Database factsheet: Datastream

Coverage

Time series for more than 3.5 million financial instruments, securities and indicators with over 50 years of historical data for some series. Datastream may be used to find data on equities, equity indices, unit and investment trusts, bonds and convertibles, exchange and interest rates, commodities, futures and options.

Access

Please note that Datastream is best accessed through the add-in for Microsoft Excel rather than the Datastream icon on the desktop. There is one Datastream terminal in the Library on Floor 1. It is recommended that you book one or two hours in advance, as the terminal is often heavily-used.

Search for Datastream in Library Search and click the "Database" link:

![Datastream (Only available on Floor 1. Use the database link to book the terminal)](image)

This will open a calendar where you can book a slot. Please note that you are only allowed to book a maximum of two hours per day. You can open Thomson Reuters Datastream from the ribbon at the top of the Excel sheet:

![Thomson Reuters Datastream](image)

The database will be offline initially, so click the red "Offline" button at the top right to change the setting to "Online".
No matter what data you are looking for, the first step in your search is to choose the type of request which you wish to submit. **Time Series Request** is the most common choice, to find data over time. Use the **Static Request** if you only want data for one specific date.

Note the various options, especially the link to Help near the top right:

There are four steps to any request.

1. **Choose a series.** Use the **Find Series** button to open the Navigator, which will allow you to search or browse for data:
2. **Choose datatypes.** Once you have picked a series, you can search or browse for specific datatypes if required - this does not apply to Economic data requests.

3. **Specify the date range and frequency of the data required.** You may enter a fixed date, e.g. 30/06/2008 to 31/12/2010, or a number of years, e.g. -2Y for the latest two years. The frequency may be daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual.

4. **Select the output options.** It is especially important to check that the box to Embed Formula is ticked, and it also helps to select "Display headings" to make your spreadsheet easy to follow.

**Example**

Click **Find Series:**

![Find Series](image)

This opens the DFO Navigator - you usually see results of another person's previous search.

Click **Clear All** near the top left, to start a new search:
The **Explore** menu is especially useful for finding Economic time series:

Click a heading, e.g. Exchange Rates, and continue to narrow down to select a particular rate, and currency.

To add a series to your request, click the symbol in the results list, e.g. Australian $ to US $ (TR) - TDAUDSI
This pastes the symbol or code into the Time Series request box. Set the start date, e.g. -1Y, and tick the option on the left to Display Headings:

Finally click Submit at the foot of the screen. The data will be available to download in Excel format.

**Finding financial data on a company**

You can also download financial data on one or more companies. To find data on Apple, enter the company name in the Navigator search box and click Search:
This retrieves the parent company and all listed subsidiaries. Click the company name to see details of the dataset:

Click the symbol @AAPL to paste the code into the search box as before.
Click Datatypes to find specific data, e.g. employees, or assets per employee.

There is a very long list of datatypes - it is important to pick those which are relevant, otherwise the search will fail. Click any Datatype heading to display more information, e.g. Employees:
Click the symbol to the right of that heading, to select the datatype e.g. WC07011 for Employees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WC07011</td>
<td>Time Series</td>
<td>Worldscope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WC08406</td>
<td>Time Series</td>
<td>Worldscope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WC08410</td>
<td>Time Series</td>
<td>Worldscope</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now set the date range and frequency as required, and submit your search as before.

This guide is intended as an introduction to Datastream. You will find more detailed guidance via the link to Help at the top of the Excel sheet, including a comprehensive user manual:

Where to find further support

Please contact your Academic Support Librarian via Subject Support, or e-mail Library@warwick.ac.uk. Your Librarian will be happy to arrange an appointment for you, and we will also contact the Datastream help desk on your behalf if necessary.