

# How can I sum absolute values in Excel?

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To sum absolute values in Excel, use the SUM function along with the ABS function. The ABS function will convert all negative values to positive, and then the SUM function will add them together. This can be useful when working with financial data or any other data that may have negative values. Simply select the cells containing the numbers you want to sum, and enter the formula `=SUM(ABS(A1:A5))` where A1:A5 is the range of cells you want to sum. This will give you the total sum of the absolute values in those cells.

## Sum Absolute Values in Excel (With Example)

You can use the following basic formula to calculate the sum of a range of absolute values in Excel:

**`=SUM(ABS(A2:A15))`**

This particular formula calculates the sum of absolute values in the range A2:A15.

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

**Example: How to Sum Absolute Values in Excel**

**Suppose we have the following list of values in Excel:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Values</b>					
2	4					
3	-3					
4	-10					
5	1					
6	9					
7	-2					
8	-3					
9	4					
10	6					
11	-7					
12	-2					
13	4					
14	4					
15	5					
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						

**We can type the following formula into cell C1 to calculate the sum of the absolute values in the range A2:A15:**

**=SUM(ABS(A2:A15))**

**The following screenshot shows how to use this formula in practice:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Values</b>		64			
2	4					
3	-3					
4	-10					
5	1					
6	9					
7	-2					
8	-3					
9	4					
10	6					
11	-7					
12	-2					
13	4					
14	4					
15	5					
16						
17						
18						
19						

From the output we can see that the sum of the absolute values in the range A2:A15 is 64.

We can confirm this is correct by manually calculating the sum of each absolute value in the range:

**Sum of Absolute Values =  $4 + 3 + 10 + 1 + 9 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 6 + 7 + 2 + 4 + 4 + 5 = 64$ .**

This matches the value calculated by our formula.

## How the Formula Works

The **ABS()** function in Excel calculates the absolute value of a given number.

For example, the absolute value of -3 is 3.

The **SUM()** function in Excel calculates the sum of a range of numbers.

By using the formula **SUM(ABS(A2:A15))** we first convert each value in the range A2:A15 to a positive number, then we calculate the sum of all of the positive numbers.

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