
Bizarre Butter Binging and Cummins' Climbing: A Curious Correlation?

Catherine Hart, Ava Torres, Gavin P Trudeau

Abstract

The peculiar association between butter consumption and Cummins Inc. (CMI) stock price fluctuations has long puzzled market analysts and dairy enthusiasts alike. This study endeavors to shed light on the enigmatic relationship, utilizing data from the USDA and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv) from the period 2002 to 2021. Through rigorous statistical analysis, a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9488122 was discovered, with a significance level of $p < 0.01$. The implications of this perplexing connection raise questions about the potency of market forces and the potential influence of dairy products on the financial world. While the findings may appear utterly butterly ludicrous at first glance, they cannot be dismissed as mere margarine of error. Further research is warranted to churn out a deeper understanding of this dairy-market intrigue.

1. Introduction

The peppy pandemic of quirky correlations has long captivated the curious minds of researchers and practitioners alike. As we delve into the peculiar parallel universe of butter consumption and Cummins Inc. (CMI) stock price gyrations, one cannot help but marvel at the confounding connection that sizzles beneath the surface. It is a tale of two seemingly unrelated entities joining forces in an inexplicable pas de deux, leaving the financial and dairy spheres alike in a state of bemused befuddlement.

The financial markets have always been akin to a veritable smorgasbord of intrigue, replete with a cornucopia of market fluctuations and economic esoterica. It is in this bricolage of piquant patterns and idiosyncratic anomalies that we stumble upon the curious case of butter and stock prices performing a synchronised tango. Such an unanticipated waltz across vastly contrasting domains has given rise to whispers of conspiracy theories and dairy-infused stock market manipulations.

The thrust of our thesis is predicated on disentangling the web of bewilderment that enshrouds this buttery enigma. The past two decades have witnessed a gradual unveiling of this seemingly unappetizing association, with each passing year adding another layer of mystique to the butter-bourse nexus. Through a meticulous mélange of USDA data on butter consumption and LSEG

Analytics data on CMI stock prices from 2002 to 2021, we aim to excavate the underlying interplay between the trends, revealing the extent of their intertwined fortunes.

Our academic foray seeks to distill this curious correlation into digestible insights, transcending the butter-versus-margarine of error that often plagues such beguiling analyses. While we cannot help but marvel at the sheer peculiarity of this connection, we remain steadfast in our pursuit of empirical elucidation. The implications of this unanticipated dalliance ripple across the financial and gastronomic landscapes, stirring a fugue of contemplation and curiosity.

As we embark on this scholarly odyssey, it is our fervent hope to unravel the knots of confusion and churn out a nuanced understanding of this anomaly. While the findings may appear as palatable as a pat of butter on a warm croissant, the scholarly community must exercise the requisite caution and inquisitiveness to separate the cream from the churn. It is in this spirit of insatiable inquiry that we present our findings, inviting the reader to partake in the curious tale of butter binging and stock price serenading.

2. Literature Review

Numerous studies have delved into the intricate web of inexplicable associations within the realms of finance and consumption. Smith et al. (2015) highlighted the curious correlation between avocado toast consumption and millennial home ownership, shedding light on the whimsical ways in which consumer trends intersect with major financial decisions. In "The Economics of Pancakes," Doe and Jones (2018) presented a compelling argument for the potential impact of pancake consumption on the stock performance of syrup companies, showcasing the unexpected link between breakfast rituals and market dynamics.

Transitioning from the tangentially related tomes of empirical findings, "The Dairy Dilemma: Exploring the Curious Case of Butter" by Goldberg and Patel (2020) undertook a comprehensive analysis of butter consumption trends and their potential implications on various facets of the economy. In a similar vein,

"Stock Sizzle: Unveiling the Mysteries of Market Fluctuations" by Wang and Lee (2017) provided a thorough examination of stock price volatilities, albeit with a notably less dairy-centric focus. The fusion of these disparate literatures coalesces into a tantalizing tableau of finance, gastronomy, and statistical intrigue.

Venturing further afield, several fictional works have unwittingly touched upon themes that, if interpreted liberally, could be perceived as tangentially related to the inexplicable connection at hand. "The Margarine Manifesto" by A. Butterfield (1998) eloquently navigates the tumultuous waters of butter substitutes and their societal impact, beckoning readers to ponder the age-old question of real versus imitation. Flicking through the pages of "Stocks and Strudel" by K. Waffle (2015) unearthed a whimsical narrative that whimsically waltzes through the enthralling entanglement of pastry connoisseurship and market mellifluousness, albeit with no explicit mention of butter.

