I have chosen the following charts in their order of preference for the stock portfolio profit loss data that I have gathered: line/time-series chart, scatter plot, and bar chart. The justification of the ranking of these charts will now be explained.

According to IBM.com, “Time series charts present a series of data points collected over a specified reporting period. The x-axis plots time and the y-axis plots data points.” For purposes of the data being presented, this is exactly what we have as the x-axis are days and the y-axis represents the profit/loss value. Typically when looking at stock equity information, whether in the form of an equity price or the profitability of said equity, the performance over time is what most are interested in and this chart type is the best representation of that.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, “Bar graphs are used to compare things between different groups or to track changes over time.” In the case of the data that we have, we are not comparing things between different groups, but we are tracking changes over time.

Asq.org states that a scatter plot “graphs pairs of numerical data, with one variable on each axis, to look for a relationship between them.” For the data that we have presented, there is no true ‘numerical’ data for the time column, and as such, there is no relationship that can really be found between the variables. For this reason, I have designated the scatter plot as the least effective method of presenting the profit loss data.

This is the explanation and justification of why I have chosen the time-series plot as the best representation of the data presented, the bar graph as the second option, and the scatter plot as the worst option.

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