Maturity Date will also be postponed by an equal number of scheduled trading days and no interest will be paid in respect of such postponement.

Notwithstanding the definition of market disruption event in the accompanying product supplement, “market disruption event” means any scheduled trading day on which any relevant exchange or related exchange fails to open for trading during its regular trading session or on which any of the following events has occurred and is continuing which the calculation agent determines is material:

(i) Any suspension of or limitation imposed on trading by any relevant exchanges or related exchanges or otherwise, (A) relating to any component security included in the Reference Asset then constituting 20.00% or more of the level of such Reference Asset or (B) in futures or options contracts relating to the relevant Reference Asset on any related exchange; or

(ii) Any event (other than any event described in (iii) below) that disrupts or impairs the ability of market participants in general (A) to effect transactions in, or obtain market values for any component security included in the Reference Asset then constituting 20.00% or more of the level of such Reference Asset or (B) to effect transactions in, or obtain market values for, futures or options contracts relating to the Reference Asset on any relevant related exchange; or

(iii) The closure on any scheduled trading day of any relevant exchange or related exchange prior to its scheduled closing time (unless the earlier closing time is announced by the relevant exchange or related exchange at least one hour prior to the earlier of (i) the actual closing time for the regular trading session on the exchange and (ii) the submission deadline for orders to be entered into the relevant exchange or related exchange for execution at the close of trading on that day).

### Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)

Pursuant to the terms of a distribution agreement, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., an affiliate of HSBC, will purchase the Notes from HSBC for distribution to J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, at the price indicated on the cover of the pricing supplement, the document that will be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2) containing the final pricing terms of the Notes. J.P. Morgan Securities LLC will act as placement agent for the Notes and will receive a fee that will not exceed $10.00 per $1,000 Principal Amount of Notes.

In addition, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. or another of its affiliates or agents may use the pricing supplement to which this free writing prospectus relates in market-making transactions after the initial sale of the securities, but is under no obligation to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice.

See “Supplemental Plan of Distribution” on page S-52 in the prospectus supplement. All references to NASD Rule 2720 in the prospectus supplement shall be to FINRA Rule 5121.

We expect that delivery of the Notes will be made against payment for the Notes on or about the Original Issue Date set forth on the cover page of this document, which is expected to be the fifth business day following the Trade Date of the Notes. Under Rule 15c6-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to that trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade Notes on the Trade Date and the following business day thereafter will be required to specify an alternate settlement cycle at the time of any such trade to prevent a failed settlement and should consult their own advisors.