Computer Handout 2: gretl Basics Diego Escobari 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:

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	No datafile loaded										
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To import a variable from MS Excel you may first want to clean a little any MS Excel file to make sure gretI 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:

	А	В	
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."

🛃 greti				
<u>File Tools D</u> ata <u>V</u> iew	<u>A</u> dd <u>S</u> a	mple <u>V</u> ariable <u>M</u> o	odel <u>H</u> elp	
Open data	•	🗎 User file	Ctrl+O	
Append data	Þ	🗎 Sample file		•
Save data	Ctrl+S	Import	•	text/CSV
Save data <u>a</u> s	+	1. Data1.xls		Octave
Export data	۲.	1		<u>G</u> numeric
New data set	Ctrl i N			<u>E</u> xcel
Clear data set	Cui+N			<u>O</u> pen Document
				Eviews
Working directory				Stata
Script files	+			<u>S</u> PSS
Session files	•			<u>S</u> AS (xport)
Databases	+			JMulli
Eunction files	+			
Exit	Ctrl+X	3		

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

🙀 gretl: spreadsheet import					
Start import at:					
column: 2 💂 row: 🏾	İ				
(B)					
Produce debugging output					
Cancel OK					

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:

Data structure wizard	Data structure wizard
Time series frequency	Starting observation
Annual	Annual 1929 🚔
© Quarterly	
© Monthly	
© Weekly	
🗇 Daily (5 days)	
🗇 Daily (6 days)	
🗇 Daily (7 days)	
© Hourly	
O Decennial	
Other 1	
<u>Cancel</u> <u>Back</u> <u>Forward</u>	Cancel Back Forward

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 \bowtie 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."

🙀 greti 📰 💻 📼	gretl: summary stats: GDP			
<u>Eile Iools Data View Add Sample Variable Model H</u> elp				
DataHandout01.xls *	Summary statistics, using the observations 1929 - 2009			
ID # • Variable name • Descriptive label •	for the variable 'GDP' (81 valid observations)			
0 const auto-generated constant	Mean 3302.3			
1 G Display values	Median 984.40			
Descriptive statistics	Minimum 56.400			
Time series plot	Maximum 14369.			
Erequency distribution	Standard deviation 4194.5			
D L L	C.V. 1.2702			
Boxplot	Skewness 1.2894			
Correlogram	Ex. kurtosis 0.43488			
Periodogram 29 - 2009				
📓 🍞 🆻 Edit attributes				
Edit values				

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.