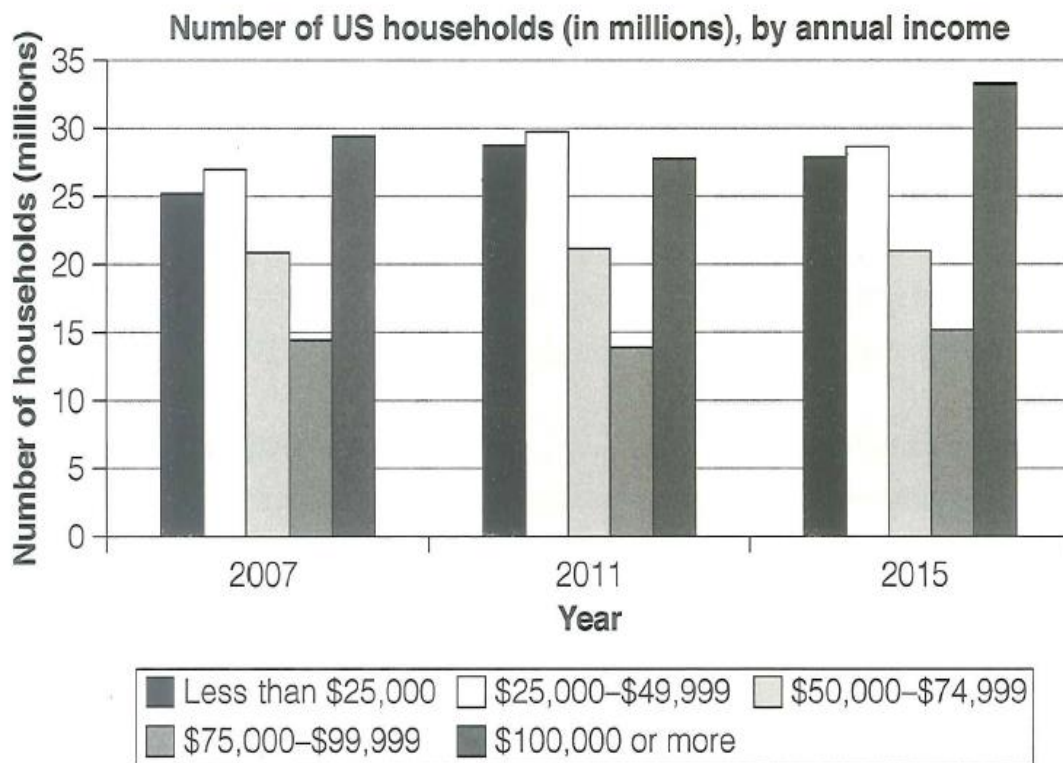


The chart below shows the number of households in the US by their annual income in 2007, 2011 and 2015.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



The bar chart illustrates data about the US households based on their annual income in three different years: 2007, 2011 and 2015. The unit is measured in millions in five subdivided categories starting from less than 25,000 usd to 100,000 usd or more.

Comments:

Unit of Measurement: While you did mention the unit of measurement, your phrasing could be more precise. Instead of saying "The unit is measured in millions," a clearer and more grammatically correct version would be, "The unit of measurement is in millions."

- **Accuracy:** The phrasing "The unit is measured in millions" is a bit ambiguous and may lead to interpretation. However, when you say "The unit of measurement is in millions," it directly conveys the scale on which the data has been presented.
- **Grammar:** The corrected phrase is also more grammatically accurate. In the original phrasing, it's not entirely clear what "unit" refers to or what is being "measured." The revised phrase clears up this ambiguity.

Actually, by paying close attention to language clarity and terminology, you can significantly improve the quality of your IELTS Task 1 report, thus enhancing your chances of scoring a higher band.

Overall, households with an annual income of 100,000 **usd** or more were the **most preferred ones** while the one with 75,000-99,999 **usd** was recorded as the least **successful business**.

Comments:

Data Representation: You've used the term "most preferred ones" to describe the households with an income of \$100,000 or more. The use of the word "preferred" implies a choice or selection, suggesting that these households are more favorable or selected by some criterion. However, the chart merely shows the distribution of households across different income levels. It doesn't comment on preference or any kind of selection. This is a serious misinterpretation of the data, as it changes the context and meaning entirely.

The key point here is to accurately represent what the chart is showing. When you say "preferred," it could imply that there's some level of choice or desirability associated with those households, which isn't information that the chart provides. The chart only shows

numerical data about how many households fall into each income category, without making any judgments or qualifications about those categories.

Currency Formatting: You used the lowercase 'usd' to represent U.S. dollars, which is not the standard way to represent this currency. The standard format uses uppercase letters: "USD."

While this may seem like a minor point, standardized notations are crucial in academic and data-driven writing. The use of 'USD' is universally understood and accepted, and adhering to such standards helps maintain the integrity of your writing.

Data Source: You have incorrectly referred to the information as being about "**businesses**," when in fact, the chart is about "**households**." This is a significant error because it changes the subject of the data, thereby altering the context in which the information should be interpreted.

- **Topic Accuracy:** The term "households" refers to domestic living situations, including families, couples, or single individuals residing in a home. "Businesses," on the other hand, refers to commercial organizations that aim to profit from goods or services. Mixing up these terms doesn't just create confusion; it changes the meaning of what the chart is about.
- **Impact on Reader:** Using the wrong subject term might confuse the examiner into thinking that the chart is about the financial success or revenue of businesses, instead of the income levels of households. This can have a significant impact on how the rest of the text is interpreted.
- **Influence on Band Score:** Inaccurate interpretation of the data can be a significant hindrance in scoring higher bands. IELTS expects a high level of accuracy in interpreting and describing data, and mistakes in identifying the core subject matter of the data could lead to lower scores.

Obviously, businesses with an annual income of 50,000-74,999 usd had been unchanged - 21% -in the given three periods. Similarly, businesses that generated an annual income from 75,000 usd to 99,999 usd showed almost the same trend with an unnoticeable change, staying at around 15%.

Comments:

Incorrect Data Points: You included percentages in your description, which aren't present in the chart. The chart provides data in millions, not percentages. Introducing percentages where they don't exist is a significant mistake that can significantly impact your band score in IELTS Writing Task 1.

- **Data Accuracy:** The IELTS Writing Task 1 primarily tests your ability to accurately interpret and describe graphical information. Introducing elements that are not present, like percentages, undermines the integrity of your description.
- **Score Impact:** One of the primary scoring criteria for IELTS Writing Task 1 is 'Task Achievement,' which looks at whether you've fulfilled the requirements of the task, including accurate data representation. Introducing incorrect data points can seriously affect this part of your score.

As for the households in the US with an annual income of less than 25,000 usd and 25,000-49,999 usd, they initially increased in 2011 and hit around 28 million and 30 million usd, respectively. However, they experienced a downward trend in 2015 and held a position of 25% and 28%, accordingly. Finally, businesses with an annual income of 100,000 usd or more had an opposite trend: first, it decreased from 29% to 27% and then increased up to 33%, roughly.

[Word count: 196 words, Time limit: 18 mins]

Comments:

Grammar: While your general sentence structure is good, there are instances where you could opt for clearer and simpler language. For example, the phrase "had been unchanged" could be simplified to "remained constant."

- **Clarity:** Using simpler terms can make your text more accessible and easier to understand. "Remained constant" is a clear, straightforward phrase that conveys the same meaning as "had been unchanged," but in a more direct manner.
- **Readability:** Simplicity often improves readability. By opting for simpler phrases, you make it easier for the reader to quickly grasp your points, which is essential in a test setting where time is limited.
- **Flow and Cohesion:** Opting for simpler language can also help maintain a smooth flow in your writing. Complex phrases or awkward sentence structures can disrupt this flow and make it harder for the reader to follow your line of thought.

Score

Task Achievement: 6 Your report falls short in several key areas that are crucial for meeting the criteria for Task Achievement in IELTS Writing Task 1.

- **Subject Matter:** One of the most glaring issues is the incorrect identification of the subject matter. The chart is about 'households' and their 'annual income,' not businesses or their success levels. A precise and accurate understanding of the subject is fundamental in Task Achievement.
- **Data Accuracy:** Another significant shortcoming is the inclusion of percentages, which are not part of the original chart. The chart presents the data in absolute numbers (millions), and introducing percentages can be misleading. This could severely impact your score, as Task Achievement focuses heavily on accurate data representation.
- **Misleading Terminology:** The use of the term 'preferred' to describe the category of households earning 100,000 USD or more is misleading. Task Achievement also encompasses the clarity and appropriateness of your language. The word 'preferred' suggests choice, which is not what the data represents; it's about the frequency of households in different income brackets.

Coherence and Cohesion: 7 Your report exhibits some strengths but also several areas where improvement is needed concerning Coherence and Cohesion, which are integral parts of the IELTS Writing Task 1 criteria.

1. **Transitional Phrases:** You use transitional words like "Similarly" and "As for," but they don't significantly contribute to the clarity of your report. "Similarly" was used to compare two different income brackets but didn't really clarify how they were similar.
 - **Example:** Instead of "Similarly, businesses that generated an annual income from 75,000 USD to 99,999 USD showed almost the same trend," you could say, "In a similar vein, the households in the 75,000-99,999 USD income bracket displayed a relatively steady trend as well."
2. **Referencing the Data:** Your report could do more to tie back your observations to the data from the chart. As a result, readers may find it challenging to relate your descriptions to the data.
 - **Example:** Instead of saying "they initially increased in 2011 and hit around 28 million and 30 million USD, respectively," explicitly tie it back to the chart like, "According to the chart, the number of households earning less than 25,000 USD increased in 2011, reaching approximately 28 million."

These adjustments will vastly improve the coherence and cohesion of your report, thus increasing the likelihood of a higher IELTS band score.

