

# DEFINE DATA

## General Syntax

```

DEFINE DATA
  [GLOBAL USING global-data-area [WITH block[.block] ... ]]
  [
    PARAMETER {
      USING parameter-data-area
      parameter-data-definition...
    } ] ...
  [
    OBJECT {
      USING {
        local-data-area
        parameter-data-area
      }
      data-definition...
    } ] ...
  [
    LOCAL {
      USING {
        local-data-area
        parameter-data-area
      }
      data-definition...
    } ] ...
  [INDEPENDENT AIV-data-definition ... ]
  [
    CONTEXT {
      USING {
        local-data-area
        parameter-data-area
      }
      context-data-definition ...
    } ]
END-DEFINE
  
```

The `DEFINE DATA` statement offers a number of clauses to declare data definitions for use within a Natural program, either by referencing predefined data definitions contained in a local data area (LDA), global data area (GDA) or parameter data area (PDA), or by writing in-line definitions.

The documentation for the `DEFINE DATA` statement is divided into the following sections:

- Syntax Overview
- DEFINE DATA - General

Specific Data Definitions:

- Defining Local Data
- Defining Global Data
- Defining Parameter Data
- Defining Application-Independent Variables
- Defining Context Variables for Natural RPC
- Defining NaturalX Objects

Clauses and Options:

- Variable Definition
- View Definition
- Redefinition
- Handle Definition
- Array Dimension Definition
- Initial-Value Definition
- Initial/Constant Values for an Array
- EM, HD, PD Parameters for Field/Variable

Examples:

- Examples of DEFINE DATA Statement Usage