Title:

Impact of COVID-19 on food production and Humans

Project report

Students:

Santosh Adabala, [siad4700@colorado.edu](mailto:siad4700@colorado.edu)

Evan McCormick, [evmcc5552@colorado.edu](mailto:evmcc5552@colorado.edu)

Anila Reddy Musku, [anmu4597@colorado.edu](mailto:anmu4597@colorado.edu)

Yamini Priyanka Kandikattu, [Yamini.kandikattu@colorado.edu](mailto:Yamini.kandikattu@colorado.edu)

Maxwell Solko, [maso1345@colorado.edu](mailto:maso1345@colorado.edu)

Sushil Deore, [sude8287@colorado.edu](mailto:sude8287@colorado.edu)

Roja Kuchipudi, [roku6452@colorado.edu](mailto:roku6452@colorado.edu)

Vamsi Gontu, [vago4483@colorado.edu](mailto:vago4483@colorado.edu)

Sravani Rao Savaram, [srsa1680@colorado.edu](file:///D:\Sushil\UC%20Boulder%20Sem%201\Stats%205000\Project\srsa1680@colorado.edu)

Professor:

Dr. Ami Gates

University Of Colorado Boulder

Master of Science in Data Science

[STAT 5000-002](https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/85374)

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# **Introduction**

A pandemic is not a new event encountered in the history of humanity because mankind has faced various pandemics in history. The common point of pandemics is their serious negative effects on the global economy. Considering the food supply chain, one of the most important sectors of the economy, it has been seen that COVID-19 has an impact on the whole process from the field to the consumer. Considering, recent challenges in the food supply chain, there is now considerable concern about food production, processing, distribution, and demand. COVID-19 resulted in the movement restrictions of workers, changes in demand of consumers, closure of food production facilities, restricted food trade policies, and financial pressures in the food supply chain. Therefore, governments should facilitate the movement of workers and agri-food products.

The global disruption caused by COVID-19 has brought about several effects on the environment and climate. Due to movement restrictions and a significant slowdown of social and economic activities, air quality has improved in many cities with a reduction in water pollution in different parts of the world.

Supplies of staple crops are large, production prospects are favorable, and cereal stocks are expected to reach their third highest level on record. Moreover, most countries have designated the agriculture and agro-food sectors as essential and exempt from business closure and restrictions on movement. For many countries, the direct impacts of the pandemic on primary agriculture should be limited, as the disease does not affect the natural resources upon which production is based. However, the virus poses a serious threat to food security and livelihoods in the poorest countries, where agricultural production systems are more labor-intensive and there is less capacity to withstand a severe macroeconomic shock.

Because food is a necessity, the level of food demand should be affected less by the crisis than the demand for other goods and services. However, there has been a major shift in the structure of demand, with a collapse in demand from restaurants, hotels, and catering, the closure of open markets, and a surge in demand from supermarkets. There are signs that businesses along the food chain are already adapting to shifts in demand, for example by switching production lines and increasing their capacity to manage larger inventories, moving to online platforms and direct delivery to households, and hiring temporary staff. In all but the poorest countries, the biggest challenges for the sector come from the measures needed to contain COVID-19; the necessary adjustments within the sector to comply with those measures (which may increase costs); and the need to find alternative markets for products affected as people change their consumption habits in response to COVID-19.

Study starts with data collection and discusses the data collected and its significance, to make useful insights data cleaning is performed as missing value treatment and outlier detection and treatment. Next study discusses the questions which tend to solve like Did production change when covid hit? What about concentration on certain foods? Etc. Next section analysis helps to understand the data and data description more clearly. To understand and to perform test on data univariate, bi-variate, and multivariate value distribution is studied. Later, in data exploration we studied the relative probability distribution, measure of center and variances, using language R. Next section results we performed hypothesis testing on variables and challenge the significance of Covid to population, income, and trade. At the end, we concluded the results based on results, visualizations, and distributions. Following statement sites, the study aim.

This study aims to gain insight into the Impacts of COVID-19 on food production resulting in human life around the world. Production of food in developed and developing countries compared to other countries. Also, COVID-19 took many lives and created complications for others.

