How can I use the SKEW function in Excel to calculate the skewness of a dataset?

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The SKEW function in Excel is a statistical tool that calculates the skewness of a dataset. Skewness is a measure of the asymmetry of the data distribution. A positive skewness indicates that the data is skewed to the right, while a negative skewness indicates a skew to the left. To use the SKEW function, simply select the range of data you want to analyze and enter the function into a cell. This function will return a numerical value that represents the skewness of the data. By using the SKEW function, you can quickly and accurately determine the degree of skewness in your dataset, which can aid in making informed decisions and interpretations based on the data.

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

Description

Returns the skewness of a distribution. Skewness characterizes the degree of asymmetry of a distribution around its mean. Positive skewness indicates a distribution with an asymmetric tail extending toward more positive values. Negative skewness indicates a distribution with an asymmetric tail extending toward more negative values.

Syntax

SKEW(number1, , ...)

The SKEW function syntax has the following arguments:

Number1, number2, ... Number1 is required, subsequent numbers are optional. 1 to 255 arguments for which you want to calculate skewness. You can also use a single array or a reference to an array instead of arguments separated by commas.

Remarks

Arguments can either be numbers or names, arrays, or references that contain numbers.

Logical values and text representations of numbers that you type directly into the list of arguments are counted.

If an array or reference argument contains text, logical values, or empty cells, those values are ignored; however, cells with the value zero are included.

Arguments that are error values or text that cannot be translated into numbers cause errors.

If there are fewer than three data points, or the sample standard deviation is zero, SKEW returns the #DIV/0! error value.

The equation for skewness is defined as: