

Module 3

Lesson 27

Excel & VBA

How to Create Sensitivity Tables in Excel



Plan for This Lesson

This lesson covers **sensitivity tables**, which let you see how the output of a model changes based on 1 or 2 changing inputs.

The shortcuts / commands to create these tables are easy...

Plan for This Lesson

But it is **tricky** to set up your model properly so that the tables actually work! The setup is much harder than the calculations.

So, we're going to cover this in a **detailed, multi-step process** (it becomes more natural over time).

Sensitivity Tables, Step-by-Step

- 1. The input variables and output must be on the same spreadsheet** (the one with the table) – if not, make it so!
 - **Sometimes:** Must **cut and paste in** scenarios/drop-down boxes and re-link to do this
- 2. Test Your Model** – Make sure the output changes properly in response to changes in these assumptions
- 3. Pick the Row and Column Inputs** – You cannot link to/from anything in the model; must be hard-coded or use simple +/- operators based on numbers just in this area
 - **Useful:** Alt, E, I, S shortcut to create a series



Sensitivity Tables, Step-by-Step

4. **Enter a Direct Link to the Output** you want in the top-left corner of the table; anchor it if you'll re-use
5. **Set Workbook Calculations** in Options to “Partial” (“Automatic Except for Data Tables” in older versions)
6. **Select the Whole Area** and use Alt, D, T (or Data → What If Analysis → Data Table); Row Input Cell is for the input row at the top and Column Input Cell is for the left column
7. **Press F9 or Shift + F9 or Save** to get results in the table

