

# Package ‘ggsurveillance’

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**Title** Tools for Outbreak Investigation/Infectious Disease Surveillance

**Version** 0.4.0

**Description** Create epicurves or epigant charts in 'ggplot2'. Prepare data for visualisation or other reporting for infectious disease surveillance and outbreak investigation. Includes tidy functions to solve date based transformations for common reporting tasks, like (A) seasonal date alignment for respiratory disease surveillance, (B) date-based case binning based on specified time intervals like isoweek, epiweek, month and more, (C) automated detection and marking of the new year based on the date/datetime axis of the 'ggplot2'. An introduction on how to use epicurves can be found on the US CDC website (2012, <<https://www.cdc.gov/training/quickearns/epimode/index.html>>).

**License** GPL (>= 3)

**URL** <https://ggsurveillance.biostats.dev>,  
<https://github.com/biostats-dev/ggsurveillance>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/biostats-dev/ggsurveillance/issues>

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*align\_dates\_seasonal Align dates for seasonal comparison*

### Description

Standardizes dates from multiple years to enable comparison of epidemic curves and visualization of seasonal patterns in infectious disease surveillance data. Commonly used for creating periodicity plots of respiratory diseases like influenza, RSV, or COVID-19.

### Usage

```
align_dates_seasonal(
  x,
  dates_from = NULL,
  date_resolution = c("week", "isoweek", "epiweek", "day", "month"),
  start = NULL,
```

```

    target_year = NULL,
    drop_leap_week = TRUE
  )

  align_and_bin_dates_seasonal(
    x,
    n = 1,
    dates_from,
    population = 1,
    fill_gaps = FALSE,
    date_resolution = c("week", "isoweek", "epiweek", "day", "month"),
    start = NULL,
    target_year = NULL,
    drop_leap_week = TRUE
)

```

## Arguments

<code>x</code>	Either a data frame with a date column, or a date vector. Supported date formats are <code>date</code> and <code>datetime</code> and also commonly used character strings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISO dates "2024-03-09"</li> <li>• Month "2024-03"</li> <li>• Week "2024-W09" or "2024-W09-1"</li> </ul>
<code>dates_from</code>	Column name containing the dates to align. Used when <code>x</code> is a <code>data.frame</code> .
<code>date_resolution</code>	Character string specifying the temporal resolution. One of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "week" or "isoweek" - Calendar weeks (ISO 8601), reporting weeks as used by the ECDC.</li> <li>• "epiweek" - Epidemiological weeks (US CDC), i.e. ISO weeks with Sunday as week start.</li> <li>• "month" - Calendar months</li> <li>• "day" - Daily resolution</li> </ul>
<code>start</code>	Numeric value indicating epidemic season start: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For week/epiweek: week number (default: 28, approximately July)</li> <li>• For month: month number (default: 7 for July)</li> <li>• For day: day of year (default: 150, approximately June) If <code>start</code> is set to "1" the alignment is done for yearly comparison and the shift in dates for seasonality is skipped.</li> </ul>
<code>target_year</code>	Numeric value for the reference year to align dates to. The default target year is the start of the most recent season in the data. This way the most recent dates stay unchanged.
<code>drop_leap_week</code>	If <code>TRUE</code> and <code>date_resolution</code> is <code>week</code> , <code>isoweek</code> or <code>epiweek</code> , leap weeks (week 53) are dropped if they are not in the most recent season. Disable if data should be returned. Dropping week 53 from historical data is the most common approach.

	Otherwise historical data for week 53 would map to week 52 if the target season has no leap week, resulting in a doubling of the case counts.
n	Numeric column with case counts (or weights). Supports quoted and unquoted column names.
population	A number or a numeric column with the population size. Used to calculate the incidence.
fill_gaps	Logical; If TRUE, gaps in the time series will be filled with 0 cases.

## Details

This function helps create standardized epidemic curves by aligning surveillance data from different years. This enables:

- Comparison of disease patterns across multiple seasons
- Identification of typical seasonal trends
- Detection of unusual disease activity
- Assessment of current season against historical patterns

The alignment can be done at different temporal resolutions (daily, weekly, monthly) with customizable season start points to match different disease patterns or surveillance protocols.

## Value

A data frame with standardized date columns:

- year: Calendar year from original date
- week/month/day: Time unit based on chosen resolution
- date\_aligned: Date standardized to target year
- season: Epidemic season identifier (e.g., "2023/24"), if start = 1 this is the year only (e.g. 2023).
- current\_season: Logical flag for most recent season

Binning also creates the columns:

- n: Sum of cases in bin
- incidence: Incidence calculated using n/population

## Examples

```
# Sesonal Visualization of Germany Influenza Surveillance Data
library(ggplot2)

influenza_germany |>
  align_dates_seasonal(
    dates_from = ReportingWeek, date_resolution = "epiweek", start = 28
  ) -> df_flu_aligned

ggplot(df_flu_aligned, aes(x = date_aligned, y = Incidence, color = season)) +
```

```
geom_line() +
facet_wrap(~AgeGroup) +
theme_bw() +
theme_mod_rotate_x_axis_labels_45()
```

**create\_agegroups**      *Create Age Groups from Numeric Values*

## Description

Creates age groups from numeric values using customizable break points and formatting options. The function allows for flexible formatting and customization of age group labels.

If a factor is returned, this factor includes factor levels of unobserved age groups. This allows for reproducible age groups, which can be used for joining data (e.g. adding age grouped population numbers for incidence calculation).

## Usage

```
create_agegroups(
  values,
  age_breaks = c(5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90),
  breaks_as_lower_bound = TRUE,
  first_group_format = "0-{x}",
  interval_format = "{x}-{y}",
  last_group_format = "{x}+",
  pad_numbers = FALSE,
  pad_with = "0",
  collapse_single_year_groups = FALSE,
  na_label = NA,
  return_factor = FALSE
)
```

## Arguments

<b>values</b>	Numeric vector of ages to be grouped
<b>age_breaks</b>	Numeric vector of break points for age groups. Default: c(5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90)
<b>breaks_as_lower_bound</b>	Logical; if TRUE (default), breaks are treated as lower bounds of the intervals. If FALSE, as upper bounds.
<b>first_group_format</b>	Character string template for the first age group. Uses glue syntax. Default: "0-{x}", Other common styles: "<={x}", "<{x+1}"
<b>interval_format</b>	Character string template for intermediate age groups. Uses glue syntax. Default: "{x}-{y}", Other common styles: "{x} to {y}"

<code>last_group_format</code>	Character string template for the last age group. Uses glue syntax. Default: " <code>{x}+</code> ", Other common styles: " <code>&gt;={x}</code> ", " <code>&gt;{x-1}</code> "
<code>pad_numbers</code>	Logical or numeric; if numeric, pad numbers up to the specified length (Tip: use 2). Not compatible with calculations within glue formats. Default: FALSE
<code>pad_with</code>	Character to use for padding numbers. Default: " <code>0</code> "
<code>collapse_single_year_groups</code>	Logical; if TRUE, groups spanning single years are collapsed. Default: FALSE
<code>na_label</code>	Label for NA values. If NA, keeps default NA handling. Default: NA
<code>return_factor</code>	Logical; if TRUE, returns a factor, if FALSE returns character vector. Default: FALSE

**Value**

Vector of age group labels (character or factor depending on `return_factor`)

**Examples**

```
# Basic usage
create_agegroups(1:100)

# Custom formatting with upper bounds
create_agegroups(1:100,
  breaks_as_lower_bound = FALSE,
  interval_format = "{x} to {y}",
  first_group_format = "0 to {x}"
)

# Ages 1 to 5 are kept as numbers by collapsing single year groups
create_agegroups(1:10,
  age_breaks = c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10),
  collapse_single_year_groups = TRUE
)
```

**Description**

The geometric mean is typically defined for strictly positive values. This function computes the geometric mean of a numeric vector, with the option to replace certain values (e.g., zeros, non-positive values, or values below a user-specified threshold) before computation.

## Usage

```
geometric_mean(
  x,
  na.rm = FALSE,
  replace_value = NULL,
  replace = c("all", "non-positive", "zero"),
  warning = TRUE
)
```

## Arguments

x	A numeric or complex vector of values.
na.rm	Logical. If FALSE (default), the presence of zero or negative values triggers a warning and returns NA. If TRUE, such values (and any NA) are removed before computing the geometric mean.
replace_value	Numeric or NULL. The value used for replacement, depending on replace (e.g., a detection limit (LOD) or quantification limit (LOQ)). If NULL, no replacement is performed. For recommendations how to use, see details.
replace	Character string indicating which values to replace: "all" Replaces all values less than replace_value with replace_value. This is useful if you have a global threshold (such as a limit of detection) below which any measurement is replaced. "non-positive" Replaces all non-positive values ( $x \leq 0$ ) with replace_value. This is helpful if zeros or negative values are known to be invalid or below a certain limit. "zero" Replaces only exact zeros ( $x == 0$ ) with replace_value. Useful if negative values should be treated as missing.
warning	Disable warnings by setting it to FALSE. Defaults to TRUE.

## Details

**Replacement Considerations:** The geometric mean is only defined for strictly positive numbers ( $x > 0$ ). Despite this, the geometric mean can be useful for laboratory measurements which can contain 0 or negative values. If these values are treated as NA and are removed, this results in an upward bias due to missingness. To reduce this, values below the limit of detection (LOD) or limit of quantification (LOQ) are often replaced with the chosen limit, making this limit the practical lower limit of the measurement scale. This is therefore an often recommended approach.

There are also alternatives approaches, where values are replaced by either  $\frac{LOD}{2}$  or  $\frac{LOD}{\sqrt{2}}$  (or LOQ). These approaches create a gap in the distribution of values (e.g. no values for  $\frac{LOD}{2} < x < LOD$ ) and should therefore be used with caution.

**If the replacement approach for values below LOD or LOQ has a material effect on the interpretation of the results, the values should be treated as statistically censored. In this case, proper statistical methods to handle (left) censored data should be used.**

When replace\_value is provided, the function will *first* perform the specified replacements, then proceed with the geometric mean calculation. If no replacements are requested but zero or negative values remain and na.rm = FALSE, an NA will be returned with a warning.

## Value

A single numeric value representing the geometric mean of the processed vector `x`, or NA if the resulting vector is empty (e.g., if `na.rm = TRUE` removes all positive values) or if non-positive values exist when `na.rm = FALSE`.

## Examples

```
# Basic usage with no replacements:
x <- c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
geometric_mean(x)

# Replace all values < 0.5 with 0.5 (common in LOD scenarios):
x3 <- c(0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 1, 5)
geometric_mean(x3, replace_value = 0.5, replace = "all")

# Remove zero or negative values, since log(0) = -Inf and log(-1) = NaN
x4 <- c(-1, 0, 1, 2, 3)
geometric_mean(x4, na.rm = TRUE)
```

`geom_bar_diverging`

*Create diverging bar charts, diverging area charts or other plots for opposing categorical data.*

## Description

`geom_bar_diverging()` creates a diverging bar chart, i.e. stacked bars which are centred at 0. This is useful for visualizing contrasting categories like:

- case counts by contrasting categories like vaccination status or autochthonous (local) vs imported infections
- age pyramids
- likert scales for e.g. agreement (sentiment analysis)
- or any data with natural opposing groups.

`stat_diverging()` calculates the required statistics for diverging charts and can be used with different geoms. Used for easy labelling of diverging charts.

`geom_area_diverging()` creates a diverging area chart, for continuous data of opposing categories. `x` (or `y`) has to be continuous for this geom.

See [scale\\_x\\_continuous\\_diverging\(\)](#), [scale\\_y\\_continuous\\_diverging\(\)](#) for the corresponding ggplot2 scales.

**Usage**

```
geom_bar_diverging(  
  mapping = NULL,  
  data = NULL,  
  position = "identity",  
  proportion = FALSE,  
  neutral_cat = c("odd", "never", "NA", "force"),  
  break_pos = NULL,  
  ...,  
  na.rm = FALSE,  
  show.legend = NA,  
  inherit.aes = TRUE  
)  
  
geom_area_diverging(  
  mapping = NULL,  
  data = NULL,  
  position = "identity",  
  proportion = FALSE,  
  neutral_cat = c("odd", "never", "NA", "force"),  
  break_pos = NULL,  
  ...,  
  na.rm = FALSE,  
  show.legend = NA,  
  inherit.aes = TRUE  
)  
  
stat_diverging(  
  mapping = NULL,  
  data = NULL,  
  geom = "text",  
  position = "identity",  
  stacked = TRUE,  
  proportion = FALSE,  
  neutral_cat = c("odd", "never", "NA", "force"),  
  break_pos = NULL,  
  totals_by_direction = FALSE,  
  nudge_label_outward = 0,  
  ...,  
  na.rm = FALSE,  
  show.legend = NA,  
  inherit.aes = TRUE  
)
```

**Arguments**

mapping	Set of aesthetic mappings created by <code>ggplot2::aes()</code> . See the section Aesthetics below for more details.
---------	---

<code>data</code>	The data to be displayed in this layer.
<code>position</code>	Position adjustment.
<code>proportion</code>	Logical. If TRUE, each stacked bar are normalized to 100%. Useful to plot or calculate the percentages of each category within each bar.
<code>neutral_cat</code>	How to handle the middle category for a odd number of factor levels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "odd": If the number of factor levels is odd, the middle category is treated as neutral.</li> <li>• "never": For odd factor levels, the middle categories is treated as positive.</li> <li>• "NA": observations with NA as category will be shown as the neutral category. By default the NA category will be in the middle (even number of levels) or the first category after the middle (odd number of levels).</li> <li>• "force": A neutral category is always shown. By default this will be middle (odd number of levels) or the first category after the middle (even number of levels).</li> </ul>
<code>break_pos</code>	Only used for <code>neutral_cat = c("never", "NA", "force")</code> . Either a integer position or the name of a factor level. Depending on <code>neutral_cat</code> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "never": The factor level at <code>break_pos</code> will be the first category in the positive direction.</li> <li>• "NA": <code>break_pos</code> controls where the neutral NA category will be inserted. NA will always be inserted before the before the specified factor level (therefore taking its position), i.e. 3 means NA will be the 3rd category.</li> <li>• "force": <code>break_pos</code> forces the specified factor level to be neutral.</li> </ul>
<code>...</code>	Other arguments passed on to <a href="#">layer</a> .
<code>na.rm</code>	If FALSE, the default, missing values are removed with a warning. If TRUE, missing values are silently removed.
<code>show.legend</code>	logical. Should this layer be included in the legends? NA, the default, includes if any aesthetics are mapped. FALSE never includes, and TRUE always includes. It can also be a named logical vector to finely select the aesthetics to display.
<code>inherit.aes</code>	If FALSE, overrides the default aesthetics, rather than combining with them. This is most useful for helper functions that define both data and aesthetics and shouldn't inherit behaviour from the default plot specification, e.g. <a href="#">borders()</a> .
<code>geom</code>	<code>stat_diverging()</code> : The geometric object to use to display the data, e.g. "text" or "label".
<code>stacked</code>	Logical. If TRUE, categories are stacked.
<code>totals_by_direction</code>	Logical. If TRUE, totals are calculated by direction. I.e. the total for the positive, negative and, if existent, neutral category.
<code>nudge_label_outward</code>	Numeric. Relative value to nudge labels outward from 0. Try 0.05. Negative values nudge inward.

## Value

A ggplot2 geom layer that can be added to a plot.

## Diverging bar charts

Diverging bar charts split categories into positive and negative directions based on factor level order. Categories in the first half of factor levels go in the negative direction, while categories in the second half go in the positive direction.

### Aesthetics

Required aesthetics:

- x or y
- diverging\_groups: Will default to `fill` if missing. A factor should be used for this aesthetic for best results. All factor levels defined will be used to determine positive, negative and neutral categories. Behaviour of the diverging bar charts can therefore be controlled by creating empty dummy factor levels.

Optional aesthetics:

- weight: Adjust the weight of observations. Can be used to pass case counts or incidences.

