

# How to Calculate Average Differences Using AVERAGEIF in Google Sheets

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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To calculate the average difference in Google Sheets, you can use the function AVERAGEIF(). This function allows you to specify a range of cells and a criteria, and it will calculate the average of the cells that meet that criteria. In this case, you can use the function to find the average difference between two sets of data by setting the range to the cells containing the data and the criteria to the subtraction formula. This will give you the average difference between the two sets of data. Additionally, you can also use the AVERAGE() function to find the average of a range of cells, including the results from the AVERAGEIF() function. This will provide a more general average of the differences in the entire data set. By using these functions, you can easily calculate the average difference in Google Sheets.

## Calculate Average Difference in Google Sheets

You can use the following formula in Google Sheets to calculate the average difference between two ranges:

**=ARRAYFORMULA(AVERAGE(B2:B11-C2:C11))**

This particular formula calculates the average difference between the values in the range B2:B11 and C2:C11.

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

### Example: How to Calculate Average Difference in Google Sheets

Suppose we have the following dataset in Excel that shows the number of points scored and number of points allowed during various games by some

## basketball team:

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points Scored</b>	<b>Points Allowed</b>	
2	Mavs	100	101	
3	Nets	104	100	
4	Warriors	123	98	
5	Heat	98	103	
6	Lakers	110	109	
7	Celtics	135	120	
8	Knicks	128	114	
9	Heat	100	100	
10	Magic	95	104	
11	Kings	101	99	
12				
13				
14				
15				

Suppose we would like to calculate the average difference between the values in the Points Scored column and the Points Allowed column.

We can type the following formula into cell E2 to do so:

**=ARRAYFORMULA(AVERAGE(B2:B11-C2:C11))**

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

E2    fx =ARRAYFORMULA(AVERAGE(B2:B11 - C2:C11))

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points Scored</b>	<b>Points Allowed</b>		<b>Avg. Difference</b>
2	Mavs	100	101		4.6
3	Nets	104	100		
4	Warriors	123	98		
5	Heat	98	103		
6	Lakers	110	109		
7	Celtics	135	120		
8	Knicks	128	114		
9	Heat	100	100		
10	Magic	95	104		
11	Kings	101	99		
12					
13					
14					

We can see that the average difference between the values in the Points Scored column and the Points Allowed column is 4.6.

In other words, this team scores 4.6 points more than they allow per game, on average.

### How This Formula Works

Recall the formula that we used to calculate the average difference between the two columns:

**=ARRAYFORMULA(AVERAGE(B2:B11-C2:C11))**

**For example, it calculates:**

**Row 1: 100 - 101 = -1**  
**Row 2: 104 - 100 = 4**  
**Row 3: 123 - 98 = 25**  
**Row 4: 98 - 103 = -5**  
**Row 5: 110 - 109 = 1**  
**Row 6: 135 - 120 = 15**  
**Row 7: 128 - 114 = 14**  
**Row 8: 100 - 100 = 0**  
**Row 9: 95 - 104 = -9**  
**Row 10: 101 - 99 = 2**

**It then uses the AVERAGE function to calculate the average of all these differences:**

**Average Difference =  $(-1+4+25-5+1+15+14+0-9+2) / 10 = 4.6$ .**

**Note: Since we used two arrays in our formula, we had to wrap the ARRAYFORMULA function around the AVERAGE function.**

**The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Google Sheets:**