

```
);
```

In this instance, all rows relating to in-store workers would be stored in partition `p0`, those relating to office and support staff in `p1`, and those relating to managers in partition `p2`.

It is also possible to use an expression in `VALUES LESS THAN` clauses. However, MySQL must be able to evaluate the expression's return value as part of a `LESS THAN (<)` comparison.

Rather than splitting up the table data according to store number, you can use an expression based on one of the two `DATE` columns instead. For example, let us suppose that you wish to partition based on the year that each employee left the company; that is, the value of `YEAR(separated)`. An example of a `CREATE TABLE` statement that implements such a partitioning scheme is shown here:

```
CREATE TABLE employees (
  id INT NOT NULL,
  fname VARCHAR(30),
  lname VARCHAR(30),
  hired DATE NOT NULL DEFAULT '1970-01-01',
  separated DATE NOT NULL DEFAULT '9999-12-31',
  job_code INT,
  store_id INT
)
PARTITION BY RANGE ( YEAR(separated) ) (
  PARTITION p0 VALUES LESS THAN (1991),
  PARTITION p1 VALUES LESS THAN (1996),
  PARTITION p2 VALUES LESS THAN (2001),
  PARTITION p3 VALUES LESS THAN MAXVALUE
);
```

In this scheme, for all employees who left before 1991, the rows are stored in partition `p0`; for those who left in the years 1991 through 1995, in `p1`; for those who left in the years 1996 through 2000, in `p2`; and for any workers who left after the year 2000, in `p3`.

It is also possible to partition a table by `RANGE`, based on the value of a `TIMESTAMP` column, using the `UNIX_TIMESTAMP()` function, as shown in this example:

```
CREATE TABLE quarterly_report_status (
  report_id INT NOT NULL,
  report_status VARCHAR(20) NOT NULL,
  report_updated TIMESTAMP NOT NULL DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP ON UPDATE CURRENT_TIMESTAMP
)
PARTITION BY RANGE ( UNIX_TIMESTAMP(report_updated) ) (
  PARTITION p0 VALUES LESS THAN ( UNIX_TIMESTAMP('2008-01-01 00:00:00') ),
  PARTITION p1 VALUES LESS THAN ( UNIX_TIMESTAMP('2008-04-01 00:00:00') ),
  PARTITION p2 VALUES LESS THAN ( UNIX_TIMESTAMP('2008-07-01 00:00:00') ),
  PARTITION p3 VALUES LESS THAN ( UNIX_TIMESTAMP('2008-10-01 00:00:00') ),
  PARTITION p4 VALUES LESS THAN ( UNIX_TIMESTAMP('2009-01-01 00:00:00') ),
  PARTITION p5 VALUES LESS THAN ( UNIX_TIMESTAMP('2009-04-01 00:00:00') ),
  PARTITION p6 VALUES LESS THAN ( UNIX_TIMESTAMP('2009-07-01 00:00:00') ),
  PARTITION p7 VALUES LESS THAN ( UNIX_TIMESTAMP('2009-10-01 00:00:00') ),
  PARTITION p8 VALUES LESS THAN ( UNIX_TIMESTAMP('2010-01-01 00:00:00') ),
  PARTITION p9 VALUES LESS THAN (MAXVALUE)
);
```

Any other expressions involving `TIMESTAMP` values are not permitted. (See Bug #42849.)

Range partitioning is particularly useful when one or more of the following conditions is true:

- You want or need to delete “old” data. If you are using the partitioning scheme shown previously for the `employees` table, you can simply use `ALTER TABLE employees DROP PARTITION p0;` to delete all rows relating to employees who stopped working for the firm prior to 1991. (See [Section 13.1.9, “ALTER TABLE Statement”](#), and [Section 24.3, “Partition Management”](#), for more information.) For a