

How can I create a cumulative sum chart in Excel?

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June 28, 2024

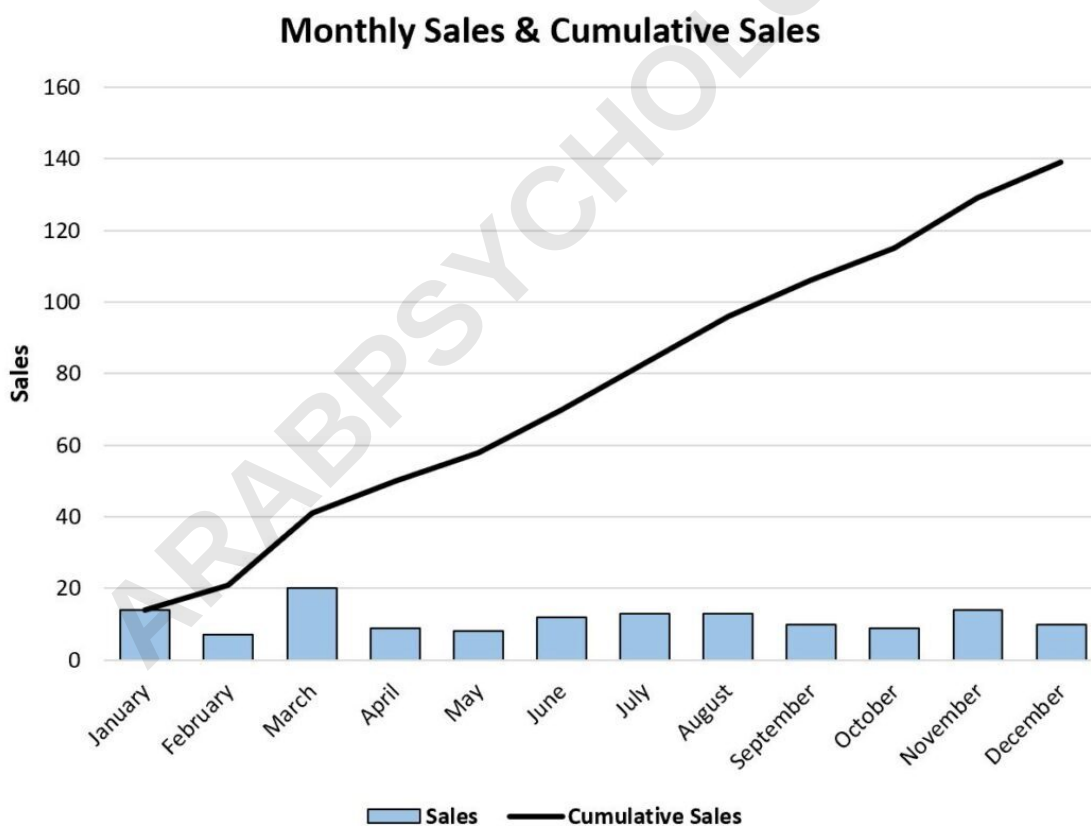
RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I create a cumulative sum chart in Excel?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=156044>

A cumulative sum chart in Excel is a visual representation of data that displays the total sum of values over a specific period of time or series. To create this chart, one can use the "SUM" function in Excel to calculate the cumulative sum of the data. This can then be plotted on a line graph using the data points and their corresponding cumulative sum values. The resulting chart will show the overall trend and growth of the data over time, making it a useful tool for analyzing and presenting cumulative data. Excel's user-friendly interface and functions make it easy for users to create and customize a cumulative sum chart to suit their specific needs.

Create a Cumulative Sum Chart in Excel (With Example)

This tutorial provides a step-by-step example of how to create the following cumulative sum chart in Excel:



Let's jump in!

