Final Project Proposal

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The data that we plan to work with is a combination of consumer price data from the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, selecting certain items of note to focus the analysis on, and covid cases from the Center for Disease Control for urban populations. The data collected experimentally over the last two years will explain what correlations may exist between pandemics and other catastrophes and the price of certain goods with the price of goods. From the data, we expect to see prices follow the trend of coronavirus cases. By focusing on certain consumer goods, it will be easier to see what correlations may exist and allow for a more in-depth analysis of the trends. Given the last two years of the coronavirus pandemic, we believe it would be interesting to see how it has been affecting our lives outside of the obvious medical concerns. Some factors that may result in error are that the data is focused on urban centers within the United States, as well as the fact that the two sources may have different definitions of what qualifies as urban. Helpful information to find would include how the consumer price data is collected and calculated into a single number for a multitude of products across the United States, how covid has affected supply issues for certain goods, as well as the trends in consumer good prices before the pandemic started within the United States. Something to take into account when dealing with coronavirus cases within the United States is the variation in responses that existed. While focusing solely on urban populations will help to limit the variation, the analysis is unlikely to perfectly match the trends of any single state as different regions hit peaks at different times. Some methods we intend to use for analyzing the data include graphs comparing the two data sets and comparing how the data changes over time.

Table 6 of monthly news releases from the Bureau of Labor Statistics about the consumer price index: <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/tables/supplemental-files/home.htm>

Urban covid cases from the CDC: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/> (i can’t get the web page to work so we might need to get different data)