

# EXAMPLE - NEXT Function

The following dataset contains order information for the preceding 12 months. You want to compare the current month's average against the preceding quarter.

## Source:

Date	Amount
12/31/15	118
11/30/15	6
10/31/15	443
9/30/15	785
8/31/15	77
7/31/15	606
6/30/15	421
5/31/15	763
4/30/15	305
3/31/15	824
2/28/15	135
1/31/15	523

## Transformation:

Using the `ROLLINGAVERAGE` function, you can generate a column containing the rolling average of the current month and the two previous months:

<b>Transformation Name</b>	Window
<b>Parameter: Formulas</b>	<code>ROLLINGAVERAGE(Amount, 3, 0)</code>
<b>Parameter: Order by</b>	<code>-Date</code>

Note the sign of the second parameter and the `order` parameter. The sort is in the reverse order of the `Date` parameter, which preserves the current sort order. As a result, the second parameter, which identifies the number of rows to use in the calculation, must be positive to capture the previous months.

Technically, this computation does not capture the prior quarter, since it includes the current quarter as part of the computation. You can use the following column to capture the rolling average of the preceding month, which then becomes the true rolling average for the prior quarter. The `window` column refers to the name of the column generated from the previous step:

<b>Transformation Name</b>	Window
<b>Parameter: Formulas</b>	<code>NEXT(window, 1)</code>
<b>Parameter: Order by</b>	<code>-Date</code>

Note that the order parameter must be preserved. This new column, `window1`, contains your prior quarter rolling average:

<b>Transformation Name</b>	Rename columns
<b>Parameter: Option</b>	Manual rename
<b>Parameter: Column</b>	window1
<b>Parameter: New column name</b>	'Amount_PriorQtr'

You can reformat this numeric value:

<b>Transformation Name</b>	Edit column with formula
<b>Parameter: Columns</b>	Amount_PriorQtr
<b>Parameter: Formula</b>	NUMFORMAT(Amount_PriorQtr, '###.00')

You can use the following transformation to calculate the net change. This formula computes the change as a percentage of the prior quarter and then formats it as a two-digit percentage.

<b>Transformation Name</b>	New formula
<b>Parameter: Formula type</b>	Single row formula
<b>Parameter: Formula</b>	NUMFORMAT(((Amount - Amount_PriorQtr) / Amount_PriorQtr) * 100, '##.##')
<b>Parameter: New column name</b>	'NetChangePct_PriorQtr'

## Results:

**NOTE:** You might notice that there are computed values for `Amount_PriorQtr` for February and March. These values do not factor in a full three months because the data is not present. The January value does not exist since there is no data preceding it.

Date	Amount	Amount_PriorQtr	NetChangePct_PriorQtr
12/31/15	118	411.33	-71.31
11/30/15	6	435.00	-98.62
10/31/15	443	489.33	-9.47
9/30/15	785	368.00	113.32
8/31/15	77	596.67	-87.1
7/31/15	606	496.33	22.1
6/30/15	421	630.67	-33.25
5/31/15	763	421.33	81.09
4/30/15	305	494.00	-38.26
3/31/15	824	329.00	150.46
2/28/15	135	523.00	-74.19
1/31/15	523		