

import sas — Import SAS files[Description](#)
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Description

`import sas` reads into memory a version 7 or higher SAS (`.sas7bdat`) file. It can also import SAS value labels from a `.sas7bcat` file. `import sas` can import up to 32,766 variables at one time (up to 2,048 variables in Stata/BE). If your SAS file contains more variables than this, you can break up the SAS file into multiple Stata datasets. You can also import SAS value labels from a `.sas7bcat` file.

Quick start

Import the SAS file `myfile.sas7bdat` into Stata

```
import sas myfile
```

Same as above, but replace the data in memory

```
import sas myfile, clear
```

Same as above, but import only variables `x1` and `x2`

```
import sas x1 x2 using myfile, clear
```

Import data from SAS file `myfile` and value labels from file `labels.sas7bcat`

```
import sas myfile, bcat(labels)
```

Menu

File > Import > SAS data (*.sas7bdat)

Syntax

Load a SAS file (*.sas7bdat)

```
import sas [using] filename [, options]
```

Load a subset of a SAS file (*.sas7bdat)

```
import sas [namelist] [if] [in] using filename [, options]
```

If *filename* is specified without an extension, .sas7bdat is assumed. If *filename* contains embedded spaces, enclose it in double quotes.

namelist specifies SAS variable names to be imported.

| <i>options</i> | Description |
|---|--|
| <code>bcat(<i>filename_{vl}</i>)</code> | load value labels defined in <i>filename_{vl}</i> into memory |
| <code>case(lower upper preserve)</code> | read variable names as lowercase or uppercase; the default is to preserve the case |
| <code>clear</code> | replace data in memory |
| <code>encoding("encoding")</code> | specify the file encoding; see help encodings |

`collect` is allowed; see [\[U\] 11.1.10 Prefix commands](#).

`encoding()` does not appear in the dialog box.

Options

`bcat(filenamevl)` specifies that the value labels defined in *filename_{vl}* be loaded into memory along with the dataset. If *filename_{vl}* is specified without an extension, .sas7bcat is assumed. If *filename_{vl}* contains embedded spaces, enclose it in double quotes.

SAS does not assign value labels to variables; therefore, you must use the [label values](#) command to assign the value labels to specific variables after importing them.

`case(lower | upper | preserve)` specifies the case of the variable names after import. The default is `case(preserve)`.

`clear` specifies that it is okay to replace the data in memory, even though the current data have not been saved to disk.

The following option is available with `import sas` but is not shown in the dialog box:

`encoding("encoding")` specifies the encoding of the file. If your file has an incorrect encoding specified in the file header, you can use this option to specify the correct encoding. See [help encodings](#) for details.

Remarks and examples

[stata.com](http://www.stata.com)

`import sas` reads into memory version 7 or higher SAS (.sas7bdat) files. If a SAS variable name from the file does not conform to a Stata variable name, a generic `v#` name will be assigned, and the original variable name will be stored as a characteristic for the variable. If a SAS variable label is too long, it will be truncated to 80 characters. The original variable label will be stored as a variable characteristic. If a SAS data label is too long, it will be truncated to 80 characters, and the original label will be stored as a data characteristic.

▷ Example 1: Importing a SAS file into Stata

We can import SAS files into Stata, either by selecting the entire file or by selecting subsets of the data, with `import sas`. For example, we have the SAS file `auto.sas7bdat`, which contains data on automobiles, and we have value labels for these data stored in `formats.sas7bcat`. Below, we demonstrate how to import these data into Stata. To follow along, download these files to your working directory by typing the copy commands below:

```
. copy https://www.stata.com/sampledata/auto.sas7bdat auto.sas7bdat
. copy https://www.stata.com/sampledata/formats.sas7bcat formats.sas7bcat
```

To load the file `auto.sas7bdat` into Stata's memory, we type

```
. import sas auto.sas7bdat
(12 vars, 74 obs)
```

We can instead import only the variables `make`, `weight`, and `foreign` from `auto.sas7bdat`. We use the `bcat()` option to add the value labels defined in the `formats.sas7bcat` file and the `clear` option to replace the data in memory without saving them.

```
. import sas make weight foreign using auto, bcat(formats) clear
(3 vars, 74 obs)
. list in 1/5
```

| | make | weight | foreign |
|----|---------------|--------|---------|
| 1. | AMC Concord | 2930 | 0 |
| 2. | AMC Pacer | 3350 | 0 |
| 3. | AMC Spirit | 2640 | 0 |
| 4. | Buick Century | 3250 | 0 |
| 5. | Buick Electra | 4080 | 0 |

We list the value labels that we imported using `label list`

```
. label list
ORIGIN:
      0 Domestic
      1 Foreign
```

`ORIGIN` contains value labels for the variable `foreign`. We need to use the `label values` command to apply this label to `foreign`. Then, we save the data with these labels attached.

```
. label values foreign ORIGIN
. list in 1/5
```

| | make | weight | foreign |
|----|---------------|--------|----------|
| 1. | AMC Concord | 2930 | Domestic |
| 2. | AMC Pacer | 3350 | Domestic |
| 3. | AMC Spirit | 2640 | Domestic |
| 4. | Buick Century | 3250 | Domestic |
| 5. | Buick Electra | 4080 | Domestic |

```
. save myauto
file myauto.dta saved
```

Stored results

`import sas` stores the following in `r()`:

Scalars

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| <code>r(N)</code> | number of observations imported |
| <code>r(k)</code> | number of variables imported |

Also see

[D] [import sasxport5](#) — Import and export data in SAS XPORT Version 5 format

[D] [import sasxport8](#) — Import and export data in SAS XPORT Version 8 format

[D] [import](#) — Overview of importing data into Stata

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