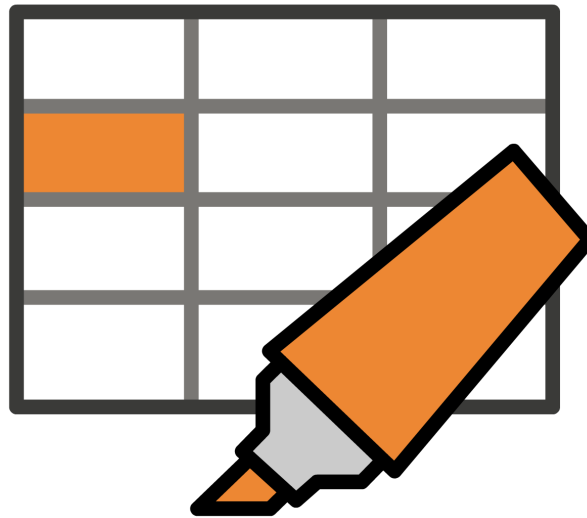


PerfectXL Highlighter

User Guide



PerfectXL Highlighter User Guide

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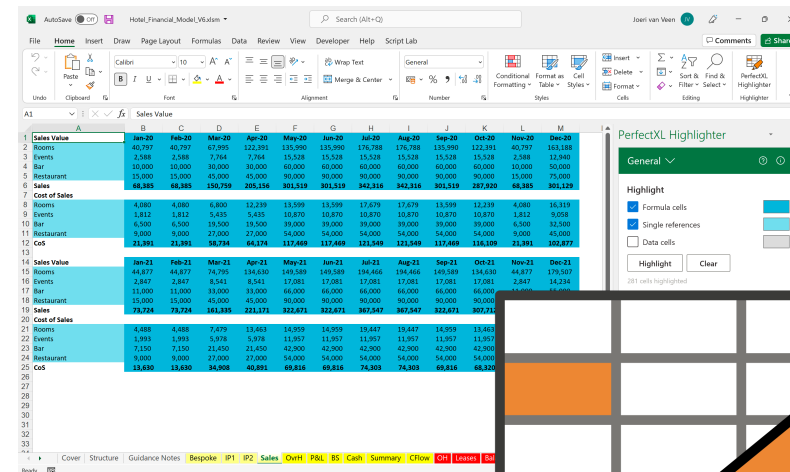
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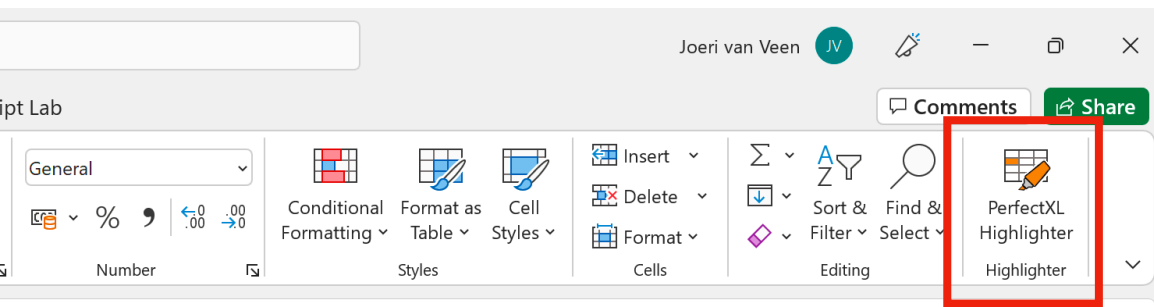
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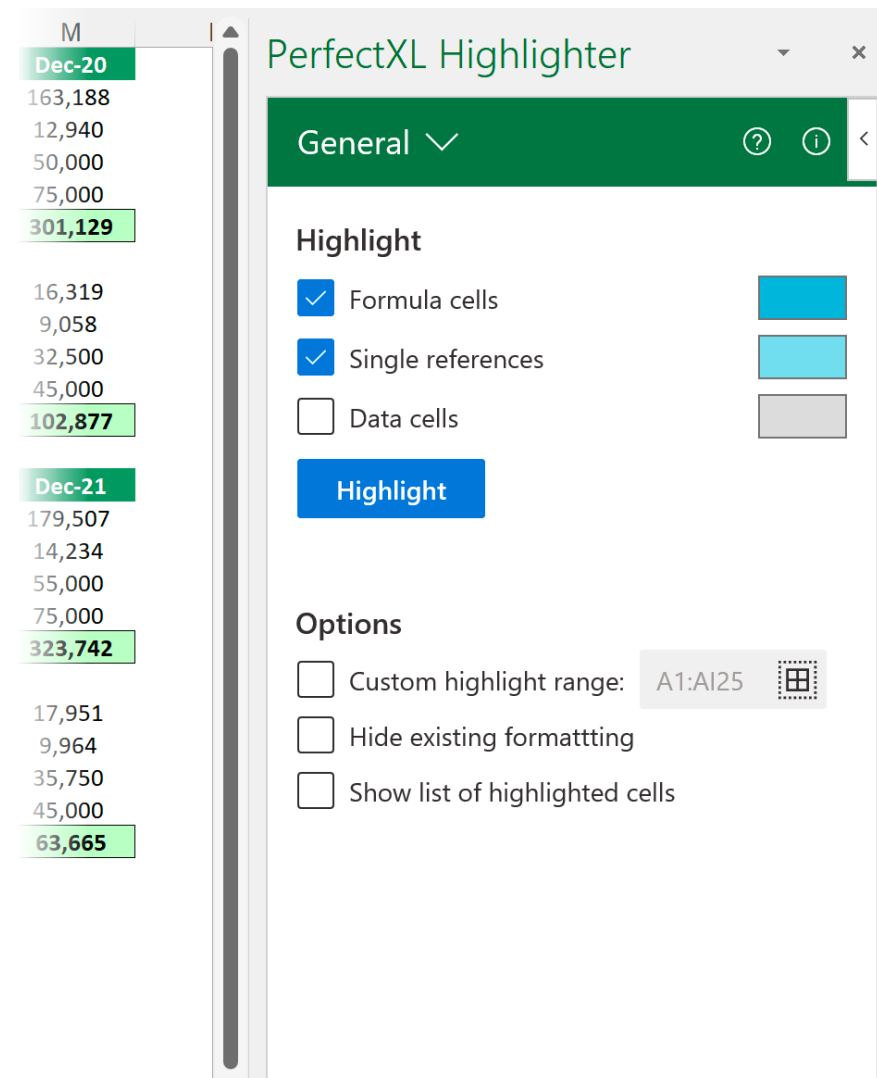
Where to find the PerfectXL Highlighter

In Excel, go to the Home-tab and look on the right-hand side. Click **PerfectXL Highlighter** to get started. A sidebar pops up with highlight controls.



The screenshot shows the Excel ribbon with the Home tab selected. The PerfectXL Highlighter icon, which is a grid with a pencil, is highlighted with a red rectangular box. The ribbon also shows other icons for Conditional Formatting, Format as Table, Cell Styles, Insert, Delete, Format, Sort & Filter, Find & Select, and Comments. The spreadsheet below shows a table with columns for months from August to December for the years 2020 and 2021.

Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20
176,788	135,990	122,391	40,797	163,188
15,528	15,528	15,528	2,588	12,940
60,000	60,000	60,000	10,000	50,000
90,000	90,000	90,000	15,000	75,000
342,316	301,519	287,920	68,385	301,129
17,679	13,599	12,239	4,080	16,319
10,870	10,870	10,870	1,812	9,058
39,000	39,000	39,000	6,500	32,500
54,000	54,000	54,000	9,000	45,000
121,549	117,469	116,109	21,391	102,877
Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
194,466	149,589	134,630	44,877	179,507
17,081	17,081	17,081	2,847	14,234
66,000	66,000	66,000	11,000	55,000
90,000	90,000	90,000	15,000	75,000
367,547	322,671	307,712	73,724	323,742
19,447	14,959	13,463	4,488	17,951
11,957	11,957	11,957	1,993	9,964
42,900	42,900	42,900	7,150	35,750
54,000	54,000	54,000	9,000	45,000
74,303	69,816	68,320	13,630	63,665



The screenshot shows the PerfectXL Highlighter sidebar. The 'General' tab is selected. Under the 'Highlight' section, 'Formula cells' and 'Single references' are checked, and 'Data cells' is unchecked. There are color swatches for each. A 'Highlight' button is present. Under the 'Options' section, 'Custom highlight range: A1:A125' is selected, 'Hide existing formatting' is unchecked, and 'Show list of highlighted cells' is unchecked. The background shows a vertical list of numbers with some highlighted in green.

M
Dec-20
163,188
12,940
50,000
75,000
301,129
16,319
9,058
32,500
45,000
102,877
Dec-21
179,507
14,234
55,000
75,000
323,742
17,951
9,964
35,750
45,000
63,665

What does it do?

The **PerfectXL Highlighter** gives you the power to quickly spot patterns and inconsistencies in a worksheet by temporarily giving cells a different colour. For example, you can quickly make all formulas blue to visually separate data cells from calculated results.

Just click the **Highlight** button to get started. You can return to your original formatting by clicking **Clear**, closing the PerfectXL Highlighter, or by switching to a different worksheet or highlight mode.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface with the PerfectXL Highlighter tool active. The tool is highlighting formula cells in blue and single references in light blue. The sidebar on the right shows the PerfectXL Highlighter settings, including the 'General' tab, 'Highlight' options, and 'Options'.

PerfectXL Highlighter Settings:

- General:** ? ⓘ
- Highlight:**
 - Formula cells (Blue)
 - Single references (Light Blue)
 - Data cells (Grey)
- Options:**
 - Custom highlight range: A1:A125
 - Hide existing formatting
 - Show list of highlighted cells

Excel Worksheet Data:

	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20
Sales Value												
Rooms	40,797	40,797	67,995	122,391	135,990	135,990	176,788	176,788	135,990	122,391	40,797	163,188
Events	2,588	2,588	7,764	7,764	15,528	15,528	15,528	15,528	15,528	15,528	2,588	12,940
Bar	10,000	10,000	30,000	30,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	10,000	50,000
Restaurant	15,000	15,000	45,000	45,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	15,000	75,000
Sales	68,385	68,385	150,759	205,156	301,519	301,519	342,316	342,316	301,519	287,920	68,385	301,129
Cost of Sales												
Rooms	4,080	4,080	6,800	12,239	13,599	13,599	17,679	17,679	13,599	12,239	4,080	16,319
Events	1,812	1,812	5,435	5,435	10,870	10,870	10,870	10,870	10,870	10,870	1,812	9,058
Bar	6,500	6,500	19,500	19,500	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	6,500	32,500
Restaurant	9,000	9,000	27,000	27,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	9,000	45,000
CoS	21,391	21,391	58,734	64,174	117,469	117,469	121,549	121,549	117,469	116,109	21,391	102,877
Sales Value												
Rooms	44,877	44,877	74,795	134,630	149,589	149,589	194,466	194,466	149,589	134,630	44,877	179,507
Events	2,847	2,847	8,541	8,541	17,081	17,081	17,081	17,081	17,081	17,081	2,847	14,234
Bar	11,000	11,000	33,000	33,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	11,000	55,000
Restaurant	15,000	15,000	45,000	45,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	15,000	75,000
Sales	73,724	73,724	161,335	221,171	322,671	322,671	367,547	367,547	322,671	307,712	73,724	323,742
Cost of Sales												
Rooms	4,488	4,488	7,479	13,463	14,959	14,959	19,447	19,447	14,959	13,463	4,488	17,951
Events	1,993	1,993	5,978	5,978	11,957	11,957	11,957	11,957	11,957	11,957	1,993	9,964
Bar	7,150	7,150	21,450	21,450	42,900	42,900	42,900	42,900	42,900	42,900	7,150	35,750
Restaurant	9,000	9,000	27,000	27,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	9,000	45,000
CoS	13,630	13,630	34,908	40,891	69,816	69,816	74,303	74,303	69,816	68,320	13,630	63,665

Enhancing visibility

Sometimes, existing colours in a worksheet clash with the highlight colours. In such cases, you have a few options. The quickest way to clarify the visualisation is to select **Hide existing formatting**, which temporarily ignores the original colours of the worksheet. When the original colours are more useful to keep, you can also choose to **change the highlight colours** by clicking the coloured rectangles. In other cases it's enough to **uncheck** certain options altogether; they will not be highlighted.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface with the PerfectXL Highlighter tool open on the right. The worksheet displays a financial model with columns for months from Jan-20 to Dec-20 and Jan-21 to Dec-21. The PerfectXL Highlighter tool is currently set to 'General' and has the 'Hide existing formatting' option checked. The tool indicates that 281 cells are highlighted.

	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20
Sales Value												
Rooms	40,797	40,797	67,995	122,391	135,990	135,990	176,788	176,788	135,990	122,391	40,797	163,188
Events	2,588	2,588	7,764	7,764	15,528	15,528	15,528	15,528	15,528	15,528	2,588	12,940
Bar	10,000	10,000	30,000	30,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	10,000	50,000
Restaurant	15,000	15,000	45,000	45,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	15,000	75,000
Sales	68,385	68,385	150,759	205,156	301,519	301,519	342,316	342,316	301,519	287,920	68,385	301,129
Cost of Sales												
Rooms	4,080	4,080	6,800	12,239	13,599	13,599	17,679	17,679	13,599	12,239	4,080	16,319
Events	1,812	1,812	5,435	5,435	10,870	10,870	10,870	10,870	10,870	10,870	1,812	9,058
Bar	6,500	6,500	19,500	19,500	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	6,500	32,500
Restaurant	9,000	9,000	27,000	27,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	9,000	45,000
CoS	21,391	21,391	58,734	64,174	117,469	117,469	121,549	121,549	117,469	116,109	21,391	102,877
Sales Value												
Rooms	44,877	44,877	74,795	134,630	149,589	149,589	194,466	194,466	149,589	134,630	44,877	179,507
Events	2,847	2,847	8,541	8,541	17,081	17,081	17,081	17,081	17,081	17,081	2,847	14,234
Bar	11,000	11,000	33,000	33,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	11,000	55,000
Restaurant	15,000	15,000	45,000	45,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	15,000	75,000
Sales	73,724	73,724	161,335	221,171	322,671	322,671	367,547	367,547	322,671	307,712	73,724	323,742
Cost of Sales												
Rooms	4,488	4,488	7,479	13,463	14,959	14,959	19,447	19,447	14,959	13,463	4,488	17,951
Events	1,993	1,993	5,978	5,978	11,957	11,957	11,957	11,957	11,957	11,957	1,993	9,964
Bar	7,150	7,150	21,450	21,450	42,900	42,900	42,900	42,900	42,900	42,900	7,150	35,750
Restaurant	9,000	9,000	27,000	27,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	9,000	45,000
CoS	13,630	13,630	34,908	40,891	69,816	69,816	74,303	74,303	69,816	68,320	13,630	63,665

What you can highlight

You can highlight more than just formulas. Click the green bar that says **General** to reveal a list of **highlight modes**. Here's how you could think of these modes in a nutshell:

General — Distinguish between data and calculations.

Consistent Formulas — One formula = one colour.

References — What does this worksheet reference? (*What does it use?*)

Input Output — Where are cells referenced? (*Where is it used?*)

Cell Values — Never miss a cell error / verify data type consistency.

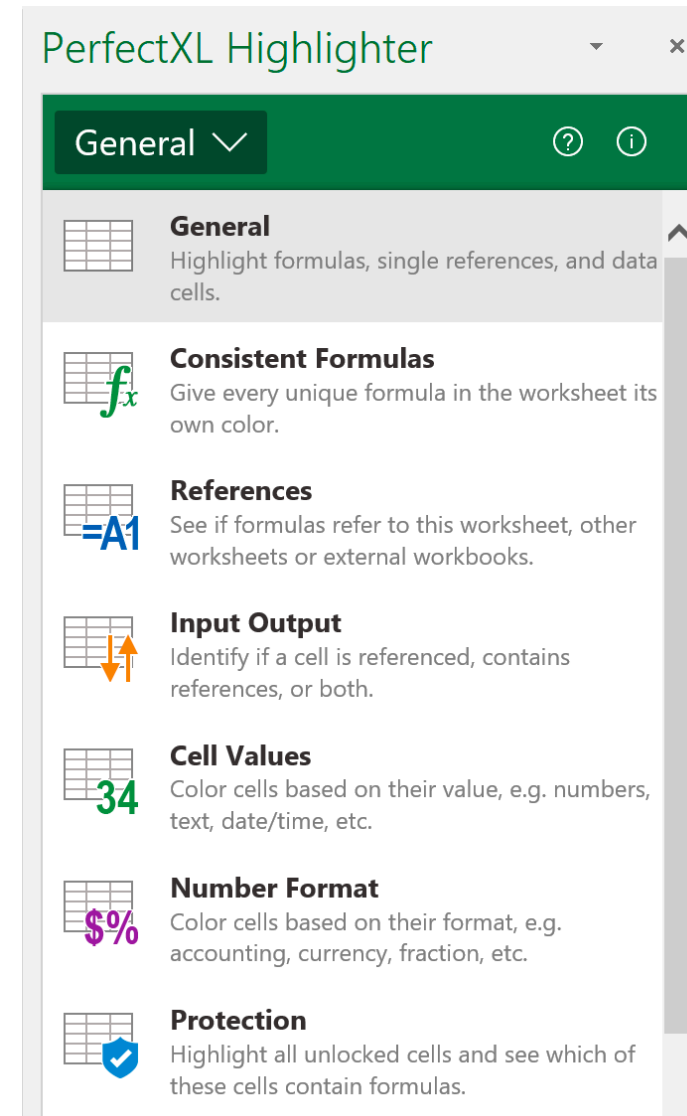
Number Format — Excel's number formats exposed.

Protection — No unlocked formulas? No locked input cells?

Special Cells — Find hidden formulas, merged cells, legacy features...

Custom Search — Colour cells where formula or cell value matches custom search terms.

You don't always need every mode for every model, but they're there when you need them!



Consistent Formulas

In the **Consistent Formulas** mode you can quickly get an overview of the calculation model. Give every formula its own colour to do a step-by-step audit of formulas.

The screenshot displays the Microsoft Excel interface with the PerfectXL Highlighter tool active. The tool provides a list of formulas from the spreadsheet, each highlighted with a unique color to facilitate auditing. The formulas listed include:

- $f_x = \text{DATEVALUE}(1\&"/"&'IP1'\!\$B\$...$
- $f_x = \text{DATE}(\text{YEAR}(B1), \text{MONTH}(B1) + ...$
- $f_x = ((\text{PRODUCT}('IP1'\!\$D\$8:\$F\$8)*...$
- $f_x = ((\text{PRODUCT}('IP1'\!\$D\$15:\$F\$1...$
- $f_x = \text{VLOOKUP}(\$A4, 'IP1'\!\$B\$23:\$G...$
- $f_x = \text{SUM}(B2:B5)$
- $f_x = 'C:\Users\joeri\Desktop\perf...$
- $f_x = 'IP1'\!B8$
- $f_x = 'IP1'\!B15$
- $f_x = 'IP1'\!B23$
- $f_x = \text{VLOOKUP}(\$A8, 'IP1'\!\$B\$29:\$F...$
- $f_x = A2$
- $f_x = 'IP1'\!B23$
- $f_x = \text{DATEVALUE}(1\&"/"&'IP1'\!\$B\$...$
- $f_x = ((\text{PRODUCT}('IP1'\!\$D\$8:\$F\$8)*...$
- $f_x = ((\text{PRODUCT}('IP1'\!\$D\$15:\$F\$1...$

The background spreadsheet shows a financial model with columns for months from Jan-20 to Dec-21 and rows for various categories like Sales Value, Rooms, Events, Bar, Restaurant, Sales, and Cost of Sales. The PerfectXL Highlighter tool is positioned on the right side of the screen, providing a color-coded list of formulas used in the spreadsheet.

Wish to focus on a particular formula? Just click on it in the sidebar and it will highlight just the cells that contain the chosen formula. Click it again to bring back all formula colours.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface with a financial model spreadsheet. The PerfectXL Highlighter sidebar is open on the right, displaying a list of formulas and their corresponding cell ranges. The formulas are color-coded to match the highlights in the spreadsheet.

	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20
Sales Value												
Rooms	40,797	40,797	67,995	122,391	135,990	135,990	176,788	176,788	135,990	122,391	40,797	163,188
Events	2,588	2,588	7,764	7,764	15,528	15,528	15,528	15,528	15,528	15,528	2,588	12,940
Bar	10,000	10,000	30,000	30,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	10,000	50,000
Restaurant	15,000	15,000	45,000	45,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	15,000	75,000
Sales	68,385	68,385	150,759	205,156	301,519	301,519	342,316	342,316	301,519	287,920	68,385	301,129
Cost of Sales												
Rooms	4,080	4,080	6,800	12,239	13,599	13,599	17,679	17,679	13,599	12,239	4,080	16,319
Events	1,812	1,812	5,435	5,435	10,870	10,870	10,870	10,870	10,870	10,870	1,812	9,058
Bar	6,500	6,500	19,500	19,500	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	6,500	32,500
Restaurant	9,000	9,000	27,000	27,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	9,000	45,000
CoS	21,391	21,391	58,734	64,174	117,469	117,469	121,549	121,549	117,469	116,109	21,391	102,877
Sales Value	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Rooms	44,877	44,877	74,795	134,630	149,589	149,589	194,466	194,466	149,589	134,630	44,877	179,507
Events	2,847	2,847	8,541	8,541	17,081	17,081	17,081	17,081	17,081	17,081	2,847	14,234
Bar	11,000	11,000	33,000	33,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	11,000	55,000
Restaurant	15,000	15,000	45,000	45,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	15,000	75,000
Sales	73,724	73,724	161,335	221,171	322,671	322,671	367,547	367,547	322,671	307,712	73,724	323,742
Cost of Sales												
Rooms	4,488	4,488	7,479	13,463	14,959	14,959	19,447	19,447	14,959	13,463	4,488	17,951
Events	1,993	1,993	5,978	5,978	11,957	11,957	11,957	11,957	11,957	11,957	1,993	9,964
Bar	7,150	7,150	21,450	21,450	42,900	42,900	42,900	42,900	42,900	42,900	7,150	35,750
Restaurant	9,000	9,000	27,000	27,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	9,000	45,000
CoS	13,630	13,630	34,908	40,891	69,816	69,816	74,303	74,303	69,816	68,320	13,630	63,665

The PerfectXL Highlighter sidebar shows the following formulas and their corresponding cell ranges:

- $f_x = \text{DATEVALUE}(1\&"/"/\&'IP1'\!B\$8)$ (Green)
- $f_x = \text{DATE}(\text{YEAR}(B1), \text{MONTH}(B1) + \dots)$ (Yellow)
- $f_x = ((\text{PRODUCT}('IP1'\!D\$8:F\$8) * \dots))$ (Blue)
- $f_x = ((\text{PRODUCT}('IP1'\!D\$15:F\$15) * \dots))$ (Orange)
- $f_x = \text{VLOOKUP}(\$A4, 'IP1'\!B\$23:G\dots)$ (Purple)
- $f_x = \text{SUM}(B2:B5)$ (Cyan)
- $f_x = 'C:\Users\joeri\Desktop\[perf\dots]$ (Magenta)
- $f_x = 'IP1'\!B8$ (Light Green)
- $f_x = 'IP1'\!B15$ (Pink)
- $f_x = 'IP1'\!B23$ (Teal)
- $f_x = \text{VLOOKUP}(\$A8, 'IP1'\!B\$29:F\dots)$ (Light Purple)
- $f_x = A2$ (Brown)
- $f_x = 'IP1'\!B23$ (Yellow)
- $f_x = \text{DATEVALUE}(1\&"/"/\&'IP1'\!B\$8)$ (Dark Red)
- $f_x = ((\text{PRODUCT}('IP1'\!D\$8:F\$8) * \dots))$ (Light Green)
- $f_x = ((\text{PRODUCT}('IP1'\!D\$15:F\$15) * \dots))$ (Olive)
- $f_x = \text{VLOOKUP}(\$A17, 'IP1'\!B\$23:G\dots)$ (Light Orange)

Cell Values

Use **Cell Values** to verify data types. For example, you can make sure that after a CSV import no code labels were accidentally parsed as dates. Can you trust all text cells with number-like values? Were any error cells missed?

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface with a financial model for 'XYZ Ltd'. The PerfectXL Highlighter tool is open on the right, displaying the 'Cell Values' tab. The tool highlights 579 cells across the spreadsheet, primarily in the columns for months from April to October. The spreadsheet data is as follows:

	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20
XYZ Ltd							
Profit & Loss Account for the year ending:							
Sales	205,156	301,519	301,519	342,316	342,316	301,519	287,920
Cost of Sales	(64,174)	(117,469)	(117,469)	(121,549)	(121,549)	(117,469)	(116,109)
Gross Profit	140,981	184,050	184,050	220,767	220,767	184,050	171,811
Overheads							
Administration	28,133	31,414	29,914	36,319	32,569	29,914	29,779
Operations	25,804	25,804	25,804	25,804	25,000	25,804	25,804
Property-related	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rooms / Rest. / Events	30,752	33,962	33,962	33,962	33,962	33,962	33,962
Utilities	25,417	417	417	25,417	417	417	25,417
Total Overheads	115,772	94,764	93,264	127,169	95,114	93,264	120,629
EBITDA	25,210	89,286	90,786	93,599	125,653	90,786	51,182
Depreciation	44,886	44,786	44,689	44,595	45,171	45,083	44,998
EBIT	(19,676)	44,501	46,098	49,004	80,482	45,703	6,184
Lease interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loan interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank interest	5,041	4,809	4,158	3,495	2,744	2,234	1,600
Total interest	5,041	4,809	4,158	3,495	2,744	2,234	1,600
PBT	(24,717)	39,691	41,940	45,509	77,738	43,469	4,583
Taxation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PAT	(24,717)	39,691	41,940	45,509	77,738	43,469	4,583
Accumulated results	(274,996)	(235,305)	(193,365)	(147,857)	(70,118)	(26,649)	(22,066)
XYZ Ltd							

The PerfectXL Highlighter tool shows the following settings:

- Highlight:** Number cells (yellow), Text cells (green), Date/time cells (cyan), Boolean cells (pink), Error cells (red).
- Options:** Custom highlight range: A1:N63, Hide existing formatting (checked), Show list of highlighted cells (unchecked).

Number Format

Excel's number formats are commonly used to present data in a more readable format. Since this can include stuff like rounding numbers, it's important to make sure such formats are applied logically and consistently. No original colours are shown in the example below. So curiously, all of column A, E and I up to row 25 are formatted as percentage, even though they are mostly empty.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface with the following details:

- File Name:** Hotel_Financial_Model_V6.xlsm
- Search:** Search (Alt+Q)
- User:** Joeri van Veen
- Formulas Bar:** =IFERROR(SUM('P&L'!C61:N61)/SUM('P&L'!\$C\$36:\$N\$36),0)
- Number Format Dropdown:** Set to "Percentage" (highlighted with a red box).
- PerfectXL Highlighter Pane:** Open on the right, showing "Number Format" with "Percentage" selected (highlighted with a red box).
- Spreadsheet Data:** Financial model for XYZ Ltd, including Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet, and Ratios. The formula bar indicates that columns A, E, and I are formatted as percentages.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	XYZ Ltd	Profit & Loss	2020	2021	Cashflow		2020	2021	
2			€'000	€'000			€'000	€'000	
3		Sales	2,739.3	2,938.2	Opening balance		-20.0	-35.4	
4		Cost of Sales	-1,001.6	-606.7	Inflows		3,102.4	3,413.9	
5		Gross Profit	1,737.7	2,331.5					
6		Overheads	-1,223.5	-1,366.1					
7									
8		EBITDA	514.2	965.4	Outflows		-3,117.8	-3,029.2	
9		Depreciation	-531.3	-564.4					
10		Interest / Charges	-28.6	-17.2					
11		Taxation	0.0	#DIV/0!					
12		Net profit/(loss)	-45.7	#DIV/0!	Closing Balance		-35.4	349.3	
13									
14		Balance Sheet	2020	2021	Ratios		2020	2021	
15			€'000	€'000					
16		Fixed Assets	7,148.7	7,059.2	Current Ratio		0.52	0.00	
17					Quick Ratio		0.52	0.00	
18		Current Assets	111.5	423.5	Working Capital: Sales Revenue		-3.7%	0.0%	
19		Current Liabilities	-214.2	#DIV/0!	Debtors : Creditors Ratio		0.52	0.00	
20									
21		Net Current Assets	-102.7	#DIV/0!	As a ratio of Sales:				
22		Long-term Liabilities	0.0	0.0	EBITDA		15.7%	32.9%	
23					EBIT		-0.5%	0.0%	
24					PBT		-1.4%	0.0%	
25		Net Assets	7,046.0	#DIV/0!	PAT		-1.4%	0.0%	

Protection

When you protect a worksheet in Excel (**Review > Protect Sheet**), cells in this worksheet can no longer be manipulated unless they have been unlocked (right-click cell(s) > **Format Cells... > Protection > uncheck Locked**). This functionality is a bit hidden away in Excel, so using the **Protection** mode in the PerfectXL Highlighter you can quickly colour unlocked cells to verify all formulas are locked and all input cells unlocked.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface with the PerfectXL Highlighter tool open. The worksheet is titled "Hotel_Financial_Model_V6.xlsm" and is protected. The PerfectXL Highlighter tool is in the "Protection" mode, showing the following settings:

- Highlight:**
 - Unlocked cells with formulas (orange)
 - Unlocked cells without formulas (yellow)
- Options:**
 - Custom highlight range: A1:J25
 - Hide existing formatting
 - Show list of highlighted cells

The financial model data is as follows:

		2020	2021		2020	2021
1	XYZ Ltd			Cashflow		
2		€'000	€'000			
3	Sales	2,739.3	2,938.2			
4	Cost of Sales	-1,001.6	-606.7			
5	Gross Profit	1,737.7	2,331.5			
6	Overheads	-1,223.5	-1,366.1			
7						
8	EBITDA	514.2	965.4			
9	Depreciation	-531.3	-564.4			
10	Interest / Charges	-28.6	-17.2			
11	Taxation	0.0	#DIV/0!			
12	Net profit/(loss)	-45.7	#DIV/0!			
13						
14	Balance Sheet	2020	2021			
15		€'000	€'000			
16	Fixed Assets	7,148.7	7,059.2			
17						
18	Current Assets	111.5	423.5			
19	Current Liabilities	-214.2	#DIV/0!			
20						
21	Net Current Assets	-102.7	#DIV/0!			
22	Long-term Liabilities	0.0	0.0			
23						
24	Net Assets	7,046.0	#DIV/0!			
25						

Special Cells

The **Special Cells** mode is a useful spot check, a way to see "if there's anything else you should look at". Legacy array formulas, hidden formulas, that sort of stuff. This mode can also be useful to find particular cells: cells that have been merged together, cells whose text colour is the same as the fill colour (*Invisible values*), or cells that are subject to some data validation rule.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface with the PerfectXL Highlighter add-in. The 'Special Cells' mode is active, highlighting cell H16. The spreadsheet data is as follows:

		2020	2021		2020	2021
1	XYZ Ltd					
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
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Custom Search

The PerfectXL Highlighter can see a lot, but some models require business-specific inspection. Need to find all formulas with a SUM() function? Mark all cells that are zero? Of course you can find such things using Excel's "Find & Select" window, or by writing meticulous conditional format rules. Yet often you just want to quickly see it at a glance. Use the **Custom Search** mode to accomplish this. Colour based on the presence of up to 7 different search terms and control whether they should **Search in values** and/or **Search in formulas**.

The screenshot displays an Excel spreadsheet with a financial model for XYZ Ltd. The PerfectXL Highlighter Custom Search panel is open on the right side, showing the following search terms and their corresponding highlight colors:

- Search term: SUM (Red highlight)
- Search term: 0.0 (Orange highlight)
- Search term: Enter value or function (Yellow highlight)

The spreadsheet data is as follows:

		2020	2021		2020	2021
		€'000	€'000		€'000	€'000
Profit & Loss				Cashflow		
Sales		2,739.3	2,938.2	Opening balance	-20.0	-35.4
Cost of Sales		-1,001.6	-606.7	Inflows	3,102.4	3,413.9
Gross Profit		1,737.7	2,331.5	Outflows	-3,117.8	-3,029.2
Overheads		-1,223.5	-1,366.1			
EBITDA		514.2	965.4	Closing Balance	-35.4	349.3
Depreciation		-531.3	-564.4			
Interest / Charges		-28.6	-17.2			
Taxation		0.0	#DIV/0!			
Net profit/(loss)		-45.7	#DIV/0!			
Balance Sheet		2020	2021	Ratios	2020	2021
		€'000	€'000			
Fixed Assets		7,148.7	7,059.2	Current Ratio	0.52	0.00
				Quick Ratio	0.52	0.00
Current Assets		111.5	423.5	Working Capital: Sales Revenue	-3.7%	0.0%
Current Liabilities		-214.2	#DIV/0!	Debtors : Creditors Ratio	0.52	0.00
Net Current Assets		-102.7	#DIV/0!			
Long-term Liabilities		0.0	0.0	As a ratio of Sales:		
Net Assets		7,046.0	#DIV/0!	EBITDA	15.7%	32.9%
				EBIT	-0.5%	0.0%
				PBT	-1.4%	0.0%
				PAT	-1.4%	0.0%

Finding out-of-sight cells

When not all cells are visible at once, there's a number of things you can do: zoom out or scroll around a bit for instance. But there's a faster way. In any highlight mode, click **Show list of highlighted cells** to reveal a list of all cells that have been given a colour based on the selected criteria of the mode.

Here's an example use case. Let's say you highlight error cells in the **Cell Values** highlight mode. You see there should be 11 errors, but they are nowhere to be seen.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface with a financial model for 'XYZ Ltd'. The PerfectXL Highlighter is active, showing 11 error cells highlighted in red. A red arrow points to a cell containing a question mark, indicating an error. The highlighter shows '11 cells highlighted'.

	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20
XYZ Ltd							
Profit & Loss Account for the year ending:							
Sales	205,156	301,519	301,519	342,316	342,316	301,519	287,920
Cost of Sales	(64,174)	(117,469)	(117,469)	(121,549)	(121,549)	(117,469)	(116,109)
Gross Profit	140,981	184,050	184,050	220,767	220,767	184,050	171,811
Overheads							
Administration	28,133	31,414	29,914	36,319	32,569	29,914	29,779
Operations	25,804	25,804	25,804	25,804	25,000	25,804	25,804
Property-related	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rooms / Rest. / Events	30,752	33,962	33,962	33,962	33,962	33,962	33,962
Utilities	25,417	417	417	25,417	417	417	25,417
Total Overheads	115,772	94,764	93,264	127,169	95,114	93,264	120,629
EBITDA	25,210	89,286	90,786	93,599	125,653	90,786	51,182
Depreciation	44,886	44,786	44,689	44,595	45,171	45,083	44,998
EBIT	(19,676)	44,501	46,098	49,004	80,482	45,703	6,184
Lease interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loan interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank interest	5,041	4,809	4,158	3,495	2,744	2,234	1,600
Total interest	5,041	4,809	4,158	3,495	2,744	2,234	1,600
PBT	(24,717)	39,691	41,940	45,509	77,738	43,469	4,583
Taxation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PAT	(24,717)	39,691	41,940	45,509	77,738	43,469	4,583
Accumulated results	(274,996)	(235,305)	(193,365)	(147,857)	(70,118)	(26,649)	(22,066)
XYZ Ltd							
Profit & Loss Account for the year ending:							

To find them, click **Show list of highlighted cells**, then click one of the results to instantly jump to the error cells in question.

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with a financial model. The formula bar displays the formula: $=IF(SUM(\$C\$26:\$N\$26)<0,IF(SUM(\$C\$26:\$N\$26,\$C\$58:L\$58)>0,(SUM(\$C\$26:\$N\$26,\$C\$58:L\$58)*$. The spreadsheet contains data for months from April 2021 to December 2021. Several cells are highlighted in red, indicating errors. The PerfectXL Highlighter pane is open on the right, showing the following options:

- Boolean cells
- Error cells

Buttons: Highlight, Clear

11 cells highlighted

Options:

- Custom highlight range: A1:N63
- Hide existing formatting
- Show list of highlighted cells

Table of highlighted cells:

Cells	Result
L51	Error cells
L58	Error cells
L60:N61	Error cells
L63:N63	Error cells

Information: Highlight results are saved if you do not clear or close the highlighter.

Scoping and performance

PerfectXL Highlighter is developed with big spreadsheets in mind. We aim to always colour all cells, but when ridiculously large worksheets are detected, like massive database dumps, a warning is given that only part of the worksheet will be highlighted. Of course you are free to change this if you have time or a strong computer ;)

Highlight

For optimal performance, we recommend a maximum of 100,000 cells in this worksheet.

Options

- Custom highlight range:
- Hide existing formatting
- Show list of highlighted cells

	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20
Sales Value							
Rooms	40,797	40,797	67,995	122,391	135,990	135,990	176,788
Events	2,588	2,588	7,764	7,764	15,528	15,528	15,528
Bar	10,000	10,000	30,000	30,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Restaurant	15,000	15,000	45,000	45,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Sales	68,385	68,385	150,759	205,156	301,519	301,519	342,316
Cost of Sales							
Rooms	4,080	4,080	6,800	12,239	13,599	13,599	17,679
Events	1,812	1,812	5,435	5,435	10,870	10,870	10,870
Bar	6,500	6,500	19,500	19,500	39,000	39,000	39,000
Restaurant	9,000	9,000	27,000	27,000	54,000	54,000	54,000
CoS	20,392	20,392	58,735	64,274	117,469	117,469	121,549
Sales Value							
Rooms	44,877	44,877	74,795	134,630	149,589	149,589	194,466
Events	2,847	2,847	8,541	8,541	17,081	17,081	17,081
Bar	11,000	11,000	33,000	33,000	66,000	66,000	66,000
Restaurant	15,000	15,000	45,000	45,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Sales	73,724	73,724	161,335	221,171	322,671	322,671	367,547
Cost of Sales							
Rooms	4,488	4,488	7,479	13,463	14,959	14,959	19,447
Events	1,993	1,993	5,978	5,978	11,957	11,957	11,957
Bar	7,150	7,150	21,450	21,450	42,900	42,900	42,900
Restaurant	9,000	9,000	27,000	27,000	54,000	54,000	54,000
CoS	13,630	13,630	34,908	40,891	69,816	69,816	74,303

A limited highlight range can also be useful on purpose. Let's say you're only interested in the "Sales Values" formulas of Q1 of 2021, but the worksheet contains so many other formulas that you lose track when highlighting the whole worksheet.

In such a case, simply select **Custom highlight range**, enter the desired cell address (or focus the text field and drag to select the cells in Excel), then click **Highlight** to see their formulas (in the Consistent Formulas mode, but you can restrict the highlight range in any mode).

PerfectXL Highlighter

Consistent Formulas

Highlight

Click 'Highlight' to give each unique formula in this worksheet its own color.

Options

- Custom highlight range:
- Hide existing formatting
- Show list of highlighted cells

AutoSave Off Hotel_Financial_Model_V6.xlsx Search (Alt+Q) Joeri van Veen

File Home Insert Draw Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Developer Help Script Lab

Undo Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing Highlighter

E19 =SUM(E15:E18)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	Sales Value	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20
2	Rooms	40,797	40,797	67,995	122,391	135,990	135,990	176,788	176,788	135,990	122,391	40,797	163,188
3	Events	2,588	2,588	7,764	7,764	15,528	15,528	15,528	15,528	15,528	15,528	2,588	12,940
4	Bar	10,000	10,000	30,000	30,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	10,000	50,000
5	Restaurant	15,000	15,000	45,000	45,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	15,000	75,000
6	Sales	68,385	68,385	150,759	205,156	301,519	301,519	342,316	342,316	301,519	287,920	68,385	301,129
7	Cost of Sales												
8	Rooms	4,080	4,080	6,800	12,239	13,599	13,599	17,679	17,679	13,599	12,239	4,080	16,319
9	Events	1,812	1,812	5,435	5,435	10,870	10,870	10,870	10,870	10,870	10,870	1,812	9,058
10	Bar	6,500	6,500	19,500	19,500	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	6,500	32,500
11	Restaurant	9,000	9,000	27,000	27,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	9,000	45,000
12	CoS	21,391	21,391	58,734	64,174	117,469	117,469	121,549	121,549	117,469	116,109	21,391	102,877
13													
14	Sales Value	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
15	Rooms	44,877	44,877	74,795	134,630	149,589	149,589	194,466	194,466	149,589	134,630	44,877	179,507
16	Events	2,847	2,847	8,541	8,541	17,081	17,081	17,081	17,081	17,081	17,081	2,847	14,234
17	Bar	11,000	11,000	33,000	33,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	11,000	55,000
18	Restaurant	15,000	15,000	45,000	45,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	15,000	75,000
19	Sales	73,724	73,724	161,335	221,171	322,671	322,671	367,547	367,547	322,671	307,712	73,724	323,742
20	Cost of Sales												
21	Rooms	4,488	4,488	7,479	13,463	14,959	14,959	19,447	19,447	14,959	13,463	4,488	17,951
22	Events	1,993	1,993	5,978	5,978	11,957	11,957	11,957	11,957	11,957	11,957	1,993	9,964
23	Bar	7,150	7,150	21,450	21,450	42,900	42,900	42,900	42,900	42,900	42,900	7,150	35,750
24	Restaurant	9,000	9,000	27,000	27,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	9,000	45,000
25	CoS	13,630	13,630	34,908	40,891	69,816	69,816	74,303	74,303	69,816	68,320	13,630	63,665
26													
27													
28													
29													
30													
31													
32													
33													
34													

PerfectXL Highlighter

Consistent Formulas

Highlight

- $f_x = \text{DATEVALUE}(1\&"/"/\&'IP1'\$B\$3\&...$ (Green)
- $f_x = \text{DATE}(\text{YEAR}(B14), \text{MONTH}(B14) + ...$ (Yellow)
- $f_x = ((\text{PRODUCT}('IP1'\$D\$8:\$F\$8)*4)...$ (Blue)
- $f_x = ((\text{PRODUCT}('IP1'\$D\$15:\$F\$15) + ...$ (Orange)
- $f_x = \text{VLOOKUP}(\$A17, 'IP1'\$B\$23:\$G\$...$ (Purple)
- $f_x = \text{SUM}(B15:B18)$ (Cyan)

Highlight Clear

24 cells highlighted

Options

- Custom highlight range: B14:E19
- Hide existing formatting
- Show list of highlighted cells

Highlight results are saved if you do not clear or close the highlighter.

Ready