

How do I add a target line to a graph in Excel?

Authored by
stats writer

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To add a target line to a graph in Excel, follow these steps: First, select the data points in your graph that you want to add the target line to. Then, go to the "Insert" tab and click on "Line" from the "Charts" section. Next, click on the "Design" tab and select "Select Data" from the "Data" section. In the "Select Data Source" window, click on "Add" under the "Legend Entries (Series)" section. In the "Edit Series" window, enter a name for your target line in the "Series name" field and select the cells containing your target values in the "Series values" field. Finally, click "OK" to add the target line to your graph. This will help visually represent your target values in the graph for better analysis and interpretation.

Add Target Line to Graph in Excel

Occasionally you may want to add a target line to a graph in Excel to represent some target or goal.

This tutorial provides a step-by-step example of how to quickly add a target line to a graph in Excel.

Step 1: Create the Data

First, let's create the following dataset that shows the total sales made by some company during various years:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Year	Sales				
2	2015	500				
3	2016	544				
4	2017	589				
5	2018	604				
6	2019	609				
7	2020	670				
8	2021	650				
9	2022	590				
10	2023	598				
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
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17						
18						
19						
20						

Step 2: Add the Target Value

Now suppose that our target value for sales each year is 600.

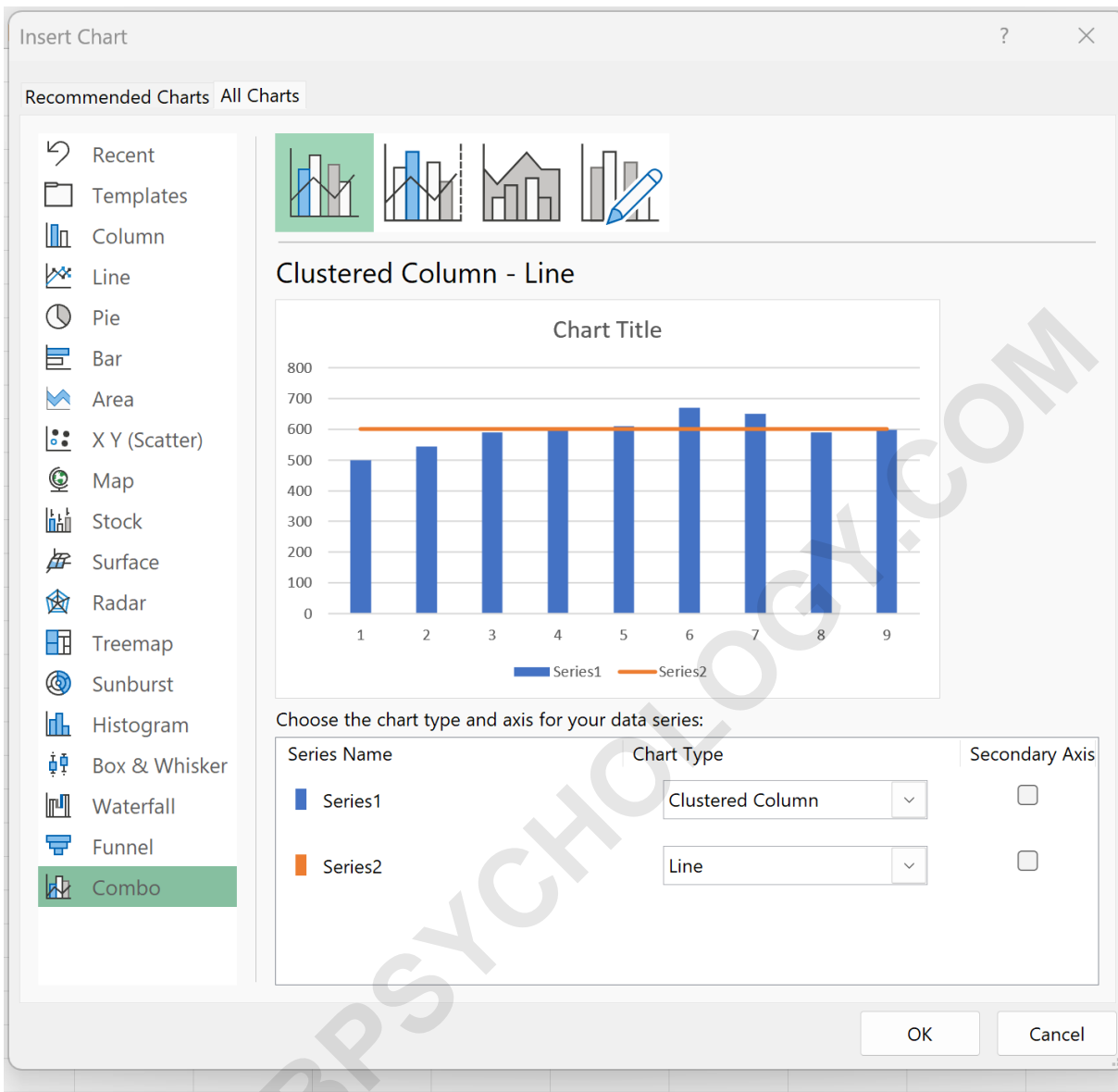
To add this target line to a chart, we need to first create a target column that contains the value 600 in each row:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Year	Sales	Target			
2	2015	500	600			
3	2016	544	600			
4	2017	589	600			
5	2018	604	600			
6	2019	609	600			
7	2020	670	600			
8	2021	650	600			
9	2022	590	600			
10	2023	598	600			
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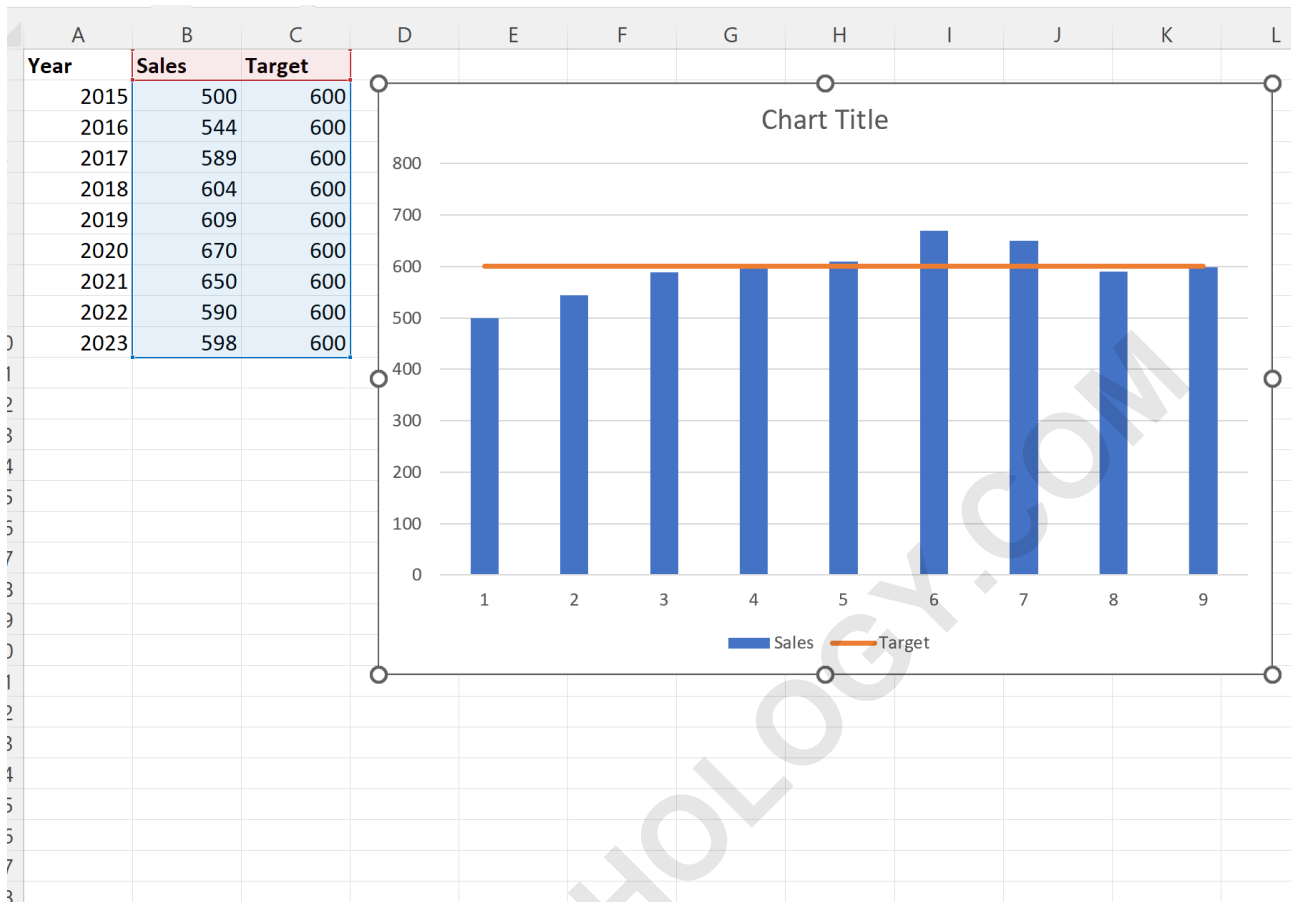
Step 3: Create the Graph with Target Value

Next, highlight the cells in the range B2:C10, then click the Insert tab, then click the icon called Recommended Charts within the Charts group.

In the new window that appears, click the tab called All Charts near the top and then click Combo:

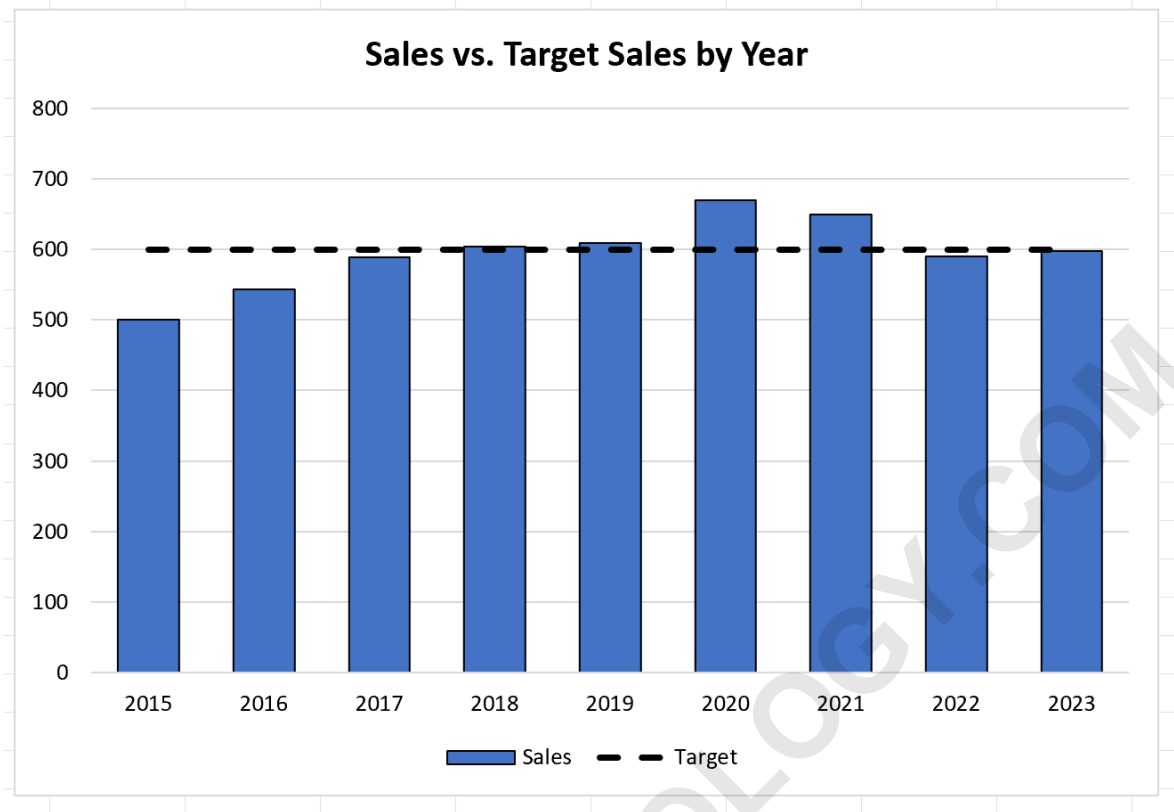


Once you click OK, a bar graph with a target value will appear:



The blue bars represent the sales values for each year and the orange line represents the target sales value of 600 for each year.

Step 4: Customize the Graph (Optional)



The graph is now complete.

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