

How can I count the number of occurrences in Excel?

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Counting the number of occurrences in Excel can be done using the COUNTIF function. This function allows you to specify a range of cells and a criteria, and it will return the number of cells within that range that meet the specified criteria. This can be useful for tracking the frequency of specific values or words within a dataset. To use the COUNTIF function, simply select the range of cells you want to count and enter the criteria in a separate cell. The result will be the number of occurrences that match the criteria within the selected range. This method provides a simple and efficient way to count occurrences in Excel.

Count Number of Occurrences in Excel

You can use the =UNIQUE() and =COUNTIF() functions to count the number of occurrences of different values in a column in Excel.

The following step-by-step example shows how to do so.

Step 1: Enter the Data

First, let's enter the names for a list of basketball teams in column A:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team				
2	Hornets				
3	Mavs				
4	Spurs				
5	Rockets				
6	Spurs				
7	Warriors				
8	Hornets				
9	Mavs				
10	Mavs				
11	Magic				
12	Heat				
13	Suns				
14	Suns				
15	Spurs				
16					
17					
18					

Step 2: Find the Unique Values in the Column

Next, let's use the **=UNIQUE()** function to create a list of every unique team name in column A:

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Team			Unique Teams		
2	Hornets			Hornets		
3	Mavs			Mavs		
4	Spurs			Spurs		
5	Rockets			Rockets		
6	Spurs			Warriors		
7	Warriors			Magic		
8	Hornets			Heat		
9	Mavs			Suns		
10	Mavs					
11	Magic					
12	Heat					
13	Suns					
14	Suns					
15	Spurs					
16						
17						
18						
19						

This function creates an array of unique values by default.

Step 3: Count the Occurrence of Each Unique Value

Next, let's use the following formula to count the number of occurrences of each unique team name:

=COUNTIF(\$A\$2:\$A\$15, D2)

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula in practice:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Team			Unique Teams	Occurrences	
2	Hornets			Hornets	2	
3	Mavs			Mavs	3	
4	Spurs			Spurs	3	
5	Rockets			Rockets	1	
6	Spurs			Warriors	1	
7	Warriors			Magic	1	
8	Hornets			Heat	1	
9	Mavs			Suns	2	
10	Mavs					
11	Magic					
12	Heat					
13	Suns					
14	Suns					
15	Spurs					
16						
17						
18						
19						

Note that we simply copy and pasted the formula in cell E2 to each of the remaining cells in column E.

From the output we can see:

The team name 'Hornets' occurs 2 times in column A. The team name 'Mavs' occurs 3 times in column A. The team name 'Spurs' occurs 3 times in column A. The team name 'Rockets' occurs 1 time in column A.

Additional Resources

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

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