

Capstone Project - The Battle of Neighborhoods (Week 1)

Introduction/Business Problem

This final project explores the best locations for Chinese restaurants throughout the city of New York. There are more than 22,000 Chinese restaurants in New York City. These restaurants were remarkably well distributed over the five boroughs with a seeming absence of any regard for the underlying economic, ethnic, or political demographics of the neighborhoods they serve. The narrow range of prices across the city provides an economical dining option for almost all city residents and hints that Chinese restaurants may have reached a point of market saturation in New York City. New York is a major metropolitan area with more than 8.5 million (Quick Facts, 2020) people living within city limits. Among the earliest documented arrivals of Chinese immigrants in New York City were of "sailors and peddlers" in the 1830s. Many more Chinese immigrants arrived and settled in Lower Manhattan throughout the 1800s, including an 1870s wave of Chinese immigrants searching for "gold." By 1880, the enclave around Five Points was estimated to have from 200 to as many as 1,100 members. However, the Chinese Exclusion Act, which went into effect in 1882, caused an abrupt decline in the number of Chinese who emigrated to New York and the rest of the United States. Later, in 1943, the Chinese were given a small quota, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 caused a revival in Chinese immigration, and the community's population gradually increased until 1968, when the quota was lifted and the Chinese American population skyrocketed, and in 1992, New York City officially began providing language assistance for electoral materials in Chinese, given that this population had reached a critical mass in numbers (Asian American Federation).

The New York metropolitan area is home to the largest ethnic Chinese population outside of Asia, hosting Chinese populations representing all 34 provincial-level administrative units of China and constituting the largest metropolitan Asian American group in the United States as well as the largest Asian-national metropolitan diaspora in the Western Hemisphere. The Chinese American population of the New York City metropolitan area was an estimated 923,675 as of 2019. New York City itself contains by far the highest ethnic Chinese population of any individual city outside Asia, estimated at 653,815 as of 2019 (Asian American Federation).

New York City's demographics show that it is a large and ethnically diverse metropolis. It is the largest city in the United States with a long history of international immigration. New York City was home to nearly 8.5 million people in 2019, accounting for over 40% of the population of New York State and a slightly lower percentage of the New York metropolitan area, home to approximately 23.6 million. Over the last decade the city has been growing faster than the region. The New York region continues to be by far the leading metropolitan gateway for legal immigrants admitted into the United States. With its diverse culture, comes diverse food items. There are many restaurants in New York City, each belonging to different categories like Chinese, Indian, French, Vietnamese, Italian etc. So as part of this project, we will list and visualize all major parts of New York City that has great Chinese restaurants (Asian American Federation).

Problem Statement

- What is the best location for Chinese food in New York City?
- Which areas have potential to create a new Chinese restaurant?
- Which is the best place to stay if I want to enjoy Chinese cuisine?

References

Quick Facts. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045219>.

(n.d.). Asian American Federation. <https://aafederation.org/cic/briefs/2019ch.pdf>