

Federal Reserve Bank Boards of Directors Biographical Database Overview

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The database is divided into two spreadsheets.

1. BoD Years

- A separate tab for each of the twelve districts
- Each tab has 9 rows
 - Representing the 9 Director positions
 - For every year from 1914-2019, inclusive
 - For a total of 954 positions per district
 - Vacancies are indicated by dashes “-“

Column Title	Description & Notes
Name	The annual reports often only listed initials for middle names (and even first names in the early years), so if we found fuller names in the public record we updated the database to reflect the fullest name we could find
District	Federal Reserve District
Current Year	Year of the annual report
Class	Directors can be: A, B, or C
Group	For A and B class directors they can be elected by banks in Group 1, 2, or 3
City	This is as indicated on the annual reports, in some instances in the early years the location (city, state) may have indicated residence, it appears to have switched at some point to represent the location of the organization the individual works at
State	See City

2. BoD Unique Positions

- A single tab for the entire dataset
- There are 1,956 unique directors in the dataset.
- These directors sat in 2,607 positions
- The duplicates come from individuals serving in multiple positions
 - For example, if they went from B2 to C Deputy Chair to C Chair, they would be on the list three times
- Dashes “-“ indicate unknown

Column Title	Description & Notes
Name	The annual reports often only listed initials for middle names (and even first names in the early years), so if I found fuller names in the public record I updated the database to reflect the fullest name I could find
District Number	Number associated by the Federal Reserve with each of the twelve districts
District Name	Federal Reserve District
Class	Directors can be A, B, or C
Group	For A and B class directors they can be elected by banks in Group 1, 2, or 3
TD1: Degree	Terminal Degree (e.g., Bachelor's, Master's, JD, PhD)
TD1: Major/Field	Terminal Degree field of study or major
TD1: School	School that granted the degree
TD1: Year	Year of graduation
TD2: Degree	We captured a second terminal degree only if the individual had a JD and a PhD, see above
TD2: Major/Field	See above
TD2: School	See above
TD2: Year	See above
City	This is as indicated on the annual reports, in some instances in the early years the location (city, state) may have indicated residence, it appears this switched at some point in most cases to represent the location of the organization the individual comes from
State	See City
Job Title	Almost always listed on the annual report - if not, sourced from list of resources below
Organization	Almost always listed on the annual report - if not, sourced from list of resources below
Sector	Using the Board's list of sectors (link) we selected what we felt most appropriately matched the organization the individual represented

Race	A White (W) / NotWhite (NW) binary indicator based on self representation, public record, or photos
Gender	A Male (M) / Female (F) binary indicator based on public record pronouns
Birth Year	Birth Year
FOMC Combined	A single column that lists all of the individual's positions on the FOMC
FOMC Pre-reorg	Individual's position on the FOMC if they had it pre-1935
FOMC Pre Start Year	Year individual became FOMC participant (for FOMC positions pre-1935)
FOMC Pre End Year	Year individual's time as an FOMC participant ended (for FOMC positions pre-1935)
FOMC Post-reorg	Individual's position on the FOMC if they had it post-1935
FOMC Post Start Year	Year individual became FOMC participant (for FOMC positions post-1935)
FOMC Post End Year	Year individual's time as an FOMC participant ended (for FOMC positions post-1935)
Start Year (pos.)	Start year of the current position
End Year (pos.)	End year of the current position

In general, we used the following sources:

- Annual Reports of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System: 1914-2019 [link](#)
- Annual Reports of the twelve Reserve Banks (Chicago for example [link](#)) - though important to note that where discrepancies existed between the Reserve Bank and the Board annual reports, we always went with the Board of Governors' (for example the way the Reserve Banks chose who to count as Directors was often different among them and different over time)
- Census and other historical records found on FamilySearch [link](#)
- New York Times' TimesMachine, [link](#)
- Newspapers.com, a database of historical newspapers, an Ancestry company, [link](#)
- Sources used less frequently include: Federal Reserve history [website](#), school registries, obituary agricators, LinkedIn, and corporate profiles