**collect preview** — Preview the table in a collection

### Description

`collect preview` displays a preview of a table in a collection based on the specified layout, labels, and styles.

### Syntax

```
collect preview [, name(cname) noblank]
```

where `cname` is the name of an existing collection.

### Options

- `name(cname)` specifies the collection for which a preview should be displayed. By default, the preview is for a table in the current collection.
- `noblank` prevents `collect preview` from putting a blank line before its output. By default, `collect preview` will insert a blank line before its output.

### Remarks and examples

Building and customizing a table is often an iterative process. `collect preview` allows you to see what your table looks like at each step of that process.

To demonstrate, we first collect results using the `collect` prefix and lay out a table using `collect layout`.

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r17/nhanes2
. quietly: collect _r_b: regress bpsystol bmi
. quietly: collect _r_b: regress bpsystol bmi age
. collect layout (colname) (cmdset#result)
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection: default</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rows: colname</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columns: cmdset#result</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 1: 3 x 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Body mass index (BMI)         | 1.656894   | 1.304128   |
| Age (years)                   | .5883367   | .5883367   |
| Intercept                     | 88.56855   | 69.58451   |
When we use `collect layout`, we automatically get a preview of our table. However, after other commands that we use to make changes to this table, we need to request a preview to see the results. For instance, we might change labels.

```
. collect label values cmdset 1 "Model 1" 2 "Model 2"
```

To see the effect of that change, we type

```
. collect preview
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Model 1</th>
<th>Model 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Body mass index (BMI)</td>
<td>1.656894</td>
<td>1.304128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>.5883367</td>
<td>.5883367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>88.56855</td>
<td>69.58451</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are many other style and label changes that we could make. For instance, here we hide `Coefficient` from column headers, add extra space between columns, and specify a numeric format. Following those changes, we again preview the table to see the results.

```
. collect style header result, level(hide)
. collect style column, extraspace(1)
. collect style cell, nformat(%6.2f)
. collect preview
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Model 1</th>
<th>Model 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Body mass index (BMI)</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td>1.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>88.57</td>
<td>69.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In fact, we might have typed `collect preview` after each of these commands to see the result.

Alternatively, we could point and click to make changes to the table and automatically see a preview of the table with modifications in the Tables Builder.

For information on style and label commands we used here, see [TABLES] `collect label`, [TABLES] `collect style header`, [TABLES] `collect style column`, and [TABLES] `collect style cell`.

### Stored results

`collect preview` stores the following in `s()`:

- **Macros**
  - `s(collection)` name of collection
  - `s(rows)` rows specification
  - `s(columns)` columns specification
  - `s(tables)` tables specification
  - `s(k_tables)` number of tables
  - `s(table#)` layout for the #th table
Also see

[TABLES] Tables Builder — Tables Builder