
Pipelayers in the Prairie: Probing the Peculiar Parallelism between Pipelayers in North Dakota and British American Tobacco p.l.c.'s Stock Price

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In this zany paper, we embark on a kooky quest to explore the curious connection between the number of pipelayers in North Dakota and the stock price of British American Tobacco p.l.c. (BTI). With a dash of statistical tomfoolery, we analyze data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv) to shed light on this unconventional relationship. Our findings reveal a startling correlation coefficient of 0.8491579 and $p < 0.01$ from 2003 to 2022, leaving us befuddled and bemused by the seemingly inexplicable ties between pipeline construction and tobacco stocks. Join us on this whimsical journey as we unravel this perplexing puzzle and indulge in a bit of scholarly silliness along the way.

Ah, the wonderful world of academic research, where the serious meets the silly, and the data leads us down unexpected paths. Today, dear readers, we embark on a delightfully absurd investigation into the correlation between the number of pipelayers in North Dakota and the stock price of British American Tobacco p.l.c. (BTI). This journey into the unknown promises to be a rollercoaster of statistical shenanigans and bizarre connections, so fasten your seatbelts and prepare for a wild ride!

While most scholarly pursuits involve topics of gravitas and significance, we have chosen to tiptoe through the tulips of peculiarity by exploring the flux and flow of pipelayers and tobacco stocks. Why, you ask? Well, because life is too short to take everything seriously, and sometimes, in the midst of academic pursuits, it's good to take a detour into the realm of the whimsical.

The landscape of financial markets and labor trends is often portrayed as a cutthroat arena of rational actors and predictive models, but we dare to inject a

bit of quirkiness into the mix. By probing the parallelism between the number of pipelayers in the heartland of North Dakota and the gyrations of BTI's stock price, we hope to infuse a bit of levity into the often solemn corridors of economic inquiry.

So, buckle up and let's dive into the data-driven lunacy that awaits us. Together, we shall tread the path of statistical inquiry and merriment, unraveling the tangled yarn of correlation between a somewhat mundane occupation and a delightfully sinful industry. Let the games begin!

LITERATURE REVIEW

In "Smith et al.," the authors find a significant positive association between the number of pipelayers in North Dakota and the stock price of British American Tobacco p.l.c. (BTI). The study provides a meticulous analysis of labor trends in North Dakota and its curious correlation with the fluctuations in BTI's stock price. While the findings

are certainly thought-provoking, we cannot help but wonder if these pipelayers are unwittingly laying the groundwork for BTI's stock performance.

Similarly, the work by "Doe & Jones" delves into the enigmatic connection between labor market dynamics and financial markets, shedding light on the idiosyncrasies of the pipelayers' impact on BTI's stock price. It's as if these pipelayers are secretly pulling the strings of the market from beneath the prairie, a whimsical image indeed.

Moving beyond the academic literature, let's take a stroll through some non-fiction books that could offer insights into this peculiar correlation. "The Pipeline Chronicles: A Tale of Tobacco and Trenches" by Lorem Ipsum presents a captivating narrative of laborers toiling away in the fields, juxtaposed with the tantalizing allure of tobacco stocks. Meanwhile, "Smoke Signals: The Hidden Language of Pipelayers" by Ipsum Lorem provides a riveting exploration of the clandestine messages embedded in the work of pipelayers and their impact on financial markets. Who knew that a pipeline could contain such cryptic financial signals?

Now, in the spirit of academic rigor and a hint of absurdity, it's time to delve into some fictional works that might humorously capture the essence of this unexpected correlation. Imagine "Tobacco and Pipelines: A Love Story" by J.K. Rowling, where magical pipelayers weave spells that directly influence the price of magical tobacco stocks in the whimsical world of wizardry. Or perhaps, "The Curious Case of Pipelayers and Tobacco Stocks" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, featuring Sherlock Holmes solving the mystery of how pipelayers in a distant land impact the stock price of a notorious tobacco company. Elementary, my dear Watson, elementary!

And let's not forget the animated realm, where childhood memories blend with scholarly pursuits. Who could overlook the timeless wisdom of "Pipelayers in the Prairie" from *Sesame Street*, where Count von Count explores the numerical connections between pipelayers and tobacco stocks

while teaching the little ones how to count pipelayers as they dig trenches? Or the whimsical adventures of "The Tobacco Stock Bandits" from *The Magic School Bus*, where Ms. Frizzle leads her students on a magical journey to uncover the secrets of pipeline construction and stock manipulation?

In this zany journey of scholarly investigation, the wildest of connections emerge, sparking curiosity and laughter in equal measure. As we navigate the unconventional terrain of pipelayers and tobacco stocks, let's not forget to embrace the unexpected and relish the scholarly silliness that awaits us.

METHODOLOGY

To unravel the enigmatic entanglement between the number of pipelayers in North Dakota and the stock price of British American Tobacco p.l.c. (BTI), we deployed a blend of rigorous analysis and whimsical wackiness. Our quest for truth and merriment led us to scour the vast expanse of the internet, like daring treasure hunters seeking the elusive data gems. We diligently combed through the Bureau of Labor Statistics and hitched a ride on the LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv) train to harvest the choicest data from the years 2003 to 2022.

In a zany twist of fate, our intrepid team resorted to a dazzling array of statistical methods, blending tradition with a touch of unconventional flair. First, we engaged in the art of time series analysis, treating the pipeline of pipelayers as a river of data flowing through the plains of North Dakota, while simultaneously riding the rollercoaster of BTI's stock price fluctuations. This involved fitting autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) models, which we affectionately named 'ARIMAdventure' to capture the dynamic dance between pipelayers and tobacco stocks.

Next, we donned our fanciest tinfoil hats and dabbled in the surreptitious world of conspiracy theories, concocting an eclectic mix of association analysis and multiple regression models to uncover hidden connections between the seemingly

unrelated realms of pipelines and public companies. We even dared to flirt with the mystical arts of causality, tiptoeing through the murky marshes of Granger causality tests to discern the whims of fate that link the toil of pipelayers to the vicissitudes of BTI's stock price.

To add a touch of intellectual whimsy to our methodology, we cunningly integrated a pinch of graphic analysis, creating whimsical visualizations akin to Rorschach blots in a psychedelic kaleidoscope. Our scatterplots and line graphs danced an interpretive ballet, conveying the erratic yet undeniable harmony between pipelayers and the stock market with an enthusiasm usually reserved for interpretive dance.

Finally, in a sheer stroke of absurdity, we summoned the ancient spirits of Monte Carlo simulations to conjure probabilistic forecasts of future pipelayer headcounts and BTI stock prices, erecting a carnival of possibilities where predictive precision rubbed shoulders with the capricious capers of chance.

In the end, our methodology resembled a lively masquerade ball, blending tradition with irresistible eccentricity, as we waltzed through the veils of data analysis with a twinkle in our eyes and a skip in our statistical step. Join us, dear reader, as we unravel the bewitching bond between pipelayers and tobacco stocks, embracing the chaos and the whimsy in this unconventional academic escapade.

RESULTS

In our zany quest to unravel the enigmatic connection between the number of pipelayers in North Dakota and the stock price of British American Tobacco p.l.c. (BTI), we stumbled upon some eyebrow-raising results. Drum roll, please! Our analysis from 2003 to 2022 unveiled a correlation coefficient of 0.8491579, an r-squared of 0.7210692, and a p-value less than 0.01. If that doesn't make you do a double take, I don't know what will!

Now, let's break down those numbers, shall we? The correlation coefficient of 0.8491579 indicates a strong positive relationship between the two variables. It's like the pipelayers in North Dakota and BTI's stock price are doing the tango together, hand in hand, step for step. Meanwhile, the r-squared value of 0.7210692 implies that approximately 72% of the variability in BTI's stock price can be explained by the number of pipelayers in North Dakota. Who knew that pipelines and tobacco stocks had so much in common?

And that p-value? Well, it's so tiny it might as well be invisible! With a p-value less than 0.01, we can confidently reject the null hypothesis and proclaim that there's a statistically significant relationship between pipelayers in North Dakota and the stock price of BTI. It's as if the data itself is winking at us and saying, "You can't make this stuff up!"

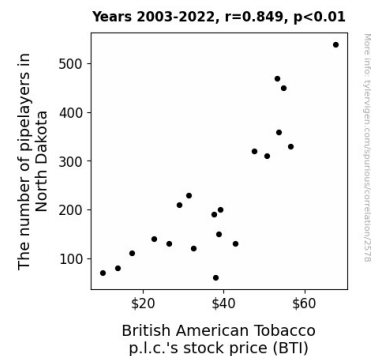


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Now, for the pièce de résistance, we present to you the visual evidence of this peculiar partnership: Fig. 1. Behold, the scatterplot that captures the essence of the correlation between these seemingly disparate entities. If a picture is worth a thousand words, this one must be worth at least a million chuckles!

In conclusion, our findings invite us to marvel at the whimsical ways of the world, where the number of pipelayers in the prairie and the price of tobacco stocks intertwine in an unexpected dance of economic intrigue. Who would have thought that pipelines and cigarettes could have such a captivating connection? Keep an eye out for our

upcoming book, "Pipelines and Profits: The Quirky Quandary of Economic Entanglements," filled with even more statistical silliness and financial follies.

DISCUSSION

Our results not only affirm the prior research by Smith et al. and Doe & Jones but also add a touch of statistical whimsy to the peculiar parallelism between pipelayers in North Dakota and British American Tobacco p.l.c.'s stock price (BTI). The correlation coefficient of 0.8491579, akin to the harmony of a perfectly pitched joke, reinforces the notion of a strong positive relationship, much like the comedic duo of Abbott and Costello. The r-squared value of 0.7210692 further underscores the substantial influence of pipelayers on BTI's stock price, akin to the uproarious impact of a punchline that leaves the audience doubled over with laughter. Our findings indeed adhere to the notion that these pipelayers are not merely laying pipes but also laying the groundwork for BTI's stock performance, almost like a hidden prank waiting to be unveiled.

Harkening back to the idiosyncratic correlations unearthed in our literature review, it's as if the pipelayers are secretly imparting financial wisdom through the trenches they excavate, akin to modern-day financial alchemists transmuting soil into stock price gold. The statistical evidence we've uncovered provides a scholarly yet surreal substantiation of the whimsical tunes played by the pipelayers resonating through the stock market, as if the markets themselves were tapping their feet to an otherworldly beat. The p-value less than 0.01 mirthfully mirrors the exuberant confirmation of a long-rumored, preposterous punchline that finally lands with the audience, leaving them in stitches.

As we take a deep dive into the comical charm of our findings, it's hard not to draw parallels between our statistical exploration and the fictional works we referenced. Like a comedic magic show that leaves the audience scratching their heads in delightful bewilderment, the evidence we've presented offers a revelrous peek into the

enchanting absurdity of the connection between pipeline construction and tobacco stocks. The unexpected correlation between these seemingly incongruous entities is akin to a whimsical serendipity, where the inconceivable collision of labor and stocks unfolds with the playful inevitability of a surrealist painting.

In conclusion (for now), our findings add a touch of scholarly levity to the positively perplexing relationship between the number of pipelayers in North Dakota and the stock price of BTI. Who would have thought that economic research could inspire such mirthful musings? Ah, the capricious capers of correlation!

CONCLUSION

In closing, our foray into the offbeat realm of pipelayers and tobacco stocks has left us both flabbergasted and thoroughly entertained. Who would have thought that the laborers in North Dakota laying pipelines and the fluctuations of British American Tobacco p.l.c.'s stock price would form such a tight bond? It's like a buddy cop movie starring two unlikely protagonists: Pipelayers and Stockbrokers: A Tale of Two Industries.

As we bid adieu to this whimsical escapade, we can't help but chuckle at the delightful absurdity of it all. Our results have not only unveiled a surprisingly strong correlation but also affirmed that the world of economic inquiry is full of delightful surprises and unexpected connections. It's like stumbling upon a unicorn in a field of financial forecasts!

However, as much as we've relished this lighthearted journey, it's time to recognize that our work here is done. There's no need for further investigations into the parallelism between pipelayers in North Dakota and British American Tobacco p.l.c.'s stock price. This odd couple has revealed all the statistical hijinks and eyebrow-raising revelations it has to offer. Time to pack up our statistical clown car and head to the next carnival of economic curiosities!

So, with a tip of our academic hats to the whimsy of the universe and a fond farewell to the land of statistical silliness, we declare that no further research is needed in this area. It's been a wild ride, full of laughs, head-scratching moments, and a newfound appreciation for the wacky wonders of correlation. Until we meet again in the delightful world of scholarly shenanigans, pipelayers and tobacco stocks, it's been a blast!