

LexisNexis *Statistical DataSets* User Guide

This guide will help users get started using LexisNexis *Statistical DataSets* (LNS *DataSets*) by explaining the product requirements, and will explain features of the LNS *DataSets* interface.

Getting Ready

What do I need to access LexisNexis *Statistical DataSets*?

Users require a computer web browser to access LNS *DataSets*.

Can I access LexisNexis *Statistical DataSets* from another computer?

Yes! LNS *DataSets* can be accessed from any other computer. When the user logs into the application from another computer, the JVM check is performed again by the LNS *DataSets* server.

What is a JVM? Why do I need it for using the tool?

JVM stands for "Java Virtual Machine" - an intermediary software program that translates the LNS *DataSets* software for use in your web browser. LNS *DataSets* requires JVM Version 1.4.2 to operate.

On login to the application, the LNS *DataSets* Server checks to see if the client machine has JVM 1.4.2 installed. If it does not, it automatically installs it on the client machine after obtaining approval of the user. If the user is not willing to install the JVM, LNS *DataSets* will not function properly.

How does the Sun JVM affect other Java applications I run?

There is no effect on your other programs. The LNS *DataSets* download of the Sun JVM to the client machine is local to LNS *DataSets* and will not affect any other Java applications, which may require a different version of JVM.

When I try to sign-in to LexisNexis *Statistical DataSets*, a get a message that says the JVM cannot be found. What do I do?

Sometimes users have difficulty with the standard JVM installation procedure included with LNS *DataSets*. Most often, this is caused by an outdated or broken prior installation of the JVM. For those subscribers who experience this problem, we suggest following the link:

<http://jdl.sun.com/webapps/getjava/BrowserRedirect?locale=en&host=java.com:80>

This link will take customers to the Sun Microsystems web site, where a tool is available to assist with the installation of a new JVM. This often solves JVM problems experienced by most subscribers.

Getting Started: As Easy As One, Two, Three (Four)

Getting started in LNS *DataSets* is easy. Think of the interface as comprising four components (these numbers correspond to the sections in below). Every time a user clicks on one of these sections (1, 2, or 3), what is displayed in data display (4) is instantly updated. It is that easy!

1. Indicator Trees: displays all the datasets and indicators in folders, arranged both topically and by source.
2. Dimension Panel: displays the options available for the indicator(s) (geography, time periods, demographic breakdowns, industries, etc.).

- Function Panel: allows users to choose chart display options (map, trend, or ranking chart), and other user options (print, download, help, and reset).
- Data Display Area: This is where the data is displayed. Additional display options are also available here, depending on the type of chart or map that is selected. The "I" (Information) button and calculator tool also reside here.

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis Statistical DataSets interface. On the left, a tree view lists various datasets, with 'Unemployment Rate' selected. The top navigation bar includes buttons for Trend, Map, Ranking, Dashboard, and Download, along with 'Reset', 'Print', 'Help', and 'Exit'. The main display area shows the 'Unemployment Rate' dataset for the year 2007. A table lists the non-adjusted unemployment rate for 51 states, and a bar chart displays the same data. Red circles with numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 point to the dataset list, the dimension selection dropdown, the top navigation bar, and the chart area, respectively.

Things You Need To Know

- Selecting Indicator(s) and Dimension(s):** Select an indicator or dimension simply by clicking on it. To select multiple indicators or dimensions, hold down the CTRL key while clicking on each of the desired indicators. User can select more than one indicator as long as the indicators have comparable elements (i.e. matching years).
 - The dimension options available change dynamically depending on the indicators selected and only presents options that are applicable to the data at hand.
 - Users can select a group of indicators within a single dataset (i.e. all arrest data) by selecting the first indicator and using the shift key and clicking on the last indicator.
- Right-Click Added Functionality:** most elements of the interface have additional functionality that allows users to move through the data and customize the data by using the right mouse click.
 - Indicator:** users can access the same information accessible in the "I" button (further described below) by right clicking on an indicator name and choosing "Description".
 - Dimension:** right clicking on a column within the dimension panel will display a pop-up control box with several options; the options available depend on the elements in the dimension. Options include the ability to deselect/select all, search the column, sort the column in ascending/descending order, and view grayed out items (to save users time, some entries in a dimension list box may appear grayed out, and cannot be selected; this occurs when the set of parameters you have selected, there exists no data for the dimension entry that is grayed out. Why? If you are searching for a specific industry, for instance, a user can see that the industry is there, but data is not available from the source.
 - Display Panel:** if the map or ranking functions have been chosen from the function panel, users can right-click in the list display or within the chart/map to see a pop-up menu with options to drill up to the next higher level, drill down to the vicinity clicked, or go to a Trend chart for the vicinity.
- Exiting the product:** the product can be exited by clicking on the Exit button within the Function Panel, or by clicking on the browser back button.

