

Learning to Create a Bar of Pie Chart in Excel: A Step-by-Step Guide

Authored by
Mohammed loot

October 28, 2025

RECOMMENDED CITATION

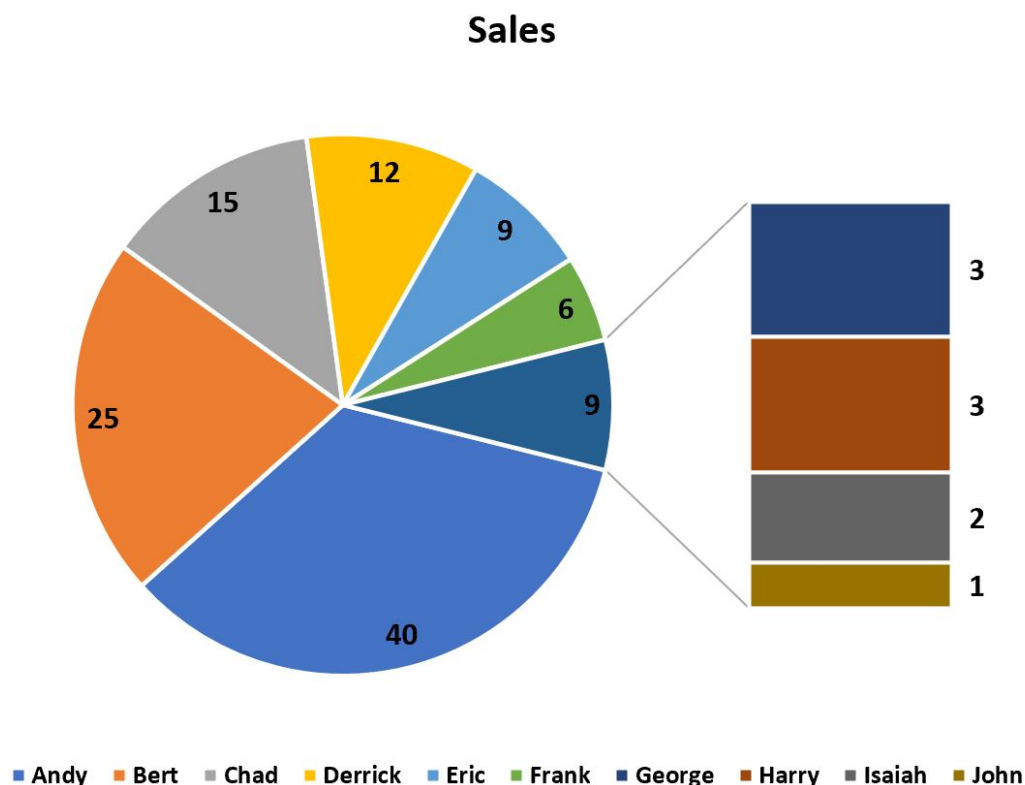
Mohammed loot (2025). *Learning to Create a Bar of Pie Chart in Excel: A Step-by-Step Guide*. PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS. Retrieved from <https://statistics.arabpsychology.com/?p=4906>

Understanding the Bar of Pie Chart

The [bar of pie chart](#) is an indispensable tool in [Microsoft Excel](#) for advanced [data visualization](#). This specialized [pie chart](#) variation is specifically engineered to improve the clarity and interpretability of datasets containing numerous small segments. By separating and magnifying these minor proportions, it overcomes the significant visual limitations inherent in standard circular charts.

Traditional pie charts often suffer from clutter when representing a large number of categories, making it nearly impossible to differentiate, label, or accurately gauge the contribution of tiny slices. The bar of pie chart resolves this issue elegantly: it aggregates the smallest slices of the main pie into a single, comprehensive "other" segment. Crucially, this "other" segment is then dynamically expanded into a separate, detailed [bar chart](#), allowing for granular scrutiny without sacrificing the overall view of the distribution.

This comprehensive tutorial serves as an expert guide to creating and meticulously customizing a bar of pie chart within Excel. We will systematically cover every stage of the process, beginning with optimal data preparation and moving through initial chart generation to sophisticated customization techniques. Our objective is to empower you to transform complex data distributions into professional, insightful visuals, such as the exemplary chart provided below, which effectively balances high-level proportions with fine-grained detail.



Preparing Your Data for Charting

Successful charting in Excel is fundamentally dependent on clean, well-structured source data. For the bar of pie chart, your data must be arranged in a logical table format, typically requiring two adjacent columns: one dedicated to categorical labels (e.g., employee names, regions) and the other containing their corresponding quantitative values (e.g., sales figures, counts, percentages). This precise organization enables Excel to correctly map your information onto the chart components.

To provide a practical foundation for this tutorial, we will utilize a hypothetical dataset that tracks the total sales performance generated by ten distinct employees within a corporate environment. This sales data will form the basis upon which we construct our highly informative bar of pie chart. Please ensure that you accurately transcribe the following figures into a new worksheet within [Excel](#), paying close attention to the alignment of names and values:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Employee	Sales			
2	Andy	40			
3	Bert	25			
4	Chad	15			
5	Derrick	12			
6	Eric	9			
7	Frank	6			
8	George	3			
9	Harry	3			
10	Isaiah	2			
11	John	1			
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

The accuracy of this initial data entry phase is paramount. Verify that the employee names occupy the first column and their respective sales contributions are placed in the adjacent numerical column. This structured approach is the necessary prerequisite for the successful generation and

subsequent manipulation of the chart.

Generating the Initial Bar of Pie Chart

Once your data is meticulously prepared and entered into the Excel spreadsheet, the next step involves instructing the software to render the desired visualization. Creating the initial bar of pie chart is a straightforward process, achievable through a sequence of intuitive commands within the Excel ribbon interface.

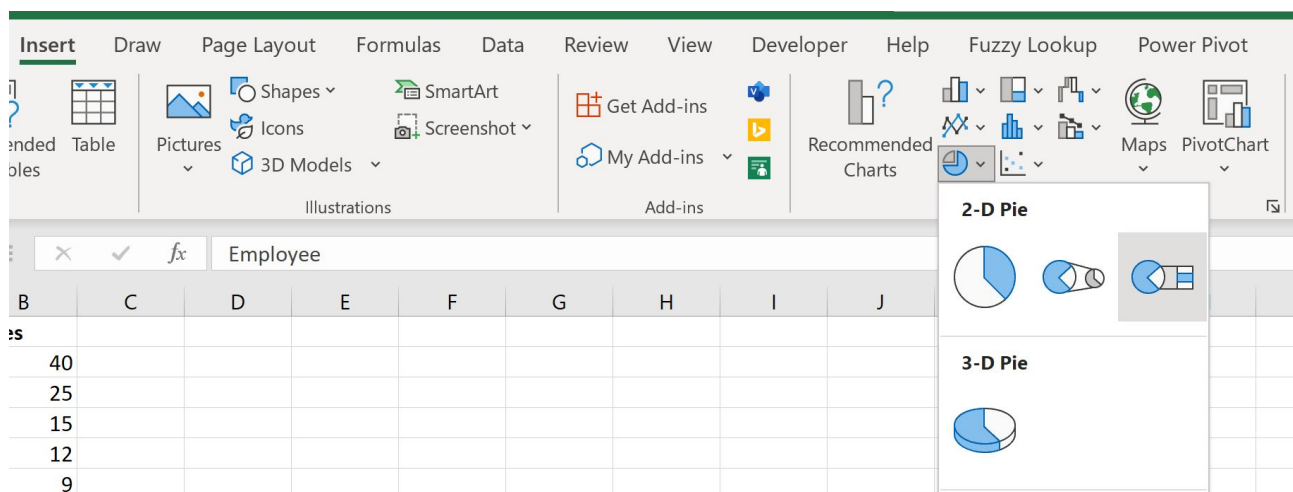
To generate the chart from our structured sales data, adhere precisely to the following four steps:

Begin by highlighting the complete range of your dataset, including the headers. In our example, this corresponds to the cell range **A1:B11**.

