

# How to Compare Month and Year Between Two Dates in Excel

Authored by  
**stats writer**

February 21, 2026

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2026). *How to Compare Month and Year Between Two Dates in Excel*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=131932>

In the professional realm of **data management** and **financial analysis**, ensuring the consistency of chronological information is a fundamental task. When working within **Microsoft Excel**, users often encounter scenarios where they must verify if two specific dates fall within the exact same month and year, regardless of the specific day. To achieve this, one can employ a robust logical approach using the **AND** function in conjunction with the **MONTH function** and the **YEAR function**. This methodology allows for a precise comparison of disparate date values, resulting in a clear **Boolean** output of **TRUE** or **FALSE**. By isolating these temporal components, analysts can maintain high levels of **data integrity** without being distracted by day-level variances that might otherwise trigger false negatives in a standard equality check.

Beyond basic formulaic comparisons, advanced users frequently leverage **Conditional Formatting** to provide a visual layer of **data validation**. This feature is particularly effective for identifying discrepancies within large **time series** datasets, allowing for the immediate highlighting of cells where the month or year does not align with a target reference. Whether you are reconciling **accounting** records, managing project timelines, or organizing seasonal inventory, mastering these date-handling techniques is essential for creating reliable, automated **spreadsheet** models that respond dynamically to your data inputs.

## Excel: Check if Month and Year Match Between Dates

To perform a rigorous check for matching month and year components across two different cells, you can implement a **concatenation**-based formula. This approach effectively merges the extracted numerical values into a single string for direct comparison. By using the following **syntax**, you can automate the verification process across your entire dataset:

```
=MONTH(A2)&YEAR(A2)=MONTH(B2)&YEAR(B2)
```

This specific formula serves as a logical test that evaluates the month and year of the date residing in cell **A2** against the corresponding month and year in cell **B2**. The **algorithm** extracts the month (as a value from 1 to 12) and the year (as a four-digit integer), joins them together using the ampersand operator, and then performs an equality check. If the combined strings are identical, **Excel** will populate the cell with a **TRUE** value; otherwise, it will return **FALSE**, providing an unambiguous result for your **data analysis** needs.

The following detailed example illustrates the practical application of this logic within a standard workbook environment, demonstrating how it scales across multiple rows.

## Example: Check if Month and Year Match Between Dates

In many professional contexts, you might find yourself with two distinct columns of dates that

represent different milestones, such as "Order Date" and "Shipping Date." To ensure these events occurred within the same fiscal month, consider the following layout of **metadata** in an Excel worksheet:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Date List 1</b>	<b>Date List 2</b>			
2	1/1/2023	1/4/2023			
3	1/15/2023	1/25/2022			
4	2/4/2023	2/14/2023			
5	3/22/2023	4/15/2023			
6	4/15/2023	12/1/2022			
7	5/19/2023	5/16/2023			
8	6/1/2023	6/1/2020			
9	8/19/2023	8/17/2023			
10	9/7/2023	10/30/2023			
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

To initiate the comparison, navigate to cell **C2** and input the comparison formula. This formula utilizes the **MONTH** and **YEAR** functions to strip away the "day" portion of the date, which is critical because even if two dates occur in the same month, a difference in the day would cause a standard **A2=B2** comparison to fail. By focusing exclusively on the month and year, you create a more generalized and useful filter for period-based reporting:

**=MONTH(A2)&YEAR(A2)=MONTH(B2)&YEAR(B2)**

Once the formula is established in the initial row, you can efficiently apply it to the remainder of your **database** by using the fill handle. Simply click and drag the bottom-right corner of cell **C2** downward to propagate the logic through all active rows in column C, as shown below:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Date List 1</b>	<b>Date List 2</b>	<b>Month &amp; Year Match?</b>			
2	1/1/2023	1/4/2023	TRUE			
3	1/15/2023	1/25/2022	FALSE			
4	2/4/2023	2/14/2023	TRUE			
5	3/22/2023	4/15/2023	FALSE			
6	4/15/2023	12/1/2022	FALSE			
7	5/19/2023	5/16/2023	TRUE			
8	6/1/2023	6/1/2020	FALSE			
9	8/19/2023	8/17/2023	TRUE			
10	9/7/2023	10/30/2023	FALSE			
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						

Upon completion, column C serves as a dynamic indicator field. Each cell will display **TRUE** or **FALSE** based on the temporal alignment of the dates in columns A and B. This method is highly efficient for auditing **financial statements** or verifying that recurring transactions have been recorded in the correct period.

