

Counting

by Dick Evans

There are many reasons to count things and in Excel there are a few ways to do it. How many locations do we have? How many did over \$300 last month? Using the sorting example workbook, this paper explores a few of the counting options in Excel.

1. Start Excel and open the **sorting example** workbook

	A	B	C	D
1	Sorting Example			
2				
3	Name	City	State	Amount
4	Smith	Bristol	CT	415.00
5	Jones	Hartford	CT	437.00
6	Fairly	Hartford	CT	368.00
7	Smith	New Haven	CT	323.00
8	King	New Haven	CT	135.00
9	Jones	Bristol	RI	282.00
10	Capps	Coventry	RI	355.00
11	King	Coventry	RI	195.00
12	Fairly	Cranston	RI	472.00
13	Capps	Cranston	RI	286.00
14	King	Cumberland	RI	422.00
15	Smith	Cumberland	RI	369.00
16	Smith	Johnston	RI	347.00
17	Jones	Johnston	RI	206.00
18	Fairly	Newport	RI	175.00
19	Capps	Newport	RI	126.00
20	Jones	Warwick	RI	500.00
21	Fairly	Warwick	RI	158.00
22				

2. Select cell **D22**

20	Jones	Warwick	RI	500.00	
21	Fairly	Warwick	RI	158.00	
22				=COUNT(D4:D21)	
23					

3. Enter the function to count the number of entries in the data table. The answer is 18 because it count the number of entries above containing a numeric value.

16	Smith	Johnston	RI	347.00
17	Jones	Johnston	RI	206.00
18	Fairly	Newport	RI	175.00
19	Capps	Newport	RI	
20	Jones	Warwick	RI	500.00
21	Fairly	Warwick	RI	158.00
22				17.00

4. Delete the data in cell D19. Notice the count is reduced by 1 because the cell no longer contains numbers. This is not helpful when a count of the number of entries is desired. For this we need to count the names and =count() does not work.

17	Jones	Johnston	RI	206.00
18	Fairly	Newport	RI	175.00
19	Capps	Newport	RI	
20	Jones	Warwick	RI	500.00
21	Fairly	Warwick	RI	158.00
22	=COUNTA(A4:A21)			17.00
23				

5. =counta() does the job nicely by counting the cell containing alphanumeric data. Clearing one of the names, will reduce the total, but it is more likely for the names to be static while the amounts change.

There are a couple of other "counts" that are useful as well.

17	Jones	Johnston	RI	206.00
18	Fairly	Newport	RI	175.00
19	Capps	Newport	RI	
20	Jones	Warwick	RI	500.00
21	Fairly	Warwick	RI	158.00
22	18			17.00
23				
24	Greater then \$400			=COUNTIF(D4:D21,">400")

6. Counts the number of cells in the range that meet the criteria following the range. Note the quotes surrounding the expression.

23				
24	Greater then \$400		5.00	
25	Number of empty cells		=COUNTBLANK(D4:D21)	

7. Counts the number of empty cells in the selected range.