advanced features

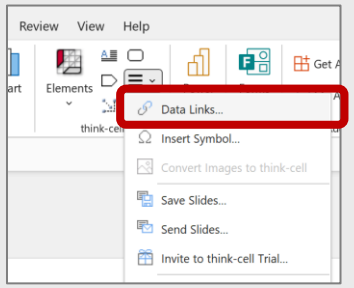
Training manual for think-cell v.11

Jan 2023

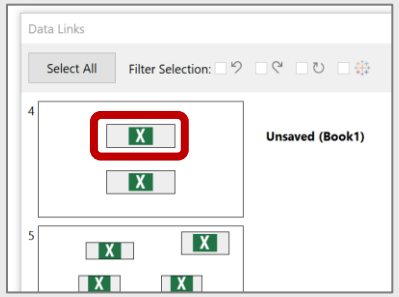
think-cell

Manage all data links from a single location

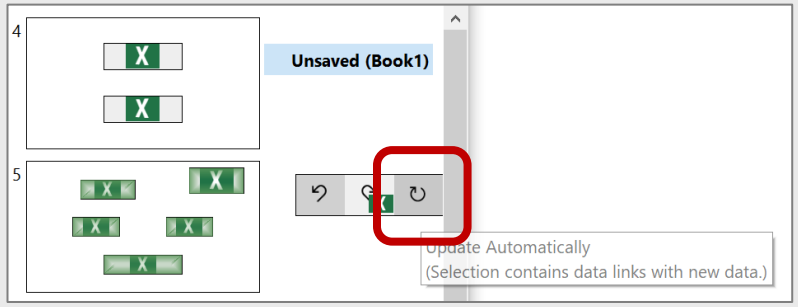
1. Create think-cell elements from an external Excel worksheet (charts, tables)
2. Find the “Data Links” in additional drop-down menu



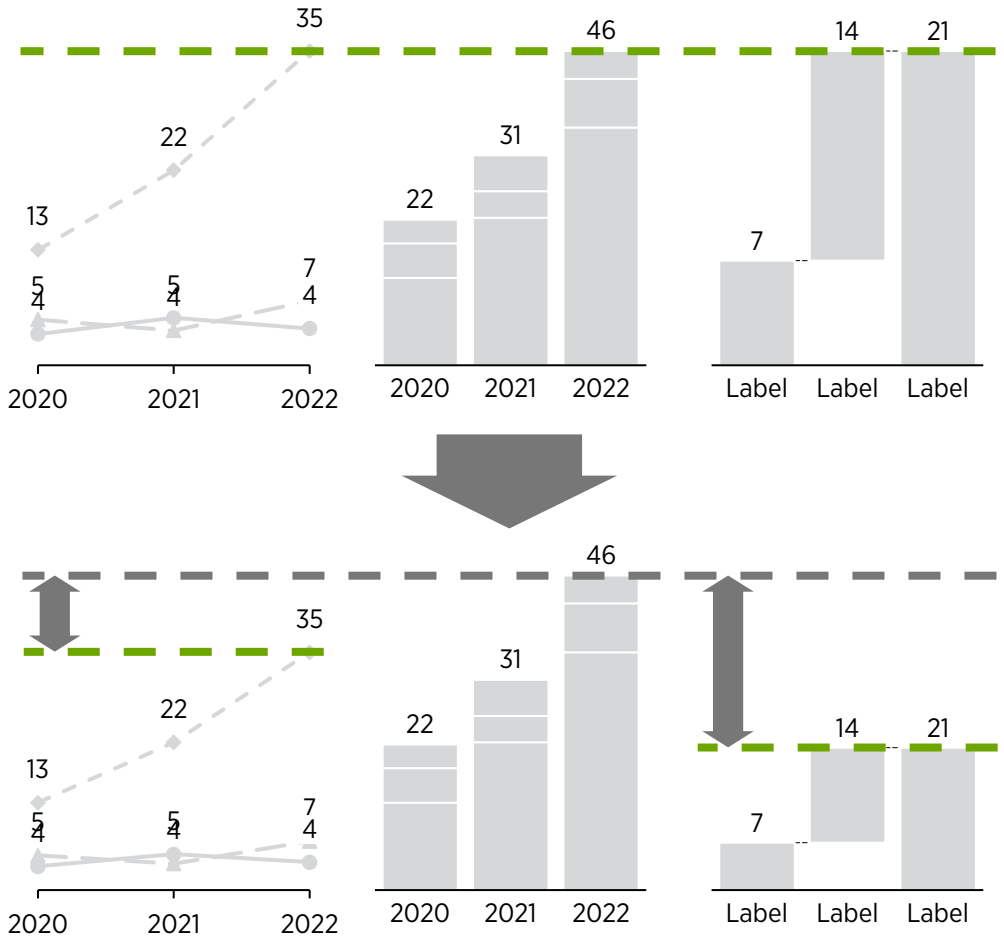
3. Select the element(s) that require updates (green X icon appears after an Excel data update)



4. Set updating rules to automatic or manual, and apply updates with a single click once Excel data is changed



Set equal axis scale to multiple charts



1. Select elements from a set of charts that require setting the same scale (bars, columns, markers in a line chart, etc.) – use CTRL+click for each element
2. Right-click on any of the selected elements and select “Set Same Scale”

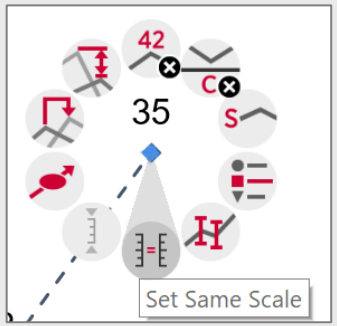
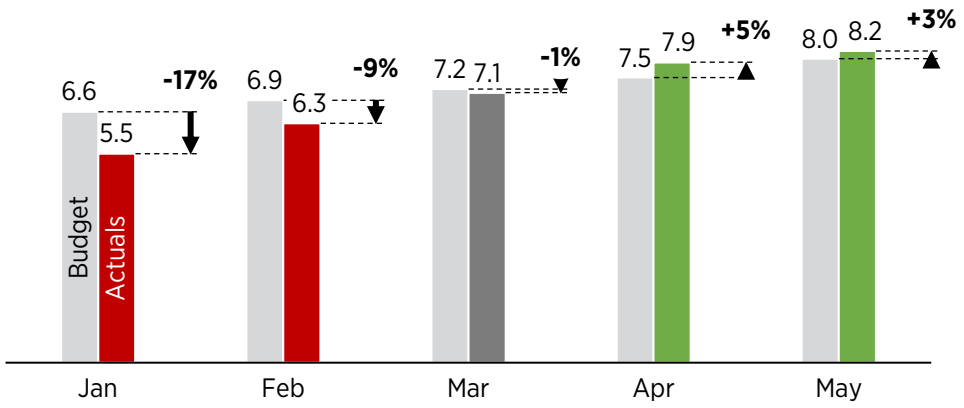
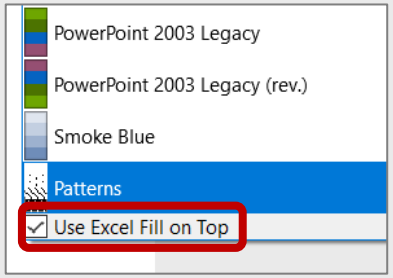


