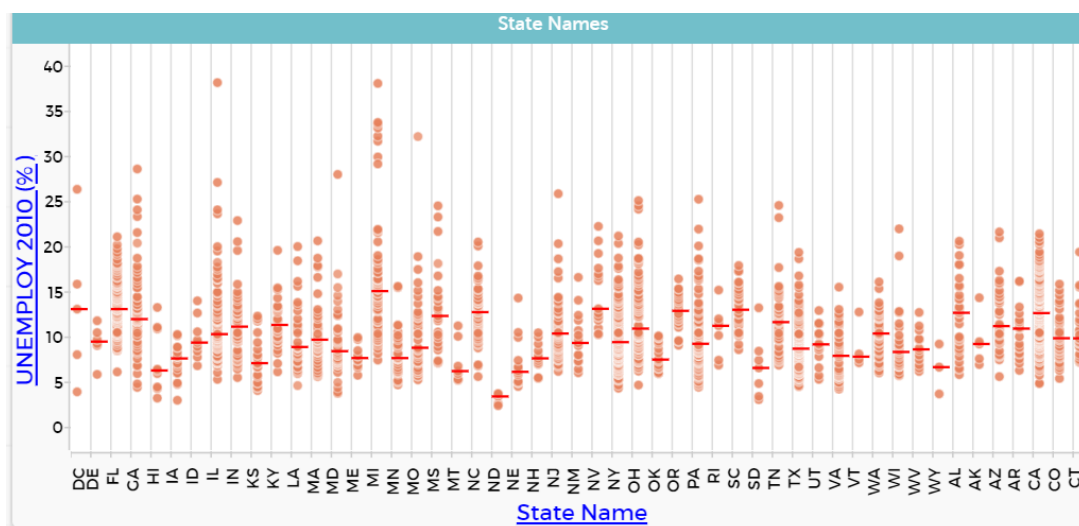


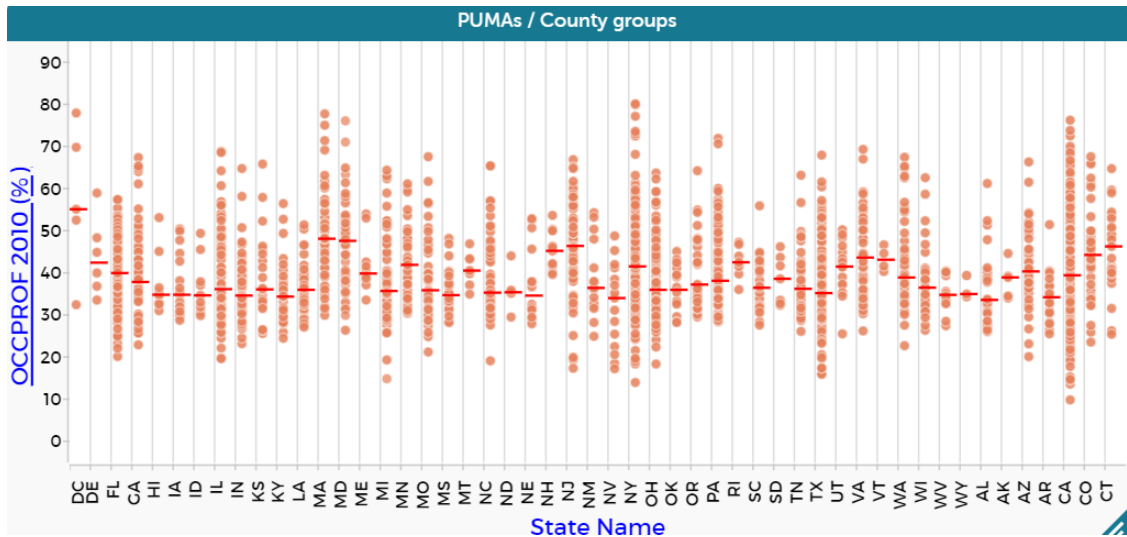
I chose the median unemployment rate in a state as the main indicator for wealth. Based on this definition I argue that more workers in professional or technical occupations lead to a lower unemployment rate, thus greater wealth.

