

## Describing Trends

Trends are changes or movements. We can describe trends in English in various ways.

### Verbs of change

There are a number of verbs which we can use to describe different trends. Both transitive and intransitive verbs can be used to describe trends.

We must put an object after a transitive verb:

*The government plans to **raise** the basic level of income tax.*

We cannot put an object after an intransitive verb:

*The basic level of income tax **will rise** later this year.*

Here are some examples:

Upward movement		Downward movement	
Transitive	Intransitive	Transitive	Intransitive
increase raise put/push/step up extend expand improve	increase rise go/be up grow expand boom rocket soar gain improve advance	decrease drop put/push down cut reduce	decrease fall drop go/be down decline collapse slump plummet plunge tumble dip slip

We can also describe a lack of movement using expressions such as 'remain stable' or 'stay constant'.

*The demand for gold has remained stable since the beginning of the year.*

## Nouns of change

Many of the verbs of change also have a noun form which is also used to describe change.

Upward movement	Downward movement
increase	decrease
rise	fall
growth	drop
extension	decline
expansion	cut
boom	reduction
gain	collapse
improvement	slump
	dip

## Other expressions

### To fluctuate

We use this expression to describe when there has been a series of changes both up and down.

*Prices have **fluctuated** wildly since the beginning of the year.*

### To stand at

We use this expression to focus on a particular point, often before we talk about the trends of movement.

*At the beginning of the year, sales in India **stood at** €200,000.*

### To reach a peak

We use this expression to talk about the highest point of a trend.

*Late last year, sales of our new product **reached a peak** of 12,000 units.*

### To bottom out

We use this expression to talk about the lowest point of a trend.

*The share price of OPP bank **bottomed out** at €1.50.*

### To level off

We use this expression to talk about the point when a changing trend becomes stable.

*After a long period of decline, the share price finally **levelled off** at €5.25.*