

How can I plot a time series in Excel?

Authored by
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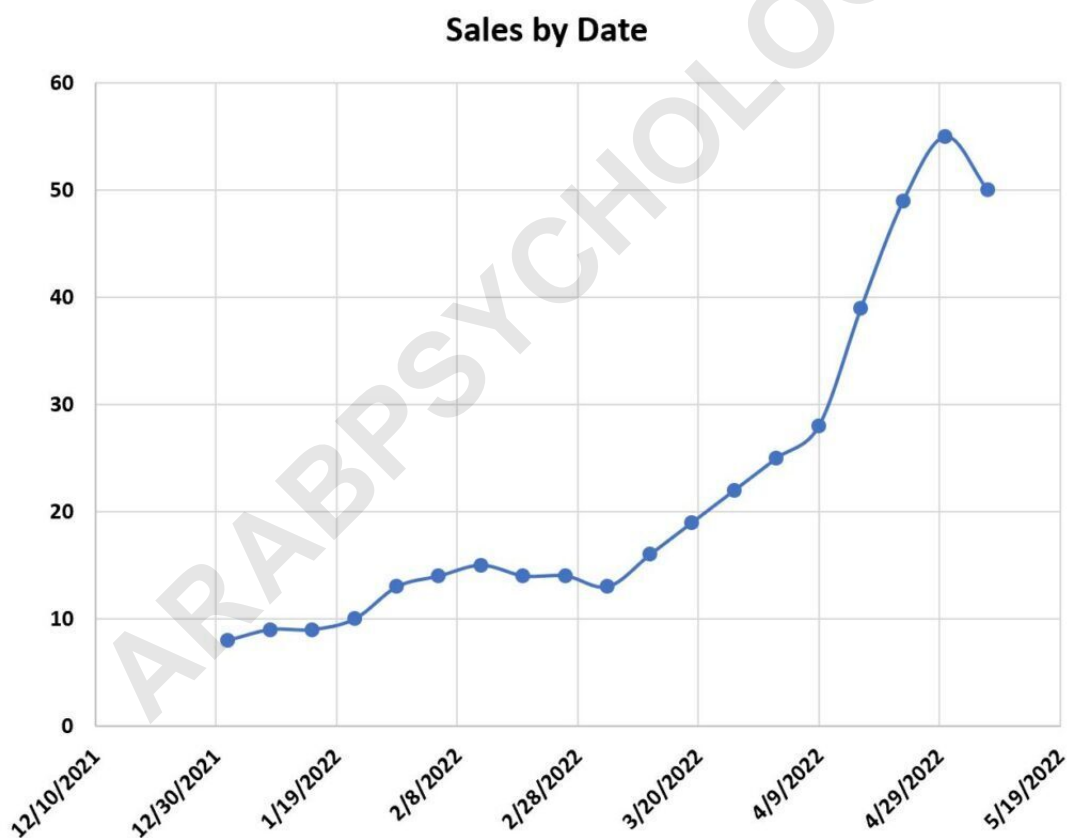
RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=154938>

To plot a time series in Excel, first organize your data by placing the time intervals in one column and the corresponding data values in another column. Then, select the data and click on the "Insert" tab. From there, choose the type of chart you want to create, such as a line or scatter plot. Next, click on the "Design" tab to customize your chart's appearance and add any necessary labels or titles. Finally, you can use the "Format" tab to add additional features, such as trendlines or data labels, to enhance your time series plot.

Plot a Time Series in Excel (With Example)

This tutorial provides a step-by-step example of how to plot the following time series in Excel:



Let's jump in!

Step 1: Enter the Time Series Data

First, let's enter the following values for a time series dataset in Excel:

