

Furni_EDA

July 25, 2021

Furniv - EDA

As part of any data analysis process, an initial exploratory phase is required to familiarize with the data and to find new information on the issue evaluated. That is how, by reviewing and cleaning the data and by plotting different variables in different formats, new insight is gathered and proper modeling approximations are proposed.

As so, we started reviewing the data with the idea of getting initial information on how historical sales affected the behavior of the stock and the product portfolio.

1 Data consolidation

First we cleaned all tables to have a standardized, relevant data with no outliers, NaN values and precise working information. We also created some new fields for some tables to be able to work on different aspects such as dates, quantities and categorical variables. Finally we merged some tables to have additional information on the sales and current stock of the client's company.

1.1 Data composition

The data sent by the client is comprised by three tables `products_master` (renamed to `products`), `current_stock` (renamed to `stock`) and `sales`. From those tables, the tables `sales_prod` and `stock_prod` were created to relate the current stock and historical sales to the characteristics of each product. Finally a grouped table `groupby_sales` was created from the `sales_prod` table where each product has one row and the quantity values are aggregated for statistical analysis (`amount_sold`, `average_price`, `average_discount`, `sale_subtotal`, `sale_total` and `sale_average`). Here we can check the `.info()` values for each table.

1.1.1 products:

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	ITEM	1285 non-null	int64
1	REF	1285 non-null	object
2	DESCRIPCION	1285 non-null	object
3	CATEGORIA	1285 non-null	object
4	SUBCATEGORIA	1285 non-null	object
5	VIGENCIA	1285 non-null	object
6	ORIGEN	1285 non-null	object
7	ESTILO	1285 non-null	object

8	MATERIAL	1285 non-null	object
9	ACABADO	1285 non-null	object
10	PUESTOS	1017 non-null	float64
11	COLOR	1285 non-null	object
12	ANCHO	1285 non-null	float64
13	ALTO	1285 non-null	float64
14	FONDO	1285 non-null	float64
15	DESC_LARGA	1285 non-null	object
16	SUBCATEGORIA_POS	1285 non-null	object
17	COLOR_POS	1285 non-null	object
18	MATERIAL_POS	1285 non-null	object

1.1.2 sales:

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	ID	36050 non-null	object
1	NRO_DOCUMENTO	36050 non-null	object
2	FECHA	36050 non-null	datetime64[ns]
3	CODIGO_TIENDA	36050 non-null	int64
4	TIENDA	36050 non-null	object
5	PROD_REF	36050 non-null	object
6	CANTIDAD	36050 non-null	int64
7	PRECIO	36050 non-null	float64
8	SUBTOTAL	36050 non-null	int64
9	DESCUENTO(%)	36050 non-null	float64
10	TOTAL	36050 non-null	int64
11	ANIO	36050 non-null	int64
12	MES	36050 non-null	int64
13	DIA	36050 non-null	int64

1.1.3 stock:

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	ID	941 non-null	object
1	REF	941 non-null	object
2	CANTIDAD	941 non-null	int64
3	CATEGORIA	941 non-null	object
4	SUBCATEGORIA	941 non-null	object
5	DETALLE_1	877 non-null	float64
6	DETALLE_2	75 non-null	float64

1.1.4 sales_prod:

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	ID	36180 non-null	object
1	NRO_DOCUMENTO	36180 non-null	object
2	FECHA	36180 non-null	datetime64[ns]
3	CODIGO_TIENDA	36180 non-null	int64
4	TIENDA	36180 non-null	object
5	PROD_REF	36180 non-null	object
6	CANTIDAD	36180 non-null	int64
7	PRECIO	36180 non-null	float64
8	SUBTOTAL	36180 non-null	int64
9	DESCUENTO(%)	36180 non-null	float64
10	TOTAL	36180 non-null	int64
11	ANIO	36180 non-null	int64
12	MES	36180 non-null	int64
13	DIA	36180 non-null	int64
14	ITEM	36180 non-null	int64
15	REF	36180 non-null	object
16	DESCRIPCION	36180 non-null	object
17	CATEGORIA	36180 non-null	object
18	SUBCATEGORIA	36180 non-null	object
19	VIGENCIA	36180 non-null	object
20	ORIGEN	36180 non-null	object
21	ESTILO	36180 non-null	object
22	MATERIAL	36180 non-null	object
23	ACABADO	36180 non-null	object
24	PUESTOS	29834 non-null	float64
25	COLOR	36180 non-null	object
26	ANCHO	36180 non-null	float64
27	ALTO	36180 non-null	float64
28	FONDO	36180 non-null	float64
29	DESC_LARGA	36180 non-null	object
30	SUBCATEGORIA_POS	36180 non-null	object
31	COLOR_POS	36180 non-null	object
32	MATERIAL_POS	36180 non-null	object

1.1.5 stock_prod:

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	ID	943 non-null	object
1	REF	943 non-null	object
2	CANTIDAD	943 non-null	int64
3	DETALLE_1	879 non-null	float64
4	DETALLE_2	75 non-null	float64

5	ITEM	452 non-null	float64
6	DESCRIPCION	452 non-null	object
7	CATEGORIA	452 non-null	object
8	SUBCATEGORIA	452 non-null	object
9	VIGENCIA	452 non-null	object
10	ORIGEN	452 non-null	object
11	ESTILO	452 non-null	object
12	MATERIAL	452 non-null	object
13	ACABADO	452 non-null	object
14	PUESTOS	312 non-null	float64
15	COLOR	452 non-null	object
16	ANCHO	452 non-null	float64
17	ALTO	452 non-null	float64
18	FONDO	452 non-null	float64
19	DESC_LARGA	452 non-null	object
20	SUBCATEGORIA_POS	943 non-null	object
21	COLOR_POS	943 non-null	object
22	MATERIAL_POS	943 non-null	object

1.1.6 groupby_sales:

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	REF	1285 non-null	object
1	CANTIDAD	1285 non-null	int64
2	TOTAL	1285 non-null	int64
3	PRECIO_PROMEDIO	1285 non-null	float64
4	DESCUENTO_PROMEDIO	1285 non-null	float64
5	ITEM	1285 non-null	int64
6	DESCRIPCION	1285 non-null	object
7	CATEGORIA	1285 non-null	object
8	SUBCATEGORIA	1285 non-null	object
9	VIGENCIA	1285 non-null	object
10	ORIGEN	1285 non-null	object
11	ESTILO	1285 non-null	object
12	MATERIAL	1285 non-null	object
13	ACABADO	1285 non-null	object
14	PUESTOS	1017 non-null	float64
15	COLOR	1285 non-null	object
16	ANCHO	1285 non-null	float64
17	ALTO	1285 non-null	float64
18	FONDO	1285 non-null	float64
19	DESC_LARGA	1285 non-null	object
20	SUBCATEGORIA_POS	1285 non-null	object
21	COLOR_POS	1285 non-null	object
22	MATERIAL_POS	1285 non-null	object

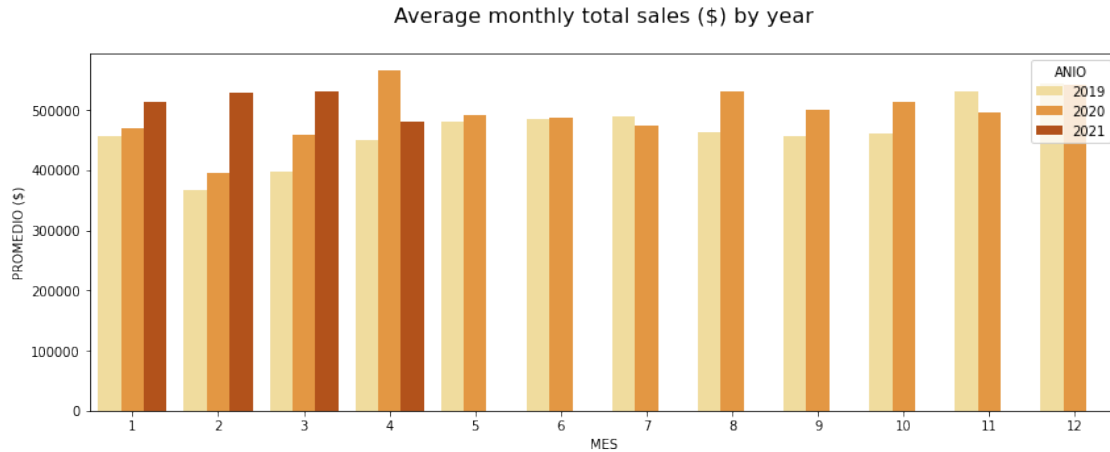
2 Sales analysis

To continue the analysis, we started by reviewing the sales behavior to find information about the most important products for the company according to the value of the total sales and the amount of items sold. Here we can see the total value of the items sold during the last tree years.



In the graph we can see different behaviors. First we observe a normal year with a growing welling trend with peak during the last months of the year. Then, for 2020 we see the effects of the COVID pandemic restrictions imposed by the Colombian government during March, April and May, and then again a normal, though slower, growth trend to again gain a peak performance during October, November and December. And finally we have this year's data that has a cut up to April 15 which explains the low behavior of that month compared to the presumed growth of 2019.

In the following second graph we have the average sale value of every month. In there we confirmed the suspicion that even though the pandemic affected the amount of sales made during that period, the sales that were made had a similar mean value from the previous year and the following year. Which in turn translates on the general idea that the company has a similar average sales value every month and that what changed on those initial months of the pandemic was the amount of sales made those periods.

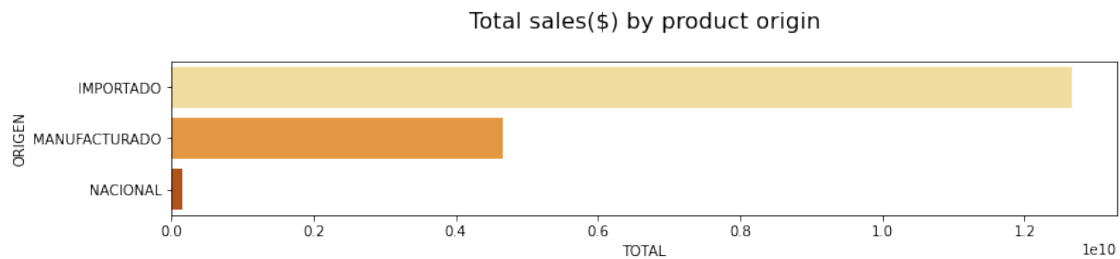


In this regard we can see that the average sales per year for the company is around 7,600 MM. In 2019 of 7,923MM, in 2020 7,387MM and up to April 2021 of 2,116MM. All of which allows us to conclude that 2020 was, nonetheless the effects of the pandemic, a really positive and profitable year for the company. In fact the company was able to considerably recover to almost get the same values from 2019.

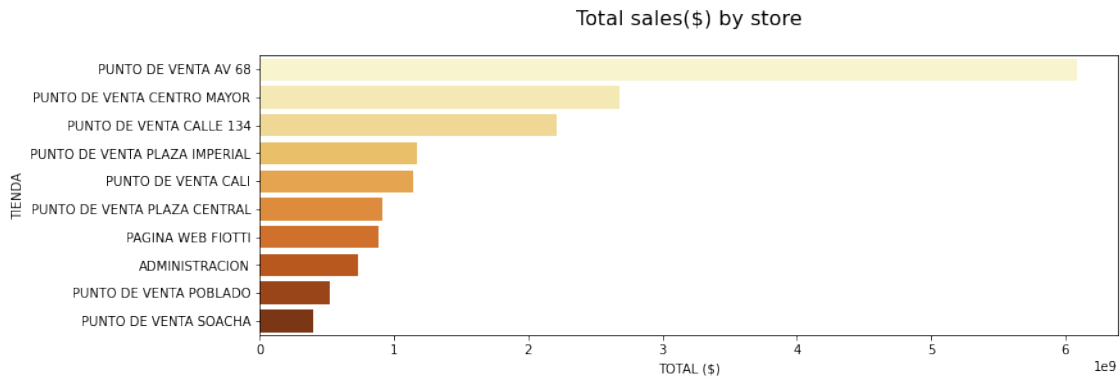
In relation to 2021 sales, we can also see that they have a 15% increase vs. 2019 del 15% and about 4% vs. 2020. A favorable annual company growth.

2.1 Characterized sold portfolio

Now we start to get information on some of the characteristics of the sold portfolio of the company. First we see the distribution in relation to the product origin, the store it was sold and the main sub categories sold. Then we review the general information on the most sold styles and colors.

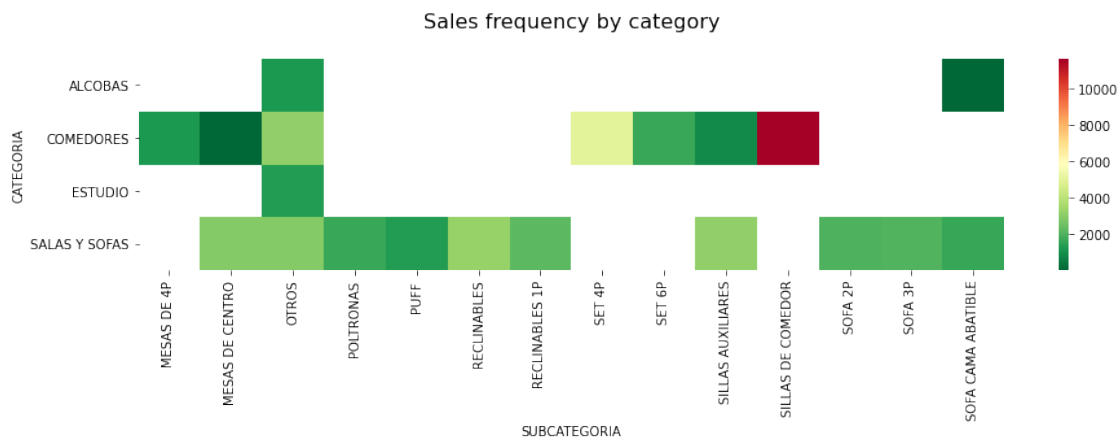


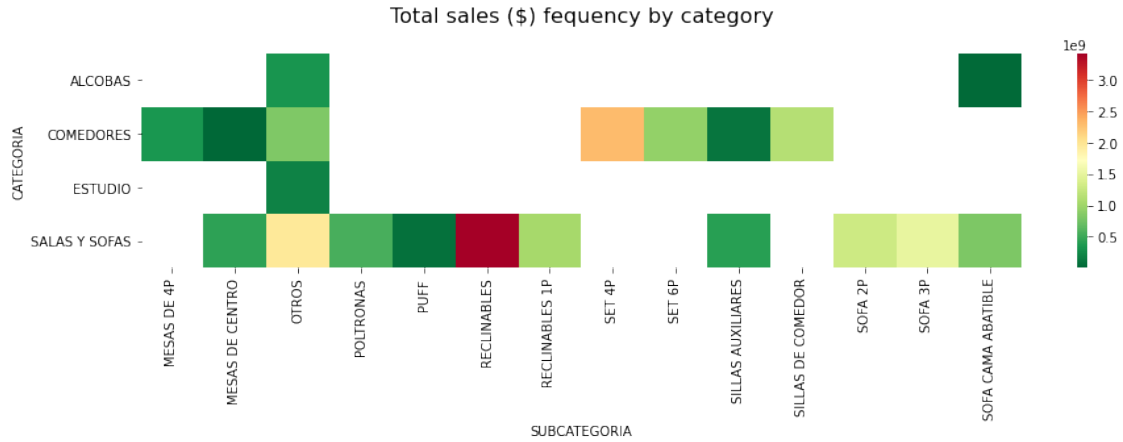
We can see here that the company's sold portfolio is comprised of imported products, with a 68% of the sold portfolio, and fabricated products with almost 30% of the portfolio; leaving the other categories with less than 2%.



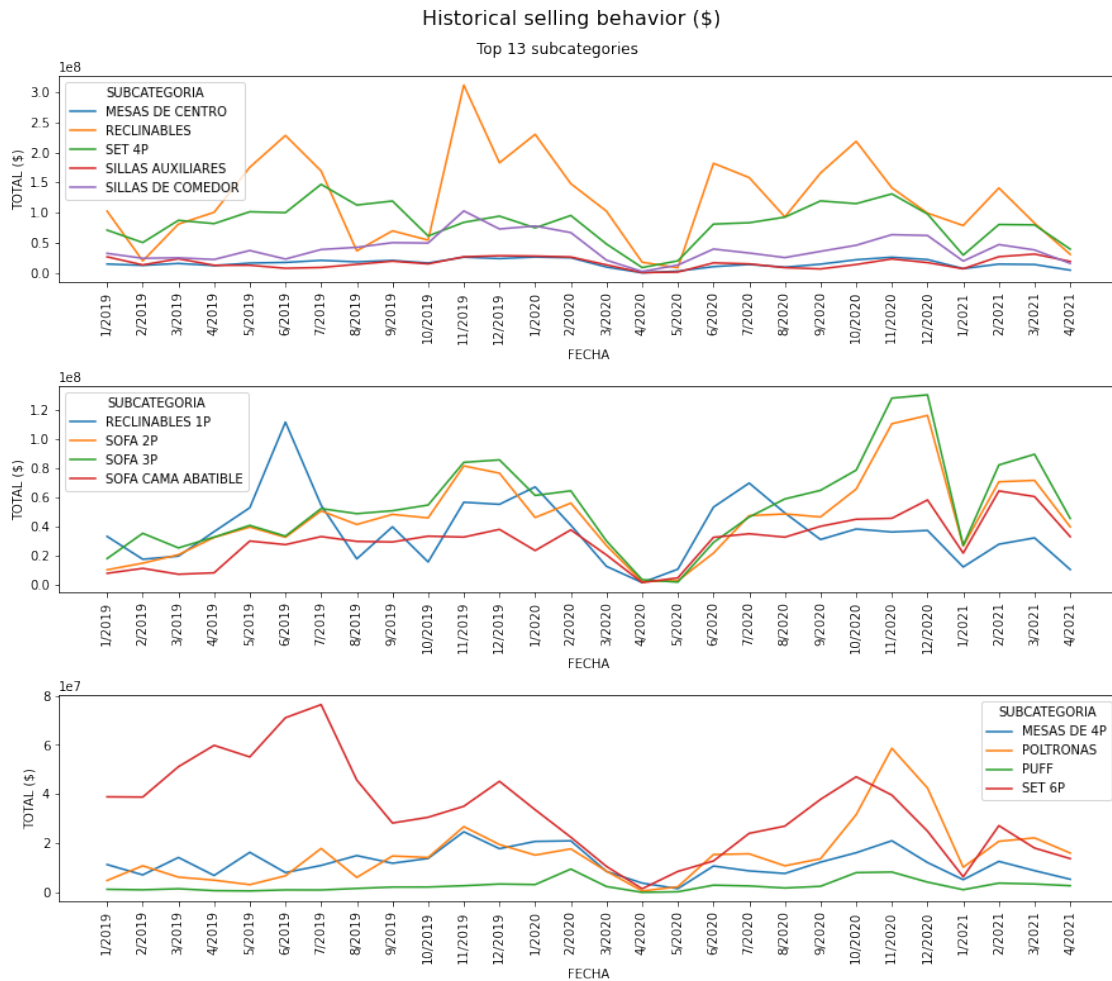
In this second graph we observe that most of the sales were made in Bogotá in physical stores (the first 4 stores comprise almost 70% of the total sold portfolio), followed by sales from Cali and the webpage.

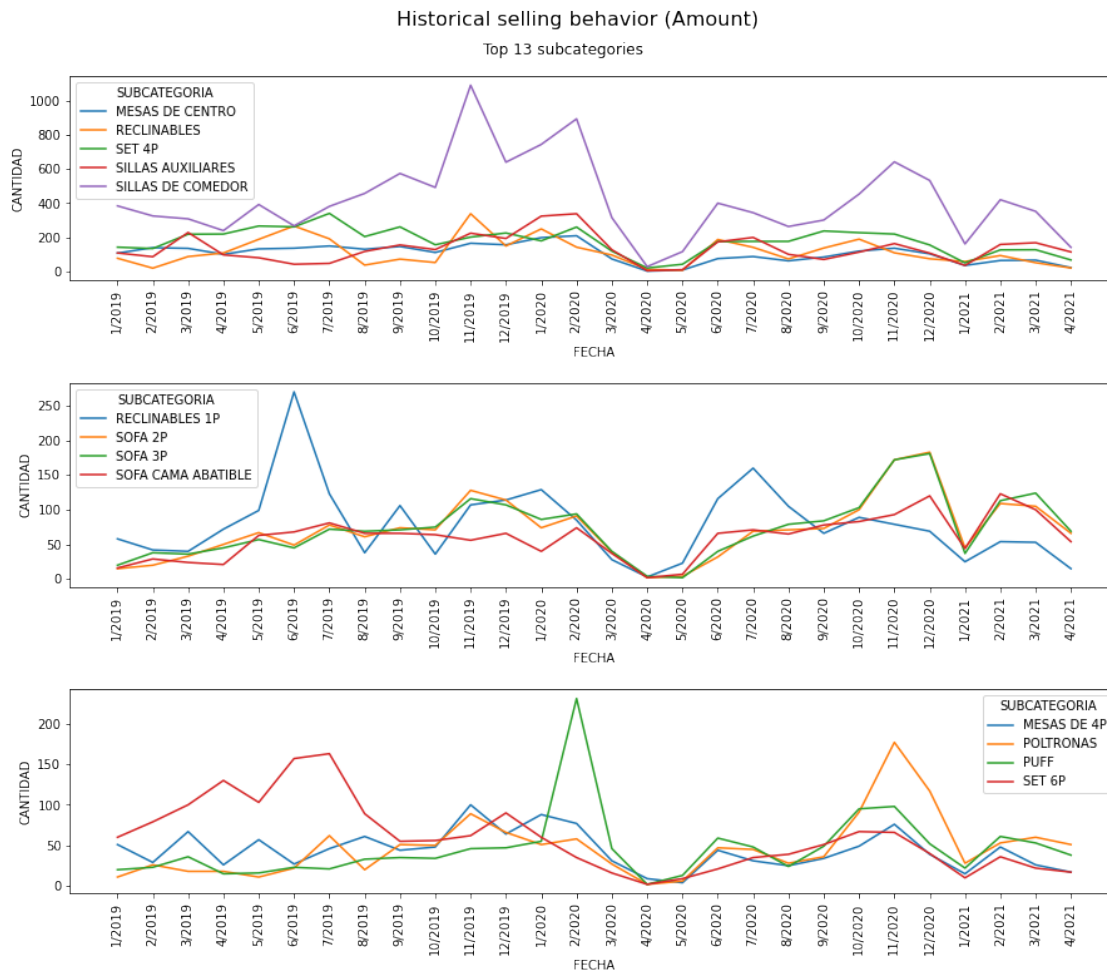
Next, we can review that the top 13 sub categories of products sold, which is almost 80% of the total sold portfolio, are dining and living room elements with dining room chairs with an excessive amount sold.





As we can see, although the heat map informs us of the general composition of the sold portfolio, we are missing information on historical trends that could impact the way we decide on the proper model. As there could be other confounding variables not taken into account. For that we decided to look for possible historical trends in each of the 13 subcategories previously mentioned.



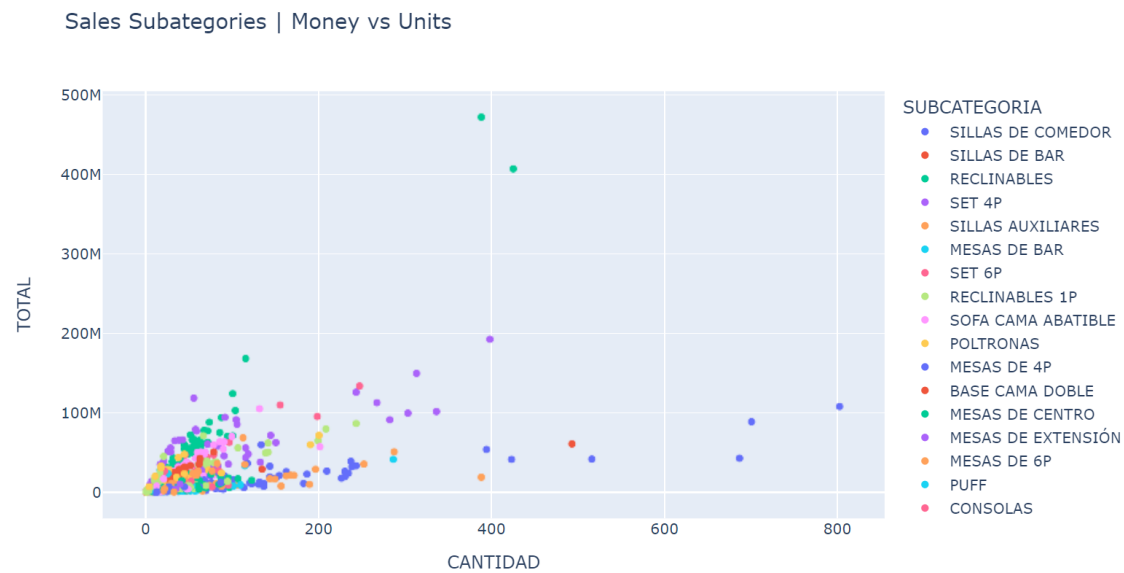


As of this point, it's still not clear if each element has a particular trend or relevant pattern. Nonetheless, it seems that on September each year people are more willing to buy furniture for the dining room than on other months. On the graph we can also see selling peaks for some elements in November due to BlackFriday.

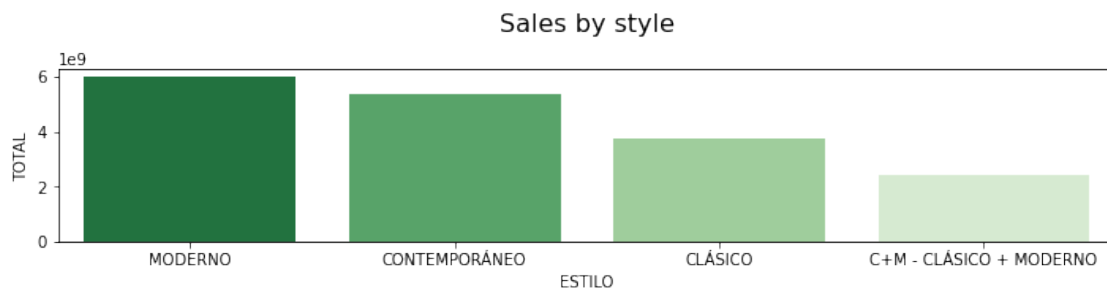
Here we have the top 5 selling products with their respective amount sold since 2019 and a plot tracing the relation between the value of the sold elements in the portfolio and the amount sold of each of those elements.

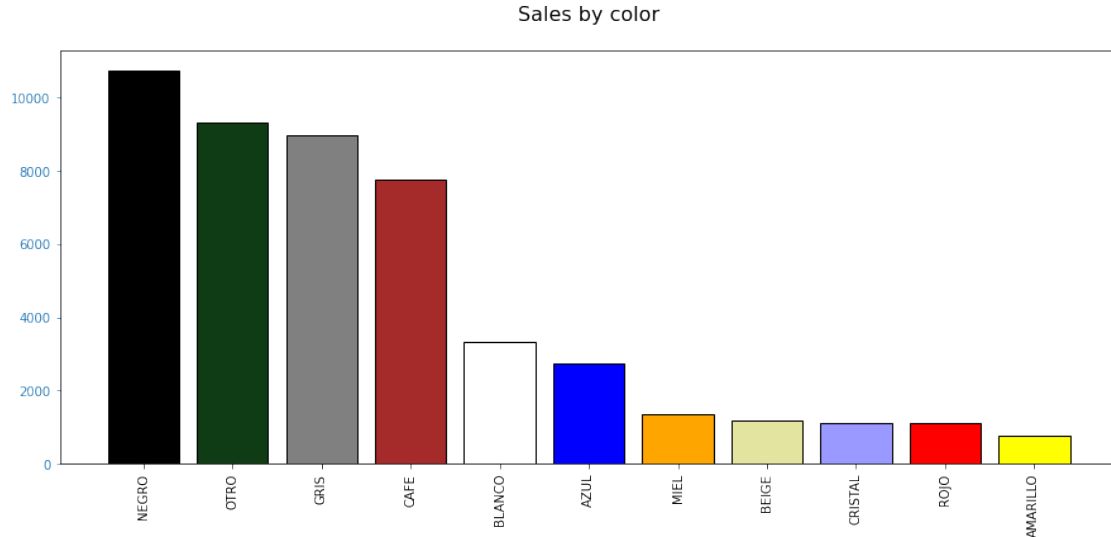
	CANTIDAD	TOTAL
SUBCATEGORIA		
RECLINABLES	3222	\$3,427,202,692
SET 4P	4982	\$2,304,825,080
SOFA 3P	2041	\$1,501,181,507
SOFA 2P	1995	\$1,291,212,242
SILLAS DE COMEDOR	11657	\$1,126,930,988

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As mentioned, we now present the most representative styles and colors in the sold portfolio, and the historical analysis on the chosen color as we want to find if the color is an important variable and has a specific impact on the products being sold. Decision also based on the fact that the predictive demand tool to develop will need to account for color variations on each product.

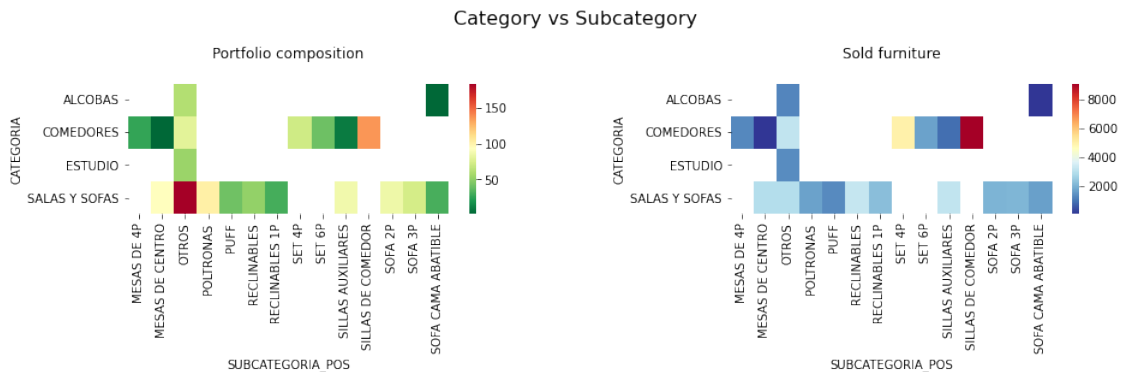




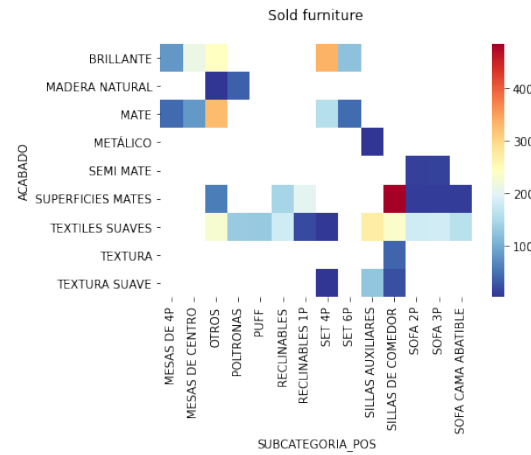
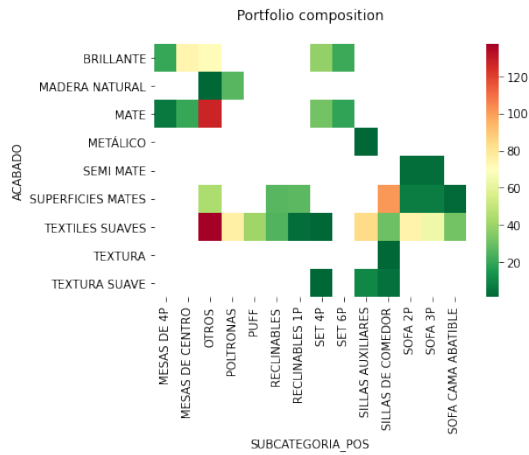
2.2 Products to sales comparison analysis

After reviewing the behavior of the sales during th past years we saw the oportunity to check whether the finding had relevant adicional information in relation to the actual composition of the whole portfolio, and the way each subcategory realtes to the “acabado”, main material, number of seats and color.

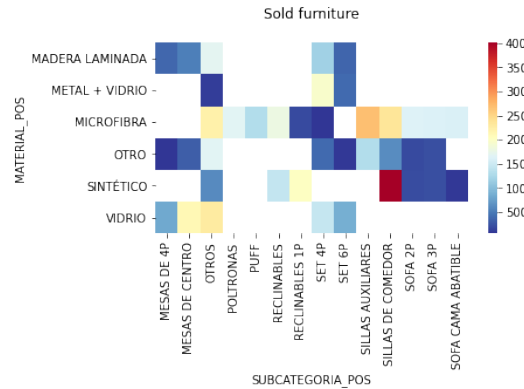
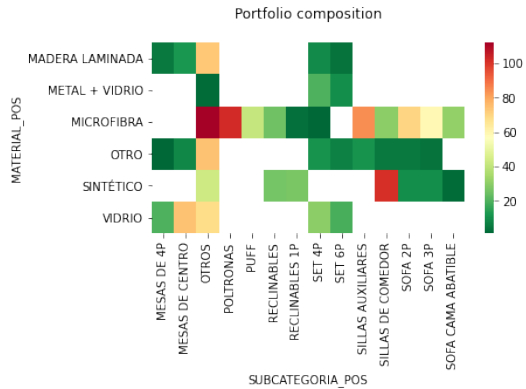
Here we have the comparable plots between the composition of the sold portfolio and the actual portfolio of the company. For each plot we can check in red the composition of the portfolio in terms of the selected variables, and in blue the composition of sold furniture during the past years in terms of the same variable.



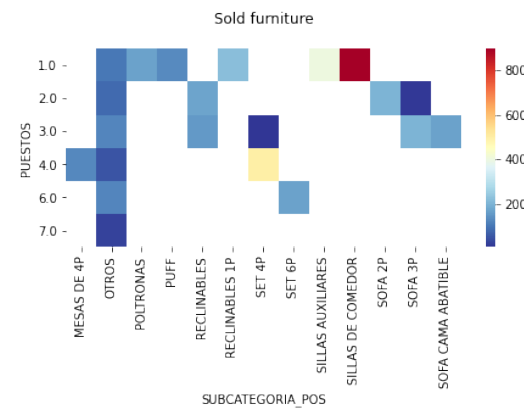
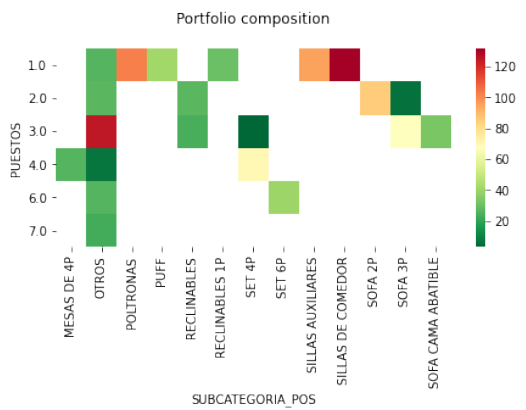
Subcategory vs "Acabado"

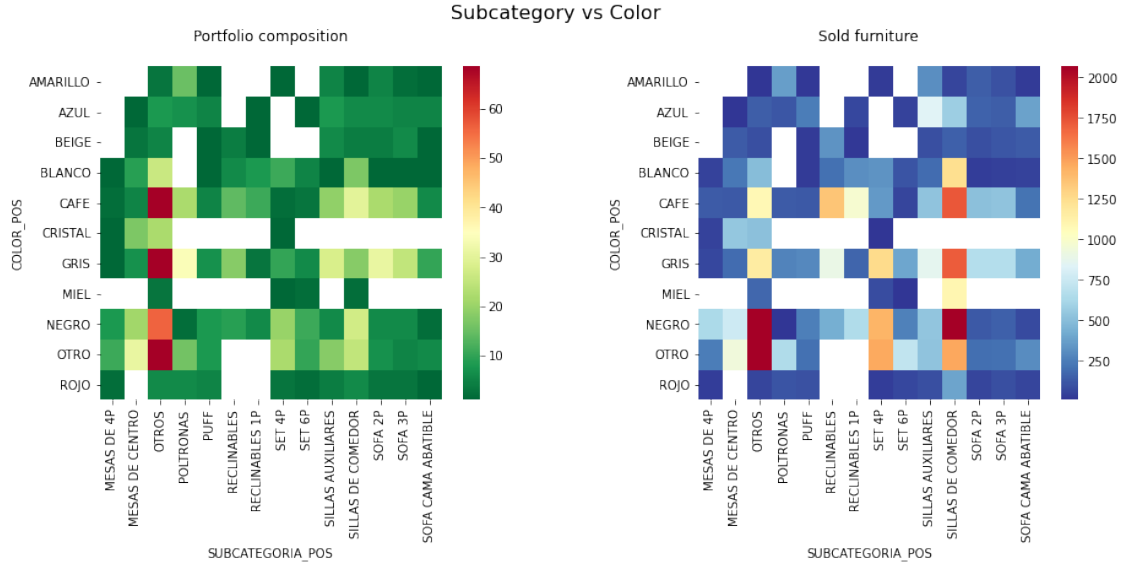


Subcategory vs Material



Subcategory vs Seats (#)

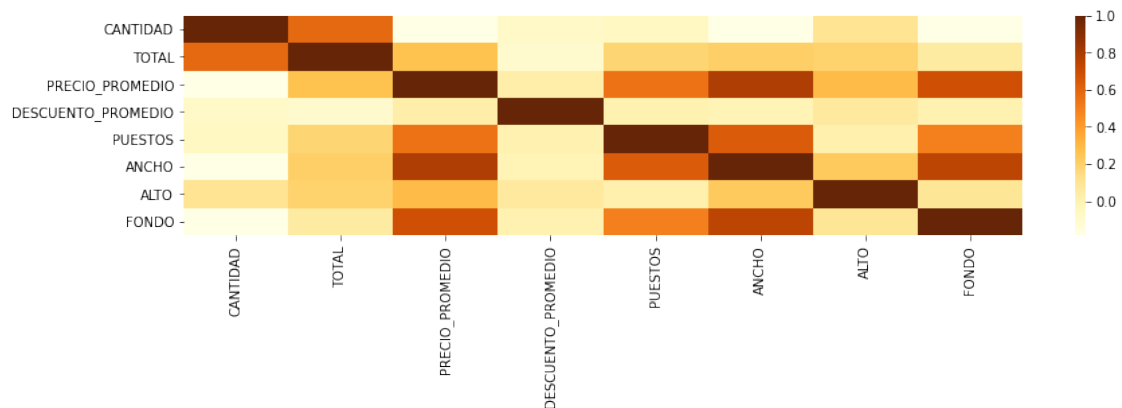




By checking the previous tables we see that for the most trending subcategories, classified by colors, materials, “acabados” and the number of seats; the portfolio behaves similar to the number of sales. We could argue that the seen correlation between both behaviors is explained due to the fact that the probability of buying an element of a certain color, material, “acabado” or amount of seats, depends much on how many possibilities the customer has when choosing one of those characteristics. That is why the most sold characteristics are the most diverse.

2.3 Extra correlations

Following, we have some other data of the portfolio such as the correlation matrix between amount sold, value sold, price, discount, measures, and the number of seats to assert the considered relation between the price and the measurements and number of seats.

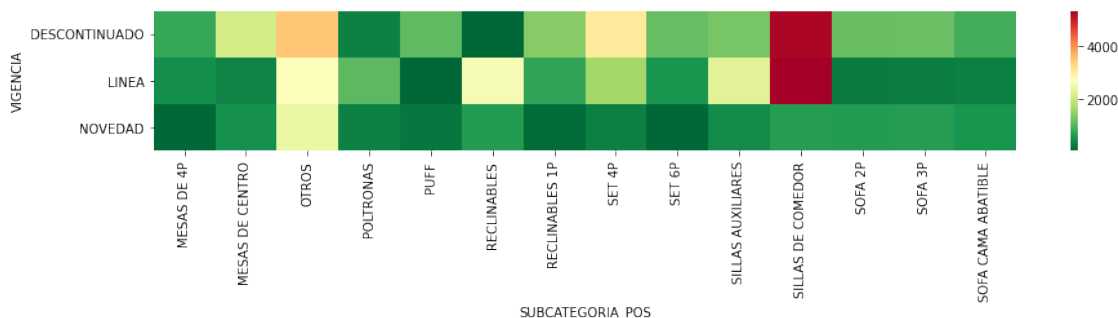


In here we can see, as expected, that there is a high correlation between total sale price and the amount of products sold, the average price and the dimensions of the product. Making it clear that

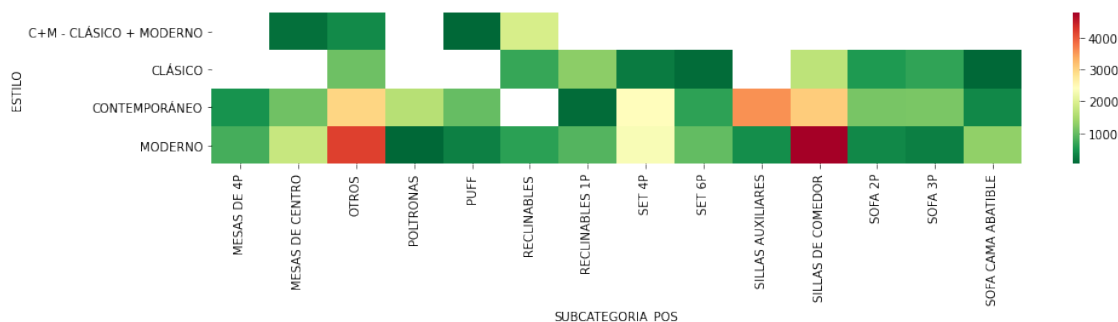
even though those variables affect the price they are not relevant to further analysis.

Other variables, on the contrary, seem to have certain impact on the sales behavior and should be taken into consideration for modeling a proper statistical predictive tool. Here we have some:

2.3.1 Validity (vigencia)

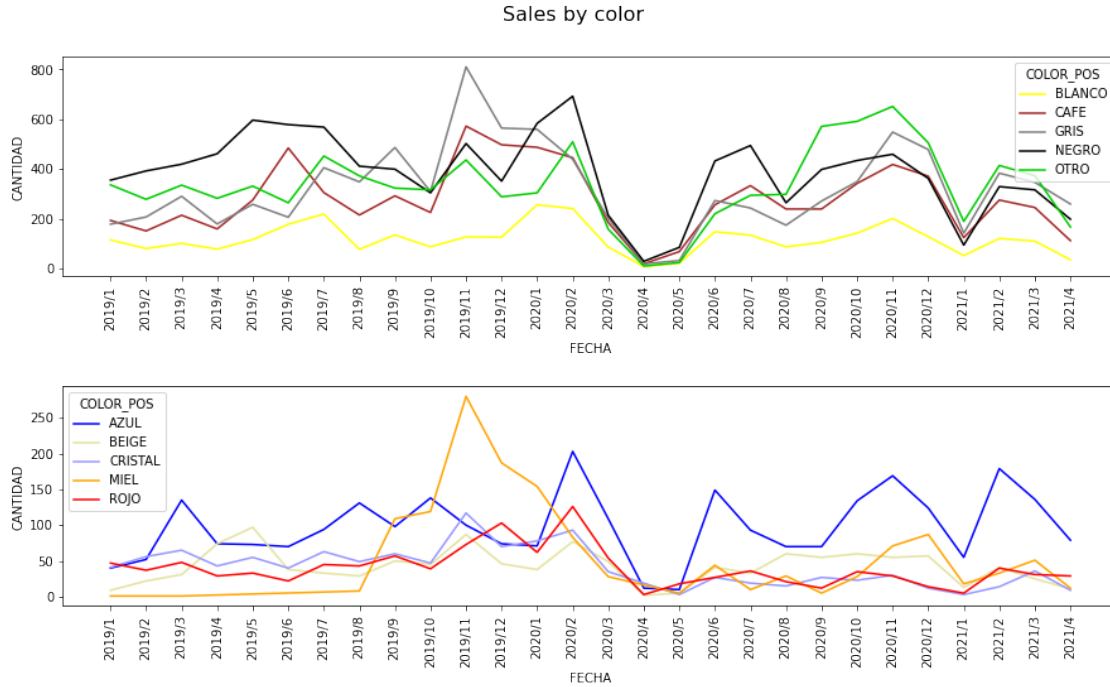


2.4 Style (estilo)



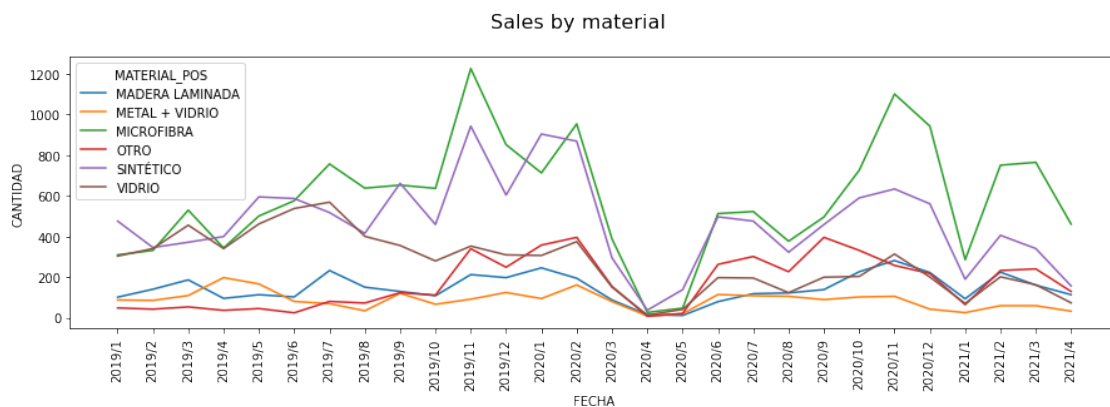
2.5 Historical sales analysis by features

For the next part of the analysis we created a time series to review the behavior of certain features of the furniture over time. First we start by reviewing colors, then materials, then “acabados” and finally number of seats. For each of these features we only use the 13 top selling categories that represent 80% of the sold portfolio. Finally it is worth to mention that for each plot we are only reviewing the amount of units sold and not the total sales value.

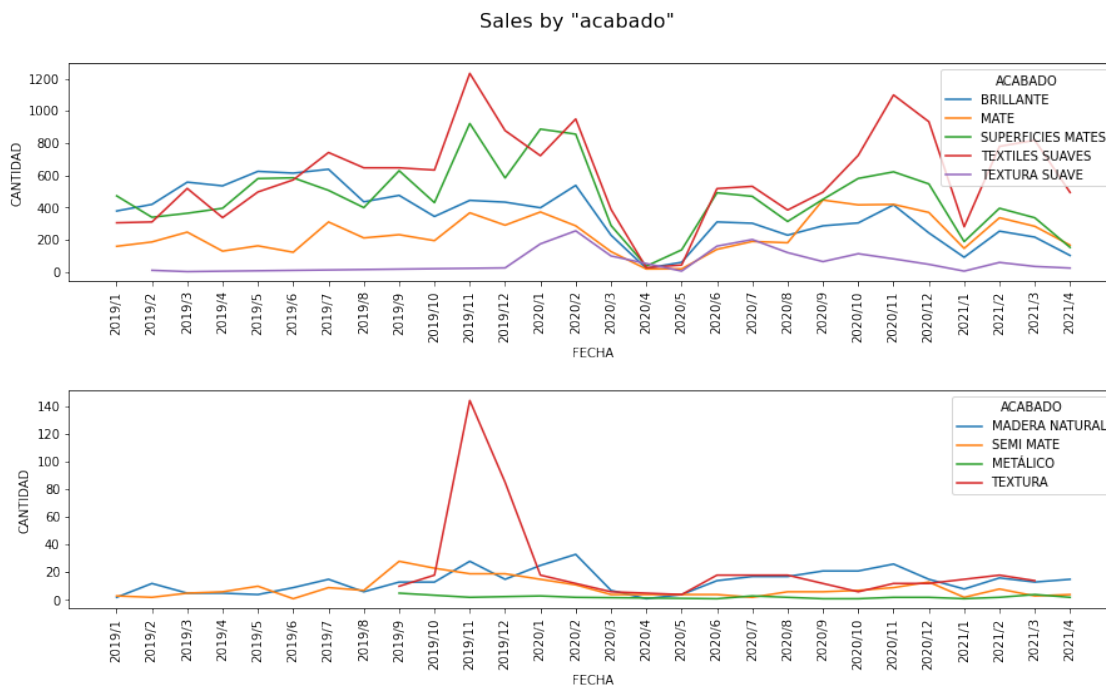


In the previous graph we can see a similar behavior on all colors with peaks over the last months of the year. Nonetheless no further information is provided that could indicate a prevalence of a specific color in a certain period of time. most colors behave the same way with black, gray and brown being the most sold colors. Here we can also confirm the effects of the confinement decreed during the first months of the pandemic and their effect over the sales.

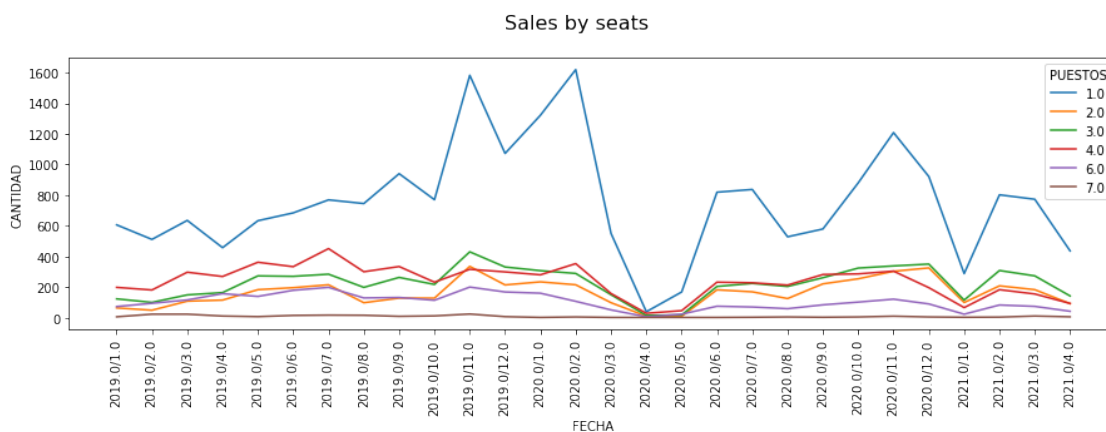
To further investigate the relevance of certain features over diferent periods of time we can see the historical sales of different materials, where **laminated wood** and **metal + glass** are the top selling materials, with a mean sales average over 500 units per month, and the rest of the colors falling behind bellow the 200 line.



Next we have the historical behavior of the finishing materials of the different units. In here the range is really broad with **soft textures** having sold units over the 600 average, and **metal** texture bellow the 10 average sold units.



Finally we have the historical behavior of the **number of seats** feature with a similar behavior as the other features. Although they have different sale amounts on every possible value, that is explained by the composition of the portfolio and not attributable to a certain relation between a specific month and the values of the feature. No single value of any of these features has a month where it's behavior changes in a relevant manner to identify a substantial change in the analysis.



Due to the previous findings, we opted for a different approach by evaluating a classification proce-

ture to review possible patterns that cannot be easily identifiable by graphing the different numeric and categorical variables as we previously did. For this, we decided on a Demand Classification method.

2.6 Demand classification

The Forecast accuracy of any model strongly depends on your product forecastability, and we can find evidence of it in the demand history characteristics previously reviewed in the sales analysis section.

In this case then, to be able to determine a product forecastability, we use the demand classification process. For this we apply two coefficients to the different products to check whether the product can be classified as high/low variable. These coefficients are:

- the Average Demand Interval (**ADI**). It measures the demand regularity in time by computing the average interval between two demands.
- the square of the Coefficient of Variation (**CV²**). It measures the variation in quantities.

