

Title

intro — Introduction to survey data manual

Description

This entry describes this manual and what has changed since Stata 11. See the next entry, [SVY] **survey**, for an introduction to Stata's survey commands.

Remarks

This manual documents the survey data commands and is referred to as [SVY] in references.

After this entry, [SVY] **survey** provides an overview of the survey commands. This manual is arranged alphabetically. If you are new to Stata's survey data commands, we recommend that you read the following sections first:

[SVY] survey	Introduction to survey commands
[SVY] svyset	Declare survey design for dataset
[SVY] svydescribe	Describe survey data
[SVY] svy estimation	Estimation commands for survey data
[SVY] svy postestimation	Postestimation tools for svy

Stata is continually being updated, and Stata users are continually writing new commands. To find out about the latest survey data features, type `search survey` after installing the latest official updates; see [R] **update**.

What's new

This section is intended for previous Stata users. If you are new to Stata, you may as well skip it.

1. **Survey estimation may be combined with new SEM** for structural equation modeling. See [SVY] **svy estimation** and the *Stata Structural Equation Modeling Reference Manual*.
2. **Bootstrap standard errors for survey data** using user-supplied bootstrap replicate weights. See [SVY] **svy bootstrap**.
3. **Survey SDR weights**, which is to say, successive difference replicate weights, which are supplied with many datasets from the U.S. Census Bureau. See [SVY] **svy sdr**.
4. **Contrasts**, which is to say, tests of linear hypotheses involving factor variables and their interactions from the most recently fit model. Tests include ANOVA-style tests of main effects, simple effects, interactions, and nested effects. Effects can be decomposed into comparisons with reference categories, comparisons of adjacent levels, comparisons with the grand mean, and more. New commands `contrast` and `margins`, `contrast` are available after `svy`; see [SVY] **svy postestimation**. Also see [R] **contrast** and [R] **margins, contrast**.
5. **Pairwise comparisons** of means, estimated cell means, estimated marginal means, predictive margins of linear and nonlinear responses, intercepts, and slopes. In addition to ANOVA-style comparisons, comparisons can be made of population averages. New commands `pwcompare` and `margins`, `pwcompare` are available after `svy`; see [SVY] **svy postestimation**. Also see [R] **pwcompare** and [R] **margins, pwcompare**.

6. **Graphs of margins, marginal effects, contrasts, and pairwise comparisons.** Margins and effects can be obtained from linear or nonlinear (for example, probability) responses. New command `marginsplot` is available after `svy`; see [SVY] **svy postestimation**. Also see [R] **marginsplot**.
7. **Estimation output improved.**
 - a. **Implied zero coefficients now shown.** When a coefficient is omitted, it is now shown as being zero and the reason it was omitted—collinearity, base, empty—is shown in the standard-error column. (The word “omitted” is shown if the coefficient was omitted because of collinearity.)
 - b. **You can set displayed precision for all values in coefficient tables** using `set cformat`, `set pformat`, and `set sformat`. Or you may use options `cformat()`, `pformat()`, and `sformat()` now allowed on all estimation commands. See [R] **set cformat** and [R] **estimation options**.
 - c. **Estimation commands now respect the width of the Results window.** This feature may be turned off by new display option `nolstretch`. See [R] **estimation options**.
 - d. **You can now set whether base levels, empty cells, and omitted are shown** using `set showbaselevels`, `set showemptycells`, and `set showomitted`. See [R] **set showbaselevels**.
8. **Survey goodness-of-fit** available after `logistic`, `logit`, and `probit` with new command `estat gof`. See [SVY] **estat**.
9. **Survey coefficient of variation (CV)** available with new command `estat cv`. See [SVY] **estat**.

For a list of all the new features in Stata 12, see [U] **1.3 What’s new**.

Also see

[U] **1.3 What’s new**

[R] **intro** — Introduction to base reference manual