

<b>st_varindex()</b> — Obtain variable indices from variable names
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Description	Syntax	Remarks and examples	Conformability
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## 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*  $\neq$  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.

## Syntax

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

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

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

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

## Remarks and examples

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Remarks are presented under the following headings:

[Overview](#)

[Cautions when using variable indices: A variable index can change](#)

## Overview

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

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

If you have one string containing multiple names

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

then use `tokens()` to split it into the desired form, as in

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

See [M-5] [tokens\(\)](#).

## Cautions when using variable indices: A variable index can change

Accessing variable data using a variable index is faster than referencing the variable by name. However, variable indices can change when variables are created or removed. If a variable is created or removed while your code is using a variable index, there is a chance the index will switch to another variable.

## Conformability

```
st_varindex(s, abbrev), _st_varindex(s, abbrev):
```

```
  s:      1 × k  
  abbrev: 1 × 1 (optional)  
  result: 1 × k
```

## Diagnostics

`st_varindex()` aborts with error if any name is not found.

`_st_varindex()` puts missing in the appropriate element of the returned result for any name that is not found.

## Also see

[M-5] [st\\_varname\(\)](#) — Obtain variable names from variable indices

[M-5] [tokens\(\)](#) — Obtain tokens from string

[M-4] [Stata](#) — Stata interface functions