How do I calculate cumulative percentage in Excel, and what are some examples of its use?

Authored by

stats writer

May 3, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How do I calculate cumulative percentage in Excel, and what are some examples of its use?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=142200

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

In order to calculate cumulative percentage in Excel, you will need to use the "SUM" and "PERCENTAGE" functions. The SUM function will help you add up the values from a specific range, while the PERCENTAGE function will help you convert the values into percentages. Once you have the cumulative percentages, you can use them to analyze data trends, track progress towards goals, or compare the relative proportions of different categories. For example, a sales manager may use cumulative percentages to track the growth of sales over time, while a financial analyst may use them to compare the allocation of expenses across different departments. Overall, calculating cumulative percentages in Excel can provide valuable insights and aid in decision-making for various industries and purposes.

Calculate Cumulative Percentage in Excel (With Examples)

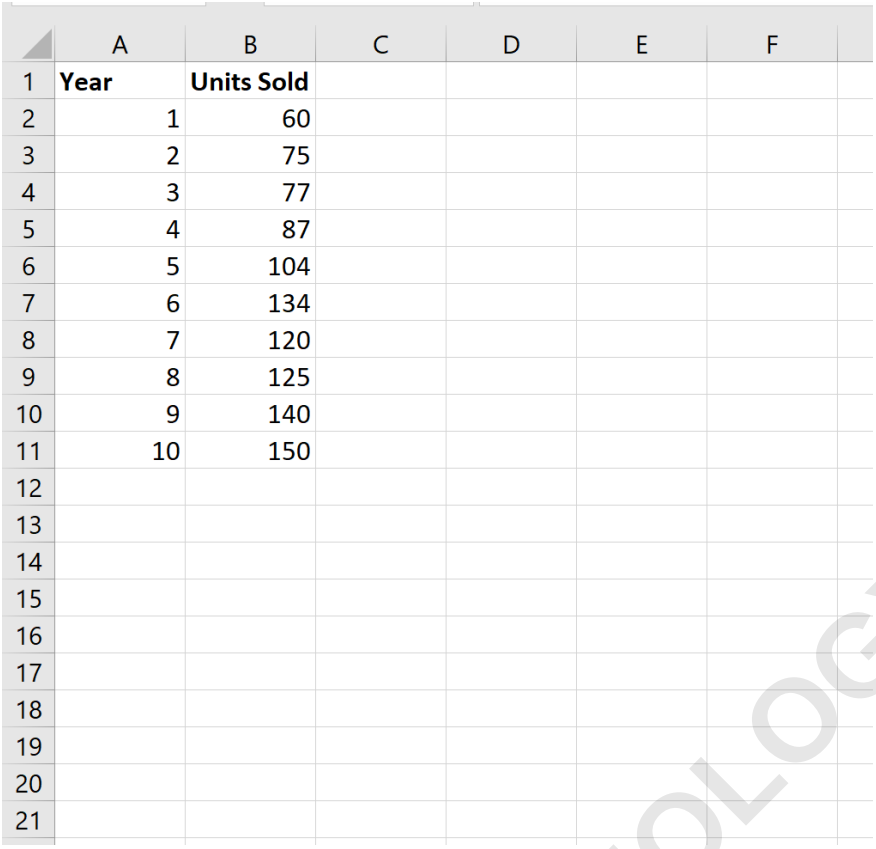
Often you may want to calculate a cumulative percentage of some dataset. Fortunately this is easy to do using built-in functions in Excel.

The following step-by-step example shows how to calculate cumulative percentages in Excel.

Step 1: Enter the Data

First, let's create a dataset that shows the number of units that some company sells during consecutive years:

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

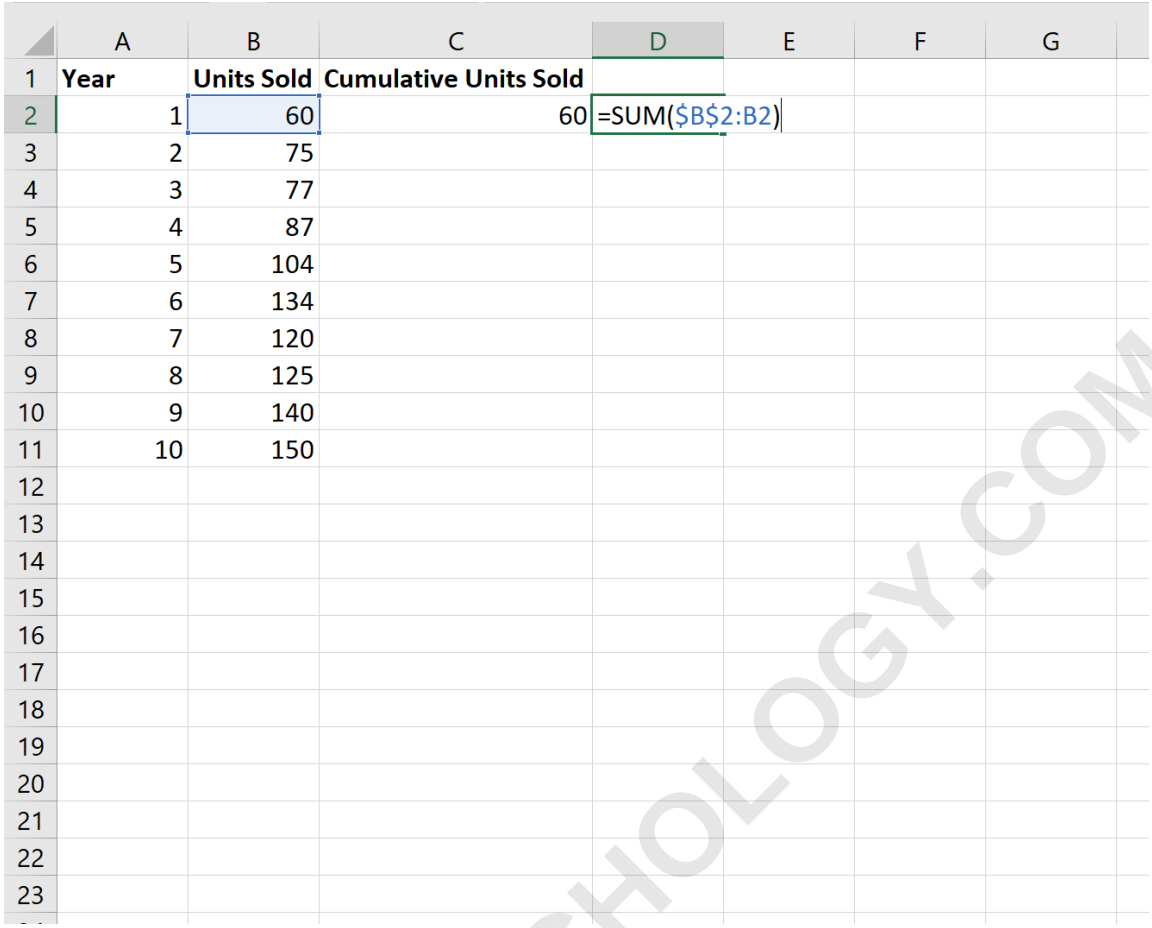


	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Year**	**Units Sold**				
2	1	60				
3	2	75				
4	3	77				
5	4	87				
6	5	104				
7	6	134				
8	7	120				
9	8	125				
10	9	140				
11	10	150				
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

Step 2: Calculate Cumulative Frequency

Next, let's use the following formula to calculate the cumulative frequency of the first row:



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Year	Units Sold	Cumulative Units Sold				
2	1	60	60	=SUM($B$2:B2)			
3	2	75					
4	3	77					
5	4	87					
6	5	104					
7	6	134					
8	7	120					
9	8	125					
10	9	140					
11	10	150					
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							
23							

