

How do I add an average line to a bar chart in Excel?

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June 28, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How do I add an average line to a bar chart in Excel?*.

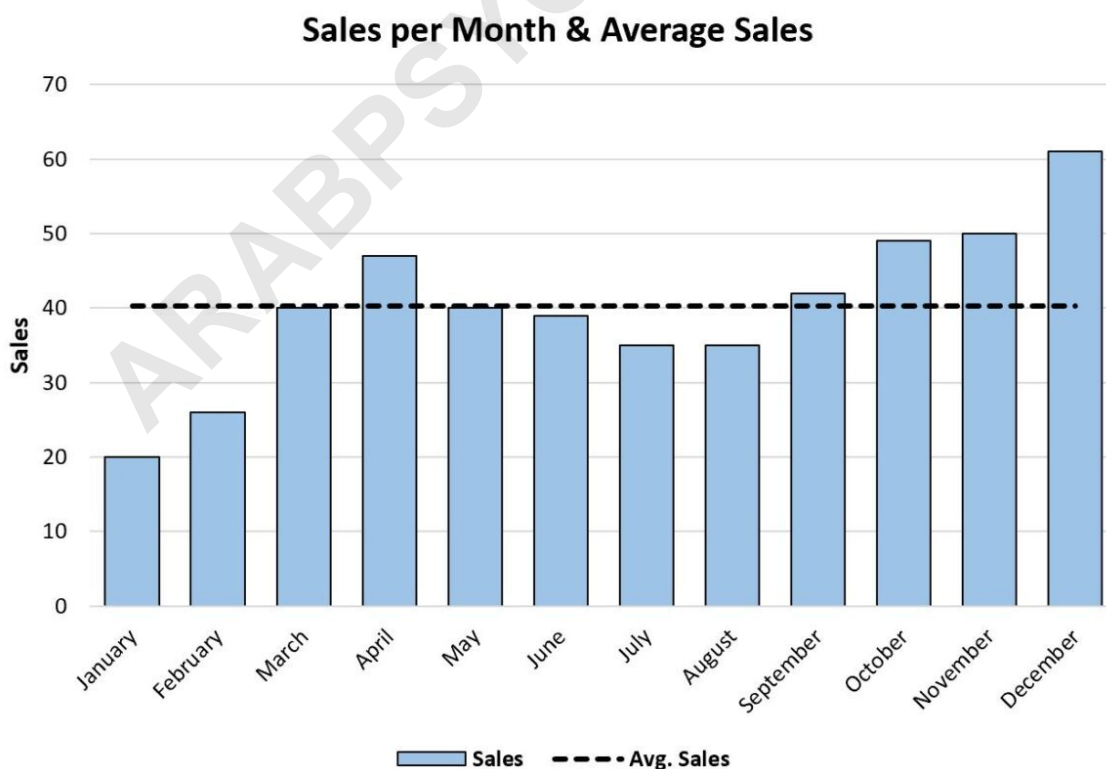
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=156020>

To add an average line to a bar chart in Excel, first select the data points on the chart. Then, click on the "Design" tab and select "Add Chart Element." From the drop-down menu, choose "Trendline" and then "Average." The average line will now appear on the bar chart. To customize the line, right-click on it and select "Format Trendline." From here, you can change the color, type, and other settings of the average line. This feature is useful for visualizing the overall trend and average value of the data in a bar chart.

Add Average Line to Bar Chart in Excel

Occasionally you may want to add a line to a bar chart in Excel to represent the average value of the bars.

This tutorial provides a step-by-step example of how to create the following bar chart with an average line in Excel:



Let's jump in!