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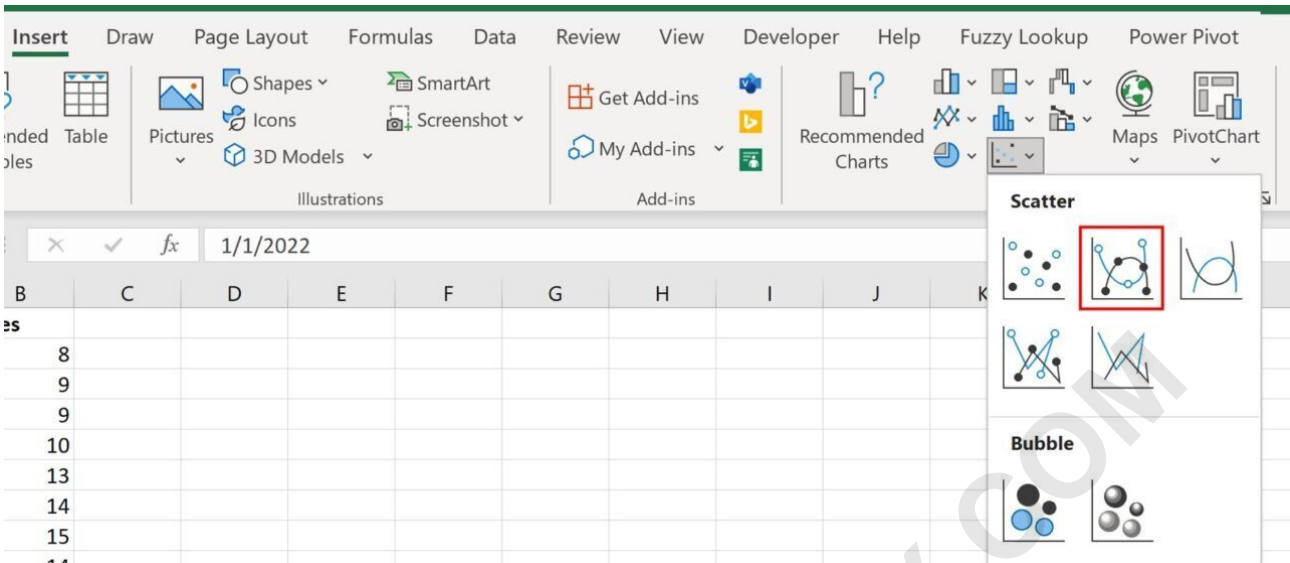
| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|----|-------------|--------------|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Date | Sales | | | | |
| 2 | 1/1/2022 | 8 | | | | |
| 3 | 1/8/2022 | 9 | | | | |
| 4 | 1/15/2022 | 9 | | | | |
| 5 | 1/22/2022 | 10 | | | | |
| 6 | 1/29/2022 | 13 | | | | |
| 7 | 2/5/2022 | 14 | | | | |
| 8 | 2/12/2022 | 15 | | | | |
| 9 | 2/19/2022 | 14 | | | | |
| 10 | 2/26/2022 | 14 | | | | |
| 11 | 3/5/2022 | 13 | | | | |
| 12 | 3/12/2022 | 16 | | | | |
| 13 | 3/19/2022 | 19 | | | | |
| 14 | 3/26/2022 | 22 | | | | |
| 15 | 4/2/2022 | 25 | | | | |
| 16 | 4/9/2022 | 28 | | | | |
| 17 | 4/16/2022 | 39 | | | | |
| 18 | 4/23/2022 | 49 | | | | |
| 19 | 4/30/2022 | 55 | | | | |
| 20 | 5/7/2022 | 50 | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | | |

Step 2: Plot the Time Series

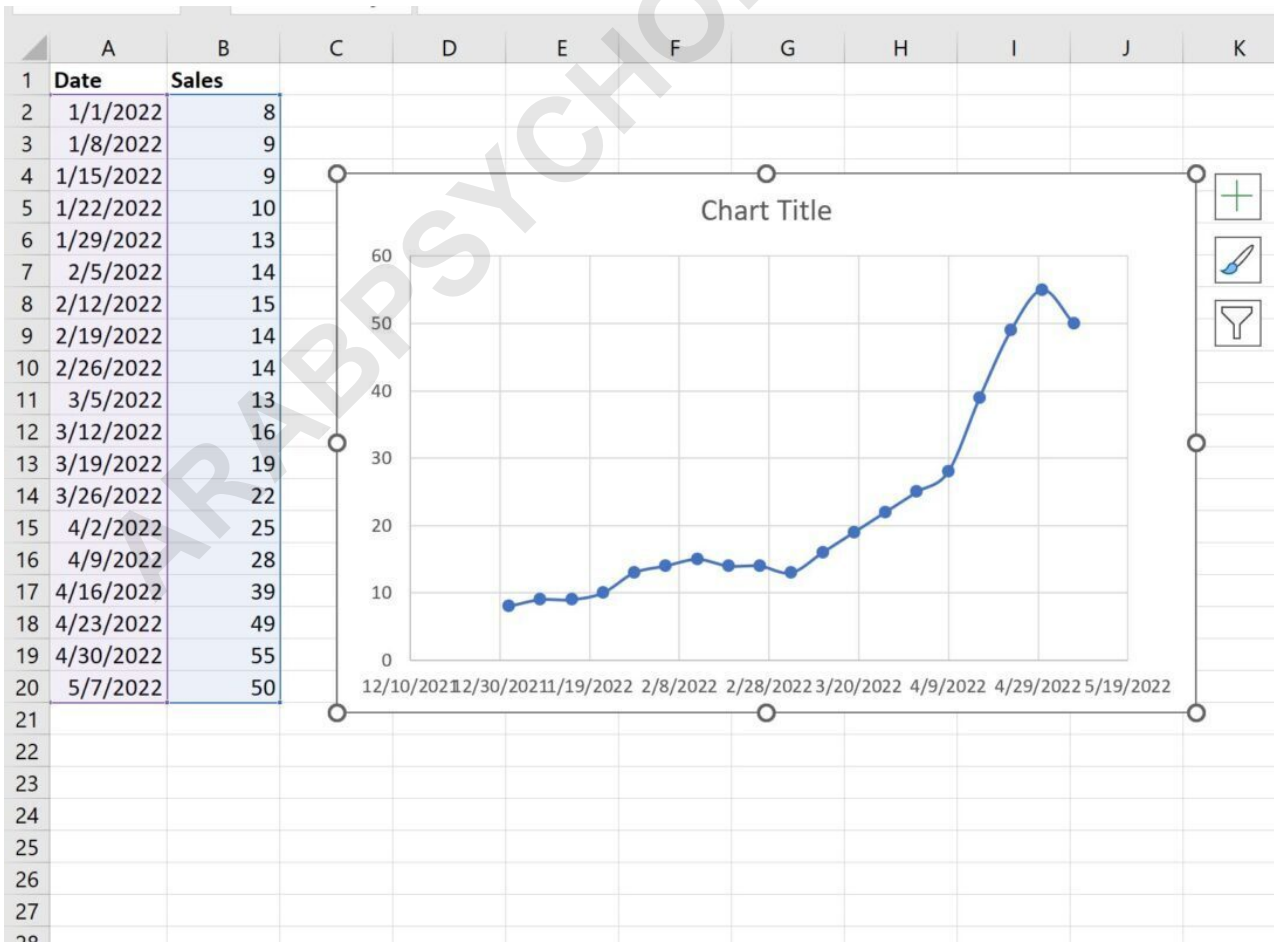
Next, highlight the values in the range A2:B20:

| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|----|-------------|--------------|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Date | Sales | | | | |
| 2 | 1/1/2022 | 8 | | | | |
| 3 | 1/8/2022 | 9 | | | | |
| 4 | 1/15/2022 | 9 | | | | |
| 5 | 1/22/2022 | 10 | | | | |
| 6 | 1/29/2022 | 13 | | | | |
| 7 | 2/5/2022 | 14 | | | | |
| 8 | 2/12/2022 | 15 | | | | |
| 9 | 2/19/2022 | 14 | | | | |
| 10 | 2/26/2022 | 14 | | | | |
| 11 | 3/5/2022 | 13 | | | | |
| 12 | 3/12/2022 | 16 | | | | |
| 13 | 3/19/2022 | 19 | | | | |
| 14 | 3/26/2022 | 22 | | | | |
| 15 | 4/2/2022 | 25 | | | | |
| 16 | 4/9/2022 | 28 | | | | |
| 17 | 4/16/2022 | 39 | | | | |
| 18 | 4/23/2022 | 49 | | | | |
| 19 | 4/30/2022 | 55 | | | | |
| 20 | 5/7/2022 | 50 | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | | |

Then click the Insert tab along the top ribbon, then click the icon called Scatter with Smooth Lines and Markers within the Charts group:



The following chart will automatically appear:



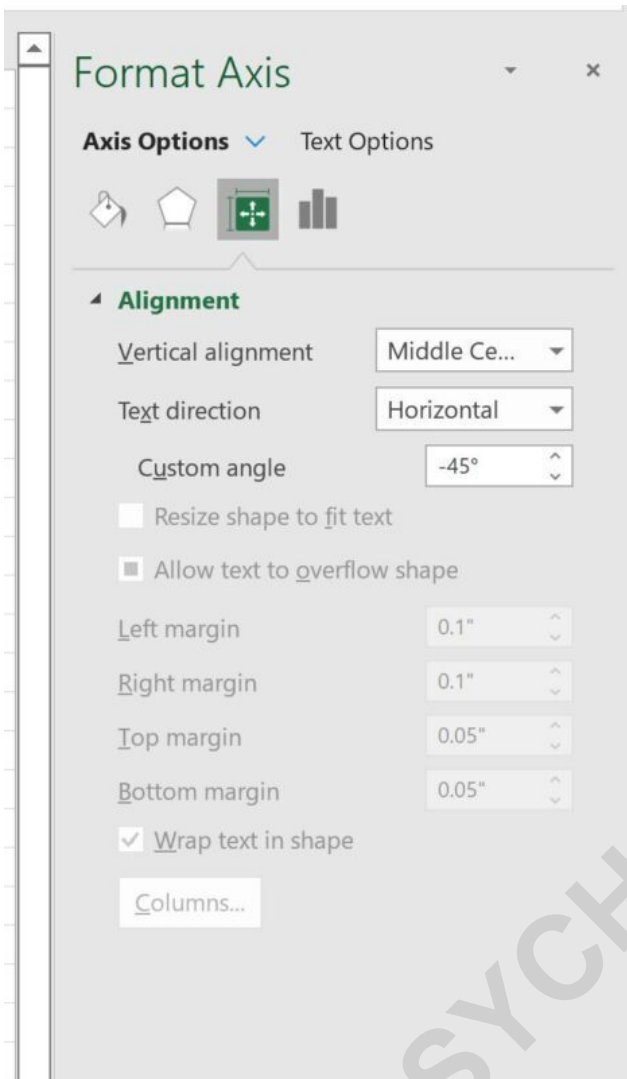
The x-axis shows the date and the y-axis shows the sales.

