



CRSP/Compustat Merged Database Guide

for CRSPLink Only

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| Chapter 1: Overview | 3 |
| Link History | 4 |
| Link Fiscal Period All..... | 4 |
| Link Fiscal Annual Default | 4 |
| Link Fiscal Quarterly Default..... | 4 |
| Link Fiscal Semi-Annual Default | 4 |
| Link Fiscal Year-To-Date Default | 4 |
| Link Range Type..... | 5 |
| Company History Filename: CompanyHistory | 6 |
| Company History - CST Filename: CompanyHistoryCST | 8 |

Chapter 1: Overview

The CRSP/Compustat Link-Only files are a subset of the full CRSP/Compustat SAS and ASCII data files. The set consists only of files used for linking the CRSP and Compustat data. These files are intended for use with the CRSP SAS and ASCII stock files and Compustat data files that contain GVKEYs and IIDs.

There are 9 files included in the link-only product:

| Link Files | File Extensions |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| D_FiscalPeriod | |
| LinkHistory | |
| LinkFiscalPeriodAll | |
| LinkFiscalAnnualDefault | SAS: *.sas7bdat |
| LinkFiscalQuarterlyDefault | ASCII: *.dat |
| LinkFiscalSemiAnnualDefault | R: *.rds |
| LinkFiscalYTDDefault | |
| CompanyHistory | |
| CompanyHistoryCST | |

- **D_FiscalPeriod** - Metadata file with calendar and trading date ranges to fiscal year and month mapping table.
- **LinkHistory** - This is the “raw” link file that holds what is in the production CRSP/Compustat Merged Database for use with CRSPSift and CRSP Utilities. This file is included for the following:
 - It provides continuity for users of the current link history
 - It works well “as is” for calendar-based links
 - It offers transparency
- **LinkFiscalPeriodAll** - This file contains the links for all fiscal periods in the CCM Fiscal files. This includes:
 - Missing links - no PERMNO for this period
 - All Fiscal Period Types - Annual, Quarterly, Semi-Annual, and YTD
 - All Links including non-primary, duplicates, etc. with a rank number assigned
- **LinkFiscalAnnualDefault, LinkFiscalQuarterlyDefault, LinkFiscalSemiAnnualDefault, LinkFiscalYTDDefault**
 - These four files are the Rank 1 for each respective Fiscal Period Type
 - These four files are identical in structure to the LinkFiscalPeriodAll table, even though two fields FiscalPeriodType will be uniform for each file and LinkRank will be 1 for all
 - These files make transparent the values used for PERMNO and PERMCO for the fiscal period files so that CFZ and CLZ subscribers can “compare” work
- **CompanyHistory** and **CompanyHistoryCST** - History of company-specific information, identifiers, and codes

Link History

Link history file is directly from CRSP's legacy CRSP\Compustat Merged Database and provided for compatibility with information in CRSP production databases.

| ItemId | Item Name | Item Description |
|-----------|-------------------|---|
| KYGVKEY | GVKEY | Compustat identifier – part of all base tables |
| LinkDt | Link Date | Link history start date in YYYY-MM-DD format |
| LinkEndDt | Link End Date | Link history end date in YYYY-MM-DD format |
| LPERMNO | PERMNO | CRSP unique security identifier, included in all base tables |
| LPERMCO | PERMCO | CRSP unique company identifier, included in all base tables |
| LIID | Issue Identifier | Compustat issue identifier, used with GVKEY for security data |
| LinkType | Link Type Code | Each link is given a code that describes the link |
| LinkPrim | Primary Link Code | Code indicates whether the link is with Compustat's marked primary security during the link range |

Link Fiscal Period All

Link Fiscal Annual Default

Link Fiscal Quarterly Default

Link Fiscal Semi-Annual Default

Link Fiscal Year-To-Date Default

All files are formatted the same. Link Fiscal Period All contains all data. Default files are subset by fiscal period type for ease of use.

| ItemId | Item Name | Item Description |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| KYGVKEY | GVKEY | Compustat identifier – part of all base tables |
| FiscalPeriod | Fiscal Period | Joins to Compustat columns FYYYY (1984, 2005), FYYYYQ (19841, 19842, 19843, 19844, 19851), FYYYYS (19841, 19842, 19851) |
| FiscalYearEndMonthNbr | Fiscal Year End Month | Joins to Compustat at FYR, FYRA, FYRQ, FYRS – Numbers 1 – 12 for month number. Zero exists in raw data and are treated as December |
| FiscalPeriodTypeCd | Fiscal Period Type | ANN, QTR, SA, and YTD in the LinkFiscalPeriodAll file, all four of these types will be present. In Default files subset by type, column will hold uniform codes |
| LinkRank | Link Rank | The CRSP ordering of applicability of links when there are multiple links. (1 is best). For the Default files, only LinkRank=1 rows are included |
| FiscalPeriodStartDt | Fiscal Period Start | Start of fiscal period in YYYY-MM-DD format (e.g. 1984 Dec ANN is 1984-01-01) |
| FiscalPeriodEndDt | Fiscal Period End | End of fiscal period in YYYY-MM-DD format (e.g. 1984 Dec ANN is 1984-12-31) |
| LPERMNO | PERMNO | CRSP unique security identifier, included in all base tables |
| LPERMCO | PERMCO | CRSP unique company identifier, included in all base tables |
| LIID | Issue Identifier | Compustat issue identifier, used with GVKEY for security data |
| LinkRangeTypeCd | Link Range Type Code | Code describing the range of the link. See the Link Range Type Table for codes and descriptions |
| LinkType | Link Type Code | Each link is given a code that describes the link |

| ItemId | Item Name | Item Description |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| LinkPrim | Primary Link Code | Code indicates whether the link is with Compustat's marked primary security during the link range |
| LinkMadeCnt | Link Made Count | Number of all links available for a GVKEY, FiscalPeriod, FiscalEndMonthNbr, FiscalPeriodType combination. If greater than 1, an indicator that some less common situation exists |
| LinkPERMNOCnt | Link PERMNO Count | Number of distinct linked PERMNOs. If greater than 1, aggregating CRSP data might need care |
| LinkNonZeroPERMNOCnt | Link Non-Zero PERMNO Count | Number of distinct non-zero (non-missing) linked PERMNOs. If greater than 1, aggregating CRSP data might need care |
| FiscalPeriodCRSPStart | Fiscal Period CRSP Start | Start of CRSP price data available for this link in YYYY-MM-DD format. Narrowed by trading days in the period (e.g. 1984-01-01 has a trading start of 19840103) and by the PERMNO data availability in CRSP |
| FiscalPeriodCRSPEnd | Fiscal Period CRSP End | End of CRSP price data available for this link in YYYY-MM-DD format. Narrowed by trading days in the period (e.g. 1984-12-31 has a trading end of 19831230) and by the PERMNO data availability in CRSP |
| LinkDt | Link Date | Link history start date in YYYY-MM-DD format |
| LinkEndDt | Link End Date | Link history end date in YYYY-MM-DD format |

Link Range Type

Codes and descriptions for Link Range Type, found in the Link Fiscal files, are provided in this table for easy reference. Codes are organized in rank order from most common to rare.

| Code | Link Type Name | Link Type Description | Count | % of Total |
|------|--------------------|---|-----------|------------|
| TP | Total Period | Primary link covers total fiscal trading period covered by CRSP data | 2,652,826 | 56.3% |
| ZP | Zero Primary Link | Primary link exists, but PERMNO is missing, anywhere in the period | 1,521,332 | 32.3% |
| ZN | Zero Non-Primary | Non-primary link exists, but PERMNO is missing, anywhere in the period | 223,514 | 4.7% |
| EP | End Period | CRSP data range begins before the primary link begins, primary link exists at the end of fiscal trading period covered by CRSP data | 112,088 | 2.4% |
| NP | Non-Primary | Non-primary link exists anywhere in the period for a non-missing PERMNO | 98,193 | 2.1% |
| BP | Beginning Period | Primary link exists at the start of the fiscal trading period covered by CRSP data | 34,134 | 0.7% |
| AL | After Link | Fiscal period entirely after the link history ends | 28,329 | 0.6% |
| BL | Before Link | Fiscal period entirely before the link history begins | 24,619 | 0.5% |
| GP | Gap Period | Fiscal period is in a gap period (links sometime before and sometime after) of the link history | 10,297 | 0.2% |
| MP | Middle Period | Primary link exists with only the middle of the fiscal trading period covered by CRSP data | 2,680 | 0.1% |
| BC | Beginning Calendar | Primary link extends ends before the start of the fiscal trading period, but on or after the start of the fiscal period, e.g. Link ends on Monday | 31 | 0.0% |

| Code | Link Type Name | Link Type Description | Count | % of Total |
|------|----------------|---|-------|------------|
| | | 1/2/2017, which is before the first trading day (Tuesday 1/3/2017), but after the start of the fiscal period (1/1/2017) | | |
| EC | End Calendar | Primary link extends starts after the end of the fiscal trading period, but on or before the end of the fiscal period, e.g. Link starts on Saturday 12/30/2018, which is after the last trading day (Friday 12/29/2018), but before the end of the fiscal period (12/31/2018) | 18 | 0.0% |

Company History

Filename: CompanyHistory

| Item Name | ItemHdr | Xpressfeed Mnemonic | CRSP Long Name | Description / Full Compustat Name | Item Name Type |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|--|----------------|
| KYGVKEY | GVKEY | N/A | Global Company Key - Key Selection | Global Company Key - Key Selection | NA |
| HCHGDT | HCHGDT | CHGDT | Effective date of this description | effective date of this description | HS |
| HCHGENDDT | HCHGENDDT | CHGENDDT | Last effective date of this description | last effective date of this description | HS |
| LPERMNO | LPERMNO | Link | Permno | PERMNO from link; 0 is used for a missing or not applicable link | LD |
| LPERMCO | LPERMCO | Link | Permco | PERMCO from link; 0 is used for a missing or not applicable link | LD |
| LINKRANGETYP ECD | LINKRANGETYP ECD | Link | Link Range Type Code | Not in Compustat documentation | LD |
| HCIK | HCIK | CIK | Historical CIK Number | Historical CIK Number | HS |
| HEIN | HEIN | EIN | Historical Employer Identification Number | Historical Employer Identification Number | HS |
| HSTKO | HSTKO | STKO | Historical Stock Ownership Code | Historical Stock Ownership Code | HS |
| HCONM | HCONM | CONM | Historical Company Name | Historical Company Name | HS |
| HFYRC | HFYRC | FYRC | Historical Fiscal Year-end Month / Current | Historical Fiscal Year-end Month / Current | HS |
| HCOSTAT | HCOSTAT | COSTAT | Historical Active/Inactive Status Marker | Historical Active/Inactive Status Marker | HS |
| HIPODATE | HIPODATE | IPODATE | Historical Company Initial Public Offering Date | Historical Company Initial Public Offering Date | HS |
| HDLDTE | HDLDTE | DLDTE | Historical Research Company / Deletion Date | Historical Research Company / Deletion Date | HS |
| HDLRSN | HDLRSN | DLRSN | Historical Research Company Reason for Deletion | Historical Research Company Reason for Deletion | HS |
| HPRIUSA | HPRIUSA | PRIUSA | Historical Primary Issue Tag / US | Historical Primary Issue Tag / US | HS |
| HPRICAN | HPRICAN | PRICAN | Historical Primary Issue Tag / Canada | Historical Primary Issue Tag / Canada | HS |

| Item Name | ItemHdr | Xpressfeed Mnemonic | CRSP Long Name | Description / Full Compustat Name | Item Name Type |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--|--|----------------|
| HPRIROW | HPRIROW | PRIROW | Historical Primary Issue Tag / Rest of World | Historical Primary Issue Tag / Rest of World | HS |
| HIDBFLAG | HIDBFLAG | IDBFLAG | Historical International, Domestic, Both Indicator | Historical "International, Domestic, Both Indicator" | HS |
| HFIC | HFIC | FIC | Historical ISO Country Code / Incorporation | Historical ISO Country Code / Incorporation | HS |
| HLOC | HLOC | LOC | Historical ISO Country Code / Headquarters | Historical ISO Country Code / Headquarters | HS |
| HINCORP | HINCORP | INCORP | Historical State/Province of Incorporation Code | Historical State/Province of Incorporation Code | HS |
| HSTATE | HSTATE | STATE | Historical State/Province | Historical State/Province | HS |
| HCOUNTY | HCOUNTY | COUNTY | Historical County Code | Historical County Code | HS |
| HCITY | HCITY | CITY | Historical City | Historical City | HS |
| HSIC | HSIC | SIC | Historical SIC Code | Historical SIC Code | HS |
| HNAICS | HNAICS | NAICS | Historical North American Industry Classification Code | Historical North American Industry Classification Code | HS |
| HGSECTOR | HGSECTOR | GSECTOR | Historical GICS Sectors | Historical GICS Sectors | HS |
| HGGROUP | HGGROUP | GGROUP | Historical GICS Groups | Historical GICS Groups | HS |
| HGIND | HGIND | GIND | Historical GICS Industries | Historical GICS Industries | HS |
| HGSUBIND | HGSUBIND | GSUBIND | Historical GICS Sub-Industries | Historical GICS Sub-Industries | HS |
| HSPCINDCD | HSPCINDCD | SPCINDCD | Historical S&P Industry Sector Code | Historical S&P Industry Sector Code | HS |
| HSPCSECCD | HSPCSECCD | SPCSECCD | Historical S&P Economic Sector Code | Historical S&P Economic Sector Code | HS |
| HCONML | HCONML | CONML | Historical Company Legal Name | Historical Company Legal Name | HS |
| HWEBURL | HWEBURL | WEBURL | Historical Web URL | Historical Web URL | HS |
| HPHONE | HPHONE | PHONE | Historical Phone Number | Historical Phone Number | HS |
| HFAX | HFAX | FAX | Historical Fax Number | Historical Fax Number | HS |

Company History - CST**Filename: CompanyHistoryCST**

| ItemName | ItemHdr | Xpressfeed Mnemonic | CRSP Long Name | Description/Full Compustat Name | Item Name Type |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|--|----------------|
| KYGVKEY | GVKEY | N/A | Global Company Key - Key Selection | Global Company Key - Key Selection | NA |
| CST_CHGDT | CHGDT | Legacy/CST | CST History Effective Date | CST History Effective Date | LG |
| CST_CHGENDD T | CHGENDDT | Legacy/CST | CST History Last Effective Date | CST History Last Effective Date | LG |
| LPERMNO | LPERMNO | Link | Permno | PERMNO from link; 0 is used for a missing or not applicable link | LD |
| LPERMCO | LPERMCO | Link | Permco | PERMCO from link; 0 is used for a missing or not applicable link | LD |
| LinkRangeType Cd | LinkRangeType Cd | Link | Link Range Type Code | Not in Compustat documentation | LD |
| CST_DNUM | DNUM | Legacy/CST | CST History Industry Code | CST History Industry Code | LG |
| CST_FILE | FILE | Legacy/CST | CST History File Identification Code | CST History File Identification Code | LG |
| CST_ZLIST | ZLIST | Legacy/CST | CST History Exchange Listing + S&P Index Code | CST History Exchange Listing + S&P Index Code | LG |
| CST_STATE | STATE | Legacy/CST | CST History State Identification Code | CST History State Identification Code | LG |
| CST_COUNTY | COUNTY | Legacy/CST | CST History County Identification Code | CST History County Identification Code | LG |
| CST_STINC | STINC | Legacy/CST | CST History State Incorporation Code | CST History State Incorporation Code | LG |
| CST_FINC | FINC | Legacy/CST | CST History Foreign Incorporation Code | CST History Foreign Incorporation Code | LG |
| CST_XREL | XREL | Legacy/CST | CST History S&P Industry Index Relative Code | CST History S&P Industry Index Relative Code | LG |
| CST_STK | STK | Legacy/CST | CST History Stock Ownership Code | CST History Stock Ownership Code | LG |
| CST_DUP | DUP | Legacy/CST | CST History Duplicate File Code | CST History Duplicate File Code | LG |
| CST_CCNDX | CCNDX | Legacy/CST | CST History Current Canadian Index Code | CST History Current Canadian Index Code | LG |
| CST_GICS | GICS | Legacy/CST | CST History Global Industry Classification Standard Code | CST History Global Industry Classification Standard Code | LG |
| CST_IPODT | IPODT | Legacy/CST | CST History IPO Date | CST History IPO Date | LG |
| CST_FUNDF1 | FUNDF1 | Legacy/CST | CST History Fundamental File Identification Code 1 | CST History Fundamental File Identification Code 1 | LG |
| CST_FUNDF2 | FUNDF2 | Legacy/CST | CST History Fundamental File Identification Code 2 | CST History Fundamental File Identification Code 2 | LG |

| ItemName | ItemHdr | Xpressfeed Mnemonic | CRSP Long Name | Description/Full Compustat Name | Item Name Type |
|------------|---------|---------------------|---|---|----------------|
| CST_FUNDF3 | FUNDF3 | Legacy/CST | CST History Fundamental File Identification Code 3 | CST History Fundamental File Identification Code 3 | LG |
| CST_NAICS | NAICS | Legacy/CST | CST History North American Industry Classification | CST History North American Industry Classification | LG |
| CST_CPSPIN | CPSPIN | Legacy/CST | CST History Primary S&P Index Marker | CST History Primary S&P Index Marker | LG |
| CST_CSSPIN | CSSPIN | Legacy/CST | CST History Secondary S&P Index Marker | CST History Secondary S&P Index Marker | LG |
| CST_CSSPII | CSSPII | Legacy/CST | CST History Subset S&P Index Marker | CST History Subset S&P Index Marker | LG |
| CST_SUBDBT | SUBDBT | Legacy/CST | CST History Current S&P Subordinated Debt Rating | CST History Current S&P Subordinated Debt Rating | LG |
| CST_CPAPER | CPAPER | Legacy/CST | CST History Current S&P Commercial Paper Rating | CST History Current S&P Commercial Paper Rating | LG |
| CST_SDBT | SDBT | Legacy/CST | CST History Current S&P Senior Dept Rating | CST History Current S&P Senior Dept Rating | LG |
| CST_SDBTIM | SDBTIM | Legacy/CST | CST History Current S&P Senior Dept Rating - Footnote | CST History Current S&P Senior Dept Rating - Footnote | LG |
| CST_CNUM | CNUM | Legacy/CST | CST History CUSIP Issuer Code | CST History CUSIP Issuer Code | LG |
| CST_CIC | CIC | Legacy/CST | CST History Issuer Number | CST History Issuer Number | LG |
| CST_CONAME | CONAME | Legacy/CST | CST History Company Name | CST History Company Name | LG |
| CST_INAME | INAME | Legacy/CST | CST History Industry Name | CST History Industry Name | LG |
| CST_SMBL | SMBL | Legacy/CST | CST History Stock Ticker Symbol | CST History Stock Ticker Symbol | LG |
| CST_EIN | EIN | Legacy/CST | CST History Employer Identification Number | CST History Employer Identification Number | LG |
| CST_INCORP | INCORP | Legacy/CST | CST History Incorporation ISO Country Code | CST History Incorporation ISO Country Code | LG |

About CRSP Research Data Products

Center for Research in Security Prices (CRSP), originally established at the University of Chicago in 1960, is widely recognized as a leading provider of research quality historical market and returns data. Built on rigorous academic standards, its research data products are trusted by academic, commercial, and government institutions worldwide that rely on accurate, transparent data for meticulous financial analysis, economic research, and policy development where precision and historical continuity are essential.

In February 2026, Morningstar completed the acquisition of CRSP, integrating CRSP's research data products—renowned for their academic rigor, historical depth, and accuracy—into Morningstar's global data and research platform. This combination enhances Morningstar's equity research capabilities while continuing CRSP's legacy of providing high quality data to support institutional research, benchmarking, and investment decision making.

indexes.morningstar.com/research-data-products

Contact Us

rdp@morningstar.com