

rename — Rename variable

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

Syntax

`rename old_varname new_varname`

Menu

Data > Data utilities > Rename groups of variables

Description

`rename` changes the name of existing variable *old_varname* to *new_varname*; the contents of the variable are unchanged. Also see [\[D\] rename group](#) for renaming groups of variables.

Remarks and examples

stata.com

▶ Example 1

`rename` allows you to change variable names. Say that we have labor market data for siblings.

```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/renamexmpl
. describe
```

Contains data from <http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/renamexmpl.dta>

```
obs:           277
vars:           6                9 Jan 2013 11:57
size:          6,648
```

variable name	storage type	display format	value label	variable label
famid	float	%9.0g		
edu	float	%9.0g		
exp	float	%9.0g		
promo	float	%9.0g		
sex	float	%9.0g	sex	
inc	float	%9.0g		

Sorted by: famid

We decide to rename the `exp` and `inc` variables.

```
. rename exp experience
. rename inc income
. describe
```

Contains data from <http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/renamexmpl.dta>

```
obs:      277
vars:      6                      9 Jan 2013 11:57
size:     6,648
```

variable name	storage type	display format	value label	variable label
famid	float	%9.0g		
edu	float	%9.0g		
experience	float	%9.0g		
promo	float	%9.0g		
sex	float	%9.0g	sex	
income	float	%9.0g		

Sorted by: famid

Note: dataset has changed since last saved

The `exp` variable is now called `experience`, and the `inc` variable is now called `income`.

4

References

- Cox, N. J., and J. Weesie. 2001. [dm88: Renaming variables, multiply and systematically](#). *Stata Technical Bulletin* 60: 4–6. Reprinted in *Stata Technical Bulletin Reprints*, vol. 10, pp. 41–44. College Station, TX: Stata Press.
- . 2005. [Software Updates: Renaming variables, multiply and systematically](#). *Stata Journal* 5: 607.
- Jenkins, S. P., and N. J. Cox. 2001. [dm83: Renaming variables: Changing suffixes](#). *Stata Technical Bulletin* 59: 5–6. Reprinted in *Stata Technical Bulletin Reprints*, vol. 10, pp. 34–35. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

Also see

- [D] [rename group](#) — Rename groups of variables
- [D] [generate](#) — Create or change contents of variable
- [D] [varmanage](#) — Manage variable labels, formats, and other properties