Introduction

SNLxl is a powerful tool that allows users to pull data directly from SNL databases into a Microsoft Excel workbook using SNL functions. After pulling the data into a spreadsheet, users can apply Excel features and formulas to construct refreshable templates and reports for further analysis.

Accessing SNLxl

SNLxl requires that you have an Unlimited subscription to SNL. Make sure to register for SNL before running SNLxl. If you have not registered for SNL, you can do so using the login screen at www.snl.com.

The SNLxl home page, which includes SNLxl download and support materials, is located on the SNLxl Add In dropdown on SNL at http://www.snl.com/interactivex/snlxl.aspx.

Note: Before attempting to install SNLxl, please confirm that your system meets the System Requirements as outlined in the SNLxl Technical Guide. You should also check with your system administrator to ensure that you have local administrative installation permissions. Finally, close Excel and proceed to install by following the setup instructions on the SNLxl home page.

Getting Started

SNLxl launches automatically within Microsoft Excel, giving you an SNL Financial menu item and SNLxl toolbar.

SNL Financial Menu and Toolbar

- **DataWizard**: The primary SNLxl querying tool, giving users access to all companies and fields available in SNLxl.
- **PriceWizard**: Launches a dialog box for the SNL PriceWizard.
- **SNL Functions**: Launches a dialog box showing all SNL functions. Select the function from the list that you wish to use.
- **Refresh Data**: Refreshes all data within the active sheet. To refresh specific SNL functions, go to SNL Financial > Refresh Data > Selected Cells.
- **Field Selector**: Launches SNLxl Field Selector, allowing users to search for fields by name.
- **Spreadsheet Library**: SNL's library of custom templates, categorized by industry.
- **Sharing**: Update links (references) to point to their local path for the SNLxl Add-In. Share SNLQueries is used to embed saved queries created in the DataWizard into the spreadsheet for use by other colleagues.
- **Convert SNL Functions to Values**: Replace all SNL Function information with hard-coded data values; useful when you want to share a spreadsheet with people who don't have SNLxl on their computer.
- **Audit Data**: Access Ratio Dissection and Source Tagging detail. This toolbar icon opens a browser window containing ratio components for the selected cell. In addition, values for recent quarters and years are linked to a source document.
- **Settings**: Specify SNLxl preferences and settings.
- **Log On/Log Off**: Allows you to log on or log off SNLxl.
- **About**: Technical information about SNLxl and associated component applications.

1. Open Microsoft Excel. Click on the SNL Financial menu, and select Settings to customize your SNLxl experience.
2. You will be prompted to log in. Use your SNL login credentials to access SNLxl (email address and password).
3. Adjust your Settings, such as:
   - Orientation (configure entities and periods across a row or down a column)
   - Allow auto logon
   - Allow Excel Calculation (i.e., automatic refresh)
   - Currency and magnitude
   - Unit of Measure (U.S. Customary or Metric)
   - Saved query location
Launching the DataWizard

Begin your template by selecting DataWizard from the SNL Financial menu. The DataWizard allows you to search or query to build a list and select the fields to include in your report. Build and preview your report in the DataWizard, then export it to Excel with a built-in SNLTable function to make your report dynamic. Save it in Excel, and return to refresh it with new SNL data whenever you like.

Within the DataWizard, there are three tabs:

**Search Criteria tab**
1. Select a data set to specify the type of data you are looking for: Companies, Regulated Depositories, Merger & Acquisitions Deals, Real Estate Properties, Power Plants, Wireline Regulatory (ARMIS), etc.
2. Select filters and additional criteria.
3. Save selections as default: set your default preferences within each data set and SNLx1 will remember your choices.
4. Use the Quick Search or Advanced Search to create a list of entities.
5. Within the Advanced Search, construct a query to generate a list, including advanced queries: TopN and Group options. Create a library of regularly used queries by clicking Save Query; review and recall saved queries in My Queries.
6. Once you have entered a Quick Search or run a query, click Next step.

**Report Builder**
1. Complete your report by adding from a comprehensive group of Available Fields. Each data set has a unique set of categories and subcategories.
2. Use Field Search to look for fields directly in the DataWizard. This helps navigate through the thousands of available fields to find the ones in which you are most interested.
3. View the definition of a field by viewing it at the bottom of the Report Builder tab.
4. Add and remove fields by double-clicking, dragging and dropping, or using the “>” and “<” buttons. You can also select multiple fields (including secondary keys/periods) by holding down the shift key and selecting the bottom of the range of fields in which you are interested.
5. For periodic data, choose between historical Quarters, LTM, YTD, Interim periods and other periods.

**Results tab**
1. Preview your report. Click Settings to modify the layout of the report or how the data is displayed.
   - Change column locations with a click-and-drag.
   - Sort ascending/descending by clicking on column heading.
   - Add additional fields by going back to the Report Builder tab. When you return to the Results tab, the report will refresh with your new selections.
   - Add entity list items individually or by adjusting your query by going back to the Search Criteria tab.
   - Delete entity list items by selecting the check box next to the entity name then click Delete selected rows.
2. Export your dynamic report to Excel by clicking Export SNLTable. The embedded SNLTable function provides for simple refresh capability.
SNL Functions

SNLx1 uses functions to write data to Excel. Each function fulfills a unique purpose and requires a unique syntax. A summary of each function, purpose and syntax is listed below. Most functions can be accessed by going to SNL Financial > SNL Functions. Once you become familiar with the way these functions work, you can add them to spreadsheets manually and create timesaving analysis with push-button refresh capabilities.

Once SNLx1 pulls data into a worksheet, add standard Excel features, such as charts/formulas/cell referencing, to manipulate the data and customize the analysis. Incorporate multiple SNL functions into a single template to optimize performance.

Syntax Detail & Definitions

SNL functions look similar to most Excel formulas. They begin with a name that identifies the function and end with a series of inputs. These inputs are often cell references and ranges within the active worksheet. In different combinations, the following items construct the inputs necessary to make any SNL function work.

Data set — refers to a numerical code that identifies a specific SNL data set. See the table on the right for all data set codes.

Used in: SNLTable, SNLData, SNLDefinition, SNLConvert

SNL ID — SNL assigns a unique identifier number to every company, offering, M&A deal, branch, real estate property, energy power plant or media & communications asset. This number can be found most easily in the DataWizard but can also be pulled into a spreadsheet with the use of the SNLTicker, SNLRegID or SNLConvert functions.

Used in: SNLTable, SNLData, SNLConvert

Field ID — SNL assigns a unique number to every field we collect and disseminate in SNLx1. This number can be found in the DataWizard or the Field Selector, where it is displayed in the definition.

Used in: SNLTable, SNLData, SNLQuery, SNLDefinition, SNLKey, SNLPeriod

Secondary Key — for End of Period (EOP) financial fields, the secondary key is the date of a particular period end, in SNLx1 date format. See the table on the right for date formats and options. For non-EOP fields, the secondary key can be a number or text code that refers to a length of time (for current pricing fields).

Used in: SNLTable, SNLData, SNLQuery, SNLKey, SNLPeriod

Tertiary Key — only applicable for EOP financial fields and is never required. Denotes originally reported data (0) or current/restated data (1). If no tertiary key is entered, data will default to current/restated.

Used in: SNLTable, SNLData

Ticker — refers to the company’s assigned ticker.

Used in: SNLTicker, SNLPrice; Can also be used as a replacement for SNL ID in SNLTable, SNLData, SNLConvert

Reg ID — refers to the company’s assigned regulatory ID, e.g., Docket # for savings institutions, Federal Reserve ID for savings and commercial banks, NCUA Charter # for credit unions, and BHC # (RSSD ID) for BHCs.

Used in: SNLRegID

Query Name — for use in the SNLQuery function. Input the name you used when saving your query in the DataWizard.

Used in: SNLQuery

Starting Date/Ending Date — refers to the start and end date for a range of historical stock prices to retrieve.

Used in: SNLPrice

Destination — represents the cell where your converted list should appear.

