webuse — Use dataset from Stata website

Syntax

Load dataset over the web

webuse ["filename"] [, clear ]

Report URL from which datasets will be obtained

webuse query

Specify URL from which dataset will be obtained

webuse set [http://]url[/]

Reset URL to default

webuse set

Menu

File > Example Datasets...

Description

webuse filename loads the specified dataset, obtaining it over the web. By default, datasets are obtained from http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/. If filename is specified without a suffix, .dta is assumed.

webuse query reports the URL from which datasets will be obtained.

webuse set allows you to specify the URL to be used as the source for datasets. webuse set without arguments resets the source to http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/.

Option

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

Remarks and examples

Remarks are presented under the following headings:

- Typical use
- A note concerning example datasets
- Redirecting the source
**Typical use**

In the examples in the Stata manuals, we see things such as

```stata
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/lifeexp
```

The above is used to load—in this instance—the dataset `lifeexp.dta`. You can type that, and it will work:

```stata
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/lifeexp
   (Life expectancy, 1998)
```

Or you may simply type

```stata
. webuse lifeexp
   (Life expectancy, 1998)
```

`webuse` is a synonym for `use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/`.

**A note concerning example datasets**

The datasets used to demonstrate Stata are often fictional. If you want to know whether a dataset is real or fictional, and its history, load the dataset and type

```stata
. notes
```

A few datasets have no notes. This means that the datasets are believed to be real but that they were created so long ago that information about their original source has been lost. Treat such datasets as if they were fictional.

**Redirecting the source**

By default, `webuse` obtains datasets from `http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/`, but you can change that. Say that the site `http://www.zzz.edu/users/~sue/` has several datasets that you wish to explore. You can type

```stata
. webuse set http://www.zzz.edu/users/~sue
```

`webuse` will become a synonym for `use http://www.zzz.edu/users/~sue/` for the rest of the session or until you give another `webuse` command.

When you set the URL, you may omit the trailing slash (as we did above), or you may include it:

```stata
. webuse set http://www.zzz.edu/users/~sue/
```

You may also omit `http://`:

```stata
. webuse set www.zzz.edu/users/~sue
```

If you type `webuse set` without arguments, the URL will be reset to the default, `http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/`:

```stata
. webuse set
```

**Also see**

[D] `sysuse` — Use shipped dataset
[D] `use` — Load Stata dataset
[U] 1.2.2 Example datasets