

Description

`twoway area` displays (y,x) connected by straight lines and shaded underneath.

Quick start

Area plot with shading between the line for y versus x and 0, sorting on values of x

```
twoway area y x, sort
```

Same as above, but with shading between the line of y versus x and the y axis

```
twoway area y x, sort horizontal
```

Fill to 100 rather than 0

```
twoway area y x, sort base(100)
```

Label values on the y axis from 0 to 50 in units of 10, and change the angle of the labels

```
twoway area y x, sort ylabel(0(10)50, angle(0))
```

Specify maroon as the line and fill color, and set fill-color intensity to 50%

```
twoway area y x, sort color(maroon) fintensity(50)
```

Add the title “My Title” to the graph

```
twoway area y x, sort title("My Title")
```

Menu

Graphics > Two-way graph (scatter, line, etc.)

Syntax

```
twoway area yvar xvar [ if ] [ in ] [ , options ]
```

options	Description
vertical	vertical area plot; the default
horizontal	horizontal area plot
cmissing(y n)	missing values do not force gaps in area; default is cmissing(y)
base(#)	value to drop to; default is 0
nodropbase	programmer's option
sort	sort by xvar; recommended
area_options	change look of shaded areas
axis_choice_options	associate plot with alternative axis
twoway_options	titles, legends, axes, added lines and text, by, regions, name, aspect ratio, etc.

Option base() is *rightmost*; vertical, horizontal, nodropbase, and sort are *unique*; see [G-4] **Concept: repeated options**.

Options

vertical and horizontal specify either a vertical or a horizontal area plot. vertical is the default. If horizontal is specified, the values recorded in yvar are treated as x values, and the values recorded in xvar are treated as y values. That is, to make horizontal plots, do not switch the order of the two variables specified.

In the vertical case, shading at each xvar value extends up or down from 0 according to the corresponding yvar values. If 0 is not in the range of the y axis, shading extends up or down to the x axis.

In the horizontal case, shading at each xvar value extends left or right from 0 according to the corresponding yvar values. If 0 is not in the range of the x axis, shading extends left or right to the y axis.

cmissing(y | n) specifies whether missing values are to be ignored when drawing the area or if they are to create breaks in the area. The default is cmissing(y), meaning that they are ignored. Consider the following data:

	y1	y2	x
1.	1	2	1
2.	3	5	2
3.	5	4	3
4.	.	.	.
5.	6	7	5
6.	11	12	8

Say that you graph these data by using `twoway area y1 y2 x`. Do you want a break in the area between 3 and 5? If so, you type

```
. twoway area y1 y2 x, cmissing(n)
```

and two areas will be drawn, one for the observations before the missing values at observation 4 and one for the observations after the missing values.

If you omit the option (or type `cmissing(y)`), the data are treated as if they contained

	y1	y2	x
1.	1	2	1
2.	3	5	2
3.	5	4	3
4.	6	7	5
5.	11	12	8

meaning that one contiguous area will be drawn over the range (1,8).

`base(#)` specifies the value from which the shading should extend. The default is `base(0)`, and in the above description of options `vertical` and `horizontal`, this default was assumed.

`nodropbase` is a programmer's option and is an alternative to `base()`. It specifies that rather than the enclosed area dropping to `base(#)`—or `base(0)`—it drops to the line formed by (y_1, x_1) and (y_N, x_N) , where (y_1, x_1) are the y and x values in the first observation being plotted and (y_N, x_N) are the values in the last observation being plotted.

`sort` specifies that the data be sorted by *xvar* before plotting.

area_options set the look of the shaded areas. The most important of these options is `color(colorstyle)`, which specifies the color and opacity of both the area and its outline; see [G-4] [colorstyle](#) for a list of color choices. See [G-3] [area_options](#) for information on the other *area_options*.

axis_choice_options associate the plot with a particular y or x axis on the graph; see [G-3] [axis_choice_options](#).

twoway_options are a set of common options supported by all `twoway` graphs. These options allow you to title graphs, name graphs, control axes and legends, add lines and text, set aspect ratios, create graphs over by() groups, and change some advanced settings. See [G-3] [twoway_options](#).