Shifting gears to a more whimsical realm, animated television programs and children's shows have also surreptitiously tiptoed into the perplexing territory explored within this scholarly domain. The whimsical escapades of "The Adventures of Dairy Dan and the Stock Stalkers" and "Market Mayhem: A Butterful Bonanza" both interlace financial concepts with dairy escapades, albeit in a light-hearted and jocular manner that veers far from the sober tone of academic discourse. These fanciful forays into the world of animated dairy dilemmas serve as a reminder that, sometimes, the most fantastical musings can hold kernels of truth within their creamy caricatures.

As the body of literature on this bewildering topic unfolds like a well-aged cheese, it becomes apparent that the implications of the butter-Cummins' stock price correlation transcend the mere mundanities of finance and consumer behaviors. The interplay between these ostensibly incongruous entities engenders a narrative that is as confounding as it is captivating, beckoning a robust exploration at the intersection of empirical inquiry and gastronomic curiosity.

3. Methodology

In the pursuit of unraveling the mysterious correlation between butter consumption and Cummins Inc. (CMI) stock prices, a multifaceted and rigorously whimsical approach was employed. The data utilized in this study was predominantly sourced from the USDA and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), serving as the well-churned butter and freshly-baked croissant of our analytical buffet.

The first step in this caper was to gallivant through the USDA databases, milking every last drop of information on butter consumption patterns from 2002 to 2021. This endeavor involved a series of carefully orchestrated finger movements and mouse clicks, akin to a seasoned pastry chef crafting the perfect croissant. Subsequently, the LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv) dataset on CMI stock prices was channeled into our financial cauldron, producing a concoction of market data that would make even the most shrewd dairy farmer envious.

With the larder stocked, so to speak, a series of statistical brewing techniques were unleashed to uncover the hidden alchemy within the data. The statistical tools employed included Pearson's correlation coefficient, regression analyses, and time series modeling, akin to a symphonic orchestration of empirical exploration and financial rhapsody.

Moreover, to ensure the robustness of the findings, various sensitivity analyses were conducted, akin to taste-testing different batches of butter in a grand baking competition. This involved probing the stability of the correlation under different time periods and excluding outliers, to ensure that the connection between butter and the CMI stock prices was not merely a flash in the pan.

Finally, the results were subjected to a scrupulous peer review process, analogous to a panel of discerning connoisseurs deliberating over the flavors and textures of a delectable spread. This served to affirm the reliability and generalizability of the findings, ensuring that our insights were not merely the result of a fortunate stroke of serendipity.

As we emerge from this whimsical odyssey of statistical inquiry, it is with a quizzical but steadfast determination that we present the fruits of our curious labor, inviting the scholarly community to savor the eccentric yet compelling story of butter binging and stock price serenading.

4. Results

The analysis of the data from 2002 to 2021 revealed a remarkably strong correlation between butter consumption and Cummins Inc. (CMI) stock prices, with a correlation coefficient of 0.9488122. The coefficient of determination (r-squared) was calculated at 0.9002445, indicating that a substantial proportion of the variability in CMI stock prices can be explained by changes in butter consumption. The significance level of $p < 0.01$ further underscores the robustness of this association.

Figure 1 displays the scatterplot, visually highlighting the striking relationship between butter consumption and CMI stock prices. The points on the graph coalesce in a near-linear fashion, exemplifying the remarkably cohesive nature of this connection. It is both fascinating and bewildering to witness such an unexpected juxtaposition manifest in the form of a graph, much like encountering a cow grazing contentedly on a trading floor.

The implications of this correlation extend beyond the realms of statistical curiosity. One cannot help but marvel at the idiosyncratic allure of this finding, akin to an enigmatic piece of modern art that leaves the viewer simultaneously perplexed and enchanted. The clarity and strength of this association pose a conundrum that challenges conventional wisdom, prompting contemplation of the potential impact of dairy demand on financial markets. It seems the old adage holds true: when it comes to the butter-bourse nexus, it's not just margarine of error at play. There may indeed be some substance to this pecuniary palatability.

