

intro — Introduction to data management reference manual

[Description](#) [Also see](#)

Description

This manual documents most of Stata's data management features and is referred to as the [D] manual. Some specialized data management features are documented in such subject-specific reference manuals as [MI] *Stata Multiple-Imputation Reference Manual*, [SEM] *Stata Structural Equation Modeling Reference Manual*, [TS] *Stata Time-Series Reference Manual*, [ST] *Stata Survival Analysis Reference Manual*, and [XT] *Stata Longitudinal-Data/Panel-Data Reference Manual*.

Following this entry, [D] [data management](#) provides an overview of data management in Stata and of Stata's data management commands. The other parts of this manual are arranged alphabetically. If you are new to Stata's data management features, we recommend that you read the following first:

[D] [data management](#) — Introduction to data management commands

[U] [12 Data](#)

[U] [13 Functions and expressions](#)

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

[U] [21 Entering and importing data](#)

[U] [22 Combining datasets](#)

[U] [23 Working with strings](#)

[U] [25 Working with categorical data and factor variables](#)

[U] [24 Working with dates and times](#)

[U] [16 Do-files](#)

You can see that most of the suggested reading is in [U]. That is because [U] provides overviews of most Stata features, whereas this is a reference manual and provides details on the usage of specific commands. You will get an overview of features for combining data from [U] [22 Combining datasets](#), but the details of performing a match-merge (merging the records of two files by matching the records on a common variable) will be found here, in [D] [merge](#).

Stata is continually being updated, and Stata users are always writing new commands. To ensure that you have the latest features, you should install the most recent official update; see [R] [update](#).

Also see

[U] [1.3 What's new](#)

[R] [intro](#) — Introduction to base reference manual