

A *rational number* is one which can be written as $\frac{m}{n}$ where m and n are integers with $n \neq 0$. That is, it can be written as a *ratio*, hence the name.

For example, -17 , $\frac{2}{5}$ and $-\frac{1013}{12}$ are rational, but none of π , e or $\sqrt{2}$ is.

We use the symbol \mathbb{Q} for the [set](#) of rational numbers.