### Calculated stats

The following calculated stats can be used further in aes:

- after\_stat(count)
- after\_stat(prop): Proportion of the category within the stacked bar.
- after\_stat(sign): Direction of the category. Either -1, 0 or +1

### See Also

[scale\\_x\\_continuous\\_diverging\(\)](#), [scale\\_y\\_continuous\\_diverging\(\)](#)

### Examples

```
# Basic example with geom_bar_diverging
library(ggplot2)
library(dplyr)
library(tidyr)

set.seed(123)
df_6cat <- data.frame(matrix(sample(1:6, 600, replace = TRUE), ncol = 6)) |>
  mutate_all(~ ordered(., labels = c("+++", "++", "+", "-", "--", "---"))) |>
  pivot_longer(cols = everything())

ggplot(df_6cat, aes(y = name, fill = value)) +
  geom_bar_diverging() + # Bars
  stat_diverging() + # Labels
  scale_x_continuous_diverging() + # Scale
  theme_classic()

ggplot(df_6cat, aes(y = name, fill = value)) +
  geom_bar_diverging() + # Bars
```

```

stat_diverging(totals_by_direction = TRUE, nudge_label_outward = 0.05) + # Totals as Label
scale_x_continuous_diverging() + # Scale
theme_classic()

# Age pyramid
population_german_states |>
filter(state %in% c("Berlin", "Mecklenburg-Vorpommern"), age < 90) |>
ggplot(aes(y = age, fill = sex, weight = n)) +
geom_bar_diverging(width = 1) +
geom_vline(xintercept = 0) +
scale_x_continuous_diverging(n.breaks = 10) +
facet_wrap(~state, scales = "free_x") +
theme_bw()

# Vaccination status: set neutral category
set.seed(456)
cases_vacc <- data.frame(year = 2017:2025) |>
rowwise() |>
mutate(vacc = list(sample(1:4, 100, prob = (4:1)^(1 - 0.2 * (year - 2017))), replace = TRUE))) |>
unnest(vacc) |>
mutate(
  year = as.factor(year),
  "Vaccination Status" = ordered(vacc,
    labels = c("Fully Vaccinated", "Partially Vaccinated", "Unknown", "Unvaccinated")
  )
)

ggplot(cases_vacc, aes(y = year, fill = `Vaccination Status`)) +
geom_vline(xintercept = 0) +
geom_bar_diverging(proportion = TRUE, neutral_cat = "force", break_pos = "Unknown") +
stat_diverging(
  size = 3, proportion = TRUE, neutral_cat = "force", break_pos = "Unknown",
  totals_by_direction = TRUE, nudge_label_outward = 0.05
) +
scale_x_continuous_diverging(labels = scales::label_percent(), n.breaks = 10) +
scale_y_discrete_reverse() +
ggtitle("Proportion of vaccinated cases by year") +
theme_classic() +
theme_mod_legend_bottom()

```

## geom\_col\_range

*Create a ranged bar chart***Description**

Creates a bar chart with explicitly defined ranges.

## Usage

```
geom_col_range(
  mapping = NULL,
  data = NULL,
  stat = "identity",
  position = "identity",
  ...,
  na.rm = FALSE,
  show.legend = NA,
  inherit.aes = TRUE
)
```

## Arguments

mapping	Set of aesthetic mappings created by <a href="#">aes()</a> . If specified and <code>inherit.aes = TRUE</code> (the default), it is combined with the default mapping at the top level of the plot. You must supply <code>mapping</code> if there is no plot mapping.
data	The data to be displayed in this layer. There are three options: If <code>NULL</code> , the default, the data is inherited from the plot data as specified in the call to <a href="#">ggplot()</a> . A <code>data.frame</code> , or other object, will override the plot data. All objects will be fortified to produce a data frame. See <a href="#">fortify()</a> for which variables will be created. A function will be called with a single argument, the plot data. The return value must be a <code>data.frame</code> , and will be used as the layer data. A function can be created from a formula (e.g. <code>~ head(.x, 10)</code> ).
stat	Defaults to "identity".
position	A position adjustment to use on the data for this layer. This can be used in various ways, including to prevent overplotting and improving the display. The <code>position</code> argument accepts the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The result of calling a position function, such as <code>position_jitter()</code>. This method allows for passing extra arguments to the position.</li> <li>• A string naming the position adjustment. To give the position as a string, strip the function name of the <code>position_</code> prefix. For example, to use <code>position_jitter()</code>, give the position as "jitter".</li> <li>• For more information and other ways to specify the position, see the <a href="#">layer position</a> documentation.</li> </ul>
...	Other arguments passed on to <a href="#">layer()</a> 's <code>params</code> argument. These arguments broadly fall into one of 4 categories below. Notably, further arguments to the <code>position</code> argument, or aesthetics that are required can <i>not</i> be passed through .... Unknown arguments that are not part of the 4 categories below are ignored. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Static aesthetics that are not mapped to a scale, but are at a fixed value and apply to the layer as a whole. For example, <code>colour = "red"</code> or <code>linewidth = 3</code>. The geom's documentation has an <b>Aesthetics</b> section that lists the available options. The 'required' aesthetics cannot be passed on to the <code>params</code>. Please note that while passing unmapped aesthetics as vectors is</li> </ul>

technically possible, the order and required length is not guaranteed to be parallel to the input data.

- When constructing a layer using a `stat_*`() function, the `...` argument can be used to pass on parameters to the geom part of the layer. An example of this is `stat_density(geom = "area", outline.type = "both")`. The geom's documentation lists which parameters it can accept.
- Inversely, when constructing a layer using a `geom_*`() function, the `...` argument can be used to pass on parameters to the stat part of the layer. An example of this is `geom_area(stat = "density", adjust = 0.5)`. The stat's documentation lists which parameters it can accept.
- The `key_glyph` argument of `layer()` may also be passed on through `...`. This can be one of the functions described as `key_glyphs`, to change the display of the layer in the legend.

<code>na.rm</code>	If FALSE, the default, missing values are removed with a warning. If TRUE, missing values are silently removed.
<code>show.legend</code>	logical. Should this layer be included in the legends? NA, the default, includes if any aesthetics are mapped. FALSE never includes, and TRUE always includes. It can also be a named logical vector to finely select the aesthetics to display.
<code>inherit.aes</code>	If FALSE, overrides the default aesthetics, rather than combining with them. This is most useful for helper functions that define both data and aesthetics and shouldn't inherit behaviour from the default plot specification, e.g. <code>borders()</code> .

## Value

A ggplot2 geom layer that can be added to a plot.

## Aesthetics

Required aesthetics:

- Either `x` or `y`
- Either `xmin` and `xmax` or `ymin` and `ymax`

## Examples

```
# Basic example
library(ggplot2)
df <- data.frame(x = 1:3, ymin = -1:-3, ymax = 1:3)
ggplot(df, aes(x = x, ymin = ymin, ymax = ymax)) +
  geom_col_range()
```

---

geom_epicurve	<i>Create an epidemic curve plot or bin/count observations by date periods</i>
---------------	--

---

## Description

Creates a epicurve plot for visualizing epidemic case counts in outbreaks (epidemiological curves). An epicurve is a bar plot, where every case is outlined. `geom_epicurve` additionally provides date-based aggregation of cases (e.g. per week or month and many more).

- For week aggregation both isoweek (World + ECDC) and epiweek (US CDC) are supported.
- `stat_bin_date` and its alias `stat_date_count` provide date based binning only. After binning the by date, these stats behave like `ggplot2::stat_count`.

## Usage

```
geom_epicurve(
  mapping = NULL,
  data = NULL,
  stat = "epicurve",
  position = "stack",
  date_resolution = NULL,
  week_start = getOption("lubridate.week.start", 1),
  width = NULL,
  relative.width = 1,
  ...,
  na.rm = FALSE,
  show.legend = NA,
  inherit.aes = TRUE
)

stat_bin_date(
  mapping = NULL,
  data = NULL,
  geom = "line",
  position = "identity",
  date_resolution = NULL,
  week_start = getOption("lubridate.week.start", 1),
  ...,
  na.rm = FALSE,
  show.legend = NA,
  inherit.aes = TRUE
)

stat_date_count(
  mapping = NULL,
  data = NULL,
```

```

geom = "line",
position = "identity",
date_resolution = NULL,
week_start = getOption("lubridate.week.start", 1),
...,
na.rm = FALSE,
show.legend = NA,
inherit.aes = TRUE
)

