Describing Trends & Projections

**A trend** is the general direction in which something is developing or changing over time. **A projection** is a prediction of future change. Trends and projections are usually illustrated using line graphs in which the horizontal axis represents time. Some of the language commonly used for describing trends and projections is given below.

[**Describing trends**](http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/describing-trends/)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The graph shows that there is / has been a Figure 2  reveals that there is / has been a |  | slight steep sharp steady gradual marked | fall rise drop decline increase decrease | in the number of divorces in England and Wales since 1981. |

[**Highlighting a trend in a table or chart**](http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/describing-trends/)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| What is striking What stands out What is interesting What can be clearly seen | in this | table chart figure | is the growth of … is the high rate of … is the variability of … is the dominance of … is the rapid decrease in … is the steady decline of … is the general pattern of … is the dramatic decline in … is the continual growth of … is the difference between … is the phenomenal growth of … |

[**Describing high and low points in figures**](http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/describing-trends/)

Production of X **peaked** in 1985.  
X **rose to a high point** and peaked in …  
The **peak age** for committing a crime is 18.  
The number of Xs **reached a peak** during …

Production of X **reached a low point** in 1990.  
The rate **fell to a low point** of $5.00 at the end of the year.

[**Projecting trends**](http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/describing-trends/)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The rate of Z The amount of Y The number of Xs | is likely to will probably is expected to is projected to | fall reach … rise to … increase level off decline by … drop sharply remain steady be as high as … decline steadily continue decreasing grow by more than … | after 2020. |

Adapted from: www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk