

Computer Handout 2: *gretl* Basics

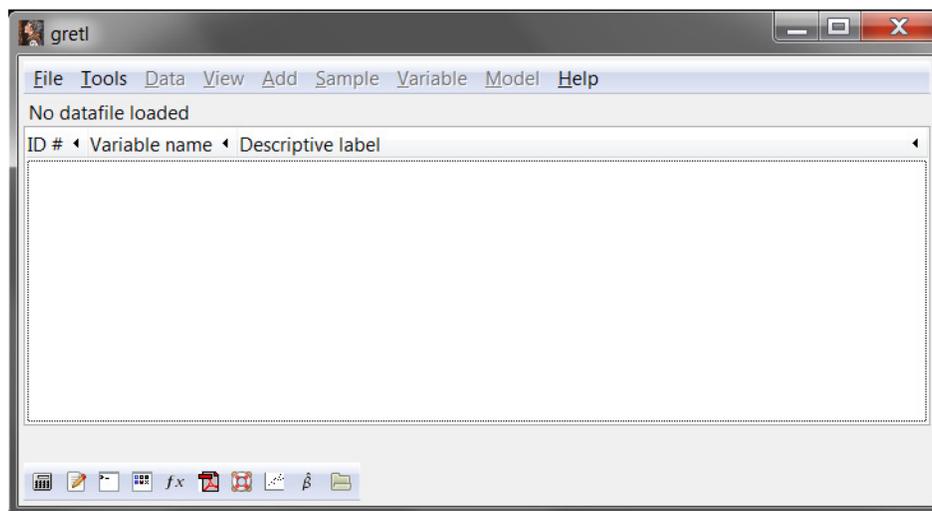
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Econ 3342

If you decide to use *gretl* instead of EViews, this computer handout will show you the basics on how to get started. The goals in this Computer Handout are:

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

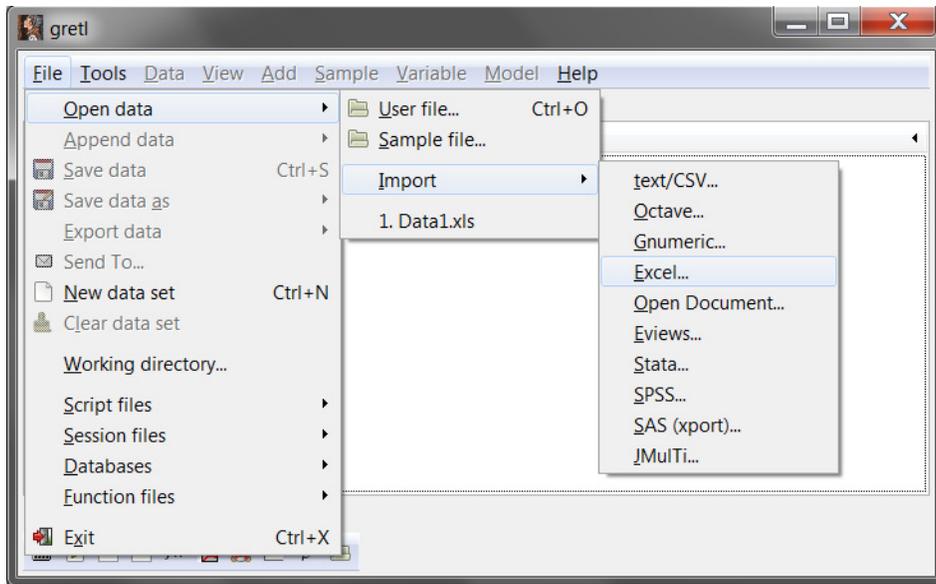
Once you open *gretl*, you will see the following screen:



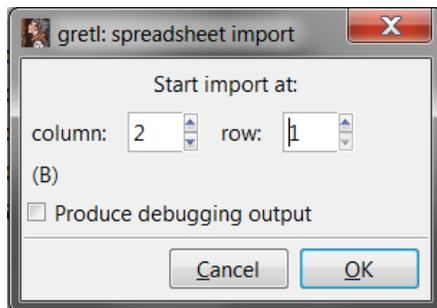
To import a variable from MS Excel you may first want to clean a little any MS Excel file to make sure *gretl* does not have any problems with empty cells or non-numerical values. For example, using Excel file with the GDP data from the previous handout, you can erase some rows and columns to have something like:

	A	B
1	Year	GDP
2	1929	103.6
3	1930	91.2
4	1931	76.5
5	1932	58.7
6	1933	56.4

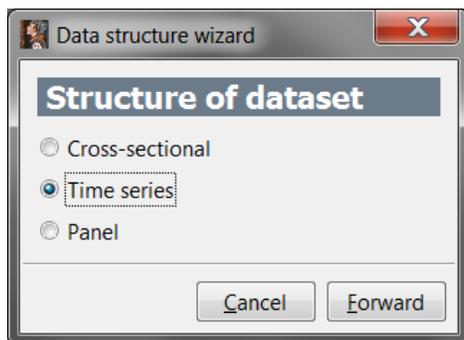
Save the new MS Excel file. Then in *gretl* you type "Open data," then "Import," and finally "Excel."



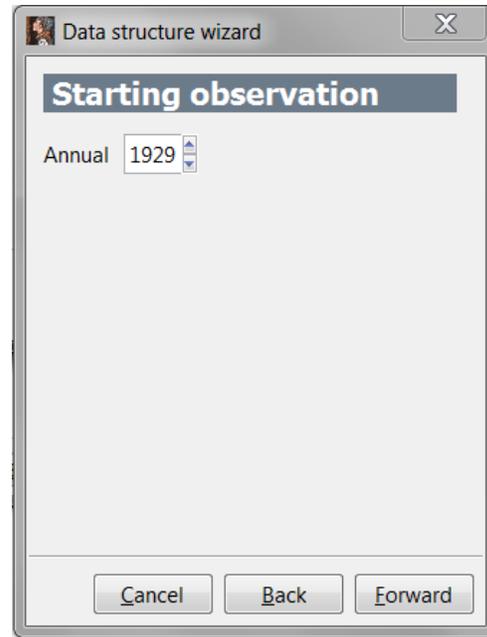
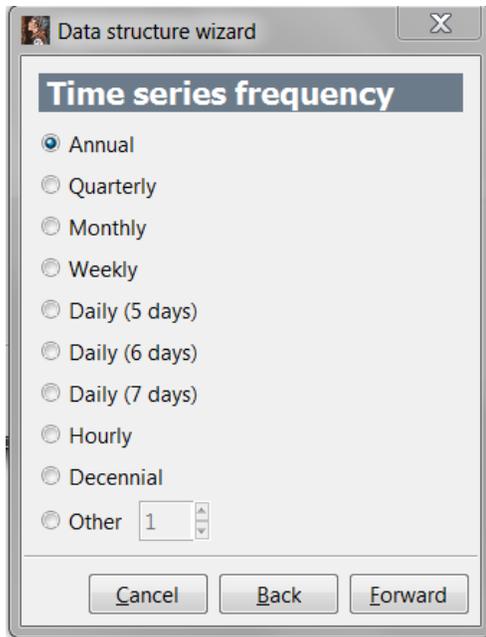
Go to the location of the MS Excel file and gretl will request you to select a cell:



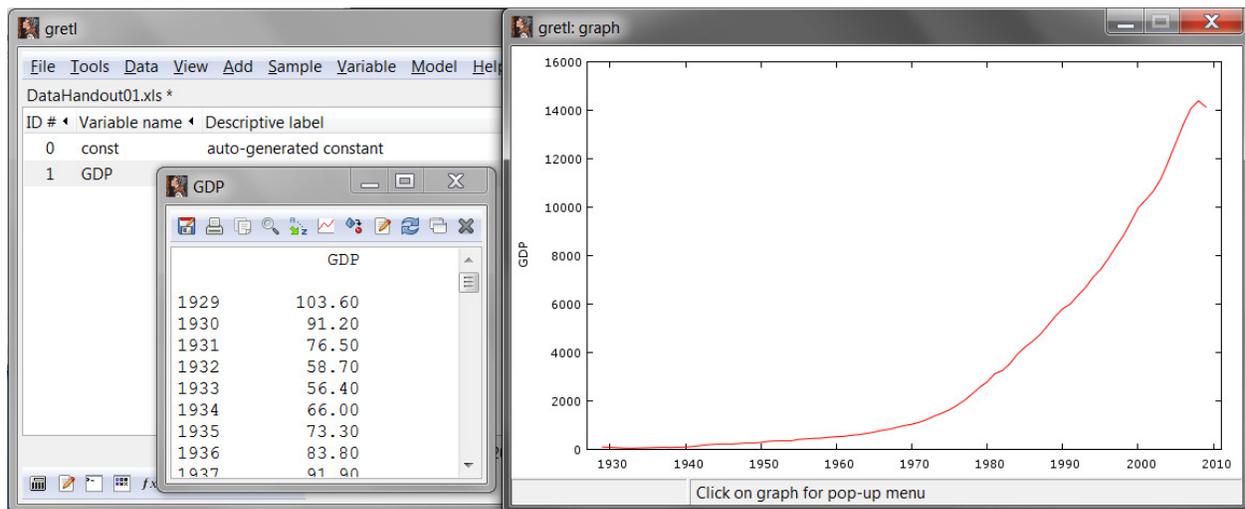
Select column 2 and row 1 to pick the name and the whole GDP series. When asked about the structure of the data set, select "Time series."



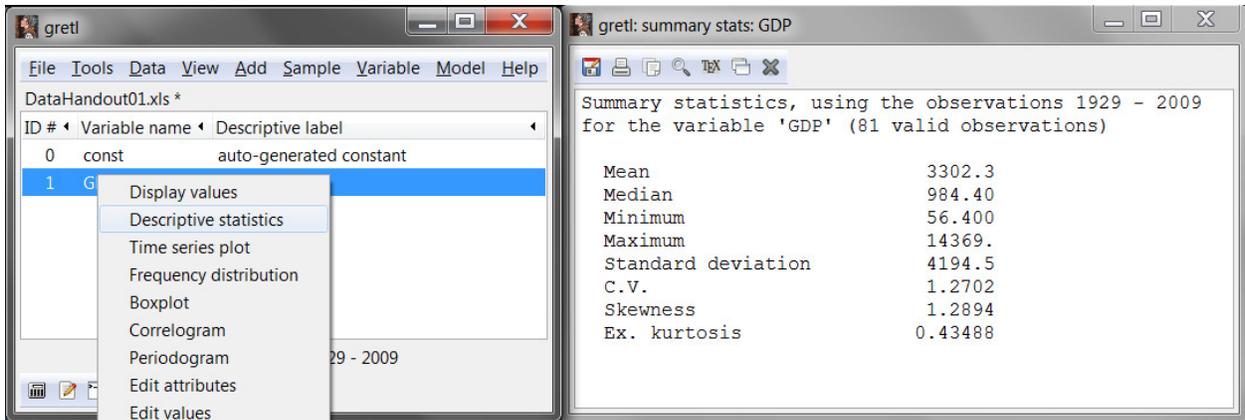
and for this GDP series, the frequency is annual and the starting observation is 1929:



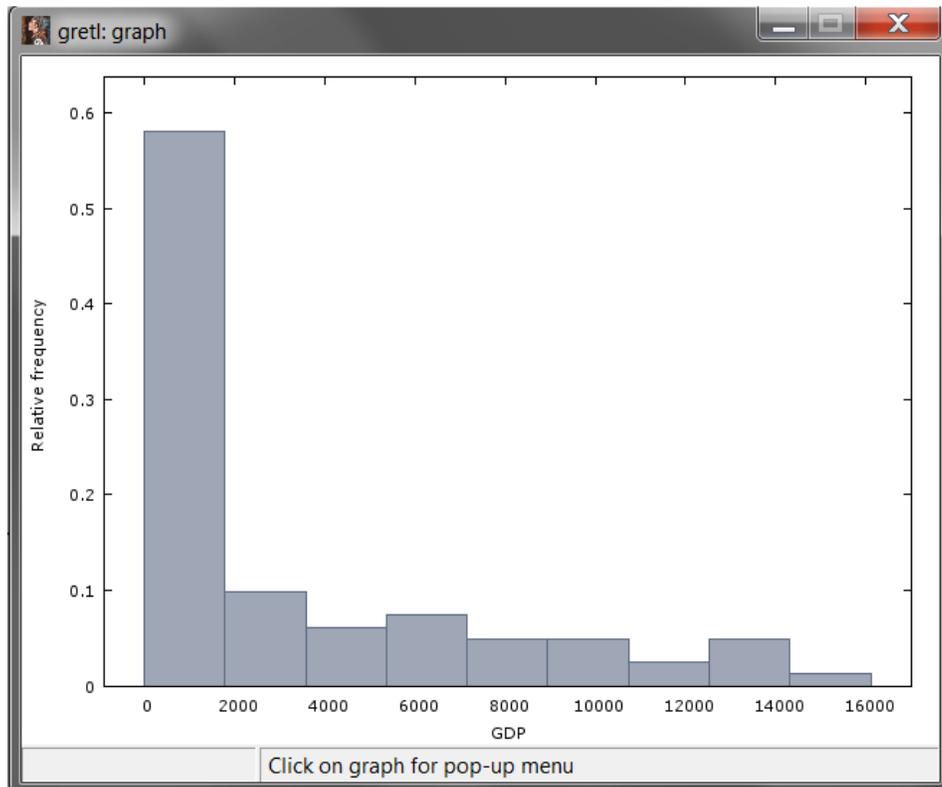
A new GDP series will appear in gretl main screen. Double-click in the series to open it and see its content. By selecting the icon  you will easily get the time series graph on the series:



The summary statistics table can be obtained by clicking on the right-hand-side button of the mouse when the mouse is over the GDP series. Then selecting "Descriptive statistics."



If you select "Frequency distribution" you will get the histogram:



These basic steps should get you started with gretl. Get familiar with the drop-down menus and explore more options.