## Data collection

Data has been collected and stored in .csv (comma-separated values) from the sites like WHO (World Health Organization), and FAOSTAT (Food and Agriculture Organization Statistics).

### 1.1.1 COVID-19 Data

The COVID-19 dataset contains the values related to COVID-19 cases and deaths from 2020 to 2022. Countries are repeated with years from 2020 to 2022. This dataset is a combination of country-wise cases and food import-export. The dataset contains 711 records and 15 features.

Table

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Figure 1 Covid-19 Data before cleaning 1

* Data cleaning activity is performed on dataset like missing value imputation, outlier treatment and checking for value distribution in the columns.
* After data cleaning procedures data is used to visualize each column for its distribution.
* Boxplots, Histograms & scatter plots are used in terms of the univariate and multivariate analysis.

Table

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Figure 2 COVID-19 Data before cleaning 2

Table

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Figure 3 COVID-19 Data after cleaning

### 1.1.2 Food Production

One of the datasets contains the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations. The dataset contains countries and their production statistics from the year 2000 to the year 2020. Crop and livestock statistics are recorded for 278 products, covering the following categories:

1) CROP’S PRIMARY

2) CROPS PROCESSED

3) LIVE ANIMALS

4) LIVESTOCK PRIMARY

5) LIVESTOCK PROCESSED

This dataset contains 2227 records and 24 features. This dataset does not contain any missing value.

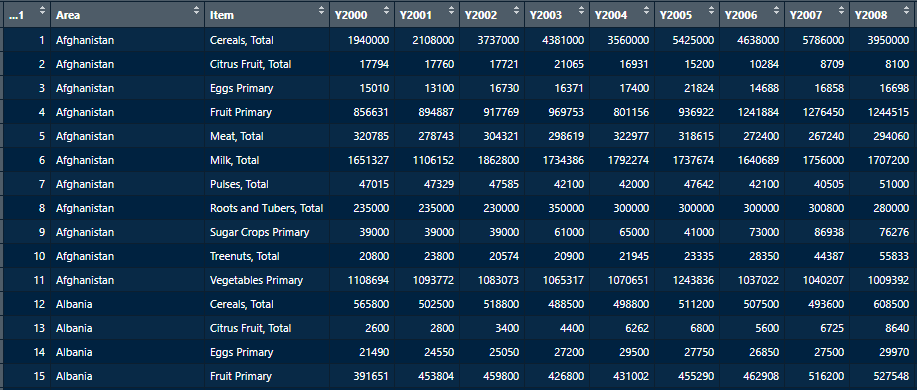


Figure 4 Food Production Dataset 1

Graphical user interface, text, application

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Figure 5 Food Production Dataset 2

* Figure 4 & Figure 5 shows the Food production values from the year 2000 to year 2020 for various countries in terms of crops and livestock.

## Questions:

To Answer following questions this study is conducted. If needs more data can be added.

1. Did production change when covid hit?
2. What about concentration on certain foods?
3. What about certain countries? did some get hit harder than others?
4. Did certain countries start exporting more when covid hit?
5. Did certain countries start importing more when covid hit?
6. How does import/export rates of food affect a country's food insecurity
7. Does covid modulate these aspects?
8. Does production improve with time?
9. Do we always remove outliers from the dataset?
10. Does this data will be sufficient to answers mentioned above?

# **Analyses**

## 2.1 Missing value treatment

* In this dataset, many columns contain missing values like column "Food\_exp\_perc", "Time\_through\_customs", "Agri\_exp\_perc", "Food\_imp\_perc", "Food\_Production", "Food\_bev\_vat". These columns contain missing values ranging from Approx. 72% to 98%. Hence, decided to drop these columns. Now, in COVID-19 Dataset only 8 features left.
* Next part of cleaning process is imputing missing values in columns which have missing values less than 50%. We have two columns i.e., Cases\_100K & Deaths\_100K having 24% missing values. When we check the distribution of values for column “Cases\_100K”, it’s shows that mean is greater than median values which means that values are negatively distributed/ negatively skewed.
* Distribution of values present in column “Deaths\_100K” is same as column “Cases\_100K” with mean values greater than median values which means values are negatively skewed.
* Considering, details of value distributions in columns “Cases\_100K” and “Deaths\_100K”. Imputing missing values with median value is considered correct. Hence missing values of respective columns are replaced with median values.

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Figure 6 Missing value detection in COVID-19 Data

## 2.2 Outlier treatment

### 2.2.1 COVID-19 Data: Column Cases\_100K

* Next, Outlier treatment of columns. Plotting boxplot helps to understand the spread of values in distribution. Hence, performed the outlier treatment on columns having outliers. From Figure 5, Boxplot for column Cases\_100K, this plot shows the outlier values in the column.
* Column Cases\_100K shows the new cases detected per 100K testing.

Diagram

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Figure 7 Boxplot for column Cases\_100K

### 2.2.2 COVID-19 Data: Column Deaths\_100K

* Column Deaths\_100K shows the deaths per 100K testing. Boxplot shows the spread of values in the column distributions.

Chart

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Figure 8 Boxplot for Column Deaths\_100K

* Like, Columns Cases\_100K & Deaths\_100K we have capped the values of columns in dataset COVID-19.
* For Dataset Food production, shows outlier values but, removing those value can cause information loss from countries whose food production increased for year due to good conditions.

### 2.2.3 Food Production Data: Column Y2020

* Column Y2020 shows distribution of values for Year 2020. It also shows the values for all the countries whose production in various items Crops, Livestock.

Chart, scatter chart

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Figure 9 Boxplot for Column Y2020

## 2.3 Exploratory Data analysis:

### 2.3.1 Dataset COVID-19

* In Exploratory data analysis (EDA) columns of dataset are examined to check its distribution, its variation considering other columns i.e., its correlation with other columns.
* In R, we can check the value distributions and other attributes using summary command as shown in figure 8 Summary of COVID-19 Dataset.

A screenshot of a computer

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Figure 10 Summary of COVID-19 Dataset

#### 2.3.1.1 Univariate analysis for COVID-19 Dataset

* Quantitative variables are considered here, as only categorical columns are Year and Country. Hence, plotting histograms for cleaned data, with six columns in figure 9 Univariate analysis on COVID-19 dataset.

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Figure 11 Univariate analysis on COVID-19 Dataset

* Column **New\_cases**: Here, most values are close to zero with values in positive skewed distribution. Maximum frequency of New\_cases go till 600 in frequency.
* Column **New\_deaths**: This column explains the new confirmed cases by subtracting previous cumulative case count from current cumulative cases count. Histogram shows the value distribution close towards the zero.
* Column **Cumulative\_cases:** This column explainsCumulative confirmed cases reported to WHO to date. Here, we can see the rise in the cases with low frequency and cases are reported close to the less count shows high frequency. It means that less count of cases reported more.
* Column **Cumulative\_deaths**: This column explains Cumulative confirmed deaths reported to WHO to date. Plot shows the distribution of value close to the lower values with frequency more than 500. This graph explains that less deaths are reported maximum times.
* Column **Cases\_100K**: This column explains Cumulative confirmed cases reported to WHO to date per 100,000 population. The value distribution shows values close to lower count reported maximum times. It means that cases till 20K reported maximum times than 30K.
* Column **Deaths\_100K:** This column explains the Cumulative confirmed deaths reported to WHO to date per 100,000 population. Plot for this column shows distribution of values close towards the lower values till 80. It means death count till 80 reported maximum times.

#### 2.3.1.2 Multivariate analysis on COVID-19 Dataset

* Figure 10, Multivariate plot of column New\_cases Vs. New\_deaths Vs. Year shows the variation and distribution of values. From plot we can visualize that with maximum cases and deaths are happened in year 2020. Later we can see some outliers in year 2021 showing more cases with more deaths.

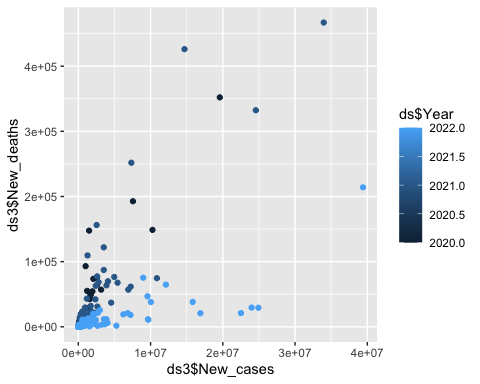


Figure 12 Multivariate plot of Column New\_cases Vs. New\_deaths Vs Year

* Figure 11 Multivariate plot of Column New\_cases Vs. Cumulative\_cases Vs. Year. Here plot shows the linear relationship between New\_cases with Cumulative\_cases, it is clear from plot as cumulative cases are high in year 2022. Also, dark points are from early time like 2020 showing high New\_cases.

Chart, scatter chart

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Figure 13 Multivariate plot of Column New\_cases Vs. Cumulative\_cases Vs. Year

* Next, from figure 12 Multivariate plot of column Cumulative\_deaths Vs. New\_deaths Vs. Year. Here plot shows linear relationship between Cumulative\_deaths and New\_deaths. From intensity of colors, we can conclude that maximum new deaths are in year 2020 and maximum cumulative deaths are in year 2022.

Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generated

Figure 14 Multivariate plot of column Cumulative\_deaths Vs. New\_deaths Vs. Year

### 2.3.2 Food Production Dataset

Food production dataset contains the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations. The dataset contains countries and their production statistics from the year 2000 to the year 2020.

#### 2.3.2.1 Univariate analysis for Food Production Dataset

* Crop and livestock statistics are recorded for 278 products dataset contains 2227 records and 24 features. This dataset does not contain any missing value.

Diagram, engineering drawing, schematic

Description automatically generated

Figure 15 Univariate analysis on Food Production Dataset with 5-year increment

* From figure 15 univariate analysis on food production dataset with 5-year increment, graphs we can see that production is improved with incrementing years. Reason been all plots looks same as this dataset contains crops and livestock values with country wise fashion, so values are repeating in each column hence, all plots look similar.

#### 2.3.2.2 Bivariate analysis for Food production dataset

* Figure 16 Bivariate analysis Y2000 Vs Items shows the amount of item produced in Year 2000. Similarly in second part of figure, plots show items produced in year 2005.

Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated

Figure 16 Bivariate analysis Y2000 Vs Item & Y2005 Vs. Item

* Figure 17, Bivariate analysis for column Y2010 Vs. Item, shows the production of the amount of item produced in Year 2010. Similarly in second part of figure, plots show items produced in year 2015.

Graphical user interface, application

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Figure 17 Bivariate analysis for column Y2010 Vs. Item & Y2015 Vs. Item

* In figure 18 Bivariate analysis between Y2020 Vs. Item show the amount of item produced in Year 2020.

Chart

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Figure 18 Bivariate analysis between Y2020 Vs. Item

#### 2.3.2.3 Multivariate analysis for Food production dataset

* From figure 19, Multivariate analysis, Year column have linear relationship with other year columns and from item column have maximum production of Cereals, which can be verified from univariate analysis.

Chart

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Figure 19 Multivariate analysis for columns Y2000 Vs. Y2005 Vs. Items & Y2010 Vs. Y2015 Vs. Items

* From figure 20, Multivariate analysis, Year column have linear relationship with other year columns, but with less variance in production. Compared to the other year data, linear relationship is improved.

Chart

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Figure 20 Multivariate analysis for columns Y2019 Vs. Y2015 Vs. Items & Y2019 Vs. Y2020 Vs. Items

## 2.4 Data Exploration

### 2.4.1 Relative Probability Distributions

A relative frequency distribution shows the proportion of the total number of observations associated with each value or class of values and is related to a probability distribution, which is extensively used in statistics. (R.H.Riffenburgh, 2012)

#### 2.4.1.1 Relative Probability Distribution for COVID-19 Dataset

1. **Dataset**: COVID19\_data\_cleaned
2. **Column**: Cases\_100k
3. **Maximum value :** 58957.14
4. **Minimum value :** 0
5. **Probability Density function:**

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure Histogram for column Cases\_100k

* Inferences:
* The number of cases\_100k shows positively skewed, geometric distribution.

1. **Probability Density for Column Cases\_100k**:

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure Probability Density for Column Cases\_100k

* Inferences:
* From summary of column, we can see that mean is greater than median which shows positively skewed.