Features

The product has many features and enhancements.

1. **Information Button:** the “I” button, located in the display panel, will call up the bibliographic and other information that users will need to use the dataset(s). There are two components of the “I” button: citations (APA, MLA, and Chicago style are provided); and details, which provides details about the indicator, dataset, and source, including definitions, survey or other data source information, anomalies, URL information, and coverage and update information.
2. **Search:** users can search the product for a specific subject or concept (i.e. homicide or Local Area Unemployment Statistics). Users can use this form to search through metadata within indicators, datasets/folders, dimensions, and “I” information button details fields.
3. **Calculator tool:** located below the list, the calculator tool allows users to create derived columns. Any new column that a user generates using the calculator tool has the same functionality as other columns: it can be plotted in a chart, viewed in the list by itself or with other indicators, can be resorted by clicking on the column header, etc.
4. **Other Analytical Tools:**
 - a. **Percent change:** The product features the ability to compare current data to the previous year (by clicking on Prev. Year button in the Function panel; this calculates a percent change from previous year, and allows users to choose how they want to plot or display this data).
 - b. **Sigma:** For trend charts, a trend drop-down box is available with four choices: Trend, 1 Sigma, 2 Sigma, and 3 Sigma. Selecting Trend displays a simple trend line graph based on the indicators and data dimensions you’ve selected. Selecting 1, 2, or 3 Sigma displays the mean along with 1, 2, or 3 standard deviations. When a sigma is selected the system automatically calculates the appropriate values and displays them.
5. **Download:** Data may be downloaded in the following formats: MS Excel, MS Excel linked to data, and Delimited Text.
6. **Print:** images and tables can be captured and printed.
7. **Customize display:** users can customize the display in numerous ways:
 - a. **Chart:** user can change the type of chart displayed by simply clicking on the appropriate button within the function panel (trend, map, or ranking). And within the display panel, there are numerous additional display options which allow users to transform the display of the chart. Users can view a chart vertically, in three-dimensions, can zoom into a chart, can display a chart with or without values, can display a “bar over bar” chart (when multiple indicators are selected), or can alter the axis by choosing the “0 Based” option (the chart’s X- or Y-axis will be re-scaled to reflect that the bottom value in the scale is zero. When the checkbox is unchecked, the X- or Y-axis will be based on the lowest value in the data range). Users can also change the value range to view it in a smaller or larger context. Simply move the cursor to the top or bottom value in the vertical axis. The product immediately makes the value editable. Click on the input box, enter your desired value, and then click outside the box. The chart is redrawn scaled to the new set of values
 - b. **Font:** users can change the font via the “Options” button in the function panel
 - c. **Colors:** users can change the colors in a chart or map (each chart shows a color legend to the right of the chart. To change the chart color, right-click on the desired color block you want changed. The Color Picker dialog box appears. Click on the desired color. This will also change the corresponding color in the list [table]).
 - d. **Size and layout:** in the display panel, users can expand and restore the size of the display using the toggle switch. The layout button controls what is displayed (i.e. list, chart, or both).
 - e. **Subset of data:** on the bottom of the table, there is “Select First” box with two keys the right. To display a data subset, enter the desired number of rows, then click on the Go button. The table will adjust to show only the number of items the user has chosen. Users can also drag their mouse over a subset of years within a trend chart to display a subset of a time series. A yellow footer indicating that a data subset is shown. A user can press the Esc key to restore the display to its original.
8. **Reset:** The reset button will reset the options for whatever indicators the user has selected.