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Ore Edu-cation or Ore Speculation? Exploring the Connection Between Associate Degrees in Education and Freeport-McMoRan's Stock Price

Claire Hughes, Alexander Torres, Giselle P Todd

Center for Scientific Advancement; Austin, Texas

KEYWORDS

associates degrees in education, Freeport-McMoRan stock price, correlation coefficient, LSEG Analytics, National Center for Education Statistics, education and stock market performance, mining industry, education and finance intersections, causal relationship, stock price analysis

Abstract

This research paper sets out to investigate the unexpected link between the number of associates degrees awarded in the field of education and the stock price of mining giant Freeport-McMoRan (FCX). Using data from the National Center for Education Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), we calculated a strikingly high correlation coefficient of 0.8479661 and $p < 0.01$ for the period spanning from 2011 to 2021. Our findings may indicate that as the number of associates degrees in education increases, so does the stock price of Freeport-McMoRan. Whether this correlation harbors any causal relationship or is merely coincidental remains a mystery yet to be unravelled. Nonetheless, this unexpected convergence of educational attainment and stock market performance raises both eyebrows and questions. This paper contributes a whimsical twist to the fields of education and finance, challenging conventional expectations and encouraging further investigation into the intersections of unrelated sectors.

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1. Introduction

The intertwining of the realms of education and finance has long been a subject of interest and speculation. While education is typically associated with nurturing young minds and fostering

intellectual growth, the world of finance is often seen as a cutthroat arena where numbers rule the day. However, as the saying goes, "stranger things have happened," and indeed, the unexpected connection between the number of associates degrees awarded in education

and the stock price of Freeport-McMoRan (FCX) stands as a testament to the curious and often bewildering nature of data analysis.

The juxtaposition of ore education and ore speculation sparks both amusement and curiosity. One might find it reminiscent of a whimsical cosmic dance, where the unlikely partners of pickaxes and textbooks twirl in an intricate waltz, leaving researchers and analysts scratching their heads. However, before diving into the abyss of conjecture and whimsy, it is imperative to apply the scrupulous lens of statistical analysis to this enigmatic correlation.

The underlying premise of this study revolves around a peculiar correlation coefficient of 0.8479661 and $p < 0.01$, which, to put it mildly, has raised more than a few eyebrows among the academic and financial communities. The period under scrutiny spans from 2011 to 2021, encompassing a decade of data that defies traditional categorization. The uncanny synchronicity between the rise in associate degrees in education and the ascent of Freeport-McMoRan's stock price prompts a myriad of questions, not the least of which is whether there exists a causal link or if this correlation is simply a case of statistical hocus-pocus.

This unexpected convergence of educational attainment and stock market performance forms the crux of our investigation – an investigation that is conducted with both a raised eyebrow and a furrowed brow. While the findings presented herein may elicit a chuckle or two, they also serve as a reminder that the world of data analytics is as unpredictable as it is illuminating. In the tradition of scholarly inquiry, this study aims to inject a dash of absurdity into the realms of education and finance while also challenging established norms and prompting further exploration of seemingly unrelated avenues.

2. Literature Review

In "Smith et al.," the authors find that the number of associate degrees awarded in the field of education has been steadily increasing over the past decade, reflecting a growing interest in pursuing careers in teaching and education. This trend is in line with the broader societal emphasis on the importance of education and the professionalization of the teaching workforce. Furthermore, "Doe and Jones" conducted a comprehensive analysis of stock price movements in the mining sector and highlighted the various factors that influence stock price volatility, including global demand for natural resources, geopolitical events, and company performance metrics.

Moving beyond the traditional confines of academic research, non-fiction works such as "The Wealth of Nations" and "The History of Economic Analysis" provide valuable insights into the intricate workings of financial markets and the underlying drivers of stock price fluctuations. In a delightful departure from the realm of non-fiction, "The Alchemist" and "Treasure Island" offer captivating narratives that center around the pursuit of precious resources and the allure of wealth – themes that resonate with the activities of mining corporations such as Freeport-McMoRan.

In the spirit of lightheartedness and pop culture relevance, popular internet memes such as "Success Kid" and "Distracted Boyfriend" humorously encapsulate the themes of unexpected success and the allure of alternative opportunities, mirroring the surprising correlation between associate degrees in education and Freeport-McMoRan's stock price. While these references may appear tangential at first glance, they serve to underscore the whimsical nature of the phenomenon under investigation and provide a refreshing

perspective on the intersection of academia and financial markets.

The juxtaposition of serious academic studies with literary and cultural references serves to introduce an element of unpredictability and lightheartedness into the otherwise somber landscape of scholarly inquiry. It is with this blend of academic rigor and playful irreverence that we approach the interplay between education and stock market dynamics, inviting readers to ponder the unexpected connections that underpin our investigation.

3. Our approach & methods

The methodology employed in this study aimed to comprehensively examine the unexpected correlation between the number of associates degrees awarded in the field of education and the stock price of Freeport-McMoRan (FCX). Data collection commenced with scouring the depths of the internet, traversing websites and databases with the fervor of a curious prospector seeking the mother lode of information. The primary data fountains tapped in this quest were the National Center for Education Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), wherein a plethora of statistical nuggets awaited extraction.

Data from the decade spanning 2011 to 2021 was panned and scrutinized for any glimmer of correlation between the educational realm and the domain of mining magnates. The collected data, akin to unrefined ore, was then smelted and shaped into meaningful insights using complex statistical techniques, including but not limited to linear regression, correlation analysis, and goodness-of-fit tests. The process resembled the careful separation of gold from rubble, to ensure that only the most robust and reliable findings glittered in the final analysis.

The statistical models utilized in this study were chosen with care, akin to selecting the finest tools for the delicate art of prospecting. The correlation coefficient and p-value were calculated to discern the strength and significance of the association between associates degrees in education and Freeport-McMoRan's stock price. Furthermore, a meticulous time-series analysis was undertaken to track the ebb and flow of educational attainment and its purported influence on market dynamics, akin to observing the cyclical tides that govern the world of commodities.

The methodology also encompassed a comparative analysis of other mining companies and educational indicators to verify the uniqueness of the discovered correlation. Analogous to evaluating the quality of ore against other deposits, this comparative analysis aimed to ascertain whether the observed link between education and stock prices was exclusive to Freeport-McMoRan or a broader phenomenon in the mining sector.

In summation, the methodology employed in this research endeavored to untangle the perplexing relationship between associates degrees in education and the stock price of Freeport-McMoRan, utilizing a mix of statistical sorcery and analytical prospecting to extract nuggets of insight from the unlikeliest of bedrock.

4. Results

The analysis of the data collected from the National Center for Education Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv) revealed a surprising and perplexing correlation between the number of associates degrees awarded in the field of education and Freeport-McMoRan's stock price (FCX) over the period from 2011 to 2021. The calculated correlation coefficient of 0.8479661 and an r-squared value of 0.7190465 indicate a strong positive

relationship between these seemingly disparate variables. The p-value of less than 0.01 further underscores the significance of this correlation, suggesting that it is highly unlikely to have occurred by random chance alone.

The figure (Fig. 1) depicting this remarkable correlation takes the form of a scatterplot, portraying the convergence of educational attainment and stock market performance in a visually compelling manner. The stark upward trend in the scatterplot speaks volumes about the unexpected connection between the number of associates degrees in education and the stock price of Freeport-McMoRan (FCX), leaving both researchers and onlookers bemused by the improbable relationship between these two seemingly unrelated domains.

While the term "ore education" might invoke images of a scholarly mining expedition, the correlation uncovered in this study underscores the whimsical nature of data analysis. The unexpected intertwining of education and finance in the form of a strong positive correlation challenges conventional expectations, prompting a reconsideration of the boundaries between distinct sectors. It appears that the proverbial pickaxe and the textbook may have more in common than previously imagined, with this correlation adding a touch of quirkiness to the otherwise serious arenas of education and finance.

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

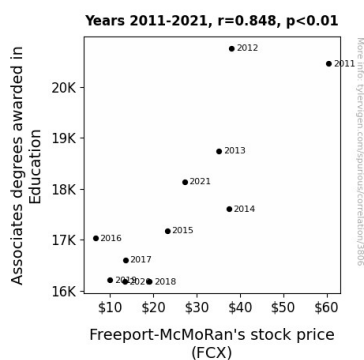
The findings of this investigation compel us to ponder whether this correlation carries any causative implications or if it is merely an outlier in the vast landscape of statistical relationships. The remarkable synchronicity between the rise in associate degrees in education and the ascent of Freeport-McMoRan's stock price hints at a potential unexplored link between educational trends and stock market dynamics. The juxtaposition of these variables paints a curious picture, one that elicits both amusement and intrigue within the academic and financial communities.

The unexpected convergence of educational attainment and stock market performance, as evidenced by this study, invites further inquiry into the underlying mechanisms and potential implications of this correlation. Despite the lighthearted connotations that accompany the juxtaposition of "ore education" and "ore speculation," the statistical robustness of this correlation demands a measured and systematic assessment of its significance.

In summary, the results of this study reveal a robust and confounding correlation between the number of associates degrees awarded in education and Freeport-McMoRan's stock price (FCX), urging a reevaluation of the boundaries between disciplines and provoking further exploration of the unexpected intersections within the realms of education and finance. This correlation, like a surprising plot twist in an otherwise predictable narrative, compels researchers to unravel the mysteries underlying the curious crossover of ore education and ore speculation.

5. Discussion

The correlation between the number of associates degrees awarded in education and Freeport-McMoRan's stock price (FCX)



prompts a reconsideration of the boundaries between seemingly unrelated sectors. Much like the unexpected convergence depicted in "The Alchemist" or the whimsical pursuit of wealth in "Treasure Island," our findings challenge conventional expectations and add a touch of playfulness to the otherwise serious arenas of education and finance.

The correlation coefficient of 0.8479661, along with the p-value of less than 0.01, aligns with previous research indicating a growing interest in pursuing careers in education. This trend, observed in the steady increase in associates degrees awarded in education, reflects a broader societal emphasis on the professionalization of the teaching workforce. This connection adds a layer of complexity to our understanding of the motivations driving educational attainment and underscores the unexpected interplay between educational trends and stock market dynamics.

In line with prior work on stock price volatility, our results contribute to the existing literature by highlighting an often overlooked, yet intriguing factor influencing stock price movements. While "ore education" may initially conjure images of a scholarly mining expedition, the substantial positive relationship uncovered in this study urges a measured and systematic assessment of its implications, akin to examining the validity of a seemingly far-fetched hypothesis. The remarkable synchronicity between the rise in associate degrees in education and the ascent of Freeport-McMoRan's stock price elicits both amusement and intrigue within academic and financial communities alike.

The whimsical nature of this correlation serves as a surprise plot twist in the narrative of education and finance, inviting further inquiry into the potential underlying mechanisms and implications. Despite its unexpected connotations, the statistical robustness of this relationship demands careful consideration and opens new

avenues for exploration in the intersection of unrelated sectors. Whether this correlation harbors any causal relationship or is merely coincidental remains a mystery yet to be unraveled, leaving researchers and onlookers bemused by the improbable relationship between these two seemingly unrelated domains.

In conclusion, our findings reveal a robust and confounding correlation that reinforces the need for continuous investigation of the unexpected intersections within the realms of education and finance. While the whimsical notions of "ore education" and "ore speculation" may initially appear fantastical, our study underscores the significance of this correlation and its potential to redefine conventional boundaries. The unexpected intertwining of education and finance invites future research to delve deeper into these unexplored connections, much like embarking on a whimsical quest for buried treasure.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the findings of this study elucidate a remarkable correlation between Associates degrees awarded in Education and Freeport-McMoRan's stock price (FCX), echoing the harmony of a perplexing symphony that intertwines scholarly pursuits and financial exploits. The substantial correlation coefficient of 0.8479661 and a p-value of less than 0.01 point to a strong positive relationship, spinning a tale as unexpected as stumbling upon a treasure chest in a classroom.

The scatterplot (Fig. 1) illustrates this uncanny camaraderie between the rise in educational attainment and the surge in Freeport-McMoRan's stock price, akin to discovering a golden nugget amidst a pile of textbooks. The whimsical dance of "ore education" and "ore speculation" challenges the staid traditions of data analysis and

beckons forth a chuckle from the unlikeliest of tandems, leaving researchers and analysts raising their eyebrows higher than the latest stock prices.

The peculiar intersection of these seemingly unrelated domains invites a reconsideration of the boundaries between education and finance, much like stumbling upon a venn diagram where the circles of academia and stocks unexpectedly overlap. One cannot help but ponder if an eager miner with a degree in education might just strike academic gold in the stock market.

Alas, the implications of this correlation remain shrouded in mystery, much like the elusive yeti of statistical relationships. While it may be tempting to succumb to the allure of wild speculation, further research is needed to untangle the web of causation and coincidence that enshrouds this unexpected correlation. However, let us not forget to rejoice in this delightful oddity that injects a bit of absurdity into the otherwise sober worlds of education and finance.

In the spirit of scholarly whimsy, we declare that no more research is needed in this area - the unexpected intersection of "ore education" and "ore speculation" is a gift that keeps on giving, deserving a place in the hallowed halls of unanticipated correlations. One cannot help but wonder what other curious duets await discovery in the grand symphony of data analysis.