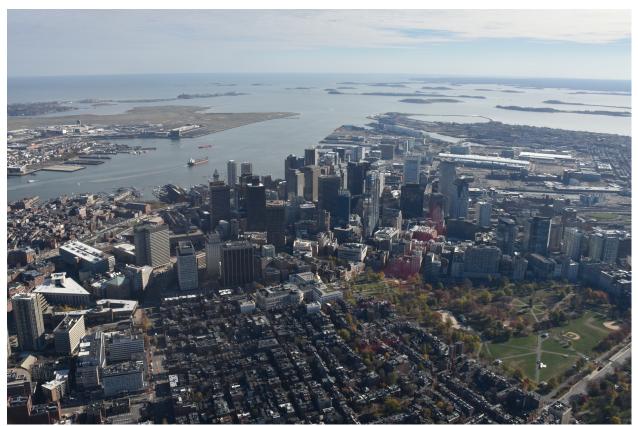# Exploring Downtown Eateries in Boston

Introduction

The city of Boston was founded in 1630. The largest of the city's commercial districts, Downtown is the location of many corporate or regional headquarters; city, county, state and federal government facilities; and many of Boston's tourist attractions. Similar to other central business districts in the U.S., Downtown has recently undergone a transformation that included the construction of new condos and lofts, renovation of historic buildings, and arrival of new residents and businesses.

Aerial view of Boston Downtown

The term Downtown refers to main business, cultural and often the historical, political and geographic heart and commercial area of a town or city. Boston's downtown is majorly occupied by the Financial District.

Aerial view of Financial District, Boston.

Boston's downtown is extremely busy during the day as hundreds of thousands of office workers and tourists descend on the area. Though many of Boston's swankiest restaurants are located Downtown, budget restaurants tend to be geared towards the horde of office workers who descend on the city during the week so many of them are only open for weekday lunch.

Business Problem

I spent the first 8 months of 2019 working for a financial company in Boston, MA. My office was located right in the heart of the city, Financial District aka the Downtown. Every day, me and other interns would ask the same question – where to eat lunch? There are hundreds of eateries around the Financial District within a distance of 15-minute walk. Hence, as a result, I decided to explore the Financial District for food joints.

This project can be used by people working in the Financial District, Boston; specially the students who are interning or recent graduates who don't tend to cook and bring lunches to work-place.

Data

Since I am exploring the city of Boston, I fetched the geo data from various sources as there was no dataset available online featuring all the neighborhoods along with their coordinates.

Files containing coordinates were download from following websites:

https://public.opendatasoft.com/explore/dataset/us-zip-code-latitude-and-longitude/

https://simplemaps.com/data/us-zips

One of the files contained Boston Neighborhoods along with their Zip codes. The other file was filtered and only contained Zip codes with their geographical coordinates for Boston. Both the files were merged in Microsoft Excel using the VLOOKUP function on the Zip Codes. Duplicates were removed manually. Some neighborhoods were still missing coordinates which were entered manually fetching from www.google.com.

Foursquare API is used to fetch the numerous venues around various neighborhoods in Boston.