# Swinging with Stats: Teeing Up the Relationship Between US Open Golf Scores and the Receptionist Workforce in Hawaii

Chloe Hall, Austin Thomas, George P Tucker The International Journal of Statistical Sports Studies The Institute for Applied Statistical Research in Recreational Activities Chapel Hill, North Carolina

#### Abstract

The widespread fascination with golf and the curious world of statistics collide in this study, as we delve into the connection between the score of the US Open Golf winner and the number of receptionists in Hawaii. Utilizing data spanning from 2003 to 2022 sourced from Golfstats and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, our research team conducted a detailed analysis. An intriguing correlation coefficient of 0.6823408 emerged, with a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01, shedding light on the surprising relationship between these two seemingly unrelated variables. Despite the initial skepticism regarding the possible relevance of golf scores to receptionist employment in Hawaii, the results provide compelling evidence to the contrary. Not to tee you off with too many details, but our findings suggest that as the US Open Golf winner's score improves, there is a corresponding increase in the number of receptionists in Hawaii. While some may find this correlation a "fore" ceful conclusion, the data speak for themselves and offer a birdie's-eye view of this phenomenon. These unexpected results make us wonder whether there is an unnoticed bond between the precision of a golfer's swing and the need for coordinating appointments and phone calls in the Aloha State. Further research is required to uncover the underlying factors driving this apparent relationship and to determine if it holds true in other geographic regions. In examining these interconnected phenomena, our study inspires a new perspective on the intricate links between professional sports and labor market dynamics.

#### 1. Introduction

The relationship between sporting events and labor market dynamics has long been an area of interest for economists and statisticians alike. While some may view these pursuits as being as unrelated as a golf ball to a receptionist's phone call, our study seeks to explore the surprising connection between the score of the US Open Golf winner and

the number of receptionists in Hawaii. As we delve into this unlikely correlation, we aim to provide a detailed analysis that goes beyond mere conjecture and attempts to drive a wedge into understanding the underlying mechanisms at play.

Before we dive into the rough of our findings, it is worth pondering a question: What do you call a receptionist at a golf course? A "tee-rific" multitasker! This playful jest aside, our research takes on the task of unraveling the enigma behind the statistically significant correlation coefficient of 0.6823408 that emerged from our meticulous examination of the data set spanning nearly two decades.

In the spirit of full transparency, our initial skepticism led us to question whether these findings were truly on par with the laws of statistical probability. However, as the evidence irons itself out, it becomes clear that there is a compelling case for further investigation. It appears that the golf course and the reception area may not be as distant as one might assume.

Proceeding with caution, we are reminded of the old adage: "It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game." Perhaps in the world of statistics, it's not just about the numbers, but the unexpected connections they reveal. This study is set to unravel the mystery behind this curious connection and offer insights that expand our understanding of the intricate dance between seemingly disparate variables.

## 2. Literature Review

In "Golfstats: The Official Guide to the US Open," Smith and Jones provide an in-depth analysis of the performance of US Open Golf winners over the years, detailing their scores and strategies. Meanwhile, in "Labor Market Dynamics in Hawaii" by Doe, the authors examine the trends in various occupational sectors, including administrative support roles such as receptionists, within the Hawaiian labor market.

However, as we step onto the green and into the world of receptionist work, it's crucial to consider the unexpected twists and turns that may come our way. Much like a golf ball taking an unexpected bounce on the fairway, the correlation we have unearthed between the US Open Golf winner's score and the number of receptionists in Hawaii seems to defy conventional expectations.

Turning from the fairway to the library, the works of "Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything" by Levitt and Dubner and "Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness" by Thaler and Sunstein shed light on how seemingly unrelated factors can intersect in surprising ways, much like our findings regarding golf scores and receptionist employment.

On a slightly more whimsical note, the world of fiction offers "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" by James Thurber and "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams,

both of which celebrate the joy of unexpected adventures and the discovery of unconventional connections. Much like these literary works, our study invites readers to embark on a journey of unexpected correlations and peculiar revelations.

In the realm of popular internet culture, the meme of the "Distracted Boyfriend" provides a humorous parallel to our study, as it playfully illustrates the concept of being drawn to unexpected alternatives. Similarly, the "Doge" meme captures the essence of lighthearted and whimsical connections, much like the unexpected relationship between golf scores and receptionist employment in Hawaii that our research has brought to light.

## 3. Research Approach

To investigate the relationship between the score of the US Open Golf winner and the number of receptionists in Hawaii, a multifaceted approach was employed. The data collection process involved sourcing information from Golfstats and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, spanning the years from 2003 to 2022. The dataset was scrubbed meticulously, ensuring that the integrity of the information was not compromised, avoiding any mulligans in the analysis.

Utilizing advanced statistical methods, including regression analysis and time series modeling, we endeavored to discern any underlying patterns and identify potential causal relationships between the variables under scrutiny. The statistical techniques employed were chosen after careful consideration of their compatibility with the nature of the data and the research objectives. Our choice of statistical methods was akin to selecting the appropriate club for the right shot, ensuring that the analysis was carried out with precision and finesse.

In addition, a series of sensitivity analyses were conducted to ascertain the robustness of the findings and mitigate the impact of any potential outliers or confounding factors. Sensitivity analyses were essential in ensuring that the conclusions drawn were not unduly influenced by unforeseen circumstances, acting as a safeguard against the hazards of spurious correlations.

Furthermore, a geographical segmentation analysis was performed to explore the regional variations in the relationship between golf scores and receptionist employment. This analysis aimed to elucidate whether the observed correlation was unique to Hawaii or exhibited a broader applicability across different locations.

To maintain methodological rigor and uphold the standards of academic inquiry, the research team engaged in rigorous peer discussions and review processes, akin to the peer review process in academic publishing. This constructive exchange of ideas and feedback played a pivotal role in refining the research methods, adding an extra layer of assurance to the validity and reliability of the study's findings.

In handling the data with the utmost care and applying a variety of analytical techniques, our research sought to uncover the nuanced interplay between the score of the US Open Golf winner and the number of receptionists in Hawaii. While humor may not be par for the course in academic methodology sections, we strive to infuse a touch of lightheartedness to keep the reader engaged. After all, as any golfer will affirm, a well-timed jest can be the perfect remedy for a slice of seriousness in scholarly discourse.

#### 4. Findings

The primary aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between the score of the US Open Golf winner and the number of receptionists in Hawaii. Through the rigorous analysis of data collected from Golfstats and the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the period of 2003 to 2022, a statistically significant correlation coefficient of 0.6823408 was uncovered. This coefficient, coupled with an r-squared value of 0.4655890 and a p-value lower than 0.01, indicates a robust association between the two variables.

Fig. 1 illustrates the strong correlation observed between the score of the US Open Golf winner and the number of receptionists in Hawaii. It is evident that as the golf score improves, there is a corresponding increase in the count of receptionists in Hawaii. It's almost as if the receptionist workforce in Hawaii is "driving for show and putting for dough," mirroring the performance of the US Open Golf winner.

These findings might prompt one to wonder if there is an unspoken language between the precision of a golfer's swing and the demand for receptionist services in Hawaii. It seems that the golf course and the front desk are not as far apart as one might initially believe.



Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

This unexpected correlation serves as a reminder that in the world of statistics, the most unexpected connections often yield the most intriguing insights. Despite initial skepticism, the results of this study reinforce the need for further investigation into the underlying mechanisms driving this seemingly unrelated relationship.

In summary, the results of this study reveal a compelling and statistically significant correlation between the score of the US Open Golf winner and the number of receptionists in Hawaii, shedding light on the unanticipated connection between professional sports and labor market dynamics. These findings invite further research to explore the broader implications of this relationship and its potential relevance beyond the shores of Hawaii.

As we ponder the unexpected union between golf scores and receptionist numbers, it is worth remembering the wise words of Mark Twain: "Golf is a good walk spoiled." However, in this case, it seems that golf may have also led to an unforeseen workforce trend in the Aloha State.

## 5. Discussion on findings

The significant correlation observed in this study between the score of the US Open Golf winner and the number of receptionists in Hawaii provides an unexpected and thought-provoking insight into the interplay between professional sports and labor market dynamics. The results of this investigation align with prior research by Smith and Jones, who meticulously documented the performance of US Open Golf winners. While their focus was on golf strategy and performance, our study extends their findings, demonstrating a compelling association between golf scores and labor market trends. Similarly, Doe's analysis of occupational sectors in Hawaii offered a broader context for understanding our results, further substantiating the relevance of our findings within the local labor market. As expected, the unexpected connection noted in the literature review has been borne out by our rigorous analysis.

The statistically significant relationship uncovered in our study reinforces the notion that seemingly unrelated factors may intersect in meaningful ways, echoing the insights put forth in the works of Levitt and Dubner, as well as Thaler and Sunstein. Indeed, the unanticipated bond between the precision of a golfer's swing and the demand for receptionist services in Hawaii calls to mind the concept of "nudging" explored by Thaler and Sunstein, where subtle influences can drive decision-making processes. Much like a well-timed putt, our findings offer a stroke of insight into the nuanced dynamics underlying labor market trends.

The illustration of the strong correlation between the golf score and the count of receptionists in Hawaii serves as a vivid example of how statistical analyses can uncover unexpected connections, reminiscent of the delightful serendipity found in the works of

James Thurber and Douglas Adams. As our research tees up a new perspective on the intricate links between professional sports and labor market dynamics, it prompts the academic community to embrace the playful spirit of unexpected correlations and peculiar revelations, akin to the whimsical themes in "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" and "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy."

In summary, our study underlines the value of approaching data analysis with an open mind, recognizing that the most unconventional connections can yield valuable insights. As Mark Twain wryly noted, "Golf is a good walk spoiled," yet it appears that in this instance, the world of golf has led to a surprising workforce trend in the Aloha State. These findings invite further exploration into the broader implications of this unexpected relationship and serve as a delightful reminder of the boundless potential for discovery within the realm of statistical analysis.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has elucidated a significant correlation between the score of the US Open Golf winner and the number of receptionists in Hawaii. The evidence has driven home the notion that there is indeed a compelling relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. As we "putter" through the data, it becomes clear that this unusual correlation warrants further exploration.

These unexpected findings may prompt the question: Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants? In case they got a "hole in one"! Such light-hearted moments aside, the robust statistical evidence underscores the need for deeper investigation into the underlying mechanisms at play.

At this juncture, it is pertinent to assert that no further research is needed in this area. The evidence presented is a "fairway" to understanding the interconnectedness of seemingly disparate phenomena. We encourage future researchers to tee up new inquiries and drive forward the boundaries of knowledge in this unconventional realm. After all, in the world of statistics, sometimes all it takes is a "beverage cart" of unexpected correlations to spark new insights.