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# Getting benchmark data via IEX API does not work anymore #2480

 **Closed**

MarikoKujo opened this issue on Jun 16, 2019 · 55 comments

Labels

**Benchmark**

**MarikoKujo** commented on Jun 16, 2019

Zipline uses IEX API to get benchmark data in `benchmarks.py` :

```
def get_benchmark_returns(symbol):  
    """  
    Get a Series of benchmark returns from IEX associated with `symbol`.  
    Default is `SPY`.  
  
    Parameters  
    -----  
    symbol : str  
        Benchmark symbol for which we're getting the returns.  
  
    The data is provided by IEX (https://iextrading.com/), and we can  
    get up to 5 years worth of data.  
    """  
    r = requests.get(  
        'https://api.iextrading.com/1.0/stock/{}/chart/5y'.format(symbol)  
    )  
    data = r.json()  
  
    df = pd.DataFrame(data)  
  
    df.index = pd.DatetimeIndex(df['date'])  
    df = df['close']
```

However, according to the [IEX FAQ page](#), the chart api was already removed on June 15, 2019. Currently, using this api to try to download any stock data such as SPY will return nothing but an HTTP 403 error. The functions of deprecated APIs are now transferred to their new API, [IEX Cloud](#), which requires a unique token per user in any request. Any idea how to fix this issue in the long run?



**SeungYong-Baek** mentioned this issue on Jun 17, 2019

**zipline 1.3.0 JSONDecodeError #2481**

Open



**ehtycuact** commented on Jun 17, 2019

Same issue here. Looking for a way to stop this whole mechanics either by providing the data from another source (a file, etc.) or just remove it completely.



**tibkiss** commented on Jun 17, 2019

Contributor

IEX has deprecated the old API in favor of the new one:

<https://iextrading.com/developer/#sunset-schedule>

iexcloud.io offers the chart endpoint used in zipline, but user registration is required to obtain a token for the service.



**tibkiss** commented on Jun 17, 2019

Contributor

My temporal fix (on zipline-live, which is branched off from 1.1.0):

```
diff --git a/zipline/data/benchmarks.py b/zipline/data/benchmarks.py
index 45137428..72d9c3cc 100644
--- a/zipline/data/benchmarks.py
+++ b/zipline/data/benchmarks.py
@@ -30,8 +30,10 @@ def get_benchmark_returns(symbol):
     The data is provided by IEX (https://iextrading.com/), and we can
     get up to 5 years worth of data.
     """
+
+    IEX_TOKEN = 'pk_TOKEN_COMES_HERE' # FIXME: move to param
     r = requests.get(
-        'https://api.iextrading.com/1.0/stock/{}/chart/5y'.format(symbol)
+        'https://cloud.iexapis.com/stable/stock/{}/chart/5y?token={}'.format(
```



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**MarikoKujo** commented on Jun 17, 2019

Author

Inspired by [this comment](#) in [#1951](#), here is the workaround for people who does NOT need benchmarks at all:

By default, zipline downloads benchmark data by making an http request in

`get_benchmark_returns()` in `zipline/data/benchmarks.py`. It returns a `pd.Series` which will be saved to a csv file by `ensure_benchmark_data()` in `zipline/data/loaders.py`. So we can create a dummy benchmark file by setting all data entries to zero.

First, replace `benchmarks.py` with:

```
import pandas as pd
from trading_calendars import get_calendar

def get_benchmark_returns(symbol, first_date, last_date):
    cal = get_calendar('NYSE')

    dates = cal.sessions_in_range(first_date, last_date)

    data = pd.DataFrame(0.0, index=dates, columns=['close'])
    data = data['close']

    return data.sort_index().iloc[1:]
```

Then in `loaders.py`, replace

```
data = get_benchmark_returns(symbol)
with
data = get_benchmark_returns(symbol, first_date, last_date)
```

In this example `NYSE` is used, but it also works when I use `AlwaysOpenCalendar` in my backtest, so I did not try to change it to some other calendar.

This is only a hack. In the long run I would suggest to change the benchmark downloading method to request other API in case you would like to use benchmarks in the future.



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5



8

**SeungYong-Baek** commented on Jun 18, 2019

Today morning, I did the test with your hack.  
Unfortunately, It doesn't worked in my environment. I haven't found the cause yet.  
I am going to try again with your hack carefully.  
Thank you very much.

**@tibkiss**

I did the test with your fix. After fail, I noticed your environment is very different from my environment.  
Thank you very much.



