

Bar charts

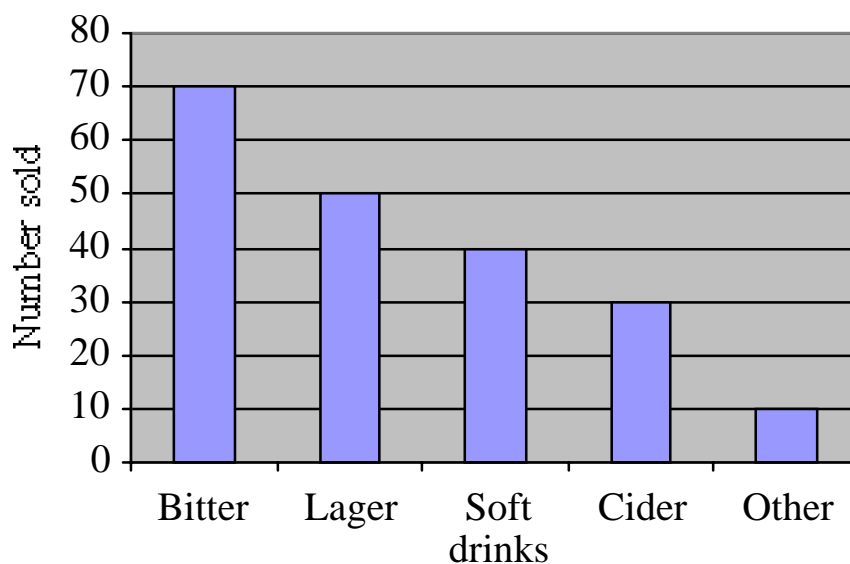
Introduction

This material was developed by Barnsley Youth Development Association as part of their Key Skills Support Programme development project. It also includes an example from the Hospitality Plus project.

What is a bar chart?

A bar chart is a method of displaying information. This bar chart shows the preferences for drinks among lunchtime customers in a pub. The figures are taken from a survey held one lunchtime.

Lunchtime drink preferences



You can use a bar chart to show, for example:

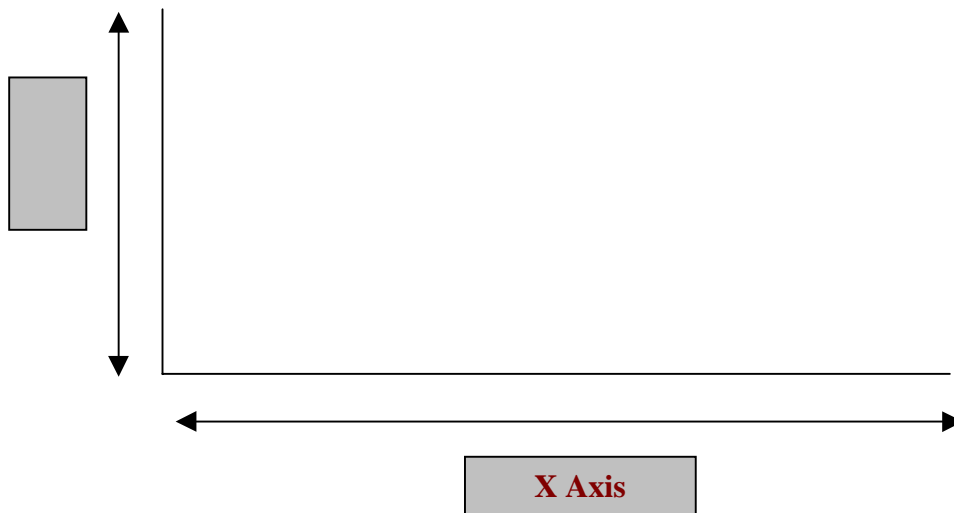
- results of a questionnaire survey
- sales of different items over a week

How do we draw a bar chart?

A bar chart shows information in two directions

1: Horizontally – this is called the X Axis

2: Vertically – this is called the Y Axis



On the axis you mark a suitable scale. This will usually start at zero and go up to the largest number. The scale could be in units, tens, hundreds, etc.

On the X axis you then show the items you have measured.

You can then draw a bar for each item. The height of each bar will show the numbers of that item.

When drawing graphs and charts:

- Use a clear title
- Prepare your work before you start
- Label both axes
- Use appropriate scales
- State your units of measurement
- Give a key to any colours or shading used
- Always use graph paper



