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?

What are you hoping to learn. Tell us about your experience.

what's the most popular output?



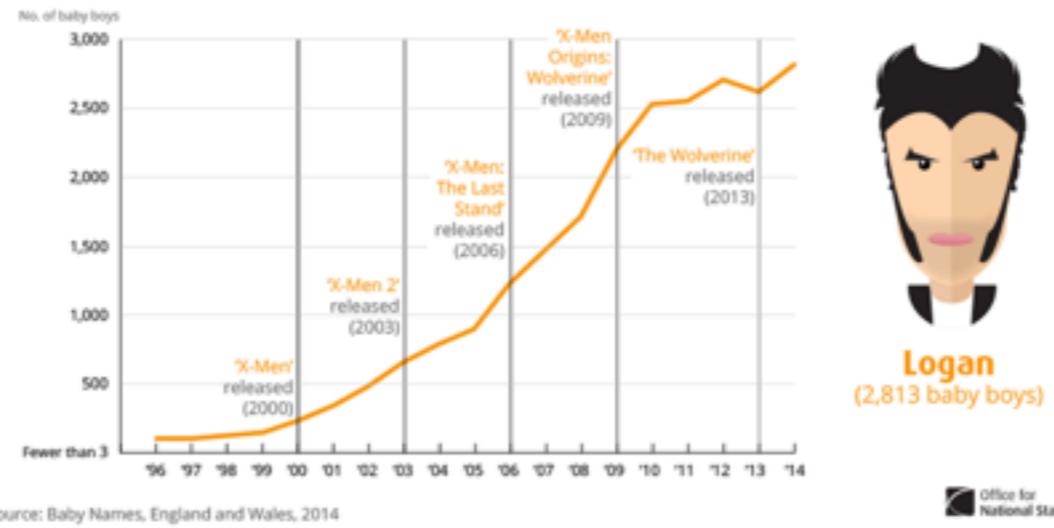
Baby names – consistently ONS's most popular output

The screenshot shows a web page from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) titled "Statistical bulletin: Baby Names in England and Wales, 2014". The page includes a navigation bar with links to Home, Browse by theme, Publications, Data, Release calendar, Guidance and methodology, Media centre, and About ONS. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: You are here: Home > Publications > Baby Names in England and Wales, 2014. The main content area features a heading "Top 100 baby names in England and Wales in 2014, boys and girls" and a sub-section "Main points" which states: "There were 3 new entries in the top 100 most popular 'boy' names in 2014: Ellis at number 94 (up 9 places from 103), Joey at number 27 (up 5 places from 102) and Jackson at number 100 (up 6 places from 106). These replaced Evan (102), Aiden (103) and Cameron (103) which fell out of the top 100. Kian showed the largest rise within the top 100, gaining 41 places to reach number 24.泰利 (up 20 places to 66), Theodore (up 19 places to 58), Elijah (up 16 places) and also high climbers within the top 100. Jamie (down 20 places to number 88), Ryan (down 18 places to 99), Riley (down 14 places to 36), Kai and Connor (down 13 places to 77 and 79 respectively) and Bob (largest falls within the top 100). There were 6 new entries in the top 100 most popular girls' names in 2014: Thais at number 79 (up 42 places from 127), Darcie at number 80 (up 23 places from 103) and Lottie at number 84 (up 26 places from 104)."

used to be very dry and featureless. Also notoriously hard to front load important information

<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/baby-names/>

6. Logan increased in popularity after X-Men films released



with visual.ONS, we could produce more bespoke and engaging (and occasionally light hearted) content



more recent content – interactive & searchable top 100 baby names

Introduction

Aims

- Think about and understand the information content of your graphs through the eyes of your reader
- Provide an understanding of the basic design principles you need to convey the message you intended in a static image.
- (The ability to critique an infographic)
- An overview of where interactive approaches can be useful

Provide introduction and key principles fundamental to good data presentation.

- The fundamentals of table design
- The fundamentals of graph design
- Designing effective colour schemes

Human perception/vision is not straightforward - plays tricks

Manage expectations of course - only covering statics information, not interactive

style.ons.gov.uk
ons.gov.uk
visual.ons.gov.uk
https://blog.ons.digital/
@ONS

<https://blog.ons.digital/category/dataviz/>
<https://blog.ons.digital/tag/charting-tips/>

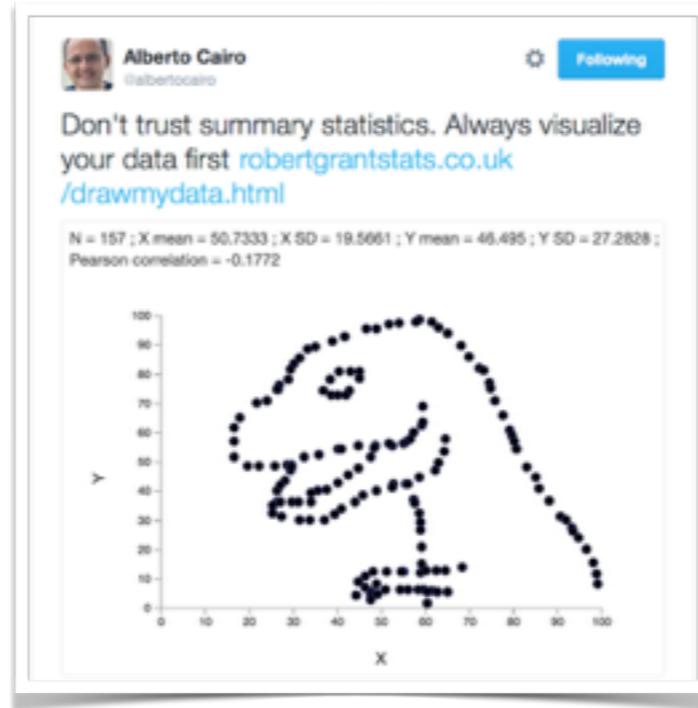
Why visualise data?

- To give a fast overview or summary of a dataset
- Communicate memorable or important stories in a dataset(s)
- To reveal insight (that would otherwise be hidden)
- For quality assurance and error detection

How does the MOD use data visualisation? Policy makers / Decision makers

Stress that good data vis is vital to the communication.

Why visualise data?



You can't see patterns in a table!!!!

Historical Perspective

Statistics in the 19th Century

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 17th and 8th Victoria, c. 32, for each Week ended on a Saturday, for the Fourth Quarter of 1855.—(Continued from p. 390, vol. xviii.)

[Compiled from the "Bankers' Magazine."]

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.						
Date.	Notes Issued.	Notes in hands of Public.	Government Debt.	Other Securities.	Gold Coin and Bullion.	Silver Bullion.
Oct. 6	£ 25,765,025	20,011,355	11,015,100	2,984,900	11,765,925	...
" 13	25,305,855	20,048,365	11,015,100	2,984,900	11,205,525	...
" 20	24,674,300	20,371,745	11,015,100	2,984,900	10,682,298	...
" 27	24,458,460	20,455,900	11,015,100	2,984,900	10,541,520	...
Nov. 3	24,741,320	20,095,285	11,015,100	2,984,900	10,616,395	...
" 10	21,616,295	19,767,250	11,015,100	2,984,900	10,661,769	...
" 17	24,665,125	19,423,230	11,015,100	2,984,900	10,543,514	...
" 24	24,434,445	19,050,900	11,015,100	2,984,900	10,439,525	...
Dec. 1	24,439,570	19,075,085	11,015,100	2,984,900	10,662,985	...
" 8	24,439,525	18,861,340	11,015,100	2,984,900	10,369,395	...
" 15	25,187,985	18,379,540	11,015,100	2,984,900	10,189,465	...
" 22	21,514,445	18,379,540	11,015,100	2,984,900	10,189,465	...
" 29	24,554,465	18,700,615	11,015,100	2,984,900	10,189,465	...

BANKING DEPARTMENT.						
Date.	Proprietors' Capital.	Rest.	Public Deposits.	Other Deposits.	Seven Day and other Bills.	Total Dr.
Oct. 6	£ 14,553,000	£ 682,448	£ 7,146,524	£ 10,857,613	£ 1,012,547	£ 37,192,162
" 13	14,553,000	3,147,252	4,559,851	11,965,925	978,867	34,940,542
" 20	14,553,000	3,100,093	3,985,021	11,764,094	980,139	34,282,335
" 27	14,553,000	3,170,736	3,700,844	11,694,201	978,129	33,731,630
Nov. 3	14,553,000	3,175,165	3,569,558	11,694,200	964,250	33,459,613
" 10	14,553,000	3,208,583	3,569,558	11,666,069	943,439	33,475,760
" 17	14,553,000	3,208,583	4,110,130	10,886,746	982,219	33,755,992
" 24	14,553,000	3,250,562	4,739,954	11,135,283	962,483	35,080,243
Dec. 1	14,553,000	3,185,588	4,459,589	11,734,798	883,594	35,804,883
" 8	14,553,000	3,185,588	4,458,440	11,719,180	923,441	35,450,118
" 15	14,553,000	3,205,646	4,458,440	12,352,465	847,751	36,210,177
" 22	14,553,000	3,216,577	5,544,753	12,341,457	851,088	36,197,06
" 29	14,553,000	3,235,228	5,845,293	12,362,312	802,908	36,197,06

1856.]

Miscellanea.

85

10,689 Irish, and 1,426 foreigners; the origin of 3,637 was undistinguished. The number of English emigrants during the year was 57,132.* The total number of emigrants from the United Kingdom was 166,253, exclusive of 10,554 ascertained to be foreigners. The numbers of the two sexes were nearly as 10 females to 11 males. Of 54,902 men whose occupations were distinguished, 7,167 were farmers; 29,963 were labourers; 2,541 were carpenters or joiners; 1,814 were bricklayers; smiths; 623 shoemakers; 816 tailors. Only 972 called themselves gentlemen, professional men, merchants, &c. Of 58,950 women, 19,386 were returned as married, 13,616 as servants; the occupations of 25,222 women were undistinguished.

THE PRICES OF PROVISIONS, AND THE WEATHER.—The prices of food, the state of trade, and the weather have a certain influence on the marriages, births, and deaths. Upon comparing in the table the prices of the principal articles of food in the last quarters of the year 1853, 1854, 1855, it is seen that wheat was 69s. 10d., 68s., and 79s. 4d. a quarter; beef was 5d., 5½d., and 5½d. a pound; mutton 5½d., 6d., and 5½d. a pound. Bread was dear during the last quarter. The average prices of beef and mutton by the carcass were equal, differing little from the price of 1854, but higher than the prices of 1853. Potatoes have fallen from 150s. a ton in 1853, to 95s., and this materially alleviates the pressure from the high prices of other articles. The weather is fully described by Mr. Glaisyer, (p. 89). The mean temperature of October was above, of November and December below, the averages of those months. The air was humid in October and November, dry in December. The average quantity of rain fell at Greenwich. The mean temperature varied from 46°·5 in Cornwall and Devon to 41°·7 in North Shields; the fall of rain, from 10·5 in Newport and Ryde to 5·5 in Liverpool.

STATE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—426,242 deaths were registered in the year 1855, or less in number by nearly twelve thousand than the deaths in the previous year. The rate of mortality was 2·269 per cent., or nearly 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ on every 1,000 inhabitants. The mean of the previous ten years was 2·284, so that the mortality of the year was in the aggregate below the average. The Civil Registers contain no record of the deaths in the Crimea or elsewhere abroad.

The deaths of 97,119 were registered in the last quarter of the year; and the annual rate of mortality was 2·041 per cent. on the population, or 0·167 less than the average rate of the season (2·208).

Dry – inaccessible

William Playfair (1759-1823)

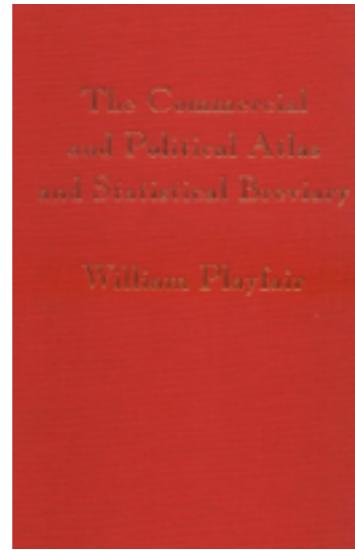


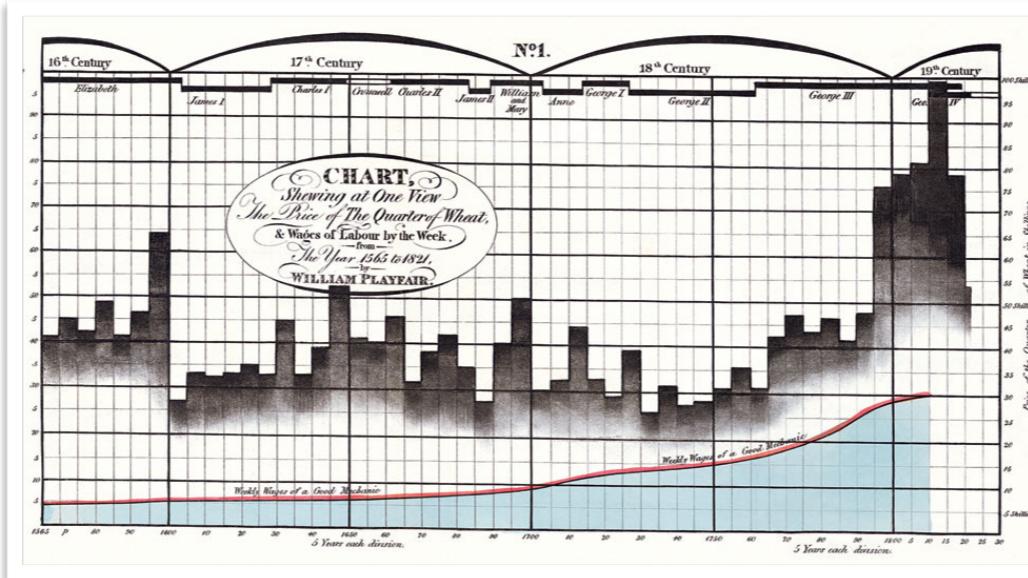
Table 1:
The cost of a Quarter of Wheat compared to the Wages of a Good Mechanic

England, 1565-1820								
Year	Cost of Wheat	Mechanic's Wage	Year	Cost of Wheat	Mechanic's Wage	Year	Cost of Wheat	Mechanic's Wage
1565	41.56	5.01	1655	40.10	6.51	1745	26.56	14.48
1570	45.43	5.01	1660	46.31	6.79	1750	31.82	15.28
1575	43.87	4.98	1665	32.50	7.12	1765	36.14	15.89
1580	48.89	5.11	1670	38.28	7.10	1780	32.56	16.89
1585	41.01	5.24	1675	42.02	7.49	1785	43.51	18.36
1590	45.33	5.18	1680	35.84	8.07	1790	48.00	19.48
1595	64.87	5.48	1685	27.93	8.37	1795	44.23	20.13
1600	27.69	5.52	1690	41.46	8.64	1800	47.09	23.13
1605	33.86	5.38	1695	51.27	9.03	1705	42.16	23.99
1610	32.61	5.52	1700	30.02	9.32	1790	48.56	25.12
1615	33.98	5.64	1705	33.34	10.04	1795	77.00	27.63
1620	35.72	5.62	1710	44.49	10.78	1800	79.30	28.08
1625	33.94	5.78	1715	33.39	11.53	1805	81.15	29.11
1630	45.58	6.12	1720	26.39	11.92	1810	99.05	30.01
1635	32.09	6.04	1725	38.62	12.01	1815	78.17	na
1640	38.50	6.29	1730	26.81	12.40	1820	53.57	na
1645	53.90	6.21	1735	32.86	12.97			
1650	41.81	6.47	1740	27.76	13.51			

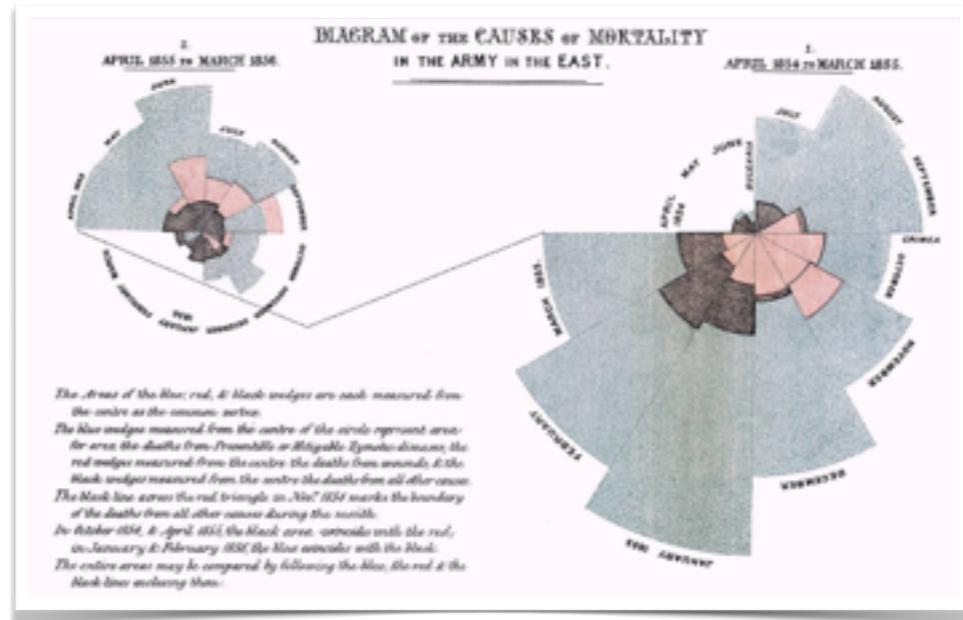
na: Data not available

Source: The Commercial and Political Atlas, 1796

William Playfair (1759-1823)



Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)

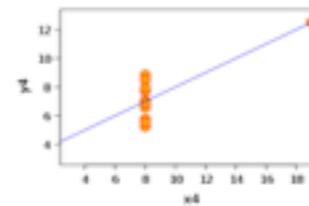
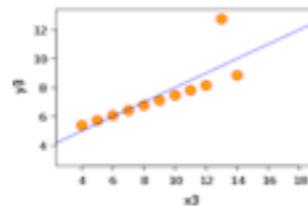
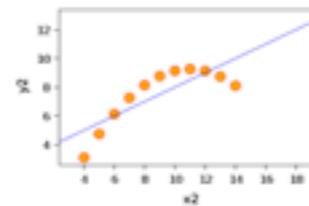
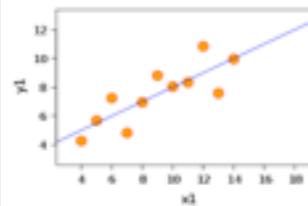


Frank Anscombe (1918-2001)

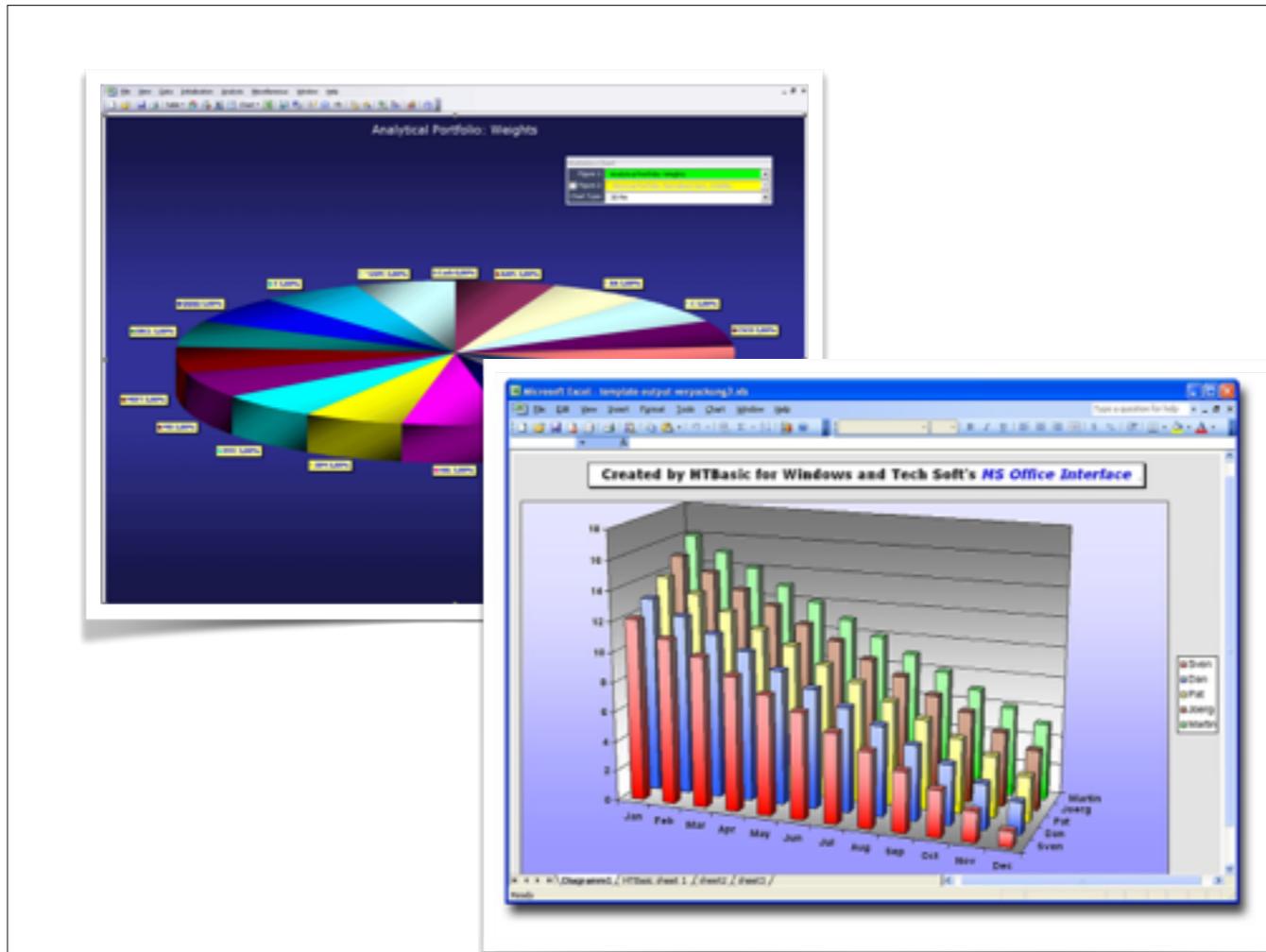
Anscombe's Quartet

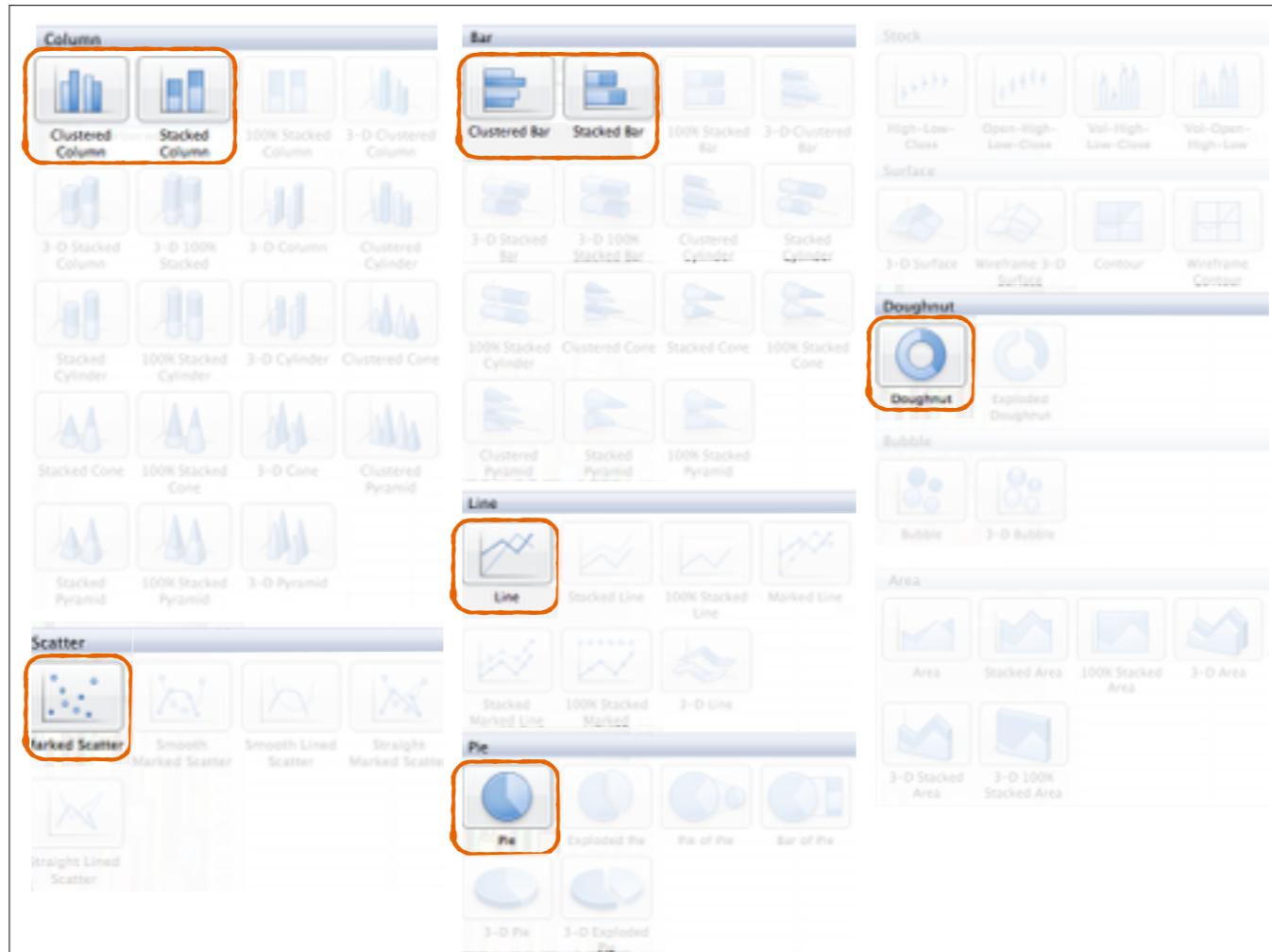
I		II		III		IV	
x	y	x	y	x	y	x	y
10.0	8.04	10.0	9.14	10.0	7.46	8.0	6.58
8.0	6.95	8.0	8.14	8.0	6.77	8.0	5.76
13.0	7.58	13.0	8.74	13.0	12.74	8.0	7.71
9.0	8.81	9.0	8.77	9.0	7.11	8.0	8.84
11.0	8.33	11.0	9.26	11.0	7.81	8.0	8.47
14.0	9.96	14.0	8.10	14.0	8.84	8.0	7.04
6.0	7.24	6.0	6.13	6.0	6.08	8.0	5.25
4.0	4.26	4.0	3.10	4.0	5.39	19.0	12.50
12.0	10.84	12.0	9.13	12.0	8.15	8.0	5.56
7.0	4.82	7.0	7.26	7.0	6.42	8.0	7.91
5.0	5.68	5.0	4.74	5.0	5.73	8.0	6.89

Property	Value
Mean of x in each case	9.0
Variance of x in each case	11.0
Mean of y in each case	7.5
Variance of y in each case	4.12
Correlation between x and y in each case	0.816
Linear regression line in each case	$y = 3 + 0.5x$



And then something happened...





A call from history

Stop being technology-led... ...be technology-enabled

Focus on best practice...

- Principles NOT rules
- Context NOT constraint
- Consistency NOT regimentation

Further study

- Anscombe's Quartet. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anscombe%27s_quartet
- Playfair, William (1801, reprinted 2005). The Commercial and Political Atlas and Statistical Breviary. Cambridge University Press
- Milestones in the history of thematic cartography, statistical graphics and data visualization (2009), Michael Friendly www.math.yorku.ca/SCS/Gallery/milestone/milestone.pdf

Societal Perspective

Numeracy and Statistical Literacy

In 2003, **46.9%** of working age adults in England lacked Level 1 numeracy skills.

In 2011, **49.1%** of working age adults in England lacked Level 1 numeracy skills.

Level 1 numeracy skills: calculating simple percentages and converting units of measure.

For example adults without Level 1 skills may not be able to understand their payslip .

“More than 15 million adults in Britain have poor numeracy – the equivalent of a G or below at GCSE maths”

Worryingly there is false confidence in numeracy skills. In England in 2011 31% of adults surveyed rated their numeracy skills as very good but performed poorly.

Numeracy is a societal barrier



“I phoned Camelot and they fobbed me off with some story that -6 is higher, not lower, than -8, but I’m not having it”

Tina Farrel, 23, Manchester

A reporter with Fox News just called looking for some help calculating percentages for a story he's preparing for tonight's broadcast. He's looking for someone who can help him explain what percentage of \$60 billion would \$325,000 be. It's for a story about the NY State \$60 billion budget, of which \$325,000 was found in fraud. It's not a controversial story and he's just looking for someone who can help him explain how much this is in lay terms. It does not have to be on the record.

Do we have any mathematics professors who could help with this calculation in the next hour or so? Thanks!



Alberto Cairo @albertocairo · 1h

Wait what? "A reporter called looking for some help calculating percentages" @mathbabedotorg
mathbabbe.org/2015/11/06/fox...

45 13 6 11 ...

Further study

- Skills for Life Survey 2011. <http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/BISCore/further-education-skills/docs/0-9/11-1367-2011-skills-for-life-survey-findings.pdf>
- IDC - The Digital Universe in 2020: Big Data, Bigger Digital Shadows, and Biggest Growth in the Far East. <http://www.emc.com/collateral/analyst-reports/idc-the-digital-universe-in-2020.pdf>
- Cool Cash/Tina Farrel interview in Manchester Evening News. <http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/cool-cash-card-confusion-1009701>
- Sir Ken Robinson. Changing Paradigms of Education (RSA Animate) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDZFcDGpL4U>

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graph LR; A[Statistical Relationships] --> B[Symbology]
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Statistical Relationships → Symbology

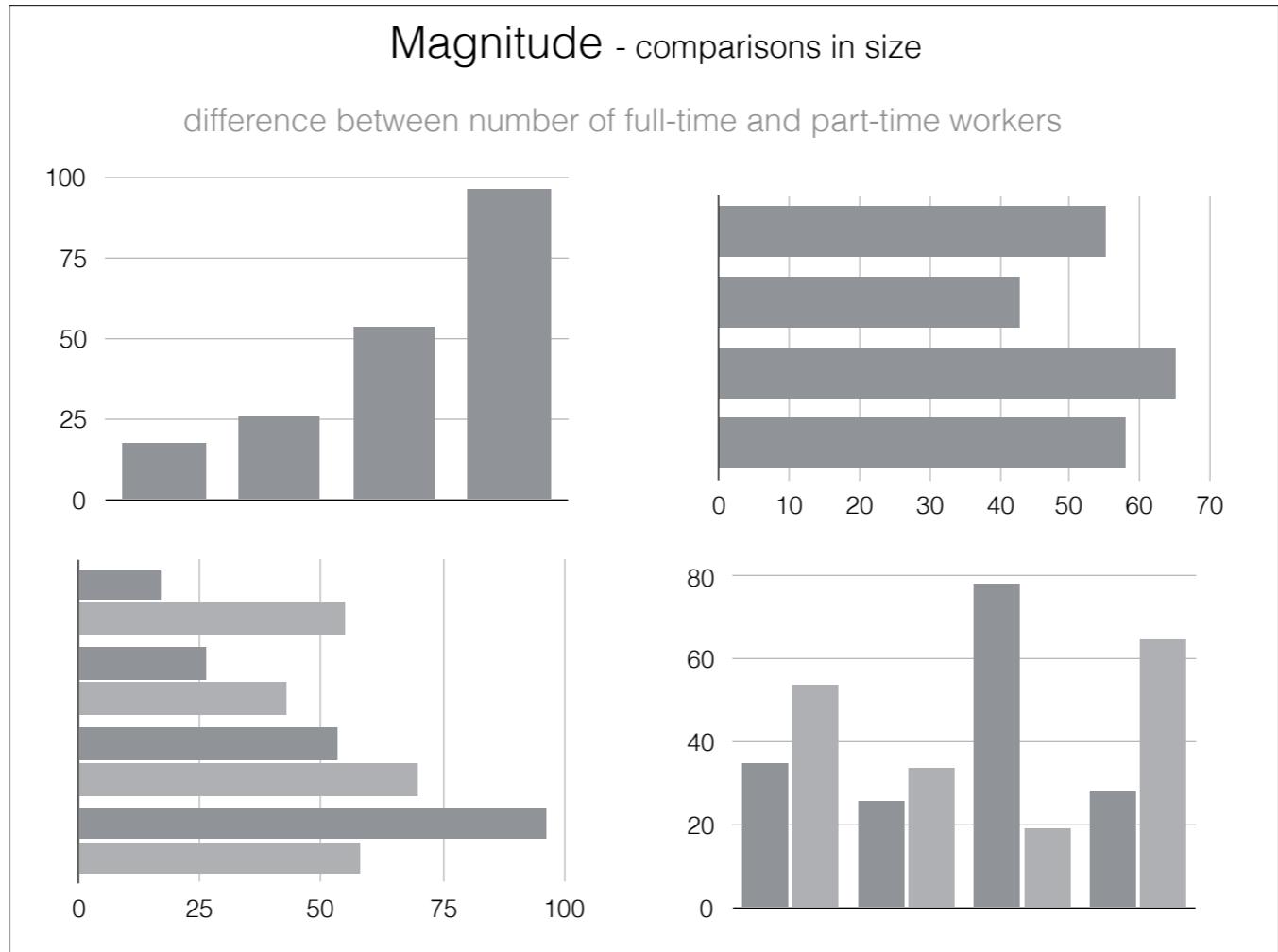
2 decisions which need to be made before you create a design!!

What is the story?

What's the best chart for the job?

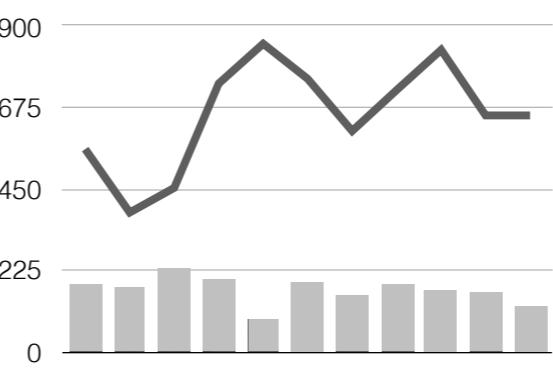
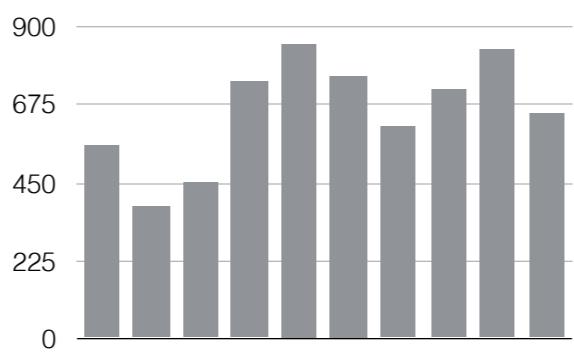
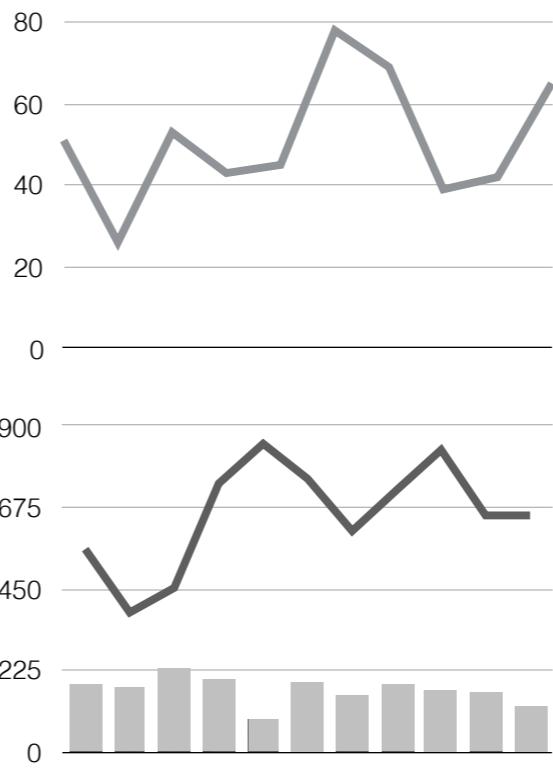
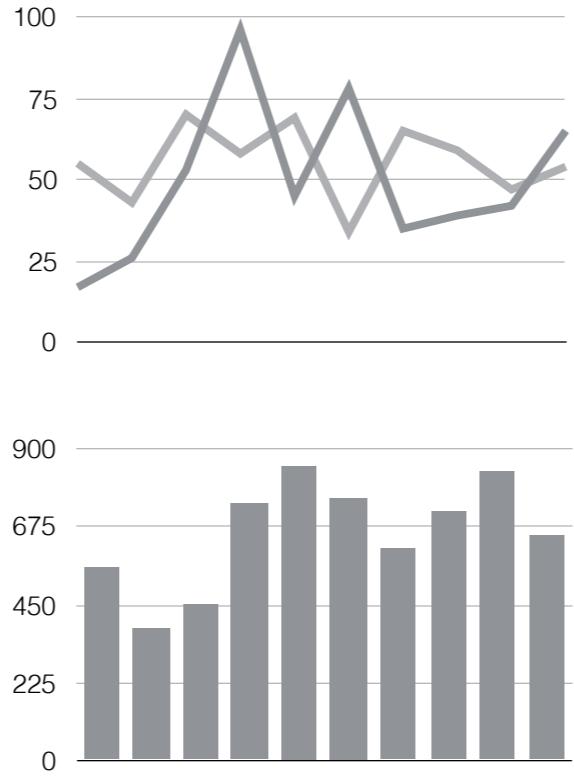
Statistical relationships

- Magnitude
- Change over time
- Distribution
- Part-to-whole
- Correlation
- Deviation
- Ranking
- (Spatial)



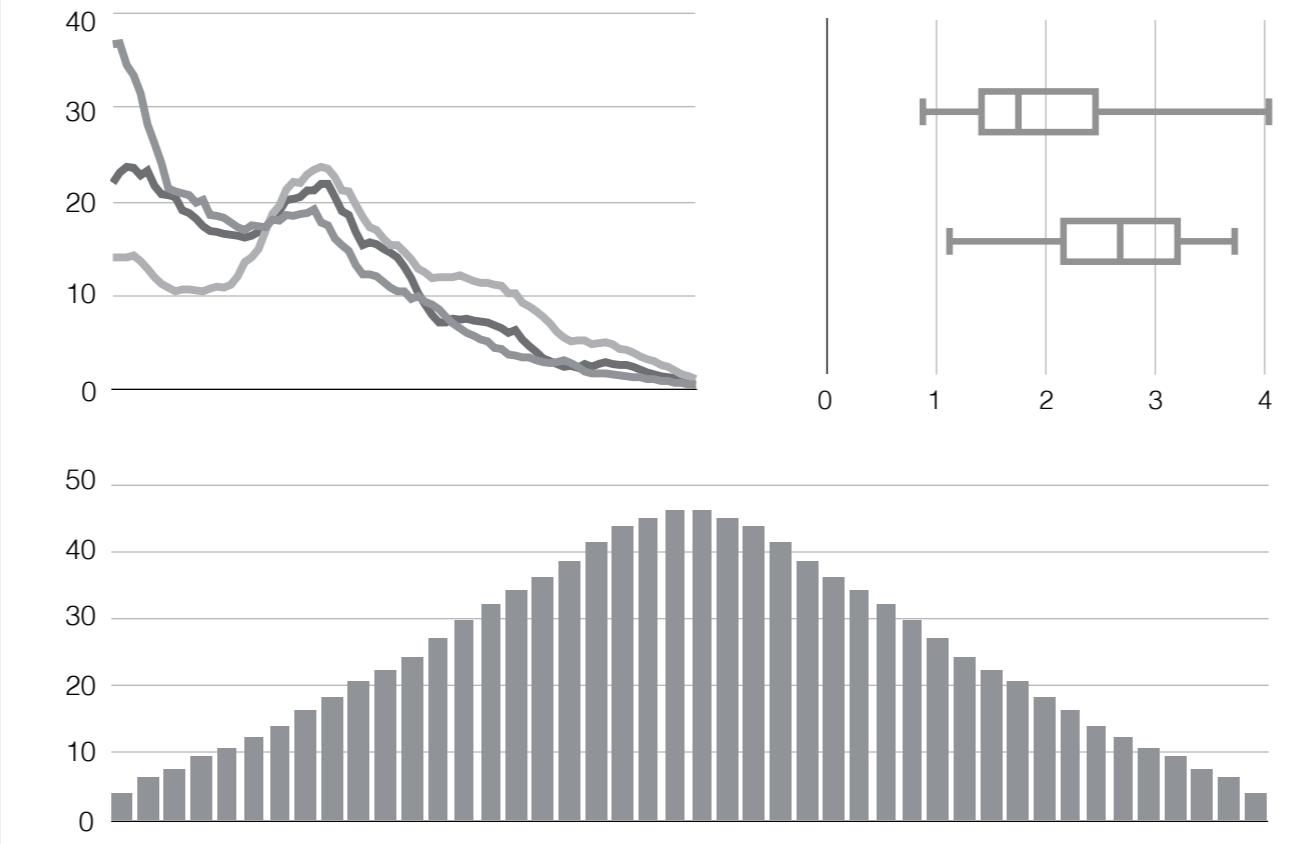
Time series/change over time - highlights past/future trends

variation in GDP from 2003 to 2015



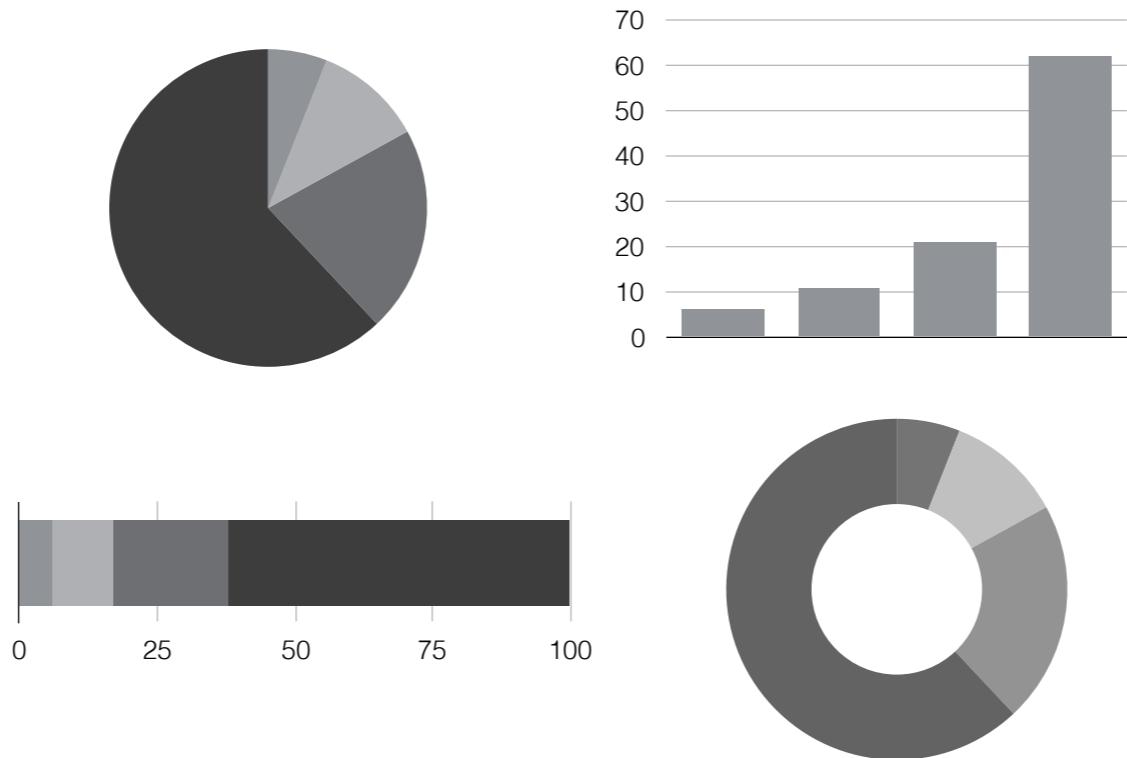
Distribution - shows the shape of categorical data

age structure of the UK



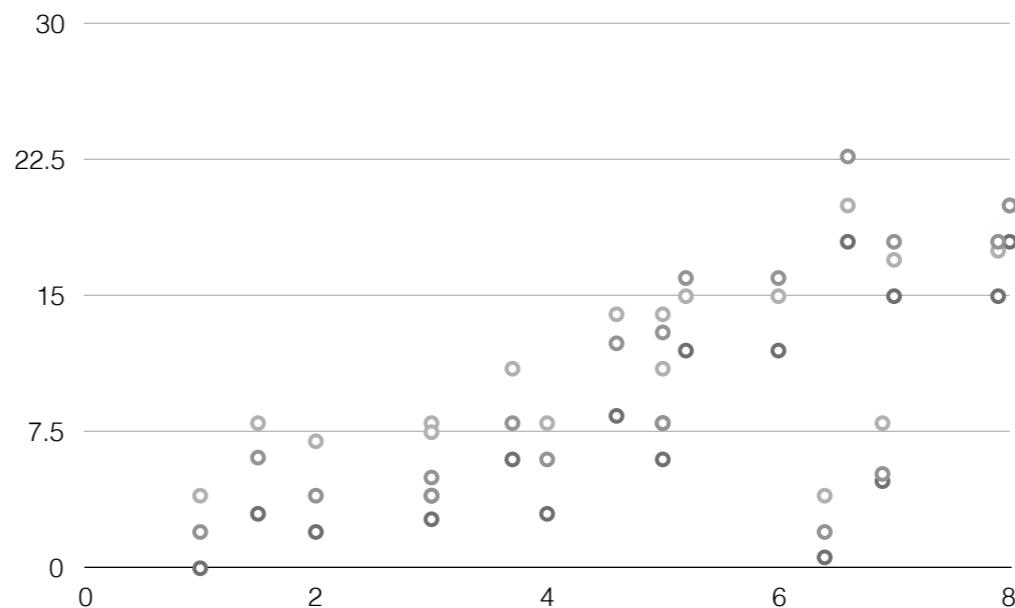
Part to whole - show the components of a whole population

composition of labour market

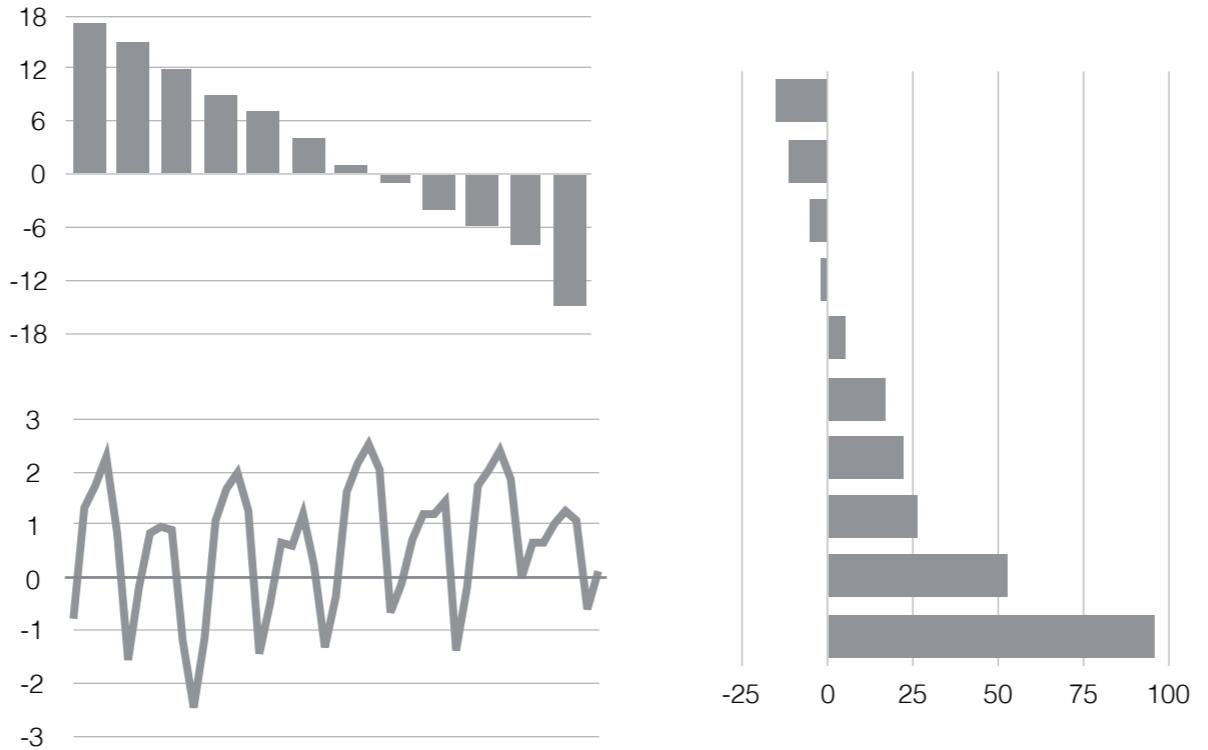


Correlation - shows relationships between variables

link between house prices and rental prices

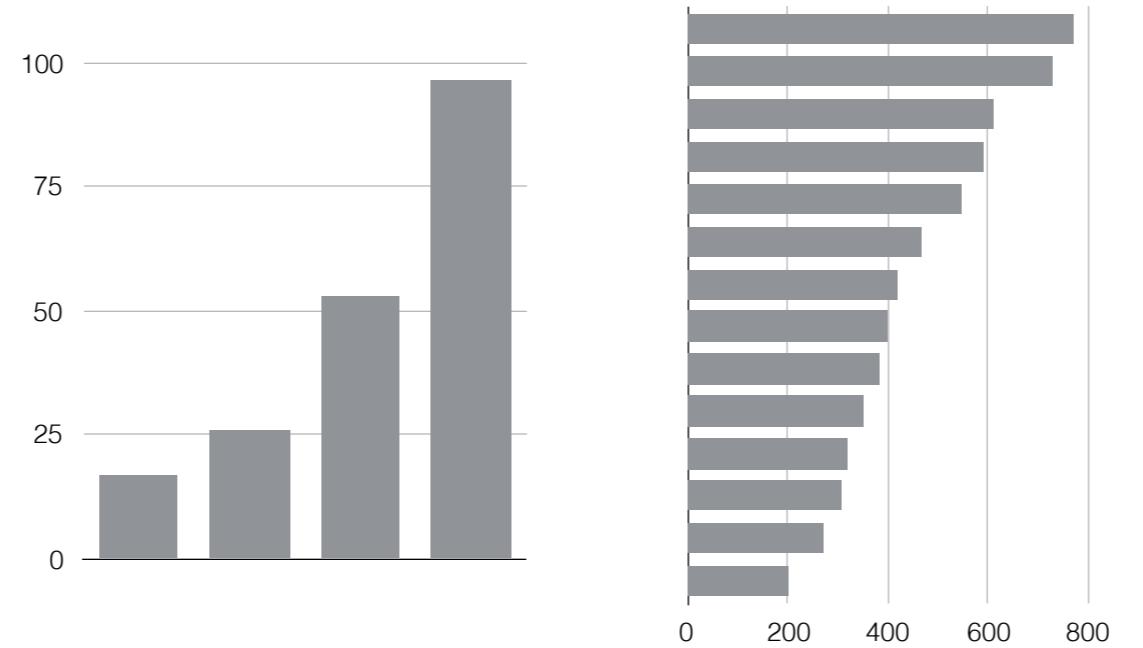


Deviation - the difference from another value
regional life expectancy as a difference from UK average



Ranking - ordered data

popularity of baby names



Spatial - geographical distribution of data
variation in life expectancy by output area



A limited number of coding strategies...

- Text "There are 1,900 people in Warrford..."
- Height/Width
- Size/Area
- Colour
- Texture
- Orientation
- Curvature
- Shape
- Position (x,y)
- Motion

Context-dependent

What are the aims of data vis?

Reveal trends, patterns

gaps

outliers

Provide context ("compared to x")

Compare scales ("this is x times bigger than y")

Describe geography

These are the different types of coding which can be used to visualise data and highlight patterns and stories.

Use singularly or multiples

Position - spacial placement most useful

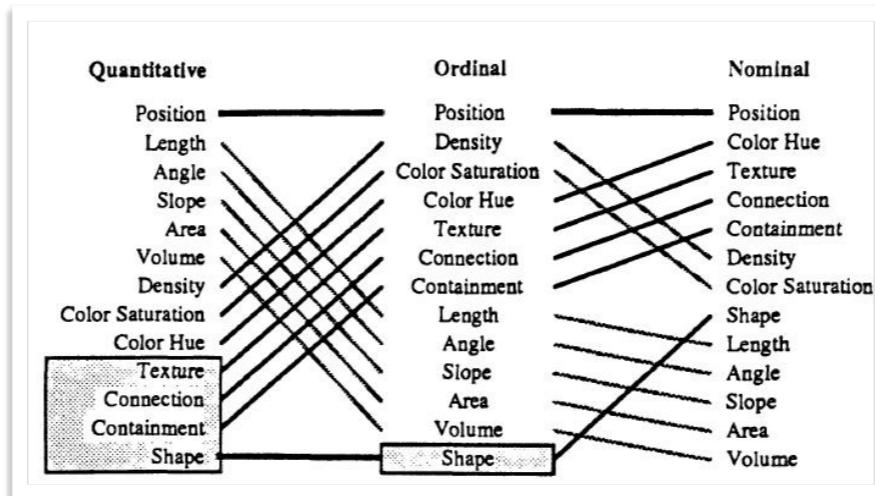
Quantitative - how much bigger

Ranks - 1, 2, 3,

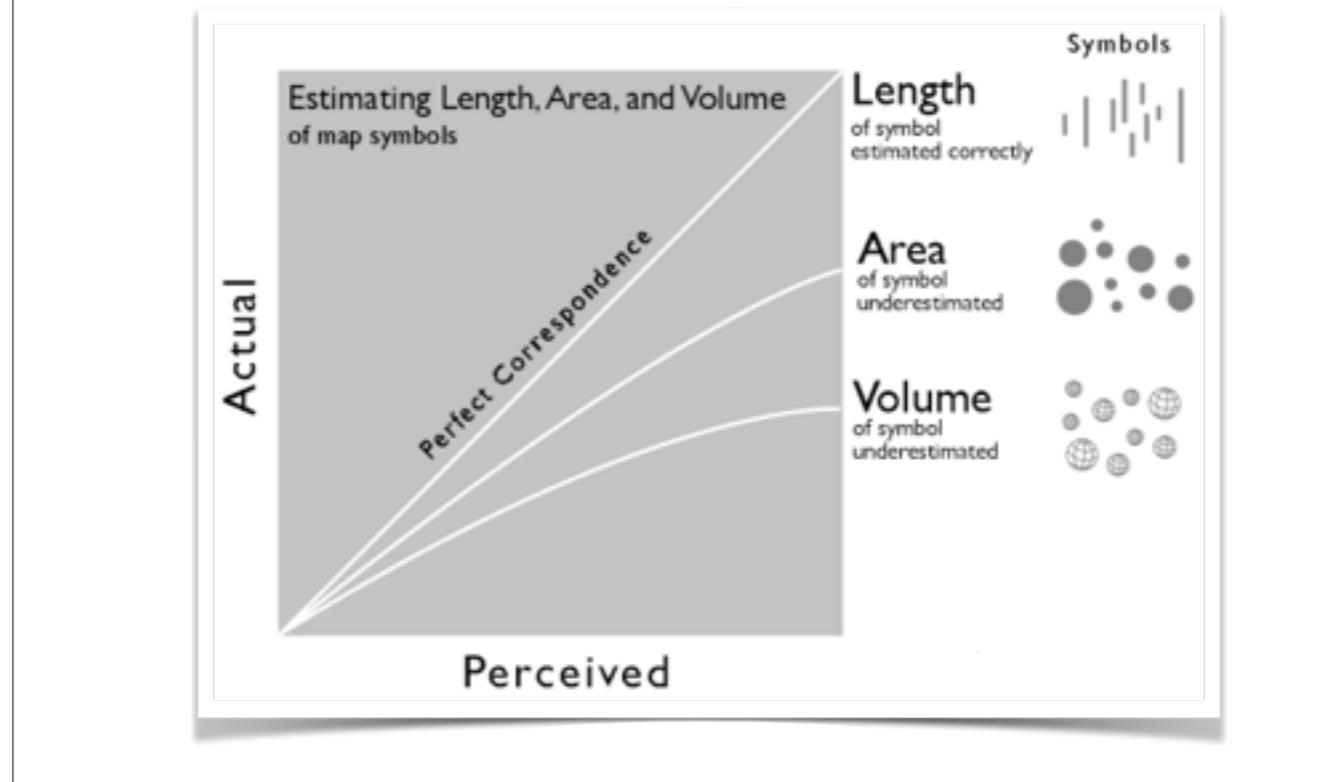
Relational - clumped or grouped together

The Visual Variables - expanded

- Jock D. Mackinlay expanded Bertin's list and suggested a ranking of their usefulness based on the type of data being represented



Caution: Interpreting visual variables



Example: Length v Area



The most effective graphs make the most efficient use of visual encoding

Charts

Text, tables, graphs and maps represent a toolkit for statistical communication.

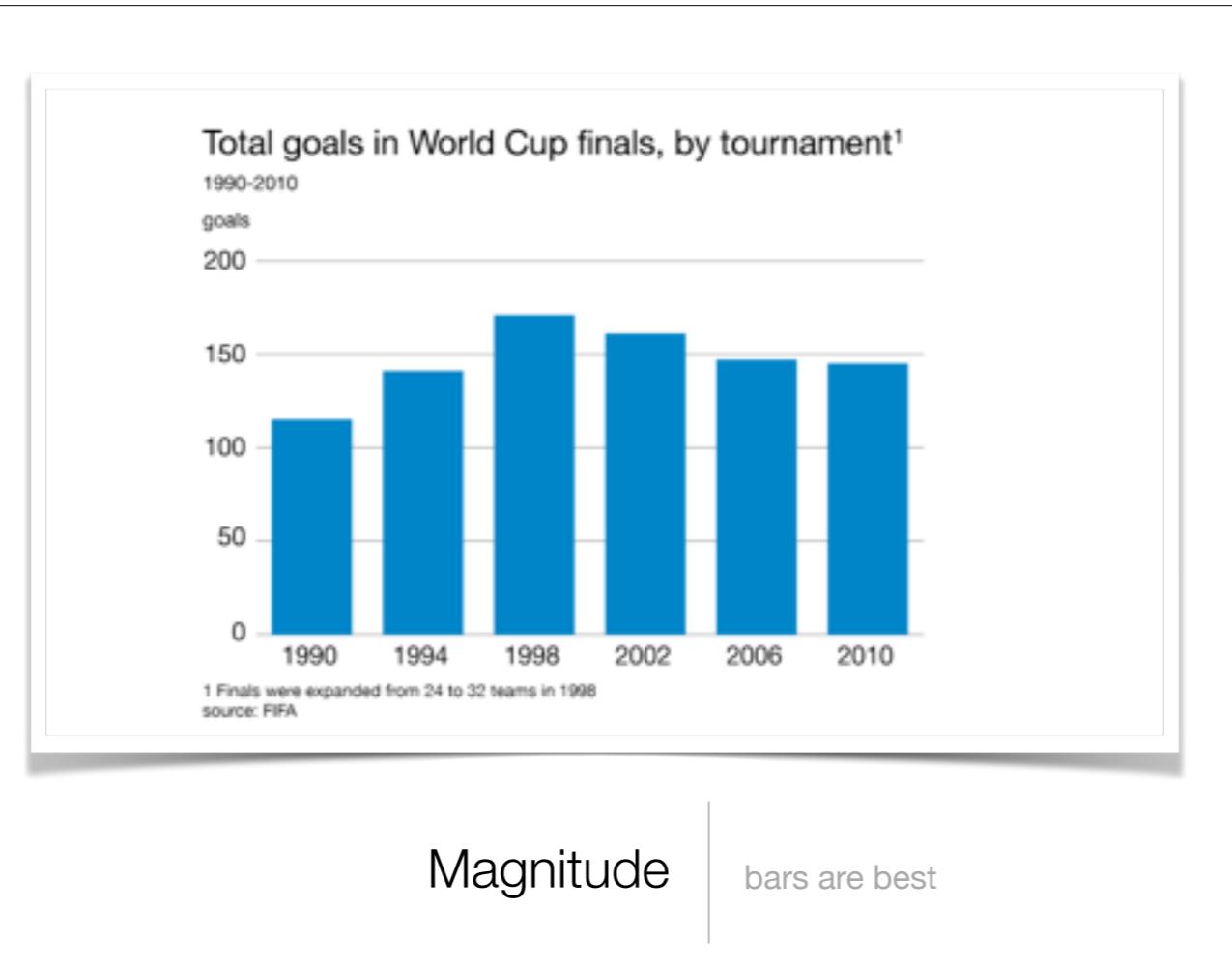
Being able to spot when and where to use each is an important component in producing quality content, tailored to your audience.

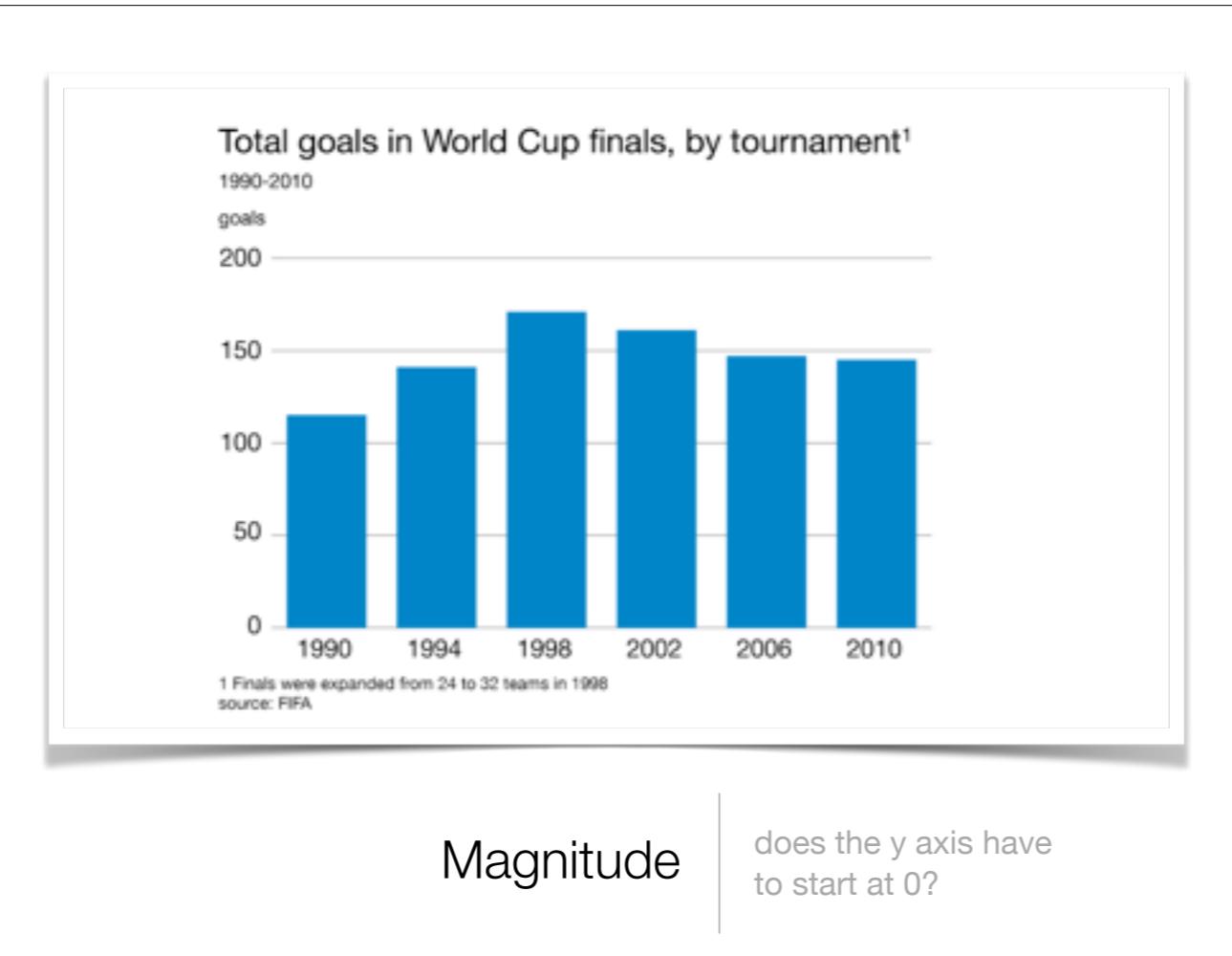
Choosing a graph type - 'safety first'

- Graphs display information about **relationships in data**
- Getting to the right graph is a **two-step process**:
 1. **identify** and **prioritise** the statistical relationships
 2. choose the symbology that gives **visual emphasis** to the highest priority relationships

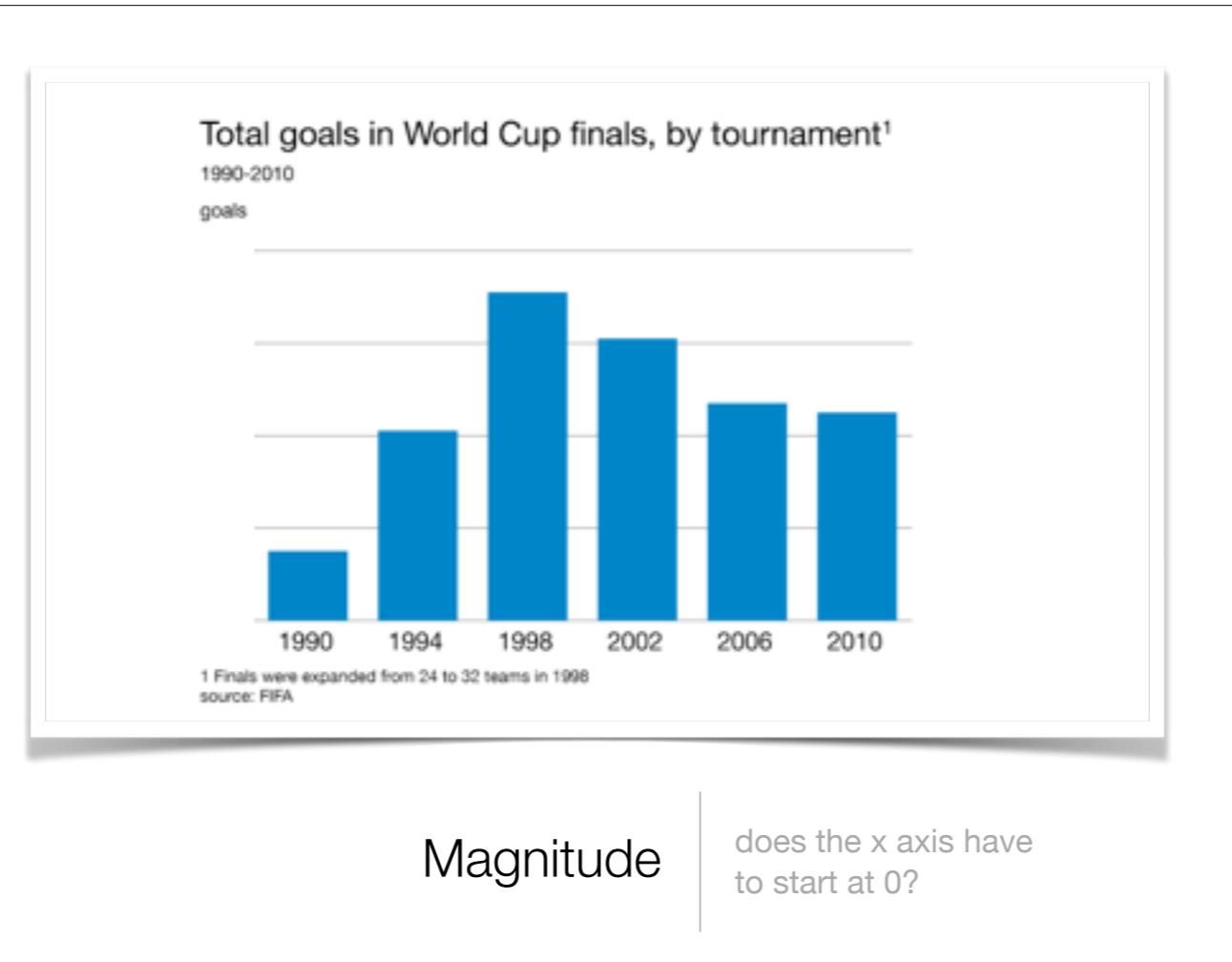
So what basic statistical relationships in the data should we look for?

Magnitude?





does the y axis have to start at 0??



Magnitude

does the x axis have
to start at 0?

yes it does!!

Total goals in World Cup finals, by tournament¹

1990-2010

goals

180

160

140

120

100

1990

1994

1998

2002

2006

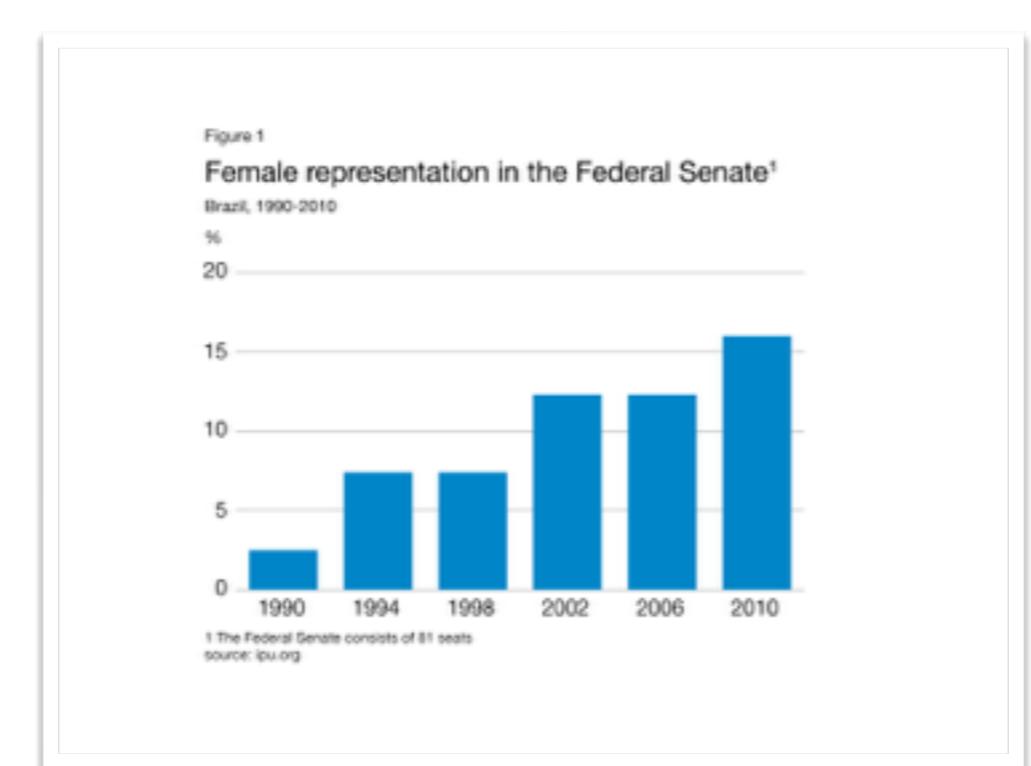
2010

1 Finals were expanded from 24 to 32 teams in 1998

source: FIFA

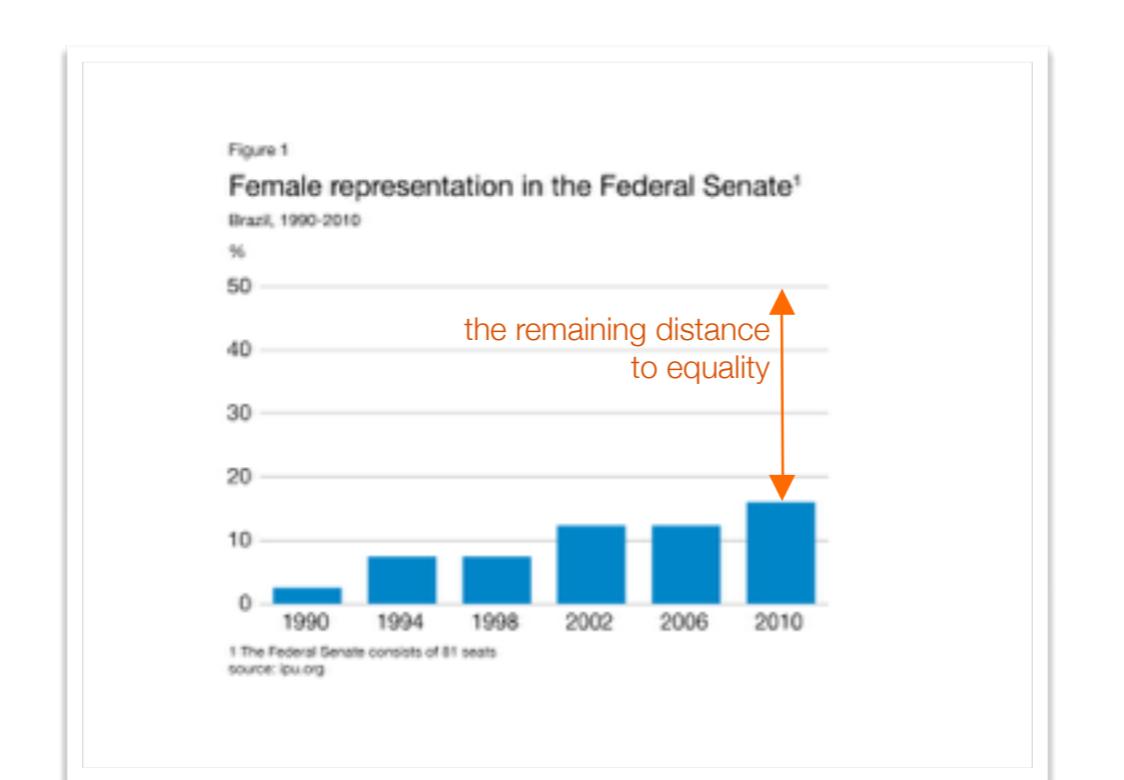
Magnitude

bar alternative



A perfect graph? | anything wrong?

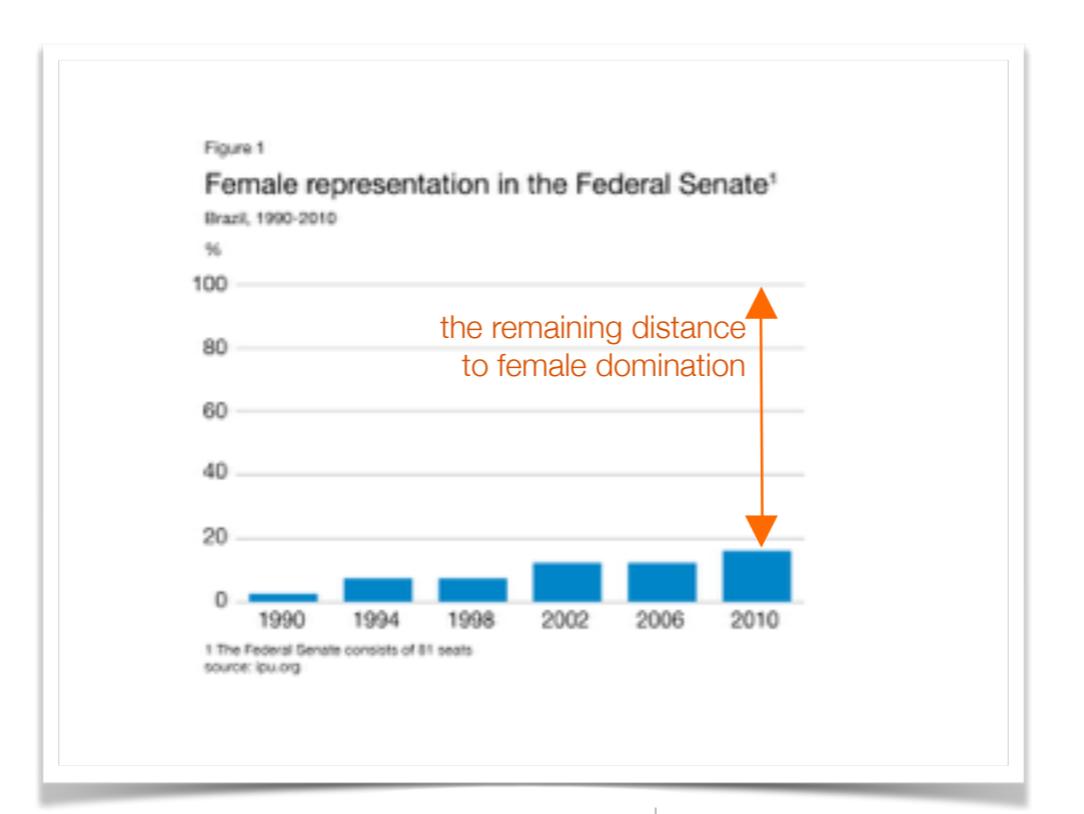
what's this chart getting at? what's the story or policy here?



White space is important!

the story can be in the
'no data' space

now we're using something as simple as your y scale to add important context!

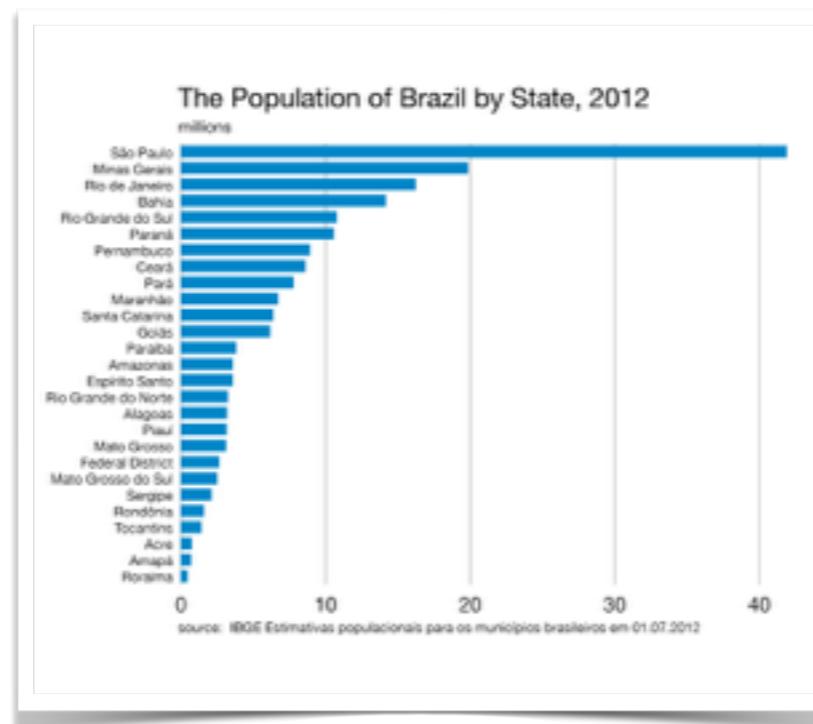


Understand the implications

scaling is an editorial control

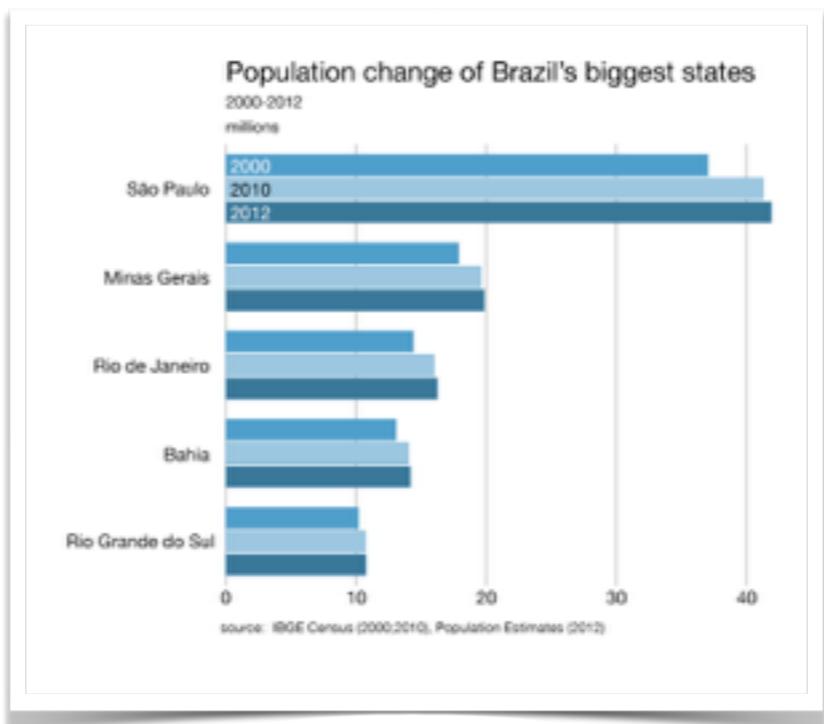
we've adjusted it again, for another angle. still a legit thing to do! depends on your story





Magnitude | horizontal is fine

better for categorical data – labels too long for vertical bars and lends itself to ranking



Magnitude

horizontal clustered bars

I'm not a huge fan – i'd go for a slope chart. easier to see the change and overall context



Magnitude

can I label the bars?

