

Title

obs — Increase the number of observations in a dataset

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Description

`set obs` changes the number of observations in the current dataset. `#` must be at least as large as the current number of observations. If there are variables in memory, the values of all new observations are set to missing.

Quick start

Add 100 observations with no observations currently in memory

```
set obs 100
```

Add 100 observations with 100 observations currently in memory

```
set obs 200
```

Syntax

```
set obs #
```

Remarks and examples

[stata.com](#)

▷ Example 1

`set obs` can be useful for creating artificial datasets. For instance, if we wanted to graph the function $y = x^2$ over the range 1–100, we could type

```
. drop _all
. set obs 100
number of observations (_N) was 0, now 100
. generate x = _n
. generate y = x^2
. scatter y x
(graph not shown)
```

◀

▷ Example 2

If we want to add an extra data point in a program, we could type

```
. local np1 = _N + 1  
. set obs 'np1'
```

or

```
. set obs '=_N + 1'
```



Also see

[D] **describe** — Describe data in memory or in file

[D] **insobs** — Add or insert observations