

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.

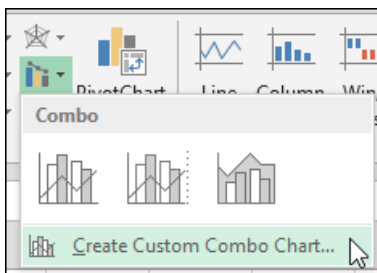
This workbook documents the temperature range and rainfall in Hawaii for each month of the year.

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.

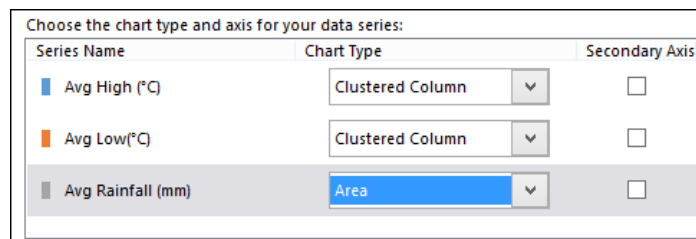
Because we want to chart the entire data range, there's no need to select the range of cells.

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



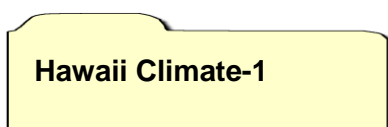
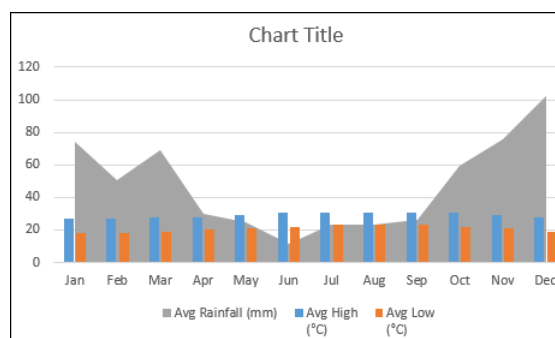
The *Insert Chart* dialog appears with the *Combo* chart type chosen in the left-hand menu bar.

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:



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.

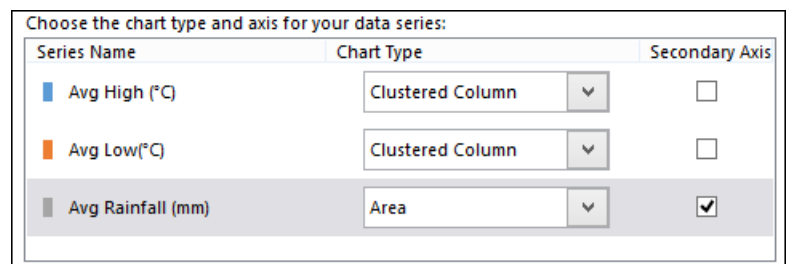
You could do this using the technique learned in: *Lesson 5-23: Create a chart with two vertical axes.*

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)*.



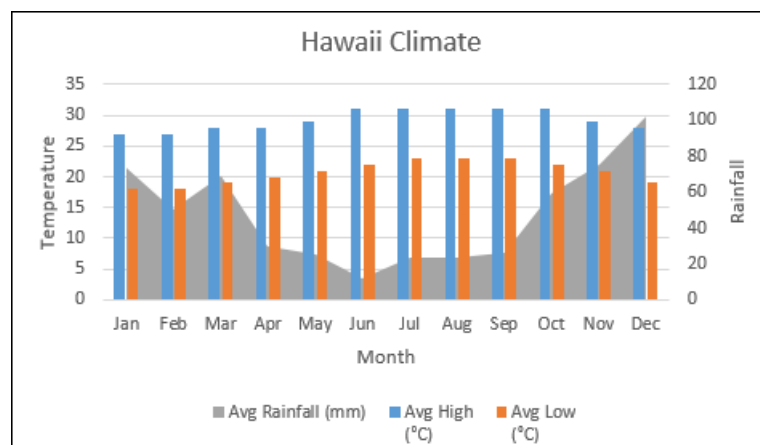
3. Click OK.

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*.