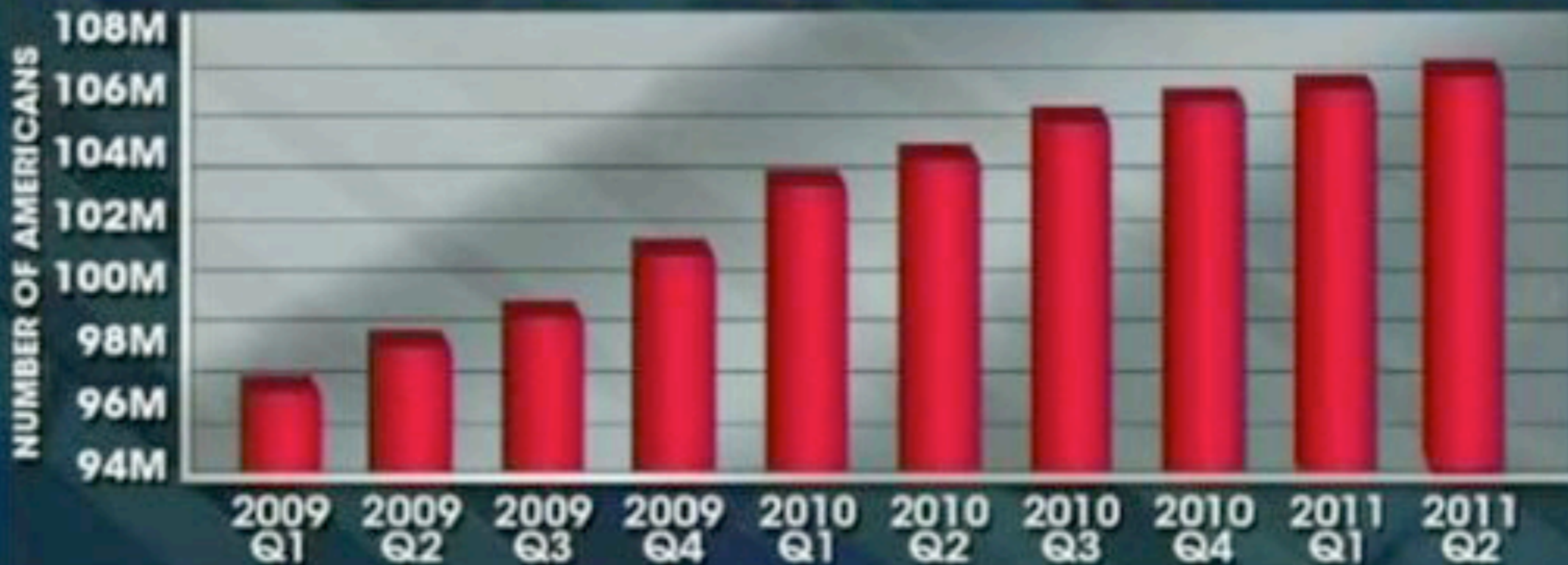


Good and bad statistical graphics

Good statistical graphics are:

- Vehicles for comparison.
- Multivariate.
- Truthful about magnitude.
- Usually not for small data sets.
- Not pie charts.

FEDERAL WELFARE RECEIVED IN U.S.



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS SURVEY

LIST TYLER HAMILTON OF HIS GOLD MEDAL FROM

NAS



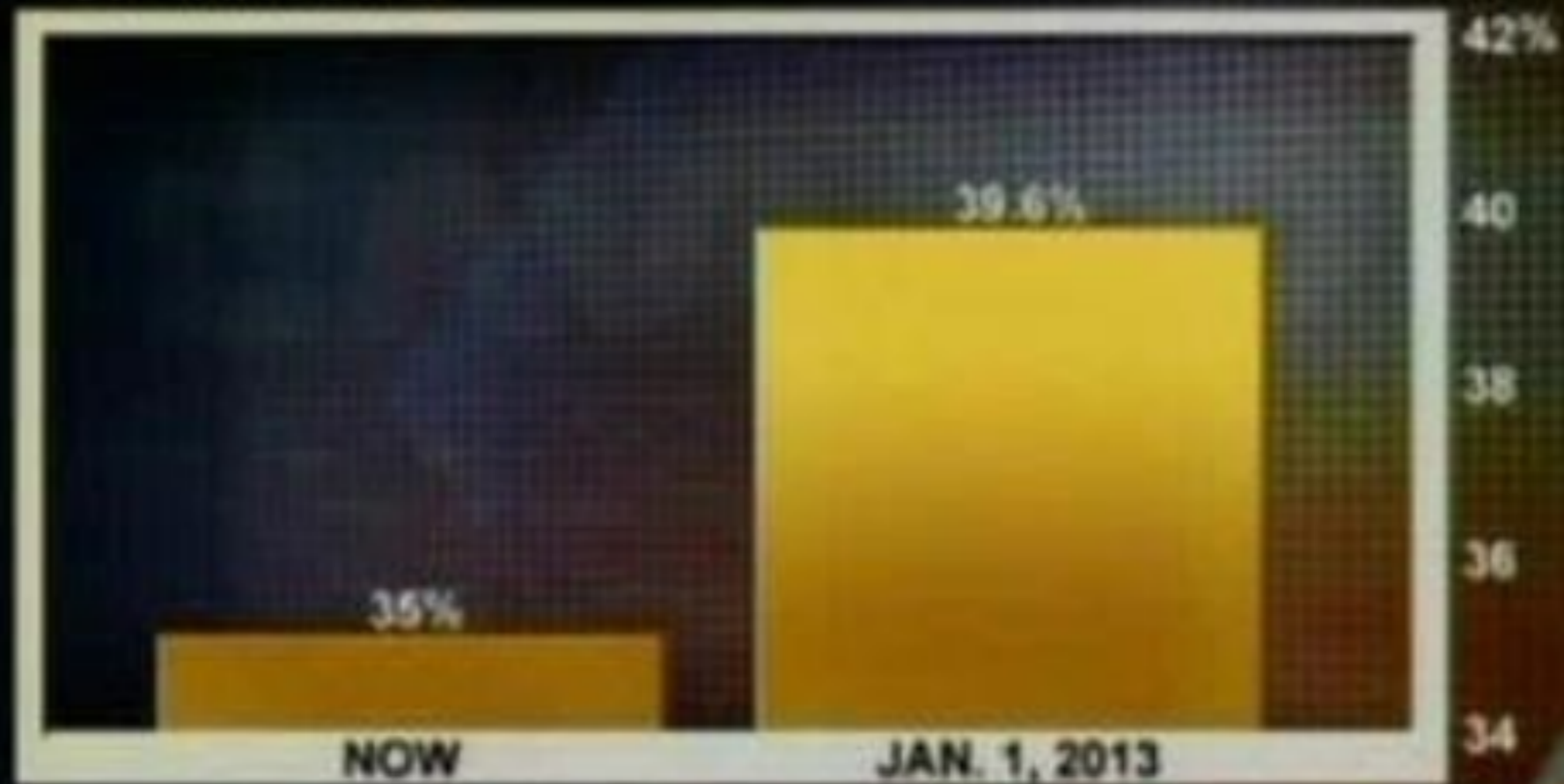
6.61

mediamatters.org

Truncating the y axis

IF BUSH TAX CUTS EXPIRE

TOP TAX RATE



8:01 p. ET

FOX
BUSINESS

TOP STORIES

TECHNOLOGY

CONSUMER

WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND ACQUIRES FULL T

DOW 13008.68 ▼ 64.33

S&P 1379.32 ▼ 5.98

NASDAQ 2939.52 ▼ 6.32

Truncating the y axis

RASMUSSEN REPORTS POLL

Did scientists falsify research to support their own theories on Global Warming?

