

Guide to Downloading Data from the OECD *Main Economic Indicators Original Release Data and Revisions Database*

This document explains how to download data in form required to perform revisions analysis as described in the [automated programs to perform revisions analysis](#). Gross Domestic Product for Germany in constant prices for the last 5 years will be taken as an example. Users wishing to use this database for real time analysis of econometric models can download data in the same way, although it is recommended to use the bulk download procedure for this purpose if large files are involved (e.g. time series back to 1960).

1. Click on the name of the variable to be analyzed to access the database.

The screenshot shows the website interface in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The title bar reads "Main Economic Indicators Original Release Data and Revisions Database - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by OECD - 7 Januar". The address bar shows the URL "http://webdev2/STD_MEI/default.asp?rev=1". The website header features the OECD logo and the title "MAIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS". Below this, a navigation bar includes "STATISTICS PORTAL" and "Original Release Data and Revisions Database". A descriptive paragraph states: "This interface provides access to time series data for 21 key economic variables as originally published in each monthly edition of the MEI from February 1999 onwards. Accessing this source of originally published data will enable analysts to test the likely effectiveness of econometric models in simulated real-time. It will also enable users to study the magnitude and direction of subsequent revisions to published statistics. Data for all OECD countries, the Euro area, China, India, Brazil, South Africa and the Russian Federation are available." The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled "Access original release data", lists 21 variables under the heading "Access the database:". The right column, titled "Access revisions analysis studies", lists "OECD Revisions Analysis Studies:". A tooltip is visible over the "Access Original Release Data for GDP, Total and of Industrial Production" link. At the bottom, a section titled "Variables included in the database" provides additional information. The browser's status bar at the bottom shows the URL "http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/default.aspx?querytype=view&queryname=206" and a "Local int" icon.

OECD

MAIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

STATISTICS PORTAL

Original Release Data and Revisions Database

This interface provides access to time series data for 21 key economic variables as originally published in each monthly edition of the MEI from February 1999 onwards. Accessing this source of originally published data will enable analysts to test the likely effectiveness of econometric models in simulated real-time. It will also enable users to study the magnitude and direction of subsequent revisions to published statistics. Data for all OECD countries, the Euro area, China, India, Brazil, South Africa and the Russian Federation are available.

Access original release data

Access the database:

- GDP, Total and Expenditure Components
- Index of Production
- Composite Leading Indicators
- Retail Trade Volume
- Consumer Price Index
- Standardised Unemployment Rates
- Civilian Employment
- Hourly Earnings in Manufacturing
- Monetary Aggregates – Broad Money
- International Trade in Goods
- Balance of Payments – Current Account Balance

Access revisions analysis studies

OECD Revisions Analysis Studies:

- Gross Domestic Product
- of Industrial Production

Variables included in the database

Data is available for the following 21 key economic variables at the frequency published by the national institute (i.e. monthly or quarterly). Some variables may not

http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/default.aspx?querytype=view&queryname=206

- On accessing the database, the default selection of data will be displayed as shown below.

Web Browser for OECD.Stat - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by OECD - 7 January 2003

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Address <http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/default.aspx?querytype=view&queryname=206>

OECD Statistics v.2.6

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Microsoft Internet Explorer v4.0 or 58 us

Search

Browse Themes

Browse Queries

Current Query

Click on a dimension to view or change the members currently selected.

Current data selection:

- Country [37 / 37]
- Variable [8 / 21]
- Edition [29 / 88]
- Time & Frequency [26]

Hide empty rows

Hide empty columns

Show codes instead of names

All Decimals

1 Power Code

View Data

Export to Excel

Drag and drop dimensions to change view.

Double click on a cell to view any metadata.

