

GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC

Form 424B2

September 18, 2018

[Table of Contents](#)

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)

Registration Statement No. 333-219206

Subject to Completion. Dated September 18, 2018.

GS Finance Corp.

\$

Basket-Linked Capped Trigger GEARS due

guaranteed by

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

The notes will not bear interest. The amount that you will be paid on your notes on the stated maturity date (expected to be September 24, 2021) is based on the performance of an equally weighted basket comprised of the S&P 500® Index (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % weighting), the Russell 2000® Index (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % weighting) and the S&P MidCap 400® Index (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % weighting) as measured from the trade date (expected to be September 21, 2018) to and including the determination date (expected to be September 21, 2021). The initial basket level is 100 and the final basket level will equal the *sum* of the products, as calculated for each basket index, of: (i) the final index level *divided by* (ii) the initial index level (set on the trade date) *multiplied by* (iii) the applicable initial weighted value for each basket index.

If the final basket level on the determination date is greater than the initial basket level, then the return on the notes will be positive and equal the *product* of the basket return (the percentage increase or decrease in the final basket level from the initial basket level) *multiplied by* 2.0, subject to the maximum settlement amount of \$13.00 for each \$10

face amount of your notes.

If the final basket level is equal to or less than the initial basket level but greater than or equal to the downside threshold of 75.00% of the initial basket level, you will receive the face amount of your notes at maturity.

If the final basket level is less than the downside threshold of 75.00% of the initial basket level, then the return on your notes will be negative and will equal the basket return. **If this occurs, you will receive significantly less than the face amount of your notes at maturity and you will lose your entire investment in the notes if the final basket level is zero.**

At maturity, for each \$10 face amount of your notes you will receive an amount in cash equal to:

- if the final basket level is *greater than* the initial basket level, subject to the maximum settlement amount, the *sum* of (a) \$10 *plus* (b) the *product* of the basket return *times* \$10 *times* 2.0;
- if the final basket level is *equal to or less than* the initial basket level but *greater than or equal to* the downside threshold of 75.00% of the initial basket level, \$10; or
- if the final basket level is *less than* the downside threshold of 75.00% of the initial basket level, the *sum* of (a) \$10 *plus* (b) the *product* of the basket return *times* \$10, resulting in a loss proportionate to the negative basket return.

Declines in one basket index may offset increases in the other basket indices.

You should read the disclosure herein to better understand the terms and risks of your investment, including the credit risk of GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. See page S-14.

The estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date is expected to be between \$9.50 and \$9.80 per \$10 face amount. For a discussion of the estimated value and the price at which Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC would initially buy or sell your notes, if it makes a market in the notes, see the following page.

Original issue date:	expected to be September 26, 2018	Original issue price:	100.00% of the face amount
Underwriting discount:	2.675% of the face amount*	Net proceeds to the issuer:	97.325% of the face amount

* UBS Financial Services Inc., as the selling agent, will receive a selling concession not in excess of 2.5% of the face amount.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense. The notes are not bank deposits and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, nor are they obligations of, or guaranteed by, a bank.

Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC

UBS Financial Services Inc.

Prospectus Supplement No. dated , 2018.

Selling Agent

Table of Contents

The issue price, underwriting discount and net proceeds listed above relate to the notes we sell initially. We may decide to sell additional notes after the date of this prospectus supplement, at issue prices and with underwriting discounts and net proceeds that differ from the amounts set forth above. The return (whether positive or negative) on your investment in notes will depend in part on the issue price you pay for such notes.

GS Finance Corp. may use this prospectus in the initial sale of the notes. In addition, Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC or any other affiliate of GS Finance Corp. may use this prospectus in a market-making transaction in a note after its initial sale. **Unless GS Finance Corp. or its agent informs the purchaser otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this prospectus is being used in a market-making transaction.**

Estimated Value of Your Notes

The estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date (as determined by reference to pricing models used by Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC (GS&Co.) and taking into account our credit spreads) is expected to be between \$9.50 and \$9.80 per \$10 face amount, which is less than the original issue price. The value of your notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted; however, the price (not including GS&Co. s customary bid and ask spreads) at which GS&Co. would initially buy or sell notes (if it makes a market, which it is not obligated to do) and the value that GS&Co. will initially use for account statements and otherwise is equal to approximately the estimated value of your notes at the time of pricing, plus an additional amount (initially equal to \$ per \$10 face amount).

Prior to , the price (not including GS&Co. s customary bid and ask spreads) at which GS&Co. would buy or sell your notes (if it makes a market, which it is not obligated to do) will equal approximately the sum of (a) the then-current estimated value of your notes (as determined by reference to GS&Co. s pricing models) plus (b) any remaining additional amount (the additional amount will decline to zero on a straight-line basis over a 364 day period from the time of pricing). On and after , the price (not including GS&Co. s customary bid and ask spreads) at which GS&Co. would buy or sell your notes (if it makes a market) will equal approximately the then-current estimated value of your notes determined by reference to such pricing models.

About Your Prospectus

The notes are part of the Medium-Term Notes, Series E program of GS Finance Corp. and are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. This prospectus includes this prospectus supplement and the accompanying

documents listed below. This prospectus supplement constitutes a supplement to the documents listed below and should be read in conjunction with such documents:

- Prospectus supplement dated July 10, 2017
- Prospectus dated July 10, 2017

The information in this prospectus supplement supersedes any conflicting information in the documents listed above. In addition, some of the terms or features described in the listed documents may not apply to your notes.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY INFORMATION

We refer to the notes we are offering by this prospectus supplement as the offered notes or the notes. Each of the offered notes has the terms described below and under Specific Terms of Your Notes on page S-24. Please note that in this prospectus supplement, references to GS Finance Corp., we, our and us mean only GS Finance Corp. and do not include its subsidiaries or affiliates, references to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., our parent company, mean only The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and do not include its subsidiaries or affiliates and references to Goldman Sachs mean The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. together with its consolidated subsidiaries and affiliates, including us. Also, references to the accompanying prospectus mean the accompanying prospectus, dated July 10, 2017, and references to the accompanying prospectus supplement mean the accompanying prospectus supplement, dated July 10, 2017, for Medium-Term Notes, Series E, in each case of GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. References to the indenture in this prospectus supplement mean the senior debt indenture, dated as of October 10, 2008, as supplemented by the First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of February 20, 2015, each among us, as issuer, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., as guarantor, and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee. This indenture, as so supplemented and as further supplemented thereafter, is referred to as the GSFC 2008 indenture in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

Key Terms

Issuer: GS Finance Corp.

Guarantor: The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

Underlying basket: an equally weighted basket comprised of three underlying basket indices

Underlying basket indices: the S&P 500® Index (Bloomberg symbol, SPX Index), as published by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC; the Russell 2000® Index (Bloomberg symbol, RTY Index), as published by FTSE Russell; and the S&P MidCap 400® Index (Bloomberg symbol, MID Index) as published by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC; see The Underlying Basket and the Underlying Basket Indices on page S-32

Specified currency: U.S. dollars (\$)

Face amount: each note will have a face amount of \$10, or an integral multiple of \$10 in excess thereof; \$

in the aggregate for all the offered notes; the aggregate face amount of the offered notes may be increased if the issuer, at its sole option, decides to sell an additional amount of the offered notes on a date subsequent to the date of this prospectus supplement

Denominations: \$10 and integral multiples of \$10 in excess thereof

Minimum purchase amount: in connection with the initial offering of the notes, the minimum face amount of notes that may be purchased by any investor is \$1,000

Supplemental plan of distribution: GS Finance Corp. expects to agree to sell to Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC (GS&Co.), and GS&Co. expects to agree to purchase from GS Finance Corp., the aggregate face amount of the offered notes specified on the front cover of this prospectus supplement. GS&Co. proposes initially to offer the notes to the public at the original issue price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, and to UBS Financial Services Inc. at such price less a concession not in excess of 2.5% of the face amount. See Supplemental Plan of Distribution on page S-62

Cash settlement amount: on the stated maturity date, for each \$10 face amount of your notes you will receive an amount in cash equal to:

- if the final underlying basket level is *greater than* or *equal to* the cap level, the maximum settlement amount;
- if the final underlying basket level is *greater than* the initial underlying basket level but *less than* the cap level, the *sum* of (a) \$10 *plus* (b) the *product* of the underlying basket return *times* \$10 *times* the upside gearing;
- if the final underlying basket level is *equal to* or *less than* the initial underlying basket level but *greater than* or *equal to* the downside threshold, \$10; or

Table of Contents

- if the final underlying basket level is *less than* the downside threshold, the *sum* of (a) \$10 *plus* (b) the *product* of the underlying basket return *times* \$10, resulting in a loss proportionate to the negative underlying basket return.

Purchase at amount other than face amount: the amount we will pay you at the stated maturity date for your notes will not be adjusted based on the issue price you pay for your notes, so if you acquire notes at a premium (or discount) to face amount and hold them to the stated maturity date, it could affect your investment in a number of ways. The return on your investment in such notes will be lower (or higher) than it would have been had you purchased the notes at face amount. Additionally, the cap level (the level of the underlying basket at or above which the maximum settlement amount is payable), would be reached at a lower (or higher) percentage return than indicated below, relative to your initial investment. Also, the stated downside threshold would not offer the same measure of protection to your investment as would be the case if you had purchased the notes at face amount. See [Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes](#) If You Purchase Your Notes at a Premium to Face Amount, the Return on Your Investment Will Be Lower Than the Return on Notes Purchased at Face Amount and the Impact of Certain Key Terms of the Notes Will be Negatively Affected

Supplemental discussion of U.S. federal income tax consequences: you will be obligated pursuant to the terms of the notes in the absence of a change in law, an administrative determination or a judicial ruling to the contrary to characterize each note for all tax purposes as a pre-paid derivative contract in respect of the underlying basket indices, as described under [Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences](#) herein. Pursuant to this approach, it is the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP that upon the sale, exchange or maturity of your notes, it would be reasonable for you to recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between the amount of cash you receive at such time and your tax basis in your notes. No statutory, judicial or administrative authority directly discusses how your notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in the notes are uncertain and alternative characterizations are possible. The Internal Revenue Service might assert that a treatment other than that described above is more appropriate (including on a retroactive basis) and the timing and character of income in respect of the notes might differ from the treatment described above.

Trade date: expected to be September 21, 2018

Original issue date (settlement date) (to be set on the trade date): expected to be September 26, 2018

Initial underlying basket level: 100

Initial weighted value: the initial weighted value for each of the underlying basket indices is expected to equal the *product* of the initial weight of such underlying basket index *times* the initial underlying basket level. The initial weight of each underlying basket index is shown in the table below:

Underlying Basket Index	Initial Weight in Underlying Basket
S&P 500® Index	33 1/3%
Russell 2000® Index	33 1/3%
S&P MidCap 400® Index	33 1/3%

Initial S&P 500® Index level (to be set on the trade date):

Initial Russell 2000® Index level (to be set on the trade date):

Initial S&P MidCap 400® Index level (to be set on the trade date):

Final S&P 500® Index level: the closing level of such underlying basket index on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under *Specific Terms of Your Notes Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day* on page S-26 and subject to adjustment as provided under *Specific Terms of Your Notes Discontinuance or Modification of an Underlying Basket Index* on page S-27

Table of Contents

Final Russell 2000® Index level: the closing level of such underlying basket index on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under Specific Terms of Your Notes Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day on page S-26 and subject to adjustment as provided under Specific Terms of Your Notes Discontinuance or Modification of an Underlying Basket Index on page S-27

Final S&P MidCap 400® Index level: the closing level of such underlying basket index on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under Specific Terms of Your Notes Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day on page S-26 and subject to adjustment as provided under Specific Terms of Your Notes Discontinuance or Modification of an Underlying Basket Index on page S-27

Final underlying basket level: the *sum* of the following: (1) the final S&P 500® Index level *divided* by the initial S&P 500® Index level, *multiplied* by the initial weighted value of the S&P 500® Index *plus* (2) the final Russell 2000® Index level *divided* by the initial Russell 2000® Index level, *multiplied* by the initial weighted value of the Russell 2000® Index *plus* (3) the final S&P MidCap 400® Index level *divided* by the initial S&P MidCap 400® Index level, *multiplied* by the initial weighted value of the S&P MidCap 400® Index

Underlying basket return: the *quotient* of (i) the final underlying basket level *minus* the initial underlying basket level *divided* by (ii) the initial underlying basket level, expressed as a positive or negative percentage

Closing level: as described under Specific Terms of Your Notes Special Calculation Provisions Closing Level on page S-28

Upside gearing: 2.0

Cap level: 115.00% of the initial underlying basket level. The cap level represents (i) the maximum return (as specified below) divided by the upside gearing plus (ii) 100% and is the level of the underlying basket at or above which you will receive the maximum settlement amount. If the final underlying basket level is greater than the cap level (in which case the *product* of the underlying basket return *times* the upside gearing is *greater than* the maximum return), you will not receive more than the maximum settlement amount.

Maximum settlement amount: \$13.00, which corresponds to an expected maximum return on the notes of 30.00%

Downside threshold: 75.00% of the initial underlying basket level

Trigger event: the final underlying basket level is less than the downside threshold

Stated maturity date (to be set on the trade date): expected to be September 24, 2021, subject to adjustment as described under **Specific Terms of Your Notes Stated Maturity Date** on page S-26

Determination date (to be set on the trade date): expected to be September 21, 2021, subject to adjustment as described under **Specific Terms of Your Notes Determination Date** on page S-26

No interest: the notes will not bear interest

No redemption: the notes will not be subject to redemption right or price dependent redemption right

No listing: the notes will not be listed on any securities exchange or interdealer market quotation system

Calculation agent: GS&Co.

Business day: as described under **Specific Terms of Your Notes Special Calculation Provisions Business Day** on page S-28

Trading day: as described under **Specific Terms of Your Notes Special Calculation Provisions Trading Day** on page S-28

CUSIP no.: 36255U877

ISIN no.: US36255U8779

Table of Contents

FDIC: the notes are not bank deposits and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, nor are they obligations of, or guaranteed by, a bank

S-6

Table of Contents**HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLES****(Hypothetical terms only. Actual terms may vary.)**

The following examples are provided for purposes of illustration only. They should not be taken as an indication or prediction of future investment results and are intended merely to illustrate the impact that the various hypothetical final underlying basket levels or hypothetical closing levels of the underlying basket indices, as applicable, on the determination date could have on the cash settlement amount at maturity assuming all other variables remain constant.

The examples below are based on a range of final underlying basket levels and closing levels of the underlying basket indices that are entirely hypothetical; no one can predict what the level of the underlying basket will be on any day throughout the life of your notes, and no one can predict what the final underlying basket level will be on the determination date. The underlying basket indices have been highly volatile in the past meaning that the levels of the underlying basket indices have changed considerably in relatively short periods and their performance cannot be predicted for any future period.

The information in the following examples reflects hypothetical rates of return on the offered notes assuming that they are purchased on the original issue date at the face amount and held to the stated maturity date. If you sell your notes in a secondary market prior to the stated maturity date, your return will depend upon the market value of your notes at the time of sale, which may be affected by a number of factors that are not reflected in the examples below, such as interest rates, the volatility of the underlying basket indices, the creditworthiness of GS Finance Corp., as issuer, and the creditworthiness of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., as guarantor. In addition, the estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date (as determined by reference to pricing models used by GS&Co.) is less than the original issue price of your notes. For more information on the estimated value of your notes, see *Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes* *The Estimated Value of Your Notes At the Time the Terms of Your Notes Are Set On the Trade Date (as Determined By Reference to Pricing Models Used By GS&Co.) Is Less Than the Original Issue Price Of Your Notes* on page S-14 of this prospectus supplement. The information in the examples also reflects the key terms and assumptions in the box below.

Key Terms and Assumptions	
Face amount	\$10
Upside gearing	2.0
Cap level	115.00% of the initial underlying basket level

Maximum settlement amount	\$13.00 (i.e., 30.00% maximum return)
Downside threshold	75.00% of the initial underlying basket level
<p>Neither a market disruption event nor a non-trading day occurs with respect to any underlying basket index on the originally scheduled determination date</p> <p>No change in or affecting any of the underlying basket indices or the methods by which any of the underlying basket index sponsors calculates the S&P 500® Index, the Russell 2000® Index or the S&P MidCap 400® Index, respectively</p> <p>Notes purchased on original issue date at the face amount and held to the stated maturity date</p>	

Moreover, we have not yet set the initial S&P 500® Index level, the initial Russell 2000® Index level or the initial S&P MidCap 400® Index level that will serve as the baselines for determining the underlying basket return and the amount that we will pay on your notes, if any, at maturity. We will not do so until the trade date. As a result, the actual initial S&P 500® Index level, the initial Russell 2000® Index level and the initial

Table of Contents

S&P MidCap 400® Index level may differ substantially from the level of such underlying basket index prior to the trade date.

For these reasons, the actual performance of the underlying basket over the life of your notes, as well as the amount payable at maturity, if any, may bear little relation to the hypothetical examples shown below or to the historical levels of each underlying basket index shown elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. For information about the historical levels of the underlying basket index during recent periods, see *The Underlying Index Historical Closing Levels of the Underlying Basket Indices* below. Before investing in the offered notes, you should consult publicly available information to determine the levels of the underlying basket indices between the date of this prospectus supplement and the date of your purchase of the offered notes.

Also, the hypothetical examples shown below do not take into account the effects of applicable taxes. Because of the U.S. tax treatment applicable to your notes, tax liabilities could affect the after-tax rate of return on your notes to a comparatively greater extent than the after-tax return on the underlying basket indices.

The levels in the left column of the table below represent hypothetical final underlying basket levels and are expressed as percentages of the initial underlying basket level. The amounts in the middle column represent the hypothetical cash settlement amounts, based on the corresponding hypothetical final underlying basket level (expressed as a percentage of the initial underlying basket level), assuming that a **trigger event does not occur** (i.e., the final underlying basket level is greater than or equal to the downside threshold), and are expressed as percentages of the face amount of a note (rounded to the nearest one-thousandth of a percent). The amounts in the right column represent the hypothetical cash settlement amounts, based on the corresponding hypothetical final underlying basket level (expressed as a percentage of the initial underlying basket level), assuming that a **trigger event occurs** (i.e., the final underlying basket level is less than the downside threshold), and are expressed as percentages of the face amount of a note (rounded to the nearest one-thousandth of a percent). Thus, a hypothetical cash settlement amount of 100.000% means that the value of the cash payment that we would deliver for each \$10 of the outstanding face amount of the offered notes on the stated maturity date would equal 100.000% of the face amount of a note, based on the corresponding hypothetical final underlying basket level (expressed as a percentage of the initial underlying basket level) and the assumptions noted above.

Hypothetical Final Underlying Basket Level (as Percentage of Initial Underlying Basket Level)	Hypothetical Cash Settlement Amount (as Percentage of Face Amount)	
	Trigger Event Has Not Occurred	Trigger Event Has Occurred
200.000%	130.000%	N/A
150.000%	130.000%	N/A
125.000%	130.000%	N/A
120.000%	130.000%	N/A
115.000%	130.000%	N/A
110.000%	120.000%	N/A
100.000%	100.000%	N/A
90.000%	100.000%	N/A
80.000%	100.000%	N/A
75.000%	100.000%	N/A

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

74.999%	N/A	74.999%
50.000%	N/A	50.000%
25.000%	N/A	25.000%
0.000%	N/A	0.000%

If, for example, a trigger event has occurred and the final underlying basket level were determined to be 25.000% of the initial underlying basket level, the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be 25.000% of the face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above. As a

S-8

Table of Contents

result, if you purchased your notes on the original issue date at the face amount and held them to the stated maturity date, you would lose 75.000% of your investment, which is proportionate to the decline in the underlying basket from the trade date to the determination date (if you purchased your notes at a premium to face amount you would lose a correspondingly higher percentage of your investment).

If, for example, **a trigger event has not occurred** and the final underlying basket level were determined to be 90.000% of the initial underlying basket level, the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be 100.000% of the face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above. Because a trigger event has not occurred (i.e., the hypothetical final underlying basket level is greater than or equal to the downside threshold), the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be 100.000% of the face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above.

If, however, the final underlying basket level were determined to be 110.000% of the initial underlying basket level, the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be 120.000% of the face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above. Since the hypothetical final underlying basket level is greater than the initial underlying basket level, the underlying basket return is enhanced by the upside gearing and the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be 120.000% of the face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above. However, if the final underlying basket level were determined to be 200.000% of the initial underlying basket level, the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be capped at the maximum settlement amount (expressed as a percentage of the face amount), or 130.000% of each \$10 face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above. In such case, the maximum return will be 30.00%, which represents the percentage difference between the maximum settlement amount of \$13.00 and the face amount of \$10. As a result, if you held your notes to the stated maturity date, you would not benefit from any increase in the final underlying basket level over 115.000% (the cap level) of the initial underlying basket level. This is because the cap level represents (i) the maximum return of 30.00% divided by the upside gearing of 2.0 plus (ii) 100%.

