GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC
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The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement is not an offer to sell nor does it seek an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion. Dated September 12, 2018.
GS Finance Corp.
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Autocallable GS Momentum Builder® Multi-Asset 5S ER Index-Linked Notes due
guaranteed by
The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

The notes will not bear interest. Unless your notes are automatically called on any annual call observation date, the amount that you will be paid on your notes on the stated maturity date (expected to be September 29, 2025) will be based on the performance of the GS Momentum Builder® Multi-Asset 5S ER Index as measured from the trade date (expected to be September 20, 2018) to and including the determination date (expected to be September 22, 2025). The index measures the extent to which the performance of the selected underlying assets (up to 14 ETFs and a money market position in 3-month USD LIBOR, which provide exposure to broad-based equities, fixed income, emerging markets, alternatives, commodities, inflation, and cash equivalent asset classes) outperform the sum of the return on 3-month USD LIBOR plus 0.65% per annum (accruing daily). LIBOR is being modified, see page S-28.

If the final index level (the closing level of the index on the determination date) is greater than the initial index level set on the trade date, the return on your notes will be the index return (the percentage increase or decrease in the final index level from the initial index level). Because the index measures the performance of the selected underlying assets less the sum of the return on 3-month USD LIBOR plus 0.65% per annum (accruing daily), on any day such assets must outperform the return on 3-month USD LIBOR plus 0.65% per annum for the index level to increase.

Your notes will be called if the closing level of the index on any call observation date is greater than or equal to the applicable call level (specified on page S 6), resulting in a payment on the corresponding call payment date (the fifth business day after the call observation date) equal to the face amount of your notes plus the product of $1,000 times the applicable call return (specified on page S 6).

The index rebalances on each index business day from among the 15 underlying assets. The daily weight used to rebalance each underlying asset on any index business day equals the average of the target weights for each underlying asset determined on such day and each of the prior 21 index business days. Target weights are determined by calculating for each day the combination of underlying assets with the highest return during three return look-back periods (9, 6 and 3 months), subject to a (a) limit of 5% on portfolio realized volatility over the related volatility look-back period (6, 3 and 1 months for the 9, 6 and 3 month return look-back periods, respectively) and (b) maximum weight for each underlying asset and each asset class. This results in a portfolio for each of the three return look-back periods for each day. The target weight of each underlying asset will equal the average of the weights, if any, of such underlying asset in the three portfolios. As a result of this rebalancing, the index may include as few as 3 ETFs (and the money market position) and may never include some of the underlying assets or asset classes.

After the index is rebalanced on an index business day, the realized volatility for the prior month is calculated. Realized volatility is the degree of variation in the daily closing prices or levels of the aggregate of the underlying assets over the applicable volatility look-back period. If the realized volatility exceeds 6%, the index will be rebalanced again for that day by ratably reallocating a portion of the exposure to the ETFs in the index to the money market position sufficient to reduce the prior month realized volatility to 6%. As a result of such rebalancing, the index may not include any ETFs and may allocate its entire exposure to the money market position, the return on which will always be less than the sum of the return on 3-month USD LIBOR plus 0.65% per annum. Historically, a significant portion of the index has been in the money market position.

If your notes are not called, at maturity, for each $1,000 face amount of your notes, you will receive an amount in cash equal to:

- if the index return is positive (the final index level is greater than the initial index level), the sum of (i) $1,000 plus (ii) the product of (a) $1,000 times (b) the index return; or
- if the index return is zero or negative (the final index level is equal to or less than the initial index level), $1,000.

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-17.

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 $890 and $930 per $1,000 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 27, 2018	Original issue price:	100% of the face amount
Underwriting discount:	% of the face amount*	Net proceeds to the issuer:	% of the face amount

* In addition to the %, the underwriting discount paid by us also includes a structuring fee of % and a marketing fee of %, in each case, of the face amount. See page S-170.

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

Prospectus Supplement No. dated , 2018.

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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 $890 and $930 per $1,000 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 $1,000 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 from the time of pricing through). 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.

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The following is a list of the eligible underlying assets for the index, including the related asset classes, asset class minimum and maximum weights and underlying asset minimum and maximum weights. The index is more fully described beginning on page S-46 herein.

