

missing values — Quick reference for missing values

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Description

This entry provides a quick reference for Stata's missing values.

Remarks and examples

[stata.com](#)

Stata has 27 numeric missing values:

`.`, the default, which is called the *system missing value* or `sysmiss` and

`.a`, `.b`, `.c`, ..., `.z`, which are called the *extended missing values*.

Numeric missing values are represented by large positive values. The ordering is

$$\text{all nonmissing numbers} < . < .a < .b < \dots < .z$$

Thus the expression

$$\text{age} > 60$$

is true if variable `age` is greater than 60 or missing.

To exclude missing values, ask whether the value is less than `'.'`.

```
. list if age > 60 & age < .
```

To specify missing values, ask whether the value is greater than or equal to `'.'`. For instance,

```
. list if age >=.
```

Stata has one string missing value, which is denoted by `"` (blank).

References

Cox, N. J. 2010. [Stata tip 84: Summing missings](#). *Stata Journal* 10: 157–159.

—. 2015. [Speaking Stata: A set of utilities for managing missing values](#). *Stata Journal* 15: 1174–1185.

Also see

[U] [12.2.1 Missing values](#)