```

## Arguments

mapping	Set of aesthetic mappings created by <code>aes</code> . Commonly used mappings:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>x or y</b>: date or datetime. Numeric is technically supported.</li> <li>• <b>fill</b>: for colouring groups</li> <li>• <b>weight</b>: if data is already aggregated (e.g. case counts)</li> </ul>
data	The data frame containing the variables for the plot
stat	either "epicurve" for outlines around cases or "bin_date" for outlines around (fill) groups. For large numbers of cases please use "bin_date" to reduce the number of drawn rectangles.
position	Position adjustment. Currently supports "stack" for <code>geom_epicurve()</code> .
date_resolution	<p>Character string specifying the time unit for date aggregation. Set to NULL or NA for no date aggregation</p> <p>Possible values are: "day", "week", "month", "bimonth", "season", "quarter", "halfyear", "year". To special values enforce ISO or US week standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• isoweek will force <code>date_resolution</code> = week and <code>week_start</code> = 1 (ISO and ECDC Standard)</li> <li>• epiweek will force <code>date_resolution</code> = week and <code>week_start</code> = 7 (US CDC Standard)</li> </ul>
week_start	<p>Integer specifying the start of the week (1 = Monday, 7 = Sunday).</p> <p>Only used when <code>date_resolution</code> includes weeks. Defaults to 1 (Monday).</p> <p>For isoweek use <code>week_start</code> = 1 and for epiweek use <code>week_start</code> = 7.</p>
width	Numeric value specifying the width of the bars. If NULL, calculated based on resolution and <code>relative.width</code>
relative.width	Numeric value between 0 and 1 adjusting the relative width of bars. Defaults to 1
...	Other arguments passed to <code>layer</code> . For example:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>colour</code> Colour of the outlines around cases. Disable with <code>colour</code> = NA. Defaults to "white".</li> <li>• <code>linewidth</code> Width of the case outlines.</li> </ul>
na.rm	If FALSE, the default, missing values are removed with a warning. If TRUE, missing values are silently removed.

show.legend	logical. Should this layer be included in the legends? NA, the default, includes if any aesthetics are mapped. FALSE never includes, and TRUE always includes. It can also be a named logical vector to finely select the aesthetics to display.
inherit.aes	If FALSE, overrides the default aesthetics, rather than combining with them. This is most useful for helper functions that define both data and aesthetics and shouldn't inherit behaviour from the default plot specification, e.g. <code>borders()</code> .
geom	The geometric object to use to display the data for this layer. When using a <code>stat_*</code> () function to construct a layer, the <code>geom</code> argument can be used to override the default coupling between stats and geoms.

## Details

Epi Curves are a public health tool for outbreak investigation. For more details see the references.

## Value

A ggplot2 geom layer that can be added to a plot

## References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Quick-Learn Lesson: Using an Epi Curve to Determine Mode of Spread. USA. <https://www.cdc.gov/training/quickearns/epimode/>
- Dicker, Richard C., Fátima Coronado, Denise Koo, and R. Gibson Parrish. 2006. Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health Practice; an Introduction to Applied Epidemiology and Biostatistics. 3rd ed. USA. <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/6914>

## See Also

[scale\\_y\\_cases\\_5er\(\)](#), [geom\\_vline\\_year\(\)](#)

## Examples

```
# Basic epicurve with dates
library(ggplot2)
set.seed(1)

plot_data_epicurve_imp <- data.frame(
  date = rep(as.Date("2023-12-01") + ((0:300) * 1), times = rpois(301, 0.5))
)

ggplot(plot_data_epicurve_imp, aes(x = date, weight = 2)) +
  geom_vline_year(break_type = "week") +
  geom_epicurve(date_resolution = "week") +
  labs(title = "Epicurve Example") +
  scale_y_cases_5er() +
  scale_x_date(date_breaks = "4 weeks", date_labels = "W%V'%g") + # Correct ISOWeek labels week'year
  coord_equal(ratio = 7) + # Use coord_equal for square boxes. 'ratio' are the days per week.
  theme_bw()

# Categorical epicurve
```

```

library(tidyverse)
library(outbreaks)

sars_canada_2003 |> # SARS dataset from outbreaks
  pivot_longer(starts_with("cases"), names_prefix = "cases_", names_to = "origin") |>
  ggplot(aes(x = date, weight = value, fill = origin)) +
  geom_epicurve(date_resolution = "week") +
  scale_x_date(date_labels = "%V", date_breaks = "2 weeks") +
  scale_y_cases_5er() +
  theme_classic()

```

**geom\_epigantt***Epi Gantt Chart: Visualize Epidemiological Time Intervals***Description**

Creates Epi Gantt charts, which are specialized timeline visualizations used in outbreak investigations to track potential exposure periods and identify transmission patterns. They are particularly useful for:

- Hospital outbreak investigations to visualize patient movements between wards
- Identifying potential transmission events by showing when cases were in the same location
- Visualizing common exposure times using overlapping exposure time intervals

The chart displays time intervals as horizontal bars, typically with one row per case/patient. Different colours can be used to represent different locations (e.g., hospital wards) or exposure types. Additional points or markers can show important events like symptom onset or test dates.

`geom_epigantt()` will adjust the linewidth depending on the number of cases.

**Usage**

```

geom_epigantt(
  mapping = NULL,
  data = NULL,
  stat = "identity",
  position = "identity",
  ...,
  na.rm = FALSE,
  show.legend = NA,
  inherit.aes = TRUE
)

```

**Arguments**

<code>mapping</code>	Set of aesthetic mappings. Must include:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>y</code>: Case/patient identifier</li> <li>• <code>xmin</code>: Start date/time of interval</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>xmax</code>: End date/time of interval</li> <li>• Optional: <code>colour</code> or <code>fill</code> for different locations/categories</li> </ul>
<code>data</code>	<p>The data to be displayed in this layer. There are three options:</p> <p>If <code>NULL</code>, the default, the data is inherited from the plot data as specified in the call to <code>ggplot()</code>.</p> <p>A <code>data.frame</code>, or other object, will override the plot data. All objects will be fortified to produce a data frame. See <code>fortify()</code> for which variables will be created.</p> <p>A function will be called with a single argument, the plot data. The return value must be a <code>data.frame</code>, and will be used as the layer data. A function can be created from a formula (e.g. <code>~ head(.x, 10)</code>).</p>
<code>stat</code>	A <code>ggplot2</code> stat. Defaults to "identity".
<code>position</code>	A <code>ggplot2</code> position. Defaults to "identity".
<code>...</code>	<p>Additional parameters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>linewidth</code>: Set width of bars directly, disables auto-scaling if set.</li> <li>• <code>lw_scaling_factor</code>: Scaling factor for auto-width calculation. The <code>linewidth</code> is calculated as <code>lw_scaling_factor/number_of_rows</code> (default: 90)</li> <li>• <code>lw_min</code>: Minimum auto-scaled line width cutoff (default: 1)</li> <li>• <code>lw_max</code>: Maximum auto-scaled line width cutoff (default: 8)</li> </ul>
<code>na.rm</code>	If <code>FALSE</code> , the default, missing values are removed with a warning. If <code>TRUE</code> , missing values are silently removed.
<code>show.legend</code>	logical. Should this layer be included in the legends? <code>NA</code> , the default, includes if any aesthetics are mapped. <code>FALSE</code> never includes, and <code>TRUE</code> always includes. It can also be a named logical vector to finely select the aesthetics to display.
<code>inherit.aes</code>	If <code>FALSE</code> , overrides the default aesthetics, rather than combining with them. This is most useful for helper functions that define both data and aesthetics and shouldn't inherit behaviour from the default plot specification, e.g. <code>borders()</code> .

