Description

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

Remarks and examples

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

all nonmissing numbers < . < .a < .b < ... < .z

Thus the expression

\[ \text{age} > 60 \]

is true if variable \text{age} is greater than 60 or missing.

To exclude missing values, ask whether the value is less than ‘.’.

\[ \text{list if age} > 60 \& \text{age} < . \]

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

\[ \text{list if age} \geq . \]

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

Reference


Also see

[U] 12.2.1 Missing values