

How to Create a Diverging Stacked Bar Chart in Excel

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2026). *How to Create a Diverging Stacked Bar Chart in Excel*.

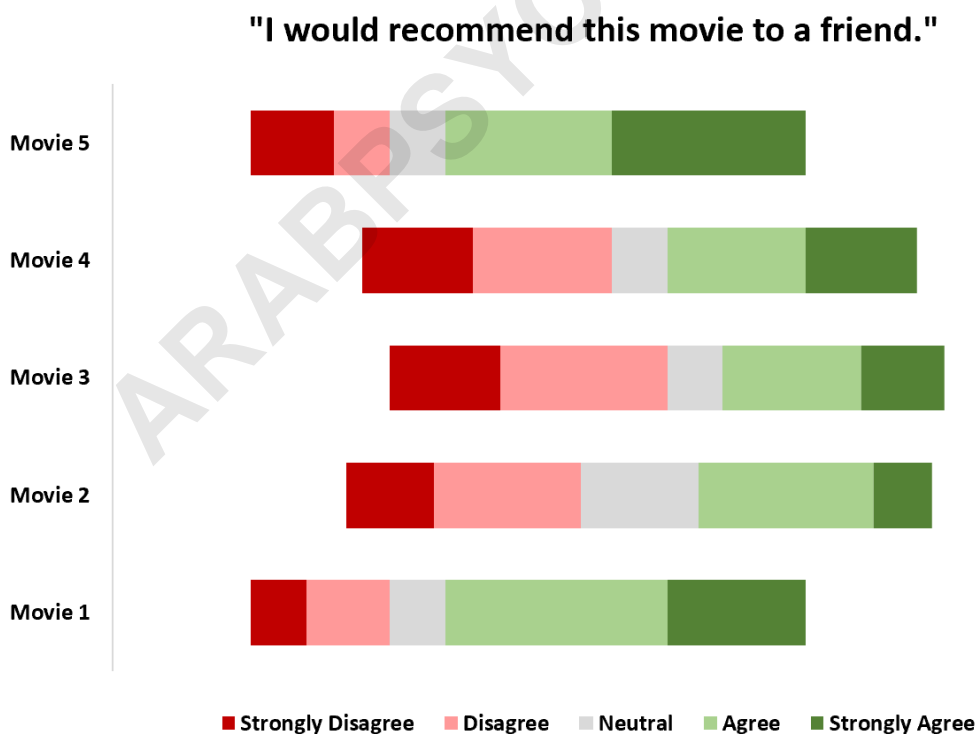
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=132931>

A diverging stacked bar chart in Excel is a visual representation of data that compares two or more categories, displaying the differences between them. It consists of stacked bars that are divided into positive and negative segments, with the total length of the bar representing the overall value. To create this type of chart, first, organize the data into categories and subcategories. Then, select the data and choose the stacked bar chart option. Next, right-click on the chart and select "Format Data Series." In the options, choose "Split Series by" and select the column that contains the positive and negative values. This will create a diverging stacked bar chart in Excel.

Excel: Create a Diverging Stacked Bar Chart

Often you may want to create a diverging stacked bar chart in Excel.

This tutorial provides a step-by-step example of how to create the following diverging stacked bar chart:



Let's jump in!

Step 1: Enter the Data

First, let's create the following dataset that shows the percentage of people who responded with one of five possible answers to the statement: I would recommend this movie to a friend.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Movie	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
2	Movie 1	10%	15%	10%	40%	25%
3	Movie 2	15%	25%	20%	30%	10%
4	Movie 3	20%	30%	10%	25%	15%
5	Movie 4	20%	25%	10%	25%	20%
6	Movie 5	15%	10%	10%	30%	35%
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						

Step 2: Add Helper Columns to the Data

Next, we must create two helper columns that will allow us to eventually create the diverging stacked bar chart.

Insert a new column before the **Strongly Disagree**

column with the following formula in cell B2:

=SUM(C2:D2)

Then insert a new column after the Strongly Agree column with the following formula in cell H2:

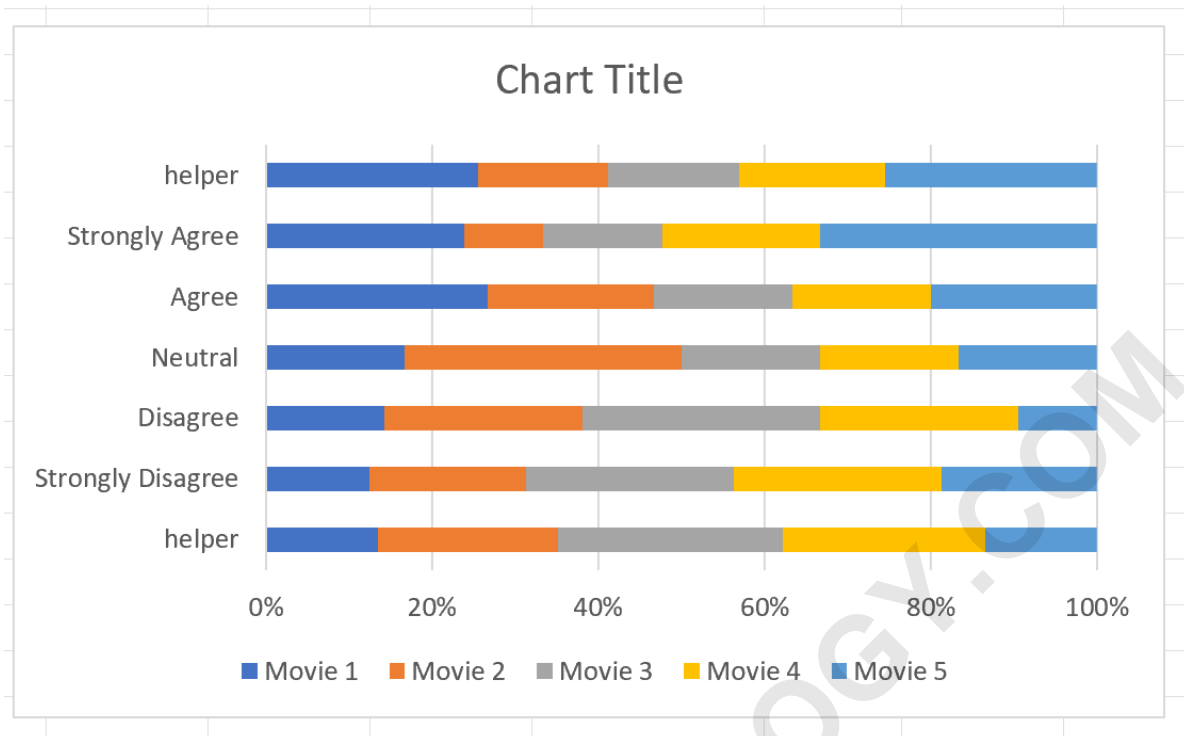
=SUM(F2:G2)

Here is what the data will now look like:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Movie	helper	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	helper
2	Movie 1	25%	10%	15%	10%	40%	25%	65%
3	Movie 2	40%	15%	25%	20%	30%	10%	40%
4	Movie 3	50%	20%	30%	10%	25%	15%	40%
5	Movie 4	45%	20%	25%	10%	25%	20%	45%
6	Movie 5	25%	15%	10%	10%	30%	35%	65%
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								