Used in: SNLConvert

SNLx1 Data sets

1. Companies
2. Regulated Depositories
3. Real Estate Properties
4. Capital Structure
5. Mergers & Acquisitions
6. Specialized Financial Services
7. Capital Offerings
8. Regulated Energy Companies
9. Power Plants [Whole]
10. Power Plants [Owner]
11. Power Plant Units
12. Energy Companies by State
13. Branches
14. Coal Mines
15. Wireline Regulatory (ARMIS)
16. Media & Communications Assets
17. Insurance Statutory Financials
18. Broadcast M&A
19. Television Networks
20. US Reinsurance Relationships
21. M&C Industry & Projections
22. Insurance Investment Holdings
23. Monthly Fuel Deliveries
24. Regional Energy Market Summary
25. Geographic Intelligence

SNLx1 Date Formats

yyyyQq Specific quarter, e.g., (i.e. 2004Q2)
yyyyY Specific year, e.g., (i.e. 2000Y)
yyyyTq Specific YTD, e.g., (i.e. 2006T2)
yyyyLq Specific LTM, e.g., (i.e. 2005L3)
yyyyH1/H2 Specific interim period, e.g., (i.e. 2007H1)
MRQ Most recent quarter
MRH Most recent interim period
MRY Most recent year
YTD Year-to-date
LTM Last-twelve-months

By adding brackets, dates can be made relative to the MRQ, MRY, MRH, LTM or YTD, e.g., [MRQ-1] or [MRH-2].
SNLTable = snltable(data set, SNL ID range, field ID range, secondary key range, tertiary key range, {options})

SNLTable is the ideal function to use when retrieving large amounts of data and is most commonly used for building comp sheets, peer analysis reports or when data needs to be presented in a standard grid format. For more advanced users, SNLKey and SNLDefinition functions can be built in with the SNLTable function to make the template more transparent and dynamic.

A working SNLTable function exports automatically along with every DataWizard report.

SNLData = snldata(data set, SNL ID, field ID, secondary key, tertiary key, {options})

SNLData is an advanced function that allows you to pull a specific data value into a single cell. This function is primarily used when building a single company briefing book template. Many times, users will add a SNLTicker function to these kinds of templates so that by entering a different ticker in a designated input cell, the entire template refreshes with the new focus company’s data.

User Tip: you can copy the formula and paste into an entire row/column to generate data on multiple entities.

SNLPrice = snlprice(input range, “starting date”, “ending date”, “frequency”, {options})

SNLPrice pulls historic and intraday prices and market data for SNL-covered equities (tickers and indexes) and interest rates. In combination with an Excel chart, SNLPrice is a powerful tool in generating custom charts for pitch books, peer comps and investor presentations. Access the SNLPrice Wizard from SNL Financial > PriceWizard menu to easily pull data for multiple tickers/indexes and offerings.

FAQ: Can I pull data into a specific cell without using SNLTable? Yes, use the SNLData formula. However, SNLTable is recommended for large data sets for workbook maintenance reasons.

FAQ: Are intraday prices available? Yes. Make sure the end date in your SNLPrice function is the current day. The price and volume details that pull will match those of SNL, which runs on a slight delay.

User Tip: You can search using any of the criteria in this box, e.g., company name, ticker, CUSIP number or security type.
**SNLQuery** = snlquery("query name", field ID range)

The **SNLQuery** function allows you to run and rerun saved queries within your worksheet.

After entering your query in **Advanced Search** section on the DataWizard Search Criteria tab, click **Save Query**. It will be stored in your My Queries library, accessible through the DataWizard or **SNL Financial > SNL Functions > SNLQuery** (by clicking on the binoculars).

1. Run any stored query within a worksheet by selecting from the My Queries library. The query will run and the resulting list will populate in your worksheet.
2. **SNLQuery** can link to an **SNLTable** report, so both the list and data refresh with every update. The query will rerun when you refresh and add/eliminate list results based on the dynamic parameters in your query criteria. Simply replace the **SNLTable** formula with the **SNLQuery** formula, refresh and save.

**User Tip:** You can easily share SNLxl spreadsheets with colleagues who also use SNLxl. If you use **SNLQuery**, you must first embed your spreadsheet before sharing.

**Sharing a Query**
- Select **SNLFinancial > Sharing > Share SNLQueries**. Your workbook will be scoured for **SNLQuery** functions, and you’ll be prompted to select those you would like to share.
- After making your selections, the workbook can be shared or saved to a network folder.

**Saving a Shared Query**
- Your colleagues can save the workbook and will be able to refresh it normally.
- If they want to view and edit the query, they will need to save it by going to the Advanced Search of the DataWizard, opening **My Queries > Workbook Queries** and making their selection. Then, they should select **Save Query** and select the **Include My Queries** check box.

**Additional SNL Functions**
- **SNLLabel** = snllabel(data set, field ID, secondary key, tertiary key, {options})
- **SNLDefinition** = snldefinition(data set, field ID)
- **SNLRegID** = snlregid(regulatory ID range)
- **SNLTicker** = snlticker(ticker range)
- **SNLKey** = snlkey(secondary key, field ID)
- **SNLConvert** = snlconvert(from data set, SNL ID range, to data set, destination range)
Let SNL show you how to...

1. Add a Field
   - Insert column. Select the cell within the Field ID range.
   - Return to Report Builder, select a field. Choose an orientation, if necessary, and then click Export fields.
   - Alternatively, go to the Field Selector to find the desired field or Field ID. Search by data set, industry or keyword, and click Export Fields or manually enter the Field ID into your spreadsheet.

2. Add Companies
   - Click on SNLTable (cell A1) to display input range. Drag SNL ID range box to include more rows in the table.
   - Type tickers or institutions keys to pull company data into spreadsheet.
   - Alternatively, you can add companies by returning to the DataWizard, generating a new list of companies and clicking Export list.

3. Disable Automatic Refresh
   By default, your spreadsheet will automatically refresh any time a change is made to a value in cells referenced by an SNL function. When creating a large, complex spreadsheet, automatic refresh is often not ideal.
   To control when data refreshes:
   - Go to SNL Financial > Settings > Application tab and clear the Allow Excel calculation check box.
   - If you choose this option, you will need to click the refresh button on the SNLxI Toolbar or use the SNL Financial > Refresh Data option.

FAQ: Can SNL formulas read tickers? Yes. The DataWizard always builds the SNLTable formula to read institution keys, but you can replace those keys with tickers. Also, you can reference tickers when building your template from scratch.

FAQ: Can I hard-code certain data items in the SNLTable output range? No. Any time SNLTable is refreshed, all data items within that table area are overwritten.
   One solution is to pull data via SNLTable into a separate area in the worksheet and reference this data with Excel formulas e.g., =J20. This formula could be overwritten with a manually input value and would not be overwritten following a refresh of SNLTable.
Let SNL show you how to...

4. Audit Data

- Select the cell containing the value you wish to audit. Click on the magnifying glass in the SNLxl Toolbar to audit data.
- A pop-up will appear containing Calculation Details. Click on a hyperlinked value to view source information.
- Click on the hyperlink to view the source document.
- A separate window will open with the source document. SNL will take you directly to the value, highlighted for easy identification.
- The Audit feature is currently available for: GAAP financial data and European banks back to 2005 and M&A deal announcement back to 2008.

5. Customize Orientation Settings

SNLTable and SNLQuery can be configured to orient entities and periods either by across a row or down a column.

To change orientation settings:
- Click on SNL Financial > Settings > Application tab and set your orientation preference, or
- Click Settings on the Results tab.

For example, to look at one company over several periods, it is best to set your orientation to Periods across a row. Data will be laid out in your sheet just as it is in an Earnings Release or 10-K.

Want to save even more time? Make one cell in your worksheet an input for the ticker or institution key and set other cells currently containing the company identifier (institution key) and referenced by the SNLTable function equal to that cell. To view data on a different company, change your input cell and refresh the sheet, and your entire model is updated for a new company.
Spreadsheet Library

Access prebuilt, industry-specific templates by selecting SNL Financial > Spreadsheet Library or by clicking on the SNLxl Add In dropdown in SNL. Filter by industry to quickly find templates that meet your needs.

The Spreadsheet Library contains the following information about each spreadsheet: description, minimum SNLxl version required, industry, template type (i.e., data reported) and release date.

To use a template from the Spreadsheet Library, under the Latest Releases tabs select the templates that you want to download then click the Download Selected Templates link. From the Browse tab, click the Model Name. We recommend you save the template to your computer and then open it in Excel.

Product Training

For additional information on installing SNLxl, download the SNLxl Technical Guide.

For a hands-on SNLxl training, download the SNLxl Training Tutorial.

To schedule an on-site training visit on SNLxl, contact your Account Manager or SNL Support: +1.888.275.2822, support@snl.com

For training materials, including this Product Reference and many others, please visit SNL’s Online Help.