

# How can I rotate axis labels in Excel?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Rotating axis labels in Excel allows you to change the orientation of the text on the x and y-axis of a chart. This can be useful for improving the readability and presentation of your data. To rotate axis labels in Excel, you can use the formatting options within the chart or adjust the angle of the text manually. This feature is especially helpful when working with large data sets or creating charts with long labels that may be difficult to read horizontally. It can also be used to add a professional touch to your charts and make them more visually appealing. By following a few simple steps, you can easily rotate axis labels in Excel and customize your charts to meet your specific needs.

## Rotate Axis Labels in Excel (With Example)

**You can easily rotate the axis labels on a chart in Excel by modifying the Text direction 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:**

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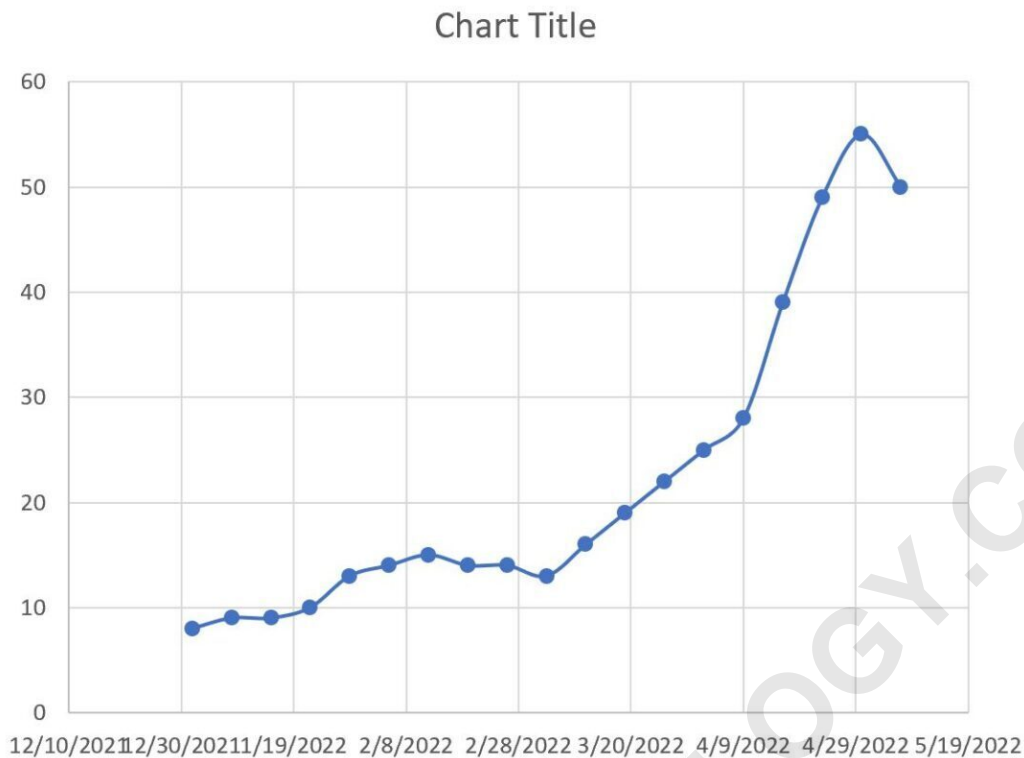
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sales</b>				
2	1/1/2022	8				
3	1/8/2022	9				
4	1/15/2022	9				
5	1/22/2022	10				
6	1/29/2022	13				
7	2/5/2022	14				
8	2/12/2022	15				
9	2/19/2022	14				
10	2/26/2022	14				
11	3/5/2022	13				
12	3/12/2022	16				
13	3/19/2022	19				
14	3/26/2022	22				
15	4/2/2022	25				
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: Create the Plot

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

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:



**By default, Excel makes each label on the x-axis horizontal.**

**However, this causes the labels to overlap in some areas and makes it difficult to read.**

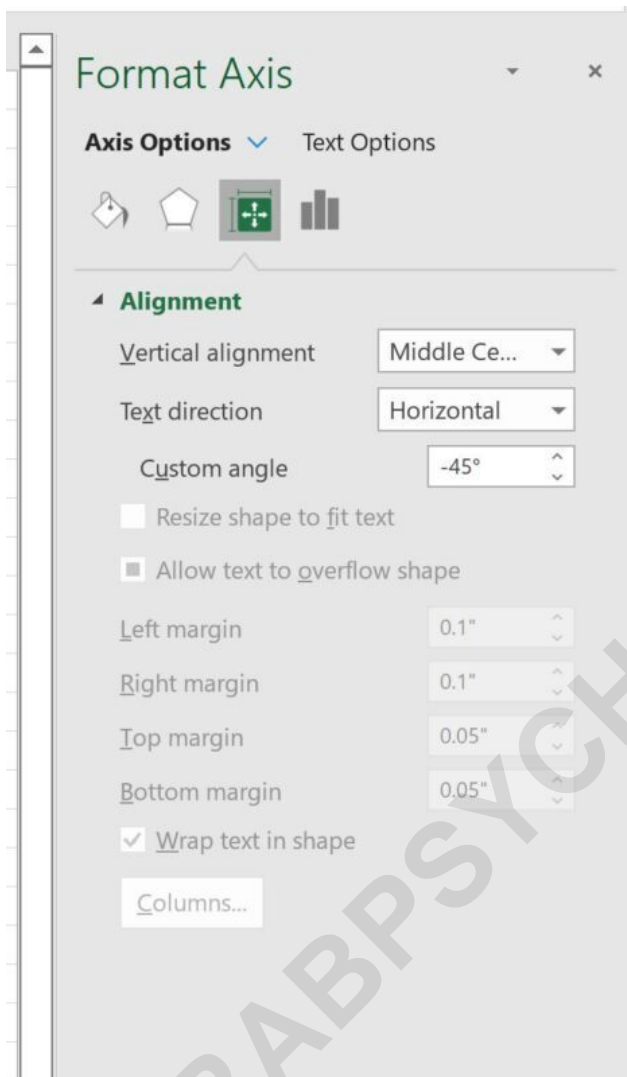
### **Step 3: Rotate Axis Labels**

**In this step, we will rotate the axis labels to make them easier to read.**

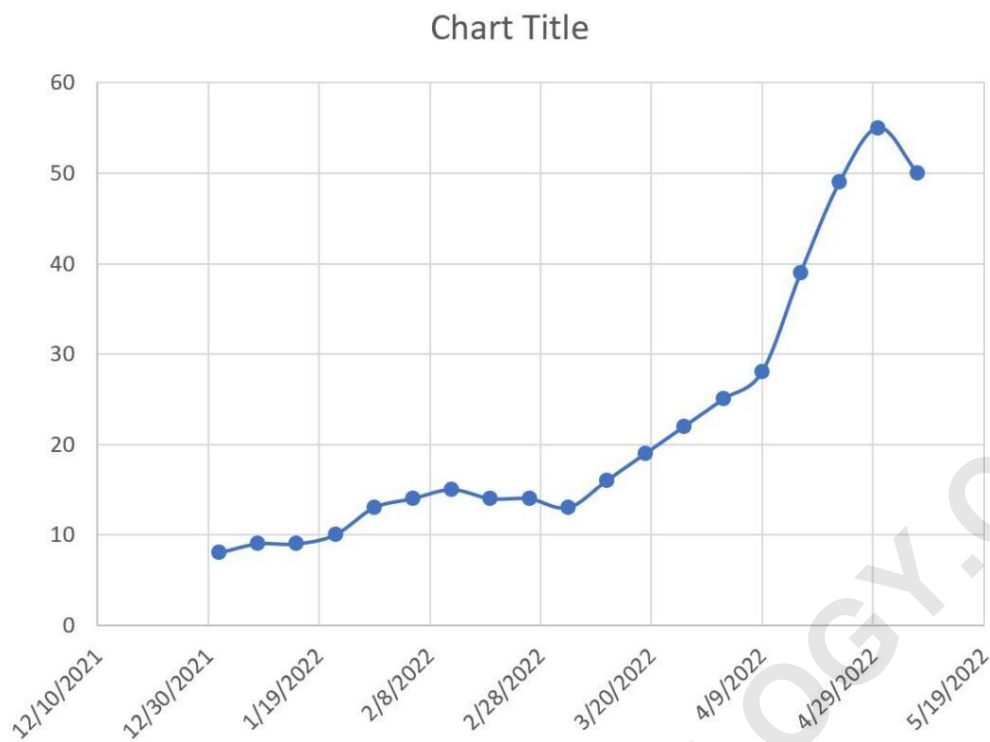
**To do so, double click any of the values on the x-axis.**

**In the Format Axis panel that appears, click the icon**

called **Size & Properties** and type **-45** in the box titled **Custom angle**:



The x-axis labels will be rotated at a 45 degree angle to make them easier to read:



**Notice that the labels are much easier to read now.**

**Feel free to play around with the value in the Custom angle box to rotate the labels exactly how you'd like.**

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