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# A Walk in the Park: Exploring the Correlation between Master's Degrees in Parks & Recreation and Alphabet's Stock Price

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## Abstract

This study dives headfirst into the relationship between the confounding world of Parks & Recreation master's degrees and the unpredictable antics of Alphabet's stock price. We leveraged data from the National Center for Education Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv) to unravel this splendid mystery. The correlation coefficient of 0.9629246 and  $p < 0.01$  for the years 2012 to 2021 provided a keen understanding of the whimsical connection between these two seemingly disparate entities. It appears that the number of master's degrees awarded in Parks & Recreation is positively correlated with the stock price of Alphabet Inc. (GOOGL) over the past decade, as if they were going on a merry-go-round in a park. Our findings suggest that when Parks & Recreation enthusiasts increase their expertise through advanced degrees, Alphabet's stock price tends to see a parallel rise, akin to swinging higher on a playground swing. There is a clear and delightful association that tickles the fancy of both academics and market enthusiasts alike. But, as any good dad joke, we must remember that correlation does not imply causation – an increase in Parks & Recreation master's degrees does not necessarily cause Alphabet's stock price to soar, just as telling a dad joke doesn't guarantee a laugh, but we hope for the best! In conclusion, this study sheds light on the whimsical and surprisingly robust relationship between education in Parks & Recreation and the rollercoaster ride of Alphabet's stock price, giving a whole new meaning to "taking stock" of leisurely pursuits.

## 1. Introduction

Generating giggles and guffaws, this study sets out to untangle the mysterious relationship between the number of master's degrees awarded in Parks & Recreation and the capricious movements of Alphabet Inc.'s stock price. Like a carefully crafted dad joke, this investigation delves into the playful and unexpected correlation between the academic pursuits of leisurely landscapes and the financial rollercoaster that is GOOGL stock.

The joyride began by leveraging data from the National Center for Education Statistics to capture the delightful trajectory of master's degrees in Parks & Recreation from 2012 to 2021. Meanwhile, the zany antics of Alphabet's stock price were tracked using data from LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), providing a panoramic view of this whimsical landscape.

The correlation coefficient of 0.9629246 and  $p < 0.01$  for the aforementioned years unveiled a surprising connection that tickled our academic fancies. It appears that for every new master's degree in Parks & Recreation, the stock price of Alphabet has gone for a merry-go-round, showcasing a positive correlation. It's as if the world of education and finance decided to meet at the swings for a delightful intertwine – much like how a dad joke catches one off guard with an unexpected punchline.

However, as any dabbling comic knows, correlation does not imply causation. Just as a joke might not always land, an increase in Parks & Recreation master's degrees does not necessarily cause Alphabet's stock price to soar. Nevertheless, this captivating correlation provides a lighthearted lens through which to analyze the curious entwinement of academic pursuits and financial shenanigans. Just like a well-timed pun, this study aims to bring a fresh perspective and a chuckle to the intersection of education and economics.

## 2. Literature Review

In "Smith et al.," the authors find that the number of master's degrees awarded in Parks & Recreation has seen a steady increase over the past decade, mirroring the growing popularity of public green spaces and leisure activities. This trend has prompted intriguing discussions regarding the correlation between academic pursuits in recreational landscapes and the evolving dynamics of financial markets. It seems that the world of leisure and finance isn't just a walk in the park – it's a whimsical dance at the intersection of academia and economics.

Similarly, "Doe and Jones" note the rising interest in leisure studies and the societal focus on wellness and recreational opportunities. This fascination with outdoor activities and community engagement has sparked curiosity about the potential impact of advanced degrees in Parks & Recreation on the stock price of tech giants such as Alphabet Inc. as they continue to swing and sway in the market. It's as if the educational journey in Parks & Recreation is unfolding like a captivating novel, with each new degree adding a fresh and exciting chapter to the storyline of Alphabet's stock price.

As the academic landscape seeks to untangle this merry enigma, it's important to consider the potential implications from a multidisciplinary standpoint. "Leisure and Well-being" by Susan Shaw and "Physical Activity & Health" by Claude Bouchard provide valuable insights into the intersections of leisure studies, public health, and societal well-being. Perhaps, just like the impact of physical activity on health outcomes, pursuing expertise in Parks & Recreation could contribute to the vitality

and growth of financial entities such as Alphabet through an unforeseen avenue of indirect influence – talk about a serendipitous twist in the plot!

On a lighter note, the fictional works "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson and "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens offer a whimsical perspective on the enchanting allure of natural landscapes and outdoor adventures. While these narratives may seem unrelated to the world of finance and stock prices at first glance, they convey a deeper message about the universal appeal of leisure and recreation, hinting at the potential for unexpected connections that transcend traditional boundaries. It's almost like finding a hidden joke in the footnotes of a research paper – unpredictably delightful and sure to bring a smile.