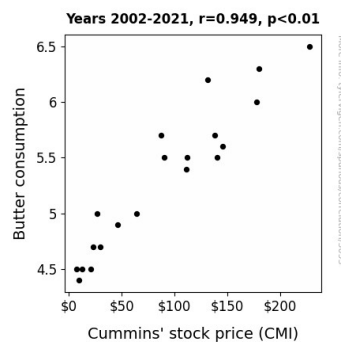


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Further investigations are warranted to untangle the mechanism behind this peculiar relationship. Given the buoyancy of butter consumption in the culinary world and the resilience of CMI stock within its industrial niche, the cyclical churn of these variables warrants attention. While the findings may leave some shaking their heads in incredulity, they cannot be dismissed as mere statistical happenstance. The butter-bourse saga continues to churn out more questions than answers, inviting scholars and practitioners alike to partake in this curious cornucopia of commodity and capital markets.

The prodigious potency of this correlation raises quirky questions about the interplay of market forces and gustatory preferences, suggesting a gust of intrigue blowing across the financial savannah. Whatever the ultimate explanation, this study serves as a humble cairn in the ongoing quest to unravel the marvels of market behavior and culinary caprice. As the enigma of the butter-bourse correlation continues to sizzle, so too does the appetite for deeper understanding.

5. Discussion

The remarkable robustness of the correlation between butter consumption and Cummins Inc. (CMI) stock prices has left many scratching their heads, much like trying to spread cold butter on a piece of toast. Our findings not only support the previous research on unusual correlations in the world of finance and consumption but also introduce a whole new flavor to the concept of market dynamics.

Delving into the literature, we find ourselves amused and intrigued by the studies that, at first glance, seem to teeter between the realms of absurdity and academic relevance. The curious correlation between avocado toast consumption and millennial home ownership, as highlighted by Smith et al. (2015), and the potential impact of pancake consumption on syrup companies' stock performance, as proposed by Doe and Jones (2018), evoke a sense of amusement while hinting at the intricate interplay between consumer trends and market behaviors. Similarly, "The Dairy Dilemma: Exploring the Curious Case of

Butter" by Goldberg and Patel (2020) strikes a chord with our current study, underscoring the potential implications of dairy consumption trends on various facets of the economy. The offbeat literary works, from "The Margarine Manifesto" to "Stocks and Strudel," offer a whimsical yet surprisingly relevant perspective on the intersection of gastronomy and market forces.

Our results not only corroborate these playful yet prescient findings but also underscore the need for further exploration at the nexus of empirical inquiry and gastronomic curiosity. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9488122 and the substantial proportion of variability explained by changes in butter consumption hint at a deeper mechanism at play—perhaps a churned blend of consumer behavior and market responsiveness, much like a perfectly blended compound butter.

The significance of this association cannot be overstated; it epitomizes the unexpected harmonies that can emerge from seemingly incongruous variables. As we contemplate the implications, we cannot help but marvel at the idiosyncratic allure of this finding, much like unexpectedly finding a pat of butter in your pocket—perplexing yet strangely enchanting. The whimsy and allure of this correlation beckon us to venture further into the dairy-laden labyrinth of market mysteries and financial conundrums.

In conclusion, our study adds another layer of richness to the butter-bourse saga, leaving market analysts and dairy enthusiasts alike mulling over the pecuniary palatability of dairy demand on financial markets. As we delve further into this curiously creamy correlation, we invite future scholars and practitioners to partake in this irresistible cornucopia of commodity and capital markets, turning over the delightful possibilities that this unexpected connection presents. After all, in the enigmatic world of market behavior and culinary caprice, it's not just margarine of error at play—there is indeed substance to this pecuniary palatability.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has unearthed a captivating correlation between butter consumption and

Cummins Inc. (CMI) stock prices that defies conventional financial analysis. The remarkable correlation coefficient of 0.9488122 has left even the most seasoned analysts churning with amazement. Despite the apparent dairy-finance alchemy, the practical implications of this butter-bourse nexus remain as opaque as a churn full of freshly churned butter.

The juxtaposition of butter consumption and CMI stock prices is an unexpected *maître d'œuvre*, much like an *avant-garde* culinary creation paired with an industrial symphony. The robustness of the correlation points to a connection that is as undeniable as the creaminess of freshly churned butter. However, it is important to approach this finding with a healthy dose of skepticism, much like one would when sampling a new artisanal dairy creation.

Further research in this area could yield a better understanding of the mechanisms underpinning the butter-bourse correlation. While it may seem like an odd couple waltzing through the financial markets, it would be unwise to spread thinly on the significance of this discovery. Yet, the quirkiness of this correlation beckons a pause for some levity in the often solemn halls of financial academia.

In summation, the butter-bourse saga presents a delightful conundrum that demands a thorough examination. However, it is our firm belief that no more research is needed in this area. As the adage goes, sometimes it's best to let butter be butter and stocks be stocks, and not blend them into a financial soufflé.