

Computer Handout 1: EViews Basics

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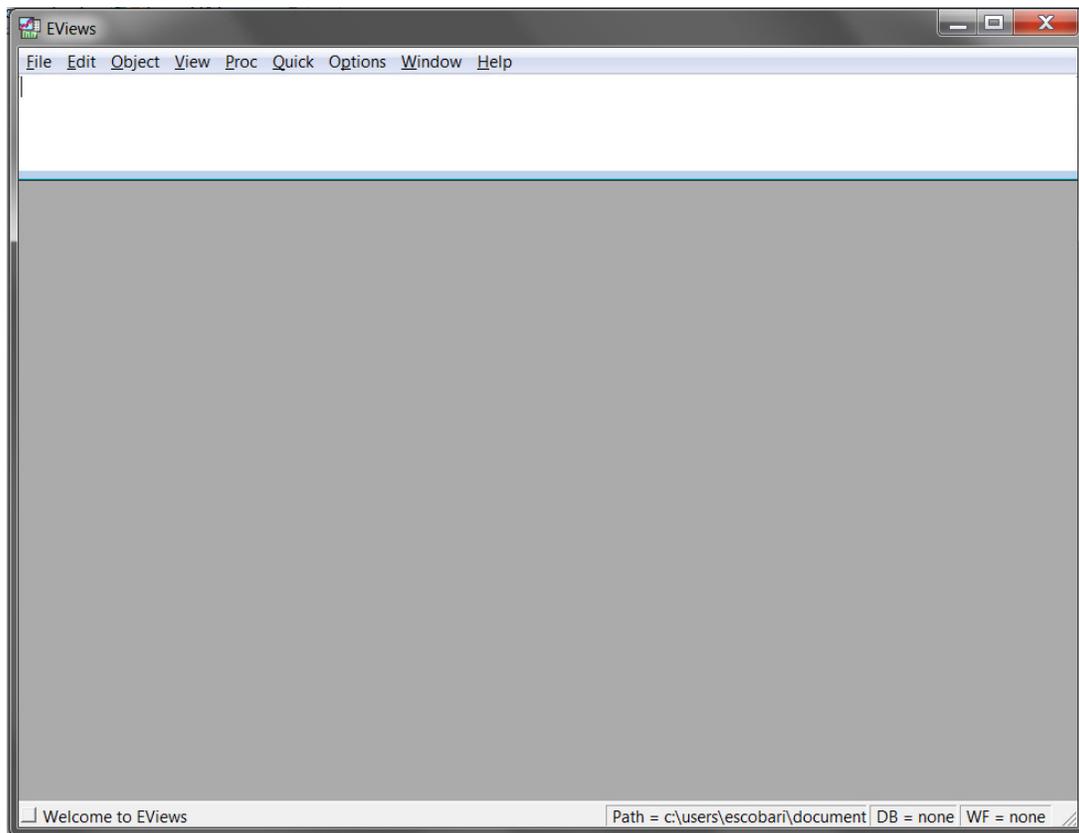
Econ 3342

The goals in this Computer Handout are:

- 1) To get you familiar with EViews basics.
- 2) Learn how to import data to EViews.
- 3) Learn some basic commands to obtain summary statistics, line graphs, histograms.

EViews is a general purpose statistical software package. It is relatively easy for beginners who are starting with econometrics/time-series, but has some many more advance built-in procedures you may want to consider studying in the future.¹

Once you open EViews, you will get the following screen:

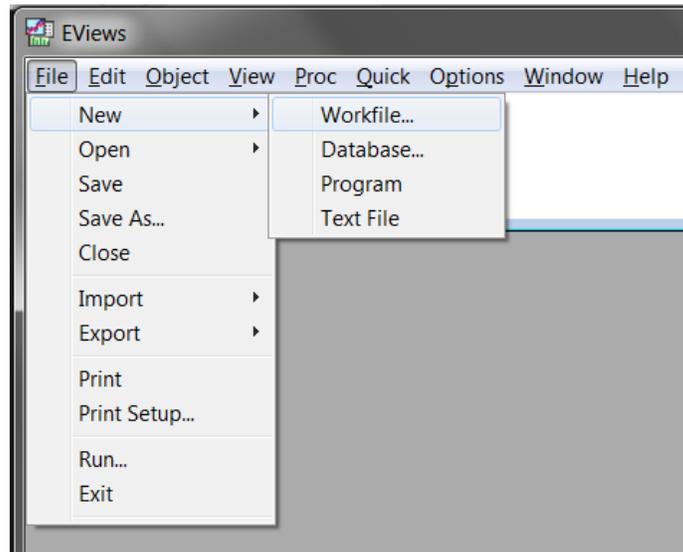


¹ These include time series analysis, panel data models, survival analysis, nonparametric methods, limited dependent variables and more.

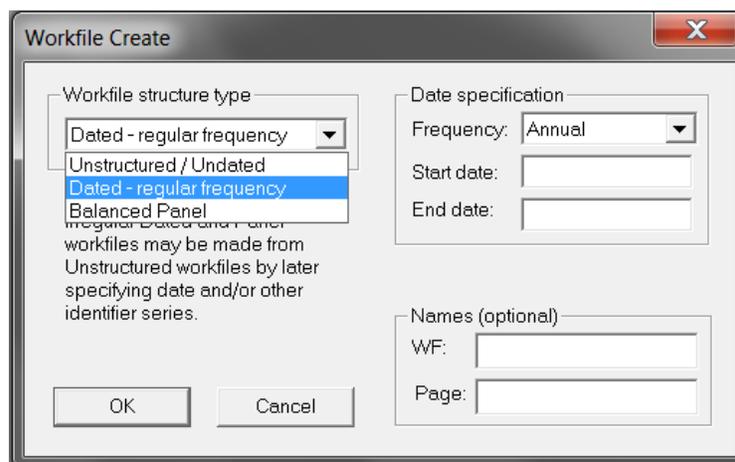
This screen has two basic windows. The upper white portion is to type the commands and the lower portion of the screen is for the output.

How to create a Workfile

Before you are able to perform any operation, you need to create an EViews "Workfile."

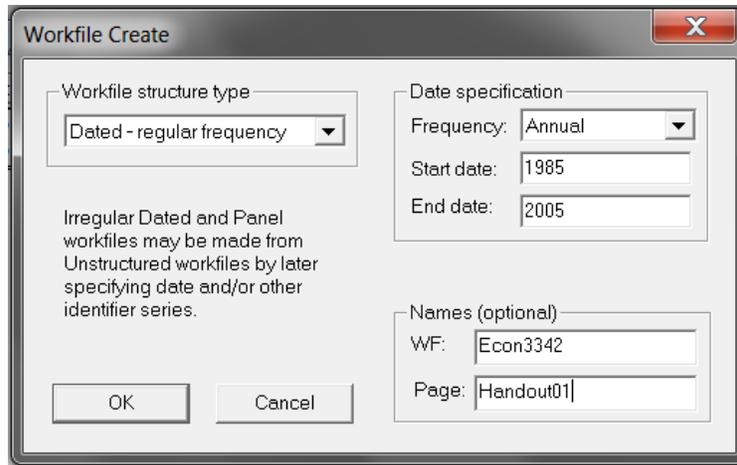


Recall the types of data econometricians work with? (1) Cross-section, (2) Time-series, and (3) Panel data. This class is all about time-series data, so you have to select "Dated - regular frequency."²

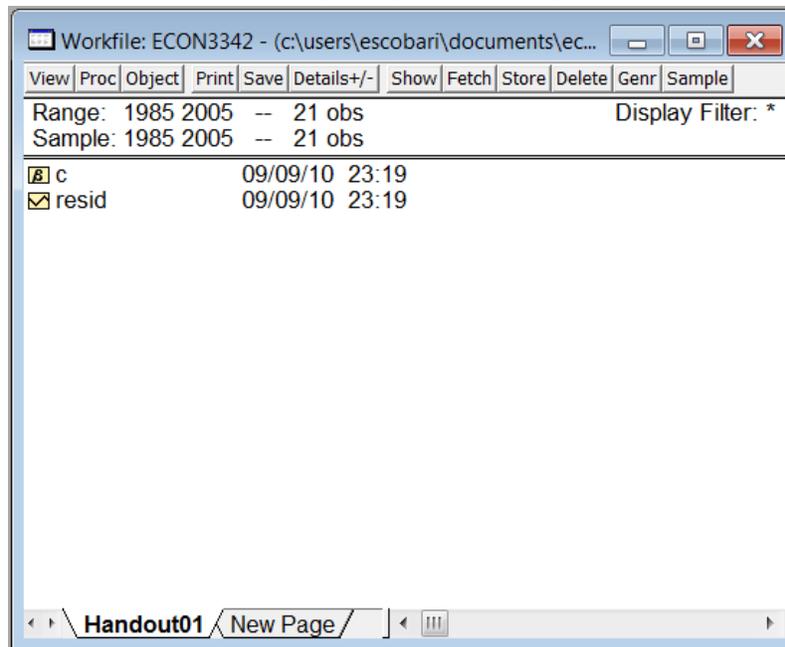


Let's say we will be working with 21 yearly observations from 1985 to 2005.

