

This guide covers how to determine breakeven price (or units) using the following tools:

- Use Goal Seek to Determine Breakeven Price (or Units).
- Build a Model to Determine Breakeven Price (or Units) using a Breakeven Calculation.
- Generate Multiple Breakeven Prices for Various Units using a One Variable Data Table.
- Use Vlookup() to Adjust Cost Per Unit as the Number of Units Changes.
- Create a Breakeven Chart

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## Breakeven Analysis Using Goal Seek

Breakeven is the point where your profit equals zero or in other words, when Total Sales – Total Costs = 0.

It is often helpful in determining the price you should charge for a new product or the number of units you must sell to breakeven. In these two exercises, we wish build a spreadsheet that shows what the *Profit* will be if we vary *Price* and *Units Sold*. We will then use Goal Seek to set *Profit* to 0 by changing either *Price* or *Units Sold*.

1. Create the "**Breakeven\_GoalSeek**" sheet shown below.

**Given:**

- *Cost Per Unit* is \$15 (i.e. it costs us \$15 to make each unit).
- *Fixed Costs for the time period we are producing our units:* \$2000

**Formulas:**

- *Revenue:* Price \* Units Sold =B5\*B6
- *Variable Cost:* Cost Per Unit \* Units Sold =B8\*B6
- *Total Costs:* Variable Cost + Fixed Cost =B9+B10
- *Profit:* Revenue – Total Costs =B7-B11

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Break Even Analysis (Profit Goes to 0)</b>			
2	<i>If we produced 100 units, what price must we sell them at to break even?</i>			
3	<i>If Price is \$20, how many units must we sell to break even?</i>			
4				
5	Price	\$10.00		
6	Units Sold	100		
7	Revenue	\$ 1,000.00	←	=B5*B6
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00		
9	Variable Cost	\$ 1,500.00	←	=B8*B6
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00		
11	Total Costs	\$ 3,500.00	←	=B9+B10
12	Profit	\$ (2,500.00)	←	=B7-B11

3. Type some test values into **Price** (B5) and **Units Sold** (B6). Profit should update as you vary B5 & B6. Our goal is to keep one of these two cells constant and adjust the other until *Profit* goes to zero.

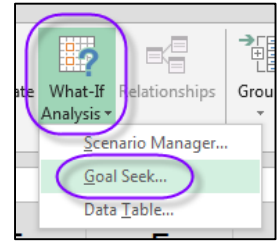
**Using Goal Seek to Set Profit to Zero**

The good news is that you don't have to keep typing in trial numbers until you arrive at one that sets *Profit* to zero; *Goal Seek* can do the algebra and find either the *Price* or *Units Sold* that will set *Profit* to zero for us. Note that for Goal Seek to accomplish this, there must be a mathematical relationship between *Profit* and *Units Sold* and *Price*. In other words, *Profit* must be a formula cell and *Price* and *Units Sold* must be data cells that are either directly or indirectly referenced by the *Profit* formula. If manually changing either *Price* or *Units Sold* does not change *Profit* then you cannot use Goal Seek.

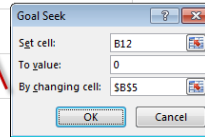
### Goal Seek Exercise 1: Determine Breakeven Price if we Sell 100 Units

If we produce (and sell) 100 units, what must price be to break even?

- In Price (B5) type **0** and in Units Sold (B6) type **100**.
- Click in cell **B12**.
- From the menu click "Data" – "What if Analysis – Goal Seek..."



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Break Even Analysis (Profit Goes to 0)</b>					
2	<i>If we produced 100 units, what price must we sell them at to break even?</i>					
3	<i>If Price is \$20, how many units must we sell to break even?</i>					
4						
5	Price	\$35.00				
6	Units Sold	100				
7	Revenue	\$ 3,500.00				
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00				
9	Variable Cost	\$ 1,500.00				
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00				
11	Total Costs	\$ 3,500.00				
12	Profit	\$ -				
13						



- Set the following:  
Set Cell → **B12**  
To Value → **0**  
By changing cell → **B5**
- Click "OK".

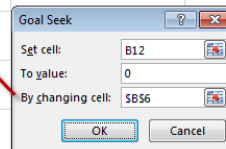
At 100 Units you must set the Price to \$35 to break even.

### Goal Seek Exercise 2: Determine Breakeven Units if Price is set at \$20

If price is set at \$20, how many units must we sell to break even?

- In Price (B5) type **20** and in Units Sold (B6) type **10** (or some other number).
- Click in cell **B12**.
- From the menu click "Data" – "What if Analysis – Goal Seek..."

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Break Even Analysis (Profit Goes to 0)</b>				
2	<i>If we produced 100 units, what price must we sell them at to break even?</i>				
3	<i>If Price is \$20, how many units must we sell to break even?</i>				
4					
5	Price	\$20.00			
6	Units Sold	400			
7	Revenue	\$ 8,000.00			
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00			
9	Variable Cost	\$ 6,000.00			
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00			
11	Total Costs	\$ 8,000.00			
12	Profit	\$ -			
13					



- Set the following:  
Set Cell → **B12**  
To Value → **0**  
By changing cell → **B6**
- Click "OK".

At a price of \$20 you must sell 400 units to break even.

## Calculate Multiple Breakeven Prices – One Variable Data Table

In the previous exercises we determined a breakeven price based on a 100 units sold. In this section we will look at how to create a table of breakeven prices for various numbers of units sold. Specifically, we wish to build the table below.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Break Even Analysis (Profit = 0)</b>				
2	What Should Price be to break even if we vary Units?			<b>Units Varied</b>	
3				Units	Prices Are:
4		<b>Units Varied</b>			\$55.00
5	Price	\$ 55.00		50	\$55.00
6	Units Sold	50		100	\$35.00
7	Revenue	\$ 2,750.00		150	\$28.33
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00		200	\$25.00
9	Variable Cost	\$ 750.00		250	\$23.00
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00		300	\$21.67
11	Total Costs	\$ 2,750.00		350	\$20.71
12	Profit	-		400	\$20.00
13				450	\$19.44
14				500	\$19.00
15					

We wish to produce a list of breakeven Prices for the Units listed. For example, at 300 Units the breakeven price is \$21.67.

### About using a One Variable Data Table to Return Breakeven Prices

To build our table of breakeven prices, we can no longer use Goal Seek; it can only return a single answer for profit and can only vary a single cell. We cannot use Solver either. While Solver can vary multiple cells, it too can only produce a single answer.

The solution we will use is a *One-Variable Data Table*. It is designed to run multiple variables through an equation to produce a table of results. However, it does not have the algebraic capabilities that Goal Seek and Solver do – data tables will run the variables you give them through an equation to return whatever the results turn out to be, but you cannot tell it what you want those results to be. Fortunately, we can get around this limitation using some simple algebra:

- a. We know that: Profit = Price \* Units – Fixed Costs – Variable Costs
- b. We know that we want profit to be zero.
- c. All we have to do is solve the equation for *Price* (or *Units* depending on what you are solving for) and set *Profit* to zero. Because profit is zero in our equation, Price (or Units) is forced to return a number that makes profit equal zero.

See the next page on how the *Price* breakeven and *Units* breakeven formulas are derived.

## Breakeven Equations for Price and Units

The breakeven point is where you there is no profit and no loss. In other words, profit equals zero. The calculations below show you how to get breakeven *Price* and breakeven *Units*.

### Equation for Breakeven Price

Our profit is: Gross – Total Costs or more specifically for our example:

$$Profit = Price * Units - Variable Cost Per Unit * Units - Fixed Costs$$

We know breakeven occurs when *Profit* goes to zero so we will move *Fixed Costs* to the left and eliminate *Profit* by setting it to zero:

$$-Price * Units = -Variable Cost Per Unit * Units - Fixed Costs$$

Multiplying through by -1:

$$Price * Units = Variable Cost Per Unit * Units + Fixed Costs$$

Dividing both sides by Units:

$$Price = \frac{Variable Cost Per Unit * \cancel{Units}}{\cancel{Units}} + \frac{Fixed Costs}{Units}$$

Units cancel in the first part leaving the equation for getting the breakeven price at:

$$Price = Variable Cost Per Unit + \frac{Fixed Costs}{Units}$$

Equation for  
Breakeven Price

### Equation for Breakeven Units

Profit is: Gross – Total Costs or more specifically for our example:

$$Profit = Price * Units - Variable Cost Per Unit * Units - Fixed Costs$$

We know breakeven occurs when *Profit* goes to zero so we will move *Fixed Costs* to the left and eliminate *Profit* from the equation by setting it to zero:

$$Fixed Costs = Price * Units - Variable Cost Per Unit * Units$$

Simplifying

$$Fixed Costs = Units ( Price - Variable Cost Per Unit )$$

Solving for *Units*, the equation to get breakeven for units is:

$$Units = \frac{Fixed Costs}{(Price - Variable Cost Per Unit)}$$

Equation for  
Breakeven Units

## Price Breakeven Table Exercise Part 1: Building the New Model

Our first step is to adjust our spreadsheet as follows:

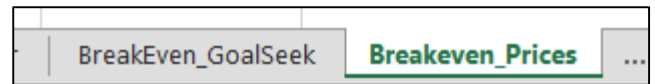
- Set **Units** to any constant we desire (50 for example).
- Set **Price** to our breakeven equation for **Price**.

1. Make a copy of the "Breakeven\_GoalSeek" sheet:



Hold down the **Control** key and drag the sheet's tab to the right to copy it.

2. Rename the new sheet to "**Breakeven\_Prices**" by double clicking the tab's name, typing the new name, and pressing enter.



	A	B	C
1	<b>Break Even Analysis (Profit Goes to 0)</b>		
2	<i>If we produced 100 units, what price must we sell them at to breakeven?</i>		
3	<i>If Price is \$20, how many units must we sell to break even?</i>		
4			
5	Price	\$35.00	← =B8+(B10/B6)
6	Units Sold	100	← 100
7	Revenue	\$ 3,500.00	
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00	
9	Variable Cost	\$ 1,500.00	
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00	
11	Total Costs	\$ 3,500.00	
12	Profit	\$ -	← 0
13			

3. In B5 (Price) type:  
=B8+(B10/B6)

i.e. Cost Per Unit + (Fixed Costs / Units Sold)