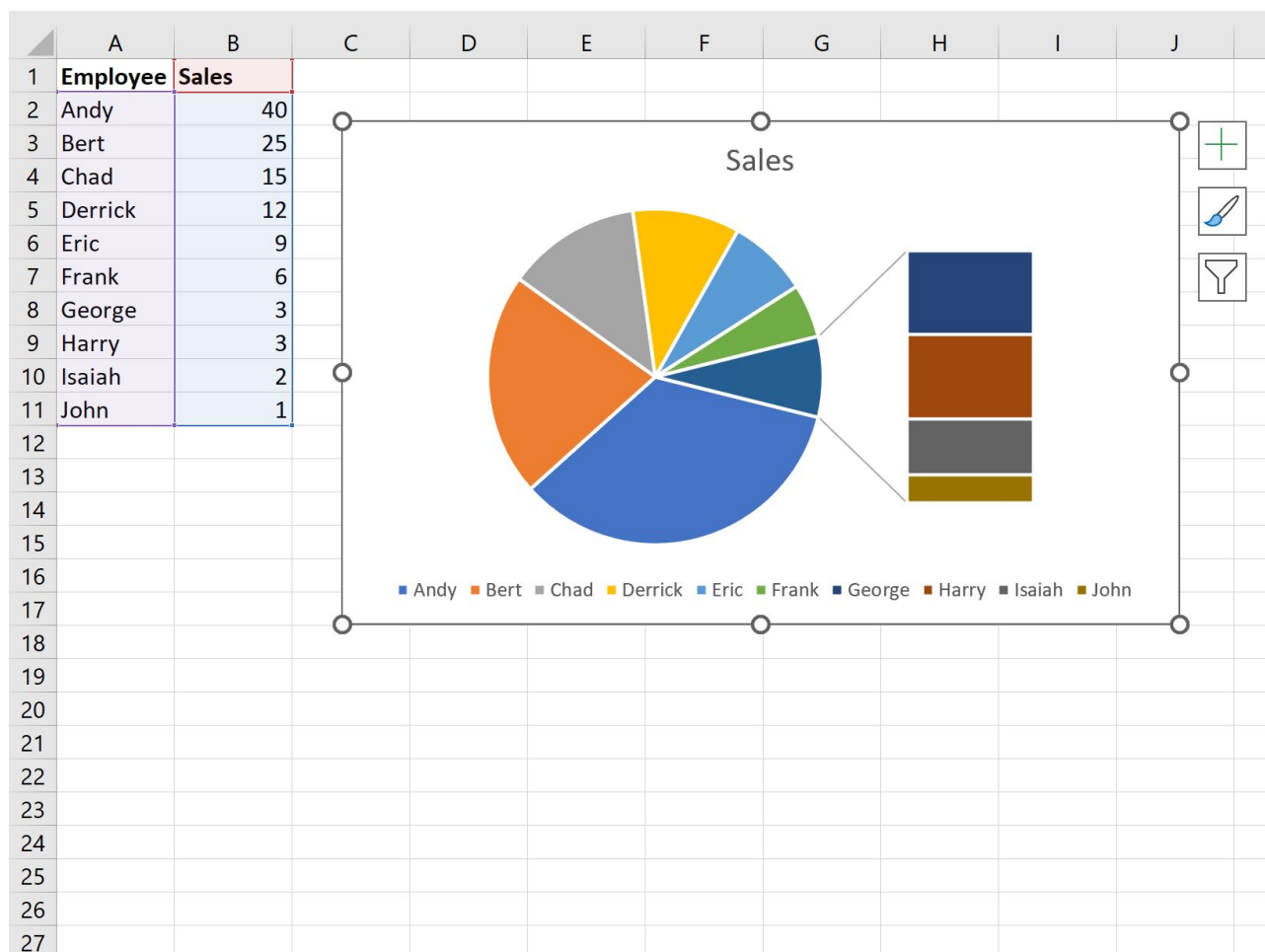
Locate and click the **Insert** tab situated prominently on the main Excel ribbon at the top of the application window.

Within the "Charts" grouping, identify and select the **Pie or Doughnut Chart** icon.

From the resulting dropdown menu of specialized chart types, choose the **Bar of Pie** option to initiate chart creation.



Following these instructions, Excel will instantly insert a preliminary version of the bar of pie chart onto your worksheet. This initial chart will employ default settings, automatically grouping what it determines to be the smallest data points into the secondary bar plot. The subsequent steps will focus on overriding these defaults to ensure the grouping aligns perfectly with your specific analytical focus.



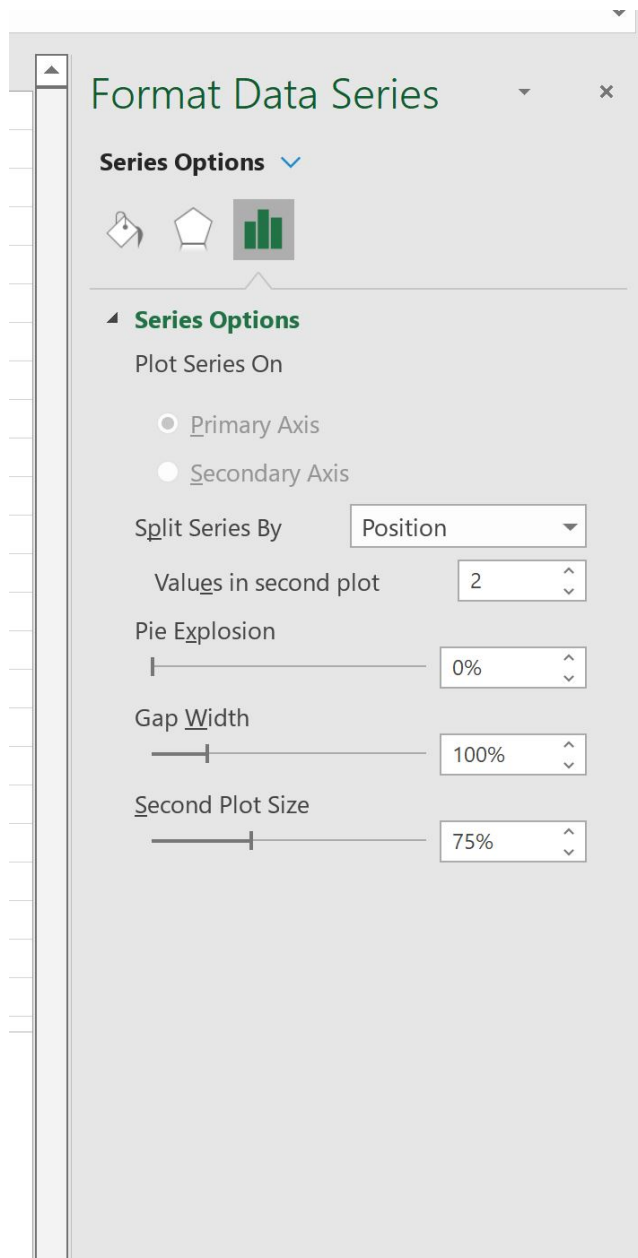
Customizing the Bar of Pie Chart Grouping

While Excel's automatic grouping provides a functional starting point, sophisticated [data visualization](#) often requires manual intervention to accurately reflect the desired narrative. By default, Excel groups the smallest slices (in our example, four slices) into the secondary bar chart to enhance immediate readability.

