Helper Functions

Tableau Desktop Reference Guide

Use the helper functions to provide information about the relative position or size of an item within the current scope and direction.

The results from **FIRST**, **LAST**, **INDEX**, and **SIZE** functions can be used as input to other calculations or functions, such as the **LOOKUP** function. For example, use **FIRST**() + n and **LAST**() – n as part of your offset definition for a target relative to the first or last rows in the partition.

Function Syntax	Purpose	Example
INDEX()	Returns the position of the current value, given the chosen scope and direction.	**INDEX**() returns the index for the current row. The first row index starts at 1.
FIRST() **LAST**() is similar	Returns the offset of the position of the current value.	**FIRST**() returns 0 if the current value is in the first row and returns –1 if the current value is in the second row, and so on. **LAST**() returns 0 if the current value is in the last row and returns 1 for the previous row and so on.
SIZE()	Returns the number of rows in the current scope.	**SIZE**() returns 12 if the current part of the table shows sales for months in a year.

FAQ

These functions will return numbers with decimals, so change the format to standard if you want to show these as stand–alone calculated fields.Note that these functions are followed by parentheses, even though they are empty.For more information about helper functions, check out the **Help topic**.