Step 3: Insert 100% Stacked Bar Chart

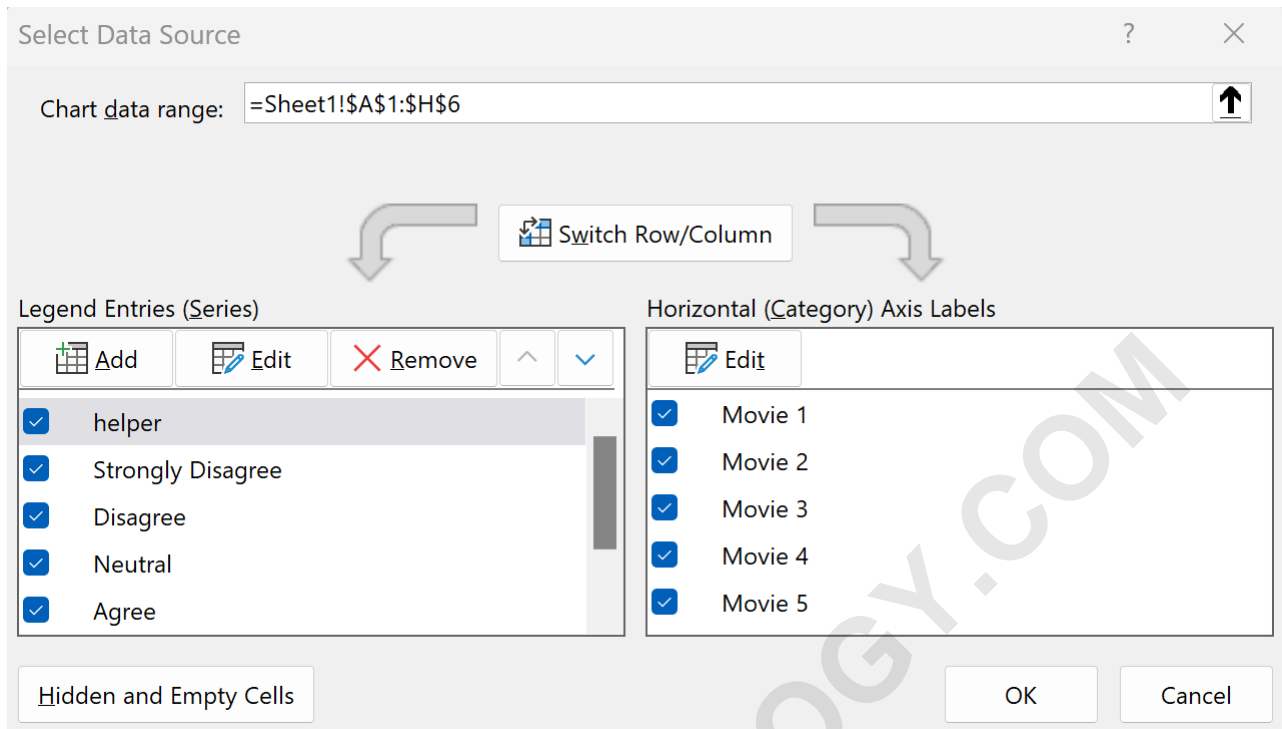
Next, highlight the cell range A1:H6 and then click the Insert tab along the top ribbon, then click the icon titled 100% Stacked Bar within the Charts group.



