WIP and Lead Time Tracker

How-to guide: what the workbook does, how to use it and what every number means. mfgcalcs.com

WIP and Lead Time Tracker

Count WIP at each work centre and see throughput, flow time and lead time by Little's law against your targets, the WIP your targets allow and where queues are building.

For: Plant managers, production and operations managers, lean and continuous-improvement engineers, and schedulers.

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Quick start

1. On Setup, type your plant name, the unit you count in and your WIP tolerance, then replace the example work centres with your route and each one's target lead time.
2. On WIP Log, add one row per work centre at every count: the WIP counted, the units it completed since the last count and the working days in between.
3. Count at the same time each period, so each count stands for the period's average WIP.
4. Read the Check column, then use the Dashboard to see the latest count and the trend.

What is in the workbook

Start Here	Read this first: what the workbook does and how to use it.
Setup	Your plant, counting unit and WIP tolerance, and your route's work centres with their target lead times.
WIP Log	One row per work centre at each count: WIP counted, units completed and working days, with Little's law.
Dashboard	WIP, throughput, flow time and lead time by Little's law, at the latest count and over time.
Method	How every number is calculated, with assumptions, limits and sources.
Verify	Self-check: the workbook's formulas recomputed on fixed inputs against an independent reference.
About MFG Calcs	Everything MFG Calcs offers, free: calculators, templates, tariff tools, data and the Calkee AI helper.

What each number means

Quantity	How it is calculated	Units
WIP counted, completed and working days	Typed per count; completed means finished at this work centre since the previous count.	units, days
Throughput	Completed / working days.	units/day

Quantity	How it is calculated	Units
Flow time	WIP counted / throughput (Little's law).	days
Predicted WIP	Throughput x target lead time.	units
WIP difference	WIP counted - predicted WIP.	units
Flow time difference	Flow time - target lead time.	days
WIP deviation	|WIP difference| / predicted WIP.	%
Tolerance band	Predicted WIP x WIP tolerance.	units
Flow status	On target when flow time <= target; Near target when it is within the tolerance above it; Above target beyond that.	-
Sequence and target lead time	Looked up from the Work centres list on Setup (INDEX/MATCH).	-, days
Latest count	The latest count date inside the Dashboard filters (MAX of the View date column).	date
Lead time	The sum of the work centres' flow times on a count date (SUMIFS over that date); its target is the sum of their target lead times.	days
Dashboard WIP and predicted WIP	SUMIFS of WIP counted and predicted WIP over the work centres counted on a date.	units

Assumptions, limitations, sources and the self-check (the Verify sheet, which recomputes the workbook's formulas on fixed test inputs) are in the workbook. The last page shows the Dashboard with the example data for Brightmoor Precision, a fictional business.

Free from MFG Calcs - keep this credit when you share it.

Engineering estimates for planning and improvement work. Verify the results against your own process, data and standards before you rely on them.

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From

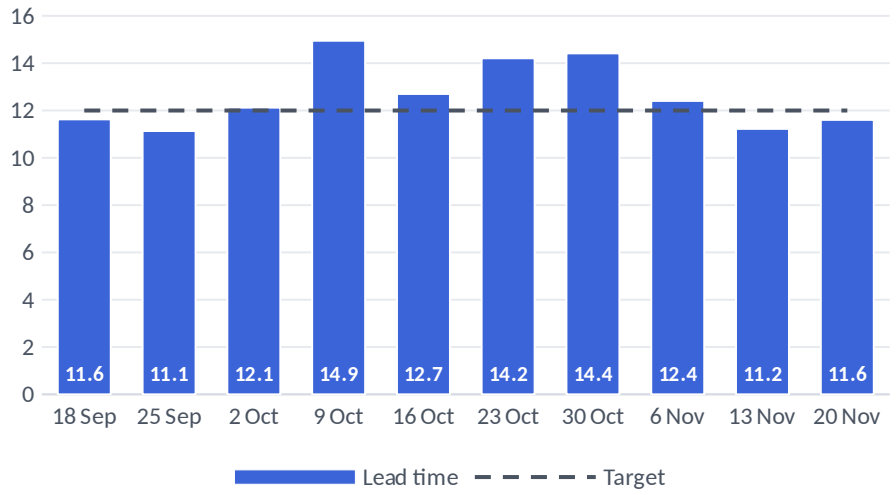
To

Work centre

Showing 70 counts. The tiles and the work-centre table show the latest count in view; the trend shows every count date. Lead time is the sum of the work centres' flow times.

LEAD TIME (DAYS)	WIP (PARTS)	WORK CENTRES ABOVE TARGET	FURTHEST OVER TARGET
11.6	**4,671**	**0**	**CNC milling**
Target 12.0	Targets allow 4,833	Flow time beyond target + tolerance	Flow time minus target, latest count
On target	On target		

Lead time by count date



Flow time by work centre, latest count

