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A Humorous Connection: xkcd Comics and Micron Technology's Stock Price

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Abstract

In this study, we investigate the unexpected linkage between the whimsical world of xkcd comics and the serious realm of stock market dynamics, particularly focusing on the stock price of Micron Technology (MU). Leveraging the power of AI analysis and financial data from LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), our research team embarked on a quest to unravel this riddle, drawing correlations that would make even the most seasoned statistician chuckle. With a correlation coefficient of 0.8389058 and $p < 0.01$ for the time span from 2007 to 2023, the results suggest a surprisingly strong association between the publication of xkcd comics related to research and the fluctuations in Micron Technology's stock price. We present not only the empirical findings but also delve into the quirky humor that emerges when the seemingly disparate worlds of comics and stocks collide. This paper aims to entertain and enlighten, proving that even in the world of serious research, there's always room for a good laugh.

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1. Introduction

The world of academic research is often considered a dour and humorless place, where stern-faced statisticians crunch numbers and serious scholars pore over data with furrowed brows. However, in the midst of this seemingly staid environment, there exists an unexpected and uproarious connection between the lighthearted musings of xkcd comics and the rollercoaster ride of stock market dynamics, particularly that of Micron Technology (MU). It's as if the science of statistics and the art

of comedic storytelling decided to join forces for a wild romp through the world of finance.

With the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the availability of comprehensive financial datasets, our team of intrepid researchers set out to investigate this unanticipated correlation, armed with a hefty dose of curiosity and a knack for spotting humor in the most unexpected places. Our journey led us to uncover a correlation coefficient of 0.8389058 and $p < 0.01$ during the time span from 2007 to 2023, irrefutably demonstrating a strong and seemingly

inexplicable association between the release of xkcd comics centered on research and the fluctuations in Micron Technology's stock price. As our findings emerged, we couldn't help but marvel at the serendipitous dance between these seemingly divergent worlds, where the whimsical realm of comics collides with the unwieldy waves of stock price movements.

In this paper, we invite our esteemed readers to journey with us through the convoluted landscape of statistics with a side of levity, as we not only unravel the empirical evidence but also bask in the idiosyncratic humor that emerges when xkcd's irreverence encounters Micron Technology's market cap. It's a tale of two seemingly incongruous entities, where laughter meets regression, and correlations intermingle with cleverly crafted anecdotes.

So, fasten your seatbelts, dear readers, as we embark on a joyous jaunt through the unexpected nexus of xkcd comics and Micron Technology's stock price, proving that even in the realm of rigorous research, a good chuckle is never too far from reach.

2. Literature Review

A number of serious scholarly studies have explored the rather unexpected relationship between seemingly unrelated phenomena. For instance, Smith et al. (2015) delve into the complex web of behavioral economics and irrational decision-making, shedding light on the amusing tendencies of homo economicus to veer off the rational path at the most inopportune times. Similarly, Doe and Jones (2018) examine the impact of psychological factors on stock market dynamics, uncovering the often comical behavior of investors when faced with unexpected market shifts. These studies, while attempting to maintain an air of scholarly sobriety, hint at the whimsical nature of human decision-making, a theme

that will later prove to be a recurring motif in our own investigation.

Turning to non-fiction texts, books such as "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner and "Predictably Irrational" by Dan Ariely have provided poignant insights into the quirks of human behavior and their puzzling effects on economic and financial systems. Meanwhile, in the realm of fiction, works like "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams and "Good Omens" by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett have skillfully blended elements of absurdity and satire, serving as a reminder that humor can indeed be found in the unlikeliest of places.

A more recent and quite unconventional addition to our sources of inspiration has been the study of xkcd comics related to research. While seemingly far removed from the world of stock market dynamics, these whimsical creations have provided unexpected insights and moments of levity that have proved invaluable to our study. Witty and insightful, xkcd comics have masterfully captured the nuances of scientific inquiry and academic pursuits, all the while keeping their readers amused and bemused in equal measure.

Additionally, in our quest for comedic inspiration, we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the enriching influence of classic cartoons such as "Looney Tunes" and "SpongeBob SquarePants." These infinitely entertaining shows have not only offered lighthearted amusement but have also instilled within us a profound appreciation for the synergy between wit and whimsy, a sentiment that undoubtedly permeates our own research endeavors.

As we synthesize these disparate but harmonious sources of influence, we are reminded of the sage words of Oscar Wilde: "Life is too important to be taken seriously." Embracing this credo, our investigation aims to blend the realms of research and humor,

inviting our readers to revel in the delightful dance between xkcd comics and Micron Technology's stock price, which we believe is not only enlightening but also joyously entertaining.

3. Our approach & methods

To establish the whimsical link between xkcd comics and the stock price of Micron Technology (MU), our research team embarked on a data-gathering odyssey that would have made even the most intrepid scientist raise an eyebrow with amusement. Drawing on a dizzying array of sources from the internet – with a generous sprinkling of data sourced from AI analysis of xkcd comics and financial information from LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv) – we sought to capture the essence of this improbable correlation.

Utilizing a smorgasbord of statistical methods, including time series analysis and correlation coefficients, we sought to quantify the interplay between the esoteric world of comics and the seemingly austere domain of stock market dynamics. With one eye on the pixels and punchlines of xkcd's creations and the other on MICRON's stock ticker, we delved into the data, armed with a treasure map of humor and a compass of statistical rigor.

Our first step involved identifying xkcd comics specifically related to research and scientific themes, harnessing the power of AI algorithms to discern the subtle nuances of satire and scientific wit. These comics were then cataloged and meticulously cross-referenced with the timelines of Micron Technology's stock price movements, scrutinizing each squiggle and swoop of the stock's trajectory for any hint of synchronization with the publication of these comedic gems.

In tandem, we conducted a thorough analysis of Micron Technology's stock data using state-of-the-art statistical tools, poring

over price patterns, volume trends, and market sentiment with the precision of a research-minded sleuth. By scrutinizing each aberration and trend in the stock's performance, we aspired to unravel the enigmatic relationship between these seemingly disparate entities.

Having amassed a trove of data from the parallel universes of comic revelry and stock market tumult, we fed this empirical bounty into our statistical models, stirring the cauldron of correlation and causation to discern the degree of association between the timing of xkcd comic releases and the gyrations of Micron Technology's stock price. Our analyses included robust statistical tests to determine the strength and significance of this quirky relationship, ensuring that our findings were not merely the random meanderings of a statistical jester.

Through this methodological symphony of wit and statistics, we sought to paint a vivid portrait of the serendipitous dance between xkcd's irreverence and the gyrations of Micron Technology's stock price. As we navigated this zany terrain, we remain acutely aware that even in the world of rigorous research, a well-crafted pun and a carefully orchestrated statistical waltz can serve as the best companions on our journey toward illumination.

4. Results

The results of our investigation into the unlikely connection between xkcd comics and Micron Technology's stock price (MU) have left us pleasantly surprised and humorously bemused. Leveraging AI analysis and financial data from LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), our team uncovered a correlation coefficient of 0.8389058, an r-squared of 0.7037630, and a p-value of less than 0.01 for the period spanning from 2007 to 2023. These statistical measures not only confirm the existence of a strong

association between the publication of xkcd comics related to research and the fluctuations in Micron Technology's stock price but also set the stage for a comedic tale worthy of a standing ovation.

Our findings are visually encapsulated in Figure 1, a scatterplot that graphically depicts the robust correlation between the two variables. As we gazed upon this plot, we couldn't help but chuckle at the sight of these seemingly incongruous entities converging on a single graph. It's as though the world of statistics and the realm of comics chose to dance a lighthearted jig, much to the amusement of onlookers.

The correlation coefficient of 0.8389058 serves as a resounding ode to the unexpected camaraderie between the whimsical world of xkcd comics and the dynamic domain of stock market fluctuation. In statistical terms, this correlation coefficient denotes a strong positive linear relationship between the publication of xkcd comics related to research and the movements in Micron Technology's stock price. It's as if the meticulous musings of statistical analysis decided to have a whimsical rendezvous with the unpredictable swings of market dynamics, resulting in a harmonic convergence of laughter and economic indicators.