Chart color scheme imported from Excel fill colors

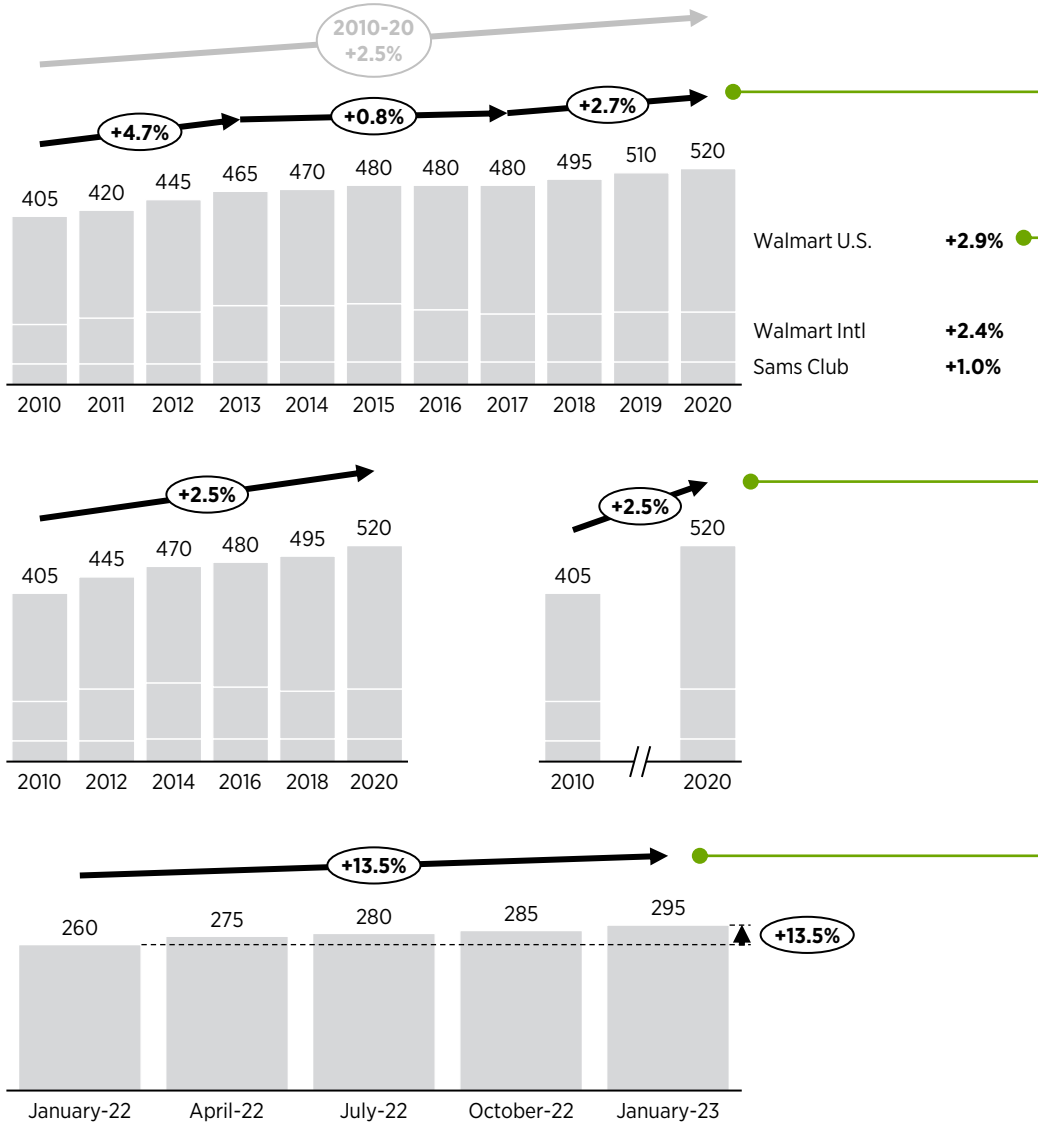


1. Create and populate a chart
2. Apply relevant colour coding into the worksheet (in Excel if imported or in a built-in datasheet) – such as conditional formatting based on cell value
3. Left-click on a chart area, in a drop-down menu for colour scheme select the option “Use Excel Fill on Top”



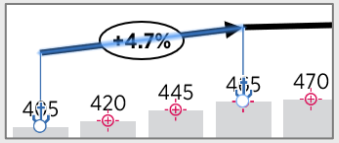
Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Budget	6.6	6.9	7.2	7.5	8
Actuals	5.5	6.3	7.1	7.9	8.2

Advanced CAGR calculations



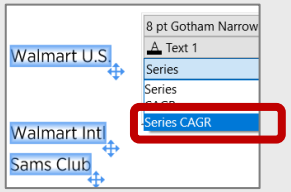
CAGRs for specific periods

1. If you observe different growth rates across different period ranges, you can show several CAGRs for each of these period ranges
2. Select a CAGR arrow and drag the connectors, add another CAGR arrow and place it to the next range



CAGRs for segments

To show growth rate for individual segments (series), bring Series labels, select them and right-click – select "Series CAGR" in a drop-down menu

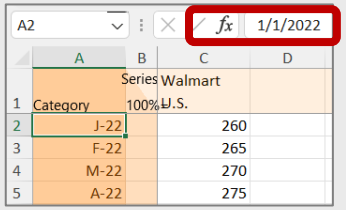


Skipped periods (columns)

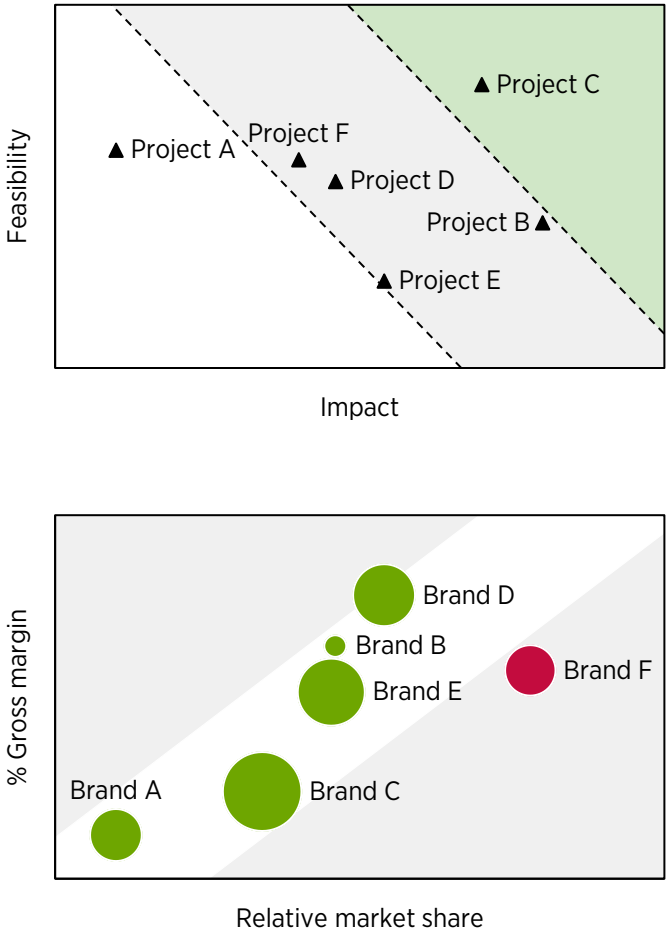
1. If you need to show selected periods (years) from a longer timeline (i.e., show every other year), the CAGR calculation will not be affected
2. To hide columns, you can select the columns (rows if the worksheet is transposed) and right-click – hide

CAGR based on monthly observations

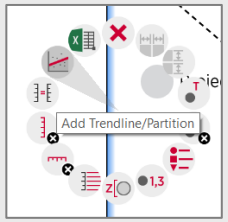
1. If you are working with a per-unit, relative or cumulative metrics with more frequent observations (i.e., monthly), you can still use a CAGR arrow to calculate annualized growth rate
2. For this you need to open the worksheet and convert period names into Excel date format (right-click on a cell with period label – format cells – date)



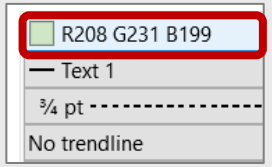
Setting band / sectors in bubble chart with color shading



