Worked example - made-up monthly sales. Shade one column of squares for each value.

Bar chart grid

Monthly sales at a fictional cafe, 2026 (£)

Sales (£)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1000												
900							■	■				
800						■	■	■				
700						■	■	■	■			■
600					■	■	■	■	■	■		■
500				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
400		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
300	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
200	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
100	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Axis labels Month (across), sales (up)

Source of data Till records, 2026

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How to use this template

Use this grid to draw a bar chart by hand. Each column is one category and each square is one step of the scale.

1. **Choose your scale.** Write a number against each row, for example 100, 200, 300. Keep the steps even.
2. **Name the categories.** Replace the headings with your own, such as days, products or years.
3. **Shade the bars.** For each category, shade squares up from the bottom to the value.
4. **Add a title and source.** Say what the chart shows and where the figures came from.

Tips

- Start the scale at zero so bar heights compare fairly.
- Use a ruler and pencil for neat edges.