

Filed Pursuant to Rule 433
Registration No. 333- 180289
May 7, 2012
FREE WRITING PROSPECTUS
(To Prospectus dated March 22, 2012,
Prospectus Supplement dated March 22, 2012,
Equity Index Underlying Supplement dated March 22, 2012 and
ETF Underlying Supplement dated March 22, 2012)

HSBC USA Inc. Contingent Yield Notes

- ▶ Contingent Yield Notes linked to a reference asset consisting of the Russell 2000® Index and the Market Vectors Gold Miners ETF
- ▶ 13-month term
- ▶ Fixed Payment at Maturity, subject to the credit risk of HSBC USA Inc., if the Official Closing Level of both Underlyings remains at or above 60% of their Initial Value during the Observation Period.

The Contingent Yield Notes (each a "Note" and collectively the "Notes") offered hereunder will not be listed on any U.S. securities exchange or automated quotation system. These Notes will not bear interest.

Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the Notes or passed upon the accuracy or the adequacy of this document, the accompanying prospectus, prospectus supplement, Equity Index Underlying Supplement or ETF Underlying Supplement. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

We have appointed HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., an affiliate of ours, as the agent for the sale of the Notes. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. will purchase the Notes from us for distribution to other registered broker-dealers or will offer the Notes directly to investors. 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 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. See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)" on page FWP-16 of this free writing prospectus.

Investment in the Notes involves certain risks. You should refer to "Risk Factors" beginning on page FWP-9 of this document, page S-3 of the accompanying prospectus supplement, page S-1 of the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement and page S-2 of the accompanying ETF Underlying Supplement.

	Price to Public	Fees and Commissions ¹	Proceeds to Issuer
Per Note	\$1,000		
Total			

¹HSBC USA Inc. or one of our affiliates may pay varying discounts of up to 0.65% and referral fees of up to 0.65% per \$1,000 Principal Amount of Notes in connection with the distribution of the Notes to other registered broker-dealers. In no case will the sum of discounts and referral fees exceed 0.65% per \$1,000 Principal Amount. See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)" on page FWP-16 of this free writing prospectus.

The Notes:

Are Not FDIC Insured	Are Not Bank Guaranteed	May Lose Value
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13-Month Contingent Yield Notes

Indicative Terms*

Principal Amount	\$1,000 per Note
Term	13 months
Reference Asset	Composed of the Russell 2000® Index ("RTY") and Market Vectors Gold Miners ETF ("GDX") (each an "Underlying" and together the "Underlyings")
Payment at Maturity per Note	<p>You will receive a payment on the Maturity Date calculated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If a Trigger Event does not occur, 113.50% of the Principal Amount. ■ If a Trigger Event occurs and the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying is positive, 100% of the Principal Amount ■ If a Trigger Event occurs and the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying is negative or zero, an amount equal to (i) 100% of the Principal Amount multiplied by (ii) the sum of one plus the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying.
Trigger Event	A Trigger Event occurs if the Official Closing Value of either Underlying is below its Trigger Value on any scheduled trading day during the Observation Period**.
Trigger Value	For each Underlying, 60% of its Initial Value.
Final Return	For each Underlying: $\frac{\text{Final Value} - \text{Initial Value}}{\text{Initial Value}}$
Least Performing Underlying	The Underlying with the lowest Final Return.
Observation Period	From the Trade Date to and including the Final Valuation Date.
Trade Date	May 11, 2012
Pricing Date	May 11, 2012
Settlement Date	May 16, 2012
Final Valuation	June, 11, 2013
Maturity Date	June 14, 2013
CUSIP	4042K1M34

* As more fully described beginning on page FWP-4.

** See page FWP-5 for Observation Period.

The Notes

The Notes provide investors the potential for a return of 13.50% if the Official Closing Level of both Underlyings remains at or above the Trigger Level during the Observation Period.

If a Trigger Event does not occur during the Observation Period, you will receive 113.50% of the Principal Amount of your Notes at maturity.

If a Trigger Event occurs with respect to either Underlying in the Reference Asset during the Observation Period, you may lose some or all of your initial investment. If you lose some or all of your initial investment, your yield on an investment in the Notes will be negative.

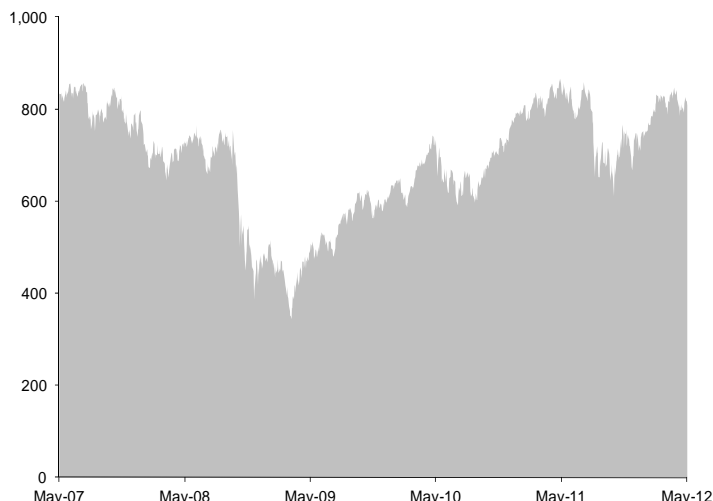
The offering period for the Notes is through **May 11, 2012**



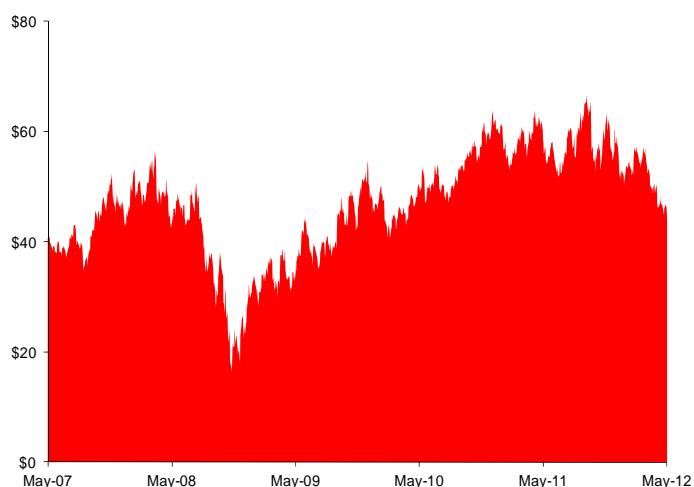
Information about the Reference Asset

Russell 2000® Index and Market Vectors Gold Miners ETF

The RTY is designed to track the performance of the small-capitalization segment of the U.S. equity market. It consists of the smallest 2,000 companies included in the Russell 3000® Index, which is composed of the 3,000 largest U.S. companies as determined by market capitalization. The top 5 industry groups by market capitalization as of March 31, 2012 were: Financial Services, Consumer Discretionary, Producer Durables, Technology and Health Care.



The GDX seeks investment results that correspond to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the NYSE Arca Gold Miners Index. The NYSE Arca Gold Miners Index includes common stocks and ADRs of selected companies that are involved in mining for gold and silver and are listed on the NYSE or the NYSE Amex or quoted on the NASDAQ Stock Market.



The graphs above illustrate the daily 5 year month-end performance of each Underlying through May 3, 2012. Past performance is not necessarily an indication of future results. For further information please see "Information Relating to the Reference Asset" on page FWP-14, "The Russell 2000® Index" in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement and "The Market Vectors Gold Miners ETF" in the accompanying ETF Underlying Supplement. We have derived all disclosure regarding the Underlyings from publicly available information. Neither HSBC USA Inc. nor any of its affiliates have undertaken any independent review of, or made any due diligence inquiry with respect to, the publicly available information about the Reference Asset.

HSBC USA Inc.

13-Month Contingent Yield Notes



This free writing prospectus relates to a single offering of Contingent Yield Notes (each a “Note” and collectively the “Notes”). The offering will have the terms described in this free writing prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, prospectus, Equity Index Underlying Supplement and ETF Underlying Supplement. If the terms of the Notes offered hereby are inconsistent with those described in the accompanying prospectus supplement, prospectus or underlying supplements, the terms described in this free writing prospectus shall control.

This free writing prospectus relates to a single offering of Notes linked to the performance of one index and one index fund identified below (the “Reference Asset”). The purchaser of a Note will acquire a senior unsecured debt security of HSBC USA Inc. linked to the Reference Asset as described below. The following key terms relate to the offerings of Notes:

Issuer:	HSBC USA Inc.
Issuer Rating:	A+ (S&P), A1 (Moody's), AA (Fitch) [†]
Principal Amount:	\$1,000 per Note
Reference Asset:	Composed of the Russell 2000 [®] Index (“RTY”) and Market Vectors Gold Miners ETF (“GDX”) (each an “Underlying” and together the “Underlyings”)
Trade Date:	May 11, 2012
Pricing Date:	May 11, 2012
Settlement Date:	May 16, 2012
Final Valuation Date:	June 11, 2013 subject to adjustment as described under “Valuation Dates” in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement and ETF Underlying Supplement.
Maturity Date:	3 scheduled business days after the Final Valuation Date and is expected to be June 14, 2013. The Maturity Date is subject to adjustment as described under “Coupon Payment Dates, Call Payment Dates and Maturity Date” in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement and ETF Underlying Supplement.
Payment at Maturity:	On the Maturity Date, for each \$1,000 Principal Amount of Notes, we will pay you the Final Settlement Value.
Final Settlement Value:	<p>You will receive a payment on the Maturity Date calculated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>If a Trigger Event does not occur, 113.50% of the Principal Amount.</i> ▶ <i>If a Trigger Event occurs and the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying is positive, 100% of the Principal Amount.</i> ▶ <i>If a Trigger Event occurs and the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying is negative or zero, an amount equal to 100% of the Principal Amount multiplied by the sum of one plus the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying. In such a case, you may lose up to 100% of your investment regardless of the performance of the other Underlying.</i>
Trigger Event:	A Trigger Event occurs if the Official Closing Value of either Underlying is below its Trigger Value on any scheduled trading day during the Observation Period.
Trigger Value:	For each Underlying, 60% of the Initial Value of such Underlying.
Least Performing Underlying:	The Underlying with the lowest Final Return.
Observation Period:	The period from but excluding the Trade Date to and including the Final Valuation Date, subject to adjustment as described under “Observation Periods” in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement and the ETF Underlying Supplement.
Final Return:	<p>With respect to each Underlying, the quotient, expressed as a percentage, calculated as follows:</p> $\frac{\text{Final Value} - \text{Initial Value}}{\text{Initial Value}}$
Initial Value:	The Official Closing Value of the relevant Underlying on the Pricing Date.
Final Value:	The Official Closing Value of the relevant Underlying on the Final Valuation Date.
Official Closing Value:	With respect to each Underlying, the Official Closing Value on any scheduled trading day for such Underlying will be the

