

How do I create a function in Excel to find the number of columns in a table or range of cells?

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Creating a function in Excel to find the number of columns in a table or range of cells allows for quick and efficient counting of columns in a spreadsheet. This function can be created using the COUNT function and specifying the range of cells or table as the argument. The function will then return the total number of columns within the specified range, making it easier to organize and analyze data in Excel. This function is especially useful for large datasets where manually counting columns may be time-consuming. By creating this function, users can save time and ensure accurate data analysis in their Excel spreadsheets.

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

Description

Returns the number of columns in an array or reference.

Syntax

COLUMNS(array)

The COLUMNS function syntax has the following argument:

Array Required. An array or array formula, or a reference to a range of cells for which you want the number of columns.

Example

Copy the example data in the following table, and paste it in cell A1 of a new Excel worksheet. For formulas to show results, select them, press F2, and then press Enter. If you need to, you can adjust the column widths to see all the data.

Formula	Description	Result
=COLUMNS(C1:E4)	Number of columns in the reference C1:E4.	3
=COLUMNS({1,2,3;4,5,6})	Number of columns in the array constant {1,2,3;4,5,6}. There are two 3-column rows, containing 1,2, and 3 in the first row and 4,5, and 6 in the second row.	3