4. In B6 (Units Sold) type: 100

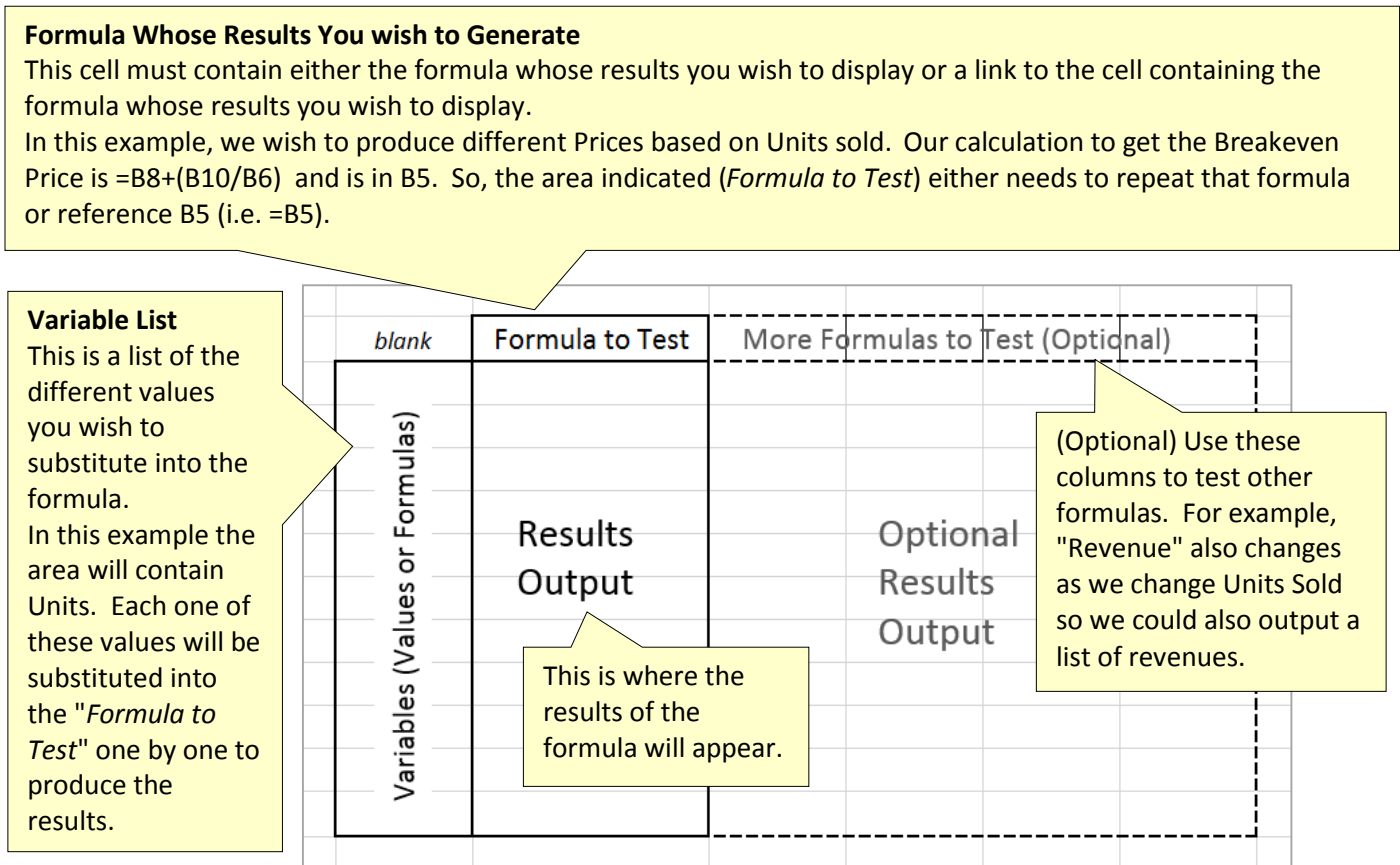
5. In B12 (Profit) type: 0  
(Or type = B7-B11. We removed any reference to B12 from other equations so it doesn't really matter what is here.)

3. Type any positive number (greater than zero) for Units Sold (B6). Price (B5) should instantly show you the price you need to charge to breakeven for the number of units entered.

Now that we have created a model that allows us to type in different *Units* and always returns *Prices* that keeps *Profit* at zero, we can create a one variable data table. We will give it a list of different possible Units and it will return breakeven prices for those units. See the next page on how to structure a one-variable data table.

## Structure of a One Variable Data Table

Excel's *One Variable* and *Two Variable Data Tables* allow you to produce a table of results by varying one or two of a calculation's inputs. For example, if we provide a list of different *Units*, a One Variable Data Tables can produce the Breakeven *Price* for each unit. Data Tables require a very specific structure to be used correctly. The structure of a one variable data table is shown below.



Note that for this to work, there must be a mathematical relationship between Units and Price. For example, if manually typing different units in B6 does not change price (B5) then a One Variable Data Table can't help you. All the data table is really doing is substituting each variable one by one into B6 to produce a table of different prices for each unit substituted in.

(See the next page for *Price Breakeven Table Exercise Part 2: Using the One Variable Data Table*)

## Price Breakeven Table Exercise Part 2: Using the One Variable Data Table

We will now create a table of breakeven *Prices* given a series of *Units*.

1. On the "Breakeven\_Prices" tab, create the structure shown in columns D & E.

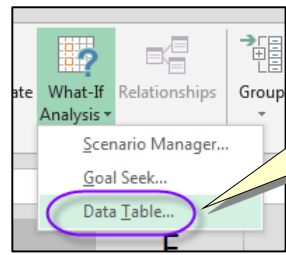
	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Break Even Analysis (Profit = 0)</b>			
2	<i>What Should Price be to break even if we vary Units?</i>			
3				<b>Units Varied</b>
4		<b>Units Varied</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Prices Are:</b>
5	Price	\$ 35.00		\$35.00
6	Units Sold	<b>100</b>	50	
7	Revenue	\$ 3,500.00	100	
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00	150	
9	Variable Cost	\$ 1,500.00	200	
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00	250	
11	Total Costs	\$ 3,500.00	300	
12	Profit		350	
13			400	
14			450	
15			500	

2. In E5 type: =B5  
(This is the formula used to generate our prices.)

3. In D6:D15, type the units you would like to find breakeven Prices for.  
(These are our column variables and will be substituted into B6 one at a time to produce our table of prices.)