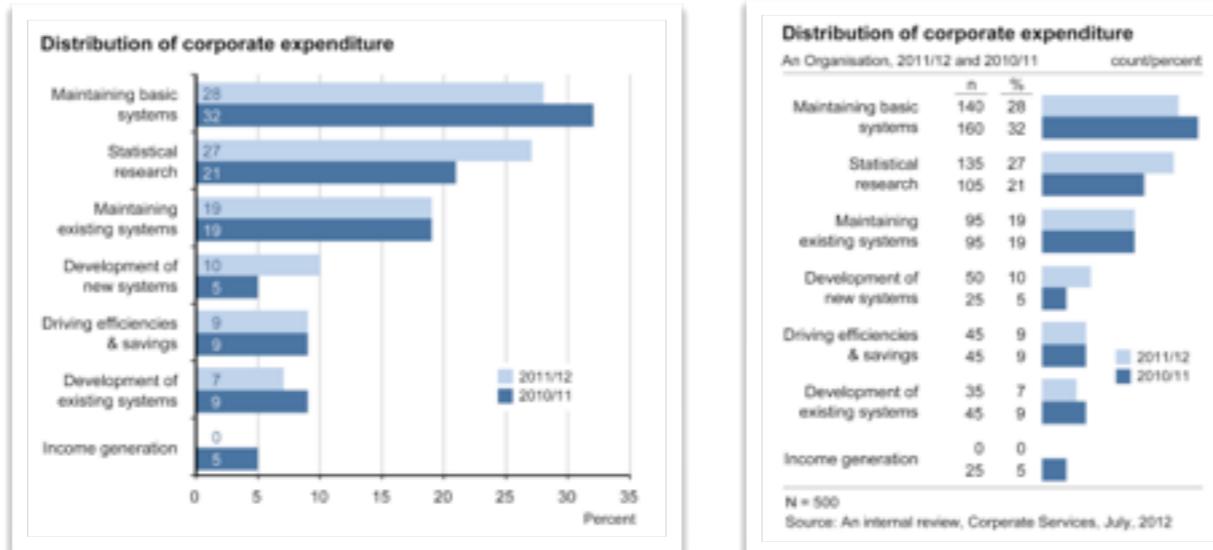
yeah why not

could be a tad better though



a bit cleaner and offers “common horizon”

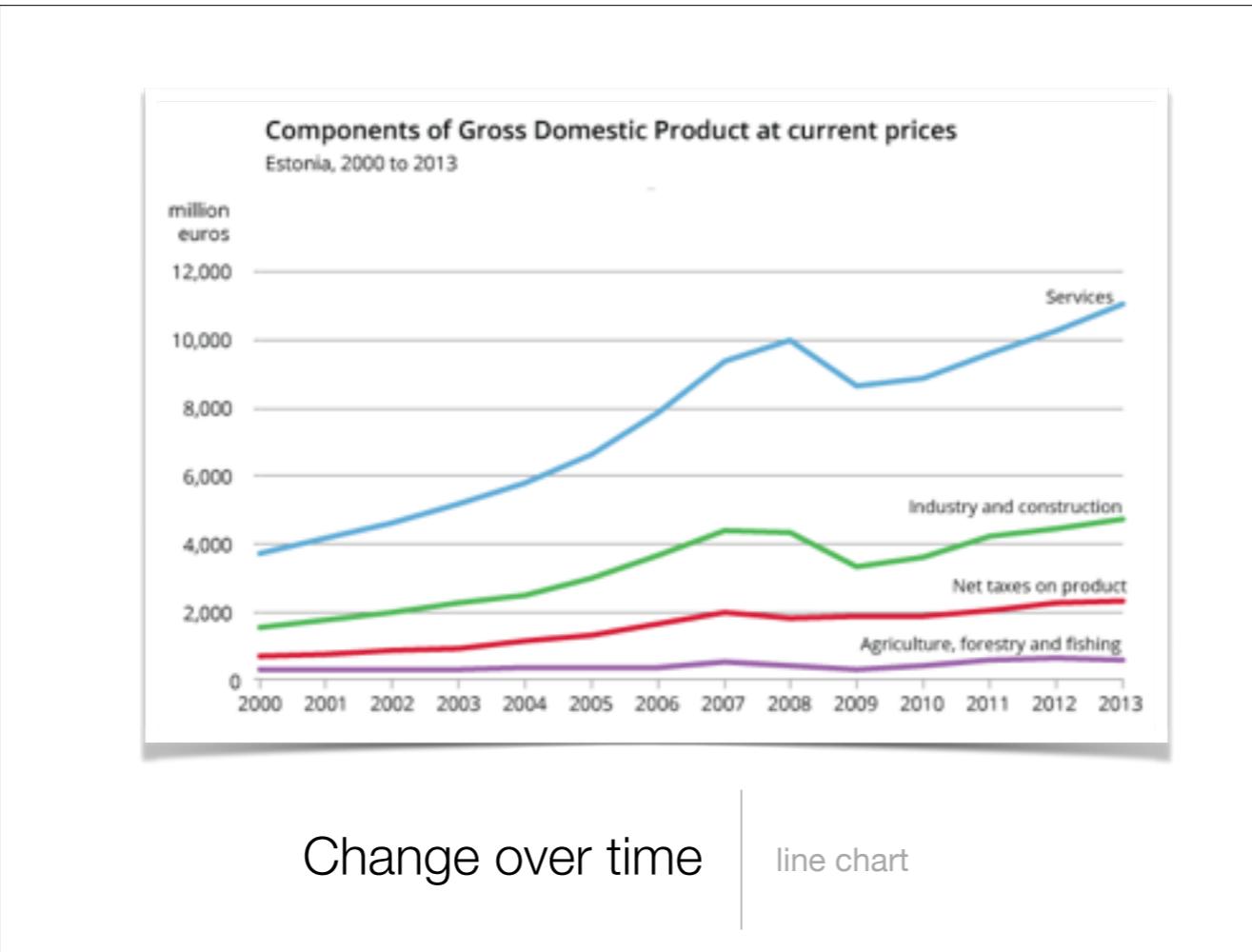
table/graph hybrids that work



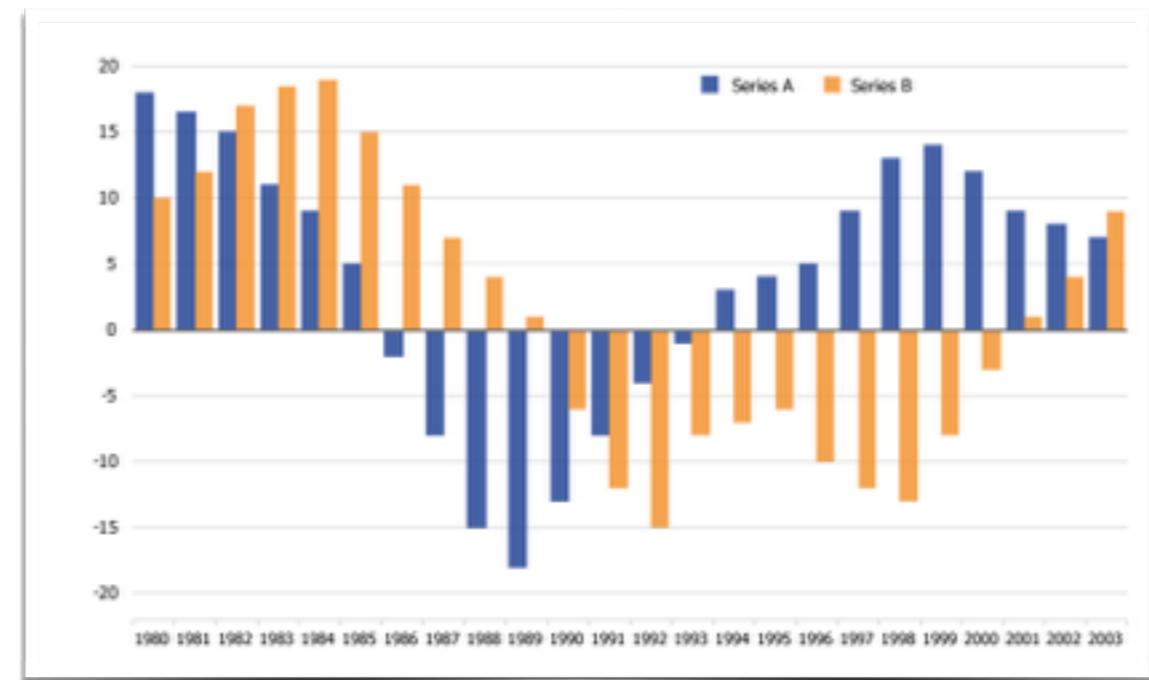
quite clean, adding visual context to a simple table not a bad idea.

bar equivalent to a spark line?

Change over time?



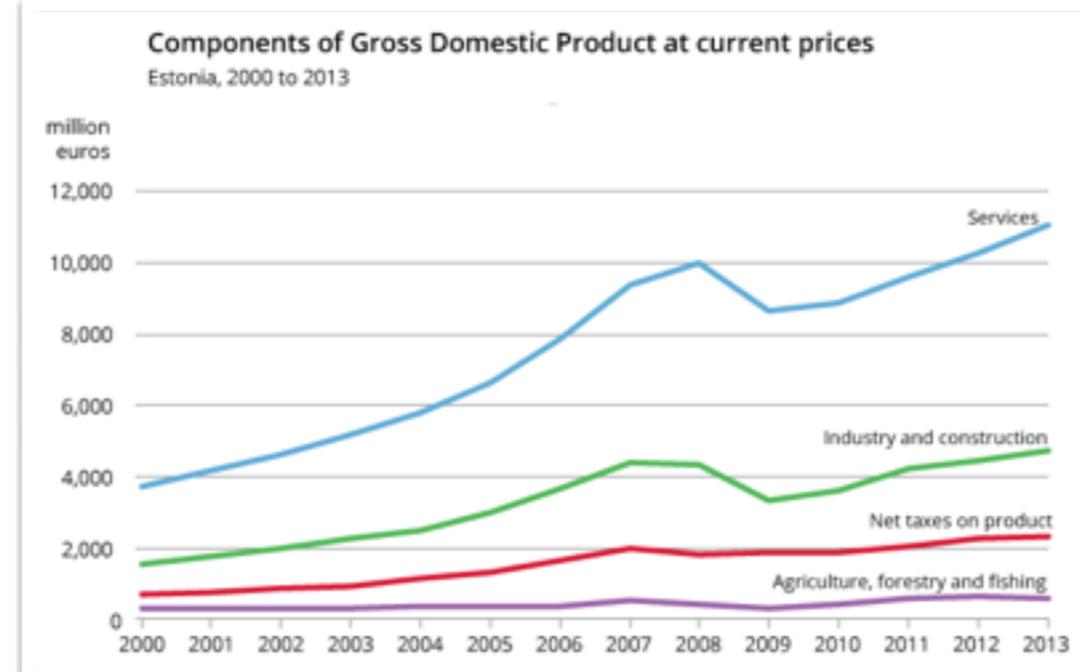
passable line chart – red and green not great practice but lines labelled so no harm done



Change over time

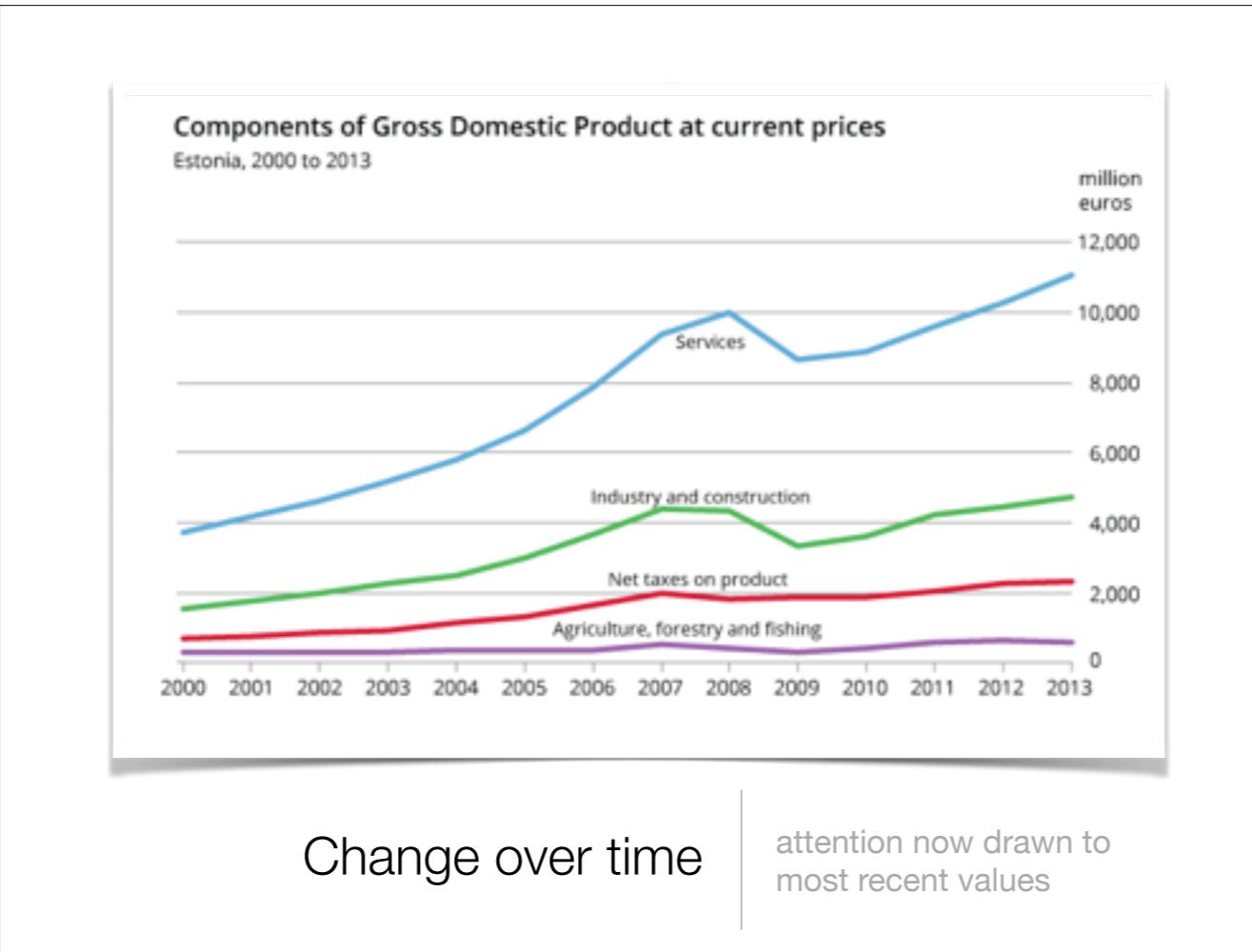
can I use a bar chart?

yes, why not. probably more than 2 series on the chart would be stretching it though



Change over time

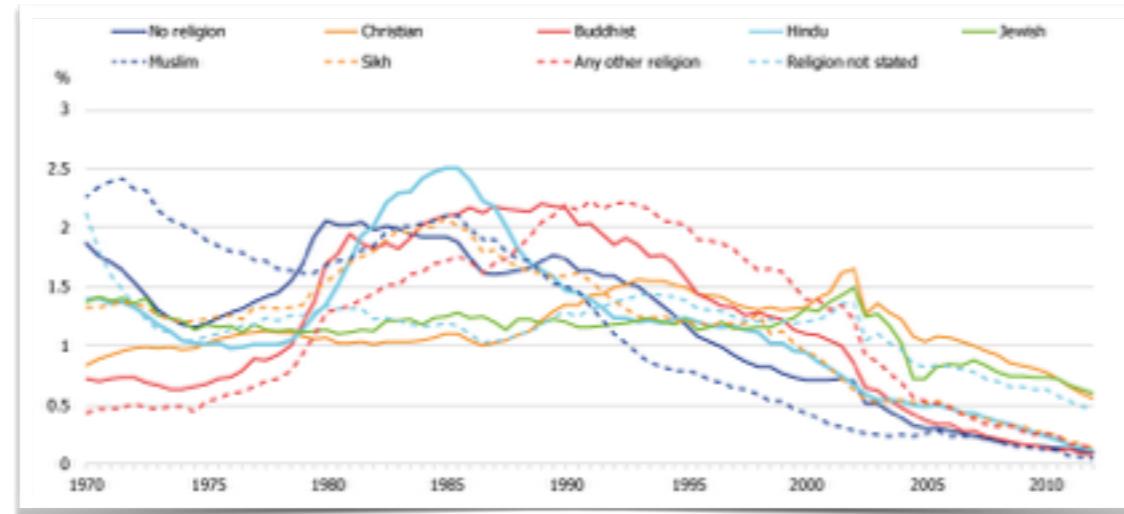
y axis labels always on left?



Change over time

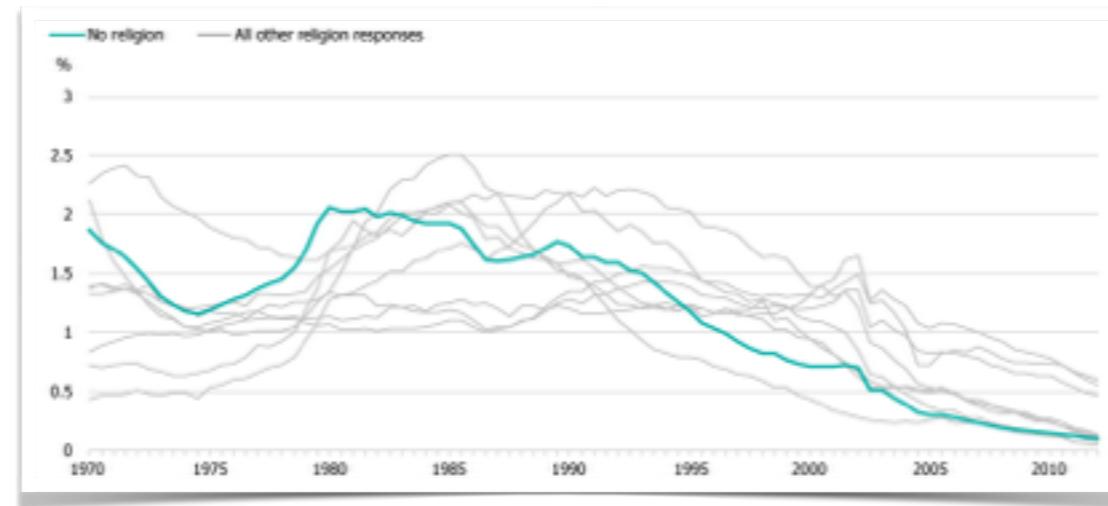
attention now drawn to
most recent values

no reason why you can't do this. could make most recent values easier to read



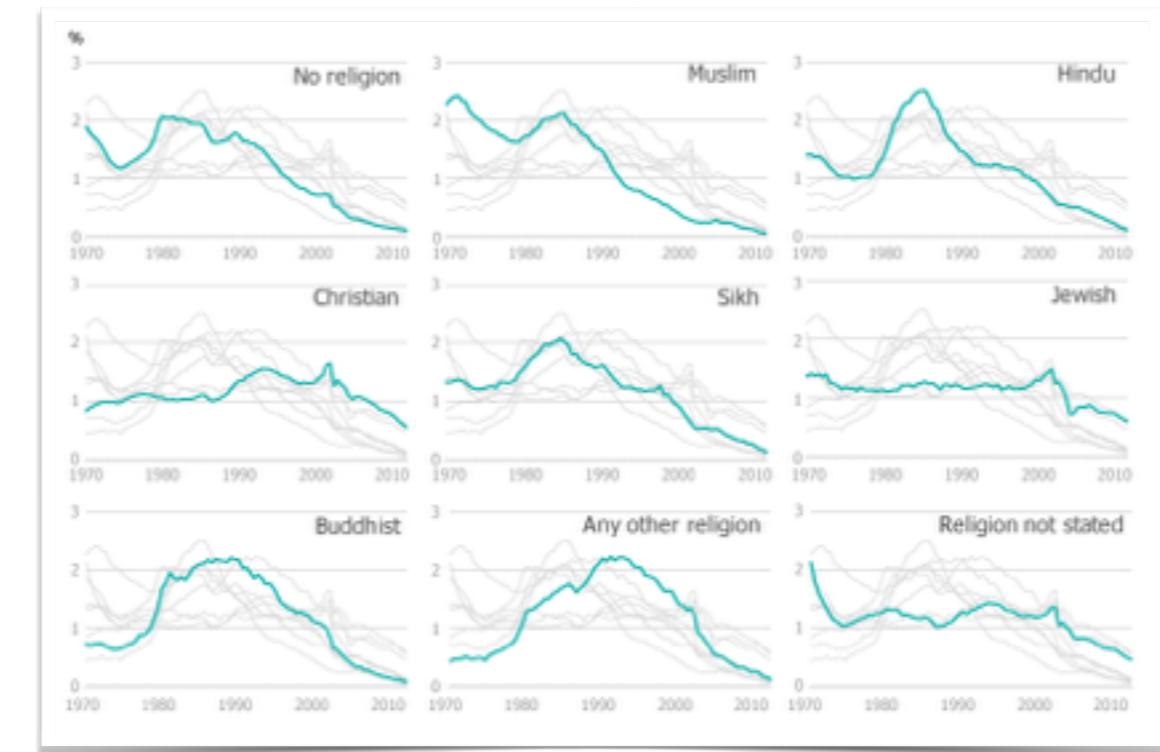
Change over time | spot the problem

see way too much of this



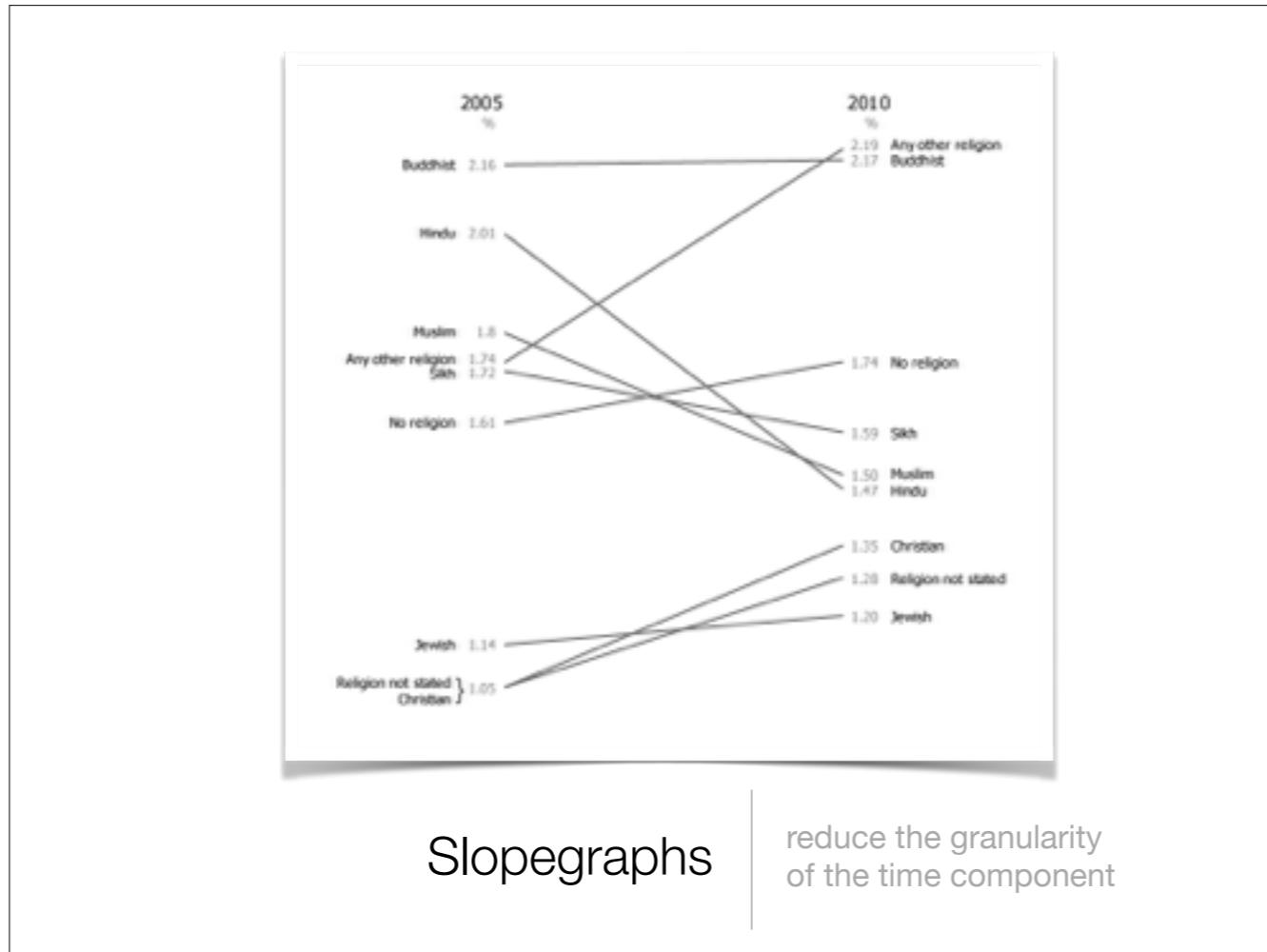
Change over time

focus on selected lines...



Change over time

small multiples

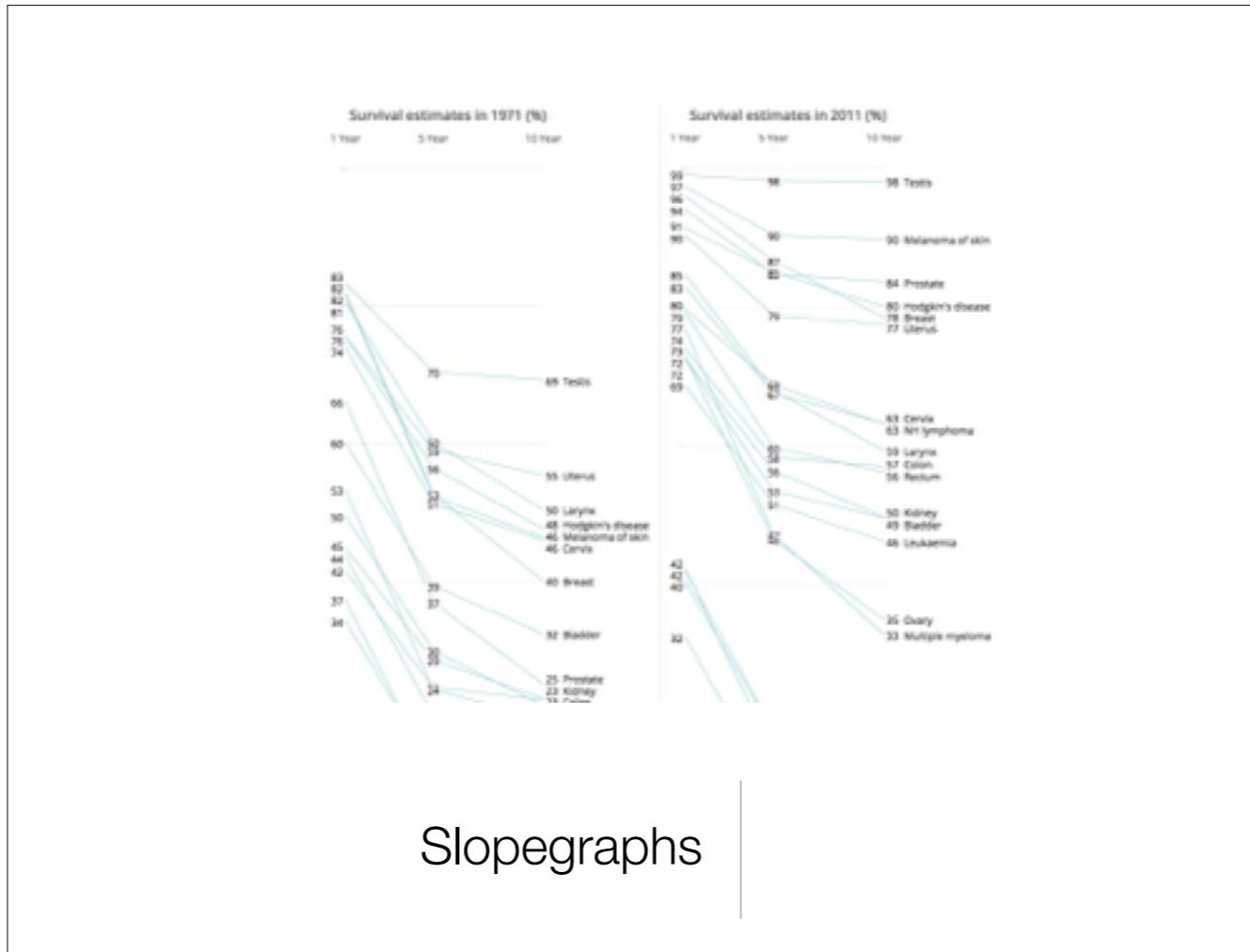


Slopegraphs

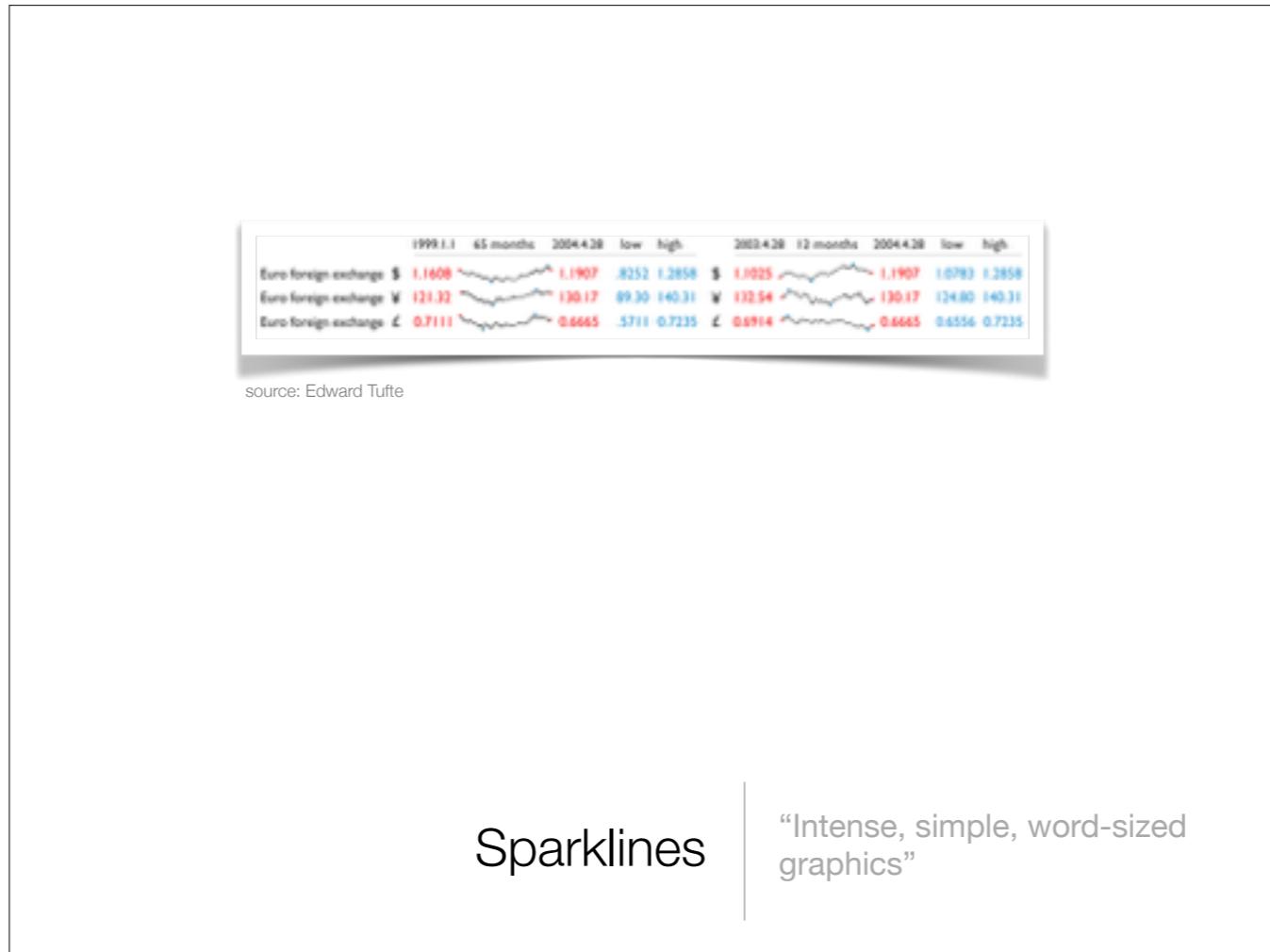
reduce the granularity
of the time component

go back to slide 46 – can you see how it applies?

<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/how-do-survival-estimates-compare-for-common-cancers/>



<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/how-do-survival-estimates-compare-for-common-cancers/>



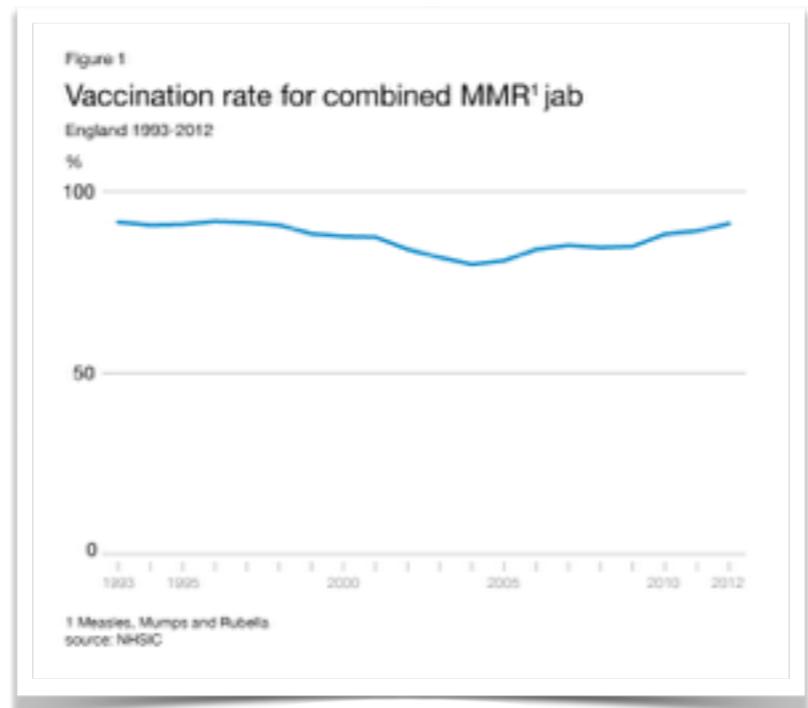
Sparklines

“Intense, simple, word-sized graphics”

useful for some context “at a glance”

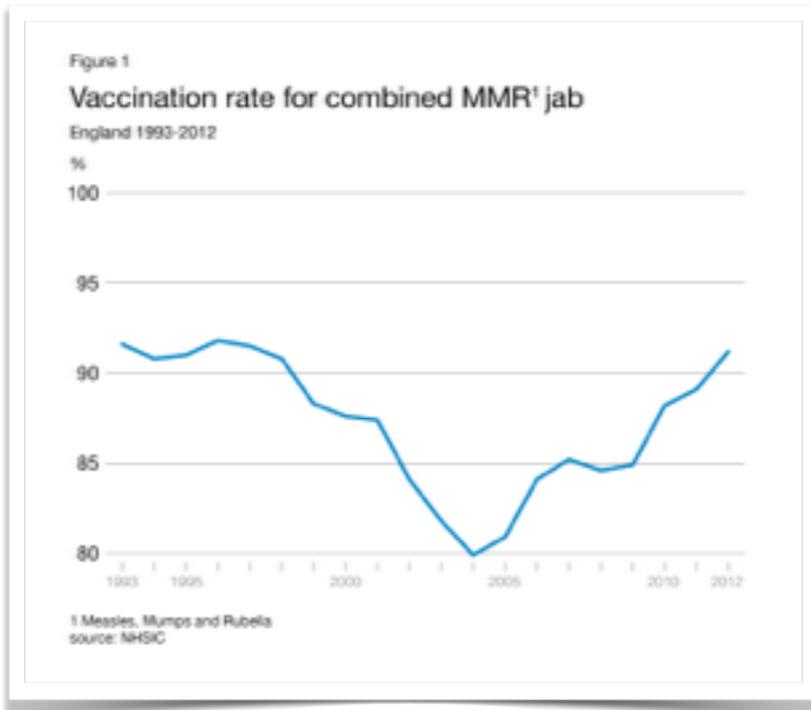
practical in size

easy to represent multiple series



Change over time

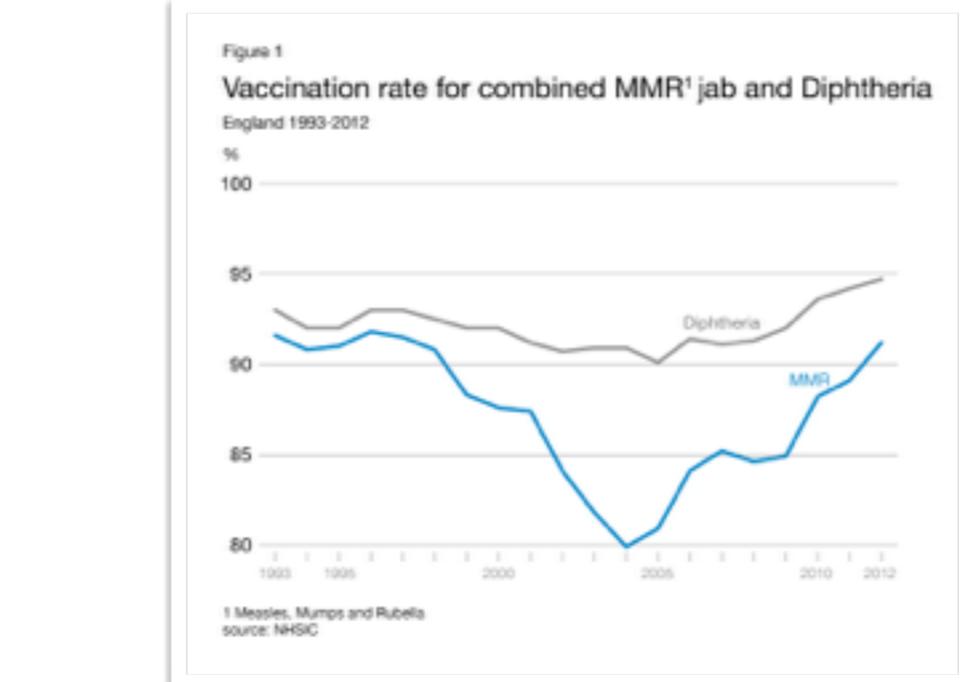
does the y axis have
to start at 0?



Change over time

use scaling like a lens
for non-count data

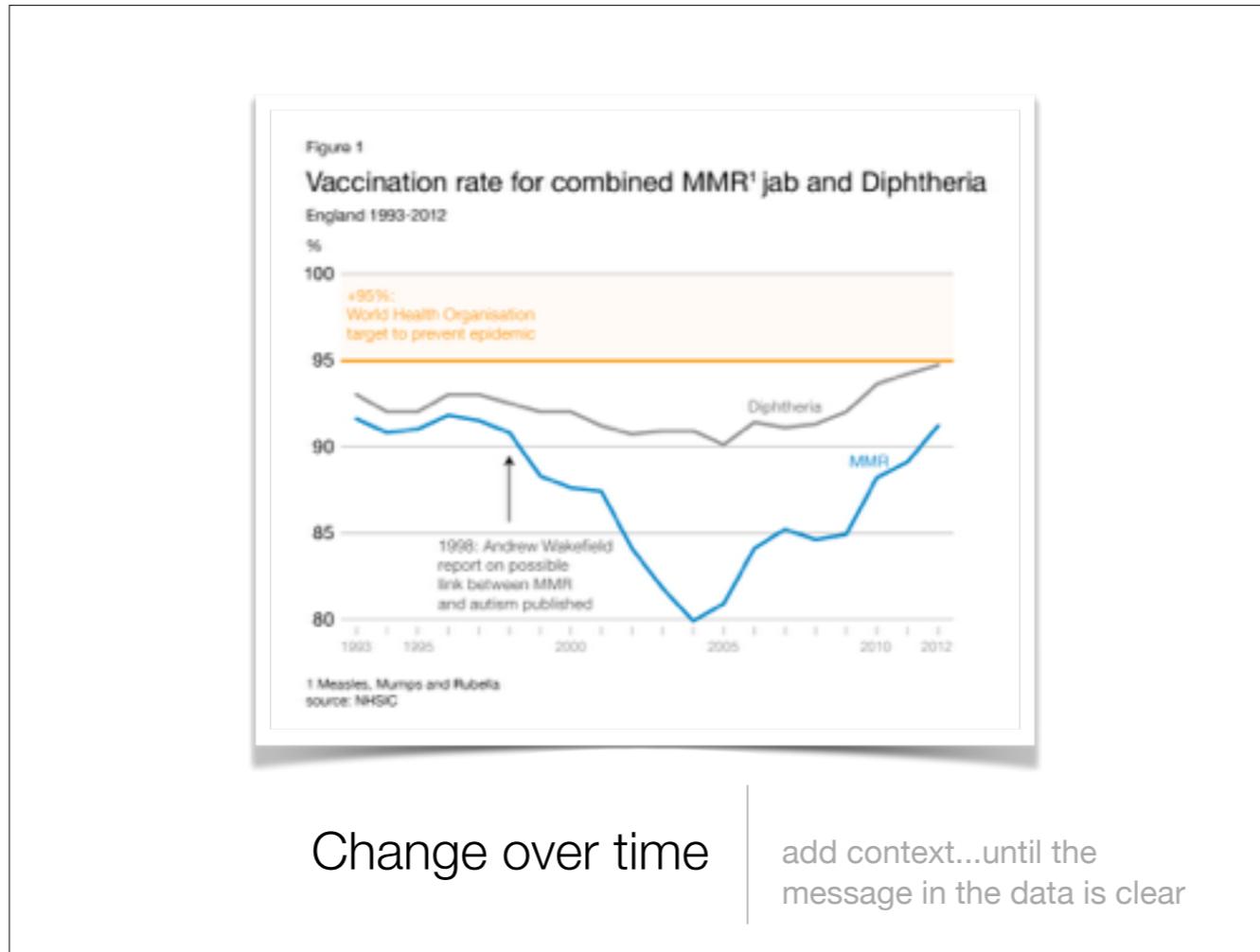
not as criminal as with bar chart. probably more criminal to miss the opportunity for context



Change over time

add context...

add context – what's the story? add something more stable as a “control”?



Change over time

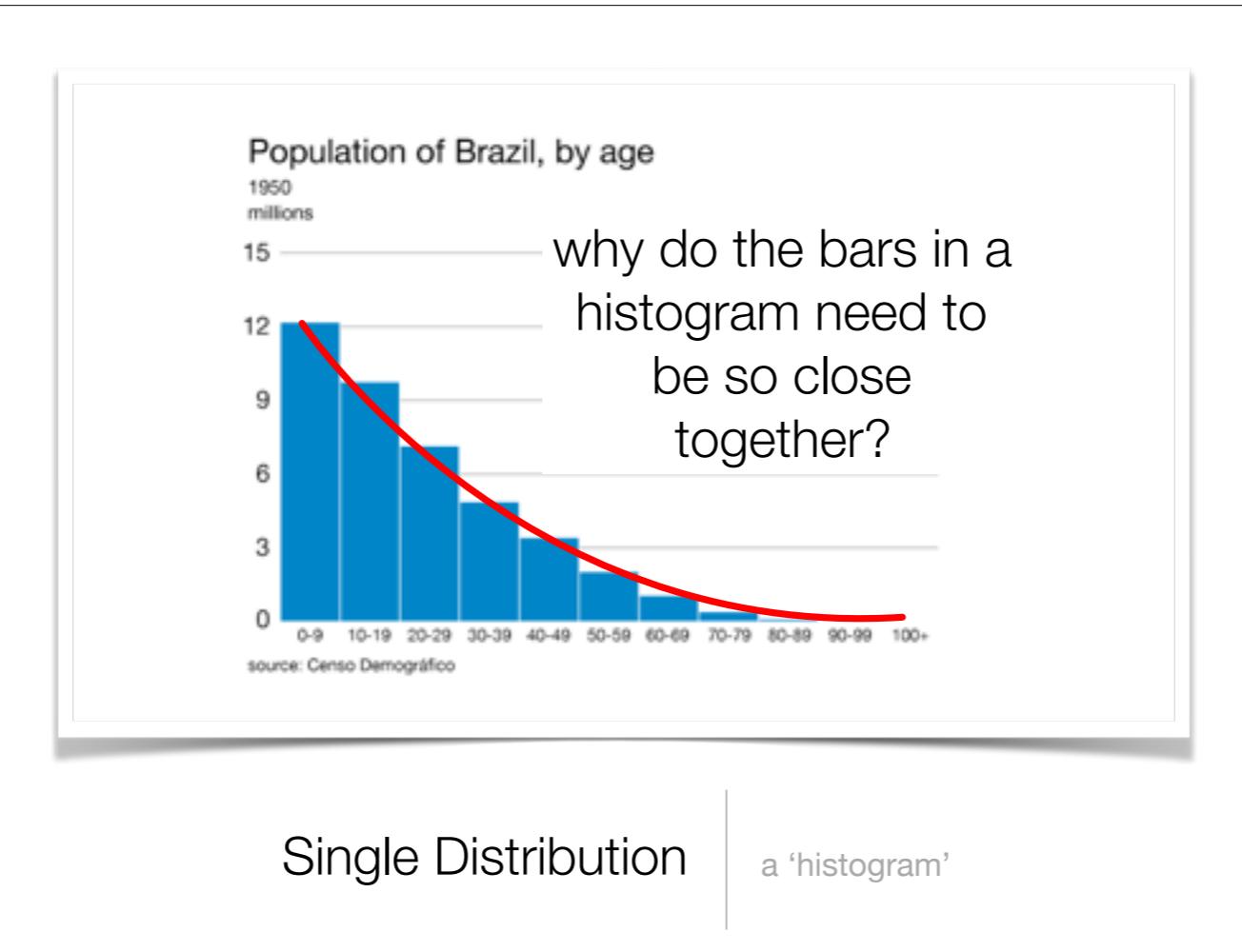
add context...until the message in the data is clear

All of the context!!

Don't be afraid to write on your chart and be inventive with annotations.

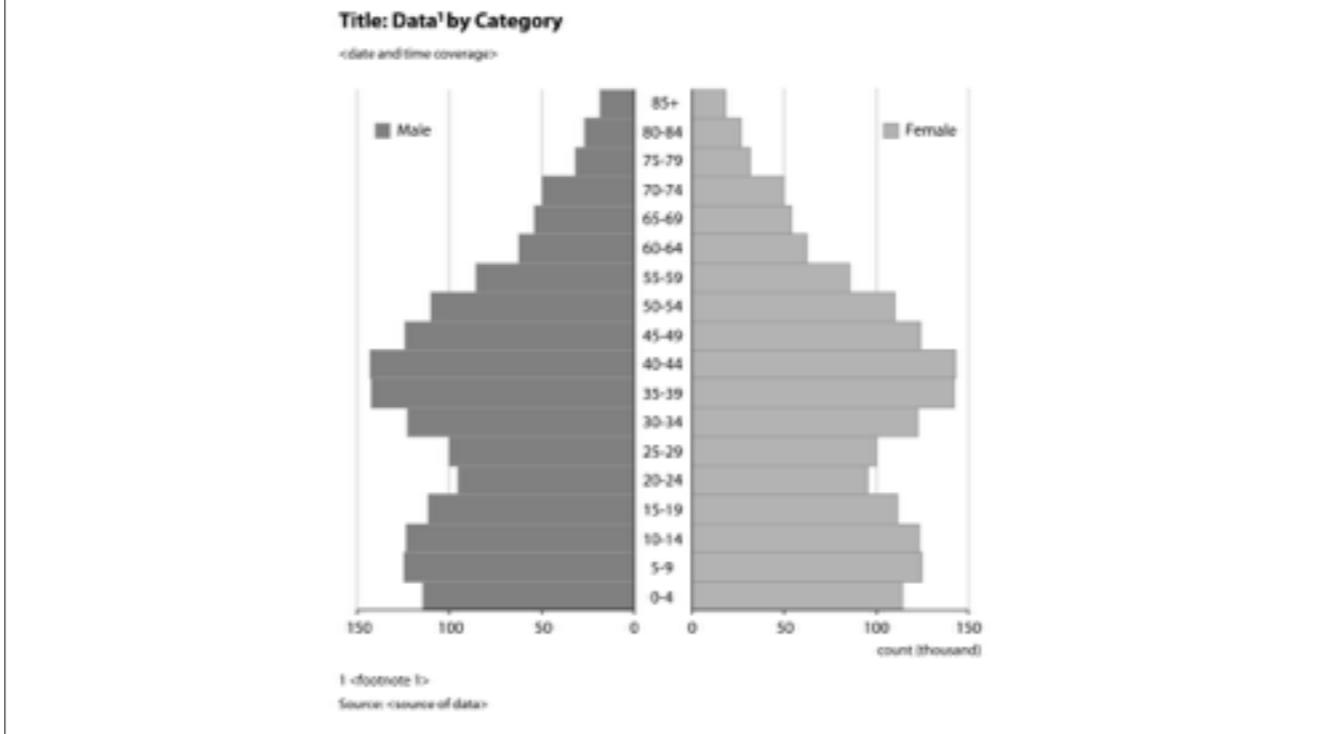
especially important what with policy agenda!!

Distribution?



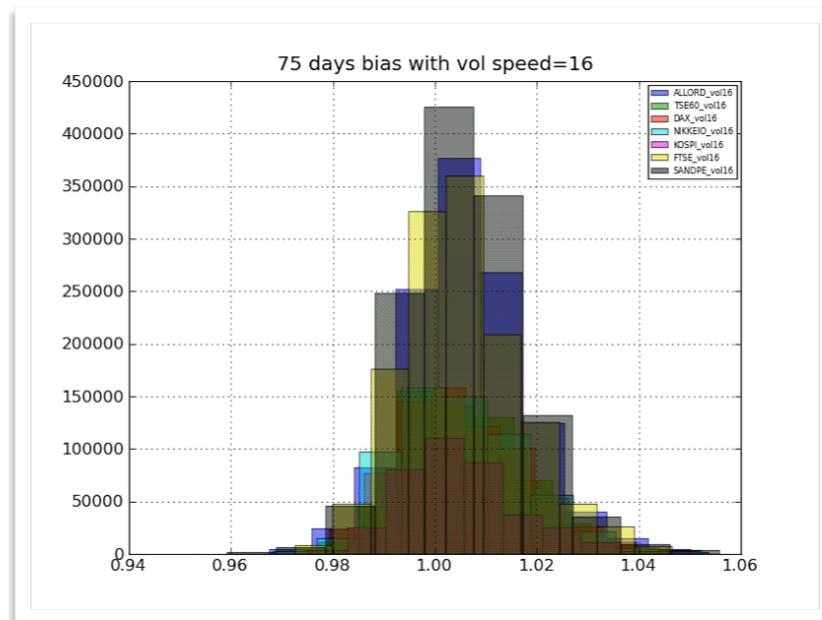
continuous data

Multiple Distributions?



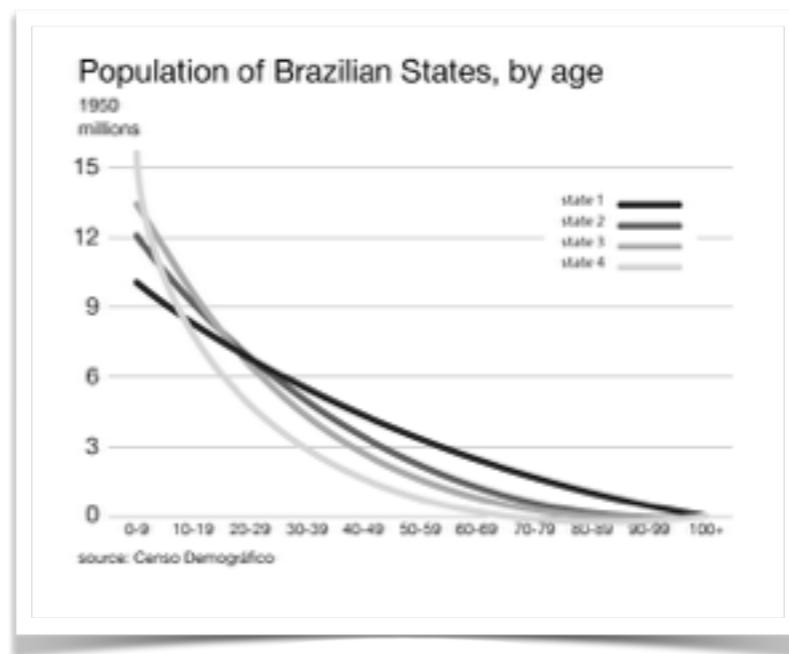
classic example of more than one distribution.

Multiple Distributions?



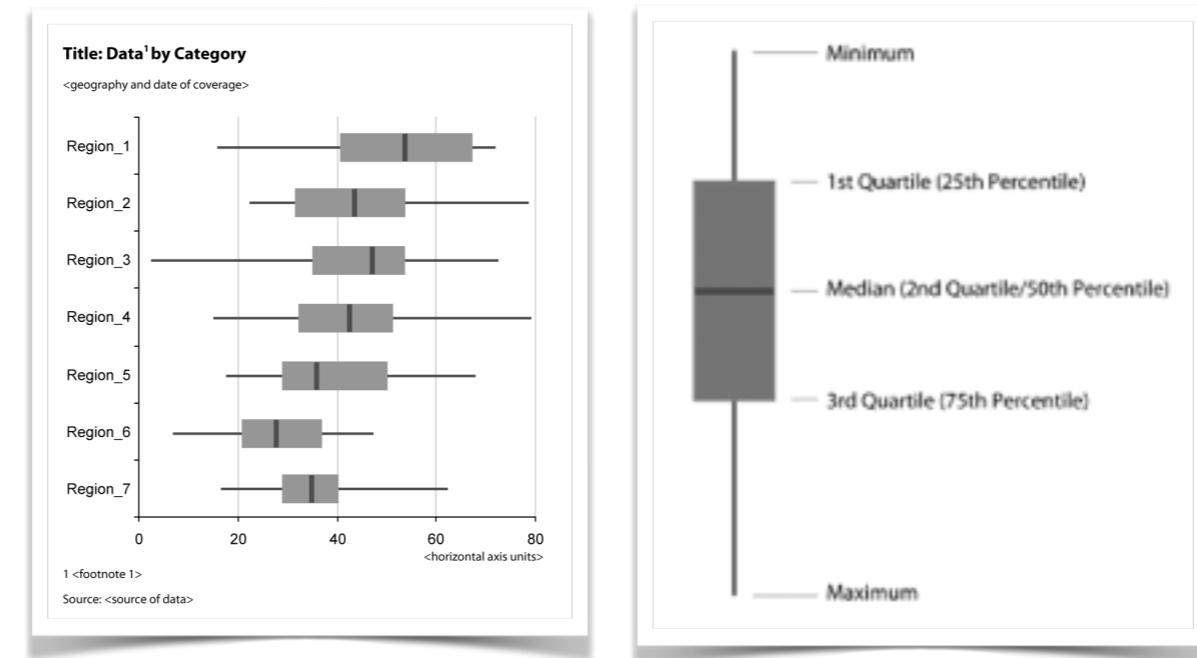
how not to show it!!

Multiple Distributions?



line charts are a legit approach – good for showing change over time, but no more than 3-4 lines

Multiple Distributions?



Perfectly fine, but going back to the social context and lack of numerical literacy.

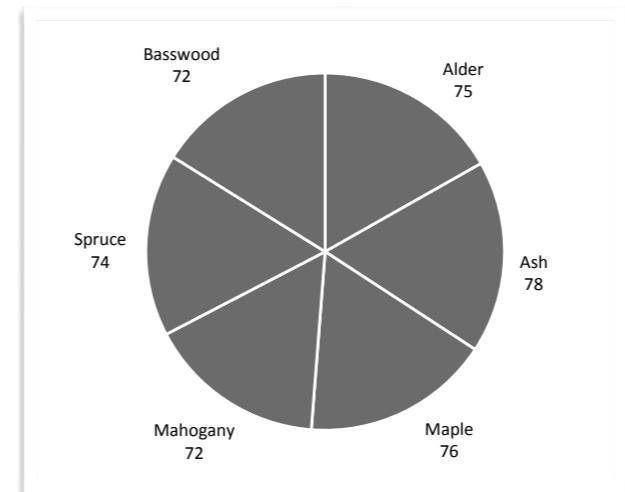
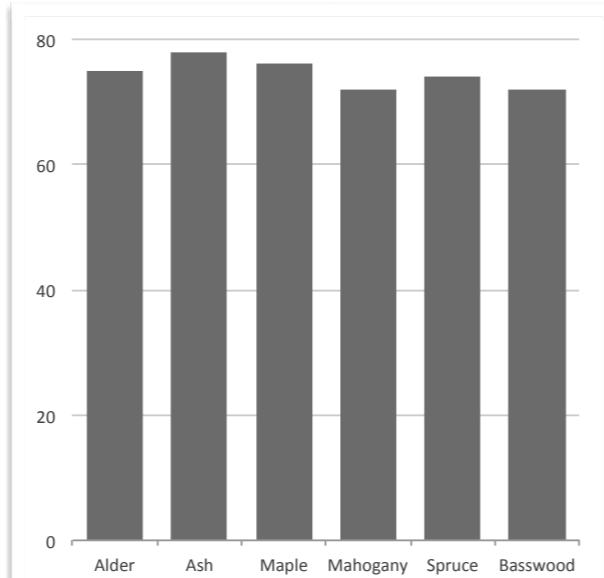
I'm not sure i'd like to see this in anything but the most specialist output

Multiple Distributions?



small multiples ftw!

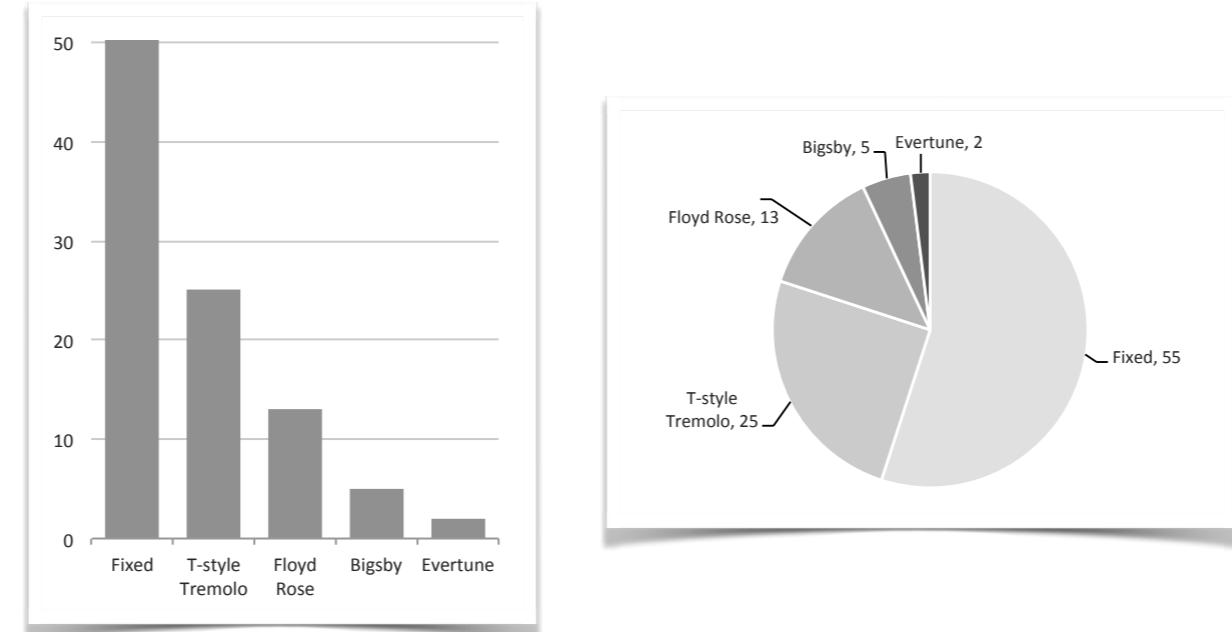
Part-to-whole?



Part-to-whole

When might a bar graph be better than a pie chart?

tiny differences? try a bar?



Part-to-whole

When might a pie chart be better than a bar graph?

pie charts get some hate, but it's not really justified.

great for this sort of data where there is disparity in categories.

Use a bar chart

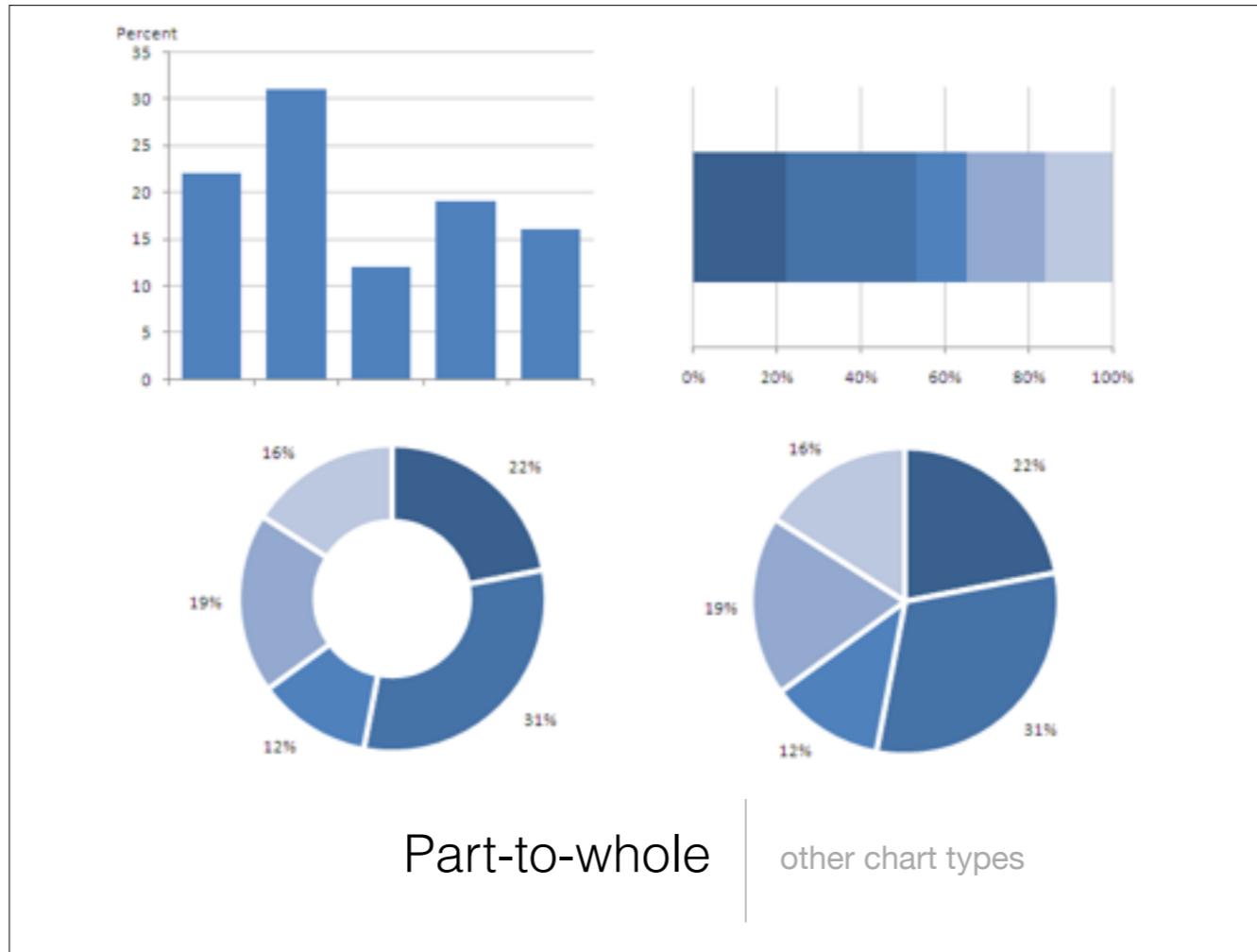
when there are more than 5 categories
for showing small changes in the data accurately

Use a pie chart

when there is a dominant value in the data series
when there are fewer than 6 categories

Part-to-whole

the trade-off

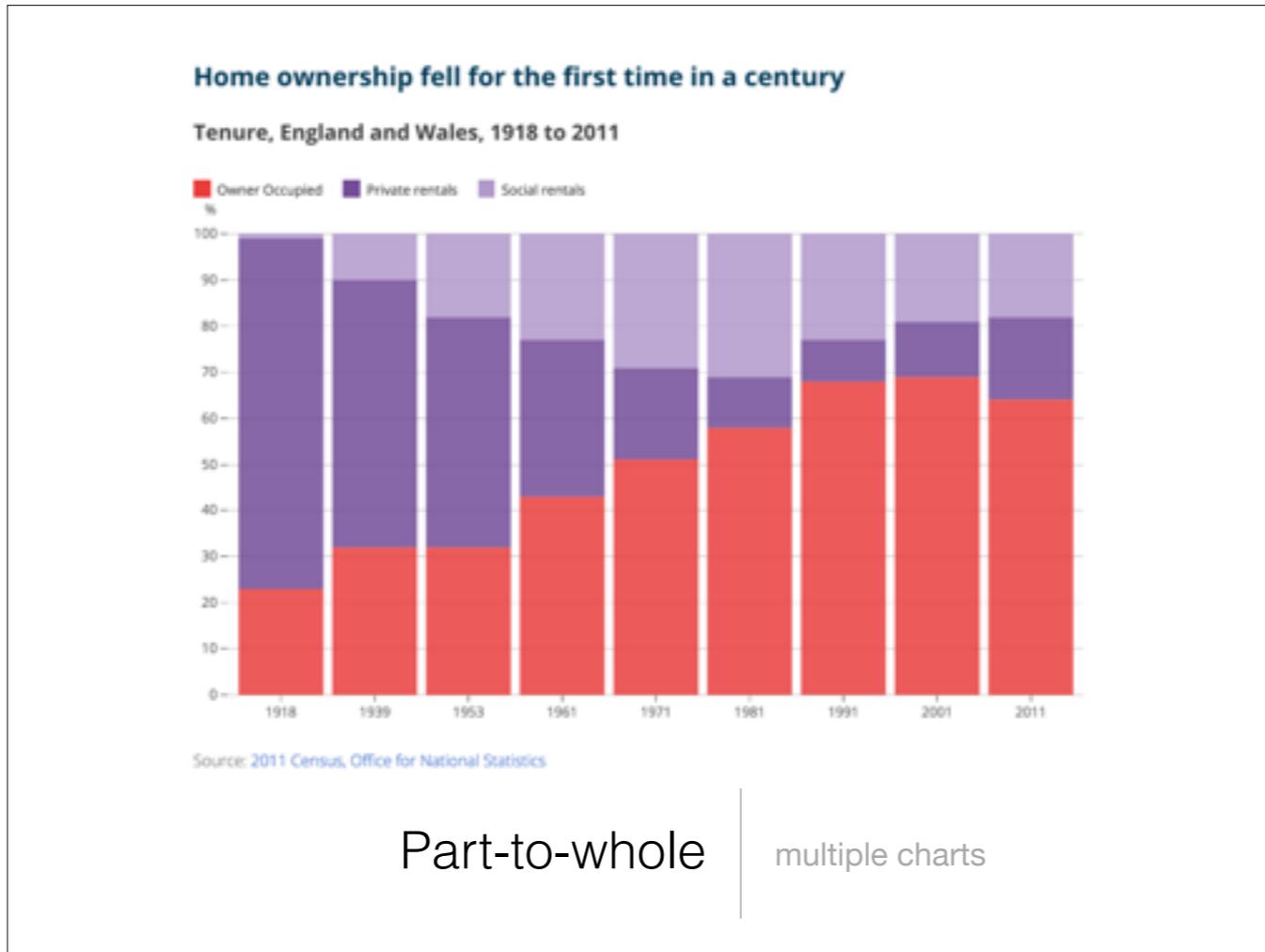


Bar - comparisons easily made length 1D -length

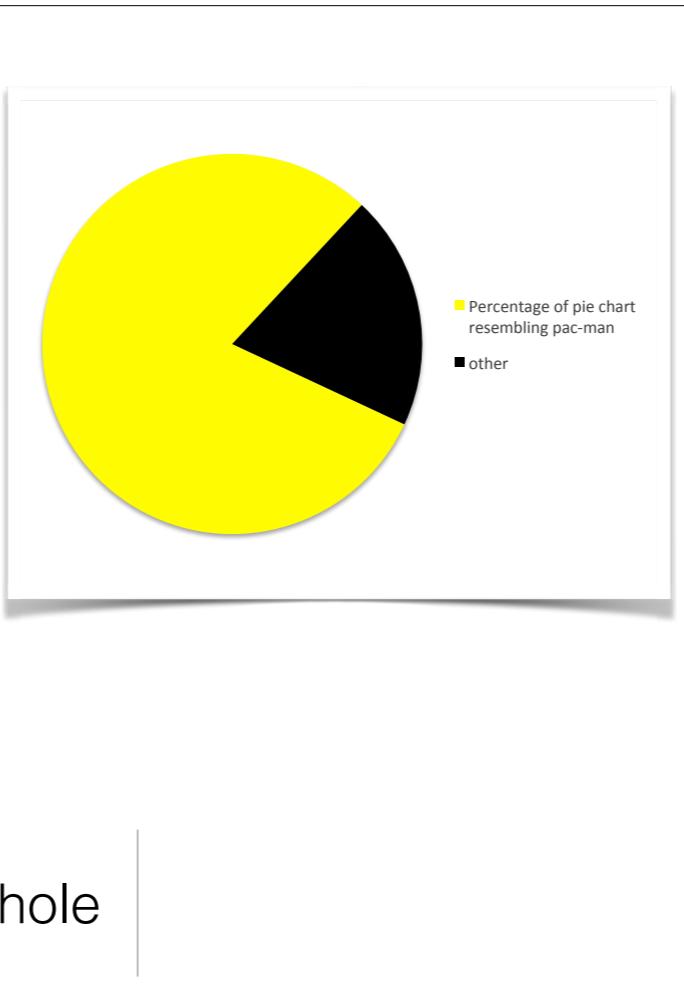
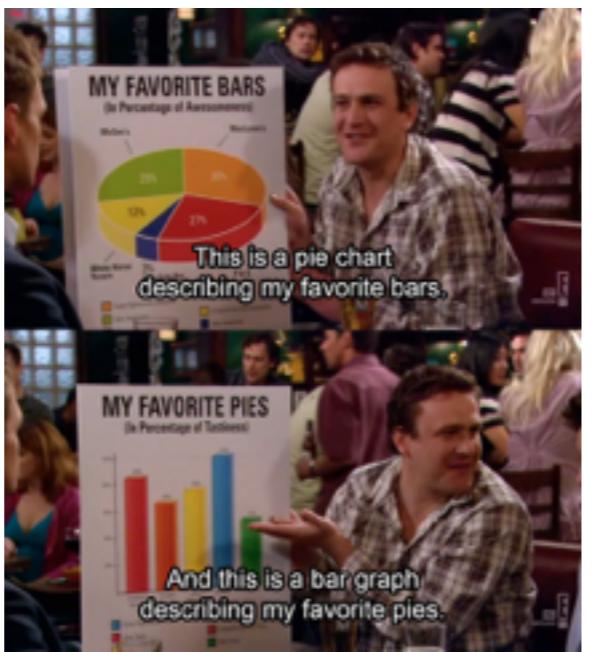
Part to whole - comparisons difficult as no shared horizon 1D - length

Pie - comparisons difficult because trying to compare differences in angles 2D- 2 sets of x,y coordinates in relation to the origin

Donut - Comparisons easier as seeing each sector as a curved bar so comparing (a distorted) length 1D



despite the lack of a “common horizon”, still a great chart because of the clear change over time.



Part-to-whole

Correlation?

Rent in Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster was over £2000 per month

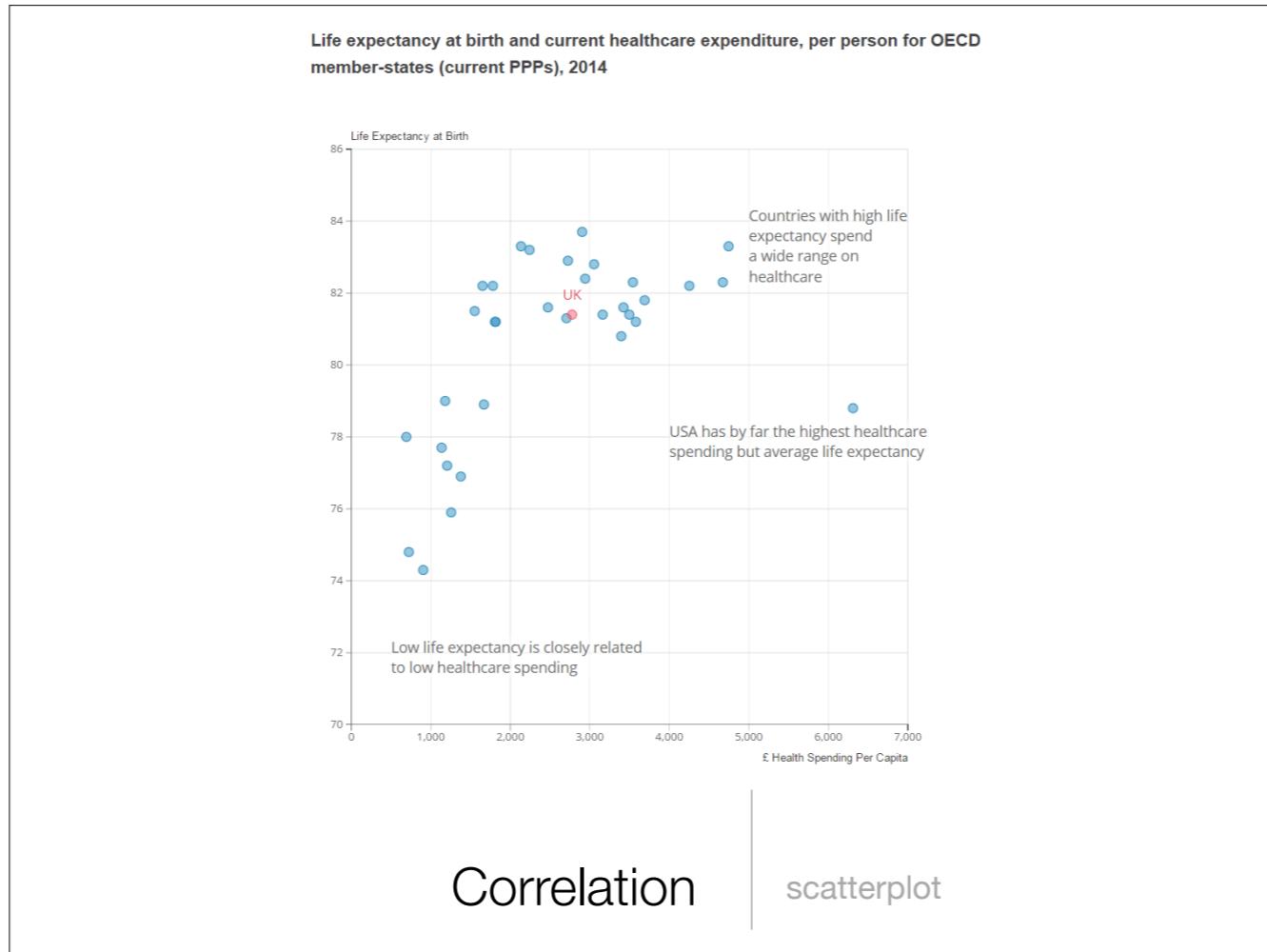
Average monthly private rent and average house price by local authority, England, 2014



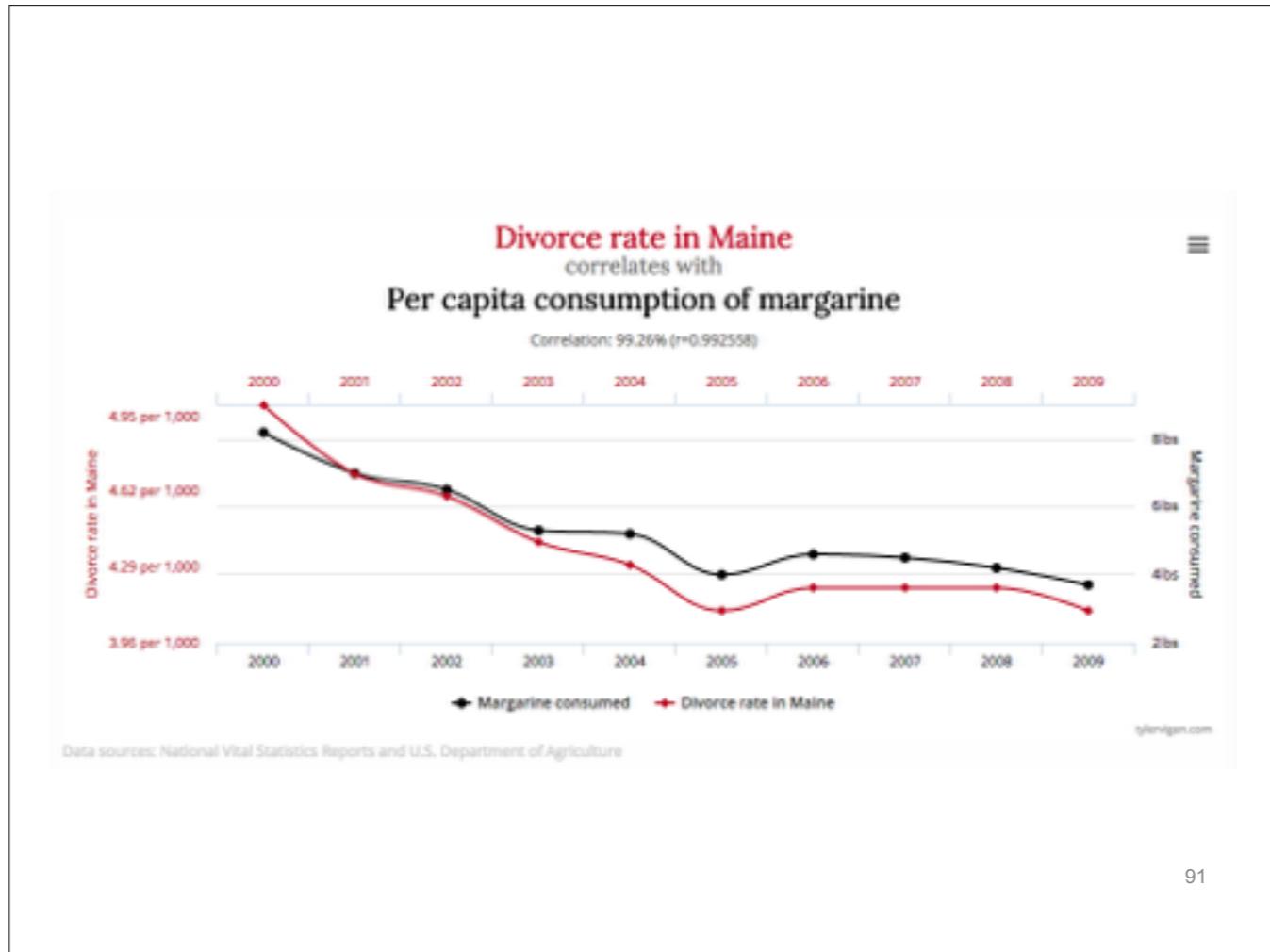
Source: Office for National Statistics

Correlation | scatterplot

scatterplots great for showing trends and outliers



my favourite recent scatterplot – USA an easy target



91

beware though – correlation does not imply causation!



Correlation

adding extra variables

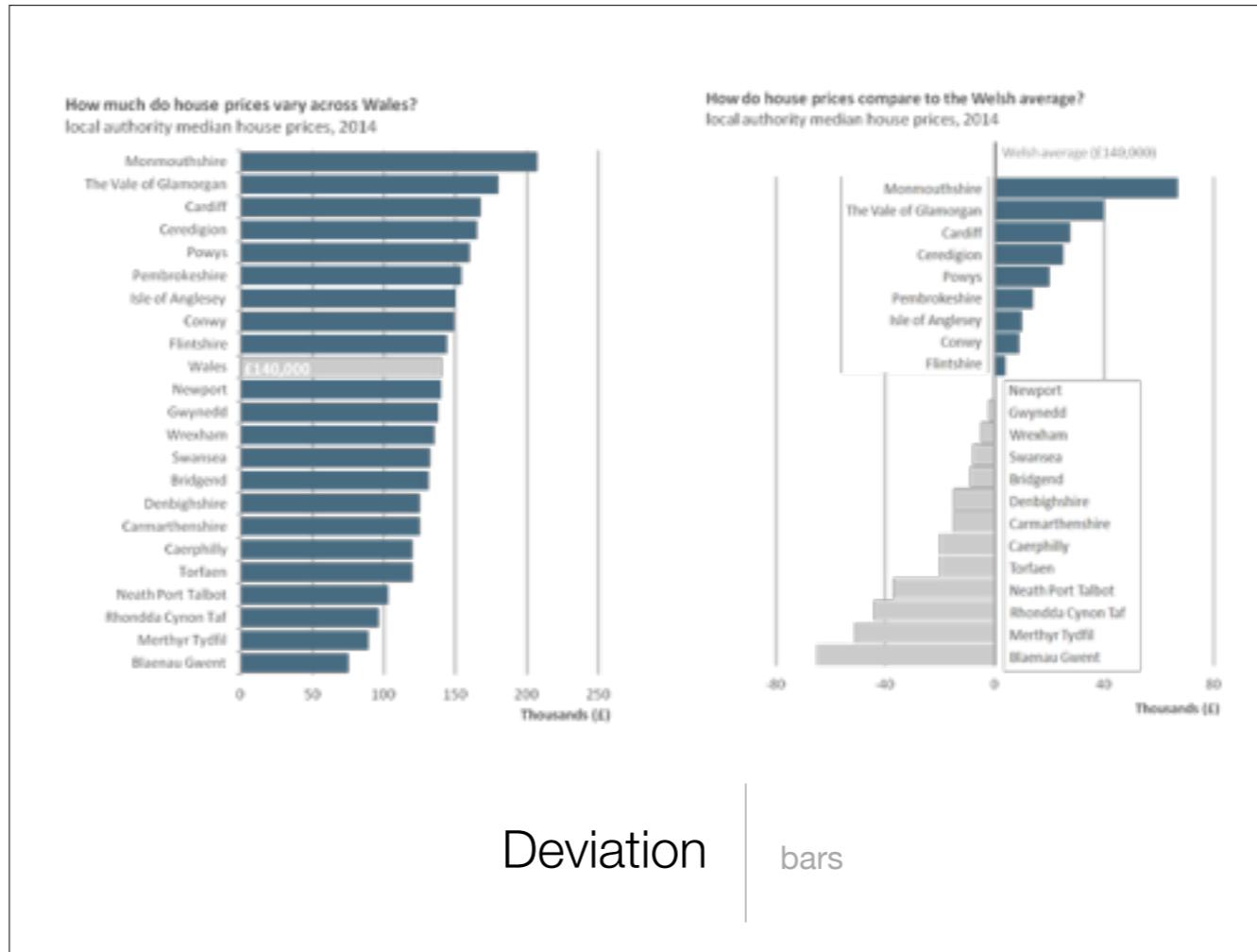
x =income
y = lifespan

bubble size = population size
colours = continents

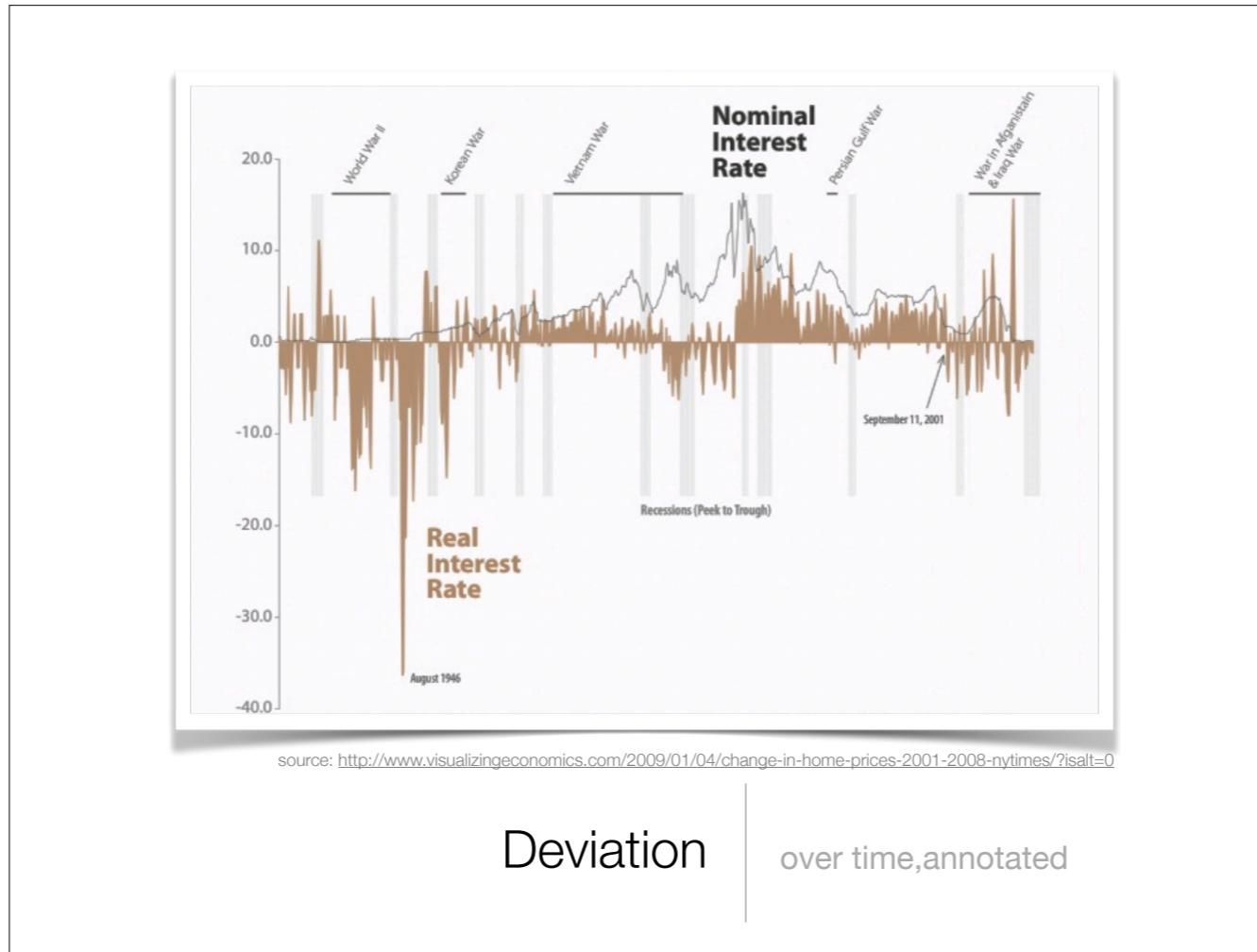
animates through time

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbkSRLYSOjo>

Deviation?

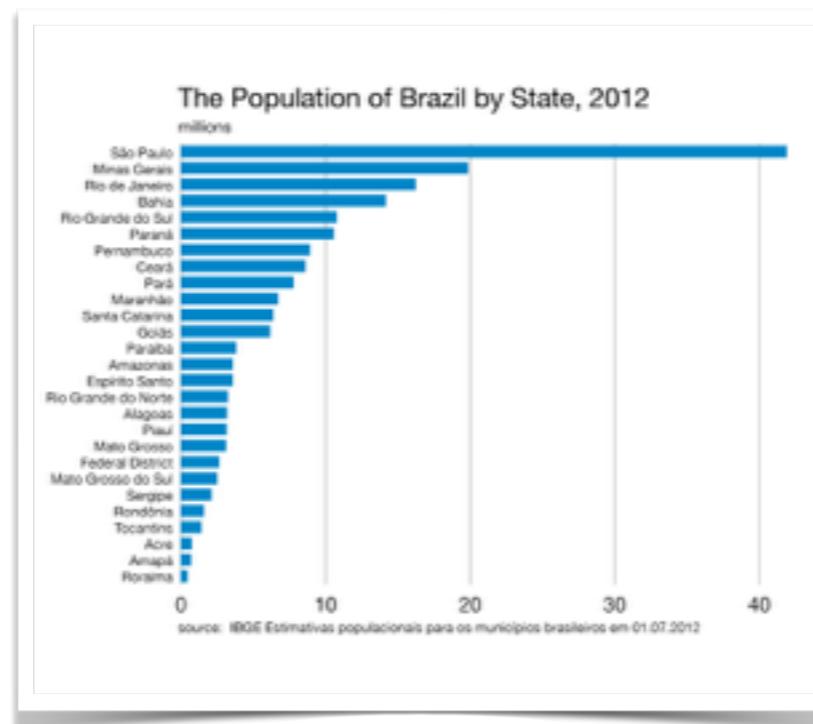


Rank deviation – we've just changed the common horizon to a value other than 0



great example of complicated data brought to life by annotation.

Ranking?



Ranking

ordered bars

Further study

- Few, S. (2012 2nd ed). Show Me the Numbers: Designing Tables and Graphs to Enlighten. Analytics Press
- Tufte, E.R. (1985). The Visual Display of Quantitative Information. Graphics Press.
- Tufte, E.R. (1997). Visual Explanations. Graphics Press.
- Tufte, E.R. (2006). Beautiful Evidence.
- Bertin, J (1967). Sémiologie Graphique. Les diagrammes, les réseaux, les cartes. With Marc Barbut [et al.]. Paris : Gauthier-Villars. (Translation 1983. Semiology of Graphics by William J. Berg.)
- Wilkinson, L. (2005). The Grammar of Graphics. Springer.
- Good essay on slopegraphs. <http://charliepark.org/slopegraphs/>

Colour



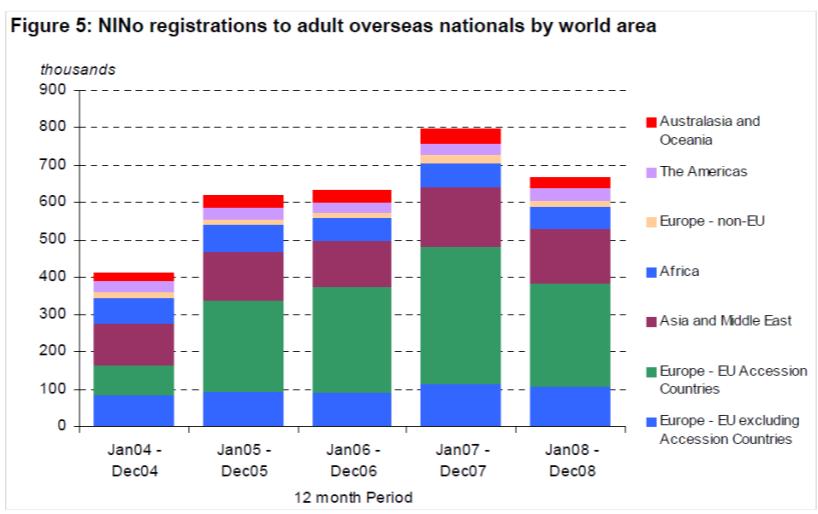
two main things to remember

Roy Lichtenstein

“Colour is crucial in painting, but it is very hard to talk about. There is almost nothing you can say that holds up as a generalization, because it depends on too many factors”



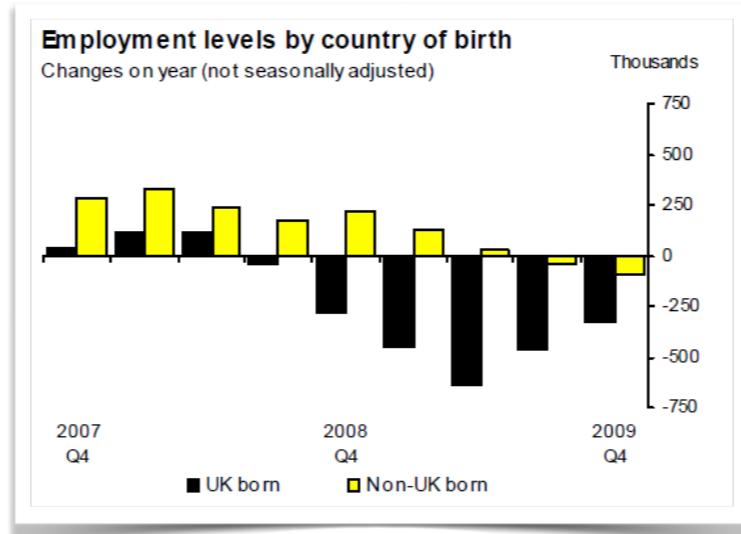
Exhibit A



What the first thing you do when you get a long report? Print it?

GET IT RIGHT IN B&W!!

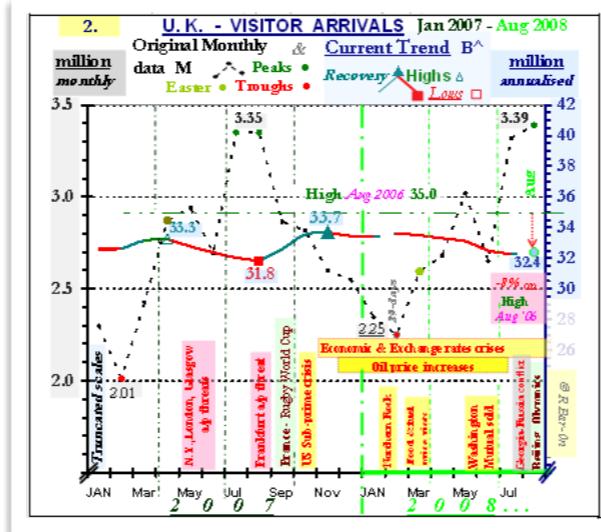
Exhibit B

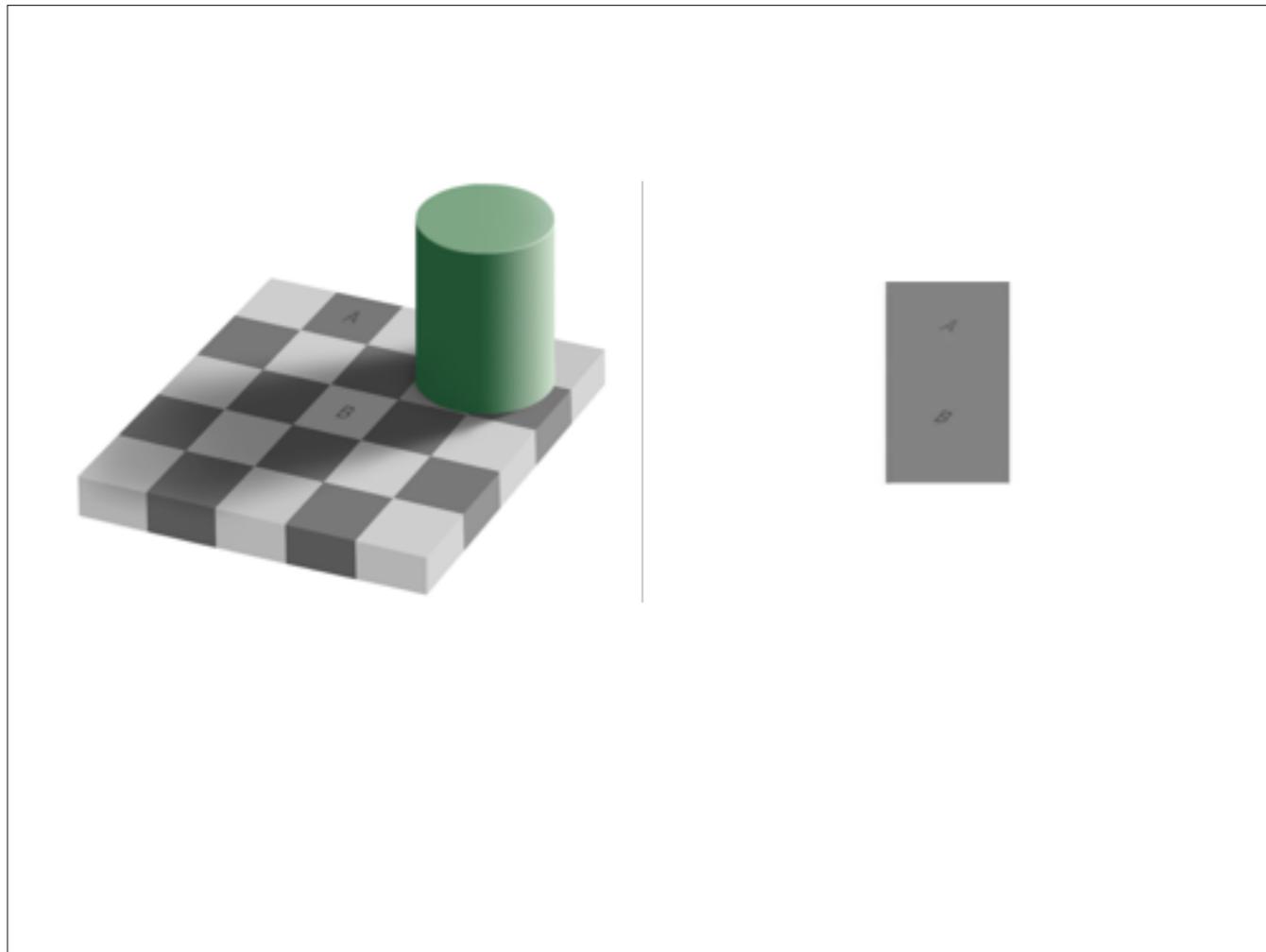


weird choice of colour for most, but for somebody who has difficulty perceiving colour, actually not bad.

Exhibit C

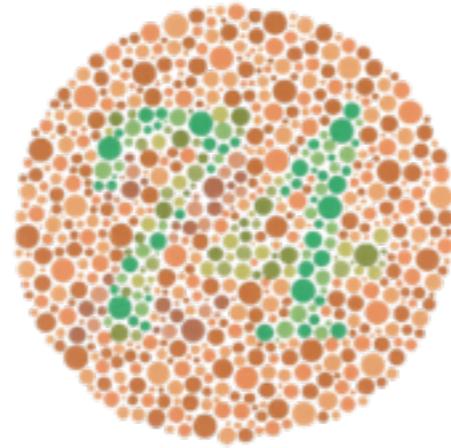
We use colour codes (*optional, p. 11*) to enliven reports and assist in explanations....





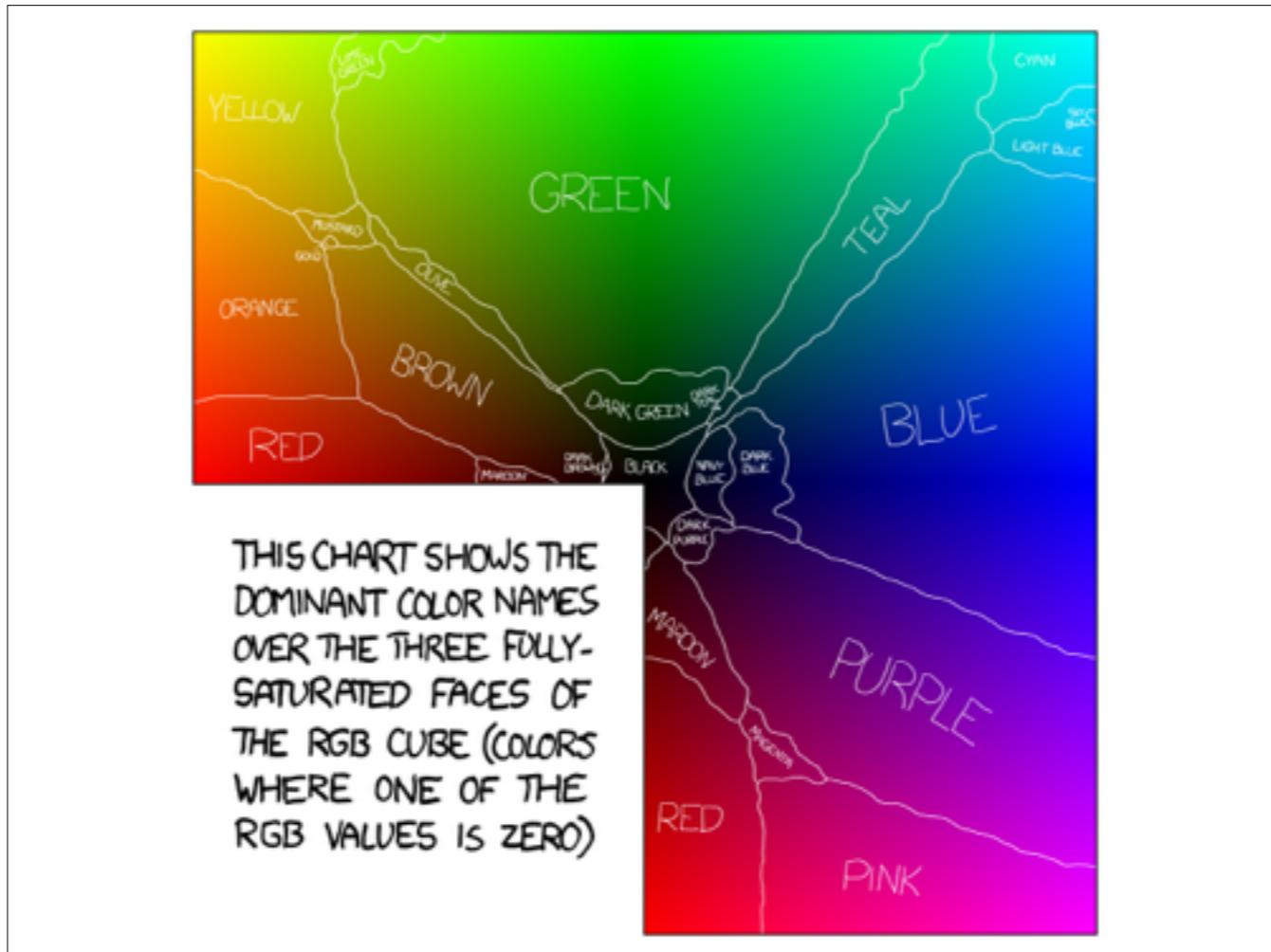
Ishihara Colour Test

- A series of 38 test plates to diagnose colour blindness
- Between 7-10% of males suffer from a form of red/green colour-blindness
- Other forms of colour-blindness rarer - but can be found in females
- Form part of W3C requirements on accessibility





**which colour is the
least ambiguous??**

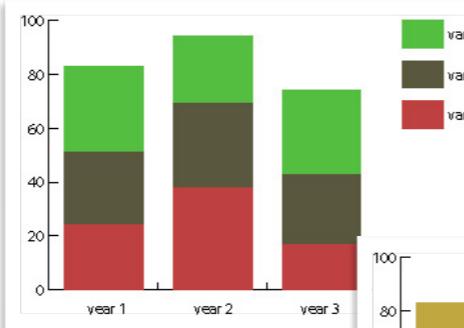


of the nameable colours, which ones occupy the most space?

yellow is very small

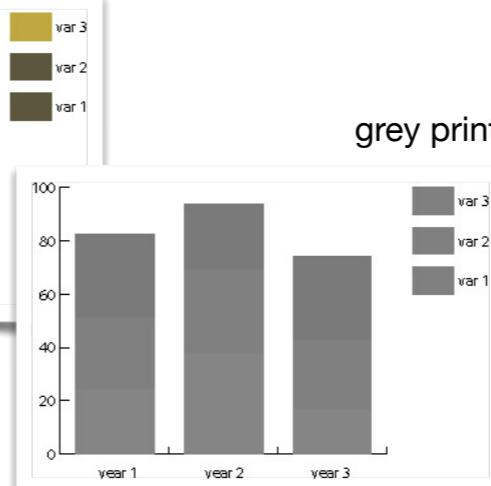
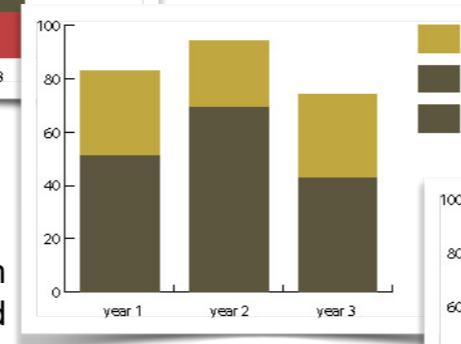
blue is very big

The abuse of colour



standard graph
(corporate colours)

red/green
colour blind



grey print

Introducing colour models



What colour is this?

RGB(255, 147, 0)

HTML traditionally uses hexadecimal conversions of the RGB value to define colour.

#FF9300

HSB(35°, 100%, 100%)

CMYK(74%, 71%, 64%, 87%)

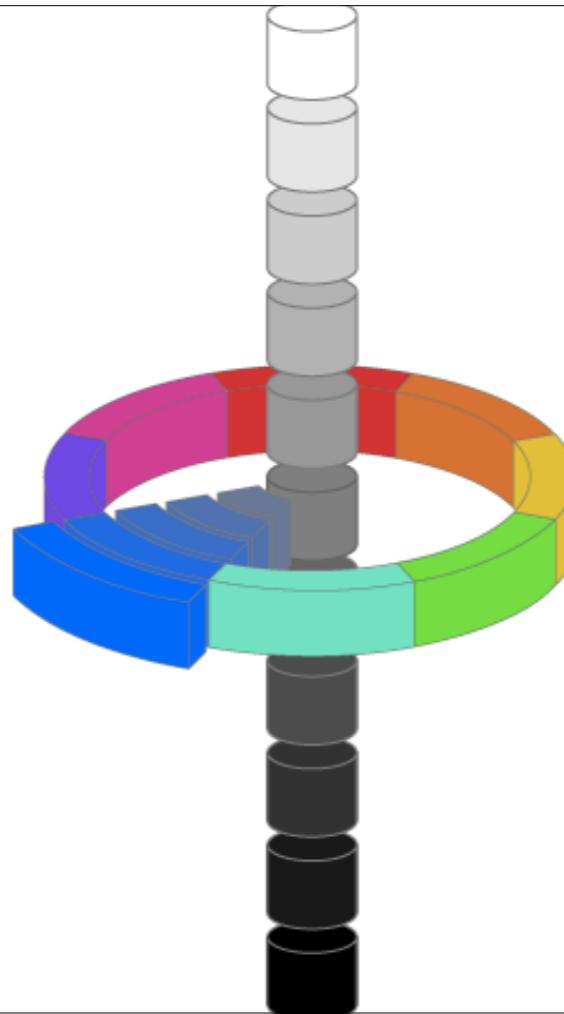
introducing HSL

Use the HSL cylindrical coordinate system for RGB colourspace to make accessible yet functional colour palettes

H = Hue (nameable colour)

S = Saturation

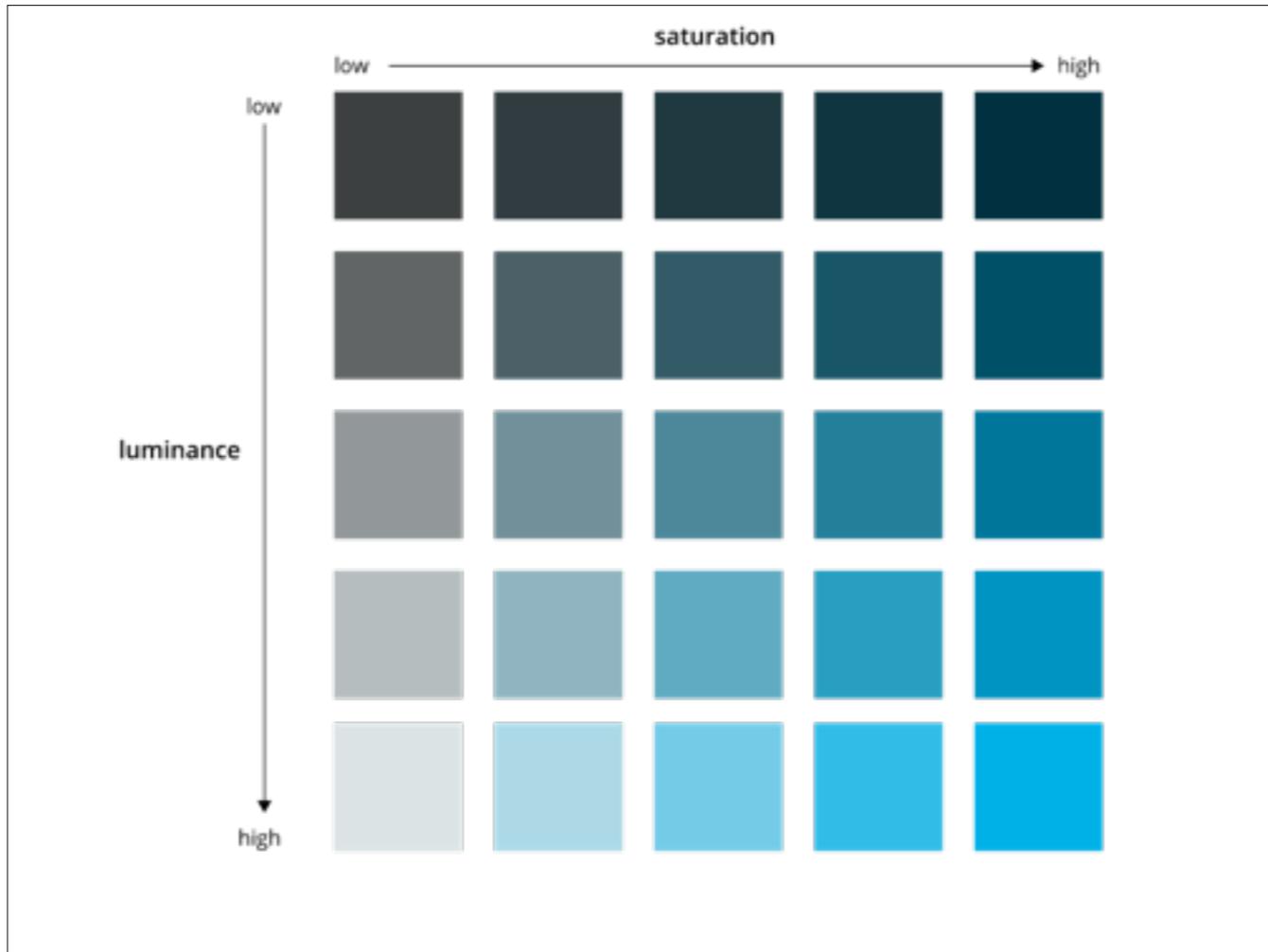
L = Luminance (lightness)



Hue – which is greater? red or green?

you can't rank hue

you can rank sat and lum

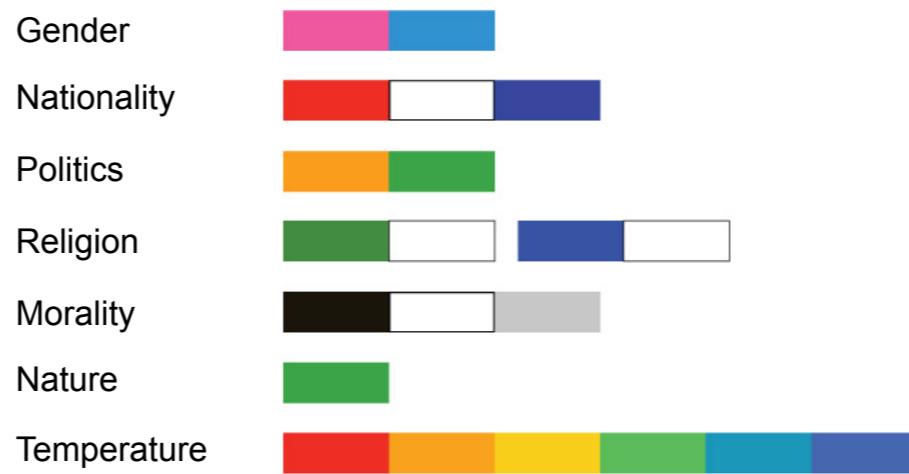


Principles for use of Colour

- Design everything in grey-scale (luminance contrast) and add colour as a secondary process
- Use colour (hue) sparingly - and never on its own to specify something in the data. Mid-luminance, highly saturated colours are your **highlight** colours
- Hue best for qualitative, luminance and saturation contrast best for quantitative differences.
- The safest starting point when picking an appropriate hue is **blue**
- “**Red** and **Green** should rarely be seen”

Think about where your eye's drawn to...

Colour is meaningful



colour and context!

Further study

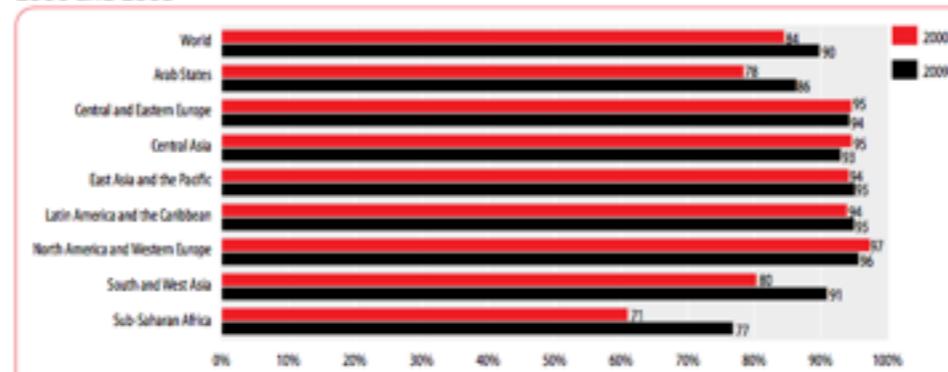
- Simulate colour blindness on images. <http://www.etre.com/tools/colourblindsight>
- Colorbrewer - online color-palette generator. <http://colorbrewer2.org>

Exercise

The visual variables in action - discussion in groups

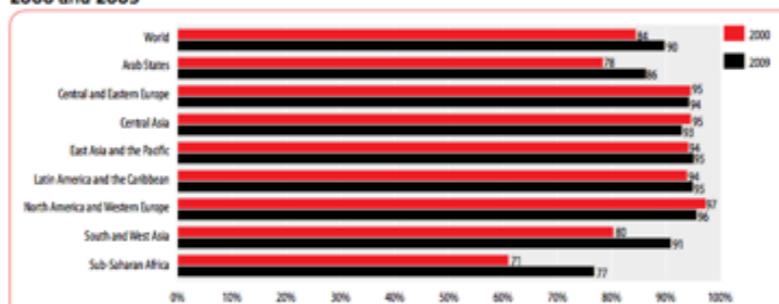
- 1.What are the statistical relationships being symbolised?
- 2.What is the overall message of the graph?
- 3.Is it 'successful'?
- 4.Can you think of any other ways of visualising some or all of the data in the graph - and what impression would it give the reader?

Figure 1: Progress in participation in primary education, by adjusted net enrolment rate, 2000 and 2009



Source: Statistical Annex, UIS, 2011.

Figure 1: Progress in participation in primary education, by adjusted net enrolment rate, 2000 and 2009



Source: Statistical Annex, UIS, 2011.

magnitude deviation
part-to-whole change over time
uncertainty ranking spatial
correlation distribution

Magnitude, part to whole, change over time, ranking, spatial all present

magnitude

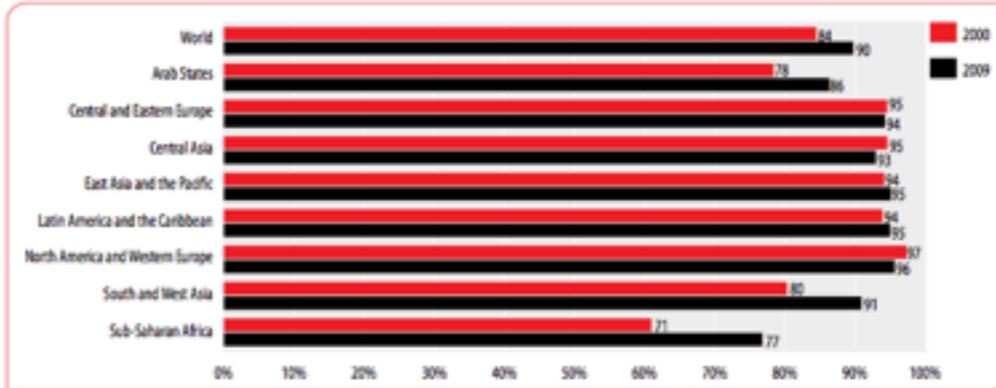
change over time

part-to-whole

ranking

spatial

Figure 1: Progress in participation in primary education, by adjusted net enrolment rate, 2000 and 2009

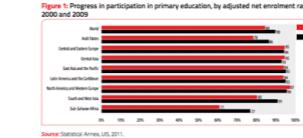
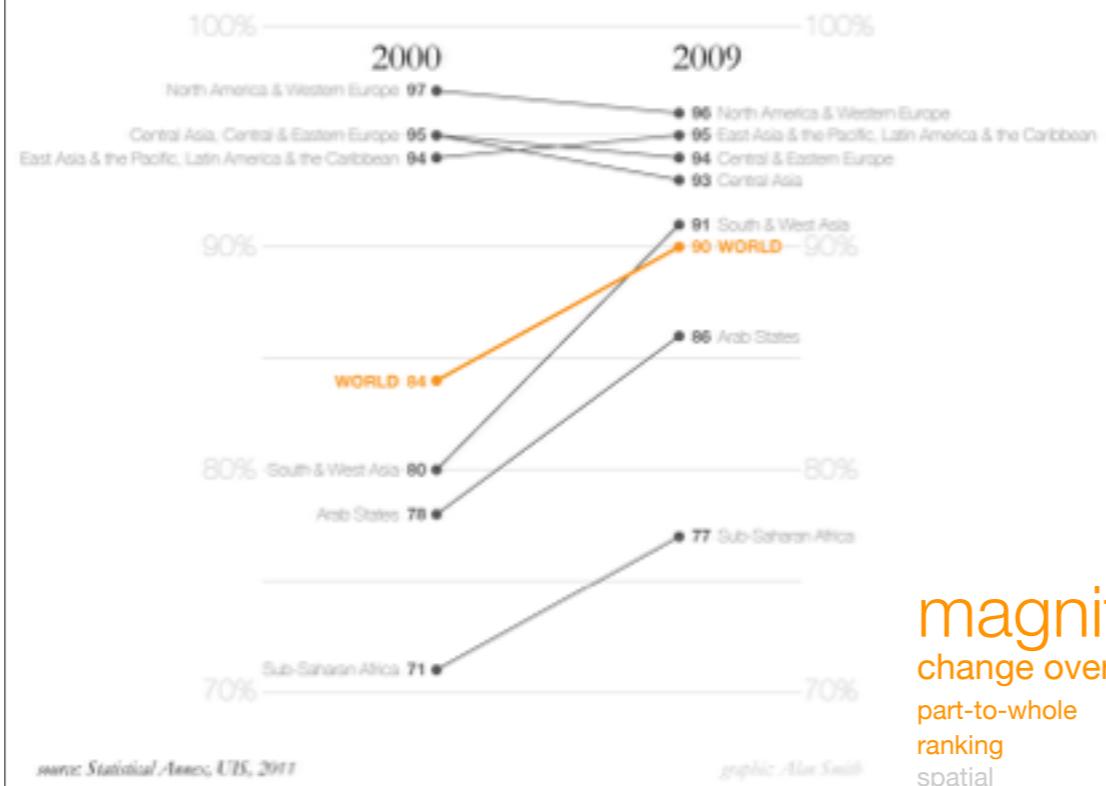


Source: Statistical Annex, UIS, 2011.

But magnitude is the relationship give priority.

Is this the most important relationship? How about change over time?

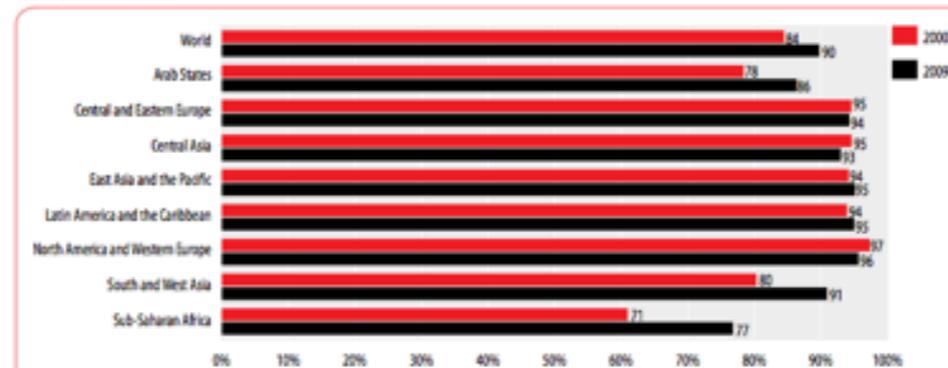
Global participation in primary education by adjusted net enrolment rate, 2000 and 2009



magnitude
change over time
part-to-whole
ranking
spatial

4 of the relationship are now covered and messages/patterns are clearer

Figure 1: Progress in participation in primary education, by adjusted net enrolment rate, 2000 and 2009



Source: Statistical Annex, UIS, 2011.

Global participation in primary education by adjusted net enrolment rate, 2000 and 2009

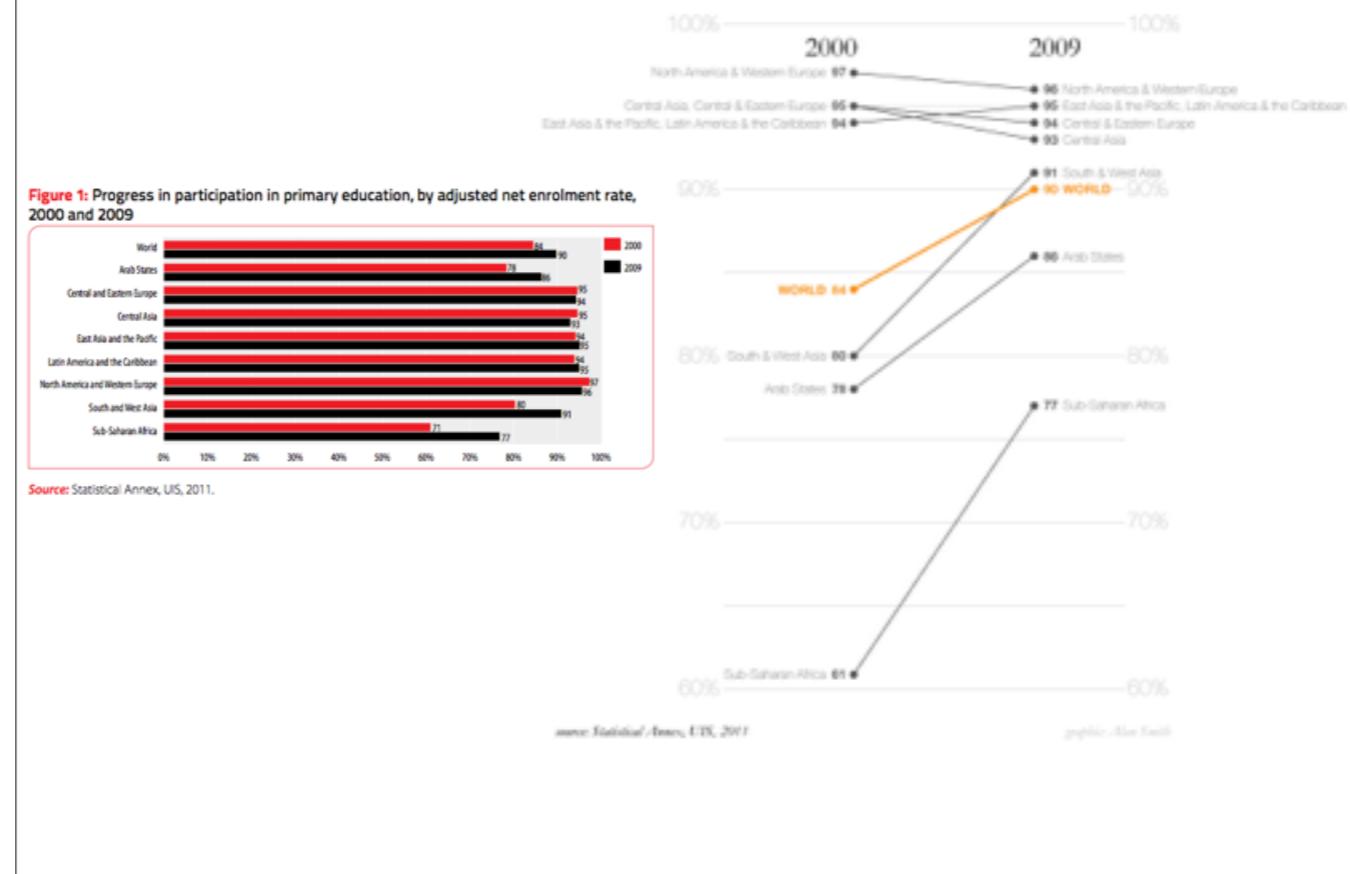
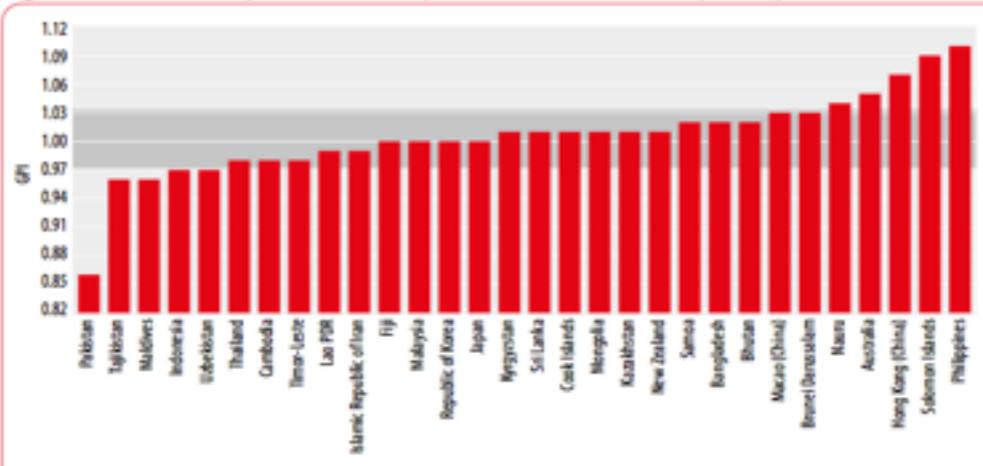
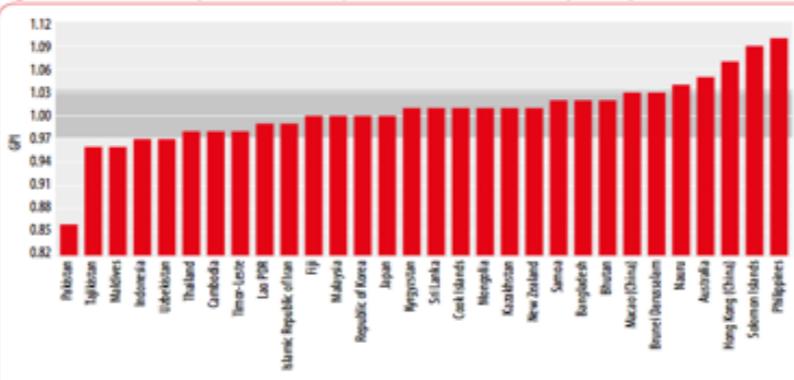


Figure 7: Gender Parity Index of the adjusted net intake rate in primary education, 2009



Source: UIS, 2011, Statistical Table 2.

Figure 7: Gender Parity Index of the adjusted net intake rate in primary education, 2009



Source: UIS, 2011, Statistical Table 2.

magnitude deviation

part-to-whole

change over time

uncertainty ranking

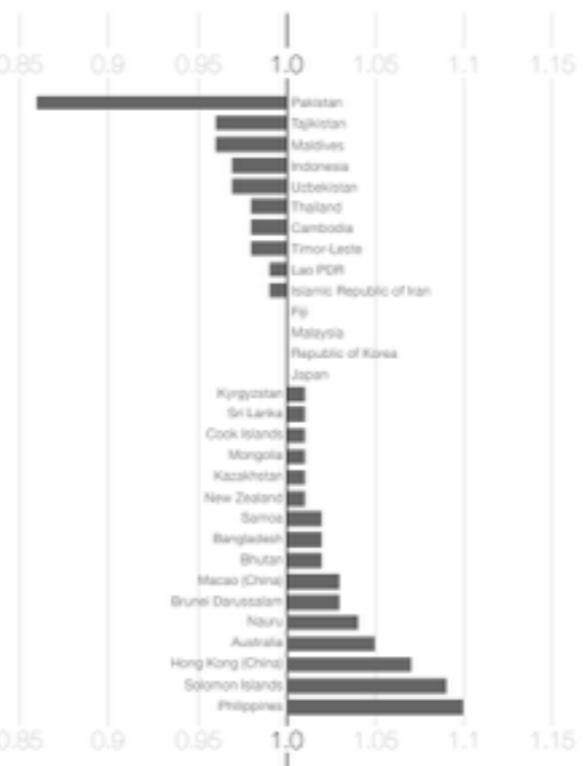
spatial

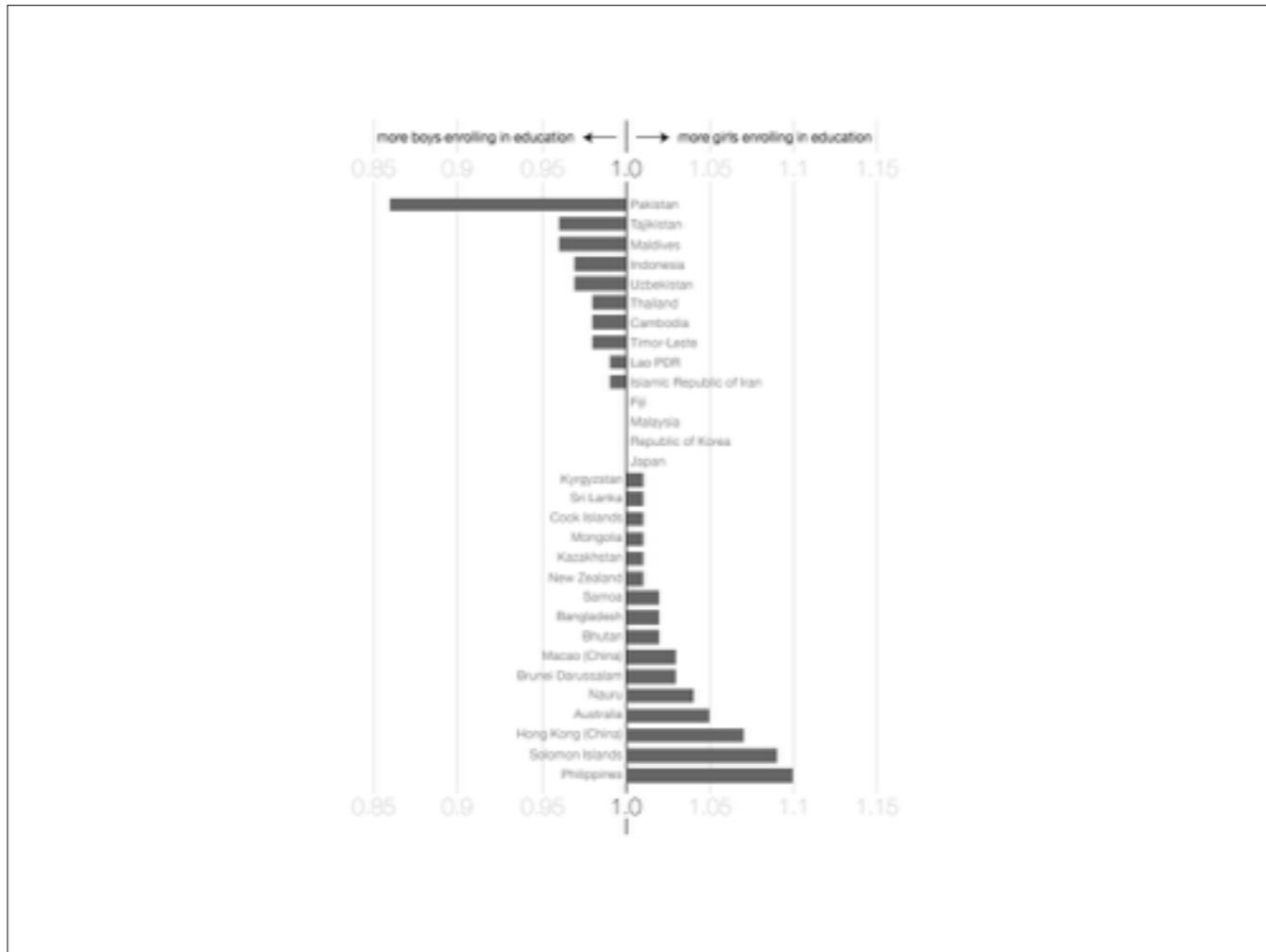
correlation

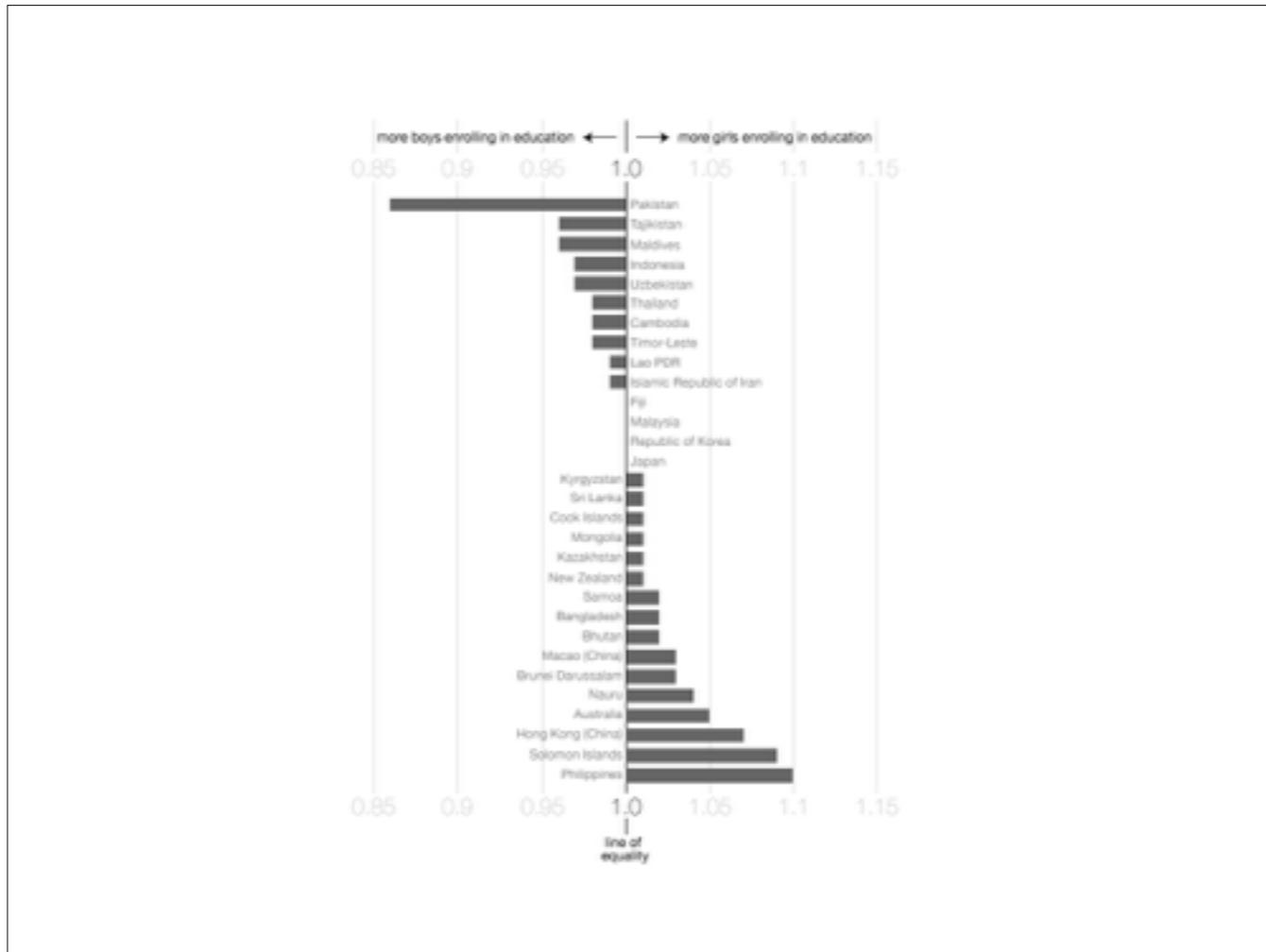
distribution

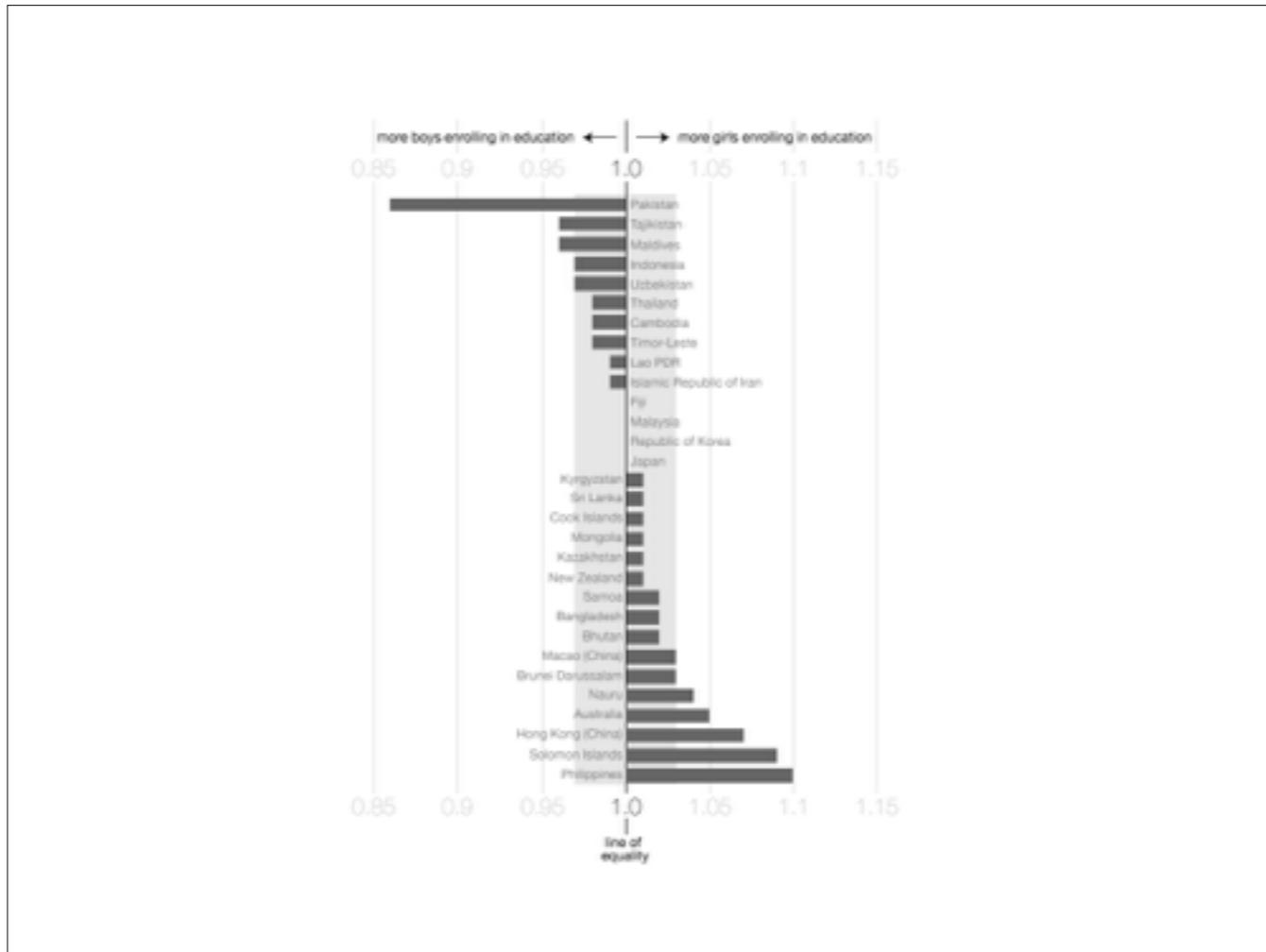
magnitude, deviation and ranking all in data but only ranking and magnitude considered. Flip on head and think about deviation as primary relationship

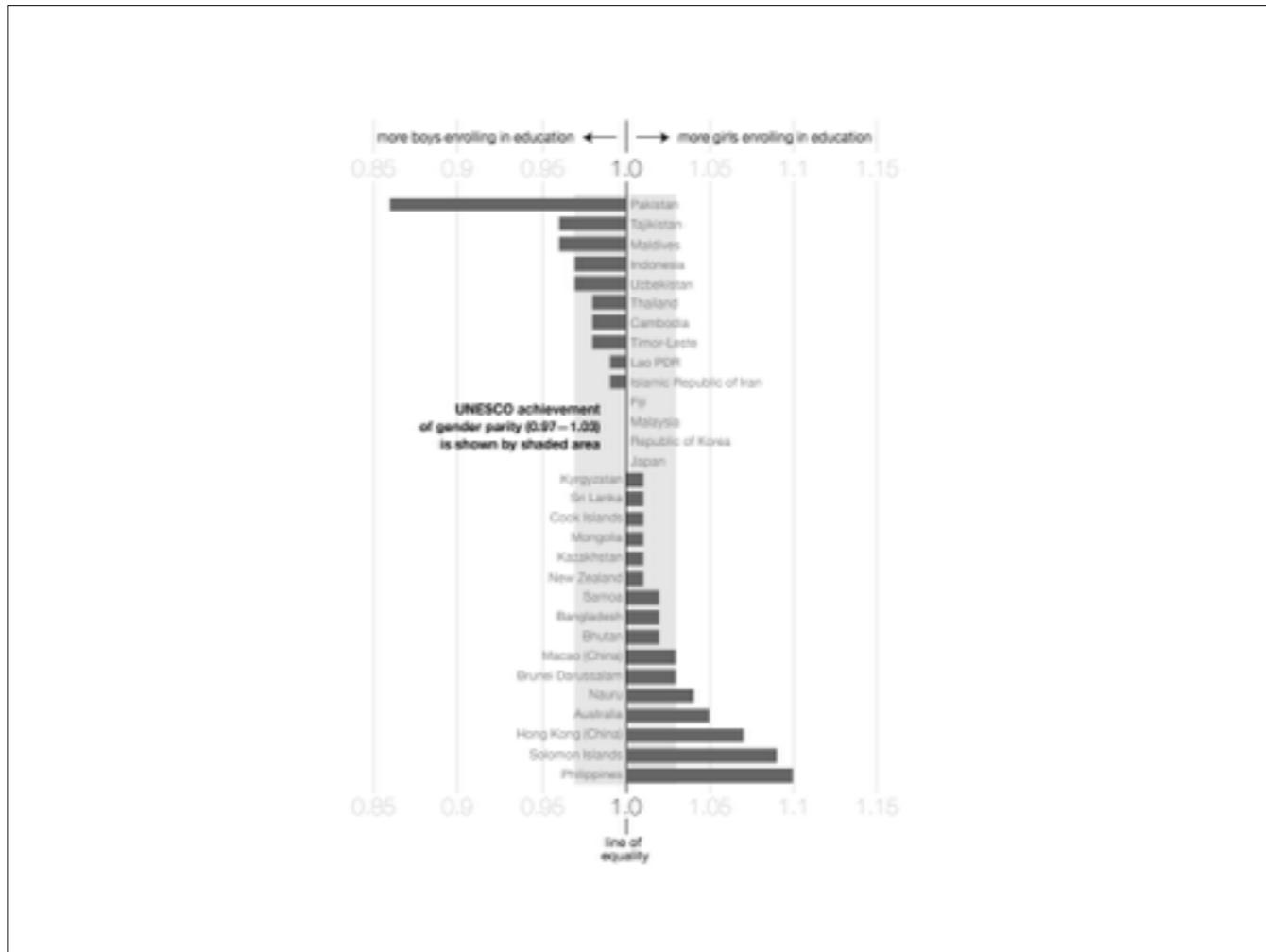
deviation ranking





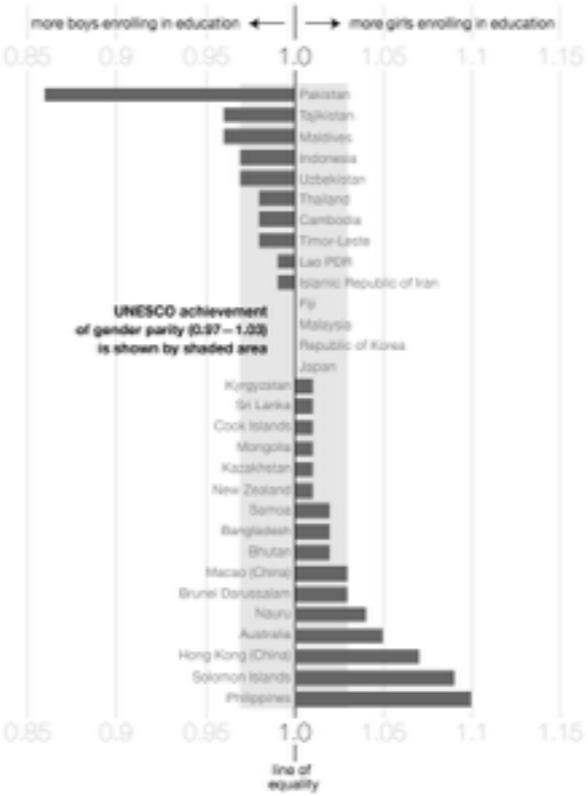






Gender Equality in Primary Education*

Selected Asia-Pacific Countries, 2009

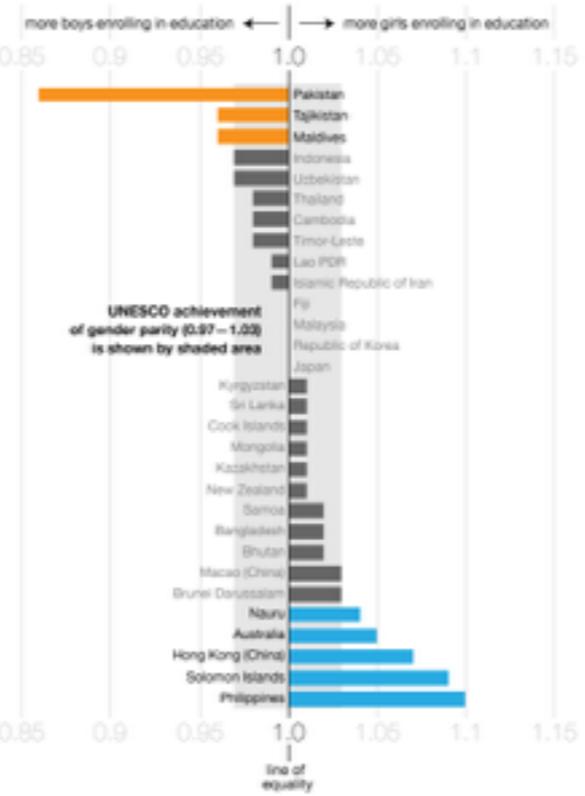


* Gender Parity Index (GPI) of adjusted net intake rate
source: UIS, 2011, Statistical Table 2

graphic: Ellen Smith

Gender Equality in Primary Education*

Selected Asia-Pacific Countries, 2009

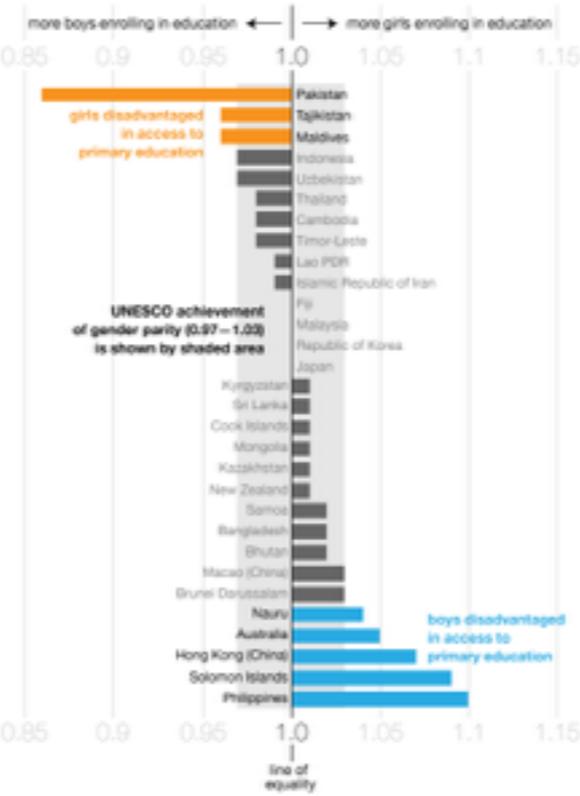


* Gender Parity Index (GPI) of adjusted net intake rate
source: UIS, 2011, Statistical Table 2

graphic: Ellen Szewc

Gender Equality in Primary Education*

Selected Asia-Pacific Countries, 2009

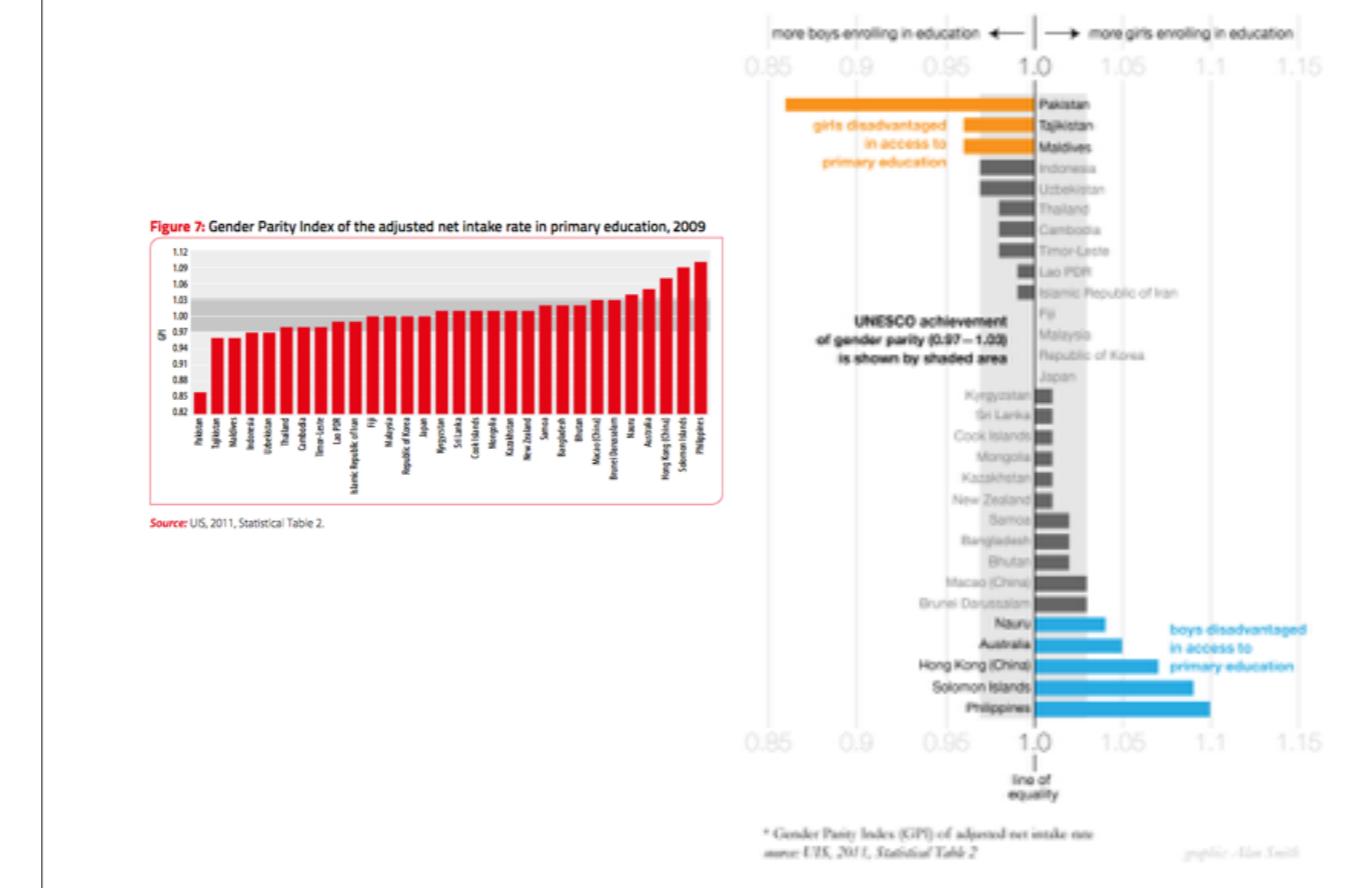


* Gender Parity Index (GPI) of adjusted net intake rate
source: UIS, 2011, Statistical Table 2

graphic: Ellen Smith

Gender Equality in Primary Education*

Selected Asia-Pacific Countries, 2009



Annotations

Highlighting patterns and stories in a data set



David McCandless & Lee Byron - Information is beautiful

<http://www.informationisbeautiful.net/2010/peak-break-up-times-on-facebook/>

A big peak right before Spring Break

Most breakups are announced on Mondays

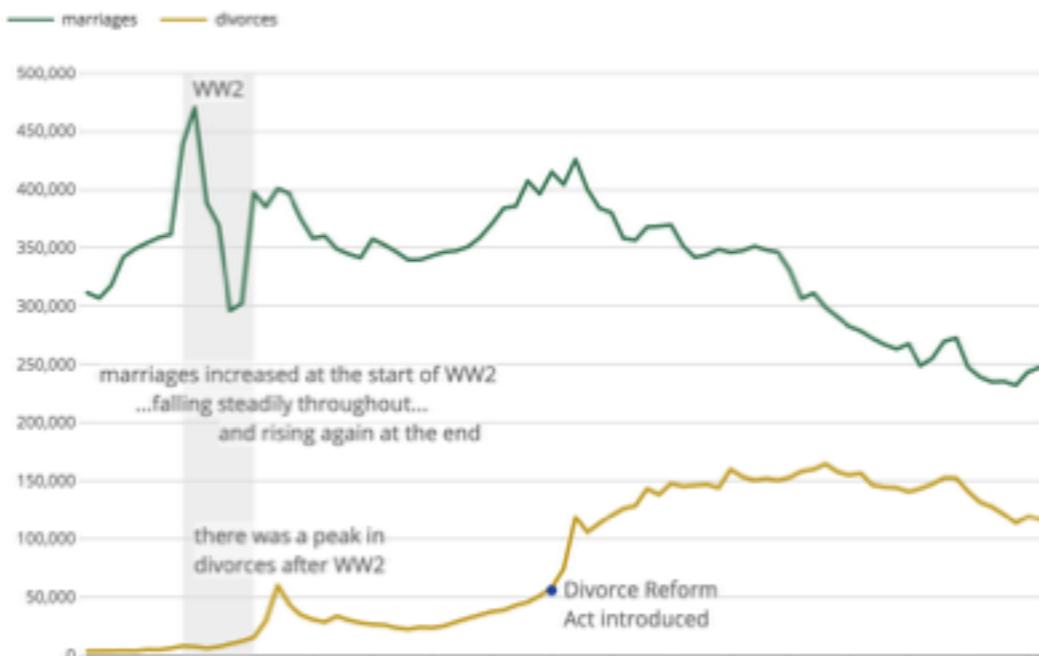
People like to start the summer being single

A big peak right before Christmas

The lowest day throughout the whole year is Christmas Day (thank God)

World War II had a big impact on marriage

Annual number of marriages and divorces, England and Wales, 1931 to 2011

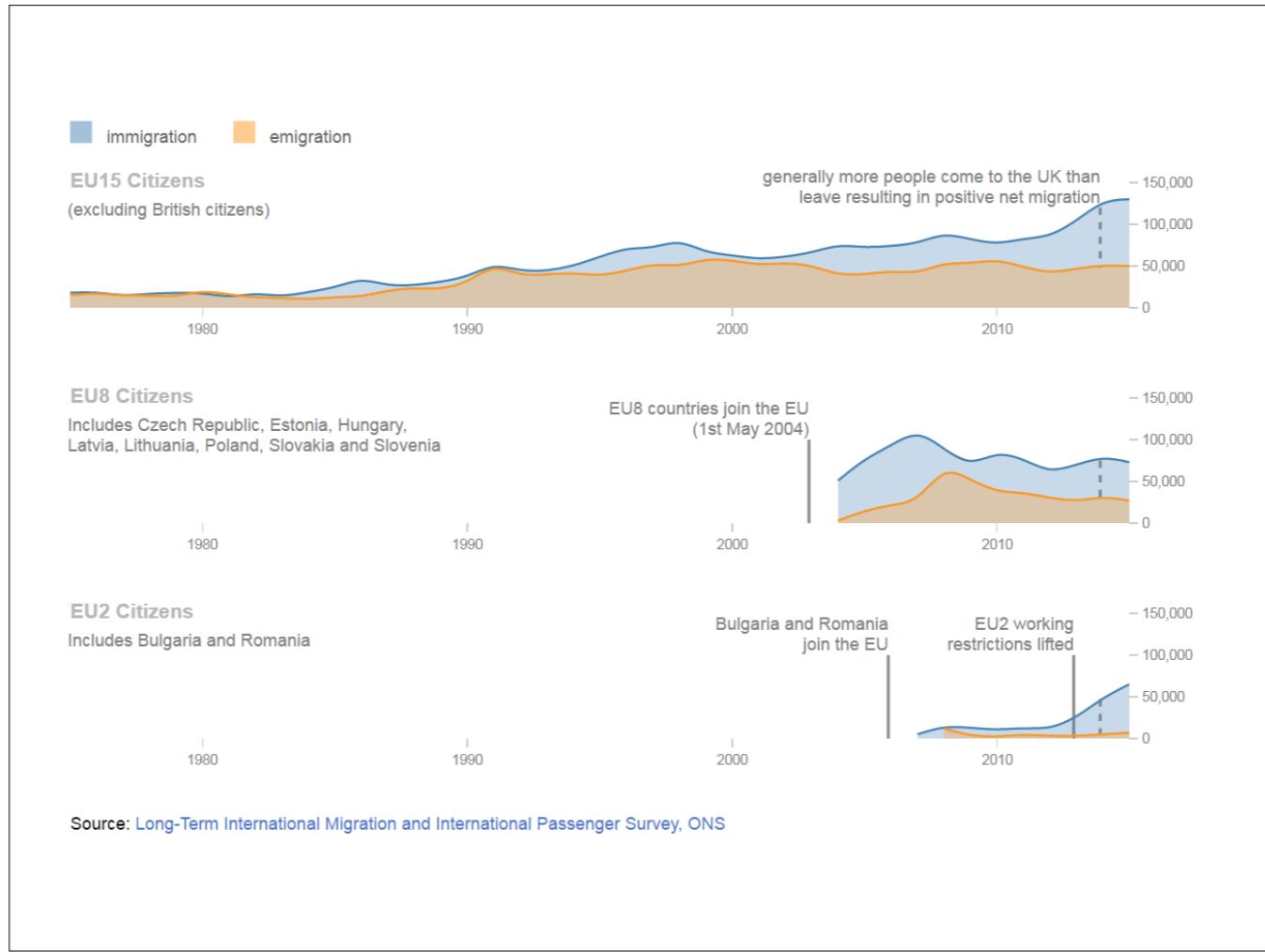


Source: Marriage Summary Statistics 2012 (Provisional) and Divorces in England and Wales, 2012, ONS

great use of annotation

words and shapes both providing context

never underestimate a good title! your chart may not always be viewed in situ

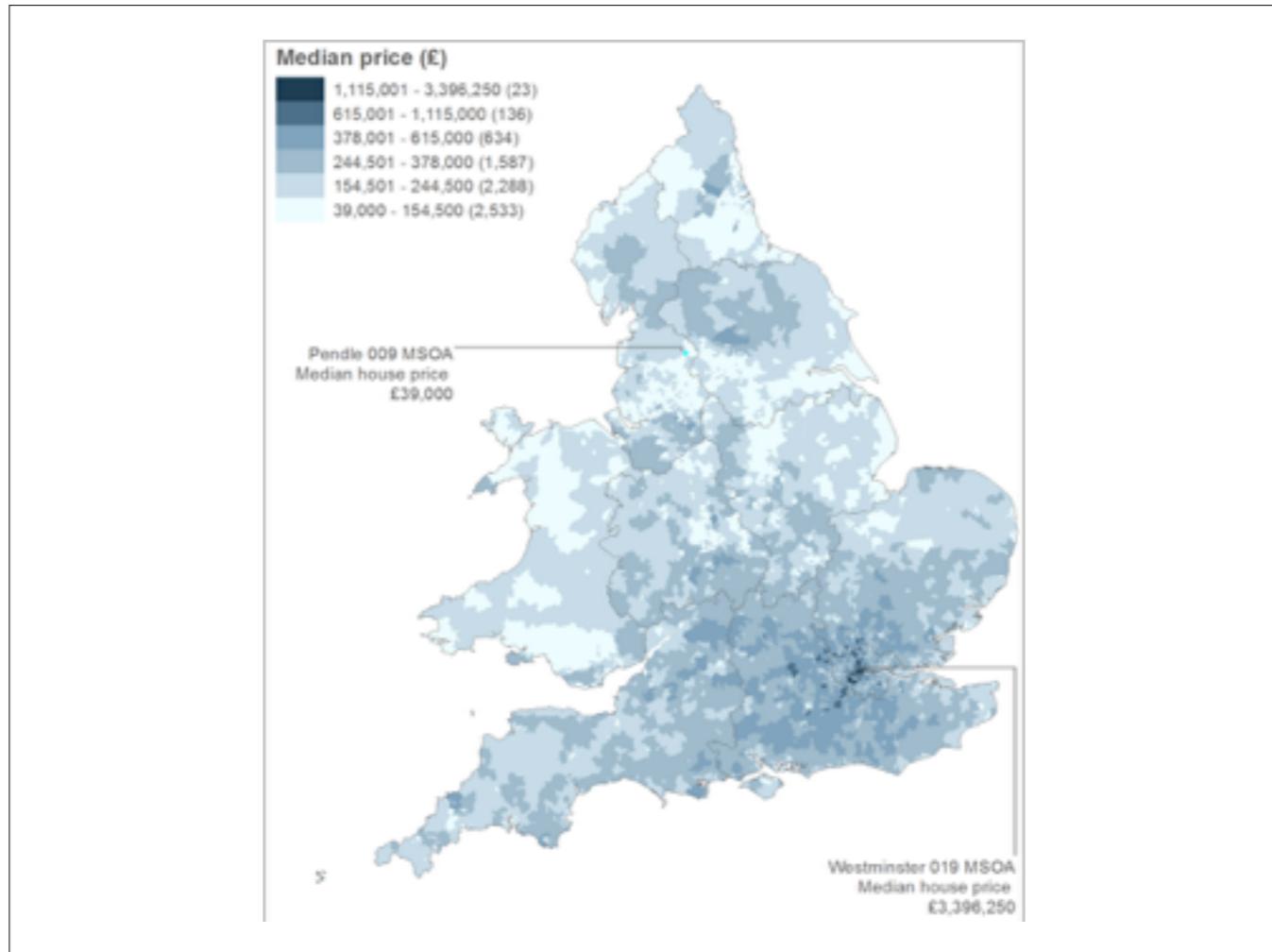


more annotation providing important context



Some examples of very simple but effective annotations on a chart.

Use them!



Design decisions

Allow users to [explore](#)
the data and find
stories for themselves

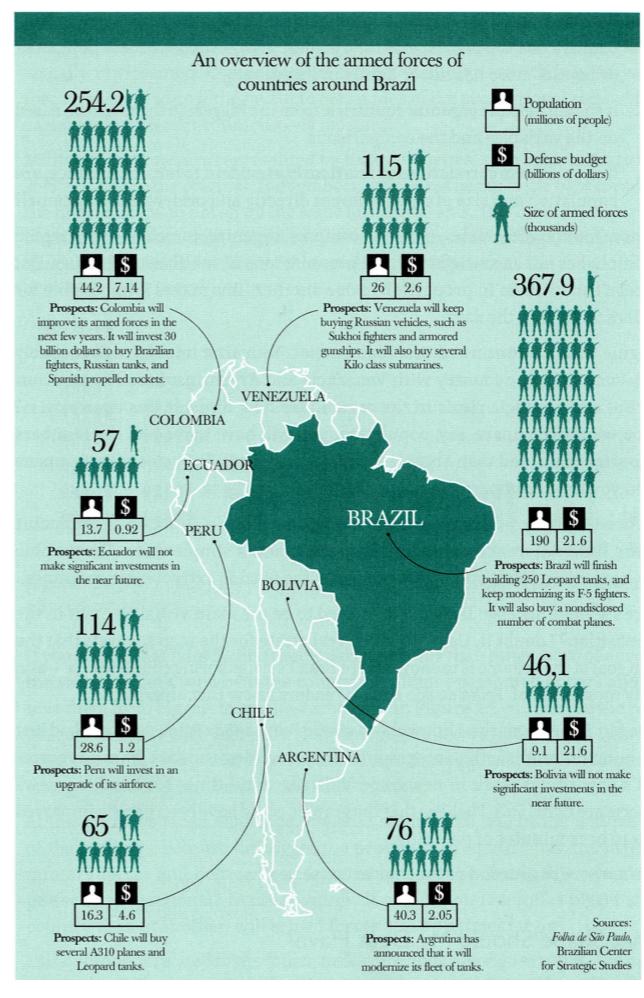
Pick out the interesting
[stories](#) from the data
and present to the user

Two very different objectives which will lead to different outcomes.

What do you want to do?

Graphic is a **tool**.

What tasks should it help with?



Alberto Cairo - The Functional Art

<http://www.thefunctionalart.com>

1 Present - several variables - size of armed forces, size of population, defence budget, future investments

2 Compare - should be immediately obvious which country has the largest or smallest of each variable

3 Organise - Rank so top 3 can be found

4 Correlate - what relationships are evident?

Does 1 well - presents data

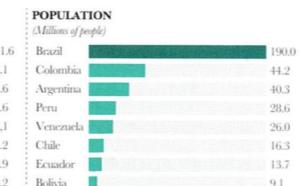
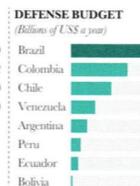
What is most important ? - map takes up most room

Say you live in Brazil and you're concerned about Brazil's rivals - Argentina and Venezuela. How easy is it to compare their defense budgets?

THE DEFENSE OF THE NEIGHBORS

An overview of the armed forces of countries around Brazil

Brazil has the strongest armed forces in South America in absolute terms--



1

Shared axis for all variables

Graphical representation for all variables

Variables all expressed in absolute terms - derived variables - show a different story

Additional secondary info can then be included - future investments, Correlation amongst variables?

If the population is x times larger in one country than an other, are the armed forces also x times bigger?

Elements of a Complete Chart

Figure XX
Title (The data)¹: By (Data Categories)²

<Geography, Time reference>

<vertical axis units>

50

40

30

20

0

1990 1994 1998 2002 2006 2010
1 <note>
2 <note>
Source: where the data came from

Elements of a chart

include secondary information

Figure 1
Female representation in the Federal Senate¹

Brazil, 1990-2010

%

50

40

30

20

10

0

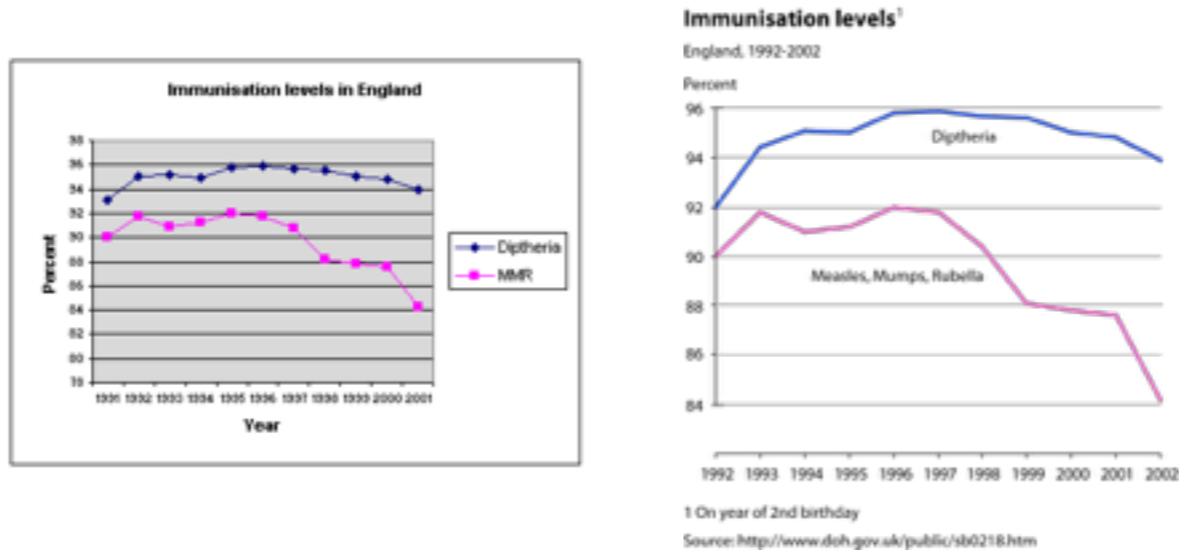
1990 1994 1998 2002 2006 2010

1 The Federal Senate consists of 81 seats
source: ipu.org

Elements of a chart

be pragmatic

To find out more about secondary school methods



No clear graph type?

Be creative but be careful - always consider the basic principles

Unemployment rate (%)

	CURRENT	Historical maximum	Historical minimum
Alabama	6.7	14.4	3.3
Alaska	7.5	11.5	5.9
Arizona	6.9	11.5	3.6
Arkansas	6.2	10.2	4.1
California	9.3	11.0	4.7
Colorado	6.1	9.1	2.5
Connecticut	7.1	10.0	2.1
Delaware	6.1	8.2	2.9
Florida	8.1	9.7	3.3

Unemployment rate (%)

● Current

● Historical
maximum

● Historical
minimum

Alabama

Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

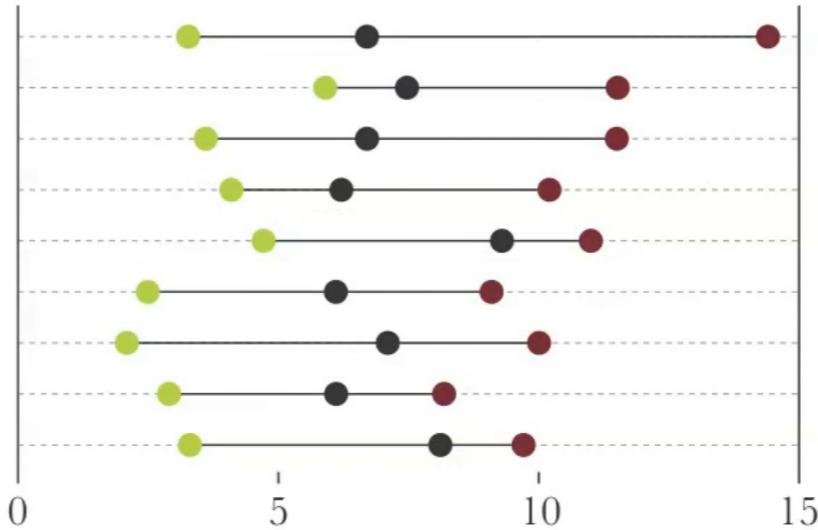
California

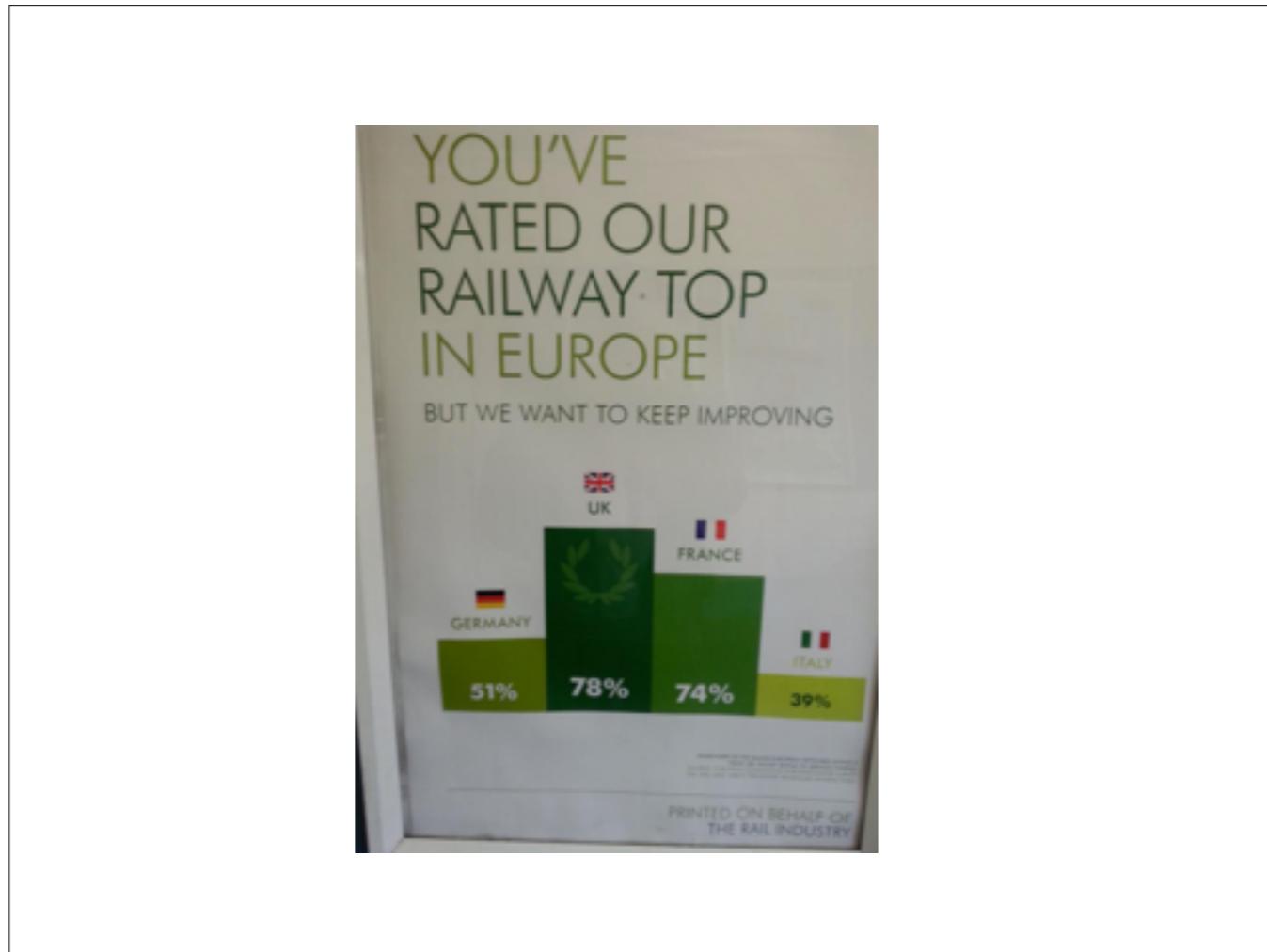
Colorado

Connecticut

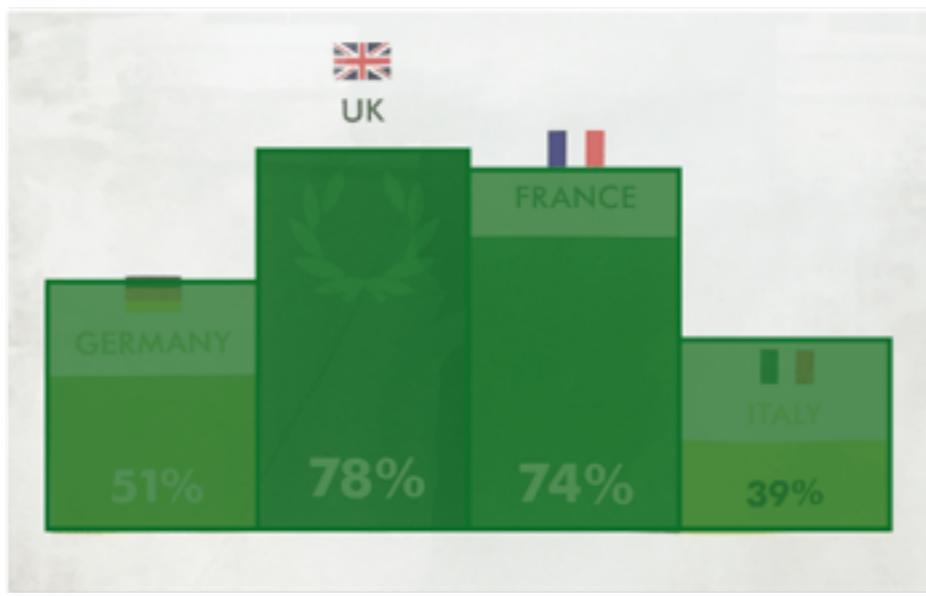
Delaware

Florida





No scale whatsoever



Visual Perception

do we all perceive colours the same?

are some easier to perceive than others?

should we try to choose the least ambiguous colours?

The Importance of Context



colour can have contextual meaning



Perceptual Tuning

what can you see?



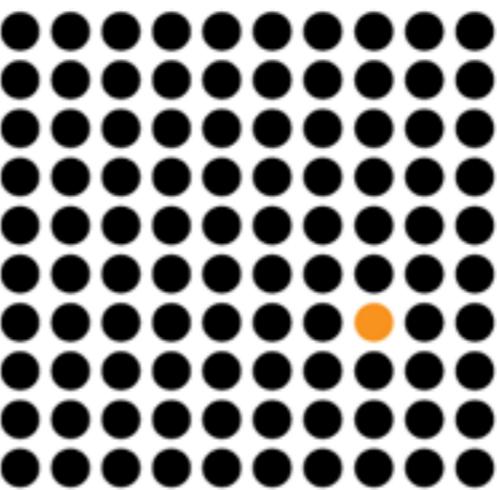
Perceptual Tuning

what can you see?

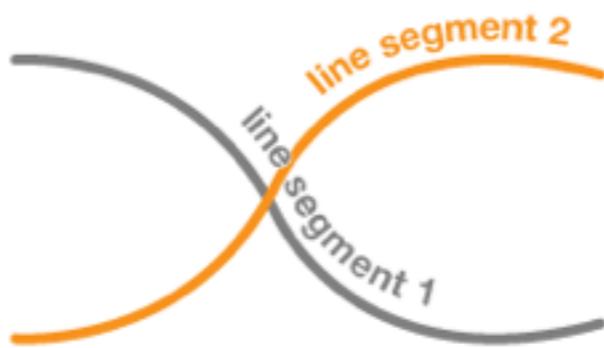
Gestalt Principles

- Developed by German psychologists in the 1920s
- The principles describe how humans tend to perceive individual elements as groups
- Profound impact on visual design
- Gestalt principles are fundamental – not just in infographic design, but in the world around us
- They recognise the natural propensity in human perceptual systems for pattern recognition

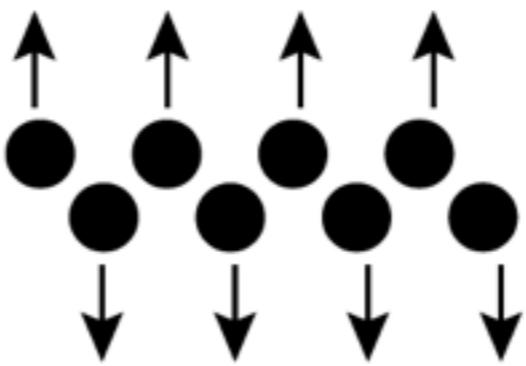
Similarity



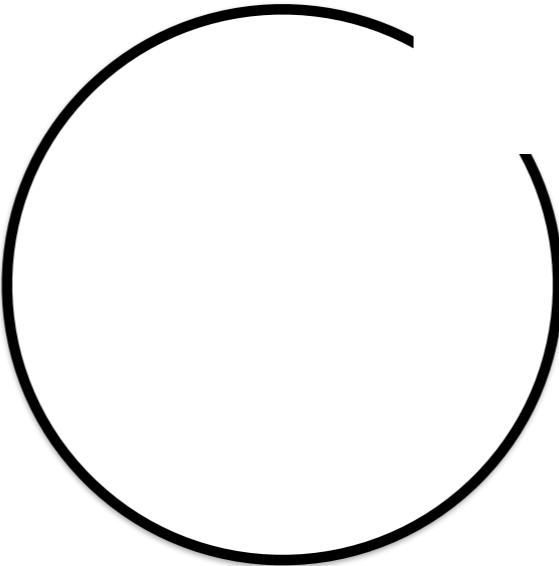
Good continuation



Common Fate



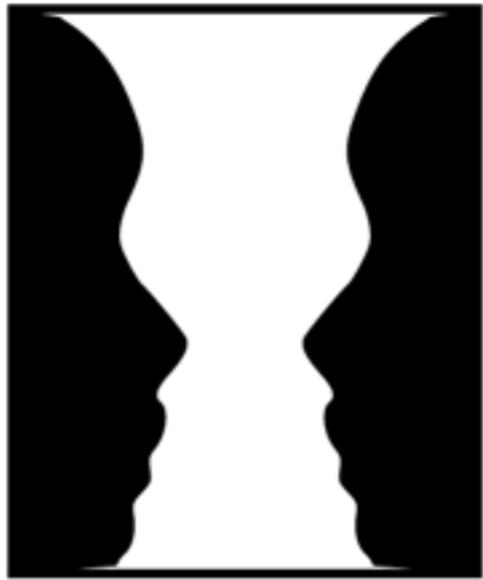
Enclosure



Proximity



Figure and Ground



Gestalt: Summary

- ...we just need to make sure that we aren't encouraging readers to see patterns that aren't there!
- Effective visualisation and design layout will help guide readers to follow what you are showing them.

Further study

- Gordon, Ian E. (2004). Theories of Visual Perception. Psychology press.
- <http://www.andyrutledge.com/gestalt-principles-1-figure-ground-relationship.php>

Function & Aesthetics

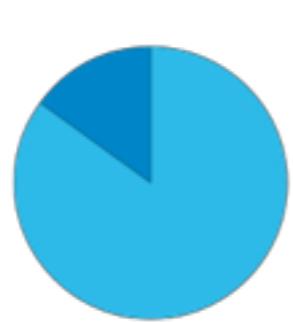
Q. Are you happy with the customer service you received today?

A. YES/NO

RESULTS:

85% said YES

15% said NO



TOTAL pixels: 76,523
pixels 'NO': 11,579

=15%

TOTAL pixels: 61,621
pixels 'NO': 7,557

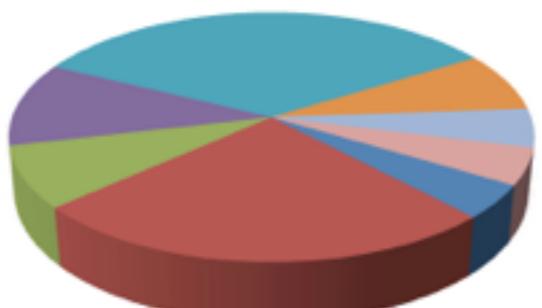
=12%



TOTAL pixels: 29,002
pixels 'NO': 2,154

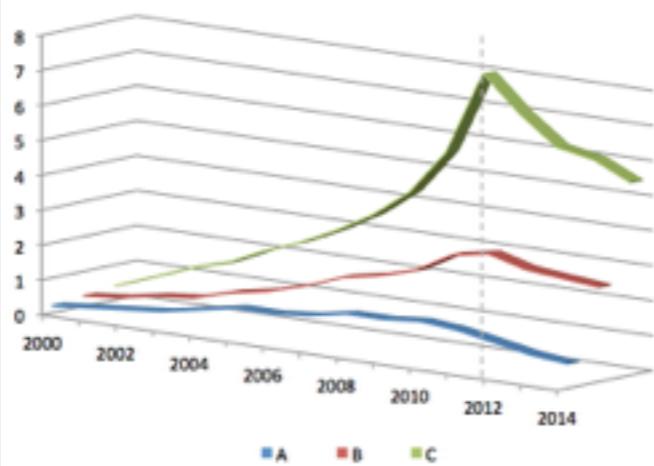
=7%

Segment B = E?

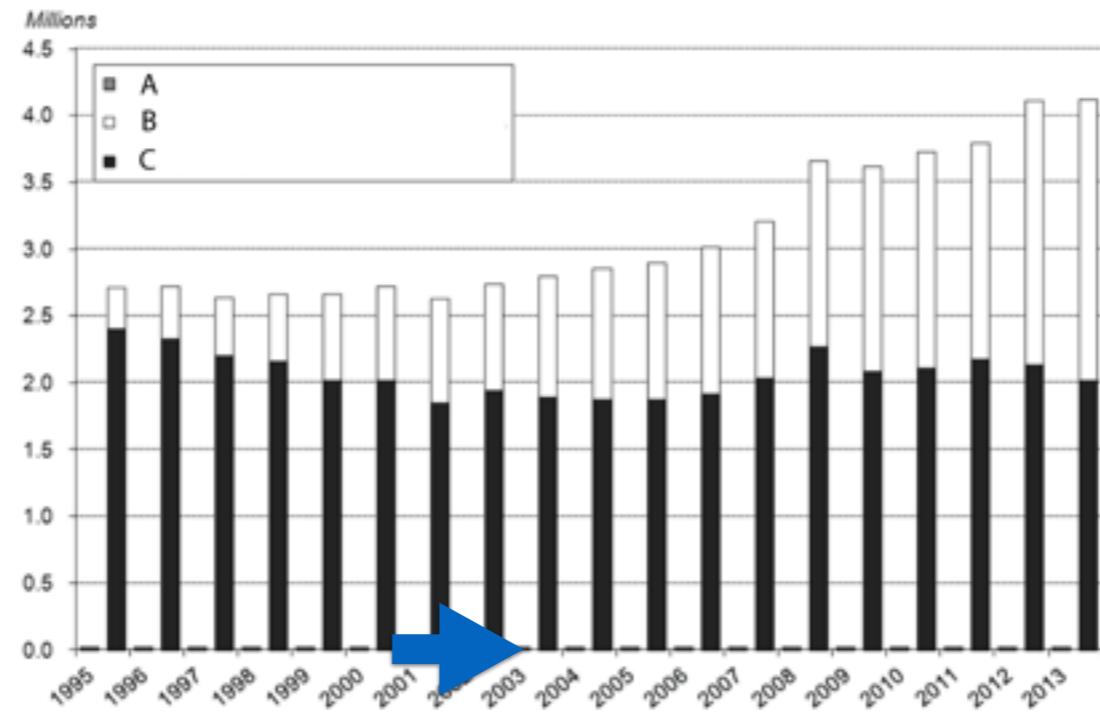


■ A ■ B ■ C ■ D ■ E ■ F ■ H ■ I

Highest value?
7.9 in 2012?



Function & Aesthetics



Adoptions by sex
England and Wales, 1998 to 2012

number male female

6,000

5,000

4,000

3,000

2,000

1,000

0

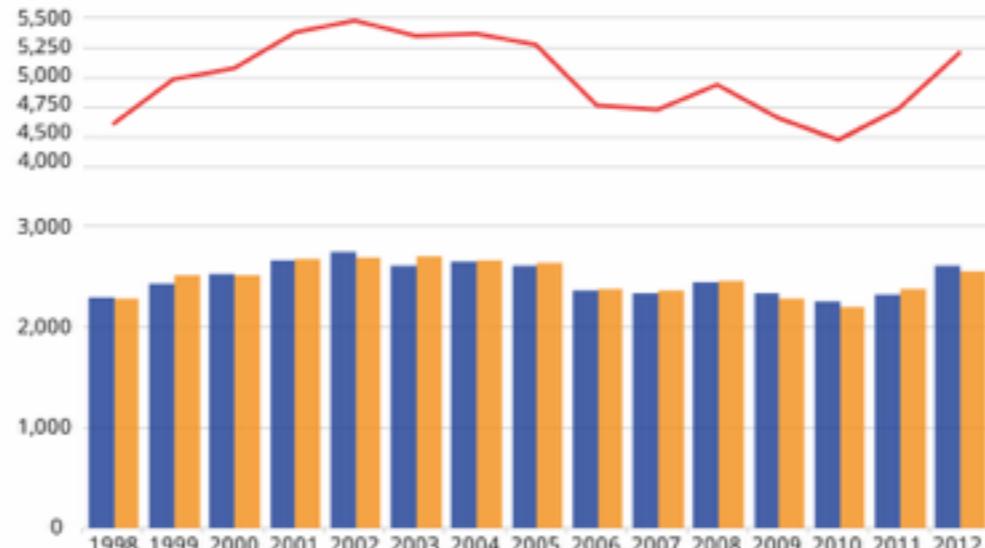
1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012

Shared horizon

stacked bar

Adoptions by sex
England and Wales, 1998 to 2012

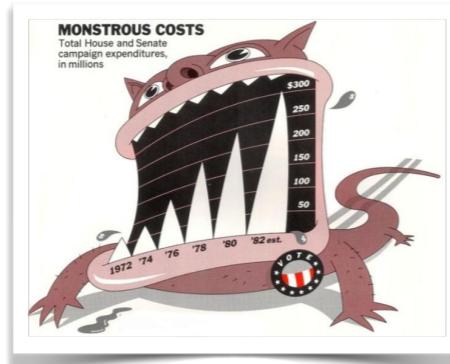
number — total male female



Shared horizon

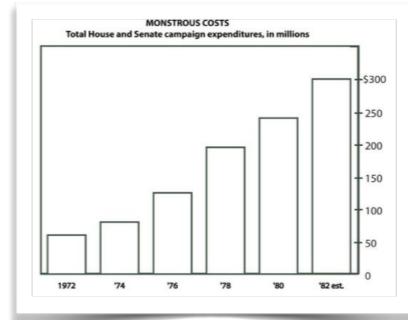
clustered bar

Bateman et al



"Although we are cautious about recommending that all charts be produced in this style, our results question some of the premises of the minimalist approach to chart design.

"...people's accuracy in describing the embellished charts was no worse than for plain charts, and that their recall after a two-to-three-week gap was significantly better."



Few v Rogers

The image is a composite of three distinct visual elements:

- Stephen Few:** A black and white portrait of Stephen Few, a man with short hair and a slight smile, wearing a dark shirt.
- Information Dashboard Design:** The front cover of the book "Information Dashboard Design: The Effective Visual Communication of Data" by Stephen Few. The cover features the title in large orange letters at the top, followed by a subtitle "The Effective Visual Communication of Data" and the author's name. It includes small icons representing data and charts.
- DATA BLOG:** A screenshot of a blog post titled "World Cup 2010 statistics: all the key data for each team". The post includes a legend for team colors, a small graphic showing team logos, and a table of data. The table has columns for Team Name, Played, Goals in, Goals Against, Points, and Goals Scored Rate. The data is as follows:

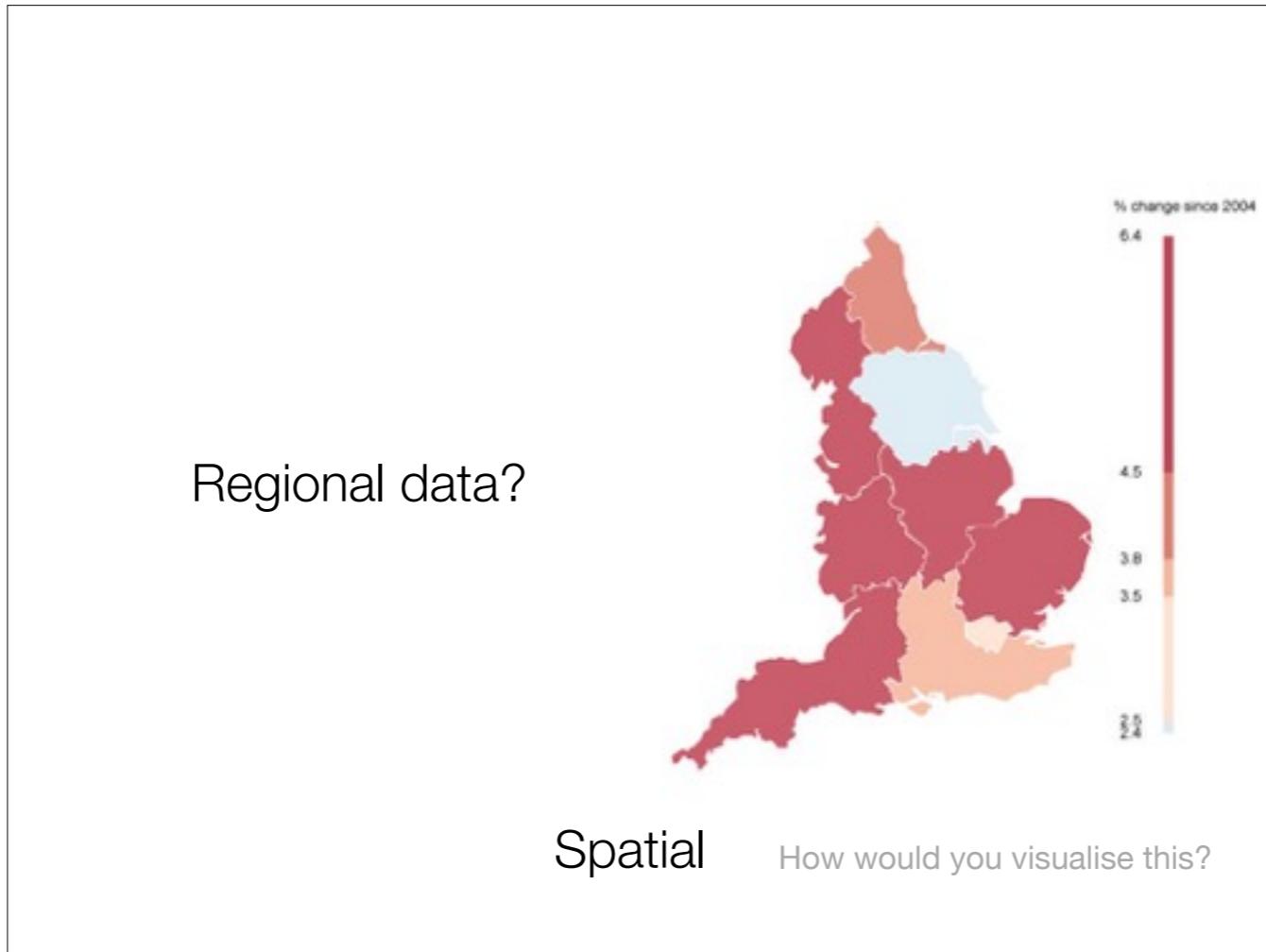
Team Name	Played	Goals in	Goals Against	Points	Goals Scored Rate
Uruguay	2	4.00%	4.00%	7.00%	44.44%
Argentina	3	10.00%	9.00%	9.00%	78.57%
Australia	2	10.00%	10.00%	6.00%	44.44%
Brazil	2	12.00%	12.00%	9.00%	72.73%
Chile	4	4.75%	4.75%	6.75%	44.44%
Costa Rica	4	0.00%	31.75%	3.00%	7.50%
England	3	4.00%	40.00%	6.00%	33.33%
Ireland	2	4.00%	32.00%	3.00%	75.00%

Further study

- Bateman et al (2010) Useful Junk? The Effects of Visual Embellishment on Comprehension and Memorability of Charts. <http://dmrussell.net/CHI2010/docs/p2573.pdf>
- Interview with Amanda Cox. http://blogs.hbr.org/hbr/hbreditors/2013/03/power_of_visualizations_aha_moment.html
- Guardian Datablog. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog>
- Stephen Few's blog. <http://www.perceptualedge.com/blog/>
- A conversation with Stephen Few about data visualisation. Kind of. <http://simonrogers.net/2013/03/15/a-conversation-with-stephen-few-about-data-visualisation-kind-of/>

Spatial





How would you visualise this?

Map?

Table?

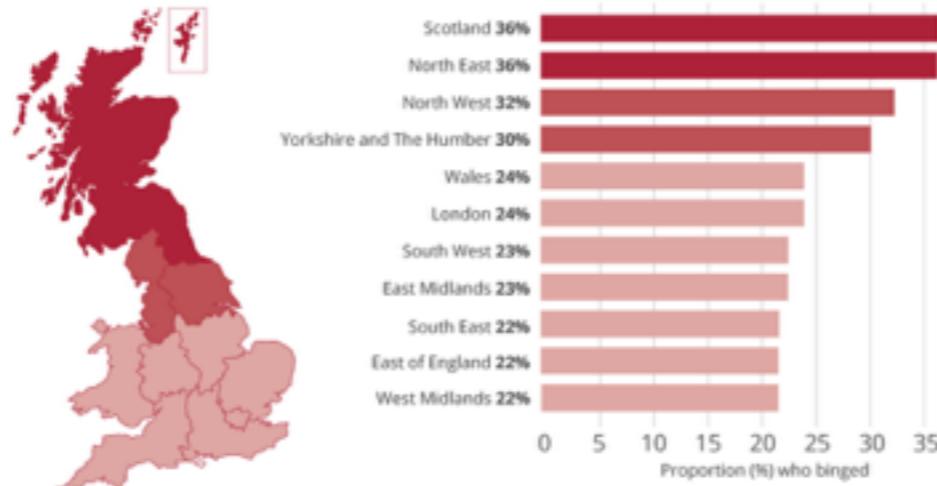
Chart?

Show regional map and ask people to order the regions from top to bottom

Only use maps when there is a clear spatial pattern. E.g. a clear North/South divide

If you have a limited number of observations use a bar chart

Binge drinking among those who drank in the week before interview, by region
Great Britain, 2013



Source: Adult Drinking Habits in Great Britain, 2013



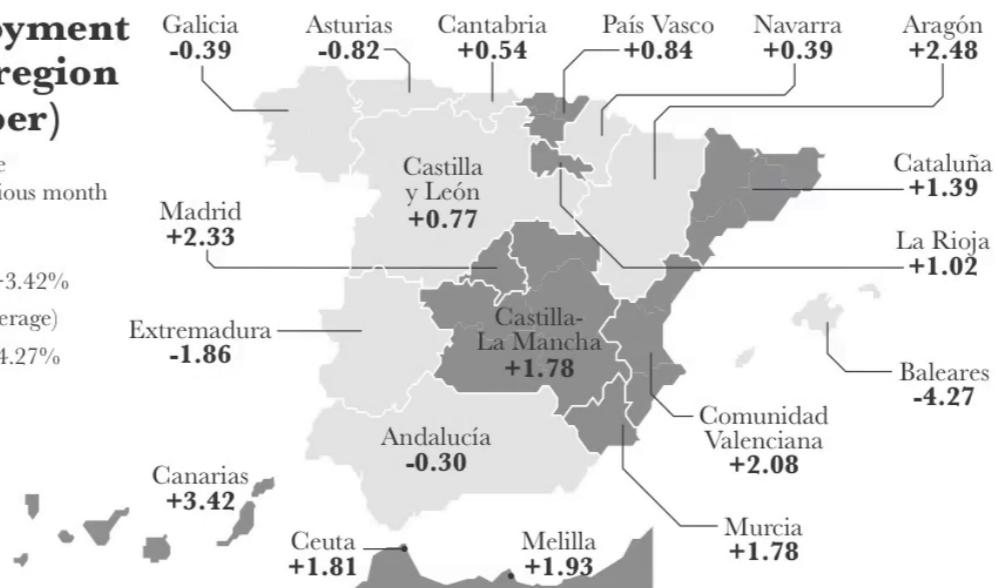
Spatial

Use regional maps when there is a clear spatial pattern

Unemployment rates by region (in October)

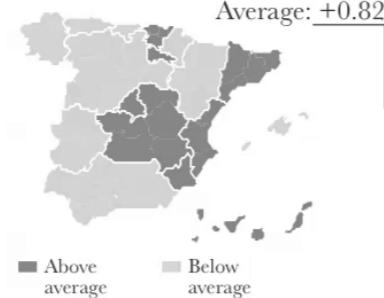
Percentage change
compared to previous month

- +0.83% a +3.42%
- +0.82% (average)
- +0.82% a -4.27%

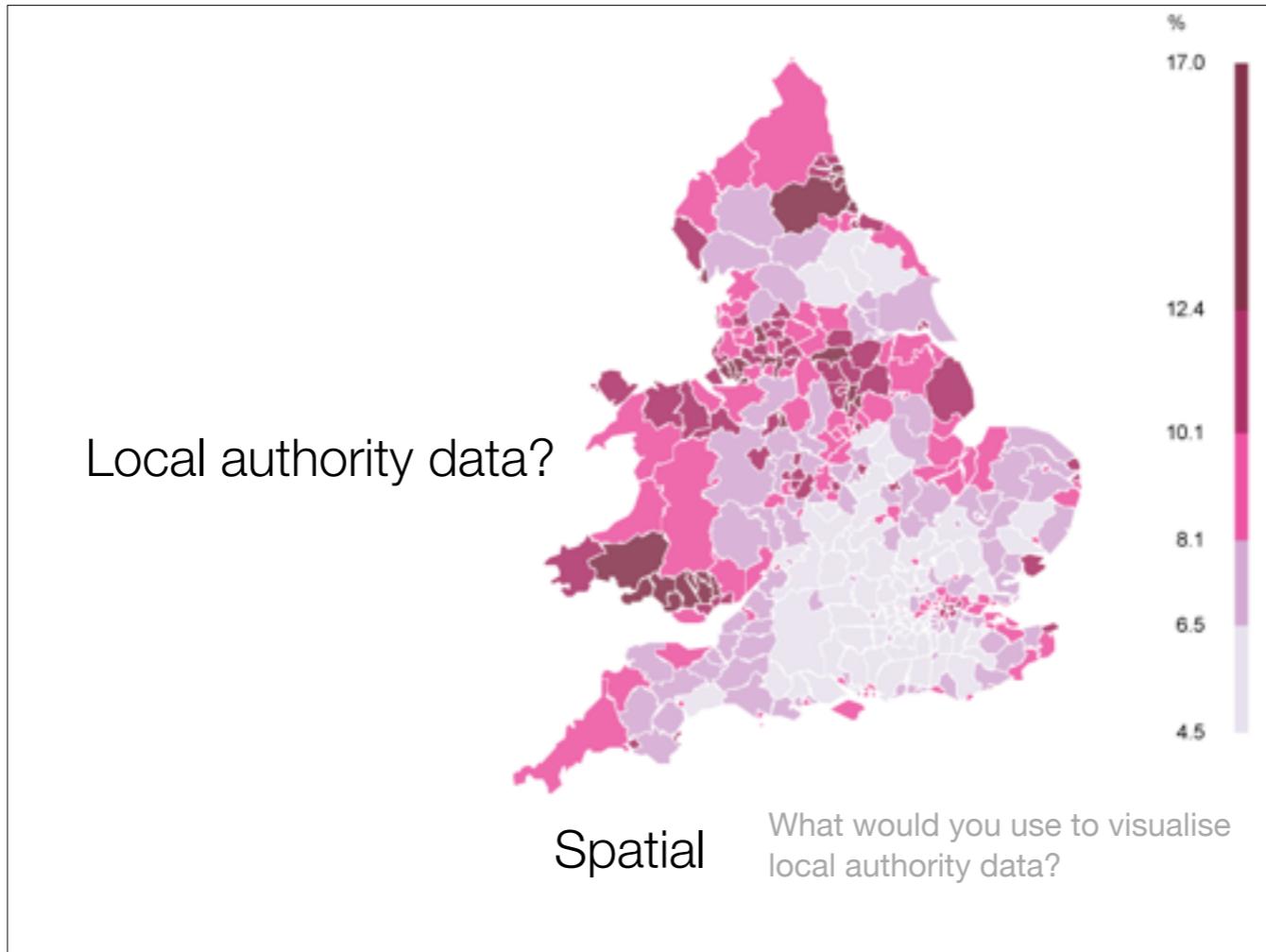


Unemployment rates by region (in October)

Percentage change
compared to previous month



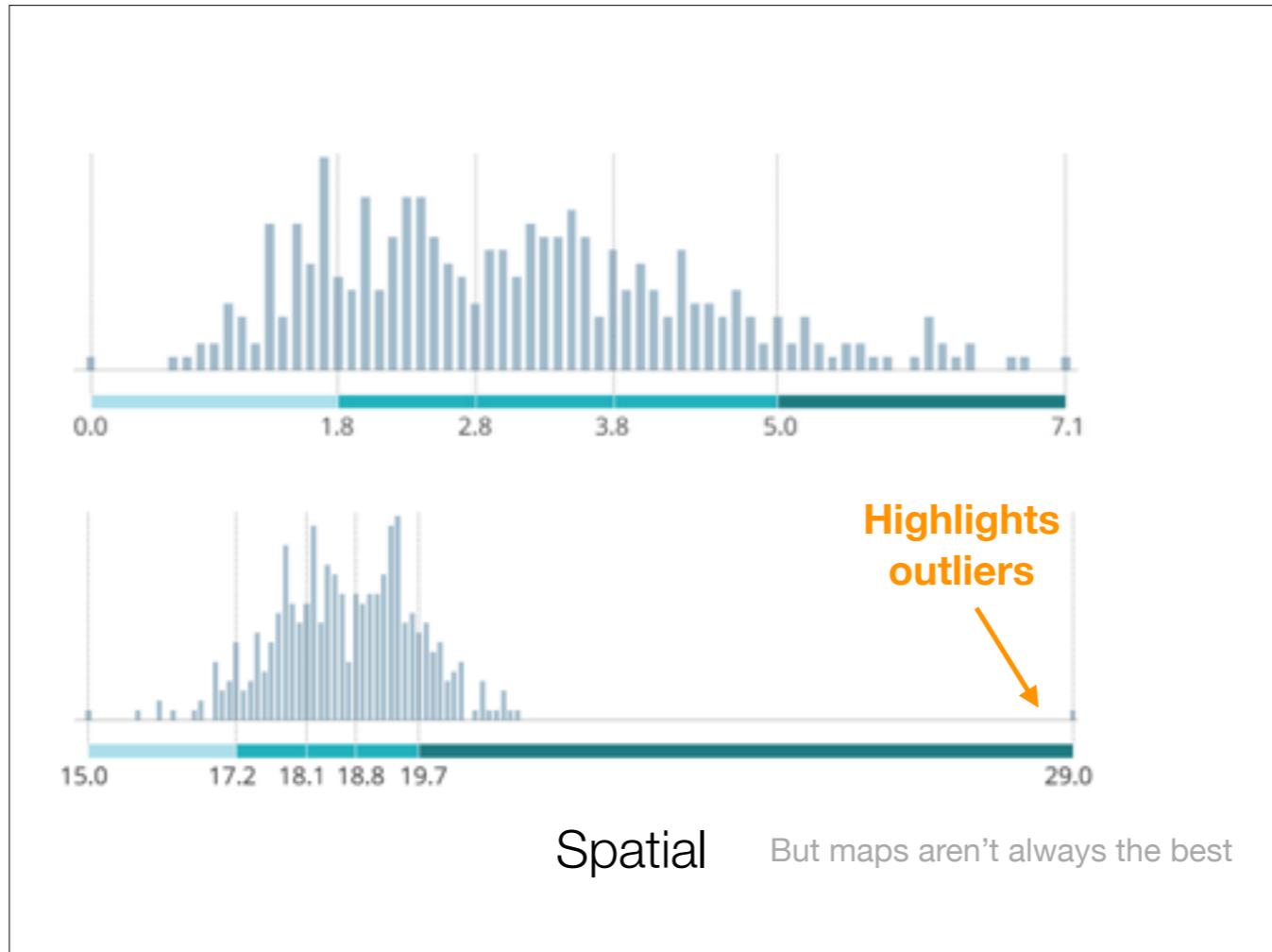
Canarias	+3.42
Aragón	+2.48
Madrid	+2.33
C. Valenciana	+2.08
Melilla	+1.93
Ceuta	+1.81
Murcia	+1.78
C.-La Mancha	+1.78
Cataluña	+1.39
La Rioja	+1.02
Pais Vasco	+0.84
C. y León	+0.77
Cantabria	+0.54
Navarra	+0.39
Andalucía	-0.30
Galicia	-0.39
Asturias	-0.82
Extremadura	-1.86
Baleares	-4.27



Good to use maps for local authority level data (or any data that you have many observations for)

You couldn't use a bar chart here and you wouldn't really expect people to rank each area from top to bottom. You get the broad ability to look at patterns across the country...still work best if there is a spatial pattern.

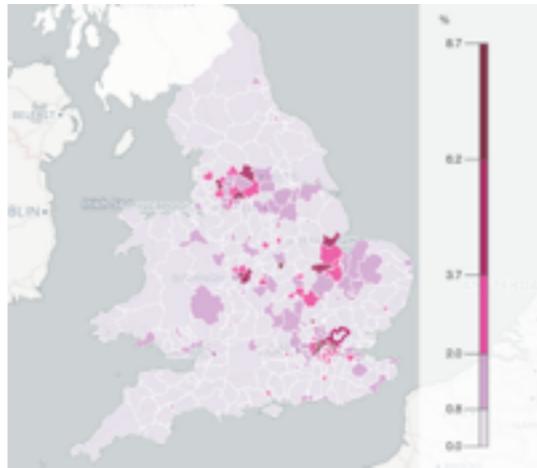
Again, if you're interested in extremes you might want to accompany this with a top 10 / bottom 10 bar chart or table.



Want to get a sense of the overall distribution and aren't worried about values for particular areas

Choose your ranges on the map carefully

When would you use
a sequential palette?

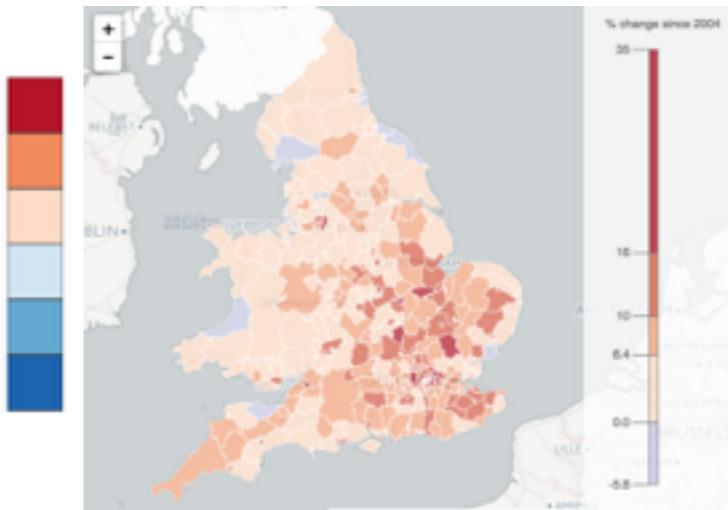


Spatial What colours should I use?

Colour - diverging scale - negative to positive

sequential scale - low to high (generally)

When would you use
a diverging palette?



Spatial What colours should I use?

Infographics

Things to consider

Is there a story/key message?

Will the data update?

Who are the users?

Where will the image be used?

If social media- perhaps break down into smaller images



10 TIPS FOR DESIGNING EFFECTIVE VISUAL COMMUNICATION



NEGATIVE SPACE

Keep significant negative space. When too much information is in a layout, messaging becomes cluttered and incoherent.


X WRONG


✓ RIGHT



CALLOUTS

Use callouts sparingly to highlight only key information.


X WRONG


✓ RIGHT



ICONOGRAPHY

Icons should be simple, easy to understand and universal. They're meant to enhance comprehension, never distract.


X WRONG


✓ RIGHT



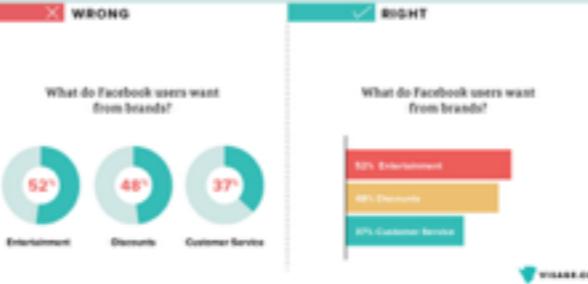
ACCURACY

Visualizations should represent their values proportionately.
Inaccurate representations can deceive viewers.



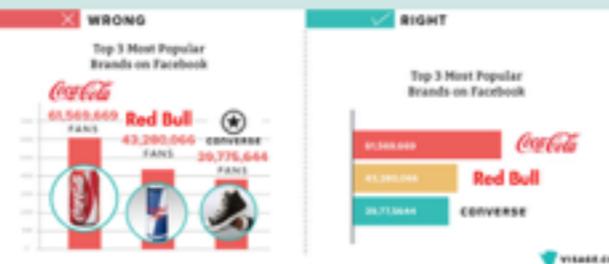
COMPARISON

Visualize data in a way that is easy for the viewer to compare values.



SIMPLICITY

Avoid unnecessary design, including 3D charts, ornamental illustration or extraneous elements.



TYPOGRAPHY

All fonts should be legible and appropriate for what you are communicating.



LAYOUT

Present content in a way that guides readers through in a logical hierarchy. Aligning the elements in a layout with each other will help maintain consistency.

WRONG

RIGHT

ILLUSTRATION

Illustration should match tone and subject matter. Only include if it enhances the content.

WRONG

Consumers expect a response to a complaint on social-within

1 hour

RIGHT

Consumers expect a response to a complaint on social-within 1 hour.

London's economy outperforming the rest of the UK

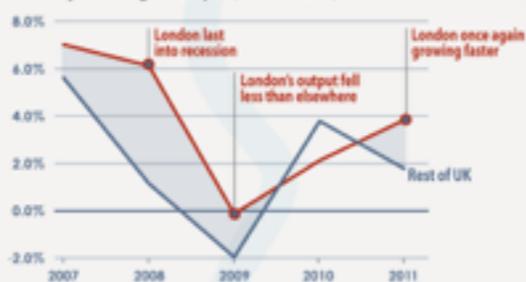
Growth in output (nominal GVA) 2007-2011



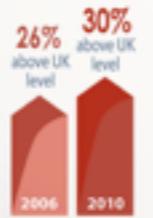
LONDON

contributed **21.9%**
to UK output, in 2011

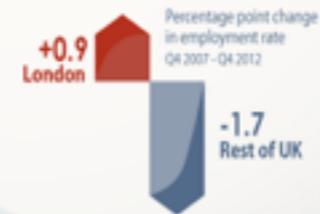
Year on year change in output (nominal GVA)



Average household income per head in London



London's employment rate has improved, relative to UK



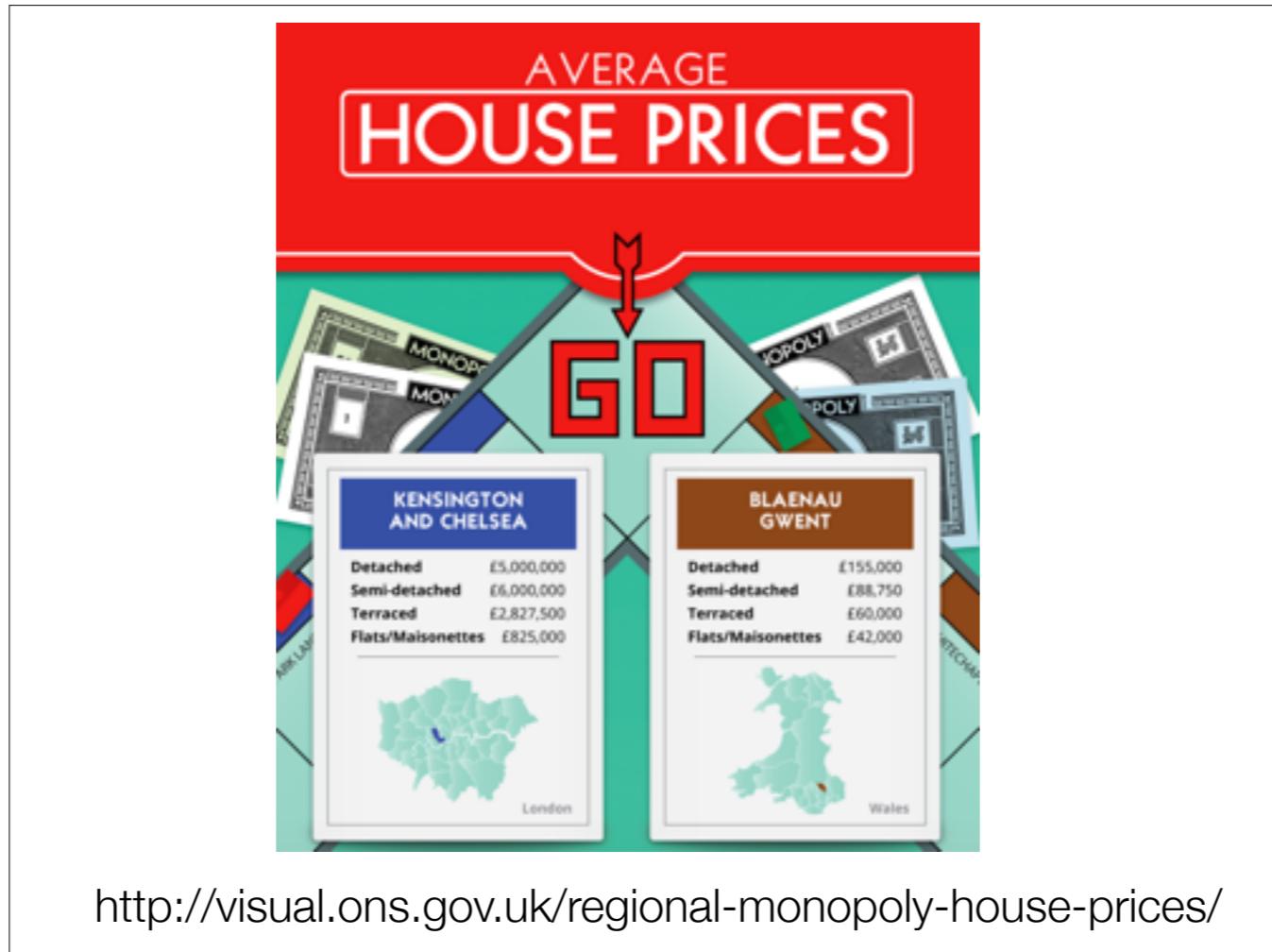
Change in number of active businesses 2007-2011



Workforce jobs - Sept07 - Sept12
Up in London, down in the rest of the UK



Graphic by ONS Data Visualisation Centre

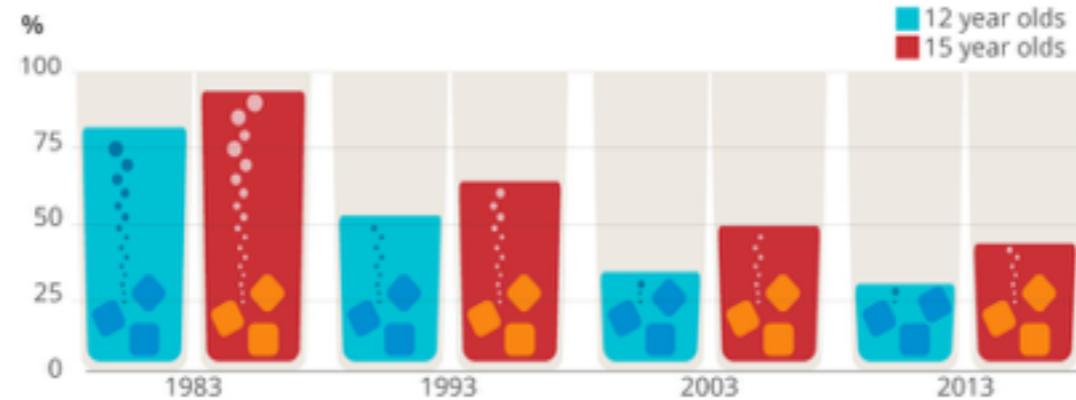


<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/regional-monopoly-house-prices/>

<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/regional-monopoly-house-prices/>

4. Tooth decay has declined for 12 and 15 year olds since 1983⁴

**Percentage of 12 and 15 year olds with "obvious decay experience"
1983 to 2013****



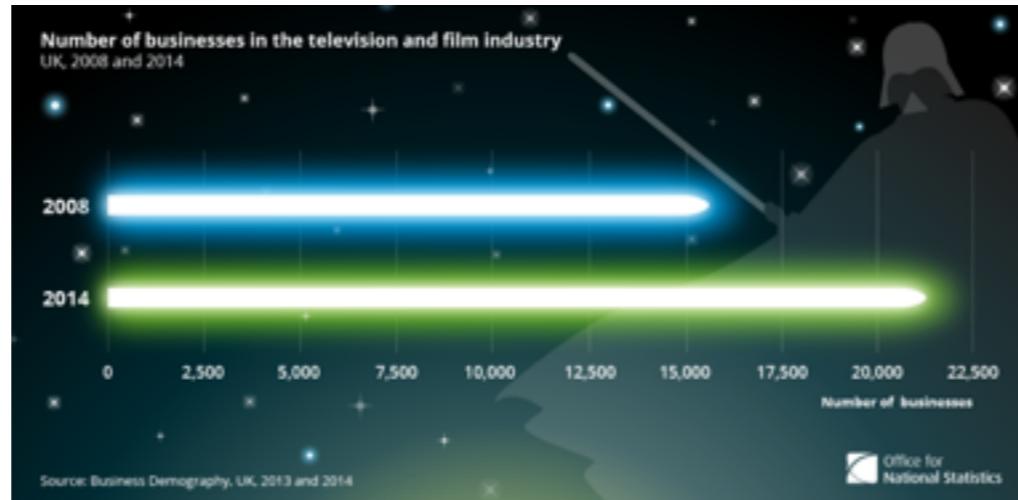
Fact: Tooth decay has declined for 12 and 15 year olds since 1983

*This is related to the number of cavities that need to be filled

**Data for 1983 and 1993 relates to UK but data for 2003 and 2013 excludes Scotland



<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/the-stats-are-strong-with-this-one-the-uk-film-industry-and-star-wars-in-society/>



The Design Process

ONS Content Strategy

Principles

1. User-Centred, not producer oriented
2. Less devolved, more collaborative
3. Digital-native product design and delivery
4. Less, but better and more consistent
5. Evidence-based commissioning
6. AGILE – fast, fluid, dynamic

Our Design Process

Inspired by Andy Kirk @visualisingdata

Approach projects differently – some need different skills, sometimes you already have the analysis, other times you need to do the digging. Sometimes you understand exactly the audience you're aiming at.

The design process (recap)

1. Establish the purpose of the visualisation
2. Acquire, familiarise with and prepare your data
3. Determine the editorial focus of your subject matter
4. Confirm your design, data representation and presentation
5. Construct and complete your design solution

Why are we looking at this data?

What's the timescale, pressures etc?

What resource do we have available?

Who is the intended user? Is it for policy makers?

Is it an idea worth spending lots of time on?

Does it have a limited audience?

Get your data (sometimes this can be hard!), learn what it 'means' and what relationships it contains, consolidate with other data/info for context/to enhance. Begin researching more about the subject/data to enhance your intimate familiarity with the task

Get to know the persona of your target audience - if you were them, what you want to know and discover about this subject? What data questions will the task/project aim to answer? Start to undertake exploratory visual and statistical analysis of the data, moving from looking at it (mechanical nature of stage 2) towards seeing it for yourself. Stages 2 and 3 very iterative/related.

You're now ready to come up with some more formal designs.

Sketches etc

At the heart of this is choosing the right data representation choices.

Then think about presentational aspects colour, animation, annotation, layout etc.

Implementation... quite a lot of subprocesses within this

Construction of the visualisation,

Iterate, evaluate, user testing, launch and post-evaluation.



Scott Murray @alignedleft

We hosted a data visualisation conference last year in Winchester England
Google, Adobe, Twitter, Financial Times etc

Set out some of the skills for data visualisation

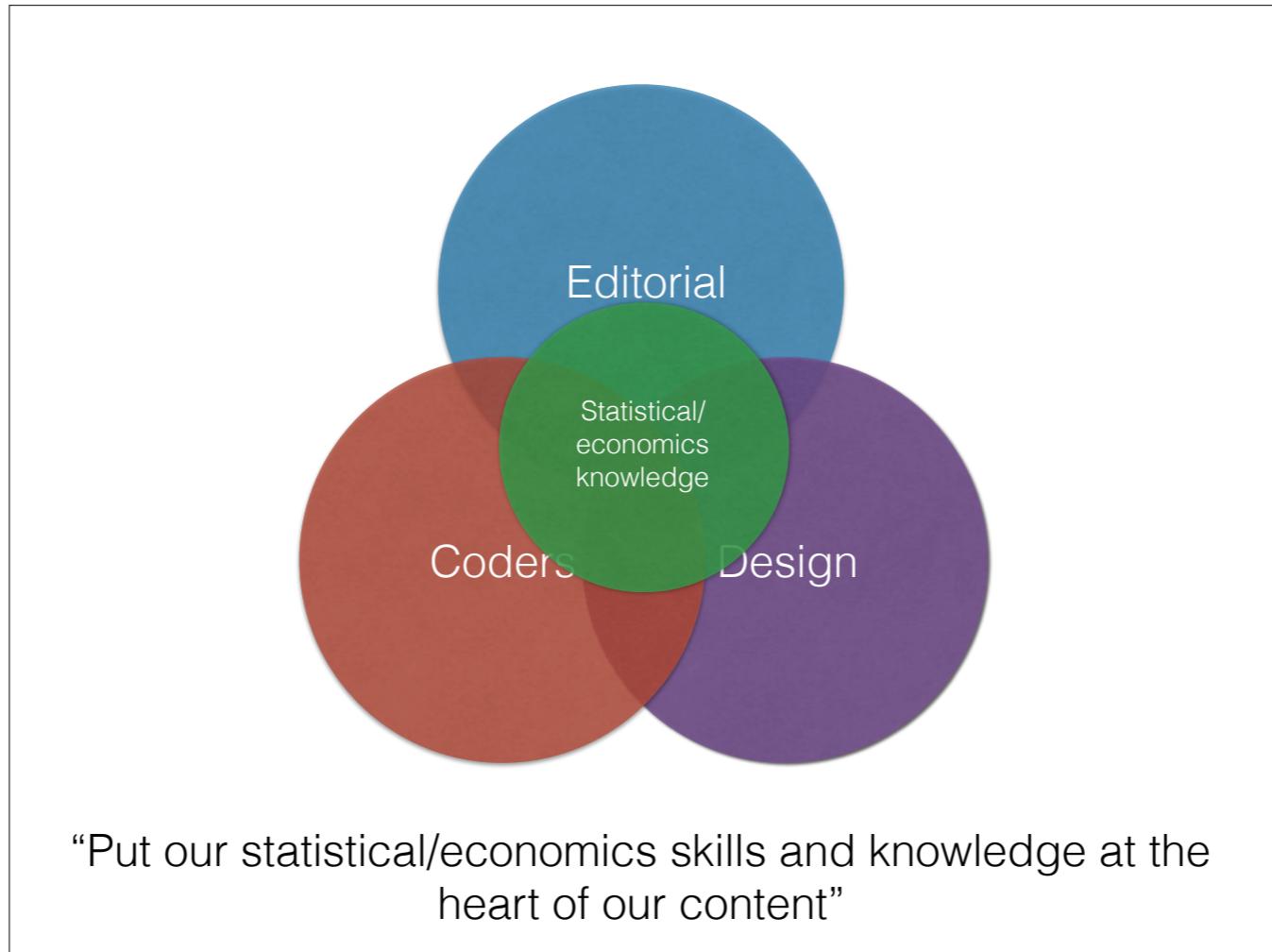


Diagram of different skills...

We're at a point now within ONS where several digital content teams are merging into one. This is exciting and challenging for a lot of reasons, we're bringing more people together which means we're going to need to be clearer about our design process and how we're all going to work together. But also opens up exciting possibilities for better visualisation. We have a wider skill set to rely on.

You can see how many different skills are needed here...data analysts, people with ideas, editorial, designers and coders - there are probably others.

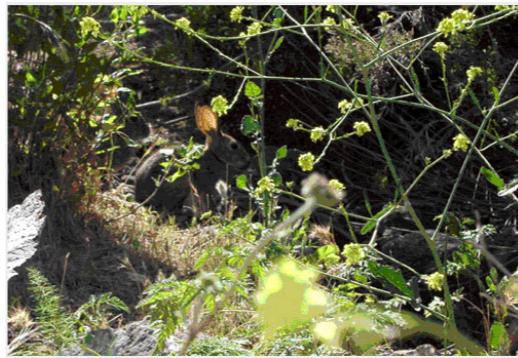
Placing statistical and economics knowledge at the heart of our visualisation we can bring knowledge to the market.

What can we offer that others can't?

Hands up who would see themselves as a good writer, can spot a good story, can help people relate to their data?

Animation and Interactivity

Animation

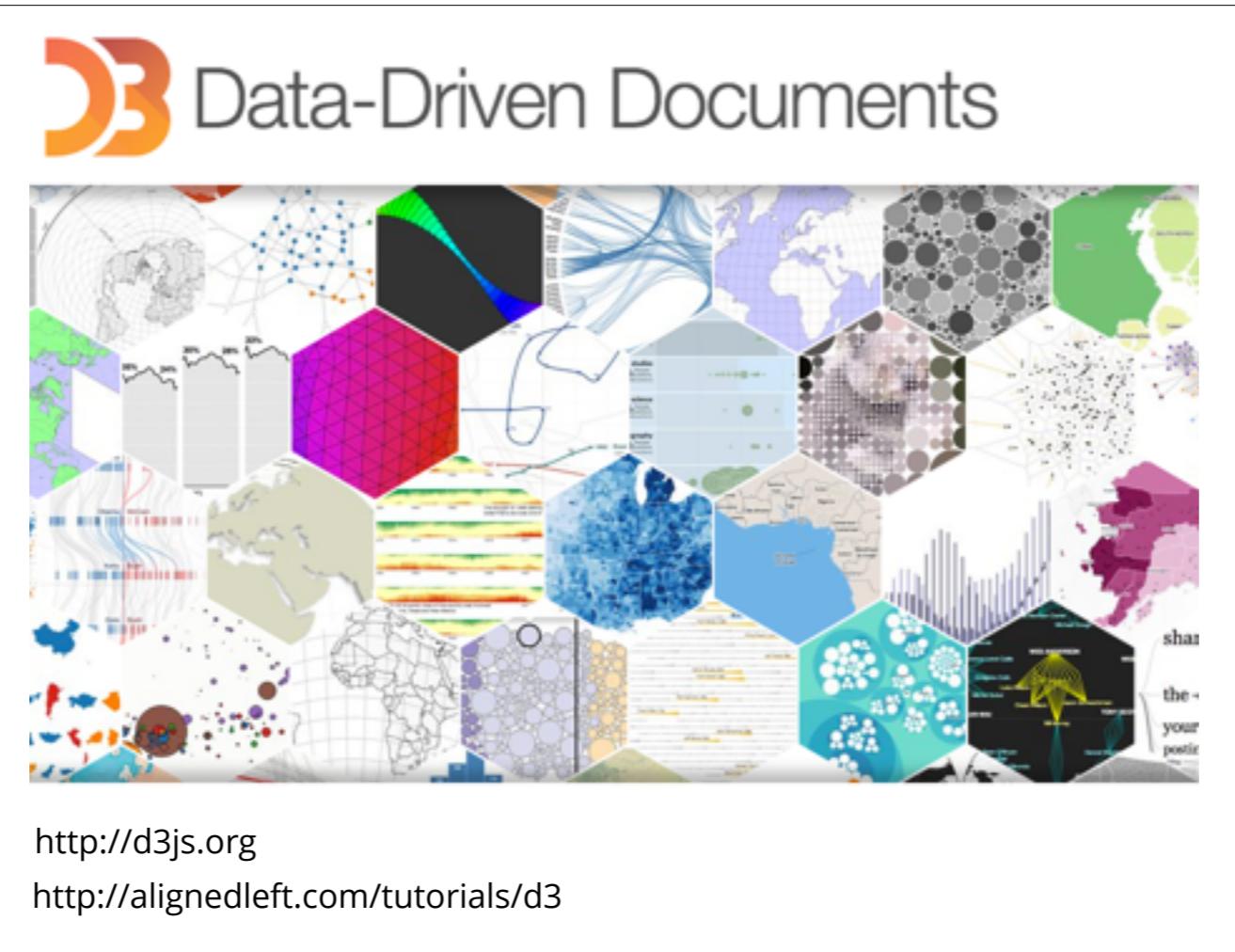


source: <http://www.socsci.uci.edu/~ddhoff/>

The literature is still divided on the effectiveness of animations:

“It is worth reminding ourselves that just because we can make an animated map does not mean that we should” (Mark Harrower)

“animated transitions can significantly improve graphical perception” (Heer and Robertson)



<http://d3js.org>

<https://github.com/mbostock/d3/wiki/Gallery>

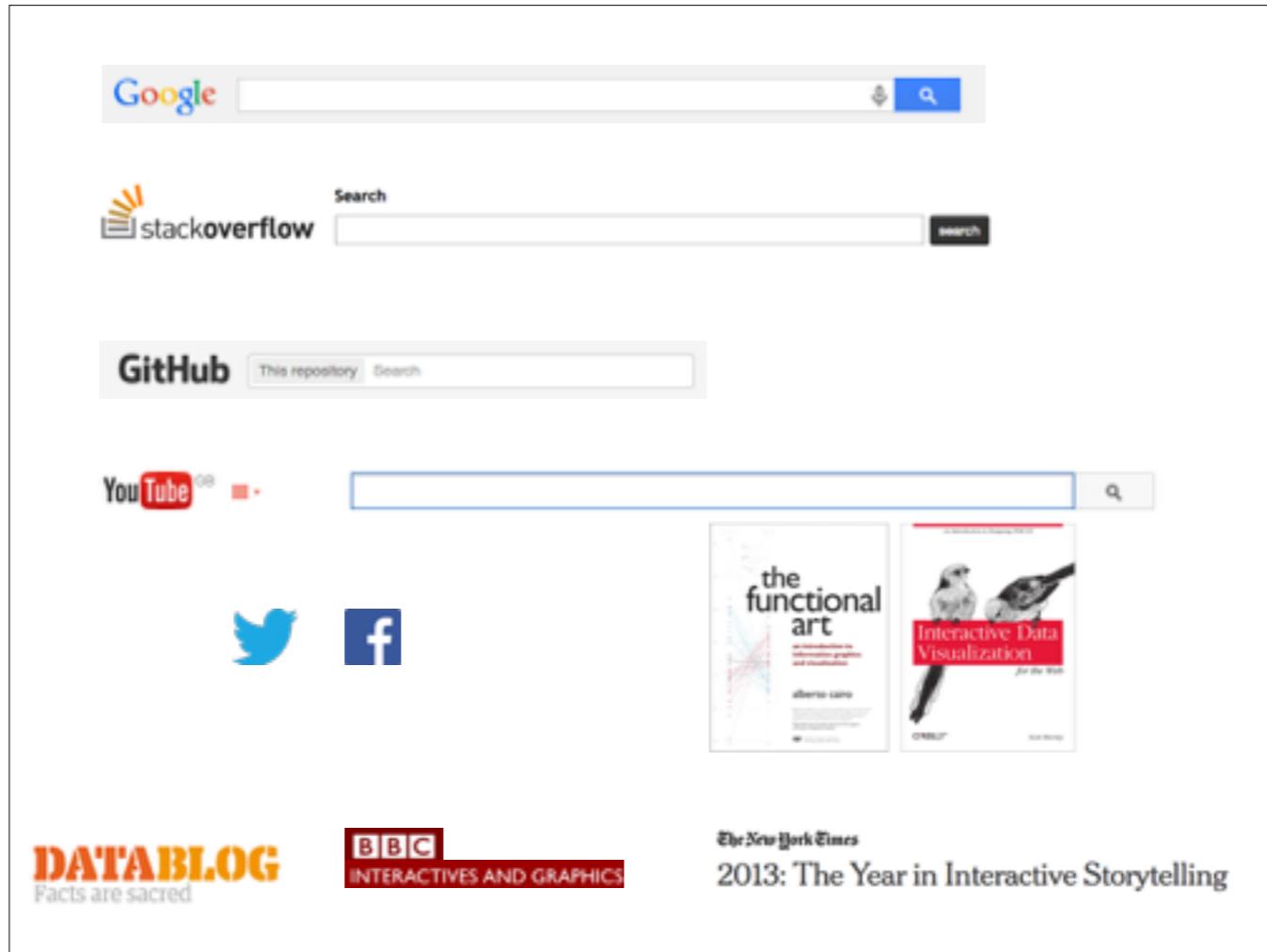
Open source - free to use, extensive help available but way of examples, forums and tutorials

<http://d3js.org>

Mike Bostock - author of language

<http://alignedleft.com/tutorials/d3>

Scott Murray - Author of "d3 bible"



So much open source - free software and support

Brackets

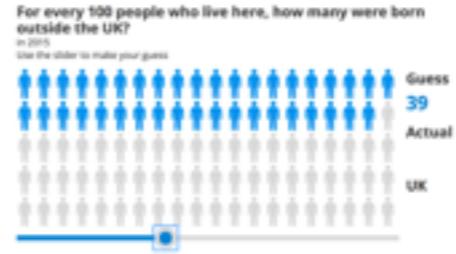
Read up on topics, ask questions on forums, get involved in communities

Watch tutorials on YouTube

Follow good practitioners of data viz on social media/digital media

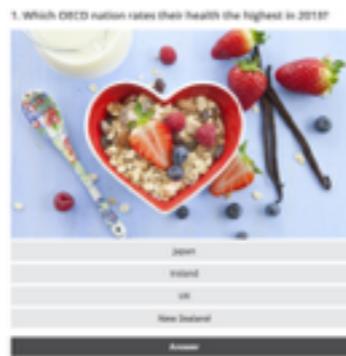


<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/test-your-knowledge-on-the-gender-pay-gap/>



<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/what-are-migration-levels-like-in-your-area-2/>

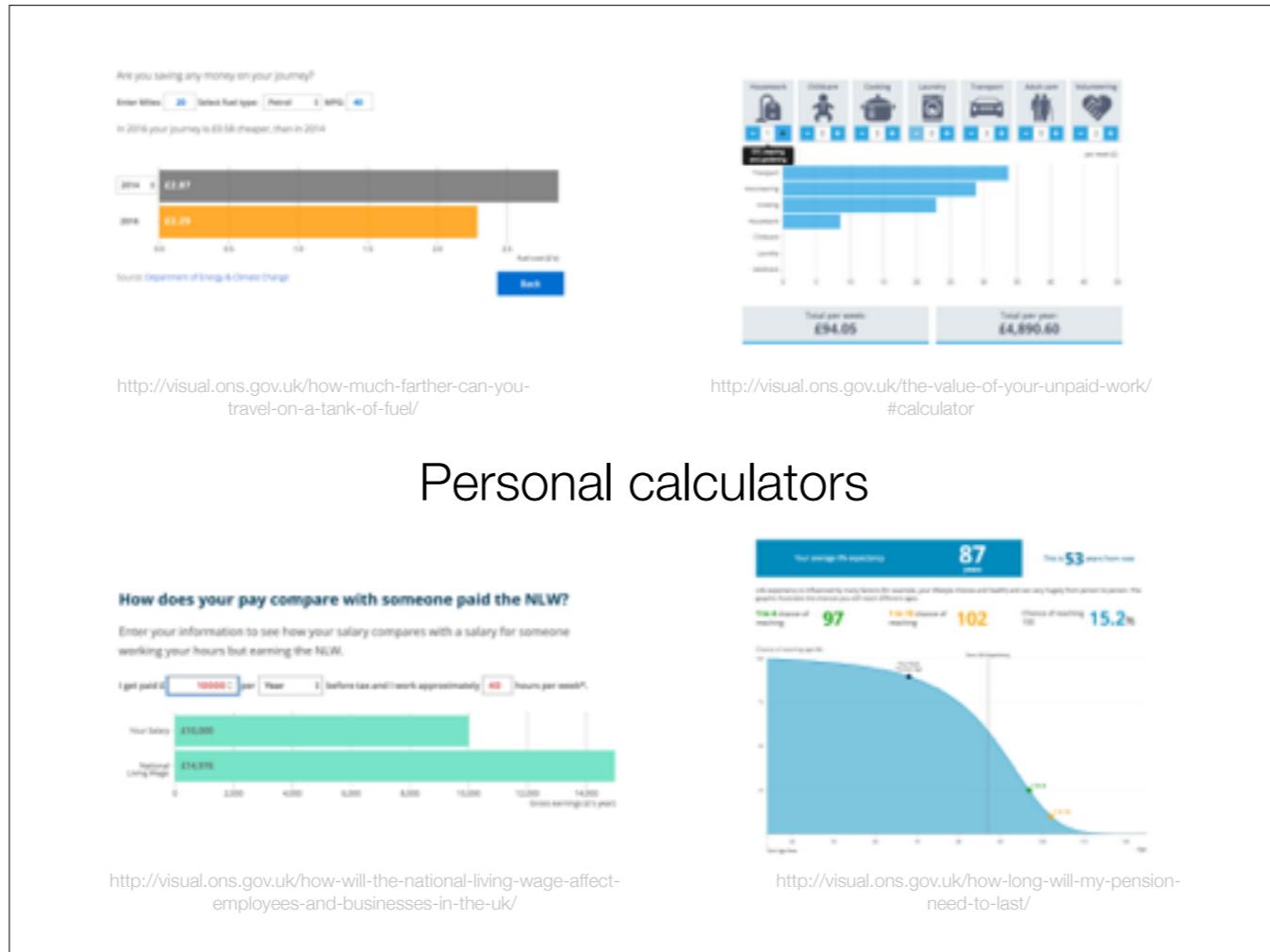
Quizzes



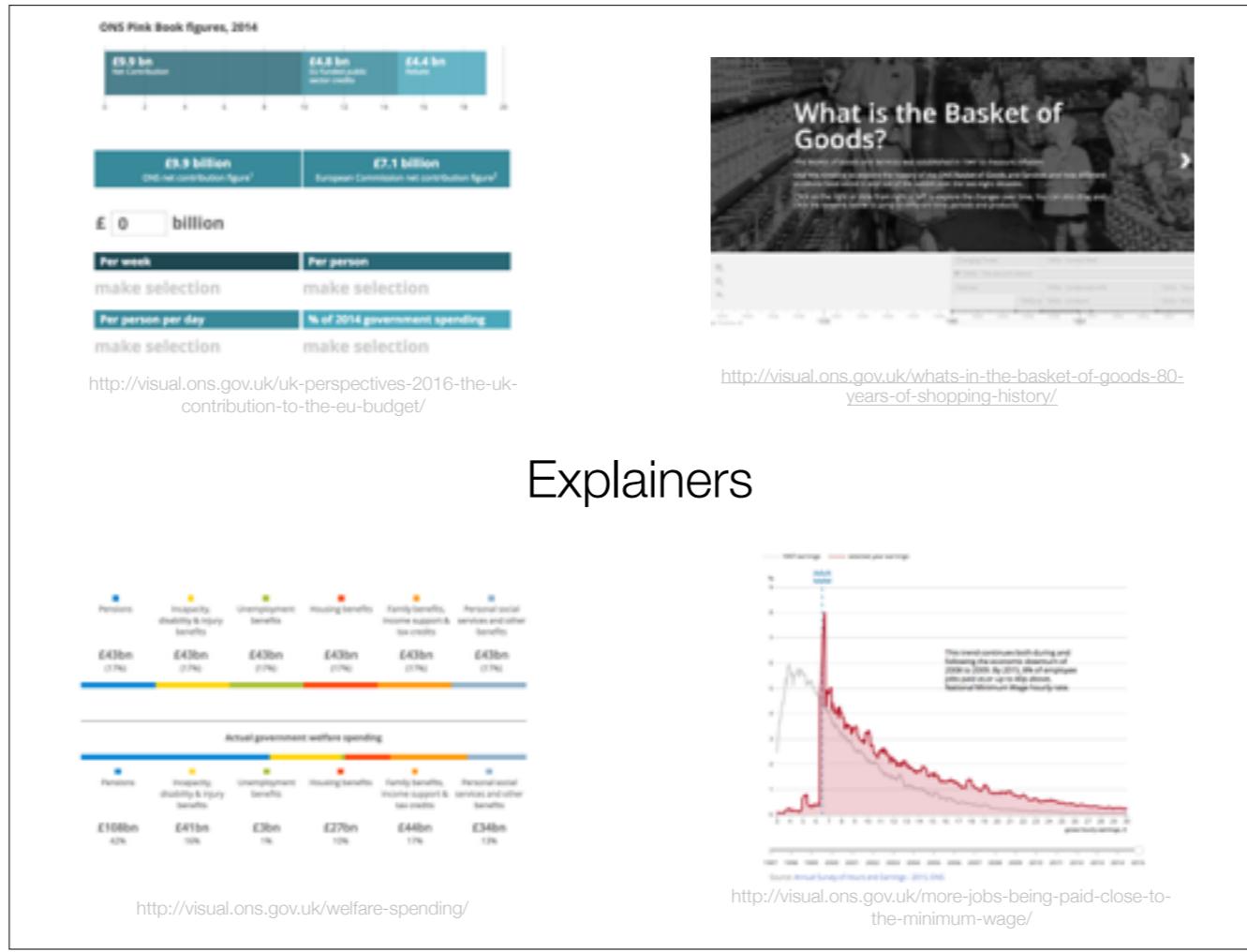
<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/who-is-the-happiest-country-in-europe/>

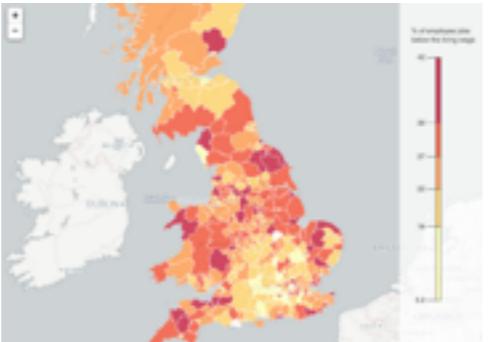


<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/million-pound-properties/>

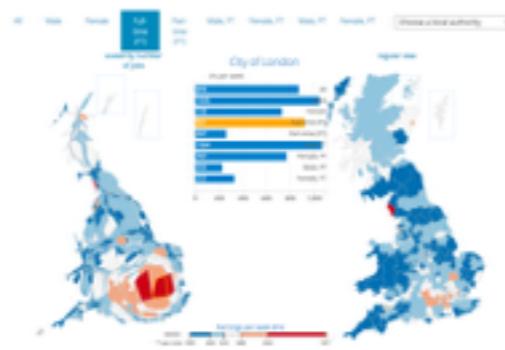






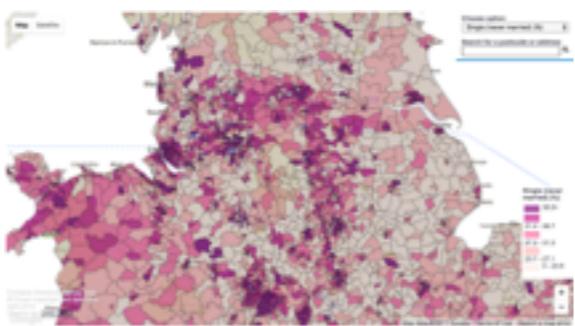


<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/how-many-jobs-are-paid-less-than-the-living-wage-in-your-area/>

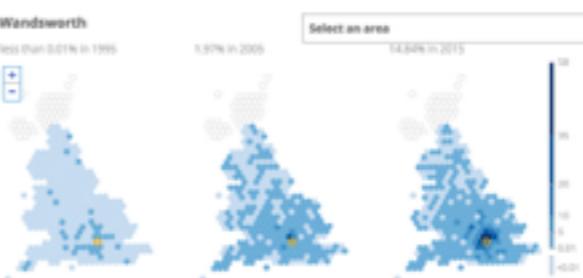


<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/interactive-how-do-earnings-vary-across-the-country/>

Mapping



<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/where-do-single-people-live-in-england-and-wales/>



<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/million-pound-properties/>

Thank you!