Foodborne Illness Time Series Forecasting

This project forecasts monthly foodborne illness counts using time series models like ARIMA, Prophet and machine learning Random Forest. Evaluation include the RMSE, MAE, change-point detection, lead time analysis, and outbreak classification accuracy.

R Markdown

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When you click the **Knit** button a document will be generated that includes both content as well as the output of any embedded R code chunks within the document. You can embed an R code chunk like this:

```
food_data_clean <- read_csv("/Users/mruduladeshmukh/Downloads/outbreaks_clean (1).csv",
show_col_types = FALSE)
glimpse(food_data_clean)</pre>
```

```
## Rows: 12,520
## Columns: 14
## $ Year
                   <dbl> 1998, 1998, 1998, 1998, 1998, 1998, 1998, 1998, 19...
                   <chr> "April", "April", "April", "April", "April", "Apri...
## $ Month
                   <chr> "California", "California", "California", "Califor...
## $ State
                   <chr> "Catering Service", "Restaurant", "Restaurant", "R...
## $ Location
## $ Illnesses
                   <dbl> 11, 7, 11, 19, 72, 3, 12, 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 5, 6, 5, ...
                   <dbl> 0, 0, 0, 0, 7, 0, 2, 0, 0, 1, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1,...
## $ Hospitalizations
                   ## $ Fatalities
## $ Month Num
                   <date> 1998-04-01, 1998-04-01, 1998-04-01, 1998-04-01, 1...
## $ Date
## $ Food
                   <chr> NA, "Pizza, Meat", "Pate, Unspecified", NA, NA, "S...
## $ Ingredient
                   <chr> NA, NA, "Clostridium perfringens", NA, "Shigella b...
## $ Species
## $ Status
                   <chr> NA, NA, "Confirmed", NA, "Confirmed", "Suspected",...
```

```
sum(food_data_clean$Illnesses == 0)
```

```
## [1] 0
```

```
food_data_clean <- food_data_clean %>%
filter(Illnesses > 0)
```

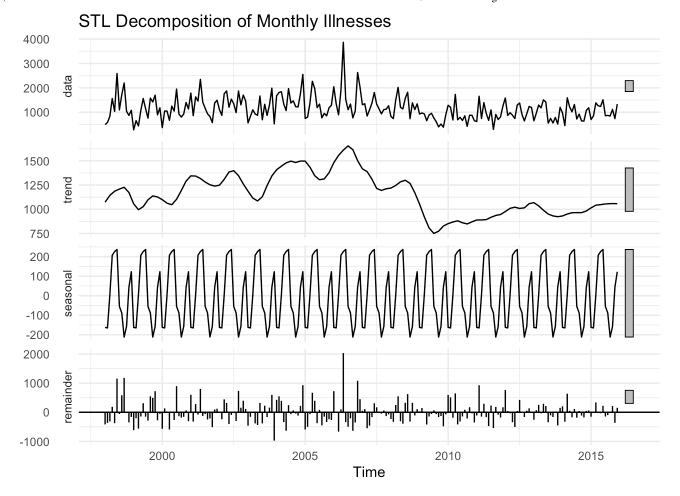
```
monthly_illness <- food_data_clean %>%
  group_by(Date) %>%
  summarise(Total_Illnesses = sum(Illnesses, na.rm = TRUE)) %>%
  arrange(Date)
```

head(monthly_illness)

```
## # A tibble: 6 × 2
##
     Date
                Total Illnesses
     <date>
                           <dbl>
##
## 1 1998-01-01
                             492
## 2 1998-02-01
                             578
## 3 1998-03-01
                             833
## 4 1998-04-01
                            1560
## 5 1998-05-01
                            1035
## 6 1998-06-01
                            2589
```

```
decomp <- stl(illness_ts, s.window = "periodic")</pre>
```

```
autoplot(decomp) +
  ggtitle("STL Decomposition of Monthly Illnesses") +
  theme_minimal()
```



```
adf_test <- adf.test(illness_ts)
```

```
## Warning in adf.test(illness_ts): p-value smaller than printed p-value
```

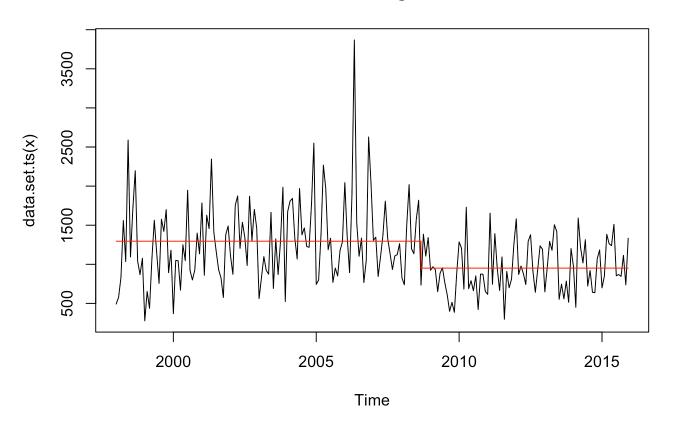
```
print(adf_test)
```

```
##
## Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test
##
## data: illness_ts
## Dickey-Fuller = -4.7126, Lag order = 5, p-value = 0.01
## alternative hypothesis: stationary
```

We apply the PELT algorithm using the changepoint package to detect structural changes (e.g., outbreaks or shifts) in the time series. For each segment between change points, we fit a separate ARIMA model to understand the local behavior.

```
cpt_result <- cpt.meanvar(illness_ts, method = "PELT")
plot(cpt_result, main = "Detected Change Points")</pre>
```

Detected Change Points



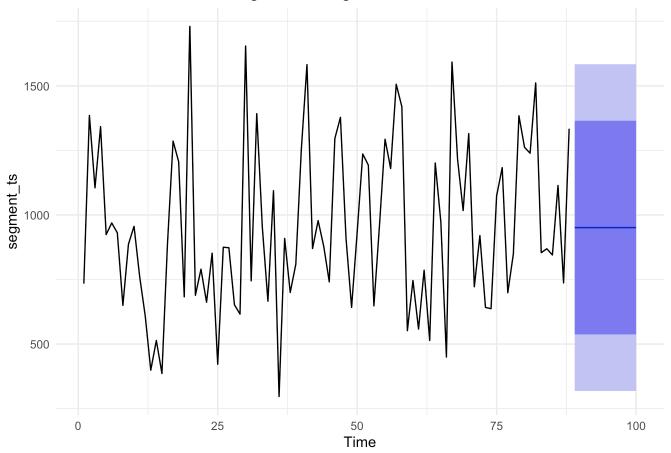
```
cp_indices <- c(0, cpts(cpt_result), length(illness_ts))</pre>
segment_models <- list()</pre>
for (i in 1:(length(cp_indices) - 1)) {
  start_idx <- cp_indices[i] + 1</pre>
  end_idx <- cp_indices[i + 1]</pre>
  if (start_idx >= end_idx) {
    cat(paste0("⚠ Skipping segment ", i, ": invalid index (", start_idx, " > ", end_id
x, ")\n"))
    next
  }
  segment_ts <- illness_ts[start_idx:end_idx]</pre>
  model <- auto.arima(segment_ts)</pre>
  segment_models[[i]] <- model</pre>
  cat(paste0("Segment ", i, ": Index ", start_idx, " to ", end_idx, "\n"))
  print(summary(model))
}
```

```
## Segment 1: Index 1 to 128
## Series: segment ts
## ARIMA(0,0,1) with non-zero mean
##
## Coefficients:
##
            ma1
                      mean
##
         0.2112 1294.9513
## s.e.
         0.0874
                   54.9071
##
## sigma^2 = 267952: log likelihood = -980.55
## AIC=1967.09
                 AICc=1967.29
                                BIC=1975.65
##
## Training set error measures:
##
                              RMSE
                                         MAE
                                                   MPE
                                                           MAPE
                                                                      MASE
                       ME
## Training set 0.9916662 513.5808 390.7947 -17.92213 37.48717 0.7545103
##
                       ACF1
## Training set -0.00508288
## Segment 2: Index 129 to 216
## Series: segment_ts
## ARIMA(0,0,0) with non-zero mean
##
## Coefficients:
##
             mean
##
         951,0682
## s.e.
          34,2046
##
## sigma^2 = 104139: log likelihood = -632.72
## AIC=1269.43
                 AICc=1269.58
                                BIC=1274.39
##
## Training set error measures:
                                                      MPF
                                                              MAPE
##
                                 RMSE
                                            MAE
                                                                         MASE
## Training set 3.888607e-13 320.8671 264.1457 -13.83765 33.16844 0.7767414
##
                      ACF1
## Training set 0.09906248
```

```
final_model <- segment_models[[length(segment_models)]]
forecast_last <- forecast(final_model, h = 12)

autoplot(forecast_last) +
   ggtitle("Forecast from Last Change-Point Segment ARIMA") +
   theme_minimal()</pre>
```

