

# How to Easily Sum Values Within a Date Range Using SUMIFS in Google Sheets

Authored by  
**stats writer**

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The SUMIFS function in Google Sheets is an extraordinarily powerful tool designed for advanced data aggregation. Unlike the simpler SUMIF, SUMIFS allows users to calculate the sum of values based on multiple specified conditions, or criteria. This capability is particularly useful when analyzing temporal data, enabling users to easily find the sum of values within a defined date range.

The successful implementation of SUMIFS requires careful consideration of its parameters. At minimum, the function demands two or more sets of range and criteria pairings, in addition to the primary sum range. When dealing with dates, the criteria must be structured using comparison operators combined with cell references or hardcoded dates. Specifically, for isolating a span of time, the criteria must be set to define both the lower bound (start date) and the upper bound (end date). This involves using the format ">=start date" and "<=end date", which enables the system to precisely calculate the sum of values corresponding to entries falling within the specified period.

Understanding the exact syntax is paramount for avoiding calculation errors. Since dates in spreadsheets are stored as serial numbers, combining text operators (like >= and <=) with date values stored in cells requires concatenation using the ampersand (&) operator. This mechanism ensures that the date criteria are properly recognized as numerical conditions by the function, allowing for reliable and quick calculation of sums across historical or forecasted data sets.

## Understanding the SUMIFS Function Structure for Dates

To accurately sum values that correspond to a specific temporal window in Google Sheets, we must structure the SUMIFS formula according to its mandatory arguments. The general structure of the function is `SUMIFS(sum_range, criteria_range1, criteria1, , ...)`. When applying this to date filtering, we utilize two separate criteria arguments--one for the start date and one for the end date--both referencing the same date column, which acts as the criteria range.

The first argument, `sum_range`, is the column containing the numerical values you wish to aggregate (e.g., sales figures, product counts, revenue). The subsequent arguments define the conditions. In the context of a date range calculation, the `criteria_range1` will be the column holding the dates, and `criteria1` will be the condition defining the start of the range (e.g., greater than or equal to the start date). Following this, `criteria_range2` is also the date column, and `criteria2` defines the end of the range (e.g., less than or equal to the end date).

The following syntax provides a blueprint for summing values in a specified cell range in Google Sheets that fall within defined start and end dates:

**`=SUMIFS(B2:B11,A2:A11,">="&D2,A2:A11,"<="&E2)`**

This formula structure is highly efficient because it leverages cell references (D2 and E2) to make the date criteria dynamic. If the dates in D2 or E2 are changed, the calculation automatically updates, preventing the need to manually edit the formula string itself.

## Deconstructing the Date Range Syntax

To fully appreciate the formula above, it is essential to break down how each component contributes to the final conditional calculation. In the example formula `=SUMIFS(B2:B11, A2:A11, ">="&D2, A2:A11, "<="&E2)`, the primary goal is to take the sum of the numerical values located in the range **B2:B11**.

The first condition set, `A2:A11, ">="&D2`, instructs SUMIFS to evaluate the dates within the range **A2:A11** (our criteria range) and only include those dates that are equal to or greater than the date stored in cell **D2**. The `">="` is a text string representing the comparison operator, which must be concatenated using `&` with the cell reference **D2** containing the actual start date value.

The second condition set, `A2:A11, "<="&E2`, applies the limiting factor for the end of the date range. It re-evaluates the same date column **A2:A11**, but this time it includes only those entries where the date is equal to or less than the date specified in cell **E2**. By combining these two conditions, the SUMIFS function effectively creates a precise window, calculating the sum exclusively for the intersection of these two constraints.

This methodology provides a robust and scalable way to handle time-series data analysis in Google Sheets. If the comparison operators need to be strictly inclusive or exclusive (e.g., using `>` instead of `>=`), the formula is easily modified. However, for standard date range calculations, using the inclusive operators (`>=` and `<=`) ensures that the values corresponding to the start and end dates themselves are included in the final summation.

## Practical Example: Setting Up the Dataset

To illustrate the practical application of this powerful formula, let us consider a common scenario involving sales or product tracking. Suppose we have a fundamental dataset in Google Sheets that logs the daily count of products sold. This dataset consists of two primary columns: one for the date of the sale and one for the quantity of products sold on that day.

The following example setup provides a visual representation of the data structure. Column A represents the dates (the criteria range), and Column B represents the quantity sold (the sum range). Note that the data contains various dates throughout the month, some of which we will exclude in our initial analysis.

|    | A           | B                    | C | D |  |
|----|-------------|----------------------|---|---|--|
| 1  | <b>Date</b> | <b>Products Sold</b> |   |   |  |
| 2  | 1/1/2021    | 9                    |   |   |  |
| 3  | 1/4/2021    | 23                   |   |   |  |
| 4  | 1/6/2021    | 29                   |   |   |  |
| 5  | 1/7/2021    | 22                   |   |   |  |
| 6  | 1/8/2021    | 25                   |   |   |  |
| 7  | 1/12/2021   | 28                   |   |   |  |
| 8  | 1/14/2021   | 30                   |   |   |  |
| 9  | 1/15/2021   | 15                   |   |   |  |
| 10 | 1/17/2021   | 18                   |   |   |  |
| 11 | 1/18/2021   | 11                   |   |   |  |
| 12 |             |                      |   |   |  |
| 13 |             |                      |   |   |  |
| 14 |             |                      |   |   |  |
| 15 |             |                      |   |   |  |
| 16 |             |                      |   |   |  |
| 17 |             |                      |   |   |  |
| 18 |             |                      |   |   |  |
| 19 |             |                      |   |   |  |
| 20 |             |                      |   |   |  |

Before applying the formula, it is necessary to define the parameters for our calculation. We must designate specific cells to hold the start and end dates that define our desired date range. For instance, we can use cell **D2** to define the start date and cell **E2** to define the end date. This dedicated criteria setup ensures clarity and allows for easy modification of the calculation parameters without altering the core formula.

Once the start and end dates are placed in cells **D2** and **E2** respectively, we can proceed to enter the SUMIFS formula into a designated output cell (e.g., F2) to calculate the total sum of products sold that occurred between these two specified dates.

## Applying the Formula for a Specific Period

Using the dataset and criteria cells established previously, we can now implement the full SUMIFS formula. Our objective is to calculate the sum of products sold within a test period, for example, from January 10, 2021, to January 15, 2021. To achieve this, we would enter 1/10/2021 into cell **D2** and 1/15/2021 into cell **E2**.

The resulting formula, utilizing the precise syntax required for date comparisons, looks as follows:

**=SUMIFS(B2:B11,A2:A11,">="&D2,A2:A11,"<="&E2)**

When executed in Google Sheets, this formula efficiently scans the date column **A2:A11**. It filters out all rows where the date falls outside the bounds defined by **D2** and **E2**. For the remaining rows that meet both the greater-than-or-equal-to ( $\geq$ ) and less-than-or-equal-to ( $\leq$ ) conditions, the corresponding values in the sum range **B2:B11** are totaled.

The following screenshot demonstrates the successful execution of this formula, clearly showing the input dates and the calculated result:

| F2 |           | <i>fx</i>     | =SUMIFS(B2:B11,A2:A11,">="&D2,A2:A11,"<="&E2) |            |           |                      |
|----|-----------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------------|
|    | A         | B             | C                                             | D          | E         | F                    |
| 1  | Date      | Products Sold |                                               | Start Date | End Date  | Sum of Products Sold |
| 2  | 1/1/2021  | 9             |                                               | 1/10/2021  | 1/15/2021 | 73                   |
| 3  | 1/4/2021  | 23            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 4  | 1/6/2021  | 29            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 5  | 1/7/2021  | 22            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 6  | 1/8/2021  | 25            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 7  | 1/12/2021 | 28            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 8  | 1/14/2021 | 30            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 9  | 1/15/2021 | 15            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 10 | 1/17/2021 | 18            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 11 | 1/18/2021 | 11            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 12 |           |               |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 13 |           |               |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 14 |           |               |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 15 |           |               |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 16 |           |               |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 17 |           |               |                                               |            |           |                      |

## Verifying Results and Dynamic Updates

Upon applying the formula with the start date 1/10/2021 and end date 1/15/2021, the calculation yields a total of **73** products sold. It is always good practice to manually verify conditional sums to ensure the SUMIFS logic is correctly capturing the intended data points. Based on the provided raw data, only three dates fall within the specified inclusive date range:

1/12/2021: 28 products

1/14/2021: 30 products

1/15/2021: 15 products

When manually summing these isolated values (28 + 30 + 15), the total product sales amount to

**73.** This manual verification confirms the accuracy and effectiveness of the SUMIFS formula when applied to dual date criteria.

A key advantage of using cell references (D2 and E2) for the criteria is the inherent dynamic capability of the formula. If we decide to expand or contract the analyzed period, the calculation updates instantly. For example, suppose we decide to analyze sales beginning from the very first recorded day, changing the start date in cell **D2** to 1/1/2021 while keeping the end date (1/15/2021) constant in **E2**. The formula automatically re-executes based on the new criteria.

The following illustration shows the result of changing the start date to 1/1/2021:

| F2 |           | fx            | =SUMIFS(B2:B11,A2:A11,">="&D2,A2:A11,"<="&E2) |            |           |                      |
|----|-----------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------------|
|    | A         | B             | C                                             | D          | E         | F                    |
| 1  | Date      | Products Sold |                                               | Start Date | End Date  | Sum of Products Sold |
| 2  | 1/1/2021  | 9             |                                               | 1/1/2021   | 1/15/2021 | 181                  |
| 3  | 1/4/2021  | 23            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 4  | 1/6/2021  | 29            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 5  | 1/7/2021  | 22            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 6  | 1/8/2021  | 25            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 7  | 1/12/2021 | 28            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 8  | 1/14/2021 | 30            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 9  | 1/15/2021 | 15            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 10 | 1/17/2021 | 18            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 11 | 1/18/2021 | 11            |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 12 |           |               |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 13 |           |               |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 14 |           |               |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 15 |           |               |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 16 |           |               |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 17 |           |               |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 18 |           |               |                                               |            |           |                      |
| 19 |           |               |                                               |            |           |                      |

With the new, expanded date range (1/1/2021 to 1/15/2021), the formula now calculates a significantly higher total of **181** products sold, demonstrating the speed and utility of dynamic conditional aggregation in Google Sheets.

## Advanced Considerations for Date Criteria

While the basic two-criteria approach covers most date range requirements, users should be aware of additional factors that can influence the calculation, particularly the format of dates and potential conflicts with time components. Google Sheets handles dates as serial numbers, and any

time component appended to a date will alter its numerical value. For instance, 1/15/2021 12:00 PM is numerically greater than 1/15/2021 12:00 AM.

If your data includes timestamps (date and time), using the standard "`<=end date`" criteria might unintentionally exclude entries on the end date itself if those entries occurred later in the day than 12:00 AM (the default time value for a date cell). A common workaround when dealing with timestamps is to define the end criteria using the strict less-than operator (`<`) and referencing the day immediately following your desired end date. For example, if you want to include all transactions up to and including 1/15/2021, you would set the end criteria to "`<&DATE(2021, 1, 16)`" or reference a cell containing 1/16/2021.

Finally, consistency in the criteria range is vital. If the date column (e.g., A2:A11) contains a mixture of true date formats and text strings that resemble dates, the SUMIFS function may fail to recognize the text strings as valid numerical criteria, leading to an inaccurate or zero sum result. Always ensure that the column being evaluated for the date condition is uniformly formatted as a date type.

## Additional Resources for Date Operations

Mastering conditional date calculations often requires familiarity with other date-specific functions in Google Sheets. The following tutorials provide additional information on how to work effectively with dates, helping users build more complex and robust analysis models: