

# How to Calculate Mean, Median, and Mode in Google Sheets: A Step-by-Step Guide

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In the modern world of data analysis, proficiency with spreadsheet software is paramount. [Google Sheets](#) stands out as a powerful, accessible tool for organizing and analyzing information. Central to statistical analysis is the ability to quickly determine the central tendency of a [dataset](#), which is typically measured using the [Mean](#), [Median](#), and [Mode](#). Fortunately, [Google Sheets](#) provides intuitive and efficient built-in [Statistical Functions](#) specifically designed for these calculations.

Calculating these core metrics--the average, the middle value, and the most frequently occurring value--is surprisingly straightforward. Users simply need to identify the range of cells containing their numerical data and apply the appropriate function: **AVERAGE**, **MEDIAN**, or **MODE**. To implement these formulas, you select the target cell where you wish the result to be displayed, type the equals sign (=), followed by the function name, and then specify the cell range. For instance, to find the [Mean](#) (or average) for data spanning cells A2 through A12, you would enter `=AVERAGE(A2:A12)`. Similarly, calculating the [Median](#) requires the formula `=MEDIAN(A2:A12)`, while finding the [Mode](#) uses `=MODE(A2:A12)` or, preferably, `=MODE.MULT(A2:A12)`, as we will explore in detail later. Once entered, [Google Sheets](#) instantaneously processes the calculation and presents the required statistical measure.

Understanding how to use these [Statistical Functions](#) is essential for anyone working with quantitative data, as these measures provide fundamental insights into the distribution and typical characteristics of a [dataset](#). We will now delve into the practical implementation of these formulas with clear examples and detailed explanations.

## Mastering the Central Tendency Formulas

To efficiently analyze your numerical information within [Google Sheets](#), three primary formulas govern the determination of central tendency. These functions are designed to handle vast amounts of data seamlessly, requiring only the designation of the relevant cell range. Utilizing these tools allows data analysts and researchers alike to quickly extract summary statistics without manual computation.

The following list details the core functions used to find the [Mean](#), [Median](#), and [Mode](#) of a numerical range within your spreadsheet:

**=AVERAGE(A1:A10)**

=MEDIAN(A1:A10)

=MODE.MULT(A1:A10)

## Important Considerations Regarding Data Cleanup

When working with real-world data, it is common to encounter missing entries, text strings, or other non-numeric variables mixed within the numerical columns. A crucial advantage of using these specific built-in Statistical Functions in Google Sheets--namely AVERAGE, MEDIAN, and MODE.MULT--is their inherent robustness in handling messy data.

**Note:** Each of these formulas is designed to streamline the calculation process by automatically ignoring or omitting values that are non-numeric or cells that are entirely blank when calculating these metrics for a specified range of cells in Google Sheets. This feature helps ensure that the resulting statistics--mean, median, and mode--are based purely on the valid numerical elements of the dataset, preventing common calculation errors associated with mixed data types.

To illustrate how these formulas operate in a practical context, we will utilize a sample dataset consisting of nine numerical entries. The following visual representation shows the arrangement of the data points we will analyze across the subsequent examples:

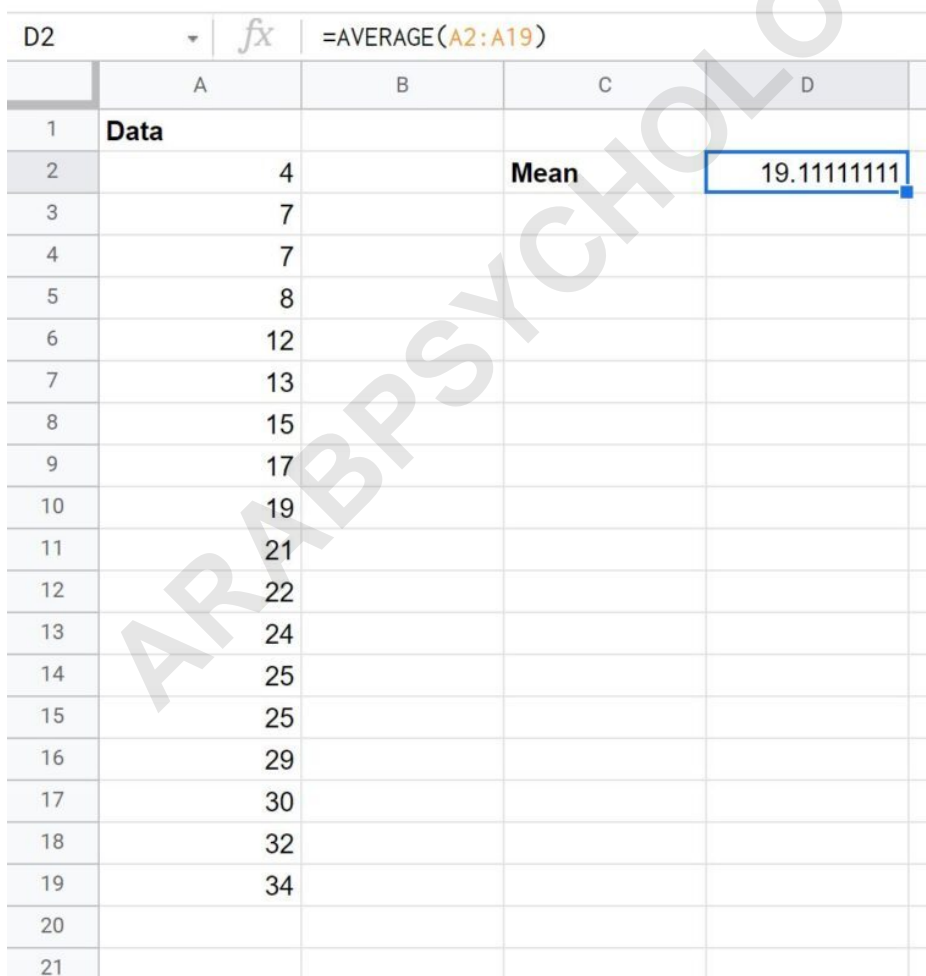
	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Data</b>			
2	4			
3	7			
4	7			
5	8			
6	12			
7	13			
8	15			
9	17			
10	19			
11	21			
12	22			
13	24			
14	25			
15	25			
16	29			
17	30			
18	32			
19	34			
20				
21				

## Example 1: Calculating the Mean (Average) in Google Sheets

The **Mean**, often referred to simply as the average, is the sum of all values in a dataset divided by the total count of values. It is the most common measure of central tendency and is vital for understanding the typical value when the data distribution is roughly symmetrical and lacks extreme outliers. This measure provides a balanced representation of the entire numerical range.

To calculate this metric in Google Sheets, we employ the dedicated **AVERAGE()** Statistical Function. Assuming our sample data resides in cells A2 through A10, the formula is executed by typing `=AVERAGE(A2:A10)` into an empty cell, such as cell C2. This action prompts the spreadsheet environment to perform the complex summation and division necessary to yield the average value of the range.

The screenshot below clearly demonstrates the input formula and the resulting calculation for the Mean of our data sample:



	A	B	C	D
D2			=AVERAGE(A2:A19)	
1	<b>Data</b>			
2	4		<b>Mean</b>	19.11111111
3	7			
4	7			
5	8			
6	12			
7	13			
8	15			
9	17			
10	19			
11	21			
12	22			
13	24			
14	25			
15	25			
16	29			
17	30			
18	32			
19	34			
20				
21				

Upon execution, the calculation reveals that the Mean value for the analyzed dataset is precisely

**19.11.** This figure represents the arithmetic center point around which the entire set of nine data points is distributed.

## Example 2: Calculating the Median (Middle Value) in Google Sheets

The **Median** serves as the true middle value of a dataset. Its defining characteristic is that 50% of the data points fall above it, and 50% fall below it. Critically, to determine the Median accurately, the data must first be sorted in ascending or descending order. The power of the Google Sheets **MEDIAN()** function is that it performs this essential sorting step internally, saving the user the manual effort.

Unlike the Mean, the Median is highly robust against outliers or extremely skewed data points. If the dataset contains an odd number of values, the Median is simply the exact middle number. If the dataset contains an even number of values, the Median is calculated as the average of the two central numbers.

