Research guide
Company specific data

The library has licensed several financial databases, which contain a huge amount of firm-specific and financial data. The most important databases within this context are the following:

- Thomson Reuters Eikon (Thomson Reuters) including Datastream and Eikon Excel
- Bloomberg
- Orbis (Bureau van Dijk)
- OIF – Insurance Focus (Bureau van Dijk)
- BoardEx (The Deal)
- MSCI (formerly KLD and GMI)
- RepRisk
- Compustat Global (Capital IQ)
- Compustat North America, including historical data since 1950 (Capital IQ)
- Compustat Historical Segments (Capital IQ)
- Compustat Execucomp (Capital IQ)
- Compustat Bank Fundamentals (Capital IQ)
- Transactions (Capital IQ)
- Capital Structure (Capital IQ)
- Key Developments (Capital IQ)
- People Intelligence (Capital IQ)
- S&P Credit Ratings (Capital IQ)
- SNL Financial Institutions and Bank Data (S&P Global Market Intelligence)
- CRSP (Center for Research in Security Prices)
- Morningstar CISDM (Morningstar)
- Ivy DB US (OptionMetrics)
- RavenPack News Analytics (Ravenpack)
- TAQ – Trade and Quote (NYSE)

At our University, the overwhelming majority of the listed databases is exclusively available via the web platform WRDS. Only the database SNL Financial Institutions and Bank Data can additionally be used through a proper web access. However, Thomson Reuters Eikon, Bloomberg, Orbis and OIF are based on special licenses or terminals, respectively and hence, fully independent on WRDS platform, at HSG.

Here, we have compiled a research guide to show what information can be gathered from the databases. It may happen that some of our databases contain certain data but to which the user does only have restricted access. This may be because the library has not always licensed all the modules. In these cases, it is most likely that similar data can be found in another source (for example you do not have access to M&A data in Orbis, however you can get these data via Thomson Reuters Eikon or Capital IQ via WRDS). So, in the documents only actually available information is described.
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1 Fundamentals of Big Companies quoted on stock exchanges

If you are looking for data related to big companies quoted on stock exchanges you should use Thomson Reuters Eikon, Datastream (available via Eikon) or Compustat. In Datastream and Compustat, you will mainly find fundamentals from balance sheets and income statements such as sales or earnings. Thomson Reuters Eikon additionally brings up information on M&A, annual reports, ownership data etc. You may find this kind of information in Bloomberg, too. However, if you are looking for data related to companies not quoted on stock exchanges then you should consult Orbis.

2 Fundamentals of European and American Companies

There is a variety of sources when you are looking for fundamentals of national and international companies.

In Thomson Reuters Eikon, you first search for the company you are interested in (enter company name in the box on the top left) and then you click on „Financials“. After that, you click on „Fundamentals“. You have two options to display financial data depending on whether you would like to use the original data as stated in company reports or rather harmonized data to make the comparison across companies easier. However, also for the latter you may reach the original data quickly by clicking through the hyperlinks which give you direct access to the annual reports. These data go back up to 30 years depending on the company. Thomson Reuters Eikon provides company and market data for more than 60'000 international enterprises in total. You can easily download the data through Eikon Excel.

Another option is Compustat which is a well established data source in science. From its North America package you can download fundamentals for more than 28‘000 active and inactive US and Canadian companies. The Compustat Historical Package gives you access to fundamentals on an annual basis going back to 1950 and on a quarterly basis back to 1962. The Compustat Global Package in turn contains fundamentals on 33‘000 active and inactive companies from more than 80 countries, excluding the US and Canada, which together amount to a worldwide market capitalization of more than 90 percent (more than 96 percent of the European market capitalization and more than 88 per-
cent of the Asian market capitalization). On Compustat Global annual data go back to 1987 and quarterly data is available from 1995. Compustat also modifies the published data from annual reports in order to facilitate better comparison across companies. Fundamentals for more recent years may also be searched for in the Bloomberg database. However, if you are looking for data referring to small and medium sized enterprises (SME) then you should use Orbis. Data on Orbis is available for the last ten years.

3 Segment Data

Thomson Reuters Eikon provides you with fundamentals data grouped by business lines and geographical criteria. In order to find these data, navigate (enter company name in the box on the top left) to «Financials» and then, click on «Segments». In Bloomberg you may also find this kind of data using the FA command and looking for the category «6) Segments». The database Compustat Historical Segments, however, gives you access to historical segments data for more than 23’000 North American companies since 1976. In Orbis, you find segment data, too. Just add the respective columns to the results list.

4 Small and Medium Sized Companies

If you are interested to get data on small and medium sized companies (SME) then you should use Orbis which is a very broad database containing standardized data for around 270 million companies worldwide (including Amadeus database). For SME you find in particular contact details and also some financial data. You may also search for financial ratios or build such yourself. A list of mail addresses may be downloaded for many companies. This may help you when you want to perform surveys.

5 Mergers & Acquisitions

In Thomson Reuters Eikon, you find data related to company transactions worldwide (for example IPOs, corporate restructuring, Joint Ventures). You can access data on more than 500’000 global M&A since 1965. With Eikon Excel you have the possibility to get a general overview by using the „Deals Screener“ located on the center left of the Excel menu bar. You might search for different types of deals. Alternatively, you can search for company specific deals directly. In order to do so, navigate (enter company name in the box on the top left) to „Events“ and then, within the category „Transactions“ click on „Company Deals“. In WRDS, you search for M&As in Capital IQ’s Transaction database. MarketLine, however, provides you with the so called Financial Deals Tracker which allows you to search for M&As, Private Equity and Venture Finance deals, private placements, IPOs and partnerships from 1994 onwards. You may also use CorpfinWorldwide from LexisNexis to get data related to company transactions in Europe and the United States. This database is updated on a daily basis. It goes back to 1993 and covers 28 distinct types of deals.

6 Banks

The database SNL Financial Institutions and Bank Data from S&P contains detailed data for around 27’000 banks and 11’000 insurance companies worldwide. Fundamentals are available, on average, 30 years for North American banks, 13-15 years for developed economies and a minimum of 5 years for emerging markets. Furthermore, SNL Financial Institutions and Bank Data contains credit ratings from S&P Global Ratings, Moody’s and Fitch as well as data related to credit default swaps (CDS). SNL Financial Institutions and Bank Data can be used both through its proper web access and through Compustat (via WRDS).
Compustat does also offer a module referring to US companies from the financial services sector. Here, you may search for fundamentals, too. Furthermore, you find data on banks listed on stock exchanges in Thomson Reuters Eikon and Bloomberg.

7 Comparison of Companies

In Thomson Reuters Eikon, users have the possibility to compare financial ratios across companies. In order to do so, go to the category „Peers & Valuation“ for the company selected (you have to enter the company name in the box on the top left). Click the button „Edit Peers“ to choose the companies which you want to compare. Alternatively, you may accept the competitors displayed by default. In Bloomberg, there is the command RV to get similar results.

You may also use Orbis to compare companies by means of financial ratios. Go to „Analysis“ on the right hand side of the starting page and click on „Peer analysis“.

8 Ownership Data

If you are interested in Ownership data a research in Thomson Reuters Eikon, Eikon Excel or in Orbis is recommended.

In Thomson Reuters Eikon, you find the category „Ownership“(enter company name in the box on the top left). In the „Ownership Summary“ the top ten investors are displayed and also detailed information relating to investor type, geographical provenience and buying/selling behavior. Figures of turnover and concentration serve as illustration. By clicking on „All Shareholders“ you may also find the percentage values attributed to each investor holding shares of the company in question. The percentage values do not necessarily add up to 100 percent. This is because the displayed data does not always originate from the same business report. Therefore, slight deviations are possible.

If you use Eikon Excel to find ownership data click on „Build Formula“ on the left of the Excel menu bar. In the window that opens you select the category „Ownership“, where you find the desired information.

If you perform your research in Orbis, click through the following path to find the corresponding information for a preselected company: Display a specific section --> Ownership data --> Shareholders. Here, you also find historical information related to the shareholders.

9 Number of Employees

You may search for the number of employees via Thomson Reuters Eikon, Eikon Excel and Orbis.

In Thomson Reuters Eikon, you find employment information within the category „Financials“ --> „Segments“ (enter company name in the box on the top left to get to the categories). Click then on „Geographic by Statement Item“ or „Geographic by Segment“.

If you use Eikon Excel click on „Build Formula“ on the left of the Excel menu bar. In the window that opens you select the items you are interested in like „Employees“ or „Part-Time Employees“. You may also get financial data and ratios as for example „sales per employee“, „pretax profit per employee“ or „total assets/employees“.

In Orbis you find the number of employees with the following path Display a specific section --> Financial data --> Key financials & employees. You may also use the number of employees as search criterion on the starting page.
10 ESG Performance

ESG indicators that allow you to assess positive and negative ESG performance of companies can be found in MSCI (formerly KLD and GMI) database which is available through WRDS data platform. You may use several datasets, the earliest data is from 1991 on. However, RepRisk database provides you with risk metrics and underlying scores to assess and benchmark the risk exposure and business conduct of companies. Data is available from 2007 onwards. Access is provided through WRDS, too.

11 Salaries of Executives

You may find salaries for executives in Thomson Reuters Eikon by navigating (enter company name in the box on the top left) to „Overview”. Click on „Officers” to get the information you look for. In Bloomberg you use the commands MGMT and PEOP. Compustats’ Execucomp contains historical compensation data (like salary, bonus, option programs etc.) for managers since 1992. The database comprises managers of big listed US companies. Compensation data is also available in BoardEx and Capital IQ’s People Intelligence database.

12 Data and Biographies of Management Staff

You may find data and biographies of executives in Thomson Reuters Eikon, Orbis, Bloomberg (commands MGMT and PEOP), BoardEx and LexisNexis. In Thomson Reuters Eikon you navigate (enter company name in the box on the top left) to „Overview”. Click on „Officers” to get the information you look for. In Orbis you go through the following path: Display a specific section --> Directors, managers, contacts & advisors. BoardEx is a special database where you find both biographies of around 500’000 business leaders from all over the world and current and historical connections between companies and individuals. The vitae in particular comprise details relating to education and career history, board and committee membership as well as compensation. We have access to the modules Europe and North America. Capital IQ’s People Intelligence also contains education details, job functions and titles, board memberships and compensation data among others. In LexisNexis different sources are available, for example the database Who is Who.

13 Annual Reports

In Thomson Reuters Eikon, you find the company filings in the category „Filings” (enter company name in the box on the top left to get to the categories). You can choose among different types of business reports. Thomson Reuters Eikon contains information on more than 60’000 international enterprises. In Bloomberg use the command CF.

14 Analyst Reports

Thomson Reuters Eikon offers a broad range of analyst reports from Investext database. You find them in the category „News & Research” (enter company name in the box on the top left to get to the categories). The module comprises reports from analysts and brokers for many companies and markets. Please note that this module is exclusively available on the Eikon PCs in dataroom 01-U206. In Bloomberg use the command BRC.

15 Company News

News and recent developments can be found in Bloomberg (command CN), Thomson Reuters Eikon, Capital IQ's Key Developments and Ravenpack News Analytics. In Thomson Reuters Eikon click on
the categories (enter company name in the box on the top left to get to the categories) „News & Research“ --> „Company News“ and „Events“ --> „Corporate Events“. Capital IQ’s Key Developments contains data to more than 80 key development types (e.g. executive changes, M&A rumors etc.) classified within 10 categories for more than 800‘000 companies from all over the world. The history depends on the specific event but generally goes back to the early 2000’s. RavenPack News Analytics however provides real-time structured sentiment, relevance and novelty data for entities and events detected in the unstructured text published by reputable content sources. Publishers include Dow Jones Newswires, the Wall Street Journal and over 19’000 other traditional and social media sites.