



# IndustryWeek's Best Plants Benchmarking Database Instructions



Welcome to the IndustryWeek Best Plants Benchmarking Database version 7.0. You are just moments away from creating your own customized benchmarks for your facility. This database draws from the data collected from the annual IndustryWeek Best Plants Competition.

Follow the step-by-step procedure below to learn how to use the product. If you have any further questions, please get in touch with Steve Porter at [sporter@industryweek.com](mailto:sporter@industryweek.com) or by phone at 1-800-326-4146.

1. Go to <http://benchmarking.industryweek.com/benchmarking/>  
Enter your Username and Password that were sent in your order confirmation email.  
Click on the Login button.
2. Click on the link that says, Enter Best Plants Database v7.0. If you want to view the IW Best Plants Statistical Profile or Editorial Profiles first, scroll down to find the links to the appropriate documents.
3. Click on the link that says, "To create a custom benchmarking report, click here."
4. You'll see an introductory page with a list of sections. You can choose to look at each section individually or you can click on the All Sections link to view all the metrics at once.

The screenshot shows the 'IndustryWeek's Best Plants Benchmarking Database' interface. The main heading is 'Best Plants v 7.0, New Benchmark'. Below this, there is a section titled 'Section' with a list of links: 'All Sections', 'All Performance Metrics', 'Plant Profile', 'Management Practices', 'Quality', 'Employee Involvement/Environment', 'Safety', 'Customer Relations', 'New Product Development', and 'Supplier Relations'. The 'All Sections' link is highlighted in red.

5. Within each section (or all sections), you'll see a series of buttons that look like this:

There is a link labeled "Button Help" which explains in detail what each button does.

The screenshot shows the 'IndustryWeek's Best Plants Benchmarking Database' interface. The main heading is 'Best Plants v 7.0, New Benchmark, All'. Below this, there is a section titled 'No Criteria Specified'. There are several buttons: 'Return without changes', 'Update', 'Update and Return', 'Clear All for Section', 'Save Benchmark', 'Button Help', and 'Export to Excel File'. A red arrow points to the 'Button Help' button. Below the buttons, there is a table with the following data:

Current Sample Size: 183	Frequency	Percent
<b>1. Best Plants competition winner, finalist, or non finalist:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Finalist	75	41.0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Winner	50	27.3%
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-finalist	58	31.7%
<b>2. Public or Private:</b>		

Below this are the criteria. These will vary according to the section you have chosen, but in general they look like this:

Current Sample Size: 183		Frequency	Percent
<b>1. Best Plants competition winner, finalist, or non-finalist:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finalist	75	41.0%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Winner	50	27.3%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-finalist	58	31.7%
<b>2. Public or Private:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private	27	14.8%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public	156	85.2%
<b>3. Number of employees:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	fewer than 100	12	6.6%
<input type="checkbox"/>	100 -249	43	23.6%
<input type="checkbox"/>	250-499	52	28.6%
<input type="checkbox"/>	500-999	40	22.0%
<input type="checkbox"/>	1,000 or more	35	19.2%
<b>4. Square footage of plant:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	0-49,999	10	5.5%
<input type="checkbox"/>	50,000-99,999	19	10.5%
<input type="checkbox"/>	100,000-249,999	63	34.8%
<input type="checkbox"/>	250,000-499,999	40	22.1%

- You can now go through each metric and select the criteria you want to sort by. For instance, if you were only concerned about the performance measures of public companies, you would check the box next to "Public".
- When you are finished selecting the criteria, go back up to the set of buttons and click "Update". This refreshes the data to reflect the criteria you have chosen. All of the data now shown applies only to those plants that have satisfied your criteria.
- Filtering down to chosen plants will cause the sample size to drop. You can view the current sample size in the red bar that separates the buttons from the criteria. Just above this bar, the currently selected criteria are also displayed:

Current Sample Size: 43		Frequency	Percent
<b>1. Best Plants competition winner, finalist, or non-finalist:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finalist	18	41.9%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Winner	13	30.2%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-finalist	12	27.9%
<b>2. Public or Private:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private	0	0.0%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public	43	100.0%
<b>3. Number of employees:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	fewer than 100	0	0.0%
<input type="checkbox"/>	100 -249	0	0.0%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	250-499	43	100.0%
<input type="checkbox"/>	500-999	0	0.0%
<input type="checkbox"/>	1,000 or more	0	0.0%

- If you press the button "Update and Return", you will be sent back to the introductory page where you can look at another section. Each section remains filtered through your criteria and shows the qualifying plants' data.
- Continue this process, until you create a benchmark that is useful to you. The best way to start off is usually to progress one metric at a time, narrowing down your sample size. You

can remove certain metrics and update, or remove them all and start fresh by pressing the "Clear All for Section" button.

11. When you have the benchmark you want, you can save it for future access. Press the "Save Benchmark" button and you are taken to a page where you file in a description and a title for the benchmark. When you submit this information, you are taken back to the introductory page, where you can continue working with this benchmark.
12. If you would like to create a new benchmark, simply look in the left hand column and click the link "Create New Benchmark". If you would like to access a previously saved benchmark, click on the link "Select Benchmark".
13. You can also export your benchmark. If you click on the "Export to Excel File" button, you can have a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet with your benchmark sent directly to your e-mail. Once you have the data in Excel, you can create formulas, make charts and graphs, and even export data to PowerPoint slides or Word documents

## Questions?

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact Steve Porter, IndustryWeek Benchmarking Center  
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1-800-326-4146