

# How to Change Bin Width of Histograms in Excel

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December 10, 2025

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2025). *How to Change Bin Width of Histograms in Excel*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=106934>

In Excel, the bin width of histograms can be changed by selecting the data to be plotted, going to the "Insert" tab, selecting Histogram," and then adjusting the bin width in the Histogram" window that appears. This can be done by selecting the bin width from the drop-down menu or by manually entering the desired bin width. Furthermore, the number of bins can also be adjusted in the same window.

A **histogram** is a plot that can be used to quickly visualize the distribution of values in a dataset.

This tutorial provides a step-by-step example of how to create a histogram in Excel and how to modify the **bin width** so that the histogram looks exactly how you'd like.

### Step 1: Create the Data

First, we'll create the following dataset that shows the annual income of 26 different people:

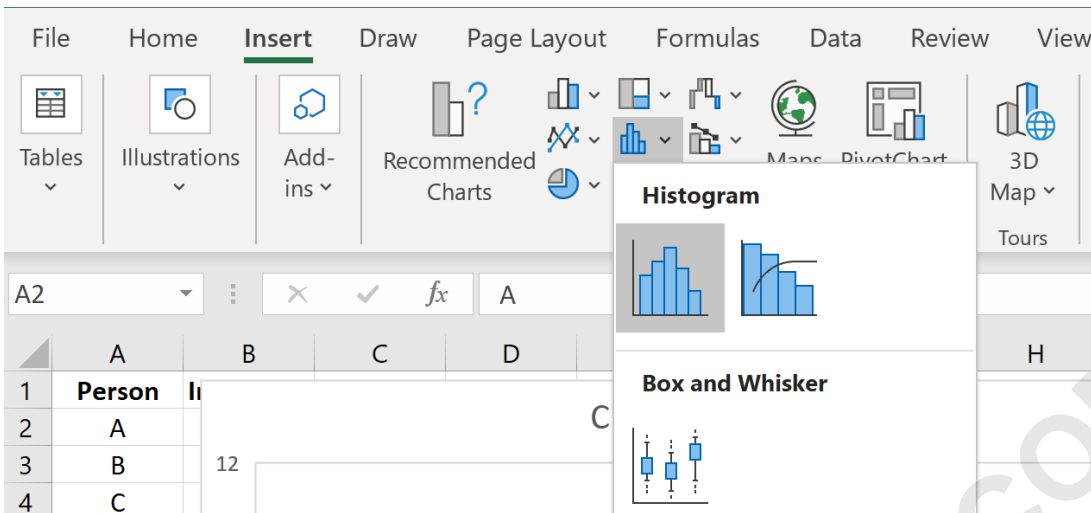
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Person</b>	<b>Income</b>					
2	A	\$34,000					
3	B	\$37,000					
4	C	\$41,000					
5	D	\$44,000					
6	E	\$45,000					
7	F	\$47,000					
8	G	\$51,000					
9	H	\$55,000					
10	I	\$58,000					
11	J	\$65,000					
12	K	\$66,000					
13	L	\$68,000					
14	M	\$73,000					
15	N	\$76,000					
16	O	\$81,000					
17	P	\$83,000					
18	Q	\$85,000					
19	R	\$87,000					
20	S	\$90,000					
21	T	\$93,000					
22	U	\$96,000					
23	V	\$97,000					
24	W	\$103,000					
25	X	\$109,000					
26	Y	\$115,000					
27	Z	\$117,000					
28							
29							

## Step 2: Create the Histogram

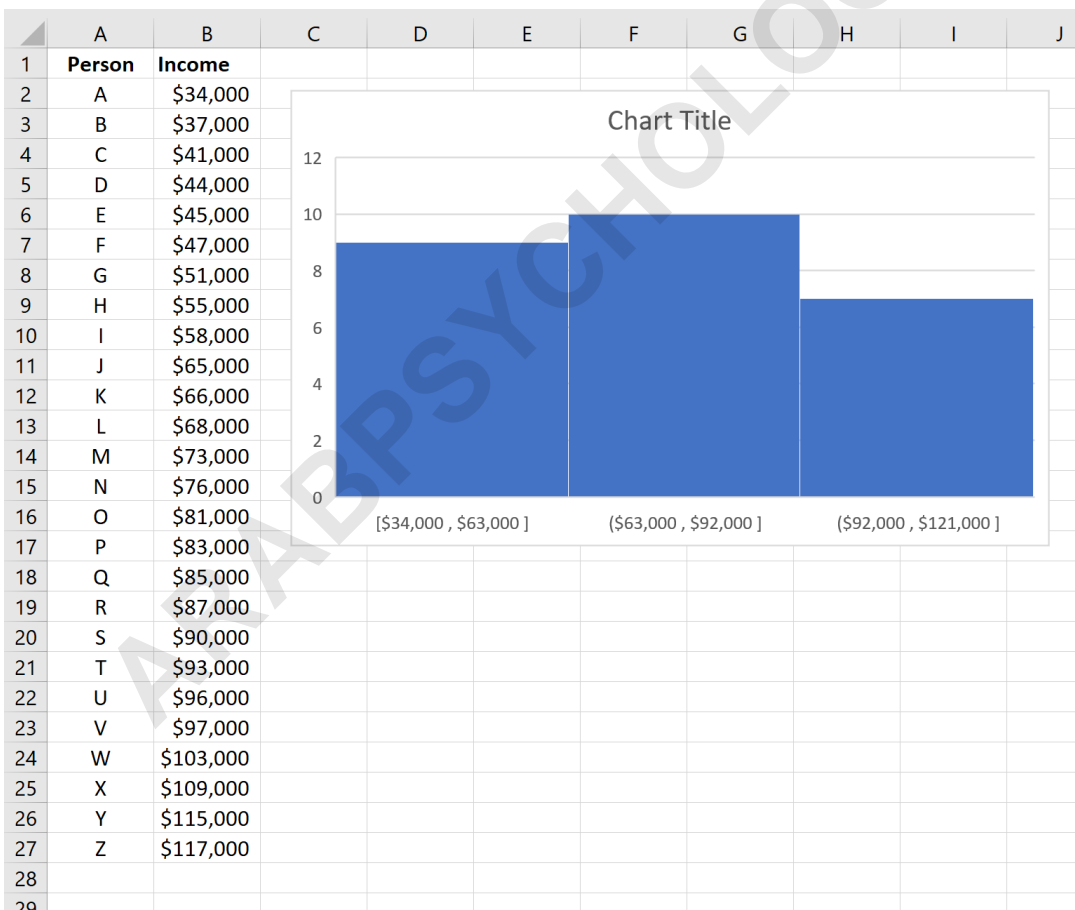
Next, we'll highlight the two columns of data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Person</b>	<b>Income</b>					
2	A	\$34,000					
3	B	\$37,000					
4	C	\$41,000					
5	D	\$44,000					
6	E	\$45,000					
7	F	\$47,000					
8	G	\$51,000					
9	H	\$55,000					
10	I	\$58,000					
11	J	\$65,000					
12	K	\$66,000					
13	L	\$68,000					
14	M	\$73,000					
15	N	\$76,000					
16	O	\$81,000					
17	P	\$83,000					
18	Q	\$85,000					
19	R	\$87,000					
20	S	\$90,000					
21	T	\$93,000					
22	U	\$96,000					
23	V	\$97,000					
24	W	\$103,000					
25	X	\$109,000					
26	Y	\$115,000					
27	Z	\$117,000					
28							
29							
30							

Then we'll click the **INSERT** tab along the top ribbon, then we'll click the **Histogram** icon within the **Charts** section.



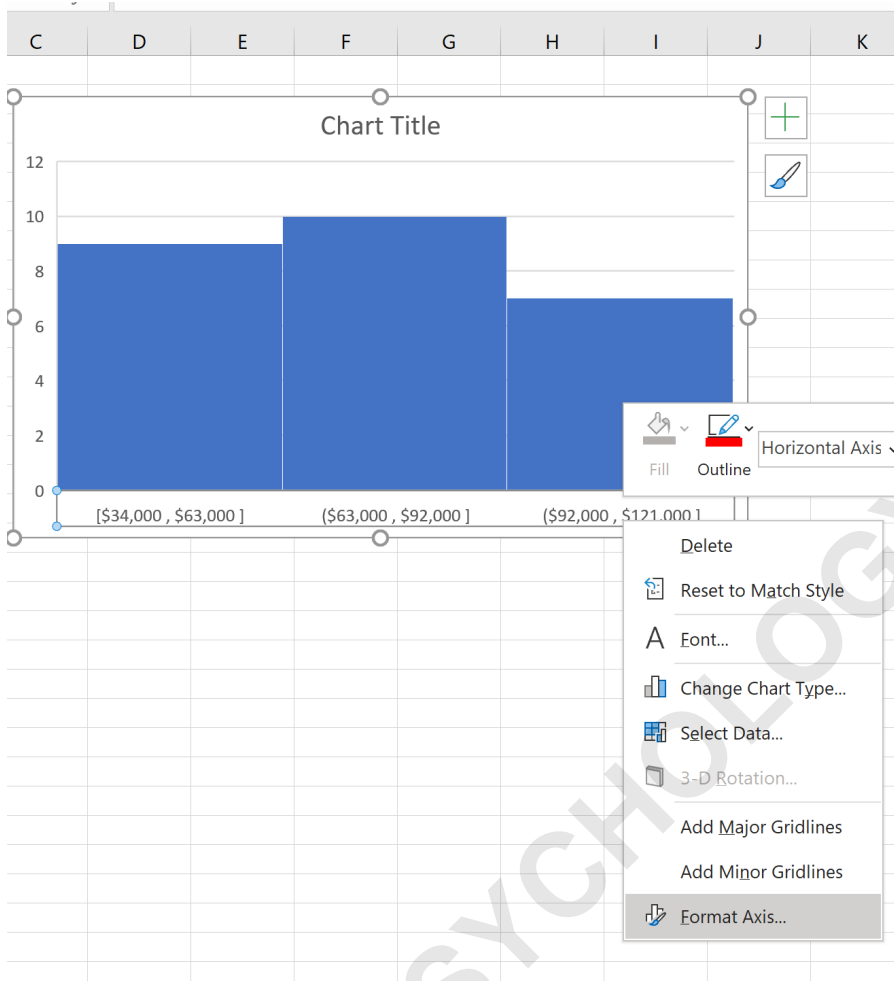
This creates the following histogram by default:



### Step 3: Adjust the Bin Width

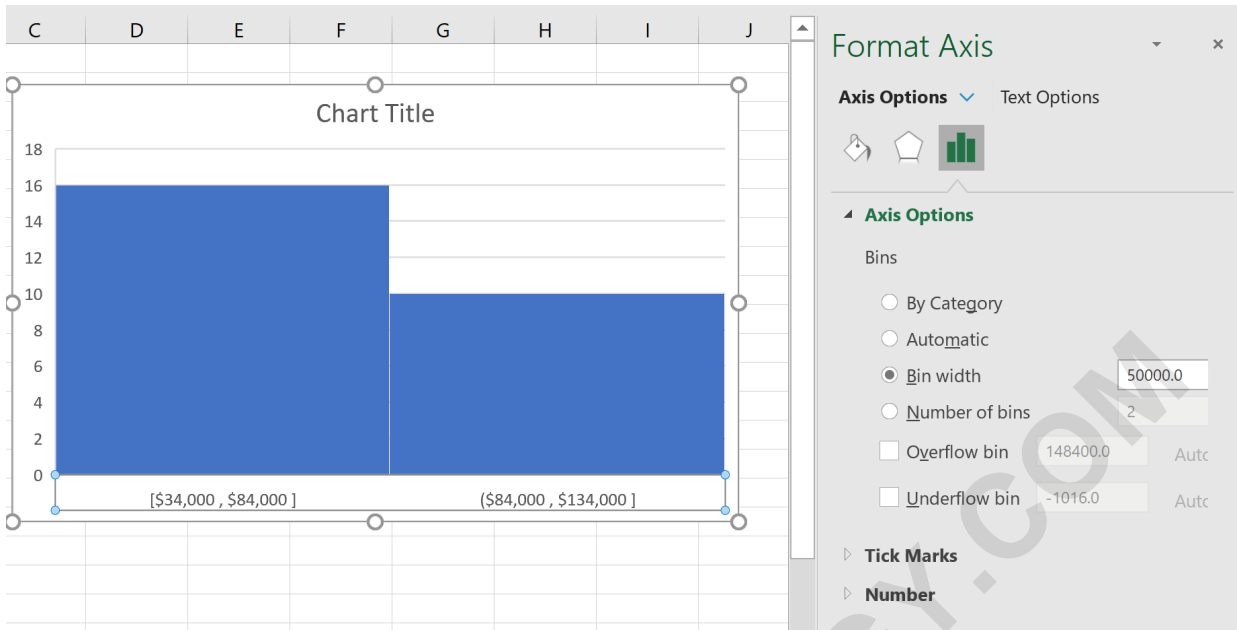
To adjust the bin width, right click the horizontal axis on the histogram and then click **Format Axis**

from the dropdown:



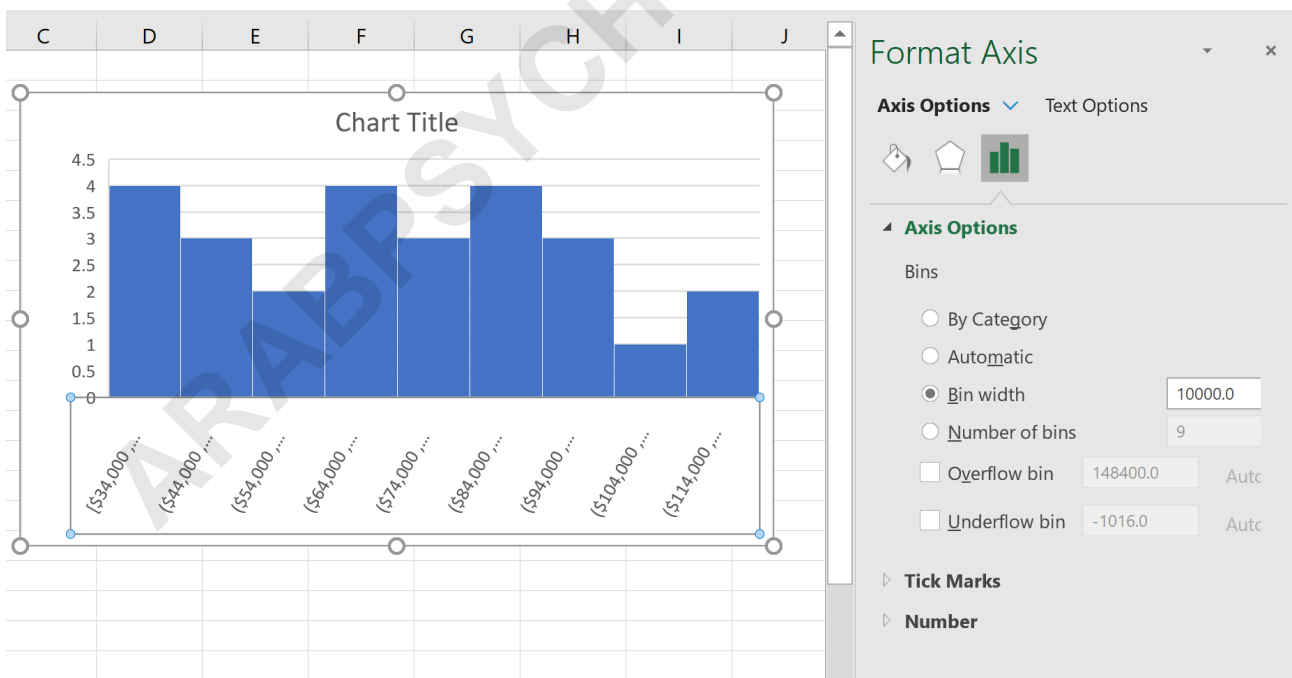
In the window that appears to the right, we can see that Excel chose the bin width to be **29,000**. We can change this to any number we'd like.

For example, we could increase the bin width to **50,000**:



Notice how this increases the width of each bin and reduces the total number of bins.

We could also decrease the bin width to **10,000**:



This decreases the width of each bin and increases the total number of bins in the histogram.

Feel free to modify the bin width to any value you'd like and keep in mind the following rules of thumb:

**Increasing the bin width** often decreases the number of total bins in the histogram and leads to fatter and fewer bins.

**Decreasing the bin width** often increases the number of total bins in the histogram and leads to narrower and more bins.

*You can find more Excel tutorials on .*

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