FAQs: Oxford Economics Databank API

1. **What is an API?**
   API is the acronym for Application Programming Interface which is a computing term for a set of **functions** and **procedures** that one system – typically a software application or web service – can use to access **features** or **data** in another system. Essentially, APIs allow systems to talk to each other.

2. **What type is the API?**
   It is RESTful API.

3. **Is there any additional cost for the OE API service?**
   Yes, there is. Please contact your OE representative to get a quote.

4. **Can I access all databanks I have already subscribed to?**
   Yes. The API will provide you access to all online databanks you have subscribed to.

5. **How many users can use it?**
   A single account is used for your organisation and thus is not limited to users.

6. **Can we request the data of the entire databank?**
   Yes, you can. However, if you need to download the entire databank at once, you need to use paging. You may find all details about this, the page limits, and examples here.

7. **Are there limitations on how many requests we can make per day?**
   There are no limits on the number of requests you can make per day. However, to prevent abuse and keep the service fast and accessible to everyone, there is a soft rate limit of 60 requests per minute. If this limit is reached, a delay will be imposed on subsequent requests. Please see our detailed guide on rate limits.

8. **How do I know if a dataset is updated or not?**
   Each data series contains a metadata value called "Date of last update", which contains the data that this data series was updated. If the date does not match the date on your previous request, it has been updated.

9. **How frequently are the databanks updated?**
   OE offers a large variety of databanks that are updated at various frequencies (twice per month, monthly, quarterly or annually). Please ask your OE representative about the update frequency on the databanks you have subscribed to.

10. **Are the data returned from the API the same as what we can view on the databank website?**
    Yes. The data you can retrieve from the API is exactly the same as the ones on the website. However, please note that the API runs via Databank v1, which you can find at https://services.oxfordeconomics.com/data/. Some additional features that Databank v2 provides are not available yet as part of the API service.

11. **Why can I not retrieve data via API from a saved selection I have created on Databank v2?**
    Databank API is running against Databank v1 only – saved selections must be created on version 1 of the databank (while logged in using the technical API account) to access it via the API.

12. **What is the format of the response?**
    The data are returned in JSON format. However, there are API endpoints where you can get the data in CSV or XLSX flat files.

13. **Can I get the reports via the API?**
    No. This API service is for the Global Data Workstation (v1) only. If you are interested in retrieving reports, please ask for the Report Feeds service.

14. **Can I get the data from the OE model applications (GMW or/and GMWO) via the API?**
    No. This API service is for the Global Data Workstation (v1) only.

15. **Can I connect to OE API from third-party software, e.g. Tableau and Microsoft Power BI?**

    Yes, you can. Any software application that can make the HTTP requests and handle the retrieved data can be used. You can see our Tableau guide and Power BI guide on how to connect to our API from these applications. Additionally, you may explore the Power BI sample report at Github repository.

16. **What programming language should I use to be able to communicate with OE API?**

    You can use any programming language capable of making HTTP requests. We have examples in various programming languages at our GitHub repository.

17. **Can I have a trial on Databank API?**

    Yes, you can ask for a trial to explore our API and verify if it meets your needs before you decide to subscribe to the service. Please ask your OE representative for this.