Tufte on Graphics

Tufte's Graphical Guidance

Edward Tufte is a pioneer in the study graphical design. His books are classics in the field and well worth the read. He begins his book, *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*, as follows:

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- *Be closely integrated with the statistical and verbal descriptions of a data set."*

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- And graphical excellence requires telling the truth about the data.

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Regardless of the intention of the purveyor of a statistical graphic, Tufte would say that insofar as the graphic fails to tell the truth about the data, it lacks integrity.

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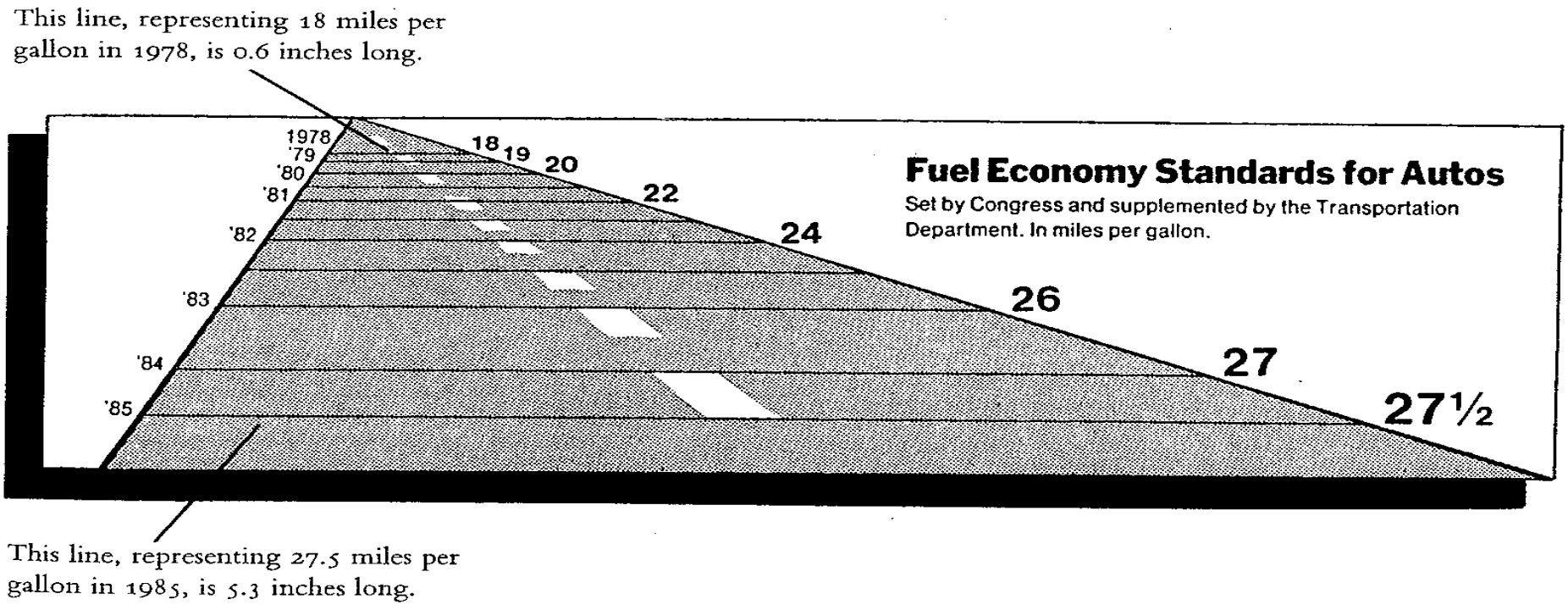

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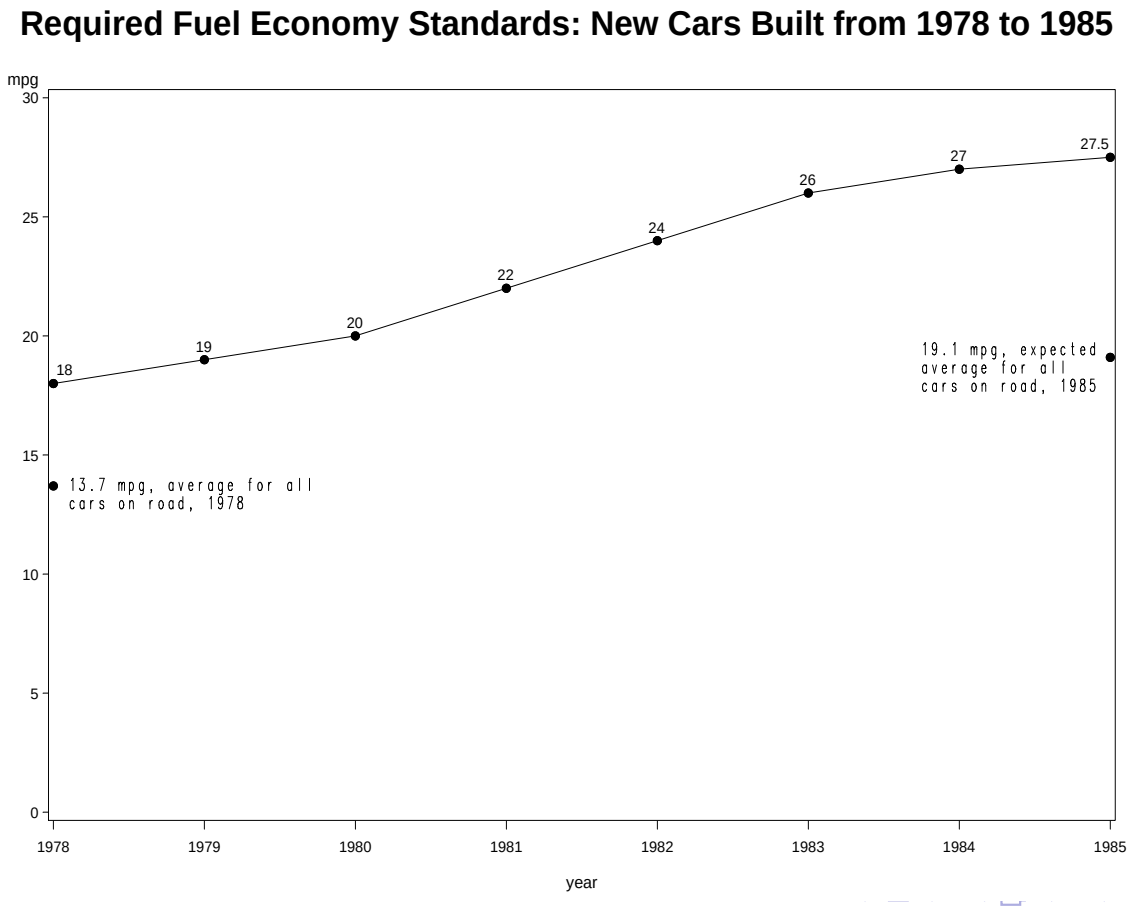

