Official statistics usually reported on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis, and with substantial lag—anywhere from a few weeks to several months.

In a fast-moving environment like the COVID-19 outbreak, we need more timely data to make sense of how the pandemic is affecting economies.

How can we use Big Data to track COVID-19’s impact on economic activity in Asia and the Pacific, without having to wait for official statistics to be released?
Launched as the first #DigitalAgainstCOVID-19 Challenge at ADB. Teams had to submit deck of slides showcasing their idea, details of methodology, evidence of tracking accuracy, details of long-term sustainability, and justification of logical proxy to specified economic indicators.

Out of 35 submissions, 6 teams were shortlisted to proceed to the mentoring phase by a jury.

Each of the six teams were paired with mentors from the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD) of the ADB to fine tune their models.

Each of the six teams made their final pitches to a jury of five, that comprised of from ERCD and the IT Department of ADB. A final winner was selected.
Winning team: dData

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