Remarks and examples

Remarks are presented under the following headings:

[Typical use](#)
[Advanced use](#)
[Cautions](#)

Typical use

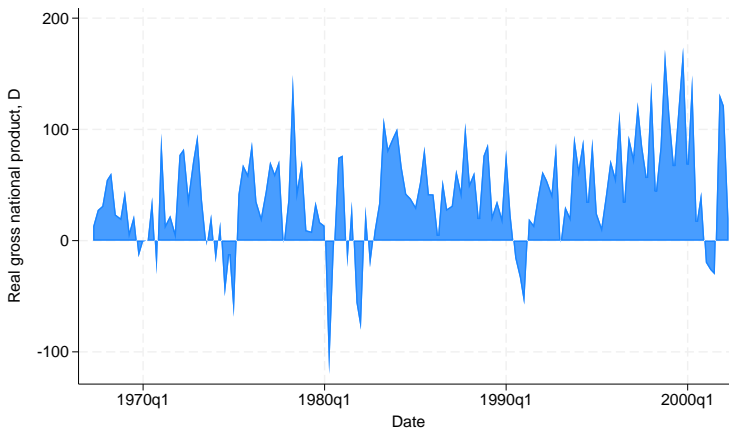
We have quarterly data recording the US GNP in constant 1996 dollars:

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r19/gnp96  
(1996 gross national product)  
. list in 1/5
```

	date	gnp96
1.	1967q1	3631.6
2.	1967q2	3644.5
3.	1967q3	3672
4.	1967q4	3703.1
5.	1968q1	3757.5

In our opinion, the area under a curve should be shaded only if the area is meaningful:

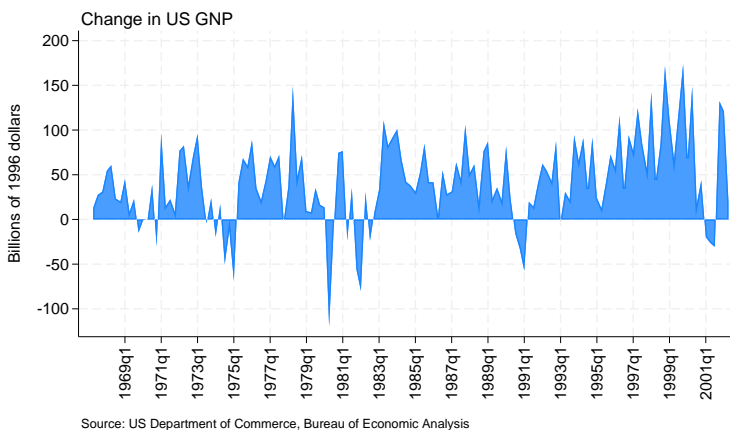
```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r19/gnp96, clear  
(1996 gross national product)  
. twoway area d.gnp96 date
```



Advanced use

Here is the same graph, but greatly improved with some advanced options:

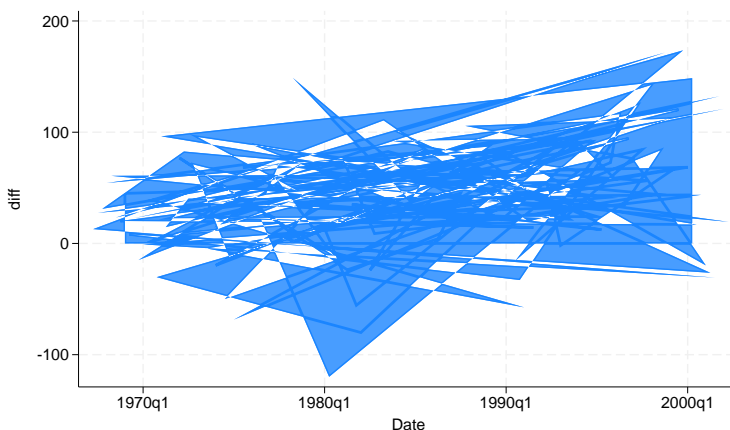
```
. twoway area d.gnp96 date, xlabel(36(8)164, angle(90))
  ylabel(-100(50)200)
  ytitle("Billions of 1996 dollars")
  xtitle("")
  subtitle("Change in US GNP", position(11))
  note("Source: US Department of Commerce,
        Bureau of Economic Analysis")
```



Cautions

Be sure that the data are in the order of *xvar*, or specify *area*’s *sort* option. If you do neither, you will get something that looks like modern art:

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r19/gnp96, clear
(1996 gross national product)
. generate diff = d.gnp96
(1 missing value generated)
. set seed 2938                (for reproducibility)
. generate u = runiform()
. sort u                      (put in random order)
. twoway area diff date
```



Also see

- [G-2] [graph twoway scatter](#) — Two-way scatterplots
- [G-2] [graph twoway dot](#) — Two-way dot plots
- [G-2] [graph twoway dropline](#) — Two-way dropped-line plots
- [G-2] [graph twoway histogram](#) — Histogram plots
- [G-2] [graph twoway spike](#) — Two-way spike plots
- [G-2] [graph bar](#) — Bar charts

Stata, Stata Press, Mata, NetCourse, and NetCourseNow are registered trademarks of StataCorp LLC. Stata and Stata Press are registered trademarks with the World Intellectual Property Organization of the United Nations. StataNow is a trademark of StataCorp LLC. Other brand and product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective companies. Copyright © 1985–2025 StataCorp LLC, College Station, TX, USA. All rights reserved.



For suggested citations, see the FAQ on [citing Stata documentation](#).