Lexical Resource: 7 While you have made an effort to incorporate diverse vocabulary into your report, several issues need to be addressed for a higher Lexical Resource score in your IELTS Writing Task 1.

1. **Inappropriate Word Choices:** Terms like 'preferred' and 'successful' don't accurately represent what the data is showing. These words imply a qualitative assessment, whereas the data is quantitative. Inappropriate vocabulary can confuse the reader and detract from the report's clarity.
2. **Vocabulary Precision:** Phrases like "had been unchanged" and "unnoticeable change" could be made more precise. For example, "remained constant" and

"minimal fluctuation" are more accurate and would elevate the lexical quality of your report.

3. **Spelling and Capitalization:** Pay attention to small details. For example, 'USD' should be in all caps as it's an abbreviation. Inconsistencies like these can lower the overall perception of your lexical proficiency.
4. **Collocations and Fixed Phrases:** Use phrases that naturally go together to improve fluency. For instance, rather than saying "most preferred ones," a more suitable term would be "highest-earning households."
5. **Repetition:** Be cautious of repeating certain terms or phrases, such as "annual income." You can use synonyms like "yearly earnings" to provide variation and maintain reader engagement.

Grammar: 7 Your report shows an understanding of sentence structures and general grammatical rules, but there are several areas where improvements can be made for a higher IELTS score in Grammar.

1. **Inconsistent Tenses:** The use of tenses in the report is somewhat inconsistent. For instance, "had been unchanged - 21%" uses the past perfect tense unnecessarily. In academic reporting, it's important to maintain a consistent tense when describing static data.
 - **Example:** Instead of "had been unchanged," simply saying "remained unchanged" would be more appropriate.
2. **Ambiguous Pronouns:** Phrases like "they initially increased" could cause confusion as the pronoun "they" could refer to multiple subjects. It's crucial to be clear about what or who the pronoun is referring to.
 - **Example:** "As for the households with an annual income of less than 25,000 USD and 25,000-49,999 USD, these categories initially increased in 2011."
3. **Conjunctions and Linking Words:** The use of conjunctions like "However" and "Similarly" are generally good, but sometimes they don't serve to clarify the

relationship between the sentences they are connecting. Ensure that your conjunctions and linking words are enhancing the clarity of your argument.

- **Example:** Instead of just stating "However, they experienced a downward trend," it might be more clarifying to say, "However, these categories showed a decrease in numbers in 2015."

By paying attention to these areas, you'll not only enhance the grammatical accuracy of your report but also make it easier for the examiner to follow your descriptions.

Overall Band Score: 7.0

A Band 9 Sample Report

The bar chart delineates the distribution of households in the United States according to various annual income brackets in the years 2007, 2011, and 2015. These figures are represented in millions and cover five distinct income categories, ranging from under \$25,000 to \$100,000 or more.

A salient feature of the data is the incremental growth in the number of households earning \$100,000 or more, starting from a modest 30 million in 2007 to reaching approximately 34 million by 2015. This category is in stark contrast to the household income bracket of \$75,000 to \$99,999, which experienced the least variability and hovered around 14 million across the observed years.

Interestingly, the households with incomes between \$50,000 and \$74,999 demonstrated remarkable stability, consistently maintaining a count close to 21 million throughout the years in question. Conversely, the lowest income brackets—those earning less than \$25,000 and those within the \$25,000 to \$49,999 range—saw initial peaks in 2011, with counts reaching 28 and 30 million respectively, but subsequently declined to levels slightly below their 2007 figures by 2015.

Conversely, the mid-range income category of \$25,000 to \$49,999 deserves particular mention as it underwent a notable oscillation. After an initial uptick in 2011, it reversed its trajectory and settled at around 28 million households in 2015.

Questions and Answers

Q1: May I use synonyms of household such as “business”?

Answer: No, the term "business" is not an appropriate synonym for "household" in the context of this chart. The chart specifically discusses households, and using "business" could be misleading and inaccurate. IELTS values precision in language, and the terms are not interchangeable in this context.

Q2: If I repeat the same word over and over such as “businesses with an annual income of” or “households with an annual income of”, since I do not have other alternative, IS IT OKAY?

Answer: While repetition is generally discouraged in order to display a wide lexical range, there are situations where you might not have an alternative. In this case, since the chart specifically talks about "households," you can repeat the term when necessary. However, you can also use some rephrasing techniques to avoid excessive repetition. For example, you can say "those earning between \$25,000 and \$49,999" or "the category falling under \$25,000" as alternative ways to express the same idea without repetition.

Q3: Am I also going to be wordy? Is being wordy such as expressing my opinion with a long sentence instead of short one a problem?

Answer: Wordiness can be a concern if it hampers clarity and coherence. IELTS examiners look for concise and clear expression of ideas. Long sentences are not inherently problematic, but they can become so if they lead to lack of clarity or if they're used unnecessarily. Your goal should be to convey information in a way that is both detailed and easy to understand. A mix of both long and short sentences is generally the best approach to maintain reader engagement and demonstrate linguistic versatility.