

insobs — Add or insert observations

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Description

`insobs` inserts new observations into the dataset. The number of new observations to insert is specified by *obs*. This command is primarily used by the Data Editor and is of limited use in other contexts. A more popular alternative for programmers is `set obs`; see [\[D\] obs](#).

If option `before(inspos)` or `after(inspos)` is specified, the new observations are inserted into the middle of the dataset, and the insert position is controlled by *inspos*. Note that *inspos* must be a positive integer between 1 and the total number of observations `_N`. If the dataset is empty, `before()` and `after()` may not be specified.

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Syntax

Add new observations at the end of the dataset

```
insobs obs
```

Insert new observations into the middle of the dataset

```
insobs obs, before(inspos) | after(inspos)
```

Options

`before(inspos)` and `after(inspos)` inserts new observations before and after, respectively, *inspos* into the dataset. These options are primarily used by the Data Editor and are of limited use in other contexts. A more popular alternative for most users is `order`; see [\[D\] order](#).

Remarks and examples

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▷ Example 1

`insobs` can be useful for creating artificial datasets. For instance, if we wanted to create a new dataset with 100 observations, we could type

```
. clear
. insobs 100
(100 observations added)
```



▷ Example 2

We are using `auto.dta`, but for our specific example, we need the dataset to have more observations than those provided in this dataset. To solve this problem, we could type

```
. sysuse auto, clear
(1978 automobile data)
. insobs 10
(10 observations added)
```

Typing `insobs` without an option adds the observations at the end of the dataset. Say that instead of the end, we wanted to add five new observations before observation 20. We would type

```
. sysuse auto, clear
(1978 automobile data)
. insobs 5, before(20)
(5 observations added)
```



Acknowledgment

This command was inspired by `insob`, which was written by Bas Straathof of CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis.

Also see

[D] [edit](#) — Browse or edit data with Data Editor

[D] [obs](#) — Increase the number of observations in a dataset