Forecast from Last Change-Point Segment ARIMA



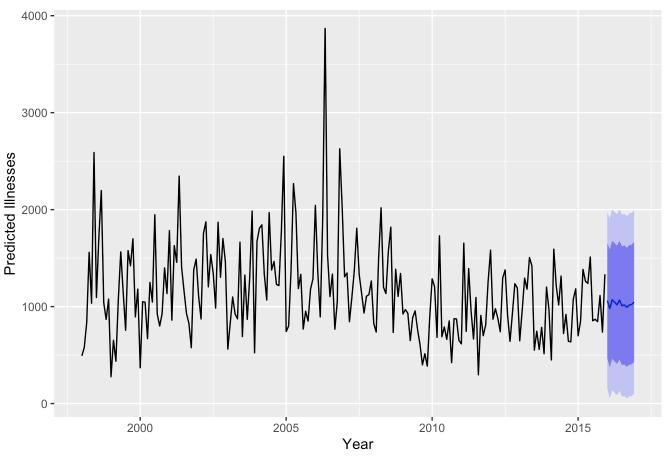
```
arima_model <- auto.arima(illness_ts)
summary(arima_model)</pre>
```

```
## Series: illness_ts
## ARIMA(1,1,1)(2,0,1)[12]
##
## Coefficients:
##
            ar1
                      ma1
                              sar1
                                       sar2
                                               sma1
         0.1540
                 -0.9489
                                    0.0922
                                             0.5486
##
                           -0.4731
## s.e.
         0.0734
                  0.0239
                            0.4877
                                    0.0766
                                             0.4846
##
## sigma^2 = 214871: log likelihood = -1623.45
## AIC=3258.89
                 AICc=3259.3
                                BIC=3279.12
##
## Training set error measures:
##
                                         MAE
                                                    MPE
                                                            MAPE
                               RMSE
                                                                       MASE
                        ME
## Training set 0.1703716 457.0585 352.8889 -15.75537 36.15144 0.7643398
##
                       ACF1
## Training set 0.00671663
```

```
forecast_illness <- forecast(arima_model, h = 12)</pre>
```

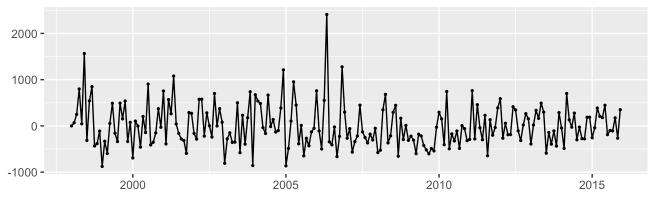
```
autoplot(forecast_illness) +
  ggtitle("Forecast of Foodborne Illnesses for Next 12 Months") +
  xlab("Year") +
  ylab("Predicted Illnesses")
```

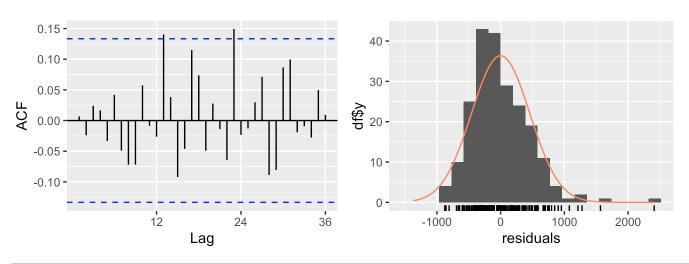
Forecast of Foodborne Illnesses for Next 12 Months



checkresiduals(arima_model)

Residuals from ARIMA(1,1,1)(2,0,1)[12]





```
##
##
    Ljung-Box test
##
  data: Residuals from ARIMA(1,1,1)(2,0,1)[12]
##
  Q* = 23.983, df = 19, p-value = 0.1968
##
                  Total lags used: 24
## Model df: 5.
```

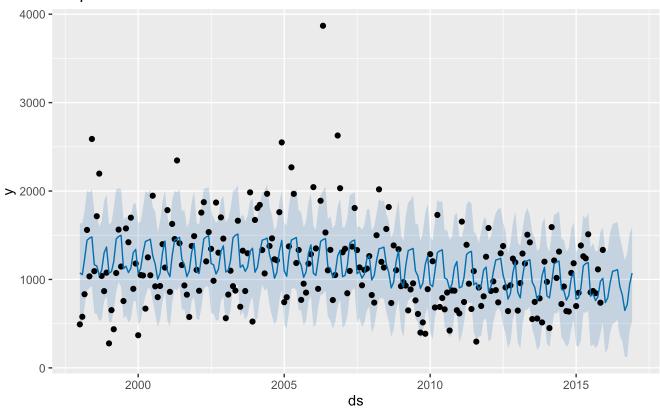
```
prophet_df <- monthly_illness %>%
  rename(ds = Date, y = Total_Illnesses)
```

```
m <- prophet(prophet_df, weekly.seasonality = FALSE, daily.seasonality = FALSE)</pre>
```

```
future <- make_future_dataframe(m, periods = 12, freq = "month")</pre>
forecast_prophet <- predict(m, future)</pre>
```

```
plot(m, forecast_prophet) +
 ggtitle("Prophet Forecast for Foodborne Illnesses")
```

Prophet Forecast for Foodborne Illnesses



```
actual_df <- monthly_illness %>%
  rename(ds = Date, y = Total_Illnesses) %>%
  mutate(model = "Actual")
```

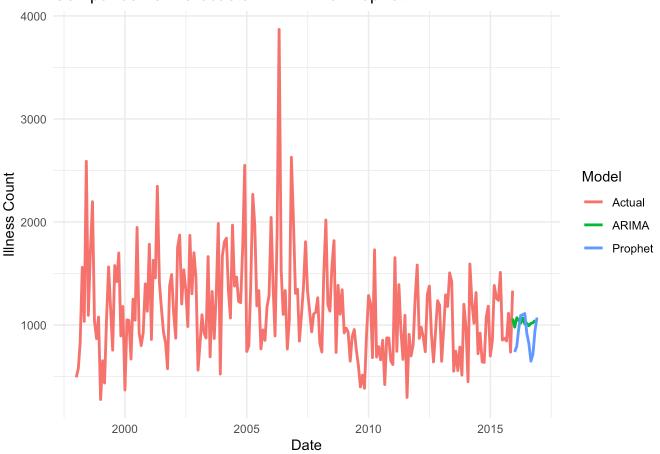
```
arima_forecast <- forecast(arima_model, h = 12)
arima_df <- data.frame(
  ds = seq(max(monthly_illness$Date) + 1, by = "month", length.out = 12),
  y = as.numeric(arima_forecast$mean),
  model = "ARIMA"
)</pre>
```

```
prophet_df_future <- forecast_prophet %>%
  filter(as.Date(ds) > max(as.Date(actual_df$ds))) %>%
  select(ds, y = yhat) %>%
  mutate(model = "Prophet")
```

```
combined <- bind_rows(actual_df, arima_df, prophet_df_future)</pre>
```

```
## Warning: Using `size` aesthetic for lines was deprecated in ggplot2 3.4.0.
## i Please use `linewidth` instead.
## This warning is displayed once every 8 hours.
## Call `lifecycle::last_lifecycle_warnings()` to see where this warning was
## generated.
```

Comparison of Forecasts: ARIMA vs Prophet



```
train_data <- head(monthly_illness, -12)
test_data <- tail(monthly_illness, 12)
test_values <- test_data$Total_Illnesses</pre>
```

```
arima_model <- auto.arima(illness_ts_train)</pre>
arima_forecast <- forecast(arima_model, h = 12)</pre>
arima_pred <- as.numeric(arima_forecast$mean)</pre>
prophet_train <- train_data %>%
  rename(ds = Date, y = Total_Illnesses)
m <- prophet(prophet_train, weekly.seasonality = FALSE, daily.seasonality = FALSE)</pre>
future <- make_future_dataframe(m, periods = 12, freq = "month")</pre>
forecast_prophet <- predict(m, future)</pre>
prophet_pred <- tail(forecast_prophet$yhat, 12)</pre>
metrics_df <- tibble(</pre>
  truth = test_values,
  .pred = arima_pred
)
rmse_arima <- rmse(metrics_df, truth = truth, estimate = .pred)</pre>
mae_arima <- mae(metrics_df, truth = truth, estimate = .pred)</pre>
metrics prophet <- tibble(</pre>
  truth = test values,
  .pred = prophet_pred
rmse prophet <- rmse(metrics prophet, truth = truth, estimate = .pred)</pre>
mae_prophet <- mae(metrics_prophet, truth = truth, estimate = .pred)</pre>
print(rmse arima)
## # A tibble: 1 × 3
##
     .metric .estimator .estimate
##
     <chr>
            <chr>
                              <dbl>
## 1 rmse
              standard
                               269.
print(mae_arima)
## # A tibble: 1 \times 3
     .metric .estimator .estimate
##
##
     <chr>
              <chr>
                              <dbl>
## 1 mae
              standard
                               237.
```

```
print(rmse_prophet)
```

```
print(mae_prophet)
```

```
arima_peak_index <- which.max(arima_pred)
prophet_peak_index <- which.max(prophet_pred)

actual_peak_index <- which.max(test_values)

lead_time_arima <- actual_peak_index - arima_peak_index
lead_time_prophet <- actual_peak_index - prophet_peak_index

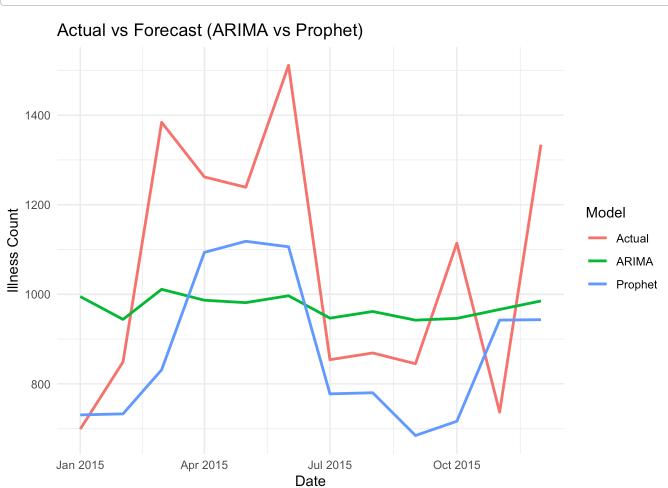
lead_time_tbl <- tibble(
   Model = c("ARIMA", "Prophet"),
   Predicted_Peak = c(arima_peak_index, prophet_peak_index),
   Actual_Peak = actual_peak_index,
   Lead_Time = c(lead_time_arima, lead_time_prophet)
)
print(lead_time_tbl)</pre>
```

```
## # A tibble: 2 × 4
##
     Model
             Predicted Peak Actual Peak Lead Time
     <chr>
                                               <int>
##
                       <int>
                                    <int>
## 1 ARIMA
                           3
                                        6
                                                   3
                            5
                                        6
                                                   1
## 2 Prophet
```

```
compare_df <- data.frame(
  Date = test_data$Date,
  Actual = test_values,
  ARIMA = arima_pred,
  Prophet = prophet_pred
)</pre>
```

```
compare_df_long <- compare_df %>%
  pivot_longer(cols = c("Actual", "ARIMA", "Prophet"), names_to = "Model", values_to =
"Value")
```

```
ggplot(compare_df_long, aes(x = Date, y = Value, color = Model)) +
  geom_line(size = 1) +
  labs(title = "Actual vs Forecast (ARIMA vs Prophet)", y = "Illness Count") +
  theme_minimal()
```



```
threshold <- mean(test values) + sd(test values)</pre>
classification df <- tibble(</pre>
 truth = ifelse(test_values > threshold, 1, 0),
 ARIMA = ifelse(arima pred > threshold, 1, 0),
 Prophet = ifelse(prophet pred > threshold, 1, 0)
)
classification long <- classification df %>%
  pivot_longer(cols = c(ARIMA, Prophet), names_to = "Model", values_to = ".pred_class")
%>%
 mutate(
    .truth = factor(truth, levels = c(0, 1)),
    .pred_class = factor(.pred_class, levels = c(0, 1))
  )
classification_metrics <- classification_long %>%
 group by(Model) %>%
 summarise(
    Sensitivity = sensitivity vec(.truth, .pred class),
   Specificity = specificity_vec(.truth, .pred_class),
   Accuracy = accuracy vec(.truth, .pred class)
print(classification metrics)
```

```
## # A tibble: 2 × 4
    Model
             Sensitivity Specificity Accuracy
##
##
     <chr>
                   <dbl>
                                <dbl>
                                          <dbl>
## 1 ARIMA
                        1
                                    0
                                          0.833
## 2 Prophet
                        1
                                          0.833
```

```
df_prophet <- monthly_illness %>%

select(Date, Total_Illnesses) %>%
 rename(ds = Date, y = Total_Illnesses)
```

```
m <- prophet(df_prophet, weekly.seasonality = FALSE, daily.seasonality = FALSE)
future <- make_future_dataframe(m, periods = 12, freq = "month")
forecast_prophet <- predict(m, future)</pre>
```

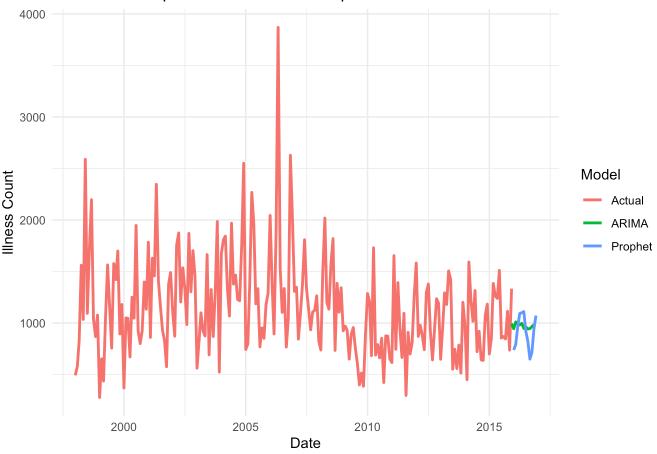
```
prophet_df_forecast <- forecast_prophet %>%
  tail(12) %>%
  select(ds, yhat) %>%
  mutate(ds = floor_date(as.Date(ds), unit = "month"), model = "Prophet") %>%
  rename(y = yhat)
```

```
actual_df <- df_prophet %>%
mutate(model = "Actual")
```

```
forecast_arima <- forecast(arima_model, h = 12)
arima_forecast_df <- data.frame(
   ds = seq(from = as.Date(max(df_prophet$ds)) + 1, by = "month", length.out = 12),
   y = as.numeric(forecast_arima$mean),
   model = "ARIMA"
)</pre>
```

```
combined_df <- bind_rows(actual_df, arima_forecast_df, prophet_df_forecast)</pre>
```

Forecast Comparison: ARIMA vs Prophet vs Actual



```
arima_df <- data.frame(
  ds = seq(from = as.Date("2015-01-01"), by = "month", length.out = 12),
  arima = as.numeric(arima_forecast$mean[1:12])
)</pre>
```

```
prophet_df_forecast <- forecast_prophet %>%
  mutate(ds = floor_date(as.Date(ds), unit = "month")) %>%
  filter(ds >= as.Date("2015-01-01") & ds <= as.Date("2015-12-01")) %>%
  group_by(ds) %>%
  summarise(prophet = mean(yhat)) %>%
  ungroup()
```

```
actual_df <- monthly_illness %>%
  mutate(ds = floor_date(Date, unit = "month")) %>%
  group_by(ds) %>%
  summarise(actual = sum(Total_Illnesses, na.rm = TRUE)) %>%
  ungroup() %>%
  filter(ds >= as.Date("2015-01-01") & ds <= as.Date("2015-12-01"))</pre>
```

```
compare_df <- actual_df %>%
  inner_join(arima_df, by = "ds") %>%
  inner_join(prophet_df_forecast, by = "ds")
```

```
print(compare_df)
```

```
## # A tibble: 12 × 4
##
     ds
               actual arima prophet
##
     <date> <dbl> <dbl>
                              <dbl>
## 1 2015-01-01
                  699 995.
                              776.
## 2 2015-02-01
                  849 944.
                              791.
## 3 2015-03-01
                 1384 1011.
                              900.
## 4 2015-04-01
                 1262 987.
                             1155.
## 5 2015-05-01
                 1239 981.
                             1180.
## 6 2015-06-01
                 1511 997.
                             1191.
## 7 2015-07-01
                  854 947.
                             811.
## 8 2015-08-01
                  869 962.
                              835.
## 9 2015-09-01
                  845 942.
                             760.
## 10 2015-10-01 1114 946.
                              805.
## 11 2015-11-01
                  737
                       966.
                              980.
## 12 2015-12-01
                 1334 985.
                              1013.
```

```
rmse_arima <- sqrt(mean((compare_df$arima - compare_df$actual)^2))
mae_arima <- mean(abs(compare_df$arima - compare_df$actual))</pre>
```

```
rmse_prophet <- sqrt(mean((compare_df$prophet - compare_df$actual)^2))
mae_prophet <- mean(abs(compare_df$prophet - compare_df$actual))</pre>
```

```
cat("ARIMA: RMSE =", round(rmse_arima, 2), " MAE =", round(mae_arima, 2), "\n")
```

```
## ARIMA: RMSE = 269.45 MAE = 236.62
```

cat("Prophet: RMSE =", round(rmse_prophet, 2), " MAE =", round(mae_prophet, 2), "\n")

Prophet: RMSE = 229.04 MAE = 178.47

ml_df <- food_data_clean %>%
 select(Illnesses, Year, Month, State, Location, Species, Status) %>%
 filter(!is.na(Illnesses)) %>%
 mutate(across(where(is.character), as.factor))

ml_df <- ml_df %>%
 filter(Illnesses < quantile(Illnesses, 0.99))

skim(ml_df)</pre>

Data summary

Name	ml_df
Number of rows	12392
Number of columns	7
Column type frequency:	
factor	5
numeric	2
Group variables	None

Variable type: factor

skim_variable n_missing complete_rate ordered n_unique top_counts

Month	0	1.00 FALSE	12 Dec: 1222, May: 1213, Jun: 1188, Apr: 1105
State	0	1.00 FALSE	55 Cal: 1609, Ill: 893, Ohi: 880, Flo: 840
Location	0	1.00 FALSE	141 Res: 7111, Pri: 1377, Cat: 860, Fas: 356
Species	3540	0.71 FALSE	262 Nor: 1900, Sal: 1617, Nor: 1180, Nor: 630
Status	3540	0.71 FALSE	25 Con: 5708, Sus: 2678, Sus: 199, Con: 94

Variable type: numeric

skim_variable	n_missing	complete_rate	mean	sd	p0	p25	p50	p75	p100	hist
Illnesses	0	1	16.68	22.58	2	4	9	20	187	

```
n missing complete rate
                                                                         p75 p100 hist
skim variable
                                          mean
                                                    sd
                                                         p0
                                                              p25
                                                                   p50
                       0
Year
                                      1 2006.60
                                                  5.13 1998 2002 2006 2011 2015
set.seed(123)
split <- initial_split(ml_df, prop = 0.8, strata = Illnesses)</pre>
train_data <- training(split)</pre>
test data <- testing(split)</pre>
ml_recipe <- recipe(Illnesses ~ ., data = train_data) %>%
  step_impute_median(all_numeric_predictors()) %>%
  step_impute_mode(all_nominal_predictors()) %>%
  step_dummy(all_nominal_predictors()) %>%
  step zv(all predictors())
rf_model <- rand_forest(mtry = 5, trees = 500, min_n = 10) %>%
  set engine("randomForest") %>%
  set_mode("regression")
rf workflow <- workflow() %>%
  add recipe(ml recipe) %>%
  add_model(rf_model)
rf_fit <- rf_workflow %>% fit(data = train_data)
rf_preds <- rf_fit %>%
  predict(new_data = test_data) %>%
  bind_cols(test_data)
metrics(rf preds, truth = Illnesses, estimate = .pred)
## # A tibble: 3 × 3
     .metric .estimator .estimate
##
##
     <chr>
              <chr>
                             <dbl>
## 1 rmse
              standard
                            20.6
## 2 rsq
              standard
                             0.209
              standard
## 3 mae
                            12.8
```

```
illness_full <- food_data_clean %>%
 group by(Date) %>%
 summarise(Illnesses = sum(Illnesses, na.rm = TRUE)) %>%
 mutate(
   Year = year(Date),
   Month = month(Date),
   Month_Name = month(Date, label = TRUE),
   Quarter = quarter(Date),
   Season = case when(
     Month %in% c(12, 1, 2) \sim "Winter",
     Month %in% c(3, 4, 5) ~ "Spring",
     Month %in% c(6, 7, 8) ~ "Summer",
     Month %in% c(9, 10, 11) ~ "Fall"
    )
  ) %>%
 ungroup()
illness_ml <- illness_full %>% select(-Date)
```

```
rf_spec <- rand_forest(mtry = 5, trees = 500, min_n = 10) %>%
    set_engine("randomForest") %>%
    set_mode("regression")

rec <- recipe(Illnesses ~ ., data = illness_ml) %>%
    step_impute_median(all_numeric(), -all_outcomes()) %>%
    step_dummy(all_nominal_predictors())

rf_workflow <- workflow() %>%
    add_model(rf_spec) %>%
    add_recipe(rec)

rf_fit_final <- rf_workflow %>% fit(data = illness_ml)
```

