How can I use Excel to count cells in one column if another column meets specific criteria?

Authored by

stats writer

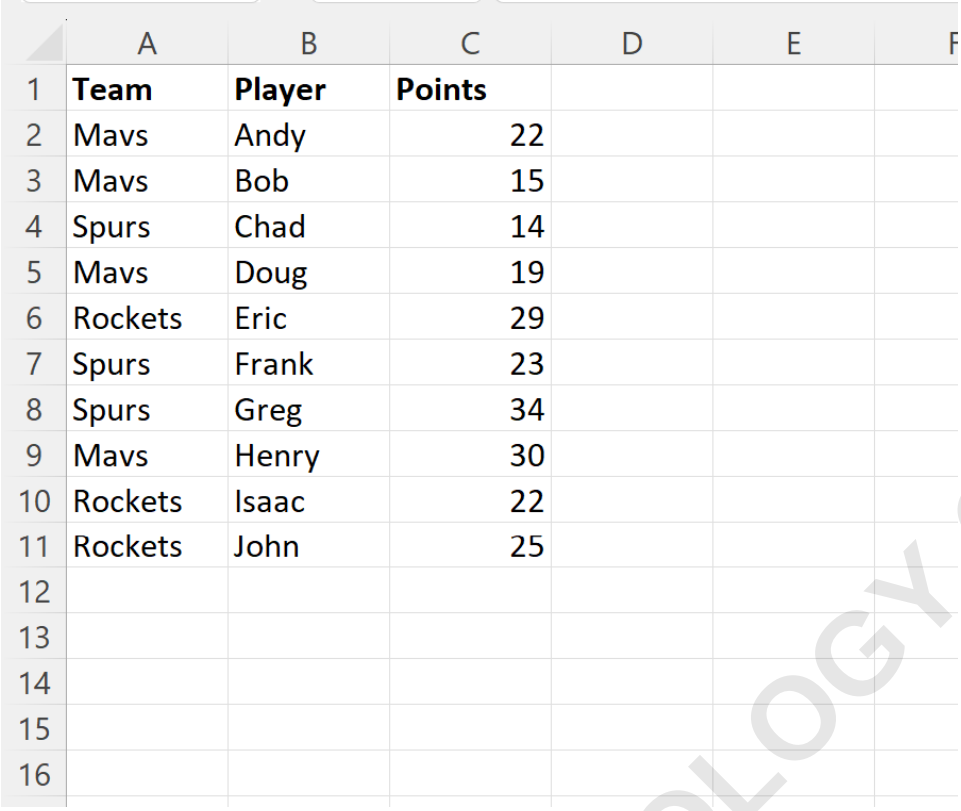
June 22, 2024

Using Excel, you can easily count cells in one column based on certain criteria being met in another column. This can be achieved by using the COUNTIF function, which allows you to specify a range of cells and a criteria to be met. By incorporating this function with the IF function, you can create a formula that will only count cells in one column if the corresponding cell in another column meets the specified criteria. This feature can be useful for analyzing and organizing data in a spreadsheet, making it a valuable tool for data management and analysis.

Excel: Count One Column if Another Column Meets Criteria

You can use the COUNTIF and COUNTIFS functions in Excel to count the number of values in one column where the value in another column meets specific criteria.

The following examples show how to use these functions in practice with the following dataset in Excel:



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Team**	**Player**	**Points**			
2	Mavs	Andy	22			
3	Mavs	Bob	15			
4	Spurs	Chad	14			
5	Mavs	Doug	19			
6	Rockets	Eric	29			
7	Spurs	Frank	23			
8	Spurs	Greg	34			
9	Mavs	Henry	30			
10	Rockets	Isaac	22			
11	Rockets	John	25			
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						

Let's jump in!

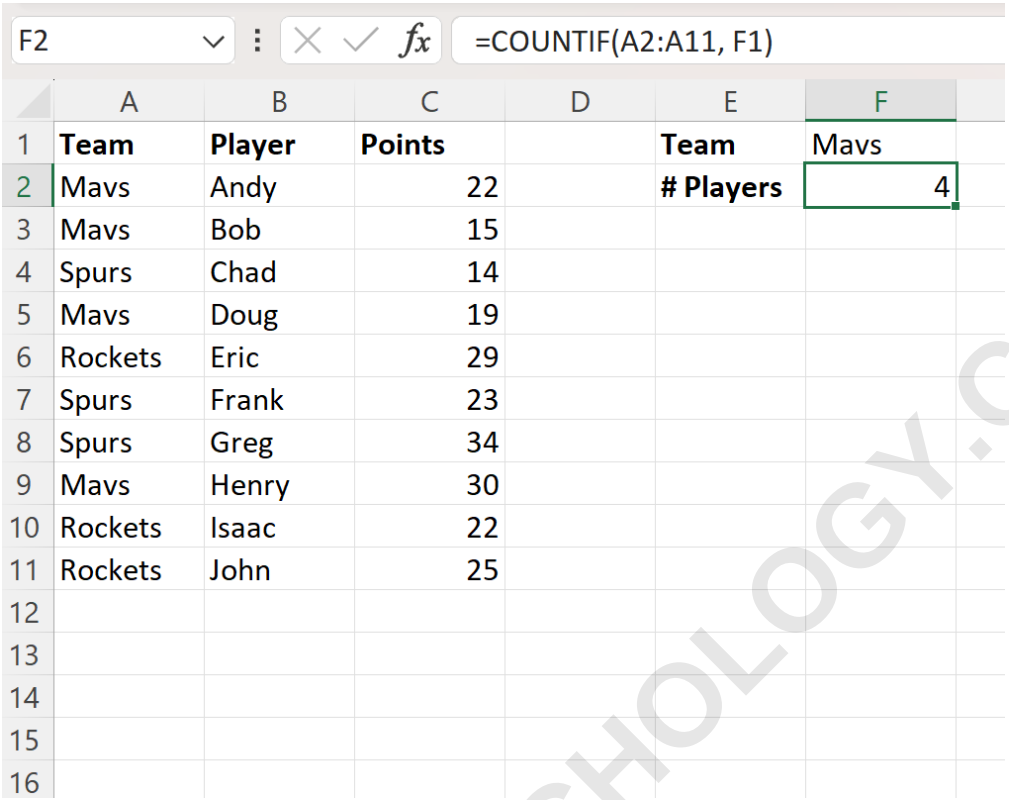
Example 1: Use COUNTIF to Count One Column if Another Column Meets Criteria

