

# How can I use VBA to count the number of used columns in a spreadsheet?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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VBA (Visual Basic for Applications) is a programming language commonly used in Microsoft Excel to automate tasks and manipulate data. It provides a powerful tool for counting the number of used columns in a spreadsheet. By using VBA code, users can easily determine the number of columns that contain data in a given spreadsheet. This can be done by looping through all the columns and checking for any non-empty cells. By using VBA to count the number of used columns, users can efficiently manage and analyze their data without the need for manual counting. This feature can greatly improve the productivity and accuracy of data analysis in Excel.

## VBA: Count Number of Used Columns

You can use the following basic syntax to count the number of used columns in an Excel sheet using VBA:

```
Sub CountColumns()
```

```
Range("A10") = Sheet1.Cells(1,  
Columns.Count).End(xlToLeft).Column
```

```
End Sub
```

This particular example counts the number of used columns in the sheet called Sheet1 and displays the result in cell A10.

If you would instead like to display the column count in a message box, you can use the following syntax:

```
Sub CountColumns()
```

```
Dim LastCol As Long
```

```
LastCol = Sheet1.Cells(1,
```

```
Columns.Count).End(xlToLeft).Column  
MsgBox "Column Count: " & LastCol  
End Sub
```

The following examples shows how to use each of these methods in practice with the following dataset in Excel that contains information about various basketball players:

|    | A           | B             | C              | D               | E | F |
|----|-------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---|---|
| 1  | <b>Team</b> | <b>Points</b> | <b>Assists</b> | <b>Rebounds</b> |   |   |
| 2  | A           | 22            | 6              | 10              |   |   |
| 3  | B           | 24            | 5              | 4               |   |   |
| 4  | C           | 30            | 5              | 4               |   |   |
| 5  | D           | 35            | 4              | 8               |   |   |
| 6  | E           | 35            | 8              | 7               |   |   |
| 7  | F           | 39            | 12             | 11              |   |   |
| 8  | G           | 13            | 7              | 14              |   |   |
| 9  |             |               |                |                 |   |   |
| 10 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |
| 11 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |
| 12 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |
| 13 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |
| 14 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |
| 15 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |
| 16 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |
| 17 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |
| 18 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |

**Example 1: Count Used Columns in VBA and Display Results in Cell**

**Suppose we would like to count the number of used**

columns and output the results in a specific cell.

We can create the following macro to do so:

```
Sub CountColumns()
```

```
Range("A10") = Sheet1.Cells(1,  
Columns.Count).End(xlToLeft).Column
```

```
End Sub
```

When we run this macro, we receive the following output:

|    | A    | B      | C       | D        | E | F | G |
|----|------|--------|---------|----------|---|---|---|
| 1  | Team | Points | Assists | Rebounds |   |   |   |
| 2  | A    | 22     | 6       | 10       |   |   |   |
| 3  | B    | 24     | 5       | 4        |   |   |   |
| 4  | C    | 30     | 5       | 4        |   |   |   |
| 5  | D    | 35     | 4       | 8        |   |   |   |
| 6  | E    | 35     | 8       | 7        |   |   |   |
| 7  | F    | 39     | 12      | 11       |   |   |   |
| 8  | G    | 13     | 7       | 14       |   |   |   |
| 9  |      |        |         |          |   |   |   |
| 10 | 4    |        |         |          |   |   |   |
| 11 |      |        |         |          |   |   |   |
| 12 |      |        |         |          |   |   |   |
| 13 |      |        |         |          |   |   |   |
| 14 |      |        |         |          |   |   |   |
| 15 |      |        |         |          |   |   |   |
| 16 |      |        |         |          |   |   |   |
| 17 |      |        |         |          |   |   |   |
| 18 |      |        |         |          |   |   |   |
| 19 |      |        |         |          |   |   |   |

**Notice that cell A10 contains a value of 4.**

**This tells us that there are 4 used columns.**

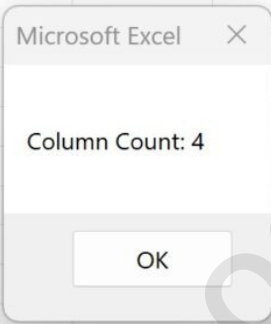
**Example 2: Count Used Columns in VBA and Display Results in Message Box**

**Suppose we would instead like to count the number of used columns and output the results in a message box.**

```
Sub CountColumns()  
Dim LastCol As Long  
LastCol = Sheet1.Cells(1,  
Columns.Count).End(xlToLeft).Column  
MsgBox "Column Count: " & LastCol  
End Sub
```

**When we run this macro, we receive the following output:**

|    | A           | B             | C              | D               | E | F | G |
|----|-------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---|---|---|
| 1  | <b>Team</b> | <b>Points</b> | <b>Assists</b> | <b>Rebounds</b> |   |   |   |
| 2  | A           | 22            | 6              | 10              |   |   |   |
| 3  | B           | 24            | 5              | 4               |   |   |   |
| 4  | C           | 30            | 5              | 4               |   |   |   |
| 5  | D           | 35            | 4              | 8               |   |   |   |
| 6  | E           | 35            | 8              | 7               |   |   |   |
| 7  | F           | 39            | 12             | 11              |   |   |   |
| 8  | G           | 13            | 7              | 14              |   |   |   |
| 9  |             |               |                |                 |   |   |   |
| 10 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |   |
| 11 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |   |
| 12 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |   |
| 13 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |   |
| 14 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |   |
| 15 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |   |
| 16 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |   |
| 17 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |   |
| 18 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |   |
| 19 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |   |
| 20 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |   |
| 21 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |   |
| 22 |             |               |                |                 |   |   |   |



**The message box tells us that there are 4 used columns.**

**Note: If there are empty columns followed by columns with data, VBA will count the empty columns as "used" in the calculation.**