



There has been an increase in the number of people aged over thirty. [correct]

**There has been an increase of the number of people aged over thirty. [incorrect]**

Between 1990 and 2000, there was a drop of 15%. [correct]

**Between 1990 and 2000, there was a drop 15%. [incorrect]**

We use a noun describing a specific trend or change + in + a word phrase describing the thing which has changed:

- a(n) cut / decline / decrease / drop / fall / increase / reduction / rise, etc. in something

*There have been dramatic cuts in the level of spending on the elderly.*

*The chart shows a decline in the bird population.*

- a(n) change / growth / improvement / trend / variation, etc. in something

*There have been significant improvements in health care.*

*We have seen massive changes in people's lifestyles.*

We use a noun describing a change or the result of a change + of + a number showing the size of the change:

- a(n) decrease / drop / fall / increase / reduction / rise, etc. of + number

*The statistics show a reduction of 20% in costs as a result of the government's measures.*

*The radio station experienced a fall of 36,000 listeners to a total audience of 2.1 million.*

- a high / low / maximum / total / peak, etc. + of + number

*Demand reached a peak of 45,000 in early March.*

The chart shows that only 18% of men work less than 15 hours a week. [correct]  
**The chart shows that only 18% men work less than 15 hours a week. [incorrect]**

If we look at the figures for the people between 20 and 30 years old ... [correct]  
**If we look at the figures for people between 20 to 30 years old ... [incorrect]**

- X% of something

*Only 28% of customers said that they were satisfied with the service.*

- between X and Y

*The rate rose dramatically between July 2009 and February 2011.*

- the figure / percentage / total for a group or category

*Looking at the figures for the winter and summer ....*

*If we compare the percentage for skilled and unskilled workers ...*

*The average income for government employees has decreased ...*

- at a level / rate

*Inflation has remained at roughly the same level over a number of years.*

*They can now obtain loans at cheaper rates.*

- be highest / come top / rank second with X

*Football scored highest with 68% of the vote.*

*Paris ranks second in the table with 76 million visitors per year.*