

How can I change the axis scales in Excel plots?

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The process of changing the axis scales in Excel plots involves adjusting the numerical values displayed on the vertical and horizontal axes of a graph or chart. This allows users to customize the scale of their plots to better represent their data and make it easier to interpret. By changing the axis scales, users can modify the range and intervals of the plotted data, as well as the labeling and formatting of the axis values. This can be done by accessing the "Format Axis" options in Excel and adjusting the settings according to the desired scale. By adjusting the axis scales, users can enhance the accuracy and clarity of their Excel plots.

Change Axis Scales in Excel Plots (With Examples)

This tutorial provides a step-by-step example of how to change the x-axis and y-axis scales on plots in Excel.

Step 1: Enter the Data

First, let's enter a simple dataset into Excel:

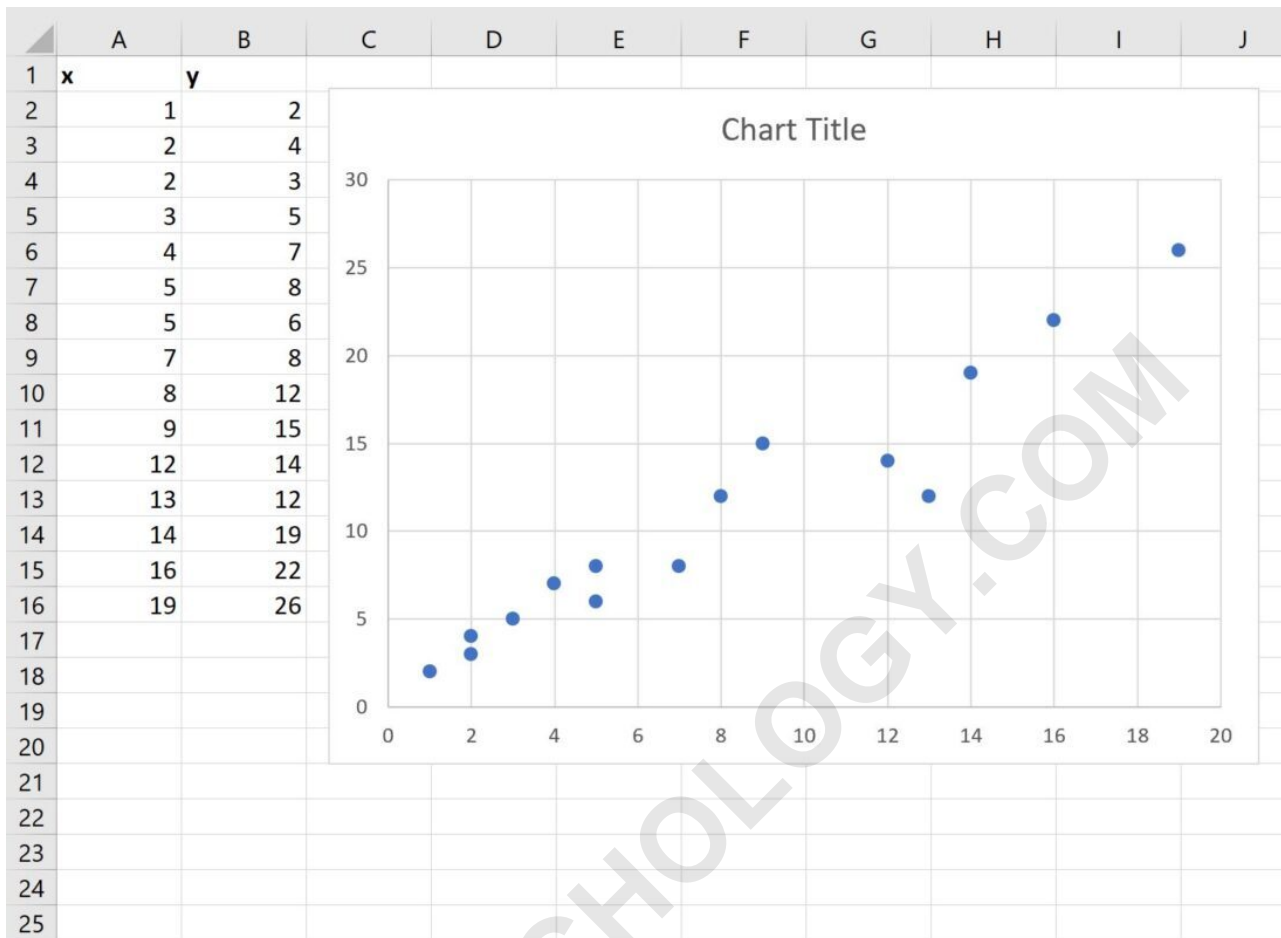
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	x	y				
2	1	2				
3	2	4				
4	2	3				
5	3	5				
6	4	7				
7	5	8				
8	5	6				
9	7	8				
10	8	12				
11	9	15				
12	12	14				
13	13	12				
14	14	19				
15	16	22				
16	19	26				
17						
18						
19						

Step 2: Create a Scatterplot

Next, highlight the cells in the range A2:B16. Then click the Insert tab along the top ribbon and then click the Scatter option within the Charts group:

	A	B	C	D
1	x	y		
2		1	2	
3		2	4	
4		2	3	
5		3	5	
6		4	7	
7		5	8	
8		5	6	
9		7	8	
10		8	12	
11		9	15	
12		12	14	
13		13	12	
14		14	19	
15		16	22	
16		19	26	
17				

The following scatterplot will automatically be created:



Step 3: Change the Axis Scales

By default, Excel will choose a scale for the x-axis and y-axis that ranges roughly from the minimum to maximum values in each column.