Step 1: Enter the Data

First, let's create the following dataset that shows the total sales of some item during each month in a year:

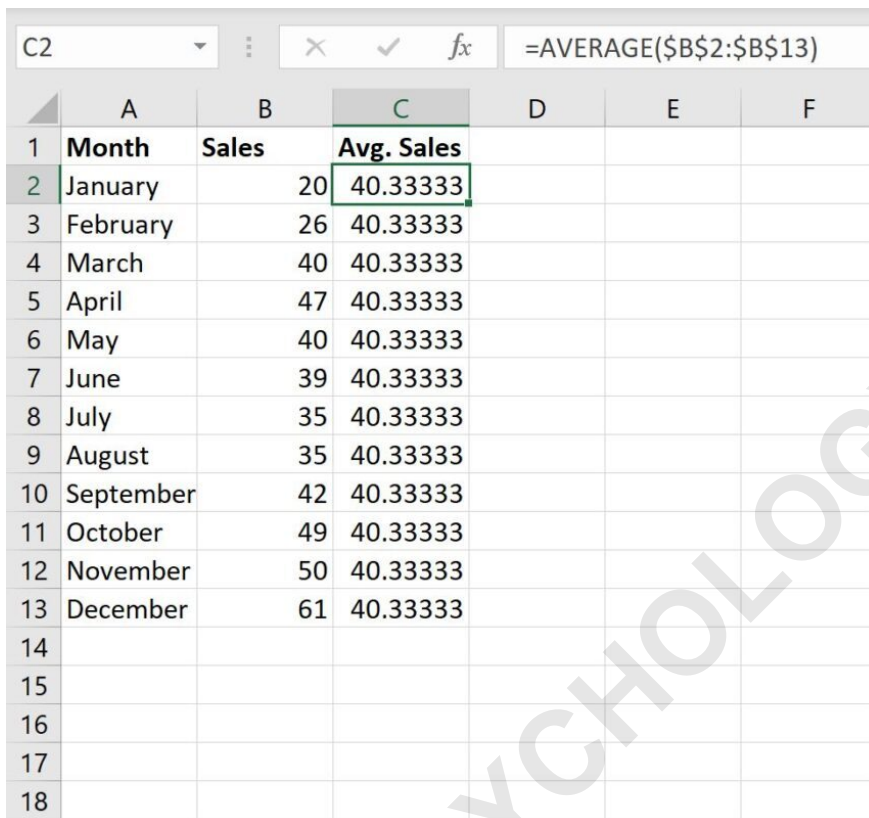
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Month	Sales				
2	January	20				
3	February	26				
4	March	40				
5	April	47				
6	May	40				
7	June	39				
8	July	35				
9	August	35				
10	September	42				
11	October	49				
12	November	50				
13	December	61				
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

Step 2: Calculate the Average Value

Next, we'll use the following formula to calculate the average sales per month:

=AVERAGE(\$B\$2:\$B\$13)

We can type this formula into cell C2 and then copy and paste it to every remaining cell in column C:

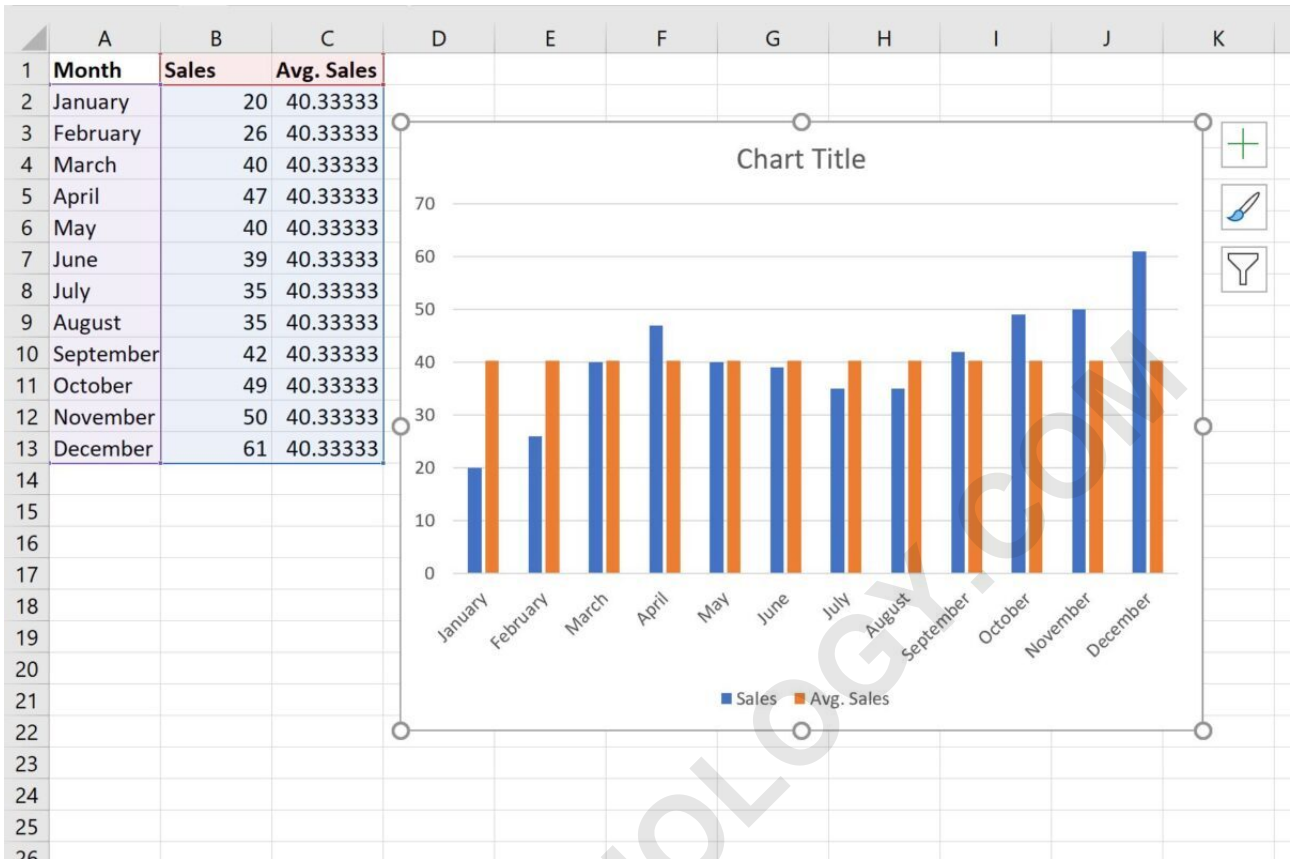


	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Month	Sales	Avg. Sales			
2	January	20	40.33333			
3	February	26	40.33333			
4	March	40	40.33333			
5	April	47	40.33333			
6	May	40	40.33333			
7	June	39	40.33333			
8	July	35	40.33333			
9	August	35	40.33333			
10	September	42	40.33333			
11	October	49	40.33333			
12	November	50	40.33333			
13	December	61	40.33333			
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						

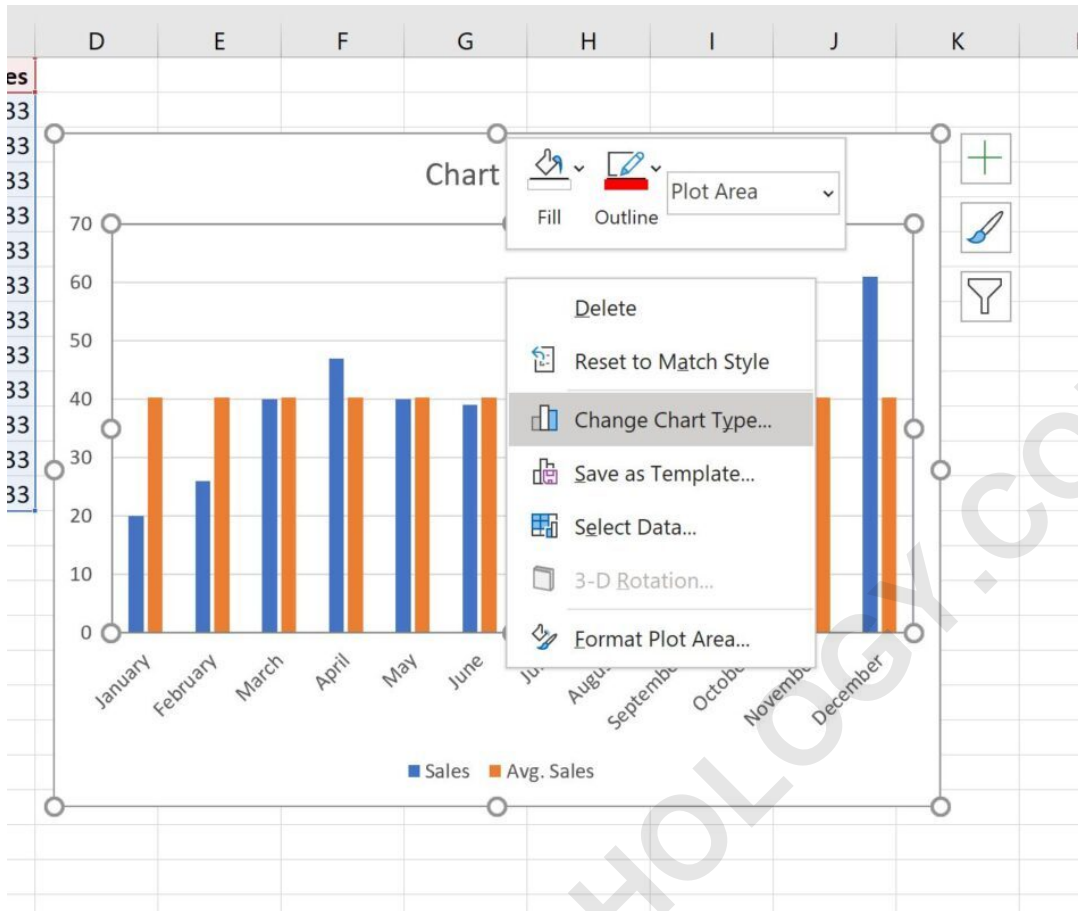
Step 3: Create Bar Chart with Average Line

Next, highlight the cell range A1:C13, then click the Insert tab along the top ribbon, then click Clustered Column within the Charts group.

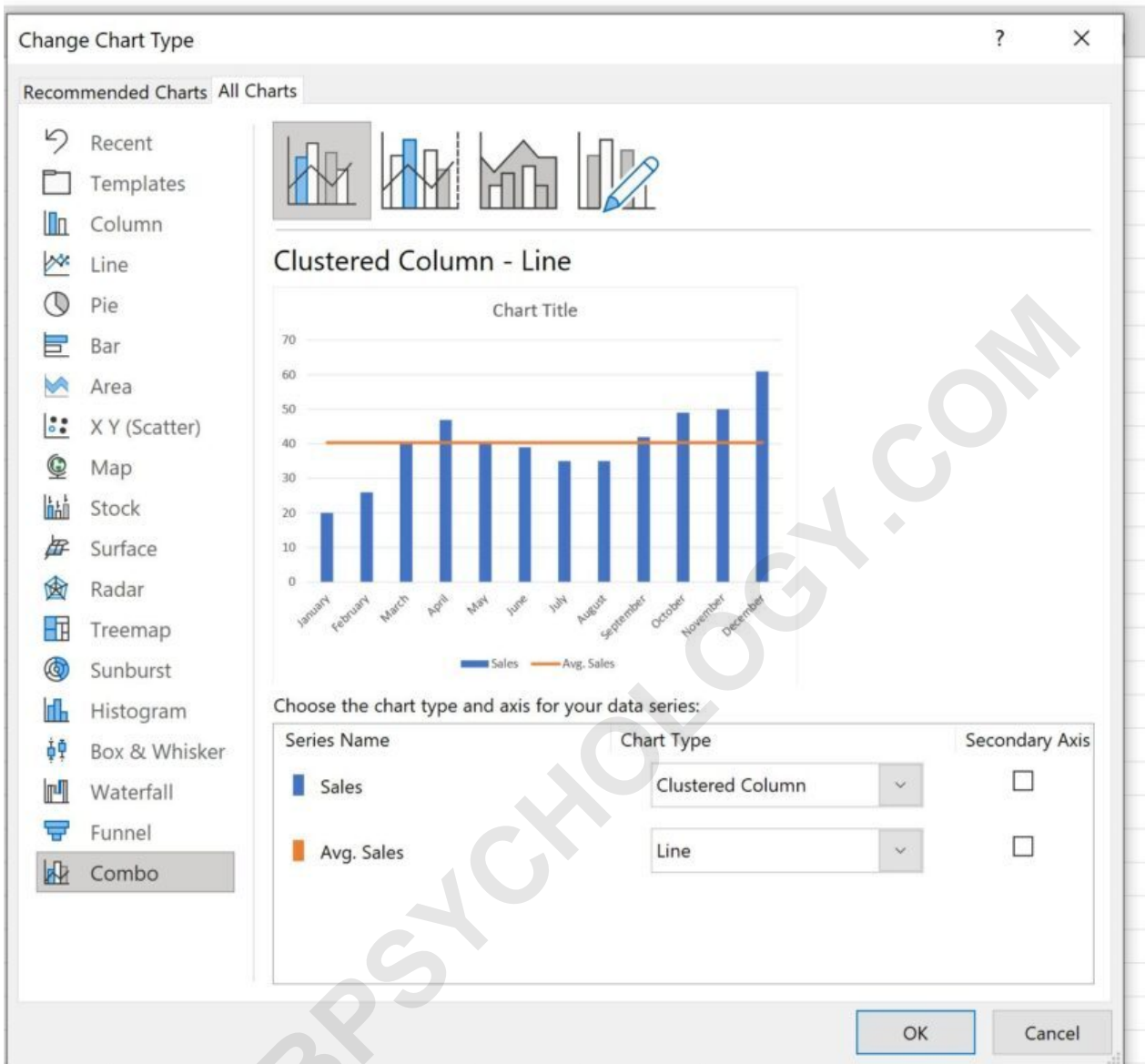
The following chart will be created:



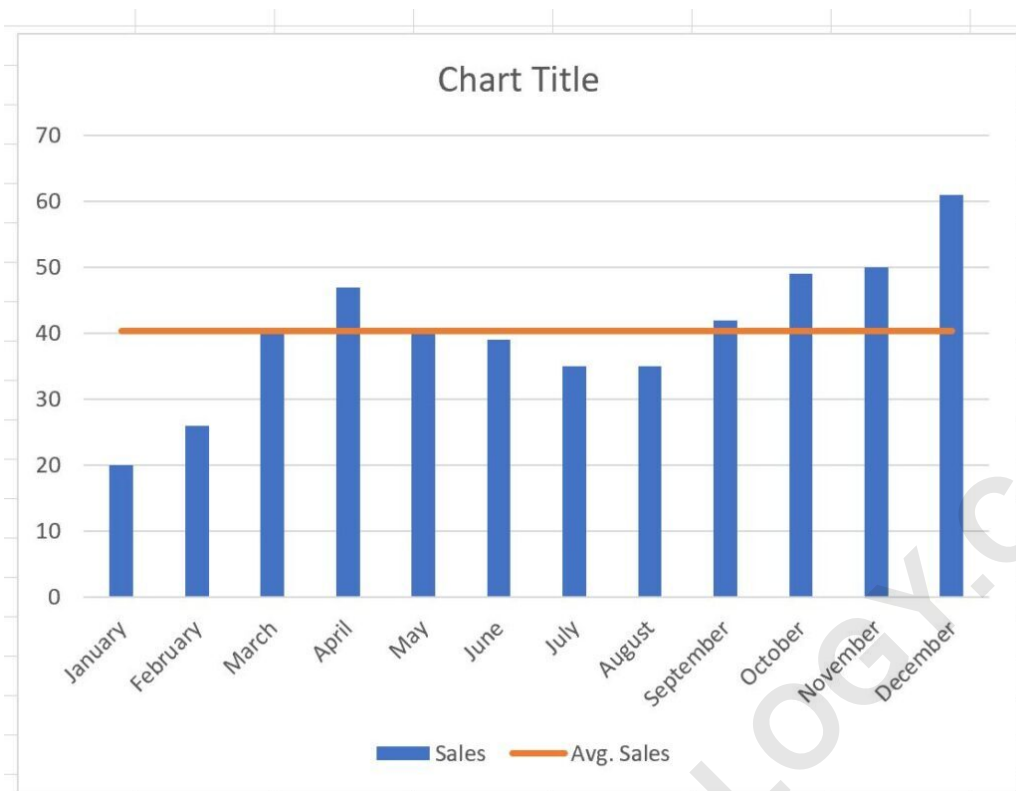
Next, right click anywhere on the chart and then click Change Chart Type:



In the new window that appears, click Combo and then click OK:



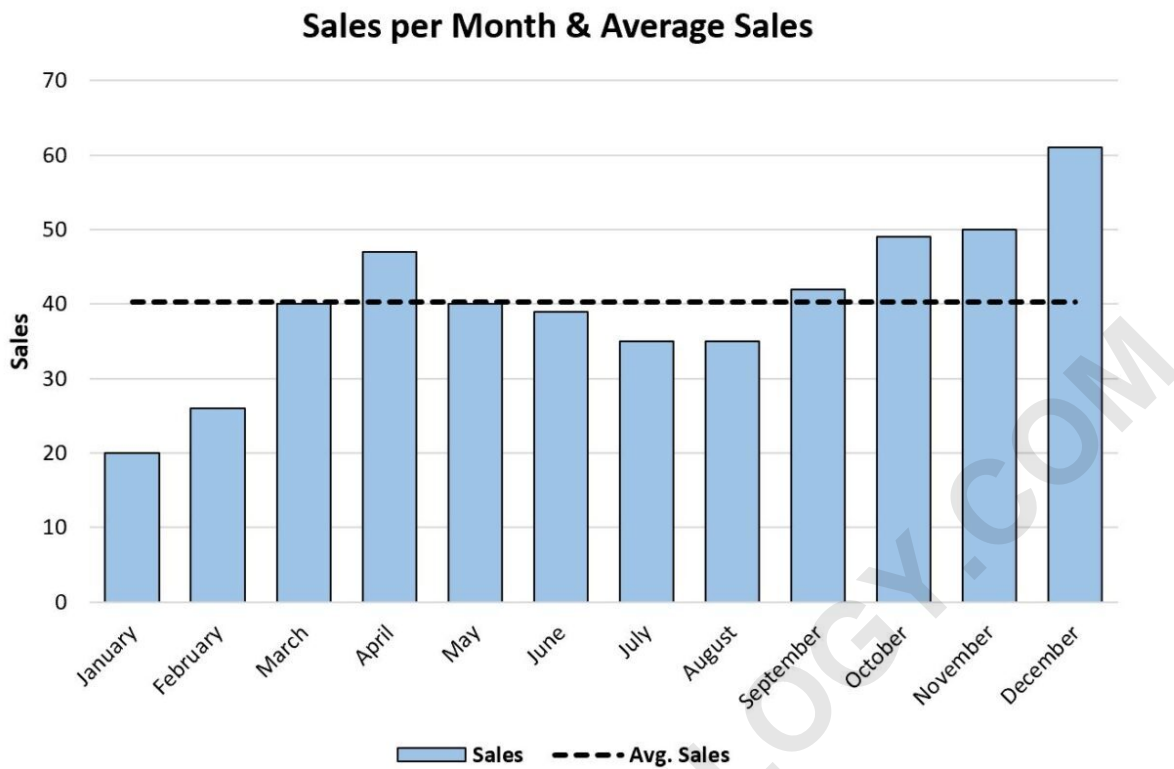
The chart will be converted into a bar chart with an average line:



The blue bars represent the sales each month and the orange line represents the average sales across all 12 months.

Step 4: Customize the Chart (Optional)

Feel free to add a title, customize the colors, customize the line style, and adjust the width of the bars and the average line to make the plot more aesthetically pleasing:



Additional Resources

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