**How to Input Excel Files Into MATLAB**

Step 1

Locate the Excel data file, with file extension ".xls," on your computer. MATLAB cannot import data from the Excel executable directly and must know the location of the data file for import. If you are unable to locate the correct data file, contact your system administrator.

Step 2

Open the MATLAB executable.

**Related Reading:** [How to Copy From the Internet and Paste Into Excel](http://smallbusiness.chron.com/copy-internet-paste-excel-40505.html)

Step 3

Launch the MATLAB Data Import Wizard by selecting "Import Data..." from the File menu or by entering the command "uiimport" into the MATLAB command prompt.

Step 4

Navigate the file system to select your Excel data file. Click "Open" on the dialog box to have MATLAB display a preview of data in the file.

Step 5

Select the desired worksheet from the Excel file for import using the radiobox input of the left side of the import wizard dialog box. Choose the columns and rows from the spreadsheet you wish to import by selecting them on the right side of the import wizard dialog box.

Step 6

Click "Next" on the dialog box to preview the imported MATLAB variables. Deselect any variables you do not wish to import, and rename them to your specifications. Click "Finish" to finish importing your Excel data.

Step 7

Use the "xlsread()" function to import Excel data in a work flow without requiring user input.  
[num\_data, text\_data, raw\_data] = xlsread(my\_filename, sheet\_num, data\_range);  
The "num\_data" variable contains a numeric array with the numeric data from the spreadsheet. The "text\_data" contains a cell array, MATLAB's multiple-data-type array, with the text data from the spreadsheet. The "raw\_data" variable contains all data in a cell array.