**st_varindex() — Obtain variable indices from variable names**

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**Syntax**

```plaintext
real rowvector st_varindex(string rowvector s)
```

```plaintext
real rowvector st_varindex(string rowvector s, real scalar abbrev)
```

```plaintext
real rowvector _st_varindex(string rowvector s)
```

```plaintext
real rowvector _st_varindex(string rowvector s, real scalar abbrev)
```

**Description**

`st_varindex(s)` returns the variable index associated with each variable name recorded in `s`. `st_varindex(s)` does not allow variable-name abbreviations such as "pr" for "price".

`st_varindex(s, abbrev)` does the same thing but allows you to specify whether variable-name abbreviations are to be allowed. Abbreviations are allowed if `abbrev ≠ 0`. `st_varindex(s)` is equivalent to `st_varindex(s, 0)`. `_st_varindex()` does the same thing as `st_varindex()`. The two functions differ in how they respond when a name is not found. `st_varindex()` aborts with error, and `_st_varindex()` places missing in the appropriate element of the returned result.

**Remarks and examples**

These functions require that each element of `s` contain a variable name, such as

```plaintext
s = ("price", "mpg", "weight")
```

If you have one string containing multiple names

```plaintext
s = ("price mpg weight")
```
then use `tokens()` to split it into the desired form, as in

```plaintext
k = st_varindex(tokens(s))
```

See [M-5] `tokens()`.
Conformability

\[ \text{\texttt{st\_varindex}}(s, \text{\texttt{abbrev}}), \text{\texttt{\_st\_varindex}}(s, \text{\texttt{abbrev}}) : \]

\[ s: \quad 1 \times k \]

\[ \text{\texttt{abbrev}}: \quad 1 \times 1 \quad \text{(optional)} \]

\[ \text{\texttt{result}}: \quad 1 \times k \]

Diagnostics

\text{\texttt{st\_varindex}}() aborts with error if any name is not found.

\text{\texttt{\_st\_varindex}}() puts missing in the appropriate element of the returned result for any name that is not found.

Also see

[M-5] \text{\texttt{st\_varname}}() — Obtain variable names from variable indices

[M-5] \text{\texttt{tokens}}() — Obtain tokens from string

[M-4] \text{\texttt{ stata}} — Stata interface functions