

# How can I use INDIRECT function to reference sheet names in Excel?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The INDIRECT function in Excel allows users to dynamically reference sheet names in formulas. By using this function, users can easily access data from different sheets without having to manually change the cell references. This feature is especially useful for large datasets and when working with multiple sheets. To use the INDIRECT function, simply input the sheet name in quotation marks within the formula. This will automatically update the reference when the sheet name is changed. This function can save time and increase efficiency when working with complex spreadsheets.

## Excel: Use INDIRECT With Sheet Names

You can use the following basic syntax to reference a named range in another sheet in Excel:

```
=SUM(INDIRECT("'"&A2&"!"&B2))
```

This particular formula will calculate the sum of the values for the named range in cell B2 within the sheet in cell A2.

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

**Example: How to Use INDIRECT with Sheet Names in Excel**

**Suppose we have a named range in Excel called my\_data that is located on a sheet called Sheet2:**

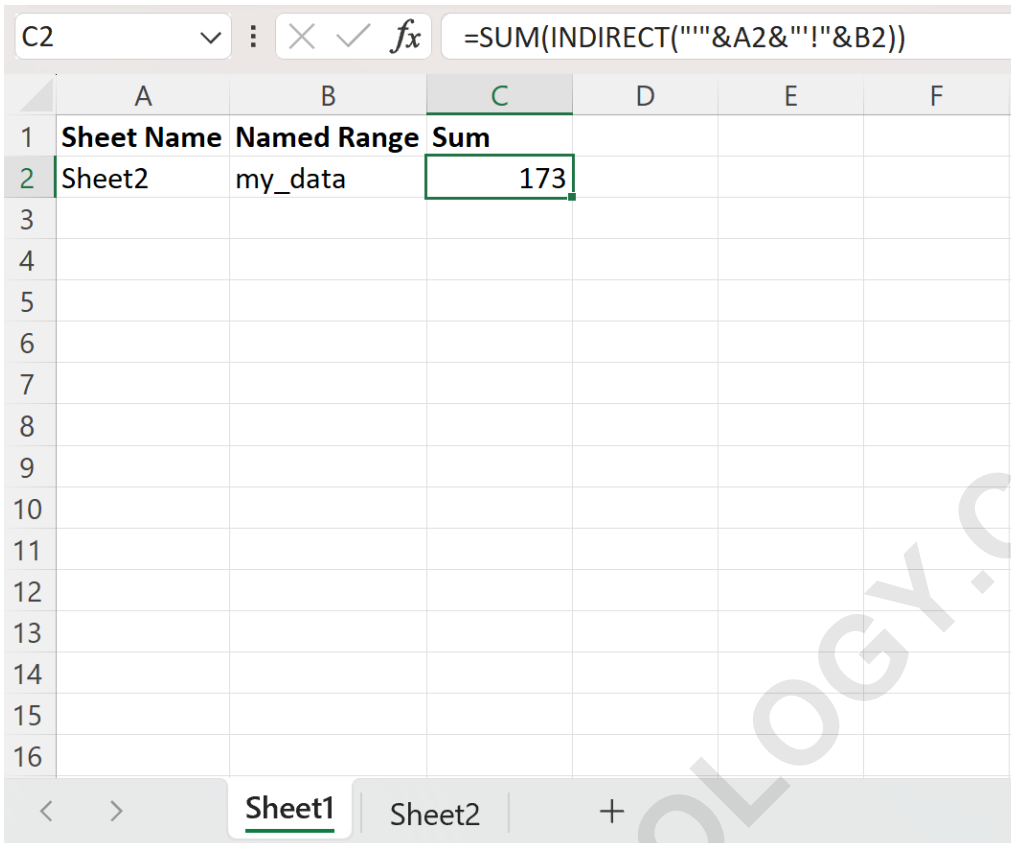
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Values					
2	10					
3	14					
4	15					
5	12					
6	11					
7	20					
8	22					
9	24					
10	15					
11	30					
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						

Suppose we would like to calculate the sum of the values in this named range in Sheet1.

We can type the following formula in cell C2 of Sheet1 to do so:

**=SUM(INDIRECT("'"&A2&"'!"&B2))**

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



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Sheet Name	Named Range	Sum			
2	Sheet2	my_data	173			
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						

The formula bar for cell C2 shows: `=SUM(INDIRECT("'"&A2&"'"&B2))`

The sheet tabs at the bottom show 'Sheet1' and 'Sheet2'.

The formula returns the sum of the values in the named range called `my_data` in `Sheet2`, which turns out to be **173**.

Note that cell C2 evaluates to the following expression:

**`=SUM('Sheet2'!my_data)`**

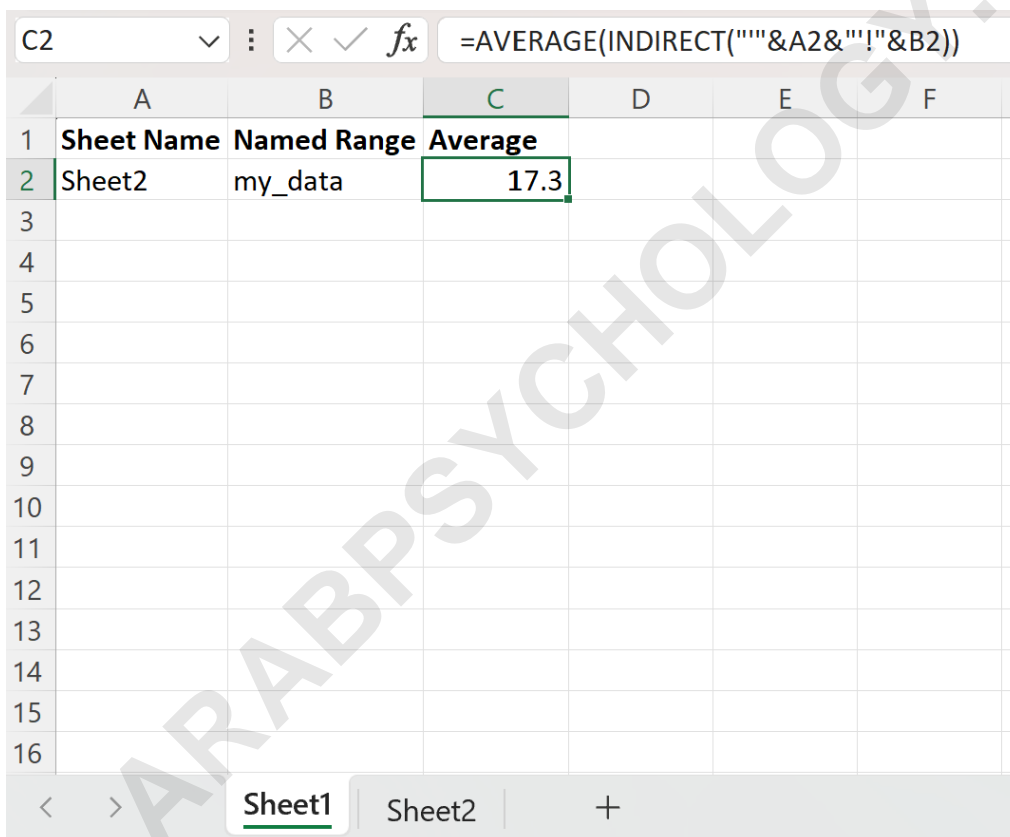
Also note that we could use a different function with the **INDIRECT** function if we'd like.

For example, we could type the following formula into

cell C2 of Sheet1 to instead calculate the average of the values in the named range called my\_data in Sheet2:

**=AVERAGE(INDIRECT("'"&A2&"!"&B2))**

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



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Sheet Name	Named Range	Average			
2	Sheet2	my_data	17.3			
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						

The formula bar shows the formula: `=AVERAGE(INDIRECT("'"&A2&"!"&B2))`. The spreadsheet has two sheets: Sheet1 (active) and Sheet2.

The formula returns the average of the values in the named range called my\_data in Sheet2, which turns out to be 17.3.

**Note: You can find the complete documentation for the INDIRECT function in Excel .**

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

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