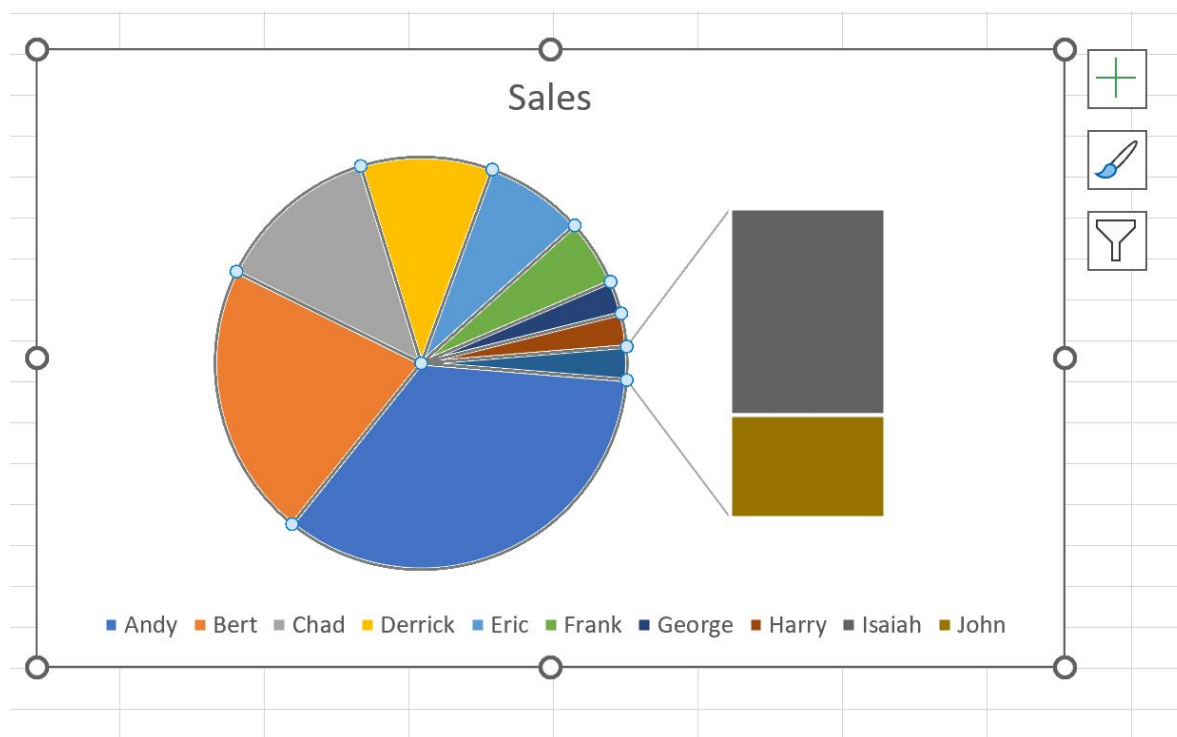
However, analysts frequently need to control precisely which categories are emphasized in the secondary plot. Excel provides highly flexible options to adjust the number or value threshold used for this separation. To begin the customization process, initiate the formatting dialogue by simply double-clicking on any element within the secondary bar chart. This action will launch the comprehensive **Format Data Series** panel on the right-hand side of your Excel workspace.

Within the **Format Data Series** panel, navigate to the "Series Options" tab. Here, you will find the critical "Split Series By" dropdown menu, which dictates the grouping logic. By default, this is typically set to "Position." If your analytical goal requires visualizing a fixed number of the smallest contributors, you must adjust the setting for **Values in second plot**. For instance, to restrict the

secondary bar chart to the two smallest values, you would change this numerical input to **2**:



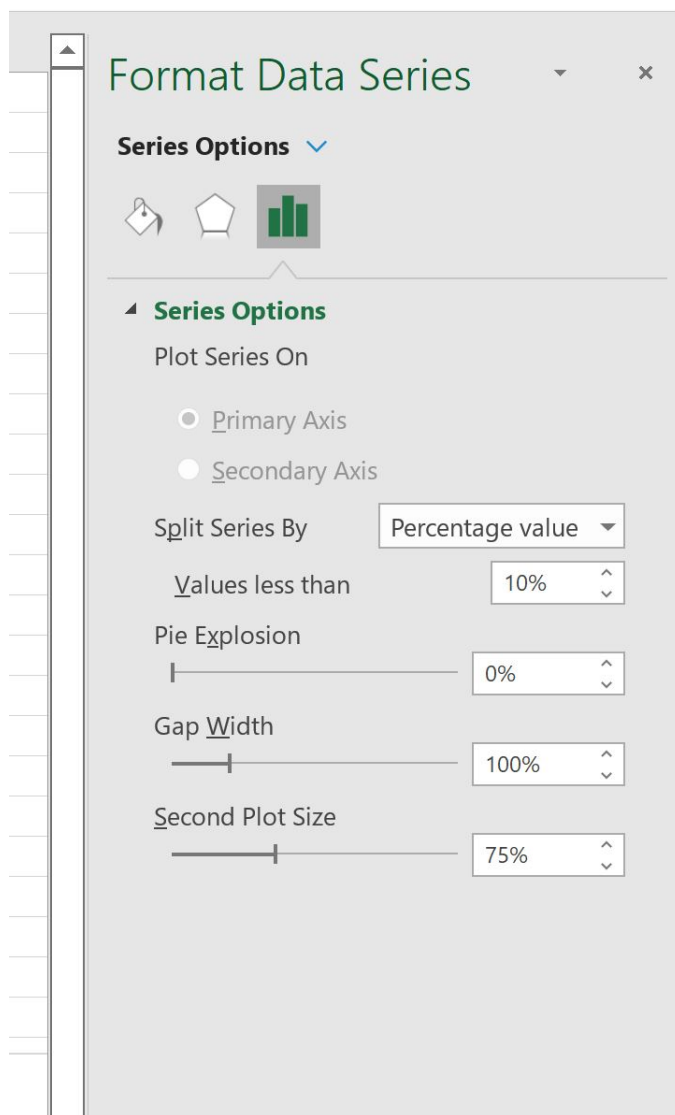
Upon modification, Excel will immediately update the [bar of pie chart](#), displaying only the specified number of data points in the bar plot. This positional control is essential when you need to focus on a predetermined quantity of minor categories, regardless of their precise contribution percentage.



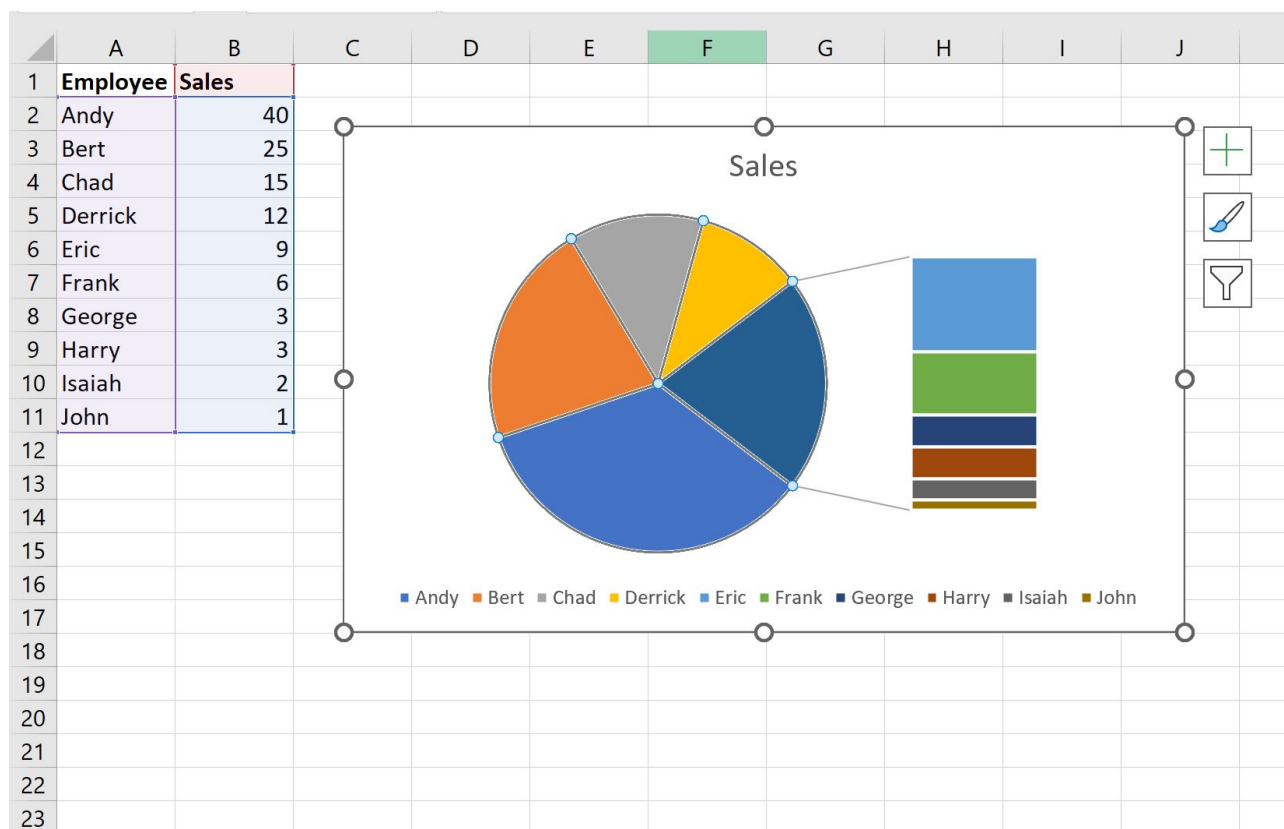
Refining Your Chart: Percentages and Data Labels

In addition to grouping by position, Excel offers an even more robust method: grouping slices based on their proportional value relative to the whole. This approach is highly effective when the objective is to isolate and highlight all categories that fall beneath a predefined percentage threshold of the entire dataset's value.

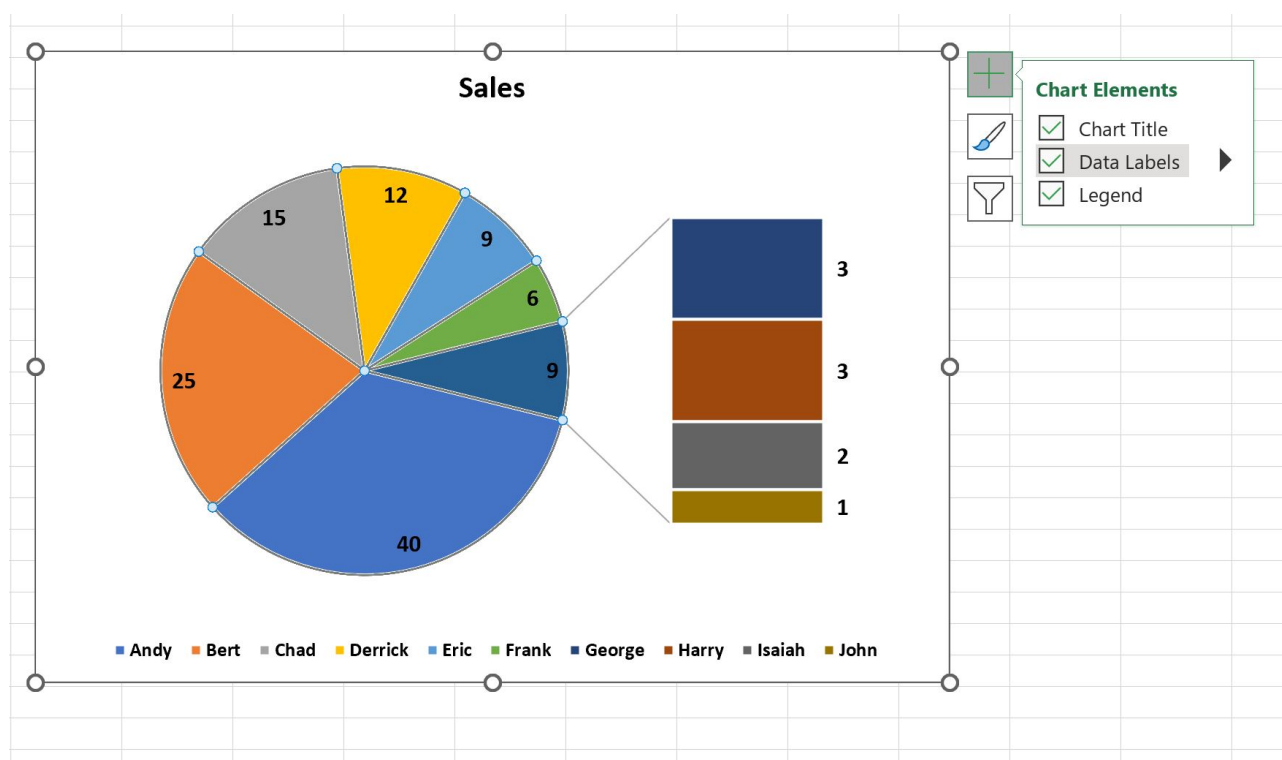
To implement this value-based separation, return to the **Format Data Series** panel. In the "Split Series By" menu, select the "Percentage value" option. You must then define the minimum percentage required for a slice to remain in the main pie. For example, if you set the threshold to 10%, every category contributing less than 10% of the total will be automatically grouped into the secondary bar chart:



This intelligent, data-driven grouping ensures that the main pie chart remains visually clean, focusing only on major contributors, while the secondary bar chart provides critical elaboration on the genuinely minor segments. Using our example, if the total sales sum to **116**, a 10% threshold means Excel calculates 10% of 116, resulting in **11.6**. Any employee with sales below 11.6 will be dynamically included in the bar chart, ensuring consistency in your analysis.



Finally, to maximize the informative value of your visualization, the addition of [data labels](#) is essential. These labels display the exact values or proportional percentages for each segment, dramatically enhancing chart readability and interpretation. To quickly enable this feature, click anywhere on the chart area. A small plus sign ("+"), representing the Chart Elements menu, will appear in the top-right corner. Check the box labeled **Data Labels** to overlay the figures directly onto your chart segments.



With these careful customizations, your bar of pie chart is now optimally configured, providing a balanced and insightful presentation that clearly communicates both the macro-level proportions and the micro-level details of your dataset.

Conclusion and Best Practices

The [bar of pie chart](#) is a powerful and versatile [data visualization](#) tool in [Excel](#), particularly useful for scenarios where you need to showcase both overall proportions and the granular details of smaller categories. By following the comprehensive steps outlined in this tutorial, you can effectively create and customize these charts to convey complex information with clarity and precision.

To ensure your visualizations are maximally effective and professional, adhere to the following best practices when deploying bar of pie charts:

Purposeful Grouping: The choice between grouping by position or by percentage value must be analytically driven. Select the method that most accurately reinforces the message or insight you intend to highlight, actively avoiding arbitrary groupings that might skew interpretation.

Clear Labeling: Effective communication hinges on clear identification. Ensure that all chart components, including the main pie segments and the bar chart elements, are fully labeled. The inclusion of **data labels** is non-negotiable for providing precise figures and context.

Color Consistency: Utilize a consistent, thoughtful color palette. While Excel provides defaults,

customizing colors can enhance readability, differentiate related categories, and align the chart with corporate or presentation branding standards.

Audience Consideration: Always tailor the complexity and level of detail in your chart to the intended audience. A truly well-designed chart should be immediately comprehensible, communicating its core message without necessitating extensive verbal explanation.

Mastering the bar of pie chart significantly enhances your analytical capabilities in Excel, enabling you to transform raw data into compelling, visual stories. Continued exploration of Excel's advanced charting features will further expand your data presentation toolkit.

Additional Resources

For those interested in exploring other common visualizations and advanced Excel techniques, we recommend consulting the following tutorials: