Department of Economics   **University of Victoria**

Using Data From Quandl in EViews

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September, 2014

1. **What is Quandl?**   www.quandl.com

Quandl is a data platform

We're collecting all the numerical data in the world.

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(1)

We have one mission: to help users find the data they need, in the format they want. Fast.

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(2)

We support open data; we believe that free public data should remain free and public.

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(3)

We respect copyright; we believe that data creators should own their data creations.

(4)

We are an open platform. The same tools we use to add and update the data on this site are available for you to use right now.

You can use Quandl's data for **free**, on a limited basis, without signing up. However, signing up is also **free**, and it gives you far greater access to their data.

Sign up

Why sign up?

Registered users enjoy unlimited downloads,
unlimited API usage and access to features like
supersets, favorites and uploading.

Why should you use and trust Quandl data? Because every series is linked back to the original source.

About Quandl Data

Over 10 million datasets from 500 sources, structured and
highly usable. Unlimited and unrestricted usage, completely
free. And totally trustable.

**Instant, unlimited
downloads**

Download any dataset on Quandl in any format: Excel, CSV, text, JSON or XML.

Trust

Quandl has quickly become trusted by thousands of professionals for one reason: it's transparent. Every data page on this site has link to the URL where the data comes from. This is the ultimate form of reliability: if we say the data is correct and sourced from a certain publisher, one click confirms it. This is true for every dataset on this web site. Transparency creates instant reliability.

Go to: www.quandl.com

Search for data

This should be enough!

Find and Use Data. Easily.

Get the data you need in the form you want; instant download, API or direct to your app.

Wide Data Coverage

Over 10 million free datasets. Here's a small sample:

Finance   **Economics**   Society   Countries

...ployment	China Economic Data	China Economic Growth	USA Real Estate Prices by State
...nt By Sector Average Wage	GDP Unemployment Rate Inflation	GNP Industry Contributions to GDP Per Capita Output	Alabama Indiana Minnesota

Data You Can Rely On

- ✔ Always up-to-date
- ✔ Always available at a permanent URL
- ✔ Transparent data sources
- ✔ Quickly view, graph, merge, share, export
- ✔ **Instant unlimited downloads in any format**

Gold Price

Date	Value
2014-01-08	1,226.500
2014-01-07	1,237.500
2014-01-06	1,238.000

Commodities
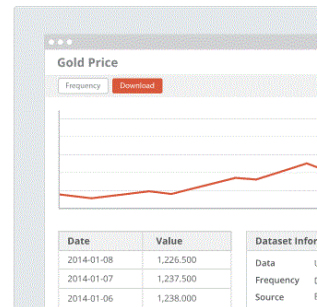
Name	Price	Units	As of
Gold	1,226.500	$/toz	24-Mar-2014
Silver	20.20	$/toz	24-Mar-2014
Platinum	1,446.00	$/toz	24-Mar-2014
Palladium	784.00	$/toz	24-Mar-2014
Iridium	550.00	$/toz	24-Mar-2014
Rhodium	1,090.00	$/toz	24-Mar-2014
Ruthenium	69.00	$/toz	24-Mar-2014

Curated and Organized

- ✔ Explore data by subject, country or source
- ✔ Collections curated by experts and community
- ✔ Click through to individual datasets

See All Collections

Check it out

4

Quandl Data About [Search for data] 🔍

Collections Index
Last updated 12 days ago

This is a browsable hierarchical index of all data collections on Quandl.

You can search or browse – your choice

Data by Country
- ► Europe
- ► Asia
- ► South America
- ► North America
- ► Africa
- ► Oceania

Data by Subject
- ► Demography
- ► Economics
- ► Society
- ► Education
- ► Energy
- ► Markets
- ► Futures
- ► Housing
- ► Stocks

Data by Source
- ► International Organizations
- ► Central Banks
- ► US Bureaus and Agencies
- ► Non-US Statistical Agencies
- ► Financial Data
- ► Think Tanks and Academia
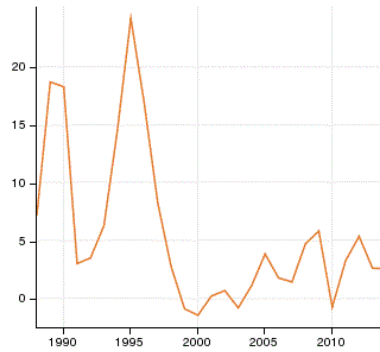- ► Private Sector Sources

Expand this selection – or any other one that interests you

Let's find some trade data for China ……….

Data by Country

- ▶ Europe
- ▼ Asia
  - ▶ Afghanistan
  - ▶ Armenia
  - ▶ Azerbaijan
  - ▶ Bahrain
  - ▶ Bangladesh
  - ▶ Bhutan
  - ▶ Brunei
  - ▶ Cambodia
  - ▼ China

Expand this selection

China Statistics Overview
Alcohol and Tobacco
Culture
Demography
Economic Growth
Economy

Then, select this, for example

Education
Energy
Government Spending
Growth
Health
Inflation
Inflation and Prices
Infrastructure and Construction
Labour and Unemployment
Mortality
Population
Population
Society
Transport and Travel
Unemployment

Data by Subject

- ▶ Demography
- ▶ Economics
- ▶ Society
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Energy
- ▶ Markets
- ▶ Futures
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Stocks

Data by Source

- ▶ International Organizations
- ▶ Central Banks
- ▶ US Bureaus and Agencies
- ▶ Non-US Statistical Agencies
- ▶ Financial Data
- ▶ Think Tanks and Academia
- ▶ Private Sector Sources

2. Plug-ins to Interface Quandl With Other Software:

It's really easy to get data from Quandl into most of the standard statistical/econometrics packages and programming languages, without having to resort to any tedious (accident-prone) copying and pasting. The following software is supported by Quandl, and this list is being extended regularly:

Quandl Libraries

Quandl libraries and plugins allow you to get Quandl data directly into the tool of your choice. You can use any of the following to access our data:
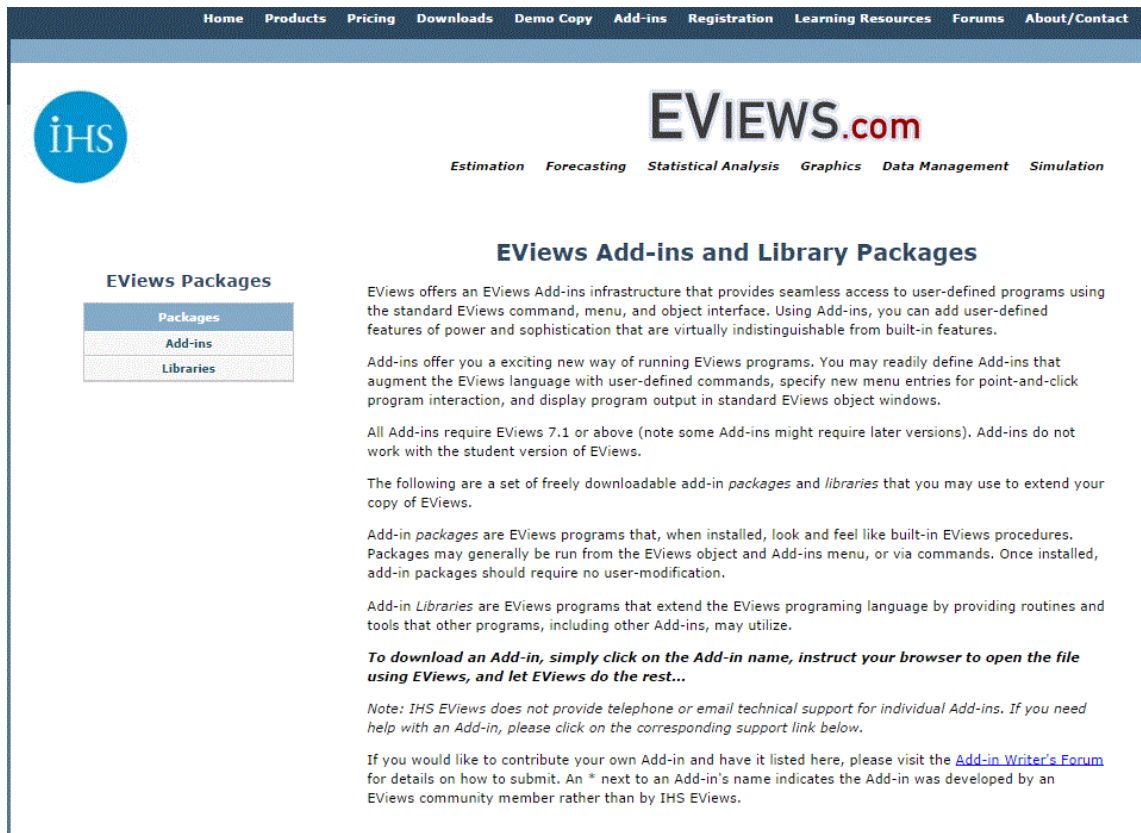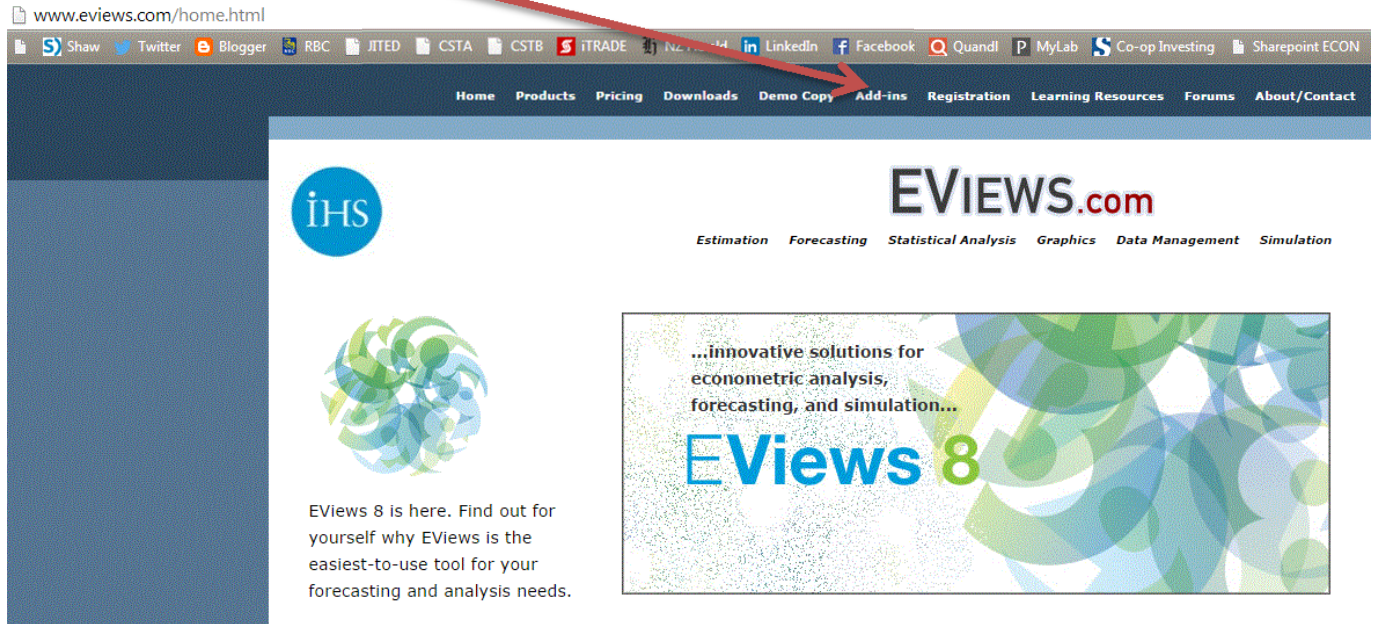
- R
- Python
- Matlab
- Stata
- Maple
- SAS
- EViews
- Ruby
- Java
- Node.JS
- C#
- C/C++
- .NET
- Julia
- Clojure
- Haskell
- Go
- Octave
- TradingView
- Mode
- Plotly
- Quantopian

Below, we'll see how to use an EViews "Add-in" to provide a seamless interface to Quandl data
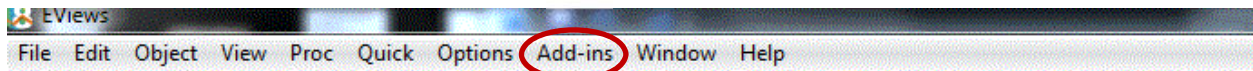
3. EViews Add-ins:

There are lots of "Add-ins" available for EViews, and you can find out more about them on the EViews website, www.eviews.com
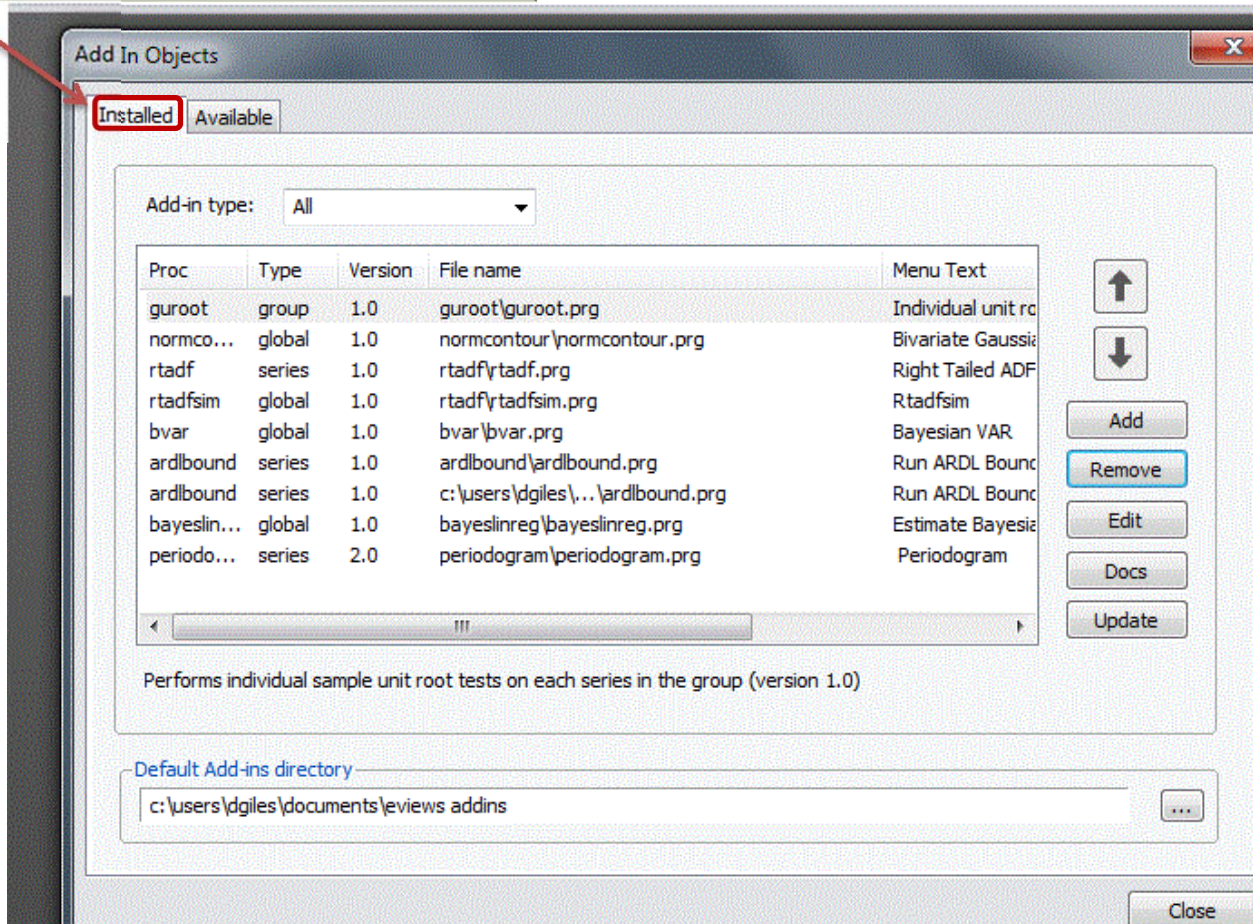
4. Installing the Quandl Add-in for EViews:

You will only have to do this ONCE. Launch EViews, and in the top menu bar select: "Add-ins" ; "Manage Add-ins" ……….
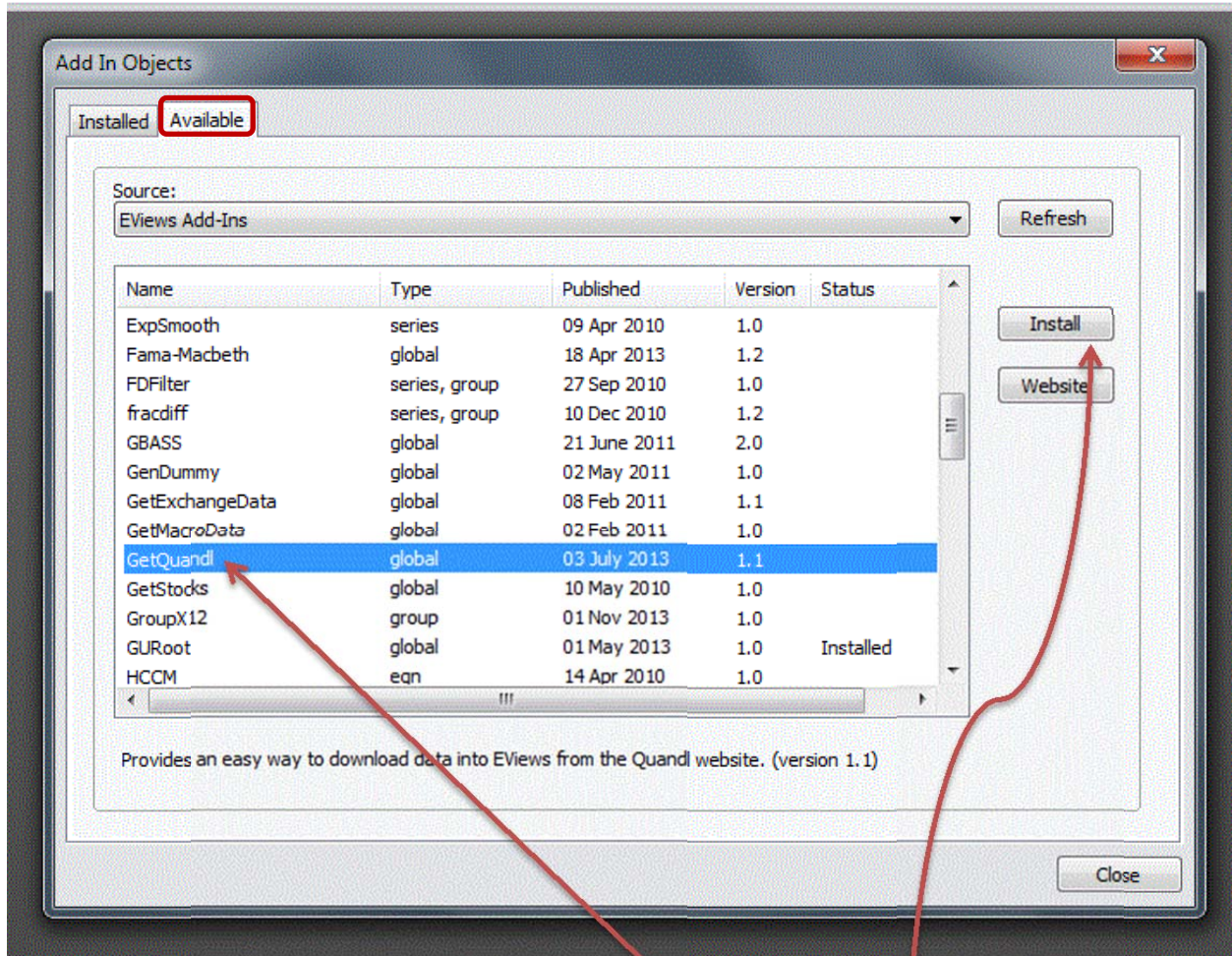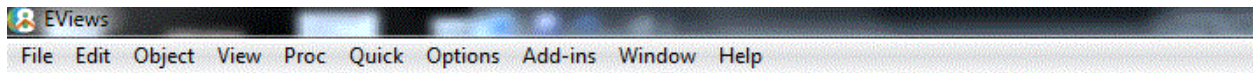
And you'll see which Add-ins have been installed already in the copy of EViews that you're using:

You can toggle between the "Installed" and "Available" Add-ins …….

