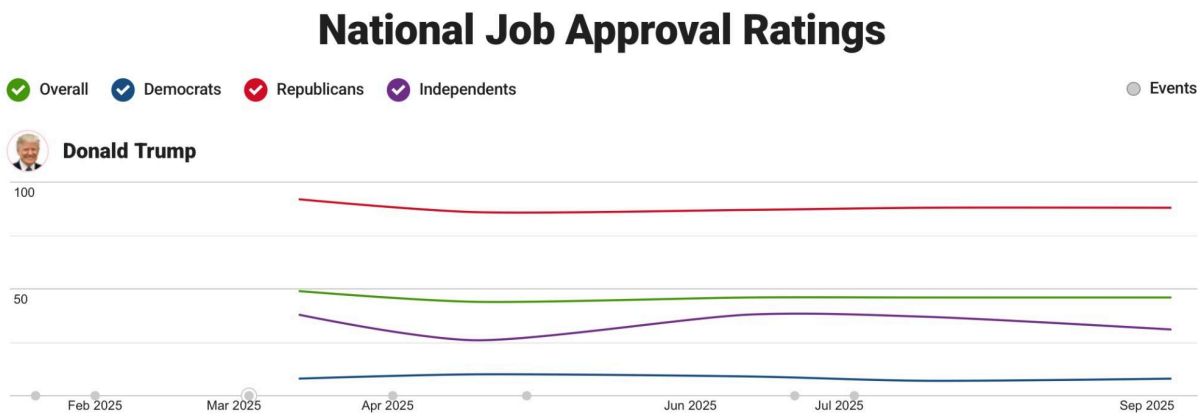Homework 2: Visualization Analysis

<u>Ineffective Visualization:</u>

I found this visual on FoxNews. The link is here.

This graph aims to show that the job approval is higher within republicans compared to independents, democrats and overall data. This visualization is confusing and ineffective for a number of reasons. For one, it is confusing that the x axis begins in February when the data does not begin until the middle of March and April. Additionally, the jump between months labeled makes the graph confusing and makes it appear that the x axis is a misleading scale. Are the months left unlabeled in the visual missing data? Or does this mean there was just not an important event that occurred? The reader is left to make assumptions about this part of the visual. On the y axis, there's a jump from 0-50% and again from 50-100%. This scale is deceivingly displayed the data closer making it hard to comprehend what the difference between the plotted lines are. I believe how short the graph is in height leads to a misleading scale not accurately representing just how much lower the blue line of democrats approval rating versus republicans. The x and y axes are not labeled so it is hard to understand what these axes represent. It is unclear how the events in gray dots connect to the data displaced of national job approval ratings. Only the start and ending of the political party's national job approval rating percentages are displayed when the reader clicks on the data points. I think this data would have better represented the data if there was a way to see the number changing between months. Additionally, the visual of Donald Trump's face at the top of the graph could be viewed as a distraction. While his name should be incorporated somewhere in this visual so that the reader understands this is the National Job Approval Rating for Donald Trump, the photo is distracting and adds little to the visual. I believe a bar chart could better represent this data.

