

## Description

We outline the basic steps and reference the key commands in creating tables using collections.

## Remarks and examples

We do not discuss the commands below, but you can click on the links to learn more about any command.

### Outline of basic steps and key commands

1. Collect results from Stata commands.

```
. collect: command ...
```

```
. collect get ...
```

```
. table ...
```

```
. dtable ...
```

```
. etable ...
```

Every time you type `collect:` or `collect get`, you are adding the results to a collection. So collections may contain the results from multiple commands.

2. Perhaps combine collections.

```
. collect combine ...
```

3. See what is in the collection.

```
. collect levelsof ...
```

```
. collect dims ...
```

```
. collect label list ...
```

4. Lay out the rows and columns of your table.

```
. collect layout ...
```

Or use the Tables Builder.

Then, reconsider your layout. And repeat until you have what you want.

5. Remove any unwanted results from the collection.

```
. collect unget ...
```

- Decide you do not like the default labels or titles in the headers, and change them.

```
. collect label ...
. collect style header ...
. collect style row ...
. collect style col ...
```

- Customize your table—formats, bolding, italics, colors, and more.

```
. collect style cell ...
. collect stars ...
```

This often requires several steps.

This might involve applying a style shipped with Stata or one that you have previously saved.

Some customizations are specific to your intended export format.

- Export your table.

```
. collect export ...
```

- Perhaps save your layout, headers, and customizations as a style file.

```
. collect style save ...
. collect label save ...
```

Save your labels too.

You can now skip or abbreviate steps 5 and 6 on future tables that are similar to this table.

Even if those styles and labels do not get you all the way with a new table, they may save you a number of steps.

- Perhaps save the collection.

```
. collect save ...
```

You can now come back to the collection and continue making changes to this table or create a different table from the same results.

Before you can effectively perform steps 3 through 6 you will need a working knowledge of tags, dimensions, and the levels that identify tags in a dimension. See [TABLES] [Intro 2](#).

It is also helpful to have a basic understanding of how `collect layout` lays out a table. You need this to effectively handle the inevitable surprises that occur when performing step 4—lay out the rows and columns of your table.

To see examples demonstrating this workflow, see [TABLES] [Example 1](#)–[TABLES] [Example 7](#). Also, see [Juul and Frydenberg \(2021, chap. 15\)](#) and [Mitchell \(2025\)](#).

## References

- Juul, S., and M. Frydenberg. 2021. *An Introduction to Stata for Health Researchers*. 5th ed. College Station, TX: Stata Press.
- Mitchell, M. N. 2025. *Create and Export Tables Using Stata*. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

## Also see

[\[TABLES\]](#) [Intro 4](#) — Overview of commands

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