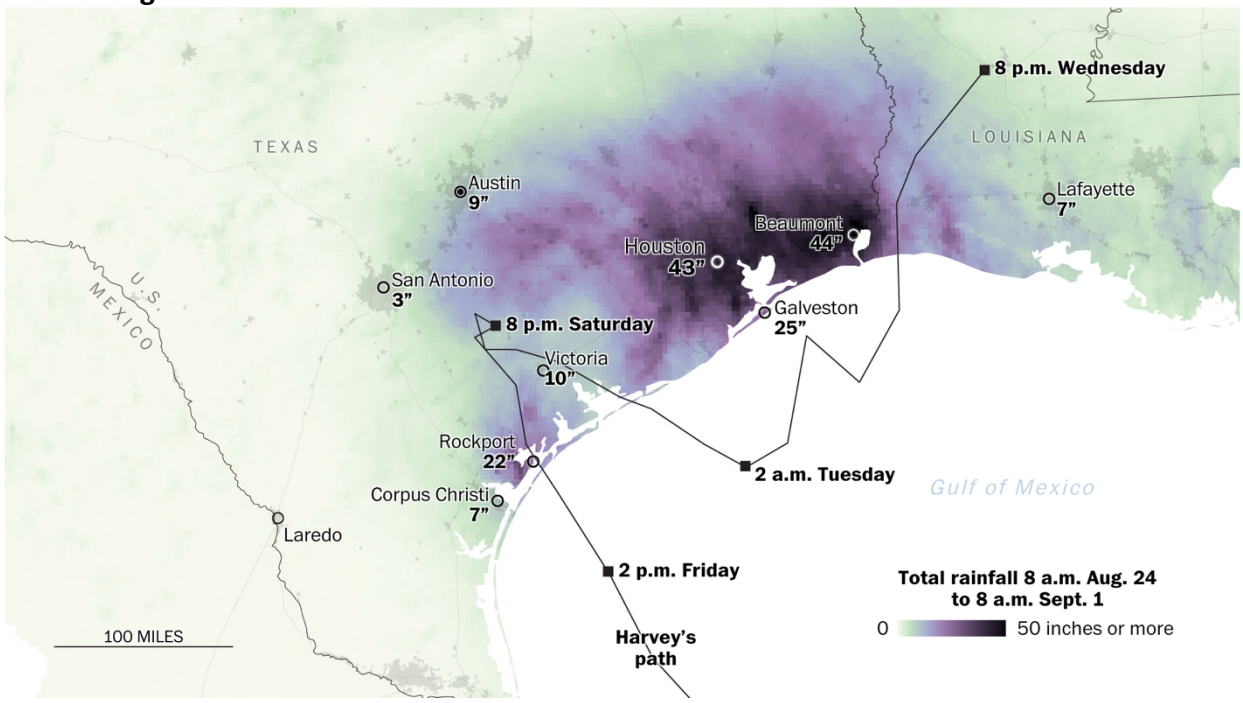
Paper/ Article 1:

Flooding persists as Harvey downgraded to tropical depression

Visual Image:



Argument:
I would say it’s a bad design even though it has some excellent visual designs.

Tasks and arguments of the visualization:

1. It is conveying the intensity of the Harvey Flood over the time period Aug. 24 to Sept. 1 near the Texas area using the maps as the baseline (background). Hence it involves the geographic location as one of the main designs to visualize.
2. It is using continuous color (light green to dark purple) to highlight the total rainfall over this timeline.
3. It also shows the path of the Harvey flood over the map during the time frame.
4. It also highlights the major cities with the amount of rainfall (in inches).

Visual mapping:

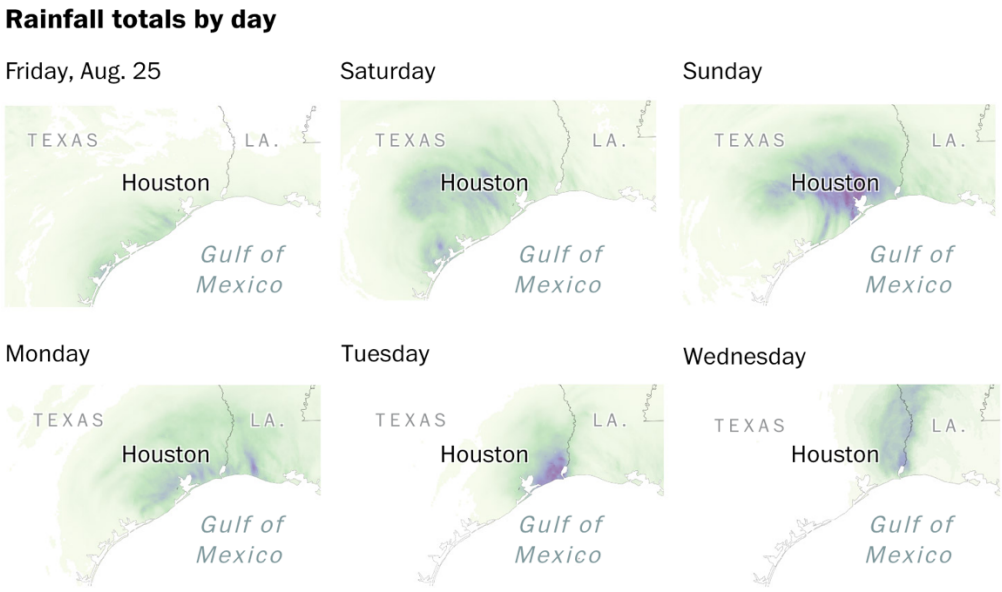
The data is the amount of the rainfall occurred over the certain region because of Harvey flood. The mapping is done using the geographic location; line tracing for the temporal data of Harvey flow; continuous color hue for the intensity of the rainfall.

Critics:

From the initial look at the visualization, most of the uses predominantly notices the color change in the certain location. This is accounted at the bottom right saying what the color change actually represents. So, for an average viewer, it serves the purpose of giving the overview of the visualization.

I would rate this visualization bad for the following reasons:

1. *The Harvey path.*
   It it actually providing the temporal aspect of the Harvey flow. But this is not visualized accurate in the image. At first glance, you see a line segment which shows this data. But it is not accounted with the **direction**. Hence it is cumbersome for the viewer to actually match the date and see the flow of direction of Harvey.
   This is actually accounted by their supporting diagram. But it lacking in the main image.

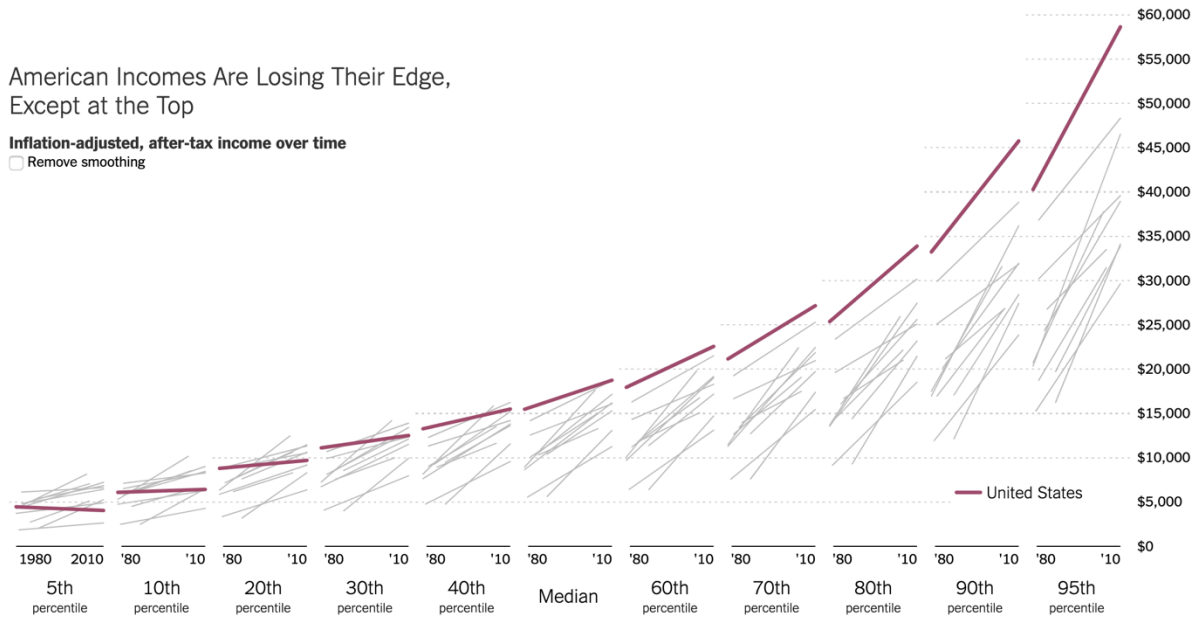


2. *Redundant rainfall information.*
   Color is the one which helps in visualizing the amount of rainfall. Image also accommodates the specific city names with the rainfall number mentioned with it. This is redundant although it gives the nice little details about the major cities. Efficiency is not achieved here.

Paper/Article 2:

The American Middle Class Is No Longer the World's Richest

Visual Image:



Argument:
I would say it's a good visualization which shows the decline of per capita income for USA over the years declining for the middle class.

Tasks and arguments of the visualization:

1. Image visualizes the per capita income of few countries compared with the USA.
2. Data from 1980 to 2010 is plotted for certain number of percentiles.
3. Color is used to highlight the USA.
4. Animation is used for other countries which highlights the bar with black color (from grey) when hovered over.

Visual mapping:

The main idea of this image is to visualize the growth/decline of the US per capita income compared with other countries. Color is used for USA across all fields. X- axis represents the category of percentile incomes. Y-axis represents income and the bar indicates growth/decline over the time period 1980 to 2010.

Critics:

It's an effective visualization because the slope of the bar actually represents the growth or decline of the per capita income. We can easily visualize this aspect and also compare with other countries. We can see that near the median, and just below the median, we can see that over the years the US per capita is declining compared with other countries. This message is clearly evident to the viewer which serves the purpose.