

How can I make an Excel formula return a blank cell instead of zero?

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To ensure that an Excel formula returns a blank cell instead of zero, you can incorporate the IF function into the formula. By setting the logical test to check for a zero value, you can instruct the formula to display a blank cell if the result is zero. This can be useful in situations where zero is not a valid or desired result, and a blank cell would be more appropriate. Additionally, you can also use the IFERROR function to handle errors and return a blank cell instead of a zero. Using these functions can help improve the accuracy and presentation of your data in Excel.

Excel: Return Blank Cell Instead of Zero in Formulas

You can use the following basic syntax to return a blank cell instead of a zero when using Excel formulas:

```
=IF(B2/C2=0, "", B2/C2)
```

This particular formula attempts to divide the value in cell B2 by the value in cell C2.

If the result is zero, then Excel returns a blank. Otherwise, Excel returns the result of B2 divided by C2.

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

Example: Return Blank Cell Instead of Zero in Excel Formula

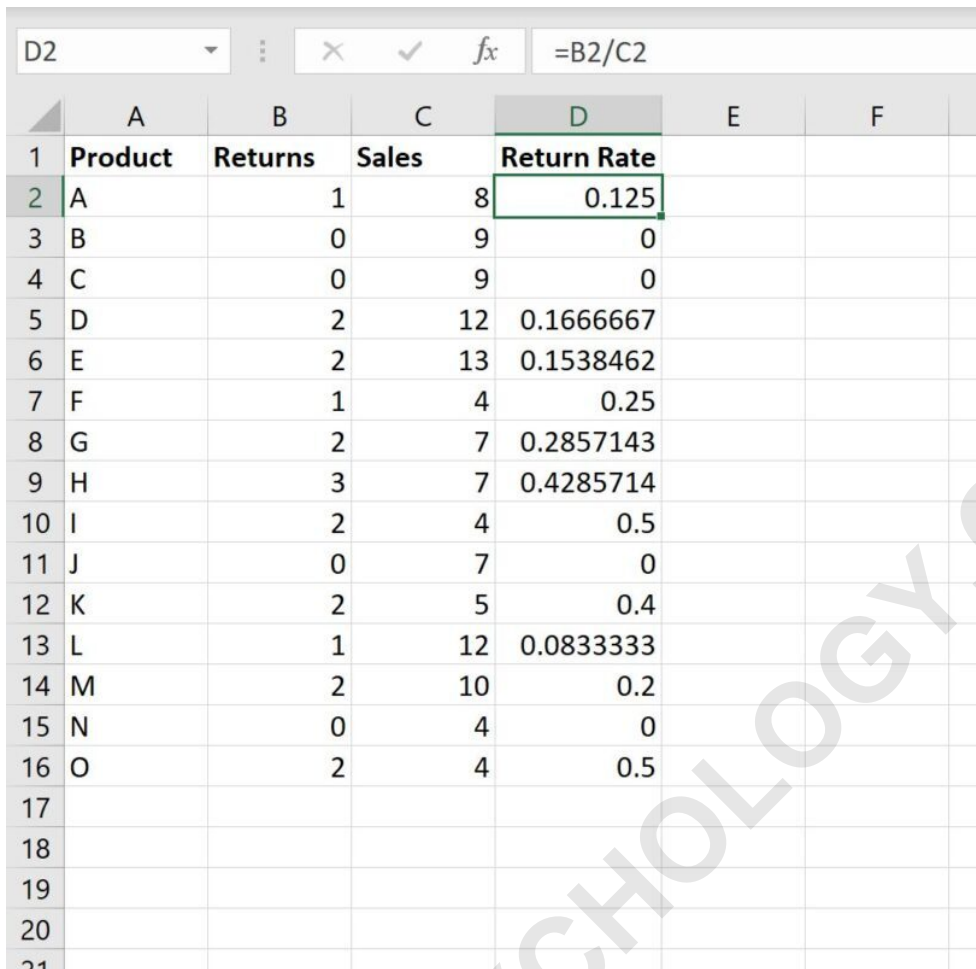
Suppose we have the following dataset that shows the total sales and returns for various products:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Product	Returns	Sales			
2	A	1	8			
3	B	0	9			
4	C	0	9			
5	D	2	12			
6	E	2	13			
7	F	1	4			
8	G	2	7			
9	H	3	7			
10	I	2	4			
11	J	0	7			
12	K	2	5			
13	L	1	12			
14	M	2	10			
15	N	0	4			
16	O	2	4			
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Suppose we type the following formula into cell D2 to calculate the return rate for product A:

=B2/C2

If we copy and paste this formula down to every cell in column D, we'll see that some of the results are equal to zero:



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Product	Returns	Sales	Return Rate		
2	A	1	8	0.125		
3	B	0	9	0		
4	C	0	9	0		
5	D	2	12	0.1666667		
6	E	2	13	0.1538462		
7	F	1	4	0.25		
8	G	2	7	0.2857143		
9	H	3	7	0.4285714		
10	I	2	4	0.5		
11	J	0	7	0		
12	K	2	5	0.4		
13	L	1	12	0.0833333		
14	M	2	10	0.2		
15	N	0	4	0		
16	O	2	4	0.5		
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To return a blank value instead of a zero, we can type the following formula into cell D2:

=IF(B2/C2=0, "", B2/C2)

We can then copy and paste this formula down to every remaining cell in column D:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Product	Returns	Sales	Return Rate		
2	A	1	8	0.125		
3	B	0	9			
4	C	0	9			
5	D	2	12	0.1666667		
6	E	2	13	0.1538462		
7	F	1	4	0.25		
8	G	2	7	0.2857143		
9	H	3	7	0.4285714		
10	I	2	4	0.5		
11	J	0	7			
12	K	2	5	0.4		
13	L	1	12	0.0833333		
14	M	2	10	0.2		
15	N	0	4			
16	O	2	4	0.5		
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Notice that every cell where the formula would return a zero now returns a blank value instead.

Additional Resources

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