

Misleading Statistical Diagrams

What to look for ...	What does it mean?
Missing labels on the axis or key	We can't be sure what the graph is representing
Unequal gaps along scales	They can give a false visual overall picture
Large breaks in the scales on numerical axes	They can give a false visual overall picture
3D graphs	They can make the values hard to read accurately
Incorrectly calculated angles on pie charts	They can give a false visual overall picture
Time series without repeated seasons	This can suggest an incorrect trend
Different scales used for box plots	These can lead to false comparisons
Key not included <i>stem-and-leaf, multiple bar chart, comparative bar chart, pie chart, comparative frequency polygons, comparative time series etc.</i>	This can make data impossible to analyse correctly