#### 2.4.1.2 Relative Probability Distribution for COVID-19 Dataset & Food Production Dataset

1. **Dataset**: population\_by\_country\_2020 & country\_food\_data
2. **Column**: meat\_per\_person
3. **Probability Density function**:

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure Histogram for Meat production per Population percentage

* Inferences:
* The number of Item == “Meat, Total” shows positively skewed, geometric distribution.

1. **Probability Density for Column meat\_per\_person:**

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure Probability Density for Column Meat production per Population percentage

* Inferences:
* From summary of column, we can see that mean is greater than median which shows positively skewed.

#### 2.4.1.3 Relative Probability Distribution for AnnualTradeAnnouncementsTally

1. **Dataset**: COVID19\_data\_cleaned
2. **Column**: Cases\_100k
3. **Probability Density function**:

A picture containing chart

Description automatically generated

Figure Pie Chart for Number of Trade policies per country

* Inferences:
* Here, pie chart for year 2020, 2021 and 2022 shows number of trade policies per country first row shows for export policies
* Here, pie chart for year 2020, 2021 and 2022 shows number of trade policies per country first row shows for import policies
* Here, pie chart for year 2020, 2021 and 2022 shows number of trade policies per country first row shows for vaccine policies

Chart

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Figure Probability Density for column Number of import total

Chart

Description automatically generated

Figure Probability for Column Number of Exports policies implemented

Chart

Description automatically generated

Figure Probability for Column Number of Vaccine policies implemented in total

* Inferences:
* Column export policies shows positive skewness of data.
* Column import policies shows positive skewness of data.
* Column Vaccine policies shows positive skewness of data.

### 2.4.2. Measure of center and Variation- and Distributions

Two measures of center are mean and median. Spread describes the variation of the data. Two measures of spread are range and standard deviation.

#### 2.4.2.1 Measure of center and Variation for Food Production Dataset & COVID-19 Dataset

1. **Dataset**: Food\_production\_dataset & CovidAndFood
2. **Column:** Items & New\_cases
3. **Summary of Column:**

* Mean: 6775217
* Median: 318010
* Mode: “numeric”
* Range: 24 to 337179926
* Stddev: 27484133
* Variance: 7.553776e+14
* Quantiles:
  + Q1: 65661
  + Q2: 318010
  + Q3: 2486900
* IQR: 2421239

1. **Histograms** **with different bin sizes**

A picture containing graphical user interface

Description automatically generated

Figure Histogram for column Item == Meat, Total

* Inferences:
* The number of Item == “Meat, Total” shows positively skewed, geometric distribution.
* Figure 18 shows different bine sizes for column Item == “Meat, Total” with bins- 5, 25, 40, 50 respectively.
* From summary of column, we can see that mean is greater than median which shows positively skewed.

1. **Boxplot for column Items == “Meat, Total”**

Diagram

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Figure Box plot of meat produced by country

* Inferences:
* Box plots divide the data into sections that each contain approximately 25% of the data in that set.
* Here, data is concentrated less than 10K and shows many outliers.

1. **KDE plot for 2020 cases**

Chart, line chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure KDE for 2020 cases (Gaussian)

Chart, line chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure KDE for 2020 cases (Rectangular)

* Inferences:
* The density plot for 2020 cases, shows similar distribution to the boxplot.
* Changing the KDF from gaussian to other values allows new ways to look at the data.
* Gaussian and rectangular Kernel is used in these graphs.
* Both KDE shows the skewness of data on right.

1. **Q-Q plot for Covid cases in 2020**

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

Figure Q-Q plot for COVID cases in 2020

* Inferences:
* The Q-Q plot for Covid cases in 2020, show geometric nature of the variable distribution.
* The Q-Q plot for Covid cases in 2020, show linear relationship, also, positive correlation.

#### 2.4.2.2 Measure of center and Variation for AnnualTradeAnnouncementsTally

1. **Dataset**: AnnualTradeAnnouncementsTally
2. **Column:** new Trade Policies announced by country and year (2020-2022)
3. **Summary of Column:**

* Mean: 6.73125
* Median: 0
* Mode: 0
* Range: 0 to 283
* Variance: 568.7568
* Stddev: 23.84862
* Quantiles:
  + Q1: 0
  + Q2: 0
  + Q3: 2
* IQR: 2

1. **Histograms** **with different bin sizes:**

**Table

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**

Figure Histogram New Trade Policies Yearly

A picture containing graphical user interface

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Figure Histogram New Trade Policies Yearly (Logarithmic Scale)

* Inferences:
* The number of new trade policies issued per country-year displays a positively skewed, geometric distribution.
* Most countries issued no new recorded trade policies from the years of 2021-2022, and the number of trade policies issued by countries which did issue new policies is distributed geometrically. Nevertheless, the number of trade policies issued by each country increased dramatically in 2020, after the onset of COVID-19. The geometric nature of this distribution persists from year to year, even as the mean, median, and IQRs.

1. **Violin plots for New trade Policies:**

Chart, histogram

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Figure Violin plot for New Trade policies by year

Chart, box and whisker chart

Description automatically generated

Figure Violin Plots of New Trade Policies by year, Logarithmic Scale

Chart, box and whisker chart

Description automatically generated

Figure Boxplot of New Trade Policies by Year, Logarithmic scale

* Inferences:
* Plots show a distinct, sharp increase in the number of trade policies enacted by each country during the years of 2020-2022.
* The violin plots show a more distinct trend, where the year 2020 saw the greatest mean # of new trade policies per country, 2021 saw a mixed distribution, and 2022 saw a lower mean # of new trade policies (though still significantly more than in the years prior to 2020).
* Blue circles mark the mean new trade policies per country, while the lines on the violin plot mark the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quartiles, when read from bottom up.

1. **KDE plot for New Trade policies:**

Chart

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Figure KDF of New Trade Policies by year, Log scale, Triangular KDF

Chart

Description automatically generated

Figure KDF of New Trade Policies by year, Log scale, epanechnikov KDF

* Inferences:
* The density plot of trade policies per year shows a similar distribution to the violin plots.
* Changing the KDF from a gaussian to other values allows new ways to look at the data. Triangular and epanechnikov KDFs were used for these graphs.

1. **Q-Q plot for New Trade policies:**

Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generated

Figure Q-Q Plot for New Trade Policies per Country, grouped by year

* Inferences:
* The QQ Plot of the new trade policies issued per country per year clearly shows the geometric nature of the variable distribution. Rather than a linear relation between the expected and actual variables, there is a strong non-linear relation for all years.
* However, the years of 2020, 2021, and 2022 show a high degree of positive skew at the top end. They reflect a similar geometric distribution as the previous years, but on a larger scale.

# **Results:**

Hypothesis testing is the process used to evaluate the strength of evidence from the sample and provides a framework for making determinations related to the population, i.e., it provides a method for understanding how reliably one can extrapolate observed findings in a sample under study to the larger population from which the sample was drawn. The investigator formulates a specific hypothesis, evaluates data from the sample, and uses these data to decide whether they support the specific hypothesis.

## Food Security Environment Scores 2017 & 2021

Data is from numerous different sources. The first one is one that already have been used, the CovidAndFood data, but here using the covid part of the data and looking at new cases in each country. The second data is the ”Global Food Security Index 2022” by Economist Impact. The scores of each country are normalized from 0-100, where 100 are the best possible conditions.” The Global Food Security Index (GFSI) considers food affordability, availability, quality and safety, and sustainability and adaptation across 113 countries. ” This description is from the 2022 report. Separation of the countries by their income group according to that same paper, 19 countries go into the ”Low Income Group” and 38 countries go into the ”High Income Group.” Here is how they land on the spread of Food Security from the years 2017 and 2021, with low income being in red, high income being in blue, and the rest of the population of countries from this survey in grey.

Chart, histogram

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Figure Food Security Environment Scores 2017

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Figure Food Security Environment Scores 2021

We can see that the low-income countries are on the lower end and high-income countries opposite. Is the average food security of those groups significantly different from the mean? For that we can use some hypothesis testing. Here we are doing hypothesis testing on two years, one from before COVID-19 and one from after, specifically 2017 and 2021.

