

Basic number formatting specifiers:

Specifier	Type	Format	Output (Passed Double 1.42)	Output (Passed Int -12400)
c	Currency	{0:c}	\$1.42	-\$12,400
d	Decimal (Whole number)	{0:d}	System.FormatException	-12400
e	Scientific	{0:e}	1.420000e+000	-1.240000e+004
f	Fixed point	{0:f}	1.42	-12400.00
g	General	{0:g}	1.42	-12400
n	Number with commas for thousands	{0:n}	1.42	-12,400
r	Round trippable	{0:r}	1.42	System.FormatException
x	Hexadecimal	{0:x4}	System.FormatException	cf90

Custom number formatting:

Specifier	Type	Example	Output (Passed Double 1500.42)	Note
0	Zero placeholder	{0:00.0000}	1500.4200	Pads with zeroes.
#	Digit placeholder	{0:(#).##}	(1500).42	
.	Decimal point	{0:0.0}	1500.4	
,	Thousand separator	{0:0,0}	1,500	Must be between two zeroes.
,.	Number scaling	{0:0,.}	2	Comma adjacent to Period scales by 1000.
%	Percent	{0:0%}	150042%	Multiplies by 100, adds % sign.
e	Exponent placeholder	{0:00e+0}	15e+2	Many exponent formats available.
;	Group separator	see below		

The group separator is especially useful for formatting currency values which require that negative values be enclosed in parentheses. This currency formatting example at the bottom of this document makes it obvious:

Dates

Note that date formatting is especially dependant on the system's regional settings; the example strings here are from my local locale.

Specifier	Type	Example (Passed System.DateTime.Now)
d	Short date	10/12/2002
D	Long date	December 10, 2002
t	Short time	10:11 PM
T	Long time	10:11:29 PM
f	Full date & time	December 10, 2002 10:11 PM
F	Full date & time (long)	December 10, 2002 10:11:29 PM
g	Default date & time	10/12/2002 10:11 PM
G	Default date & time (long)	10/12/2002 10:11:29 PM

M	Month day pattern	December 10
r	RFC1123 date string	Tue, 10 Dec 2002 22:11:29 GMT
s	Sortable date string	2002-12-10T22:11:29
u	Universal sortable, local time	2002-12-10 22:13:50Z
U	Universal sortable, GMT	December 11, 2002 3:13:50 AM
Y	Year month pattern	December, 2002

The 'U' specifier seems broken; that string certainly isn't sortable.

Custom date formatting:

Specifier	Type	Example	Example Output
dd	Day	{0:dd}	10
ddd	Day name	{0:ddd}	Tue
dddd	Full day name	{0:dddd}	Tuesday
f, ff, ...	Second fractions	{0:fff}	932
gg, ...	Era	{0:gg}	A.D.
hh	2 digit hour	{0:hh}	10
HH	2 digit hour, 24hr format	{0:HH}	22
mm	Minute 00-59	{0:mm}	38
MM	Month 01-12	{0:MM}	12
MMM	Month abbreviation	{0:MMM}	Dec
MMMM	Full month name	{0:MMMM}	December
ss	Seconds 00-59	{0:ss}	46
tt	AM or PM	{0:tt}	PM
yy	Year, 2 digits	{0:yy}	02
yyyy	Year	{0:yyyy}	2002
zz	Timezone offset, 2 digits	{0:zz}	-05
zzz	Full timezone offset	{0:zzz}	-05:00
:	Separator	{0:hh:mm:ss}	10:43:20
/	Separator	{0:dd/MM/yyyy}	10/12/2002

Enumerations

Specifier	Type
g	Default (Flag names if available, otherwise decimal)
f	Flags always
d	Integer always
x	Eight digit hex.

Custom TimeSpan formatting:

Specifier	Type	Example	Example Output
s	Seconds	{s}	3,600
S	Seconds	{S}	3,600 secs
m	Minutes	{m}	60
M	Minutes	{M}	60 mins
h	Hours	{h}	46
H	Hours	{H}	46 hrs
d	Days	{d}	2
D	Days	{D}	2 days
HM	Hours and Minutes	{HM}	46 hrs : 15 mins
DH	Days and Hours	{DH}	2 days : 3 hrs
DHM	Days, Hours and Minutes	{DHM}	2 days : 3 hrs: 15 mins

H:M	Hours:Minutes	{H:M}	46:15
DD:HH	Days:Hours	{D:H}	02:03
DD:HH:MM	Days:Hours:Minutes	{D:H:M}	02:03:15
DD-HH:MM	Days-Hours:Minutes	{D-H:M}	02-03:15
D-H	Days-Hours	{DD-H}	02 days - 03 hrs
D-H-M	Days-Hours-Minutes	{DD-HH-MM}	02 days - 03 hrs - 15 mins