

Terms of Use

for data provided by SAFE

Preamble

The Leibniz Institute for Financial Research SAFE ("Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe") is dedicated to interdisciplinary research on financial markets and their participants in Europe as well as to research-based, independent policy advice. The institute focuses on the cooperation of researchers from the fields of finance, economics, law, and political science.

Research on German and European financial markets suffers from a lack of pan-European data sets. Also, existing data sets do not provide a standard identification of, for example, companies. Therefore, researchers often utilize data from the United States where the integration of different databases is more advanced. As a result, empirical analyses are mostly based on non-European data. However, because of the institutional differences, political recommendations that result from these analyses cannot – or only in a limited scope – be transferred to the European area.

To overcome this problem, the SAFE Research Data Center collects new European data sets, combines existing data sets, and preprocesses them.

The following terms of use describe under which conditions data provided by SAFE can be used.

Terms of Use

Note: Neither the data provider (individual, institute) nor SAFE bear any responsibility for the analyses, for the methods used or for the interpretation regarding contents of the data provided by SAFE.

1. General Access Conditions

Unless explicitly indicated differently, SAFE makes data and documents (hereafter: Data) available only for scientific analysis carried out by individuals or institutes (jointly: the user(s)) for a limited period of time for the purpose of project work in academic research or teaching.

Institutes and individuals outside academic research and teaching can apply for access in writing.

Data is provided within the limits of the access categories (see 2. and 3.).

Usage and storage of the Data by the user is limited to the user's project duration.

The user agrees that all personal data provided by him / her as well as all personal data resulting from the cooperation with SAFE for the purpose of this cooperation will be saved by SAFE in accordance with its privacy protection rules.

The data depositor may determine access restrictions in consultation with SAFE.

2. Access Categories

Access to Data is regulated by the following access categories. The categories are indicated in the data catalogue.

Category 1 (green): Data is open access.

Category 2 (orange): A data usage agreement is required.

Category 3 (red): Data can only be accessed by authorized users.

3. Request and Access to Material

Data of Access Category 1 can be accessed via the SAFE data sources website (indicated by a green dot) and via the FiF Repository website at <https://datacenter.safefrankfurt.de/datacenter/databases/> and <https://fif.safe-frankfurt.de/xmlui/>.

Data of Access Category 2 (indicated by an orange dot) are beta versions of scientific use files (SUFs) that will be open access upon completion of the data validation process. During the process of data validation, beta access to SUFs is possible for acknowledged researchers (e.g., researchers that have published in recognized journals) that contribute to the quality assurance. To access the data, a data usage agreement is required. For any inquiries, please contact datacenter@safe-frankfurt.de.

Data of Access Category 3 (indicated by a red dot) can only be accessed by affiliates of the House of Finance Research Data Center (HoF RDC).

The users of Data under access categories 2 and 3 are granted rights to process and use the Data exclusively for their scientific research or teaching. Any processing or usage for other purposes requires advance written agreement by SAFE.

The user is responsible for ensuring via technical and organizational measures that only he himself/her herself has access to the Data.

SAFE recommends encrypting the Data while working on the user's device or when being stored on a network drive, a cloud service, or a mobile storage unit.

Unauthorized dissemination of the Data to any third party is not permitted. Authorization for dissemination require a written permission by SAFE, unless the license for the Data allows for dissemination.

In case the Data shall be used by other individuals besides the user, all individuals must be disclosed with their full name and institution to SAFE.

4. De-anonymization

The user is required to prevent any and all actions aimed at or likely to result in or lead to a re-identification of involved persons or the de-anonymization of anonymous individual entries contained in the Data (for example by linking of complimentary information).

The Data may not be merged with other data at the individual level (microdata sets). Parameters at the aggregate level may be merged with the Data.

The presentation or publication of individual cases, even without any direct reference to individual persons is prohibited. Summarizing representations of the Data typical to scientific works and presentations is allowed.

In case anonymized, individual statistical data in the Data becomes de-anonymized, even when not the result of an intentional action, the user remains obligated to protect the privacy of the statistical entries and must inform SAFE immediately in writing of the de-anonymization and the circumstances.

5. Completion of the Project

Users of Data of Access Category 2 must inform SAFE about the completion of the project for which the Data was used.

The user must ensure that the Data, including all backup copies, modified copies, and extract files, are deleted from all data processing media and storage devices once the project has ended.

In case further usage is intended the user must apply for new use permission.

6. Obligation to Quote, Deposit Copy

If publications or other works (master's thesis, working paper) utilize Data that has been produced by SAFE, the user is obligated to cite the Data as reference source as well as the SAFE data center as provider of the data.

For every publication utilizing Data that has been produced by SAFE a copy is to be sent to SAFE within a month of the publication in printed or electronic form.

7. Breach of Usage Regulation

The user must inform SAFE immediately in the event of any breach of the obligations laid out under these Terms of Use. Breach of obligations includes, but is not limited to:

- Processing or use of Data for use other than the designated research project.
- No or insufficient information regarding source of Data in publications.
- De-Anonymization or re-identification of individuals.
- Dissemination of Data to third parties.
- Giving unauthorized access to Data.

- Non-compliance with required standards for secure data storage and processing.
- Dissemination of personal access codes and passwords.

The user is liable for all damages to SAFE arising from actions not in accordance with these Terms of Use and any improper or incorrect handling in the context of access to the Data via the user. The user releases SAFE from any and all claims of liability or damage from third parties.

In the event of breach of any of the obligations listed in these Terms of Use SAFE may take one or more of the following measures:

- Request the user to immediately delete the Data, including all backups, extract files and help files.
- Report breach to other research data and service centers and the German Data Forum (Rat für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsdaten).
- Ban the user from access to services offered by SAFE for a limited time or permanently.

8. Warranty and Liability of SAFE

SAFE is not liable to the user for loss or damages of any kind in connection with the Data or consequences or recommendations where applicable contained in the Data. The user acknowledges that he/she is solely responsible for the outcome of measures resulting from the Data or from his/her interpretation of the Data.

9. Charges for Data Provision

Currently, there are no charges for Data provision.

For further information please contact

Dennis Gram, Head of Data Center, +49 – 69 – 798 – 30087, gram@safe-frankfurt.de

General advice concerning SAFE's privacy protection can be found here:

<https://safe-frankfurt.de/about-safe/data-protection.html>

These terms of use are effective as of July 01, 2022.