

Handout for February 2019 Newsletter
Mapping International Trade Flows in GeoFRED®

Purpose.

1. Create state-level geographical maps of the value of exports to China and Canada.
2. Edit the maps by modifying their colors.
3. Interpret the economic information displayed in the maps.

Pedagogical Rationale. This assignment requires that you first search for data online, select a particular series, and display it in the form of a geographical map. Next, you will edit the format of the map. Lastly, you will interpret the economic information displayed in the map. These tasks will develop your proficiency in searching for, transforming, and interpreting data.

Grading. Your grade will be determined by (a) how precisely you complete the search and transformation data tasks and (b) how accurately you interpret the data.

Steps to Search for and Transform the Data.

1. Access <https://geofred.stlouisfed.org> and click on “Build New Map.”
2. Click on “Tools” and under “CHOOSE DATA > Region Type:” select “State.”
3. Click on “Data:” and select “Value of Exports to China” and “Not Seasonally Adjusted, Annual, Dollars.”
4. Click on “CHOOSE COLORS” and select from “Multi Hue,” the right-most color scheme from the second row (tagged “ylorrd”).
5. Open a new browser tab.
6. Access <https://geofred.stlouisfed.org> and click on “Build New Map.” Click on “Tools” and under “CHOOSE DATA > Region Type:” select “County.”
7. Click on “Data:” and select “Value of Exports to Canada” and “Not Seasonally Adjusted, Annual, Dollars.”
8. Click on “CHOOSE COLORS” and select from “Multi Hue,” the right-most color scheme from the second row (tagged “ylorrd”).

Discussion Prompts. Answer the following questions:

1. Name the two states with the largest volume of exports to China in 2016.
2. Name the two states with the largest volume of exports to Canada in 2016.
3. In 2016, which country is a larger export market for Texas: China or Canada?
4. In 2016, which country is a larger export market for California: China or Canada?