

Vlerick Library Quickguide

Using Bel-First

What is Bel-First?



Bel-First by Bureau Van Dijk contains data of the financial annual statements of Belgian companies in an easy-to-use interface. The database is updated four times a year. Since all data have been standardised, it is possible to compare different Belgian companies, industrial sectors or geographical regions.



It is possible to search the following fields:

- Name of the company
- VAT number
- Geographical area
- NACE, NACE-BEL and SIC-US industrial activity codes
- No of employees
- Financial data and ratios
- Legal status
- Names of the stakeholders
- ...


It is also very easy to export data to applications such as Excel for further analysis. Companies can be compared in so-called *peer groups* to output a market survey.

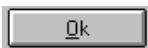
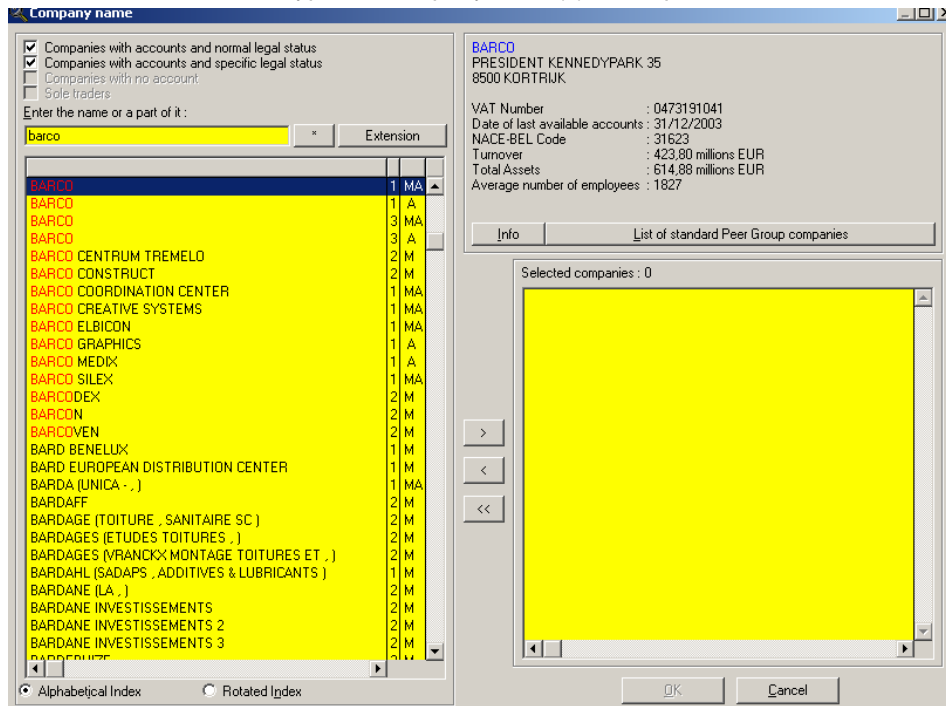
Use of Bel-First

Start → Programs → Belfirst.

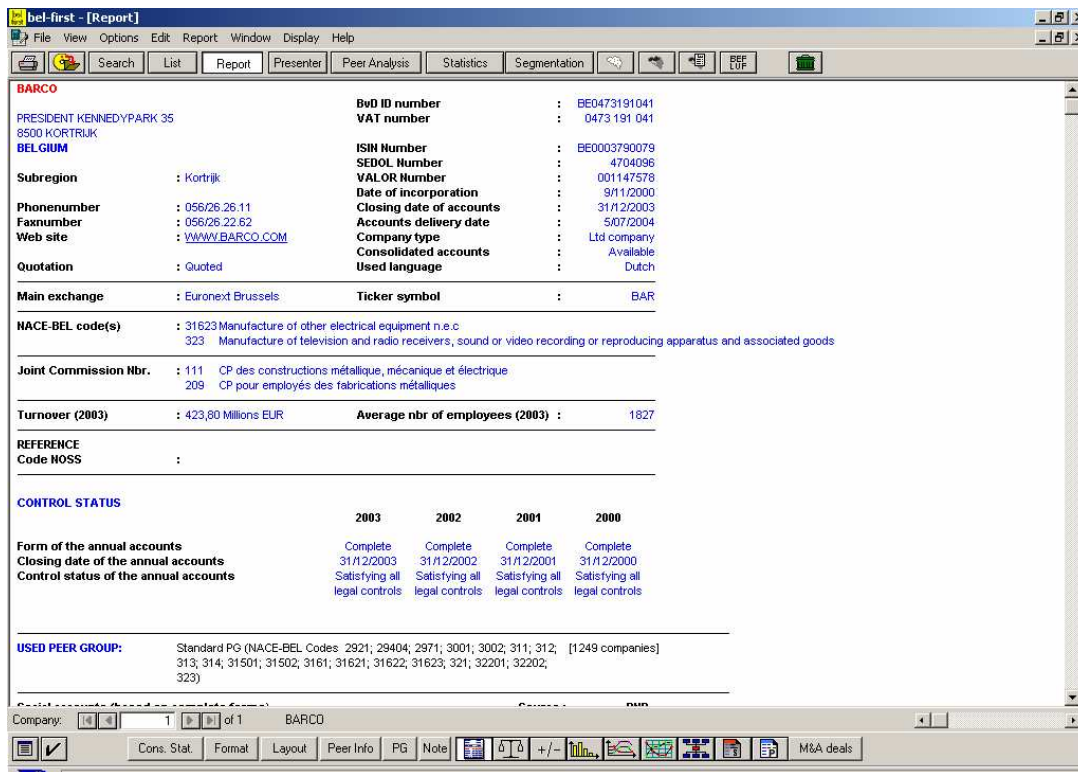
You get the following search screen with different options:

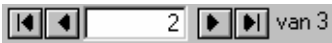


Company name	Identification number	Geographic location	Activities	Nr. of Employees	Financial data
Legal Form	Legal status	Administrators	Auditors	Accounting model	Miscellaneous
Usual Combinations	Consolidated statements	Stock data	Lugembourg companies	Sole traders	Ownership

Now click on  and type the company name(s) – or a part of it.



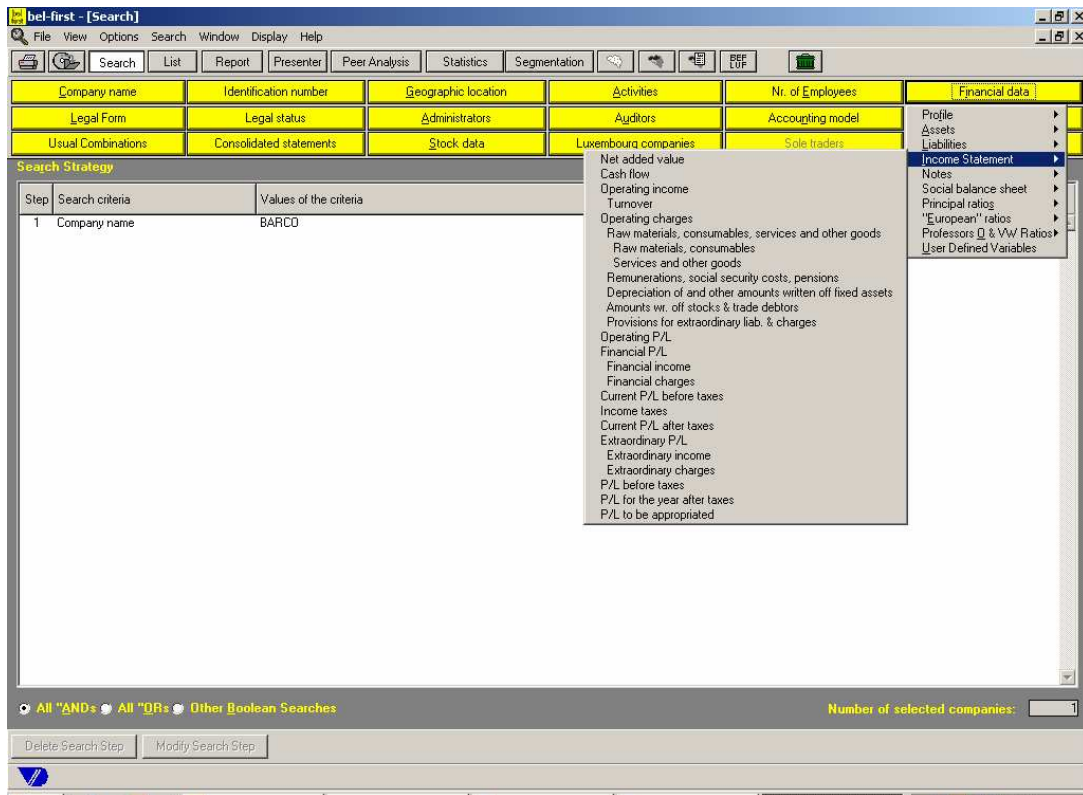
You now get the records with the financial statements for the different companies.



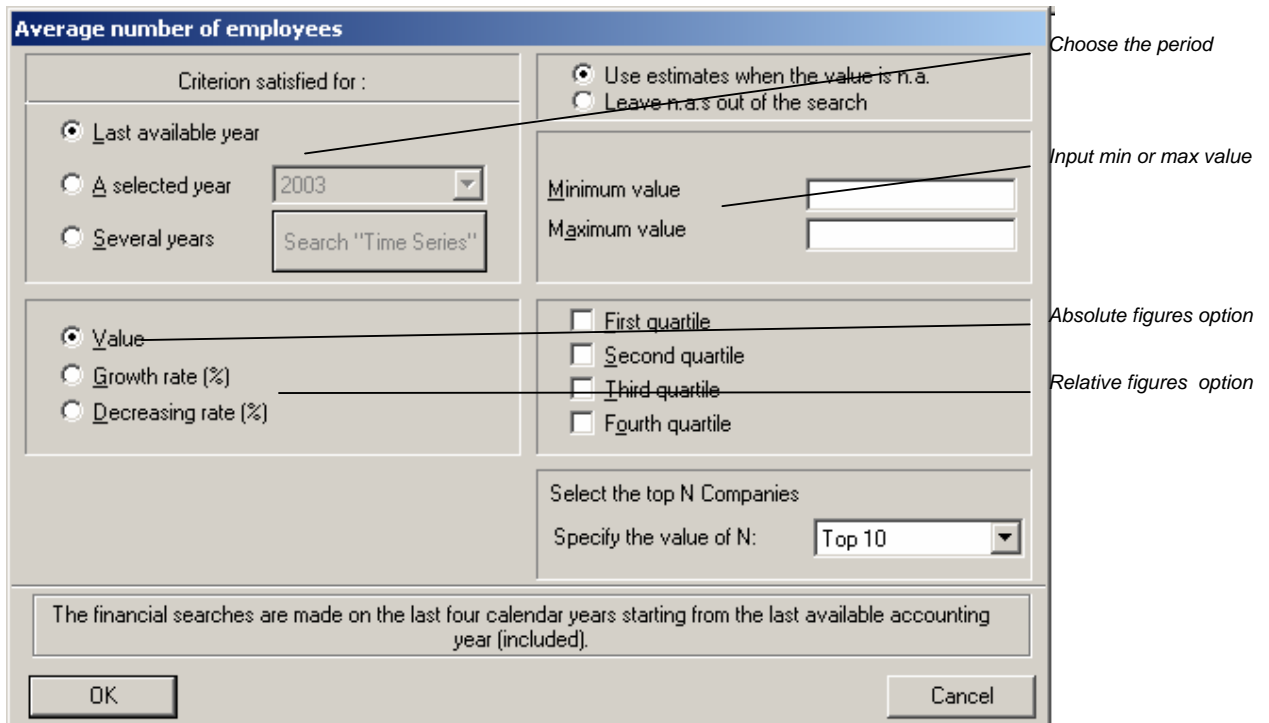
In the left corner  below you can use the navigation buttons  and  to jump to the next company.

Compare groups of companies

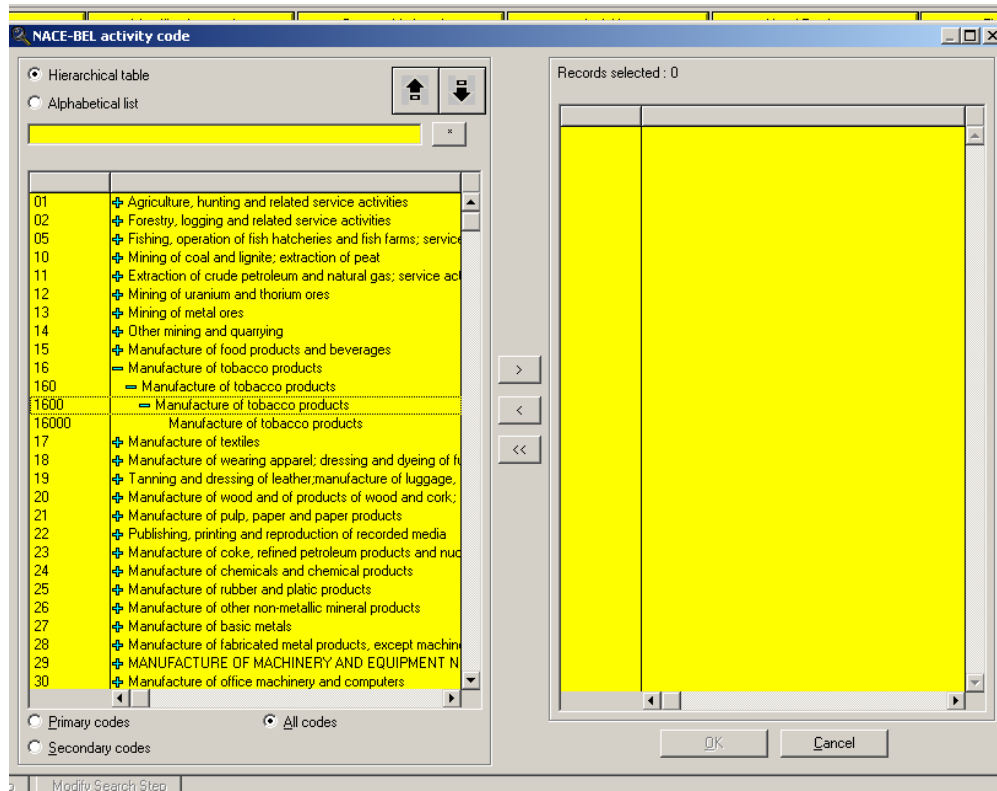
Bel-First allows for comparison of a very large amount of criteria by using the yellow buttons.



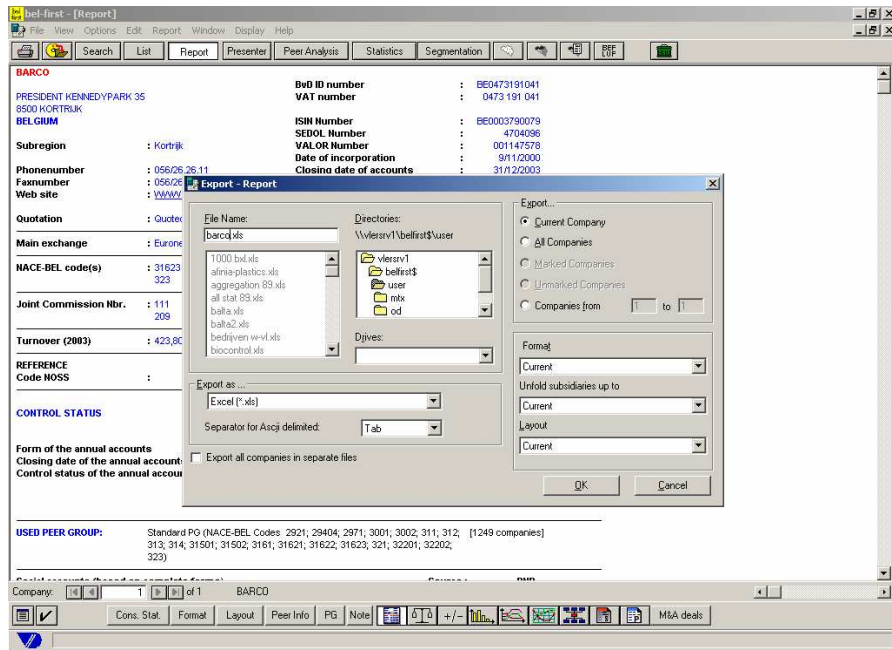
Sometimes input of a minimum or maximum value is asked, e.g. for the *No of Employees* option.



Other choices such as Industrial Activity (NACE-Bel codes) have to be chosen from a fixed list.



It is possible to export data to Ms Excel and other formats.



**The Librarian and Library Assistants are here to help you
with your research!
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