## Value

A `ggplot2` geom layer that can be added to a plot

## See Also

[theme\\_mod\\_legend\\_bottom\(\)](#)

## Examples

```
library(dplyr)
library(tidyr)
library(ggplot2)

# Transform hospital outbreak line list to long format
linelist_hospital_outbreak |>
  pivot_longer(
    cols = starts_with("ward"),
```

```

names_to = c(".value", "num"),
names_pattern = "ward_(name|start_of_stay|end_of_stay)_([0-9]+)",
values_drop_na = TRUE
) -> df_stays_long

linelist_hospital_outbreak |>
  pivot_longer(cols = starts_with("pathogen"), values_to = "date") -> df_detections_long

# Create Epi Gantt chart showing ward stays and test dates
ggplot(df_stays_long) +
  geom_epigantt(aes(y = Patient, xmin = start_of_stay, xmax = end_of_stay, color = name)) +
  geom_point(aes(y = Patient, x = date, shape = "Date of pathogen detection"),
             data = df_detections_long
  ) +
  scale_y_discrete_reverse() +
  theme_bw() +
  theme_mod_legend_bottom()

```

---

## geom\_label\_last\_value/ stat\_last\_value

*Add labels or points to the last value of a line chart*

---

### Description

Creates a label, point or any geom at the last point of a line (highest x value). This is useful for line charts where you want to identify each line at its endpoint, write the last value of a time series at the endpoint or just add a point at the end of a [geom\\_line](#). This functions also nudges the last value relative to the length of the x-axis. The function automatically positions the label slightly to the right of the last point. There are 5 functions:

- [stat\\_last\\_value\(\)](#): The core statistical transformation that identifies the last point of a line (e.g. last date of the time series).
- [geom\\_label\\_last\\_value\(\)](#): Adds the last y value or a custom label after the last observation using [geom\\_label](#).
- [geom\\_text\\_last\\_value\(\)](#): Adds the last y value or a custom text after the last observation using [geom\\_text](#).
- [geom\\_label\\_last\\_value\\_repel\(\)](#): Adds non-overlapping labels with [geom\\_label\\_repel](#).
- [geom\\_text\\_last\\_value\\_repel\(\)](#): Adds non-overlapping text with [geom\\_text\\_repel](#).

### Usage

```
stat_last_value(
  mapping = NULL,
  data = NULL,
  geom = "point",
  position = "identity",
```

```
nudge_rel = 0,  
nudge_add = 0,  
expand_rel = 0,  
expand_add = 0,  
labeller = NULL,  
...,  
na.rm = FALSE,  
show.legend = NA,  
inherit.aes = TRUE  
)  
  
geom_label_last_value(  
  mapping = NULL,  
  data = NULL,  
  stat = "last_value",  
  position = "identity",  
  nudge_rel = 0.015,  
  nudge_add = 0,  
  expand_rel = 0.05,  
  expand_add = 0,  
  labeller = NULL,  
  hjust = 0,  
  ...,  
  na.rm = FALSE,  
  show.legend = FALSE,  
  inherit.aes = TRUE  
)  
  
geom_text_last_value(  
  mapping = NULL,  
  data = NULL,  
  stat = "last_value",  
  position = "identity",  
  nudge_rel = 0.015,  
  nudge_add = 0,  
  expand_rel = 0.035,  
  expand_add = 0,  
  labeller = NULL,  
  hjust = 0,  
  ...,  
  na.rm = FALSE,  
  show.legend = FALSE,  
  inherit.aes = TRUE  
)  
  
geom_label_last_value_repel(  
  mapping = NULL,  
  data = NULL,
```

```

stat = "last_value_repel",
position = "identity",
nudge_rel = 0.03,
nudge_add = 0,
expand_rel = 0.05,
expand_add = 0,
labeller = NULL,
hjust = 0,
direction = "y",
min.segment.length = 0.5,
...,
na.rm = FALSE,
show.legend = FALSE,
inherit.aes = TRUE
)

geom_text_last_value_repel(
  mapping = NULL,
  data = NULL,
  stat = "last_value_repel",
  position = "identity",
  nudge_rel = 0.015,
  nudge_add = 0,
  expand_rel = 0.035,
  expand_add = 0,
  labeller = NULL,
  hjust = 0,
  direction = "y",
  min.segment.length = 0.5,
  ...,
  na.rm = FALSE,
  show.legend = FALSE,
  inherit.aes = TRUE
)

```

## Arguments

mapping	Set of aesthetic mappings created by <code>aes</code> . Commonly used mappings:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>x</b>: position on x-axis</li> <li>• <b>y</b>: position on y-axis</li> <li>• <b>label</b>: text to display (defaults to the last y value)</li> </ul>
data	The data frame containing the variables for the plot
geom	The geometric object to use to display the data for this layer. When using a <code>stat_*</code> () function to construct a layer, the <code>geom</code> argument can be used to override the default coupling between stats and geoms.
position	Position adjustment. Defaults to "identity"

<code>nudge_rel</code>	Numeric value specifying how far to nudge the label to the right, relative to the range of the x-values of the data. Defaults to 0.015 (1.5% of axis width) for labels.
<code>nudge_add</code>	Numeric value specifying an absolute amount to nudge the label (in units of the x-axis).
<code>expand_rel</code>	Numeric value specifying how far to expand the axis limits, relative to the range of the x-values of the data. This can be used to create room for longer text/labels. For repel functions this has to be large enough to place the text to achieve good results.
<code>expand_add</code>	Numeric value specifying an absolute amount to expand the axis limits (in units of the x-axis).
<code>labeller</code>	Label function to format the last value. E.g. <code>scales::label_percent()</code> , <code>scales::label_number()</code> , <code>scales::label_dictionary()</code> .
<code>...</code>	Other arguments passed to <code>geom_label</code> , <code>geom_text</code> , <code>geom_label_repel</code> or <code>geom_text_repel</code> .
<code>na.rm</code>	If FALSE, the default, missing values are removed with a warning. If TRUE, missing values are silently removed.
<code>show.legend</code>	logical. Should this layer be included in the legends? NA, the default, includes if any aesthetics are mapped. FALSE never includes, and TRUE always includes. It can also be a named logical vector to finely select the aesthetics to display.
<code>inherit.aes</code>	If FALSE, overrides the default aesthetics, rather than combining with them. This is most useful for helper functions that define both data and aesthetics and shouldn't inherit behaviour from the default plot specification, e.g. <code>borders()</code> .
<code>stat</code>	The statistical transformation to use on the data. Defaults to "last_value"
<code>hjust</code>	Horizontal text alignment. Defaults to left aligned (0).
<code>direction</code>	Direction in which to repel the labels. See <code>geom_text_repel</code> .
<code>min.segment.length</code>	Minimum length of the leader line segments. See <code>geom_text_repel</code> .

## Details

The following calculated stats can be used further in aes:

- `after_stat(x0)`: the highest x value
- `after_stat(y)`: the y value of the observation with the highest x value.
- `after_stat(label_formatted)`: the formatted y value using the labeller.

## Value

A ggplot2 layer that can be added to a plot

## Examples

```
# Basic example with last value labels
library(ggplot2)

ggplot(economics, aes(x = date, y = unemploy)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_text_last_value()

# Percentages
ggplot(economics, aes(x = date, y = unemploy / pop)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_label_last_value/labeller = scales::label_percent(accuracy = 0.1))

# Multiple lines with custom labels
ggplot(economics_long, aes(x = date, y = value, color = variable)) +
  geom_line() +
  stat_last_value() + # Add a point at the end
  geom_label_last_value_repel(aes(label = variable),
    expand_rel = 0.1, nudge_rel = 0.05
  ) +
  scale_y_log10() +
  theme_mod_disable_legend()
```

**geom\_vline\_year**

*Automatically create lines at the turn of every year*

## Description

Determines turn of year dates based on the range of either the x or y axis of the ggplot.

- `geom_vline_year()` draws vertical lines at the turn of each year
- `geom_hline_year()` draws horizontal lines at the turn of each year

## Usage

```
geom_vline_year(
  mapping = NULL,
  position = "identity",
  year_break = "01-01",
  break_type = c("day", "week", "isoweek", "epiweek"),
  just = NULL,
  ...,
  show.legend = NA
)

geom_hline_year(
  mapping = NULL,
  position = "identity",
```

```

year_break = "01-01",
break_type = c("day", "week", "isoweek", "epiweek"),
just = NULL,
...,
show.legend = NA
)

```

## Arguments

mapping	Mapping created using <a href="#">ggplot2::aes()</a> . Can be used to add the lines to the legend. E.g. <code>aes(linetype = 'End of Year')</code> . Cannot access data specified in <a href="#">ggplot2::ggplot()</a> . Panels created by <a href="#">ggplot2::facet_wrap()</a> or <a href="#">ggplot2::facet_grid()</a> are available with <code>aes(linetype = PANEL)</code> .
position	Position adjustment, either as a string, or the result of a call to a position adjustment function.
year_break	String specifying the month and day ("MM-DD") or week ("W01") of the year break . Defaults to: "01-01" for January 1. "Week" and "MM-DD" are converted automatically based on a leap year (366 days) which starts on Monday.
break_type	<p>String specifying the type of break to use. Options are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "day" (default): Line drawn based on the specified day for each visible year.</li> <li>• "week" or "isoweek": Line drawn based on the Monday of the specified week for each visible year. (e.g., "W01" for new year or "W40" for start of influenza season)</li> <li>• "epiweek": same as week, but the line is drawn one day earlier (Sunday).</li> </ul>
just	Numeric offset in days (justification). Shifts the lines from the year break date. Defaults to -0.5 for day, which shifts the line by half a day so it falls between December 31 and January 1 by default. Defaults to -3.5 (i.e. half a week) for week, isoweek and epiweek.
...	Other arguments passed to <a href="#">layer</a> . For example:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• colour Colour of the line. Try: <code>colour = "grey50"</code></li> <li>• linetype Linetype. Try: <code>linetype = "dashed"</code> or <code>linetype = "dotted"</code></li> <li>• linewidth Width of the line.</li> <li>• alpha Transparency of the line. used to set an aesthetic to a fixed value.</li> </ul>
show.legend	logical. Should this layer be included in the legends? NA, the default, includes if any aesthetics are mapped. FALSE never includes, and TRUE always includes.