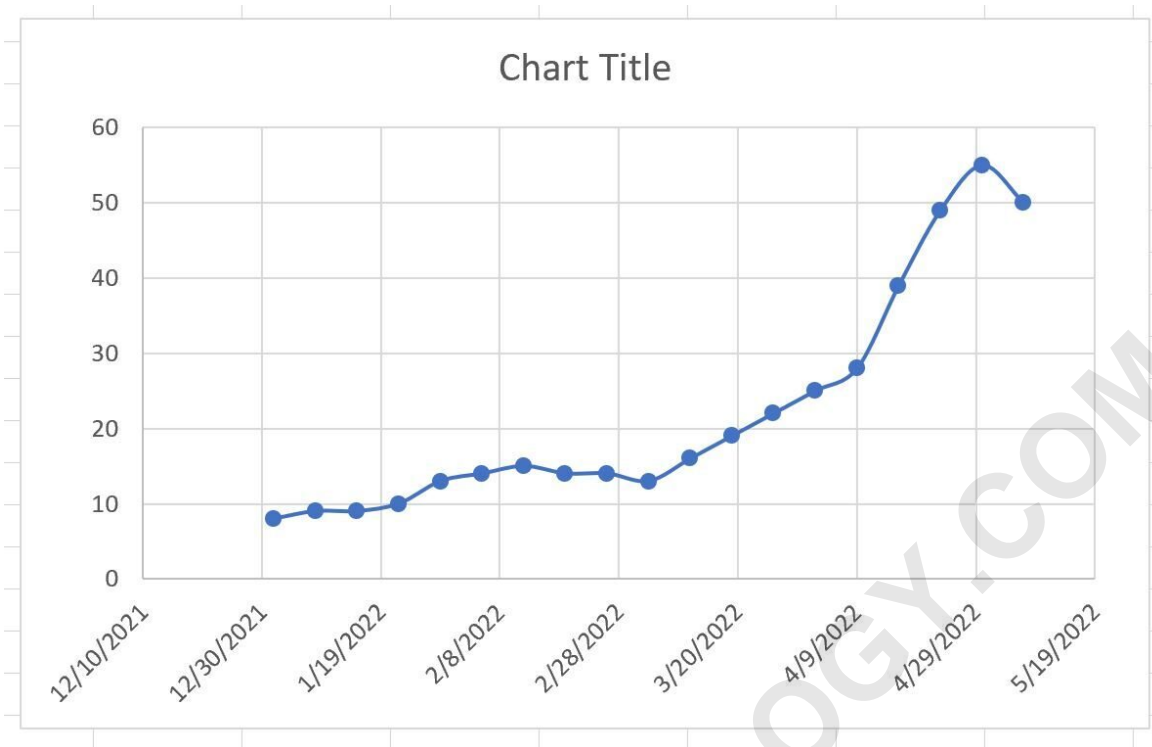
Step 3: Customize the Time Series Plot

Lastly, we can customize the plot to make it easier to read.

Double click any of the values on the x-axis. In the Format Axis panel that appears, click the icon called Size & Properties and type -45 in the box titled Custom angle:

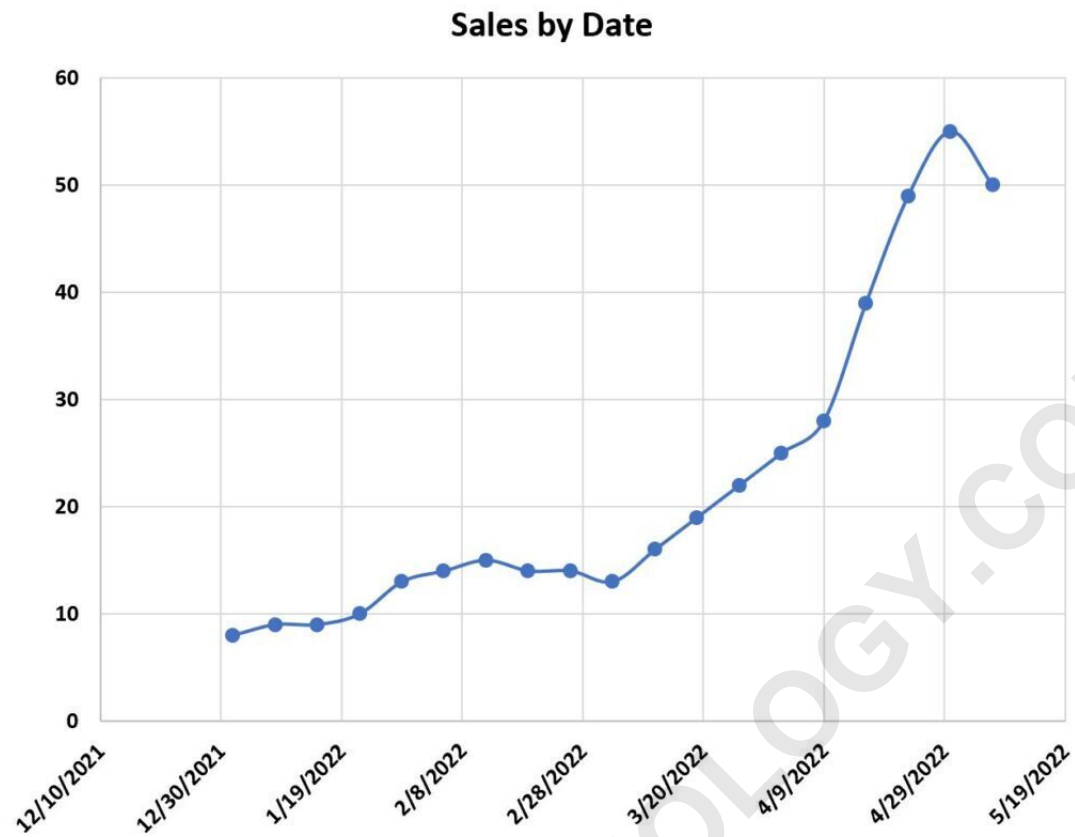
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Lastly, click on the Chart Title and change it to whatever you'd like.

Then click the labels on each axis and make them bold:



The time series plot is now complete.

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