

# How can I use the NETWORKDAYS function in Excel to calculate the number of working days between two dates?

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The NETWORKDAYS function in Excel is a useful tool for calculating the number of working days between two given dates. This function takes into account weekends and any specified holidays, allowing for an accurate and efficient calculation of the actual number of working days. By simply inputting the start and end dates, as well as any optional parameters, the NETWORKDAYS function can quickly determine the total number of working days, providing a helpful tool for planning and scheduling purposes. This function is especially useful for businesses, project managers, and individuals looking to track their work progress within a specific time frame. By utilizing the NETWORKDAYS function, users can easily and accurately calculate the number of working days between two dates in Excel.

This article describes the formula syntax and usage of the **NETWORKDAYS** function in Microsoft Excel.

## Description

Returns the number of whole working days between `start_date` and `end_date`. Working days exclude weekends and any dates identified in holidays. Use NETWORKDAYS to calculate employee benefits that accrue based on the number of days worked during a specific term.

**Tip:** To calculate whole workdays between two dates by using parameters to indicate which and how many days are weekend days, use the [NETWORKDAYS.INTL](#) function.

## Syntax

NETWORKDAYS(`start_date`, `end_date`, )

The NETWORKDAYS function syntax has the following arguments:

**Start\_date** Required. A date that represents the start date.

**End\_date** Required. A date that represents the end date.

**Holidays** Optional. An optional range of one or more dates to exclude from the working calendar, such as state and federal holidays and floating holidays. The list can be either a range of cells that contains the dates or an array constant of the serial numbers that represent the dates.

**Important:** Dates should be entered by using the DATE function, or as results of other formulas or functions. For example, use DATE(2012,5,23) for the 23rd day of May, 2012. Problems can occur if dates are entered as text.

## Remarks

Microsoft Excel stores dates as sequential serial numbers so they can be used in calculations. By default, January 1, 1900 is serial number 1, and January 1, 2012 is serial number 40909 because it is 40,909 days after January 1, 1900.

If any argument is not a valid date, NETWORKDAYS returns the #VALUE! error value.

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