Title

> **intro —** Introduction to base reference manual

Description

This entry describes the organization of the reference manuals.

Remarks

The complete list of reference manuals is as follows:

[R]	*Stata Base Reference Manual*
	Volume 1, A–H
	Volume 2, I–P
	Volume 3, Q–Z
[D]	*Stata Data-Management Reference Manual*
[G]	*Stata Graphics Reference Manual*
[XT]	*Stata Longitudinal-Data/Panel-Data Reference Manual*
[MI]	*Stata Multiple-Imputation Reference Manual*
[MV]	*Stata Multivariate Statistics Reference Manual*
[P]	*Stata Programming Reference Manual*
[SVY]	*Stata Survey Data Reference Manual*
[ST]	*Stata Survival Analysis and Epidemiological Tables Reference Manual*
[TS]	*Stata Time-Series Reference Manual*
[I]	*Stata Quick Reference and Index*
[M]	*Mata Reference Manual*

When we refer to "reference manuals", we mean all manuals listed above.

When we refer to the reference manuals, we mean all manuals listed above except the *Mata Reference Manual*.

When we refer to the *Base Reference Manual*, we mean just the three-volume *Base Reference Manual*, known as [R].

When we refer to the specialty manuals, we mean all the manuals listed above except [R] and [I], the *Quick Reference and Index*.

Detailed information about each of these manuals can be found online at

> http://www.stata-press.com/manuals/

Arrangement of the reference manuals

Each manual contains the following sections:

- Table of contents.
  At the beginning of volume 1 of [R], the *Base Reference Manual*, is a table of contents for the three volumes.

- Cross-referencing the documentation.
  This section lists all the manuals and explains how they are cross-referenced.

- Introduction.
  This entry—usually called intro—provides an overview of the manual. In the specialty manuals, this introduction suggests entries that you might want to read first and provides information about new features.

  Each specialty manual contains an overview of the commands described in it.

- Entries.
  Entries are arranged in alphabetical order. Most entries describe Stata commands, but some entries discuss concepts, and others provide overviews.

  Entries that describe estimation commands are followed by an entry discussing postestimation commands that are available for use after the estimation command. For example, the **xtlogit** entry in the [XT] manual is followed by the **xtlogit postestimation** entry.

- Index.
  At the end of each manual is an index. The index for the entire three-volume *Base Reference Manual* is found at the end of the third volume.

The *Quick Reference and Index*, [I], contains a combined index for all the manuals and a subject table of contents for all the manuals and the *User's Guide*. It also contains quick-reference information on many subjects, such as the estimation commands.

To find information and commands quickly, use Stata's `search` command; see [R] **search** (see the entry `search` in the [R] manual). You can broaden your search to the Internet by using `search, all` to find commands and extensions written by Stata users.

Arrangement of each entry

Entries in the Stata reference manuals generally contain the following sections, which are explained below:

> *Syntax*
> *Menu*
> *Description*
> *Options*
> *Remarks*
> *Saved results*
> *Methods and formulas*
> *References*
> *Also see*

Syntax

A command's syntax diagram shows how to type the command, indicates all possible options, and gives the minimal allowed abbreviations for all the items in the command. For instance, the syntax diagram for the `summarize` command is

summarize [*varlist*] [*if*] [*in*] [*weight*] [, *options*]

options	description
Main	
detail	display additional statistics
meanonly	suppress the display; calculate only the mean; programmer's option
format	use variable's display format
separator(#)	draw separator line after every # variables; default is separator(5)

varlist may contain factor variables; see [U] **11.4.3 Factor variables**.
varlist may contain time-series operators; see [U] **11.4.4 Time-series varlists**.
by is allowed; see [D] **by**.
aweights, fweights, and iweights are allowed. However, iweights may not be used with the detail
  option; see [U] **11.1.6 weight**.

Items in the `typewriter-style font` should be typed exactly as they appear in the diagram, although they may be abbreviated. Underlining indicates the shortest abbreviations where abbreviations are allowed. For instance, summarize may be abbreviated su, sum, summ, etc., or it may be spelled out completely. Items in the typewriter font that are not underlined may not be abbreviated.

Square brackets denote optional items. In the syntax diagram above, *varlist*, *if*, *in*, *weight*, and the *options* are optional.

The *options* are listed in a table immediately following the diagram, along with a brief description of each.

Items typed in *italics* represent arguments for which you are to substitute variable names, observation numbers, and the like.

The diagrams use the following symbols:

#	Indicates a literal number, e.g., 5; see [U] **12.2 Numbers**.
[ ]	Anything enclosed in brackets is optional.
{ }	At least one of the items enclosed in braces must appear.
|	The vertical bar separates alternatives.
%fmt	Any Stata format, e.g., %8.2f; see [U] **12.5 Formats: Controlling how data are displayed**.
depvar	The dependent variable in an estimation command; see [U] **20 Estimation and postestimation commands**.
exp	Any algebraic expression, e.g., (5+myvar)/2; see [U] **13 Functions and expressions**.
filename	Any filename; see [U] **11.6 File-naming conventions**.
indepvars	The independent variables in an estimation command; see [U] **20 Estimation and postestimation commands**.
newvar	A variable that will be created by the current command; see [U] **11.4.2 Lists of new variables**.

numlist	A list of numbers; see [U] **11.1.8 numlist**.
oldvar	A previously created variable; see [U] **11.4.1 Lists of existing variables**.
options	A list of options; see [U] **11.1.7 options**.
range	An observation range, e.g., 5/20; see [U] **11.1.4 in range**.
"*string*"	Any string of characters enclosed in double quotes; see [U] **12.4 Strings**.
varlist	A list of variable names; see [U] **11.4 varlists**. If *varlist* allows factor variables, a note to that effect will be shown below the syntax diagram; see [U] **11.4.3 Factor variables**. If *varlist* allows time-series operators, a note to that effect will be shown below the syntax diagram; see [U] **11.4.4 Time-series varlists**.
varname	A variable name; see [U] **11.3 Naming conventions**.
weight	A [*wgttype*=*exp*] modifier; see [U] **11.1.6 weight** and [U] **20.18 Weighted estimation**.
xvar	The variable to be displayed on the horizontal axis.
yvar	The variable to be displayed on the vertical axis.

The *Syntax* section will indicate whether factor variables or time-series operators may be used with a command. summarize allows factor variables and time-series operators.

If a command allows prefix commands, this will be indicated immediately following the table of options. summarize allows by.

If a command allows weights, the types of weights allowed will be specified, with the default weight listed first. summarize allows aweights, fweights, and iweights, and if the type of weight is not specified, the default is aweights.

Menu

A menu indicates how the dialog box for the command may be accessed using the menu system.

Description

Following the syntax diagram is a brief description of the purpose of the command.

Options

If the command allows any options, they are explained here, and for dialog users the location of the options in the dialog is indicated. For instance, in the **logistic** entry in this manual, the *Options* section looks like this:

 Model
. . .

 SE/Robust
. . .

 Reporting
. . .

 Maximization
. . .

Remarks

The explanations under *Description* and *Options* are exceedingly brief and technical; they are designed to provide a quick summary. The remarks explain in English what the preceding technical jargon means. Examples are used to illustrate the command.

Saved results

Commands are classified as e-class, r-class, s-class, or n-class, according to whether they save calculated results in `e()`, `r()`, `s()`, or not at all. These results can then be used in subroutines by other programs (ado-files). Such saved results are documented here; see [U] **18.8 Accessing results calculated by other programs** and [U] **18.9 Accessing results calculated by estimation commands**.

Methods and formulas

The techniques and formulas used in obtaining the results are described here as tersely and technically as possible. If a command is implemented as an ado-file, that is indicated here.

References

Published sources are listed that either were directly referenced in the preceding text or might be of interest.

Also see

Other manual entries relating to this entry are listed that might also interest you.

Also see

[U] **1.1 Getting Started with Stata**