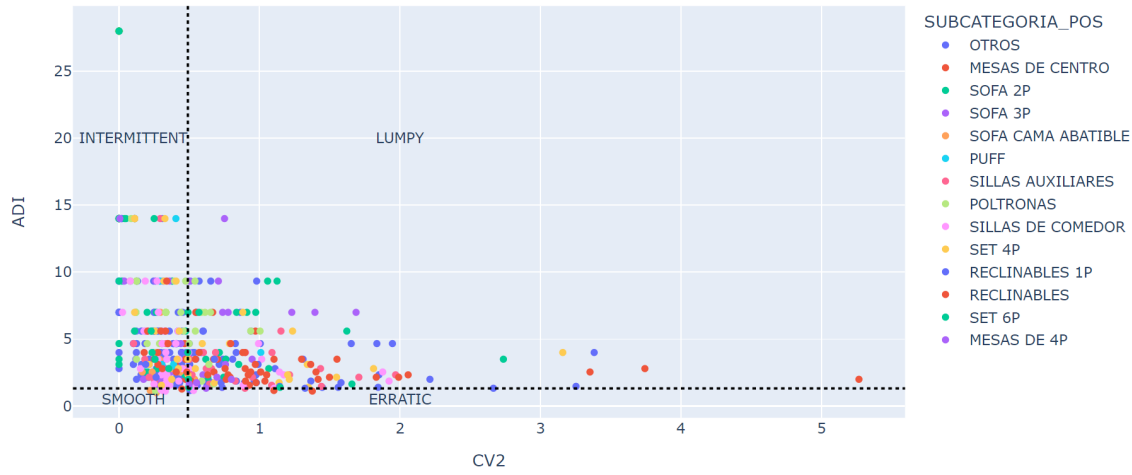
Based on these 2 dimensions, the literature classifies the demand profiles into 4 different categories:

- **Smooth demand** (**ADI** < **1.32** and **CV²** < **0.49**). The demand is very regular in time and in quantity. It is therefore easy to forecast and you won't have trouble reaching a low forecasting error level.
- **Intermittent demand** (**ADI** >= **1.32** and **CV²** < **0.49**). The demand history shows very little variation in demand quantity but a high variation in the interval between two demands. Though specific forecasting methods tackle intermittent demands, the forecast error margin is considerably higher.
- **Erratic demand** (**ADI** < **1.32** and **CV²** >= **0.49**). The demand has regular occurrences in time with high quantity variations. Your forecast accuracy remains shaky.
- **Lumpy demand** (**ADI** >= **1.32** and **CV²** >= **0.49**). The demand is characterized by a large variation in quantity and in time. It is actually impossible to produce a reliable forecast, no matter which forecasting tools you use. This particular type of demand pattern is unforecastable.

Lets see the results applied to our historical product sales on the 16 pareto subcategories previously chosen:

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DEMAND CLASIFICACION



In the graph we can visualize the demand classification for Furni, where most of the products of the 16 pareto subcategories are classified between intermittent and lumpy. This in turn indicates a patterns of high unstable variation of the amount of sales, and low and high variation on the interval frequency where the products are sold. With such information a simple objective to fulfill would be to migrate the behavior of the product sales to a more smooth classification, with low variation in frequency and amounts.

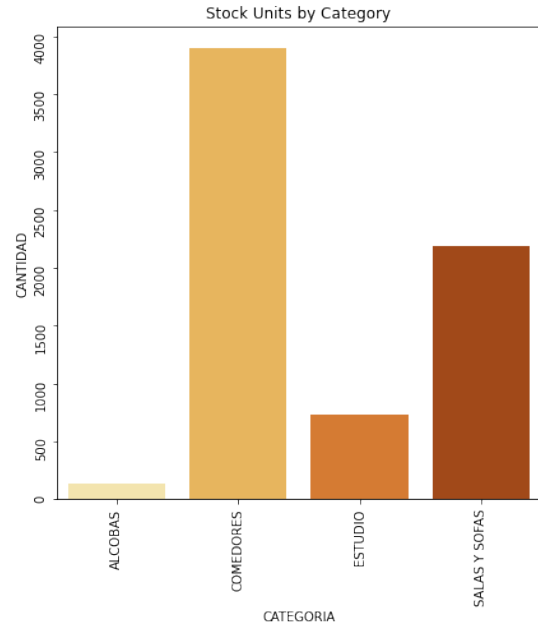
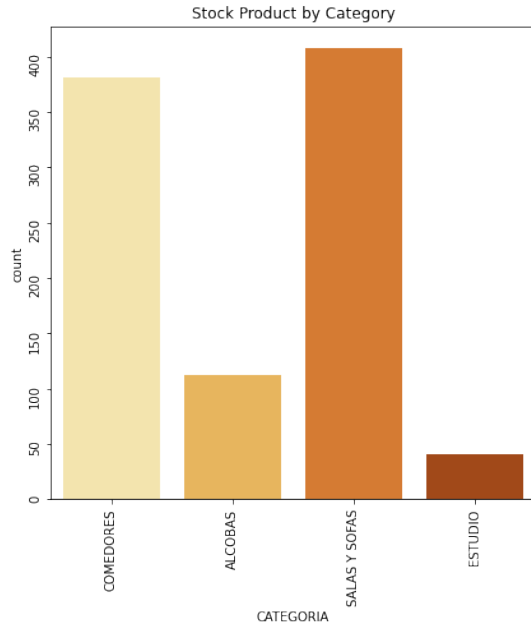
For the intermittent products we can evaluate possible strategies of periodicity and buy back. As the variability in amount is somehow stable a stock buffer could be created on a stable demand basis. Instead, for the lumpy products we could evaluate the portfolio classification and the validity of the products to determine if some products could be removed from the portfolio or if they should sell on an on-demand or seasonal basis.

3 Stock sales comparative analysis

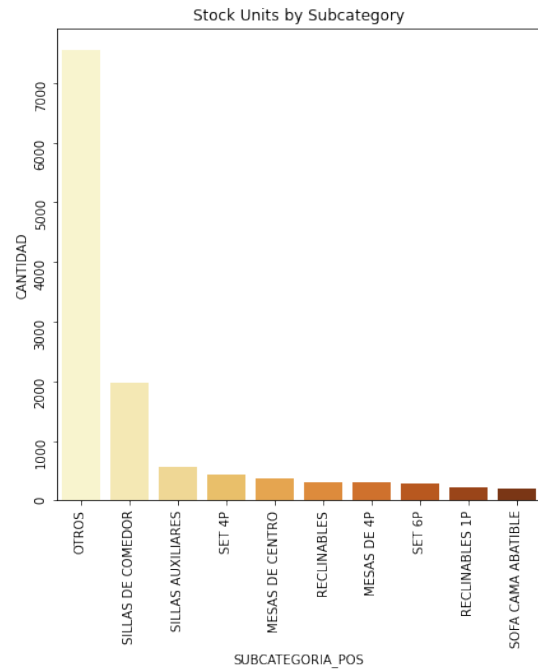
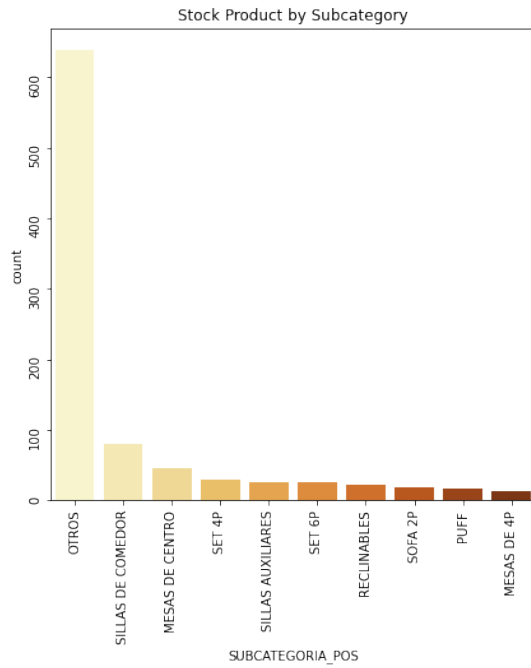
Part of the analysis finally relates to the clients' requirement to predict the demand of products to enable a better stock composition and reduce costs by optimizing stock management. To relate the previously gathered information with the way the stock should behave and be composed monthly, we also require a compared analysis between the historical sales and the current stock.

For this, we will evaluate the behavior of sales versus the current inventory of the company. In there we will try to identify if the inventory is consistent with the composition of the sales for these characteristics. The idea is to identify which features and characteristics are understocked, overstocked, or on point. And review if some of those results are due to the variation in demand over time.

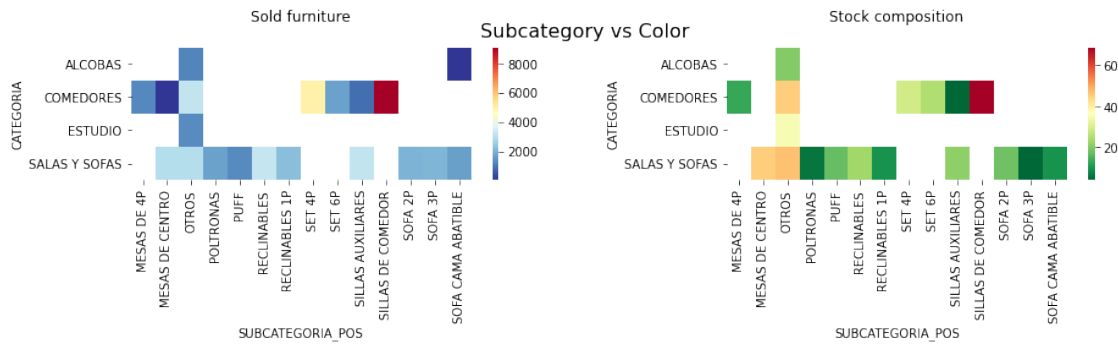
1. Category



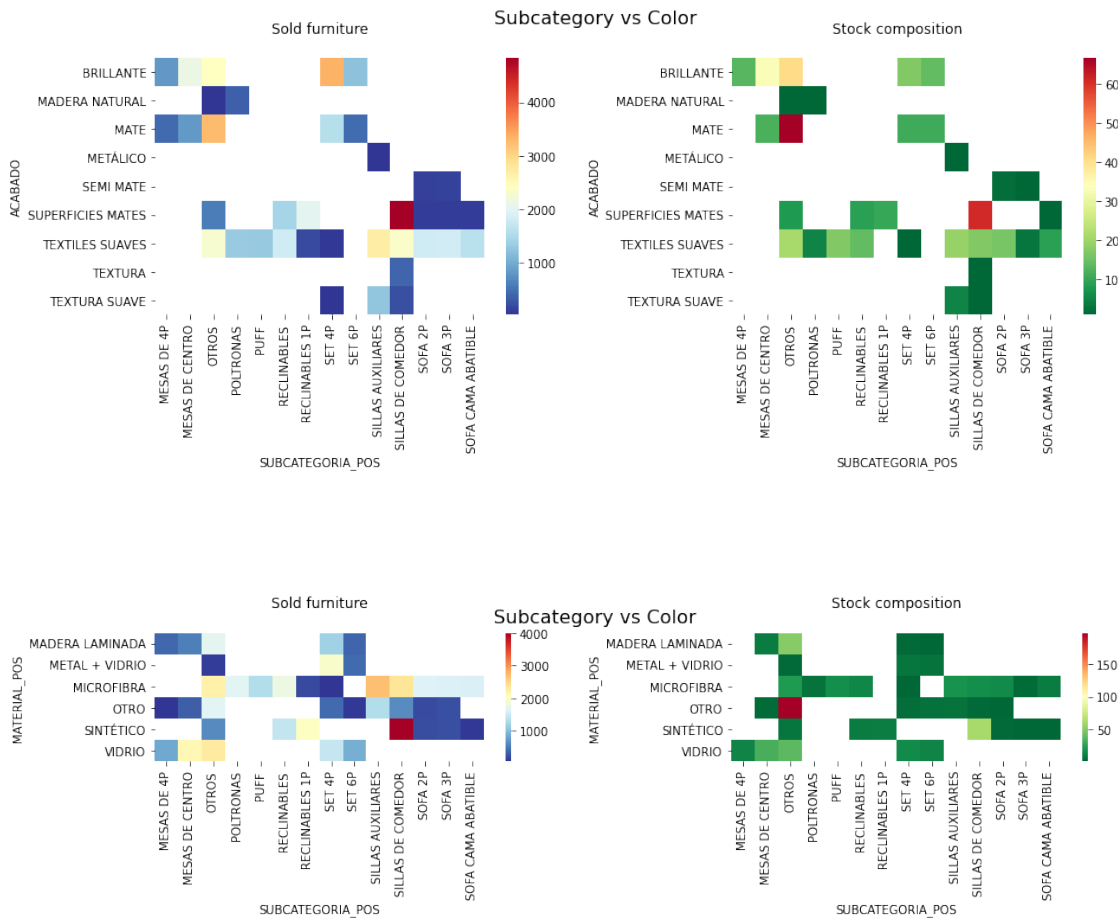
2. Subcategory

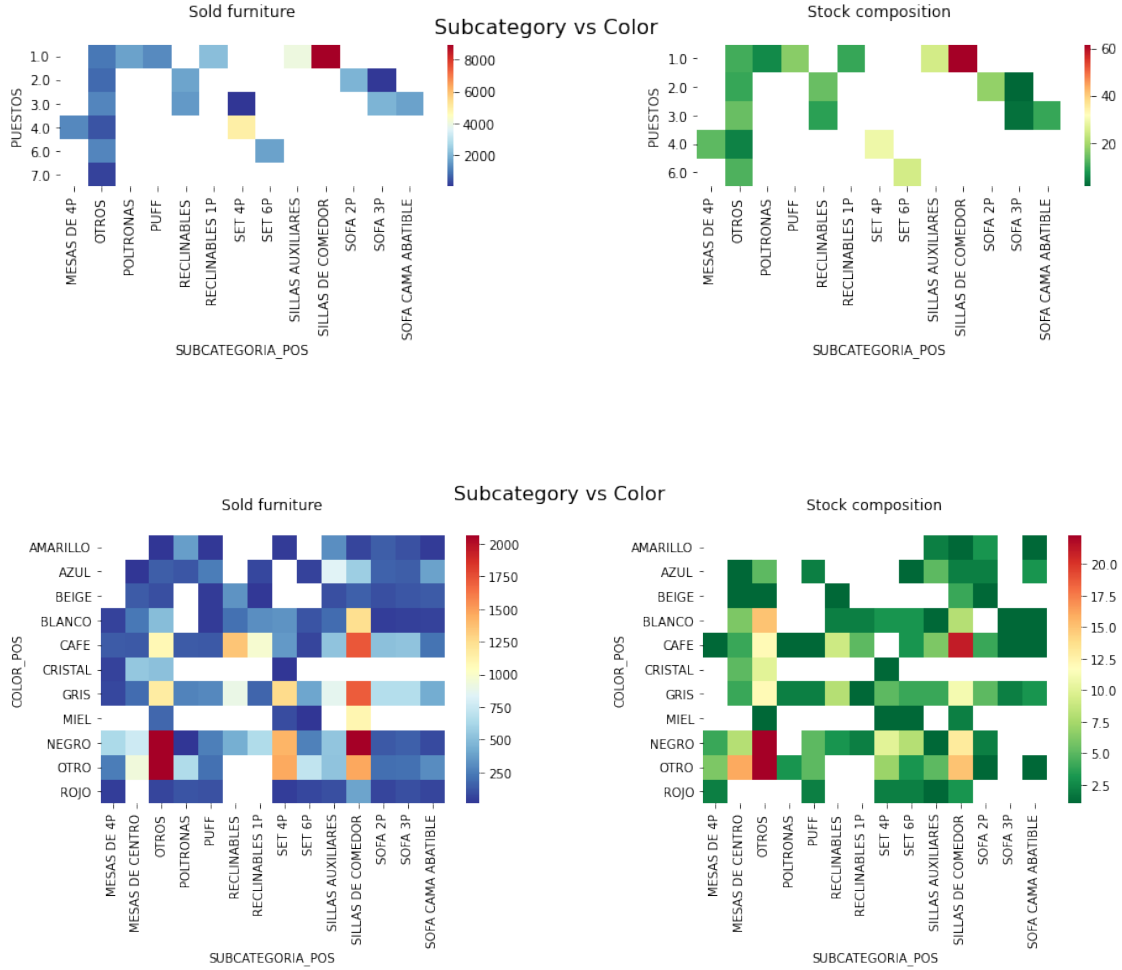


3. Frequency Tables Category|Subcategory



4. Subsubcategories_list vs other variables.





4 Conclusions

During this EDA analysis we explored the data given by the client, we created extra tables by merging the information we needed from the initial tables, we then cleaned the information to have a standardized format for all tables and values and then started the analysis to find additional information on the data to be able to gather insights on the problem at hand.

From the information, we plotted several line plots, scatter plots, and heatmaps to identify possible patterns and relations of the different variables, categorical or numerical. Some of that related information between the historical sales and the portfolio, and, the historical sales and the stock. From there we identified that there is a close relationship between the sales and the portfolio due mainly to the diversity of the products offered by the company. To higher diversity in colors, materials, texture, number of seats and category; higher number of sales of said subcategories (positive correlation). Finally, we determined the relevant features to take into consideration for the predictive model to implement.

From there, we decided to review possible trends of the relevant features in the historical sales, to check whether or not the different characteristics had a particular effect on the total amount of sales

of the Pareto subcategories that comprised 80% of the sold portfolio. We grouped sales by different variables with no clear patterns observed. On the contrary, the only new information gathered was the relation between the number of sales by characteristic and the portfolio: to higher diversity of items for each feature the higher amount of sales. To improve this information we decided to reduce the dimensionality of several variables by conducting a Pareto test according to the influence on the sales. Similar results were observed thus confirming the previous results and excluding possible confounding variables on the process, such as dimensions -though they do affect the price average of the products-.

We then identified the possibility to generate a classification strategy on the portfolio concerning the sales behavior between sales frequency and sale quantity fluctuation. We decided to go on with the Demand Driven methodology to inspect whether the products behave on a certain pattern -Intermittent, Lumpy, Smooth, Erratic- or not. From those results, we hope to properly classify the portfolio and be able to generate marketing and stocking strategies. We also identified possibilities to improve the validity of the portfolio by reviewing the composition of discontinued and new products and it's relation to the whole portfolio.

Therefore, we expect to have created a stable base to correctly predict the demand and optimize the stock of the client.

5 Mockup frontend