In this example, we can see that the x-axis ranges from 0 to 20 and the y-axis ranges from 0 to 30.

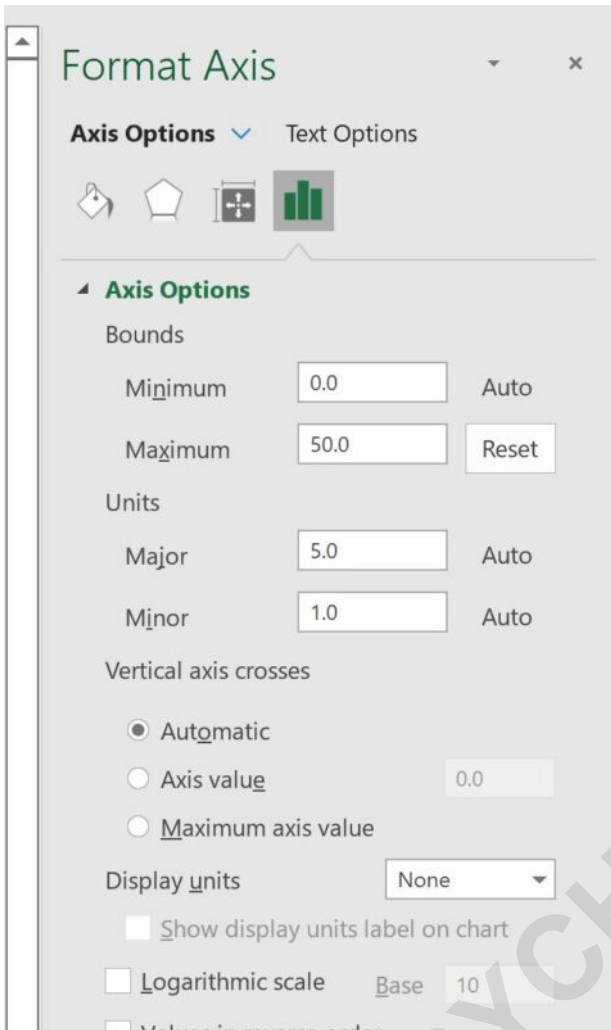
To change the scale of the x-axis, simply right click on any of the values on the x-axis. In the dropdown menu

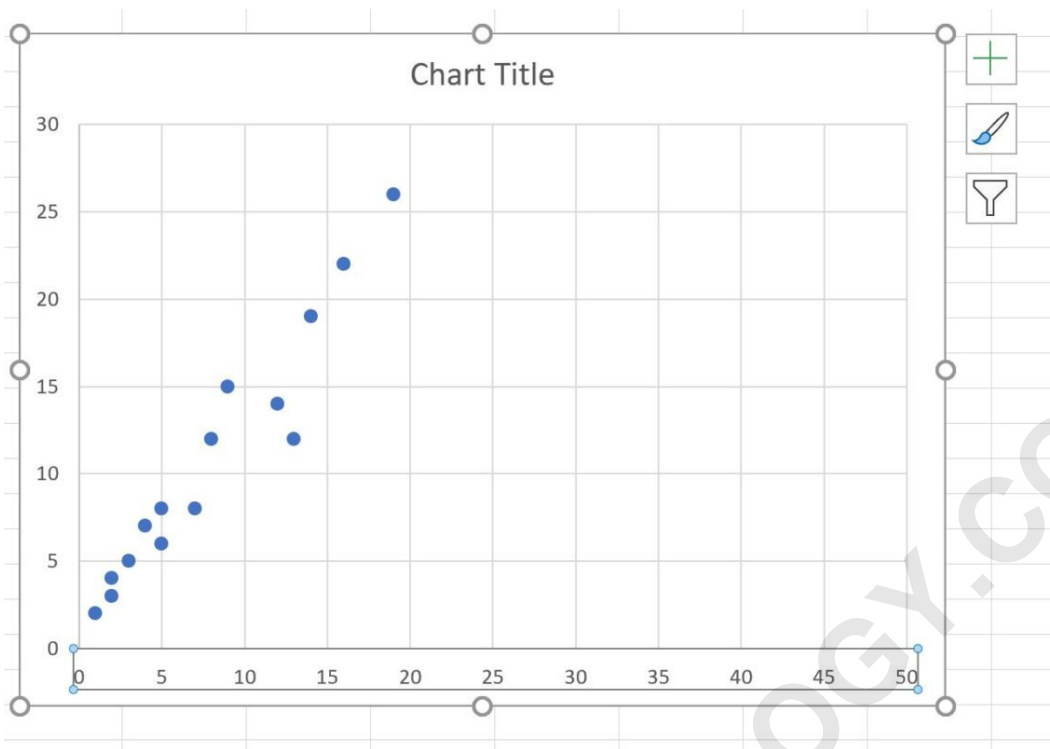
that appears, click **Format Axis**:



In the **Format Axis** panel that appears on the right side of the screen, change the values in the **Minimum** and **Maximum** boxes to change the scale of the x-axis.

