

STATPLANET & STAT*Trends*



USER GUIDE

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1. ABOUT

StatPlanet and StatTrends are powerful interactive data visualization tools, used by many different kinds of organizations including schools, universities, government agencies such as NASA, UN organizations such as UNESCO and UNDP, and Global 500 companies such as Samsung and Siemens. StatPlanet can also be used as education software for children (ages 9 and up) to learn about the world through interactive maps.

StatPlanet and StatTrends enable also non-technical users to explore statistics through its user-friendly interface. Moreover, the software automates the normally complex processes of converting raw data into interactive maps and visualizations. It requires only a basic familiarity with spreadsheet software to create interactive maps and visualizations with relative ease. You can import your own data and through StatPlanet can import maps or use the embedded USA or world maps.

StatPlanet comes in different versions to cater to different needs. All versions of StatPlanet are free except for StatPlanet Plus, which has more advanced features such as support for large datasets. All versions of StatPlanet can be used both as a stand-alone application for offline use, and as a web-based application which can be published online. The desktop version of StatPlanet Plus is free for non-commercial purposes. Similarly, StatTrends Plus is a non-free advanced version of StatTrends, and the desktop version is free for non-commercial purposes.

The aim of the software is to promote evidence-based decision making by improving and facilitating the communication and interpretation of information, by providing: (i) attractive interactive visualizations which facilitate the interpretation of information, (ii) a user friendly interface that is accessible also to non-technical users, (iii) automated data visualization (including the processes of merging and synchronizing data from different sources), and (iv) an easy to disseminate software system which can enable anyone to explore and create data visualizations - regardless of technical skills, availability of Internet connectivity, and computer hardware or software.

StatPlanet and StatTrends are produced by StatSilk, an Australian company founded by Frank van Cappelle. From 2008 to 2010, the development of a tailored version of StatPlanet was undertaken as part of the SACMEQ research programme at the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), Paris, France.

For more information, please see www.statsilk.com

2. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

StatPlanet and StatTrends are designed to be usable in as many places as possible regardless of the available computers and infrastructure. It can be used online, through an intranet as well as offline – making it usable in places where there is no Internet connectivity. It is easy to disseminate due to its very small size – small enough to fit on any USB flash drive (USB stick) or to be sent as an e-mail attachment. The software does not require installation, so even those without administrator rights on their PC can run both the offline and online versions, and it runs directly off a CD or USB flash drive.

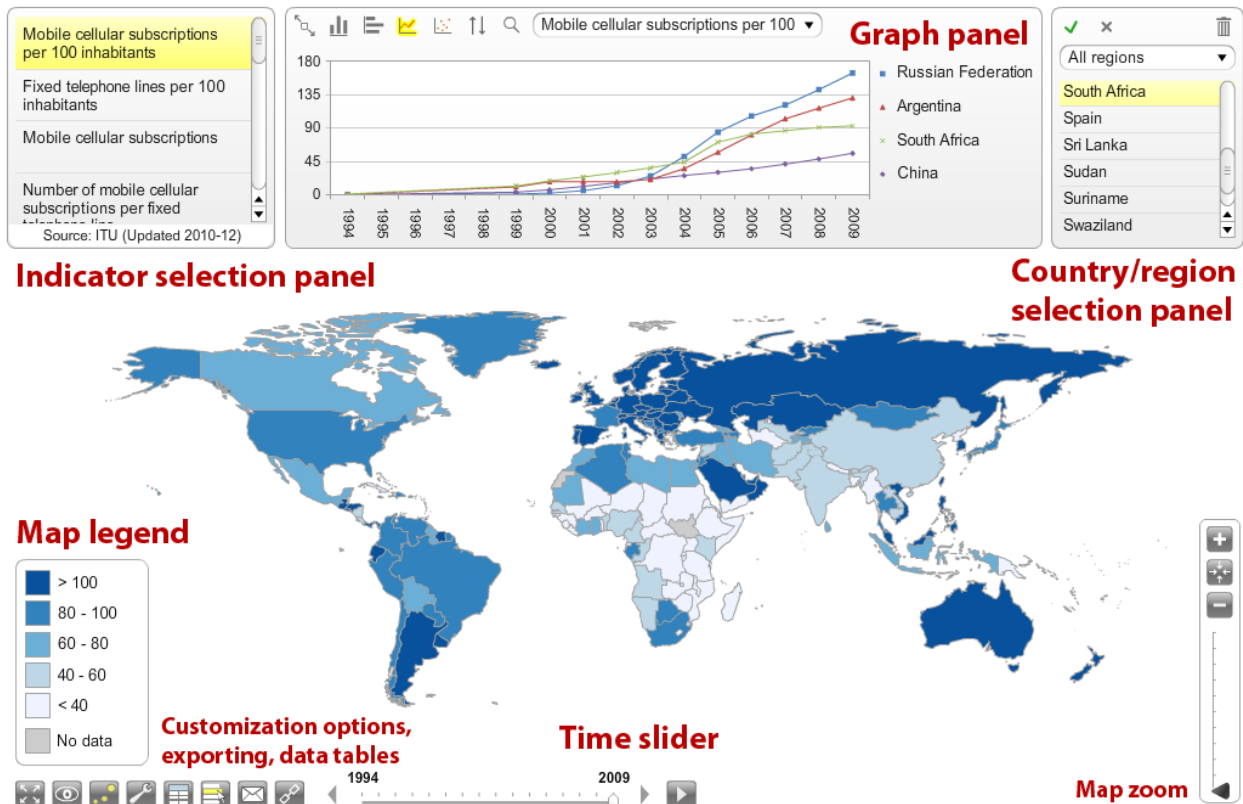
The software runs in the Adobe Flash Player, which has the following minimum system requirements¹. The system requirements are low, and any computer purchased within the past 8 years should be able to run the software.

Windows®	Macintosh	Linux®
Intel® Pentium® II 450MHz, AMD Athlon™ 600MHz or faster processor (or equivalent)	PowerPC® G3 500MHz or faster processor Intel Core™ Duo 1.33GHz or faster processor	Modern processor (800MHz or faster)
128MB of RAM	128MB of RAM	512MB of RAM, 128MB of graphics memory
128MB of VRAM*		

*Recommended for GPU hardware acceleration–dependent features. Flash Player will use software mode for systems that do not meet the system requirements.

¹ <http://www.adobe.com/products/flashplayer/systemreqs/>

3. FEATURES AND OPTIONS



3.1. Thematic map

Choropleth map



This is the main thematic map type in StatPlanet. The map legend shows which map colors are associated with each data range (for example, higher values may be shaded in increasingly darker colors). The map and map legend colors, ranges and values can be customized. Besides quantitative maps, qualitative or descriptive maps can also be displayed which convey non-numerical information. See also the example: [map of language distribution](#).

Proportional symbol map



A proportional symbol map scales symbols (usually circles) according to the indicator being mapped. Each symbol can represent a country or other map area. Proportional symbol maps are most suitable when there is a large range of values and measurements are continuous (rather than at interval level), for example population numbers.

In StatPlanet the symbol map is overlaid on top of the choropleth map (see above). This means that two data sets can be shown on the same map – one for the choropleth map and one for the symbol map.

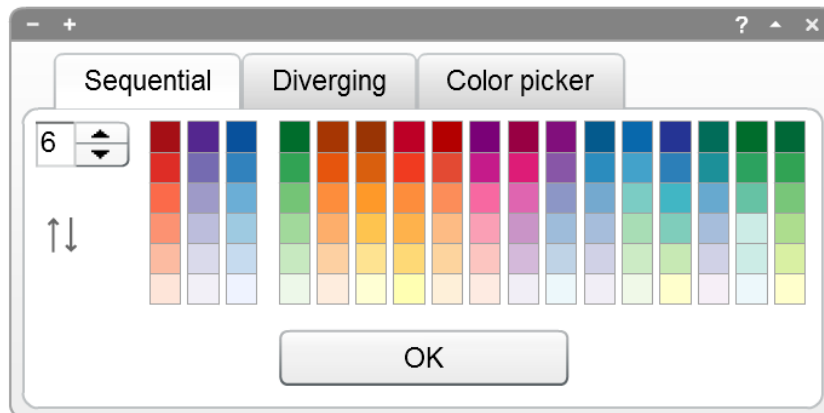
To show the symbol map, click the symbol icon in the bottom-left corner of the screen. If you have bookmarked an indicator, the symbol map represents the data for the bookmarked indicator, whereas the choropleth map represents the data for the selected indicator. (If the bookmarked indicator is currently selected, both the symbol map and the choropleth map represent the bookmarked indicator).

Select country or other map area using the map

- **Mouse over a country or map area:** Moving the mouse over a country or other map area brings up a popup containing information about that particular country or map area for the selected indicator (as well as the bookmarked indicator, if there is one).
- **Click on a country or map area:** You can select a country or other map area by clicking on it in the map. See also the **Selection panel** for additional selection options.

Map legend

Map colors: Clicking on any of the colors in the legend will bring up a color selection panel. In this panel you can change both the colors (either Sequential or Diverging color schemes), as well as the number of color classes (between 3 and 9). The color schemes are from the Color Brewer website (<http://colorbrewer2.org/>), which is an excellent resource for more information on selecting map colors.



Data range: To adjust the data range of the map legend, click on the top or bottom value. Use the popup to increment or decrement the value, or enter a whole new value. The

intermediate values will be adjusted automatically.

Creating or importing maps

You can use StatPlanet to [create your own maps](#), using the included map template (map.fla). This requires the Adobe Flash software. For importing shapefile maps, please see the section “Importing ESRI Shapefile maps”.

Save/export (StatPlanet Plus / StatTrends Plus only)



You can find the save/export button in the bottom-left corner of the screen. This button enables you to save the current map or graph as an image, or download the data as a CSV file.

To change the image type, size or quality, use the Options panel. This feature is only available in the web version of StatPlanet Plus.

Map zoom



The map zoom controls are normally hidden from view. Move the mouse towards the bottom-right of the screen to make them appear.

- **Zoom:** You can zoom in and out of the map using the 'zoom in' and 'zoom out' buttons, or by dragging the zoom slider up or down. If your mouse has a scroll wheel, you can also use this to zoom in and out.
- **Moving the map:** click and drag the map with the mouse to move it to a new position.
- **Restore map position:** the button shown on the left restores the map to the original coordinates for the selected region.

3.2. Indicators panel



Select category (optional)

The category selection drop-down is hidden by default². Use the drop-down menu in the top of the Indicators panel to select a new category. When switching categories, StatPlanet / StatTrends will remember which year was selected and check if data exists for this year in the new category. If there is no data for this year, it will select the year closest to the previously selected year for which data is available in the new category.

² The category dropdown can be added through the StatPlanet Data Editor sheet ‘settings’, variable ‘V-IND-O’.

Indicator bars (optional)



Indicator bars are hidden by default³. The bars are scaled in proportion to the maximum value of that particular indicator for all countries in the selected region. For example, if the value for country X is 20 and the maximum value for all countries is 100, the bar will be scaled at 20%.



