Glossary

Useful Terms

The following terms are specific to the COMPUSTAT (North America) database. Knowing them makes navigating through Research Insight much easier.

Base Set: The population to which you apply your screening criteria. Research Insight contains pre-defined sets (e.g. $C - Active U.S. company data) or you can define your own.

Concept: A mathematical or logical combination of items and/or other concepts, generally used to save time and increase accuracy when manipulating data in routine, repetitious or complex expressions. Concepts do not contain values. They are mathematical calculations that are evaluated each time you use them.

Core Database: A COMPUSTAT database (North America, Global or Price History), downloaded through http.

Formula: A mathematical or logical combination of one or more items, concepts, functions and operators that you can build to extract information from the database or perform a calculation.

Function: A pre-defined calculation tool that you can use to perform numerous tasks, from something as simple as averaging data for an industry, to more sophisticated analyses using fractiles. You can use functions in screening, reporting, spreadsheet and concept formulas individually, or combine them for more complex analysis.

Item: A piece of information collected by Standard & Poor's and stored in a database. Each item is identified by a descriptive name and a mnemonic.

Mnemonic: An abbreviated name used to represent an item within the COMPUSTAT (North America) database.

Set: A grouping of companies, segments or issues in the COMPUSTAT (North America) database. Research Insight contains pre-defined sets, such as $C (Active U.S. Companies), but also allows you to create your own sets. All sets are identified by the dollar sign ($) in front of their name.