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

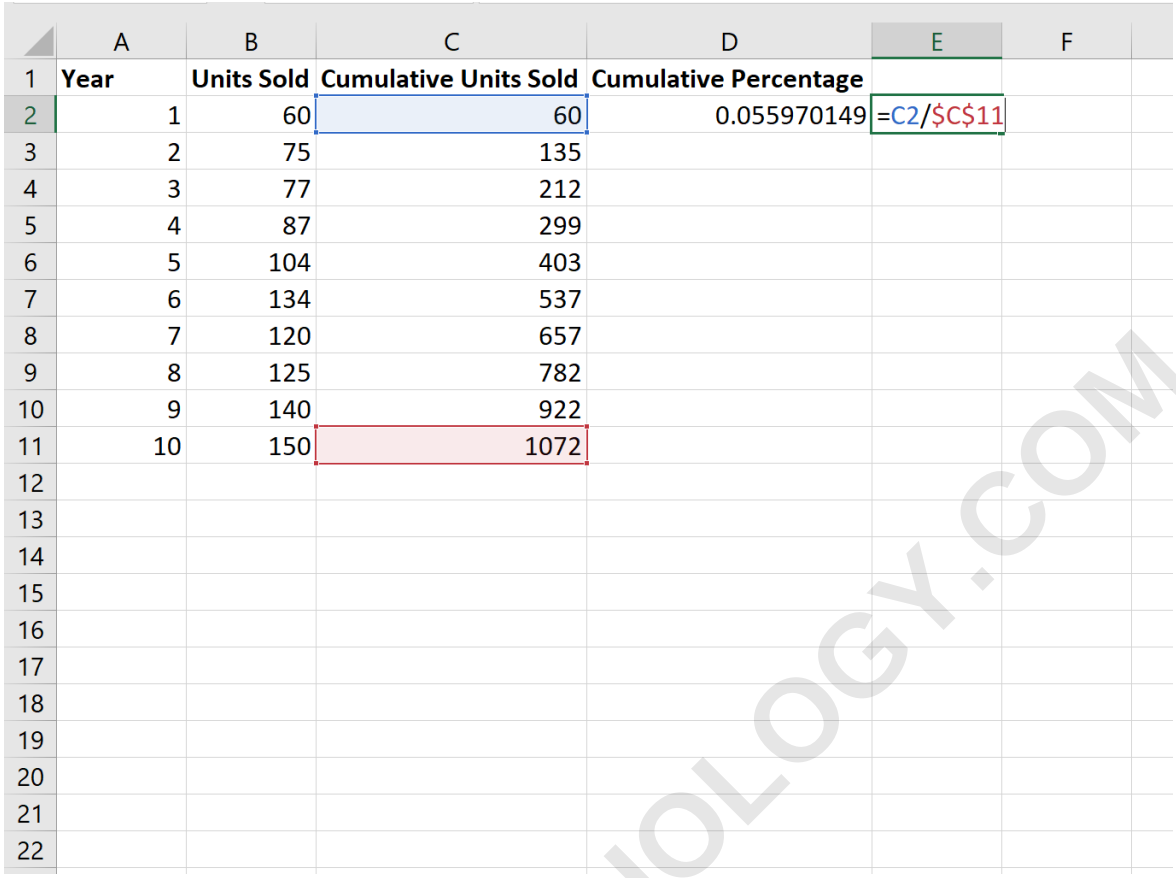
We can then copy and paste this formula to each remaining cell in column C:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Year**	**Units Sold**	**Cumulative Units Sold**			
2	1	60	60			
3	2	75	135			
4	3	77	212			
5	4	87	299			
6	5	104	403			
7	6	134	537			
8	7	120	657			
9	8	125	782			
10	9	140	922			
11	10	150	1072			
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

Step 3: Calculate Cumulative Percentage

Next, we can use the following formula to calculate the cumulative percentage of the first row:



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Year	Units Sold	Cumulative Units Sold	Cumulative Percentage		
2	1	60	60	0.055970149	=C2/$C$11	
3	2	75	135			
4	3	77	212			
5	4	87	299			
6	5	104	403			
7	6	134	537			
8	7	120	657			
9	8	125	782			
10	9	140	922			
11	10	150	1072			
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

We can then copy and paste this formula to the remaining cells in column D:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Year**	**Units Sold**	**Cumulative Units Sold**	**Cumulative Percentage**		
2	1	60	60	0.055970149		
3	2	75	135	0.125932836		
4	3	77	212	0.197761194		
5	4	87	299	0.27891791		
6	5	104	403	0.375932836		
7	6	134	537	0.500932836		
8	7	120	657	0.612873134		
9	8	125	782	0.729477612		
10	9	140	922	0.860074627		
11	10	150	1072	1		
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						

Step 4: Change Formatting to Percentage

Lastly, we can highlight each of the cumulative percentage values in column D and then press Ctrl+Shift+% to convert the formatting to percentages:

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Year**	**Units Sold**	**Cumulative Units Sold**	**Cumulative Percentage**		
2	1	60	60	6%		
3	2	75	135	13%		
4	3	77	212	20%		
5	4	87	299	28%		
6	5	104	403	38%		
7	6	134	537	50%		
8	7	120	657	61%		
9	8	125	782	73%		
10	9	140	922	86%		
11	10	150	1072	100%		
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						
23						

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

We interpret the cumulative percentages as follows:

About 6% of all sales were made in year 1.About 13% of all sales were made in years 1 and 2 combined.About 20% of all sales were made in years 1, 2, and 3 combined.

And so on.