The following chart illustrates how unemployment rates vary across the US. Every point in the scatterplot represents the unemployment percentage in a county group of the state on the x-axis. The red line shows the median within the specific state, which can be seen as a value representing the “average” citizen. In 2010, Michigan had the highest median unemployment rate of 15.1 %, while North Dakota had the lowest median unemployment rate of 3.4 %.

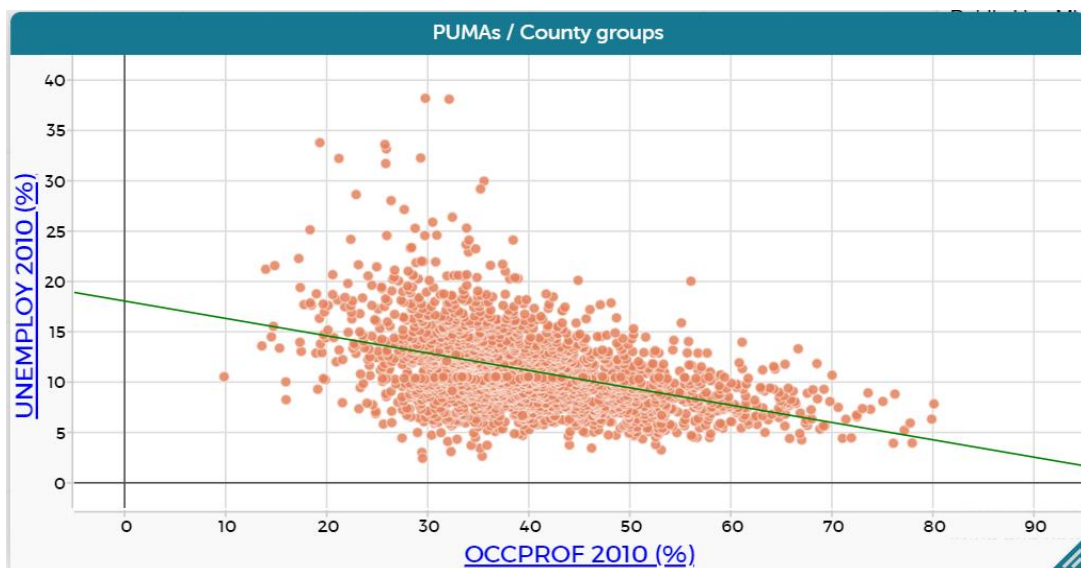


What made me chose unemployment as an indicator of wealth is the fact that the lower it is, the more functioning and successful the economy of that state seems to be, in that it creates enough jobs. Additionally, people who work spend money, thus contributing to the state’s wealth in a reinforcing way. Lastly, if the unemployment rate is low, there are fewer people in need of financial support from the state, which is positive for that state’s wealth.

