

Title

intro — Introduction to survey data manual

Description

This entry describes this manual and what has changed since Stata 10. 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. New command `margins`, for use after all estimation whether survey or not, should be of special interest to those doing survey estimation. One aspect of `margins`—predictive margins—was developed by survey statisticians for reporting survey results.

`margins` lets you explore the response surface of a fitted model in any metric of interest—means, linear predictions, probabilities, marginal effects, risk differences, and so on. `margins` can evaluate responses for fixed values of the covariates or for observations in a sample or subsample. Average responses can be obtained, not just responses that are conditional on fixed values of the covariates. Survey-adjusted standard errors and confidence intervals are reported based on a linearized variance estimator of the response that accounts for the sampling distribution of the covariates. Thus inferences can be made about the population. See [R] **margins**.

2. Survey estimators may be used with Stata’s new multiple-imputation features. Either `svyset` your data before you `mi set` your data or use `mi svyset` afterward. See [MI] **mi**.
3. Survey commands now report population and subpopulation sizes with a larger number of digits, reserving scientific notation only for sizes greater than 99 trillion.
4. Survey estimation commands may now be used with factor variables; see [U] **11.4.3 Factor variables**.

5. New reporting options `baselevels` and `allbaselevels` control how base levels of factor variables are displayed in output tables. New reporting option `noemptycells` controls whether missing cells in interactions are displayed. These new options are supported by existing prefix command `svy` and existing postestimation commands `estat effects` and `estat vce`. See [R] **estimation options**.
6. New reporting option `noomitted` controls whether covariates that are dropped because of collinearity are reported in output tables. By default, Stata now includes a line in estimation and related output tables for collinear covariates and marks those covariates as “(omitted)”. `noomitted` suppresses those lines.
`noomitted` is supported by prefix command `svy` and postestimation commands `estat effects` and `estat vce`. See [R] **estimation options**.
7. New option `vsquish` eliminates blank lines in estimation and related tables. Many output tables now set off factor variables and time-series–operated variables with a blank line. `vsquish` removes these lines.
`vsquish` is supported by prefix command `svy` and postestimation command `estat effects`.
8. Prefix command `svy` now supports new option `coeflegend` to display the coefficients’ legend rather than the coefficient table. The legend shows how you would type a coefficient in an expression, in a test command, or in a constraint definition. See [R] **estimation options**.
9. Prefix command `svy` now supports new option `nocnsreport` to suppress reporting constraints; see [R] **estimation options**.

For a list of all the new features in Stata 11, see [U] **1.3 What’s new**.

Also see

[U] **1.3 What’s new**

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