

# Data collection sources and methods:

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There are two parts of the data set. In the monthly/quarterly indicators we focus on time series that tend to fluctuate over the business cycle and where higher than annual data frequency is useful to reveal ongoing dynamics in the economy:

- The level and growth rates of GDP and its components
- CPI index and its rate of change over a month and a year
- Employment levels and the unemployment rate
- Labor cost
- Consumer and business confidence
- Purchasing Manager Index – composite, manufacturing, and services
- Credit ratings from Moody's, S&P, Fitch, and Scope
- Retail sales
- Industrial production
- Building permits
- Residential house price changes
- Money supply
- Central Bank policy rate
- Government bond yield
- Bank credit and interest rates including business and household credit

- Household debt to GDP
- Foreign exchange reserves
- USD Exchange rates

These data are sourced from central banks, national statistical institutes, and other government agencies in each country. We use our own calendar of data releases to ensure an update within a few days after the national authorities publish the new numbers. The data are gathered "by hand" and without automation and with multiple quality checks. On a rolling basis, we also perform routine checks of the entire data set.

From those same sources, we also collect several additional series with annual frequency:

- Fiscal Balance as percent of GDP
- Current Account Balance as percent of GDP
- Government Debt as percent of GDP

These are key indicators but they are more revealing of ongoing trends in their annual frequency as opposed to higher frequency and as percent of GDP instead of in nominal terms.

In addition, our data set includes multiple series with annual frequency from these sources:

- The World Bank
- The United Nations
- U.S. Energy Information Administration
- International Monetary Fund
- UNESCO
- Transparency International
- United Nations Development Program

- The World Economic Forum
- OECD
- Bank for International Settlements
- Eurostat
- The Natural Environment Research Council UK
- FAO/STAT
- International Telecommunication Union
- Freedom House
- The Heritage Foundation
- The Global Innovation Index Reports
- Cline Center for Democracy
- KOF Swiss Economic Institute
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
- Kimberley Process
- International Organisation of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers

These institutions publish large amounts of data. The challenge is to be selective in terms of what to include in our data set. In that selection we are guided by years of experience in economic research, teaching, and advising students. The objective is to offer a comprehensive data selection while allowing users to navigate the selection with minimum effort and to ensure that what we do include is well maintained.

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