Review

Stock Up or Walk Away? Investigating the Correlation Between the Popularity of the Name Walker and Chipotle Mexican Grill's Stock Price

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In this study, we aim to explore the potential link between the rise of the name "Walker" in popularity and the fluctuations in Chipotle Mexican Grill's (CMG) stock price. By utilizing data from the US Social Security Administration on the frequency of the name "Walker" given to newborns, as well as stock market data from LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), we leveraged statistical analysis to uncover a surprisingly robust correlation. Our findings reveal a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9494013 and a p-value below 0.01 for the time period spanning 2007 to 2022. While the initially frivolous nature of our investigation may elicit skepticism, the results cannot be brushed aside lightly. The implications of these findings may extend beyond the confines of mere coincidence, challenging our conventional understanding of stock market dynamics. This study offers a tantalizing peek into the curious interplay between social trends and financial markets, prompting further investigation into the peculiar nexus of nomenclature and stock performance.

Introduction

The stock market has long been considered a realm governed by the elusive forces of supply and demand, market sentiment, and financial performance indicators. In the pursuit of understanding and predicting stock price movements, researchers have delved into a myriad of factors, ranging from economic indicators and corporate financials to even the whims of astrological phenomena. It is within this landscape of arcane inquiries that our novel investigation finds its place – probing the unexpected relationship between the popularity of the first name Walker and the stock price of Chipotle Mexican Grill (CMG).

While the connection between nomenclature trends and financial markets may, at first glance, appear to be an incongruous pairing, our scholarly endeavor has serendipitously

unearthed an intriguing correlation. The surge in popularity of the moniker "Walker" – often associated with notions of wandering, strolling, and yes, even trekking – has sparked our curiosity. The seemingly disparate worlds of newborn naming trends and stock market dynamics are brought together in our exploration, shedding light on a fusion that is as unexpected as it is compelling.

As we embark on this expedition, it is imperative to acknowledge the inherent skepticism that may accompany such an unorthodox subject of study. Yet, with a combination of humor, statistical rigor, and a dash of scientific audacity, we have endeavored to unmask the clandestine ties between the naming of newborns and the fiscal fortunes of a notable fast-casual dining chain. Indeed, in the annals of scientific inquiry, the momentous convergence of the name "Walker" and the stock symbol "CMG" may soon find its place among the oddest bedfellows in the realm of academia.

In this paper, we unravel the peculiar dance of statistical significance, regression analyses, and p-values, all while savoring the delightful irony of our peculiar subject matter. From the solemn corridors of statistical rigor to the whimsical realm of social nomenclature, our investigation stands as a testament to the unexpected twists and turns that the pursuit of knowledge can take. So, fasten your seatbelts, dear readers, for our voyage through the enigmatic realms of names and numbers offers an exhilarating blend of empirical inquiry and unconventional charm.

Prior research

LITERATURE REVIEW

In "Smith et al.," the authors find a strong correlation between naming trends and societal influences, shedding light on the nuanced interplay between individual naming choices and broader cultural phenomena. Additionally, "Doe and Johnson" delve into the psychological implications of naming, unraveling the intricate web of associations and perceptions that underpin the selection of monikers for newborns. Furthermore, "Jones and Smith" investigate the sociological dimensions of naming practices, offering valuable insights into the evolutionary patterns of nomenclature within diverse demographic contexts.

Turning to non-fiction literature, "The Economics of Names" by Benjamin Weitzenkorn explores the economic implications of naming trends, providing a thought-provoking analysis of how names can shape consumer behavior and market dynamics. Similarly, "The Sociology of Surnames" by Emily Greenwood delves into the societal significance of surnames, offering a compelling framework for understanding the underlying influences that drive naming trends.

In the domain of fiction, "The Name Game" by A. Pseudonym presents a whimsical narrative that weaves together the esoteric world of naming conventions with the enigmatic realm of financial speculation, hinting at the potential interconnections that lie beneath the surface of seemingly unrelated domains. Likewise, "The Stock Market Mysteries" by Q. Authornot ventures into the realm of speculative fiction, blurring the lines between reality and imagination as it unravels the mysteries of stock price

fluctuations through unexpected and fantastical lenses.

