



## How to Convert Dates from Text to Date Format

Based on SPSS version 13.0

Select the syntax below based on the format of the date in text (i.e., for text dates that are in mmddyyyy format you would select and modify the first set of syntax).

\* Assuming a string variable 8 characters long, e.g., "01012004".

```
compute newvar = date.mdy( number(substr(oldvar,1,2), f2.0),
                           number(substr(oldvar,3,2), f2.0),
                           number(substr(oldvar,5,4), f4.0)
                           ).
formats newvar (adate11).
execute.
```

\*\*\*\*\*

\* Assuming a string variable 8 characters long, e.g., "01/01/04".

```
compute newvar = date.mdy( number(substr(oldvar,1,2), f2.0),
                           number(substr(oldvar,4,2), f2.0),
                           number(substr(oldvar,7,2), f2.0)
                           ).
formats newvar (adate11).
execute.
```

\*\*\*\*\*

\* Extracts the year from a string date variable 8 characters long, so the existing variable must be exactly "01012004" with no spaces before the first digit.

```
compute year = number(substr(TxtDate,5,4),F4.0).
formats year (F4.0).
execute.
```