1. Create a scatter / bubble chart
2. Right-click within chart area – select “Add Trendline/Partition”

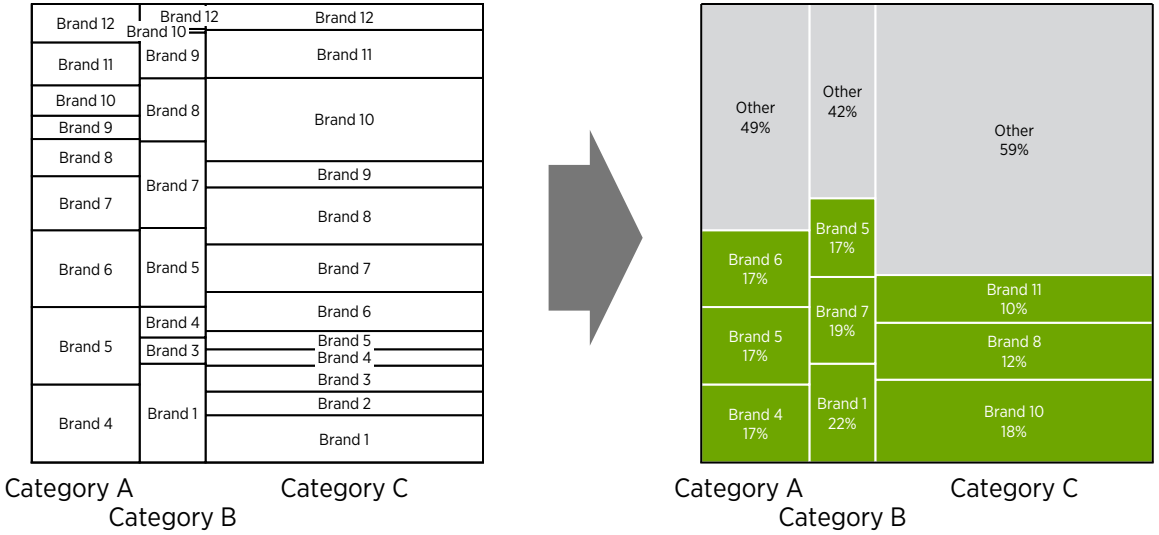


3. Left-click on a partition line for formatting options, select colour and line colour / type

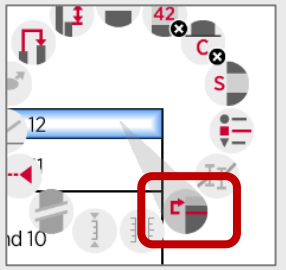


4. To create a visual band / corridor (i.e., to represent expected correlation), copy the partition line (CTRL and drag) and apply colour flip: double-click on the partition line. Alternative: right-click on the line and select the Flip button

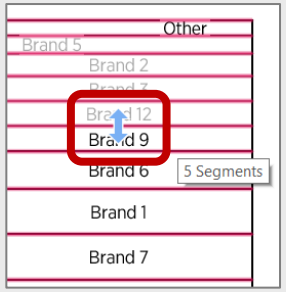
Add and edit 'others' in a Mekko / stacked column chart



1. Create and populate a chart
2. Left-click on a chart area, in a drop-down list select “Segments in Descending Order”
3. Select smallest items, right-click and select “Move to Other Series”

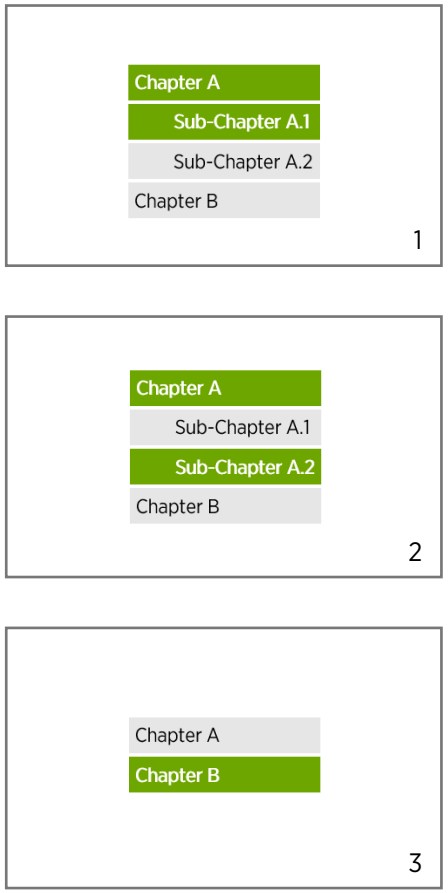


4. Select “Other” element in a column, click on a vertical arrow and drag down to add more elements into “Other” (such as to show only top-3 players within in each market segment)

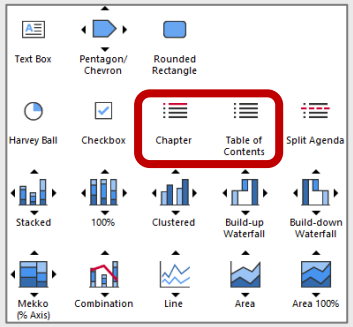


5. Apply formatting to highlight the remaining largest items

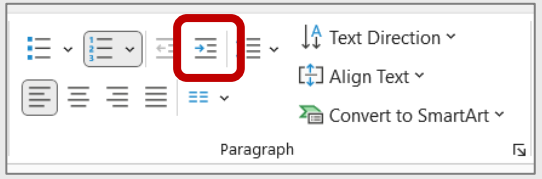
Agenda sub-chapters



1. Create agenda and add items

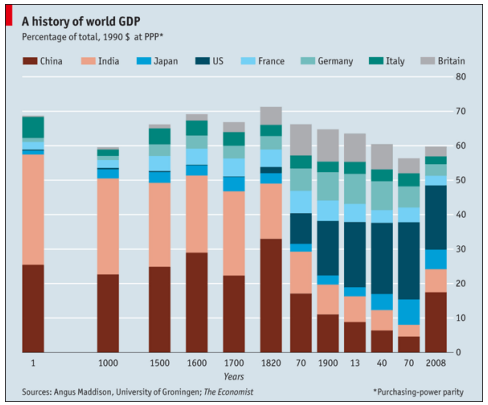


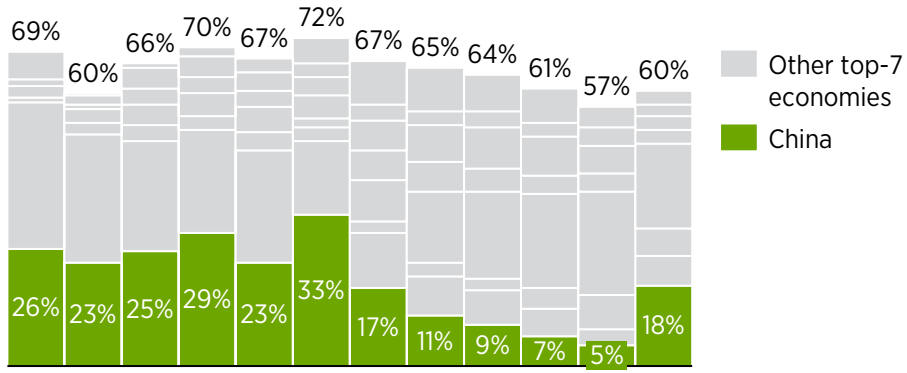
2. To change the level of agenda item (create 2nd level sub-chapter), select the text within the item and click “Increase List Level” in the Paragraph menu



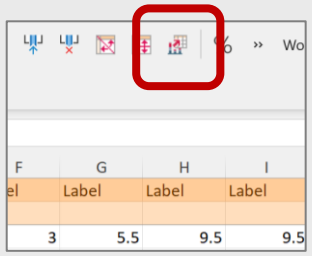
3. Sub-chapter text items will become hidden once you view pages starting from next 1st level chapter

Extract underlying dataset from a chart image / screenshot





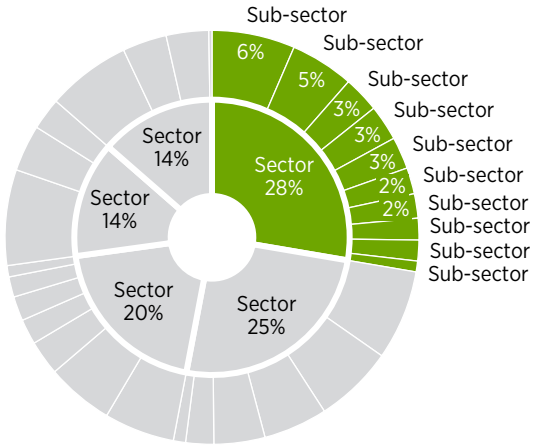
1. Double-click on chart to open data worksheet
2. Click “Extract numerical data…”

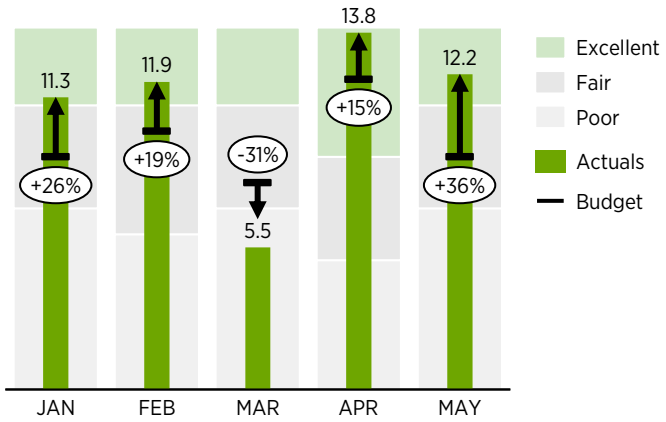


3. Place and resize the screen-capture window to cover the chart image
4. Click “Fill datasheet”

5. Check for data quality, adjust labels and formatting where necessary

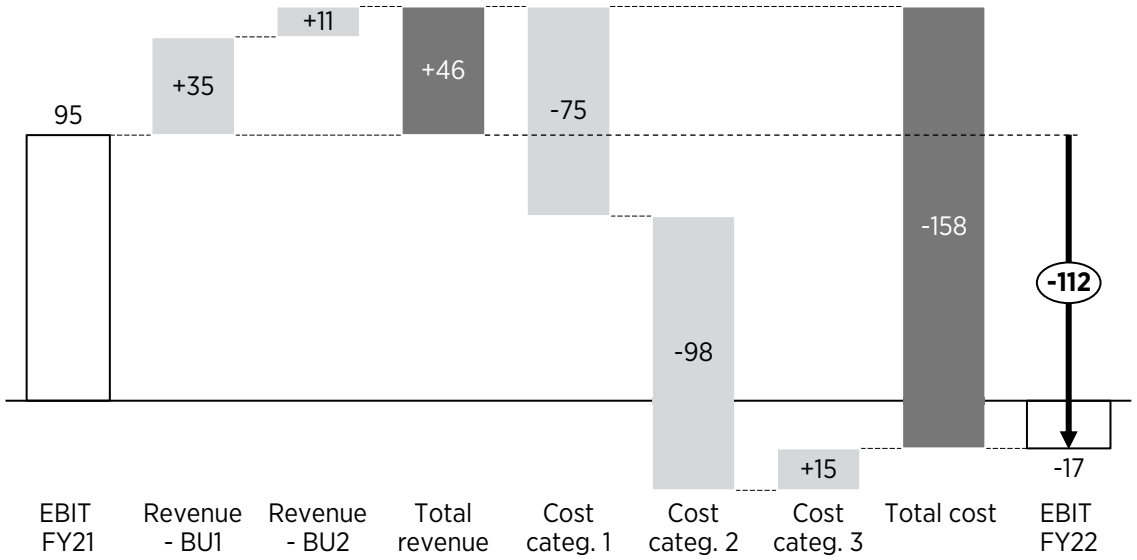
Two charts overlaid for more complex visualizations



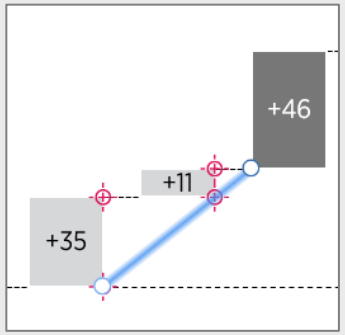


1. Create and populate 2 charts with consistent data structure (i.e., same number of rows, columns or aggregated totals)
2. Set equal size where applicable
3. Set equal axis scales where relevant (i.e., two column charts)
4. Align chart positions to match
5. To edit charts, switch “bring back – forward” in the object order or drag the charts aside, apply edits and place back in its position

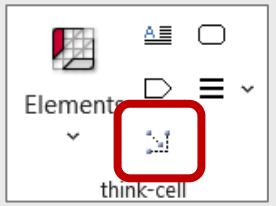
Subtotals in a waterfall chart

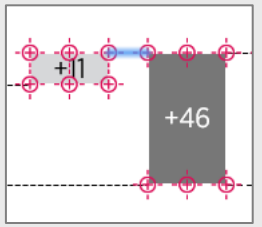


1. Create and populate a waterfall chart. Calculate a cell with subtotal value (i.e., total revenue across several segments)
2. For the chart to recognize this element as a subtotal, select the bottom-left connector (top-left if values are negative) and drag it to the bottom position of the first sub-element in the set

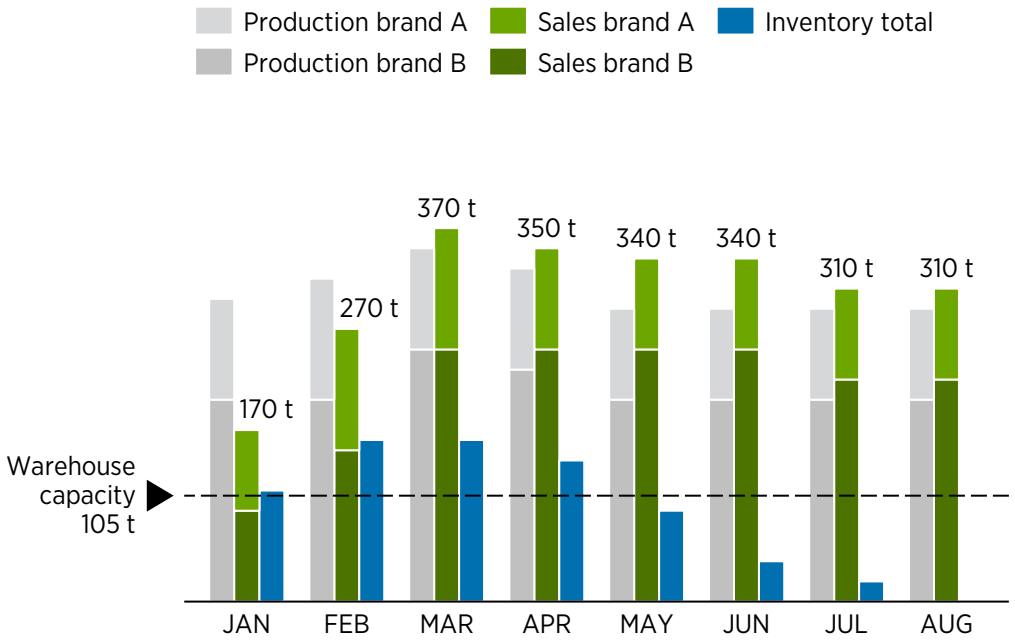


3. Manually add a connector between the subtotal and the last element in the sub-set





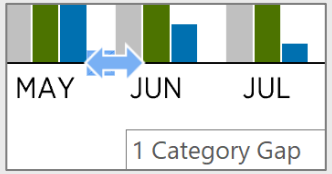
Clustered X stacked chart



1. Create a new stacked column chart. To reproduce a chart with a similar structure (i.e., clustered as well as showing multiple segments), use the following datasheet structure:

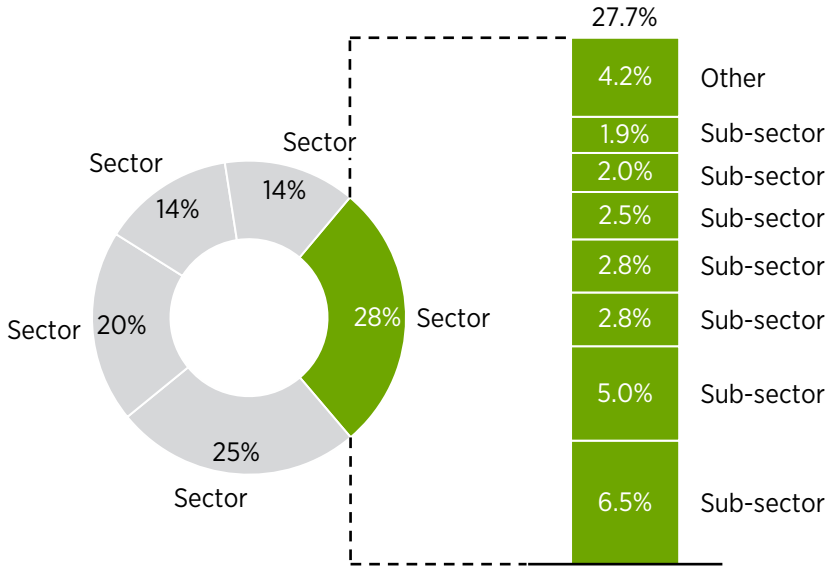
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	Category		JAN				FEB				MAR				APR	
2	Series 100%=															
3	Production brand A	100				120				100				100		
4	Production brand B	200				200				250				230		
6	Sales brand A		80				120				120				100	
7	Sales brand B		90				150				250				250	
10	Inventory total			110				160				160				140

2. Please note that every 4th column is left blank intentionally to create spaces between periods (can also be done through adding a category gap between every 3rd column)

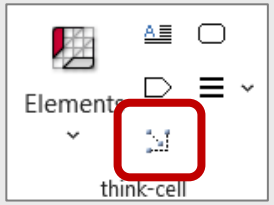


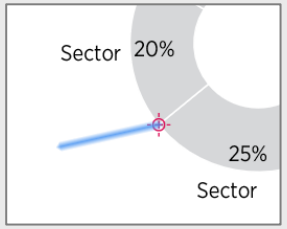
3. Expand the width of columns to leave no gap between neighbouring columns

Connectors to establish logical relation between multiple charts

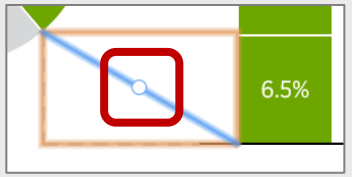


1. Create and populate 2 charts for which a logical relation needs to be visually conveyed
2. To visually connect related elements from different charts, apply “Connector” tool in the think-cell tab. All possible connection points will appear where end points of a connector can be placed

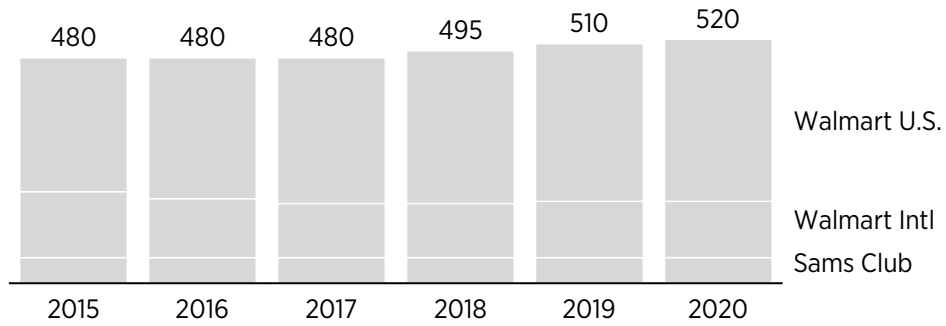




3. Apply formatting to connector lines if necessary
4. Drag the mid-point of a connector to apply straight angles

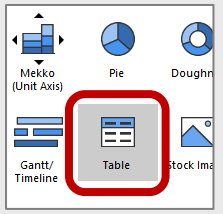


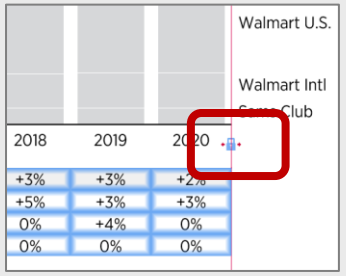
Supplementary data table aligned to chart columns

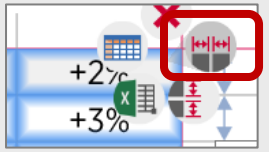


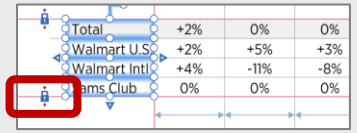
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	+2%	0%	0%	+3%	+3%	+2%
Walmart U.S.	+2%	+5%	+3%	+5%	+3%	+3%
Walmart Intl	+4%	-11%	-8%	0%	+4%	0%
Sams Club	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

1. Create a column / bar chart for which you need to show additional information in a table format
2. Double-click to bring the datasheet and populate - as in a regular Excel table. Ensure the same number of columns containing values, as in the chart (with additional column for series labels / header column)
3. Select the table area containing numerical values (left-click on one cell, SHFT and drag across the table)
4. Using the guidelines, drag and lock the position of the right and left borders to the chart borders
5. Leave the left border of the column with series labels “unlocked” and not snapped to any objects – size will be determined based on length of the labels
6. Select all columns containing numerical values, right-click and select “Same Width”
7. Apply formatting to the cells where necessary, adjust height in a similar manner as in pt.4

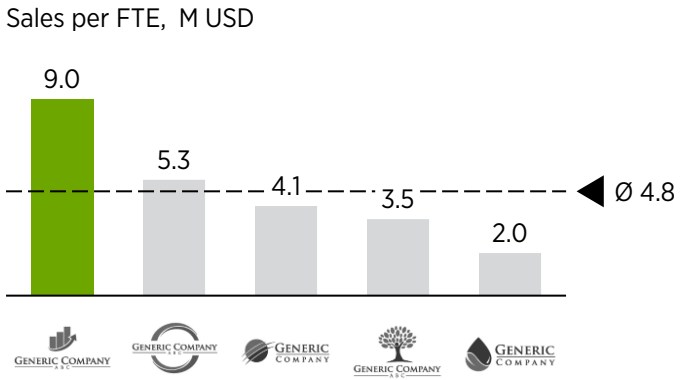


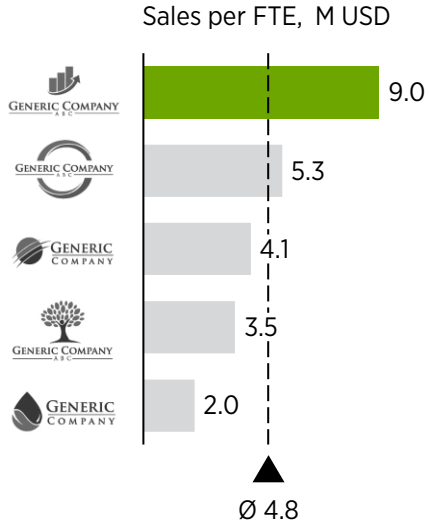




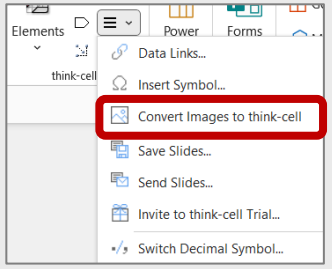


Images as think-cell objects
(logos instead of text labels)

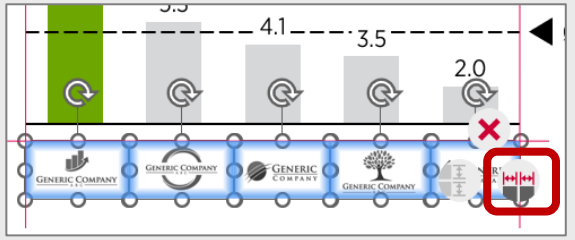




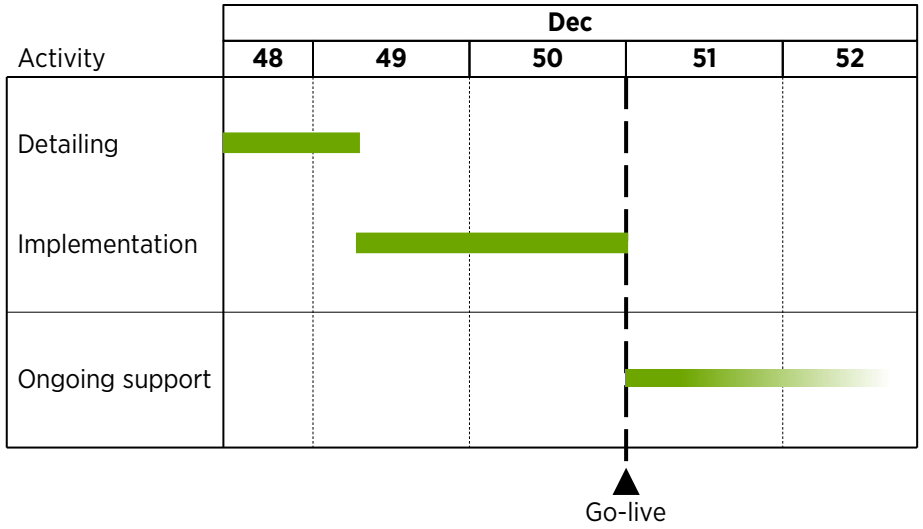
1. Create and populate a column / bar chart
2. Copy-paste the logos to replace text labels
3. Select the images and apply “Convert Image to think-cell” under additional drop-down menu in the think-cell tab



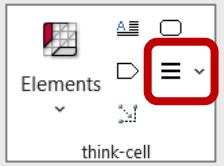
4. Snap the positioning locks to the borders of the chart, then select “Same Width” to distribute evenly against each bar / column

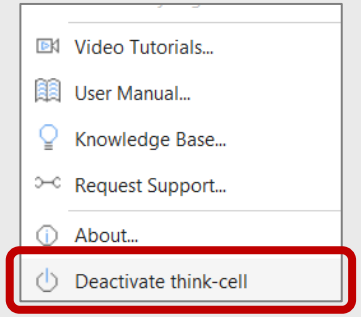


Set gradient fill to activity bars in Gantt chart



1. Create a Gantt chart and populate with all necessary elements
2. De-activate think-cell in the drop-down menu





3. Apply formatting to selected objects (bars): colour, outline, etc.
4. Re-activate think-cell under Insert tab

5. Edit dates / order of activities if necessary – new formatting will remain.
6. Please note that such changes outside think-cell can only apply to a limited number of objects (bars, lines, etc.) – for other elements it will be reset (i.e., activity chevron)