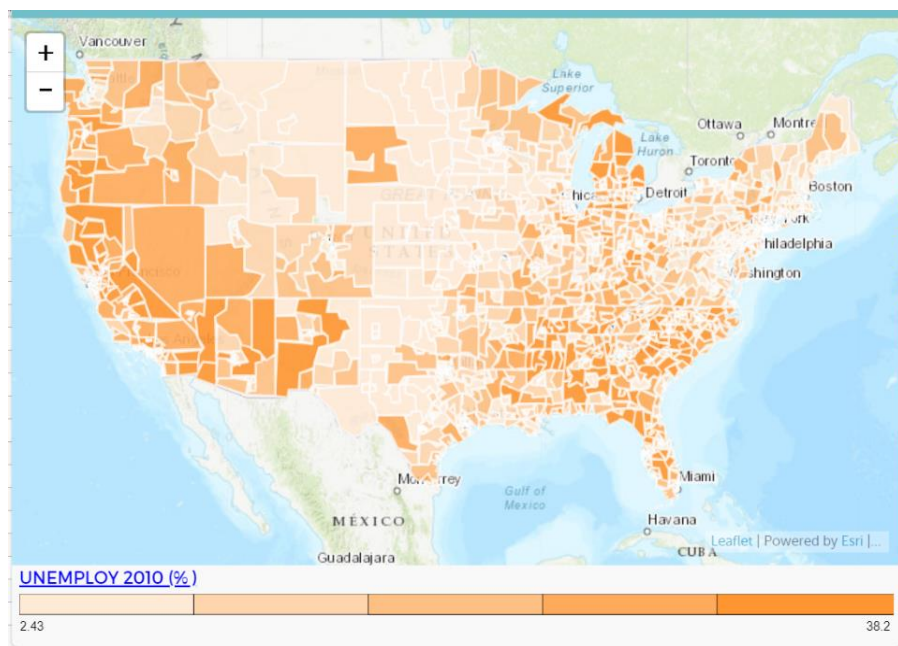
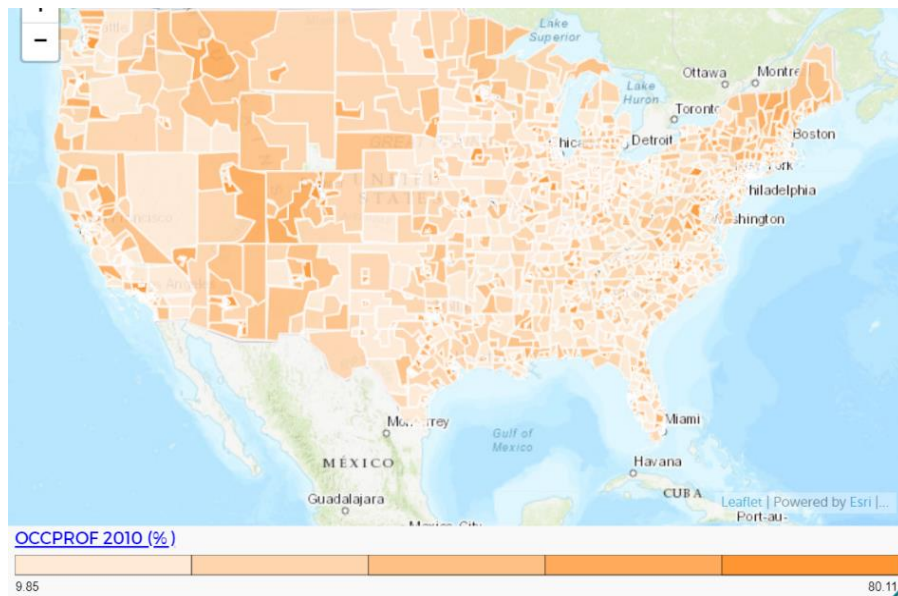
The following graph shows the percentage of people working in professional or technical occupations. The red line shows the median value. In 2010, the state with the highest median percentage was District Columbia with 55.1%, whereas the lowest median percentage was obtained in Alabama with 33.6 %.



A state where many people work in professional or technical occupations is probably very successful from an economic point of view. Professional occupations can only be pursued with a sufficient education, which is more likely to be achieved in economically successful states. On top of that, technical occupations contribute to and ensure continuous trade. Those are also the jobs that are very reliable in the long-term and enable successful career paths. The following graph emphasizes how a higher percentage of workers specifically in professional or technical occupations influences the unemployment rate, thus wealth. The green least squares line illustrates the negative correlation: the more prevalent a state's professional and technical economy sector is, the lower the unemployment rate. There are no high unemployment rates in regions with 60 % or more workers in professional/technical jobs. Opposed to that, the highest unemployment rates are in regions with less than 35 % of workers with in professional/technical jobs.



The following two maps show how occupation in professional or technical jobs (above) and unemployment rate (below) vary across the US. It can be observed that there is a similar pattern: The regions with less workers in professional and technical jobs in the South-East and West are simultaneously the ones with high unemployment rates.



In sum, I have shown that a state with strong economy in the professional and technical sector tends to have a lower unemployment rate, which indicates better wealth and economic success. I supported the argument by showing the variation of and correlation between those two variables.