

As we saw in Outcome 1 pack, a compound bar chart combines sets of information on one bar chart.

#### Example 4

Here is repeated data from an example used in the Outcome 1 pack, showing output of three products (in thousands of units) for PQR plc, in 1996, 1997 and 1998.

	1996	1997	1998
Product A	180	130	50
Product B	90	110	170
Product C	180	180	125
Total	450	420	345

Draw a bar chart to show this information.

#### Solution:

There's too much information here for a simple bar chart; the organisation of the data cries out for a compound bar chart.

The only question you have to ask yourself is 'shall I show products within years or years within products?' The answer, I suppose, depends on where you want the emphasis to lie, or for whom the chart is being prepared, which is probably not the answer you're looking for! The best I can do is tell you to use your common sense; you'll be right most of the time!

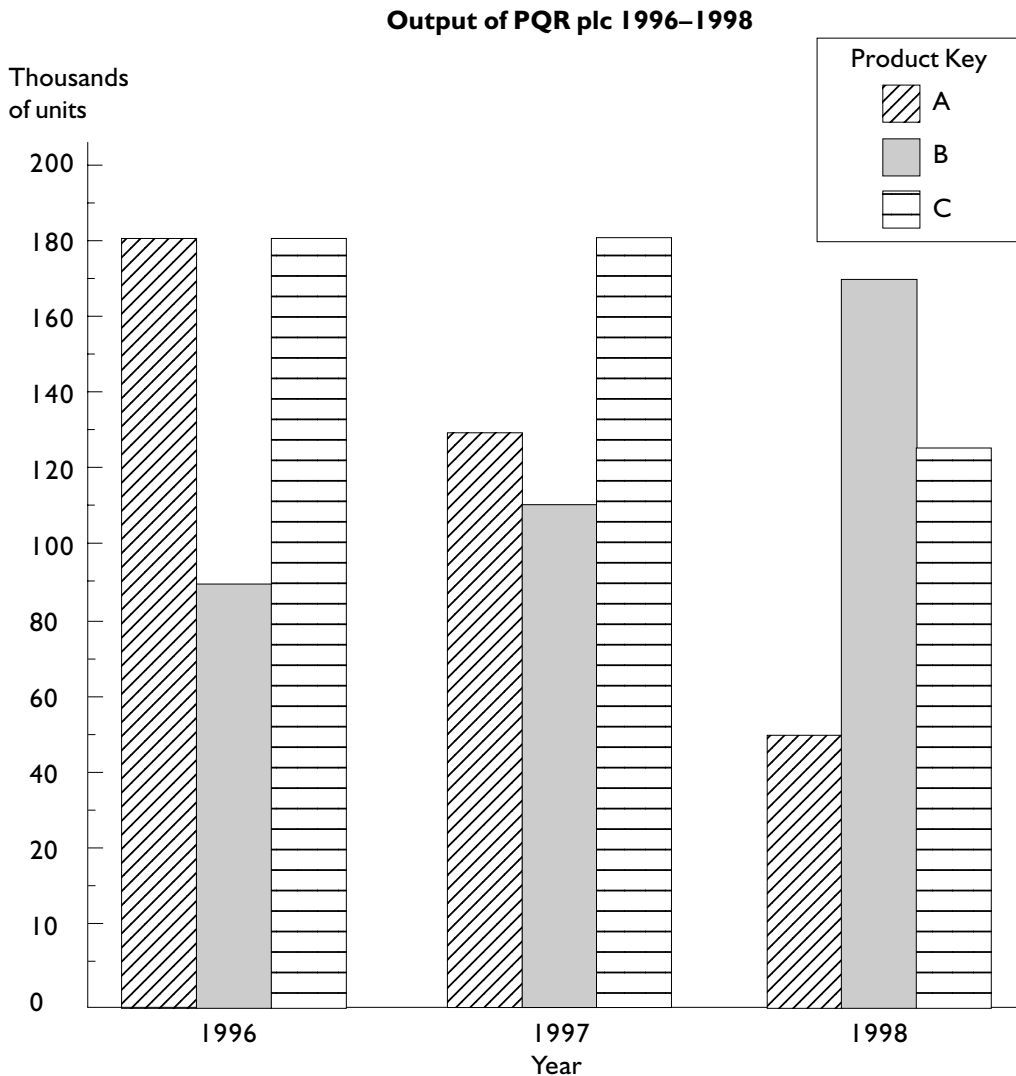
The same rules apply as for ordinary bar charts, i.e. make sure you:

- include a title
- label each axis
- clearly mark the scales
- make the scales regular
- include the units being used

and so on.

We also now have to include a key which will differentiate between the various bars. This will involve colours or shading of some sort.

We will also have to be careful about the spacing of the bars. Notice how, in my effort over the page, for each year, the three bars for products A, B and C are together with no spaces at all, but there are spaces between the years. Imagine the confusion if all the bars were strung together with no spaces at all!



**? 4**

1. Draw a compound bar chart to illustrate the following: the data represents the absences in two classes at school during a flu epidemic.

Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Class 1	3	5	5	8	10	15	17	17	13	12
Class 2	0	2	4	5	5	7	10	14	17	16

2. Draw a compound bar chart to illustrate the number of medals of different types won by a selection of countries at an athletics competition:

	USA	Russia	Germany	China	UK
Gold	15	8	6	12	3
Silver	23	17	0	10	2
Bronze	14	18	5	0	6