

THE STATA NEWS

Volume 24, Number 3

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www.stata.com

Stata 11 began shipping in July

Have you upgraded yet?

Stata 11 is brimming with new features. Here are just some of the highlights (see page 2 for more):

- Multiple imputation
- Factor variables
- Marginal analysis
- GMM
- PDF documentation
- Competing-risks regression
- State-space models
- Dynamic-factor models
- Multivariate GARCH
- More statistical functions
- Panel unit-root tests
- Multiple fonts in graphs
- Random-number generators
- Multivariate tests

The image displays three overlapping windows from the Stata 11 software interface. The top-left window is the 'Do-file Editor' showing a Stata script with syntax highlighting and code folding. The top-right window is the 'Variables Manager', which lists variables with their labels, types, and formats, and allows for grouping and property changes. The bottom window is the 'Data Editor', showing a grid of data with columns for 'idcode', 'year', 'birth_yr', 'age', 'race', 'msp', 'nev_nar', and 'grade'. A 'Filter Observations' dialog box is open over the data editor, showing a filter expression 'age=18'.

Stata's all-new Do-file Editor for Windows features syntax highlighting, code folding to hide blocks of code, support for multiple open files, and no limits on file sizes. The new Variables Manager makes changing variable names, storage types, formats, labels, and notes a snap. The new Data Editor allows you to sort data, apply filters, take snapshots to preserve and restore data, and enter times and dates.



Inside this issue:

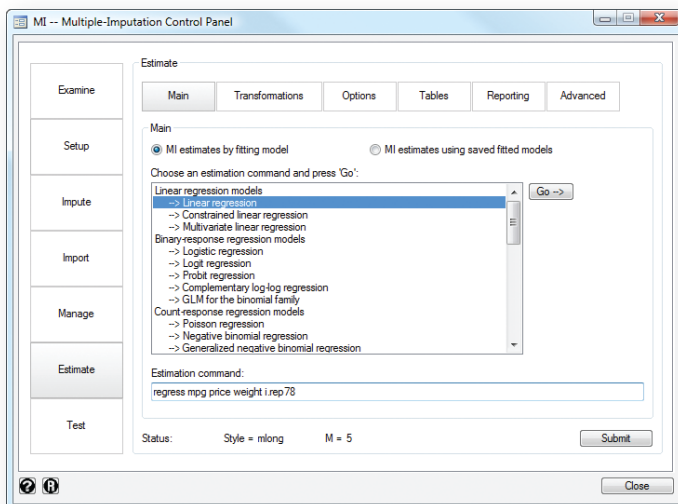
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THE STATA NEWS is published four times a year and is free to all registered users of Stata.

La presente edición de Las Noticias de Stata en español está disponible en la siguiente dirección de Internet:
www.stata.com/news/newse.html.

A sampling of what's new in Stata 11

Stata 11 represents our most feature-packed release ever. New statistical, graphical, and data-management tools will enhance your Stata experience whether you are a biostatistician, econometrician, social-science researcher, or survey data analyst and whether you work with cross-sectional, time-series, panel or longitudinal, survival time, or complex survey data. Here are just some of the highlights.



Multiple imputation

Stata's new `mi` command provides a full suite of multiple-imputation methods for the analysis of incomplete data. `mi` allows you to analyze patterns of missingness, impute missing data, manage multiply imputed datasets, fit models to multiply imputed data, and perform postestimation analysis. A control panel unifies `mi`'s capabilities and guides you along each step of the way.

Factor variables

Stata now handles factor (categorical) variables elegantly. You can specify indicators for each level (category) of a variable without having to create individual dummy variables. You can easily create interactions between multiple factor variables and between continuous and factor variables. The syntax is deeply ingrained into Stata, allowing you to use factor-variable notation with virtually any Stata command.

Marginal means, adjusted predictions, and marginal effects

Stata now does margins, statistics based on predictions from a previously fit model at fixed values of some covariates while averaging over the remaining covariates. Included are marginal means, least-squares means, and average and conditional partial effects. Because of Stata 11's new factor-variable features, Stata's `margins` command understands squared variables and polynomials, so you can get the average partial effect for age even when both age and age squared enter your model. You can also perform Wald tests of hypotheses of estimated margins.

Generalized method of moments

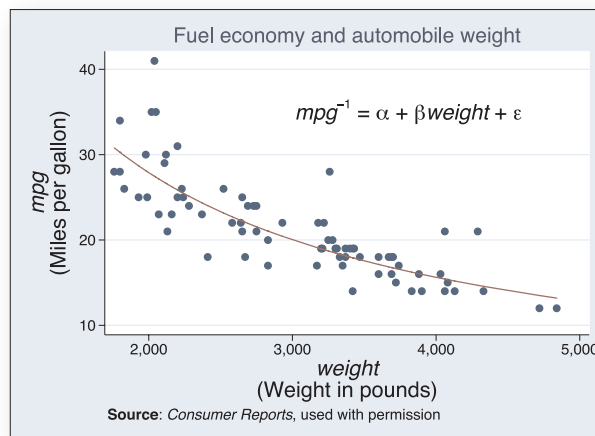
Stata's new `gmm` command makes generalized method of moments estimation as simple as nonlinear least-squares regression and nonlinear seemingly unrelated regression. Just specify your residual equations by using substitutable expressions, list your instruments, select a weight matrix, and obtain your results. For more complicated analyses, `gmm` allows you to write a program to evaluate your residual equations instead of using substitutable expressions. These programs are structured like those that `m1`, `n1`, and `nlsur` use. Both the interactive and programmable versions of `gmm` allow you to specify analytic derivatives.

State-space and dynamic-factor models

Stata's new `sspace` and `dfactor` commands make it easy to fit a wide variety of multivariate time-series models by casting them as linear state-space models, including vector autoregressive moving-average (VARMA) models, structural time-series (STS) models, and dynamic-factor models.

Competing-risks regression

Stata's new `stcrreg` command implements the competing-risks regression model based on Fine and Gray's proportional subhazards model, providing a useful alternative to the Cox model in the presence of one or more competing risks. Unlike censoring, which merely obstructs you from viewing the event, competing events prevent the event of interest from ever occurring; your analysis should adjust accordingly. After fitting a model with `stcrreg`, you can use `stcurve` to produce cumulative incidence functions.



Multiple fonts in graphs

You can now include multiple fonts in regular, bold, and italics; the full Greek alphabet in upper- and lowercase; and over 70 mathematical symbols anywhere that text appears in graphs by using an extended version of Stata's text markup and control language, SMCL. You can also select among sans serif, serif, monospace, and symbol fonts. These new features are available using the `graph` command, the dialog boxes, or the interactive Graph Editor.

Of course, those are just some of the new features. To see a complete list, visit

2009 D.C. Seminars on Stata

Join us in Washington, D.C., at the Hotel Monaco on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, for *Seminars on Stata*—a series of high-level seminars on using Stata effectively. Learn how to work more efficiently and take advantage of Stata's unique features for various types of data, including panel and complex survey, as well as data that contain missing values.

The meeting will run from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM, and lunch will be provided. Registration begins at 9:00 AM with a continental breakfast.

The speakers:

Roberto G. Gutierrez, *Director of Statistics*
Bill Rising, *Director of Educational Services*

Program

9:00–9:30 **Registration, coffee, pastries**

9:30–10:20 **Easy automation and reproducible analysis**

Bill Rising

Learn how to use both script files and the Stata GUI (menus, dialog boxes, Variables Manager, Data Editor, and Do-file Editor) to perform reproducible analyses with both result and command logging.

10:20–11:10 **Panel/longitudinal data and multilevel mixed-effects modeling**

Roberto G. Gutierrez

We will briefly cover the wide range of commands in Stata for estimating models of continuous, count, and binary outcomes with fixed effects and random effects. We will then extend random-effects estimation to intercepts and coefficients at multiple levels. These multilevel models are estimated by `xtmixed` for continuous outcomes, `xtmelogit` for binary outcomes, and `xtmepoisson` for count outcomes. All three commands share a similar syntax, both for model specification and for postestimation analysis.

11:10–11:30 Coffee break

11:30–12:20 **Survey data**

Roberto G. Gutierrez

Most of Stata's estimation commands are equipped to automatically handle data from complex surveys. So long as we declare the survey aspects of our data, the estimates and their standard errors are adjusted for pre- and poststratification, multilevel sampling (clustering), and weighted sampling. We will cover declaring survey data and estimation as well as the three primary survey variance estimators—linearization, balanced repeated replication, and jackknife.

12:20–1:30 **Lunch**

1:30–2:30 **Multiple imputation for missing data**

Roberto G. Gutierrez

Multiple imputation provides a unified framework for handling missing data that is missing at random (MAR) or missing completely at random (MCAR). We will introduce Stata's suite of `mi` commands for imputation, estimation, and data management.

2:30–3:30 **Special topics**

Bill Rising

We will cover a number of topics: 1) how the division of estimation and postestimation (estimates, tests and confidence intervals of linear and nonlinear combinations, marginal effects, linear and nonlinear predictions, etc.) provides a common and powerful framework for performing analyses, 2) Stata's extensibility and its relation to the active Stata user community, and 3) graphics, graphics editing, and creating custom graph profiles. We will also briefly discuss how what we have learned earlier applies to other estimation areas such as survival analysis, univariate and multivariate time-series, and multivariate methods.

Date: October 21, 2009

Venue: Hotel Monaco Washington D.C.

700 F St. NW

Washington, DC 20004

Price: \$195

Information: www.stata.com/meeting/dcsem09/

Logistics organizers

- Sarah Marrs (smarrs@stata.com)
- Karen Strope (kstrope@stata.com)

Visit us at APHA 2009

Philadelphia, November 7–11, 2009

The American Public Health Association will have its annual meeting in Philadelphia from November 7 through 11. For more information, go to www.apha.org/meetings/highlights/.

Stata representatives, including Yulia Marchenko, Senior Statistician, and Bill Rising, Director of Educational Services, will be available at the Stata booth to answer your questions about all things Stata. Stop by booth #808 and visit with the people who develop and support the software.

Stat/Transfer version 10 now available

Ever had a colleague send you an XYZ file that you wanted in ABC format—say, an SPSS file that you wanted in Stata format or the other way around?

Stat/Transfer
File Transfer Utility

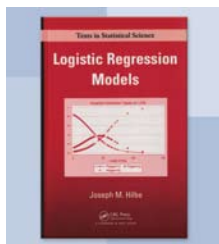
Stat/Transfer makes it easy to move data among the different spreadsheet and statistical programs by providing a fast and reliable way to convert files from one format to another.

Stat/Transfer provides an extremely fast, reliable, and automatic way to exchange data between different spreadsheet and statistics programs. Stat/Transfer was developed by Circle Systems in Seattle, Washington, and may be purchased through StataCorp.

Stat/Transfer 10 supports all Stata datasets, from Stata 1 through the current release, Stata 11.

To place an order or learn more, visit www.stata.com/products/transfer.html

From the Stata Bookstore



Title: *Logistic Regression Models*
Author: Joseph M. Hilbe
Publisher: Chapman & Hall/CRC
Copyright: 2009
Pages: 656; hardcover
ISBN-10: 1-4200-7575-6
ISBN-13: 978-1-4200-7575-5
Price: \$68.50

Logistic Regression Models, by Joseph Hilbe, arose from Hilbe's course in logistic regression at statistics.com. The book includes many Stata examples using both official and user-written commands and includes Stata output and graphs.

Hilbe begins with simple contingency tables and covers fitting algorithms, parameter interpretation, and diagnostics. The later chapters include models for overdispersion, complex response variables, longitudinal data, and survey data. The final chapter describes exact logistic regression, available with Stata's `exlogistic` command. Hilbe does not oversimplify controversial issues, like interactions and standardized coefficients.

The prerequisite for most of the book is a working knowledge of multiple regression, but some sections use multivariate calculus and matrix algebra.

Hilbe is coauthor (with James Hardin) of the popular Stata Press book *Generalized Linear Models and Extensions*.

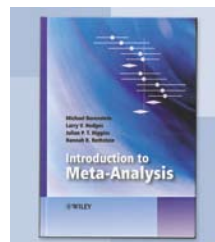
You can find the table of contents and online ordering information at www.stata.com/bookstore/lrm.html. You can also order by using the enclosed Bookstore Order Form.



Title: *Fixed Effects Regression Models*
Author: Paul D. Allison
Publisher: Sage
Copyright: 2009
Pages: 136; paperback
ISBN-10: 0-7619-2497-3
ISBN-13: 978-0-7619-2497-5
Price: \$16.75

Fixed Effects Regression Models, by Paul D. Allison, is a useful handbook that concentrates on the application of fixed-effects methods for a variety of data situations, from linear regression to survival analysis. Fixed-effects models make less restrictive assumptions than their random-effects counterparts. For example, fixed-effects models allow unobservable variables to have whatever associations with the observed variables. As Allison points out, the individuals act as their own controls in a fixed-effects setting. That is not to say that fixed-effects models are without their disadvantages. For example, the effects of covariates that are constant within individuals cannot be measured in this setting. However, such disadvantages should not dissuade one from using this powerful analysis technique that makes the most minimal of independence assumptions. In an appendix, Allison shows how to perform all the analyses by using Stata.

