

How can I convert a numeric variable into a date using the SAS software?

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To convert a numeric variable into a date using the SAS software, you can use the INPUT function. This function allows you to specify the format of the input variable and convert it into a date format. You can also use the DATE informat to directly read a numeric variable as a date. Additionally, you can use the PUT function to convert a numeric variable into a specific date format. It is important to ensure that the numeric variable is in the correct format before performing any conversion. By utilizing these functions, you can easily convert a numeric variable into a date in SAS.

SAS: Convert Numeric Variable to Date

You can use the following basic syntax to convert a numeric variable to a date variable in SAS:

```
date_var = input(put(numeric_var, 8.), MMDDYY10.);  
format date_var MMDDYY10.;
```

The following example shows how to use this function in practice.

Related:

Example: Convert Numeric Variable to Date in SAS

Suppose we have the following dataset in SAS that shows the total sales made by some store during various different days:

```
/*create dataset*/  
data original_data;
```

```
input day sales;  
datalines;  
01012022 15  
01022022 19  
01052022 22  
01142022 11  
01152022 26  
01212022 28  
;  
run;
```

```
/*view dataset*/  
proc printdata=original_data;
```

Obs	day	sales
1	01012022	15
2	01022022	19
3	01052022	22
4	01142022	11
5	01152022	26
6	01212022	28

We can use proc contents to view the data type of each variable in the dataset:

```
/*display data type for each variable*/
```

```
proc contentsdata=original_data;
```

#	Variable	Type	Len
1	day	Num	8
2	sales	Num	8

We can see that day and sales are both numeric variables.

We can use the following code to create a new dataset in which we convert the day variable from numeric to date:

```
/*create new dataset where 'day' is date*/  
data new_data;  
set original_data;  
date_day = input(put(day, 8.), MMDDYY10.);  
format date_day MMDDYY10.;  
drop day;  
run;
```

```
/*view new dataset*/  
proc printdata=new_data;
```

Obs	sales	date_day
1	15	01/01/2022
2	19	01/02/2022
3	22	01/05/2022
4	11	01/14/2022
5	26	01/15/2022
6	28	01/21/2022

Note: We used the drop function to drop the original day variable from the dataset.

We can see that the new variable we created, date_day, is in a date format.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in SAS: