

Lesson 5-24: Create a combination chart containing different chart types

Excel allows you to allocate a different chart type to each data series. This opens up many interesting possibilities such as superimposing a *Clustered Column* chart on top of an *Area* chart.

| | A | B | C | D |
|----|-------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 5 | Month | Avg High (°C) | Avg Low (°C) | Avg Rainfall (mm) |
| 6 | Jan | 27 | 18 | 73.9 |
| 7 | Feb | 27 | 18 | 50.5 |
| 8 | Mar | 28 | 19 | 68.8 |
| 9 | Apr | 28 | 20 | 30 |
| 10 | May | 29 | 21 | 25.1 |
| 11 | Jun | 31 | 22 | 11.7 |
| 12 | Jul | 31 | 23 | 23.4 |
| 13 | Aug | 31 | 23 | 23.6 |
| 14 | Sep | 31 | 23 | 25.9 |
| 15 | Oct | 31 | 22 | 59.2 |
| 16 | Nov | 29 | 21 | 75.7 |
| 17 | Dec | 28 | 19 | 101.9 |

In this lesson we'll chart the Hawaii climate as a combination Clustered Column/Area chart with clustered columns for high/low temperature and an area chart for rainfall.

1 Open *Hawaii Climate-1* from your sample files folder.

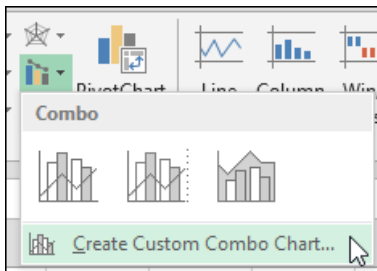
This workbook documents the temperature range and rainfall in Hawaii for each month of the year.

2 Create a combination chart showing temperature as a *clustered column* chart type and rainfall as an *area* chart type.

1. Click in any cell within the range.

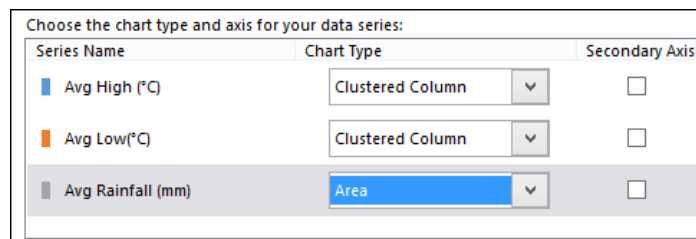
Because we want to chart the entire data range, there's no need to select the range of cells.

2. Click: Insert→Charts→Insert Combo Chart→Create Custom Combo Chart...



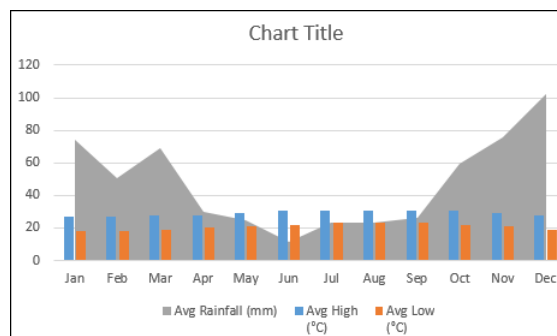
The *Insert Chart* dialog appears with the *Combo* chart type chosen in the left-hand menu bar.

3. Set the chart types to *Clustered Column* for both *Temperature* series and to *Area* for the *Avg Rainfall (mm)* series.



4. Click the OK button.

The combination chart is created:



Hawaii Climate-1

The chart isn't bad but it could be improved. Because there is only one axis, the rainfall's *Area* chart type dominates the chart.

Adding a second vertical axis will solve this problem.

3 Add a secondary axis for rainfall.

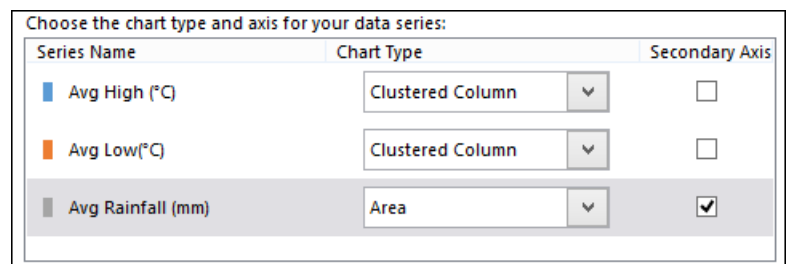
You could do this using the technique learned in: *Lesson 5-23: Create a chart with two vertical axes.*

Instead we'll use a different technique by recalling the *Insert Chart* dialog (this time it will be called *Change Chart Type*).

1. Right click anywhere on the chart and click: *Change Chart Type...* from the shortcut menu.

The *Change Chart Type* dialog appears.

2. Click the *Secondary Axis* check box next to *Avg Rainfall (mm)*.



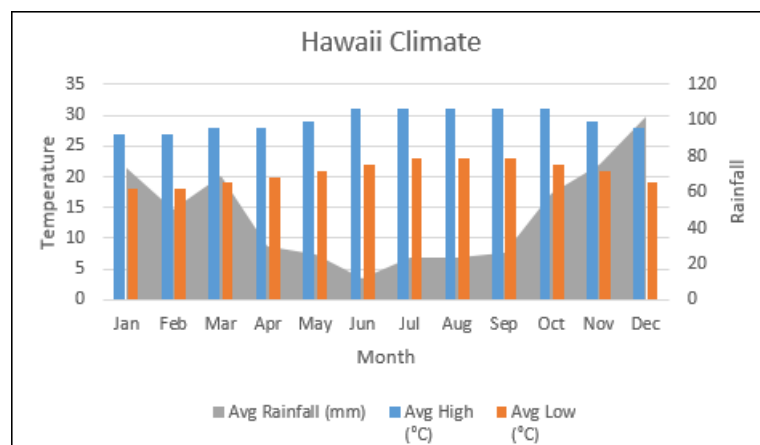
3. Click OK.

The chart now looks a lot better with two axes (one for temperature and one for rainfall).

4 Add *Axis Title* elements and give them (along with the *Chart Title* element) appropriate names.

You learned how to do this in: *Lesson 5-9: Move, re-size, add, position and delete chart elements* and *Lesson 5-5: Add and remove chart elements using Quick Layout.*

The chart now looks professional:



5 Save your work as *Hawaii Climate-2*.