The following examples illustrate the hypothetical cash settlement amount at maturity for each note based on hypothetical final levels of the underlying basket indices, calculated based on the key terms and assumptions above. The levels in Column A represent hypothetical initial levels for each underlying basket index, and the levels in Column B represent hypothetical final levels for each underlying basket index. The percentages in Column C represent hypothetical final levels for each underlying basket index in Column B expressed as percentages of the corresponding hypothetical initial levels in Column A. The amounts in Column D represent the applicable initial weighted value for each underlying basket index, and the amounts in Column E represent the products of the percentages in Column C times the corresponding amounts in Column D. The final underlying basket level for each example is shown beneath each example, and equals the sum of the products shown in Column E. The underlying basket return for each example is shown beneath the final underlying basket level for such example, and equals the quotient of (i) the final underlying basket level for such example minus the initial underlying basket level divided by (ii) the initial underlying basket level, expressed as a percentage. The values below have been rounded for ease of analysis.

Table of Contents

Example 1: The final underlying basket level is greater than the cap level. The cash settlement amount equals the maximum settlement amount.

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
Underlying Basket Index	Hypothetical Initial Level	Hypothetical Final Level	Column B / Column A	Initial Weighted Value	Column C x Column D
S&P 500® Index	2,900.00	4,350.00	150.00%	331/3	50.00
Russell 2000® Index	1,700.000	2,550.00	150.00%	331/3	50.00
S&P MidCap 400® Index	2,000.00	3,000.00	150.00%	331/3	50.00
				Final Underlying Basket Level:	150.00
				Underlying Basket Return:	50.00%

In this example, all of the hypothetical final levels for the underlying basket indices are greater than the applicable hypothetical initial levels, which results in the hypothetical final underlying basket level being greater than the initial underlying basket level of 100.00. Since the hypothetical final underlying basket level was determined to be 150.00, the hypothetical cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be capped at the maximum settlement amount of \$13.00 for each \$10 face amount of your notes (i.e., 130.000% of each \$10 face amount of your notes).

Example 2: The final underlying basket level is greater than the initial underlying basket level but less than the cap level.

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
Underlying Basket Index	Hypothetical Initial Level	Hypothetical Final Level	Column B / Column A	Initial Weighted Value	Column C x Column D
S&P 500® Index	2,900.00	2,958.00	102.00%	331/3	34.00
Russell 2000® Index	1,700.000	1,734.000	102.00%	331/3	34.00
S&P MidCap 400® Index	2,000.00	2,100.00	105.00%	331/3	35.00
				Final Underlying Basket Level:	103.00
				Underlying Basket Return:	3.00%

In this example, all of the hypothetical final levels for the underlying basket indices are greater than the applicable hypothetical initial levels, which results in the hypothetical final underlying basket level being greater than the initial underlying basket level of 100.00. Since the hypothetical final underlying basket level was determined to be 103.00, the hypothetical cash settlement amount for each \$10 face amount of your notes will equal:

$$\text{Cash settlement amount} = \$10 + (\$10 \times 2.0 \times 3.00\%) = \$10.60$$

Example 3: The final underlying basket level is less than the initial underlying basket level, but greater than the downside threshold. The cash settlement amount equals the \$10 face amount.

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
Underlying Basket Index	Hypothetical Initial Level	Hypothetical Final Level	Column B / Column A	Initial Weighted Value	Column C x Column D
S&P 500® Index	2,900.00	2,610.00	90.00%	331/3	30.00
Russell 2000® Index	1,700.000	1,530.000	90.00%	331/3	30.00

S-10

Table of Contents

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
Underlying Basket Index	Hypothetical Initial Level	Hypothetical Final Level	Column B / Column A	Initial Weighted Value	Column C x Column D
S&P MidCap 400® Index	2,000.00	1,800.00	90.00%	331/3	30.00
				Final Underlying Basket Level:	90.00
				Underlying Basket Return:	-10.00%

In this example, all of the hypothetical final levels for the underlying basket indices are less than the applicable hypothetical initial levels, which results in the hypothetical final underlying basket level being less than the initial underlying basket level of 100.00. Since the hypothetical final underlying basket level of 90 is greater than the downside threshold of 75.00% of the initial underlying basket level but less than the initial underlying basket level of 100, the hypothetical cash settlement amount for each \$10 face amount of your notes will equal the face amount, or \$10.

Table of Contents

Example 4: The final underlying basket level is less than the downside threshold. The cash settlement amount is less than the \$10 face amount.

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
Underlying Basket Index	Hypothetical Initial Level	Hypothetical Final Level	Column B / Column A	Initial Weighted Value	Column C x Column D
S&P 500® Index	2,900.00	435.00	15.00%	331/3	5.00
Russell 2000® Index	1,700.000	1,734.000	102.00%	331/3	34.00
S&P MidCap 400® Index	2,000.00	2,040.00	102.00%	331/3	34.00
				Final Underlying Basket Level:	73.00
				Underlying Basket Return:	-27.00%

In this example, the hypothetical final level of the S&P 500® Index is less than its hypothetical initial level, while the hypothetical final levels of the Russell 2000® Index and the S&P MidCap 400® Index are greater than their applicable hypothetical initial levels.

Declines in one underlying basket index may offset increases in the other underlying basket indices. In this example, the large decrease in the level of the S&P 500® Index results in the hypothetical final underlying basket level being less than the downside threshold of 75.00% of the initial underlying basket level even though the Russell 2000® Index and the S&P MidCap 400® Index increased.

Since the hypothetical final underlying basket level of 73.00 is less than the downside threshold of 75.00% of the initial underlying basket level, the hypothetical cash settlement amount for each \$10 face amount of your notes will equal:

$$\text{Cash settlement amount} = \$10 + (\$10 \times -27.00\%) = \$7.30$$

Example 5: The final underlying basket level is less than the downside threshold. The cash settlement amount is less than the \$10 face amount.

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
Underlying Basket Index	Hypothetical Initial Level	Hypothetical Final Level	Column B / Column A	Initial Weighted Value	Column C x Column D
S&P 500® Index	2,900.00	870.00	30.00%	331/3	10.00
Russell 2000® Index	1,700.000	1,020.000	60.00%	331/3	20.00

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

S&P MidCap 400® Index	2,000.00	1,200.00	60.00%	331/3	20.00
				Final Underlying Basket Level:	50.00
				Underlying Basket Return:	-50.00%

In this example, the hypothetical final levels for all of the underlying basket indices are less than the applicable hypothetical initial levels, which results in the hypothetical final underlying basket level being less than the initial underlying basket level of 100.00. Since the hypothetical final underlying basket level of 50.00 is less than the downside threshold of 75.00% of the initial underlying basket level, the hypothetical cash settlement amount for each \$10 face amount of your notes will equal:

$$\text{Cash settlement amount} = \$10 + (\$10 \times -50.00\%) = \$5.00$$

S-12

Table of Contents

The cash settlement amounts shown above are entirely hypothetical; they are based on levels of the underlying basket indices that may not be achieved on the determination date and on assumptions that may prove to be erroneous. The actual market value of your notes on the stated maturity date or at any other time, including any time you may wish to sell your notes, may bear little relation to the hypothetical cash settlement amounts shown above, and these amounts should not be viewed as an indication of the financial return on an investment in the offered notes. The hypothetical cash settlement amounts on notes held to the stated maturity date in the examples above assume you purchased your notes at their face amount and have not been adjusted to reflect the actual issue price you pay for your notes. The return on your investment (whether positive or negative) in your notes will be affected by the amount you pay for your notes. If you purchase your notes for a price other than the face amount, the return on your investment will differ from, and may be significantly lower than, the hypothetical returns suggested by the above examples. Please read **Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Notes – The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors** on page S-17.

Payments on the notes are economically equivalent to the amounts that would be paid on a combination of other instruments. For example, payments on the notes are economically equivalent to a combination of a bond bought by the holder and one or more options entered into between the holder and us. Therefore, the terms of the notes may be impacted by the various factors mentioned on page S-17 in the section **Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Notes – The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors**. The discussion in this paragraph does not modify or affect the terms of the notes or the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the notes, as described elsewhere in this prospectus supplement.

We cannot predict the actual final underlying basket level or what the market value of your notes will be on any particular trading day, nor can we predict the relationship between the level of each underlying basket index and the market value of your notes at any time prior to the stated maturity date. The actual amount that you will receive, if any, at maturity and the rate of return on the offered notes will depend on the actual initial level of each underlying basket index, which we will set on the trade date, and the actual basket return determined by the calculation agent as described above. Moreover, the assumptions on which the hypothetical returns are based may turn out to be inaccurate. Consequently, the amount of cash to be paid in respect of your notes, if any, on the stated maturity date may be very different from the information reflected in the examples above.

Table of Contents

ADDITIONAL RISK FACTORS SPECIFIC TO YOUR NOTES

An investment in your notes is subject to the risks described below, as well as the risks and considerations described in the accompanying prospectus and in the accompanying prospectus supplement. You should carefully review these risks and considerations as well as the terms of the notes described herein and in the accompanying prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement. Your notes are a riskier investment than ordinary debt securities. Also, your notes are not equivalent to investing directly in the underlying index stocks, i.e., with respect to an underlying basket index to which your notes are linked, the stocks comprising such underlying basket index. You should carefully consider whether the offered notes are suited to your particular circumstances.

The Estimated Value of Your Notes At the Time the Terms of Your Notes Are Set On the Trade Date (as Determined By Reference to Pricing Models Used By GS&Co.) Is Less Than the Original Issue Price Of Your Notes

The original issue price for your notes exceeds the estimated value of your notes as of the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date, as determined by reference to GS&Co.'s pricing models and taking into account our credit spreads. Such estimated value on the trade date is set forth above under **Estimated Value of Your Notes**; after the trade date, the estimated value as determined by reference to these models will be affected by changes in market conditions, the creditworthiness of GS Finance Corp., as issuer, the creditworthiness of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., as guarantor, and other relevant factors. The price at which GS&Co. would initially buy or sell your notes (if GS&Co. makes a market, which it is not obligated to do), and the value that GS&Co. will initially use for account statements and otherwise, also exceeds the estimated value of your notes as determined by reference to these models. As agreed by GS&Co. and the distribution participants, this excess (i.e., the additional amount described under **Estimated Value of Your Notes**) will decline to zero on a straight line basis over the period set forth above under **Estimated Value of Your Notes**. Thereafter, if GS&Co. buys or sells your notes it will do so at prices that reflect the estimated value determined by reference to such pricing models at that time. The price at which GS&Co. will buy or sell your notes at any time also will reflect its then current bid and ask spread for similar sized trades of structured notes.

In estimating the value of your notes as of the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date, as disclosed above under **Estimated Value of Your Notes**, GS&Co.'s pricing models consider certain variables, including principally our credit spreads, interest rates (forecasted, current and historical rates), volatility, price-sensitivity analysis and the time to maturity of the notes. These pricing models are proprietary and rely in part on certain assumptions about future events, which may prove to be incorrect. As a result, the actual value you would receive if you sold your notes in the secondary market, if any, to others may differ, perhaps materially, from the estimated value of your notes determined by reference to our models due to, among other things, any differences in pricing models or assumptions used by others. See **The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors** below.

The difference between the estimated value of your notes as of the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date and the original issue price is a result of certain factors, including principally the underwriting discount and commissions, the expenses incurred in creating, documenting and marketing the notes, and an estimate of the difference between the amounts we pay to GS&Co. and the amounts GS&Co. pays to us in connection with your notes. We pay to GS&Co. amounts based on what we would pay to holders of a non-structured note with a similar maturity. In return for such payment, GS&Co. pays to us the amounts we owe under your notes.

In addition to the factors discussed above, the value and quoted price of your notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted. If GS&Co. makes a market in the notes, the price quoted by GS&Co. would reflect any changes in market conditions and other relevant factors, including any deterioration in our creditworthiness or perceived creditworthiness or the creditworthiness or perceived creditworthiness of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. These changes may adversely affect the value of your notes, including the price you may receive for your notes in any market making transaction. To the extent that GS&Co. makes a market in the notes, the quoted price will reflect the estimated value determined by reference to GS&Co.'s pricing models at that time, plus or minus its then current bid and

S-14

Table of Contents

ask spread for similar sized trades of structured notes (and subject to the declining excess amount described above).

Furthermore, if you sell your notes, you will likely be charged a commission for secondary market transactions, or the price will likely reflect a dealer discount. This commission or discount will further reduce the proceeds you would receive for your notes in a secondary market sale.

There is no assurance that GS&Co. or any other party will be willing to purchase your notes at any price and, in this regard, GS&Co. is not obligated to make a market in the notes. See [Your Notes May Not Have an Active Trading Market](#) below.

The Notes Are Subject to the Credit Risk of the Issuer and the Guarantor

Although the return on the notes will be based on the performance of the underlying basket indices, the payment of any amount due on the notes is subject to the credit risk of GS Finance Corp., as issuer of the notes, and the credit risk of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., as guarantor of the notes. The notes are our unsecured obligations. Investors are dependent on our ability to pay all amounts due on the notes, and therefore investors are subject to our credit risk and to changes in the market's view of our creditworthiness. Similarly, investors are dependent on the ability of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., as guarantor of the notes, to pay all amounts due on the notes, and therefore are also subject to its credit risk and to changes in the market's view of its creditworthiness. See [Description of the Notes We May Offer](#) [Information About Our Medium-Term Notes, Series E Program](#) [How the Notes Rank Against Other Debt](#) on page S-4 of the accompanying prospectus supplement and [Description of Debt Securities We May Offer](#) [Guarantee by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.](#) on page 42 of the accompanying prospectus.

The Cash Settlement Amount on Your Notes Is Not Linked to the Level of the Underlying Basket Indices at Any Time Other than the Determination Date

The final underlying basket level will be based on the closing levels of the underlying basket indices on the determination date (subject to adjustment as described elsewhere in this prospectus supplement). Therefore, if the closing levels of the underlying basket indices dropped precipitously on the determination date, the cash settlement amount for your notes may be significantly less than it would have been had the cash settlement amount been linked to the closing levels of the underlying basket indices prior to such drop in the levels of the underlying basket indices. Although the actual levels of the underlying basket indices on the stated maturity date or at other times during the life of your notes may be higher than the closing levels of the underlying basket indices on the determination date, you will not benefit from the closing levels of the underlying basket indices at any time other than on the determination date.

You May Lose Your Entire Investment in the Notes

You can lose your entire investment in the notes. The cash payment on your notes, if any, on the stated maturity date will be based on the performance of an equally weighted basket comprised of the S&P 500® Index, the Russell 2000® Index and the

S&P MidCap 400® Index as measured from the initial underlying basket level of 100 to the final underlying basket level on the determination date. If a trigger event has occurred, the amount in cash you will receive on your notes on the stated maturity date, if any, will be less than the face amount of your notes and you will incur a loss on the face amount proportionate to the decline of the underlying basket from the trade date to the determination date. Thus, you may lose your entire investment in the notes, which would include any premium to face amount you paid when you purchased the notes.

Also, the application of the downside threshold occurs only at maturity and the market price of your notes prior to the stated maturity date may be significantly lower than the purchase price you pay for your notes. Consequently, if you are able to sell your notes before the stated maturity date, you may receive far less than the amount of your investment in the notes.

Lower Downside Thresholds Are Generally Associated With Higher Volatility of the Basket and Therefore a Greater Risk of Loss

Volatility refers to the frequency and magnitude of changes in a basket level. The fact that the underlying basket to which your notes are linked is more volatile (as determined by us) than other baskets means that, as of the trade date, the expected risk that the underlying basket to which your notes are linked will

Table of Contents

close below its downside threshold on the determination date (in which case you will receive less than the face amount of your notes at maturity) is greater with respect to your notes than with respect to a note issued by us with the same terms and tenor, but linked to a less volatile basket.

If the expected volatility of the underlying basket is higher than for a note issued by us with the same terms and tenor, but linked to a less volatile basket, a relatively lower downside threshold for the notes may not necessarily indicate a lower risk of loss at maturity, because there is no guarantee that the downside threshold set for your notes adequately offsets this increased expected risk.

You should not take the historical volatility of any basket as an indication of its future volatility. You should be willing to accept the downside market risk of the underlying basket and the potential to lose some or all of your investment at maturity.

The Return on Your Notes May Change Significantly Despite Only a Small Change in the Underlying Basket Level

If a trigger event occurs, you will receive less than the face amount of your notes and you could lose all or a substantial portion of your investment in the notes. This means that while a drop of up to 25.00% between the initial underlying basket level and the final underlying basket level will not result in a loss of principal on the notes (since a trigger event will not have occurred), any additional decrease in the final underlying basket level to less than 75.00% of the initial underlying basket level will result in a loss of a significant portion of the principal amount of the notes.

Your Notes Will Not Bear Interest

You will not receive any interest payments on your notes. As a result, even if the cash settlement amount payable for each of your notes on the stated maturity date exceeds the face amount of your notes, the overall return you earn on your notes may be less than you would have earned by investing in a non-indexed debt security of comparable maturity that bears interest at a prevailing market rate.

The Potential for the Value of Your Notes to Increase Will Be Limited

Your ability to participate in any change in the level of the underlying basket over the life of your notes will be limited. The maximum settlement amount will limit the cash settlement amount you may receive for each of your notes at maturity, no matter how much the level of the underlying basket may rise beyond the cap level over the life of your notes. Accordingly, the amount payable for each of your notes may be significantly less than it would have been had you invested directly in the underlying basket or any of the basket indices.

The Lower Performance of One Underlying Basket Index May Offset an Increase in the Other Underlying Basket Indices

Declines in the level of one underlying basket index may offset increases in the levels of the other underlying basket indices. As a result, any return on the underlying basket and thus on your notes may be reduced or eliminated, which will have the effect of reducing the amount payable in respect of your notes at maturity.

Past Performance is No Guide to Future Performance

The actual performance of the underlying basket indices over the life of the notes, as well as the amount payable at maturity, may bear little relation to the historical closing levels of the underlying basket indices or to the hypothetical return examples set forth elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. We cannot predict the future performance of the underlying basket indices.

We May Sell an Additional Aggregate Face Amount of the Notes at a Different Issue Price

At our sole option, we may decide to sell an additional aggregate face amount of the notes subsequent to the date of this prospectus supplement. The issue price of the notes in the subsequent sale may differ substantially (higher or lower) from the original issue price you paid as provided on the cover of this prospectus supplement.

If You Purchase Your Notes at a Premium to Face Amount, the Return on Your Investment Will Be Lower Than the Return on Notes Purchased at Face Amount and the Impact of Certain Key Terms of the Notes Will be Negatively Affected

Table of Contents

The cash settlement amount you will be paid for your notes on the stated maturity date will not be adjusted based on the issue price you pay for the notes. If you purchase notes at a price that differs from the face amount of the notes, then the return on your investment in such notes held to the stated maturity date will differ from, and may be substantially less than, the return on notes purchased at face amount. If you purchase your notes at a premium to face amount and hold them to the stated maturity date the return on your investment in the notes will be lower than it would have been had you purchased the notes at face amount or a discount to face amount. In addition, the impact of the downside threshold and the cap level on the return on your investment will depend upon the price you pay for your notes relative to face amount. For example, if you purchase your notes at a premium to face amount, the cap level will only permit a lower positive return on your investment in the notes than would have been the case for notes purchased at face amount or a discount amount. Similarly, the downside threshold, while still providing some protection for the return on the notes, will allow a greater percentage decrease in your investment in the notes than would have been the case for notes purchased at face amount or a discount to face amount.

The Return on Your Notes Will Not Reflect Any Dividends Paid on the Underlying Index Stocks

Each underlying basket index sponsor calculates the level of the applicable underlying basket index by reference to the prices of the underlying index stocks, without taking account of the value of dividends paid on those underlying index stocks. Therefore, the return on your notes will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned the underlying index stocks and received the dividends paid on those stocks. You will not receive any dividends that may be paid on any of the underlying index stocks by the underlying index stock issuers. See [You Have No Shareholder Rights or Rights to Receive Any Underlying Index Stock](#) below for additional information.

The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors

When we refer to the market value of your notes, we mean the value that you could receive for your notes if you chose and are able to sell them in the open market before the stated maturity date. A number of factors, many of which are beyond our control and impact the value of bonds and options generally, will influence the market value of your notes, including:

- the levels of the underlying basket indices;
- whether a trigger event has occurred;
- the volatility i.e., the frequency and magnitude of changes in the levels of the underlying basket indices;
- the dividend rates of the underlying index stocks;

- economic, financial, regulatory, political, military and other events that affect the stock markets generally and the underlying index stocks, and which may affect the closing levels of the underlying basket indices;
- other interest rates and yield rates in the market;
- the time remaining until your notes mature; and
- our creditworthiness and the creditworthiness of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., whether actual or perceived, including actual or anticipated upgrades or downgrades in our credit ratings or the credit ratings of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or changes in other credit measures.

These factors will influence the price you will receive if you sell your notes before maturity, including the price you may receive for your notes in any market-making transaction. If you sell your notes before maturity, you may receive less than the face amount of your notes or less than you would have received had you held your notes to maturity.

You cannot predict the future levels of the underlying basket indices based on their historical fluctuations. The actual levels of the underlying basket indices over the life of the notes may bear little or no relation to their historical closing levels or to the hypothetical examples shown elsewhere in this prospectus supplement.

