

COVID-19 DataFest

Nagaprasad Rudrapatna and Jackson Muraika

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Topic

We will investigate bridge traffic statistics from the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission and determine whether and how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected activity at the Lewiston-Queenston, Rainbow, and Whirlpool bridges. The Niagara Falls Bridges are the second-busiest port of entry between US and Canada (behind Kennedy International); thus, these traffic statistics offer a unique opportunity to examine how port crossing has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Exploratory Data Analysis

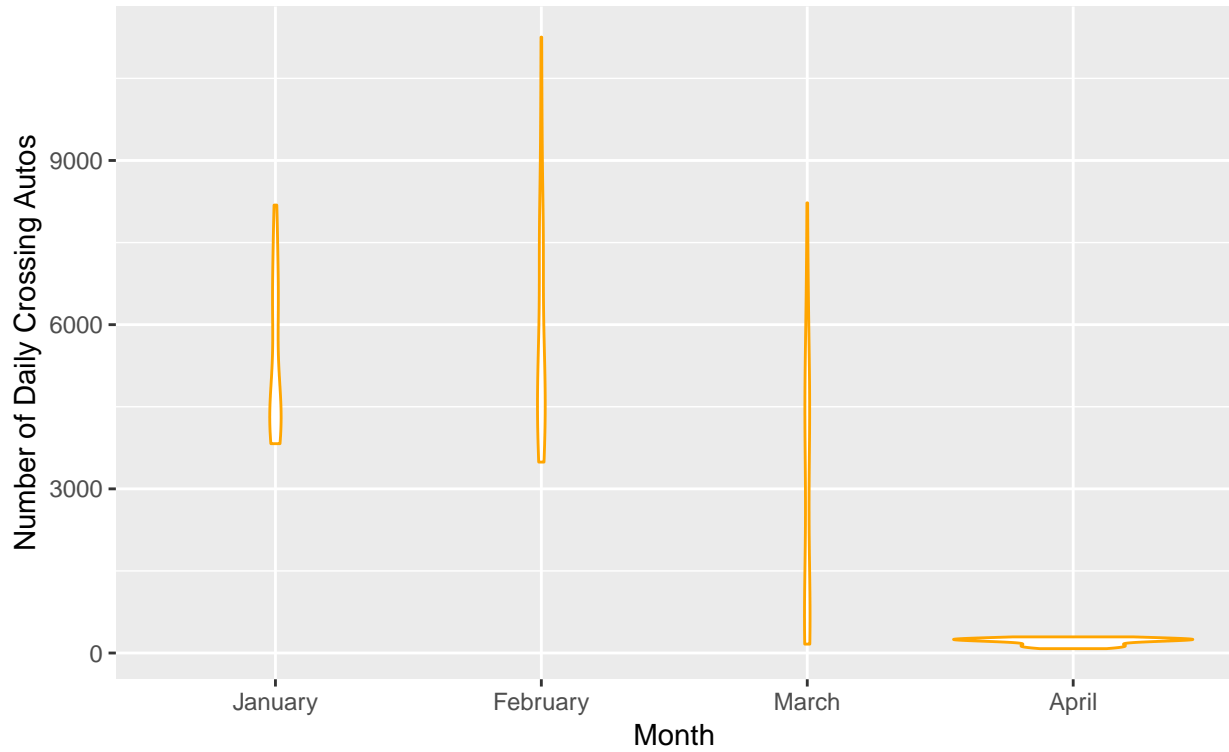
We will begin by examining the aggregate data, which combines the traffic statistics from all three bridges – Lewiston-Queenston, Rainbow, and Whirlpool.

```
## # A tibble: 4 x 2
##   Month      total
##   <fct>      <dbl>
## 1 April      20409
## 2 March     121761
## 3 January   198787
## 4 February  199594
```

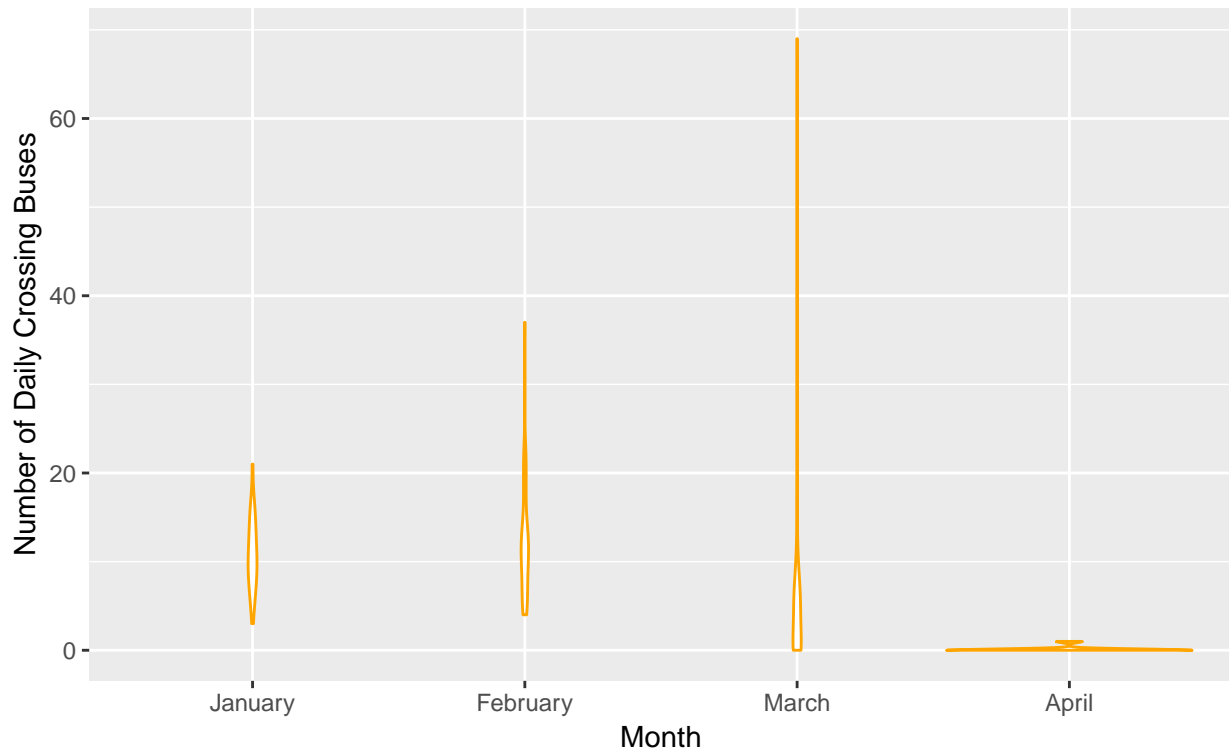
As we can see from the table above, bridge traffic was similar in January and February, with about 200,000 vehicles crossing in each month. However, when comparing February to March, we notice a large discrepancy in the number of vehicles – roughly 80,000 less vehicles! Furthermore, comparing March to April reveals an even greater discrepancy – almost 100,000 less vehicles! In sum, from January 2020 to April 2020, the number of vehicles crossing the Niagara Falls Bridges drastically decreased (approximately -180,000 vehicles).

Of course, this aligns with our expectations given the lockdown and social distancing guidelines which have been in place in March and April 2020.

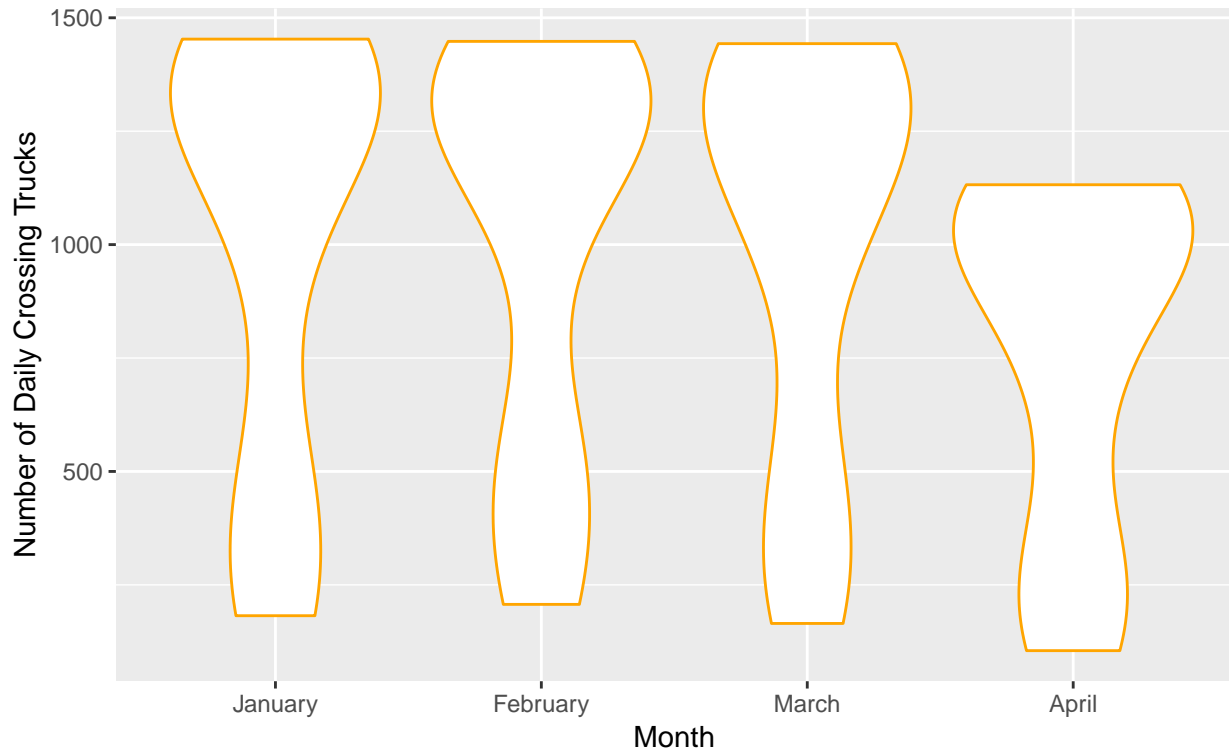
Total Number of Daily Crossing Autos Per Month
On Niagara Falls Bridges



