### 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

```plaintext
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

```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

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

- \( s \): \( 1 \times k \)
- \( \text{abbrev} \): \( 1 \times 1 \) (optional)
- \( \text{result} \): \( 1 \times k \)

Diagnostics

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

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

Also see

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