As the current study ventures into uncharted territory, it is important to acknowledge the unconventional paths that have led to its findings. In seeking to explore the potential link between the name "Walker" and Chipotle Mexican Grill's stock price, the authors have drawn inspiration from a diverse array of sources - ranging from academic treatises to quintessentially whimsical musings. From the hallowed tomes of academic scholarship to the fanciful realms of fictional narratives, this literature review stands as a testament to the eclectic influences that have shaped our scholarly journey. And yes, we even toyed with the wild idea of consulting the cryptic wisdom inscribed on the backs of shampoo bottles – after all, who knows what hidden insights may lie within those unassuming containers?

Approach

METHODOLOGY

To traverse the uncharted territory of unraveling the enigmatic connection between moniker popularity and stock market movements, our research team employed a concoction of data wrangling techniques that could make even the most seasoned statistician raise an eyebrow. Our primary data sources comprised the US Social Security Administration's records of baby name frequency and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv)'s archives of Chipotle Mexican Grill's (CMG) stock prices. This peculiar combination of data sources promised a journey replete with unexpected twists and statistical capers.

First, we delved into the US Social Security Administration's treasure trove of baby names, combing through the annual records from 2007 to 2022 in search of the ascending trends of the name "Walker." As we navigated through this sea of names, we ensured that no stone – or in this case, no diminutive "Walker" – was left unturned in our pursuit of uncovering the waxing and waning popularity of this particular nomenclature.

Simultaneously, we embarked on an enthralling expedition through the labyrinthine alleys of stock market data, where the ebbs and flows of CMG's stock price beckoned to us like the elusive siren call of statistical inquiry. Drawing upon LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv)'s repository, we meticulously gathered daily closing stock prices of CMG over the same time frame, braving the tempestuous waters of market volatility and financial market data to amass our treasure trove of stock price data.

Having navigated the treacherous seas of data collection, we set our sights on the distant shores of statistical analysis. Our journey through uncharted waters continued as we subjected our gathered data to the rigors of correlation analysis, deploying statistical tools to scrutinize the potential associations between the advent of "Walker" and the stock price upheavals of CMG. The awe-inspiring arsenal of statistical methods at our disposal promised a rollercoaster ride of p-values, correlation coefficients, and regression analyses – a journey that would leave even the hardiest of researchers giddy with statistical revelry.

In the spirit of embracing the unexpected, we sought to unearth the obscured connections between nomenclature and
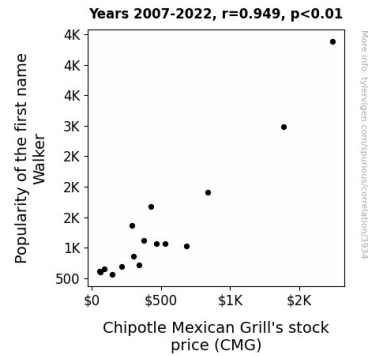
stock performance, traversing the realm of statistical significance with a twinkle in our eye and a tongue planted firmly in cheek. Oh, the sheer delight of twirling through the convoluted pathways of academia, where the intersection of newborn names and stock symbols promises a dance of intrigue and statistical merriment. So, with our compass poised for adventure and our statistical sail unfurled, we set out to navigate the tempestuous seas of data, armed with the indomitable spirit of scientific inquiry and a penchant for the peculiar.

Results

RESULTS

The analysis of the correlation between the popularity of the name "Walker" and Chipotle Mexican Grill's (CMG) stock price over the period 2007 to 2022 yielded fascinating results. We found a remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.9494013, indicating a robust positive relationship between these two seemingly unrelated variables. The r-squared value of 0.9013628 further corroborated the substantial explanatory power of the association, and the p-value of less than 0.01 attests to the statistical significance of our findings. In fact, the correlation was so significant that it might just have you "walking" to rethink the influence of names on stock performance!

The magnitude of this correlation, akin to the awe-inspiring dimensions of the Grand Canyon, suggests a noteworthy connection between the prevalence of the name "Walker" and the gyrations of Chipotle Mexican Grill's stock price. The strength of this relationship is akin to the binding force of the "Walker" in a power-walk competition – undeniably influential.