You can find the table of contents and online ordering information at www.stata.com/bookstore/ferm.html. You can also order by using the enclosed Bookstore Order Form.



Title: *Introduction to Meta-Analysis*
Authors: Michael Borenstein, Larry V. Hedges, Julian P. T. Higgins, and Hannah R. Rothstein
Publisher: Wiley
Copyright: 2009
Pages: 450; hardcover
ISBN-10: 0-470-05724-6
ISBN-13: 978-0-470-05724-7
Price: \$54.75

Meta-analysis has gained increasing popularity since the early 1990s as a way to synthesize the results from separate studies. It is widely used in the medical sciences, education, and business. This text is both complete and current, and is ideal for researchers wanting a conceptual treatment of the methodology. A chapter on statistical software for performing meta-analysis (including how to do so in Stata) is also included.

You can find the table of contents and online ordering information at www.stata.com/bookstore/ima.html. You can also order by using the enclosed Bookstore Order Form.

2009 Canadian Stata Users Group meeting

Date: October 22, 2009
 Venue: Pantages Hotel
 200 Victoria Street
 Toronto, ON M5B 1V8
www.pantageshotel.com

	Price	Student price
Meeting	US\$95	US\$40
Optional dinner	US\$34	

Information: www.stata.com/meeting/canada09/

The first Canadian Stata Users Group meeting will be held Thursday, October 22, 2009, at the Pantages Hotel in downtown Toronto.

Stata Users Group meetings are enjoyable and rewarding for Stata users at all levels and from all disciplines. As in other Stata Users Group meetings, the program will consist primarily of user presentations together with the ever-popular “Wishes and grumbles” session in which users have an opportunity to share their comments and suggestions directly with developers from StataCorp.

Lee Sieswerda (Thunder Bay District Health Unit) is the invited speaker. StataCorp will be represented by Jeff Pitblado, Associate Director of Statistical Software and primary architect of Stata’s survey data capabilities. In addition to a presentation on survey statistics, Jeff will be giving a report to users.

Toronto is one of Canada’s most vibrant and cosmopolitan centers. Its diverse cultural communities, stunning views, and outstanding shopping and dining opportunities add to its charm. Toronto has an active sports life, including the Toronto Raptors (NBA), Toronto Maple Leafs (NHL), Toronto Blue Jays (MLB), and Toronto Argonauts (CFL, football). Toronto also has one of the larger zoos in North America and is home to one of Canada’s largest amusement parks, Canada’s Wonderland. Toronto is also within easy driving distance to the magnificent Niagara Falls and Ontario Wine Country.



Presentations

Presentations already accepted include the following:

Automating the production of descriptive tables at Statistics Canada: mog.ado, a user-written program

Matt Hurst
Statistics Canada

Teaching Stata—some reflections after 8 years of training experiences

Karen Robson
York University

Using Stata graphs to visually monitor the progress of multicenter randomized clinical trials

Glenn Jones
McMaster University

Teaching Stata and statistics in contexts of evidence-based medicine and clinical trials

Glenn Jones
McMaster University

Data cleaning in Stata using Internet search engines

Sergiy Radyakin
The World Bank

Using and teaching Stata in emergency medicine research rotation

Muhammad Waseem
Lincoln Medical & Mental Health Center

Using Stata with Statistics Canada data: Incorporating complex survey design into analysis

Leslie-Anne Keown
Statistics Canada

Survey data analysis in Stata

Jeff Pitblado
StataCorp

Scientific committee

- Leslie-Anne Keown (chair), *Statistics Canada*
leslie-anne.keown@statcan.ca
- Louis Gagnon, *Queens University*
lgagnon@business.queensu.ca

Logistics organizers

- Chris Farrar, *StataCorp*
cfarrar@stata.com
- Gretchen Farrar, *StataCorp*
gfarrar@stata.com

2009 Australian and New Zealand Stata Users Group meeting

Date: November 5, 2009
 Venue: The University of Sydney
 The Darlington Centre
 NSW 2006
 Australia

	Date	Price
Meeting only	November 5	A\$80
Workshop: Analyzing complex survey data using Stata	November 4	A\$80
Workshop: Introduction to Stata programming and Mata matters	November 6	A\$80

Information: www.stata.com/meeting/australia09/

The first Australian and New Zealand Stata Users Group (ANZSUG) meeting was a big success when it was held in Adelaide in 2004. The second was held in Melbourne in September 2006. Now the third Stata Users Group meeting will be held in Sydney on Thursday, November 5. Stata users from all disciplines are invited to attend. Beginners, experts, and anyone in between are welcome.

The aim is to bring together a wide range of users to discuss statistical analysis, data management, and graphics using Stata. Speakers are encouraged to present their experiences with the package, whether using standard commands, writing new programs, or exploiting the graphics facilities.

This meeting involves structured thematic sessions on novel usage of Stata for analysis of biostatistics, econometric, psychological data, etc. Alan Riley, Vice President of StataCorp, will host a “Wishes and grumbles” session.

Two one-day workshops are also available at an additional cost:

- Analyzing complex survey data using Stata (Nov. 4)
 Roberto G. Gutierrez
Director of Statistics, StataCorp
- Introduction to Stata programming and Mata matters (Nov. 6)
 Karl Keesman
Managing Director, Survey Design & Analysis P/L

Scientific organizers

- Demetris Christodoulou, *The University of Sydney*
- Vasilis Sarafidis, *The University of Sydney*

Logistics organizer

The logistics are being organized by Survey Design and Analysis Services Ptd Ltd (www.survey-design.com.au), the distributor of Stata in Australia and New Zealand.

Registration and information

For more information, visit www.stata.com/meeting/australia09/.

2009 Italian Stata Users Group meeting

Dates: November 19–20, 2009
 Venue: L'Hotel Anglo American
 Via Garibaldi
 9 50123 Florence
 Italy

	Price
Day 1 only (no training course)	€90
Day 1 + course “Analisi Statistica degli Studi di Coorte in Stata”	€295
Day 1 + course “Data Visualization in Stata”	€295
Optional dinner	TBA

Information: www.stata.com/meeting/italy09/

TStat S.r.l., the distributor of Stata software in Italy, is pleased to announce the sixth Italian Stata Users Group meeting, to be held in Florence on Thursday and Friday, November 19–20. The objective of the meeting is to provide Stata users working in different research areas with the opportunity to exchange ideas, experiences, and information on new applications of the software.

The meeting will be organized into four sessions. Each session will include three presentations of approximately 20 minutes, followed by 10 to 15 minutes of discussion. David Drukker, Director of Econometrics at StataCorp, will give a presentation on spatial-autoregressive models in Stata.

Two training courses will be organized on the second day of the meeting: the first, “Analisi Statistica degli Studi di Coorte in Stata” will be given in Italian by Rino Bellocco of the Università degli Studi di Milano–Bicocca and the Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Karolinska Institutet. Suited to researchers in the public health sector, it will offer participants an introduction to count-data analysis in which the primary objective is to evaluate the association between exposure to a risk factor and incidence of sickness or mortality.

The second, “Data Visualization in Stata” will be given in English by Bill Rising, Director of Educational Services at StataCorp, and will include an in-depth discussion of Stata’s graphical capabilities. More-detailed information regarding the training courses and a detailed program will be published by the beginning of November.

Scientific organizers

- Una-Louise Bell, *TStat S.r.l.*
- Rino Bellocco, *Karolinska Institutet*
- Giovanni Capelli, *Università degli Studi di Cassino*
- Maurizio Pisati, *Università degli Studi di Milano–Bicocca*
- Marcello Pagano, *Harvard School of Public Health*

Logistics organizer

The meeting is being organized by TStat S.r.l. (www.tstat.it), the distributor of Stata in Italy.

Registration and information

For more information, visit www.stata.com/meeting/italy09/.

Public training course

Using Stata Effectively: Data Management, Graphics, and Analysis Fundamentals

Chicago: October 28–29, 2009

Become intimately familiar with all three components of Stata: data management, analysis, and graphics. These two-day courses are taught by a senior member of the StataCorp staff and offer hands-on, individualized instruction, with each participant having access to a computer with Stata 11 installed. The courses are aimed at both new Stata users and those who would like to optimize their workflow and to pick up tips for efficient day-to-day usage of Stata. Upon completion of the course, you will be able to use Stata efficiently for basic analyses and graphics. You will be able to do this in a reproducible manner, making collaborative changes and follow-up analyses much simpler. Finally, you will be able to make your datasets self-explanatory to your coworkers and your future self.

Whether you currently own Stata 11 or you are considering an upgrade or new purchase, these courses will unquestionably make you more proficient with Stata's wide-ranging capabilities.

Course topics include

- ◆ Stata basics
 - Keeping organized
 - Knowing how Stata treats data
 - Using dialog boxes efficiently
 - Using the Command window
 - Saving time and effort while working
- ◆ Data management
 - Reading in datasets of various standard formats (such as those from spreadsheets or databases)
 - Labeling variables and setting up encoded variables
 - Generating new variables in an efficient fashion, including leading, lagging, generating statistics within groups, and working across variables
 - Combining datasets, both by adding observations and by adding variables
 - Reshaping datasets for repeated measurements
- ◆ Workflow
 - Using both menus and the Command window to work quickly
 - Setting up Stata to your liking
 - Keeping complete records of what is done inside Stata
 - Creating a reproducible analysis, which is completely documented
 - Finding, installing, and removing user-written extensions to Stata
 - Customizing how Stata starts up and where it looks for files
- ◆ Analysis
 - Using basic statistical commands
 - Reusing results of Stata commands
 - Using common postestimation commands, such as testing hypotheses about linear or nonlinear combinations of coefficients, generating fitted values, or looking at marginal effects

- ◆ Graphics
 - Making common, simple graphs
 - Building up complex graphs
 - Using the Graph Editor

Registration and information

Instructor: Bill Rising
 Web: www.stata.com/training/enroll.html
 Email: training@stata.com
 Tel: 979-696-4600 or 800-782-8272
 Fax: 979-696-4601
 Cost: \$950

Enrollment in each course is limited to 24 participants. Computers with Stata 11 installed are provided at all public training sessions. All training courses run from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM each day. Participants are encouraged to bring a USB flash drive to all public training sessions; this is the safest and simplest way to save your work from the session.

For more information, visit www.stata.com/training/public.html.

NetCourse™ schedule

Enroll by visiting www.stata.com/netcourse/, or use the enclosed order form.

NC101: Introduction to Stata

Content: An introduction to using Stata interactively
 Prerequisites: Stata 11
 Course leaders: Theresa Boswell, Kerry Kammire, Jennifer Rolfe
 Course length: 6 weeks (4 lectures)
 Dates: October 16–November 27, 2009
 Enrollment deadline: October 15, 2009
 Price: \$95
 Course syllabus: www.stata.com/netcourse/nc101.html

NC151: Introduction to Stata Programming

Content: An introduction to Stata programming dealing with what most statistical software users mean by programming, namely, the careful performance of reproducible analyses
 Prerequisites: Stata 11; basic knowledge of using Stata interactively
 Course leaders: Theresa Boswell, Kerry Kammire, Jennifer Rolfe
 Course length: 6 weeks (4 lectures)
 Dates: October 16–November 27, 2009
 Enrollment deadline: October 15, 2009
 Price: \$125
 Course syllabus: www.stata.com/netcourse/nc151.html

NC152: Advanced Stata Programming

Content: This course teaches you how to create and debug new commands that are indistinguishable from those of official Stata. It is assumed that you know why and when to program and, to some extent, how. You will learn how to parse both standard and nonstandard Stata syntax by using the intuitive `syntax` command, how to manage and process saved results, how to process by-groups, and more.

Prerequisites: Stata 10 or Stata 11; course content of NetCourse 151 or equivalent knowledge

Course leaders: Theresa Boswell, Kevin Crow, Kerry Kammire

Course length: 7 weeks (5 lectures)

Dates: October 9–November 27, 2009

Enrollment deadline: October 8, 2009

Price: \$150

Course syllabus: www.stata.com/netcourse/nc152.html

NC461: Introduction to Univariate Time Series with Stata

Content: This course introduces univariate time-series analysis, emphasizing the practical aspects most needed by practitioners and applied researchers. The course is written to appeal to a broad array of users, including economists, forecasters, financial analysts, managers, and anyone who encounters time-series data.

Prerequisites: Stata 10 or Stata 11; course content of NetCourse 101 or equivalent knowledge; familiarity with basic cross-sectional summary statistics and linear regression

Course leaders: Brian Poi, Gustavo Sanchez

Course length: 7 weeks (4 lectures plus an overview of multivariate methods)

Dates: October 9–November 27, 2009

Enrollment deadline: October 8, 2009

Price: \$295

Course syllabus: www.stata.com/netcourse/nc461.html

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