

How can I rank values with ties in Excel using different methods?

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In Excel, there are various methods available for ranking values with ties. These methods include the RANK function, which assigns a unique rank to each value, the RANK.EQ function, which ranks values in the order they appear in the list, and the RANK.AVG function, which assigns the average rank to tied values. Additionally, users can also manually rank values by creating a custom formula using conditional formatting or by using the SORT and INDEX functions. These methods allow for efficient and accurate ranking of values with ties, providing users with more flexibility and control over their data analysis in Excel.

Rank Values with Ties in Excel (3 Methods)

There are three ways to handle ties when ranking a list of values in Excel:

Method 1: Assign Highest Rank to Equal Values

=RANK(B2,\$B\$2:\$B\$11)

This particular formula will assign the same rank to equal values in the range B2:B11.

For example, if two values are both tied for the highest value in the list then both values will receive a rank of 1.

Method 2: Assign Average Rank to Equal Values

=RANK.AVG(B2,\$B\$2:\$B\$11)

This particular formula will assign the average rank to

equal values in the range B2:B11.

For example, if two values are both tied for the highest value in the list then both values will receive a rank of 1.5 since the average of their rankings would be: $(1 + 2) / 2 = 1.5$.

Method 3: Assign Highest Rank to Value that Appears First

=RANK(B2,\$B\$2:\$B\$11)+COUNTIF(B\$2:B2,B2)-1

This particular formula will assign the highest rank to the value that appears first between two equal values in the range B2:B11.

For example, if two values are both tied for the highest value in the list then the value that appears first will receive a rank of 1 and the value that appears second will receive a value of 2.

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

Example: How to Rank Values with Ties in Excel

Suppose we have the following dataset in Excel that shows the exam scores received by various students in some class:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Student	Score				
2	Andy	90				
3	Bob	88				
4	Chad	84				
5	Doug	95				
6	Eric	95				
7	Frank	91				
8	Greg	83				
9	Henry	78				
10	Isaac	74				
11	John	85				
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						

We can type the following formulas into cells C2, D2 and E2 to apply different ranking methods:

C2: `=RANK(B2,B2:B11)` D2: `=RANK.AVG(B2,B2:B11)` E2:
`=RANK(B2,B2:B11)+COUNTIF(B$2:B2,B2)-1`

We can then click and drag these formulas down to

each remaining cell in each column:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Student	Score	=RANK	=RANK.AVG	=RANK + COUNTIF	
2	Andy	90	4	4		4
3	Bob	88	5	5		5
4	Chad	84	7	7		7
5	Doug	95	1	1.5		1
6	Eric	95	1	1.5		2
7	Frank	91	3	3		3
8	Greg	83	8	8		8
9	Henry	78	9	9		9
10	Isaac	74	10	10		10
11	John	85	6	6		6
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						

Notice that there are two values that are tied for the highest score: Doug and Eric both received an exam score of 95.

Here is how each ranking method handled this tie:

Method 1: RANK

This method simply assigned a rank of 1 to both of these highest values.

Method 2: RANK.AVG

This method assigned a rank of 1.5 to both of these highest values, which represented the average rank if each of these values received their own individual rank.

For example, if Doug received a rank of 1 and Eric received a rank of 2 then the average between these two would be 1.5.

Method 3: RANK + COUNTIF

This method assigned a rank of 1 to the first highest value that occurred and a 2 to the highest value that occurred next.

Since Doug appeared first in the dataset he received a rank of 1 and Eric then received a rank of 2.

When ranking values in your own dataset, feel free to choose whichever method you prefer best.

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