

`cd` — Change directory

[Syntax](#)[Description](#)[Remarks and examples](#)[Also see](#)

Syntax

Stata for Windows

```
cd
```

```
cd ["directory_name"]
```

```
cd ["drive:"]
```

```
cd ["drive:directory_name"]
```

```
pwd
```

Stata for Mac and Stata Unix

```
cd
```

```
cd ["directory_name"]
```

```
pwd
```

If your *directory_name* contains embedded spaces, remember to enclose it in double quotes.

Description

Stata for Windows: `cd` changes the current working directory to the specified drive and directory. `pwd` is equivalent to typing `cd` without arguments; both display the name of the current working directory. Note: You can shell out to a DOS window; see [\[D\] shell](#). However, typing `!cd directory_name` does not change Stata's current directory; use the `cd` command to change directories.

Stata for Mac and Stata for Unix: `cd` (synonym `chdir`) changes the current working directory to *directory_name* or, if *directory_name* is not specified, the home directory. `pwd` displays the path of the current working directory.

Remarks and examples

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Remarks are presented under the following headings:

Stata for Windows

Stata for Mac

Stata for Unix

Stata for Windows

When you start Stata for Windows, your current working directory is set to the *Start in* directory specified in **Properties**. If you want to change this, see [\[GSW\] B.1 The Windows Properties Sheet](#). You can always see what your working directory is by looking at the status bar at the bottom of the Stata window.

Once you are in Stata, you can change your directory with the `cd` command.

```
. cd
c:\data
. cd city
c:\data\city
. cd d:
D:\
. cd kande
D:\kande
. cd "additional detail"
D:\kande\additional detail
. cd c:
C:\
. cd data\city
C:\data\city
. cd \a\b\c\d\e\f\g
C:\a\b\c\d\e\f\g
. cd ..
C:\a\b\c\d\e\f
. cd ...
C:\a\b\c\d
. cd ....
C:\a
```

When we typed `cd d:`, we changed to the current directory of the D drive. We navigated our way to `d:\kande\additional detail` with three commands: `cd d:`, then `cd kande`, and then `cd "additional detail"`. The double quotes around “additional detail” are necessary because of the space in the directory name. We could have changed to this directory in one command: `cd "d:\kande\additional detail"`.

Notice the last three `cd` commands in the example above. You are probably familiar with the `cd ..` syntax to move up one directory from where you are. The last two `cd` commands above let you move up more than one directory: `cd ...` is shorthand for ‘`cd ..\..`’ and `cd` is shorthand for ‘`cd ..\..\..`’. These shorthand `cd` commands are not limited to Stata; they will work in your DOS windows under Windows as well.

Stata for Mac

Read [\[U\] 11.6 Filenaming conventions](#) for a description of how filenames are written in a command language before reading this entry.

Invoking an application and then changing folders is an action foreign to most Mac users. If it is foreign to you, you can ignore `cd` and `pwd`. However, they can be useful. You can see the current folder (where Stata saves files and looks for files) by typing `pwd`. You can change the current folder by using `cd` or by selecting **File > Change Working Directory...** Stata’s `cd` understands ‘`~`’ as an abbreviation for the home directory, so you can type things like `cd ~/data`.

```
. pwd
/Users/bill/proj
. cd "~/data/city"
/Users/bill/data/city
. _
```

If you now wanted to change to `"/Users/bill/data/city/ny"`, you could type `cd ny`. If you wanted instead to change to `"/Users/bill/data"`, you could type `'cd ..'`.

Stata for Unix

`cd` and `pwd` are equivalent to Unix's `cd` and `pwd` commands. Like `csh`, Stata's `cd` understands `'~'` as an abbreviation for the home directory `$HOME`, so you can type things like `cd ~/data`; see [U] 11.6 **Filenaming conventions**.

```
. pwd
/usr/bill/proj
. cd ~/data/city
/usr/bill/data/city
. _
```

If you now wanted to change to `/usr/bill/data/city/ny`, you could type `cd ny`. If you wanted instead to change to `/usr/bill/data`, you could type `'cd ..'`.

Also see

- [D] **copy** — Copy file from disk or URL
- [D] **dir** — Display filenames
- [D] **erase** — Erase a disk file
- [D] **mkdir** — Create directory
- [D] **rmdir** — Remove directory
- [D] **shell** — Temporarily invoke operating system
- [D] **type** — Display contents of a file
- [U] 11.6 **Filenaming conventions**