

Guide to Importing SIPP Data Files into SAS

SIPP data are available on the SIPP FTP site in .dat format, a generic file type that can be opened using a variety of programs. Data users can transform .dat files into SAS datasets through the following steps:

1. Find your desired data by looking at the descriptions in the “File” column on the SIPP FTP Page (http://thedataweb.rm.census.gov/ftp/sipp_ftp.html).
2. If you run SAS from a server, download one of the three compressed files to your computer, and transfer this file to your server. All three files can be uncompressed using standard Unix commands. Use the *unzip* command for the DOS/Windows (.zip) files, and *gunzip* for the GNU gzip (.gz) and Standard Unix (.z) files. If you run SAS directly from your PC, download the DOS/Windows file and use WinZip to unzip your file. Uncompressing the files will return them to their original .dat format.
3. On the FTP site, locate the “SAS Input Statements” file that corresponds to your data file*. While each topical module has its own set of input statements, the core files within a panel typically use the same set of input statements. In the “Size” column, click on the hyperlink to the file. Highlight, copy, and paste the input statements from the file into a new SAS program. The file layout provided in the SAS input statements can also be used to import raw data into other types of software such as Stata or SPSS.
4. In the *libname* statement, insert the location of your .dat file from Step 2 inside the single quotation marks.
5. In the *filename* statement, check that the data file inside the single quotation marks matches the name of your .dat file from Step 2.
6. Submit your SAS program. You should now have a SAS dataset with the same name as the .dat file.
7. Check for errors in your SAS log. If the data did not import correctly, verify that you submitted the correct set of SAS input statements for your data file.

Unix Commands for Uncompressing Files

DOS/Windows:	<code>unzip filename.zip</code>
GNU gzip:	<code>gunzip filename.gz</code>
Standard Unix:	<code>gunzip filename.z</code>

* SAS input statements are currently unavailable for the 1990, 1991, and 1992 SIPP panels, however, this data is available through DataFerrett (<http://dataferrett.census.gov/LaunchDFA.html>). Please contact us at census.sipp@census.gov or 1.888.245.3076 with any questions.