

# Historical Chart Prices

- [12.1 - Historical Daily Bars Session Times and Evening Session Trading](#)
- [12.2 - Comparing High And Low In a 24 Hour Historical Daily Chart To an Intraday Chart](#)
- [12.3 - Historical Chart Last Price](#)
- [12.4 - Origin of Data in a Historical Chart](#)
- [12.5 - When a New Historical Chart Daily Bar Begins](#)
- [12.6 - Always Beginning Historical Chart Bar at Specified Time According To Symbol](#)
- [12.7 - Displaying Last Trade Price Instead of Official Settlement Price](#)
- [12.9 - High/Low of Last Bar Includes Prior Trading Day Session](#)
- [12.10 - Close Price is Official Settlement Price for Historical Daily Chart Bars](#)
- [12.11 - Differences with Historical Data Due to Dividend Adjustments](#)
- [12.12 - Duplicate Bar in Historical Chart](#)
- [12.13 - Official Settlement Price Only Available in Historical Charts \(Not Intraday\)](#)
- [12.14 - Continuous Futures Contract Chart Back Adjustments](#)

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## 12.1 - Historical Daily Bars Session Times and Evening Session Trading

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This section describes Historical Daily data which is viewed through Historical charts which are opened with **File >> New/Open Historical Chart** or **File >> Find Symbol >> Open Historical Chart**.

For most of the Trading services Sierra Chart supports, the Historical Daily data is downloaded from the [Sierra Chart Historical Data Service](#).

With this service, the Open, High, Low, Close prices are obtained from the exchange where the symbol trades. The exchange always provides the full 24 hours of trading for the symbol. Therefore, the trading activity during both the day and evening session will always be included. However, in the case of US (United States) equities (stocks), the Open, High, Low, Close prices are based upon the day session trading only.

To know what the Session Times are for the Open, High, Low, Close prices, consult with the exchange symbol/contract specifications on the exchange websites. The Session Times cannot be changed for Historical charts. These are defined by the exchange.

Other than the last bar in the chart, the closing price of a bar in a Historical Daily chart is the official settlement price from the exchange. Although in the case of a symbol that has no streaming real-time data available for it, like an expired futures contract, then the last bar in its Historical Daily chart will have the official settlement price.

There is a calculation method that an exchange uses for the official settlement price. It is not the final last trade price for the day. This is something to be aware of because it can be misleading.

The Sierra Chart Time Zone setting does not in any way affect the starting and ending time of the Daily chart bars.

When you compare the Historical chart daily prices which include the full 24 hours of trading, to the daily quote data from other services which do not include the evening session trading, you may see the High is greater or the Low is lower in the Historical chart. This is to be expected.

Historical Daily data downloaded direct from some of the supported Data or Trading services which do not use the **Sierra Chart Historical Data Service**, may only include the Day session. However, this is rarely the case.

To control the Session Times for Daily bars, you need to use an Intraday chart. Refer to [Creating Daily Bars with Custom Session Times](#). Since Intraday data is being used, using this method will mean that you cannot access data as far back in time as with Historical Daily data charts. It will depend upon the amount of historical Intraday data available for the symbol.

## 12.2 - Comparing High And Low In a 24 Hour Historical Daily Chart To an Intraday Chart

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If you compare the High and/or Low in a Historical Daily chart that uses 24 hour bars with the highest high or lowest low for the same time period in an Intraday chart, they may not match if your Intraday chart during the same time period does not contain the full twenty-four hours of trade data or has incomplete data.

You also need to understand what are the trading session times used for the bars in a Historical Daily chart. In other words you need to fully understand what are the specific starting and ending times for a Daily bar when comparing to an Intraday chart to make sure you are comparing to the very same time periods of data. Consult with the exchange for the trading session times for the particular symbol you are looking at.

Please do not contact Sierra Chart support on this particular subject. This is outside the scope of our support.

## 12.3 - Historical Chart Last Price

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The Last or closing price for the current most recent day in a Historical Daily chart always displays the most current last received price for the symbol from the real-time data feed, if connected to the data feed (**File >> Connect to Data Feed**).

If there is 24 hours trading for a symbol, then it will not show the day session close or official settlement price. It will show the most recent trading price received. For information about the official settlement price, refer to [Close Price is Official Settlement Price for Historical Daily Chart Bars](#).

If you want the last trade price on the last bar in a Historical Daily chart to be what was last received from the historical data service, then select **Chart >> Chart Settings >> Chart Data**. Disable **Allow Real-Time Updating of Historical Chart**.

Additionally, to ensure you have the most up-to-date values for the last bar in the chart, select

**Edit >> Download Data - Historical Chart**. Press the **OK** button. This only needs to be done once per symbol and not per chart.

## 12.4 - Origin of Data in a Historical Chart

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The data in a Historical Daily chart opened with **File >> New/Open Historical Chart** or **File >> Find Symbol >> Open Historical Chart**, comes from the data in the Daily data chart data file (.dly file extension).

This Daily chart data in the file is downloaded from one of two sources. In most cases it is downloaded from the [Sierra Chart Historical Data Service](#). Or it is downloaded from the Data or Trading service you are using Sierra Chart with.

When Sierra Chart downloads historical Daily data, it requests all available historical data from the service with data records of a 1 Day timeframe. From this data, bars of a longer time frame can be created. This includes bars that are the specified number of Days and Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly bars.

It is also possible to create Daily or higher timeframe bars from Intraday data. This will be the case if **Intraday Chart Only** is selected in the list box above the **Chart >> Chart Settings >> Intraday Chart Bar Period** frame.

When Sierra Chart is connected to the data feed (**File >> Connect to Data Feed**), the very last bar in a Historical chart is updated with what is known as the Current Quote data from the Data or Trading service you are using. Unless **Chart >> Chart Settings >> Chart Data >> Allow Real-Time Updating of Historical Chart** is not enabled.

You can see this Current Quote data by selecting **Window >> Current Quote Window** when the chart is selected. This data is only held in memory. When there is a new bar added to the Historical chart or there is a reload of the Historical chart from the local data file, this data is temporarily cleared from the chart. However, it will reappear on the very last bar within a second. The Current Quote data is never written to the Historical Daily data file. It only affects the very last bar in the chart.

If there any data errors with the Current Quote data, then you need to contact the Data or Trading service provider about this. However, the first thing to do is to select **File >> Disconnect** and **File >> Connect to Data Feed** to reset the Current Quote Data for the symbols currently being tracked. After this is done go to the Historical chart and select **Chart >> Reload and Recalculate** to ensure the data is reloaded. This will often solve the problem.

If this does resolve the problem, what it indicates is that the particular data feed being used does not periodically refresh the Current Quote data throughout the trading day.

If you do not want to include the Current Quote data from the real-time data feed in the Historical chart, then select **Chart >> Chart Settings >> Chart Data** and disable **Allow Real-Time Updating of Historical Chart**.

## 12.5 - When a New Historical Chart Daily Bar Begins

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In a Historical Daily bar chart, when a new bar begin depends upon the historical Daily data service being used.

In the case where the historical Daily data service provides Historical Daily bar data which has tomorrows timestamp when the evening trading session begins for symbol in the previous day, then a new Daily bar will begin when the Historical Daily bar data is downloaded for the symbol anytime after the evening session begins, from that data service.

In Sierra Chart, there are various rules which cause a historical Daily download for a chart. To perform a historical data download for all of the open Historical charts, select

**Edit >> Download Data for All Historical Charts**.

Otherwise, a new bar will not begin until midnight according to the Time Zone setting in Sierra Chart. It could begin sooner if historical data has not been downloaded since 24 hours for the symbol.

If you want a new bar to appear in a Historical Daily chart at the start of the new trading day, then follow the instructions in the [12.6 - Always Beginning Historical Chart Bar at Specified Time According To Symbol](#) section.

The [Sierra Chart Historical Data Service](#) does provide Historical Daily bar data with tomorrow's timestamp when the evening session begins for the symbol. This data service is used by many of the Data and Trading services supported by Sierra Chart. These services include: TransAct, Trading Technologies, Rithmic, Sierra Chart Historical Data, Interactive Brokers, OEC, CQG, Currenex.

## 12.6 - Always Beginning Historical Chart Bar at Specified Time According To Symbol

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It is supported to always begin a new Historical Daily chart bar at the end of a chart when connected to a real-time data feed, at or after a specific time when a trade occurs for the symbol.

For example, if the new trading day begins at 17:00:00 US Eastern time, then you can cause a new Historical Daily bar at the end of a chart to begin when a new trade occurs at or after that time. Follow the instructions below to accomplish this.

1. Select **Global Settings >> Symbol Settings** on the menu.
2. Locate the symbol or symbol pattern in the list of Symbols that you want to have a new bar start at a specific time for, at the last bar in a Historical Daily chart. If the symbol or symbol pattern is not in the list, then it needs to be added. For additional information about adding a symbol or symbol pattern to the **Global Symbol Settings**, refer to [Global Symbol Settings](#).
3. Select the symbol or symbol pattern in the list of Symbols.
4. Set the **Time Zone**. It is essential that the **Time Zone** be set. The Time Zone needs to be set to the time zone that the Session Times are relative to. Usually this will be the time zone of the exchange.
5. Enable the option **Start New Daily Bar at Start Time**. This must be enabled.
6. Set **New Daily Bar Start Time** to the time you want to new daily bar to start at.
7. Be certain that the option for **Use Custom Symbol Settings Values** is enabled.

8. Press **OK** to save the settings.
9. Now in a Historical Daily chart for the symbol set above, at the last bar in the chart, a new bar will begin at the **New Daily Bar Start Time** when a new trade occurs and connected to the data feed.

If after following the procedure above, you notice what appears to be a missing bar just before the last bar in the chart during the evening trading session for a market, then the problem could be that the data provider is not providing the historical daily data for the trading day which has just finished. The first step is to select **Edit >> Download Data - Historical Chart** and download the latest data.

If there is still the missing bar, then select **Edit >> Edit Data - Historical Chart**. Go to the very end of the file in the editor and look at the last date. The last date in the file should be the date of the trading day which has just finished. If you do not see that date, then the problem is as explained where the data provider is not providing data for the trading day which has just completed. Contact your data provider in this case.

## 12.7 - Displaying Last Trade Price Instead of Official Settlement Price

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For bars other than the most recent/latest bar in a Historical Daily chart, the Close price for the bar will always be the official settlement price provided by the exchange when using the [Sierra Chart Historical Data Service](#). For other historical data services, this will depend upon the data provider. Usually it is the official settlement price.

To see the last trade price on Historical Daily chart bars instead of the settlement price, follow the instructions below.

1. Select **File >> Find Symbol**.
2. Select the symbol from the lists.
3. Press the **Open Intraday Chart** button.
4. Select **Chart >> Chart Settings**.
5. Set the **Chart Data Type** to **Intraday Chart Only**.
6. Set the **Bar Period Type** to **Days-Minutes-Seconds Per Bar**.
7. Set the value in the box below to **1-0-0** (1 Day per bar).
8. Press **OK** to save the settings.
9. For an alternative method to change the chart bars to 1 day per bar, refer to [Changing the Period of the Chart Bars](#).

## 12.9 - High/Low of Last Bar Includes Prior Trading Day Session

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When historical data is downloaded for a Historical Daily chart, and data for the next trading day is received, and a new bar is created, but this new bar contains the prior trading session High and Low values, then this would indicate the data feed you are connected to with the particular Data or Trading service you are using, has not reset the current Daily High and Daily Low values for the symbol.

Follow these instructions to reset them.

1. Select **File >> Disconnect**.
2. **File >> Connect to Data Feed**.
3. Once you are connected as indicated by the green box in the Status bar below the main menu, then select **Edit >> Reload All Charts**.
4. Be sure to wait until you have the connection before reloading the charts. The reloading is necessary to clear out the the prior Daily High / Low from the last bar in the Historical charts.
5. You can also perform a reload individually of a chart by selecting **Chart >> Reload and Recalculate**. This method is more efficient if you have just a few Historical charts open and many more Intraday charts.

## 12.10 - Close Price is Official Settlement Price for Historical Daily Chart Bars

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Usually there will be a difference between the close price of a bar on a Historical Daily chart compared to the close price of a bar at the corresponding time on an Intraday chart.

Therefore, you cannot accurately compare the close price of a bar on a Historical Daily chart compared to the close price of a bar at the corresponding time on an Intraday chart. Usually they will not match! Do not contact Sierra Chart support about these price differences.

When the market is open for a symbol, the close/last trade price of the last bar in a Historical Daily chart should match the close/last price of the last bar in an Intraday chart of the same symbol, as long as the Session Times for the Intraday chart are set to display all 24 hours of trading.

This particular section on this page, describes comparing the close price of bars other than the last bar in a chart.

Historical Daily charts use the official settlement price for the closing price of a bar and this usually is different compared to Intraday charts.

The official settlement price from the exchange is calculated using a certain algorithm. This algorithm can be found in the futures contract specifications on the exchange website the symbol trades on. This official settlement price is not the same price as the last trade price at the end of the trading session.

In general the close prices will not match between Historical Daily charts and Intraday charts.

It is not possible to adjust the **Session Times** in **Chart >> Chart Settings** for Historical Daily charts. They are not used because they are set by the exchange or data provider the data originates from.

## 12.11 - Differences with Historical Data Due to Dividend Adjustments

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When comparing the historical prices for a particular day in a Historical Daily chart to another data source for the same day or to the same chart in another instance of Sierra Chart, and you notice

differences with the Open, High, Low, Close prices, then this may be because the data in Sierra Chart is adjusted for dividends. Or it is not adjusted and you are comparing to historical price data which is adjusted for dividends.

Select **Global Settings >> Data/Trade Service Settings**.

Check the setting of **Download Dividend Adjusted Historical Data**. If it is enabled, then disable it.

After changing this setting, go back to the Historical Daily chart where you noticed differences compared to another data source or to another instance of Sierra Chart and select

**Edit >> Delete All Data and Download**. This will correct the data. This only needs to be done once per symbol.

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## 12.12 - Duplicate Bar in Historical Chart

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When Sierra Chart is connected to the data feed, Historical charts are updated with the current data from the data feed. This data is only stored in memory and is not written to the Historical chart data file.

If a new trading day begins, the market for the symbol has not yet opened, and the data feed is still providing the previous days data, then you might see a duplicate bar at the end of the Historical chart.

This last bar will be similar or the same to the bar before it.

The first step for this kind of problem is to reconnect to the data feed to make sure the Daily Quote Data has been reset for the trading day and is correct for the symbol. Refer to [Reconnecting to Data Feed](#) (**File >> Disconnect** followed by **File >> Connect to Data Feed**). This procedure is not normally necessary when Sierra Chart is connected to a properly engineered data feed. Not all of them are. For example, with any of the Sierra Chart provided data feeds, you should not have to reconnect.

If this does not resolve the problem, then make sure that global Time Zone setting in Sierra Chart matches the time zone of the exchange where the symbol trades. Refer to [Time Zone](#) for instructions.

It is also possible to set a specific time zone on the chart itself. Refer to [Using Different Time Zone in Individual Charts](#) for instructions.

The last solution to this problem is to uncheck the option

**Chart >> Chart Settings >> Chart Data >> Allow Real-Time Updating of Historical Chart**.

There are no further solutions to this. If you see a duplicate bar at the end of a Historical Daily chart, then it is just do to the circumstances and it is not resolvable.

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## 12.13 - Official Settlement Price Only Available in Historical Charts (Not Intraday)

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The historical official Daily settlement prices are only available in Historical Daily charts opened with **Open Historical Chart** in the [Find Symbol](#) window.

You cannot access this data through Intraday charts.

Using the [Daily OHLC](#) study on an Intraday Chart, you can reference a Historical Daily chart and then based the lines in an Intraday chart based upon the Historical Chart data.

## 12.14 - Continuous Futures Contract Chart Back Adjustments

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When using a [Continuous Futures Contract Chart](#), it is supported to back adjust the data to eliminate the price gap between contract months to the next contract month in the chart, when there is a transition from one contract month to the next in the chart.

This back adjustment causes the prices for prior futures contracts in the chart, for different months and years as compared to the current symbol, to be adjusted up or down.

Therefore, when you are looking at a back adjusted Continuous Contract Chart, you are not seeing the real prices. The displayed prices will be higher or lower than actual prices. Keep this in mind when comparing to non-back adjusted data for the same date.

Also refer to [Displaying Rollover Transition Times and Contract Months](#).

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