

Futures

in **Bloomberg**

Students Manual

The most effective method for obtaining historical future prices from Bloomberg is by utilizing the function builder within the Microsoft Excel Addon. Before opening Excel, ensure that you have logged into the main Bloomberg app (identified by the green icon on the desktop).

Once in Microsoft Excel, locate the "Function Builder" in the top-left corner of the Bloomberg tab. This will open a new formula window on the right, where you'll need to input several values.



Firstly, you'll need the BDS function, which allows you to retrieve multiple values for a selected security. In the "Security" field, you can input any financial instrument you're interested in. Please note that future contracts are primarily available for indexes and large-cap companies, so it's possible that Bloomberg may not find future contracts for a particular company.

Function Builder	*	Required Parameters	~
C ?		Security ⑦	
${\cal P}$ Search for a Bloomberg function		Type Security value(s) or click a cell	"
Find Fields Look up fields with the option to set overrides		F AAPL US Equity Apple Inc (US)	^
BDH Historical data for a selected security.	0	IBM US Equity F International Business Machines (US)	
BDP Single data point of current or real-time d	⑦ ata.	VOD LN Equity Vodafone Group PLC (London)	Ц
BDS Multi-cell descriptive data output for a selected security.	0	BBG009S39JX6 Figi	
BQL ⊐ Imports current or historical data analytics securities and fields.	⑦ for	AAPL 2.4 08/20/50 Corp	•

In the overrides field, you can include "INCLUDE_EXPIRED_CONTRACTS" to view contracts that have already expired. This is particularly useful for historical data analysis. Once added, you'll receive a list of all the contracts available in the database for the chosen instrument.



Depending on the specific values you're interested in obtaining for the derived instruments, you'll need to access the "Spreadsheet Builder" within the Bloomberg Add-on.



To obtain historical values of the instruments, you can select "Historical Data Table" located at the bottom of the window.



To select the securities you have derived from the previous steps, click on the grey button next to the search bar in the middle of the window. This allows you to choose Excel cells for which you want to find values.

Spreadsheet Builder			? 🗙
History Layout 1 Select Securities	2 Select Fields	3 Set Date Range	4 Preview and Create
All Securities		Selected Securi	ties
${\cal P}$ Search for one or more securities	•		
Recently Used	*		
Portfolio			
Equity Index ■			
Fixed Income Index			
E Custom Index (CIX)			
Benchmark		ld u	•
EMS Entities			<u> </u>
Equity Screen			
▪ Fund Screen (FSRC)			
Bloomberg Peers			
Currency Baskets			
Bloomberg Indices			
NW Monitor			
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The most used field for analyzing future contracts is "PX_LAST" (Last Price). While you are free to choose any other values you prefer, please note that the number of accessible variables for future contracts is limited due to the complexity of the instrument.

Spreadsheet Builder ? ×							
History Layout 1 Select Securitie	es 2 Select Fields	3 Set Date Range	4 Preview and Create				
All Fields		Selected Fields	A				
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Last Price	PX_LAST						
Last Trade	PX_LAST_ACTUAL						
Last Price Pre-Session	PX_LAST_PRE_SESSION						
Last Price AM Session	PX_LAST_AM		*				
Last Price Post-Session	PX_LAST_POST_SESSION		-				
Last Price All Sessions	PX_LAST_ALL_SESSIONS						
Last Price PM Session	PX_LAST_PM						
Bid Price	PX_BID						
Ask Price	PX_ASK		-				
Closing Price 1 Day Ago	PX_CLOSE_1D		C				
Show n	nore fields						
Ratings							
Security Specific							
Supply Chain	•						

Selecting the time range of the dataframe can be a tricky decision. While most futures price information typically extends back to 2020, it may vary for some instruments, potentially spanning longer periods. We recommend opting for longer time periods (though not excessively long if you're extracting daily values) and removing any missing values after exporting.

Spreadsheet Builder ? ×							
History Layout	1 Select Securities	2 Select Fields	3 Set Date Range	4 Preview and Create			
Date Calendar	Period Calendar	Relative Calendar					
From 02/01/2023	То	📩 🗸 Today	Periodicity Monthly	▼ i			
OPTIONAL PAI	RAMETERS						

Once you've previewed the final file, you can proceed to export the values and utilize them in Excel.

To find commodities futures in Bloomberg use the search bar in the "Spreadsheet Builder" and start typing a commodity name which you want to retrieve or write the key word for commodities - "comdty". For more precise results you might try using the Bloomberg terminal to find commodities you require and then use the ticker in the "Spreadsheet Builder".

Spreadsheet Builder ? ×						
History Layout 1 Se	elect Securities 2 Selec	ct Fields 3	Set Date Range	4 Preview and C	reate	
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CL1 Comdty	Generic 1st Crude Oil,	WTI				
TYH4 Comdty	US Treasury Note, 10Yr	r Mar24	Generic 1st Crude Oil, WTI	7		
RXA Comdty	Euro Bund Active Cont	tract		-		
RXH4 Comdty	Euro Bund Mar24				-	
CO1 Comdty	Generic 1st Crude Oil,	Brent				
NG1 Comdty	Generic 1st Natural Ga	s			-	
TYA Comdty	US Treasury Note, 10Yr	r Active Contract				
TYM4 Comdty	US Treasury Note, 10Yı	r Jun24			-	
FVH4 Comdty	FVH4 Comdty US Treasury Note, 5Yr Mar24					
Show more securities						
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	Spreadsheet Builder					? X
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	Legal Settlement	IS_LEGAL_LI	TIGATION_SET	TLEMENT		
	Insurance Settlements	IS_INSURAN	CE_SETTLEMEN	NTS		
	Insurance Settlements (After Tax)	IS_INSUR_SE	TTLEMENTS_A	FTER_TAX		*
	Insurance Settlements - Diluted Share	IS_INSUR_SE	TTLEMENTS_D	ILUTED_SH		
	Insurance Settlements - Operating	IS_INSURAN	CE_SETTLEMEN	NTS_OP		
	Insurance Settlements - Basic Share	IS_INSUR_SE	TTLEMENTS_B	ASIC_SHARE		
	Intraday Settlement	PX_SETTLE_	NTRADAY			·
	Legal/Litigation/Settlement (After Tax)	IS_LEGAL_LI	TIG_SETTLE_AF	TER_TAX		Ξ.
	ARDR Legal Litigation Settlement Afte	ARDR_LEGA	L_LIT_SETTLE_/		L	
	Sho	Show more fields				
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	E Supply Chain	-				
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I	Bloomberg			Previous	Next	Cancel
						4
	Spreadsheet Builder					? ×
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	Date Calendar Period Calendar	Relative C	alendar			
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OPTIONAL PARAMETERS