How can I count unique names in Excel, and what is an example of using this function?

Authored by

stats writer

June 23, 2024

The function for counting unique names in Excel is known as "COUNTIF" and it allows users to easily identify and count the number of unique names in a given range of cells. This function is useful for data analysis and organization purposes, as it helps to eliminate duplicate names and provides a clear count of distinct names. For example, if a spreadsheet contains a list of employee names, the COUNTIF function can be used to determine the total number of unique employees in the company. This function is also helpful for creating reports and generating accurate data for decision-making processes.

Count Unique Names in Excel (With Example)

You can use the following formula to count the number of unique names in a range in Excel:

=SUMPRODUCT(--(FREQUENCY(MATCH(A2:A12,A2:A12,0),ROW(A2:A12)-ROW(A2)+1)>0))

This particular formula counts the number of unique names in the range A2:A12.

To get a list of each unique name, you can use the UNIQUE function:

=UNIQUE(A2:A12)

This will return a list of unique names in the range A2:A12.

The following example shows how to use each of these formulas in practice.

Example: How to Count Unique Names in Excel

Suppose we have the following dataset that contains information about sales made by various employees at some company:

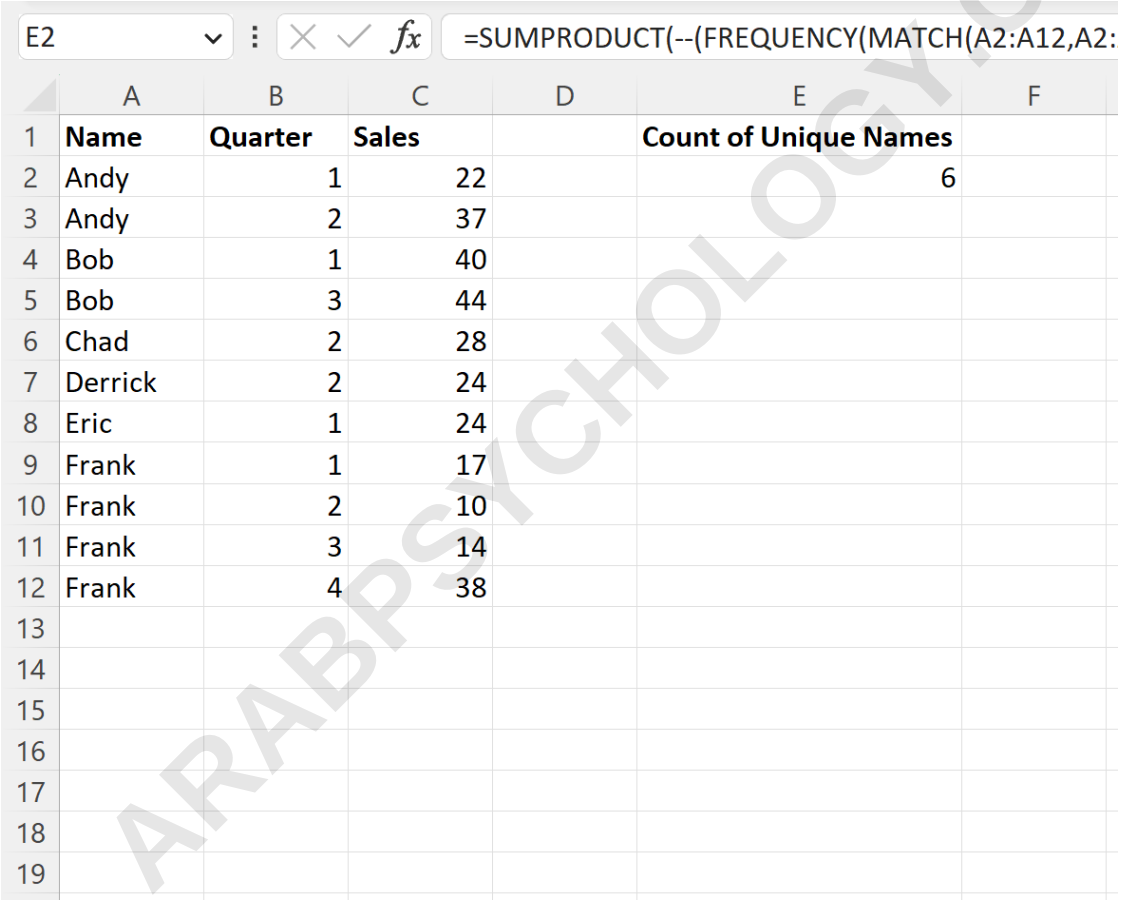
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Name**	**Quarter**	**Sales**			
2	Andy	1	22			
3	Andy	2	37			
4	Bob	1	40			
5	Bob	3	44			
6	Chad	2	28			
7	Derrick	2	24			
8	Eric	1	24			
9	Frank	1	17			
10	Frank	2	10			
11	Frank	3	14			
12	Frank	4	38			
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						

Suppose we would like to count the number of unique names in column A.

