

SAFE Data Center

Starter's Guide

Compustat

Leibniz Institute for Financial Research SAFE
Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

1. Go to the WRDS website: <https://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/>

- Log in with your WRDS account
- If you are a researcher or Ph.D. student at Goethe University Frankfurt and do not yet have a WRDS account, you can request an account by writing an email to: datacenter@safe.uni-frankfurt.de

Sign In

[Sign In](#) [Register](#)

Username

Password

[Register for a WRDS Account](#)

[Forgot your username/password?](#)

[Request Account Transfer](#)

Welcome to WRDS!

Wharton Research Data Services (WRDS) is the award-winning research platform and business intelligence tool for over 40,000+ corporate, academic, government and nonprofit clients at over 400+ institutions in 30+ countries.

WRDS provides the user with one location to access over 250 terabytes of data across multiple disciplines including Accounting, Banking, Economics, Finance, ESG, and Statistics.

Flexible data delivery options include a powerful web query method that reduces research time, the WRDS Cloud for executing research and strategy development, and the WRDS client server using PCSAS, Matlab, Python and R.

Our Analytics team, doctoral-level support and rigorous data review and validation give clients the confidence to tailor research within complex databases and create a wide range of reliable data models.

WRDS provides access to S&P Capital IQ, CRSP, NYSE, Thomson Reuters, Bureau van Dijk, Global Insight, OptionMetrics and other important business research databases.

From partnerships with data vendors, to our own tools including the WRDS SEC Analytics Suite, WRDS Quant Alpha Platform and the Wharton School's OTIS - WRDS is the global gold standard in data management and research, all backed by the credibility and leadership of the Wharton School.

For additional information, please see the [About section](#).

[Connect with us on Facebook!](#)

2. Click on Compustat - Capital IQ

The screenshot shows a navigation interface with three tabs: "Your Subscriptions" (active), "Not Subscribed", and "Your Queries". Below the tabs is a list of subscription options organized into three columns. The option "Compustat - Capital IQ" is highlighted with a red rectangular box.

Your Subscriptions	Not Subscribed	Your Queries
» Bank Regulatory	» Event Study by WRDS	» Peters and Taylor Total Q
» Beta Suite by WRDS	» Fama French & Liquidity Factors	» PHLX
» Blockholders	» Federal Reserve Bank	» Public
» Bureau van Dijk	» Financial Ratios Suite by WRDS	» Research Quotient
» CBOE Indexes	» IBES	» SAS Visual Analytics
» Compustat - Capital IQ	» Markit	» SEC Order Execution
» CRSP	» MSRB	» Thomson Reuters
» CUSIP	» Option Metrics	» TRACE
» DMEF Academic Data	» Option Suite by WRDS	» WRDS SEC Analytics Suite
» Dow Jones	» OTC Markets	
» Efficient Frontier by WRDS	» Penn World Tables	

