

International Monetary Fund:

International Financial Statistics Database

To select this database, from the library's home screen, click on Articles/Databases, then "I" in the alphabet bar.

The IMF International Financial Statistics database includes data from 1948 to the present relevant to international and domestic finance. It provides approximately 32,000 time series on more than 200 countries. Some data are also reported in regional and world tables.

Click the title to load the IFS online browser.

The database loads in the browse mode with a list of menu choices at the left.

First, choose the time period for the data. Clicking the Change button will open the Wizard to guide you through selecting one or more time periods and reporting frequencies.

In the listing below, the cylindrical icon indicates time series data; the thematic folders will yield both sub-folders and times series data.

Time series in Country Tables, World Tables and Commodity Prices can be retrieved in their entirety by clicking Retrieve Table, or selected individually by checking the box adjacent to one or more series of interest and clicking the plus sign (+) in the menu above. The selected series will appear in a pop-up window. Further selections can be added, or deleted, before the data is retrieved.

Select one or more output formats, name your data set, and choose whether to save or remove the current selections after the data is generated. Click Retrieve.

The Economic Concept View enables the retrieval of similar data for a number of countries for comparison, when available. First choose the time series, then one or more countries of interest, then one or more concepts. To select all items available, click the check mark in the menu bar and then the plus sign. Retrieve the data and choose an output format.

More instruction is provided through the documentation files and FAQs and the question mark icon at the upper right of each screen which offers context-sensitive help. In addition, video tutorials are provided within the IFS that introduce the database and explain series selection, the filters available under Options for labeling and formatting data, the various output formats possible and using Search rather than Browse to find data by country, subject, partner country, or code number.

As always, the librarians at Chambers Library are also available to help you with any questions.

