**(A) Collecting the data:**

I have been recording my spending and income data since July 2021. Since I have been doing this, the data was relatively easy to find. While recording each transaction, I categorized each one by playing it in buckets called eating out, insurance, work, etc. The data was recorded using an app called spending tracker and was imported into Tableau for visualization.

**(B) Why the chart type I selected is relevant:**

I selected bar graphs for my data visualization as they are simple, easy to understand, and provide a clear comparison between different categories / dates. The first bar graph focuses on my net spending per month, which gives a clear picture of my overall spending habits at a glance. The second bar graph focuses on total spending by category. This gives a clear idea of where my money is going and what areas I could potentially focus on reducing my spending in. The third bar graph focuses on the count of distinct categories per month, which provides a clear understanding of the variety of areas where my money has been going.

**(C) Audience:**

The audience for my visualizations was primarily myself. The visualizations were created to help me understand my spending and earning patterns and to identify areas where I need to focus on reducing my spending.

**(D) Problem Solved:**

The problem I tried to solve using my visualizations was to understand my spending / earning patterns. This in turn will help me identify areas in which I need to focus on reduced spending. The visualizations helped me get a better picture of my financial situation each month, where my money was going, and how many categories I was spending money on.

**(E) Core Data Visualization Rules:**

When creating my visualizations, I considered core data visualization rules such as using clear and concise labeling, using appropriate colors, and avoiding clutter. I also made sure to use a readable font size and to provide clear explanations for each visualization. The last thing I applied was practical chart names. Looking at a graph’s title should give you the most insight possible. This is the opportunity to allow the viewer to know exactly what the visualization means.

**(F) What I Learned:**

When looking at my spending tracker app, it was always hard to digest the trends in the data using just numbers. During the process of creating my visualizations, I learned about the importance of visualizing my spending and earning patterns and how it can help me better understand my financial situation. I also continue to learn and appreciate how efficient bar graphs are. They are clear, concise, easy to make, and easy to understand. Overall, the process of creating my visualizations helped me gain a better understanding of my spending / earning patterns and identify areas of improvement.

**Screenshot on next page:**

**Visualization:**

