



1. What is WRDS?

Wharton Research Data Services, or [WRDS](#), is a comprehensive economic and financial data management system intended solely for research purposes. The data, licensed to the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania from various sources, cover a wide range of databases across multiple disciplines such as Finance, Marketing, Management, Accounting, Economics, Banking, and Insurance. Developed in 1993 to support faculty research at Wharton, the service has since evolved to become a common tool for research for over 260 institutions around the world.

2. What kind of data is found on WRDS?

WRDS data is compiled from independent sources that specialize in specific historical data. The data covers thousands of companies, including security prices and trading volume, income and balance sheet items, stock market indices, bond prices and interest rates, mutual fund and stock ownership information, options data, and a wide array of macroeconomic time series. International data, marketing and industry reports are also available. Some sources include The Center for Research in Security Prices (CRSP), Standard & Poor's Compustat, Thomson Reuters, the New York Stock Exchange Trade and Quotes (TAQ), among many others.

WRDS is best known for its holdings of historical financial data from CRSP and COMPUSTAT. This data covers over 30,000 companies and includes security prices and trading volume, income and balance sheet items. We provide access to IBES' analyst projections for earnings and sales.

The following is a quick reference chart to the most commonly used data.

DATA	DISTRIBUTOR	DATA SETS
Balance sheets, income statements and other company-based financial items	COMPUSTAT	Industrial, Full Coverage, Research, and Backdata Annual/Quarterly, Business Industry Segments Price, Dividends, Earnings
Stock prices and returns	CRSP	Monthly / Daily Stock Files, Indices files
Intraday stock price bid and ask quotes	TAQ	Trades and Quotes
Analysts Estimates	IBES	Daily Detailed History, Summary History
U.S. Treasury interest rates	CRSP	Bonds, Bills, and Inflation files
Bank financials	COMPUSTAT	Bank Annual / Quarterly
Banking industry conditions	FDIC	All files
U.S. Macro Economics	Global Insight (formerly DRI)	Annual, Quarterly and Monthly BASIC Economics
International Economics	Global Insight (formerly DRI)	Annual, Quarterly and Monthly BASIC Economics
International Firm-level data	COMPUSTAT/Global Vantage	Annual
Executive Compensation	COMPUSTAT/Execcomp	Annual

A comprehensive list of databases to which we subscribe can be found at

<\\unimelb\ecocom\Applications\ResearchDB\WRDS\WRDScontentFeb2010.pdf>

3. How can I access WRDS data?

WRDS may be accessed through any desktop with an Internet connection. Faculty of Business & Economics academic staff and RHD students may request individual WRDS accounts. Honours and Masters by Coursework students can access WRDS via the PCs in the Research Data Laboratory, Room 3.08, Level 3, Business & Economics Building.

Limited accounts can also be created for Research Assistants working with academic staff and for visiting academics. Class accounts can be requested by academic staff, to be used by students for classroom work and assessment associated with a specific subject.

4. How do I perform a web query to extract data?

All databases on WRDS have a common web interface. In most cases you would complete these four steps to extract data:

1. Select date range and frequency of the data
2. Choose one of the 3 methods to search the database:
 - Input identifiers into a box (i.e. tickers, CUSIPs)
 - or, Attach a file with a list of identifiers
 - or, Search the entire database
3. Select the output variables (i.e. prices, balance sheet items...)
4. Choose the format of the output file (i.e. SAS, csv...)

You can try out the interface and see some examples of datasets at <http://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/demo/>

Many more online learning and instructional resources are available on the website, click on the E-LEARNING tab after connecting to WRDS.

6. How do I apply for a WRDS account?

If you are eligible to request an individual WRDS account (see 3 above), go to <http://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/index.cfm>

Click on **Register for a WRDS account** and complete the personal details. Note that you must provide a valid University of Melbourne email account.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Penny Braybrook
Research Databases Manager
Faculty of Business & Economics
The University of Melbourne 3010
penny.braybrook@unimelb.edu.au
ph 8344 5345

OR

William Tang
Research Databases Officer
Faculty of Business & Economics
The University of Melbourne 3010
wtan@unimelb.edu.au
ph 8344 3678