

Graphing in *Microsoft Excel XP/2000*

In *Microsoft Excel XP and Excel 2000*, there are 14 different types of charts that are available for users. These types also have sub-types that offer slight variations to each main category listing of chart. Utilizing charts effectively in *Excel* make it easier for users to see comparisons, patterns, and trends in your data. Learning the differences in the chart types, as well as each type's strengths and weaknesses, will ensure that users do not misinterpret the meaning of one's data.

Types of Charts in *Excel XP/2000*:

- **Column** This type shows changes over time or comparisons among individual items.
- **Bar** This type shows comparisons among individual items; can be shown either horizontally or vertically.
- **Line** Depicts trends or patterns at set intervals or categories.
- **Pie** Shows the proportional size of items that make up a variable; use values for each part to increase the clarity.
- **XY (Scatter)** Shows the relationship among numerical values in variables or X-Y pairs.
- **Area** Depicts the magnitude of change relative to time or relationship of parts to a whole.
- **Doughnut** Shows the relationship of parts to a whole; can use more than one variable with this type.
- **Radar** This chart type compares an aggregate of 2 or more variables (data series).
- **Surface** This type is useful for finding ideal combinations of sets of data, such as in a topo map.
- **Bubble** A type of XY scatter plot; the size of the data marker represents a third variable.
- **Stock** Hi-low chart used for stock prices or scientific data.
- **Cylinder** Adds a cylindrical effect to 3-dimensional column and bar charts.
- **Cone** Adds a conical effect to 3-dimensional column and bar charts.
- **Pyramid** Adds a pyramid shape to 3-dimensional column and bar charts.

Typical Components of an *Excel* Chart:

Here are few of the components that comprise a chart in *Excel XP/2000*.

Category Labels — Axes labels that identify the different categories of the data series in a chart

Chart Title — The title of your *Excel* chart

Gridlines — Lines on a chart that make it easier to view and evaluate data

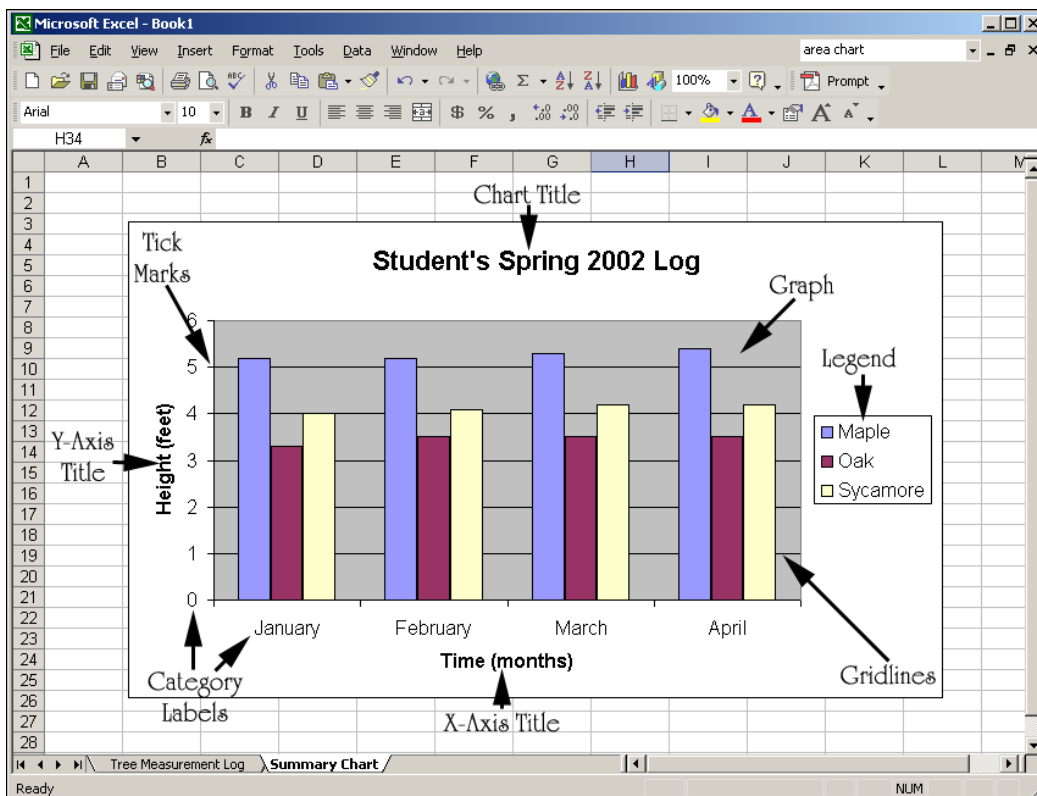
Graph — Area of the chart where the data series are represented

Legend — Location on the chart that identifies the patterns or colors that are associated with the variables

Tick Marks — Major or Minor marks that denote increment ranges on either axis

X-Axis Title — Title of the Horizontal Axis of the chart

Y-Axis Title — Title of the Vertical Axis of the chart



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