

How do I calculate percent change in Google Sheets with examples?

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Calculating percent change in Google Sheets is a simple process that allows you to track the increase or decrease in a specific value over time. To do this, you will need to use the formula: $(\text{New Value} - \text{Old Value}) / \text{Old Value}$. This will give you the decimal value of the percent change, which can then be converted to a percentage by multiplying it by 100. For example, if the old value is 50 and the new value is 60, the percent change would be $(60-50)/50 = 0.2$ or 20%. This calculation can be applied to any data in your Google Sheets, allowing you to easily analyze changes and trends in your data.

Calculate Percent Change in Google Sheets (With Examples)

The percent change in values between one period and another period is calculated as:

$$\text{Percent change} = (\text{Value2} - \text{Value1}) / \text{Value1} * 100$$

For example, suppose a company makes 50 sales one month, then makes 56 sales the next month. We can use the following formula to calculate the percent change in sales from one month to the next:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Percent change} &= (\text{Value2} - \text{Value1}) / \text{Value1} * 100 \\ \text{Percent change} &= (56 - 50) / 50 * 100 \\ \text{Percent change} &= 12\% \end{aligned}$$

This tells us that sales grew by 12% from the first month to the second month.

To calculate percent change in Google Sheets, we can use the following formula:

=to_percent((A2-A1)/A1)

Note that this formula automatically displays the result in a percentage format thanks to the to_percent() function.

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

Example: Calculating Percent Change in Google Sheets

Suppose we have the following dataset that shows the sales of a certain company during 10 consecutive sales periods:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Period	Sales			
2	1	85			
3	2	94			
4	3	98			
5	4	97			
6	5	104			
7	6	113			
8	7	119			
9	8	130			
10	9	133			
11	10	150			
12					
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20					

We can use the following formula to calculate the percent change in sales between the first and second period:

C3 fx =to_percent((B3-B2)/B2)

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Period	Sales			
2	1	85			
3	2	94	11%		
4	3	98			
5	4	97			
6	5	104			
7	6	113			
8	7	119			
9	8	130			
10	9	133			
11	10	150			
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We can then drag this formula down to every remaining cell in column C to automatically calculate the percent change in sales between each consecutive period:

C3:C11 *fx* =to_percent((B3-B2)/B2)

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Period	Sales			
2	1	85			
3	2	94	11%		
4	3	98	4%		
5	4	97	-1%		
6	5	104	7%		
7	6	113	9%		
8	7	119	5%		
9	8	130	9%		
10	9	133	2%		
11	10	150	13%		
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From the output we can see:

Sales increased by 11% from period 1 to period 2. Sales increased by 4% from period 2 to period 3. Sales decreased by 1% from period 3 to period 4.

And so on.