# Case Study: Cyclistic

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# Case Background

As a junior data analyst working in the marketing analyst team at Cyclistic (a fictional bike-sharing company active in Chicago), I am tasked with understanding how casual riders and annual members use Cyclistic bikes differently. Casual riders consist of customers that purchase single-ride or full-day passes, whereas annual members subscribe yearly for unlimited biking access. The marketing director theorizes that the company's future success depends on maximizing the number of yearly memberships by converting casual riders into annual members. Pending executive approval, my team will be designing a new marketing strategy that pursues this idea.

To inform any decision-making behind Cyclistic's new marketing strategy, the goal of this project will be to uncover and convey actionable insights.

If you would like to skip everything to view the results of this study, you can view my presentation <u>here</u>.

## **Problem Statement**

Cyclistic is faced with an uncertain future and is no longer able to solely rely on its traditional marketing strategies of raising general awareness and appealing to a variety of customer needs. In the interest of company growth, the director of marketing believes that Cyclistic should capitalize on the lucrative profit margins of annual subscribers by marketing to existing casual customers and persuading them to become yearly subscribers. If that strategy is plausible, a well-executed marketing campaign may lead to more sustainable long-term revenue. To that end, we need to analyze how and why Cyclistic casual bikers and members differ to weigh any evidence, opportunities, and barriers to any future marketing strategy.

# Data Source and Organization

The data we'll be using was extracted from <a href="here">here</a>. This data is made available by Motivate International Inc. under this <a href="license">license</a>. Note that Cyclistic is a fictional entity and Divvy's open data is used for the purpose of this case study.

The data available to us consists of a repository made up primarily of quantitative measurements collected over time. Each data point represents a single bike trip from one docking station to the next. At first glance, this data does not seem sufficient to fully comprehend how casuals and members use Cyclistic bikes differently. This data provides an overhead view of what they may be doing differently, but not the why.

We'll be examining the data of Quarter 1 of year 2019 and 2020. Each quarter has a separate comma-separated value file with the same headings. Each record consists of a bike trip under the bike-sharing program composed of several features: a unique hash ID serving as the table's primary key to identify each bike trip, the type of bike used, the type of customer (casual or member), details about the starting and ending docking station (name, ID, latitude, and longitude) and the DateTime for when the bike was picked up and dropped off.

## Preprocessing Coding Log

## **Setup Libraries**

```
# helps wrangle data
library(tidyverse)
## - Attaching core tidyverse packages -
                                                              - tidyverse 2.
0.0 -
## √ dplyr 1.1.4 √ readr 2.1.5
## \checkmark forcats 1.0.0 \checkmark stringr 1.5.1
## \checkmark ggplot2 3.5.1 \checkmark tibble 3.2.1
## √ lubridate 1.9.3 √ tidyr 1.3.1
## √ purrr 1.0.2
## -- Conflicts --
                                                    ----- tidyverse conflict
s() --
## X dplyr::filter() masks stats::filter()
## X dplyr::lag() masks stats::lag()
## i Use the conflicted package (<http://conflicted.r-lib.org/>) to force all
conflicts to become errors
# Use the conflicted package to manage conflicts
library(conflicted)
```

```
# Set dplyr::filter and dplyr::lag as the default choices
conflict_prefer("filter", "dplyr")
## [conflicted] Will prefer dplyr::filter over any other package.
conflict_prefer("lag", "dplyr")
## [conflicted] Will prefer dplyr::lag over any other package.
```

