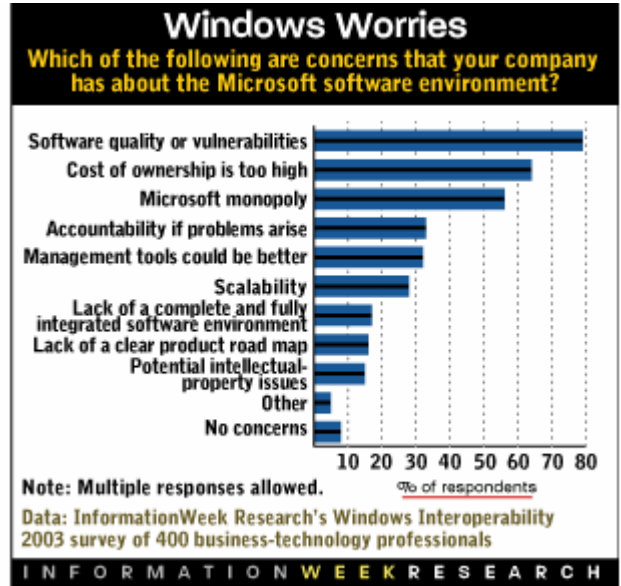
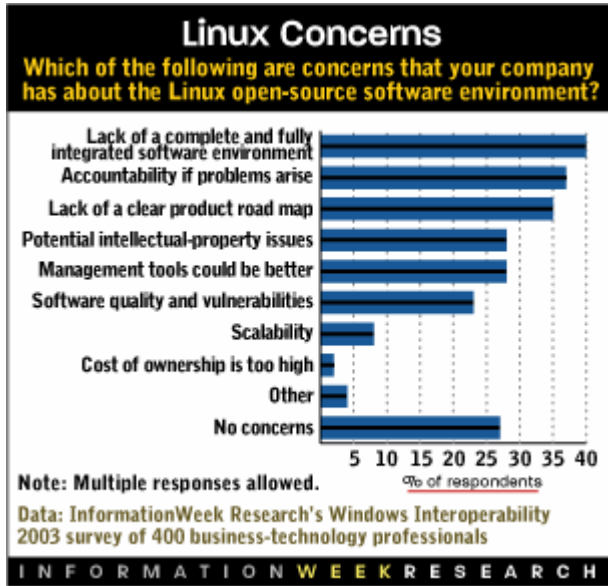
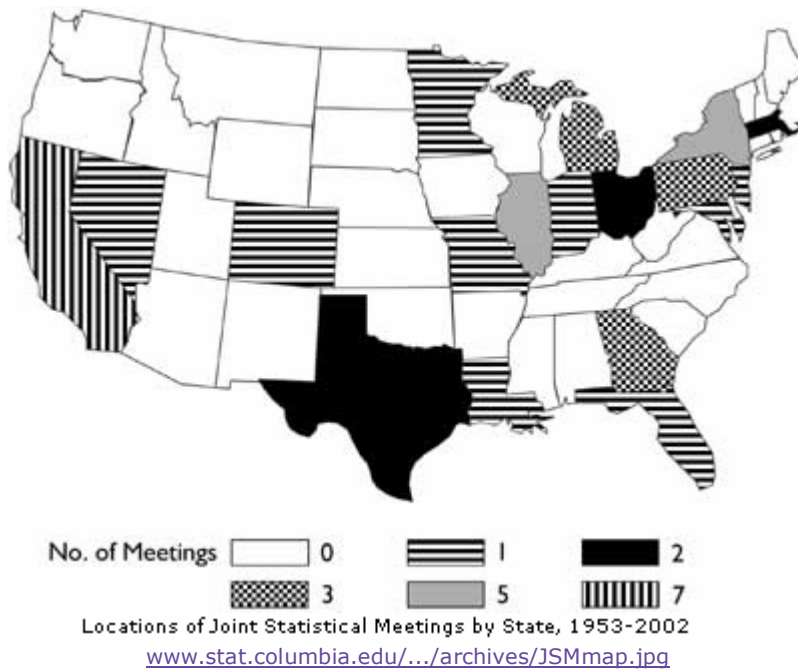


## Bad Graphs



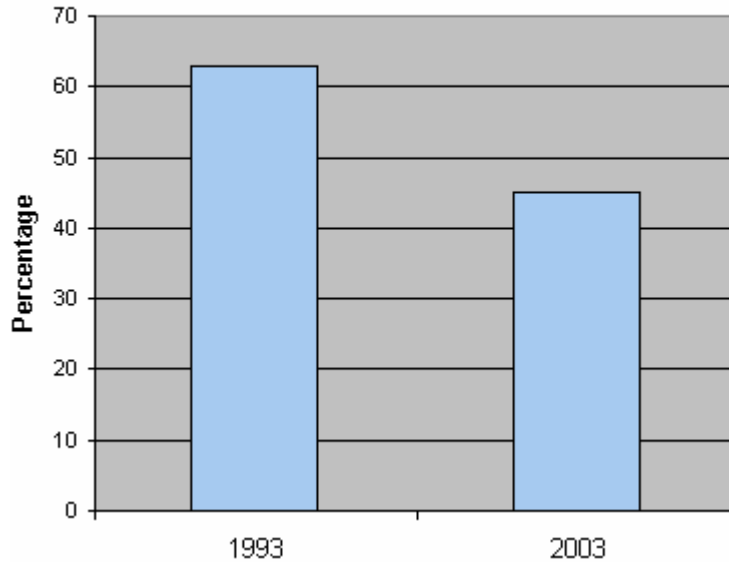
[www.idblog.org/images/infoweek11-24-2.gif](http://www.idblog.org/images/infoweek11-24-2.gif)

Note inconsistent scaling along the horizontal axis when comparing the two graphs side by side. The bars on the left graph are only half as long as those on the right.



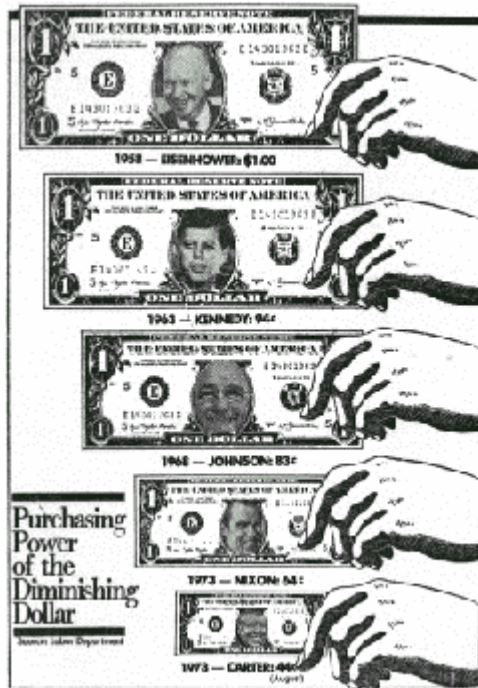
Ugly, hard to read, colors/designs have no sense of "less to more", why do it this way when a simple bar chart would have sufficed?