To calculate the Median for our example range (A2:A10), we input the formula `=MEDIAN(A2:A10)` into the designated output cell. The following visual guide illustrates the application of this formula in the spreadsheet interface:

D3      fx      =MEDIAN(A2:A19)				
	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Data</b>			
2	4		<b>Mean</b>	19.11111111
3	7		<b>Median</b>	20
4	7			
5	8			
6	12			
7	13			
8	15			
9	17			
10	19			
11	21			
12	22			
13	24			
14	25			
15	25			
16	29			
17	30			
18	32			
19	34			
20				

After processing the nine data points, the Median value is calculated to be **20**. This confirms that when the data is sorted, 20 is the fifth value in the ordered sequence, effectively dividing the distribution into two equal halves.

### Example 3: Calculating the Mode (Most Frequent Value) in Google Sheets

The **Mode** identifies the value that appears with the highest frequency within a dataset. This measure is particularly useful when analyzing categorical or discrete data, although it is also applicable to continuous data. A crucial statistical distinction is that a dataset can exhibit several different scenarios regarding the Mode: it might have no mode (if all values appear only once), a single mode (unimodal), or multiple modes (bimodal, trimodal, or multimodal).

When determining the Mode, Google Sheets offers two primary Statistical Functions: **MODE()** and **MODE.MULT()**. Due to the potential for multimodal datasets, using **MODE.MULT()** is strongly recommended as it is designed to return all values that qualify as the mode, providing a complete statistical picture.

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Data</b>			
2	4		<b>Mean</b>	19.11111111
3	7		<b>Median</b>	20
4	7		<b>Mode</b>	7
5	8			25
6	12			
7	13			
8	15			
9	17			
10	19			
11	21			
12	22			
13	24			
14	25			
15	25			
16	29			
17	30			
18	32			
19	34			
20				

In the case of our specific dataset, we find that the resulting modes, using the `=MODE.MULT(A2:A10)` formula, are **7** and **25**. This output signifies that both the number 7 and the number 25 occur exactly twice, which is more frequently than any other single value within the analyzed data range. Since the function is designed to spill the results into adjacent cells, both results are clearly displayed.

### The Advantage of Using `MODE.MULT()` Over `MODE()`

It is essential for data integrity to choose the correct function when calculating the Mode. If an analyst were to rely solely on the older `=MODE()` function, it would only return the first mode it encounters in the sequence of data processing. For our current multimodal dataset, where both 7 and 25 are equally frequent, the `=MODE()` function would misleadingly return only the value 7, failing to identify the second, equally relevant mode of 25.

This potential for statistical oversight underscores why the `=MODE.MULT()` function is the superior choice for modern data analysis in Google Sheets. By utilizing `MODE.MULT()`, you ensure comprehensive statistical reporting, accurately capturing all existing modes within your dataset and

preventing the omission of critical frequency information.

Furthermore, the **MODE.MULT()** function is an array formula, meaning it automatically spills its results down consecutive rows if multiple modes are found. This makes the output transparent and easy to interpret, contrasting sharply with the limitations of the legacy **MODE()** function, which is now generally deprecated in favor of its multi-result counterpart.

## Summary of Statistical Functions

The ability to calculate the Mean, Median, and Mode rapidly using Google Sheets is a cornerstone of effective data analysis. These three measures of central tendency offer distinct perspectives on the data's center point, helping analysts understand distribution, skewness, and typical values.

**Mean (AVERAGE()):** Best for symmetrical distributions; represents the true mathematical average.

**Median (MEDIAN()):** Ideal for skewed data or when outliers are present; represents the 50th percentile.

**Mode (MODE.MULT()):** Crucial for identifying the most frequent observations; essential for understanding popularity or common occurrence.

By mastering these simple yet powerful Statistical Functions, users can significantly enhance their data processing capabilities within the spreadsheet environment, moving beyond simple data entry to sophisticated statistical inference.

## Further Exploration in Data Metrics

While the measures of central tendency are fundamental, a complete statistical profile often requires calculating measures of dispersion and variability, such as standard deviation, variance, and range. Google Sheets includes numerous other advanced functions to handle these calculations as well, building on the basic principles introduced here.

For those seeking to expand their knowledge base beyond central values, the following tutorials explain how to calculate other common metrics in Google Sheets: