

## Company Identifiers

Many databases have unique codes or names which specifically identify a company (or group / fund) in a database. Sometimes these identifiers are not specific to one database and then you can use them to merge company data from more than one database into a new data set for your research. Some company identifiers, however, appear to be unique and unchangeable but when you research them carefully they are not and may (through time) even be used by more than one company. A typical example is the Ticker or Ticker symbol used by companies at stock exchanges: a Ticker may be popular and is sometimes purchased from one company by another company. CUSIP and the ISIN are often *reasonably* reliable identifiers. Datastream, CIK and GVKEY codes usually are also reliable.

Please remember that company identification codes may change when a company changes due to a merger or demerger. Sometimes codes are continued or discontinued and sometimes new codes are introduced. New codes may also be applied retrospectively <sup>1</sup>.

Company Identifier	SDC Platinum			Datastream	I/B/E/S/	Audit Analytics <sup>2</sup>	Compustat <sup>2</sup>			CRSP/ Compustat Merged Database <sup>2</sup>	CRSP <sup>2</sup>	Zephyr	Amadeus <sup>2</sup>	Bankscope (OECD Edition)	REACH	NYSE Trades & quotes <sup>2</sup>	Lexis Nexis
	Mergers & Acquisitions	Ventur-Expert	Global New Issues				Global	North America	Execucomp								
Company Name (or Fund)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nickname													Yes				
Ticker (Stock exchange)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>3</sup>	
IBES Ticker					Yes												
Stock Index ID							Yes	Yes									
CUSIP <sup>4</sup>	6 characters	Yes	Yes	Yes													Yes <sup>3</sup>
	8 characters								Yes								Yes <sup>3</sup>
	9 characters			Yes	Yes <sup>5</sup>			Yes		Yes	Yes						Yes <sup>3</sup>
Sedol	Yes		Yes	Yes			Yes					Yes <sup>6</sup>					Yes <sup>3</sup>
ISIN			Yes	Yes			Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes <sup>3</sup>
<b>BvDEP ID Numbers</b>											Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
S&P identification number																	Yes <sup>3</sup>
<b>DSCode</b>	Yes			Yes	Yes												Yes <sup>3</sup>
Extel Ref. No.																	Yes <sup>3</sup>
<b>GVKEY</b>							Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes							
Disclo Number																	Yes <sup>3</sup>
CIK Number						Yes		Yes		Yes							
<b>PERMCO</b>										Yes	Yes						
Bloomberg code																	Yes <sup>3</sup>
Worldscope Number																	Yes <sup>3</sup>
NSIN																	Yes <sup>3</sup>
Hoover ID																	Yes <sup>3</sup>
Chamber of Commerce											Yes	Yes		Yes			Yes <sup>3</sup>
Swift code													Yes				

<sup>1</sup> A recent example is the demerger of Fortune Brands Home & Security Inc from Fortune Brands Inc in 2011. Fortune Brands not only changed its name to BEAM Inc but also the Ticker FO was changed to BEAM retrospectively in many databases. The CIK of Fortune Brands Inc remained the same for BEAM Inc. The CUSIP code, however, also changed for the new company.

<sup>2</sup> Can be searched through the Wharton interface;

<sup>3</sup> Availability depends on the source in LexisNexis

<sup>4</sup> Cusip 6 identifies a company. Version 8 or 9 identifies a specific listing/equity (the ninth character is a check digit).

<sup>5</sup> In Datastream use the Russell Cusip Key (Consists of Letter U + Cusip version 9)

<sup>6</sup> Sedol currently only available in the WRDS version. Will be removed in 2015.