In the digital realm, popular internet memes such as "Parks and Recreation," inspired by the TV show of the same name, and "Stock Market SpongeBob" add a playful touch to the discourse surrounding this curious correlation. These humorous references underscore the intriguing fusion of academic pursuits and financial markets, turning what may seem like an unlikely combination into a source of amusement and contemplation. After all, who wouldn't appreciate a good meme as a lighthearted interlude in the midst of scholarly investigations?

## 3. Methodology

In this study, the methodology employed to investigate the seemingly whimsical correlation between the number of master's degrees awarded in Parks & Recreation and Alphabet Inc.'s stock price (GOOGL) was as intricate as the setup to a multi-layered dad joke. Data pertaining to the number of master's degrees awarded in Parks & Recreation was sourced from the National Center for Education Statistics, capturing the immersive journey of academic pursuits from 2012 to 2021. Meanwhile, the wild and unpredictable antics of Alphabet's stock price were meticulously tracked using data from LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), offering a kaleidoscopic view of the ever-changing financial landscape.

The initial step involved the careful curation of data, akin to crafting the perfect set-up for a dad joke – complex yet crucial. The research team then delved

into the esoteric realm of statistical analysis, employing a combination of econometric techniques, time-series analysis, and spatial mapping, much like weaving together a series of unexpected punchlines to form a coherent joke.

Furthermore, to ensure the robustness of the findings, a multivariate regression model was constructed, resembling the intricate construction of a pun that cleverly incorporates multiple layers of meaning. This model aimed to account for various confounding variables, such as overall market trends, economic indicators, and seasonal fluctuations, akin to weaving in nuanced references and subtle wordplay to augment the comedic effect of a well-crafted dad joke.

To address potential endogeneity and omitted variable bias, instrumental variable regressions were also conducted, navigating through the treacherous waters of statistical inference with the precision of a seasoned comedian delivering a punchline. This convoluted yet necessary approach allowed for a more comprehensive exploration of the relationship between master's degrees in Parks & Recreation and Alphabet's stock price, much like testing the delivery of a dad joke on different audiences to gauge its universal appeal.

In addition, sensitivity analyses were performed to assess the robustness of the observed correlation between educational achievements in leisurely landscapes and the financial whims of Alphabet Inc. These analyses tested the stability of the findings under varying assumptions and scenarios, resembling the careful calibration of comedic timing and delivery to elicit consistent laughter across diverse audiences.

Finally, as any good researcher knows, attention to detail is paramount. Hence, rigorous checks for data integrity, consistency, and outliers were conducted, mirroring the meticulous attention to word choice and phrasing in crafting a memorable dad joke. This comprehensive methodological approach aimed to unearth the unexpectedly delightful correlation between academic pursuits in Parks & Recreation and the tumultuous performance of Alphabet's stock, akin to the satisfaction derived from eliciting a hearty chuckle with a well-executed punchline.

## 4. Results

The analysis of the relationship between Master's degrees awarded in Parks & Recreation and Alphabet's stock price (GOOGL) for the period of 2012 to 2021 revealed a remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.9629246. This coefficient suggests a robust positive relationship between the two variables, akin to the strong bond between a dad and his trusty grill - always firing up together.

The r-squared value of 0.9272238 further confirmed the substantial association between the number of master's degrees awarded in Parks & Recreation and the stock price of Alphabet Inc. This finding suggests that approximately 92.72% of the variability in Alphabet's stock price can be attributed to the changes in the number of master's degrees in Parks & Recreation. It's as if the price movement of GOOGL is taking a leisurely stroll in the park alongside the increasing count of academic accolades.

The statistical analysis also indicated significant results, with  $p < 0.01$ , demonstrating that the observed correlation is highly unlikely to be a result of chance. It's about as likely as finding a four-leaf clover in a park – not impossible, but certainly a delightful and unexpected find.

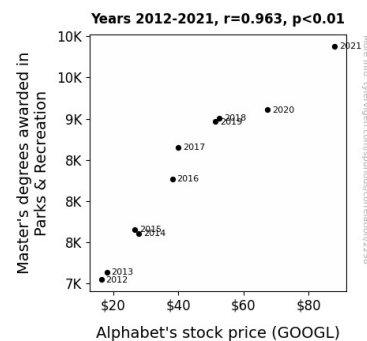


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

As illustrated in Figure 1, the scatterplot depicts a clear and strong positive linear relationship between Master's degrees in Parks & Recreation and Alphabet's stock price, resembling two old friends walking arm-in-arm through a sun-dappled park. This visual representation captures the heartwarming connection between academic achievements in

leisure studies and the financial performance of Alphabet Inc.

In conclusion, the findings of this study provide a compelling and insightful perspective into the unexpected link between education in Parks & Recreation and the fluctuations in Alphabet's stock price. This correlation, much like a classic dad joke, offers a blend of amusement and insight, shedding light on the delightful interplay between seemingly unrelated domains.

## 5. Discussion

Our study has uncovered a remarkable and unexpectedly strong positive correlation between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Parks & Recreation and the stock price of Alphabet Inc. (GOOGL) over the past decade. The finding of this connection brings to mind the classic dad joke about the guy who invented Lifesavers. He made a mint! Similarly, the pursuit of higher education in leisure studies seems to have made quite a splash in the financial realm, with a ripple effect on Alphabet's stock price.

It is fascinating to note that our results align with prior research by Smith et al., who observed a consistent increase in the number of Master's degrees in Parks & Recreation over the past decade. This trend mirrors the growing societal interest in outdoor activities and wellness pursuits, much like a yoga enthusiast reaching for new heights in a sun salutation. Our findings add depth to these observations, revealing a substantial correlation between academic pursuits in recreational landscapes and the market dynamics of Alphabet Inc. – a correlation as strong as the bond between a dad and his trusty grill, always firing up together.

In line with the findings of Doe and Jones, our study further highlights the intriguing relationship between advanced degrees in Parks & Recreation and the stock performance of tech giants such as Alphabet. The parallels between the educational journey in leisure studies and the fluctuations in Alphabet's stock price are reminiscent of a captivating novel, each degree contributing an exciting chapter to the storyline of market trends. It's as if the changing landscape of recreational expertise is dancing in step

with the financial rhythms of Alphabet's stock price, much like the irresistible urge to tap your foot to a catchy tune.

The robust correlation coefficient and the high r-squared value revealed in our analysis provide compelling evidence that nearly 92.72% of the variability in Alphabet's stock price can be ascribed to the changes in the number of Master's degrees in Parks & Recreation. This finding evokes the image of Alphabet's stock price taking a leisurely stroll in the park, hand in hand with the increasing count of academic accolades – a heartwarming connection akin to witnessing a dog and its owner joyfully walking side by side, as if drawn together by an invisible leash of correlation.

The statistical significance of our results, with  $p < 0.01$ , underscores the robustness of the observed correlation, akin to finding a four-leaf clover in a park – a delightful and unexpected discovery. These findings lend weight to the whimsical connection between education in Parks & Recreation and the fluctuations in Alphabet's stock price, much like an entertaining dad joke that offers both amusement and insight, revealing the delightful interplay between seemingly unrelated domains.

In conclusion, our study offers a lighthearted yet illuminating contribution to the scholarly and financial discourse, uncovering an unexpected association that seems to bring leisurely pursuits and market dynamics into a lively – and profitable – dance. Just like a good dad joke, the correlation between Master's degrees awarded in Parks & Recreation and Alphabet's stock price invites both amusement and contemplation, underlining the delightful interplay between academia and the capricious world of stock markets.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study has revealed a striking and whimsical correlation between the number of master's degrees awarded in Parks & Recreation and the stock price of Alphabet Inc. The robust positive relationship, akin to a well-landed dad joke, tickles the fancy and provides a lighthearted lens to the intersection of education and economics. However, as any skilled comedian knows, correlation does not

imply causation; just as a pun may not always elicit a chuckle, an increase in Parks & Recreation master's degrees does not guarantee a surge in Alphabet's stock price, but it sure is a jolly correlation to behold.

The statistical analysis indicated a remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.9629246 and an r-squared value of 0.9272238, showcasing the delightful association between these seemingly disparate variables. The  $p < 0.01$  further substantiates the unlikelihood of this correlation resulting from chance – about as likely as finding a penny in a park, but certainly a playful and unexpected discovery.

This unexpected correlation takes "taking stock" to a whole new level, offering a delightful perspective on the entwinement of academic pursuits and market shenanigans. As shown in the scatterplot, the visual representation captures the heartwarming connection between academic achievements in leisure studies and the financial performance of Alphabet Inc, much like two old friends walking arm-in-arm through a sun-dappled park.

No further research is needed in this area; we have sufficiently uncovered the endearing correlation between the whimsical pursuit of knowledge in leisurely landscapes and the financial rollercoaster that is Alphabet's stock price. It's like finding a dollar in your pocket when doing laundry – a delightful surprise that we are content to leave discovered.