

How to Get the First Day of Next Month in Excel

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Determining specific dates based on calendar logic, such as finding the first day of the next month, is a common requirement when managing data in Excel. While this task might seem complex, involving checks for month ends and leap years, Excel provides powerful built-in date functions that simplify this process dramatically. The most efficient and straightforward method leverages the EOMONTH function, combined with a simple arithmetic operation. This technique allows users to bypass complicated nesting of functions, resulting in a clean, easily scalable formula that is highly robust.

One common approach that utilizes multiple nested functions involves finding the last day of the current month and then employing the DATE function to accurately construct the next date. For instance, if you needed the first day of the next month based on the system's current date, one might use a complex structure like `=DATE(YEAR(EOMONTH(TODAY(),1)),MONTH(EOMONTH(TODAY(),1))+1,1)`. This lengthy formula uses the TODAY function as the starting date, advances the month using EOMONTH function, and then reconstructs the date by setting the day component to '1'. However, a much cleaner methodology exists that relies entirely on date serial arithmetic.

The core logic relies on first finding the last day of the current month and then simply adding one day to that result. The last day of the month is always the day immediately preceding the first day of the following month, regardless of whether the month has 28, 29, 30, or 31 days. This approach ensures accuracy across all date ranges, handling leap years and year-end transitions effortlessly. This powerful yet simple methodology, `=EOMONTH(A2, 0)+1`, is the standard practice for date manipulation in Excel.

The Efficient Formula: Finding the First Day of the Next Month

To efficiently retrieve the first day of the next month for a date specified in cell **A2**, we use the following streamlined formula in Excel:

```
=EOMONTH(A2, 0)+1
```

This formula specifically returns the first day of the next month corresponding to the date found in cell **A2**.

For example, if cell **A2** holds the date **1/5/2024** (January 5, 2024), executing this formula would yield the result **2/1/2024** (February 1, 2024). This solution is minimal, fast, and highly readable, making it ideal for large datasets.

Deconstructing the EOMONTH Function in Detail

The success of this technique hinges entirely on mastering the EOMONTH function. The

EOMONTH function, short for End of Month, is designed to return the serial number of the last day of the month before or after a specified number of months. It requires two mandatory arguments: the **Start_date** and **Months**.

The **Start_date** argument is the base date for the calculation, which must be a valid Excel date serial number, such as a cell reference (like A2) or the result of another date function. The **Months** argument is an integer specifying the number of months to move forward or backward from the start date. A positive value (e.g., 1) calculates the end of a future month, a negative value (e.g., -1) calculates the end of a past month, and a zero value (**0**) calculates the end of the current month.

When we employ **EOMONTH(A2, 0)**, we are instructing Excel to look at the date in A2 and then return the last day of that exact month. For instance, if A2 contains 6/10/2024, the function accurately returns 6/30/2024. If A2 contains 12/25/2024, the result is 12/31/2024. This automatic determination of the correct month end, regardless of the month length or leap year status, is the key feature that simplifies the entire date manipulation process.

Practical Example: Setting Up Your Dataset

To effectively demonstrate the implementation of this function, we will use a hypothetical dataset representing corporate sales transactions. Calculating the first day of the subsequent month is often necessary for crucial reporting tasks, such as generating monthly financial summaries or setting recurring invoicing dates based on transaction completion.

Our sample dataset is structured across three columns. Column A holds the critical **Date** of the transaction, Column B contains the related **Sales** figures, and Column C is reserved for the calculated field: **First Day of Next Month**. It is essential that the data in Column A is stored using a recognized date format to ensure proper handling by the date functions.

The following figure illustrates the initial configuration of our data, showing various transaction dates that require calculation:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Date	Sales			
2	1/5/2024	10			
3	1/18/2024	14			
4	2/12/2024	19			
5	3/29/2024	25			
6	4/25/2024	23			
7	5/12/2024	28			
8	5/15/2024	22			
9	6/1/2024	40			
10	7/14/2024	23			
11	8/22/2024	15			
12					
13					
14					
15					

Our primary objective is to apply the formula once and then efficiently extrapolate the result to all subsequent rows, demonstrating the formula's utility and speed when handling large volumes of transactional data.

Implementing the Formula: Step-by-Step Guide

The process for implementing this calculation is straightforward, involving targeted formula entry and efficient use of Excel's relative referencing capabilities. We begin by focusing on the first data entry point, cell **C2**, which corresponds to the date in **A2**.

In cell **C2**, type the following formula precisely as indicated, ensuring that the reference **A2** correctly points to the start date:

=EOMONTH(A2, 0)+1

After pressing **Enter**, confirm that the result in **C2** is displayed as a date (e.g., 2/1/2024). If the cell displays a five-digit number (the date serial number), navigate to the Home tab and apply a standard date format to Column C. The serial number represents the date accurately but requires formatting for human readability.

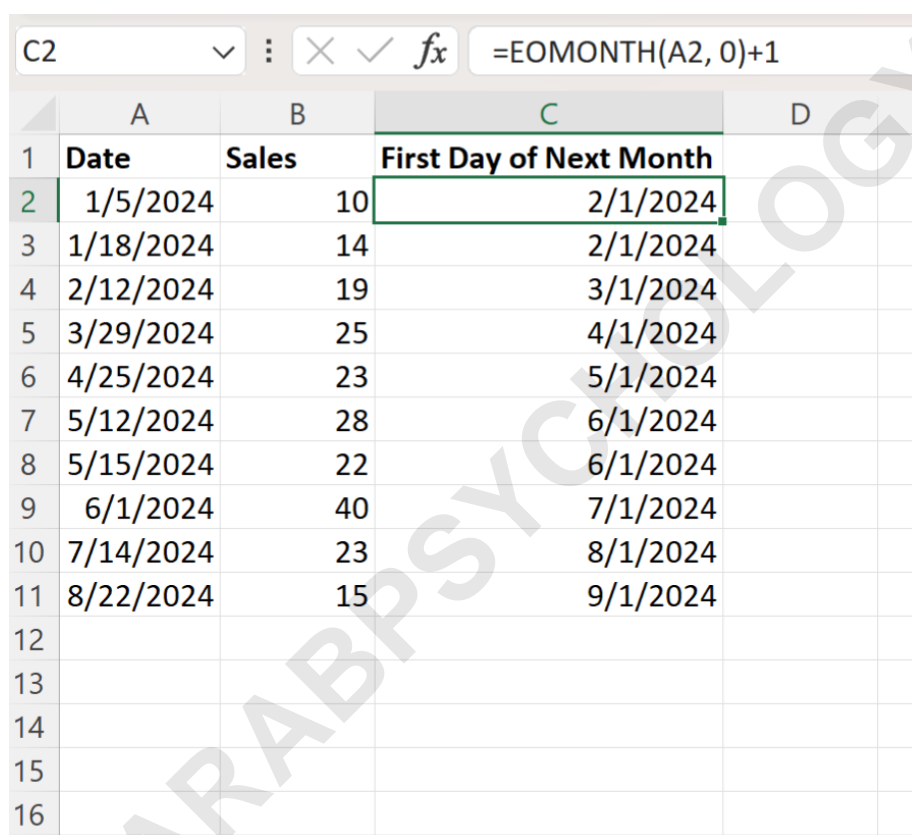
To complete the calculation for the entire column, click on cell **C2** again. Locate the Fill Handle (the small green square in the bottom-right corner of the cell). Click and drag this handle downwards across all rows containing data in Column A. This action automatically applies the formula,

adjusting the cell reference (A2 changes to A3, A4, etc.) for each subsequent row, instantly populating Column C with the desired next month start dates.

Analyzing the Results and Verification

Upon successful implementation, Column C provides a clear list of the first days of the following month for every corresponding transaction date. This stage involves verifying the calculated results to ensure the formula performed the required complex date logic correctly across various boundary conditions.

The final spreadsheet confirms the accurate date calculations:



	A	B	C	D
1	Date	Sales	First Day of Next Month	
2	1/5/2024	10	2/1/2024	
3	1/18/2024	14	2/1/2024	
4	2/12/2024	19	3/1/2024	
5	3/29/2024	25	4/1/2024	
6	4/25/2024	23	5/1/2024	
7	5/12/2024	28	6/1/2024	
8	5/15/2024	22	6/1/2024	
9	6/1/2024	40	7/1/2024	
10	7/14/2024	23	8/1/2024	
11	8/22/2024	15	9/1/2024	
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				

Column C now clearly displays the first day of the next month for each corresponding transaction date in Column A.

A systematic review of the output confirms the following expected transitions:

The first day of the next month for 1/5/2024 (January) is correctly determined as **2/1/2024**.

The first day of the next month for 1/18/2024 (also January) is **2/1/2024**. This confirms that the day component of the original date is irrelevant to the final outcome; only the month matters.

The first day of the next month for 2/12/2024 (February, potentially a leap month) is **3/1/2024**. The

formula successfully identified February 29th as the end of the month before adding one day.

Core Mechanism: How This Formula Works

To provide a comprehensive understanding, let us review the exact execution steps of the streamlined formula:

=EOMONTH(A2, 0)+1

The formula operates in a high-efficiency two-part process. Firstly, the component **EOMONTH(A2, 0)** executes. The [EOMONTH function](#) identifies the last day of the month associated with the start date in A2. This is achieved by setting the month offset to zero. If A2 is any date in April, the function will return April 30th's serial number. If A2 is any date in December, it returns December 31st's serial number. This process is entirely automatic and handles all calendar variations.

Secondly, the arithmetic operation **+1** is applied to the serial number returned by EOMONTH. Since [Excel](#) treats dates as sequential integers, adding 1 to the serial number of the last day of the month yields the serial number for the very next day. This day is, by definition, the first day of the following month. This straightforward addition ensures perfect accuracy for all date increments, including transitions between years.

This method is highly favored by professionals for its simplicity, efficiency, and robustness in handling the complexities of calendar mathematics within spreadsheet applications. For users requiring detailed specifications on related time and date functions, the official Microsoft documentation serves as the most authoritative reference.

Further Exploration of Date Functions

While the **EOMONTH(date, 0)+1** method is optimal for this specific task, [Excel](#) offers a wide array of specialized date and time functions that can be used for more intricate calendar calculations, such as calculating working days or determining the number of days between specific quarters. Functions like **EDATE** (which returns a date a specified number of months before or after a start date) or **WORKDAY** (which calculates a date before or after a number of workdays) provide additional flexibility when manipulating temporal data.

Understanding the underlying principles of date serial numbering in [Excel](#) is crucial for mastering these advanced operations. Every date is internally stored as the number of days elapsed since January 1, 1900. When you perform addition or subtraction on dates, you are manipulating these serial numbers, which allows for extremely fast and accurate calculations that are critical for large-scale data analysis and financial modeling.

The utilization of these focused date functions allows spreadsheet users to avoid cumbersome formulas involving nested IF statements and manual calendar checks, which are prone to errors, especially around leap years or month-end boundaries. Leveraging functions like [EOMONTH function](#) ensures that your date logic remains accurate, scalable, and easy to maintain over time.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common operations in [Excel](#):

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