Export to Excel

Query: GDP, Total and Expenditure Components

Dataset: Main Economic Indicators - Original release data and revisions

data extracted on 2006/06/08 15:24 from OECD.Stat

Country	Australia							
Variable	GDP: Total, current prices							
Frequency	Quarterly							
Edition	January 2004	February 2004	March 2004	April 2004	May 2004	June 2004	July 2004	August 2004
Time								
Q1-2000	157 939 000 000	157 939 000 000	157 939 000 000	157 999 000 000	157 999 000 000	158 005 000 000	158 005 000 000	158 005 000 000
Q2-2000	161 370 000 000	161 370 000 000	161 370 000 000	161 368 000 000	161 368 000 000	161 312 000 000	161 312 000 000	161 312 000 000
Q3-2000	165 374 000 000	165 374 000 000	165 374 000 000	165 377 000 000	165 377 000 000	165 439 000 000	165 439 000 000	165 439 000 000
Q4-2000	165 484 000 000	165 484 000 000	165 484 000 000	165 590 000 000	165 590 000 000	165 536 000 000	165 536 000 000	165 536 000 000
Q1-2001	168 807 000 000	168 807 000 000	168 807 000 000	168 813 000 000	168 813 000 000	168 817 000 000	168 817 000 000	168 817 000 000
Q2-2001	172 109 000 000	172 109 000 000	172 109 000 000	172 169 000 000	172 169 000 000	172 093 000 000	172 093 000 000	172 093 000 000
Q3-2001	174 429 000 000	174 429 000 000	174 429 000 000	174 562 000 000	174 562 000 000	174 502 000 000	174 502 000 000	174 502 000 000
Q4-2001	177 468 000 000	177 468 000 000	177 468 000 000	177 122 000 000	177 122 000 000	177 129 000 000	177 129 000 000	177 129 000 000
Q1-2002	179 963 000 000	179 963 000 000	179 963 000 000	179 887 000 000	179 887 000 000	180 017 000 000	180 017 000 000	180 017 000 000
Q2-2002	182 207 000 000	182 207 000 000	182 207 000 000	182 436 000 000	182 436 000 000	182 309 000 000	182 309 000 000	182 309 000 000
Q3-2002	184 695 000 000	184 695 000 000	184 695 000 000	184 957 000 000	184 957 000 000	184 924 000 000	184 924 000 000	184 924 000 000
Q4-2002	186 727 000 000	186 727 000 000	186 727 000 000	186 978 000 000	186 978 000 000	186 952 000 000	186 952 000 000	186 952 000 000
Q1-2003	189 829 000 000	189 829 000 000	189 829 000 000	190 123 000 000	190 123 000 000	190 056 000 000	190 056 000 000	190 056 000 000
Q2-2003	191 480 000 000	191 480 000 000	191 480 000 000	191 631 000 000	191 631 000 000	191 549 000 000	191 549 000 000	191 549 000 000
Q3-2003	195 761 000 000	195 761 000 000	195 761 000 000	196 442 000 000	196 442 000 000	196 125 000 000	196 125 000 000	196 125 000 000
Q4-2003	201 465 000 000	201 465 000 000	201 465 000 000	201 465 000 000	201 465 000 000	201 032 000 000	201 032 000 000	201 032 000 000

Done

Local intr

3. Use the drop down box to select your country.

Web Browser for OECD.Stat - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by OECD - 7 January 2003

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

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Address <http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/default.aspx?querytype=view&queryname=206>

OECD Statistics v.2.6

Login Version Française

Microsoft Internet Explorer v4.0.0.581

Search

Browse Themes

Browse Queries

Current Query

Click on a dimension to view or change the members currently selected.

Current data selection:

- Main Economic Indicators - Orig
- Country [37 / 37]
- Variable [8 / 21]
- Edition [29 / 88]
- Time & Frequency [26]

☒ Hide empty rows

☒ Hide empty columns

☐ Show codes instead of names

All Decimals

1 Power Code

View Data

Export to Excel

Drag and drop dimensions to change view.

Double click on a cell to view any metadata.

Export to Excel

Query: GDP, Total and Expenditure Components

Dataset: Main Economic Indicators - Original release data and revisions

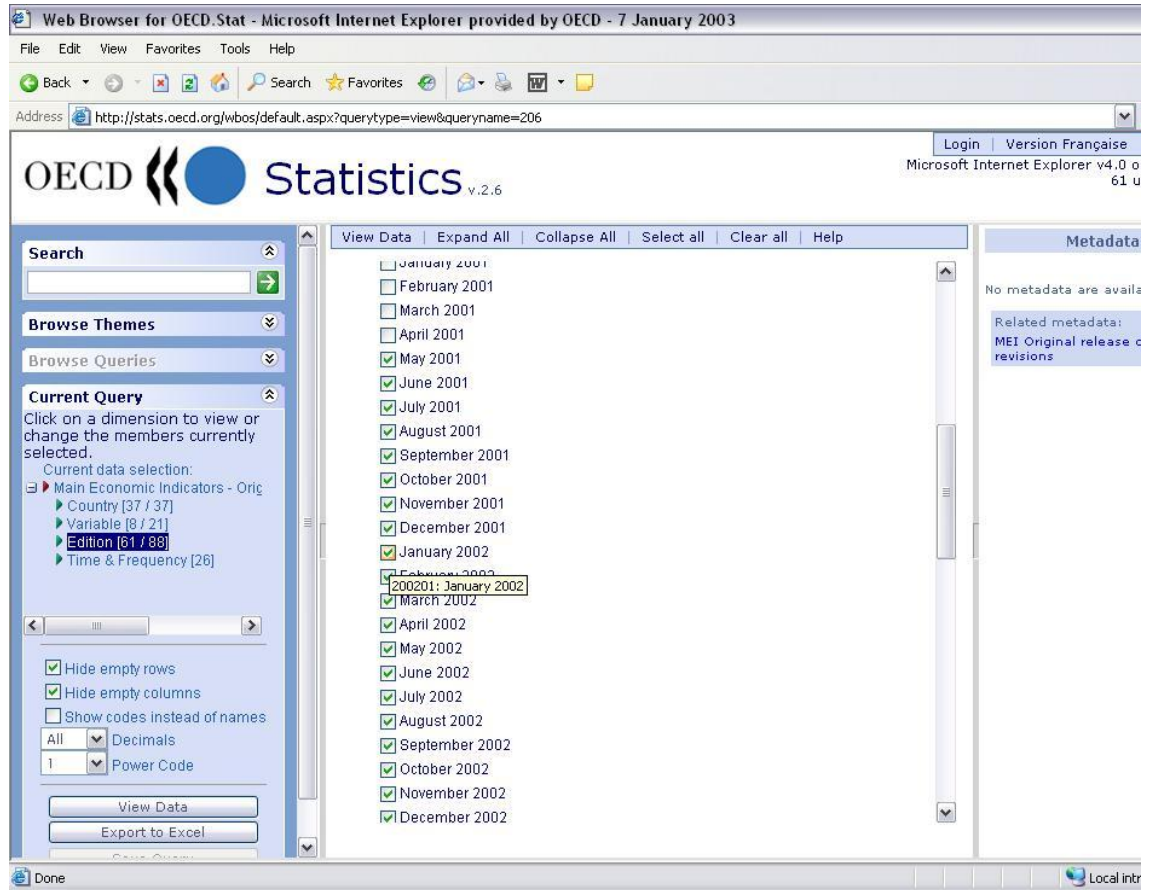
data extracted on 2006/06/08 15:24 from OECD.Stat

Country	Variable	Frequency	Edition	March 2004	April 2004	May 2004	June 2004	July 2004
Australia	Australia	Q1-2000	Q1-2000	157 939 000 000	157 999 000 000	157 999 000 000	158 005 000 000	158 005 000 000
Austria	Austria	Q2-2000	Q2-2000	161 370 000 000	161 358 000 000	161 358 000 000	161 312 000 000	161 312 000 000
Belgium	Belgium	Q3-2000	Q3-2000	165 374 000 000	165 377 000 000	165 377 000 000	165 439 000 000	165 439 000 000
Canada	Canada	Q4-2000	Q4-2000	165 484 000 000	165 590 000 000	165 590 000 000	165 536 000 000	165 536 000 000
Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Q1-2001	Q1-2001	168 807 000 000	168 813 000 000	168 813 000 000	168 817 000 000	168 817 000 000
Denmark	Denmark	Q2-2001	Q2-2001	172 109 000 000	172 169 000 000	172 169 000 000	172 093 000 000	172 093 000 000
Finland	Finland	Q3-2001	Q3-2001	174 429 000 000	174 562 000 000	174 562 000 000	174 502 000 000	174 502 000 000
France	France	Q4-2001	Q4-2001	177 468 000 000	177 122 000 000	177 122 000 000	177 129 000 000	177 129 000 000
Germany	Germany	Q1-2002	Q1-2002	179 963 000 000	179 887 000 000	179 887 000 000	180 017 000 000	180 017 000 000
Greece	Greece	Q2-2002	Q2-2002	182 207 000 000	182 436 000 000	182 436 000 000	182 309 000 000	182 309 000 000
Hungary	Hungary	Q3-2002	Q3-2002	184 695 000 000	184 957 000 000	184 957 000 000	184 924 000 000	184 924 000 000
Iceland	Iceland	Q4-2002	Q4-2002	186 727 000 000	186 978 000 000	186 978 000 000	186 952 000 000	186 952 000 000
Ireland	Ireland	Q1-2003	Q1-2003	189 829 000 000	190 123 000 000	190 123 000 000	190 056 000 000	190 056 000 000
Italy	Italy	Q2-2003	Q2-2003	191 480 000 000	191 631 000 000	191 631 000 000	191 549 000 000	191 549 000 000
Japan	Japan	Q3-2003	Q3-2003	195 761 000 000	196 442 000 000	196 442 000 000	196 125 000 000	196 125 000 000
Korea, Republic of	Korea, Republic of	Q4-2003	Q4-2003	201 455 000 000	201 455 000 000	201 455 000 000	201 032 000 000	201 032 000 000
Luxembourg	Luxembourg							
Mexico	Mexico							
Netherlands	Netherlands							
New Zealand	New Zealand							
Norway	Norway							
Poland	Poland							
Portugal	Portugal							
Slovak Republic	Slovak Republic							
Slovenia	Slovenia							
Spain	Spain							
Sweden	Sweden							
Switzerland	Switzerland							
Turkey	Turkey							
United Kingdom	United Kingdom							
United States	United States							

Done

Local int

4. Use the menu item *Edition* to select editions of the OECD monthly Main Economic Indicators (MEI) publication to be included in the analysis. Click on the check boxes at the left to select the editions.



- Click on the menu *Time and Frequency* to choose the data range and the frequency required for the analysis. Check on the check box next to *Monthly* or *Quarterly* to select the frequency of data. Use the drop down box at the side to select the starting and end point of the data. It is recommended not to select the periods prior to 18 months before the first edition in performing revisions analysis (i.e. if your revisions analysis starts from data published in the January 2000 edition of the MEI, for a meaningful revisions analysis the starting point for the time series selected should be around 3rd quarter / 9th month of 1998). If you are using the database for real time analysis of econometric models, then you should choose the full length of time series available for the variable (although it is recommended to do this using the bulk download option from the menu on the left).

Web Browser for OECD.Stat - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address <http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/default.aspx?querytype=view&queryname=2006Q2>

OECD Statistics v.2.6

Search

Browse Themes

Browse Queries

Current Query

Click on a dimension to view or change the members currently selected.