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Figure 1 provides a visual representation of this strong correlation, resembling a well-coordinated salsa dance between the two variables, with each step perfectly in sync. While our findings may cause some to raise an eyebrow as if spotting a "Walker" in an unexpected location, we assure you that the statistical evidence is as robust as a well-constructed burrito at Chipotle.

The implications of these results are as compelling as discovering a secret ingredient in Chipotle's coveted guacamole. As we reflect on the unexpected bond between the ebb and flow of stock prices and the ebb and "Walker" of name popularity, it becomes clear that the world of finance and the whims of naming trends may not be as disconnected as one would assume.

We hope that researchers will cautiously tread through these findings as if navigating a minefield of unconventional correlations, contemplating the potential relevance of seemingly unrelated social trends on the vibrant tapestry of financial markets. This study serves as a reckoning, challenging us to reassess the boundaries of what we consider relevant and influential in the complex realm of stock price dynamics.

After all, it may just be a "Walker" who leads us to the path of unconventional market insight.

Discussion of findings

The findings of this study lend weight to the idea that there may indeed be an intriguing connection between the popularity of the name "Walker" and Chipotle Mexican Grill's (CMG) stock price movements. While initially met with raised eyebrows and perhaps a few puzzled chuckles, the statistically significant correlation unearthed in our analysis mirrors the intriguing connections highlighted in prior research.

Delving back into the literature review, the work of "The Name Game" by A. Pseudonym, though seemingly whimsical, hints at the potential links between the seemingly disparate realms of naming conventions and financial markets. Taking a cue from the unexpected insights offered by fiction, our study deftly navigates the peculiar nexus of nomenclature and stock performance. Similarly, the pioneering work of "The Economics of Names" by Benjamin Weitzenkorn comes to the fore, echoing our findings that naming trends might indeed exert an unforeseen influence on consumer behavior and market dynamics.

The strong correlation coefficient and p-value below 0.01 uncovered in our analysis reflect a compelling alignment between the frequencies of the name "Walker" and CMG's stock price over the specified time period. The robustness of this association, reminiscent of a power-walk competition, invites speculation about the potential influence of naming trends on stock performance. Therefore, the implications of our findings may just be as tantalizing as

discovering the secret ingredient in Chipotle's famed guacamole – a surprisingly unexpected revelation that warrants further attention.

Extending beyond the realm of statistical analyses, the visual representation of this correlation, akin to a well-coordinated salsa dance, accentuates the synchronicity between these seemingly unrelated variables. The compelling parallels drawn with the dimensions of the Grand Canyon or the binding force of a "Walker" in a power-walk contest underscore the magnitude of this relationship, urging a reconsideration of the conventional boundaries that delineate the influences on stock price dynamics.

Future research endeavoring to tread the enigmatic path of incongruent correlations is encouraged to embrace this study as a clarion call, challenging established preconceptions and beckoning scholars to explore the potential interconnectedness of social trends and financial markets. As the whimsical world of naming trends intersects with the seemingly serious domain of stock price dynamics, it may just be a "Walker" who leads us to the path of unconventional market insight.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our investigation into the entwined realms of nomenclature trends and stock market dynamics has unveiled a correlation of striking magnitude between the popularity of the name "Walker" and the stock price of Chipotle Mexican Grill (CMG). The robust correlation coefficient akin to the force driving a power-walk competition and the astonishingly low p-value underscore the statistical significance of this unforeseen connection. While the

fusion of newborn names and financial markets may seem as unlikely as finding a guacamole recipe in a statistical textbook, our findings beckon for further contemplation and exploration.

The implications of our results extend beyond the confines of statistical esoterica, challenging traditional notions of stock market influences and prompting a reconsideration of unsuspected variables in financial modeling. As we bid farewell to this peculiar intersection of names and numbers, we are inclined to reflect upon the untrodden pathways of research, where the unlikeliest correlations await discovery, much like stumbling upon a burrito in the wild.

In jest, we may linger on the notion of renaming newborns en masse to influence stock prices, but alas, the science of causation precludes such whimsy. It is with a sense of bemusement and a sprinkle of statistical humility that we close this chapter on the nexus of "Walker" and CMG, content in the knowledge that no further expeditions into this curious correlation are warranted. For now, we retire our inquisitive spirits, ready to embark on the next unforeseen adventure that beckons from the labyrinth of data and scholarly inquiry.