QuantGov, Regcensus API
Patch 2.1
May 5th, 2021

Data changes

- US Federal Regdata 4.0
  RegData U.S. 4.0 Annual (the most recent version in the RegData U.S. series) contains data for each part of the CFR for every year from 1970 to 2020. This latest edition has improvements to word and restriction counts, as well as four new data series. The new data series include “Enhanced Restrictions” which account for lists of restrictive provisions, 4-digit, 5-digit, and 6-digit NAICS estimators.

https://api.quantgov.org/values?jurisdiction=38&series=15&documentType=1&date=2020

- US Federal BEA NAICS Estimators
  Up to this point, if researchers wanted to use a QuantGov regulatory restriction metric in the same research as BEA’s GDP data, they would have had to create a custom cross-over between the two classification systems and weigh in the differences between the two systems when necessary. Using the FRASE methodology, we have constructed 3-digit NAICS estimates that are compatible with BEA’s 3-digit NAICS.


API changes

- Version parameter
  This is the first update where we will be hosting two editions of the same “corpus”, our US Federal Regdata 3.2 and US Federal Regdata 4.0 data. This data shares a jurisdiction, time span, and document subtype but the data in our newest edition is more accurate and has an additional series. 4.0 will be selected for users by default, but users can also specify the version they want using the version parameter. Selecting a version ID limits the call to that specific “corpus.”

https://api.quantgov.org/values?date=2019&documentType=1&jurisdiction=38&series=1&version=1

- Version and Documentation endpoint
  With the addition of a version parameter, we’ve added a /version endpoint to assist users in finding the Version ID associated with the call they aim to make. This also provided us with the opportunity to add a documentation endpoint for those users who are interested in making quick calls for citations, version IDs, or to find urls to user guides and documentation.
There is an additional metadata that lets users know if the data values for a given project exists in the API.

https://api.quantgov.org/version?jurisdiction=38&documentType=1

- **Industry Code switched to Industry ID**
  In previous patches, users were able to pass NAICS codes into the industry parameter. However, as we’ve included the BEA version of NAICS, industry codes are no longer unique. In the future we may add additional codes, such as ANZSIC, that may conflict with NAICS and BEA NAICS codes. Thus, we are moving the parameter to an ID system, which the database uses, to distinguish between codes. For users, this would normally present a steeper learning curve for using industry data series, such as series 28. However, the Python and R modules will also be updated in this patch to provide users with a set of shortcuts for making industry calls.


- **National**
  In previous patches, users were able to access national and subnational data using the /country endpoint. This endpoint has been retired in favor of a parameter for the /values endpoint. The goal of this change is to reduce the learning curve of the API in terms of users learning all of our various end points.

https://api.quantgov.org/values?jurisdiction=38&series=1&documentType=1&date=2020&national=true

- **Summary**
  The summary parameter has been dropped from the /values and /values/document end points. The parameter wasn’t as helpful as we had initially expected due to the simple fact that all endpoints except /values/document are summary level values or reference tables. Going forward, the end point you select determines the level of data you retrieve.

https://api.quantgov.org/values?jurisdiction=38&series=1&documentType=1&date=2020

- **IndustryTypes**
  In previous patches, users were able to access industry data by digit group using the industryTypes. This shortcut is being retired in favor of the QuantGov Downloader, Regcensus API Python module, and Regcensus API R module (beta) handling the production of industry lists. This is in response to the addition and anticipation of new industry classification systems.

https://github.com/QuantGov/regcensus-api-python
https://github.com/QuantGov/regcensus-api-client-R
- **Server Quality of Life changes**

  With the previous patch, we launched RegHub (Beta). During the stress test, we found that some combinations of series and jurisdictions at the document level took longer than our server’s timeout window. Thus, for patch 2.1, we are expanding both the memory allotment and timeout window to facilitate some of the larger potential API calls. Most users will experience a slight decrease in call times and superusers may find the calls that previously timed out will complete.