Step 1: Enter the Data

First, let's create the following dataset that shows the total sales of some item during each month in a year:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Month	Sales			
2	January	14			
3	February	7			
4	March	20			
5	April	9			
6	May	8			
7	June	12			
8	July	13			
9	August	13			
10	September	10			
11	October	9			
12	November	14			
13	December	10			
14					
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17					
18					

Step 2: Calculate the Cumulative Sum

Next, we'll use the following formula to calculate the cumulative sum of sales:

=SUM(\$B\$2:B2)

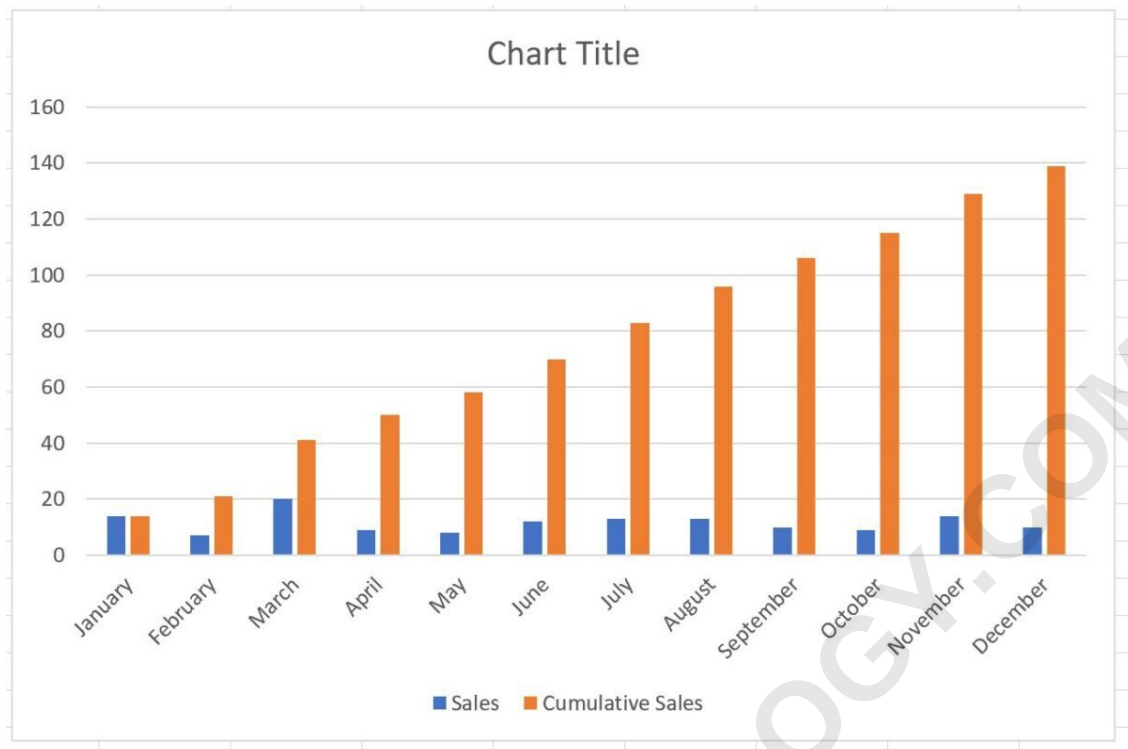
We can type this formula into cell C2 and then copy and paste it to every remaining cell in column C:

