Creating a Column Chart

A chart is a picture of data. An appropriate style of chart can improve the value of data by indicating trends and comparisons. Charting data can make the data more useful. If the right type of chart is chosen, clear trends can be displayed.

The simplest chart is a simple bar chart. The chart must begin with data, for example, a table showing the total sales for the past five years.

	2080	2090	2010	2011	2012
Sales ($)	1256895	1452687	1324568	1687594	1987542

The values in this table can be plotted so that the revenue for each year is clearly displayed. The upward trend in revenue is much clearer in a chart.

A chart is created using an **X-axis** and a **Y-axis.** The **X-axis** is the horizontal axis. In this chart the **years** are the categories on the **X-axis.** The **Y-axis** is used for the measurement of sales.
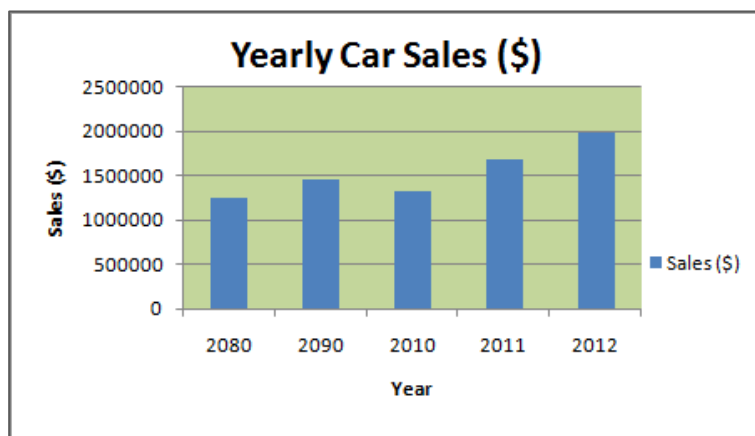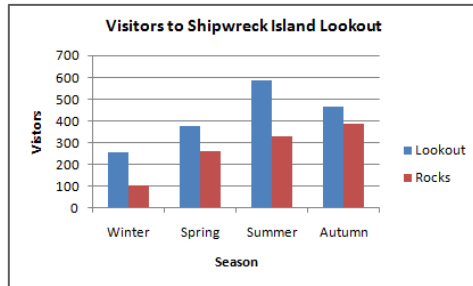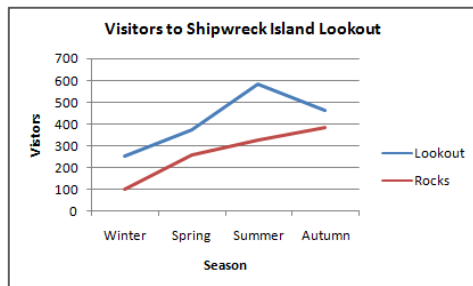
Chart types

There are various chart types that can be used to create charts. The various types give a different view of the data.
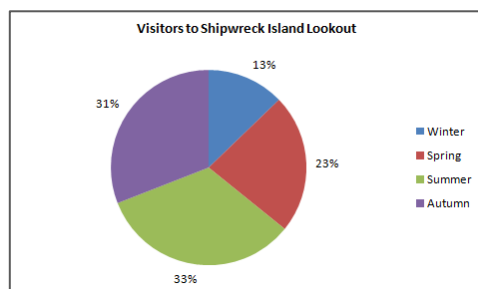
The **column** chart is useful for displaying the value of an item or items in a category.
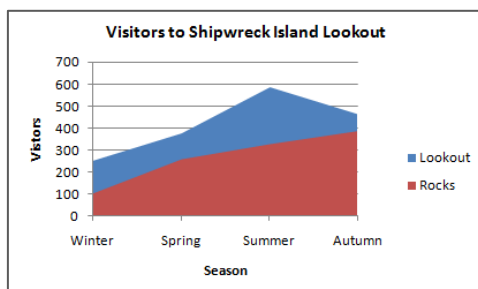

The **line** chart is useful for displaying the relationship between two values. The line chart is used to indicate trends in values.

The **pie** chart is useful to compare a small number of values relative to the whole.

The **area** chart is similar to a line chart with the area below the line filled in.

The local cinema keeps a tally of ticket sales to each film.

1. Start a new file and enter the data below.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Star Wars	1526	2586	2985	1562
Harry Potter	2246	2568	1864	1502
Crash	1203	1305	1403	1356

2. Select the table of text and data and click on the **Insert** tab then the **Column** button.

3. Select the basic **2-D Column** to create a bar chart that displays the number of ticket sales for each film each week.