



Summary of Chart Types

Chart Type	Description
Pie Chart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compares a small number of categories • Values should be markedly different or differences may not be easy to decipher • If data points are similar, a bar chart might be a better choice • Use with nominal, ordinal or interval (in categories) data
Vertical Bar Chart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compares values of one or more categorical variables • Displays data better than horizontal bar charts • Values along x-axis can be nominal, ordinal, or interval(in categories) • Values along y-axis must be ratio
Horizontal Bar Chart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compares values of one or more categorical variables • Useful when category names are too long to fit on x-axis • Values along y-axis can be nominal, ordinal, or interval(in categories) • Values along x-axis must be ratio
Dot Graph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variant of a bar chart • Displays a comparatively larger number of categories • Best when portraying category values in descending order • Values along y-axis can be nominal, ordinal, or interval(in categories) • Values along x-axis must be ratio
Pictograph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favored by professional graphic artists • Values should be markedly different or differences may not be easy to decipher • Comparisons must be accurately depicted; respect scale • Values along y-axis can be nominal, ordinal, or interval(in categories) • Values along x-axis must be ratio
Histogram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bar chart without the gaps between the bars • Compares discrete or continuous variables • Values along x-axis must be interval • Values along y-axis must be ratio
Line Graph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often used to depict data over time • Beware of scaling effects • Values along x-axis can be ordinal or interval • Values along y-axis must be ratio
Scatterplot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures two or more variables thought to be related • Helpful for identifying outliers • Values along x- and y-axes can be ordinal, interval, or ratio