International Financial Statistics Database

Overview for Retrieving Data

There are four choices for selecting the type of table or concept data for retrieval:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choice</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Country Tables</td>
<td>Standard presentation tables in the format recognized in the printed copy of IFS. Individual time series can also be retrieved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• World Tables</td>
<td>Cross-country view of the concepts in the IFS. Individual or groups of countries data may be chosen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Commodity Prices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Economic Concept View</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Country Tables View

The Country Tables View provides access to time series for a particular country through a collection of tables that correspond to the country pages in the monthly IFS publication. Often, the relationship among individual series can be inferred from the table; for example, indentation is typically used to indicate that a group of series are components of a summary series. Not all tables exist for all countries and generally the contents of any particular table differs from country to country. This view supports the retrieval in the spreadsheet of either the entire table or selected series from the table. For tables in which mid-headers have been defined (typically indicating the magnitude or other important metadata for a group of series), these are retrieved within the browser and, if the entire table is retrieved, also in the spreadsheet.
Since the IFS database covers multiple countries, **two boxes** will appear in the upper right area of the browser window, one with a list of countries (and/or aggregates) and the other with a list of economic concepts.

**Multiple selections** may be made from the economic concepts box by pressing the Ctrl key while clicking on items. An entire block of items may be selected by clicking on the first item in the desired blocked and then by pressing the Shift key while clicking on the last item in the block.

Predefined or personal groups of countries may be selected by right clicking within the country selection box and selecting Show Country Groups.

**World Tables View**

The World Tables entry is a representation of roughly 2 dozen of the World and Area Tables that appear in the front of the monthly IFS publication.

The above example shows how to select individual countries with a series. If you want the entire table for all countries, you would use the Retrieve Table button in the middle of the screen.
Retrieving Individual Series

Selection: Once the desired economic concepts and/or countries have been highlighted in the upper right selection box(es), the individual series may be selected by clicking on the **Add button**. This will cause the selected series and associated metadata to be added to the Series to Retrieve box in the lower right portion of the screen. These series may be combined with series from another desired entry in the tree directory, by making selections and pressing the Add button in the same way as for the initial selection.

Retrieval: Once all the desired series have been selected and placed in the Series to Retrieve Box, any unwanted series deleted, and the period setting for the retrieval adjusted, all the series in the Series to Retrieve box may be transferred to the spreadsheet by clicking on the **Retrieve button**. This will create a table in the spreadsheet in accordance with the options that are set on the Options Tab, including requested metadata fields and data values for all periods for which data is found in the underlying database.

An "n.a." will appear for all observations where the series exists in the database, but not for the requested date. If a series does not exist at all within the underlying database, then a **blank row** will be retrieved.

Commodity Prices Tables

There are two tables associated with the Commodity Prices.

**Market Prices**
The first table represents data that are the market prices reported on the country pages for important commodities traded internationally, in units of quantity frequently used in the respective commodity markets, expressed in U.S. dollars.

**Indices**
The second table represents the same data expressed as indices.
Economic Concept View

The Economic Concept View provides a high-level summary of the data contained in IFS. This view allows the retrieval of similar concepts across a number of countries, to the extent that they exist.

Due to differences in the way countries define and compile statistics, not all concepts are fully comparable across all countries. For this reason, the Economic Concept View typically lists a number of different codes or definitions at the individual series level that fall within a particular concept grouping. For each of these codes or definitions, a count of the number countries for which the series exists is displayed to the right of the descriptor in the concept selection box. To discover which definitions or codes exist for which countries, click on the Availability button, either before or after making country and concept selections.

Multiple concept groupings may be selected using Ctrl-Click or Shift-Click, which will cause the union of series contained within the each of the selected concept groupings to appear within the selection box.

Notice that there are more statistical series choices in the Economic Concept View, than in the World Tables view. The above example used the IFS country groups. See “Selecting and Creating Country Groups” section of this handout for an explanation of how to use these.
Selecting and Creating Country Groups

Wherever multiple countries may be selected, an entire group of countries can be selected in one step by selecting a country group. To display the list of pre-defined and personal country groups available, right click within the country selection box and click on Show Country Groups.

ICONS preceding the name are used to distinguish between:

- Individual countries - no icon
- Country aggregates - sigma icon
- Country groups - globe icon (selects all the individual countries in the group)

User-defined groups are indicated with "Personal" in the source column.

To select a country, aggregate or group: click on it in the list and click on the Add button, or simply double click on the desired element in the list and they will be added to the box to the right. Additional countries, aggregates or groups can then be added. Once the list in the box to the right contains the desired list of countries, click on OK to close the country group dialog and cause the selected countries to be highlighted in the original country selection box.

Saving Personal Country Groups: To save the list of countries for subsequent use, click on the Save As button. At the prompt, type the name to be assigned to this country group (or select a previously assigned name to overwrite an existing group) and click on OK. To delete a personal group, simply click on the personal group in the left list box and press the Delete key.

To see the list of countries comprising a group, click on the desired country group in the left list box and then click on the Show Members button just below this box.