closing price or closing level, as applicable, of the Underlying as determined by the calculation agent as described under “Payment on the Notes - Official Closing Value” on page FWP-7 below.

CUSIP / ISIN: 4042K1M34 /

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 Notes, 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.

GENERAL

This free writing prospectus relates to a single of Notes linked to the Reference Asset identified on the cover page. The purchaser of a Note will acquire a senior unsecured debt security of HSBC USA Inc. 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 offering of Notes relates to the 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 component security included in the Reference Asset or as to the suitability of an investment in the Notes.

You should read this document together with the prospectus dated March 22, 2012, the prospectus supplement dated March 22, 2012, Equity Index Underlying Supplement dated March 22, 2012 and ETF Underlying Supplement dated March 22, 2012. If the terms of the Notes offered hereby are inconsistent with those described in the accompanying prospectus supplement, prospectus, Equity Index Underlying Supplement or ETF Underlying Supplement, the terms described in this free writing prospectus shall control. You should carefully consider, among other things, the matters set forth in "Risk Factors" beginning on page FWP-9 of this free writing prospectus, page S-3 of the prospectus supplement page S-1 of the Equity Index Underlying Supplement and page S-2 of ETF Underlying Supplement, as the Notes involve risks not associated with conventional debt securities. 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, prospectus supplement, Equity Index Underlying Supplement and ETF Underlying Supplement) with the SEC for the offering to which this free writing prospectus relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus, prospectus supplement, Equity Index Underlying Supplement and ETF Underlying 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, Equity Index Underlying Supplement and ETF Underlying Supplement if you request them by calling toll-free 1-866-811-8049.

You may also obtain:

- ▶ The prospectus supplement at: <http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000104746912003151/a2208335z424b2.htm>
- ▶ The prospectus at: <http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000104746912003148/a2208395z424b2.htm>
- ▶ The Equity Index Underlying Supplement at: http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420412016693/v306691_424b2.htm
- ▶ The ETF Underlying Supplement at: http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420412016689/v306692_424b2.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.

PAYMENT ON THE NOTES

On the Maturity Date and for each \$1,000 Principal Amount of Notes, you will receive a cash payment equal to the Final Settlement Value determined as follows:

- ▶ If a Trigger Event does not occur, 113.50% of the Principal Amount.
- ▶ If a Trigger Event occurs and the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying is positive, 100% of the Principal Amount.
- ▶ If a Trigger Event occurs and the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying is negative or zero, an amount equal to 100% of the Principal Amount multiplied by the sum of one plus the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying in the Reference Asset which will result in a Final Settlement Value less than the Principal Amount.

Trigger Event

A Trigger Event occurs if the Official Closing Value of either Underlying is below its Trigger Value on any scheduled trading day during the Observation Period.

Official Closing Value

With respect to the each Underlying, the Official Closing Value on any scheduled trading day will be determined by the calculation agent based upon the closing price of such index fund or closing level of such index, as applicable, displayed on the following pages on Bloomberg Professional[®] service: for RTY, page “RTY <INDEX>,” and for GDX, page “GDX UP <EQUITY>,” and with respect to the GDX, adjusted by the calculation agent as described under “Additional Terms of the Notes—Antidilution and Reorganization Adjustments” in the accompanying ETF Underlying Supplement. With respect to any of the foregoing, if the value for the relevant Underlying is not so displayed on such page, the calculation agent may refer to the display on any successor page on Bloomberg Professional[®] service or any successor service, as applicable.

Interest

The Notes will not pay interest.

Calculation Agent

We or one of our affiliates will act as calculation agent with respect to the Notes.

Reference Issuer and Reference Sponsor

With respect to RTY, the reference sponsor is Russell Investment Group. With respect to GDX, the reference issuer is Market Vectors[™] ETF Trust.

