

“How can I calculate the mean and standard deviation in Google Sheets?”

Authored by
stats writer

June 28, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). “How can I calculate the mean and standard deviation in Google Sheets?”. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=155961>

Google Sheets is a spreadsheet program that offers various functions and tools for data analysis. One of these functions is the ability to calculate the mean and standard deviation of a set of data. To do this, users can use the built-in AVERAGE and STDEV functions, which take into account all the values in a selected range. These functions provide a quick and efficient way to calculate these statistical measures, making it easier for users to analyze their data and make informed decisions. By following a few simple steps, users can easily calculate the mean and standard deviation of their data in Google Sheets.

Calculate Mean and Standard Deviation in Google Sheets

The represents the average value in a dataset. It gives us a good idea of where the center of a dataset is located.

The represents how spread out the values are in a dataset. It gives us an idea of how closely the observations are clustered around the mean.

Using only these two values, we can understand a great deal about the distribution of values in a dataset.

To calculate the mean of a dataset in Google Sheets, we can use the **=AVERAGE(Range)** function where *Range* is the range of values.

To calculate the standard deviation of a dataset, we can use the **=STDEV.S(Range)** function, where *Range* is the

range of values.

This tutorial explains how to use these functions in practice.

Technical Note

Both the **STDEV()** and **STDEV.S()** function calculate the *sample* standard deviation.

You can use the **STDEV.P()** function to calculate the *population* standard deviation if your dataset represents the entire population of values.

However, in most cases we're working with sample data rather than an entire population so we use the **STDEV.S()** function.

Example 1: Mean & Standard Deviation of a Single Dataset

The following screenshot shows how to calculate the mean and standard deviation of a single dataset in Google Sheets:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Data		Standard Dev	9.127171695	=STDEV.S(A2:A21)	
2	4		Mean	16.4	=AVERAGE(A2:A21)	
3	5					
4	5					
5	6					
6	8					
7	9					
8	12					
9	12					
10	13					
11	15					
12	16					
13	17					
14	19					
15	21					
16	22					
17	24					
18	27					
19	28					
20	32					
21	33					
22						
23						
24						

The mean of the dataset is 16.4 and the standard deviation is 9.127.

Column E shows the formulas we used to calculate both the mean and standard deviation of the dataset.

Example 2: Mean & Standard Deviation of Multiple Datasets

Suppose we have multiple datasets in Google Sheets:

	A	B	C	D	E
1		Dataset 1	Dataset 2	Dataset 3	
2		4	7	1	
3		5	7	3	
4		5	8	3	
5		6	8	4	
6		8	9	6	
7		9	11	8	
8		12	12	12	
9		12	12	14	
10		13	13	16	
11		15	14	17	
12		16	14	20	
13		17	15	21	
14		19	16	24	
15		21	16	26	
16		22	17	29	
17		24	19	32	
18		27	21	35	
19		28	22	39	
20		32	22	42	
21		33	23	45	
22					
23					
24					

To calculate the mean and standard deviation of the first dataset, we can use the following two formulas:

Mean: =AVERAGE(B2:B21) Standard Deviation: =STDEV.S(B2:B21)

	A	B	C	D
B22		=STDEV.S(B2:B21)		
1		Dataset 1	Dataset 2	Dataset 3
2		4	7	1
3		5	7	3
4		5	8	3
5		6	8	4
6		8	9	6
7		9	11	8
8		12	12	12
9		12	12	14
10		13	13	16
11		15	14	17
12		16	14	20
13		17	15	21
14		19	16	24
15		21	16	26
16		22	17	29
17		24	19	32
18		27	21	35
19		28	22	39
20		32	22	42
21		33	23	45
22	Standard Dev	9.127171695		
23	Mean	16.4		
24				
25				

Next, we can highlight cells B22:B23 and drag the formulas over to the next two columns:

	A	B	C	D
1		Dataset 1	Dataset 2	Dataset 3
2		4	7	1
3		5	7	3
4		5	8	3
5		6	8	4
6		8	9	6
7		9	11	8
8		12	12	12
9		12	12	14
10		13	13	16
11		15	14	17
12		16	14	20
13		17	15	21
14		19	16	24
15		21	16	26
16		22	17	29
17		24	19	32
18		27	21	35
19		28	22	39
20		32	22	42
21		33	23	45
22	Standard Dev	9.127171695	5.192099261	13.82703302
23	Mean	16.4	14.3	19.85
24				
25				

The results show the mean and standard deviation for each of the three datasets.

Additional Resources

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Google Sheets: