

Project Brief – SEIS 732

Group 9 – Mamta Mandan, Hashim Gulzar, Arun Kumar

Minnesota and in particular the Minneapolis metropolitan area has a wide variety of foods from all kinds of ethnic backgrounds. [According to a 2019 study](#), Minneapolis has 2.7 restaurants per thousand people, indicating a thriving restaurant industry. Our goal is multi-fold – one would be to see if wages for the restaurant/hospitality industry are keeping up with inflation by way of CPI analysis, second is to see if grocery prices impact restaurant employment/wages, and third is to see if particular neighborhoods in Minneapolis have more restaurants than others and does this correlate with lake/pond area within those neighborhoods?

To be fair, I think everyone in the Twin Cities metro should care as we are all contributors, customers, and taxpayers and thereby have influence over restaurant employment and wages. However, to make it more specific, I think restaurant owners, employees, and city councilpersons should care the most so they can make data-based decisions on where to open an establishment, what fair pay is, and to write policies that truly advocate for workers and help the economy of the metro grow.

In recent years we've seen a rise of restaurant hospitality workers push for unionizing and advocating for their rights and working conditions. These attempts have not been very successful with pushback from restaurant owners and little to no support from local politicians. Just this month one of the largest hospitality companies in the Twin Cities, First Avenue, had [200 workers state their intent to unionize](#). Based on the final analysis, our data could empower these movements as they fight for their causes. Our curated dataset and analysis could be important to them and provide them data points to give support to the stories they have to share from their personal experiences.

In terms of feasibility of the data, we have run into some obstacles with obtaining good employment data, but we found some workarounds by downloading the data behind Tableau workbooks on [MN DEED site pages](#). As for other data – we will be using the Minneapolis Neighborhoods data from class and there are plenty of data sources for grocery prices over time. The data we are planning on using for the project is free, but for a lot of restaurant data that we were looking into during ideation phase had some costs. If we had a budget, we would have loved to incorporate cuisine/menu data in there to show trends of diversity alongside census demographic data.

Additional document/table

- Weekly plan for data enrichment (our class project)
- Who will do what and when.

Objective	Target Completion Date	Person responsible
Data Curation		
Data Dictionary	11/30	Mamta
Data Annotation	11/18	Hashim & Arun
Related Documentation	11/18	Hashim
Combined Data Documentation	12/01	All of us
Feature Engineering		
New Features	11/28	Hashim & Mamta
Missing/Bad data	11/21	Arun
Add README	12/01	All of us
Presentation	12/03	All of us