

are aware that charts are useful in conveying you data message visually. In addition to the chart types that are available in Excel, there are some widely used application charts that became popular. Some of these are also included in Excel 2016.

In case you are using Excel 2013 or earlier versions, please refer to the tutorial – Advanced Excel Charts to learn about these charts and how to create them with the built-in chart types.

Types of Advanced Excel Charts

Following advanced Excel chart types will come handy to include in your dashboards –

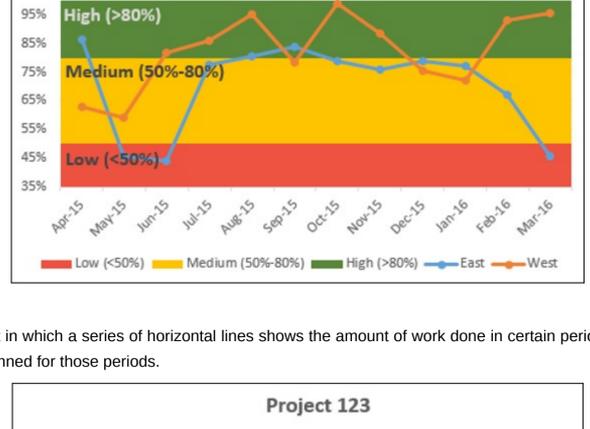
Waterfall Chart

Waterfall charts are ideal for showing how you have arrived at a net value such as net income, by breaking down the cumulative effect of positive and negative contributions.



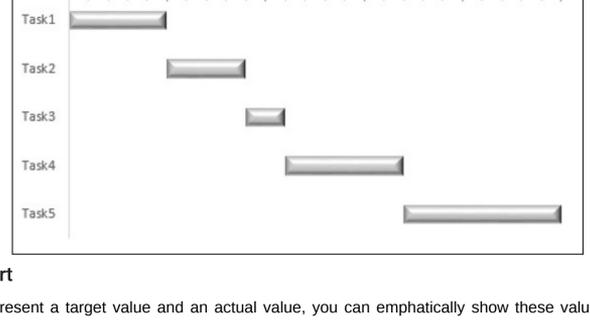
Band Chart

Band chart is suitable to represent data across a time period graphically, confiding each data point to a defined interval. For example, customer survey results of a product from different regions.



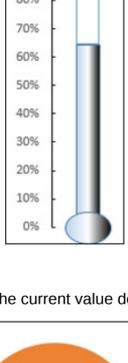
Gantt Chart

A Gantt chart is a chart in which a series of horizontal lines shows the amount of work done in certain periods of time in relation to the amount of work planned for those periods.



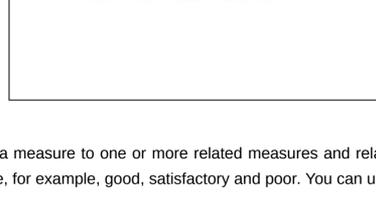
Thermometer Chart

When you have to represent a target value and an actual value, you can emphatically show these values with a Thermometer chart.



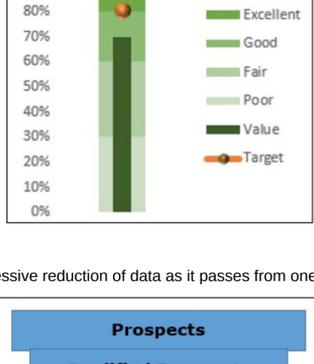
Gauge Chart

A Gauge Chart shows the minimum, the maximum and the current value depicting how far from the maximum you are.



Bullet Chart

Bullet chart can be used to compare a measure to one or more related measures and relate the measure to defined quantitative ranges that declare its qualitative state, for example, good, satisfactory and poor. You can use Bullet chart to display KPIs also.



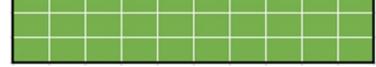
Funnel Chart

Funnel chart is used to visualize the progressive reduction of data as it passes from one phase to another. E.g. Sales Pipeline.



Waffle Chart

Waffle chart is a good choice to display work progress as percentage of completion, goal achieved vs Target, etc.



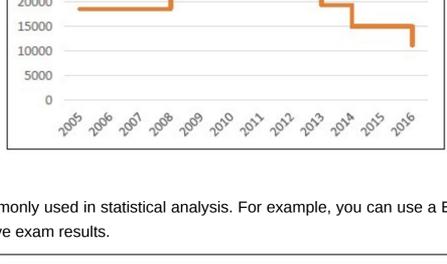
Heat Map

A Heat Map is a visual representation of data in a Table to highlight the data points of significance.

S. No.	Month	Refrigerator	Television	Washing Machine	Air Conditioner
1	April	High	Low	Low	Low
2	May	Low	Low	High	Low
3	June	Low	Low	High	High
4	July	Low	Low	Low	High
5	August	Low	Low	Low	High
6	September	Low	High	Low	High
7	October	Low	High	Low	High
8	November	Low	Low	Low	High
9	December	Low	Low	High	Low
10	January	Low	Low	High	Low
11	February	Low	High	High	Low
12	March	Low	Low	Low	Low

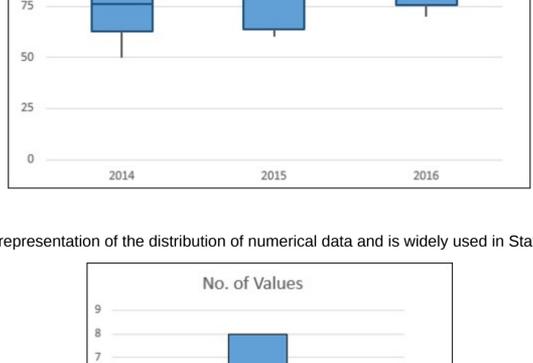
Step Chart

If you have to display the changes that occur at irregular intervals that remain constant between changes, Step chart is useful.



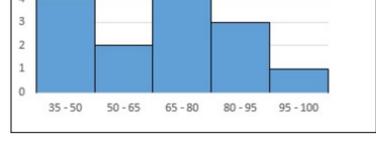
Box and Whisker Chart

Box and Whisker charts are commonly used in statistical analysis. For example, you can use a Box and Whisker chart to compare experimental results or competitive exam results.



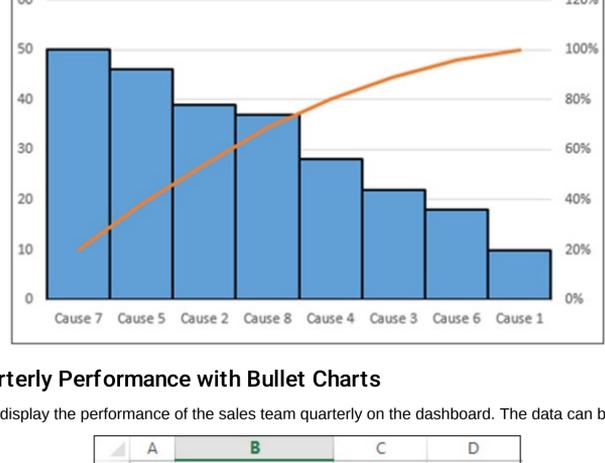
Histogram

A Histogram is a graphical representation of the distribution of numerical data and is widely used in Statistical Analysis.



Pareto Chart

Pareto chart is another chart widely used in Statistical Analysis for decision making. It represents the Pareto analysis, also called 80/20 Rule, meaning that 80% of results are due to 20% of causes.

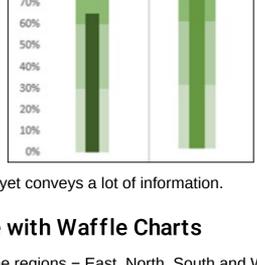


Displaying Quarterly Performance with Bullet Charts

Suppose you have to display the performance of the sales team quarterly on the dashboard. The data can be as given below.

	A	B	C	D
1				
2		Performance	Qtr1	Qtr2
3		Poor	30%	30%
4		Fair	30%	30%
5		Good	20%	20%
6		Excellent	20%	20%
7		Target	80%	72%
8				

You can display this information on the dashboard using Bullet chart as follows –



As you can observe, this occupies less space, yet conveys a lot of information.

Displaying Profit % Region-Wise with Waffle Charts

Suppose you have to display the Profit % for the regions – East, North, South and West.

	A	B	C
1			
2		Region	Profit %
3		East	85%
4		North	75%
5		South	55%
6		West	44%

You can display this information emphatically on your dashboard with Waffle charts as shown below.



This display not only depicts the values, but also a good comparison.