

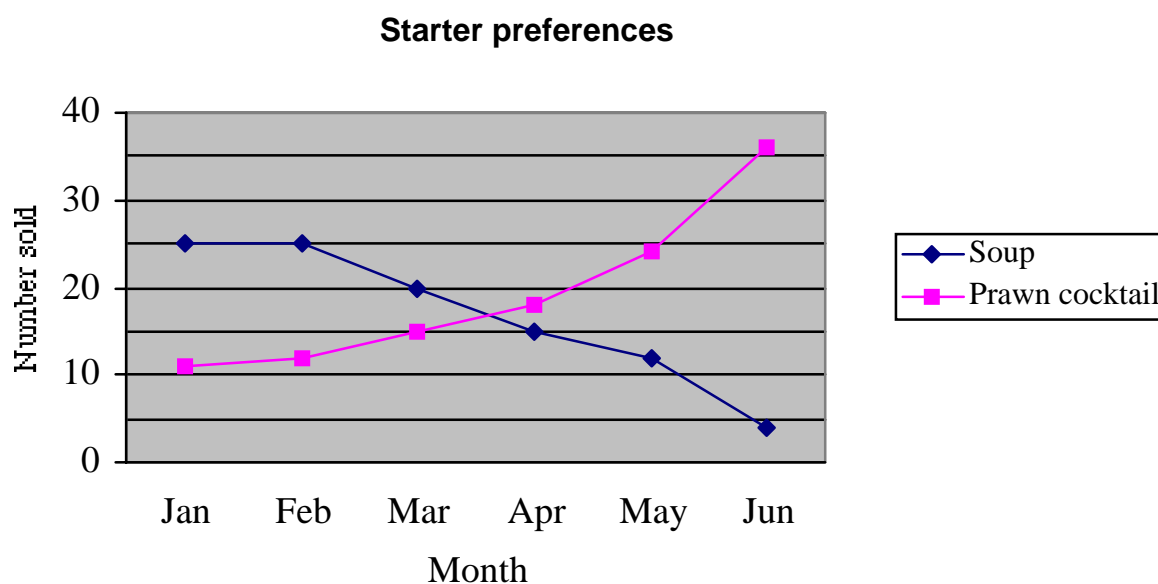
Line graphs

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 line graph?

A line graph is a way of showing information. To create a line graph, we mark the points we need onto a graph sheet, and join the points with a straight line. The example shows how many sales of different starters – prawn cocktail and soup – were made each month in a pub.



We often use line graphs to show trends – how things change. For example:

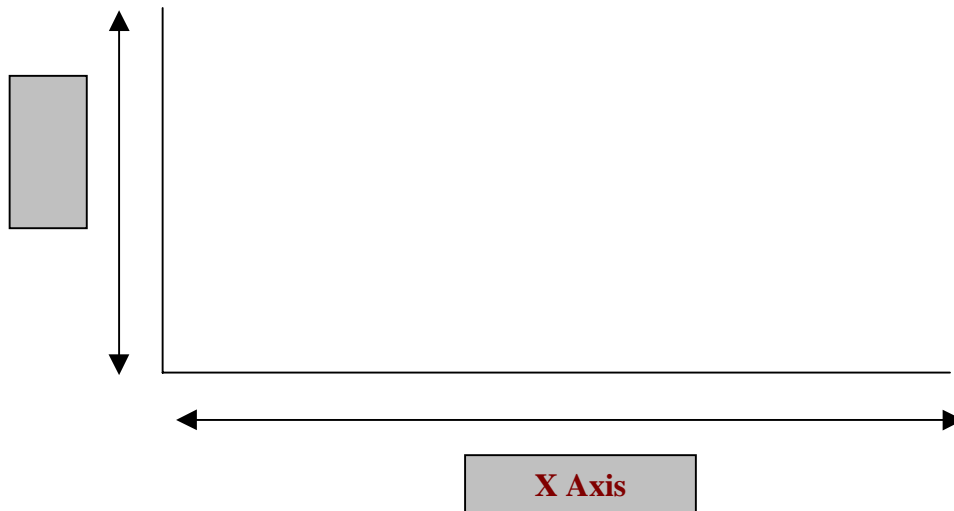
- how sales of an item change from week to week
- how temperature changes during the day.

■ How do we draw a line graph?

We plot the graph along the **X** and **Y**-axis.

1: Horizontally – this is called the X Axis

2: Vertically – this is called the Y Axis



This graph below shows the preferences for two starters among lunchtime customers in a pub. The figures show the trends for the first six months of the year.

On the Y Axis you mark a scale. The example on the previous page shows sales on the Y Axis.

On the X Axis you mark a second scale. The example shows the months January to June.

You then mark a series of points.

When drawing graphs:

- 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
- Use graph paper – at least in the early stages