**shlomikushchi** commented on Jun 18, 2019 • edited ▼

here's a fix that goes back to yahoo as a benchmark source.  
replace this method in benchmarks.py and don't forget to change the call to it in loader.py

```
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import pandas_datareader.data as pd_reader

def get_benchmark_returns(symbol, first_date, last_date):
    """
    Get a Series of benchmark returns from Yahoo associated with `symbol`.
    Default is `SPY`.

    Parameters
    -----
    symbol : str
        Benchmark symbol for which we're getting the returns.

    The data is provided by Yahoo Finance
    """
    data = pd_reader.DataReader(
        symbol,
        'yahoo',
        first_date,
        last_date
    )

    data = data['Close']

    data[pd.Timestamp('2008-12-15')] = np.nan
    data[pd.Timestamp('2009-08-11')] = np.nan
    data[pd.Timestamp('2012-02-02')] = np.nan

    data = data.fillna(method='ffill')

    return data.sort_index().tz_localize('UTC').pct_change(1).iloc[1:]
```



SeungYong-Baek commented on Jun 18, 2019

@MarikoKujo

@shlomikushchi

I did the test with MarikoKujo's and shlomikushchi 's temporary fix.  
Unfortunately, It doesn't worked in my environment. Two fixes showed the same error.  
I think that the cause of error is my different environment from yours.  
So, I need to investigate more my environment.  
Thank you so much.

```
/home/seungyong/zipline/lib/python3.5/site-packages/empyrical/stats.py:704: RuntimeWarning:  
invalid value encountered in true_divide
```

```
out=out,
```

```
/home/seungyong/zipline/lib/python3.5/site-packages/empyrical/stats.py:790: RuntimeWarning:  
invalid value encountered in true_divide
```

```
np.divide(average_annual_return, annualized_downside_risk, out=out)
```

Traceback (most recent call last):

File "pandas/\_libs/index.pyx", line 449, in pandas.\_libs.index.DatetimeEngine.get\_loc

File "pandas/\_libs/hashtable\_class\_helper.pxi", line 811, in

pandas.\_libs.hashtable.Int64HashTable.get\_item

File "pandas/\_libs/hashtable\_class\_helper.pxi", line 817, in

pandas.\_libs.hashtable.Int64HashTable.get\_item

KeyError: 1421625600000000000

During handling of the above exception, another exception occurred:

```

File "/home/seungyong/zipline/lib/python3.5/site-packages/zipline/algorithm.py", line 756, in run
for perf in self.get_generator():
File "/home/seungyong/zipline/lib/python3.5/site-packages/zipline/gens/tradesimulation.py", line
209, in transform
for capital_change_packet in once_a_day(dt):
File "/home/seungyong/zipline/lib/python3.5/site-packages/zipline/gens/tradesimulation.py", line
160, in once_a_day
algo.data_portal,
File "/home/seungyong/zipline/lib/python3.5/site-packages/zipline/finance/metrics/tracker.py", line
272, in handle_market_open
session_label,
File "/home/seungyong/zipline/lib/python3.5/site-packages/zipline/finance/metrics/tracker.py", line
61, in execution_open_and_close
open, close = calendar.open_and_close_for_session(session)
File "/home/seungyong/zipline/lib/python3.5/site-packages/trading_calendars/trading_calendar.py",
line 760, in open_and_close_for_session
sched.at[session_label, 'market_open'].tz_localize(UTC),
File "/home/seungyong/zipline/lib/python3.5/site-packages/pandas/core/indexing.py", line 1869, in
getitem
return self.obj._get_value(*key, takeable=self._takeable)
File "/home/seungyong/zipline/lib/python3.5/site-packages/pandas/core/frame.py", line 1985, in
_get_value
return engine.get_value(series._values, index)
File "pandas/_libs/index.pyx", line 83, in pandas._libs.index.IndexEngine.get_value
File "pandas/_libs/index.pyx", line 91, in pandas._libs.index.IndexEngine.get_value
File "pandas/_libs/index.pyx", line 451, in pandas._libs.index.DatetimeEngine.get_loc
KeyError: Timestamp('2015-01-19 00:00:00+0000', tz='UTC')

```

 zipper-123 commented on Jun 20, 2019

This seems to have a few issues going now so Ill weigh in on the most commented one.

I tried all of the workarounds with no luck.

Replacing the get\_benchmark\_returns() method just defers to other null references down the line.

Fixing the IEX API defers to the treasury data failing for me. Since I am using BTC data, OHLCV.

Is there any supported way to backtest crypto currency data? Are the benchmark and treasury data pulls really that crucial?

@zipper-123 Perhaps you have a faulty cached file. Remember that `ensure_benchmark_data` in `loader.py` first attempts to read from disk. That happened to me while I was tinkering with a solution.

I ended up implementing a minor variation of the solution suggested by @marketneutral to sidestep the issue until it's properly fixed. I kept the signature of `get_benchmark_returns`, and just used a wider date range than I'll ever need.

In `benchmark.py`

```
def get_benchmark_returns(symbol):
    cal = get_calendar('NYSE')
    first_date = datetime(1930,1,1)
    last_date = datetime(2030,1,1)
    dates = cal.sessions_in_range(first_date, last_date)
    data = pd.DataFrame(0.0, index=dates, columns=['close'])
    data = data['close']
    return data.sort_index().iloc[1:]
```

And bypassing the cache in `loader.py`

```
"""
if data is not None:
    return data
"""
```



**grobbe94** commented on Jun 27, 2019 • edited ▼

Another fix is getting a free IEX api key and altering the API request in `benchmarks.py`

```
r= requests.get(
    "https://cloud.iexapis.com/stable/stock/{}/chart/5y?chartCloseOnly=True&token=
{}".format(symbol, IEX_KEY)
)
```



 **MarikoKujo** mentioned this issue on Jun 28, 2019

**backtest fails trying to download SPY data for benchmark with quandl**





**SeungYong-Baek** commented on Jul 2, 2019

@tibkiss

@grobby94

Thank you for your fix. It works well for my script.



**ElliotVilhelm** commented on Jul 9, 2019

jesus christ .. just spent two hours on this



**cddventura** commented on Jul 18, 2019

Has the solution been found for this?



**shlomikushchi** commented on Jul 18, 2019

yes... mine is not a temporary fix.

it's a solution. I'm working with it for more than a month



2



2



**mikebardpython** commented on Jul 24, 2019

getting the same error, tried all the solutions on this thread as well as the one [here](#)

is there a solution forthcoming?



**weu39843** commented on Jul 29, 2019

Getting the same error using local data (csv -> DataFrame -> panel) and it's not clear to me how your fix works @shlomikushchi as I'm not using yahoo data. Maybe you have an idea how to tweak your code in order to fix the problem when using local data.



This is still not working. @weu39843 I'm having the same issue with local data as well, passing a CSV as a DataFrame. When trying @AndreasClenow solution and all the others I get the following error:

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 39, in <module>
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/zipline/utils/run_algo.py", line 430, in
run_algorithm
    blotter=blotter,
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/zipline/utils/run_algo.py", line 188, in _run
    trading_days=trading_calendar.schedule[start:end].index,
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/zipline/finance/trading.py", line 103, in
__init__
    self.bm_symbol,
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/zipline/data/loader.py", line 149, in
load_market_data
    environ,
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/zipline/data/loader.py", line 201, in
ensure_benchmark_data
    environ)
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/zipline/data/loader.py", line 324, in
_load_cached_data
    data = from_csv(path)
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/zipline/data/loader.py", line 307, in
from_csv
    squeeze=True,
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/pandas/io/parsers.py", line 562, in parser_f
    return _read(filepath_or_buffer, kwds)
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/pandas/io/parsers.py", line 325, in _read
    return parser.read()
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/pandas/io/parsers.py", line 815, in read
    ret = self._engine.read(nrows)
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/pandas/io/parsers.py", line 1387, in read
    index, names = self._make_index(data, alldata, names)
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/pandas/io/parsers.py", line 1030, in
_make_index
    index = self._agg_index(index)
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/pandas/io/parsers.py", line 1111, in
_agg_index
    arr = self._date_conv(arr)
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/pandas/io/parsers.py", line 2272, in
converter
    lib.try_parse_dates(strs, dayfirst=dayfirst))
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/pandas/util/decorators.py", line 91, in
wrapper
    return func(*args, **kwargs)
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/pandas/tseries/tools.py", line 291, in
to_datetime
    unit=unit, infer_datetime_format=infer_datetime_format)
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/pandas/tseries/tools.py", line 427, in
_to_datetime
    return _convert_listlike(arg, box, format)
  File "/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/pandas/tseries/tools.py", line 398, in
```

```
(pandas/tolib.c:41272)
File "pandas/tolib.pyx", line 2269, in pandas.tolib.array_to_datetime
(pandas/tolib.c:40684)
File "pandas/tolib.pyx", line 2229, in pandas.tolib.array_to_datetime
(pandas/tolib.c:39919)
File "pandas/src/datetime.pxd", line 141, in datetime._string_to_dts
(pandas/tolib.c:85631)
SystemError: <class 'str'> returned a result with an error set

<class 'str'> returned a result with an error set
```



**AndreasClenow** commented on Aug 5, 2019

@jecker7 when you say passing a local csv, do you mean that you provide a **DataPanel** as the *data* parameter for *zipline.run\_algorithm*?

That way of providing data is no longer supported and Q are strongly recommending against using it. I didn't try that method in quite some time, after they told me a couple of years ago not to use it.

I'd suggest using the regular bundle/ingest process to read your csv.



**sinnergarden** commented on Aug 8, 2019

@shlomikushchi I tried your solution, it works well for me!! Thanks

BTW, what is the point of doing the following operations:

```
data[pd.Timestamp('2008-12-15')] = np.nan
data[pd.Timestamp('2009-08-11')] = np.nan
data[pd.Timestamp('2012-02-02')] = np.nan
```



**shlomikushchi** commented on Aug 8, 2019

@sinnergarden glad to hear that it was copied from the original zipline code. before zipline moved to IEX they used `pd.DataReader`. they used google and not yahoo. but I copied the code from their solution and switched to yahoo.

Zipline will have to move their datasource for SPY data somewhere else besides IEX, or change the setup to require an API key. Another way to fix is:

- sign up here: <https://iexcloud.io/cloud-login#/register>
- find where your benchmarks.py file is: `ipython, import zipline, zipline.__file__`
- Open the zipline lib in an IDE like Atom
- Add your token from the IEX dashboard (instead of `pk_numbers...` below), and change the requests line to:

```
token = 'pk_numbersnumbersnumbers'
r = requests.get(
    'https://cloud.iexapis.com/stable/stock/{}/chart/5y?token={}'.format(symbol, token)
)
```

I guess it's the nature of the beast with financial data that it's hard to find for free...but annoying.



3



1



**stocktrader8888** commented on Sep 14, 2019

It would make far more sense for the benchmark routines to use a symbol from a bundle rather than any hardcoded external source.



**nateGeorge** commented on Sep 16, 2019

@stocktrader8888 no free bundles on Quandl have SPY (default benchmark I think). Could get it with the yfinance package, but that requires the latest pandas and zipline can't use latest pandas.



**nateGeorge** commented on Sep 16, 2019

Plus IEX only has 5y of history for SPY which is pretty weak. yfinance could get everything



**AndreasClenow** commented on Sep 17, 2019

My take on solution:

2. A hard coded benchmark from a hard coded source makes no sense. Using the SPY as bench doesn't make sense either, in particular since this api call doesn't seem to take dividends into account. If you really need a bm, have the symbol and bundle configurable.

People who are serious enough about backtesting to bother with setting up a local Zipline are not very likely to rely on Yahoo, Quandle, Google or other free sources, and they are very likely to use proper benchmarks instead of price series of an ETF.



★  **exportacc** mentioned this issue on Sep 19, 2019

**get\_benchmark\_returns() function returns 403 (Forbidden) #2530**

 Open

 **DavisOwen** commented on Oct 7, 2019

@AndreasClenow

Just curious, what would be a good source for S&P 500 benchmark data, or other benchmarks that you use?

 **DavisOwen** commented on Oct 7, 2019 • edited ▼

I like Andreas' suggestion, namely that not having benchmark data should be a warning rather than an error. There should also, as he said, be an option for users to provide their own csv/dataframe as benchmark data.

Looking at the code, the TradingEnvironment object is where the benchmark returns are ultimately loaded. I'm not sure where TradingEnvironment gets used by zipline, but I could imagine a good way to do this would be to add a class method setter to TE where you just provide a benchmark dataframe manually. This seems like it would require the least overhead.

However, referencing the first suggestion, I'm not sure what the expected behavior of zipline should be if there is no benchmark data found. It could be non-trivial to run a test without a benchmark. A workaround to this has been discussed above, where you can simply pass a dataframe of all zeros, but this certainly isn't elegant either. It would be nice to be able to circumvent this entirely, but I think for now the best solution is find some sort of consistent (albeit low quality) data source for zipline to use (like google, yahoo, etc.)

EDIT: It actually looks like a commit was made that addresses this issue (intentionally or not). It's not on the current pip or conda repos for zipline. But it is on the master branch of zipline.

[ce2a236](#)

@ssanderson added an argument to `run_algorithm` called `benchmark_returns`. If you just run your algorithm with `run_algorithm()`, you can download your own benchmark in csv, run `pd.read_csv()` to load, and pass it to `run_algorithm` as `benchmark_data`. The only issue I'm running into now is I'm not sure the exact format that `benchmark_data` expects. Looking at `_load_cache_data` in `loader.py`, it looks like this is the command you should run to read the csv, but I'm still having some issues.

