

Fin Analysis - Help Sheet

Finding a Company

To go to the company profile section for a company that you are interested in, click on the Company Profiles tab from the menu bar on the right hand side of the page. You will then be provided with a text box. You have the choice of entering either an ASX code for the listed security you are interested in, or alternatively if you do not know its ASX code then you may enter a partial company name.

Main View

The Main View provides a business summary of the company, which outlines the main divisions and products sold. This is updated at least on a six-monthly basis or sooner in the case of a major event. Additionally, the Main View contains market data including the last share price close, GICS sector, market capitalisation, shareholder return data over various time periods, earnings and dividends forecasts and index participation information.

Analyst Forecasts

In this section, we are effectively analyzing analyst forecasts! Forecast data is supplied by Multex.com, a specialist surveyor of analyst estimates. A series of charts and tables are provided in this tab, providing a variety of information.

The Earnings Surprise chart highlights whether a company has delivered a better than the expected full year result or it has fallen short of analysts' expectations. The Forecasts Earnings Trend Chart shows the trend in the first year and second year consensus analyst forecasts for the last 3 months. The Current Analyst Recommendations chart shows analysts recommendations ranging from strong buy to strong sell. It shows the number of analyst recommendations for each category.

Charts

A series of charts are provided, demonstrating price and total return movements over time.

Two Total Return Charts are provided, one over 10 years, the other over three years. The Price vs. EPS chart compares the monthly closing share price, adjusted for any dilutions, to the annual earnings per share, also adjusted for dilutions. Price/Volume charts are also provided over various time periods.

In addition, the Performance Chart package allows you to compare the price performance of various stocks and indices over time. Simply type in the ASX code of the stocks you are interested in separated by a comma, chose the time period you are after and hit GO! The stock prices will be re-based to the same starting point. You can include a number of indices in the analysis if you wish by ticking them in the list provided.

Historical Financial Data

More than twelve years of historical financial data is provided for all stocks listed on the ASX since 1997. Both full year and interim data is provided. There are different templates set up according to company type; that is industrials, banks, insurance companies, property trusts and investment companies.

By default, the last ten years of history appear on the screen where available. If you wish to view more than ten years, click on the "All Years" icon on the top right hand corner of the screen. The content pages are set up so that data can be extracted to a spreadsheet easily by simply clicking on the "Download" icon, which is also on the top right hand corner of the screen.

As reported data is provided for profit and loss, balance sheet, cashflow and per share statistics. We also provide a detailed breakdown of the revenue and expense items, which is the full detail as reported by the company in their interim results or annual report. Fin Analysis also provides a series of analytical pages. More than one hundred analytical variables are

provided. The Ratios section includes profitability, debt & safety, cashflow and valuation ratios. The Sundry Analysis section includes invested capital, investor funds, cashflows and debt structure analysis. The Growth Rates section shows how various measures have grown over the past 1, 3 and 5 year periods.

Price Sensitive Measures

A number of measures are calculated using the most recent share price close.

Dividends History

Full history of all quarterly, interim, final and special dividends declared.

Peer Analysis

This section allows the user to compare a company against its peers based on a variety of measures. The default company list is the companies in the same GICS Industry Group as the company under review. Add extra measures by from the category and field drop down lists on the top of the page. Click the button "Add Field/Run".

Clicking on the heading of any of the measures displayed will re-order the companies in accordance with that measure. The first click will sort order ascending, the second will sort order descending.

In order to alter the companies in the analysis, click on the link called "Click here to specify companies returned". You may then add or remove companies from the list.

Announcements

A PDF image of each document released to the ASX by each company is provided since 1998. These documents are updated LIVE! Search on document type and subtype along with various date ranges by using the drop down lists provided.

Sector Analysis

The sector analysis section provides comparative earnings per share, price/earnings and dividend yield data for each of the GICS Sectors. Only companies in the S&P/ASX300 are included in this analysis. By clicking on a Sector, the user can drill down to the next level of GICS, that is, the GICS Industry Group.

Charting

The Performance Chart package allows you to compare the price performance of various stocks and indices over time. Simply type in the ASX code of the stocks you are interested in separated by a comma, chose the time period you are after and hit GO! The stock prices will be re-based to the same starting point. You can include a number of indices in the analysis if you wish by ticking them in the list provided

Search Tool

Find stocks using any combination of more than 400 ratios and data items. The results can be viewed on the screen and can also be downloaded.

There are two categories of search tools:

- The Current Data Search allows the user to search on the latest financial data for all companies. Search the latest annual or interim data. Price Sensitive measures are calculated every night.
- The Historical Data Search allows the user to search across the more than 12 years of history for all companies. The Formula Search allows users to screen on their own calculations such as: find companies where long-term debt is greater than 2 times cash.

There are two options for if you would like to search current or historic data: Simple Search or Formula Search. If you are unsure where to start, the Simple Search is probably your best option.

Simple Search Tool

1. Select a Category. Note that the categories generally follow the structure of the data within the company profile (ie. price sensitive data, annual financials, interim financials, etc.).
2. Select a Field within the category. The field list will change to match each category selected in step 1.
3. Select an Option from the list (eg. greater than, less than, display only).
4. Select a Value. If you choose rank highest/lowest or display only it is not necessary to enter a value.
Percentages should be entered using decimal places (e.g to enter 15% enter .15)
5. Click Add Query. This will add your query to the query list. You can narrow your search further by repeating steps 1 through 5.
6. Click Run Query. This will search the Aspect Infobase to find companies which match your query.

Formula Search Tool

The formula search tool varies from the simple search tool in that financial data can be compared to other financial data (eg. find me companies where cash exceeds long-term debt) and also searches can be carried out using users own formulations on the data (eg. find me companies where cash exceeds long-term debt plus provisions).

1. Select a Category. Note that the categories generally follow the structure of the data within the company profile (ie. price sensitive data, annual financials, interim financials, etc.).
2. Select a Field within the category. The field list will change to match each category selected in step 1.
3. Select an Option from the list (eg. greater than, less than, display only).
4. Select item to be compared to the first Field. Here the use can chose just one other Category/Field or they can create a formula.

For example, in order to find companies where cash exceeds long-term debt, populate the search screen as follows:

1st Category = Annual Balance Sheet
1st Field = cash
Option = greater than
Value = 1 *
2nd Category = Annual Balance Sheet
2nd Field = L/T debt

A third item can also be included. For example to find companies where cash exceeds long-term debt plus provisions, populate the search screen as follows:

1st Category = Annual Balance Sheet
1st Field = cash
Option = greater than
Value = 1 *
2nd Category = Annual Balance Sheet
2nd Field = L/T debt
Criteria = +
3rd Category = Annual Balance Sheet
3rd Field = provisions

5. Click Add Query. This will add your query to the query list. You can narrow your search further by repeating steps 1 through 5.

6. Click Run Query. This will search the Aspect Infobase to find companies which match your query.

Using the Search Scope

The search scope allows the user to change the universe of stocks that are included in the search. By default all companies are included, but it is possible for the user to simply enter the ASX codes of the companies they would like to include in the search. If the user wishes to only search on certain GICS Sectors, they may tick the relevant ones from the list provided. By default, both listed and de-listed stocks (since 1997) are included in the search, but the search can be limited to just one of these categories if so desired.

The Search Scope also allows the user to determine the display of the data in the search results. By default, the data will be displayed in company order, with each data item grouped under each company. This can be changed, however, so that the data is displayed in item order such that item 1 is displayed for all companies in the results set before item 2 for all companies is displayed.

In the Search Scopes for Historical Data searches, users can vary the date ranges searched on and they can also determine if the search criteria must be met on the latest financial year for each company only, any of the years or every one of the years of history.

Value Formatting

To make entering values into the search tool easier we have provided a number of short cuts that you can take. When entering numbers into the 'Value' field of any of the search tools you may use the following conventions:

1. *Dealing with large numbers:* Entering any number followed by a **b** will result in that number being multiplied by 1,000,000,000. For example, entering 1.3b will be converted to 1,300,000,000.

This also works for **t** and **m** to multiply your number by thousands and millions respectively.

2. *Dealing with percentages:* Often you have to enter a percentage as a value in your search criteria. Percentages are consistently stored in our financial database as a decimal less than 1. But to make it easier for you, if you were to enter the value in as a percentage, that number will be converted into the appropriate format.

For example, entering the value 83% will automatically be converted into 0.83 for you.

Search Results

The results of searches will be displayed in tabular format, which is easily interpreted on the screen. Search results may be downloaded to a csv spreadsheet file by clicking on the "Download" button on the top right hand corner of the screen.

The user is able to alter the display of the data in the search results. By default, the data will be displayed in company order, with each data item grouped under each company. This can be changed, however, so that the data is displayed in item order such that item 1 is displayed for all companies in the results set before item 2 for all companies is displayed. To do this, click on the link called "re-group data" on the top of the screen.

The ordering of the result set can also be altered by clicking on the heading for any of the items displayed. This will re-order the data in ascending order by this item. Click the same heading again for the data to be sorted in descending order.