

DataCamp – What and Where are the World Oldest Business

DataCamp is an online learning platform that helps students build data skills at their own pace. DataCamp courses include non-coding essentials like BI tools to data science and machine learning.

Overview

This data set is provided by DataCamp where they took it the data set from BusinessFinancing.co.uk [researched](#) the oldest company that is still in business in (almost) every country and compiled the results into a dataset. In this project, the Database contain 3 tables, categories, countries, and businesses, you'll explore that dataset to see what they found.

The Database contains three tables:

- categories

column	type	meaning
category_code	varchar	Code for the category of the business.
category	varchar	Description of the business category.

- countries

column	type	meaning
country_code	varchar	ISO 3166-1 3-letter country code.
country	varchar	Name of the country.
continent	varchar	Name of the continent that the country exists in.

- businesses

column	type	meaning
business	varchar	Name of the business.
year_founded	int	Year the business was founded.
category_code	varchar	Code for the category of the business.
country_code	char	ISO 3166-1 3-letter country code.

Tool

The tool that I use for this analysis is SQL that has been provided by DataCamp in their website.

Analyze

- The oldest businesses in the world

```
%%sql
postgres://oldestbusinesses

-- Select the oldest and newest founding years from the businesses table
SELECT MIN(year_founded), MAX(year_founded)
FROM businesses

1 rows affected.

min  max
578  1999
```

That's a lot of variation between countries. In one country, the oldest business was only founded in 1999. By contrast, the oldest business in the world was founded back in 578. That's pretty incredible that a business has survived for more than a millennium.

- Which businesses were founded before 1000?

```
%%sql
-- Select all columns from businesses where the founding year was before 1000
-- Arrange the results from oldest to newest
SELECT *
FROM businesses
WHERE year_founded < 1000
ORDER BY year_founded ASC

* postgres://oldestbusinesses
6 rows affected.
```

business	year_founded	category_code	country_code
Kongō Gumi	578	CAT6	JPN
St. Peter Stifts Kulinarium	803	CAT4	AUT
Staffelter Hof Winery	862	CAT9	DEU
Monnaie de Paris	864	CAT12	FRA
The Royal Mint	886	CAT12	GBR
Sean's Bar	900	CAT4	IRL

There is 6 businesses that founded before 1000, that have been around for more than a millennium.

- Exploring Categories

```
%%sql
-- Select business name, founding year, and country code from businesses; and category from categories
-- where the founding year was before 1000, arranged from oldest to newest
SELECT b.business,
       b.year_founded,
       b.country_code,
       c.category
FROM businesses AS b
INNER JOIN categories AS c
ON b.category_code = c.category_code
WHERE b.year_founded < 1000
ORDER BY b.year_founded ASC

* postgresql:///oldestbusinesses
6 rows affected.
```

business	year_founded	country_code	category
Kongō Gumi	578	JPN	Construction
St. Peter Stifts Kulinarium	803	AUT	Cafés, Restaurants & Bars
Staffelter Hof Winery	862	DEU	Distillers, Vintners, & Breweries
Monnaie de Paris	864	FRA	Manufacturing & Production
The Royal Mint	886	GBR	Manufacturing & Production
Sean's Bar	900	IRL	Cafés, Restaurants & Bars

With that extra detail about the oldest businesses, we can see that Kongō Gumi is a construction company. In that list of six businesses, we also see a café, a winery, and a bar. The two companies recorded as "Manufacturing and Production" are both mints. That is, they produce currency.

- Counting categories

```
%%sql
-- Select the category and count of category (as "n")
-- arranged by descending count, limited to 10 most common categories
SELECT category,
       COUNT(*) AS n
FROM categories AS c
INNER JOIN businesses AS b
ON b.category_code = c.category_code
GROUP BY category
ORDER BY n DESC
LIMIT 10

* postgresql:///oldestbusinesses
10 rows affected.
```

category	n
Banking & Finance	37
Distillers, Vintners, & Breweries	22
Aviation & Transport	19
Postal Service	16
Manufacturing & Production	15
Media	7
Agriculture	6
Cafés, Restaurants & Bars	6
Food & Beverages	6
Tourism & Hotels	4

There are 10 most in-demand businesses worldwide, with the most in-demand businesses in Banking & Finance. Maybe that's where you should aim if you want to start a thousand-year business.

- Oldest Business by Continent

```
%%sql
-- Select the oldest founding year (as "oldest") from businesses,
-- and continent from countries
-- for each continent, ordered from oldest to newest
SELECT MIN(b.year_founded) AS oldest,
       c.continent
FROM businesses AS b
INNER JOIN countries AS c
ON b.country_code = c.country_code
GROUP BY c.continent
ORDER BY oldest ASC

* postgresql:///oldestbusinesses
6 rows affected.
```

oldest	continent
578	Asia
803	Europe
1534	North America
1565	South America
1772	Africa
1809	Oceania

Interesting. There's a jump in time from the older businesses in Asia and Europe to the 16th Century oldest businesses in North and South America, then to the 18th and 19th Century oldest businesses in Africa and Oceania.

- Joining for further analysis

```
%%sql
-- Select the business, founding year, category, country, and continent
SELECT b.business,
       b.year_founded,
       ca.category,
       co.country,
       co.continent
FROM businesses AS b
INNER JOIN countries AS co
ON b.country_code = co.country_code
INNER JOIN categories AS ca
ON b.category_code = ca.category_code

* postgresql:///oldestbusinesses
163 rows affected.
```

business	year_founded	category	country	continent
Spinzar Cotton Company	1930	Agriculture	Afghanistan	Asia
ALBtelecom	1912	Telecommunications	Albania	Europe
Andbank	1930	Banking & Finance	Andorra	Europe
Liwa Chemicals	1939	Manufacturing & Production	United Arab Emirates	Asia
Bank of the Province of Buenos Aires	1822	Banking & Finance	Argentina	South America
Yerevan Ararat Brandy-Wine-Vodka Factory	1877	Distillers, Vintners, & Breweries	Armenia	Asia
Australia Post	1809	Postal Service	Australia	Oceania

Having businesses joined to categories and countries together means we can ask questions about both these things together. To do more deeper analysis.

- Filtering counts by Continent and Category that greater than 5

```
%%sql
-- Repeat that previous query, filtering for results having a count greater than 5
SELECT co.continent,
       ca.category,
       COUNT(b.business) AS n
FROM businesses AS b
INNER JOIN countries AS co
ON b.country_code = co.country_code
INNER JOIN categories AS ca
ON b.category_code = ca.category_code
GROUP BY ca.category, co.continent
HAVING COUNT(b.business) > 5
ORDER BY n DESC
```

```
* postgresql:///oldestbusinesses
7 rows affected.
```

continent	category	n
Africa	Banking & Finance	17
Europe	Distillers, Vintners, & Breweries	12
Africa	Aviation & Transport	10
Africa	Postal Service	9
Europe	Manufacturing & Production	8
Asia	Aviation & Transport	7
Asia	Banking & Finance	6

Well it looks like "Banking & Finance" is the most popular category in Africa and Asia, followed by "Aviation & Transport" in Europe and Asia for the most popular category in businesses.