## Drop in Employer-Provided Health Coverage



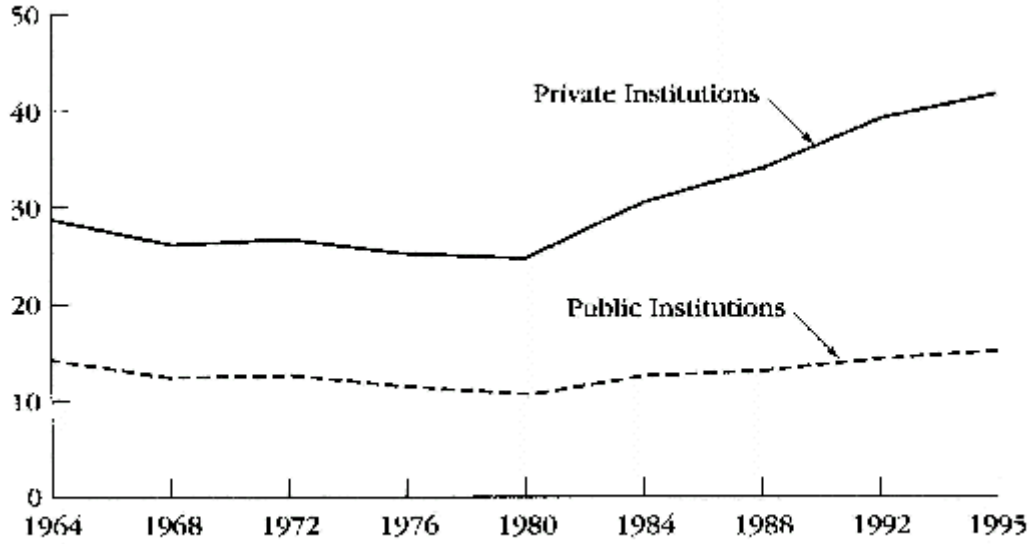
[www.nathannewman.org/log/healthcoverage.gif](http://www.nathannewman.org/log/healthcoverage.gif)

Overkill... two bars? No graph needed at all, just state the drop in coverage as a pair of figures or a percentage drop from one to the next.



<http://iilt.ilstu.edu/gmclass/pos138/datadisplay/badchart.htm>

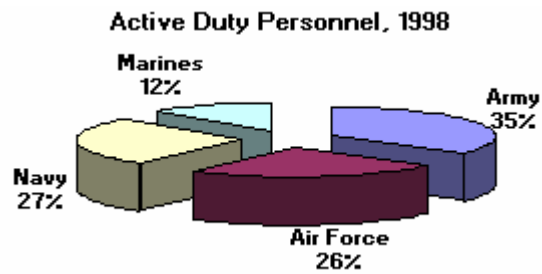
A classic example of conflating size with area. The 1978 dollar (bottom) should be just 44% the size of the 1958 dollar (top). However, the areas show the smaller dollar is only about 20% the size of the top dollar. The facts are the 1978 dollar has 44% of the purchasing power of the 1958 dollar, but our eyes see the smaller dollar and think the purchasing power is much less.



SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of Education.

<http://iilt.ilstu.edu/gmclass/pos138/datadisplay/badchart.htm>

Do you have any idea what the vertical axis represents? If so, let me know.



<http://iilt.ilstu.edu/gmclass/pos138/datadisplay/badchart.htm>

The 3-d effect and scaling (foreshortening) render this graph nearly unreadable. The air force wedge (26%) actually looks larger than the navy wedge (27%), when it should be the other way around. 3-d is always a bad idea.

CHART I

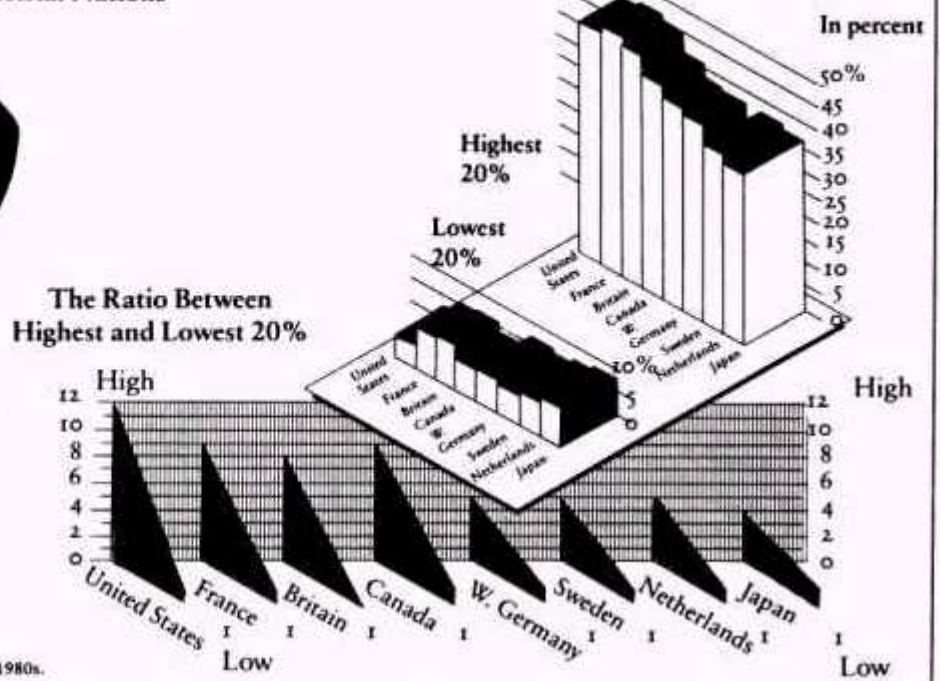
COMPARATIVE CONCENTRATION OF INCOME IN THE MAJOR WESTERN NATIONS (CIRCA 1980)