Bookmark indicator (optional)



The bookmark indicator option is hidden by default⁴. Click the 'star' button in the Indicators panel to bookmark the selected indicator. The bookmarked indicator will stay even when you switch to another category. This allows you to (i) create scatter plot graphs, (ii) compare the bookmarked indicator with indicators from other categories, and (iii) compare two indicators through the choropleth map (representing the selected indicator) and the proportional symbol map (representing the bookmarked indicator).

Indicator definitions

If a definition exists for an indicator, the definition will appear in a popup when moving the mouse over the indicator. The definition only shows for the indicator which is selected or bookmarked.

3.3. Graph panel

In StatPlanet, click the 'graph' button in the bottom-left corner of the screen to open or close the Graph panel.

Bar chart / Column chart



The bar chart and column chart buttons are located in the top left corner of the Graph panel.



Use the "sort" button to sort the graph from lowest to highest, highest to lowest, highest to lowest starting in the middle, or alphabetically.

Time series



The time series button is located in the top left corner of the Graph panel. Use the Selection panel to add countries, map areas or other variables (depending on your data set) to the time series graph. Click on it again if you wish to remove it. Countries or other map areas can also

³The indicator bars can be added through the StatPlanet Data Editor sheet 'settings', variable 'V-IND-B'.

⁴ The bookmark indicator icon can be added through the StatPlanet Data Editor sheet 'settings', variable 'V-IND-O'.

be selected directly from the map (See also: **Selection panel**).

Use the "sort" button to sort the time series labels.



Vertical bubble chart

This button enables the display of country data as with the column chart, but with the values on the y-axis marked as bubbles rather than the top of a column. This display type has the advantage that it allows a second indicator to be visualized in the form of the bubble size. The bubble size follows the formula: $\text{value} / \text{maximum value}$.



Scatter plot (bubble chart)


The scatter plot button is located in the top left corner of the Graph panel. Clicking on the button will automatically use the selected indicator as the x-axis variable. You need to select a second indicator as the y-axis variable.

The x-axis and y-axis variables can be selected in the Graph panel (see below), or in the Indicators panel (see **Bookmark indicator** above).

Press the 'play' button to see an animation of changes over time, with each bubble (point) moving to the corresponding x and y positions (depending on whether data is available for each time interval). If 'Show trails' is selected (next to the play button), each bubble will leave a trail to mark previous positions over time.

Clicking on a scatter plot bubble will display the associated label. They can also be repositioned through 'drag and drop', by right-clicking and selecting 'move text labels or map points'.

A third indicator can be visualized through the bubble size parameter. This indicator can be selected through the drop-down above the scatter plot. The bubble size follows the formula: $\text{value} / \text{maximum value}$.

The scatter plot has an 'options' icon  which can be used to show or hide the trendline. Move the mouse over the trendline to see the slope and trendline equation.

Select x-axis / y-axis indicator



Click on the x-axis or y-axis label, then select an indicator from the drop-down menu.

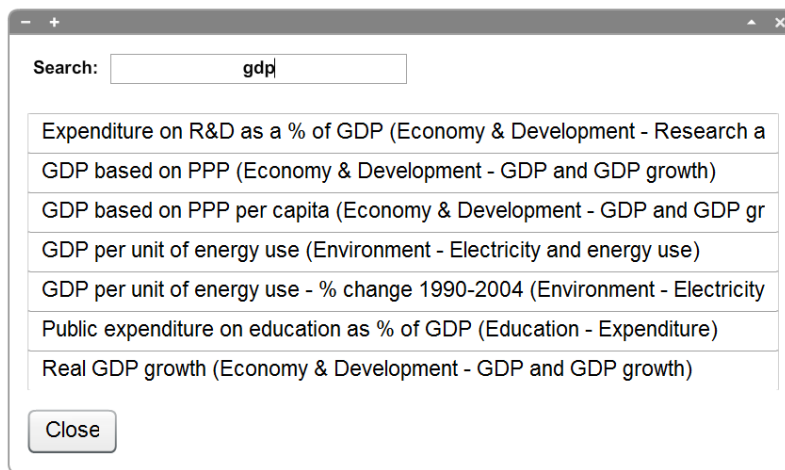
Use the drop-down menu in the top of the Graph panel to change the scale of the 'bubbles' according to a selected indicator.



Search (StatPlanet Plus / StatTrends Plus only)

The search function brings up a popup which enables you to filter the list of indicators to find

the one you need. The example below shows the filter “gdp” applied to find all indicators related to GDP.



Adjust graph size

To change the graph size, move the mouse to the sides or corners of the Graph panel until you see the cursor change to look like the one shown on the left. Click and hold down the left mouse button, then drag the panel to the size you want. Release the mouse button once you have the right size.

Adjust graph scale

The graph scale can be adjusted by clicking on the top or bottom graph values. The value can then be edited in the popup window.

3.4. Options panel



Click the 'options' button in the bottom-left corner of the screen to open the options panel.

Map:

- Map colors: map background, map borders, map text color, map text outline color, etc.;
- Map text size;
- Map symbol size (proportional symbol map symbols);
- Map legend - estimate best value distribution: adjust the values so that there is a more

equal distribution of countries for each color class. This will usually result in a map with a better distribution of colors. If this is switched off, the value range for each color class will be set at equal intervals based on the highest and lowest value in the data range.

- Map legend - show maximum & minimum values
- Map legend colors.

Graph/Chart:

- Graph colors: background, bar & scatter points, scatter point borders;
- Graph text size;
- Transparency level of graph area (bars / bubbles);
- Size of bubbles (scatter plot graph);
- Bullet graph.

General options:

- Animation duration;
- Decimal places shown;
- **Adjust the map/graph scale:** StatPlanet automatically adjusts the map and graph scale to suit the data set. However, in some cases you may wish to keep it fixed, for example if you made some changes to it yourself. You can set (or prevent) the automatic updating of the map/graph scale on (i) changing indicator, (ii) changing region, (iii) changing year. The default setting is for StatPlanet to adjust the scale when changing indicator or region, but not year.

Save/export map or graph: (web version only)

- Set the **image type**: PNG or JPEG
- Change the **image size** as % of original
- Change the **image quality** (for JPEG images only)

3.5. Data-table panel



Click the 'table' button in the bottom-left corner of the screen to get a data table of the selected indicator. If an indicator has been bookmarked, the data for both the bookmarked and selected indicator will be displayed.



Save / Export table (StatPlanet Plus / StatTrends Plus only)

Save the table as a .CSV file, which can be opened by most spreadsheets (such as Excel). You can find the save table button in the top-right corner of the table panel.

Copy table



The desktop version of StatPlanet does not allow you to save the data as a file. Instead, you can copy the entire table into Excel using the 'copy' button, and then 'paste' it in Excel. If you do not have Excel, you can also do the following: (i) paste the data into a basic text editor such as Notepad, (ii) save the document as 'data.html', (iii) open the file using your Web Browser.

3.6. Selection panel

Countries, map areas (or in StatTrends – any other defined variables) can be selected in various ways. An efficient way of finding and selecting a country or map area is through the selection panel, as explained below. However, a country or map area can also be selected by clicking on it in the map, in the data table panel, or in the graph panel. In each case it will be highlighted in all of these StatPlanet components.

Click on a country/map area/variable in the list to select it. Clicking on a selected item will deselect it. You can press the first one or two letter of an item in the list to quickly jump to that item. For example, if it contains a list of countries, press 'b' to quickly jump to countries starting with the letter 'b'.



If the Selection panel is hidden, click the 'select' button in the bottom-left corner of the screen to make it appear.

Select regions



Use the drop-down menu in the top of the indicators panel to select and zoom into a different region, such as 'Africa' or 'Europe'. It is also possible to select countries to define a custom region (see Selection panel).



Select button

Press the Select button to reduce the list to your selection. Any items which are not selected will be removed from view.



Deselect All button

Press the Deselect All button to clear your selection.



Refresh button

The Refresh button appears once you have created a custom region or group of items. It can be used to return to the original list.



Remove button

To remove items from the list, select those you wish to remove and press the Remove button.

3.7. Story panel

The Story Panel (StatPlanet Plus only) can optionally be used to display 'stories' or descriptive text for each indicator. The text can be formatted using HTML, with support for image embedding and links to web-pages or documents.

3.8. Time slider



Use the slider or click on the arrow buttons to change the year. Click on the play button to show changes over time as an animation, starting from the beginning. The animation speed can be set in the Options panel.

3.9. Interface options



View panel

Move the mouse over the 'View' button in the bottom-left of the screen to see various

options for showing or hiding map & graph elements, and other StatPlanet components.

- Show or hide country or map area names on the map or graph (country names can be shown in full, in abbreviated form or as [ISO3 codes](#));
- Show or hide country or map area statistics on the map;
- Show or hide the map popup and its components - bar chart, indicator and statistic;
- Show or hide various panels.

Shrink / enlarge



The buttons in the top-left corner of the panel can be used to shrink or enlarge them. This may be useful for space management when you have several panels open at the same time, or to focus in on certain areas.

Help / minimize / close



The buttons in the top-right corner of the screen are the help, minimize and close buttons.



Adjust graph panel size

Drag and drop the graph panel borders to adjust the size.



Full screen

Click on this button in the bottom-left of the screen to either switch to fullscreen mode, or go back to normal panel mode.

Changing category

When switching to another category, StatPlanet/StatTrends will remember which year was selected and check if data exists for this year in the new category. If there is no data for this year, it will select the year closest to the previously selected year for which data is available in the new category.

4. IMPORTING OR CREATING MAPS

4.1. Importing ESRI Shapefile maps

- Please see <http://www.statsilk.com/maps/download-free-shapefile-maps> to obtain free shapefile maps. Importing shapefile maps requires either StatPlanet Plus or StatPlanet Lite.
1. In the folder “Shapefile_map_(ESRI)” open the sub-folder 'map'. Copy your map files here.
 2. Run the file “update_map.bat”. This automates the following procedure which can also be done manually: (i) remove the included example shapefiles (map of Indonesia), and (ii) rename your map files (e.g. “mycountry.shp” and “mycountry.dbf”) to “map.shp” and “map.dbf”

Please note that there are two map folders in “Shapefile_map_(ESRI)” to which you need to copy your map files:

- \map *(for the offline version)*
 - \web\map *(for the web version)*
3. Open the StatPlanet_data_editor file. Click on the button 'Setup shapefile' (in the top-left, macros need to be enabled).
 4. Select your “map.dbf” file in the map folder, and follow the instructions. Make sure that the ‘ID’ column is alphabetical (a-z), numerical (0-9), or alpha-numeric (a combination of alphabetical and numeric characters such as “reg21”). Special characters such as ã & / - may cause problems in loading the map. If you do not have a suitable ID column, you could use software such as Open Office Calc to edit the “map.dbf” file and create/edit an ID column. Open Office Calc is free software (<http://www.openoffice.org/>).
 5. Run StatPlanet to see the results with the included sample data.

You can now start importing or inserting data for your map, but first you may wish to modify the map position and add text labels.

Map positioning:

To change the position and size of the map, move the mouse to the bottom-right of the screen to see the map zoom controls:

- **Zoom:** You can zoom in and out of the map using the 'zoom in' and 'zoom out' buttons, or by dragging the zoom slider up or down. If your mouse has a scroll wheel, you can also use this to zoom in and out.
- **Moving the map:** click and drag the map with the mouse to move it to a new position.

Once the map is in the right position, right-click and select 'Copy map coordinates'. In the StatPlanet Data Editor, go to the sheet 'Map regions', select the cell below 'X'. Then paste the coordinates here.

Text labels:

1. To show the text labels for the map, click on 'Show text labels' in the StatPlanet Data Editor (sheet Import, below the Save button).
2. Click on "Save data" and open StatPlanet to see the results. It is likely that the position of some or all of the text labels will need some adjusting.
3. To adjust the position of the text labels, right click anywhere in StatPlanet and select 'Move text labels or map points' in the menu. Click on any of the text labels to drag them to a new position.
4. Once you have finished moving the text labels, right click and select 'Copy map text label coordinates' in the menu.
5. In the StatPlanet Data Editor, go to the sheet 'Settings'. Select the cell next to 'Text label coordinates' (variable 'TXT-COORD'), and paste the coordinates here. (You may also wish to modify other settings in this sheet, such as the text font size.)
6. Click on 'Save settings' (or alternatively, 'Save data' in the Import data screen). The coordinates have now been saved for when you next open StatPlanet.
7. In the sheet 'Settings', you can also change additional settings such as the font size of the text labels.

Finding a map:

The following are useful websites for finding free shapefiles (regional / administrative boundaries maps).

Note that you need to download the boundary files in the ".SHP" format.

- Map Library - <http://www.maplibrary.org/> - Public domain maps for most countries in the world. Maps are not guaranteed to be error free and up to date.
- UN SALB - <http://www.unsalb.org/> - Second Administrative Level Boundaries data set project. These maps are free but copyright rests with the UN. The maps are validated by the National Mapping Agencies (NMA) of each UN Member State.
- US Census Bureau - http://www.census.gov/geo/www/cob/bdy_files.html - USA County and District Cartographic Boundary Files.
- ArcGIS map resources - <http://resources.arcgis.com/content/data-maps/10.0/world>
- Stanford University map resources - <http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/gis/web.html>

Instructions for manually setting up shapefiles

The following steps can be conducted using any spreadsheet software, so Excel is not required:

1. Copy your map shapefiles as explained above. (Copy and replace the existing map shapefiles in the folder 'map', i.e. the files 'map.dbf' and 'map.shp' - so you would need to rename your shapefiles 'map.dbf' and 'map.shp' - any other files such as 'map.shx' are not required by StatPlanet).
2. In the 'map.dbf' file, find the column which uniquely identifies each map area. Copy the column header name. Then paste it into the 'settings.csv' file in the cell next to the variable name 'DBF-ID'. Please note: This ID column should contain unique values only, and characters need to be alphanumeric (i.e. cannot contain spaces or special characters/symbols).
3. Open the 'data.csv' file and remove the existing map area IDs found in row 1, from column 'L' onward (so after the column header 'TYPE'). From the 'map.dbf' file, copy the entire list of map area IDs from this column (excluding the column header). Then paste them into the 'data.csv' file, in the same place (i.e. row 1, from column 'L' onward). You would need to 'transpose' the data to change it from vertical to horizontal alignment. In Excel the step would be 'Paste' -> 'Transpose' (or 'Paste Special' -> 'Transpose').
4. Copy and paste the map area 'names' from the map.dbf file to replace the existing ones in the bottom of the file settings.csv. This time the data does not need to be transposed, so it is a simple copy and paste. These are the names which are actually displayed in the map in StatPlanet (in contrast to the map 'IDs' in the previous step which are used to identify each map area). The order of 'names' in the sheet 'settings.csv' should match the order of the 'IDs' in the

sheet 'data.csv'. (They should be automatically aligned if you copied and pasted them from the data.dbf, as long as you did not re-order them prior to copying).

GIS Shapefile Reader - Source Code

The source code for reading the shapefiles is included in the directory SHPreader. It can be compiled to the file SHPreader.swf, which is read by StatPlanet.

The code was written by Edwin van Rijkom under the LGPL license, with some additions by Andy Woodruff, and some slight modifications for use in StatPlanet.

If you wish to change the names of the map files being read, you can change this in SHPreader.as, and publish it as SHPreader.swf through the file SHPreader.fla.

For more information, see: <http://shp.riaforge.org/>

4.2. Create a map using Adobe Flash

To create custom interactive maps for use in StatPlanet, you need the following:

- StatPlanet or StatPlanet Plus
- Adobe Flash CS3 or higher
- A map file in vector format, either Adobe Illustrator (.ai), FreeHand (.fh*, .ft*), or Adobe Flash (.swf).








(See also: Converting images into a suitable vector format)

For creating Flash maps, please see the tutorial on <http://www.statsilk.com/maps/create-flash-maps>

5. IMPORTING OR ADDING DATA

5.1. Basic steps for adding data

The following is an example for importing country level data into the “World Map” version of StatPlanet. However, the process is the same for other versions of StatPlanet and StatTrends.

1.  **Download** [Download](#) StatPlanet and [extract the files](#) to your computer⁵.
2.  **Open** In the folder 'World_Map', open StatPlanet_data_editor. Make sure [macros are enabled](#). Press the 'Clear data' button to remove the example data.
3.  **Import** Press the [Import data](#) button and select a file containing data you wish to import. You can also [add data manually](#) using any spreadsheet software.
4.  **Save** Press the 'Save data' button. This saves the data to the file data.csv.
5.  **View** Click on **StatPlanet.exe**  to view the results.
6.  **Publish** [Copy the contents of the folder 'Web'](#) to your website to publish it online.

To publish StatPlanet **online**, all you need to do is to upload the contents of the folder **Web** to the website (web-server). For publishing it within a CMS (Content Management System), please see the website FAQ: <http://www.statsilk.com/support/faq#CMS>

The web folder contains the following files:

- StatPlanet.html (the webpage which displays your interactive map)
- StatPlanet_small.html (alternative with smaller map embedded inside a webpage)
- StatPlanet.swf (file which shows loading progress)

⁵ The files need to be extracted to a location where you have permission to save data, for example, your “Documents” folder or the desktop. Extracting it to the “Program Files” directory (on Windows-based computers) may cause problems when trying to save the data.

- content.swf (the actual software)
- settings.csv (settings in comma-separated values format)
- data.csv (data in comma-separated values format)
- swfobject.js (required to run 'Flash' content)
- Sub-folders 'export' and 'map' (StatPlanet Plus and StatTrends Plus only): For StatPlanet Plus and StatTrends Plus, the 'web' folder also contains the sub-folder 'export' for exporting the maps and graphs. In the Shapefile map version of StatPlanet, there is also an additional sub-folder 'map' (containing the shapefile map files). These sub-folders would also need to be uploaded.

Enable macros in Excel:

When you open StatPlanet_Data_Editor.xls you will normally get a message asking you whether you wish to enable macros. The message depends on the version of Excel.

- **Excel 2007 or newer:** In the top of the screen, next to 'Security Warning', click the button 'Options'. Select 'Enable this content' and click on 'OK'.
- **Older versions of Excel:** Select 'Enable macros' in the popup window.

If you do not receive this message, the macro security level in Excel is set to high. Follow the instructions below to change the security level to a lower setting.

- **Excel 2007 or newer:** Click the Microsoft Office Button (top-left) and click Excel Options. In the Popular category, check 'Show Developer tab in the Ribbon' (if it is not already checked). Click on 'OK', then select the Developer tab. Click on 'Macro security' (on the left). Select 'Disable all macros with notification'.
- **Older versions of Excel:** In the Tools menu, go to -> Macro -> Security. Change the security level to Medium.

5.2. The StatPlanet Data Editor

The Excel-based StatPlanet Data Editor comes included with each version of StatPlanet and StatTrends. To edit the data files directly (bypassing the StatPlanet Data Editor) please see the section 'Data editing without Excel'.

The StatPlanet Data Editor consists of the following sheets:

Sheet “Import”: This is the main Excel sheet where you import your data. In the ‘shapefile’ version of StatPlanet, this sheet also includes a ‘Setup Shapefile Map’ button (for setting up shapefiles, please see Chapter 4). Row 2 lists the map area or variable names as they are displayed in StatPlanet / StatTrends.

Sheet “Import names”: This sheet can be used to ‘teach’ the StatPlanet Data Editor different spelling variations of the map areas or variables you wish to import. For an example, please see the ‘World Map’ version of StatPlanet, where this sheet contains many variations of the spelling of country names. For more details please see also the section on importing data below.

Sheet “Data”: In most cases this sheet does not need to be modified. The ‘Data’ sheet is identical to the sheet ‘Import’, but row 1 contains the map area or variable IDs. These are used to identify each of these in StatPlanet, as well as link them to their text label coordinates in the sheet ‘settings’. Unlike the names in the sheet “Import”, the IDs cannot contain commas or symbols and should be alphanumeric only. It may sometimes be necessary to modify this sheet when adding ‘map points’. For more details please see the section ‘Add map points or additional map areas’.

Sheet “Map regions” (StatPlanet) or ‘Groups’ (StatTrends): This sheet can be used to optionally define specific map regions within StatPlanet, or variable groups within StatTrends. For more details please see the section “Custom ‘zoom-to’ map regions or groups”.

Sheet “Settings”: This sheet lists over 200 customization options to fully customize the user interface and functionality.

Sheet “Text-Translations”: This sheet contains a number of interface translations, and can also be used to add new translations.

Sheet “Tools”: This sheet lists a number of tools, such as for upgrading to a new version of StatPlanet – automating the process of transferring your old data to the new StatPlanet Data Editor.

5.3. Defining variables (StatTrends only)

Prior to importing data in StatTrends, you first need to define your variables. They are defined in the sheet ‘Import’, as follows:

- Replace the example variables from column L onwards (row 2) with your own.
- Click on button '3. Save data' to save your variables.

- Click on button '2. Import data' to import your data. (If your variables did not import, try closing and re-opening the StatPlanet Data Editor. The variables in the document you are importing need to be equivalent to the variables in the sheets 'Import'.).
- Click on button '3. Save data' again to save, and then the results can be viewed in StatTrends.

5.4. Importing data

Using the included StatPlanet Data Editor, it is possible to import data automatically. The Data Editor is Excel-based, so data can be imported from many different file formats (including CSV, TXT, XLS, XLSX, DBF and HTML).

The Data Editor automatically recognizes the structure of the data in the file being imported. It also recognizes the vast majority of the many possible variations of country names (in the world map version of StatPlanet). The import should therefore succeed in most cases without having to make any changes to the data file. In case of problems, see “troubleshooting” below.

The Data Editor uses the names in the Excel sheet 'Import names' and looks for corresponding names and statistics in the data file (in the world map version, this sheet contains country names, but it can also contain for example region names or district names, depending on the map used). The Data Editor automatically restructures the data in the format that is accepted by StatPlanet.

A criterion for the import to be successful is that any country name *only appears once* in the data file being imported. Also note that StatPlanet sees a "dot" as the decimal separator.

Importing HTML or PDF files

- HTML: To import data from a web-page, simply save the web-page and import it like any other file. If the import fails, it could be that the import/map/country names and statistics are too far down the page. In this case, open the file in Excel, and remove the rows up to the point that the data starts. Then import the file again. Alternatively, copy and paste the tables in the web-page into a new Excel document.
- PDF: Tables in PDF files can usually be copied and pasted into an Excel file. Select (highlight) the table with the mouse, right-click and select “Copy as Table” or “Save as Table” from the menu. See also this [helpful guide](#) from McGill University, as well as this free tool to convert a PDF to an Excel file: <http://www.pdfexcelonline.com>

Names not recognized

Names of map regions in the data file which are not recognized are displayed once the import is complete. For example, if in your data file the country 'Afghanistan' is indicated with the abbreviation 'Afg', this abbreviation will not be recognized by the data editor. To fix the problem, go to the Excel sheet 'Import names' and add 'Afg' in an empty cell below the corresponding country - 'Afghanistan'. You can use the same approach for other headers in your data set so that the import macro can correctly identify them. Once this has been completed, you need to close and re-open the StatPlanet Data Editor. Then, run the import macro again to import the data correctly.

Note that the import macro removes spaces in the sheet "Import names" and converts special characters (e.g. "é") into regular characters (e.g. "e") during the import. This allows for a wider range of country name spellings to be detected. Whether the names in your file use upper or lowercase does not matter. The world map version recognizes English and French country name spellings and a number of variations of these spellings. Automatic data importing has been successfully tested with many different sources of data with different data structures and country name variations, including the CIA Factbook, Ethnologue, IMF, ITU, Nation Master, OECD, UBS, UIS, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNSTATS, WHO and the World Bank.

The Data Editor is registered as an open source project on SourceForge and any contributions or improvements you make to the software are very welcome.

(<https://sourceforge.net/projects/statplaneteditr/>).

5.5. Data file structure

Data in the StatPlanet Data Editor consists of 11 columns (StatTrends and StatPlanet Plus) or 10 columns (StatPlanet) containing category names, indicator names and meta-information. This is followed by x number of columns for the countries, map areas, or variables if using StatTrends (where x corresponds to the number of countries / map areas / variables). Data is edited in the sheet "Import". When clicking on "Save data", a copy is saved to the sheet "Data" prior to saving the file as 'data.csv' (removing duplicate indicator names to reduce file size). The 'data.csv' file is the actual data file read by StatPlanet.

The data file structure for the first three columns is shown below. Columns 1, 2 and 3 contain the Category names, Time units (e.g. years) and Indicator names respectively. Columns 4 to 11 are for optional customizations and can be left blank (for more details on how to use these columns, please see the User Guide). In contrast to StatPlanet Plus, StatPlanet only uses columns 2 (Time) and 3 (Indicator). The Time column can also be used for organizing other variables, such as different age-groups (age-ranges) in population data.

CATEGORY	TIME ⁶	INDICATOR
Category 1	2010	
		Indicator 1a
		Indicator 1b
	2009	
		Indicator 1a
		Indicator 1b
Category 2	2010	
		Indicator 2a
		Indicator 2b
		Indicator 2c
	2009	
		Indicator 2a
		Indicator 2b
		Indicator 2c

The most important columns are therefore columns 1 to 3, which need to be structured according to the following rules:

- Data is structured first by category, then by date, and then by indicator.
- Dates must be in order from *highest* to *lowest*.
- Within one category, the list of indicators must be exactly the same for each date / year.
- Spacing (empty cells in white) between the different categories, dates and indicators need to be maintained as shown in the example below. See also the included example data which comes with StatPlanet for a more elaborate data structure. In the example above, please note that there are empty spaces between each category and between

⁶ This column is called 'YEAR' in older versions of StatPlanet and StatTrends.

each year, as well as an empty space between each list of indicators.

Sub-categories and sub-sub-categories

For sub-categories and sub-sub-categories the structure is identical. Please note though that the name of a category containing sub-categories needs to be in the row directly above the first sub-category. Aside from the first cell containing the category name, all other cells in this row should be empty. The same is the case for sub-categories which contain sub-sub-categories. An example of a category with two sub-categories is shown below:

CATEGORY	TIME	INDICATOR
Category		
Sub-Category 1	2010	
		Indicator 1a
		Indicator 1b
	2009	
		Indicator 1a
		Indicator 1b
Sub-Category 2	2010	
		Indicator 2a
		Indicator 2b
		Indicator 2c
	2009	
		Indicator 2a
		Indicator 2b
		Indicator 2c

5.6. Settings file structure

This section describes the structure of the settings file (settings.csv or settings.txt), in case it needs to be edited manually, or if it is generated not through the StatPlanet Data Editor but via other means.

The setting file consists of three parts, which are extracted from different sheets in the StatPlanet Data Editor:

1. Map coordinates

- Found in sheet “Map regions”

The structure of the “map coordinates” consists of the heading “MAP”, followed by at least one line providing the startup coordinates of the map (in the order - X coordinate, Y coordinate, zoom level), e.g.:

All regions	0	0	100
-------------	---	---	-----

2. Settings

- Found in the sheets “Settings” and “Text-Translations”

The structure of the “settings” consists of the heading “SETTINGS”, followed by a vertical list of settings. The first column contains the variable name and the second column the corresponding value. The order of the variables does not matter. This section also includes the interface and help text.

3. Names (optional)

- Found in the sheet “Text-Translations”, a copy of which is found in the sheet “Import”

The map area names (or variable names if using StatTrends) are optional. If left out the names used will be equivalent to the names/codes in the sheet “Data”. The structure of the “names” section consists of the heading “NAMES”, followed by a list of country / map area / variable names. The order of the names should be the same as the order of the corresponding country / map area / variable codes in the sheet “Data”, but transposed vertically rather than horizontally.

5.7. Loading data from a database

In StatPlanet v 3.1 the option of passing data to StatPlanet as a 'parameter' in the web-page was introduced (StatPlanet Plus only). The data is therefore embedded within the web-page, in contrast to reading data from an external data file. Because web-pages can be generated dynamically (e.g. through PHP), this also enables the data passed on to StatPlanet to be generated dynamically.

A static example of this is included in the "World map" version of StatPlanet Plus, in the directory 'web', file StatPlanet_database.html. This web-page passes on an array of data to StatPlanet using 'FlashVars', containing three indicators and values for several years.

Data is passed on to StatPlanet in the form:

flashvars.data = "insert data array"

The first three characters need to consist of (i) the hash (#) symbol which tells StatPlanet to expect an array of values rather than the name of an external data file; (ii) the separator for the values; and (iii) the separator between each 'row' of data. In the following example, the 'comma' (,) is indicated as the value separator and the 'semicolon' (;) is indicated as the row separator:

flashvars.data = "#,;"

This needs to be followed by the headers – that is, the same headers which are found in the first row of the external data file and includes the map area codes. For example:

flashvars.data = "#,;CATEGORY,YEAR,INDICATOR,SOURCE,DESCRIPTION,UNIT,MAP,GRAPH,FILE,OPTIONS,TYPE,AFG,ALB,DZA,AND,AGO,AIA,ATG,ARG" etc.

It is not necessary to indicate the names for the first few columns, so the following shorter format can also be used (the three characters "#,;" followed by 11 commas, followed by the map area codes):

flashvars.data = "#,;,,,,,,,,,AFG,ALB,DZA,AND,AGO,AIA,ATG,ARG" etc.

The array of data needs to follow the exact same structure as the external data file, as described in the 'Quick_Start.pdf' documentation included with StatPlanet⁷. For example, as described in this document, the indicator name needs to be in the third column, and the

⁷ See also: <http://www.statsilk.com/support/resources>

preceding two cells need to be blank. If values are separated by commas, then the indicator name should therefore be preceded by two commas (where each comma represents a 'cell' in a traditional spreadsheet). The first map area column is 9 columns after the indicator column (these 9 columns contain optional parameters). A row of data for an indicator therefore consists of two commas, followed by the indicator name, followed by 9 more commas, and then the value for the very first map area. Each row is separated using the 'semicolon' (;). Following this structure, the following is a simple example which loads a single indicator, for a single year, and with data values for just two map areas – Afghanistan (AFG) and Albania (ALB):

```
paramObj["data"] = "#,;,,,,,,,,,,AFG,ALB;My category,My time;,My indicator,,,,,,,,,2,3;"
```

If this array were to be represented as a table, it would look like this:

											AFG	ALB
My category	My time											
		My indicator									2	3

With the optional header names included, the array would be as follows:

```
paramObj["data"] = ""#,;CATEGORY,TIME,INDICATOR,SOURCE,DESCRIPTION,UNIT,MAP,GRAPH,FILE,OPTIONS,TYPE,AFG,ALB;My category,My date;,My indicator,,,,,,,,,2,3;"
```

And the corresponding table would be:

CATEGORY	TIME	INDICATOR	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	M A P	GRAPH	FILE	OPTIONS	T Y P E	AFG	ALB
My category	My time											
		My indicator									2	3

For a more complete and more complicated example, see the file [StatPlanet_database.html](#).

5.8. Troubleshooting

If you have saved your data but it cannot be read by StatPlanet, most likely there is a problem with the data structure. Data should start with the more recent time point. Also make sure that the indicators listed for each year are exactly the same, and are listed in the same order.

For general troubleshooting issues, please see the FAQ on the StatSilk website:

- <http://www.statsilk.com/support/faq#troubleshooting>

If the import fails, please check your data file for the following issues:

1. Spelling of names: If the spelling of any of the country/map/region names cannot be identified, the corresponding data will not be imported. See “Names not recognized” above for more information on how to resolve this problem.

2. Names appear more than once: If the same country/map/region names appear more than once in your data file, the import macro will only import the data associated with the first one.

This structure will not be imported correctly:

Country	Dimension	High	Medium	Low
Afghanistan	A	6	3	2
	B	7	5	2
Albania	A	9	6	3
	B	12	5	2
Algeria	A	11	5	1
	B	21	11	9
Andorra	A	15	14	12
	B	14	11	10

The above data structure would need to be re-arranged with one country/map/region name per row, as shown below (alternatively, it may be easier in some cases to split the data into several files and import them separately).

