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The Relationship Between Margin and Leverage in Financial Markets

Categories: Forex Education Financial Glossary

Article Level: Intermediate

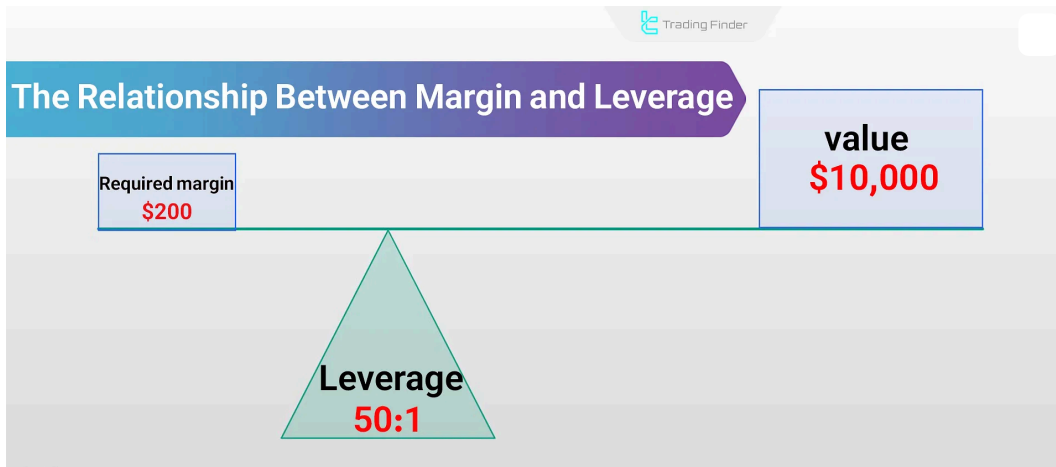
Writer: Arjun Mandal | Reviewer: Eda Kaya | Fact checker: Nino Gogochashvili | Modified: May 19, 2025

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Margin in financial markets refers to the collateral a trader needs to open new trades. **Leverage** is a tool used to amplify trading capital. These concepts play a crucial role in **capital management** and improving the **risk-to-reward** ratio.



Margin and Leverage in Forex, Stock Markets, and Cryptocurrency Trading

What is Margin?

Margin is the amount of money that a trader must keep in their account to open a trade. In other words, margin acts as **collateral** that represents a trader's **ability** to execute trades using the credit provided by **Forex brokers**.

You can use our [margin tool](#) to calculate the required amount for positions.

What is Leverage?

With leverage, traders can trade with more capital than their initial **deposit**. This capability gives them the **chance to gain** greater profits from trades; however, the higher the **profit potential**, the greater the risk involved.

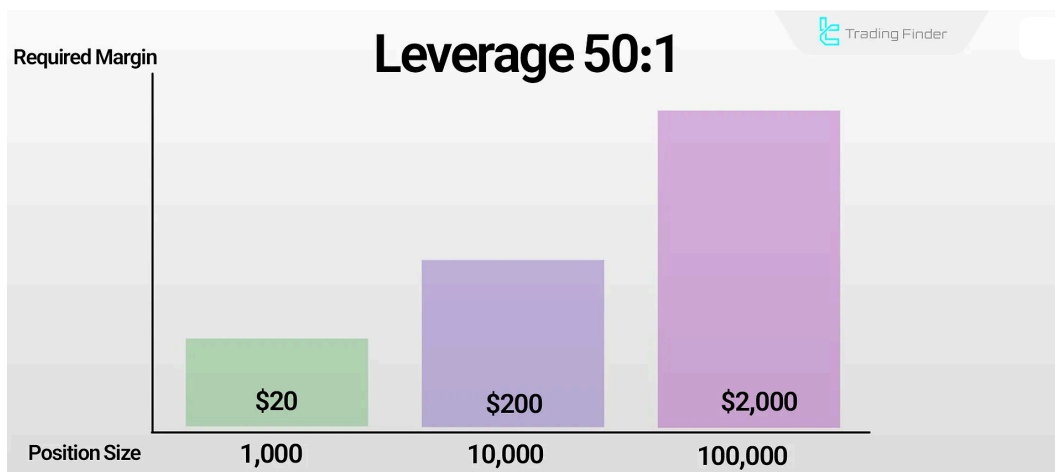
Leverage is expressed as a ratio and is typically **represented** in the form of **x:1**. For example, if leverage is **50:1**, it means that a trader can open a position worth **\$50** with just **\$1**.

In another example, if a trader uses **25:1** leverage with an initial capital of **\$4,000**, the total tradable capital would be:

$$\uparrow 4,000 \times 25 = 100,000$$

Or, if a trader uses **75:1** leverage with **\$2,000** capital, the tradable amount would be:

$$\uparrow 2,000 \times 75 = 150,000$$



Ratios and Trading Risks in the Relationship Between Leverage and Margin

Difference Between Margin and Leverage

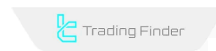
Although margin and leverage are related, they have important differences, which are outlined in the table below:

Parameter	Margin	Leverage
Definition	Amount held as collateral to open a position	A tool to increase trading capital
Role in Trading	Initial investment for trades	Increases buying power and enables larger trades
Calculation	Calculated as a percentage of trade volume	Initial capital × leverage ratio

Impact on Profit & Loss	Profit and loss are limited to margin amount	Significant increase in both profit and loss potential
Risk	Risk of losing money increases with higher margin	Higher leverage leads to amplified profits and losses
Markets Used In	Forex, stocks, commodities, and other financial markets	Forex, stocks, cryptocurrencies, etc.

How Are Margin and Leverage Related?

The relationship between margin and leverage is **inverse**. This means that the **lower** the required margin, the **higher** the leverage a trader can use. In other words, reducing **the margin** requirement increases a trader's buying power. This **relationship** can be described using the formulas below:



$$\text{Leverage} = \frac{1}{\text{Required Margin}}$$

$$\text{Required Margin} = \frac{1}{\text{Leverage}}$$

The relationship between margin and leverage is illustrated in the image above

Examples of Leverage and Margin Ratios in Forex Pairs

The table below illustrates examples of leverage and margin ratios in Forex currency pairs:

Currency Pair	Required Margin	Leverage Ratio
EUR/USD	2%	50:1
GBP/USD	5%	20:1
USD/JPY	4%	25:1
EUR/AUD	3%	33:1

Difference Between Margin in Forex and the Stock Market

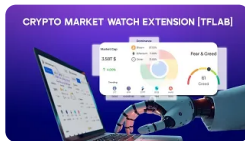
The difference between the margin in **forex market** and the margin in stocks is as follows:

1. **In the stock market:** Margin refers to the money a trader borrows from a broker to fund part of a **stock purchase**. This method is known as "**margin trading**" and is essentially a loan from the brokerage;
2. **In the Forex market:** Margin is the amount of money a trader must keep in their account to open a **trading position**. In this case, the trader does not borrow money but rather uses the margin as collateral.

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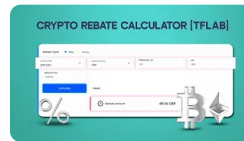
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Summary

The relationship between margin and leverage is one of the key concepts in risk management and purchasing power. **Margin** is the required collateral to **open positions**, whereas leverage allows traders to control a larger market volume with a **smaller amount** of capital.

Reducing margin enables traders to use **higher leverage**, allowing for better risk management.

FAQs

- What is margin and how is it used in forex trading? ∨
 Margin is the amount of money that a trader must keep in their account to open a trading position. It acts as collateral and is used by brokers to support trades.
- What is leverage and how does it work? ∨
 Leverage is a tool that allows traders to trade with more capital than their actual deposit. It is expressed as a ratio (e.g., 50:1) and increases a trader's buying power.
- What is the relationship between margin and leverage? ∨
 The relationship between margin and leverage is inverse; the lower the required margin, the higher the leverage a trader can use. Higher leverage means increased buying power but also greater risk.



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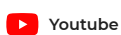
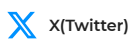


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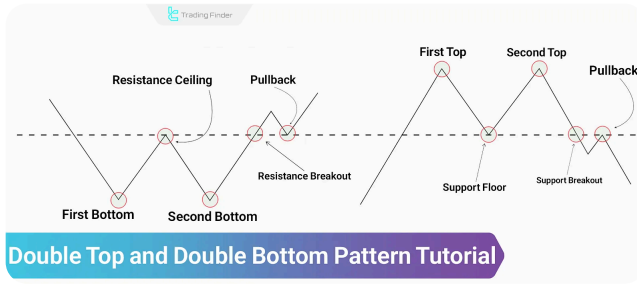
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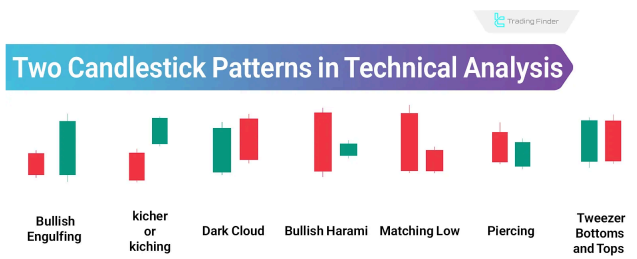


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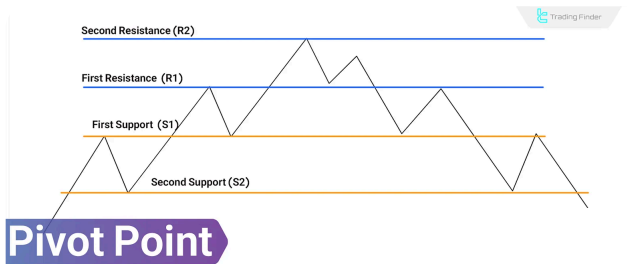


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