Current data selection:

- Main Economic Indicators - Orig
 - Country [37 / 37]
 - Variable [8 / 21]
 - Edition [61 / 88]
 - Time & Frequency [30]

Hide empty rows

Hide empty columns

Show codes instead of names

All Decimals

1 Power Code

View Data

Export to Excel

Time / Frequency

Date Range Selection

Quarterly ☒

Monthly ☐

1993Q4

1994Q1

1994Q2

1994Q3

1994Q4

1995Q1

1995Q2

1995Q3

1995Q4

1996Q1

1996Q2

1996Q3

1996Q4

1997Q1

1997Q2

1997Q3

1997Q4

1998Q1

1998Q2

1998Q3

1998Q4

1999Q1

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1999Q3

1999Q4

2000Q1

2000Q2

2000Q3

2000Q4

2001Q1

January 2003

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Microsoft Internet Explorer v4.0 or 61 u

range

To: ☒ latest available data

Select last: 26 quarters

2006Q2

2006M3

2006M4

months

Done

Local intr

6. In order to check the data selection, click on the button *View Data* on the lower left hand corner to view the data on the internet explorer (this is not possible if using the bulk download procedure). However, data shown on the window cannot be used for the analysis. In order to use the data for the analysis, they need to be exported to excel and saved in the PC.

Web Browser for OECD.Stat - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by OECD - 7 January 2003

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

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Address <http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/default.aspx?querytype=view&queryname=206>

OECD Statistics v.2.6 Login Version Française

Microsoft Internet Explorer v4.0 61 u

Search

Browse Themes

Browse Queries

Current Query

Click on a dimension to view or change the members currently selected.

Current data selection:

- Main Economic Indicators - Orig
 - Country [37 / 37]
 - Variable [8 / 21]
 - Edition [61 / 88]
 - Time & Frequency [30]

Hide empty rows

Hide empty columns

Show codes instead of names

All Decimals

1 Power Code

View Data

Export to Excel

Drag and drop dimensions to change view.

Double click on a cell to view any metadata.

Export to Excel

Query: GDP, Total and Expenditure Components

Dataset: Main Economic Indicators - Original release data and revisions

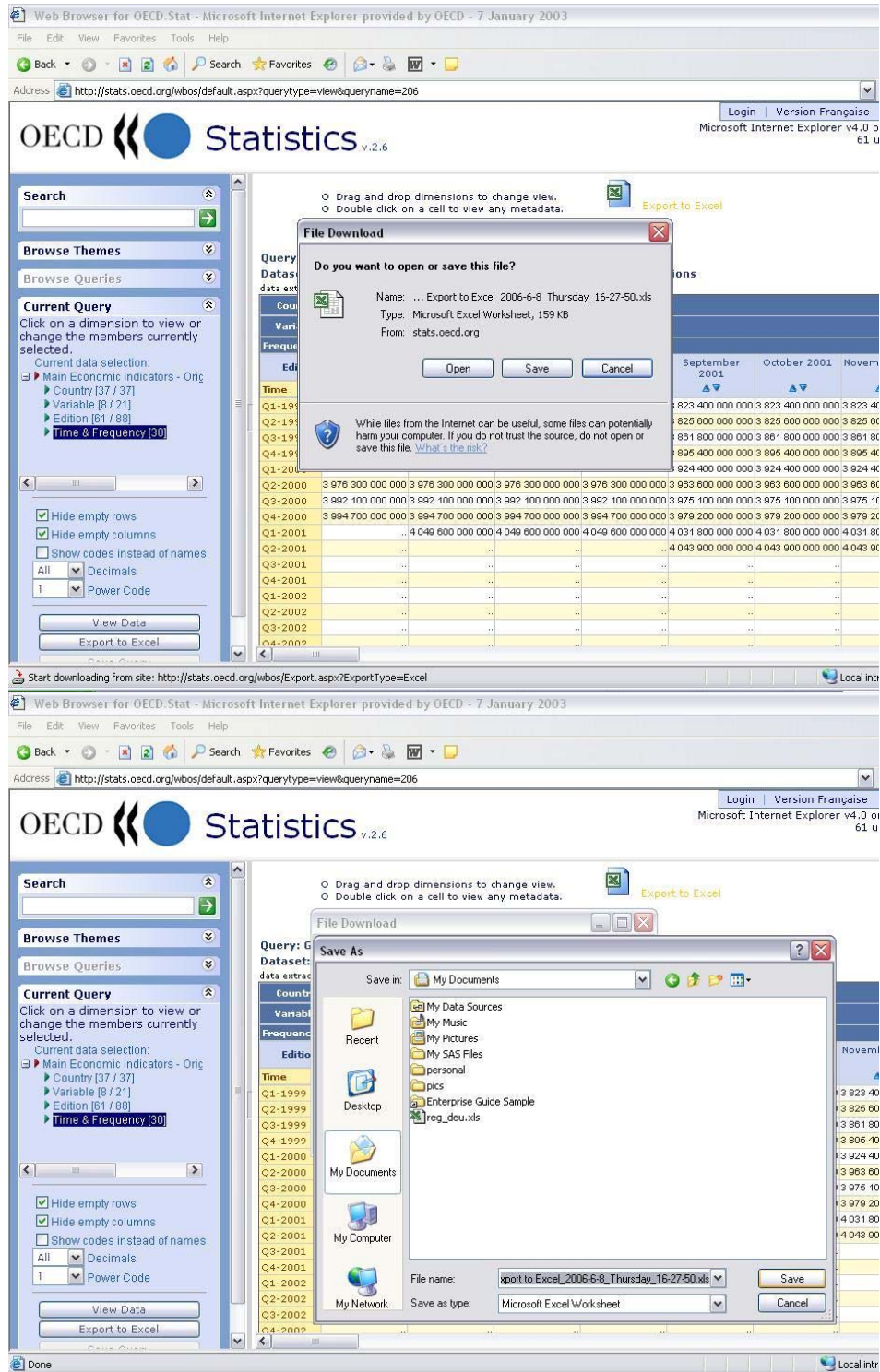
data extracted on 2006/06/08 16:23 from OECD.Stat

