

How can I use the RANK function in Excel to rank a list of values?

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The RANK function in Excel is a tool used to rank a list of values based on their numerical or alphabetical order. It allows users to easily determine the position of a particular value within a given range of values. To use the RANK function, simply select the cell where you want the rank to appear, then enter the function and specify the range of values you want to rank. The function will then return the rank of each value in the selected range, with the highest value being assigned the rank of 1. This feature is especially useful for comparing and analyzing data, as it allows for quick identification of the highest or lowest values in a list.

This article describes the formula syntax and usage of the **RANK** function in Microsoft Excel.

Description

Returns the rank of a number in a list of numbers. The rank of a number is its size relative to other values in a list. (If you were to sort the list, the rank of the number would be its position.)

Important: This function has been replaced with one or more new functions that may provide improved accuracy and whose names better reflect their usage. Although this function is still available for backward compatibility, you should consider using the new functions from now on, because this function may not be available in future versions of Excel.

For more information about the new functions, see [RANK.AVG function](#) and [RANK.EQ function](#).

Syntax

RANK(number,ref,)

The RANK function syntax has the following arguments:

Number: Required. The number whose rank you want to find.

Ref: Required. A reference to a list of numbers. Nonnumeric values in ref are ignored.

Order: Optional. A number specifying how to rank number.

If order is 0 (zero) or omitted, Microsoft Excel ranks number as if ref were a list sorted in descending order.

If order is any nonzero value, Microsoft Excel ranks number as if ref were a list sorted in ascending order.

Remarks

RANK gives duplicate numbers the same rank. However, the presence of duplicate numbers affects the ranks of subsequent numbers. For example, in a list of integers sorted in ascending order, if the number 10 appears twice and has a rank of 5, then 11 would have a rank of 7 (no number would have a rank of 6).

For some purposes one might want to use a definition of rank that takes ties into account. In the previous example, one would want a revised rank of 5.5 for the number 10. This can be done by adding the following correction factor to the value returned by RANK. This correction factor is appropriate both for the case where rank is computed in descending order (order = 0 or omitted) or ascending order (order = nonzero value).

Correction factor for tied ranks= $\frac{1}{2}$.

In the following example, $\text{RANK}(A2,A1:A5,1)$ equals 3. The correction factor is $(5 + 1 - 2 - 3)/2 = 0.5$ and the revised rank that takes ties into account is $3 + 0.5 = 3.5$. If number occurs only once in ref, the correction factor will be 0, since RANK would not have to be adjusted for a tie.