

## Title

**intro** — Introduction to base reference manual

## Description

This entry describes the organization of the reference manuals.

## Remarks

The complete list of reference manuals is as follows:

- [R] *Stata Base Reference Manual*  
Volume 1, A–H  
Volume 2, I–P  
Volume 3, Q–Z
- [D] *Stata Data Management Reference Manual*
- [G] *Stata Graphics Reference Manual*
- [P] *Stata Programming Reference Manual*
- [XT] *Stata Longitudinal/Panel-Data Reference Manual*
- [MV] *Stata Multivariate Statistics Reference Manual*
- [SVY] *Stata Survey Data Reference Manual*
- [ST] *Stata Survival Analysis and Epidemiological Tables Reference Manual*
- [TS] *Stata Time-Series Reference Manual*
- [I] *Stata Quick Reference and Index*
  
- [M] *Mata Reference Manual*

When we refer to “reference manuals”, we mean all manuals listed above.

When we refer to the *Stata* reference manuals, we mean all manuals listed above except the *Mata Reference Manual*.

When we refer to the *Base Reference Manual*, we mean just the three-volume *Base Reference Manual*, known as [R].

When we refer to the specialty manuals, we mean all the manuals listed above, except [R] and [I], the *Quick Reference and Index*.

Detailed information about each of these manuals can be found online at

<http://www.stata-press.com/manuals/>

## Arrangement of the Stata Reference manuals

Each manual contains the following sections:

- Table of Contents.  
At the beginning of volume 1 of [R], the *Stata Base Reference Manual*, is a table of contents for the three volumes.
- Cross-Referencing the Documentation.  
This section lists all the manuals and explains how they are cross-referenced.
- Introduction.  
This entry—usually called intro—provides an overview of the manual. In the specialty manuals, this introduction suggests entries that you might want to read first and provides information about new features.

Each specialty manual contains an overview of the commands described in it.

- Entries.  
Entries are arranged in alphabetical order. Most entries describe Stata commands, but some entries discuss concepts, and others provide overviews.  
  
Entries that describe estimation commands are followed by an entry discussing postestimation commands that are available for use after the estimation command. For example, the **xtlogit** entry in the [XT] manual is followed by the **xtlogit postestimation** entry.
- Index.  
At the end of each manual is an index. The index for the entire three-volume *Stata Base Reference Manual* is found at the end of the third volume.

The *Stata Quick Reference and Index*, [I], contains a combined index for all the manuals and a subject table of contents for all the manuals and the *User's Guide*. It also contains quick-reference information on many subjects, such as the estimation commands.

To find information and commands quickly, use Stata's `search` command; see [R] **search** (see the entry `search` in the [R] manual). You can broaden your search to the Internet by using `search, all` to find commands and extensions written by Stata users.

## Arrangement of each entry

Entries in the *Stata Reference* manuals generally contain the following sections:

*Syntax*  
*Description*  
*Options*  
*Remarks*  
*Saved Results*  
*Methods and Formulas*  
*References*  
*Also See*

## Syntax

A command's syntax diagram shows how to type the command, indicates all possible options, and gives the minimal allowed abbreviations for all the items in the command. For instance, the syntax diagram for the `summarize` command is

summarize [*varlist*] [*if*] [*in*] [*weight*] [, *options*]

<i>options</i>	description
<u>detail</u>	display additional statistics
<u>meanonly</u>	suppress the display; calculate only the mean; programmer's option
<u>format</u>	use variable's display format
<u>separator(#)</u>	draw separator line after every # variables; default is separator(5)

Main

*varlist* may contain time-series operators; see [U] **11.4.3 Time-series varlists**.

by is allowed; see [D] **by**.

*aweights*, *fweights*, and *iweights* are allowed. However, *iweights* may not be used with the *detail* option; see [U] **11.1.6 weight**.

Items in the typewriter-style font should be typed exactly as they appear in the diagram, although they may be abbreviated. **Underlining** indicates the shortest abbreviations where abbreviations are allowed. For instance, summarize may be abbreviated *su*, *sum*, *summ*, etc., or it may be spelled out completely. Items in the typewriter font that are not underlined may not be abbreviated.

Square brackets denote optional items. In the syntax diagram above, *varlist*, *if*, *in*, *weight*, and the *options* are optional.

The *options* are listed in a table immediately following the diagram, along with a brief description of each.

Items typed in *italics* represent arguments for which you are to substitute variable names, observation numbers, and the like.

