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

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 ‘.’.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{. list if age} & \text{ > 60 & age} < .
\end{align*}
\]

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

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{. list if age} & \geq .
\end{align*}
\]

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

References


Also see

[U] 12.2.1 Missing values