Topic and purpose: I will research the effect the United States economy as a whole has on different sectors of the economy (medical, financial, retail, supply-chain, etc.). I am curious to know which sectors are most and least independent on the performance of the overall markets. One reason for my interest in this is because I want to see which jobs in any given sector may be the most “secure,” regardless of the state of the economy. It could be interesting to also research the same topic but considering the global economy instead of just the United States’ economy.

Hypothesis: Most, if not all, sectors of the economy will have some sort of correlation to the state of the economy of the United States in general. However, I think there will be a small number that are strikingly “immune” to the state of the economy in general relative to others. For example, I think the financial sector will be highly correlated to the state of the United States economy, while the medical sector will have some sort of “immunity,” or less correlation.

Data Collection/Method: I will collect historical data on the state of the US economy over a given time period (TBD) using a telltale variable, GDP growth rate (this is open to change if I can find a better measure of the state of the economy). I will also collect historical data on the performance of individual sectors of the economy (unemployment rates, growth rates, median income, etc.). It could be a number of different things, depending on what is the most telltale indicator. Then, I will regress the chosen variables and see which sectors are the most co-dependent on the economy and which are the most independent.