

How can I extract the top N values from a range in Google Sheets?

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Extracting the top N values from a range in Google Sheets refers to the process of identifying and retrieving the highest N values from a specified range of cells in a Google Sheets spreadsheet. This can be accomplished by using the built-in functions and formulas available in Google Sheets, such as the SORT and INDEX functions. By specifying the desired number of values to be extracted, users can easily organize and analyze data to find the top N values within a given range. This feature is useful for data analysis and decision making, as it allows for efficient identification of the most relevant and significant values within a dataset.

Google Sheets: Extract Top N Values from Range

You can use the following syntax to extract the top N values from a data range in Google Sheets:

```
=query(A1:C16, "Select A,B,C Order by B Desc Limit 5")
```

This particular query looks at the data in the range A1:C16 and returns the rows with the 5 highest values in column B.

To extract the top 10 values, simply replace the 5 with a 10 in the formula.

The following example shows how to use this syntax in practice.

Example: Extract Top N Values from Range in Google Sheets

Suppose we have the following dataset in Google Sheets that shows the points and rebounds for 15

different basketball teams:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Points	Rebounds		
2	Mavs	93	34		
3	Spurs	99	25		
4	Hornets	94	26		
5	Rockets	96	29		
6	Magic	104	30		
7	Heat	100	30		
8	Knicks	103	31		
9	Nets	98	36		
10	Celtics	101	22		
11	Hawks	89	26		
12	Warriors	91	28		
13	Suns	92	34		
14	Bucks	85	43		
15	Cavs	87	31		
16	Grizzlies	88	25		
17					
18					
19					
20					

We can use the following query to extract the rows with the 5 highest points values:

=query(A1:C16, "Select A,B,C Order by B Desc Limit 5")

E1							
=Query(A1:C16, "Select A,B,C Order by B Desc Limit 5")							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Team	Points	Rebounds		Team	Points	Rebounds
2	Mavs	93	34		Magic	104	30
3	Spurs	99	25		Knicks	103	31
4	Hornets	94	26		Celtics	101	22
5	Rockets	96	29		Heat	100	30
6	Magic	104	30		Spurs	99	25
7	Heat	100	30				
8	Knicks	103	31				
9	Nets	98	36				
10	Celtics	101	22				
11	Hawks	89	26				
12	Warriors	91	28				
13	Suns	92	34				
14	Bucks	85	43				
15	Cavs	87	31				
16	Grizzlies	88	25				
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							

The query in cell E1 returns the rows with the five highest points values, automatically sorted in descending order.

Note that we can use the following query to extract the rows with the 10 highest points values:

=query(A1:C16, "Select A,B,C Order by B Desc Limit 10")

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
E2					Magic		
1	Team	Points	Rebounds		Team	Points	Rebounds
2	Mavs	93	34		Magic	104	30
3	Spurs	99	25		Knicks	103	31
4	Hornets	94	26		Celtics	101	22
5	Rockets	96	29		Heat	100	30
6	Magic	104	30		Spurs	99	25
7	Heat	100	30		Nets	98	36
8	Knicks	103	31		Rockets	96	29
9	Nets	98	36		Hornets	94	26
10	Celtics	101	22		Mavs	93	34
11	Hawks	89	26		Suns	92	34
12	Warriors	91	28				
13	Suns	92	34				
14	Bucks	85	43				
15	Cavs	87	31				
16	Grizzlies	88	25				
17							
18							
19							
20							

The query in cell E1 returns the rows with the 10 highest points values, automatically sorted in descending order.

We could also use the following query to simply return the 10 highest points values without any of the other columns:

=query(A1:C16, "Select B Order by B Desc Limit 10")

E1 fx =Query(A1:C16,"Select B Order by B Desc Limit 10")

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Points	Rebounds		Points
2	Mavs	93	34		104
3	Spurs	99	25		103
4	Hornets	94	26		101
5	Rockets	96	29		100
6	Magic	104	30		99
7	Heat	100	30		98
8	Knicks	103	31		96
9	Nets	98	36		94
10	Celtics	101	22		93
11	Hawks	89	26		92
12	Warriors	91	28		
13	Suns	92	34		
14	Bucks	85	43		
15	Cavs	87	31		
16	Grizzlies	88	25		
17					
18					
19					

The query in cell E1 returns the 10 highest points values, automatically sorted in descending order.

Additional Resources

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