

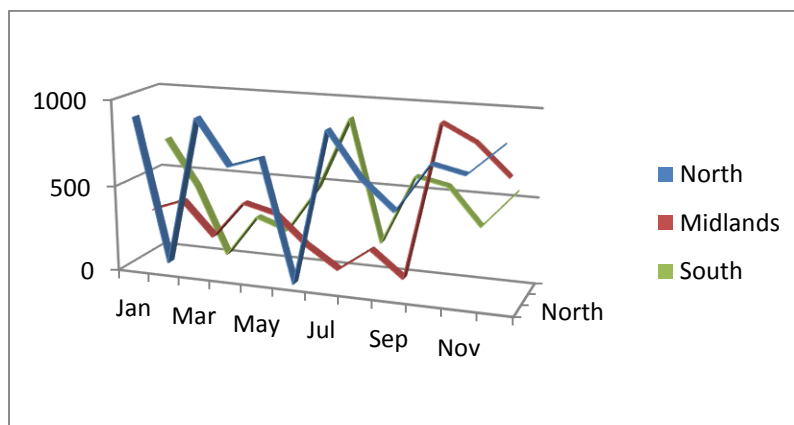
Microsoft Excel 2013: Line Charts

In Excel 2013, line charts can display continuous data over time, set against a common scale, and are therefore ideal for showing trends in data at equal intervals. In a line chart, category data is distributed evenly along the horizontal axis, and all value data is distributed evenly along the vertical axis.

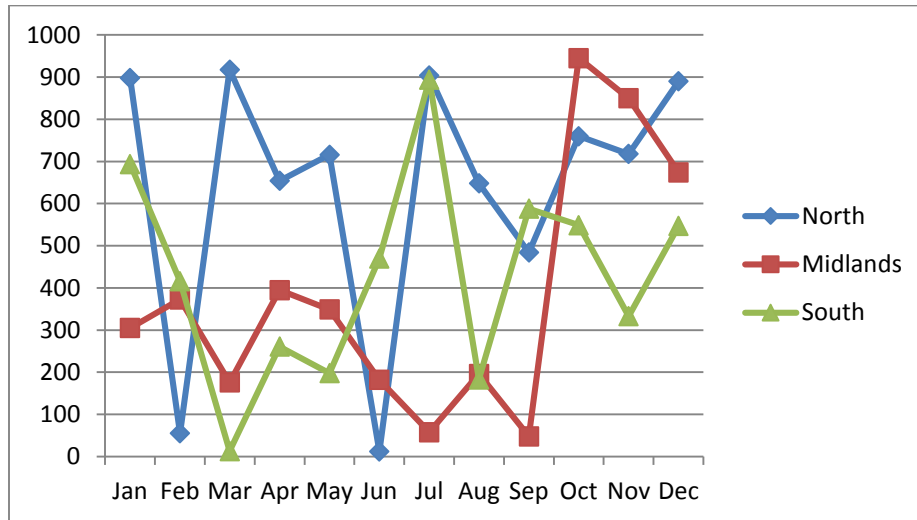
You should use a line chart if your category labels are text, and represent evenly spaced values such as days, months, quarters, or years. Line charts are especially useful for displaying multiple series. Let's work with sales figures by month for three different regions. So now let's copy & paste the data below into Excel.

Month	North	Midlands	South
Jan	898	305	694
Feb	55	373	416
Mar	918	176	13
Apr	654	395	261
May	716	349	198
Jun	12	182	470
Jul	904	58	894
Aug	648	196	183
Sep	484	48	588
Oct	760	945	549
Nov	718	850	333
Dec	890	674	547

Notice the timeline has been entered into the left hand column while each data series (for each region) has been entered into subsequent columns. To create a line chart, select the data and the column headings. Click **Insert, Charts, Line** and select a chart type. I selected the 3-D chart below:



Let's try another type of line chart. Click on **Insert, Charts, Line**, select the first in the type **Line with Markers**, as shown below:



Now we need to give the chart a title and label the y-axis. Make sure the chart is selected. Under the **Chart Tools**, the **Layout** tab, in the **Labels** grouping, click on the **Chart Title** drop down arrow, choose **Above Chart**. Type in the box that appears with **Chart Title** in it and change it to **2012 Sales By Region**. Now let's give the axis a label too. **Chart Tools**, the **Layout** tab, in the **Labels** grouping, click on the **Axis Titles** drop down arrow and choose **Primary Vertical Axis Title**, choose **Vertical Title**. Type in the box that appears with **Axis Title** in it and change it to **Sales**.