ASSET CLASS	ASSET CLASS MINIMUM WEIGHT	ASSET CLASS MAXIMUM WEIGHT	ELIGIBLE UNDERLYING ASSET*	TICKER	UNDERLYING ASSET MINIMUM WEIGHT	UNDERLYING ASSET MAXIMUM WEIGHT
Broad-Based Equities	0%	50%	SPDR® S&P 500® ETF Trust	SPY	0%	20%
			iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF	EFA	0%	20%
			iShares® MSCI Japan ETF	EWJ	0%	10%
Fixed Income	0%	50%	iShares® 20+ Year Treasury Bond ETF	TLT	0%	20%
			iShares® iBoxx $ Investment Grade Corporate Bond ETF	LQD	0%	20%
			iShares® iBoxx $ High Yield Corporate Bond ETF	HYG	0%	20%
			iShares® 7-10 Year Treasury Bond ETF	IEF	0%	20%
Emerging Markets	0%	20%	iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	EEM	0%	20%
Alternatives	0%	25%	iShares® U.S. Real Estate ETF	IYR	0%	20%
			iShares® U.S. Preferred Stock ETF	PFF	0%	10%
			iShares® Nasdaq Biotechnology ETF	IBB	0%	10%
Commodities	0%	25%	SPDR® S&P® Oil & Gas Exploration & Production ETF	XOP	0%	20%
			SPDR® Gold Trust	GLD	0%	20%
Inflation	0%	10%	iShares® TIPS Bond ETF	TIP	0%	10%
Cash Equivalent	0%	50%**	Money Market Position	N/A	0%	50%**

* The value of a share of an eligible ETF may reflect transaction costs and fees incurred or imposed by the investment advisor of the eligible ETF as well as the costs to the ETF to buy and sell its assets. These costs and fees are not included in the calculation of the index underlying the eligible ETF. For more fee information relating to an eligible ETF, see "The Eligible Underlying Assets" on page S-72.

** With respect to the money market position, the related asset class maximum weight and underlying asset maximum weight limitations do not apply after the first rebalancing on each index business day and, therefore, the index may allocate its entire exposure to the money market position.

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The below is only a brief summary of the terms of your notes. You should read the detailed description thereof in "Summary Information" on page S-11 and in "Specific Terms of Your Notes" on page S-40 as well as the accompanying prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus.

INVESTMENT THESIS

For investors who:

- seek the opportunity to achieve a return at maturity based on the performance of an index that attempts to track the positive price momentum in certain eligible underlying assets by varying exposure to those eligible underlying assets, subject to limitations on volatility and a minimum and maximum weight for each underlying asset and each asset class.
- understand that the eligible underlying assets provide exposure to broad-based equities, fixed income, emerging markets, alternatives, commodities, inflation, and cash equivalent asset classes.
- seek to have their principal returned after a period of approximately 84 months.
- believe the index will increase during the period from the trade date to the determination date, but are willing to accept that the term of the notes will be reduced if the notes are automatically called on a call observation date (in which case the return on the notes will be limited to the applicable call return).
- are willing, if the notes are not automatically called, to receive only their principal back at maturity if the index return is less than or equal to zero.

As a result of the rebalancing among the 15 underlying assets, the index may include as few as four underlying assets (as few as three ETFs) and may not include some of the underlying assets or assets classes during the entire term of your notes. As a result of any rebalancing into the money market position to reduce the prior month realized volatility to 6%, the index may not include any ETFs and may allocate its entire exposure to the money market position, the return on which will always be less than the sum of the return on 3-month USD LIBOR plus 0.65% per annum (accruing daily). Historically, a significant portion of the index exposure has been to the money market position.

PAYOUT DESCRIPTION

Your notes will be called if the closing level of the index on any call observation date is greater than or equal to the applicable call level, resulting in a payment on the corresponding call payment date equal to the face amount of your notes plus the product of $1,000 times the applicable call return.

If your notes are not called, at maturity, for each $1,000 face amount of your notes, you will receive an amount in cash equal to:

if the index return is positive (the final index level is greater than the initial index level), the sum of (i) $1,000 plus (ii) the product of (a) $1,000 times (b) the index return; or

if the index return is zero or negative (the final index level is equal to or less than the initial index level), $1,000.

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THE INDEX

The GS Momentum Builder® Multi-Asset 5S ER Index (the index) measures the extent to which the performance of the exchange-traded funds and a money market position (together with the ETFs, the underlying assets) included in the index outperform the sum of the return on the notional interest rate, which is a rate equal to 3-month USD LIBOR, plus 0.65% per annum (accruing daily). The money market position reflects the notional returns accruing to a hypothetical investor from an investment in a money market account denominated in U.S. dollars that accrues interest at the notional interest rate. The index rebalances on each index business day from among 15 underlying assets that have been categorized in the following asset classes: broad-based equities; fixed income; emerging markets; alternatives; commodities; inflation; and cash equivalent. The index attempts to track the positive price momentum in the underlying assets, subject to limitations on volatility and a minimum and maximum weight for each underlying asset and each asset class, each as described below.

Features of the index include:

- daily rebalancing from among the 15 eligible underlying assets on each index business day (in this context, a base index rebalancing day) by calculating, for each day in the weight averaging period related to that base index rebalancing day, the combination of underlying assets that would have provided the highest historical return during three return look-back periods (nine months, six months and three months), subject to:
  - a limit of 5% on the degree of variation in the daily closing prices or closing level, as applicable, of the aggregate of such underlying assets over the related realized volatility look-back periods (the prior six months, three months and one month for the nine-month, six-month and three-month return look-back periods, respectively); and
  - a minimum and maximum weight for each underlying asset and each asset class; and
- the potential for daily total return index rebalancing into the money market position, based on whether the realized volatility of the underlying assets comprising the index exceeds the volatility cap of 6% for the applicable volatility cap period (the prior one month).

Analyzing realized volatility over three volatility look-back periods results in three potential portfolios of underlying assets (one for each return look-back period) for each day in the applicable weight averaging period. The weight of each underlying asset for a given day in a weight averaging period (the "target weight") will equal the average of the weights of such underlying asset in the three potential portfolios while the weight of each underlying asset for the daily base index rebalancing will equal the average of such target weights. This daily rebalancing is referred to as the base index rebalancing and the resulting portfolio of index underlying assets comprise the base index effective after the close of business on a given day. The weight averaging period for any base index rebalancing day will be the period from (but excluding) the 22nd index business day on which no index market disruption event occurs or is continuing with respect to any underlying asset prior to such day to (and including) such day.

The value of the index is calculated in U.S. dollars on each index business day by reference to the performance of the total return index value net of the sum of the return on the notional interest rate in effect at that time plus 0.65% per annum (accruing daily). Any cash dividend paid on an index ETF is deemed to be reinvested in such index ETF and subject to subsequent changes in the value of the index ETF. In addition, any interest accrued on the money market position is similarly deemed to be reinvested on a daily basis in such money market position and subject to subsequent changes in the notional interest rate. The total return index value on each index business day is calculated by reference to the weighted performance of:

- the base index, which is the weighted combination of underlying assets that comprise the index at the applicable time as a result of daily base index rebalancing; and
- any additional exposure to the money market position resulting from any daily total return index rebalancing.

The underlying assets that comprise the base index as the result of daily base index rebalancing may include a combination of ETFs and the money market position, or solely ETFs. A daily total return index rebalancing will occur effective after the close of business on a given day if the realized volatility of the base index exceeds the volatility cap of 6% for the volatility cap period applicable to such index business day. As a result of a daily total return index rebalancing, the index will have exposure to the money market position even if the base index has no such exposure

resulting from its daily base index rebalancing.
For the purpose of the index:

- an "eligible underlying asset" is one of the ETFs or the money market position that is eligible for inclusion in the index on an index business day;
- an "eligible ETF" is one of the ETFs that is eligible for inclusion in the index on an index business day (when we refer to an "ETF" we mean an exchange-traded fund, which for purposes of this prospectus supplement includes the following exchange traded products: SPDR® S&P 500® ETF Trust and SPDR® Gold Trust);
- an "index underlying asset" is an eligible underlying asset with a non-zero weighting on any index business day;
- an "index ETF" is an ETF that is an eligible ETF with a non-zero weighting on any index business day; and
- an "index business day" is a day on which the New York Stock Exchange is open for its regular trading session.