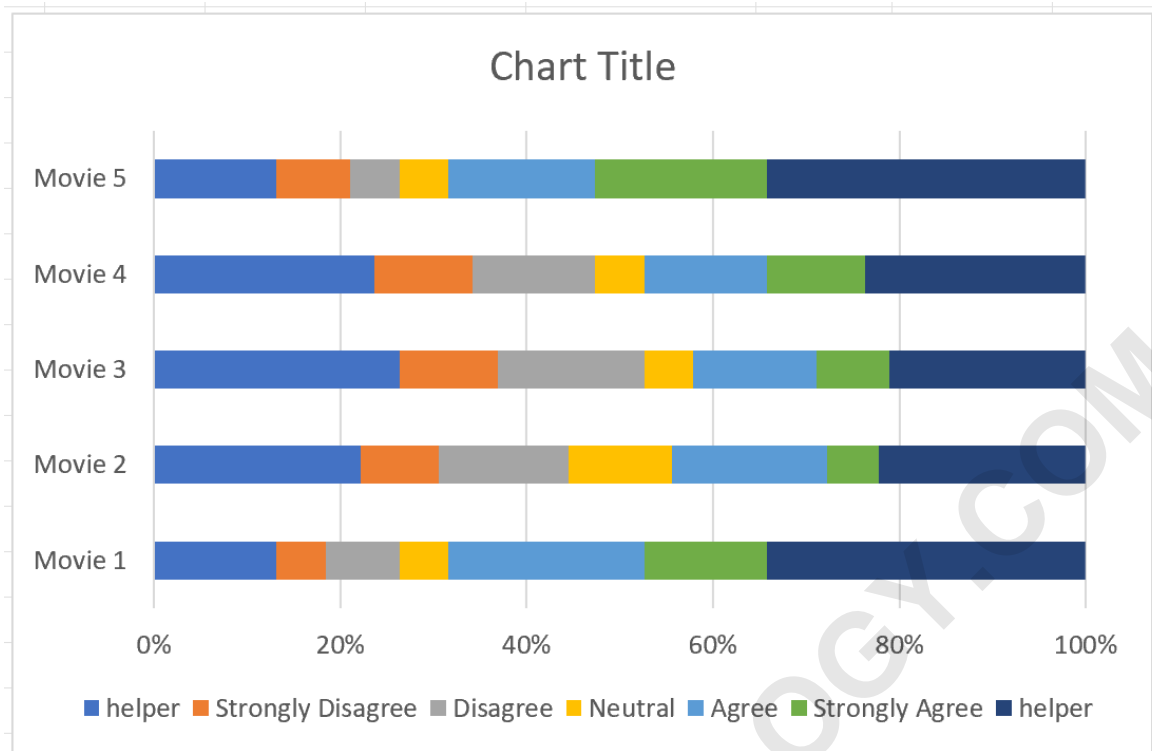
Step 4: Switch Rows and Columns

Next, right click anywhere on the chart and click **Select Data** from the dropdown menu.

In the new window that appears, click the button called **Switch Row/Column** and click **OK**:

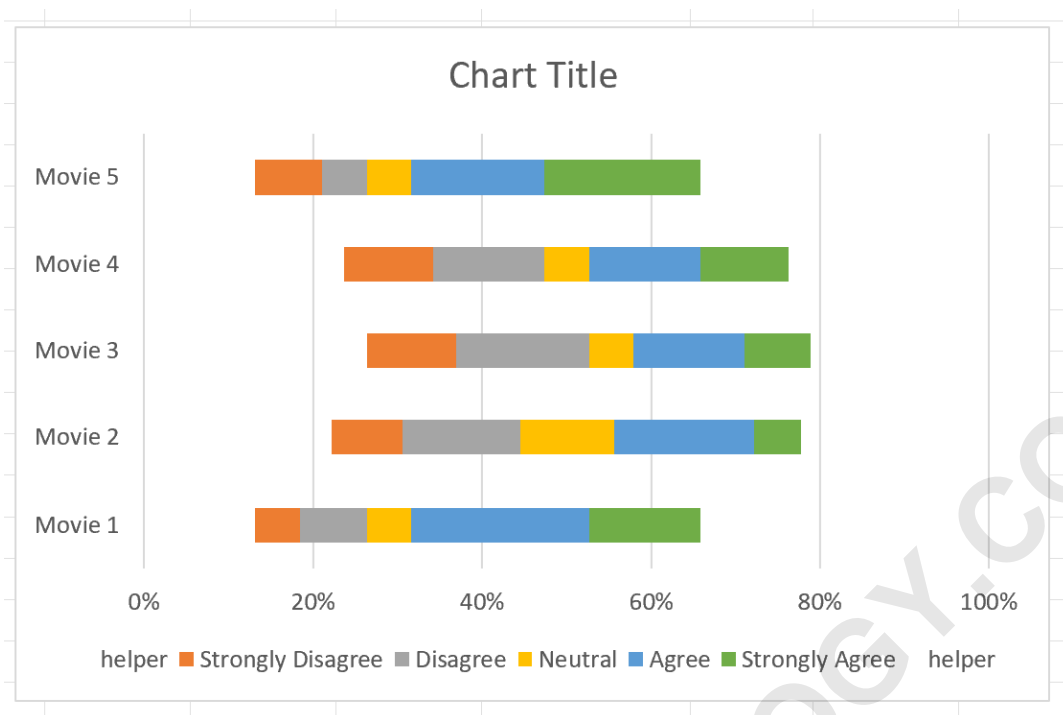


The survey responses will now be displayed along the x-axis and the movie names will be displayed along the y-axis:



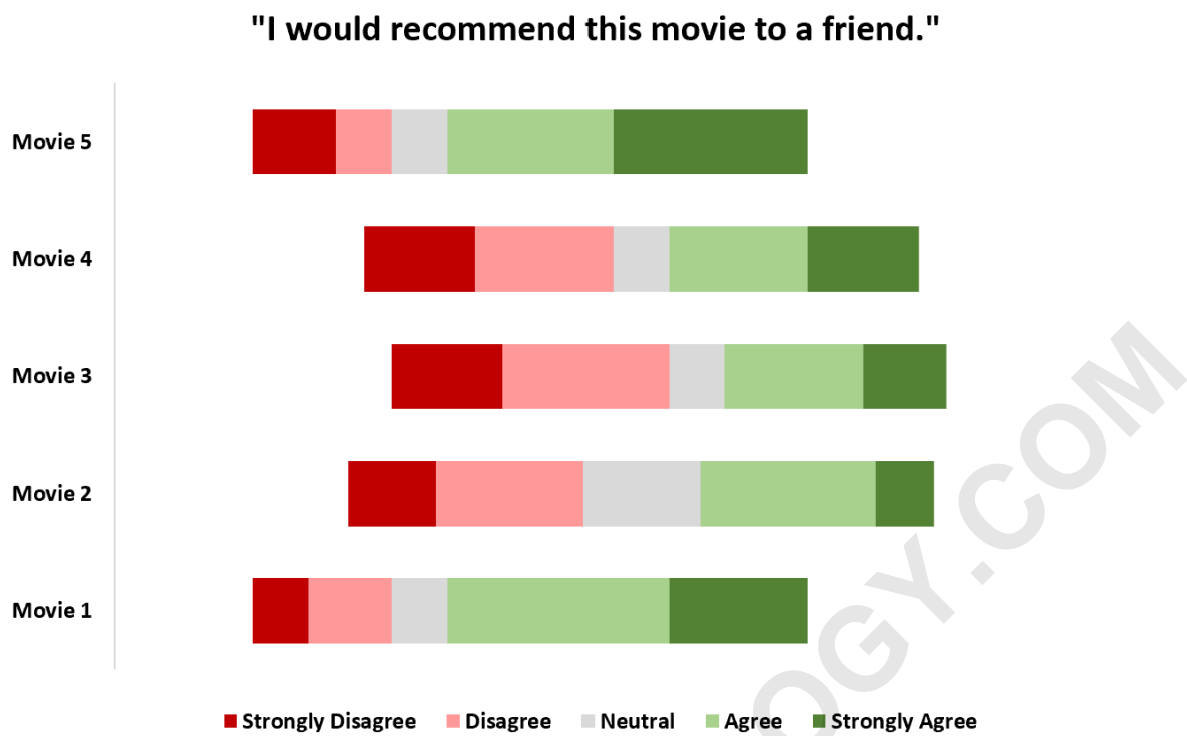
Step 5: Delete the Helper Columns

Next, right click on the helper bars in the plot and set their Fill color to No Fill:



Step 6: Customize the Chart Appearance

Lastly, delete the "helper" entries from the legend, delete the x-axis percentage values, add a chart title, and customize the colors to make the chart easier to read:



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