Effective Visualizations:
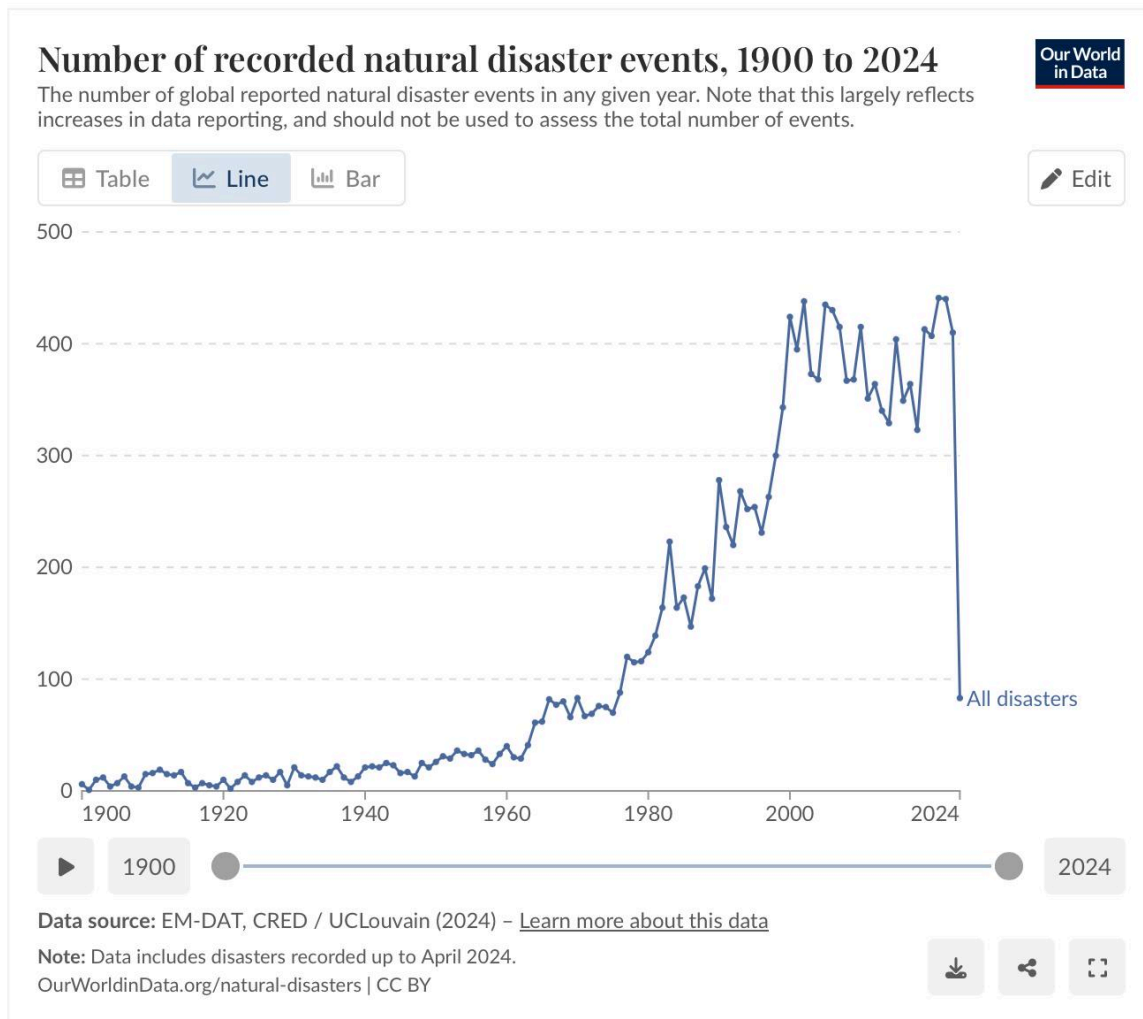
This visualization was found here.
I believe this graph is much more efficient in clearly displaying the data. This graph shows the number of natural disaster events from 1900 to April 2024. The graph provides the exact number of natural disaster events at each point and shows the trend of these events by connecting the points. What I like about this graph is that there is the option to press play on the graph and see the changes plotted for every year. This shows the y axis changing scale because of the rapid increase in natural disasters per year. While the axis' are not labeled in this graph, there is a very clear title with a description at the top of the graph. Additionally, notes at the bottom explain the reason that the 2024 data is a lower jump is because it isn't even halfway through the year 2024. This is one area I believe could be improved upon by simply not plotting the 2024 data since the year was not over yet when this visualization was created. I appreciate that there are no image distractions in this data and that the scale is very clear on the x and y axis, this visual has graphical integrity and consistent scaling. Overall, this visualization is very clear and informative.