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Chapter 12

Charting on Two Axes & Chart Types

When you go to create a chart, there is a lot of different charts that you can create, but one of the ones that I find the most useful is one that has got two different axes when you are actually comparing two different units and then two different chart types as well. That's something that would look like this, for example you have got your profits which are on a bar chart and then you've got a number of units on your line chart. So having two different types on a single chart and then most importantly having the two different axes because it is really quite handy to be able to compare because looking at the correlation.

Quite often when you are analysising the output of a model, just being able to look at two different units, so let's say we want to look at our market share versus our cash or something like that. You would expect that there would be a correlation and if there wasn't, you would want to know why and get underneath that.

It is really quite useful to be able to create a chart like that, just to really get underneath and understand and even to display the outcome of your model. Let's take a look on how to create these charts, it doesn't take very long, I will just take you through step by step on how to do it. It shows you how to do this in chapter 12 of the book. On your practical exercises sheet you have got a tab called chart on two axes, we have got our data here and what we want to plot is our units sold versus our profits, now the easiest way of creating a chart is to select the data and then just go insert chart. But to insert it I need to hold down my Control key. If you want to select non-consecutive ranges, just hold down your Control key, go to insert chart. I will create a line chart like that and it just pops up and if you are using 2003, you just go to insert and then chart. You have got both of them on the same axes and they are both line charts which doesn't look great.

What we are going to do is grab profits and we are going to change that to a bar chart or column chart. Right hand click, just select the one series by itself, right hand click, go to

change series chart type and we will just turn that into a column chart and what we are going to do then, is select units sold, right hand click, go to format data series and then we will say secondary axes. Pick it up like that and that's it having our chart on two different axes. If you are using the later version of Excel, you can very quickly just go in and change the look of it and make it look quite nice.

It doesn't take very long, but it is a really effective way of showing two different values on a single chart.

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