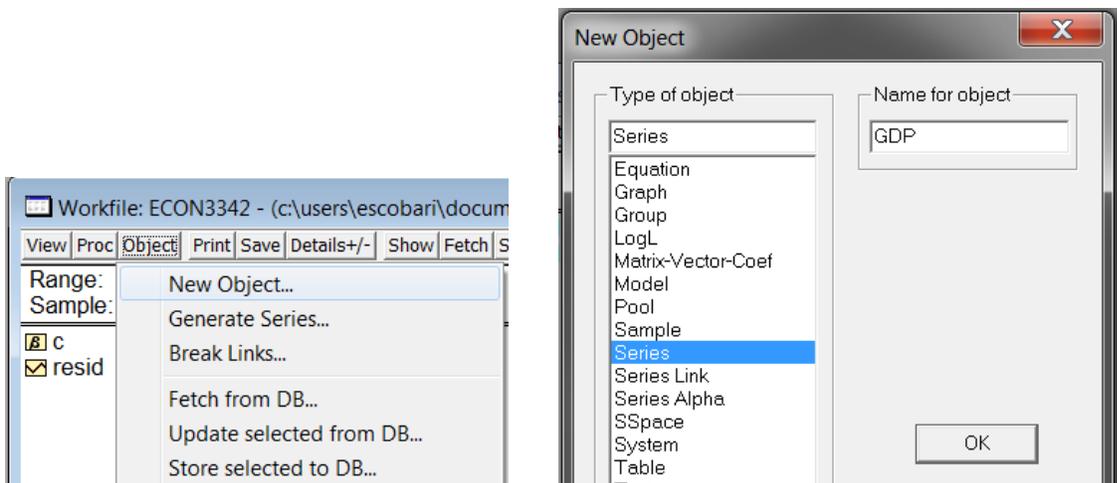
² Different versions of EViews may have a different outlay, but the essence is the same.



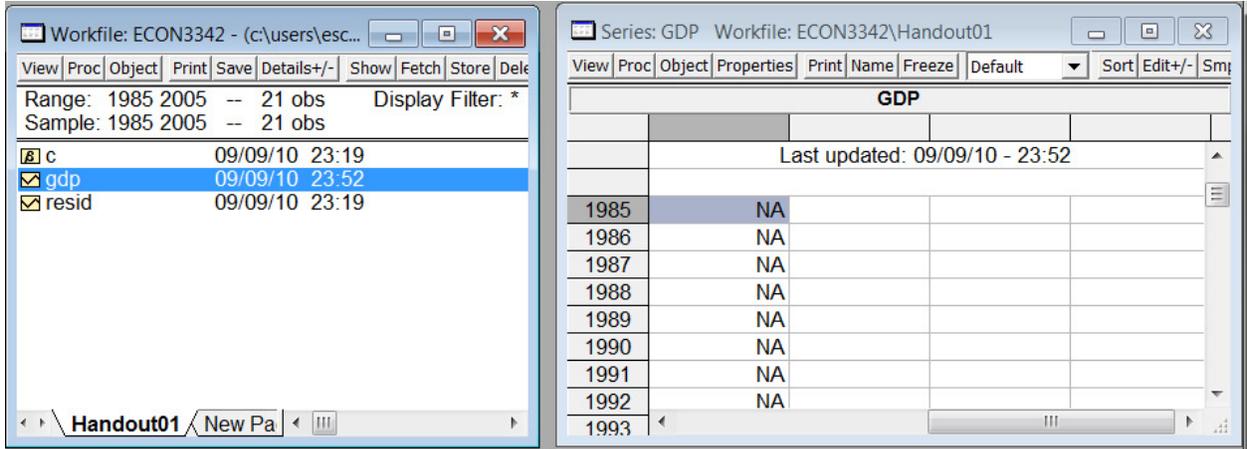
You should be getting the following screen:



In order to create a series, let's say GDP, you need to go to "Object" and select "New Object."



Then the new (empty) series named GDP will be created. If you click twice in the newly created series you will be able to see its content. Editing the series is simple and can be done by simply clicking the icon "edit." Then, typical features like "copy" and "paste" will be allowed, making it very easy to import data from any webpage or, for example, MS Excel.

