Comparison of 3 Medium Size French cities profiles:

Toulouse, Bordeaux and Nantes
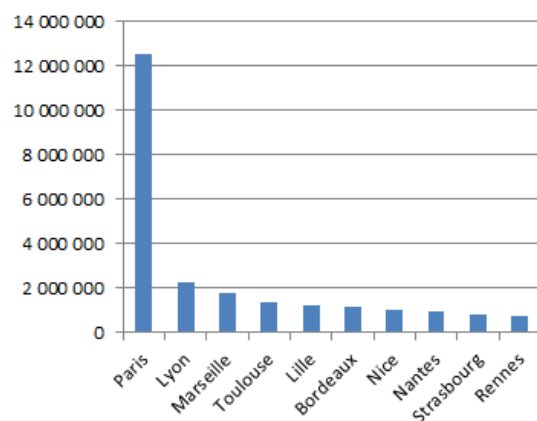
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

In March 2017, the population of France officially reached 67,000,000 people. As in many countries in the world in the last decades, French population has tended to densify around a limited set of big cities which, as a consequence, concentrate the highest level of economical activities of the country.

The table below [1] lists the ten largest metropolitan areas in France, based on their population at the 2015 census.

Rank	Metropolitan Area	Population (2015)
1	Paris	12,532,901
2	Lyon	2,291,763
3	Marseille	1,752,938
4	Toulouse	1,330,954
5	Lille	1,215,769
6	Bordeaux	1,184,708
7	Nice	1,005,891
8	Nantes	949,316
9	Strasbourg	780,515
10	Rennes	719,840

It appears clearly that Paris is, by far, the densest area of the French territory (representing up to 19% of the French population) followed by Lyon and Marseille respectively in second and third position. With a population of approximately 1 Million inhabitants, metropolitan areas from the 4th to the 10th rank can all be considered, at the French scale, as illustrations of mid-size cities.

For French people specificities of Paris, Lyon and Marseille are often well known. This is due to the fact that those cities get strong national focus thanks to news, cinema, national sport events (ie. Soccer) or even lessons provided during history / geography class at school.

Mid-size cities get a lower attention and French people would probably have more difficulties to underline differences between cities like Toulouse or Nantes for example.

1.2. Problem

As we did with New York and Toronto, my idea is to perform data exploration of a set of French midsize cities and to determine whether the resulting segmentation and clustering reflects some similarities or specificities.

Data exploration will be performed for the cities of Toulouse, Bordeaux and Nantes. Apart from the size criteria, selection of those cities is also correlated to the availability of proper location datasets on open platforms (details provided in the next chapter). As a complement to venues data already tested in the labs, exploration will embed economic data (ie. Houses prices).

Toulouse

Nantes

Bordeaux

Studies will be limited to the administrative limits of the cities: suburbs will not be taken into account.

1.3. References

[1] – Wikipedia - Demographic of France -
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_France#Demographic_statistics