

# SAARCFINANCE DATABASE



**Reserve Bank of India**  
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(<https://dbie.rbi.org.in/DBIE/dbie.rbi?site=saarcHome>)

## Introduction

The SAARCFINANCE Database (SFDB) is one of the key initiatives of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Central Banks. The SFDB aims to build a repository of macroeconomic data relating to the SAARC countries, viz., Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The SFDB seeks to disseminate information, facilitate research on economic and financial issues, assist in formulation of public policies, and promote co-operation and co-ordination among SAARC countries.

entrusted to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Database was launched at the SAARCFINANCE Governors' Symposium held in Mumbai, India on May 26, 2016.

## Current Status

The SFDB is hosted on Reserve Bank of India's "Database on Indian Economy (DBIE)" portal, which is accessible through its website (<https://dbie.rbi.org.in>). SFDB can also be accessed through the URL <https://dbie.rbi.org.in/DBIE/dbie.rbi?site=saarcHome>.

Time series data in the SFDB are presented sector-wise and frequency-

The screenshot shows the SAARCFINANCE DATABASE website. At the top left is the SAARC logo. Below it is a navigation menu with 'Home', 'About Us', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column lists SAARC member banks: Bangladesh Bank, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Government of Nepal, Reserve Bank of India, State Bank of Pakistan, State Bank of India, and State Bank of Maldives. The middle column features a large image of the Reserve Bank of India building with the text 'Reserve Bank of India' overlaid. The right column contains an 'Objective' section and a 'Key Features' section. The 'Objective' section states: 'The objective of development of the SAARCFINANCE Database (SFDB) is to provide a comprehensive time-series database on macroeconomic indicators of the SAARC countries to disseminate information and promote economic research and facilitate research in economic and financial issues for the mutual benefit of SAARC member countries (MSA) to further public policy, development and coordination among member countries of the region. The data available in the SFDB are presented sector-wise and frequency-wise, in both national currencies and US dollar terms, that can be easily downloaded and used as input files for further processing and analysis.' The 'Key Features' section lists: '• Interlocking Database', '• 1000+ Data Series', and '• 1000+ Data Series Available'.

## Background

The SAARC Central Bank Governors decided to create SFDB at the 28<sup>th</sup> SAARCFINANCE Group Meeting held in Colombo on July 24, 2014. The responsibility of database creation was

wise, both in national currencies and US dollars. The data can easily be downloaded for further processing and analysis.

Currently, database covers more than 225 variables of annual, quarterly and

monthly frequencies from the year 2001 onwards, on national income, prices, money and banking, financial markets, public finance, banking sector indicators, interest rates, external sector statistics and other socio-economic indicators. Detailed metadata, advance data release calendars, dashboards and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), are also available on the website. In order to continuously improve the Database, a feedback submission mechanism is also provided.

Data for the SFDB is sourced through central banks of the SAARC member countries. In case, the country does not release data in US dollar terms for any of the database variables, the data in domestic currency is converted into USD by applying end-of period USD exchange rate for stock variables and the average of daily closing USD exchange rates for the period for flow variables.

### Metadata

Metadata is defined as the data providing information about one or more aspects of the data. The current metadata of SAARC countries comprises data definition, unit, frequency and data source. SFDB maintains the updated version of metadata for each SAARC member country, which can be viewed in HTML and are downloadable in PDF or Excel formats.

### Data Coverage

**Real Sector:** This sector covers the data pertaining to national accounts, agricultural production, index of industrial production and price indices

(both wholesale and consumer). National accounts comprise data on gross domestic product (GDP) at current price and constant price. It also includes component-wise details of GDP under output and expenditure estimation approaches. Data for agricultural production cover aggregate data for major food-grain and non-food-grain crops.

**Money and Banking:** This includes data pertaining to components and sources of money stock and aggregated banking statistics on a number of credit/ deposit accounts and amounts outstanding therein. It also includes data on central banks' balance sheets, interest and policy rates, apart from information on payment system indicators.

**Public Finance:** This sector covers data related to government (central government in case of federal structure) receipts and expenditures. It includes statistics on gross fiscal deficit and public debt, both internal and external.

**External sector:** This section covers data on external debt and its major components, balance of payment statistics, capital inflow/outflows, foreign trade, exchange rate of domestic vis-à-vis major foreign currencies, international investment position (with broad classification) and forex reserve statistics. SFDB also covers intra-SAARC region trade statistics with annual frequency.

**Financial Markets:** This sector includes data related to stock market indices, market capitalization, and various indicators of money market and government securities (G-Sec) market.

**Socio Economic Indicators:** This sector covers demographic data and socio-economic indicators including population, health, education, employment. Currently, the main data source for these indicators is the World Bank's DataBank.

### Advance Release Calendar

Advance Release Calendar (ARC) indicates the time schedule of the data availability in SFDB. ARC for each country has been separately made available for all frequencies i.e. annual, quarterly and monthly.

### Dashboards

Dashboards have been developed in SFDB as a data visualization tool depicting trends in key performance indicators and key data points of SAARC economies. Many dynamic dashboards are available in SFDB for major economic variables such as GDP growth

rate, CPI monthly inflation, monetary ratios, credit to GDP ratio and exchange rate.

### Financial Year of SAARC Countries

The SAARC member countries have different financial years as indicated below:

Country Name	Financial Year
Afghanistan	1 January – 31 December
Bangladesh	1 July – 30 June
Bhutan	1 July – 30 June
India	1 April – 31 March
Maldives	1 January – 31 December
Nepal	Mid July – Mid July <sup>1</sup>
Pakistan	1 July – 30 June
Sri Lanka	1 January – 31 December

In SFDB, annual data are presented for the year in which financial year ends.

Example 1: Data for the financial year 1 July 2017 - 30 June 2018 are presented as year 2018 in SFDB.

Example 2: Data for the financial year 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018 are presented as year 2018 in SFDB.

<sup>1</sup> The Nepalese Fiscal year is from 1<sup>st</sup> of *Shrawan* (4th month of Bikram calendar) to 31<sup>st</sup> *Ashad* (3rd month of *Bikram* calendar), which translates to Mid- July to Mid-July of the Gregorian calendar.

### Feedback

SFDB aims to assist policy makers, economists, statisticians, researchers and data analysts in their work. Suggestions and queries are welcome and may be submitted through 'Feedback' link available on the website.

### Contact us

SFDB helpdesk shall be glad to help its users in case any clarifications are required. Users may send their queries through the feedback portal, or, may contact us at the following address:

**Data Management and Dissemination Division**  
**Department of Statistics and Information Management**  
**Reserve Bank of India**  
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