

# How can I convert a date in the format YYYYMMDD to a standard date format in Excel?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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To convert a date in the format YYYYMMDD to a standard date format in Excel, follow these steps:

1. Select the cell containing the date in the format YYYYMMDD.
2. Right-click on the cell and select "Format Cells" from the menu.
3. In the "Format Cells" dialog box, go to the "Number" tab.
4. Select "Date" as the category.
5. Choose the desired date format from the list.
6. Click "OK" to apply the formatting.

The date will now be displayed in the standard date format you selected.

## Excel: Convert YYYYMMDD to Date Format

You can use the following formula to convert a date in YYYYMMDD format to a DD/MM/YYYY format in Excel:

```
=DATE(LEFT(A2,4),MID(A2,5,2),RIGHT(A2,2))
```

This particular formula converts the date value in cell A2 from a YYYYMMDD format to a DD/MM/YYYY format.

For example, this would convert a value of 20191030 to 10/30/2019, which is an easier date format to read.

The following example shows how to use this formula in practice.

### Example: Convert YYYYMMDD to Date Format in Excel

Suppose we have the following list of dates in Excel that are currently formatted as YYYYMMDD:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Date</b>					
2	20191030					
3	20191101					
4	20191212					
5	20200417					
6	20200901					
7	20210301					
8	20211014					
9	20220109					
10	20220529					
11	20220617					
12	20221015					
13	20221103					
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						

**We can type the following formula into cell B2 to convert the date value in cell A2 to a more recognizable date format:**

**`=DATE(LEFT(A2,4),MID(A2,5,2),RIGHT(A2,2))`**

**We can then drag and fill this formula down to each remaining cell in column B:**

The image shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Date</b>	<b>MM/DD/YYYY Format</b>				
2	20191030	10/30/2019				
3	20191101	11/1/2019				
4	20191212	12/12/2019				
5	20200417	4/17/2020				
6	20200901	9/1/2020				
7	20210301	3/1/2021				
8	20211014	10/14/2021				
9	20220109	1/9/2022				
10	20220529	5/29/2022				
11	20220617	6/17/2022				
12	20221015	10/15/2022				
13	20221103	11/3/2022				
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						
23						

The formula bar at the top shows the formula: `=DATE(LEFT(A2,4),MID(A2,5,2),RIGHT(A2,2))`

**Notice that each date value in column A has been converted to a date value with a MM/DD/YYYY format in column B.**

**Bonus: How This Formula Works**

**The DATE function in Excel uses the following basic syntax:**

**=DATE(year, month, day)**

**It then returns a date with a MM/DD/YYYY format.**

**Now consider when we use the following formula:**

**=DATE(LEFT(A2,4),MID(A2,5,2),RIGHT(A2,2))**

**This formula tells Excel to provide the following arguments to the DATE function:**

**The first 4 characters on the left of some string. The middle 2 characters (starting from position 5) of some string. The last 2 characters on the right of some string.**

**Thus, a date formatted as YYYYMMDD gets converted to:**

**=DATE(YYYY, MM, DD)**

**This produces a date value with a MM/DD/YYYY format.**

**The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Excel:**