

- **Annual series on OECD countries and regions:** By far the best source is the [Statistical Annex of the OECD Economic Outlook](#). The only problem is that it is not available four months a year (in May/June and November/December, that is between the publication of the preliminary and the final Economic Outlook). In between, only limited - but up to date - series are available in the so-called [flash file](#).
- **Quarterly and monthly series on OECD countries:** after some practising a lot of data can be downloaded from [OECD.Stats Extracts](#).
- **Annual series of non-OECD countries, non-OECD aggregates and world aggregates:** The best source is the [World Economic Outlook Database](#) of the IMF. This database also contains data on OECD countries.
- **World trade series:** Up-to-date monthly series are downloadable from the [CPB site](#). Annual series are available in the [Statistical Annex of the OECD Economic Outlook](#) and in the [IMF World Economic Outlook Database](#). Annual trade series can also be downloaded from the [WTO database](#).
- **US data:** [FRED](#) is your best friend. Moreover, BEA has an excellent download facility for its [national accounts series](#). Furthermore, the US Department of Commerce provides an excellent site on [US foreign trade](#). Finally, [most US statistical agencies](#) provide the tables of their press releases in XLS format as well.
- **Annual series for EU countries:** You are advised to use [the AMECO database of the European Commission](#). It also provides key data on other countries. You should check the last update date (the database is not updated on a real time basis). The downloadable statistical annex of the [Monthly Bulletin of the ECB](#) may provide more up to date series for the euro area. This information is also available through the [ECB Statistical DataBank Browser Interface \(EBI\)](#). Annual up-to-date data can also be downloaded from [Eurostat](#) in html-format that can easily be downloaded in xls-format (but footnotes added to numbers are a complication).
- **Quarterly and monthly series of EU countries:** Eurostat has improved its facilities but finding your way in its [search tree](#) may be cumbersome.
- **Long time series:** Due to the current deep recession, there is more demand for very long time-series. With the exception of [FRED](#) and [BEA](#) for the US, the data sources presented above do not have very long series (most of them start in 1980 or even in 1995). Luckily, the [Groninger Growth and Development Centre](#) fills this gap. The [Total Economy Database](#) of the Conference Board can also be useful in this respect.
- **Exchange rates:** There are many sites where you can download series with a higher frequency than years. For instance at the sites of the [ECB](#) (only daily rates) and the [St. Louis Federal Reserve](#) (FRED database). If you need annual series for OECD countries, see the first bullet point on this page.
- **Interest rates:** We are not aware of a site where you can download high-frequency data of various countries. Series on US interest rates (at daily, weekly and monthly frequencies) can be downloaded from [Fred](#) or from the site of the [Federal Reserve Board](#) (in txt-format). Series on euro area interest rates (at monthly and annual frequencies) can be downloaded from the statistical annex of the [Monthly Bulletin of the ECB](#) and its [ECB Statistical DataBank Browser Interface \(EBI\)](#). If you need annual series for OECD countries, see the first bullet point on this page.
- **Share price indices:** Some high-frequency data on European, American and Japanese markets can be downloaded from [Yahoo!](#) (including S&P 500 and Nikkei-225).