The diagrams use the following symbols:

#	Indicates a literal number, e.g., 5; see [U] <b>12.2 Numbers</b> .
[ ]	Anything enclosed in brackets is optional.
{ }	At least one of the items enclosed in braces must appear.
	The vertical bar separates alternatives.
%fmt	Any Stata format, e.g., %8.2f; see [U] <b>12.5 Formats: controlling how data are displayed</b> .
depvar	The dependent variable in an estimation command; see [U] <b>20 Estimation and postestimation commands</b> .
exp	Any algebraic expression, e.g., (5+myvar)/2; see [U] <b>13 Functions and expressions</b> .
filename	Any filename; see [U] <b>11.6 File-naming conventions</b> .
indepvars	The independent variables in an estimation command; see [U] <b>20 Estimation and postestimation commands</b> .
newvar	A variable that will be created by the current command; see [U] <b>11.4.2 Lists of new variables</b> .
numlist	A list of numbers; see [U] <b>11.1.8 numlist</b> .
oldvar	A previously created variable; see [U] <b>11.4.1 Lists of existing variables</b> .
options	A list of options; see [U] <b>11.1.7 options</b> .
range	An observation range, e.g., 5/20; see [U] <b>11.1.4 in range</b> .
"string"	Any string of characters enclosed in double quotes; see [U] <b>12.4 Strings</b> .

- varlist* A list of variable names; see [U] **11.4 varlists**. If *varlist* allows time-series operators, a note to that effect will be shown below the syntax diagram; see [U] **11.4.3 Time-series varlists**.
- varname* A variable name; see [U] **11.3 Naming conventions**.
- weight* A [*wgtype=exp*] modifier; see [U] **11.1.6 weight** and [U] **20.17 Weighted estimation**.
- xvar* The variable to be displayed on the horizontal axis.
- yvar* The variable to be displayed on the vertical axis.

The *Syntax* section will indicate whether time-series operators may be used with a command. `summarize` allows time-series operators.

If a command allows prefix commands, this will be indicated immediately following the table of options. The `summarize` command allows by.

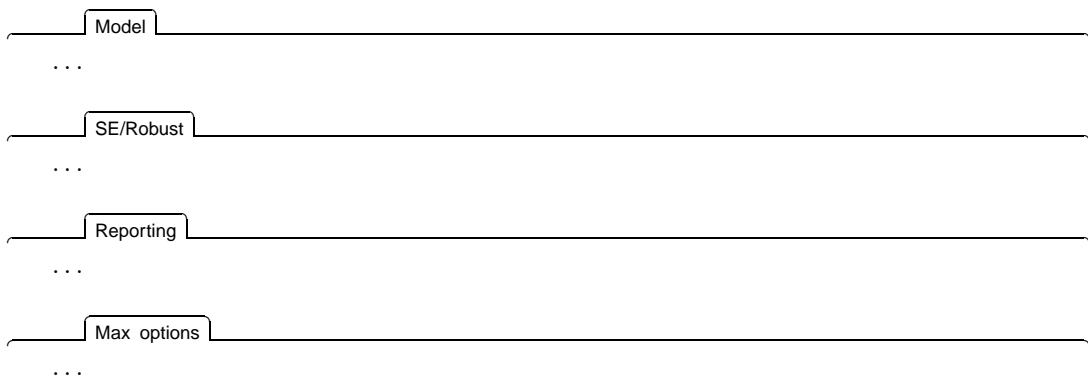
If a command allows weights, the types of weights allowed will be specified, with the default weight listed first. `summarize` allows `aweights`, `fweights`, and `iweights`, and if the type of weight is not specified, the default is `aweights`.

## Description

Following the syntax diagram is a brief description of the purpose of the command.

## Options

If the command allows any options, they are explained here, and for dialog users the location of the options in the dialog is indicated. For instance, in the **logistic** entry in this manual, the *Options* section looks like this:



## Remarks

The explanations under *Description* and *Options* are exceedingly brief and technical; they are designed to provide a quick summary. The remarks explain in English what the preceding technical jargon means. Examples are used to illustrate the command.

## Saved Results

Commands are classified as e-class, r-class, s-class, or n-class, according to whether they save calculated results in `e()`, `r()`, `s()`, or not at all. These results can then be used in subroutines by other programs (ado-files). Such saved results are documented here; see [U] **18.8 Accessing results calculated by other programs** and [U] **18.9 Accessing results calculated by estimation commands**.

## Methods and Formulas

The techniques and formulas used in obtaining the results are described here as tersely and technically as possible. If a command is implemented as an ado-file, that is indicated here.

## References

Published sources are listed that either were directly referenced in the preceding text or might be of interest.

## Also See

Other manual entries are listed that might also interest you.

## Also See

[U] **1.1 Getting Started with Stata**