3. The Compustat Monthly Updates database consists of several different datasets:

- North America
- Bank
- Historical Segments

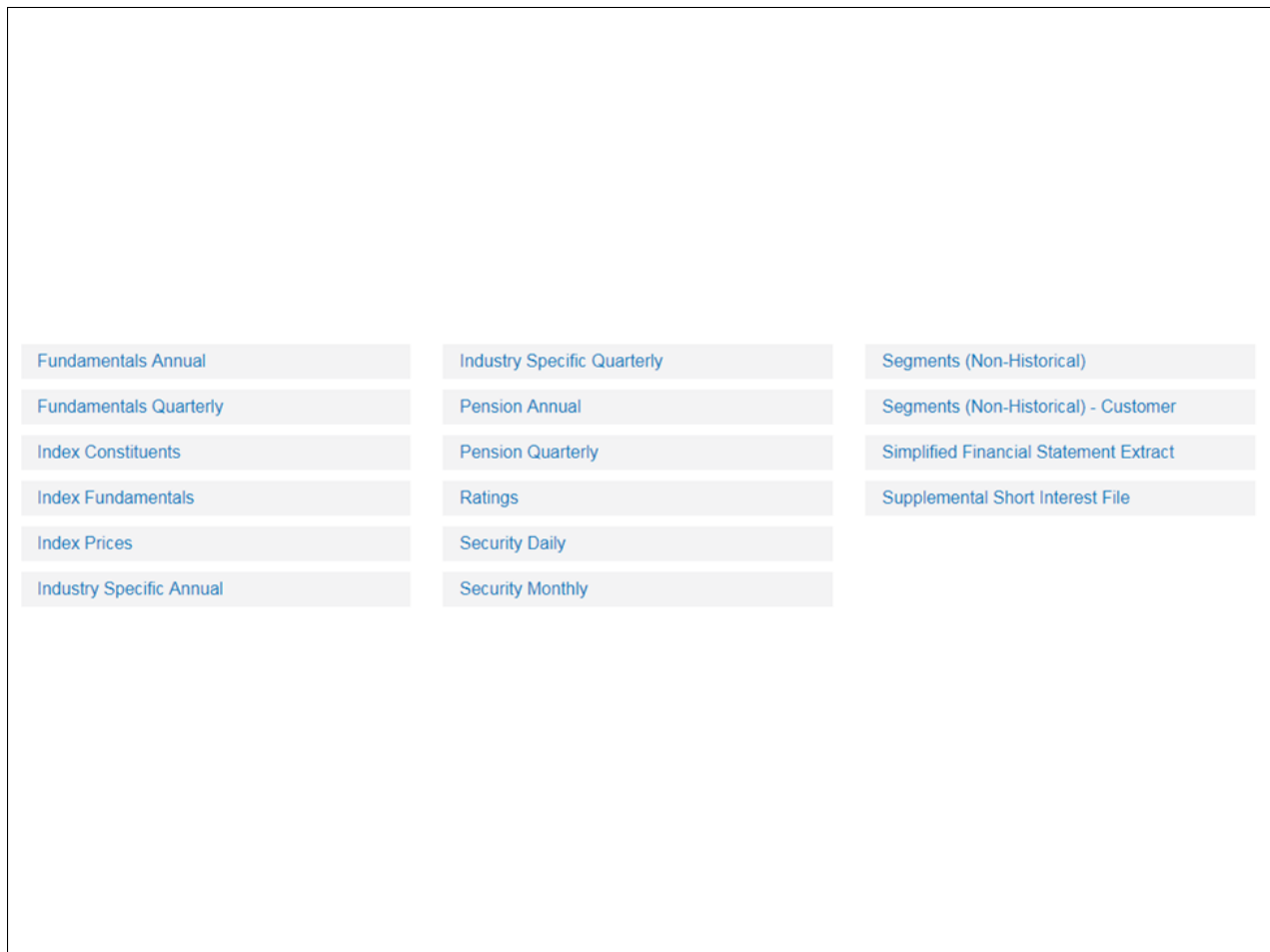
For more about this dataset, see the [Dataset List](#), [Manuals and Overviews](#) or [FAQs](#).

Compustat Monthly Updates Databases in this section are updated each month. Update schedules should not be confused with end-of-day or end-of-month data such as stock prices.	Capital IQ Capital IQ is a suite of databases from S&P. They connect to the Compustat family of databases through Gvkey.	Compustat Quarterly Updates Databases in this section are updated once per quarter. Update schedules should not be confused with end-of-day or end-of-month data such as stock prices.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">» North America 16» Bank 2» Historical Segments 2» Global 5» Snapshot 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Capital Structure 3» Identifiers 1» Transactions 2» Key Developments 1» People Intelligence 3» S&P Credit Ratings 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Execucomp 9» Preliminary History 4» Unrestated Quarterly 2» Point in Time 2

4. Click on “North America”

5. The Compustat North America database consists of several different datasets:

- Fundamentals Annual
- Fundamentals Quarterly
- Index Constituents
- Index Fundamentals
- Index Prices
- Industry Specific Annual
- Industry Specific Quarterly
- Pension Annual
- Pension Quarterly
- Ratings
- Security Daily
- Security Monthly
- Segments (Non-Historical)
- Segments (Non-Historical) - Customer
- Simplified Financial Statement Extract
- Supplemental Short Interest File



6. Click on “Fundamentals Annual”

7. **Step 1:** Select the date variable and date range for which you want to obtain data.

- For the Date Variable you can choose between “Data Date” (the reporting date) and “Fiscal Year”.

Step 1: Choose your date range.

Date Variable:

Data Date ▼

Date range

2010-01 to 2017-10

8. **Step 2:** Select the companies for which you want to obtain data.

- Compustat via WRDS allows you to select companies in four different ways.
 - (a) You can manually add company codes using various company identifiers (TIC, GVKEY, CUSIP, SIC, NAICS, CIK)
 - GVKEY is the unique identifier in the Compustat database.
 - (b) You can upload a .txt file containing the company codes.
 - (c) You can chose from a saved codelist (see Option (a)).
 - (d) You can search the entire dataset (this is recommended for most research purposes)
- Example here: Search the entire database.

