

Pareto chart is widely used in Statistical Analysis for decision-making. It represents the Pareto principle, also called the 80/20 Rule.

Pareto Principle (80/20 Rule)

Pareto principle, also called the 80/20 Rule means that 80% of the results are due to 20% of the causes. For example, 80% of the defects can be attributed to the key 20% of the causes. It is also termed as vital few and trivial many.

Vilfredo Pareto conducted surveys and observed that 80% of income in most of the countries went to 20% of the population.

Examples of Pareto Principle (80/20 Rule)

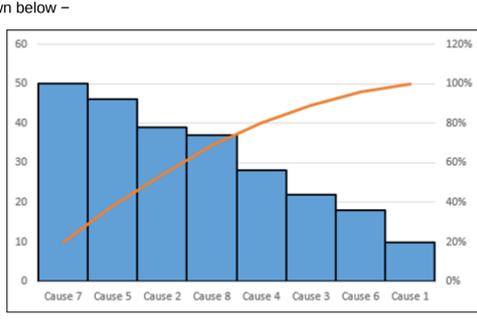
The Pareto principle or the 80/20 Rule can be applied to various scenarios –

- 80% of customer complaints arise from 20% of your supplies.
- 80% of schedule delays result from 20% of the key causes.
- 80% of a company profit can be attributed to 20% of its products.
- 80% of a company revenues are produced by 20% of the employees.
- 80% of the system problems are caused by 20% of causes of defects.

What is a Pareto Chart?

A Pareto chart is a combination of a Column chart and a Line chart. The Pareto chart shows the Columns in descending order of the Frequencies and the Line depicts the cumulative totals of Categories.

A Pareto chart will be as shown below –



Advantages of Pareto Charts

You can use a Pareto chart for the following –

- To analyze data about the frequency of problems in a process.
- To identify the significant causes for problems in a process.
- To identify the significant areas of defects in a product.
- To understand the significant bottlenecks in a process pipeline.
- To identify the largest issues being faced by a team or an organization.
- To know the top few reasons for employee attrition.
- To identify the topmost products that result in high profit.
- To decide on the significant improvements that increase the value of a company.

Preparation of Data

Consider the following data, where the defect causes and the respective counts are given.

	A	B	C
1			
2		Defect Causes	Defect Count
3		Cause 1	10
4		Cause 2	39
5		Cause 3	22
6		Cause 4	28
7		Cause 5	46
8		Cause 6	18
9		Cause 7	50
10		Cause 8	37

Step 1 – Sort the table by the column - Defect Count in descending order (Largest to Smallest).

	A	B	C
1			
2		Defect Causes	Defect Count
3		Cause 7	50
4		Cause 5	46
5		Cause 2	39
6		Cause 8	37
7		Cause 4	28
8		Cause 3	22
9		Cause 6	18
10		Cause 1	10
11			250

Step 2 – Create a column Cumulative Count as given below –

	A	B	C	D
1				
2		Defect Causes	Defect Count	Cumulative Count
3		Cause 7	50	=C3
4		Cause 5	46	=D3+C4
5		Cause 2	39	=D4+C5
6		Cause 8	37	=D5+C6
7		Cause 4	28	=D6+C7
8		Cause 3	22	=D7+C8
9		Cause 6	18	=D8+C9
10		Cause 1	10	=D9+C10

This would result in the following table –

	A	B	C	D
1				
2		Defect Causes	Defect Count	Cumulative Count
3		Cause 7	50	50
4		Cause 5	46	96
5		Cause 2	39	135
6		Cause 8	37	172
7		Cause 4	28	200
8		Cause 3	22	222
9		Cause 6	18	240
10		Cause 1	10	250

Step 3 – Sum the column Defect Count.

Step 4 – Create a column Cumulative % as given below.

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2		Defect Causes	Defect Count	Cumulative Count	Cumulative %
3		Cause 7	50	=C3	=D3/\$C\$11
4		Cause 5	46	=D3+C4	=D4/\$C\$11
5		Cause 2	39	=D4+C5	=D5/\$C\$11
6		Cause 8	37	=D5+C6	=D6/\$C\$11
7		Cause 4	28	=D6+C7	=D7/\$C\$11
8		Cause 3	22	=D7+C8	=D8/\$C\$11
9		Cause 6	18	=D8+C9	=D9/\$C\$11
10		Cause 1	10	=D9+C10	=D10/\$C\$11
11			=SUM(C3:C10)		

Step 5 – Format the column Cumulative % as Percentage.

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2		Defect Causes	Defect Count	Cumulative Count	Cumulative %
3		Cause 7	50	50	20%
4		Cause 5	46	96	38%
5		Cause 2	39	135	54%
6		Cause 8	37	172	69%
7		Cause 4	28	200	80%
8		Cause 3	22	222	89%
9		Cause 6	18	240	96%
10		Cause 1	10	250	100%
11			250		

You will use this table to create a Pareto chart.

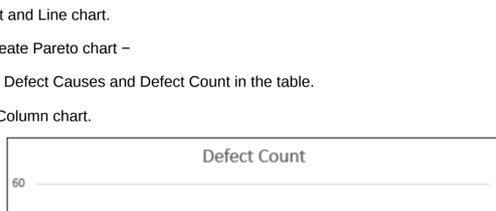
Creating a Pareto Chart

By creating a Pareto chart, you can conclude what are the key causes for the defects. In Excel, you can create a Pareto chart as a combo chart of Column chart and Line chart.

Following are the steps to create Pareto chart –

Step 1 – Select the columns Defect Causes and Defect Count in the table.

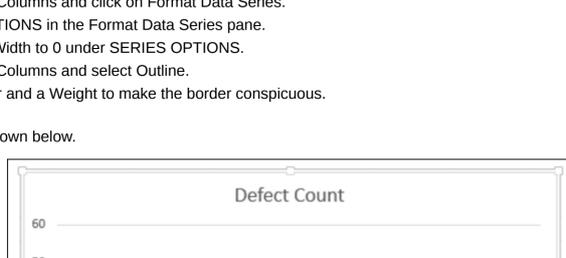
Step 2 – Insert a Clustered Column chart.



Step 3 – As you can see, the columns representing causes are in descending order. Format the chart as follows.

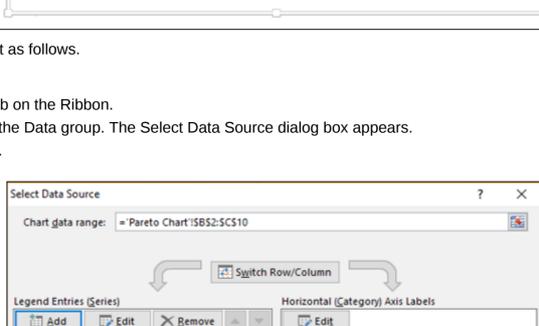
- Right click on the Columns and click on Format Data Series.
- Click SERIES OPTIONS in the Format Data Series pane.
- Change the Gap Width to 0 under SERIES OPTIONS.
- Right click on the Columns and select Outline.
- Select a dark color and a Weight to make the border conspicuous.

Your chart will be as shown below.



Step 4 – Design the chart as follows.

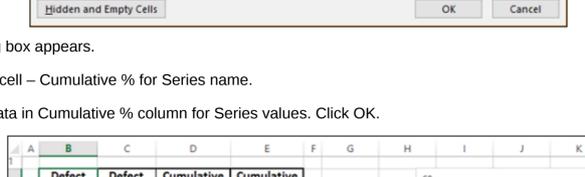
- Click on the chart.
- Click the DESIGN tab on the Ribbon.
- Click Select Data in the Data group. The Select Data Source dialog box appears.
- Click the Add button.



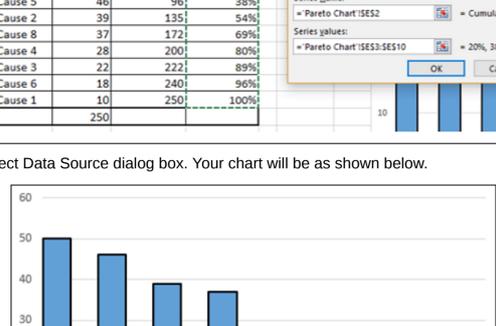
The Edit Series dialog box appears.

Step 5 – Click on the cell – Cumulative % for Series name.

Step 6 – Select the data in Cumulative % column for Series values. Click OK.



Step 7 – Click OK in the Select Data Source dialog box. Your chart will be as shown below.



Step 8 – Click the DESIGN tab on the Ribbon.

Step 9 – Click CHANGE Chart Type in the Type group.



As you can observe, 80% of the defects are due to two causes.

