

# How do I add a horizontal line to a scatterplot in Excel?

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April 27, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How do I add a horizontal line to a scatterplot in Excel?*.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=140000>

To add a horizontal line to a scatterplot in Excel, follow these steps:

1. Select the scatterplot in which you want to add the horizontal line.
2. Click on the "Insert" tab in the top menu.
3. In the "Charts" section, click on "Line" and then select "Line with Markers."
4. A new line will appear on your scatterplot. Right-click on the line and select "Format Data Series."
5. In the "Format Data Series" menu, under the "Fill & Line" tab, select "Line."
6. Under the "Line Options" section, click on the drop-down menu next to "Dash type" and select "Solid line."
7. Adjust the color, thickness, and style of the line to your preference.
8. Click on "Close" to exit the "Format Data Series" menu.
9. Your horizontal line will now be visible on your scatterplot.

Adding a horizontal line to a scatterplot in Excel can be useful for identifying a specific data point or for visualizing a trend in the data. By following these simple steps, you can easily add a horizontal line to your scatterplot in Excel.

## Add a Horizontal Line to a Scatterplot in Excel

**Occasionally you may want to add a horizontal line to a scatterplot in Excel to represent some threshold or limit.**

**This tutorial provides a step-by-step example of how to quickly add a horizontal line to any scatterplot in Excel.**

### Step 1: Create the Data

**First, let's create the following fake dataset:**

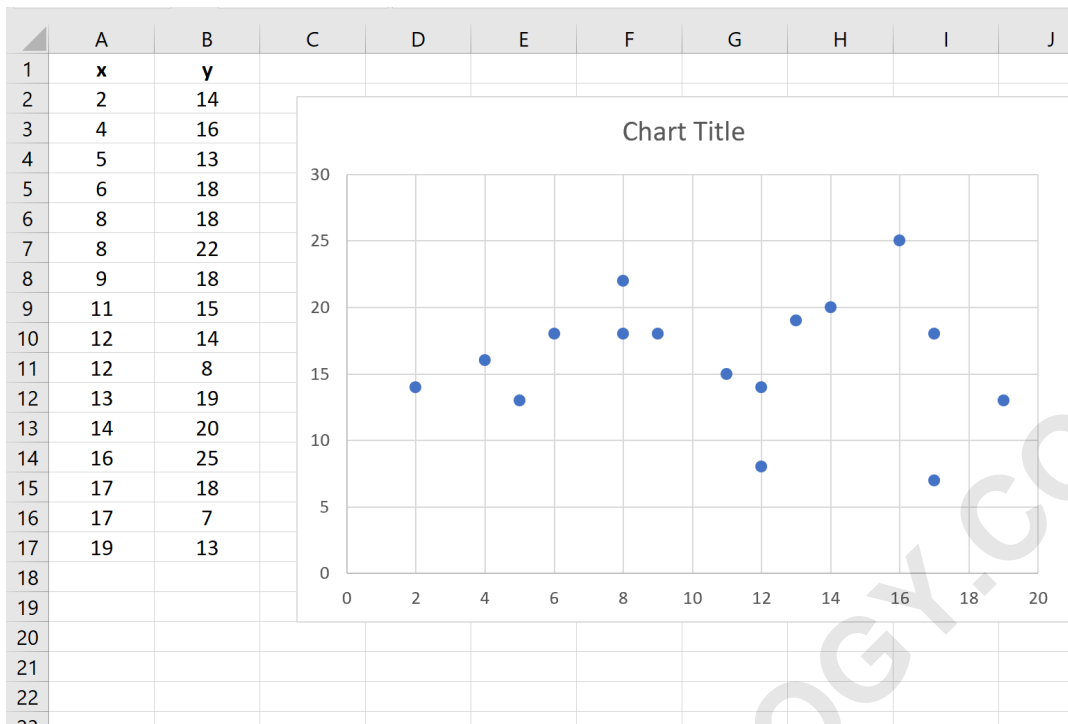
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	x	y				
2	2	14				
3	4	16				
4	5	13				
5	6	18				
6	8	18				
7	8	22				
8	9	18				
9	11	15				
10	12	14				
11	12	8				
12	13	19				
13	14	20				
14	16	25				
15	17	18				
16	17	7				
17	19	13				
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						
23						

## Step 2: Create the Scatterplot

Next, highlight the data in the cell range A2:B17 as follows:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>x</b>	<b>y</b>				
2	2	14				
3	4	16				
4	5	13				
5	6	18				
6	8	18				
7	8	22				
8	9	18				
9	11	15				
10	12	14				
11	12	8				
12	13	19				
13	14	20				
14	16	25				
15	17	18				
16	17	7				
17	19	13				
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						