Step 2: Apply your company codes.

TIC GVKEY CUSIP SIC NAICS CIK

Select an option for entering company codes

*Please enter Company codes separated by a space.
Example: IBM MSFT DELL [Code Lookup]* *Save code list to Saved Codes*

Upload a plain text file (.txt), having one code per line.

Choose from your saved codelists.

Search the entire database

This method allows you to search the entire database of records. Please be aware that this method can take a very long time to run because it is dependent upon the size of the database.

9. **Step 2 (cont.):** Select a Dataset

- Compustat via WRDS additionally allows to select several screening variables. (Clicking on the screening variables opens a new window explaining the different options.)
 - (a) Consolidation Level
 - (b) Industry Format
 - (c) Data Format
 - (d) Population Source
 - (e) Currency
 - (f) Company Status

Screening Variables

Several screening variables are pre-selected to produce one record per GVKEY-DATADATE pair, while keeping the vast majority of records. Examples of excluded rows include those with restated data, different views of the same data (pro forma, pre-FASB). Click on each variable for a more detailed explanation.

Consolidation Level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> R	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Output
Industry Format <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FS				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Output
Data Format <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STD	<input type="checkbox"/> SUMM_STD	<input type="checkbox"/> PRE_AMENDS	<input type="checkbox"/> PRE_AMENDSS		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Output
Population Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> I				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Output
Currency <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> USD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAD				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Output
Company Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inactive				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Output

Conditional Statements (Optional)

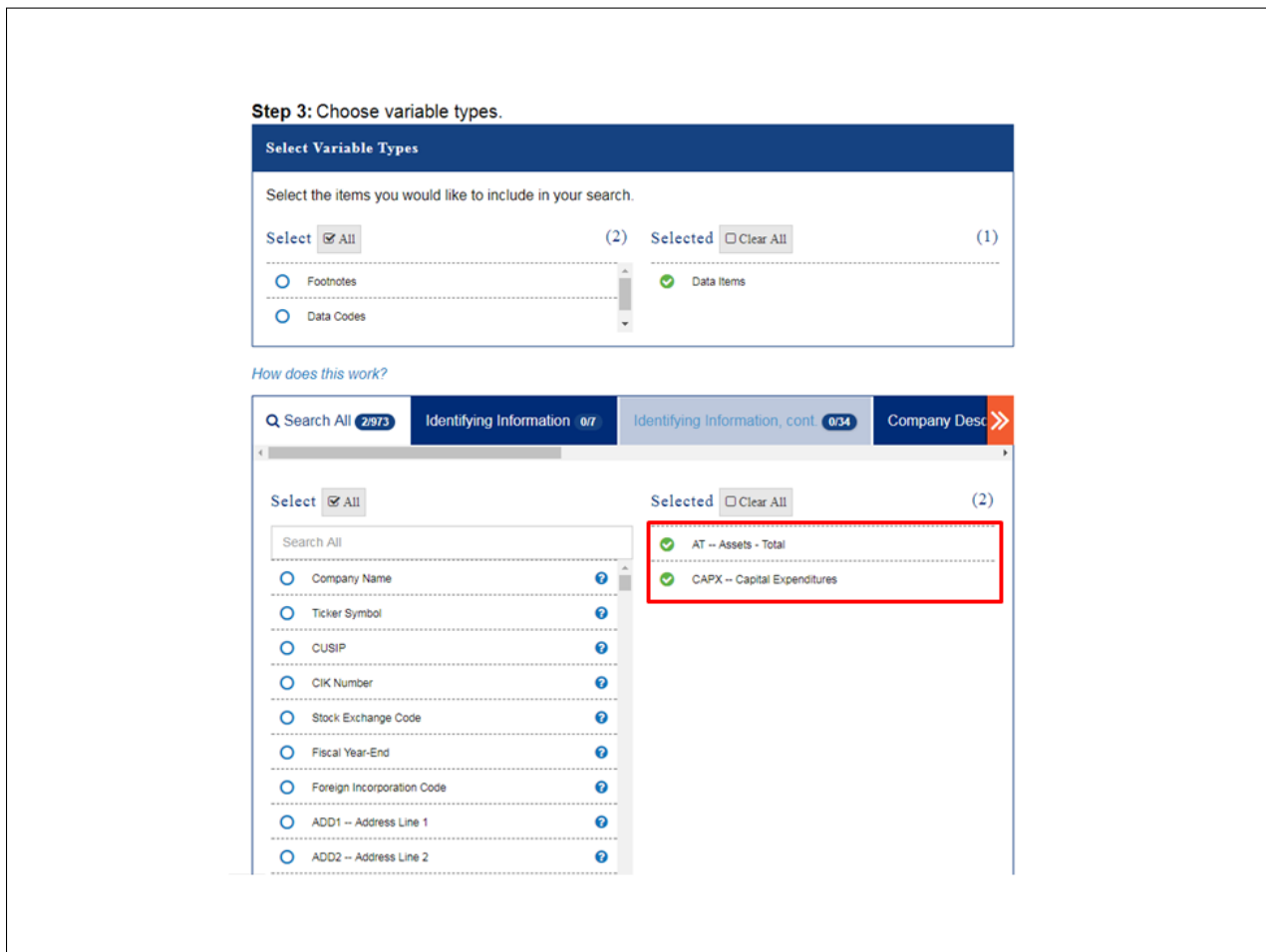
How does this work?

No variables are currently selected. To set conditions on this query, please select at least one variable in the Query Variables step.

[▼ Activate Conditional Statement Builder](#)

10. **Step 3:** Select the variables on which you want to obtain data.

- Compustat classifies company data into different categories.
 - Identifying Information
 - Identifying Information, cont.
 - Company Descriptor
 - Balance Sheet Items
 - Income Statement Items
 - Cash Flow Items
 - Miscellaneous Items
 - Supplemental Data Items
- You can find a list of all variables included in Compustat by clicking on “Variable Descriptions” on the top of the page.
- Example here: Total assets, Capital expenditures



11. **Step 4:** Select the output format (and compression type and date format)

- You can obtain the output of your query in different data formats.
 - Example here: STATA file (.dta)
- For very large queries it might be recommendable to additionally chose a compression type.
- You can also save your query to access it again at a later point.

12. Click on “Submit Query”

Step 4: Select query output.
Select the 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.

Output Format	Compression Type	Date Format
<input type="radio"/> fixed-width text (*.txt)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> None	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YYMMDDn8. (e.g. 19840725)
<input type="radio"/> comma-delimited text (*.csv)	<input type="radio"/> zip (*.zip)	<input type="radio"/> DATE9. (e.g. 25JUL1984)
<input type="radio"/> Excel spreadsheet (*.xlsx)	<input type="radio"/> gzip (*.gz)	<input type="radio"/> DDMMYY6. (e.g. 250784)
<input type="radio"/> tab-delimited text (*.txt)		<input type="radio"/> MMDDYY10. (e.g. 07/25/1984)
<input type="radio"/> HTML table (*.htm)		<input type="radio"/> DDMMYY10. (e.g. 25/07/1984)
<input type="radio"/> SAS Windows_32 dataset (*.sas7bdat)		<input type="radio"/> YYMMDDs10. (e.g. 1984/07/25)
<input type="radio"/> SAS Windows_64 dataset (*.sas7bdat)		
<input type="radio"/> SAS Solaris_64 dataset (*.sas7bdat)		
<input type="radio"/> dBase file (*.dbf)		
<input checked="" type="radio"/> STATA file (*.dta)		
<input type="radio"/> SPSS file (*.sav)		

E-Mail Address *(Optional)*

Custom Field *(Optional)*

Save this query to myWRDS

12. Your query is now processed. A new tab opens which will contain the download link once your query is completed. Click on the download link.

Data Request Summary

Your output is complete. Click on the link below to open the output file.

[38ff5e76de61162b.dta](#) (5.8 MB, 89804 observations 11 variables)

Download instructions

Internet Explorer and Firefox users... Right-click and select "Save Target As..."

Citation instructions

To cite this data use the following format:

Wharton Research Data Services. "Complete Financial Statements (XLS)" wrds.wharton.upenn.edu, accessed 10/16/2017.

Data Request ID	38ff5e76de61162b
Libraries/Data Sets	compm/funda /
Frequency/Date Range	ann / 01Jan2010 - 31Oct2017
Search Variable	GVKEY
Input Codes all item(s)	-all-
Conditional Statements	n/a
Output format/Compression	dta /
Variables Selected	AT CAPX
Extra Variables and Parameters Selected	C INDL FS STD