

Match function in Excel - Usage and illustrative examples

The Match function in Excel finds a specified item in a specified range and, returns the relative position of that value in this range. Function syntax and usage Syntax: = MATCH (lookup_value, lookup_array, [match_type]). In which: - MATCH: is the function name. - lookup_value: is the value to search, be it text or numeric.

The Match function in Excel finds a specified item in a specified range and, returns the relative position of that value in this range.



Function syntax and usage

Syntax: = MATCH (lookup_value, lookup_array, [match_type]).

Inside:

- **MATCH** : is the function name.
- **lookup_value**: is the value to search, be it text or numeric.

- **lookup_array**: is the search array.

- [**match_type**]: is a match type. Optional parameter. If you do not enter a value, Excel will default to the match type = 1.

+ If you type match = **1**: is to find the largest value in values ??that is less than or equal to the value you are looking for that you specified above.

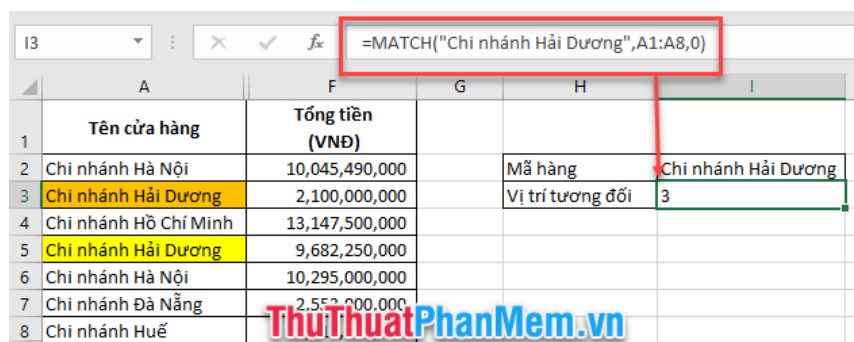
+ If you type match = **0**: is to find the correct value equal to the value to search.

+ If you type match = - **1**: is to find the smallest value in the values ??greater than or equal to the value you are looking for that you specified above.

Note:

1. If you use **match_type** = 1, the search array must be sorted in ascending order, for example: a, b, c, etc; - 2,0,3,4, etc.
2. If you use **match_type** = -1, the search array must be sorted in descending order.
3. If **lookup_value** is case sensitive, double quotes must be entered.
4. The **Match** function is not case sensitive.
5. If the **Match** function is not found, the result will return the # N / A error value .
6. If **match_type** = 0 and **lookup_value** are text strings, you can use the question mark character (?) To represent any single character and the asterisk (*) that matches any string. If you want to find a real question mark or asterisk, type a tilde (~) before the character.
7. If the **lookup_array** search **array** has more than one value of **lookup_value**, the result will return the smallest result.

For example



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with a formula bar containing the formula `=MATCH("Chi nhánh Hải Dương",A1:A8,0)`. The spreadsheet data is as follows:

	A	F	G	H	I
1	Tên cửa hàng	Tổng tiền (VND)			
2	Chi nhánh Hà Nội	10,045,490,000		Mã hàng	Chi nhánh Hải Dương
3	Chi nhánh Hải Dương	2,100,000,000		Vị trí tương đối	3
4	Chi nhánh Hồ Chí Minh	13,147,500,000			
5	Chi nhánh Hải Dương	9,682,250,000			
6	Chi nhánh Hà Nội	10,295,000,000			
7	Chi nhánh Đà Nẵng	2,553,000,000			
8	Chi nhánh Huế				

In the above example, **lookup_value** is in text form, so you must enclose the quotation marks "". Otherwise the return value will be #NAME?

The **lookup_array** search **array** has the same value as **lookup_value** (Hai Duong branch), the function will return the first value it meets.

Use the Match function, which is case sensitive

The formula: = **MATCH (TRUE, EXACT (lookup_array, lookup_value, [match_type])** and then **press Shift + Ctrl + Enter** instead of just **Enter** as usual.