C2						
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Month	Sales	Cumulative Sales			
2	January	14	14			
3	February	7	21			
4	March	20	41			
5	April	9	50			
6	May	8	58			
7	June	12	70			
8	July	13	83			
9	August	13	96			
10	September	10	106			
11	October	9	115			
12	November	14	129			
13	December	10	139			
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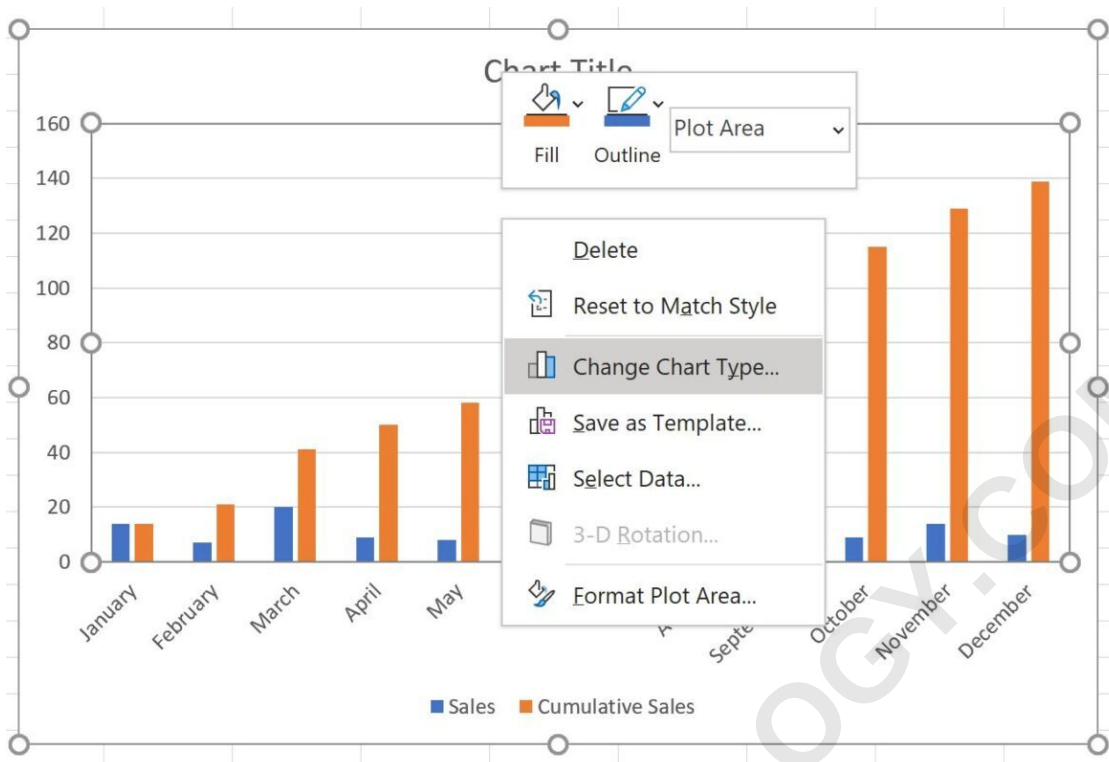
Step 3: Create Bar Chart with Average Line

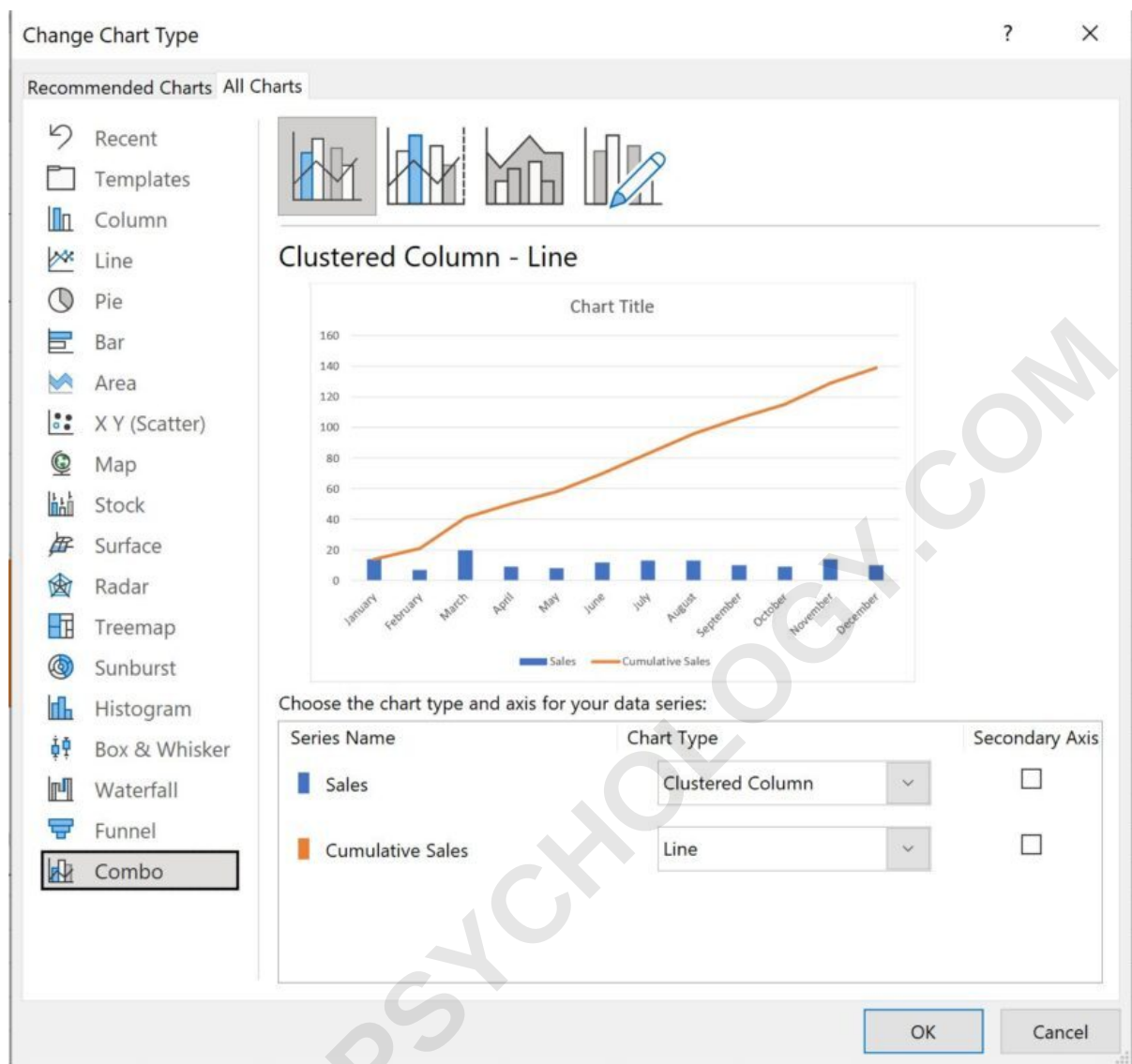
Next, highlight the cell range A1:C13, then click the Insert tab along the top ribbon, then click Clustered Column within the Charts group.