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Figure Summaries of Year 2017 & 2021

From the summaries, we can see that the skew of all countries in total shifts from slightly right to slightly left going from 2017 to 2021 when comparing the median and mean values. The high-income countries, or hic food security in the picture, doesn’t change as much in this timeframe and the low-income countries change a lot more comparatively. Is this change significant?

For that we are doing 4 hypothesis tests–two on each of the groups with α = 0.01.

Doing Z tests for the high-income group and T tests for the low-income group due to the sample size of them (high income has 38 countries while low income only has 19).

* The null hypothesis for all these tests is going to be that the mean food security score of the selected group is equal to the mean food security score of the population of given countries.
* The alternative hypothesis is that the higher income countries have a higher mean than the population mean, and the low-income countries are lower.

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Figure Summary of Countries cases per 100K people from 2020

This is data on those same groups of countries for covid cases per 100 thousand people from 2020. Just by looking at the means we can see that they are very different from the population mean, but we will still run tests on them. The number of countries changed a little due to having a different dataset, so the high-income country only has 34 instead of 38.

* + Z-test :
  + t-test:

For the high-income group, we use their means 76.07 and 75.90 against their respective population means of 62.74 and 62.13. The standard deviations are 13.41 for the year 2017 and 13.21 for 2021. With those values we get z scores of 6.127 for 2017 and 6.425 for 2021. Both of those are well above the threshold to be considered significantly different, so we will reject then null hypothesis! For the low-income group, the means are 45.56 for 2017 and 44.77 for 2021. Because of the smaller sample size, the use of sample standard deviation is needed, which is 6.859 for 2017 and 5.194 for 2021. With these and the population means we get T values of -10.9179 for 2017 and -14.5688 for 2021. We have 18 degrees of freedom, so the critical value for one tailed T tests with that many degrees of freedom and α = 0.01 is -2.552. We can see that both years they are significantly different, so we can reject the null hypothesis. Looking at the values from the tests, we can also see that the low-income countries changed a lot more comparatively to the high-income countries. In other words, their food security was affected more during COVID. For the covid cases, we do the same steps of Z test for high income and T test for low. We end up with scores of 3.70 for high income countries and -201.42 for low-income countries. These are both statistically significant. While this shows that there were less deaths on average in lower income countries, We believe that isn’t because of their income but rather that covid affected more highly dense populations, which higher income countries usually are, and low-income countries aren’t.

## Trade Policies before and after COVID-19

International trade plunged in 2020 but recovered sharply in 2021. While total trade flows are now comfortably above pre-pandemic levels, trade impacts across specific goods, services and trade partners are highly diverse, creating pressures on specific sectors and supply chains. The changes in the trade structure caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in a single year was of a similar magnitude to changes otherwise typically seen over 4-5 years. Substantial imbalances across trade partners and products remained at the end of 2021, and not all the accumulated losses from the earlier steep declines were recuperated. The heterogeneity of trade impacts and changes in trade flows across products, sources and destinations signifies high uncertainty and adjustment costs, and implies additional incentives for consumers, firms, and governments to adopt new — or to intensify existing — risk mitigation strategies.

* Ha: The number of trade policies issued globally each year was significantly altered by the outbreak of Covid in the beginning of 2020.
* Ho: The number of trade policies issued globally each year was not significantly altered by the outbreak of Covid in the beginning of 2020

To determine whether the observed counts are significantly different from the counts that we would expect if there was no association between the two variables. We have the observed counts, so we now need to compute the expected counts in the case the variables were independent. These expected frequencies are computed for each subgroup one by one with the following formula:

To calculate trade frequency, we will calculate the sum of columns ‘Num\_exp\_total’ and ‘Num\_imp\_total’. We have the observed and expected frequencies. We now need to compare these frequencies to determine if they differ significantly. The difference between the observed and expected frequencies, referred as the test statistic (or t-stat) and denoted  χ2, is computed as follows:

where O represents the observed frequencies and E the expected frequencies. We use the square of the differences between the observed and expected frequencies to make sure that negative differences are not compensated by positive differences.

