

Web Scrapping Tables using Pandas

Estimated Effort: 5 mins

The Pandas library in Python contains a function `read_html()` that can be used to extract tabular information from any web page.

Consider the following example:

Let us assume we want to extract the list of the largest banks in the world by market capitalization, from the following link:

```
URL = 'https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_banks'
```

We may use `pandas.read_html()` function in python to extract all the tables in the web page directly.

A snapshot of the webpage is shown below.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_banks

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- By market capitalization
- By total assets
- Banks by country or territory
- See also
- References

List of largest banks

Article Talk

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The following are lists of the largest banks in the world, as measured by

By market capitalization [edit]

The list is based on Forbes.com's ranking as of August 2023 based on the global economy.^[1]

Rank ↕	Bank name ↕	Market cap (US\$ billi
1	 JPMorgan Chase	419.25
2	 Bank of America	231.52
3	 Industrial and Commercial Bank of China	194.56
4	 Agricultural Bank of China	160.68
5	 HDFC Bank	157.91
6	 Wells Fargo	155.87
7	 HSBC Holdings PLC	148.90
8	 Morgan Stanley	140.83
9	 China Construction Bank	139.82
10	 Bank of China	136.81

We can see that the required table is the first one in the web page.

Note: This is a live web page and it may get updated over time. The image shown above has been captured in November 2023. The process of data extraction remains the same.

We may execute the following lines of code to extract the required table from the web page.

```
import pandas as pd
URL = 'https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_banks'
tables = pd.read_html(URL)
df = tables[0]
print(df)
```

This will extract the required table as a dataframe `df`. The output of the print statement would look as shown below.

	Rank	Bank name	Market cap(US
0	1	JPMorgan Chase	
1	2	Bank of America	
2	3	Industrial and Commercial Bank of China	
3	4	Agricultural Bank of China	
4	5	HDFC Bank	
5	6	Wells Fargo	
6	7	HSBC Holdings PLC	
7	8	Morgan Stanley	
8	9	China Construction Bank	
9	10	Bank of China	

Although convenient, this method comes with its own set of limitations.

Firstly, web pages may have content saved in them as tables but they may not appear as tables on the web page.

For instance, consider the following URL showing the list of countries by GDP (nominal).

```
URL = 'https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)'
```

The images on the web page are also saved in tabular format. A snapshot of the web page is shared below.

List of countries by GDP (nominal)

75 languages

ArticleTalk

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For countries by GDP based on purchasing power parity, see List of countries by GDP (PPP).

For countries by GDP per capita, see List of countries by GDP (nominal) per capita.

Gross domestic product (GDP) is the market value of all final goods and services from a nation in a given year.^[1] Countries are sorted by nominal GDP estimates from financial and statistical institutions, which are calculated at market or government official exchange rates. Nominal GDP does not take into account differences in the cost of living in different countries, and the results can vary greatly from one year to another based on fluctuations in the exchange rates of the country's currency.^[1] Such fluctuations may change a country's ranking from one year to the next, even though they often make little or no difference in the standard of living of its population.^[4]

Comparisons of national wealth are also frequently made on the basis of purchasing power parity (PPP), to adjust for differences in the cost of living in different countries. Other metrics, nominal GDP per capita and a corresponding GDP (PPP) per capita are used for comparing national standard of living. On the whole, PPP per capita figures are less spread than nominal GDP per capita figures.^[4]

The rankings of national economies over time have changed considerably; the United States surpassed the British Empire's output around 1916,^[5] which in turn had surpassed the Qing dynasty in aggregate output decades earlier.^{[7][8]} Since China's transition to a socialist market economy through contrasted privatisation and deregulation,^{[9][10]} the country has seen its ranking increase from ninth in 1978, to second in 2010. China's economic growth accelerated during this period and its share of global nominal GDP surged from 2% in 1980 to 18% in 2021.^{[11][12]} Among others, India has also experienced an economic boom since the implementation of economic liberalisation in the early 1990s.^[13]

The first list includes estimates compiled by the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook, the second list shows the World Bank's data, and the third list includes data compiled by the United Nations Statistics Division. The IMF definitive data for the past year and estimates for the current year are published twice a year in April and October. Non-sovereign entities (the world, continents, and some dependent territories) and states with limited international recognition (such as Kosovo and Taiwan) are included in the list where they appear in the sources.

26.96

17.79

4.40

4.03

3.73

3.33

3.06

2.19

2.13

2.12

USChinaGermanyJapanIndiaUKFranceItalyBrazilCanada

Largest economies in the world by GDP (nominal) in 2022 according to International Monetary Fund estimates^[14]

Countries by nominal GDP in 2019^[15]

• < \$20 billion

• \$20–50 billion

• \$50–100 billion

• \$100–250 billion

• > \$250 billion

• \$100–250 billion

• \$250–500 billion

• \$500–750 billion

• \$750–1,000 billion

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GDP (USD million) by country

	Country/Territory	UN region	IMF [1][13]		World Bank [14]		United Nations [15]	
			Forecast	Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate	Year
	World	—	104,476,432	2023	100,562,011	2022	96,698,005	2021
1	United States	Americas	26,949,643	2023	25,462,700	2022	23,315,081	2021
2	China	Asia	17,700,899	[n 1] 2023	17,963,171	[n 3] 2022	17,734,131	[n 1] 2021
3	Germany	Europe	4,429,838	2023	4,072,192	2022	4,259,935	2021
4	Japan	Asia	4,230,862	2023	4,231,141	2022	4,940,878	2021
5	India	Asia	3,732,224	2023	3,385,090	2022	3,201,471	2021
6	United Kingdom	Europe	3,332,059	2023	3,070,668	2022	3,131,378	2021
7	France	Europe	3,049,016	2023	2,782,905	2022	2,957,880	2021
8	Italy	Europe	2,186,082	2023	2,010,432	2022	2,107,703	2021
9	Brazil	Americas	2,126,809	2023	1,920,096	2022	1,608,981	2021
10	Canada	Americas	2,117,805	2023	2,139,840	2022	1,988,336	2021
11	Russia	Europe	1,862,470	2023	2,240,422	2022	1,778,782	2021
12	Mexico	Americas	1,811,468	2023	1,414,187	2022	1,272,839	2021
13	South Korea	Asia	1,709,232	2023	1,665,246	2022	1,810,966	2021
14	Australia	Oceania	1,687,713	2023	1,675,419	2022	1,734,532	2021
15	Spain	Europe	1,582,054	2023	1,397,509	2022	1,427,381	2021

We can extract the table using the code shown below.

```
import pandas as pd
URL = 'https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)'
tables = pd.read_html(URL)
df = tables(2) # the required table will have index 2
print(df)
```

The output of the print statement is shown below.

	Country/Territory	UN region	IMF [1][13]		World Bank [14]		United Nations [15]
	Country/Territory	UN region	Forecast	Year	Estimate	Year	
0	World	—	104476432	2023	100562011	2022	
1	United States	Americas	26949643	2023	25462700	2022	
2	China	Asia	17700899	[n 1] 2023	17963171	[n 3] 2022	
3	Germany	Europe	4429838	2023	4072192	2022	
4	Japan	Asia	4230862	2023	4231141	2022	
..	
209	Palau	Oceania	267	2023	—	—	
210	Kiribati	Oceania	246	2023	223	2022	
211	Nauru	Oceania	150	2023	151	2022	
212	Montserrat	Americas	—	—	—	—	
213	Tuvalu	Oceania	63	2023	60	2022	

Note that the hyperlink texts have also been retained in the code output.

It is further prudent to point out, that this method exclusively operates only on tabular data extraction. BeautifulSoup library still remains the default method of extracting any kind of information from web pages.

Author(s)

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