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Thoughts on designing the story.

Data

Ever since how-to-fix-a-toilet.com, I wanted to work with Google Trends data. And since food is a near and dear subject to many, what better way I thought than to look at the most searched for recipes and food items. I also got inspiration from using Google Mobility Data from Our World in Data (https://ourworldindata.org/covid-mobility-trends) and decided to use that to bolster the story.

As I was cleaning the data, I initially wanted to see if I could drill down the Google Mobility Report to map out the different districts and cities as well, however that proved to be beyond my technical capabilities so I decided to average by province instead.

Technical Struggles

My initial design vision was a scrollytelling story. That soon proved too high a hurdle. With my sparse javascript skills and absolutely no d3.js experience, it became clear after a couple days of learning that making an animated chart that reacted to scrolls was beyond my capabilities. I then tried turning to Plotly and Dash as I had been using that for previous assignments. However, I found myself unable to design anything more than a basic dashboard and it just wasn't bringing my vision of a story to life.

So I turned to Tableau. With data cleaning done in Python. I can work with designing a very basic website, that I could then embed Tableau dashboards like Our World in Data on the side along with text. While it might not be a scrollytell, I could still go with a top down story progression with different interactive elements through using multiple dashboards. Tableau with all its issues also allowed me to provide that clean design look that I love.

Final Thoughts

It is unfortunate that I didn't have enough time to learn enough d3.js and scrollama to build a scrollytelling site. Definitely something I want to work on and get one running. Google Trends data was a pain to work with because of how their popularity axis works and how relative the data is to the date range and highest popularity search terms. Google Trends also had a cap on 5 terms