

Area Chart in Power BI

Version 1.0

Author-Shivani Kaushal

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The area chart is a type of chart which functions the same way as a line chart but the only difference is, in these charts, the area between the line and the axis is filled with a color or texture.

Availability in Power BI:

Yes

Availability in Other Tools :

This is available in Tableau and Lumira. This is most common chart type used for reporting after Line Chart.

Possible Usage :

- 1) Area chart is the most common chart used to show trends rather than show exact values.
- 2) We can also use this chart for comparison purposes of two or more quantities.
- 3) This chart is used when we have continuous data.
- 4) We can make best use of this chart to present accumulative value changes over time like number of students, salary account etc.
- 5) Especially ,this chart is effective when we try to identify a pattern or trend in our data just like line chart but area below the plotted line is shaded with color, for example seasonal changes and large changes over time.
- 6) This chart is used to represent cumulated totals using percentages or numbers.

Thumb Rule for Usage :

It is better to use the Area chart when we want to show part-to-whole relationship (along with trend) or when there is a summation relationship between the data sets.

How to Use X and Y Axis :

In general, the continuous variable would be represented with the x-axis and the y-axis represents the measurement.

Advantages :

- Area chart is good for depicts a time-series relationship.
- This type of chart is good for showing trends over time among related attributes.
- This chart displays graphically quantitative data in a nearly simple format.
- This chart is good to show relationships with continuous periodical data.
- This chart is the best way to visualize changes.

Disadvantages :

- In Area charts, we cannot show multiple data sets clearly as the upper layer hides the below layers, occlusion occurs.
- These charts more difficult to read than other charts.
- These charts are less precise than other types of charts.
- We should not use area charts to present fluctuating values like changes in price.

Additional Comments :

- The area chart can be visualized in two ways:
 - 1) One with data plots overlapping each other
 - 2) Another with data plots stacked on top of each other
- We should avoid using area charts in situations where we need to compare multiple categories and exact data values.

Example View :

Have a look at the area chart shown below, showing the **Total Sales** in different **Regions**.