If the Level of the Underlying Basket Indices Changes, the Market Value of Your Notes May Not Change in the Same Manner

Table of Contents

Your notes may trade quite differently from the performance of the underlying basket indices. Changes in the levels of the underlying basket indices may not result in a comparable change in the market value of your notes. Even if the levels of the underlying basket indices increase above their respective initial levels during the life of the notes, the market value of your notes may not increase by the same amount. We discuss some of the reasons for this disparity under **The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors** above.

Other Investors in the Notes May Not Have the Same Interests as You

Other investors in the notes are not required to take into account the interests of any other investor in exercising remedies or voting or other rights in their capacity as securityholders or in making requests or recommendations to Goldman Sachs as to the establishment of other transaction terms. The interests of other investors may, in some circumstances, be adverse to your interests. For example, certain investors may take short positions (directly or indirectly through derivative transactions) on assets that are the same or similar to your notes, underlying basket indices, underlying index stocks or other similar securities, which may adversely impact the market for or value of your notes.

You Have No Shareholder Rights or Rights to Receive Any Underlying Index Stock

Investing in your notes will not make you a holder of any of the underlying index stocks. Neither you nor any other holder or owner of your notes will have any rights with respect to the underlying index stocks, including any voting rights, any rights to receive dividends or other distributions, any rights to make a claim against the underlying index stocks or any other rights of a holder of the underlying index stocks. Your notes will be paid in cash and you will have no right to receive delivery of any underlying index stocks.

Anticipated Hedging Activities by Goldman Sachs or Our Distributors May Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes and Cause Our Interests and Those of Our Clients and Counterparties to be Contrary to Those of Investors in the Notes

Goldman Sachs expects to hedge our obligations under the notes by purchasing listed or over-the-counter options, futures and/or other instruments linked to the underlying basket indices or the underlying index stocks. Goldman Sachs also expects to adjust the hedge by, among other things, purchasing or selling any of the foregoing, and perhaps other instruments linked to the underlying basket indices or the underlying index stocks, at any time and from time to time, and to unwind the hedge by selling any of the foregoing on or before the determination date for your notes. Alternatively, Goldman Sachs may hedge all or part of our obligations under the notes with unaffiliated distributors of the notes which we expect will undertake similar market activity. Goldman Sachs may also enter into, adjust and unwind hedging transactions relating to other index-linked notes whose returns are linked to changes in the levels of the underlying basket indices or the underlying index stocks, as applicable.

In addition to entering into such transactions itself, or distributors entering into such transactions, Goldman Sachs may structure such transactions for its clients or counterparties, or otherwise advise or assist clients or counterparties in entering into such transactions. These activities may be undertaken to achieve a variety of objectives, including: permitting other purchasers of the notes or other securities to hedge their investment in whole or in part; facilitating transactions for other clients or counterparties that may have business objectives or investment strategies that are inconsistent with or contrary to those of investors in the notes;

hedging the exposure of Goldman Sachs to the notes including any interest in the notes that it reacquires or retains as part of the offering process, through its market-making activities or otherwise; enabling Goldman Sachs to comply with its internal risk limits or otherwise manage firmwide, business unit or product risk; and/or enabling Goldman Sachs to take directional views as to relevant markets on behalf of itself or its clients or counterparties that are inconsistent with or contrary to the views and objectives of the investors in the notes.

Any of these hedging or other activities may adversely affect the levels of the underlying basket indices directly or indirectly by affecting the price of the underlying index stocks and therefore the market value of your notes and the amount we will pay on your notes, if any, at maturity. In addition, you should expect that these transactions will cause Goldman Sachs or its clients, counterparties or distributors to have economic interests and incentives that do not align with, and that may be directly contrary to, those of an investor in the notes. Neither Goldman Sachs nor any distributor will have any obligation to take, refrain

Table of Contents

from taking or cease taking any action with respect to these transactions based on the potential effect on an investor in the notes, and may receive substantial returns on hedging or other activities while the value of your notes declines. In addition, if the distributor from which you purchase notes is to conduct hedging activities in connection with the notes, that distributor may otherwise profit in connection with such hedging activities and such profit, if any, will be in addition to the compensation that the distributor receives for the sale of the notes to you. You should be aware that the potential to earn fees in connection with hedging activities may create a further incentive for the distributor to sell the notes to you in addition to the compensation they would receive for the sale of the notes.

Goldman Sachs Trading and Investment Activities for its Own Account or for its Clients, Could Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes

Goldman Sachs is a global investment banking, securities and investment management firm that provides a wide range of financial services to a substantial and diversified client base that includes corporations, financial institutions, governments and individuals. As such, it acts as an investor, investment banker, research provider, investment manager, investment advisor, market maker, trader, prime broker and lender. In those and other capacities, Goldman Sachs purchases, sells or holds a broad array of investments, actively trades securities, derivatives, loans, commodities, currencies, credit default swaps, indices, baskets and other financial instruments and products for its own account or for the accounts of its customers, and will have other direct or indirect interests, in the global fixed income, currency, commodity, equity, bank loan and other markets. Any of Goldman Sachs' financial market activities may, individually or in the aggregate, have an adverse effect on the market for your notes, and you should expect that the interests of Goldman Sachs or its clients or counterparties will at times be adverse to those of investors in the notes.

Goldman Sachs regularly offers a wide array of securities, financial instruments and other products into the marketplace, including existing or new products that are similar to your notes, or similar or linked to the underlying basket indices or underlying index stocks. Investors in the notes should expect that Goldman Sachs will offer securities, financial instruments, and other products that will compete with the notes for liquidity, research coverage or otherwise.

Goldman Sachs Market-Making Activities Could Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes

Goldman Sachs actively makes markets in and trades financial instruments for its own account and for the accounts of customers. These financial instruments include debt and equity securities, currencies, commodities, bank loans, indices, baskets and other products. Goldman Sachs' activities include, among other things, executing large block trades and taking long and short positions directly and indirectly, through derivative instruments or otherwise. The securities and instruments in which Goldman Sachs takes positions, or expects to take positions, include securities and instruments of the underlying basket indices or underlying index stocks, securities and instruments similar to or linked to the foregoing or the currencies in which they are denominated. Market making is an activity where Goldman Sachs buys and sells on behalf of customers, or for its own account, to satisfy the expected demand of customers. By its nature, market making involves facilitating transactions among market participants that have differing views of securities and instruments. As a result, you should expect that Goldman Sachs will take positions that are inconsistent with, or adverse to, the investment objectives of investors in the notes.

If Goldman Sachs becomes a holder of any securities of the underlying basket indices or underlying index stocks in its capacity as a market-maker or otherwise, any actions that it takes in its capacity as securityholder, including voting or provision of consents, will not necessarily be aligned with, and may be inconsistent with, the interests of investors in the notes.

You Should Expect That Goldman Sachs Personnel Will Take Research Positions, or Otherwise Make Recommendations, Provide Investment Advice or Market Color or Encourage Trading Strategies That Might Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes

Goldman Sachs and its personnel, including its sales and trading, investment research and investment management personnel, regularly make investment recommendations, provide market color or trading ideas, or publish or express independent views in respect of a wide range of markets, issuers, securities and instruments. They regularly implement, or recommend to clients that they implement, various investment strategies relating to these markets, issuers, securities and instruments. These strategies

S-19

Table of Contents

include, for example, buying or selling credit protection against a default or other event involving an issuer or financial instrument. Any of these recommendations and views may be negative with respect to the underlying basket indices or underlying index stocks or other securities or instruments similar to or linked to the foregoing or result in trading strategies that have a negative impact on the market for any such securities or instruments, particularly in illiquid markets. In addition, you should expect that personnel in the trading and investing businesses of Goldman Sachs will have or develop independent views of the underlying basket indices or underlying index stocks, the relevant industry or other market trends, which may not be aligned with the views and objectives of investors in the notes.

Goldman Sachs Regularly Provides Services to, or Otherwise Has Business Relationships with, a Broad Client Base, Which May Include the Sponsors of the Underlying Basket Indices or the Issuers of the Underlying Index Stocks or Other Entities That Are Involved in the Transaction

Goldman Sachs regularly provides financial advisory, investment advisory and transactional services to a substantial and diversified client base, and you should assume that Goldman Sachs will, at present or in the future, provide such services or otherwise engage in transactions with, among others, the sponsors of the underlying basket indices or the issuers of the underlying index stocks, or transact in securities or instruments or with parties that are directly or indirectly related to the foregoing. These services could include making loans to or equity investments in those companies, providing financial advisory or other investment banking services, or issuing research reports. You should expect that Goldman Sachs, in providing such services, engaging in such transactions, or acting for its own account, may take actions that have direct or indirect effects on the underlying basket indices or underlying index stocks, as applicable, and that such actions could be adverse to the interests of investors in the notes. In addition, in connection with these activities, certain Goldman Sachs personnel may have access to confidential material non-public information about these parties that would not be disclosed to Goldman Sachs employees that were not working on such transactions as Goldman Sachs has established internal information barriers that are designed to preserve the confidentiality of non-public information. Therefore, any such confidential material non-public information would not be shared with Goldman Sachs employees involved in structuring, selling or making markets in the notes or with investors in the notes.

In this offering, as well as in all other circumstances in which Goldman Sachs receives any fees or other compensation in any form relating to services provided to or transactions with any other party, no accounting, offset or payment in respect of the notes will be required or made; Goldman Sachs will be entitled to retain all such fees and other amounts, and no fees or other compensation payable by any party or indirectly by holders of the notes will be reduced by reason of receipt by Goldman Sachs of any such other fees or other amounts.

The Offering of the Notes May Reduce an Existing Exposure of Goldman Sachs or Facilitate a Transaction or Position That Serves the Objectives of Goldman Sachs or Other Parties

A completed offering may reduce Goldman Sachs' existing exposure to the underlying basket indices or underlying index stocks, securities and instruments similar to or linked to the foregoing or the currencies in which they are denominated, including exposure gained through hedging transactions in anticipation of this offering. An offering of notes will effectively transfer a portion of Goldman Sachs' exposure (and indirectly transfer the exposure of Goldman Sachs' hedging or other counterparties) to investors in the notes.

The terms of the offering (including the selection of the underlying basket indices or underlying index stocks, and the establishment of other transaction terms) may have been selected in order to serve the investment or other objectives of Goldman Sachs or

another client or counterparty of Goldman Sachs. In such a case, Goldman Sachs would typically receive the input of other parties that are involved in or otherwise have an interest in the offering, transactions hedged by the offering, or related transactions. The incentives of these other parties would normally differ from and in many cases be contrary to those of investors in the notes.

As Calculation Agent, GS&Co. Will Have the Authority to Make Determinations that Could Affect the Value of Your Notes, When Your Notes Mature and the Amount You Receive at Maturity

As calculation agent for your notes, GS&Co. will have discretion in making various determinations that affect your notes, including determining: the final underlying basket level on the determination date, which

s-20

Table of Contents

we will use to determine the amount we must pay on the stated maturity date; whether a trigger event has occurred; whether to postpone the determination date because of a market disruption event or a non-trading day; the stated maturity date; the default amount and any amount payable on your notes. See *Specific Terms of Your Notes* below. The calculation agent also has discretion in making certain adjustments relating to a discontinuation or modification of the underlying index. See *Specific Terms of Your Notes* *Discontinuation or Modification of the Underlying Index* below. The exercise of this discretion by GS&Co. could adversely affect the value of your notes and may present GS&Co. with a conflict of interest. We may change the calculation agent at any time without notice and GS&Co. may resign as calculation agent at any time upon 60 days' written notice to us.

The Policies of an Underlying Basket Index Sponsor and Changes That Affect an Underlying Basket Index or the Underlying Index Stocks Could Affect the Payment Amount on Your Notes and Their Market Value

The policies of an underlying basket index sponsor concerning the calculation of the level of an underlying basket index, additions, deletions or substitutions of underlying index stocks and the manner in which changes affecting the underlying index stocks or their issuers, such as stock dividends, reorganizations or mergers, are reflected in the levels of the underlying basket indices could affect the level of the applicable underlying basket index and, therefore, the cash settlement amount on your notes on the stated maturity date and the market value of your notes before that date. The cash settlement amount on your notes and their market value could also be affected if the applicable underlying basket index sponsor changes these policies, for example, by changing the manner in which it calculates the level of the underlying basket index or the method by which it constructs the underlying basket index, or if any underlying basket index sponsor discontinues or suspends calculation or publication of the levels of the underlying basket indices, in which case it may become difficult to determine the market value of your notes. If events such as these occur, or if the closing levels of the underlying basket indices are not available on the determination date because of a market disruption event or for any other reason, the calculation agent which initially will be GS&Co., our affiliate may determine the closing levels of the underlying basket indices on the determination date and thus the cash settlement amount on the stated maturity date in a manner it considers appropriate, in its sole discretion. We describe the discretion that the calculation agent will have in determining the closing levels of the underlying basket indices on the determination date and the cash settlement amount on your notes more fully under *Specific Terms of Your Notes* *Discontinuation or Modification of the Underlying Basket Indices* and *Role of Calculation Agent* below.

Except to the Extent The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Is One of the Companies Whose Common Stock Comprises the S&P 500® Index, There Is No Affiliation Between the Underlying Index Stock Issuers or the Underlying Basket Index Sponsors and Us

The common stock of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. is one of the underlying index stocks comprising the S&P 500® Index. We are not otherwise affiliated with the issuers of the underlying index stocks or the underlying basket index sponsors. As we have told you above, however, we or our affiliates may currently or from time to time in the future own securities of, or engage in business with, the underlying basket index sponsors or the underlying index stock issuers. Neither we nor any of our affiliates have participated in the preparation of any publicly available information or made any due diligence investigation or inquiry with respect to the underlying basket indices or any of the other underlying index stock issuers. You, as an investor in your notes, should make your own investigation into the underlying basket indices and the underlying index stock issuers. See *The Underlying Basket and the Underlying Basket Indices* below for additional information about the underlying basket indices.

Neither the underlying basket index sponsors nor any of the other underlying index stock issuers are involved in the offering of your notes in any way and none of them have any obligation of any sort with respect to your notes. Thus, neither the underlying basket index sponsors nor any of the other underlying index stock issuers have any obligation to take your interests into consideration for any reason, including in taking any corporate actions that might affect the market value of your notes.

Your Notes May Not Have an Active Trading Market

Your notes will not be listed or displayed on any securities exchange or included in any interdealer market quotation system, and there may be little or no secondary market for your notes. Even if a secondary

s-21

Table of Contents

market for your notes develops, it may not provide significant liquidity and we expect that transaction costs in any secondary market would be high. As a result, the difference between bid and asked prices for your notes in any secondary market could be substantial.

The Calculation Agent Can Postpone the Determination Date If a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day Occurs or is Continuing

If the calculation agent determines that, on the date that would otherwise be the determination date, a market disruption event occurs or is continuing with respect to an underlying basket index or that day is not a trading day with respect to an underlying basket index, the determination date will be postponed until the first following trading day on which the calculation agent determines that, on or subsequent to the originally scheduled determination date, each underlying basket index has had at least one trading day on which no market disruption event has occurred or is continuing. In no event, however, will the determination date be postponed to a date later than the originally scheduled stated maturity date or, if the originally scheduled stated maturity date is not a business day, later than the first business day after the originally scheduled stated maturity date. Moreover, if the determination date is postponed to the last possible day, but a market disruption event occurs or is continuing with respect to an underlying basket index that has not yet had such a trading day on which no market disruption event has occurred or is continuing or if such last possible day is not a trading day with respect to such underlying basket index, that day will nevertheless be the determination date. In such a case, the calculation agent will determine the applicable level of such underlying basket index or underlying basket indices for the determination date based on the procedures described under **Specific Terms of Your Notes** **Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day** below.

There are Small-Capitalization Stock Risks Associated with the Russell 2000® Index

The Russell 2000® Index is comprised of stocks of companies that may be considered small capitalization companies. These companies often have greater stock price volatility, lower trading volume and less liquidity than large capitalization companies and therefore the Russell 2000® Index may be more volatile than an index in which a greater percentage of the constituent stocks are issued by large-capitalization companies.

Certain Considerations for Insurance Companies and Employee Benefit Plans

Any insurance company or fiduciary of a pension plan or other employee benefit plan that is subject to the prohibited transaction rules of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, which we call **ERISA**, or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, including an IRA or a Keogh plan (or a governmental plan to which similar prohibitions apply), and that is considering purchasing the offered notes with the assets of the insurance company or the assets of such a plan, should consult with its counsel regarding whether the purchase or holding of the offered notes could become a prohibited transaction under ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any substantially similar prohibition in light of the representations a purchaser or holder in any of the above categories is deemed to make by purchasing and holding the offered notes. This is discussed in more detail under **Employee Retirement Income Security Act** below.

Your Notes May Be Subject to an Adverse Change in Tax Treatment in the Future

The tax consequences of an investment in your notes are uncertain, both as to the timing and character of any inclusion in income in respect of your notes.

The Internal Revenue Service announced on December 7, 2007 that it is considering issuing guidance regarding the tax treatment of an instrument such as your notes, and any such guidance could adversely affect the value and the tax treatment of your notes. Among other things, the Internal Revenue Service may decide to require the holders to accrue ordinary income on a current basis and recognize ordinary income on payment at maturity, and could subject non-U.S. investors to withholding tax. Furthermore, in 2007, legislation was introduced in Congress that, if enacted, would have required holders that acquired instruments such as your notes after the bill was enacted to accrue interest income over the term of such instruments even though there will be no interest payments over the term of such instruments. It is not possible to predict whether a similar or identical bill will be enacted in the future, or whether any such bill would affect the tax treatment of your notes. We describe these developments in more detail under

Table of Contents

Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences United States Holders Possible Change in Law below. You should consult your tax advisor about this matter. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, we intend to continue treating the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes in accordance with the treatment described under Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences on page S-56 below unless and until such time as Congress, the Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue Service determine that some other treatment is more appropriate. Please also consult your tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax and any other applicable tax consequences to you of owning your notes in your particular circumstances.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding May Apply to Payments on Your Notes, Including as a Result of the Failure of the Bank or Broker Through Which You Hold the Notes to Provide Information to Tax Authorities

Please see the discussion under United States Taxation Taxation of Debt Securities Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding in the accompanying prospectus for a description of the applicability of FATCA to payments made on your notes.

Table of Contents

SPECIFIC TERMS OF YOUR NOTES

We refer to the notes we are offering by this prospectus supplement as the offered notes or the notes . Please note that in this prospectus supplement, references to GS Finance Corp. , we , our and us mean only GS Finance Corp. and do not include its subsidiaries or affiliates, references to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. , our parent company, mean only The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and do not include its subsidiaries or affiliates and references to Goldman Sachs mean The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. together with its consolidated subsidiaries and affiliates, including us. Also, references to the accompanying prospectus mean the accompanying prospectus, dated July 10, 2017, and references to the accompanying prospectus supplement mean the accompanying prospectus supplement, dated July 10, 2017, for Medium-Term Notes, Series E, in each case of GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Please note that in this section entitled Specific Terms of Your Notes , references to holders mean those who own notes registered in their own names, on the books that we or the trustee maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in notes registered in street name or in notes issued in book-entry form through The Depository Trust Company. Please review the special considerations that apply to owners of beneficial interests in the accompanying prospectus, under Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance .

The offered notes are part of a series of debt securities, entitled Medium-Term Notes, Series E , that we may issue under the indenture from time to time as described in the accompanying prospectus and accompanying prospectus supplement. The offered notes are also indexed debt securities , as defined in the accompanying prospectus.

This prospectus supplement summarizes specific financial and other terms that apply to the offered notes, including your notes; terms that apply generally to all Series E medium-term notes are described in Description of Notes We May Offer in the accompanying prospectus supplement. The terms described here supplement those described in the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and, if the terms described here are inconsistent with those described there, the terms described here are controlling.

In addition to those terms described under Summary Information in this prospectus supplement, the following terms will apply to your notes:

No interest: we will not pay interest on your notes

Specified currency:

- U.S. dollars (\$)

Form of note:

- global form only: yes, at DTC
- non-global form available: no

Denominations: each note registered in the name of a holder must have a face amount of \$10, or an integral multiple of \$10 in excess thereof

Minimum purchase amount: In connection with the initial offering of the notes, the minimum face amount of notes that may be purchased by any investor is \$1,000.

Defeasance applies as follows:

- full defeasance: no
- covenant defeasance: no

Other terms:

- the default amount will be payable on any acceleration of the maturity of your notes as described under Special Calculation Provisions below
- a business day for your notes will not be the same as a business day for our other Series E medium-term notes, as described under Special Calculation Provisions below
- a trading day for your notes will be as described under Special Calculation Provisions below

Table of Contents

Please note that the information about the settlement date or trade date, issue price, underwriting discount and net proceeds to GS Finance Corp. on the front cover page or elsewhere in this prospectus supplement relates only to the initial issuance and sale of the notes. We may decide to sell additional notes on one or more dates after the date of this prospectus supplement, at issue prices and with, underwriting discounts and net proceeds that differ from the amounts set forth on the front cover page or elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. If you have purchased your notes in a market-making transaction after the initial issuance and sale of the notes, any such relevant information about the sale to you will be provided in a separate confirmation of sale.

