

How can I move the vertical axis to the left side of my graph in Excel?

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Moving the vertical axis to the left side of a graph in Excel allows for a clearer and more organized presentation of data. To do so, one must first select the graph and then click on the "Layout" tab. From there, click on the "Axes" option and select "Primary Vertical Axis" followed by "More Primary Vertical Axis Options." Finally, under the "Axis Options" tab, select the "Axis Position" drop-down menu and choose the "Left" option. This will reposition the vertical axis to the left side of the graph. This simple adjustment can greatly enhance the visual clarity and effectiveness of a graph in Excel.

Excel: Move Vertical Axis to Left of Graph

You can quickly move a horizontal axis to the bottom of a graph in Excel by modifying the Label Position value within the Format Axis panel.

The following step-by-step example shows how to do so in practice.

Step 1: Enter the Data

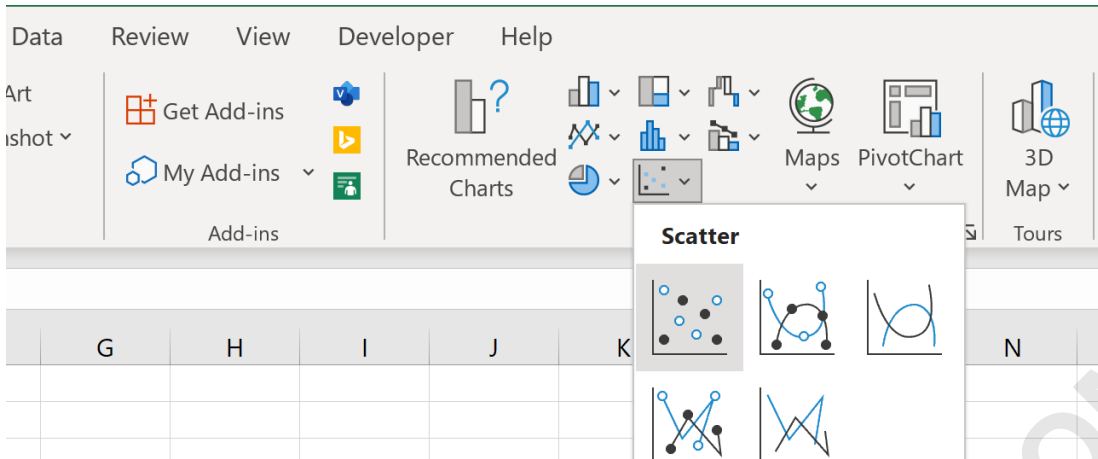
First, let's enter the following dataset into Excel:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	x	y			
2	-10	4			
3	-4	-3			
4	-3	-9			
5	0	5			
6	2	2			
7	4	8			
8	6	4			
9	7	12			
10	7	5			
11	9	10			
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

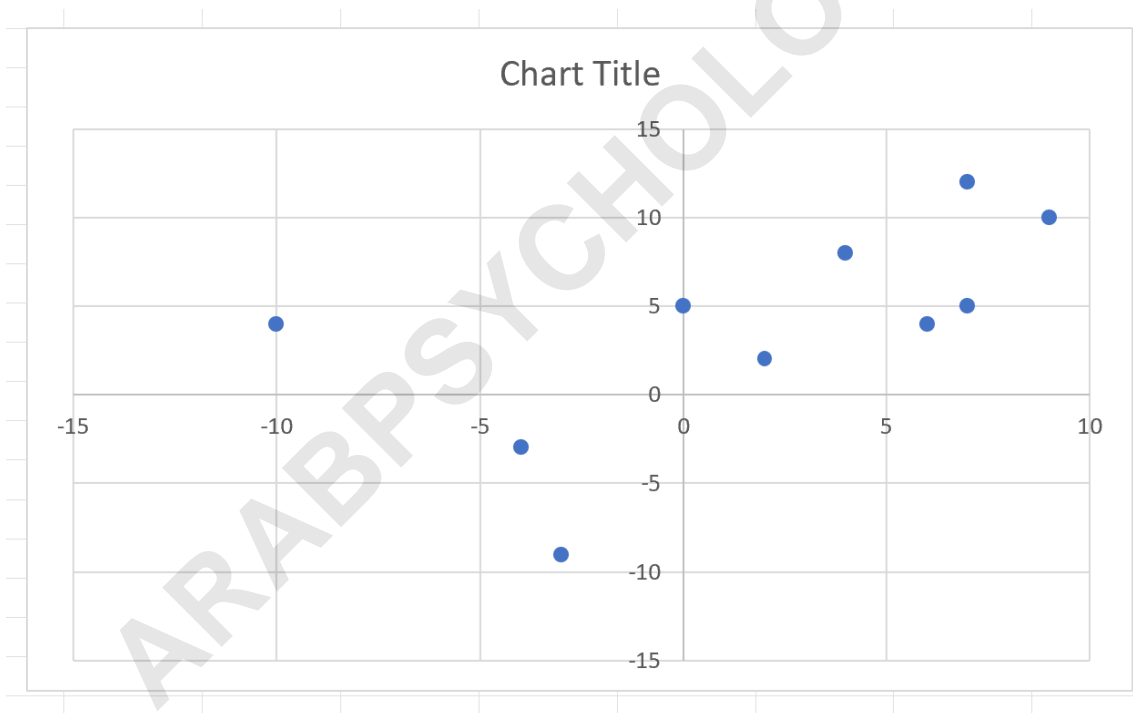
Step 2: Create the Graph

Next, highlight the values in the range A2:B11.

