Toronto Neighbourhoods Best for Renting Apartments

Introduction/Business Problem

Toronto's housing market is a growing rapidly, due to the high influx of population into the city. With the city being so large, there are definitely distinct neighbourhoods within Toronto. Some neighbourhoods are cleaner, some have all the best restaurants, and some are just not recommended to walk alone during the night. However, it is impossible for people just moving to Toronto to know the subtle differences in the neighbourhoods. Therefore, exploring the data on how the neighbourhoods differ in apartment quality can be beneficial to anyone looking to rent apartments or apartment companies looking to build new apartments in the best neighbourhood.

Data

There are four data sources that were used in this project. First, the neighbourhood information with postal codes was obtained by web scraping a Wikipedia page (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_postal_codes_of_Canada:_M). The geospatial coordinates of each neighbourhood were obtained from a csv file based on the postal code. Second, the list of apartments in Toronto has been created by the Apartment Building Standards and was obtained from the Toronto Open Data Portal (https://open.toronto.ca/dataset/apartment-building-evaluation/). The dataset also includes a *building evaluation score* that rated the safety and cleanliness of building grounds, entrance, exits and elevators, stairwells, and mechanical systems such as heating and ventilation of the apartment. Third, the name and location coordinates of subway stations in Toronto was obtained online. Finally, the venues around each apartment were obtained via Foursquare to evaluate the location of the apartment. A metric named *walking score* was created which measured the proximity of the apartment to nearby restaurants, grocery stores, and subway stations. The *walking score* and the *building evaluation score* will be both used to determine which neighbourhoods contain the best apartments.