59%

SOMEWHAT LIKELY

35%

VERY LIKELY

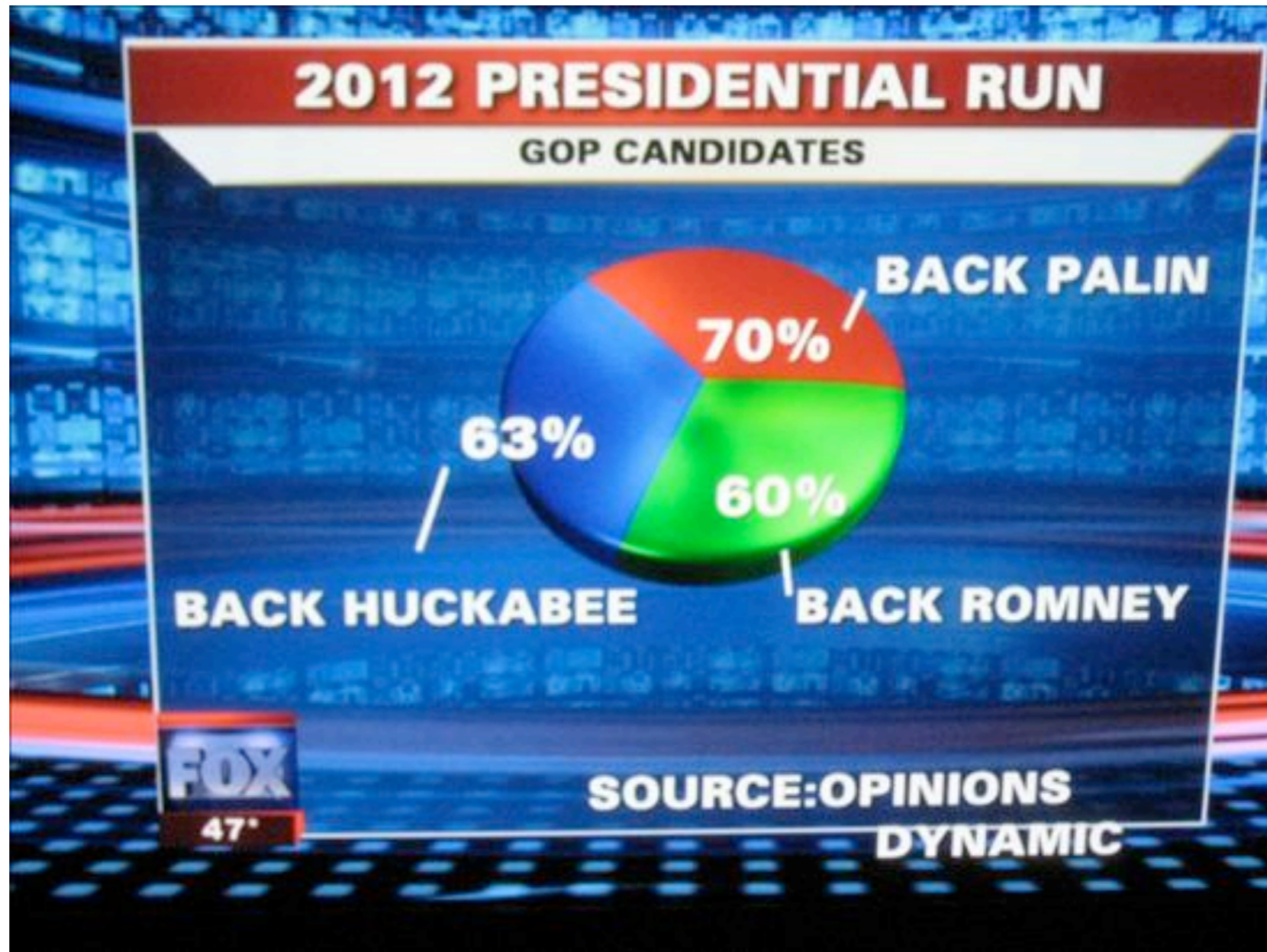
26%

NOT VERY LIKELY



LIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH / FOX NEWS \ GOP § NHL TOR 6 COB 3

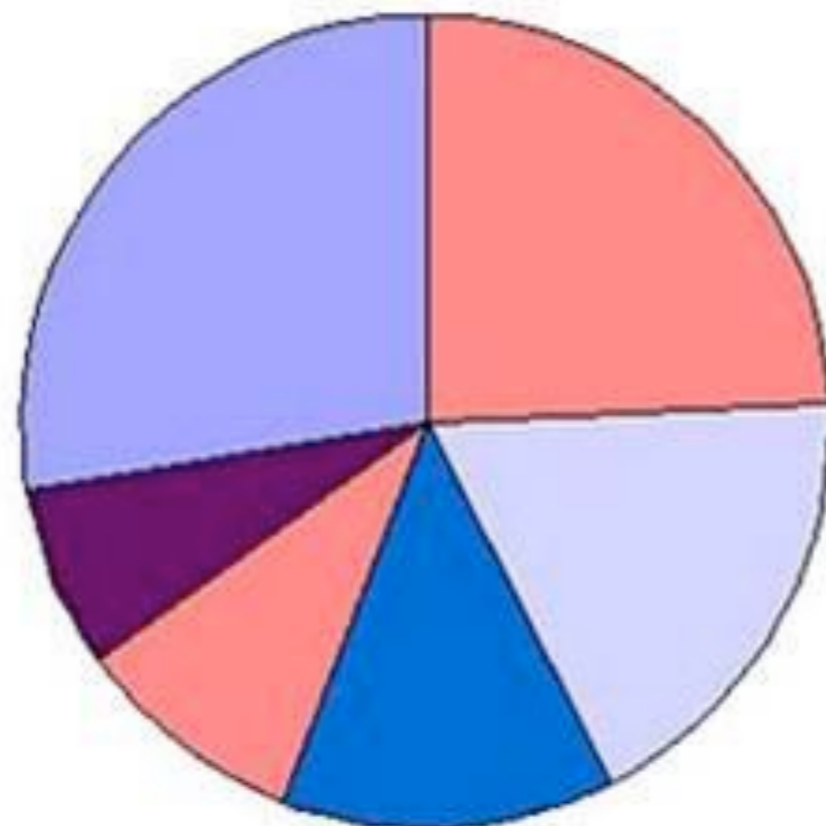
Percentages that don't add to 100



Percentages that don't add to 100



Rick Astley would never:



- give you up
- let you down
- run around and desert you
- make you cry
- say goodbye
- tell a lie and hurt you

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE UNDER PRESIDENT OBAMA

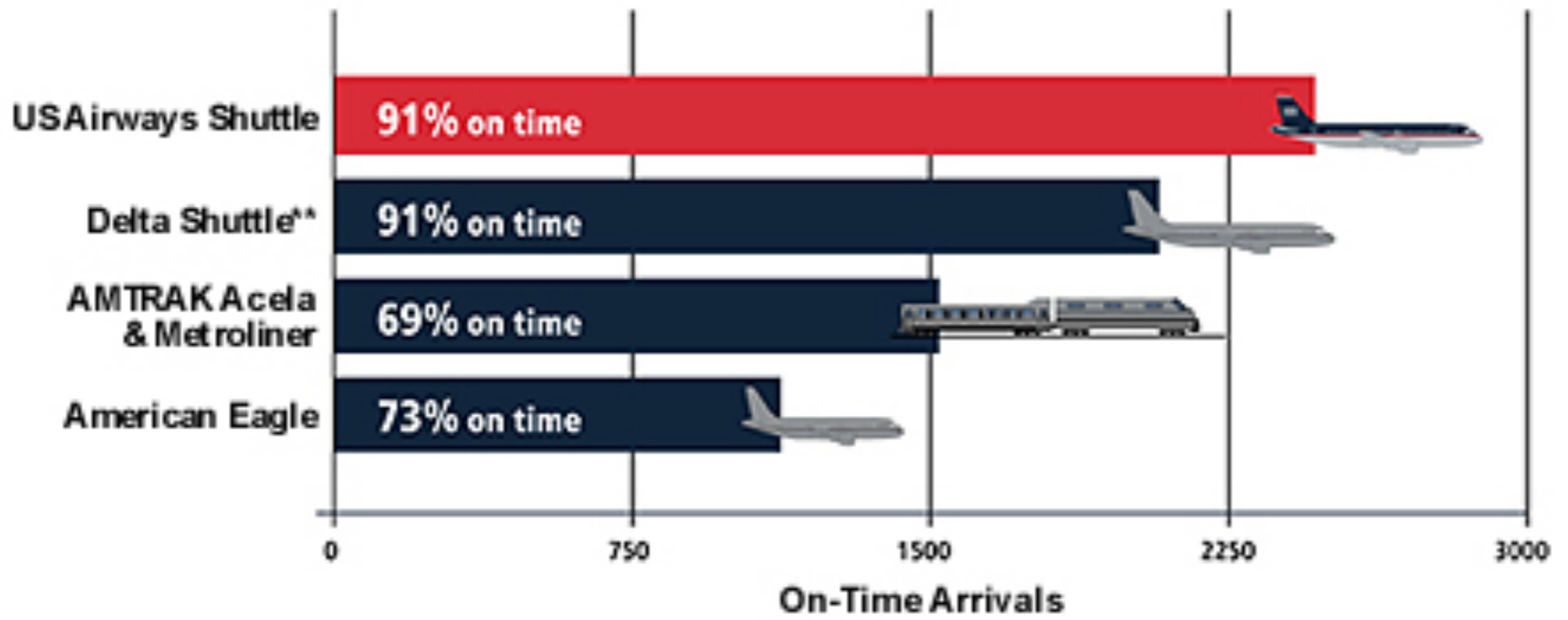


2011

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

EAR WAR AND A TROOP WITHDRAWAL AT THE E NAS FUT 2,292.50

8.6 > 9.0?

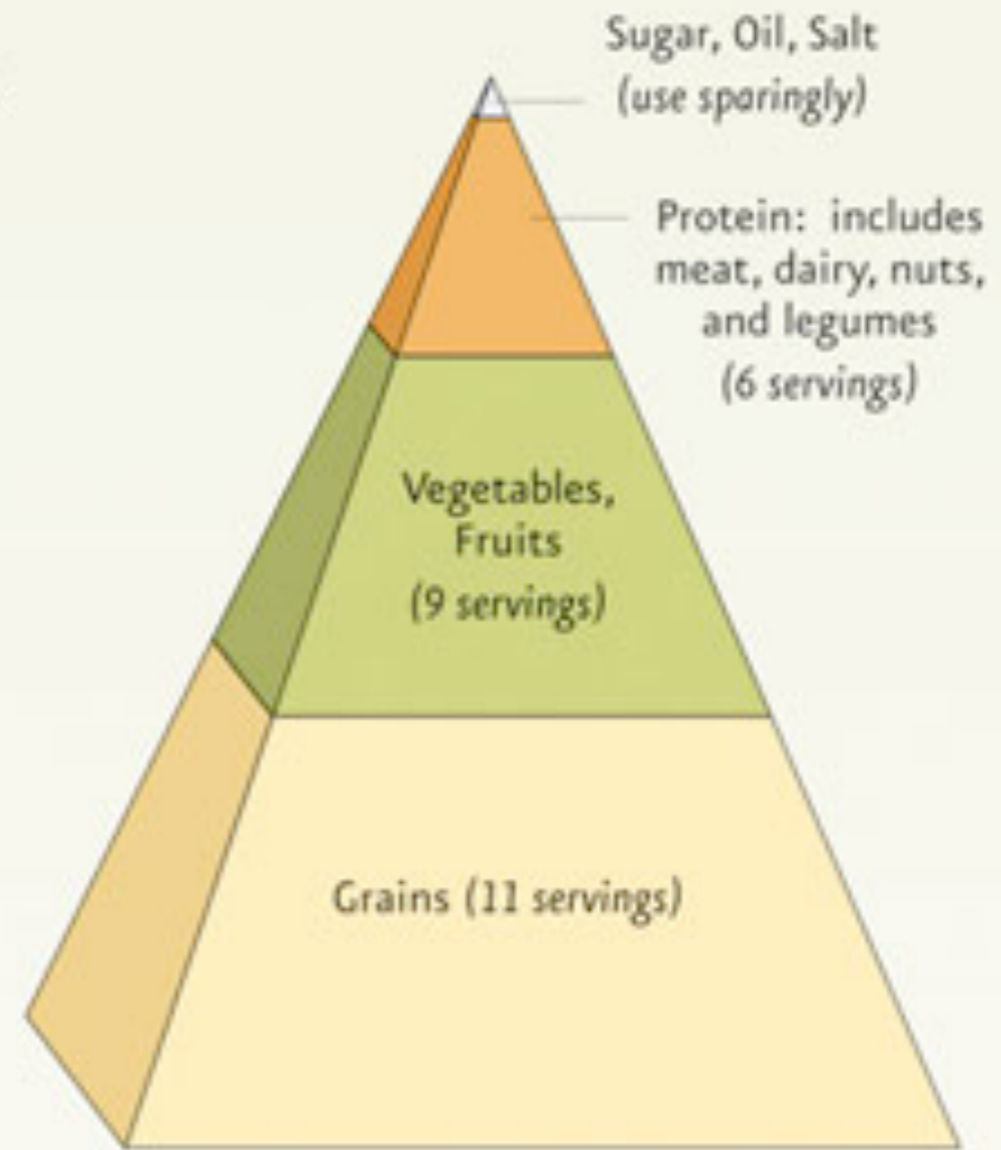
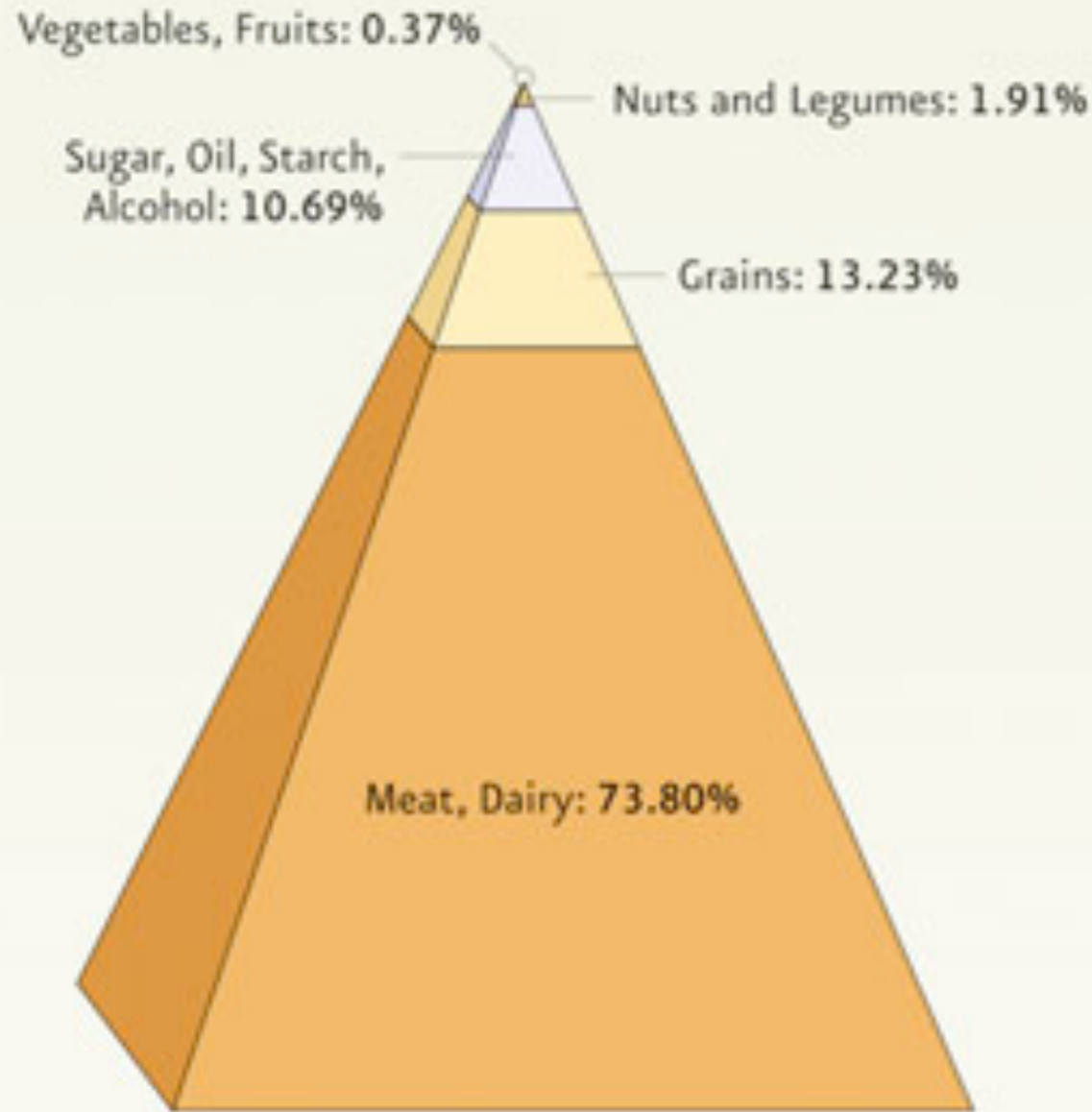


91 > 91?

Why Does a Salad Cost More Than a Big Mac?

Federal Subsidies for Food Production, 1995-2005[®]

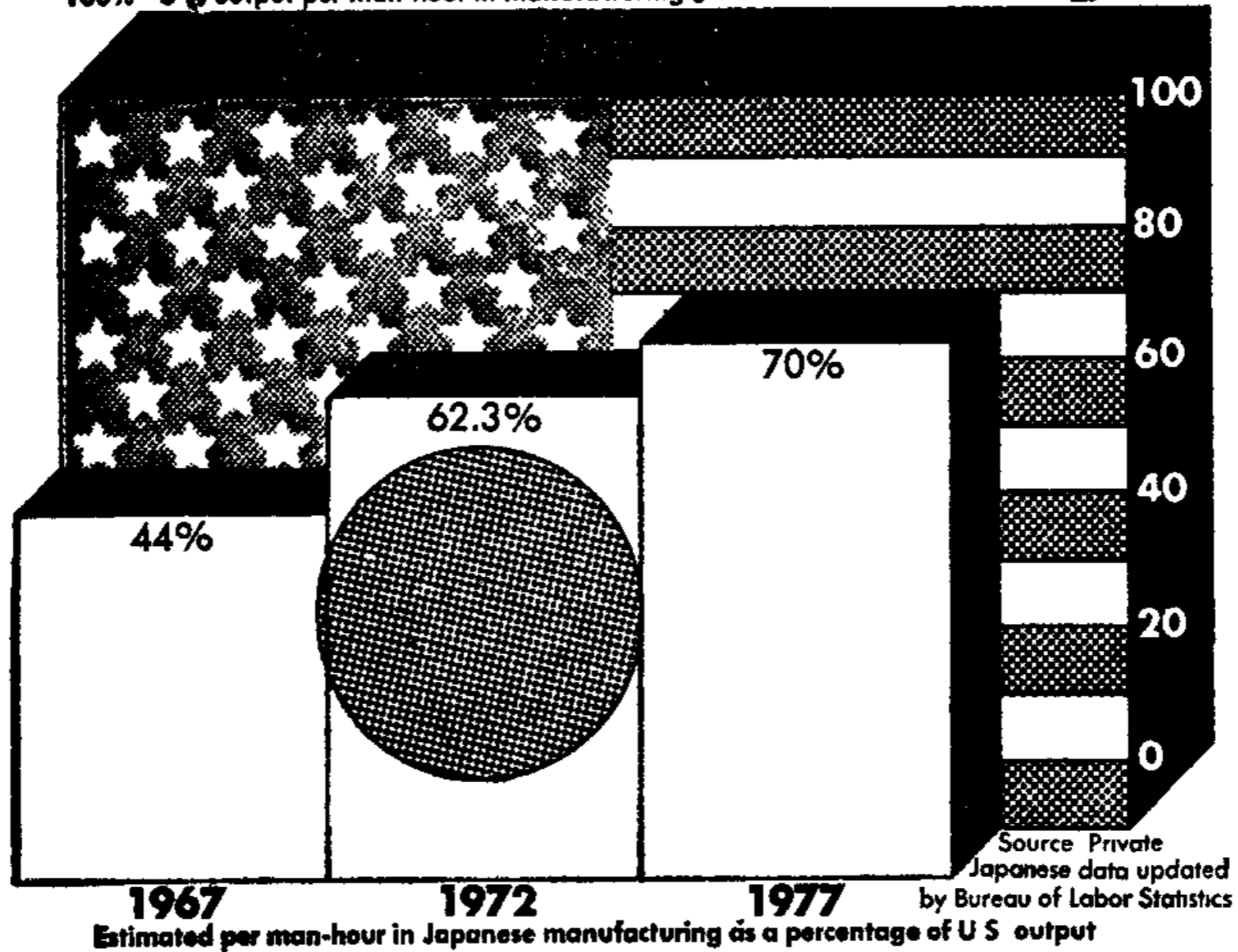
Federal Nutrition Recommendations



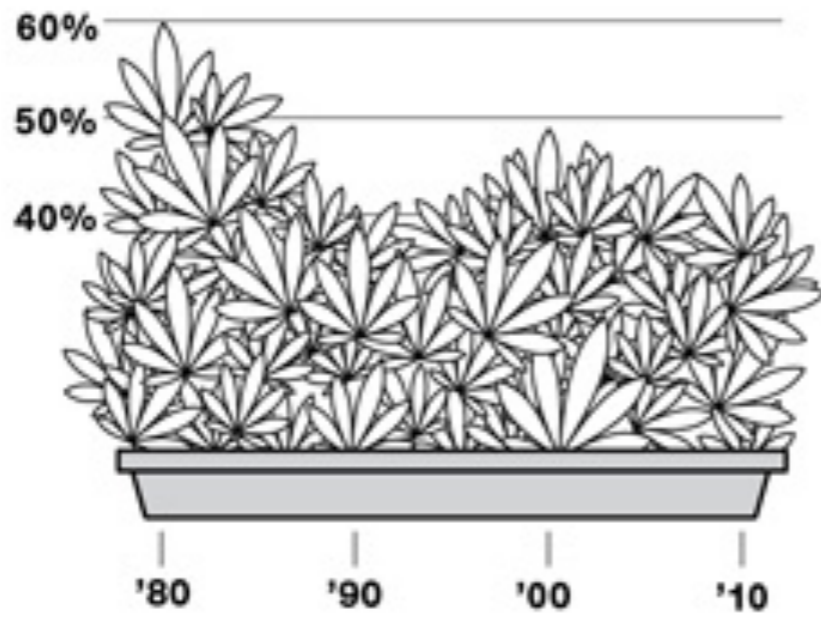
Distorting relative sizes

Labor Productivity: U.S. vs Japan

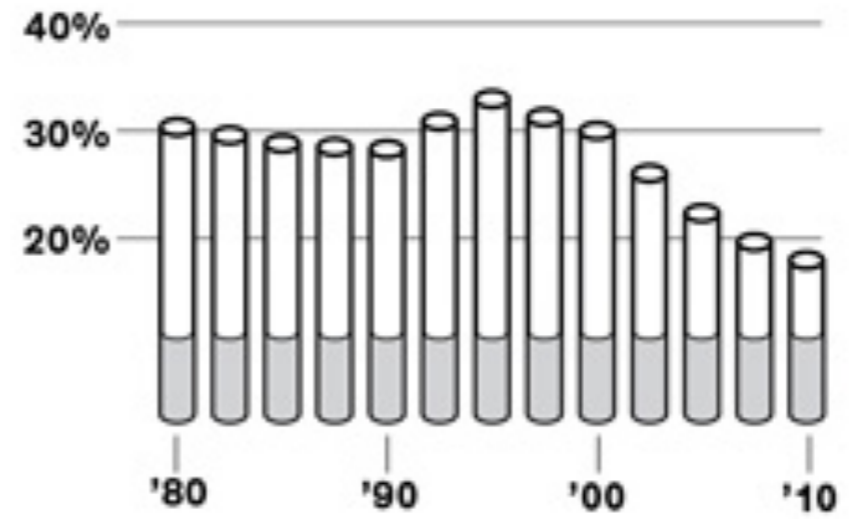
100% = U.S. output per man-hour in manufacturing



Low information density



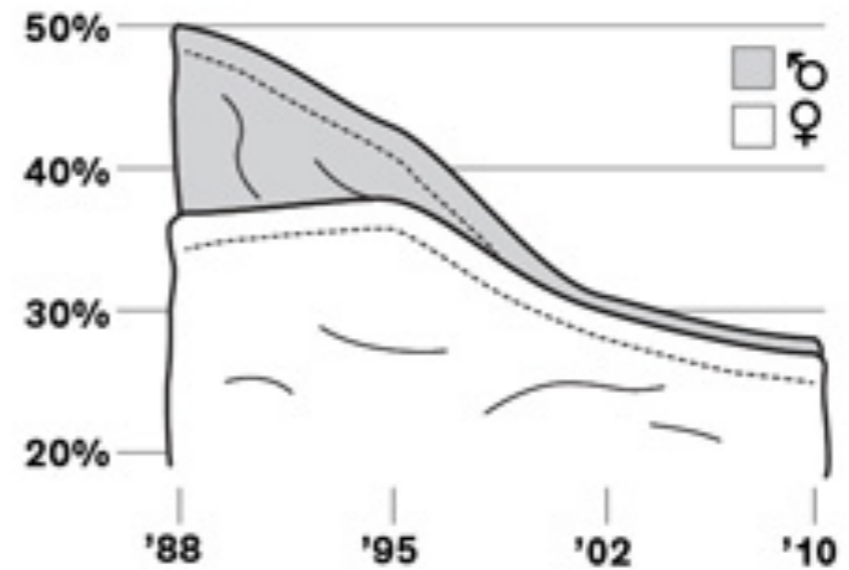
▲ Percentage of high-school seniors who have ever tried pot.



▣ Smoking habits of high-school seniors over time.

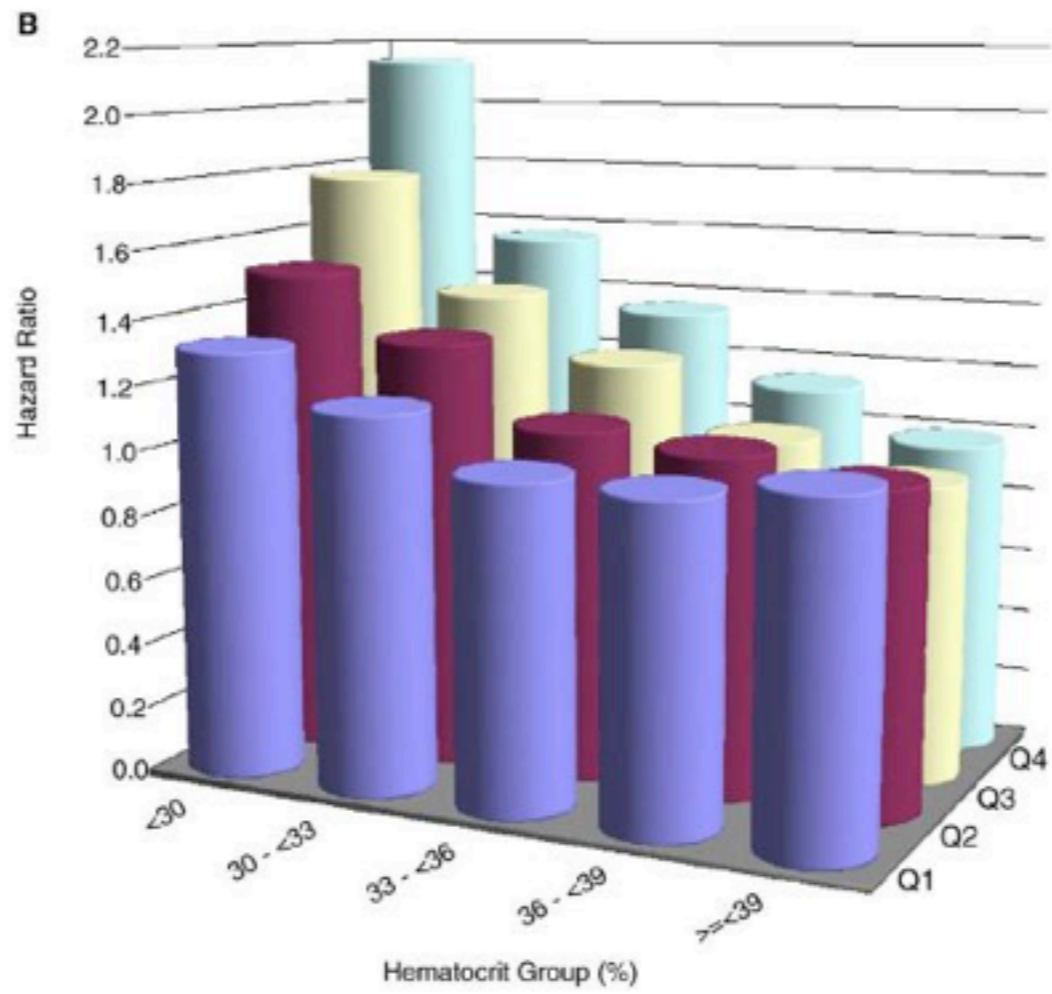
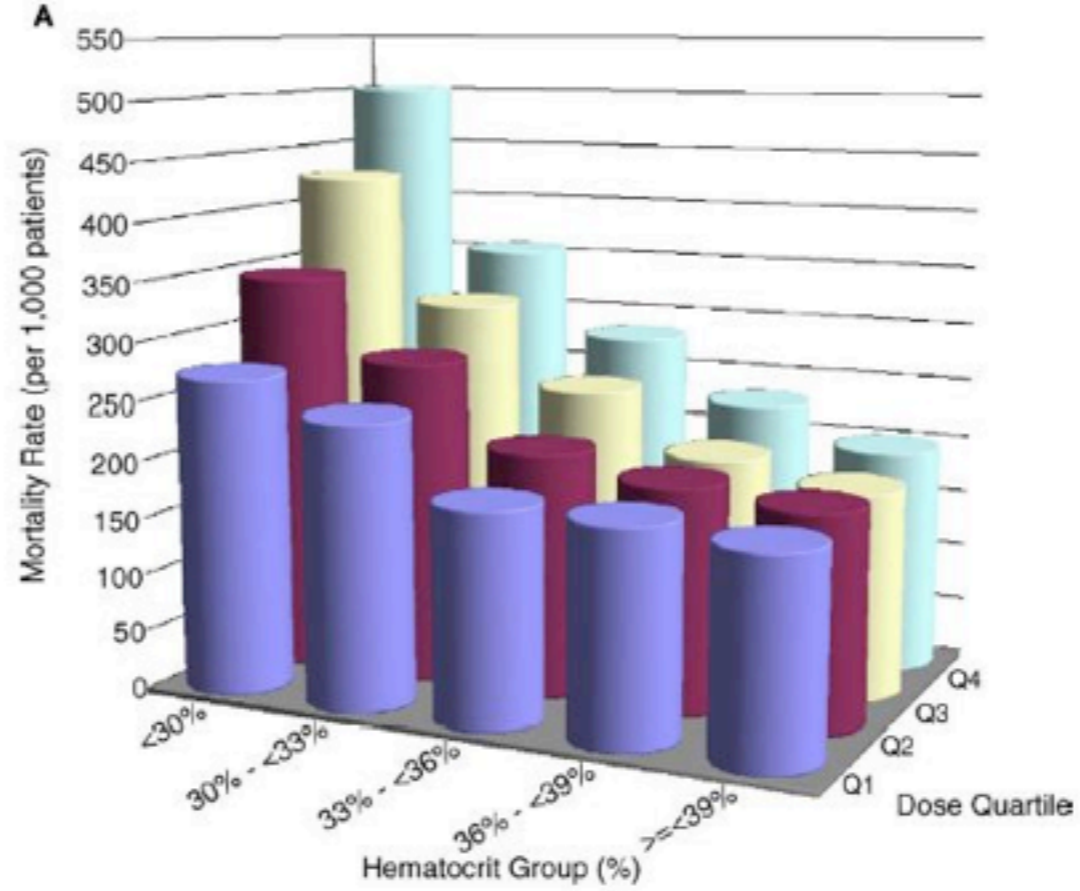


○ Alcohol use by high-school seniors over time.

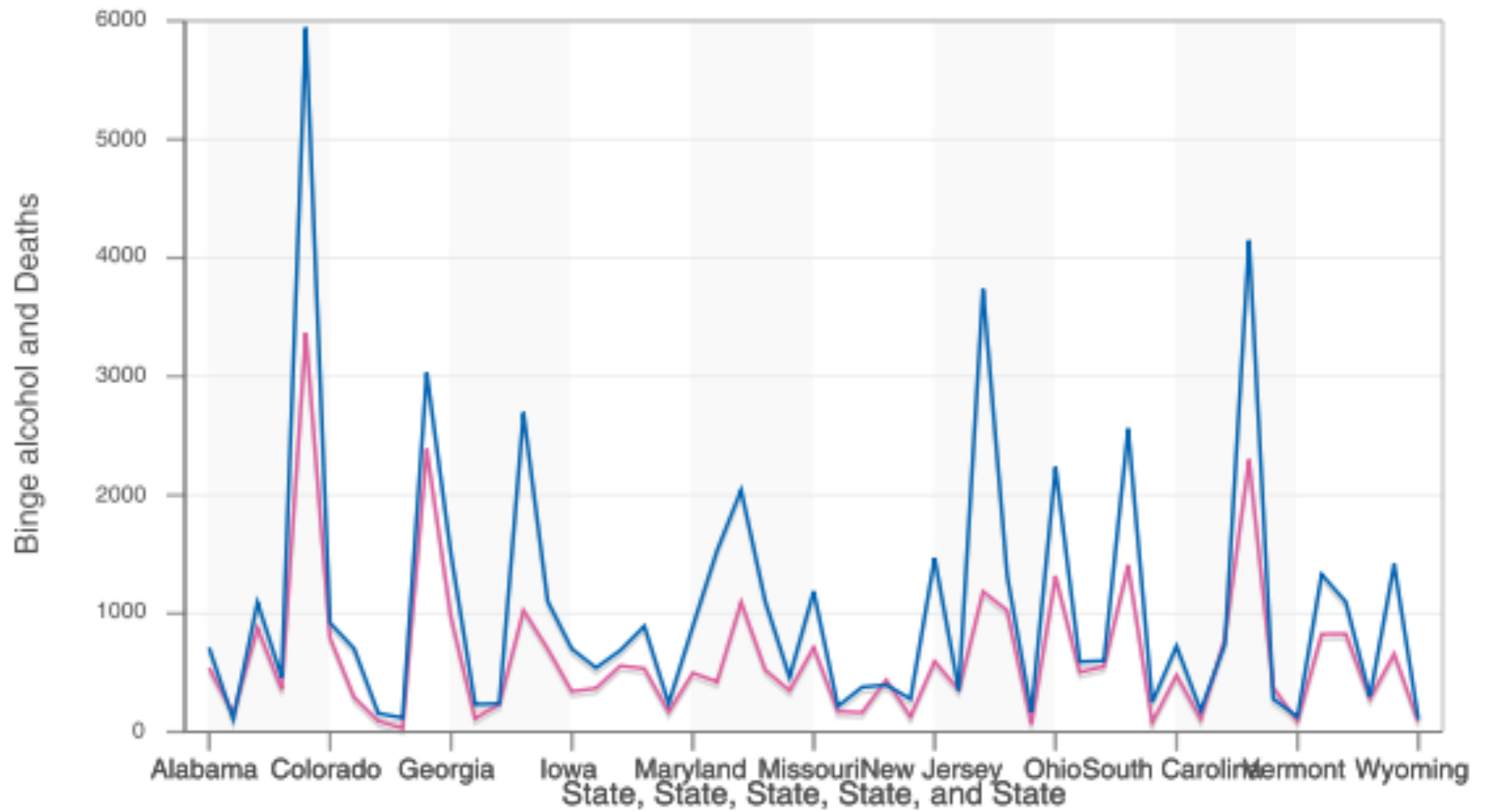


▬ Percentage of 15-to-17-year-olds who have had sex.

Plots should never look ridiculous.



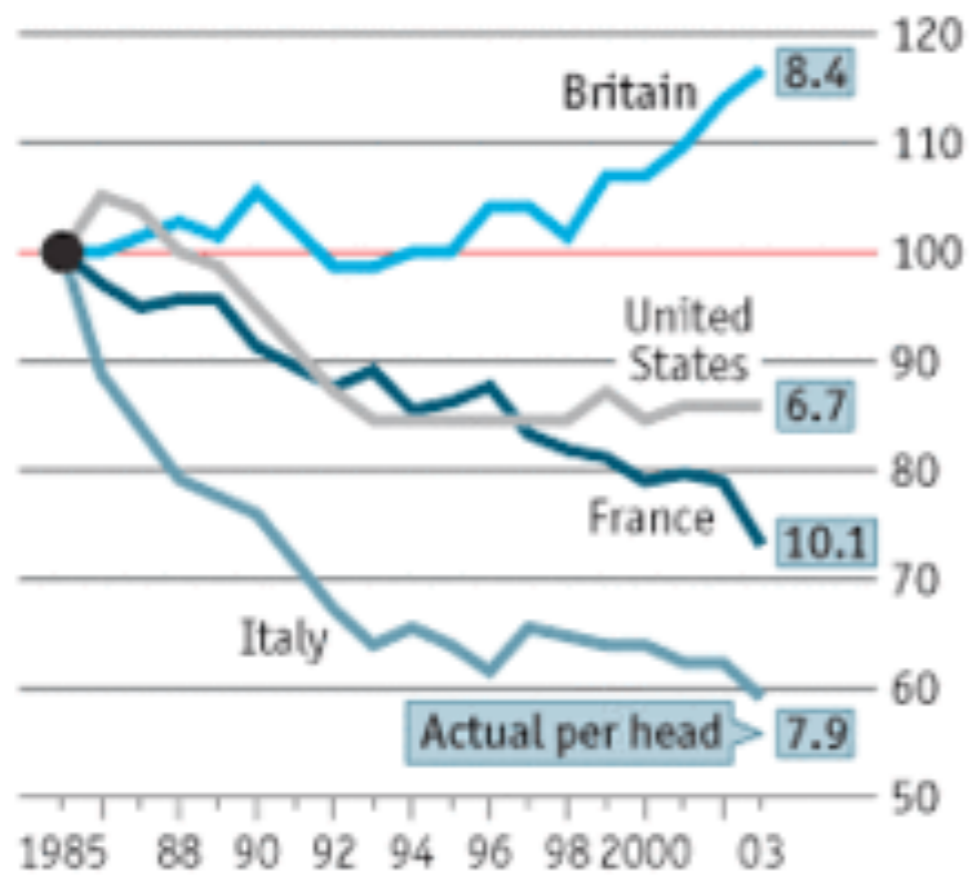
Weird perspective



Axis absurdities; wrong choice of display
No adjustment for population

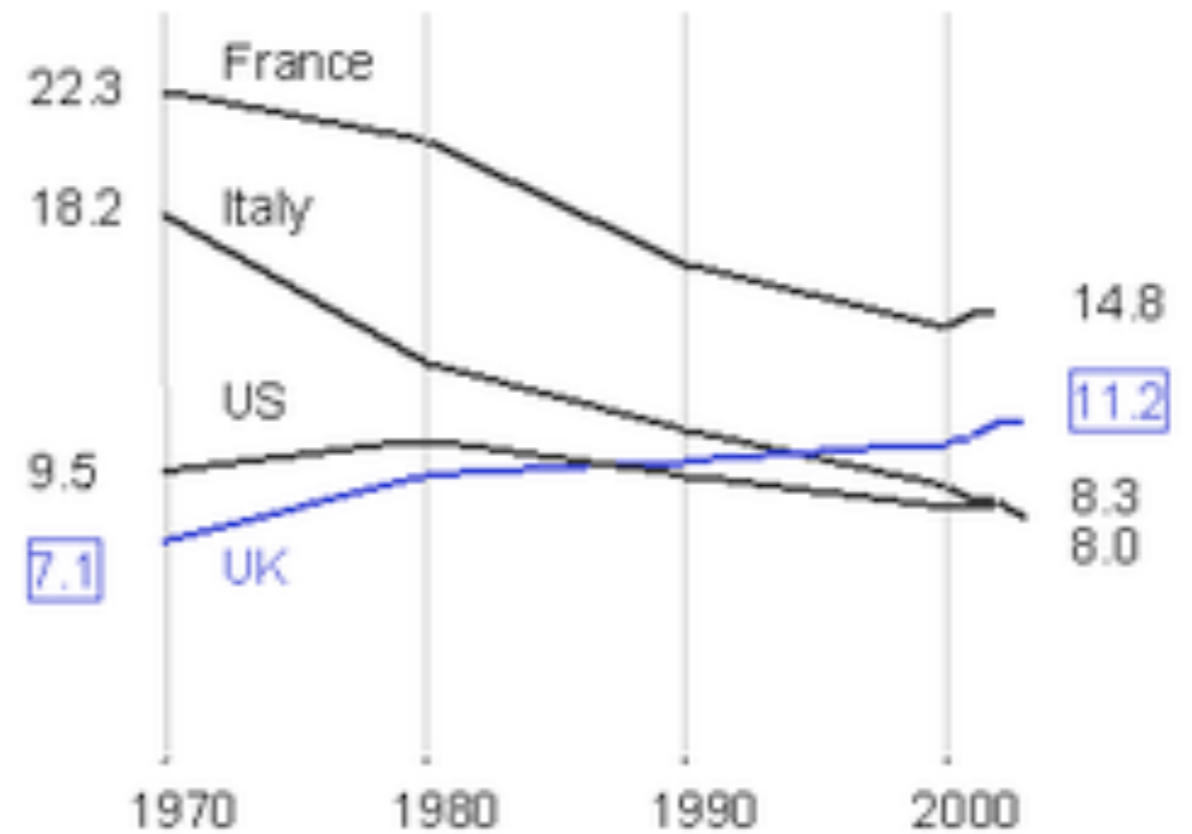
Blotto Britain

Litres per person of 100% alcohol, 1985=100



Source: British Beer & Pub Association

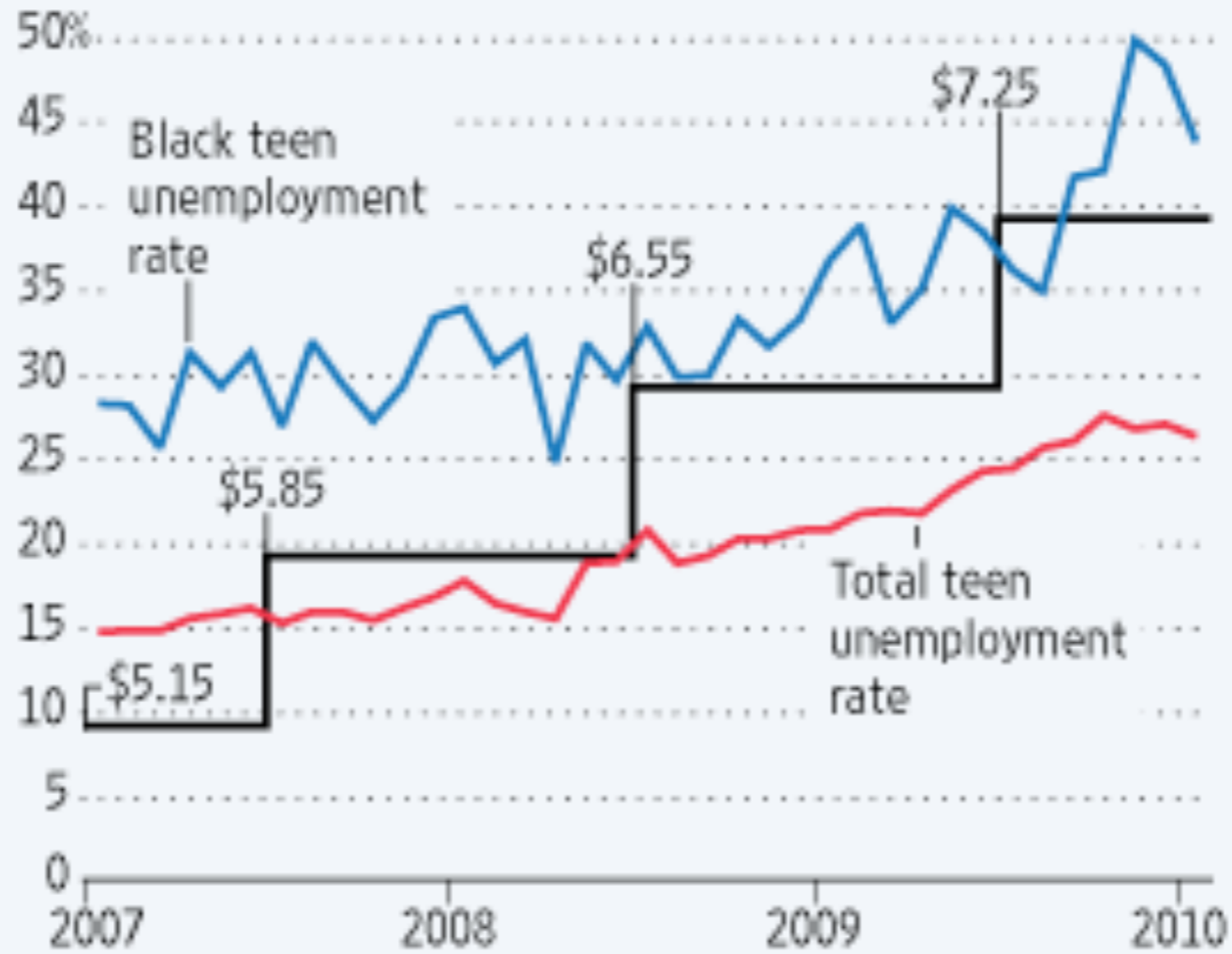
Alcohol Consumption (Litres per person)



Et tu, Economist?

The Young and the Jobless

Teen unemployment rates and minimum wage, 2007-2010



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

What's the lurking variable?

