

**Q Is the Risky Business Database finished?**

A We are still working on the RB database, as well as on the website. It is a work in progress that will keep growing over time. We are adding new data from markets that are already in the RB database, while adding new markets. Please contact us in case you have issues with the database, if you are missing query options or if you have suggestions. Contact a member of the Project Team: [sabine.go@vu.nl](mailto:sabine.go@vu.nl) ; [giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it](mailto:giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it) ; [Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it](mailto:Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it)

**Q How do you process time-based insurances in the Risky Business Database?**

A As these insurances were not that widely used and well-known in premodern Europe, the main focus of our RB database was insurances that referred to a specific route. These routes could be very complex, for example, from port A to port B via C or from port A to port D via B and C or the surroundings. We are currently working on adding time-based insurances to our database. Stay tuned!

**Q How can I query the database?**

A Use the search tab available in the Interactive Map page. For example, choose a certain period, a market and port of destination (1720-1750/ Rotterdam/ London) and click on search. We are working on an 'advanced search' with a specific query builder function. Stay tuned!

**Q Is the Risky Business Database freely accessible?**

A Yes, the Risky Business Database is freely accessible! So have a look at the interactive map (<https://riskybusiness.labs.vu.nl/Map>) and query the database itself through the search function. You need to register in order to access the Interactive Map page. The database is meant for scholarly/academic use, so if you wish to use the database for commercial use, please contact a member of the Project Team: [sabine.go@vu.nl](mailto:sabine.go@vu.nl) ; [giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it](mailto:giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it) ; [Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it](mailto:Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it)

**Q Can I download the information from the Risky Business Database?**

A Yes, you can download the information as an excel file. Please register before downloading. When you use the data from the Risky Business database for a publication, we do ask you to refer to the database and the original scholar who has donated his data to the database correctly. The data is not for commercial use, so if you wish to use it for commercial ends, please contact contact a member of the Project Team: [sabine.go@vu.nl](mailto:sabine.go@vu.nl) ; [giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it](mailto:giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it) ; [Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it](mailto:Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it)

**Q How did you obtain the data for the Risky Business Database?**

A Several researchers have donated their data to our project, for which we are very grateful. Other data are the results of original archival searches sponsored by our project. Please make sure to refer to these researchers when using the data. We have a rigorous quality check for every dataset that is added to the database.

**Q Is there some sort of quality control process?**

A Yes, every dataset that is added, is checked by another researcher of the Risky Business Team to make sure the data are entered correctly and the data are consistent.

**Q Can I use the data for my business/ commercial ends?**

A The Risky Business Database is meant for scientific use only. Should you wish to use it for commercial ends, please contact the project team first: [sabine.go@vu.nl](mailto:sabine.go@vu.nl) ; [giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it](mailto:giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it) ; [Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it](mailto:Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it)

**Q How can I join the network?**

A We welcome new members to our network! Please contact the Project Team: [sabine.go@vu.nl](mailto:sabine.go@vu.nl) ; [giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it](mailto:giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it) ; [Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it](mailto:Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it)

**Q Why do you use modern names for port cities rather than the original names?**

A Because we use an application called *Geonames* for the graphic visualisation of the database, our interactive map. We need to use modern English geographical names.

**Q What were the criteria to include an insurance policy to the Risky Business Database?**

A We needed to have at least a date, a route (port of departure, port of destination) and a premium rate. Older policies (14-16<sup>th</sup> centuries) without a specific date but for which we did know the month and year were also included.

**Q Why are the types of ships not all in English?**

A The Risky Business Database contains data from various countries like Italy, the UK, the Netherlands, the US, and Croatia and the data covers a period of several centuries. The names of ship types are very hard to standardise as ship names may look similar in two languages but there may be differences in the actual features of the ship, its rigging, its loading capacity. We have therefore chose to use the original names of types of ships.

**Q I would like to contribute my data to your Risky Business database but would still like to publish about it first myself. Is that possible?**

A We fully understand that your data is of value to you and for your research. It is possible to add your data to the RB database and put an embargo on the data until a specific date (it's up to you to decide the number of months for the embargo to last). See our sharing agreement: <https://riskybusiness.labs.vu.nl/Data/docs/RB%20sharing%20agreement.pdf>

**Q What does it mean, for me as a researcher, when I contribute my data to the Risky Business Database?**

A As the contributing researcher, you will always be the owner of the data. The database is merely another way to make your data accessible to other researchers or a broader audience. For more information, please contact the Project Team: [sabine.go@vu.nl](mailto:sabine.go@vu.nl) ; [giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it](mailto:giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it) ; [Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it](mailto:Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it)

**Q Why do some lines in the table refer to the same scans/original source?**

A Very often scans contain data regarding multiple insurance transactions, for example, the page of an Insurance Register of an underwriter will often have many transactions listed per folio.

**Q How can I contribute my data relating to an insurance market to the Risky Business database?**

A We welcome new data and new network members! Please contact the Project Team: [sabine.go@vu.nl](mailto:sabine.go@vu.nl) ; [giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it](mailto:giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it) ; [Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it](mailto:Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it)

**Q My data is not digitised. Can I still contribute it to the Risky Business database?**

A Yes, we can add data that is not digitised! Please contact the Project Team about the possibilities: [sabine.go@vu.nl](mailto:sabine.go@vu.nl) ; [giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it](mailto:giovannimarcello.ceccarelli@unipr.it) ; [Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it](mailto:Antonio.iodice@edu.unige.it)

**Q What does ‘premium’ mean?**

A The insurance premium percentage is a percentage of the insured sum. So, if a ship with the value of 1,000 pounds was insured at a premium percentage of 10%, the insured (the owner of the ship) would pay 100 pounds to the underwriter for taking on the risks. Sometimes, policies stated the broker’s fee as well, which was often ¼% and included in the premium percentage. If so, this is recorded in the ‘notes’ of a certain policy.

**Q How do I cite the database?**

A The Risky Business database can be cited as follows (compile the parts underlined): Risky Business Database (<https://riskybusiness.labs.vu.nl/>), individual researcher name(s), archival reference, last accessed on DD/MM/YY.

**Q What do the codes in the templates stand for?**

A We used specific codes for the data source and the document columns. These codes are made of the initials of the relevant researchers and a progressive number. They are as follows:

Rotterdam & Amsterdam (Sabine Go)

Data Source Code: DSSG01, DSSG02, DSSG03, DSSG04

Document Code: SG01, SG02, SG03, SG04

Genoa (Antonio Iodice)

Data Source Code: DSAI01

Document Code: AI01

Venice (Antonio Iodice)

Data Source Code: DSAI02

Document Code: AI02

Dubrovnik (Giovanni Ceccarelli)

Data Source Code: DSGC01

Document Code: GC01

Livorno (Jacopo Pessina)

Data Source Code: DSJP01, DSJP02

Document Code: JP01, JP02

**Q Is the Risky Business database deposited in dataverse?**

A We will shortly make sure that the Risky Business database is also available at dataverse. Check back soon!