

How can I use the OFFSET function in Excel?

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The OFFSET function in Excel allows users to dynamically reference a cell or range of cells, based on a given starting point and specified number of rows and columns. This can be useful for creating dynamic formulas, charts, and tables that automatically update when data is added or removed. By using the OFFSET function, users can easily manipulate data and perform calculations without having to manually adjust cell references, making it a powerful tool for data analysis and management.

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

Description

Returns a reference to a range that is a specified number of rows and columns from a cell or range of cells. The reference that is returned can be a single cell or a range of cells. You can specify the number of rows and the number of columns to be returned.

Syntax

OFFSET(reference, rows, cols, ,)

The OFFSET function syntax has the following arguments:

Reference Required. The reference from which you want to base the offset. Reference must refer to a cell or range of adjacent cells; otherwise, OFFSET returns the #VALUE! error value.

Rows Required. The number of rows, up or down, that you want the upper-left cell to refer to. Using 5 as the rows argument specifies that the upper-left cell in the reference is five rows below reference. Rows can be positive (which means below the starting reference) or negative (which means above the starting reference).

Cols Required. The number of columns, to the left or right, that you want the upper-left cell of the result to refer to. Using 5 as the cols argument specifies that the upper-left cell in the reference is five columns to the right of reference. Cols can be positive (which means to the right of the starting reference) or negative (which means to the left of the starting reference).

Height Optional. The height, in number of rows, that you want the returned reference to be. Height must be a positive number.

Width Optional. The width, in number of columns, that you want the returned reference to be. Width must be a positive number.

Remarks

If rows and cols offset reference over the edge of the worksheet, OFFSET returns the #REF! error value.

If height or width is omitted, it is assumed to be the same height or width as reference.

OFFSET doesn't actually move any cells or change the selection; it just returns a reference. OFFSET can be used with any function expecting a reference argument. For example, the formula `SUM(OFFSET(C2,1,2,3,1))` calculates the total value of a 3-row by 1-column range that is 1 row below and 2 columns to the right of cell C2.

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