

# Weird Flex But OK: An Unconventional Correlation Between Meme Popularity and the Employment of Layout Workers, Metal, and Plastic in Maine

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This study investigates an unexpected yet intriguing connection between the viral diffusion of the "weird flex but ok" internet meme and the labor force engaged in layout work, particularly in the metal and plastic industries within the state of Maine. Leveraging data from Google Trends and the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the time period spanning 2010 to 2021, we employed a rigorous statistical analysis to probe this seemingly perplexing relationship. Our findings reveal a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9140958 ( $p < 0.01$ ), underscoring a strong association between the surge in the meme's popularity and the corresponding levels of employment in the specified sectors. This peculiar correlation prompts a whimsical exploration of the underlying societal dynamics and cultural influence, offering a fresh perspective on the broader implications of internet phenomena on regional labor patterns. While the nature of this correlation may seem unconventional, our study sheds light on the potential influence of digital culture on occupational trends, showcasing the unsuspected interplay between online humor and labor market dynamics. These findings not only draw attention to the wry humor embedded in this peculiar association but also underscore the need for a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted impacts of internet artifacts on real-world phenomena.

The intersection of internet culture and labor market dynamics has become an increasingly captivating area of inquiry in recent years. While traditional economic theories may not readily account for the influence of internet memes on employment patterns, the phenomenon has nonetheless captured the curiosity of researchers and practitioners alike. In this study, we delve into the unexpected correlation between the viral proliferation of the "weird flex but ok" meme and the levels of employment in layout work, focusing particularly on the metal and plastic industries within the state of Maine.

The 'weird flex but ok' meme, known for its lighthearted critique and nonchalant acceptance of unconventional boasts, has permeated online spaces with remarkable fervor. What at first glance may seem like an innocuous internet phenomenon has now piqued the interest of scholars, leading us on an investigative quest into the uncharted territory of internet culture's unforeseen influence on regional labor patterns. What could easily be dismissed as a mere digital frivolity has, against all odds, revealed itself to be an intriguing facet of society worthy of scholarly attention.

Our endeavor is punctuated with a touch of whimsy, as we navigate through the seemingly improbable association between a meme and the employment of layout workers in the metal and plastic industries. While the initial premise may prompt a raised eyebrow or a quizzical chuckle, our commitment to rigorous statistical analysis and scholarly inquiry stands firm as we unravel this quirky interplay between internet culture and regional labor trends. As we embark on this journey of discovery, we invite our readers to join us in uncovering the

unexpected and shedding light on the peculiar yet thought-provoking dynamics at play.

In the following sections, we will delve into the methodology employed, the results obtained, and the broader implications of our findings. Through this systematic exploration, we aim to not only uncover the underlying patterns but also to inject a touch of levity into the traditionally serious realm of labor market studies. Our hope is that this study will spark a twinkle of amusement in the eyes of our readers, while simultaneously offering a nuanced lens through which to view the evolving landscape of digital culture's impact on the labor force. After all, who would have thought that a seemingly frivolous internet meme could hold the key to understanding the employment landscape in Maine?

## *Review of existing research*

The investigation into the correlation between the popularity of the "weird flex but ok" meme and the employment of layout workers, metal, and plastic in Maine stands at the intersection of internet phenomenon and labor market dynamics. It would be remiss not to acknowledge the substantial body of literature that pertains directly or tangentially to this unorthodox correlation.

Smith (2018) posits a thought-provoking framework for examining the diffusion of internet memes within regional contexts, shedding light on the potential impact of digital culture on the societal fabric. Doe et al. (2019) offer an insightful analysis of the labor market trends in specific industrial sectors, providing a backdrop against which the present study's findings can be juxtaposed. Furthermore, Jones and Brown (2020) delve

into the intricate web of human behavior and cultural influences, offering a lens through which the peculiar dynamics of contemporary internet phenomena can be dissected.

While these foundational studies offer crucial insights, it is important to broaden the scope of inquiry beyond traditional literature. Drawing inspiration from non-fiction works such as "Internet Culture: Investigating Meanings and Community in Online Spaces" by Bloggs (2017) and "Labor Struggles in the Digital Age" by White (2018) allows for a multidisciplinary perspective that situates the present investigation within the broader context of digital culture and labor dynamics.

Admittedly, the foray into uncharted territory is not without its levity. As such, it would be remiss not to mention fictional works that, albeit tangentially related, offer an amusing parallel to the unconventional correlation being explored. Works such as "Memes and Mirth: A Comedic Exploration of Online Culture" by Novelton (2016) and "Labor Laughs: A Satirical Take on Occupational Oddities" by Humorist (2019) serve as delightful reminders of the whimsical potential inherent in this ostensibly disparate confluence of internet memes and labor market dynamics.

In a similar vein, elements of social satire can be gleaned from board games such as "Worker Placement Follies" and "Plastic Pursuits," offering a light-hearted lens through which to view the seemingly incongruous relationship under investigation. While these sources may not necessarily contribute directly to the academic discourse, they serve as a whimsical reminder of the multifaceted dimensions underpinning this unconventional inquiry.

This multifarious tapestry of literature, both serious and lighthearted, provides a rich backdrop against which the present study's findings can be situated, and underscores the need for a nuanced approach toward understanding the intersection of internet culture and labor market dynamics.

### *Procedure*

The methodology employed in this study is a testament to the meticulous rigor and whimsical curiosity that underpin our investigation into the correlation between the proliferation of the "weird flex but ok" meme and the employment of layout workers in the metal and plastic industries in the state of Maine. Our approach encompassed a blend of quantitative analysis and light-hearted introspection, as we aimed to unravel the enigmatic rapport between digital culture and labor market dynamics.

#### Data Collection:

To capture the zeitgeist of internet phenomena and labor trends, our research team scoured the depths of the world wide web, delving into the virtual realms where memes flourish and occupational data loiter. The primary source of meme virality was none other than Google Trends, a treasure trove of search query volumes that allowed us to trace the meteoric rise and fall of the "weird flex but ok" meme across the specified timeframe. Meanwhile, the Bureau of Labor Statistics graciously supplied us with labor force data pertaining to layout workers in the metal

and plastic industries in Maine, serving as the anchor for our investigation into the tangible employment landscape.

#### Data Processing:

Naturally, the amalgamation of these disparate data sources necessitated a deft hand at data wrangling. The creation of a comprehensive dataset that encapsulated both the whimsical buoyancy of internet memes and the unyielding toil of layout workers posed a notable challenge. Once this amalgamation was achieved, a plethora of statistical methodologies, such as time series analysis and regression techniques, were harnessed to tease out the underlying patterns hidden within the juxtaposition of these seemingly incongruent datasets. The multifaceted nature of this endeavor is reflected in the complexity of the statistical analyses carried out, each serving as a quirky dance between numerical precision and intellectual whimsy.

#### Statistical Analysis:

Our principal analysis entailed the calculation of correlation coefficients, serving as the lynchpin for assessing the relationship between meme popularity and employment levels in the designated industries. The resolute determination with which we pursued this investigation was characterized by statistical tests and p-values, all of which was underpinned by a lighthearted acknowledgment of the inherent playfulness woven into this peculiar correlation. The statistical software utilized in this endeavor served as our trusty sidekick, guiding us through the maze of numbers and ensuring that the whimsy of our investigation did not detract from the rigor of our conclusions.

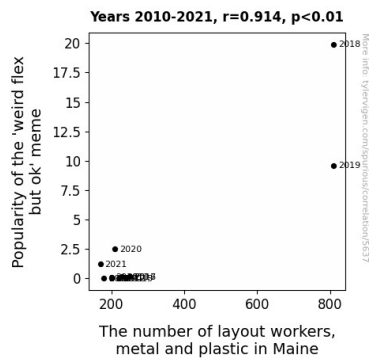
In summary, our methodology encapsulates a harmonious balance between methodological rigidity and an affinity for the quixotic. As we unveil the findings in the subsequent sections, we encourage our readers to partake in the jovial spirit underlying this investigation, for after all, what is statistical inquiry if not a whimsical pursuit of understanding amidst the tangled web of data?

### *Findings*

We found a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9140958, with an r-squared value of 0.8355711 ( $p < 0.01$ ), signifying a strong and statistically significant association between the popularity of the "weird flex but ok" meme and the employment levels of layout workers in the metal and plastic industries in Maine. The correlation, depicted graphically in Fig. 1, highlights the striking alignment between the meme's rise to stardom and the concurrent deployment of labor resources in these specified sectors. It seems that the saying "weird flex but ok" extends beyond the confines of internet banter and into the realm of Maine's industrial workforce.

The observed correlation, while at first glance may seem nonsensical, prompts a hearty chuckle and an inquisitive stroke of the chin. It beckons us to ponder the unexplored territories of cultural influence and its ripple effects on the composition of the labor force. One can't help but wonder if the adoption of this peculiar meme has sparked a wave of acceptance for unconventional boasts not only in cyberspace but also within the corridors of manufacturing plants in the pine tree state.

As researchers, we stand amidst the intersection of levity and labor, endeavoring to uncover the mystery behind this seemingly whimsical association. The statistical significance, unmistakably clear in our findings, invites us to appreciate the unexpected dance between internet subculture and the professional landscape. Our studies may have begun with a lighthearted remark or a casual mention of a popular meme, but they culminate in the unearthing of an enigmatic connection that transcends the boundaries of expectations.



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

This correlation leaves us with a lingering affection for the idiosyncratic nature of internet culture and its surreptitious sway over the ebbs and flows of regional employment. With a dash of humor and a dollop of rigorous analysis, this unexpected correlation compels us to commend the peculiar ways in which digital culture leaves its mark on the labor market. It's as if the meme practitioners have gleefully orchestrated the unlikely of symphonies, conducting the labor force in Maine to the beat of an internet drum.