INVESTOR SUITABILITY

The Notes may be suitable for you if:

- ▶ You believe that the Official Closing Value of both of the Underlyings will not decline by more than 40%, as compared to its respective Initial Value, at any time during the term of the Note.
- ▶ You are willing to make an investment that is potentially exposed to downside performance of the Least Performing Underlying on a 1-to-1 basis.
- ▶ You are willing to invest in the Notes based on the fact that your maximum potential return is 13.50%.
- ▶ You are willing to forego distributions paid on the index fund or on stocks comprising the index included in the Reference Asset.
- ▶ You are willing to hold the Notes to maturity.
- ▶ You do not seek an investment for which there will be an active secondary market.
- ▶ You are willing to accept the risk and return profile of the Notes versus a conventional debt security with a comparable maturity issued by HSBC or another issuer with a similar credit rating.
- ▶ You are comfortable with the creditworthiness of HSBC, as Issuer of the Notes.

The Notes may not be suitable for you if:

- ▶ You believe that the Official Closing Value of one or both of the Underlyings will decline by more than 40%, as compared to the Initial Value, at any time during the term of the Note.
- ▶ You are unwilling to make an investment that is potentially exposed to downside performance of the Least Performing Underlying on a 1-to-1 basis.
- ▶ You are unwilling to invest in the Notes based on the fact that your maximum potential return is 13.50%.
- ▶ You prefer to receive the distributions paid on the index fund or on stocks comprising the index included in the Reference Asset.
- ▶ You prefer a product that provides upside participation in the Reference Asset, as opposed to the fixed payment being offered with respect to your Notes.
- ▶ You are unable or unwilling to hold the Notes to maturity.
- ▶ You seek an investment for which there will be an active secondary market.
- ▶ You prefer the lower risk, and therefore accept the potentially lower returns, of conventional debt securities with comparable maturities issued by HSBC or another issuer with a similar credit rating.
- ▶ You are not willing or are unable to assume the credit risk associated with HSBC, as Issuer of the Notes.

RISK FACTORS

We urge you to read the section “Risk Factors” beginning on page S-3 in the accompanying prospectus supplement, page S-1 of the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement and page S-2 of the accompanying ETF Underlying Supplement. Investing in the Notes is not equivalent to investing directly in any of the stocks comprising any Underlying, securities held by any Underlying or in any Underlyings themselves, as applicable. You should understand the risks of investing in the Notes and should reach an investment decision only after careful consideration, with your advisors, of the suitability of the Notes in light of your particular financial circumstances and the information set forth in this free writing prospectus and the accompanying prospectus, prospectus supplement, Equity Index Underlying Supplement and ETF Underlying Supplement.

In addition to the risks discussed below, you should review “Risk Factors” in the accompanying prospectus supplement and underlying supplement including the explanation of risks relating to the Notes described in the following sections:

- ▶ “— Risks Relating to All Note Issuances” in the prospectus supplement;
- ▶ “—Small-Capitalization or Mid-Capitalization Companies Risk” in Equity Index Underlying Supplement;
- ▶ “— General risks related to Indices” in the Equity Index Underlying Supplement;
- ▶ “— General risks related to Index Funds” in the ETF Underlying Supplement;
- ▶ “— There are Risks Associated With an Investment in a Concentrated Industry” in the ETF Underlying Supplement;
- ▶ “—Risks Associated With the Gold Mining Industry” in the ETF Underlying Supplement; and
- ▶ “— Small-Capitalization or Mid-Capitalization Companies Risk” in the ETF Underlying Supplement.

You will be subject to significant risks not associated with conventional fixed-rate or floating-rate debt securities.

The Notes do not guarantee return of principal and you may lose your entire initial investment.

The Notes do not guarantee return of principal. The Notes differ from ordinary debt securities in that we will not pay you 100% of the Principal Amount of your Notes if a Trigger Event occurs during the Observation Period and the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying is negative. In this case, the Payment at Maturity you will be entitled to receive will be less than the Principal Amount of the Notes and you could lose your entire initial investment if the level of the Least Performing Underlying falls to zero. You may receive less at maturity than you originally invested in the Notes, or you may receive nothing at maturity. Payment of any amount at maturity is subject to the credit risk of HSBC.

You will not participate in any appreciation in the value of any of the Underlyings included in the Reference Asset.

The Notes will not pay more than the 113.50% of the Principal Amount at maturity. Even if the Final Return of each Underlying in the Reference Asset is greater than zero (regardless of whether a Trigger Event has occurred), you will not participate in the appreciation of either Underlying. Assuming the Notes are held to maturity, the maximum amount payable with respect to the Notes will not exceed 113.50% of the Principal Amount. Under no circumstances, regardless of the extent to which the level of any Underlying appreciates, will your return exceed 13.50%. In some cases, you may earn significantly less by investing in the Notes than you would have earned by investing in an instrument directly linked to the performance of the Underlyings included in the Reference Asset.

The Notes are subject to the 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.

The Notes will not bear interest.

As a holder of the Notes, you will not receive interest payments.

If a Trigger Event occurs with respect to any Underlying, your return will be based on the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying.

The performance of either of the Underlyings may cause a Trigger Event to occur. If a Trigger Event occurs, your return will be based on the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying without regard to the performance of the other Underlying or which Underlying caused the Trigger Event to occur. As a result, you could lose all or some of your initial investment if the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying is negative, even if there is an increase in the level of the other Underlying. This could be the case even if the other Underlying caused the Trigger Event to occur or the other Underlying increased by an amount greater than the decrease in the Least Performing Underlying.

