

COBOL: Special Registers

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Register	Description
ADDRESS OF	Address for each record (01 or 77) in the Linkage Section
DEBUG-ITEM	Provides information for a debugging declarative procedure about the conditions causing debugging section execution.
LENGTH OF	Length of variable.
LINAGE-COUNTER	Generated for each FD entry containing a LINAGE clause.
RETURN-CODE	Used to pass a return code to the calling program or operating system when the current COBOL program ends.
SHIFT-IN SHIFT-OUT	The SHIFT-OUT and SHIFT-IN special registers are implicitly defined as alphanumeric data items of the format: SHIFT-OUT GLOBAL PICTURE X(1) USAGE DISPLAY VALUE X"0E" SHIFT-IN GLOBAL PICTURE X(1) USAGE DISPLAY VALUE X"0F"
SORT-CONTROL	Sort control information.
SORT-CORE-SIZE	Name of a binary data item that you can use to specify the number of bytes of storage available to the sort utility.
SORT-FILE-SIZE	Name of a binary data item that you can use to specify the estimated number of records in the sort input file,
SORT-MESSAGE	Information about the SORT
SORT-MODE-SIZE	Name of a binary data item that you can use to specify the length of variable-length records that occur most frequently.
SORT-RETURN	It contains a return code of 0 (successful) or 16 (unsuccessful) at the completion of a sort/merge operation.
TALLY	Used as a counter
WHEN-COMPILED	Contains the date at the start of the compilation.