Then click the Insert tab along the top ribbon, then click the icon called Scatter within the Charts group.



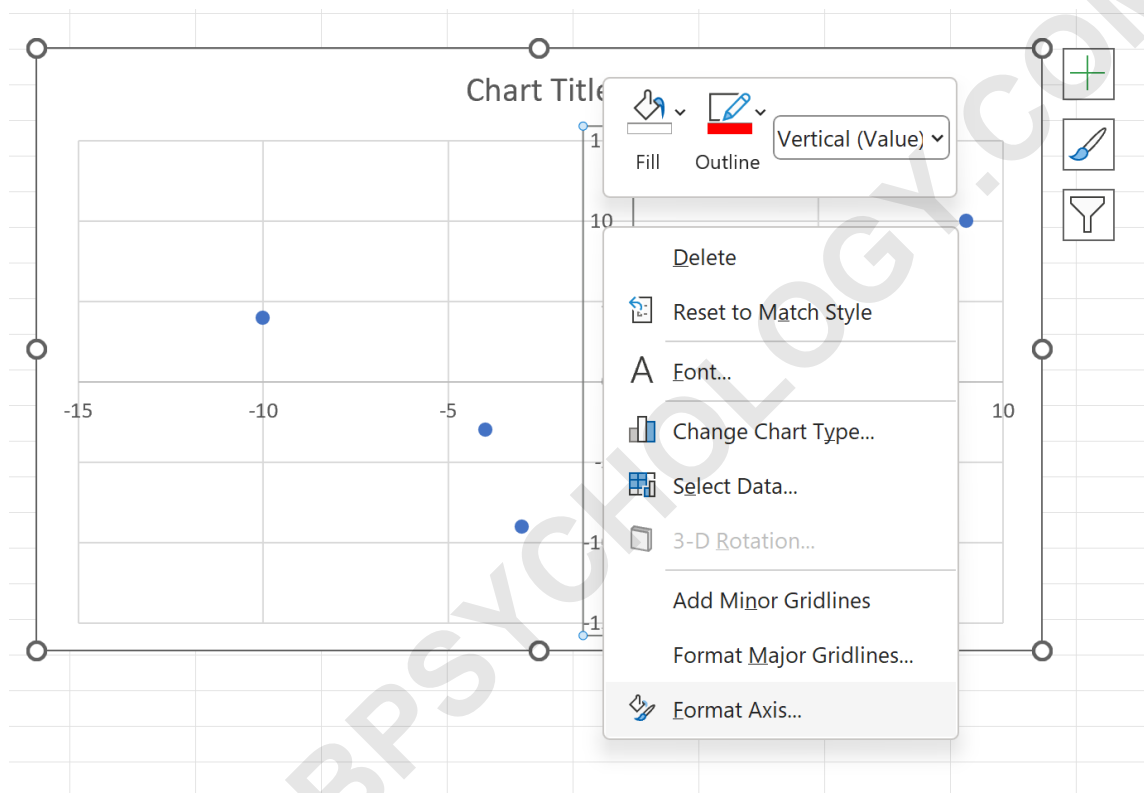
The following scatter plot will appear:



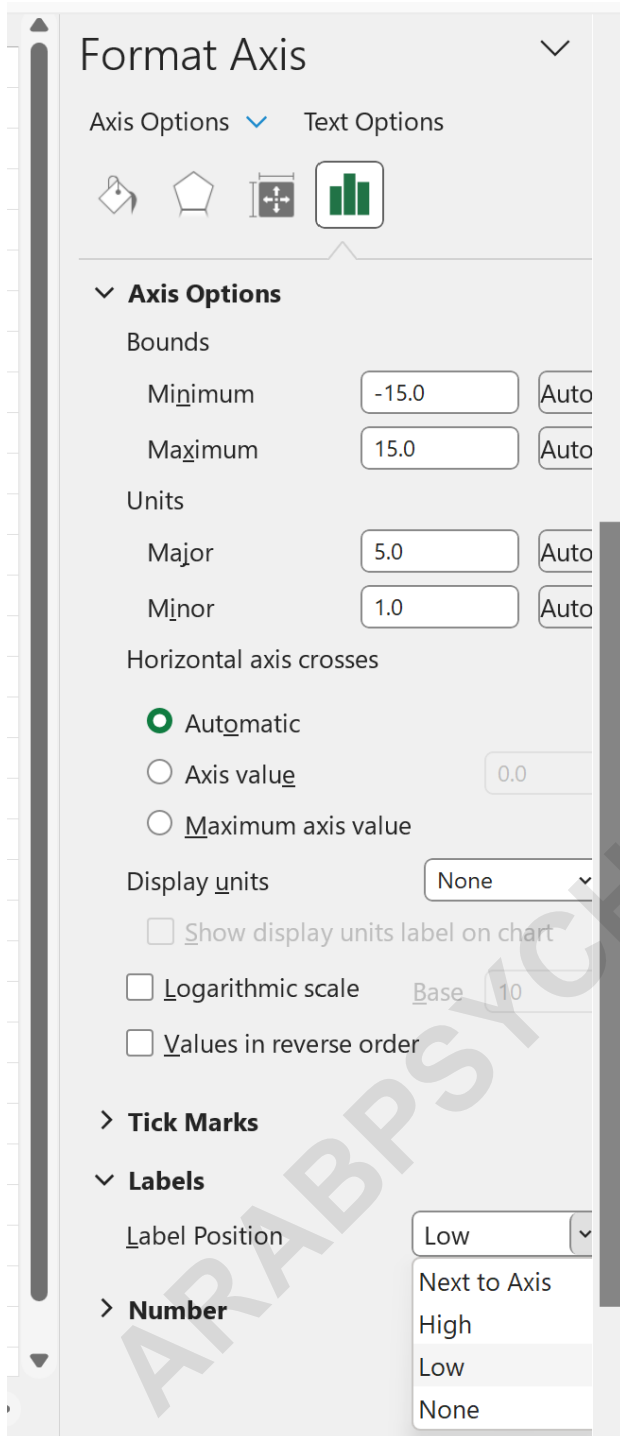
By default, Excel places the vertical axis at a value of $x = 0$.

Step 3: Move Vertical Axis to the Left

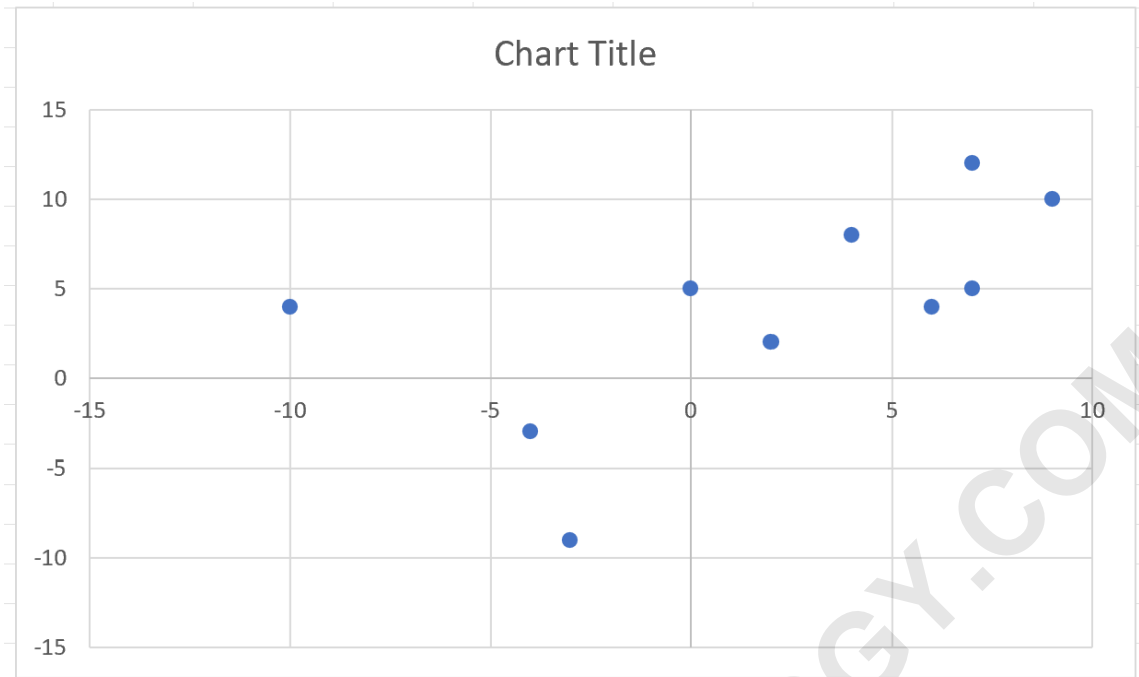
To move the vertical axis to the left side of the graph, right click any of the values on the vertical axis, then click **Format Axis** from the dropdown menu:



In the **Format Axis** panel that appears, click the dropdown arrow next to **Labels**, then click the dropdown arrow next to **Label Position**, then click **Low**:



The vertical axis will be moved to the left side of the graph:



Note: If you would like to move the vertical axis to the right side of the graph instead, you can choose High from the Label Position dropdown menu.

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