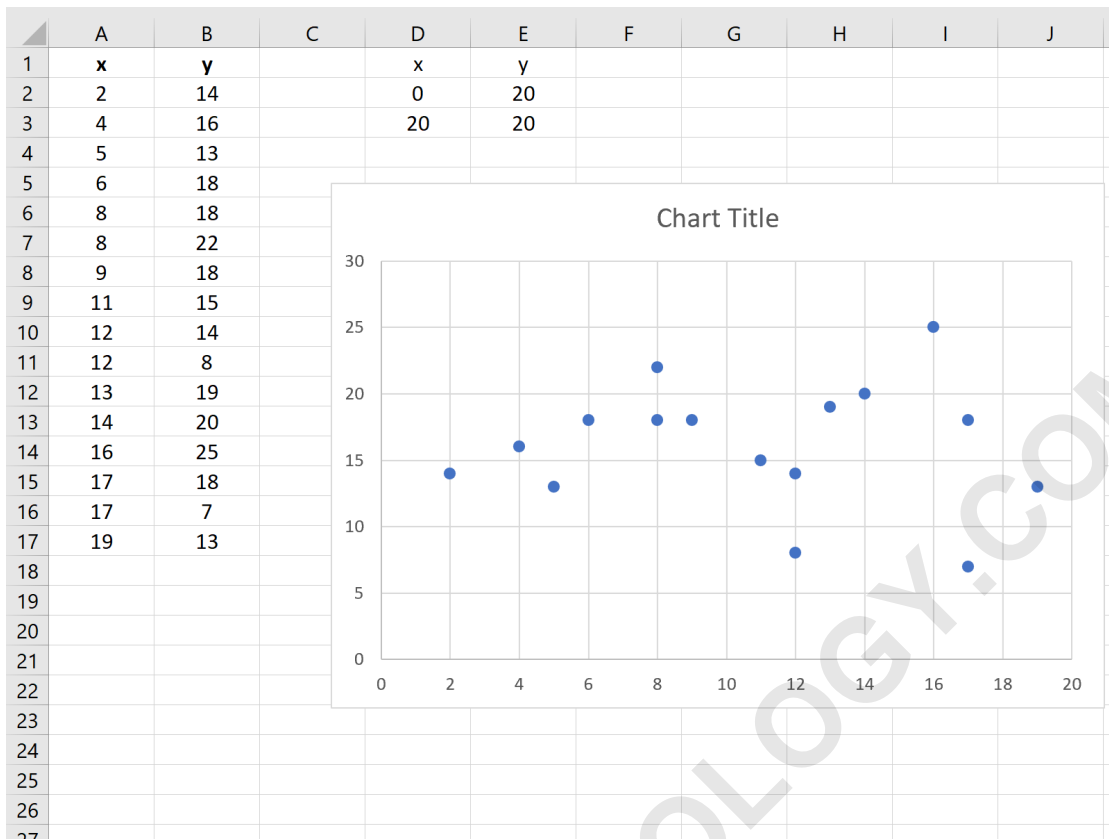
**Along the top ribbon, click Insert and then click the first chart in the Insert Scatter (X, Y) or Bubble Chart group within the Charts group. The following scatterplot will automatically appear:**



### Step 3: Add a Horizontal Line

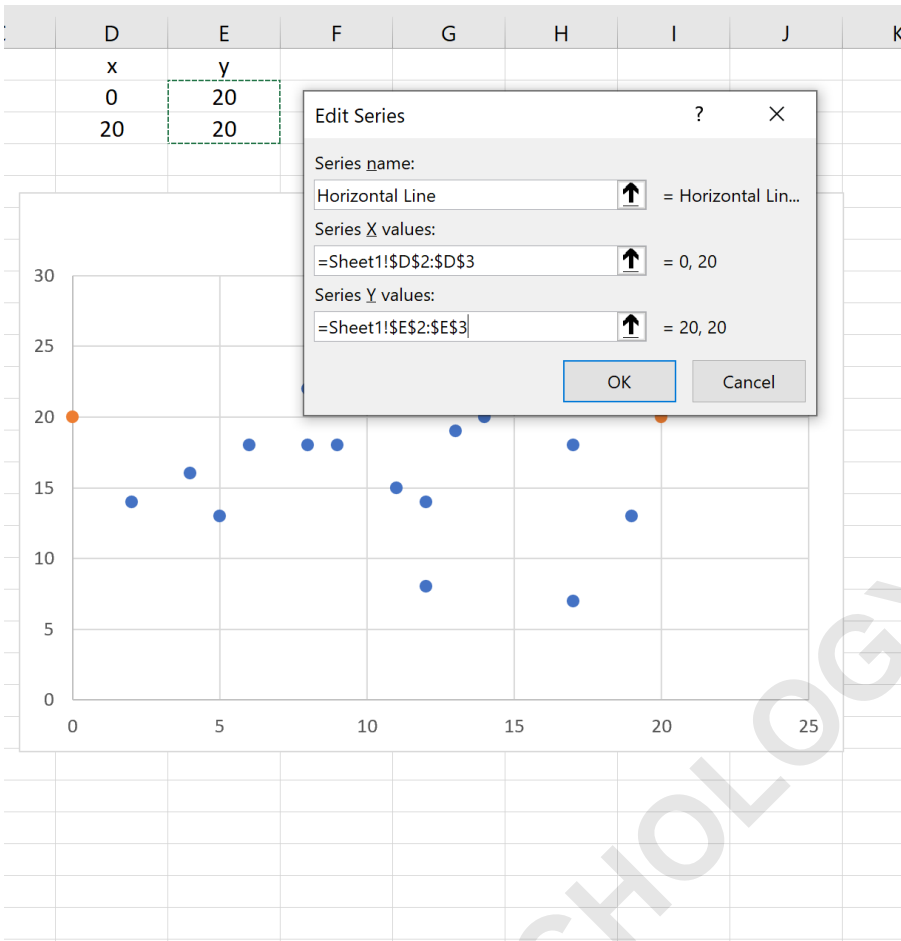
Now suppose we would like to add a horizontal line at  $y = 20$ .

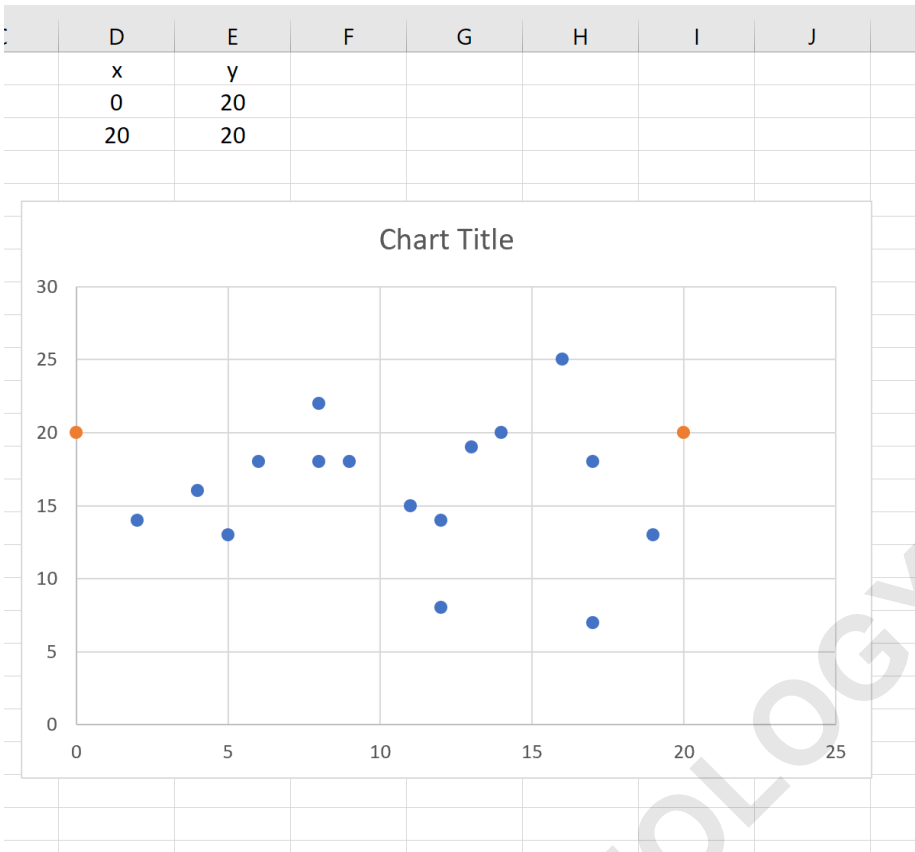
To do this, we can create a fake data series that shows the minimum and maximum value along the x-axis (0 and 20) as well as two y-values that are both equal to 20:



**Next, right click anywhere on the chart and click Select Data. In the window that appears, click Add under the Legend Entries (Series) section.**

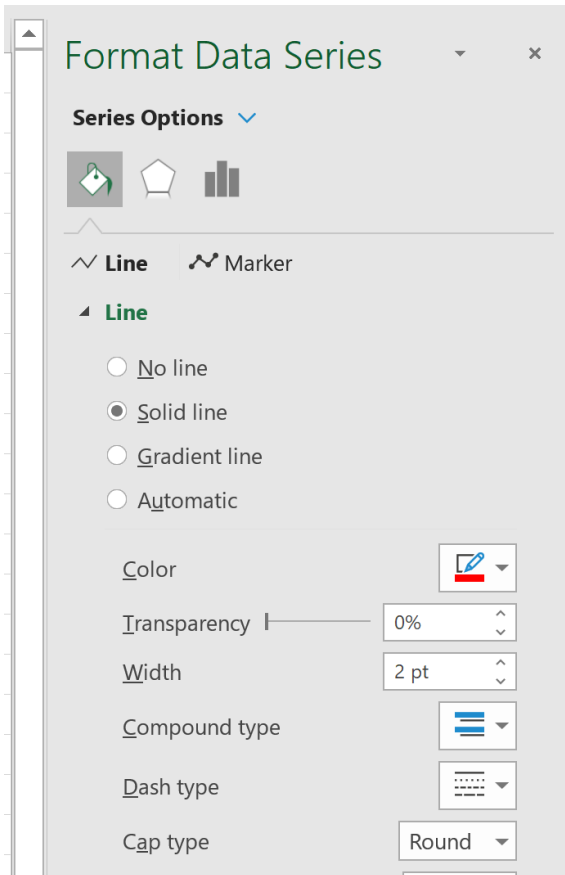
**In the new window that appears, fill in the following information:**



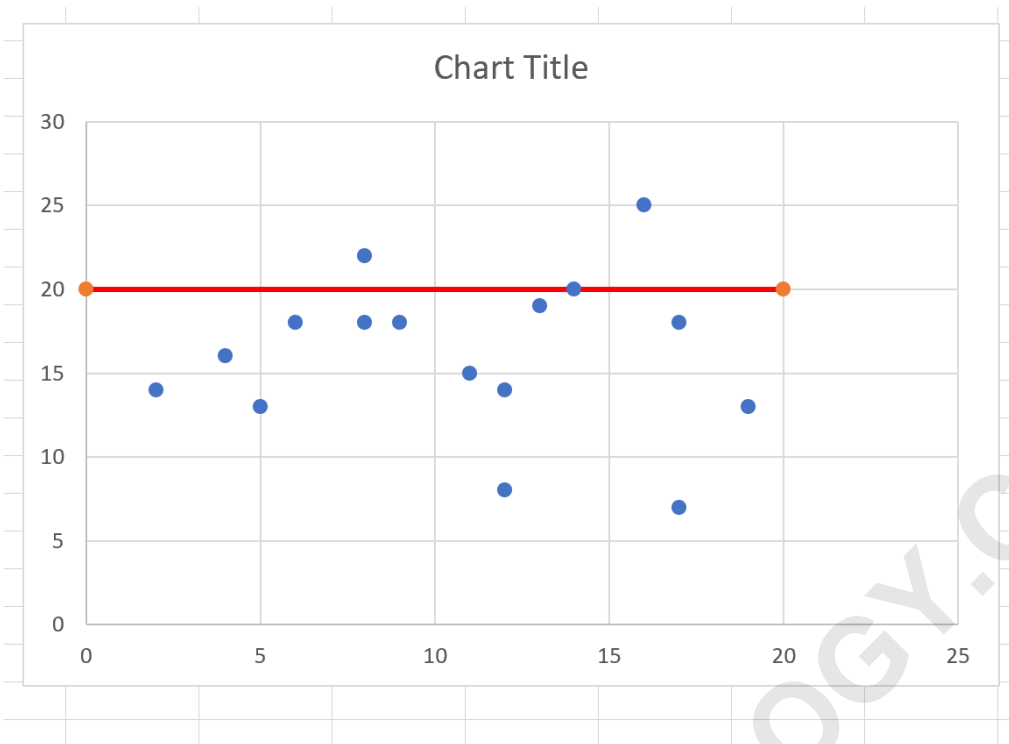


**Right click on one of the orange dots and click Format Data Series...**

**In the window that appears on the right side of the screen, click Solid Line:**



**This will turn the two orange points into a solid orange line:**



**Feel free to modify the color, thickness, and style of the line to make it more aesthetically pleasing.**

**If you would like to add multiple horizontal lines to a single chart, simply repeat this process using different y-values.**

### **How to Add Average Line to Bar Chart in Excel**

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