

How can I use Excel to find the second instance of a matching value in a data set?

Authored by
stats writer

June 22, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I use Excel to find the second instance of a matching value in a data set?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=146824>

Excel is a powerful tool that allows users to organize, analyze, and manipulate data. One useful feature of Excel is the ability to find the second instance of a matching value in a data set. This can be achieved by using the built-in function called "MATCH". By inputting the value you are looking for and the range of cells to search, the function will return the position of the second instance of the matching value. This can be particularly helpful in large data sets with multiple occurrences of the same value, allowing users to easily locate and work with specific data points.

Excel: Find Second Instance of Matching Value

You can use the following formula to return the second instance of a matching value in Excel:

```
=INDEX(B1:B11,SMALL(IF(A1:A11=F1,ROW(A1:A11)-MIN(ROW(A1:A11))+1),2))
```

This particular formula will look up the value in cell F1 in the range A1:A11 and then return the value that corresponds to the second instance of the matching value from the range B1:B11.

Note: To find the *n*th instance of a matching value, simply change the last 2 in the formula to *n*.

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

Example: Find Second Instance of Matching Value in Excel

Suppose we have the following dataset in Excel that contains information about various basketball players:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Points	Assists		
2	Mavs	14	4		
3	Spurs	29	7		
4	Mavs	24	7		
5	Kings	38	11		
6	Spurs	24	5		
7	Spurs	20	8		
8	Mavs	15	9		
9	Nets	18	12		
10	Kings	18	10		
11	Nets	13	5		
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

Suppose we would like to return the value in the points column that corresponds to the second instance of "Mavs" in the team column.

We can type the following formula into cell F2 to do so:

```
=INDEX(B1:B11,SMALL(IF(A1:A11=F1,ROW(A1:A11))-MIN(ROW(A1:A11))+1),2))
```

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

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Team	Points	Assists		Team	Mavs		
2	Mavs	14	4		Points of Second Instance	24		
3	Spurs	29	7					
4	Mavs	24	7					
5	Kings	38	11					
6	Spurs	24	5					
7	Spurs	20	8					
8	Mavs	15	9					
9	Nets	18	12					
10	Kings	18	10					
11	Nets	13	5					
12								
13								
14								
15								

The formula returns a value of 24, which is the value in the points column that corresponds to the second instance of "Mavs" in the team column.

If we would like to return the value in the assists column instead, we could change the cell range B1:B11 to C1:C11:

=INDEX(C1:C11,SMALL(IF(A1:A11=F1,ROW(A1:A11))-MIN(ROW(A1:A11))+1),2))

The following screenshot shows how to use this

formula in practice:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Team	Points	Assists		Team	Mavs		
2	Mavs	14	4		Assists of Second Instance	7		
3	Spurs	29	7					
4	Mavs	24	7					
5	Kings	38	11					
6	Spurs	24	5					
7	Spurs	20	8					
8	Mavs	15	9					
9	Nets	18	12					
10	Kings	18	10					
11	Nets	13	5					
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								

The formula returns a value of 7, which is the value in the assists column that corresponds to the second instance of "Mavs" in the team column.

Note: If a second instance does not exist for the value that you look up, then the formula will return #NUM! as a result.

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