

How can I use COUNTIF with the OR function in Excel?

Authored by
stats writer

July 1, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I use COUNTIF with the OR function in Excel?*.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=163230>

COUNTIF is a useful function in Microsoft Excel that allows users to count the number of cells in a range that meet a specific criteria. This function becomes even more powerful when combined with the OR function. By using the OR function within the COUNTIF formula, users can specify multiple criteria and count the cells that meet any of those criteria. This enables users to efficiently analyze data and obtain accurate counts without having to manually sort through the data. With the combination of COUNTIF and OR, Excel users can easily and effectively perform complex calculations and get precise results.

Use COUNTIF with OR in Excel

Often you may want to count the number of cells in a range in Excel that meet one of several criteria.

You can use the following basic syntax to do so:

```
=SUM(COUNTIF(A:A,{"Value1","Value2","Value3"}))
```

This particular formula counts the number of cells in column A that are equal to "Value1", "Value2", or "Value3."

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

Example: Use COUNTIF with OR in Excel

Suppose we have the following dataset in Excel that shows information about various basketball teams:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Division	Team	Points			
2	West	Mavericks	99			
3	South	Hawks	95			
4	West	Suns	98			
5	West	Spurs	105			
6	West	Rockets	103			
7	West	Lakers	114			
8	East	Celtics	109			
9	East	Hornets	85			
10	West	Blazers	91			
11	North	Knicks	95			
12	North	Bulls	99			
13	South	Magic	104			
14	South	Heat	103			
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						

We can use the following formula to count the number of cells in column A that have a value of "East" or "South":

=SUM(COUNTIF(A:A,{"East","South"}))

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

E2				=SUM(COUNTIF(A:A,{"East","South"}))		
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Division	Team	Points		Count of "East" or "South"	
2	West	Mavericks	99		5	
3	South	Hawks	95			
4	West	Suns	98			
5	West	Spurs	105			
6	West	Rockets	103			
7	West	Lakers	114			
8	East	Celtics	109			
9	East	Hornets	85			
10	West	Blazers	91			
11	North	Knicks	95			
12	North	Bulls	99			
13	South	Magic	104			
14	South	Heat	103			
15						
16						
17						
18						

We can see that a total of 5 cells have a value of "East" or "South" in column A.

Note that we can also use similar syntax to count the number of cells that have specific numeric values.

For example, we can use the following formula to count the number of cells in column C that have a value of 95, 99, or 103:

=SUM(COUNTIF(C:C,{95, 99, 103}))

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

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Division	Team	Points		Count of 95, 99, or 103	
2	West	Mavericks	99		6	
3	South	Hawks	95			
4	West	Suns	98			
5	West	Spurs	105			
6	West	Rockets	103			
7	West	Lakers	114			
8	East	Celtics	109			
9	East	Hornets	85			
10	West	Blazers	91			
11	North	Knicks	95			
12	North	Bulls	99			
13	South	Magic	104			
14	South	Heat	103			
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						

We can see that a total of 6 cells have a value of 95, 99, or 103 in column C.

We could also use similar syntax to count the number of cells that have values greater than or less than certain numbers.

For example, we can use the following formula to count

the number of cells in column C that have a value greater than 100 *or* less than 90:

=SUM(COUNTIF(C:C,{">100", "<90"}))

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

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data in columns A, B, and C:

	A	B	C
1	Division	Team	Points
2	West	Mavericks	99
3	South	Hawks	95
4	West	Suns	98
5	West	Spurs	105
6	West	Rockets	103
7	West	Lakers	114
8	East	Celtics	109
9	East	Hornets	85
10	West	Blazers	91
11	North	Knicks	95
12	North	Bulls	99
13	South	Magic	104
14	South	Heat	103
15			
16			
17			

The formula bar shows the formula: **=SUM(COUNTIF(C:C,{">100", "<90"}))**. The result of the formula, **7**, is displayed in cell E2. The header for column E is **Points < 90 or Points > 100**.

We can see that a total of 7 cells have a value greater than 100 *or* less than 90 in column C.

Additional Resources

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common COUNTIF() operations in Excel:

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM