

Wharton Research Data Services (WRDS)

Quick Reference Guide

Introduction

Through a common search interface, WRDS provides access to the following financial and economic data sources: Compustat, Compustat/Executive Compensation, CRSP, CRSP/Compustat Merged Database, CRSP Mutual Funds, First Call Historical Database, Global Insight (formerly DRI/Basic Economics), I/B/E/S, IRRC, TAQ (Trade and Quote), and Thomson Financial. WRDS, or Wharton Research Data Services, is an Internet-based data service from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Scope

- Historical financial data from CRSP and Compustat.
- Data covering corporate governance, proxy voting and corporate responsibility issues.
- Includes security prices and trading volume.
- Balance sheet, income statements and other company-based financial items.
- Access to IBES' analyst estimates for earnings and sales.
- Stock market indices, bond prices and U.S. Treasury interest rates.
- Mutual fund and stock ownership information as well as options data.
- Macroeconomic time series and international economics.
- Intraday stock price bid and ask quotes.
- Access historical data on executive compensation.
- Most datasets are updated annually.

Access

- Available at the [Jackson Library Web site](#). Off-campus access is limited to the Stanford community. GSB users can access the database via [WebApps](#).
- Choose a **Database** from the databases listed below.

Help

- Click on **Support** from the top menu bar on any page.
- For search assistance, ask a librarian at the Information Desk or email to Jackson-infodesk@gsb.stanford.edu
- For technical problems, email to rcc-action@gsb.stanford.edu.

Features

All the databases have a common interface and a consistent data format. Below is a list of databases available for WRDS.

Compustat

- More than 300 annual and 100 quarterly income statement, balance sheet, statement of cash flows, and supplemental data items on more than 7500 publicly held companies.
- Industry composites.

Compustat/Executive Compensation

- Historical data on executive compensation trends.

CRSP

- Daily and monthly price, volume, and return data for the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), American Stock Exchange (ASE), and NASDAQ stocks.

CRSP/Compustat Merged Database

- Compustat data repackaged in CRSP Access binary format (quarterly).

CRSP Mutual Funds

- Open-ended U.S. mutual fund data for funds of all investment objectives. Data from 1961- (quarterly updates).

First Call Historical Database

- Contains earnings information dating back as far as 1990 on over 9,700 securities, including U.S., Canadian and ADRs.
- Stock splits and company and issuer information.

Global Insight

- Data on national income accounts, balance of payments, foreign debt, exchange rates, money supply and employment among other national level categories.
- Data on the IMF services and the OCDE series.
- Detailed macroeconomic time series data for the U.S. on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.

I/B/E/S

- Wall Street earnings forecasts and the consensus data derived from these forecasts for more than 3500 publicly traded companies in the U.S.
- Earnings per share, revenue, cash flow, long-term growth projections, and stock recommendations.

IRRC Governance Data

- Provides research and data covering corporate governance, proxy voting and corporate responsibility.

TAQ (Trade and Quote)

- Intraday transactions data (trade and quotes) for all securities listed on the NYSE, AMES and NASDAQ.
- NASDAQ National Market System (NMS) and Small Cap Issues.

Thomson Financial (Ownership Data)

- Mutual Fund Holdings – all registered funds filing with the SEC plus 3,000 global funds. Data from 1980.
- CDA/Spectrum institutional money manager holdings – 13(f) common stock holdings and transaction data from 1980.
- Insider filing data – transaction and holdings information. Data from 1986.

Searching WRDS

- Choose the database in WRDS most appropriate to your search (Compustat, Compustat/Executive Compensation, CRSP, CRSP/Compustat Merged Database, CRSP Mutual Funds, First Call, Global Insight DRI/Basic Economics, I/B/E/S, IRRC, TAQ (Trade and Quote) and Thomson Financial).
- Select the appropriate content area from the menu bar on the left of the screen.
- All databases have a common search interface. Here are four basic steps to complete a search:

1. Select the date range and frequency of the data (**Date Range**).

Step One: Date Range

Frequency	<input type="text" value="Annual"/>
Beginning	<input type="text" value="1995"/>
Ending	<input type="text" value="1999"/>

In Step One the data frequency and the Date Range are selected. This demo will extract annual Compustat data from 1995 to 1999.

2. Choose one of the 3 modes to search the database (**Search Criteria**).
 - Enter identifiers into a box (i.e. CUSIPs, tickers) or, Attach a file with a list of identifiers or, Search the entire database.

Search By

Choose 1 of 3 Methods

1. Company Codes
 [Code Lookup](#)

2. File Containing Company Codes

3. Entire Database

Select the variable used to search the database. Enter the companies using 1 of 3 methods.

- Codes separated by a single space.
Example: ibm msft dell
- A file on your local computer with codes entered one per line.
Example:
ibm
msft
dell
- All companies

3. Select the variables (Output Variables).

Step Three: Variables

Identifying Information

Cusip Ncusip Company Name Ticker

CRSP Permanent Company Number Share Code Share Class

Nasdaq Issue Number Exchange Code Header Exchange Code

SIC Code Header SIC Code Header SIC Major Group

Header SIC Industry Group

Price, Volume, and Returns Information

Price Secondary Price Ask or High Bid or Low

Share Volume Holding Period Return

Holding Period Return without Dividends

Select variables to be included in the output. You can select multiple data items by holding the control key while clicking.

See [documentation](#) for a description of each data item.

Click this link for summary information on the database and a brief description of each variable.

4. Select the format for the output file (Output Format) and click the Submit Request button.

Step Four: Output

Output [Format](#)

Compression Type

E-Mail Address (Optional)

Select desired [format](#) of the output file. For large data requests, select a compression type to expedite downloads. If you enter your email address, you will receive an email that contains a URL to the output file when the data request is finished processing.

Example:
username@school.edu

Note: Comma-delimited text is the best format for use with Microsoft Excel.

Searching Tips:

- Search terms are not case-sensitive.
- To select multiple data items, hold down the control key while clicking.
- Use a single space to separate multiple company codes.
- You must submit data requests one at a time. Output must be completed before you can run a second query.
- If you receive the following error message: ERROR. No output available you have exceeded the output limit. In this case you will need to break your query into smaller pieces by date range, selected companies and/or number of variables selected.
- For additional help, click on Support from the top menu bar on any page.

Sample Searches

Find insider filing data for a specific company officer. (Thomson Financial)

1. Click the **Thomson Financial** database link. Select a content area from the left menu.
2. Select **transaction date range**.
3. Enter **insider** or **company codes**.
4. Select **variables** to be included in the output. Select **desired format** of the output file.
5. Click the **Submit Request** button.

Find the daily stock price for a company. (CRSP).

1. Click the **CRSP** database link. Select a content area from the left menu.
2. Select **frequency** and **range** of data.
3. Enter the **companies** using 1 of 3 methods.
4. Select the **variables** to be included in the output. Select **desired format** of the output file.
5. Click the **Submit Request** button.

Find intraday transactions data for a specific security. TAQ (Trade and Quote)

1. Click the **NYSE TAQ** database link. Select the consolidated trades or quotes content area from the left menu.
2. Select **date** and **time range** of data.
3. Enter the **companies** using 1 of 3 methods.
4. Select **variables** and **desired format** to be included in the output file.
5. Click the **Submit Request** button.

Find earnings estimates for one or more companies. (I/B/E/S)

1. Click the **I/B/E/S** database link. Select a content area from left menu.
2. Select the **date variable** and **range**.
3. Enter the **companies** using 1 of 3 methods.
4. Select the desired **measures** and **variables** to be included in the output.
5. Select **desired format** of the output file.
6. Click the **Submit Request** button.

Print/Download

To Print:

- Select the **output format** in Step 4.
- Right click the output file link.
- Select **Print Target**.
- Use your Browser's Print button to print search results.

To Download:

- Select the **output format** in Step 4.
- Right click the output file link.
- Select **Save Target As**.
- In the File Name box, type a **name** for the file and click **Save**.

Documentation

- **WRDS User's Guide** (pdf), a comprehensive introduction to WRDS
- **Dataset Manuals** includes materials for Compustat, CRSP, I/B/E/S and TAQ.