

decrease

1. [ˈdi:kri:s] *n*

- уменьшение, убывание; понижение, ослабление; спад
- decrease of a swelling - уменьшение опухоли
- decrease in population - уменьшение населения
- a small decrease in production - небольшой спад производства
- decrease in speed [in current] - падение скорости [напряжения]
- to be on the decrease - идти на убыль
- our imports are on the decrease - наш импорт сокращается
- cases of this sort are on the decrease - случаев такого рода всё меньше и меньше

2. [di:'kri:s] *v*

- 1) уменьшать; убавлять, сокращать
 - to decrease export [import] - сокращать вывоз [ввоз]
 - to decrease the number to ten [by ten] - уменьшить число до десяти [на десять]
- 2) убывать; уменьшаться, убавляться, сокращаться; идти на убыль
 - to decrease in size [in number, in extent] - уменьшаться в размере [в количестве, в объёме]
 - the population is decreasing - население сокращается
 - temperature decreases - температура падает
 - his influence slowly decreased - его влияние постепенно уменьшалось
 - fears decrease - страхи исчезают

decrease

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

de-crease [decrease decreases decreased decreasing] **verb, noun**
verb *BrE* [di'kri:ʃ] ; *NAmE* [di'kri:ʃ] **intransitive, transitive** (rather formal)

- to become or make sth become smaller in size, number, etc
 - ~ **(from sth) (to sth)** The number of new students decreased from 210 to 160 this year.
 - a decreasing population
 - Donations have decreased significantly over the past few years.
 - ~ **by sth** The price of wheat has decreased by 5%.
 - ~ **in sth** This species of bird is decreasing in numbers every year.
 - ~ **sth** People should decrease the amount of fat they eat.

Opp: ↑increase

Verb forms:

| verb forms | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| present simple | |
| I / you / we /they | decrease |
| | <i>BrE</i> /di'kri:s/ |
| | <i>NAmE</i> /di'kri:s/ |
| he / she /it | decreases |
| | <i>BrE</i> /di'kri:sɪz/ |
| | <i>NAmE</i> /di'kri:sɪz/ |
| past simple, past participle | decreased |
| | <i>BrE</i> /di'kri:st/ |
| | <i>NAmE</i> /di'kri:st/ |
| -ing form | decreasing |
| | <i>BrE</i> /di'kri:sɪŋ/ |
| | <i>NAmE</i> /di'kri:sɪŋ/ |

Word Origin:

late Middle English: from Old French **decreis** (noun), **decreistre** (verb), based on Latin **decrescere**, from **de-** 'down' + **crescere** 'grow'.

Thesaurus:

decrease verb

1. I (formal)

- The number of students has decreased this year.
- fall** • **drop** • **decline** • **come down** • **diminish** • **especially business sink** • **slump** • **plunge** • **plummet** • **tumble**

Opp: increase

- decrease/fall/drop/decline/come down/diminish/sink/slump/plunge/plummet/tumble **by** 100, 25%, a half, etc.
- decrease/fall/drop/decline/come down/diminish/sink/sink/slump/plunge/plummet/tumble **from** 1 500 **to** 1 000
- decrease/decline/diminish **with** age, time, experience, etc.
- prices** decrease/fall/drop/decline/come down/sink/slump/plunge/plummet/tumble
- decrease/fall/drop/decline/slump/plunge **dramatically**

2. T (formal)

- People should decrease the amount of sugar in their diets.
- reduce** • **cut** • **lower** • **bring sth down** • **cut sth back/cut back on sth** • **cut sth down/cut down on sth** • **minimize**
- **turn sth down** • **especially AmE business scale sth back** • **journalism slash**

Opp: increase

- decrease/reduce/cut/lower/bring down/cut back/cut down/scale back sth **from** 100 **to** 75
- decrease/reduce/cut/lower/bring down/cut back/cut down/scale back sth **by** half, 50, etc.
- decrease/reduce/cut/lower/bring down/minimize the **risk/rate** of sth

Decrease or reduce? Decrease is more formal and less frequent than its opposite, **increase**; it is used especially in the contexts of health and medicine. The more usual opposite of **increase** is **reduce**.

Example Bank:

- Average family size has decreased from five to three children.
- Crime has decreased by 20 per cent.
- Spending has decreased slightly this year.
- The heart gradually decreases in size.
- The number of quarrels among children decreases with age.
- The dose was gradually decreased after eight weeks.

noun *BrE* ['di:kri:ʃ̩] ^s ; *NAmE* ['di:kri:ʃ̩] ^s countable, uncountable

the process of reducing sth or the amount that sth is reduced by

Syn: ↑reduction

- ~ (in sth) There has been some decrease in military spending this year.
- ~ (of sth) a decrease of nearly 6% in the number of visitors to the museum

Opp: ↑increase

Word Origin:

late Middle English: from Old French **decreis** (noun), **decreistre** (verb), based on Latin **decrescere**, from **de-** 'down' + **crescere** 'grow'.

Thesaurus:

decrease noun C, U

- There has been a decrease of 6% in visitor numbers.

reduction • • **fall** • • **drop** • • **decline** • • **downturn** • • **slump** • • **cut** • • **cutback** •

Opp: increase

a decrease/reduction/fall/drop/decline/downturn/slump/cut/cutback in sth

a 20% decrease/reduction/fall/drop/decline/cut

a decrease/reduction/fall/drop/decline/cut/cutback of 20%

see a decrease/reduction/fall/drop/decline/downturn

Which word? **Decrease** looks like the most direct opposite of **increase**, but it is not nearly as frequent. For deliberate reductions use **reduction** or **cut**. For reductions that happen, **fall** or **drop** are often preferred, especially in business contexts.

Example Bank:

- Half the companies in the survey reported a decrease in sales.
- It is not uncommon to experience a decrease in confidence after a divorce.
- Marriage is still on the decrease.
- The new treatment led to a huge decrease in the number of deaths.
- There has been a sharp decrease in pollution since the law was introduced.
- This year's figures show a decrease of 30% on last year.
- a decrease from 62% to just under half
- There has been a decrease of nearly 6% in the number of visitors to the museum.

decrease

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **decrease** ¹ /dɪ'kri:ʃ̩/ *BrE* ^s *AmE* ^s verb [intransitive and transitive]

[Date: 1300-1400; Language: Anglo-French; Origin: decreistre, from Latin decrescere, from crescere 'to grow']

to become less or go down to a lower level, or to make something do this ⇔ **reduce** **OPP** **increase**:

" The number of people who have the disease has decreased significantly in recent years.

" They want to decrease their reliance on oil.

decrease by

" Average house prices decreased by 13% last year.

decrease to

" By 1881, the population of Ireland had decreased to 5.2 million.

decrease from

" The North's share of the world's energy consumption is expected to decrease from 70% to 60%.

decrease in

" Attacks of asthma decrease in frequency through early adult life.

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COLLOCATIONS

■ adverbs

- **significantly** (=enough to be an important change) Violent crime has significantly decreased over the last ten years.
- **considerably/substantially** (=a lot) During this period unemployment decreased considerably.
- **markedly** (=very noticeably) Aircraft collisions decreased markedly during the 1990s.
- **rapidly** (=very quickly) Since then, elephant numbers have been decreasing rapidly.
- **dramatically** (=suddenly and a lot) The survival rate decreases dramatically as the disease progresses.
- **slightly** (=a little) Population levels actually began to slightly decrease five years ago.
- **steadily** (=gradually and continuously) The proportion of adult cigarette smokers has been steadily decreasing.

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THESAURUS

- **decrease** to become less in number or amount: The averagerainfall has decreased by around 30 percent.
- **go down** to decrease. **Go down** is less formal than **decrease** and is the usual word to use in conversation: Unemployment has gone down in the past few months.
- **decline** *formal* to decrease – used with numbers or amounts, or about the level or standard of something: The standard of living has declined. | Support for the government is steadily declining. | Salaries have declined by around 4.5%.
- **diminish** to become smaller or less important: Union membership diminished from 30,000 at its height to just 2,000 today.
- **fall/drop** to decrease, especially by a large amount. **Fall** and **drop** are less formal than **decrease**: The number of tigers in the wild has fallen to just over 10,000. | At night, the temperature drops to minus 20 degrees.
- **plunge** /plʌndʒ/ / **plummet** /'plʌmɪt, 'plʌmɪt/ to suddenly decrease very quickly and by a very large amount: Share prices have plummeted 29% in the last four months. | Climate change could cause global temperatures to plummet.
- **slide** if a price or value slides, it gradually decreases in a way that causes problems – used especially in news reports: The dollar fell in late trading in New York yesterday and slid further this morning.
- **dwindle** /'dwɪndl/ to gradually decrease until there is very little left of something, especially numbers or amounts, popularity, or importance: Support for the theory is dwindling.
- **taper off** /'teɪpə \$ -ət/ if a number or the amount of an activity that is happening tapers off, it gradually decreases, especially so that it stops completely: Political violence tapered off after the elections.

II. **decrease**² /'di:kri:z/ *BrE* " *AmE* " *noun* [uncountable and countable]

the process of becoming less, or the amount by which something becomes less **OPP** increase **SYN** reduction

decrease in

" Teachers reported decreases in drug use and verbal abuse of teachers.

decrease of

" There has been a steady decrease of temperature.

• • •

THESAURUS

- **decrease** used when the number, amount, or level of something becomes less than it used to be: There has been a significant decrease in the number of deaths from lung cancer. | a 5% decrease in housing prices
- **reduction** used when the price, amount, or level of something is made lower: There will be further price reductions in the sales. | A small reduction in costs can mean a large increase in profits.
- **cut** used when a government or company reduces the price, amount, or level of something: a 1% cut in interest rates | tax cuts | It is possible that there will be further job cuts.
- **drop/fall** used when the number, amount, or level of something goes down, especially by a large amount: The figures showed a sharp fall in industrial output. | There was a dramatic drop in temperature.
- **decline** used when the number, amount, level, or standard of something goes down, especially gradually: During the 1970s, there was a gradual decline in the birthrate. | a decline in educational standards

decrease

Freakuency Pack

12500 **4293**^{MCW}

15000 **2143**^{COCA}

RANGE: **5k** DECREASE 15663

decrease 6710

decreases 2177

decreased 4702

decreasing 2074

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

2204 **9721**³¹⁹⁴ *nn1*

2094 **11501**²⁵³⁵ *vvi*

860 **21489**⁹⁷⁰ *vv0*

11 **245285**¹¹ *nnu*
