

Figure 14-5. Use the INDEX function to retrieve the address

The following example is a bit trickier. Using the same worksheet as in Figure 14-5, the formula `=INDEX(C3:E6, 0, 2)` displays the #VALUE! error value because the *row_num* argument of 0 returns a reference to the entire column specified by the *column_num* argument of 2, or the range D3:D6. Excel can't display a range as the result. However, try nesting this formula in another function as follows: `=SUM(INDEX(C3:E6, 0, 2))`. The result is 2600, the sum of the values in D3:D6. This illustrates the utility of obtaining a reference as a result.

Now we'll show how the INDEX function works with multiple ranges in the *reference* argument. (When you're using more than one range, you must enclose the argument in parentheses.) For example, in the formula `=INDEX((A1:C5,D6:F10), 1, 1, 2)`, the *reference* range comprises two areas: A1:C5 and D6:F10. The *area_num* argument (2) tells INDEX to work on the second of these areas. This formula returns the address D6, which is the cell in the first column and first row of the range D6:F10. The displayed result is the value in that cell.

The INDIRECT Function

Figure 14-5. Use the INDEX function to retrieve the address or value in a cell where information is located

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