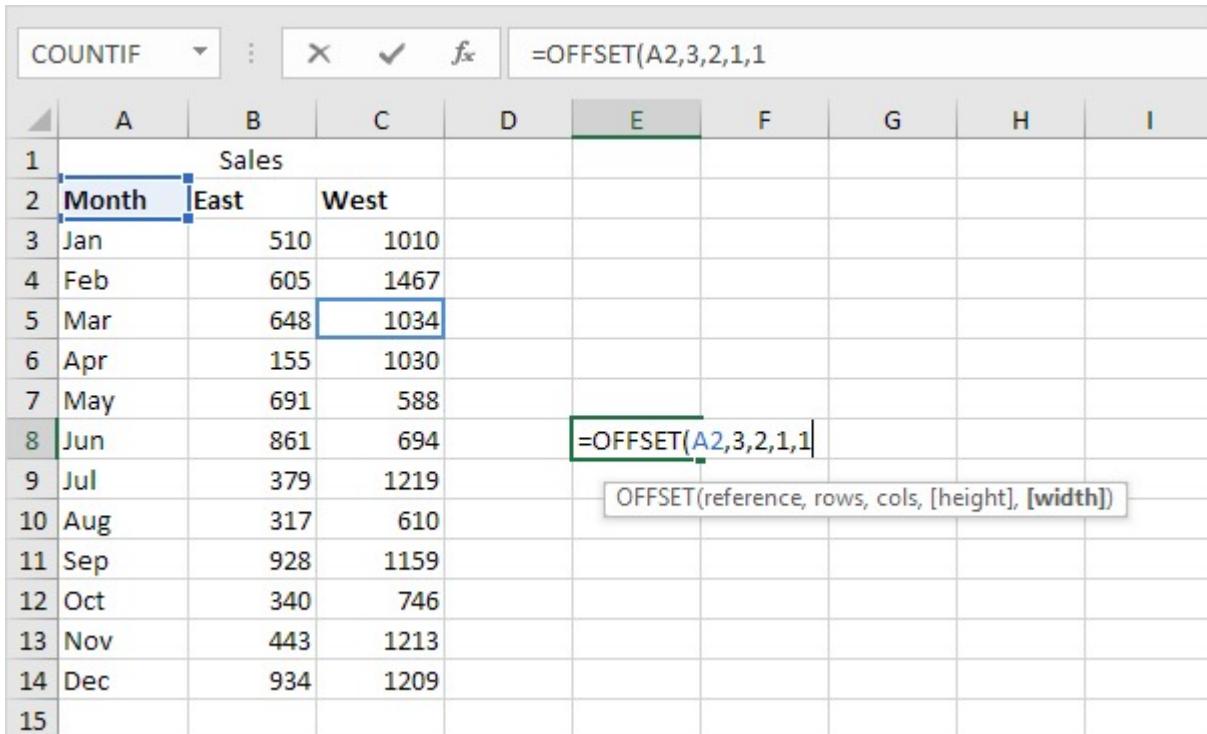# OFFSET function in Excel

The OFFSET function in Excel returns a cell or range of cells that is a specified number of rows and columns from a cell or range of cells.

✦ Return a Cell

First, let's use the OFFSET function in Excel to return a cell. Here we go.

1. The OFFSET function below returns the cell that is 3 rows below and 2 columns to the right of cell A2. The OFFSET function returns a cell because the height and width are both set to 1.

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Result:

E8				×	✓	f_x	=OFFSET(A2,3,2,1,1)				

◢	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		Sales							
2	Month	East	West						
3	Jan	510	1010						
4	Feb	605	1467						
5	Mar	648	1034						
6	Apr	155	1030						
7	May	691	588						
8	Jun	861	694		1034				
9	Jul	379	1219						
10	Aug	317	610						
11	Sep	928	1159						
12	Oct	340	746						
13	Nov	443	1213						
14	Dec	934	1209						
15									

The last 2 arguments of the OFFSET function are optional. When height and width are omitted, the new reference has the same height and width as the starting reference (first argument).

2. For example, the OFFSET function below returns the cell that is 12 rows below and 0 columns to the right of cell A2.

SUM				×	✓	f_x	=OFFSET(A2,12,0				

◢	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		Sales							
2	Month	East	West						
3	Jan	510	1010						
4	Feb	605	1467						
5	Mar	648	1034						
6	Apr	155	1030						
7	May	691	588						
8	Jun	861	694		=OFFSET(A2,12,0				
9	Jul	379	1219		OFFSET(reference, rows, **cols**, [height], [width])				
10	Aug	317	610						
11	Sep	928	1159						
12	Oct	340	746						
13	Nov	443	1213						
14	Dec	934	1209						
15									

Result:

E8			fx	=OFFSET(A2,12,0)				

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		Sales							
2	Month	East	West						
3	Jan	510	1010						
4	Feb	605	1467						
5	Mar	648	1034						
6	Apr	155	1030						
7	May	691	588						
8	Jun	861	694		Dec				
9	Jul	379	1219						
10	Aug	317	610						
11	Sep	928	1159						
12	Oct	340	746						
13	Nov	443	1213						
14	Dec	934	1209						
15									

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✦ Return a Range

Alright. Let's now use the OFFSET function in Excel to return a range (two or more cells).

1. The OFFSET function below returns the 1 x 2 range that is 8 rows below and 1 column to the right of cell A2. The SUM function calculates the sum of this range.

SUM			fx	=SUM(OFFSET(A2,8,1,1,2				

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		Sales							
2	Month	East	West						
3	Jan	510	1010						
4	Feb	605	1467						
5	Mar	648	1034						
6	Apr	155	1030						
7	May	691	588						
8	Jun	861	694		=SUM(OFFSET(A2,8,1,1,2				
9	Jul	379	1219						
10	Aug	317	610			OFFSET(reference, rows, cols, [height], **[width]**)			

11	Sep	928	1159
12	Oct	340	746
13	Nov	443	1213
14	Dec	934	1209
15			

Result:

E8		⋮	✕	✓	*fx*	=SUM(OFFSET(A2,8,1,1,2))

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		Sales							
2	Month	East	West						
3	Jan	510	1010						
4	Feb	605	1467						
5	Mar	648	1034						
6	Apr	155	1030						
7	May	691	588						
8	Jun	861	694		927				
9	Jul	379	1219						
10	Aug	317	610						
11	Sep	928	1159						
12	Oct	340	746						
13	Nov	443	1213						
14	Dec	934	1209						
15									

The last 2 arguments of the OFFSET function are optional (as previously mentioned). When height and width are omitted, the new reference has the same height and width as the starting reference (first argument).

2. For example, the OFFSET function below returns the range that is 4 rows below and 0 columns to the right of the range B2:C2. The SUM function calculates the sum of this range.

SUM		⋮	✕	✓	*fx*	=SUM(OFFSET(B2:C2,4,0

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		Sales							
2	Month	East	West						
3	Jan	510	1010						
4	Feb	605	1467						
5	Mar	648	1034						
6	Apr	155	1030						
7	May	691	588						
8	Jun	861	694		=SUM(OFFSET(B2:C2,4,0				
9	Jul	379	1219		OFFSET(reference, rows, **cols**, [height], [width])				
10	Aug	317	610						
11	Sep	928	1159						
12	Oct	340	746						
13	Nov	443	1213						
14	Dec	934	1209						

15								

Result:

3. The OFFSET function below returns the range that is 4 rows below and 0 columns to the right of the range B2:C2. This time without a SUM function.

Result:

Note: before inserting this formula, select the range E8:F8 (or another range of the same size). Finish by pressing CTRL + SHIFT + ENTER. The formula bar indicates that this is an array formula by enclosing it in curly braces {}. To delete this array formula, select the range E8:F8 and press Delete.

4. If you have Excel 365 or Excel 2021, simply select cell E8, enter the OFFSET function and press Enter. Bye bye curly braces.

Note: the OFFSET function, entered into cell E8, fills multiple cells. Wow! This behavior in Excel 365/2021 is called spilling.

✦ Negative Offset

If you want to return a cell or range of cells that is a specified number of rows above or columns to the left, use negative numbers.

The OFFSET function below returns the cell that is 12 rows above and 1 column to the left

of cell C14.

Result:

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- Offset
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