

# How do I calculate sample size in Excel?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

June 25, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How do I calculate sample size in Excel?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES.  
Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=152699>

Calculating sample size in Excel is a straightforward process that can be done using various statistical formulas. To begin, determine the desired level of significance and the margin of error for your study. Next, identify the population size and the expected proportion of the population that possesses the characteristic of interest. Then, using the appropriate formula, plug in these values into Excel to obtain the necessary sample size. This will provide you with an accurate representation of the population without oversampling or undersampling. Excel's built-in functions and data analysis tools make it a convenient and efficient tool for calculating sample size. With proper input of values, Excel can generate a reliable estimate of the sample size needed for your study.

## Calculate Sample Size in Excel (With Example)

You can use the **COUNTA** function to calculate the sample size of a dataset in Excel.

This function uses the following basic syntax:

```
=COUNTA(A2:A16)
```

This particular formula counts all of the non-blank cells in the range **A2:A16**.

The following example shows how to use this function to calculate a sample size in Excel in practice.

**Example: Calculating Sample Size in Excel**

**Suppose we have the following dataset that shows the points scored by basketball players on various teams:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>				
2	Hawks	22				
3	Hawks	20				
4	Warriors	24				
5	Warriors	19				
6	Nets	14				
7	Warriors	13				
8	Warriors	19				
9	Nets	39				
10	Hawks	34				
11	Nets	20				
12	Hawks	25				
13	Warriors	23				
14	Warriors	28				
15	Nets	20				
16	Hawks	15				
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						

**We can type the following formula into cell E1 to calculate the sample size of this dataset:**

**=COUNTA(A2:A16)**

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

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>		<b>Sample Size</b>	15	
2	Hawks	22				
3	Hawks	20				
4	Warriors	24				
5	Warriors	19				
6	Nets	14				
7	Warriors	13				
8	Warriors	19				
9	Nets	39				
10	Hawks	34				
11	Nets	20				
12	Hawks	25				
13	Warriors	23				
14	Warriors	28				
15	Nets	20				
16	Hawks	15				
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						

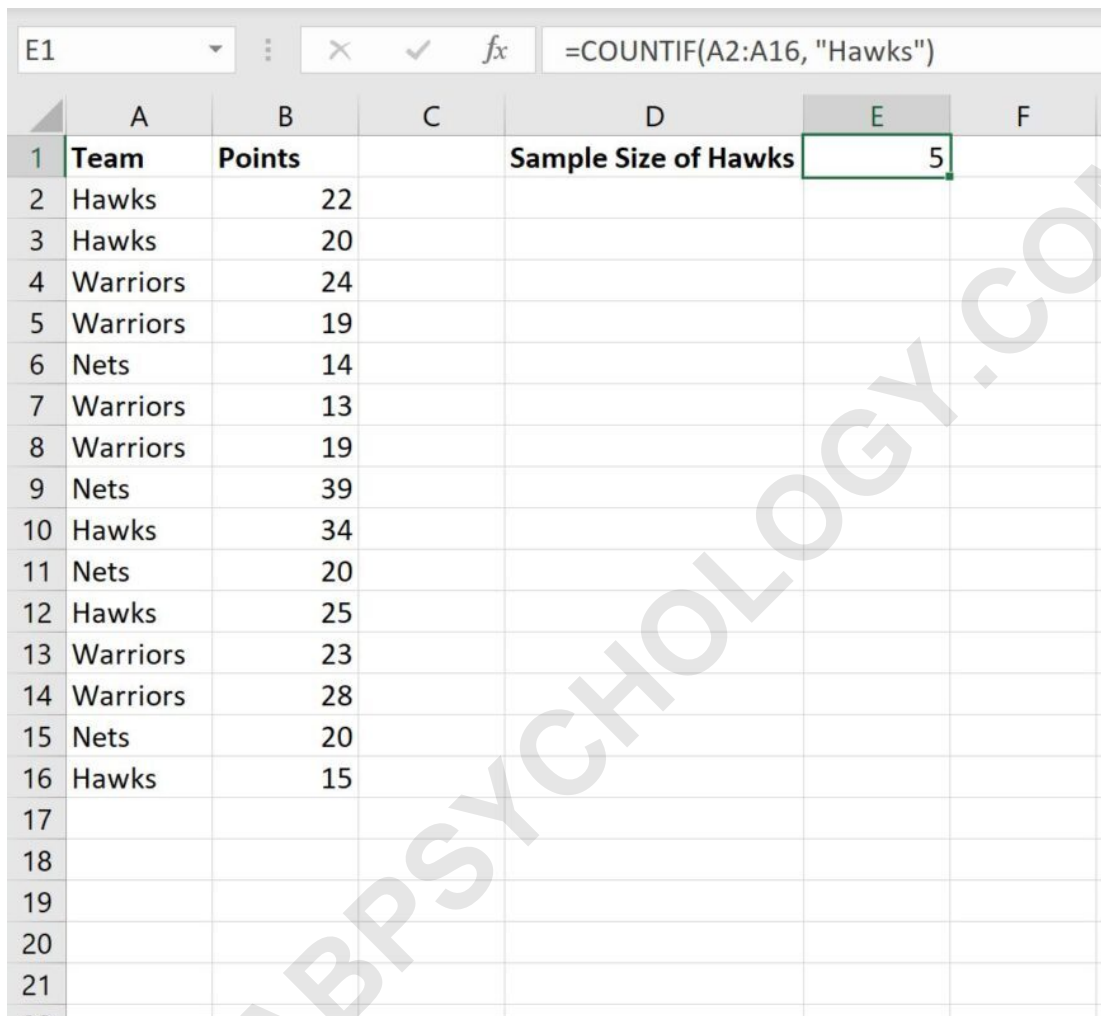
From the output we can see that the sample size is 15.