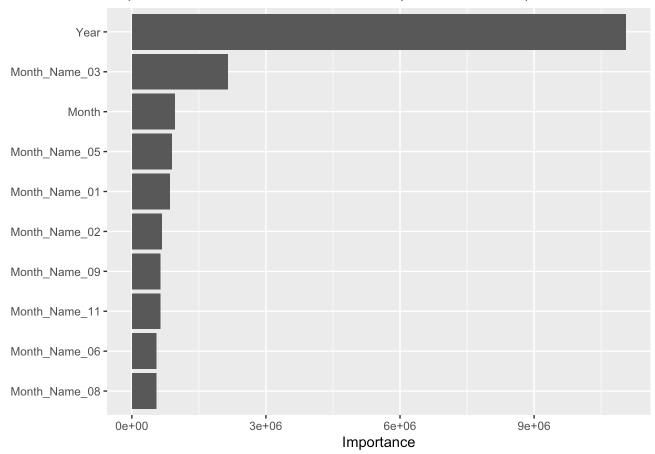
```
rf_preds <- predict(rf_fit_final, new_data = illness_ml) %>%
  bind_cols(illness_ml %>% select(Illnesses))

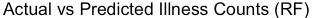
metrics <- rf_preds %>%
  metrics(truth = Illnesses, estimate = .pred)

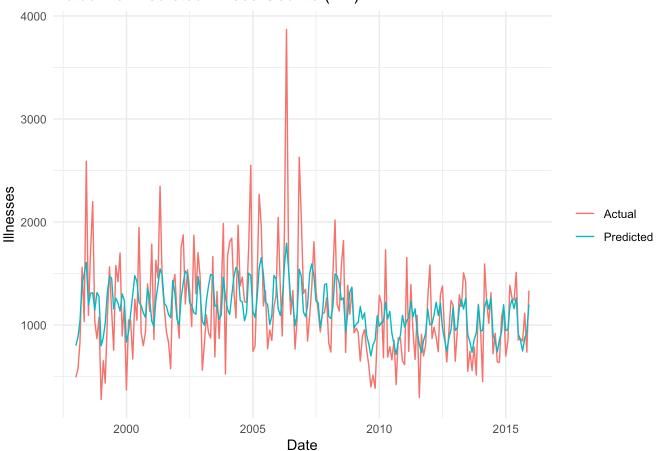
print(metrics)
```

vip::vip(rf_fit_final\$fit\$fit, num_features = 10) +
 ggtitle("Top Predictive Features for Illnesses (Random Forest)")

Top Predictive Features for Illnesses (Random Forest)







```
set.seed(42)
split <- initial_split(illness_ml, prop = 0.8)
train_data <- training(split)
test_data <- testing(split)

rf_fit_cv <- rf_workflow %>% fit(data = train_data)

rf_test_preds <- predict(rf_fit_cv, new_data = test_data) %>%
    bind_cols(test_data %>% select(Illnesses))

metrics(rf_test_preds, truth = Illnesses, estimate = .pred)
```

```
## # A tibble: 3 × 3
     .metric .estimator .estimate
##
##
     <chr>
             <chr>
                             <dbl>
             standard
                          406.
## 1 rmse
## 2 rsq
             standard
                            0.0680
## 3 mae
             standard
                          334.
```

```
comparison_df <- tibble(
  truth = test_values,
  ARIMA = arima_pred,
  Prophet = prophet_pred,
  Ensemble = (arima_pred + prophet_pred) / 2
)

comparison_long <- comparison_df %>%
  tidyr::pivot_longer(-truth, names_to = "Model", values_to = ".pred")

model_metrics <- comparison_long %>%
  group_by(Model) %>%
  summarise(
   RMSE = rmse_vec(truth, .pred),
   MAE = mae_vec(truth, .pred)
)
print(model_metrics)
```

```
## # A tibble: 3 × 3
               RMSE
##
    Model
                      MAE
              <dbl> <dbl>
##
     <chr>
               269.
                     237.
## 1 ARTMA
## 2 Ensemble 259.
                    202.
## 3 Prophet
               277.
                    226.
```