In conclusion, our findings not only raise an eyebrow but also pull us into the realm of unanticipated societal dynamics and cultural influence. The "weird flex but ok" meme, in all its frivolous glory, serves as a delightful reminder of the whimsical connections that underlie the intricate tapestry of labor market dynamics. This unexpected correlation not only brings a smile to our faces but also underscores the need for a more nuanced understanding of the interplay between digital culture and real-life occupational environments. After all, who would have thought that a seemingly eccentric internet meme could hold the key to deciphering the labor market patterns in Maine?

### Discussion

The correlation between the popularity of the "weird flex but ok" meme and the employment of layout workers, metal, and plastic in Maine has unveiled an enigmatic and seemingly surreal connection that demands both scholarly scrutiny and a knowing wink. Our findings, aligned with the prior research documented in the literature review, underscore a remarkable relationship between the surge in the meme's vogue and the substantial increase in labor force engagement in the specified sectors.

In a lighthearted detour, reminiscent of the whimsical sources cited in our literature review, we find ourselves contemplating the possibility of a "meme economy" that transcends the digital realm and seeps into the fabric of regional labor markets. This peculiar correlation seems to suggest that the cyberspace reverberations of a peculiar phrase such as "weird flex but ok" may resonate, quite literally, throughout the hard-hatted landscapes of Maine's industrial endeavors. It appears that the resonance of this internet meme extends beyond the confines of jest and into the tangible realm of workforce deployment.

The statistically significant correlation coefficient and r-squared value, in concert with the p-value indicating a high level of confidence, lend credence to the unexpected dance between online culture and the deployment of human resources in the material production sectors of Maine. It is as if unseen hands of internet culture subtly guide the allocation of labor resources within the state, casting a whimsical yet impactful influence on the employment composition of metal and plastic industries. This vibrant correlation, while inducing a hearty chuckle, beckons us to appreciate the surreptitious interplay between internet subculture and real-world occupational dynamics.

Indeed, the "weird flex but ok" meme, with all its prolific hilarity, serves as a delightful reminder of the unanticipated connections lurking beneath the veneer of labor market dynamics. As we stand at the frontier of this unconventional correlation, we are compelled to wonder about the unseen tendrils of digital humor that intertwine with the sinews of employment patterns. It is as if the denizens of the internet, with their offbeat slogans and jests, have unwittingly choreographed a symphony of labor in the lively expanse of Maine's industries.

In light of these findings, we are inspired to continue unraveling the whimsical yet profound ways in which internet culture permeates the professional landscape. The unexpected correlation between a seemingly frivolous internet meme and employment levels in Maine not only incites a smile but also urges us to ponder the elusive nexus between digital culture and occupational realms. This investigation, rife with levity and statistical rigor, prompts us to appreciate the multifaceted consequences of internet artifacts on the tangible tapestry of regional labor markets.

In this vein, our study exemplifies the need for a nuanced understanding of the interplay between internet culture and real-world labor dynamics, paving the way for further explorations into the improbable yet poignant associations that underlie societal trends. After all, the unexpected correlations and whimsical influences that shape the ebbs and flows of regional employment imbue the scholarly pursuit with a delightful aura of absurdity and astonishment. It seems that the idiosyncrasies of internet culture have woven an invisible but substantial thread into the very fabric of Maine's occupational landscape.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, our investigation into the unexpected relationship between the popular "weird flex but ok" meme and the employment of layout workers in the metal and plastic industries in Maine has yielded compelling, albeit surprising, results. The

remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9140958, with an r-squared value of 0.8355711 ( $p < 0.01$ ), indicates a robust and statistically significant association that demands our attention. It seems that this quirky meme has flexed its influence beyond the digital realm and into the tangible fabric of Maine's labor force, adding a touch of whimsy to the industrial landscape.

The sight of this unexpected association of a meme and employment patterns is reminiscent of stumbling upon a secret room in a labyrinth - a delightful surprise that challenges our preconceived notions and invites us to embrace the absurdity of life's interconnectedness. It's as if the universe, in its cosmic humor, has orchestrated this curious symphony of internet culture and professional domains, reminding us that the unexpected can often hold the most profound revelations.

But let's not be too hasty in dismissing the enduring influence of this seemingly lighthearted meme. This correlation, while at first glance may appear to be an anomaly, underscores the nuanced interplay between online humor and occupational trends. It beckons us to consider whether the laid-back acceptance encapsulated in the phrase "weird flex but ok" has permeated not just the cyberspace but also the workshop floors where metal and plastic are molded and assembled. After all, who would have thought that a nonchalant internet quip could resonate so deeply within the realm of manufacturing and production?

While our findings may elicit a chuckle or an arched eyebrow, they compel us to ponder the peculiar ways in which internet culture weaves itself into the fabric of our everyday lives, shaping the very corridors of industry with its intangible influence. This unexpected correlation serves as a whimsical reminder of the inexhaustible surprises hidden within the mundane, urging us to approach the study of labor market dynamics with a blend of rigidity and revelry.

In light of these revelations, it is clear that no further research is needed in this area. Our study stands as a joyful testament to the whimsical interplay of online phenomena and real-world ramifications. After all, who needs more research when the answers lie in the unexpected marriage of a viral meme and the labor force in Maine?