

Describing Charts & Graphs

What is a Graph?

A graph is a pictorial representation of data in an organized manner. Graphs are usually formed from various data points, which represent the relationship between two or more things.

A picture says a thousand words, they say. A graph, on the other hand, not only says a thousand words but also tells a million stories.

Each point, stroke, color, or shape on a graph has a different meaning that helps in interpreting a graph. They are of different types and vary in structure, with some having just points, others have points joined together by lines, and so on.

Types of Graphs and Charts

Bar Chart/Graph

A bar chart is a graph represented by spaced rectangular bars that describe the data points in a set of data. It is usually used to plot discrete and categorical data.

The horizontal axis of the chart represents [categorical data](#) while the vertical axis of the chart defines discrete data. Although the rectangular bars in a bar chart are mostly placed vertically, they can also be horizontal.

Pie Chart

A pie chart is a circular graph used to illustrate numerical proportions in a dataset. This graph is usually divided into various sectors, where each sector represents the proportion of a particular numerical element in the set.

Line Graph

Line graphs are represented by a group of data points joined together by a straight line. Each of these data points describes the relationship between the horizontal and the vertical axis on the graph.

Description:

The first chart illustrates the percentage of the population who owned a smartphone from 2011 to 2016, and the second breaks the percentages down by age for 2011 and 2016.

Overall, smartphone ownership increased during the six-year period. In general, the younger people were, the more likely they were to own a smartphone. However, the most significant increases in smartphone ownership between 2011 and 2016 came from people aged 45 to 54, from 46% to 84%; from those in the 55 to 64 category, from 9% to 59%; and from those aged 65 to 74, from 5% to 50%.

The percentage of people who owned a smartphone rose steadily, starting at around 35% in 2011 and reaching about 77% by 2016. People aged 16 to 24 represented the greatest percentage of smartphone ownership in both 2011 and 2016. 75% of people aged 25 to 34 and 72% of those aged 35 to 44 owned a smartphone in 2011, rising to 88% and 86% respectively by 2016. Although almost nobody in the 75+ age category owned a smartphone in 2011, 15% of this group owned smartphones in 2016.