

Fiscal Studies graphs in Stata

There is a *scheme* that can be used to create the *basis* of Fiscal Studies style graphs in Stata. In particular, the scheme will adjust the colours used in graphs (to give a white background with data points in grey scale), the markers and the axis labels.

Authors should also follow the style guidelines on figures (some adjustments will be required depending on the specific context), and ensure that figures are consistent throughout the paper. Further guidance on using stata, including how to change the emphasis in axis titles, is given below.

How to use scheme:

A file containing the Fiscal Studies scheme is available to download from:

http://www.ifs.org.uk/uploads/publications/fiscal_studies/FiscalStudies.scheme

The *FiscalStudies.scheme* file should be saved in Stata's ado directory (usually C:\ado).

The scheme can be used in two ways:

1. Set the scheme to be the default (i.e. all figures drawn following this command will be in the 'FiscalStudies' style).
 - o Type: `set scheme FiscalStudies [, permanently]`
2. Specify the scheme as an option when using a graph command.
 - o Type: `scatter (or other graph command) , scheme(FiscalStudies)`

Other options can be used in addition to specifying the scheme in the normal way (i.e. in accordance with the graph commands).

The scheme can be viewed by typing: `viewsource scheme-FiscalStudies.scheme`

Adjusting axis titles

In addition to using the scheme, Fiscal Studies figures should have axis titles that are bold. This is achieved when labelling the figure axes using the options commands as follows:

Axis titles: ..., `xtitle({bf: Title given to the x-axis}) ytitle({bf: Title given to the y-axis})`

Legend keys:

Legends can be labelled as follows: ... , `legend(label(1 description of 1st key) (# description of #th key))`

Overall example:

```
line `xvar1' `xvar2' `yvar', scheme(FiscalStudies) legend(label(1
label for xvar1) label( 2 label for xvar2)) xtitle({bf: Title given
to the x-axis}) ytitle({bf: Title given to the y-axis})
```