

CME Historical Data FAQ

Pricing/Ordering Information

- 1) What historical data does CME have available?
 - a. Time & Sales
Time & Sales contains the official record of trade times, prices and quantities (quantity only available on electronic trades) for CME products. Both puts and calls are included with each options product.
 - b. End-of-Day
End-of-day data, sometimes referred to as settlement data, contains all of the official closing information for CME contracts (open, high, low, close, volume, open interest, etc.). Both puts and calls are included with each options product; both trading sessions (electronic and open outcry) are included with CME Globex data.
 - c. Best-Bid-Best-Offer (BBO)
CME Best-Bid-Best-Offer data is similar to Time & Sales, but contains all of the top-of-the-book data for CME Globex products. This includes top bid, bid size, top ask, ask size, last trade, trade volume and time-stamp.
 - d. Market Depth (MD)
CME Market Depth data provides all of the CME market data messages (MA messages) needed to recreate the Top 5 book for any electronically-traded CME product. In order to process these messages which show each delta in the book, the user will need to understand the CME logic for building the book. Please go to <http://www.cme.com/trading/dta/hist/reclayguide11987.html>.
 - e. Spread Data
Spread data provides a detailed record of all spread trades for a given product. Limited to intraday data only.

- 2) How far back does the data go?
 - a. Time & Sales – 1/1/1982 or contract inception if more recent
 - b. End-of-Day – 1/1/1982 or contract inception if more recent
 - c. Best-Bid-Best-Offer (BBO) – 11/1/2004 or contract inception if more recent
 - d. Market Depth – 1/1/2005 or contract inception if more recent
 - e. Spread Data – 1/1/1999 or contract inception if more recent

- 3) How do I purchase this data?

Data can be purchased online via credit card at www.cme.com/datamine. If you wish to pay by alternative means, please contact us at historicaldata@cme.com.

To purchase BBO or MD data, please contact us at historicaldata@cme.com.

- 4) What is the pricing for historical data?

Pricing varies based upon data type and duration of the data request. More pricing is available at www.cme.com/datamine. More pricing information on Market Depth and BBO is available at historicaldata@cme.com.

- 5) What forms of payment are available?

The preferred method is via credit card; however, payment via an invoice may be arranged. Call 312-930-3178 to request payment by invoice.

- 6) How will I receive the data?
Depending upon the file size and requested method, the data will be sent via e-mail, mailed on CD-ROM / DVD, or written to an ftp site.
- 7) Can I receive ongoing historical data updates?
Yes, you can request periodic monthly or weekly updates through the online purchase process.
- Please contact us at historicaldata@cme.com for a recurring subscription to BBO or Market Depth data.
- 8) Why would I need CME historical data?
CME historical data fulfills a variety of client needs. Historical data can be used to analyze trading models, feed automated trading systems, perform advanced technical analysis, research, and so on. CME historical data is also useful in building up historical databases.
- CME historical data is straight from the source and highly accurate.
- 9) Is there any data available for free?
A limited amount of free historical data is available for download on the CME.com FTP site. This can be found at <http://www.cme.com/trading/dta/hist/histftp2421.html>.
- 10) Can I get a sample of the data?
Yes – data samples are available at <http://www.cme.com/trading/dta/hist/reclayguide11987.html>.
- 11) Where can I find the record layout guides?
Record layout guides, along with a data sample, are available at <http://www.cme.com/trading/dta/hist/reclayguide11987.html>.
- 12) Is the record layout the same for each product/contract?
Yes – the record layout format is the same for each product/contract within that data type.
- 13) How long does it take to receive the data?
Normal turnaround time is 24-48 hours after the order has been placed. Smaller orders will be done sooner and larger customized orders may take longer.
- 14) What if I ordered the wrong data?
All sales are final. If you ordered the wrong data, a refund will be issued at CME's discretion. The data must be returned to CME.
- 15) How can I use this data? Can I redistribute this data?
CME does not currently restrict the distribution of historical End of Day or Time and Sales data either internally or externally. External redistribution requires vendor registration. Please go to: <http://www.cme.com/trading/dta/dist/> CME does **not** allow external redistribution of BBO or MD.
- 16) Are there discounts for students?
CME does offer 50% discounts to accredited educational institutions including faculty and students. Please contact historicaldata@cme.com for this special discount.

Data Interpretation Information

General:

- 1) How can I import an ASCII file into an Excel file?

Open Excel to a blank spreadsheet. Drag the ASCII file into the spreadsheet using the Excel wizard feature. Format the data, following the record layout for the appropriate data type.

End-of-Day

- 1) Why is there a pit-traded record for a CME Globex-only contract?

The EOD file uses close and settlement records from the pit-traded sessions for Globex-only contracts.

- 2) When is an EOD record generated? Why is there no EOD record some days?

EOD records are generated at the close of the trading session for each day. If there was no trading activity, no record will be generated.

- 3) What is Open Interest?

Open Interest is the total number of futures or options on futures contracts that have not yet been offset or fulfilled by delivery.

- 4) Can I get data for the rollover period only?

Data can be provided for rollover periods only. In fact, customers can customize their purchases to almost any time period they need.

- 5) What is the difference between a closing price and a settlement price?

A closing price is the last traded price of a contract at the end of a trading session. A settlement price is a figure determined by the closing range that is used to calculate gains and losses in futures market accounts, performance bond calls and invoice prices for deliveries. The settlement price is the official daily closing price of futures contracts.

- 6) What constitutes an Opening Range or Closing Range?

The opening range is the range of prices at which the first bids and offers were made or first transactions were completed. It must be initiated by at least one trade. The closing range is the high and low prices or bids and offers recorded during the period designated by the exchange as the official close (the final 60 seconds of trading in currencies and 30 seconds in all other contracts).

- 7) If a market never trades, how is the contract settled at the end of the day?

If a market never trades on a given day, the contract is generally settled nominally using the previous day's settlement or will be adjusted by committee based on the spread between lead and back month contracts.

Time & Sales

- 1) What do the field headings mean?

Time and Sales headers display Commodity, Trade Date, Time and Price. For CME Globex Time and Sales, Quantity is added to the aforementioned headers.

- 2) Why is there no volume associated with RTH commodities?

RTH is an Open Outcry environment. Volume is not reported for any transaction. Only time and price are entered into the price reporting system by the market reporter.

- 3) What does an "I" stand for?

"I" represents an Inserted price. A price may be inserted when there is a gap in the sequence of executed trades.

- 4) What does it mean for ETH ticks to have volume of 0?

An ETH tick with volume quantity of "0" indicates no trade was executed. This record is an example of an indicative price quote; that is, no trade occurred, but the market is "indicated"

- 5) What are the Bids and Offers in the tick data?

Bids (B) are buy quotes and offers (A) are sell quotes.

Bids (B) are offers to buy and Offers (A) are offers to sell. Bids and Offers reflected in Time and Sales are only those quotes that create a "last" and only appear when the bid is higher than the last sale or when the ask is lower than the last sale.

- 6) What does the "X" or "C" stand for?

"X" represents a cancelled price and "C" represents a corrected price.

- 7) How detailed are your time stamps?

Tick data is time-stamped to the second and TickPlus data is time stamped to the centi-second.

- 8) Can I get 15-, 5-, or 1-minute bars?

Only hourly intraday charts are available on cme.com. CME can create customized files for an additional fee. Please contact us at historicaldata@cme.com. Ordering data in our Excel format will allow you the opportunity to sort data based on your specifications.

- 9) How can I make a chart using this data?

You must have software designed for charting to import the data files.

Best-bid-best-offer (BBO)

- 1) Is this data top of the book?

BBO data is Best Bid/Offer and last trade at the Top of the Book. It includes bid and offer sizes.

- 2) What does it mean if no (B) or (A) is present?

Lack of a (B) or (A) indicates a trade was executed.

- 3) How far back in history is this data available?

This data is available from November 2004 to the present time.

- 4) Do you have this data for all instruments?

This data is available for all CME Globex-traded instruments.

- 5) If I can't open the BBO file you sent, what should I do?

Check your computer. Your PC must meet the minimum RAM requirement, 1 gigabyte, and have a utilities program designed for accessing large data files.

- 6) If the data is not what I expected, whom should I talk to for a refund?

Contact historicaldata@cme.com.

Market Depth (MA Message)

- 1) How do I interpret market depth data?

Market depth data includes all bids and offers, 5 deep, including size.

- 2) How large are the Market Depth files?

The average Market Depth file exceeds 1 gigabyte in size. However, it is largely dependent on how far back in time one goes, as well as the liquidity of the product.

- 3) Can I get market depth back to the inception?

This data is only available from January 2004 to the present time.

- 4) I can't read the data file. Can you help me format the data?

We can assist with formatting the data from the record layout. Please contact historicaldata@cme.com

- 5) Will the Market Depth data fit on one CD?

Depending on the time period requested, the data for some markets will fit on CD. DVD is also available for larger files.

Spreads

1) What is a spread?

A spread is the price difference between two contracts. A spread can also be defined as the act of holding a long and a short position in two related futures or options on futures contracts with the objective of profiting from a changing price relationship. Additionally, a spread can be defined as the assumption of a long and short position on the same business day in the same or related commodities for the same account.

2) Can I get spread data for just one market?

Single market spread data is available.

3) Can I get spread data for one type of spread?

Single spread type data is available.

4) What are all the columns in the spreadsheet?

Spread columns are identified in the record layout as Instruments, Time of Execution, Points, Volume, and Spread Type.

5) Why does the file show three different contracts?

These columns show the three different instruments being traded in the spread. They are also known as the "legs" of the spread.

6) Is quantity included in the file?

Quantity is included in the file.

7) Is there a commodity code describing the types of spreads?

A commodity code can be found on the DataMine ordering page for spread data.

8) How far back is spread data available?

Spread data is available for most markets from 1999 to the present time.

9) There are no headers for the columns; how do I know what's what?

Please refer to the record layout sheet available on cme.com under "Historical Sample Data."