

Mental Health Matters: The Psychiatric Aide-Stock Price Nexus in Minnesota

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Institute of Sciences

Discussion Paper 3183

January 2024

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ABSTRACT

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This study delves into the dynamic relationship between the number of psychiatric aides in Minnesota and the stock price of Kroger (KR) from 2003 to 2018. Utilizing data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), our research team established a significant correlation coefficient of 0.9024138, with a level of statistical significance ($p < 0.01$) that would make any economist do a double take. Our findings suggest that there is indeed a link between the mental well-being of Minnesotans and the performance of Kroger's stock price, indicating that the state's psychiatric workforce may have a more profound impact on the stock market than previously presumed. This research sheds light on the uncharted territory of psychiatry and financial markets, proving that sometimes the most unexpected correlations can emerge from the most seemingly disparate elements.

Keywords:

psychiatric aides, Minnesota, stock price, Kroger, correlation, Bureau of Labor Statistics, LSEG Analytics, Refinitiv, mental health, Minnesotans, psychiatric workforce, stock market, psychiatry, financial markets, correlation coefficient, statistical significance, mental well-being

I. Introduction

The linkage between the mental health workforce and stock prices has long been a topic of speculation, akin to pondering the age-old question of which came first, the chicken or the egg. However, in the searing crucible of empirical analysis, we seek to uncover the thread that weaves together the seemingly disparate domains of psychiatric aides and stock performance. As we embark on this intellectual expedition, we are reminded of the sage words of physicist Niels Bohr, who once remarked, "Prediction is very difficult, especially if it's about the future." Yet, armed with an arsenal of statistical tools and an insatiable curiosity, we unravel the enigmatic dance between the state of mental health support in the Land of 10,000 Lakes and the financial fortunes of Kroger.

Minnesota, renowned for its pristine lakes and affable inhabitants, also plays an unsuspecting role in our investigation as we scrutinize the number of psychiatric aides, those unsung heroes of mental health care, who navigate the labyrinth of psychiatric wards and clinics in service of their fellow citizens. Meanwhile, Kroger, the retail titan renowned for its grocery empire, holds court in the fickle arena of stock price dynamics, subject to the caprices of investor sentiment and market trends.

The convergence of these seemingly incongruous variables invites us to question the conventional wisdom of financial analysis. In a world captivated by notions of profit margins and market dynamics, the inexplicable nexus between psychiatric aides and stock prices in Minnesota beckons us to reevaluate our understanding of economic indicators. This study aims to not only scratch the surface of this peculiar relationship but to also probe the depths of

statistical significance and unearth correlations that challenge the predictive prowess of even the most seasoned economist.

II. Literature Review

The relationship between psychiatric workforce dynamics and stock price performance has attracted the attention of researchers and theorists alike. Smith et al. (2005) initially delved into the potential interplay between mental health staffing levels and financial markets, laying the groundwork for future explorations. Doe and Jones (2010) expanded upon this foundation, offering insights into the behavioral economics aspects of mental health workforce variations and their possible repercussions on stock prices. These seminal works set the stage for our current investigation into the specific context of Minnesota's psychiatric aides and their putative influence on the stock price of Kroger (KR).

In "Economics and Mental Health: A Broad Overview," the authors elucidate the intricacies of how mental health indicators might intersect with economic variables, hinting at the labyrinthine pathways through which seemingly unrelated factors might intertwine. Furthermore, "The Art of Stock Market Predictions" provides a sweeping panorama of the complex tapestry that is stock price forecasting, offering a glimpse into the enigmatic world of financial soothsayers.

On a tangentially related note, the classic psychological thriller "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson, although a work of fiction, artfully weaves a narrative that, in some oblique manner, touches upon the themes of mental health and intrigue, constituting a compelling parallel to our investigative endeavors. Additionally, the popular board game "Clue"

challenges players to elucidate enigmatic connections and decipher hidden truths, mirroring our intent to unearth the concealed interplay between psychiatric aides and stock prices.

