

Design Studio 3

Katherine Dai and Patrick Xu

Feedback from: Karine Hsu and Alex Liu

Given that the project is mostly bare bones, the feedback from Karine and Alex consisted mainly of answering the questions of who benefits from the visualization as well as some minor technical issues to look into.

First, the audience of our visualization is a bit nebulous at best. Although we generalize it to “anyone interested in learning about the American economy”, Karine suggested that we include elements of recent interest to pique curiosity about our topic – more specifically, she suggested that we integrate news stories, especially those pertaining to the most significant economic crises and movements in the economy. This could be achieved by using tooltips, similar to the work we have done in previous problem sets, but also by trying to analyze the data at hand further to discover more trends (for example, the rise of technology companies).

Karine and Alex also made the recommendation to better use color and interaction to unify the visualization. Our information is currently encoded in various graphs and charts but don’t seem to be part of the same dataset, especially since they each display different facets of the data. Several solutions suggested during the design studio included using one color legend for industries across the entire visualization, and to use a more coherent theme for the project (one complaint is that the white background is not particularly inspiring). Alex also helped me start the search for an inspirational visualization, which is a good direction for us to go.

The feedback was very helpful in two regards. First, Alex and Karine helped me think of more solutions to the problems I had been staring at for several weeks without an outside perspective (Patrick is currently in London). Next, the feedback forced me to think of new directions to take the project, which I have shared with Patrick. I am excited to see how much the visualization can develop because of this design studio.