The Art of Choosing the best Graphical Presentation for your Data

Having a bunch of facts and figures without order is as good as not having them, for they confer no meaning. It just contributes to more chaos. Presenting the data collected in an apt manner is an imbibed art, one that is simple if you have the know-how. Data can be presented by tabulation and graphically. Graphical representation allows for visualization of more than just the numbers, abetting interpretation and prediction.

Before choosing a graph, two particulars need to be very clear.

1. What is the purpose of collecting data? – DATA OBJECTIVE
2. What is the type of data collected? – DATA TYPE (Qualitative/Quantitative, Continuous/Discrete)

Based on these, the best graphical representation can be selected to present the data in a meaningful manner.
What is your objective

- Graph the distribution of data
  - Continuous data
  - Count data
  - Qualitative data
- Graph variables over time
  - Continuous and Discrete data
- Graph relationships between variables