

Handout for March 2020 Newsletter Mapping Housing Markets in GeoFRED®

Purpose.

1. Create state-level geographical maps of building permits for new single-family homes.
2. Edit the maps by modifying its dates, legend, and 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 “Choose Data” and under “Region Type” select “State.”
3. Under “Data:” search for “New Private Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits: 1-Unit Structures.”
4. Select “Frequency: Annual,” “Units: Percent Change from Year Ago,” and “2019” as the date.
5. Click on “EDIT LEGEND” and select from “Number of Color Classes” the option “2” and from “Interval method” the option “User Defined.”
6. Define the maximum interval values by typing the following values in each interval box:
 - 0
 - 50
7. Click on “CHOOSE COLORS” and select from “Multi Hue,” the right-most color scheme from the second row (tagged “ylorrd”).
8. Click on “SAVE & SHARE,” and copy the “Link” <http://geof.red/m/iSV>.
9. Open a new browser tab.
10. Paste the “Link” <http://geof.red/m/iSV>.
11. Click on “Data:” and select “2008” as the date.

Discussion Prompts. Answer the following questions:

1. Name one state where building permits for new single-family homes increased by double digits between 2018 and 2019.
2. Compare the first map you created with the second map you created. How are they different? Briefly describe the impact of the economic recession of 2007-2009 on the growth rate of building permits for new single-family homes between 2007 and 2008.