

DRI Basic Economics

DRI Basic Economics is a collection of databases with macroeconomic and financial data. Most of it is for the US, but it also includes some financial information for selected industrial countries. If you are looking for international data, the best places to start are Datastream and the IMF's International Financial Statistics (a CD ROM available at the library).

A more detailed description, the data manual and a tutorial are available in the Research Computing web site in the following page:

www.kellogg.nwu.edu/researchcomputing/dri.htm

Databases

Northwestern subscribes to the Basic databases. The largest (both in its time coverage and the scope of items it includes) is just called "Basic Economics". This database includes monthly, quarterly and annual data. The other three databases are called "Basic Economics / Daily", "Basic Economics / Weekly", and "Basic Economics / Foreign Exchange". The last one also includes daily data.

Accessing DRI

To access DRI, you must print and follow the instructions provided by the library. Basically, you install a utility program called "Webstract", which is the interface for many of McGraw-Hill's databases. Before performing a query, it is recommendable that you select the dataset. If you don't, any search will find variables that may be in databases not covered by Northwestern's subscription.

There are two versions of Webstract, with and without Java. The tutorial was written for Webstract with Java.

About the documentation

The documentation is split by database, except for the "Basic Economics" manual, which has been further split by the source of the data. The more efficient way to find a specific variable (rather than doing a search by keyword) is to find the topic in the table of contents, make a note of the page number, and then open the corresponding manual. The library (Government Documents reference room) has a hard copy of the manual.

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INTERNATIONAL INTEREST RATES**SYNOPSIS**

Database:	@BASIC/FX
Units:	As noted below
Source:	Global Report

SERIES DESCRIPTION	SERIES NAME	START DATE	WEEKDAY
Japan			
CD			
1 month	IJY01CD	18 JUN 91	
2 months	IJY02CD	18 JUN 91	
3 months	IJY03CD	18 JUN 91	
Italy			
1 month	IILB01	18 JUN 91	
2 months	IILB02	18 JUN 91	
3 months	IILB03	18 JUN 91	
6 months	IILB06	18 JUN 91	
1 year	IILB1Y	18 JUN 91	
U.K.			
Buy:			
1 month	IUKB01	02 JAN 85	
2 months	IUKB02	02 JAN 85	
3 months	IUKB03	02 JAN 85	
6 months	IUKB06	02 JAN 85	
1 year	IUKB1Y	02 JAN 85	
Sell:			
1 month	IUKO01	02 JAN 85	
2 months	IUKO02	02 JAN 85	
3 months	IUKO03	02 JAN 85	
6 months	IUKO06	02 JAN 85	
1 year	IUKO1Y	02 JAN 85	