

Ten tips for charts

After going through these ten charting tips, you'll be faster and more efficient than ever before.



Let's go >

Hello, and welcome to Mark's Excel Tips. In this article, I will show you the seventh tip, in a series of 10, tips for Excel charts. After going through these ten charting tips, you'll be faster and more efficient than ever before. You can find the links to each of these 10 Excel tips at the bottom of this article. Let's get started.

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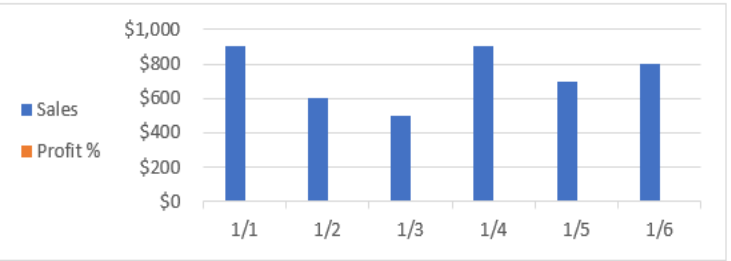
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Q13

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T

Tip #7: Use a secondary axis to create a combo chart.

- 1 The chart below has two data series: **Sales** and **Profit %**. But we need **Profit %** to be represented by a horizontal line on the chart, not a column.
- 2 Select the chart below, and then on the **Design** tab, click **Change Chart Type**. Then click **Combo** in the lower-left.
- 3 On the right, make sure the Chart Type for Profit % is set to **Line**, and the **Secondary Axis** checkbox selected.
- 4 Click **OK**, and the Profit % will be plotted with a line. Now you can compare the two series. For example, sales were low on 1/3, but profit was great!



Date	Sales	Profit %
1-Jan	\$900	34%
2-Jan	\$600	27%
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WHY USE A SECONDARY AXIS?
 When two columns contain different types of numbers, you'll want to use a secondary axis. In this example, the **Sales** column contains dollar amounts. But the **Profit %** column contains percentages. Because the two columns of data are so different, using a combo chart with a secondary axis lets you compare the two columns with different chart elements: columns for **Sales**, and a line for **Profit %**.

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Tip #7: Use a secondary axis to create a combo chart.

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing Add-ins

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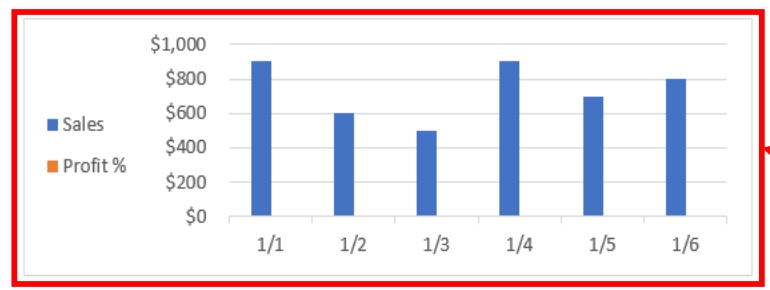
Q13

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The chart below has two data series: Sales and Profit %. But we need Profit % to be represented by a horizontal line on the chart, not a column.

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing Add-ins Analyze Data

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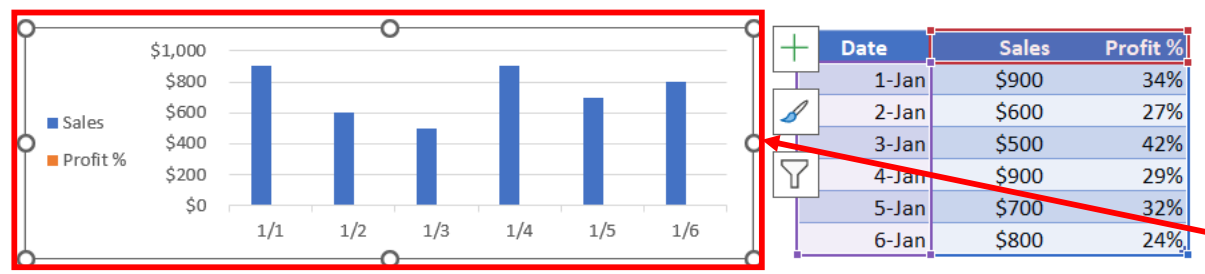
Chart 14 fx

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T

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Select the chart below.

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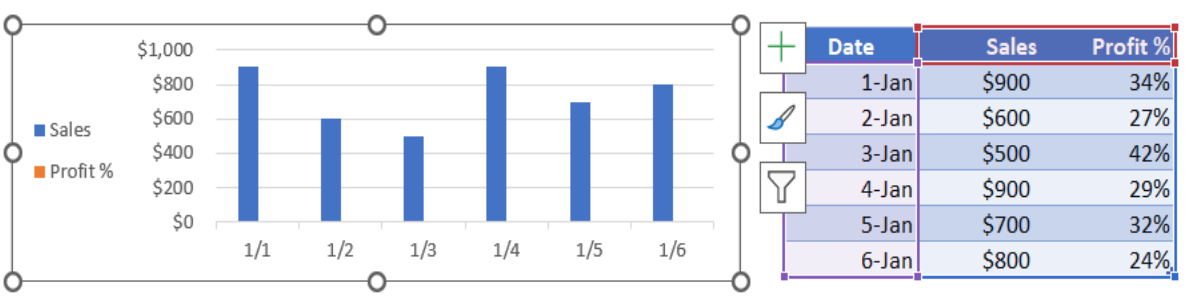
Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing Add-ins

Chart 14

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T

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And then on the Design tab.

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Add Chart Element Quick Layout Change Colors
Switch Row/Column Select Data **Change Chart Type** Move Chart

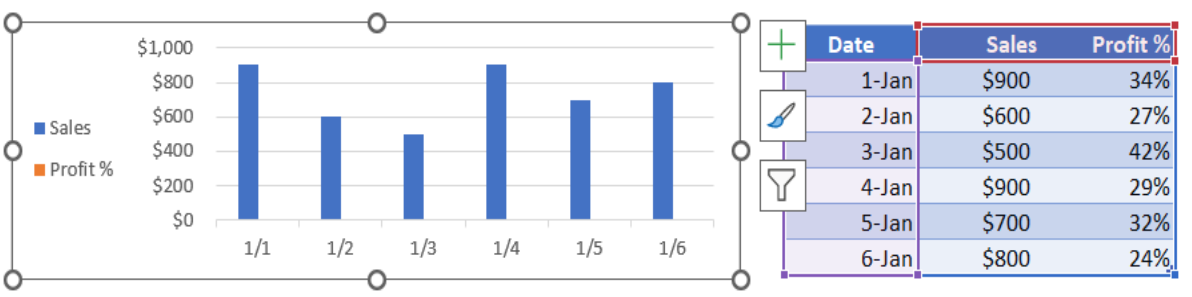
AutoSave Off Save Undo Redo

Chart 14

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Change Chart Type
Change to a different type of chart.

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Click on Change Chart Type.

Add Chart Quick Change Colors

Chart Layouts Chart Styles

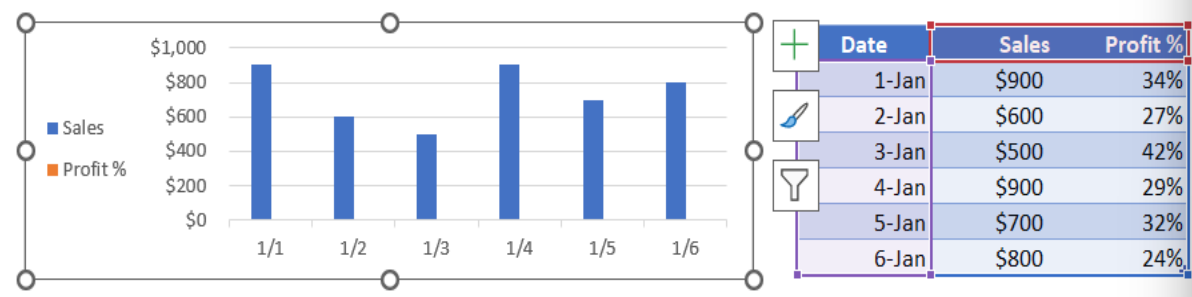
Switch Row/Column Select Data Change Chart Type Move Chart

AutoSave Off Save Undo Redo

Chart 14

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- On the right, make sure the Chart Type for Profit % is set to **Line**, and the **Secondary Axis** checkbox selected.
- Click **OK**, and the chart will be plotted with two series. For example, sales were low on 1/2 and 1/3, but profit was great!



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Change Chart Type

Recommended Charts All Charts

- Recent
- Templates
- Column**
- Line
- Pie
- Bar
- Area
- X Y (Scatter)
- Map
- Stock
- Surface
- Radar
- Treemap
- Sunburst
- Histogram
- Box & Whisker
- Waterfall
- Funnel
- Combo**

Clustered Column

Then click Combo in the lower-left.

OK Cancel

Add Chart Quick Change Colors

Chart Layouts Chart Styles

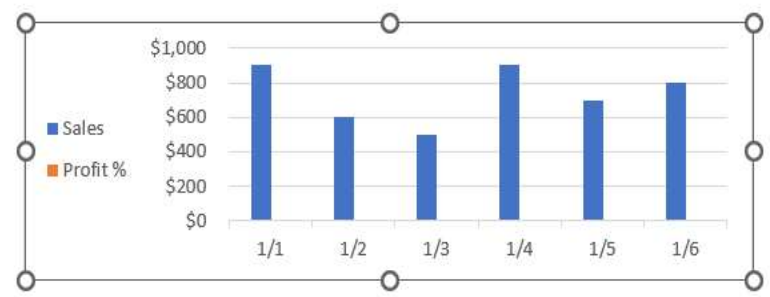
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- Treemap
- Sunburst
- Histogram
- Box & Whisker
- Waterfall
- Funnel
- Combo

Custom Combination

Choose the chart type and axis for your data series:

Series Name	Chart Type	Secondary Axis
Sales	Clustered Column	<input type="checkbox"/>
Profit %	Line	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

On the right, make sure the Chart Type for Profit % is set to Line, and the Secondary Axis checkbox is selected.

Add Chart Element Quick Layout Change Colors

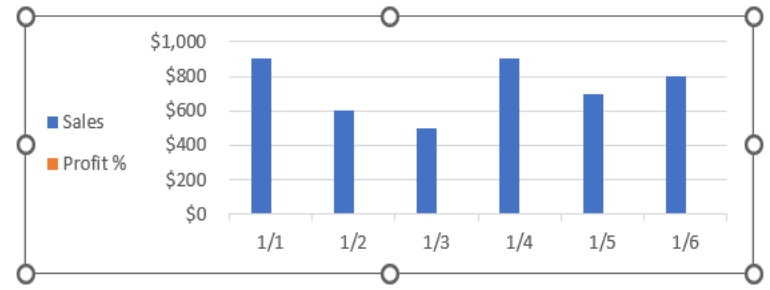
Chart Layouts Chart Styles

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OK Cancel

Click OK.

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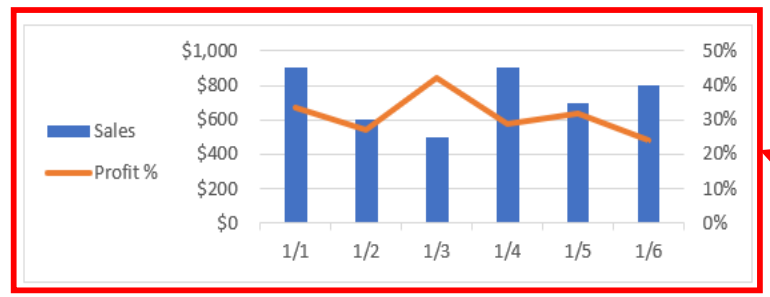
J31

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Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing Add-ins

Paste, Font: Calibri, 11, Bold, Italic, Underline, Paragraph, Color, Background Color, Text Color, Alignment: Left, Center, Right, Justify, Indent, Decrease Indent, Increase Indent, Merge & Center, Number: General, Currency, Percentage, Thousand Separator, Decimal Places, Styles: Conditional Formatting, Format as Table, Cell Styles, Cells: Insert, Delete, Format, Editing: AutoSum, Fill, Clear, Sort & Filter, Find & Select, Add-ins: Add-ins, Analyze Data

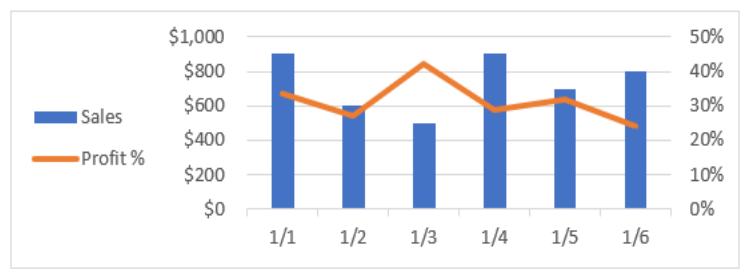
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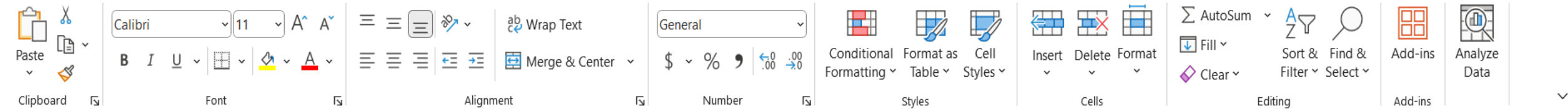
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SIMPLE & EASY TO FOLLOW HOW TO VIDEOS



Website Links For 10 Tips For Excel Charts:

- Tip # 1: [Press ALT+F1 to quickly make a chart](#)
- Tip # 2: [Select specific columns, before creating a chart](#)
- Tip # 3: [Use a table with a chart](#)
- Tip # 4: [Quickly filter data from a chart](#)
- Tip # 5: [Use PivotCharts when your data isn't summarized](#)
- Tip # 6: [Create multi-level labels](#)
- Tip # 7: [Use a secondary axis to create a combo chart](#)
- Tip # 8: [Hook up a chart title to a cell](#)
- Tip # 9: [Split off slices into a second pie](#)
- Tip # 10: [Hover over chart elements to get a preview](#)

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