

How can I sort the bars in a bar chart in Excel?

Authored by
stats writer

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To sort the bars in a bar chart in Excel, select the data series you want to sort and go to the "Data" tab. Then, click on the "Sort" button and choose the column or data order you want to sort by. You can also access the sorting options by right-clicking on the chart and selecting "Sort" from the menu. This will rearrange the bars in your chart based on your chosen criteria, allowing for a clearer and more organized representation of your data.

Excel: Sort Bars in Bar Chart

Often you may want to sort the bars in a bar chart in Excel in ascending or descending order.

Fortunately this is easy to do using the built-in Sorting options in Excel and the following example shows how to do so.

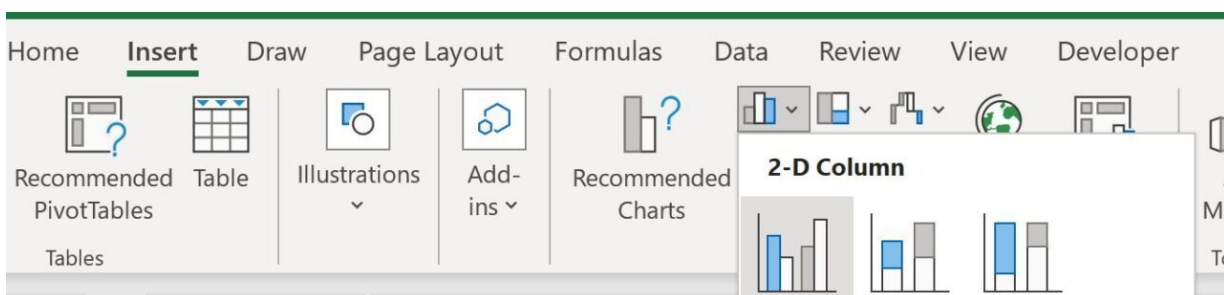
Example: How to Sort Bars in Bar Chart in Excel

First, let's create the following dataset that shows the total sales made in various regions for some company:

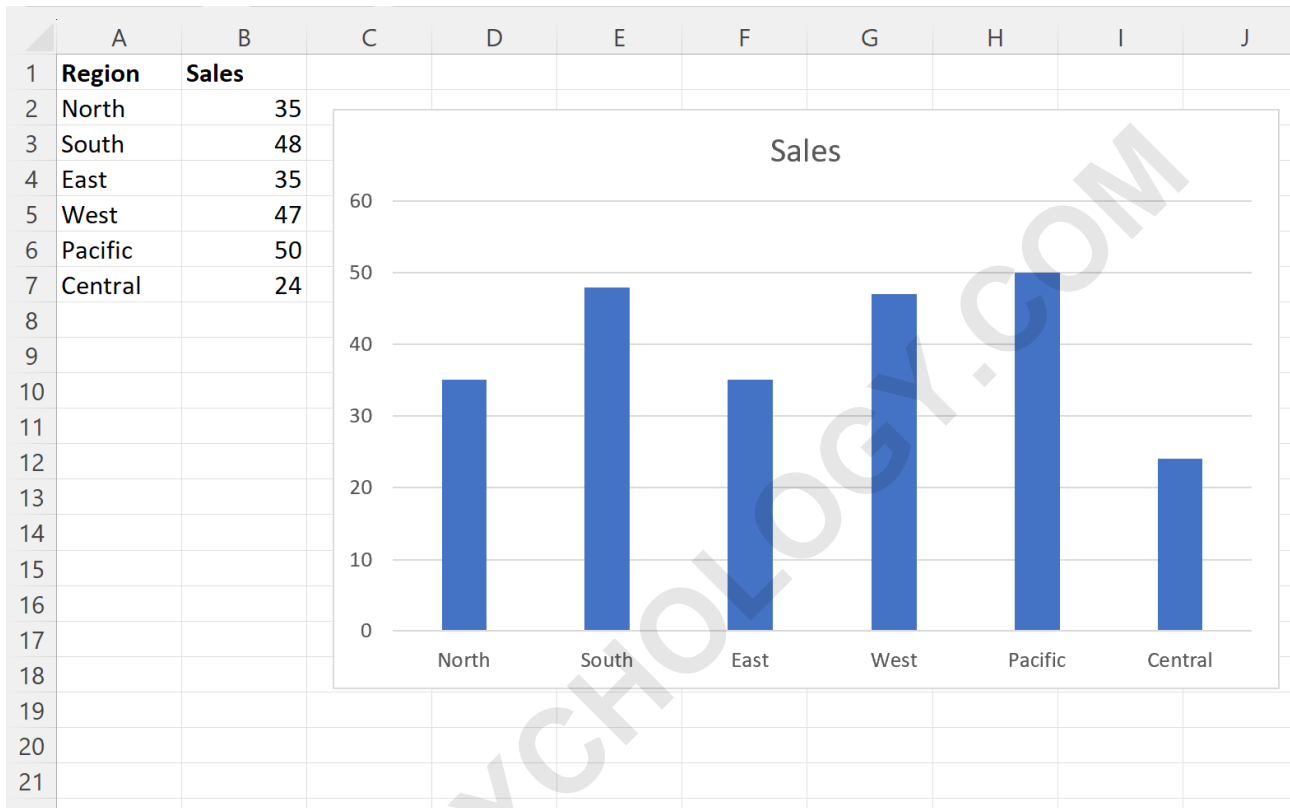
	A	B	C	D	E
1	Region	Sales			
2	North	35			
3	South	48			
4	East	35			
5	West	47			
6	Pacific	50			
7	Central	24			
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

Next, let's create a bar chart to visualize the total sales by region.

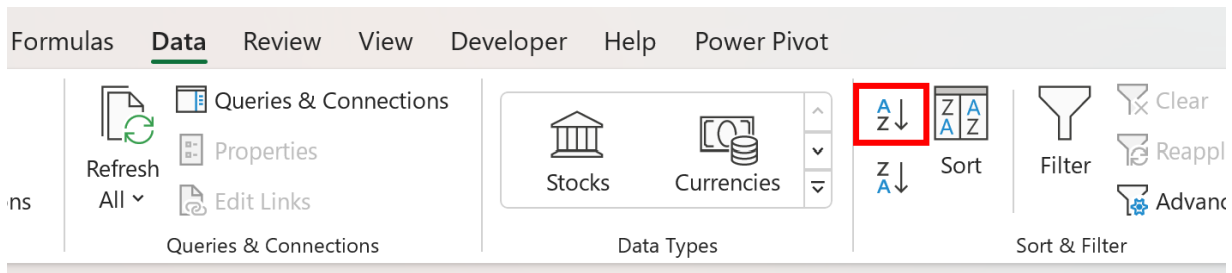
To do so, highlight the cell range A1:B7, then click the Insert tab along the top ribbon, then click the first chart icon under 2-D Column within the Charts group:



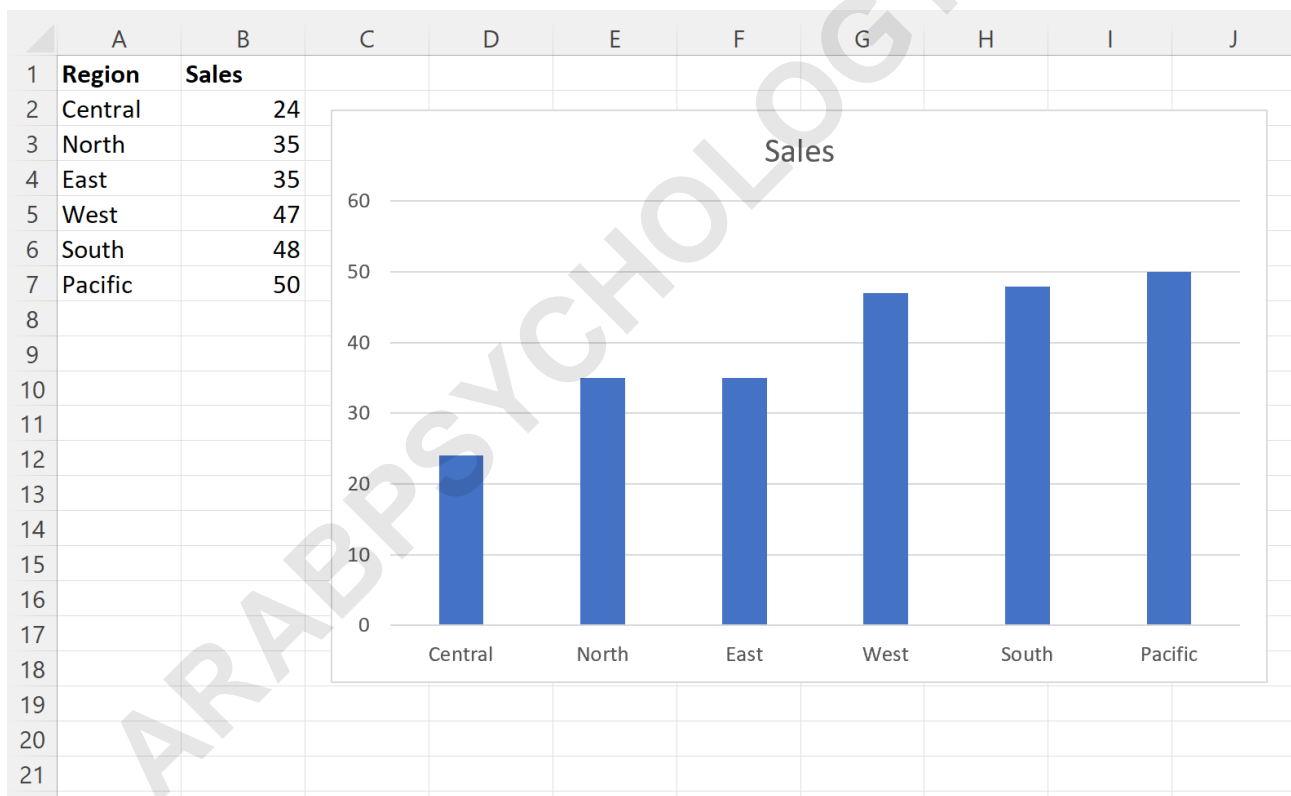
A bar chart will appear that shows the sales for each region in the exact order that they appear in the dataset:



If you would like to sort the bars from smallest to largest then simply click on any of the cells in the Sales column of the original dataset and then click the Data tab along the top ribbon and click the icon that says Sort Smallest to Largest:

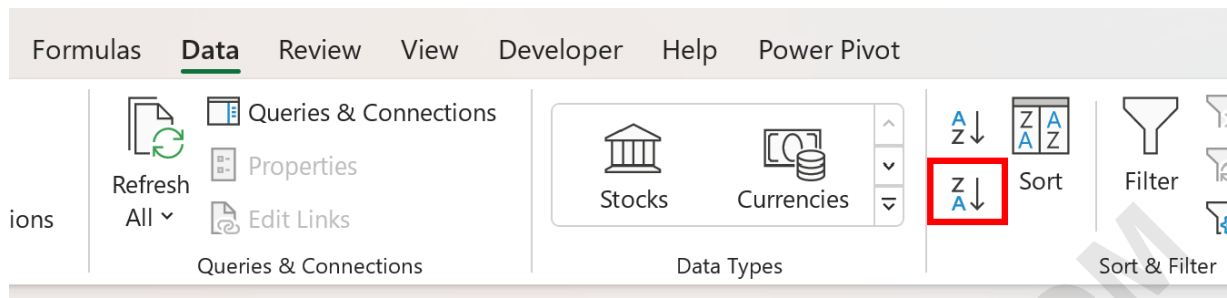


Both the dataset and the bars in the bar chart will be sorted from smallest to largest:

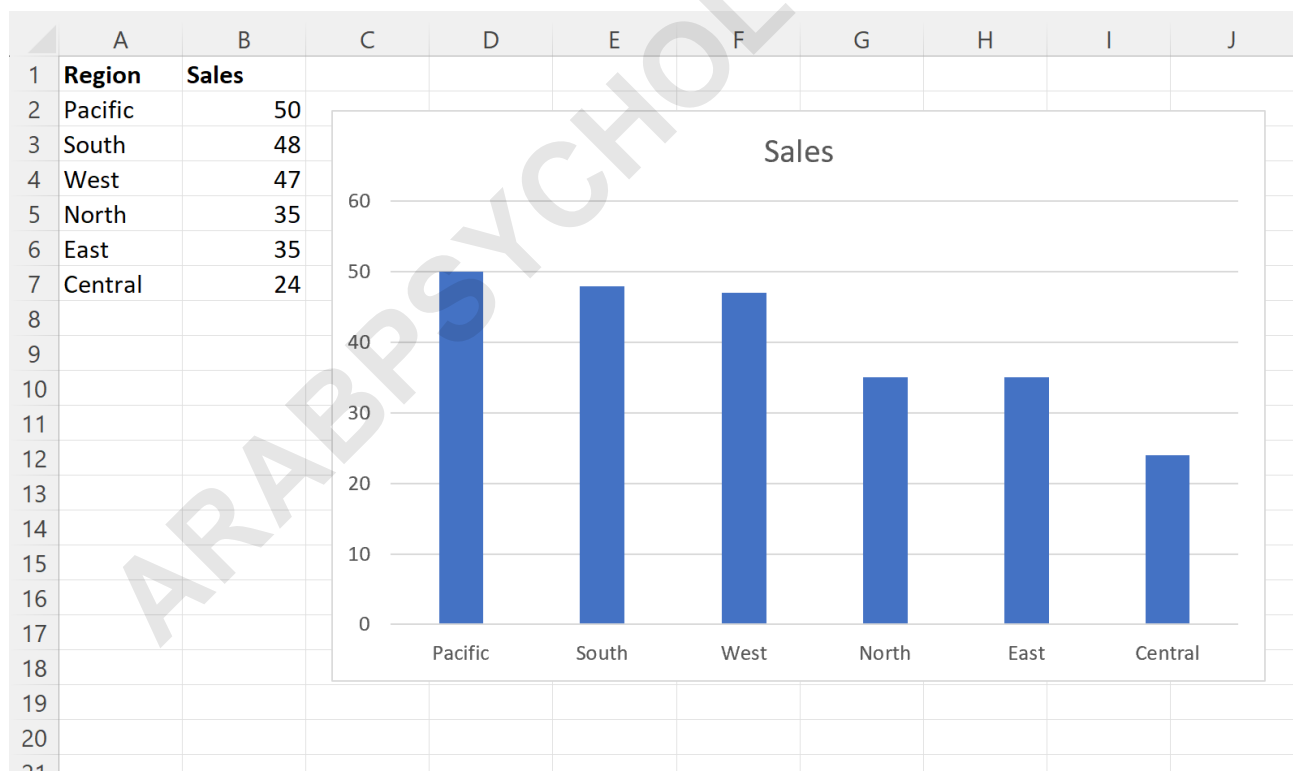


If you would instead like to sort the bars from largest to smallest then click on any of the cells in the Sales column of the original dataset and then click the Data tab along the top ribbon and click the icon that says

Sort Largest to Smallest:



Both the dataset and the bars in the bar chart will be sorted from largest to smallest:



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