Note that if we'd like to calculate the sample size using a criteria, we could use the COUNTIF function instead.

For example, we could use the following formula to calculate the sample size only for the players on the Hawks team:

**=COUNTIF(A2:A16, Hawks")**

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	Team	Points		Sample Size of Hawks	5	
2	Hawks	22				
3	Hawks	20				
4	Warriors	24				
5	Warriors	19				
6	Nets	14				
7	Warriors	13				
8	Warriors	19				
9	Nets	39				
10	Hawks	34				
11	Nets	20				
12	Hawks	25				
13	Warriors	23				
14	Warriors	28				
15	Nets	20				
16	Hawks	15				
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						

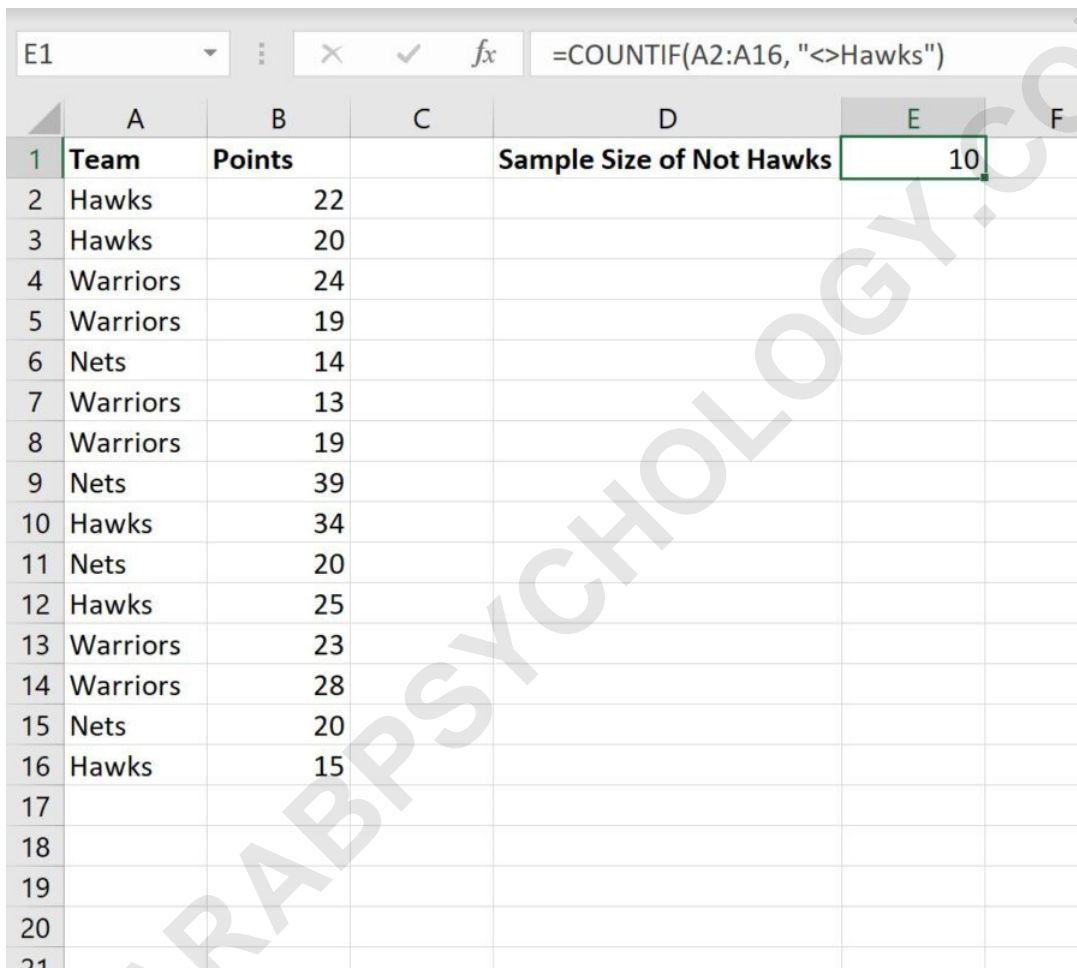
The formula bar shows the formula: `=COUNTIF(A2:A16, "Hawks")`. The result of the formula is 5, displayed in cell E1.

From the output we can see that the sample size for the players on the Hawks team is 5.

We could also use the `<>` symbols to calculate the sample size for the players who are *not* on the Hawks team:

**=COUNTIF(A2:A16, "<>Hawks")**

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	Team	Points		Sample Size of Not Hawks	10	
2	Hawks	22				
3	Hawks	20				
4	Warriors	24				
5	Warriors	19				
6	Nets	14				
7	Warriors	13				
8	Warriors	19				
9	Nets	39				
10	Hawks	34				
11	Nets	20				
12	Hawks	25				
13	Warriors	23				
14	Warriors	28				
15	Nets	20				
16	Hawks	15				
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						

From the output we can see that the sample size for the players not on the Hawks team is 10.

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