For example, we could change the **Maximum** value of the x-axis to **50**:



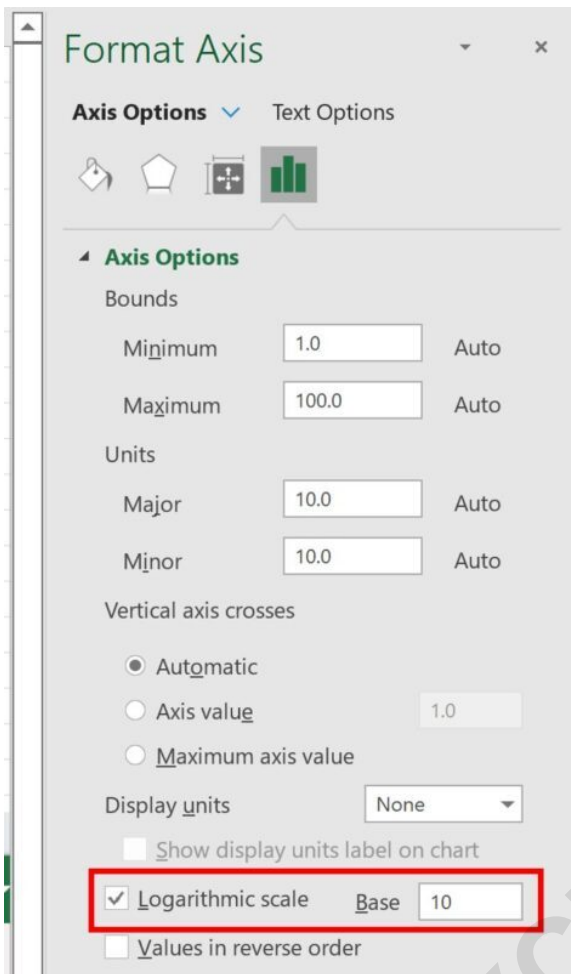


Notice that the x-axis now ranges from 0 to 50.

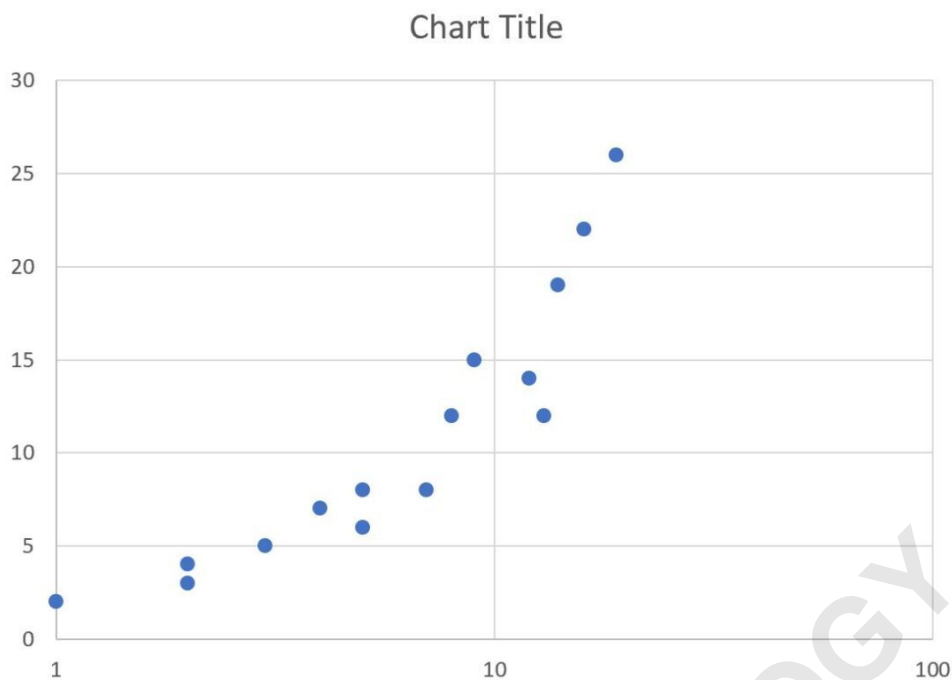
The y-axis has remained unchanged.

Instead of changing the minimum and maximum bounds, we could also choose to use a logarithmic scale for the axis instead.

In the Format Axis panel, simply check the box next to Logarithmic scale:



The x-axis will automatically be updated to use a logarithmic scale:



Related:

Note that in these examples, we chose to change only the x-axis scale.

However, we can just as easily change the y-axis scale by right-clicking on any of the values on the y-axis and performing the same steps as above.

Additional Resources

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Excel: