**Background**

It is easy to download stock data from Yahoo!. For example, copy and paste this URL into your browser address: <http://download.finance.yahoo.com/d/quotes.csv?s=YHOO+GOOG+MSFT&f=sl1d1t1c1hgvbap2>.

Depending on your Internet browser setting, you may be asked to save the results into a filename called "*quotes.csv*" or the following will appear in your browser:

Hide   Copy Code

"YHOO",14.8188,"6/22/2009","1:20pm",-0.9812,15.61,14.80,13944065,14.81,14.82,"-6.21%"

"GOOG",402.25,"6/22/2009","1:20pm",-17.84,417.49,402.11,2399141,402.14,402.27,"-4.25%"

"MSFT",23.359,"6/22/2009","1:20pm",-0.711,23.95,23.32,36595084,23.35,23.36,"-2.95%"

The URL starts with a base URL and then adds parameters and values after a question mark (?).

* http://quote.yahoo.com/d/quotes.csv? - The default URL to get the information
* 's=' - Appends a bunch of stock symbols separated by "+" after this
* & - to join the string
* 'f=' - Appends a bunch of special tags after this with no spaces in between

The following are special tags provided by Yahoo! Finance:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a | Ask | a2 | Average Daily Volume | a5 | Ask Size |
| b | Bid | b2 | Ask (Real-time) | b3 | Bid (Real-time) |
| b4 | Book Value | b6 | Bid Size | c | Change & Percent Change |
| c1 | Change | c3 | Commission | c6 | Change (Real-time) |
| c8 | After Hours Change (Real-time) | d | Dividend/Share | d1 | Last Trade Date |
| d2 | Trade Date | e | Earnings/Share | e1 | Error Indication (returned for symbol changed / invalid) |
| e7 | EPS Estimate Current Year | e8 | EPS Estimate Next Year | e9 | EPS Estimate Next Quarter |
| f6 | Float Shares | g | Day’s Low | h | Day’s High |
| j | 52-week Low | k | 52-week High | g1 | Holdings Gain Percent |
| g3 | Annualized Gain | g4 | Holdings Gain | g5 | Holdings Gain Percent (Real-time) |
| g6 | Holdings Gain (Real-time) | i | More Info | i5 | Order Book (Real-time) |
| j1 | Market Capitalization | j3 | Market Cap (Real-time) | j4 | EBITDA |
| j5 | Change From 52-week Low | j6 | Percent Change From 52-week Low | k1 | Last Trade (Real-time) With Time |
| k2 | Change Percent (Real-time) | k3 | Last Trade Size | k4 | Change From 52-week High |
| k5 | Percebt Change From 52-week High | l | Last Trade (With Time) | l1 | Last Trade (Price Only) |
| l2 | High Limit | l3 | Low Limit | m | Day’s Range |
| m2 | Day’s Range (Real-time) | m3 | 50-day Moving Average | m4 | 200-day Moving Average |
| m5 | Change From 200-day Moving Average | m6 | Percent Change From 200-day Moving Average | m7 | Change From 50-day Moving Average |
| m8 | Percent Change From 50-day Moving Average | n | Name | n4 | Notes |
| o | Open | p | Previous Close | p1 | Price Paid |
| p2 | Change in Percent | p5 | Price/Sales | p6 | Price/Book |
| q | Ex-Dividend Date | r | P/E Ratio | r1 | Dividend Pay Date |
| r2 | P/E Ratio (Real-time) | r5 | PEG Ratio | r6 | Price/EPS Estimate Current Year |
| r7 | Price/EPS Estimate Next Year | s | Symbol | s1 | Shares Owned |
| s7 | Short Ratio | t1 | Last Trade Time | t6 | Trade Links |
| t7 | Ticker Trend | t8 | 1 yr Target Price | v | Volume/td> |
| v1 | Holdings Value | v7 | Holdings Value (Real-time)/td> | w | 52-week Range |
| w1 | Day’s Value Change | w4 | Day’s Value Change (Real-time) | x | Stock Exchange |
| y | Dividend Yield |  |  |  |  |

Let's say that you want to have the following quotes: YHOO, GOOG, GE, MSFT. You want to get the Name, Last Price, Last Traded Volume, 52-Week High. From the table above, you can find out that the special tags needed are as follows:

* Name - n
* Last Price- l1
* Last Traded Volume - v
* 52-Week High - k
* 52-Week Low - j

All you need to do is to construct the URL with the given special tags above. The URL will look like this: *http://quote.yahoo.com/d/quotes.csv?s=YHOO+GOOG+GE+MSFT&f=nl1vkj*.

**Chart**

It's also easy to get stock charts from Yahoo! Finance. All you need to do is make a request for the image with the identical URL that is in the Yahoo! Finance page. For example, this is the last three months of Microsoft stock: <http://chart.finance.yahoo.com/c/3m/d/msft>.

The URL also starts with a base URL and then adds a stock symbol after that.

Small chart:

* 1 day: <http://ichart.yahoo.com/t?s=MSFT>
* 5 days: <http://ichart.yahoo.com/v?s=MSFT>
* 1 year: <http://ichart.finance.yahoo.com/c/bb/m/msft>

Big chart:

* 1 day: <http://ichart.finance.yahoo.com/b?s=MSFT>
* 5 days: <http://ichart.finance.yahoo.com/w?s=MSFT>
* 3 months: <http://chart.finance.yahoo.com/c/3m/msft>
* 6 months: <http://chart.finance.yahoo.com/c/6m/msft>
* 1 year: <http://chart.finance.yahoo.com/c/1y/msft>
* 2 years: <http://chart.finance.yahoo.com/c/2y/msft>
* 5 years: <http://chart.finance.yahoo.com/c/5y/msft>
* Max: <http://chart.finance.yahoo.com/c/my/msft>