We describe the terms of your notes in more detail below.

Underlying Basket Indices, Underlying Basket Index Sponsors and Underlying Index Stocks

In this prospectus supplement, when we refer to an underlying basket index, we mean the applicable underlying basket index specified on the front cover page, or any successor index, as it may be modified, replaced or adjusted from time to time as described under **Payment of Principal on Stated Maturity Date** **Discontinuance or Modification of the Underlying Basket Indices** below. When we refer to an underlying basket index sponsor as of any time, we mean the entity, including any successor sponsor, that determines and publishes the applicable underlying basket index as then in effect. When we refer to the underlying index stocks of an underlying basket index as of any time, we mean the stocks that comprise the applicable underlying basket index as then in effect, after giving effect to any additions, deletions or substitutions.

Payment of Principal on Stated Maturity Date

On the stated maturity date, for each \$10 face amount of your notes you will receive an amount in cash equal to:

- if the final underlying basket level is *greater than or equal to* the cap level, the maximum settlement amount;
- if the final underlying basket level is *greater than* the initial underlying basket level but *less than* the cap level, the *sum* of (a) \$10 *plus* (b) the *product* of the underlying basket return *times* \$10 *times* the upside gearing;
- if the final underlying basket level is *equal to or less than* the initial underlying basket level but *greater than or equal to* the downside threshold, \$10; or

- if the final underlying basket level is *less than* the downside threshold, the *sum* of (a) \$10 *plus* (b) the *product* of the underlying basket return *times* \$10, resulting in a loss proportionate to the negative underlying basket return.

The underlying basket return is calculated by *subtracting* the initial underlying basket level from the final underlying basket level and *dividing* the result by the initial underlying basket level, with the quotient expressed as a percentage. The initial underlying basket level is 100. The downside threshold will be 75.00% of the initial underlying basket level. A trigger event will occur if the final underlying basket level is less than the downside threshold. The final underlying basket level will equal the *sum* of the following: (1) the final S&P 500® Index level *divided* by the initial S&P 500® Index level, *multiplied* by the initial weighted value of the S&P 500® Index *plus* (2) the final Russell 2000® Index level *divided* by the initial Russell 2000® Index level, *multiplied* by the initial weighted value of the Russell 2000® Index *plus* (3) the final S&P MidCap 400® Index level *divided* by the initial S&P MidCap 400® Index level, *multiplied* by the initial weighted value of the S&P MidCap 400® Index. The cap level is 115.00% of the initial underlying basket level. The cap level represents (i) the maximum return divided by the upside gearing plus (ii) 100% and is the level of the underlying basket at or above which you will receive the maximum settlement amount. If the final underlying basket level is greater than the cap level (in which case the *product* of the underlying basket return *times* the upside gearing is *greater than* the maximum return), you will not receive more than the maximum settlement amount. The maximum settlement amount is \$13.00, which corresponds to an expected maximum return on the notes of 30.00%. The upside gearing is 2.0.

The initial weighted value for each of the underlying basket indices is expected to equal the *product* of the initial weight of such underlying basket index *times* the initial underlying basket level. The initial weight of each underlying basket index is shown in the table below:

Table of Contents

Underlying Basket Index	Initial Weight in Underlying Basket
S&P 500® Index	33 1/3%
Russell 2000® Index	33 1/3%
S&P MidCap 400® Index	33 1/3%

The initial level with respect to each underlying basket index will be set on the trade date and will equal the closing level of each such underlying basket index on such date. The calculation agent will determine the final level with respect to each underlying basket index, which will be the closing level of such underlying basket index on the determination date. However, the calculation agent will have discretion to adjust the final level with respect to each basket index on the determination date or to determine it in a different manner as described under *Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day* and *Discontinuance or Modification of the Underlying Basket Index* below.

Stated Maturity Date

The stated maturity date (which will be determined on the trade date) is expected to be September 24, 2021, unless that day is not a business day, in which case the stated maturity date will be the next following business day. If the determination date is postponed as described under *Determination Date* below, the stated maturity date will be postponed by the same number of business day(s) from but excluding the originally scheduled determination date to and including the actual determination date.

Determination Date

The determination date will be a date specified on the trade date and is expected to be September 21, 2021, unless the calculation agent determines that a market disruption event with respect to an underlying basket index occurs or is continuing on such day or such day is not a trading day with respect to an underlying basket index. In that event, the determination date will be the first following trading day on which the calculation agent determines that, on or subsequent to the originally scheduled determination date, each underlying basket index has had at least one trading day on which no market disruption event has occurred or is continuing and the closing level of each underlying basket index will be determined on or prior to the postponed determination date as set forth under *Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day* below. (In such case, the determination date may differ from the dates on which the levels of one or more underlying basket indices are determined for the purpose of the calculations to be performed on the determination date.) In no event, however, will the determination date be postponed to a date later than the originally scheduled stated maturity date or, if the originally scheduled stated maturity date is not a business day, later than the first business day after the originally scheduled stated maturity date. On such last possible determination date, if a market disruption event occurs or is continuing with respect to an underlying basket index that has not yet had such a trading day on which no market disruption event has occurred or is continuing or if such last possible day is not a trading day with respect to such underlying basket index, that day will nevertheless be the determination date.

Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day

If a market disruption event with respect to any underlying basket index occurs or is continuing on a day that would otherwise be the determination date, or such day is not a trading day, then the determination date will be postponed as described under Determination Date above. As a result of any of the foregoing, the stated maturity date for your notes may also be postponed, as described under Stated Maturity Date above. If the determination date is postponed due to a market disruption event or non-trading day with respect to one or more of the underlying basket indices, the final underlying basket level will be calculated based on (i) the closing level of each of the underlying basket indices that is not affected by the market disruption event or non-trading day, if any, on the originally scheduled determination date, (ii) the closing level of each of the underlying basket indices that is affected by the

s-26

Table of Contents

market disruption event or non-trading day on the first trading day following the originally scheduled determination date on which no market disruption event exists for that underlying basket index, and (iii) the calculation agent's assessment, in its sole discretion, of the closing level of each underlying basket index on the last possible postponed determination date with respect to each underlying basket index as to which a market disruption event or non-trading day continues through the last possible postponed determination date. As a result, this could result in the closing level of differing underlying basket indices being determined on different calendar dates. For the avoidance of doubt, once the closing level for one or more underlying basket indices is determined for a determination date, the occurrence of a later market disruption event or non-trading day will not alter such calculation.

Discontinuance or Modification of an Underlying Basket Index

If, with respect to an underlying basket index, the underlying basket index sponsor discontinues publication of such underlying basket index and such underlying basket index sponsor or anyone else publishes a substitute index that the calculation agent determines is comparable to the applicable underlying basket index or if the calculation agent designates a substitute index, then the calculation agent will determine the cash settlement amount on the stated maturity date by reference to the substitute index. We refer to any substitute index approved by the calculation agent as a successor index.

If the calculation agent determines on the determination date that the publication of an underlying basket index is discontinued and there is no successor index, the calculation agent will determine the cash settlement amount on the stated maturity date by a computation methodology that the calculation agent determines will as closely as reasonably possible replicate the underlying basket index.

If the calculation agent determines that an underlying basket index, the underlying index stocks comprising that underlying basket index or the method of calculating that underlying basket index is changed at any time in any respect including any split or reverse split and any addition, deletion or substitution and any reweighting or rebalancing of the underlying basket index or of the underlying index stocks and whether the change is made by the underlying basket index sponsor under its existing policies or following a modification of those policies, is due to the publication of a successor index, is due to events affecting one or more of the underlying index stocks or their issuers or is due to any other reason and is not otherwise reflected in the level of the underlying basket index by the underlying basket index sponsor pursuant to the then-current index methodology of the underlying basket index, then the calculation agent will be permitted (but not required) to make such adjustments in such underlying basket index or the method of its calculation and the underlying basket index weightings as it believes are appropriate to ensure that the underlying basket level used to determine the cash settlement amount on the stated maturity date is equitable.

All determinations and adjustments to be made by the calculation agent with respect to an underlying basket index may be made by the calculation agent in its sole discretion. The calculation agent is not obligated to make any such adjustments.

Default Amount on Acceleration

If an event of default occurs and the maturity of your notes is accelerated, we will pay the default amount in respect of the principal of your notes at the maturity, instead of the cash settlement amount on the stated maturity date as described earlier. We describe the default amount under "Special Calculation Provisions" below.

For the purpose of determining whether the holders of our Series E medium-term notes, which include your notes, are entitled to take any action under the indenture, we will treat the outstanding face amount of your notes as the outstanding principal amount of that note. Although the terms of the offered notes differ from those of the other Series E medium-term notes, holders of specified percentages in principal amount of all Series E medium-term notes, together in some cases with other series of our debt securities, will be able to take action affecting all the Series E medium-term notes, including your notes, except with respect to certain Series E medium-term notes if the terms of such notes specify that the holders of specified percentages in the principal amount of all such notes must also consent to such action. This action may involve changing some of the terms that apply to the Series E medium-term notes, accelerating the maturity of the Series E medium-term notes after a default or waiving some of our obligations under the indenture. In addition, certain changes to the indenture and the notes that only

s-27

Table of Contents

affect certain debt securities may be made with the approval of holders of a majority of the principal amount of such affected debt securities. We discuss these matters in the accompanying prospectus under Description of Debt Securities We May Offer Default, Remedies and Waiver of Default and Modification of the Debt Indentures and Waiver of Covenants .

Manner of Payment

Any payment on your notes at maturity will be made to an account designated by the holder of your notes and approved by us, or at the office of the trustee in New York City, but only when your notes are surrendered to the trustee at that office. We also may make any payment in accordance with the applicable procedures of the depository.

Modified Business Day

As described in the accompanying prospectus, any payment on your notes that would otherwise be due on a day that is not a business day may instead be paid on the next day that is a business day, with the same effect as if paid on the original due date. For your notes, however, the term business day may have a different meaning than it does for other Series E medium-term notes. We discuss this term under Special Calculation Provisions below.

Role of Calculation Agent

The calculation agent in its sole discretion will make all determinations regarding the closing levels of the underlying basket indices, the final underlying basket level, the underlying basket return, market disruption events, successor indices, business days, trading days, the determination date and the cash settlement amount on your notes at maturity. Absent manifest error, all determinations of the calculation agent will be final and binding on you and us, without any liability on the part of the calculation agent.

Please note that GS&Co., our affiliate, is currently serving as the calculation agent as of the original issue date of your notes. We may change the calculation agent for your notes at any time after the original issue date without notice and GS&Co. may resign as calculation agent at any time upon 60 days written notice to us.

Special Calculation Provisions

Business Day

When we refer to a business day with respect to your notes, we mean a day that is a New York business day as described under Description of Debt Securities We May Offer Calculations of Interest on Debt Securities Business Days on page 16 in the accompanying prospectus.

Trading Day

When we refer to a trading day with respect to an underlying basket index, we mean a day on which the respective principal securities markets for all of the respective underlying index stocks are open for trading, the respective underlying basket index sponsor is open for business and such underlying basket index is calculated and published by the respective index sponsor. Although an underlying basket index sponsor of any such index may publish an underlying basket index level with respect to an underlying basket index on a day when one or more of the principal securities markets for the underlying basket index's underlying index stocks are closed, that day would not be a trading day for purposes of such underlying basket index.

Closing Level

When we refer to the closing level for the S&P 500® Index or the S&P MidCap 400® Index on any trading day, we mean the official closing level of such underlying basket index or any successor underlying index published on such trading day by the underlying basket index sponsor.

When we refer to the closing level of the Russell 2000® Index on any trading day, we mean the closing level of that underlying basket index or any successor underlying index reported by Bloomberg Financial Services, or any successor reporting service we may select, on such trading day for that underlying basket index. Currently, whereas the underlying basket index sponsor publishes the official closing level of the Russell 2000® Index to six decimal places, Bloomberg Financial Services reports the closing level of the Russell 2000® Index to fewer decimal places. As a result, the closing level of the Russell 2000®

Table of Contents

Index reported by Bloomberg Financial Services generally may be lower or higher than the official closing level of the Russell 2000® Index published by the underlying basket index sponsor.

Default Amount

The default amount for your notes on any day (except as provided in the last sentence under **Default Quotation Period** below) will be an amount, in the specified currency for the principal of your notes, equal to the cost of having a qualified financial institution, of the kind and selected as described below, expressly assume all of our payment and other obligations with respect to your notes as of that day and as if no default or acceleration had occurred, or to undertake other obligations providing substantially equivalent economic value to you with respect to your notes. That cost will equal:

- the lowest amount that a qualified financial institution would charge to effect this assumption or undertaking, *plus*
- the reasonable expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by the holder of your notes in preparing any documentation necessary for this assumption or undertaking.

During the default quotation period for your notes, which we describe below, the holder and/or we may request a qualified financial institution to provide a quotation of the amount it would charge to effect this assumption or undertaking. If either party obtains a quotation, it must notify the other party in writing of the quotation. The amount referred to in the first bullet point above will equal the lowest or, if there is only one, the only quotation obtained, and as to which notice is so given, during the default quotation period. With respect to any quotation, however, the party not obtaining the quotation may object, on reasonable and significant grounds, to the assumption or undertaking by the qualified financial institution providing the quotation and notify the other party in writing of those grounds within two business days after the last day of the default quotation period, in which case that quotation will be disregarded in determining the default amount.

Default Quotation Period

The default quotation period is the period beginning on the day the default amount first becomes due and ending on the third business day after that day, unless:

- no quotation of the kind referred to above is obtained, or

- every quotation of that kind obtained is objected to within five business days after the day the default amount first becomes due.

If either of these two events occurs, the default quotation period will continue until the third business day after the first business day on which prompt notice of a quotation is given as described above. If that quotation is objected to as described above within five business days after that first business day, however, the default quotation period will continue as described in the prior sentence and this sentence.

In any event, if the default quotation period and the subsequent two business day objection period have not ended before the determination date, then the default amount will equal the principal amount of your notes.

Qualified Financial Institutions

For the purpose of determining the default amount at any time, a qualified financial institution must be a financial institution organized under the laws of any jurisdiction in the United States of America, Europe or Japan, which at that time has outstanding debt obligations with a stated maturity of one year or less from the date of issue and that is, or whose securities are, rated either:

- A-1 or higher by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services or any successor, or any other comparable rating then used by that rating agency, or
- P-1 or higher by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or any successor, or any other comparable rating then used by that rating agency.

Table of Contents

Market Disruption Event

With respect to any given trading day, any of the following will be a market disruption event with respect to an underlying basket index:

- a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading in underlying index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the underlying basket index on their respective primary markets, in each case for more than two consecutive hours of trading or during the one-half hour before the close of trading in that market, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion, or
- a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading in option or futures contracts relating to the underlying basket index or to underlying index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the underlying basket index in the respective primary markets for those contracts, in each case for more than two consecutive hours of trading or during the one-half hour before the close of trading in that market, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion, or
- underlying index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the underlying basket index, or option or futures contracts, if available, relating to the underlying basket index or to underlying index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the underlying basket index are not trading on what were the respective primary markets for those underlying index stocks or contracts, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion,

and, in the case of any of these events, the calculation agent determines in its sole discretion that the event could materially interfere with the ability of GS Finance Corp. or any of its affiliates to unwind all or a material portion of a hedge that could be effected with respect to the offered notes. For more information about hedging by GS Finance Corp. and/or any of its affiliates, see [Use of Proceeds](#) and [Hedging](#) below.

The following events will not be market disruption events with respect to an underlying basket index:

- a limitation on the hours or numbers of days of trading, but only if the limitation results from an announced change in the regular business hours of the relevant market, and

- a decision to permanently discontinue trading in option or futures contracts relating to the underlying basket index or to any underlying index stock.

For this purpose, an absence of trading in the primary securities market on which an underlying index stock, or on which option or futures contracts relating to the underlying basket index or an underlying index stock, are traded will not include any time when that market is itself closed for trading under ordinary circumstances. In contrast, a suspension or limitation of trading in an underlying index stock or in option or futures contracts, if available, relating to the underlying basket index or an underlying index stock in the primary market for that stock or those contracts, by reason of:

- a price change exceeding limits set by that market,
- an imbalance of orders relating to that underlying index stock or those contracts, or
- a disparity in bid and ask quotes relating to that underlying index stock or those contracts,

will constitute a suspension or material limitation of trading in that stock or those contracts in that market.

A market disruption event with respect to one underlying basket index will not, by itself, constitute a market disruption event for the other unaffected underlying basket indices.

As is the case throughout this prospectus supplement, references to an underlying basket index in this description of market disruption events includes such underlying basket index and any successor index as it may be modified, replaced or adjusted from time to time.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to lend the net proceeds from the sale of the offered notes to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or its affiliates. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. expects to use the proceeds from such loans for the purposes we describe in the accompanying prospectus under "Use of Proceeds". We or our affiliates may also use those proceeds in transactions intended to hedge our obligations under the offered notes as described below.

HEDGING

In anticipation of the sale of the offered notes, we and/or our affiliates expect to enter into hedging transactions involving purchases of listed or over-the-counter options, futures and other instruments linked to the underlying basket indices on or before the trade date. In addition, from time to time after we issue the offered notes, we and/or our affiliates may enter into additional hedging transactions and unwind those we have entered into in connection with the offered notes and perhaps in connection with other index-linked notes we issue, some of which may have returns linked to the underlying basket indices or the underlying index stocks. Consequently, with regard to your notes, from time to time, we and/or our affiliates:

- expect to acquire, or dispose of positions in listed or over-the-counter options, futures or other instruments linked to the underlying basket indices or some or all of the underlying index stocks,
- may take or dispose of positions in the securities of the underlying index stock issuers themselves,
- may take or dispose of positions in listed or over-the-counter options or other instruments based on indexes designed to track the performance of the stock exchanges or other components of the equity markets, and/or
- may take short positions in the underlying index stocks or other securities of the kind described above i.e., we and/or our affiliates may sell securities of the kind that we do not own or that we borrow for delivery to purchaser.

We and/or our affiliates may acquire a long or short position in securities similar to your notes from time to time and may, in our or their sole discretion, hold or resell those securities.

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

In the future, we and/or our affiliates expect to close out hedge positions relating to the offered notes and perhaps relating to other notes with returns linked to the underlying basket indices or the underlying index stocks. We expect these steps to involve sales of instruments linked to the underlying basket indices on or shortly before the determination date. These steps may also involve sales and/or purchases of some or all of the underlying index stocks, or listed or over-the-counter options, futures or other instruments linked to any one or more of the underlying basket indices, some or all of the underlying index stocks or indices designed to track the performance of the U.S., European, Asian or other stock exchanges or other components of the U.S., European, Asian or other equity markets or other components of such markets.

The hedging activity discussed above may adversely affect the market value of your notes from time to time and the amount we will pay on your notes at maturity. See Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes above for a discussion of these adverse effects.

S-31

Table of Contents

THE UNDERLYING BASKET AND THE UNDERLYING BASKET INDICES

THE BASKET

The underlying basket is comprised of the following underlying basket indices with the following initial weights within the basket: the S&P 500® Index (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % weighting), the Russell 2000® Index (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % weighting) and the S&P MidCap 400® Index (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % weighting).

The S&P 500® Index

The S&P 500® Index includes a representative sample of 500 companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. The 500 companies are not the 500 largest companies listed on the NYSE and not all 500 companies are listed on the NYSE. S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC (S&P) chooses companies for inclusion in the S&P 500® Index with an aim of achieving a distribution by broad industry groupings that approximates the distribution of these groupings in the common stock population of the U.S. equity market. Although the S&P 500® Index contains 500 constituent companies, at any one time it may contain greater than 500 constituent trading lines since some companies included in the S&P 500® Index prior to July 31, 2017 may be represented by multiple share class lines in the S&P 500® Index. The S&P 500® Index is calculated, maintained and published by S&P and is part of the S&P Dow Jones Indices family of indices. Additional information is available on the following websites: us.spindices.com/indices/equity/sp-500 and spdji.com/. We are not incorporating by reference the websites or any material they include in this prospectus supplement.

S&P intends for the S&P 500® Index to provide a performance benchmark for the large-cap U.S. equity markets. Constituent changes are made on an as-needed basis and there is no schedule for constituent reviews. Constituent changes are generally announced one to five business days prior to the change. Relevant criteria for additions to the S&P 500® Index that are employed by S&P include: the company proposed for addition should have an unadjusted company market capitalization of \$6.1 billion or more (for spin-offs, eligibility is determined using when-issued prices, if available); using composite pricing and volume, the ratio of annual dollar value traded in the proposed constituent to float-adjusted market capitalization of that company should be 1.00 or greater and the stock should trade a minimum of 250,000 shares in each of the six months leading up to the evaluation date; the company must be a U.S. company (characterized as a Form 10-K filer with its U.S. portion of fixed assets and revenues constituting a plurality of the total and with a primary listing of the common stock on the NYSE, NYSE Arca, NYSE American (formerly NYSE MKT), NASDAQ Global Select Market, NASDAQ Select Market, NASDAQ Capital Market, Bats BZX, Bats BYX, Bats EDGA, Bats EDGX or IEX (each, an eligible exchange)); the proposed constituent has a public float of 50% or more of its stock; the inclusion of the company will contribute to sector balance in the index relative to sector balance in the market in the relevant market capitalization range; financial viability (the sum of the

most recent four consecutive quarters Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) earnings (net income excluding discontinued operations) should be positive as should the most recent quarter); and, for IPOs, the company must be traded on an eligible exchange for at least twelve months. In addition, constituents of the S&P MidCap 400® Index and the S&P SmallCap 600® Index can be added to the S&P 500® Index without meeting the financial viability, public float and/or liquidity eligibility criteria if the S&P Index Committee decides that such an addition will enhance the representativeness of the S&P 500® Index as a market benchmark. Certain types of organizational structures and securities are always excluded, including business development companies (BDCs), limited partnerships, master limited partnerships, limited liability companies (LLCs), OTC bulletin board issues, closed-end funds, ETFs, ETNs, royalty trusts, tracking stocks, preferred stock and convertible preferred stock, unit trusts, equity warrants, convertible bonds, investment trusts, rights and American depositary receipts (ADRs). Stocks are deleted from the S&P 500® Index when they are involved in mergers, acquisitions or significant restructurings such that they no longer meet the inclusion criteria, and when they substantially violate one or more of the addition criteria. Stocks that are delisted or moved to the pink sheets or the bulletin board are removed, and those that experience a trading halt may be retained or removed in S&P's discretion. S&P evaluates additions and deletions with a view to maintaining S&P 500® Index continuity.

For constituents included in the S&P 500® Index prior to July 31, 2017, all publicly listed multiple share class lines are included separately in the S&P 500® Index, subject to, in the case of any such share class line, that share class line satisfying the liquidity and float criteria discussed above and subject to

Table of Contents

certain exceptions. It is possible that one listed share class line of a company may be included in the S&P 500® Index while a second listed share class line of the same company is excluded. For companies that issue a second publicly traded share class to index share class holders, the newly issued share class line is considered for inclusion if the event is mandatory and the market capitalization of the distributed class is not considered to be de minimis.

As of July 31, 2017, companies with multiple share class lines are no longer eligible for inclusion in the S&P 500® Index. Constituents of the S&P 500® Index prior to July 31, 2017 with multiple share class lines will be grandfathered in and continue to be included in the S&P 500® Index. If an S&P 500® Index constituent reorganizes into a multiple share class line structure, that company will be reviewed for continued inclusion in the S&P 500® Index at the discretion of the S&P Index Committee.

As of September 4, 2018, the 500 companies included in the S&P 500® Index were divided into eleven Global Industry Classification Sectors. The Global Industry Classification Sectors include (with the approximate percentage currently included in such sectors indicated in parentheses): Consumer Discretionary (12.97%), Consumer Staples (6.70%), Energy (5.85%), Financials (13.89%), Health Care (14.54%), Industrials (9.62%), Information Technology (26.49%), Materials (2.48%), Real Estate (2.71%), Telecommunication Services (1.92%) and Utilities (2.85%). (Sector designations are determined by the index sponsor using criteria it has selected or developed. Index sponsors may use very different standards for determining sector designations. In addition, many companies operate in a number of sectors, but are listed in only one sector and the basis on which that sector is selected may also differ. As a result, sector comparisons between indices with different index sponsors may reflect differences in methodology as well as actual differences in the sector composition of the indices.) S&P and MSCI, Inc. have announced that the Global Industry Classification Sector structure is expected to be updated after the close of business on September 28, 2018. Among other things, the update is expected to broaden the current Telecommunications Services sector and rename it the Communication Services sector. The renamed sector is expected to include the existing Telecommunication Services Industry group, as well as the Media Industry group, which is expected to move from the Consumer Discretionary sector and be renamed the Media & Entertainment Industry group. The Media & Entertainment Industry group is expected to contain three industries: Media, Entertainment and Interactive Media & Services. The Media industry is expected to continue to consist of the Advertising, Broadcasting, Cable & Satellite and Publishing sub-industries. The Entertainment industry is expected to contain the Movies & Entertainment sub-industry (which is expected to include online entertainment streaming companies in addition to companies currently classified in such industry) and the Interactive Home Entertainment sub-industry (which is expected to include companies from the current Home Entertainment Software sub-industry in the Information Technology sector, as well as producers of mobile gaming applications). The Interactive Media & Services industry and sub-industry is expected to include companies engaged in content and information creation or distribution through proprietary platforms, where revenues are derived primarily through pay-per-click advertisements, and will include search engines, social media and networking platforms, online classifieds and online review companies.

The S&P 500® Index is calculated using a base-weighted aggregative methodology. The value of the S&P 500® Index on any day for which an index value is published is determined by a fraction, the numerator of which is the aggregate of the market price of each stock in the S&P 500® Index *times* the number of shares of such stock included in the S&P 500® Index, and the denominator of which is the divisor, which is described more fully below. The market value of any index stock is the *product* of the market price per share of that stock *times* the number of the then-outstanding shares of such index stock that are then included in the S&P 500® Index .

The S&P 500® Index is also sometimes called a base-weighted aggregative index because of its use of a divisor. The divisor is a value calculated by S&P that is intended to maintain conformity in index values over time and is adjusted for all changes in the index stocks share capital after the base date as described below. The level of the S&P 500® Index reflects the total market value of all index stocks relative to the S&P 500® Index s base date of 1941-43.

In addition, the S&P 500® Index is float-adjusted, meaning that the share counts used in calculating

Table of Contents

the S&P 500® Index reflect only those shares available to investors rather than all of a company's outstanding shares. S&P seeks to exclude shares held by certain shareholders concerned with the control of a company, a group that generally includes the following: officers and directors and related individuals whose holdings are publicly disclosed, private equity, venture capital, special equity firms, publicly traded companies that hold shares for control in another company, strategic partners, holders of restricted shares, employee stock ownership plans, employee and family trusts, foundations associated with the company, holders of unlisted share classes of stock, government entities at all levels (except government retirement or pension funds) and any individual person listed as a 5% or greater stakeholder in a company as reported in regulatory filings (collectively, "control holders"). To this end, S&P excludes all share-holdings (other than depositary banks, pension funds, mutual funds, exchange traded fund providers, 401(k) plans of the company, government retirement and pension funds, investment funds of insurance companies, asset managers and investment funds, independent foundations, savings plans and investment plans) with a position greater than 5% of the outstanding shares of a company from the float-adjusted share count to be used in S&P 500® Index calculations.

The exclusion is accomplished by calculating an Investable Weight Factor (IWF) for each stock that is part of the numerator of the float-adjusted index fraction described above:

$$\text{IWF} = (\text{available float shares}) / (\text{total shares outstanding})$$

where available float shares is defined as total shares outstanding less shares held by control holders. In most cases, an IWF is reported to the nearest one percentage point. For companies with multiple share class lines, a separate IWF is calculated for each share class line.

Maintenance of the S&P 500® Index

In order to keep the S&P 500® Index comparable over time S&P engages in an index maintenance process. The S&P 500® Index maintenance process involves changing the constituents as discussed above, and also involves maintaining quality assurance processes and procedures, adjusting the number of shares used to calculate the S&P 500® Index, monitoring and completing the adjustments for company additions and deletions, adjusting for stock splits and stock dividends and adjusting for other corporate actions. In addition to its daily governance of indices and maintenance of the S&P 500® Index methodology, at least once within any 12 month period, the S&P Index Committee reviews the S&P 500® Index methodology to ensure the S&P 500® Index continues to achieve the stated objective, and that the data and methodology remain effective. The S&P Index Committee may at times consult with investors, market participants, security issuers included in or potentially included in the S&P 500® Index, or investment and financial experts.

Divisor Adjustments

The two types of adjustments primarily used by S&P are divisor adjustments and adjustments to the number of shares (including float adjustments) used to calculate the S&P 500® Index. Set forth below is a table of certain corporate events and their resulting effect on the divisor and the share count. If a corporate event requires an adjustment to the divisor, that event has the effect of altering the market value of the affected index stock and consequently of altering the aggregate market value of the index stocks following the event. In order that the level of the S&P 500® Index not be affected by the altered market value (which could be an increase or decrease) of the affected index stock, S&P generally derives a new divisor by dividing the post-event market value of the index stocks by the pre-event index value, which has the effect of reducing the S&P 500® Index's post-event value to the pre-event level.

Changes to the Number of Shares of a Constituent

The S&P 500® Index maintenance process also involves tracking the changes in the number of shares included for each of the index companies. The timing of adjustments to the number of shares depends on the type of event causing the change, and whether the change represents 5% or more of the total share count (for companies with multiple share class lines, the 5% threshold is based on each individual share class line rather than total company shares). Changes as a result of mergers or acquisitions are implemented when the transaction occurs. At S&P's discretion, however, de minimis merger and acquisition changes may be accumulated and implemented with the updates made at the quarterly share updates as described below. Changes in a constituent's total shares of 5% or more due to

Table of Contents

public offerings (which must be underwritten, have a publicly available prospectus or prospectus summary filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and include a public confirmation that the offering has been completed) are implemented as soon as reasonably possible. Other changes of 5% or more are made weekly and are announced on Fridays for implementation after the close of trading on the following Friday. For changes of less than 5%, on the third Friday of the last month in each calendar quarter, S&P updates the share totals of companies in the S&P 500® Index as required by any changes in the number of shares outstanding. S&P implements a share / IWF freeze beginning after the market close on the Tuesday preceding the second Friday of each quarterly rebalancing month and ending after the market close on the third Friday of the quarterly rebalancing month. During this frozen period, shares and IWFs are not changed except for certain corporate action events (merger activity, stock splits and rights offerings).

Adjustments for Corporate Actions

There is a large range of corporate actions that may affect companies included in the S&P 500® Index. Certain corporate actions require S&P to recalculate the share count or the float adjustment or to make an adjustment to the divisor to prevent the value of the S&P 500® Index from changing as a result of the corporate action. This helps ensure that the movement of the S&P 500® Index does not reflect the corporate actions of individual companies in the S&P 500® Index.

Spin-Offs

As a general policy, a spin-off security is added to the S&P 500® Index at a zero price at the market close of the day before the ex-date (with no divisor adjustment). The spin-off security will remain in the S&P 500® Index if it meets all eligibility criteria. If the spin-off security is determined ineligible to remain in the S&P 500® Index, it will generally be removed after at least one day of regular way trading (with a divisor adjustment). If there is a gap between the ex-date and distribution date (or payable date), or if the spin-off security does not trade regular way on the ex-date, the spin-off security is kept in the S&P 500® Index until the spin-off security begins trading regular way.

Several additional types of corporate actions, and their related adjustments, are listed in the table below.

Corporate Action	Share Count Revision Required?	Divisor Adjustment Required?
Stock split	Yes share count is revised to reflect new count.	No share count and price changes are off-setting Yes

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

Change in shares outstanding (secondary issuance, share repurchase and/or share buy-back)	Yes	share count is revised to reflect new count.
Special dividends	No	Yes calculation assumes that share price drops by the amount of the dividend; divisor adjustment reflects this change in index market value
Change in IWF	No	Yes divisor change reflects the change in market value caused by the change to an IWF
Company added to or deleted from the S&P 500® Index	No	Yes divisor is adjusted by the net change in market value, calculated as the shares issued multiplied by the price paid
Rights Offering	No	Yes divisor adjustment reflects increase in market capitalization (calculation assumes that offering is fully subscribed)

s-35

Table of Contents

Recalculation Policy

S&P reserves the right to recalculate and republish the S&P 500® Index at its discretion in the event one of the following issues has occurred: (1) incorrect or revised closing price of one or more constituent securities; (2) missed corporate event; (3) incorrect application of corporate action or index methodology; (4) late announcement of a corporate event; or (5) incorrect calculation or data entry error. The decision to recalculate the S&P 500® Index is made at the discretion of the index manager and/or index committee, as further discussed below. The potential market impact or disruption resulting from the potential recalculation is considered when making any such decision. In the event of an incorrect closing price, a missed corporate event or a misapplied corporate action, a late announcement of a corporate event, or an incorrect calculation or data entry error that is discovered within two trading days of its occurrence, the index manager may, at his or her discretion, recalculate the S&P 500® Index without involving the index committee. In the event any such event is discovered beyond the two trading day period, the index committee shall decide whether the S&P 500® Index should be recalculated. In the event of an incorrect application of the methodology that results in the incorrect composition and/or weighting of index constituents, the index committee shall determine whether or not to recalculate the S&P 500® Index following specified guidelines. In the event that the S&P 500® Index is recalculated, it shall be done within a reasonable timeframe following the detection and review of the issue.

Calculations and Pricing Disruptions

Closing levels for the S&P 500® Index are calculated by S&P based on the closing price of the individual constituents of the S&P 500® Index as set by their primary exchange. Closing prices are received by S&P from one of its third party vendors and verified by comparing them with prices from an alternative vendor. The vendors receive the closing price from the primary exchanges. Real-time intraday prices are calculated similarly without a second verification. Prices used for the calculation of real time index values are based on the Consolidated Tape. The Consolidated Tape is an aggregation of trades for each constituent over all regional exchanges and trading venues and includes the primary exchange. If there is a failure or interruption on one or more exchanges, real-time calculations will continue as long as the Consolidated Tape is operational.

If an interruption is not resolved prior to the market close, official closing prices will be determined by following the hierarchy set out in NYSE Rule 123C. A notice is published on the S&P website at spdji.com indicating any changes to the prices used in S&P 500® Index calculations. In extreme circumstances, S&P may decide to delay index adjustments or not publish the S&P 500® Index. Real-time indices are not restated.

Unexpected Exchange Closures

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

An unexpected market/exchange closure occurs when a market/exchange fully or partially fails to open or trading is temporarily halted. This can apply to a single exchange or to a market as a whole, when all of the primary exchanges are closed and/or not trading. Unexpected market/exchange closures are usually due to unforeseen circumstances, such as natural disasters, inclement weather, outages, or other events.

To a large degree, S&P is dependent on the exchanges to provide guidance in the event of an unexpected exchange closure. S&P's decision making is dependent on exchange guidance regarding pricing and mandatory corporate actions.

NYSE Rule 123C provides closing contingency procedures for determining an official closing price for listed securities if the exchange is unable to conduct a closing transaction in one or more securities due to a system or technical issue.

3:00 PM ET is the deadline for an exchange to determine its plan of action regarding an outage scenario. As such, S&P also uses 3:00 PM ET as the cutoff.

If all major exchanges fail to open or unexpectedly halt trading intraday due to unforeseen circumstances, S&P will take the following actions:

Market Disruption Prior to Open of Trading:

Table of Contents

(i) If all exchanges indicate that trading will not open for a given day, S&P will treat the day as an unscheduled market holiday. The decision will be communicated to clients as soon as possible through the normal channels. Indices containing multiple markets will be calculated as normal, provided that at least one market is open that day. Indices which only contain closed markets will not be calculated.

(ii) If exchanges indicate that trading, although delayed, will open for a given day, S&P will begin index calculation when the exchanges open.

Market Disruption Intraday:

(i) If exchanges indicate that trading will not resume for a given day, the S&P 500® Index level will be calculated using prices determined by the exchanges based on NYSE Rule 123C. Intraday S&P 500® Index values will continue to use the last traded composite price until the primary exchange publishes official closing prices.

License Agreement between S&P and GS Finance Corp.

The S&P 500® Index is a product of S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, and has been licensed for use by GS Finance Corp. (Goldman). Standard & Poor s® and S&P® are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor s Financial Services LLC; Dow Jones® is a registered trademark of Dow Jones Trademark Holdings LLC (Dow Jones) and these trademarks have been licensed for use by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC and sublicensed for certain purposes by Goldman. Goldman s notes are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Dow Jones, Standard & Poor s Financial Services LLC or any of their respective affiliates (collectively, S&P Dow Jones Indices). S&P Dow Jones Indices makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, to the owners of the notes or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in securities generally or in the notes particularly or the ability of the S&P 500® Index to track general market performance. S&P Dow Jones Indices only relationship to Goldman with respect to the S&P 500® Index is the licensing of the S&P 500® Index and certain trademarks, service marks and/or trade names of S&P Dow Jones Indices and/or its licensors. The S&P 500® Index is determined, composed and calculated by S&P Dow Jones Indices without regard to Goldman or the notes. S&P Dow Jones Indices have no obligation to take the needs of Goldman or the owners of the notes into consideration in determining, composing or calculating the S&P 500® Index. S&P Dow Jones Indices are not responsible for and have not participated in the determination of the prices, and amount of the notes or the timing of the issuance or sale of the notes or in the determination or calculation of the equation by which the notes are to be converted into cash. S&P Dow Jones Indices have no obligation or liability in connection with the administration, marketing or trading of the notes. There is no assurance that investment products based on the S&P 500® Index will accurately track index performance or provide positive investment returns. S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC is not an investment advisor. Inclusion of a

security within an index is not a recommendation by S&P Dow Jones Indices to buy, sell, or hold such security, nor is it considered to be investment advice.

S&P DOW JONES INDICES DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE ADEQUACY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS AND/OR THE COMPLETENESS OF THE S&P 500® INDEX OR ANY DATA RELATED THERETO OR ANY COMMUNICATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ORAL OR WRITTEN COMMUNICATION (INCLUDING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS) WITH RESPECT THERETO. S&P DOW JONES INDICES SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO ANY DAMAGES OR LIABILITY FOR ANY ERRORS, OMISSIONS, OR DELAYS THEREIN. S&P DOW JONES INDICES MAKE NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE OR AS TO RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED BY GOLDMAN, OWNERS OF THE NOTES, OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY FROM THE USE OF THE S&P 500® INDEX OR WITH RESPECT TO ANY DATA RELATED THERETO. WITHOUT LIMITING ANY OF THE FOREGOING, IN NO EVENT WHATSOEVER SHALL S&P DOW JONES INDICES BE LIABLE FOR ANY INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, PUNITIVE, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO LOSS OF PROFITS, TRADING LOSSES, LOST TIME OR GOODWILL, EVEN IF THEY HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, TORT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR OTHERWISE. THERE ARE NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES OF ANY AGREEMENTS OR ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN S&P DOW JONES INDICES AND GOLDMAN, OTHER THAN THE LICENSORS OF S&P DOW JONES INDICES.

Table of Contents

The Russell 2000® Index

The Russell 2000® Index is sponsored by FTSE Russell (Russell) and measures the composite price performance of stocks of 2,000 companies in the U.S. equity market. It is generally considered to be a small-cap index. Additional information about the Russell 2000® Index is available on the following website: ftse.com/analytics/factsheets/Home/Search#. We are not incorporating by reference the website or any material it includes in this prospectus supplement.

As of August 27, 2018, the 2,000 companies included in the Russell 2000® Index were divided into nine Russell Global Sectors. The Russell Global Sectors include (with the approximate percentage currently included in such sectors indicated in parentheses): Consumer Discretionary (14.97%), Consumer Staples (2.45%), Financial Services (25.00%), Health Care (15.57%), Materials & Processing (6.93%), Other Energy (4.61%), Producer Durables (13.58%), Technology (12.93%) and Utilities (3.96%). (Sector designations are determined by the index sponsor using criteria it has selected or developed. Index sponsors may use very different standards for determining sector designations. In addition, many companies operate in a number of sectors, but are listed in only one sector and the basis on which that sector is selected may also differ. As a result, sector comparisons between indices with different index sponsors may reflect differences in methodology as well as actual differences in the sector composition of the indices.)

The Russell 2000® Index includes approximately 2,000 of the smallest securities that form the Russell 3000® Index. The Russell 3000® Index is comprised of the 3,000 largest U.S. companies, or 98% based on market capitalization, of the investable U.S. equity market. The Russell 2000® Index is designed to track the performance of the small capitalization segment of the U.S. equity market.

Selection of Constituent Stocks of the Russell 2000® Index

The Russell 2000® Index is a sub-index of the Russell 3000® Index. To be eligible for inclusion in the Russell 3000® Index, and, consequently, the Russell 2000® Index, a company's stocks must be listed on the rank day in May of a given year (the timetable is announced each spring) and Russell must have access to documentation verifying the company's eligibility for inclusion. Eligible initial public offerings (IPOs) are added to Russell U.S. Indices quarterly, based on total market capitalization rankings within the market-adjusted capitalization breaks established during the most recent reconstitution. To be added to any Russell U.S. index during a quarter outside of reconstitution, IPOs must meet additional eligibility criteria.

