**Introduction**

In this blog we will discuss how to find the highest salary, the second highest salary and N number of the highest salaries with different examples.

**Step 1**  
Create table in SQL server and insert some data.

1. CREATE TABLE [dbo].[Employee](
2. [ID] [int] IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,
3. [Name] [nvarchar](50) NULL,
4. [Position] [nvarchar](50) NULL,
5. [Office] [nvarchar](50) NULL,
6. [Salary] [int] NULL,
7. CONSTRAINT [PK\_Employee] PRIMARY KEY CLUSTERED
8. (
9. [ID] ASC
10. )WITH (PAD\_INDEX = OFF, STATISTICS\_NORECOMPUTE = OFF, IGNORE\_DUP\_KEY = OFF, ALLOW\_ROW\_LOCKS = ON, ALLOW\_PAGE\_LOCKS = ON) ON [PRIMARY]
11. ) ON [PRIMARY]
13. GO

**Step 2**  
  
Write a query to select all records from the table:

SELECT\*FROM EMPLOYEE

**Query to find the highest salary**

1. SELECT\*FROM  [DBO].[EMPLOYEE] ORDER BY SALARY DESC
3. SELECT MAX(SALARY) FROM EMPLOYEE

**Query to find second highest salary**

1. SELECT\*FROM EMPLOYEE ORDER BY SALARY DESC
3. SELECT MAX(SALARY) FROM EMPLOYEE
4. WHERE SALARY<(SELECT MAX(SALARY) FROM EMPLOYEE)

1. SELECT\*FROM EMPLOYEE ORDER BY SALARY DESC
3. SELECT DISTINCT TOP 2 SALARY
4. FROM EMPLOYEE
5. ORDER BY SALARY DESC

**Nth number of highest salary using DENSE\_RANK function**

1. SELECT SALARY,
2. DENSE\_RANK() OVER (ORDER BY SALARY DESC) AS SALARY\_RANK
3. FROM EMPLOYEE

**TO FIND NTH HIGHEST SALARY USING CTE**

1. SELECT\*FROM  [DBO].[EMPLOYEE] ORDER BY SALARY DESC
2. GO
4. WITH RESULT AS
5. (
6. SELECT SALARY,
7. DENSE\_RANK() OVER (ORDER BY SALARY DESC) AS DENSERANK
8. FROM EMPLOYEE
9. )
10. SELECT TOP 1 SALARY
11. FROM RESULT
12. WHERE DENSERANK = 3