The following chart will be created:

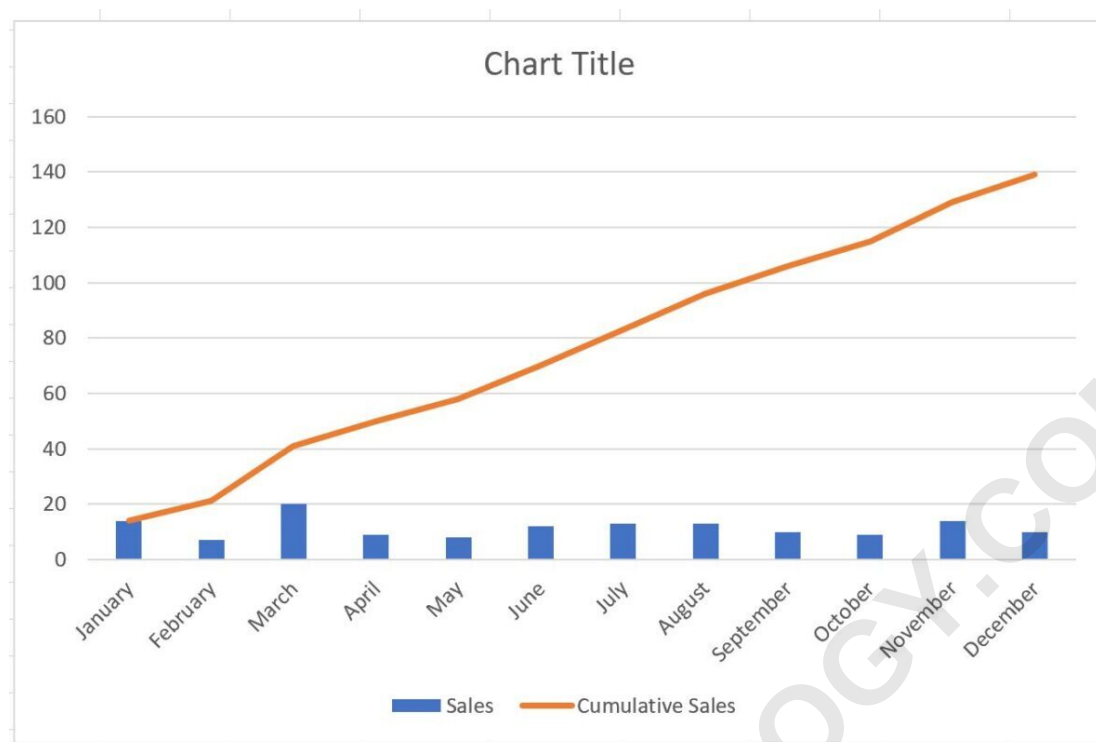


Next, right click anywhere on the chart and then click Change Chart Type:





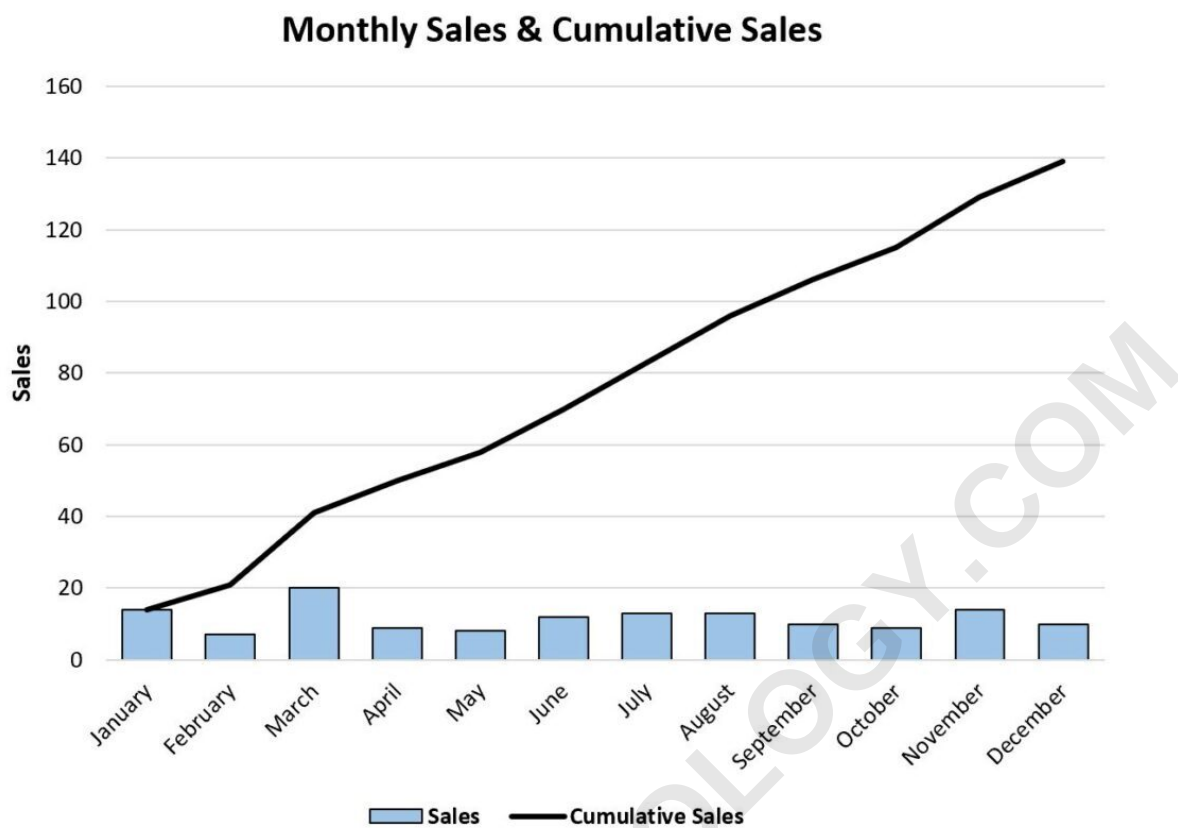
The chart will be converted into a bar chart with a line:



The blue bars represent the sales each month and the orange line represents the cumulative sales.

Step 4: Customize the Chart (Optional)

Feel free to add a title, customize the colors, customize the line style, and adjust the width of the bars to make the plot more aesthetically pleasing:



Additional Resources

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