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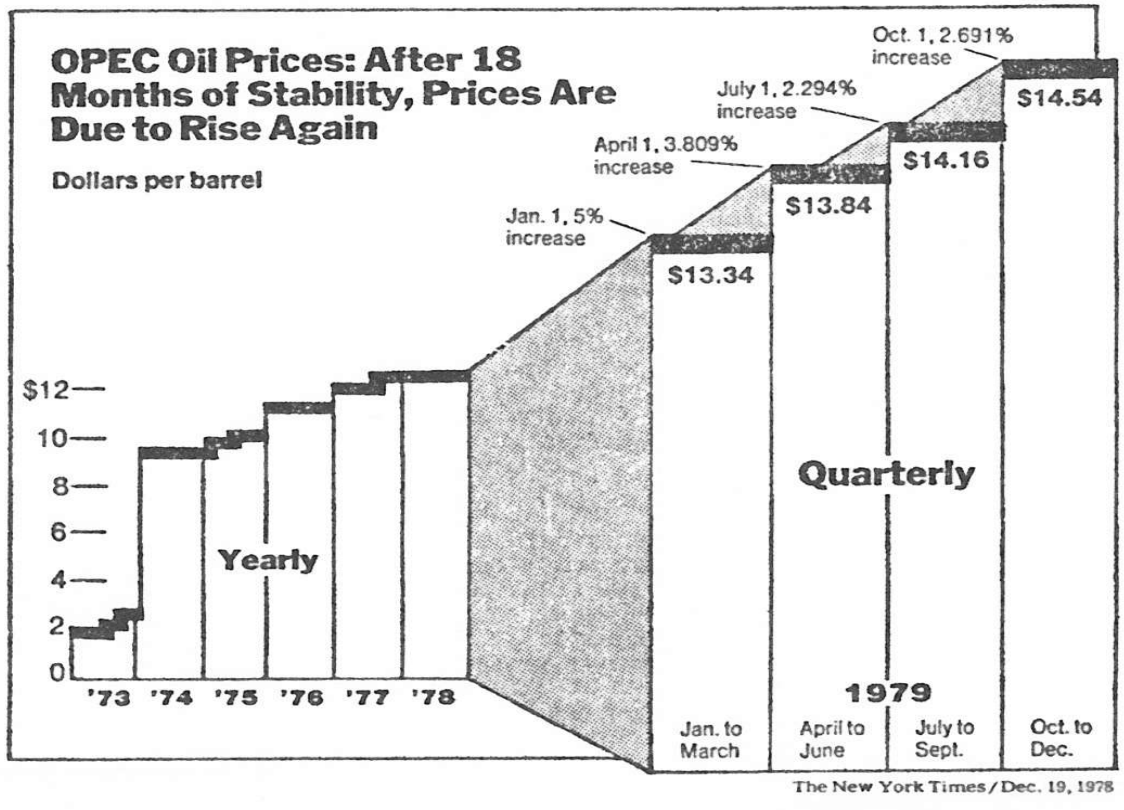

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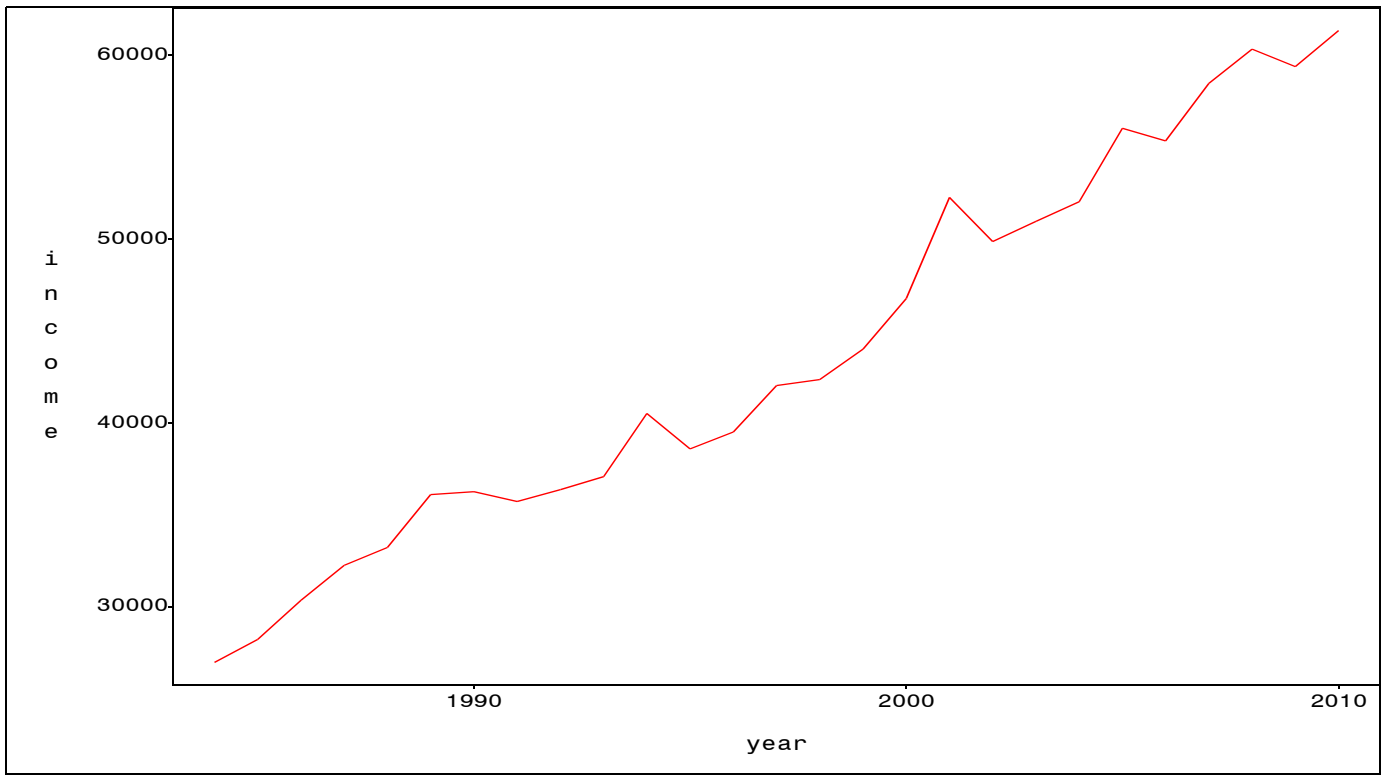
MA median income looks pretty good:



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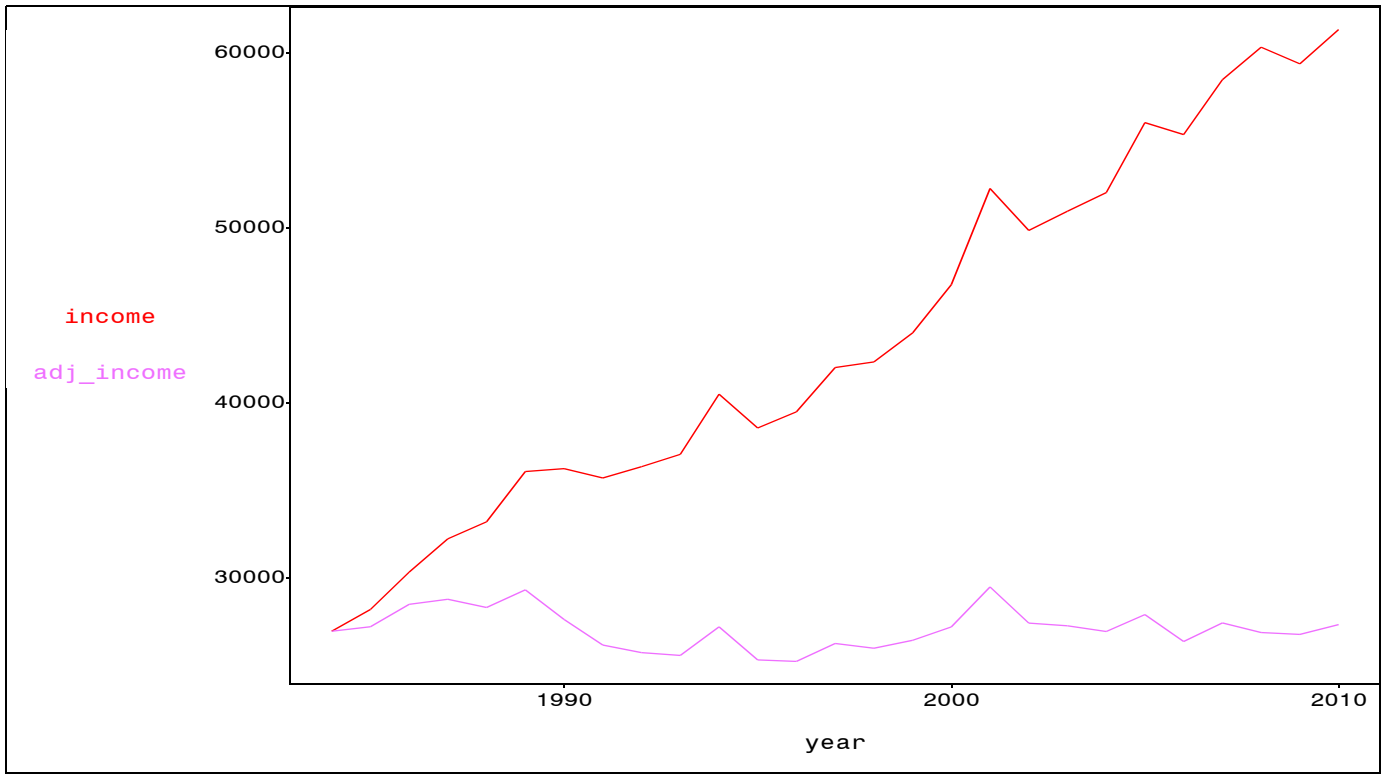
Until you adjust it for inflation:



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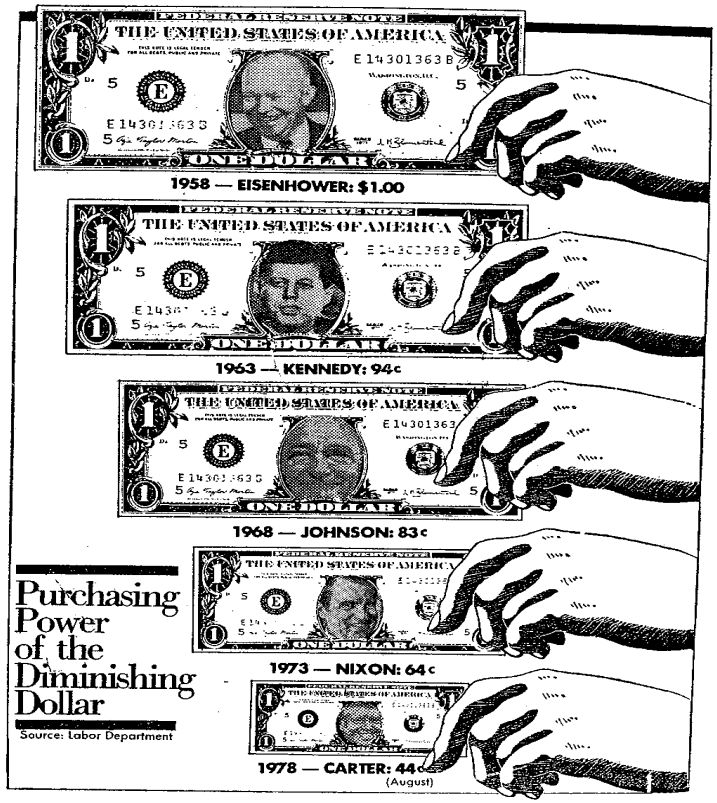

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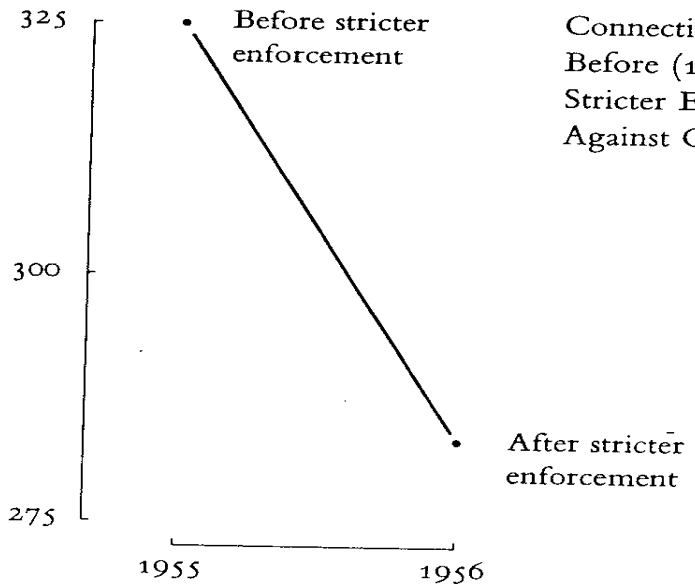
This looks impressive:



Connecticut Traffic Deaths, Before (1955) and After (1956) Stricter Enforcement by the Police Against Cars Exceeding Speed limit

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But it doesn't tell the whole story:

A few more data points add immensely to the account: