Title

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missing values — Quick reference for missing values

Description   Remarks and examples   Reference   Also see

Description

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

Remarks and examples

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

$$\text{all nonmissing numbers} < \,.\, < \,.a\, < \,.b\, < \cdots < \,.z$$

Thus the expression

$$\text{age} > 60$$

is true if variable age is greater than 60 or missing.

To exclude missing values, ask whether the value is less than '.'.

```
. list if age > 60 & age < .
```

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

```
. list if age >=.
```

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

Reference

Cox, N. J. 2010. Stata tip 84: Summing missings. *Stata Journal* 10: 157–159.

Also see

[U] **12.2.1 Missing values**