

Exercise 2 Report: Number of Medals Won for Olympics Winner

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Outline:

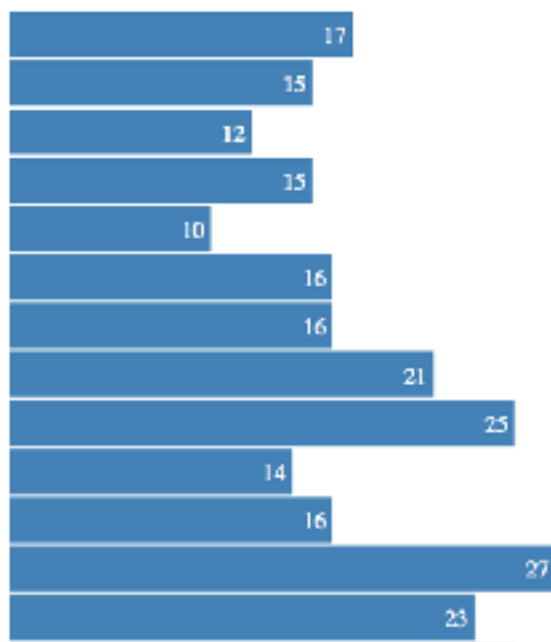
The goal of this report is to showcase the number of medals won by the country that won the most medals during each session of the Winter Olympics.

Data Discussion:

The data source used is olympics.json which contains an object for each medal won during each session of the Olympics from 1928 to 2006. The report shows a bar for each year in which the Olympics have been had; each bar's length reflects the number of medals won by the country that won the most medals in that year. The country is therefore not necessarily the same one and varies from session to session, although in many cases the same 3-4 countries have won.

Top Medal Winner Histogram

Number of Medals Won by Country with Most Medals in Every Olympics



Style Discussion:

The goal for the report was to highlight the strength of the winner in each year, and the choice of histogram bars is used in this case for making this point. Alternatives to this choice could have been as simple as drawing a chart with a continuous line, or as complex as drawing circles on an Cartesian plane and assigning dimension and/or color based on the number of medals won. However, the histogram represents the best simplest option while making the visualization obvious.

Despite the efforts made, many small improvements could have been added to this visualization. The country associated to each of these bars could have been displayed either in the bar or to its right where plenty of space abounds. Additional visual elements might have improved the visualization even more, such as changing the color for each bar based on the country's Olympics uniform color, or adding a small flag next to each bar.

The year referenced by each bar is the other protagonist missing from this story. Ideally, one would have added the year for the Olympics session to the left of each bar. To make optimal use of space, the designer could have considered only showing the last two digits of each year rather than the full four digits.

Finally, the choice of color is acceptable but does not contrast very well with the digits' color on each bar.