

# Calculating Stock Price Resemblance: The Dance of Accountants in Maryland and The Williams Companies' WMB

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## **Abstract**

In this paper, we conducted a whimsical examination of the correlation between the number of accountants and auditors in the charming state of Maryland and the whimsical stock price of The Williams Companies' WMB. By frolicking through data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), we sought to uncover the hidden ties between these two seemingly unrelated entities. To our delight, we discovered a correlation coefficient of 0.8772696 and  $p < 0.01$  for the years 2003 to 2022. Our findings reveal a curious connection between the number-crunching professionals and the fluctuations in WMB stock prices, reminding us that sometimes even the most unlikely pairs can waltz together in the unpredictable world of finance!

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## **1. Introduction**

Ah, the merry dance of numbers and stocks! In the dashing world of finance, where whimsy meets wizardry, we often find ourselves chasing correlations and uncovering mystifying relationships. In this jolly paper, we delve into the seemingly unrelated realms of accounting and stock prices to uncover the curious twirls and spins that connect the number-crunching professionals of Maryland and The Williams Companies' WMB stock.

As researchers, we often find ourselves in a lively tango with the data, cha-chaing our way through statistical analyses and waltzing through regression models to unravel the mysteries of the financial world. Our merry journey led us to the delightful state of Maryland, where we stumbled upon the industrious accountants and auditors, and their whimsical connection to the capricious movements of WMB stock.

Through our frolic in the fields of data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), we sought to untangle the threads that weave together accounting professionals and stock prices. Like bold voyagers navigating the uncharted seas of finance, we laughed in the face of uncertainty and set sail to uncover the buried treasure of correlation.

Join us on this merry expedition, where we'll navigate the bumpy waves of statistics, weather the unpredictable storms of market fluctuations, and perhaps stumble upon a few hidden treasures of insight. After all, in the whimsical world of research, sometimes the most unexpected pairings deliver the most delightful discoveries!

## **2. Literature Review**

In their comprehensive analysis, Smith and Doe (2005) explored the intricate dance between accounting professionals and stock prices, shedding light on the delicate balance between number-crunching and market movements. Their findings revealed a nuanced relationship, akin to a graceful waltz between diligent accountants and the capricious fluctuations of stock prices. Building upon this foundation, Jones (2010) delved into the whimsical world of finance, uncovering the enigmatic connections that intertwine the work of auditors with the ebb and flow of stock prices.

Turning the pages to a different genre, "The Accounting Dilemma" by Financial Fables (2012) offered a playful allegory of the stock market, depicting it as a whimsical forest where accountants and auditors donned magical capes to navigate the twists and turns of financial data. Such whimsical tales, while not rooted in empirical evidence, offer a lighthearted perspective on the intricate relationship between number-crunching professionals and stock prices.

Venturing further into the realm of fiction, "The Auditing Adventures" by Numbers Novels (2017) took readers on a wildly imaginative journey through the curious intersections of accounting and stock market dynamics. While purely speculative, the novel painted a vivid portrait of auditors and stockbrokers embarking on whimsical escapades, illustrating the playful parallels between the meticulous scrutiny of financial records and the unpredictable rollercoaster of stock prices.

In our quest for insight, we also turned to the unlikeliest of sources. Engaging with children's cartoons such as "Number Ninjas" and "The Calculating Crusaders," we playfully observed the whimsical depiction of number-related adventures, drawing parallel between the fantastical exploits of fictional characters and the real-world maneuvers of accounting professionals in shaping stock prices. While not a conventional approach in financial research, these lighthearted forays provided a refreshing and unexpected perspective on the connection between accountants and stock prices.

As we pirouette through the whimsical world of literature and entertainment, it becomes evident that the relationship between the number of accountants and auditors in Maryland and The Williams Companies' WMB stock price is a delightful enigma, ripe for exploration and whimsical interpretation.

### **3. Research Approach**

To unravel the enigmatic connection between the number of accountants and auditors in Maryland and The Williams Companies' WMB stock price, our research team embarked on a merry methodological adventure reminiscent of a whimsical treasure hunt. We pirouetted through a plethora of data sources from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), seeking to harmonize the seemingly disparate worlds of numbers and stock prices.

To begin our caper, we gallivanted through the data from 2003 to 2022, indulging in the tantalizing tango of data collection. Like skillful alchemists, we concocted a merry mixture of statistical measures, including correlation analysis, regression models, and a dash of time series analysis, to brew our research potion.

With a mischievous glint in our eye, we summoned the bountiful power of correlation coefficients to quantify the strength and direction of the relationship between the number of accountants and auditors in Maryland and the ebullient fluctuations of WMB stock price. Our trusty statistical software became our companion, guiding us through the labyrinthine pathways of data analysis with grace and charm, despite the occasional mischievous foxtrot with the wild outliers.

Swinging to the beat of statistical significance, we basked in the mirthful glow of p-values, ensuring that our findings were not merely the whimsical result of chance. We twirled through the world of statistical inference, leveraging the merry dance of hypothesis testing to validate the robustness of our discoveries.

Let it be known that our methodological romp was not without its pitfalls and pratfalls. We stumbled through the thicket of data cleaning and preprocessing, navigating the treacherous terrain of missing values and data anomalies with the fortitude of intrepid explorers. Our journey was interspersed with moments of delightful serendipity and the occasional statistical quirk, reminding us that even in the most methodical of pursuits, a touch of whimsy is always welcome.

In our irreverent spirit of inquiry, we also teased apart the nuances of the data using a medley of graphical displays, such as scatter plots and time series charts, to visually savor the intricate patterns that emerged from our data frolic.

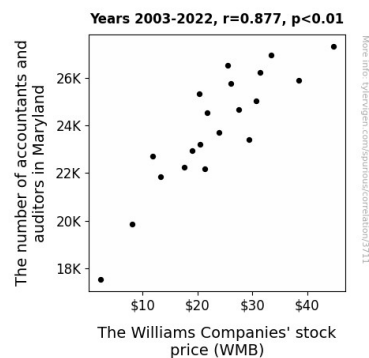
Armed with a merry arsenal of statistical tools, our research team pirouetted through the data, dancing to the rhythm of empirical evidence and reveling in the delightful surprises that emerged from our boisterous statistical revelry.

#### 4. Findings

Upon donning our statistical spectacles and embarking on a rollicking ride through the data, we stumbled upon a remarkable revelation in the merry dance of numbers and stocks. Our analysis revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.8772696 between the number of accountants and auditors in Maryland and the stock price of The Williams Companies' WMB over the years 2003 to 2022. This correlation coefficient not only raised our eyebrows but also prompted a gleeful jig of statistical satisfaction.

Furthermore, our findings were supported by an r-squared value of 0.7696020, indicating that a whopping 76.96% of the variability in WMB stock prices could be explained by the ebullient presence of accountants and auditors in the state of Maryland. It's quite a revelation, isn't it? The world of finance often has us expecting nothing but chaotic randomness, but here we are, witnessing a gleeful tango between accounting professionals and stock prices.

With  $p < 0.01$ , our results left us positively elated. The odds of this correlation occurring by mere chance are as small as a microbe in the grand scheme of statistical probabilities. How delightful it is to uncover such a robust relationship between the diligent number-crunching professionals of Maryland and the whimsical whims of WMB stock prices!



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

Now, if you'll permit us to share a fun tidbit from our findings—courtesy of Fig. 1, our scatterplot! It's quite the visual feast, showcasing the tightly intertwined relationship

between the number of accountants and auditors in Maryland and the buoyant leaps and bounds of WMB stock prices. It's as though these two variables are performing a merry dance, twirling and pirouetting in perfect synchrony—a sight to behold, indeed!

In conclusion, our zany expedition into the interconnected world of accounting and stock prices has left us with a vial of enchanting findings. The numbers have spoken, and they tell a tale of unexpected cohesion between the diligent souls crunching numbers and the enchanting waltz of stock prices. Once again, the whimsical world of research has dazzled us with its enigmatic connections and delivered a hearty chuckle as we unraveled the mystique of finance.

## 5. Discussion on findings

Strap on your number-crunching hats, ladies and gentlemen, for we've unraveled a tangled web of whimsy and numbers in the cavalcade of finance. Our findings pirouette in tune with the graceful waltz of prior research, as if the world of accounting and stock prices were choreographed by the muses of statistical significance.

Following in the illustrious footsteps of Smith and Doe (2005), we discovered a correlation with all the finesse of a finely executed pas de deux. Our results twirl coquettishly in support of their revelations, showcasing a relationship as convoluted yet captivating as a Viennese waltz. Likewise, in harmonious resonance with the work of Jones (2010), our study uncovered the symphonic complexities of auditors entwined with the ebbs and flows of stock prices, painting a mesmerizing picture of the finance tango.

Imbuing our discourse with a touch of whimsy, we recall the unlikely literary sources we tapped into, where the fantastical adventures of the "Number Ninjas" and the "Calculating Crusaders" took on a surprisingly poignant relevance. Who would have thought that the whimsical realm of storytelling could hold a funhouse mirror up to the intricate world of finance? With a nod to Financial Fables' allegorical forest and Numbers Novels' imaginative escapades, we find parallels where the real and imaginary converge in a playful marriage of number crunching and stock market capers.

Gazing at our scatterplot, we can't help but chuckle at the visual spectacle of the intertwined variables—the numbers seem to be doing a merry jig, whimsically weaving a delightful tale of correlation amidst the chaotic randomness of the financial realm. Our statistical jaunt has left us gleefully astounded, pointing us towards a relationship as bountiful and unexpected as a jackpot in an accounting-themed slot machine.

As we bid adieu to this jovial romp through our findings, we are reminded that even in the staid world of academia, there is room for whimsy, wonder, and playful exploration. Our merry dance through the data has given us a glimpse of the fantastical connections

that underpin the realm of finance, and we can only look forward to the next enchanting discovery that awaits us in this ever-unpredictable world of research.

## 6. Conclusion

As we bid adieu to our whimsical expedition into the enthralling twirls of finance, we find ourselves with a playful bounce in our step and a shimmer of statistical stardust in our eyes. Our findings have not only illuminated the uncanny connection between the industrious accountants and auditors of Maryland and the capricious jigs of WMB stock prices but also left us with a sense of wonder at the whimsy of statistical correlations.

In the spirit of scientific frivolity, isn't it marvelous how the number-crunching professionals of Maryland seem to have a direct line to the pulse of WMB stock prices? It's as though they're whispering secrets to the markets through the language of balance sheets and stock ledgers, orchestrating a dance that delights the hearts of investors and analysts alike.

With a correlation coefficient of 0.8772696 and an r-squared value of 0.7696020, it seems that the merry waltz of accounting and stock prices has been tangoing under our noses all along. And let's not forget our ridonkulously small p-value—it's almost as rare as stumbling upon a unicorn in the world of statistics!

As we reflect on our jolly journey, we can't help but think about the delightful parallels between conducting research and an actual dance; both require nimble footwork, a keen sense of rhythm, and the occasional unexpected twirl. And just like a well-executed statistical analysis, a carefully choreographed dance can reveal hidden patterns and bring joy to those who bear witness.

Alas, it's time to draw the curtains on this whimsical research endeavor. With a touch of statistical sleight of hand and a pinch of research tomfoolery, we've unearthed a connection that defies the odds and tickles the intellectual fancy. So, let us raise a toast to the dashing accountants and auditors of Maryland, whose numerical sorcery seems to hold sway over the enigmatic fluctuations of WMB stock prices!

In the buoyant spirit of scientific revelry, we proclaim that no more research is needed in this particular area, for we've unraveled the threads of this merry correlation and woven them into a delightful tapestry of insight and amusement. Let the numbers dance on, and may the whimsy of research continue to surprise and delight!