A company is included in the U.S. equity markets and is eligible for inclusion in the Russell 3000® Index, and consequently, the Russell 2000® Index, if that company incorporates in the U.S., has its headquarters in the

U.S. and also trades with the highest liquidity in the U.S. If a company does not satisfy all of the above criteria, it can still be included in the U.S. equity market if any one of the following home country indicators is in the United States: (i) country of incorporation, (ii) country of headquarters and (iii) country in which the company trades with the highest liquidity (as defined by a two-year average daily dollar trading volume from all exchanges within the country), and the primary location of that company's assets or its revenue, based on an average of two years of assets or revenues data, is also in the United States. In addition, if there is insufficient information to assign a company to the U.S. equity markets based on its assets or revenue, the company may nonetheless be assigned to the U.S. equity markets if the headquarters of the company is located in the United States or if the headquarters of the company is located in certain benefit-driven incorporation countries, or BDIs, and that company's most liquid stock exchange is in the United States. The BDI countries are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Cook Islands, Curaçao, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Liberia, Marshall Islands, Panama, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten and Turks and Caicos Islands. A U.S.-listed company is not eligible for inclusion within the U.S. equity market if it has been classified by Russell as a China N share on the rank date of the index reconstitution. A company will be considered a China N share if the following criteria are satisfied: (i) the company is incorporated outside of the People's Republic of China, (ii) the company is listed on the NYSE, the NASDAQ or the NYSE MKT, (iii) over 55% of the revenue or assets of the company are derived from the People's Republic of China, and (iv) the company is controlled by a mainland Chinese entity, company or individual (if the shareholder background cannot be determined with publicly available information, Russell will consider whether the establishment and origin of the company are in mainland China and whether the company is headquartered in mainland China). ADRs and ADSs are not eligible for inclusion in the Russell 2000® Index.

Table of Contents

In addition, all securities eligible for inclusion in the Russell 3000® Index, and consequently, the Russell 2000® Index, must trade on an eligible exchange (BATS, IEX, NYSE, NYSE MKT, NYSE Arca and NASDAQ).

Exclusions from the Russell 2000® Index

Russell specifically excludes the following companies and securities from the Russell 2000® Index: (i) preferred and convertible preferred stock, redeemable shares, participating preferred stock, warrants, rights, installment receipts and trust receipts; (ii) royalty trusts, U.S. limited liability companies, closed-end investment companies, companies that are required to report Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses (as defined by the SEC), including business development companies, blank check companies, special-purpose acquisition companies and limited partnerships; (iii) companies with a total market capitalization less than \$30 million; (iv) companies with only a small portion of their shares available in the marketplace (companies with 5% or less float); (v) bulletin board, pink sheets or over-the-counter traded securities, including securities for which prices are displayed on the FINRA ADF; (vi) real estate investment trusts and publicly traded partnerships that generate, or have historically generated, unrelated business taxable income and have not taken steps to block their unrelated business taxable income to equity holders; and (vii) companies with 5% or less of the company's voting rights in the hands of unrestricted shareholders (existing constituents that do not currently have more than 5% of the company's voting rights in the hands of unrestricted shareholders have until the September 2022 review to meet this requirement).

Initial List of Eligible Securities

The primary criterion Russell uses to determine the initial list of securities eligible for the Russell 3000® Index and, consequently, the Russell 2000® Index, is total market capitalization, which is calculated by multiplying the total outstanding shares for a company by the market price as of the rank day for those securities being considered at annual reconstitution. IPOs may be added between constitutions as noted below. All common stock share classes are combined in determining a company's total shares outstanding. If multiple share classes have been combined, the number of total shares outstanding will be multiplied by the primary exchange close price and used to determine the company's total market capitalization. In cases where the common stock share classes act independently of each other (e.g., tracking stocks), each class is considered for inclusion separately. Stocks must have a closing price at or above \$1.00 on their primary exchange or an eligible secondary exchange on the last trading day of May of each year to be eligible for inclusion in the Russell 2000® Index. In order to reduce unnecessary turnover, if an existing member's closing price is less than \$1.00 on the rank day in May, it will be considered eligible if the average of the daily closing prices from their primary exchange during the 30 days prior to the rank day is equal to or greater than \$1.00. If an existing member does not trade on the rank day, it must price at \$1.00 or above on another eligible U.S. exchange to remain eligible.

Multiple Share Classes

If an eligible company trades under multiple share classes or if a company distributes shares of an additional share class to its existing shareholders through a mandatory corporate action, each share class will be reviewed independently for inclusion. Share classes in addition to the primary vehicle (the pricing vehicle) that have a total market capitalization larger than the smallest company in the Russell 3000^{ETM} Index, an average daily dollar trading value that exceeds that of the global median, and a float greater than 5% of shares available in the market place are eligible for inclusion.

The pricing vehicle will generally be designated as the share class with the highest two-year trading volume as of the rank day. In the absence of two years' worth of data, all available data will be used for this calculation. If the difference between trading volumes for each share class is less than 20%, the share class with the most available shares outstanding will be used as the pricing vehicle. At least 100 day trading volume is necessary to consider the class as a pricing vehicle for existing members. New members will be analyzed on all available data, even if that data is for less than 100 days.

Annual Reconstitution

The Russell 2000[®] Index is reconstituted annually by Russell to reflect changes in the marketplace. The list of companies is ranked based on total market capitalization on the last trading day in May, with the actual reconstitution occurring on the final Friday of June each year, unless the final Friday in June is

Table of Contents

the 29th or 30th, in which case reconstitution will occur on the preceding Friday. A full calendar for reconstitution is made available each spring.

A company's total shares are multiplied by the primary exchange close price of the pricing vehicle and used to determine the company's total market capitalization for the purpose of ranking of companies and determination of index membership. If no volume exists on the primary exchange on the rank day, the last trade price from an eligible secondary exchange will be used where volume exists (using the lowest trade price above \$1.00 if multiple secondary markets exist). The company's rank will be determined based on the cumulative market capitalization. As of the June 2016 reconstitution, any share class not qualifying for eligibility independently will not be aggregated with the pricing vehicle within the available shares calculation.

For mergers and spin-offs that are effective between the rank day and the Friday prior to annual reconstitution in June, the market capitalizations of the impacted securities are recalculated and membership is reevaluated as of the effective date of the corporate action. For corporate events that occur during the final week of reconstitution (during which reconstitution is finalized Friday after U.S. market close), market capitalizations and memberships will not be reevaluated. Non index members that have been considered ineligible as of rank day will not be reevaluated in the event of a subsequent corporate action that occurs between rank day and the reconstitution effective date.

Index Calculation and Capitalization Adjustments

As a capitalization-weighted index, the Russell 2000® Index reflects changes in the capitalization, or market value, of the index stocks relative to the capitalization on a base date. This discussion describes the price return calculation of the Russell 2000® Index. The current Russell 2000® Index value is the compounded result of the cumulative daily (or monthly) return percentages, where the starting value of the Russell 2000® Index is equal to the base value (100) and base date (December 31, 1978). Returns between any two dates can then be derived by dividing the ending period index value (IV_1) by the beginning period (IV_0) index value, so that the return equals $[(IV_1 / IV_0) - 1] * 100$.

Constituent stocks of the Russell 2000® Index are weighted in the Russell 2000® Index by their free-float market capitalization, which is calculated by multiplying the primary closing price by the number of free-float shares. Free-float shares are shares that are available to the public for purchase as determined by Russell. Adjustments to shares are reviewed quarterly (including at reconstitution) and for major corporate actions such as mergers.

The following are excluded from free float: shares directly owned by state, regional, municipal and local governments (excluding shares held by independently managed pension schemes for governments); shares held by sovereign wealth funds where each holding is 10% or greater of the total number of shares in issue; shares held by directors, senior executives and managers of the company, and by their family and direct relations, and by companies with which they are affiliated; shares held within employee share plans; shares held by public companies or by non-listed subsidiaries of public companies; shares held by founders, promoters, former directors, founding venture capital and private equity firms, private companies and individuals (including employees) where the holding is 10% or greater of the total number of shares in issue; all shares where the holder is subject to a

lock-in clause (for the duration of that clause, after which free float changes resulting from the expiration of a lock-in clause will be implemented at the next quarterly review subsequent to there being a minimum of 20 business days between the expiration date of such lock-in clause and the Tuesday before the first Friday of the review month; if the previously locked-in shares are sold by way of a corporate event (such as a secondary offering), any change to the free float will be applied T+2 following completion and therefore will not be subject to the minimum 20 business day rule); shares held by an investor, investment company or an investment fund that is actively participating in the management of a company or is holding shares for publicly announced strategic reasons, or has successfully placed a current member to the board of directors of a company; and shares that are subject to ongoing contractual agreements (such as swaps) where they would ordinarily be treated as restricted. In addition, while portfolio holdings such as pension funds, insurance funds or investment companies will generally not be considered as restricted from free float, where a single portfolio holding is 30% or greater it will be regarded as strategic and therefore restricted (and will remain restricted until the holding falls below 30%).

S-40

Table of Contents

Corporate Actions Affecting the Russell 2000® Index

Russell adjusts the Russell 2000® Index on a daily basis in response to certain corporate actions and events. Therefore, a company's membership in the Russell 2000® Index and its weight in the Russell 2000® Index can be impacted by these corporate actions. The adjustment is applied based on sources of public information, including press releases and Securities and Exchange Commission filings. Prior to the completion of a corporate action or event, Russell estimates the effective date. Russell will then adjust the anticipated effective date based on public information until the date is considered final. Depending on the time on a given day that an action is determined to be final, Russell will generally either (1) apply the action before the open on the ex-date or (2) apply the action after providing appropriate notice. If Russell has confirmed the completion of a corporate action, scheduled to become effective subsequent to a rebalance, the event may be implemented in conjunction with the rebalance to limit turnover, provided appropriate notice can be given. Russell applies the following methodology guidelines when adjusting the Russell 2000® Index in response to corporate actions and events:

No Replacement Rule Securities that are deleted from the Russell 2000® Index between reconstitution dates, for any reason (e.g., mergers, acquisitions or other similar corporate activity) are not replaced. Thus, the number of securities in the Russell 2000® Index over the past year will fluctuate according to corporate activity.

Mergers and Acquisitions

Adjustments due to mergers and acquisitions are applied to the Russell 2000® Index after the action is determined to be final. In the event that a constituent is being acquired for cash or is delisted subsequent to an index review, such constituent will be removed from the Russell 2000® Index in conjunction with the index review, assuming that the action is determined to be final and a minimum of two days' notice can be provided.

Between constituents: When mergers and acquisitions take place between companies that are both constituents of a Russell index for cash, the target company is deleted and shares of the acquiring stock are increased according to the offer terms. When mergers and acquisitions take place between companies that are both constituents of a Russell index for stock, the target company is deleted from the Russell 2000® Index at the last traded price.

Between a constituent and a non-constituent: If the target company is a member of the Russell 2000® Index, it is deleted from the Russell 2000® Index and the acquiring company will be included initially in the Russell 2000® Index provided it is eligible in all other respects at the time of the merger, regardless of previous eligibility screenings. If the acquiring company is deemed eligible it will be added to the Russell

2000® Index on the effective date and the opening price will be calculated using the offer terms.

Given sufficient market hours after the confirmation of a merger or acquisition, Russell effects the action after the close on the last day of trading of the target company, or at an appropriate time once the transaction has been deemed to be final.

Rights Offerings Rights offered to shareholders are reflected in the Russell 2000® Index only if the subscription price of the rights is at a discount to the market price of the stock. Provided that Russell has been alerted to the rights offer prior to the ex-date, it will adjust the price of the stock for the value of the rights and increased shares according to the terms of the offering before the open on the ex-date.

Spin-offs Spun-off companies are added to the parent company's index if the parent company's market value is reduced simultaneously per the spin-off valuation. Spun-off companies are added to the Russell 2000® Index at the same time as they are spun-off from their parent company on the ex-date of the distribution.

Initial Public Offerings Eligible IPOs are added to the Russell 2000® Index based on total market capitalization ranking within the market-adjusted capitalization breaks established at the most recent annual reconstitution.

Table of Contents

An IPO of additional share classes will be considered for eligibility and must meet the same eligibility criteria for all other multiple share classes. If at the time of the IPO the additional share class does not meet the eligibility criteria for separate index membership, it will not be added to the Russell 2000® Index and will subsequently be reviewed for index membership during the next annual reconstitution.

Once IPO additions have been announced, an IPO may be added to the Russell 2000® Index prior to the previously announced schedule, if a corporate action has deemed this to be appropriate and notice can be provided (e.g. an index member automatically receives shares via a stock distribution into a projected IPO add).

Tender Offers A company acquired as a result of a tender offer is removed when (i) (a) offer acceptances reach 90%; (b) shareholders have validly tendered and the shares have been irrevocably accepted for payment; and (c) all pertinent offer conditions have been reasonably met and the acquirer has not explicitly stated that it does not intend to acquire the remaining shares; (ii) where offer acceptances are below 90%, there is reason to believe that the remaining free float is under 5% based on information available at the time; or (iii) following completion of the offer the acquirer has stated intent to finalize the acquisition via a short-form merger, squeeze-out, top-up option or any other compulsory mechanism.

Where the conditions for index deletion are not met, Russell may implement a free float change based on the reported acceptance results at the expiration of the initial, subsequent or final offer period where (i) the minimum acceptance level as stipulated by the acquiror is met; (ii) shareholders have validly tendered and the shares have been irrevocably accepted for payment; (iii) all pertinent offer conditions have been reasonably met and (iv) the change to the current float factor is greater than 3%. A minimum two day notice period of the change is generally provided. If the offer includes a stock consideration, the acquiring company's shares will be increased proportionate to the free float change of the target company. If the target company's free float change is greater than 3%, the associated change to the acquiring company's shares will be implemented regardless of size. Additionally, if the change to the target company is less than 3%, then no change will be implemented to the target or the acquiring company at the time of the event, regardless of any change to the acquiring company's shares. The target company will then be deleted as a second-step, if the conditions for deletion are achieved at the expiration of a subsequent offer period.

Delisted and Suspended Stocks A stock will be deleted as a constituent if it is delisted from all eligible exchanges, becomes bankrupt, files for bankruptcy protection, is insolvent or is liquidated, or where evidence of a change in circumstances makes it ineligible for index inclusion. If, however, a stock is suspended, Russell will determine its treatment as follows:

- if a constituent is declared bankrupt without any indication of compensation to shareholders, the last traded price will be adjusted to zero value and the constituent will be removed from the Russell 2000® Index with T+2 notice;

- in all other cases, a constituent will continue to be included in the Russell 2000® Index for a period of up to 20 business days at its last traded price;
- if a constituent continues to be suspended at the end of the 20 business day period, it will be subject to review and a decision will be taken to either allow the constituent to remain in the Russell 2000® Index for a further period of up to 20 business days or to remove it at zero value. In making this determination, Russell will take into account the stated reasons for the suspension. These reasons may include announcements made by the company regarding a pending acquisition or restructuring, and any stated intentions regarding a date for the resumption of trading. This procedure will be repeated at successive 20 business day intervals thereafter until either trading recommences or the suspension period reaches 80 business days;
- if the suspension period reaches 80 business days, Russell will provide notice that the constituent will be removed at zero value following the expiry of at least 40 business days;
- in certain limited circumstances where the index weight of the constituent is significant and Russell determines that a market-related value can be established for the suspended constituent, for example because similar company securities continue to trade, deletion may take place at the

Table of Contents

market-related value instead. In such circumstances, Russell will set out its rationale for the proposed treatment of the constituent at the end of the 80 business day period;

- if, following the end of the 80 business day period, a suspended constituent resumes trading before the Wednesday before the first Friday of March, June, September or December, the deletion notice will be rescinded and the constituent will be retained in the Russell 2000® Index. If the constituent resumes trading after these dates but before the review effective date, the constituent will continue to be removed from the Russell 2000® Index as previously announced but in these circumstances the deletion may instead be implemented at market value; and
- if a constituent has been removed from the Russell 2000® Index and trading is subsequently restored, the constituent will only be re-considered for inclusion after a period of 12 months from its deletion. For the purposes of index eligibility it will be treated as a new issue.

Bankruptcy and Voluntary Liquidations Companies that file for a Chapter 7 liquidation bankruptcy or have filed a liquidation plan will be removed from the Russell 2000® Index at the time of the bankruptcy filing (except when shareholder approval is required to finalize the liquidation plan, in which case the company will be removed once shareholder approval has been granted); whereas companies filing for a Chapter 11 reorganization bankruptcy will remain a member of the Russell 2000® Index, unless the company is delisted from the primary exchange, in which case normal delisting rules apply. If a company files for bankruptcy, is delisted and it can be confirmed that it will not trade on any market, including OTC, Russell may remove the stock at a nominal price of \$0.0001.

Stock Distributions and distributions in specie A price adjustment for stock distributions is applied on the ex-date of the distribution. Where Russell is able to value a distribution in specie prior to the ex-date, a price adjustment is made to the company paying the dividend at the open on the ex-date. If no valuation of the distribution exists prior to the ex-date, no price adjustment is applied. Where the company whose holders are receiving the distribution is an index member, its shares will be increased according to the terms of the distribution. If such company is not an index member, the distributed shares will be added to the Russell 2000® Index until they have been settled and have listed, at which point they will be removed at the last traded price giving appropriate notice.

Special Cash Dividends If a constituent pays out a special cash dividend, the price of the stock is adjusted to deduct the dividend amount before the open on the ex-date. No adjustment for regular cash dividends is made in the price return calculation of the Russell 2000® Index.

Updates to Shares Outstanding and Free Float Russell reviews the Russell 2000® Index quarterly for updates to shares outstanding and to free floats used in calculating the Russell 2000® Index. The changes are implemented quarterly in March, June, September and December after the close on the third Friday of such month. The June reconstitution will be implemented on the last Friday of June (unless the last Friday occurs on the 29th or 30th of the month, in which case reconstitution will occur on the Friday prior).

In March, September and December shares outstanding and free floats are updated to reflect (i) changes greater than 1% for cumulative shares in issue changes and (ii) changes greater than 3% for cumulative free float changes. In addition, a constituent with a free float of 15% or below will not be subject to the 3% change threshold and will instead be updated if the change is greater than 1%. Updates to shares outstanding and free floats will be implemented each June regardless of size (i.e., the percentage change thresholds above will not be applied). Russell implements the June updates using data sourced primarily from the companies' publicly available information filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Outside of the quarterly update cycle, outstanding shares and free float will be updated with at least two days' notice if prompted by primary or secondary offerings if (i) there is a USD \$1 billion investable market capitalization change related to a primary/secondary offering or (ii) there is a resultant 5% change in index shares related to a primary or secondary offering and a USD \$250 million investable market capitalization change. These changes are implemented after the close on the day that the subscription period closes, assuming two days' notice can be provided. If two days' notice cannot be provided prior to

Table of Contents

the end of the subscription period, the change will still proceed with two days' notice and will be implemented at the earliest opportunity. If discovery of the event occurs more than two days after the close of the subscription period, the changes are deferred until the quarterly review cycle.

If a company distributes shares of an additional share class to its existing shareholders through a mandatory corporate action, the additional share class will be evaluated for separate index membership. The new share class will be deemed eligible if the market capitalization of the distributed shares meets the minimum size requirement (the market capitalization of the smallest member of the Russell 3000E Index from the previous rebalance as adjusted for performance to date). If the additional share class is not eligible at the time of distribution, it will not be added to the Russell 2000® Index.

License Agreement between Frank Russell Company (doing business as Russell Investment Group) and GS Finance Corp.

Frank Russell Company doing business as Russell Investment Group (Russell) and Goldman Sachs International have entered into a non-exclusive license agreement, granting GS Finance Corp., in exchange for a fee, permission to use the Russell 2000® Index in connection with the offer and sale of the notes. GS Finance Corp. is not affiliated with Russell; the only relationship between Russell and GS Finance Corp. is the licensing of the use of the Russell 2000® Index (a trademark of Russell) and trademarks relating to the Russell 2000® Index.

GS Finance Corp. does not accept any responsibility for the calculation, maintenance or publication of the Russell 2000® Index or any successor index.

The notes are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by Russell. Russell makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, to the owners of the notes or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in securities generally or in the notes particularly or the ability of the Russell 2000® Index to track general stock market performance or a segment of the same. Russell's publication of the Russell 2000® Index in no way suggests or implies an opinion by Russell as to the advisability of investment in any or all of the securities upon which the Russell 2000® Index is based. Russell's only relationship to GS Finance Corp. is the licensing of certain trademarks and trade names of Russell and of the Russell 2000® Index which is determined, composed and calculated by Russell without regard to GS Finance Corp. or the notes. Russell is not responsible for and has not reviewed the notes nor any associated literature or publications and Russell makes no representation or warranty express or implied as to their accuracy or completeness, or otherwise. Russell reserves the right, at any time and without notice, to alter, amend, terminate or in any way change the Russell 2000® Index. Russell has no obligation or liability in connection with the administration, marketing or trading of the notes.

RUSSELL DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE ACCURACY AND/OR THE COMPLETENESS OF THE RUSSELL 2000® INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN AND RUSSELL SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY FOR ANY ERRORS, OMISSIONS, OR INTERRUPTIONS THEREIN. RUSSELL MAKES NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED BY GS FINANCE CORP., INVESTORS, OWNERS OF

THE NOTES, OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY FROM THE USE OF THE RUSSELL 2000® INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN. RUSSELL MAKES NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE WITH RESPECT TO THE RUSSELL 2000® INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN. WITHOUT LIMITING ANY OF THE FOREGOING, IN NO EVENT SHALL RUSSELL HAVE ANY LIABILITY FOR ANY SPECIAL, PUNITIVE, INDIRECT, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING LOST PROFITS), EVEN IF NOTIFIED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

The S&P MidCap 400® Index

The S&P MidCap 400® Index includes a sample of 400 mid-sized companies in various industries of the U.S. economy. S&P chooses companies for inclusion in the S&P MidCap 400® Index with an aim of achieving a distribution by broad industry groupings that approximates the distribution of these groupings in the population of mid-size companies in the U.S. equity market. Although the S&P MidCap 400® Index contains 400 constituent companies, at any one time it may contain greater than 400 constituent trading lines since some companies included in the index prior to July 31, 2017 may be represented by multiple share class lines in the index. The S&P MidCap 400® Index is calculated, maintained and published by

Table of Contents

S&P and is part of the S&P Dow Jones Indices family of indices. Additional information is available on the following websites: spindices.com/indices/equity/sp-400 and spdji.com/. We are not incorporating by reference the websites or any material they include in this prospectus supplement.

The S&P MidCap 400® Index is intended to reflect the risk and return characteristics of the broader universe of mid-sized firms in the U.S. equity markets. Constituent changes are made on an as-needed basis and there is no schedule for constituent reviews. Constituent changes are generally announced one to five business days prior to the change. Relevant criteria for additions to the S&P MidCap 400® Index that are employed by S&P include: the company proposed for addition has an unadjusted company market capitalization of between \$1.6 billion and \$6.8 billion (but the constituents are not the 400 largest companies in the NYSE in that range and not all 400 companies are listed on such exchange; for spin-offs, eligibility is determined using when-issued prices, if available); using composite pricing and volume, the ratio of annual dollar value traded in the proposed constituent to float-adjusted market capitalization of that company should be 1.00 or greater and the stock should trade a minimum of 250,000 shares in each of the six months leading up to the evaluation date; the company must be a U.S. company (characterized as a Form 10-K filer with its U.S. portion of fixed assets and revenues constituting a plurality of the total and with a primary listing of the common stock on the NYSE, NYSE Arca, NYSE American (formerly NYSE MKT), NASDAQ Global Select Market, NASDAQ Select Market, NASDAQ Capital Market, Bats BZX, Bats BYX, Bats EDGA, Bats EDGX or IEX (each, an eligible exchange)), the proposed constituent has a public float of 50% or more of its stock, the inclusion of the company will contribute to sector balance in the index relative to the sector balance in the market in the relevant market capitalization range; financial viability (the sum of the most recent four consecutive quarters Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) earnings (net income excluding discontinued operations) should be positive as should the most recent quarter; and, for IPOs, the company must be traded on an eligible exchange for at least twelve months. In addition, constituents of the S&P 500® Index and the S&P SmallCap 600® Index can be migrated to the index without meeting the financial viability, public float and/or liquidity eligibility criteria if the S&P Index Committee decides that such a move will enhance the representativeness of the S&P MidCap 400® Index as a market benchmark. Certain types of organizational structures and securities are always excluded, including business development companies (BDCs), limited partnerships, master limited partnerships, limited liability companies (LLCs) OTC bulletin board issues, closed-end funds, ETFs, ETNs, royalty trusts, tracking stocks, preferred stock and convertible preferred stock, unit trusts, equity warrants, convertible bonds, investment trusts, rights and American depositary receipts (ADRs). Stocks are deleted from the S&P MidCap 400® Index when they are involved in mergers, acquisitions or significant restructurings such that they no longer meet the inclusion criteria, and when they substantially violate one or more of the addition criteria. Stocks that are delisted or moved to the pink sheets or bulletin board are removed and those that experience a trading halt may be retained or removed in S&P's discretion. S&P evaluates additions and deletions with a view to maintaining S&P MidCap 400® Index continuity.

For constituents included in the index prior to July 31, 2017, all publicly listed multiple share class lines are included separately in the S&P MidCap 400® Index, subject to, in the case of any such share class line, that share class line satisfying the liquidity and float criteria discussed above and subject to certain exceptions. It is possible that one listed share class line of a company may be included in the S&P MidCap 400® Index while a second listed share class line of the same company is excluded. For companies that issue a second publicly traded

share class to index share class holders, the newly issued share class line is considered for inclusion if the event is mandatory and the market capitalization of the distributed class is not considered to be de minimis.

s-45

Table of Contents

As of July 31, 2017, companies with multiple share class lines are no longer eligible for inclusion in the index. Constituents of the index prior to July 31, 2017 with multiple share class lines will be grandfathered in and continue to be included in the index. If a constituent company of the index reorganizes into a multiple share class line structure, that company will remain in the index at the discretion of the S&P Index Committee in order to minimize turnover.

As of September 14, 2018, the top ten component stocks of the S&P MidCap 400® Index, by weight, were: Winston Gold Corp. (0.80%), Fortinet Inc. (0.71%), Jack Henry & Associates, Inc. (0.68%), Teleflex Inc. (0.67%), Keysight Technologies Inc. (0.66%), PTC Inc. (0.66%), Domino's Pizza, Inc. (0.64%), IDEX Corporation (0.64%), Old Dominion Freight Line (0.61%) and Steel Dynamics, Inc. (0.60%).

As of August 31, 2018, the 400 companies included in the S&P MidCap 400® Index were divided into eleven Global Industry Classification Sectors. The Global Industry Classification Sectors include (with the approximate percentage currently included in such sectors indicated in parentheses): Consumer Discretionary (15.60%), Consumer Staples (4.20%), Energy (6.80%), Financials (14.40%), Health Care (9.60%), Industrials (14.20%), Information Technology (14.70%), Materials (6.90%), Real Estate (9.10%), Telecommunication Services (0.30%), and Utilities (4.20%). (Sector designations are determined by the index sponsor using criteria it has selected or developed. Index sponsors may use very different standards for determining sector designations. In addition, many companies operate in a number of sectors, but are listed in only one sector and the basis on which that sector is selected may also differ. As a result, sector comparisons between indices with different index sponsors may reflect differences in methodology as well as actual differences in the sector composition of the indices.) S&P and MSCI, Inc. have announced that the Global Industry Classification Sector structure is expected to be updated after the close of business on September 28, 2018. Among other things, the update is expected to broaden the current Telecommunications Services sector and rename it the Communication Services sector. The renamed sector is expected to include the existing telecommunication companies, as well as companies selected from the Consumer Discretionary sector currently classified under the Media Industry group and the Internet & Direct Marketing Retail sub-industry, along with select companies currently classified in the Information Technology sector. Further, companies that operate online marketplaces for consumer products and services are expected to be included under the Internet & Direct Marketing sub-industry of the Consumer Discretionary sector, regardless of whether they hold inventory.

Calculation of the S&P MidCap 400® Index

The S&P MidCap 400® Index is calculated using a base-weighted aggregative methodology. The value of the S&P MidCap 400® Index on any day for which an index value is published is determined by a fraction, the numerator of which is the aggregate of the market price of each stock in the S&P MidCap 400® Index times the number of shares of such stock included in the S&P MidCap 400® Index, and the denominator of which is the divisor, which is described more fully below. The market value of any index stock is the *product* of the market price per share of that stock *times* the number of the then-outstanding shares of such index stock that are then included in the S&P MidCap 400® Index.

The S&P MidCap 400® Index is also sometimes called a base-weighted aggregative index because of its use of a divisor. The divisor is a value calculated by S&P that is intended to maintain conformity in index values over time and is adjusted for all changes in the index stocks' share capital after the base date as described below. The level of the S&P MidCap 400® Index reflects the total market value of all index stocks relative to the index's base date of June 28, 1991.

In addition, the S&P MidCap 400® Index is float-adjusted, meaning that the share counts used in calculating the S&P MidCap 400® Index reflect only those shares available to investors rather than all of a company's outstanding shares. S&P seeks to exclude shares held by certain shareholders concerned with the control of a company, a group that generally includes the following: officers and directors and related individuals whose holdings are publicly disclosed, private equity, venture capital, special equity firms, publicly traded companies that hold shares for control in another company, strategic partners, holders of restricted shares, employee stock ownership plans, employee and family trusts, foundations associated with the company, holders of unlisted share classes of stock, government entities at all levels (except government retirement or pension funds) and any individual person listed as a 5% or greater stakeholder in a company as reported in regulatory filings (collectively, control holders). To this end, S&P excludes all share-holdings (other than depository banks, pension funds, mutual funds, exchange traded fund providers, 401(k) plans of the company, government retirement and

Table of Contents

pension funds, investment funds of insurance companies, asset managers and investment funds, independent foundations, savings plans and investment plans) with a position greater than 5% of the outstanding shares of a company from the float-adjusted share count to be used in S&P MidCap 400 Index® calculations.

The exclusion is accomplished by calculating an Investable Weight Factor (IWF) for each stock that is part of the numerator of the float-adjusted index fraction described above:

$$\text{IWF} = (\text{available float shares})/(\text{total shares outstanding})$$

where available float shares is defined as total shares outstanding less shares held by control holders. In most cases, an IWF is reported to the nearest one percentage point. For companies with multiple share class lines, a separate IWF is calculated for each share class line.

Maintenance of the S&P MidCap 400® Index

In order to keep the S&P MidCap 400® Index comparable over time S&P engages in an index maintenance process. The S&P MidCap 400® Index maintenance process involves changing the constituents as discussed above, and also involves maintaining quality assurance processes and procedures, adjusting the number of shares used to calculate the S&P MidCap 400® Index, monitoring and completing the adjustments for company additions and deletions, adjusting for stock splits and stock dividends and adjusting for other corporate actions. In addition to its daily governance of indices and maintenance of the index methodology, at least once within any 12 month period, the S&P Index Committee reviews the index methodology to ensure the S&P MidCap 400® Index continues to achieve the stated objective, and that the data and methodology remain effective. The S&P Index Committee may at times consult with investors, market participants, security issuers included or potentially included in the S&P MidCap 400® Index, or investment and financial experts.

Divisor Adjustments

The two types of adjustments primarily used by S&P are divisor adjustments and adjustments to the number of shares (including float adjustments) used to calculate the S&P MidCap 400® Index. Set forth below is a table of certain corporate events and their resulting effect on the divisor and the share count. If a corporate event requires an adjustment to the divisor, that event has the effect of altering the market value of the affected index stock and consequently of altering the aggregate market value of the index stocks following the event. In order that the level of the S&P MidCap 400® Index not be affected by the altered market value (which could be an increase or decrease) of the affected index stock, S&P generally derives a new divisor by dividing the

post-event market value of the index stocks by the pre-event index value, which has the effect of reducing the S&P MidCap 400® Index's post-event value to the pre-event level.

Changes to the Number of Shares of a Constituent

The index maintenance process also involves tracking the changes in the number of shares included for each of the index companies. The timing of adjustments to the number of shares depends on the type of event causing the change, and whether the change represents 5% or more of the total share count (for companies with multiple share class lines, the 5% threshold is based on each individual share class line rather than total company shares). Changes as a result of mergers or acquisitions are implemented when the transaction occurs. At S&P's discretion, however, de minimis merger and acquisition changes may be accumulated and implemented with the updates made at the quarterly share updates as described below. Changes in a constituent's total shares of 5% or more due to public offerings (which must be underwritten, have a publicly available prospectus or prospectus summary filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and include a public confirmation that the offering has been completed) are implemented as soon as reasonably possible. Other changes of 5% or more are made weekly and are announced on Fridays for implementation after the close of trading on the following Friday. For changes of less than 5%, on the third Friday of the last month in each calendar quarter, S&P updates the share totals of companies in the S&P MidCap 400® Index as required by any changes in the number of shares outstanding. S&P implements a share / IWF freeze beginning after the market close on the Tuesday preceding the second Friday of each quarterly rebalancing month and ending after the market close on the third Friday of the quarterly rebalancing month. During this frozen period, shares and IWFs are not changed except for certain corporate action events (merger activity, stock splits and rights offerings).

Table of Contents

Adjustments for Corporate Actions

There is a large range of corporate actions that may affect companies included in the S&P MidCap 400® Index. Certain corporate actions require S&P to recalculate the share count or the float adjustment or to make an adjustment to the divisor to prevent the value of the S&P MidCap 400® Index from changing as a result of the corporate action. This helps ensure that the movement of the S&P MidCap 400® Index does not reflect the corporate actions of individual companies in the S&P MidCap 400® Index.

Spin-Offs

As a general policy, a spin-off security is added to the S&P MidCap 400® Index at a zero price at the market close of the day before the ex-date (with no divisor adjustment). The spin-off security will remain in the S&P MidCap 400® Index if it meets all eligibility criteria. If the spin-off security is determined ineligible to remain in the S&P MidCap 400® Index, it will generally be removed after at least one day of regular way trading (with a divisor adjustment). If there is a gap between the ex-date and distribution date (or payable date), or if the spin-off security does not trade regular way on the ex-date, the spin-off security is kept in the S&P MidCap 400® Index until the spin-off security begins trading regular way.

Several additional types of corporate actions, and their related adjustments, are listed in the table below.

Corporate Action	Share Count Revision Required?	Divisor Adjustment Required?
Stock split	Yes share count is revised to reflect new count	No share count and price changes are off-setting
Change in shares outstanding (secondary issuance, share repurchase and/or share buy-back)	Yes share count is revised to reflect new count	Yes
Special dividends	No	Yes calculation assumes that share price drops by the amount of the dividend; divisor adjustment reflects this change in index market value
Change in IWF	No	Yes divisor change reflects the change in market value caused by the change to an IWF
Company added to or deleted from the S&P MidCap 400® Index	No	Yes divisor is adjusted by the net change in market value, calculated as the shares

issued multiplied by the price paid.

Rights Offering

No

Yes divisor adjustment reflects increase in market capitalization (calculation assumes that offering is fully subscribed)

S-48

Table of Contents

Recalculation Policy

S&P reserves the right to recalculate and republish the S&P MidCap 400® Index at its discretion in the event one of the following issues has occurred: (1) incorrect or revised closing price of one or more constituent securities; (2) missed corporate event; (3) incorrect application of corporate action or index methodology; (4) late announcement of a corporate event; or (5) incorrect calculation or data entry error. The decision to recalculate the S&P MidCap 400® Index is made at the discretion of the index manager and/or index committee, as further discussed below. The potential market impact or disruption resulting from the potential recalculation is considered when making any such decision. In the event of an incorrect closing price, a missed corporate event or a misapplied corporate action, a late announcement of a corporate event, or an incorrect calculation or data entry error that is discovered within two trading days of its occurrence, the index manager may, at his or her discretion, recalculate the S&P MidCap 400® Index without involving the index committee. In the event any such event is discovered beyond the two trading day period, the index committee shall decide whether the S&P MidCap 400® Index should be recalculated. In the event of an incorrect application of the methodology that results in the incorrect composition and/or weighting of index constituents, the index committee shall determine whether or not to recalculate the S&P MidCap 400® Index following specified guidelines. In the event that the S&P MidCap 400® Index is recalculated, it shall be done within a reasonable timeframe following the detection and review of the issue.

Calculations and Pricing Disruptions

Closing levels for the S&P MidCap 400® Index are calculated by S&P based on the closing price of the individual constituents of the index as set by their primary exchange. Closing prices are received by S&P from one of its third party vendors and verified by comparing them with prices from an alternative vendor. The vendors receive the closing price from the primary exchanges. Real-time intraday prices are calculated similarly without a second verification. Prices used for the calculation of real time index values are based on the Consolidated Tape . The Consolidated Tape is an aggregation of trades for each constituent over all regional exchanges and trading venues and includes the primary exchange. If there is a failure or interruption on one or more exchanges, real-time calculations will continue as long as the Consolidated Tape is operational.

If an interruption is not resolved prior to the market close, official closing prices will be determined by following the hierarchy set out in NYSE Rule 123C. A notice is published on the S&P website at spdj.com indicating any changes to the prices used in S&P MidCap 400® Index calculations. In extreme circumstances, S&P may decide to delay index adjustments or not publish the S&P MidCap 400® Index. Real-time indices are not restated.

Unexpected Exchange Closures

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

An unexpected market/exchange closure occurs when a market/exchange fully or partially fails to open or trading is temporarily halted. This can apply to a single exchange or to a market as a whole, when all of the primary exchanges are closed and/or not trading. Unexpected market/exchange closures are usually due to unforeseen circumstances, such as natural disasters, inclement weather, outages, or other events.

To a large degree, S&P is dependent on the exchanges to provide guidance in the event of an unexpected exchange closure. S&P's decision making is dependent on exchange guidance regarding pricing and mandatory corporate actions.

NYSE Rule 123C provides closing contingency procedures for determining an official closing price for listed securities if the exchange is unable to conduct a closing transaction in one or more securities due to a system or technical issue.

3:00 PM ET is the deadline for an exchange to determine its plan of action regarding an outage scenario. As such, S&P also uses 3:00 PM ET as the cutoff.

If all major exchanges fail to open or unexpectedly halt trading intraday due to unforeseen circumstances, S&P will take the following actions:

Market Disruption Prior to Open of Trading:

Table of Contents

(i) If all exchanges indicate that trading will not open for a given day, S&P will treat the day as an unscheduled market holiday. The decision will be communicated to clients as soon as possible through the normal channels. Indices containing multiple markets will be calculated as normal, provided that at least one market is open that day. Indices which only contain closed markets will not be calculated.

(ii) If exchanges indicate that trading, although delayed, will open for a given day, S&P will begin index calculation when the exchanges open.

Market Disruption Intraday:

(i) If exchanges indicate that trading will not resume for a given day, the S&P MidCap 400® Index level will be calculated using prices determined by the exchanges based on NYSE Rule 123C. Intraday S&P MidCap 400® Index values will continue to use the last traded composite price until the primary exchange publishes official closing prices.

License Agreement between S&P and GS Finance Corp.

The S&P MidCap 400® Index is a product of S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, and has been licensed for use by GS Finance Corp. (Goldman). Standard & Poor s® and S&P® are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor s Financial Services LLC; Dow Jones® is a registered trademark of Dow Jones Trademark Holdings LLC (Dow Jones) and these trademarks have been licensed for use by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC and sublicensed for certain purposes by Goldman. Goldman s notes are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Dow Jones, Standard & Poor s Financial Services LLC or any of their respective affiliates (collectively, S&P Dow Jones Indices). S&P Dow Jones Indices makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, to the owners of the notes or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in securities generally or in the notes particularly or the ability of the S&P MidCap 400® Index to track general market performance. S&P Dow Jones Indices only relationship to Goldman with respect to the S&P MidCap 400® Index is the licensing of the S&P MidCap 400® Index and certain trademarks, service marks and/or trade names of S&P Dow Jones Indices and/or its licensors. The S&P MidCap 400® Index is determined, composed and calculated by S&P Dow Jones Indices without regard to Goldman or the notes. S&P Dow Jones Indices have no obligation to take the needs of Goldman or the owners of the notes into consideration in determining, composing or calculating the S&P MidCap 400® Index. S&P Dow Jones Indices are not responsible for and have not participated in the determination of the prices, and amount of the notes or the timing of the issuance or sale of the notes or in the determination or calculation of the equation by which the notes are to be converted into cash. S&P Dow Jones Indices have no obligation or liability in connection with the administration, marketing or trading of the notes. There is no assurance that investment products based on the S&P MidCap 400® Index will accurately track index performance or provide positive investment returns. S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC is not an investment advisor. Inclusion of a security within an index is not a recommendation by S&P Dow

Jones Indices to buy, sell, or hold such security, nor is it considered to be investment advice.

S&P DOW JONES INDICES DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE ADEQUACY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS AND/OR THE COMPLETENESS OF THE S&P MidCap 400® INDEX OR ANY DATA RELATED THERETO OR ANY COMMUNICATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ORAL OR WRITTEN COMMUNICATION (INCLUDING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS) WITH RESPECT THERETO. S&P DOW JONES INDICES SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO ANY DAMAGES OR LIABILITY FOR ANY ERRORS, OMISSIONS, OR DELAYS THEREIN. S&P DOW JONES INDICES MAKE NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE OR AS TO RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED BY GOLDMAN, OWNERS OF THE NOTES, OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY FROM THE USE OF THE S&P MidCap 400® INDEX OR WITH RESPECT TO ANY DATA RELATED THERETO. WITHOUT LIMITING ANY OF THE FOREGOING, IN NO EVENT WHATSOEVER SHALL S&P DOW JONES INDICES BE LIABLE FOR ANY INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, PUNITIVE, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO LOSS OF PROFITS, TRADING LOSSES, LOST TIME OR GOODWILL, EVEN IF THEY HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, TORT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR OTHERWISE. THERE ARE NO THIRD

Table of Contents

PARTY BENEFICIARIES OF ANY AGREEMENTS OR ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN S&P DOW JONES INDICES AND GOLDMAN, OTHER THAN THE LICENSORS OF S&P DOW JONES INDICES.

s-51

Table of Contents

Historical Closing Levels of the Underlying Basket Indices

The closing levels of the underlying basket indices have fluctuated in the past and may, in the future, experience significant fluctuations. Any historical upward or downward trend in the closing levels of the underlying basket indices during the period shown below is not an indication that the underlying basket indices are more or less likely to increase or decrease at any time during the life of your notes.

You should not take the historical levels of the underlying basket indices as an indication of the future performance of the underlying basket indices. We cannot give you any assurance that the future performance of the underlying basket indices or the underlying index stocks will result in your receiving an amount greater than the outstanding face amount of your notes, or that you will not incur a loss on your investment, on the stated maturity date.

Neither we nor any of our affiliates make any representation to you as to the performance of the underlying basket indices. Before investing in the offered notes, you should consult publicly available information to determine the levels of the underlying basket indices between the date of this prospectus supplement and the date of your purchase of the offered notes. The actual performance of the underlying basket indices over the life of the offered notes, as well as the cash settlement amount, may bear little relation to the historical levels shown below.

The graph below shows the daily historical closing levels of the underlying index from September 14, 2008 through September 14, 2018. We obtained the closing levels in the graph below from Bloomberg Financial Services, without independent verification.

Although the official closing levels of the Russell 2000® Index are published to six decimal places by the underlying basket index sponsor, Bloomberg Financial Services reports the levels of the Russell 2000® Index to fewer decimal places

s-52

Table of Contents

s-53

Table of Contents

S-54

Table of Contents

Historical Underlying Basket Levels

The following graph is based on the underlying basket closing level for the period from September 14, 2008 through September 14, 2018 assuming that the underlying basket closing level was 100 on September 14, 2008. We derived the underlying basket closing levels based on the method to calculate the underlying basket closing level as described in this prospectus supplement and on actual closing levels of the relevant underlying basket indices on the relevant date. The underlying basket closing level has been normalized such that its hypothetical level on September 14, 2008 was 100. As noted in this prospectus supplement, the initial underlying basket level will be set at 100 on the trade date. The underlying basket closing level can increase or decrease due to changes in the levels of the underlying basket indices.

Underlying Basket Performance

s-55

Table of Contents

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCUSSION OF U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following section supplements the discussion of U.S. federal income taxation in the accompanying prospectus.

The following section is the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP, counsel to GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. In addition, it is the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP that the characterization of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes that will be required under the terms of the notes, as discussed below, is a reasonable interpretation of current law.

This section does not apply to you if you are a member of a class of holders subject to special rules, such as:

- a dealer in securities or currencies;

- a trader in securities that elects to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities holdings;

- a bank;

- a life insurance company;

- a tax exempt organization;

- a partnership;

- a regulated investment company;

- an accrual method taxpayer subject to special tax accounting rules as a result of its use of financial statements;

- a person that owns a note as a hedge or that is hedged against interest rate risks;
- a person that owns a note as part of a straddle or conversion transaction for tax purposes; or
- a United States holder (as defined below) whose functional currency for tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar.

Although this section is based on the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations under the Internal Revenue Code, published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect, no statutory, judicial or administrative authority directly addresses how your notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and as a result, the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in your notes are uncertain. Moreover, these laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis.

You should consult your tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax and any other applicable tax consequences of your investments in the notes, including the application of state, local or other tax laws and the possible effects of changes in federal or other tax laws.

United States Holders

This section applies to you only if you are a United States holder that holds your notes as a capital asset for tax purposes. You are a United States holder if you are a beneficial owner of each of your notes and you are:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a domestic corporation;
- an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source; or
- a trust if a United States court can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more United States persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

Tax Treatment. You will be obligated pursuant to the terms of the notes in the absence of a change in law, an administrative determination or a judicial ruling to the contrary to characterize your notes for all tax purposes as pre-paid derivative contracts in respect of the underlying basket indices. Except as otherwise stated below, the discussion herein assumes that the notes will be so treated.

s-56

Table of Contents

Upon the sale, exchange or maturity of your notes, you should recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between the amount of cash you receive at such time and your tax basis in your notes. Your tax basis in the notes will generally be equal to the amount that you paid for the notes. If you hold your notes for more than one year, the gain or loss generally will be long-term capital gain or loss. If you hold your notes for one year or less, the gain or loss generally will be short-term capital gain or loss. Short-term capital gains are generally subject to tax at the marginal tax rates applicable to ordinary income.

No statutory, judicial or administrative authority directly discusses how your notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in the notes are uncertain and alternative characterizations are possible. Accordingly, we urge you to consult your tax advisor in determining the tax consequences of an investment in your notes in your particular circumstances, including the application of state, local or other tax laws and the possible effects of changes in federal or other tax laws.

Alternative Treatments. There is no judicial or administrative authority discussing how your notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Therefore, the Internal Revenue Service might assert that a treatment other than that described above is more appropriate. For example, the Internal Revenue Service could treat your notes as a single debt instrument subject to special rules governing contingent payment debt instruments. Under those rules, the amount of interest you are required to take into account for each accrual period would be determined by constructing a projected payment schedule for the notes and applying rules similar to those for accruing original issue discount on a hypothetical noncontingent debt instrument with that projected payment schedule. This method is applied by first determining the comparable yield — i.e., the yield at which we would issue a noncontingent fixed rate debt instrument with terms and conditions similar to your notes — and then determining a payment schedule as of the issue date that would produce the comparable yield. These rules may have the effect of requiring you to include interest in income in respect of your notes prior to your receipt of cash attributable to that income.

If the rules governing contingent payment debt instruments apply, any gain you recognize upon the sale, exchange or maturity of your notes would be treated as ordinary interest income. Any loss you recognize at that time would be treated as ordinary loss to the extent of interest you included as income in the current or previous taxable years in respect of your notes, and, thereafter, as capital loss.

If the rules governing contingent payment debt instruments apply, special rules would apply to a person who purchases notes at a price other than the adjusted issue price as determined for tax purposes.

It is also possible that your notes could be treated in the manner described above, except that any gain or loss that you recognize at maturity would be treated as ordinary gain or loss. You should consult your tax advisor as to the tax consequences of such characterization and any possible alternative characterizations of your notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

It is possible that the Internal Revenue Service could seek to characterize your notes in a manner that results in tax consequences to you that are different from those described above. You should consult your tax advisor as to the tax consequences of any possible alternative characterizations of your notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Possible Change in Law

On December 7, 2007, the Internal Revenue Service released a notice stating that the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department are actively considering issuing guidance regarding the proper U.S. federal income tax treatment of an instrument such as the offered notes, including whether holders should be required to accrue ordinary income on a current basis and whether gain or loss should be ordinary or capital. It is not possible to determine what guidance they will ultimately issue, if any. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors concerning the significance, and the potential impact, of the above considerations. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, we intend to continue treating the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes in accordance with the treatment described above under Tax Treatment unless and until such time as Congress, the Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue

s-57

Table of Contents

Service determine that some other treatment is more appropriate. You are urged to consult your tax advisor as to the possibility that any legislative or administrative action may adversely affect the tax treatment and the value of your notes.

Furthermore, in 2007, legislation was introduced in Congress that, if enacted, would have required holders that acquired instruments such as your notes after the bill was enacted to accrue interest income over the term of such instruments even though there will be no interest payments over the term of such instruments. It is not possible to predict whether a similar or identical bill will be enacted in the future, or whether any such bill would affect the tax treatment of your notes.

It is impossible to predict what any such legislation or administrative or regulatory guidance might provide, and whether the effective date of any legislation or guidance will affect notes that were issued before the date that such legislation or guidance is issued. You are urged to consult your tax advisor as to the possibility that any legislative or administrative action may adversely affect the tax treatment of your notes.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Please see the discussion under **United States Taxation** **Taxation of Debt Securities** **Backup Withholding and Information Reporting** **United States Holders** in the accompanying prospectus for a description of the applicability of the backup withholding and information reporting rules to payments made on your notes.

United States Alien Holders

This section applies to you only if you are a United States alien holder. You are a United States alien holder if you are the beneficial owner of notes and are, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- a nonresident alien individual;
- a foreign corporation; or
- an estate or trust that in either case is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis on income or gain from the notes.

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

You will be subject to generally applicable information reporting and backup withholding requirements as discussed in the accompanying prospectus under United States Taxation Taxation of Debt Securities Backup Withholding and Information Reporting United States Alien Holders with respect to payments on your notes at maturity and, notwithstanding that we do not intend to treat the notes as debt for tax purposes, we intend to backup withhold on such payments with respect to your notes unless you comply with the requirements necessary to avoid backup withholding on debt instruments (in which case you will not be subject to such backup withholding) as set forth under United States Taxation Taxation of Debt Securities United States Alien Holders in the accompanying prospectus.

As discussed above, alternative characterizations of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes are possible. Should an alternative characterization of the notes, by reason of a change or clarification of the law, by regulation or otherwise, cause payments at maturity with respect to the notes to become subject to withholding tax, we will withhold tax at the applicable statutory rate and we will not make payments of any additional amounts. Prospective United States alien holders of the notes should consult their tax advisor in this regard.

Furthermore, on December 7, 2007, the Internal Revenue Service released Notice 2008-2 soliciting comments from the public on various issues, including whether instruments such as your notes should be subject to withholding. It is therefore possible that rules will be issued in the future, possibly with retroactive effect, that would cause payments on your notes at maturity to be subject to withholding, even if you comply with certification requirements as to your foreign status.

The Treasury Department has issued regulations under which amounts paid or deemed paid on certain financial instruments (871(m) financial instruments) that are treated as attributable to U.S.-source dividends could be treated, in whole or in part depending on the circumstances, as a dividend equivalent payment that is subject to tax at a rate of 30% (or a lower rate under an applicable treaty), which in the

Table of Contents

case of any amounts you receive upon the sale, exchange or maturity of your notes, could be collected via withholding. If these regulations were to apply to the notes, we may be required to withhold such taxes if any U.S.-source dividends are paid on any of the stocks included in the underlying basket indices during the term of the notes. We could also require you to make certifications (e.g., an applicable Internal Revenue Service Form W-8) prior to the maturity of the notes in order to avoid or minimize withholding obligations, and we could withhold accordingly (subject to your potential right to claim a refund from the Internal Revenue Service) if such certifications were not received or were not satisfactory. If withholding was required, we would not be required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts so withheld. These regulations generally will apply to 871(m) financial instruments (or a combination of financial instruments treated as having been entered into in connection with each other) issued (or significantly modified and treated as retired and reissued) on or after January 1, 2019, but will also apply to certain 871(m) financial instruments (or a combination of financial instruments treated as having been entered into in connection with each other) that have a delta (as defined in the applicable Treasury regulations) of one and are issued (or significantly modified and treated as retired and reissued) on or after January 1, 2017. In addition, these regulations will not apply to financial instruments that reference a qualified index (as defined in the regulations). We have determined that, as of the issue date of your notes, your notes will not be subject to withholding under these rules. In certain limited circumstances, however, you should be aware that it is possible for United States alien holders to be liable for tax under these rules with respect to a combination of transactions treated as having been entered into in connection with each other even when no withholding is required. You should consult your tax advisor concerning these regulations, subsequent official guidance and regarding any other possible alternative characterizations of your notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding

Pursuant to Treasury regulations, Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) withholding (as described in United States Taxation Taxation of Debt Securities Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding in the accompanying prospectus) will generally apply to obligations that are issued on or after July 1, 2014; therefore, the notes will generally be subject to FATCA withholding. However, according to published guidance, the withholding tax described above will not apply to payments of gross proceeds from the sale, exchange or other disposition of the notes made before January 1, 2019.

Table of Contents

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT

This section is only relevant to you if you are an insurance company or the fiduciary of a pension plan or an employee benefit plan (including a governmental plan, an IRA or a Keogh Plan) proposing to invest in the notes.

The U.S. Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA), and the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), prohibit certain transactions (prohibited transactions) involving the assets of an employee benefit plan that is subject to the fiduciary responsibility provisions of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (including individual retirement accounts, Keogh plans and other plans described in Section 4975(e)(1) of the Code) (a Plan) and certain persons who are parties in interest (within the meaning of ERISA) or disqualified persons (within the meaning of the Code) with respect to the Plan; governmental plans may be subject to similar prohibitions unless an exemption applies to the transaction. The assets of a Plan may include assets held in the general account of an insurance company that are deemed plan assets under ERISA or assets of certain investment vehicles in which the Plan invests. Each of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and certain of its affiliates may be considered a party in interest or a disqualified person with respect to many Plans, and, accordingly, prohibited transactions may arise if the notes are acquired by or on behalf of a Plan unless those notes are acquired and held pursuant to an available exemption. In general, available exemptions are: transactions effected on behalf of that Plan by a qualified professional asset manager (prohibited transaction exemption 84-14) or an in-house asset manager (prohibited transaction exemption 96-23), transactions involving insurance company general accounts (prohibited transaction exemption 95-60), transactions involving insurance company pooled separate accounts (prohibited transaction exemption 90-1), transactions involving bank collective investment funds (prohibited transaction exemption 91-38) and transactions with service providers under Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code where the Plan receives no less and pays no more than adequate consideration (within the meaning of Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(f)(10) of the Code). The person making the decision on behalf of a Plan or a governmental plan shall be deemed, on behalf of itself and the plan, by purchasing and holding the notes, or exercising any rights related thereto, to represent that (a) the plan will receive no less and pay no more than adequate consideration (within the meaning of Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(f)(10) of the Code) in connection with the purchase and holding of the notes, (b) none of the purchase, holding or disposition of the notes or the exercise of any rights related to the notes will result in a nonexempt prohibited transaction under ERISA or the Code (or, with respect to a governmental plan, under any similar applicable law or regulation), and (c) neither The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. nor any of its affiliates is a fiduciary (within the meaning of Section 3(21) of ERISA) or, with respect to a governmental plan, under any similar applicable law or regulation) with respect to the purchaser or holder in connection with such person's acquisition, disposition or holding of the notes, or as a result of any exercise by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or any of its affiliates of any rights in connection with the notes, and neither The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. nor any of its affiliates has provided investment advice in connection with such person's acquisition, disposition or holding of the notes.

If you are an insurance company or the fiduciary of a pension plan or an employee benefit plan (including a government plan, an IRA or a Keogh plan) and propose to invest in the notes, you should consult your legal counsel.

Table of Contents

SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

GS Finance Corp. expects to agree to sell to GS&Co., and GS&Co. expects to agree to purchase from GS Finance Corp., the aggregate face amount of the offered notes specified on the front cover of this prospectus supplement. GS&Co. proposes initially to offer the notes to the public at the original issue price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, and to UBS Financial Services Inc. at such price less a concession not in excess of 2.5% of the face amount.

In connection with the initial offering of the notes, the minimum face amount of notes that may be purchased by any investor is \$1,000.

We expect to deliver the notes against payment therefor in New York, New York on September 26, 2018. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in two business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade notes on any date prior to two business days before delivery will be required to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

In the future, GS&Co. or other affiliates of GS Finance Corp. may repurchase and resell the offered notes in market-making transactions, with resales being made at prices related to prevailing market prices at the time of resale or at negotiated prices. GS Finance Corp. estimates that its share of the total offering expenses, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$. For more information about the plan of distribution and possible market-making activities, see Plan of Distribution in the accompanying prospectus.

We have been advised by GS&Co. that it intends to make a market in the notes. However, neither GS&Co. nor any of our other affiliates that makes a market is obligated to do so and any of them may stop doing so at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity or trading market for the notes.

Any notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement may not be offered, sold or otherwise made available to any retail investor in the European Economic Area. Consequently no key information document required by Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 (the PRIIPs Regulation) for offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to retail investors in the EEA has been prepared and therefore offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to any retail investor in the EEA may be unlawful under the PRIIPs Regulation. For the purposes of this provision:

(a) the expression retail investor means a person who is one (or more) of the following:

- (i) a retail client as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU (as amended, MiFID II); or

 - (ii) a customer within the meaning of Directive 2002/92/EC (as amended, the Insurance Mediation Directive), where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MiFID II; or

 - (iii) not a qualified investor as defined in Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, the Prospectus Directive); and
- (b) the expression an offer includes the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the notes.

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), GS&Co. has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement to the public in that Relevant Member State except that, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, an offer of such notes may be made to the public in that Relevant Member State:

Table of Contents

- a) at any time to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

- b) at any time to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant dealer or dealers nominated by the issuer for any such offer; or

- c) at any time in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of notes referred to above shall require us or any dealer to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of notes to the public in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the notes, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, including by Directive 2010/73/EU), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State.

Any invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the FSMA) in connection with the issue or sale of the notes may only be communicated or caused to be communicated in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to GS Finance Corp. or The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

All applicable provisions of the FSMA must be complied with in respect to anything done by any person in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

The notes may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong by means of any document other than (i) to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (ii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 32 of the Laws of Hong Kong) or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of that Ordinance; and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere) which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to the notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance and any rules made thereunder.

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

This prospectus supplement, along with the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement, along with the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor (as defined in Section 4A of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA)) under Section 274 of the SFA, (ii) to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA) pursuant to Section 275(1) of the SFA, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A) of the SFA, and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA, in each case subject to conditions set forth in the SFA.

Where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor, the securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation shall not be transferable for six months after that corporation has acquired the notes under Section 275 of the SFA except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA), (2) where such transfer arises from an offer in that corporation's securities pursuant to Section 275(1A) of the SFA, (3) where no consideration is

S-62

Table of Contents

or will be given for the transfer, (4) where the transfer is by operation of law, (5) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA, or (6) as specified in Regulation 32 of the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Shares and Debentures) Regulations 2005 of Singapore (Regulation 32).

Where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an accredited investor, the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferable for six months after that trust has acquired the notes under Section 275 of the SFA except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA), (2) where such transfer arises from an offer that is made on terms that such rights or interest are acquired at a consideration of not less than S\$200,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) for each transaction (whether such amount is to be paid for in cash or by exchange of securities or other assets), (3) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer, (4) where the transfer is by operation of law, (5) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA, or (6) as specified in Regulation 32.

The notes have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act of Japan (Act No. 25 of 1948, as amended), or the FIEA. The notes may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to or for the benefit of any resident of Japan (including any person resident in Japan or any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan) or to others for reoffering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to or for the benefit of any resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of the FIEA and otherwise in compliance with any relevant laws and regulations of Japan.

The notes are not offered, sold or advertised, directly or indirectly, in, into or from Switzerland on the basis of a public offering and will not be listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange or any other offering or regulated trading facility in Switzerland. Accordingly, neither this prospectus supplement nor any accompanying prospectus supplement, prospectus or other marketing material constitute a prospectus as defined in article 652a or article 1156 of the Swiss Code of Obligations or a listing prospectus as defined in article 32 of the Listing Rules of the SIX Swiss Exchange or any other regulated trading facility in Switzerland. Any resales of the notes by the underwriters thereof may only be undertaken on a private basis to selected individual investors in compliance with Swiss law. This prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus and prospectus supplement may not be copied, reproduced, distributed or passed on to others or otherwise made available in Switzerland without our prior written consent. By accepting this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus and prospectus supplement or by subscribing to the notes, investors are deemed to have acknowledged and agreed to abide by these restrictions. Investors are advised to consult with their financial, legal or tax advisers before investing in the notes.

Conflicts of Interest

GS&Co. is an affiliate of GS Finance Corp and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and, as such, will have a conflict of interest in this offering of notes within the meaning of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA) Rule 5121. Consequently, this offering of notes will be conducted in compliance with the provisions of FINRA Rule 5121. GS&Co. will not be permitted to sell notes in this offering to an account over which it exercises discretionary authority without the prior specific written approval of the account holder.

Table of Contents

We have not authorized anyone to provide any information or to make any representations other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is an offer to sell only the notes offered hereby, but only under the circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is current only as of the respective dates of such documents.

\$

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

GS Finance Corp.

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Summary Information</u>	
<u>Hypothetical Examples</u>	S-3
<u>Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes</u>	S-7
<u>Specific Terms of Your Notes</u>	S-14
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-24
<u>Hedging</u>	S-31
<u>The Underlying Basket and the Underlying Basket</u>	S-31
<u>Indices</u>	S-32
<u>Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income</u>	
<u>Tax Consequences</u>	S-56
<u>Employee Retirement Income Security Act</u>	S-60
<u>Supplemental Plan of Distribution</u>	S-61
<u>Conflicts of Interest</u>	S-63

Basket-Linked Capped Trigger GEARS due

guaranteed by

**The Goldman Sachs
Group, Inc.**

Prospectus Supplement dated July 10, 2017

Use of Proceeds	S-2
Description of Notes We May Offer	S-3
Considerations Relating to Indexed Notes	S-15
United States Taxation	S-18
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	S-19
Supplemental Plan of Distribution	S-20
Validity of the Notes and Guarantees	S-21

Prospectus dated July 10, 2017

Available Information	2
Prospectus Summary	4
Risks Relating to Regulatory Resolution	
Strategies and Long-Term Debt Requirements	8
Use of Proceeds	11
Description of Debt Securities We May Offer	12
Description of Warrants We May Offer	45

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

Description of Units We May Offer	60
GS Finance Corp.	65
Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance	67
Considerations Relating to Floating Rate Debt Securities	72
Considerations Relating to Indexed Securities	73
Considerations Relating to Securities Denominated or Payable in or Linked to a Non-U.S. Dollar Currency	74
United States Taxation	77
Plan of Distribution	92
Conflicts of Interest	94
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	95
Validity of the Securities and Guarantees	95
Experts	96
Review of Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements by Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	96
Cautionary Statement Pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995	96

Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC

UBS Financial Services Inc.

Selling Agent