

## Managing Your API Data Limits

Ref# ManApiLimits

You may have already discovered that there is a limit to the amount of daily and monthly data that you can request through the Bloomberg API. The objective of these limits is to ensure that our customers are requesting a reasonable amount of data without frequently hitting our backend servers with unnecessary requests. We at Bloomberg take excess data usage very seriously, and we ask that you do your best to ensure that your Bloomberg API application is requesting data as efficiently and intelligently as possible. In order to help you remain under your data limits, we have put together the following list of helpful hints.

1. Begin by reading the brief overview of the [Extended Rules and Usage Limits of the Bloomberg API](#).
2. Your **Monthly Limit** is based on the amount of unique securities being requested for each type of request (i.e. historical, intraday, derived, pricing, descriptive). Therefore, the same security requested more than once for a particular category of data (i.e. historical) is only calculated once during that calendar month (no matter how many fields in each request and, in the case of a historical request, no matter what the length of the period requested). However, if you then requested data for the same security(s), but using a different category of fields (i.e. static pricing data), your usage will increase for each unique security. If you request a high volume of unique securities within a calendar month per category, you are at risk of exceeding your monthly limit.
3. Your **Daily Limit** is calculated as a "hit total" limit, and is calculated by adding all of the security/field pairings in your request. Therefore, if you request "IBM US Equity" and 5 fields, that will be 5 total hits (1 X 5). Therefore, although repeat hits aren't factored into your monthly data usage total, they are factored into your daily usage hit total.
4. Your **Concurrent Real-time Requests** limit is calculated as the number of unique securities you are monitoring at any one time. Please note that the definition of a unique security must take into consideration the pricing source. Therefore, if you subscribe to "IBM US Equity" (US being the US Composite) and then "IBM UN Equity" (UN being NYSE), that will count as two subscriptions. However, if you subscribe to "IBM US Equity" and also "/cusip/459200101 US", then that will be subscribing to a total of one unique security. Also, this unique definition also spans over multiple connections to your communication server (i.e. bbcomm.exe, serverapi.exe) from either the same application or multiple applications. Therefore, if you have 4 connections to either communication server and, for example, are subscribing to "IBM US Equity" (or equivalent using another topic prefix such as cusip, isin, etc), then it would count as only one total unique security against your concurrent limits.
5. If you are unsure as to whether real-time fields are available in place of the static fields you are using, we suggest you contact the [Bloomberg Help Desk](#), as they are equipped to answer your data-related questions. If you wish, you may also want to use the [FLDS <GO>](#) function on the Bloomberg Professional Terminal (preferable - click on [FLDS <GO>](#) link for further information).
6. Currently, we offer some of our static derived data fields in a real-time format, which are real-time Custom VWAP and Volatilities and "Greeks".
7. If your application is currently polling for static data, which you know to be available in real-time format, but you find that monitoring real-time fields provides you with more ticks than you either desire or your application can process without falling behind, you will be glad to hear that we have a potential solution for you.

If you are developing with one of the v3 API programming interfaces, such as Java, C++, .NET, C, or the COM v3 Data Control, we offer interval-based subscription functionality. This allows you to specify a tick interval in your subscription, which would indicate the interval between tick updates sent to your application from the Bloomberg Data Center.

- For Java, C++, .NET and C v3 API users, download the [API v3 Developer's Guide](#) and read the "Starting a Subscription" section.
  - For COM v3 Data Control users, please see the 2nd example on the [SubscriptionList.Add\(\)](#) method page.
8. If you have an Excel Worksheet that consists of BDH() functions and you are using Excel's "TODAY()" or "NOW()" function to help form your Start and/or End Date parameters, you may notice that your links continue to update frequently, which will impact your Daily Data Usage totals (security/field hits). In order to ensure this does not occur, we ask that you replace the TODAY() or NOW() function with the Bloomberg provided "BTODAY()" or "BNOW()" function, respectively. This will ensure that the BDH() links do not update after the initial reply is returned. Thus, you will help avoid hitting your Daily Limit. Please note that you may also be using BLPTODAY() or BLPNOW() up to, and including, Excel 2010. However, beginning with Excel 2013, you must use BTODAY() and BNOW(), as BLPTODAY()/BLPNOW() will no longer work.
  9. If you have any further question(s) pertaining to managing your data limits, please contact the [Bloomberg Help Desk](#).

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See Also:

[Extended Rules and Usage Limits of the Bloomberg API](#) | [API Best Practices](#)

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