The critical value can be found in the statistical table of the Chi-square distribution and depends on the significance level, denoted α, and the degrees of freedom, denoted df. The significance level is usually set equal to 5%. The degrees of freedom for a Chi-square test of independence are found as follow:

*df=(number of rows−1)⋅(number of columns−1)*

We calculate chisq test using R language. We get parameter numbers as 7 , sum of trade frequency is N as 4363 chi- statistics is 4692.55 and p-value as 0.0000. By the Chi Squared test, the distribution of trade policies is clearly not symmetric, with P<.00001. Thus, the number of trade policies issued varies significantly. Hence, we reject null hypothesis.

## Trade Policies announced globally

A t-test is a [statistical test](https://www.scribbr.com/statistics/statistical-tests/) that is used to compare the means of two groups. It is often used in [hypothesis testing](https://www.scribbr.com/statistics/hypothesis-testing/) to determine whether a process or treatment actually has an effect on the population of interest, or whether two groups are different from one another.

Defining Hypothesis assumptions as follow:

* Ho: The annual number of trade policies announced globally was not significantly different before / after the outbreak of Covid.
* Ha: The annual number of trade policies announced globally was significantly different before / after the outbreak of Covid.

We calculate t-test using R language. We are running a 2-factor t test to estimate how COVID modulates the trade policy distribution. We get "T-test(2.005087,N=9) = -4.98, p = 0.0379"

To conclude The number of trade policies issued globally by year was significantly affected by the outbreak of Covid by a t-test, p<.05 Hence We reject the Null Hypothesis.

Following graph shows change in trade policies pre/post-covid.

Chart, histogram

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Figure Change in Trade Policies Pre/Post Covid

# **Conclusion:**

International trade in 2021 has recovered sharply from the slump in 2020. Despite impressive growth rates of world trade flows, the accumulated losses were not yet recuperated by the end of 2021, but the gap can be expected to close in the first quarter of 2022. While total trade flows are now comfortably above pre-pandemic levels, trade impacts across specific goods, services and trade partners are highly diverse and have been creating pressures on specific sectors and supply chains. Substantial imbalances across trade partners and products remained at the end of 2021, most notably an increased merchandise trade surplus in Asia and a widening merchandise trade deficit in the United States as well as in Africa.

Along with the increase in trade flows during this period, the food volatility also increased. We saw in the hypothesis testing that while more developed countries were not affected by the pandemic when it came to food security, the more developed countries were and were affected by a large margin. This change is due to a combination of relying on more of those outside trades for food, disruption of the production within their own borders, and the change in price volatility of food. Food was impacted to a much greater extent even though not as many people in those developing countries caught or died from the pandemic. If the international trades weren’t going to Africa, where most of the developing nations tested are, this situation might have been much worse. While there was still a trade deficit in Africa, it is understandable because their production was affected more than most.

While it is still unknown which of the structural changes seen in 2020 and 2021 will only be short-lived, some seem to suggest longer-term shifts or seem likely to result in long-term adjustments. The pronounced shift of consumer expenditures towards ‘home nesting’ goods and away from certain services that require person-to-person interaction is unlikely to persist. On the other hand, the big digitalization push that materialized both in the work sphere and personal lives can be expected to have lasting impacts on the composition of demand for products and services and the way those are traded internationally. The unprecedented heterogeneity of changes in trade flows across products, sources and destinations signifies high uncertainty and adjustment costs, and implies additional incentives for consumers, firms, and governments to adopt new —or to intensify existing —risk mitigation strategies. Some firms may want to rethink the resilience and reliability of their supply chains and may decide to try to shorten distances travelled from factories to consumers or internalize larger segments of their value chains within their own corporate structures (e.g.an affiliate supplying a component rather than an external firm). This might contribute to resilience of some supply chains, but it might also have negative impacts on productivity, it may not necessarily boost systemic resilience and stability of the global economy.

Volatility, which is higher in low-income countries, is expected to persist in the medium term due to multiple global and domestic factors. Structural factors contributing to the volatility include rising populations and changing diets, increasingly intertwined relations between food and energy prices. While a troubled global economy could dampen demand and push food prices down, the effect on developing countries would be mixed−hurting food exporting countries and poor producers in rural areas and benefiting food importers and consumers. The problem, Food Price Watch warns, is that developing countries might have now limited resources to protect vulnerable populations following the economic crisis and stimulus spending.

# **References:**

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