Pre-Tax Income Distribution in Industrial Nations



Note: Figures for household income generally show a greater gap than those for family income cited for the United States and Canada in the story and definitions of "household" vary somewhat among countries. Figures are for various years in the late 1970's and early 1980's.

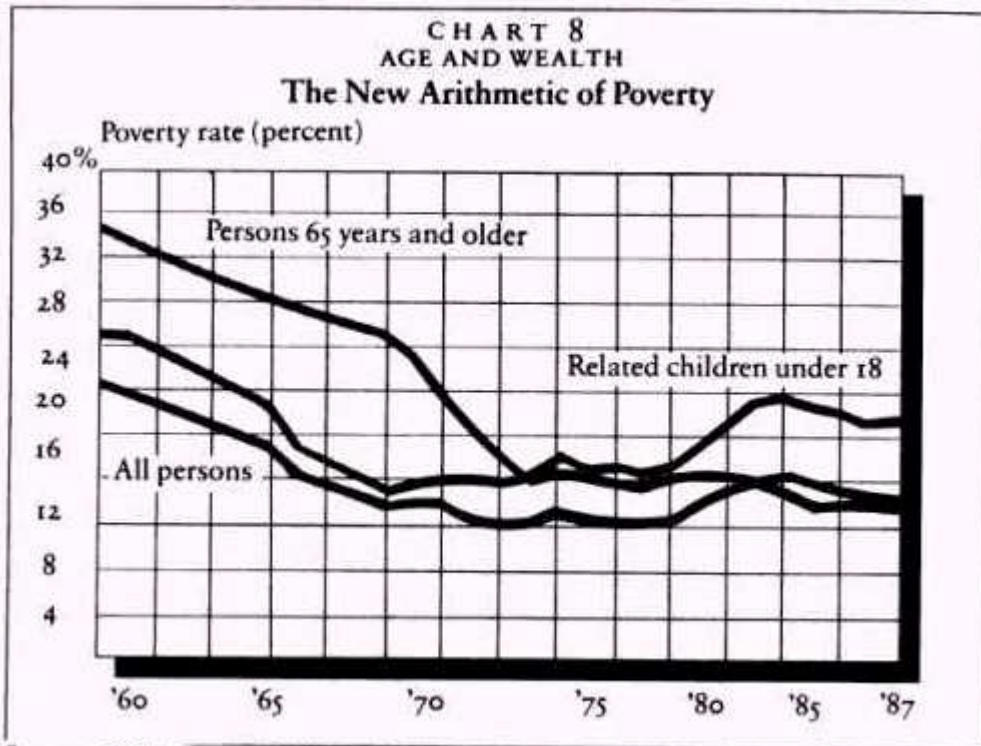
Share of Pre-Tax Household Income



Sources are individual governments and the World Bank. Source: Los Angeles Times, October 21, 1984. Note: The ratios for Japan changed significantly in the late 1980s.

<http://iilt.ilstu.edu/gmclass/pos138/datadisplay/images/phillips1.jpg> (both)

Way too much fancy artwork, the message is lost. How does Britain compare to Canada, for example?



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

The lines "mingle". Hard to keep track which is which.