

# Get Last Day of Week in Excel (With Example)

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## The Challenge of Weekly Calculations in Excel

Determining the last day of the week for a specific date is a critical requirement in chronological data analysis and reporting within Microsoft Excel. Unlike finding the current date, calculating the end of a week dynamically requires leveraging Excel's date and time functions, primarily focusing on determining the day number relative to the week's start. This capability allows users to accurately group data, calculate period summaries, or automate reporting cycles, regardless of whether your organization defines the week ending on Saturday or Sunday.

The core challenge lies in accounting for differing regional standards regarding the start and end of the week. In many North American settings, the week begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday. Conversely, many international standards (ISO 8601) define the week starting on Monday and ending on Sunday. Utilizing the correct variant of the WEEKDAY function is essential to ensure your calculations align precisely with your intended weekly structure.

We will explore two robust formulas designed to handle the most common definitions of the week's end. These calculations rely on the fact that dates in Excel are stored as sequential serial numbers, making arithmetic manipulation straightforward. By determining the specific day number of a given date and adding the necessary offset, we can reliably jump to the corresponding last day of that week.

### Formula 1: Defining the Week End as Saturday

This formula is tailored for scenarios where the working or calendar week is defined as ending on a **Saturday**. This setup is common in traditional North American systems where the week starts on Sunday. The calculation subtracts the day number of the week from the current date and then adds 7, effectively calculating the offset required to reach the end of the current weekly cycle.

The core component here is the default behavior of the WEEKDAY function. When the optional `return_type` argument is omitted or set to 1, Excel assumes Sunday = 1 and Saturday = 7. By subtracting this resulting day number from the original date, we revert the date back to the previous Saturday (or the date prior to the start of the week), and adding 7 ensures we land precisely on the upcoming Saturday.

For example, if the input date (in cell A2) is a Wednesday (which WEEKDAY returns as 4), the calculation subtracts 4 from the date, moving it back to the preceding Sunday minus one day, and then the addition of 7 moves it forward to the upcoming Saturday, which concludes the week.

#### Formula 1: Get Last Day of Week (Assuming Last Day is Saturday)

```
=A2-WEEKDAY(A2)+7
```

## Formula 2: Defining the Week End as Sunday

In contrast, this second formula is engineered for systems that utilize the European standard (ISO 8601), where the week begins on Monday and concludes on **Sunday**. Achieving this requires modifying the standard WEEKDAY function by providing the specific `return_type` argument of 2.

When `return_type` is set to 2, the function designates Monday as 1 and Sunday as 7. This change is crucial for accurately mapping the weekly cycle to an internationally recognized standard. The structure of the formula itself remains similar, applying a subtraction and addition offset, but the interpretation of the WEEKDAY result is fundamentally different due to the `return_type` parameter.

By using `WEEKDAY(A2, 2)`, we guarantee that the formula correctly identifies the offset necessary to land on Sunday, the seventh day in this defined week structure. Both formulas assume that cell **A2** contains the initial reference date for which you seek the last day of the current week. Mastering the use of the `return_type` argument is vital for flexibility in date calculations across various geographical or organizational mandates.

### Formula 2: Get Last Day of Week (Assuming Last Day is Sunday)

**=A2-WEEKDAY(A2,2)+7**

## Setting Up the Data: Preparing for the Example

To illustrate the practical application of these formulas, we will utilize a sample dataset consisting of various dates. This example demonstrates how the chosen weekly definition (Saturday vs. Sunday end) influences the calculated end date, even when starting from the exact same initial date.

For this demonstration, assume that column **A** contains a list of dates. We will use two separate columns, **B** and **C**, to host the results from Formula 1 (Saturday end) and Formula 2 (Sunday end), respectively. It is critical that your source data in column A is formatted correctly as a date, although Excel is often forgiving due to its underlying serial number system.

The following visualization shows the initial setup of our data, listing the dates in column A before we apply any calculation. This preparation step confirms that we have a solid baseline from which to analyze the outcomes of the two distinct weekly calculation methods.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Date</b>				
2	1/10/2023				
3	1/15/2023				
4	2/15/2023				
5	3/5/2023				
6	4/1/2023				
7	4/29/2023				
8	6/7/2023				
9	7/15/2023				
10	9/12/2023				
11	10/30/2023				
12	12/25/2023				
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

## Step-by-Step Implementation of Formulas

The implementation phase involves entering the respective formulas into the top row of our target columns and then utilizing the fill handle feature to apply them across the entire dataset. This process is incredibly efficient for large data ranges, ensuring consistency across all weekly calculations.

We begin by typing the relevant formula into the first cell of each results column. For the date residing in cell **A2**, we will populate cell **B2** with the Saturday-ending formula and cell **C2** with the Sunday-ending formula. This ensures that the calculation is accurately anchored to the starting date.

Specifically, we input the following expressions:

**B2:** =A2-WEEKDAY(A2)+7

**C2:** =A2-WEEKDAY(A2,2)+7

Once these formulas are entered into **B2** and **C2**, the next step is to click and drag the fill handle (the small square at the bottom right corner of the selected cell) down to the remaining rows in columns B and C. Excel automatically adjusts the cell references (A2 becomes A3, A4, and so on) as the formula is copied down, ensuring that each date in column A is correctly processed.

C2 =A2-WEEKDAY(A2,2)+7			
	A	B	C
1	<b>Date</b>	<b>Last Day of Week (Saturday)</b>	<b>Last Day of Week (Sunday)</b>
2	1/10/2023	1/14/2023	1/15/2023
3	1/15/2023	1/21/2023	1/15/2023
4	2/15/2023	2/18/2023	2/19/2023
5	3/5/2023	3/11/2023	3/5/2023
6	4/1/2023	4/1/2023	4/2/2023
7	4/29/2023	4/29/2023	4/30/2023
8	6/7/2023	6/10/2023	6/11/2023
9	7/15/2023	7/15/2023	7/16/2023
10	9/12/2023	9/16/2023	9/17/2023
11	10/30/2023	11/4/2023	11/5/2023
12	12/25/2023	12/30/2023	12/31/2023
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			

### Interpreting the Results and Date Formatting

After successfully applying the formulas, the resulting dates in columns B and C represent the last day of the respective week for each input date in column A. It is crucial to understand precisely what each output column signifies based on the initial formula design.

Column B accurately displays the last day of the week that the corresponding date in column A falls in, based on the assumption that the week concludes on **Saturday**. This uses the default WEEKDAY interpretation (Sunday=1, Saturday=7).

Conversely, Column C shows the last day of the week, calculated using the `return_type=2` argument, meaning the week is assumed to conclude on **Sunday**. Analyzing the differences between columns B and C for the same input date highlights the direct impact of selecting a specific weekly standard.

For instance, if the input date is January 10, 2022 (a Monday), Column B calculates the end of that week as Saturday, January 15, 2022. Column C, however, calculates the end of that week as Sunday, January 16, 2022. This small difference is essential for accurate period closing and reporting.

## Troubleshooting: Handling Numeric Date Values

A common issue encountered when working with complex date formulas in Excel is that the resulting values sometimes appear as large numeric figures rather than recognizable dates. This happens because Excel stores all dates as serial numbers, counting the number of days since January 1, 1900. While the underlying calculation is correct, the cell formatting may default to 'General' instead of 'Date'.

If the results in columns B and C are shown as numeric values (e.g., 44574 instead of 1/15/2022), you must apply the correct date format. This is a simple process that does not affect the underlying calculation but is vital for human readability and reporting accuracy.

To correct the display format, follow these steps:

Highlight the cell range containing the calculated results (e.g., **B2:C11**).

Navigate to the **Home** tab on the Excel ribbon.

Locate the **Number Format** dropdown menu (usually labeled 'General').

Click the dropdown and select **Short Date** or **Long Date**, depending on your preferred display style.

Once the date format is applied, each of the numeric values in columns B and C will be instantly converted to a readable date format, making the results immediately clear for verification and further use.

## Conclusion: Mastering Weekly Calculations

The successful application of these formulas demonstrates how easily one can determine the precise end of a week in Excel, regardless of the convention used. Looking at the final output of our example, we can verify the accuracy of the calculations.

Considering the initial date of 1/8/2022 (a Saturday):

If we consider **Saturday** the last day of the week, the formula correctly identifies the end date as **1/14/2022** (for the following week, as 1/8/2022 is the start of the week for the Sunday-based system).

If we consider **Sunday** the last day of the week, the formula correctly identifies the end date as **1/15/2022**.

The dates calculated by our formulas align perfectly with the defined weekly structures, providing reliable outputs for weekly data aggregation and reporting. Mastering the use of the `return_type` argument within the WEEKDAY function is the key to creating flexible and accurate weekly

calculations in any complex spreadsheet environment.



January 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

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