### Collect Data

Upload Divvy datasets (csv files) here

```
setwd('C:/Users/Pankaj Singh Danu/OneDrive/Desktop/case study R')
q1 2019 <- read csv("Divvy Trips 2019 Q1.csv")
## Rows: 365069 Columns: 12
## -- Column specification -
## Delimiter: ","
       (4): from station name, to station name, usertype, gender
       (5): trip id, bikeid, from station id, to station id, birthyear
## num (1): tripduration
## dttm (2): start time, end time
##
## i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set `show col types = FALSE` to quiet this me
q1 2020 <- read csv("Divvy Trips 2020 Q1.csv")
## Rows: 426887 Columns: 13
## -- Column specification -
## Delimiter: ","
## chr (5): ride id, rideable type, start station name, end station name, me
mb...
       (6): start station id, end station id, start lat, start lng, end lat,
## dbl
## dttm (2): started at, ended at
##
## i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
```

## **i** Specify the column types or set `show\_col\_types = FALSE` to quiet this me ssage.

## Wrangle data and combine into a single file

Compare column names each of the files

```
colnames(q1 2019)
## [1] "trip id"
                          "start time"
                                              "end time"
                         "tripduration"
## [4] "bikeid"
                                              "from station id"
## [7] "from station name" "to station id"
                                              "to station name"
## [10] "usertype"
                          "gender"
                                              "birthyear"
colnames(q1 2020)
                           "rideable_type"
## [1] "ride id"
                                                "started at"
## [4] "ended at"
                           "start_station_name" "start_station_id"
## [7] "end station name" "end station id" "start lat"
## [10] "start lng"
                           "end lat"
                                               "end lng"
## [13] "member_casual"
```

#### Rename columns in q1\_2019 to make them consistent with q1\_2020

```
(q1_2019 \leftarrow rename(q1_2019)
                 , ride id = trip id
                 ,rideable type = bikeid
                 ,started at = start time
                 , ended at = end time
                 ,start station name = from station name
                 , start station id = from station id
                 ,end station name = to station name
                 ,end station id = to station id
                 ,member_casual = usertype
) )
## # A tibble: 365,069 \times 12
##
    rideable type tripdura
tion
##
       <dbl> <dttm>
                               <dttm>
                                                          <dbl>
                                                                       <
dbl>
```

```
## 1 21742443 2019-01-01 00:04:37 2019-01-01 00:11:07
                                                                2167
390
## 2 21742444 2019-01-01 00:08:13 2019-01-01 00:15:34
                                                                4386
441
## 3 21742445 2019-01-01 00:13:23 2019-01-01 00:27:12
                                                                1524
829
## 4 21742446 2019-01-01 00:13:45 2019-01-01 00:43:28
                                                                 252
1783
## 5 21742447 2019-01-01 00:14:52 2019-01-01 00:20:56
                                                                1170
364
## 6 21742448 2019-01-01 00:15:33 2019-01-01 00:19:09
                                                                2437
216
## 7 21742449 2019-01-01 00:16:06 2019-01-01 00:19:03
                                                                2708
177
## 8 21742450 2019-01-01 00:18:41 2019-01-01 00:20:21
                                                                2796
100
## 9 21742451 2019-01-01 00:18:43 2019-01-01 00:47:30
                                                                6205
## 10 21742452 2019-01-01 00:19:18 2019-01-01 00:24:54
                                                                3939
336
## # i 365,059 more rows
## # i 7 more variables: start station id <dbl>, start station name <chr>,
     end station id <dbl>, end station name <chr>, member casual <chr>,
     gender <chr>, birthyear <dbl>
```

#### Inspect the dataframes

```
str(q1 2019)
## spc tbl [365,069 \times 12] (S3: spec tbl df/tbl df/tbl/data.frame)
                      : num [1:365069] 21742443 21742444 21742445 21742446
## $ ride id
21742447 ...
## $ started at
                       : POSIXct[1:365069], format: "2019-01-01 00:04:37" "2
019-01-01 00:08:13" ...
                       : POSIXct[1:365069], format: "2019-01-01 00:11:07" "2
## $ ended at
019-01-01 \ 0\overline{0}:15:34" \dots
                    : num [1:365069] 2167 4386 1524 252 1170 ...
## $ rideable type
## $ tripduration : num [1:365069] 390 441 829 1783 364 ...
## $ start station id : num [1:365069] 199 44 15 123 173 98 98 211 150 268
## \$ start station name: chr [1:365069] "Wabash Ave & Grand Ave" "State St &
Randolph St" "Racine Ave & 18th St" "California Ave & Milwaukee Ave" ...
```

```
## $ end station id : num [1:365069] 84 624 644 176 35 49 49 142 148 141
## $ end station name : chr [1:365069] "Milwaukee Ave & Grand Ave" "Dearbor
n St & Van Buren St (*)" "Western Ave & Fillmore St (*)" "Clark St & Elm St"
                       : chr [1:365069] "Subscriber" "Subscriber" "Subscribe
##
   $ member casual
r" "Subscriber" ...
##
   $ gender
                        : chr [1:365069] "Male" "Female" "Female" "Male" ...
##
   $ birthyear
                       : num [1:365069] 1989 1990 1994 1993 1994 ...
##
   - attr(*, "spec")=
##
     .. cols(
##
         trip id = col double(),
##
          start time = col datetime(format = ""),
          end time = col datetime(format = ""),
##
          bikeid = col double(),
##
##
         tripduration = col number(),
         from station id = col double(),
##
##
         from station name = col character(),
         to station id = col double(),
##
##
         to station name = col character(),
         usertype = col character(),
##
          gender = col character(),
##
##
         birthyear = col double()
    ..)
## - attr(*, "problems") = < externalptr>
str(q1 2020)
## spc tbl [426,887 \times 13] (S3: spec tbl df/tbl df/tbl/data.frame)
## $ ride id
                        : chr [1:426887] "EACB19130B0CDA4A" "8FED874C809DC021
" "789F3C21E472CA96" "C9A388DAC6ABF313" ...
                       : chr [1:426887] "docked bike" "docked bike" "docked
## $ rideable type
bike" "docked bike" ...
                       : POSIXct[1:426887], format: "2020-01-21 20:06:59" "2
## $ started at
020-01-30 \ 14:\overline{2}2:39" \dots
                       : POSIXct[1:426887], format: "2020-01-21 20:14:30" "2
## $ ended at
020-01-30 14:26:22" ...
## $ start station name: chr [1:426887] "Western Ave & Leland Ave" "Clark St
& Montrose Ave" "Broadway & Belmont Ave" "Clark St & Randolph St" ...
```

```
$ start station id : num [1:426887] 239 234 296 51 66 212 96 96 212 38 .
##
   $ end station name : chr [1:426887] "Clark St & Leland Ave" "Southport A
ve & Irving Park Rd" "Wilton Ave & Belmont Ave" "Fairbanks Ct & Grand Ave" ..
##
   $ end station id : num [1:426887] 326 318 117 24 212 96 212 212 96 100
. . .
##
   $ start lat
                        : num [1:426887] 42 42 41.9 41.9 41.9 ...
   $ start lng
                       : num [1:426887] -87.7 -87.7 -87.6 -87.6 -87.6 ...
##
   $ end lat
                       : num [1:426887] 42 42 41.9 41.9 41.9 ...
##
   $ end lng
                       : num [1:426887] -87.7 -87.7 -87.7 -87.6 -87.6 ...
                    : chr [1:426887] "member" "member" "member" "member"
##
   $ member casual
. . .
##
   - attr(*, "spec")=
##
    .. cols(
         ride id = col character(),
##
##
         rideable type = col character(),
         started at = col datetime(format = ""),
##
         ended at = col datetime(format = ""),
##
         start station name = col character(),
##
         start station id = col double(),
##
##
         end station name = col character(),
         end station id = col double(),
##
         start lat = col double(),
##
         start lng = col double(),
##
         end lat = col double(),
##
         end lng = col double(),
##
         member casual = col character()
##
##
   - attr(*, "problems") = < externalptr>
```

#### Make data types consistent

#### Combine the datasets

```
# Stack individual quarter's data frames into one big data frame
all_trips <- bind_rows(q1_2019, q1_2020)

# Remove lat, long, birthyear, and gender fields as this data was dropped beg
inning in 2020
all_trips <- all_trips %>%
    select(-c(start_lat, start_lng, end_lat, end_lng, birthyear, gender, "trip
duration"))
```

# Transforming and cleaning the data

## **Inspecting Data**

Inspect the new table that has been created

```
colnames(all_trips) #List of column names
## [1] "ride_id"
                      "started at"
                                       "ended at"
## [4] "rideable type" "start station id" "start station name"
## [7] "end station id" "end station name"
                                       "member casual"
nrow(all trips) #How many rows are in data frame?
## [1] 791956
dim(all trips) #Dimensions of the data frame?
## [1] 791956
head(all trips) #See the first 6 rows of data frame. Also tail(all trips)
## # A tibble: 6 × 9
ion id
## <chr> <dttm>
                         <dttm>
                                         <chr>
<dbl>
```

```
## 1 217424... 2019-01-01 00:04:37 2019-01-01 00:11:07 2167
199
## 2 217424... 2019-01-01 00:08:13 2019-01-01 00:15:34 4386
## 3 217424... 2019-01-01 00:13:23 2019-01-01 00:27:12 1524
15
## 4 217424... 2019-01-01 00:13:45 2019-01-01 00:43:28 252
123
## 5 217424... 2019-01-01 00:14:52 2019-01-01 00:20:56 1170
173
## 6 217424 2019-01-01 00:15:33 2019-01-01 00:19:09 2437
98
## # i 4 more variables: start station name <chr>, end station id <dbl>,
## # end station name <chr>, member casual <chr>
str(all trips) #See list of columns and data types (numeric, character, etc)
## tibble [791,956 \times 9] (S3: tbl df/tbl/data.frame)
## $ ride id
                       : chr [1:791956] "21742443" "21742444" "21742445" "21
742446" ...
                      : POSIXct[1:791956], format: "2019-01-01 00:04:37" "2
## $ started at
019-01-01 00:08:13" ...
                       : POSIXct[1:791956], format: "2019-01-01 00:11:07" "2
## $ ended at
019-01-01 00:15:34" ...
## $ rideable type : chr [1:791956] "2167" "4386" "1524" "252" ...
## $ start station id : num [1:791956] 199 44 15 123 173 98 98 211 150 268
\#\# $ start station name: chr [1:791956] "Wabash Ave & Grand Ave" "State St &
Randolph St" "Racine Ave & 18th St" "California Ave & Milwaukee Ave" ...
## $ end station id : num [1:791956] 84 624 644 176 35 49 49 142 148 141
   $ end station name : chr [1:791956] "Milwaukee Ave & Grand Ave" "Dearbor
n St & Van Buren St (*)" "Western Ave & Fillmore St (*)" "Clark St & Elm St"
## $ member casual
                    : chr [1:791956] "Subscriber" "Subscriber" "Subscribe
r" "Subscriber" ...
summary(all trips) #Statistical summary of data. Mainly for numerics
##
     ride id
                         started at
   Length: 791956
                      Min.
                            :2019-01-01 00:04:37.00
   Class :character
                      1st Ou.:2019-02-28 17:04:04.75
   Mode :character Median :2020-01-07 12:48:50.50
##
                      Mean :2019-09-01 11:58:08.35
##
```

```
##
                       3rd Qu.:2020-02-19 19:31:54.75
                              :2020-03-31 23:51:34.00
##
                       Max.
##
##
       ended at
                                     rideable type
                                                         start station id
##
   Min.
           :2019-01-01 00:11:07.00
                                     Length: 791956
                                                         Min. : 2.0
   1st Qu.:2019-02-28 17:15:58.75
                                     Class :character
                                                         1st Qu.: 77.0
   Median :2020-01-07 13:02:50.00
                                                         Median :174.0
##
                                     Mode :character
         :2019-09-01 12:17:52.17
                                                              :204.4
##
                                                         Mean
##
   3rd Ou.:2020-02-19 19:51:54.50
                                                         3rd Qu.:291.0
          :2020-05-19 20:10:34.00
##
   Max.
                                                         Max.
                                                                :675.0
##
##
   start station name end station id end station name
                                                           member casual
   Length: 791956
                       Min. : 2.0
                                       Length: 791956
                                                           Length: 791956
   Class : character
                       1st Ou.: 77.0
                                       Class :character
                                                           Class : character
   Mode :character
                       Median :174.0
                                      Mode :character Mode :character
##
                       Mean
                             :204.4
##
                       3rd Ou.:291.0
                              :675.0
##
                       Max.
                       NA's
                              :1
```

## **Identifing Problems**

There are a few problems we will need to fix:

- 1. In the "member\_casual" column, there are two names for members ("member" and "Subscriber") and two names for casual riders ("Customer" and "casual"). We will need to consolidate that from four to two labels.
- 2. The data can only be aggregated at the ride-level, which is too granular. We will want to add some additional columns of data such as day, month, year that provide additional opportunities to aggregate the data.
- 3. We will want to add a calculated field for length of ride since the 2020Q1 data did not have the "tripduration" column. We will add "ride\_length" to the entire dataframe for consistency.
- 4. There are some rides where tripduration shows up as negative, including several hundred rides where Divvy took bikes out of circulation for Quality Control reasons. We will want to delete these rides.

## **Data Cleaning**

Begin by seeing how many observations fall under each usertype

```
table(all_trips$member_casual)
##

## casual Customer member Subscriber
## 48480 23163 378407 341906
```

Reassign to the desired values (we will go with the 2020 labels)

Add columns that list the date, month, day, and year of each ride

```
# This will allow us to aggregate ride data for each month, day, or year ...
before completing these operations we could only aggregate at the ride level
all_trips$date <- as.Date(all_trips$started_at) #The default format is yyyy-m
m-dd
all_trips$month <- format(as.Date(all_trips$date), "%m")
all_trips$day <- format(as.Date(all_trips$date), "%d")
all_trips$year <- format(as.Date(all_trips$date), "%Y")
all_trips$day_of_week <- format(as.Date(all_trips$date), "%A")</pre>
```

Add a "ride length" calculation to all trips (in seconds)

```
all_trips$ride_length <- difftime(all_trips$ended_at,all_trips$started_at)</pre>
```

Convert "ride length" from Factor to numeric so we can run calculations on the data

```
all_trips$ride_length <- as.numeric(as.character(all_trips$ride_length))
is.numeric(all_trips$ride_length)
## [1] TRUE</pre>
```

The dataframe includes a few hundred entries when bikes were taken out of docks and checked for quality by Divvy or ride\_length was negative We will create a new version of the dataframe (v2) since data is being removed

```
all_trips_v2 <- all_trips[!(all_trips$start_station_name == "HQ QR" | all_tri
ps$ride_length<0),]</pre>
```

# Conduct a descriptive analysis

## Summary

```
summary(all_trips_v2$ride_length)
## Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max.
## 1 331 539 1189 912 10632022
```

## Comparing Casual and Member users

```
aggregate(all\_trips\_v2\$ride\_length ~ all\_trips\_v2\$member\_casual, ~ FUN = mean)
   all trips v2$member casual all trips v2$ride length
## 1
                          casual
                                                5372.7839
## 2
                         member
                                                 795.2523
aggregate(all trips v2$ride length \sim all trips v2$member casual, FUN = median
     all trips v2$member casual all trips v2$ride length
##
## 1
                                                      1393
                          casual
## 2
                         member
                                                       508
aggregate(all_trips_v2$ride_length ~ all_trips_v2$member_casual, FUN = max)
    all trips v2$member casual all trips v2$ride length
## 1
                                                 10632022
                         casual
## 2
                                                   6096428
                         member
aggregate(all trips v2$ride length ~ all trips v2$member casual, FUN = min)
     all trips v2$member casual all trips v2$ride length
## 1
                         casual
                                                         1
## 2
                         member
# See the average ride time by each day for members vs casual users
aggregate(all trips v2$ride length ~ all trips v2$member casual + all trips v
2$day of week, FUN = mean)
     all trips v2$member casual all trips v2$day of week all trips v2$ride 1
ength
## 1
                           casual
                                                                            6090
                                                     Friday
.7373
## 2
                                                                            796
                           member
                                                     Friday
.7338
## 3
                          casual
                                                    Monday
                                                                            4752
.0504
```

## 4 .3112	member	Monday	822			
## 5 .7708	casual	Saturday	4950			
## 6 .0730	member	Saturday	974			
## 7 .3044	casual	Sunday	5061			
## 8 .9383	member	Sunday	972			
## 9 .6669	casual	Thursday	8451			
## 10 .2093	member	Thursday	707			
## 11 .8039	casual	Tuesday	4561			
## 12 .4416	member	Tuesday	769			
## 13 .3724	casual	Wednesday	4480			
## 14 .9838	member	Wednesday	711			
# The days of the week are out of order. Let's fix that.						
all_trips_v2\$day_of_week <- ordered(all_trips_v2\$day_of_week, levels=c("Sunda y", "Monday", "Tuesday", "Wednesday", "Thursday", "Friday", "Saturday"))						

#### Average ride time by each day for Members vs Casual users

```
# Now, let's run the average ride time by each day for members vs casual user
aggregate(all_trips_v2$ride_length ~ all_trips_v2$member_casual + all_trips_v
2$day of week, FUN = mean)
## all trips v2$member casual all trips v2$day of week all trips v2$ride 1
ength
## 1
                                                   Sunday
                                                                         5061
                          casual
.3044
## 2
                         member
                                                   Sunday
                                                                          972
.9383
## 3
                          casual
                                                   Monday
                                                                         4752
.0504
## 4
                         member
                                                   Monday
                                                                          822
.3112
```

## 5 .8039	casual	Tuesday	4561
## 6 .4416	member	Tuesday	769
## 7 .3724	casual	Wednesday	4480
## 8 .9838	member	Wednesday	711
## 9 .6669	casual	Thursday	8451
## 10 .2093	member	Thursday	707
## 11 .7373	casual	Friday	6090
## 12 .7338	member	Friday	796
## 13 .7708	casual	Saturday	4950
## 14 .0730	member	Saturday	974

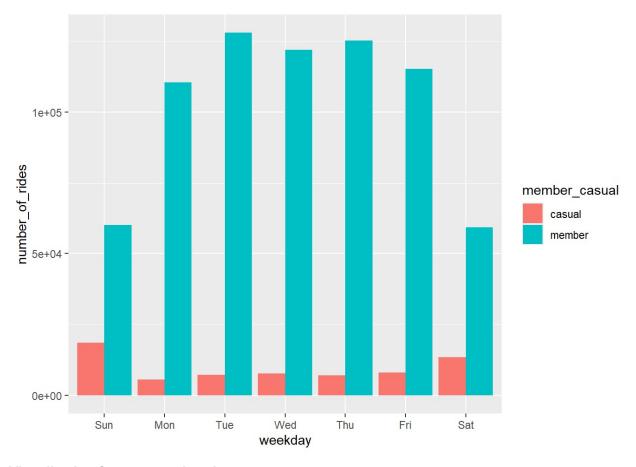
#### Analyze ridership data by type and weekday

```
all trips v2 %>%
 mutate(weekday = wday(started at, label = TRUE)) %>% #creates weekday fiel
d using wday()
 group by (member casual, weekday) %>% #groups by usertype and weekday
 summarise(number of rides = n()
                                                         #calculates the n
umber of rides and average duration
            ,average duration = mean(ride length)) %>% # calculates the
average duration
 arrange(member casual, weekday)
                                                               # sorts
## `summarise()` has grouped output by 'member casual'. You can override usin
g the
## `.groups` argument.
## # A tibble: 14 × 4
## # Groups: member casual [2]
##
     member_casual weekday number_of_rides average_duration
    <chr>
                  <ord>
                                     <int>
                                                     <dbl>
##
## 1 casual
                                                     5061.
                  Sun
                                    18652
               Mon
## 2 casual
                                                     4752.
                                     5591
```

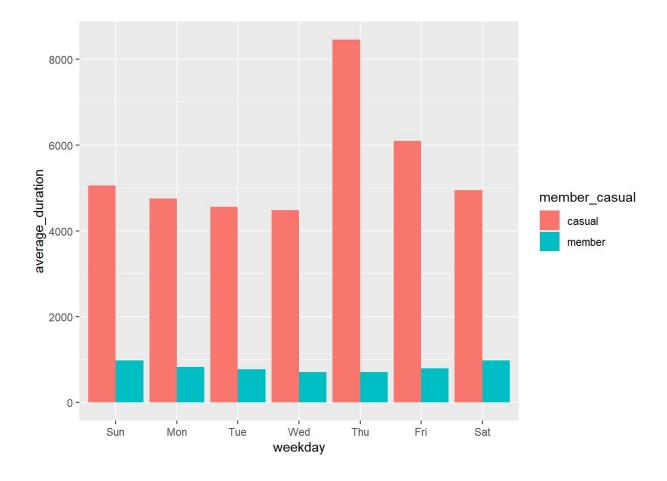
##	3 casual	Tue	7311	4562.	
##	4 casual	Wed	7690	4480.	
##	5 casual	Thu	7147	8452.	
##	6 casual	Fri	8013	6091.	
##	7 casual	Sat	13473	4951.	
##	8 member	Sun	60197	973.	
##	9 member	Mon	110430	822.	
##	10 member	Tue	127974	769.	
##	11 member	Wed	121902	712.	
##	12 member	Thu	125228	707.	
##	13 member	Fri	115168	797.	
##	14 member	Sat	59413	974.	

### **Data Visualisations**

### Visualize the number of rides by rider type



#### Visualization for average duration



# Findings Summary: Inconclusive

Our analysis reveals some important behavioral differences between Casuals and Members. These distinctions hint at some variations in fundamental values between the two groups, but at this stage, the information we've uncovered can only be used to make generalizations about the entire population of bike trips on both sides and is insufficient to draw any conclusions about your typical member or casual. Therefore, our findings cannot fully answer the question that started this project without collecting more relevant data and reiterating the data analysis process.

#### **Speculations**

A. Casuals primarily use Cyclistic bikes for leisure

We make that assumption based on the fact that casuals:

Bike twice as much on Saturdays and Sundays compared to any other day of the week Spend the majority of their bike trips near parks and water Spend significantly longer on average on every bike trip, suggesting that they spend time in-between docking stations doing leisurely activities Scarcely use Cyclistic bikes in the morning (6 am-noon) Do not use Cyclistic bikes often enough to warrant paying for an annual membership

B. Members get more out of Cyclistic bikes by using them for leisure and commuting consistently We've drawn that conclusion based on the fact that members:

Rely on bikes consistently each week and year-round, with no notable preference on a single day of the week Use Cyclistic bikes often during the rush hours on a typical workday Have a large geographical spread in the downtown area, particularly in high urban dense areas Are motivated by the economics of an annual membership pass

# Act on Key Findings

## Next Steps: Recommended Paths

### A) Reiterating on Data Extraction and Analysis

To confirm that our speculations are true and uncover any other notable behavioral differences, we need to survey a significant sample of our user population to discover what truly defines each user group's behavior. Gravitating towards qualitative data that would provide insights like opinions and motivations (what do they use Cyclistic bikes for?) gives some much-needed context behind our initial findings. In particular, finding out what can incentivize users will help us leverage consumer needs towards a more successful marketing strategy. In addition, collecting more quantitative data into user demographics would provide more information into your typical casual or member user with features like income, age, and weight.

