

# Crystal Ball Software and Risk Analysis Tips

## Using Assumption Charts

Have you ever needed to compare the trial values generated for your assumptions (empirical data) with the distribution selected for that assumption (theoretical data)? In Crystal Ball version 7.0 and later, you can easily use the Assumption Charts feature to accomplish this goal.

You can view Assumption Charts after running simulations and with different sample and trial sizes to compare the effects of the different settings on the simulation values. More trials and larger samples should generate smoother curves that conform more closely to the ideal distribution curves.

To create an assumption chart, run a simulation in Crystal Ball. Assumption charts, like forecast charts, are created automatically. To view an assumption chart:

1. Choose Analyze > Assumption Charts, or click the Assumption Charts icon in the toolbar. The Assumption Charts dialog appears with a list of available charts.
2. Check the boxes in front of the charts you wish to display and click OK. The assumption chart will appear similar to a forecast chart, and all of the views and statistics are available. For example, you can compare the statistics or percentiles of the simulation results and the original distribution.

You can add Assumption Charts to reports or copy them to the clipboard for use in other applications. And, as with all the other Crystal Ball charts, you can easily modify your assumption charts.

**NOTE:** The assumption chart is also an excellent tool for comparing or demonstrating the difference between using Monte Carlo simulation and Latin Hypercube simulation. Simply run a model with one method and save the results, then run with the second method and compare the results of the two simulations.

For more information or to contact us, browse to <http://helpdesk.crystalball.com>

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