

Morningstar US Category Changes FAQs—April 30, 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

Which new categories is Morningstar launching in April?

Morningstar is introducing a Target Date 2070+ category in April 2026. Approximately 30 open-end funds and exchange-traded funds, along with 51 collective investment trusts, currently meet the criteria to potentially transition into this new Morningstar Category. The category benchmark will be the Morningstar Lifetime Allocation Moderate 2060 Index. US regulatory requirements prevent us from using as category benchmarks indexes that have fewer than 10 years of performance data after inception, which prevents the use of the Morningstar Lifetime Allocation Moderate 2070 Index as this category's benchmark, for now. Nonetheless, because of the strong similarity between the asset allocation of 2060 target-date funds and 2070 target-date funds, the chosen index is a suitable benchmark for this category.

Which categories are being renamed, and why?

Three categories will be renamed:

1. China region will be renamed as Greater China region to better align with how Morningstar refers to the area in other classification contexts.
2. Miscellaneous region, which predominantly consists of single-country funds, will be renamed as focused region to accommodate single-country funds as well as funds concentrating on a multicountry region that does not have a dedicated category, such as Nordic funds, Latin America funds, and Pacific/Asia funds. Funds in this category still will not receive Morningstar Ratings or category rankings.
3. The multi-asset leveraged category will be renamed as multi-asset overlay. To more clearly differentiate between funds in this category with leveraged funds that deliver 2 times or 3 times the daily return of a benchmark, we are renaming this category.

Which categories are being retired?

Morningstar will retire the diversified Pacific/Asia and Latin America stock categories because of their limited peer group representation. Funds currently classified under these categories will transition to the focused region category in April 2026.

Why is the technology sector equity category being redefined?

The definition of the technology sector equity category will be broadened to include "thematic" technology funds that do not meet the current 65% sector-exposure threshold. For instance, funds that are focused on technological themes such as artificial intelligence, robotics, or cloud computing and have material technology sector exposure that does not always reach 65% will be included in the category. This will ensure that technology-focused strategies are more accurately represented within the category. Updated category definitions will be published 30 days before the April launch.

Why is the tactical allocation category being redefined?

The tactical allocation category will be updated to include funds that strategically shift allocations between equity and cash across market cycles. The current definition is limited to funds that shift between equity and fixed income. Updated definitions will be released 30 days before the April 2026 launch.

Which Morningstar products will include the category updates?

All products currently displaying Morningstar Categories, including Morningstar Direct, Advisor Workstation, Direct Advisory Suite, Licensed Data feeds, Morningstar Investor, and Morningstar.com, will feature the category updates mentioned in this announcement.

Whom should I contact if I have further questions about these updates?

Clients can direct questions to their customer support representatives. As always, Morningstar remains committed to providing the highest level of support.

When will further details on these updates be available?

Definitions for the new categories will be available on March 31, 2026, with the release of our category classification document. Affected fund companies will be notified of the specific funds that are proposed to move to these new categories at the end of March. All changes are scheduled for April 30, 2026, and will be reflected in Morningstar systems by the fifth business day of May.