

Datatoink.com Documentation – Todd Kawakita

Datatoink.com is a website designed to help you visualize data without needing to know how to code. It allows you to dynamically change what data you're graphing using either a csv input or via a direct table input. There are two tools in datatoink.com: a bar chart and a line chart.

Datatoink.com tools use SVG, aka scalable vector graphics. Please make sure you're using the most recent version of Chrome, Firefox or at least IE9.

Bar Chart

About

A bar chart is an excellent tool for graphing most data by using position to encode its values. This bar chart allows you to chart single bars, stacked bars, and grouped bars. It also accommodates negative values allowing you to draw a distinction between bars above and below a baseline.

Editing

You can edit what's being charted by copying and pasting in CSV data or editing the table directly. CSV stands for comma separated values, data with commas between each element and a newline at the end of each row. You can obtain CSV data by saving Excel data as a .csv file and opening that file in a plain text editor. If your data set is small, you can edit the data directly in the Table Edit View. Note that Your CSV data will be interpreted so that each row ends up being a row or series in the final graph. You can also indicate if the data includes a header row, which if provided will label each bar. CSV data will update the Table View. The Table View will not update CSV data. The CSV area will also do form validation to ensure that non-header values are numeric and the length of each row is the same.

If you choose to edit the table directly, note that the value and graph will update when you tab out of the field. The group of three buttons at the will allow you to add rows, remove rows, or clear all data.

Title and Subtitle

You can also change the Title and Subtitle dynamically.

Colors

Finally, there are 12 different colors are supported by this bar chart. When there are 12 or fewer single, non-stacked bars, up to these 12 colors will appear. If there are more than 12 single bars only a single color will appear. If stacked or grouped

bars are used, each series will take on a color. More customizability with regard to color is coming soon.

Value Labels

Value labels are also automatically placed by each bar. Data to Ink apologizes that there isn't yet an option to mitigate overlapping labels given high-density data. More improvements are coming soon!

Saving

Save support is only partially implemented and available only to those logged in. You will be able to send the settings for your visualizations to our backend. At a later date we will allow you to pull up your saved visualizations.

Line Chart

About

A line chart is great for charting a trend over time or plotting X-Y coordinates. Data to Ink currently allows you to chart up to five X-Y series in the line chart. Any more would not be wise! One cool thing about Data to Ink's Line Chart is the ability to drag and drop X- and Y-designations for each series. Ratchet up the number of series you would like and then drag and drop for a color-coded series.

Editing the Data

Like the bar chart, you may edit your data via CSV or direct edit.

Titles

You may edit your Title dynamically.

Because there up to five series, there are also up to five different colors.

Note that different settings are available for the appearance of the lines. The main differences are the inclusion and exclusion of points, lines, and smoothing. For instance, dense financial data may benefit from the exclusion of points.

Note that all line chart series implicitly include the origin (0,0) as a way of ensuring graphical integrity.

Save support is not implemented for the line graph but will be soon.