

# How can I use the SUBTOTAL function to calculate the average of a range of cells in Excel?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I use the SUBTOTAL function to calculate the average of a range of cells in Excel?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=147757>

The SUBTOTAL function in Excel is a useful tool for calculating the average of a range of cells. This function allows you to exclude hidden or filtered cells in your calculation, providing a more accurate result. To use the SUBTOTAL function, select the cells you want to include in your average calculation and then enter the function in the desired cell. This will automatically calculate the average of the selected cells, taking into account any hidden or filtered cells. The SUBTOTAL function is a convenient way to quickly and accurately calculate averages in Excel.

## Use SUBTOTAL with AVERAGE in Excel

You can use the following formula to combine the SUBTOTAL and AVERAGE functions in Excel:

```
=SUBTOTAL(1, C2:C11)
```

This particular formula allows you to calculate the average value of only the visible cells in the range C2:C11.

The 1 in the first argument specifies that the AVERAGE should be used for aggregation in the function.

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

**Example: How to Use SUBTOTAL with AVERAGE in Excel**

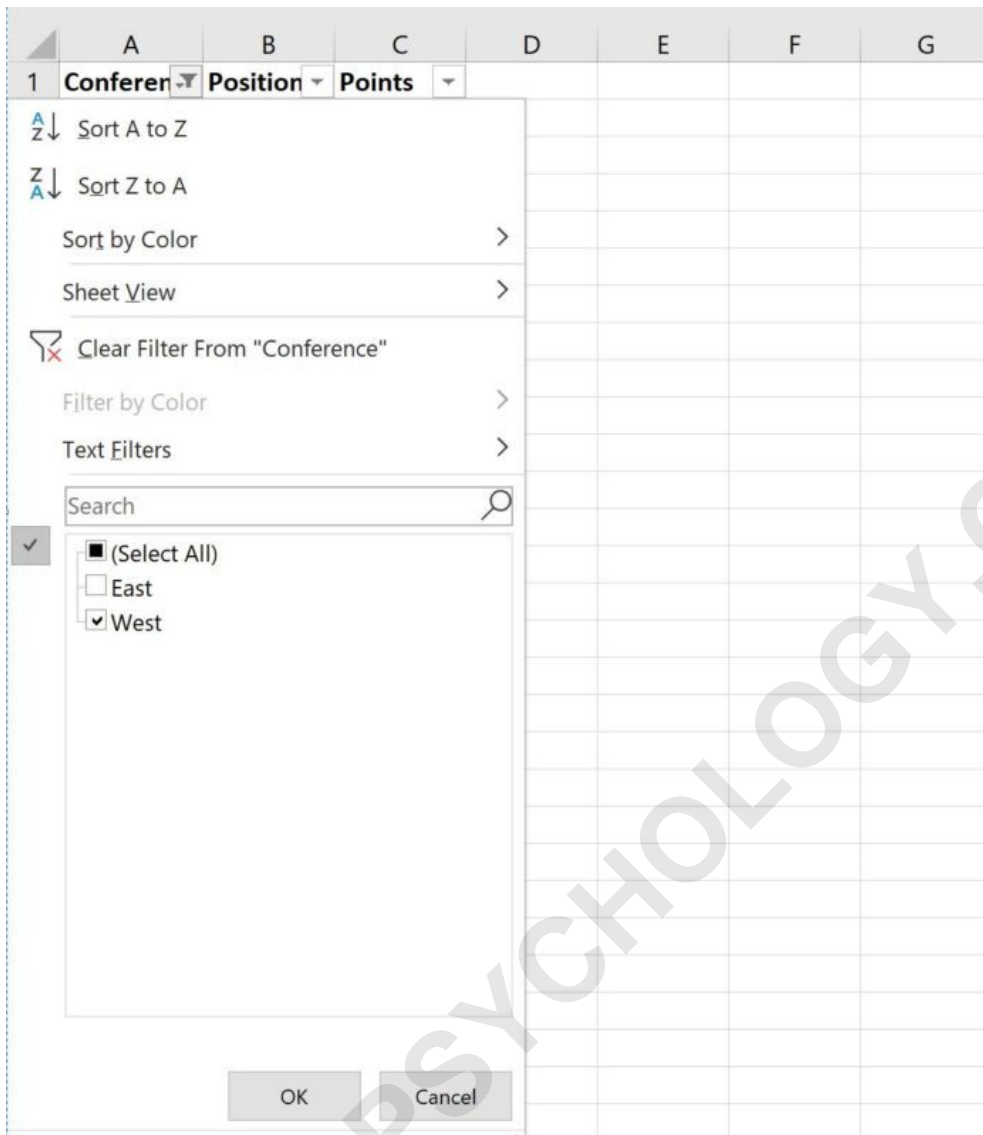
**Suppose we have the following dataset that contains information about various basketball players:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Conference</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Points</b>			
2	West	Guard	12			
3	East	Forward	22			
4	West	Guard	28			
5	West	Guard	30			
6	East	Forward	14			
7	East	Guard	9			
8	West	Guard	15			
9	West	Forward	15			
10	East	Guard	20			
11	West	Forward	27			
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

**Next, let's filter the data to only show the rows where the players are in the West conference.**

**To do so, highlight the cell range A1:C11. Then click the Data tab along the top ribbon and click the Filter button.**

**Then click the dropdown arrow next to Conference and make sure that only the box next to West is checked, then click OK:**



**The data will automatically be filtered to only show the rows where the Conference column is equal to West:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Conferer	Position	Points			
2	West	Guard	12			
4	West	Guard	28			
5	West	Guard	30			
8	West	Guard	15			
9	West	Forward	15			
11	West	Forward	27			
12						
13						
14						
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19						
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21						
22						
23						
24						

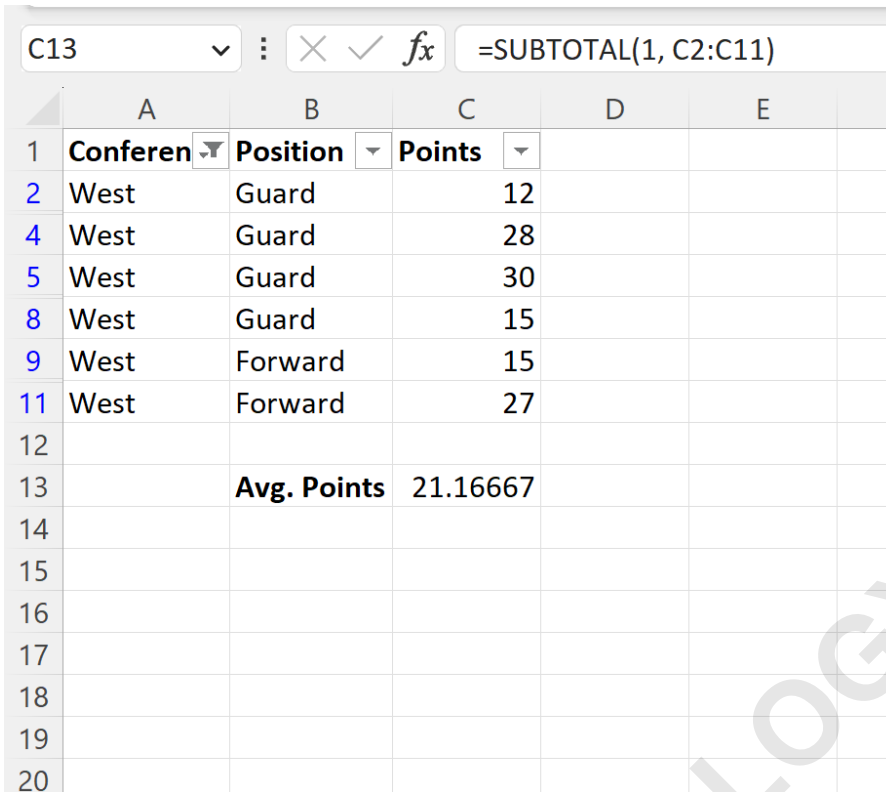
If we attempt to use the **AVERAGE()** function to calculate the average of the values in the **Points** column, it will actually return the average of values in the **Points** column for all of the rows in the original dataset:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Confere	Position	Points		
2	West	Guard	12		
4	West	Guard	28		
5	West	Guard	30		
8	West	Guard	15		
9	West	Forward	15		
11	West	Forward	27		
12					
13		Avg. Points	19.2		
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

Instead, we need to use the following formula:

**=SUBTOTAL(1, C2:C11)**

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



	A	B	C	D	E
1	Conferen	Position	Points		
2	West	Guard	12		
4	West	Guard	28		
5	West	Guard	30		
8	West	Guard	15		
9	West	Forward	15		
11	West	Forward	27		
12					
13		Avg. Points	21.16667		
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

**This formula returns the correct average of 21.16667.**

**We can confirm this is correct by manually calculating the average of the points values for only the visible rows**

**Average of Points for visible rows:  $(12 + 28 + 30 + 15 + 15 + 27) / 6 = 21.16667$ .**

**Note #1: You can also use `=SUBTOTAL(101, C2:C11)` to calculate the average and also exclude manually hidden rows.**

**Note #2: You can find the complete documentation for the SUBTOTAL function in Excel .**

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

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