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 aFigure 2  reveals that there is / has been a |  | slightsteepsharpsteadygradualmarked | fallrisedropdeclineincreasedecrease | 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 strikingWhat stands outWhat is interestingWhat can be clearly seen | in this | tablechartfigure | 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 ZThe amount of YThe number of Xs | is likely towill probablyis expected tois projected to | fallreach …rise to …increaselevel offdecline by …drop sharplyremain steadybe as high as …decline steadilycontinue decreasinggrow by more than … | after 2020. |

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