For users who prefer a more descriptive or user-friendly interface, the formula can be wrapped within an **IF function**. This allows the spreadsheet to return custom text strings such as "Match" or "Do Not Match" instead of the standard **Boolean** outputs. This is often preferred when the final spreadsheet is intended for presentation to stakeholders who may not be familiar with logical operators:

**=IF(MONTH(A2)&YEAR(A2)=MONTH(B2)&YEAR(B2), "Match", "Do Not Match")**

The following visual representation demonstrates the enhanced clarity provided by this customized approach, making the **information design** more intuitive for the end user:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	<b>Date List 1</b>	<b>Date List 2</b>	<b>Month &amp; Year Match?</b>						
2	1/1/2023	1/4/2023	Match						
3	1/15/2023	1/25/2022	Do Not Match						
4	2/4/2023	2/14/2023	Match						
5	3/22/2023	4/15/2023	Do Not Match						
6	4/15/2023	12/1/2022	Do Not Match						
7	5/19/2023	5/16/2023	Match						
8	6/1/2023	6/1/2020	Do Not Match						
9	8/19/2023	8/17/2023	Match						
10	9/7/2023	10/30/2023	Do Not Match						
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									

As observed in the screenshot, column C now provides explicit textual feedback. This transformation of **raw data** into clear status updates is a hallmark of high-quality **business intelligence** reporting, ensuring that any discrepancies are immediately obvious to the reader.

## Understanding the Underlying Formula Logic

To truly master **Excel**, it is helpful to understand the internal processing that occurs when this formula is executed. Let us revisit the core expression used to compare the date values in cells **A2** and **B2**:

**=MONTH(A2)&YEAR(A2)=MONTH(B2)&YEAR(B2)**

The execution of this formula follows a specific sequence of operations that ensures accuracy regardless of how the dates are formatted on the surface. Here is a comprehensive breakdown of the internal logic:

First, **Excel** invokes the **MONTH** and **YEAR** functions independently for each referenced cell. These functions are designed to parse the underlying **serial number** that Excel uses to represent time. Once the individual components are extracted, the **&** operator (the **concatenation** tool) joins them into a single string of digits.

Consider an example where cell **A2** contains the date January 15, 2023. The **MONTH(A2)** function returns **1**, and **YEAR(A2)** returns **2023**. When concatenated, the result is the string **12023**.

If cell **B2** contains January 20, 2023, the same process occurs: **MONTH(B2)** returns **1** and

**YEAR(B2)** returns **2023**, resulting in the concatenated string **12023**.

Finally, the formula evaluates the statement **12023=12023**. Because this mathematical and string identity holds true, the formula outputs **TRUE**. This logic effectively ignores the day of the month, allowing for a focused comparison of the broader time periods. This same **computational logic** is applied row-by-row, providing a scalable solution for datasets of any size.

## Optimizing Date Comparisons for Large Datasets

When dealing with extensive **big data** environments, efficiency becomes paramount. Using the concatenation method is highly effective, but users should also be aware of the **TEXT function** as a viable alternative for date matching. For instance, using **TEXT(A2, "mmyyyy")** can produce a similar result by converting the date into a formatted string. This can sometimes be easier to read during the debugging phase of **spreadsheet** development.

Furthermore, it is important to ensure that all cells are properly formatted as **Dates** rather than **Text** before applying these formulas. If a date is stored as text, **Excel** may struggle to extract the month and year correctly, leading to errors. Utilizing the **Data Validation** tools can help preemptively catch these formatting issues, ensuring that your **data processing** remains accurate and reliable.

Finally, always consider the impact of **time zones** and regional settings. If your dates include **ISO 8601** timestamps, the **MONTH** and **YEAR** functions will still function correctly, but you may need to strip away the time component if it interferes with your specific comparison requirements.

## Additional Resources and Excel Tutorials

To further expand your proficiency with **Microsoft Excel** and enhance your **quantitative analysis** skills, consider exploring our other comprehensive guides. These tutorials cover a wide range of common tasks, from advanced lookup functions to complex **PivotTable** configurations, designed to streamline your workflow and improve your productivity:

**How to use the VLOOKUP function for cross-referencing data.**

**Mastering the INDEX and MATCH combination for flexible searches.**

**Using Conditional Formatting to create dynamic heat maps.**

**Automating repetitive tasks with simple Excel Macros.**