Country	Germany						
Variable	GDP: Total, current prices						
Frequency	Quarterly						
Edition	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	August 2001	September 2001	October 2001	November 2001
Q1-1999	3 845 500 000 000	3 845 500 000 000	3 845 500 000 000	3 845 500 000 000	3 823 400 000 000	3 823 400 000 000	3 823 400 000 000
Q2-1999	3 845 900 000 000	3 845 900 000 000	3 845 900 000 000	3 845 900 000 000	3 825 600 000 000	3 825 600 000 000	3 825 600 000 000
Q3-1999	3 877 700 000 000	3 877 700 000 000	3 877 700 000 000	3 877 700 000 000	3 861 800 000 000	3 861 800 000 000	3 861 800 000 000
Q4-1999	3 906 300 000 000	3 906 300 000 000	3 906 300 000 000	3 906 300 000 000	3 895 400 000 000	3 895 400 000 000	3 895 400 000 000
Q1-2000	3 936 000 000 000	3 936 000 000 000	3 936 000 000 000	3 936 000 000 000	3 924 400 000 000	3 924 400 000 000	3 924 400 000 000
Q2-2000	3 976 300 000 000	3 976 300 000 000	3 976 300 000 000	3 976 300 000 000	3 963 600 000 000	3 963 600 000 000	3 963 600 000 000
Q3-2000	3 992 100 000 000	3 992 100 000 000	3 992 100 000 000	3 992 100 000 000	3 975 100 000 000	3 975 100 000 000	3 975 100 000 000
Q4-2000	3 994 700 000 000	3 994 700 000 000	3 994 700 000 000	3 994 700 000 000	3 979 200 000 000	3 979 200 000 000	3 979 200 000 000
Q1-2001	4 049 600 000 000	4 049 600 000 000	4 049 600 000 000	4 049 600 000 000	4 031 800 000 000	4 031 800 000 000	4 031 800 000 000
Q2-2001	4 043 900 000 000	4 043 900 000 000	4 043 900 000 000	4 043 900 000 000	4 043 900 000 000	4 043 900 000 000	4 043 900 000 000
Q3-2001	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q4-2001	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q1-2002	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q2-2002	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q3-2002	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q4-2002	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

<http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/Export.aspx?ExportType=Excel>

Local intr

- Click on the button *Export to Excel* below the *View Data* button, or use the button above the data to export the data to an excel spreadsheet. When the window for download pops up, click on the button *Save* and define a proper folder in which the data should be saved.



8. The downloaded data looks as shown below.

Country	Germany											
Variable	GDP: Total, current prices											
Frequency	Quarterly											
Edition	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	August 2001	September 2001	October 2001	November 2001	December 2001	January 2002	February 2002	March 2002	April 2002
Q1-1999	3.8455E+12	3.8455E+12	3.8455E+12	3.8455E+12	3.8234E+12	3.8234E+12	3.8234E+12	3.8234E+12	3.8234E+12	1.9549E+12	1.9548E+12	1.9548E+12
Q2-1999	3.8459E+12	3.8459E+12	3.8459E+12	3.8459E+12	3.8256E+12	3.8256E+12	3.8256E+12	3.8256E+12	3.8256E+12	1.956E+12	1.9559E+12	1.9559E+12
Q3-1999	3.8777E+12	3.8777E+12	3.8777E+12	3.8777E+12	3.8618E+12	3.8618E+12	3.8618E+12	3.8618E+12	3.8618E+12	1.9745E+12	1.9752E+12	1.9752E+12
Q4-1999	3.9063E+12	3.9063E+12	3.9063E+12	3.9063E+12	3.8954E+12	3.8954E+12	3.8954E+12	3.8954E+12	3.8954E+12	1.9917E+12	1.9916E+12	1.9916E+12
Q1-2000	3.936E+12	3.936E+12	3.936E+12	3.936E+12	3.9244E+12	3.9244E+12	3.9244E+12	3.9244E+12	3.9244E+12	2.0065E+12	2.0064E+12	2.0064E+12
Q2-2000	3.9763E+12	3.9763E+12	3.9763E+12	3.9763E+12	3.9636E+12	3.9636E+12	3.9636E+12	3.9636E+12	3.9636E+12	2.0266E+12	2.0264E+12	2.0264E+12
Q3-2000	3.9921E+12	3.9921E+12	3.9921E+12	3.9921E+12	3.9751E+12	3.9751E+12	3.9751E+12	3.9751E+12	3.9751E+12	2.0324E+12	2.0331E+12	2.0331E+12
Q4-2000	3.9947E+12	3.9947E+12	3.9947E+12	3.9947E+12	3.9792E+12	3.9792E+12	3.9792E+12	3.9792E+12	3.9792E+12	2.0346E+12	2.0341E+12	2.0341E+12
Q1-2001	4.0496E+12	4.0496E+12	4.0496E+12	4.0496E+12	4.0318E+12	4.0318E+12	4.0318E+12	4.0318E+12	4.0318E+12	2.0614E+12	2.0618E+12	2.0618E+12
Q2-2001	...	...	...	...	4.0439E+12	4.0439E+12	4.0439E+12	4.0439E+12	4.0439E+12	2.0526E+12	2.0582E+12	2.0582E+12
Q3-2001	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q4-2001	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q1-2002	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q2-2002	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q3-2002	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q4-2002	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q1-2003	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q2-2003	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q3-2003	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q4-2003	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q1-2004	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q2-2004	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q3-2004	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q4-2004	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q1-2005	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q2-2005	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

The data are now ready to be used in the analysis. For a guide on how to perform the revision analysis with the data downloaded, see [automated programs to perform revisions analysis](#).

In some cases it may be that an extra (empty) column is included next to each edition with the downloaded data (if this has occurred it will be obvious from the column numbering at the top of the file). If this occurs, all such empty columns must be deleted before proceeding.