We can type the following formula into cell D2 to count the number of cells in the Player column where the corresponding cell in the Team column is equal to "Mavs":

=COUNTIF(A2:A11, F1)

The following screenshot shows how to use this

formula in practice:



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Team**	**Player**	**Points**		**Team**	Mavs
2	Mavs	Andy	22		**# Players**	4
3	Mavs	Bob	15			
4	Spurs	Chad	14			
5	Mavs	Doug	19			
6	Rockets	Eric	29			
7	Spurs	Frank	23			
8	Spurs	Greg	34			
9	Mavs	Henry	30			
10	Rockets	Isaac	22			
11	Rockets	John	25			
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						

From the output we can see that there are 4 cells in the Player column where the corresponding cell in the Team column is Mavs.

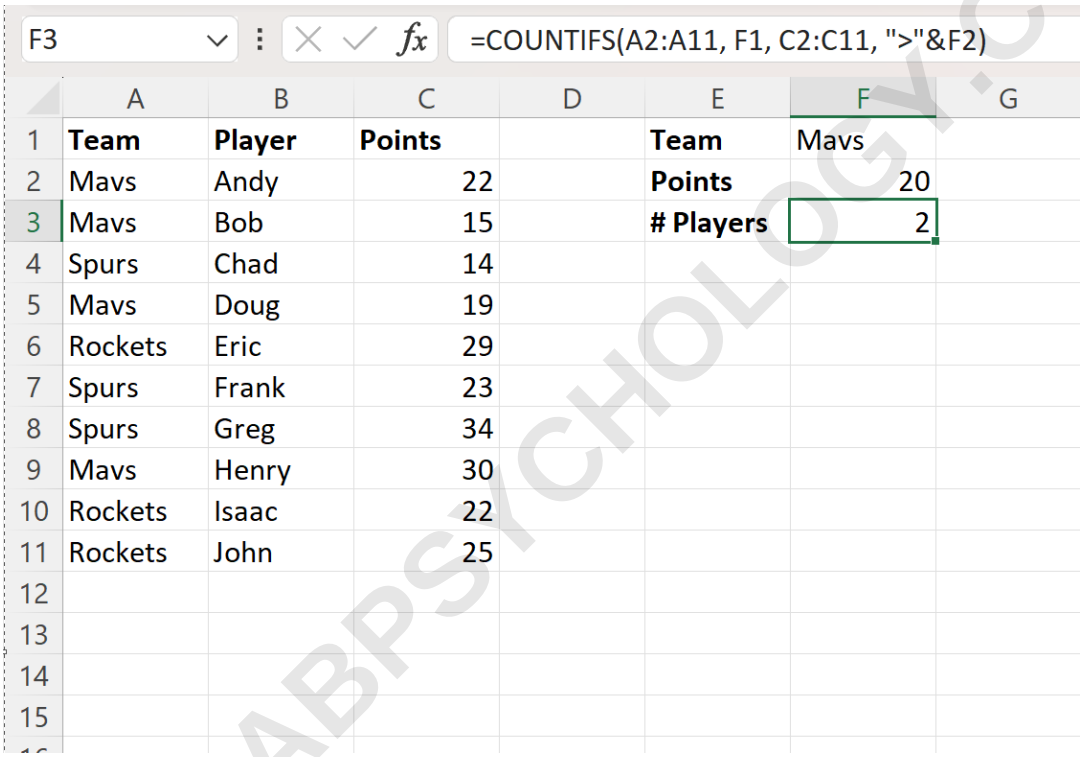
Example 2: Use COUNTIFS to Count One Column if Multiple Other Columns Meet Criteria

We can type the following formula into cell D2 to count the number of cells in the Player column where the corresponding cell in the Team column is equal to "Mavs" *and* the corresponding cell in the Points column

is greater than 20:

=COUNTIFS(A2:A11, F1, C2:C11, ">"&F2)

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



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	**Team**	**Player**	**Points**		**Team**	Mavs	
2	Mavs	Andy	22		**Points**	20	
3	Mavs	Bob	15		**# Players**	2	
4	Spurs	Chad	14				
5	Mavs	Doug	19				
6	Rockets	Eric	29				
7	Spurs	Frank	23				
8	Spurs	Greg	34				
9	Mavs	Henry	30				
10	Rockets	Isaac	22				
11	Rockets	John	25				
12							
13							
14							
15							

From the output we can see that there are 2 cells in the Player column where the corresponding cell in the Team column is Mavs *and* the corresponding cell in the Points column is greater than 20.

Note: In this example we used the COUNTIFS function

to check if two columns met specific criteria, but you can use the COUNTIFS function to check if as many columns as you'd like meet specific criteria.

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