

# Adding Data Markers

An OfficeWriter Excel template is an Excel workbook that contains **data markers**. A data marker is a cell value beginning with %%= that specifies a database column to insert in the spreadsheet column containing the marker. OfficeWriter templates are created with the OfficeWriter Designer. When you save the template, the OfficeWriter Designer encodes it as a custom XML element in a Reporting Services RDL file. To publish a report, you will submit the RDL file to a Reporting Services server where OfficeWriter is installed. The OfficeWriter renderer on the server regenerates the template, and - using data supplied by Reporting Services - replaces the data markers in the document with database values.

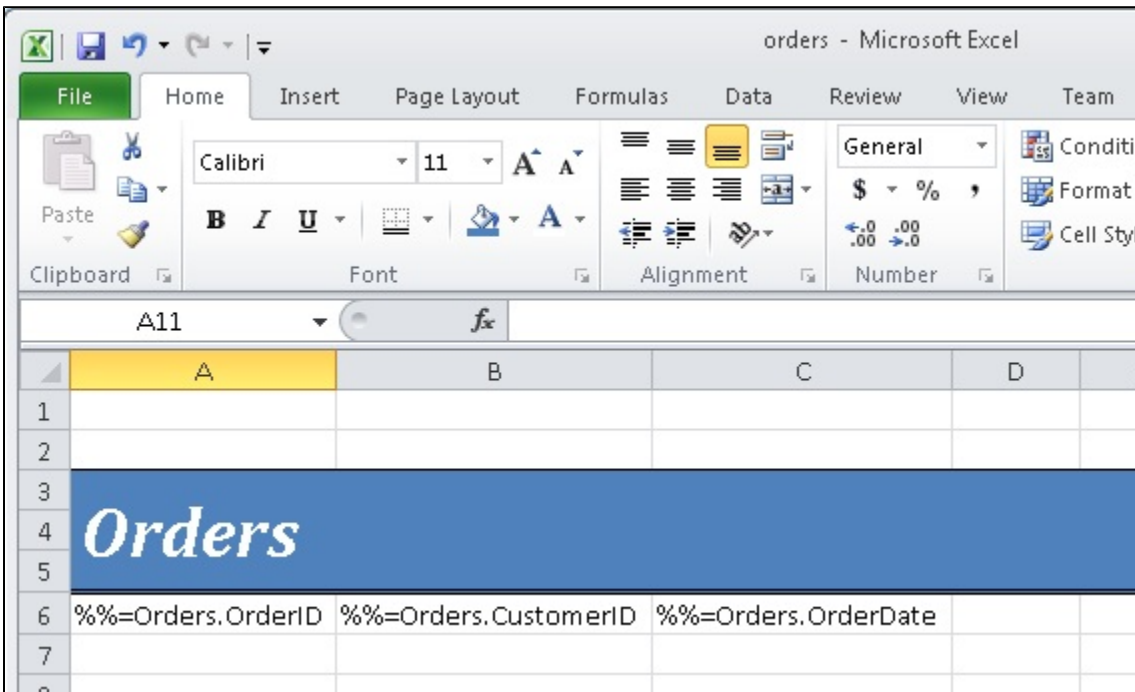
The format of a merge field is:

**%%=DatabaseQueryName.FieldName**

For example, this data marker is a placeholder for values from the "Last Name" field in the data set returned by a query called "Employees":

**%%=Employees.LastName**

The template shown below contains three data markers.



To add data markers to a worksheet:

1. Place your cursor in the cell where you want the data marker.
2. Click the **Data Markers** drop-down on the OfficeWriter toolbar and navigate to a dataset.
3. Under the **Insert Data Marker** section, select a field. To insert all fields, select **Insert All**.
4. Repeat the above steps to add additional data markers.
5. Optional: Apply formatting (bold, italic, underline, etc.) to data markers using Excel's Format menu or toolbar.