

Where the hours go, and what one day changes

The four areas where finance teams lose time each month, what that adds up to for a team of eight, and how one day of Copilot in Excel training can help.

Four places the month goes

Every team is different, but these four problems come up again and again.

- **The data is not ready to use.** Before anyone can analyse it, someone has to clean or reshape an export.
- **Someone creates a workaround.** It solves the problem for now, but often has to be rebuilt again next month.
- **Formatting takes too long.** Making a report look right can take longer than creating the numbers inside it.
- **Follow-up questions are hard to answer.** The data was prepared for one report, so a new question can mean starting again.

What that adds up to across a team of eight

8 hours	64 hours	8.5 days
Per person, per month, across these four areas	Across a team of eight, every month	Of team time lost each month, and the same pattern repeats

These hours are only an example, not an exact measure: four hours a month preparing data, two hours formatting, and two hours lost when new questions mean starting again. Add your own numbers. The overall pattern is usually the same.

Most of these teams already have Copilot licences. They use Copilot in Teams and Outlook, but not much in Excel. That matters, because Excel is where much of this lost time happens.

What one day changes

- **Preparing an export** becomes a clear instruction to Copilot, not a manual rebuild.
- **The workaround is no longer needed**, because the problem it fixed has been removed.
- **A report pack** can take minutes instead of hours, using the same workbook.
- **Follow-up questions** can be answered from the data already in front of you.

What the day is

This is a live, online training day for your team, led by an instructor. Everyone uses the same demo dataset, so the whole group works on the same sheet at the same time. People can also bring their own files and try the ideas on real work as they learn them. Face-to-face training is also available where needed.

By the end of the day, your team will have practical ideas to test on their own work. The time saved usually does not become spare time. It gets used for better analysis that people did not have time for before. Pivot Tables changed reporting in this way: they made reports faster, which gave people more time to ask better questions of the data. Copilot in Excel can do the same.

If this sounds useful, I would be happy to talk it through.

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