Units Varied	
Units	Prices Are:
	\$55.00
50	
100	
150	
200	
250	
300	
350	
400	
450	
500	

4. Highlight the range D5:E15 as indicated.



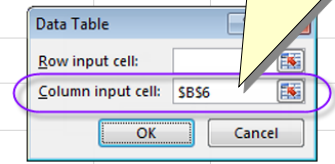
5. From the menu, click the "Data" tab then "What-If Analysis" then "Data Table...".



This is a One-Variable Data Table so we only have a *Column Input Cell*. *Row Input Cell* will be left blank. The Column Input Cell is the cell that you want your column of variables (i.e. "Units") to be substituted into to generate the prices. In this case, we wish to substitute our column of UNITS (D6:D15) into cell B6.

6. Select B6 (Units Sold) as the "Column Input Cell".
7. Click "OK".

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Break Even Analysis (Profit = 0)</b>				
2	<i>What Should Price be to break even if we vary Units?</i>				
3					
4		<b>Units Varied</b>		<b>Units</b>	<b>Prices Are:</b>
5	Price	\$ 35.00			\$19.00
6	Units Sold	100		50	
7	Revenue	\$ 9,500.00		100	
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00		150	
9	Variable Cost	\$ 7,500.00		200	
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00		250	
11	Total Costs	\$ 9,500.00		300	
12	Profit			350	
13				400	
14				450	
15				500	
16					



Units Varied	
Units	Prices Are:
	\$35.00
50	\$55.00
100	\$35.00
150	\$28.33
200	\$25.00
250	\$23.00
300	\$21.67
350	\$20.71
400	\$20.00
450	\$19.44
500	\$19.00

Excel should produce a column of breakeven prices for each corresponding unit.

### Breakeven Exercise Part 3: Display Prices and Revenues

A one variable data table can display the results for more than one formula as long as both formulas are affected by the same variable. We will modify our data table to also include **Revenues**.

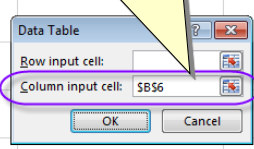
1. In F5 type: **=B7**  
 (B7 contains the formula for Revenue. Referencing it here tells the table to generate results for Revenue for the various Units.)

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Break Even Analysis (Profit = 0)</b>			
2	What Should Price be to break even if we vary Units?			
3				<b>Units Varied</b>
4		<b>Units Varied</b>	Units	Prices Are:
5	Price	\$ 35.00		\$35.00
6	Units Sold	<b>100</b>	50	\$55.00
7	Revenue	\$ 3,500.00	100	\$35.00
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00	150	\$28.33
9	Variable Cost	\$ 1,500.00	200	\$25.00
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00	250	\$23.00

- Highlight **D3:F15**.
- From the menu, click the "Data" tab then "What-If Analysis" – "Data Table...".

4. Set the "Column Input Cell" to **B6**.  
 5. Click "OK".

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Break Even Analysis (Profit = 0)</b>				
2	What Should Price be to break even if we vary Units?				
3					
4		<b>Units Varied</b>		<b>Units</b>	<b>Prices Are:</b>
5	Price	\$ 35.00			\$35.00
6	Units Sold	<b>100</b>			\$ 3,500.00
7	Revenue	\$ 3,500.00		50	\$55.00
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00		100	\$35.00
9	Variable Cost	\$ 1,500.00		150	\$28.33
10				200	\$25.00
11				250	\$23.00
12				300	\$21.67
13				350	\$20.71
14				400	\$20.00
15				450	\$19.44
16				500	\$19.00



Units	Prices Are:	
	\$35.00	\$3,500
50	\$55.00	\$2,750
100	\$35.00	\$3,500
150	\$28.33	\$4,250
200	\$25.00	\$5,000
250	\$23.00	\$5,750
300	\$21.67	\$6,500
350	\$20.71	\$7,250
400	\$20.00	\$8,000
450	\$19.44	\$8,750
500	\$19.00	\$9,500

Excel should have also produced a column of revenues that correspond to the number of units being sold.

## Optional Exercise: Find Breakeven Units when Prices Vary

In our previous data table exercise, we varied units to produce a series of breakeven prices. You can also vary prices to see what your breakeven units will be.

- Copy the previous exercise to a new sheet and name the new sheet "Breakeven\_Units".
- Make the edits shown below.

	A		D	E	
1	<b>Break Even Analysis (Profit = 0)</b>				
2	What Should Units be to break even if				
3					
4		<b>Prices Varie</b>		<b>Prices Varied</b>	
5	Price	\$ 25.00		Price	Units Are
6	Units Sold	200 =B10/(B5-B8)	\$ 16		200 =B6
7	Revenue	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 17		
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00	\$ 18		
9	Variable Cost	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 19		
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 20		
11	Total Costs	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 21		
12	Profit		\$ 22		
13			\$ 23		
14			\$ 24		
15			\$ 25		

- Highlight D5:E15
- From the menu click the "Data" tab and then click "What-If Analysis" – "Data Table".

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Break Even Analysis (Profit = 0)</b>					
2	What Should Units be to break even if we vary Price?					
3				<b>Prices Varied</b>		
4		<b>Prices Varied</b>		Price	Units Are	
5	Price	\$ 25.00			200	
6	Units Sold	200		\$ 16		
7	Revenue	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 17		
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00		\$ 18		
9	Variable Cost	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 19		
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 20		
11	Total Costs	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 21		
12	Profit			\$ 22		
13				\$ 23		
14				\$ 24		
15				\$ 25		

9. Set the **Column Input Cell** to B5.

10. Click "OK".

Excel should produce a table of breakeven units for the various prices given.

Price	Units Are
	200
\$ 16	2,000
\$ 17	1,000
\$ 18	667
\$ 19	500
\$ 20	400
\$ 21	333
\$ 22	286
\$ 23	250
\$ 24	222
\$ 25	200

## Exercise: Adjust Costs as Units change with VLookup()

	A	B
1	<b>Break Even Analysis (Profit = 0)</b>	
2	What Should Price be to break even if we vary Units?	
3		
4		<b>Units Varied</b>
5	Price	\$ 35.00
6	Units Sold	100
7	Revenue	\$ 3,500.00
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00
9	Variable Cost	\$ 1,500.00
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00
11	Total Costs	\$ 3,500.00
12	Profit	

In our previous examples, varied **Units Sold** to see what our breakeven prices would be. In our equations, *Cost Per Unit* was held constant at \$15 and *Fixed Cost* was held constant at \$2000 regardless of the number of units sold. In reality however, both of these numbers would probably change as volume changes.

### Cost Per Unit

As units increase, this cost will probably go down as you realize economies of scale. For example, your suppliers of raw materials might give you price breaks when you purchase in greater volume.

### Fixed Costs

Fixed costs include things that don't change as production changes. For example, mortgage payments, lease payments, salaries, etc. However, for the purpose of our model, once units hits a certain point, will have to purchase or lease more buildings and hire more employees so for our model, *Fixed Costs* will go up as **Units** increase.

1. Go to the "Breakeven\_Prices" sheet.
2. Type the data shown in H3:J13

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	<b>Break Even Analysis (Profit = 0)</b>									
2	What Should Price be to break even if we vary Units?									
3				<b>Units Varied</b>						
4		<b>Units Varied</b>		Units	Prices Are:					
5	Price	\$ 55.00			\$55.00					
6	Units Sold	50		50						
7	Revenue	\$ 2,750.00		100						
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00		150						
9	Variable Cost	\$ 750.00		200						
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00		250						
11	Total Costs	\$ 2,750.00		300						
12	Profit			350						
13				400						
14				450						
15				500						

Units	Cost Per Unit	Fixed Costs
1	\$15.00	\$2,000
1,000	\$14.50	\$2,000
5,000	\$14.25	\$2,000
10,000	\$14.00	\$2,000
15,000	\$13.75	\$2,000
20,000	\$13.50	\$4,000
25,000	\$13.25	\$4,000
30,000	\$13.00	\$4,000
35,000	\$12.75	\$4,000
40,000	\$12.50	\$5,000

This is the table we will use to lookup the *Cost Per Unit* and *Fixed Costs* associated with the number of *Units* sold. (We are assuming we sell everything we make.)

Vlookup() will look for the units we give it in the "Units" column. When selecting the bracket, Vlookup() grabs the largest value it finds in the Units column that is less than or equal to what we are looking for. For example:

- If we are looking for 9,000 units, 5,000 is the largest number in the Units column that is less than or equal to 9,000 so it will use the costs in row 6 (14.25 and 2000).
- If we are looking for 50 units, 1 is the largest number in the Units column that is less than or equal to 50 so it will use the costs in row 4 (15 and 2000).

When using Vlookup(), you must construct your table with how vlookup() searches in mind.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	<b>Break Even Analysis (Profit = 0)</b>									
2	What Should Price be to break even if we vary Units?									
3			Units Varied					<b>Cost</b>	<b>Fixed</b>	
4			Units	Prices Are:			<b>Per Unit</b>	<b>Costs</b>		
5	Price	\$ 55.00		\$55.00			1	\$15.00	\$2,000	
6	Units Sold		50				5,000	\$14.25	\$2,000	
7	Revenue	\$ 2,750.00	100				10,000	\$14.00	\$2,000	
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	=VLOOKUP(B6,H4:J13,2,TRUE)	150				15,000	\$13.75	\$2,000	
9	Variable Cost	\$ 750.00	200				20,000	\$13.50	\$4,000	
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	=VLOOKUP(B6,H4:J13,3,TRUE)	250				25,000	\$13.25	\$4,000	
11	Total Costs	\$ 2,750.00	300				30,000	\$13.00	\$4,000	
12	Profit		350				35,000	\$12.75	\$4,000	
13			400				40,000	\$12.50	\$5,000	
14			450							

3. In B8 type:  
=Vlookup(B6,H4:J13,2,True)

4. In B10 type:  
=Vlookup(B6,H4:J13,3,True)

5. Try typing different Units in B6 to test your Vlookup(s). Cost Per Unit and Fixed Costs should update accordingly.
6. Regenerate your One Variable Data Table to output the new breakeven prices.

### How Vlookup() Works

Vlookup() allows you to return data that is associated with a lookup value. In this example we searched our table for *Units Sold* (Lookup Value) and returned the *Cost Per Unit* and *Fixed Costs* associated with the units we were looking for.

The Lookup value must be to the left of the item you are returning and for approximate matches they must be sorted.

Col #1	Col #2	Col #3
Lookup Value	Item to Return	Item to Return

The syntax of Vlookup() is as follows.

=Vlookup(Lookup Value, Table to Search, Item to Return by Column #, Match Type)

This is the value you wish to search by. In this example, we searched by *Units Sold*. Your lookup value must be to the left of what you are returning.

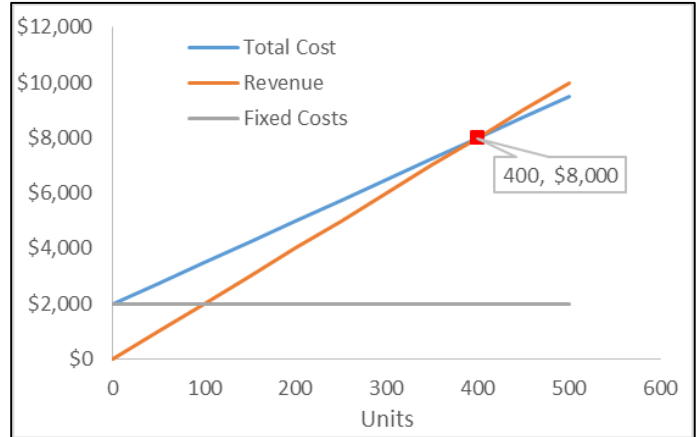
This is the range of the table you are searching. It must include the column of your lookup values and the values you are returning. In this example it is H4:J13

This is the column number (counting within the table from left to right) containing the value associated with the item you are looking for. In this example, to return *Cost Per Unit* we put a 2; to return *Fixed Costs* we put a 3.

Match Type is either *True* or *False* and specifies whether you want an exact match (False) or an approximate match (True). Use an exact match (False) when searching by ID numbers or names. Use approximate match (True) when working with number ranges. Approximate match finds the largest number that is less than or equal to what you are looking for.

## Creating a Break Even Chart (Excel 2013)

Graphically, breakeven occurs when **Total Costs** intersects **Revenue**. In the image to the right, we are holding **Price** constant at \$20 and plotting **Fixed Costs**, **Total Costs**, and **Revenue**. As indicated by the graph, breakeven occurs at 400 **Units**. At this point, both **Total Cost** and **Revenue** are \$8,000.



We will create the chart as follows:

- A. Use a One-Variable Data Table to generate **Total Costs** and **Revenues** when holding **price** constant at \$20 and varying **Units**.
- B. Create an XY Scatter Chart to display the lines.
- C. Create a 4th series that consists of a single data point (Breakeven).

### Part A: Create the Data for the Graph

1. Create the spreadsheet shown below (or copy the "Breakeven\_GoalSeek" sheet we created earlier). It simply calculates what **Profit**, **Revenue**, **Variable Costs** and **Total Costs** would be if you vary **Price** or **Units**.

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Break Even Chart</b>			
2	<i>Type in Different Prices to see where Breakeven Units will occur</i>			
3				
4				
5	Price	20		
6	Units Sold	100		
7	Revenue	\$ 2,000.00	←	=B5*B6
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00		
9	Variable Cost	\$ 1,500.00	←	=B8*B6
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00		
11	Total Costs	\$ 3,500.00	←	=B9+B10
12	Profit	\$ (1,500.00)	←	=B7-B11
13				

Type formulas where indicated; other values are constants.

2. Create what is shown in columns E through H. This is to generate values for our one variable data table. (All values are static except for the two formulas indicated in F5 and G5.)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	<b>Break Even Chart</b>							
2	<i>Type in Different Prices to see where Breakeven Units will occur</i>							
3								
4					<b>Units</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Fixed Costs</b>
5	Price	20				\$ 3,500	\$ 2,000	
6	Units Sold	100			0	=B11	=B7	2000
7	Revenue	\$ 2,000.00			50			2000
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00			100			2000
9	Variable Cost	\$ 1,500.00			150			2000
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00			200			2000
11	Total Costs	\$ 3,500.00			250			2000
12	Profit	\$ (1,500.00)			300			2000
13					350			2000
14					400			2000
15					450			2000
16					500			2000
17								

3. To generate the One-Variable Data Table, follow the steps below:

3a. Highlight the range

3b. Click "Data" then "What-If Analysis" then "Data Table."

3c. Set the "Column input cell" to \$B\$6 then click "OK".



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	<b>Break Even Chart</b>							
2	<i>Type in Different Prices to see where Breakeven Units will occur</i>							
3								
4					<b>Units</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Fixed Costs</b>
5	Price	20				\$ 3,500	\$ 2,000	
6	Units Sold	100			0	2000	0	2000
7	Revenue	\$ 2,000.00			50	2750	1000	2000
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00			100	3500	2000	
9	Variable Cost	\$ 1,500.00			150	4250	3000	
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00			200	5000	4000	
11	Total Costs	\$ 3,500.00			250	5750	5000	
12	Profit	\$ (1,500.00)			300	6500	6000	
13					350	7250	7000	2000
14					400	8000	8000	2000
15					450	8750	9000	2000
16					500	9500	10000	2000

These values should have been generated. Note that they will update if you change Price (B5).

**Part B: Create an XY Scatter Chart to Display the Lines**

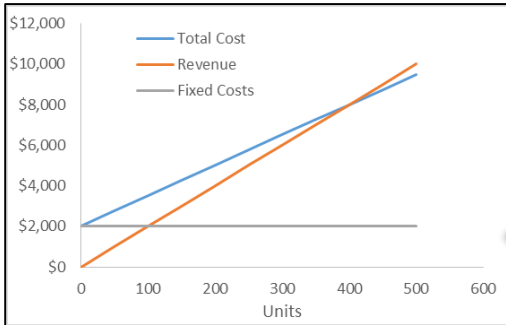
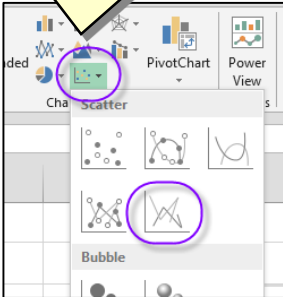
When highlighting to create an XY Scatter Chart as we are doing below, Excel will assume that the left most column is for all X data points for all lines. The multiple columns to the right will each be a separate line and contain the Y data points.

	D	E	F	G	H
3					
4		<b>Units</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Fixed Costs</b>
5			\$ 3,500	\$ 2,000	
6		0	2000	0	2000
7		50	2750	1000	2000
8		100	3500	2000	2000
9		150	4250	3000	2000
10		200	5000	4000	2000
11		250	5750	5000	2000
12		300	6500	6000	2000
13		350	7250	7000	2000
14		400	8000	8000	2000
15		450	8750	9000	2000
16		500	9500	10000	2000
17					

1. Highlight **E4:H4**  
(These will become our legend).

2. Hold down the **Control** key on your keyboard and highlight **E6:H6**  
(These will become our data points).

3. From the menu click "**Insert**" then "**XY Scatter**" then "**Scatter with Straight Lines**".



You should now have a XY Scatter chart similar to the one shown here. Note that if you change Price (B5), the data table and the chart will update.



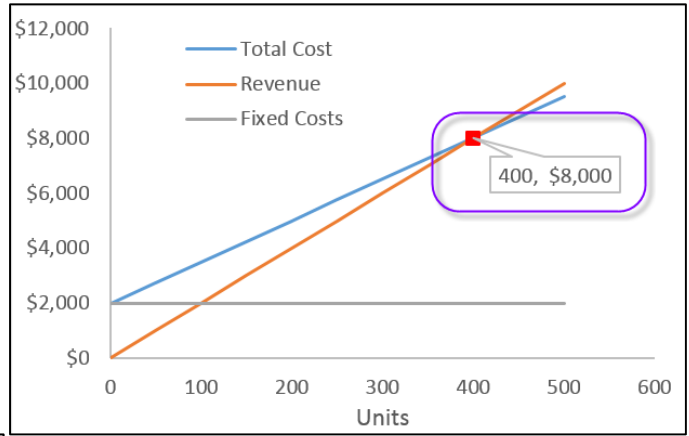
### Part C: Marking the Breakeven Point

We wish to mark the breakeven point on our chart. We could use Excel's drawing tools to annotate it but that would not update should we change the price we are charging. Instead, we will add a 4<sup>th</sup> series that contains just one data point. To make the data point dynamic, we will base its X value on the breakeven calculation for Units:

$$BE\ Units = Fixed\ Costs / (Price - Variable\ Cost)$$

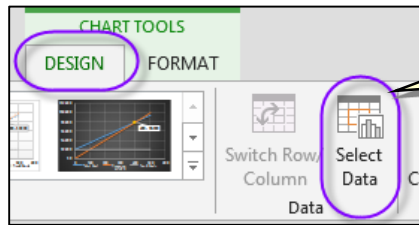
To get the corresponding Y value:

$$BE\ Units * Price$$



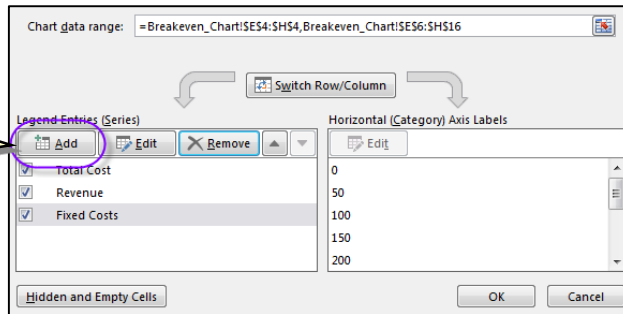
	A	B	C	D
4				
5	Price	20		
6	Units Sold	100		
7	Revenue	\$ 2,000.00		
8	Cost Per Unit (\$15)	\$ 15.00		
9	Variable Cost	\$ 1,500.00		
10	Fixed Costs (\$2000)	\$ 2,000.00		
11	Total Costs	\$ 3,500.00		
12	Profit	\$ (1,500.00)		
13				
14	BE Units (X):	400		
15	Corrisponding Y:	\$ 8,000.00		
16				
17				

- In B14 type: **=B10/(B5-B8)**
- In B15 type: **=B5\*B14**

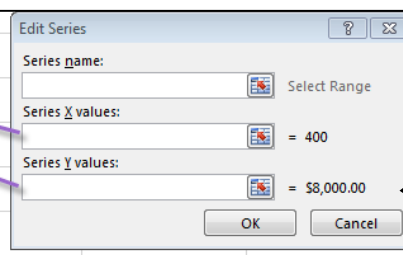


- Click your chart to make the chart tools appear on the menu.
- Click the "Design" tab then the "Select Data" button.

- Click the "Add" button to add a 4<sup>th</sup> series to the chart.



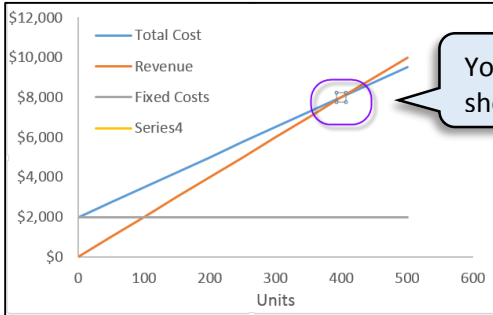
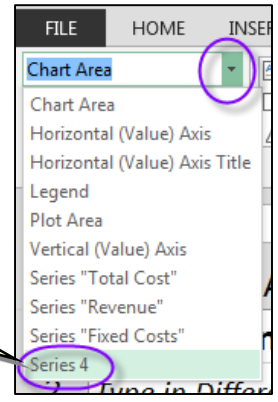
12	Profit	\$ (1,500.00)
13		
14	BE Units (X):	400
15	Corrisponding Y:	\$ 8,000.00
16		
17		



- Set the "Series X Values" to cell B14.
- Set the "Series Y Values" to cell B15.
- Click "OK".
- Click "OK" again.

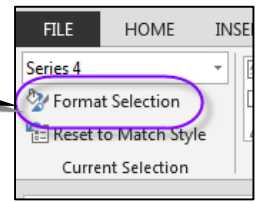
You may have noticed that the data point is not visible on your chart. We must now give it some color.

10. Click the chart to activate the *Chart Tools*.
11. Click the **"Format"** tab under *Chart Tools*.
12. Click the **"Chart Elements"** drop down (located in the upper left).
13. Select **"Series 4"** from the list of chart elements.



Your Series 4 data point should now be selected.

14. Click **"Format Selection"**.



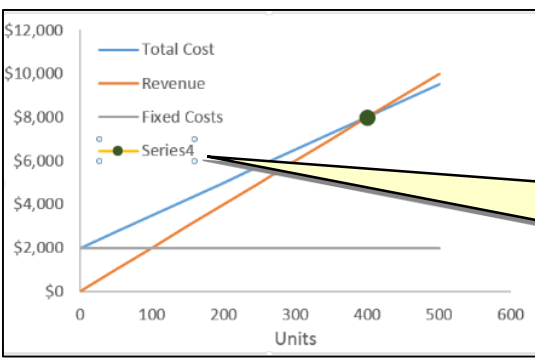
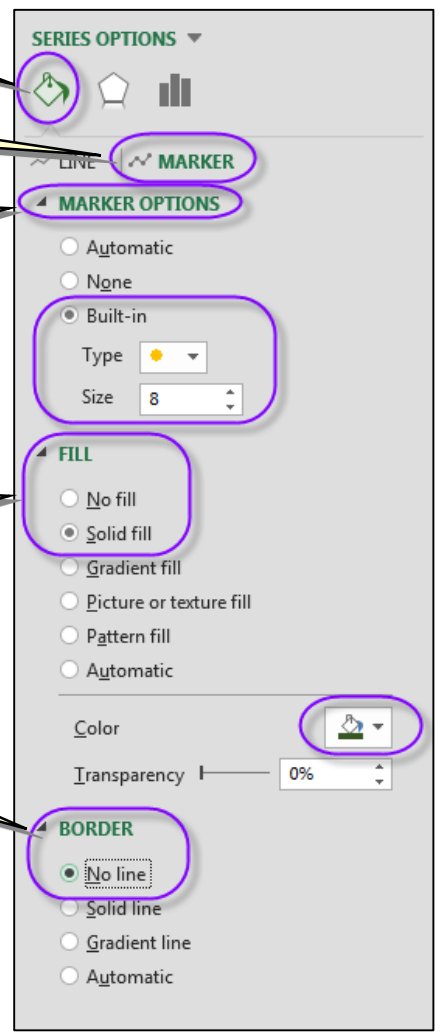
15. Click **"Line & Fill"**.

16. Click **"Marker"**.

17. Expand **"Marker Options"**.
  - a. Select **"Built-in"**
  - b. Specify a **"Type"** and **"Size"**.

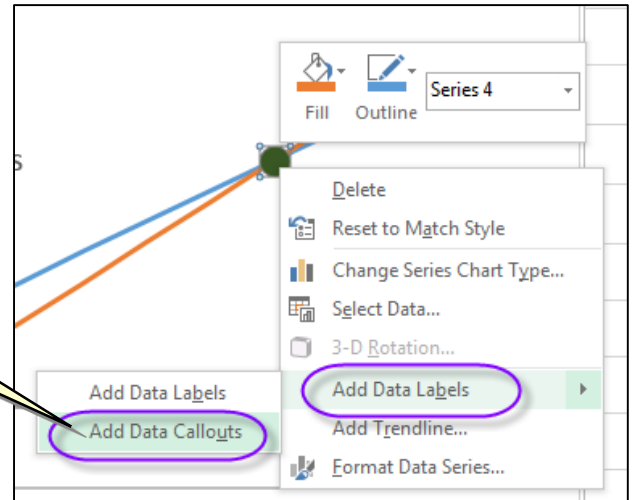
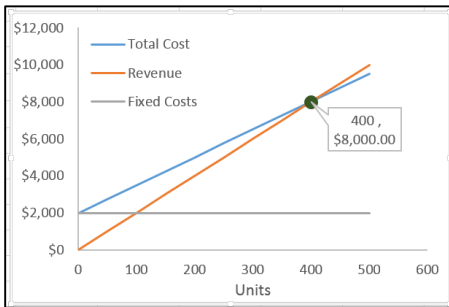
18. Expand **"Fill"**.
  - a. Select **"Solid Fill"**
  - b. Specify a **"Color"**

19. Expand **"Border"**.
  - a. Select **"No Line"**.



20. Select **"Series4"** in the legend and press your delete key.

21. To label the Breakeven point:
- Right click the data point.
  - Click "Add Data Labels".
  - Click "Add Data Callouts".



21. Change the "Price" in cell B5 and the chart should adjust accordingly. (Note that changing Units Sold has no effect on our chart. It was designed to only be affected by changes in Price.)

