

A Comparison between Microsoft Dynamics NAV versions 2013 to 2018

With Dynamics NAV having been around for a long time starting with its original conception in 1984, the first version Navigator launched in 1987, Navision in 1990, NAV in 2005 & the rebranded version of Dynamics 365 Business Central in the Cloud and on premise in 2018. Throughout its history, the product has delivered a great deal of new features/capabilities with each version along with a whole host of tangible and intangible benefits. Initially designed as a breakthrough product for ERP software, this product continues to help businesses to transform the way they work.

Following every new release on this product, it has become even more challenging for customers to understand the real value of being on the latest version of NAV or even on Business Central & why it's crucial to stay on top of your upgrades. To allow you to grasp an understanding of this, we've put together a number of tables below that compare the different versions of NAV in terms of functionality & capabilities to show how each one has developed over time.

General Functionality

Functionality	2013	2013 R2	2015	2016	2017	2018
UK Address Validation	X	X	X	X	X	✓
Migration from QuickBooks	X	X	X	X	X	✓
Workflows (Automated)	X	X	X	X	✓	+
Outlook Integration	X	X	✓	✓	✓	+
NAV for Tablets	X	X	✓	+	✓	✓
Social Listening	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Surface MS Dynamics NAV Information Directly in SharePoint Online	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Microsoft Dynamics NAV as a hosted app in Office 365	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Interoperability with Office 365 & Excel	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Single Sign On	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MS Dynamics NAV Application Profiler	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Application Profiler	X	✓	✓	☐	✓	✓
Improved Extensibility for NAV clients	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Provisioning Tools for Windows Azure	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Multitenant Deployment	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Data Upgrade Automation	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Help Server	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Office Alignment for NAV	✓	+	✓	+	✓	✓
Windows Web Clients						
Web Client	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Improved Charting Capabilities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Query	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Server Administration Tool	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Windows PowerShell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Application Server (NAS) Enhancements	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NAS Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
New User Concept	✓	✓	✓	+	✓	✓
OneNote Integration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zetadocs Express	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Multi-tier Architecture	+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Key

Δ - Starter Pack

□ - Extended Pack

✓ - Basic Functionality

+ - Enhanced Functionality

Financial Management

Functionality	2013	2013 R2	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bulk Invoicing	X	X	X	X	X	✓
VAT Registration Number Validation	X	X	X	X	X	✓
Employee Ledger Entries	X	X	X	X	X	✓
Deferrals	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Reconciliation of Incoming and Outgoing Bank Transactions	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support of SEPA Credit Transfer & Direct Debit	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Electronic Payments & Direct Debits	X	✓	+	✓	✓	✓
Cash Management <input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cash Accounting <input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cash Flow Forecast	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
VAT Rate Change Tool	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Dimension Set Entry Table	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Faster G/L Posting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Online Payment Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bank Account Management & Reconciliation	✓	✓	+	✓	✓	✓
Intercompany Purchase Cost Distribution	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prepayments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reversal of Journal Postings (unapply)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Partial Payments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Consolidation Enhancements	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Predefined Key Performance Indicators (KPI)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Intercompany Postings <input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fixed Assets	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Manufacturing

Functionality	2013	2013 R2	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sales & Inventory Forecasting <input type="checkbox"/>	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Enhanced Integration <input type="checkbox"/>	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Manual Planning <input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Production Orders <input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Production Forecast <input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Supply Chain Management

Functionality	2013	2013 R2	2015	2016	2017	2018
Item Categories	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Item Attributes	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Document Management, Document Capture & OCR	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓
E-Services	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Item Availability by Timeline	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Item Availability by Event	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Inventory Movements	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Additional Default Bins & Dedicated Bins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Enhanced Integration to Service Management <input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Assembly Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supply Planning Setup Enhancements <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Automated Data Capture System <input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Item Budgets	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Planning Transparency <input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Standard Cost Worksheet <input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Price Management	+	+	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supply Planning <input type="checkbox"/>	+	+	✓	✓	✓	✓
Costing <input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Item Tracking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Business Intelligence & Reporting

Functionality	2013	2013 R2	2015	2016	2017	2018
Document Reporting	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Power BI	X	X	✓	+	✓	+
Excel Add-in for Ad-hoc Reporting	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Excel Integration (edit in Excel)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MS SQL Server Reporting Services from in NAV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jet Reports Express for NAV	+	✓	+	✓	✓	✓
Open XML Integration	+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Predefined Charts & KPIs	+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) Driver	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Service Management

Functionality	2013	2013 R2	2015	2016	2017	2018
Enhance Integration with Manufacturing, Warehouse Management & Assembly Management <input type="checkbox"/>	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Planning & Dispatching of Materials Overview <input type="checkbox"/>	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Service Order Management <input type="checkbox"/>	+	+	✓	✓	✓	✓
Service Contract Management <input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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Project Management

Functionality	2013	2013 R2	2015	2016	2017	2018
Image Analyser	X	X	X	X	X	✓
Workflow Templates	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Electronic Invoicing	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Currency Exchange Rates	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Document Management	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Optical Character Recognition (OCR)	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Incoming Document Workflow	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓

Sales & Marketing

Functionality	2013	2013 R2	2015	2016	2017	2018
Jobs WIP Calculation Compliance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Usage Link	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jobs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Workflow & Document Management

Functionality	2013	2013 R2	2015	2016	2017	2018
Dynamics 365 for Sales Integration	X	X	X	X	X	✓
Sales & Purchase Document Approval	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Interaction/Document Management <input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Payment Terms Translation	+	+	✓	✓	✓	✓
Document Archiving	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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