Bar Charts and Frequency Distributions

Use to display the distribution of categorical (nominal or ordinal) variables. For the continuous (numeric) variables, see the page Histograms, Descriptive Stats and Stem and Leaf.

Bar Charts and Frequency Distributions

1. From an open JMP® data table, select Analyze > Distribution.
2. Click on one or more nominal or ordinal variables from Select Columns, and click Y, Columns (nominal variables have red bars, and ordinal variables have green bars).
3. If you have summarized data (a column with counts), enter the column into Freq.
4. Click OK to generate bar charts and frequency distributions for each variable.

Tips:
- To change the display from vertical to horizontal, click on the top red triangle and select Stack.
- To change future output to horizontal, go to Preferences > Platforms > Distribution, click Stack and Horizontal Layout, then click OK.
- To change the graphical display for a variable, or to select additional options, click on the red triangle for that variable.
- Click on bars in one graph to see the distribution of the variable across other variables (dynamic linking).
- Categorical variables display in alphanumerical order. To change the display order, use the Value Ordering or Row Order Levels column property (right-click on the column and select Column Properties).

Bar Charts – Another Way

1. Select Graph > Graph Builder.
2. Click, then drag and drop a nominal variable from Select Columns to the X zone on the bottom of the graph.
3. Click on the bar chart icon above the graph.
4. Drag and drop a continuous weight variable from Select Columns to the Y zone on the left of the graph, or a drag and drop a count or frequency variable to the Freq field.
5. Select a statistic to be plotted from list of Summary Statistics (bottom left).
6. When finished, click Done (top left) to close the control panel.

Notes: Bar charts can also be created in the Chart platform (Graph > Legacy > Chart). For more details on creating bar charts, see the book Essential Graphing (under Help > Books).