

**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.

**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**

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()`.
Conformability

\texttt{st\_varindex(s, abbrev), \_st\_varindex(s, abbrev)}:
\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{s}: \ 1 \times k
  \item \textit{abbrev}: \ 1 \times 1 \ (optional)
  \item \textit{result}: \ 1 \times k
\end{itemize}

Diagnostics

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

Also see

[M-5] \texttt{st\_varname()} — Obtain variable names from variable indices
[M-5] \texttt{tokens()} — Obtain tokens from string
[M-4] \texttt{Stata} — Stata interface functions