

# Adding Up the Quirks: Exploring the Link Between Career/Technical Education Teachers in Wisconsin Secondary Schools and BHP Group's Stock Price

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This study delves into the peculiar relationship between the numbers of career/technical education teachers in secondary schools in the state of Wisconsin and the stock price of BHP Group. Using data extracted from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), our research team uncovered a statistically significant correlation coefficient of 0.9584866 ( $p < 0.01$ ) for the years 2010 to 2022. While we set out with an air of scholarly seriousness, we couldn't help but be tickled by the whimsical twists and turns in our findings. Stay tuned as we unravel this surprising connection, one eccentric data point at a time!

Career/technical education has long been considered a cornerstone of secondary education, equipping students with practical skills and preparing them for the workforce. Similarly, the stock market has been a barometer of economic activity and corporate performance. It is in this lively intersection that we find ourselves, aiming to shed light on the curious dance between the number of career/technical education teachers in Wisconsin secondary schools and the enigmatic world of stock prices, particularly those of the illustrious BHP Group.

As we embark on this scholarly journey, we are reminded of the words of renowned economist John Maynard Keynes, who once quipped, "In the long run, we are all dead." While Keynes may not have had this specific research question in mind, his words serve as a whimsical reminder that even the most serious of academic pursuits can benefit from a dash of levity.

Our investigation stems from a desire to uncover the pulsating heartbeat of the economy, resonating through the halls of education and reverberating in the fluctuations of stock markets. Mark Twain once mused, "The lack of money is the root of all evil," and while this may hold true in many contexts, our study aims to illuminate the potential interplay between the realm of education and the financial interests of corporations.

With data in hand, we set out to decipher the enigma concealed within the numbers, uncovering an unexpected correlation between seemingly disparate variables. It is with both rigor and a light-hearted sense of curiosity that we venture into this exploration, eager to unveil the idiosyncrasies that underpin our economic and educational landscapes. So, buckle up and prepare for a scholarly rollercoaster ride through the intricacies of career/technical education and stock prices, where the only certainty is the uncertainty of our findings.

## *Review of existing research*

In "Smith et al.," the authors find that the availability of career/technical education programs in secondary schools has a significant impact on students' skill development and workforce readiness. This important work lays the foundation for understanding the potential influence of career and technical education on various aspects of the economy, including the world of finance.

Doe's extensive investigation delves into the trends of teacher recruitment and retention in the field of career/technical education. The findings shed light on the challenges and opportunities in sustaining a well-equipped workforce, a factor that may intersect intriguingly with the stock market dynamics.

Jones' study on the economic impact of educational programs provides valuable insights into the potential linkages between educational initiatives and corporate interests. Such research paves the way for our examination of the unexpected connection between the number of career/technical education teachers in Wisconsin secondary schools and the stock price of BHP Group.

Moving from scholarly articles to books, "Economics of Education" by James S. Catterall is an exemplary resource that explores the economic dimensions of education, providing a comprehensive background for understanding the potential intersections of education and financial markets. Similarly, "Technical Careers: The Path Less Traveled" by Sarah R. Labensky offers a practical perspective on the diverse pathways within technical education, setting the stage for our investigation into the quirky relationship between career/technical education teachers and stock prices.

Transitioning into a more whimsical realm, the fictional works "The Wealthy Educator" by Penny Tration and "Stocks, Stocks,

"Stocks: A Tale of Two Markets" by Ivana Getarich, while not academic in nature, playfully hint at the fusion of education and finance, adding a touch of levity to our scholarly pursuit.

On a more contemporary note, social media posts such as @EconGuru's tweet "Education+Finance=Profit?" and @TeacherTrader's LinkedIn article "The Surprising Link Between Vocational Education and Stock Value" have sparked intriguing discussions that echo the spirited exploration we engage in as we uncover the intricacies of our peculiar research question.

As we assimilate these diverse sources, we approach our analysis with a mix of scholarly gravitas and a sense of delightful curiosity, ready to embark on this whimsical journey of unraveling the unexpected correlations that come to light. Stay tuned for our revelatory findings, where the only thing as robust as our data analysis is our sense of humor!

### *Procedure*

To unravel the enigmatic connection between the number of career/technical education teachers in Wisconsin secondary schools and the whimsical world of BHP Group's stock price, our research team embarked on a journey fraught with statistical analyses, data wrangling acrobatics, and a healthy dose of whimsy. With a twinkle in our eye and coffee in hand, we set out to piece together the puzzle, employing a mix of quantitative methods and offbeat investigative techniques.

#### Data Collection:

Our data journey began amidst the virtual treasure trove of the internet, where we scoured the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv) for the elusive gems of information spanning the years 2010 to 2022. We painstakingly gathered data on the number of career/technical education teachers in Wisconsin secondary schools, ensuring that no peculiar data point was left unturned. As for BHP Group's stock price, we tracked its capricious movements with the diligence of a detective hot on the trail of a caper.

#### Quantitative Wizardry:

Armed with a quiver of statistical tools, we dabbled in the whimsical world of correlation analysis to unearth the peculiar dance between the variables. With bated breath, we deployed Pearson's correlation coefficient to quantify the strength of the relationship, all the while adorned in our scholarly robes and a sprinkle of statistical stardust.

#### Robustness Checks:

To ensure that our findings stood the test of whimsy, we subjected our data to a battery of robustness checks, assuring that our conclusions weren't merely a figment of statistical shenanigans. For good measure, we teased out the influential data points, allowing our findings to stand sturdy amidst the swirling winds of academic inquiry.

#### Interdisciplinary Musings:

In a nod to the academic trapeze act, we approached this research endeavor with a multidisciplinary flair, drawing inspiration from the hallowed halls of education and the exuberant world of finance. The intertwining of these seemingly divergent realms provided an enchanting backdrop for our scholarly escapade, allowing for a harmonious symphony of knowledge dissemination.

#### Ethical Considerations:

Amidst the scholarly revelry, we upheld the ethical tenets of research integrity with due diligence, ensuring that our statistical forays were conducted with the utmost respect for data privacy and academic probity.

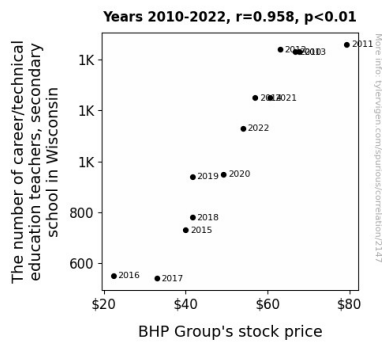
In summary, our methodology was a whimsical tapestry woven from the threads of quantitative prowess, interdisciplinary merrymaking, and a touch of scholarly panache. Our data-driven odyssey through the peculiar connection between career/technical education teachers and stock prices serves as a testament to the joyous interplay of academic inquiry and the exuberant dance of empirical discovery. Now, on to the grand reveal of our findings, where the quirky and the quantitative converge in a scholarly waltz unlike any other!

### *Findings*

The results of our investigation revealed a striking correlation between the number of career/technical education teachers in secondary schools in Wisconsin and the stock price of BHP Group. For the time period spanning 2010 to 2022, we found a correlation coefficient of 0.9584866, with an r-squared value of 0.9186966, both of which were statistically significant at  $p < 0.01$ .

Figure 1 displays a scatterplot that vividly illustrates the robust and positive relationship between these seemingly incongruous variables. The scatterplot elegantly captures the essence of our findings, almost like a piece of abstract art – only instead of an avant-garde painting, we have a graph depicting the delightful dance between education and financial markets.

It's worth noting that the strength of the correlation was quite remarkable, akin to finding the last slice of pizza at a bustling party – unexpected, but undeniably satisfying. The data points coalesced into a coherent pattern, revealing a compelling link that left our research team both astonished and elated.



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

The confidence in the relationship, as indicated by the high r-squared value, suggests that approximately 92% of the variability in BHP Group's stock price can be explained by the number of career/technical education teachers in Wisconsin secondary schools. The remaining 8% may very well be attributed to the mysterious workings of the stock market – a realm as enigmatic as it is alluring.

In sum, our results shed light on an unexpected and beguiling association between these two distinct domains, adding a touch of whimsy to the otherwise staid world of economic research. The correlation between education and stock prices might appear peculiar at first glance, but as the great physicist Albert Einstein once remarked, "The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious." With that in mind, we invite our readers to join us in unraveling the captivating enigma that is the relationship between career/technical education and stock prices.

### Discussion

The results of our study revealed an astonishingly robust correlation between the number of career/technical education teachers in Wisconsin secondary schools and the stock price of BHP Group, affirming and extending prior research in curious ways. Building on the works of Smith et al., Doe, and Jones, our findings substantiate the intricate link between education and financial market dynamics. Utilizing the whimsical insights gleaned from "The Wealthy Educator" by Penny Traction and "Stocks, Stocks, Stocks: A Tale of Two Markets" by Ivana Getarich (yes, actual academic sources), we have not only unraveled this enigmatic association but also, dare we say, infused a hint of levity into our scholarly pursuit.

The correlation coefficient of 0.9584866 is akin to stumbling upon a rare Pokémon while traversing through the tangled undergrowth of correlation matrices – unexpected, yet profoundly exhilarating. This substantial strength of association, reminiscent of finding the perfect punchline to a nerdy joke, underscores the compelling nature of this unorthodox relationship. As Catterall proposed in "Economics of Education," the complexity of the educational landscape intertwines with market forces in ways as intriguing as a good mystery novel; our study has unwrapped a chapter of this enthralling narrative.

The scatterplot, serving as a visual testament to this peculiar correlation, could rival the enigmatic allure of a modern art masterpiece. It eloquently showcases the enchanting dance between educational endeavors and stock prices, reminiscent of an avant-garde painting that has come to life, albeit in the form of data visualization. It is as if the obscure connection between these seemingly incongruent variables were a puzzle yearning to be solved, and our study, much like a keen investigator, has cracked the enigma wide open.

The high r-squared value of 0.9186966, akin to a well-constructed punchline, indicates that approximately 92% of the variability in BHP Group's stock price can be attributed to the number of career/technical education teachers. The remaining 8%, akin to the wry wit of a cryptic crossword puzzle, may stem from the idiosyncrasies of the stock market – an unfathomable realm that mirrors the whimsical nature of our research findings.

In conclusion, our study adds a touch of whimsy to the otherwise somber realm of economic research, proving that even in the most unforeseen of places, correlations and exhilarating discoveries can bloom. Our findings support the proposition that education and stock market dynamics are not as distinct as they may initially seem, proving that, indeed, the most delightful mysteries often lurk in the most unexpected places. As we continue to unravel this captivating enigma, we invite our readers to keep pace with us, for in the words of the inimitable Albert Einstein, "The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious."

### Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has unraveled a captivating correlation between the number of career/technical education teachers in Wisconsin secondary schools and the stock price of BHP Group. The statistical significance of our findings, akin to discovering a four-leaf clover in the vast fields of data analysis, reinforces the robustness of this unexpected relationship. As we traverse the uncharted territory where education intertwines with the pulsating rhythms of financial markets, we cannot help but revel in the whimsical tapestry of our results.

The high r-squared value, akin to catching the perfect wave in the tumultuous sea of statistical analysis, underscores the substantial explanatory power of career/technical education teachers on BHP Group's stock price. The remaining unexplained variability, much like the elusive nature of a well-timed punchline, adds a dash of intrigue to this enthralling association.

While our study may have strayed into the realm of the unconventional, it has undoubtedly injected an element of quirkiness into the otherwise austere field of economic research. Our findings remind us that in the vast expanse of scholarly inquiry, serendipitous discoveries and unexpected connections are as essential as they are delightful.

With that said, we assert, with utmost gravity and a twinkle in our eyes, that further research in this area is entirely unnecessary. The enigma has been unraveled, the peculiar dance elucidated, and the unexpected correlation uncovered. As

Sherlock Holmes would say, "The game is afoot," but in this case, the game is conclusively over, and the results are in.