



User guide

Accessing IMF Balance of Payments Statistics

This guide is intended to introduce you to Beyond 20/20 Web Data Server by carrying out a simple and hopefully typical research task using the IMF's Balance of Payments Statistics (BOPS).

Task

Visualise and download the Current Account figures for the United Kingdom for the period 2005-2012.

1. Finding and selecting the data

Find IMF BOPS on the UK Data Service website or via <http://esds80.mcc.ac.uk/>

Input UK HE/FE institutional username and password in the login window. If you have not already registered with the UK Data Service, you will then be automatically redirected to complete an online registration after which you will need to agree to the IMF special conditions prior to being able to access the data using only your UK HE/FE institutional username and password.

You will see a folder, labelled 'Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics'. Open this and then select the 'BOPS Country Data - BPM6 2005 Onwards' folder, then the 'Country Tables View', and finally choose 'Standard Presentation' to reveal the tables that it contains.

The screenshot shows the 'Reports' tab selected in the top navigation bar. Below it is a search bar and an 'Advanced search' button. The main content area is divided into two panes. The left pane shows a tree view of folders under 'All reports', with 'BOPS Country Data - BPM6 2005 Onwards' expanded to show 'Country Tables View' and 'Standard Presentation' selected. The right pane displays a list of countries and their corresponding BOPS data, including the United Kingdom.

| Country | Description |
|----------------------|--|
| Albania | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Algeria | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Angola | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Anguilla | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Argentina | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Armenia | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Aruba | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Australia | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Austria | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Azerbaijan, Rep. of. | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Bahamas, The. | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Bahrain, Kingdom of. | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Bangladesh | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Barbados | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Belarus | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Belgium | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Belize | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Benin | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Bermuda | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Bhutan | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Bolivia | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Botswana | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Brazil | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |
| Brunei Darussalam | Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Millions of U.S. dollars) |

Scroll down and select 'United Kingdom. Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Billions of U.S. dollars)'. By default the table will be populated with data but this will be more information than you want.

Click on the 'Select Items to View' icon and select 'Data categories' from the list. Use the 'Clear all' icon to remove all default selected Series.



The screenshot shows a web interface with three tabs: 'Reports', 'Table', and 'Chart'. Below the tabs is a toolbar with several icons. A red arrow points to the 'Select Items to View' icon, which is highlighted with a black box and labeled 'Select Items to View tool'. Below the toolbar is a dropdown menu with 'Data categories' selected. The main content is a table with the following data:

| Year | 2005 | 2006 |
|--|---------|--------|
| <u>Year</u> | | |
| <u>Data categories</u> | ↑↓ | ↑↓ |
| CURRENT ACCOUNT [Code: 112109999BXN1] | -59.41 | -81.9 |
| GOODS AND SERVICES [Code: 1121Z9999BXN1] | -79.88 | -79.6 |
| TOTAL CREDIT [Code: 1121Z9999CXN1] | 591.99 | 684.7 |
| TOTAL DEBIT [Code: 1121Z9999DXN1] | 671.87 | 763.8 |
| GOODS [Code: 1121A9999BXN1] | -124.73 | -140.6 |
| CREDIT [Code: 1121A9999CXN1] | 384.32 | 447.5 |
| GENERAL MERCHANDISE: EXPORT [Code: 1121AA000CXN1] | 384.32 | 447.5 |
| NET EXPORTS OF GOODS UNDER MERCHANTING [Code: 1121AB000BXN1] | - | - |
| NONMONETARY GOLD: EXPORT [Code: 1121AC000CXN1] | - | - |
| DEBIT [Code: 1121A9999DXN1] | 509.04 | 588.7 |
| GENERAL MERCHANDISE: IMPORT [Code: 1121AA000DXN1] | 509.04 | 588.7 |
| NONMONETARY GOLD: IMPORT [Code: 1121AC000DXN1] | - | - |

On the left-hand side of the screen, you will see the available dimensions under Columns, Rows and Other headings. The current dimension is highlighted, for example in the screenshot above, the Data Categories dimension is highlighted in grey and a list of the items available for selection within that dimension are shown on the right hand side of the page. The dimensions in IMF BOPS Annual table are as follows:

Columns: Year

Rows: Data Categories

Others: None (there are only two dimensions in this table)

Each BOPS Data Category's name on the Beyond 20/20 WDS interface has a unique identifier known as a Series code. This coding system consists of six parts:

- A three-digit country code,
- A two-digit aggregate code,
- A four-digit BOP item code,
- A single-digit accounting code,
- A single-digit resident sector code,



- And a single-digit maturity code

i.e., <Country><Aggregate><BOP item><Accounting><Sector><Maturity>
All parts of the code are viewed as always being required.

Note: For further information please view the Documentation for use of Bops, BPM6 given in the BOPS comprehensive dataset user guide.

The Data Categories items that we want to find for this worked example are the Current Account figures. The IMF's topical list of Balance of Payments codes lists the codes for each of the required series items, i.e. Current Account = 10, Goods and Services = 1Z, Goods = 1A, Services = 1B, Primary Income = 1C, Secondary Income = 1D, etc.

Using the codes as unique identifiers, the codes required are:

- 112109999BXN1 = Current Account
- 1121A9999BXN1 = Goods
- 1121B9999BXN1 = Services
- 1121C9999BXA1 = Primary Income
- 1121D9999BAA1 = Secondary Income
- 112209999BAA1 = Capital Account

Input '112109999BXN1' into the search input box and click 'Search'.

Select the Data Category item CURRENT ACCOUNT [Code: 112109999BXN1] by placing a tick in the check box next to it. Then search for the next code, i.e. 1121A9999BXN1 and tick GOODS [Code: 1121A9999BXN1]. Continue to search for and select each Data Category code in turn. Once this is completed, move onto the 'Year' dimension.

Move onto next dimension 'Year' using the 'Select Items to View' tool. Click on 'Select items to view' > 'Year'. Use the 'Clear all' tool to remove existing selections.

Note: You can also switch dimensions by clicking on the dimension name - both options are illustrated in the screen shot below.

United Kingdom. Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Billions of U.S. dollars) ⓘ

Table size
6 rows by 8 columns

COLUMNS:
Year

ROWS:
Data categories

Other:

Select range

CURRENT ACCOUNT [Code: 112109999BXN1]
 GOODS AND SERVICES [Code: 1121Z9999BXN1]
 TOTAL CREDIT [Code: 1121Z9999CXN1]
 TOTAL DEBIT [Code: 1121Z9999DXN1]
 GOODS [Code: 1121A9999BXN1]
 CREDIT [Code: 1121A9999CXN1]
 GENERAL MERCHANDISE: EXPORT [Code: 1121AA000CXN1]
 NET EXPORTS OF GOODS UNDER MERCHANTING [Code: 1121AB000BXN1]
 NONMONETARY GOLD: EXPORT [Code: 1121AC000CXN1]
 DEBIT [Code: 1121A9999DXN1]
 GENERAL MERCHANDISE: IMPORT [Code: 1121AA000DXN1]
 NONMONETARY GOLD: IMPORT [Code: 1121AC000DXN1]
 SERVICES [Code: 1121B9999BXN1]
 TOTAL CREDIT [Code: 1121B9999CXN1]
 TOTAL DEBIT [Code: 1121B9999DXN1]

To move between dimensions, either use the 'Select items to View' button or click directly on the dimension name

Tick 'Select Range' and click on the 2005 tick box followed by 2012 tick box. This will select all years within the range specified, i.e. the 7 year period from 2005 to 2012.

United Kingdom. Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Billions of U.S. dollars) ⓘ

Table size
6 rows by 8 columns

COLUMNS:
Year

ROWS:
Data categories

Other:

Select range

2005
 2006
 2007
 2008
 2009
 2010
 2011
 2012

Use the 'Select range' option to select all years between 2005 and 2012 inclusive

Note: There is a profile function in Beyond 20/20, which enables you to save your selections from each dimension (e.g. country or series) of the database. When you return to the database, you can reactivate your previously saved profiles. Selections in each dimension are saved individually so you can save selections in as many or few dimensions as you want.

For example, say you wish to select data for a number of countries. Once you have selected your countries, you can then save this selection as a named profile by clicking on the profile icon, then choosing the 'Save current selections as a profile' option: Beyond 20/20 will then remember the countries you have selected and store this selection as a named profile for you to use in future sessions. The procedure can be repeated for any other dimension of the database.

Each time you log on, Beyond 20/20 will recognise who you are and can retrieve your previously saved selections for that database. This means that the next time you wish to run the same query, you can click on the profile icon then select 'Activate profile' to reopen your saved selections. The profiles will be saved until you choose to delete them.



You have now completed the 'Finding and Selecting data' stage and can move on to visualising your data.

2. Visualising the data

There are two ways of visualising data in Beyond 20/20. In chart format or table format.

2.1. Table format

View the report in table format by using the 'Show Table' button at the top of the screen.

The screenshot shows the 'Show table' button at the top of the interface. Below it, the title is 'United Kingdom. Standard Presentation in BPM6 format. (Billions of U.S. dollars)'. The table size is '6 rows by 8 columns'. The columns are 'Year' and the rows are 'Data categories'. A red arrow points to the 'Show table' button. A list of years from 2005 to 2012 is shown with checkboxes, and a red arrow points to the 'Show table' button label.

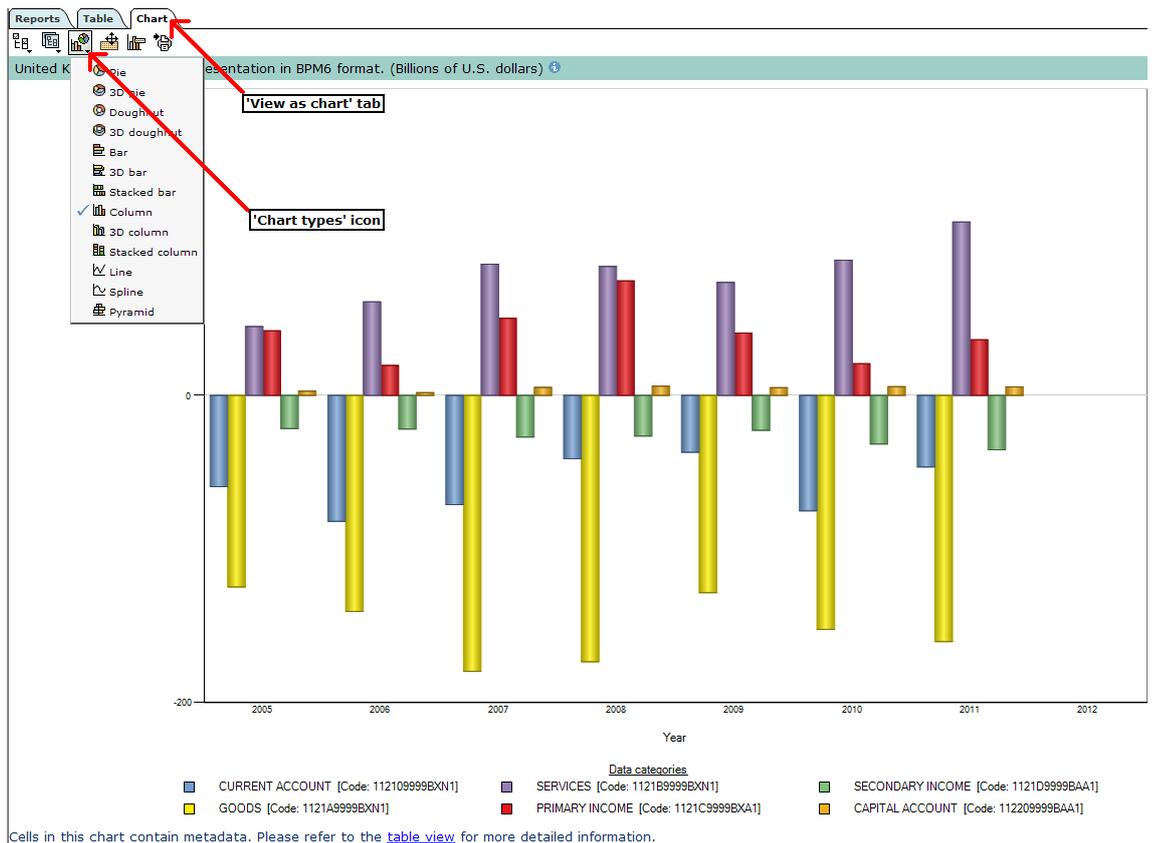
In the default view of the table which appears, only the 'Data Categories' are shown as rows and the 'Years' are shown as columns.

Note: The format of the table can be rearranged either by dragging and dropping the dimension headings or by using the 'Set Dimension Order' icon situated in the top left of the interface.

2.2. Chart format

View the report in chart format by using the 'Chart' tab at the top of the screen.

In the example screenshot below, the chart shows the figures for the United Kingdom for the period 2005-2012.



Use the 'Chart Types' icon to change chart type and the 'View printable version' icon to print the chart.

Save the chart image, (use Alt + Print Screen and paste into a paint program as right-clicking to 'Save picture as' only saves the chart itself and not the chart key or heading.)

3. Downloading the data

Return to the 'Table' tab to download the data to your computer. Manipulate the table into desired format using the dimension headers as the table layout and contents are downloaded exactly as they appear on screen.

Use the 'Download' icon and select your desired download format.



| Year | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| Data categories | ↑↓ | ↑↓ | ↑↓ | ↑↓ | ↑↓ | ↑↓ | ↑↓ | ↑↓ |
| CURRENT ACCOUNT [Code: 112109999BXN1] | -59.41 | -81.96 | -71.08 | -41.16 | -37.05 | -75.23 | -46.53 | - |
| GOODS [Code: 1121A9999BXN1] | -124.73 | -140.66 | -179.74 | -173.46 | -128.56 | -152.45 | -160.30 | - |
| SERVICES [Code: 1121B9999BXN1] | 44.84 | 60.97 | 85.53 | 84.15 | 73.64 | 88.22 | 112.94 | - |
| PRIMARY INCOME [Code: 1121C9999BXA1] | 42.11 | 19.55 | 50.25 | 74.64 | 40.66 | 20.68 | 36.23 | - |
| SECONDARY INCOME [Code: 1121D9999BAA1] | -21.63 | -21.82 | -27.12 | -26.49 | -22.79 | -31.68 | -35.39 | - |
| CAPITAL ACCOUNT [Code: 112209999BAA1] | 2.83 | 1.81 | 5.17 | 6.05 | 5.14 | 5.73 | 5.53 | - |

The rest of the process is the same as downloading any file from the web. Once you have downloaded the data, you can see information on how to cite the data towards the top of the file.

Congratulations!
 You have successfully completed the IMF BOPS tutorial. Now you are ready to do some serious work with your downloaded data!

If you would like to move to another database you can select the 'Useful links' dropdown box at the top of the page then select the database you require.

Tested on Firefox 17.0 and Internet Explorer 8.
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