Since the Notes are linked to the performance of more than one Underlying, you will be fully exposed to the risk of fluctuations in the values of each Underlying.

Since the Notes are linked to the performance of more than one Underlying, the Notes will be linked to the individual performance of each Underlying. Because the Notes are not linked to a weighted basket, in which the risk is mitigated and diversified among all of the components of a basket, you will be exposed to the risk of fluctuations in the levels or prices of the Underlyings to the same degree for each Underlying. For example, in the case of Notes linked to a weighted basket, the return would depend on the weighted aggregate performance of the basket components reflected as the basket return. Thus, the depreciation of any basket component could be mitigated by the appreciation of another basket component, as scaled by the weightings of such basket components. However, in the case of these Notes, the individual performance of each of the Underlyings would not be combined to calculate your return and the depreciation of either Underlying would not be mitigated by the appreciation of the other Underlying. Instead, your return would depend on the Least Performing Underlying of the two Underlyings to which the Notes are linked.

Changes that affect an Underlying will affect the market value of the Notes and the amount you will receive at maturity.

The policies of the reference sponsor or reference issuer of an Underlying concerning additions, deletions and substitutions of the constituents comprising such Underlying and the manner in which the reference sponsor or reference issuer takes account of certain changes affecting those constituents included in such Underlying may affect the value of such Underlying. The policies of the reference sponsor or reference issuer with respect to the calculation of the relevant Underlying could also affect the value of such Underlying. The reference sponsor or reference issuer may discontinue or suspend calculation or dissemination of its relevant Underlying. Any such actions could affect the value of the 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 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 HSBC, and in the event that HSBC is unable to pay its obligations as they become due, you may not receive the full Payment at Maturity on the Notes.

Certain built-in costs are likely to adversely affect the value of the Notes prior to maturity.

The original issue price of the Notes includes the placement agent's commission and the estimated cost of HSBC hedging its obligations under the Notes. 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 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.

The Notes lack liquidity.

The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. is not required to offer to purchase the Notes in the secondary market, if any exists. Even if there is a secondary market, it may not provide enough liquidity to allow you to trade or sell the Notes easily. 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.

Potential conflicts of interest may exist.

HSBC and its 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 action that might affect the value of your Notes.

Uncertain tax treatment.

For a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in a Note, please see the discussion under “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” herein and the discussion under “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES

The following table and examples are provided for illustrative purposes only and are hypothetical. They do not purport to be representative of every possible scenario concerning increases or decreases in the value of any Underlying relative to its Initial Value. We cannot predict the value of any Underlying at any time during the Observation Period or the Final Valuation Date. The assumptions we have made in connection with the illustrations set forth below may not reflect actual events. You should not take this illustration or these examples as an indication or assurance of the expected performance of the Reference Asset to which your Notes are linked or return on the Notes. With respect to the Notes, the Final Settlement Value may be less than the amount that you would have received from a conventional debt security with the same stated maturity, including those issued by HSBC. The numbers appearing in the table below and following examples have been rounded for ease of analysis.

The table below illustrates the total payment on the Notes on a \$1,000 investment in the Notes for a hypothetical range of performance for the Least Performing Underlying's Final Return from -100% to +100%. The following results are based solely on the assumptions outlined below. You should consider carefully whether the Notes are suitable to your investment goals.

- ▶ Principal Amount: \$1,000
- ▶ Trigger Value: 60% of the Initial Value of each Underlying.
- ▶ The Notes are held until maturity.

Least Performing Underlying's Final Return	Trigger Event Does Not Occur ¹		Trigger Event Occurs ²	
	Hypothetical Total Payment on the Notes	Hypothetical Total Return on the Notes	Hypothetical Total Payment on the Notes	Hypothetical Total Return on Notes
100.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$1,000.00	0.00%
90.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$1,000.00	0.00%
80.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$1,000.00	0.00%
70.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$1,000.00	0.00%
60.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$1,000.00	0.00%
50.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$1,000.00	0.00%
40.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$1,000.00	0.00%
30.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$1,000.00	0.00%
20.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$1,000.00	0.00%
10.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$1,000.00	0.00%
0.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$1,000.00	0.00%
-10.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$900.00	-10.00%
-20.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$800.00	-20.00%
-25.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$750.00	-25.00%
-30.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$700.00	-30.00%
-40.00%	\$1,135	13.50%	\$600.00	-40.00%
-50.00%	N/A	N/A	\$500.00	-50.00%
-60.00%	N/A	N/A	\$400.00	-60.00%
-70.00%	N/A	N/A	\$300.00	-70.00%
-80.00%	N/A	N/A	\$200.00	-80.00%
-90.00%	N/A	N/A	\$100.00	-90.00%
-100.00%	N/A	N/A	\$0.00	-100.00%

¹ The Official Closing Value of each Underlying included in the Reference Asset never falls below its respective Trigger Value on any scheduled trading day during the Observation Period.