The **Exact** function will help us compare the lookup value (**lookup_value**) with each value in the search area (**lookup_array**). If the compared cell does not match 100% of the value to be searched, the function will return **False** until the return value is **True** (the cell that matches 100% matches the value to be searched). And then the **Match** function will check the position of the **True** value in the search area (**lookup_array**).

You can refer to the following example to see the difference between using the Match function (1) and using the Match function in combination with Exact (2).

	A	F	G	H	I
1	Tên cửa hàng	Tổng tiền (VNĐ)			
2	Chi nhánh Hà Nội	10,045,490,000		Mã hàng	Kết quả
3	Chi nhánh Hải dương	2,100,000,000	(1)	Công thức sử dụng =MATCH("Chi nhánh Hải Dương",A1:A8,0)	3
4	Chi nhánh Hồ Chí Minh	13,147,500,000	(2)	Công thức sử dụng (=MATCH(TRUE, EXACT(A1:A8,"Chi nhánh Hải Dương"),0)}	5
5	Chi nhánh Hải Dương	9,682,250,000			
6	Chi nhánh Hà Nội	10,295,000,000			
7	Chi nhánh Đà Nẵng	2,553,000,000			
8	Chi nhánh Huế	4,414,800,000			

Combine MATCH with the Lookup search function

You can use the Match function to get the relative position of the column / row you need to return, and provide the column / row number for the Row_index_number parameter for the Hlookup function / the Col_index_number parameter for the Vlookup function.

You have the following example is a combination of Vlookup and Match rows

Bảng doanh thu các chi nhánh qua các quý					
	A	B	C	D	E
1	Tên cửa hàng	Doanh thu quý I	Doanh thu quý II	Doanh thu quý III	Doanh thu quý IV
2	Chi nhánh Hà Nội	10,045,490,000	10,295,000,000	1,003,200,000	2,805,000,000
3	Chi nhánh Hải Dương	2,100,000,000	2,553,000,000	10,950,000,000	7,854,750,000
4	Chi nhánh Hồ Chí Minh	13,147,500,000	4,414,800,000	12,760,970,000	1,630,800,000
5	Chi nhánh Hải Dương	9,682,250,000	541,200,000	4,037,000,000	1,716,000,000
6					
7					
8					
9	Chi nhánh	Chi nhánh Hà Nội			
10	Doanh thu quý I	10,045,490,000			
11					
12					
13					

In particular, the Match function finds the position of "First Quarter Revenue" in the array A2 through E2, and returns the value 2 for the Col_index_number parameter for the Vlookup function.

And another example for a combination of Hlookup and Match rows

B10 X ✓ fx **=+HLOOKUP(A10,A2:E6,MATCH(B9,A2:A6,0),FALSE)**

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Bảng doanh thu các chi nhánh qua các quý				
2	Tên cửa hàng	Doanh thu quý I	Doanh thu quý II	Doanh thu quý III	Doanh thu quý IV
3	Chi nhánh Hà Nội	10,045,490,000	10,295,000,000	1,003,200,000	2,805,000,000
4	Chi nhánh Hải Dương	2,100,000,000	2,553,000,000	10,950,000,000	7,854,750,000
5	Chi nhánh Hồ Chí Minh	13,147,500,000	4,414,800,000	12,760,970,000	1,630,800,000
6	Chi nhánh Hải Dương	9,682,250,000	541,200,000	4,037,000,000	1,716,000,000
7					
8					
9	Chi nhánh	Chi nhánh Hà Nội			
10	Doanh thu quý II	10,295,000,000			
11					

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In particular, the Match function finds the position of "Hanoi Branch" in the array A2 through A6, and returns the row value 2 for the Row_index_number parameter for the Hlookup function.

Above software tips have shown you how to use the **MATCH** function and some of its basic applications. Hope this article will help you.

Good luck!

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