

Ethnic food preferences in the most populated cities in the United States

1. Description of the problem and discussion of the background.

Background

The United States of America (USA) is known worldwide as one of the countries with the highest level of immigration, a fact that has allowed this country to have a wide variety of nationalities that greatly enriches its culture. One of the ways this can be reflected is in the great variety of ethnic cuisine that can be found in the USA, which is consumed by many American citizens - especially for the younger ones, who love to try new flavours and experiences.

Problem

I want to answer the following questions: is there a difference in ethnic food preference among the most populated cities in the USA? And if so, what is it, and what could explain it? Also I want to know how the culinary preference is distributed among the cities and which of those have similar ones.

2. Description of the data and how it will be used to solve the problem.

This study takes the 30 most populated cities in the United States in order to keep the problem tractable and for it to be representative enough in terms of population. For this I used the list of the 317 most populated cities in the U.S. as estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau, which can be found on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_cities_by_population.

To define ethnic food preferences, the 5 most populous international cuisines in all of the United States were established according to Technomic, which is cited in the report at <https://blogs.voanews.com/all-about-america/2015/05/18/top-10-most-popular-ethnic-cuisines-in-us/>. Among these foods are Asian, Mexican, Italian, Greek and French.

Once I have the cities with their latitudes arranged in a dataframe, I will proceed to call Foursquare which will be used to search for each of these ethnic foods through the restaurant in each of the cities under study. With this information I will know what is the favorite ethnic food in each city, how these preferences are distributed among cities and which of them have similar preferences.

Finally, the preferences of each city will be shown on a map which will also show the distribution of ethnic food in the USA.