

The *mean* is a type of [average](#), giving a measure of the “centre” of a set of data, a random variable or a function. It is obtained by performing a calculation.

There are many different types of mean:

- The [arithmetic mean](#) is the most common; this is often simply called the “mean”
- The [geometric mean](#)
- The [harmonic mean](#)
- The [root mean square](#)
- The [power means](#), which encompass all of the above

The means are significantly affected by outlier values.