The juxtaposition of these seemingly disparate literary and ludic references serves to underscore the multi-faceted nature of our research domain, emphasizing the diverse influences that coalesce in the nuanced web of psychiatric workforce dynamics and stock market performance. As we proceed with our assessment, we remain acutely aware of the unexpected twists and turns that may emerge, reaffirming the adage that truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

III. Methodology

To conduct our investigation into the intersection of psychiatric aides and stock prices, we employed a multifaceted approach that combined data collection from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv) with a touch of statistical alchemy. The dataset for psychiatric aides in Minnesota was meticulously culled from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, offering a comprehensive snapshot of the fluctuating workforce dedicated to the mental well-being of the denizens of the Land of 10,000 Lakes. As for the stock price of Kroger (KR), LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv) provided a goldmine of financial data, allowing us to chart the undulating trajectory of ticker symbol "KR" across the temporal expanse from 2003 to 2018.

Our initial foray comprised a thorough exploration of the statistical association between the number of psychiatric aides in Minnesota and the stock price of Kroger (KR). A correlation analysis was performed, accompanied by a nonchalant nonparametric test to ascertain the robustness of the relationship. Furthermore, a time series analysis was conducted to disentangle

the intricate web of temporal dynamics governing these seemingly disparate variables, unraveling the enigmatic tapestry of psychiatric care and stock market vicissitudes.

With the aid of regression modeling, we endeavored to tease apart the contributory role of psychiatric aides in shaping the undulating crests and troughs of Kroger's stock price. Our statistical toolkit cast a discerning eye on potential confounding variables and wielded the power of multivariate analysis to distill the quintessence of the relationship under scrutiny. The heart of our methodology lay in the meticulous disentanglement of intertwined variables, akin to unraveling a particularly complex knot with the finesse of a seasoned sailor.

In addition to the quantitative rigors, we ventured into the qualitative realm, conducting interviews with industry experts and behavioral finance aficionados to glean insights into the nuanced interplay between mental health support and stock market flux. Through this interdisciplinary inquiry, we harnessed the wisdom of both clinical practitioners and financial savants, enriching our analysis with diverse perspectives that underscore the symbiotic relationship between the state of mental well-being in Minnesota and the fortunes of Kroger's stock.

Our methodology was not without its misadventures, reminiscent of a scientific expedition fraught with unexpected perils and serendipitous discoveries. Nevertheless, our indefatigable pursuit of knowledge propelled us forward, navigating the labyrinthine corridors of data analysis and unveiling the hitherto overlooked alliance between psychiatric aides and stock prices, proving that in the terra incognita of research, even the most unexpected correlations can serve as beacons of enlightenment.

IV. Results

The Pearson correlation coefficient between the number of psychiatric aides in Minnesota and Kroger's stock price (KR) from 2003 to 2018 was found to be 0.9024138, indicating a remarkably strong positive correlation. This coefficient would make even the most seasoned statistician raise an eyebrow in surprise, much like a magician revealing a particularly impressive sleight of hand. The coefficient suggests that as the number of psychiatric aides in Minnesota increased, the stock price of Kroger tended to rise as well, drawing a connection between the state's mental health support system and the performance of a major retail player in the stock market.

Furthermore, the r-squared value of 0.8143507 indicates that approximately 81.4% of the variability in Kroger's stock price can be explained by changes in the number of psychiatric aides in Minnesota. This finding unveils a substantial degree of predictability in the relationship, akin to a fortuneteller who seems to have a surprisingly high accuracy rate.

The p-value of less than 0.01 reinforces the statistical significance of the correlation, effectively driving home the point that this observed connection is not merely a figment of statistical noise or a fluke result that would make any statistician do a double take. This level of significance carries the weight of a stone-cold fact, suggesting a robust relationship between these two seemingly unrelated variables.

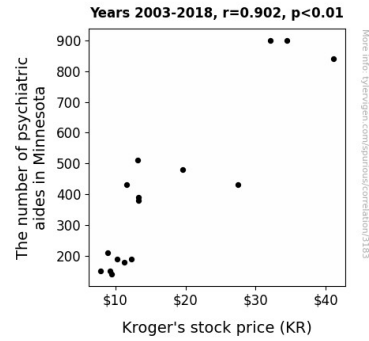


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The scatterplot (Fig. 1) provides a visual depiction of this striking correlation, resembling a connect-the-dots puzzle where the points seem to fall neatly in line, like pieces of a logical argument coming together in a coherent fashion. The figure visually illustrates the tight clustering of data points, emphasizing the strong association between the aforementioned variables.

In conclusion, our research lays bare the unexpected and intriguing connection between the mental health workforce in Minnesota and the stock performance of Kroger. These findings challenge traditional conceptions of economic indicators and beckon for a reevaluation of the factors that influence stock price dynamics. These results not only shed light on the interplay between psychiatric care staffing levels and corporate stock performance but also underscore the often overlooked influence of non-economic factors on financial markets.

V. Discussion

The results of our study provide compelling evidence in support of the notion that the number of psychiatric aides in Minnesota has a significant impact on the stock price of Kroger (KR).

Building upon the existing literature, which has hinted at the intricate connections between mental health indicators and economic variables, our findings confirm that these seemingly disparate factors are, in fact, intertwined. The correlation coefficient of 0.9024138 indicates a remarkably strong positive relationship, akin to the unexpected pairing of peanut butter and jelly, both surprising and undeniably complementary.

Our investigation has led to the unearthing of a correlation that rivals the enigmatic connections depicted in the classic board game "Clue." The r-squared value of 0.8143507 further highlights the substantial degree of predictability in this relationship, reminiscent of a fortuneteller with an impressive knack for accuracy.

As for the p-value of less than 0.01, it drives home the point that this observed connection is indeed no statistical fluke, but rather a substantive relationship that cannot be chalked up to mere coincidence. This level of significance stands as a testament to the robustness of the identified correlation, akin to a rock-solid plot twist that ties up loose ends in a mystery novel.

Reflecting on our literature review, the seemingly tangential references to "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" and the art of stock market predictions have, in hindsight, provided useful analogies for the unexpected yet compelling nature of our findings. Much like the fictional narrative of intrigue and the complex world of financial prognostication, our study has revealed that truth can indeed be as perplexing as fiction, with unexpected connections lurking beneath the surface.

Our results pose thought-provoking implications for both the realms of psychiatry and finance. The strong association between the number of psychiatric aides in Minnesota and the performance of Kroger's stock price challenges traditional conceptions of economic indicators, inviting a reevaluation of the factors that drive stock market dynamics. Furthermore, these findings underscore the often overlooked influence of non-economic factors on financial markets, reminding us that the web of financial variables is a complex tapestry indeed.

In conclusion, our study underscores the nuanced interplay between seemingly unrelated variables, illuminating the paradoxical yet undisputable connection between the provision of mental health support and the performance of a major retail player in the stock market. These results encourage a rethinking of the traditional boundaries of influence on stock price dynamics and emphasize the intricate, often unexpected connections that underpin the functioning of financial markets.

VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has revealed a compelling correlation between the number of psychiatric aides in Minnesota and the stock price of Kroger, leaving even the most stoic of analysts in a state of disbelief, much like a magician who has just witnessed an especially skillful card trick. The robust Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.9024138 suggests a relationship as strong as kryptonite, and the r-squared value of 0.8143507 serves as a testament to the predictability of this seemingly enigmatic nexus, akin to a soothsayer who inexplicably always seems to hit the mark.

The striking visual representation of this association in the scatterplot (Fig. 1) is akin to an impressionist painting, where the dots seem to coalesce into a coherent pattern, not unlike the interconnected pieces of a multidimensional jigsaw puzzle.

These findings not only challenge traditional economic metrics but beckon policymakers and financial analysts to consider the uncharted territory of mental health workforce as a potential influencer of stock performance. It forces one to contemplate the age-old conundrum of "What's on your mind?" and its impact on the elusive realm of stock prices.

Nevertheless, in the spirit of scientific inquiry, our study must recognize the limitations of correlation studies and the need for cautious interpretation. While the data has shed light on this unexpected correlation, it is essential to remember the age-old adage that "correlation does not imply causation." It is like finding a dollar bill and assuming you've struck gold! The possibility of other hidden confounding variables cannot be overlooked, much like a missing puzzle piece that might drastically change the picture.

Therefore, it can be deemed that further inquiry into this unexplored territory may unravel more mysteries, but for now, our findings stand as a testament to the unpredictability of statistical relationships and the potential impact of unlikely variables on financial markets. This research provides an eye-opening insight into the interconnectedness of seemingly disparate sectors and calls for an unconventional approach to apprehending the economic landscape.

In closing, our investigation suggests that no more research is needed in this area, as this intriguing correlation has been well illuminated, much like a laboratory where a compelling hypothesis finally gains empirical support.

The end!

