Useful language for data commentary

Drawing your readers' attention to your graphic

	shows	an overview of X.
	compares	the experimental data on X.
Table 1	presents	the summary statistics for X.
Figure 1	provides	the results obtained from the analysis.
The results of the analysis	are shown	
The identified themes	are set out	
The data obtained from X	are presented	
	are summarised	in Table 1.
		in Figure 1.
Health outcomes improved	as can be seen	
The population fell	as illustrated	
	as shown	

Highlighting important data in your graphic

The second pie chart in Figure 2	identifies	the breakdown of X.
The top half of the table	pinpoints	the fall in population.
The last row of Table 10	highlights	
What stands out in	Figure 6	are X and Y.
Of note in	row 3 of the table	is the high demand for X.
The most interesting aspect of	the second image	
What is striking in		

Commenting on important data in your graphic

A possible explanation for this might be that …

This result may be accounted for by the fact that …

These relationships may partly be explained by …

This inconsistency may be due to …

These results are likely to be related to …

This discrepancy could be attributed to …

Adapted from: https://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/reporting-results/

Describing numbers

Numbers	Most... The most... The majority of ... The greatest number of ... The number went up by 600, from 1200 to 1800.	The least... A minority of ... The least number of ...
Percentages	A high/higher percentage of ... 80% of X The number went up by 50%, from 1200 to 1800.	A low/lower percentage of ... 25% of Y.
Fractions	The greatest part... Three quarters… Just over one fifth… The number went up by half, from 1200 to 1800.	The smallest part... Less than a third… Just under one tenth

To double, -fold, and times

- The number doubled/ trebled/quadrupled between 2004 and 2022.
- A twofold increase occurred between 2002 and 2014.
- The figure in 2016 was six times the 2002 figure.

Prepositions

on average
between X **and** Y
increase **by** X
an average **of** x
at a rate/speed **of**
one **in** ten
20% **of** X
Increase/decrease **from** x **to** y
peak **at** X

On average, Darwin has 10 hours of sunshine each day in August.

Darwin has an average ***of*** 10 hours of sunshine each day in August.

Results show that 25% ***of*** students – or one **in** four - worked two or more casual jobs over summer.

Darwin temperatures in the Dry Season typically range ***between*** 21.6 ***and*** 31.8°C.

Wind gusts ***at*** a speed ***of*** 205km/h were recorded during Cyclone Tracy.

Average rainy days in Darwin decrease ***from*** 20 in February ***to*** 1 in July.

Darwin average rainfall is 252mm in January. It increases ***by*** 174mm in February.

Darwin average rainfall peaks ***at*** 426mm in February.

Making comparisons

X = strong and important
Y = weak
X and Y = expensive

Compared to Y, In contrast to Y, In comparison with Y,	X is strong.	
X is strong.	On the other hand, In contrast,	Y is weak.
X is strong	while / whereas in comparison to compared to	Y is weak. Y.
X is	strong**er than** **more** important **than** **not as** weak **as** **as** expensive **as**	Y.
Like Y, Similar to Y,	X is expensive.	
Both X and Y Neither X nor Y	are expensive. are economical.	