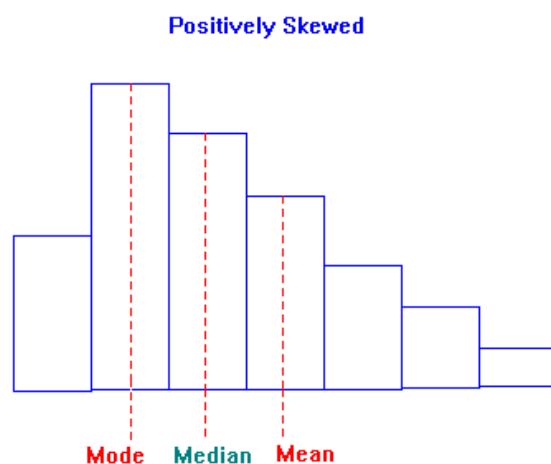


Shapes (Skewness)

Definition: The three most important shapes of frequency distributions are positively skewed, negatively skewed, and symmetrical.

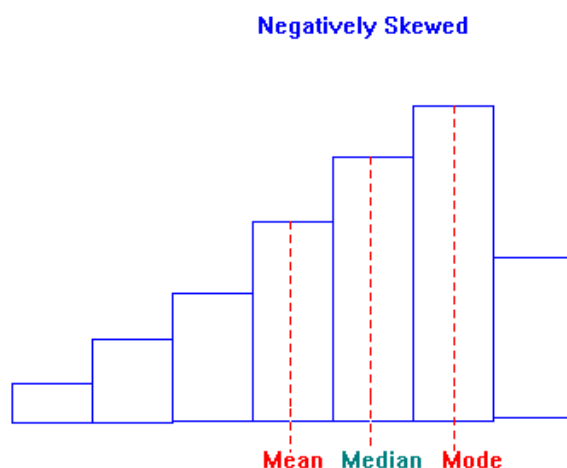
Positively Skewed Distribution

In a positively skewed distribution, most of the data values fall to the left of the mean, and the "tail" of the distribution is to the right. In addition, the mean is to the right of the median, and the mode is to the left of the median. These properties are depicted in the figure below.



Negatively Skewed Distribution

In a negatively skewed distribution, most of the data values fall to the right of the mean, and the tail of the distribution is to the left. In addition, the mean is to the left of the median, and the mode is to the right of the median. These properties are depicted in the figure below.



Symmetrical Distribution

In a symmetrical distribution, the data values are evenly distributed on both sides of the mean. Also, when the distribution is unimodal, the mean, median, and mode are all equal to one another and are located at the center of the distribution. These properties are depicted in the figure below.

Symmetrical Distribution