This structure will import correctly:

Country	A - High	A - Medium	A - Low	B - High	B - Medium	B - Low
Afghanistan	6	3	2	7	5	2

Albania	9	6	3	12	5	2
Algeria	11	5	1	21	11	9
Andorra	15	14	12	14	11	10

3. No year indicated in the data file, or cannot be detected:

All indicators are arranged according to year or other time unit (e.g. months). See the example file included with StatPlanet “data_example_for_import_worldmap” to see how to structure data with multiple years and/or indicators, so that it can be imported successfully⁸.

Alternatively, you can import the data and add the year or time unit afterwards. The data needs to be structured as follows (see for example the structure of the sample data in StatPlanet_data_editor.xls):

- Group (sort) your indicators according to year. Insert a new row above each group of indicators. In this new row add the year in the TIME column. Leave the neighbouring cell in the INDICATOR column blank;
- Note that the TIME column should be blank in the cells next to the indicators:

TIME	INDICATOR
2001	
	indicator1
	indicator2
2000	
	indicator1
	indicator2

4. Decimal point: StatPlanet reads a "dot" as decimal separator (for example 0.75). Avoid using commas, spaces or other symbols in numbers to ensure that they are read properly by StatPlanet.

⁸ <http://www.statsilk.com/support/resources>

6. CUSTOMIZATION

For help in customizing and improving your interactive maps, see also the StatSilk website section - [general tips for creating interactive maps](#)

6.1. General and startup settings

General settings for customizing StatPlanet can be found in the Excel sheet **Settings**. After making any changes to the settings, press the button **Save Settings**. You can try out many of the settings 'live' in StatPlanet through the general options panel and the map legend options panel.

In the Excel sheet **Settings**, the various settings to be edited are the yellow highlighted cells in column C. In some cases, the checkboxes and dropdown menus in column D can be used to more easily change the setting in the corresponding cell in column C (for example, click on a checkbox to change a setting from 'TRUE' to 'FALSE').

See also the next section for customizing StatPlanet at an indicator or category level (for example, specify different map colors for different indicators).

Each option in the sheet 'Settings' has a short explanation in column D. A few of these options are described in more detail below:

- **Startup options**

The first rows in the sheet 'Settings' are startup options:

- REGION: Change the default region: through the region drop-down menu in row 5, which will select and zoom into this region on startup (e.g. "South Asia").
- GRAPH: Change the default graph type.
- HELP: Show a help screen on startup. The help text can be modified in the sheet 'Text-Translations'. To prevent any of the default help "text balloons" from appearing, replace the text with a dash symbol (-).
- SEL-IND: Change the default startup indicator to something other than the very first indicator in the data file, either by inserting the indicator row number or the indicator name (assuming it is a unique indicator name in the data file). If you do not want any indicator to be selected on startup, insert the text: none
Optional startup text or instructions can be provided inside the Graph panel,

through the StatPlanet Data Editor, sheet 'Text-Translations', variable 'T_GR-START'.

- B-IND: Select a bookmarked indicator on startup.
- THEME: Choose the regular or dark theme (colors / skinning).
- REGION-L: Please see below ("Add text labels").
- TXT-COORD: Please see below ("Add text labels").
- GRAPH-M: Startup with the graph panel maximized.
- TOPMENU: Display the main (level 1) categories in the top of the screen through a horizontal menu.
- PLAY: Play the time animation on startup.
- FORMAT: Change the format of the data and settings file to CSV or TXT. After changing the format, make sure to remove the existing data/settings files for the other format (e.g. if changing to the TXT format, remove the data.csv and settings.csv files or StatPlanet will continue to read them). The TXT format is needed to display fonts using non-Latin characters.

- **Modify map, graph or interface colors**

Most of the colors used in StatPlanet can be customized and there are over 40 color settings. Additional color settings can be specified at the indicator level (see the next section for more details). Colors are specified using hex (hexadecimal) color code, consisting of the characters '0x' followed by six digits or characters (e.g. 0xFFFFFF for white). Hex codes can be found in commonly used design software such as Adobe Dreamweaver, or online, e.g. <http://html-color-codes.info/>.

- **Show / hide interface components**

Use the options in this section to show or hide the various panels, icons and other components in order to customize the StatPlanet interface. One of the options is to enable the share link feature via a link icon in the bottom-left corner of the application, variable 'V-I-LINK'. This requires that variable 'SITE-L' indicates the web-link where the application is located e.g. www.mysite.com/statplanet, or www.mysite.com/statplanet.html.

- **View menu options**

The view options in this section are identical to those in the 'view menu' inside

StatPlanet, which appears when selecting the 'view' icon in the bottom-left of the interface.

- **Add text labels and position the text labels on the map**

- TXT-COORD: To adjust the coordinates or position of the text labels, right click anywhere in StatPlanet and select 'Move text labels or map points' in the menu. Click on any of the text labels to drag them to a new position. Once you have finished moving the text labels, right click and select 'Copy map text label coordinates' in the menu. In the StatPlanet Data Editor, go to the sheet 'Settings'. Select the cell next to 'Text label coordinates' (variable 'TXT-COORD'), and paste the coordinates here. (You may also wish to modify other settings in this sheet, such as the text font size.).
- REGION-L: In addition to positioning the text labels, it is also possible to include map lines (lead lines) linking the text label to a map region (mainly used when the map area is too small to fit the label, such as islands). Map areas for which you wish to have map lines can be set in the sheet 'Settings', variable 'REGION-L'. You would need to insert the country/region codes (the codes used in the sheet 'Data') separated by a space.

- **Add a map title**

Under 'Map options', 'MAP-TITLE', insert the text for the map title. The procedure for relocating the map title is the same as for relocating any other text labels on the map: (i) right click anywhere in StatPlanet and select 'Move text labels or map points' in the menu; (ii) drag the map title to a new position; (iii) right click and select 'Copy map text label coordinates' in the menu; (iv) in the StatPlanet Data Editor, go to the sheet 'Settings'. Select the cell next to 'Text label coordinates', and paste the coordinates here.

- **Multiple map layers**

Multiple map layers are possible in the Flash map and Shapefile map versions of StatPlanet. For an example of a Flash map implementation with multiple layers, please see: <http://www.statsilk.com/maps/create-flash-maps#multiple-map-layers>

6.2. Customizations at category & indicator level

In StatPlanet_Data_Editor.xls, there are several columns which can be used to define optional parameters. The different columns and their usage is explained below.

IMPORTANT: CUSTOMIZATIONS, SUCH AS AN INDICATOR DESCRIPTION, SHOULD ONLY BE SPECIFIED FOR THOSE INDICATORS IN THE FIRST (OR HIGHEST) YEAR. THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE REPEATED FOR ALL YEARS IN THE SERIES.

Data source

The source of your data can be specified for each indicator, or for all indicators in a category (in StatPlanet Plus, you can have multiple categories and sub-categories of data). The source is indicated in the “SOURCE” column. To specify the source for the entire category, insert the source in the first row of the category (the same row as the first year or time unit in the series). To specify the source for an indicator, insert the source in the same row as that indicator.

You can choose to use HTML code if you want to add a link to the source website, in the following format:

`My Source.`

*Important – please note:

- In the HTML code above, you need to use single quotes (' ') rather than double quotes (" ").
- The links do not work if you run the web version offline (the Flash platform does not allow this for security reasons). The links will work only once the files are online. If you wish to use or test the links offline, please use the desktop version.

Indicator/category descriptions and ‘stories’

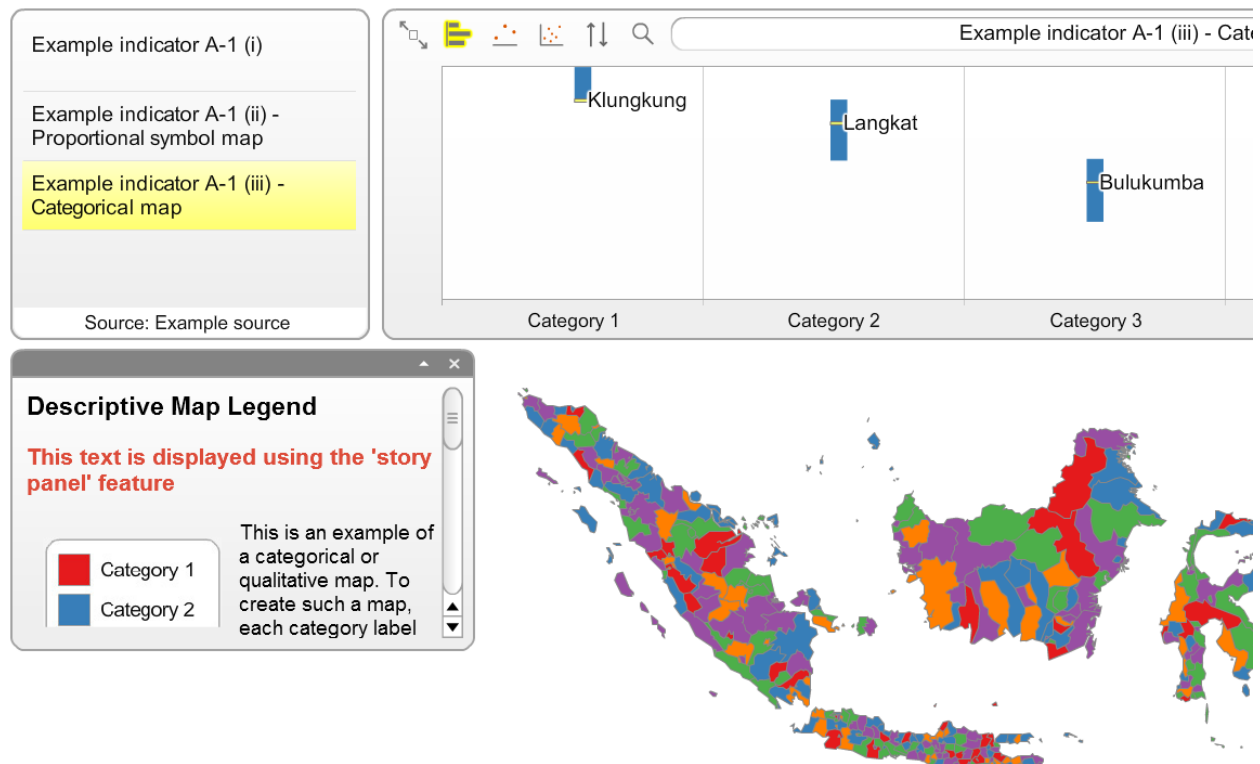
The DESCRIPTION column can be used to provide either popup descriptions or more lengthy ‘stories’ which are displayed in a separate panel.

Popup descriptions

Popup descriptions can be set both for categories and for indicators and appear when moving the mouse over the category or indicator name. Indicator descriptions only need to be added

once for each indicator – for the first year or time unit in the series. Descriptions can be either plain text or HTML formatted text.

Story panel (As of *StatPlanet Plus v 3.2*)



For descriptions or stories to be displayed in a separate panel, they need to be inserted in the following format in the DESCRIPTION column for the respective indicator:

`s=[insert plain text or HTML text here]`

The text can be formatted using HTML, with support for image embedding and links to web-pages or documents.

Alternatively, to load the (html) text from a file, the following format is required:

`sf=[myfile.html]`

Or relative to a directory:

`sf=[mydirectory/myfile.html]`

Optionally, the height and/or width of the panel (in pixels) can be specified. The following example specifies a panel with a width of 300, height of 200, and an embedded image:

See also 'Map overlays' below for displaying external images, for example raster maps, which can also be set through the MAP Column.

Map legend customizations

Most map legends can be customized in StatPlanet itself (i.e. via StatPlanet.exe or StatPlanet.html), and then copied and pasted into the StatPlanet Data Editor, through the following steps:

1. In StatPlanet, select the indicator for which you wish to customize the map legend.
2. Click on any of the colors and/or values inside the map legend panel in the bottom-left corner to customize the corresponding map colors / values.
3. Once you are satisfied with the map legend you have just customized, right-click anywhere inside StatPlanet and select 'Copy map legend' from the menu.
4. Open the StatPlanet_Data_Editor file. Select the cell below the column header 'MAP', in the corresponding indicator row (for which you customized the map legend). Select 'paste' to insert the custom map legend. If there is data for multiple time units or years, it only needs to be pasted once - in the row for the first time unit or year in the series.
5. Click on 'Save data' to see the results the next time you open StatPlanet.

More details on customizing the map legend are provided below. If you wish to create a map legends with custom labels (e.g. 'high', 'medium', 'low'), please see the options described in (iv) or (v) below.

(i) Map legend with custom values

- Use the following format to specify the values for the map legend, as well as the number of color classes:
0=[value0] 1=[value1] 2=[value2] 3=[value3] 4=[value4]
etc.
- Example 1a: A legend with 4 color classes:
0=[55] 1=[40] 2=[20]
- Example 1b: A legend with 5 color classes:
0=[70] 1=[65] 2=[60] 3=[55]

Map legend for Example 1b:

With max / min values hidden	With max / min values shown
> 70	70 - max value
65-70	65-70
60-65	60-65
55-60	55-60
< 55	min value – 55

(ii) Map legend with custom colors

- Use the following format to specify the colors for the map legend, as well as the number of color classes:
0=[color0] 1=[color1] 2=[color2] 3=[color3] 4=[color4]
etc.
- Example 2: A legend with 4 color classes:
0=[0x238B45] 1=[0x66C2A4] 2=[0xB2E2E2] 3=[0xEDF8FB]

(iii) Map legend with custom colors and values

- Use the following format to specify the colors for the map legend, as well as the number of color classes:
0=[color0][value0] 1=[color1][value1] 2=[color2][value2]
3=[color3][value3] 4=[color4]

Note that this format is slightly different from the previous ones, because 5 colors are specified (colors 0 to 4) but only 4 values (values 0 to 3). As illustrated in example 1b above, a legend with 5 color classes requires only 4 values to be specified (a legend with 4 color class requires only 3 values, and so on).

- Example 3: A legend with 4 color classes and custom values:
0=[0x2171B5][70] 1=[0x6BAED6][60] 2=[0xBDD7E7][50] 3=[0xEFF3FF]

(iv) Map legend with custom colors and labels

- To specify text labels (instead of number values) in the map legends, use the same approach as described in (iii) above, but add a third parameter containing the text. For example:
- Example 4: A legend with 4 color classes, custom values and custom labels:
0=[0x2171B5][70][Very high] 1=[0x6BAED6][60][High]
2=[0xBDD7E7][50][Medium] 3=[0xEFF3FF][Low]

(v) Qualitative (descriptive) map legend

- If your data set is categorical, e.g. languages spoken around the world (English, Spanish, etc.), you need to insert a categorical or 'qualitative' map legend. This map type cannot be produced within StatPlanet and therefore needs to be coded manually in the StatPlanet Data Editor, as explained below.
- To create such a map, each category label needs to be given a category number starting from 0. Then each map area or country is assigned a category number corresponding to the category label. In the example below, 5 categories are defined (0,1,2,3,4) – first the category number, then in brackets the corresponding color and category label:

0=[color0][label0] 1=[color1][label1] 2=[color2][label2] 3=[color3][label3]
4=[color4][label4]
etc.

Countries then need to be assigned their corresponding category number. For example, if 'Afghanistan' belongs to category 0 (label 0 and color 0), it should be given the value '0'.

- Example 5: A legend with 8 color classes:
0=[0x377EB8][Arabic] 1=[0xE41A1C][Bengali] 2=[0x4DAF4A][English]
3=[0x984EA3][Hindi] 4=[0xFF7F00][Mandarin] 5=[0xFFFF33][Portuguese]
6=[0xA65628][Russian] 7=[0xF781BF][Spanish]
- Map legend for Example 5:

Color	Label
0x377EB8	Arabic
0xE41A1C	Bengali
0x4DAF4A	English
0x984EA3	Hindi
0xFF7F00	Mandarin
0xFFFF33	Portuguese
0xA65628	Russian
0xF781BF	Spanish

Map symbols or icons (from StatPlanet Plus v 3.2, StatPlanet Plus only)

The default StatPlanet "proportional symbol map" circles can be replaced with an external icon. It can be referenced in the 'MAP' column for the respective indicator, in the format:

i=[insert icon filename]

For example:

i=[icon_electricity.swf]

The required format is '.swf', which is a vector graphic format and thus maintains its quality and appearance when stretched. Symbols in other vector formats would need to be converted to the '.swf' format using software such as Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Flash or the free Inkscape software using the 'SWF Output' extension.

Map overlays (StatPlanet Plus only)

For each indicator an image can be displayed from an external image file, for example to display raster maps. This image then replaces the 'default' map. The map overlay feature is currently only available in the 'shapefile version' of StatPlanet Plus, but can be included in other versions of StatPlanet Plus when a licensed version is purchased.

A map can be specified separately for each indicator in the format:

f=[insert_file_name]

For example:

f=[mymaps/map01.swf]

This will tell StatPlanet to fetch the file 'map01.swf' from the folder 'mymaps' and overlay it on top of the existing map (if any). Please note that the path needs to be "relative" to the StatPlanet location - it cannot point to an absolute path such as c:/mymaps/map01.swf.

The format in the above example is ".swf", which is a vector format, enabling you to zoom into the map without loss of quality (by default the map zoom controls can be found by moving the mouse to the bottom-right corner of the interface). It is also possible to use JPG or PNG formats, but this will result in a loss of image quality when zooming in. If the image is available in vector format, software such as Adobe Illustrator can be used to convert the vector format into the '.swf' format.

Setting specific map coordinates for each map overlay, customizing the position and scale, can be done as follows:

- Move the map to the desired position (using drag-and-drop and the zoom controls in the bottom-right corner of the screen)
- Copy the map coordinates (right-click -> copy map coordinates)
- Paste the map coordinates somewhere in Excel. The first figure is the 'x position', the second figure is the 'y position' and the third figure is the 'zoom'. These need to be inserted in the 'MAP' column following format:

x=[x position] y=[y position] z=[zoom]

For example, the following sets an overlay map along with the map coordinates:

f=[mymap.jpg] x=[100] y=[100] z=[80]

Graph options

(i) Graph axis range

The maximum and minimum values for the graph can be inserted through the "GRAPH" column (in the corresponding indicator row). This will override the automatic values set by the application. The minimum / maximum values need to be specified in parentheses in the format: mn=[min-value] mx=[max-value]

For example, for a minimum value of 0 and a maximum value of 80, enter the following:

mn=[0] mx=[80]

(ii) Graph color

You can also specify the color of the graph in the format **cg=[color-code]**, for example:

cg=[0x78C679]

(iii) Divisions / Gridlines (as of StatPlanet Plus v 3.2)

The number of gridlines can be set in the following format (the default is 4):

dv=[6]

The default number of gridlines (for all indicators) can be set through the variable 'GR-DV' in the StatPlanet Data Editor, sheet 'settings'.

(iv) Target lines (StatPlanet Plus / StatTrends Plus only)

One or two target lines (or benchmarks) can be specified for each indicator, which will be displayed in the bar/column charts and time series graph. This needs to be inserted in the 'GRAPH' column (in the corresponding indicator row). An example of two target lines (t and t2) with values 80 and 50 are shown below:

t=[80] t2=[50]

Labels (l and l2) and custom colors (c and c2) can optionally be added, for example:

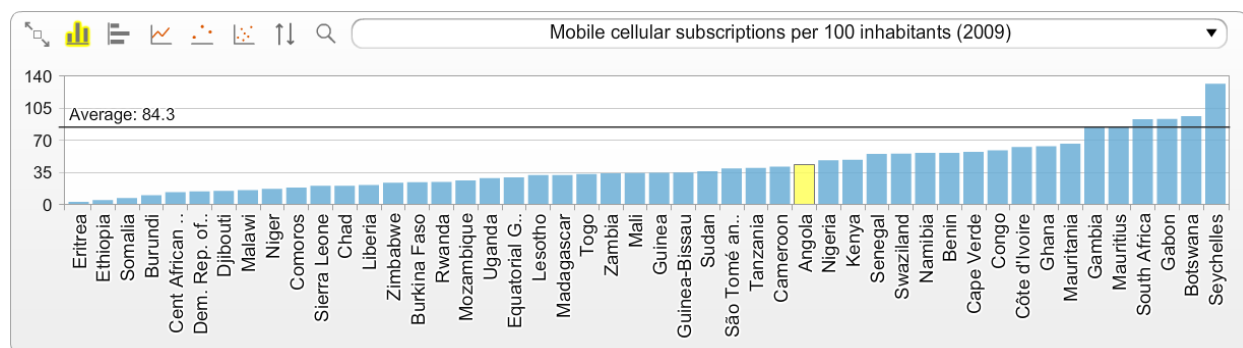
t=[80] t2=[50] l=[Target 1] l2=[Target 2] c=[0x1a9850] c2=[0xd73027]

If the target values are different (variable) for each year or date, use 'tv' instead of 't', for example:

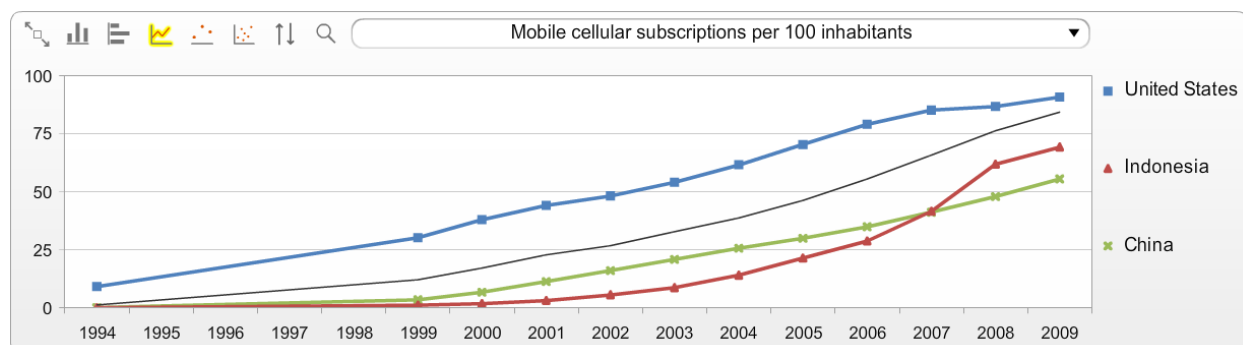
tv=[80] tv2=[50]

Below is an example of a bar chart showing mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in Sub-Saharan African countries, where the target line displays the world average, using the code: **tv=[84.3] l=[Average]**

through the Excel formula: **="tv=["&ROUND(AVERAGE(L5:HX5), 1)&"] l=[Average]"**
(which takes the average values from L5 to HX5, and rounds it to 1 decimal place).



Below is the same example displayed using the time series graph, which shows the change in the average over time. To get this result, the Excel formula above was copied and pasted in the 'GRAPH' column in the corresponding indicator row for each year.



Using multiple data files

(StatPlanet Plus / StatTrends Plus only).

Data can be divided into multiple files, which is particularly useful to reduce the initial download time and only download data for a category once the user selects it. It is also useful for very large numbers of indicators which would otherwise take long to load. The 'main' data file (data.csv or data.zip) contains these links to the other data files. This file does not need to contain any data, but it should have the structure of all the data files combined. Specifically, it should contain the entire list of categories as well as indicators as contained in all the data files combined. This is because the list of categories and indicators needs to be available on startup, without having to load any of the other data files. For each category only one year (or time unit) of the data series needs to be contained in the structure (so it is not necessary to repeat the list of indicators for each year). The structure for each of the files can be created automatically using the macro "Extract data structure" in the StatPlanet Data Editor, sheet 'Tools'.

To link to a data file containing the data for a category, it needs to be specified in the first (top) row of this category in the column "FILE". For example, it can contain the file reference

“data_category2.zip”. Every other row in the main data file that does not contain data (i.e. the data needs to be retrieved from another file) needs to have the # symbol inserted in the column FILE. If all the data is contained in other files, the “FILE” column would contain references to these files in the first row of each category. All the remaining rows in the “FILE” column would contain the symbol #.

The files containing the data should follow the exact same structure as the original data file, except that it would contain data for only one category.

Please note that data can be split into multiple files *only* at the category level. It is therefore not possible to put sub-categories or indicators within one category into separate files.

An example setup with multiple files can be downloaded through the following link:

http://www.statsilk.com/files/resources/multiple_data_files.zip

General options

The “OPTIONS” column is used to specify general options for each indicator. Multiple options can be set for each indicator by separating the options with a space in between, e.g.

y=[2007] r=[Sub-Saharan Africa]

- **Default time unit or year by category:** The default time unit or year to be selected for a particular category can be specified in the column “OPTIONS”. In StatPlanet Plus, this would need to be inserted in the same row as the category name. In other versions of StatPlanet, this would be the first row of data in the StatPlanet Data Editor. It needs to be formatted as ‘y=[insert-year]’, for example:

y=[2007]

- **Map area mouse-over popup text:** (StatPlanet Plus only). Popup text, comments or notes can be added to each country or map area for each indicator. These comments need to be inserted in a separate row, below the list of indicators. The asterisk character (*) needs to be inserted in the INDICATOR column for a comment row. To link an indicator with a comment row, the comment row number needs to be specified in the OPTIONS column for the indicator. The format is:

p=[1]

where [1] references the first row of comment popups. An example of two indicators with corresponding comment rows is shown below:

INDICATOR	...	OPTIONS	...	Afghanistan	etc.
Indicator 1		p=[1]			
Indicator 2		p=[2]			
*				Comment for indicator 1	
*				Comment for indicator 2	

The comments themselves are added in the rows marked by the asterisk (*) in the same way as regular data, i.e. in the map area or country columns. To set the same popup comments for ALL time units / years, you need to insert them only for the first time unit / year in the series. Otherwise, different popup comments can be set for different time units / years, by inserting them in the corresponding rows.

- **Group indicators within a category:** (StatPlanet Plus only)

A category of indicators can be placed into different groups within a category. With this option enabled, radio buttons will appear above the indicator list to enable the selection of a group. Only indicators for the currently selected group will be displayed.

To enable division into groups, the following would need to be inserted in the top (first) row of a category, in the column 'OPTIONS':

g=[group1, group2, group3, etc.]

Group1, group2, etc. should be replaced by the names of your groups and these will appear as radio buttons (up to 5 groups can be added). For example, indicators can be divided into the groups 'Total', 'Male' and 'Female' as follows:

g=[Total, Female, Male]

In order for the software to know which indicator belongs to which group, the group name needs to appear somewhere in the indicator name. For example, the indicator 'Female primary school enrolment' would automatically appear in the group 'Female'.

Please note that each group needs to contain an equal number of indicators.

- **No division:** By default, if an indicator has numbers over a million they will be divided by 1000 000, and 'million' will be added as the unit. To prevent this behavior for a particular indicator, insert the following in the column "OPTIONS" in the indicator row for the first year in the series:

nr=[nodiv]

- **Hide “no data” category in the map legend:** To hide the “no data” category insert the following in the column “OPTIONS” in the indicator row for the first year in the series.

nd=[h]

- **Change region:** It can be useful to change the region when selecting a particular category which only has data for that region. To do so, specify the region name in the column “OPTIONS”, in the first row of the category. It needs to be formatted as: r=[My region]. “My region” should correspond to one of the map regions specified in the Excel sheet “Map regions” (in the StatPlanet Data Editor). For example:

r=[Sub-Saharan Africa]

- **Custom statistics:** (StatPlanet Plus only). By default the mean, standard deviation and range statistics are displayed in a popup when moving the mouse over an indicator (if the variable ‘V-STAT’ is set to TRUE in the StatPlanet Data Editor). It is possible to customize what to show and the order in which it is to be shown for each indicator. In addition, the ‘total’ can be added, which is not shown by default as it does not make sense for all indicators (e.g. for percentages). The statistics to be displayed can be set in the OPTIONS column, for each indicator, in the format below. The letters in brackets are: [t] = total, [m] = mean, [s] = standard deviation, [r] = range and [-] = min/max values:

st=[tmsr-]

The following is an example with only the mean and the total, in that order:

st=[mt]

- **Custom mean:** The default calculated mean can be replaced with a custom value (e.g. a weighted mean). This can be indicated in the OPTIONS column for the row of the corresponding indicator/year, in the format **m=[insert mean]**, for example:

m=[100]

- **Scale for indicator panel bars:** The bars in the indicator panel are scaled according to the highest value for a country or region in that indicator. This means that each indicator bar has its own scale. However, in some cases you may wish the bars of all the indicators to be along the same scale. In this case, insert the following in the column “OPTIONS” in the indicator rows you wish to be along the same scale:

sc=[same]

Please note that this needs to be inserted in the rows for the first year in the series, and that the indicators need to be in the same category.

Indicator ID (Composite Indicator module)

This column is only used when the 'composite indicator' module is installed. To enable the sharing of composite indicators via a web-link, each indicator needs to have an ID specified (which is used in the actual web-link, instead of the indicator name). Any characters or numbers can be used for the ID, as long as they are unique. IDs only need to be specified once for each indicator, i.e. for the first date/year in the series (so do not need to be repeated for subsequent dates/years).

6.3. Country / map area popup text and links

Country / region specific information can be shown in a popup when the mouse moves over the country / region in the map or graph panel. This information needs to be added in the very first row in the empty cell below the corresponding country / region name⁹. (These cells are empty, because data starts in the next row). Different popup text can also be displayed for each indicator – for indicator-level popup text, please see the [options](#) section above.

Popup text can be inserted either as plain text, or HTML text with formatting, for example:

```
<font size='15' color='#347C17'>My text</font>
```

Links to documents or web-pages can also be specified in the row below the corresponding country name. The document or web-page will open when the user clicks on a country for which a link has been specified. Please note: in the latest version of StatPlanet, this requires a 'double click' rather than a single click. An example of a link would be:

```
http://www.mywebsite.com/document.pdf
```

It is also possible to have both text and a download link, by inserting the link as HTML code. For example:

```
<a href='http://www.mywebsite.com/document.pdf'>Please double click to open the document </a>
```

⁹ Note: it should be below the country / region name in the sheet 'Import' of the StatPlanet Data Editor. Alternatively if you are not using the StatPlanet Data Editor, they can also be inserted directly in the file settings.csv in the column next to the country / region name.

Please note that the links cannot be tested in the web browser offline due to a Flash Player security restriction. To test the links, you would need to use the desktop version (StatPlanet.exe), or publish the files online.

Display RSS Feeds

With the StatPlanet Plus RSS Feed module installed, it is possible to display RSS feeds in a popup window when clicking on a country or map area. Each country or map area can have a different RSS feed. The first part of the RSS feed link or URL needs to be specified in the StatPlanet Data Editor, sheet “settings”, variable “FEED-URL” (in the Special Options section). This is the part of the RSS feed link which is same for each feed, for example:

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/myfeeds->

The second part of the FEED-URL can be different for each country or map area, and is inserted in the StatPlanet Data Editor, sheet “Import”, in the row directly below the country or map area name. It needs to be inserted in the format “f=[RSS-link]”, for example:

f=[east-asia]

If for example you wish to display the feed <http://feeds.feedburner.com/myfeeds-east-asia> for Japan, and the feed <http://feeds.feedburner.com/myfeeds-central-asia> for Uzbekistan, you would insert the base (first part of the URL) in the sheet “settings” as described above. In the sheet “Import” you would need to add the extension “f=[east-asia]” in the row below Japan, and the extension “f=[central-asia]” in the row below Uzbekistan.

Please note that the feeds cannot be tested in the web browser offline due to a Flash Player security restriction. To test the feeds, you would need to publish it online.

6.4. Custom ‘zoom-to’ map regions or groups

Map regions or groups can be added or modified in the worksheet ‘Map regions’ (if using StatPlanet) or ‘Groups’ (if using StatTrends). For example, the World Map version of StatPlanet has several regions defined, one of which is Sub-Saharan Africa. When clicking on ‘Sub-Saharan Africa’ from the selection panel in the top-right corner, StatPlanet will zoom into the African continent and display map and graph data only for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. In StatTrends, the principle is the same, but instead of map areas, you can organize any of your variables into groups.

Map regions or groups have the following elements:

- **Name** (col. 1): The names of the map regions or groups you wish to define.
It is possible to categorize your regions or groups if you wish to organize them into sub-menus. This is done by inserting the name of your category (just like inserting any region or group name). Then for subsequent region or group names below, add '>' if you wish to include them under this category (the principle is the same as with the categorization of indicators). In the example below, "My sub-menu" is the name of your sub-menu, and the symbol ">" is used to define the two regions to be included in this sub-menu:

Region 1
Region 2
My sub-menu
> Region 3 (inside sub-menu)
> Region 4 (inside sub-menu)
Region 5 (not inside sub-menu)
etc.

- **Map coordinates** (col. 2-4) (StatPlanet only): The X and Y coordinates and ZOOM level for the defined regions. To get these coordinates, open your map in StatPlanet and zoom into the map area you wish to add (e.g. zoom into Africa and click and drag the map so Africa fills the screen). Once you are satisfied with the map position, right-click anywhere in StatPlanet and select 'copy map coordinates'. Go back to the Excel sheet 'Map regions', and 'paste' the coordinates in the corresponding row for the region.
- **Color** (col. 5 - optional): The color for each region which will be used to color the bubbles in the scatter plot graph. It is also possible to color the bar chart using the region colors. A region colors needs to be specified as a "hex color", for example "0x0000FF" for blue.
- **Link** (col. 6 – optional, StatPlanet Plus / StatTrends Plus only): Insert a link or URL, for example to link a map name with another copy of StatPlanet with this map embedded (e.g. <http://www.mywebsite.com/anothermap>). It is also possible to use this feature to link to documents for download. If using this feature offline and linking to other offline files, the specified path needs to be either relative to the current StatPlanet location (e.g. [mydirectory/StatPlanet.html](#)), or specified in the following format:
file:///C:/mydirectory/myfile
Please note that this feature only works online or in the desktop version; it does not work in the offline web version due to a Flash security restriction.
- **Codes** (col. 7 onwards): Columns 7 onwards contain the codes for the countries or map areas in each region (these are ISO3 country codes for the world map version of

StatPlanet). In both StatPlanet and StatTrends, these codes need to correspond to the codes or variable names you are using in the top row of the sheet 'Data'. When adding these codes, it is important that they are added from column 7 onwards without leaving any empty cells between them.

6.5. Add map points (such as cities, sites, places)

(StatPlanet Plus only feature). Cities, sites and other map areas can be defined separately from the map itself through the 'map points' feature. These map points are displayed in the graphs and selection panel just like other map areas. They also appear in the map itself, and can be positioned into place via drag and drop. If you do not wish to display the map points in the map, the setting 'M-DOT' in the StatPlanet Data Editor, sheet 'settings', needs to be set to 'FALSE'.

Map points can be added as follows:

1. Open the StatPlanet Data Editor and in the worksheet "Import" go all the way to the last country or map region at the end of row 2.
2. Insert the name(s) of your map point(s) in this row and press the button **Save data**. Data can be added in this column in the same way as with any other map area. You will need to add some data for this map point in order for it to appear in the map. (Note: once you have pressed **Save data**, the map point name should also have been added in the worksheet "Data". If you cannot see the map point in StatPlanet, please check the worksheet "Data" to confirm it has also been added here).

StatPlanet Plus only:

3. When you next open StatPlanet, one or more map points (in the form of a circle) will appear in the top left corner of the map, representing each of the new map areas added. Right click anywhere inside StatPlanet and in the popup select 'Move text labels or map points'. Click on the map point and then click anywhere on the screen to move it to this new location. Similarly, the text label for a map point can be dragged and dropped to a new location. (For map points, please note that the mouse button should not be held down while moving, just click once to start moving the map point, move the mouse cursor to the desired position, and click once again to drop the map point).
4. To copy the map point coordinates, right click again and select 'copy map point coordinates'.
5. Open the StatPlanet Data Editor and go the sheet 'Settings'. Scroll down to 'Special options' and next to M-DOT-COORD paste the coordinates you just copied. In this

section you can also set the size of the circle representing the map point. Click on **Save Settings** to save.

For adding map points, please note that information for each map point is stored in several sheets. The sheet 'Import' contains the 'map point names' as displayed in StatPlanet. The sheet 'Data' contains the 'map point ID', which may be the same as the 'map point name' but cannot contain symbols or commas – only alphanumeric characters. These IDs are used to link the map points to their respective coordinates in the map, as well as the map point text label coordinates. As indicated above, the coordinates are saved in the sheet 'settings'.

The table below highlights the differences between the sheet 'Import' and the sheet 'Data' in storing information about map points or variables:

		Sheet 'Import'	Sheet 'Data'
1	Contains map point labels as displayed in StatPlanet.	√	
2	Map point labels can be changed at any time.	√	
3	Column position of map points is fixed (used to link map point names in the sheet 'Import' with map point IDs in the sheet 'Data').	√	√
4	Map point IDs are linked to map point coordinates and text label coordinates.		√
5	Map point names can contain commas and symbols.	√	
6	Map point ID need to be alphanumeric.		√

6.6. Data editing without Excel

You can edit the data files **data.csv** and **settings.csv** directly without using the Excel-based Data Editor. These two files can be edited using any spreadsheet software.

The data needs to be saved as a CSV ('comma separated values') file.

6.7. Language and translation

To change the language, see the Excel sheet 'settings' in the StatPlanet Data Editor. To modify a translation or add a new language translation, see the Excel sheet 'Text-Translations'.

StatPlanet is available in the following languages. See also below on how to use international character sets such as Russian (see below).

- Bahasa Indonesia (courtesy of the Government of Indonesia)
- Danish (courtesy of Peter Erbs-Maibing, Research Centre for Prevention and Health, Denmark)

- Dutch
- English
- French
- German
- Greek
- Portuguese Brazilian (courtesy of the Instituto Centro de Vida)
- Russian (courtesy of Andrey Loschilov)
- Spanish
- Turkish (courtesy of Emre Koyuncu)

StatPlanet Plus also has support for non-Latin international character sets. Please note that right-to-left fonts such as Arabic and Hebrew are not yet supported. Some fonts are not supported by default (see also below for details) and are only available when purchasing a license for the software.

To use them, please follow these steps:

1. Remove the files "data.csv" and "settings.csv" in the main directory and also in the directory 'web'.
2. In the StatPlanet Data Editor, go to the sheet "Settings". Under Startup options - Data format, select: TXT (tab-separated values). Then click on "Save settings".
3. The international character sets can now be used in the desktop version of StatPlanet Plus. The web version does not include the international character set by default. This is only available in the purchased/licensed version on request.

The following character sets are available. Please note that not all of these are embedded in the desktop version.

- Armenian: requires a license purchase to embed the Armenian font;
- Chinese (All character sets): requires a license purchase to embed the Chinese font (the desktop version only has limited support for Traditional Chinese characters);
- Cyrillic (for Russian, Serbo-Croatian and Tajik, amongst others);
- Devanagari (for Hindi, Marathi and Nepali, amongst others): requires a license purchase to embed the font;

- Greek;
- Japanese: requires a license purchase to embed the Japanese font (the desktop version only has limited support for Japanese characters);
- Korean (All character sets) - for the desktop version, Shapefile map edition, please download and use the [Korean StatPlanet.exe file](#) to display Korean characters;
- Latin I, Latin Extended A, Latin Extended B, Latin Extended Add'l;
- Thai: requires a license purchase to embed the Thai font.

7. PUBLISHING

For publishing StatPlanet/StatTrends in a CMS (Content Management System), see also:

[Publishing in a CMS](#)

7.1. Reducing the download size of your web application

The application is optimized to keep the file size as small as possible. The following is a list of measures which can be implemented to reduce the file size of your interactive maps even further:

1. **ZIP the data file(s):** this can reduce the file size by as much as 70 percent. If you wish to ZIP the data file, it needs to be specified in the embedding code. An example is included in the folder 'web', file 'StatPlanet_options.html'. The embed code would need to indicate the following line:

```
'flashvars.data = "data.zip"
```

(or any other filename as long as it has the "zip" extension, e.g. "mydata.zip").

If you have multiple data files (StatPlanet Plus / StatTrends Plus only), these can also be zipped.

2. **Decimal places:** file sizes can often be reduced by around 50 percent if you round numbers to two or three decimal places. A macro is included in the StatPlanet Data Editor for rounding all the numbers in the Excel sheet 'Import' to two decimal places. The macro is called "RoundToDecimalPlaces" and can be adjusted as required.
3. **CSV file format:** the CSV file format was chosen because it keeps the size of the data file to an absolute minimum, because data values are separated only by commas. In comparison, XML files are often several times bigger when containing the equivalent amount of data.
4. **No duplication:** indicator names and descriptions do not need to be duplicated in the data file. If you are using the StatPlanet Data Editor, any duplicate indicator names will automatically be replaced with the '-' symbol. Indicator names only need to be indicated for the very first year (or time unit) of a data series. For indicator descriptions, duplication can also be avoided – see the section "Indicator Description" for more information.

5. **Reduce map size (shapefile version only):** the maps themselves are often much bigger than StatPlanet and the data files combined. GIS software can be used to reduce the level of map detail. There is also a free utility called MapShaper – www.mapshaper.org. To simplify the map, upload the shapefile (e.g. map.shp), select the percentage simplification in the bottom of the screen, and click on 'export' in the top-right corner of the screen. Select the first export format – 'Shapefile – polygons', and click on 'create'. Within a few moments, the download link will appear below. After downloading the file, use it to replace the existing shapefile map (map.shp). The map.dbf file does not need to be modified.

7.2. Creating an index of indicators in StatPlanet / StatTrends

A list of links to indicators in StatPlanet / StatTrends can be automatically generated, ready to be embedded inside a web page. For an example, see the [StatWorld list of interactive maps](#). This can be done by following these steps:

1. In the StatPlanet Data Editor, sheet 'settings', set the variable MOD-INDEX to TRUE.
2. For the variable 'SITE-L' (just below), insert the complete URL of where StatPlanet is located in your website, e.g. <http://www.mywebsite.com/statplanet/statplanet.html>
3. Open StatPlanet, right-click, and in the right-click menu select 'Create and copy index of links (HTML)'. This is HTML code which can be pasted into any web-page to display the links.
4. The final step is to ensure that links in the URL (web address) can be passed on to StatPlanet/StatTrends. The file 'StatPlanet_options.html' in the folder 'web' already has the code in place to do so. The following line of code passes on the link in the URL to StatPlanet¹⁰: `flashvars.location = getURLParam("l");`
This code can of course be customized to suit your own purposes (see also the footnote below for a PHP example).

An example link to a particular indicator in StatPlanet is as follows:

¹⁰ See also the javascript function 'getURLParam(strParamName)' in the same file.

A PHP example of getting the URL indicator is as follows, where the information is captured in the variable '\$l':

```
if (isset($_GET['l'])) {$l = $_GET['l'];} else {$l = ""};
```

And the information is passed on as followed, along with the other embedding parameters:

```
<?php print('start code .... <param name="flashvars" value="location=' . $l . "' /> ....end code'); ?>
```

<http://www.statsilk.com/maps/world-stats-open-data?l=internet%20subscribers%20per%20100%20inhabitants>

which goes directly to the map for Internet subscribers.