CHAPTER

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BY-Group Processing in SAS Programs

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Definition

BY-group processing is a method of processing observations from one or more SAS data sets that are grouped or ordered by values of one or more common variables. You can use BY-group processing in both DATA and PROC steps.

The most common use of BY-group processing in the DATA step is to combine two or more SAS data sets by using the BY statement with a SET, MERGE, MODIFY, or UPDATE statement. When you create reports or summaries with SAS procedures, BY-group processing allows you to group information in the output according to values of one or more variables.

See

- For more information about BY-Group processing, see Chapter 23, “BY-Group Processing in the DATA Step,” on page 303.
- For information about how to use BY-group processing with SAS procedures, see “Fundamental Concepts for Using Base SAS Procedures” and individual procedures in the *SAS Procedures Guide*.
- For information about using BY-group processing to combine information from multiple SAS data sets, see Chapter 24, “Reading, Combining, and Modifying SAS Data Sets,” on page 315. For even more extensive examples of BY-group processing, see *Combining and Modifying SAS Data Sets: Examples*.
- For information about the BY statement, see “Statements” in *SAS Language Reference: Dictionary*.
- For information about how to use BY-group processing with other software products, see the SAS documentation for those products.

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