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Helping Consumers Pick the Best Instant Ramen

In this project, I analyzed trends in the value and ratings of instant ramen noodles over time and aim to utilize these trends to inform the average consumer about the price and quality of affordable food options available in supermarkets. My dataset of choice for this analysis is the "ramen-ratings.csv" dataset which I found on Kaggle. I chose this dataset because I enjoy many varieties of instant ramen and wanted to explore the factors contributing to the highest-rated ones.

The dataset consists of columns such as review number, name, brand, variety (product name), style (bowl, cup, or pack) of the ramen, the country of origin, and a star rating assigned to each variety. The star rating and review number columns are numerical while the rest are categorical. Using the star rating as a reference, I determined the countries, brands, and styles that produce the highest-rated ramen. Additionally, I used the chronologically ordered review numbers to determine how ramen ratings have evolved over time.

To represent the distribution of ratings over time, I utilized Matplotlib to create a scatter plot, which showcased a decline in negative reviews as time passed. This pattern was further established through a bar graph, which illustrated the number of positive and negative reviews over time. Positive reviews were defined as those with a star rating higher than the median rating. The graph revealed a considerable increase in positive reviews after the 2000th review, indicating a consistent enhancement in instant ramen quality over time. Potential future work

inspired by these results could involve analyzing comparable affordable food options and comparing them with instant ramen trends. Furthermore, this analysis could expand to incorporate a comparison of nutritional values among different types of instant ramen.

One ethical challenge this research may face is promoting instant ramen as a low-cost and convenient meal option, potentially contributing to unhealthy eating habits. While instant ramen can be a quick and affordable meal, it should not be the sole source of nutrition. This study aims to offer insight into the highest-rated instant ramen options, but individuals should make informed decisions about their food choices and prioritize their health.