The idea here is to get a good sense of the major obstacles and opportunities ahead of Cyclistic that could interfere or assist in a conversion strategy. For instance, if Casuals do not have enough disposable income, it would be incredibly difficult to persuade them to increase their fiscal commitment.

Ultimately, a successful conversion relies on a strategy that provides enough incentive to casual users to be willing to make the switch.

### B) Forging Ahead with our Initial Findings

Unfortunately, the safest choice often requires the investment of more time and resources. If Cyclistic executives can tolerate a certain level of risk, they can use the findings in this analysis to kick-start and form the basis of a few strategies. Regardless, due diligence is required to ensure the viability of any new marketing strategies.

The top three recommendations moving forward:

### 1. Consider alternatives to conversion, such as new service and pricing models

The future of Cyclistic should not be limited to a single narrow strategy to achieve sustainable business growth. We should examine any options to innovate and enhance the current Cyclistic experience, even if it's radical. In particular, a three-tiered pricing approach could optimize revenue by offering a service that fits between single-use passes and an annual subscription that provides unlimited rides. This offering would seek a balance between the two, finding the sweet spot for casuals that cannot justify the economics of an expensive annual payment and the limitations of single-use passes. For example, a weekend pass would serve as a good compromise for users that typically only use Cyclistic for leisure on weekends. However, it's worth examining how this may inadvertently downgrade current annual members and if there's any way to mitigate any undesired effects from this strategy.

### 2. Explore ways to convey the benefits of biking more frequently

If Cyclistic can incentivize Casual users to increase their biking tendencies, they may be willing to upgrade their commitment. This incentivization could come from various strategies, one of which

could come through an effective marketing campaign that informs users of the main benefits of biking. As mentioned earlier, this strategy is risky without an in-depth understanding of casual users.

Convincing someone to change their habits has always been a monumental task. This strategy would need to consider how Cyclistic could realistically disrupt Casual user habits and instill a desire to bike year-round. For this reason, it may be best to narrow the marketing strategy's focus to a subset of Casuals that are particularly susceptible to influence and have relevant personal goals that are achievable with Cyclistic.

### 3. Explore models that reward higher-priced offerings with additional privileges

As it stands, Casuals and Members experience a relatively similar level of service. They are both given the same privileges on a first-come-first-serve service basis for every available bike type. Naturally, some people will experience pain points under this system whenever they come up to a station and miss out on using their favorite bike type or are inconvenienced with a biking shortage during peak biking season.

By minimizing this inconvenience for Members, Casuals will bear the brunt of the inconvenience. For example, Members could have the privilege of knowing what bikes are available in real-time and can reserve them ahead of time, thereby eliminating Casuals' access to the first-come-first-serve experience. In turn, they will have to tolerate the inconvenience, upgrade their commitment, or switch to a competing product. Admittedly, this is risky in the sense that it could cause severe backlash and result in a high churn rate. However, Cyclistic could execute a strategy that slowly enacts these changes long-term and exposes users to negligible and tolerable differences in the Cyclistic experience.

These privileges would not necessarily convert a large portion of Casuals, as I doubt it would provide enough justification for them to pay more for the same amount of bike use with extra perks. Regardless, it is worth examining the pain threshold for Casuals and testing how they would react. This strategy could be synergized with the three-tiered pricing strategy, introducing different levels of perks for each service offering and encouraging most users to choose the service that provides the best experience at a reasonable price.