Microsoft Excel 2010: Scatter Chart

A scatter chart plots the values for two variables as a set of points on a graph. One variable controls the position on the x-axis of a point, while the other variable controls the position on the y-axis. If you're familiar with graphs, you might already understand that these points are referred to as (x,y) where x is the position along the x-axis and y is the position along the y-axis of each point.
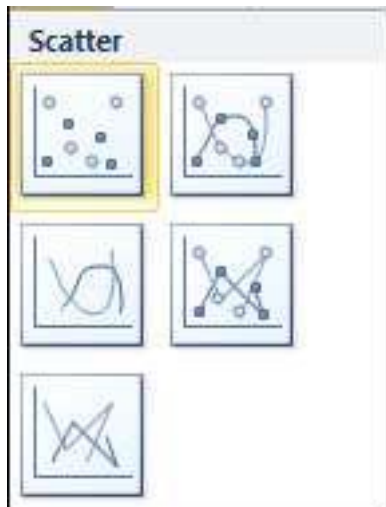
This tool contains:

> ➢ Directions for making a Scatter Chart
> ➢ Sample Scatter Chart: Salary

Scatter Chart Directions

1. In a line chart the x-axis represents different categories; in a scatter chart it represents the actual values of the variable. Scatter charts are best understood by looking at examples. Here is some sample data that suggests that there is a relationship between the number of years people spend in education and their salaries. To see how this works, copy & the values below into Excel.

Education in Years	Salary
10	$100,000.00
12	$115,000.00
15	$120,000.00
8	$70,000.00
20	$150,000.00
17	$130,000.00
19	$145,000.00
13	$120,000.00
16	$125,000.00
18	$140,000.00

2. Select all the cells click on **Insert**, in the **Charts** grouping, choose **Scatter.** I chose **Scatter with only Markers**. It is the first one listed. Hold your mouse over it to find the name of each type of chart.

Sample Scatter Chart:
Salary

The scatter diagram below, in its current state, shows that there is a possible relationship between years in education and salary. This is evidenced as years in education increases, so does salary. This relationship can be made clearer by using "trendlines".
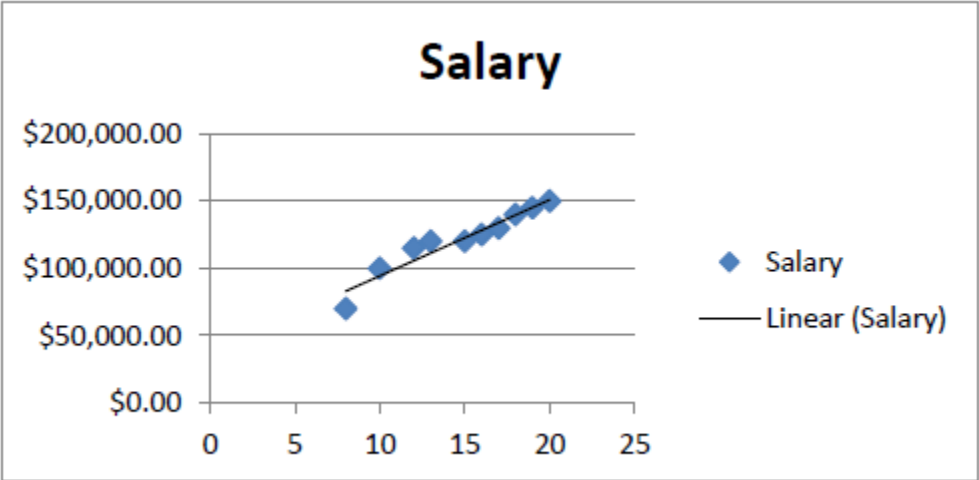

Using Trendlines in Scatter Charts

In Excel, select the Scatter chart, under **Chart Tools**, then click on **Layout** tab, in the **Analysis** grouping, **Trendline**. Try the **Linear** trendline as in the example below.

None
Removes the selected Trendline or all Trendlines if none are selected

Linear Trendline
Adds/sets a Linear Trendline for the selected chart series

Exponential Trendline
Adds/sets an Exponential Trendline for the selected chart series

Linear Forecast Trendline
Adds/sets a Linear Trendline with 2 period forecast for the selected chart series

Two Period Moving Average
Adds/sets a 2 Period Moving Average Trendline for the selected chart series

More Trendline Options...

Adding a trendline to a Scatter chart is a good way of visually representing the trend in data.