We can type the following formula into cell E2 to do so:

=SUMPRODUCT(--(FREQUENCY(MATCH(A2:A12,A2:A12,0),ROW(A2:A12)-ROW(A2)+1)>0))

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



E2 =SUMPRODUCT(--(FREQUENCY(MATCH(A2:A12,A2:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Name**	**Quarter**	**Sales**		**Count of Unique Names**	
2	Andy	1	22		6	
3	Andy	2	37			
4	Bob	1	40			
5	Bob	3	44			
6	Chad	2	28			
7	Derrick	2	24			
8	Eric	1	24			
9	Frank	1	17			
10	Frank	2	10			
11	Frank	3	14			
12	Frank	4	38			
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						

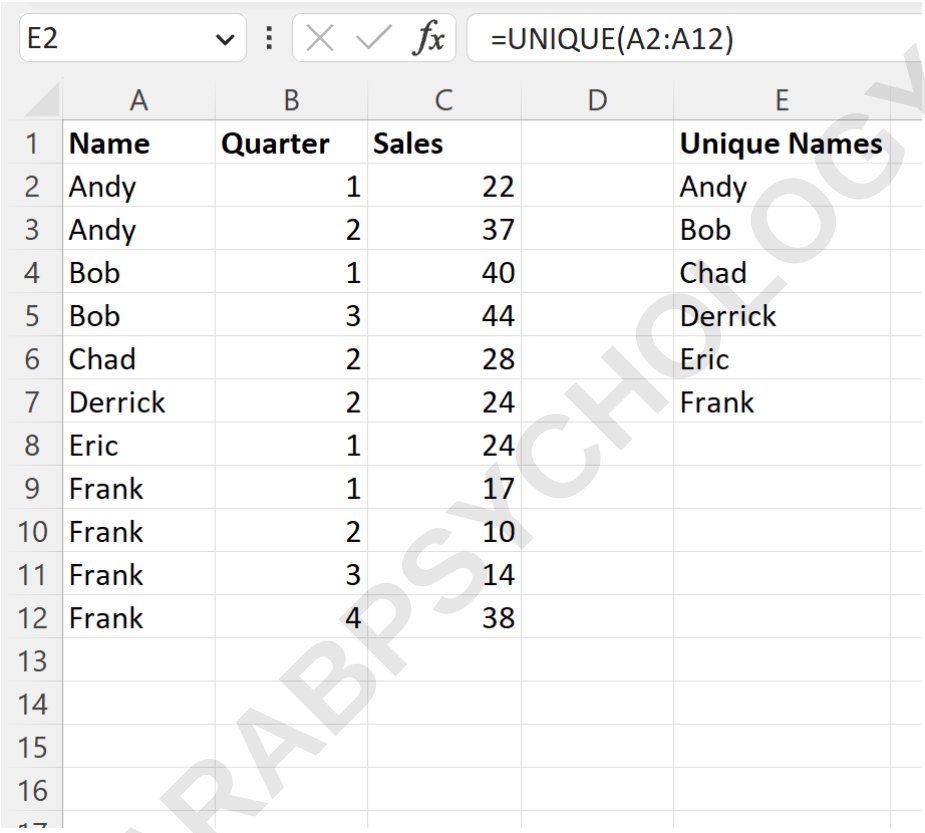
The output tells us that there are 6 unique names in column A.

To actually view a list of these unique names, we can

type the following formula into cell E2:

=UNIQUE(A2:A12)

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



	A	B	C	D	E
1	**Name**	**Quarter**	**Sales**		**Unique Names**
2	Andy	1	22		Andy
3	Andy	2	37		Bob
4	Bob	1	40		Chad
5	Bob	3	44		Derrick
6	Chad	2	28		Eric
7	Derrick	2	24		Frank
8	Eric	1	24		
9	Frank	1	17		
10	Frank	2	10		
11	Frank	3	14		
12	Frank	4	38		
13					
14					
15					
16					

The formula returns the six unique names in column A:

AndyBobChadDerrickEricFrank

Each of these names occurs at least once in column A

and some of the names occur multiple times.

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