TERMS

Issuer	GS Finance Corp.
Guarantor	The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.
Index	GS Momentum Builder® Multi-Asset 5S ER Index
Face Amount	$ in the aggregate; each note will have a face amount of $1,000
Trade Date	Expected to be September 20, 2018
Settlement Date (to be set on the trade date)	Expected to be September 27, 2018
Determination Date (to be set on the trade date)	Expected to be September 22, 2025
Stated Maturity Date (to be set on the trade date)	Expected to be September 29, 2025
Initial Index Level	To be determined on the trade date
Final Index Level	The closing level of the index on the determination date
Closing Level of the Index	With respect to any trading day, the official closing level of the index or any successor index published by the index sponsor on such trading day
Index Return	The quotient of (i) the final index level minus the initial index level divided by (ii) the initial index level, expressed as a percentage
Automatic Call Feature	If, as measured on any call observation date, the closing level of the index is greater than or equal to the applicable call level, your notes will be automatically called; if your notes are automatically called on any call observation date, on the corresponding call payment date you will receive an amount in cash equal to the sum of (i) $1,000 plus (ii) the product of (a) $1,000 times (b) the applicable call return.

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Cash Settlement Amount	If your notes are not called, for each $1,000 face amount of notes, we will pay you on the stated maturity date an amount in cash equal to: · if the index return is positive (the final index level is greater than the initial index level), the sum of (i) $1,000 plus (ii) the product of (a) $1,000 times (b) the index return; or · if the index return is zero or negative (the final index level is equal to or less than the initial index level), $1,000.
Call Observation Dates (to be set on the trade date)	Expected to be the dates specified as such in the table below.

Call Observation Date	Call Level (Expressed as a Percentage of the Initial Index Level)	Call Return
September 20, 2019	102%	9.1%
September 21, 2020	104%	18.2%
September 20, 2021	106%	27.3%
September 20, 2022	108%	36.4%
September 20, 2023	110%	45.5%
September 20, 2024	112%	54.6%

Call Payment Dates	Expected to be the fifth business day after each call observation date
Call Level	With respect to any call observation date, the applicable call level specified in the table set forth under "Call Observation Dates" above; as shown in such table, the call level increases the longer the notes are outstanding
Call Return	With respect to any call payment date, the applicable call return specified in the table set forth under "Call Observation Dates" above; as shown in such table, the call return increases the longer the notes are outstanding
CUSIP/ISIN	40055QZ62 / US40055QZ629

HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLES

The following examples are provided for purposes of illustration only. These examples should not be taken as an indication or prediction of future investment results and are intended merely to illustrate the impact that various hypothetical closing levels of the index on a call observation date could have on the related call payment date assuming all other variables remain constant. While there are six potential call payment dates with respect to your notes, the examples below only illustrate the amount you will receive, if any, on the first and second call payment date. These examples assume a $1,000 face amount of a note and an initial index level of 110. The actual performance of the index over the life of your notes, particularly on each of the call observation dates, may bear little relation to the hypothetical examples shown below or on page S-13 or to the historical levels of the index shown elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. You should also refer to the historical index performance information and hypothetical performance data beginning on page S-58 of this prospectus supplement.

If, for example, your notes are automatically called on the first call observation date (i.e., on the first call observation date the closing level of the index is greater than or equal to 102% of the initial index level), the cash settlement amount that we would deliver for each $1,000 face amount of your notes on the applicable call payment date would be the sum of $1,000 plus the product of the applicable call return times $1,000. Therefore, for example, if the closing level of the index on the first call observation date were determined to be 120% of the initial index level, your notes would be automatically called and the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes on the corresponding call payment date would be 109.1% of the face amount of your notes or $1,091 for each $1,000 face amount of your notes. Even if the closing level of the index on a call observation date exceeds the applicable call level, causing the notes to be automatically called, the cash settlement amount on the call payment date will be limited due to the applicable call return.

If, for example, the notes are not automatically called on the first call observation date and are called on the second call observation date (i.e., on the first call observation date the closing level of the index is less than 102% of the initial index level and on the second call observation date the closing level of the index is greater than or equal to 104% of the initial index level), the cash settlement amount that we would deliver for each $1,000 face amount of your notes on the applicable call payment date would be the sum of $1,000 plus the product of the applicable call return times $1,000. Therefore, for example, if the closing level of the index on the second call observation date were determined to be 140% of the initial index level, your notes would be automatically called and the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes on the corresponding call payment date would be 118.2% of the face amount of your notes or $1,182 for each $1,000 face amount of your notes. Even if the closing level of the index on a call observation date exceeds the applicable call level, causing the notes to be automatically called, the cash settlement amount on the call payment date will be limited due to the applicable call return.

The following table is provided for purposes of illustration only. It should not be taken as an indication or prediction of future investment results and is intended merely to illustrate the impact that various hypothetical closing levels of the index on the determination date could have on the cash settlement amount assuming all other variables remain constant. The actual performance of the index over the life of your notes, particularly on the determination date, as well as the amount payable on the stated maturity date, may bear little relation to the hypothetical examples shown below or on page S-13 or to the historical levels of the index shown elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. You should also refer to the historical index performance information and hypothetical performance data beginning on page S-58 of this prospectus supplement.

The Notes Have Not Been Automatically Called

Hypothetical Final Index Level (as a Percentage of the Initial Index Level)	Hypothetical Cash Settlement Amount (as a Percentage of Face Amount)
175.00%	175.00%
150.00%	150.00%

125.00%	125.00%
110.00%	110.00%
100.00%	100.00%
90.00%	100.00%
75.00%	100.00%
50.00%	100.00%
25.00%	100.00%
0.00%	100.00%

DAILY
REBALANCING

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Historical Information and Hypothetical Data

The following chart and table provide a comparison between the index (using historical information and hypothetical data, as explained below) and certain asset classes (in each case, represented by a benchmark ETF or a benchmark index, which are distinct from the asset classes in which the 15 underlying assets have been categorized for purposes of this index) from August 29, 2008 to September 10, 2018. Benchmark ETF data and benchmark index data is based on the historical levels of the benchmark ETFs and benchmark indices, respectively. The historical index information from May 16, 2016 (the index launch date) to September 10, 2018 reflects the actual performance of the index. (In the chart, this historical index information can be found to the right of the vertical solid line marker.) The hypothetical index data from August 29, 2008 to May 15, 2016 is based on the historical levels of the eligible underlying assets, using the same methodology that is used to calculate the index. Please note that the hypothetical index data is presented from August 29, 2008 to minimize assumptions about the level of the iShares® U.S. Preferred Stock ETF prior to November 29, 2007, which is the first date on which such ETF had a continuously published level. As a result, the following chart and table do not reflect the entirety of the global financial crisis, which had a severe and negative effect on certain of the benchmark ETFs, benchmark indices and eligible underlying assets and would have had a severe and negative effect on the index. Please also note that the benchmark ETFs and benchmark indices that are used to represent asset classes for purposes of the following table and chart may not be eligible underlying assets for purposes of the index and in some cases differ from the eligible underlying assets that are used to represent asset classes with the same or similar titles for purposes of the index. You should not take the historical index information, hypothetical index data or historical benchmark ETF and benchmark index data as an indication of the future performance of the index.

Performance Since August 2008

As of 9/10/2018	GS Momentum Builder® Multi Asset 5S ER Index (GSMBMA5S)	US Bonds (AGG)	Global Equities (MSCI ACWI Excess Return Index)	Commodities (S&P GSCI Excess Return Index)	US Real Estate (IYR)
Effective Performance (1 Month)	-0.12%	-0.25%	-0.44%	0.96%	2.01%
Effective Performance (6 Month)	-1.35%	-0.03%	-2.37%	5.77%	9.73%
Annualized* Performance (since August 2008)	4.75%	3.09%	6.09%	-11.20%	6.67%
Annualized* Realized Volatility (since August 2008)**	5.10%	4.94%	16.85%	22.70%	31.46%
Return over Risk (since August 2008)***	0.93				