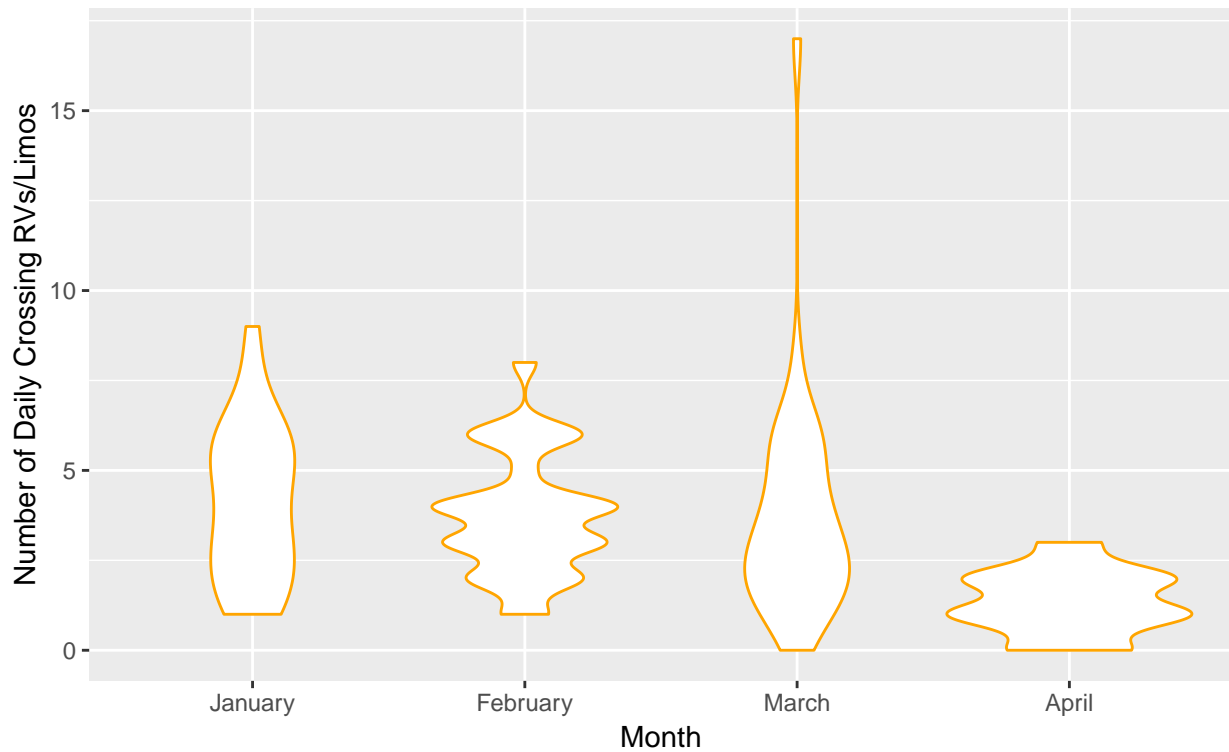
Total Number of Daily Crossing Buses Per Month
On Niagara Falls Bridges



Total Number of Daily Crossing Trucks Per Month
On Niagara Falls Bridges

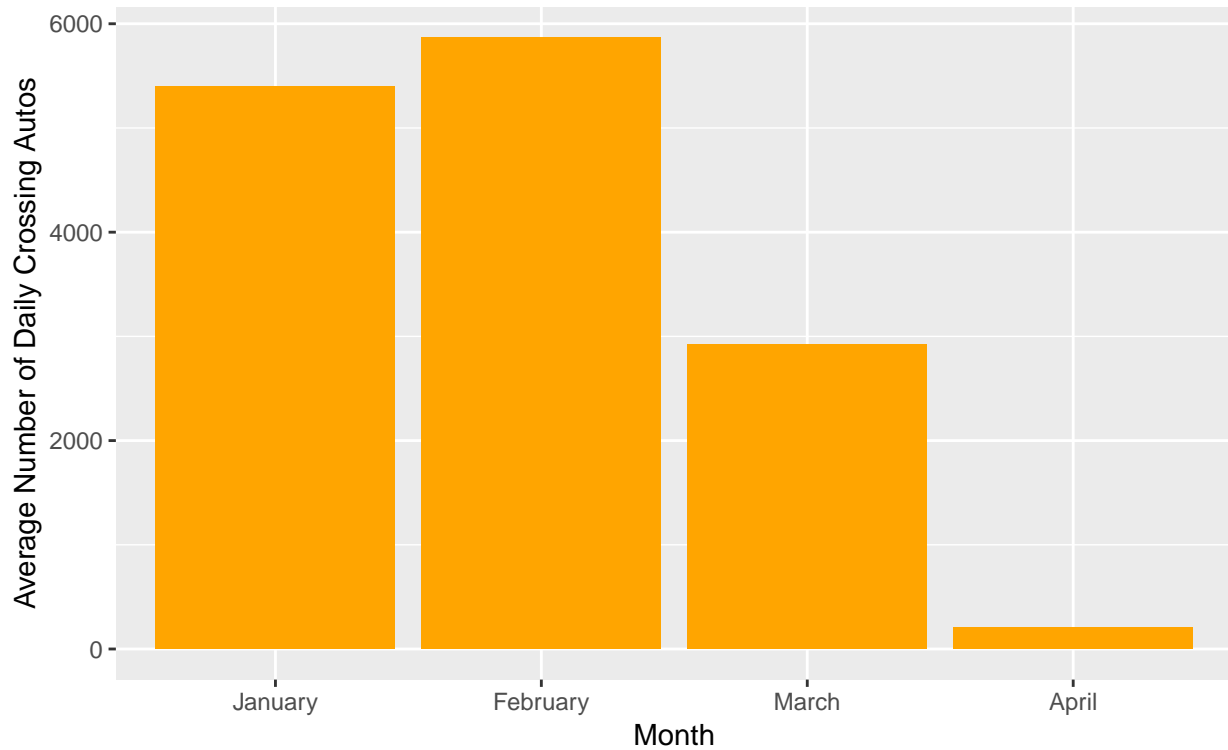


Total Number of Daily Crossing RVs/Limos Per Month
On Niagara Falls Bridges

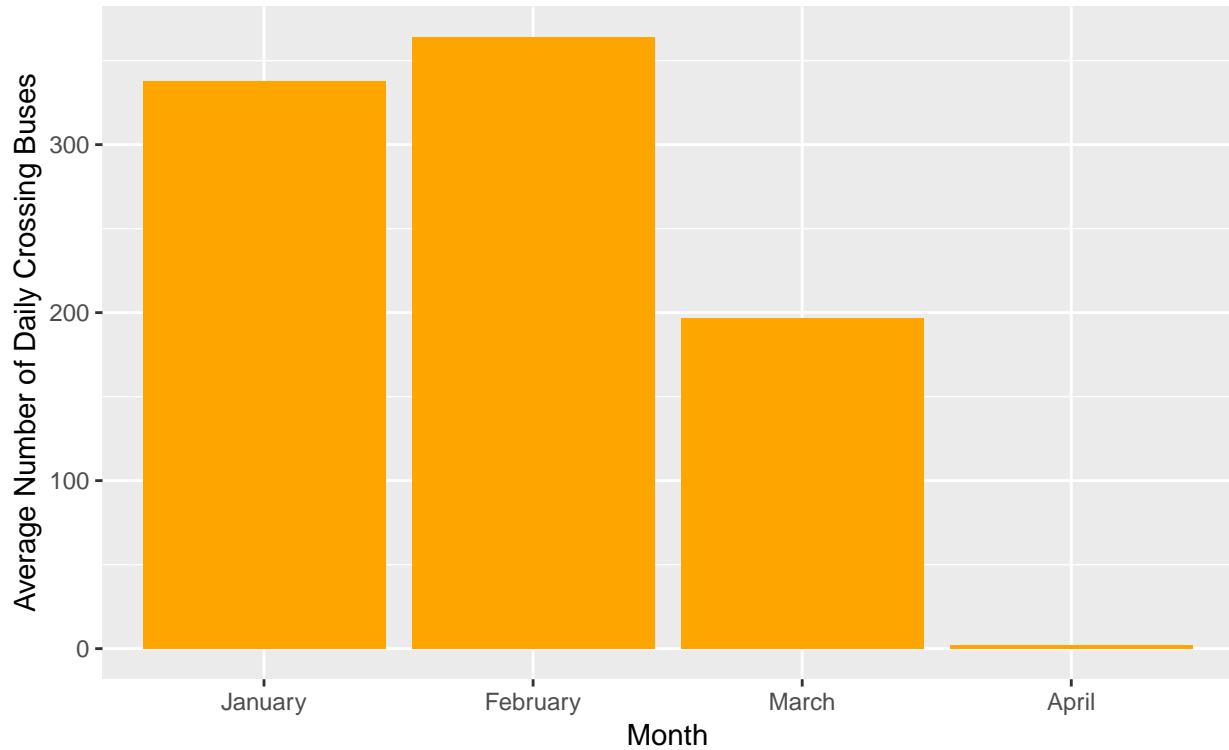


```
## # A tibble: 4 x 2
##   Month      totalA
##   <fct>      <dbl>
## 1 April        4359
## 2 March       90570
## 3 January    167326
## 4 February   170191
```

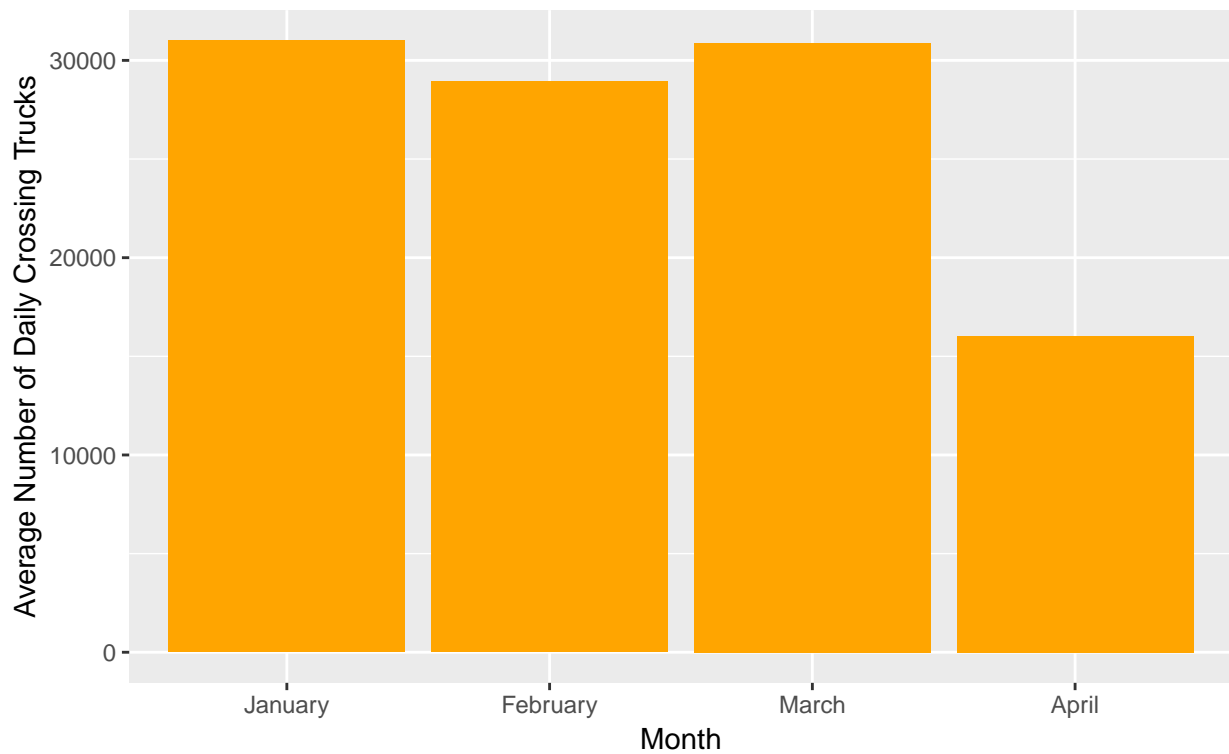
Average Number of Daily Crossing Autos Per Month
On Niagara Falls Bridges



Average Number of Daily Crossing Buses Per Month
On Niagara Falls Bridges



Average Number of Daily Crossing Trucks Per Month
On Niagara Falls Bridges



Average Number of Daily Crossing RVs/Limos Per Month
On Niagara Falls Bridges