## Value

A ggplot2 layer that can be added to a plot.

## See Also

[geom\\_epicurve\(\)](#), [ggplot2::geom\\_vline\(\)](#)

## Examples

```

library(ggplot2)
set.seed(1)

plot_data_epicurve_imp <- data.frame(
  date = rep(as.Date("2023-12-01") + ((0:300) * 1), times = rpois(301, 0.5))
)

# Break type day
ggplot(plot_data_epicurve_imp, aes(x = date, weight = 2)) +
  geom_epicurve(date_resolution = "week") +
  geom_vline_year() +
  labs(title = "Epicurve Example") +
  scale_y_cases_5er() +
  scale_x_date(date_breaks = "4 weeks", date_labels = "W%V'%g") + # Correct ISOWeek labels week'year
  theme_bw()

# Break type week
ggplot(plot_data_epicurve_imp, aes(x = date, weight = 2)) +
  geom_epicurve(date_resolution = "week") +
  geom_vline_year(break_type = "week") +
  labs(title = "Epicurve Example") +
  scale_y_cases_5er() +
  scale_x_date(date_breaks = "4 weeks", date_labels = "W%V'%g") + # Correct ISOWeek labels week'year
  theme_bw()

```

influenza\_germany      *Germany Influenza (FLU) Surveillance data*

## Description

A subset of the weekly German influenza surveillance data from January 2020 to January 2025.

## Usage

influenza\_germany

## Format

A data frame with 1,037 rows and 4 columns:

**ReportingWeek** Reporting Week in "2024-W03" format

**AgeGroup** Age groups: 00+ for all and 00-14, 15-59 and 60+ for age stratified cases.

**Cases** Weekly case count

**Incidence** Calculated weekly incidence

## Source

License CC-BY 4.0: Robert Koch-Institut (2025): Laborbestätigte Influenzafälle in Deutschland.  
 Dataset. Zenodo. DOI:10.5281/zenodo.14619502. [https://github.com/robert-koch-institut/Influenzafaelle\\_in\\_Deutschland](https://github.com/robert-koch-institut/Influenzafaelle_in_Deutschland)

## Examples

```
library(ggplot2)

influenza_germany |>
  align_dates_seasonal(
    dates_from = ReportingWeek, date_resolution = "isoweek", start = 28
  ) -> df_fiu_aligned

ggplot(df_fiu_aligned, aes(x = date_aligned, y = Incidence, color = season)) +
  geom_line() +
  facet_wrap(~AgeGroup) +
  theme_bw() +
  theme_mod_rotate_x_axis_labels_45()
```

label\_date

*Date labeller*

## Description

Re-export from the scales package.

- Can be used to overwrite the default locale of date labels.
- `label_date_short()` only labels part of the dates, when they change, i.e. year is only labelled when the year changes.
- See [scales::label\\_date\(\)](#) and [scales::label\\_date\\_short\(\)](#) for more details.

## Usage

```
label_date(format = "%Y-%m-%d", tz = "UTC", locale = NULL)

label_date_short(
  format = c("%Y", "%b", "%d", "%H:%M"),
  sep = "\n",
  leading = "0",
  tz = "UTC",
  locale = NULL
)
```

## Arguments

<code>format</code>	For <code>label_date()</code> and <code>label_time()</code> a date/time format string using standard POSIX specification. See <a href="#">strptime()</a> for details.
	For <code>label_date_short()</code> a character vector of length 4 giving the format components to use for year, month, day, and hour respectively.
<code>tz</code>	a time zone name, see <a href="#">timezones()</a> . Defaults to UTC
<code>locale</code>	Locale to use when for day and month names. The default uses the current locale. Setting this argument requires <code>stringi</code> , and you can see a complete list of supported locales with <a href="#">stringi::stri_locale_list()</a> .
<code>sep</code>	Separator to use when combining date formats into a single string.
<code>leading</code>	A string to replace leading zeroes with. Can be <code>""</code> to disable leading characters or <code>\u2007</code> for figure-spaces.

## Value

A character vector of formatted dates.

## Examples

```
library(tidyr)
library(outbreaks)
library(ggplot2)

# Change locale of date labels to Italian
sars_canada_2003 |> # SARS dataset from outbreaks
  pivot_longer(starts_with("cases"), names_prefix = "cases_", names_to = "origin") |>
  ggplot(aes(x = date, weight = value, fill = origin)) +
  geom_epicurve(date_resolution = "week") +
  scale_x_date(labels = label_date("%B %Y", locale = "it"), date_breaks = "1 month") +
  scale_y_cases_5er() +
  theme_classic()

# label_date_short()
sars_canada_2003 |> # SARS dataset from outbreaks
  pivot_longer(starts_with("cases"), names_prefix = "cases_", names_to = "origin") |>
  ggplot(aes(x = date, weight = value, fill = origin)) +
  geom_epicurve(date_resolution = "week") +
  scale_x_date(labels = label_date_short(), date_breaks = "1 week") +
  scale_y_cases_5er() +
  theme_classic()
```

## Description

Creates a labeller function that removes every n-th label on an ggplot2 axis. Useful for reducing overlapping labels while keeping the major ticks.

## Usage

```
label_skip(n = 2, start = "left", labeller = NULL)
```

## Arguments

n	Integer. Display every nth label. Default is 2.
start	Where to start the pattern. Either "left" for first tick (default), "right" for last tick, or an integer position (i.e. 1 for first tick, 2 for second tick, etc.).
labeller	Optional function to transform labels before applying skip pattern. For example <a href="#">label_date()</a> . For more complex labeller combinations use <a href="#">scales::compose_label()</a> .

## Value

A function that takes a vector of labels and returns a vector with skipped labels replaced by empty strings.

## Examples

```
library(ggplot2)
# Default skip labels
ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = mpg, y = wt)) +
  geom_point() +
  scale_x_continuous(labels = label_skip())

# Skip date labels, while keep ticks
ggplot(economics, aes(x = date, y = unemploy)) +
  geom_line() +
  scale_x_date(
    date_breaks = "2 years",
    labels = label_skip(start = "right", labeller = label_date(format = "%Y"))
  ) +
  theme_bw()
```

## Description

This hospital outbreak is inspired by typical hospital outbreaks with resistant 4MRGN bacterial pathogens. These outbreaks start silent, since they are not initially apparent from the symptoms of the patient.

## Usage

```
linelist_hospital_outbreak
```

## Format

A data frame with 8 rows and 9 columns:

- Patient - Patient ID (0-7)
- ward\_name\_1 - Name of first ward where patient stayed
- ward\_start\_of\_stay\_1 - Start date of stay in first ward
- ward\_end\_of\_stay\_1 - End date of stay in first ward
- ward\_name\_2 - Name of second ward where patient stayed (if applicable)
- ward\_start\_of\_stay\_2 - Start date of stay in second ward (if applicable)
- ward\_end\_of\_stay\_2 - End date of stay in second ward (if applicable)
- pathogen\_detection\_1 - Date of first positive pathogen test
- pathogen\_detection\_2 - Date of second positive pathogen test (if applicable)

Patient details:

- Patient 0: Index case (ICU), infected early on but detected June 30, 2024
- Patient 1-2: ICU patients, found during initial screening
- Patient 3: Case who moved from ICU to general ward prior to the detection of patient 0, potentially linking both outbreak clusters. Detected during extended case search
- Patient 4-6: General ward cases, found after Patient 3's detection
- Patient 7: General ward case, detected post-discharge by GP, who notified the hospital

## Examples

```
library(dplyr)
library(tidyr)
library(ggplot2)

# Transform hospital outbreak line list to long format
linelist_hospital_outbreak |>
  pivot_longer(
    cols = starts_with("ward"),
    names_to = c(".value", "num"),
    names_pattern = "ward_(name|start_of_stay|end_of_stay)_([0-9]+)",
    values_drop_na = TRUE
  ) -> df_stays_long

linelist_hospital_outbreak |>
  pivot_longer(cols = starts_with("pathogen"), values_to = "date") -> df_detections_long

# Create Epi Gantt chart showing ward stays and test dates
ggplot(df_stays_long) +
  geom_epigantt(aes(y = Patient, xmin = start_of_stay, xmax = end_of_stay, color = name)) +
```

```
geom_point(aes(y = Patient, x = date, shape = "Date of pathogen detection"),
           data = df_detections_long
) +
  scale_y_discrete_reverse() +
  theme_bw() +
  theme(legend.position = "bottom")
```

**population\_german\_states***Population of the German states (2023)***Description**

German Population data by state in 2023

**Usage**

```
population_german_states
```

**Format**

A data frame with 2912 rows and 5 columns:

**reporting\_date** Date: Always "2023-12-31"  
**state** Character: Name of the German state  
**age** Numeric: Age from 0 to 89. Age 90 includes "90 and above"  
**sex** Factor: "female" or "male"  
**n** Numeric: Population size

**Source**

© Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), Genesis-Online, 2025: Bevölkerung: Bundesländer, Stichtag, Geschlecht, Altersjahre (12411-0013). Data licence Germany ([dl-de/by-2-0](#)) <https://www-genesis.destatis.de/datenbank/online/statistic/12411/table/12411-0013>

**Examples**

```
# Age pyramid
library(ggplot2)
library(dplyr)
population_german_states |>
  filter(age < 90) |>
  ggplot(aes(y = age, fill = sex, weight = n)) +
  geom_bar_diverging(width = 1) +
  geom_vline(xintercept = 0) +
  scale_x_continuous_diverging() +
  facet_wrap(~state, scales = "free_x") +
  theme_bw(base_size = 8) +
  theme_mod_legend_top()
```

**scale\_continuous\_diverging**

*Diverging continuous scales for diverging bar charts with symmetrical limits*

**Description**

These scales automatically create symmetrical limits around a centre point (zero by default). They're useful for diverging continuous variables where the visual encoding should be balanced around a center point, such as positive and negative values. They are intended to be used with [geom\\_bar\\_diverging\(\)](#), [geom\\_area\\_diverging\(\)](#) and [stat\\_diverging\(\)](#).

**Usage**

```
scale_x_continuous_diverging(
  name = waiver(),
  limits = NULL,
  labels = NULL,
  transform = "identity",
  ...,
  breaks = waiver(),
  n.breaks = NULL,
  expand = waiver(),
  position = "bottom"
)

scale_y_continuous_diverging(
  name = waiver(),
  limits = NULL,
  labels = NULL,
  transform = "identity",
  ...,
  breaks = waiver(),
  n.breaks = NULL,
  expand = waiver(),
  position = "left"
)
```

**Arguments**

<b>name</b>	The name of the scale. Used as the axis or legend title. If <code>waiver()</code> , the default, the name of the scale is taken from the first mapping used for that aesthetic. If <code>NULL</code> , the legend title will be omitted.
<b>limits</b>	Numeric vector of length two providing limits of the scale. If <code>NULL</code> (the default), limits are automatically computed to be symmetrical around zero.

<code>labels</code>	Either <code>waiver()</code> , a character vector or a function that takes the breaks as input and returns labels as output. By default, absolute values are displayed or passed to the label function.
<code>transform</code>	Defaults to "identity". Use "reverse" to invert the scale. Especially useful to flip the direction of diverging bar charts.
<code>...</code>	Other arguments passed on to <code>scale_(x y)_continuous()</code>
<code>breaks</code>	One of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>NULL</code> for no breaks</li> <li>• <code>waiver()</code> for the default breaks computed by the <a href="#">transformation object</a></li> <li>• A numeric vector of positions</li> <li>• A function that takes the limits as input and returns breaks as output (e.g., a function returned by <a href="#">scales::extended_breaks()</a>). Note that for position scales, limits are provided after scale expansion. Also accepts <a href="#">rlang lambda</a> function notation.</li> </ul>
<code>n.breaks</code>	An integer guiding the number of major breaks. The algorithm may choose a slightly different number to ensure nice break labels. Will only have an effect if <code>breaks = waiver()</code> . Use <code>NULL</code> to use the default number of breaks given by the transformation.
<code>expand</code>	For position scales, a vector of range expansion constants used to add some padding around the data to ensure that they are placed some distance away from the axes. Use the convenience function <a href="#">expansion()</a> to generate the values for the <code>expand</code> argument. The defaults are to expand the scale by 5% on each side for continuous variables, and by 0.6 units on each side for discrete variables.
<code>position</code>	For position scales, The position of the axis. <code>left</code> or <code>right</code> for y axes, <code>top</code> or <code>bottom</code> for x axes.

## Value

A ggplot2 scale object that can be added to a plot.

## See Also

[geom\\_bar\\_diverging\(\)](#), [geom\\_area\\_diverging\(\)](#), [stat\\_diverging\(\)](#)

## Examples

```
library(ggplot2)

# Create sample data with positive and negative values
df <- data.frame(
  x = c(-5, -2, 0, 3, 7),
  y = c(2, -1, 0, -3, 5)
)

# Basic usage
ggplot(df, aes(x, y)) +
  geom_point() +
  scale_x_continuous_diverging() +
```

```
scale_y_continuous_diverging()
```

scale_y_cases_5er	<i>Continuous x-axis and y-axis scale for (case) counts</i>
-------------------	---

## Description

A continuous ggplot scale for count data with sane defaults for breaks. It uses [base::pretty\(\)](#) to increase the default number of breaks and prefers 5er breaks. Additionally, the first tick (i.e. zero) is aligned to the lower left corner.

## Usage

```
scale_y_cases_5er(
  name = waiver(),
  n = 8,
  min.n = 5,
  u5.bias = 4,
  expand = NULL,
  labels = waiver(),
  limits = NULL,
  oob = scales::censor,
  na.value = NA_real_,
  transform = "identity",
  position = "left",
  sec.axis = waiver(),
  guide = waiver(),
  ...
)

scale_x_cases_5er(
  name = waiver(),
  n = 8,
  min.n = 5,
  u5.bias = 4,
  expand = NULL,
  labels = waiver(),
  limits = NULL,
  oob = scales::censor,
  na.value = NA_real_,
  transform = "identity",
  position = "bottom",
  sec.axis = waiver(),
  guide = waiver(),
  ...
)
```

## Arguments

name	The name of the scale. Used as the axis or legend title. If <code>waiver()</code> , the default, the name of the scale is taken from the first mapping used for that aesthetic. If <code>NULL</code> , the legend title will be omitted.
n	Target number of breaks passed to <code>base::pretty()</code> . Defaults to 8.
min.n	Minimum number of breaks passed to <code>base::pretty()</code> . Defaults to 5.
u5.bias	The "5-bias" parameter passed to <code>base::pretty()</code> ; higher values push the breaks more strongly toward multiples of 5. Defaults to 4.
expand	Uses own expansion logic. Use <code>expand = waiver()</code> to restore ggplot defaults or <code>ggplot2::expansion()</code> to modify
labels	One of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>NULL</code> for no labels</li> <li>• <code>waiver()</code> for the default labels computed by the transformation object</li> <li>• A character vector giving labels (must be same length as <code>breaks</code>)</li> <li>• An expression vector (must be the same length as <code>breaks</code>). See <code>?plotmath</code> for details.</li> <li>• A function that takes the breaks as input and returns labels as output. Also accepts rlang <code>lambda</code> function notation.</li> </ul>
limits	One of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>NULL</code> to use the default scale range</li> <li>• A numeric vector of length two providing limits of the scale. Use <code>NA</code> to refer to the existing minimum or maximum</li> <li>• A function that accepts the existing (automatic) limits and returns new limits. Also accepts rlang <code>lambda</code> function notation. Note that setting limits on positional scales will <b>remove</b> data outside of the limits. If the purpose is to zoom, use the <code>limit</code> argument in the coordinate system (see <code>coord_cartesian()</code>).</li> </ul>
oob	One of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Function that handles limits outside of the scale limits (out of bounds). Also accepts rlang <code>lambda</code> function notation.</li> <li>• The default (<code>scales::censor()</code>) replaces out of bounds values with <code>NA</code>.</li> <li>• <code>scales::squish()</code> for squishing out of bounds values into range.</li> <li>• <code>scales::squish_infinite()</code> for squishing infinite values into range.</li> </ul>
na.value	Missing values will be replaced with this value.
transform	For continuous scales, the name of a transformation object or the object itself. Built-in transformations include "asn", "atanh", "boxcox", "date", "exp", "hms", "identity", "log", "log10", "log1p", "log2", "logit", "modulus", "probability", "probit", "pseudo_log", "reciprocal", "reverse", "sqrt" and "time".  A transformation object bundles together a transform, its inverse, and methods for generating breaks and labels. Transformation objects are defined in the scales package, and are called <code>transform_&lt;name&gt;</code> . If transformations require arguments, you can call them from the scales package, e.g. <code>scales::transform_boxcox(p = 2)</code> . You can create your own transformation with <code>scales::new_transform()</code> .

<code>position</code>	For position scales, The position of the axis. <code>left</code> or <code>right</code> for y axes, <code>top</code> or <code>bottom</code> for x axes.
<code>sec.axis</code>	<code>sec_axis()</code> is used to specify a secondary axis.
<code>guide</code>	A function used to create a guide or its name. See <code>guides()</code> for more information.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments passed on to <code>base::pretty()</code> .

## Value

A ggplot2 scale object that can be added to a plot.

## See Also

`geom_epicurve()`, `ggplot2::scale_y_continuous()`, `base::pretty()`, `theme_mod_remove_minor_grid_y()`

## Examples

```
library(ggplot2)

data <- data.frame(date = as.Date("2024-01-01") + 0:30)
ggplot(data, aes(x = date)) +
  geom_epicurve(date_resolution = "week") +
  scale_y_cases_5er() +
  theme_mod_remove_minor_grid_y()
```

### `scale_y_discrete_reverse`

*Reversed discrete scale for 'ggplot2'*

## Description

`scale_y_discrete_reverse()` and `scale_x_discrete_reverse()` are standard discrete 'ggplot2' scales with a reversed order of values. Since the ggplot2 coordinate system starts with 0 in the lower left corner, factors on the y-axis are sorted in descending order by default (i.e. alphabetically from Z to A). With this scale the the y-axis will start with the first factor level at the top or with alphabetically correctly ordered values

## Usage

```
scale_y_discrete_reverse(
  name = waiver(),
  limits = NULL,
  ...,
  expand = waiver(),
  position = "left"
)
```

```
scale_x_discrete_reverse(
  name = waiver(),
  limits = NULL,
  ...,
  expand = waiver(),
  position = "bottom"
)
```

## Arguments

name	The name of the scale. Used as the axis or legend title. If <code>waiver()</code> , the default, the name of the scale is taken from the first mapping used for that aesthetic. If <code>NULL</code> , the legend title will be omitted.
limits	Can be either <code>NULL</code> which uses the default reversed scale values or a character vector which will be reversed.
...	Arguments passed on to <code>ggplot2::discrete_scale()</code>
expand	For position scales, a vector of range expansion constants used to add some padding around the data to ensure that they are placed some distance away from the axes. Use the convenience function <code>expansion()</code> to generate the values for the <code>expand</code> argument. The defaults are to expand the scale by 5% on each side for continuous variables, and by 0.6 units on each side for discrete variables.
position	For position scales, The position of the axis. <code>left</code> or <code>right</code> for y axes, <code>top</code> or <code>bottom</code> for x axes.

## Value

A ggplot2 scale object that can be added to a plot.

## See Also

[geom\\_epigantt\(\)](#), [ggplot2::scale\\_y\\_discrete\(\)](#)

## Examples

```
library(ggplot2)

# Create sample data
df <- data.frame(
  category = factor(c("A", "B", "C", "D")),
  value = c(10, 5, 8, 3)
)

# Basic plot with reversed y-axis
ggplot(df, aes(x = value, y = category)) +
  geom_col() +
  scale_y_discrete_reverse()
```

`theme_mod_disable_legend, theme_mod_legend_position`  
*Quickly adjust the legend position*

## Description

Convenience functions to control the legend position for ggplot2. Has to be called after setting the theme.

## Usage

```
theme_mod_disable_legend()

theme_mod_legend_position(
  position = c("top", "bottom", "left", "right", "none", "inside"),
  position.inside = NULL
)

theme_mod_legend_top()

theme_mod_legend_bottom()

theme_mod_legend_left()

theme_mod_legend_right()

theme_mod_remove_legend_title()
```

## Arguments

<code>position</code>	Position of the ggplot2 legend. Options are ("top", "bottom", "left", "right", "none", "inside")
<code>position.inside</code>	Coordinates for the legend inside the plot. If set overwrites <code>position</code> to <code>inside</code> .

## Value

Changes the `legend.position` of the [ggplot2::theme\(\)](#).

`theme_mod_remove_minor_grid`  
*Quickly remove the minor lines of the panel grid*

### Description

theme\_mod\_remove\_minor\_grid(), theme\_mod\_remove\_minor\_grid\_x(), theme\_mod\_remove\_minor\_grid\_y() are convenience functions remove the minor lines of the panel grid. Has to be called after setting the theme.

### Usage

```
theme_mod_remove_minor_grid()  
  
theme_mod_remove_minor_grid_y()  
  
theme_mod_remove_minor_grid_x()  
  
theme_mod_remove_panel_grid()
```

### Value

Changes the panel.grid.minor of the [ggplot2::theme\(\)](#).

---

theme\_mod\_rotate\_axis\_labels  
*Rotate axis labels*

---

### Description

Rotate axis labels by 90°, 45° or any angle. Has to be called after setting the theme.

### Usage

```
theme_mod_rotate_x_axis_labels(  
  angle = 90,  
  margin_top = 2,  
  vjust = 0.4,  
  hjust = 0,  
  ...  
)  
  
theme_mod_rotate_x_axis_labels_90(angle = 90, ...)  
theme_mod_rotate_x_axis_labels_45(angle = 45, ...)  
theme_mod_rotate_x_axis_labels_30(angle = 30, ...)  
theme_mod_rotate_x_axis_labels_60(angle = 60, ...)  
theme_mod_rotate_y_axis_labels(angle = 90, hjust = 0.5, vjust = 0, ...)
```

## Arguments

angle	Angle of rotation. Should be between 10 and 90 degrees.
margin_top	Used to move the tick labels downwards to prevent text intersecting the x-axis. Increase for angled multiline text (e.g. 5 for two lines at 45°).
hjust, vjust	Text justification within the rotated text element. Just ignore.
...	Arguments passed to <code>theme_mod_rotate_x_axis_labels</code> and <code>ggplot2::element_text()</code> .

## Value

Changes the rotation of the axis labels by modifying the `axis.text` of the `ggplot2::theme()`.

`uncount, expand_counts`

*Duplicate rows according to a weighting variable*

## Description

`uncount()` is provided by the `tidyverse` package, and re-exported by `ggsurveillance`. See `tidyverse::uncount()` for more details.

`uncount()` and its alias `expand_counts()` are complements of `dplyr::count()`: they take a data frame with a column of frequencies and duplicate each row according to those frequencies.

## Usage

```
uncount(data, weights, ..., .remove = TRUE, .id = NULL)

expand_counts(data, weights, ..., .remove = TRUE, .id = NULL)
```

## Arguments

data	A data frame, tibble, or grouped tibble.
weights	A vector of weights. Evaluated in the context of <code>data</code> ; supports quasiquotation.
...	Additional arguments passed on to methods.
.remove	If <code>TRUE</code> , and <code>weights</code> is the name of a column in <code>data</code> , then this column is removed.
.id	Supply a string to create a new variable which gives a unique identifier for each created row.

## Value

A `data.frame` with rows duplicated according to `weights`.

**Examples**

```
df <- data.frame(x = c("a", "b"), n = c(2, 3))
df |> uncount(n)
# Or equivalently:
df |> expand_counts(n)
```

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