

28 Commands everyone should know

Putting aside the statistical commands that might particularly interest you, here is a list of commands that everyone should know:

Getting help

help, net search, search [U] [4 Stata's help and search facilities](#)

Keeping Stata up to date

ado, net, update [U] [29 Using the internet to keep up to date](#)

ado update [R] [ado update](#)

Operating system interface

pwd, cd [D] [cd](#)

Using and saving data from disk

save [D] [save](#)

use [D] [use](#)

compress [D] [compress](#)

Inputting data into Stata

import [U] [22 Entering and importing data](#)

edit [D] [import](#)

edit [D] [edit](#)

Basic data reporting

describe [D] [describe](#)

codebook [D] [codebook](#)

list [D] [list](#)

browse [D] [edit](#)

count [D] [count](#)

inspect [D] [inspect](#)

table [R] [table](#)

tabulate [R] [tabulate oneway](#) and [R] [tabulate twoway](#)

summarize [R] [summarize](#)

Data manipulation

append, merge [U] [13 Functions and expressions](#)

generate, replace [U] [23 Combining datasets](#)

egen [D] [generate](#)

rename [D] [egen](#)

clear [D] [rename](#), [D] [rename group](#)

drop, keep [D] [clear](#)

sort [D] [drop](#)

encode, decode [D] [sort](#)

order [D] [encode](#)

by [U] [11.5 by varlist: construct](#)

reshape [D] [order](#)

frames [D] [reshape](#)

frames [D] [frames](#)

Graphing data

`graph`

Stata Graphics Reference Manual

Keeping track of your work

`log`

`notes`

various

[U] 15 Saving and printing output—log files

[D] notes

Stata Reporting Reference Manual and
*Stata Customizable Tables and Collected
Reference Manual*

Convenience

`display`

[R] display

Stata, Stata Press, Mata, NetCourse, and NetCourseNow are registered trademarks of StataCorp LLC. Stata and Stata Press are registered trademarks with the World Intellectual Property Organization of the United Nations. StataNow is a trademark of StataCorp LLC. Other brand and product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective companies. Copyright © 1985–2025 StataCorp LLC, College Station, TX, USA. All rights reserved.

For suggested citations, see the FAQ on [citing Stata documentation](#).

