Assessing the Financial Practicality of LEED
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Introduction
- Green building industry has become an emerging branch within the architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) industries
- Examples of rating systems within the green building industry include: Leader in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) and Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), among a few others
- Rating systems are expensive to implement due to the cost of the actual certification paired with the costs of meeting certification requirements
- Data from the U.S. Census Bureau will compare populations and income
- These rating systems should be more available to all populations because of the proven economic, environmental, and health benefits

Hypothesis
- The green building standard, Leader in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED), is not financially practical for all populations

Methods

Variables
- **Dependent variables:** (1) expenses associated with certification and (2) city-specific demographic indicators taken from most populated cities in Florida.
- **Independent variables:** (1) LEED certification, (2) BREEAM certification and (3) no certification (as control)

Procedures
- Conducted literature review using scholarly databases
- Gathered demographic data from US Census Bureau
- Quantified dependent variables based on independent variable

Discussion
- Populations vary wisely across the cities
- The median income is similar for Tampa, Jacksonville, and Orlando between $46,000 and $50,000
- Jacksonville and Miami had a similar number of LEED projects despite having different median incomes, disproving my hypothesis
- In the future I plan to use project types as another demographic indicator

References:

Figure 1: The number of LEED projects in various Florida cities
Figure 2: The total populations of the cities from Figure 1
Figure 3: The median household incomes of the cities from Figure 1