² The Official Closing Value of an Underlying included in the Reference Asset falls below its Trigger Value on any scheduled trading day during the Observation Period.

Hypothetical Examples of the Final Settlement Value

The five examples below set forth a sampling of hypothetical Final Settlement Values for the Notes based on the following assumptions:

- ▶ Principal Amount of Notes: \$1,000
- ▶ Trigger Value: 60% of the Initial Value of each Underlying.
- ▶ Hypothetical Initial Value: 800.00 for RTY and \$60.00 for GDX. The actual Initial Values for each Underlying will be determined on the Pricing Date.

The examples provided herein are for illustration purposes only. The actual amount payable on the Notes will depend on whether a Trigger Event occurs and, if so, the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying. You should not take these examples as an indication of potential payment. It is not possible to predict whether a Trigger Event will occur and, if so, whether the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying will be less than zero, or to what extent the Final Return will be less than zero.

Example 1: A Trigger Event occurs and the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying is less than zero.

Underlying	Initial Value	Lowest Official Closing Value of the Underlying during the Observation Period	Final Value on Final Valuation Date
RTY	800.00	320.00 (40% of Initial Value)	400.00 (50% of Initial Value)
GDX	\$60.00	\$60.00 (100% of Initial Value)	\$66.00 (110% of Initial Value)

Since the Official Closing Value of RTY is below its Trigger Value during the Observation Period, a **Trigger Event occurs**. RTY is also the Least Performing Underlying.

The Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying =

$$\frac{\text{Final Value of RTY} - \text{Initial Value of RTY}}{\text{Initial Value of RTY}} \\ = (400.00 - 800.00) / 800.00 = -50.00\%$$

$$\text{Final Settlement Value} = \text{Principal Amount of the Notes} \times (1 + \text{Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying}) \\ = \$1,000 \times (1 + -50.00\%) = \$500.00$$

Therefore, the total payment on the Notes is \$500.

Example 2: A Trigger Event occurs and the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying is positive.

Underlying	Initial Value	Lowest Official Closing Value of the Underlying during the Observation Period	Final Value on Final Valuation Date
RTY	800.00	320.00 (40% of Initial Value)	840.00 (105% of Initial Value)
GDX	\$60.00	\$60.00 (100% of Initial Value)	\$66.00 (110% of Initial Value)

Since the Official Closing Value of RTY is below its Trigger Value during the Observation Period, a **Trigger Event occurs**. RTY is also the Least Performing Underlying.

The Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying =

$$\frac{\text{Final Value of RTY} - \text{Initial Value of RTY}}{\text{Initial Value of RTY}} \\ = (840.00 - 800.00) / 800.00 = 105.00\%$$

Because the Final Return of the Least Performing Underlying was positive and the Trigger Event occurred, the Final Settlement Value equals \$1,000.

Example 3: A Trigger Event does not occur.

Underlying	Initial Value	Lowest Official Closing Value of the Underlying during the Observation Period	Final Value on Final Valuation Date
RTY	800.00	640.00 (80% of Initial Value)	720.00 (90% of Initial Value)
GDX	\$60.00	\$48.00 (80% of Initial Value)	\$48.00 (80% of Initial Value)

Since the lowest Official Closing Value of each Underlying during the Observation Period was not below its Trigger Value, a Trigger Event does not occur.

The Final Settlement Value equals \$1,135.

INFORMATION RELATING TO THE REFERENCE ASSET

Description of the RTY

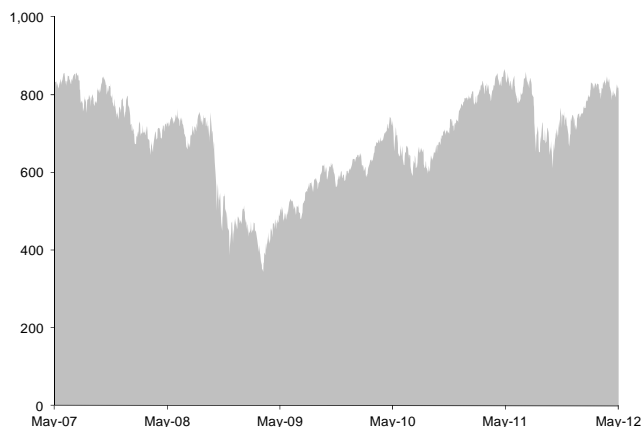
The RTY is designed to track the performance of the small capitalization segment of the United States equity market. All 2,000 stocks are traded on the New York Stock Exchange or NASDAQ, and the RTY consists of the smallest 2,000 companies included in the Russell 3000[®] Index. The Russell 3000[®] Index is composed of the 3,000 largest United States companies as determined by market capitalization and represents approximately 98% of the United States equity market.

The top 5 industry groups by market capitalization as of March 31, 2012 were: Financial Services, Consumer Discretionary, Producer Durables, Technology and Health Care .

For more information about the RTY, see “The Russell 2000[®] Index” on page S-21 of the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement.

Historical Performance of the RTY

The following graph sets forth the historical performance of the RTY based on the monthly historical closing levels from May 4, 2007 through May 3, 2012. The closing level for the RTY on May 3, 2012 was 806.59. We obtained the closing levels below from Bloomberg Professional[®] service. We have not undertaken any independent review of, or made any due diligence inquiry with respect to, the information obtained from Bloomberg Professional[®] service.



The historical levels of the RTY should not be taken as an indication of future performance, and no assurance can be given as to the Official Closing Value of the RTY during the Observation Period or on the Final Valuation Date.

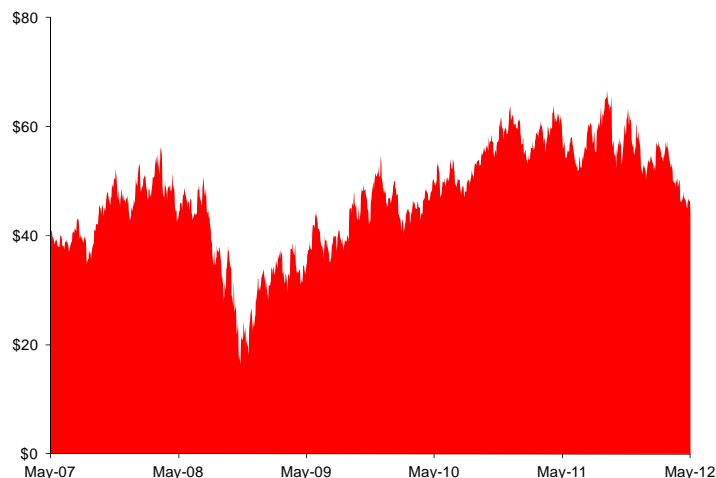
Description of the GDX

The GDX seeks investment results that correspond to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the NYSE Arca Gold Miners Index. The NYSE Arca Gold Miners Index includes common stocks and ADRs of selected companies that are involved in mining for gold and silver and are listed on the NYSE or the NYSE Amex or quoted on the NASDAQ Stock Market.

For more information about the GDX, see “The Market Vectors Gold Miners ETF” on page S-30 of the accompanying ETF Underlying Supplement.

Historical Performance of the GDX

The following graph sets forth the historical performance of the GDX based on the monthly historical closing prices from May 4, 2007 through May 3, 2012. The closing price for the GDX on May 3, 2012 was \$43.88. We obtained the closing prices below from Bloomberg Professional® service. We have not undertaken any independent review of, or made any due diligence inquiry with respect to, the information obtained from Bloomberg Professional® service.



The historical prices of the GDX should not be taken as an indication of future performance, and no assurance can be given as to the Official Closing Value of the GDX during the Observation Period or on the Final Valuation Date.

<u>Quarter Begin</u>	<u>Quarter End</u>	<u>Quarter High</u>	<u>Quarter Low</u>	<u>Quarter Close</u>
1/3/2007	3/30/2007	\$43.32	\$36.20	\$39.42
4/2/2007	6/29/2007	\$42.85	\$36.63	\$37.89
7/2/2007	9/28/2007	\$45.96	\$32.79	\$45.10
10/1/2007	12/31/2007	\$53.60	\$42.31	\$45.85
1/2/2008	3/31/2008	\$56.87	\$44.88	\$47.75
4/1/2008	6/30/2008	\$51.43	\$41.61	\$48.52
7/1/2008	9/30/2008	\$51.83	\$27.36	\$34.08
10/1/2008	12/31/2008	\$35.49	\$15.83	\$33.88
1/2/2009	3/31/2009	\$38.93	\$27.15	\$36.88
4/1/2009	6/30/2009	\$45.10	\$30.81	\$37.76
7/1/2009	9/30/2009	\$48.40	\$34.05	\$45.29
10/1/2009	12/31/2009	\$55.40	\$40.92	\$46.21
1/4/2010	3/31/2010	\$51.16	\$39.48	\$44.41
4/1/2010	6/30/2010	\$54.83	\$45.36	\$51.96
7/1/2010	9/30/2010	\$56.86	\$46.80	\$55.93
10/1/2010	12/31/2010	\$64.62	\$53.68	\$61.47
1/1/2011	3/31/2011	\$62.02	\$52.47	\$60.06
4/1/2011	6/30/2011	\$64.14	\$51.11	\$54.59
7/1/2011	9/30/2011	\$66.97	\$53.03	\$55.19
10/1/2011	12/30/2011	\$63.70	\$49.22	\$51.43
1/1/2012	3/31/2012	\$57.93	\$51.10	\$55.90
4/2/2012*	5/3/2012*	\$50.76	\$43.40	\$43.88

* As of the date of this free writing prospectus available information for the second calendar quarter of 2012 includes data for the period from April 2, 2012 through May 3, 2012. Accordingly, the “Quarterly High,” “Quarterly Low” and “Quarterly Close” data indicated are for this shortened period only and do not reflect complete data for the first calendar quarter of 2012.

EVENTS OF DEFAULT AND ACCELERATION

If the Notes have become immediately due and payable following an Event of Default (as defined in the accompanying prospectus) with respect to the Notes, the calculation agent will determine (i) the accelerated Payment at Maturity due and payable in the same general manner as described in “Payment at Maturity” in this free writing prospectus and (ii) any accrued but unpaid interest payable based upon the Annual Coupon Rate calculated on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months. In that case, the scheduled trading day preceding the date of acceleration will be used as the Final Valuation Date for purposes of determining the accelerated Final Return for each Underlying. If a market disruption event exists with respect to an Underlying on that scheduled trading day, then the accelerated Final Valuation Date will be postponed for up to five scheduled trading days (in the same general manner used for postponing the originally scheduled Final Valuation Date). The accelerated Maturity Date will also be postponed by an equal number of business days. For the avoidance of doubt, if no market disruption event exists with respect to an Underlying on the scheduled trading day preceding the date of acceleration, the determination of such Underlying’s Final Return will be made on such date, irrespective of the existence of a market disruption event with respect to the other Underlying occurring on such date.

If the Notes have become immediately due and payable following an Event of Default, you will not be entitled to any additional payments with respect to the Notes. For more information, see “Description of Debt Securities — Senior Debt Securities — Events of Default” in the accompanying prospectus.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

We have appointed HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., an affiliate of HSBC, as the agent for the sale of the Notes. Pursuant to the terms of a distribution agreement, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. will purchase the Notes from HSBC for distribution to other registered broker dealers or will offer the Notes directly to investors. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. proposes to offer the Notes at the offering price set forth on the cover page of this free writing prospectus. HSBC USA Inc. or one of our affiliates may pay varying discounts of up to 0.65% and referral fees of up to 0.65% per \$1,000 Principal Amount of Notes in connection with the distribution of the Notes to other registered broker-dealers. In no case will the sum of discounts and referral fees exceed 0.65% per \$1,000 Principal Amount.

An affiliate of HSBC has paid or may pay in the future an amount to broker-dealers in connection with the costs of the continuing implementation of systems to support these 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 Notes, 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 (Conflicts of Interest)” on page S-49 in the prospectus supplement.

U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

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, a Note should be treated as a pre-paid forward or other executory contract 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. 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 a Note as a pre-paid forward or other executory contract with respect to the Reference Asset. Pursuant to this approach and subject to the discussion below regarding “constructive ownership transactions,” 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 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.

Despite the foregoing, U.S. holders (as defined under “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” in the accompanying prospectus supplement) should be aware that the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) contains a provision, Section 1260 of the Code, which sets forth rules which are applicable to what it refers to as “constructive ownership transactions.” Due to the manner in which it is drafted, the precise applicability of Section 1260 of the Code to any particular transaction is often uncertain. In general, a “constructive ownership transaction” includes a contract under which an investor will receive payment equal to or credit for the future value of any equity interest in a regulated investment company (such as shares of the GDX). Under the “constructive ownership” rules, if an investment in the Notes is treated as a “constructive ownership transaction,” any long-term capital gain recognized by a U.S. holder in respect of a Note will be recharacterized as ordinary income to the extent such gain exceeds the amount of “net underlying long-term capital gain” (as defined in Section 1260 of the Code) of the U.S. holder (the “Excess Gain”). In addition, an interest charge will also apply to any deemed underpayment of tax in respect of any Excess Gain to the extent such gain would have resulted in gross income inclusion for the U.S. holder in taxable years prior to the taxable year of the sale, exchange or maturity of the Note (assuming such income accrued at a constant rate equal to the applicable federal rate as of the date of sale, exchange or maturity of the Note).

Although the matter is not clear, there exists a risk that an investment in the Notes will be treated as a “constructive ownership transaction.” If such treatment applies, it is not entirely clear to what extent any long-term capital gain recognized by a U.S. holder in respect of a Note will be recharacterized as ordinary income. Accordingly, U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the potential application of the “constructive ownership” rules.

We will not attempt to ascertain whether the issuer of any stock included in, or owned by, one or more of the Underlyings would be treated as either a “passive foreign investment company” (“PFIC”) or a United States real property holding corporation (“USRPHC”), both as defined for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In the event that the issuer of any stock included in, or owned by, one or more of the Underlyings were treated as a PFIC or USRPHC, certain adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences might apply. You should refer to information filed with the SEC and other authorities by the issuers of stock included in, or owned by, the Underlyings and consult your tax advisor regarding the possible consequences to you in the event that one or more issuers of stock included in, or owned by, one or more of the Underlyings is or becomes a PFIC or USRPHC.

For a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in a Note, please see the discussion under “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

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You should only rely on the information contained in this free writing prospectus, the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement, ETF Underlying Supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information or to make any representation to you that is not contained in this free writing prospectus, the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement, ETF Underlying Supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This free writing prospectus, the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement, ETF Underlying Supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus are not an offer to sell these Notes, and these documents are not soliciting an offer to buy these Notes, in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not, under any circumstances, assume that the information in this free writing prospectus, the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement, ETF Underlying Supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus is correct on any date after their respective dates.

HSBC USA Inc.

\$ Contingent Yield Notes

May 7, 2012

FREE WRITING PROSPECTUS