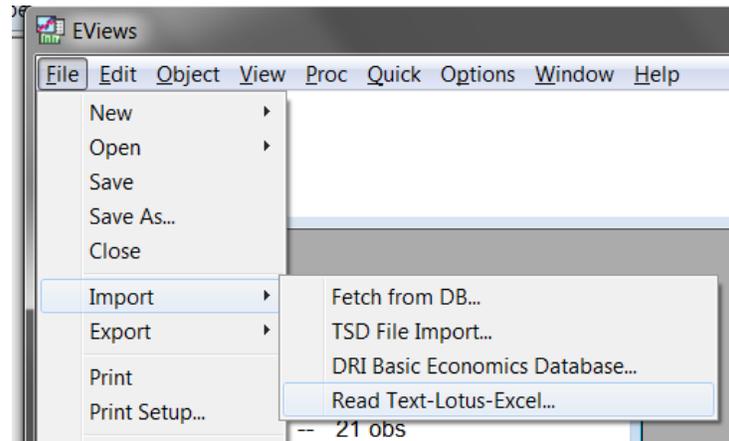


Let's get some real data! The Bureau of Economic Analysis website has a MS Excel file with real GDP data since the Great Depression. You can get the file directly from the following link:

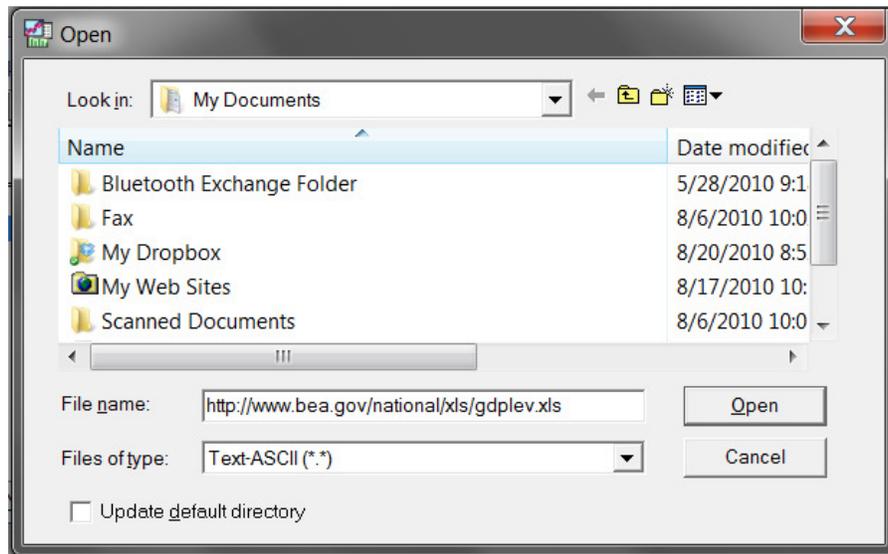
<http://www.bea.gov/national/xls/gdplev.xls>

	A	B	C
64	1984	3,930.9	6,577.1
65	1985	4,217.5	6,849.3
66	1986	4,460.1	7,086.5
67	1987	4,736.4	7,313.3
68	1988	5,100.4	7,613.9
69	1989	5,482.1	7,885.9

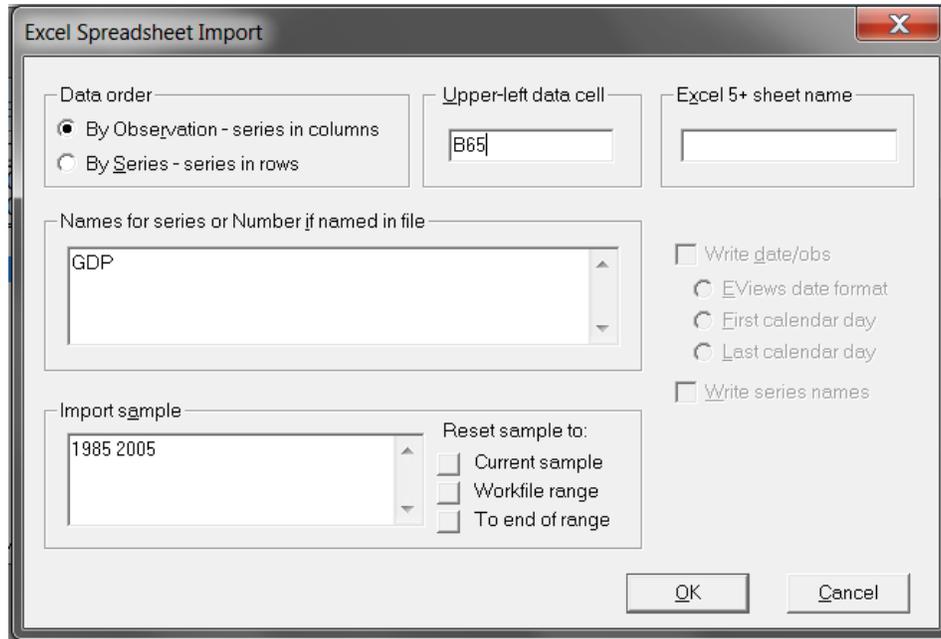
To get the GDP series into EViews go to "File", then to "Import" and select "Read Text-Lotus-Excel..."



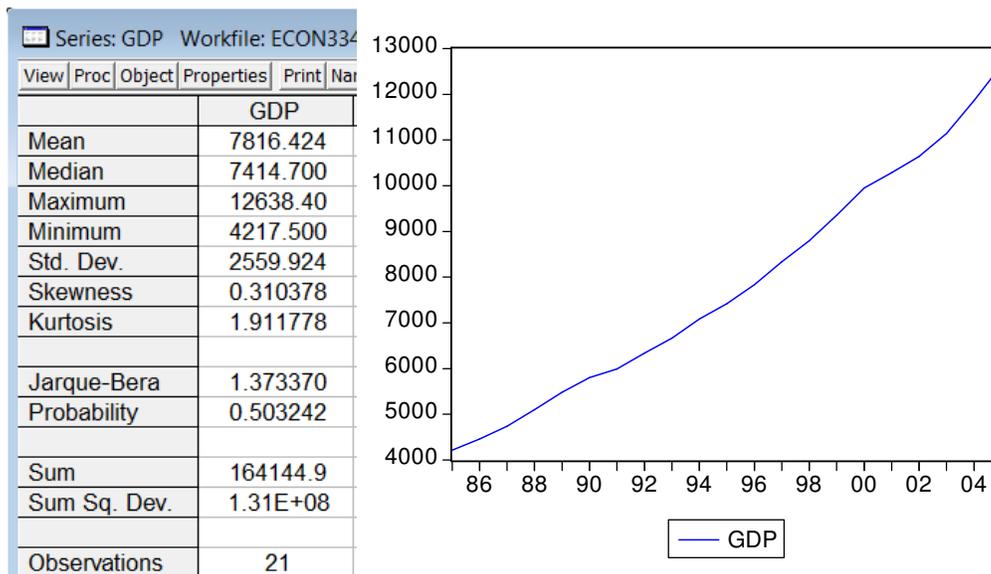
Beside selecting any MS Excel (or text) file from your computer, notice that you can download directly from the internet.

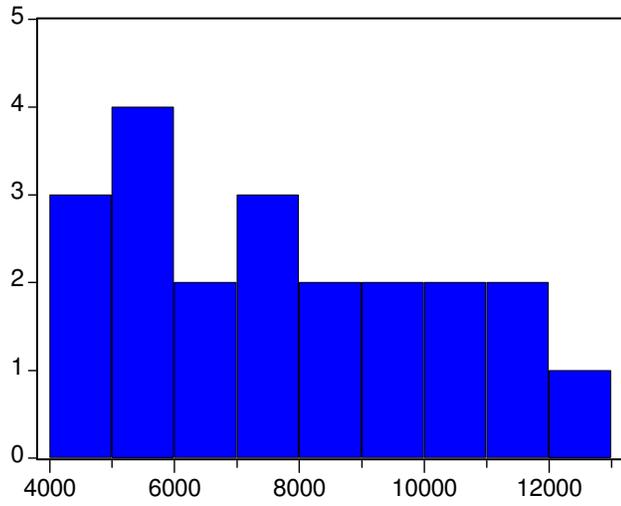


The only key thing you have to keep track is the cell where the series starts. In our case is cell B65 in the MS Excel file (see previous page). Click OK and you are done importing.



Once you have the GDP series in EViews, the rest is all about experimenting and getting familiar with the options. Try getting the summary statistics table or a line graph:





Series: GDP	
Sample 1985 2005	
Observations 21	
Mean	7816.424
Median	7414.700
Maximum	12638.40
Minimum	4217.500
Std. Dev.	2559.924
Skewness	0.310378
Kurtosis	1.911778
Jarque-Bera	1.373370
Probability	0.503242