

## Handout for August 2020 Newsletter Mapping COVID-19 Economics in GeoFRED®

### Purpose.

1. Create nation-level geographical maps of the discussion about pandemics (DAP) index.
2. Edit the maps by modifying the dates, legends, 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 “Tools” and under “Choose Data > Region Type:” select “Nation.”
3. Under “Data:,” search for “Discussion About Pandemics Index.”
4. Select “Frequency: Quarterly,” “Units: Index,” and “2019 Q4” as the date.
5. Click on EDIT LEGEND and under “Interval method” select “User Defined.”
6. Set the “Number of Color Cases” to 2.
7. Define the maximum interval values by typing the following values in each interval box:
  - 0
  - 109
8. Click on “CHOOSE COLORS” and under “Multi Hue,” select the right-most color scheme (tagged “yloord”).
9. Click on “SAVE & SHARE,” and then click on “Copy Link.”
10. Open a new browser tab and paste the link (<http://geof.red/m/jwr>)
11. Click on “Tools” and under “Date:” select “2020 Q1.”
12. Click on EDIT LEGEND and define the maximum interval values by typing the following values in each interval box:
  - 0
  - 100
  - 200
  - 350
  - 770

### Discussion Prompts. Answer the following questions:

1. Name four nations where the discussion about pandemics index was larger than zero during the fourth quarter of 2019.
2. Name four nations where the discussion about pandemics index was less than or equal to zero during the first quarter of 2020.