

How to Calculate Quintiles in Google Sheets

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To calculate quintiles in Google Sheets, first sort the data from smallest to largest. Then divide the data into five equal groups. To do this, count the number of items in the data set, and divide the total by five. Then, select the item in each group that is closest to the result of the division. The values in each group represent the quintiles.

In statistics, **quintiles** are numbers that split a dataset into five groups of equal frequency.

The first quintile is the point where 20% of all data values lie below it.

The second quintile is the point where 40% of all data values lie below it.

The third quintile is the point where 60% of all data values lie below it.

The fourth quintile is the point where 80% of all data values lie below it.

We can use the following basic formula to calculate the quintiles for a dataset in Google Sheets:

=PERCENTILE(CELL RANGE, QUINTILE)

For example, we can use the following formula to calculate the first quantile in the range **A1:A10**:

=PERCENTILE(A1:A10, 0.2)

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

Example: Calculate Quintiles in Google Sheets

Suppose we have the following dataset in Google Sheets with 20 values:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Data				
2	4				
3	5				
4	5				
5	6				
6	7				
7	8				
8	12				
9	14				
10	14				
11	16				
12	17				
13	20				
14	22				
15	23				
16	24				
17	26				
18	27				
19	30				
20	35				
21	38				
22					
23					
24					

The following screenshot shows how to calculate the quintiles for the dataset:

D2 fx =PERCENTILE(\$A\$2:\$A\$21, C2)

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Data		Quintile	Value	
2	4		0.2	6.8	
3	5		0.4	14	
4	5		0.6	20.8	
5	6		0.8	26.2	
6	7				
7	8				
8	12				
9	14				
10	14				
11	16				
12	17				
13	20				
14	22				
15	23				
16	24				
17	26				
18	27				
19	30				
20	35				
21	38				
22					
23					

Here is how to interpret the quintile values:

20% of all data values lie below **6.8**.

40% of all data values lie below **14**.

60% of all data values lie below **20.8**.

80% of all data values lie below **26.2**.

We can also use the following formula to calculate each quintile at the same time:

=ArrayFormula(PERCENTILE(\$A\$2:\$A\$21, {0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8}))

The following image shows how to do so:

C2 *fx* =ArrayFormula(PERCENTILE(\$A\$2:\$A\$21, {0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8}))

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Data		Quintiles			
2	4		6.8	14	20.8	26.2
3	5					
4	5					
5	6					
6	7					
7	8					
8	12					
9	14					
10	14					
11	16					
12	17					
13	20					
14	22					
15	23					
16	24					
17	26					
18	27					
19	30					
20	35					
21	38					
22						
23						

Notice that these quintile values match the ones we calculated earlier.