

count — Count observations satisfying specified conditions

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Description

`count` counts the number of observations that satisfy the specified conditions. If no conditions are specified, `count` displays the number of observations in the data.

Quick start

Count the number of observations

```
count
```

As above, but where `catvar` equals 3

```
count if catvar==3
```

Count observations for each value of `catvar`

```
by catvar: count
```

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Syntax

```
count [if] [in]
```

`by` is allowed; see [\[D\]](#) `by`.

Remarks and examples

stata.com

`count` may strike you as an almost useless command, but it can be one of Stata's handiest.

▶ Example 1

How many times have you obtained a statistical result and then asked yourself how it was possible? You think a moment and then mutter aloud, "Wait a minute. Is income ever *negative* in these data?" or "Is sex ever equal to 3?" `count` can quickly answer those questions:

```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r15/countxml1
(1980 Census data by state)
. count
641
. count if income<0
```

```
0
. count if sex==3
1
. by division: count if sex==3

-----
-> division = New England
0
-----
-> division = Mountain
0
-----
-> division = Pacific
1
```

We have 641 observations. `income` is never negative. `sex`, however, takes on the value 3 once. When we decompose the count by `division`, we see that it takes on that odd value in the Pacific division.

◀

Stored results

`count` stores the following in `r()`:

```
Scalars
  r(N)      number of observations
```

References

- Cox, N. J. 2007a. [Speaking Stata: Counting groups, especially panels](#). *Stata Journal* 7: 571–581.
- . 2007b. [Speaking Stata: Making it count](#). *Stata Journal* 7: 117–130.
- . 2007c. [Stata tip 51: Events in intervals](#). *Stata Journal* 7: 440–443.

Also see

[R] [tabulate oneway](#) — One-way table of frequencies