Ownership data in Orbis.

Orbis is provided by Bureau van Dijk and contains data for close to 300 million public and private companies worldwide over the last 10 years. Bureau van Dijk collects this data from local sources, for example: data of Dutch companies is taken from the Chamber of Commerce. This annual report data is processed by Bureau van Dijk, so that companies of different countries can be compared (this is called the Global Format).

Getting started

Available identifiers: BVD ID number (BVD products only), Ticker symbol, ISIN number, and (Inter)National & IP identification numbers.

Settings: Under Settings in the upper right corner you can adjust the settings for Ownership (the definition of the ultimate owner) or (what type of shareholder do you want to consider as ultimate owner).

Support: Under Help in the upper right corner you can find the Ownership Guide. The Quick Tour is useful to get to know Orbis.

Requesting data.

Ownership data is available from 2000 to the present in Orbis.

To get your Ownership data you need to go through three steps. A similar approach can be used to get data on CEOs (board data) and financials (annual report data).

- In the first step you need to create your search query. This means that you apply filters to all companies in Orbis by setting criteria. For example, you might be interested in Ownership data in a specific country or industry. Another possibility is that you already...
have companies from another database (for example you have all acquirers from deals you collected in Zephyr). Both approaches will be discussed.

- In the second step you can create your report that means you can get information on the selected companies and individuals, such as the Global Ultimate Owner (GUO), Shareholders, direct- and total ownership, private equity ownership etc.
- In the final step you can export your data.

Search example.

Step 1: Setting the criteria
In this first step we are going to set the criteria to create a list of companies.

In this example we want to make a list of family businesses or individuals as the ultimate owner, public, active in Western-Europe.

To limit to European companies, you click on ‘Location’ and ‘World region/Country/Region in country’.

In the following screen select the regions of interest by clicking on the checkbox.

You can also select the separate countries. Now click on ‘OK’.

Orbis automatically excludes inactive companies from the search strategy. However, it includes companies with “unknown situations”. To exclude companies with unknown situations or to
include inactive companies you can go to Status. Do note that these statuses are based on the most recent information.

Next, we want to add a search criterion to keep only those firms that have a family or individual as ultimate owner. Go consecutively to Ownership data; Subsidiaries with; Ultimate Owners; Type; One or more named individuals or families. Now you can select as type One or more named individuals or families.

You also can add more selection criteria here like size of the company by operating revenue or employees etc. or immediately the country of region.

Finally, to select public companies you must click on ‘Stock data’ and ‘Listed/unlisted companies’. Here you can mark Publicly listed companies.

Now click on ‘View list of Results’.

**Tip:** With the search criterion Identification Numbers you can upload lists with identifiers. You can copy lists of these codes from Excel and paste them. The codes must be separated by a comma or start on a new line. Another way is to upload the list directly via Load from disk. Allowed formats are: .list, .xlx(s), and .txt

**Step 2: Requesting the data.**

In this step we are going to select the data/variables that we want to collect from the companies/Individuals. Orbis always provides a default list of items. However, in most cases you will want to add (or delete) some variables. To adjust this list, click on ‘add/remove columns’.
In this screen you can choose your variables of interest by clicking on the checkboxes. You can search for your variables by exploring the (sub)folders or by using the search box.

When you select a variable, you get the current value for some variables. If you see a filter symbol you can also ask for archived values as well.

After you have selected all variables of interest click on the apply button.

This is your result:
Step 3: Exporting the data

To export your data, click on ‘Excel’.

You can adjust some settings, especially with many owners of one company the Excel option “duplicate the data of the other cells” is very handy when you start filtering or sorting to your files.
Choose a name for your file. Finally click on ‘OK’.

Sometimes you will get a notification that your export cannot be immediately processed, but you can get a notification by e-mail. Provide your e-mail address and Orbis will send you the file.

**Note**: When exporting your reports, you can encounter a limitation set by Orbis. The only way to work around this issue is by splitting your report into several parts. For example, you can choose to download the companies by country or you can decide to split your variables over multiple downloads.

**Saving and uploading search strategy**

In Orbis you can save your search strategy to your drive. Click on the save button above the search strategy then in the pop-up menu enter a name for your strategy and click on the save button to the left. This will allow you to download the search strategy to your drive. To load your search strategy go to Saved searches and click on ‘Load from disk’.
Similar to saving your search query you can save your selected variables in a so-called list file. In the screen where you select your variables you can name your list in the bottom right box. To the left of it you can again download your list to your drive. To upload a previous created list, you must click on ‘Load from disk’ on the left-hand side of the screen.

Saving and uploading previously created files is especially useful when you have to redo earlier work or when you want to do separate downloads for each country but with the same variables.

**Reports in Orbis.**

From the results list you can click on the name of a company to get more information about that company. This information is put into reports, like Contact Information, Industry/Activities (with the SIC-codes), Key Financials, Current boards & management and Current subsidiaries.

At the left side of the screen you can open other reports, like Financial for Listed Companies - Cash Flow Statement or Corporate Ownership - Current Shareholders. These are always standard reports: in most cases you can’t adjust them. You can make your own reports under Via Report Format, New Format, but you can just select a block with dat. For example, you can’t select specific ratio’s. For financial ratio’s it might be easier to add the requested items to the list of companies.

You can download a report. Click the button ‘Export’ at the top of the page in the blue bar.

If you export reports of multiple companies, then each company will get its own sheet in the Excel-file. You can export up to 50 reports in one download.