

Count cells that contain negative numbers

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

Range	Criteria	Count	Notes
B4:B10	<0	2	Negative
B4:B10	>0	3	Positive

The spreadsheet also contains a list of numbers in column B (rows 4-10): 99, 100, -10, -3, 0, 43. The formula bar shows the formula: `=COUNTIF(B4:B10,"<0")`. The ExcelJET logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

Generic formula

```
= COUNTIF (rng, "<0")
```

Summary

To count the number of cells that contain negative numbers in a range of cells, you can use the [COUNTIF function](#). In the generic form of the formula (above) **rng** represents a range of cells that contain numbers.

In the example, the active cell contains this formula:

```
= COUNTIF (B2:B6, "<0")
```

Explanation

COUNTIF counts the number of cells in a range that match the supplied criteria. In this case, the criteria is supplied as "<0", which is evaluated as "values less than zero". The total count of all cells in the range that meet this criteria is returned by the function.

You can easily adjust this formula to count cells based on other criteria. For example, to count all cells with a value less -10, use this formula:

```
= COUNTIF (rng, "<-10")
```

If you want to use a value in another cell as part of the criteria, use the ampersand (&) character to concatenate like this:

```
= COUNTIF (rng, "<" & a1)
```