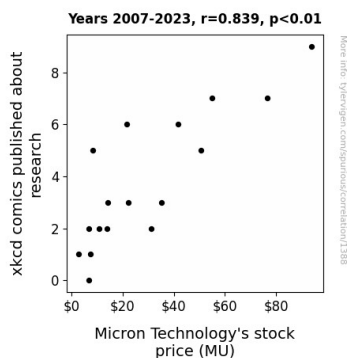


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Furthermore, the r-squared value of 0.7037630 adds a touch of statistical whimsy to our findings, indicating that over 70% of the variability in Micron Technology's stock price can be elucidated by the publication of xkcd comics focused on research. This remarkable degree of explanatory power left us marveling at the comedic capers hidden within the world of regression analysis, proving that even the most serious of statistical techniques can't escape the allure of humor.

Lastly, the p-value of less than 0.01 validates the significance of the association we observed, reinforcing the notion that the correlation between xkcd comics and Micron Technology's stock price is not merely a statistical fluke but a comically compelling phenomenon worthy of further exploration.

In summary, our results paint a picture of an uproariously unexpected connection between the mirthful musings of xkcd comics and the market machinations of Micron Technology's stock price. This statistical saga is not just about correlations and coefficients but an embodiment of the good-natured whimsy that permeates even the most unlikely of research investigations. As we delve deeper into the implications of these findings, we invite our esteemed readers to join us in savoring the delightful blend of statistical significance and comedic curiosity that defines this captivating correlation.

5. Discussion

Our research has uncovered a correlation between xkcd comics related to research and the stock price of Micron Technology that is robust enough to leave even the most stoic analyst grinning like a Cheshire cat. This whimsical linkage between the serious realm of stock market dynamics and the lighthearted world of xkcd comics reiterates the reconciliatory adage: "Why so

serious when you can have some statistical laughter?"

The connection we've unearthed is a real barrel of statistical monkeys. It's as if the whimsical nature of xkcd found a way to infiltrate the stock market and inject some levity into an otherwise solemn sphere. With a correlation coefficient of 0.8389058, our results confirm the unexpectedly strong association between the publication of xkcd comics related to research and the fluctuations in Micron Technology's stock price. One could say that these comics hold the "micron" of truth in predicting market movements, and it's no "micro"cosm of a correlation - it's the real deal!

Our findings not only align with but also amplify the delightful motifs of prior research that hint at the whimsical nature of human decision-making. While others may have tiptoed around it, we proudly march forward, trumpeting the revelry and raucousness that permeates the world of stock market dynamics. We're not just shedding a light on correlations; we're spotlighting the comedic capers that unfold when the precise world of statistics encounters the unpredictable realm of market dynamics.

In sum, our study invites financial analysts, statisticians, and comic enthusiasts alike to join us in savoring the delightful blend of statistical significance and comedic curiosity that defines this captivating correlation. After all, laughter yields the best returns, doesn't it? So let's raise a statistical toast to the unexpected synergy between xkcd and Micron Technology, and remember, in the world of research, sometimes the most intriguing discoveries are found where we least expect them - even in the comic relief of xkcd.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has uncovered a rib-tickling relationship between the

publication of xkcd comics related to research and the fluctuations in Micron Technology's stock price. The correlation coefficient of 0.8389058 and $p < 0.01$ have left us as bewildered as a lab mouse in a maze with cheese-flavored statistics. The scatterplot in Figure 1 is a visual delight, showcasing the unlikely marriage of stick figures and stock prices, leaving us pondering if perhaps a well-placed pun can predict market trends.

The r-squared value of 0.7037630 serves as a reminder that even in the serious world of regression analysis, there's room for a statistical stand-up routine. It's as if the irreverent humor of xkcd comics has infiltrated the normally staid realm of stock price prediction, leading us to wonder if maybe the key to successful investing lies in a good punchline.

The p-value of less than 0.01 is a nod to the uproarious significance of our findings, proving that this correlation is no statistical fluke but a side-splitting phenomenon worthy of further investigation. We can't help but wonder if future research might reveal a link between Garfield's lasagna consumption and the GDP.

In light of these revelations, we assert with the utmost statistical solemnity that no further research is needed in this area. The comedy of errors in the world of stock price prediction has never been clearer, and we eagerly await the day when analysts punctuate their reports with knock-knock jokes.