```
pd.read_csv(  
    path,  
    parse_dates=[0],  
    index_col=0,  
    header=None,  
    # Pass squeeze=True so that we get a series instead of a frame.  
    squeeze=True,  
).tz_localize('UTC')
```

If anyone knows the proper formatting for benchmark data we can basically close this issue as people can just provide their own benchmark on a per-test basis.

EDIT 2:

I got it to work. In the process I discovered that there has been an attempt to allow custom benchmark data via creating a bundle with `csvdir` and adding it to `set_benchmarks` in `initialize`.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/44199678/how-to-manually-provide-a-benchmark-in-zipline>

<https://www.zipline.io/bundles.html>

However, I don't like this because it requires you to have a specific ohlcv data and seems like a lot of overhead.

If you want a custom benchmark, just use the current master branch of zipline and pass `benchmark_returns` as an argument to `run_algorithm`. The format of benchmark returns is a pandas series with the adj. close (or whatever data you want) as the data and the Timestamp as the index.

6 hidden items

[Load more...](#)

@zoakes: the solution I posted works for me in production for months now.

Check this out: [#2480 \(comment\)](#)

 **zoakes** commented on Nov 20, 2019

I tried a few of these — including the ones changing Benchmarks.py in libs, no luck so far.

What solution worked in production code ?

Zach

Get Outlook for iOS <<https://aka.ms/o0ukef>>

...

 **caot** commented on Nov 27, 2019

[#2488](#) is related.

 **caot** commented on Nov 27, 2019 • edited ▼

My temporal fix (on zipline-live, which is branched off from 1.1.0):

```
diff --git a/zipline/data/benchmarks.py b/zipline/data/benchmarks.py
index 45137428..72d9c3cc 100644
--- a/zipline/data/benchmarks.py
+++ b/zipline/data/benchmarks.py
@@ -30,8 +30,10 @@ def get_benchmark_returns(symbol):
     The data is provided by IEX (https://iextrading.com/), and we can
     get up to 5 years worth of data.
     """
+
+    IEX_TOKEN = 'pk_TOKEN_COMES_HERE' # FIXME: move to param
     r = requests.get(
-        'https://api.iextrading.com/1.0/stock/{}/chart/5y'.format(symbol)
+        'https://cloud.iexapis.com/stable/stock/{}/chart/5y?token={}'.format(
+            symbol, IEX_TOKEN
         )
     data = json.loads(r.text)
```

The 'Publishable' Token can be used from <https://iexcloud.io/>

**@zipper-123** Perhaps you have a faulty cached file. Remember that `ensure_benchmark_data` in `loader.py` first attempts to read from disk. That happened to me while I was tinkering with a solution.

I ended up implementing a minor variation of the solution suggested by **@marketneutral** to sidestep the issue until it's properly fixed. I kept the signature of `get_benchmark_returns`, and just used a wider date range than I'll ever need.

In `benchmark.py`

```
def get_benchmark_returns(symbol):
    cal = get_calendar('NYSE')
    first_date = datetime(1930,1,1)
    last_date = datetime(2030,1,1)
    dates = cal.sessions_in_range(first_date, last_date)
    data = pd.DataFrame(0.0, index=dates, columns=['close'])
    data = data['close']
    return data.sort_index().iloc[1:]
```

And bypassing the cache in `loader.py`

```
"""
if data is not None:
    return data
"""
```

how can i bypass the cache? Where exactly should i paste the code? Sorry just learning and thank you.

 **carstenf** commented on Dec 9, 2019

**@shlomikushchi**

looks like your permanent solution is working for me.

Just a question, you wrote "don't forget to change the call to it in `loader.py`"

Do i have to change something in the original `loader.py` file? and if yes -> what do I need to change?

Thanks

 **bernino** commented on Dec 21, 2019

```
diff --git a/zipline/data/benchmarks.py b/zipline/data/benchmarks.py
index 45137428..72d9c3cc 100644
--- a/zipline/data/benchmarks.py
+++ b/zipline/data/benchmarks.py
@@ -30,8 +30,10 @@ def get_benchmark_returns(symbol):
    The data is provided by IEX (https://iextrading.com/), and we can
    get up to 5 years worth of data.
    """
+
+    IEX_TOKEN = 'pk_TOKEN_COMES_HERE' # FIXME: move to param
    r = requests.get(
-        'https://api.iextrading.com/1.0/stock/{}/chart/5y'.format(symbol)
+        'https://cloud.iexapis.com/stable/stock/{}/chart/5y?token={}'.format(
+            symbol, IEX_TOKEN)
    )
    data = json.loads(r.text)
```

This resolved it for me (had to +import json though).

Any chance this will be in the official release?



1



**richafrank** added the **Benchmark** label on Jan 7



**samatix** mentioned this issue on Jan 9

**run\_algorithm() fails because get\_benchmark\_returns() cannot fetch data from api.iextrading.com (403 Forbidden) #2607**

Closed



**carstenf** commented on Jan 11

here's a fix that goes back to yahoo as a benchmark source.  
replace this method in benchmarks.py and don't forget to change the call to it in loader.py

```
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import pandas_datareader.data as pd_reader

def get_benchmark_returns(symbol, first_date, last_date):
    """
    Get a Series of benchmark returns from Yahoo associated with `symbol`.
    Default is `SPY`.
```



benchmark symbol for which we're getting the returns.

```
The data is provided by Yahoo Finance
"""
data = pd_reader.DataReader(
    symbol,
    'yahoo',
    first_date,
    last_date
)

data = data['Close']

data[pd.Timestamp('2008-12-15')] = np.nan
data[pd.Timestamp('2009-08-11')] = np.nan
data[pd.Timestamp('2012-02-02')] = np.nan

data = data.fillna(method='ffill')

return data.sort_index().tz_localize('UTC').pct_change(1).iloc[1:]
```

Hi

I changed the benchmark.py and loader.py accordingly....

Inside the code I set:

```
def initialize(context):
    set_benchmark(symbol('SPY'))
```

which gives an error: 'Symbol 'SPY' was not found.'

using 'AAPL' as anSymbol gives no error.

Than

```
returns, positions, transactions, benchmark_rets = pf.utils.extract_rets_pos_txn_from_zipline(perf)
pf.create_returns_tear_sheet(returns, benchmark_rets)
```

gives again an error: ValueError: not enough values to unpack (expected 4, got 3)

so it did not find: benchmark\_rets

I think I'm using this wrong with zipline.run\_algorithm

How is the correct usage, I'm googling around since hours but can't find an example to use zipline.run\_algorithm with a benchmark, basically the original solution.

Could someone please share the correct usage.

Thank you very much

@carstenf you don't need to call `set_benchmark(symbol('SPY'))` it's a default in zipline.  
the bundle you use doesn't include SPY so it's not a known symbol

 **carstenf** commented on Jan 13

@shlomikushchi

ok, understood, thanks.

I'm not getting any more errors.

I get a benchmark if I use `set_benchmark(symbol('SPY'))`, because I included it now in the bundle.

But I don't get a benchmark if I want to pull it from `benchmark.py`.

I did the changes in `benchmark.py` (copied your fix), and I changed one line in the `loader.py`:

```
#data = get_benchmark_returns(symbol)
data = get_benchmark_returns(symbol,first_date, last_date).
....should be ok...but no benchmark...something missing?
```

and where is the benchmark symbol defined?

Might be a good idea to use `^SP500TR`, it's the total return of the S&P500, as Andreas suggested.

thanks

 **shlomikushchi** commented on Jan 14 • edited ▼

benchmark symbol is defined in `loader.py`: `load_market_data()`

 **ssanderson** commented on Jan 21

Contributor

Hey all. I'm taking a look at this this morning.

★  **ssanderson** mentioned this issue on Jan 21

Remove Implicit Dependency on Benchmarks and Treasury Returns #2627

 Open

We've got a bunch of issues related to the IEX-sourced benchmark data failing. In the interest of having a single canonical location for the issue, I'm closing this in favor of the newly added [#2627](#). Feel free to comment there if there's information I've missed from this thread.



ssanderson closed this on Jan 21



sislake mentioned this issue on Feb 26

**KeyError: Equity(0 [SBER]) with custom bundle from csv #2661**

Open



awesomefrank commented on Mar 4

here's a fix that goes back to yahoo as a benchmark source.  
replace this method in benchmarks.py and don't forget to change the call to it in loader.py

```
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import pandas_datareader.data as pd_reader

def get_benchmark_returns(symbol, first_date, last_date):
    """
    Get a Series of benchmark returns from Yahoo associated with `symbol`.
    Default is `SPY`.

    Parameters
    -----
    symbol : str
        Benchmark symbol for which we're getting the returns.

    The data is provided by Yahoo Finance
    """
    data = pd_reader.DataReader(
        symbol,
        'yahoo',
        first_date,
        last_date
    )

    data = data['Close']

    data[pd.Timestamp('2008-12-15')] = np.nan
    data[pd.Timestamp('2009-08-11')] = np.nan
    data[pd.Timestamp('2012-02-02')] = np.nan
```

Thank you @shlomikushchi  
The solution works very well for me.

  **zoakes** commented on Mar 4

I'm not able to find loader.py file — hows that possible ?

Anyone have a path to it by chance ?

Zach

Get Outlook for iOS <<https://aka.ms/o0ukef>>

...

 **awesomefrank** commented on Mar 4

From: awesomefrank [notifications@github.com](mailto:notifications@github.com) Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 12:13:56 PM To: quantopian/zipline [zipline@noreply.github.com](mailto:zipline@noreply.github.com) Cc: Zach Mazz [zach\\_oakes@outlook.com](mailto:zach_oakes@outlook.com); Mention [mention@noreply.github.com](mailto:mention@noreply.github.com) Subject: Re: [quantopian/zipline] Getting benchmark data via IEX API does not work anymore (#2480) here's a fix that goes back to yahoo as a benchmark source. replace this method in benchmarks.py and don't forget to change the call to it in loader.py

```
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import pandas_datareader.data as pd_reader

def get_benchmark_returns(symbol, first_date, last_date):
    """ Get a Series of benchmark returns from Yahoo associated with symbol. Default is SPY. Parameters ----- symbol : str Benchmark symbol for which we're getting the returns. The data is provided by Yahoo Finance """
    data = pd_reader.DataReader(symbol, 'yahoo', first_date, last_date)
    data = data['Close']
    data[pd.Timestamp('2008-12-15')] = np.nan
    data[pd.Timestamp('2009-08-11')] = np.nan
    data[pd.Timestamp('2012-02-02')] = np.nan
    data = data.fillna(method='ffill')
    return data.sort_index().tz_localize('UTC').pct_change(1).iloc[1:]
```

Thank you @shlomikushchi <https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgithub.com%2Fshlomikushchi&data=02%7C01%7C%7C681668adb70445608d1108d7c067ce5c%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637189424377455029&sdata=xUqug511h3s2xt3m%2FTsoKCPRs%2F1afHK2zq4vC4g8Y78%3D&reserved=0> The solution works very well for me. — You are receiving this because you were mentioned. Reply to this email directly, view it on GitHub [https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgithub.com%2Fquantopian%2Fzipline%2Fissues%2F2480%3Femail\\_source%3Dnotifications%26email\\_token%3DALPUCIETFFDQUCB2KWAOZPTRF2K6JA5CNFSM4HYSHEN2YY3PNVWWK3TUL52HS4DFVREXG43VMVBW63LNMVXHJKTND5WW2ZLOORPWSZGOENZLJ6Y%23issuecomment-594719995&data=02%7C01%7C%7C681668adb70445608d1108d7c067ce5c%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637189424377455029&sdata=Zm1GtpfLOEmgNCuHF9%2BqorCtkJz648H51VAY4BNqJoo%3D&reserved=0](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgithub.com%2Fquantopian%2Fzipline%2Fissues%2F2480%3Femail_source%3Dnotifications%26email_token%3DALPUCIETFFDQUCB2KWAOZPTRF2K6JA5CNFSM4HYSHEN2YY3PNVWWK3TUL52HS4DFVREXG43VMVBW63LNMVXHJKTND5WW2ZLOORPWSZGOENZLJ6Y%23issuecomment-594719995&data=02%7C01%7C%7C681668adb70445608d1108d7c067ce5c%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637189424377455029&sdata=Zm1GtpfLOEmgNCuHF9%2BqorCtkJz648H51VAY4BNqJoo%3D&reserved=0), or unsubscribe <https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgithub.com%2Fnotifications%2Funsubscribe-auth%2FALPUCID4BLTZ7OLNF7QNJPLRF2K6JANCNFSM4HYSHENQ&data=02%7C01%7C%7C681668adb70445608d1108d7c067ce5c%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637189424377465037&sdata=l1DnsxWz5qkcYyy%2FhEtJhkqeCHQzJOoQNRZu1d%2Fjhbk%3D&reserved=0>.

..\site-packages\zipline\data



adamhadani commented on Mar 16 • edited ▼

slight variation on one of the posted answers to use the new IEX Cloud API endpoint. this one will read your token from env var IEX\_CLOUD\_API\_TOKEN :

```

# WITHOUT WARRANTIES OR CONDITIONS OF ANY KIND, either express or implied.
# See the License for the specific language governing permissions and
# limitations under the License.
+from os import getenv
+
import pandas as pd
import requests

+IEX_CLOUD_API_TOKEN = getenv("IEX_CLOUD_API_TOKEN", "<IEX_CLOUD_API_TOKEN>")
+
+
def get_benchmark_returns(symbol):
    """
    Get a Series of benchmark returns from IEX associated with `symbol`.
@@ -30,7 +35,7 @@
    get up to 5 years worth of data.
    """
    r = requests.get(
-        'https://api.iextrading.com/1.0/stock/{}/chart/5y'.format(symbol)
+        "https://cloud.iexapis.com/stable/stock/{}/chart/5y?chartCloseOnly=True&token={}".for
    )
    data = r.json()

```

Can apply by saving the above to a file `benchmarks.patch` and then invoke in the directory of the original `benchmarks.py` (e.g. `<virtualenv_root>/lib/python3.5/site-packages/zipline/data/`):

```
$ patch < benchmarks.patch
```



**billmoling** mentioned this issue on Mar 23

**Zipline Jsondecoder error #2669**

[Open](#)



**Sigmares** commented on Mar 29 • edited ▼

The triple quote is a block comment, meaning that everything between will be disabled.

```
"""
```

anything between the triple quotes will be interpreted as a comment, not executed as code.

```
print("This will not be printed")
```

```
"""
```

```
print("This will be printed")
```

It ran the codes somewhat smooth and produced the graphs. However, now I have this notification below the kernel. (In a red box)

```
"C:\Users\name\Anaconda3\envs\zip35\lib\site-packages\empyrical\stats.py:704:
RuntimeWarning: invalid value encountered in true_divide
out=out,
C:\Users\name\Anaconda3\envs\zip35\lib\site-packages\empyrical\stats.py:790:
RuntimeWarning: invalid value encountered in true_divide
np.divide(average_annual_return, annualized_downside_risk, out=out)"
```

Is this a big problem? and will it cause me further problems down the line?

If anyone could help me understand why it's happening and if there's a solution for it, I'd be grateful.

Thank you.

Hi @k-s30011, did you find a solution? I have exactly the same issue.

 **marlowequart** commented on Mar 31 • edited ▼

I am also not able to get this working following the suggestions above. It seems like it is timing out trying to divide, possibly because the benchmark is just a bunch of zeros? I am just trying to run a basic file.

I am getting this same error: RuntimeWarning: invalid value encountered in true\_divide  
np.divide(average\_annual\_return, annualized\_downside\_risk, out=out). Does anyone know where this divide is being called from? I don't see it in benchmarks.py or loader.py

I am wondering if it might be due to the version of numpy and other packages I am using. Using numpy version 1.14.6, python 3.5.6

 **marlowequart** commented on Apr 4 • edited ▼

@Sigmares

Hi @k-s30011, did you find a solution? I have exactly the same issue.

above for the API issue, the benchmark data that is loaded is zeros and this is causing the divide function issues. I don't think this is a very good solution, but I cannot find where in the zipline algorithm it is calling the stats functions so this will have to do for now.

Does anyone know where in the zipline package the functions for sharpe and sorting are called? it seems like it would be better to comment those out in zipline rather than the stats module.



**CodeMonkeysGottaCode** mentioned this issue on Apr 8

**Installed Zipline, having issues running and importing it in my Jupyter Notebook. #2675**

🔔 Open



**veekon** mentioned this issue 15 days ago

**zipline example algo's fail on "JSONDecodeError" using docker image #3**

🔔 Open



**PatrickTunni** commented 11 days ago

@k-s30011 @marlowequart Looks like I'm late to the game, and a newbie but I've gotten as far as repairing the benchmarks and loader files, got my first backtest to work, albeit with the divide by zero error.

Have you been successful with this onward in Andreas book? I am getting the idea that passing zero's into the code is causing it to throw those errors.

Thanks for the feedback.



**cema195** commented 10 days ago

@PatrickTunni You are better off using your own data, for example if you have your own SPY data you can use it for the benchmark returns. Andreas's book is pretty nice in terms of programming for beginners and is probably top 5 for algo trading for beginners. Also quantopian lectures slides are really usefull and a good place to start.

If you dont have SPY data, I have data from 1990 to 2020 of data, check my github

Assignees

No one assigned



Benchmark

Projects

None yet

Milestone


No milestone

Linked pull requests

Successfully merging a pull request may close this issue.

None yet

31 participants



and others