How can I ignore #N/A values in Google Sheets formulas?

Authored by

stats writer

June 30, 2024

Google Sheets is a powerful tool for data analysis and manipulation, but it can be frustrating when encountering #N/A values in formulas. These values indicate that the formula is unable to calculate a result, which can disrupt the accuracy of your data analysis. To avoid this issue, there are several methods for ignoring #N/A values in Google Sheets formulas. One approach is to use the IFERROR function, which allows you to replace #N/A values with a custom message or blank cell. Another option is to use the IF and ISERROR functions together to create a logical statement that will only calculate the formula if there are no #N/A values present. By utilizing these techniques, you can ensure that your formulas in Google Sheets are more accurate and reliable.

Ignore #N/A Values with Formulas in Google Sheets

You can use the following basic syntax to calculate different metrics in Google Sheets while ignoring #N/A values:

=AVERAGE(IFNA(A2:A14, ""))

=SUM(IFNA(A2:A14, ""))

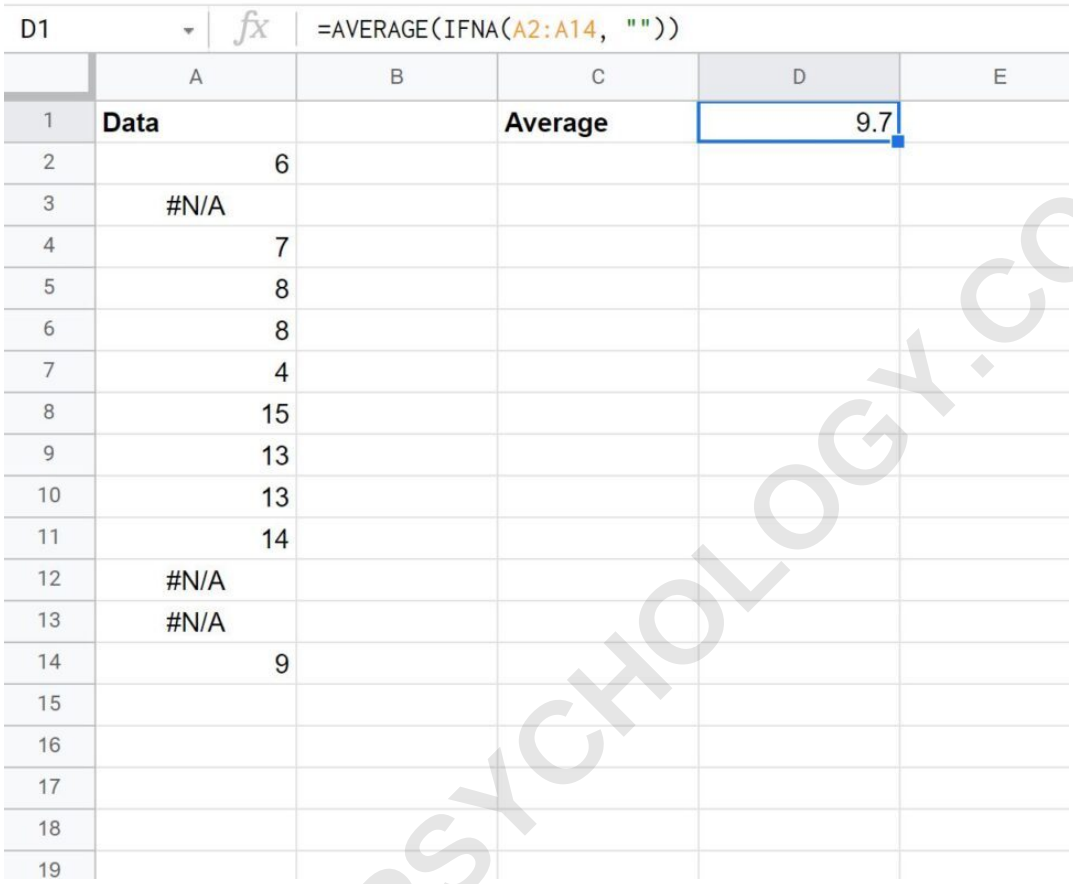
=IFNA(VLOOKUP(E2, A2:A14, 2, FALSE), "")

These formulas simply replace #N/A values with blanks and then calculates the metric you're interested in.

The following examples show how to use this syntax in practice.

Example 1: Calculate Average & Ignore #N/A Values

The following screenshot shows how to calculate the average of a dataset that contains #N/A values:

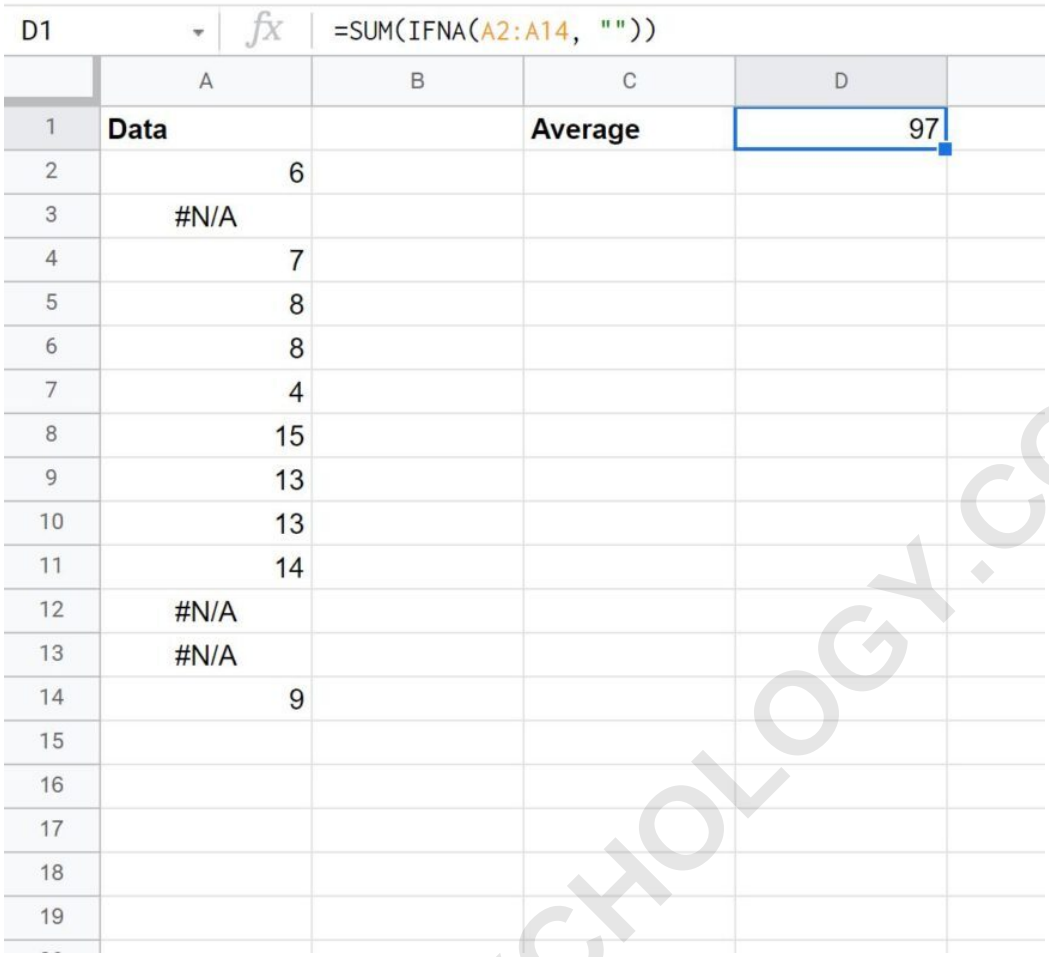


	A	B	C	D	E
1	**Data**		**Average**	9.7	
2	6				
3	#N/A				
4	7				
5	8				
6	8				
7	4				
8	15				
9	13				
10	13				
11	14				
12	#N/A				
13	#N/A				
14	9				
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

The average value of the dataset (ignoring all #N/A values) is 9.7.

Example 2: Calculate Sum & Ignore #N/A Values

The following screenshot shows how to calculate the sum of a dataset that contains #N/A values:



The sum of the dataset (ignoring all #N/A values) is 97.

Example 3: Use VLOOKUP & Ignore #N/A Values

The following screenshot shows how to use the VLOOKUP function to return the value in the Points column that corresponds to the value in the Team column:

F2 =IFNA(VLOOKUP(E2, A2:C11, 3, FALSE), "")

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Team**	**Rebounds**	**Points**		**Team**	**Points**
2	Mavs	22	#N/A		Mavs	
3	Spurs	#N/A	95		Spurs	95
4	Rockets	16	100		Rockets	100
5	Nets	22	#N/A		Nets	
6	Spurs	14	98		Spurs	98
7	Hornets	18	#N/A		Hornets	
8	Magic	25	90		Magic	90
9	Heat	24	#N/A		Heat	
10	Celtics	29	99		Celtics	99
11	Cavs	27	93		Cavs	93
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						

Notice that for any value in the Points column equal to #N/A, the VLOOKUP function simply returns a blank value instead of a #N/A value.

Additional Resources