Keep in mind that once you've installed a particular Add-in for your installation of EViews, you don't have to do it again. You can go straight to section 5 below.
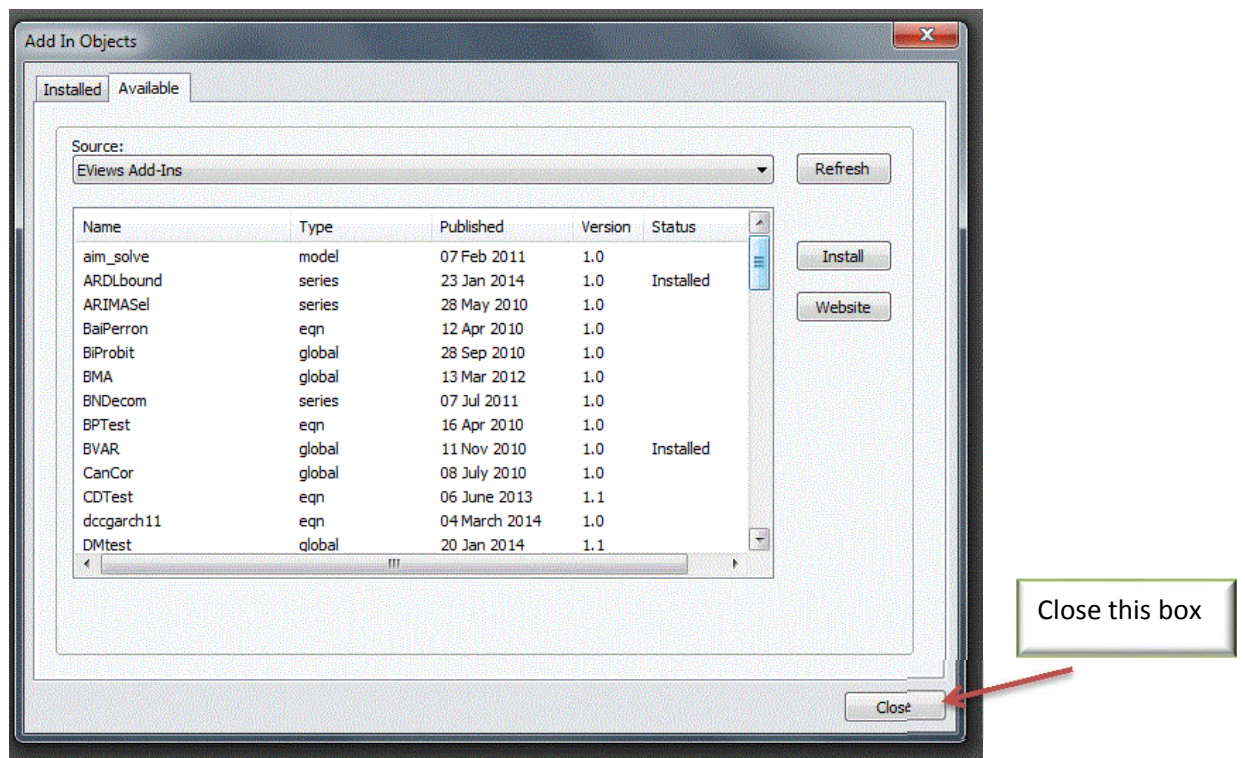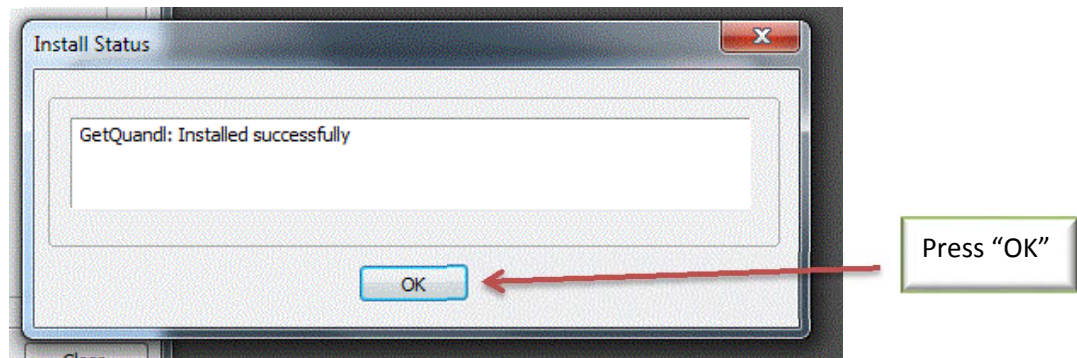
You can see that in this particular case the "GetQuandl" Add-in is available for installation.

It's just a matter of highlighting it, as shown, and pressing the "Install" button.

Just go with the default folder (whatever that is) for storing the Add-in:

Press "OK"
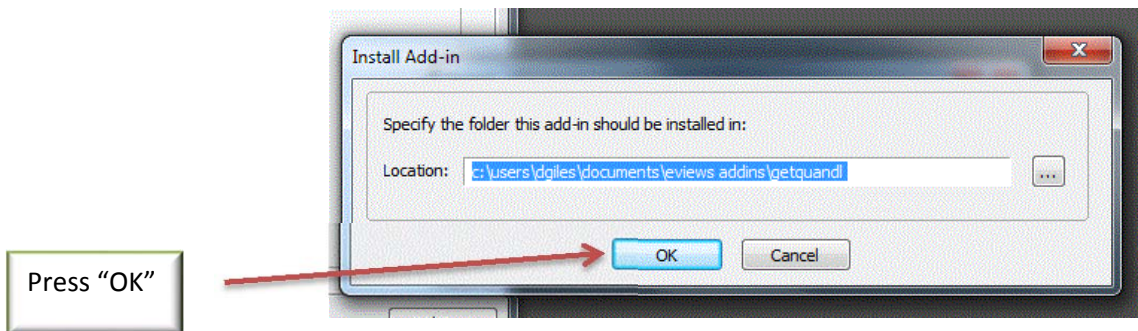
Once the Add-in is installed, you'll see:

You're now ready to use this Add-in to bring Quandl data into an EViews workfile.

5. Using Quandl Data – An Example:

Let's take a look at the Chinese trade data, shown on p.4 of this document:

International Trade

Trade data for China includes imports, exports and reserves.

Chart	Source	Indicator	Level	As Of	Chg	5 Yrs Ago	Api Call	vs World
	United Nations	Imports - China	1,818,199,227,571.00	2012	4.29%	956,115,447,556.00	JSON, CSV	☰
	United Nations	Exports - China	2,048,782,233,084.00	2012	7.92%	1,220,059,668,452.00	JSON, CSV	☰
	World Bank	Total Reserves - China	3,839,547.77	2013	15.26%	1,949,259.95	JSON, CSV	☰
	World Bank	Imports as Share of GDP - China	23.84%	2013	-2.71%	27.27%	JSON, CSV	☰
	World Bank	Exports as Share of GDP - China	26.40%	2013	-3.37%	34.98%	JSON, CSV	☰

You can see that the data for Imports and Exports are sourced from the United Nations. If we click on the highlighted "Imports-China" indicator, we will see the following:

Notice that this particular series is annual, for the period *1992 to 2012*.

You can download the data into a spreadsheet, if you need to, but that's not what we're really interested in doing here:

Be careful if you do this – see section 6 of this document!

Instead, take a look at the "Quandl Code" for the series we're handling here, as this is the information we need to get the data straight into EViews:
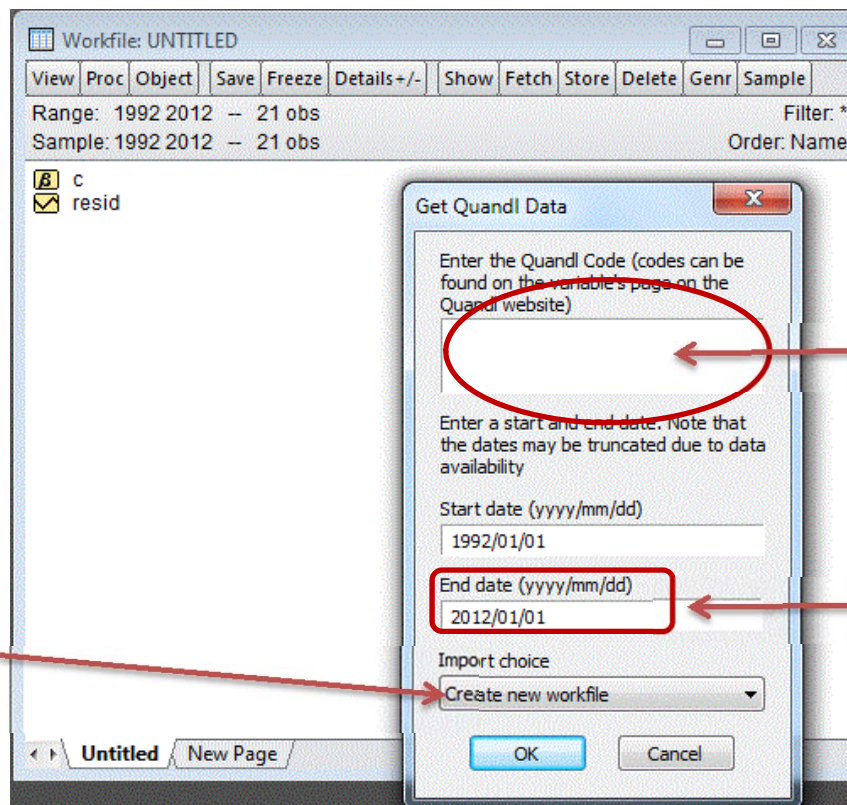

Highlight & copy ALL of this code

Now we're ready to work with EViews. First, create a new workfile with the appropriate sample, in this particular it's Annual, spanning the period from 1992 to 2012:
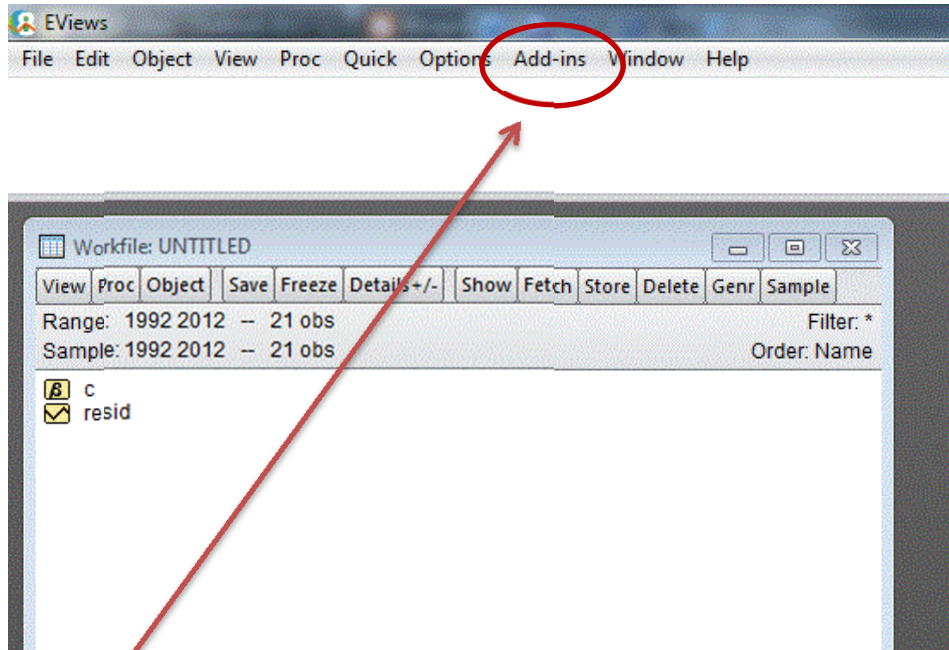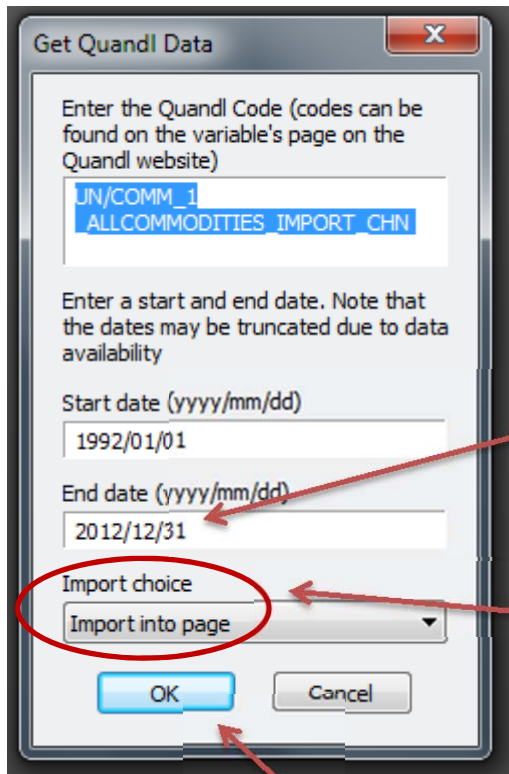

Then, select "Add-ins", and choose "Download Quandl Data:

Paste the Qaundl Code for the series here

You can alter this to "Create new page" or "Import into page", as desired:

You may have to edit this box – see the next page

We have ANNUAL data for the period 1992 to 2012, so the last day of the sample must be **2012/12/31** (otherwise we'll "lose" the last year of data, in this example). *This issue doesn't arise with monthly or quarterly, data.*

I've chosen to import the data into the existing page of my workfile

Select "OK"

The Imports data are now in our EViews workfile, ready to use:
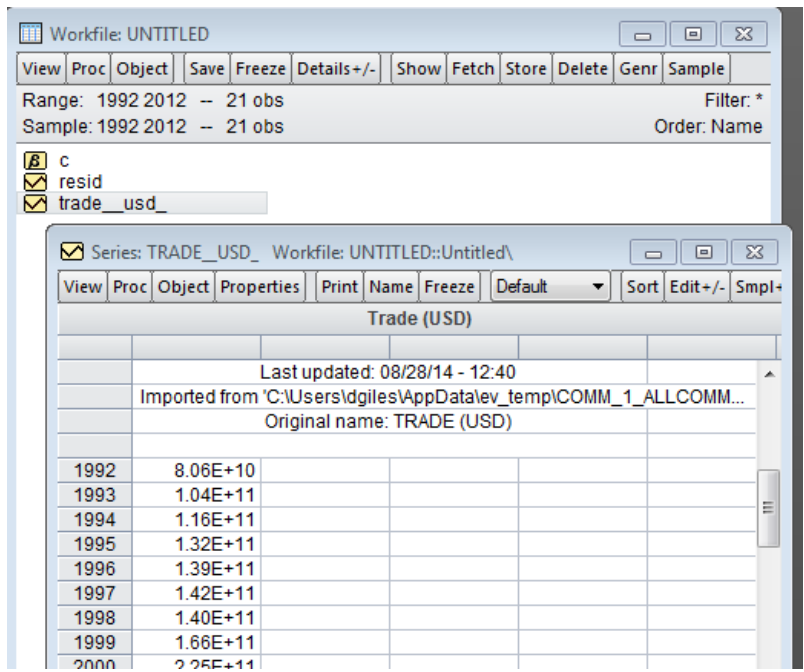
6. Warning!

Notice that, on the last page, the time-series of data is in the order that we'd expect in EViews – namely, from "oldest" to "newest" dates. You probably know that some databases actually store time-series data in the **reverse** order to this – that is, with the most recent values at the "top" of the series, and the oldest values at the "bottom". This is always something to watch for when you're importing time-series data from an external source – *e.g.*, financial data from Yahoo!

As it happens, this "reverse" convention is used in Quandl. So, if you chose to "grab" some Quandl data directly, you're going to have a problem, unless you take this into account when importing it into an EViews workfile. Alternatively, you can "flip" the series (*e.g.*, using Excel) before putting it into EViews (or any other standard econometrics package).

Be careful! There's nothing worse than doing all of your econometric modelling and then finding out that your daets were actually in the reverse order!

To elaborate on this point, let's go back to the Quandl page for the Chinese Imports data that we saw on p.10 of this document:
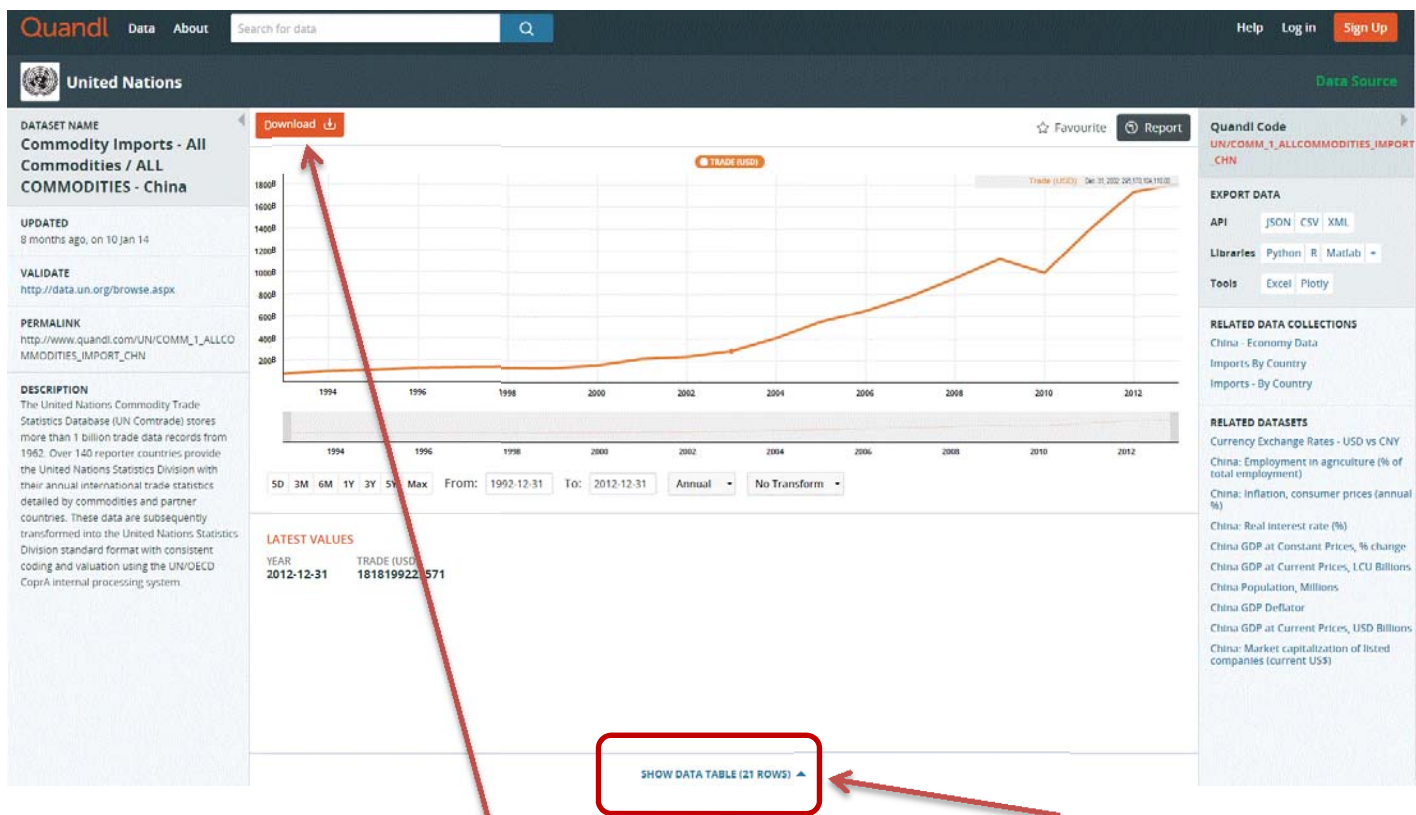
It was noted earlier that you could download the data into a spreadsheet. You can also view the data that have been plotted.

First, suppose that you decide to view the data – this is what you will see:

As you can see, the series in the reverse order, compared with what we're used to! So, a simple "copy and paste" of (just) the Trade data from this page into an existing EViews series isn't going to work!

However, all is not lost. If you "copy and paste" **both** the dates (the "Year" series, in this case) **and** the data (The "Trade values, in this case) into an existing series in an EViews workfile, everything will be alright, because EViews is smart enough to sort things out for you. The series will end up being stored, correctly, from "oldest" date to "newest" date.

Thank you, EViews Team!

Similarly, if you download the data from Quandl to an Excel, .csv, or HTML file, the same problem arises – the series runs from "new" to "old", rather than from "old" to "new":

	A	B	C
1	Year	Trade (USD)	
2	31/12/2012	1.82E+12	
3	31/12/2011	1.74E+12	
4	31/12/2010	1.4E+12	
5	31/12/2009	1.01E+12	
6	31/12/2008	1.13E+12	
7	31/12/2007	9.56E+11	
8	31/12/2006	7.91E+11	
9	31/12/2005	6.6E+11	
10	31/12/2004	5.61E+11	
11	31/12/2003	4.13E+11	
12	31/12/2002	2.95E+11	
13	31/12/2001	2.44E+11	
14	31/12/2000	2.25E+11	
15	31/12/1999	1.66E+11	
16	31/12/1998	1.4E+11	
17	31/12/1997	1.42E+11	
18	31/12/1996	1.39E+11	
19	31/12/1995	1.32E+11	
20	31/12/1994	1.16E+11	
21	31/12/1993	1.04E+11	
22	31/12/1992	8.06E+10	

Yes, you could now "flip" the data series n Excel – *as long as you remember to do so before copying and pasting the numbers into EViews*!

To play it safe, and minimize the extent to which you're "handling" the data, using the EViews Add-in for Quandl might be a better choice.