artofviz

WHAT TYPE OF CHART
TO CHOOSE FOR WHAT DATA

What would you like to show?

COMPARISION

Among items

Two variables per item

One variable per item

Variable Width Column Chart	Table or Table with Embedded Charts	Bar Chart	Column Chart
Cyclical Data	Many Categories		

		Many items	Few items
		Few Categories	

DISTRIBUTION

Single Variable

Two Variables

Three Variables
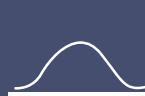
Column Histogram	Line Histogram	Scatter Chart	3D Area Chart
Few Data Points	Many Data Points		

OVER TIME

Many Periods

Few Periods

Circular Area Chart	Line Chart	Column Chart	Line Chart
Cyclical Data	Non-Cyclical Data	Single or Few Categories	Many Categories

RELATIONSHIP

Two Variables

Three Variables

Scatter Chart	Bubble Chart
Single or Few Categories	Many Categories

COMPOSITION

Changing Over Time

Few Periods

Many Periods

Stacked 100% Column Chart	Stacked Column Chart	Stacked 100% Area Chart	Stacked Area Chart
Only Relative Difference Matter	Relative and Absolute Differences Matter	Only Relative Difference Matter	Relative and Absolute Differences Matter

Static

Pie Chart	Waterfall Chart	Stacked 100% Column Chart with Subcomponents
Simple Share of Total	Accumulation or Subtraction to Total	Components of Components